

Along the Robeson Trail

by Dr. Stan Knick, Director, UNCP's Native American Resource Center

Over the years, the Native American Resource Center and the American Indian Studies Department here at UNCP have collaborated on numerous projects -- workshops, public programs, teacher institutes, curriculum development and so on. Currently we are working in three exciting areas in conjunction with faculty members in other University departments.

First, Linda Oxendine (Lumbee) and I are in the planning stages of a collaboration with Alfred Bryant (Lumbee) and the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs. Dr. Bryant comes with the resources and expertise of the Education Department as well as the Regional Center for Economic, Community and Professional Development. We have been meeting with Greg Richardson (Haliwa-Saponi), executive director of the Commission, discussing possible development of a Tribal Leadership Institute. The initial phase of this long-term project will be to conduct a needs assessment in the various tribal communities in North

Carolina, to determine what kinds of training the tribes would like to see offered in such an Institute. We are also planning -- in collaboration with George Johnson of UNCP's Mass Communications Department -- to produce an ethnographic video about the tribes served by the Commission.

Second, Jay Vest (Monacan/Saponi), associate professor in the American Indian Studies Department, is in the planning stages of a series of annual conferences on Indians of the Southeast. Dr. Vest is working alongside Mike Spivey and Ottis Murray of the Sociology Department on this project to bring together emerging scholars and established researchers to highlight the often-overlooked tribes of the Southeast.

Third (but certainly not the least), Drs. Oxendine and Vest are also working with Ralph Steeds (Lakota/Southern Cheyenne), Janette Hopper and Tulla Lightfoot of the Art Department on plans for an American Indian Art Institute. This project would bring art

students to campus for three weeks of summer classes, including both individual studio work and Native American art history. This Institute would also incorporate field trips to various museums which hold American Indian art collections.

"We have always seen ourselves holistically in American Indian Studies. Not only is it important for us to serve students through an academic program on campus, we also have a responsibility to be of service to the larger community. I'm excited about our continued collaboration with other departments on campus as well as with the NC Commission of Indian Affairs and tribal communities throughout the state," says Dr. Linda Oxendine, chair of the American Indian Studies Department.

For more information about these works-in-progress, visit the Native American Resource Center in historic Old Main Building, on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke (our Internet address is www.uncp.edu/nativemuseum).

Helen Maynor Scheirbeck A Proud Member of the NMAI Staff

Long before the members of the Lumbee tribe ever went to Washington, DC and marched with the Native American tribes of our country and the world for the opening of the National Museum of the Native American, a lady from Pembroke had been working on making this project a success for many years. Helen Maynor Scheirbeck, a native of Pembroke and a member of the Lumbee tribe had been working on this project prior to 1999 when she was appointed as a member of the first NMAI by the United States Congress. She took up the office of the Assistant Director of Public Programs and serves until this day. A Pembroke native she is the daughter of the late Honorable Judge Lacy W. Maynor and his wife Sally. Memories of the late judge can be seen in the KKK display at the Native American Resource Center at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Before her tenure with this organization she worked with many world wide organizations such as Save the Children.

In her position with the NMAI, her primary concern has been to bring talented Native Artists to the museum events. Her mission is to show and spread the word that Native Artists don't just appear in Pow Wows, they appear all over the world, in movies, dance performances, dance, poetry and drama. Truly the Native Americans are some of the most talented people on the face of this Earth. In addition to this position, Scheirbeck has directed the education department to work with the numerous tribes in identifying the kinds of educational resources they want to share on the museum website.

The dedication of Scheirbeck to the Native American people, especially members of the Lumbee tribe truly make us proud that she is

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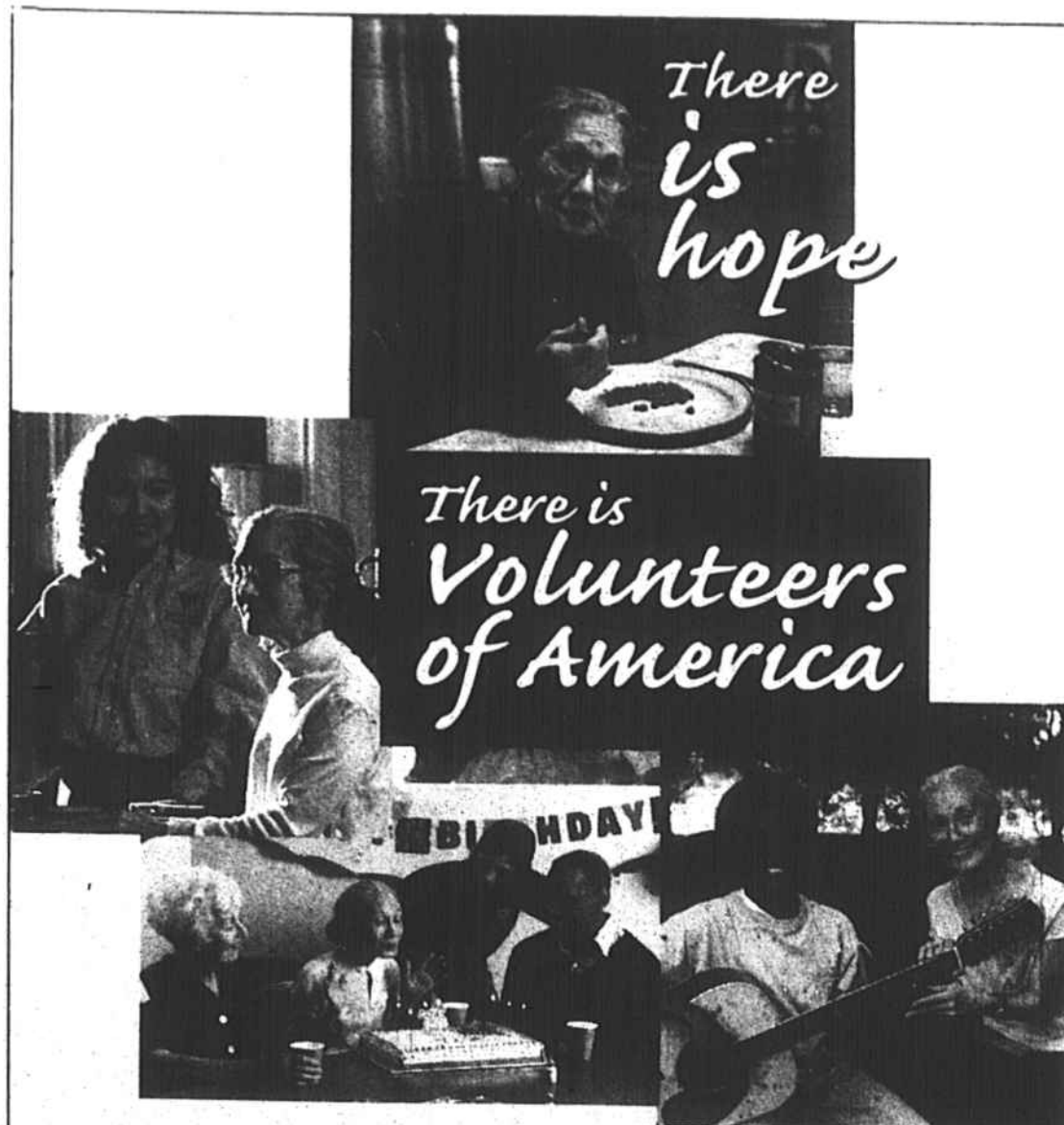
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