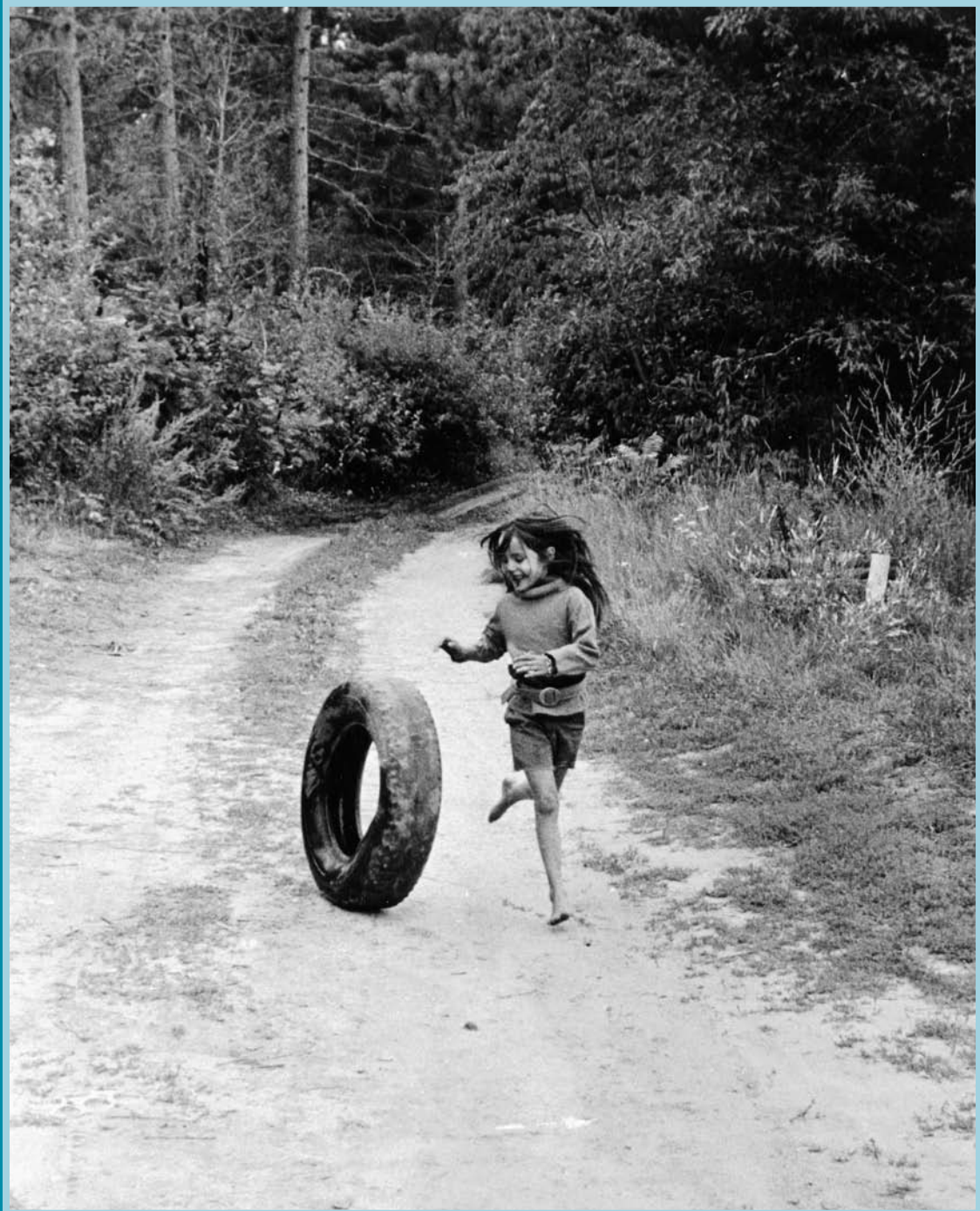


Bush Foundation

Giving **STRENGTH**

for Vibrant Communities and Vital Leadership



Volume 3, Issue 2

May 2006



The Bush Foundation improves the quality of life in its geographic region through strengthening organizational, community and individual leadership. To accomplish this, the Foundation invests in courageous and effective leadership that significantly strengthens and improves the well-being of the region's people.

In this issue of *Giving Strength*, we learn from the insights of individual Native leaders. Their vision, creativity and determination are catalysts for bettering their Native communities while improving the greater public's understanding of Native peoples.

Leaders are made, not born. Leaders are not just educated; they are those who use their education to soar to new heights. Who do you think of when you think of a leader and why? For me, it is the person who dares to face life's challenges and tackle its problems; when they are involved, solutions arise and the well-being of communities improves.

It has been said that an American Indian reservation is a place where hope goes to die. These stories illustrate in a most wonderful and personal way that individuals can and do make a difference in the lives of others, and that hope is alive in Indian Country. Leaders like these develop their personal skills and place service before self. They recognize the community's needs, offer creative and realistic solutions and follow through to make them happen. These leaders not only think, they act.

Dwight Gourneau (BLF'90) is Turtle Mountain Chippewa, a director of the Bush Foundation and the chair of the National Museum of the American Indian.



On our front and back covers are images from the Red Lake Indian Reservation taken by Charles Brill. He was a photographer for the *Minneapolis Tribune* in the early 1960s when he was invited to a powwow at Red Lake.

Captivated by the culture, he returned to the Reservation many times between 1964 and 1969 and took thousands of photos, including the one at left of Fanny Wind of Ponemah, Minnesota, born in 1887, with her granddaughter, Ida Black.

In 1971, some 160 of Brill's photos were collected in *Indian and Free*. He expressed an urgency to capture a people and their way of life that was dramatically changing even in 1970s. A 1992 edition of this book was retitled *Red Lake Nation: Portraits of Ojibway Life*.

Brill, who died in 2003, left the newspaper and taught photojournalism at Kent State University in Ohio for 30 years.

Photographs courtesy of Mrs. Charles (Jan) Brill

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Bush Foundation

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If you would like to be added to the mailing list for *Giving Strength*, please email us at givingstrength@bushfoundation.org or call (651) 227-0891.

Calendar

May 2006

Medical Fellows finalists’ seminar (12th-13th)
Artist and Medical Fellows announced

July 2006

Grant proposal deadline for November consideration (1st)
Bush Foundation Board of Directors meets (13th)
Bush Foundation Board of Directors retreat (13th)

August 2006

Ecological health letters of inquiry deadline (15th)
Artist Fellows applications available
Leadership and Artist Fellows information meetings

September 2006

Large Cultural Organizations Development Fund II letters of intent deadline (1st)
Medical Fellows applications available
Leadership and Artist Fellows information meetings
Medical Fellows alumni meeting

October 2006

Leadership Fellows applications due
Artist Fellows applications due

November 2006

Grant proposal deadline for March consideration (1st)
Bush Foundation Board of Directors meets (2nd)
Preliminary Regional Arts Development Program II applications deadline (15th)

December 2006

Ecological health letters of inquiry deadline (15th)

January 2007

Regional Arts Development Program II applicants for full proposals selected (15th)

February 2007

Leadership and Artist Fellows finalists selected

March 2007

Grant proposal deadline for July consideration (1st)
Medical Fellows applications deadline (1st)
Bush Foundation Board of Directors meets (6th)
Medical Fellows finalists selected

April 2007

Large Cultural Organizations Development Fund II letters of intent deadline (1st)
Ecological health letters of inquiry deadline (15th)
Leadership Fellows finalists’ seminar
Leadership Fellows announced
Artist Fellows final panel meets

Highlights of 2005

Bush Foundation Board of Directors

William P. Pierskalla, Chair
Ivy S. Bernhardson
Wilson G. Bradshaw
Shirley M. Clark¹
Dudley Cocke
Roxanne Givens Copeland
L. Steven Goldstein
Dwight A. Gourneau
Esperanza Guerrero-Anderson
Robert J. Jones
Jan Malcolm
Tim Mathern²
Diana E. Murphy¹
John M. Murphy, Jr.²
Catherine V. Piersol
Gordon M. Sprenger
Kathryn H. Tunheim

¹ Term Ended April 30, 2006

² Term Began May 1, 2006

Bush Foundation Staff

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Kathi Polley
Connie Sangren
Connie S. Thompson
Victoria Tirrel
Nancy Weidler

*Retired

Welcome to our annual report issue of *Giving Strength*. You can view a complete financial summary of this past grantmaking year online, but highlights include:

- We distributed \$30.3 million to grantees in grants that ranged from \$5,000 to \$2 million.
- Our distribution of dollars across program areas was consistent with previous years.
- We had a slight increase in grants to outstate Minnesota and the Dakotas, primarily due to our recent attempts to be more attentive to the needs of communities in the rural areas of our region.
- Our endowment grew to \$796 million compared to \$732 million in 2004.

More important than the numbers, of course, are the people and organizations that benefited from these grants. Three of the most significant program activities of the past year were:

- *An evaluation and restructuring of the Regional Arts Development Program and its reauthorization for the next 10 years.* New elements include additional planning and more careful staging of activities to strengthen participating organizations. (For more information, visit www.bushfoundation.org.)
- *A \$5 million funding effort to support three historically black educational institutions that suffered losses in the Gulf Coast disaster.* The Foundation does not usually make grants for disaster recovery but has done so occasionally when grantees are among the most affected. Thus, we contributed to the recovery of communities devastated by Red River flooding in 1997 and southern Minnesota communities affected by a 1998 tornado. Hurricane Katrina was, obviously, one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history. Our grants to Tougaloo College in Mississippi and Xavier and Dillard Universities in New Orleans were used at their presidents' discretion during the early stages of their recovery. We are

pleased to note that all three were offering classes beginning in January; at the same time, we are quite aware that they are far from a complete recovery.

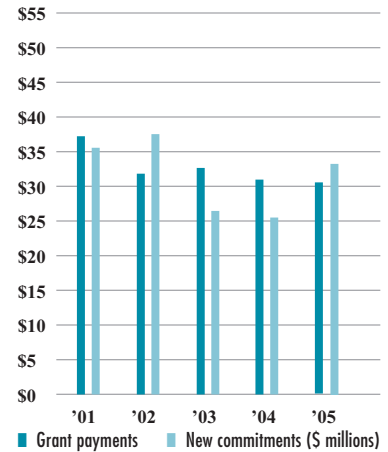
- *Planning grants to rural communities in Minnesota and the Dakotas.* We hope this new style of grantmaking will help us test some hypotheses about strategies that might be most helpful in those areas. As I reported in an earlier issue of *Giving Strength*, we are testing strategies for wealth creation and retention, for community development and for improving health and well-being, especially in the areas of food and nutrition. We have no results to report yet but will use what we learn to determine the best ways of making an impact in these important areas.

Changes at the Foundation

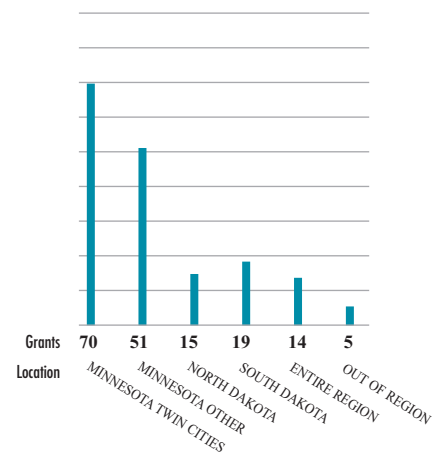
We said farewell to two long-serving directors of the Foundation in March. Judge Diana E. Murphy joined the Board in 1982, only the third woman to serve. She became Board chair four years later—a quick recognition of her extraordinary leadership and judgment. She is currently a United States Circuit Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit and recently chaired the U.S. Sentencing Commission in Washington. Her 24 years on the Board gave her a broad perspective and understanding of the Foundation’s growth and evolution that were invaluable to her colleagues.

Shirley M. Clark was elected director of the Foundation in 1994 while she was vice chancellor for academic affairs for the Oregon University System. We knew her earlier in her several roles at

GRANT PAYMENTS AND NEW COMMITMENTS

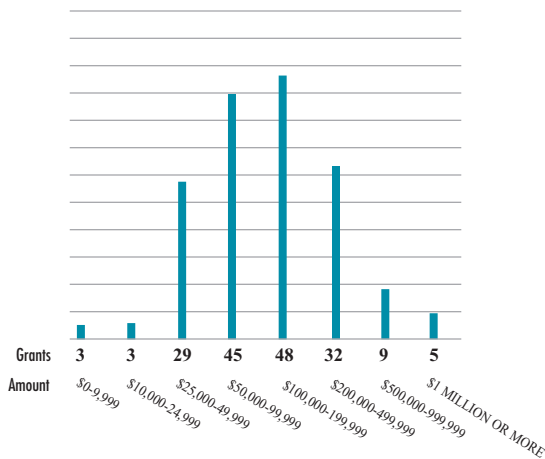


GRANTS CLASSIFIED BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERVED



Bush Foundation President, Anita M. Pampusch

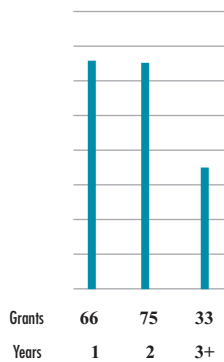
GRANTS CLASSIFIED BY AMOUNT



the University of Minnesota, where she began as a faculty member and was ultimately acting vice president for academic affairs and provost. She served in several roles on the Foundation’s Board, including chairing the Governance Committee for four years during which the Committee reorganized itself and redefined its role as the locus of governance issues rather than simply as a nominating committee. Her common sense and touches of humor defused many a heated discussion at the Foundation.

Newly elected directors are John M. Murphy, Jr. of Minneapolis and (State Senator) Tim Mathern of Fargo, North Dakota. Murphy comes with a financial and investment background. He spent many years as chief investment officer for U.S. Bancorp Institutional Financial Services and now operates Somerset Asset Management. With many community interests, he is chair of the board of Blue Cross Blue Shield, has been vice chair of the Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation and has served on several other nonprofit boards.

GRANTS CLASSIFIED BY DURATION

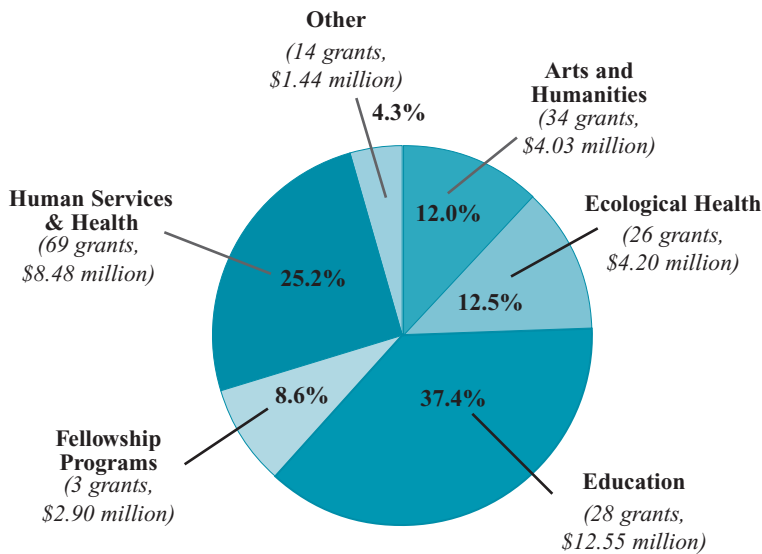


Tim Mathern has been a state senator in the North Dakota Legislature since 1986. He has served as a leader in both majority and minority caucuses and chaired several important legislative committees. He is broadly involved in community service, having worked with social service, educational, health and other organizations and agencies. His “day job” is serving as administrator of Nativity Church in Fargo. Mathern was a Bush Leadership Fellow in 1999.

As readers of *Giving Strength* know, this past year Senior Program Officer Charlene Edwards left our staff and we added June Noronha as strategic planning officer and administrative assistant Deb Novak. And in April, Senior Accountant Heather O’Neill retired after six years of service to the Foundation. We welcome Heather’s replacement, Nancy Weidler.

Anita M. Pampusch
President

GRANTS CLASSIFIED BY PROGRAM AREA



The Bush Foundation's purpose is to make grants that strengthen vital leadership and vibrant communities. It was founded by Archibald and Edyth Bush in 1953; Bush was a top executive of the 3M Company. The Foundation makes grants three times a year in the areas of arts and humanities, ecological health, education, and health and human services to nonprofit organizations in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. The Foundation makes grants to individuals through its three fellowship programs and also supports fully accredited tribal colleges and historically black private colleges and universities throughout the country.



Financial Summary

November 30, 2005 and 2004

Financial Highlights

(In thousands of dollars)

	2005	2004
Assets		
Cash and Investments	\$793,679	\$728,106
Other	2,473	4,348
Total	796,152	732,454
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities	29,428	26,604
Unrestricted Net Assets	766,724	705,850
Total	796,152	732,454
Revenue		
Investment Income	13,727	11,379
Net Realized Gains/(Losses) on Investments	95,981	44,456
Unrealized Appreciation/(Depreciation) in Fair Value of Investments	(4,445)	67,165
Total	105,263	123,000
Expenses		
Program	31,981	27,774
Management and General	12,408	8,058
Total	44,389	35,832
 Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	 \$ 60,874	 \$ 87,168

Our 2005 Summary of Grants and Financials, which includes the complete audited statements, is available at www.bushfoundation.org.



The fair value of the Foundation's assets as of November 30, 2005 was \$796.2 million, an increase of \$63.7 million over the prior year. For the calendar year, the Foundation earned a 13.2 percent return net of management fees. This was the result of a solid overall performance by the Foundation's investment managers and was further enhanced with robust real estate returns, strong performance from the international equity allocation and an Initial Public Offering of Google stock that was distributed from one of the Foundation's venture capital partnerships.

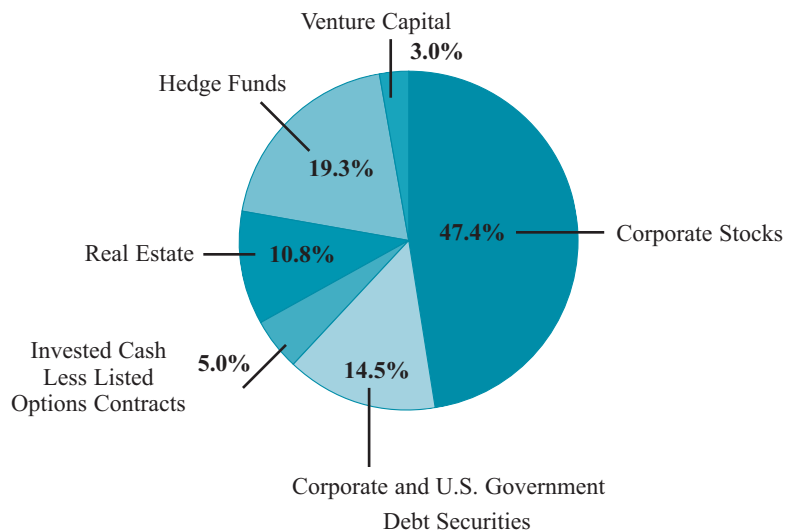
Investment income from the year, which includes interest, dividends and other income, was \$13.7 million as compared to last year's income of \$11.4 million. Realized gains of \$96 million were up over last year's \$44.5 million realized gains. Investment and administrative expenses were \$12.4 million compared to \$8 million for the prior year. The substantial increase over the prior year was primarily due to additional excise tax on investment income and unrelated business income tax the Foundation incurred for the year.

The Foundation's long-term investment objective is to achieve a rate of growth sufficient to meet its granting requirements (five percent of average annual assets) and cover reasonable operating expenses while maintaining the inflation-adjusted principal of the fund. We continue to explore investment vehicles and strategies that will enhance returns without exposing the portfolio to excessive risk so that we generate a positive outcome for the Foundation.

Connie Thompson

Connie Thompson
Chief Financial Officer

**INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO ALLOCATION
NOVEMBER 30, 2005**





M. Cochise Anderson (BAF'02)

“The round form of the drum represents the whole universe, and its steady strong beat is the pulse, the heart throbbing at the center of the universe. It is the voice of Wakan Tanka, and his sound stirs us and helps us to understand the mystery and power of all things.”

Black Elk

Native American leaders follow their hearts and the beat of the drum to shape their own destinies *by Mary Bensman*

In politics, health, education, culture and economic development, a new generation of leaders have become active to improve the future of their tribes and their communities.

- Residents of the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota no longer believe that diabetes is inevitable. Families have embraced prevention strategies thanks to the efforts of the tribal health educator and the local doctor (page 17).
- On the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota, a strong, educated woman refused to accept that political corruption was the normal way to do business and fought for justice. She now leads the tribe (page 15).
- On the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota, the tribal education director knew she had to reach out to children before they got to high school in order to keep them in school at all. She built a youth center to do that (page 10).
- A woman on the Yankton Sioux Reservation in South Dakota saw there were no services for battered women and children in her area so she founded an organization to serve them that now champions the health and reproductive rights of Native American women across the country (page 13).

And there are more . . .

These are their stories.

Local leader plants hope by helping hometown teens



Julie Garreau, executive director of the Cheyenne River Youth Project, in the garden that helps teach Lakota values to teens.

Julie Garreau is a hometown girl. A Lakota born and raised on the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota, as a young person Julie and her friends dreamed of turning an old building in White Horse into a recreation center for girls. In July 2006, she'll realize that dream and more when the newly constructed Cheyenne River Youth Center in Eagle Butte opens its doors. The nearly 15,000-square-foot facility has a gymnasium, internet cafe, game rooms, art rooms, fitness center, dance studio, computer lab, library, classrooms and living quarters for volunteer staff. The curving walls and floors are inset with art that chronicles the history of the tribe and celebrates the land. The landscaping uses native plants and trees.

"We asked the kids what they wanted," Garreau said. "I don't presume to have the answers, but we listened to the community, and the Center is flourishing." Garreau, founder and executive director of the Cheyenne River Youth Project (CRYP), has been with the program since the beginning and says she has learned a lot in the past 18 years and made many mistakes. Still, there's a lot she can share with the other

Photographs courtesy of Cheyenne River Youth Project

Bush Foundation Native American grantmaking

- Since 1970, the Bush Foundation has made 465 grants totaling \$48.7 million to organizations led by or benefiting Native Americans.
- Fifty percent of these grants were made to organizations in or serving the Dakotas.
- Tribal colleges located across the United States received 142 of these grants, providing \$9.8 million for faculty development, capital projects and other tribal college programs.
- Since 1965, the Foundation's three fellowship programs have awarded at least 122 fellowships to persons of Native American ethnicity and disbursed nearly \$4 million.



The first home to the Cheyenne River Youth Center, an abandoned bar on the main street of Eagle Butte known as the Little Brown Jug.

organizations that work with kids, whether it's on the Reservation or at the YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs or the schools; she plans to partner with them all.

After 15 years as tribal education director, Garreau realized that the best way to help kids go to college is to connect with them in junior high or before. "CRYP was the first program for youth on Cheyenne River. There were just video games in the beginning, but we knew that the kids needed people to work with them."

Garreau and other volunteers from the tribe founded CRYP in 1988. It is still sustained by volunteers who live at the Center for six-month to two-year stints and staff the Center and its crisis counseling program. Its mission is to provide a safe place for children to gather and to help dispel the sense of hopelessness that pervades the Native American communities in South Dakota. In addition to the Center, CRYP provides recreational activities, cultural programs, a library, tutors, meals and field trips to activities outside the Reservation. In 1994, it began a 24-hour suicide/crisis telephone counseling service. At that time, the Cheyenne River Reservation had the second highest suicide rate of any reservation in the United States. Garreau said that has improved, but that there are still three to seven attempts per week on the Reservation.

"We know that when you try to force people to adopt other cultures and traditions it doesn't work. There are so many neat things about the Lakota," she said. "We do need help, but it's the responsibility of the community to take care of the community."

A mission for life

Community responsibility is something Garreau grew up with. Her father was a Reservation police officer, and her mother worked with a program for elderly people. "I watched my parents take care of the community," she recalled. "One year, Mom made a pillow for every child in the community. My sister and I complained at the time when we had to deliver the pillows, but now I look back and see how amazing my mother was and



Above and right, interior shots of the new \$3.5 million Teen Center, a 15,000-square foot facility that will open in July.

still is. I remember times when she took gifts from under our Christmas tree to others who had much less."

Garreau received a B.A. in criminal justice from Huron University, and in addition to her job as education services specialist for tribal government and volunteer executive director of CRYP, she has served as both chair and vice-chair of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Police Commission. She's been recognized by the National Museum of the American Indian and the South Dakota Coalition for Children, received President George H.W. Bush's Presidential Points of Light Award in 1993 and was named the South Dakota Volunteer of the Year by Governor Mickelson in 1992.

Dreaming big

CRYP started in an old building—it had been the Little Brown Jug, a notorious bar on the main street of Eagle Butte—purchased by the tribe in 1988. Ten years later, a leaking roof, frozen pipes and buckling cement floors made it structurally unsound. In 1997, the Cheyenne River tribal government donated land for a new building; construction was set to begin on a new center in 1998, the same year the Bush Foundation made a grant for \$71,975 toward the \$359,863 capital campaign. The original proposal outlined a modest 4,500-square-foot building housing an all-purpose recreation room, study

“Our local kids are our core group of customers, and we listen to them. They are honest.”

Julie Garreau, Executive Director, Cheyenne River Youth Project



Nearly 40 percent of Eagle Butte’s 619 residents are under the age of 18, a statistic that shapes the community’s focus on the Center. “Our local kids are our core group of customers, and we listen to them. They are honest,” Garreau said. CRYP has included them in all phases of the planning, design and construction of the Center.

“The Cheyenne-Eagle Butte High School student council circulated petitions in support of the Teen Center,” Garreau wrote in her 2005 update. “Those petitions were key in convincing the Tribal Council to designate our Teen Center as its 2005 project (for federal funding). In addition, the journalism class visited the worksite, interviewed staff and took pictures for an article for the high school newspaper. The government class tracked our advancement through the Tribal Council meetings as well as inviting the executive director of the CRYP to talk about the federal fundraising process. In February, students in grades five through 12 were shown a virtual ‘walk through’ of the Teen Center. The enthusiasm was obvious in all students in attendance!”

and library, family room, commercial kitchen, dining area, and office space for the program staff and crisis phone service, along with living quarters for the volunteers.

Once the planning had begun, however, the dreams got bigger and better, as Garreau described in an April 2005 update to the Foundation: “As the Teen Center project developed, it grew in size and scope due to our belief that it represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Cheyenne River’s teens and for our community.”

The project was divided into two phases and fundraising continued. The total project budget at that point was estimated at nearly \$3.5 million. In 2004, the Foundation made an additional grant of \$369,982 for the facility, which had by then been expanded to include a dance studio, computer lab, full-size basketball court and counseling offices.

Garreau hopes that the Center will be a place for young people to experience the Lakota culture in ways that occur naturally along with their activities. She brings up the garden as an example. “We see kids who should have a natural connection to the earth, but grow up throwing garbage on the ground. The garden had been maintained by the nutrition program for the elderly. We took it on when they couldn’t do it anymore. It was a way to connect kids to the earth, to nurture and care for it. But the garden flourished and the kids were ecstatic, really impressed by the potatoes and carrots coming out of the ground. Now the Teen Center garden is theirs. They take care of it without a program but all the Lakota values are reflected in the garden. The elders are teaching the kids, the garden is a quiet, special place, and there’s a connection with the land.” ☼

Native women become champions for health and human rights



Charon Asetoyer

Charon Asetoyer and her husband returned to his home on the Yankton Sioux Reservation in South Dakota to honor his father. Native American tradition called for a feast and a giveaway to be held every four years on the anniversary of his death. They did this, but the couple stayed and honored their father in other ways. Amazed by all the unmet needs on the Reservation, the Asetoyers and their friends created the Native American Community Board (NACB) in Lake Andes in 1985 to address community health problems on the Reservation. She is a Comanche who met her husband at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

“No one was doing anything,” Asetoyer said. “We started in my basement. We began by addressing fetal alcohol syndrome. People saw us as a women’s organization because of the issues we were addressing, so women also began to come to us for help with domestic violence.”

A home for women’s health

In 1988, the NACB under Asetoyer’s directorship purchased a house and started the Native American Women’s Health Education Resource Center to provide health care information and referral services to health care providers. In 1991, NACB founded the Women’s Lodge, an emergency shelter for battered women and their children. In addition to safe housing, the Women’s Lodge provides 24-hour crisis counseling and advocacy for women going through the health care and legal systems. NACB also advocates for diabetes prevention and the special needs of children.

“The Indian Health Service (IHS) clinics were not dealing with any of this,” Asetoyer said. “The Resource Center became a mecca for women and children. We do tutoring, skill-building, and Dakota language and cultural preservation. We also work in reproductive justice.”

Local problems become national issues

Asetoyer said they had heard from many women who had been advised by the IHS clinic to use birth control methods, such as Norplant implants and Depo-Provera injections, that weren’t suitable for their metabolism as they contribute to high blood pressure, depression and increased risk for stroke. There were many complaints about side-effects and increasingly younger women were being advised to use these methods by clinic staff who told them they might die if they had another baby. According to Asetoyer, there had been all kinds of coercive methods used by the IHS to promote the use of Depo-Provera in the past.

NACB worked to address the problem by helping the IHS develop a birth control protocol that was widely accepted across the country and by doing advocacy

Photographs courtesy of the Native American Community Board



NACB's youth programs give young Natives the ability to grow fresh vegetables for the local food pantry, an activity that benefits the growers and the recipients.

work at the national level. “We testified at FDA hearings to prevent the approval of Depo-Provera because it was known to cause osteoporosis, cancer and so many other health problems. While Norplant is no longer used, Depo-Provera is. This led us into a lot of other Native American health care and reproductive rights issues. We now work with a wide range of health issues, from environmental to breast cancer,” Asetoyer said.

“Everything we do is through a human rights framework. Health care is a right, even more for indigenous people because of our treaties. There is a long history of federal policies and practices that have been bad for Native Americans, including smallpox, yellow fever, sterilization and other population-reduction campaigns. We are currently working with emergency rooms to improve the care of women victims of sexual assault. Native women are three and a half times more likely to be victims of rape. Thirty percent of IHS clinics do not have sexual assault policies and protocols in place. Many Native American women do not have access to any other health care provider because of distance and isolation. Clinic personnel do not want to be witnesses in court. Many women don't get treated at all. There is a large coalition of national organizations and tribal coalitions working on a set of policies for victims of rape and incest.”

Health and cultural preservation are key

Asetoyer is hopeful about the future and the power of Native American women. “There are a lot of Native women involved now, many more than 10 or 15 years ago. They are organizing in our communities. There are more shelters on reservations and work being done in all directions,” she said. “Better communications

systems have helped, especially in isolated geographic areas. Now we can communicate with indigenous people in Alaska, New Zealand and Hawaii. We've gotten a lot more assertive with grassroots endeavors and are better at leveraging resources. We're still not always at the table but are a lot more present than in the past.”

She said, “Native women have been working on themselves for the last 20 years in ways that men have not. The men are looking at us like ‘what is going on,’ when they really need to be looking at ways they can help themselves. Health and cultural preservation are key to keeping strong healthy people, traditions and strong leaders. The men have to be part of that, but many have been incarcerated. Incarceration is a way of disenfranchising our peoples.”

Asetoyer believes the tribal colleges have had a positive effect on Native American activism. “They allow the young people to stay in their communities, still get an education and strengthen the infrastructure of the community. The radio stations have also been influential, bringing political information and education to people and preserving language and culture.” ❁

The Bush Foundation has provided two grants totaling \$150,000 to the NACB since 1997.

“The People are never defeated until the backs of their women are on the ground.”

Last Standing Woman (Erma J. Vizenor)



Photographer, Dan Koeck

Erma J. Vizenor—tribal leader, dreamer, visionary and champion for her people

A novel about Erma J. Vizenor’s (BLF’88) life might tell of an intriguing series of random coincidences that a woman with a sharp mind and a giving spirit recognized as opportunities. But it’s a true story and an even more compelling read as a biography—the story of a leader who continually reached beyond what everyone thought was possible to improve her skills, take risks and improve the lives of her people on the White Earth Indian Reservation in northwestern Minnesota.

The needs of the people come first

In a way, nothing has really been random about Vizenor’s life and career path. It has always been guided by her desire to improve the life of her tribe and her community, Pine Point. The eldest of eight children, she dreamed of becoming a doctor, but her family’s migrant work schedule made it tough to stay in school. After dropping out at 16, she returned to graduate two years later only to be told by the Bureau of Indian Affairs that she wasn’t “college material.” Despite that lack of encouragement, she took advantage of an open-door policy for minorities to earn a degree in education from Moorhead State University, graduating *cum laude* in 1972.

She returned to work on the Reservation, where teachers were needed, and became the director of the chronically underfunded Pine Point School in 1984 despite the opposition of the current Tribal Council. There she

learned to speak and lobby for Indian education and honed her leadership skills in others ways.

In 1988, Vizenor applied for a Bush Leadership Fellowship. Initially she thought she’d get a Ph.D. in education at the University of North Dakota, but friends and a mentor, White Earth educational leader Jerome Buckanaga (BLF’71), spurred her to reset her sights on Harvard.

Buckanaga, her former boss, said in his reference letter for her fellowship, “Erma’s skills as a negotiator have continually nullified the hostility she’s faced from [Tribal] Council members. Working in the atmosphere of uncooperativeness, resentment and chauvinism, most educators would have become frustrated and discouraged, minimizing their effectiveness. Erma has not only succeeded in a very difficult situation, she has succeeded smashingly, with her dedication to educational ideals and commitment to Indian people still intact.”

His statement was prophetic. The professional goals she listed in her fellowship application were mostly about improving education on the Reservation. But at the end of the list, objective five, it says, “To seek and become elected to political office, either state or tribal in 1992 or 1994.” Vizenor gained last-minute admission to Harvard by special exemption and began learning all the skills she would need to take her into the political arena that awaited her back at White Earth.

Five years of fighting for justice

Vizenor returned to the Reservation a newly minted doctoral candidate in 1991. Before she could even unpack her books and computer, the tribal elders were at her door with a gift of tobacco. They asked her to be the spokesperson for them at the tribal headquarters, where corruption and election fraud had left the people feeling helpless. The elders believed Vizenor would help them and she did, by organizing a three-day sit-in at Tribal Council headquarters.

The sit-in began five years of reform work on the Reservation. During those years, Vizenor (often accompanied by the White Earth Ojibwa Hymn Singers) traveled around the country as a political activist, telling her stories of corruption and reform on the Reservation to anyone who would listen. (She also defended her dissertation on resiliency in Native American elders and received her Ph.D. from Harvard.)

“A good leader holds a vision of what can become, and then makes that vision a reality. The Ojibwe say a leader puts the needs of the People first. My life reflects both philosophies.”

From Erma J. Vizenor’s 1988 Bush Leadership Fellowship application

In 1996, reform work led by Vizenor culminated in the removal from office and conviction of the chairman and two other Council members for stealing nearly \$900,000 from the tribe and rigging tribal elections. That same year she was appointed to the Council as secretary-treasurer (a position second only to chair); in 2004, she became head of a sovereign nation, the tribal chair of the 22,000-member White Earth Band of Chippewa in Minnesota.

Vizenor said, “My immediate goal was to establish stability. I campaigned on fair-minded and ethical leadership. Without stability, no one will work with you—we’ll see nothing but the same.” She said of her administration, “We put the corruption of the past behind us. Our tribe has liquidated the debt. Now we can pursue self-governance and be more independent from the federal government.”

Confidence in tribal government

Despite her own struggles with tribal government over the years, Vizenor has confidence in its ability to work for the people. “Tribal governments are the oldest form of government in this country. We are sovereign nations and have treaties with the government. We have already paid for everything we get—health care, education, everything—with our land. They are all obligations agreed to in the treaties. But economic self-sufficiency is our responsibility. It is a myth that we are all supported by gaming. However, it has done more for us than the federal government has. It has changed the economic complexion of Mahnomen County, basically by providing jobs, but we need to diversify beyond gaming.”

Vizenor considers herself a tribal leader who is in the position of partnering and cooperating with other entities to bring in jobs “on one condition—the tribe will not be exploited. We will be the decision-makers. If we’re going to be partners, then we’re going to be in the driver’s seat.”

Besides economic stability, her focus is the constant improvement of health, education and safety on the Reservation. One of her greatest accomplishments is the establishment of a tribal college on White Earth. Her sister, Helen Klassen (BLF’92), left a job at Harvard to help start the White Earth Tribal and Community College.

“I need three lives,” Vizenor said, to do what she wants to do for the people. In a keynote address to the American Indian Policy Center in 1996, she called for the use of new weapons for today and tomorrow: “Our deep connection to Indian traditions and identity, our sovereign rights, our language and beliefs, and the knowledge we have gained from the non-Indian community.” ❁

Erma J. Vizenor being arrested at the 1991 sit-in at White Earth tribal headquarters (photographer, Michael D. McNally).



Native power prevents diabetes

It didn't take Dr. Mark Butterbrodt (BMF'92) long to realize he couldn't improve the health of his community from his exam room at the Porcupine Clinic on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. "The real action is in the community. There are wonderful people here, and they've taught me more than I taught them."

With Oglala Sioux Tribal Health Educator Mary Tobacco and other tribe members, Butterbrodt helped establish the Reservation's first fitness center. He credits Tobacco as instrumental in getting him out into the community from the beginning. "I once spent an afternoon at a booth talking to people about quitting smoking. I probably accomplished more than sitting in the Clinic pushing pills," he said.

Tobacco said, "Health is improving and attitudes about it are changing. I saw a vacant building, and Dr. B. helped us raise money to buy it and turn it into a fitness center. It was one thing to educate people about good health, but they also had to have someplace to go. Even the dirt walking track gets a lot of use now. Now we have 500 people a month coming through the center."

Doomed to diabetes?

"Diabetes is not inevitable" said Butterbrodt. He had studied diabetes and its relationship to the thrifty gene hypothesis (that nomadic people store fat more efficiently than others) at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health during his Bush Medical Fellowship. Through this study, he became convinced that non-insulin-dependent diabetes might be prevented by community-based efforts to positively change lifestyles in the areas of exercise and diet.

Upon arrival at the Indian Health Service's (IHS) Porcupine Clinic on Pine Ridge in 1995 he immediately took up the cause of combating the disease with the Lakota people. He brought with him a \$10,000 grant from the University of Minnesota to initiate a program to screen children to find those at high risk for diabetes. He also worked with Tobacco to design an information component for schools and families. At the end of two years, 25 percent of the students he screened were identified as high risk, and the project became a major catalyst for a federal grant from the Pathways Project, a prevention program now managed by the Clinic.

Butterbrodt explained, "After school-based screenings, taking heights and weights, we made home visits to high-risk kids but worried that their parents might feel worse if we thought their kids were going to get diabetes. We wanted to be supportive to the parents, especially when lifestyle changes could avert the disease. We went to the IHS and did a presentation for parents telling them that it's not inevitable and giving them actions to take. But there is often a fatal attitude about it. People in the community were terrified. Home visits would make them cry. But our message was one of hope. We can prevent it if we can get back to an active lifestyle, better diet, avoid convenience foods and alcohol."

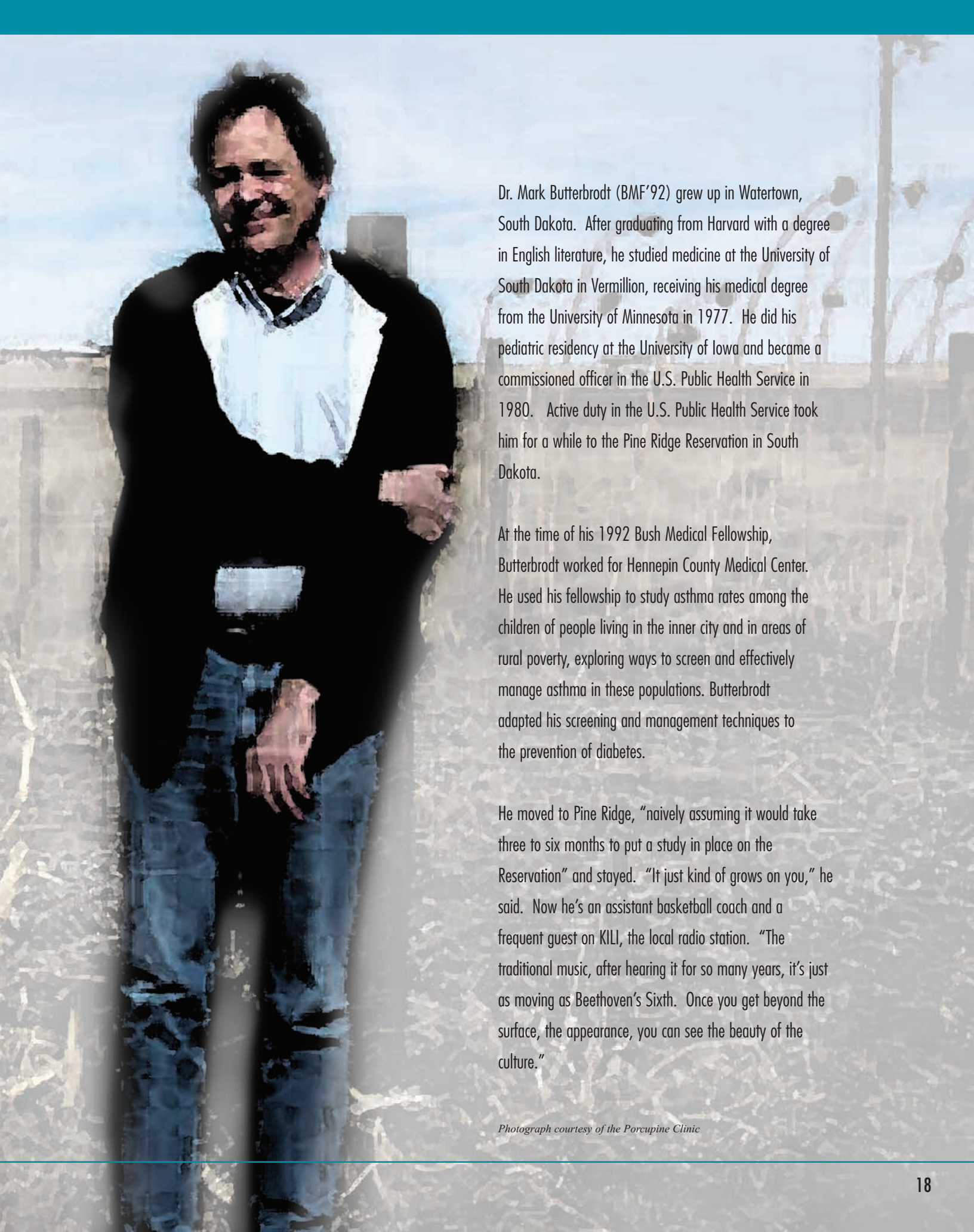
"What gets your attention is the statistics. The Pine Ridge Reservation has the lowest life expectancy of any place in the country. It's not danger that kills people, its lifestyle diseases . . . heart problems, diabetes and depression."

Mark Butterbrodt, M.D. (BMF'92)

The IHS was not interested in pursuing diabetes prevention at that time, but the community was. The tribal people got the program going by expanding the screening to include the entire Reservation and by helping Butterbrodt form linkages with the local leadership.

Tobacco said that Butterbrodt impressed her at first because he was so certain that diabetes could be prevented. "All the other talk about diabetes was pessimistic, about end-stage disease. He said that you've got to get to the kids. He's always fighting

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Dr. Mark Butterbrodt (BMF'92) grew up in Watertown, South Dakota. After graduating from Harvard with a degree in English literature, he studied medicine at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, receiving his medical degree from the University of Minnesota in 1977. He did his pediatric residency at the University of Iowa and became a commissioned officer in the U.S. Public Health Service in 1980. Active duty in the U.S. Public Health Service took him for a while to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

At the time of his 1992 Bush Medical Fellowship, Butterbrodt worked for Hennepin County Medical Center. He used his fellowship to study asthma rates among the children of people living in the inner city and in areas of rural poverty, exploring ways to screen and effectively manage asthma in these populations. Butterbrodt adapted his screening and management techniques to the prevention of diabetes.

He moved to Pine Ridge, "naively assuming it would take three to six months to put a study in place on the Reservation" and stayed. "It just kind of grows on you," he said. Now he's an assistant basketball coach and a frequent guest on KILL, the local radio station. "The traditional music, after hearing it for so many years, it's just as moving as Beethoven's Sixth. Once you get beyond the surface, the appearance, you can see the beauty of the culture."

Photograph courtesy of the Porcupine Clinic

Continued from page 17

for the kids.” She made it a point to introduce herself to Butterbrodt after his presentation, and they’ve been working together for the past 10 years.

“The accumulation of evidence was there,” he said. “They wanted to take on the problem as a community. They got the pop machines out of the schools, banned smoking in many places and encouraged more exercise. I can see progress every day.”

So does Tobacco. People see her in local restaurants and are proud to point out their healthy food choices. She stages annual events to promote physical activity and build awareness around health and prevention issues such as basketball tournaments for AIDS education, a marathon and a triathlon. Methamphetamine use is also becoming a problem on the Reservation. She’d like to see Butterbrodt, currently an IHS employee, work full time for the tribe so he could devote “more time to wellness and less time to disease.”

Change begins

“The parents here really want to know how their child is doing,” Butterbrodt said. “They know about risk. When I started talking about it, the generation that has diabetes was the first to step forward to keep the next generation healthy.” Isolation is a problem. Many children never get to the Clinic and those who do may only be seen a few times during their childhood. He gave as an example a 200-pound Lakota 10-year-old with very high blood pressure. The boy needs to exercise, but he also has asthma. Therefore, the school lets him sit on the sidelines rather than exercise. Butterbrodt would like to establish clinics in the schools so that children such as this boy could get better coordinated health management. “Often I only get one shot at things in the Clinic. If you went to the school, you’d have him as a captive.”

Butterbrodt considers his relationships with the Lakota people as his most valuable asset in his work on the Reservation. He was officially adopted into the tribe a few years ago and that gave him the standing in the community necessary to be effective. “Lakota people operate on family and kinship ties. We are all family here and if you are trying to incorporate positive change into a community, you need to work within that framework.” ☺

Pine Ridge health educators used an historic photograph of lean and strong Lakota men and women to prove to modern kids that obesity and disease aren’t part of their heritage.



Warrior of the 21st century

“Young people are doing what they need to do to be leaders in their community. Twenty years ago people didn’t think that the cultural traditions would still be around. For us, it’s the way it’s supposed to be. We don’t have the barriers that our parents had; more opportunities. We are only limited by what we don’t know or haven’t heard of yet. Whatever area we want to pursue, those doors are open to us.

Kekek Jason Stark (BLF’04)

Kekek Jason Stark (BLF’04) and his wife, Lisa, met when they were both teachers at the Native American Alternative High School in South Minneapolis. Although his initial focus was on education, some Native studies classes he took whet his interest in law and policy. “But I still didn’t see myself going to law school until my sister did. She graduated from Hamline, and I went to the weekend program.”

His ancestral home is on Turtle Mountain in North Dakota, but he’s not a reservation kid. Stark grew up in Bismarck, where his dad had a construction business working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Standing Rock Reservation near there. The family eventually moved to Seattle.

“When we were children, there were many people living on the fringes of the culture. They didn’t live on the reservation, but traveled back and forth. There was a lot of residual racism. It was still too hard to be an Indian,” he said.

“Outside of Indian Country, I think many people don’t know we exist. Casinos have made us more visible, tourism is taking a better look and media is giving Indians a voice.”



Kekek Jason Stark (BLF’04) and wife, Lisa

He heard about the Bush Leadership Fellows program from colleagues and friends. He had been teaching for four or five years before he applied.

Stark, who will graduate this spring, would like to establish an Ojibwe law center where various communities could communicate with each other. “There were 54 ratified treaties between the Ojibwes and the government. We need to understand our rights and how that relates to our culture.” In Canada, he said, when a treaty was signed, the act was recorded on the stem of the pipe that was smoked at the signing. “That pipe was the treaty, not the paper. To uphold the treaty, you need to understand the culture and the values of the people.”

His most interesting project in law school so far has been a research paper on Johnson v. McIntosh, the Marshall interpretation. It concerns the inconsistent interpretation of language in treaties concerning land tenure.

Stark is also working on research that will define “What is an Indian?” Is it blood lines, self-recognition or community recognition? He cites a current movement to limit classes and definitions and said it would be dangerous for Indians to let the government create the definition.

He has advice for future Bush Leadership Fellows: “Dream big. You get to do all those things that you never thought you would do. Those were the things I had been thinking about for years. Make a plan, when you think about it you may decide you can do it too.” ☺

Pipe Carrier, Inc.

Four Bands Community Fund keeps dreams alive



Tanya Fiddler

Tanya Fiddler was raised by a strong Lakota woman. Her mother, Theda Traversie, passed on many things to Tanya—a sense of responsibility to help her community, the confidence that she could do anything that she wanted. She also saw how things hurt people, the government regulations and the mission schools, so she also passed her daughter

a *cannunpa* (pipe), a sacred object in the Lakota way of life.

Pipe carriers are those in Lakota culture who bring the pipe to the people who are suffering, who preserve the culture and who use the pipe to pray. “I walk out my prayers of compassion for the people in my job,” Fiddler said.

She is the executive director of the Four Bands Community Fund, a nonprofit organization dedicated to economic development on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Founded in 2000, its mission is to assist entrepreneurs of the Reservation with training, business incubation and access to capital. Four Bands provides business training classes, consumer education and financial management training, loans for small businesses, technical assistance, business seminars and a retail store for local crafts.

The Fund also supports a program of Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) for youth ages 15 to 25. IDAs allow young people to establish savings accounts for education, self-employment and home ownership; public and private sources match contributions. All participants receive financial literacy training.

After graduating from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology with a degree in interdisciplinary sciences with a focus in industrial studies, Fiddler wanted to find a way to apply her education to help the Lakota people. After a stint with Oti Kaga, Inc., a home-ownership program for low-income people, she realized that there were too many people who couldn't



qualify because of bad credit. She began to learn about the federal system and do community organizing with the Lakota People for Fair Credit project.

“I remembered a lot of things that afflicted me,” Fiddler said. “I had a bad credit history. I never had financial literacy training. My mom couldn't train me because we never had any savings, we were just trying to survive. But you can't do business with people without respecting their culture, knowing what motivates people. Why should you have savings? If you take care of yourself, you can still share with relatives in need, a Lakota value.”

Fiddler came to Four Bands in 2001 and saw many of the same problems, but by then had some solutions to work with as well. “There are lots of ways to be creative as a loan officer. It's not a black-and-white numbers game. If you factor in human capital (along with collateral) and require financial training, you can begin to make some progress,” she said.

When working with Four Bands, loan customers (who must be members of the tribe and live on the Reservation) take 10 weeks of training. Fiddler said this makes them “better customers, more loyal. We've had some losses, but still nothing outside the usual limits. The people who are successful with us can move on to traditional lenders. Dreams don't have to die. You can get an affordable loan, pay off your debts and establish a credit history. You are also serving the community by repaying your loan. Then we can lend to others on the Reservation.”

How does Fiddler measure success? She points to the number of new Native businesses that open (some breaking onto Eagle Butte's main street) and the number of Native businesses that market to each other using concepts learned in Four Band's business development training.



The future—challenge and opportunity

“Sometimes you scratch your head wondering how to send your kids to college, improve your house or make a vehicle purchase. We need to go beyond saving and IDAs and talk about investing, leveraging your income and creating wealth. Maybe jump over the hurdle of not owning anything.” Fiddler and her husband would like to have ownership of their house but can’t because of tribal housing authority regulations. She said that often Native business owners aren’t proficient with balance sheets, that capital equipment and property may never get included as part of the value of a business making it seem less valuable.

“Sanctions and rules are the greatest challenge,” she said. “There are multiple layers of government for reservations. But even so, we are never going to surrender our sovereignty, because culture and sovereignty are so tied together. If you give up one, you lose the other. It’s better to learn how to play by their rules but to be proactive. Get a seat on the local Chamber of Commerce. Most often there are no Natives on it. The agriculture industry is also controlled by politics, but small business is not as controlled.” ❁

“There is so much negative PR and not enough bragging in our culture. We should brag when a youth completes a savings plan, when we open up a car repair shop. If we only talk about our failures, we can’t learn from our successes.”

*Tanya Fiddler, Executive Director,
Four Bands Community Fund*



Loan customers run all kinds of businesses, from hauling to car repair (far left and left); some young entrepreneurs qualify for youth microloans, like 11-year-old Blake Farlee (above).

Located in north-central South Dakota, the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation is home to four of the seven bands of the Lakota Nation: *Mnicoujou*—Plants by the Water, *Oo’henumpa*—Two Kettle, *Itazipco*—No Bows, and *Sihasapa*—Blackfoot. It is an area of 2.8 million acres, approximately the size of Connecticut. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, of the 8,397 people living in the two counties (Dewey and Ziebach) that comprise the Reservation, 38 percent live below the poverty level. Forty percent of the people living on the Reservation are 18 years old or younger.

Key challenges for Native American entrepreneurs

While small businesses are ideal for Native American reservation entrepreneurs, there are some key challenges preventing them from starting businesses or owning homes:

- Limited access to capital
- Lack of small business development training
- Personal credit problems and/or no credit history
- Lack of collateral
- Lack of family financial planning and life-skills training
- Predominance of business ownership by non-reservation or non-Indian individuals

The Foundation has granted Four Bands Community Funds \$245,000 in two grants since 2004.

“In the Chickasaw language, there is no word for artist; the closest I have been able to come is *alikchi* (healer).”

M. Cochise Anderson, (BAF’02)



Native artist dares us to remember by Victoria Tirrel

M. Cochise Anderson (BAF’02) wants Native culture to rise out of obscurity, for people to stop saying to him, “You’re an Indian, right? I studied you in third grade.” As a Native film and stage actor, writer, spoken word artist, musician and culture educator, his goal is to be seen as a contemporary performer and not just in an historical context.

Anderson and other Indian actors banded together after acting school to form a theater ensemble, *Chuka Lokoli* (“community” in both the Chickasaw and Choctaw languages). They recognized that the roles they had to look forward to were two dimensional, saying words written by non-Natives that represented their culture in ways that Anderson described as “cheesy or hokey or outright wrong.” Those plays “had nothing to do with us as human beings. It made us economic hostages. We just realized that if we didn’t tell our stories from our perspectives for our people, no else would.”

As an example, Anderson mentioned *The New World*, a 2005 film that retells the John Smith/Pocahontas story. “Here’s a major release and the Natives are still there as the backdrop. To me it’s not subtle racism.” He went on to reference *Into the West*, a 12-hour miniseries produced by Stephen Spielberg and Turner Network Television, which was heralded as an historically accurate and culturally sensitive telling of the westward trek of white settlers. “In the first 20 minutes, all the Native girls are falling on their knees over the white traders.” Later, Anderson’s friend reminded him, “It wasn’t written for you.”

The trail to Minnesota

A Chickasaw and Mississippi Choctaw from Oklahoma, Anderson grew up on the West Coast. A quest for cultural reverence and understanding came naturally to him—his grandmother wrote the *Chickasaw Analytical Dictionary*, the definitive compilation of the language.

His 20-year journey to reclaim his Native heritage has not always been a conscious one. While he’s done some book-based research, his learning from the elders has been the most profound. He said they helped him understand “what things we’ve lost and held onto and how we’ve bridged those two together.” From them he’s gathered stories of “alienation, loss, struggle, perseverance and triumph.”

After theater school in New York and stints on and off Broadway, a commission from The Playwrights’ Center brought him to Minnesota. Today he splits his time between performing for national audiences at such venues as the Kennedy Center in New York and the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in D.C. and sharing his art with his hometown audiences in New York City, Oklahoma, Oregon and Minnesota. “When people ask me where I’m from, I say the four directions.”

Anderson is busy. His 2002 Bush Artist Fellowship made possible *The Kemosabe Therapy*, his first spoken word CD, which he said he wrote in response to the “grip mainstream media has on Native

peoples' images." In the performance, he uses a mix of traditional (drum and flute) and contemporary music (hip hop) to soften his audience so they're not so defensive when he breaks the fourth wall and begins talking to them about the truth as he sees it. The CD was nominated for the 2005 Indian Summer Music Awards. You can hear an excerpt from *The Kemosabe Therapy* on the Artists Fellows page at www.bushfoundation.org.

He's also just returned from an eight-month tour of the world premiere of *Grandchildren of the Buffalo Soldiers*, directed by Lou Bellamy of Penumbra Theatre. Another project, his play *Braided Lives*, recently got a staged reading at Saint Paul's Great American History Theater. It honors the strength of Native women and is the first play he's written that doesn't have a part for him. Anderson is readying the script to send to the Native Voices program of the (Gene) Autry National Center in Los Angeles. The program provides support and a collaborative setting for Native American playwrights to develop their work and see it fully realized.

Those who forget history . . .

Some are outraged when Anderson draws a parallel between the terrorist attacks of September 11 and the Trail of Tears, the forced removal between 1830 and 1906 of Native people from their homelands. And yet the feeling expressed often in the wake of 9/11—that we would never be the same as a nation—fits just as aptly the reactions of Native people to the loss of thousands to starvation, exhaustion and brutality at the hands of the military. By attempting to set the contemporary and the historical in contrast to each other, Anderson creates an opportunity to reimagine the Native culture as more than just a backdrop against which European culture "civilized" North America.

"The Trail of Tears didn't happen one morning and end three hours later. It took years and years and it affected 39 tribes. It was a concentration camp. We were lied to—talk about who were the terrorists." He wants "to make a reference for people that's undeniable. I can't afford to be vague or underground. I can't leave it up to the audience to get what they want. I want them to get that there is a correlation" between an event they

understand and the one just like it that they don't. Anderson wants people to come to the place where they say, "This did happen before." He believes these "common threads in our mosaic of diverse experiences" can be a meeting ground for cultural understanding.

Becoming the elder

Anderson believes the young people hold the most hope for cultural respect and understanding. He is a cultural partner with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra's CONNECT program, which sends him into Twin Cities' public schools to talk about Native culture and perform Native music. The questions kids ask him at these and other cultural residencies have made him better at telling his own story, and he thinks the information he shares gets these kids researching their own backgrounds. Even with college-age students, he sees a lack of defensiveness because they don't yet feel responsible for having made the culture Anderson is holding up to the light.

Besides, he said, "If my people are less than one percent of the population, I need every ally I can get." ❁

You can hear an excerpt from The Kemosabe Therapy on the Artists Fellows page at www.bushfoundation.org.



Third-grade students at Longfellow Community School in Minneapolis watch Anderson perform.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Fargo-Moorhead Opera Company
Fargo, North Dakota
 For a comprehensive development plan.....\$25,000

Illusion Theater and School, Inc.
Minneapolis, Minnesota
 For continued operating support through the Regional Arts Development Program I.....\$50,000

Jamestown Fine Arts Association, Incorporated
Jamestown, North Dakota
 For capital and strategic planning.....\$29,425

MacPhail Center for Music
Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Toward a capital campaign.....\$750,000

Minneapolis Society of Fine Arts
Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Toward a capital campaign.....\$750,000

Minnesota Center for Book Arts
Minneapolis, Minnesota
 For continued operating support through the Regional Arts Development Program I.....\$177,214

Museum Alliance of Rapid City, Inc.
Rapid City, South Dakota
 For an education program and board/staff development initiative.....\$365,849

North House Folk School
Grand Marais, Minnesota
 To hire two full-time staff positions to manage programs, and earned and contributed income activities....\$120,000

North Star Opera, Inc.
Saint Paul, Minnesota
 For a marketing initiative.....\$15,000

Springboard for the Arts
Saint Paul, Minnesota
 To plan and deliver services to artists and arts organizations in Greater Minnesota and the Dakotas.....\$40,000

Ten Thousand Things
Minneapolis, Minnesota
 To plan a development initiative.....\$12,500

Theatre de la Jeune Lune
Minneapolis, Minnesota
 For continued operating support through the Regional Arts Development Program I.....\$100,000

ECOLOGICAL HEALTH

Cooperative Development Fund of CDS
Saint Paul, Minnesota
 To expand administrative and consulting capacity.....\$140,000

Dakota Resource Council
Dickinson, North Dakota
 For the Responsible Energy Program.....\$150,000

Environmental Association for Great Lakes Education
Duluth, Minnesota
 To implement policies and practices to improve school environments in indigenous communities.....\$62,700

Health Care Without Harm
Arlington, Virginia
 To support the Healthy Food in Health Care project in Minnesota and the Dakotas.....\$100,000

Hopa Mountain, Inc.
Bozeman, Montana
 To develop informal science and ecological health field programs on the Pine Ridge Reservation.....\$350,000

Institute for Conservation Leadership
Takoma Park, Maryland
 To provide organization development support to ecological health nonprofits.....\$165,000

Minnesota Food Association
Marine on St. Croix, Minnesota
 Toward organizational development.....\$90,000

State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources
Saint Paul, Minnesota
 Toward a project to conserve natural resources in developing communities.....\$190,000

Southwest Minnesota Foundation
Hutchinson, Minnesota
 For an initiative to advance renewable energy development.....\$50,000

Women's Environmental Institute at Amador Hill
North Branch, Minnesota
 To support projects to promote environmental justice.....\$150,000

EDUCATION

Alliance of Early Childhood Professionals
Minneapolis, Minnesota
 To begin an urban American Indian early childhood language immersion program.....\$191,915

The Bakken
Minneapolis, Minnesota
 To expand school partnerships in science.....\$221,130

Cankdeska Cikana Community College
Fort Totten, North Dakota
 To improve instructional practice and add Dakota cultural content to the curriculum.....\$90,000

Child Trends, Incorporated
Washington, D.C.
 To extend the Quality Interventions for Early Care and Education (QUINCE) Evaluation in Minnesota to include a focus on infants and toddlers.....\$25,000

Fort Belknap College, Inc.
Harlem, Montana
 To improve faculty understanding of Native cultures, to support the pursuit of advanced degrees and to participate in academic discipline organizations.....\$90,000

Photographs courtesy of MacPhail Center for Music (Kris Drake Photography)

Minnesota Head Start Association, Inc.
Duluth, Minnesota

To develop systems to meet the mental health needs of Head Start children.....\$60,000

Northwest Indian College
Bellingham, Washington

To add Native American perspectives to the curriculum, develop internet-based teaching technologies and support advanced coursework to improve faculty teaching skills.....\$120,000

Oglala Lakota College
Kyle, South Dakota

To improve academic advising, teaching and students' success and retention rates.....\$150,000

Rapid City Area School District #51-4
Rapid City, South Dakota

To support a middle school to high school student retention program.....\$859,200

Resources for Child Caring, Inc.
Saint Paul, Minnesota

To provide customized training to raise provider competency levels among informal child care providers within culturally diverse communities....\$210,000

Sicangu Oyate Ho, Inc.
Saint Francis, South Dakota

To continue the Freshman Academy, a high school attendance and retention project.....\$95,000

South Dakota State University
Brookings, South Dakota

Toward continuation of the South Dakota Institute for Infant Toddler Development and Care.....\$282,586

Tougaloo College
Tougaloo, Mississippi

For the Historically Black College and University Faculty Development Network.....\$150,000

United Tribes Technical College
Bismarck, North Dakota

To continue a series of faculty workshops on instructional technology, distance learning, assessment of student learning, academic advising and teaching of Native cultures.....\$150,000

University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

To complete the development of an undergraduate minor in ecosystem science and sustainability.....\$600,000

HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTH

Arc Hennepin-Carver, Inc.
Minneapolis, Minnesota

To support a merger with Arc Great Rivers.....\$50,000

Cedar-Riverside People's Center
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Toward a capital campaign for a community medical clinic.....\$97,405

Churches United in Ministry
Duluth, Minnesota

For three half-time positions to decrease chronic homelessness.....\$150,000

Cookie Cart
Minneapolis, Minnesota

To support expansion of a youth employment training program.....\$120,000

Episcopal Community Services, Inc.
Minneapolis, Minnesota

To provide continuum of care case management services to metro-area families whose children are in residential treatment in Bemidji.....\$50,000

Family Housing Fund of Minneapolis and St. Paul

Minneapolis, Minnesota
To continue development of a system of supportive housing for children and families.....\$1,200,000

HIRED

Minneapolis, Minnesota
To launch an Employer Services Division to engage employers in workforce development.....\$75,000

HOME Line

Minneapolis, Minnesota
To expand tenant services into Saint Paul.....\$30,000

Migrant Health Service, Inc.
Moorhead, Minnesota

To link 17 health clinics in northern Minnesota and to establish a paperless charting system.....\$526,000

Minot Area Homeless Coalition, Inc.
Minot, North Dakota

To provide assistance to the homeless and for administrative support.....\$102,000

Native American Advocacy Project
Winner, South Dakota

To provide a culturally based alcohol, drug and violence prevention youth program on the Rosebud, Pine Ridge and Yankton Reservations.....\$160,000

NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center, Inc.

Minneapolis, Minnesota
To develop the NorthPoint Innovation Center to serve as the hub of community wellness efforts in North Minneapolis.....\$110,000

People, Incorporated
Saint Paul, Minnesota

To begin a program of crisis services for mentally ill children and adolescents in Anoka County.....\$72,000





Portico Healthnet
Saint Paul, Minnesota
 To continue a health care coverage expansion with hospitals throughout suburban Hennepin County.....**\$50,000**

Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault, Inc.
Duluth, Minnesota
 For a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) program, a systems advocate and a licensed therapist.....**\$275,000**

Project SOAR of Northeastern Minnesota
Duluth, Minnesota
 To establish a prisoner community re-entry program in Duluth.....**\$149,500**

Rainbow Families
Minneapolis, Minnesota
 To support staff costs during the implementation of a new strategic plan.....**\$50,000**

Southeast Asian Refugee Community Home
Minneapolis, Minnesota
 To support staff costs for SEARCH's programs.....**\$50,000**

St. Stephens Human Services, Inc.
Minneapolis, Minnesota
 For a pilot program to teach mind/body wellness skills to parents and children of families in a welfare-to-work program.....**\$132,700**

Village Family Service Center
Fargo, North Dakota
 To implement Family Group Decision Making in North Dakota.....**\$1,162,131**

Volunteers of America, Dakotas
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
 Toward an agency accreditation plan.....**\$198,846**

OTHER

The Community Solutions Fund
Saint Paul, Minnesota
 For a strategic planning process.....**\$38,000**

First Nations Development Institute
Fredericksburg, Virginia
 For targeted tribal convening in North and South Dakota.....**\$50,000**

Four Bands Community Fund, Incorporated
Eagle Butte, South Dakota
 For staff and consultant expenses involved in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of services provided by the agency.....**\$175,000**

Indian Land Tenure Foundation
Little Canada, Minnesota
 To support efforts to strengthen Indian land ownership and management in Minnesota and the Dakotas through the work of the Institute for Indian Estate Planning and Probate.....**\$345,000**

Leadership Empowerment and Development Group
Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Toward the salary of a program coordinator and consultants to continue the Many Voices, Shared Vision program, which provides nonprofit management training to a cadre of emerging African leaders.....**\$80,000**

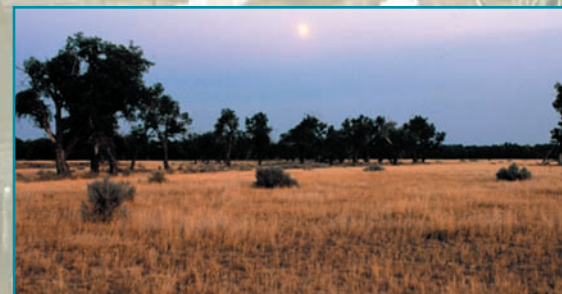
Minneapolis Consortium of Community Developers
Minneapolis, Minnesota
 For the Micro-Enterprise Careership project.....**\$60,000**

North Dakota Association of Nonprofit Organizations, Inc.
Bismarck, North Dakota
 For a plan to identify effective strategies to increase membership.....**\$25,000**

Northern Great Plains, Inc.
Fargo, North Dakota
 To conduct the Meadowlark Project, a leadership laboratory on the future of the Northern Great Plains.....**\$400,000**

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Fort Yates, North Dakota
 To complete a health and wellness addition to the Porcupine District community center.....**\$275,000**

Photographs courtesy of Indian Land Tenure Foundation



Grand Total \$13,436,101



Joe Chvala (BAF'94) and Flying Foot Forum in *Between Fire and Ice* (Mjöllnir II) (photographer, Warwick Green).

Bush Artist Fellows Program

At Patrick's Cabaret in February, **Heidi Arneson** ('96) premiered a new work, *Potato Chip Head*, playing a man trying to reconnect with the world outside his iPod.

Joe Chvala ('94) and his dance company, Flying Foot Forum, performed *Between the Fire and Ice* (*Mjöllnir II*) in December.

Hunger Wide as Heaven, a new book of poems by **Max Garland** ('99), came out in late March; it won the Cleveland State University Poetry Center Open Competition.

The January/February newsletter of the Loft Literary Center featured articles by or about **Shannon Gibney** ('05) and **David Treuer** ('03). Gibney also read her work at Lula's Coffee & Jaz in Minneapolis in March.

The paintings of **Catherine Johnson** ('94) were on display at Holly Hunt Minneapolis from September through December.

The University of Minnesota appointed poet **Deborah Keenan** ('86 & '95) to the Edelstein-Keller Minnesota Author of Distinction Chair for a one-year term in which she will teach selected English and creative writing graduate students, assist with thesis work and give a public reading. She is a full professor at Hamline University.

In February, *BOOKPAGE* magazine named *Whale Season* by **N.M. Kelby** ('99) its mystery of the month.

Jelloslave, the cello duo of Jacqueline Ferrier-Ultan and **Michelle Kinney** ('03), released a new CD, *Touch It*, in February.

The Nash Gallery at the University of Minnesota in January hosted work by **Stuart Klipper** ('80 & '95), **David Lefkowitz** ('02), **Aldo Moroni** ('91) and **Carolyn Swiszczy** ('02) as part of a show called *Cities*.

Atravez De Ti, Yo Soy (*Through You, I Am*), an experimental video by **Teresa Konechne** ('05), appeared at Intermedia Arts in Minneapolis in December. Additionally, the American Library Association named her film *this black soil* to its list of notable videos for adults for 2006.

An installation by **Dave Ryan** ('03), "The Hungering Deep," was part of a show at St. Olaf College—*Ever Present*.

Snapshots: Life in the City, with music by **J.D. Steele** ('03), premiered at Saint Paul's Great American History Theatre in March. The musical is based on the histories and poetry of young Twin Cities writers.

Spoken word artist **Luke Warm Water** ('05) appeared at Birchbark Books in Minneapolis in February.

Judith Lang Zaimont's ('05) *Symphony for Wind Orchestra in Three Scenes* received its European premiere in April at Trinity College of Music, Greenwich, London.

Bush Leadership Fellows Program

The National Indian Education Association honored **Will Antell** ('72) with a lifetime achievement award. He helped found the organization in 1969 and served as its first president.

An op-ed piece about the importance of individuality by **Linda Gourneau, M.D.** ('01) appeared in the *Dakota Journal* in December.

Steve Laible ('83) received the 2005 Public Service Award from the Minnesota Society of Certified Public Accountants, particularly recognizing his recent volunteer work in Bangladesh where he has organized a scholarship program that supports elementary school children.



In January, the Southwest Minnesota and Bush Foundations joined with local community groups in Worthington, Minnesota, to host a forum on immigration. Nearly 500 new and established area residents focused on working together with local and state officials to improve communication and safety in the community, which is located about 200 miles southwest of the Twin Cities (photographer, Quito Ziegler/Minnesota Immigrant Freedom Network).

Cecelia Martinez ('04) is the principal investigator for the Environmental Justice Education and Advocacy Collaborative Project, which will connect toxic site data with health disparities in low-income and urban communities of color, as well as at least one tribal community.

In September, an editorial by **Gabrielle Strong** ('92) appeared in the *Pioneer Press*. Its focus was the recent Indian Business Festival and the contributions of other Native American community leaders to the vitality of the Twin Cities.

The *Star Tribune* profiled in March the efforts of **Va-Megn Thoj** ('04 & BAF'05) to teach the Hmong language to staff at the City of Saint Paul.

Gary Viken ('89) currently serves as secretary of the South Dakota Department of Revenue and Regulation.

Bush Medical Fellows Program

The January issue of *Minnesota Medicine* highlighted the work of **Kenneth McMillan, M.D.** ('02), who is the director of medical services for Kola Health Outreach Program for Homeless Native Americans in Minneapolis.

Kathleen Wesa, M.D. ('01) presented results from her study about the benefits of using yoga for stress management in addiction medicine at conferences in Kobe, Japan and Exeter, England.

Bush Foundation Board and Staff

Senior Program Officer **Jane Kretzmann** recently became secretary of the Environmental Grantmakers Association.

In March, the Foundation's Board of Directors named **Tim Mathern** and **John M. Murphy, Jr.** to directorships. Mathern is a state senator from Fargo, North Dakota. Murphy is from Saint Paul and is the senior partner of a Minneapolis asset management company. The two replace **Shirley M. Clark** and **Diana E. Murphy** who served as directors for a combined 36 years.

Macalester College named alumna **June Noronha**, the Foundation's strategic planning officer, one of its 2005 Distinguished Citizens.

Heather O'Neill left the Foundation in April after six years as senior accountant. **Nancy Weidler** is her replacement.

Andrew Joseph Thimmesh joined the Bush Foundation family on January 9. His mother is **Martha Lee**, assistant director of the Bush Leadership Fellows Program.

Penumbra Theatre's Bellamy remembers early years with August Wilson (BAF'83)



When Penumbra Theatre received the prestigious Jujamcyn Award in 2002, August Wilson (right) was part of the ceremony that honored Lou Bellamy and Penumbra.

Photograph courtesy of Penumbra Theatre

Penumbra Theatre's visionary founder and creative director, Lou Bellamy, was more than a friend of August Wilson. He was also a fan of and a collaborator with the playwright, who died in October 2005.

Bellamy said, "Having a friend like that, a wonderful writer . . . makes you engage the literature in a wonderful way. He had a way with the soaring poetry of his monologues that would bring people along, only to switch in mainstream and bring on the painful side. I used to watch from backstage and would know the moment that people would go for their handkerchiefs. He knew how to construct that."

Wilson came to Saint Paul in 1978 at the invitation of Claude Purdy, a friend who had been hired by Bellamy to direct productions at Penumbra, a new theater devoted to showcasing black plays and culture. Wilson was impressed by the professionalism he saw at Penumbra and chose it as a place to learn about theater and hone his stagecraft.

In a 1997 speech Wilson said, "When I walked through the doors of Penumbra Theatre, I was excited to be in a black theater that had real lights, assigned seats and a set that was not a hodgepodge of found and borrowed props, as had been my experience with all the black theaters I had known." The admiration seems to flow both ways. Penumbra has produced more Wilson plays than any other theater in the world.

Wilson's national success as a black playwright made sense to Bellamy. "He never seemed to lose his compass. He was very creative in giving us the true picture of the African American experience." And he was able to avoid the ways productions by African Americans often are changed, once they move to the regional theaters, so they appeal to a broader audience. Although Bellamy believes that theater generated and grown inside of the black community is often siphoned-off and taken over by commercial interests, it's "not so with Wilson. He

“I became a playwright because I saw where my chosen profession was being sanctioned by a group of black men and women who were willing to invest their lives and their talent in assuming a responsibility for our presence in the world and our history as black Americans.”

August Wilson (BAF’83) in a 1997 speech at Penumbra Theatre



Penumbra staged Wilson's Joe Turner's Come and Gone in 2002 with James Craven as Seth and Greta Oglesby as Bertha (photographer, Act One Too Ltd.).

invented a way of moving plays around regional theaters and heading for Broadway without dilution.”

Penumbra’s founder, Bellamy, was a professor at the University of Minnesota in 1976 when he used a \$150,000 grant from the Carter Administration’s Comprehensive Employment and Training Act to hire 20 actors and move into an auditorium at the Martin Luther King Center in the Rondo neighborhood of Saint Paul.

Two years later, Wilson arrived in Saint Paul; he stayed until 1990. During those years, the playwright created *Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom*, *Fences* and *The Piano Lesson*; the last two won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

Wilson won a Bush Artist Fellowship in 1983 and used the time to finish *Fences*, study dramaturgy from a practical standpoint and experiment with turning his poetry into drama. “In his early work,” Bellamy said, “you can tell he didn’t understand dramaturgy. His first play, *Black Bart and the Sacred Hills*, was rough.” But

Wilson loved watching plays and would come to Penumbra every night during the run of some productions just to study them and to be supportive of the theater. He also loved watching his own plays, Bellamy said. He’d laugh and cry like he didn’t know what was going to happen in the end. For Wilson, Penumbra’s production of *The Piano Lesson* would become “not only my favorite staging but a model of style and eloquence that would inspire my future work.” In fact, when the playwright was in preproduction for the television production of *The Piano Lesson*, he came back to Penumbra to watch the show and take notes.

Bellamy marveled that “with the literature August gave us, I don’t have to go outside of myself to find great material that reflects the culture. I don’t have to play Shakespeare to have a great role. August changed the community, and he was here because of Penumbra. Black theater needs more like August Wilson.” ❁

Since 1991, the Foundation has granted just over \$1 million to Penumbra Theatre.

Excerpts from August Wilson's plays

See now . . . I'll tell you something about me. I done strung along and strung along. Going this way and that. Whatever way would lead me to a moment of peace. That's all I want. To be as easy with everything. But I wasn't born to that. I was born to a time of fire.

The world ain't wanted no part of me. I could see that since I was about seven. The world say it's better off without me. See, Berniece accept that. She trying to come up to where she can prove something to the world. Hell, the world a better place because of me. I don't see it like Berniece. I got a heart that beats here and it beats just as loud as the next fellow's. Don't care if he black or white. Sometime it beats louder. When it beats louder, then everybody can hear it. Some people get scared of that. Like Berniece. Some people get scared to hear a nigger's heart beating. They think you ought to lay low with that heart. Make it beat quiet and go along with everything the way it is. But my mama ain't birthed me for nothing. So what I got to do? I got to mark my passing on the road. Just like you write on a tree, "Boy Willie was here."



Boy Willie from *The Piano Lesson*

The roots is a powerful thing. I can fix it so one day he'll walk out his front door . . . won't be thinking of nothing. He won't know what it is. All he knows it that a powerful dissatisfaction done set in his bones and can't nothing he do make him feel satisfied. He'll set his foot down on the road and the wind in the trees be talking to him and everywhere he step on the road, that road'll give back your name and something will pull him right up to your doorstep. Now, I can do that. I can take my roots and fix that easy. But maybe he ain't supposed to come back. And if he ain't supposed to come back . . . then he'll be in your bed one morning and it'll come up on him that he's in the wrong place. That he's lost outside of time from his place that he's supposed to be in. Then both of you be lost and trapped outside of life and ain't no way for you to get back into it. Cause you lost from yourselves and where the places come together, where you're supposed to be alive, your heart kicking in your chest with a song worth singing.

Bynum from *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*



August Wilson (BAF'83)
(1945-2005)

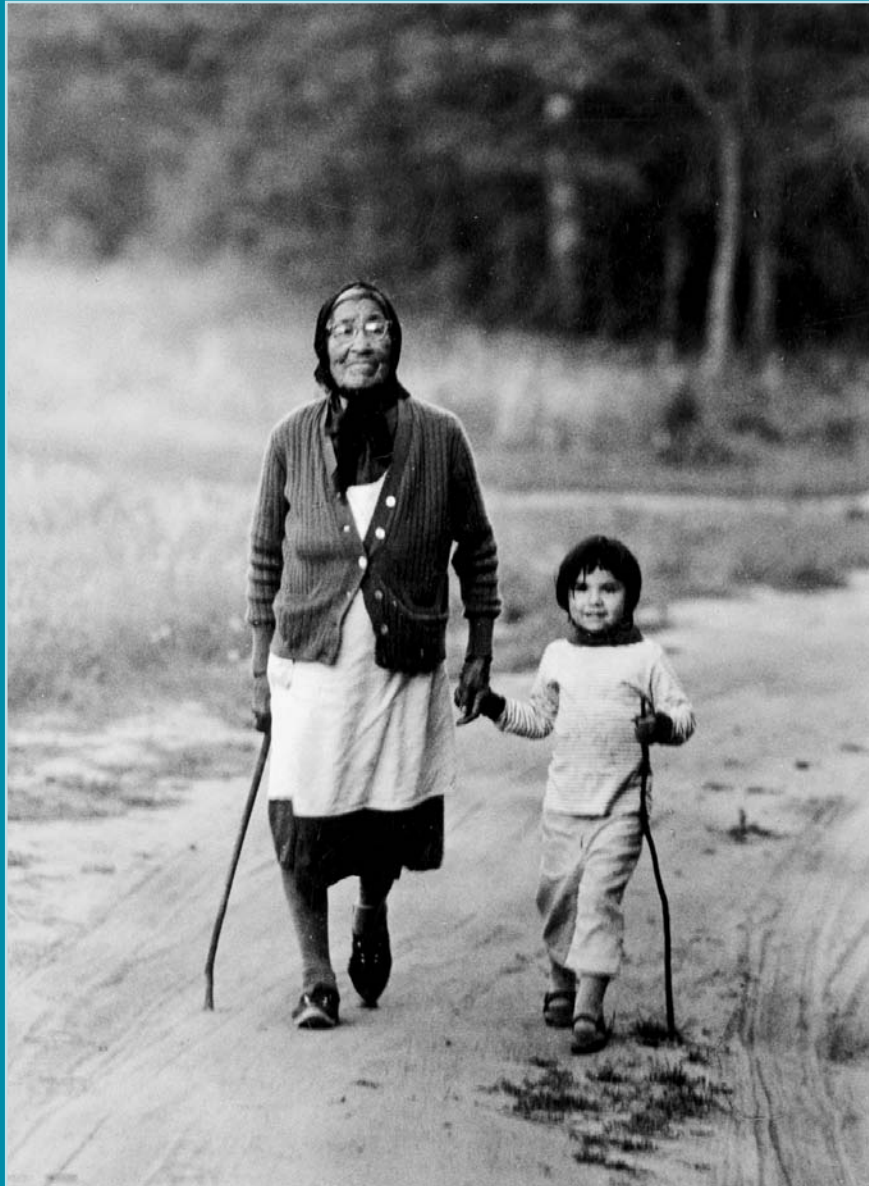
- 1945** Born Frederick August Kittel in the poor Hill District of Pittsburgh to Daisy Wilson, a black woman, and Frederick Kittel, a red-haired German baker.
- 1960** Drops out of Gladstone High School in the tenth grade when a teacher accuses him of plagiarizing a paper on Napoleon. Continues his education at the library and on the street.
- 1965** Discovers the blues through Bessie Smith's *Nobody Can Bake a Sweet Jelly Roll Like Mine*. When his father dies, changes his name to August Wilson. Buys his first typewriter for \$20 and begins writing poetry.
- 1968** Co-founds Black Horizon Theater.
- 1976** Kuntu Theatre (Pittsburgh) stages first Wilson script, *The Homecoming*. Sees his first professional play, Athol Fugard's *Sizwe Bansi is Dead*, at Pittsburgh Public Theater.
- 1977** Writes *Black Bart and the Sacred Hills*.
- 1978** Moves to Saint Paul on the advice of friend Claude Purdy; lands job writing for Science Museum; becomes involved with Penumbra Theatre (see story, page 30).
- 1980** Wins fellowship at The Playwrights' Center in Minneapolis.
- 1982** National Playwrights Conference at O'Neill Theater Center accepts *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*; meets O'Neill chief Lloyd Richards, who goes on to direct his six plays on Broadway. Works in the kitchen at Little Brothers of the Poor in Saint Paul.
- 1983** Receives Bush Artist Fellowship to work on *Fences*.
- 1984** *Ma Rainey* opens on Broadway and wins the New York Drama Critics Circle and Tony Awards.
- 1987** *Fences* opens on Broadway, wins Pulitzer Prize, grosses \$11 million in its first year (a Broadway record for a non-musical).
- 1988** *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* opens on Broadway; it is nominated for the Tony Award and wins the New York Drama Critics Circle Award. Lectures at Carnegie Institute's Man and Ideas series on "Blacks, Blues and Cultural Imperialism." Appears on Bill Moyers' *World of Ideas* on PBS.
- 1990** *The Piano Lesson* opens on Broadway, wins Pulitzer Prize and the Tony Award. Wilson moves to Seattle.
- 1992** *Two Trains Running* opens on Broadway; it is nominated for a Tony Award and wins the American Theater Critics Association Award.
- 1994** *The Piano Lesson* is broadcast on television's *Hallmark Hall of Fame*.
- 1996** *Seven Guitars* hits Broadway; it is nominated for the Tony Award and wins the New York Drama Critics Award.
- 1998** Convenes Dartmouth conference on African American theater that establishes the African Grove Institute of the Arts.
- 2000** *Jitney* finally arrives in New York, the first to be staged off-Broadway; it wins a New York Drama Critics Circle Award. Delivers angry historical critique of American racism at Heinz Lecture Series.
- 2001** *King Hedley II* comes to Broadway; it is nominated for a Tony Award.
- 2002** *Jitney* wins London's Olivier Award for year's best play. Movement begins to save Wilson's childhood home as an historic site.
- 2003** Performs solo autobiographical stand-up, *How I Learned What I Learned*, in Seattle. Receives \$250,000 Heinz Award for Arts and Humanities.
- 2004** *Gem of the Ocean* opens on Broadway and is nominated for a Tony Award.
- 2005** *Radio Golf* premieres at Yale Repertory. Diagnosed with deadly liver cancer; dies October 2 at age 60 in Seattle. Broadway theater renamed to honor him.



Charles S. Dutton and Whoopi Goldberg in the 2003 revival of Ma Rainey's Black Bottom (photographer, Sara Krulwich/The New York Times).

Excerpt from *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*

Ma Rainey: “They don’t care nothing for me. All they want is my voice. Well, I done learned that, and they gonna treat me like I want to be treated no matter how much it hurt them. They back there now calling me all kinds of names . . . calling me everything but a child of God. But they can’t do nothing else. They ain’t got what they wanted yet. As soon as they get my voice down on them recording machines, then it’s just like if I’d be some whore and they roll over and put their pants on. Ain’t got no use for me then. I know what I’m talking about. You watch. Irvin right there with the rest of them. He don’t care nothing about me either. He’s been my manager for six years, always talking about sticking together, and the only time he had me in his house was to sing for some of his friends.”



Photographer, Charles Brill (courtesy of Mrs. Jan Brill)



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