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**THEORY**

## **Spring 2019 Colloquium**

**March 25, 2019 Noon**

**UH 10**

### **The Joys, Frustrations, and Temptations of Self-Creation**



#### **Dr. Kenneth Roemer**

Piper professor of 2011

Distinguished Teaching Professor

Distinguished Scholar Professor

Co-Faculty Advisor, Native American Student Association

Dr. Roemer's family memoir manuscript, *Gone Native*, is driven by four interrelated questions: Why do "white" people go native? How does going native help and hurt them and Native people? How does going native change from generation to generation? For him these questions aren't academic. The "white" people under consideration happen to be his grandfather, his mother, and himself? After the deaths of grandparents and parents, these questions beg another fundamental question: How do the things and stories left behind help the descendants to answer questions about their family's identity with accuracy and honesty despite the inevitable gaps (withheld, lost, forgotten) in information that may tempt the living to create self-serving representations of family and self in a published book?

His presentation will focus on the fourth question and will include representative episodes featuring Ronald Reagan tied to a stake, the FBI, and DNA testing.