Native Studies Colloquium Series and Media Indigena Team Up!

This past year, graduate students from the Colloquium course partook in a project with popular online commentary website Media Indigena (www.mediaindigena.com) in an attempt to provoke conversation and engage the public in issues surrounding the lives of Indigenous people across Canada. This cohort of students contributed, critiqued, and engaged their visitors: in the process, they joined in the work of articulating a future for Indigenous and non-Indigenous relations in Canada. Their colleagues responded to them in class assignments and the public had the opportunity to participate as well.

The topic of this year’s Colloquium series was Debwewin – “Speaking truths” – and featured a total of two-dozen speakers, ranging from thinkers like Ovide Mercredi to writers such as Joseph Boyden, community leaders like Leslie Spillett, and journalists like Wab Kinew. Speakers discussed a range of topics and issues facing Indigenous people in Canada today, but all spoke truth to these young scholars.

This upcoming year promises to provide more of the same amazing work and the Fall 2015 Colloquium lineup is on the back cover of this semester’s The Newsbeat.
This year, the Department of Native Studies celebrates its 40th Anniversary. Throughout these 40 years, many students have had the opportunity to learn from the amazing faculty in the department while also becoming actively involved in the Indigenous community in Winnipeg and across Canada. However, none of this would have been possible without the immense passion, effort, and foresight that were shown by 11 students and a number of faculty members in the 1970s. Without the tireless work of these people, the department may not have formed.

In the fall of 1971, approximately 50 of the 13,377 University of Manitoba students were Aboriginal, and of those 50, 11 would go on to form the Indian Métis Eskimo Students Association (IMESA), and organization of and for Indigenous students at the University of Manitoba. The student group rapidly gained respect across the campus and, with the help of faculty members including Prof. William Koolage and Dave Courchene of the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood, convinced the University of Manitoba to establish the Department of Native Studies. We are eternally grateful for the work of these individuals for their contribution to the students of the department as well as the university as a whole. Some people deserve special mention for their immense contribution to the establishment of the department. Ovide Mercredi was president of IMESA in the early 1970s and helped establish one of the first courses in Native Studies, Native Views, with Prof. William Koolage, based on a free course that was being offered to the people of Winnipeg. Also, Moses Okemow worked tirelessly as the President of IMESA in the early 1970s and sat on Senate appointed committees while also working to keep up with schoolwork. These two important figures in the fight for the Department of Native Studies credit the work of Prof. Bruce Sealey, Prof. William Koolage, and Prof. Fred Stambrook as dedicated allies in the struggle. We would like to thank all of these people along with the many unnamed others who fought tirelessly to allow us the opportunities we have today.

In honour of the anniversary, the Department of Native Studies will be holding a celebration on September 17th. This celebration will honour the history of the department through speeches, dance, and camaraderie. Info is available on the UMNATV Facebook page at: https://www.facebook.com/UofMNativeStudiesDept
This year, the Kino-nda-niimi Collective (photo left), a group of Indigenous writers, artists, editors, curators, and allies, published a phenomenal book. The collective includes such notable names as Leanne Simpson, Tanya Kappo, Wanda Nanibush, Hayden King, and our very own Dr. Niigaan Sinclair. These individuals, along with many colleagues, friends, family, and organizations assembled a collection of stories during the summer and fall of 2013 regarding the Idle No More movement. Ultimately, the outcome of this work was a collection of writings, poetry, lyrics, art, and images from many different voices that represent the past, present, and future of the movement. Together, these stories work towards healthy and sustainable communities representing justice and equality. The collection reminds us of the inspiring moments and powerful creations from the winter we danced and gestures towards the next steps in the movements towards justice and Indigenous self-determination. The book, now in its second printing, is available from Arbeiter Ring Press.

Royalties from the sale of this book will be donated to the Native Youth Sexual Health Network. Information on the book can be found at: http://arpbooks.org/books/detail/the-winter-we-danced

Contributor Ryan McMahon speaks at the Winnipeg Launch of The Winter We Danced.
Over the past 30 years, over 1,100 Indigenous women and girls have been reported missing or murdered in Canada. In many cases, the women and girls disappeared without a trace and there was little to no attention from the media, public, government, or law enforcement. As a result of this injustice, a massive art installation has been created including over 1,763 pairs of moccasin vamps (tops) along with 108 pairs of children’s vamps. These vamps were a product of hundreds of concerned individuals with the goal of drawing attention to this injustice. This commemorative installation has been titled Walking With Our Sisters and will be made available to the public through showings at selected galleries and locations. The exhibit is designed as a floor installation organized in a winding path of fabric and cedar boughs with beaded vamps around the outside. Viewers are asked to remove their shoes to walk the path along the vamps. Each pair of vamps is meant to represent one missing or murdered Indigenous woman, the unfinished nature of the moccasins is representative of the unfinished lives of these Indigenous women. The children’s vamps are meant to represent the children who never returned from residential schools. Overall, the exhibit is meant to show respect to the lives of these murdered and missing women and shows that they are missing but not forgotten.

The Walking With Our Sisters Collective (photo left) is a group of volunteers from across the country that makes up the organizing committee of the exhibit. The Walking With Our Sisters Collective is made up of approximately 21 people including Christi Belcourt as Lead Coordinator, Maria Campbell as Elder and Advisor on Traditional Protocol, and the Department of Native Studies’ own Sherry Farrell-Racette as Lead Curatorial and Installation Advisor (photo above). More information on this project can be found at: http://walkingwithoursisters.ca.
Dr. Kulchyski (above) and the Pangnirtung Summer School (below)

Alumni Marion Meadmore (centre) receives a 2014 National Aboriginal Achievement Award

UMNATV students trip to Arctic in 2001

Alumnus Ovide Mercredi, Verna Kirkness, Murray Sinclair, Leanne Simpson, and Deborah Myran return to speak to students

UMNATV students of 1996 in Churchill, MB

Dr. Valandra speaks to students in Colloquium in 2013

UMNATV’s first Department Head, Raoul McKay, who passed away in August 2014
Dr. Emma LaRocque: Dr. LaRocque’s interests are wide ranging, however her research is centred around the topic of colonization and its impact on Native/White relations. Currently, Dr. LaRocque is writing a chapter titled “Contemporary Métis Literature: Resistance, Roots, and Innovation” for the Oxford Handbook on Canadian Literature along with the chapter “Resist No Longer: Reflections on Resistance Writing and Teaching” for a book on Resistance and Resurgence. Also, during the month of July, Dr. LaRocque was the Acting Head for the Department of Native Studies.

Dr. Peter Kulchyski: Dr. Kulchyski’s interests lie in the area of Indigenous politics, land claims, and self-government. Recently, he has helped organize a group of grassroots citizens from the Fox Lake First Nation in opposition to Manitoba Hydro’s Keeyask Generating Station. Also, he has been working as the Co-Director for the Canadian Consortium on Performance and Politics in the Americas.

Dr. Wanda Wuttunee: Dr. Wuttunee’s research surrounds the topic of Aboriginal Community Economic Development. Recently, Dr. Wuttunee has been writing a chapter on the Neechi Commons Co-op in Wpg, MB for Co-ops and Colonialism Anthology, an anthology produced by women academics across North America. This is Dr. Wuttunee’s third year as the co-chair of the Poverty Reduction Research Project through her work with Misipawistik Cree Nation. Finally, Dr. Wuttunee is giving a presentation on Neechi Commons to the Australia New Zealand Academy of Management’s Conference in December.

Dr. Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair: Dr. Sinclair’s interests are centred around Indigenous literature but are wide-ranging and include contemporary Indigenous issues. Over the past year he has appeared on Al-Jazeera America, CBC, CTV, Global, and is a regular commentator on APTN In-Focus. Recently, Dr. Sinclair co-edited the book The Winter We Danced, a collection of writings, artwork, poetry, and other forms of personal expression from the Idle No More Movement.

Dr. Christopher Trott: Dr. Trott’s interest concern kinship and social organization among the Inuit. Recently, Dr. Trott has had the opportunity to work with the “Inuit Family Tree” project, a project dedicated to building a website for the Inuit of Igloolik to allow young Inuit people to learn their family histories and the land upon which their ancestors used to live. Dr. Trott did much of this research in the late 1970s and early 1980s and is transforming this research into a digital format to be used on the website.

Dr. Sherry Farrell-Racette: Dr. Farrell-Racette’s research surrounds the areas of First Nations and Métis women’s history, work and educational history, Indigenous knowledge, and contemporary First Nations and Métis art. Recently, Dr. Farrell-Racette has been working closely with the Walking With Our Sisters installation as Lead Curatorial/Installation Advisor.

Dr. Fred Shore: Dr. Shore’s interests lie in the area of Métis history along with Inuit, First Nations, and Métis political issues. Currently, he is working part-time at the university. He is nearing finished with a new book entitled “Threads in the Sash: The Story of the Métis People.”

Dr. Edward Valandra: Noted Indigenous Studies academic Dr. Edward Valandra will continue a term contract with the Department of Native Studies this upcoming year, teaching four courses. Dr. Valandra’s work addresses the normalization of genocide through games such as ‘Cowboys and Indians.’
UMNATV Graduate Students

**MASTERS STUDENTS (SUPERVISOR):**

**Leslie Agger (Dr. Racette):** Leslie is studying approaches to healing from past trauma.

**Christy Anderson (Dr. LaRocque):** Christy researches media representations of Indigenous women.

**Samson Beardy (Dr. Racette):** Samson is researching kinship in his home community prior to the establishment of a permanent settlement.

**Belinda Blair-Nicholson (Dr. Racette):** Belinda is studying the mental heuristics surrounding relationships between Native men non-Native women.

**Janice Bone (Dr. Kulchyski):** Janice is studying Aboriginal rights to water in Treaty 5.

**Jason Bone (Dr. Sinclair):** Jason is researching Anishinaabe cosmology, culture, and community.

**Dennis Davey (Dr. Racette):** Dennis studies issues of Indigenous peoples, social work, and education.

**Joseph Dipple (Dr. Kulchyski):** Joseph’s research interests relate to State-Indigenous relations regarding hydroelectric development in Northern Manitoba.

**Angela Fey (Dr. Racette):** Angela is studying Métis clothing and its creation.

**Stephanie Labelle (Dr. Wuttunee):** Stephanie is studying Aboriginal women and mining.

**Timothy Maton (Dr. Kulchyski):** Timothy writes about colonial architecture and racism.

**Lisa Whitecloud-Richard (Dr. Racette):** Lisa’s work combines ethnohistory, decolonization, and post-colonial theory within Indigenous arts practices.

**Nina Wilson (Dr. Sinclair):** Nina’s research is interested in the intersections between activism, genocide, and storytelling.

**PHD STUDENTS (SUPERVISOR):**

**Helen Agger (Dr. Racette):** Helen’s work focuses on Anishinaabe culture and history in Lac Seul First Nation.

**Allyson Anderson (Dr. LaRocque):** Allyson’s work combines media studies, pop culture, and women’s studies while examining Indigenous representation.

**Darren Courchene (Dr. Sinclair):** Darren’s studies examines Anishinaabe language, narratives, and traditions throughout time.

**Ryan Duplassie (Dr. Kulchyski):** Ryan’s work focuses on Anishinawbe self-determination at Grassy Narrows First Nation.

**Emily Grafton (Dr. Kulchyski):** Emily studies the dynamics of Aboriginal governance in the contemporary world.

**Michelene Hughes (Dr. LaRocque):** Michelene works on issues of representation and Indigenous cultures.

**Ramona Neckoway (Dr. Kulchyski):** Ramona researches processes of negotiation and oral history in Treaty 5.

**Jennifer Keith (Dr. Kulchyski):** Jennifer is studying Dene self-government and Indigenous governance.

**Catherine Mattes (Dr. Racette):** Catherine’s work examines how Aboriginal communities can be engaged with contemporary art through curatorial initiatives.

**Velvet Maud (Dr. Racette):** Velvet studies the history of Métis and Indigenous health issues.

**Colleen McIvor (Dr. Racette):** Colleen focuses on issues of gender and Anishinaabe Women’s history.

**Paul Murphy (Dr. Sinclair):** Paul is writing a dissertation on the legacies and contributions of Anishinaabe storyteller and writer Basil Johnston.
In May 2014 the Department of Native Studies lost an incredibly talented and gifted ally, colleague, and friend. Dr. Renate Eigenbrod was a caring, passionate, and beloved member of the faculty of the Department of Native Studies. She was born on December 2, 1944 in Germany and passed away suddenly on May 8, 2014 in Winnipeg. Dr. Eigenbrod was dedicated scholar and loving member of the Native Studies community. Her interests surrounded Aboriginal literature, particularly theories about decolonization and its relationship with Aboriginal literature. At the time of her passing, Dr. Eigenbrod was working on the role of Aboriginal literature in the discourse surrounding genocide as well as reconciliation. She was also the Head of the Department of Native Studies and a prized friend and ally within the department. Throughout her time as a scholar, Dr. Eigenbrod edited a collection called *Aboriginal Oral Tradition: Theory, Practice, Ethics* and wrote or co-edited many other books including *Creating Community: A Roundtable on Canadian Aboriginal Literature*. However, Dr. Eigenbrod did not only work for change through authoring or editing books, she also established a day-long creative writing workshop in April 2013 titled “Writing for Change.” Throughout her time at the University of Manitoba, Dr. Eigenbrod has inspired and supported her students, colleagues, and many others who had the blessing of interacting with her, she will be greatly missed by all. Her son Felix and his family Katy, Hannah and Alexander; and her daughter Judith and her fiancé Rod survive her.

Donations via cheque or money order may be made to one of the areas Renate cared deeply about and worked devotedly for:

1) **Oxfam Canada** [http://www.oxfam.ca/donate](http://www.oxfam.ca/donate)

2) **The Renate Eigenbrod Bursary for Indigenous Graduate Students** c/o The University of Manitoba, 179 Extended Education Complex, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2

*The newly named "Renate Eigenbrod Bursary" which will be "given to a First Nations, Metis, or Inuit graduate student in an area of Native Studies, English literature, or International Indigenous issues."

3) **The Aboriginal Writers Collective of Manitoba** c/o The Department of Native Studies, The University of Manitoba room 204 Isbister Building, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 2N2
Recently, Migizii Agamik, the Aboriginal Student Centre, gained a new director to help support Aboriginal students, promote Indigenous cultures, and work with faculty and staff to make the University of Manitoba an accepting and supportive environment. This new director is Christine Cyr. Cree and Métis, Christine holds her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Manitoba and has worked in Enrolment Services for over 14 years, most recently as the Lead Aboriginal Student Recruitment Officer. She has led a Post-Secondary Club for Indigenous youth and has worked closely with the Aboriginal Student Centre in the facilitation of the Indigenous Circle of Empowerment program, as well as leadership programs offered by Student Life and the International Centre for Students.

Migizii Agamik has been a beacon of support and community for Aboriginal students at the University of Manitoba, and Ms. Cyr has emphasized this as an important aspect of her job. She states that one of her goals for the Aboriginal Student Centre is, “to ensure that it is not just a place but a space where all Indigenous students, staff, faculty, and community feel welcomed and at home; and, to ensure that the building is a place for the non-Indigenous community to feel welcomed as they come here to learn about the cultures, values, and world views of the Indigenous communities and to walk with us as we strive to meet our individual and collective goals.”

In an attempt to accomplish these goals, Ms. Cyr discussed a number of events and programs planned for this upcoming year with The Newsbeat. These will support Indigenous students and include non-Indigenous students throughout the upcoming year. These include the always-popular Graduation Pow Wow in May 2015 but also plans to host an Elders Gathering, a Lecture Series, financial literacy workshops, and increase supports and opportunities for new students to be welcomed to the university. Along with these events, Migizii Agamik will continue past work on the Promoting Aboriginal Community on Campus (PACT) and Indigenous Circle of Empowerment (ICE). As well, Cyr plans to partner with the Office of Indigenous Achievement with the goal of bringing a wide array of programs to the entirety of the University of Manitoba campus.

IN MEMORIAM
Audrey Marie Elaine Lafreniere
(August 19, 1973 – February 24, 2014)

This past year the Department of Native Studies lost Audrey Lafreniere, a great student, friend, and daughter. Audrey gifted all she met with joy, laughter, and friendship while inspiring her fellow students and teachers with an enthusiastic, generous, and kind spirit. She was also fiercely independent and a thorough thinker who gave 110% to anything and everything she did, constantly “raising the bar” inside and outside of the classroom. She was, simply put, a force. While the loss of her is felt by all of us, she remains a model student whose legacy will be carried well into the future. We miss you, Miigwech, ekosi, and thank you for your gifts.
Dr. Peter Kulchyski has been an active member of the Department of Native Studies for the entirety of his 13 years here. Recently, Dr. Kulchyski has been working tirelessly on a variety of projects including as the Co-Director for the Canadian Consortium on Performance and Politics in the Americas in association with the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics, as a participant in the Clean Environment Commission’s hearings on the Keeyask Generating Station, and as the Acting Head of the Department of Native Studies.

Last year, Dr. Kulchyski released two new books, one of which was *Aboriginal Rights Are Not Human Rights: In Defence of Indigenous Struggles*, and is currently working on another book regarding speech ethics and land rights among the Mountain Dene.

Related to his work with the Canadian Consortium on Performance and Politics, Dr. Kulchyski recently partook in the Hemispheric Institute’s Encuentro event. The Hemispheric Institute’s Encuentro events are held every two years and consist of a weeklong conference and festival. Each Encuentro is held at a different location in the Americas. The purpose of this event is to promote collaboration and experimentation among thinkers, artists, scholars, and activists. This year’s Encuentro event took place in Montreal, Québec and is the 9th Encuentro the Hemispheric Institute has hosted.

Dr. Kulchyski is also an instructor at the Pangnirtung Summer School. This program is a joint venture between the Department of Native Studies and the community of Pangnirtung, Nunavut.

During the program, students learn about Inuit cultural politics and environmental issues while also learning through living “on the land.”

Dr. Kulchyski’s work will continue as the Head of the Department of Native Studies until the summer of 2015, when a new Head will be selected.
Nine students from three Canadian universities participated in the Native Studies department’s inaugural Travel Study Program to Grassy Narrows First Nation, May 12-26. The program – conceived by PhD candidate Ryan Duplassie and Elders in Grassy Narrows – consists of two courses offered at both the 2000 and 4000 levels: “Grassy Narrows Environmental and Cultural Politics” and “Anishinaabe Environmental Knowledge in Grassy Narrows.”

Modeled on the successful Pangnirtung program, this program situates students in an Anishinaabe context where participants develop an understanding of their place as Treaty people by engaging in the environmental/cultural politics of Grassy Narrows. An intensive and rigorous program of study began with four on-campus sessions that tied together discussion of Treaty Three, the history of the logging blockade and struggles with mercury poisoning, contemporary legal battles over resource jurisdiction and stewardship, and the meaning and significance of Anishinaabe land-based cultural continuance in the twenty-first century. The remainder of the program was spent camping at the blockade site on Slant Lake – with invaluable visits and conversations with Judy Da Silva and her immediate and extended families -- and across Indian Lake with Andrew Keewatin (Shoon). Through direct daily experience of the lands, waters, and community stories, students were immersed and swept along in the confluence of contemporary Anishinaabe ecology and politics.

In the days camping, students enjoyed talks at the sacred fire, attended a sweat lodge ceremony, participated as honoured guests at Treaty Three office’s annual spring ceremony in Kenora, helped build a trapper’s cabin, went fishing and hunting, and honoured their hosts with a community feast upon their farewell. The schedule allowed – importantly – for plenty of personal time to observe and reflect, make fire, share stories, go fishing, share food, and practice target shooting with the slingshots Shoon showed the students how to make.

Program coordinator and ‘instructor’ Ryan Duplassie is humbled by the quality, creativity, and thoughtfulness of the students’ written and oral work: their major research papers, ecological observations papers, storytelling narratives, and Treaty reflections. The depth of their reflection as Treaty people is a reminder of the value that these Travel Study programs hold, as relationships are formed and strengthened through friendships, direct experience, and the binding of physical and intellectual knowledge. Miigwetch to the Grassy Narrows community for your steadfast resilience and humbling generosity of knowledge and spirit!
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<td>Indigenous Homecoming: Celebrating the Strength of Indigenous Women and the 40th Anniv. of UMNATV</td>
<td>Nahanni Fontaine, Alumna &amp; Advisor, Prov. of Manitoba</td>
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<td>Deborah Myran, Alumna &amp; Community Leader</td>
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<td>Sept. 24, 2014</td>
<td>They Called Me Number One: Secrets &amp; Survival at an Indian Residential School</td>
<td>Chief Bev Sellars, Author &amp; Burt Award Nominee</td>
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<td>Oct. 1, 2014</td>
<td>A History of Métis Studies at the U of Manitoba</td>
<td>Dr. Fred Shore, Alumna &amp; Asst Professor</td>
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<td>Oct. 8, 2014</td>
<td>Our People on Film: Pop-Up Theatres and the Birth of an Indigenous Film Institute</td>
<td>Adam Beach, Actor &amp; Filmmaker</td>
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<td>Oct. 15, 2014</td>
<td>Got Bannock? Feeding Winnipeg &amp; Rebuilding the Village We Once Had</td>
<td>Althea Guiboche, Activist &amp; Got Bannock? Founder</td>
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<td>Oct. 22, 2014</td>
<td>Can a Decolonized Relationship Between Provinces &amp; First Nations Be Forged?</td>
<td>Emily Grafton, Ph.D. Student &amp; Curator</td>
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<td>Managing Relationships: Aboriginal Women &amp; Natural Resources</td>
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<td>Extraction/Colonialism/Neocolonialism in Nunavut</td>
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<td>Walk a Mile in Our Moccasins: Simulating Colonialism</td>
<td>Rebecca Chartrand, Alumna &amp; Educator</td>
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Check out the #UMNATV FB page at: www.facebook.com/UofMNativeStudiesDept