The Labriola Center is a Welcoming Place

The Center’s reference staff are here to help students find almost anything they might need for study and writing papers. There are manuscripts, journals, newspapers, audio and video recordings, photographs, maps, and ephemeral materials dealing with all North American tribes.

The collections cover all topics and include: Language and linguistics; art; theatre and cinema; history and culture; literature and poetry; women’s studies; contemporary issues; justice studies; religion and world view; and educational issues.

Students are always welcome to come and relax with the latest Indian Country Today and other Native magazines, which are located by comfortable chairs near the door. Visitors can also help themselves to bibliographic handouts on a variety of topics such as gaming,
boarding schools, Code Talkers, Origin stories, world view, and more.

During the summer, the Center is open from 1 to 5 Monday-Friday, and by appointment. Following, are a few remarks excerpted from “Reflection Papers, written by students in History of Indian Education 410/510:

“I felt very comfortable like there was a place where I can catch up with Native Americans across the country. I felt like I was back at home at one of the Native American museums.” - Sonia Bahe

“. . .a great visit to see a room full of Native American Knowledge.” - Lalainia Harnell

“The environment that was created in the Labriola gave one a sense of belonging and that I was important. The greatest value that I have for the Labriola is that I felt my tuition money is being well spent by the Hayden Library as it created this information center.” - O. Gruber

“As an American Indian student I feel good knowing that ASU values research pertaining to American Indian issues. There is a large population of Native students attending ASU. I believe it is so important for them to know that their heritage is valued by this institution of higher learning.” - Shannon Manuelito

“I did not expect to see so many Native American articles or for that matter, the art that decorated the walls. As a Native American woman I felt very honored and a strong sense of pride to see that there is a special area for Native American students in one specific location. I was very surprised and touched to see that the Labriola had language tapes that were of the Blackfoot/Blackfeet tribes.” - Cherie Pruneela

Volunteer Opportunities

Students who need to fulfill volunteer hours, are encouraged to come to the Labriola Center. The volunteer will have a chance to acquire basic skills in the library and archival profession, become familiar with the Center’s collections, and work on a variety of projects dealing with contemporary and historical American Indian issues.
Generous Donors Add to the Center’s Collections

The Center is grateful to the many generous donors who help build our collections with one-of-a-kind material, and in this way support the educational mission of the University.

Dr. Scott White, who recently received his Ph.D. from ASUs History Department with the publication of his dissertation, “A History of the Poncas in Nebraska: A Struggle for Survival,” has donated audio tapes and transcripts of his interviews with the Ponca people. The Ponca Oral History Collection can be viewed online at http://www.asu.edu/lib/archives/ponca.htm

The interviewees tell the story of suffering through a long history of military incursions, forced removal, termination, and ultimately restoration of recognition.

Video Collection of Roland G. Tharp, Ph.D.

Dr. Tharp is Director of the Center for Research on Education, Diversity & Excellence and Professor of Education and Psychology at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and has donated a valuable collection of educational research material.

The collection, containing some 600 video recordings, is actually two collections of research material resulting from well-known projects, KEEP/Navajo (Kamahamea Early Education Program) conducted at Rough Rock Demonstration School on the Navajo Reservation between 1983 and 1987, and CREDE/Zuni, conducted at Zuni School on the Zuni Reservation, New Mexico, between 1996 and 2001.

CREDE is a federally funded research and development program focused on improving education of students whose ability to reach their potential is challenged by language barriers, race, geographic location, or poverty. There are also a number of classrooms in California and Alaska operating by the CREDE Teaching Alive! Standards for Effective Pedagogy.

Dr. Tharp has compiled Five Standards of Effective Pedagogy. These are: 1) Teachers and students producing together; 2) Developing language and literacy across the curriculum; 3) Making lessons meaningful by connecting school to student lives; 4) Challenging activities to teach complex thinking; and 5) Instructional conversation: teaching through conversation and involving students in dialog.
ASU Professor Kevin Gover

Kevin Gover is Professor of Law & Affiliate Professor of the American Indian Studies Program here at ASU. A graduate of Princeton University with an A.B. in Public and International Affairs (1978), he received his J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law in 1981.

A member of the Pawnee Tribe, Gover served as Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs under Interior Secretary, Arizona’s Bruce Babbitt, during the Clinton administration, 1996-2001. He had a number of goals during that time: to upgrade Indian law enforcement; rebuild decrepit Indian schools; reform trust services; and overhaul the BIA’s management system. The Professor is donating his personal papers from that time, including hundreds of photographs, personal daily calendars and notes, and video recordings. The Center is honored to add Kevin Gover to its donor list.

Each of the above collections contains valuable research materials for our students and the community of researchers.

The Gilcrease Story

Back in March 2004, the Labriola Center received a surprise package from the Gilcrease museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma. That museum holds the largest collection of western art in the world, including works by Albert Bierstadt, Thomas Moran, Frederic Remington, Charles M. Russell, Charles Banks Wilson, and George Catlin.

There are some noted non-western artists in the collection as well: James McNeil Whistler; John Singer Sargent; Winslow Homer; John James Audubon; and more. A visit to the museum is of course, a very special experience.

The museum was named for Thomas Gilcrease, who acquired the collection over many years. As a youngster, he lived with his family in the Creek Nation, Oklahoma. Since his mother was a member of the Creek tribe, Gilcrease received his allotment of 160 acres when the Federal Government distributed Indian lands into private ownership at the turn of the century. As it turned out, oil was discovered on those 160 acres and became one of Oklahoma’s major oil fields. Thus, Gilcrease established an oil company bearing his name. About this time he began collecting western art.

Now, what was in that package?


A number of individuals are portrayed from various tribes and include Catlin’s penned translation of names to the Indian language.

An accompanying letter from the museum, tells us that Catlin (1796-1872), was one of the earliest artists to record Native peoples and western landscapes.

The original of this incredible volume is a handmade book containing fifty watercolors painted by Catlin accompanied by his penned descriptions of the painting.

The publication of this one-of-a-kind volume was made possible by benefactors Henry and
Joanne Roath who viewed the original in the Gilcrease Museum Library and believed that this singular treasure should be made available in places where scholars, students, and collectors who are not able to visit Tulsa, can study the book.

A special box has been ordered to house our new treasure. However, it is available to all researchers and students. Ask for E77.C38 2003 Folio.

This is also a good time to mention that the Center has purchased the complete works of George Catlin on CD-ROM, produced by the University of Cincinnati Digital Press. In addition, McKenny & Hall’s *History of the Indian Tribes of North America* and James Otto Lewis’ *The Aboriginal Portfolio* are also part of the collection. All three can be searched simultaneously.

Ask for these at the Labriola Reference desk.

Indian Pioneer History Collection

In 1936, the Oklahoma Historical Society teamed with the history department at the University of Oklahoma to obtain a Works Progress Administration (WPA) writers’ project grant for an interview program. The project employed some 100 writers scattered across the state, with headquarters in Muskogee, where Grant Foreman served as project director. Foreman was a well-known historian with such publications as *Advancing the Frontier; Indian Removal: Emigration of the Five Civilized Tribes; The Five Civilized Tribes: Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Creek, Seminole.*

Asked to “call upon early settlers and record the story of the migration to Oklahoma and their early life here,” the writers conducted more than 11,000 interviews, edited the accounts into written form, and sent them to the project director who completed the editorial process into more than 45,000 pages. These are reproduced on some 40 reels of microfilm, which is in the Labriola Collection under call number FILM 9958. Reels #38 and 39 contain a name/subject index, and reel #40 is addenda to the collection.

This collection was purchased with funds from the Frank and Mary Labriola endowment.

Maidu Creation & World View

The first two volumes of a projected series of four, will not only be of interest to linguists and those collecting and studying origin/creation stories of Native people, but also to students of poetry, fine arts, printing, and paper. The volumes tell the story of the Maidu creation and world view where earthmaker and coyote struggle for control.
There are three distinct groups of Maidan-speaking people in California: Maidu or Mountain Maidu; the Konkow or Northwestern Maidu; and the Nisenan or Southern Maidu. Though the languages were all derived from the Penutian family, there were also some twenty dialects.

These stories of the Mountain Maidu were first written down some one hundred years ago by a Harvard anthropologist, Roland Dixon, under the direction of Alfred Kroeber at the University of California, Berkeley. Dixon’s informant was the tribe’s last great storyteller, Hánc ‘ibyjim, and he wrote down the stories word for word - there were no recording devices at that time.

In 1954, William Shipley, also a Berkeley grad student in linguistics, lived with the Maidu to learn the language and he compiled a grammar which ultimately became his dissertation.


Now, the Center has the first two spectacular volumes with the texts in both English and the original Maidu by William Shipley: *The Creation as the Maidu Told It = Púktim* (Volume I, 2002) and *The Adversaries = Hompajtotokycom* (Volume 2, 2003). Santa Cruz artist, Daniel Stolpe’ magnificent woodcuts grace the first volume, while his hand-pulled lithographs illustrate the second.

Published in an edition of 65 numbered and signed copies, the books are printed in Weiss Roman and Doulos linguistic fonts on Arches Cover White by Peter Koch, Berkeley. Full linen, hand sewn binding with cover paste down by Taurus bindery, San Francisco.

They were purchased with funds from the Frank & Mary Labriola endowment.

**Coming Soon**

The Campaigns of Navajo Nation Leader Peterson Zah

The Labriola Center is planning an exhibit featuring Peterson Zah, who serves as Special Assistant on Indian Affairs to President Crow. The exhibit is planned around his service to the Navajo Nation.
From 1983 to 1987, Zah served as Chairman of the Navajo Tribal Council, governing the largest reservation in the United States. In 1990, Zah became the first elected president the New Navajo Nation.