

GROWING OUR OWN: INDIGENOUS RESEARCH, SCHOLARS, AND EDUCATION
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About the Authors and Editors

Ray Barnhardt is a professor of cross-cultural studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, where he has been involved in teaching and research related to Native education and rural development since 1970. He has served as Co-Director of the Alaska Rural Systemic Initiative for the past 12 years. He has also served as the director of the Cross-Cultural Education Development (X-CED) Program, the Small High Schools Project, the Center for Cross-Cultural Studies, and the Alaska Native Knowledge Network. His research interests include Indigenous knowledge systems, climate change education, Native teacher education, distance/distributed/higher education, small school curriculum, and institutional adaptations to rural and cross-cultural settings.

Daniel Becker is a Dartmouth student in Native American Studies. He graduated magna cum laude in 2009. He is a Gates Millennium scholar, a Morris K. Udall Fellow and the recipient of awards from the Rufus Choate, American Indian and James O. Freman organizations. Daniel is a dedicated Alaska Native educator, heritage teacher and member of the board of the Balto School. Daniel's passion is teaching Alaskans to be civically engaged and to inspire young adults to be contributing members of our Alaskan communities.

Jeane *T'áaw xíwaa* Breinig (Haida) was raised in Kasaan, and Ketchikan. She is of the Táas Láanas (Sand Beach people), Raven, Brown Bear clan, and is an Associate Dean for Humanities and Professor of English at the University of Alaska Anchorage. She received her PhD from the University of

Washington in 1995; her teaching and research expertise is American Indian and Alaska Native literatures. She is co-editor of *Alaska Native Writers, Storytellers & Orators: The Expanded Edition*, and co-producer and interviewer for the video *Gasa'áan Xaadas Gusuu: Kasaan Haida Elders' Speak*. Dr. Breinig also has published in *Alaska Native Ways: What the Elders Have Taught Us; Telling the Stories*; and *American Indian Quarterly*. She also writes poetry and her poems have appeared in *Red Ink*, *Atlantis: A Women's Studies Journal*, and *Studies in American Indian Literature*. Breinig is a founding member of the Alaska Native Studies Council.

Iris Currey's family hails from Akiak, she is passionate about Alaska Native education and education advocacy. She has worked with the Rasmuson Foundation, First Alaskan's Institute and Alaska Community Action on Toxics. Additionally she has had her artwork shown at the Alaska Native Arts Foundation Gallery. Currently, Iris is the Assistant to the Director at the Center for Research and Alaska Native Education at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Ryan P. Harrod, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). His research interest is reconstructing biocultural identity, health and well-being, and sociopolitical relations among indigenous groups, both past and present. He currently serves on the editorial board for Springer's *Bioarchaeology and Social Theory* Series and the journal *Landscapes of Violence*.

Alexandra Hill is a senior research associate at the UAA Center for Alaska Education Policy Research at ISER. Her current work is primarily in education, focusing on teacher supply, demand and turnover, the evaluation of federal and state-funded education improvement initiatives and education policy issues. She has a BA in from Dartmouth College, an MS in Business Administration from Boston University and a Master in Public Affairs from Princeton University.

Diane Hirshberg is Professor of Education Policy at the Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA), and director of the UAA Center for Alaska Education Policy Research. Her research interests include education policy analysis, indigenous education, circumpolar education issues, and school change. Dr. Hirshberg teaches at the UAA Honors College and the College of Education. She has a PhD in Education from UCLA, a Master of Public Administration from Columbia University and a bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley.

Ishmael Hope, Tlingit/Iñupiaq writer, poet and language advocate. Ishmael's Iñupiaq name is *Angaluuk* and his Tlingit names are Khaagwáask' and Shis.hán. He resides in Juneau with his wife Lily, who is a traditional Tlingit weaver. He has numerous publications and most recently helped create the video game *Never Alone: Kisima Ingitchuna*, a world game based on Alaska Native culture.

Alberta Jones (Alutiiq/Tsimshian) is an assistant professor of Education at the University of Alaska Southeast, Juneau. She is on a tenure track and in her fifth year at UAS. Prior to teaching at UAS, she spent twenty years in the Juneau School District teaching and coordinating Native education grants. She then taught in Maryland's

Montgomery County Public schools with extremely diverse populations. She is currently in the midst of writing her Indigenous Studies Ph.D. dissertation, entitled, "Alaska Native Scholars: A Mixed-Methods Investigation of Factors Influencing their Ph.D. Attainment".

Audrey Leary is Yup'ik and Athabascan from the rural communities of Bethel and Napaimute, Alaska. She was raised traveling up and down the Kuskokwim River, learning about the region and what it means to respect the land, animals, and people. Audrey is currently in her fourth year at the University of Alaska Anchorage where she is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Her goal is to continue towards a Master's degree in Education, and remain within her home of Alaska as a Native educator.

Beth Leonard is Deg Hit'an Athabascan and member of the Shageluk Tribe of interior Alaska. Her father James Dementi was raised in the traditional Athabascan subsistence lifestyle. Her mother is the late Reverend Jean Dementi; she was originally from California. Leonard is an associate professor of Indigenous Studies with the Center for Cross-Cultural Studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). Her interests include Indigenous research methodologies, Athabascan/Dene oral traditions and languages, and exploring strategies for expanding Indigenous spaces in higher education. Leonard is a founding member of the Alaska Native Studies Council.

Sharon *Chilux* Guenther Lind is a Term Assistant Professor teaching in the College of Business and Public Policy at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Lind was born and raised in Kenai, Alaska. Her parents are Bob and Angelina (*Snigaroff*) Guenther. She earned her bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in

management and a minor in mathematics at Warner Pacific College in Portland, Oregon. She acquired her master's in business administration at the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). Currently, Lind is pursuing her PhD at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Lind has been instrumental in establishing a minor in Alaska Native Business Management at UAA. Lind is a founding member of the Alaska Native Studies Council.

Paul Ongtooguk graduated from the University of Washington with a BA in History. He also received a MEd from the University of Michigan. Paul's father was popularly known as Tommy O and he spent many years in Kotzebue, although he was from Teller and Wales. Ongtooguk has stated, "The central purpose of my work has been to understand Alaska Native education and to assist in efforts to improve opportunities for all Alaskans. I am currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Alaska Anchorage, Chair of the Education Committee for the Balto School and Director for of UAA's Center for Research and Alaska Native Education. "

Kristie Parsons is a third-year Indigenous Studies doctoral student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Her research is derived from teachings of Yup'ik Elders. She is a certified special education teacher licensed in Alaska with teaching experience in rural, and urban school settings where she served Alaska Native students and others.

Anna Smith-Chiburis has a BA in Psychology from the University of Alaska, Anchorage (UAA). She also has an MFA in Creative Writing and a Master of Arts in English from UAA. She is currently working on a novel, which includes elements of her traditional Tlingit culture. She also writes poetry.

Thomas Michael Swensen is a shareholder in Koniag, Inc., and Leisnoi, Inc., as well as a member of the federally recognized Tangirnaq Native Village. He sits on the board of directors of the Koniag Education Foundation, which funds the educational goals of Alutiiq students. In 2010 the Western History Association awarded him the Autry Prize in Public History while he was a graduate student at UC Berkeley's Ethnic Studies program. The following year the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign awarded him the Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellowship in American Indian Studies for his work on Alaska Native history and culture. He writes the Alaska Native Studies Blog at <http://alaskanativestudies.blogspot.com>. He is an assistant professor of ethnic studies at Colorado State University.

Bernice Tetpon, Ph.D., Inupiaq, was born and raised in Alaska. She is a former secondary teacher, principal, and university professor, now retired. She earned her PhD from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Her research interest is Alaska Native education. Her dissertation thesis examined why and how Alaska Natives were successful in higher education and successfully earned their teaching certificates.

Lance A. Twitchell carries the Tlingit names *X'unei* and *Du Aani Kawdinook*, and the Haida name *K'eijáakw*. He is from the Tlingit, Haida, and Yup'ik Native nations, and speaks and studies the Tlingit and Haida languages. He is a multimedia artist in poetry, fiction, drama, non-fiction, Northwest Coast Native design, photography, and traditional & contemporary music. He is an Assistant Professor of Alaska Native Languages at the University of Alaska Southeast, and is a founding member of the Alaska Native Studies Council. He lives in Juneau with his wife and children.

Maria Shaa Tláa Williams was born and raised in Tikhatnu (Anchorage) and is Tlingit (Raven moiety, of the Deishetaan clan, and child of the Daklaweidi/Killer Whale). She is currently the Director of the Alaska Native Studies Program at the University of Alaska Anchorage. She received her M.A. and PhD from UCLA in Music specializing in Ethnomusicology. She is the editor of the Alaska Native Reader (Duke University 2009) and is a founding member of the Alaska Native Studies Council.