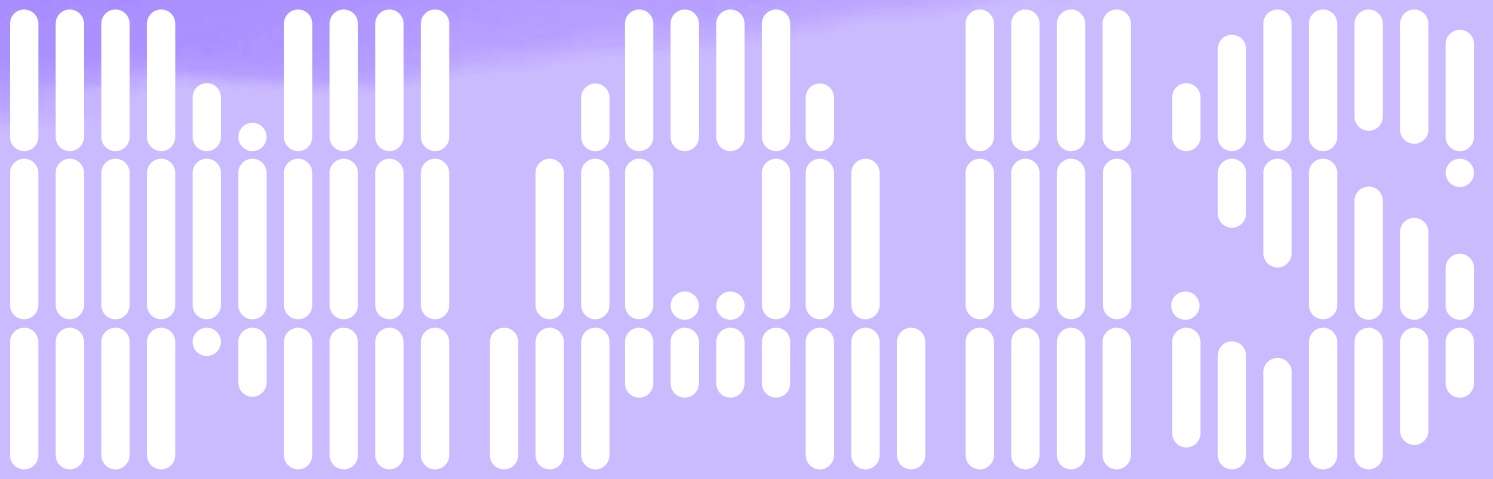




Native American and Indigenous Studies Initiative

Fall 2024
Newsletter

Stony Brook University

Greetings relatives,

As the fall semester comes to a close, let me take a moment to express my gratitude for the support that so many of you have offered in the first year of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Initiative at Stony Brook University. This is the first of what I hope will be many (biannual) newsletters relaying updates and accomplishments of the Initiative, which could not have happened without the time, energy, and knowledge that many of you have given. Thank you, first and foremost. We will do our best to continue to grow the Initiative and honor the wisdom that others have shared with us.

Stay connected via our new website:

<https://www.stonybrook.edu/nais/>

Instagram account:

https://www.instagram.com/sbu_nais

NAIS SBU Listserv (open to all):

Please email lina.queiroz@stonybrook.edu to be added.

Please follow us there for more frequent updates and announcements.

New Hires

NAIS is growing. In February 2024, we hired our Administrative Assistant, Lina Quiroz, who shares time between NAIS and the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature. Lina is a skilled administrator who will be helping NAIS schedule courses, organize programming, and maintain communication across the university. For general inquiries about the NAIS Initiative, please contact Lina by phone 631.632.6959 or email lina.quiroz@stonybrook.edu



Lina Quiroz

We hired two new tenure track faculty members last year: David Heska Wanbli Weiden, an enrolled citizen of the Sicangu Lakota Nation, who has joined the Department of English, and Darcey Evans, a member of Quartz Valley Indian Reservation, who will be joining the Department of Anthropology in the fall 2025 semester. We are very excited about these two colleagues, who bring a wealth of experience and a diverse set of skills to the Initiative.



David Heska Wanbli Weiden
Sicangu Lakota Nation



Darcey Evans
Quartz Valley Indian Reservation

Professor Weiden was interviewed by the English Department recently, and we are happy to include an expanded version of that conversation [here](#).

We will continue to grow the faculty this year

with two more tenure track positions approved by the Provost, one in the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature and the other in the Department of Art. A joint search committee has been reviewing applications this fall, with the expectation of finalizing both searches early in the spring 2025 semester.

NAIS Minor

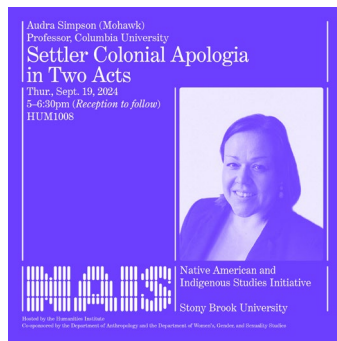
Starting in the spring 2025 semester, we will officially be able to enroll our first cohort of undergraduate students in the NAIS Minor, which has been approved by the Curriculum Committee and is now listed on the [Undergraduate Bulletin](#). The Minor requires 21 credits and includes three core courses in Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAI). We will have a roster of elective courses that students will be able to take for credit toward the Minor and continue to expand our curricular offerings in the coming semesters. If you have any questions about the Minor, please email Joseph M. Pierce joseph.pierce@stonybrook.edu.

Programming

This fall we welcomed to campus the renowned Mohawk scholar Audra Simpson (Professor of Anthropology at Columbia University) for a public lecture, co-sponsored by the Humanities Institute, Department of Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Department of Anthropology. In addition, Professor Simpson met with a small group of undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff, to discuss the growth of Native American and Indigenous studies as a field, and approaches to interdisciplinary research.

We also collaborated with the UNITI Multicultural Center to bring Tecumseh Ceaser to campus for Native American Heritage Month. Tecumseh is an artist, cultural consultant and wampum carver, and is Matinecock Turkey Clan and Montaukett and Unkechaug decent. Tecumseh gave a public lecture on the Native history of Long Island, and joined a group of students, faculty, and staff for a

luncheon to discuss ongoing efforts to Indigenize higher education. For more information about Tecumseh's work see: www.NativeTec.biz



In the spring 2025 semester we will continue our programming with community conversations and other events. For updates see our website, social media, and listserv (above).

Community Outreach

The Initiative has the support of five representatives from the Indigenous nations of Long Island, the Montauket, Shinnecock, Unkechaug, Setalcott, Matinecock. These representatives comprise our Steering Committee, which provides guidance about community engagement, and serves as a link between the university and Long Island's Indigenous communities. I also wish to thank all of them for serving on the steering committee, and for David Weiden for serving as committee liaison.

Advancement

Linda Devin-Sheehan has made a gift to the Department of English to establish the David Sheehan Memorial Fund, which will be used to support both English and its activities related to NAIS. Linda and David have been tireless supporters of SBU for many years. David was a former chair of the English Department, and

one of the first people to teach Native American literary studies at the university. Linda has donated a large collection of her late husband's library related to Native American literature and literary studies, which is being installed in the Poetry Center in the Humanities building (second floor).

Other News

Joseph M. Pierce was named as a scholar-in-residence at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) for the 2024-25 academic year. The fellowship will allow him to pursue new avenues of research and collaboration with the museum, including its collections, archives, and programming. He will remain Director of NAIS during the year and looks forward to exploring ways to collaborate with the institution in the future.



Joseph M. Pierce
Cherokee Nation

Finally, as you may have noticed from the graphic design of this newsletter, we have established a visual identity with the help of Other Means, a company based in Brooklyn. They helped us create our website and graphic design. We'll be creating some swag soon, too. Be on the lookout!

With gratitude,
Joseph M. Pierce, Cherokee Nation citizen

Founding Director, NAIS Initiative
Associate Professor, Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature