

# The CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 34

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 2001

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## Mountain Chamber Players at UNCP August 29

**Pembroke, NC-**The 2001-2002 Moore Hall Recital Series at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke kicks off 10:15 a.m. Wednesday, August 29, with the Mountain Chamber Players. Admission is free. The Mountain Chamber Players perform a variety of musical styles and reach diverse audiences. Their concerts are designed to educate as well as entertain and uplift the spirit. They feature combinations of nine instruments. The Mountain Chamber Players consist of Rita Hayes, flute and piccolo, Yuki Harding, oboe and English horn, David Kirby, clarinet and saxophone, Jennifer Hart Merrell, horn, Carol Cope Lowe, bassoon and Katherine Morgan Palmer, piano. The group has been entertaining audiences in Western North Carolina and elsewhere since 1998. They have collaborated with a number of notable talents including Eric Ewazen, composer on the faculty of the Julliard School of Music. Mr. Ewazen described the Mountain Chamber Players as, "An exciting and extraordinary chamber music group. They are individually virtuosos instrumentalists. Together they are so musical, displaying a wide variety of colors and musical expressions. Their performance of my music was among the finest I have heard." The Raleigh News and Observer said

the "Brevard group gives life to new music. Not all new music will live on, but it needs a forum to be judged. These talented, committed players deserve credit for providing such a platform." Admission to this series is free, and the public is always welcome to the Moore Hall Recital Series. "We have another exciting and diverse venue," said series publicist Gail Morfesis. Pembroke is just a short trip for such a great musical journey. Here is the concert scheduled: (All concerts are Wednesday, 10:15 a.m.) Opera Carolina will perform "Hansel and Gretel" on October 17. Pianist Valerie Zamora will perform November 7. Danny and June Infantino will perform a guitar and flute concert Jan. 23, 2002. "Of Ebony Embers" the Harlem Renaissance Show performed by the Core Ensemble Trip, February 13. Damon Short and Paul Srea Quartet perform a jazz concert March 20. Steve Hunter, pianist, performs an all Chopin program on April 17. "It is a diverse and talented group of performers that will appear on our Moore Recital Hall stage," Ms. Morfesis said. Questions about this or other UNCP music program may be directed to the Music Department at (910) 521-6230.

## Dr. Williamson Says Good-bye to His Surgical Career at SRMC



One of Southeastern Regional Medical Center's longtime surgeons and senior partner of Lumberton Surgical Associates hung up his operating gown and gloves at the end of June. Warren L. Williamson, M.D., who arrived in Lumberton in 1973, has retired from a surgical career that spanned nearly three decades in Robeson County.

At a retirement dinner held in his honor by the SRMC Board of Trustees on August 17 at the Southeastern Agricultural Center, fellow physicians, friends, and family paid tribute to Dr. Williamson for the many contributions he has made to the health and well being of the community. "Long after we have forgotten the year Warren Williamson began his career here or the year he decided to retire, we will remember the difference he made in the lives of everyone he has touched," said Luckey Welsh, SRMC president and CEO. SRMC Medical Staff President Ben Gasque, M.D., praised Dr. Williamson for his surgical skills and his excellent rapport

with other medical center physicians. On behalf of the medical staff, Dr. Gasque presented a portrait of the honoree to be hung in the medical center.

"It was a good day for our hospital, our citizens and our community when Warren and Evelyn decided to come to Lumberton," said Randy Rust, chairman of the SRMC Board of Trustees. He presented the couple with a crystal tower award engraved with the years of service at SRMC.

The formal presentations were followed by toasts and roasts from fellow physicians, family and friends. Included were Drs. Peter Villani, Sam Britt II and Ronald Beasley, Office Nurse Rebecca Thompson, SRMC Director of Health Information Services Betty Hall, children Elizabeth and Michael, and brother Parker Williamson provided a lighthearted look at the Dr. Williamson's roles as surgeon, employer, father and younger brother.

A native of Charlotte, Dr. Williamson grew up around Davidson, N.C., and his family often vacationed at their summer home in Montana. After his father joined Louisiana State University as a professor of political science, the family developed strong ties to Louisiana where Dr. Williamson earned his undergraduate degree with honors from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge in 1963.

"I knew my calling early. By the time I was in eighth grade, I knew that I wanted to become a surgeon," he

said. "No particular person influenced me although my mother was a nurse."

As a student in an accelerated program, he completed his degree in three years rather than four. Afterwards he earned a medical degree from the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans in 1966 and spent a year of internship in Shreveport before his training was interrupted by the Vietnam War. During that conflict, he served as a flight surgeon with the rank of captain from 1967 to 1968. It was also in 1968 that military service sent him to California where he married his wife of thirty-three years, Evelyn.

After completing his residency training in 1973, he and his bride arrived in Lumberton that August to begin their new lives. Both his children—Michael and Elizabeth—grew up in Lumberton and attended schools here. Michael and his wife, former Stacie Caulder, have one daughter, 20-month-old, Sarah Whitman.

"I decided to come to Lumberton because the need for a general surgeon was so great in the county," he said. "Also Doug and Carolyn Clark came down to personally recruit us."

By 1975, Dr. Williamson and the late surgeon, Dr. Douglas Clark, had cofounded Lumberton surgical associates with an office on West 27th Street. Dr. Williamson has also been active in recruiting other surgeons to the medical community. Dr. Peter Villani came from West Virginia in 1980; Dr. Sam Britt II joined the practice in 1985; and Dr. Steve Muscoreil arrived in July 2000.

Dr. Williamson's professional life has been an extremely full one. He has been certified by the American Board of Surgery since 1974. He became a fellow of the American College of Surgeons in 1976. Not only is he known for his excellent patient care, he is also an active member of the medical staff, serving on committees and in each office of leadership, including president of that group from 1994-95. In addition to these duties, he has devoted much time to teaching to young doctors, physician assistants, and medical students as well. He has also dedicated himself to hospital quality and utilization issues in order to improve patient care and the appropriate use of hospital resources.

His is a life member of the North Carolina Medical Society as well as a member of the Southeastern Surgical Congress and the Southern Medical Association. He has also served as assistant consulting faculty of Duke LifeFlight-Lumberton from 1997 until 2001. He was the first medical director for Hospice of Robeson when it was established in 1985. He served as a medical examiner for Robeson County from 1987 until 2001.

When asked how he will spend his retirement, Dr. Williamson replied with a list of activities. He expects to devote more time and energy to his favorite pastime, bicycling. He and his wife want to visit with his mother and his wife's parents in Louisiana as well as with their 20-month-old granddaughter and the second grandchild when it arrives.

## Big Sweep 2001

**BIG SWEEP.** North Carolina's annual clean-up of our waterways and shorelines, will be held on the Lumber River on Saturday, September 15th from 9 am until 1 pm. Neill Lee, Robeson County Big Sweep Coordinator, is looking for individuals and organizations who are interested in volunteering to clean up the Lumber River by boat or at bridges and landings along the river.

After not being able to clean the river in September of 1999 due to flooding on the river from hurricane Floyd, the citizens of Robeson County and river lovers from all over responded with a record number of volunteers for **BIG SWEEP 2000**. Last September 159 volunteers spent a Saturday morning picking up 24,000 lbs. of trash tossed into the Lumber River by thoughtless litterbugs. Across North Carolina 16,104 volunteers picked up 596,477 lbs. of trash from our state's waterways and shorelines.

Unfortunately these same inconsiderate litterbugs have had another year to pollute the Lumber River with their drink bottles, worm cups, fishing line, tires, cigarette butts, styrofoam containers, oil containers, dead animals and whatever else they could find to throw in the river.

To volunteer to clean up after these Lumber River polluters or for more information, contact Neill Lee at Lumber River State Park at (910)628-9844. Your help and support will be appreciated!

## Heritage Kits set record straight about native Americans

**Nashville, TN-** Resources that debunk myths and stereotypes of Native Americans and give guidance for teaching Vacation Bible School to native children are being released in a heritage kit and sent to all annual conferences and resource center of the United Methodist Church.

The Native American Communications Office, a unit of United Methodist Communications, has produced a "Sharing the Heritage Kit" that contains facts about native people, booklets, cassettes, videos, computer diskettes, and other information and materials.

Dancing With a Brave Spirit: Telling the Truth About Native America, is one of the kit's offerings. This revised publication seeks to clarify many of the widely held myths and beliefs about native people.

Dancing was first produced in 1999 as a response by native organizations and tribes to the amount of misinformation surrounding native people, said Ray Buckley, director of the Native American Communications Office.

The first booklet was distributed to members of the U.S. Congress, tribal offices, several denominations, delegates to the 2000 United Methodist General Conference and to the press.

Due to the acclaim and enthusiastic endorsement of the first booklet and because of a need for updated information, an expanded second edition for 2001-2004 has been released. The revision includes more coverage of Alaska natives, the unique status of certain tribes, more cultural informa-

tion and a more comprehensive synopsis of issues affecting native people.

Buckley said Native America is ever changing and those changes bring about new perceptions about native people, some positive and some negative.

The revised Dancing booklet includes three sections: questions and answers about native people; native people and United Methodist; and a directory of organizations working with native people.

Another resource in the kit, "Seeing Through Native Eyes," was developed to provide culturally relevant tools for Vacation Bible School among Indian people. The communications office along with the Native American Comprehensive Plan brought together a team of native educators in 1999 and again in 2000 to share ideas and concerns regarding the teaching of native children.

According to Buckley, the critical conclusion from both meetings was that native people learn best when culturally relevant tools are used. Cultural considerations among American Indians are currently employed in public schools and colleges but have never been fully addressed in the church, he said.

Native children growing up on reservations or those being raised in communities where tribal traditions are still strong often have very different concepts of appropriateness and etiquette, said Buckley, who is a member of the Tlingit/Lakota tribes. As an example, he noted that na-

**The Carolina Indian Voice** is published every Thursday by First American Publications. -207 Union Chapel Road-Pembroke, NC 28372. Publisher-Bruce Barton. Editor-Connee Brayboy. See Editorials on Page 2; Obituaries on Page 5; Classifieds on Page 9. The Carolina Indian Voice is a weekly publication owned and operated by Indians and has been publishing continuously since 1973.

tive children will not raise their hands to respond to a question even if they know the answer. "Educators who are not familiar with native traditions will assume that these children do not work well in social settings and place them in remedial education," he said. "The result is that many of our rural children drop out of school by fifth grade and those that do stay usually give up."

Teaching native children in mainstream education without identifying cultural differences has been ineffective, he said. "It's like serving soup with a slotted spoon. It just doesn't work. We have never developed a method of teaching Christian education that will help native people."

"Seeing Through Native Eyes," which has been sent to all native congregations in the denomination, is a study of native cultures and includes illustrations designed to strengthen and illustrate Christian beliefs.

"We have deliberately avoided accessing native relations, out of respect for them, and have focused on cultural elements," said Buckley. "We have a strong commitment to the belief that by affirming culture, we also affirm self-identity."

The historical relationship between the United Methodist Church and Indian people is largely carried in the memory of elders and is being lost, Buckley said. In an effort to preserve the stories and information about historical events, the "Elders Project" was initiated in 1999 and is an ongo-

ing initiative of the communications office. Stories from older people are being recorded and sent to the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History and specific tribal communities.

Each story an elder provides is copyrighted in that elder's name and becomes the property of that elder, Buckley explained. "In native tradition, a person's story belongs to them and should only be told by them. It is considered rude to tell someone else's story."

A Native American Hymn Preservation program is another on-going effort to document native culture, heritage and songs. Tribal hymns are being digitally recorded to preserve them for future generations. The communications office has recorded hymns from Montana, Alaska, and the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. A compact disc featuring hymns recorded live at the 2001 session of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary and representing 11 tribes will be available in October.

Some of the resources available in the Sharing of the Heritage Kit also may be found, without graphics, on the Native American Communications Office Web site: [www.naco.umcom.org](http://www.naco.umcom.org). The site also contains cultural information and links to native sites and educational institutions.

For more information about Native American resources contact Buckley at [naco@umcom.org](mailto:naco@umcom.org) or (615) 742-5414.

## Aleshia J. Hunt Completes TRIBES Program

Miss Aleshia J. Hunt, a recent 2001 Magna Cum Laude graduate of Fairmont High School, recently completed the Tribal Resource Institute in Business, Engineering, and Science (TRIBES) program at the university of New Mexico. Along with 30 other Native American students from across the United States, she proudly represented the entire southeastern region of the United States. The TRIBES program is highly competitive, the applicant has to be well-rounded in both societies, Western and Indigenous. To qualify for the program the applicant has to have a 3.5 or greater GPA, ranked in the top 5% of the class, be involved in extra curricular activities and community activities, and be a Native American Indian.

While attending the program at the university, she completed several college courses. She was awarded college credits and a total of \$4,000.00 in scholarships. Aleshia was also awarded a \$500.00 scholarship through North Carolina Native American Youth Opportunity (NCNAYO) when she was named "Female Youth of the Year." She served as NCNAYO Vice-Chairperson (Lumbee Tribe).

Other extra curricular activities in which she has participated at Fairmont High School are Senior Student of Excellence (1st Semester, 2000), Workforce Apprentice Program with The Ostermeck Company, Beta Club (President and Member), softball, Band, FHS Quiz Bowl Member, American Indian Science and Engineering Society, Native American Student Association and Clan Mother, NC Scholars, Who's Who Among



High School Students, National Honor Society, AISES summer education program at University of Wisconsin (summer 1997), University of Colorado (summer 1998 and summer 2000), Washington State (2000), and she attends Pleasant View Baptist Church.

Miss Hunt will be attending East Carolina University where she plans to major in Anthropology and Native American Studies. Her primary studies will be the Eastern Woodland Tribes.

Aleshia J. Hunt is the daughter of James Clayton Hunt and Linda Oxendine Hunt and the granddaughter of the late Bernice Hunt and the late Learon Oxendine and Rosie Lee Oxendine.

## Jessica Oxendine, "Strike at the Wind" Cast Member dies in auto accident

by Vinita Maynor Clark, Drama Historian

Young Jessica Oxendine of Red Springs, who played the role of a citizen in the outdoor drama, "Strike at the Wind" lost her life in a car accident August 15, 2001. Many of the cast members, especially the young teenagers who made up the cast this year, are devastated by the loss of their new found friend.

A talented young lady, she was also joined in the cast this year for the first time by her brother, Lester Oxendine, who portrayed the role of Reynolds. Her cousin, Edward Strickland II, has played the role of Steve Lowrie for the past several years. For Jessica, this summer was an enjoyable "family affair."

"Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Jessica's parents, Larry and Pearl Oxendine of the Maxton community. We hope if this tragedy touches one

child and makes them stay in school where they are supposed to be, then her death will not be in vain," this statement was made by the cast and crew of the outdoor drama.

Forty-five of the cast members of the outdoor drama served as Honorary Pallbearers at the service held at Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Maxton on Sunday.

The cast and crew of Strike at the Wind and the board of directors of the Robeson Historical Drama Association express their gratitude to the family for allowing Jessica to spend what we hoped were the first of many summers with us. She will be missed and will be remembered by us all.

A 2002 Strike at the Wind calendar was recently created by Vinita Clark that has a group picture with Jessica in it. It can be purchased for \$10 by calling 522-0239.