Tuesday, October 15, 2013, 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Kate Buchanan Room (KBR)

Film Screening of “Tricky Bidness” and discussion with Filmmaker JoAnn Schuch

JoAnn Schuch has been a resident of Humboldt County since 1989 where she has worked as a custom woodworker, designer, and community activist. The catalyst for making for producing this documentary was witnessing the changes brought by the explosion of marijuana grow houses in Arcata.

Presentation Summary: Tricky Bidness tells the story of how the politically progressive town of Arcata, California has grappled with the ongoing challenge of marijuana grow houses in its neighborhoods. Community members provide surprisingly candid and thoughtful analysis of the situation as Arcata finds itself a hub in the marijuana black market. In 1996, Arcatans overwhelmingly supported California’s Prop 215, the Compassionate Use Act, which “legalized” medical marijuana... but abuses of the law, combined with the ongoing seventy five year old federal prohibition of cannabis, continue to leave Arcata and other communities like it in a legal gray zone. City officials in the town try to balance the rights and needs of medical marijuana patients with the preservation of neighborhoods and community, and the documentary highlights the town’s unique approach to regulating grow houses, by using zoning, planning and building codes, and most recently, a high energy use tax. As cannabis moves towards the mainstream in other states... the question becomes not if it is legalized, but how to legalize it. With diverse points of view and surprising footage, this 70-minute documentary looks at lessons learned about the current marijuana situation and helps inform people about the challenges of this 'tricky' situation.

Tuesday, November 19, 2013, 5:30-7:00 p.m. in Native American Forum BSS 162

"Medial Cannabis Quality Control in California: Keeping a Weed Free Garden"

Jeffrey Raber, PhD Chemistry. President of KinetiChem and Founder, The Wercshop

This presentation will provide an overview of cannabis chemical constituents, the testing methodologies available for detecting contamination, and provide insight into pesticides. Dr. Raber will also describe current efforts to profile cannabis cultivars best suited for different ailments.

Tuesday, February 4, 2014 5:30-7:00 p.m. in Native American Forum BSS 162

"The Times are Changing: Preliminary Findings from a San Francisco Study of Baby Boomers and Marijuana Use"

Sheigla Murphy, PhD, Director of the Center for Substance Abuse Studies at the Institute for Scientific Analysis
This presentation reports emerging themes from 50 interviews conducted with marijuana users in San Francisco. These data have been collected as part of a larger National Institutes of Health funded investigation into the use patterns and perceptions of Baby Boomer marijuana users. Dr. Murphy is a medical sociologist who has been researching various types of illicit drug use, violence, medical and drug treatment for more than thirty years.

Tuesday, March 11, 2014, 5:30-7:00 p.m. in BSS 162, Native Forum Room

Green Rush LA: Medical Cannabis Confusion in the Wild West of Weed

Nathan Donahoe, Cannabis Consulting Group

Nathan Donahoe presents an in depth and behind the scenes look at cannabis entrepreneurship in Los Angeles over the last six years when there were more medical marijuana collectives than Starbucks. Unregulated and uninspected cannabis was freely sold in stores, dabs (concentrated hash oil) exploded on the scene and some collectives sold large "quarter pounds" of cannabis. In response, Los Angeles voters recently passed Proposition D which regulates and limits medical marijuana dispensaries within the city. This vote came just after the California Supreme Court ruled to allow municipalities to create local regulations for dispensaries. Nathan Donahoe describes how regulation, and the lack of regulation, affected the market in southern California. He also speaks to how future regulation may affect medical marijuana businesses, patients, and the greater community. Nathan Donahoe represents Cannabis Consulting Group, a Silicon Beach based cannabis think tank. As the first elected official and medical cannabis patient in California history to work for a legal collective (Herbalcure) he advises the City of Los Angeles on cannabis policy and the National Institute of Health’s funded Cannabis, Health and Young Adult Study. He is a Board Member and Chair of the Medical Cannabis Committee for the West Los Angeles Neighborhood Council.

Monday, April 21, 2014, 5:30-7:00 p.m. in BSS 162, Native Forum Room

Cannabinoid Medical Science and Political Ecology: Psychoactive Substances and Mental Distress

Sunil Kumar Aggarwal, Ph.D., M.D., Executive Science Director at the Center for the Study of Cannabis and Social Policy

There is little information available describing the health-related quality of life of medical cannabis users. This presentation provides a portrait of chronic pain management in medical cannabis-using patients as well as their mental distress levels related to being targeted by drug law enforcement. Drawing on research conducted in Washington State, a political ecology of health framework is presented which can help inform our understanding of other contraband psychoactive biota of social and therapeutic import. Dr. Aggarwal will soon begin a clinical
fellowship in Hospice and Palliative Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. His research has been published in a wide range of medical and law related scholarly journals.