

SEARCHING FOR SEQUOYAH

Personnel:

James M. Fortier, Producer/Director/Cinematographer/Editor, (Ojibway)

James is an enrolled member of the Biigtigong Nishnaabeg First Nation (formerly known as Ojibways of Pic River First Nation), located in Ontario, Canada. Born in Ontario and raised in the Chicago area, James set out for California at the ripe age of 20 to complete film school at San Francisco State University. His first documentary, *Alcatraz Is Not An Island* screened at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival in 2001 and aired nationally on PBS and APTN in Canada. For nearly 30 years James has been a Director of Photography on thousands of productions for Fortune 500 Companies, broadcast and cable television, PBS and the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network in Canada.

Since 1995, James' documentaries have focused primarily on Native American and environmental issues. He has won numerous awards, including three Emmy Awards and most recently the DuPont Columbia Award For Broadcast Journalism as episode Producer/Director of *Bad Sugar*, part of the national PBS health series *Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?* James' latest documentary, *Gifts From the Elders(2013)* screened at several film festivals and aired on PBS in Minnesota.

Other documentary works include the six hour PBS Ojibwe series *Waasa Inaabidaa: We Look In All Directions, Voices for the Land, Indian Country Diaries: Spiral of Fire, Playing Pastime: American Indians, Softball, and Survival, Green Green Water*, and two documentaries for the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, *Pulling Together*, and *Gathering Together*. In 2007 James was the Artist in Residence at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign where he conducted a four week video production lab for the American Indian Studies Department course, *American Indian Stereotypes in Film*, and presented several of his documentaries for students and faculty.

LeAnne Howe, Producer/Writer (Choctaw Nation).

LeAnne was the on-camera narrator and writer for the 90-minute PBS film, *Indian Country Diaries Spiral of Fire*, 2006, set in North Carolina homelands of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The film is a journey of discovery to understand the mix of tourism, community, and cultural preservation on the Qualla Boundary of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Along the way, Howe reconciles her own complex identity as the illegitimate daughter of a Choctaw mother, fathered by a Cherokee man she never knew, and raised by an adopted Cherokee family in Oklahoma. She is also the co-producer, writer, and on-camera narrator for the half hour film *Playing Pastime, American Indians, Softball and Survival*, 2007 which has screened at film festivals across the U.S.

Howe writes fiction, poetry, screenplays, scholarship, and plays that deal with Native experiences. Her first novel *Shell Shaker*, 2001 received an American Book Award in 2002 from the Before Columbus Foundation. The French translation *Equinoxes Rouge* was the 2004 finalist for Prix Medici Etranger, one of France's top literary awards. *Evidence of Red*, Salt Publishing, UK, 2005 won the Oklahoma Book Award for poetry in 2006. Howe's second novel, *Miko Kings: An Indian Baseball Story*, Aunt Lute Books, 2007 was chosen by Hampton University in Virginia as their 2009-2010 Read-in Selection. In 2013 she published two books, *Seeing Red, Pixeled Skins: American Indians and Film*, co-authored with Harvey Markowitz and Denise Cummings; and the award winning *Choctalking on Other Realities*, a memoir.

Her recent awards include: the 2015 MLA prize for Studies in Native American Literatures, Cultures, and Languages; and the 2015 Western Literature Association award for the Distinguished Achievement Award co-recipient for creative and critical work. (Award ceremony in October 2015.) She is the recipient of the 2012 USA Ford Fellowship a \$50,000 grant from United States Artists, a not for profit organization. Howe joins a class of 2012 awardees that includes Annie Proulx, Coco Fusco, Guillermo Gomez-Pena, David Henry Hwang, Edgar Heap of Birds, Adrienne Kennedy, and many others. During the Arab Spring, 2010-2011, she was a Fulbright Scholar at University of Jordan.

Other awards include a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Native Writers Circle of the Americas, the 2011, Tulsa Library Trust's "American Indian Author Award," at the Central Library in Tulsa, OK. Currently Professor Howe is the Eidson Distinguished Chair in American Literature at the University of Georgia, Athens.

Joshua Nelson, Co-Producer/Narrator (Cherokee Nation)

Joshua is President's Associates Presidential Professor at the University of Oklahoma, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and a native Oklahoman. He is Chair of the Film & Media Studies Department, Associate Professor of English, and affiliated faculty with Native American Studies and Women's & Gender Studies, focusing on American Indian literature and film. His book, *Progressive Traditions: Identity in Cherokee Literature and Culture* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2014), looks to dismantle the pervasive assimilated/traditional dichotomy plaguing American Indian literary criticism. It explores the empowering potential of traditional, adaptive strategies and practices to address cultural and historical dilemmas. He earned his B.A. in Psychology at Yale University and his Ph.D. in English at Cornell University.

Prof. Nelson takes a pluralist interest in tribalist, postcolonial, anarchistic, feminist, and pragmatic theoretical perspectives. His work has appeared in the *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*, *The Oxford Handbook of Indigenous American Literature*, and *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Film Comedy*. He is at work on a book on representations of the body in Indigenous film, and is co-producer, narrator and interviewer on the forthcoming PBS documentary *Searching for Sequoyah*. He teaches courses on American Indian literature, literary criticism, and film, and he is the lead organizer of the Native Crossroads Film Festival and Symposium. He and his wife divide their time between Norman and Park Hill, Oklahoma.

Jerod Impichchaaha' Tate, Composer/Music Supervisor (Chickasaw Nation)

Praised and honored for "his ability to effectively infuse classical music with American Indian nationalism (Washington Post)," **Jerod Impichchaaha' Tate**, born in Norman, Oklahoma, is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation. Tate is dedicated to the development of American Indian classical composition. He is a 2011 Emmy Award winner, a Governor appointed Oklahoma State Creativity Ambassador and his music was recently featured on the HBO series *Westworld*.

His commissioned works have been performed by the National Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony and Chorus, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Winnipeg Symphony

Orchestra, South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, Colorado Ballet, Canterbury Voices, Dale Warland Singers, Santa Fe Desert Chorale and Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival.

Tate has held Composer-in-Residence positions for *Music Alive*, a national residency program of the League of American Orchestras and New Music USA, the Joyce Foundation/American Composers Forum, Oklahoma City's NewView Summer Academy, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and Grand Canyon Music Festival Native American Composer Apprentice Project. Tate was the founding composition instructor for the Chickasaw Summer Arts Academy and has taught composition to American Indian high school students in Minneapolis, the Hopi, Navajo and Lummi reservations and Native students in Toronto.

Jennifer Kreisberg, Theme Song Composer/Performer (Tuscarora)

Mother, Singer, Composer, Producer, Teacher, and Activist - Jennifer (Tuscarora, North Carolina) comes from four generations of Seven Singing Sisters through the maternal line. She is known for fierce vocals, soaring range and lilting, breath-taking harmonies.

Jennifer has been singing since she was a child. When she was seventeen, she joined the critically acclaimed Native women's Trio ULALI. Her voice perfectly wove the high strand of Ulali's renowned harmony with incomparable skill and grace for over twenty years. Together, they created a new sound in Indian Country. Jennifer's sharp wit and stage presence infused Ulali's shows with strong vocals, humor and camaraderie with the audience.

Jennifer is frequently called upon to guest lecture and conduct vocal workshops at universities, schools, in Native communities and at festivals throughout the United States and Canada. She has worked in film and television and has toured with renowned musicians throughout the world.

Karl W. Schmidt, Photographer/Videographer/Location Sound

Karl W. Schmidt is a photographer based in Norman, Oklahoma. He graduated from the prestigious photojournalism program at Western Kentucky University in 2006. He is currently the manager of the Digital Media Lab in the Film & Media Studies program at the University of Oklahoma. Karl spends his weekends traveling to weird places in Oklahoma and his summers searching for the mythical West.

Julianna Brannum, Production Manager (Comanche Nation of Oklahoma)

Julianna is a documentary filmmaker based in Oklahoma. Her first film, *The Creek Runs Red*, was selected to air on PBS's national prime-time series, Independent Lens. She later served as Producer for "Wounded Knee", the final episode in the PBS series *We Shall Remain* for American Experience. The film premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and won the ABC News Video Source Award for Outstanding Use of Archival in a Film.

Ms. Brannum was selected as a Sundance Institute/Ford Foundation Fellow for her public television documentary *LaDonna Harris: Indian 101*. She was also awarded a fellowship from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Tribeca Film Institute in support of the film. The film aired nationally on PBS in November 2015 and was Executive Produced by Johnny Depp. She most recently served as Series

Producer on the PBS series, “Native America”, produced by Providence Pictures. This epic, 4-part series focuses on the civilizations of the Americas and will air nationally on PBS in Fall 2018.

Ms. Brannum is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma where she was awarded the 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award for the College of Arts and Sciences and is a member of the Quahada band of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma.

Amanda E. Cuellar, Production Manager/Translator

Amanda is a native fronteriza from the El Paso/Juarez borderlands. She received both her BA and MA from the University of Texas at El Paso and taught high school English for six years before pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Oklahoma. Her academic interests include border studies, Chicana/o literature, and Mexican film and media. Her dissertation project titled *Frameworks of Healing: The Process of Reconciliation and Transformation in Gloria Anzaldúa* interrogates Anzaldúa’s notion of la frontera in contemporary Chicana/o texts and media. In addition to working on her dissertation project and teaching first-year composition at OU, Amanda helps program and organize the Native Crossroads Film Festival.

Joseph Erb, Animation Artist (Cherokee)

Joseph is a computer animator, educator, and artist and a member of the { HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherokee_Nation" \h }. He earned his Master of Fine Arts degree from the { HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Pennsylvania" \h }. He used his artistic skills to teach { HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muscogee_Creek" \h } and { HYPERLINK "<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherokee>" \h } students how to animate traditional stories. He currently serves on the board of the Cherokee Arts and Humanities Council.

Erb created the first Cherokee animation in the Cherokee language, { HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Beginning_They_Told&action=edit&redlink=1" \h }. The 11-minute animated piece relays parts of the Cherokee's creation story, featuring Buzzard, Beaver, and the Water Beetle, who brings fire to humanity. Erb is also a fine artist. He addresses contemporary realities facing Indian people through his sculpture, paintings, and jewelry. The { HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherokee_Heritage_Center" \h } in { HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Park_Hill,_Oklahoma" \h } frequently exhibits his work. Several of his paintings are a part of the permanent collection at the Sequoyah National Research Center in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Jonathan Thunder, Animation Artist (Ojibwe)

Jonathan Thunder was born in 1977 in the small hospital at the Red Lake Ojibwe Nation in northern Minnesota. Having grown up in the twin cities, Thunder infuses his Ojibwe perspectives with real-time experiences using a wide range of mediums. He is known for his large scale paintings with surreal imagery, as well as animated films and installations in which he addresses subject matter from loss and recovery of Indigenous sovereignty, the effects of spiritual enslavement, environmental welfare, and humorous social commentary. Masked and animalistic characters in surreal and abstract environments often set the stage in these allegories Thunder describes as “vignettes”.

He has attended the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) in Santa Fe, NM and studied Visual Effects and Motion Graphics in Minneapolis, MN at the Art Institute International. His work has been featured in many state, regional, and national exhibitions, as well as in local and international publications. Thunder is the recipient of a 2020 Pollock – Krasner Foundation Award for painting. He has won several awards for his short films in national and international competitions.

Arron Williams, After Effects Artist

Bio coming

CAST:

Winnie Guess Perdue, Descendent of Sequoyah (Cherokee Nation)

Winnie is a direct descendant of Sequoyah and an accomplished ballerina, fancy dancer and artist. A lifetime athlete, she has competed in the Oklahoma Senior Olympics and the National Senior Games. In 2002, she competed in Melbourne, Australia, at the World Masters Games and in 2004 was named Oklahoma's Senior Athlete of the Year.

She is one of two to three females in history to have mastered the old school traditional version of the Hoop Dance and is recognized as an honored elder of early female "fancy dancers." In addition to awards and honors, she was a finalist in the 1957 Miss Indian America competition, received the Moscelyn Larkin Greater Tulsa Lifetime of Cultural Achievement Award in 2008, and in 2015 she accepted the Oral Roberts University Lifetime of Global Achievement Award. She serves on the Greater Tulsa Area Indian Affairs Commission. She has also performed on television shows, including the Ed Sullivan Show and Today Show.

Sequoyah Guess, Descendent of Sequoyah (United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians)

Sequoyah is a writer, filmmaker, storyteller, artist and a full-blood member of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians of Oklahoma. Born in Borger, Texas, on October 25, 1956, Mr. Guess is a sixth-generation descendent of Sequoyah. He speaks, reads and writes in the language of his people. In 2002 and 2005, Mr. Guess was nominated as a "Living Treasure" by the Cherokee Heritage Museum and the Cherokee Nation, but his greatest honor came when he was asked to tell stories at an Intertribal Elder's Conference in Oklahoma City. He is a favorite during the Cherokee Holiday, the Keetoowah Celebration and at the Cherokee Heritage Museum in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Mr. Guess carries the honor of being the only storyteller to ever be asked to tell stories at a Cherokee Nation Council meeting.

He works closely with the Keetoowahs and Cherokees concerning the heritage of his people and is a member of the Youth/Elder Camp committee, which holds camps three times a year in an effort to teach the youth the traditions of the Keetoowah and Cherokee. In addition to being a storyteller, Mr. Guess is the Historical Preservation Committee Chairman and senior Cultural Site Investigator for the NAGPRA (1) Committee of the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees. Under the imprint "Kholvn Books," Mr. Guess has self-published nine books, including seven novels, one collection of short stories, and one language guide: Kholvn (1992), U'ktan: The Ancient One (1994), Gramma's Stories and Others I've Heard (2000), Something in the Light (2002), Blood Law (2003), Red Eye (2004), Practical

Keetoowah/Cherokee (2004), Sgili (2004), and Nocturne (2006). In 1992, Mr. Guess produced, wrote the script, and directed the first all Native American produced film, *Kholvn--The Ravenmocker*. He has produced and directed several cultural films and in 2005 produced, scripted, and directed a short film entitled *Free Money*, which is based on a story told to him by an elder.

Verna Bates, Descendent of Sequoyah (Cherokee Nation)

Over 20 years creating art. Award winning Cherokee artist. Art includes: Gourd masks, misc. gourd art, Coil built Pottery, misc. clay art, Paintings, Jewelry, wall hangings, tree ornaments.

John Ross, Descendent of Sequoyah (United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians)

John Ross, Jr., is a full-blood Cherokee speaker from Adair County in the Cherokee Nation. John holds a Bachelor in Social Sciences from Northeastern State University with an emphasis in Indian Studies and Business. John was Treasurer of The United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma (UKB) from 1987-91. He was Chief of UKB from 1991-1998. It was he who secured all federal funding for the UKB through a bill passed through Congress in 1997. He has a passion for his people and wants to share his culture through the preservation of our language in many forms. John has worked over a decade at the Cherokee Nation in Housing, Community Services and currently in Translation - Education Services. He is certified as a Master in the Cherokee language and as a certified Cherokee Instructor in the Cherokee language. Cherokee Nation has the only Translation Department of any Tribe in the United States. In 2014 John was named a Cherokee National Treasure. John is married to Julie Kiddy Ross and they have three children Rikki, Trey and Susan of the home. John has two other children Tony and Adam and five grandchildren.

Nathan Wolfe, Descendent of Sequoyah (United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians)

Traditional Stickball Player and Cherokee Nation Certified Cultural Representative.

Roy Boney, Jr., Artist & Manager, Cherokee Nation Language Program (Cherokee Nation)

Roy is a full blood { [HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherokee" \h](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherokee) } comic artist, fine artist, computer animator and language preservationist from { [HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Locust_Grove,_Oklahoma" \h](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Locust_Grove,_Oklahoma) }, a citizen of the { [HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherokee_Nation" \h](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherokee_Nation) }, and a hereditary member of the Deer Clan. Roy Boney Jr. grew up speaking the { [HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherokee_language" \h](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherokee_language) }. He studied at { [HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oklahoma_State_University" \h](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oklahoma_State_University) }, earning a BFA in Graphic Design and received his Masters of Arts degree at the { [HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Arkansas_at_Little_Rock" \h](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Arkansas_at_Little_Rock) }, where he was a member of the Sequoyah Research Center team and received the { [HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prairie_Band_Potawatomi_Nation" \h](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prairie_Band_Potawatomi_Nation) } Fellowship.

With Matthew Shepherd, Boney created the graphic novel series, *Dead Eyes Open*, published by { [HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slave_Labor_Graphics" \h](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slave_Labor_Graphics) }. From a comic background, Boney ventured into fine art drawing and painting. His fine art debut in 2006 yielded the Grand Prize at the { [HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherokee_Heritage_Center" \h](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cherokee_Heritage_Center) }'s *Trail of Tears* art show and inclusion in the traveling exhibit, *Frybread and Roses: The Art of Native American*

Labor. Several of Boney's paintings are in the permanent collection of the Sequoyah National Research Center. Boney collaborated with { HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_L._Erb" \h } at American Indian Resource Center, Inc., teaching animation to { HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muscogee_Creek" \h } and Cherokee Children. Their Native language animated films have received numerous awards. Boney is currently a language media specialist for the Cherokee Nation. Erb and Boney developed an { HYPERLINK "<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/IPhone>" \h } application for Cherokee language text messaging and are developing Cherokee language social network and video games. Boney is a regular contributor to { HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Country_Today_Media_Network" \h } and { HYPERLINK "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_American_Art_Magazine" \h }.

Assistant Professor, Candessa Tehee (Cherokee Nation)

Assistant Professor of American Indian Studies and Coordinator of Cherokee Language Education and Cherokee Cultural Studies Programs at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Cherokee Nation citizen and fiber artist. Former Executive Director of the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah, OK.

Professor Daniel Heath Justice (Cherokee Nation)

Daniel is a Colorado-born Canadian citizen of the Cherokee Nation and Canada Research Chair of Indigenous Literature and Expressive Culture at the University of British Columbia. He is an associate professor of First Nations Studies and currently serves as Chair of UBC's First Nations Studies Program. He is the author of numerous scholarly and creative works, including *Our Fire Survives the Storm: A Cherokee Literary History* (University of Minnesota Press, 2006), *The Way of Thorn and Thunder: The Kynship Chronicles* (University of New Mexico Press, 2011), and *Badger* (in the Animal Series from Reaktion Books UK, 2014), and is co-editor of *Sovereign Erotics: A Collection of Two-Spirit Literature* (University of Arizona Press, 2011) and *The Oxford Handbook of Indigenous American Literature* (Oxford University Press, 2014). His current work is engaged with the influence of other-than-human kinship values on Indigenous literature and artistic expression.

Charlie Rhodarmer, Director, Sequoyah Birthplace Museum

Brett H. Riggs, Archeologist, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Brett Riggs is a research archaeologist at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has worked with the Eastern band of Cherokee Indians on various projects since the early 1990s, will become the new Sequoyah Distinguished Professor of Cherokee Studies at Western Carolina University.

"Brett Riggs is an accomplished archeologist with deep ties with the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. He approaches his work with a rare sensitivity that has impressed academics and tribal members alike," Starnes said. "His arrival at WCU marks a renewed institutional commitment to honoring, preserving and understanding the history and culture of our region's native people."

Riggs specializes in Cherokee Studies and has worked in Western North Carolina for more than 20 years studying the lives of Cherokee families during the removal era of the 1830s. In his position with the

Research Laboratories of Archaeology at UNC-CH, he is helping to establish the National Historic Trail of Tears Long-Distance Trail in the southwestern corner of WNC.

Julie Reed, PhD. Associate Professor in History, Penn State College of the Liberal Arts (Cherokee Nation)

Julie L. Reed is a historian of Native American History, with an emphasis on Southeastern Indians and Cherokee History, and American Education.

Reed's current project, tentatively titled "The Means of Education Shall Forever Be Encouraged in this Nation": A Cherokee and American Educational History," reconsiders Cherokee educational history. Instead of assuming Cherokee educational efforts begin with Christian missionaries, U.S. officials, and Sequoyah's invention of the syllabary in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, Reed roots education in older forms of knowledge transmission and a general belief among Cherokee people that every member of Cherokee society regardless of age or gender could learn from or teach every other member of society. Given the far more expansive and less rigid access to knowledge, Reed will consider how this older system moved forward as both Cherokees and non-Cherokees offered new ideas about the purposes, accessibility, and goals of education.

Her first book *Serving the Nation: Cherokee Sovereignty and Social Welfare, 1800-1907* (University of Oklahoma, 2016) examined the shift by Cherokee people from a holistic system of care for others rooted within a matrilineal clan system and governed by local community obligations that stretched across towns to the rise of nationally administered social services by the Cherokee Nation to individual citizens. This shift ultimately resulted in the creation of an orphanage, a prison, and a facility for the (dis)abled and mentally ill in the period after the Civil War. Reed considers major turning points and the internal debates that led to changes in Cherokee social policy, how these changes in social policy both mirrored and deviated from changes happening in the larger United States, and the ways institutions served to protect Cherokee sovereignty when allotment and Oklahoma statehood threatened.

Mosiah Bluecloud, Language Consultant (Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma)

Language and History Consultation and Program Development Consultant with the Kickapoos tribe in Kansas. Former Kickapoo language development director/coordinator at Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma

Lynn Harlan, Public Relations Coordinator at Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians

Bi coming

Jose Alberto Galindo, Author/Historian, Zaragoza, Coahuila, MX

Bio coming

Additional Scholar-Advisors:

Christopher B. Teuton, Professor, University of Washington, American Indian Studies (Cherokee Nation)

Dr. Christopher B. Teuton joined the faculty of UW in 2014 as Professor and Chair of AIS. He is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation. Before coming to UW, Teuton was on the faculty of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Teuton's scholarship is in the forefront of developing Indigenous research methodologies within the study of Indigenous literature. Grounding his critical approach in the concept of praxis, a mutual commitment to theory and practice, Teuton's work engages decolonization through centering Indigenous knowledge systems in the study of Indigenous textuality, cultural practice, politics, and history. He has lectured nationally and internationally as a guest of the University of Sydney, University of Toronto, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Oklahoma, University of Manitoba, and Monash University. Teuton has worked as a consultant with the Cherokee Nation to create a Cherokee Nation K-12 educational curriculum. He is a former Katrin H. Lamon Fellow at the School for Advanced Research on the Human Experience in Santa Fe, New Mexico (2009-10).

Dr. Teuton's most recent book is *Cherokee Stories of the Turtle Island Liars' Club* (University of North Carolina Press, 2012), a collection of forty interwoven stories, conversations and teachings about Western Cherokee life, beliefs, and the art of storytelling. Written collaboratively with Elders and traditionalists Hastings Shade, Sammy Still, Sequoyah Guess, and Woody Hansen, *Cherokee Stories of the Turtle Island Liars' Club* was presented with an American Book Award in 2013. Teuton is also author of *Deep Waters: the Textual Continuum in American Indian Literature* (University of Nebraska Press, 2010) as well as co-editor and co-author of *Reasoning Together: the Native Critics Collective* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2008). In 2011, *Reasoning Together* was voted one of the ten most influential books of the first ten years of the twenty-first century in Native American and Indigenous Studies by the members of NAISA.

Teuton's present book-length project offers a model for understanding the evolving narrative patterns that chart the movements of characters and plots in Indigenous literature. It builds on his recent article, "The Cycle of Removal and Return: A Symbolic Geography of Indigenous Literature."

Professor and Chair of American Indian Studies at the University of Washington-Seattle. He is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, and worked as a consultant with the Cherokee Nation to create a Cherokee Nation K-12 educational curriculum. His most recent book is *Cherokee Stories of the Turtle Island Liars Club*, 2012, and awarded an American Book Award in 2013. Teuton is the author of *Deep Waters: The Textual Continuum in American Indian Literature*, 2010. He is co-editor and co-author of *Reasoning Together: The Natives Critics Collective*, 2008 which was voted one of the ten most influential books of the first ten years of the twenty-first century in Native American and Indigenous Studies by members of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association.

Julia Coates, Ph.D., At-large Tribal Councilor of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma

Born in Pryor, Oklahoma, and has also resided in Arcata, San Francisco, Woodland, and Los Angeles, CA; Albuquerque, NM; and Tahlequah, OK. She holds a PhD, American Studies, University of New Mexico.

Assistant Professor of Native American Studies, University of California, Davis, Pasadena City College

Visiting Professor, Cherokee Cultural Studies, Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, OK
Instructor, Cherokee Society and Government online certificate, UCLA Extension
Instructor, Falmouth Institute, American Indian Tribal Administration and Governance, Fairfax, VA
Research and Special Projects, American Indian Studies Center, UCLA
Oral History Interviewer and Senior Writer, Center for Oral History Research, UCLA
Program Director, Native Lands Institute, Albuquerque

Founding Member, Cherokee PINS Project: Education and Engagement for Sovereignty non-profit
Board Member and President, Native Lands Institute, Albuquerque

Margaret Bender, PhD., Associate Professor, Cultural/Linguistic Anthropology

Margaret Bender received her A.B. degree in English from Cornell University, her A.M. in the social sciences from the University of Chicago, and her Ph.D. in Anthropology also from the University of Chicago. Bender believes strongly that the study of language is essential to our understanding of cultures, persons, and events. She has studied the relationship between language and culture in a variety of contexts—from political rhetoric in Iran to family literacy education in Chicago. Most of her work, however, has centered around the Cherokee language and been based in North Carolina's Eastern Cherokee community. Focal areas have included literacy, language ideologies, linguistic sovereignty, and language revitalization. Bender is currently involved in two major research projects. The first is a book project in which she is studying changes in Cherokee sacred language between 1800 and the early 20th century. The second is funded by 2014 Pilot Research Grant from Wake Forest University: Testing the Impact on Student Learning of the Introduction of Indigenous Language Texts to Cherokee Language Immersion Classrooms: A Pilot Study. Bender has worked with authors and artists to develop two new Cherokee language texts to be used in language immersion education in the coming academic year. This project is designed to test two hypotheses: 1) that the introduction of indigenous texts will lead to student acquisition of language-specific grammatical and stylistic structures that would otherwise not be acquired by students at the school; 2) that the introduction of indigenous texts will lead to greater Cherokee cultural knowledge and appreciation. She is currently working on the questions that will accompany each text enabling the testing of the two hypotheses.