



## *Students Establish New Organizations*

**Yuwita, Inc.**  
stiwuY



*using artistic expression  
to defeat oppression*

Sally Higgins, LL.M. candidate, has founded Yuwita, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering tolerance and ending discrimination.

Yuwita is a Lakota word meaning "to bring together" or "to unite." Yuwita began with the idea that law lags behind social change and that artists are often the impetus for molding societal norms.

Yuwita's mission is to provide artists, poets, and entertainers the legal and financial support they need, which includes mentoring, as well as legal assistance for business matters such as contract issues and protecting intellectual property. Yuwita also plans a speakers bureau to supply organizations with experts on various topics.

In April, Yuwita hosted a fundraiser featuring several movies, including Chad Burris' (JD '05) short film *Goodnight Irene*, as well as the award winning *Broken Rainbow*, a documentary exploring Navajo forced relocation. Yuwita has several more events in the planning stages.

Yuwita's Board consists of Professor Rennard Strickland (former TU law

professor and now a faculty member at the University of Oregon), Chief Arvol Looking Horse, John Williams (JD '92 and LL.M. candidate), and Chad Burris (JD '05).

On March 15, 2005, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe passed a resolution supporting Higgins and Yuwita. Higgins was also the recipient of the first Martin H. Belsky Award, given by the TU College of Law to a graduating student in recognition of her commitment to public service.

For more information about the organization, see the organization's website at [www.yuwita.org](http://www.yuwita.org) or contact Higgins, Executive Director at [sally@yuwita.org](mailto:sally@yuwita.org)

**SHIELD**  
SHIELD

*Society Honoring  
Indigenous Economic and  
Legal Development*

As members of TU's NALSA chapter returned from the Federal Bar Association's annual Indian Law conference, they discussed the fact that no organization exists devoted to tribal law, as opposed to Federal Indian law, as well as the fact that no organization exists as a bridge between students and professionals.

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***NALC is pleased to present our new publicity materials. We have enclosed a copy of our new brochure, as well as the literature for our Certificate, LL.M., and Geneva programs. If you would like more information, or additional copies of our materials, please let us know.***

## *SHIELD, cont'd*

To fill the gaps, TU students created a new organization, tentatively called SHIELD, the Society Honoring Indigenous Economic and Legal Development. The new organization is in its infancy, but it is working in conjunction with NALC to create a more developed infrastructure. For the moment, the organization is using the ndnlawstudents listserv as its discussion forum. For more information, contact Amanda Proctor (amanda-proctor@utulsa.edu) or subscribe to the listserv via its web interface

<http://mail.law.utulsa.edu/mailman/listinfo/ndnlawstudents>

### ***NALC Sponsors New Listserv***

*indianlaw@mail.law.utulsa.edu*

As more and more attorneys and judges turn their attention to Indian law, an increasing need exists for a venue in which they can engage in academic discussions of Indian law. In response to this demand, NALC has created a new listserv, which is open to all attorneys, judges, students, and professors who wish to take part. For more information or to subscribe, please consult the web interface for the new listserv:

<http://mail.law.utulsa.edu/mailman/listinfo/indianlaw>

### ***Report from the Federal Bar Association's Indian Law Conference***

TU was very well represented at this year's Fed Bar Conference in Albuquerque. All five NALC co-directors attended, as did **Faye Hadley** (Native American Law Librarian and NALC Fellow), **Lori Guevara** (Staff Attorney and LL.M. '03), **Dawn Sturdevant Baum** (LL.M. '05 and Clinical Legal Fellow), as well as a dozen current students and a significant number of alumni.

**Professors Judith Royster** and **Vicki Limas** both presented talks at the conference. Limas spoke on the Tuscarora Unbound panel, examining the Ninth Circuit's recent decision about the applicability of employment law in Indian country. **Stacy Leeds** (JD '97), who is a law professor at the University of Kansas and a Justice on the Cherokee Nation Judicial Appeals Tribunal, moderated the panel. Leeds also moderated a panel discussing a model commercial code for tribes. Royster spoke as part of the Water from West to East panel.

At the conference, we also spotted alumni **Deanna Hartley-Kelso** (JD '93), **Susan Haase** (JD '00 and LL.M. candidate), **Geri Wisner-Foley** (JD '03), **Angelique EagleWoman** (LL.M. '04), **Charles Tripp** (JD '93), **Troy Littleaxe** (JD '96), **Patrick Moore** (LL.M. '02), **Jared Cawley** (JD '03 and LL.M. '04), and **Jeremy Patterson** (LL.M. '04).

In addition to attending the conference, TU students also took part in the National NALSA annual meeting. **Brian Utsey** (JD '05), who has been accepted into the LL.M. program, was elected to serve as Area 3 Rep on the National NALSA Executive Board. TU was also chosen, for the second year in a row, to host the National NALSA Writing Competition.

Congratulations also go to **Anne Zimmerman**, 3L, who placed second in this year's National NALSA writing competition with her paper exploring the law regarding state taxation of Indians, with a particular focus on New Mexico and Oklahoma law. Zimmerman received a certificate, a \$200 check, and a piece of Cherokee pottery.



*Professors Tatum and Royster, along with Native American Law Librarian and NALC Fellow Faye Hadley*

## *Two New Publications: Cohen's Handbook and the Mvskoke Law Reporter*

Two long-awaited books now have Fall 2005 release dates. The new edition of Cohen's Handbook of Federal Indian Law is now at the publisher and in final copy-editing stages. Lexis-Nexis plans to release it sometime this fall. TU law professors **Vicki Limas, Valerie Phillips, Bill Rice, Judith Royster, and Melissa Tatum** all contributed to the book, and **Royster** served as one of seven members of the editorial board.

The Mvskoke Law Reporter is also nearing completion, and is expected to be published this Fall. The Reporter collects, indexes, and digests all the opinions of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Courts from Removal to the present. The Reporter consists of eight volumes and will be kept current through annual pocket parts. Professor **Tatum** (of NALC) and Professor **Michelle Grunsted** (LL.M. '04, now on the faculty at OU's College of Business) are the general editors of the reporter, which will be published by the Native American Law Center Press.

## *Moot Court Update*

Two teams represented TU at this spring's National NALSA Moot Court Competition. Both teams advanced to the elimination rounds, with the team of **Brian Utsey** and **Nick Gerner** making it to the Sweet Sixteen and the team of **Amanda Proctor** and **Chad Burris** making it to the Quarter Finals. Congratulations to all four students! Congratulations and thanks also go to **Lori Guevara** (LL.M. '03 and staff attorney for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Legal Project), who coached the teams.

The Seventh Annual TU Intramural moot court competition was held in March/April. Congratulations to first place winner **Gilbert Pilkington**, second place winner **Brian Utsey**, and third place winner **Leslie Dubois**. Representing TU at next year's National NALSA moot court competition will be Taylor Burke, Leslie Dubois, Candice Freeman, and Gilbert Pilkington.

## *Awards Banquet May 2005*



*Dawn Sturdevant Baum, receiving LL.M. of the Year Award from outgoing NALSA President Amanda Proctor*

TU's NALSA chapter hosted a reception and awards banquet on Saturday, May 7 before the law school's hooding ceremony. NALSA honored its graduates by presenting each with a certificate and an engraved pin to wear with their graduation regalia.

NALSA also began a new tradition of presenting awards to outstanding students, faculty, and staff. Receiving the inaugural awards were **Candice Freeman**, 1L of the Year; **Jaimee Reid**, 2L of the Year; **Brian Utsey**, 3L of the Year; **Dawn Sturdevant Baum**, LL.M. of the Year; **Faye Hadley**, Auxiliary Member of the Year, and **Melissa Tatum**, Faculty Sponsor of the Year.

The TU NALSA Auxiliary was initiated in June 2004 to provide additional support to the TU NALSA chapter. Memberships are available for \$50 per year; recent law school alumni (who graduated within the past 5 years) may join for \$25 per year.

The NALC Faculty also presented the graduation stoles to the new Certificate and LL.M. graduates. At the May ceremony, four students received the Native American Law Certificate -- **Kim Appelman, Chad Burris, Tahlina Nofire, and Amanda Proctor**. Three students also earned their LL.M. degrees -- **Dawn Sturdevant Baum** (with honor), **Pam Kushmaul**, and **Joe Mrstik** (with honor).

NALC also began a new tradition of honoring an outstanding J.D. student and an outstanding LL.M. student. Both awards are based on academic performance, community service, and commitment to Indian law. The award includes a certificate and a copy of the 2005 Cohen's Handbook. The Sneed, Lang Outstanding J.D. Student Award was a tie, and went to **Amanda Proctor** and **Chad Burris**. The Connor & Winters Outstanding LL.M. Student Award went to **Dawn Sturdevant Baum**. NALC wishes to thank Sneed, Lang and Connor & Winters for sponsoring the awards.

Congratulations to all the graduates and award recipients!!

## Center, Faculty, and Student News

**Professor Vicki Limas** has agreed to serve another year as Associate Dean. She was also busy this year with several speaking engagements, including at Fed Bar.

**Professor Bill Rice** will be teaching Indian Gaming Law in this summer's Geneva Institute. He'll also teach the class at TU this Fall. Professor Rice is also serving as a consultant to the Sac and Fox Nation on economic development and land acquisition projects.

**Professor Judith Royster** has been busy with numerous speaking engagements this spring. On April 2, she was at North Dakota's Indian Law Conference speaking about *Allotment and Environment*; on April 15, she spoke on *Winters in the East: Tribal Reserved Rights to Water in Riparian States* at the 30th annual Federal Bar Association Indian Law Conference, and on April 16, she spoke on *Water Rights Adjudication -- Water and the Federal Trust* at the American Indian Law Center / Natural Resources Journal symposium on *Moving Beyond the Current Paradigm: Redefining the Federal-Tribal Trust Relationship for This Century*. As if that weren't enough, Royster will be a faculty member at the National Judicial College program on Essential Skills for Tribal Court Judges May 16-17.

**Professor Kathy Supernaw** joined us full time May 1 as Supervising Attorney of the Indian law clinic. She is also serving on the technical committee to draft legislation designed to resolve the trust litigation.

**Professor Melissa Tatum** has also been busy speaking this spring. In early January, she moderated a panel on *Feminist Principles and Cultural Norms* at the annual AALS Conference; she served as a faculty member at the National Tribal Judicial Center Feb 28-Mar 3 for its course on *Handling Domestic Violence Cases for Tribal Judges*; and on April 6, she spoke to Bishop Kelley High School's Politics Club about *Current Issues in Native American Law*. Tatum also spoke on jurisdiction, full faith and credit, and protection orders at the Spirits of Hope conference April 28 in Ada, Oklahoma. On the non-law front, Tatum sold her first short story to a science fiction anthology, *International House of Bubbas*, which will be published this fall.

TU's NALSA chapter held its new officer elections in April. Congratulations to **President Brian Utsey**, **Vice President Leslie Dubois**, **Treasurers Katrina Jacuk (Fall) and Candice Freeman (Spring)**, **Secretary Gilbert Pilkington**, and **Public Relations/Historian Jaimee Reed!**



*Brian Utsey, JD '05; TU NALSA's 3L of the Year; 2004-2005 national moot court team (advanced to Sweet Sixteen); 2nd place, 2005 Intramural Moot Court Competition, LL.M. candidate, and National NALSA Area 3 Rep for 2005-2006. Whew!*

**The Native American Law Center oversees all aspects of Indian law at TU, including:**

- **Native American Law Certificate**
- **LL.M. in American Indian/Indigenous Law**
- **Indian Law Clinic**
- **Geneva Institute**
- **Library collection**
- **NALSA**
- **Moot Court**
- **NALC Fellows**

**For more information, see our website**

**[www.law.utulsa.edu/indianlaw](http://www.law.utulsa.edu/indianlaw)**

**or contact us at**

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