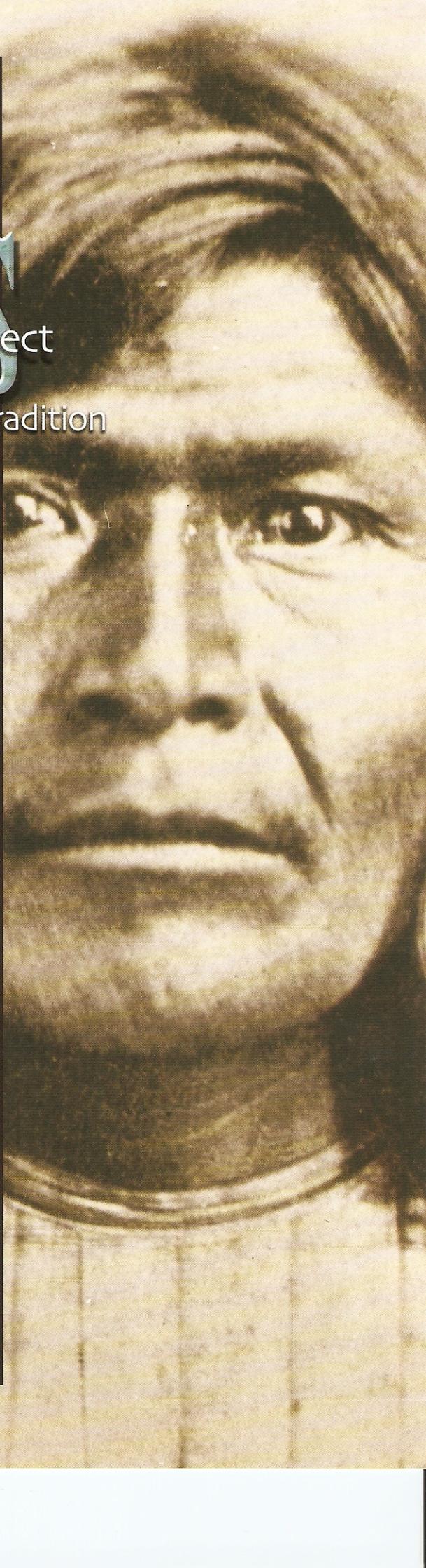
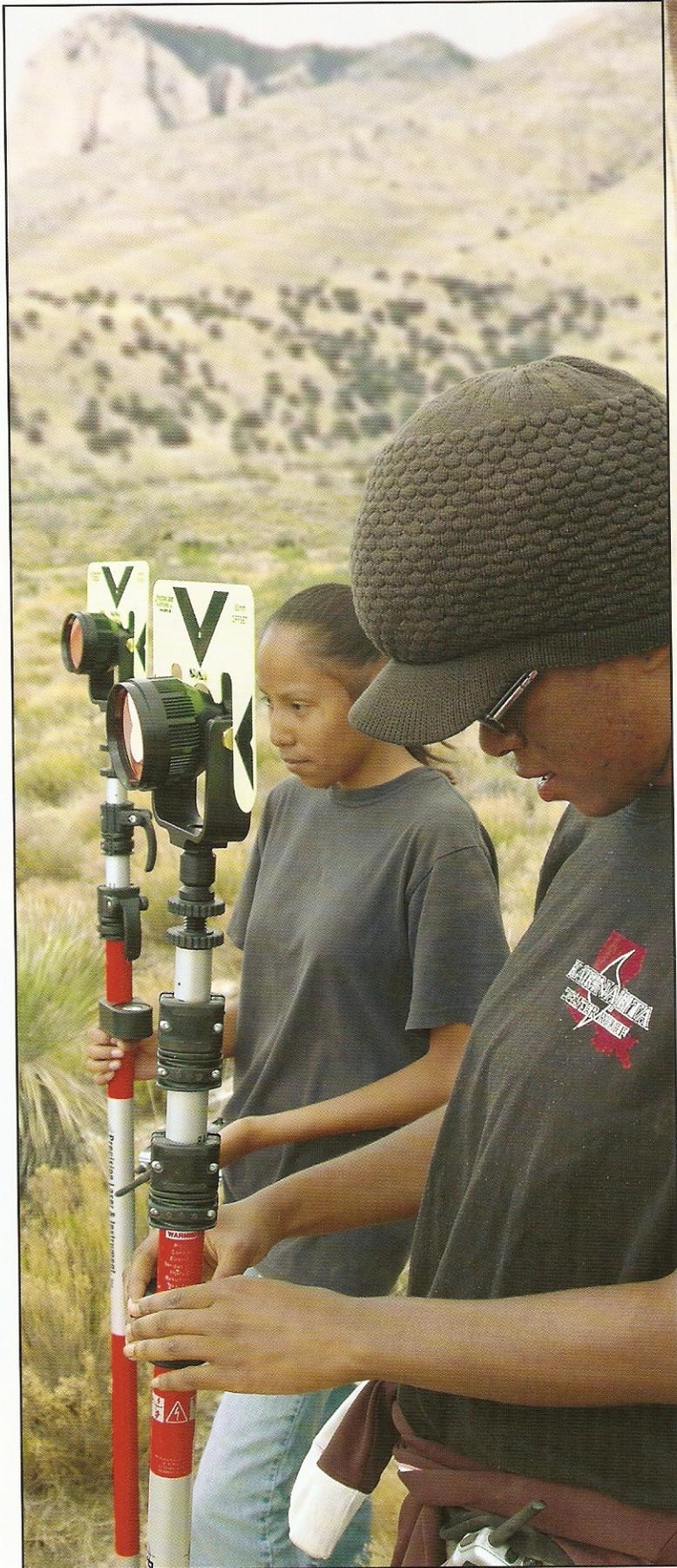




The **WARRIORS** Project  
American Peoples and the Warrior Tradition





# The Warriors Project

## American Peoples and the Warrior Tradition

### Introduction

In March of 2002, a group of scholars and government representatives met at the University of Arizona in Tucson to discuss the possibility of a research initiative about Native American and African American interaction in the 19th century American West. Scholars and administrators from the Department of Defense, the National Park Service, and various academic institutions including the universities of Arizona and Washington, Haskell Indian University in Kansas and Howard University in Washington DC agreed on the following points:

- Native and African-American students needed a forum in which they could speak to one another about their interrelated histories in the American West and about how their shared history contributed to the nation's history at large.
- A program was needed that would put the dialogue concerning minority history in the American West in the hands of the minority students and institutions themselves.

As a result, through the efforts of these institutions and the Desert Southwest Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (DSCESU), the Warriors Project was created.

Students from Howard University and the Mescalero Apache Nation learn field survey skills at Guadalupe Mountains National Park where they explore their shared history within the context of the American West.

## Initial Research and Program Development Pilot Project 2003

Though the DSCESU, Howard and Haskell universities agreed to provide students and faculty for a pilot project involving the creation of a bibliography of primary and secondary sources and an inventory of related battlefields and sites. To make the initial project manageable, the period of the Indian Wars 1866-1891 was agreed upon as the research parameters. An opportunity now existed for Native and African-American students to discuss and research their mutual histories as fully participating and acknowledged members of the American experience through university interaction, academic peer review and heritage tourism interpretation.

A grant to fund this initial effort was written and obtained by the DSCESU from the National Park Service Director's Challenge Cost Share Fund for fiscal year 2003 which was divided between Howard and Haskell universities.

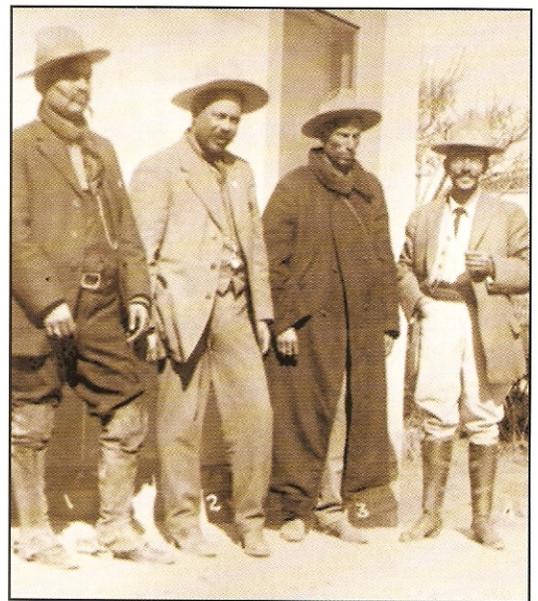
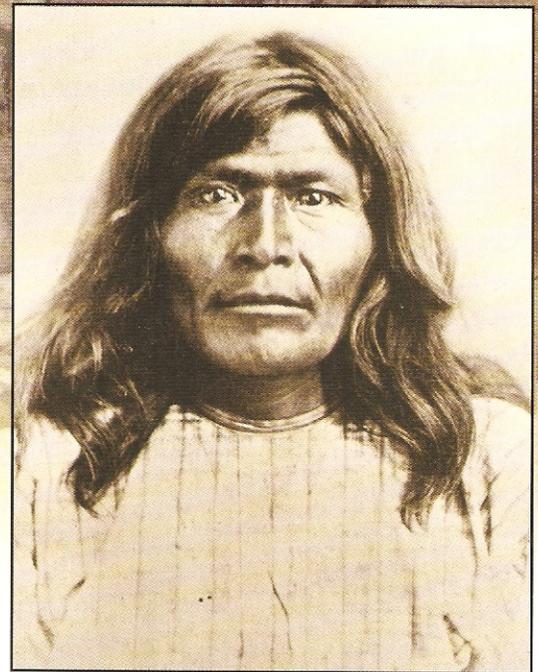
After an initial period of project formation and initiation, a progress meeting was held at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in March of 2003. Students and professors from both schools met with various experts concerning research sources and methodology. The Lamar Center for the Study of Frontiers and Borders at Yale University made possible the participation of Dr. Mark Brilliant at the meeting. The Lamar Center continues to maintain an active interest in the Warriors Project.

Drafts of the bibliography and mapping projects were submitted to the DSCESU for review in the fall of 2003. Revisions and additional work resulted from the review and was communicated to both Howard and Haskell universities. Final drafts on this first project were received in fiscal year 2004.

A student paper based on this research by Mr. Donovan Anderson was published in the Howard University Graduate School Journal of Research (volume VIII: 2002-2003) as part of the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.

## Research Evolution

The Warriors pilot project with Howard and Haskell universities also contributed to ongoing discussions and inspired various related efforts. One of the most important of these began in 2004. Haskell Indian Nations University collaborated with the University of Kansas (KU), on a grant proposal to the Ford Foundation that was funded for \$250,000. The Shifting Borders of Race and Identity Project explored the ways in which borders have and continue to shift within the US and to shed new light on how race, ethnicity, culture and identity have been conceived. Dr. Quintard Taylor of the University of Washington also participated in this important effort in 2004. Dr. Taylor, a nationally recognized African-American History scholar, participated in the initial Warriors conference in Tucson in 2002.



(top) Buffalo soldiers of the 25th Infantry, some wearing buffalo overcoats, Ft. Keogh, Montana (ca. 1890).

(center). Victorio (ca. 1825-1880) Apache Leader and one of the central warrior figures of the Apache resistance.

(left to right) Generals Fierro, Villa, Ortega and Col. Medina. General Francisco "Pancho" Villa remains a controversial figure of the 1910 Mexican Revolution.

## Warriors Archaeological Field School: Mescalero-Buffalo Soldier Archaeological Project

The Department of Interior, through the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management sponsored a cooperative effort in the archaeological investigation of a historic campsite in Guadalupe Mountains National Park in Texas. With the cooperation of Superintendent John Lujan and park staff, Dr. Eleanor King of Howard University, Washington, DC, and Mr. Charles Haecker of the National Park Service's Santa Fe office managed an initial field team in July of 2004 that included students from both Howard University and the Mescalero Apache Nation.

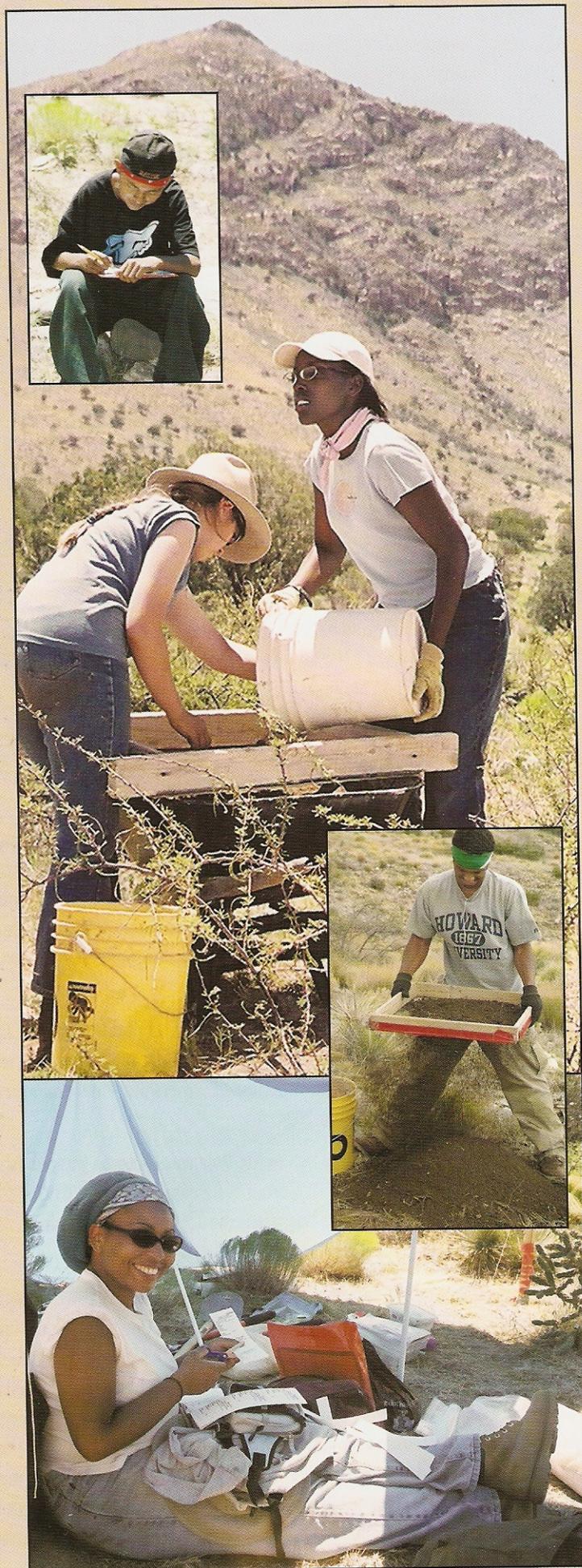
Initial money for this investigation was made available from the National Park Service Intermountain Regional Director's Office in 2004; additional funds were made available by Mr. Michael Thomas of Bureau of Land Management, Howard University and the National Park Foundation. Howard University Communications student, Mr. Eric Berry, recorded the work on video and created a DVD documentary of the project. The production won Howard's prestigious Paul Robeson Award for Creative Excellence in 2005 in the fields of sound and production. The film can be viewed on the Warriors Website under Photo Gallery: Howard University Research video.

The field school resumed at the site in the summer of 2005 and continued in summer 2006.

The Mescalero Apache tribe played an important part in this field work. In addition to making three archaeologists from their tribe available to work with the Warriors Project, tribal members came to the site and talked to the students about their history and culture. Participants have included tribal elders, tribal youth, and the great-granddaughter of the Apache warrior Cochise, Ms. Elbys Hugar, and her family.

Additionally, the Warriors Archaeological Field School helped inspire an independent Summer 2007 field school at Nicodemus National Historic Site at Nicodemus, Kansas, in cooperation with Howard University, the Kansas Historical Society, the Kansas Anthropological Association and the National Park Service. One hundred and forty-four volunteers assisted archaeologists over a two week period at the 19th century "Exoduster" African American settlement site. General information on the Kansas Archaeology Training Program may be found at: <http://www.kshs.org/resource/katphome.htm>. For an article summarizing the field school at Nicodemus, see "Kansas Preservation" magazine: [http://www.kshs.org/resource/ks\\_preservation/kpjulaug07.pdf](http://www.kshs.org/resource/ks_preservation/kpjulaug07.pdf).

The success of these field schools have enabled the establishment of a yearly field school through Howard University and the National Park Service for archaeological research related to Buffalo Soldiers and Native American sites. Projects involve federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Departments of Interior, Agriculture and Defense as well as local regional and state agencies. A variety of long-term funding sources are being explored.



Students from Howard University and the Mescalero Apache Nation at Guadalupe Mountains National Park.

*The First and the Forced: Indigenous and African-American Intersections* was the capstone national conference hosted at KU and Haskell on November of 2006. The exhibit and accompanying DVD were produced by the Indigenous Nations Studies (INS), exhibiting cultures, class, and illustrated oral histories collected by Haskell Professor Mike Tosee and KU INS Oral History class students. The exhibit included individual stories and put these stories within the larger context of historical, social, and cultural themes, including current research on Buffalo Soldiers and the Cherokee Freedom debate in Oklahoma.

## Program Placement

The University of Texas at El Paso's (UTEP), African-American Studies Program agreed to host the program in January of 2005. Interested individuals and organizations convened to discuss the future of the Warriors Project at El Paso, Texas on April 19-20, 2005. As a result of a request from UTEP, representatives from Arizona State University's (ASU), Native American Studies Program agreed to co-sponsorship of the Warrior's Project. Administrative structure was discussed, as were the subjects of ethics, research, partnerships and heritage tourism.



In 2005, a website was developed for the project and placed at the University of Texas African-American Studies program. The website is available at: <http://www.utep.edu>. Type in "African-American Studies" in the Department /Program Search scroll down to the heading, and click on "Warriors Project Website".

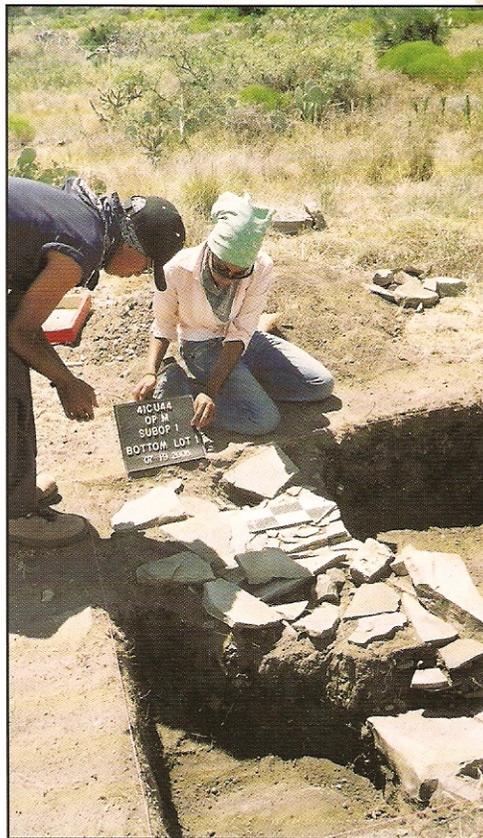
At the Warriors Project Planning Meeting at UTEP in June 2006, cooperators agreed to pursue a National Historic Landmark theme study through the National Park Service to fully document the history and sites related to African-American military participation in the American West, 1866-1917. A sub-committee was formed and preliminary work has commenced regarding this important effort.

In November 2006, Drs. Maceo Daily UTEP, James Riding in ASU and National Park Service Superintendent Sherda Williams, Nicodemus NHS participated as invited panelists in a conference at Lawrence, Kansas entitled "Shifting Borders: Native and African-American Interaction in the 19th Century American West", sponsored by Haskell University and the University of Kansas. The Warriors Project was presented as an ongoing partnership initiative. The conference was funded in part by the original 2004 Kansas/Haskell universities' Ford Foundation grant.

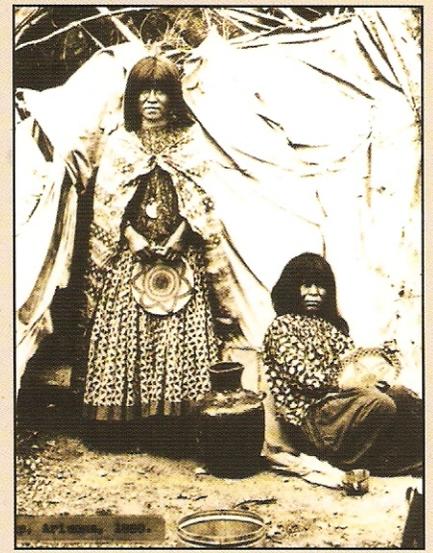
Partners have drafted a preliminary ten year plan for the Warriors Project that generally outlines the direction of future efforts of this initiative. Formal adoption of a final plan by partner universities is underway.

## Archaeology

Archaeology and anthropology remain controversial disciplines for many traditional communities. Objectification and colonial interpretations of "the other" have often resulted in strong negative reactions from American peoples who are tired of being "studied" by universities and government. Often, their traditional histories and concepts of time and history are marginalized or discounted as unscientific. In years past, sacred sites were routinely desecrated, burials looted and remains relegated to museum storage without consultation or permission of descendants. Only within the last twenty years has



Students documenting a resource site.



Apache women in front of wikipu ca. 1883.

## Oral History/Folklore

Initial interest expressed by students at Howard and Haskell as well as others resulted in the formation of an oral history and folklore initiative for the Warriors Project. Such an effort will enable Native American and African American students to interview the descendants of Buffalo Soldiers and Native American Warriors, collect their family stories, memories and oral traditions, and provide for the communication of this important information to the general public through heritage tourism and other programs. The potential for intercultural communication and dialogue between African American and Native American communities concerning their mutual history in the American West is both important and exciting.

In the summer of 2005 UTEP's Oral History Institute launched the Warriors Oral History program in cooperation with the University of Arizona's Ethno-history Program. Meetings were held with local Buffalo Soldier organizations in Tucson, Arizona in June of 2006 and the project is now underway. The Colorado Plateau CESU and ASU at Tempe is working with UTEP to establish a Native American oral history program on this subject.



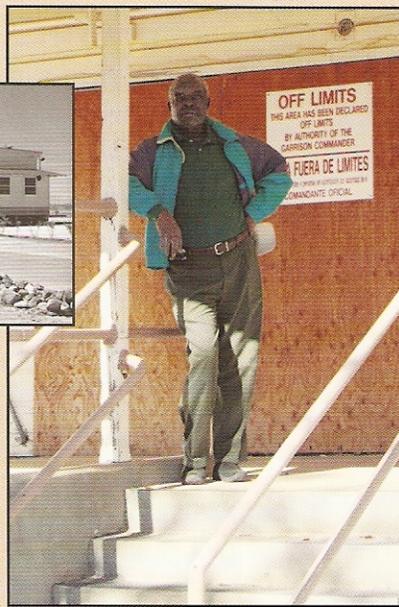
## Fort Huachuca Preservation Project in cooperation with UTEP and UA

In 2001, the Southwest Association of Buffalo Soldiers, Inc. (SWABS), approached the Garrison Commander of Fort Huachuca, Arizona with a project to preserve, renovate and interpret the former WWII African American Officer's Club at Fort Huachuca—one of the last remaining buildings of its kind on any US military base and the only one built specifically as a segregated recreation center for African American officers by the US Army. SWABS is interested in establishing a national center for African American military research and museum at this site as part of its national mandate and programs. Discussions and negotiations are in progress between the citizen's group, the fort administration and Department of Defense and are ongoing.

In 2005, the University of Arizona and the University of Texas at El Paso, through the Warriors Project, agreed to support the project in a number of ways:

- Fort Huachuca's Mountain View Colored Officer's Club effort was formally adopted by the Warriors Project at their planning meeting at University of Texas at El Paso in June 2006.
- University of Texas at El Paso is exploring a documentary on the project and a possible NEH grant to support the effort.
- The University of Arizona's Planning Degree Program in the Department of Geography and Regional Development adopted the project as a graduate student initiative and has provided a general management plan for the effort.
- The University of Arizona's Eller College of Business and Public Administration has provided portions of an economic plan for the effort as a graduate student project.
- The University of Arizona's College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture coordinated the execution of drawings and elevations as part of a graduate student intern project.

In 2006, SWABS received approval for a grant from the Pasqua Yaqui Indian Nation to support the preservation of the Mountain View African American Officer's Club.



Mr. Tom Stoney and SWABS efforts saved the building from demolition. The goal is to refurbish the club to its 1940s condition, shown in a historic photo from 1943. (Left)

much needed legislation resulted in consultation, review and repatriation of various ethnic American patrimonies.

The Warriors Project seeks to place the power of science and academe in the hands of Native and African-American students so they may have the benefit of these additional tools in researching and interpreting their individual and mutual histories, managing the interpretation of information and sharing their stories with their fellow American citizens and the world. Sensitivity and respect for all cultural traditions are hallmarks of the Warriors Project, and its participants are in constant dialogue regarding these most important issues.

## Fort Davis Museum Exhibits

At the request of NPS Superintendent Chuck Hunt, the Warriors Project is participating in the review, repair and redesign of interpretive storyline exhibits at Fort Davis National Historic Site. Members of the Warriors Project at UTEP and ASU will review and consult on the presentation of information regarding African-American troops and Native Americans at the site in the latter part of the 19th Century. The Arizona State Museum is working under a DSCESU cooperative agreement to design, new exhibits during the 2007-2008 fiscal years.

## Heritage Tourism

In 2004, the Oklahoma Department of Tourism expressed interest in the Warriors Project and explored various ways to participate in the program. Oklahoma's Department of Tourism arranged a teleconference held on January 27, 2004, between Oklahoma state officials, including the state Director of Tourism and his staff in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Oklahoma Historic Preservation Office personnel, DSCESU representatives in Tucson, National Park Service Intermountain Regional Office representatives in Denver and a number of local Oklahoma community and university representatives.

In June 2006, at the Warrior's Project planning meeting at the UTEP, participating members agreed that a heritage tourism program should be an integral part of the group's overall efforts. The National Park Service's Montana State Coordinator, Mr. John Keck, agreed to chair this committee.

In March of 2007 a meeting was held in Denver, Colorado exploring various heritage tourism possibilities. Attending were representatives from the Native and African-American tourism business communities as well as representatives of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, state and university tourism programs and the National Park Service. As a result, plans are being developed to bring together interested parties in various federal agencies, state and local tourism programs and private industry to explore a comprehensive heritage tourism program based on the Warriors Project.

Both Mexican soldiers and civilians fought US troops in border disputes in the early years of the 20th century.



## Cooperative Research with Mexico

The bicentennial of Mexico's independence from Spain, marked by Hidalgo's "Grito de Doleres" in 1810, and the centennial of the 1910 Mexican revolution will both occur in 2010 and will provide numerous opportunities for dialogue and cooperation in the international observance of these important events.

Interest has been expressed concerning international research cooperation between the US Department of Interior and Mexico's Instituto Nacional de Antropología y Historia (INAH) regarding the history of African-American troops on the US/Mexico border 1870-1920. Research would explore US African-American troops and their interaction with Native American and Mexican populations as part of troops under US General John J. Pershing in his attempts to quell early 20th century Mexican border disturbances prior to US entry into WWI. Cooperative research projects, symposia and bilingual publications have been considered.

## National Meeting Washington, DC

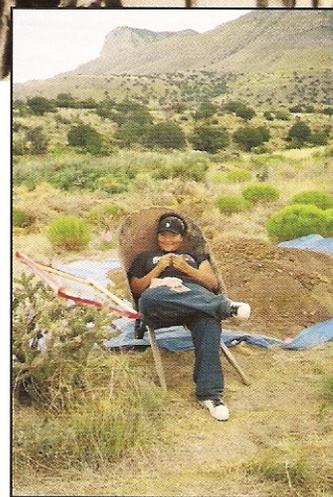
The Warriors Project members have agreed to support a national meeting in Washington DC in cooperation with the Smithsonian's American Indian and African-American Museums. Preliminary meetings have been held by UTEP and ASU representatives in Washington, DC. A formal planning meeting is being scheduled in the near future.

## International Symposia

Potential exist for the establishment of continuing international symposia of international scholars focusing on colonialism and the expansion of 19th and 20th century world empires. Comparative studies would be supported and shared regarding actions involving native populations and troops in the colonial world in North and South America, Africa, Ireland, Southeast Asia, Russia, the Pacific and elsewhere. Sponsors could include CESUs, UNESCO programs, Fulbright Study Programs and others.

## Warriors as a Training and Recruitment Vehicle

Mr. Bill Gwaltney of the National Park Service Intermountain Region Workforce Enhancement Program regularly participates in the Warriors Project. Mr. Gwaltney has made recruitment training available to CESU personnel and also meets with various CESU university representatives regarding minority students and historically African-American, Native American and Hispanic serving institutions. The Warriors Project has centered upon participation from three such diverse-serving universities: Howard, Haskell and UTEP. Student interns are a regular part of the program and recruitment possibilities are an important part of the CESU Warriors Program.



## The Future

The energy and enthusiasm generated by the Warrior's Project continues to grow and evolve. Placement of the program at University of Texas at El Paso and Arizona State University in 2005 was a landmark event and continuing programs with these as well as other CESU institutions including Howard and Haskell universities promises a bright future for this important effort.

### **The Warriors Project Chairs**

Professor Maceo Crenshaw Dailey, Jr., Ph.D.  
Director of African-American Studies  
Associate Professor, Department of History  
Liberal Arts Building, Room 401  
University of Texas at El Paso  
El Paso, Texas  
Telephone 915-747-8650  
Email: mdailey@utep.edu

James Riding In, Ph.D. (Pawnee)  
Associate Professor  
American Indian Studies  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
PO Box 874603  
Arizona State University  
Tempe, Arizona 85287-4603  
Phone: 480-965-9360  
Email: Pawnee1@asu.edu

### **Additional Information**

William P. (Pat) O'Brien, Ph.D.  
Cultural Resources  
National Park Service  
DSCESU  
Southwest Center  
1054 North Highland Avenue  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 85721-0185  
Phone: 520-626-3966  
Email: pat\_o'brien@nps.gov

**Web Site** [www.utep.edu/aasp](http://www.utep.edu/aasp)

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Department of Defense: Office of the Garrison Commander and Fort Huachuca Museums, Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Dr. Frank N. (Mickey) Schubert, Historian, United States Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) (Ret.).

US Department of Interior: Bureau of Land Management: Mr. Michael Thomas, Washington Office

National Park Service: Office of the Director, Washington, DC; Mr. Robert Stanton, Director, National Park Service, (Ret.) Intermountain Region: Office of the Regional Director, Mr. William Gwaltney, Workforce Enhancement; Superintendent John Lujan, Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Superintendent Brian Carey, Chiricahua National Monument/ Fort Bowie National Historic Site and Superintendent Chuck Hunt, Fort Davis National Historic Site; Messrs., Jerry Green and Charles Haecker; Midwest Region: Superintendent Sherda Williams, Nicodemus National Historic Site; Desert Southwest Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit.

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