# "Including Native Americans in Our Dialogue on Diversity"

Richard S. Conley

Associate Professor of Political Science
and

Director, American Indian and Indigenous Studies (AIIS) Program rconley@ufl.edu





# Context: Nationally and in Florida

- 100+ Million Indigenous Peoples in North America ca. 1800
- Today: 2.75 million (U.S. Census, 2019)
- 574 federally-recognized Tribes
- 245 non-recognized Tribes

- Florida today (<5,000):
- Seminole Tribe & Miccosukee (recognized)
- Creek (non-recognized)



#### Florida Reservations (Seminole)



# The Seminole in Florida History

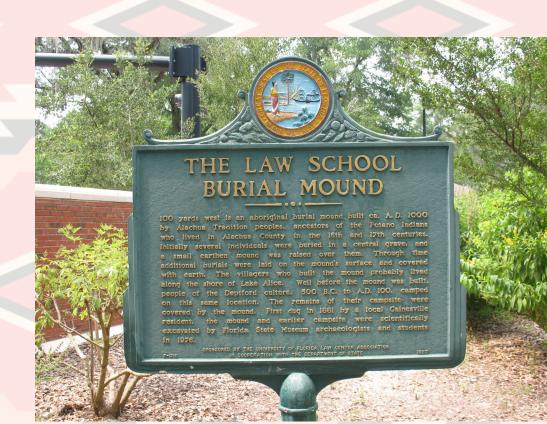
- Seminole Wars (1816-19, 1835-42, 1855-58)
- Indian Removal Act (1830) and the Trail of Tears
  - Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole forced to relocate to Oklahoma
- Intermarriage with escaped slaves
- Those who resisted and stayed behind: The Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Masters of environmental management
- Today: The Hard Rock Empire, balancing economic success with traditional ways
- Big Cypress: The Ah-Tha-Tiki Museum

Green Corn Dance, Aztec connection



#### Native Connections to UF

- Land grant university on Timicua / Poblano land
  - Timicua "disappeared" or were absorbed into other Indigenous cultures
- Burial ground and marker near the Law School
  - Spearheaded by Native students at UF
- Lake Alice
- Newnan's Lake
  - Pre-contact Archaic Period canoes



### Native Representations at UF

- No identifiable faculty
- Need for a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Historian
- Student representation:
  - Only a few Seminole students in UF history
  - Declining enrollment by self-identified Alaska Natives/Native Americans
  - Many Indigenous students from Central/South America

# Native Representations at UF

Year	# of Students	Percent of Students
2010	233	0.45
2009	268	0.53
2010	171	0.34
2011	164	0.33
2012	158	0.32
2013	148	0.3
2014	146	0.29
2015	144	0.27
2016	150	0.27
2017	144	0.26
2018	126	0.22
2019	106	0.19
2020	87	0.15

## Steps Forward

- The Symbolic
  - Land Acknowledgment
- The Substantive
  - Faculty hiring
  - Support of student groups (IASA, SACNAS, Native Law Student Association)
  - Outreach to Seminole Tribe: Consultation, expertise
  - Recruiting Native students: From Florida through the Americas and Oceania
    - Liaise with Tribal Colleges
    - Understand the unique situation of Indigenous students and intergenerational trauma
  - Focus on universality of values to integrate Native perspectives across disciplines
  - Encourage students, faculty to attend events on Native culture, history, traditions

#### Resources

- American Indian and Indigenous Studies (AIIS) <a href="https://aiis.clas.ufl.edu/">https://aiis.clas.ufl.edu/</a>
  - Interdisciplinary faculty: Anthropology, Art History, Environmental Sciences, Latin American Studies, Political Science, Religion
  - Samuel Proctor Oral History Program: Paul Ortiz
  - Smathers Library resources: Ginessa Mahar

