



LIVING EARTH/ LIVING WATERS: A SYMPOSIUM

1:30 – 4:00 PM • SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2010
ELMER AND MARY LOUISE RASMUSON THEATER



Smithsonian
National Museum of the American Indian



Living Earth/Living Waters: A Symposium

“The Earth and myself are of one mind.”

—CHIEF JOSEPH (NIMI'IPUU [NEZ PERCE], 1840–1904).

Native peoples have long recognized and celebrated the interrelatedness of all life on Earth. Thousands of years of keen observation and intimate experience of their environment have produced complex ecological knowledge that is benefiting science today. As we address environmental disasters that affect our oceans, this wisdom is more important than ever.

At *Living Earth/Living Waters*, Native and non-Native scientists, leaders, and innovators offer rich and thought-provoking presentations featuring the latest research on the biosphere, with emphasis on Earth’s waters. Gain a deeper understanding of the essential role the ocean—“the blue heart of the planet”—plays in sustaining all forms of life on Earth. See how human activity is woven into this fragile web of life, and the role we all can play in preserving it for generations to come. Join us for a timely, inspiring exploration of the challenges, opportunities, and obstacles we face on the road to sustainability.



Symposium Schedule

1:30 P.M.–4:00 P.M.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Tim Johnson (Mohawk), associate director for museum programs,
National Museum of the American Indian

BLESSING SONG

Betsabe, Jezabel, and Mayra Torres (Comcáac)

INTRODUCTIONS AND FRAMING STATEMENT

José Barreiro (Taino), assistant director for research,
National Museum of the American Indian

OUR LIVING OCEAN—A VIEW FROM SPACE

Nancy Maynard, senior research scientist in the Cryospheric
Sciences Branch at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

HANT XICA COOSYATOJ/LAND OF THE SINGING PEOPLE: SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE, SUSTAINABILITY, AND THE PRESERVATION OF IDENTITY

Alberto Mellado Moreno (Comcáac), founder,
Comcáac Native Aquaculture

EXERCISES IN INDIGENUITY FOR A LIVING PLANET

**Daniel Wildcat (Yuchi member of the Muscogee Nation of
Oklahoma)**, director of the Haskell Environmental Research Studies
Center and professor at Haskell Indian Nations University

OCEANIC MANIFEST DESTINY: CLIMATE CHANGE FORCED
RELOCATION AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Ma'Ko'Quah Abigail Jones (Prairie Band Potawatomi),
student, Haskell Indian Nations University

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

José Barreiro, moderator



Biographies



JOSÉ BARREIRO, *Taino*

José Barreiro serves as NMAI's assistant director for research. A scholar of American Indian policy and the contemporary Native experience, Barreiro is a pioneering figure in Native American journalism and publishing. He helped establish the American Indian Program at Cornell University, serving as associate director and editor-in-chief of Akwe:kon Press and the journal *Native Americas* throughout the 1980s and '90s. In 2000, he joined the staff of *Indian Country Today* as senior editor. He continues to serve as a member of the editorial board of *Kacike: The Journal of Caribbean Amerindian History and Anthropology*.

Barreiro's publications include *Native American Expressive Culture* (1994), a special edition of the *Akwe:kon Journal* produced for the opening of NMAI's George Gustav Heye Center in New York; the novel *The Indian Chronicles* (1993), and such scholarly books as *View from the Shore: American Indian Perspectives on the Quincentenary* (1990), *Indian Roots of American Democracy* (1992), *Chiapas: Challenging History* (1994), *Panchito: Cacique de Montaña* (2001); and, most recently, *America Is Indian Country* (2005), which he edited with Tim Johnson. A member of the Taino Nation of the Antilles, Barreiro received his Ph.D. in American Studies from the State University of New York at Buffalo.



TIM JOHNSON, *Mohawk*

As associate director for museum programs at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, Tim Johnson manages a department that encompasses all aspects of the visitor experience, from exhibitions, education, publications, symposia, and lectures, to cultural and performing arts programs. Previously, Johnson served as executive editor of *Indian Country Today*, where, over the course of six years, he led the remaking of the publication into the nation's leading American Indian newspaper, noted for its original reporting, analysis, and commentary on matters of American Indian policy and its steadfast defense of American Indian economic interests.



MA'KO'QUAH ABIGAIL JONES, *Prairie Band Potawatomi*

Ma'Ko'Quah Abigail Jones, a citizen of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, is currently an undergraduate at Haskell Indian Nations University, majoring in Indigenous and American Indian Studies. While at Haskell she has been involved with the Haskell Environmental Research Studies (HERS) Program in collaboration with University of Kansas - EPSCoR. She recently received top honors at the American Indian Higher Education Consortium for her ongoing climate change research. Jones has presented her research at several conferences, including the 21st National EPSCoR Conference in Washington, D.C., and the Native Peoples/Native Homelands Climate Change Workshop II in Prior Lake, Minnesota. She is currently the assistant editor of *The Indian Leader* newspaper, America's oldest Native American student newspaper, and editor of *The Indian Leader Journal*, Haskell University's first student magazine publication.





NANCY MAYNARD

Dr. Nancy Maynard, senior research scientist in the Cryospheric Sciences Branch at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, is manager of NASA's Tribal College and University Project. A marine biologist with a wide breadth of scientific experience, including science policy in the White House, management of large interdisciplinary science programs, oceanographic research at sea, and the application of satellites to societal issues, she has worked extensively to bring indigenous traditional knowledge together with scientific data and information to address climate and environment issues for decision-making. In 1998, as part of NASA's Mission to Planet Earth, Dr. Maynard recognized the unique contribution Native peoples could make to understanding the effects of natural and human-induced changes on the environment and climate. The workshop she organized to bring together elders and other tribal leaders with academic, private, and government climate scientists focused attention on the importance of understanding the impacts of climate change on Native lands and communities, and led to the inclusion of a chapter on Native people and homelands in the *2001 U.S. National Assessment of Climate Change Impacts*. Dr. Maynard's current research interest is in the use of remote sensing to observe changes (environment, climate, land use/cover) in the Arctic and their impacts on indigenous populations in the region.



ALBERTO MELLADO MORENO, Comcáac

Alberto Mellado Moreno is a tribal member of the Comcáac Nation in Sonora, Mexico, at the edge of the desert where the Sierra Comcáac Mountains meet the Gulf of California. As a child, he traveled and lived in many indigenous communities in southern Mexico while his father worked for the Mexican government agency INI. At the age of thirteen, Mellado returned to his band and attended high school and college, becoming an aquaculture engineer. He is also a fisherman and artist, but his most important efforts are for the conservation of the people, culture, and nature in Comcáac territory. In 2006, Mellado founded Comcáac Native Aquaculture, a small-scale tribal shellfish aquaculture project that focuses on production and traditional harvesting for tribal consumption. He is also the co-founder of the Comcáac Environmental Monitoring Team, a tribal organization planning and executing bio-cultural conservation projects in Hant Comcáac. Mellado sees himself as an "Ocean Revolutionary," part of a global network of young leaders working to change our relationship with our planet and our oceans, and to heed "the ancient wisdom and imagination represented by the lives and words of countless elders, warriors, and healers that is the fullest expression of our human experience."



BETSABE TORRES, *Comcáac*

Betsabe Torres and her sisters Jezabel and Mayra were born to one of the most traditional families in the Comcáac community of Sociiax (Punta Chueca) on the Gulf of California in Mexico. She and her family have been leaders in the preservation of Cmiique traditions of language, story, song, and dance and have taken those traditions to other indigenous and Mexican communities in Mexico. This is their first visit to the United States, where they are proud to accept the responsibility of sharing the beauty of the culture they have been taught and live every day. The ancestral name of the Comcáac is the “Singing People,” *Xica Coosyatoj*. They earned this name from their unique melodic speech and the immense number of song poems they sing for every aspect of their world. The *Pticyacalcam Torres* (Torres Sisters) are keepers of these songs.



DANIEL WILDCAT, *Yuchi member of the Muscogee Nation of Oklahoma*

Daniel Wildcat, Ph.D., is a professor at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, and an accomplished scholar who writes on indigenous knowledge, technology, environment, and education. He is also director of the Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center, which he founded with colleagues from the Center for Hazardous Substance Research at Kansas State University. Wildcat helped design a four-part video series entitled *All Things Are Connected: The Circle of Life* (1997), which dealt with the land, air, water, biological, and policy issues facing Native nations. A Yuchi member of the Muscogee Nation of Oklahoma, Wildcat recently formed the American Indian and Alaska Native Climate Change Working Group, a tribal-college-centered network of individuals and organizations working on climate change issues. In 2008, he helped organize the Planning for Seven Generations climate change conference sponsored by the National Center for Atmospheric Research. He is the author, most recently, of *Red Alert! Saving the Planet with Indigenous Knowledge* (2009).

Special Exhibition

Tribal College and University Climate Research: A Seven Generation Vision for the Living Earth

August 6–8 • Resource Center, Third level

Please visit the Resource Center on the museum's third floor to see *Tribal College and University Climate Research: A Seven Generation Vision for the Living Earth*. This special poster exhibition, on view during the Living Earth Festival, August 6–8, features research being done by American Indian/Alaska Natives in tribal colleges throughout the United States. The posters illustrate a wide range of technical knowledge and cultural awareness of indigenous landscapes and seascapes from which tribal identities emerged. Working with the support of federal agencies, national scientific laboratories, non-governmental organizations, and tribal nations, these tribal college and university students offer hope for the continued sovereignty and resiliency of our Native nations.

PHOTO CREDITS

Cover, back cover: The Blue Marble (the globe west), courtesy NASA; inside front cover: Comcáac elder Alfredo Lopez Blanco honoring the sea ©Jon Snow; 1: frog ©Anthroctect; 3: oiled brown pelican upon intake at Fort Jackson, Louisiana, Oiled Wildlife Center, May 20, 2010, courtesy International Bird Rescue Research Center; dark brown oil from Gulf oil spill invades marsh, courtesy National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); monitoring water quality; measuring sea turtle; 5: polar bear and cub, Alaska, Beaufort Sea, north of Point Barrow, courtesy NOAA; fawn radio-collared by the Makah Nation, courtesy Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; family of ducks in NMAI's wetlands environment ©Gerald Martineau; 7: Grey Glacier in Torres del Paine, Chile, courtesy UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe; obtaining native oyster seed; a school of creole-fish cruise over McGrail Bank, Gulf of Mexico, courtesy NOAA; 9: Nukunonu Atoll, Tokelau, one of the regions of the world vulnerable to the impact of climate change, courtesy UN/Ariane Rummery.



THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

Established in 1989, through an Act of Congress, the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) is an institution of living cultures dedicated to advancing knowledge and understanding of the life, languages, literature, history, and arts of the Native peoples of the Western Hemisphere. The museum includes the National Museum of the American Indian on the National Mall; the George Gustav Heye Center, a permanent museum in lower Manhattan; and the Cultural Resources Center, a research and collections facility in Suitland, Maryland.

Located on the National Mall at 4th Street and Independence Avenue SW, between the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum and the U.S. Capitol Building, NMAI is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The museum is closed on December 25.

To become a Member of the National Museum of the American Indian, please visit www.AmericanIndian.si.edu/give or call 1-800-242-NMAI (6624).

Visit NMAI's website at
www.AmericanIndian.si.edu

Visit NMAI's Seminars & Symposia webpage at www.AmericanIndian.si.edu/symposia



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