

# Access & Diversity Center NEWSLETTER



## ACCESS AND DIVERSITY AND NASC HOST 43RD ANNUAL POW WOW

On February 26 and 27th, the Access and Diversity and the Native American Student Council successfully conquered the 43rd annual Powwow: Echoing Traditional ways. Powwow is held in the commencement of spring to rejoice the beginning of life. There, NASC took the opportunity in honoring warriors, celebrating personal achievements, and performing the ceremony of dropping eagle feathers as part of native traditions. Several tribes were represented and took part in competitions that included cultural dances in the categories of: traditional, grass, fancy, jingle and switch dance. Ties were made in an incredible cultural and educational curve for students and community members alike as native tradition was related with color, song and dance. This wholesome event would not have been possible without the over 120 volunteers that made the time to dish out Indian Tacos, register dancers, and take charge of the loose ends. The Powwow preserves a lasting sense of family, pride, tradition and a link to the Earth that owns us all. The Student Organization for Society and Natural Resources (SOSNR) aided the project and provided a strong bridge



that relayed the message of environmental conservation.

Thanks to a Blue Goes Green Grant, this year Powwow piloted the first campus "Eco-event" in an effort to promote sustainability alongside multicultural festivities. The Sustainability Office funded the efforts by providing a Blue Goes Green Grant of almost \$700 in compostable goods and distinctive signage. The focus was to minimize the amount of waste by strongly promoting recycling behaviors and offering compost options for paper goods. This "low waste" revolution was well received by the native nations due to their spiritual link to conservation. "We have a very deep connection to our mother Earth", commented Stacie Denezosie (President of NASC), "we must respect her, by managing our waste, our use of her resources, and providing a way for future generations to enjoy [her]". An estimated amount of 2,000 aluminum cans were recycled and more than 50 lbs. of material was sent to the industrial size composter located on our very own Utah State Campus. Congratulations on a job well done, and on to planning next year.

*-Nahomi Jimenez, Freshman student  
majoring in English*



### UPCOMING EVENTS

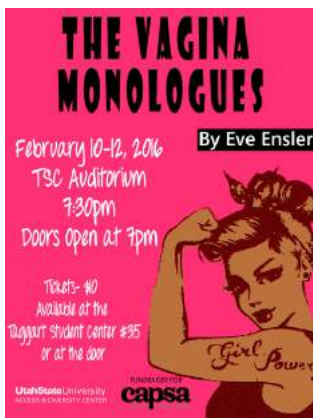
April	
05	LSU Taco Sale   TSC Patio
07	IFSA Better Together Day   Library
14	ASA Boba Sale   TSC Patio
18	Global Picnic   TSC Patio
20	PSU Luau   (Dinner at the Patio and Performance TSC Auditorium)
29	ADC Senior Night



# VAGINA MONOLOGUES RAISES OVER \$2,000

The fifth Annual Vagina Monologues took place from February 10-12, 2016 in the TSC Auditorium. For those who don't know, the Vagina Monologues is made up of a varying number of monologues read by a cast comprised of women from Utah State University and the Cache Valley community. Each of the monologues deals with an aspect of the feminine experience and touches on matters such as sexuality, violence and abuse and healing. A recurring theme throughout the piece is the vagina as a tool of female empowerment, and the ultimate embodiment of individuality.

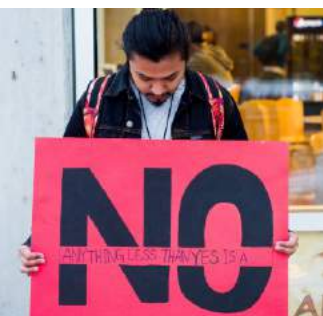
All proceeds of the event benefitted CAPSA, a local non-profit organization dedicated to helping victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. This year, the cast was able to raise over \$2,000 for the shelter! We would like to thank all the women who helped make this event possible. Overall, we had 25 women who made this event happen and we thank them for all the countless hours they spent preparing for this event. We hope to raise more awareness next year and have an even larger audience.



To the Right: We would like to thank the brothers of Psi Sigma Phi Multicultural Fraternity for helping hand out Man Cards and having people take the Man Pledge. The Man Pledge was so successful that they ran out of cards to hand out! We would also like to thank SAAVI for providing the Man Cards.



# TAKE BACK THE NIGHT 2016



I Am That Girl along with the Access and Diversity Center held the annual Take Back the Night event on campus on February 24, 2016. Take Back the Night is an international event and non-profit organization with the mission of ending sexual, relationship, and domestic violence in all forms. Hundreds of events are held in over 30 countries annually. Events often include marches, rallies and vigils intended as a protest and direct action against rape and other forms of sexual, relationship, and domestic violence.



Our particular event consisted of a march throughout campus, with a discussion held afterwards in the Access and Diversity Center Office. This year, there were more men than women who took part at the event. Seeing all these individuals reminded us that violence is not something seen in only women, but also men. We can all do our part to show our support for all the individuals who may have experienced some form of violence.



# MISS AMERICAN INDIAN 2016

The Native American Student Council held their annual crowning for the new Miss American Indian 2016 on February 18, 2016 in the TSC Auditorium. This year, they had the privilege to have four magnificent Native women compete for the crown. The newly crowned Miss Indian represents USU, her tribe, and her culture throughout her reign and acts as a goodwill ambassador. Miss American Indian also holds the position as the Head Woman at the Pow Wow. The contestants were the following: Denisha Tsosie (Navajo), Jasmine Despain (Navajo), Kyra John (Cherokee/Navajo), and Tyra Hardin (Shoshone).

There were three different sections of the pageant: Contemporary and traditional talents, as well as a section which consisted of asking the contestants questions. Questions varied from, "How are you going to help Native Americans in a University setting?" to, "What's your

favorite part of your culture?". No contestant received the same question. The three sections were judged by a group of judges.

Vice Chairman for the Northern Band of the Shoshone Nation, Darren Parry attended the event and gave a speech to the audience Native American history in Utah as well as Cache Valley. Parry mentioned the importance of this history and the importance remembering the injustices done to Natives throughout time. Various members in the audience were randomly drawn to receive a prize thanks to the sponsors who donated gift cards for the event. We would like to thank all the sponsors and congratulate Miss American Indian USU 2016, Jasmine Despain and look forward to all the marvelous things she does to represent USU, her tribe, and herself.



The newly crowned Miss American Indian USU, Jasmine Despain, and Darren Parry.



Miss American USU and the attendants.



## IFSA PROVO TEMPLE OPEN HOUSE



On February 29, 2016 the Interfaith Student Association went down to Provo, Utah for the Provo City Center Temple open house. It was cool and new experience for many of the members to be able to see the inside of one of the LDS temples for the first time.

The group went through a tour of the temple that was headed by LDS missionaries and member volunteers who were there to answer questions any of the visitors might have had.

There was a wide range of diversity among the visitors for the open house. People of all ages and background came to Provo to see inside the newest LDS temple here in Utah.

The Provo City Center Temple began as an LDS meeting house. The construction for it began in 1856. When it was dedicated in 1867 it was already too small and they had to begin construction on what would become a tabernacle. In 1882 the ground was broken and construction began on the tabernacle.

The April 1886 and April 1887 general conferences were held in the Provo Tabernacle. The Tabernacle was destroyed by a fire in 2010. In 2011 President Thomas S. Monson announced that the Tabernacle would be resored and rebuilt to be a holy temple. The temple was dedicated on March 20, 2016.



# BSU GOES “BACK TO THEIR ROOTS” IN ANNUAL SOUL FOOD



BSU members wearing their traditional clothes from the fashion show



BSU President Jeunee Robers with President Albrecht and his wife



Soul Food hosts Abby Dirie and Darren Bingham

On Friday February 19th, the Black Student Union got back to their roots at their annual Soul Food Dinner. They had been practicing and preparing for this night since last semester and had an excellent turn out for their event. The night was full of performances, food, raffles, and more food! University Catering provided some of our favorites including Southern fried chicken, Southern style mac & cheese, collard greens with turkey, banana pudding, and Southern style sweet potato pie.

The evening was hosted by Abby Dirie and Darren Bingham. There were performances from the Polynesian Student Union, the multicultural fraternity Psi Sigma Phi, and the members of the Black Student Union. The performances incorporated both traditions and culture with a spin of their own to make them unique and exciting

One of the most memorable points of the night was when the members of BSU cat-walked and strutted their way across the stage in a fashion show representing

traditions from some of the countries of Africa. It was a captivating way for the members to embrace and share a part of their culture with the audience.

A tender and special part of the program took place when BSU members Antoina Robinson and Jeunee Roberts were spotlighted. Antoina is a junior and part of the women’s basketball team here at USU. Jeunee is a senior and also President of the Black Student Union. We are all grateful for the hard work and dedication that these women have put into making not only an impact in the Black Student Union but the impact they have at USU as a whole.

It was a fun, interactive, and culturally filled night that BSU worked hard for. We are all proud of the contributions and progression that the members of the Black Student Union add to the community here at USU. It would not be the same without them.



PSU Performs the traditional Samoan Slap Dance



Members of Psi Sigma Phi stepping



BSU members performing

# HUMANS OF DIVERSITY

## **Tell us about yourself:**

I'm the middle of 5 sisters and my favorite role is being an older sister. I see different sides of me that I normally don't see. I'm a maternal being who understands sympathy and perspective because of my sisters. We push each other to set goals and support each other to be successful.

## **Who is a person that has greatly impacted you?**

My little sister Asland. She's everything I am and then so much more. She is hardworking, driven, and so full of hope it's intoxicating. She is beyond where I was that her age. Asland has a giant heart and appreciates people and their opinions and values. She is so humble and talks to the stars and moon about me but she doesn't understand the impact that she has on me. I wouldn't be who I am if it weren't for her and her example.

## **What is something you would like to share about your culture?**

Something cool about my individual culture is that I am a Colombian American. I sing the national anthem but when FIFA comes my face is painted yellow, blue, and red. Being a female millennial I support humans like we've never seen in the past. I want people to know that as a feminist, I believe men are the least supported and most oppressed people. We have this image that we see over and over and we expect to have happen but

because of feminist culture, I see it differently. I interact with them differently and I'm an advocate for them more than you would see in the last generation.

## **Where do you see yourself in 5 years?**

I have an opportunity that not a lot of people in my culture have and 5 years ago I never thought I would be here. So, 5 years in the future I want to be reaching and passing levels that seem impossible for me. I am constantly reaching for success and it's not about a destination but who I become through the journey. In 5 years I want to feel successful. I want to be true to my culture, my values, and my community.

## **What made you want to become an Aggie?**

Being a 1st generation college student and being heavily involved in the Hispanic movement towards higher education, I went to many leadership and goal oriented conferences in high school and they helped me realize how awesome I am. When I came to USU I saw people of diversity in leadership roles and then I knew it would be possible for me because I had these living examples right in front of me. I worked hard to get here and now that I am it's about improving yourself and your community. I wanted to become an Aggie because I knew education was the only means I had to greatly impact the world.



*This is Nahomi Jimenez. Nahomi is a freshman here at Utah State and she is thriving! You can find Nahomi all around campus as she is a student worker in the Admissions Office, part of Latinos In Action, Pow Wow Council, Student Organization for Society and Natural Resources (SOSNAR), and Multicultural Sorority, Theta Nu Xi.*



## **INTERESTED IN JOINING ONE OF OUR CLUBS?**



[https://usu.edu/qualities.com/jfo/jomv/5v\\_6ig-7ivpNWuXIMdn](https://usu.edu/qualities.com/jfo/jomv/5v_6ig-7ivpNWuXIMdn)



## **Access and Diversity Center Weekly Club Meetings**

**Polynesian Student Union:**  
Tuesdays 7:00pm; MSS Lounge

**Native American Student Council:**  
Wednesdays 4:30pm; TSC 316B

**Asian Student Association:**  
Wednesdays 5:00pm; TSC 313

**Black Student Union:**  
Wednesdays 5:35; MSS Lounge

**Latino Student Union:**  
Thursdays 4:30pm; MSS Lounge

**Interfaith Student Association:**  
Thursdays 5:30pm; MSS Lounge

**Love is For Everyone (GSA):**  
Thursdays 6:00pm; TSC 313



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