

Native American Graduation & Honor Ceremony

On Thursday, May 19, FSP hosted its annual Native American Graduation & Honor Ceremony in the Student Alumni Cafe. With 29 Native graduates and over 100 attendees, the ceremony was the largest to date. Robert Jimerson, a Seneca computer science graduate student gave the opening prayer of thanks and shortly afterwards was followed by the keynote speaker's address, "Celebrating Our Creator Given Gifts" by Dr. Joanne Shenandoah. An apropos gift of an eagle feather was given to each of the graduates following Dr. Shenandoah's address. The honoring ceremony saw the presentation of staff and student awards and a donation check presented by ITT to the AISES student group. The graduation ceremony awarded each of the graduates with blankets, AISES and Haudenosaunee stoles, as well as a congratulatory line. The night was brought to a close by Peter Jemison with a prayer.



Staff and Student Awards



FSP Graduates May 19, 2011

Tracey Baird, Oneida Wisconsin- Electrical Engineering, B.S. Hired by GE Healthcare in Milwaukee, WI.

Randy Cheiker, Ogalala Sioux- Electrical Engineering Technology, B.S.

Jacob Connors, St. Regis Mohawk- Civil Engineering Technology, B.S. Hired by Lassen National Forest in CA.

Ryan Duffy, Tuscarora- Business, B.S.

Summer Saraf, Mohawk Bay of Quinte- Physics, B.S. Starting Physics PhD at Cornell in Fall

Dori Tarbell, St. Regis Mohawk- Interdisciplinary Studies, B.S.

Christopher Trembley, Seneca- Hospitality & Service Management, B.S. Caesars Entertainment Corporation Intern

Dwight Cooke, St. Regis Mohawk- Mechanical Engineering, M.S.

Awenheeyoh Powless, Onondaga- Fine Arts, M.F.A.

Leah Shenandoah, Oneida Wolf Clan- Metal Crafts & Jewelry, M.F.A.



DR. LAURIE CLAYTON, former FSP co-director, was awarded the Native American Faculty/Staff/Community Award by FSP scholars for her continued and unflinching support of FSP.



WUTTACHKI MYLES, 4th year Navajo mechanical engineering student was presented with a framed edition of his *Winds of Change* College Guide cover and profile.



DWIGHT COOKE, Mohawk, was recognized for his 1st place graduate presentations at the 2009 and 2010 AISES conferences and presented with a framed edition of his *Winds of Change* profile.



FSP EXHIBIT

FOOD Booth: Fry bread, corn soup, strawberries & honey, 3 sisters handout

CRAFT booth: Traditional Cherokee basket-weaving

GAMES booth: Hand game, ring and pin game

POSTER booth: Explaining the Wage Gap for Native American Males (presented by Dr. Burnette)

Ganondagan State Historic Site Booth

Haudenosaunee Singers & Dancers: Led by Sherri Waterman-Hopper it also featured RIT graduate, Awenheeyoh Powless (Onondaga)

IMAGINE RIT

INNOVATION + CREATIVITY FESTIVAL



ON SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2011 RIT HOSTED IMAGINE RIT

FSP participated in the festival with an exhibit entitled "Native American Cultural Celebration," where visitors sampled Native foods, participated in crafts, games and music, viewed Haudenosaunee dancers and current economic research on Native America. FSP also hosted students from the 6 tribal nations and partnered with RCSD Native American Resource Center, The Community Place, and MCC STEP programs.

How Many?

Imagine RIT
Numbers

Attendees	32,000
Exhibits	350
FSP booths	5
FSP volunteers	< 30
FSP student guests	< 100
Estimate on # baskets made	150





“The AISES conference was an amazing opportunity to explore the potential career options in my field. I have never been around so many Natives in one place; it brought an energy that I’ll never forget.”

- Tanner Newcomb

Blackfoot, 2nd year Biotechnology student

The American Indian Science Engineering Society (AISES) National Conference took place in Albuquerque, NM from November 11-13, 2010. Eight FSP AISES scholars attended the conference; five of which presented research in both the undergraduate and graduate oral/poster presentations where Dwight Cooke won 1st place for the 2nd time in a row in the graduate presentation.

AISES NATIONAL CONFERENCE



At the end of the conference awards ceremony, FSP AISES students pose to capture the moment. From left, Dr. Jeff Burnette (FSP Dir of Student Success), Tony Burnette (5th year Mechanical Engineering), Wuttachki Myles (5th year Mechanical Engineering), Caitlin Kavanaugh (3rd year Mechanical Engineering), Tanner Newcomb (2nd year Biotechnology), Dwight Cooke (Masters in Mechanical Engineering), Robyn Wilson (5th year Environmental Science), and Jacob Conners (5th year Civil Engineering).

Dwight Cooke: “Pool Boiling Heat Transfer Over Micro-grooved Surfaces”

Robyn Wilson: “A Native Science and Technology Wiki”

Jacob Conners: “USDA Case Study: Economic Impact of Evaporation Pond Leakage”

Caitlin Kavanaugh: “Use of Artificial Neural Networks in the Prediction of Solar Storms on Earth and Mars”

Crystal Campbell: “Native American Boarding Schools & the Deaf Experience”

The AISES conference affords FSP students the opportunity to network with top companies and has led to coops and jobs for FSP conference attendees such as GE Healthcare (Baird), NASA (Kavanaugh), Toyota (Myles), and many more. The conference also provides an invaluable bonding opportunity for FSP students, faculty and staff. Here’s to AISES National Conference 2011 in Minneapolis, MN!

NATIVE AMERICAN MONTH 2010



“Native American Month provides the RIT community an opportunity to experience and learn from the vibrant, flourishing Native community in the HERE and NOW at RIT.”

— Nizhoni Chow-Garcia, FSP co-director



“RIT’s support of Ganondagan is very important to me as this site was and still remains important to all Haudenosaunee. I’m glad I was a volunteer!!”

— Dwight Cooke, RIT student

Week’s Events

Keynote : G. Peter Jemison
“Tribal Sovereignty”

Ganondagan State Historic Site

“Unseen Tears” documentary
w/co-producer, Ruchatneet Printup

Thanksgiving Dinner
Storyteller: Perry Ground

Message from the Co-Director



by Dr. Jason Younker

For FSP, the 2010-2011 school year was one of great change. Much of the said change involved the meeting of three minds over coffee during a long Rochester winter and it is over such coffee "breaks" that Dr. Jeff Burnette (FSP Dir. of Student Success) and I initiated our newest team member, Nizhoni Chow-Garcia (FSP Co-Director). In the same fashion we'd go on to meet the majority of our 2010 incoming Native students (43, increasing our number by 243%!); plan trips to 5 of the 8 tribal nations (Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, St. Regis Mohawk, and Tuscarora); and interview our Seneca computer science Masters student- Robert Jimerson- for his position with the Seneca Language Project (SLRP), an ongoing research collaboration funded by an ANA grant between the Seneca Nation of Indians and RIT working with the renown linguist, Dr. Wallace Chafe.

It is also over coffee that FSP met with Peter Jemison (Ganondagan site manager) and Dr. Roger Dube (FSP Dir. of Research Initiatives) to discuss the White Corn Project (an effort between RIT, Ganondagan, the NY State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Department and Friends of Ganondagan for the reintroduction of white corn into natural and gourmet North American food recipes). Coffee eventually pumped through our veins when we planned for, mulled over and finally submitted the Collegiate Science Technology Entry Program (CSTEP) grant, which we have recently been awarded by the NY State Department of Education for 2011- 2015.

FSP + COFFEE = GREAT + CHANGE

FROM THE OTHER CO-DIRECTOR

As my one year with FSP nears, I sit, smile and reflect. Beginning of the school year jitters quickly faded and were perhaps forced out of me by the quickness of the RIT quarter system, the enthusiasm of the students and the vibrancy of the Haudenosaunee culture and people (not to forget Jason and Jeff's endless ideas for the program). The year has flown by and I'm energized for what is to come!

2011-2012 Club Officers

AISES American Indian Science Eng Society

President Tanner Newcomb

VP Caitlin Kavanaugh

Treasurer Wuttachki Myles

Secretary Tony Burnette

NASA Native American Student Association

President Caitlin Kavanaugh

VP Tanner Newcomb

Treasurer Alicia Lazore

Secretary Jared Umlas



AISES & NASA officers "hard at work"



FUTURE STEWARDS PROGRAM
 ISSUE: Summer 2011

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