



# INDIAN TIME

Winter 2008



*Greg Richardson  
Commission of Indian Affairs  
Executive Director*

## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The New Year brings a wealth of opportunities for us to serve the citizens of the great State of North Carolina – and, in particular, our American Indian citizens and communities.

The Commission of Indian Affairs was created in 1971 by the N.C. General Assembly. We operate pursuant to General Statutes 143B-404 through 143B-411.

While many years have passed, our mission remains the same: To instill a positive vision for American Indians through preserving cultural identity by promoting and advocating the rights, beliefs and opportunities which impact quality of life.

In 2008, we pledge to expand our efforts by seeking new avenues through which to address the unmet needs of our citizens. In addition, we will work in collaboration with Indian tribes and organizations to plan the 2008 N.C. Indian Unity Conference, which will be held in March.

Lastly, but certainly not the least, I want to also take this opportunity to thank the leadership of our tribes and Indian organizations for supporting the efforts of the commission in 2007!

## COMMISSION PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Teen Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Leadership Conference was held Jan. 12 in Fayetteville. The focus was on helping young leaders develop their knowledge and skills regarding tobacco use and how to become better advocates in their communities and schools. Interactive and skill-building exercises were part of the event, which was cosponsored by the Commission's Community Services and the Education Talent Search programs.

### EDUCATION TALENT SEARCH PROGRAM

Ivey Lowery's digital storytelling talent was featured on the N.C. Gives website, <http://www.ncgives.org/home/>. Ivey, from the Lumbee tribe, serves as the historian for N.C. Native American Youth Organization and is documenting its Philanthropy Project. Her digital story will be presented at the United National Indian Tribal Youth annual conference in Reno, Nevada, in July.

### WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT PROGRAM

Carolyn Crocker, Lumbee, accepted an award on behalf of the Columbus County JobLink Center from the N.C.

Department of Commerce's Division of Workforce Development at its recent conference in Greensboro.

Crocker represents the Commission as one of the JobLink Career Center, providing coordinated education, training and workforce development services to American Indians in Columbus County.

For information on workforce development programs and services in your community or a JobLink Career Center near you, contact Sue Brewington (910-564-6726) or Carolyn Crocker (910-655-8708). Information also is available online at <http://www.joblink.state.nc.us/centers/>.

### SUPPORTING OUR NATIVE STUDENTS PROGRAM

The SONS Program is accepting applications for the spring 2008 semester from students enrolled fulltime in an accredited North Carolina community college or university who meet income eligibility requirements. For information or to request an application, contact Kimberly Hammonds at 919-789-5900 or [kimberly.hammonds@ncmail.net](mailto:kimberly.hammonds@ncmail.net).

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## NEW CIA EMPLOYEES

Pamela Graham DeRensis, Lumbee, joined the Commission on Sept. 4 through a partnership with the U.S. Department of Education's Intergovernmental Personnel Act Mobility Program (IPA). She serves as Executive Director Greg Richardson's Special Assistant.



*Pamela Graham DeRensis*

Rebekah Revels, Lumbee, joined the Commission Jan. 14 as an Administrative Secretary, replacing Sue Brewington who was promoted to a Manpower Developer last fall. A graduate of UNC-Pembroke with a degree in English, she was previously employed with the Lumbee Indian Tribe of North Carolina as a Public Information Officer.

Leta Patrick, Waccamaw Siouan, joined the Commission on Dec. 3 as its new community developer for the Community Services Program covering Columbus and Bladen counties. She graduated from UNC-Pembroke with a degree in social studies.

## 2007 INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH POSTER

Numerous people have requested information about the artist who created the 2007 Indian Heritage Month Poster, as well as the woman who is shown working on a quilt.

The quilter is Josephine Spaulding Woodell, Lumbee, an 80-year-old resident of the Union Chapel community in Pembroke. She was married to the late Cleveland Woodell, with whom she had seven children.

Woodell still lives on the family farm where she first arrived as a bride. Miss Jo, as she is lovingly called, has been a seamstress and quilter for most of her adult life. She still drives, visits and feeds the sick and elderly, as well as helps take care of anyone in need.

She is the embodiment of an Indian Elder and an exceptional role model to be featured in the poster by artist Christopher Hayes Kennedy, a Lumbee from Pembroke who lives in Fuquay-Varina. Kennedy featured Miss Jo because he and his grandmother, who is a quilter, have known her for many years. He said he wanted to capture the love of an "ordinary" but special Indian engaged in an art form that is special to the Indian people as much for its practicality as its beauty.

## AMERICAN INDIANS ON THE MOVE

### CHAIRMAN BROOKS RE-APPOINTED

The N.C. General Assembly ratified House Bill 1556, which reappointed Chairman Paul Brooks to serve on the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs. His appointment continues through June 30, 2009. Brooks represents the Senate on the Commission.

### N.C. ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS HONORS A. BRUCE JONES

A. Bruce Jones, former Executive Director of the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs, was honored by the N.C. Association of Educators (NCAE) during its annual dinner and awards presentation on Jan. 18. Jones served as the Commission's second director, from 1976 until his retirement in 1994. He also served on the Executive Board of the National Congress of American Indians and advised the Clinton Administration on American Indian issues.

### N.C. HUMANITIES COUNCIL

Commission Executive Director Greg Richardson is one of four new members elected to the N.C. Humanities Council, a 37-year-old nonprofit foundation based in Greensboro and a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Humanities Council supports free public humanities programs that address fundamental questions about how people live. The Humanities Council's mission is to support through grants and public programs vital conversations that nurture the cultures and heritage of North Carolina.

### ACTION FOR CHILDREN NORTH CAROLINA

Action for Children North Carolina appointed Greg Richardson to its Board of Directors. Founded in 1983, the statewide



*"Quilter of the Tribes" by Christopher Hayes Kennedy, Lumbee*

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nonprofit organization is based in Raleigh and serves as a voice for North Carolina's children. Current efforts are focused in four major areas: Child Health and Safety; Early Care and Education; Child Maltreatment; and Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

## **LYNCH ELECTED AS REGIONAL NCAI VICE-PRESIDENT**

Archie Lynch, Tribal Administrator for the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe, was elected to a seat on the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Executive Committee as the Southeastern Regional Vice-President. The first Haliwa-Saponi to hold this prestigious title, Lynch has served as the alternate for two terms of the two-year election cycle.

The Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe has been a member of NCAI for more than 30 years ensuring that the rights, sovereignty and programs of the tribe are upheld. As Regional Vice-President, Lynch hopes to be a voice for all American Indians, especially the non-federally recognized Indians that comprise a minority of the organization.

NCAI, the largest American Indian organization in the United States, was formed in 1944 as a response to termination and assimilation policies that were forced on tribes in contradiction to their treaty rights and sovereignty. NCAI sought unity of American Indian tribes and has grown from an organization of 100 people to more than 250 member tribes throughout the United States, including Alaska.

## **N.C. HERITAGE AWARD**

Senora Lynch of the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe received the N.C. Arts Council's most prestigious award for folk artists, the N.C. Heritage Award, in October.

## **MAYNOR NAMED JACKSON SCHOLAR**

This past October, Priscilla Maynor, Lumbee, and a third-year Ed.D. student in Educational Leadership, was named UNC-Chapel Hill's 2007-2009 Barbara L. Jackson Scholar. The Jackson scholarship network is an effort made possible by the University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA). The program represents UCEA's commitment to increasing the number of racial and ethnic minority scholars who enter the professoriate.

## **LOCKLEAR RECEIVES HONORARY DOCTORATE**

Arlinda Locklear, Lumbee, received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from N.C. State University at the fall 2007 commencement. Locklear was the first American Indian woman to successfully argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court, which still serves as a precedent in legal proceedings. She has also served as a witness before the Senate on Indian Affairs advocating for Federal Recognition

of the Lumbee and has been beneficial in legal analysis and guidance to the Lumbee tribe, as well as other tribes throughout the United States.

## **UNC BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

Dr. Cheryl Ransom Locklear was sworn in as a member of the Board of Governors for the University of North Carolina system in July. She was nominated by Rep. Ronnie Sutton. Dr. Locklear, Lumbee, is a resident of Pembroke and a practicing dentist in Red Springs. She graduated from UNC-Pembroke in 1975 and served as a member of its Board of Trustees from 1995-2003.

## **BELL NAMED DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH CENTER**

Ronny A. Bell, Ph.D., M.S., (Lumbee) professor of Public Health Sciences-Epidemiology and Prevention at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, has been named director of the Maya Angelou Research Center on Minority Health. The Center was established to address racial and ethnic disparities in health status, health care quality and quality of life.

## **JOANNA CHANCE RETIRES**

Joanna B. Chance, former Sampson County WIA Coordinator, retired on July 31 after 30 years of state government service. Chance is a member of the Coharie Indian Tribe and a lifetime resident of Sampson County. During her career with the Commission, she provided excellent representation of the agency and its service programs to her tribal community, as well as to local service agencies in Sampson County and surrounding area, including commission WIA assistance to American Indians in the Hamlet and Rockingham areas of Richmond County

## **SAMPSON COUNTY WIA**

The Commission promoted Sue Brewington (Coharie) to Workforce Development Programs Coordinator in Sampson County. The position, formerly held by Joanna Chance, is based in the Commission's field office located at the Coharie Intra-Tribal Center in Clinton. Brewington is coordinating the Commission's workforce development services in the Coharie tribal community and Sampson and Harnett counties. She



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comes to Sampson County after having served 21 years in executive administration in the Raleigh offices of the Commission of Indian Affairs.

## AMERICAN INDIAN NEWS

### SCHOOL CHANGES MASCOT NAME

The Westfield Elementary School student body in Surry County voted this past fall to change the school mascot's name. Their new mascot name is officially the Westfield Wildcats and is no longer the Warriors, according to Principal Tracey H. Lewis. The Indian head imagery was discontinued in 2003.

### 'INDIAN COUNTRY TODAY' FEATURES LUMBEE BUSINESSMAN

Lumbee native R.J. Harris was featured in the Jan. 8 edition of *Indian Country Today*, an influential Native American newspaper that provides coverage of stories and issues from a Native American perspective.

Harris stumbled onto an opportunity in the 1950s that catapulted him into a business that sells specialty parts used to hold factory production line machines together. Southern Fasteners today offers more than 20,000 items to numerous suppliers such as power plants, gas pumps and factory production line machines. While its corporate office is in North Carolina, it also has offices in Virginia, West Virginia and Tennessee.

### ROBESON DROPOUT RATE IS LOWEST IN 10 YEARS

The number of dropouts in the Public Schools of Robeson County fell to a 10-year low during the 2006-2007 school years, according to a report published in *The Robesonian*.

There were 482 dropouts recorded during the period. The county's dropout rate was 4.35 percent, meaning an average of 4.35 students dropped out for every 100 students enrolled in grades 7 through 12. The dropout rate for students in grades 9 through 12 was 6.46 percent.

The school system credits the turnaround to the system's social workers, counselors, SIMS data workers and youth development specialists, as well as the arrival of Superintendent Johnny Hunt, who took over the system in July 2006.

### AMERICAN INDIAN ART EXHIBITION

A collection of photography, film, jewelry and gourd art by Sappony artists Kara Stewart, Michelle Dunigan and Shelia Wilson titled "Indigenously by Design" is on display at the Guilford Native American Art Gallery in Greensboro through Feb. 28.

This is the first gallery of its kind in North Carolina and the southeastern United States and among the first galleries owned and managed by American Indians as a part of a community arts center.

### NAPLP SELECTS TWO N.C. STUDENTS

Tony-Ryan Nicholas Hunt and Curtis Woods, both of Robeson County, were selected to participate in the Native American Political Leadership Program (NAPLP) for the spring 2008 semester at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

The scholarship program gives qualified Native American undergraduates the opportunity to spend a semester in the nation's capital while taking classes at GW, participating in hands-on internships and interacting with political leaders and policymakers. The NAPLP includes a series of seminars on Capitol Hill devoted to public policy issues affecting Native American (American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian) communities, and will play a key role in preparing the next generation of Native American political leaders.

### ART THERAPY WORKSHOP

The Spirit of EAGLES (Mayo Cancer Clinic) and the Graduate Art Therapy Program at Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS) partnered with the N.C. Indian Senior Citizens Coalition to sponsor an art therapy workshop for American Indian cancer survivors and their family members at its November 2007 conference.



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The conference proposed creating a permanent quilt to be displayed at different cultural venues in North Carolina. Funding is being provided by the Society for the Arts in Healthcare and the Johnson and Johnson Foundation. Sadie Brewington, Coharie, from the Commission's Community Service Program, along with Elizabeth Warson, a board-certified art therapist and counselor, facilitated the event.

## **HALIWA-SAPONI POTTERY DONATED TO SMITHSONIAN**

In August, Pamela Graham DeRensis presented a pottery piece titled "Grandmother's Slippers" on behalf of Senora Lynch (Haliwa-Saponi) to the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.



*"Grandmother's Slippers"  
by Senora Lynch*

"Senora's gift will be here for coming generations to see long after we're gone," said DeRensis, the

Commission's new Special Assistant. The pieces were hand built by Lynch and made from red and white clay. The designs were freehand etched into the clay.

## **NEW AMERICAN INDIAN FRATERNITY AT UNC-P**

On Feb. 3, 2007, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke recognized Phi Sigma Nu as a Greek organization, making it the first American Indian fraternity in the world. Seven young men, with a vision to bring cohesion and self-reliance to native men on collegiate levels, founded Phi Sigma Nu.

## **TRIBAL ELECTIONS**

Eastern Band of Cherokee – The general election for the Principle Chief position was held Sept. 6. Chief Michelle Hicks, the incumbent, was declared the winner over contender Patrick Lambert.

Haliwa Saponi Indian Tribe – Rev. Ron Richardson was re-elected for another term as chief.

Waccamaw Siouan Indian Tribe – Tribal Council Election was held and Paula Jacobs was elected Chairperson of the Tribal Council.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **February 29 – March 1**

Indian Women's Conference, UNC-Pembroke

### **March 6-7**

American Indian Graduate Student Recruitment event at UNC-Chapel Hill

### **March 20-22**

N.C. Indian Unity Conference – North Raleigh Hilton, Raleigh

N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs Quarterly Meeting in conjunction with the Unity Conference

### **April 3-4**

Southeast Indian Studies Conference – UNC-Pembroke

### **November 7 (Tentative)**

N.C. Indian Senior Citizens Coalition Conference - Holiday Inn Bordeaux, Fayetteville

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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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## COMMISSION MEMBERS Indian Representatives

### **Coharie Indian Tribe**

Gene Faircloth

### **Cumberland County Association for Indian People**

Barbara Melvin ~ Roy Maynor

### **Eastern Band of Cherokee**

Patrick H. Lambert

### **Guilford Native American Association**

Frances Stewart Lowry

### **Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe**

Barry Richardson ~ Ruth Ealing

### **Sappony Tribe**

Shelia Wilson

### **Lumbee Indian Tribe**

Furnie Lambert ~ Larece Hunt ~ J. Garth Locklear

### **Meherrin Tribe**

Douglas Patterson

### **Metrolina Native American Association**

Robin Lynn Strickland

### **Occaneechi Band of Saponi Nation**

Sharn M. Jeffries

### **Triangle Native American Society**

Brett A. Locklear

### **Waccamaw-Siouan Indian Tribe**

Elton Ray Jacobs ~ Lila Spaulding

## STATE OFFICIALS

### **N.C. Department of Administration**

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Designee: McKinley Wooten, Jr.

### **Employment Security Commission**

Harry Payne, Chairman

Designee: Patrice Fields

### **N.C. Department of Environment & Natural Resources**

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Designee: Audrey Velazquez

### **N.C. Department of Health and Human Services**

Dempsey Benton, Secretary

Designee: Jan Lowry

### **N.C. Department of Labor**

Cherie Berry, Commissioner

Designee: Patrice Fields

## APPOINTEES

### **President Pro Tem Appointee**

Paul Brooks

### **Speaker of the House Appointee**

Ray Littleturtle

## YOUTH EX OFFICIO

### **N.C. Native American Youth Organization**

Elizabeth Qua Lynch

### **N.C. Native American Council on Higher Education**

Vacant

Photography credit:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's online digital media library  
<http://images.fws.gov/>

Jayne Williams  
N.C. Department of Administration  
Graphic Artist

## COMMISSION OFFICERS

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Lila Spaulding, Secretary/Treasurer

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N.C. Department of Administration ~ Britt Cobb, Secretary  
McKinley Wooten Jr., Deputy Secretary  
Gregory A. Richardson, Executive Director, Commission of Indian Affairs

## NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

Pamela Graham DeRensis

## PROGRAM DIRECTORS:

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Kimberly Hammonds, Director, Economic Development/Supporting Our  
Native Students Program /Community Services Block Grant Program  
Mickey Locklear, Director, Educational Talent Search Program  
Elk Richardson, Director, Workforce Investment Act Program  
W.C. Groves, Director, Section 8 Housing Program