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ALL OF OUR RELATIONS

BY: AMELIA ANDRESS (SENECA IROQUOIS)

On August 3, 1990, President George H. W. Bush proclaimed November as National American Indian Heritage Month, also known as Native American Heritage Month.

The first event of this month, I had the opportunity to attend a coastal Jam at the UW Intellectual House. It was an entirely new experience for me, and I took extensive notes and observations. The coastal jam was a beautiful display of dance and song, where families and community came together to share their traditions. Joined by Jazell Jenkins and Lane Ryan, fellow interns at UW, we shared the Elements song, which was a powerful moment for all of us. The sense of unity and connection among the relatives and community members present that night was truly remarkable, and I had the chance to meet and connect with various community leaders and members.



On November 7, our journey to Washington, D.C. began, and I was overwhelmed with a mix of emotions. Excitement filled my heart as I prepared to explore the East Coast, particularly because it held significance for my Seneca tribe, which is part of the Iroquois Confederacy. Growing up on the West Coast, I had never witnessed anything representing the Iroquois culture, and this trip offered me the opportunity to delve deeper into my own heritage. In D.C., I encountered numerous aspects of the Seneca people and felt a profound sense of belonging. It was as if I had discovered my second home. The time spent in D.C. allowed me to forge stronger bonds with fellow UNEA members and interns, creating lasting memories and experiencing moments of togetherness through shared experiences and family-style meals. I feel incredibly blessed to have had such enriching opportunities and cherished memories during this trip.

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Just last weekend, I was honored to be invited as a photographer to a Native Heritage celebration organized by the Edmonds School District. This event, hosted by Karen Elliott, someone I deeply respect, further ignited my passion for involvement within my native community. The celebration exuded a strong sense of community and fostered a feeling of familial bonds. After the event, I decided to visit a nearby farmers market. Adorned in my ribbon skirt and with my hair braided, I had a chance encounter with another member of the Native American community. We engaged in a heartfelt conversation, forming a new connection that further reinforced my commitment to building relationships within my community.

Looking ahead, I am eagerly anticipating the opportunity to continue making new connections and being an active participant in my community. It is through these interactions that I can further contribute to the preservation and celebration of our Native American heritage.

WASHINGTON DC ADVENTURES

BY: SAJALIK (MUCKLESHOOT)

On November 7th, I had the privilege of going to Washington DC with the interns from UNEA. We were able to experience some of the best opportunities DC had to offer, like visiting the Center for Native American Youth! They offered us a lot of opportunities to delve deeper in education and our independence as Native youth. On our first day, we toured the U.S. Department of Interior, and US Department of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland's private office. We actually walked around in the very office where she makes decisions, meets with high officials and tribal leaders. We also visited the towering Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, which was a very sentimental thing for me personally. I believe that King Jr. always had the wisest words. Sadly his legacy is fading away by much of the world I live in. The MLK Jr. memorial landmark was a place I specifically wanted to visit in DC, to recognize how much he truly made an impact and changed our world. As we got towards the end of the trip I noticed how all the interns and chaperones genuinely grew closer and bonded as a family. The last night of the trip was the best night ever, all the interns and I walked and got boba drinks. After our boba excursion, we all went up to Kayla's room and talked for hours while jamming to music, and learned a lot about each other. Overall, this trip changed my perspective on a lot of things and made me truly understand I am not alone and neither are you.



ITS NATIVEMBER

BY: HILARY PENFIELD- AMSKAPI PIIKANI



In the great month of November, we celebrated many birthdays, even more gatherings, and all the leaves you can see. It's also Native American heritage month where we celebrate our heritage. It's amazing to think that we are truly still here: revitalizing our culture. After the mass destruction of everything that we call our heritage. When UNEA took us to the East coast I learned about the culture there. However, when we went anywhere there was one race that dominated every other race. I could only think "the Natives who would be here, their ancestors died." The Piscataway, Monacan, and Powhatan people did get decimated through colonization and the survivors had to join other tribes. It's important to understand that whatever land that you are on in North America, Native People have fought hard and kicked the bucket for that land.

On Veterans day we got to see the Veterans day ceremony at the Native American Veterans Memorial. The Kiowa Black Leggings Warrior Society presented the colors (flags) and sang as they marched to the Memorial. One of the elders resembled one of my coaches Dora Bringsyellow, but in old man form. It must have been the nose or the humor that he shared with us. That day we walked everywhere, we saw a short film called Fancy Dance. It was about an auntie who took in her sister's daughter, after her sister had gone missing. It was a good film with a nerve racking ending written by Micians Alise and Erica Tremblay. It was a good month or maybe it was just November, the best month out of the year.

GIVING THANKS DINNER

BY: SOPHIA D (SAULT ST. MARIE TRIBE)

Hello, my name is Sophia David, and I'm from the Sault Ste. Marie tribe of Chippewa Indians from the Great Lakes area, and I'm a first-year intern at the Urban Native Education Alliance. On Thursday, November 16th, the Urban Native Education Alliance hosted a Giving Thanks Dinner at the Grove at North Seattle College where elders, members of Clear Sky leadership, and people from the greater North Seattle community came together to share a wonderful meal and talk about the importance of community. Specifically, the Native Community and significant messages to remember during the National holiday.

First, leadership from North Seattle College gave a heartfelt welcome to all the participants in the Giving thanks dinner and encouraged everyone to eat and enjoy the community surrounding them.

The food was provided by Jason Vickers, a local native chef who made sure that the meal was prepared according to practice. The dessert was a group effort, and there was so much variety in the sweets that were given potluck style by Clear Sky Leadership. After dessert, interns were dispersed among tables of elders and leaders to have a conversation about what community means. Hearing from elders in this situation was very valuable to each of the interns, and I know that I learned a lot from the elders I exchanged words with. I was very grateful to have this opportunity to speak and learn from them. After this conversation, Clear Sky Interns sang the Crying Song, War Party, and the Thank you song in spirit of sharing our Native Heritage and medicine with the community, and as a Thank you to all people present for giving spotlight and voice to our community.

The Giving Thanks Dinner was a very big success, and the knowledge and stories I heard and received I will not forget. It was an amazing experience to connect with elders and grow closer in our Native Community.



SOPHIA DAVID

My name is Sophia David, and I'm of the Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians near the Great Lakes area. I'm a junior at Lakeside, and a first year intern at UNEA. One dream I have for my future is a career in medicine - I want to pursue a doctorate degree. I love to play sports (basketball, lacrosse), and I play both during the school season and I play basketball on a team outside of school as well.

On Indigenous People's Day, I went to the Daybreak Center with my mom, and when I was walking around I saw the UNEA booth and was really interested because of the NWA posters, which had a basketball on them. I had been wanting to get more involved with my culture and participate more in the Native community, and I was really excited to participate in UNEA after I learned more about it.

At UNEA's Intertribal Jam, I learned a lot about the cultural practices, mainly about the importance of keeping an unbroken circle when singing and dancing, to allow ancestors to come in between the singers and dancers.

Something I love about UNEA is that I never feel judged for any aspect of my identity like I often feel in other spaces. I feel very comfortable with the other interns, and I know that many of the things I am going through with school, family, and my identity have also been experienced by many of them. I am so glad to have a space available to me that makes me feel so welcome, and I feel very lucky to be a part of an organization that impacts so many Native youth and the greater community.

DAYBREAK STAR RADIO STATION

BY: AIDEN GALINDO (APACHE)

My name is Aiden Galindo, and this is my first-year interning at UNEA. I was also selected to be an intern at the Daybreak Star Radio station. Within my 3 weeks so far interning at the Daybreak Star Radio Station, I have learned what happens behind the scenes with production, and I had the opportunity to practice speaking on the air. Most importantly, I learned the real purpose of the radio station, it is to express and share our cultural music from indigenous artists or as we like to say it here at Daybreak Star, "Indigenize the airwaves."



Daybreak Star Radio is the home of plenty talented Indigenous artists. It also contains plenty of stories and news. It contains a team of dedicated people that work in different positions to make the whole place run, there is the video production side and then there are some who like to go live, and there is the researching portion because all artists must be credited properly. My favorite part so far is being able to spread my stories on air and being able to connect with people all around the world.

I am grateful to be a part of UNEA, as they were the ones that allowed me to experience something new at Daybreak Star. So far, I have enjoyed my time at the radio station, and I hope to keep learning and expand my versatility over at the Daybreak Star Radio Station.

NOVEMBER ARTICLE

BY: IZZY HAAKANSON (OLD HARBOR TRIBE)

The month of November is Native Heritage month which is to call attention to our beautiful culture, heritage, and traditions. My band teacher, Ms. Mowry, reached out to me about doing a joint concert with the band and NSA (Native Student Alliance) for Native Heritage month. This gesture meant I got the opportunity to represent and show a part of my culture with others.

At the concert, I was asked to speak on a time that I helped make a kayak. As I thought back to a few summers ago when I helped make a traditional kayak, I realised how important it is to hold up the generations to come. It is the kids that help pass down stories and our ways of life and we need to have people passionate about keeping these things in our communities. We also performed the thank you song called Quyanna that was written by my grandmother. I loved sharing this song with everyone because it gives me an opportunity to hold up my grandmother's spirit and represents the younger generation wanting to pass down these important traditions.

