

# Letter from the Chair - Spring 2022

Greetings!

We were all cheered by the small and large gifts of more light and an abundance of cherry blossoms on the UW Quad this Spring. Our students and faculty are mostly in person with each other in our classrooms again and our enrollments continue to be strong. This Spring, we identify our next Chair of American Indian Studies since my three-year term ends on June 30th. We have a lot to celebrate--promotions, awards, and a whole line up of great events. This Spring is very full of promise!

## New Chair

Three years have really flown by. When I accepted my appointment in June of 2019, I could not have known that I would be performing this service for my colleagues in the middle of the first pandemic in 100 years. I could not have shouldered my responsibilities without the help of my colleagues and our stellar staff Marcia Feinstein-Tobey and Kai Wise. As we worked out the unimaginable, we took care of our students while keeping the American Indian Studies department moving forward. I could count on our faculty to give me and each other support while they continued to model excellence in their work and in their classrooms. American Indian Studies is strong and growing--because of the effort we made together to stay focused and maintain the health and growth of students and the quality of our department. Thanks to each of our wonderful students, our scholars, and thanks to Marcia and Kai for an amazing three years. I look forward to returning to teaching now!

## Honors award

This year AIS created an option for students to do work toward an honors designation on their graduation record. We have made solid steps to create a track that students can choose to take as they take AIS as their major. We are happy to announce our [first honors awardee this year Stuart Heslop](#) for his work with Tami Hohn and the Lushootseed language family.

## First Spring Powwow in 3 years

Our hands go up to our First Nations student club at UW who were excited to present [their first Spring Powwow](#) after a 3 year hiatus. The powwow held at the Alaska Airlines Arena at the Hec Edmundson Pavilion on April 9th & 10th was a great success with many dancers and attendees. Report has it that the lines to the fry bread stands were very long. What a joyful event for students, families and our communities.

## Promotion

Associate Professor Charlotte Coté has been promoted to Full Professor in our department! Congratulations Dr. Coté! Dr. Coté published her second book [A Drum in One Hand and a Sockeye in the Other: Stories of Indigenous Food Sovereignty from the Northwest Coast](#), (University of Washington Press, 2022) this year. A book-signing and launch party on May 25th is in the works and is one of the four events we'll host this Spring.

## Spring events

It is spring here after a long and hard winter. Popping up like flowers, we have an amazing array

of events that the department is sponsoring. First up is the [Sacred Breath Indigenous Writing and Storytelling Series](#) on May 10th with featured artists are Rena Priest (Lummi), Washington's first Native poet laureate, and local storyteller Natosha Gobin (Tulalip). On May 13 and 14th we celebrate our 10th anniversary meeting of our [Living Breath Indigenous Foods Symposium](#)--both events will be live this year in our beautiful wələbʔaltxʷ Intellectual House so register soon! On May 25th we will return to the wələbʔaltxʷ to celebrate a [book launch with a signing](#) for Professor Charlotte Cote's new book *A Drum in One Hand, a Sockeye in the Other: Stories of Indigenous Food Sovereignty from the Northwest Coast*, (University of Washington Press, 2022). And finally, we will again gather in the wələbʔaltxʷ on [May 31 for an evening lecture](#) by Dr. Kyle T. Mays. American Indian Studies is happy to co-host Dr. Kyle T. Mays, Assistant Professor in the Department of African American Studies and American Indian Studies at UCLA for a talk and community conversation on his new book "An Afro-Indigenous History of the United States," published by Beacon Press. Please visit the separate articles for these events in this newsletter for times and registration information.

Marvin Oliver Fund now vested

And last, but never least, we have with your gracious help raised the necessary funds to invest the Marvin Oliver Endowed Fund for Undergraduate Student Support. Marvin was not only one of our founding faculty, but he was also the heart of so much that is American Indian Studies, the wələbʔaltxʷ, and AIAN presence here on our campus. Building this fund remains one of our priorities, so if you didn't get a chance to honor this dream, please do so in whatever way you can: Marvin Oliver Fund. On behalf of our present and future American Indian Studies students we deeply thank you!

Want to show your AIS Husky pride? Here's the [link to AIS swag](#), another way to celebrate your colors! Check our caps and toques with our 50 Year honoring insignia! This would be a great time for our alumnae to [update your information](#) by submitting an update on our website or emailing Kai Wise (kaiwise@uw.edu) since we are very much interested in how all of you are doing and are looking into ways to honor you this year!!!

With much good thoughts to you all,

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