Welcome to the second annual issue from the Department Head, -Jill Doerfler

Boozhoo from American Indian Studies! We had a great 2015 and hope that all of you did too. In the fall, we admitted the first students for the new Tribal Administration and Governance (TAG) major as well as the new minor in Ojibwe Language.

In June, the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, which represents members from each of Minnesota’s 11 tribes, signed a resolution in support of the Tribal Sovereignty Institute (TSI) at UMD. The Tribal Sovereignty Institute was formally created in 2012 and the Department has spent the last 3 years consulting with Native Nations to determine the scope and role of the TSI. The mission of TSI is to promote tribal sovereignty through education, outreach, research, tribal consultation, and partnerships with Native Nations. Professor Tadd Johnson is taking the lead in developing the necessary documents to create the initial Advisory Board.

Our office suite in Cina Hall was closed in July and is undergoing significant renovations. Faculty and staff are currently scattered in shared and temporary spaces across campus and we are all very much looking forward to moving back into Cina. We are excited about the changes, which include unifying our offices in a single suite and creating the TSI Conference Room. In addition, the renovation of the first floor coincides with a larger project to renovate the Tweed Museum and create new space for the American Indian Learning Resource Center. In anticipation of that larger project moving forward, the design of the first floor of Cina will include a floral pattern reminiscent of Ojibwe style beadwork on the floor as well as other design elements that connect to Native culture. (see photo)

We welcomed twenty students to cohort Five of the Master of Tribal Administration and Governance (MTAG) program. Tami Lawlor, MTAG Program Specialist, administered a survey of MTAG graduates in the fall. The survey provides important data for the department as well as for prospective students - see page x for the results.

Assistant Professor Ed Minnema resigned from UMD and has returned to employment with the Mille Lacs Band. We wish him all the best with his new adventure. We will be working to find a replacement, so watch for a job announcement in the late summer or early fall.

Right: Design plans for Cina Hall.
Despite the centrality blood quantum has played in political formations of American Indian identity in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, there are few studies that explore how Tribal Nations contended with this transformation of tribal citizenship historically and into the present. *Those Who Belong* explores how White Earth Anishinaabeg understood identity and blood quantum in the early twentieth century, how blood quantum was employed and manipulated by the US government, how it came to be the sole requirement for tribal citizenship in 1961, and how a contemporary effort for constitutional reform sought a return to citizenship criteria rooted in Anishinaabe kinship, replacing the blood quantum criteria with lineal descent.

*Those Who Belong* illustrates the ways in which Anishinaabeg of White Earth negotiated multifaceted identities, both before and after the introduction of blood quantum as a marker of identity and as the sole requirement for tribal citizenship. Doerfler’s original research reveals that Anishinaabe leaders resisted blood quantum as a tribal citizenship requirement for decades before acquiescing to federal pressure. Constitutional reform efforts in the twenty-first century brought new life to this longstanding debate and led to the adoption of a new constitution, which requires lineal descent for citizenship.

**Ojibwe Language News**

American Indian Studies recently was awarded a grant for $50,000 by the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council to create a website containing over one hundred hours of original Ojibwe curriculum materials available to anyone via the internet with transcripts in both Ojibwe and English. The audio will come from past and future episodes of the Department of American Indian Studies month radio program, Ojibwe Stories: Gaganoonididaa, which has aired since February 2013 on KUMD 103.3. The website will also include 15 Ojibwe language videos of Mille Lacs Ojibwe elder Lee “Obizaan” Staples already produced by UMD’s Continuing Education program. American Indian Studies faculty Erik Redix and Education faculty Brian McInnis co-authored the proposal. Dr. Redix notes, “This is a great thing for Ojibwe language learners everywhere.” Past episodes of Ojibwe Stories: Gaganoonididaa are available to stream online at: http://kumd.org/programs/ojibwe-stories#stream/0.
Joseph Bauerkemper Receives CLA Award for Excellence in Teaching

Each year the UMD College of Liberal Arts presents an Award for Excellence in Teaching in each of three categories: instructors, tenure-track faculty, and tenured faculty. Professor Joseph Bauerkemper stated, “I am humbled and grateful that the College's Teaching Committee and Dean Sue Maher selected me as the tenure-track recipient for 2015.” In her award nomination letter department head Jill Doerfler noted that professor Bauerkemper’s teaching "motivates students to move beyond their comfort zone and engage with new perspectives." Indeed, a recent anonymous student course evaluation comment confirms this: "I walked into this not thinking much, but Joseph really opened up my eyes and honestly changed my way of thinking."

Professor Bauerkemper always has a number of goals in mind when teaching. He notes, “Our programs in American Indian Studies serve the needs and ambitions of a vast array of public and private sector employers eager to hire our graduates. In addition, our American Indian Studies degree programs are fundamentally responsible for serving the Native nations within and well beyond our region. The more Native students understand about their own communities’ political statuses and circumstances, and the more non-Native students understand about the contours of tribal sovereignty, the more likely we are to enjoy healthy communities and beneficial relations.”

Bauerkemper reflected, “I am, of course, not at all alone in having the good fortune to serve students as they come to better understand their own communities and their relationships with others. This work is shared by the entire American Indian Studies faculty, and the CLA Teaching Award is truly a testament to what we all collectively and collaboratively invest in and accomplish day after day, week after week. Whether facilitating seminars for tribal leaders in our MTAG program, working with future leaders in our TAG and AIS programs, or teaching courses in our Ojibwe language or AIS minors, we are inviting and equipping our students to meet the challenges and opportunities they are sure to encounter.”

Congratulations to Joseph!

Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers 2015 Fiction Award

Linda LeGarde Grover received Wordcraft Circle 2015 Fiction Award for her novel The Road Back to Sweetgrass at the Returning the Gift conference in Albuquerque, NM in December. Grover’s novel, which connects the sense of place with the experience of Native women who came of age during the days of federal termination policy and the struggle for tribal self-determination, was published by the University of Minnesota Press in hardcover in September 2015, and newly released in paperback in February 2016.
Check out the North Shore Community Radio program interview featuring Jill Doerfler and MTAG grad April Clearwater-Day McCormick:

Anishinaabe Way: The Inherent Right of Sovereignty, Part 1

www.wtip.org/anishinaabe-way-inherent-right-sovereignty-part-1

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**MTAG SURVEY RESULTS**

![Bar chart of survey results](chart.png)

Please Share Other Comments related to the quality of your graduate education at the University of Minnesota Duluth

The quality was excellent and the quantity was massive!

The overall experience was very good! There was a lot of material that I learned that would have been very useful earlier in my career. Miigwech.

The IT capabilities were incredible. Having the ability to remote in with both audio and visual was one of the best gifts the MTAG admin could provide students who traveled such long distances. It greatly improved the moodle experience—because students can have discussions in real time with other students vs online forum threads (no verbal intonation, at times impersonal).

I have the opportunity to put into play a great deal of the information given to me in the program. The quality of the program is unquestionable the excitement of the work, the research and the interaction with other cohort members as well as the knowledge of the professors was magnificent. Most of the time I felt I was not in college but in a professional conversation with some of the most intelligent American Indians in American Indian Country. The interaction, feedback kept me wishing for more.

MTAG is amazing. I wish much of the learning could be inserted—grade appropriate—into schools nationwide.

MTAG staff team were amazingly resourceful and supportive. Cohort model worked great. In class and online were well balanced.

The courses were specific enough and related to tribal governments and entities. The experience was valued in that other tribal representation made it more meaningful. We were able to brainstorm, share ideas and just learn about each other.

Excellent.
Professor Redix awarded prestigious McKnight Land-Grant Professorship

The goal of the McKnight Land-Grant Professorship Program is to advance the careers of new assistant professors at a crucial point in their professional lives. The designation of “McKnight Land-Grant Professor” is held by recipients for a two-year period. This is a University of Minnesota system wide award and Redix was the only faculty member from UMD to be selected for 2015-2017.

Erik Redix’s work investigates the Deluge at Bakweyawaa as an instance of American colonialism in the 20th century. In 1923, the Winter Dam was completed to generate hydroelectricity and created the Chippewa Flowage, a 23,000-acre body of water that devastated the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Reservation in northwest Wisconsin. The creation of the Flowage destroyed cemeteries, roads, wild rice beds, and the community of Bakweyawaa. Throughout the 1910’s the tribe repeatedly voted against the construction of the dam. “The Chippewa Flowage had a devastating impact,” explains Dr. Redix. “There are many in the community who are eager to have this story more well known.”

MIKE MUNNELL SCHOLARS

The Munnell Award was created and named after Mike Munnell, who in 1995 was the first student to graduate with an American Indian Studies major at UMD. The award, which includes a $250 scholarship for the following fall semester, is presented each spring to a sophomore or junior with an American Indian Studies major or minor who has demonstrated academic excellence by earning the highest UMD-earned cumulative grade point average at the beginning of spring semester. The award recipient must have completed at least 30 credits at UMD, and have no grades of incomplete at the beginning of spring semester.

In addition, the department will be recognizing the 2016 Munnell Scholars: sophomore, junior and senior AMIN majors and minors with a 3.5 or higher cumulative GPA.

The Munnell Award is a growing fund sponsored by the UMD Department of American Indian Studies. We are raising funds towards creating a permanent endowment. To contribute to the award fund, please see the AIS website or call the department office at (218) 726-8771. This spring the Munnell scholar will be recognized at both the CLA Spring Awards ceremonies as well as a special Department of American Indian Studies event.

2015 Munnell Scholar:

Randi Omdahl was the 2015 recipient of the Mike Munnell award. Randi is from Minneapolis with ties to both the Duluth and the White Earth communities. She is an Art Education major with a minor in American Indian Studies. She plans to become an Art Educator and bring more Ojibwe, art, culture and language into the classroom.

2016 Munnell Award Winner and Munnell Scholars will be announced at the AIS Banquet on April 7th.
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