

## Native American Studies students present research

By **Danielle Halle, Staff Writer**

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Students of the Native American Studies program will present their research today in the Monongahela Room of the Mountainlair from 4 to 5:30 p.m. as part of the third-annual Native American Studies Colloquium.

Totem images of the Pacific Northwest Coast, rap music and slam poetry of reservation youth, Iroquoian longbows and Native languages on the brink of extinction are among the many topics the colloquium will spotlight.

"The NAS colloquium is a great opportunity for our top students to showcase the research they have been working on for the past year," said Bonnie Brown, Native American Studies program coordinator at West Virginia University.

Brown said the seminar will focus on the student's research and praise their accomplishments while encouraging other students to research Native American cultures.

Eight students were selected to showcase their research by the nomination of the professors they had studied with over the past year.

John Andrascik will present several replica items he constructed after researching the significance of Iroquoian dolls, games and music.

He said that Native American studies should be required among every student, just like an English course, because it is part of the heritage of this country.

"I think it is a great opportunity for individuals interested in Native American culture and history to get together and learn from one another more about Native culture," Andrascik said.

Erin Clemens, who is completing a double major in international studies (East Asia) and English and a double minor in Native American and Chinese studies.

Clemens will present her video creation, "NDN: The Rise of Lakota Youth Culture," examining a range of visual and artistic performance expressions by contemporary Native American youth.

She will display her language research project, "Lost in Translation: Common Traits in Japanese, Korean and Cherokee."

Clemens became inspired to participate in the colloquium with nominations from two of her professors.

"The video essay is an exploration of how participation in modern youth culture (such as poetry slams, graffiti art, skateboarding, music and filmmaking), helps specifically Lakota reservation youth deal with problems of life on the reservation," Clemens said in an e-mail.

Clemens said that Native youth on reservations have an extremely high rate of suicide, drug and alcohol abuse and poverty.

"Our program is very interesting and provides many great opportunities to showcase the interesting work and research of NAS students here at the University," Clemens said.

R. Saya Bobick will present from two of her studies: "Effects of Participation in Cultural Practices on Elder Native American Women" and "Native American Women and Sexual Violence."

Matt Leonard will present "Constructing a Traditional Iroquoian Longbow."

Kathryn Peno will display her acrylic on canvas painting of a double raven image, inspired by her research into the visual icons of Pacific Northwest coast peoples.

Carol Simonyi created a photo display showing ancient and contemporary references to corn. Daniel Summers will give a literature presentation titled, "A Search for the Woven Language." Emily Tanzey will present her extensive research on the phenomenon of "linguicide," how many Native languages have become endangered or extinct.

The Native American Studies program dates back to the early 1980s with one of its founders, Carolyn Reyer, realizing the lack of courses focused on Native Americans.

The NAS department offered its first three credit hour course in 1992, "Introduction to Native American Studies" and the planting of the WVU Peace Tree that now sits diagonal from Martin Hall.

In 1998, the NAS program was officially offered as a minor at WVU.

The NAS department's mission is for people to tell their own story in their own words.

The colloquium is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

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29 °F

Mostly Cloudy

Feels

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Humidity: 78 %

Wind: CALM

10 Day Forecast

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