Re-starting the College Newsletter

Since the College opened in 2000, it has had an occasional newsletter called S-ke:g Ha’icu A:gidag – Good News. The newsletter has come in several different formats – printed in purple, printed in color, and circulated online. Just a few people wrote the articles and the newsletter came out infrequently.

You can find newsletters from 2015 and 2016 on our website at https://www.tocc.edu/publications. Earlier issues of S-ke:g Ha’icu A:gidag are in the O’ohana Ki: (the College Library).

With the College’s growth and the many people involved at three locations on the Nation plus our new site in San Carlos, now is a good time to restart S-ke:g Ha’icu A:gidag – Good News as a more frequent, newser publication with many contributors.

The plan is for the newsletter to come out twice a month with articles by anyone from TOCC—students, staff, faculty, Board members, family members, etc.

The purpose is to share more news among ourselves so that we can in turn provide College news to our friends, family, and the wider Tohono O’odham community.

In what follows, you can see the plan for the first four issues, which will take us through the end of November. At that point, we will evaluate how the newsletter process is working and make changes if needed.

This is the short-term plan for S-ke:g Ha’icu A:gidag:

1. Deadlines will be on the first and third Fridays of the month. Publication will be on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. (This alternates with the local newspaper, The Runner.)

2. The newsletter will be emailed to all at TOCC and posted on the College website and Facebook page. Photocopies will also be made available at all three campuses.

3. The newsletter editor is Francina Francisco. Martha Lee, Consultant will assist for the first few issues.

4. Submissions: Please submit in Word documents attached to email. Keep articles brief: 250 - 500 words is ideal. Submit photos as jpg files with a photo credit and caption in the text of the email. (Make sure that people pictured agree with their image being published.) Submit to Francina Francisco at ffrancisco@tocc.edu.

5. The newsletter will include a College-wide calendar. For events to be added to the calendar, create a short entry that covers what, when, where, and who.

6. Here are the first set of deadlines:
   - Friday, October 20
   - Friday, November 3
   - Friday, November 17
   - Friday, November 24

We hope you’ll participate in one of the upcoming issues of S-ke:g Ha’icu A:gidag – Good News both as a reader and a contributor.
Meet Curtis Peterson, TOCC Social Services Faculty
by Martha S. Lee

Ask Mr. Curtis Peterson, M.S., where he is from, and you immediately sense his wandering background. He was born in Utah but grew up in Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana. Peterson says his family moved around because of his father’s work in construction through the rural areas of the Rocky Mountains and High Plains.

Peterson went to college at Idaho State University, where he fell in love with psychology his first semester. He earned a B.S. in Psychology and then went to work in a “wild ride” through the social services. He started as a shelter assistant for the YWCA and worked his way up through supervisory roles such as the Director of the Violence Prevention Program at Arizona Western University in Yuma.

Along the way, he discovered a love of teaching and decided to pursue college instruction. Peterson taught for several years at Helena College in Montana. He is currently a doctoral candidate in social psychology at Walden University. He is completing a dissertation on how lack of social identity influences loneliness, and he also teaches online for Walden University.

Traveling and working in a variety of places has made life exciting for Peterson, but now he is looking for a life with roots. Knowing that TOCC has a strong sense of place was one reason he decided to come to the College. He enjoys learning about Tohono O’odham culture, and he appreciates the small class size at TOCC, which allows him to get to know students individually and help them with their educational and career paths.

The Social Services area is growing at TOCC. Peterson and others at the College are working with the Tohono O’odham Nation to develop programs that meet the needs of the Nation. New credentials in Addiction and Prevention Studies are under consideration.

During spring semester 2018, Mr. Peterson will teach the following courses:

- PSY 101 Introduction to Psychology – an introduction to the science of behavior and mental processes.
- SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology – an introduction to sociology, the study of groups and how human society functions.
- SOC 127 Marriage and the Family – This course will survey the life cycle of marriage and family systems.
- SSE 140 Domestic Violence: Causes and Cures – This course will cover the dynamics and social-cultural influences of dating violence, intimate partner violence, and elder abuse.
- SWU 291 Social Service Delivery Systems – This course is designed to lead individuals into entry level positions with-

TOCC Students: “Their curiosity amazes me! Their love of learning is a breath of fresh air!”

Here are some of Curtis Peterson’s favorite things:

Family: Adorable granddaughter, daughter and son-in-law in Idaho, and son studying physics at ASU.


Travel: Taking off spontaneously to visit somewhere new, as he did this fall for a quick road trip to Chattanooga, Tennessee!

TOCC Students: “Their curiosity amazes me! Their love of learning is a breath of fresh air!”

Students from the SWU 171 Introduction to Social Work course review details with faculty member Curtis Peterson, M.S., after class. Left to right: Angela Muñoz, who is earning an Associate of Arts in Social Services; Kathleen Jose, who is pursuing an Associate of Arts in Early Childhood Education; and Kimberly Velasco, who is working on her Associate of Applied Science in Business Management.

Photo by Gretis Li.
What is the meaning of Halloween?
The word hallow means to make holy. Halloween literally means the evening before All Hallows Day or All Saint’s Day, celebrated on November 1.

Where did Halloween come from?
Before Christianity became a dominate world religion, indigenous people in Ireland, celebrated this night in honor of the final harvest and the end of summer; this sacred night was similar to our New Year’s Eve; the next day marking the beginning of winter, and a brand new year.

Why do we trick or treat?
The ancient Celts, as they were called back then, would light candles and leave them in the windows to help guide the friendly spirits of their families and friends, along their journey. To honor and welcome their departed ancestors who would return at this time, they would leave food for the spirit travelers to nourish while on their pilgrimage—leading to the modern-day tradition of trick or treating.

Why do we wear costumes?
Huge bonfires were lit to burn the debris from the fields and the villagers would dance around the bonfire. They would wear masks and disguise themselves in the hopes of confusing the mischievous spirits who knew them and who may have disliked them before they passed on to the spirit world. Some say they dressed to honor the ancestor who had passed on.

Why do we carve pumpkins?
Some would carve scary faces into turnips and place them at the entry to their homes to keep bad spirits away; this became the modern-day practice of carving pumpkins.

Is it Evil?
No. The three day celebration was held from October 31 to Nov 2. During these three days, which was not summer, but not yet winter, my ancestors, believed the spirits of their departed loved ones would return to take part in the sacred festival.

As an attempt to banish the traditions of the ancient Irish folks, Pope Boniface IV designated Nov. 1 All Saints’ Day. The night before All Saints’ Day, Oct. 31, became known as Allhallows Eve and today Halloween.

“It is widely believed today that the pope was attempting to replace the Celtic festival of the dead with a related, but church-sanctioned holiday...,” History.com reported. This ancient, sacred New Year’s festival came to the United States with a flood of Irish immigrants in the late 19th century. Hollywood has had a tremendous influence on how we perceive Halloween nowadays. Halloween is celebrated on almost all the continents in the world, including Europe, Asia, North and South America and Australia. Regards from an ancient Irish lass, “Ginny” - Marilyn Beres,
Congratulations to the FCC Boot Camp Completers!

On October 13, 2017, a group of TOCC students and staff participated in a daylong training to learn about the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules for radio transmission. Mr. Sial Thonolig, General Manager of O’odham Hewel Ñiok, led the “boot camp,” as he liked to call it. Here are a few interesting points from his presentation:

- Airwaves are a public good that belong to the people.
- In the United States, the FCC regulates the airwaves. Commercial companies purchase at auction the right to broadcast at certain frequencies. Nonprofit organizations apply for the right to broadcast through a competitive grant system.
- For full-power radio, frequencies above 91.9 FM are for commercial stations; frequencies from 91.9 and below are for public (nonprofit) radio stations.
- Public radio stations have strict rules against on-air selling and calls to action.
- The Tohono O’odham Nation holds the license for four radio stations. The Nation designates O’odham Hewel Ñiok to broadcast through these stations: Kohn 91.9 FM Sells; KOHH 90.7 FM San Lucy; KOHF-LP 101.1 FM Florence Community; and KWAK-LP 102.5 FM.

TOCC’s radio show is called “Em Ma:cidag Wui,” which means “Towards Your Learning.” The show is back to its original broadcast time of 2:00-4:00 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons. If you are not in the FM broadcasting range for Kohn or KOHH, you can stream the show by starting on this website: [http://kohnfm.tonation-nsn.gov/kohn919/HOME.html](http://kohnfm.tonation-nsn.gov/kohn919/HOME.html).

The individuals who successfully completed the FCC boot camp are eligible to continue their training to serve as deejays for “Em Ma:cidag Wui” or to broadcast for O’odham Hewel Ñiok.

“Em Ma:cidag Wui” is produced by TOCC’s Society of Radio Engineers, which is affiliated with the College’s AISES chapter and the Title III Student Success Center.

Freeport-McMoRan Grant

TOCC received a $15,000 grant from the Freeport-McMoRan Foundation to provide education on healthy nutrition with the purpose of improving the health of students and the TOCC community. Foundation staff Cherie Rankin, Community Development Specialist and Tanayia White, Native American Affairs Specialist, both in the Environmental/Sustainable Development Program made a surprise visit to the College and presented the check to Jane Latané, Director of Development.

TOCC has contracted with TOCC graduate Yvette Ventura to present workshops on healthy nutrition and cooking healthy meals on campus and if desired at District meetings. Yvette graduated from TOCC with an Associate degree and then from Navaho Technical College. She plans to attend Northern Arizona University to complete a Bachelor’s degree.

Freeport-McMoRan Company is the owner of the Tohono Cypress Mine located in the Sif Oidak District, as well as other mines located on Hualapai, San Carlos Apache, and White Mountain Apache in Arizona. The Native American Partnership Fund supports projects that address Education and Training, Health and Wellness, and Cultural Preservation. The TOCC grant is funded under the Health and Wellness priority. The grant will provide education and hands-on experiences that will facilitate students and the TOCC community to have increased knowledge to healthy nutrition and commitment to a healthy lifestyle.

Tanayia White presenting the check to Jane Latané.
About 150 local high schools students enjoyed a variety of hands-on activities about traditional food during the annual Youth Agriculture Day. The Friday event at the college’s main campus ended with a healthy lunch featuring tepary beans and squash. The students hailed from Tohono O’odham, Baboquivari and BUSD Alternative high schools on the Nation as well as Ha:sañ Preparatory School in Tucson. Students had a chance to learn more about the college.

Baboquivari High School’s Future Farmers of America members were among those selling pumpkins and traditional squash during the Farmers Market portion of the event, which also featured nearly a dozen demonstration booths. The FFA also helped support lunch.

TOCC’s Elizabeth Ortega launched activities with a blessing, and then Amy Juan led the singing of a traditional planting song, with help from Baboquivari High students Rukel Reno and Audrey Martinez. Following those events, the students divided into four groups for a series of presentations described below.

Green Smoothie Demo. Ruby Flores of the Diabetes Prevention Program showed students how to make a healthy snack just by mixing greens and fruit in a blender. She fills the blender up at least halfway with spinach, kale and/or other fresh greens, and then adds fruit such as apples, carrots, grapes, oranges, bananas and pitted dates before blending. Students polished off the results, bright green yet fruit-flavored smoothies.

Seedlings. TOCC Agricultural Extension agent Clifford Pablo and two of his interns, Duran Andrews and Joyce Miguel, talked about the college’s Seed Saving Program, displaying seeds of various traditional O’odham food. Students also planted seeds of garbanzo beans (kalwas) and cowpeas (wihol) to take home.

Desert Food and Medicinal Plant Walk. Gilbert Two Two of the Nation’s Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) led students on a path that winds around an undeveloped area of the main campus, explaining how to identify and use some of the plants used traditionally.

Food Composting. DeAndra Porter, a member of the TOCC American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES), prepared a demo site and materials so students could learn to compost kitchen waste and other matter into a soil compost. Science and agriculture faculty member Melanie Lenart reminded them of how plants and animals complement each other while also sharing information on the college’s Life Science program, which includes a concentration in agriculture.

Keynote Panel. Before enjoying a lunch of tepary-bean-and-chicken quesadillas with squash puree and fresh salad, students had an opportunity to hear panelists talk about “The Business of Food” – now, as at San Xavier Cooperative Farm, and in the past, as explained by Matilda Juan, a 76-year-old member of the New Fields community who experienced the traditional farming and ranching practices from the time she was a child. Homer Marks Sr. also described how he handles range management while raising herds of cattle for commercial sale.

TOCC Land Grant Office for Sustainability Director Augustine Toro led the organization of this event, in collaboration with other members of LGOS and the associated Farm and Food Working Group. TOCC has hosted this annual event since 2010.
The U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Premier Partner of The Wildlife Society, is sponsoring a research assistantship program for Native American students.

Short-term assistantships are available for Native American students interested in wildlife and forest resources and excited to learn and work with an interdisciplinary team of researchers. Applicants must be a member of an American Indian or Alaska Native tribe, First Nations, or a Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, or have some other indigenous identification, and be currently enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program from an accredited academic institution. A bachelor’s or master’s degree in wildlife biology, ecology, forestry or other closely related natural resource discipline is preferred. Students with Associates degrees from TCU’s or other community colleges will be considered.

For more information go to [http://wildlife.org/apply-now-for-native-american-research-assistantships-2](http://wildlife.org/apply-now-for-native-american-research-assistantships-2)
**Important Dates, Events and Announcements**

**2018 Spring Semester Registration is now OPEN!**
The 2018 Spring Schedule is posted on the TOCC Website — www.tocc.edu. Check out the classes and register today!!

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**October 25, 2017**
**JEGOS MADNESS**
**Purple and Gold Scrimmage**
*(Preseason Game)*
**Topawa, AZ**
**5:30 PM/7:00 PM**

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**Friday, October 27, 2017**
**All Staff Meeting, 8:30 AM, Gewkdag Son Ki.**
Meeting will be facilitated by Achieving the Dream personnel, who will lead us in a "world cafe" process that includes working with data derived from the recent ICAT survey.

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**Tuesday, November 7, 2017**
**“Coffee with the President” Central Campus**
**9:00 AM – 10:00 AM**

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**Upcoming Recruitment Events — (Volunteers Needed!)**
- **11/11/17:** Ajo Native American Day, Ajo School District, 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM
- **11/18/17:** Gu-Vo District Days, Gu Vo, AZ, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM