

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

INTRODUCTION
PAGE 1UNCC SPOTLIGHTS
PAGE 2CAMPUS CELEBRATIONS &
RESOURCES
PAGE 3APA OFFER OF
APOLOGY
PAGE 3ORGANIZATIONS &
RECOMMENDATIONS
PAGE 4

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

November is Native American Heritage Month!

It is a call for all people to celebrate the traditions, languages, stories, and contributions of **Native American, American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and affiliated Island communities**. This month offers an opportunity for reflection, education, and celebration of the enduring legacy of indigenous communities.

The history of Native American Heritage Month dates back to the early 20th century when Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian and the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, New York, advocated for a day to recognize the contributions of the first Americans. It was only in the early 1990s, that this observance expanded into a month-long celebration.

In this newsletter, we have two amazing UNC Charlotte spotlights, a page with campus resources and events, a list of resources related to the field of psychology, as well as recommendations for a video and a playlist.



Google Forms

Please fill out this **anonymous 2-question survey**. We would like to learn more about our **audience**, this will help inform our future newsletters. Thank you!

UNC CHARLOTTE SPOTLIGHTS

Michelle Stanley, Coharie, MPA



Photo credit: Ivan Richardson

Michelle is an enrolled member of the Coharie Tribe, located in present-day Sampson County in NC. The Coharie are one of the 8 recognized Tribal Nations in this state. She is a part-time lecturer in Women's and Gender Studies, the president and founder of the Native American Caucus, the advisor to the Native American Student Association, and a PhD student at UNC Greensboro in the Educational Studies, Cultural Foundations program. She earned her master's degree in Public Administration, graduate certificate in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, and Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Psychology from UNC Charlotte. She also worked as a staff member within the Sociology and Institutional Effectiveness and Analytics offices at UNC Charlotte from 2014 to 2023. As an Indigenous researcher, her work has focused on challenging settler colonialism within higher education institutions, Indigenous genocide denial, MMIWG2S+, Indigenous feminisms, cultural resurgence, Native American experiences in higher education, the histories of Tribal Nation operated schools in NC, and Indigenous data sovereignty. As an instructor, she has taught Indigenous Feminisms, Indigenous feminist politics and resistance, and Indigenous women. She is currently the only Indigenous person teaching Indigenous studies courses at UNC Charlotte. Michelle has also co-organized the inaugural, as well as the second, Annual Powwow at UNC Charlotte. As a scholar-activist she is dedicated to creating spaces within these institutions for Native students, advocating for their needs, holding the institutions accountable for their (in)actions, and working alongside Indigenous students to provide mentorship and support as they navigate educational institutions.

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Jason Edward Black, Ph.D.



Jason (he/him) is Professor of Rhetoric, Culture & Social Change within the Department of Communication Studies where he also directs the department's Learning Community. He is an affiliate faculty member with Africana Studies, American Studies, and Women & Gender Studies. As a rhetorical critic, Jason's research focuses mostly on Indigenous activist strategies, including the deployment of decolonial tactics to unsettle colonial structures. His expertise ranges from 19th century American Indian legal and political resistance and Red Power politics to sports mascotting resistance and Indigenous epistemological theory across Turtle Island (North America). A Fulbright Canada alum (transnational Indigenous chair), he is the co-author of "Mascot Nation: The Controversy over Native American Representations in Sports" and the author of "American Indians and the Rhetoric of Removal and Allotment". He is also co-editor of "Decolonizing Native American Rhetoric", among numerous books and articles on Indigenous activism, Queer lifeways, and Black liberation. He teaches both an Honors course on Indigenous Decolonization and a COMM/AMST course on Indigenous Rhetoric. As a settler, Jason takes seriously the charge of Indigenous activists like Emma LaRocque who argue that decolonization demands that settlers perform transformative (not just additive) labor with reflexivity and earnestness to correct the trauma that colonization has caused. He works with Indigenous activists groups on campaigns to memorialize and investigate Residential Schools, to combat the ills of Native mascotting, and to strategize legal challenges to colonial policy. He encourages questions, collaboration, and coffee chats!

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CAMPUS CELEBRATIONS AND RESOURCES



“Celebrating our Resilience”: Annual PowPow

Sept 23rd



Takake & Atakude (Hello & Gather) for Catawba Nation Talk

Nov 28th

CLICK THE LINK FOR MORE INFORMATION AND CAMPUS EVENTS FOR THE
[NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH](#)

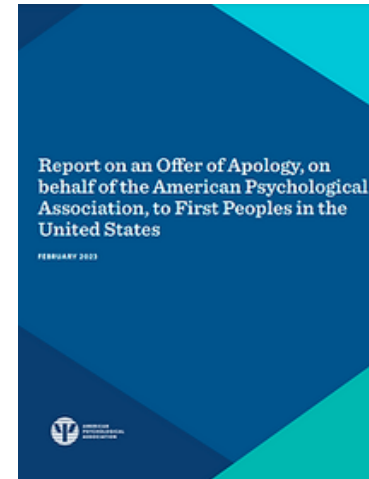
NATIVE AMERICAN STAFF AND FACULTY CAUCUS

DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The UNC Charlotte Native American Caucus is an organization that provides support for Natives on campus and addresses the concerns and needs of Natives. The website provides useful resources such as scholarships, fellowships, conferences and more.

<https://nasfc.charlotte.edu/du>

DID YOU KNOW?



In February of 2023, the **American Psychological Association (APA)** released an **offer of apology to the First Peoples** in the United States. This document also includes a description of the apology process, a statement of situations in which APA failed to act to support Native peoples and Nations, as well as recommendations for the field and practice of psychology.

*“APA apologizes to First Peoples for its **actions and inactions**, the discipline of U.S. psychology, and individual psychologists who stood as leaders for the organization and discipline, which **allowed, facilitated, and perpetuated harm, intergenerational trauma, and cultural oppression**. This apology also extends to **Native American psychologists and psychology graduate students** who struggled, and in most cases succeeded, in the discipline and profession despite hardships, burdens, and barriers.” (APA, 2023, p. 11)*

<https://www.apa.org/pubs/reports/indigenous-apology.pdf>

PSYCHOLOGY RESOURCES



The Society of Indian Psychologists (SIP) is an organization of **Native American and Alaska Native professionals**. SIP's mission is to advocate for the psychological well-being of American Indians and other Indigenous peoples and to advance knowledge pertaining to Indigenous psychology.

<https://www.nativepsychs.org/>



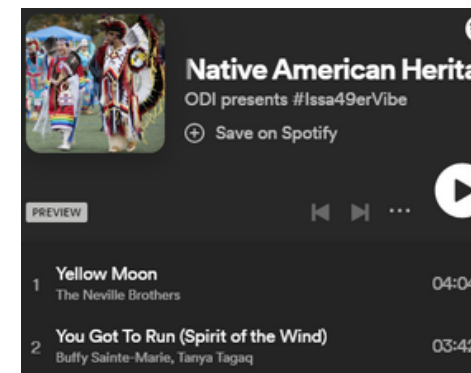
RECOMMENDATIONS

Video: Celebrating Native American Heritage Month



The American Psychological Association hosted a conversation with Drs. Mark Standing Eagle Baez and B. J. Boyd as they discuss the power of Native American cultural identity, the contributions of Native American psychologists to the field, and more.

Music: Native American Heritage Month



Check this Spotify [playlist](#) put together by UNC Charlotte faculty, staff, and students as an initiative of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.