

# INDIAN TIME

Summer 2010

This issue is dedicated to the life and legacy of Mr. Jimmie Lowry.

## Former Chairman was a champion of critical Indian issues

When the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina finally earns federal recognition – a long-held dream that is inching closer to reality – members will temper their celebrations with the realization that one of the great champions of this cause is no longer with us.

Jimmie Lowry, who lost his battle with cancer on June 13 at age 65, was a successful engineer turned automobile dealer who gave back to his community by serving on numerous boards and commissions. I had the honor of working with him when he served as Chairman of the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs from 1977 to 1984. Always ready to address critical and sometimes unpopular issues, he was diligent in developing and gaining support for measures that increased awareness of and services for all North Carolina tribes and organizations. He placed particular emphasis on economic development and empowerment.

Mr. Lowry also served as Chairman of the Lumbee Self-Determination Commission, which helped establish a tribal constitution. In this role, he dedicated himself to service benefitting members of his beloved tribe, notably his early and continuing efforts to achieve federal recognition.

A fitting funeral service was held that highlighted his work and his life. I hope his loved ones will find consolation in knowing that his extraordinary contributions will live on in generations of better educated, healthier and more economically successful members of North Carolina's American Indian community.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gregory A. Richardson".

Gregory A. Richardson

## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Commission of Indian Affairs is fortunate to welcome two very capable college graduates who are working with us this summer as part of the State Government Internship Program. Their help will be greatly appreciated as they conduct research to broaden the scope of some of the program areas we support.

Angela Ramer and Kristen Richardson will be with us for a period of 10 weeks, and we know that the diligence and extra effort they apply to their projects will make a very positive difference for the Commission.

Angela's project is investigating the current state of health in North Carolina's American Indian communities. Through focus groups and interviews with community leaders, tribal members and healthcare providers, this study will identify major health issues within target communities. Also, it will determine each community's degree of access to, and use of, healthcare

resources. The final project report will provide information for future Commission and community programming.

Angela is a 2010 graduate from Elon University with a double-major in Anthropology and International Studies. Her academic exposure to Medical Anthropology and public health has led her to pursue further training as a research assistant in a clinical trial at the



Greg Richardson, Executive Director  
Commission of Indian Affairs

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*Message from the Director continued from page 1.*

National Institute of Health. Upon completion of this study, Angela plans to attend graduate school to earn a Master's degree in Public Health.

Kristin is assigned to help with the Foster Care and Adoption Task Force, where she will research the issues and needs regarding foster care and adoption within American Indian communities. She will produce a guide for American Indian parents, tribes, and organizations to address the placement of American Indian children into foster or adoptive care.

Kristin is a recent graduate from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington where she double-majored in Sociology and Human Resources Management. She plans to use this internship as a stepping stone as she proceeds on to graduate school at Clemson University, where she will continue to study Sociology.



*Greg Richardson with Summer Interns  
Angela Ramer (left) and Kristen Richardson*

## Cheers for Retirement of Indian Mascots

**By Greg Richardson**

Several years ago, the Commission of Indian Affairs unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the elimination of Indian mascots at our public schools. The offensive images of savage natives or other negative icons was and remains detrimental to the legacy of the people who first settled the land we now call North Carolina, as well as their descendents, who continue to make significant contributions.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction also supported a ban on Indian mascots, as did other influential educators and community leaders. Still, schools have been slow to follow the recommendations.

But now, the tide appears to be turning. At least four North Carolina public schools recently changed their team names

and mascot images. The Commission would like to publicly recognize and thank the schools that took this important step:

- Elon Elementary in Elon; from Braves to Little Phoenix
- Gamewell Elementary in Lenior, from Indian Scouts to Bulldogs
- Roanoke High School and Roanoke Middle School of Robersonville, from Redskins to Cougars

We commend school leaders and their communities for taking this positive action and encourage the more than 30 public schools in North Carolina that continue to use Indian mascots to reconsider. Come on; join the winning team.

## Goal of Special Meeting to Foster Unity

On April 24, the Commission of Indian Affairs called a special meeting at the Legislative Building to obtain feedback from the tribal leaders regarding the needs of their communities, to generate and encourage more unity among the tribes, and to discuss long-range planning strategies.

Led by Commission Chairman Paul Brooks, the roundtable meeting provided Chiefs and Chairs of the state tribes and organizations and opportunity to discuss issues of concern with regards to their communities, as well as give us a chance to update them about state and national issues.

The group agreed that the session was beneficial and that future meetings need to be held to keep open lines of communication. A second meeting has been scheduled for 10 a.m. June 26 in the Legislative Building in Raleigh. For information, call 919-807-4440.

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## Cherokee Tribe Bolsters Economic Development

Harrah's Cherokee Casino & Hotel recently unveiled plans for a new 3,000-seat events center making it the region's leading concert, events and entertainment venue. Opening celebrations are scheduled Labor Day Weekend 2010. This large expansion will enhance job opportunities during the construction phase as well as after completion of the project.

Hosting top-tier talent including country, comedy and rock, sporting events and production shows, the three-level events center will include VIP suites, box seating and 1,000 balcony seats. Modular seating will be used for conventions, sports programming, catering and special events.

Harrah's Cherokee also is renovating current casino facilities and doubling

the casino floor size to 195,000 square feet. It also offers the new Sequoyah National Golf Club, an 18-hole, par 72 championship course owned by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Harrah's Cherokee is located 50 miles from Asheville at the entrance to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

## Reports from Program Directors

### Community Services Program

By *Sadie Barbour*

"Reach Out to the Horizons" was the title, as well as the goal, of the 24th annual Mid-Carolina Senior Games. The regional games opening ceremony and the torch-lighting were held at Pope Air Force Base on April 14.

The American Indian community was proud to have seniors from our tribal community to take part in the event. Congratulations to all of those who participated in the games, as well as to those who received medals and became part of the winner's circle, including: Gloria DePue, one bronze; Glenda Foss, one bronze; Martha Maynard, one gold, two silver, one bronze; and Helen McCowen, two gold and one silver medal. These ladies live in both Harnett and Sampson counties.



*Coordinators Sadie Barbour (far left, middle row) and Tracey Davis, (far left, top row) join Harnett and Sampson participants of the 24th Annual Senior Games.*



*Members of the Silver Strides Walking team are joined by Greg Richardson.*

As a special treat, the participants were joined on the track for the Silver Striders Fun Walk by Gregory Richardson, Executive Director of the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs. He was an inspiration to many, and the seniors were pleased that he could be there to walk with them.

Hats off to Tracey Davis, Mid-Carolina Senior Games Coordinator, the Coordinating Committee, and all the volunteers for an outstanding job of organizing the games for over 541 older adults. Also, many thanks to Vicky Newton, our volunteer driver, Sue Brewington of the WIA staff, and Sylvia McCoy for their dedication to the success of this event.

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## Workforce Investment Act Program

*By Elk Richardson*

Jamie C. Walker of Whiteville would like to express appreciation to the WIA Section 166, American Indian Workforce Program, Elk Richardson and Carolyn Crocker for the financial and emotional support she received while completing the LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) Program on Dec. 18, 2008, and the RN (Registered Nurse) Program in January 2010 at Southeastern Community College. She attended the RN pinning ceremony on May 5.



*Jamie C. Walker*

Jamie states, "It is through the support and encouragement of the WIA Program that I had the opportunity to complete the nursing program. I am very grateful for all of the help I received."

Carolyn Hunt Crocker, N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs WIA section 166 Program Coordinator, is a Board member for the Cape Fear Council of Government's Youth Program. She attended the Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet held in Wilmington on March 31. The Banquet was sponsored by the Cape Fear Council of Governments.

## N.C. Employment and Training (NCETA) Spring Conference

Carolyn Hunt Crocker and Sue Brewington attended the NCETA Spring Conference held April 28-30 in Winston-Salem. The theme of the conference was "Thriving in Challenging Times." "Career Data to Assist in Preparation for Careers in Demand" was one of the topics discussed. Without current information, students may be advised to attend postsecondary schools that are not the most appropriate for a chosen field of study or perhaps become prepared for non-existent jobs. Another area of discussion was "Designing Training and Service for Highly Skilled Workers." Currently, some highly-skilled workers are becoming unemployed. Therefore, demands for new methods of service are important for this group of people.



*Participants in the NCETA Spring Conference include (from left) Margie Parker, Executive Director of Cape Fear Workforce Development, Carolyn Crocker, Dr. Kathy Matlock, President of Southeastern Community College, and Teresa Triplett, Executive Director of Columbus County Joblink.*

## Congratulations To

**Larry C. Jones**, Executive Director of the Americans with Disabilities Act Program for the Office of State Personnel, upon his retirement effective April 1, after 30 years of service.

**Al Deitch**, Executive Director of the Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office, upon his retirement, effective June 1, after 31 years of service.

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## Supporting Undergraduate Native Students



*By Kimberly Hammonds*

The new Holiday Inn Express in Pembroke was the site of the SUNS Program Annual Academic Success Workshop focusing on “Personal Branding & Professional Image: Marketing Yourself for College & Career Opportunities.” This event was held May 14.

It was an honor to have the newly-appointed Lumbee Tribal Administrator, Dr. Rose Marie Lowry-Townsend, give a welcoming address and provide opening remarks. Greg Richardson, Executive Director of the NCCIA, also addressed the students and encouraged them to prepare for their future success by completing their college degrees.

The guest speakers were Kerry Bird, Program Coordinator for the American Indian Teen Tobacco Prevention Program in the NCCIA, and Cheryl Revels, Rehabilitation Counselor with the Lumbee Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Bird’s portion of the program covered written correspondence such as resume development, cover letters, and scholarship applications. Revels focused on providing students with tips on preparation for the interview process by choosing appropriate clothing and confidently answering interview questions.

Carolyn Crocker and Sue Brewington, Workforce Investment Act Counselors, gave an overview of services available through



*These WIA Program participants from the Waccamaw-Siouan community also take part in SUNS.*

the Commission. Kimberly Hammonds, Coordinator for the SUNS Program, concluded the meeting by explaining changes for the SUNS Program in fiscal year 2010-2011. She reminded students that the image they project to a college professor of potential employer is a matter of perspective, as well as an individual decision.

During this workshop, students gained valuable insights about marketing themselves for college and career opportunities.

## Educational Talent Search Program

*By Mickey Locklear*

Gabrielle Evans and Faith Hedgepeth, 2010 graduates of Warren County High School, will both receive Gates Millennium Scholarships. They are members of the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe of Hollister, and they are participants of the Educational Talent Search Program.

Gabrielle is the daughter of Alfreda Evans and will be attending the University of North

Carolina at Greensboro to study Biology and Women’s Studies. Upon graduation, she plans to become a women’s health specialist.

Faith is the daughter of Connie and Roland Hedgepeth. She will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to study Biology. She plans to attend medical school and become a physician.

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## Calendar

**March 21** – Historic passage of the **Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act**. The passage of this Act places in effect health care legislation that American Indians and Alaska Native have been requesting from Congress for the past 10 years.

**March 31** – The NCCIA hosted a national conference call with the Governor's Interstate Indian Council (GIIC). The purpose of the call was to discuss business matters related to the GIIC and to get an overview of issues and concerns that Indian Commissions are addressing in their prospective states.

**April 24** – The NCCIA met at the Legislative Building with tribal leaders regarding the needs of their communities. The purpose of the meeting was to generate and encourage more unity among the tribes, and to discuss long-range planning strategies. The meeting was led by Commission Chairman Paul Brooks and included representation of eight state-recognized tribes and four Urban Indian Associations.

**June 16** – NCSU will host a forum on American Indian Child Welfare. This event, is co-sponsored by the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs. Scheduled speakers are James Bay of Quebec, who will share information about youth protection; Rep. Ronnie Sutton, Chair of the N.C. House of Representatives Committee on the Preservation of Indian Culture, and Greg Richardson, Executive Director of the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs. The Forum location is the J.C. Raulston Arboretum, 4415 Beryl Road, Raleigh, and the time is from 9 a.m. until noon. Admission is free.

**September: Literary Homecoming Event at ECU** – ECU invites any American Indian group or organization to be involved with both community sponsorship and Literary Homecoming events at East Carolina University. Included in the event roster are poetry workshops, panels and discussions about life in eastern North Carolina.

## In Remembrance

**Ms. Wilma Pearl Mankiller**, 64, of Tahlehquah, Okla., died April 6. Ms. Mankiller was Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation.

**Mr. James Stanley Brewer**, 85, of Greensboro, died April 22. Mr. Brewer was a former member of the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs, and, while he served on the Board of Directors of the Guilford Native American Association, he received the Indian Elder of the Year Award and also the Economic Development Award from United Tribes of North Carolina.

**Mr. Ossie Jacobs**, 97, of Bolton, died May 9. Mr. Jacobs was instrumental in the development of the Waccamaw-Siouan Indian School in Bolton.

**Mr. Thomas Oxendine**, 87, of Arlington, Va., died May 27 after an extended illness. He was a member of the Lumbee tribe, a native of Pembroke, and a graduate of UNC Pembroke. Soon after the start of World War II, he enlisted in the U.S. Naval Air Corps and was widely acclaimed as the nation's first American Indian to complete Navy Flight School. He received numerous awards and was recognized by the N.C. Museum of History as one of the State's "Pioneers in Aviation." His brother, Joe Oxendine, was Chancellor of UNC Pembroke.

**Ms. Etta B. Oxendine**, 87, of Shannon, died May 28. She was a member of the Lumbee tribe, and a proud veteran serving our country during World War II. Ms. Oxendine's son, Patrick Oxendine, was a former Chairman of the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs.

**Mr. George Whitewolf**, 67, Assistant Chief of the Monacan Indian Nation of Virginia and an American Indian advocate, passed away June 7 due to complications of heart bypass surgery. He was a friend of North Carolina Indians and an extraordinary craftsman whose handmade buckskin works can be seen at the Virginia Museum of Natural History. He will be remembered for his keen appreciation of traditional values, including use of sweat boxes and preserving original languages.

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Indian Time is published by the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs.  
The newsletter is designed to highlight activities and issues of importance to the American Indian people of North Carolina.

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Vacant

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