"Opening Doors" is a year-long series of events highlighting the contributions of contemporary Native Americans to the fields of education, literature, science, art, and film. It is designed to open a dialogue about restoring the presence of Native Americans to Oneonta and welcoming the diverse voices and perspectives of Native Americans to the SUNY Oneonta campus. This is an inter-institutional collaboration funded in part through the SUNY Diversity and Academic Excellence Grant from the SUNY Office of Diversity and Educational Equity awarded to Drs. Susan Bernardin and Andrew Kahl. Additional funding has been made possible by The Office of Equity and Inclusion at SUNY Oneonta; The Center for Multicultural Experiences; IDEA Grants in support of the Strategic Action on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at SUNY Oneonta; The Office of the President; The Department of English; and The Department of Women’s and Gender Studies.

The College Spring Semester Series brings outstanding scholars, leaders, and artists, including Mr. Eric Gansworth, Dr. Tom Porter, Ms. Andrea Sadler, Heid E. Erdrich, and Dr. Robin Kimmerer.

The following is a schedule of events:

February 1  
Craven Lounge, 3:00 pm  
Film Screening: The Sacred Run: the Lotus and the Feather  
**Ms. Andrea Sadler and Dr. Tom Porter**

February 10  
IRC 1, 5:30–8:30 pm  
Staged Reading: “Patriot Act”  
**Eric Gansworth**

March 3  
Craven Lounge, 7:30 pm  
Public Lecture: “National Monuments: a Reading and Discussion”  
**Heid Erdrich**

March 21–April 30  
Project Space Gallery  
Art Exhibition  
**Eric Gansworth**

April 6  
Craven Lounge, 7:30 pm  
Public Lecture: “Restoration and Reciprocity: Finding Common Ground between Indigenous and Scientific Knowledge”  
**Robin Kimmerer**

April 29  
Goodrich Theater, 8:00 pm  
Artist-in-Residence’s Play  
**Eric Gansworth**
Bio-sketches of guests by event

Dr. Tom Porter is the Spokesman and Chief Spiritual Leader of the Mohawk Community of Kanatsiohareke and member of the Bear Clan. He has served in numerous positions on the Mohawk Nation Chiefs Council for over 25 years. Dr. Porter is a nationally recognized Elder and co-founder of the White Roots of Peace, a group composed of Iroquois Elders who bring traditional teachings and work with Native Americans to embrace their traditions. He also co-founded the Akwesasne Freedom School (grades k-8) whose curriculum is in Mohawk. He founded the Partridge House, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center. Dr. Porter also created a college exchange program for college students. Participants merge themselves in a one-week-residency. During this time, students perform community services and at night they engage in discussions on Native American history and philosophy with community members. The Iroquois Immersion Program was launched by Dr. Porter in 1998. It is a language and way of life restoration program aimed to reverse the assimilation and cultural genocide experienced by Native Americans.

Ms. Andrea Sadler was born in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Prior to becoming a producer, Andrea worked as a production assistant, location scout, sound recorder, props master, set decorator, videographer, film editor, photographer, event organizer, interviewer, director, teacher, and actor. She shot, produced, directed and edited her first film, The Red Shoes. It received international acclaim, appearing in numerous film festivals including the Berlin film festival and the Canadian Festival of Independent Cinema in New Delhi. She also produced, directed and edited, Mythologies. While in Japan, she produced and directed the documentary film The Sacred Run, the lotus and the feather. It was broadcast on the Hallmark channel, screened at the Cannes Film Festival and was shown at other international festivals. Presently, Andrea, in partnership with her husband, works as Actor and Educators, leading the successful workshop, “Shakespeare is Elementary” for Grades 3, 4 & 5. She is also working on the short film, Yuki Ona, shot in Japan and on a feature film script for a Children’s Television Series. Andrea is an activist for peace, social justice and environmental issues and has hosted peace walkers as well as joined other walks.

Mr. Eric Gansworth, an enrolled member of the Onondaga Nation, was born and raised at the Tuscarora Indian Nation. He is a Professor of English and Lowery Writer-in-Residence at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York. He is the author of nine books: Indian Summers; Nickel Eclipse: Iroquois Moon; Smoke Dancing; Mending Skins; Breathing the Monster Alive; Sovereign Bones (editor); A Half-Life of Cardio-Pulmonary Function; From the Western Door to the Lower West Side; and Extra Indians. His first play, Re-Creation Story, received a staged reading at The Public Theater in 2008. He was also fiction editor for the third issue of the journal, Stone Canoe. A nationally recognized award-winning writer, visual artist and playwright, Gansworth’s impressive work ranges from poetry and painting to novels and collaborative multi-media installations. Mr. Gansworth’s "work is a commentary on the oral tradition existing within Haudenosaunee culture and its fluid nature. He uses iconography recognizable in the context of the mythic Haudenosaunee world, yet alters it to reflect issues relevant to a more contemporary Haudenosaunee existence, as well.”

Turtle Mountain reservation, Erdrich is Ojibwe on her mother’s side and German-American on her father’s side. She grew up in Wahpeton, North Dakota and attended Dartmouth College and Johns Hopkins University. A long-time professor of English and Writing, she was tenured at University of St. Thomas, but left full-time teaching to work in the urban American Indian community. Since 2007, Erdrich has served as Curator and Director for All My Relations Arts, a contemporary American Indian fine arts initiative of the Native American Community Development Institute in Minneapolis. Find out more on AllMyRelationsArts.org and HeidErdrich.com.

Dr. Robin Kimmerer, a mother, plant ecologist, writer and SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse. She is the founder and director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment. Kimmerer’s research interests include the ecology of mosses and the role of traditional ecological knowledge in ecological restoration. In collaboration with tribal partners, she and her students have an active research program in the ecology and restoration of plants of cultural significance to Native people. She is active in efforts to broaden access to environmental science training for Native students, and to introduce the benefits of traditional ecological knowledge to the scientific community in a way that respects and protects indigenous knowledge. Kimmerer is the past Chair and co-founder of the Traditional Ecological Knowledge section of the Ecological Society of America. She is involved with environmental education programs with community members. She is an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She has published articles both on the science of plant ecology and on the contributions of traditional ecological knowledge to our understanding of the natural world. She is also active in literary biology and has served as a Writer-in-Residence at the Andrews Experimental Forest, the Mesa Refuge, Blue Mountain Center and the Sitka Center for Art and Ecology. Her book Gathering Moss draws on both scientific and indigenous ways of knowing and was awarded the 2005 John Burroughs Medal for outstanding nature writing. Her new book, Braiding Sweetgrass, is forthcoming from Milkweed Press in 2011.