

# Labriola National American Indian Data Center Newsletter

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Edited By Joyce Martin, Curator

Fall 2009

## Labriola Center Student Workers



We will miss Labriola Center student workers Fiona Teller and Stephen Robbins who are both moving on to other Universities in the Fall

Please see Stephen's column on page 4 of the newsletter

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## The Simon Ortiz and Labriola Center Lecture on Indigenous Land, Culture, and Community

Internationally acclaimed author Leslie Marmon Silko, Laguna Pueblo, will deliver the fall Simon Ortiz and Labriola Center Lecture on Indigenous Land, Culture, and Community on Thursday, October 8 at 7 p.m. at Phoenix's Heard Museum.

The evening will begin with a reading by Silko from her forthcoming memoir, *Turquoise Ledge*, followed by a book signing.

Silko is best known for her universally praised novel *Ceremony*, which was first published in 1977 to rave reviews. *Ceremony's* message of healing and reconciliation between races and people resonates with both Native and non-Native readers to this day.

Silko has won prizes, fellowships, and grants from such sources as the National Endowment for the Arts and The Boston Globe. She was the youngest writer to be included in *The Norton Anthology of Women's*



Leslie Marmon Silko

*Literature* for her short story "Lullaby."

In 1981 she won a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Grant. Silko has continued to be a force in American Indian literature in both the fiction and non-fiction genres.

The lecture series is sponsored by the Heard Museum and Arizona State University's American Indian Studies Program, Department of English, Department of History, Labriola Center and Women and Gender Studies Program.

For more information or to download a flyer please see the web page <http://english.clas.asu.edu/indigenous/> or the Labriola Center's web page at <http://lib.asu.edu/labriola>.

Podcasts and streaming video of past lectures with Gerald Taiaiake Alfred, Wilma Mankiller and Ned Blackhawk as well as a video podcast highlighting the Labriola Center can be accessed on the ASU Library Channel web page at <http://lib.asu.edu/librarychannel/tag/american-indians/>.

## “OUR FATHERS, OUR GRANDFATHERS, OUR HEROES... The Navajo Code Talkers of World War II” Traveling Exhibit



Carl Gorman on Saipan 1944

The largest, most comprehensive exhibition on the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II will be on display at the Labriola National American Indian Data Center from October 19<sup>th</sup> to November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009.



Platoon 382

The Labriola Center will host a reception on Thursday November 5<sup>th</sup> from 4PM-7PM with speeches by former Navajo Code Talkers and a possible appearance by Zonie Gorman, daughter of Navajo Code Talker Carl Gorman and curator of the exhibition.

This exhibit traces the story of the famed United States Marine Corps Navajo Code Talkers. It begins with the original pilot group of first twenty-nine volunteers, who in 1942, developed and tested the original Navajo code.

Proven fast and accurate, the Marine Corps recruited nearly 400 more Navajos who utilized the code sending and receiving encrypted messages throughout the Pacific island hopping campaign.

The ingenuity of the Navajo Code Talkers baffled Japanese cryptographers and greatly helped in the effort to win the war in the Pacific.

This exhibit is a tribute to these men. Originally done as an oral history project by Wingate High School students, this exhibit speaks volumes of the pride young Navajos have for their heroes.

This traveling exhibit displays more than 33 historic photographs with text; facsimiles of original, military WW II documents; a c.1940 map of the Navajo Reservation;

and the (now de-classified) Navajo Code itself.

In addition, the full-length documentary, “Navajo Code Talkers” produced by the Arts & Entertainment/History Channel will be running throughout open gallery hours for additional enrichment to the exhibition.

*The Southwest Inaugural Tour*



Radio Talkers

2007- 2010 of “Our Fathers, Our Grandfathers, Our Heroes...The Navajo Code Talker of World War II” has been made possible with grants from the New Mexico Humanities Council; PNM, and APS corporations; Arizona Humanities Council, and the Navajo Generating Station/Salt River Project, AZ.

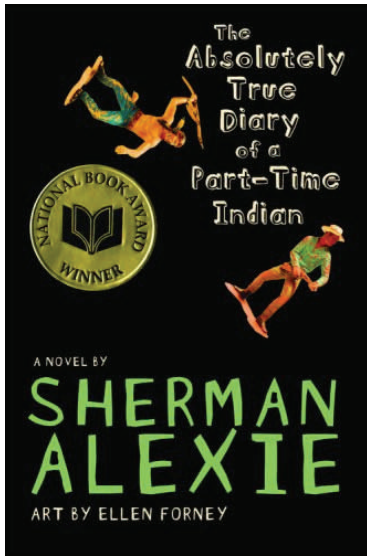
This traveling exhibition is produced and circulated by the Circle of Light Navajo Educational Project, Gallup, New Mexico (505) 726-8030 or

[travelexhibits@yahoo.com](mailto:travelexhibits@yahoo.com) .



Toledo Cousins

## Contemporary Fiction by Ann Leonard



Through his attempts to chronicle the modern American Indian experience on the Spokane Indian Reservation, Sherman Alexie ultimately reminds me of my favorite author, Kurt Vonne-

gut, in that he uses wit (sometimes a biting sarcasm to be exact) and conversational language to draw the reader into a world that ultimately makes them think and further understand the human condition. His ability to convey pop culture references and emotional struggles simultaneously makes Alexie's work universal and his award-winning career goes to show it.

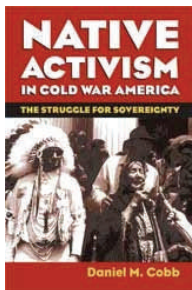
That's why I'm proud to announce the Labriola Center recently added over six new titles by Alexie to their ever-expanding poetry and fiction collection. To date, the Center possesses 12 titles, including Alexie's most recent work *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, which earned him a National Book Award in 2007.

These additions will be an invaluable resource for ASU students in contemporary literature courses. While popular works such as these are frequently checked out due to high demand, Labriola Center's non-circulating collection status will ensure these titles will always be available.

Recent additions include:

- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*
- *The Business of Fancy Dancing*
- *Indian Killer*
- *Old Shirts & New Skins*
- *First Indian on the Moon*
- *The Summer of Black Widows*

## Labriola Center American Indian National Book Award



The Labriola Center is pleased to announce the second annual Labriola Center American Indian National Book Award competition. The

deadline for book submissions is December 31, 2009 and the winner will be announced in early April 2010.

Dr. Daniel Cobb, Assistant Professor of history at the University of Miami, was the inaugural winner of the Labriola Center National Book Award for his 2008 book *Native Activism in Cold War America: The Struggle for Sovereignty* published by the University Press of Kansas.

Dr. Cobb came to ASU to attend a reception in his honor on April 8th, 2009. Following the reception, co-coordinator of the Labriola Center Book Award Dr. Donald Fixico arranged a casual event for ASU students to meet and speak with the award winning author.

The judging committee includes ASU History Department faculty Dr. Donald Fixico and Dr. Peter Iverson and American Indian Studies faculty Dr. David Martinez.

Books submitted for consideration for the Labriola Center American Indian National Book Award should cross multiple disciplines or fields of study, be relevant to contemporary North American Indian communities,



Dr. Peter Iverson, Dr. Donald Fixico, Dr. Daniel Cobb, Dr. David Martinez, Joyce Martin

and focus on modern tribal studies, modern biographies, tribal governments or federal Indian policy.

Please see the Labriola National American Indian Data Center website for additional information <http://lib.asu.edu/labriola/bookaward>.

## ASU LIBRARIES

Labriola National American Indian Data Center  
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Tempe, AZ 85287-1006  
<http://lib.asu.edu/labriola>

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*The Labriola National American Indian Data Center was officially dedicated on April 1, 1993. The Center was made possible by the vision of Frank and Mary Labriola, whose generous endowment gift supports its work. It is their wish that "the Labriola Center be a source of education and pride for all Native Americans."*

*The Labriola National American Indian Data Center, part of the ASU Libraries, is a research collection international in scope that brings together in one location current and historic information on government, culture, religion and world view, social life and customs, tribal history, and information on individuals from the United States, Canada, Sonora, and Chihuahua, Mexico.*

## My Travels—by Stephen Robbins



I am sure that everyone has heard the phrase, "Are we there yet?" whenever they are traveling. This is a question that I rarely ask. Traveling is one of my most favorite things to do. This is a good opportunity to get to see the world through a different viewpoint, and then realize there's more to life than the one-sided view of the

world from your own home. I like to see different landscapes of different places.

When I was growing up, I did a lot of traveling back and forth between my home at Saint Michaels, AZ to Phoenix, AZ. This trip takes about 5 hours one way. I got very much used to this after years of traveling every weekend (This was before gas prices skyrocketed). As I began high school, I traveled back home on fewer occasions because I got involved with sports and music which kept me very busy.

I have even driven across the country with my family to visit Washington DC, during the summer of 2006. This road trip took two weeks total. We got the opportunity to visit family members along the way.

In 2007, I had another opportunity to visit Washington DC, only this time I was part of the Fourth of July, National Independence Day Parade with my high school band. We got to march along Constitution Avenue. My high school band was chosen to represent the state of Arizona by the state governor.

Most recently, my travels have brought me to the country of Rwanda, Africa. This was a mission trip with ASU Young Life that took place in August.

My group took part in service projects as well as spending time with the locals. This has been a very exciting part of my life and I cannot wait to see what the future holds!