

Tribal Air Monitoring Outlook

US EPA/R&IE/CIE



TAMS Center

August 2006
Editor Polly Hennessey

Dedication of the TAMS Learning Center



*Dedication portrait of Virgil Masayesva
located in the Virgil Masayesva
Environmental Learning Center,
TAMS, Las Vegas, NV*

On March 22, 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Radiation and Indoor Environments National Laboratory (R&IE), Las Vegas, NV; the Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center (TAMS), Las Vegas, NV; and the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), Northern Arizona University (NAU), Flagstaff, AZ, joined in dedicating the TAMS Learning Center to the memory of Virgil Masayesva. Virgil, who was ITEP's Director from its inception in 1992 until his death in 2005, conceived and co-founded the Institute along with William Auberle, NAU, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences.

The TAMS Learning Center began as part of a partnership concept between ITEP, NAU, EPA and tribes. Virgil's vision was to establish the Learning Center as an enhanced environment that tribes would be proud to call their own. This vision included both hands-on and classroom elements so that not only would the Learning Center be a first rate training facility, but that it would be primarily a tribal resource in the quest for environmental parity.

The Dedication Ceremony Program was opened by Jed Harrison, Director, R&IE, and was followed by commemoration statements honoring Virgil by Bill Auberle, NAU, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences; Gregory Green, Division Director of the Outreach and Information Division, EPA; David Camacho, representing NAU President John Haeger; and Laurence Gishey, Director, Institute for Native Americans, NAU. The Lifetime Achievement Award presentations were given by Elizabeth Cotsworth, Director, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, EPA and Matt Haber, Deputy Director, Air Division, Region 9, EPA. These awards were presented to the Masayesva family and ITEP. Jed Harrison and Mehrdad Khatibi, Acting Director, ITEP, formally dedicated the Learning Center to the Virgil Masayesva Environmental Learning Center with the presentation of a plaque and the unveiling of a portrait both of which were placed in the Learning Center.

By dedicating and renaming the TAMS Learning Center to the Virgil Masayesva Learning Center, ITEP and EPA foresee a continuous path that will be followed honoring Virgil's legacy and vision for the future of the tribal environmental community.

*"Perhaps by doing our one small part, we become part of
an entire nation of people tending to their small circle of life,
and in doing we join in the most effective kind of collective,
taking the local, individual actions that, together,
help to improve the lives of all people."*

Virgil Masayesva





Powwow Drums Honoring Ceremony

As part of the ceremony honoring the memory of Virgil Masayesva, a Powwow drum performance was given by the River Tail Singers, a northern drum. This group consists of members from the Diné and Cree Tribes. Four drum songs were performed by the group. The first song was a Flag Song, which is a Native American version of a National Anthem; the second song was a Victory Song, which honors veterans; the third song was a memorial in memory of Virgil and all others that have passed on; and the fourth rendition was an intertribal song for those that are still left and for all that attended the ceremony. “Each drum has a Lead Singer who runs his drum and leads his singers in song.” “The Powwow drum itself usually consists of a large base covered with hide (buffalo, deer or cow)...Forming a circle the drum is struck in unison with covered mallets....with the singers blending their voices with the beating of the drum to create the song.”



*Gary Elthie, Lead Singer,
Diné Tribe, ITEP.*



*Leander Elthie, Diné Tribe; Herbert McCabe, Diné Tribe;
Laurence Miguel, Cree Tribe; and Gary Elthie, Diné Tribe.*

Photo Courtesy of Dennis Wall

Virgil Masayesva Dedication Ceremony

March 2006



Virgil Masayesva Dedication Ceremony

March 2006



Christy Nations - Artist



Christy Nations with her portrait of Virgil Masayesva.

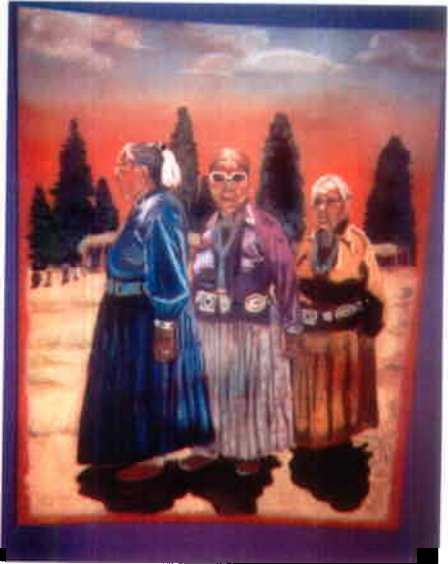
Christy Nations is the artist commissioned to do the portrait of Virgil Masayesva for the Learning Center Dedication Ceremony. Christy is a Navajo/Fort McDowell Yavapai Apache. Her mother was a member of the Fort McDowell Nation. Christy is originally from the Del Muerto Canyon area which is located in the northeastern region of Arizona. Presently, she lives and works in Flagstaff, AZ. Christy has worked as a Logistics Coordinator/Administrative Assistant for the last twelve years at the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) located on the Northern Arizona University (NAU) campus. Christy believes her artistic talents are a gift from “the Great Spirit” and that she is “still chasing butterflies.” Several of her works have placed in art shows and Native American fairs. Examples of Christy’s works are shown below.



“Daughter” Cassie purchased at the Gallup Inter-Tribal Ceremony Art Show, Gallup, NM.



“Tallman” donated to the NAU Elderly Program



“Chow Line” hangs in the New Hospital at Fort Defiance, AZ.



“Her Fan” Christy’s youngest daughter, Amy, “the fancy shawl dancer.”



Glenn Gehring



Glenn Gehring, TAMS Instructor, Virgil Masayesva Environmental Learning Center, 2005

The Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center says goodbye to a valued team member. Glenn Gehring, who joined TAMS in March 2005 as a Technology Specialist II accepted a position as Manager of the Office of Air Quality with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation located in Pendleton, OR. During his time



Glenn Gehring, TAMS Instructor, conducting a tour at EPA's Monitoring Station located on the campus of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas (UNLV), 2005

with TAMS. Glenn was the lead instructor for several training courses, including one on Meteorological Monitoring and Gaseous Pollutant Monitoring. He also provided professional assistance to individuals from several tribes, both at the TAMS Center and at various sites. After leaving TAMS in June 2006, he returned to the Virgil Masayesva Environmental Learning Center to teach a Dataloggers course. Time permitting, Glenn may be returning to teach future Institute for Environmental Professionals (IEP) TAMS courses.

AIAQTP Course Schedule

TAMS Course Schedule for Calendar Year 2006 and 2007

- Pollution Technology October 10 Las Vegas, Nevada
- Monitoring Data Management November 14-17 Flagstaff, Arizona
- Quality System (AQIS) December 5-7 Research Triangle Park, North Carolina
- PM Monitoring and Instrument Operation December 12-15 Las Vegas, Nevada
- Data Analysis and Interpretation NFW January Research Triangle Park, North Carolina
- Air Pollutant Technology March 2-16 Las Vegas, Nevada
- Gaseous Pollutant Monitoring March 30 Las Vegas, Nevada
- Dataloggers May 15-18 Las Vegas, Nevada
- Pollution and Ecosystems (NEW) May 30-June 1 Las Vegas, Nevada

Have any questions concerning these courses please call Steve Anderson at (702) 784-8264



Native American Symbols and Their Meanings

In the portrait of Vigil Masayesva, Christy Nations, the artist, used several American Indian cultural symbols to depict the experience, vision, environmental and tribal connections that were part of the “circle of life” that Virgil saw as not only his inheritance as a member of the Hopi Tribe but also as the legacy he believed belonged to the future of the tribal environmental community. Christy Nations’ interpretations of the symbols in her portrait are part of this legacy.



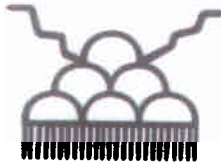
This symbol of lightning with the cross “represents the first whites who introduced Christianity to the Native People of the Hopi Tribe.” The lightning symbol can also represent swiftness and fertility.



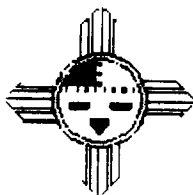
The plant or corn is a powerful symbol showing the relationship between man and Mother Earth.



The round symbol depicts the “four directions beginning from the east, south, west and north. The colors represent the different races.”



This Hopi symbol represents a cloud with rain — a symbol of abundance and fertility.



The sun symbol is a giver of life, of warmth, of goodness, all that is good in life.