**Seth Thomas Sutton**

Professor of Visual & Critical Studies

Chair – Arts & Humanities Department

Montcalm Community College

**Seth Thomas Sutton** is a Métis artist, scholar, author, and activist and is currently professor and chair of the Arts & Humanities Department at Montcalm Community College, where he was nominated for **Outstanding Faculty of the Year** in 2017 and 2018. Seth is a council member on the Native American Advisory Council at Grand Valley State University as well as a member of several other Indigenous centered educational groups throughout the United States and Canada. He is a co-founding member of wiinwaa niizhaasing (We the 7th); an Indigenous led environmental, cultural and socially minded collective that was nominated for an **Emmy Award** in 2017, with their documentary series, wiinwaa niizhaasing *(We the 7th)* and in 2021 for their four-part documentary series, Shaping Narratives. He is currently completing his new multi-media project, the Commodity of Culture and is the author of the Deconstruction of Chief Blackhawk: A Critical Analysis of Mascots & the Visual Rhetoric of the Indian (2021). Seth Thomas Sutton's commercial work can be seen at: Anchor Hocking, Amazon, Home Depot, HGTV, Log Home Living, Active Interest Media Group, Necco Candy Company, CBM Motorcycles along with several other national and global publications as well as global Internet commerce sites. Seth is a descendant and non-enrolled member of the North Shore Band of Waganakising Odawa // Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.

Contact

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Degrees

Master of Arts // Visual & Critical Studies 2020

Kendall College of Art & Design (Ferris State University), Grand Rapids, MI.

Bachelor of Fine Arts // Visual Arts & Critical Theory 2010

Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI.

Bachelor of Arts // Art History & Indigenous Studies 2010

Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI.

Associates of Applied Sciences // Multi-Media Technologies 2003

Lansing Community College, Lansing, MI.

Current Position

2017 – Present Professor – Tenured Faculty; Chair Arts & Humanities

Montcalm Community College

2013 – 2017 Program Director Digital Arts Department

Montcalm Community College

2010 – 2013 Adjunct / Substitute Instructor Montcalm County Public Schools K-12

EduStaff

2011-2013 Marketing Coordinator Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce

Downtown Development Board

Greenville, MI

Content Areas & Concentrations

Cultural Criticism, Postcolonialism, Critical Race Theory, Tribal Sovereignty, Indigenous Art & Activism, Visual Arts, Art History, Cultural Anthropology, Architectural History, Sociology, Philosophy, Visual Rhetoric, Cultural Rhetoric, Indigenous Studies, Historic Preservation

Academic Publications

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Sutton, Seth Thomas. “Edward S. Curtis: The Paradox in the Making. Pictorialism & the PostIndian Survivance of Will Wilson.” *International Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences,* vol. 7, no. 2, 2021.

BOOKS

Sutton, Seth Thomas. *The Deconstruction of Chief Blackhawk. A Critical Analysis of Mascots & the Visual Rhetoric of the Indian*. Grand Rapids: Big Thicket Publishing, 2021.

NON-PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Sutton, Seth Thomas. Academia.com

WORKS IN PROGRESS

*The Image Makers: A Critical Analysis of Indigenous Art Makers.* (Book – currently in research phase / beginning draft started).

*Horses, Dogs, & Indians: A Critical Analysis of Contemporary Indigenous Identity*. (Book – currently in research phase).

Commercial Publications

ARCHITECTUAL PHOTOGRAPHY

*Timber Home Living*. 2020 Calendar. Hilliard Photographics Group. Farmington: New Energy Works, 2020. Cover.

*Timber Home Living*. 2018 Calendar. Hilliard Photographics Group. Farmington: New Energy Works, 2018. Cover.

*Cabin Living*. July/August 2017. Hilliard Photographics Group. Boulder: Active Interest Media Group, 2017, 28-32.

*Log Home Living*. 2017 Buyers Guide. Hilliard Photographics Group. Boulder: Active Interest Media Group, 2017, 78.

C*abin Living*. October 2016. Hilliard Photographics Group. Boulder: Active Interest Media Group, 2017, 44-50.

*Timber Home Living*. October 2016. Hilliard Photographics Group. Farmington: New Energy Works, 2016, 44-49.

*Log Cabin Homes*. July 2016. Hilliard Photographics Group. McLean: Homestead Communications Inc, 2016, 36-45.

*Log Home Living*. March 2016. Hilliard Photographics Group. Boulder: Active Interest Media Group, 2017, 20-29.

*Timber Home Living*. 2016 Buyers Guide. Hilliard Photographics Group. Farmington: New Energy Works, 2016, 1-2.

*Log Cabin Homes*. September 2015. Hilliard Photographics Group. McLean: Homestead Communications Inc, 2015, 73.

*Timber Home Living*. August 2015. Hilliard Photographics Group. Farmington: New Energy Works, 2015, 38-43.

*Country’s Best Cabins*. August 2014. Hilliard Phototgraphics Group. Boulder: Active Interest Media Group, 2014, 34-40.

Documentary Work

FULL LENGTH FEATURES

Avila, Mariano, writer. *wiinwaa niizhaasing (We the 7th)*, “Mutually Inclusive.” Directed by Mariano Avila, featuring Seth Thomas Sutton, Belinda Thomas Bardwell. Aired December 19th, 2016. Grand Rapids, MI: Public Broadcasting Service, WGVU Public Media, DVD.

EPISODES

Avila, Mariano, writer. *Cultural Ingredients,* “Shaping Narratives.” ep 1. Directed by Mariano Avila, featuring George Walker III. Aired December 7th, 2020. Grand Rapids, MI: Public Broadcasting Service, WGVU Public Media.

Avila, Mariano, writer. *ngiiwe*, “Shaping Narratives.” ep 2. Directed by Mariano Avila, featuring Belinda Thomas Bardwell, Seth Thomas Sutton. Aired January 14th, 2020. Grand Rapids, MI: Public Broadcasting Service, WGVU Public Media.

Avila, Mariano, writer. *Meeting God*, “Shaping Narratives.” ep 3. Directed by Mariano Avila, featuring Belinda Thomas Bardwell, Rishi Singh. Aired January 21st, 2020. Grand Rapids, MI: Public Broadcasting Service, WGVU Public Media.

Avila, Mariano, writer. *Color Out Here*, “Shaping Narratives.” ep 4. Directed by Mariano Avila, featuring Alice Lyn. Aired January 28th, 2020. Grand Rapids, MI: Public Broadcasting Service, WGVU Public Media.

Avila, Mariano, writer. *Behind the Scenes*, “Shaping Narratives.” ep 5. Directed by Mariano Avila, featuring Belinda Thomas Bardwell, Seth Thomas Sutton, Rishi Singh, Alice Lyn, George ` Walker III, Mariano Avila, Sherisse Szymczak. Aired February 4th, 2020. Grand Rapids, MI: Public Broadcasting Service, WGVU Public Media.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Avila, Mariano, writer. *Citizenship*. (full length feature – currently in production).

Sutton, Seth Thomas, Belinda Thomas Bardwell, writers. *Truth & Reconciliation: A Look into Indian Boarding Schools* (Working Title). (full length feature – currently in production).

Commercial Music Publications

PERFORMANCE

The Journeymen. *The Journeymen.* Big Thicket Records, BTR19, 2019. Compact disc.

Luke Gitchel. *Luke Warm & the Not So Hots.* Big Thicket Records, BTR16, 2016. Compact disc.

Midnight Cattle Callers. *Aloha to the Stars.* Big Thicket Records, BTR14, 2014. Compact disc.

Goldmine Pickers. *The Goldmine Pickers*. Self-release. 2013. Compact disc.

Midnight Cattle Callers. *Midnight Cattle Callers.* Big Thicket Records, BTR11, 2011. Compact

disc.

ARTWORK & LAYOUT

The Journeymen. The Journeymen. Big Thicket Records, BTR19, 2019. Compact disc.

Luke Gitchel. Luke Warm & the Not So Hots. Big Thicket Records, BTR16, 2016. Compact disc.

Soltré. *Wherever You Are*. Self-release. 2015. Compact disc.

Midnight Cattle Callers. *Aloha to the Stars.* Big Thicket Records, BTR14, 2014. Compact disc.

Goldmine Pickers. The Goldmine Pickers. Self-release. 2013. Compact disc.

Bass + Mandolin. *Onward*. Self-release. 2011. Compact disc.

Oregon Mandolin Orchestra. *LIVE 2010.* Self-release. 2010. Compact disc.

Midnight Cattle Callers. Midnight Cattle Callers. Big Thicket Records, BTR11, 2011. Compact

disc.

EXHIBITIONS

*Standing Rock Solid: Protection of Land & Life.* 2017-2018

ZiibiwingCenter of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways, Mt. Pleasant, MI.

Water is Life: Exhibitions of Native American Protest Art 2017

Raíces Cultural Center, New Brunswick, NJ.

Honors & Awards

Nomination – EMMY Award: Best Human Interest, Long Form Content: 2021

*Shaping Narratives* ep. 2*: ngiiwe.*  ep. 3*: Meeting God*

Honorary Doctorate, Dr.h.c. // Metaphysics 2020

Universal Life Ministries

Joyce Kitchenmaster Scholarship - Amount: $500 2018

Montcalm Community College

Nomination - Outstanding Faculty of the Year 2018

Montcalm Community College

Nomination - Outstanding Faculty of the Year 2017

Montcalm Community College

Nomination – EMMY Award: Best Human Interest, Long Form Content: 2017

*wiinwaa niizhaasing (We the 7th)*

W.K. Kellogg Foundation Grant / Amount $400,000 2017-2023

WGVU Public Media

Album of the Month – Midnight Cattel Callers, *Aloha to the Stars*.June 2014

*Country Music Magazine.*

Nomination – JAMMY Award: Midnight Cattle Callers, *Midnight Cattle Callers*: 2012

Album of the Year

Best Americana Album by a New Artist/Group

Female Vocalist of the Year – Dee Foster Sutton

Song of the Year – *Ramblin’ Cat*

Producer of the Year - Seth Thomas Sutton

Album of the Month – Midnight Cattle Callers, *Midnight Cattle Callers.* May 2011

*Country Music Magazine*

Committee Appointments

MONTCALM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*Curriculum Committee*: We are an advisory committee that oversees, discusses and makes recommendations on course content. Including, but not limited to, new courses, revised courses as well as course prerequisites and program criteria for all academic disciplines.

*Co-Curricular Committee:* This committee is responsible for enriching the academic experience for the Montcalm Community College student by broadening their social awareness to contemporary issues and refocusing their cultural experiences. The committee oversees and coordinates all cultural events on campus.

*Diversity Committee*: The purpose of this committee is to examine current policies and procedures at Montcalm Community College. The goal is to evaluate current language used in Montcalm Community College’s policies and procedures in the context of modern values regarding inclusivity and diversity. The intent is to review current policy and procedure language, shed light on problematic language, and offer equitable resolutions.

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

*Native American Advisory Council*:This council oversees the creation and regulating of curriculum and policy put forth by the office of Multi-Cultural Affairs through GVSU in regards to Native American Student populations. NAAC also oversee and advises GVSU’s Native American Student Association, NASA. We are responsible for the coordination and implementation of native derived community involved events. Including but not limited to:

annual *All Walks of Life Traditional Pow Wow*, Norton Mounds clean up and preservation efforts, Grand River cleanup projects, local and regional conservation projects, events and activities through the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs.

REGIONAL SERVICE

*C-THEM (Collaborative of Tribal and Higher Education in Michigan)* – Board Member: This collaboration seeks to improve Indigenous student outcomes by combining the strengths and resources of Michigan’s two-year, and four-year colleges and Indigenous communities to build relationships, foster collaborations, share resources and create new infrastructures to better support Indigenous students at all phases of their academic journey. C-THEM is a sub- committee within CMTED (Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors).

*FNMIEAO (First Nations, Métis & Inuit Education Association of Ontario)* – Member: The First Nations, Métis & Inuit Education Association of Ontario is a subject association for educators teaching First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies, and Native Languages in Ontario, Canada. We support and help all educators understand issues related to First Nation, Métis and Inuit Peoples in Canada and the Great Lakes Basin, as well as offer strategies for teaching this content to all learners. Our purpose is to support and promote the provision of quality education on histories, worldviews, and knowledge systems that is rooted in the experiences and perspectives of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples.

Goals: To promote strong First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies and Language programs across Ontario and the Great Lakes basin. To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas among those involved in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit education. To provide leadership in and advocacy for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit education and languages. To create and facilitate authentic learning opportunities and professional development. To liaise with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit educational organizations. To collaborate with community partners to create high quality, comprehensive resources. To support the process of reconciliation in classrooms and school communities

Courses Taught

ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH 260 - Cultural Anthropology

ANTH 266 - Indigenous Cultures of North America

ANTH 271 - Study Abroad

VISUAL ARTS

ARTS 122 - Drawing I

ARTS 123 - Drawing II

ARTS 140 - 2-Dimensional Design & Color

ARTS 190 - Art Appreciation

ARTS 215 - Art History: Primitive to High Renaissance

ARTS 216 - Art History: French Revolution to Contemporary

ARTS 265 - Introduction to Film

ARTS 270 - Arts Entrepreneurship

ARTS 271 - Study Abroad

ARTS 275 - Portfolio

ARTS 280 - Internship

DIGITAL ARTS

DART 101 - Introduction to Digital Arts

DART 110 - Photographic Foundations I

DART 120 - Commercial Design I

DART 130 - Digital Imaging

DART 210 - Photographic Foundations II

DART 220 - Commercial Design II

DART 250 - Studio Photography

DART 270 - Architectural Photography

DART 280 - Digital Arts as a Business

SOCIOLOGY

SOCI 230 - Introduction to Sociology

SOCI 235 - Social Problems

PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 220 - Introduction to Philosophy

PHIL 271 - Study Abroad

Professional Affiliations

State of Michigan Historical Preservation Office – Certified Cultural Anthropologist, Historian.

Michigan Archaeological Society – Member in good standing.

References

**Mariano Avila**, Producer/Reporter

Milwaukee PBS, WMVS, WMVT

1036 North 8th Street  
 Milwaukee, WI 53233

616-617-1017

**Dr. Kimn Carlton-Smith**, Professor Emeritus

Ferris State University

2211 Union Ave

Grand Rapids, MI 49507

616-780-4645

carltonk@ferris.edu

**Belinda Thomas Bardwell,** Native American Student Initiative Coordinator

Office of Multicultural Affairs

Grand Valley State University

1 Campus Drive, 1240 KC

Allendale, MI 49401

616-331-3673

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**Rob Sphor**, Vice President for Academic Affairs

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