

Tohono O'odham Kekel Ha-Maşcamakuḍ

S-ke:g Ha'icu A:gidag—Good News

Welcome Back TOCC Students!

Şopol 'Eşabig Maşad

August 24, 2018

2018 TOCC *I:wagĩ* (Wild Spinach) Harvest

On July 24, 2018, the Himdag Committee sponsored an *I:wagĩ* harvest. Harvesting wild spinach – or *I:wagĩ* is a Tohono O'odham custom that goes back to when the “grocery store” was the great outdoors. The early O'odham traditionally hunted and gathered their food, knowledge of edible plants and gathering techniques were usually handed down from parents to their children and grandchildren.



Photo Credit: Elizabeth Ortega



Photo Credit: Elizabeth Ortega

To the unexperienced, *i:wagĩ* may appear to be nothing more than weeds. However they are edible and good for you, they contain vitamins and other healthy nutrients. *I:wagĩ* usually grows after the rains and are harvested when only a few days old since they can grow quickly and can grow too big and may be tough to eat. There are at least four types of wild spinach that are gathered by the O'odham, growing at different times of the year.

To prepare, *i:wagĩ* is washed and boiled or steamed to remove dirt and other natural deposits, dried then typically cooked with onions and other ingredients. The gathered *i:wagi* on July 24, 2018 was cooked and shared with students and staff for lunch with Tepary Beans and tortillas.



I:wagĩ cleaning, preparation and cooking demonstrations, followed by enjoyment from Staff and Students.
Photos taken by Georgianne Jose

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Meet Imre Koczka, First to Earn the Casino Gaming Certificate

by Martha S. Lee

Three years after it began in January 2015, TOCC's Casino Gaming Certificate (CAG) program has its first graduate.

Mr. Imre Koczka recently gave an interview to talk about his experience earning the certificate while working for the Tohono O'odham Gaming Office, which is the regulatory agency overseeing the Tohono O'odham Gaming Enterprise.

Mr. Koczka, who likes to go by his first name Imre, said that earning the certificate made him more well-rounded and knowledgeable in his understanding of his work and the place of gaming in society. He especially enjoyed CAG 100 Casino Gaming Industry Basics, which covered the history of gaming, including the invention of the slot machine by American inventor Charles Fey in the 1890s and an overview of four centuries of table games.



Gaming Inspector Supervisor Imre Koczka graduated from TOCC in May 2018. He is shown here at the front door of his workplace. Photo by Dana Mattias.

While the Casino Gaming program is open to all, Imre said that most of his classmates were employees of either the "business side" (the Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel) or the "regulatory side" (the Gaming Office). It was interesting for the classmates to experience different perspectives and learn from each other.

Imre enjoyed the excellent faculty, the small class sizes, and the convenience of attending college at the workplace. He appreciated the hands-on projects on that brought the learning to life. For example:

- In CAG 111 Gaming Finance and Accounting, the students learned about different tribal enterprises that receive funds generated by the gaming business. Imre's project involved understanding how Tohono O'odham Nation Legislative Council appropriations join with other revenue streams to support Tohono O'odham Community College operations.
- In CAG 133 Customer Service, Management, and Marketing, the classmates worked on a project to identify how customer service practices influence the Players Club—and how the Players Club members impact the bottom line for the casino.
- In CAG 144 The Tribal Casino: Challenges and Opportunities – Capstone Course, Imre and his fellow students examined human resources issues, particularly the challenge of hiring the right people to fill open positions in a timely manner.

Earning the CAG certificate was so fulfilling to Mr. Koczka that he plans to continue studying at TOCC in the future.

Other Interesting Important Events in Imre Koczka's Lifetime ...

While all our lives intersect with history, Imre Koczka has witnessed many important events during his lifetime:

- As a youth in Szeged, Hungary, he witnessed Soviet troops withdrawing from his country in the early 1990s at the end of the Cold War.
- He was grateful to finish high school in the U.S. and afterwards fulfilled his dream of becoming a U.S. Marine.
- As a Marine, he traveled the world, including time in Japan, Italy, Washington, DC, California, and a tour in Iraq.
- Later, he worked as a real estate appraiser until his job disappeared when the housing bubble burst.
- Since 2008, he has worked for the Tohono O'odham Gaming Office. He is grateful for stability and for the opportunity to work and learn with members of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

Visual Art+ Design students paid a campus visit to the Institute of American Indian Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico

Submitted by Linda Chappel, *Instructional Faculty for the Visual Arts*

Right after Spring finals were complete Delaiah Wood, Ju:ki Patrcio, Matthew Narcho, Shelly Taylor, Melisa Carlos and Dylan Porter got in a van and headed to IAIA (Institute of American Indian Arts) in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The six TOCC students stayed in the residential hall on the IAIA campus for two nights and had the opportunity to fully absorb the unique setting and feel of the IAIA campus. The campus is just outside of the city of Santa Fe and has a beautiful campus with a full range of student studios and classrooms as well as a performance art hall, a large garden, café and new student recreation center. The campus tour was a full afternoon and besides going through the art studios the students were able to meet with members of admissions and the head of Financial Aid. The staff of IAIA answered many questions for the students and were terrific hosts. As a fun surprise in one of the gallery displays on campus art from our TOCC alumni was displayed (yeah! Makaye Lewis and Francisco Friare)! Another of the fun highlights of the tour was the Digital Dome a 3D digital experience unique to the IAIA campus film department. The 'Dome' is so unique in its design (no kidding) photographs are not allowed!



Photo Credit: Ju:Ki Patricio

The students also spent time in Santa Fe seeing both the IAIA Contemporary Art Museum, just off the main Plaza in downtown and the Wheelwright Museum, up on "Museum Hill" above the town. Santa Fe has a community devoted to the arts and many opportunities for the students attending the college. After the visit the students are

exited about the opportunities offered at IAIA and are seriously weighting the opportunities it offers for their future education.



Photo Credit: Ju:Ki Patricio

IAIA offers degrees in Fine and Performance Arts, Film, Indigenous Studies, Museum Studies, Writing, and Business Entrepreneurship. Student graduating from TOCC are eligible for streamline acceptance into IAIA.

Look for information on the Internet at IAIA and check in with Linda Chappel (Visual Arts+ Design faculty) if you are interested in joining the IAIA campus tour for next spring.

TOCC students at Wat Buddhometta, the Buddhist Monastery & Meditation Center in Tucson, AZ with Abbot Ajahn Sarayut Arnata

Submitted by: Sharon Parker, Adjunct Faculty

Sharon Parker's PHI 101 course summer session II visited Abbot Adjan Sarayut Arnata at the Wat Buddhometta Buddhist Monastery and Meditation Center in Tucson, AZ on July 31, 2018. It might be interesting to note that Abbot Ajahn Sarayut Arnata is originally from the same general area of Thailand as the Thai boys who were rescued from the cave this summer are also from.

He has always been willing to meet with TOCC students in my Philosophy 101 course (Introduction to Philosophy), to provide information on Buddhism, to answer any questions they have, and then to discuss and guide them in mindfulness meditation.

He has visited the Nation, although not recently, noted that he has great fondness for the Tohono O'odham and the land with its special and beautiful landscapes and sunsets. As you probably know Buddhism is a philosophy of how to live one's life and how to interact with others - and in that regard some of the teachings are much like the Tohono O'odham Himdag. He has wored with others on issues pertinent to our region.

During the visit, he provided information and answered questions about Buddhist practice and Mindfulness Meditation to the Introduction to Philosophy (PHI 101) students. Each time I have taken students to the Wat Buddhometta (Monastery and Meditation Center of the Buddha of Loving Kindness). These Monks follow the Theravada or Southern School of Buddhism. Theravada (pronounced — more or less — "terra-VAH-dah"), the "Doctrine of the Elders," is the school of Buddhism that draws its scriptural inspiration from the Tipitaka, or Pali canon, which scholars generally agree contains the earliest surviving record of the Buddha's teachings. For many centuries, Theravada has been the predominant religion of continental Southeast Asia (Thailand, Myanmar/Burma, Cambodia, and Laos) and Sri Lanka. Today Theravada Buddhists number well over 100 million worldwide. In recent decades Theravada has begun to take root in the West.



Sharon Parker's PHI 101 course summer session II students at the Wat Buddhometta in Tucson, AZ on July 31, 2018. All but one of the students pictured are students enrolled in the Introduction to Philosophy Summer Session 2 course. Photo Credit: Anagarika Dhammapala (aka Joko).



Photo credit: Martha Lee.

TOS 120 Traditional Basketry

Ms. Elizabeth Ortega will teach TOS 120 Traditional Basketry, which is an 8-week, Saturday course this fall semester. (The semester starts on August 20; the first Traditional Basketry class will take place on Saturday, August 25, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:10 p.m.) This class is limited to 16 students. The class will be held at TOCC's Central Campus in Sells

This course will serve to preserve and perpetuate students' knowledge, creation and use of Tohono O'odham Basketry, both historical and contemporary. Students will learn oral history, songs and stories pertaining to the use and production of baskets.

The course will be taught using a "hands on" approach with time spent studying the history and culture of basketry. Guest artists will be invited to share their basket making techniques and personal stories of being an O'odham weaver. Students will use natural and contemporary materials to construct finished products. Students will gather and prepare their own materials, for use in completion of a finished basket.

Art 230—Sewing 1 Class

TOCC offered a sewing course for the first time in spring 2018. The class was instructed by Elizabeth Heuisler, M.A.Ed., who lectures in Retailing and Consumer Sciences at the University of Arizona.

In fall 2018, Ms. Heuisler will teach the Art 230 Sewing I class on Thursday afternoons from 1:00-5:10 p.m. at the sewing studio on Central Campus.

The sewing course covers basic sewing skills including an introduction to sewing machines, contents of a basic sewing kit, different kinds of stitches and seam finishes. Also addressed in the class were types of materials and why it is important to coordinate fabric and the end use. Students sew both small and larger items. Some examples of finished projects from this spring include a sewing sample workbook, tote bag, beret, and pillow cover. Each student also completed a project of their choice.



Ms. Elizabeth Heuisler, left works with Kristin Molina and Taylor Angel who took the sewing course last spring. Photo Credit: Ju:Ki Patricio

O'ohana Ki: -- The TOCC Library -- Update

Submitted by Ofelia Zepeda and Martha S. Lee

In an August 18, 2018 email to employees, President Paul Robertson described a renovation project that took place recently at Main Campus:

The library is larger now. Where there had been a library, a computer lab, an IT office, and a Student Success Center, there is now the TOCC Library.

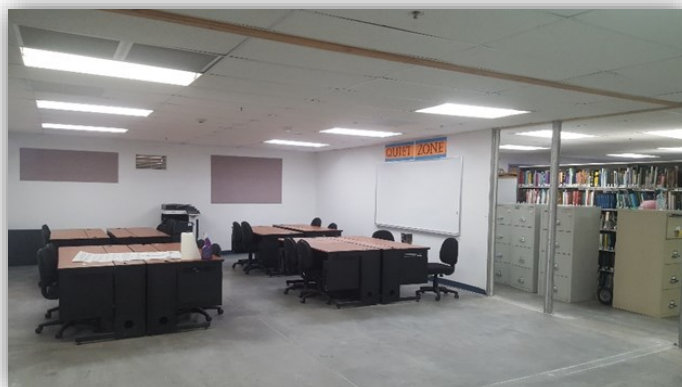
The new Library has a brighter, more open look. Walls around the library are being insulated to reduce noise. All existing services will continue. Tutors and interns will still be available and will report to the Librarian, Ofelia Zepeda.

This project was completed quickly and within a few days, as you will see in this series of photos below.

Thank you Building and Construction Technologies Programs and TOCC Development, LLC!!



Construction turned an enclosed computer lab... [Photo by Ofelia Zepeda]



...into an area for quiet study. [Photo by Martha Lee]



The Student Success Center had walls removed... [Photo by Ofelia Zepeda]



*...to become an area for tutoring and group study in the Library.
[Photo by Martha Lee]*