

Morse INDEPENDENT

Upcoming

W. Richard West Jr., founding director of the National Museum of the American Indian, will serve as 2006–7 Morse Chair Professor. Look for more details in the next newsletter.



KATHERINE FOGDEN, NMAI PHOTO SERVICES

Winter 2006

January 27–March 4: Art Exhibit, "Marquee Massacres: Native Americans in 100 Years of Global Movie Graphics," Jacobs Gallery, Hult Center for the Performing Arts, Eugene

February 10–12: Film Festival, "Imagining Indians: Indigenous North Americans in Film," Bijou Art Cinemas, Eugene

February 17: Conference: "Intersections of Native American Culture, Politics, and Law," Knight Law Center, University of Oregon

April 14: Symposium: "From the Warrior Viewpoint: The Next Generation of Indian Law and Policy," Knight Law Center, University of Oregon

For more information, visit www.morsechair.uoregon.edu.



JACK LIU

2005–6 Morse Chair Professor Wilma Mankiller and UO President Dave Frohnmayer enjoyed questions from the audience following her public address at the Erb Memorial Union on November 9, 2005.

In Praise of Wilma Mankiller

By Brian Klopotek, 2005–6 Morse Resident Scholar

What an honor it was to host **Wilma Mankiller**, one of the most important leaders in Native America during the last fifty years, at the University of Oregon. What a treasure it was for this community to have the opportunity to hear her speak and to share conversations with this eminent and approachable leader. And what a rare gift it was for our students to take a class from Mankiller, a person who actually helped shape so much of the history she taught, and Rennard Strickland, one of the foremost scholars of Indian law and politics in the nation.

Mankiller inspires us to join the good fight, to think good thoughts, and to work for a better world. I encourage those who had the good fortune to meet her during the fall to take a moment to reflect upon the public lecture, symposia, and other special events and etch them firmly into your memory, for we have shared a space with a truly historical figure.

Wado means thank you in Cherokee: Our grateful community extends a heartfelt *wado* to Mankiller and her partner, **Charlie Soap**, for their generosity of mind and spirit while visiting Eugene.

Director's Column: Rennard Strickland Celebrates Forty

By Margaret Hallock



The Morse Center was created in 2000, when **Rennard Strickland** was dean of the School of Law. His vision for the center matched that of President

Dave Frohnmayer: They wanted to create a center that would host world-class visitors, stimulate discussion of important topics, involve students in exciting research and discussion, and reach out to the public and the community beyond the university. This vision came to fruition this year with our program on "Indigenous Peoples:

National Policy and International Human Rights."

The Morse Center programs focusing on indigenous peoples are a fitting tribute to Indian law scholar Rennard Strickland, who is of Cherokee and Osage heritage and has maintained close contact with his tribes. The idea for the theme was his, and he has been the guiding intellectual light as a Morse Center Resident Scholar.

Wilma Mankiller, former chief of the Cherokee Nation, accepted our invitation to visit the UO as the Morse Professor largely because of Strickland. They taught an ethnic studies class that was powerful and inspirational to the forty-five students who were able to take the class. Overall, Mankiller's visit was spectacular, attracting more than 700 people to her public address and energizing the local Native

community. And next year's visitor, **W. Richard West Jr.**, accepted our invitation saying he was honored to be connected to "two people who have inspired, in one way or another, every move of consequence in my life, one person at an admiring distance and the other much closer up: **Wayne Morse** and Rennard Strickland."

***"Enough of the past.
Enough of the present.
Let us look to the
future. I believe that
history suggests that if
mankind is to survive
on this planet, the next
Columbian Exchange—the
pattern for the next 500
years—must be rooted in
the pre-Columbian ethic
of the Native American.
The second quincentenary
belongs to the Indian."***

— Rennard Strickland,
*Tonto's Revenge:
Reflections on American
Indian Culture and Policy.*

Professor Strickland will take emeritus status at the end of this academic year. He plans to retire sometime in 2006 to continue his writing. The university has been blessed with his presence for a decade, and the Morse Center simply would not exist in its current form without his leadership and guidance.

In celebration of Strickland's fortieth book and fortieth year of teaching, the Morse Center and the School of Law are planning a symposium titled, "From the Warrior Viewpoint: The Next Generation of Indian Law and Policy." The event will



Center Director Margaret Hallock (right) with former Navajo Nation President Peterson Zah (left), Wilma Mankiller, and Rennard Strickland at the Sovereignty and Native Education symposium on October 20, 2005.

be held April 14, 2006, at the Knight Law Center in Eugene. Strickland is known as a mentor who cares about the next generation of scholars and advocates, so it is not surprising that he invited six young scholars from some of the country's preeminent Indian law programs to speculate about the future of Indian law.

Following the day-long symposium, there will be a gala reception honoring Strickland and his contributions to scholarship. Members of his tribes plan to be here to celebrate with us, and Chief Mankiller will return to Eugene for the event. The current principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, **Chad Smith**, also will be in attendance.

Strickland is an Indian, a writer, a teacher, and a mentor. He believes deeply in the dignity of the Indian way and has passed on his knowledge to hundreds of grateful students and peers. **Please help us honor Renard Strickland on April 14, 2006, at the School of Law.**



JACK LIU

Wilma Mankiller, twenty-fifth occupant of the Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics, taught an ethnic studies course and participated in a number of public events while visiting the University of Oregon during the fall. Chief Mankiller is shown here speaking at the Sovereignty and Native Education symposium held in the Many Nations Longhouse on October 20, 2005. See page 4 for a recap of the event.

Conference to Explore Nexus of Culture, Politics, Law

The Morse Center is sponsoring a conference on "Intersections of Native American Culture, Politics, and Law" on February 17, 2006. In Native American communities, law functions both as a means of asserting sovereignty and as a mechanism of colonial control, and culture has provided a critical means of articulating and challenging this paradox and its effects. The conference will bring together Native American artists and scholars to engage a series of inter-related questions about the vexed relationships between artistic and political practices: How do law and culture function in Native expressions of resistance, survival, and invention in U.S. and Canadian colonial contexts? How does law shape Native American cultures? What roles do literature and film play in nation building and sovereignty? Finally, how do cultural, legal, and political practices contribute to the creation of individual and collective Native identities? To examine these questions, the conference will focus on three intersecting nodes: law and literature; art and politics; and sovereignty and cinema.

Intersections of Native American Culture, Politics, and Law—organized by **Beth Piatote**, a doctoral student in modern thought and literature at Stanford University, and **Shari Huhndorf**, a UO associate professor of English—will feature UO faculty and local community members as well as the following internationally known artists and scholars: **Marcus Amerman**, **John Borrows**, **Alanis Obomsawin**, and **Cheryl Suzack**.

The conference is free and open to the public. For more information, visit <http://www.morsechair.uoregon.edu/intersections.html>.

—**Shari Huhndorf, English**

REMEMBERING CITIZEN PORTER

The Morse Center board and staff recognize with sadness the death of **Charlie Porter**, former congressman and political activist. Porter played a key role in establishing the Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics after Senator Morse died, and he guided our activities throughout the decades. He was an energetic and brilliant activist for human and civil rights. At the Morse Free Speech Plaza in Eugene, the quote next to Porter's name states that "the highest political office is that of citizen." Charlie Porter made the most of being a citizen.

IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT WOLF

Former Senate staffer **Robert E. Wolf** died in December of cancer. Wolf worked closely with Senator Morse on a variety of conservation issues, from range lands to timber exports. The Morse Center, in cooperation with the Wayne Morse Historical Park Corporation, will print "Personal Memories of a Great Conservation Senator: Wayne L. Morse," in the coming months. Wolf wrote this paper during his last year, and it is a valuable part of the legacy of both men.

Indigenous Peoples: National Policy and International Human Rights

A recap of fall events hosted by the Morse Center

Students Say Class Was Inspirational

Morse Professor **Wilma Mankiller** and Morse Resident Scholar **Rennard Strickland** were instructors for a fall term ethnic studies class on "Native American Life, Law, and Leadership in the Modern Era." This popular class guided forty-five lucky students through key issues in contemporary tribal life, from Indian mascots to tribal health centers. Strickland provided context

by discussing the history of law and Indian policy, and Mankiller reflected on the real-life impacts of policies and the experiences of tribal people. Students discussed issues in one of seven "clans" or discussion groups, and each student wrote a series of short papers. The class was held in the Many Nations Longhouse; this contributed to the feeling of learning history, which was palpable in each meeting.

The students knew they were fortunate to be in a class with two distinguished and accomplished Native American leaders. One student said the class "was the best university class I have ever had." Chief Mankiller was "very inspiring, educational, and empowering." Another stated, "I hope that my life can in some way have an impact on the world that is as positive and hopeful as I experienced learning from Chief Mankiller." The structure of the class also received praise for contributing to a comfortable and communal learning environment.

—Margaret Hallock, Director

Rennard Strickland and Wilma Mankiller shared their wisdom, insight, and experiences with students in an ethnic studies course on Native American life, law, and leadership in the modern era.



SOL NEELMAN



JACK LIU

The Honorable Peterson Zah, former president of the Navajo Nation and current adviser to Arizona State University's president on American Indian affairs, was a featured speaker at the symposium on Sovereignty and Native Education.

Symposium Focused on Sovereignty and Native Education

The Morse Center hosted a dynamic symposium dealing with Sovereignty and Native Education on October 20, 2005. The day-long event explored topical issues concerning Native American education, including the new generation of Indian-run schools designed to preserve traditional knowledge and provide quality education for tribal youths.

The symposium included two panel discussions. Autonomous Indian Schools: Sovereignty and Colonialism, was moderated by **Howie Arnett**, counsel to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and featured University of Minnesota Professor **Brenda Child**; Spokane Tribal Judge **David Harding**; **Annie Tester**, principal of Nixyaawii Community School; and **Debbie LaCroix**, cultural curriculum adviser to Chemawa Indian School.

Alison Ball, director of the UO's Child and Family Center, moderated the second panel, Sovereignty, Education, and Traditional Knowledge:

Preserving Traditional Knowledge and the Role of Non-Native Schools. The Hon. **Elizabeth Furse**, Cherokee activist **Charlie Soap**, and **Janne Underriner**, director of the UO's Northwest Indian Language Institute, discussed current legislation and initiatives.

Morse Center Distinguished Speaker **Peterson Zah** delivered the evening keynote address, "The Navajo Sovereignty in Education Act of 2005." Zah serves as adviser on American Indian Affairs to Arizona State University's president and is the former president of the Navajo Nation.

—**Ben Hovland, Morse Fellow**

Standing-Room-Only Crowd Hears Chief Mankiller Speak

Chief **Wilma Mankiller's** address November 9 in the Erb Memorial Union Ballroom was one of the Morse Center's best-attended events. More than 700 people came to hear her words and also show their appreciation for her contributions to the community. Chief Mankiller spoke about what it means to be Indian and described some of the many challenges still facing Native Americans, including adequate education and health care. She grounded this discussion with an exploration of Native American history and told the audience about the forced march her ancestors endured on the Trail of Tears. After her address, Chief Mankiller took questions from the audience. This allowed her to clarify things she had talked about and share her thoughts and perspectives on issues such as the use of Native American mascots for sports teams.

The following day, Chief Mankiller was one of the featured speakers at a conference on Women in Tribal Leadership held in the UO Many Nations Longhouse. Other speakers included **Kathryn Harrison**, the first woman to be elected chair of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde; **Rebecca Tsosie**, a professor of law and the

director of the Indian Legal Program at Arizona State University; and **Beverley Jacobs**, president of the Native Women's Association of Canada.

Chief Mankiller's visit will have a lasting impact on the Eugene community and the people she met while in residence at the University of Oregon.

—**Jason Hartz, Morse Fellow**



Among those attending the LRAP reception were, from left, Katelyn Randall, Tiffany Harris, Laura Sadowski, Ben Hovland, Brigid Turner, Mardell Ployhar, Kristen Parcher, Martha Pellegrino, Sarah Peters, Stacy Kay Lowe, Jona Maukonen, U.S. District Judge Ann Aiken, and Lauren Sommers.

LRAP Announces First Recipients

The School of Law's loan repayment assistance program (LRAP) announced the first recipients of the award during a reception November 4, 2005, in the Wayne Morse Commons. The event also honored the late **Jackie Romm**, whose generous donation helped make the awards possible.

LRAP recipients were Coos Bay public defender **Stacy Kay Lowe** and **Laura Sadowski**, who clerks for Judge **Kip Leonard** at the Lane County Juvenile Court.

The assistance program, which was started as a class project by a group of students who graduated in 2002, enables alumni with large student loan debt to take lower-paying jobs doing public service law. **Tiffany Harris**, a 2002 graduate and Wayne Morse Fellow, said the idea was to ensure that the law school could continue

to "produce law grads that could be advocates for Oregonians who are underrepresented in the legal system and create public servants who are creative and talented and aren't hamstrung by their own debt load."

LRAP has continued to grow, thanks to the efforts of former Dean **Laird Kirkpatrick**, as well as alumni, community members, and students—including Harris and other former and current Morse fellows **Kristen Parcher**, **Jona Maukonen**, **Martha Pellegrino**, **Karen Ellis**, **Lauren Sommers**, **Tehan Wittemyer**, **Mardell Ployhar**, and **Ben Hovland**. This shouldn't be too surprising because wherever a program focuses on public service, Morse Fellows generally are nearby.

—**Ben Hovland and Mardell Ployhar, Morse Fellows**

Film Festival, Art Exhibit Will Focus on Stereotyping of Native Peoples

By Rennard Strickland, 2005–6 Morse Center Resident Scholar and Knight Professor of Law

As the fall quarter at the University of Oregon came to a close, the issue of Native American stereotyping became a topic of national media debate when the Oregon Ducks basketball team (coached by a distinguished African-American) squared off against the University of Illinois (with an American Indian character mascot). The mascot's appearance was deeply disturbing and highly controversial for numbers of Oregon's Native American students who described themselves as "disrespected" and the University of Oregon's participation as "hypocritical" and "hostile."

During winter quarter, the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics plans two major educational events: an exhibition of Indian film poster images and a Native American film festival cosponsored by *The Eugene Weekly*. These offerings are aimed at helping the university and broader community understand the origin of damaging Indian stereotypes and why many members of the Native American community are deeply offended by false and degrading images.

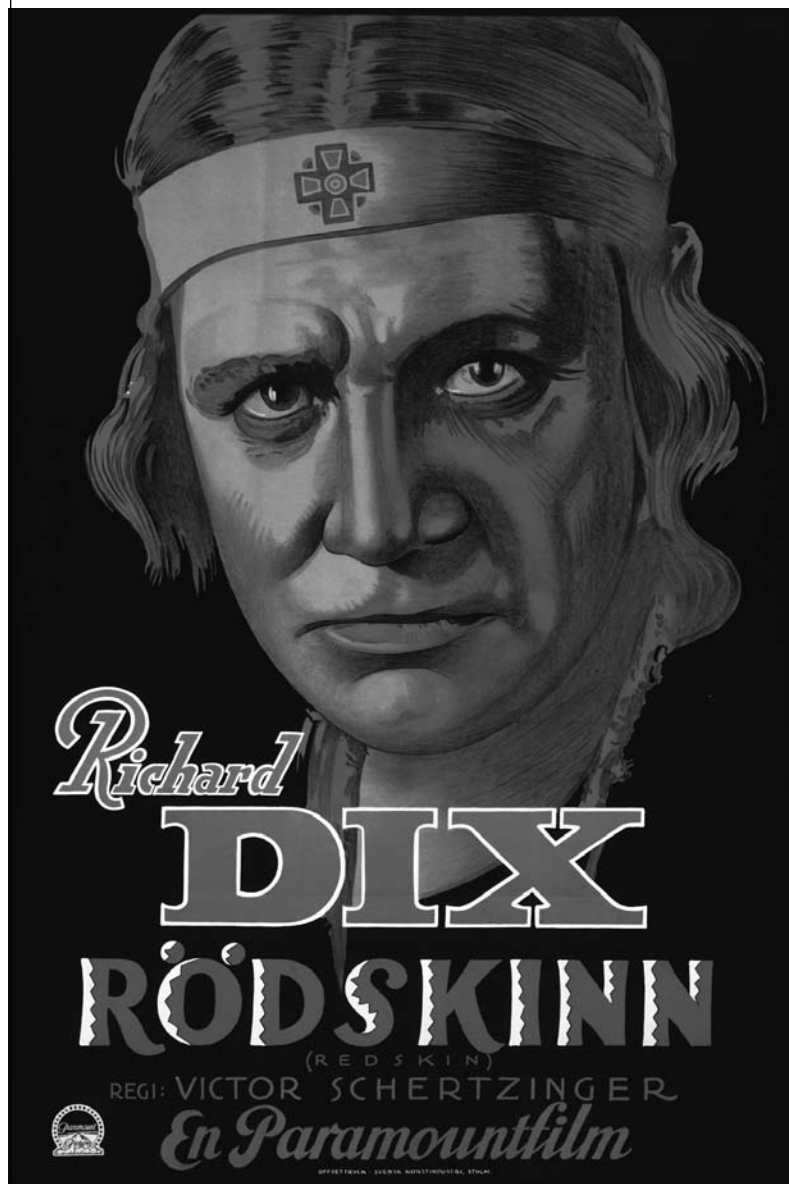
The exhibition, titled "**Marquee Massacres: Native Americans in 100 Years of Global Movie Graphics**," features rare movie posters and other ephemera depicting indigenous peoples. The show opened January 27 and will continue through March 4, 2006, at the Jacobs Gallery at Eugene's Hult Center for the Performing Arts.

The film festival, which will show the historic development of Native images in film from the silent documentary *Nanook of the North* (1922) through the contemporary *Christmas in the Clouds* (2005), will be held February 10–12, 2006, at the Bijou

Art Cinemas in Eugene. The Morse Center chose to focus on film images because movies and television are so pervasive. Like the Indian sports mascot image, the movie stereotype shapes the thoughts and actions of non-Indians who, through law and policy doctrines, control the fate of Indian peoples and their resources

when they legislate and administer practices and policies such as the trust doctrine. Thus, these images not only dominate the crowds at football games but also control decisions about Indian people, Indian land and resources, and the education of Native children.

By bringing these two special events to the community, the Wayne Morse Center hopes to overcome what Morse Chairholder **Wilma Mankiller** described as decisions growing from "cultural ignorance" rather than "racial hostility."



Noble redman, faithful Tonto-like sidekick, savage sinner or redeemer: These images appear over and over in movie posters for films such as The Medicine Man and The Half-Breed. These posters are among the rare works on exhibit now at Jacobs Gallery in downtown Eugene.

Remembering Vine Deloria Jr.

By Wilma Mankiller, 2005–6 Wayne Morse Chair of Law and Politics

Editor's Note: Native American activist and author Vine Deloria Jr., 72, died November 13, 2005. During his forty-year career, he wrote more than twenty books, including *Custer Died For Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto*, and lectured widely on topics ranging from Native American history to sovereignty issues. This tribute is excerpted from a column by Wilma Mankiller that appeared in *Indian Country Today* in January 2005. To read the essay in its entirety, visit <http://www.indiancountry.com>.

Vine Deloria Jr. added more to the public discourse about Native people than any other Native leader in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. His stature and moral integrity, knowledge of tribal law and history, and his ability to debate misinformed journalists, politicians, and academics earned him the admiration and respect of Indian people everywhere. For an entire generation of Native people, he articulated things we all felt but could not name. Vine affirmed for us the importance of our

Vine Deloria Jr.



CHRIS RICHARDS

governments, our culture, our families, and our land. And when our governments or people were threatened, he was one of our most outspoken advocates, whether appearing as an expert witness or refusing an honorary doctorate because of the unjust policies of a university.

“It will be a long time before I get used to the idea of living in a world without Vine Deloria Jr.”

— Wilma Mankiller

Indian attorney Charles Wilkinson once described Vine Deloria as “our Martin Luther King.” One of the roles of a great leader is to help the people see a way forward, particularly during times of crisis. No matter what challenges the Creator sent us, Vine was always at the forefront, urging us on and enabling us to see a clear path for the future.

PIPS Continues To Do Good Work

The Public Interest Public Service Program (PIPS) is a recent addition to the University of Oregon's strong public service tradition. PIPS is dedicated to promoting service and scholarship within the School of Law and throughout the legal community. The program also acts as an “umbrella” organization by supporting other student groups through organizing events, providing volunteers and community contacts, and providing limited financial assistance.

PIPS organizes events with two primary goals in mind: to encourage students' commitment to public interest and service work nationally and globally; and to promote public interest and service opportunities available in Oregon and elsewhere. During fall term, PIPS sponsored its annual Public Interest-Public Service Symposium, which brought the Umatilla Tribal Court to the school to speak to students about Indian Law. PIPS also collected more than 5,000 pounds of food for FOOD for Lane County and encouraged twenty-one groups to donate food baskets.

With financial support from the Wayne Morse Center and the UO, PIPS is planning to bring leading public interest attorneys to campus during spring semester. Guests will talk with students about their work in areas such as human rights law, environmental law, civil rights litigation, and Indian law. PIPS also will sponsor its annual Public Service Day on April 1. More than 100 law students have an opportunity to participate in volunteer projects at Lane County organizations including FOOD for Lane County, Cascades Raptor Center, Friends of Buford Park and Mt. Pisgah, ARC of Lane County, and Committed Partners for Youth.

— **Rebekah Cook,**
PIPS Publicity Director



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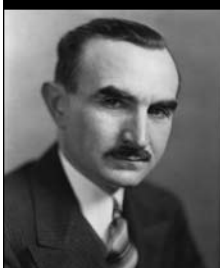
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MORSELS:

“No president has the legal authority under the Constitution to send American boys to their death

on a battlefield in the absence of a declaration of war.”

— Wayne Morse, 1964 floor speech regarding the Gulf of Tonkin resolution

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