Pow-wows are a way for Native Americans and non-Native people alike to gather in a celebration of culture, preserving past traditions and forming new ones. During a Powwow celebration people can participate by dancing and singing, renewing old friendships and making new ones.

Saturday Oct. 30 marked the 28th annual celebration of the CSU Powwow. In an effort to increase awareness of Native cultures at Colorado State University the event is sponsored by the Native American Cultural Center, American Indian Science & Engineering Society, the Associated Students of Colorado State University and Colorado State University. Community members and students alike attended this free event, which featured Native dancers, drum groups, food, social events as well as performances by the drum groups Southern Outlawz and Grammy nominated Northern Cree. To view pictures and video of the Powwow visit http://nacc.colostate.edu/

‘Twilight’ Star Speaks at CSU

On Thursday Nov. 11, in honor of Native American Heritage Month, Twilight Star Chaske Spencer spoke at the Lory Student Center East & Middle Ball Rooms. Spencer plays Sam Uley, leader of the werewolves, in the films. He was born in Oklahoma, and raised on Indian Reservations in Montana and Idaho. He is a member of the Lakota Sioux Nation.

Spencer spoke candidly about overcoming his addiction to drugs & alcohol in hopes of empowering young people to make the shift to a more positive and productive lifestyle. Spencer is also a spokesperson for ‘Be The Shift’, an organization which raises awareness and resources for building sustainable communities, reducing poverty and alcohol & substance abuse in Native American communities.

Spencer worked with United Global Shift, to create a project called Shift the Power to The People, whose mission is to empower Native Americans to create sustainable, lasting change in their communities and countries by: creating awareness, and al-
Native Women’s Circle Explores Novel: Every Day is a Good Day

As a way for Native women to come together and foster a sense of community, the NACC office is sponsoring the Native Women’s Circle. The group meets once a week, Tuesdays from 5 p.m.-6 p.m., and all those interested in participating are welcome to attend. This semester, as a tool to build relationships and encourage discussion, the women’s group is reading Every Day is a Good Day: Reflections by Contemporary Indigenous Women. The author, Wilma Mankiller, is a vehement activist and former principal chief of the Cherokee Nation. The novel is a compilation of different stories and reflections of Native women from various regions and tribes. As literary critic Lilja Otto states, “Every Day is a Good Day provides insights into the lives and ideas of indigenous women and invites readers to re-examine their own cultural and spiritual backgrounds.” The Native Women’s Circle also meets to participate in community events. If you are interested in participating in Native Women’s Circle events, please contact group facilitator Katrina Gillette at katrinalg82@yahoo.com.

Sweta Lohani
Tutoring Areas: Biology, physiology, anatomy and genetics
Major: Senior, Biological Sciences
Hometown: Glenwood Springs, Colorado

Tony Nicholson
Tutoring Areas: Algebra, trigonometry, calculus and physics
Major: Sophomore, Mechanical Engineering
Hometown: Lakewood, Colorado

Why do you think people should visit the NACC office?: People should visit the office because the office provides a welcoming environment, and also allows for students to associate with peers and staff that not only care about them as a student but also as a person.

Student Develop Leadership Skills: All Nations Leadership Retreat 2010

This year 30 students, and five main staff members, from the Native American Cultural Center and Asian/Pacific American Cultural Center offices traveled to Estes Park to stay at the YMCA of the Rockies in order to participate in The All Nations Leadership Retreat. This is an annual event, held during the fall semester, to provide students with the opportunity to meet other diverse students, build leadership skills and explore resources available to them on campus. During the event students engaged in ice-breakers, team-building activities and workshops to build and strengthen relationship with other students, gain effective communication skills and learn to work well in teams.

Sweta Lohani, NACC’s student coordinator, who had an active role in planning the retreat for the past two years, commented on her favorite events. “I always like the introduction and the closing of the retreat. We get a wide variety of students attending the retreat and it’s amazing how people with such different thoughts tie a bond of friendship during the two-day program.”

To actively involve students several activities were offered including several icebreakers, a bonfire, a scavenger hunt, geocaching and storytelling. Eric Ishiwata, Roe Bubar and Vani Narayana also presented on different cultural topics to foster an increased awareness and understanding of diversity among the student participants.
**NACC Welcomes New Assistant Director**

The Native American Cultural Center is pleased to welcome a new assistant director, Leslee Lovato, to campus. The NACC office would like to take this opportunity to share some information about Leslee and her new roles as NACC Assistant Director with both the NACC office and the Office of Admissions.

**Q. Can you please describe your background?**

A. I am Arapaho and Lakota and I grew up in Longmont, Colorado with my parents and two older brothers. I earned my Bachelor’s degree in Psychology from CU-Boulder and am working on my Master’s degree in Counseling from Regis University.

**Q. Can you please describe your past work experience?**

I have worked in higher education for over 12 years in many different capacities, but all were geared toward increasing access and success for Native American students. I coordinated the American Indian Student Services at CU-Boulder for 10 years, and am now so honored to be working with CSU.

**Q. Can you please explain your dual roles at CSU?**

I am an Assistant Director with both the Office of Admissions and with the Native American Cultural Center. This position is unique and I am excited to be involved with students from the beginning of their journey here at CSU to graduation.

**Q. What are some of the main projects you are working on currently?**

A. I am coordinating a high school visit to CSU for Denver Native American students and am coordinating plans for hosting the College Horizons program (90 Native American high school students from around the country!) at CSU in June 2011.

**Q. Do you have any additional information you would like to share about yourself?**

A. I have two awesome daughters, India who is 18 and going to school in NYC and Olivya who is 15 and loves playing the violin. I also have a dog named Doug and two cats, Carlos and Dax. Since I am new to town, I am always up for lunch and talking walks around this beautiful campus. Please show me around!

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**Duhesa Lounge Receives New Native Artwork**

The Native American Cultural Center, in partnership with Student Activities and the Lory Student Center Arts Program, is pleased to announce the opening of a new exhibition of work by contemporary Native American artists from the Southwest. The official exhibition opening took place on Nov. 5, 2010 in the Duhesa Lounge, on the second level of the Lory Student Center.

The event included a performance by Ram Nation Drum Group and brief comments from the artists. The exhibit highlights the works of Carole Grant, Crystal Mondragon, Rose Mondragon, John Suazo, Jeralyn Lucero, Bernadette Track, and Dawning Pollen Shorty from New Mexico and local artist Gib Morgan. The exhibit is on display for the duration of the fall and spring semesters.

Students can view Native American pottery in the Duhesa Lounge for the rest of the semester.

Artists featured in the exhibit gather together to discuss their work.

Gib Morgan talks about the art he has on display in the Duhesa Lounge.

Jeralyn Lucero shares the inspiration used to create her artwork.
Message From The Director

Greetings from the Native American Cultural Center! As I write this message, we are only two weeks away from finals week. The NACC office has been buzzing with activity all semester.

We welcomed a new assistant director to the office, Leslee Lovato. She brings invaluable experience to the NACC team. Our tutoring program has also been very active. We are fortunate to have Anthony Nicholson (mathematics tutor) and Sweta Lohani (biology tutor) on staff. Our mentors continue to reach out to incoming students on campus. The Native Women’s Circle membership continues to grow. We just concluded Native American Heritage Month which included the annual AISES Pow-wow, panel discussions, documentaries, presentations by faculty and graduate students, and a keynote presentation by Native actor, Chaske Spencer.

Enjoy the holidays and visit our office when you get a chance.

Ty Smith

Upcoming Events

Holiday Potluck..............................................................Thursday, December 9, 5 p.m. in the NACC office
Pine Ridge K-12 Outreach Trip..................................................January 10-14, 2011
Four Corners K-12 Outreach Trip........................................March 14-18, 2011
AISES Region 3 Conference at Colorado State University...........April 8-9, 2011

Please visit the NACC website calendar for additional event information: www.nacc.colostate.edu