

# **Celebrating 25 Years 2010 Annual Report to Contributors and Past Grant Recipients of Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund**

## **HISTORY AND REFLECTIONS ON THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Richard (Yogi) Crowe was an enrolled member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians who grew up in Sevier County, TN and Cherokee, NC. Yogi, as he was known to his family and friends, served in the armed forces during the Vietnam War. After being diagnosed with diabetes, Yogi left the military, came back to Cherokee and decided to further his education. After completing his bachelor's degree, Yogi worked at several jobs, but he desired to further his education.

Yogi was accepted into the Master's program in Public Health at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Juggling work, graduate school and family responsibilities wasn't easy, but Yogi would not be deterred. Yogi graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1982. He became the Director of the American Indian Recruiting Program for the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. This job gave Yogi the opportunity to do what he wanted to do – encourage more Native Americans and especially Eastern Cherokees to attend graduate school.

Yogi was the driving force behind many Eastern Cherokees enrolling and completing graduate school. His encouragement at many times kept students from quitting their graduate programs. At the time of his death, community leaders were encouraging Yogi to run for Principal Chief of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Unfortunately, Yogi was killed in an automobile accident on May 25, 1983, at the age of 37.

After Yogi's death, his friends wanted to honor him and continue the work he had started regarding tribal members attending graduate and post-graduate school. A Steering Committee comprised of Jack Bradley, Mary Herr, Ruth Littlejohn, Phillip Smith, Julius Taylor, Ruth Taylor and Charlotte Whittemore submitted a resolution to Tribal Council requesting sanctioning by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to pursue funding and establish eligibility guidelines for a scholarship fund for enrolled

members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians pursuing graduate degrees. Resolution #94 was approved by the Tribal Council on January 5, 1984.

After unsuccessfully exploring options with several colleges and universities to establish the scholarship fund, the Steering Committee decided to form a non-profit organization. The Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund was incorporated on January 4, 1985 with Mary Herr, Ruth Littlejohn and Charlotte Whittemore being the incorporators. In July 1985, the Scholarship Fund was granted 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service.

The original Board of Directors of the Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc. were Charles (Jim) Hornbuckle, President; Charlotte S. Whittemore, Vice President, Mary A. Herr, Secretary-Treasurer, William Crowe, Ruth S. Littlejohn, Julius Taylor and Mary Wachacha. The Board decided to establish a perpetual endowment fund with the initial goal being \$100,000. Of the original Board of Directors, Mary Herr and Mary Wachacha have served on the board throughout its entirety. Mary Herr served as Secretary-Treasurer from 1985 to 1995, at which time Brenda Oocumma became Treasurer. Mary Herr continued serving as Secretary from 1995 to the present.

It was determined that the scholarships would be awarded to Eastern Band of Cherokee graduate school applicants utilizing the interest earned on the perpetual endowment. This would leave the fund principal untouched to ensure available monies for future scholarships. The Board of Directors serves without financial compensation, and there are no paid positions associated with the organization. The Board members pay annual dues which go into the Scholarship Fund.

In 1985, as an honor to their alumnus, Richard (Yogi) Crowe, the University of Tennessee in Knoxville agreed to award a waiver of tuition and fees to any graduate student recommended by the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund. A number of Eastern Cherokees have taken advantage of this substantial financial opportunity provided by the University of

Tennessee throughout the years including Dr. Reva Ballew, Sara Fleetwood, Becky Walker, Marvel Welch and Paula Brown Wojtkowski.

It was exciting to be able to give our first grant in the amount of \$300 to Jan Smith Carroll on May 30, 1986. During earlier years, favorable interest and earnings rates provided funds for scholarship grants and growth in the market value of the endowment. With the economic downturn of 2008, earnings and the value of the endowment dropped significantly. The endowment is slowly recovering from the downturn along with many organizations and individuals across the country.

In the early 1990's when our endowment was small and the Eastern Band's Education Program also had limited funding, we had many requests from a number of graduate and post-graduate students. We attempted to give each student some amount if not all that they requested. Recently because of increased tribal funding for higher education, we have had fewer students requesting assistance. Therefore, we have been able to give larger grants as our endowment has grown.

Reflecting on the early years of the Yogi Crowe Scholarship Fund, we would be remiss if mention was not made of two of the founding members who are no longer with us. Ruth Littlejohn and Charlotte Whittemore, Cherokee elders who knew the value of higher education and the cost of it, were persistent in their dedication to the establishment and growth of the scholarship fund. When board members sometimes became discouraged, Ruth would always have some positive thoughts and encouragement. Since 1998, Ruth Littlejohn's daughter, Dr. Carmaleta Littlejohn Monteith, has served on the Board of Directors and as Board President since 2005.

Throughout the years, we had 24 dedicated board members who served faithfully for a variety of terms, each bringing their particular expertise to the organization. Past board members include our current Principal Chief Michell Hicks and former Principal Chief Joyce Dugan. Likewise, we have had the loyal support of many contributors who helped our endowment grow. Some began contributing in the 1980's and continue to do so today. Because of their generosity, the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund grew from less than \$1,000 in 1985 to over \$500,000 in 2007.

It has been rewarding to see an increased number of our past grant recipients in supervisory and leadership positions in tribal government and other entities in the area. One of Yogi Crowe's dreams was to see more tribal members in professional and supervisory positions. Never in his wildest dreams would Yogi have thought that the scholarship fund named in his honor would grow as it has and enable 74 tribal members in the amount of almost \$184,000 to further their education and become community leaders. This includes not only master's degrees, but doctoral, law, veterinarian and medical. Thanks to all of you who have helped make Yogi's dream a reality.

[www.yogicrowecherokeescholarship.org](http://www.yogicrowecherokeescholarship.org)

This is where you can go to find interesting statistics, information about recent past recipients, information about how to donate, and an application form.



**THOUGHTS OF MARY WACHACHA,  
CHARTER MEMBER  
OF RICHARD (YOGI) CROWE MEMORIAL  
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

As our name implies, we are a scholarship committee. It is unfortunate that we are a **memorial** scholarship dedicated to the posthumous recognition honoring the memory and accomplishments of Richard (Yogi) Crowe. We certainly miss his infectious personality! For those of us who knew Richard, we remember a man who, against all odds, worked hard to improve himself and wanted to become a better person; a man who never forgot his roots, a man who valued education.

Richard managed to complete his college education, found a way to go on to get his Master's in Public Health and continued to encourage other Cherokee students to remain in college and to pursue post-graduate degrees. His death in a car accident, probably as a result of insulin shock from his diabetes, was a shock to everyone who knew him. Family and friends looked for ways to honor his memory and the idea of a scholarship in his memory gained support. We have been successful beyond our wildest imagination!

As we look back over the past 25 years, the scholarship has had dedicated board members who have looked at many ways to increase our funding so that we can support Eastern Band of Cherokee students in their pursuit of advanced degrees. Not only have our board members – past and present – worked to achieve our goals of increased financial support for students, but our student recipients have also worked to achieve their career goals.

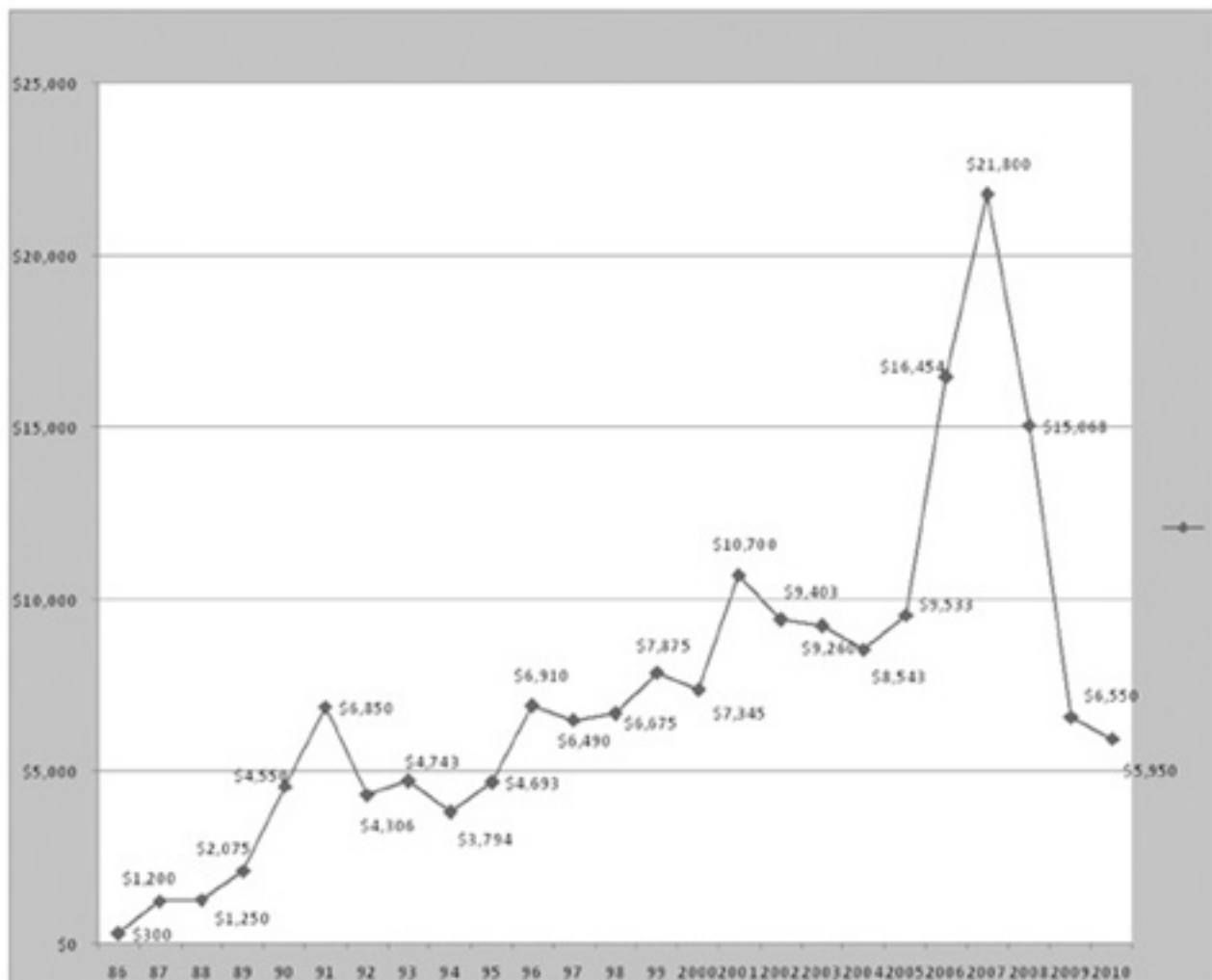
In the 1970s and 1980s, the Eastern Band of Cherokee had a handful of college graduates. Tribal assistance has improved the number of graduates with four year degrees. The Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship has assisted many of our college graduates to complete Master's and higher level college degrees. Now it is our enrolled members who are not just the teachers but the Principals and the Superintendent of Schools. We are the lawyers, the accountants, the casino managers, the doctors and nurses.

The Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund Board of Directors salutes our past board members. We thank our many donors over the past 25 years, and, we salute and honor all our Eastern Band of Cherokee enrolled members who have graduated with advanced degrees! Richard Crowe has truly been honored through our

students' pursuit of education.

We look forward to the coming 25 years and we hope the year 2035 finds the Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund a continuing influence for education among the Eastern Band of Cherokee.





### YOGI CROWE SCHOLARSHIP FUND TIMELINE

**1986** – The fund balance at the beginning of the year was \$11,276.33 which included a \$10,000 grant from the Hanes Foundation.

**1989** – The fund balance at the beginning of the year was \$15,366.38 in checking and \$34,000 in Certificate of Deposit which included \$10,000 grants from the Janirve Foundation, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and Bryan Family Foundation.

**1991** – The endowment fund was \$61,000 at the end of the year.

**1993** – The endowment fund was over \$79,000 at the end of the year which included a challenge grant from the Bryan Family Foundation.

**1994** – The \$100,000 goal for the endowment was reached. Due to the rising costs of higher education and the growing number of Eastern Cherokees pursuing graduate degrees, the Board of

Directors increased the goal for the endowment to \$200,000 on December 16, 1994.

**1998** – \$20,000 received from Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Harrah's Scholarship Fund. The Board of Directors approved investing the endowment with Community Foundation of Western North Carolina in Asheville, NC.

**2000** – \$20,000 received from EBCI Harrah's Scholarship Fund.

**2002** – \$10,000 received from EBCI Harrah's Scholarship Fund.

**2003** – \$20,000 received from EBCI Harrah's Scholarship Fund.

**2004** – Bequests from the estate of Robert Alan McMurray (\$162,113) and Trust of Thomas E. Field (\$5,000) were received allowing us to achieve the \$200,000 goal.

**2005** - \$20,000 received from EBCI Harrah's Scholarship Fund. The Board of Directors increased the goal of the endowment to \$500,000 to again meet the rising costs of higher education.

**2007** - \$20,000 received from EBCI Harrah's Scholarship Fund. \$500,000 goal was met.

**2008** - Endowment decreased to \$355,096 at end of year due to economic crisis.

**October 20, 2009** - The Board of Directors adopted the following vision statement: The greatest strength of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians lies in educated tribal members. The Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund's Board of Directors hopes to insure that every tribal member who wishes to pursue higher education has the opportunity to do so. We plan to do this by providing financial support and encouragement to enrolled members seeking an education at the Master's level and higher.

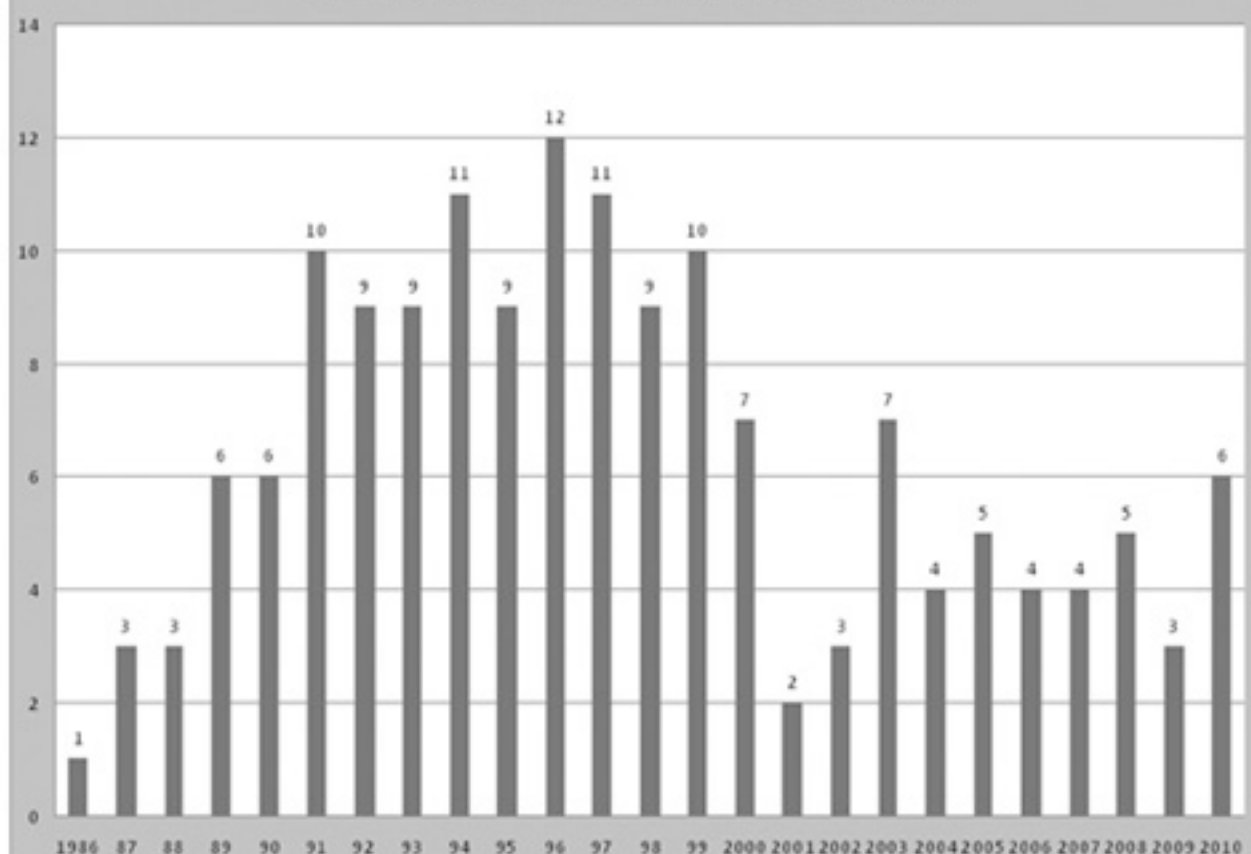
**2009** - \$25,000 grant received from EBCI Harrah's Scholarship Fund. Endowment fund balance was \$447,666 at end of year.

**2011 and beyond:** According to Tribal Education, anticipated areas of educational needs for Eastern Cherokees in the future are medical (nurses, medical practitioners, dentists); public administrators; accountants, lawyers, engineers, environmentalists, and educators. The Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund will do all we can to provide funding for students in these areas.

## 2010 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Our 2010 financial reports will not be available until late February or early March. If you would like a copy of the 2010 financial reports, please email [maryherr@dnet.net](mailto:maryherr@dnet.net) or write to the Scholarship Fund at P. O. Box 892, Cherokee, NC 28719.

### NUMBER OF STUDENTS FUNDED PER YEAR





**COMMENTS FROM A FORMER  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT  
AND CURRENT BOARD MEMBER  
BY ANITA WELCH JOHNSON, JD**

Siyo.

Members and recipients, as the newest board member and as a past recipient, it is an honor to be addressing you in our 25th Anniversary Edition Annual Report. In reflection, this past year has not only been a time of reviewing the past 25 accomplishments, but it has also been a time of learning and progressing forward.



In preparation of this report, I have been able to interact and learn more about my fellow board members and past recipients. I learned that some of the current board members have been with the Yogi Crowe Scholarship Fund (YCSF) for many years, and some were with the YCSF at its inception. It is this kind of stability paired with wisdom that has kept this scholarship fund active, strong and growing even through difficult financial times.

On a personal note, I am excited to announce my recent engagement to Bo Lossiah. In the combining of our families, we will have three in high school and two in middle school. He lovingly calls us all the "Magnificent 7". We plan on being married this spring and will reside in Yellowhill.

Regarding work, I continue to work as an attorney with the tribe at the Office of the Attorney General. Some of the responsibilities of our office consist of handling the legal affairs of Tribal Council and Executive branch; tribal departments, boards, committees and entities; plus drafting legislation, policies and procedures. I feel that one of my greatest responsibilities as a past recipient in law is to talk with and support others towards advancing their education and to share my own personal educational experiences.

With more tribal members attending graduate/professional schools, there will be an even greater need for this fund to grow to better provide for additional applicants. So, it is vital that we continue to be guided from the wisdom of past practices while looking forward to provide for more students in the future. It is this secure forward thinking and determination that will keep us strong for yet another 25 years. Sgi.

**REFLECTIONS FROM A FORMER  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT  
AND CURRENT BOARD MEMBER  
BY REVA BALLEW, PHD**

Since this is the 25th anniversary of the Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund, I wanted to write about what the scholarship has meant to me as a recipient and a board member. I first learned of the Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund when I began attending graduate school at the University of Tennessee to get my PhD.

I had previously attended Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC as an undergraduate, graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree majoring in psychology with a minor in guidance counseling in 1985. I also received a Master's degree from WCU in clinical psychology in 1987. After I received my Master's degree, I worked at Smoky Mountain Counseling Center from 1987-1991 as an outpatient therapist in the Haywood County school system and in the Waynesville and Cullowhee outpatient centers. I applied to the University of Tennessee to attend their clinical psychology doctoral program in 1991. I did not expect to be accepted right away. I had known PhDs who had to apply for several years to several schools before they were accepted. I surprisingly was accepted to the University of Tennessee's fall 1991 class. There were 12 of us from all over the country.

The PhD program is very demanding and required full time on campus attendance. The amount of time required on campus, study groups, lab assistantships typically prevent any type of outside employment. The clinical psychology program provides a monthly stipend in the amount of a few hundred dollars. This obviously would not cover my book cost (sometimes up to \$1000 a semester) much less my living expenses. I applied to the Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund. I received funding from the scholarship for every semester that I was there from fall 1991 through summer 1996. Additionally in my internship year, I received a tuition waiver. This tuition waiver was an agreement between the Scholarship Fund and the University of Tennessee. The Graduate School had done this in honor of Richard (Yogi) Crowe since he had received his Master's degree there. The scholarship monies always arrived before the semester started which was before any other monies I received came in. It was always a great help, financially and stress level wise, to have the money to buy books or supplies before the semester started.

When I graduated in August 1996, I returned to North Carolina. I worked for the Eastern Band of Cherokee

Indians from December 1996 through December 2004 as the Behavioral Health Center Program Manager.

In 1998 I was asked to serve on the Richard (Yogi) Crowe Scholarship Fund. I have been on the board since that time. It has been a unique and rewarding experience to serve. Unique in that I got to experience the other side of the scholarship funding process. Rewarding in that it has been a wonderful experience to feel that I have been able to watch our tribal members begin their graduate programs and complete their advanced degrees. Since I began serving on the board, I have seen 37 students funded for a total of \$107,636.

Being a Native American pursuing a higher degree can be a difficult process. Historically we have had lower high school graduation rates (approximately 84% of Native students complete high school compared to 93% of their white counterparts), undergraduate attendance (26% of Native Americans ages 18-24 attended college compared to 42% of their white counterparts), and completion rates (21% of Native Americans complete their first year of college). We have had few role models and often financial restrictions. I was the first member of my immediate family to attend and complete college. This is not unusual in Native American families. The highest levels of degree obtained by Native Americans are 9.5% associate's degrees, 8.6% bachelor's degrees, 3.1% master's degrees and 1.4% doctoral degrees. This is compared to 9.1% associates, 20.7% bachelors, 7.9% masters and 3.2% doctoral degrees for their white counterparts.

My Doctoral Dissertation "The Experience of Native American Women Obtaining Their Doctoral Degrees at Traditional American Universities" allowed me to explore in depth some of the issues Native Americans encounter in higher education. I interviewed 10 Native American women psychologists. At the time of my interviews, there were only a total of 30 Native American women psychologists. I explored issues of Historical Trauma and other reasons why Natives have not historically pursued and been successful in higher education.

The members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians are in a great position to pursue graduate degrees. The tribe's Education Department now provides good funding typically covering almost all expenses. There are also additional funding opportunities, the Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund being just one of several that is available. The Scholarship Fund was of great support to me during my education, financially and emotionally. I would encourage anyone

interested in pursuing a Master's or Doctoral degree to take advantage of the Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund and the other educational resources that are available to the members of the Eastern Band of Cherokees.



**2010 Board of Directors**

Back row - left to right: Dr. Carmaleta Monteith, Dr. Reva Ballew, Leeann Bridges, Mary Wachacha and Anita Johnson

Front row: left to right: Mary Herr and Brenda Oocumma

### **COMMENTS FROM JOYCE DUGAN, FORMER PRINCIPAL CHIEF AND BOARD MEMBER**

During the early part of the last century, a high school degree was not essential for getting a job, but was surely considered an asset by an employer. Then as the country began to compete with a much more educated world, along with a greater demand for specific skills and training, the college degree became the expectation.

As we enter this new century, technology and competition for jobs is now demanding master's degrees and higher. Many of our tribal members have stepped up to meet that demand, and the tribe has also recognized the need in its own workforce and has established funding for its members to attain these educational goals.

Long before this, however, and at a time when few were imagining life beyond a college degree or even high school, some local visionaries recognized the value of a master's degree when they established the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund in 1985. Today, many of our members are benefiting from employment in careers of their choice because they had the benefit of this scholarship, which has been sustained by those who believed in its mission.

**2010 CONTRIBUTORS TO  
RICHARD (YOGI) CROWE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
January 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010**

**SUSTAINING MEMBER (\$1,000 or more each year)**

Dr. William J. Martin (Past grant recipient)

**FRIEND OF THE FUND (\$100 each year)**

Harvey and Jatón West

**DONATED GOODS, SERVICES AND TIME**

Dr. Reva Ballew (Past grant recipient)

Anita Johnson (Past grant recipient)

Leeann Bridges (Past grant recipient)

Cherokee One Feather

Food Lion Shop and Save Participants

Mary Herr

Dr. Carmaleta Monteith

Joyce Parker

Brenda Oocumma

Tribal Education Department

University of Tennessee Graduate School

Mary Wachacha

David Wyatt

**HONORING GIFTS**

**In honor of:**

Brenda Oocumma by Leeann Bridges (Past grant recipient)

Jatón West by Steven T. Weatherly

**MEMORIAL GIFTS**

**In Memory of:**

Hugh and Myrtle LaShomb by Mary A. Herr

Tony Plemmons by Dr. Reva Ballew, Leeann Bridges, Mary Herr,

Anita Johnson, Dr. Carmaleta Monteith and Brenda Oocumma

Carolyn Rose by Brenda Oocumma

Bob Ross by Brenda Oocumma

Howard Toineeta by Brenda Oocumma

**MISCELLANEOUS CONTRIBUTIONS**

Dr. Reva Ballew (Past grant recipient)

Leeann Bridges (Past grant recipient)

Food Lion LLC Shop and Share Program

Boysie Fortez/Iroquoian Plumbing and Heating Supplies

Mike Ginn (Past grant recipient)

Patty Grant (Past grant recipient) via John S. Rausch

Mary A. Herr

D. Michael and Dolores Kapilla

George M. Kloster, Jr.



MISCELLANEOUS CONTRIBUTIONS, continued

Amanda L. Meeker  
Tiana Melquist (Past grant recipient)  
Dr. Carmaleta L. Monteith  
Brenda Oocumma  
Dwight C. Price  
Richard Spivey  
Mary Wachacha  
Sarah Wachacha (Past grant recipient)

*Thanks to everyone for your contributions!*

*Thank you, Brenda!*

It was with regret that the Board of Directors accepted the resignation of Brenda Oocumma from the board at our December meeting. Brenda has served on the board since 1989 and for many years as Treasurer. We have relied upon Brenda's expertise as a CPA and good common sense to guide us in our financial planning and investments.

Thank you, Brenda, for serving us so loyally all of these years and for your many contributions to the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund. We will miss you at our board meetings.

The Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund invites you to consider our organization as a beneficiary when making your will. Bequests of personal or real property including stocks, bonds, money market funds or other valuable items are appreciated.

You may also make a tax deductible contribution at this time by gifts of cash, securities, annuities, life insurance or other tangible assets. For more information, contact us at:

P. O. Box 892  
Cherokee, NC 28789  
or 828-497-9498  
maryherr@dnet.net

*Welcome, Sharon!*

We are pleased to welcome Sharon Blankenship to the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Board of Directors. Sharon is employed by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians as Director of Internal Audit and has agreed to serve as Treasurer in 2011.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you no longer wish to receive an annual report or mailings from the Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund, please email [maryherr@dnet.net](mailto:maryherr@dnet.net), call 828-497-9498 or write P. O. Box 892, Cherokee, NC 28719.

If you would prefer receiving future annual reports by email, please send us your email address. Thank you!

## COMMENTS FROM PAST GRANT RECIPIENTS

Past grant recipients from each of the five years that the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund offered scholarships were selected to represent the recipients within one of the five year periods. Here are their comments in response to questions:

### **Jan Smith (1986-1990) – Master's Degree in Education Counseling**

***What motivated you to apply to a graduate school or a professional school and to apply for the Yogi Crowe Scholarship Fund?***

I was born into a family that valued education. Both my parents were teachers, and I wanted to follow in their footsteps and teach as well. I completed my Bachelor's Degree and stepped into a part-time teaching job. I felt at that time I had met my educational goal. My part-time job quickly turned into a full time counselor position with one condition that I return to earn some graduate hours in counseling. I was raising my one-year-old son and keeping my job was my motivation to apply for graduate school.



I was fortunate to receive Tribal Higher Education funding and my tuition was paid, but I had to cover all the other expenses and money was tight. My daughter was born half way through my degree making it even more difficult to keep pursuing my Master's degree. My mother agreed to baby-sit for me, so I continued to take one class every semester.

Fortunately one day I was approached by Mary Herr who asked if I was interested in applying for the Yogi Crowe Scholarship to help with expenses so I could continue school. I had gone to undergraduate school at Western Carolina University with Yogi Crowe and I remembered him encouraging me and the other Cherokee students to achieve our educational goals. His humor helped brighten even our hardest days. This time his help would be financial; a reward for my hard work and an inspiration for me to graduate. After six long years I graduated with my Master's Degree in Counseling, I was able to keep my job and provide for my three children. I just completed a very satisfying career retiring after 32 years.

***What do you feel is your greatest responsibility as a scholarship recipient?***

Being a recipient of the Yogi Crowe Scholarship, I feel my responsibility is to be appreciative of the financial assistance I received and to give thanks because it was such a great help for me to reach my educational goal. There are different ways one can give back to the scholarship, financially if possible and by encouraging other students or being a mentor to other students. I hope that I have done all of the above and will continue when possible.

***What advice do you have for students who are thinking about attending Graduate/professional School and seeking assistance from the Yogi Crowe Scholarship Fund?***

My advice for others who are thinking of going to graduate school is to go for it! Once enrolled, utilize support groups whether it is your family, friends, EBCI Higher Education, or the Yogi Crowe Scholarship Committee. Believe in yourself and be determined to achieve your educational goals. My biggest support group was my family and I appreciate them so much.

### **HANNAH SMITH (1991-1995) – Law Degree**

***What motivated you to apply to a graduate school or a professional school and to apply for the Yogi Crowe Scholarship Fund?***



I like having options. The more options the better. After having worked as a paralegal in Phoenix, Arizona and getting to know other lawyers, I realized that the field of law was so broad in scope that working in this field would provide almost limitless options if I ever felt stuck in a career. Almost every aspect of daily life and every field of study has a legal component to it. Whatever your interests are, as a lawyer you can help to promote, protect and explore that interest and never feel like you're at a dead end.

***What do you feel is your greatest responsibility as a scholarship recipient?***

To provide support and encouragement to any student whether it is a high school student or undergraduate student. I realize that most of us from around here are not as professionally connected as a lot of students are when they enter a college or graduate school. That makes it difficult to envision a particular future sometimes or a particular level of achievement. Most of us are the first or second generation in the family

to seek undergraduate or post graduate education and as such there can be an extra emotional or psychological challenge to success. I believe it is important for tribal member professionals to bond together through social and professional exchanges so that we can support and lift each other up as well as future generations. This is more important than we might realize.

***What advice do you have for students who are thinking about attending Graduate/professional School and seeking assistance from the Yogi Crowe Scholarship Fund?***

My advice is: Do it. If you can get into a grad school, go. You will never regret the options you create for yourself. Even if you still don't know what you want to be when you grow up, just follow your instincts to an area of study that you like and keep putting one foot in front of the other. It will eventually lead you to where you're supposed to be.

**Deborah E. Lambert (1996-2000) – Master's Degree in School Counseling**

***What motivated you to apply to a graduate school or a professional school and to apply for the Yogi Crowe Scholarship Fund?***



I applied to graduate school because I wanted to further my education, beyond the bachelor degree I had earned. I loved teaching, but I wanted to affect more students. My thought was that teachers impact students in a powerful way. The next person to affect a student's life was a counselor.

I was motivated to apply to the Yogi Crowe Scholarship Fund because I knew it was established to assist enrolled members as they worked toward a graduate degree. As I completed an internship, I knew I would not be able to maintain my employment. I had worked on a Master's degree while working full time and also had a family. The assistance from Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund was greatly appreciated and helped make my life much easier.

***What do you feel is your greatest responsibility as a scholarship recipient?***

I feel my greatest responsibility is to encourage and inspire other enrolled members to pursue their dreams and goals in higher education. This is one reason I

obtained a Master's Degree in School Counseling. Our students have tremendous potential, and we should do all we can to help them reach their goals.

***What advice do you have for students who are thinking about attending Graduate/professional School and seeking assistance from the Yogi Crowe Scholarship Fund?***

I would encourage students to take their education to the next level – graduate school and higher degrees beyond an associate or bachelor degree. More and more enrolled members are doing that. I think it is remarkable that our tribe has produced these people. We should continually encourage people to do this.

**Kimlyn S. Lambert (2001-2005) – Master's Degree in Education Administration**

***What motivated you to apply to a graduate school or a professional school and to apply for the Yogi Crowe Scholarship Fund?***

I received my Associate Degree from SCC in 1997 and my Bachelor's Degree from WCU in 1999. I applied for graduate school in 2003 after realizing that I needed to further my education in order to have more job opportunities and chances for advancement. I received my Master's Degree in Educational Administration from WCU in 2006. Getting my



Master's Degree enabled me to get my dream job working at Vocational Opportunities of Cherokee, Inc., (VOC) as the Executive Director helping Tribal members with disabilities. I applied for the Yogi Crowe Scholarship to help with my educational costs, but also to receive their encouragement and support while I was attending graduate classes.

***What do you feel is your greatest responsibility as a scholarship recipient?***

To use your education and career for the benefit of others, and to encourage other students that receive the scholarship to do the same. I feel that as a Yogi Crowe Scholarship Fund recipient, it is important that we perpetuate the insight and vision of Yogi Crowe who advocated for Tribal members to get advanced degrees. By encouraging Tribal members to apply for and receive advanced degrees, we are insuring our Tribe's perpetuity by making sure that we have educated people to lead us forward as a Nation.

***What advice do you have for students who are thinking about attending Graduate/professional School and seeking assistance from the Yogi Crowe Scholarship Fund?***

As someone who was employed in the Higher Education Program for the EBCI, I spent 16 years encouraging students to apply for higher education in whatever field they were interested. I am proud to say that during this time we had hundreds of two and four year graduates, many of whom are in top leadership of the Tribe today.

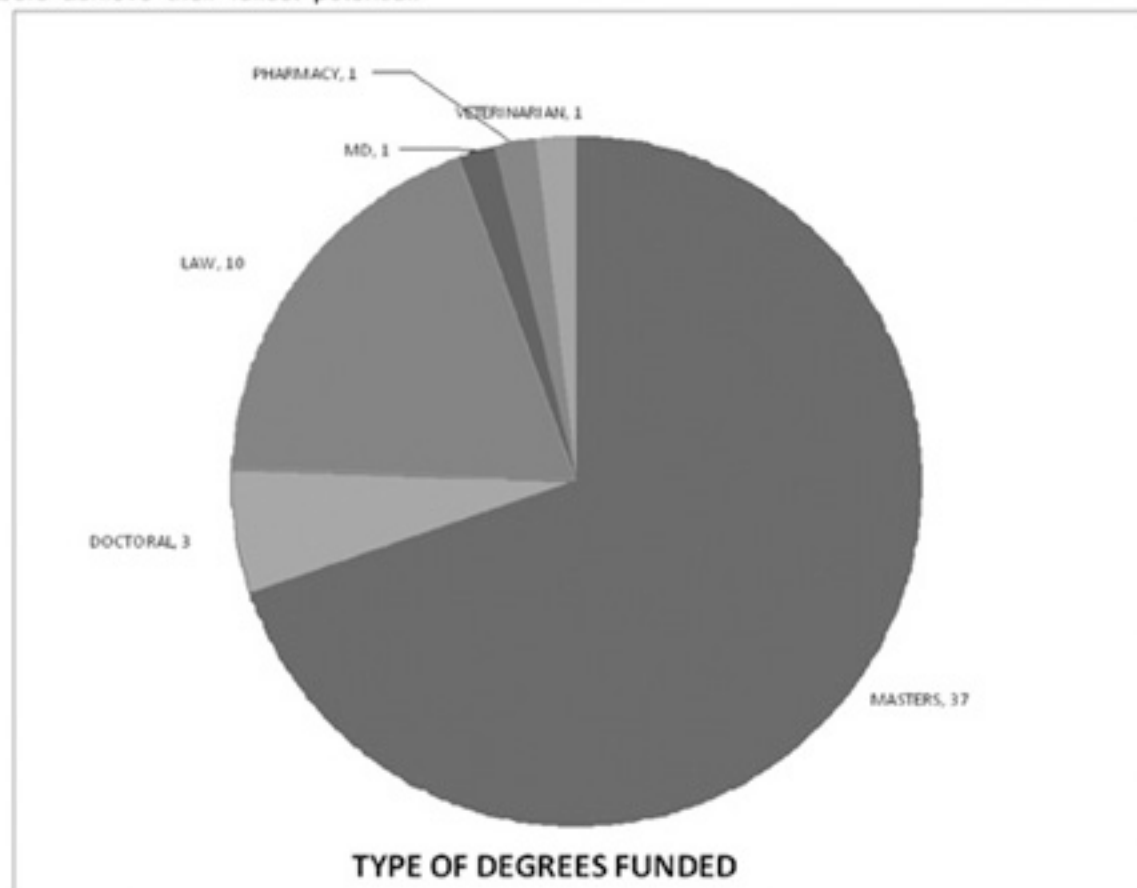
I also had an opportunity to encourage many of these students to further their education by attending graduate school. This trend has continued with more and more students earning advanced degrees and using their education to the benefit of the Tribe and our people. I would tell any student that attending graduate school was very beneficial to me in my career, and my advanced degree has opened doors for me in various areas. I would also advise them to seek assistance from the Yogi Crowe Scholarship Fund, because they are invested in seeing Tribal members achieve their fullest potential.

**Sarah Wachacha (2006-2010) – Master's Degree in Public Health**

***What motivated you to apply to a graduate school or a professional school and to apply for the Yogi Crowe Scholarship Fund?***

My motivation to attend graduate school came from feeling that there was more that I wanted to accomplish in my life. I had finished with my undergraduate work several years before I finally went to graduate school. I lived out in Colorado for two years, preparing and hoping to attend medical school. It was unfortunate that I did not get accepted into medical school; however, being happy with my current situation leads me to believe that things really do happen for a reason.

After I returned from Colorado, I was pretty upset with myself for not being accepted into medical school, and I had a hard time finding work here in



the area. My degree was in Anthropology so that limited what I was able to apply for. Furthermore, I had spent the last six years in college so I had no real job experience, and this also affected my ability to obtain a good job. I finally found a job as a teacher with Dora Reed Tribal Child Care and was happy to be afforded the opportunity. I was only into the position a few months and realized that it was not the career choice for me. It was at this point that I decided I needed to go back to school.

Even when I was applying for medical school, I was planning to obtain my Master's in Public Health (MPH) so this was naturally the choice that I made. I went to East Tennessee State University where I spent two years and received my MPH with a concentration in community health. I decided to apply to the Yogi Crowe Scholarship Fund because I knew that they were a scholarship committee that was willing to help any Cherokee student who was attending graduate school. I knew that the committee would do all that they could to help me succeed.

***What do you feel is your greatest responsibility as a scholarship recipient?***

I have a strong desire to ensure that I represent the Yogi Crowe Scholarship Fund well and that I find ways to stay involved with the community so that I can hopefully help to instill some positive changes. I feel fortunate that I have been able to return to my home and help improve the health care needs of my tribal members. I wanted to go into the health field because I do feel that the health of Cherokee people needs to be improved and that we need to get Cherokees motivated to help themselves improve their health.

By attending graduate school, I have certainly increased my knowledge and awareness of health care issues and policies and that only improves my chances of helping the community. I do feel that it is my responsibility to help other Cherokee people. I feel that Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund has played a part in helping me to achieve what I feel is a great responsibility, improving healthcare, improving quality of life and ultimately prolonging the lives of Cherokee people.

***What advice do you have for students who are thinking about attending Graduate/professional School and seeking assistance from the Yogi Crowe Scholarship Fund?***

My advice to any student contemplating graduate school would be for them to without question attend graduate school. The experience is much different from being an undergraduate and for me, the

experience was positive. As an undergraduate, I can remember having to declare a major at the end of my sophomore year and still not having any clue what it was that I wanted to do. Even though I enjoyed Anthropology classes, I really only declared because I had to. By the time I went to graduate school, I was certain that I wanted to go into the health field.

I thoroughly enjoyed graduate school. I found my course work challenging but exciting, and I really looked forward to going to class. Another new experience for me was that I found myself talking frequently and actively participating in class, something I had not done as an undergraduate. I attribute this to feeling more confident in my area of study as well as in myself and my abilities. I think the new found confidence was associated with enjoying my course of study, but also with being older and being surer of where I wanted to be in life.

I think seeking assistance from Yogi Crowe Scholarship Fund is a great idea. They gave me substantial help while I was attending school which helped to pay my bills, buy groceries, gas up my car, etc. The funds helped to ease stress associated with worrying about how I was going to be able to afford living away from home. The extra assistance also had a part to play in not having to take out any school loans, and I am happy to say that I came out of school owing back no money.

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**Former recipients**

Dr. Blythe Sanders Winchester



Marvel Welch



James Bird





The stipulations of receiving the scholarship money require that you contribute back to the fund after you finish school; and that if given the opportunity to return to Cherokee that you work to help improve the lives of Cherokee people. I am happy to be able to contribute back to this important scholarship fund that has helped not only me but many others as well. I feel that contributing to the fund is working towards helping to improve the lives of the Cherokee because it helps other Cherokee attend graduate school. I feel that earning a Master's Degree and being able to return to Cherokee to work has been very rewarding and fulfilling for me. I wish other recipients luck and great success as they work towards achieving their graduate degrees.

**Former  
recipients**



Terri Henry

Dr. Jerry Martin

Keredith Owens

**REMARKS FROM  
PRINCIPAL CHIEF MICHELL HICKS**

First, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship committee on their perseverance over the past 25 years. I would like to thank the committee for their continuing efforts to raise financial support for our Eastern Band graduates. More importantly, I would like to thank the committee members for providing moral support for the community.

This scholarship, and the committee members involved, has created an environment on the Qualla Boundary that encourages and supports tribal members seeking post-graduate degrees. As a former board member, I am aware of the great need for ongoing and continued financial and community support for our students during their quest for higher education.

Many of the estimated 150 tribal members who received Master's degrees and higher work for the Tribe. When our applicants for positions are reviewed, it is wonderful to see that our applicants possess these higher educational degrees, which better qualify them for our workforce on the Qualla Boundary.

I would also like to thank the many donors to the Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship who have helped to make it possible for Eastern Band of Cherokee students to continue their education beyond the bachelor degree.

[www.yogicrowecherokeescholarship.org](http://www.yogicrowecherokeescholarship.org)

Need eligibility guidelines or application form? These are on our website.



Karen Holiday

Charlie Lytle

## 2010 GRANTS AWARDED TO STUDENTS

In 2010, the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc. awarded grants totaling \$7,950 to six students. Since we began giving grants in 1986, the Scholarship Fund has awarded a total of \$185,317 to 74 enrolled members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. The 2010 recipients were:

**Samuel Gerard Ball** completed a Master's degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Strategic Leadership in August at the University of Memphis. Gerard is now working in Cherokee as the Chief Alcohol Law Enforcement Agent.

**Brently McCoy** received a Master's degree in Public Affairs/Administration at Western Carolina University in December. He currently serves as the Program Manager for Tribal Education. Brently hopes this advanced degree will help him become more efficient with planning the use of tribal resources for higher education.

**Shannon Swimmer** is a first year law student at the University of Kansas School of Law. Shannon is a single mother with two elementary school-aged children. Upon completing law school, Shannon hopes to be employed in Cherokee in a way that allows her to create positive impacts on the Tribe, and more specifically, our youth.

**Natalie Welch** completed a Master's degree in Business Administration at the University of Central Florida in December. She is currently doing an internship with the ESPN Wide World of Sports at Disney. She plans to receive a second Master's degree in Sport Business after completing her internship. Natalie hopes to become an athletic administrator and work with young student athletes.

**Paula Brown Wojtkowski** graduated from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in December with a Master's in Business Administration while working full-time at Harrah's Cherokee Casino. Paula is now serving on the board of the Tribal Casino Gaming Enterprise and hopes to be a role model for service leadership.

**Amanda Wolfe**, a former Miss Cherokee, is in her second year of graduate school at Western Carolina University majoring in Education with a concentration in School Counseling. She hopes to become a School Counselor working in the Cherokee schools.

On behalf of the students, the Board of Directors extends a heartfelt thank you to all of our contributors. Because of your help, the endowment has grown so we have more funds available to allocate to students.

### Former recipients



Frances Wolfe Maney



Elizabeth Owle Myers



Patricia Grant



Mara Bird Nelson

### Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund Pledge Card

In memory of Richard (Yogi) Crowe, I wish to be an annual contributor to his Memorial Scholarship Fund to help more Eastern Cherokees attend graduate and post graduate school. I hereby designate that I will be a:

☐ Friend of Fund (\$100 each year)                      ☐ Contributing Member (\$250 each year)  
☐ Supporting Member (\$500 each year)              ☐ Sustaining Member (\$1,000 each year)  
☐ Contributor as Past Grant Recipient              ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
  
☐ 25 Year Anniversary Gift (\$25)

Name of Contributor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Contributor: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc. and mail to P. O. Box 892, Cherokee, North Carolina 28719. Contributions are tax deductible.

#### Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc. 2010 Board of Directors

President:	Dr. Carmaleta Monteith (1998)	Vice President:	Dr. Reva Ballew (1999)
Secretary:	* Mary Herr (1985)	Treasurer:	Brenda Oocumma (1989)
	Leeann Bridges (2005)    Anita Johnson (2008)		*Mary Wachacha (1985)

The year shown reflects the year in which the person became a board member. \*Denotes founding member.

### REGULAR CONTRIBUTORS TO YOGI CROWE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND OVER THE YEARS – 1985-2010

Since the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1985, there have been some very faithful supporters throughout the years. Many individuals contribute annually.

Several organizations have been generous in their contributions as well as some past grant recipients. The Board of Directors is very grateful to the following who have contributed regularly to support our efforts to encourage higher education for Eastern Cherokees:

#### INDIVIDUALS:

Frela Beck  
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Brenda Oocumma  
Dwight C. Price – monthly contributor  
Jan Valder Offerman  
Mary Wachacha  
Amy Walker  
Harvey and Jatón West

#### ORGANIZATIONS:

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Harrah's Scholarship Fund  
North American Indian Women's Association

#### PAST GRANT RECIPIENTS:

Dr. Reva Ballew  
Roseanna Belt  
James Bird  
Leeann Bridges  
Arnold Michael Ginn  
Patty Grant  
Anita Johnson  
William J. Martin  
Tiana Melquist  
Brenda Toineeta Pipestem  
Dennis Trull  
Sarah Wachacha