Udall Center Launches Research Program

Sustainability and the Transforming Southwest

The Udall Center’s environmental policy team has initiated a new research and outreach program called Sustainability and the Transforming Southwest: The Public Policy of Water, Energy, and Landscapes.

With start-up funding from the Morris K. Udall Foundation, the initiative builds on the Center’s two decades of public policy analysis about watershed decision-making in the Southwest and U.S.-Mexico border region.

“Water is the touchstone of our sustainability program,” said Robert Varady, Udall Center deputy director, “but we also will look at the links between water and the management of other natural resources.”

Initially, the program will focus on the greater Tucson region, an area facing obvious challenges to sustainable water management.

“Tucson presents an excellent living laboratory to look at the interplay of natural resources policy-making, stakeholder engagement, and institutional innovation,” said Christopher Scott, assistant research professor of water resources policy at the Udall Center and an assistant professor of geography and regional development.

“We also will be able to conduct applied research that will inform local policy-making and hopefully will have wider impacts in other regions where the Udall Center collaborates,” Scott said.

Assisted by grants from the Arizona Water Institute and University of Arizona’s Water Resources Research Center (see page 3), the program’s research team has begun several mini-projects looking at water reuse, water and energy co-management, and sustainable landscape transition.

In addition to Varady and Scott, other Udall Center staff affiliated with the effort include Anne Browning-Aiken, program manager for environmental and community collaboration; Miriam Jorgensen, associate director for research for the Native Nations Institute; and Emily McGovern, research analyst.

For more information, contact Christopher Scott at <cascott@u.arizona.edu> or (520 626-4393).
RESEARCH

Recent Publications

Organizing Indigenous Governance in Canada, Australia, and the United States

by Stephen Cornell


This paper is an early product of an ongoing, comparative research project on Indigenous governance in the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Focusing here on the first three of these countries, Cornell examines the recent rise of governance as an Indigenous issue and raises a number of research and policy matters related to the comparative analysis of Indigenous governance. He summarizes some preliminary findings and lays out a further research agenda that could benefit both Indigenous and non-Indigenous policy-makers.

The Nature and Components of Economic Development in Indian Country

by Stephen Cornell and Miriam Jorgensen


Prepared as a background white paper for the recently held National Native American Economic Policy Summit (see page 4), this report defines what economic development means and how it applies in Indian Country; looks at the changing patterns of Indian Country economic development; debunks some of the myths and misconceptions about economic development in Native nations; suggests policy options for both Indigenous nations and the federal government; and calls for better ways to measure socioeconomic change in Indigenous communities.

<nii.arizona.edu/whatsnew>

Workshop on Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Property

With funds from the Morris K. Udall Foundation, the Native Nations Institute supported the 2007 Information Ethics Roundtable, “Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Property: The Ethics of Cultural and Environmental Sovereignty and Stewardship,” convened in March by faculty in The University of Arizona’s School of Information Resources and Library Science (SIRLS).

This event was the first to gather researchers in the diverse fields of philosophy, law, anthropology, environmental studies, American Indian studies, public policy, and library and information science to discuss the ethical dimensions of Indigenous knowledge and cultural property.

Papers presented at the workshop will be reviewed, edited, and compiled into a book.

Video recordings of most of the workshop’s presentations are available on ArizonaNativeNet at <www.arizonanativenet.com/multimedia/ier/index.cfm>.

For more information about the workshop, contact Kay Mathiesen, senior lecturer in SIRLS, at <kmathies@u.arizona.edu> or (520) 621-3565.
Stephen Corral, NNI graduate research associate and a doctoral student in sociology, presented with Rachel Starks, NNI research analyst and coordinator, the paper, “Accounting for Change in Per Capita Income for American Indians Living on Indian Lands,” at the annual meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association held in Oakland, Calif., in March. The researchers examined the drivers of changes in American Indian per capita income among gaming and non-gaming Indian nations between 1990 and 2000, looking at the influence of socioeconomic characteristics, federal and state policies, and tribal government institutions.

Jamie Dolan, NNI graduate research associate and a doctoral student in sociology, recently received two grants to support her doctoral research on Native fish and wildlife programs: one from the National Science Foundation and one from the Rural Sociological Society. The total of the two is more than $10,000. Dolan seeks to understand variation in tribal fish and wildlife management strategies and outcomes, looking for lessons that can assist tribes as they begin to develop or take over management of their own resources.

Jen McCormack, NNI graduate research associate and a doctoral student in geography and regional development, presented a paper, “Rebels and Scholars: Palestinian Bedouin, Women Students in the Naqab/Negev Desert,” at the annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers held in San Francisco in April. Based on interviews with Bedouin, female, first-generation college students at Ben-Gurion University in Israel, McCormack describes the changing identity politics articulated by these women, through their academic endeavors, as challenges to both the power of the state (Israel) and that of their patrilineally structured communities. McCormack’s paper is based on her master’s degree research in the Middle East Studies Program at the University of Texas-Austin.

Aleix Serrat-Capdevila, Udall Center graduate research associate and a doctoral student in hydrology and water resources, published an article (with co-author Juan Valdés), “An Alternative Approach to the Operation of Multinational Reservoir Systems: Application to the Amistad and Falcon System (Lower Rio Grande/Río Bravo),” in the April 2007 (v. 21/n.4) issue of Water Resources Management. The paper compares two approaches, or models, to operate the bi-national, multiple-reservoir system along the Texas-Mexico border as part of an effort to develop a decision-support system for improved water management in the Lower Rio Grande/Río Bravo basin. Serrat-Capdevila’s work is supported by the UA Center for Sustainability of semi-Arid Hydrology and Riparian Areas (SAHRA).
OUTREACH

Policy Briefings on U.S.-Mexico Border Environmental Issues

In May, Udall Center researchers Robert Varady, Anne Browning-Aiken, and Christopher Scott, hosted Philippe Jamet and Elodie Pasco from the French Embassy in Washington, D.C., on a three-day visit to The University of Arizona (UA), including a field trip to locations along the U.S.-Mexico border. The purpose of the visit was to facilitate long-lasting exchanges between the French research establishment—especially CNRS, the French National Research Center—and faculty at the UA.

In March, Varady met in El Paso, Texas, with the two commissioners of the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) and its Mexican counterpart the Comisión de Límites y Agua (CILA). Commissioners Carlos Marin of IBWC and Ing. Arturo Herrera of CILA and Varady discussed a project of mutual interest, the preparation of a periodic climate diagnostic newsletter, a bi-national and bilingual “Border Climate Summary,” to be produced jointly by Mexican and U.S. researchers.

At the invitation of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Varady discussed the conduct of transboundary research at a special workshop for USGS scientists, “Facing Tomorrow’s Challenges along the U.S.-Mexico Border: Monitoring, Modeling, and Forecasting Change within the Arizona-Sonora Transboundary Watersheds,” held in Tucson in March.

The Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB), of which Varady is a member, recently issued its tenth report to the President and Congress. The document, in English and Spanish, addresses the timely theme, “Environmental Protection and Border Security on the U.S.-Mexico Border.”

NNI Staff Featured at Economic Policy Summit

Six Native Nations Institute (NNI) staff and affiliates played prominent roles at the National Native American Economic Policy Summit held in Phoenix in May.

The summit examined federal policies that have assisted or constrained tribal economic development and looked at various models of successful tribal economies.

Stephen Cornell, director of the Udall Center, and Miriam Jorgensen, NNI associate director for research, prepared a commissioned white paper, “The Nature and Components of Economic Development in Indian Country” (see page 2).

NNI director Manley Begay facilitated sessions on “Capital and Finance, Investment Tools for Tribal Enterprises” and NNI assistant director Joan Timeche facilitated the “Business Development, Going Global” sessions. Former NNI graduate research associate Michelle Hale now a faculty associate of American Indian studies at Arizona State University, facilitated sessions on physical infrastructure.

Joseph P. Kalt, professor of political economy at Harvard University, co-director of the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, and an NNI faculty associate, delivered a keynote address, “The Rebuilding of Nations: Lessons from Indian Country.”

For more information about NNI’s role in promoting economic development for Indigenous nations, contact Joan Timeche at <timechej@u.arizona.edu> or (520) 626-0664.
In 2002, the Native Nations Institute established the **Native Nations Endowment Fund** to support NNI's significant commitment to Indigenous nations as a resource for self-determination, economic development, and self-governance.

To fulfill its commitment, NNI provides comprehensive professional training, accessible policy analysis and research, and substantial strategic and organizational development to Indigenous nations in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere.

The Native Nations Endowment Fund provides NNI with reliable and flexible funding to supplement core institutional resources.

Since the endowment’s inception, the annual NNI/Roger Willie Charity Golf Tournament has been a steady source of support, with significant and generous donations over the years from hundreds of participants, sponsors, and Indigenous nations and enterprises.

Held each spring in Tucson, and often paired with NNI’s highly regarded executive education training seminars, the golf tournament has raised substantial funds for the endowment.

The 2007 event, held at the Omni Tucson National Golf Resort and Spa, fielded some 80 golfers and raised more than $10,000 (see photographs). The seventh annual tournament will be held April 4, 2008, again at the Omni Resort.

For information about how to participate in next year’s charity golf tournament, and how to assist in building the Native Nations Endowment Fund, please contact Joan Timeche, NNI assistant director, at <timechej@u.arizona.edu> or (520) 626-0664.
Stephen Cornell, Udall Center director, was the keynote speaker at the South Dakota Indian Business Conference in Rapid City in February. Cornell discussed the shift in the economies of Native Nations from a dependence on funds from the U.S. federal government to promotion of self-directed and productive tribal enterprises. In April, in Melbourne, Australia, Cornell was a keynote speaker at the Indigenous Economic Development Conference, organized by the Koori Business Network and attended by Aboriginal business people and community leaders and by government representatives.

In February, Judith Gans, manager of the immigration policy program, presented a talk, “Immigration: A Complex Balancing Act,” as part of the “Domestic Pressure Points: Immigration, Energy, Political Polarization, Education” course sponsored by the Houston Seminar. Gans also appeared on Nevada Public Radio (KNPR) for an on-air discussion about immigration reform (see <knpr.org/son/archive>).

In March, Miriam Jorgensen, NNI’s associate director for research, and Sarah Palmer of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, addressed the “To Bridge a Gap” conference of U.S. Forest Service personnel and tribal forest managers in the southeastern United States.

Christopher Scott, assistant research professor for water resources policy, presented a talk, “Energy Boom and Groundwater Bust: Mexico’s Water-Energy Nexus with Implications for the U.S. Border Region,” at the Western Forum on Water, Energy, and Sustainability, held in March in Santa Barbara, Calif.

Also in March, Joan Timeche, NNI assistant director, delivered a keynote address, “Arizona Indian Nations: Shaping Arizona’s Economic Future,” at the Arizona Convocation 2007 held in Phoenix and sponsored by the Arizona State Library, Archives, and Public Records. Timeche’s experiences with the Native American Youth Entrepreneur Camp, which she founded and hosts each summer, were featured in an article on youth financial education in a recent issue of Community Dividend (No. 1, 2007), published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis.


Maori Scholars Present Symbolic Paddle to NNI Staff

Visitors from Tainui Endowed College, New Zealand, presented NNI staff with a symbolic hoe, or paddle, from the Waikato-Tainui people.

The name of the hoe is whakapaatari, translated as “to challenge.” Together the hoe and its name symbolize the challenge to undertake the long journey (in this case) in search of knowledge beyond distant horizons to Aotearoa (New Zealand), the land of Waikato-Tainui, one of the Indigenous peoples (tangata whenua) who were the donors.

The hoe was carved in a wood called rewarewa, or native honeysuckle, by Inia Te Wiata who embellished the hoe with a taniwha, a guardian spirit of the Waikato River, regarded by the Waikato-Tainui people as an ancestor who along with chiefly descendants is memorialized in the tribal aphorism:

**Waikato Taniwha Rau**
Waikato of a hundred guardians (strong chiefs)

**He Piko He Taniwha, He Piko He Taniwha Rau**
at every bend (of the river) is a chief
Several Udall Center staff members received degrees from The University of Arizona at the end of the Spring 2007 semester:

**Rose Chischillie**, senior office specialist for the Native Nations Institute, graduated with a master’s degree in agricultural and resource economics from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. With a focus on environmental and natural resources policy, Chischillie, a citizen of the Navajo Nation, plans to work for a non-profit organization or government agency.

**Lizet Villagran**, senior receptionist, received a master of public administration degree from the School of Public Administration and Policy in the Eller College of Management. Villagran, a native of Anthony, N.M., seeks to apply her skills in the public sector.

**Pamela Dixon**, senior office specialist, received a bachelor’s degree in art history from the College of Fine Arts. Specializing in medieval art history, Dixon, originally from Pittsburgh, is applying to graduate schools to continue her studies.

**Rebecca Kullman**, undergraduate assistant, graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Near Eastern studies from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. With an interest in Arabic language and culture, as well as conflict resolution, Kullman will work this summer as a business intern in Bahrain’s Khalid Almoayed and Sons holding company.

**Mark L.M. Blair**, a graduate research associate for the Native Nations Institute, received a J.D. from the James E. Rogers College of Law.
Udall Center Selects Faculty Fellows for 2007-08

The Udall Center has selected four University of Arizona faculty members to become Udall Center Fellows for 2007-08: Mimi Nichter, associate professor of anthropology; Mary Poulton, professor and department head of mining and geological engineering; Jeffrey Sallaz, assistant professor of sociology; and Marcela Vásquez-León, assistant research anthropologist with the Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology and assistant professor of Latin American studies.

With release from their teaching and other major responsibilities, the fellows will affiliate with the Center and will engage in research on topics related to public policy.

This year, two fellows will receive stipend support from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences (Nichter and Sallaz) and two from the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth (Poulton and Vásquez-León).

The fellows, and their proposed research topics, are:

**Mimi Nichter** (anthropology): Developing policies to reduce smoking among college students

Nichter will study the effectiveness of campus tobacco policies and cessation programs relative to tobacco use among students at The University of Arizona.

**Mary Poulton** (mining and geological engineering): U.S. mineral resources policy

Poulton will examine U.S. mineral resources policy and its implications for global competitiveness, workforce development, and sustainable resource development, especially in terms of environmental protection and groundwater quality preservation.

**Jeffrey Sallaz** (sociology): The labor of labor regulation

Sallaz will conduct an ethnographic study of the Phoenix office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to learn how the agency monitors and regulates the U.S. labor market.

**Marcela Vásquez-León** (BARA/Latin American studies): Assessing the Marine Ecological Organizing Plan for the Gulf of California

Vásquez-León will undertake a preliminary analysis of how and to what extent climate information and perceptions of climate variability and change are incorporated into current policy mechanisms, specifically Mexico’s Marine Ecological Organizing Plan for the Gulf of California, for the sustainable management of fishery resources.

Since the inception of the program in 1990, the Center has named 106 fellows from 35 departments at the UA.

For more information, contact Pamela Dixon, senior office specialist at the Udall Center, at (520) 626-4393 or <padixon@u.arizona.edu>.

Udall Center Hosts Visiting Scholar from Mexico

Laura López-Hoffman, a scientist with the Center for Ecosystem Research at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), is visiting at the Udall Center through August 2007 under the auspices of a National Science Foundation Minority Post-doctoral Fellowship.

Her research project, undertaken with Karl Flessa, professor of geosciences at The University of Arizona, looks at managing ecosystem services that cross the U.S.-Mexico border, in particular how social and ecological drivers in one country impact ecosystems in the other.


López-Hoffman holds a Ph.D. in biological sciences from Stanford University and a B.A. in ecology and evolutionary biology from Princeton University.

In addition to her work on the U.S.-Mexico border, her research interests include the eco-physiology, demography, and sustainable management of mangroves; and developing a management and restoration plan for an endangered palm tree endemic to a small area in the Mexican state of Michoacán.

Her contact information is: <lauralh@u.arizona.edu> or (520) 626-9851