

# “Including Native Americans in Our Dialogue on Diversity”

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



# Florida Reservations (Seminole)



New Reservation, Polk County

TAMPA

BRIGHTON

FORT PIERCE

BIG CYPRESS

IMMOKALEE

HOLLYWOOD

# 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) <https://aiis.clas.ufl.edu/>
  - 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



Mitakuye Oyasin