



Sequoyah National Research Center Newsletter

Winter 2015

Call for Intern Applications 2015

Each summer the Sequoyah National Research Center (SNRC) hosts three tribally affiliated student interns for the period of June 1 through July 31. Interns work at least 25 hours per week in the Center doing basic archival and research work under the direction of Center staff.

The SNRC at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) houses the papers and special collections of tribal individuals and organizations, the world's largest archival collection of newspapers and other periodicals published by tribal individuals and organizations, and the Dr. J. W. Wiggins Collection of Native American Art, consisting of more than 2,500 artworks.

The goal of the Native American Student Internship Program is to provide students an experiential learning environment in which to acquire an understanding of the value of archives and the research potential of the collections of the Center and to engage in academic research and practical archival activities related to tribal culture, society, and issues. Interns are expected to demonstrate the value of their experience by either a summary report of work, finding aids for collections, or reports of research or other written work that may be shared with their home institutions.

To qualify for an internship, students must

- Be tribally affiliated
- Have completed at least 60 college hours
- Be in good standing at their home institutions of higher learning.

To apply, student must send

- An unofficial copy of the student's academic transcript
- A recommendation letter from the head of the student's major department or from another relevant academic official
- A personal statement of no more than one page expressing why the intern experience would be beneficial to the student's academic or career goals.

To assist the student in meeting expenses during the two-month tenure of the internship, the Center provides on-campus housing and \$2,000 to defray other living expenses. Students interested in applying for internships for June 1 through July 31, 2015, should send applications or inquiries by e-mail to Daniel F. Littlefield at dflittlefiel@ualr.edu, Robert E. Sanderson at resanderson@ualr.edu, or Erin H. Fehr at eh-fehr@ualr.edu or by mail to Sequoyah National Research Center, 2801 S. University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204. Applications are due by March 15, 2015. The Center will select three applicants and three alternates. The Center staff will notify students of their decision by April 1.

For information regarding UALR and its guest housing facilities, see ualr.edu/housing. For information on the SNRC and its work, see ualr.edu/sequoyah.

Associate Director returns from Indian Country

Associate Director Robert Sanderson visited several tribal colleges and universities this past fall. He had the opportunity to travel to College of the Muscogee Nation, Okmulgee, OK; Comanche Nation College, Lawton, OK; Diné College, Window Rock, AZ; Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, KS; Little Priest Tribal College, Winnebago, NE; Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, NM; and Nebraska Indian Community College, Macy, NE. He writes the following on his most recent activities.

“During the months of September and October 2014, I had an opportunity to travel throughout Indian Country and speak with American Indian educators about the internship opportunities available at the Sequoyah National Research Center. My journey of visiting American Indian tribal colleges and universities was a remarkable experience, both professionally and personally. It was my pleasure to introduce our internship program for American Native students, and to hear from interested individual teachers and administrators regarding their own ideas and concerns about Native American college students, especially in the areas of student retention and post-graduate opportunities available to them. I discovered that tribal college and university personnel are very committed to providing the best educational experience they can for their students. Furthermore, most want to see their students reach beyond the relative comfort of their home environment and explore the world outside of reservation life, and to take advantage of opportunities they may not find in their own communities. Interestingly, several expressed that the feeling that an internship with the SNRC might best satisfy both an opportunity to venture off the rez, but also provide the chance to learn more about their own tribal history and culture.

Although I had only planned to meet with college and university administrators to discuss our online internship proposal, I had the unanticipated pleasure of meeting many other native people: faculty, staff, and several students. Most of the students I spoke with were excited to hear about the Center and our offerings, some of whom said they would apply for the summer internship, or plan a visit to the SNRC when time permits. Regardless of the immediate response to my visit and my attempts to recruit students, it was worthwhile to have the opportunity to ‘spread the word’ about the Center and to be in Indian Country during my OCDA (sabbatical leave).” ~Dr. Bob Sanderson



LifeQuest, a Success

Director Dr. Daniel Littlefield and archivist Erin Fehr have enjoyed teaching “Gems from the Sequoyah National Research Center,” at LifeQuest, since January 14th. Class attendance has remained steady with an average of 65 adults, who meet at Second Presbyterian Church. The topics have ranged from the Trail of Tears through Arkansas to Native Language Revitalization. Attendees have continually expressed their interest, and SNRC staff have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to teach in the community. The last class will meet March 4th.

LifeQuest is a non-profit organization founded in 1981 with the mission to offer life-long learning and volunteer opportunities to older adults.

New Acquisitions

Thank you to our generous donors for your support of SNRC. The Montana Historical Society donated 62 *Bulletins* published by the Smithsonian Institution from 1901-1964.

Marcia Rock, documentary filmmaker, donated her film *Warriors Return: The Diné Veterans of Canyon De Chelly*.

Paulette & Larry Molin donated four pieces of Native American pottery and basketry.

We also received many books and periodicals from various donors to add to our library holdings.

Our mission is to acquire and preserve the writings and ideas of Native North Americans by collecting the written word and art of Native Americans and creating a research atmosphere that invites indigenous peoples to make the Sequoyah National Research Center the archival home for their creative work.

Staff Speaking Engagements

Archivist Erin Fehr has been invited to speak at the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on Sunday, February 22nd as part of their Sunday lecture series. She will present “Noble Savages, Indian Princesses, Drunken Indians and Vanishing Americans: Resources for Countering Stereotypes and Prejudices” on the Hirschfelder-Molin Native American Stereotypes Collection at SNRC.

Director Dr. Daniel Littlefield has been invited to speak at the Southwestern Regional Rendezvous in Leslie, Arkansas, on March 19th. Littlefield will also present a lecture on May 4th at the U.S. Marshals Museum in Fort Smith, where he is a consultant with the Five Civilized Tribes for upcoming exhibits. Additionally, Littlefield and Dr. Sanderson will attend the “To Bridge a Gap” annual conference held by the US Forest Service in Wyandotte, Oklahoma, and the American Indian Symposium in Tahlequah.

Arkansas Literary Festival to feature two Native writers

The 2015 Arkansas Literary Festival will take place April 23-26 in Little Rock. This year’s line-up will feature Allison Hedge Coke and Casandra Lopez. Hedge Coke is an award-winning author and is sponsored by the UALR English Department and Department of Rhetoric and Writing. Lopez was the 2013 winner of the Native Writers Chapbook Award for *When Bullet Breaks* and is sponsored by SNRC. For more information and a full schedule of events, please visit arkansasliteraryfestival.org.



Casandra Lopez

Summer Intern Updates

Davina Caddell (2014, *Choctaw*) is president of Alpha Theta Psi and is interning at the Chickasaw Family Services Center in Norman, Oklahoma. She will graduate as a Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society student this May from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Cultural Studies with a minor in Native American Studies.

Cassy Davenport (2014, *Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe*) was recently hired as the Director of Library Services and Tribal Archives at Red Lake Nation College in Red Lake, Minnesota. She will complete her Master of Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in August.

Elizabeth Fehr (2013, *Yup'ik*) graduated from John Brown University in December 2014 with a Bachelor of Science in Photography and will be completing a 7-

week media internship in Málaga, Spain, with Avant Ministries this spring.

Andrew Gourd (2014, *Seneca-Cayuga*) is continuing his graduate work at the University of Oklahoma toward dual Masters degrees in anthropology and library and information studies while he serves as the graduate assistant for the Carl Albert Congressional Archives.

Daniel Pewewardy (2012, *Comanche*) is the Arts, Music, and Video Librarian at the Wichita Public Library in Wichita, Kansas.

Shannon Spears (2013, *Red Lake Ojibwe*) earned her Masters in Pan-African Studies from the University of Louisville and was awarded the Graduate Deans Citation Award. She is currently working at the Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts and the Kentucky Derby Museum while she applies to Ph.D. programs to begin in Fall 2015.

Upcoming events

- Jan. 29-Apr. 3—Inuit exhibit
- Feb. 5-Apr. 2—Jewish Museum exhibit, Tulsa, OK
- Feb. 18—LifeQuest, Little Rock
- Feb. 22—Lecture, Museum of Indian Arts & Culture, Santa Fe, NM (Fehr speaks)
- Feb. 25—LifeQuest, Little Rock
- Mar. 4—LifeQuest, Little Rock
- Mar. 15—Intern applications due
- Mar. 19—Lecture, Southwestern Regional Rendezvous, Leslie, AR (Littlefield speaks)
- Apr. 1—To Bridge a Gap, Wyandotte, OK
- Apr. 14-18—American Indian Symposium, Tahlequah, OK
- Apr. 23-26—Arkansas Literary Festival, Little Rock
- May 4—Lecture, US Marshals Museum, Ft. Smith, AR (Littlefield speaks)

Art News

“Inuit Sculpture from the Top of the World” opened on January 29th and will remain open through April 3rd. The current exhibit of carvings includes stone, antler, whale bone, and ivory pieces. The gallery is open Monday-Friday 8:00 am—5:00 pm. For a personal tour, curator Dr. Bill Wiggins will be available most afternoons for tours and can be contacted at 501-658-6360 for scheduling.



Walrus with bone tusks,
Nalineq Temela (1939-2004)

Artworks from the J.W. Wiggins Native American Art Collection will be on display at The Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in a groundbreaking new exhibit “Ancient Ways: Modern Forms, An Exploration of Parallel Experience in Native American and Jewish Culture by Oklahoma’s Native Artists.” The exhibit opened February 5th and runs through April 2nd. For more information, contact the museum at (918)492-1818.

Dr. Wiggins will be attending the Heard Museum’s Annual Indian Art Market in Phoenix, Arizona, the first weekend in March, where he will serve as judge for the Diversified Arts Division of the Fine Arts Competition.

Become a Friend of the Sequoyah National Research Center

Annual membership dues:

Individual: \$25—\$99

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Make checks payable to:
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Mail checks to:
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Hours of Operation:
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