

Greetings!

As I write this brief letter to introduce our very first Department of American Indian Studies newsletter, I am forced to think about the unprecedented events that we are now living, albeit through many different circumstances. I send hope that all of you are well and thriving. Just a few weeks ago we were in the midst of planning our many events for Spring quarter, not the least of which our graduation ceremonies for our amazing students, which will now occur online. While this newsletter finds us physically separated and many of our events postponed, I still want to reach out to celebrate the wonderful work that makes American Indian Studies such a joyful place at the UW; to engage the nationally known scholarship of our faculty and the many contributions our students make, to the University and to our many, many communities. I want to thank our staff Marcia, Kai, and Todd for keeping us going, literally. We are still together, most notably in spirit. Our Spring classes are online and filled with students. Faculty and adjuncts are available, along with our staff to help you continue to engage with us. We deeply thank you for all the work this represents, work that you gave from your hearts and minds and will.

This first newsletter highlights achievements and ongoing news that will update you on our continued efforts to bring a quality experience to our students, many of who are struggling with difficult changes implemented to stop the Corona virus. We had planned to highlight our sister program, the Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies from the beginning, but now we need to honor their quick and effective efforts to make their resources available to our students for emergency uses, going far beyond their original mandate. Another highlight this year was the launch of our first graduate cohort for a Ph.D. Certificate in American Indian and Indigenous Studies, a momentous program for the many UW graduate students who want to acknowledge how their work engages American Indian Studies. We also do not want to lose sight of the Marvin Oliver fund. Marvin Oliver, who passed last summer was one of our founding faculty members. Marvin indelibly touched students through his art and his dedication to their success. As a tribute to his life and legacy, we invite you to consider making a gift to a cause that was important to Marvin: support of undergraduate students in the Department of American Indian Studies. Your gift to the *Marvin Oliver Memorial Endowed Fund for Undergraduate Students in American Indian Studies* will enable the department to provide broad-based direct financial support to undergraduate students. We also would like to note our *Friends of American Indian Studies* fund, a place for gifts of immediate use at the discretion of the Chair, also in support of our students and programs. A link to both of these funds is on our AIS home page, ais.washington.edu.

With many good thoughts for you and yours,

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