Laura Graham is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of Iowa who has worked with native peoples of the Brazilian Cerrado for many years. For the past 15 years she has been working closely with Hiparidi Top’tiro, a Xavante leader and activist. Together, they produced the film, Owners of the Water, documenting a Xavante campaign to protect their river.

Taily Terena, of the Terena tribe of central Brazil, is an active participant in the International Indigenous Youth Movement and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Terena will speak about present problems facing indigenous peoples of Brazil and the organizational responses to those problems, including youth and women’s movements.

Hiparidi Top’tiro is a leader from the Xavante tribe in Mato Grosso state in central Brazil. He is founder and past president of the Xavante Warã Association and founder and current president of the Mobilization of Indigenous Peoples of the Cerrado (MOPIC). Top’tiro’s work focuses on protecting Xavante lifeways and lands in the face of the rapid expansion of agribusiness, primarily soy, in the Brazilian Cerrado.

Laura Zanotti is a Professor of Anthropology specializing in political ecology at Purdue University. She has worked among the Kayapó of southeastern Brazil for ten years. Together with Barbara Zimmerman and Janet Chernela, she is designer of the University of Maryland course to the Kayapó. Her forthcoming book tentatively titled Mapping Indigenous Lands addresses the Kayapó’s fight for social justice in a volatile Amazonian landscape.

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