

Annual Welcome Barbecue

The sounds of drums filled the air as new, returning, and transfer Native students had a chance to meet and interact with one another at the 2008 welcome barbecue. Ram Nation, the CSU Native student drum group, performed while students, faculty, and community members mingled.

The barbecue, which was hosted at Rowland Moore Park, gave the NASS office an opportunity to share information about programs and services offered to students. "I look forward to it every year in order to meet new students and see what new things are happening at the office," Linda Aguilar a Fort Collins resident and Native American said.

This year's barbecue was also attended by University President Larry Penley, and University Executive Vice President John Lincoln. All those in attendance got the opportunity to speak with the university leaders, as they showed their support for the Native American Student Service office.

The barbecue, which is hosted to foster a sense of community among the Native residents of Fort Collins and Native CSU students, was a great success. The event has grown continuously, and will continue to be a staple of the NASS fall calendar.



University President Larry Penley watches as Ram Nation performs.

Library Expansion

Due to a generous donation from the John and Sophie Ottens Foundation, the Native American Student Services office has been able to greatly expand resources available to students. Over two hundred books and one hundred DVDs were added to the NASS library. A number of academic reference books including math guide books, language aids, and preparatory test booklets are now available. In addition, an extensive collection of books containing Native history or written by Native authors is offered. Students are also able to view a number of documentary films in the NASS office. The growth of the library is a great advantage to all the students who are performing research or looking for casual reading. A catalog of the books and DVDs will be soon be available on the NASS website.



Marcella takes advantage of new materials in the library.

Southern Ute Tribe and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Summer STEM Visit

The excitement in the air was palpable as 34 junior-high and high-school students visited the CSU campus for two days this summer. The students were members of the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribes, who traveled to Fort Collins to participate in a number of educational workshops this summer. The students were accompanied by eight chaperones consisting of parents, members of the tribal council, and education administrators.

The workshops covered a variety of subjects including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The Native American Student Services office partnered with the College of Engineering to provide the Ute students with this unique experience. Initial planning has begun for the 2009 visit, which will focus upon renewable energy.



Ute students discuss a mouse trap car design during their summer visit.

MEET A FEW STUDENTS: VISIT THE NASS WEBSITE FOR PODCAST UPDATES AND ENHANCEMENTS!

www.nass.colostate.edu

NASS Student Studies in New Zealand

Two very different Native groups converged as a NASS student had the opportunity to travel half way across the globe in pursuit of knowledge. Madeline Anna (Choctaw-Delaware) recently had the chance to further her academic and cultural learning while studying abroad in Lincoln, New Zealand. Through the Office of International Studies Madeline Anna was able to participate in a semester study abroad program sponsored by CSU.

Studying at the University of Lincoln, she took classes to satisfy requirements for her Environmental Health major. Venturing to other parts of the country she learned more about the Native Maori tribe, and witnessed the tribe's dances, cooking rituals, and traditional dress. Madeline Anna was pleased to discover that the people of New Zealand were also interested in her Native heritage.

When asked what she took away from her experiences with the Maori Madeline Anna replied, "Learning more about the Maori culture you see similarities and differences." Gaining knowledge about the rich customs of Native people across the globe can help to preserve cultures that may otherwise be lost. For more information on studying abroad visit www.studyabroad.colostate.edu



Madeline Anna is pictured in New Zealand, showing her CSU pride.

Graduation 2008



The class of 2008 proudly receives their awards.



From Left: Sarah Hubble, Ceriss Blackwood, Shequeita Byrne, and Katrina Gillette are wrapped in their Pendleton blankets.

April 15, 2008 will live in the memories of the 2008 NASS graduates for years to come. A reception ceremony was held to honor the fourteen graduating students. In attendance were almost 100 individuals including students, NASS staff members, CSU faculty members, alumni, and community members. The students shared future goals at the ceremony as they prepared to take the next steps in their lives.

Each of the students was recognized for their contributions to the Native American community. A Pendleton blanket was granted to each student as a symbol of their accomplishments. The Pendleton blanket has historically been a very valuable item, and the importance of the graduates' success is embodied in the traditional gift.

Each student also singled out a faculty member instrumental to their individual success to present with a Pendleton mug. Additional awards were granted to North Star mentors and Eagle Feather tutors.

A highlight of the event this year was the presentation of Troy Stevens as the 2008 NASS Distinguished Alumni. Stevens received a B.S. in Health and Exercise Science in 2002. Post-graduation Stevens has contributed greatly to the Native population as the Diabetes Prevention Specialist at the Denver Indian Health & Family Services office in Denver, Colorado.

The ceremony also included an honor song performed by Ram Nation, and a blessing for the graduates conducted by Sky Medicine Bear. The contributions of the graduates were celebrated, as the NASS office offered a fond farewell to the class of 2008.

Did you Know...

- November is Native American Awareness month
- The doors of the NASS office have been opened since 1979
- The CSU Pow Wow will take place Saturday November 1
- This year 123 new self-identified Native students were added to the CSU student body

Eagle Feather Tutoring Program



This year, the Eagle Feather Tutoring program is proudly celebrating four years of excellence in assisting students in their academic pursuits. This semester, the Native American Student Services office has four tutors available to aid in a variety of subjects including math, physics, composition, biology, political science, and much more. Tutoring assistance is available by appointment or on a first-come-first-served walk-in basis during office hours. In addition to support with classes, tutors are also available to assist with resumes and scholarship applications. The Native American Student Services office is committed to ensuring a successful academic experience for Native American students at CSU. The program is sponsored by the John and Sophie Ottens Foundation. For information visit www.nass.colostate.edu

North Star Peer Mentoring



Pictured above is the 2008 North Star Peer Mentoring Group

The North Star Peer Mentoring program continues for the fourth consecutive year, as it builds upon the growth and success of previous years. The Native American Student Services office, in partnership with the Psychology Department and the Counseling Center, has organized the North Star

Peer Mentor program in order to increase Native student retention and elevate graduation rates.

Students who participate in the program receive three credits listed as PY486, but the real incentive for students to participate in the program is the relationships that are forged. Undergraduate Native students are placed in contact with a peer mentor to assist in transitioning to college life. The ultimate goal of the program is to make Native students feel welcome on the CSU campus. "Students often don't know who to turn to for questions or may be intimidated to ask faculty here on campus. Peer mentors enable students to have resources they can relate to, who are on their level, which aids in communication," Katrina Gillette, a peer mentor stated.

Highlights of the program include guest speakers, stress management, learning conflict resolution skills, gaining a deeper sense of personal identify, and personal development. As an added benefit mentors and mentees participate in a ropes course event together. Peer mentors are an integral part of the NASS community, and in addition to the excellent work that they do with their own mentees, they also volunteer their time to a number of outreach programs that benefit the NASS office. The program is sponsored by the John and Sophie Ottens Foundation.

Ottens Foundation Donation

For a second consecutive year the John and Sophie Ottens Foundation has provided funding for the Native American Student Services Office. The funding was specifically allotted to enhance NASS retention programs. The office's leadership, mentoring, and tutoring programs will all be improved thanks to the additional funding. This year, the Women's Circle and a community outreach program to the Pine Ridge Reservation will also be sponsored by the Ottens Foundation. In addition, this year's Ottens Foundation grant will also provide funds to purchase science experiment kits for this summer's Native Youth STEM visit.

Summer Employee Spotlight: Derrick Benallie

Junior Electrical Engineering major, Derrick Benallie spent the summer improving the library collection for the Native American Student Services office. Thanks to a grant from the John and Sophie Ottens Foundation, the NASS office was able to greatly expand their collection of Native American literature. Derrick is cataloging all of the new additions, and adding them to a new computer database. The ultimate goal of Derrick's work is an electronic catalog with descriptions of each book that can be referenced from the NASS homepage.

Derrick will continue with his work this fall, in addition to taking on the added roles of North Star Peer Mentor and math tutor. When asked what one of the most important roles of the Native American Student Services office was he responded, "Making people more aware of the Native culture on campus." The NASS office also offers students resources such as free printing, faxing, and tutoring.



Derrick adds new books and DVDs to the library catalog.

Native American Student Services
Colorado State University
218 Lory Student Center
8013 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523-8016

Message From The Director



Greetings from the Office of Native American Student Services! We are off to another exciting academic year. I hope you enjoy reading about our various events and programs in this issue of the Indigenous Reader.

The NASS staff continues to work extremely hard so that our programs and services are available to all students. Student retention is our priority, as well as raising cultural awareness on campus and in the community.

According to the Office of Budgets and Institutional Analysis (OBIA), the number of self-identified Native American students at CSU continues to increase. This fall we have 391 Native students. I am excited to report that since fall 2000, the number of Native American students enrolled at CSU has increased by 35%.

Warm regards,
Ty Smith

Upcoming Events

- NASS Halloween Potluck.....5:00-7:00 p.m., Oct. 29, 218 Lory Student Center
 - Native American Awareness Month Campus Kick-off.....11:00-1:00 p.m., Oct. 31, Lory Student Center Plaza
 - AISES/NASA/NASS Pow Wow.....10:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m., Nov. 1, Main Ballroom, Lory Student Center
 - Fort Collins Museum 1st Friday.....5:00-7:00 p.m., Nov. 7, 200 Mathews, Fort Collins Museum
 - Native American Awareness Month Community Kickoff
- Please visit the NASS website calendar for additional Native American Awareness Month events: www.nass.colostate.edu