



AIR Newsletter

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SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Special points of interest:

- AIR Workshop
- Renee's Corner
- Theatre



Inside this issue:

<i>Talking with the Prof</i>	1
<i>AIR Workshops</i>	1
<i>Renee's Corner</i>	2
<i>AIR Filming</i>	2
<i>Picts</i>	2



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Learning for Success

Talking with the Prof.

We had a great discussion that many would call “the money workshop”. The question is why would it be called the “money workshop”? Probably because your work in the classroom is a large portion of your education, which directly impacts your success in school. Talking with your professors on classroom related academics is important and often times key to your success.

Professors are there to teach a specified topic to the best of their ability. They naturally want students to do well as it is a reflection on their teaching. Anyone can learn a topic but to teach effectively and motivate students to want learn is a special talent. So if you have questions on some of the topics they are teaching, you should always approach the professor and discuss the question with the professor. They in turn will help you cover the topic (and if you still don't understand, you should ask again until you understand). Professors should love being asked questions on what they are teaching, they in turn may give you hints on what to expect on an upcoming test and guide you toward the true content of what they are teaching. Additionally, it is a myth that teachers don't know who you are. They pretty much know the majority of students and by knowing this they figure out those who they have not yet gotten to “know”. Therefore, Professors sometimes create either a favorable or unfavorable disposition about you as a student; if you make a favorable impression upon the professor your chances of better grades are improved.

This is why many of the mentors (college students and alumni) call this the money discussion because these simple (and it is fairly simple to talk with the professor) things can improve your grades and, improved grades, means opportunities for scholarships or better grants. At the very least you wont have to take the class over again. Of course, nothing replaces good studying but talking with a professor after class or during office hours can to much to improve your chances of success—try it in high school, too!





AMERICAN INDIAN RECRUITMENT PROGRAMS

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"Our mission is the promotion and success of American Indians within education."



Renee's Corner

by Renee White Eyes

This week, AIR Sr. had a guest from USD's Theatre Department on acting. At first, the students started off a little quiet and not really into the breathing exercises but as we went along, the students warmed up into the exercises and we all started to have fun. We did a number of activities that included representing someone else and their mannerisms but also taking an object of personal significance and handing it off to someone else so they could do a representation of it. This had some students (and staff!) feeling a little uneasy because some of these items held deep meaning. What we learned is that you hold the power of representing someone else's feelings. You determine whether you want it to be comic or serious. This in turn leaves us rather scared and reluctant to share some of your most deepest possessions and feelings in the fear that they will not be seen the way you want it to be. I believe this left us all really pondering this concept and left the meeting with a new perspective. Overall, we found that theatre is a very hard and powerful profession. We hoped all enjoyed this.



AIR Filming to begin

We completed our research on what has transpired within Indian Country and the attitudes that are generally associated with being an American Indian. This semester we researched Wounded Knee I and II, Alcatraz, and legal concepts of NAGPRA. Additionally, we even had the USD Theatre Department rep visit us on how acting is more than what you see at the movies but truly a envisioning process on obtaining the right concepts and attitudes for the scene.

So where does this put us? It puts us at the start of our mini-movie experience. We have a rough script that encompasses our research, underlying themes that students experience while in school, and ideals on activism in the present age. Now we just need to take everything we have learned and developed and put it to film.

Don't worry this will not be that hard. Most of this will be just acting like you do in a regular class or in life and I hear the director will bring out the best in all of you. We look forward to this Monday.



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