



April 30, 2021

Coming Full Circle

NALSA Newsletter - April Edition



Highlight

This is the final edition of the newsletter. It's bittersweet. Bitter because it means that we, as the outgoing board members, will no longer be forced to see each other every week while imagining and planning for a better world. Saying goodbye is never easy and we've all



been incredibly blessed to come together in these times. Through thick and thin, we've been here with and for one another, standing side-by-side against racism, injustice, and indifference. Sweet because we'll (hopefully) be able to do 'normal things' together like grab lunch or some beers together without worrying about The Rona in the same way.

This academic year is drawing to a close and, thankfully, with it we are now closer than ever to living in a post-pandemic world. I won't lie, this year has been long and challenging. Many people have lost loved ones to the pandemic and many of us have struggled mentally and emotionally in isolation. Moreover, minimal human contact has prompted many of us to undergo deep self-reflection. As with all things however, the COVID-era is waning and new challenges and opportunities are on the horizon.

This has been an incredibly active year for NALSA and we are so grateful that you have accompanied us on our journey. We hosted over 30 events, raised over \$2,300 for the organization, donated hundreds of dollars of art supplies to O'odham Native elders programs, and more. It's been exhilarating and exhausting. Most importantly however, we have dedicated ourselves to developing a uniquely indigenous form of communal support in scary times. We hope that our efforts have inspired the next generation of UA NALSA leaders to look higher and reach even further.

Those of you that know me know that I, as editor, would be remiss if I didn't take this last opportunity to up get on my soapbox and editorialize. I recently heard a lecture from our very own Gabe Galanda and was inspired. As such, I want to take this final opportunity to categorically oppose the injustices that we, as Indian people, perpetrate on ourselves and our kin. Rolls, disenrollment, per capita, and blood quantum were all created to manufacture tribal consent to the US imperial system and to destroy traditional tribal modes of governance and ways of being. As such, it is incumbent on us as the next generation of Indian attorneys to be better. We must work toward moving beyond these colonial impediments to true self-determination and the revitalization of our traditional powers.



We as indigenous people have the culture and language necessary to heal the planet and it is our obligation to do that. First however, we must heal ourselves so that we may apply our powerful medicines to the most dangerous problems of our time. The stakes are simply too high to get bogged down in short-term, colonial ways of thinking and being.

In conclusion, we've decided to go all out with the final edition of this year's newsletter. It has been our honor to steward this incredible organization this year and we hope that you enjoy this edition. In addition to the standard content (executive reports, student, faculty, and business spotlights) this edition will also feature introductions to the new board, '21 summer updates from the membership, and a thought-provoking guest article from Native American Studies scholar, Dr. Lawrence Gross.

Enjoy!

[Meet the New Board at 3](#)

[Executive Leadership Reports at 5](#)

[Spotlights at 8](#)

[Post Apocalypse Stress Syndrome in the Time of COVID-19
by Dr. Lawrence Gross \(Anishinaabe\) at 13](#)

[NALSA Member Summer Plans at 17](#)

Introducing Your New UA NALSA Board!

President

Hayden "Inali" Godfrey (Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma) - Osiyo nigada! I would first and foremost like to open the conversation by thanking everyone who voted in this year's NALSA board election. We have inherited the beginnings of an unstoppable movement in



Native leadership that the incoming board will continue to nurture and cultivate while we call attention to the needs of our Indigenous student body. There is a mountain of progress for us to accomplish under our watch, because of which we intend to hit the ground running with our advocacy in our communities and on campus. I foresee a year of sharing important conversations among ourselves and our non-Indigenous peers while we make it abundantly clear that Natives will not be an invisible or silent demographic in the law community. We will continue to ascend and let our stars shine brightly while we banish the shadows of ignorance that lie before us. Wado nigada (thank you everybody) for the hard work, dedication, and faith that we have all contributed in pushing this group as far as it has come.

Vice President

Jeneva R. Kame Parks (Ally) - Hello to all! I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to everyone in the NALSA community who voted, and to the outgoing NALSA board members who led with such grace and generosity. I am so looking forward to working with the newly elected board next year as we continue to grow and advocate for Native communities both in and outside of the law school. I am especially eager to listen, be curious, make mistakes (and learn from them), and lead with an open heart.

Treasurer + Social Director

Julia Aguilera (Southern Sierra Miwok) - I am so excited to be a part of the NALSA Executive Board for the 2021-2022 academic school year. As a 1L who began their law school education via zoom during a global pandemic, NALSA has been so meaningful to me as a way to make those valuable friendships. I look forward to continuing the NALSA legacy and getting to know the rest of the eBoard! The Social Director position will allow me to create ways for the NALSA family to interact with each other. I am grateful for the community that NALSA has created for me and I look forward to seeing you all in person!



Secretary

Analisa Skeen (Ally) - Hello! I am so excited and honored to be serving alongside my fellow board members as NALSA's secretary. Amber, Dillon, Daniel, Edward, Stephanie, and Hannah laid an incredibly strong foundation for the NALSA community. They are such an excellent model for collegiality and respect and how far kindness and cooperation can take an organization. I hope we can live up to their legacy and continue to center Native voices on campus & in the legal community. Also, I can't wait to take some super awesome notes!

Public Relations

Rebecca Cohen (Ally) - I am very excited to be a part of the executive board this upcoming year as the Public Relations Director. I am originally from a small town in upstate NY but have called Tucson and the Tohono O'odham Nation my home since 2012. I have spent the last ten years of my life working in and advocating on behalf of Indigenous communities and particularly Indigenous youth and students. I am really looking forward to being back on campus which will give me the opportunity to continue Stephanie's great work of outreach to local tribes and high schools, as well as sharing all the important work (and fun things!) NALSA will be doing next year via social media. I also love plants and spend way too much time distracting myself from schoolwork with my ongoing gardening projects, so if you love plants too, hit me up!

Executive Leadership Reports

President

Amber Morning Star Byars (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) - It has been an immense honor to have served as NALSA President for the past year. This journey has been challenging but beautiful. I am beyond grateful for the support and encouragement I have received from IPLP staff, faculty, students, and from my fellow NALSA board members. As we bring this very bizarre year to a close, I look forward to taking a deep sigh of relief, and reflecting back



on all that I've learned and gained over the past year. From the bottom of my heart, yakoke (thank you) for entrusting me with the 2020-2021 NALSA presidency. I will be forever wishing you all many blessings, and praying for the wellbeing of you and your families. Chi pisa la chike (see you on down the road).

Vice President

Dillon Dobson (Cowlitz) - I feel so blessed to have been a leader of this incredible organization. I know, with every fiber of my being, that my outgoing board and I were brought together as a part of something much larger and I am so proud of everything that we have accomplished. This year has been difficult to say the least but NALSA has centered me, connected me with incredible indigenous students, faculty, and practitioners, and challenged me to grow emotionally and intellectually. Thank you to everyone who's supported me in these unprecedented times. I am so excited about what lies ahead. I look forward to seeing what NALSA's incredible leaders will do next year and hope to be a resource for them always. I'm confident that they'll do great things next year.

Treasurer

Edward Randall Ornstein (Southeastern Mvskoke Nation member/Poarch Creek Descendant) - I've been passing out the last of the t-shirts, winding down the online auction, and compiling information to pass on to the next NALSA Treasurer. Thanks to the generous support of alumni, faculty, and fellow students, the next board will inherit a treasury that's almost double what we started with last year. It's been a great year, and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in person come Fall. Next year, I'll be serving as Editor-in-Chief of the Arizona Journal of Environmental Law and Policy, and I hope lots of NALSA 1Ls apply in May!

Secretary

Daniel Hartman-Strawn (Ally) - Serving as the Secretary of NALSA has without a doubt been the highlight of my time in law school. I am so grateful for having had the opportunity to



serve its mission. My experience with NALSA has taught me how much a small group can accomplish when they share a common vision and operate through mutual respect and consensus-building. I feel that we've been riding this wave that has continued to build energy and influence as it rolls on. I can't wait to see what the new board has in store for us next year!

Public Relations

Stephanie Monroe (Diné) - I am so happy that I was part of the NALSA Board this past year, we did a lot within the community, and that is what makes me most proud. Also helping build a presence within the community locally and on social media, which I hope helps attract more native students to come to UArizona for law school. Next year, I will be serving on the Black Law Student Association board, but I am still looking forward to participating with NALSA as a member.

Events

Hannah Goins (Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina) - I have enjoyed my time as social director this year. I got to work with some of the best and brightest here at Arizona law. We started our term with big plans and a vision of unity and joy. We have been able to do some incredible things this year and each and every board member contributed in ways only they could. I have learned so much from these classmates that I now call friends, and I have had the pleasure of making new friends. It has been extremely difficult to stay connected to folks during COVID and even harder to make new connections, so I want to thank everyone for their involvement in NALSA this year. I hope we'll be able to hang out in person come fall and I look forward to seeing what the new board has in store for us.



Spotlights

Student - Edward Ornstein



I am a 2L from Florida. I am a passionate defender of Indigenous land, water, and peoples. This past year, I served as Treasurer of the University of Arizona chapter of the Native American Law Students Association. I have drafted tribal legislation on behalf of the Tohono O’odham Gaming Enterprise, and through the Tribal Justice Clinic I have drafted documents for international Indigenous language advocacy and researched on behalf of an Indigenous water authority.

My research paper this year, Disproportionate Police Militarization at Standing Rock Violated International Law received 2nd place from the National Native American Law Students Association’s Annual Legal Writing Competition, and it will be published in the Arizona Journal of Environmental Law and Policy. My research during my first year was about Tort Claim Exceptions to Sovereign Compacts, which received 4th place in the same NNALSA competition the year before.

Next year, I will be serving as Editor-in-Chief of the Arizona Journal of Environmental Law and Policy, participating in the Natural Resource Use & Management Clinic, co-authoring a paper on the intersections between tribal water law and the federal trust dynamics with Professor Warigia Bowman of the University of Tulsa, and independently authoring a brief paper on the regulatory regime in Florida’s wetlands.

After law school, I plan to move back to Tallahassee, Florida, to engage myself in land and water law in traditional Mvskoke (Creek) territory, and continue to advocate for Indigenous interests in the region.



Professor - Rebecca Tsosie



I am grateful to be a faculty member at the James E. Rogers College of Law, and I enjoy working with my talented IPLP/NALSA students and my incredible colleagues. Professor Williams was a great mentor when I was still an undergraduate student, as was Professor Carole Goldberg at UCLA, who recruited me to that law school. After graduating from law school, I clerked for Vice Chief Justice Stanley Feldman on the Arizona Supreme Court and then went to work for the law firm that is now Perkins, Coie, Brown and Bain in Phoenix, AZ. I took a leave from my firm a couple of years later, when I was awarded a Postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California to work on tribal environmental issues. While I was completing the Postdoc, I taught Federal Indian law and Property as a visiting professor at ASU.

I then accepted a permanent offer from ASU, where I became the first faculty Executive Director of the Indian Legal Program. I spent 15 years building the ILP and they were wonderful years. I loved our students and the communities we served. I came to UA in Fall 2016 to build a diversity, equity and inclusion Office for the UA under the leadership of then-Provost Andrew Comrie, and the law school graciously embraced me as a faculty member. I am now back to full-time teaching, which includes Federal Indian law, Property law, and a seminar on Indigenous Cultural Property. My scholarship is focused on Federal Indian law and I work on tribal sovereignty and self-determination, environmental and cultural resources issues.

My newest initiative is building a policy infrastructure for our IPLP that will allow us to collaborate with a variety of Indigenous organizations and form partnerships around key areas that are important to tribal sovereignty and Indigenous self-determination.



Business - Spirit Mountain Roasting Co.



Greetings. I am a proud son of the Fort Yuma Quechan Nation located along the lower Colorado River, I am also a graduate of Haskell Indian Nations University and the University of Kansas. I received a degree in Environmental Policy and was lucky to spend close to fifteen years working for tribes and a tribal non-profit in the Phoenix valley. In December of 2015 I decided to take the jump into the world of entrepreneurship and founded Spirit Mountain Roasting Co. My passions lie in the ability to work with and utilize energy (heat, air flow, motion etc.) to unlock the flavors and aromas that are hidden within raw materials such as the coffee seed. Being able to work with and showcase the wide variety of these sensory experiences is my way of creating and it is a fulfilling and rewarding way to be.

While the company prides itself on crafting high-quality coffees, it is also focused on minimizing its impact on the environment and makes purchasing decisions based on ethical practices being applied throughout the supply chain. Spirit Mountain is also forming partnerships with non-profit groups that share in this commitment with the hope to help educate the public about these important concepts. The company is also proud to have recently relocated back to the reservation with the hope of being able to provide jobs and other economic opportunities for the community as the company grows.

Although these times are turbulent, painful and expose how much our systems of operating are deeply flawed, I feel it is a chance for us to shed the antiquated and distorted ways for more inclusive, sustainable, and healthy ways of coexisting with our brothers, sisters, and all of our relatives on this planet. We are trying to do our small part by making choices that are in line with this vision and will continue to do so as we move forward. Though it has been difficult for us to continue operating at times we have been able to



sustain our small business through the support of those that share in our vision and taste for great coffee. Thank you, from myself and our small team here on the rez for taking an interest in our company and we hope you follow along in our journey as we have exciting things brewing on the horizon. – Tudor Arriquippa (Ar-Ke-Pah) Montague, Founder/Head Roaster – Spirit Mountain Roasting Co.

Our Name and Logo



The name Spirit Mountain and our logo are more than just an identity, they have a cultural significance of which we are extremely proud of. Spirit Mountain or Avi Kwa Ame, is an area that is associated with the creation of life. Avi Kwa Ame is where we began, it is the starting point of a long and meaningful journey that is who we are. The “shield” has a rendering of the Avi Kwa Ame mountain range and is overlaid by an image of a Yuman warrior. The warrior represents the spirit of the Pipa (people) that is always present during our journeys and experiences. Thus, the entire image represents and acknowledges the connection to our roots and the important journey that we are a part of.

Our Way

Freshness and quality should always come first. Therefore, we use only 100% Arabica coffee beans and roast every batch to order. We believe that it is our responsibility to operate in a way that minimizes our impact on Mother Earth.

Caring About Our Community

We are a community-oriented company. Our community includes not only the Pipa, or people of the Quechan Nation, it includes the entire coffee supply chain from seed to cup. We pay attention to who we work with and how they treat the producers/growers. We are proud that our suppliers offer traceability, transparency and invest back into the communities they work with. Visit www.sustainableharvest.com to learn more. This is why



we use Biotre biodegradable coffee bags made of sustainable materials for our packaging and compost the organic “waste” left over from the roasting process. We are also proud to have recently relocated back home to the Fort Yuma Quechan Nation with the goal to provide jobs and other economic opportunities for the community as the company grows.

Our Coffee

We are as excited as we are passionate about our craft. As passionate as we are about coffee, we are equally inspired by being a part of something positive for our community.

Not only does our community include the Pipa, or people of the Quechan Nation, but it also includes the entire coffee supply chain from seed to cup.

Throughout the world, coffee is an important part of what sustains communities, and which is why we seek to support them by working with suppliers that align with our values. We select coffees which are produced sustainably,

exchanged fairly (fair trade), handled correctly (roasted with care), and (we hope) enjoyed thoroughly. We are happy to share the results of this energy with you in the various offerings listed. Taste, experience and enjoy for yourself.



www.spiritmountainroasting.com



Guest Article

Post Apocalypse Stress Syndrome in the Time of COVID-19

By Dr. Lawrence W. Gross



I am a member of the Minnesota Chippewa tribe, enrolled on the White Earth reservation in northwest Minnesota. We are also known as the Anishinaabe (plural: Anishinaabeg) and Ojibwe. I have been rethinking my theory of Post Apocalypse Stress Syndrome (PASS) and that of historical trauma response in light of the current pandemic circling the globe and devastating Indian Country. I have come to the conclusion that PASS and historical trauma do not take into account the ongoing

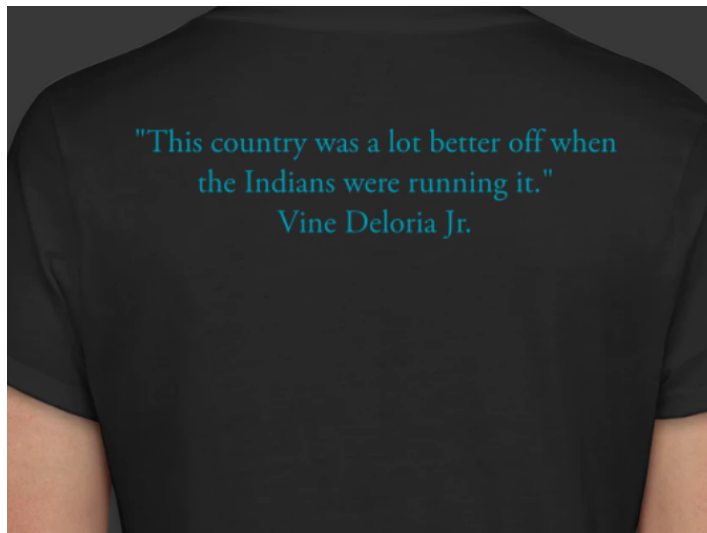
traumas being constantly visited upon indigenous people. We need to recognize that reality and think through its implications.

In 2014, I published a book, *Anishinaabe Ways of Knowing and Being*. Chapter 2 discusses my theory of Post Apocalypse Stress Syndrome (PASS). At its most basic, the theory says that Native Americans in general and the Anishinaabeg in particular went through an apocalypse. Our respective worlds came to an end, and there is no going back. Further, when a society goes through an apocalypse, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder will become widespread, social institutions will weaken or collapse, and there may be a crisis in worldview. Because of the deep shock to the culture, it can take up to one-hundred fifty years to recover.

One instigator of PASS can be pandemics. As it turns out, Native Americans suffered greatly from Afro-Eurasian diseases. After permanent contact was established between the Americas and Afro-Eurasia, Europeans brought over a host of deadly viral and bacterial diseases, including smallpox, tuberculosis, bubonic plague, pneumonic plague, chicken pox,



cholera, diphtheria, dysentery, influenza, measles, scarlet fever, typhus, typhoid, whooping cough, mumps, and, for animals, rabies. Native Americans did not have immunity to any of these diseases. As a result, their fatality rate in some cases is estimated to have been 90%. Some demographers put the figure as high as 95%. Some demographers say the population of the Americas at the time of permanent contact was 100 million. If the fatality rate for the many pandemics that hit Native people was 90%, that means we lost 90 million lives.



The White Earth reservation had its own encounter with disease and pestilence. Melissa Meyer documented this history in detail in her book, *The White Earth Tragedy*. In the early 20th century, through a series of shady land deals, timber companies came to own large tracts of land on the White Earth reservation. They proceeded to clear cut the forests. Being a forest people, we depended on the woods for our livelihood. Once the trees were gone, we were thrown into starvation. Forced into crowded living conditions, and with little food to survive the cold, communicable diseases ran rampant. Health inspectors went door-to-door to investigate the extent of the problem. As Meyer writes, "In one home the diseased inhabitants just sat and stared" (220).

The history of apocalypse and historical trauma are not unique to my own Anishinaabe people. Indeed, I cannot think of a single Native nation that does not have its own history of apocalypse and historical trauma. The problems as I see it now, though, is that our historical trauma is not over. Trauma is ongoing for Native people. I will not enumerate all the ways this is so. But two good examples are the Dakota Access Pipeline protests that occurred a few years ago and the recent action by the federal government to approve a



copper mine on land sacred to the Apache people. So, the trauma being inflicted on Native people is not historical. It is ongoing. In fact, it is hard to rebuild a society in the wake of an apocalypse when the settler colonial state constantly undermines those efforts.



Given that our trauma is ongoing, we need to rename historical trauma and call it for what it is, ongoing trauma. We need to rethink PASS and call it ongoing genocidal stress syndrome. But, whatever the name, we need to incorporate that reality into our thinking about caring for our mental health. We are making good progress with programs intended to build

healthy communities, such as the food sovereignty movement and fitness awareness programs. Ongoing work to heal from historical trauma is important as well. But we should not fool ourselves. I see no end in sight for the ongoing trauma of Native people and COVID-19 will certainly not be the last of the traumas we will face.

And now we come to COVID-19. As has been well documented, the pandemic has hit Native communities particularly hard. I have one Diné friend who lost someone to COVID-19 every week for the first five weeks of the New Year in 2021, and that is not even counting all the relatives and friends she lost in 2020.

I also think about all the elders we have lost due to COVID-19. The knowledge and wisdom they took with them is irreplaceable, making it that much harder for Native people to continue the process of maintaining and/or reviving our traditions.

But the situation is not entirely bleak. After being devastated by the pandemic early on, Native nations have turned the tide. In many cases, they are serving as examples for policies and procedures for vaccine delivery. As a result, although we have a ways to go, good progress is being made in bringing the pandemic to an end in Indian Country.



So, COVID-19 has both laid bare the weaknesses in our society in general and made clear the health disparities that exist for disadvantaged communities, especially Native Americans.

Personally, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced me to confront the ongoing trauma of Native people. Given the reality of Native life and ongoing genocidal stress syndrome, I would like

to see Native people do two things: 1) Better

recognize that our trauma is ongoing and will not end; and 2) Develop mental health initiatives, especially for young people, to help us learn how to live as continuously

traumatized people. One problem I see with mental health care in helping people cope with trauma is that those interventions seem to work on the assumption that the trauma is in the past.



The effort is to help people deal with past trauma. As Native people, though, our trauma is not isolated to the past. We know we will have trauma inflicted on us again in the future, most likely on an individual level through microaggressions and other forms of racism, and most certainly at the larger cultural level by the settler colonial state. Rather than develop some ideas here, I would instead like to issue a challenge. I propose that in addition to thinking about past traumas and current traumas, we see ourselves as Native people as future traumatized people.

The challenge, then, is to develop methods to help better insulate ourselves from trauma in general. We need metaphorical vaccines to inoculate us from future trauma infections. I will not propose any answers here but will instead talk about them in future publications.

Instead, I will simply end by encouraging people to use their imaginations to develop ways to deal with not just past trauma but also future trauma. I will continue to work on my ideas. Hopefully, together we will be able to build even more resilient communities both now during the pandemic and after it recedes into the past.



NALSA Member Summer Plans

Awesome Members, Awesome Plans

Hannah Goins

Hannah will be working this summer at the Southwest Center for Law and Policy. She found her position through networking and will also be working on her children's book, finishing her note, and taking a couple classes for her MPS. Busy busy.

Rebecca Cohen

Rebecca will be externing with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Attorney General's Office. She met the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Attorney General a few years ago when he was working as the Assistant Attorney General for the Tohono O'odham Nation. This Spring, she reached out to him and asked if there were any externship opportunities with his office for the summer. She'll also be taking Evidence online (yay!), working on her backyard rainwater harvesting garden, and learning how to longboard (hopefully!).

Daniel Hartman-Strawn

Daniel will be working at the Native American Rights Fund. He found the position through the IPLP Friday job announcements. He will hopefully be doing some mountain biking, rafting, and backpacking!

Analisa Skeen

Analisa will be working at the Arizona Attorney General's Office, Natural Resources Section. She got her position through the Sonoran Desert Consortium put on by CDO. She's also hoping to get up into the mountains! :)

Jeneva R. Kame Parks

Jeneva will be working at Pangea Legal Services. Jeneva found the position through a friend. Jeneva will be spending the summer with her partner in San Francisco, on the unceded territory of the Ohlone peoples.



Julia Aguilera

This summer, Julia will be studying at the University of Oxford! She found the position through her own research. She hopes to spend lots of time at the beach!

Austin Lara

Austin will be externing with Federal Court Judge Cindy Jorgenson. He applied through the ABA program JOIP. He also plans to go on lots of summer hikes.

Stephanie Monroe

Stephanie will be at the New Mexico Public Defender's Office in Gallup, NM. She found her position through the Career Development Office. She's planning to hike and listen to lots of audio books!

Hayden Godfrey

Hayden will be working at the National Council for Urban Indian Health as a Legal Policy Fellow. He found the position through the NALSA Resume Bank. He will be taking Evidence and PR online so that he can devote more time to NALSA leadership during the year.

Vince Redhouse

Vince will be working at Berkey Williams LLP and he found the position through the IPLP listserv. He plans to study for the bar while traveling the country with his dog, Chester.

Dillon Dobson

Dillon will be at Kanji & Katzen this summer and he found the position through Turtle Talk (thanks Professor Fletcher!!). He is planning to take a family summer camping trip somewhere beautiful.



Signing Off

We wish you the best in these unprecedented times and hope that you enjoyed this final edition of our inaugural NALSA Newsletter. Please share any suggestions or piece submissions with the new Vice President, Jeneva Parks, at parksj@email.arizona.edu. Finally, thank you so much for joining us on this wild ride. We simply couldn't be here striving for a better world without *you*.

With love for the last time,
Your UArizona NALSA Executive Board

Amber Morning Star Byars, President, ambermbyars@email.arizona.edu

Dillon Dobson, Vice President, ddobson@email.arizona.edu

Edward Ornstein, Treasurer, edwardornstein@email.arizona.edu

Daniel Hartman-Strawn, Secretary, dhartmanstrawn@email.arizona.edu

Hannah Goins, Social Chair, hannahgoins@email.arizona.edu

Stephanie Monroe, Public Relations Chair, monroes@email.arizona.edu