

Spring 2006

Native American Student Services



Colorado State University
218 Lory Student Center
970-491-1332
www.nass.colostate.edu



Volume 2, Issue 2

Special points of interest:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Native American Awareness Month | Ram Nation Drum Group |
| Native American Art Exhibit | AISES 2005 Conference |
| Spring Break 06 | NASA Honor Day |
| Resource Library Increase | Calendar of Events |



Native American Awareness Month a Success

The month of November is nationally recognized as a month to celebrate Native Americans; past, present, and future.

Since the arrival of Columbus in 1492, many tribes of the United States have fought for survival of life, culture, land, and social equality. "Offering a variety of topics on campus is not only promoting awareness, but also educating the public about issues facing Native Americans today." Seraphina Wall, Program Coordinator, NASS.

The Native American Student Services (NASS) office held many events such as movie nights showcasing such movies as the Wounded Knee Documentary. The office also conducted many discussions

on a variety of issues including Native Hawaiian issues, Stereotypical Native American Mascots, US Supreme Court cases and Indian Law. NASS also strived to educate the community with programs like Native American Artists, Native American Women and their contributions, Challenges and Triumphs of Latino/a, African and Native Americans, and Two Spirit Native Americans which focused on the diverse sexual orientations of the Native community. NASS closed the month of November with the opening of the Duhesa Lounge Exhibition.

More than 200 students, staff/faculty, and community members attended the presentations. Advertisement of presentations were covered in

the Rocky Mountain Collegian, Coloradoan, and Chanel 11 News on CTV (CSU Campus Television).

"The event was a tremendous success and brought to light the Native American presence on campus. The variety of presentations, programs, films, and attendance from the community could not have been better." Ty Smith, Director, NASS.

The NASS office plans to continue to celebrate Native American Awareness Month on the CSU campus and in the Fort Collins community.

The NASS office would like to thank all those responsible for making the month of November a success.

"We hope to continue celebrating this month on campus every year."
Ty Smith,
Director NASS

Contemporary Native American Art

On November 30, the Duhesa Lounge in the Lory Student Center welcomed contemporary Native American art.

The opening of the exhibition was the final event for Native American Awareness month. Native American Awareness Month culminates in the opening of a new exhibition of work by contemporary Native American artist from around the country. Highlighting the creativity and passion of these living artists, the exhibit continues the celebration of

Native American cultures throughout its year-long stay at CSU.

Native American contemporary artists include jewelry maker Fernando Benally from Gallup, New Mexico, horse-hair basket-maker Linda Aguilar from Fort Collins, sculptors Denny Haskew and Becky Olvera Schultz, and CSU Alumna Carole Grant.

"Our Goal in creating this exhibition for CSU is to demonstrate the vitality and diversity of art work being

created by Native American artists today. Native American art is not something to be studied only in history books or through an examination of artifacts. There is much we can learn from living artists who celebrate cultural heritage through their current work". Matthew Helmer, Director of the LSC Arts Program.

The Duhesa Lounge is located on the 2nd floor of the Lory Student Center. The exhibit is free and open to the public.



NASS LSOP Spring Break 04
Seth Mund, Seraphina Wall, Ty Smith, and CSU Alumna Zoey Benally.

Spring Break NASS Style

For the past year the NASS office has been teaming up with the CSU Little Shop of Physics Department (LSOP). Brian Jones, Director of LSOP, and Ty Smith, Director of NASS, collaborated both departments to achieve one goal; to promote the importance of science and education to youth on reservations.

Several schools visited over the course of the year included the New Mexico

area such as Gallup Middle School, Chee Dodge Elementary, Tohatchi High School, and the Ute Education center in Cortez, CO.

This year the Student Leadership and Civic Engagement (SLCE) office will be teaming up with LSOP and NASS for Alternative Spring Break. Northwest New Mexico and Southwest Colorado are the main focus of this year's visit.

"LSOP has two goals. First, we like to talk to kids about science and let them know that it is fun and they can do it. Second, CSU students have a chance to meet K-12 students and share their college experiences and encourage kids to go to college". Brian Jones.

If you would like to be part of the team or have questions call the NASS office at 491-1332 or Brian Jones at 491-5131.

Native American Resource Library Increase

What better way to provide services to over 300 hundred Native American students with an increase of donated books to the NASS library.

Over the past few years, the library in the NASS office has accumulated books here and there. Last year, over 50 books have been purchased and added to the library. Videos, DVD's, and CD's have also been collected and donated to the

library over the course of the year. Students have even donated text books that "Buy Back" won't accept to the library. Books, DVD's, videos, CD's, and audio tapes are available for a one month check out.

This year the Math Department donated math books and materials specifically for the Eagle Feather Tutoring Program. The donation has

helped approximately 20 students over the course of the year.

NASS would like to thank the following departments for their generous contributions:

- *Math Department
- *WMEP (Women and Minorities in Engineering Program)
- *Abourezk Law Firm
- *Salish Kootenai College
- *Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian



Ram Nation Drum Group

While walking through the Lory Student Center and out into the plaza, you can't help but hear the sound of a drum, singing that you have not heard before, and you see a group of guys sitting in a circle beating a drum. These guys are known as Ram Nation. The first Native American drum group at Colorado State University.

The Ram Nation Drum Group was created this past summer by founder Delbert Willie, Electrical Engineering Graduate Student. *"I created this drum group to keep a*



Ram Nation

Eric Acosta, Delbert Willie, Brian Cervantes, Aaron Benally, Miguel Galvez, Joe Robertson, Gilbert Morgan, and Eric Heim.

connection to my traditions. The drum also brings people together in a different setting, you learn about each other's traditions and backgrounds".

Since the creation of the drum group there are about 12 active drum members who take part in different events and performances through out the CSU campus and Fort Collins community. Drum practice is usually held once a week on Thursday nights in the NASS office.

Eric Heim, a Senior Sociology major, took interest in the group when Mr. Willie told him about it. *"I always was interested in singing in a drum*



Ram Nation

Eric Heim, Miguel Galvez, Gilbert Morgan, Delbert Willie, and Aaron Benally.

group and when Delbert asked me I jumped at the opportunity".

Eric Acosta, Senior Anthropology Major, also found an interest in the group. *"Being a part of Ram Nation gives me a chance to connect to my roots as a Native American. Growing up my parents didn't focus on my native identity".*

Ram Nation will continue to practice and participate in events throughout the year.

For further information contact Delbert Willie at 970-492-9588 or the NASS office at 970-491-1332.

" Being a part of the drum group helps me take a break from reality.

The beat of the drum helps me clear my mind".

Miguel Galvez
Ram Nation



AISES National Conference

The AISES (American Indian Science and Engineering Society) 27th Annual National Conference "Pathways to Stronger Communities" was held in Charlotte, North Carolina during the month of November 3-5th.

AISES Mission statement: *" American Indian Science and Engineering Society promotes excellence, leadership and opportunities in education and professional development for American*

Indians and Alaska Natives. AISES (we) enrich the fields of science and engineering with Native traditions and strengthen communities with knowledge, resources, and innovation".

This year Eric Heim and Eric Acosta attended the conference and represented the CSU Chapter/Region 3 area.

"I attended the conference so I can meet potential employers. I enjoy meeting new people and making new friends. I also have

the chance to share information about CSU with other students and hopefully recruit them to come to CSU. I would advise students to attend a conference". Eric Heim, Senior Sociology Major.

"I enjoyed the Men's talking circle and Elder's circle. I had the chance to network with companies and search career options. The conference allows you to incorporate traditions with modern corporate America. I plan to attend next years conference in Detroit, MI".

Eric Acosta, Senior Anthropology.

The CSU AISES Chapter welcome new members at any time. For further information or questions call the NASS office at 970-491-1332.

Andrea Gomez is the 2005-2006 AISES President.

NASA (Native American Student Association) Honor Day

This April the Native American Student Association (NASA) will be hosting the 1st Annual Honor Day on April 15, 2006 at the LSC Sculpture Garden from 1:00pm-6:00pm.	families who have helped with previous pow wows. <i>"NASA would like to thank and recognize everyone involved with the pow wows in the past years. What better way to celebrate with the community and family. We just want to show our appreciation".</i> Marcella Talamante, NASA President.	Honor Day will include entertainment by Ram Nation Drum Group and the Iron Horse Drum Group, food and beverages will be provided.	Honor Day is free and open to the public. For further information contact the NASS office at 970-491-1332.
Honor Day is specifically focused on honoring the campus offices, sponsors, students, volunteers, and		The 24th Annual CSU Pow Wow is scheduled for the Fall of 2006. Early advertisement will begin in April.	

Calendar of events for Spring Semester

December: 17th-January 17th Holiday Break

January: 1st: Apply for FAFSA (Department of Education pen number required)
2006-2007 Renewal on web at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
On-line help is available contact:
Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243

17th: Spring Semester begins

February: Events and programs to be announced

March: 1st: Deadline for academic scholarships

April: Thursday, April 13, 2006
NASS Graduation Reception
5:00pm-7:30pm
Ammons Hall

Saturday, April 15, 2006
NASA Honor Day
1:00pm-6:00pm
LSC Sculpture Garden

May: Events and programs to be announced

For further updates and event postings call the NASS office at 970-491-1332