



Nihaadíinááł Áhxéédahwidiilziįł

Bini'ánít'áąts'ózí 4, 2019

11:30 am—2:30 pm

- 11:30 Sodizin by Dolly Manson
- 11:45 Yá'át'ééh by Melvatha R. Chee
- 12:00 Da'adáądoo
- 12:30 Tamera Yazzie, Graduate Student, Linguistics
- 12:45 Esther Yazzie-Lewis, Navajo Language Tutor
- 1:00 Dolly Manson, Navajo Language Lecturer II
- 1:15 Mary Willie, Professor of Navajo Linguistics
- 1:30 Melvatha R. Chee, Assistant Professor of
Linguistics & Director of the Navajo
Language Program
- 1:45 Questions & Discussion
- 2:30 Nizhónígo nihee áda'doo'ááł!

Activity: Share the answers to the questions listed below.
Háásh yinílyé, Háádéé'sh naniná, Háásh doóné'é nílį.





UNM Navajo Language Program Faculty

Dolly Manson comes from the Chishí (Chiricahua Apache) clan and born for the Rock Gap people. Her maternal grandfather's clan is of the Manygoats and paternal grandfather's is of the Tangle People. The first seven years of Dolly's life were spent in a rural area of the Navajo Nation. She lived in a dirt floor hogan with her maternal grandmother. As a child, she learned to care for the sheep and she learned the roles and responsibilities of a Navajo woman. In this world of Dolly's, there was only one language spoken and that was Navajo. Thus, Dolly only knew of one culture and language when she entered school. Her early formal education started in the early 60s with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Rocky Ridge Boarding School and Tuba City Boarding School. Her High School education was a Private school, Northfield Mount Hermon School in Massachusetts. Dr. Manson received her doctoral degree from New Mexico State University in Curriculum & Instruction. She served as ambassador for the Navajo Nation from 1981 through 1982 as Miss Navajo. Dolly can be heard in the Navajo-dubbed version of Finding Nemo as the voice of the starfish.

Esther Yazzie-Lewis grew up south of Farmington herding sheep and farming. Navajo is her first language and she acquired English at school. Ms. Yazzie-Lewis received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, and a Master of Arts in Public Administration and in American Studies from the University of New Mexico. Prior to receiving her BA and MA, Ms. Yazzie-Lewis worked for the Navajo Law Enforcement and Navajo Judicial Branch. In service to her people, Ms. Yazzie-Lewis worked with the Navajo People on the Navajo/Hopi land dispute, on issues related to environmental and social justice, and on uranium problems within the Navajo reservation. As a result, she co-authored the book *Navajo People and Uranium Mining*. Ms. Yazzie-Lewis certified the Navajo Language for the United States District Court for the southwest states in 1987. She has trained over 350 Navajo people in judicial interpretation at the University of Arizona since 1992. Ms. Yazzie-Lewis retired from the United State District Court for the District of New Mexico. Currently, she serves as a board member to the Southwest Research and Information Center. Today she teaches conversational Navajo for UNM Continuing Education and at the University of New Mexico main campus. Ms. Yazzie-Lewis was inducted into the Navajo Nation Hall of Fame for her work.

Mary Willie comes from Sand Springs, Arizona, north of Leupp. At age 7, Mary was taken to school to attend Mt. Elden School in Flagstaff, Arizona. Along the way, she earned an MA in Linguistics and a PhD in Native Languages. Mary began work at the University of New Mexico, then worked at the University of Arizona and returned to UNM in 2015. Currently, she is a Professor of Navajo Linguistics.

Melvatha R. Chee is Tsé Nahabíłnii, Kin Łichí'ı́nii, Hooghan Łání and Áshjìhí. She comes from Lake Valley, New Mexico. As a Diné speaker, she has over 15 years of experience working with her language in a professional capacity. Dr. Chee's linguistic work includes an analysis of Navajo child language data. Her primary research looks at how Navajo children learn to use the morphologically complex Navajo verb. Her research interests include morphophonology, polysynthesis, semantics, morphology, first language acquisition, language sustainability, and the intersection between culture and linguistics. Her secondary research work focuses on building a Navajo language corpus. Dr. Chee is a United States Marine Corps Veteran and she maintains a connection to her culture to enrich her Navajo language skills, knowledge and wellbeing. She is Assistant Professor of Linguistics and Director of the Navajo Language Program at the University of New Mexico.

