



The color guard brings in a number of flags to signify the official start of the Pow Wow.

Signifying the start of the 26th annual CSU Pow Wow the color guard, a collection of Native CSU veterans, entered the Lory Student Center Main Ballroom carrying the United States flag and the Colorado flag. Representatives from a number of different tribes followed the color guard in traditional Native dress as part of the Grand Entry.

“Connecting Green to Tradition” was the theme of the 2008 Pow Wow as a nod to the environmentally conscious cultures of both CSU and Native American tribes. Over 1,000 individuals participated in the all-day event Saturday November 1st. Traditionally dressed gourd dancers took part early in the celebration. Contributing to the celebration of culture, Northern-style drum group Midnight Express and Southern-style drum group Young Bird, performed throughout the day.



Dancers dressed in traditional Native dress entertain crowds of CSU students and staff.

“People got into it, everyone had fun,” said Derrick Benallie, an Electrical Engineering major, and NASS employee. Dancers of all ages and tribal affiliations took part in numerous dances during the day including a traditional gourd dance. Novice dancers were able to participate in the festivities, balancing a potato between the foreheads of partners for the appropriately named potato dance.

“They did a great job getting everyone involved,” said Marcella Talamante, a graduate intern and NASS employee, when asked about individuals who participated in the event.

Classified as a contest Pow Wow, events this year also included cake walks and several rounds of musical chairs. Contestants, divided by age, vied for a number of prizes including board games. Buffalo tacos were also served at the event to bring a taste of Native culture to the masses. The Pow Wow has continued to grow each year, providing both entertainment and education to attendees.

“It was entertaining and fun for the audience,” said Goldin Wall a member of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences as well as a member of the color guard.



Volunteers serve buffalo tacos and cake to attendees.

Podcast Update

Do you need something interesting and different to add to your iPod?

You are in luck because the Native American Student Services Office now features a variety of podcasts available free of charge. Podcasts are offered on the NASS website at <http://www.nass.colostate.edu/podcasts/>. In addition podcasts can be accessed at <http://itunes.colostate.edu/>

Podcasts feature interviews with NASS staff members and Native American students attending CSU. Native drum groups Young Bird and Midnight Express also have recordings available for download.

Pine Ridge Outreach Trip 2009



Students wearing their "rainbow glasses" sit in the dark room and view the color spectrum.



The NASS volunteers stopped in Alliance, Nebraska to view the Carhenge monument.



Madeline works with children wearing goggles to allow them to see the different colors within LED lights.



In a dark room, a young boy views the effects of a magnet on a television.

"The rainbow and beyond" was the theme of the 2009 Pine Ridge Reservation outreach program. Traveling to the reservation located in the southwest corner of South Dakota, CSU students and faculty attempted to spread information about the world of science in a fun and engaging way.

Four students from the NASS office, Darryl Benallie, Derrick Benallie, Madeline Anna and Sydney Felker, along with Ty Smith the Director of the NASS office partnered with Little Shop of Physics to assist children with science experiments. The Pine Ridge Reservation is the eighth-largest reservation in the United States, and home of the Oglala Lakota.

The group first visited the American Horse School and later Wounded Knee District School within the reservation, working with students ranging from Kindergarten through eighth grade. Overall at least 500 students experienced the program, and 23 teachers participated in the teacher workshops. The children were divided into two rooms, one for light experiments, the other for dark.

Between the two rooms over 90 experiments were available providing the children hands-on experience with science. Little Shop of Physics, in partnership with the NASS volunteers, also conducted a teacher workshop at Little Wound Middle School in Kyle, South Dakota. The goal of the workshop was to provide teachers with alternative ideas for hands-on science experiments.

Sharing what she learned on the trip, NASS volunteer Madeline Anna spoke about the hope the outreach program brings to the children. "We emphasize that minorities do go to college and succeed. We have so many opportunities and this (Little Shop) is just a glimpse of what you can do," Anna said.

The second annual outreach trip was sponsored by the John and Sophie Ottens Foundation and the Center for Multiscale Modeling of Atmospheric Processes.

Native Women's Circle Shawl Making

Over the course of the spring semester the Native Women's Circle will be coming together to learn how to create traditional shawls, worn as regalia. The first meeting took place Monday, February 2nd.

Native artist Linda Aguilar, a basket weaver with her work on display at the Smithsonian's Art Museum will be conducting a series of lessons to educate women on correct shawl making techniques.

The traditional approach to making shawls is one that is rooted in spirituality and meditation. The process of making shawls is personal to each woman.

"The energy you put into making them is important. It is a form of meditation and shows creativity," said Katrina Gillette, a graduate student majoring in Soil and Crop Science who is heading the project. Shawls are made from individually cut pieces of cloth in colors significant to an individual's tribe. Adornments for the shawls include fringe, shells and buttons.

"The shawls will enable us to come together as a community, and also to have something physical for us to take away," Katrina Gillette said.

The projects is being sponsored by the John and Sophie Ottens Foundation.



Women gather to select fabric and fringe for their shawls.

Native American Awareness Month

Every November a number of events on campus and in the community are held to celebrate Native American Awareness Month.

October 31st signified the official kick-off of Native American Awareness Month at CSU. Gathering in the Lory Student Center Plaza students and faculty members stopped to enjoy Native drum groups Young Bird and Midnight Express. Dressed in intricately decorated and colorful tribal attire, Native American dancers performed a number of time-honored dances. Fry bread was also sold at the event, attracting hungry crowds.

“Everyone wanted some fry bread. We had a big line and ran out,” said Natalie LeClair who volunteered at the event.

In the main ballroom of the Lory Student Center November 1st, CSU in partnership with NASS and AISES, sponsored the 26th annual CSU Pow Wow. Approximately 1,000 individuals from numerous tribes attended the all-day event. Hosting an open house on November 6th the NASS office opened its doors to current and perspective students in order to outline upcoming events and programs for the office. Musician and story-teller Kevin Locke shared stories and songs with the assembled audience.

Students, faculty and Fort Collins residents were welcomed to the Fort Collins community kick-off at the Fort Collins Museum November 7th. The event included a performance by Kevin Locke and the CSU Ram Nation Drummers. In addition, Native American Skies, a portable starlab planetarium show was featured.

“I think that Native American Awareness Month is important because it allows the rest of the community to appreciate and participate in Native culture. It also makes Native individuals more comfortable sharing their culture,” said Katrina Gillette a Soil and Crop Science graduate student, who spoke at the community kick-off. The stories and histories of different tribes were passed on in oral tradition with a series of “Story Times.” Additional events included discussions and speeches about current Native issues. The month culminated in the opening of an exhibition of work by contemporary Native American artists on display in the Duhesa Lounge for the remainder of the semester.



Buffalo at Dusk by Carole Grant, curator of the exhibit in the Duchesa Lounge.

Eagle Feather Tutor Spotlight: Elizabeth Perrault



Elizabeth explains key concepts from *Humans and Other Animals* to Star Dalangin.

For many students science and math can be trying subjects. Elizabeth Perrault, a second-year graduate student in the Cellular and Molecular Biology program at CSU, helps students overcome their academic challenges as a math and science tutor for the Native American Student Services office.

Originally from Tulsa Oklahoma, Perrault’s tribal affiliation is Cherokee. Perrault has been tutoring since she was in high school with the goal of helping others. “I believe passing on knowledge is the key to inspiring future generations,” Perrault said. “I became involved with the NASS office because they offer free tutoring to all students and I think it is a great service.”

Perrault received a bachelor’s degree in Chemistry from Fort Lewis College in Durango, before traveling to Fort Collins in pursuit of a master’s degree.

“I realize that subjects like math and science are difficult, but they are also very useful. Plus, we need to tutor to encourage students to major in the sciences,” Perrault said.

The NASS office is located on the second level of the Lory Student Center in room 218. Tutoring in math, physics, composition, political science, history, biology, chemistry and many other subjects is provided by the Eagle Feather Tutoring program free of charge to all students. Even if your biology or chemistry class is not listed, students are encouraged to email Elizabeth to inquire if she can tutor that class.

Tutoring sessions with Elizabeth Perrault are available by appointment only at eperraul@simla.colostate.edu. A full list of tutoring courses can be found on the NASS website at www.nass.colostate.edu



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Message From The Director



Greetings from the Office of Native American Student Services! We have reached the mid-point of another successful school year. As you will read in this issue, we have been very busy. Native American Awareness Month celebrations were a tremendous success last semester. Our mentoring and tutoring programs continue to provide much needed services to students on campus. We just completed one of our two outreach programs to K-12 students located on neighboring reservations. Prior to the spring semester we visited elementary schools in Kyle, Manderson, and Allen, South Dakota. For spring break, we will be traveling to the Four Corners region to visit schools on the Southern Ute Reservation and Navajo Nation.

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

Warm regards,
 Ty Smith

Upcoming Events

5th Annual Leadership Retreat.....	Feb. 6-8, Estes Park
Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day	March 20
NCIPA Pow Wow	April 11-12, Loveland
K-12 Four Corners Outreach Program.....	March 16-20, Southwest Colorado and Northwest New Mexico
Graduation Reception	May 14

Please visit the NASS website calendar for additional Native American Awareness Month events: www.nass.colostate.edu