

ACTION PIECE

An essential component of the Building Bridges Conference is the action piece, taking place this year in Old Main. Similar to last year's action piece, there will be a walk-through in which participants will be interacting with members of the Social Justice Theatre troupe **I Am We Are**. The scenarios with IAWA will be very engaging. The action piece will attempt to give an overarching perspective of the injustice of American history and misconceptions of the modern era. In addition, in an effort to connect participants with the oral tradition of American Indian culture, the action piece will provide participants with the opportunity to record their stories, which will be saved in the Gustavus archives.

I AM WE ARE

I Am We Are is a student-led organization striving to create a more just campus community by organizing and presenting theatrical performances and workshops that deal with issues of social justice. Based on the work of Augusto Boal and begun by Vanita Vactor in 1995, the group schedules a number of performances both on and off campus throughout the year. Campus performances generally include E Pluribus Gustavus in the fall and the Building Bridges Conference in the spring.

THE LITTLE THUNDERBIRDS DRUM & DANCE TROUPE

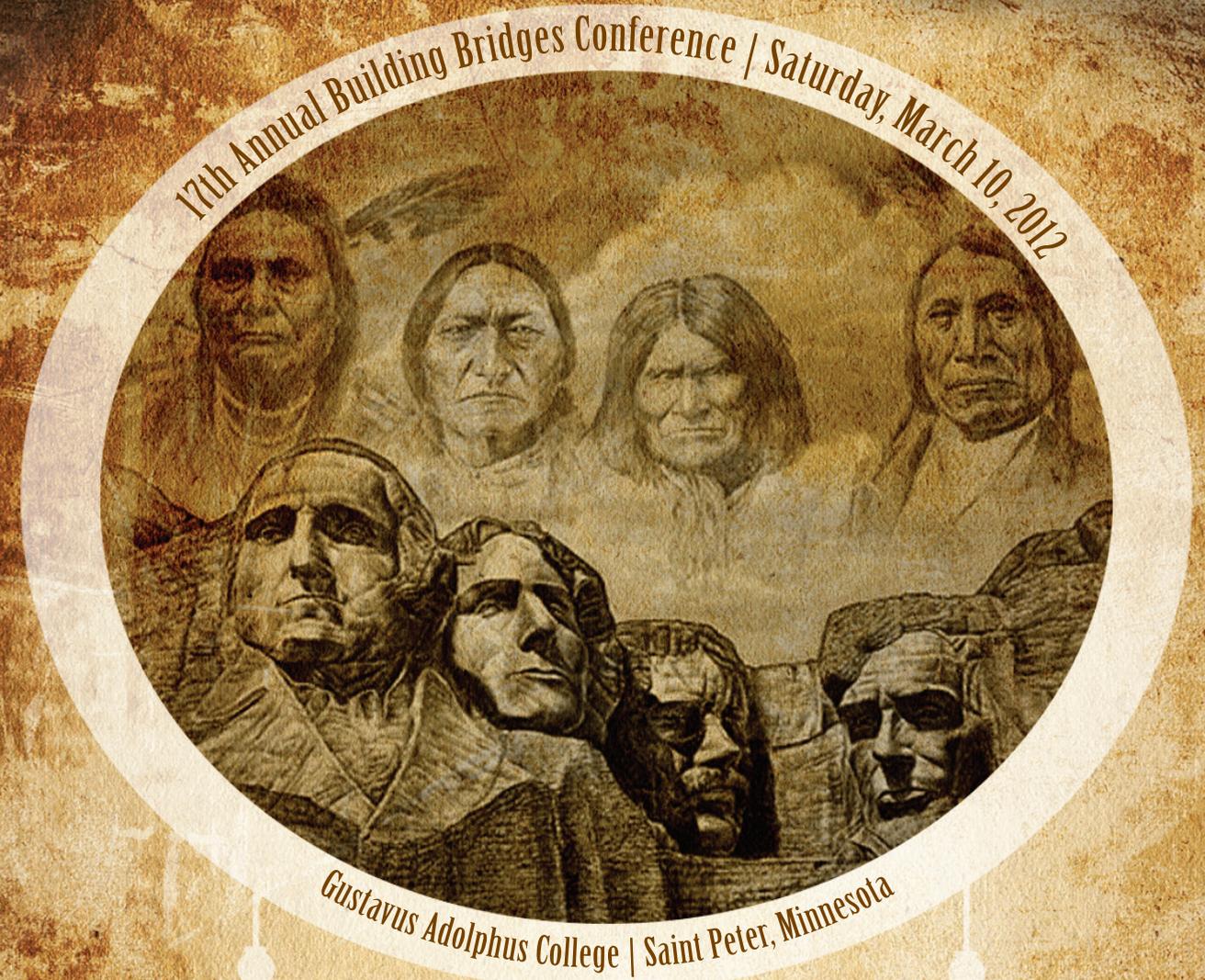
The Little Thunderbirds is a local Native American drumming group from Minnesota managed by John Oakgrove. After 9/11 the Little Thunderbirds drum group was called to sing a healing song at the Capitol. The group is very family oriented. The Little Thunderbirds not only sing, but they also incorporate dancing in their performance. This group's mission is to engage those around them in their culture. They perform at weddings, powwows, conferences, community activities, and many public events throughout the year. This young crew knows appropriate songs from honor songs to hand drum songs. Through their music and drumming they celebrate their beautiful Native American culture.



**THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING
THE 17TH ANNUAL BUILDING BRIDGES CONFERENCE.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CONTINUED PARTICIPATION
AND SUPPORT IN THE YEARS TO COME!**

The 17th Annual Building Bridges Conference is sponsored by the Building Bridges Committee, Gustavus Student Senate, and Gustavus Adolphus College.

Founding Fathers artwork by David Behrens | www.davidbehrens.com



UNRESOLVED CONFLICT

REMEMBER OUR FORGOTTEN HISTORY

THE CONFERENCE

On behalf of the Building Bridges Committee, we cordially welcome you to the 17th annual Building Bridges Conference. The Building Bridges Conference is a student-initiated, student-led diversity conference dedicated to addressing today's pressing social issues. This year's conference, **Unresolved Conflict: Remember Our Forgotten History**, will provide an opportunity to engage in important dialogue as Building Bridges places a spotlight on American Indian history and culture. In particular, we will discuss the impact of colonization on American Indians, past and present. We guarantee a rewarding and thought-provoking experience that will leave you with an idea of how you can become an advocate for education and social change on this topic in your own community.

Irma Márquez Trapero and Tasha Ostendorf
Building Bridges Co-Chairs 2012

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- To promote mutual respect and understanding about diversity issues throughout college campuses and larger communities.
- To lay a foundation for opening up dialogue throughout the world community, bringing together individuals from various settings, situations, and interests to discuss pressing matters involving global diversity.
- To dispel the assumption that one person's actions cannot make a difference by providing the means for social change.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

- 9:00 a.m. Registration
Campus Center
Drumming by The Little Thunderbirds
Christ Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Opening remarks by Co-Chairs
I Am We Are (IAWA) Performance
- 10:00 a.m. Charlotte Black Elk's Keynote Address
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch Break*
- 12:15 p.m. John Trudell's Highlighted Workshop
- 1:30 p.m. Workshop Session Series #1
- 2:30 p.m. Workshop Session Series #2
- 3:30 p.m. Workshop Session Series #3 or Action Piece
- 4:30 p.m. Workshop Session Series #4 or Action Piece
- 5:30 p.m. Action Piece

* The Gustavus Market Place will be open during the lunch break to purchase a meal.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER | CHRIST CHAPEL



CHARLOTTE BLACK ELK is a political and environmental American Indian activist. She is of the Oglala Lakota, and is the great-granddaughter of the holy man Nicholas Black Elk. She is well known in recent years for her role as the primary advocate for the Lakota peoples regarding their pursuit of the Black Hills Land Return. She is also known through her participation in documentaries based on the Lakota, such as *The Way West*. In 1983, Black Elk, who resides on the Pine

Ridge Indian Reservation, became involved with the Black Hills Land Return as secretary for the Sioux Tribal Council. Today, she acts as their legal representative. Her keynote address is titled "What the Constitution Means to American Indians" and will examine how the values and laws within Constitution of the United States have affected American Indian peoples.

HIGHLIGHTED WORKSHOP | ALUMNI HALL



JOHN TRUDELL is an acclaimed poet, national recording artist, actor, and activist whose international following reflects the universal language of his words, work, and message. Trudell, a member of the Santee Sioux tribe, was a spokesperson for the Indians of All Tribes occupation of Alcatraz Island from 1969 to 1971. He then worked with the American Indian Movement (AIM), serving as chairman of AIM from 1973 to 1979. In February of 1979, a fire of unknown origin killed Trudell's wife,

three children, and mother-in-law. It was through this horrific tragedy that Trudell began to find his voice as an artist and poet, writing, in his words, "to stay connected to this reality."

In 1982, Trudell began recording his poetry to traditional Native music and in 1983 he released his debut album, *Tribal Voice*, on his own Peace Company label. In addition to his music career, Trudell has played roles in a number of feature films, including a lead role in the Miramax movie *Thunderheart* and a major part in Sherman Alexie's *Smoke Signals*. He most recently played Coyote in Hallmark's made-for-television movie *Dreamkeeper*.

KEYNOTE/HIGHLIGHTED WORKSHOP Q&A | ALUMNI HALL, SESSION 1 ONLY

Keynote speaker Charlotte Black Elk and highlighted workshop presenter John Trudell will answer audience members' lecture questions. This is a great opportunity to interact with the speakers and seek answers to questions in response to their presentations.

OTHER WORKSHOPS

REVITALIZING THE OJIBWE LANGUAGE | HERITAGE ROOM, SESSION 1 & 2



ANTON TREUER, Ph.D., is a professor of Ojibwe at Bemidji State University. Ojibwe is one of the two languages indigenous to Minnesota, and there is an ongoing effort to preserve and revitalize Ojibwe. In this presentation, Treuer will discuss the status of Ojibwe, how and why language decline happened and what's being done to remedy that today. Discussion will include grassroots efforts, immersion schools and programs, and new publication and research initiatives. The importance of Ojibwe to engender academic achievement and embody the unique world view of the first Minnesotans will also be a topic of discussion.

HOLDING THE NEWS MEDIA RESPONSIBLE | ST. PETER ROOM, SESSION 1 & 2



MARLEY SHEBALA is the senior news reporter and a photographer for the *Navajo Times* in Window Rock, Arizona. She is a very well-known activist within the Navajo Community and around the nation—best known for being an "undaunted muckraker." She has won many awards in her 25 years of journalism, including the Arizona Press Club's Community Journalist of the Year award in 2005. Marley serves on the CU-Boulder Ted Scripps Environmental Journalism Fellowship Board as well as with Institutes for Journalism and Natural Resources Council of Advisors. She will give a presentation focusing on the role of media in maintaining stereotypes and the "time warp" that continues the belief that Native Americans are people of the past.

NEURODECOLONIZATION: AN INDIGENOUS MINDFULNESS APPROACH AND EQUATION TO OVERCOME THE EFFECTS OF COLONIALISM | BOARD ROOM, SESSION 1 & 4



MICHAEL YELLOW BIRD, MSW, Ph.D., is an enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes and a professor and director of graduate education in the Department of Social Work at Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA. His teaching, writing, research, and community work focus on social work with indigenous people and employing mainstream and traditional indigenous mindfulness practices in tribal communities to promote health and well-being. In his presentation, Michael will discuss decolonization, the neurobiology of decolonization, and indigenous mindfulness practices and will share his equation for neurodecolonization.

A CONSTITUTIONAL CONUNDRUM: THE EXTRA-CONSTITUTIONAL STATUS OF NATIVE NATIONS | THREE CROWNS ROOM, SESSION 2 & 3



DAVID E. WILKINS, Ph.D., holds the McKnight Presidential Professorship in American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota. He has adjunct appointments in political science, law, and American studies. Professor Wilkins's research and teaching interests include indigenous politics and governance, federal Indian policy and law, comparative politics, and diplomacy and constitutional development. This workshop will seek to decipher how and why indigenous peoples acquired the convoluted and variegated statuses that they historically and currently have vis-à-vis the federal government.

TELLING THE STORY, COMMEMORATING CONTROVERSY: CREATING AN EXHIBIT ABOUT THE US-DAKOTA WAR OF 1862 | ALUMNI HALL, SESSION 3 & 4



ELIZABETH BAER, Ph.D., **BEN LEONARD**, and **SANDEE GESHICK** will be presenting this workshop together. Baer and Leonard team-taught a 2012 IEX course at Gustavus on the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. Baer teaches genocide studies, literary theory, African literature, and postcolonial literature at Gustavus. She is the author of four books, the most recent titled *The Golem Redux: From Prague to Post-Holocaust Fiction*, which is forthcoming in April 2012. Ben Leonard received a BA in History from the University of Minnesota-Morris and an MA in history from Arizona State University and has been the executive director of the Nicollet County Historical Society since 2004. Sandee Geshick is an elder in the Lower Sioux Community. She holds great knowledge and respect among the Dakota and will be providing her voice as a Dakota. The presentation will also include students from the 2012 IEX course Commemorating Controversy: The U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. Audience members will learn about the causes of the war, the war itself, and the aftermath, and will have the opportunity to hear from students about how they created a museum exhibit. The exhibit, which will be on display, is traveling throughout Minnesota during 2012, the sesquicentennial observation of this war that happened in St. Peter and surrounding areas.

WHO IS INDIGENOUS? HOW DO STATES DENY CLAIMS OF INDIGENEITY? | ST. PETER ROOM, SESSION 3 & 4



BRUCE MILLER, Ph.D., is a professor at the University of British Columbia-Vancouver. Indigenous populations around the world are growing rapidly. Simultaneously, resource extraction and agribusiness industries are entering further into the marginal areas where indigenous groups were pushed historically. To examine these issues, this workshop explores how indigeneity is defined in various international conventions and engaged in by several national regimes around the globe. We'll consider the procedures under which indigenous people and groups seek recognition and the pragmatic dilemmas these pose. Professor Miller will highlight communities he has worked with regarding recognition in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, and Taiwan.