

**University of Washington's
American Indian Studies Department
presents**

**The Living Breath of wəłəbʔaltx^w:
Indigenous Ways of Knowing
Cultural Food Practices and
Ecological Knowledge
SUMMIT**



Saturday, May 30th, 2015

9:00am – 5:00pm

wəłəbʔaltx^w – Intellectual House

4249 Whitman Court, Seattle, WA 98195



**Sponsored by:
American Indian Studies
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A message from the Summit Planning Committee

Welcome everyone!

First, we want to acknowledge and pay respect to the Coast Salish peoples whose traditional territory we are on.

We are very pleased you can join us today. For the last two years the UW's American Indian Studies Department has held "The Living Breath of wələbʔaltx^w: Indigenous Ways of Knowing Cultural Food Practices and Ecological Knowledge" symposium which brought together individuals who shared their knowledge and expertise on topics such as tribal food sovereignty initiatives, food justice and security, traditional foods and health, and indigenous foods systems and global climate change.

We are holding this Summit to discuss how we can continue to utilize future symposia to better serve our indigenous communities as we continue to foster dialogue and build collaborative networks to sustain our cultural food practices and preserve our healthy relationships to the land, water, and all living things. We have brought together a wonderful panel of speakers who will share their knowledge, ideas, and strategies with us. And, we look forward to everyone here today sharing with us your ideas and insights in this framework of collaboration.

We come together in this beautiful space. This place is the completion of the University of Washington's Phase One of the wələbʔaltx^w (a Lushootseed word meaning Intellectual House) and fulfills a 40-year dream held by Native students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members to construct a longhouse-style facility on UW's Seattle campus that pays homage to Coast Salish culture and architectural traditions and will serve as a visible symbol honoring the region's indigenous peoples.

Since we opened its doors on March 13 of this year, this space has been the hub of exciting activity. Our event today symbolizes the living breath of the wələbʔaltx^w and embodies the essence of the work we envision doing in this intellectual and cultural space. The wələbʔaltx^w exemplifies the spirit of sharing, cooperation and commitment to indigenous knowledges and local and national indigenous communities.

In the tradition of the Coast Salish peoples we raise our hands to all of you in thanks and appreciation for helping us make this a successful event!

Summit Coordinators

Susan Balbas (Cherokee and Yaqui Nations) is the executive director of Na'ah Illahee Fund, a nonprofit based in Seattle that advances sustainable Indigenous cultures in the Pacific Northwest. Susan holds a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Master of Science in Teaching. She most recently was a training and technical assistance specialist for the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's tribal youth programs through Education Development Center, Inc. Susan has been an independent consultant working with tribes, artists and nonprofit organizations, and has held management positions in the business and social-profit sectors. Mother of three and grandmother of three, Susan has studied with herbalists, is an avid gardener, cook, and voracious reader of all books on traditional Native and healthy foods - gathering and cultivation, organic gardening, current social and environmental issues such as climate change and globalization, and historical novels. As a young woman, Susan's first activism was around environmental issues, and she has continued that early commitment by doing her part to educate others about protecting our Mother Earth and her ability to sustain future generations. She currently is enrolled in Mid Sound Fisheries' Community Action Training School (CATS) program and serves on the board of Sightline Institute, a sustainability think tank in Seattle.

Dr. Charlotte Côté (Tseshah/Nuu-chah-nulth) (*Chair of Planning Committee*) is associate professor of American Indian Studies at the University of Washington. Dr. Côté is a member of the Tseshah/Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations on Vancouver Island in B.C. In 2010 Dr. Côté published, *Spirits of Our Whaling Ancestors. Revitalizing Makah and Nuu-chah-nulth Traditions*. Her other publications include, "Food Sovereignty, Food Hegemony, and the Revitalization of Indigenous Whaling Practices," "The Spiritual Aspects of Makah and Nuu-chah-nulth Whaling –The Guardian Spirit Complex of the Northwest Coast Tribes," and "Historical Foundations of Indian Sovereignty in Canada and the United States." Dr. Côté is currently working on her next book that focuses on indigenous food sovereignty and environmental justice issues. Dr. Côté serves as Chair of the UW's Wələbʔaltx^w Intellectual House Advisory Committee and is also Affiliated Faculty in the UW's Jackson School of International Studies Canadian Studies Center.

Michelle Daigle (Omushkegowuk Cree, Constance Lake First Nation) has an MA in Indigenous Governance from the University of Victoria and is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography at the University of Washington. Her interdisciplinary research brings Indigenous Studies into critical dialogue with Geography on issues related to Indigenous movements for decolonization, resurgence, and self-determination. Her doctoral research reframes the way sovereignty has been conceptualized within food sovereignty scholarship and activism by focusing on place-based Indigenous knowledge, laws, and everyday lived practices in Anishinaabe people themselves through mino-bimaadiziwin or "living the good life". In October 2015, Michelle will be joining the Department of Geography at the University of British Columbia. She will begin her position as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow and will transition into a tenure-track Assistant Faculty position in 2017.

Summit Coordinators

Dr. Clarita Lefthand-Begay (Diné) is a doctoral graduate from the University of Washington's School of Public Health. Presently, she is the Director and Principal Researcher of Hózhó Research & Consulting in Seattle, Washington. Her interdisciplinary research examines environmental health disparities, water security, climate change adaptation barriers and indigenous environmental values. Over the past 10 years, as a research scientist, she has carried out several research projects, such as a microbial source tracking project and decision analysis project, for tribal communities. A systems approach is taken in her water security research to better understand how some tribal nations develop water quality standards to protect their communities, and examine some of the advantages and challenges affiliated with this process. This research will allow for the consideration about how tribal perceptions, knowledge and values can inform water quality standards.

Dr. Dian Million (Athabascan) is Associate Professor in American Indian Studies and Affiliated Faculty in Canadian Studies at the University of Washington, Seattle. She holds a BA in interdisciplinary studies from Fairhaven College, Western Washington University and a Masters and Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies from the University of California at Berkeley. Dian Million's most recent research explores the politics of mental and physical health with attention to affect as it intersects with race, class, and gender in Indian Country. She is the author of *Therapeutic Nations: Healing in an Age of Indigenous Human Rights* (University of Arizona Press, Critical Issues in Indigenous Studies Series, 2013) as well as numerous articles, chapters, and poems. *Therapeutic Nations* is a discussion of trauma as a political narrative in the struggle for Indigenous self determination in an era of global neoliberalism. Reading unprecedented violence against Indigenous women and all women as more than a byproduct of global contention *Therapeutic Nations* makes an argument for the constitutive role violence takes in the now quicksilver transmutations of capitalist development. She teaches courses on Indigenous politics, literature, feminisms and social issues.

Dr. Michelle Montgomery (Haliwa Saponi/Eastern Band Cherokee) is the assistant professor at the UW Tacoma School of Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences in Ethnic, Gender and Labor Studies/American Indian Studies. Dr. Montgomery's research focuses on critical race theory, responsive justice, indigenous cultural autonomy, identity politics, and bioethics related to sociocultural and environmental health disparities within American Indian/Alaska Native/First Nations communities. She received her bachelor's degree in biology from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, a master's degree in plant pathology from North Carolina State University, a master of arts in bioethics from the UW and a Ph.D. in language, literacy and sociocultural studies from University of New Mexico.

Melissa Woodrow (Wuksachi Band of Western Mono) is a soon to be graduate of the Native Voices Indigenous Documentary Program at the University of Washington with a Master's in Communications. A native from Central California, she holds a BA from California State University, Monterey Bay in Cinematic Arts & Technology. As an avid theatre and film artist/manager, she began focusing her thesis work on indigenous wellness and healthy lifestyles. Melissa has worked as the program coordinator with Red Eagle Soaring Native Youth Theatre Program and as a Production Manager with Longhouse Media. Currently, she is in production for her thesis web series, "La Casa Matriz", that seeks to highlight, inspire, and re-claim, and explore identity through the preservation of family memories and history.

Schedule

Saturday, May 30th

9:00am – 9:05am - Welcome, Dr. Charlotte Coté (Nuu-chah-nulth), Summit Planning Team Chair

9:05am – 9:10am - Welcome, Dr. Chris Teuton (Cherokee), Chair Department of American Indian Studies

9:10am – 9:15am - Opening Prayer, Glen Pinkham (Yakama)

9:15am – 9:45am - Storytelling with Harvest Moon (Quinault)

9:45am – 10:00am - Introduction to the Panel by Dr. Clarita Lefthand-Begay (Diné) and Michelle Daigle (Omushkegowuk Cree, Constance Lake First Nation)

10:00am – 12:30pm - Panel Discussion: Hokulani Aikau (Kanaka 'Ōiwi Hawai'i), Jeff Corntassel (Cherokee), Lawrence Curley (Ojibwe & Navajo), Nitanis Desjarlais (northern Cree), Micah McCarty (Makah), Libby Halpin Nelson, Glen Pinkham (Yakama), Valerie Segrest (Muckleshoot)

12:30pm – 2:00pm - Lunch: elk stew by Shawn Peterson (Tlaoquiaht) and Charles Glen, salmon and oysters donated by Muckleshoot Tribe

2:00pm – 2:30pm - Planning Committee Discussion: Dr. Charlotte Coté (Nuu-chah-nulth), Dr. Dian Million (Athabaskan), Dr. Michelle Montgomery (Haliwa Saponi/Eastern Band Cherokee), Dr. Clarita Lefthand-Begay (Diné), Michelle Daigle (Omushkegowuk Cree, Constance Lake First Nation), and Susan Balbas (Cherokee and Yaqui Nations)

2:30pm – 3:30pm - Breakout Sessions

- 1) How can we support each other in our work, activism, and/or research to successfully grow the indigenous foods movement?
- 2) How can we use this symposium to support tribal efforts and programs to restore, revitalize, and strengthen our cultural foods systems and environment?

3:30pm – 4:45pm - Open Dialogue

4:45pm – 5:00pm - Closing Comments

Panelists

Hokulani Aikau (Kanaka 'Ōiwi Hawai'i) is an associate professor of Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Politics in the Department of Political Science at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. She currently serves as Director of the General Education Office at UHM, Dr. Aikau is the author of *A Chosen People, a Promised Land: Mormonism and Race in Hawai'i*. Her next ethnographic project, funded by a UH Sea Grant, is in collaboration with Kako'o 'Ōiwi, a Native Hawaiian non-profit working to restore wetland taro farming on the windward coast of O'ahu.

Jeff Corntassel (Cherokee) is an Associate Professor and Graduate Advisor in Indigenous Governance at the University of Victoria. Dr. Corntassel's research and teaching interests include sustainable self-determination and Indigenous political mobilization/Indigenous nationhood movements. He is currently completing a co-edited volume (with Professor Tom Holm) entitled *The Power of Peoplehood: Regenerating Indigenous Nations*, which brings together native scholars from Canada and U.S to discuss contemporary strategies for revitalizing Indigenous communities.

Lawrence Curley (Ojibwe & Navajo) holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Earth Sciences with a focus on hydrogeology from Northeastern Illinois University. He has worked at top environmental firms as a geologist in Chicago and Boston before returning to graduate school at the University of Washington where he is completing his Master's Degree in the College of the Environment. Lawrence has dedicated his life to water quality and water resources with a focus on ocean acidification and the wide-ranging related ramifications of climate change.

Nitanis Desjarlais (northern Cree) is the mother of seven and lives with her family in her husband's traditional Nuu-chah-nulth territory. Nitani has been actively involved in First Nations rights advocacy and is a frontline advocate for indigenous foods sovereignty. She is a member of the Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities Indigenous Foods Network (VICCIFN). Nitani is also a video documentarian and focuses much of her efforts upon Nuu-chah-nulth language revitalization and traditional knowledge preservation.

Micah McCarty (Makah) is the former chairman of the Makah Tribal Council and served as Special Assistant to the President on Tribal Relations at Evergreen State College. Micah has defended tribal interests across several political spectrums and has assisted state agencies to improve their policies and practices to protect Native rights and resources. In addition to his formal leadership and policymaking roles, Micah is a celebrated artist, recognized by the Washington State Arts Commission as a Master Artist.

Libby Halpin Nelson works as the Senior Environmental Policy Analyst with the Tulalip Tribes. Halpin was instrumental in the development of Tulalip's Government-to-Government Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service and continues to oversee its implementation to sustain the resources and important sites on Tulalip ancestral territories and treaty-protected use areas. She currently works as project manager for a co-stewardship and huckleberry enhancement project with the Forest Service in the Skykomish Ranger District.

Glen Pinkham is an enrolled member of the Yakama Nation. His Wishkum name is Gutumpsh which means "One who watches the water." He's been married to Yvette Pinkham for 29 years and they have three children; Cameron, Shanoa and Dallas. Glen is a hunter and he believes that being a traditional hunter requires living by the Creator's unwritten laws and traditions. He's a Spiritual Counselor at Seattle Indian Health Board working with Veterans and people in recovery at Thunderbird Treatment Center.

Valerie Segrest is a member of the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe. Valerie's work addresses issues of health and social justice for indigenous peoples and she is committed to creating culturally appropriate health systems in tribal communities and exemplifies dedication to tribal wellness through community-based research that impacts health disparities. Valerie co-authored the book, *Feeding the People, Feeding the Spirit: Revitalizing Northwest Coastal Indian Food Culture*.

Announcements

Join our raffle!

All proceeds benefit our future Symposium events.



Tasting Table set up by Elizabeth Campbell (Spokane) and Susan Balbas featuring traditional foods and tea samples.

Please join our mailing list as we continue to build resources.
Stay tuned for information on next year's 4th Annual Symposium!

<http://eepurl.com/10tNz>

SPECIAL THANK YOUS:

Mark McCarthy (Lead Volunteer Coordinator), Harvest Moon, Mariana Harvey, Elizabeth Campbell, our cooks Shawn Peterson & Charles Glen, AIS 335 student volunteers and all our volunteers, Dr. Marc Gladney, Louie Gong, Marcia Feinstein-Toby, and Herkimer Coffee

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