

Professor lends experience

By Jen Ellison
Oregon Daily Emerald

Visiting professor Winona LaDuke, a member of the Mississippi band of the Anishinaabe, didn't know what it was like to live with her tribe until she was 23.

Desiring some connection to her tribe, LaDuke decided to move to the reservation to help face pressing environmental and economic issues after receiving her undergraduate education from Harvard University.

After 10 years of living on the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota, LaDuke has become an internationally recognized supporter of indigenous people's rights. Her main fight, she said, is to retrieve land stolen by white colonizers for the tribes that live there.

Growing up in Ashland, LaDuke said she never felt encouraged to succeed or follow her dreams. Her teachers didn't subscribe to her political beliefs that favored Native Americans and their rights.

"I think the people there were racist in their attitudes," she said. "I had to get out of Oregon. In a way, I felt that Oregon didn't believe in me."

During her first year at Harvard, LaDuke heard Native American speaker Jimmy Durham speak on indigenous issues. Durham worked for an international arm of the American Indian Movement at the United Nations.

"He said that there wasn't an Indian problem," she said. "There was a problem with the way the United States and other countries treated and related to native people."

Inspired by this new argument, LaDuke interviewed him for the campus newspaper and helped him research environmental issues, such as strip mining on reservations. She testified in the first United Nations Non-Governmental Organization conference on indigenous people in 1977.

After the conference, Native Americans from across the country asked her to work on their reservations, teaching them the effects of damaging environmental policies.

Empowered by her experiences on the reservations, LaDuke continued her education to receive a master's degree at Antioch University in Yellow Springs, Ohio. She studied community economic development before moving to the reservation, the home of her father's people.

Since living there, LaDuke has become the project director for the White Earth Land Recovery Project, where she coordinates the development of overall land acquisitions, negotiations and consolidation programs for the White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians.

Since 1989, LaDuke has also served as president of the Indigenous Women's Network, a continental network of grass-roots indigenous women organizers and community workers.

As the recipient of the Carlton Raymond and Wilberta Ripley Savage Professorship of International Relations and Peace, LaDuke will be teaching at the University and giving talks



Photo by David Natt

Professor Winona LaDuke hopes to encourage students to learn about indigenous cultures.

throughout the term.

While at the University, LaDuke will teach two courses in international studies — "Indigenous Human Rights" and "Indigenous Economics."

"Indigenous Human Rights" will explore the rights of indigenous people and the environmental and economic crises facing industrial society. "Indigenous Economics," a graduate course, will analyze development and underdevelopment issues in native communities.

Though the class has only met once this term, students said they are already learning about issues facing indigenous people.

"Lots of the stuff that is happening is still going on," said senior Rob Cruz from the Taino tribe of Puerto Rico. "It opens people's eyes."

Other students said they appreciate LaDuke's experience.

"It's a nice change to learn from someone that's had actual experience and struggle," said Andy Harris, a political science major. "I'm looking forward to learning more."

LaDuke said she hopes that the knowledge she shares with the University community will grow into a better understanding of indigenous peoples and their cultures.

"Most of what I learned came from listening to people and observing them," she said. "I strongly encourage others to do the same."

Specialized creative writing program buds

By Kaly Soto
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Ever fancy yourself a writer?

If you have or even if you haven't, the Walter Kidd Tutorial Program maybe for you.

The Kidd tutorial program is a writing workshop open to all undergraduates.

Classes are modeled after similar programs at Harvard and The Watts Writers Workshops. Class space is limited to three or four students. The Creative Writing faculty and graduate students in creative writing teach the classes.

The Kidd Tutorial, which is named for University alumnus Walter Kidd, began last year with four students and one section. This year the program has been expanded to five sections. The sections concentrate on fiction and poetry, but the curriculum varies from section to section.

Sue Dickman, a graduate student in creative writing, teaches one of the Kidd sections. Her class meets four hours a week, and during the class students read and critique each others' work.

Students are also required to study an author of their choice and lead the class in discussion about that author.

Dickman said she finds a sense of community in her workshops because they are so small. Dickman said the experience helped her students to build trust.

She got involved in the Kidd program because she was interested in teaching, and thought the Kidd program was an "ideal way to read and write."

Although the program is open to all undergraduates, most of Dickman's students are juniors and seniors. This is because students need to have had the time to take 100 and 200 level creative writing courses, Dickman said.

Elizabeth Carmichael, a junior history major, agrees with Dickman. "Because the classes are smaller, you get a lot of attention," Carmichael said. "It's a big ego boost to have all these people saying 'you can do it.'"

The program was introduced to Carmichael by its director Chang Rae Lee who convinced her that she should become involved.

Though the program meets for four hours a week, Carmichael said "It doesn't feel like work."

If you are interested in the Kidd Tutorial program, the application process is in progress.

ET ALS

MEETINGS

Graduate Students of Color Coalition will meet today at 2 p.m. at 1414 Kincaid St. For more information, call 346-3248.

Student Health Center Committee will meet today at 3:30 p.m. in the Student Health Center medical library. For more information, call 346-4447.

RELIGION

Newman Center will have a reading of the last words of Jesus today at noon and Stations of the Cross procession at 2 p.m. in observance of Good Friday at 18th Avenue and Emerald Street. For more information, call 343-7021.

MISCELLANEOUS

Graduate School will present the Target of Opportunity Laurel Awards today at 5 p.m. at the Collier House. For more information,

call 346-3248.

Hillel will have a Shabbos potluck tonight at 7 at 1414 Kincaid. For more information, call 484-5004.

Ecology Program will sponsor Dr. John Koprowski's presentation "Alternative Reproductive Tactics of Tree Squirrels: Intersexual and Intrasexual Conflict" today at 3:30 in Room 327 Pacific.

Deadline for submitting Et Als to the Emerald front desk, EMU Suite 300, is noon the day before publication. The news editor does not have a time machine. Et Als run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon.

Notices of events with a donation or admission charge will not be accepted. Campus events and those scheduled nearest the publication date will be given priority. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for grammar and style. Et Als run on a space-available basis.

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