Barona proudly claims many gifted athletes who have excelled in sports through the years. In recent times, one such talented individual was on his way to “The Show,” the Big Leagues. Matt LaChappa is one of Barona’s Own.

Matt LaChappa is a Padres Pitcher and was on his way to “The Show,” the Big Leagues. In 1993, Barona Tribal member Matt LaChappa was an impressive second-round draft pick for the San Diego Padres (out of 91 rounds that year). The left-hander was straight out of El Capitan High School where he was regarded by agents as an outstanding pitching prospect. Matt started his road to the Major Leagues on the Padres rookie team in Peoria, Arizona and then advanced to the Class A Springfield team for the Midwest Minor League. At age 19 (1995), he was promoted to the Padres Class A Advanced Affiliate in the California League, the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes, where he won 11 games and led the league with 28 starts.

(continued on page 4)
Many of us have heard of “Zorns,” the mythical fighting who, like Robins Hood, defended peasants from greedy villains and authorities. But, did you know that there were many Native “Zorns” who fought against the tyranny and oppression of the Mexican and United States governments?

In Michael Connolly’s lecture on April 4th at Barona Cultural Center & Museum, he shared many of these brave men’s accounts. He spoke of how Chief Estanislao, a member of the Yokuts Indian Nation, led a revolt in 1828 and successfully defended against three attacks by the Mexican Army until 1829.

Chief Estanislao, originally named Cucumuchi, was born around 1793 near what is now Modesto, California. He was missionized in 1821 and was at that time baptized with the name “Estanislao.” In 1827, he led the mission to organize a rebellion against the cruelty and harsh demands made of the Indians there, and joined up with Chumash leader Paocimo. Soon the two men led an army of around 4,000 men. Estanislao and Paocimo led several successful raids on Missions San Jose, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz, as well as Mexican settlements. In 1830, after being defeated by General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo and receiving a pardon from the Mexican government, Chief Estanislao returned to the Laquisimas River to lead his people. He eventually went back to Mission San Jose, where he taught the Yokuts language and culture.

Connolly also spoke about Antonio Garra, a Cupeño leader who sought to unite Native California Tribes against the United States, which was imposing unfair taxes on Indians in 1851.

Antonio Garra was born around 1815 and was raised at the Mission San Luis Rey. The Cupeño Indians, to whom Garra was a leader, were required as “Mission Indians” to pay taxes to San Diego County. Garra found this unjust and led a rebellion. He united groups of Quechan, Cahuilla, and Cupeño and led a successful raid against a group of American ranchers. Although Garra was tried and executed for his role in the rebellion, the United States Supreme Court ended up changing the taxation laws in favor of the Indians.

Connolly talked about the great strengths and innovations of Native Californians, and traditional life ways that the Spanish tried to stamp out in the 1700s, such as music, language, and agricultural practices. His lecture covered a very difficult and trying time in the history of the Kumeyaay/Diegueño people, but one that saw many victories by talented, justice-seeking fighters looking to protect their people.

The Kumeyaay suffered two major betrayals by the Mexican government: the creation of Ranchos and the secularization of Mission lands in 1833. When Mission lands were secularized (taken away from the Catholic Church), the government promised that land would be given to Kumeyaay families. Instead, the Mexican government created huge Ranchos to be run by the governor and his friends, on which the Kumeyaay were permitted to live if they would do hard labor. Several of the Missionized Kumeyaay left the Ranchos to live with their non-missionized relatives, bringing with them knowledge of the strengths and weaknesses of the Ranchos and using successful raids as their tools. By 1836, the Mexicans held little power and many inland Ranchos had been abandoned. By 1844, all Ranchos in the Kumeyaay territories had been abandoned or rendered non-functional, as the Kumeyaay reclaimed their rightful land. It is unknown what would have happened to the Kumeyaay if the United States had not declared war on Mexico in 1846, however, Connolly speculates that if the Kumeyaay had had even a few years more to recover from the Spanish and Mexican atrocities done to their people, they would likely have been able to use their increased knowledge of war strategies and strengthened population to combat the genocide they experienced at the hands of the United States.


Connolly’s expansive knowledge on Kumeyaay/Diegueño history is a result of his profession and background. In addition to being a Tribal Member of the Campo Kumeyaay Nation, he is currently a professor at San Diego State University and president of Laguna Resource Services, Inc., an environmental consulting company; Connolly has published two books: Sycuan. Our People. Our Culture. Our History; and Kumeyaay: A History Textbook, Volume 1, Precontact to 1893.

Katy Duperry Librarian/Archivist

The Museum Committee welcomes Tribal Councilwoman Bonnie LaChappa as an invaluable resource and as a reminder of who we are. Her service is very much appreciated. Thank you, Bonnie!

In April, Phyllis Van Wanscote stepped down as the Museum Committee Chairwoman. We are so grateful to have had her as our leader for many years and the leaves behind her have not filled. Phyllis is soft-spoken, compassionate, and tireless, and successfully led the Museum to greater heights. We are very fortunate that Phyllis remains on the Committee to lend her assistance. Her service is very much appreciated. Thank you, Phyllis!

The Museum Committee welcomes Tribal Councilwoman Bonnie LaChappa and Candy Christmas as our new Co-Chairwomen of the Committee. Together, they make a great team and will continue to lead the Museum successfully.
New and Notable Acquisitions

Barona Cultural Center & Museum recently acquired the following items to add to the growing collection. If you are interested in donating to the collection, please call the Museum!

Gift of Bron Anders
Book: Medicinal Plants Used by Native American Tribes in Southern California, by Donna Largo

Gift of Niclas Burenhult
Compilation of digital files and articles related to language preservation

Gift of Pat Curo (Barona)
CD: “It’s My Country Too” by Pat Curo

Gift of Steven Curo (Barona)
CD: “That’s Good” by Steven Curo

Gift of Toddye Yeats (Barona)
80 historic photographs, postcards and historic papers, 1900-1950

Gift of Myrna Desomber
Assorted research notes and papers related to her Master’s Thesis on Kumeyaay games

Gift of Phyllis Van Wanseelee (Barona)
Digital Images from 2013 Yuman Language Family Summit

Gift of Manuel Hernandez (Barona)
8 digital images featuring Manuel Hernandez, Dakota Hernandez, and Jenna Hernandez in sports-related portraits and action images

Gift of Geoffrey “Guy” Wilkins
Metate fragment from Palomar Mountain area

Gift of Patrick Goodwin
3 juncus baskets, pine needle basket, and pottery jar

Gift of Ed Nolan
Stole commemorating the canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

Gift of Paul Blake
Framed artwork featuring the likeness of a Kumeyaay pot made by Daria Mariscal (PaPai/Kumeyaay)

Background photograph: Donor Paul Blake was inspired by the artistry of PaPai/Kumeyaay potter Daria Mariscal. He used a variation of Gyotaku (Japanese fish printing) for his recently donated art piece. By covering one of Daria’s pots with silk and applying layers of archival etching ink the details and texture of the pot were transferred. The finished piece embodies the beauty of Daria’s pottery while showcasing the traditional art form of Gyotaku. On display now through December!

Gift of Bonnie LaChappa (Barona)
6 framed photographs of events, entertainers, and Tribal Government officials at Barona Resort & Casino

‘Iipay Uumall - “The People Write”

As it warms up here in Barona, Museum staff look forward to a welcome change to our normal programming. Staff spend the school year heavily involved in teaching - giving guided school tours, engaging people at outreaches, providing research materials to students of all ages, hosting lectures, preparing Ancient Spirits Speak public classes, creating curriculum for Language Class, teaching culture class to all students, Kindergarten through Eighth grade at the Barona Indian Charter School, and teaching the Native language, Ipay.Aa, to the preschoolers. Summer brings us a break in our routine to prepare and host a three-day long Culture Camp for tribal youth in July, and the opportunities to be a part of Barona’s traditional Gathering in August, and the Powwow in September. All three of these community events fulfill our mission to educate, interpret, and preserve Barona’s unique history.

In addition to all this teaching, Museum Staff enjoyed several opportunities to grow professionally and share their knowledge with other museum professionals. It is important for staff to continue their training and stay on top of evolving museum standards and technology. Director Emeritus/Curator of Collections Cheryl Hinton, Museum Educator O’Jay Vanegas, and Librarian/Archivist Katy Duperry attended the California Association of Museums Annual Conference in Santa Barbara and learned new techniques for engaging audiences in exhibitions and how to care for born-digital media. Store Coordinator Robin Edmonds and I were fortunate to attend the Museum Store Association Annual Conference in Los Angeles where we met with creative vendors, learned about visitor buying patterns, and how to develop custom merchandise. Stay tuned, we have a few new products up our sleeves! Collections Manager John George and Librarian/Archivist Katy Duperry took a series of webinars on cataloging digital media, how to capture all the necessary metadata for our records, and best practices for digital media storage. We are a small staff but we have sure accomplished a lot already this year!

We return to our normal programming in the fall with the opening of our new exhibition, Sports: The Competitive Spirit at Barona, and I invite you to peruse the exciting upcoming schedule of Ancient Spirits Speaks classes—these classes are offered to the public, and while some classes may be more challenging than others, each class promises to be fun-filled and quite a learning experience. You can always check our website, baronamuseum.org, for the latest information or call us at (619) 443-7003 ext. 219.

Drop in for a visit this summer—see the Rock of Ages exhibition before it ends in August, and I look forward to seeing you, soon.

Laurie Egan-Hedley
Director/Curator

Iipay Hechalyp
Happy Summer!

Director Laurie Egan-Hedley and Museum Store Coordinator Robin Edmonds on a field trip to the Getty Museum during the Museum Store Association annual conference.

Director Emeritus/Curator of Collections Cheryl Hinton, Museum Educator O’Jay Vanegas, and Librarian/Archivist Katy Duperry at the California Association of Museums conference in Santa Barbara.

Librarian/Archivist Katy Duperry and Collections Manager John George participate in online webinars to learn the latest techniques for digital asset management.
According to his father, Chairman Clifford LaChappa, Matt seemed able to do anything from a young age, including play guitar, football, basketball, flute, and golf. Matt was on Lakeside American Little League from Caps to Pony league. He also played Pop Warner football. His mother, Linda, and father, Clifford, recalled that in the early days, they would have to scrimp and save to buy the athletic equipment for Matt and other athletic children in the family.

Matt attended El Capitan High School where he played football and baseball. Matt’s sister, Tawnya Phoenix, recalls that he was quite a “pick-off artist,” catching runners off base. The lefty pitcher, Matt, said in a 1992 yearbook interview, “We all have good attitudes...the desire to win. With good pitching, arms in the infield and cannons in the outfield, we should be able to be in the running for another title.” The following year, in a yearbook article titled, Major Leagues, the varsity team members were in the running for Major Leagues, the team was ranked 11th in the Nation by USA Today and 4th in the nation by Baseball America. In the article, it states “All of these players love baseball and have been playing their whole lives. Matt LaChappa said, ‘I got interested in baseball as a little boy. My dad used to tell me stories of his days when he played, and that’s when I started to love the game.'” So look to the future and you just may see a major league that started out here at El Capitan. By Lani Erickson and Slasy Smith.

Matt held the record for career strikeouts (310) in San Diego CIF and as a senior he was SDCIF 2A Player of the Year. Although he had a baseball scholarship to Arizona State University, the major league prediction came true and he got the call from Padres’ area scout Dave Finley as the 56th player chosen in the draft. Tawnya also recalled that Matt threw out the first pitch on the Padres’ sign-up day at the stadium in 1993.

Matt, in a Daily Californian interview in 1995, said of his time with the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes, (the Padres’ Class A affiliate), “It’s all I expected and a little more...I’ve had the bus break down and I’ve had fun with the guys. My mom and dad haven’t missed a game so far. They’re glad they get to see me in high school.” The promising major league hopeful was warming up in the Quakes bullpen to pitch relief for the Rancho Cucamonga farm team in 1996 when the 20-year old suffered massive back-to-back heart attacks. The athletic young man was stricken by a rare viral heart ailment. Many Tribal members, Padres officials, and El Capitan coaches and teammates gathered at the hospital as he fought for his life. San Diego Padres’ pitching coach Dan Warthen said in a 1996 Daily Californian article on Matt’s fight for life, “He’s someone you’d want as your own child...He’s a hard worker with a good focus. A quiet kid, but one who has a clever sense of humor.” Fortunately, Matt fought his way through. Today, although Matt is in a wheelchair with limited speech, he is always smiling.

The Padres made an extraordinary gesture and keep Matt on their roster, payroll, and under their health insurance. In a San Diego Union Tribune article in 2006, Priscilla Oppenheimer, minor league operations director recalled the Padres promise to take good care of the young player, “When he was drafted and he came into the office to sign, I’ve never seen such a troop of tribal people...I think he was the first full-blooded American Indian ever drafted by the Padres.”

To celebrate the Padres’ 40th anniversary, they refurbished Lakeside Youth Fast Pitch/Cactus Park and dedicated the Little Padres ball field as Matt LaChappa Field. The family’s church created the Matt LaChappa Evangelism Mission Fund with a pledge card that states: “Matt, I want you to keep Matt on pitching.” Parents Clifford and Linda wished to honor their son’s sports career by helping other young athletes in East County. They created the Matt LaChappa Scholarship Foundation, and the major fundraiser, the annual Matt LaChappa Golf Tournament. Over 150 scholarships have sent local athletes to universities such as Stanford, UC Berkeley, San Diego State University, University of Arizona, UC Santa Barbara, UC San Diego and Boston University.

Matt continued to enjoy watching sports and being with his family. The community still remembers Matt’s impact on San Diego sports history. On Sunday, May 19, 2013 Matt was honored by the San Diego Padres at Petco Park for Native American Day sponsored by InterTribal Sports. Chairman LaChappa says of his son, “It is a blessing that Matt is alive. He brought the community and the family together and, there have been many positive outcomes.”

Learn more about Matt’s compelling story, the stories of top Native American athletes across the nation, and the many Barona Tribal members who compete in sports. We invite you to visit our upcoming exhibition, Sports: The Competitive Spirit at Barona, opening in September. Call the Museum for more information.

Cheryl Hinton
Director Emeritus / Curator of Collections

Music and musicians tell great stories through song. The Museum collected many of these great stories through recent interviews with several of the musicians on the Reservation. The exhibition features the stories about the musicians, how they got their starts, and who their teachers were. Many Barona Tribal members sing, play in bands, and participate in choirs. Some have records and CDs. These dedicated players pass down this love of music to new generations and continue this important Barona tradition.

June to December 2013
This exhibition showcases a sample of the most recent donations to the Museum and some of our hidden treasures that have never had an opportunity to be on display. The Barona Cultural Center & Museum is thankful to the many donors who make us a growing and thriving collecting museum.

Through Mid-August 2013

Rock of Ages: Contemporary Music on the Barona Indian Reservation

New & Notable

Opening Soon
Sports: The Competitive Spirit at Barona

This exhibition highlights the history of the Barona People’s involvement in sports on and off the Reservation, and what it means to the community.

Opens to the public
October 1, 2013

Cheryl Hinton, Director Emeritus / Curator of Collections
A Visit from Old Friends
From the Vaults of the San Diego Museum of Man

These beautiful Kumeyaay/Diegueño artifacts are on loan to Barona Museum from the San Diego Museum of Man. Most of the objects have never been on exhibit until now. Take this opportunity to see these lovely pieces, including rattlesnake baskets, an oil painting of Rosa Lopez, and a hoppah mortar.

Through Fall 2014

Living Treasure:
Josephine Whaley

Barona elder Josephine Whaley is this year’s Living Treasure recipient. Learn about Josephine’s life and the many contributions she has made to the community. This award is presented to individuals who contribute to the preservation of the Barona Band of Mission Indians’ culture and language.

Through December 2013

Permanent Exhibitions

Ekur ‘Emaayap
Barona Reservation,
A Story of 75 Years of Unity

Learn about the history of the Barona People and their Reservation in this timeline-based exhibit. Examine how the people stayed together through difficult times and have persevered, keeping their culture and traditions alive for the generations to come.

Veterans’ Wall of Honor

Recognize the service and sacrifices made by Barona Veterans and Local Community Veterans, highlighting over 50 service men and women. Six Purple Hearts and numerous commendations are among their accolades.

Ancient Spirits Speak
Public Class Schedule
Fall 2013

Join us for another exciting season of Ancient Spirits Speak classes! Due to the popularity of these classes, they fill up quickly. To guarantee your spot in the class, you must call the Museum and pre-pay for the class. Barona Tribal Members receive free registration but must RSVP ahead of time. All classes are open to the public and lunch is provided.

Decorative Gourd Art
Instructor: O’Jay Vanegas, Museum Educator
Date: Saturday, September 7th
Time: 10:30am-3:30pm
Ages: 16 & Up
Fee: $25 Public/Free to Barona Tribal Members

Gourds were traditionally used as food bowls, water containers, and for storage. Gourds also are used for instruments like rattles and water drums. Gourds are often decorated in some fashion. Museum Educator O’Jay Vanegas will give an instructional workshop on creating decorative gourd art. Learn basic painting techniques and add designs using a variety of materials. RSVP by Friday, August 23rd.

Leaching Basket
Instructor: Yvonne LaChusa Trottier (Mesa Grande)
Date: Saturday, October 5th
Time: 10:30am-3:30pm
Ages: 16 & Up
Fee: $25 Public/Free to Barona Tribal Members

Leaching baskets are traditionally made from freshly-gathered, flexible, green, whole-rod Juncus. These utilitarian items are loosely woven and flat baskets but are essential when making acorn meal. The tannic acid in acorn meal must be rinsed thoroughly before the traditional acorn dish, shawii, can be eaten. Tannic acid is bitter and can cause stomach upset. The ground acorn meal is spread out on top of large leaves on the leaching basket and water is poured over the meal several times. The leaching basket is essentially a strainer, allowing the water to rinse the tannic acid away. Join Yvonne LaChusa Trottier (Mesa Grande) as she teaches us how to weave leaching baskets. RSVP by Friday, September 20th.

Bow-Making
Instructor: Paul Campbell
Date: Saturday, November 2nd
Time: 10:30am-3:30pm
Ages: 16 & Up
Fee: $25 Public/Free to Barona Tribal Members

Paul Campbell, author of Survival Skills of Native California, makes his debut appearance in our Ancient Spirits Speak class schedule. Paul is a renowned Native skills student and enthusiast who has a vast knowledge of traditional California Indian tools and weapons. Paul’s research indicates that over 150 years ago, the Cocopah, Pa Pai, Kumeyaay/Diegueño, Mohave, Yuma, KitKita, and other Yuman-speaking tribes of the extreme Southwest, southern California, and upper Baja California made long bows of mesquite, ash, and willow for hunting and war. The same technology is still used to make bows today.

Limbs of these bows curve toward the belly and very little bending is needed to fix the string. Fiber strings do not stretch much but put the full force of the bow to the arrow. The central sections of these bows are thick and long and do not bend easily. Long tapered limbs act as efficient levers on the center during the draw and effective catapults in the recoil. Economy is the beauty of the Yuman bow along with quickness and ease of manufacture. Join Paul as he instructs how to make these traditional style willow bows. His book is also available for purchase in the Museum Store and Paul will be on hand to sign them. RSVP by Friday, October 18th.

Holiday Craft Class for Kids
Date: Saturday, December 14th
Time: 10:30am-12pm
Ages: 5-11 (adult chaperone required)
Fee: $5 Public/Free to Barona Tribal Members

It’s time for the Museum’s annual Holiday Craft Class for Kids! Participants will create a special holiday craft with a Native twist. These crafts are perfect gifts for teachers, grandparents, and friends! Snack will be served. RSVP by Wednesday, November 27th.

Current Exhibitions

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Limbs of these bows curve toward the belly and very little bending is needed to fix the string. Fiber strings do not stretch much but put the full force of the bow to the arrow. The central sections of these bows are thick and long and do not bend easily. Long tapered limbs act as efficient levers on the center during the draw and effective catapults in the recoil. Economy is the beauty of the Yuman bow along with quickness and ease of manufacture. Join Paul as he instructs how to make these traditional style willow bows. His book is also available for purchase in the Museum Store and Paul will be on hand to sign them. RSVP by Friday, October 18th.

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Instructor LeLanie Thompson (Barona), far right, shares her knowledge of beading with class participants.

Yucca is Yummy! students, Sue Petrofsky and Sunny Grassious, cut down yucca stalks for roasting.

Students at the willow basket class learn to bundle and stitch willow branch coils.

Renowned basketmaker and instructor, Eva Salazar (Kumeyaay), and the willow basket class students show off their finished baskets.

Eighth grade student Bryer Jenkins prepares the ground for planting in the Native Heritage Garden.

The Barona Indian Charter School’s Native Heritage Garden was re-dedicated in June to Shirley Ruis (Barona) and the late Linda Curo (Barona). The Eighth Grade Heritage Project, led by Museum Educator C’Jay Vanegas and Frank LaChappa (Barona), included revamping the Garden, adding a decomposed granite pathway, a bench, and two beautiful murals. The Eighth grade class and C’Jay Vanegas, shown here, at the dedication.

The larger of the two murals in the Native Heritage Garden depicts the beautiful Barona landscape and Native plants and animals. Barona Indian Charter School Eighth grade students Bryer Jenkins, Roni Dilorio, Jacob Husband, McKayla Rice-Brown, and Matthew Stevens, assist with painting a mural in the newly re-dedicated Native Heritage Garden.

In the Yucca is Yummy! class, students picked yucca blossoms, washed and cooked them with Martha Rodriguez’s guidance.

Guest lecturer Michael Connolly Miskwish captivates the audience with his research on the Native Zorros of the 1800s. Learn more about these amazing men in Mike’s book sold in the Museum Store: Kumeyaay: A History Textbook, Volume 1, Precontact to 1893.
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Matt attended El Capitan High School where he played football and baseball. Matt’s sister, Tawnya Phoenix, recalls that he was quite a “pick-off artist,” catching runners off base. The lefty pitcher, Matt, said in a 1992 yearbook interview, “We all have good attitudes…the desire to win. With good pitching, arms in the infield and cannons in the outfield, we should be able to be in the running for another title.”

The following year, in a yearbook article titled, Major Leagues, the varsity team members wrote in the running for Major Leagues, the team was ranked 11th in the Nation by USA Today and 4th in the nation by Baseball America. In the article, it states “All of these players love baseball and have been playing their whole lives. Matt LaChappa said, ‘I got interested in baseball as a little boy. My dad used to tell me stories of his days when he played, and that’s when I started to love the game.’” So look to the future and you just may see a major league that started out here at El Capitan. By Lani Erickens and Stacy Smith.

Matt held the record for career strikeouts (310) in San Diego CIF and as a senior he was SDCIF 2A Player of the Year. Although he had a baseball scholarship to Arizona State University, the major league prediction came true and he got the call from Padres’ area scout Dave Finley as the 56th player chosen in the draft. Tawnya also recalled that Matt threw out the first pitch on the Padres’ sign-up day at the stadium in 1993.

Matt, in a Daily Californian interview in 1995, said of his time with the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes, (the Padres’ Class A affiliate), “It’s all I expected and a little more… I’ve had the bus break down and I’ve had fun with the guys. My mom and dad haven’t missed a game so far. They’re glad they get to see me play and talk to other kids. They’re glad they get to see me play in the majors.”

The promising major league hopeful was warming up in the Quakes bullpen to pitch relief for the Rancho Cucamonga farm team in 1996 when the 20-year old suffered massive back-to-back heart attacks. The athletic young man was stricken by a rare viral heart ailment. Many Tribal members, Padres officials, and El Capitan coaches and teammates gathered at the hospital as he fought for his life. San Diego Padres’ pitching coach Dan Warthen said in a 1996 Daily Californian article on Matt’s fight for life, “He’s someone you’d want as your own child… He’s a hard worker with a good focus. A quiet kid, but one who has a clever sense of humor.” Fortunately, Matt fought his way through. Today, although Matt is in a wheelchair with limited speech, he is always smiling.

The Padres made an extraordinary gesture and keep Matt on their roster, payroll, and under their health insurance. In a San Diego Union Tribune article in 2006, Priscilla Oppenheimer, minor league operations director recalled the Padres promise to take good care of the young player, “When he was drafted and he came into the office to sign, I’ve never seen such a troop of tribal people… I think he was the first full-blooded American Indian ever drafted by the Padres.”

To celebrate the Padres’ 40th anniversary, they refurbished Lakeside Youth Fast Pitch/Cactus Park and dedicated the Little Padres ball field as Matt LaChappa Field. The family’s church created the Matt LaChappa Evangelism Mission Fund with a pledge card that states: “Matt, I want you to go on pitching.” Parents Clifford and Linda wished to honor their son’s sports career by helping other young athletes in East County. They created the Matt LaChappa Scholarship Foundation, and the major fundraiser, the annual Matt LaChappa Golf Tournament. Over 150 scholarships have sent local athletes to universities such as Stanford, UC Berkeley, San Diego State University, University of Arizona, UC Santa Barbara, UC San Diego and Boston University.

Matt continues to enjoy watching sports and being with his family. The community still remembers Matt’s impact on San Diego sports history. On Sunday, May 19, 2013 Matt was honored by the San Diego Padres at Petco Park for Native American Day sponsored by InterTribal Sports. Chairman LaChappa says of his son, “It is a blessing that Matt is alive. He brought the community and the family together and, there have been many positive outcomes.”

Learn more about Matt’s compelling story, the stories of top Native American athletes across the nation, and the many Barona Tribal members who compete in sports. We invite you to visit our upcoming exhibition, Sports: The Competitive Spirit at Barona, opening in September. Call the Museum for more information.

Matt LaChappa with Padres Manager Bud Black Photograph courtesy of Tawnya Phoenix

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Cheryl Hinton
Director Emeritus / Curator of Collections
New and Notable Acquisitions

Barona Cultural Center & Museum recently acquired the following items to add to the growing collection. If you are interested in donating to the collection, please call the Museum!

Gift of Bron Anders
Book: Medicinal Plants Used by Native American Tribes in Southern California, by Donna Largo

Gift of Nicolas Burenhalt
Compilation of digital files and articles related to language preservation

Gift of Pat Curo (Barona)
CD: “It’s My Country Too” by Pat Curo

Gift of Steven Curo (Barona)
CD: “That’s Good” by Steven Curo

Gift of Toddye Yeats (Barona)
80 historic photographs, postcards and historic papers, 1900-1950

Gift of Myrna Desomer
Assorted research notes and papers related to her Master’s Thesis on Kumeyaay games

Gift of Phyllis Van Wanseele (Barona)
Digital images from 2013 Yuman Language Family Summit

Gift of Manuel Hernandez (Barona)
8 digital images featuring Manuel Hernandez, Dakota Hernandez, and Jenna Hernandez in sports-related portraits and action images

Gift of Geoffrey “Guy” Wilkins
Metate fragment from Palomar Mountain area

Gift of Patrick Goodwin
3 juncus baskets, pine needle basket, and pottery jar

Gift of Ed Nolan
Stole commemorating the canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha

Gift of Paul Blake
Framed artwork featuring the likeness of a Kumeyaay pot made by Daria Mariscal (PaiPai/Kumeyaay)  
Background photograph: Donor Paul Blake was inspired by the artistry of PaiPai/Kumeyaay potter Daria Mariscal: He used a variation of Gyotaku (Japanese fish printing) for his recently donated art piece. By covering one of Daria’s pots with silk and applying layers of archival etching ink the details and texture of the pot were transferred. The finished piece embodies the beauty of Daria’s pottery while showcasing the traditional art form of Gyotaku. On display now through December!

Gift of Bonnie LaChappa (Barona)
6 framed photographs of events, entertainers, and Tribal Government officials at Barona Resort & Casino

As it warms up here in Barona, Museum staff look forward to a welcome change to our normal programming. Staff spend the school year heavily involved in teaching—giving guided school tours, engaging people at outreaches, providing research materials to students of all ages, hosting lectures, preparing Ancient Spirits Speak public classes, creating curriculum for Language Class, teaching culture class to all students, Kindergarten through Eighth grade at the Barona Indian Charter School, and teaching the Native language, ‘Ipay Aa, to the preschoolers. Summer brings us a break in our routine to prepare and host a three-day long Culture Camp for tribal youth in July, and the opportunities to be a part of Barona’s traditional Gathering in August, and the Poswosw in September. All three of these community events fulfill our mission to educate, interpret, and preserve Barona’s unique history.

In addition to all this teaching, Museum Staff enjoyed several opportunities to grow professionally and share their knowledge with other museum professionals. It is important for staff to continue their training and stay on top of evolving museum standards and technology. Director Emeritus/Curator of Collections Cheryl Hinton, Museum Educator O’Jay Vanegas, and Librarian/Archivist Katy Duperry attended the California Association of Museums Annual Conference in Santa Barbara and learned new techniques for engaging audiences in exhibitions and how to care for born-digital media. Store Coordinator Robin Edmonds and I were fortunate to attend the Museum Store Association Annual Conference in Los Angeles where we met with creative vendors, learned about visitor buying patterns, and how to develop custom merchandise. Stay tuned, we have a few new products up our sleeves! Collections Manager John George and Librarian/Archivist Katy Duperry took a series of webinars on cataloging digital media, how to capture all the necessary metadata for our records, and best practices for digital media storage. We are a small staff but we have sure accomplished a lot already this year!

We return to our normal programming in the fall with the opening of our new exhibition, Sports: The Competitive Spirit at Barona, and I invite you to peruse the exciting upcoming schedule of Ancient Spirits Speaks classes—these classes are offered to the public, and while some classes may be more challenging than others, each class promises to be fun-filled and quite a learning experience. You can always check our website, baronamuseum.org, for the latest information or call us at (619) 443-7003 ext. 219.

Drop in for a visit this summer—see the Rock of Ages exhibition before it ends in August, ‘Ipall Hechalyp, and I look forward to seeing you, soon.

Laurie Egan-Hedley
Director/ Curator

Director Emeritus/Curator of Collections Cheryl Hinton, Museum Educator O’Jay Vanegas, and Librarian/Archivist Katy Duperry at the California Association of Museums conference in Santa Barbara.

Librarian/Archivist Katy Duperry and Collections Manager John George participate in online webinars to learn the latest techniques for digital asset management.

Director Laurie Egan-Hedley and Museum Store Coordinator Robin Edmonds on a field trip to the Getty Museum during the Museum Store Association annual conference.
A Message from Museum Committee Co-Chairwoman Bonnie LaChappa

Many of us have heard of "Zorns," the mythical fighting who, like Robin Hood, defended peasants from greedy villains and authorities. But, did you know that there were many Native "Zorns" who fought against the tyranny and oppression of the Mexican and United States governments?

In Michael Connolly’s lecture on April 4th at Barona Cultural Center & Museum, he shared many of these brave men’s accounts. He spoke of how Chief Estanislao, a member of the Yokuts Indian Nation, lead a revolt in 1828 and successfully defended against three attacks by the Mexican Army until 1829.

Chief Estanislao, originally named Cucunuchi, was born around 1793 near what is now Modesto, California. He was missionized in 1821 and was at that time baptized with the name “Estanislao.” In 1827, he left the mission to organize a rebellion against the cruelty and harsh demands made of the Indians there, and joined up with Chumash leader Dacomio. Soon the two men lead an army of around 4,000 men. Estanislao and Pacomio led several successful raids on Missions San Jose, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz, as well as Mexican settlements. In 1830, after being defeated by General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo and receiving a pardon from the Mexican government, Chief Estanislao returned to the Laquisimus River to lead his people. He eventually went back to Mission San Jose, where he taught the Yokuts language and culture.

Connolly also spoke about Antonio Garra, a Cupeno leader who sought to unite Native California Tribes against the United States, which was imposing unfair taxes on Indians in 1851. Antonio Garra was born around 1815 and was raised at the Mission San Luis Rey. The Cupeno Indians, to whom Garra was a leader, were required to "Mission Indians" to pay taxes to San Diego County. Garra found this unjust and led a rebellion. He united groups of Quechan, Cahuilla, and Cupeno and led a successful raid against a group of American ranchers. Although Garra was tried and executed for his role in the rebellion, the United States Supreme Court ended up changing the taxation laws in favor of the Indians.

Connolly talked about the great strengths and innovations of Native Californians, and traditional life ways that the Spanish tried to stamp out in the 1700s, such as music, language, and agricultural practices. His lecture covered a very difficult and trying time in the history of the Kumeyaay/Diegueno people, but one that saw many victories by talented, justice-seeking fighters looking to protect their people.

The Kumeyaay suffered two major betrayals by the Mexican government: the creation of Ranchos and the securalization


Connolly’s expansive knowledge on Kumeyaay/Diegueno history is a result of his profession and background. In addition to being a Tribal Member of the Campo Kumeyaay Nation, he is currently a professor at San Diego State University and president of Laguna Resource Services, Inc., an environmental consulting company; Connolly has published two books: Sycuan, Our People. Our Culture. Our History; and Kumeyaay: A History Textbook, Volume 1, Precontact to 1893.

Katy Duperry Librarian/Archivist
Barona proudly claims many gifted athletes who have excelled in sports through the years. In recent times, one such talented individual was on his way to “The Show,” the Big Leagues. ... his road to the Major Leagues on the Padres rookie team in Peoria, Arizona and then advanced to the Class A Spring field team for the Midwest Minor League. At age 19 (1995), he was promoted to the Padres Class A Advanced Affiliate in the California League, the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes, where he won 11 games and led the league with 28 starts. (continued on page 4)