

NASNTI Funded Research Projects

Spring 2019

Emily Angell “Mired in Red Tape: Invoking and Overcoming Stereotypes of Native Americans in *Longmire*”

Emily worked as a research apprentice for Dr. Jennifer McMahon collecting data for an essay that had been selected for publication. In her work, Emily watched every episode of the tv show *Longmire* and examined all instances Native American representation in the show.

Socorra Rider “A Short Story from a Chickasaw Native”

Socorra worked under the direction of faculty mentor Dr. Robin Murphy to research several aspects of Native American Storytelling including common traits among traditional stories and storytellers, the role of women’s voices in traditional storytelling, and how culture and heritage is employed in traditional stories.

<https://youtu.be/v4H0BjRYOOI>

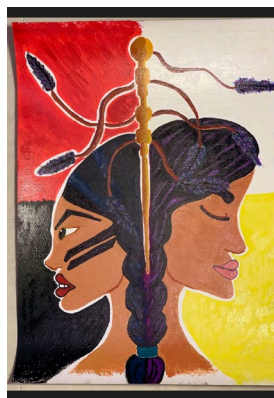
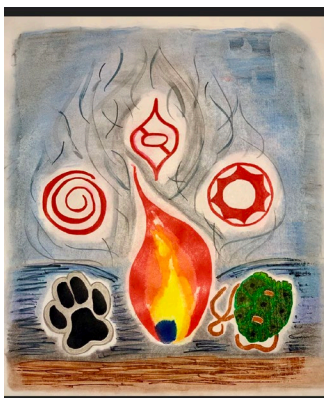
Amber Deela “Critical Approaches to Gender: Contemporary Critical Readings”

Amber worked under the direction of faculty mentor Dr. Rebecca Nicholson Weir to critically examine several novels using Feminist Theory, Gender Theory, Embodiment Theory, and Essentialism and developed a personal definition of feminism, gender dynamics, and androgyny.

Brandy Frazier “Artistic Obsessive Ritual Methods”

Brandy worked with faculty mentor Dr. Robin Murphy to learn how to use obsessive rituals and repetition and demonstrate these methods in a piece of original artwork. Brandy utilized several ECU resources provided by the Linscheid Library and the Art Department to research the topic including art catalogues, books, and online research tools.

<https://youtu.be/KVuWhaykM2o>



Sharayah Alkire “*The Originals* Digitization Project”

Sharayah worked under the supervision of Dr. Robin Murphy as a research apprentice to digitize of ECU’s student literary magazine *The Originals* using the book scanner available in the Linscheid Library’s Digital Humanities Lab. This project required learning how to use software and hardware used in the project, knowledge of archival practices, and demonstrate skill in copyright research.

Jacob Riddle “Tribal Support for Public Services in Oklahoma”

Jacob worked as a research apprentice for Dr. Christine Pappas gathering information from tribal websites and public information about how Native American tribes financially support public services such as roads and schools. The research was used to revise Dr. Pappas’ book chapter entitled “Modern Sequoyah: Native American Power in Oklahoma Politics”.

Bryce Clark “Healthy Ad Campaign”

Bryce worked with Dr. Zhaohui Su to execute a Health and Wellness campaign targeting Native Americans. He researched important information to share with his target audience, wrote catchphrases, and worked as a mass media creator to design approachable displays of healthy facts focused on healthy eating and physical activity.

Justyne Eden “Advertisements for Suicide Prevention”

Justyne worked with Dr. Zhaohui Su to create a series of health advertisements focusing on mental health and suicide prevention. These ads consisted of 3 videos of different age groups each with their own unique story about how a suicide prevention line saved their lives. Each story is relatable to the age group they are supposed to be targeting. During this process she created the script, found the models, set up the equipment, recorded, and edited all the videos.

Fall 2019

Kara Hodo “*The Originals* Digitization Project”

Kara worked under the supervision of Dr. Robin Murphy as a research apprentice to continue the digitization of ECU’s student literary magazine *The Originals* using the book scanner available in the Linscheid Library’s Digital Humanities Lab. This project required learning how to use software and hardware used in the project, knowledge of archival practices, and demonstrate skill in copyright research.

<https://linscheidlibrary.wixsite.com/ecuoriginals/archive>

Emily Angell “Storytelling as Revolt”

Emily worked under the supervision of Dr. Jennifer McMahon to examine how storytelling relates to philosophical concepts such as Camu’s concept of the absurd. In her analysis, she looked at elements of the absurd such as revolt as a lens in which to understand the living history that is storytelling.

Briana Mason “Chickasaw QR Codes”

Briana worked under the supervision of NASNTI’s Research and Language Specialist, Amy Lyons-Ketchum, to complete a Language Revitalization themed Service Learning project. This project involved collecting and recording linguistic data in the form of common classroom vocabulary from ECU’s Chickasaw Language instructor. Briana then used professional sound editing software to edit the sound files and link them to QR codes that were placed throughout ECU’s campus. Students, faculty and staff could then scan the QR codes to hear the Chickasaw vocabulary. This project was practical experience in the field of Language Revitalization and also serves to advertise the Chickasaw Language classes offered at ECU.

Spring 2020

Megan Bucktrot “ECU Resource Guide”

Megan worked with the NASNTI HERITAGE Program's Retention Specialist Dana Jordan to create a useful resource guide for ECU students, faculty, and staff. It provides important information about ECU's different offices and departments and the services they provide. The guide is available in both a digital and printed booklet format.

Sydney Abbott “Water as a Cultural Resource”

Sydney worked as a research apprentice to Dr. Terrie Becerra on the “Water as a Cultural Resource” Project. In this role she helped to complete a literature review and prepare data for analysis. As a Chickasaw citizen, Sydney was excited to learn more about her heritage and the important role water plays not only for drinking and bathing but for cultural ceremonies as well. Sydney was able to improve her Excel skills through this project and gain a better appreciation for her ability to overcome new challenges.

Melanie Andrews “Freedmen Band of Oklahoma”

Melanie researched the Freedman Band Indians, former slaves that fought alongside the Seminoles in Florida during the Seminole War, and the complicated legacy of the blood quantum requirement for Seminole people. She interviewed elders from her tribe to determine their opinions of the blood quantum requirement and the citizenship status of the Freedmen.

Karlie Ryal “Choctaw Flashcards and Glossary”

Karlie worked under the supervision of NASNTI’s Research and Language Specialist, Amy Lyons-Ketchum, to complete a Language Revitalization themed Service Learning project. This project involved collecting and recording linguistic data in the form of level 1 vocabulary from ECU’s Choctaw Language instructor. Karlie then edited the audio files and gathered corresponding photos. The audio and image files were then used to create audio-visual flashcards that Choctaw language learners at ECU can use to study the language. The same audio-visual files were then used to create a glossary using the FLEx software from SIL International.

Jessica Wakefield “Ethnohistory and Archaeology of the Canadian River in Pontotoc, Hughes, and McClain Counties, Oklahoma”

Jessica worked as a research apprentice to Dr. Holly Jones on the “Ethnohistory and Archaeology of the Canadian River in Pontotoc, Hughes, and McClain Counties, Oklahoma” project. In this role, Jessica researched, copied, and downloaded documents with useful information regarding the citizens, early schools, stores, and events leading to the abandonment of Tyrola and relocation of Newton. In addition, Jessica compiled relevant information on railroads and bridge crossings in the study area. The document types collected during this initial phase of the multi-year research project include newspaper articles and advertisements, school records, post office records, census data, obituaries, and photographs.

Dawsyn Lyon “Does Participation in Athletics Impact Students’ Academics?”

Dawsyn research the affect participation in sports has on a student’s academics. Dawsyn found that “student athletes frequently say the hardest part about being a student athlete in college or in high school is knowing how to manage your time wisely.” She also makes the point that athletic scholarships have brought in so many more students that more than likely would never had even thought they had a chance at going to college. While playing sports does affect students’ GPA, it also has many positive benefits.

Kara Hodo “African American Identity in the Early Life and Works of Langston Hughes”

Kara’s research focused on the pioneering 20th century African American writer and poet Langston Hughes. She did a close-reading of one of Hughes’ lesser-known poems “Angels Wings.” This poem takes a tragic look at an African American who feels ashamed of his racial identity, and it gave Kara the idea of doing research to learn more about Langston Hughes and his strong sense of African American identity.

Dream Greene “General Practice in Healthcare”

Dream completed a General Practice in Healthcare through his Social Work class for his NASNTI funded research project. For this project, Dream consistently found himself back in the classroom or a mock interview while on site. He would look back to what he learned from his classmates, NASW Code of Ethics, readings and much more of what experiences obtained back on campus to guide him through uncertain times. According to Dream, “This internship is one of the best things my education has brought to me thus far.”

Summer 2020

Nathaniel Rodgers “Tribal Sovereignty”

Fall 2020

Rhonada Pierson “The Chickasaw Hospital and the White Dog”

Rhonada wrote a children’s story (preschool to first grade) that brings together the Chickasaw Hospital in Ada, OK and the traditional Chickasaw story of the white dog Ofi’ Tohbi’. Rhonada took many of the photos used in the story and worked with Chickasaw language instructor Brandon White Eagle to translate and record the story in the Chickasaw language. Each page of the finished storybook includes an English text version, Chickasaw text version, a photograph relating to the story, and a scannable QR code that links to the Chickasaw audio. Rhonada was told the story of the white dog in her first Native American language class at ECU, and her goal was to help children feel safe about themselves or loved ones going to the Chickasaw Hospital during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Karlie Ryal “Battle for Hickory Ground Ancestors”

Karlie researched traditions and history of the Creek (Muscogee) people, the ceremonial sites important to Creek people including Hickory Ground, and the controversial actions of the Poarch Band Creeks in Alabama exhuming and removing the remains of at least 57 Creek ancestors from Hickory Ground to Eastern Oklahoma in order to build a casino on the site. In her paper, Karlie explores the cultural, historical, legal, economic, and moral ramifications of this case. The controversy over Hickory Ground has driven a wedge between the Poarch Band Creeks in Alabama and Muscogee Creeks in Oklahoma. However, Karlie states “With Covid-19 spreading world-wide and so much devastation, death, and uncertainty I want us as members of the Creek Nation both Poarch and Mvskoke to stand together rather than apart and realize how grateful we are to the Creator for being alive... I hope to soon reconnect and bring friendship back to both groups and once again stand as one and no longer be lost in the fog.”

Taylor Johnson “What I Don’t Know, I Never Missed”

Taylor completed an internship with the Chickasaw Press and wrote about her experience and the role the Chickasaw Press has played in the preservation of Chickasaw Culture. Taylor’s internship required her to retype Dorothy Milligan’s *The Indian Way*, a book originally published in 1976 that features a series of interviews with Chickasaw elders. According to Taylor’s research “The Chickasaw Press has assisted Chickasaws in discovering their culture, so they can miss it. Missing and longing for something that is lost is an important part of reviving it. The Chickasaw Press has undoubtedly helped alleviate many of the elder’s fears and has aided in restoring hope.”

Dewayne Cushman “Choctaw Flashcards”

Dewayne continued the previous Choctaw Flashcards project by updating the previous flashcards and expanding the number of new flashcards using the Choctaw I textbook. Dewayne used the flashcard platform Anki to create his cards. Using a NASNTI audio recorder (available for check out in the Linscheid Library’s Media Services Department), he recorded Choctaw language instructor Brenner Billy pronouncing vocabulary from the Choctaw I text book and used the free audio software

Audacity to edit the audio files. Dewayne then wrote about his experience creating the cards and the importance of technology in language revitalization efforts.

Spring 2021

Jordan Miller “Seminole Traditions in Modern Oklahoma”

Jordan’s research identified that “superstitions still play an integral role in the daily life of many modern Seminole people.” By interviewing many members of the Seminole tribe she found that even though they have adopted a “pan-Indian identity” many tribal members still identify with Seminole customs and traditions. “As long as they balance this, there should be no reason their traditions and customs will never die out.” Jordan would like to conduct more research with tribal members that claim to actually know sacred medicine. She found that many Seminoles still “accept the supernatural or spiritual world as a matter of fact.” She believes this would greatly benefit the tribe to delve more into this subject.

Yolanda Helm “What is being cancelled?”

Yolanda’s research led her to explore the term “cancelled culture” by reviewing Shamira Ibrahim’s book, “In Defense of Cancel Culture”. By addressing a timely topic, Yolanda gives a heartfelt view into why she believes some people support the movement and some do not. Enlightened, Yolanda states “Everyone should be willing to listen to opposing viewpoints and intentionally attempt to understand the *why* behind those views.”

Delanie Seals “Chickasaw Stories”

Delanie worked under the supervision of NASNTI’s Research and Language Specialist, Amy Lyons-Ketchum, to complete a Language Revitalization themed Service Learning project. Delanie chose this research project because she is “very passionate about learning my language.” Delanie is Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Sac and Fox and learning about the culture of the tribes is very important to her. Working in the Chickasaw Nation Language Department, she has had the opportunity to increase her knowledge of the language as she assisted others in learning the language too. This experience prompted Delanie to write five children’s stories that incorporated the Chickasaw language to encourage young people to learn more about their language.

Rhonada Pierson “The Red Cardinal”

Rhonada wrote a children’s story (preschool to third grade), “Itti’ micha Foshi’ Homma”, that explores the Native American belief in honoring trees and the belief that cardinals represent hope. “The Chickasaws believe there is a season for all things.” This is the second book Rhonada has written to honor her Chickasaw heritage and she considered it a privilege to take the photos and work alongside Chickasaw language instructor Brandon White Eagle to translate and record the story in the Chickasaw language. Each page of the finished storybook includes an English text version, Chickasaw text version, a photograph relating to the story, and a scannable QR code that

links to the Chickasaw audio recorded in Rhonada's voice. Rhonada felt such peace as she wrote the story as it reinforced her belief that hope is one of the greatest gifts.

Karlie Ryal "Word of the Day in Oklahoma Languages"

With the help and supervision of NASNTI's Research and Language Specialist, Amy Lyons-Ketchum, Karlie researched and provided recorded translations for a list of Mvskoke words to contribute to the NASNTI HERITAGE Program's Word of the Day dictionary. Working strictly with the Mvskoke language aspect, Karlie then recorded the Chickasaw and Choctaw translations made by Native speakers, including herself. The project was very important to Karlie as she recognizes the need to be proactive in preserving the Native American languages for the next generation. She hopes her project will continue to be expanded upon through other undergraduate research efforts.

Augustus Smith "The Bombing of Hiroshima in World War II"

Augustus researched the controversy surrounding the bombing of Hiroshima in World War II. Based on facts and documentation, Augustus was requested by his professor to give his personal thoughts on the decision to proceed with the bombing. "I think the most important thing that came out of writing and researching the nuclear warfare is how far it got me to think about the subject." Augustus realized that even though a person may think they are knowledgeable about a subject, by delving a little deeper into others' perspectives you begin to realize that you need access to all the facts before you can truly stand behind your belief. "After all, 'scientia potentia est', Knowledge is Power."

Bret Myrick "The Rise, Fall, and Rebirth of the Chickasaw Nation"

Bret researched the history of the Chickasaw Nation and expands upon the accomplishments of the ancient Chickasaw Nation and the history of self-governance. Highlighting the history of the tribe and the interactions with the growing United States, Bret outlines how the Chickasaw Nation remained a cohesive nation. He segues into present-day leadership and how the Nation has grown and prospered under past and current leadership. "By continuing to *Endeavor to Persevere* the Chickasaw Nation honors their ancestors by remaining the *Unconquered and Unconquerable Chickasaw Nation*".

Maycee Cave "Native Americans: Have the life they deserve?"

Maycee researched the history of the Native American tribes and the relationship with the United States government. Highlighting the different Acts of Congress, such as the Indian Appropriations Act, the Dawes Act, and the Indian Reorganization Act, Maycee describes how each has affected the lives of Native Americans and the resulting consequences. Addressing topics such as conditions on reservations, healthcare issues, poverty, gaming, and the many struggles with crimes against Native Americans, Maycee paints a broad picture of the how Native Americans continue to grapple with their place in American History.

Summer 2021

Addie McGill “Students and Resources”

East Central University has many resources for students to help them assimilate into college life and support their educational pursuits. Addie believes many students don't take advantage of the resources, mainly for the reason that they are not aware of the services. Addie extensively researched the following resources on the ECU campus: NASNTI Program, Linscheid Library, and Student Support Services. Using library resources, Addie created a student-narrated tour of the library to familiarize students to resources. Interviewing the director of Student Support Services, Addie realized the opportunities that exist to support students and assist them to successfully compete their degree. To disseminate this information to students, the focus of her research, Addie created flyers outlining the services available from the three programs and where and who to contact to receive the services, and strategically placed the flyers around campus.