

Fall 2002 Newsletter

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Iverson's Navajo History - Due Soon in Bookstores

Peter Iverson, Regents Professor of History at Arizona State University, has completed a comprehensive history of the Navajo: *Diné A History of the Navajos*. The book also features photographs by Navajo photographer, Monty Roessel.

Iverson writes that Navajo identity is rooted in land, which is bordered by the four sacred mountains. At the same time the people have successfully incorporated new elements and new ways of doing things to their culture. The author includes major themes and events of the twentieth century, including political leadership, livestock reduction, Code Talkers, schools, health care, government, economic development, the arts, and athletics.

Iverson's second book, *For Our Navajo People Diné Letters, Speeches, and Petitions, 1900-1960*, reproduces one hundred documents written by prominent Navajo leaders, including Chee Dodge, and Annie Wauneka; spokespersons such as Howard Gorman; students at boarding schools; World War II soldiers; and members of the Native American Church. The book celebrates the resilience of the Diné and honors the men, women, and children who built the Navajo Nation.

Both books are published by the University of New Mexico Press.

H-AmIndian:Who It Serves and How It Serves Them

By Justina Parsons-Bernstein, PhD

A joint project between [Arizona State University](#) and H-NET, [H-AmIndian](#) includes an edited discussion list that considers the history, culture, ideas, and events relating to Native peoples from the North Pole to Latin America.

H-AmIndian is used by scholars, teachers, students, archivists, museum professionals, writers, media hosts, preservationists, lawyers, environmentalists, lobbyists, activists, and tribal officials seeking information on issues concerning the various indigenous communities.

Scores of list members have written to express their appreciation of H-AmIndian. Following is a sampling of comments:

- *“Words cannot express how much this list means to me, drydocked as I am outside conventional Indian Country.”*
- *“I skim the list daily, specifically for issues related to our work with indigenous language revitalization.”*
- *“I forward relevant items to colleagues and friends across the world.”*
- *“I use the information from the FYIs in my history and anthropology classes.”*
- *“Whether I am teaching about Indians’ history or about Indians and the law, I tell my students that Indians are still making history and still raising or arguing issues of law that impact many Americans.”*

Joyce Kievit, PhD Joins H-AmIndian Staff

Joyce Kievit (Eastern Cherokee) comes to ASU from the University of Houston, as the new editor of H-AmIndian. She replaces Justina Parsons-Bernstein, who has taken the position, Coordinator of the Cultural Forum, at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

Dr. Kievit has long been interested in American Indian History and retains ties with the American Indian Community. She wrote her Master’s thesis on the Cherokee Nation during the Civil War for the University of Houston, Clear Lake, receiving that degree in 1992. She defended her dissertation, “Trail of Tears to Veil of Tears: The Impact of Removal on Reconstruction in Indian Territory,” at the University of Houston in April 2002.

In addition to experience as a web developer and researcher, she has received a number of awards for her scholarship. She has published biographical entries in *Native American Women: A Biographical Dictionary* (Garland, 1993 and 2001) and *Handbook of American Women’s History* (Sage, 2000).

Dr. Kievit is currently working on an entry for a volume for ABC-CLIO, “The Experience of Native Americans During the Second World War.”

Windtalkers Star Roger Willie Autographs Labriola Broadside

Roger Willie came to the Navajo Room in the Phoenix Indian Center on June 26, to autograph the poster, “Unbreakable Code,” which was painted by artist, Baji Whitethorne.

Whitethorne created an image depicting Willie as a Code Talker in the movie, *Windtalkers*, and added a variety of scenes from Navajoland. Navajo Code Talker, Joe Kellwood was also available to sign the book *The Warriors: Navajo Code Talkers*.



LAB FILM S104:378

Laura Tohe Interviews on WBUR

NPR Station, WBUR Boston, called to see if the Labriola Center could recommend a guest reviewer to participate in a discussion on the much talked-about movie, on Navajo Code Talkers, *Windtalkers*. We suggested Laura Tohe (Navajo), Associate Professor of English here at ASU, and she graciously agreed to take part in the program, "Here and Now" on June 21, 2002. Tohe was a particularly good choice since she is fluent in the Navajo language and could talk about her father who was a Code Talker. During the interview, she noted that she was happy to hear the Navajo language spoken in the movie, and was quite impressed with the Navajo actor, Roger Willie. Participants in the discussion agreed that the Code Talker story was submerged by many battle scenes.

The interview is available in the Labriola Center on CD-ROM. The call number is LAB EPH IG-19.11.

Tohe is author of *No Parole Today* (West End Press, 1999) and Editor with Heid E. Erdich of *Sister Nations: Native American Women Writers on Community* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2002).

Southwestern Cultures Featured in ASU Digital Exhibit

"[Dawn of a New Day](#)" is an exhibition featuring photographs from six archival collections held in the Arizona Collection of the [Department of Archives & Manuscripts](#) in the University Libraries at [Arizona State University](#).

These photographs, organized by the Curator of Exhibits, Rose Minetti, document relationships between Native peoples and non-natives in the Southwest and "reveal the cultural forces at work during the first half of the 20th century."

Five individuals and one family created or collected the photographs. They include: Odd S. Halseth, Phoenix City archaeologist; Dorothy Robinson, teacher and author; Ryder Ridgway, a local historian and writer; Francis Uplegger, who established a mission on the San Carlos Apache Reservation, Milton Snow, who served with the U.S. Indian Service in Window Rock; and the Green family, who lived and worked on both the Hopi and Navajo reservations. The address is: www.asu.edu/lib/archives/dawn.htm



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NMAI Construction On Target

Curator, Patricia Etter, visited the construction site of the much-anticipated [National Museum of the American Indian](#) in Washington, D.C. Occupying the last available site on the mall, the striking building is beginning to take shape. An air-cooled trailer is close by so visitors can look at models, color schemes, and learn more about the museum. The museum will open in September 2004.

In the meantime, on September 14 and 15, 2002, NMAI will host a national powwow on the National Mall to honor the tradition of powwows when Indian communities host such events across the country.



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We also learn from *National Museum of the American Indian* (Summer 2002), that the Oneida Nation donated \$10 million to the NMAI project on April 12, 2002.

The Oneida Nation money will go directly to the completion and opening of the new museum.



LAB FILM S104:386

New On the Labriola Bookshelf

The Marine Corps Navajo Code Talker Program was established in September 1942. At that time, few people outside of the reservation spoke the Navajo language, and it was expected that it would be completely unintelligible to an outsider and could successfully be used as a code to transmit secret messages (the Choctaw language had been used as a code during World War I).

The experiment was successful and by the end of World War II there were some 400 active Navajo code talkers in the Pacific Campaign. They were instrumental in almost every Marine action in the Pacific from Guadalcanal to Okinawa in 1945. To this day, it remains the only un- broken code ever used in the history of war.

The Labriola Center is pleased to add a CD-ROM from the History and Museums Division, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D. C., containing now declassified information on the formation of the Code Talker Program: *Navajo Code Talkers: Oral History Collection*. Call Number is D810.I5 M37.

- First, is 17-page copy of the Navajo Dictionary, revised as of June, 1945.
- Second, is a short history of the program and transcription of interviews with eight Code Talkers: Sidney Bedoni, Alex Williams, Jimmy King, Sr., Wilfred Billey, Carl Gorman, Paul Blatchford, John Benally, and W. Dean Wilson. There is an index to the 172 pages recorded on the disk.
- Third, is correspondence dealing with the recruitment and training of the Navajo Code Talkers, most dated from 1943.
- Last, is the Master Schedule of the Navajo Code Talker's 4-week course with the Field Signal Battalion, Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, California.

The Labriola Center has prepared a [Code Talker Bibliography](#), which can be printed out from the [Labriola web page](#).



ASU Graduate Teaching Assistant, Vickey Kalambakal, created a 132 page guide to the microform collection, *American Indian Periodicals on Microform in the Princeton University Library, Periodicals from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, and Periodicals by and About American Indians*.

The guide describes 269 titles, which include community newsletters, school bulletins and year books, and mission and church newsletters. She has arranged the guide in a number of ways. First by publication title (including cross references), second, alphabetically by state, and third, by date of first issue.

She has coded them by type such as, arts & crafts magazines, magazines written by and for Indian communities, magazines about education, government publications, mission or religious publications, publications by institution, publications by and about Indian schools, and newsletters of universities.

Another useful index was prepared by a graduate student for the *University of South Dakota Indian Oral History Collection*. This taped series of interviews was conducted in the late 1960s and early 1970s with Plains Indians and those non-Indians working with them. The original collection, part of the American Indian Research Project, is housed in the library of the University of South Dakota, Vermillion.

The interviews are reproduced on microfiche. Each interviewee is identified by name, age, and tribal affiliation. It includes a list of subjects that the individual talked about in the interviews.

Copies of both items are available from the Labriola Center.

From the Society of Ethnomusicology List

We learn that The Marquette University Libraries' Department of Special Collections and University Archives recently completed two online projects relating to its Native American archival collections. These include materials written (or sung) in Chinook, Choctaw, Dakota and Lakota (Sioux), Inuit (Eskimo), Mohawk, Navajo, Nez Perce, Ojibwa, Snohomish, and several other indigenous languages.

Descriptive inventories for the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions (BCIM) records have been mounted on the Libraries' website. Dating from 1839, the documents record Catholic relationships and missions with Native Americans.

There are over 501 cubic feet of documents, 25,000 photographic prints, and 419 reels of microfilm. Over 22,000 correspondents are found in the collection including Native Americans, high-ranking church and government leaders, and missionaries and their supporters from Europe, Canada and the United States. The site is at:

www.marquette.edu/library/information/news/2002/bcim.html

Fr. Augustine Schwarz, O.F.M. and His Mission to Arizona

A digital exhibit featuring the photographs of Franciscan priest, Augustine Schwarz, O.F.M. is just about complete and will be available on the Labriola web site by the middle of September.

In addition to building chapels for the Indians in the Pima, Tohono O'odham



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and Apache reservations, the Franciscans introduced the concept of day schools in many of the isolated villages on the reservations.

The Schwarz photographs document the building of a number of these schools and chapels and activities during his 25 years of service to his Church. Patricia Etter has re-photographed these churches and these are also available on the site.

