

**Sharon Austin**

***CURRICULUM VITAE***

**Education**

**University of Utah**, Salt Lake City, UT, August 2005 – present.

Doctoral student in Public Health in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine. Research interest is to understand the various factors that impact survival of American Indian cancer patients. Research question will utilize biostatistics, epidemiology, instrument development, and cultural factors that impact health.

**Johns Hopkins University**, Baltimore, MD, June 2007-July 2007.

Participated in an intensive summer program in public health. Courses completed were Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and Management.

**University of Utah**, Salt Lake City, UT, August 2005.

Masters of Public Health in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine. Studies focused on general public health.

**Stanford University**, Stanford CA, January 2004.

Masters of Arts in Medical Anthropology in the Department of Anthropological Sciences. Focus was on American Indian culture and health, health policy, medical decision-making, phenomenology, and political economy.

**Johns Hopkins University**, Baltimore, MD, June 2002- July 2002.

Participated in an intensive summer program in public health. The course was a three-week course that covered two quarters of Biostatistics.

**University of Utah**, Salt Lake City, UT, August 1998.

Bachelor of Science in Anthropology with a focus on American Indian culture, gender, human genetics, behavioral ecology, evolution, and statistics.

**Academic Awards**

Native American Research Centers for Health Fellow. September 2006-present.

Native American Research Centers for Health Fellow. September 2005-August 2006.

Native American Research Centers for Health Fellow. May 2004-August 2005.

NSF scholarship for the NSF Summer Institute. 2002.

Johns Hopkins Scholarship for Summer Epidemiology Institute. 2002.

Mellon Grant for the development of a Native American Graduate Studies Workshop. 2001-2002.

Mellon Grant for Summer Field Research. 2001.

John Milton Oskison Composition Award, Stanford University. 2001

Ford Fellowship, Honorable Mention. 2000

Morris K. Udall Congressional Internship. 2000

Bioscience Program Award, University of Utah. 1998

Western Alliance for the Expansion of Student Opportunities Fellowship. 1997.

Papanikolas Scholarship, University of Utah. September 1996 to June 1997.

Navajo Tribal Scholarship. September 1995 to June 1997.

**Professional Experience**

**Native Researchers' Cancer Control Training Program, Oregon Health & Science University**, Portland, OR. June 15-27, 2003 and **University of Arizona**, Tucson, AZ. October 19-24, 2003.

This training program assisted in developing skills for the implementation and evaluation of cancer control programs in Native communities and tribes. The curriculum of the training program included the following modules: epidemiologic methods, design and implementation of cancer intervention studies, data management & analysis, grant and manuscript preparation, questionnaire design, human subjects protection, and grant budget management.

**Graduate Student Coordinator, Native American Graduate Studies Workshop, Stanford University, Stanford, CA.** January 2002-June 2002.

Organize biweekly discussion meetings for graduate students and faculty who are interested in Native American studies. The aim of the workshop is to provide an arena for graduate students and faculty to discuss various topics in Native American Studies. This includes theoretical frameworks and concerns on both the local and global level. This position includes organization of the workshop, ordering or copying of literature, room reservations, email updates, and inviting National speakers to Stanford.

**Coordinator, Multicultural Theme House, Stanford University, Stanford, CA.** January 2002-June 2002.

A coordinator's responsibility is to design programs for the residents of the Multicultural Theme House (MCTH). These programs are designed to encourage support and encourage the residents in their academic and professional interests. Coordinators also designed events that brought cultural diversity to the Stanford community. Also as a coordinator, I also acted as a liaison by informing the MCTH residents of Native American related events that occur on campus and in the wider Bay Area region.

**Coordinator, Partners for Academic Excellence, Stanford University, Stanford, CA,** August 2000 to March 2001.

Designed and delivered a curriculum to introduce Native freshmen students to academic services and assist them in developing skills necessary for academic and social adjustment. The position also involved selection and training of graduate and undergraduate student mentors, and overall, required strong organizational skills, extensive written and oral communication including public speaking, funding management and grounded knowledge of Native culture.

The coordinator also worked in close contact with the staff at the Native American Center and the Undergraduate Advising Center (UAC). With the staff at the UAC, the coordinator was responsible in assisting an evaluation for the program, analyzing the evaluation, proposing policy recommendations, providing a summary of the program, creating and delivering the mentor training for 60 plus graduate and undergraduate students, maintaining databases, and participating in the following years recruitment.

**Intern, United States Senate, Washington, D.C.,** June 2000 to September 2000.

Selected by the Honorable Morris K. Udall Foundation, the position required researching various political issues pertinent to the Native people of Arizona and preparing position statements concerning these issues for Senator John McCain. Participated in business meetings as proxy to the legislative assistant responsible for Native and environmental issues and prepared notes on the topics discussed. Attended the Indian Affairs Committee hearings in the Senate.

Some of the main issues investigated included the Indian Health Care Improvement Act, Native American Languages Act Amendments of 2000, land acquisition (Tribes versus State), Lactose intolerance issue among minority children, and Bald Eaglet gathering for the Hopi.

#### **TEACHING:**

**Teaching Assistant, University of Utah, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine, Fall 2006.**

The course was Biostatistic I for Masters and Doctoral level students. Responsibilities were to teach STATA 9, lecture, assist students during office hours, and hold a study session for the students.

**Teaching Assistant, University of Utah, Academic Outreach and Continuing Education Department, Summer 2001.**

This course was an intensive five week summer course that was comprised of three courses: "Native American Experience," "Gender and Contemporary Issues," and "Advance American National

Government.” The first course was taught by Myrna Gooden, Ph.D. candidate, the second by Tracy Marafioti, Ph.D. candidate, and the last by Professor Daniel McCool. Each course had its own objectives but they were related in the respect that each had a focus in the west. I assisted in leading discussions, lecturing, and helping undergraduate students with their paper assignments.

**Teaching Assistant, Stanford University**, Anthropological Sciences Department, Spring 2001.

The course was "Human Diversity: A Linguistic Perspective" and was taught by Professor Merritt Ruhlen. This course focused on diversity and distribution of human language and its implications for the origin and evolution of the human species.

**Teaching Assistant, Stanford University**, Anthropological Sciences Department, Winter 2001.

The course was "Introduction to Anthropological Genetics," and was taught by David DeGusta, Ph.D candidate. This course focused on origins and variation among humans. Also, social issues concerning the human genome, genetic engineering, and genetic testing were included in this course.

**Teaching Assistant, Stanford University**, Anthropological Sciences Department, Autumn 2000.

The course was "Medical Anthropology" and was taught by Professor Clifford Barnett. The course's focus was on curing systems in Western and non-Western culture, problems of adapting biomedicine to diverse cultures, and social epidemiology.

#### **RESEARCH INTERESTS:**

My research interests lie in the areas of biostatistics and epidemiology with an emphasis in cancer research. I am interested in examining disparities in survival among American Indians and non-American Indians. More specifically, understanding the complexity of the interaction of various factors (comorbidities, structural, social, and cultural factors) and how these factors contribute to low survival. I am also interested in misclassification of American Indians in surveillance.

#### **Research Experience**

**Research Coordinator, Department of Family and Preventive Medicine**, Salt Lake City, UT, August 2006 to present.

Assisting in a Community Based Participatory Research project in which the objectives are to determine whether passive education or navigation increases screening prevalence among American Indians in Utah and Montana. Tasks are completing the Navajo Nation IRB process, cultural guidance for the research team, grant writing, data analysis, and manuscript development.

**Public Health Practicum, Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah**, Salt Lake City, UT, January 2005 to June 2005.

This project uses bivariate analyses and logistic regression, to determine if there are differences in attitudes, beliefs, and utilization between Latinos and Non-Latino Whites.

**Public Health Practicum, Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah**, Salt Lake City, UT, January 2005 to June 2005.

The project consists of understanding attitudes, beliefs, and utilization preferences of cancer genetic services among Latinos. The initial goal is to understand the social and demographic characteristics of a Latino and White population through the use of descriptive statistics.

**Research Associate, American West Center (AWC), University of Utah**, Salt Lake City, UT, September 1996 to August 1999 and January 1996 to May 1996.

Documented historical off-reservation hunting and camping sites of the Shoshone and Bannock people under the direction of Dr. Dan McCool and Dr. Patricia Albers as part of a legal case regarding indigenous land use rights.

Other work involved research on the health impact of gold mining waste (PCBs) on indigenous people. This research was a basis for development of a culturally sensitive health survey which I later assisted in administering to the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre peoples of the Fort Belknap reservation who

were experiencing health problems related to toxic waste. Engaged in grant preparation and acquisition for the AWC.

Also assisted Dr. Patricia Albers in researching and compiling bibliographic information for the historical role of Diné (Navajo) women during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Research was compiled for a museum display regarding women of the West in Boulder, Colorado.

**Research Assistant, Department of Biology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, September 1996 to November 1998.**

Managed a project involving genetic parentage typing of a colony of semi-wild derived mice in the laboratory of Dr. Wayne K. Potts. Final typing would give results of survival rates for the colony, reproductive success, and neonatal survival as they relate to the ecology and evolution of the murine Major Histocompatibility Complex.

**Research Technician, Department of Biological Anthropology, Oxford University, Oxford, UK, June 1996 to September 1996.**

Continued the hypertension in Dr. Ryk Ward's laboratory. The objective was to study hypertension rates and hypertension-associated genetic markers in various indigenous African groups and compare this data derived from African Americans.

**Research Technician, Department of Human Genetics, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT, October 1995 to March 1996.**

Oversaw a project in Dr. Ryk Ward's laboratory. The objective was to study hypertension rates and hypertension-associated genetic markers in various indigenous African groups and compare this data derived from African Americans.

### **Service**

Board Member of the Indian Walk-In Center, Salt Lake City, UT, September 2007 to present.

KRCL music programmer for the "Living the Circle of Life" American Indian radio program, January 2005 to present.

Native American representative for the Children's Health Insurance Program's Advisory Council, Appointed June 2005 to February 2007.

Historian & member of the Public Health Student Advisory Committee, University of Utah, August 2005 to August 2006.

Member of the Public Health Student Advisory Committee, University of Utah, August 2004 to August 2005.

Board Member of the Indian Walk-In Center, Salt Lake City, UT, May 2004 to July 2006.

Board Member of the Native American Advisory Committee, Stanford University, September 2001 to September 2002.

Graduate Diversity Admit Committee, Stanford University, Winter 2001.

Board Member of the Native American Advisory Committee, Stanford University, September 2000 to September 2001.

Faculty Hiring Committee, Department of Anthropological Sciences, Stanford University, Fall 2000.

Board Member of the Graduate Diversity Admit Committee, Stanford University, Winter 2000.

### **Technical Skills**

*Statistical Skills:* Programming proficient with SAS 9 software and STATA 10. Proficient in linking and de-duplicating databases with LinkPlus 2.0.8. Proficient in EpiInfo.

*Molecular Biology:* Genotyping and kindred analysis. PCR techniques. Screening and optimizing of microsatellite markers. Agarose and polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis. Southern blotting and

associated radiologic techniques. DNA isolation, purification and assay. Ordering and management of laboratory stocks.

*Information Technology:* Use of MS-Windows and MacOS. Familiarity with various databases, word processing, internet, spreadsheet, graphics, and presentation applications such as MSWord, Powerpoint, Excel, FileMaker Pro, EndNote, Photoshop. PageMaker and Dreamweaver.

### **References**

Available upon request.