

The Native American Lecture Tour in Turkey

Valerian Three Irons

Friday, January 15, 2010

4:00 p.m. Lewis & Clark Room, USU 262

Free, open to public, encourage students to attend.

Refreshments will be served.

“We were treated like rock stars!” That statement comes from Valerian Three Irons, SDSU diversity and service-learning associate, who spent three weeks in November touring universities in Turkey with a delegation of Native American educators. The Turkish Coalition of America sponsored the tour.

The American faculty members lectured at 12 universities and participated in the Native American Conference organized by the Department of American Culture and Literature at Hacettepe University. Their travels took them from Istanbul, to the capital in Ankara, and to Cappadocia in the central part of the country, exposing them to a broad spectrum of Turkish culture and geography.

How do you explain the high interest in American Indian culture demonstrated by Turkish university faculty and students?

Three Irons answers that question and describes his trip in a lecture on Friday, January 15 at 4:00 p.m. in the Lewis and Clark Room of the Student Union. He will explain the perceived linkages between the ethnic populations of the two countries and discuss opportunities for future collaboration generated by the trip.

The presentation is free and open to the public. It is suggested especially for students and classes with a diversity component in their requirements.

The lecture tour was an outgrowth of cooperation between the South Dakota World Affairs Council and the Turkish Coalition of America with a goal to develop understanding and build rapport among ethnic groups outside mainstream cultures.

In June 2009, a delegation of Turkish educators visited the Black Hills, Ogallala Lakota College, the Wounded Knee massacre site, the Rushmore Memorial, and Crazy Horse monument as well as Bear Butte, to establish a base for their understanding of South Dakota culture and scenery.

Opportunities expected to come forth include scholarships to enable Native American and Turkish university students to “exchange” for a semester of study in Turkey or the United States.

For additional information, contact Harriet Swedlund, 688-5416, or harriet.swedlund@sdstate.edu.