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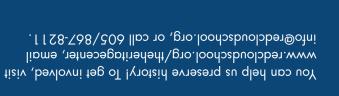


Indian School

Red Cloud

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PRESERVE A HISTORIC HEADDRESS



Sharing the stories of Red Cloud Indian School

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Summer 2013

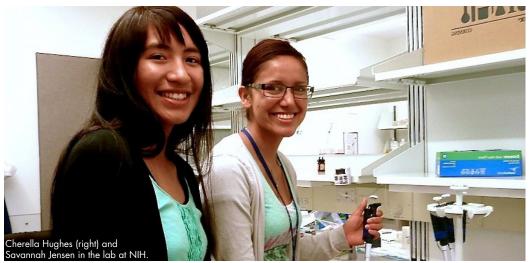
Volume 5, Issue 1

On a warm summer morning just outside Washington, DC, Red Cloud graduate Cherella Hughes '12 is in her lab at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), examining proteins that could one day identify new treatments for brain disorders like Alzheimer's

A few buildings away, Red Cloud senior Savannah Jensen '14 is peering through a microscope at thin slices of brain tissue, assessing whether delicate neurons can be healed to reverse serious nerve damage.

And Danielle Locust '08, in her sixth summer studying at NIH, has scrubbed in to brain surgery—but in a few hours will be back in her own lab collecting data on how virus-infected cells respond to a new multiple sclerosis drug.

BREAKING BARRIERS IN SCIENCE



These young women from Pine Ridge are part of an intensive summer training program for brain and nervous system research at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) at NIH. And for each, the opportunity represents a major step toward attaining their common goal: a career in the sciences.

Red Cloud has spent the last several years investing new and innovative resources into its science program, thanks to countless individuals across the country and a generous grant from the Toyota USA Foundation. Along with a more rigorous curriculum, students now have access to state-of-the-art lab equipment to test their theories and analyze their data. Beyond the classroom walls, Red Cloud science students presented their research at national conferences in New Mexico, Alaska and Arizona, competed in an Intel-sponsored international science fair, and spent their summers pursuing new research at the University of Wisconsin and the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, among others. And the results speak for themselves.

"It was like a dream," says Savannah, recounting what it was like to attend her first national conference of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society. "I was exposed to so many educated Native Americans—and that got me excited."

Although she's just 18 years old, Savannah knows exactly what she wants to do with her future. "I plan to become a physician. I really want to help people—to be a family doctor with the Indian Health Service (IHS) here on Pine Ridge.

Savannah's science teacher and mentor Wendell Gehman believes she is well on her way. "She's an amazing student, and an extraordinary example of what our students are capable of achieving, now and in their future careers," says Wendell, also the chair of Red Cloud's science department. "Native Americans are vastly underrepresented in the science, technology, engineering and math fields. We can play a real role in changing that."

While Savannah is looking forward to finishing her senior year at Red Cloud, Cherella and Danielle are working toward their medical careers in college. All three are thrilled at the idea of breaking barriers in science. But they also remain committed to returning to Pine Ridge to serve their community and their people.

"I care so much about my people and I want to help improve their health," explains Cherella. She says she was shocked to learn there were no Native pharmacists at the IHS in Pine Ridge, where her mother works as a nurse. It's an issue she wants to correct through her own career.

Danielle plans to become a doctor—a decision inspired by personal experience. "My dad has rheumatoid arthritis, so I grew up having to take care of him, watching the disease take over," she says. "Going to the hospital with him motivated me to want to become a doctor. Because of Pine Ridge's remote location, recruiting doctors to come and stay is a major issue. I want to be a solution. "

Dr. Rita Devine, assistant director for science administration at NINDS and mentor to Savannah, Cherella and Danielle, knows they will change the medical field for the better.

"Their perseverance and tenacity are impressive, and it will give them a lot of strength if they can meld their Native heritage with western medicine and science," she says. "I'm as proud as can be of these women—they will be a force to be reckoned with. And with a strong education, they'll be unstoppable."

An Advocate for Her People

Rilda Means '08 speaks honestly and openly about what life is like growing up on the Pine Ridge Reservation. She says the dark sides—including depression and substance abuse—are everywhere. But according to Rilda, there is more than enough strength, resilience and beauty on Pine Ridge to overcome despair. And she is determined to share that with the world.

"Growing up on Pine Ridge is hard, but in a lot of ways it's really good. The challenges here can help you realize what you want and need to do to achieve your dreams," she explains. "My dream was never to become a statistic. It's always been to help my people."

As a young student at Red Cloud, Rilda knew she wanted to fight the devastating statistics that face Pine Ridge: 80 percent of residents are unemployed, 49 percent live below the poverty line, and only 12 percent have a college degree. She thought she would fulfill her dream of changing those statistics by becoming a teacher like her mother. But one night, watching television with her mom, her imagination was captured by arguments in a courtroom drama.

"I fell in love with how the attorneys defended people! And I turned around and said, 'Mom, I'm going to be a lawyer.'"

Rilda began to think more and more about becoming an attorney. And she credits her teachers at Red Cloud with giving her the drive and confidence to pursue her dreams.

"I can name all my Red Cloud teachers, kindergarten through high school, because each was so kind and positive. They believe in us. And that's what we need, so that we can believe in ourselves."

Rilda first learned about practicing tribal law—and becoming an advocate for her people—while participating in a summer study program in Colorado. When her supervisor heard she wanted to be an attorney, she pointed Rilda to Boulder's Native American Rights Fund, one of the nation's premier American Indian advocacy organizations.

"When I learned the Native American Rights Fund was very involved in the Black Hills land claim I got so excited! So I visited the office and told their staff my plans, and they got excited for me, suggesting that I intern there. I even met one of their main lawyers—and he was so inspiring. It's my dream place to work."

Since then, Rilda has been busy working toward her dream job while pursuing her degree in political science and American Indian studies at Black Hills State University. Even during college,



Rilda actively advocated for her fellow Native students, serving as a mentor and organizing cultural awareness events.

on Red Cloud's campus, serving in the Office of Community Relations while she prepares to begin a master's program in Lakota Leadership. And law school is next on her list. She plans to focus

Today Rilda is back

her legal studies on protecting tribal water and land rights

Rilda says she will always continue to tell the world that Pine Ridge—her home—is a place of unique beauty and strength.

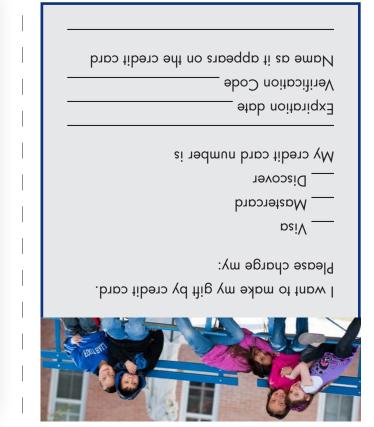
"Lakota people are probably the kindest you'll ever meet," she explains. "They'll give what they have to others and go without. I want to spread that awareness."

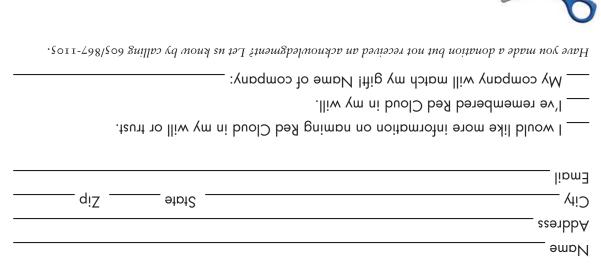


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605/867-1105 ext. 300





and provide for Lakota students on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Enclosed please find my gift of \$ to help Red Cloud continue to educate

dear fr. Seorge,

Growing up on the Rosebud Reservation, Veronica Valandra always dreamed of serving her community through her church. That dream came true when she became the Director of Native American Ministries in the Diocese of Rapid City. Veronica spent over a decade working to "ensure the needs of Native Americans in the Church are recognized, understood and addressed." Now, as Red Cloud's new Pastoral Coordinator, she will bring her commitment and wisdom to Pine Ridge Red Cloud Country sat down with Veronica as she reflected on her experience in Native ministry and on her hopes for the future.

LEADING THE WAY IN NATIVE MINISTRY Veronica Valandra

Red Cloud Country: Veronica, welcome! What drew you to this new role? Veronica Valandra: I've always wanted the opportunity to work for the Church on a very local level—to interact each

day with individual parishioners, to visit the sick, and to work with those who cannot leave their homes. Really to bring the Church to those who need it most. And now I'll finally be able to do that in local communities all across Pine Ridge. I'm so glad to be here.

RCC: Talk about what it means to be involved in Native ministries. What has inspired your work?

VV: Native people represent a very important voice in the Church, and that voice must be heard, understood and welcomed. A lot of my work has focused on educating non-Native people helping them to understand the Lakota ceremonies and blessings that are part of an inculturated Mass. There are still those who aren't completely comfortable when we bring a drum group, or sing

the four directions song in Mass—and that includes some Lakota elders, who were taught you had to choose between Mass and your Native beliefs and practices. It is critical for us all to recognize that bringing Native culture into our faith only makes it more rich and beneficial.

RCC: You've also advocated for Native Catholics around the country.

VV: Back in 1987, Pope John Paul II came to the U.S. and spoke about the importance of celebrating Native culture and allowing it to enrich the Catholic faith. To support the Pope's vision for inclusion, I had the chance to serve as one of three Native American representatives to the Conference of Catholic Bishops'

> National Advisory Council from 2006 to 2009. It was wonderful to have a stronger voice for American Indians in the Church But still, we had to constantly educate our peers. Many people from all types of ethnic groups still believe that Native Americans

live in tipis and ride horses. We emphasized that in the United States there are over 550 different tribes, each with its own unique culture and gifts.

RCC: There are significant challenges facing Catholic parishes today. What can our community do?

W: I think one important step we can take is investing in training programs for Lakota lay leaders—to bring new, Native leadership into the Church. Recently, I spoke with a young man who felt he had a strong calling to be a deacon. We need to encourage and support people like him.

RCC: With such a range of challenges, where do you want to begin?

W: Right now, my main priority is just to listen. I want to be visible and supportive to pastoral staff, and to listen to parishioners and begin to understand their needs and concerns. Only with that understanding can we build a vision for how the parish moves forward.



As I write to you today, American flags across the state of South Dakota fly at half-staff to honor Oglala Lakota Chief Oliver Red Cloud, who died on July 4 at age 93. A fourth generation descendent of our founder and namesake, the historic Chief Red Cloud, Oliver Red Cloud was a fierce defender of Native treaty rights and Lakota culture. Like his great-grandfather, Oliver Red Cloud devoted his life to advocating for his people.

Chief Oliver's passing is a great loss for the Lakota, but also for our entire Red Cloud Indian School community. He believed, as his great-great-grandfather did, that education is crucial to empowering the Lakota people. Over the decades, he offered his friendship and counsel and supported our efforts to provide a high-quality, holistic education to Lakota children here on the Pine Ridge Reservation.



Chief Oliver shared our core mission of inspiring the next generation of Lakota leaders—strong young people prepared to create positive change in their local community, across the nation and around the world. It is the same mission that prompted Chief Red Cloud to work with the Jesuits to found this institution. And 125 years later, it fills me with hope to know we are fulfilling that mission.

Red Cloud students and graduates are lighting the world on fire. As you will read in these pages, this summer three Red Cloud students are researching devastating brain disorders at the National Institutes of Health. Autumn White Eyes '10 was awarded a competitive community service fellowship this summer, and chose "to give back to the community I grew up in." And Rilda Means '08 has come back to Red Cloud while she prepares for her next big move: law school.

Students like Rilda and Autumn represent the next generation of Lakota leaders. And you can help make their dreams a reality by returning the gift form attached here. Or, consider including Red Cloud in your will, using the following sample language: 1. Outright gift of a predetermined amount: "I give to Red Cloud

Indian School, Inc. the sum of \$_____.

2. Outright gift of a share of residuary estate: "I give, devise and bequeath to Red Cloud Indian School, Inc. all (or a pecentage) of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate."

Your legal advisor may need the following: Our legal name is Red Cloud Indian School, Inc. and our address is 100 Mission Drive, Pine Ridge, SD, 57770-2100. Our Tax ID number is 46-0275071. Red Cloud is a recognized taxexempt nonprofit, religious, educational institution.

Regardless of its form, your gift will help us empower Lakota children here on Pine Ridge. If you need additional information, please reach out to us at 605/867-1105, ext. 300 or visit us at www.redcloudschool.org.

Many blessings,

Fr. Deorge Wingenburg 59

Fr. George Winzenbura. S.I.

When Mary Bordeaux arrived at Red Cloud in 2004 to become The Heritage Center's new curator, she knew the collection was one-of-a-kind.

Made up of almost 10,000 pieces of historic and contemporary Native art, The Center's permanent collection rivals those of the nation's leading American Indian art museums. But Bordeaux explains it's not just the quality of the collection that make it unique.

"What's really extraordinary is that we hold an excellent Native art collection—that is actually housed on a reservation. Right here on Pine Ridge, community members can come and experience a collection of this caliber," she explains. "Providing that community access and sharing the arts is the real reason we're here."

Discovering A World of Native Art on Pine Ridge

It is this commitment to the local community that has defined The Heritage Center from the very start. It began as an art show aimed at highlighting the talent of local artists. As founding director Brother C.M. Simon S.J. purchased contemporary pieces from each show, local families and private collectors donated thousands of pieces of historical Lakota art. Eventually, a strong permanent collection took shape—and The Heritage Center was born.

From 1969 until Bordeaux's arrival, the collection grew to nearly 10,000 pieces of art spanning more than two centuries. But without systems for cataloging and preservation, it was in complete disarray.

"Brother Simon had the wisdom and vision to know what this collection could become. But he was only one person and didn't have the resources to care for such a large collection," says Bordeaux. "We had wood shelving that attracts bugs and emits destructive fumes, as well as the constant threat of damage from moisture. It was heartbreaking to see some truly priceless pieces in disrepair. And when Brother Simon unexpectedly passed away, we lost a great deal of information that only he possessed."

Reconstructing that knowledge is an ongoing process, and Bordeaux knows it will take time. But she says its thrilling to have elders and community members visit and recognize a piece from the collection. She is amazed at how often they can share a personal story about the artist and their inspiration.

Just the process of cataloging the collection took five years to complete. Bordeaux and then-Director Peter Strong began by establishing collections policies and new methods for preservation, with critical and generous funding from the Institute for Museum and Library Services and the Bush Foundation.

What they uncovered was a remarkable contribution to the Native art world. The collection holds a top hat owned by the famed Oglala Lakota Chief American Horse, as well as a series of priceless Lakota "leader shirts"—worn by recognized leaders of a tiospaye or extended family group. And in addition to Native history, the collection tells the story of contemporary Native art as few others can.

"The Heritage Center holds one of only three or four collections in the world that can show the evolution of fine Native American art since the 1960's. And it has played a major role in developing and encouraging Lakota and other Native artists," says Tatiana Lomahaftewa-Singer, curator of collections at the Museum of Contemporary Native Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

"It's a nationally significant cultural institution that focuses on uplifting a local community. That's a rare combination, and it deserves to be treasured."

Although the process of cataloging was painstaking, for Bordeaux, who now serves as The Center's interim director, it was a labor of love.

"We've made it possible for people here on Pine Ridge to see and appreciate the art that comes from their culture, without having to go to Washington, DC or Los Angeles," she explains.

Today the collection continues to grow, and with growth comes new challenges. Collections Manager Mary Maxon, who has worked in museums for 25 years, says caring for it is a tremendous responsibility.

"We hold some really priceless pieces. Right now we're cleaning a delicate full-length feather headdress. We're doing our best on preservation, but it will take more resources in the long run," explains Maxon. "It's critical these pieces be saved for future generations."

And next, The Heritage Center will embark on its biggest challenge yet: developing a new physical space to house the collection and share it with more visitors.

"We want The Heritage Center to belong to the people in this community—and to be a gathering place, alive with performances, workshops and exhibits. We're launching new educational programming that will bring entire classrooms into the collection. And new space will allow us to do so much more," says Bordeaux. "By sharing our artistic heritage, there's no doubt we can build a stronger, healthier community."

RED CLOUD INDIAN ART SHOW **CELEBRATES** 45 YEARS

Thousands of visitors made the trip to Pine Ridge this summer for the 45th annual Red Cloud Indian Art Show—the largest and longest running Native American art show of its kind in the country, and one of only a few held on a reservation.



To learn more about the show and to view works by the winners, visit The Heritage Center online at www.redcloudschool.org/ theheritagecenter.

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wopila!

Among the Lakota people, gratitude is one of the seven basic virtues. Another is generosity Red Cloud is humbly grateful for your generous prayers and gifts that provided:



Future college graduates. This spring, our high school seniors proudly walked across the graduation stage with a solid education and a vision for their future. Your support does more than keep the doors open and the lights on—it allows us to be innovative with our courses and comprehensive with our extracurricular activities. Wopila!

Summer Learning. Through your support, our students have access to auality summer school programming that helps them maintain their academic skills and prepare for the year ahead, all while having fun. Wopila!

Healthy Meals. Our students are able to focus on their studies because they are not focused on their stomachs. You provided a complete breakfast, a healthy lunch and an after-school snack. Wopila!

Economic Impact. The Heritage Center adds \$100,000 to the local reservation economy by purchasing items from local artists and selling them through our internationally recognized gift shop. By buying from our gift shop and online store, you allow us to foster and encourage the Lakota artists of today and tomorrow. Wopila!





Celebrating Our 125th Anniversary!

This October, Red Cloud will begin a year-long celebration to mark our 125th anniversary – and we want you to be a part of it! If you have memories of visiting our campus and the Pine Ridge Reservation, or reflections on what you hope we can achieve in our next 125 years, please share them with us in the space below. Or, email us at info@redcloudschool.org. We can't wait to hear from you!