



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY COLLOQUIA & EVENTS

MONDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2021



American Indian and Indigenous Studies (AIIS) Program
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
University of Florida

Please plan on joining us for a celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day! The program features cultural events and colloquia, followed by an official land acknowledgement statement by the Gainesville Mayor's Office downtown. Please contact Professor Richard Conley, Department of Political Science, at rconley@ufl.edu with any questions. Light refreshments, including New Mexico piñon coffee and traditional fry bread, will be provided for the events in Anderson Hall 216, Department of Political Science (first come, first served). All members of the UF and wider community are welcome!

“Traditional Drum Music and Southeastern Native Songs and History”

10:30 a.m – 12:00 p.m., Anderson Hall 216



Chief August “Cocoa” Creppel
(United Houma Nation, Louisiana)



Layla Creppel
(Oglala Sioux/Lumbee/Tuscarora)

August Creppel, Chief of the United Houma Nation, has been involved in his tribal community for almost 30 years. The United Houma Nation spans Terrebonne, Lafourche, and four other Parishes in Louisiana. Known as “Cocoa” among his people, he was born and raised on the bayous of Lafitte, LA. He now resides in Houma, LA with his wife Layla. Chief Creppel served as tribal councilman for District 8 (Jefferson Parish) for many years before becoming Vice-Chief for one year. In 2018, he became Chief of the tribe, and is currently in the 3rd year of his first term of office. Chief Creppel’s vision of unity for the tribe focuses on embracing, honoring, and providing assistance to the elders, while offering a better future of opportunity for the next generation of youth. With a passion and love for his people, Chief Creppel continues his hard efforts to utilize and explore all resources to benefit and move his tribe forward. In addition to his duties as Chief, he serves as a fireman and first responder, pastor and founder of Little Temple Native American Ministries, singer, actor, and former professional wrestler.

Layla Creppel (Oglala Sioux/Lumbee/Tuscarora) hails from Robeson County, North Carolina. Having been involved in the Indigenous community for many years, she is passionate about serving her people. With her multi-disciplinary background, she is also an environmental scientist and musician by profession. Music has always been a huge part of her life. She is a former member of world-renowned Native Women's a cappella trio, Ulali, while still participating in other musical collaborations. Layla has travelled extensively, sharing songs that tell the story of native history, resilience, and culture, all while staying true to her North Carolina roots. As the First Lady of the United Houma Nation, she continues to be a strong advocate of women's and Indigenous rights, diversity and inclusion, environmental awareness and activism, the arts, and many other critical issues happening in our world today. Layla and her husband happily reside in Houma, Louisiana.

“Significant Timelines in American Indian History”

12:30-2:00 p.m., Anderson Hall 216



Pat Arnould

Citizen of the United Houma Nation (Louisiana).

Ms. Arnould holds a B.S. degree in Accounting and a M.B.A from Southeastern Louisiana University (SLU) in Lafayette. She has been a certified public accountant since 1993. She taught accounting and economics at SLU from 1990-1997. She was Deputy Director of the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs from 1998-2006. She worked in the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security (GOSHEP) as the Plans Branch Manager from 2006-2016. She was Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs from 2018-2021. Pat handled activities and issues regarding American Indian citizens of Louisiana. She was the liaison for Louisiana’s four federal tribes and eleven state tribes to all state agencies. She sat on several state and federal committees and commissions and consulted and assisted, as needed, with GOSHEP during time of disasters.

“Challenges to the Protection of Native American Sacred Sites on the Great Plains: A Theoretical Framework and Five Case Studies”

2:30-4:00 p.m., Anderson Hall 216



Richard Conley, PhD

Professor of Political Science, University of Florida

A scholar of American Government raised in the Southwest, Professor Conley holds a doctorate from the University of Maryland (1998) and a M.A. from McGill University in Montréal, Canada (1993). He has taught at UF since 1998 and has directed the interdisciplinary American Indian and Indigenous Studies (AIIS) Program since 2020. His teaching and research include the Presidency, presidential-congressional relations, and Native American Studies. His most recent book, entitled *Donald Trump and American Populism*, was published by Edinburgh University Press (UK) in 2020. He is currently researching a book, based on archival and field research, that investigates the way in which national institutions--Congress, the Presidency, and the Supreme Court--have interacted since 1949 to shape incongruencies in policymaking towards Native Americans including economic and social development, education, and the protection of sacred sites on and off reservation lands. In 2017 and 2018 (pre-pandemic) he undertook Spring Break trips for students to visit tribal councils and historical sites, engage in service to elders, and interact with Native American artists and historians on the Great Plains and Four Corners, respectively.

“Acknowledging Indigenous Land”

4:00 – 5:00 p.m., *via Zoom*

Link for Registration: <https://ufl.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAodu6urDIuHtKztUvNPhF54k7Nbbb1eFpp>
Simulcast via Hyflex in Anderson 216



Ginessa Mahar, PhD

Anthropology Librarian and Library Liaison to the American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program, George A. Smathers Library, University of Florida

Dr. Mahar holds a doctorate in anthropology from the University of Florida (2019) and a M.A. in anthropology from Hunter College (2010). Before joining the Laboratory of Southeastern Archaeology at UF, she worked in the North American Archaeology Lab at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Her dissertation focused on the ancient fishing technologies employed along the Florida Gulf Coast. Her research integrated both archaeological and ethnographic approaches, and a mixed methods approach to develop new models of fishing practices to better interpret the archaeological record regarding past human-environmental interactions along Florida’s coast.

Dr. Mahar will be speaking on relevant history of UF as a land grant university on Indigenous land and the ongoing efforts to develop a land acknowledgement for the George A. Smathers Libraries. The goal of this discussion is to educate the broader UF community and empower community organizations with the knowledge and understanding needed to construct a land acknowledgement and respect Indigenous land.

“Proclamation and Permanent Marker Recognizing Indigenous Peoples”

6:00-6:45 p.m.

Gainesville City Hall, 200 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL



INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

MONDAY OCTOBER 11

Gainesville City Hall 200 East University Avenue
6:00 to 6:45 pm FREE+OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Indigenous People's Day (IPD) Task Force and the City of Gainesville invite you to an honoring of the first peoples of this land. A proclamation will be read and a permanent marker unveiled recognizing the indigenous inhabitants of Florida. The Potano, Timucua, and their ancestors lived and established villages and towns through north central Florida. Gainesville is the only municipality in Florida to no longer recognize Columbus Day, an official change accepted 3 years ago.

Come help us celebrate the shift in our telling of history.



For info contact Sylvia: morningmeadow9@gmail.com

North Florida Native American Pottery Design
Collection Florida Museum of Natural History