

# Native American Indian Course

information provided by  
Cheryl Graham-Eason,  
professor of anthropology

The Native American Indian Course (ANT 104), offered for the fourth year, will be offered via CCAC's video conferencing system in Spring 2005, which means students can take the course at one of three sites: North Campus (section NC95), or Allegheny (AC96) or South Campus (SC96).

Classes start Jan. 24, end May 2, and will be held Tuesdays from 2 p.m. - 5:10 p.m. simultaneously at all three campuses' video conference rooms. Cheryl Graham-Eason, professor of Anthropology at North Campus, is faculty for this course will be working with Lee and Earl Dingus.

Lenora "Lee" Dingus is Nod-doh-wa-ge-no (Seneca) and an established artist in both the traditional and contemporary media of Native American beadwork and silver work.

Dingus creates a wide range of styles with her art with a large portion of her work done in the form of earrings and necklaces in a contemporary range of several dozen different styles.

Materials she uses varies from all glass seed beads in different sizes, finishes, colors, and styles to long glass, stone, semi-precious stone beads, bone beads, buffalo horn beads, and porcupine quills, both natural and ones she dyes.

Expert in carving stone, bone, and antlers, Dingus occasionally incorporates silver and brass into her creations. On the traditional end, she crafts woodland "overlay" on leather and cloth, incorporating her designs into dance shawls or other wearable art. She also makes traditional

musical instruments such as drums and rattles used in her programs.

Dingus holds memberships in several art organizations and has served on the board of South Arts and South Hills Art League and is currently the Executive/Education Director for South Arts. She is also the

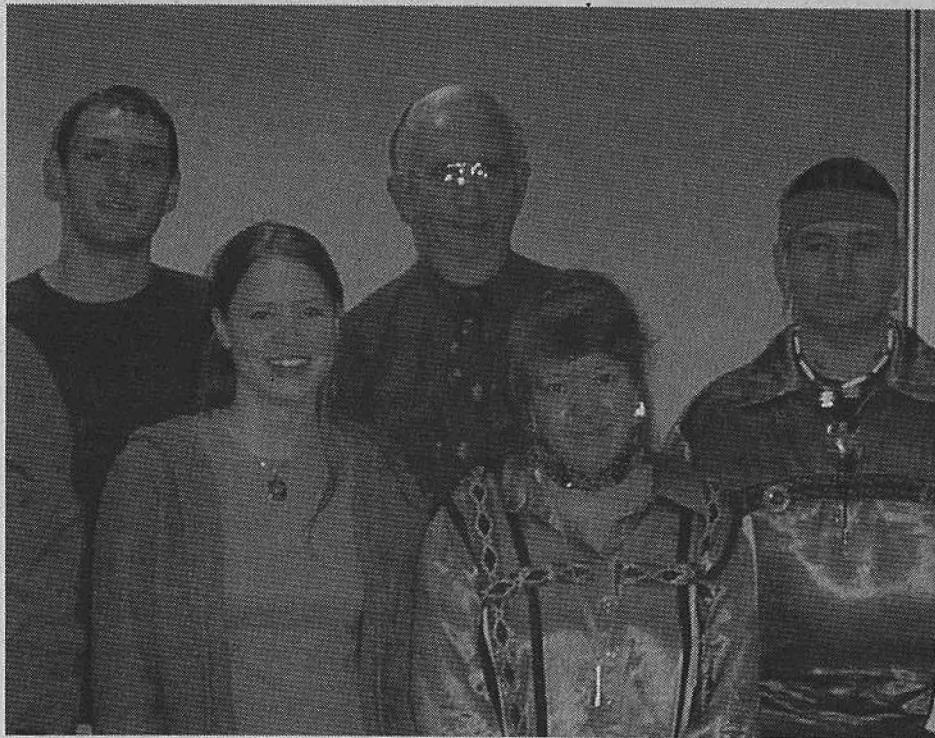
Arts and Crafts Department Manager for a Michael's Arts and Crafts Store.

In addition to her art, Dingus has been active in many aspects of Native American Affairs, rights, issues, and concerns as well as diversity and Human Rights concerns for over 25 years. She has served as Chairperson for the VA Pittsburgh Health Care System EEO's Native American Program, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System EEO committee chairperson, and various boards to many local and national Native American Organizations.

Dingus is currently Chairperson of the Pittsburgh Federal Executive Board Native American Heritage Committee and Co-founder of Echoes of the Four Directions, a Native American culture and reference source.

A former diversity trainer and equal rights trainer for the VA Healthcare system on local and national levels in Native American culture and general diversity training, Dingus has provided training to the City of Pittsburgh Police department as well as local police departments, colleges, and universities in the tri-state area.

Dingus is a storyteller of traditional Native American Stories and a traditional Seneca style dancer and conducts youth art camps, after school programs, and various art classes for both children and adults.



The picture includes Lee and Earl Dingus, Dean Hirschl, and students from last semesters' class who celebrate with presentations and a Native American meal prepared by Lee. Photo/Cheryl Graham-Eason