March 18, 2021

Heating Up
NALSA Newsletter - March Edition

Photo: Analisa Skeen
Highlight

The temperature here in Cuk Şon, AZ is steadily rising as it creeps up into the 90’s. Likewise, this board is turning on the heat as it prepares for some of the most exciting events of the year. The semester is almost over and you won't want to miss anything in these last couple months!

This has been a busy spring for NALSA. In addition to our important academic development events and fun (virtual) social gatherings, we had a huge event this past Wednesday with the entire Arizona Law community. In conjunction with the Diversity Committee of the law school, the Black Law Students Association, the Immigration Law Student Association, the Armerenian Law Students Association, Pride Law, and the local chapter of the American Constitution Society, we helped to organize an event called Conversations on Allyship.

The event featured representatives from each affinity group and allies of each of the groups. During the event, the speakers shared their perspectives on the ways in which allies can best offer their support in both a personal and professional capacity. Over 100 students and faculty attended the event, including the dean of the law school. Amber and Daniel represented NALSA honorably and added incredible nuance and value to the discussion.

Our next big event is our silent auction. This event is designed to put the next executive board of NALSA in the position to pursue an even more ambitious agenda of amazing events and initiatives. Please join us on April 1 for this event featuring items from over 15 Native artists including jewelry, sculptures, and pottery. There will also be musical performances and other artist presentations.

Please also reach out to Daniel at dhartmanstrawn@email.arizona.edu if you'd like to request access to our google calendar so that you can get automated reminders for all of our events!
Executive Leadership Reports

President

Amber Morning Star Byars (Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma) has been busy organizing the Conversations on Allyship panel, Silent Auction, and upcoming lunchtime conversation with legendary Indian Law scholar and poet, Frank Pommersheim (see Events section). Amber recently authored a report for National NALSA, which detailed the 32 events and accomplishments of the University of Arizona NALSA chapter from the past year. Amber is extremely proud to be working with such a determined board of directors, and for NALSA’s supportive membership. Outside of school, Amber has been hiking, painting, and spending time with her elders.

Vice President

Dillon Dobson (Cowlitz) is readjusting to his role as NALSA Vice President after a brief parental leave. Dillon is haphazardly returning to his life as a student after being blessed by the birth of his second son, Raphael. He is very appreciative of his fellow board members for sending him food and a lovely card shortly after Raphael's birth. He is also very grateful for all of the amazing support that he received from staff and faculty.

Treasurer

Edward Ornstein (Southeastern Mvskoke Nation member/Poarch Creek Descendant) has been hard at work diligently planning the silent auction, managing finances, and working with the t-shirt company to overcome stock shortages and licensing issues. This summer, he will begin serving as Editor-in-Chief of the Arizona Journal of Environmental Law and Policy.
Secretary

Daniel Hartman-Strawn (Ally) assisted with organizing the Conversations on Allyship event and participated as a speaker. Daniel will soon be administering our upcoming election of the executive board for the 2021-2022 year, so if you are a current NALSA member, keep an eye out for the nomination period and the election!

Public Relations

Stephanie Monroe (Diné) has been assisting with preparations for the upcoming silent auction. She has also coordinated with Hannah Goins, Jeneva Parks, Analisa Skeen, Julia Aguilera and Haley Stewart on the Elder Supplies Donation event that ran from March 1 to March 19. Stephanie is working with the Tohono O'odham Education Department with facilitating a high school and community college event scheduled for April 10, 2021 where NALSA will speak with students about our paths to law school, the admission process and our plans after graduation. Stephanie has accepted a summer internship with the NM Public Defender's office in the Gallup office.

Events

Hannah Goins (Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina) has been working as a graduate research assistant with the Native Nations Institute on coordinating a conference called We Still Remain. This conference focuses on Southeastern Indigenous Research Governance and will take place virtually on March 25th and 26th. Feel free to reach out to her if you are interested in attending! Hannah was able to facilitate a conversation on intersectionality in the LGBTQ2S+ community and Native communities with the help of Andie Sweeden, Hayden Godfrey, and Joe Tusha earlier this month. It was awesome. Hannah is planning to host another social event on March 27th, she doesn't know what that will look like. She's thinking pictionary. She's open to suggestions. She's very tired, and not feeling very host-like as she writes her update, but rest assured, the regular social hour shenanigans will ensue and it'll be a good time. Keep your eyes peeled for an email probably next week.
Spotlights

Student - Andie Sweeden

Andie Sweeden is from Pawhuska, Oklahoma. She is a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. She attended the University of Oklahoma and received her BA in Political Science with a Minor in International Studies and a Minor in Constitutional Studies.

Andie knew she wanted to go to law school since she was little. She decided to go to law school because she felt it would give her the best opportunity to help those in her community. She has always been interested in politics and the law—she believes the best way for her to implement real change is to work within the system. The policymakers in her state do not effectively represent her values or those of her communities. Earning a law degree gives her a better chance of making her voice heard and allows her to amplify other marginalized voices.

Her law degree will give her the opportunity to make a difference and improve the lives of as many people as she can, particularly Indigenous ones. After law school, she plans to use the knowledge and skills she receives from the University of Arizona to advocate for tribal sovereignty and Indigenous people across the country, especially MMIW and those in the LGBTQ2S+ community.

Professor - Seanna Howard

Seanna Howard is from Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. She received her Bachelor of Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo, her L.LB from the University of Ottawa and her L.LM. from the University of Arizona.

Professor Howard was involved in social justice and public interest initiatives from a young age. She pursued a law degree to
gain the skills to create positive social change and is committed to seeking racial, gender, environmental and economic justice through her work. In law school, she spent most of her time at the community legal clinic representing victims of gender-based violence. After graduation, Professor Howard was legal counsel for a number of child rights organizations and worked as a legal and policy analyst for the Assembly of First Nations before joining IPLP in 2005. The highlight of her career has been representing indigenous communities on cases before the Organization of American States and the United Nations human rights systems, including the Western Shoshone, Maya of Belize, Hul’qumi’num Treaty Group in Canada, Navajo Nation, and Chiricahua Apache Alliance.

Professor Howard is the Director of the International Human Rights Advocacy Workshop that she now runs with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, Jose Francisco Cali Tzay. She is thrilled to be working with the rapporteur and supporting the UN mandate through the clinic. Students are busy preparing reports to the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council, drafting expert testimony to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and responding to human rights complaints from indigenous communities around the world.

In addition to the workshop, Professor Howard has taught International Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples, Advancing Human Rights Law for the Human Rights Practice Program in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and Indigenous Peoples Rights under International Law in the January in Tucson program.
Native Business Spotlight

Matilda Shae Joe

My name is Matilda Shae Joe. I come from the San Carlos Apache Reservation located in Eastern Arizona. I began creating beadwork when I was 18 years old. I was influenced by all the beads and possibilities that flowed through my mind. I remember waking up one day with a spark to learn how to bead. At that time beading for a younger artist was not common. I had little to no connections with any beaders so I decided to self learn. It was an amazing journey and I became addicted to creating beaded pieces. My favorite items to make include beaded hoops, beaded turquoise strand dangles and beaded raised stitched roses.

I feel the power of connection it releases when you make beadwork that you can share with the world. Now I own a small business called Beading It Real which can be found on Instagram and Facebook. I have shipped my beadwork, mostly beaded earrings to every state in America, including Hawaii and Alaska. I have also shipped internationally to Australia, Japan and Canada; to name a few. I am forever grateful for my gift and I will always put my all into my craft. I am inspired by everything I feel, see and hear. I will always find something new and colorful to create. Beading will always be a part of who I am and I am very glad I picked up that thread, needle and beads. Keep beading it real and always follow your dreams. Dreams take you places.
Events

Please see the calendar and events below and note that they are being continually updated and are, therefore, subject to change. Additionally, please reach out to Daniel at dhartmanstrawn@email.arizona.edu if you are interested in signing up for the NALSA-student listserv or getting access to our google calendar so that you can get automatic reminders for all of our events. Please send any IPLP event-related questions that you might have to Justin Boro at justinboro1986@arizona.edu.
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#### Notes:
- March 2021
- May 2021
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Get your pocketbooks and mobile banking enabled smart devices ready!! We are gearing up for an incredible silent auction that you won't want to miss! You'll have a chance to bid on amazing Indigenous art, items from awesome Indigenous-owned businesses, and a ton of other cool offerings. An evening happy hour event will be held to kick off the auction on **Thursday, April 1st from 6:00 - 7:00pm.** The event will include a musical performance by Emmy nominated singer and composer, Jennifer Kreisberg (Tuscarora), IPLP alumni appearances, and a special presentation by Two Spirit multi-disciplinary artist, Ryan Young (Ojibwe).
Tohono O’odham High School Recruitment

NALSA is working with the Tohono O’odham Department of Education to facilitate an event focused on exposing high school and community college students to the opportunities available at the UofA Law School, particularly with the IPLP program. This event is scheduled to take place via zoom on April 1, 2021.

Lunch with Frank

NALSA is proud to present, “Lunch with Frank,” a casual conversation with legendary Federal Indian Law scholar and poet, Professor Emeritus Frank Pommersheim of University of South Dakota. On Tuesday, April 13, from 12:00-1:00pm AZ, Professor Pommersheim will discuss his decades-long allyship for Indian Country, retirement, and read poetry. Please join us!

General Meetings

Please join us the last Tuesday of each month from 12pm - 1pm for our monthly general body meetings! We’ve only got two left and you’re all invited! We hope to see you on March 30th and April 27th.

Link: https://arizona.zoom.us/j/87800848592
Until the Next Edition

We wish you the best in these unprecedented times and hope that you enjoyed this edition of the NALSA newsletter. If you’d like to submit an article or piece to the NALSA Newsletter, please contact Dillon Dobson at ddobson@email.arizona.edu. Finally, we want to thank our very generous supporters and we encourage anyone interested in donating to do so via Venmo @Edward-R-Ornstein.

With love,
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