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NEW PROGRAM DEVELOPMENTS

New name: The program formerly known as the Global Indigenous Nations Studies program is now the Indigenous Studies program (ISP).

New website: indigenous.ku.edu now lists our new program information. Check back soon for more updates!

New program requirements and a revamped curriculum are now posted on our website.

New bylaws are now posted on our website.

UPCOMING LECTURE: BEYOND BLANKETS

Beyond Blankets: Smallpox, Human Agency, and American Indian Mortality
Dr. Paul T. Kelton, Associate Professor and History Department Chair
Kansas Union, Level 5, Parlors
Tuesday, April 24, 12:00 pm

Please join us on April 24 for “Beyond Blankets: Smallpox, Human Agency, and American Indian Mortality,” a lunchtime lecture by Dr. Paul T. Kelton presented by the Indigenous Studies program.

Bring your lunch to the Parlors in the Kansas Union to hear Professor Kelton discuss the real and imagined incidents of biological warfare against North American indigenous peoples from first contacts through the mid-19th century. Employing his own research, he will put American Indian mortality from germs within the larger colonial context to which it rightfully belongs.
CURRENT STUDENTS

While studying with the Indigenous Studies program at KU, Sonya Ortiz has emphasized building sustainability among Urban Indian Centers in North America. She is currently the President of the Board of Directors for the Four Winds Native Center in Lawrence, an organization which she has worked hard to revitalize and build the capacity of through strategic planning. Sonya plans on completing her thesis in 2012.

Ed Smith is finishing up his second year in the Indigenous Studies program and planning for his thesis. He is interested in chronicling the life of one individual code talker from the U.S. Marine Corps during WWII. Ed is currently the Research Program Coordinator for the American Indian Health Research and Education Alliance where he works with communities to develop programing that fit their needs. After completing his masters, he would like to pursue a Ph.D. in History or American Studies.

GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

We are eager to grow the Indigenous Studies program and to embrace the unique opportunities available to us on the KU campus and in the Lawrence community. Building Lawrence as a hub for indigenous studies that embraces scholarly research and provides an inclusive academic environment for student success are at the heart of our vision for the program.

Developing relationships on and off campus will be another key to our growth. We will continue to strengthen our connections with departments on campus and collaborate with others on programming and events. In addition, Haskell has always been an invaluable partner for our program. The renewed Memorandum of Understanding between Haskell and KU, which was signed on April 9, will no doubt develop that relationship further. In addition, strengthening our relationship with the Kansas Native American Affairs Office will provide new opportunities for our students, such as a proposed internship program in that office for our students.

JOINT DEGREE WITH KU LAW

We are pleased to continue our joint degree program with the Law School, allowing students interested in tribal law to obtain both a J.D. and an M.A. in three to four years. KU’s joint degree in Law and Indigenous Studies is one of only three such programs in the United States.

KU’s Tribal Law and Government Center was founded at KU to prepare a new generation of advocates representing Indigenous Peoples. We are looking forward to welcoming law professor Elizabeth Kronk, the new director, to KU in August.

Finally, we would like to congratulate Stacy L. Leeds, professor of law and former director of the Tribal Law and Government Center on her new position as Dean and Professor of Law at the University of Arkansas School of Law. She is the first American Indian woman to serve as dean of a law school.

CONNECT WITH US

Interested in earning an M.A. in Indigenous Studies? There is still time to apply for Fall 2012!

Are you an alumnus who would like to share your story? We would love to hear it!

Contact Lauren Krivoshia at lkrivoshia@ku.edu or 785-864-6408 for more information about applying or to share your story.

We hope you have enjoyed reading our inaugural newsletter!