

# MPA Tribal NEWSLETTER

## GRADUATION 2007

### GREAT NEWS!!!

The MPA – Tribal Governance concentration has a full cohort for the first time since its inception. It seems like the word is getting out about the value of this program. If you have been thinking about joining our next cohort in the Fall of 2008 contact me soon. I have a hunch the seats will fill up earlier each year from now on, so submitting your application early will provide you a greater chance of admission.

We have a unique curriculum relevant to those of you who are working in a tribal setting or in a non-profit or public agency that interacts with Indian Country. Our course delivery system is designed to accommodate students who live at a distance from Olympia. The weekend intensive format is appropriate for people who work full-time. Most students finish the required 60 credits in two years.

The Tribal MPA program is created for present and future leaders interested in advancing both their careers and tribal administrative systems. It is also appropriate for people who work in some partnership capacity with tribal populations.

Native faculty members at Evergreen, Alan Parker and Linda Moon Stumpff, responded to requests from local tribal leaders to modify the existing MPA program to make it more appropriate to Indian Country. They did so by adding elements to the six MPA core courses and by developing five new Tribal Concentration classes.

If you are interested in joining the growing ranks of students who are accessing the benefits of this program please contact me by e-mail at [mccannam@evergreen.edu](mailto:mccannam@evergreen.edu) or by phone at 360.867.6202. I look forward to hearing from you.

Mike McCanna

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# RESERVATION BASED COMMUNITY DETERMINED GRADUATION

On Sunday, June 10th, 2007 The Reservation Based/Community Determined Program (RBCD) held their graduation before 225 guests. The Alaska Native Kuteeya dance troupe performed. Rochelle Warner, a Quileute tribal member and graduating senior, is a member of the troupe and it was a real treat to have them with us. The children of RBCD students, who attend day care during the Saturday classes, were led by graduating senior Eir Quester in the performance of several songs and dances.



The highlight of the day for all the guests and faculty was the graduation of 12 more students from the RBCD program with a Baccalaureate of Arts Degree. Each student is called forward and presented with a graduation certificate, by artist Roger Fernandez, a Lower Elwha artist. The graduation certificate image is owned by the RBCD program so that only people who have graduated from the program with a BA degree will have this image. The students are then wrapped with a Pendleton Blanket that is chosen by the student governance graduation committee. This year it was a Marvin Oliver, Quinalt artist limited edition blanket. Students earn the money for these blankets by extensive fundraising efforts.



**Helen getting robed**

This year marked the first graduation that celebrated students getting their Associate of Arts degree from our Bridge Program partner, Grays Harbor College. The TESC program partnered with the GHC program two years ago and is happy to see our first graduates. The graduates of the program received beautiful Pendleton bags which were also purchased through student fundraising efforts.

All of the students worked hard and it is always bittersweet to see them graduate. Often relatives recruit each other into school and these past years are no exception. Included in this year's ceremony were mother and daughter graduates: Cecile Vargas-Ralston and daughter Maranda James. All the students will be missed, but all their co-learners are proud of them as they set an example for those to follow.



**Maranda Rose James, Eir Quester,  
and Cecile Xy-Pams Vargas-Ralston**





**Bobbie Joe Jones**

## GRADUATES

### The Evergreen State College RBCD Program:

**Aliza Irene Brown**  
**Jarrood S. Dà**  
**Helen Iyall**  
**Maranda Rose James**  
**Anita Pedro**  
**Eir Quester**  
**Tonya Ritchie**  
**Jason Todd**  
**Cecile Xy-Pams Vargas-Ralston**  
**Dianne W. M. Walkup**  
**Rochelle Lynn Warner**  
**Arlene Wheeler**

### Grays Harbor AA Degree Bridge Program:

**Melissa A. Capoeman**  
**Bobbie Joe Jones**



**Rochelle Lynn Warner and Helen Iyall**



## RESERVATION-BASED PROGRAM STUDENTS PRESENT AT CONFERENCES

Three students in the Reservation-based program made presentations at conferences and other colleges spring quarter. Upper division Evergreen student Alan Hernandez (Potawatamie at Muckleshoot) spoke at Northwest Indian College to an all-faculty workshop on the Native Cases Project along with Allen Standingbear Jenkins and Barbara Leigh Smith. Kim Heller (Squaxin Island) spoke at the annual meeting of the Washington Indian Education Association about her experience learning through cases while Debbie Martin (Quinalt) addressed the Pacific Northwest Higher Education Teaching and Learning Conference in Vancouver, Washington.



**Debbie Martin**

# **HISTORIC AGREEMENT ON UNITED LEAGUE OF INDIGENOUS NATIONS TREATY**

Eleven Indigenous Nations, including representatives from the US, Canada, Aotearoa (New Zealand) and Australia, meeting on the homelands of the Lummi Indian Nation near Bellingham, Washington, concluded negotiations and reached agreement on an historic Treaty of Indigenous Nations on August 1, 2007.

MPA – Tribal Governance students, Katherine Canete, Redwing Cloud, Lona Dan, Lenny Dixon, Iris Friday, Melissa Parr, Jennifer LaPointe, Grace Moy and Chuck Wagner were present. Some of these students participated in a summer course with Alan Parker, Evergreen faculty and Acting Secretary to the United League of Indigenous Nations, which focused in part on the development of this historic treaty.

The Treaty establishes an international political and economic alliance to advance their common interests regarding the impacts of climate change on their homelands, to promote trade and commerce among Indigenous Nations, to bring their cultural properties under the protection of the laws of Indigenous Nations, to protect the human rights of Indigenous Peoples and to assert traditional rights to cross international borders.

The original signatory Indigenous Nations immediately called for the establishment of a United League of Indigenous Nations to be chartered under the law of the Lummi Nation and for the League to reach out to all Indigenous Nations in North America and the South Pacific. Indigenous Nations located across the US, Canada, Australia and on the Islands of Aotearoa will be asked to sign the Treaty and to join the League as equal members at a formal “Treaty Ratification Meeting” on November 15th, 2007, in Denver, Colorado. Invitations will then be extended to Indigenous Nations located in other parts of the globe. The Treaty was developed and proposed by the National Congress of American Indians’s Special Committee on Indigenous Nation Relationships following meetings with the Assembly of First Nations, Canada, the Mataatua Assembly of Maori Tribes of Aotearoa, (New Zealand) and the Ngarrindjeri Nations of South Australia. At the request of the NCAI Special Committee, the leadership of the Lummi Indian Nation agreed to host and convene the gathering of indigenous nation political leadership to discuss the Treaty. In developing the Treaty, the NCAI Special Committee determined that relationships between indigenous nations are defined by the laws of indigenous nations, not by the laws of former colonial nations. Such colonial laws are not regarded as binding on the ability of Indigenous Nations to recognize and affirm their inherent rights of self determination and self governance by entering into nation-to-nation agreements with each other for their mutual interest and benefit.

During their Treaty deliberations the Indigenous Nation delegates agreed:

- 1.) The Treaty will unify the voice of Indigenous Peoples, identify the impacts of climate change on our traditional homelands and seek independent representation of these concerns before international bodies.
- 2.) The Treaty will serve as a political alliance to assert the primacy of indigenous nation law regarding the definition of rights to the cultural properties, sacred objects and traditional knowledge base of each indigenous nation.
- 3.) The Treaty creates a structure to facilitate and regulate inter-tribal and inter-indigenous nation trade and commerce, an economic alliance for mutual support and benefit in the pursuit of indigenous nation self-sufficiency and sustainability.
- 4.) The Treaty will unify the efforts of member nations regarding border-crossing rights and in the protection of human rights.

To view the Treaty and for further information on the Treaty signatories see:

[www.IndigenousNationsTreaty.org](http://www.IndigenousNationsTreaty.org), or, contact either:

Alan Parker, Acting Secretary to the United League at 360.867.6889 or [parker.al@evergreen.edu](mailto:parker.al@evergreen.edu),  
or, Mr. Jewell James, Lummi Nation Policy Director, at 360.384.2337 or [jewellj@lummi-nsn.gov](mailto:jewellj@lummi-nsn.gov)

## SECOND NATIVE CASE WORKSHOP HELD

The second Native Case workshop was held at Little Creek Casino Resort June 26-29. Approximately 35 people attended from Evergreen, Northwest Indian College, Salish Kootenai College, Grays Harbor College, and as far away as Kansas State University and Thompson Rivers University in Canada. A special treat was having Phillip “Sam” Deloria and his wife, Vivian Arviso, among the participants. This year’s workshop drew upon the extensive Native case study collection that is being developed at Evergreen. Workshop participants learned how to teach and write cases. Shalin Hai-Jew and Mohammad Ibrahim, who teach online courses in the Grays Harbor reservation-based program, did presentations on their experience developing and using cases in their courses. For further information on the Native Cases project go to [www.evergreen.edu/tribal/cases](http://www.evergreen.edu/tribal/cases)



**Kayeri Akweks, Vivian Arviso, Philip (Sam) Deloria, Mohammad Ibrahim and Cheryl Simrell King**

## RBCD PROGRAM HAS OPENINGS

Evergreen’s Reservation Based/Community Determined program is recruiting students for the 2007-2008 academic year. Classes meet two nights a week at the program sites, which presently include Lower Elwha, Muckleshoot, Nisqually, Port Gamble and Quinault. Classes also meet one Saturday per month at the Longhouse on the Evergreen campus.

This year’s theme is Cultural Traditions in Transition: The Foundation for Sustainable Tribal Nations, and the fall quarter core course is Community Development and Social Services in Indian Country. For more information about the program contact the program’s co-directors: Michelle Aguilar-Wells at [aguilarm@evergreen.edu](mailto:aguilarm@evergreen.edu) or Jeff Antonelis-Lapp at [lappj@evergreen.edu](mailto:lappj@evergreen.edu), or leave a message at 360.867.6286. The program’s web site is [www.evergreen.edu/tribal](http://www.evergreen.edu/tribal).

For students with less than 90 credits who have similar ties to tribal communities, our partnership with Grays Harbor College allows students to earn a direct transfer Associate of Arts degree. Students do not go to Grays Harbor for classes, as the classes are a combination of online classes and the one Saturday per month at the Longhouse, with the Evergreen students. Anyone interested in the Grays Harbor College Bridge program should contact the program coordinator, Mark Ramon at [mramon@ghc.edu](mailto:mramon@ghc.edu) or 360.538.4090. The program’s web site is <http://www.ghc.ctc.edu/distance/reservation/>.



## MPA TRIBAL STUDENT HIGHLIGHT



Lucretia (Lucy) Yanez graduated from the Reservation Based/Community Determined program in June of 2006 and by Fall of '06 had been admitted to the 2006-08 cohort of the MPA - Tribal Governance concentration.

Lucy has a variety of work experience in both the public and private sectors. "I've worked for the City of Tumwater and the Los Angeles Housing Authority as well as Cushman & Wakefield and Tillamook Country Smoker." She is currently employed as Contracts Specialist for the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

Lucy's Pima / Maricopa tribal heritage provides a Southwest perspective. Our MPA – Tribal Governance concentration will always have a Northwest slant, but the educational experience is enhanced by the Native people from other regions who join our program.

Lucy says, "After completion of my first year in the program, it became abundantly clear that there were no straightforward resolutions for issues such as tribal citizenship, blood quantum and constitution reform. This program allows students from various backgrounds, not only tribal, to come together to discuss complex issues that are facing tribal leaders today.

"I have attended several colleges during my lifetime but none have affected me the way Evergreen has. I have learned to focus on collaborative methods of learning instead of taking statements and material at face value."

## MPA TRIBAL ALUMNI PROFILE



Jan Ward Olmstead is Barbareno Chumash and was born and raised in Santa Barbara, California until moving to the Pacific Northwest in 1977. She graduated from the MPA Tribal Governance program in 2006. She applied to TESC in her 40's following the influence of her dear friend, the late Sue Crystal.

Asked about the benefits of the MPA Tribal Governance program, she was clear, "It served as a unique means to accomplish my goal to build the expertise necessary to impact access to health care and health disparities. Also, enhancing my knowledge and skills in policy development and intergovernmental relations has been a benefit in my role with the state as well as in my own tribal community. I had taken several of the Tribal Concentration courses as an undergraduate and knew going in how valuable it was to have the opportunity to network and learn from my peers."

Jan currently serves as the Tribal Liaison/Community Health Care Collaborative Program Manager with the Washington State Health Care Authority. She is responsible for program and policy development in state-tribal relations, urban Indian programs, and community health care organizations. Her state service has included serving as Special Assistant to the Director of the Governor's Executive Policy Office, Governor's Executive Policy Assistant on Equity Issues, and Chair of the Interagency Affirmative Action Review Task Force.

Jan maintains a special interest in integrating cultural competencies in organizations and has continued her MPA work to develop a "unique tribal workforce competency model" for dynamic tribal organizations. In addition, she is working with TESC on two projects: the Sue Crystal Scholarship Program for the MPA Tribal Governance program with an emphasis in health care policy and the creation of the Tribal Alumni/Managers Association.

## NEW SHORT COURSE OFFERING: Funding Strategies for Cultural and Heritage Resources

Tina Kuckkahn, Director of the Evergreen Longhouse Education and Cultural Center, will be teaching a new short course which should be very helpful for many of our tribal students.

### Funding Strategies for Cultural and Heritage Resources

2 credits (1 weekend)

Friday, November 2 (5:00 – 9:00 pm);

Saturday & Sunday, November 3 – 4 (9:00 am – 5:00 pm)

Tina Kuckkahn 360.867.5344, kuckkaht@evergreen.edu)

CRN: 10626 (UG), 10625 (GR)

This course will provide an overview of fund development strategies for cultural and heritage resources. Content will include how to research and make application to a diverse array of funding sources, including federal, state, tribal, and private funding sources. The course will also explore key elements to building collaborative partnerships and financial accountability to funding sources. Although course content will not be limited to work in the non-profit sector, the course will include aspects of non-profit development that can apply across a wide spectrum of public service work.

**Tina Kuckkahn** is affiliated with both the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa (enrolled) and the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa tribes. She works with a multitude of Northwest Tribes in her roles at Evergreen. Tina is the project director, co-editor and co-author of the book “Hiteemlkiliiksixi” Within the Circle of the Rim: Nations Gathering on Common Ground (2002). She is also published in national journals such as The American Indian Quarterly. She holds a Juris Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin Law School and a Bachelor of Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the recipient of the highly competitive National Indian Fellowship, awarded by the U.S. Department of Education.



### OPPORTUNITY FOR GIVING

Many of our students struggle to make ends meet as they pursue the MPA – Tribal Governance degree. For this reason we have created a scholarship fund to assist them. After all, they will spend the rest of their careers assisting our Native communities. Our communities will be the beneficiaries of the work these students are doing. If you would like to help support the work our students are doing, please consider a donation to the MPA Tribal Scholarship Endowment.

There are several easy ways to do this. A check is a simple way to make a gift. Checks should be made out and mailed to:

**The Evergreen State College Foundation  
2700 Evergreen Pkwy NW  
Olympia, WA 98505**

MasterCard and VISA may be used to initiate a one-time gift or an automatic monthly, quarterly, or annual gift. You may make a secure credit card gift online, or call toll-free 800.781.7861 and speak with a staff member.

A quick, convenient way to support Evergreen is to move gifts from your bank account to Evergreen electronically. EFTs may also be a one-time gift or an automatic monthly, quarterly, or annual gift.

Faculty and staff of The Evergreen State College may have their gift automatically deducted from each paycheck.

Thank you for your support. For more information and other methods of giving, please contact:

**The Evergreen State College Foundation  
360.867.6322  
[www.evergreen.edu/give](http://www.evergreen.edu/give)**

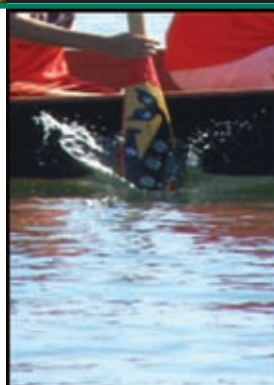


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"No right is more sacred to a nation, to a people, than the right to freely determine its social, economic, political and cultural future without external interference. The fullest expression of this right occurs when a nation freely governs itself. We call the exercise of this right Self-determination. The practice of this right is Self-government."

Joseph Burton DeLaCruz (1937-2000)

**Tribal Managers Association**  
**Informational Meeting at ATNI - Quinalt**  
**For details contact:**  
**Jan Ward-Olmstead**  
**[rjbessey@comcast.net](mailto:rjbessey@comcast.net)**  
**360.923.2803**



**3rd Gathering of Northwest**  
**Native Woodcarvers**  
**October 27-28, 2007**

The Longhouse  
Education & Cultural Center

For more information visit:  
[www.evergreen.edu/longhouse](http://www.evergreen.edu/longhouse)

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