American Indian tribe wins recognition nearly 400 years after meeting Europeans.

Posted by: “R. Mucaro Borrero”

Mon Feb 19, 2007 7:53 am (PST)

The US government has officially recognized the American Indians whose ancestors met the British Pilgrim settlers at Plymouth Rock in 1320 and took part in the first Thanksgiving meal.

The Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe of Massachusetts are now eligible for federal assistance in housing and health care, the US Interior Department said. Under their new status, the Cape Cod tribe can also hunt and fish without a state license and apply to build a casino, potentially fueling efforts to lift a state ban on casinos.

The tribe’s ancestors fought in the bloodiest conflict of 17th century New England, a one-year battle between Indians and English settlers that killed an estimated 600 settlers and 3,000 Indians. The King Philip’s War broke down Indian resistance and led to the eventual westward push by Europeans.

Asked why it took so long for recognition, tribe spokesman Scott Ferson said the process was a bureaucratic procedure that “does not necessarily favor the Eastern tribes” which are smaller than the western tribes.

About 65 miles, south-east of Boston in Mashpee, a town where most of the tribe lives, tribal elders tend to “spirit fires” to honor tribe members who have died since the push for recognition began 32 years ago, as others celebrated.

Mr. Ferson said the tribe submitted 64 boxes of documentation to

Continued on page 8

Hometown Hero

“Not bad for a child that everyone thought incapable of learning!”

By: Cheri Schilling

They come in all shapes and sizes, any age, any shade of the rainbow and they can even be multi-lingual, unable to speak English or born in another country. Hometown heroes are our neighbors who make our community safe, provide comfort, encouragement, in general make our community a strong family. This “Home Town Hero” is loved and respected by many, her name, Frances Williams.

Ms. Williams is a resident of Moreno Valley, Ca. and an adjunct instructor and lab assistant for Riverside Community College in the Photography Department. This recognition will come as a surprise to her because like most mentors she is very humble and doesn’t see herself as doing anything special. She mentors for the joy of seeing her fledglings develop, learn to “fly” and than soar with strong self-esteem and belief in themselves and their ability.

Why is she so effective? It’s what makes her so special. Why the students look up to her, love her, respect her and overflow her lab classes. Ms. Williams is highly regarded as an example and mentor by her students because she was born with learning disabilities, and didn’t allow those disabilities to decide her fate in life. She rose
To All My Relations:

Welcome to the Winter Quarter 2007. Congratulations to all the students that have successfully completed the Fall Quarter 2006.

We have had an incredible year at UCR with the formal establishment of the California Center for Native Nations with Dr. Clifford Trafzer as the first director, Native American Student Association volunteering in a tutorial program at Sherman Indian School and some actually became employed there via Temporary Assistant for Needy Family (TANF) program, a very successfully Summer Residential Program: Gathering of the Tribes for middle and high school students, and many other wonderful accomplishments. Unfortunately Joel Martin, Costo Chair obtained a position back east, but left us with an opportunity to look for a new chair. The Costo Chair at UCR is privileged and blessed with a substantial amount of endowment. I see in the future fantastic developments occurring from the center for UCR and American Indian community, especially the reservations, in research and economic growth. The UCR Mountain Hawk drum group is reforming, joining forces with members from the Blue Stone singers. The group set a time to practice every Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. They have already been asked to serve as host drum at a local Pow Wow. All in all, we have fair quite well at UCR and look forward to a more prosperous year.

The Native American Student Association in addition to the tutorial program at Sherman is very busy and gearing up for the 26th Annual Medicine Ways Conference and Pow Wow on May 25-27, 2007. The students are very active this year with all kinds of fun activities including recruitment, camping, pot lucks, movies, fry bread sales, and most importantly socializing in the NASP office. The students are the ones that bring out the best out of UCR, their efforts and representation have put our campus on the map nationally. They are the best ambassadors. I am very proud of our students.

UCR is growing rapidly with the increase of student population and buildings being constructed all over campus. Our campus is going to be as big as UCLA and Berkeley very soon. Comments have been from various individuals that UCR is a place to be for Indians and I believe it is. With the establishment of the new Center for Native Nations and a new Costo Chair, there will be many activities occurring for Indians.

If you would like to apply to UCR, contact us at (951) 827-4143 or e-mail sisto@ucr.edu or joshuag@ucr.edu. We would love to have you here. Thank you.

Peace,
Earl Dean Sisto, Director
Native American Student Programs

Are you an American Indian UCR Alumni?

Membership is available to any American Indian and Alaskan Native person who has graduated from the University of Riverside, California, or is a former student that has completed at least 12 quarter units before leaving the University of Riverside, California.

Associate Membership is available to any person who supports the purposes and goals of the organization.

Contact us
American Indian Alumni Association
Email: aiaaucr@yahoo.com (AIAA General mailing)
Email: admin@ai-aa.org (AIAA Board members)
Website: www.ai-aa.org

Campus Representatives

Berkeley
Bridget Wilson
Native American Community Relations
Office of the Undergraduate Admission
110 Sprool Hall, #5800
Berkeley, CA 94720
Phone: (510) 643-7902
Fax: (510) 642-7333
NAOC@berkeley.edu
Ruth Hopper
Undergraduate Advisor
Native American Studies
506 Barrows Hall, #2570
Berkeley, CA 94720
Phone: (510) 642-6613
Fax: (510) 642-6456
redcorn@uclink4.berkeley.edu

Davis
Jacquelyn Ross, Assistant Director
Native American Outreach, Undergraduate Admission & Outreach Services
One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616-8507
Phone: (530) 752-3743
FAX: (530) 752-1280
jross@ucdavis.edu
Michelle Villegas-Frazier, Outreach Officer, School of Medicine
MedSci 1C, 129
One Shields Avenue
Davis, CA 95616
Phone: (530) 752-8387
FAX: (530) 754-6252
mvillegas@ucdavis.edu

Irvine
VACANT

Los Angeles
Dwight Youpee, SAO American Indian Studies Center, UCLA
3220 Campbell Hall; Box 951548
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1548
Phone: (310) 206-7511
Fax: (310) 206-7060
dyoupee@ucla.edu

Merced
Ruth Rodriguez
Student Affairs Officer/Transfer University of California, Merced
Admissions & Relations with Schools & Colleges
550 E. Shaw Suite 105
Fresno, California 93710
rrodriguez@ucmerced.edu

Riverside
Earl Dean Sisto, Director
Native American Student Programs, UCR
224 Costo Hall
Riverside, CA 92521
Phone: (951) 827-4143
Fax: (951) 827-4342
sisto@ucr.edu

San Diego
Geneva Lofton-Fitzsimmons
American Indian Coordinator
Early Academic Outreach
Student Center Complex B
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, CA 92030-3050
Phone: (858) 749-1410 Ext.5278
Fax: (760) 749-1564
Cell: (858) 775-7072
fitzsimmons@ucsd.edu

Alternates:
Geneva Lofton-Fitzsimmons
Student Program Coordinator
California Native American Research for Health (CA-NARCH)
P.O. Box 406
Pauma Valley, CA 92061

San Francisco
VACANT

Santa Barbara
Cuca Acosta, Admissions Counselor
Office of Admissions, UCSB
1234 Cheadle Hall
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-2016
Phone: (805) 893-2307
FAX: (805) 893-8779
acosta@sb.ucsb.edu

Santa Cruz
Vickie Urhui, Senior Evaluator
Hahn Student Services
UC Santa Cruz, 1156 High Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95064
Phone: (831) 459-4191
vuirhui@ucsc.edu

Los Almos National Laboratory
Barbara TenorioGrimes
American Indian Education & Employment Outreach Specialist
P.O. Box 1663
Mail Stop P366
Los Alamos, NM 87545
Office Phone: (505) 665-5121
Toll Free Phone: (888) 691-6057
Fax: (505) 667-7530
Cellular: (505) 699-0653
bgrimes@lanl.gov

UC Office of the President
Ramona Wilson, Director
MESA Schools Program
300 Lakeside Drive 7th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612-3350
Phone: (510) 987-4527
Fax: (510) 763-4704
ramona.wilson@ucop.edu
(Will be vacant in Feb.2006)

WEBSITE: www.ucaicra.org
Thank You
To All Our Southern California Indian
Tribal Sponsors of the
Spirit of the Tribes 5K Run/Walk
held Nov. 5th 2006

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
Barona Band of Mission Indians
Pala Band of Mission Indians
Pauma Band of Mission Indians
Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians
Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

The Spirit of the Tribes 5K Run/Walk will become an annual event for the community to come together, have fun, network, and stay healthy. Running is the oldest tradition of the Indigenous people. Through running, your spirit grows stronger and you maintain fitness. Thanks again to all the Southern California Indian tribal sponsors for supporting The Spirit of the Tribes 5K Run/Walk.
Vidal, NASA member, and members of Mountain Hawk and Blue Stone sing various pow wow songs for the 2007 Regalia Presentation. Their voices and the drum were heard throughout the entire campus.

Carol, Sadie, Cindy, and Cinthya dance to the beat of the drum as they wore traditional regalia from various native nations all hand made by Earl Sisto.

Wagon Burners played live for the Spirit of the Tribes 5K Run/Walk. All the participants really enjoyed all their songs throughout the event.

The NASA Ladies kick off their shoes and relax as the guys prepared an amazing dinner. “Ain’t this the life girls, we should have more retreats like this.”

Moving gracefully, the women accompanied the bird singers by dancing to the bird songs.

Bird singers open up for the recent donation of the Michelson archives which contains a lot of information and pictures of the Southern California.

Joe Morris carries in the U.S. flag at the afternoon Grand entry of the 25th Annual Medicine Ways Pow Wow on May 20, 2006. Over a thousand people attended the pow wow making it a great event for the community.

Earl shows the students how to bead during the beading workshop. Just one of the events during the NASP Open House, Jan. 29-Feb. 2. The Open House was a week full of fun and learning. Throughout the week there were film workshops, a Native food potluck, beading workshop, story telling, and a drumming and singing session.

Earl shows the students how to bead during the beading workshop. Just one of the events during the NASP Open House, Jan. 29-Feb. 2. The Open House was a week full of fun and learning. Throughout the week there were film workshops, a Native food potluck, beading workshop, story telling, and a drumming and singing session.

Mary-Kay & Joan-Marie Michelsen stand in recognition for donating the Michelsen & Owens archives.
Upcoming Events

American Indian Film Festival
April 25th & 26th 2007
Special Guest Speakers:
Randy Redroad & Saginaw Grant
Location: Humanities 1500
Starting @ 6:00 p.m.
Film Screenings:
The Doe Boy        The Canary Effect
Running Brave      Oil on Ice
Free CHAC          More Films TBA
Food & Parking in Lot 1
Entertainment $1/hr
For More Information: joshua@ucr.edu www.nasp.ucr.edu
Sponsored by NASP & NRSA

University of California, Riverside
College Information Day
Warriors of the Future

Friday May 4, 2007
Pentland Hills Residential Hall, B-107
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Information workshops on admission requirements and financial aid will be provided, including a student panel and campus tour.

The students from the fall 2006 College Information Day enjoying their lunch and having a great time visiting UC Riverside.

****Workshops, Food, Fun, and Prizes****

For more information call (951) 827-4143 or contact slisto@ucr.edu or joshua@ucr.edu
www.nasp.ucr.edu
Co-sponsored by the Native American Student Programs, University of California American Indian Counselors/Recruiters Association, and Native American Student Association.

26th Annual Medicine Ways Conference
“Honoring Our Warriors”
May 25th 2007
10am - 4pm
At UC Riverside
in the Pentland Hills
Bear Cave
Featured Artist: Kashona Nutah
*Speakers to be announced*
*Lunch will be provided*
Brought to you by:
Native American Student Association & Native American Student Programs
For more information visit our website: www.nasp.ucr.edu or call us at (951) 827-4143

26th Annual Medicine Ways Pow Wow
“Honoring Our Warriors”
May 26th 2007
Sponsored by:
Native American Student Association & Native American Student Programs
UCR Rivera Library Lawn
Free Admission
Must Pay for Parking
All Drummers and Dancers Welcome
All Bird Singers Welcome
Southern California Bird Singers, Aztec Dancers, Gaan Dancers, Humaya Singers and Dancers
For driving directions, more event or vendor information contact us at ucrapowwow@yahoo.com or (951) 827-4143 - www.nasp.ucr.edu

No alcohol, drugs or weapons permitted. NASA, NASP and UCR are not responsible for any accidents, theft, property damage, or injury.
AGUA CALIENTE TRIBE GRIEVES FOR LOST LEADER  

February 8, 2007  

Former Agua Caliente Tribal Chairman Ray L. Patencio died Thursday at his home following an illness. He was 60 years old, and would have turned 61 on Feb. 9.

Patencio was instrumental in forging the Tribe’s relationship with the City of Palm Springs on a government-to-government basis by working to build understanding based on respect and common goals. “He was an incredible leader who gave every ounce of effort to help bring the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians to where it is today,” said Tribal Chairman Richard M. Milanovich. “His whole life was one of service to the community and to the Tribe. We’re devastated by the loss.”

Palm Springs Mayor Ron Oden honored Patencio in March 2006, when Patencio was given a star on the Palm Springs Walk of Fame. His star was placed in front of the Hilton Hotel off of Tahquitz Canyon Way, the site of Patencio’s former boyhood home.

Patencio recalled running barefoot around Palm Springs as a child, not because he didn’t have shoes, but because he didn’t bother wearing them. “We ran from tree to tree, chasing the shade,” he told the crowd when receiving his star. “I bet we knew where every tree was in Palm Springs.”

Patencio was Tribal Chairman from 1972 to 1981. When the Santa Rosa Indian Community won a key victory in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1975 affirming tribal sovereignty, Patencio was able to lead the Agua Caliente in affirming their right to be exempt from zoning and development control by the City of Palm Springs.

The legal tangle took two more years before the case was resolved, laying the groundwork for the Tribe to develop its various business enterprises in Palm Springs. It provided the basis for the Tribe and the City to develop their relationship in a way that respected sovereignty but paved the way for governmental agreements benefiting the entire community.

He was currently Chairman of the Agua Caliente Gaming Commission, serving since its inception in 1995, when the Tribe opened its first casino. The Gaming Commission, which oversees the regulatory functions of the Tribe’s Spa Resort Casino in Palm Springs and Agua Caliente Casino in Rancho Mirage, maintains the day-to-day oversight in keeping with the California Gambling Control Commission and the National Indian Gaming Commission.

His involvement in Tribal as well as local community affairs led him to make a run for mayor in 1987. Patencio lost to Sonny Bono, the late entertainer who turned his successful bid for Palm Springs Mayor into a congressional seat now held by his wife, Mary Bono.

Patencio was also a leader in the struggle with the Bureau of Indian Affairs? When Tribal members were not allowed to manage their own financial affairs. Guardians were appointed by the BIA to oversee their personal finances, eating thousands of dollars from each Tribal Member’s budget. According to newspaper archives from 1967, such oversight cost one Tribal Member’s income a whopping 50 percent of income over an 8-year period.

He has been a delegate to the State/Tribal Gaming Association, delegate to the California Native Indian Gaming Association and was current chairman of the Agua Caliente Election Board, which oversees elections of the Tribal Council. Elsewhere, he has served as president of the Casa Sonora Homeowners Association and the Board of Directors of Palm Valley School.

Over the years, he has spoken on behalf of the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum to various schools and colleges, as well as local service groups, relating to the early history and culture of the Agua Caliente Indian People. He was also involved with the museum since the origin of the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum Association, serving as secretary before being named to the museum Board of Directors.

Patencio’s family, including his wife Mary Kay, children and grandchildren, and members of the Agua Caliente Tribal Council, will miss him.

About the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians is a federally recognized Indian tribe located in Palm Springs, Calif., with 31,500 acres of reservation lands that spread across Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, and into the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto mountains. The 421-member tribe currently owns and operates the Spa Resort Casino and Hotel in downtown Palm Springs and the Agua Caliente Casino near Rancho Mirage.

GRIEVES FOR LOST LEADER  

Former Agua Caliente Tribal Chairman Ray L. Patencio died Thursday at his home following an illness. He was 60 years old, and would have turned 61 on Feb. 9.

Patencio was instrumental in forging the Tribe’s relationship with the City of Palm Springs on a government-to-government basis by working to build understanding based on respect and common goals. “He was an incredible leader who gave every ounce of effort to help bring the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians to where it is today,” said Tribal Chairman Richard M. Milanovich. “His whole life was one of service to the community and to the Tribe. We’re devastated by the loss.”

Palm Springs Mayor Ron Oden honored Patencio in March 2006, when Patencio was given a star on the Palm Springs Walk of Fame. His star was placed in front of the Hilton Hotel off of Tahquitz Canyon Way, the site of Patencio’s former boyhood home.

Patencio recalled running barefoot around Palm Springs as a child, not because he didn’t have shoes, but because he didn’t bother wearing them. “We ran from tree to tree, chasing the shade,” he told the crowd when receiving his star. “I bet we knew where every tree was in Palm Springs.”

Patencio was Tribal Chairman from 1972 to 1981. When the Santa Rosa Indian Community won a key victory in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1975 affirming tribal sovereignty, Patencio was able to lead the Agua Caliente in affirming their right to be exempt from zoning and development control by the City of Palm Springs.

The legal tangle took two more years before the case was resolved, laying the groundwork for the Tribe to develop its various business enterprises in Palm Springs. It provided the basis for the Tribe and the City to develop their relationship in a way that respected sovereignty but paved the way for governmental agreements benefiting the entire community.

He was currently Chairman of the Agua Caliente Gaming Commission, serving since its inception in 1995, when the Tribe opened its first casino. The Gaming Commission, which oversees the regulatory functions of the Tribe’s Spa Resort Casino in Palm Springs and Agua Caliente Casino in Rancho Mirage, maintains the day-to-day oversight in keeping with the California Gambling Control Commission and the National Indian Gaming Commission.

His involvement in Tribal as well as local community affairs led him to make a run for mayor in 1987. Patencio lost to Sonny Bono, the late entertainer who turned his successful bid for Palm Springs Mayor into a congressional seat now held by his wife, Mary Bono.

Patencio was also a leader in the struggle with the Bureau of Indian Affairs? When Tribal members were not allowed to manage their own financial affairs. Guardians were appointed by the BIA to oversee their personal finances, eating thousands of dollars from each Tribal Member’s budget. According to newspaper archives from 1967, such oversight cost one Tribal Member’s income a whopping 50 percent of income over an 8-year period.

He has been a delegate to the State/Tribal Gaming Association, delegate to the California Native Indian Gaming Association and was current chairman of the Agua Caliente Election Board, which oversees elections of the Tribal Council. Elsewhere, he has served as president of the Casa Sonora Homeowners Association and the Board of Directors of Palm Valley School.

Over the years, he has spoken on behalf of the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum to various schools and colleges, as well as local service groups, relating to the early history and culture of the Agua Caliente Indian People. He was also involved with the museum since the origin of the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum Association, serving as secretary before being named to the museum Board of Directors.

Patencio’s family, including his wife Mary Kay, children and grandchildren, and members of the Agua Caliente Tribal Council, will miss him.

About the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians is a federally recognized Indian tribe located in Palm Springs, Calif., with 31,500 acres of reservation lands that spread across Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, and into the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto mountains. The 421-member tribe currently owns and operates the Spa Resort Casino and Hotel in downtown Palm Springs and the Agua Caliente Casino near Rancho Mirage.

GRIEVES FOR LOST LEADER  

Former Agua Caliente Tribal Chairman Ray L. Patencio died Thursday at his home following an illness. He was 60 years old, and would have turned 61 on Feb. 9.

Patencio was instrumental in forging the Tribe’s relationship with the City of Palm Springs on a government-to-government basis by working to build understanding based on respect and common goals. “He was an incredible leader who gave every ounce of effort to help bring the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians to where it is today,” said Tribal Chairman Richard M. Milanovich. “His whole life was one of service to the community and to the Tribe. We’re devastated by the loss.”

Palm Springs Mayor Ron Oden honored Patencio in March 2006, when Patencio was given a star on the Palm Springs Walk of Fame. His star was placed in front of the Hilton Hotel off of Tahquitz Canyon Way, the site of Patencio’s former boyhood home.

Patencio recalled running barefoot around Palm Springs as a child, not because he didn’t have shoes, but because he didn’t bother wearing them. “We ran from tree to tree, chasing the shade,” he told the crowd when receiving his star. “I bet we knew where every tree was in Palm Springs.”

Patencio was Tribal Chairman from 1972 to 1981. When the Santa Rosa Indian Community won a key victory in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1975 affirming tribal sovereignty, Patencio was able to lead the Agua Caliente in affirming their right to be exempt from zoning and development control by the City of Palm Springs.

The legal tangle took two more years before the case was resolved, laying the groundwork for the Tribe to develop its various business enterprises in Palm Springs. It provided the basis for the Tribe and the City to develop their relationship in a way that respected sovereignty but paved the way for governmental agreements benefiting the entire community.

He was currently Chairman of the Agua Caliente Gaming Commission, serving since its inception in 1995, when the Tribe opened its first casino. The Gaming Commission, which oversees the regulatory functions of the Tribe’s Spa Resort Casino in Palm Springs and Agua Caliente Casino in Rancho Mirage, maintains the day-to-day oversight in keeping with the California Gambling Control Commission and the National Indian Gaming Commission.

His involvement in Tribal as well as local community affairs led him to make a run for mayor in 1987. Patencio lost to Sonny Bono, the late entertainer who turned his successful bid for Palm Springs Mayor into a congressional seat now held by his wife, Mary Bono.

Patencio was also a leader in the struggle with the Bureau of Indian Affairs? When Tribal members were not allowed to manage their own financial affairs. Guardians were appointed by the BIA to oversee their personal finances, eating thousands of dollars from each Tribal Member’s budget. According to newspaper archives from 1967, such oversight cost one Tribal Member’s income a whopping 50 percent of income over an 8-year period.

He has been a delegate to the State/Tribal Gaming Association, delegate to the California Native Indian Gaming Association and was current chairman of the Agua Caliente Election Board, which oversees elections of the Tribal Council. Elsewhere, he has served as president of the Casa Sonora Homeowners Association and the Board of Directors of Palm Valley School.

Over the years, he has spoken on behalf of the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum to various schools and colleges, as well as local service groups, relating to the early history and culture of the Agua Caliente Indian People. He was also involved with the museum since the origin of the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum Association, serving as secretary before being named to the museum Board of Directors.

Patencio’s family, including his wife Mary Kay, children and grandchildren, and members of the Agua Caliente Tribal Council, will miss him.

About the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians is a federally recognized Indian tribe located in Palm Springs, Calif., with 31,500 acres of reservation lands that spread across Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, and into the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto mountains. The 421-member tribe currently owns and operates the Spa Resort Casino and Hotel in downtown Palm Springs and the Agua Caliente Casino near Rancho Mirage.
Hometown Hero
above them with great determination and tenacity. Ms. Williams began her childhood on a Navajo reservation in Az. She is a member of the Bear Clan. Ms. Williams was raised with the Navajo mother tongue at her grandmother’s knee, along with Spanish as her first languages. As a child, she was labeled by reservation educators as “unable to learn”...even retarded. In fact, what Ms. Williams had was multiple learning disabilities: dyscalculia, dyslexia and severe ADHD. Despite the lack of effort by the school system to educate her, Ms. Williams never gave in to the label placed on her.

Ms. Williams as an adult decided not to allow her learning disabilities to hold her back. She obtained a psychiatric technician’s license, which even today; she keeps current with enrichment classes. Determined to continue her education, she went on to receive an AA concentrated in Behavioral Sciences, and a BA in Photography from Riverside Community College, as well as a BA in Fine Arts with a concentration in Photography from the California State University, San Bernardino. She is currently working towards her Masters degree in Educational Technology with a concentration in Special Education at California Baptist University. Despite the heavy demands on her time, Ms. Williams has found time to volunteer at Sherman Indian High School, a boarding school for Native American children living away from their families and reservations. She is also a photojournalist for the Indian Times that is headquartered out of the University of California Riverside, and is an inductee of the Latino and Native American Hall of Fame for her Leadership and photography. Not bad for a child that everyone thought incapable of learning!

That is her secret... Ms. Williams knows firsthand the feelings of frustration, of complete surrender, but more importantly how it feels when no one believes in you. Ms. Williams, because of her personal experiences, has the uncanny ability to reach out to her students. She provides an ear or shoulder when needed, and encouragement to bring out the absolute best of all who come in contact with her. It’s that understanding; with her never ending patience, and her ability to explain or demonstrate has often as needed without ever making a student feel they can’t achieve the expected task that brings students flocking to her lab. She is their cheerleader, always finding something positive to say even though the student knows their photo still needs work. Disabled students, knowing she has a special understanding of their needs, make an extra effort to get into Ms. Williams lab. Spanish speaking students, struggling with English instructions are always relieved and able to succeed due to her fluency in Spanish. She is irreplaceable in the eyes of the students.

I am honored to add my love and respect, as well for Ms. Williams or as she is, better known to those of us who have been or are yet, under her wing, Frances. To the younger ones she has inspired, they affectionately call her “Frankie”. I am fortunate to have Frances as my mentor too. Without her kindness, her dedication and her mule like stubbornness of never allowing me to give up, I would not have achieved my dream... to obtain a college education. The last thought I want to leave with you is this...if Frances can achieve her goals despite adversity, then who are we, to believe we can do anything less when reaching for our dreams! Ms. Williams is a beacon in the lives of many and even more to come. She is a Hometown Hero.

Continued from Front Page

Hometown Hero
above them with great determination and tenacity. Ms. Williams began her childhood on a Navajo reservation in Az. She is a member of the Bear Clan. Ms. Williams was raised with the Navajo mother tongue at her grandmother’s knee, along with Spanish as her first languages. As a child, she was labeled by reservation educators as “unable to learn”...even retarded. In fact, what Ms. Williams had was multiple learning disabilities: dyscalculia, dyslexia and severe ADHD. Despite the lack of effort by the school system to educate her, Ms. Williams never gave in to the label placed on her.

Ms. Williams as an adult decided not to allow her learning disabilities to hold her back. She obtained a psychiatric technician’s license, which even today; she keeps current with enrichment classes. Determined to continue her education, she went on to receive an AA concentrated in Behavioral Sciences, and a BA in Photography from Riverside Community College, as well as a BA in Fine Arts with a concentration in Photography from the California State University, San Bernardino. She is currently working towards her Masters degree in Educational Technology with a concentration in Special Education at California Baptist University. Despite the heavy demands on her time, Ms. Williams has found time to volunteer at Sherman Indian High School, a boarding school for Native American children living away from their families and reservations. She is also a photojournalist for the Indian Times that is headquartered out of the University of California Riverside, and is an inductee of the Latino and Native American Hall of Fame for her Leadership and photography. Not bad for a child that everyone thought incapable of learning!

That is her secret... Ms. Williams knows firsthand the feelings of frustration, of complete surrender, but more importantly how it feels when no one believes in you. Ms. Williams, because of her personal experiences, has the uncanny ability to reach out to her students. She provides an ear or shoulder when needed, and encouragement to bring out the absolute best of all who come in contact with her. It’s that understanding; with her never ending patience, and her ability to explain or demonstrate has often as needed without ever making a student feel they can’t achieve the expected task that brings students flocking to her lab. She is their cheerleader, always finding something positive to say even though the student knows their photo still needs work. Disabled students, knowing she has a special understanding of their needs, make an extra effort to get into Ms. Williams lab. Spanish speaking students, struggling with English instructions are always relieved and able to succeed due to her fluency in Spanish. She is irreplaceable in the eyes of the students.

I am honored to add my love and respect, as well for Ms. Williams or as she is, better known to those of us who have been or are yet, under her wing, Frances. To the younger ones she has inspired, they affectionately call her “Frankie”. I am fortunate to have Frances as my mentor too. Without her kindness, her dedication and her mule like stubbornness of never allowing me to give up, I would not have achieved my dream... to obtain a college education. The last thought I want to leave with you is this...if Frances can achieve her goals despite adversity, then who are we, to believe we can do anything less when reaching for our dreams! Ms. Williams is a beacon in the lives of many and even more to come. She is a Hometown Hero.

Continued from Front Page

Hometown Hero
above them with great determination and tenacity. Ms. Williams began her childhood on a Navajo reservation in Az. She is a member of the Bear Clan. Ms. Williams was raised with the Navajo mother tongue at her grandmother’s knee, along with Spanish as her first languages. As a child, she was labeled by reservation educators as “unable to learn”...even retarded. In fact, what Ms. Williams had was multiple learning disabilities: dyscalculia, dyslexia and severe ADHD. Despite the lack of effort by the school system to educate her, Ms. Williams never gave in to the label placed on her.

Ms. Williams as an adult decided not to allow her learning disabilities to hold her back. She obtained a psychiatric technician’s license, which even today; she keeps current with enrichment classes. Determined to continue her education, she went on to receive an AA concentrated in Behavioral Sciences, and a BA in Photography from Riverside Community College, as well as a BA in Fine Arts with a concentration in Photography from the California State University, San Bernardino. She is currently working towards her Masters degree in Educational Technology with a concentration in Special Education at California Baptist University. Despite the heavy demands on her time, Ms. Williams has found time to volunteer at Sherman Indian High School, a boarding school for Native American children living away from their families and reservations. She is also a photojournalist for the Indian Times that is headquartered out of the University of California Riverside, and is an inductee of the Latino and Native American Hall of Fame for her Leadership and photography. Not bad for a child that everyone thought incapable of learning!

That is her secret... Ms. Williams knows firsthand the feelings of frustration, of complete surrender, but more importantly how it feels when no one believes in you. Ms. Williams, because of her personal experiences, has the uncanny ability to reach out to her students. She provides an ear or shoulder when needed, and encouragement to bring out the absolute best of all who come in contact with her. It’s that understanding; with her never ending
American Indian Tribe wins

the US Bureau of Indian Affairs, including detailed genealogies on each of the tribe’s 1461 living members dating to the first encounter with the Europeans.

The tribe’s chairman, Glenn Marshall, can trace his heritage back to Massasoit, the Wampanoag chief who shared the first Thanksgiving meal with European settlers in 1621.

There are currently 561 recognized Native American tribes in the United States and nearly 200 petitions for recognition, said Nedra Darling, A bureau of Indian Affairs spokeswoman.

*UCTP News Source:

On your marks, get set, Go!!!!! The participants of the Spirit of the Tribes 5K Run/Walk get ready at the start line to begin the race. The second annual Spirit of the Tribes will be on Saturday, November 3, 2007.

Photo taken by Debbie Aguilar

Calendar of Events

March 10 & 11, 2007
Cal State Long Beach
37th Annual Pow Wow
(562) 985-8528
powwow@csulb.edu

March 14-18
Native American Film Festival
Agua Caliente Cultural Museum
Camelot Theatres, Palm Springs
(760) 409-9838

March 17, 2007
California Indian Storytelling Festival
Pavilion Auditorium, Palm Springs
(760) 409-9838

March 31 - April 1, 2007
El Camino College Powwow
El Camino College Track Field
Torrance, CA
(310) 891-1941

April 6 & 7
Cal State Fullerton Inter-Tribal Student Council Pow Wow
(714) 278-3603

April 7-8, 2007
Celebrate Our Youth Spring Powwow
Foothill & Day Roads, Ventura, California.
Carol Anderson @ Ph#(661)245-7824
www.brokenropefoundation.com

April 21, 2007
Sherman Indian High School Inter-Tribal Annual Pow Wow
Riverside, CA

April 25 & 26, 2007
American Indian Film Festival
University of California, Riverside
Riverside, CA 92521
(951) 827-4143
www.nasp.ucr.edu

May 5-6, 2007
23rd Annual California Indian Market, Peace Powwow & World Cultures Festival
San Juan Bautista, California. Ph#(831)623-2379 / web: www.peacevision.net/

May 25, 2007
26th Annual Medicine Ways Conference
University of California, Riverside
Riverside, CA 92521
(951) 827-4143
www.nasp.ucr.edu

June 8-10, 2007
Table Mountain Rancheria Powwow

July 21- August 4, 2007
Gathering of the Tribes Summer Residential Program
University of California, Riverside
Riverside, CA 92521
(951) 827-4143
www.nasp.ucr.edu

2007 Summer Residential Program:
Gathering of the Tribes
July 21 - August 4, 2007

A fun filled Program for American Indian Middle and High School Students

For More Information call Native American Student Programs at (951) 827-4143 or e-mail sisto@ucr.edu or joshuag@ucr.edu
Application online at www.nasp.ucr.edu

Native American Student Programs, University of California, Riverside, 224 Costo Hall, Riverside, CA 92521

Photo taken by Frances Williams
An Aztec Danzante pauses a moment as she performs at the Sherman Pow Wow last year in 2006. This year the Sherman Pow Wow will take place on April 21, 2007.

Photo taken by Debbie Aguilar

Continued from Front Page

American Indian Tribe wins

the US Bureau of Indian Affairs, including detailed genealogies on each of the tribe’s 1461 living members dating to the first encounter with the Europeans.

The tribe’s chairman, Glenn Marshall, can trace his heritage back to Massasoit, the Wampanoag chief who shared the first Thanksgiving meal with European settlers in 1621.

There are currently 561 recognized Native American tribes in the United States and nearly 200 petitions for recognition, said Nedra Darling, A bureau of Indian Affairs spokeswoman.

*UCTP News Source: