



Let's Catch Up!

Students Take Part in Ceremonial Buffalo Kill

On a recent frosty morning on the reservation, students gathered with staff from Red Cloud's Spiritual Formation and Lakota Studies departments for a traditional ceremony. Coordinated by two of their classmates with the help of their Lakota Studies teacher, kindergarten through 12th graders witnessed the ceremonial harvesting of *thiatthianka*.

"When I was a freshman we did this and I really liked it," said Bailey. "I've always been a hunter, so I wanted to help do this for the school and get back into our culture."

More online at www.redcloudschool.org/news



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Supporting Achievement through Innovative Curriculum

Having conducted a gap analysis alongside faculty from Bridgewater State University, Red Cloud's Director of Curriculum and Assessment, Moira Peskamp, set out to develop and implement achievement and fluency goals that will enable our graduates to continue to enroll in the college of their choice and be further prepared to meet or exceed national college success rates.

In January, faculty utilized this roadmap in a day of professional development focused on taking students' research, critical thinking and articulation skills to the next level.



Red Cloud Student Earns Prestigious Scholarship

'Tis the season for acceptance letters and scholarship offers. Both continue to arrive daily and, for one senior, it has meant a new world of possibility.

Red Cloud Indian School senior Jaime Richards '15 has earned the prestigious Horatio Alger Scholarship. The competitive award supports deserving young people who have overcome challenges in their lives in order to pursue higher education.

For Jaime, this means she's one step closer to achieving her dream of going to college and becoming a healthcare professional.

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Sharing the stories of Red Cloud Indian School

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Spring 2015

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This year The Heritage Center at Red Cloud Indian School celebrates the 47th Red Cloud Indian Art Show. The show began in 1969 and, with the help of dedicated staff and a steady flow of talent from Northern American Native communities, it has grown into an internationally-recognized annual event that brings together emerging and seasoned artists in one of the only reservation-based fine art shows in the country.

Donald F. Montileaux is one of those seasoned artists. He has seen the show grow firsthand and, perhaps, understands its value more than anyone.

"Back in the late 1960's, Red Cloud was recruiting students from the Institute of American Indian Arts, where I was a student," says Montileaux. "I entered that year. And every year for the next 46 years."

Montileaux says that he has stuck with the show for nearly half a century because it has enabled him to not only grow, but sustain his career.

At this year's opening, Montileaux looks forward to meeting the next generation of young artists and encouraging them to grow and develop, just as the teachers and mentors he met at the early art shows did for him. "I had a lot of help when I was younger," he says. "I want to do that for others now."

As the art show grew from its humble beginnings in Red Cloud Indian School's gymnasium to be recognized alongside exhibits like the Santa Fe Indian Market and the Heard Museum Guild Indian Fair & Market, Montileaux grew as well, all the while maintaining a strong sense of place and perspective.

"I've always felt an ownership of the show itself, I think, because I'm from the

Stroke by Stroke

"Having those younger artists nipping at my heels—they really make me approach my art in a better way. I'm always challenged by them and always want to stay ahead of the game, but I want to help them too."

-Donald F. Montileaux

BLENDING FAITH

If you were to visit Red Cloud Indian School, chances are you would be treated to a tour by Rilda Means '08 or Jimi LaPointe '03. You might start your tour in the award-winning Holy Rosary Church. And after a walk back through time, recounting notable events in the life of Chief Red Cloud and his interactions with the Blackrobes, you would learn about the unique Stations of the Cross lining the perimeter of the circular church.

Local Lakota artists were commissioned to create each station depicting Jesus through his journey toward crucifixion—and later resurrection.

Unique to this collection, though, is the



5th Station: Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus to Carry his Cross by Donald D. Ruleaux

imagery that beautifully marries Catholic and Lakota spiritualities.

Roman soldiers, often shown in metal armor are depicted in some paintings as Crow warriors. In others, they are 7th Cavalry soldiers, also known as General Custer's men. Both the Crow warriors and 7th Cavalry soldiers are traditional enemies of the Lakota people. You will also notice Jesus depicted as a Lakota man.

In a church with walls lined in Black Hills Pine and stained glass windows resembling star quilts, the stations are just one of the many ways Red Cloud Indian School honors its Lakota-Catholic heritage.

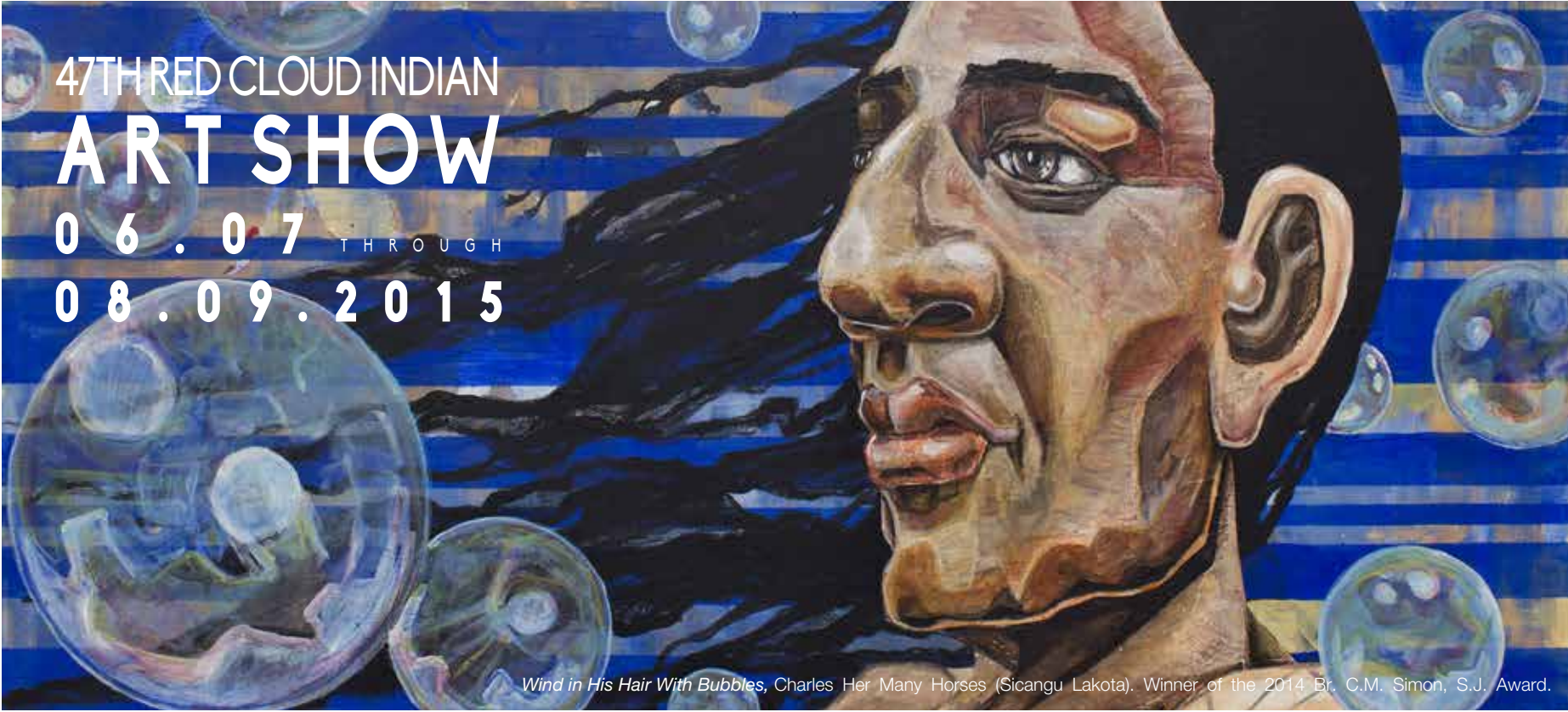


Hope. Alive.

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605/867-1105 ext. 2300



Wind in His Hair With Bubbles, Charles Her Many Horses (Sicangu Lakota). Winner of the 2014 Br. C.M. Simon, S.J., Award.

dear fr. george,

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

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An Infusion of Spirit

Easter and Lenten celebrations are hallmarks of the Catholic faith and take place in communities around the world. While all Catholics celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and catechumens receive the same sacraments of initiation, many communities infuse their own spirit into celebration and prayer. Red Cloud’s Lakota-Catholic parish of six active churches is no exception.

Here on the Pine Ridge Reservation congregants will also hear the sound of a traditional Lakota drum and smell the earthy, purifying aroma of prairie sage.

“I think the beauty of the Lakota-Catholic tradition is simply that you can be both,” says Ann-Marie Amiotte, parishioner at Our Lady of the Sioux Church in Oglala. “Many of us incorporate traditional Lakota ways into the Catholic ceremonies—like smudging with sage to bring in the season of Lent. You’ll also see star quilts on the altar and you’ll likely hear the Lakota language spoken.”

At Amiotte’s parish, a small but beautiful church nestled into the nearby community of Oglala, Jesuit priests open with prayers spoken entirely in Lakota.

“I’ve noticed Fr. De Marco has been adding a little more Lakota at the beginning before the Sign of the Cross,” says Amiotte. “The language is very much a part of all the Catholic Masses here—it feels inclusive.”

Just south of the Red Cloud campus in the heart of the town of Pine Ridge, Pastoral Associate and Office Manager Angie Stover says her team works with elders to determine the most respectful ways to incorporate Lakota and Catholic traditions.

“We have spoken with our elders and have recently decided to do a ‘call to prayer,’ sung in Lakota by a young man,” says Stover. “It’s a traditional Lakota song that says to come and pray at the tree—this image is similar to the cross and the song harkens to that.”

Stover, who has served Sacred Heart Church for 13 years, says that parishioners are always singing hymns in Lakota—hymns that are inserted right into their books, side-by-side with their English counterparts. But for many of the parishioners, there is something special about hearing it sung in Lakota.

“When we hear a traditional Lakota song being sung we immediately quiet ourselves and pay respect,” continues Stover. “We put ourselves in a place of sacredness and holiness; a mode of reverence. The songs are easy to learn in Lakota. A lot of our elders like to hear those songs—and we’re really good at [singing them]! Come visit and you’ll hear that everyone really sings!”

Raven Gray graduated from Red Cloud High School in 2011 with an acceptance to the University of Oklahoma and a Gates Millennium Scholarship in hand. Today she’s putting both to good use as a fourth-year Oklahoma student majoring in Women’s and Gender Studies with a focus in Pre-Nursing.

Balancing school, friends, work and a long list of extra-curricular activities — “School comes first above *everything!*” — Raven took some time to sit down with Red Cloud Country to catch up on life after Red Cloud and her plans for the future!

Taking Matters into Her Own Hands

Red Cloud Country: You are one of the few Red Cloud graduates to venture to the University of Oklahoma. What took you there?

Raven Gray: Actually, my grandparents fell in love down here! I guess I have just always had a tie to this place – whether I knew it or not. When my grandmother passed away I found a key chain of hers that said “[Oklahoma] Sooners” so I looked further into it.

When I arrived on campus I felt this vibe I hadn’t felt anywhere else. I also knew there would be a lot of Native students. My good friends come from tribes in the area – they’re Creek, Pawnee, Comanche and others. It feels like a home away from home.

RCC: Did anything surprise you once you arrived?

RG: All of the opportunities! I had so many opportunities at Red Cloud, but there is so much you can do here; so much more diversity. I like that I meet people from all over. I have friends at work from South Africa and another friend from Nigeria. I’m meeting people from Texas and Oklahoma – Native and non-Native. I am learning a lot about other cultures.

Also, I started as a biochemistry major but I fell in love with an elective I was taking my freshman year called Introduction to Women and Gender Studies. Since I want to work in the healthcare system, I found a way to blend my interests. I want to be a midwife and this Major focus will allow me to do that.

RCC: And I understand you’ll be returning to Red Cloud this summer to work as a tour guide?

RG: I sure will. You learn some history of the school and how it works when you’re a student, but you never really know the depth of what goes on here in the same way you do as a tour guide. I have been back to help out at Red Cloud in some capacity every year since I left. On my winter break each year I call donors to thank them for what they do to keep Red Cloud going. It’s really great to interact with our donors like that – especially since they help to keep the school running. Obviously they helped me in numerous ways.

And in the summer I get to meet donors in person when they come for a tour. [Being a tour guide] you meet a variety of people who are in love with Red Cloud the way you are. It is an amazing feeling to know you touch their hearts the way that they touched yours.

RCC: We look forward to having you back!

RG: I’ll be back for the long-term soon. It is encouraging to see more people on the reservation really pushing education and now they’re pushing to take care of our land – and our community, too. My classmate Dave Means (RCIS Class of 2011) was home for spring break from the University of Arizona and he spent his time there organizing a trash clean up of the skate park.

Dave said he was going to do something and he did it. That’s what I want to be a part of. People come together in Pine Ridge. I see our community growing stronger; building things up. It’s really amazing.

More on the incredible progress of our alumni at www.redcloudschool.org/people



dear friends,

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” I wish the words were my own. They are, of course, those of Margaret Mead, noted anthropologist and women’s rights activist. Often as I walk across our campus, they echo through my mind.

Day in and day out I see the commitment of people like Fr. Dave De Marco, S.J. and Angie Stover who are devoting tireless time and energy to making a truly inculturated Lakota-Catholic Mass for our community. I hear updates on Raven Gray ’11, who is well on her way to advancing healthcare on the reservation and, like Margaret Mead, women’s rights nationally. I learn of artist Don F. Montileaux who is doing for others what has been done for him: giving direction to yet-unknown potential.

Then there is you—our friend and partner across the country.

A year ago I wrote to you about a little girl named Gabby who needed to get to school on a warm, reliable bus. Today she is on that bus. In fact, she and four busloads of our students are traveling in brand new buses that will last well into the coming decades. And it is because of you – a thoughtful group of committed citizens who are changing the world.

Our buses are carrying precious cargo—our next Raven, Don and Angie. Perhaps, even, our next Fr. Dave.

Their potential is limitless; their impact is real. And so is yours.

There are countless ways to support our community and make a much needed impact on lives here. I hope you will continue to spread light and love by sharing a will or legacy gift with us, using this language:

- 1. I give to Red Cloud Indian School, Inc. ____% of my estate.
- 2. I give to Red Cloud Indian School, Inc. the sum of \$ ____.
- 3. I give, devise and bequeath to Red Cloud Indian School, Inc. all (or a percentage) of the rest, and remainder of my estate.”

By including Red Cloud in your estate plans, you will become a member of the Red Cloud Legacy Society. We consider you a member of our Red Cloud Indian School family—or *Maḥpiya Lúta Owáyawa Thiyóšpaye*—and you will receive a pin as a token of our heartfelt appreciation. Our legal name is Red Cloud Indian School, Inc. and our Tax ID Number is 46-0275071. Red Cloud is a recognized tax-exempt non-profit, religious, educational institution.

Because of friends and supporters like you, we are creating transformative change on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Please help us continue that journey into the next 125 years. We simply cannot do it without you.

With blessings for a wonderful spring,

Fr. George Winzenburg SJ

Fr. George Winzenburg, S.J., President



Hungry for more?

More happens in a just few months at Red Cloud than we could even begin to include in our newsletter! Keep updated on all the great progress you are making happen each and every day by signing up for our e-mail updates. We will send you all the latest news and action from campus.

Just send this slip back in with the tear-away envelope to the right and we will get you set up!

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BY the NUMBERS

4 Buses purchased in 2014, through the help of partners around the country.

58 Community-building programs hosted by The Heritage Center since January of this year.

17 Catechumens who entered the Church this Easter Sunday through pastoral efforts.

161 College acceptance letters received as of the end of April —with more on the way!

10 Student-athletes honored by the Denver Nuggets with a trip to Colorado for an NBA game and pre-game workout.



Keep us moving! It’s only because of friends like you that Red Cloud can keep its buses moving—and keep students learning and growing in our classrooms.

To learn how you can help, visit redcloudschool.org/buses

(detach here, moisten glue strip and seal)