THE PARTNERSHIP FOR
NATIVE AMERICAN CANCER PREVENTION

Welcome Sheena Hale!

Sheena Hale takes the position of program coordinator for the training core at NAU, starting her role in January.

She is of the Water Flow Together clan, born for the Salt clan, her maternal grandfather’s clan is the Black Sheep, and her paternal grandfather’s clan is Bitter Water.

Growing up, Sheena spent her childhood in St. Michaels, AZ. Later moved to Flagstaff as her mother decided to go back to school. She graduated from Sinagua High School and left to the Bay Area where she attended Stanford University.

At Stanford, she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a minor in Native American Studies.

After college, she was unsure of what she wanted to do, so she worked as a personal assistant for a financial advisor for about a year and decided to move to Tuba City, where her mother lives. She was able to get a job as a substitute teacher for Greyhills Academy High School and Tuba City High School while also assisting with the Greyhills Academy High School Girls’ Varsity basketball program.

After working with students in Tuba City, Sheena realized that she loved interacting with them and seeing the lightbulb go off when they learned something new. Thus, solidifying her desire to work in education. With this insight, Sheena returned to NAU campus employed as an academic advisor with NAU’s Extended Campuses until filling the program coordinator position.

As program coordinator, Sheena hopes she can provide the same expertise and compassion as Christal Black. She would like to have more one-on-one meetings with students, ensuring that their needs and expectations are met while supporting their education goals.
UA Fall Graduate

UA fall graduate, Jennifer Daw, received a degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology. She conducted research with Dr. Nathan A. Ellis at the University of Arizona Cancer Center (UACC), where she took part in the Gut Microbiome project.

She gathered quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) assays by using PCR primer pairs targeting microbial bile salt hydrolase genes and DNA isolated from human stool.

In addition to research, Jennifer enjoyed being part the ZonaZoo student section. Where membership is an all access pass for all sporting events at the UA, which enriches being part of the Wildcat community.

Her future plans are to remain in the scientific research community through the workforce or graduate school. Advice she gives to future graduates are to be comfortable with who you are, sit near the front of your classes, and don’t be afraid to speak out, especially when you need help.

NAU Fall Graduate

NAU fall graduate, Erik Peaches, received his degree in microbiology with a minor in chemistry. He is conducting research with Dr. Jani Ingram, where he is measuring levels of uranium and arsenic in unregulated drinking water on the Hopi and Navajo reservations.

Known for trying new things, Erik fondly remembers joining a social fraternity on campus. It allowed him a new aspect on college life and where he met a few of his best friends. The fraternity also gave him a new view on Flagstaff, a different view then when growing up.

His biggest supporters are his family. Each has had a huge role in getting him where he is today.

Erik’s future plans are to apply to masters programs in Public Health at the UA, Harvard, and New Mexico State University. He eventually wants to pursue medical school to practice anesthesiology.

Advice he has for future graduates are “have fun, life shouldn’t be stressful, but also that hard work pays off. Also use all the resources that are given to you, and also have an open mind to try new things. Sometimes life throws a curve ball at you, all you can do is just pick yourself up and try again”.


Conferences 2015-2016

UBRP 2016

Students of NACP presented posters at the Undergraduate Biology Research Program (UBRP) which is hosted annually by the UA.

The days leading up to the conference, the students got to experience the UA campus and programs through a Graduate Primer hosted by UA’s NACP training core, Dr. Margaret Briehl and Tiffani Begay. Students, both veterans and new to NACP had the opportunity to visit the UA campus, the Native American Student Affairs (NASA), and the UACC.

At NASA, the students were introduced to various college representatives from the Graduate College, College of Medicine, College of Public Health, and the College of Nursing. Miss Native American UA was invited and welcomed students. After a great morning at NASA, a walk across campus to the Cancer Center gave students a chance to view the campus. At the Cancer Center, Dr. Greg Caporaso addressed the students about bioinformatics. The day ended with a networking dinner at El Charro.

Saturday morning, a panel of students and professionals shared their academic and life experiences in hopes their stories would be of benefit to fellow students. Panelist’s included Jonathan Credo, Carmella Kahn, Kimberly Danny, Tomoko Wilson, Shelby Dalgai, and Justin Hongeva.

The afternoon included attending the annual UBRP conference as well as poster presentations. Students who presented were; John Grunwald, Tomoko Wilson, Erik Peaches, Brandon Garcia, Brook Dalton, Wayne Nez, Josh Froyum, Mark Lee, Leonard Seanez, Kyle Lopez, Melanie Begaye, Phillip Belone, and Alec Perkins.

SICB 2016

In January, the Society for Integrative & Comparative Biology (SICB) took place in Portland, Oregon. The mission of SICB is to further research, education and public awareness in the areas of organismal, functional and evolutionary biology. NACP student, Tomoko Wilson presented her poster at the conference.

AISES 2015

“This is a conference for nerds”, a thought expressed by an elder who addressed the audience during opening ceremonies at the AISES conference. This lighthearted joke was met by the audiences amusement.

The annual American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) national conference was held at the
downtown Phoenix Convention Center in November. The conference draws professionals and students in the STEM field to discover ways to increase networks, build skills, support education, and develop career paths.

Starting and ending his speech with a standing ovation, guest speaker Billy Mills left the audience inspired. At the conference, NAU students had the opportunity to present; Kristen Natonie, Daniel Begay, Andee Lister, Shelby Dalgai, Erik Peaches, Cherae Bilagody, and Carl Haskie.

**ABRCMS 2015**

In November, the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) national conference was held in Seattle, Washington at the convention center. The conference is designed to encourage underrepresented minority students to pursue advanced training in STEM and provide faculty mentors and advisors with resources for facilitating students’ success. Shelby Dalgai and Wayne Nez presented at the conference.

Then and Now: Janice Wilson

Growing up as part of a military family, Janice Wilson moved to different places including Berlin, Germany. The Wilson’s decided to move back to the reservation in Many Farms, Arizona, and Janice began her high school career in Chinle, Arizona.

Being back on the reservation Janice noticed how difficult the barriers were between the physicians and patients at health care facilities as she says “Many of the patients do not have a good grasp of their medical conditions or how their medical history is important. As a result, many patients do not understand the plan of care as prescribed and may not follow it. They may not make the necessary changes needed to improve their health or the health care provider may not be aware of the patient’s circumstances. As a student, these were some of the areas that I wanted to address with my patients”.

In the Fall of 2008, Janice enrolled at Dine College, where she took all the science classes that the college had to offer, she was a tutor in science, math, and english, as well as a student athlete, making her a great applicant for transfer to the biomedical program at NAU. After 1 year, Janice was accepted to the school of nursing at NAU.

Apart from the classroom, Janice conducted research under the guidance of Dr. Diane Stearns at NAU. Where she studied the link between natural uranium...
exposure and skin cancer. She also volunteered to work in a rural clinic in the Dominican Republic. Working closely with the community she learned about their culture, language, living conditions, the state of health care, and learned a great deal of improvising and critical thinking. She says that the experience was rewarding and has greatly impacted her career.

Not only is she a great student, Janice is a great archer. Her love for the sport was developed when she attended Dine College, where her greatest feats were winning the National Collegiate Archery Women’s Team and being All-American in 2011.

Janice participated in the STEP program in the summer of 2011, which is now the Bridges summer program. One of the goals of the program is to have the community college students successfully transfer to a 4 year institution. Janice did just that and more, she transitioned and learned the research trade well. She has two published papers from the research she started in summer 2011. She also holds a Bachelors of Science in Nursing as of Fall 2014 with minors in chemistry and biology. She is also a recipient of the Gold Axe award, which is awarded to outstanding seniors at NAU, and a recipient of the N-Nurse Award.

Currently, a full time registered nurse at Gallup Indian Health Services in Gallup, NM, Janice loves everything about being a med-surg nurse. Primarily working night shifts with goals of becoming an emergency room nurse. She provides patient care, administers medication, and performs procedures that are within her scope of practice. Her aspirations to help others does not end here, as she hopes to continue her education.

Janice is a great representation of hard work and tenacity. She is always willing to give a helping hand. The IHS in Gallup is lucky to have her. She gives credit to NACP for the aid they provided. “I was fortunate as an undergraduate to have been able to accomplish the goals that I did, some were set and some just happened along the way. I give a large amount of credit to NACP, whose amazing staff and mentors helped me every step of the way from the time I arrived at NAU to the day I graduated. They have guided me, inspired me, and gave me confidence in myself to be more than I set out to be. They have helped me develop from a student to a working professional in my field of study. I will always be thankful for the opportunities they provided and the doors they opened”.

Janice’s published articles:


Upcoming Events

STUDENTS

• March 24th @ 4 PM (NAU)- NACP meeting with guest speaker Erelda Gene, Optometry Student, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences

• April 28th @ 4 PM (NAU)- NACP meeting with guest speaker, Crystal Tulley-Cordova, Doctoral Candidate at the University of Utah

FACULTY AND STAFF

• April 21st - Internal Advisory Committee Meeting

• May 5th - 6th - Program Steering Committee Meeting

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

• March 10th @ 11 AM - 12 PM

• April 14th @ 11 AM - 12 PM

• May 12th @ 11 AM - 12 PM

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