The first quarter of your first/last/best/worst year at Stanford is done...

How was it? How were classes? Which dining hall is the best? Did you learn anything profound? One thing we’ve learned, or rather known all along, is that there is a certain satisfaction that comes in seeing all of you around the Center.

Whether it be at a club meeting eating Treehouse burritos and doing as much joking as club business, or at SAIO discussing the latest issues that face our community, or at a monthly potluck trying to balance large plates of food on your lap as you sit on the floor between friends you may not get to see regularly, or napping on the amazingly cushy couches using your homework as a head rest and the big red lizard as your cuddle-mate, or sitting with thesis-statement-sage-Laurie, our writing tutor, in the NACC library discussing a paper which makes you realize you should have either started earlier or at least done the reading, or studying while watching TV while not actually studying, or organizing an event on something about which you are passionate, or seeking help, or procrastinating, or visiting, or laughing, or working, or relaxing, or eating, or doing anything at all that brings you to the center...it brings us great joy.

Our first issue served as an introduction to the Stanford Native American Cultural Center’s programs and activities, in the hope that you would find something interesting and get involved. This issue recognizes those of you who did and hopes to encourage those of you we don’t see that often to make your way to the Center, even if it is only to eat, take a nap, or get some leftover Valentine’s Day candy.

What brings people to the Center? Many theories could be offered as to why someone might mosey on over to the Center, but the real reason why people WANT to come to the Center is poorly explained in writing and better done so by Native love. Make a resolution of it...stop on by!

-ComingVoice Staff
Over the summer, Dr. Janine Pease, a member of the Crow Tribe from Montana nominated me for a Student Board Member position on the National Indian Education Association's (NIEA) Board of Directors.

NIEA was founded in 1969 and is the largest and oldest Indian education organization in the nation. The organization is governed by a Board of Directors made up of twelve representatives including two student board members, and has several committees that work to ensure Native educators and students are represented in various educational institutions and forums throughout Indian Country and Washington, D.C.

The process of becoming a NIEA Board Member includes giving a speech to thousands of members at the Annual Conference, which was held this fall in Anchorage, Alaska, and being elected by the general membership.

I really wanted to run for the NIEA Board because I have a passion for Indian education and want to learn as much as I can about education policy and legislation so that I may be able to enact change. NIEA is the voice of Indian Country on education issues, and the organization does a lot of lobbying at the national and state levels.

SAIO and the AIANHH Program Office split the cost of my plane ticket to Alaska because it was an opportunity for a member of our community to serve as a representative for Indian students and important issues on a national level. Stanford Law student, Tim Sanders, also ran for the Board position along with Tiffany Wisdom, a student at Haskell Indian Nations University.

Greg Graves, Nikki Probst, and I attended the NIEA Annual Convention during the week of October 19-22 in Anchorage, Alaska. After campaigning and giving many speeches about my passion and dedication to Indian Education, particularly education policy, I was elected to the NIEA Board of Directors.

Though it has only been a few months, I have learned so much in this capacity. I have been exposed to education issues of national importance and have created a large network of colleagues, mentors, and friends. Most recently, I was fortunate enough to witness the hard work of many Indian educators pay off with the passage of H.R. 4766, The Esther Martinez Native American Languages Preservation Act of 2006.

For a week in February, I will be in Washington D.C. helping to run NIEA’s Annual Legislative Summit where Indian educators from throughout the country will gather to push for changes in the No Child Left Behind Act and develop the legislative agenda that the organization will focus on in 2007.

I hope to serve the National Indian Education Association to the best of my ability for the next two years and I also hope to be a great representative and reflection of our Native community at Stanford.

- Desi Small-Rodriguez
Class of 2007

The Native American Graduation Dinner and Awards Presentation is being held on Saturday, June 16, 2007. We are compiling a list of potential graduates, so please help us out by letting us know if you are planning to celebrate your graduation this June...and provide us with the following information for our invitations:

Your Name
Tribal Affiliation(s)
Home Town, State
Academic Degree to be Earned

Please send this information and any questions about Native Grad to Jenny Patten at jpatten@stanford.edu.

Thanks very much!
“I remember you,” says Mabel Pike, a respected Tlingit artist and elder. She warmly wraps her arms around me—but this is how she greets all of her Stanford family. You can tell every year when Mabel is about to arrive because the students in the Native community clamor and say to each other, “Mabel is coming!”

During her visit, the Center is beautifully deconstructed; there are shades of beads on plates, random scraps of felt are on the counters, and concentrating faces of eager Native students line the tables.

For me, this reminds me of the winter stories that my Navajo grandmother used to share. We would all sit around and talk story. This is a time to slow our pace, to share our culture. Instead of stories, we are sharing Mabel’s rich and deep history of beading and leather working.

She pulls out a felt board that displays her family’s beadwork ranging from her great grandmother’s to her great granddaughter’s. Proudly, she tells the story of each design. She tells us that the beads in her grandmother’s pattern are old and well cared for.

The student beading skills range from intense to casual. Creating a memorable project, each person sketches and then beads his or her design onto a pair of moccasins. In the process, students hear of Alaska, Mabel’s worldwide visitors, and the importance of continuing culture.

I asked Mabel one afternoon, “What words or advice do you have to any student who wants to preserve his or her culture? Or what would you say to anyone who has little cultural knowledge?”

To this, she closed her eyes and thought. She replied, “You have to be proud of who you are. Always be proud of your culture. If you are proud of who you are, you will never lose touch with your culture. Our daily lives impact who and what we become.’

Mabel is happy and proud to visit campus every year. This year marked her 11th visit and her 87th birthday.

- Marlon Footracer

- Students and Mabel showing off their moccasins

- Some of the designs students chose this year

- Students learned to do everything, even leatherwork
On Mondays at Noon, the Native Center becomes home to lavish foods, big-name companies, and students looking for the inside scoop on academic and career opportunities. This sounds more like the atmosphere at a high profile career fair or conference. However, lucky for us, once a week, companies come to introduce themselves to us, as opposed to the other way around, at the weekly American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) meeting. As most of you already know, Stanford AISES, a chapter of the national society, is one of the largest Native groups on campus. Here’s a quick recap of the things we’ve done recently and the ones that are coming up really soon.

### National Conference

This year’s AISES national conference was held in Detroit, Michigan on November 2-4, 2006 (Generations of Innovation). Stanford AISES represented strong with 11 student attendees, and two grad student recruiters. National Conference has an amazing career fair with the top companies and graduate schools in many disciplines, workshops on a number of different topics, and time for us to network with AISES students around the country. Mandy Raymond represented our chapter in the research presentation competition, coming home with two wins, third place in the Oral Presentation and FIRST in the Poster Presentation. Congratulations, Mandy!

### CLUE-IN Day

Our annual College Life and Undergraduate Education for Interested Natives (CLUE-IN) Day will fall this year on Friday, February 16. CLUE-IN Day is when Native students from around the Bay Area come here to learn about college admissions, financial aid, and a variety of other topics. This year’s CLUE-IN Day has several corporate sponsors and should be one of the biggest ones so far. If you have questions or would like to help out, please contact this year’s CLUE-IN Day coordinator, Sarah Kaopuiki at skmk@stanford.edu.

### Regional Conference

AISES Region 2 includes California, Nevada, and Hawaii. This year, Stanford AISES will host the Region 2 conference from March 2-4. The theme will be “Looking Toward the Future” and will contain speakers and workshops that not only help us to define our own futures but to help younger students become the future themselves. Plans include taking a tour of Jasper Ridge and the Clark Center Bio-X building. For more information or to lend your services, please contact the Regional Conference Coordinator, Mandy Raymond at mandyray@stanford.edu.

### OJF

The Opportunity Job Fair (OJF) is an annual event put on by the four diversity engineering societies (AISES, SBSE, SSCLES, and SWE). Over 100 of the top engineering and science companies come to recruit the top diverse engineers and scientists that Stanford has to offer. Thank you to our OJF representatives this year Leah Godinet, Jess Lam, and Sheila Thomas for their hard work. Also, thanks to everyone who volunteered and came to check it out!

AISES has its meetings weekly on Monday at 12:15 at the Native Center. For more info contact AISES president, Aaron Yazzie at ayazzie@stanford.edu.
Going abroad to Santiago de Chile will forever be one of the most unique and memorable experiences I will take from my time at Stanford. During what other time in my life will I be able to go white water rafting and horseback riding through the Andes, eat at a solar-powered restaurant, and enjoy an evening celebrating the culture of Rapa Nui with indigenous Rapa Nui people? I still keep in touch with my awesome Chilean host family now...so, I'll keep my fingers crossed that I'll get a chance to do it again soon!

- Nicole Salis

I decided to study abroad because I wanted to view the world through the eyes of another culture. Living in Japan made me realize how strongly I'm defined by my American upbringing. Everything about me flagged me as an American: the way I talked, walked, dressed, and looked around. In the end, I gained a greater sense of identity and a broader outlook on the world.

- Jason Foley

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- Adrienne Keene waving from Italy
Until I applied extra late for Stanford’s Overseas Studies Program in Beijing, I was convinced I would never have the opportunity to study abroad. I am majoring in physics, a department that has very few students who ever study abroad. So, while I had always been mildly interested in studying abroad, I resigned myself to the fact that my academics would not leave me any time to study abroad. Luckily, I was wrong.

Despite having taken less than a year of Chinese, my Mandarin improved dramatically. I became friends with plenty of students. I immersed myself in the culture through such unique opportunities as a Chinese cooking class with a local family. And, perhaps most rewarding, I leveraged off of my quarter-long stay in Beijing to extend my trip and spend 5 weeks backpacking around rural China. I left China with great friends, wonderful memories, and a conviction that I had at least begun to gain a true understanding of Chinese culture and society.

-Matt Jachowski

Ciao Tuttie
I can’t even express how incredible life abroad is; I am having the best time of my life in Florence! I had a difficult decision deciding whether or not to go abroad this year, being a senior, and having graduation looming on the horizon, but in the end, Italy won out over academics and job searches, and I’m so glad it did. I had never been outside the country before coming to Florence, and that was a major factor in my decision. Living in a situation where hardly anyone speaks English, where they don’t make burritos, and where you walk by priceless works of art everyday, really does wonders for expanding your world view and making you question and examine all the things that we take for granted as “normal” here in the USA. I encourage everyone to try and go abroad, even if it has to be winter quarter senior year, it is truly such a worthwhile and amazing experience.

-Adrienne Keene

Hi, my name is Matt, and I missed meeting all you not-so-new-anymore freshmen because I was in Moscow. I am currently studying in Berlin, Germany. Before committing myself to such outlandish adventures, amazing travels, and an incredible new understanding of how different and similar cultures truly are, I had only been abroad once. I want to encourage you all to experience the amazing depth of the big, scary world outside what you have become familiar with so far. It will teach you so much about other peoples and their values, yes, but more importantly, it is a great chance for you to appreciate your own. As Natives, a “nationality” that most Europeans see very little of, you’ll probably end up teaching the people you meet a little something as well. I know I did.

In a nutshell, I went abroad because (1) Stanford said yes; (2) I said “Why not?”; (3) I was always curious to see what I’d look like without a tan; and (4) I wanted to increase the cultural diversity of Denni’s pig collection (I’m making my delivery in April when I come back to pick up trash at Powwow).

Dorothy, in the Wizard of Oz, said “There’s no place like home.” I would agree, but the sightseeing someplace else is pretty sweet.

-Matt Ybarra
Under the umbrella of SAIO, there exist several groups that create numerous fun spaces and events for sub-groups of our community. While they are usually more specifically themed, everyone is welcome at all umbrella group events. Here’s what they are up to.

SAIO

SAIO is the jack of all trades of the Native Community. While that usually entails concentrating on the issues that face the Native community at Stanford, sometimes its pure unadulterated fun! Along with AISES, SAIO co-sponsored a laser tagging expedition. From picking crazy laser tag nicknames to shooting everyone who walked by regardless of alliances, it was a great night that proved that no one can out grow laser tag.

- Leah Godinet showing Kawika Nakoa Who’s Boss

After a quick co-chair switch for this quarter, (If you didn’t already notice, Adrienne Keene is in Italy for the quarter, and Jenny Patten is back from Stanford in Washington to join Tanaya Winder as co-chairs of SAIO), SAIO is up and running again.

The theme for Center programming this year is “Our Land”. SAIO is re-focusing its efforts spring quarter into organizing a symposium on the topic of Land Rights Issues to be held later in the quarter. The symposium would bring together Native activists from around the country to share their stories about related issues. If you are interested in helping plan this symposium, have an idea of a speaker you would like to see, or would like more information please contact Desi Small-Rodriguez at desisr@stanford.edu.

SAIO holds its meeting every other Tuesday at 6pm at the Native Center. For more information contact the Winter Quarter co-chairs Jenny Patten or Tanaya Winder (jpatten@stanford.edu, twinder@stanford.edu).

The annual Muwekma/SAIO snow trip was held over MLK weekend up in South Lake Tahoe. The trip turned out to be great, as Natives in the snow are always fun!

-Natives in the snow at Tahoe

Hui o Hawai`i

Hui o Hawai`i, Stanford’s Native Hawaiian Club had their first dinner of the quarter on Friday, February 2nd. While the Hawaiians tend to see each other anyway, it was great to get together and eat good food and play good music, which is what we do best. This quarter, Hui is going to try to Kanikapila on Fridays and spread general happiness to the Stanford community. To learn about Hawaiians or Hui contact Sarah Kaopuiki at skmk@stanford.edu.

Cherokee Club

After her triumphant return from Oxford, Katie Jones, has agreed to lead the Cherokee Club in light of the absence of the previous leader, Adrienne Keene. The Cherokees had cookies and brainstormed ideas of events for the quarter including a speaker from the Cherokee Nation and a special Valentine’s Day surprise. For more information contact Katie Jones at kejones@stanford.edu.

Diné Club

The Diné Club rekindled their love for kinship and home cooked food with their first dinner/football championship game watching party. Spam, potatoes, tortilla bread, and a number of Stanford’s finest Navajos made an appearance at the shindig. More events are in the process of being planned in the near future. If you’d like to know more about the Diné Club contact Sheena Hale at shale@stanford.edu.
**Big Sib/Lil' Sib**

Big Sib/Lil’ Sib was particularly busy last quarter pairing new frosh with upperclassmen mentors and rolling out an assortment of activities for everyone to bond. Last quarter they carved pumpkins for Halloween and ate ourselves into a sugar frenzy at the Christmas cookie decorating social.

-Tanaya Winder and Kayla Carpenter bond over their design

**SNAGS**

The Stanford Native American Graduate Students (SNAGS) group is composed of graduate students from all disciplines and programs seeking to provide a system for interaction among Native American graduate students.

Twice per quarter SNAGS comes together to socialize, plan future events, and discuss issues relating to Native students and graduate life. Since there is immense breadth of fields covered by the Native grad students, these meetings, and their refreshments are crucial to bringing together the Native graduate community. Additionally, we have had bowling trips, hit up Happy Hour at Celia’s and helped out at the Stanford Powwow Elders’ Dinner. Next month we will be meeting up with Berkeley Native graduate students to visit the Oakland Museum of California History exhibit and have dinner in the city.

SNAGS has focused much of its energy on mentoring and improving the academic environment for Native undergrads. Assistance with coursework has been available from graduate students for years and continues this year on Wednesday nights from 9pm to midnight at the NACC. SNAGS also hosts a Native Graduate Student Forum in the fall where undergrads interested in pursuing further education can ask questions and receive guidance in a variety of disciplines. On March 10 we will be holding the 2nd Annual SNAGS Research Conference. This is an opportunity for both undergraduates and graduate students to present their research or research interest to their peers, get feedback on their projects, and find out what other Native students are studying. This year we hope to open the conference up to other schools in the Bay Area to facilitate networking and interaction with Native students in the area. We depend on ongoing support of graduate and undergraduate students to help make all of the SNAGS events a success.

-Matt Anderson

For more information about SNAGS, contact Matt Anderson at matthewz@stanford.edu.

This quarter marks the beginning of a new set of activities to go along with your new resolutions. Look for some other not-to-miss activities including bowling, egg dyeing, and of course new and different kinds of food. Hopefully you’re all seeing your sibs occasionally, and making the most of the resource they can be for you. In case you forgot, here’s a list of all the sib families:


If you want to know more, or desire either a big or little sib contact Jen Awakuni jawakuni@stanford.edu or Rhean Westerlund rheanw@stanford.edu.
It's that Time of Year...

Time for the 36th Annual...

STANFORD POWWOW
May 11-13, 2007
Eucalyptus Grove
Stanford University

For more information go to http://powwow.stanford.edu

Students!

If you would like to get involved, contact Desi Small-Rodriguez desisr@stanford.edu or Spring Golden spring07@stanford.edu for more information on how.

Candid Comments

What was your new year’s resolution? And how have you been doing?
-“Didn’t have any, though I think resolutions can be made any time of the year. I’ve been doing good, considering I didn’t make any.”—Kayla Carpenter

What does AIANNHP stand for?
-“Aaron Is Always Navajo, Not Hawaiian–Pineapple”—Jessica Chong
-“American Indian, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian Program. When I worked at the center during the summer, I used to answer the phone in the library by saying that. Try saying that whole thing 5 times fast.”—Adrienne Keene

While in school what makes you the happiest?
-“Friends, Natives, and food. When combined in equal parts.”—Adrienne Keene
-“FREEDOM!”—Kayla Carpenter

What is your biggest worry right now?
-“Graduation, finding a job, and then applying to grad school! Scary!”—Adrienne Keene

I was a nerd in high school because...
-“I hung out with Sarah Kaopuiki. Lol. Just joke. I was probably a nerd because I was president of the math team.”—Jessica Chong

“FREEDOM!”—Kayla Carpenter
Submissions for the next issue of the ComingVoice are due March 12, 2007 to Sarah Kaopuiki (skmk@stanford.edu) or Aaron Yazzie (ayazzie@stanford.edu). Submissions are always welcome.

AIANNHP Staff: Winona Simms, Denni Woodward, Greg Graves
NACC Staff: Marlon Footracer, Leah Godinet, Sarah Kaopuiki, Anthony Marquez, Tina Monguia, Jenny Patten, Desi Small-Rodriguez, Tanaya Winder, Lisa Yang, Aaron Yazzie