



**American Philosophical Association
Committee on the Status of American Indians in Philosophy**

**Annual Report to the Executive Board
for 2007-2008**

Submitted by Laurelyn Whitt, Chair

1) APA 200 Pacific Division Meeting Session, Sponsored by CSAIP

The Committee sponsored two sessions at the Pacific meetings in Pasadena, chaired by Thomas Norton-Smith (Philosophy, Kent State University). For the first time in our short history, both sessions featured new books by CSAIP members. The titles and participants were as follows:

Panel I (9:00 - noon)

Author Meets Readers: *This Is Not a Peace Pipe: Towards a Critical Indigenous Philosophy*

by Dale Turner

Chair: Thomas Norton-Smith (Kent State University)

Panelists:

Dale Turner (Author, Dartmouth)

Adam Arola (University of Oregon)

Shawn Burns (Stanford University)

Gordon Christie (University of British Columbia)

Brian Yazzie Burkhart (Pitzer College)

Panel II (4:00-6:00)

Author Meets Readers: *Cries from a Metis Heart* by Lorraine Mayer

Chair: Thomas Norton-Smith (Kent State University)

Panelists:

Lorraine Mayer (Author, Brandon University)

Lee Hester (University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma)

Scott Pratt (University of Oregon)

Sandra Tomsons (University of Winnipeg)

We took advantage of our time together to hold a business meeting, and to enjoy two fine dinners. The Committee welcomed the following new/newly appointed members: Adam Arola (University of Oregon) through 30 June 2010; Gordon Christie (University of British Columbia) through 30 June 2011; Lee Hester (University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma) through 30 June 2009; and Dale Turner (Dartmouth University) through 30 June 2011.

2) The Vine Deloria Jr. Memorial Fund

The Committee has been working, over the last two years, on a proposal to establish, maintain and raise funds to assist indigenous students pursuing philosophy. In order to facilitate the early stages of this project, and to demonstrate to potential contributors an existing commitment from the APA, the CSAIP has requested a start-up grant from the APA in the amount of \$5000.00. A revised grant proposal was submitted to and endorsed by the Committee on Inclusiveness earlier this year. The Chair of that Committee, Cheshire Calhoun, will present the proposal to the Board in November of this year. A second, multi-year funding proposal for the project, is also being submitted to the Board.

This project commemorates the life and work of Vine Deloria Jr., and honors his memory and continuing presence among us. Further funding will be solicited through a variety of means, including approaches to foundations and tribal councils, outside grant applications and APA membership donations. The preliminary steering committee for the VDMF includes the following CSAIP members: Katy Gray Brown, Lee Hester, Thomas Norton-Smith, and Laurie Anne Whitt.

3) SISIP Project Update (SISIP = Supporting Indigenous Students in Philosophy)

The initial stage of this project was completed in Fall of 2006. Chairs of U.S. philosophy departments were contacted by email and asked to have any indigenous students studying philosophy, and interested in being placed on our emailing list, contact us. Letters were also sent to the chairs of Canadian philosophy departments and to Tribal College Presidents, requesting that they forward them to appropriate students. This enabled the Committee to do two things: 1) to making these students aware of the existence of CSAIP and of other Indigenous scholars in philosophy, and 2) to develop a mailing list of those responding that provides them with information about scholarships, grants, events, graduate and post-graduate study and so on. (This list will not be made public, but those who wish to have announcements passed on regarding opportunities are invited to contact CSAIP to have relevant information sent to the list.

The outgoing Committee Chair recommends that future Committees consider repeating this process approximately every three years. This will be especially important when the Vine Deloria Jr. Memorial Fund is up and going. The Committee might also consider some systematic way of contacting those who respond and/or of actively mentoring those

who would welcome that. Since some are near the end of their graduate work, and some at the beginning of their undergraduate work, there is quite a range of needs and forms of assistance to be addressed.

4) Name Change Proposal

The Committee has submitted a proposal requesting that its name be changed to the Committee on the Status of Indigenous Philosophers in order to better represent those it serves. The Committee includes indigenous philosophers with origins in Alaska and Hawaii and Canada, none of whom are properly included by the present Committee name. The proposal is one of three from this Committee which will be taken up at the November 2008 Board meeting.

5) Newsletter on American Indians in Philosophy

The Committee decided in 2005 to move to a three-year, renewable term editorship or co-editorship for the Newsletter. Co-editors Katy Gray Brown (Manchester College) and Lorraine Mayer (Brandon University, Manitoba) have completed their first three-year term and have decided to step aside. The Committee thanks them for their hard work and welcomes Adam Arola (University of Oregon) as the new editor. Those interested in contributing may contact him at: aarola@uoregon.edu.

6) New Committee Chair

As outgoing Chair, I would like to thank all of those who have helped share the work of this committee over the past three and a half years, and to warmly welcome Thomas Norton-Smith who will Chair it for the next three. The Committee, we, will be in very good hands indeed.

Laurelyn Whitt, for the CSAIP:

Adam Arola, Katy Gray Brown, Brian Burkhart, Gordon Christie, Lee Hester, Lorraine Mayer (*ex officio*), Thomas Norton-Smith, and Dale Turner.