

Columbia Gorge Community College and Gorge Literacy
present the

2009 Spring Humanities Series

Oregon's First People

A diverse and culturally rich people, Oregon's American Indians weave together the traditions of the past with the realities of modern day life, protecting and respecting what has come before while reaching out for tomorrow. The Humanities Series is also reaching out to bring people and communities together through meaningful discussion of issues, art, culture, and all things related to the human experience.

Join us as we celebrate Oregon's First People!

April 1 — Karen Quigley

The Mint - Erin Glenn Winery, 710 E 2nd Street, The Dalles

Executive Director, Legislative Commission on Indian Services
an overview of the history, culture and present day realities of Oregon tribes

April 8 — James Lavadour

Columbia Center for the Arts, 215 Cascade Avenue, Hood River

Confederated Tribes of Umatilla
abstract landscape painter

April 15 — Robert Kentta

Columbia Center for the Arts, 215 Cascade Avenue, Hood River

Cultural Resources Director for the Confederated Tribe of Siletz Indians
traditional artist (regalia and basket making)

April 22 — George W. Aguilar, Sr.

The Mint - Erin Glenn Winery, 710 E 2nd Street, The Dalles

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
author: *When the River Ran Wild!*

Evening presentations are open to the public and include:
6:30-7:15 Informal Chat on Writing and/or Artistic Process
7:15-7:30 Hors d'oeuvres
7:30-8:45 Presentation and Discussion of Work

There is no charge; however, donations are appreciated.
Suggested donations are: \$5.00 general, \$2.00 students.
For more information, call: 541-506-6047

This project is supported in part by a grant from the Oregon Council for the Humanities, a statewide nonprofit organization and an independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, as well as grants by the Wasco County and Hood River County Cultural Trust Coalitions with funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust, supporting Oregon's arts, heritage, and the humanities.

Local sponsors:

Erin Glenn Winery • Columbia Center for the Arts • Shilo Inns

Columbia Gorge Community College is an equal opportunity educator and employer.
For special access needs, call Lori Ufford at 541-506-6025.

Presenter Descriptions

Karen Quigley (*Executive Director, Legislative Commission on Indian Services*)

Karen Quigley has served as Executive Director of the Legislative Commission on Indian Services for over thirteen years. This statutory commission considers matters regarding Oregon Tribal-State relations, serves as a clearinghouse for information on Oregon Tribes and Oregon's Indian population, and is the advisory body to the Executive and Legislative Branch on Indian issues. Ms. Quigley has a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Wesleyan University in Connecticut, a Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction, and a law degree (with a special certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law) from the University of Oregon. She clerked in the Legislative Counsel's Office of the Oregon Legislature and served for two years as a Foreign Legal Advisor in Tokyo. Ms. Quigley has spoken or provided trainings on Tribal-State government-to-government relations for numerous state agencies, tribes, and universities in Oregon, Alaska, Nevada, and Wisconsin. In addition, the National Congress of American Indians, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, and the National Council of State Legislatures/National Congress of American Indians "joint Tribal-State Government-to-Government project" have invited her to speak at various conferences and project meetings.

James Lavadour (*painter*)

James Lavadour is known for his abstract landscapes inspired by mountainous northeastern Oregon where he has lived for most of his life. An avid hiker, Mr. Lavadour finds that this physical experience is converted into the kinetic act of painting. "At some point I made a connection between the ways walking conditioned my body movements and the way my body governed my hand when I painted. Links between muscle and memory, place and identity became the basis of my art." Lavadour's work reflects his intimate knowledge of the land and its dynamic permutations. Expressionistic vistas appear caught in the midst of spectacular transfiguration by the sudden force of the elements or position of the sun. Applying pigment, then scraping or wiping it away, the artist re-enacts nature's layering and erosive processes. Recently he has introduced architectural shapes and streams of contrasting color that bleed across the terrain. Part Walla Walla Indian and a self-taught painter, Lavadour helped found the nonprofit *Crow's Shadow Institute*, which provides social, economic and educational opportunities to Native Americans through artistic development. *Crow's Shadow Institute* is located on the Umatilla Reservation where Lavadour grew up. James Lavadour is one of the Northwest's most revered painters. He is the recipient of numerable awards and accolades, including the Eiteljorg Fellowship (2005), Award for Visual Arts from the Flintridge Foundation (2004), Oregon Governor's Arts Award (1994), and the Betty Bowen Award (1991), among many others. Lavadour's work is in the collections of the Portland Art Museum, Seattle Art Museum, Tacoma Art Museum, Boise Art Museum, the MicroSoft Collection and other respected public and private collections.

Robert Kentta (*traditional artist – basket making and regalia*)

As Director of Siletz Cultural Resources, Robert Kentta is active in supporting and promoting Native heritage and cultural events. He oversees numerous cultural responsibilities: cultural and sacred site protection, archaeological research participated in by CTISI, archival research and interpretation, assistance on historical and cultural education, direction of cultural center planning, documentation of museum collections, advocacy for preservation, restoration, and access to traditional materials and resources. Mr. Kentta is actively involved in Native cultural affairs all over Oregon and beyond and is currently an elected member of the Tribal Council of the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians. Mr. Kentta is a recognized regalia-maker and weaver, and his work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. He attended the internationally acclaimed *Institute of American Indians Arts* located in Santa Fe, New Mexico and studied basket making with master weaver Gladys Muschamps. In 2005, he was one of three Siletz tribal artists who travelled to New Zealand to meet with Maori artists and tribal leaders as part of a cultural exchange program. He is currently a contributing artist to the *Art of Ceremony* exhibition touring Oregon.

George W. Aguilar, Sr. (*author*)

George W. Aguilar Sr. is a Wasco elder and life long resident of the Warm Springs Reservation in north-central Oregon. Born in The Dalles in 1930, Mr. Aguilar was brought to the Warm Springs Reservation by his maternal grandparents in 1932 following the death of his parents. He was raised in a very traditional Native environment. Over the years, Mr. Aguilar has been a field worker, fisherman, logger, gambler, and is a veteran of the Korean War. Now he is also a published author. His *When the River Ran Wild!* won the Oregon Book Award for creative nonfiction in 2006. It also received the 2006 Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History. In this personal memoir and tribal history, Mr. Aguilar tells about the Kiksht-speaking Eastern Chinookans, who lived and worked for centuries connected to the rhythms and resources of the great fishing grounds of the Columbia River at Five Mile Rapids. *When the River Ran Wild!* is the history of names and naming, of deep family connections, and of traditional customs. It is a descriptive catalog of the plants the River People used for sustenance and medical purposes, and it is a detailed guide on how to pack out an elk and how to tan a hide. Mr. Aguilar has written this book to help others understand what the River People have lost on the Columbia River over the decades, but he also gives testimony to what has been conserved and enlivened by a people who love the land and who honor tradition and those who came before.