

Learning NAGPRA: Resources for Teaching and Training

Summer 2016 Newsletter

<http://learningnagpra.indiana.edu>

Project Director's Note

Dr. April Sievert

It's hard to believe that we are closing in on the second Learning NAGPRA collegium. In the past year we've seen how Learning NAGPRA (not so much this project as the whole process) means learning to see anthropology, archaeology, and museum studies using new perspectives.

Last fall, co-PI and IU NAGPRA Director Jayne-Leigh Thomas and I attended the Midwest Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology (BARFAA) Meetings in Chicago where we participated in a panel discussion—Global Heritage and Repatriation at



the Field Museum.

At the Field Museum event the discussion of repatriation garnered much interest by biological anthropology students who attended the conference. Several students indicated interest in developing skills related to

repatriation and signed up for interviews for Learning NAGPRA.

The event was also valuable in that it put repatriation of ancestral remains in the U.S. into broader conversations about collaborating with descendants globally. Alpha Sadcopen and Leilani Chen of the Field Museum spoke about their co-curation project with descendant communities of

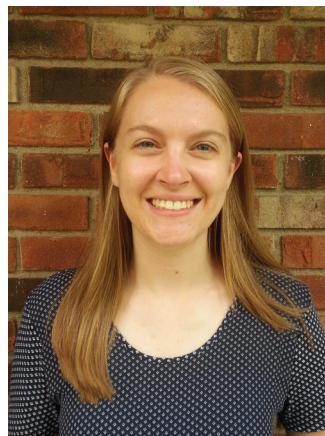
Filipino Americans and Filipinos to reconnect museum collections with Filipino source communities digitally online at <http://maps.fieldmuseum.org/philippines/>. Projects like this one provide great models for teaching about museum collaboration.

This Fall, we will attend the 2016 Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM) annual meeting to learn more about the important work other colleagues are engaging in around the country and globe. We are currently preparing symposium and panel proposals for conferences in 2017 and look forward to sharing and connecting with others working on these issues.

Research Updates

Dr. Teresa Nichols, Project Manager

In September of 2015, we finished the second round of nation-wide surveys to educators and students at Anthropology- and Museum Studies-related programs at U.S. universities and colleges. Since then, we have presented results at the 2015 American Anthropological Association annual meeting in Denver, CO and at the 2016 Society for American Archaeology annual meeting in Orlando, Florida.



publication for peer-review that we hope will be available in early 2017.

We have four research initiatives to explore different aspects of NAGPRA education and training from the perspectives of multiple stakeholders and at different points in the educational process.

These include:

- Conducting and analyzing interviews with educators, students, and repatriation professionals

Both of those posters are available on our website's [Project Data page](#). We are currently writing a

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The First Learning NAGPRA Collegium



Pictured (listed alphabetically): Daryl Baldwin, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma; Nicky Belle; Felipe J. Estudillo Colón, Laguna Pueblo, Assistant Professor of Museum Studies, IAIA; Carlina de la Cova, Assistant Professor, University of South Carolina; Crystal DeCell; Brian J. Gilley; Jessica Harrison; Ricardo Higelin Ponce de León; Katherine Kearns; Desirée R. Martinez, Gabrielino (Tongva); Dru McGill, North Carolina State University; Teresa Nichols; Anne Pyburn; Jennifer Meta Robinson; Rebekah Ryan; Jessie Ryker-Crawford, White Earth Chippewa, Associate Professor of Museum Studies, IAIA; April Sievert; Vickie Stone; Jayne-Leigh Thomas; Davina Two Bears (Navajo), PhD Candidate, Indiana University; Velma K. Valdez; Joe Watkins; Carrie V. Wilson; Teresa Wilson; Larry J. Zimmerman, IUPUI/Eiteljorg Museum

On August 14th and 15th, 2015 twenty-five cultural specialists, students, and education professionals gathered at Indiana University, Bloomington for the first Learning NAGPRA Collegium. Funded by the National Science Foundation (grant #1449465), the Learning NAGPRA project aims to create resources for teaching and training on the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). The collegium setting, drawing from the scholarship of teaching and learning, is designed to create collaborative spaces where participants can collaborate in evaluating information and brainstorming paths forward for teaching and learning about NAGPRA.

On the first day of the collegium, participants learned about the formation of the Learning NAGPRA project and the data collected as part of the first year's background research and planning phase. Participants discussed and compared the codes of ethics of professional associations and tribal governments to identify guiding values needed in NAGPRA education and to locate where there are crucial gaps in current methods of teaching and outreach that must be addressed.

On the second day of the collegium, participants discussed some of the barriers and frustrations experienced in working on repatriation issues.

Research Updates, continued from Page 1

- Distributing online surveys to students and faculty in Anthropology- and Museum studies-related programs and analyzing responses using SPSS and QDAMiner

- Collecting course syllabi and textbooks from programs for textual analysis

- Organizing a comparative teaching study working with educators at 5 universities and colleges around the U.S. to look at the strengths and challenges in various teaching approaches to NAGPRA in different course contexts

We are still conducting interviews and collecting course syllabi, so please reach out if you are interested in learning more about our research initiatives or contributing your experiences. You can reach me via email either tenichol@indiana.edu or lrnagrpa@indiana.edu or through our twitter account [@LearningNAGPRA](https://twitter.com/LearningNAGPRA).

This culminated in a very important conversation identifying primary target audiences for improved NAGPRA education and effective or engaging educational materials for those different groups.

We thank all of the participants for engaging so thoroughly and thoughtfully in all of the discussions and for their recommendations and feedback as we plan the second Learning NAGPRA Collegium. We would also like to acknowledge the support of the First Nations Educational and Cultural Center and the Social Sciences Research Commons in hosting our event. The 2016 Collegium will again be held at Indiana University, Bloomington, when participants are focusing in working groups on the creation of educational materials, while still benefiting from sharing experiences with their colleagues. We will also continue to explore avenues to engage other stakeholders from various cultural and professional specialties, recognizing that NAGPRA intersects with larger ethical, disciplinary, and human rights issues that go beyond the letter of the law.

Strategic Planning in the Southwest

In November of 2015 and May of 2016, Learning NAGPRA Project team members headed to the Southwest to meet with our colleagues and project consultants from the Museum Studies program at the Institute of American Indian Arts, Jessie V. Ryker-Crawford and Felipe J. Estudillo Colòn.

During our strategic planning retreat at the Amerind Foundation in November, we discussed long-term goals as well as reviewing on-going research and planning for the next collegium. The second collegium, to be held at Indiana University in August 2016, will be a crucial step in forming working groups and preparing educational content. Learning NAGPRA's meeting at Amerind provided a timely opportunity to come together, talk through the exciting challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, and recenter among the wonderful views and collections. Project members also greatly enjoyed the opportunity to talk with an engaged audience at the "Lessons from Repatriation" brown bag.



Learning NAGPRA explores Amerind's collections

Our May 2016 trip to Santa Fe looked even further ahead to the third and final collegium in 2017, which will be held in Santa Fe. During our planning trip we connected with colleagues in the area and explored potential venues. Learning more about the repatriation efforts and advocacy in the Santa Fe community further underscored the different needs and opportunities for NAGPRA teaching and training around the country. Engaging with New Mexico's deep history and rich heritages was a fantastic experience that we look forward to sharing with collegium participants in the future.

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