

Sovereign Nations of Virginia Conference and Virtual Webinar

September 24, 2021

Lewis Botanical Garden Auditorium

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Sovereign Nations of Virginia Conference

September 24, 2021

Lewis Botanical Garden Auditorium



Conference Agenda

- 8:00 AM Registration and Continental Buffet Breakfast
- 8:45 AM Blessing of the Grounds with Tribal Representatives
Procession of Color Guard: Native American Women Warriors
Posting of Colors with Tribal Representatives
Procession of the Chiefs
Prayer
- 9:00 AM Welcome
Opening Remarks and Introduction of Chiefs
- **Chief Anne Richardson**
Rappahannock Tribe
- 9:30 AM Introduction of Research Panelists
- **Chief Richardson**
- 10:00 AM Challenges to Native sovereignty in the Chesapeake, how Native strategies for strengthening land claims and sovereignty developed over time, and how Virginia's plantation economy led to economically destructive outbursts against Native people like Bacon's Rebellion.
- **Dr. Jessica Taylor**
Assistant Professor of Oral and Public History at Virginia Tech



Chickahominy Indians Eastern Division

www.cied.org



chickahominytribe.org

- 10:30 AM Treaties from a balance of power perspective, showing how the colonies impeded the treaty-making process with the nations from the Tribe's ground-level view.
- **Dr. Edward Ragan**
Coordinator for Student Success at Centenary College of Louisiana
- 11:00 AM How Tribes related to each other and the English as independent peoples into the early 18th century, despite English efforts to claim exclusive sovereignty for the Crown in a top-down model of colonial relations.
- **Dr. Jason Sellers**
Associate Professor of History at the University of Mary Washington
- 11:30 AM Bridging the common themes of the team's research to discuss the intention behind the treaties from the European point of view, the agency of the Tribes throughout the centuries to today, and how state and federal recognition is used to European advantage.
- **Dr. Sam Cook**
Associate Professor of History, Presidential Advisor on American Indian Initiatives and Director of American Indian Studies at Virginia Tech
- 12:00 PM Questions and Answers facilitated by Dr. David Wilkins
- 12:30 PM Luncheon Buffet Break
- 12:30 PM VPM Interviews Chiefs in the Azalea Room
- 2:00 PM The collective programmatic support and advocacy and education of USET/USET SPF's work at both the regional and national level to elevate the voice, priorities, and concerns of Tribal Nations in the south and east. Also, its efforts to reshape and modernize the diplomatic, government-to-government, nation-to-nation, relationship between Tribal Nations and the United States.
- **Kitcki A. Carroll**
Executive Director for United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) and the USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF)



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- 3:00 PM Introduction of Governor Ralph Northam
- **Kelly Thomasson-Mercer**
Secretary of the Commonwealth
- 3:15 PM The importance of Tribal/State relationships, the potential role that a Sovereignty Accord can play in improving that relationship, and why it matters now more than ever.
- **Dr. David Wilkins**
E. Claiborne Robins Distinguished Professor in Leadership Studies at the University of Richmond Jepson School of Leadership Studies
- 4:15 PM Conference Wrap up with Questions and Answers facilitated by Dr. Wilkins
- 4:45 PM Conference Adjourns
- 5:00 PM Private roundtable with Tribal Chiefs, Dr. Wilkins, and Mr. Carroll



pamunkey.org



rappahannocktribe.org



umitribe.org

Conference Speakers



Kitcki A. Carroll serves as the Executive Director for United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) and the USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF). In his capacity as Executive Director, he works to protect, promote, and advance the inherent sovereign rights and authorities of the organization’s member Tribal Nations and Indian Country overall. Mr. Carroll is a strong justice advocate for all Native American people and actively works to ensure that the United States fulfills its trust and treaty responsibilities and obligations to Indian Country. Mr. Carroll is a citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. He has held various Executive/Senior management positions in the tribal government and not-for-profit sector over the past 20 years and he has served on various workgroups, panels, task forces, boards, and advisory groups.

United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) Established in 1969, the United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) is a non-profit, inter-Tribal organization serving thirty-three (33) federally recognized Tribal Nations from the Northeastern Woodlands to the Everglades and across the Gulf of Mexico. USET is dedicated to enhancing the development of Tribal Nations, improving the capabilities of Tribal governments, and improving the quality of life for Indian people through a variety of technical and supportive programmatic services.

USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) Established in 2014, the USET Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) is a non-profit, inter-Tribal organization advocating on behalf of thirty-three (33) federally recognized Tribal Nations from the Northeastern Woodlands to the Everglades and across the Gulf of Mexico. USET SPF is dedicated to promoting, protecting, and advancing the inherent sovereign rights and authorities of Tribal Nations and in assisting its membership in dealing effectively with public policy issues.

Sovereign Nations of Virginia

- Chickahominy Indians Eastern Division..... *Chief Gerry Stewart*
- Chickahominy Tribe..... *Chief Stephen Adkins*
- Monacan Indian Nation..... *Chief Kenneth Branham*
- Nansemond Indian Nation..... *Chief Sam Bass*
- Pamunkey Indian Tribe & Reservation..... *Chief Robert Gray*
- Rappahannock Tribe of Virginia..... *Chief Anne Richardson*
- Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe..... *Chief Frank Adams*



Ralph Northam, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Before he was inaugurated as Virginia's 73rd Governor, Ralph Northam served as an Army doctor, pediatric neurologist, business owner, state Senator, and Lieutenant Governor. A native of Virginia's Eastern Shore, Governor Northam was educated at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI), where he graduated with distinction. After graduation, Governor Northam was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. He served eight years of active duty and rose to the rank of major.

He attended Eastern Virginia Medical School and then traveled to San Antonio for a pediatric residency, then residencies at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and served as chief neurological resident at Johns Hopkins Hospital. As an Army doctor, he served in Germany, treating soldiers wounded in Operation Desert Storm. He began practicing pediatric neurology at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Norfolk. He established Children's Specialty Group, his current medical practice, to provide expert pediatric care for patients.

Governor Northam approaches public service with the same passion he brought to his military and medical service. He is committed to working with leaders from both parties to build a Virginia that works better for every family, no matter who they are or where they live.



Dr. David E. Wilkins is the E. Claiborne Robins Distinguished Professor in Leadership Studies at the University of Richmond Jepson School of Leadership Studies. Prior to moving to Richmond with his wife, Shelly, he served as the McKnight Presidential Professor in American Indian Studies, Adjunct Professor of Political Science, Law, and American Studies at University of Minnesota/Twin Cities Campus for 20 years.

Dr. Wilkins has extensive experience in Native American history with specialization in Sovereignty. He holds a PhD in Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, an MA in Political Science: American Indian Policy from the University of Arizona, and a BA in Sociology from the University of North Carolina, Pembroke. He has won many awards and grants and has published over 20 books, including *American Indian Politics and the American Political System*. 4th ed. (co-authored with Heidi Stark) (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2018). He has also written numerous articles for scholarly journals, book reviews, monographs, conference papers and presentations, and has made many other contributions to the body of knowledge of indigenous history in the US. Dr. Wilkins is a member of the Lumbee Nation of North Carolina.



Dr. Sam Cook, Associate Professor of History, Presidential Advisor on American Indian Initiatives and Director of American Indian Studies at Virginia Tech, will bridge the common themes of the team's research to discuss the intention behind the treaties from the European point of view, the agency of the Tribes throughout the centuries to today, and how state and federal recognition is used to European advantage. Dr. Cook holds a PhD from the University of Arizona; his current projects include 1) indigenous natural resource management, traditional ecological knowledge and its relationship to community capacity; 2) collaborative revitalization of Indigenous histories of the New River Valley in response to settler narratives; 3) assessment of the ways in which contemporary Indian nations confront and overcome legal obstacles to the exercise of their inherent sovereign powers.



Dr. Edward Ragan, Coordinator for Student Success at Centenary College of Louisiana, will discuss the native and colonial treaties from a balance of power point of view, showing how the colonies impeded the treaty-making process with the nations from the Tribe's ground-level view. Dr. Ragan received his B.A. and M.A. from Louisiana State University, Shreveport, and his Ph.D. from Syracuse University. His dissertation, *Where the Water Ebbs and Flows: Place and Self Among the Rappahannock People*, is a comprehensive early history of the Rappahannock Tribe. He has worked with the Rappahannock Tribe since 1996 on matters of federal acknowledgement and cultural recovery and was the Tribe's lead historian for their federal acknowledgement project. He has worked with the Chief to develop programs for tribal members and the surrounding non-Indian community, including a community education program and cultural recovery projects.



Dr. Jason Sellers, Associate Professor of History at the University of Mary Washington, will discuss how tribes related to each other and the English as independent peoples into the early 18th century, despite English efforts to claim exclusive sovereignty for the Crown in a top-down model of colonial relations. Dr. Sellers holds graduate degrees from the University of California, Irvine, and an undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley. He is a cultural and environmental historian of 17th- and 18th-century North America interested in landscapes and bodies and is currently working on a project that explores the interactions of Munsee Indians and European colonists in the 17th-century Hudson Valley.



Cultural Heritage Partners is honored to support the sovereignty of the Virginia tribes.

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USET/USET SPF TRIBAL NATIONS

1. Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
AniYunwiyá
2. Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
Mikasuki
3. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
Chahta
4. Seminole Tribe of Florida
Itapianthli
5. Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana
Sitimaxa
6. Seneca Nation of Indians
Onondowagá
7. Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
Kosati
8. Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe
Akwesasne
9. Penobscot Indian Nation
Panawahpskek
10. Passamaquoddy Tribe - Pleasant Point
Peskotomuhkati
11. Passamaquoddy Tribe - Indian Township
Peskotomuhkati
12. Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians
Metaksonikewiyik
13. Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana
Tayaroniku - Halyayihku
14. Poarch Band of Creek Indians
Mvskoke
15. Narragansett Indian Tribe
Nansanongseuk
16. Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation
Pequot
17. Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)
Aquinnah
18. Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
Alibamu & Kosati
19. Oneida Indian Nation
Onyota'sá:ke
20. Aroostook Band of Micmacs
Mikmaq Nation
21. Catawba Indian Nation
Ye Isawah í'reh
22. Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
Chahta
23. The Mohegan Tribe
Mohiks
24. Cayuga Nation
Gayogohono'
25. Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
Máseepee Wôpanáak
26. Shinnecock Indian Nation
Shinnecock
27. Pamunkey Indian Tribe
Pamunkey
28. Rappahannock Tribe
Rappahannock
29. Chickahominy Indian Tribe
Chickahominy
30. Chickahominy Indian Tribe - Eastern Division
Chickahominy - Eastern Division
31. Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe
Mattaponi
32. Nansemond Indian Nation
Nansemond
33. Monacan Indian Nation
Monacan
34. USET Headquarters
35. USET SPF Office



United South and Eastern Tribes (USET)

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Learn about our work to protect, promote, and advance the inherent sovereign rights and authorities of our member Tribal Nations at www.usetinc.org.

Because there is Strength in Unity



Dr. Jessica Taylor, Assistant Professor of Oral and Public History at Virginia Tech, will discuss challenges to Native sovereignty in the Chesapeake, how Native strategies for strengthening land claims and sovereignty developed over time, and how Virginia's plantation economy led to economically destructive outbursts against Native people like Bacon's Rebellion. Dr. Taylor earned her doctorate at the University of Florida and her principal areas of research are oral history, early American history, historic preservation, and Native American history. Her dissertation is entitled: *Certain Boundaries: Indian Peoples, Nations, and Violence in the Seventeenth-Century Chesapeake*.

Native American Women Warriors

- **Mitchelene BigMan**
Crow Tribe
President and Founder, Retired Army
- **Dorothy Renée Gaines**
Crow Tribe
Navy Veteran
- **Shelisha Diaz**
Ft. McDermitt Sho-Pai Tribe
Army Veteran
- **Kaleigh Pollak**
Monacan Tribe
Army Veteran



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A photograph of the University of Richmond Jepson School of Leadership Studies building, a large brick structure with a prominent central tower and arched windows. The building is surrounded by a green lawn and a brick walkway. In the foreground, there is a circular garden bed filled with colorful tulips in shades of yellow, red, and white. Several people are walking on the path and sitting on a bench. The sky is clear and blue.

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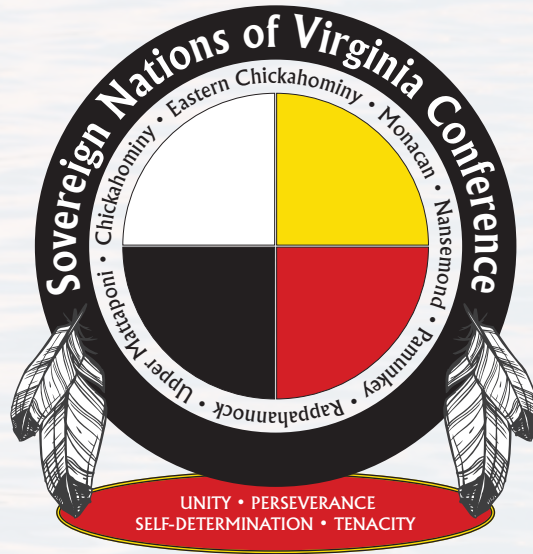
The nation's first undergraduate school of leadership studies prepares tomorrow's leaders to drive real change in their communities and the world.

Thank you to the Rappahannock Tribe for organizing this conference and raising the funds to make it happen.

We also extend heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors, who believe in the work of enhancing communications between Virginia's sovereign nations and the agencies and educational institutions working with them.

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- **Shanti Foundation for Intercultural Understanding**
- **United South and Eastern Tribes**
- **University of Richmond**
- **Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development**





Thank you for attending today's Sovereignty Conference.

Please be on the lookout for a follow-up email asking you to participate in a short survey regarding the effectiveness of the conference.

The survey will include space for you to submit any questions you may have about any topic discussed today. We will respond as quickly as possible.

The conference will be recorded and a viewing link will be made available after the conference for educational purposes by contacting the Rappahannock Tribe at info@rappahannocktribe.org or 804-769-0260.