



**American Philosophical Association  
Committee on the Status of Indigenous Philosophers**

**Annual Report to the Executive Board  
for 2009-2010**

*Submitted by Thomas M. Norton-Smith, Chair*

**1) Canceled APA 2010 Pacific Division Meeting Sessions, Sponsored by CSIP**

The Committee was prepared to sponsor two sessions at the Pacific Division meetings in San Francisco, organized by Program Chair Kyle Whyte (Michigan State). Unfortunately, after difficult deliberations the program participants uniformly agreed that the sessions should be canceled in support of the labor action by the hospitality employees at the Westin in San Francisco. (While not on strike, the hospitality employees asked conference attendees to boycott the Westin.)

Although the sessions did not take place, I rehearse the schedule to honor Kyle Whyte and our colleagues who were prepared to participate. If at all possible, these sessions will be rescheduled for one of the 2011 division meetings.

Panel I: Topic: Symposium on Environmental Justice and Indigenous Peoples

Chair: Thomas Norton-Smith (Kent State University)

Robert Figueroa (University of North Texas)

“Risking Recognition: New Assessment Strategies for Environmental Justice and American Indian Communities.”

Brian Yazzie Burkhart (Woodbury University)

“On The Killing of Navajo Sheep in the 1930s: A Case Study in Environmental Justice”

Kyle Powys Whyte (Michigan State University)

“Environmental Justice and American Indian Communities: Political not Traditional”

Luan Fauteck Makes Marks (Tanam Institute)

“Responsibilities vs. Rights: Vine Deloria, Jr. and Environmental Justice”

Panel II: Topic: Author Meets Readers

Chair: Lorraine Mayer (Brandon University)

*Science, Colonialism, and Indigenous Peoples: The Cultural Politics of Law and Knowledge* by Laurelyn Whitt (Brandon University)

Panelists: Tommy Thomas (Brandon University)

Thomas Norton-Smith (Kent State University)

Kyle Powys Whyte (Michigan State University)

## 2) Vine Deloria Jr. Memorial Fund

There were two applications for travel funds—and one award of travel funds—in the first of three years of the Vine Deloria Jr. Memorial Fund. This is a modest beginning, and the Committee needs to redouble its efforts to advertise the travel grants and essay prizes. To that end, I reiterate the Vine Deloria Jr. Memorial Fund criteria:

The American Philosophical Association Board of Officers has authorized up to \$2000 in each of the next three years to support activities “to increase the presence of Indigenous students in our classes and scholars in our profession.” The APA Committee on the Status of Indigenous Philosophers (CSIP) has established graduate and undergraduate awards for Native students in the name of Lakota scholar Vine Deloria, Jr. CSIP will award up to three \$500 grants to fund travel for Indigenous *graduate students* to attend APA conferences, with special consideration given to graduate students who are presenting papers. CSIP will also award up to five \$100 philosophy essay prizes for Native *undergraduate students*, with two of the prizes reserved for students attending tribal colleges. Native graduate and undergraduate students interested in applying for Vine Deloria, Jr. APA conference travel grants and philosophy essay prizes should contact CSIP Chair Thomas Norton-Smith at [tnortons@kent.edu](mailto:tnortons@kent.edu) for further information, application, and submission.

**Deloria APA Conference Travel Grants.** Native graduate philosophy students are invited to apply for \$500 grants to fund travel to American Philosophical Association conferences. One travel grant is reserved for each of the conferences with the following deadlines for the receipt of requests: December 7, 2009 for the Eastern Division meetings; January 1, 2010 for the Central Division meetings; February 1, 2010 for the Pacific Division meetings.

Applicants for the travel grant are asked to submit *electronically* a multi-paragraph statement (1) introducing the applicant and affirming tribal enrollment or affiliation, and (2) detailing the applicant's purpose in attending the conference. Since special consideration will be given to applicants who are presenting, it is especially important to detail and evidence any and all contributions that applicants will make to the conference.

**Deloria Philosophy Essay Prizes.** Indigenous undergraduate students are invited to submit a philosophy essay for one of five \$100 prizes. Submissions should be *electronic* and received by April 1, 2010.

An essay can be about any *philosophical* problem or figure, topic or methodology, tradition or movement, but contributions to or reflections on Native or Indigenous philosophies will be especially welcome. Submissions should be well-composed and conform to a standard style manual, e.g., the *MLA Style Manual*. Essays should be between six and ten pages in length, standard margins and 12 pt. font.

### **3) Membership changes**

The Committee welcomes newly appointed members Lee Hester (Associate Chair, University of Science & Arts of Oklahoma), Jacob Held (Marquette), and Debby Hutchins (Gonzaga). It also wishes to thank departing members Katy Gray Brown (Manchester) and Adam Arola (Pacific).

### **4) Newsletter on Indigenous Philosophers**

The Committee continues to encourage submissions to the APA Newsletter on Indigenous Philosophers. Those interested in contributing should contact Lorraine Mayer (Brandon University) at [mayerl@brandonu.ca](mailto:mayerl@brandonu.ca).

---

Thomas M. Norton-Smith, for the CSIP: Lee Hester (Associate Chair), Gordon Christie, George Rudebusch, Jennifer Vest, Jacob M. Held, Debby D. Hutchins, Lorraine Mayer (Newsletter on Indigenous Philosophers).