



Methamphetamine  
Prevention Ribbon

# Indian Services Connector



NATIVE HOPE,  
PRIDE AND STRENGTH

SUMMER 2007

A Bi-annual Newsletter For Tribal And Bureau of Indian Affairs Professionals Working In The Fields Of:  
Human Services, Self-Determination, Transportation And Tribal Government Services

## REFLECTIONS: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

The role and vision of the Bureau of Indian Affairs has changed significantly in the last three decades in response to a greater emphasis on Indian self-determination. Pat Ragsdale, Director; Mike Smith, Deputy



l to r, Jerry Gidner, Deputy,  
Pat Ragsdale, Director;  
Mike Smith, Deputy

Bureau Director-Field Operations; and Jerry Gidner, Deputy Bureau Director-Indian Services, reinforce and support the BIA's shift in this direction.

“We want to further our mission of self-determination and self-governance of Tribes by ensuring mature relationships exist while working to bridge tribal communities to collectively address problems in Indian Country” says Mr. Ragsdale.

*Continued on page 2*



George Gover, Superintendent, Wind River Agency (center), and Eastern Shoshone Tribal officials at the loan closing for their tribal water treatment plant in Wyoming. The loan was guaranteed by the BIA Loan Guaranty Program.

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## DID YOU KNOW...?

- There are 562 federally recognized tribes in the United States
- The BIA was created in 1824 by Secretary of War John Calhoun without the authorization of Congress
- For its first 25 years the BIA was once housed in the Department of War
- Over 95% of BIA employees have Native American ancestry
- The BIA has a budget of \$2.3 billion (2007)
- The Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 created an Indian hiring preference that has held up in the Supreme Court

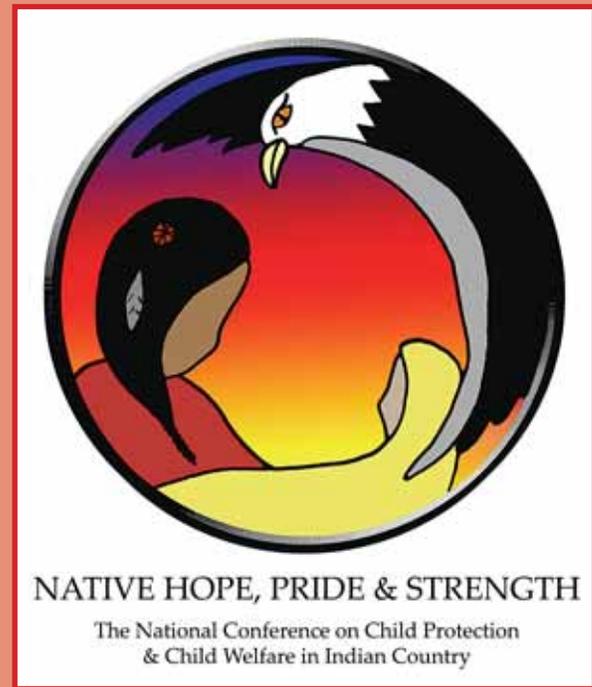


Each issue of the Indian Services Connector will have one region in the spotlight. The region in the spotlight this issue is the Rocky Mountain Region.

## REFLECTIONS

*Continued from page 1*

According to Mike Smith, “We need to do something different. We need to go in a new direction. Indian Affairs needs to promote awareness of the issues affecting tribes, particularly meth.” In recent years, the use and abuse of methamphetamine in Indian Country has risen drastically, replacing alcohol as the most frequently used substance in Indian communities. “Times have changed and there are new issues facing tribes today. We need strategic planning and collaboration at all levels, including the local level to work with schools, agencies, courts, federal agencies, employees, and field offices to effectively address and prevent meth use.” The Office of Indian Services (OIS) has a significant place in the effort to overcome these debilitating obstacles in Indian Country. OIS provides national guidance and oversight to regional and local agencies that provide service to American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes within the offices four distinct programs: Transportation; Human Services; Tribal Government Services; and Self-Determination. Each of the OIS divisions strives to focus and align their services in a manner that will enhance the quality of life and opportunities for American Indian and Alaska Natives alike. In addition, the OIS divisions maintain support for tribes’ individual right to self-determination. When asked what his vision for OIS was, Jerry Gidner replied, “I want us to become the leaders in our field, renowned for our expertise and service to tribes. I want these programs to be known as a place where tribes can get help with their issues within the constraints of the law. I want the OIS to be the best organization in the Federal government. We provide services to the neediest of the needy. We are a crucial infrastructure to Tribes and what the BIA does.”



The Bureau would like to honor child artist, Jocelyn Acheson, age 12, a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa for designing the logo for the first annual BIA sponsored conference on child welfare, “Native Hope, Pride, & Strength: the National Conference on Child Welfare and Protection in Indian Country”. The conference took place June 26th-28th in Albuquerque, NM. In addition to her artistic ability, Jocelyn is also an accomplished musician and horsewoman. According to Jocelyn, “This logo symbolizes the strength of the family staying together, and the pride parents and children have with each other, the Eagle represents the spirit holding the family together”.

### INTERNSHIP

--The Bureau of Indian Affairs welcomes all types of internship programs and invites any student interested in Indian Affairs to complete an internship here. For more information regarding internship opportunities with the Bureau of Indian Affairs please contact Patti MacLeod at (202) 208-2893.

#### Internship Resources:

--The Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars (TWC) is an educational non-profit organization serving hundreds of colleges and universities by providing students challenging opportunities to work and learn in Washington DC for academic credit. For more information visit [www.twc.edu](http://www.twc.edu).

--The Washington Internships for Native Students (WINS) offers American Indian and Alaska Native students the opportunity to build leadership skills while living, studying and interning in Washington DC. For more information visit [www.american.edu/wins/](http://www.american.edu/wins/).

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Rocky Mountain Regional Indian Services office is located in south central Montana. The office provides social services, housing, self-determination, tribal operations, transportation, environmental, and credit programs that support seven tribal entities: Blackfeet, Rocky Boy, Fort Belknap, Fort Peck, Crow, and Northern Cheyenne Reservations of Montana and the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming.

The region is very proud of the work they are doing, especially in regards to their success with the Title IV-E Foster Care Funding. The region worked very closely with the states and tribal courts on this issue, and nearly all of the tribes in the region have participated in this effort. Rocky Mountain is also very proud of their efforts in promoting tribal economic development with their credit program. They have been collaborating with tribes to make the necessary funds available for economic development.

## WELCOME NEW REGIONAL DIRECTOR ED PARISIAN

In May 2007 the region welcomed Mr. Ed Parisian as the new Regional Director. He is an enrolled member of the Chippewa-Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy Reservation in Montana. Mr. Parisian has over 25 years of experience in the fields on Indian health and education, and he came to the regional office following a period as director of the Interior Department's Office of Indian Education Programs (now the Bureau of Indian Education). "Ed Parisian is an experienced administrator who will bring a fresh perspective to the Rocky Mountain Region," says Patrick Ragsdale, Director Bureau of Indian Affairs, "I am pleased to have him as a member of the BIA's team." Mr. Parisian joins Ed Parisian; Regional Director with Smoky the Bear Mike Black and Darryl LaCounte, the Deputy Regional Directors. Mr. Black is responsible for Environmental Services, Transportation and Indian Services, and Mr. LaCounte is responsible for Trust Services.



Ed Parisian; Regional Director with Smoky the Bear



Mike Black, Deputy Regional Director

## REGIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

April was Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Rocky Mountain Region Social Services program and regional partner, Light of Hope Celebration from Billings, Montana, hosted a Regional Indian Child Protection and Child Welfare Conference. The conference provided an opportunity for Tribes and service providers in the Rocky Mountain region to unite and focus on raising awareness and support for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. The event gave tribes the opportunity to present and discuss best practices, challenges, and solutions. Also, discussed were plans to develop a child advocacy center and how to coordinate efforts more effectively with other agencies so as to increase the positive experiences of Indian children and families in the programs. The conference is one of many being hosted by BIA regions across the nation.

*(For more information on a regional child welfare and prevention conference in your area contact your regional Indian Services office).*



Jackie Tang, Supervisory Social Worker, Northern Cheyenne Agency at Conference

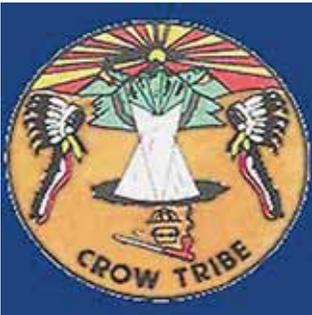


## ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION SAYS GOODBYE TO MR. LEWIS MARTIN

Retiring from the regional office in June 2007 is long time federal employee, Lewis Martin, Rocky Mountain Region Housing Officer. Mr. Martin has 28 years of federal service working for the Great Plains Regional Office, Turtle Mountain Agency, and 20 years with the Rocky Mountain Region. "His efforts are most appreciated and he will be missed," says co-worker Louise Reyes.

(Pictured from left to right)  
Deanna Comeau, Credit staff; Verena Costa, IIM/Tribal Operations Clerk; Stella Corbin, Self-Determination Officer; Jo Ann Birdshead, Regional Social Worker; Louise Reyes, Indian Services and Tribal Operations Officer; Bob Pumphrey, Individual Indian Money (IIM) Coordinator; Jo-Ellen Cree, Credit staff; Kathy Plainfeather, Social Service Assistant; and Lewis Martin, Housing Officer

# HIGHLIGHT OF THE CROW TRIBE'S STAND ON METH



Methamphetamine use continues to move into rural Indian Country at alarming rates. The effects of meth use in Indian Country have been devastating to communities, families, and Indian culture. Carl Venne, Tribal

Chairman of the Crow Nation in South Central Montana, has taken innovative measures to curb the use and effects of meth in the Crow community.

Chairman Venne serves as a member of the State of Montana Meth Project Advisory Council. The Montana Meth Project is a statewide initiative focused on eliminating rural meth use. The Project combines education and graphic media to de-glamorize the use of meth, and the results have shown great success. According to the 2007 Montana Meth Use Survey, there have been “dramatic shifts in the perception of risks and the perception of benefits associated with meth use, more frequent parent-child communications, and greater social disapproval.”

The Crow Nation’s involvement in the Montana Meth effort has had an extremely positive outcome for the Crow community. Chairman Venne got on board with the anti-meth movement in Montana after experiencing the loss of his son and other community members to methamphetamine use. The Tribe has found its greatest success through a traditional community based treatment and prevention approach. “You have to get everyone involved” says Venne, “the change has to come from the community. The people and the community have got to get behind it and everybody has to work together—connect with your people.”

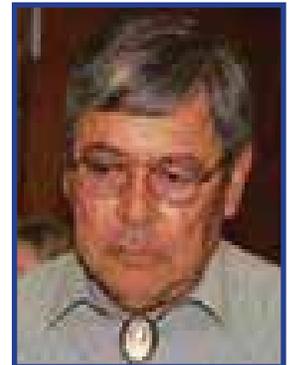
Cultural inclusion and the revitalization of traditional healing methods have been an important component to the Tribe’s meth treatment and prevention success. Community members suffering from meth addiction are taken into a wilderness setting for treatment, where they can cleanse and revitalize their connection with traditional ways. In response to treatment, the community has set up an employment program for people who complete the treatment program. The community and its members heal and work together and the program has been largely promising, with a success rate over 75%. In addition, the Tribe has developed a meth prevention program for youth. It has been one of the most successful efforts initiated by the Tribe,

**“You have to get everyone involved”**

with only 6 participants testing positive for meth in comparison to 75 just a couple of years ago. According to Chairman Venne, “Even if we save just one life, we have done something.”

The Crow Tribe’s effort to combat meth is a great model for other tribes and the agencies that work with them.

Their efforts are being mirrored in Arizona which recently launched a meth campaign designed after the Montana Project. Also, Montana Meth Project founder and Vice-Chairman, Thomas M. Siebel produced the documentary film “Montana Meth” which examines Montana’s rural meth epidemic and its devastating effects on Indian Country; it aired on HBO March 18, 2007.



**Carl Venne  
Crow Chairman**

## Meth Statistics

- Drug related deaths among American Indian and Alaska Native populations increased 164% since 1979 20% of all Native
- American youth have used an illicit drug
- Almost half of American Indian youth under age 17 have drunk alcohol or smoked marijuana
- Parental meth addiction accounts for 65% of all cases involving child neglect and placement of Indian children in foster care
- 25% of births on the San Carlos Apache reservation resulted in babies born under the influence of meth in 2005
- In some Indian communities the violent crime rate is 10-20 times the national average as a result of drug trafficking

## OIS DIVISIONS

There are four divisions within the Office of Indian Services are:

Transportation, Self-Determination, Tribal Government, and Human Services.

### TRANSPORTATION

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Division of Transportation (BIADOT) serves American Indian tribes through the joint administration of the Indian Reservation Roads Program and the Bureau's road maintenance programs. The BIADOT provides oversight, management, monitoring and coordination of all transportation activities related to improving transportation systems within Indian Country.

The Indian Reservation Roads Program (IRR) is the second largest funded program within the BIA. It involves the planning, designing, construction, and maintenance of roads, bridges, airfields, and other transportation related facilities. Overall, the IRR consists of over 80,000 miles of roads and 4,500 bridges in 33 different states. In providing transportation programs, the BIADOT contributes to economic development, self-determination, and the employment of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

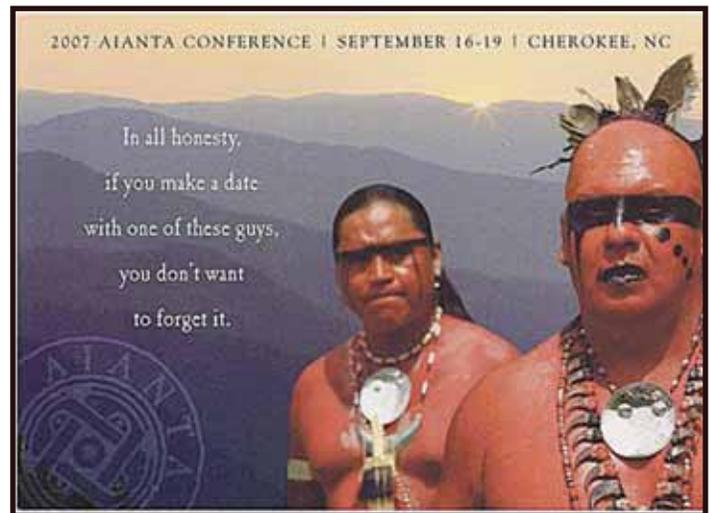
One aspect of the Transportation Division deals with native tourism as a means to support tribal economic development. It utilizes what Indian Country has to offer travelers in terms of culturally significant and scenic destinations. This aspect of the BIADOT led to the creation of the *American Indian and Alaska Native Tourism Association* (AIANTA) which is a national inter-tribal association that promotes high-quality, culturally sensitive Indian tourism initiatives and Indian-owned businesses. AIANTA strives toward sharing American Indian culture while improving the economic base of American Indian communities.

AIANTA is now a part of the Travel Industry Association of America (TIA), which is an organization for tourism that is partnered with the Commerce Department. TIA recognizes the international interest in Indian Country and has offered AIANTA a seat on its corporate board. According to Ed Hall, Transportation Specialist, this interaction with TIA will result in wider support on issues facing Indian Country "that are essential to our programs but also essential to quality of

life." AIANTA will be holding its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual American Indian and Alaska Native Tourism Conference in Cherokee, NC on September 16-19, 2007. For more information please visit: [AIANTA.ORG](http://AIANTA.ORG)

### SELF-DETERMINATION

Self-Determination is essential to the function of the Bureau of Indian Affairs because it allows federally recognized tribes to contract out federal services that would otherwise be administered by



the BIA. This makes it possible for tribes to have maximum participation in the direction, planning, conduct, and administration of programs and services to ensure they are more responsive to tribal needs.

### TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

The Division of Tribal Government Services provides national leadership on Tribal enrollment, tribal organic documents, judgment funds, and certificates of degree of Indian blood. Two of our longtime co-workers and good friends retired during this past year. Ms. Carolyn Newman, retired last October after working over 34 years in the Branch of Tribal Enrollment. Mr. Ralph Gonzales, an expert on Indian law and tribal courts, retired in March 2007. We wish both of them the best. We also miss the benefit of their knowledge and expertise. We hope to fill their former positions soon.

The Division focuses on providing technical resources to foster strong and stable tribal governments

*Continued on page 6*

## TRIBAL GOVERNMENT *Continued from page 5*

in hopes that they will be able to effectively exercise their authority as sovereign nations. In addition, the program works with tribe to develop judgment fund use and distribution plans, provides technical advice on tribal enrollment, and Secretarial election matters. The Division also works with the Regional offices and the tribes to develop guidance documents and to make recommendations on policy issues. This year the Division is trying to achieve two goals: Publish proposed regulations on tribal constitutions and to publish guidance on how to issue Certificates of Degree of Indian Blood. They plan to complete these tasks by year's end.

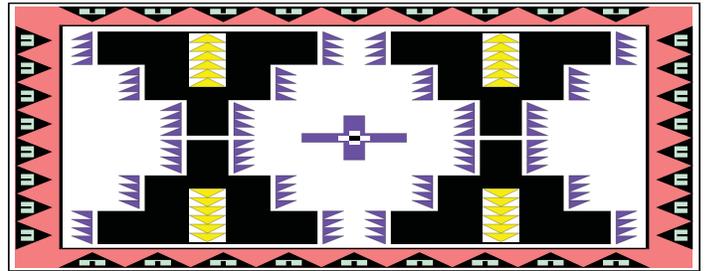


Josephine Zeller, Assistant Enrollment Coordinator; Elizabeth Colliflower, Tribal Relations Specialist; and Donna Carrol, Enrollment Clerk in Alaska

## HUMAN SERVICES

The Division of Human Services' central office acts as a national resource on BIA funded human services programs to the twelve BIA regions, Tribes, Federal Agencies, and other organizations across the nation. The Division oversees programs and services, funding distribution, and strives to work collaboratively to establish national policy, programs, and partnerships that will improve the lives of Indian people. The Division provides technical assistance and consultation to BIA regions and tribes for (1) Housing Improvement Program, (2) welfare assistance, (3) Indian child welfare and protection (ICWA), and (4) the oversight of Individual Indian Money Accounts (IIM). 85% of tribal human services programs are contracted and compacted by Tribes. The remaining 15% of Tribes are served by BIA agencies (agency social workers).

The Division has been innovatively working to improve human service delivery in Indian Country. In 2007 the office established a new welfare assistance methodology (which allocates welfare assistance funds on actual rather than estimated expenditures). As a result, the division was able to meet 100% of the welfare assistance need in Indian Country. In addition, the Division has been at the forefront of national collaboration efforts to improve Indian child welfare and protection service delivery by hosting the BIA's first annual national conference on child protection, "Native Hope, Pride, & Strength: the National Conference on Child Welfare and Protection in Indian Country"



## TRIBAL JUSTICE & SAFETY: TRIBAL TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNERSHIP

The Department of the Interior (DOI), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA); the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); and the Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP) are pleased to announce the third in a series of four cross-cutting Tribal Training and Technical Assistance (TT&TA) sessions that are being held across the country to focus on tribal priorities related to public safety and public health for families and communities. This session will be held June 4-6, 2007 at the Squaxin Island Tribe's Little Creek Casino Resort in Shelton, Washington. The fourth session will be held on July 30 – August 1, 2007 at the Sheraton Crescent in Phoenix, AZ. The trainings agendas have included tribal consultation sessions, public health, tribal justice and safety, the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, Native youth suicide, and meth. Additional information about the sessions can be found at <http://www.tribaljusticeandsafety.gov>.

# PARTNERSHIPS



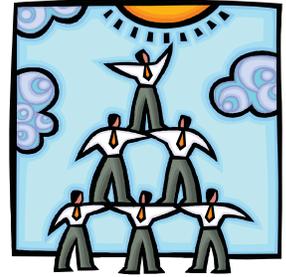
Youth focus group at the June Tribal Justice and Technical Assistance Training Session in Shelton, WA.

## A Partnership Between Departments: IHS-ASIA Meth Abuse Work Group

In 2006, the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs (ASIA) and the Indian Health Service (IHS) Director met to explore the possibilities for greater coordination and collaboration on substance abuse programs. They both were particularly concerned with methamphetamine (meth) abuse and as a result, they formed three work groups to address the problem: Meth Abuse, Health Care in Detention Centers, and School Health.

The Meth abuse Work Group suggested combining the task forces into one consolidated effort because many of their issues overlapped. As a result all three groups met together in order to encourage a system wide approach. This collaboration is ongoing and BIA staff is committed to working closely with IHS to utilize this relationship to its fullest potential to address the problem of meth. Pat Ragsdale, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs has stated, "We (the Indian community) have come too far – 200 years of federal pressure, to lose it all now to methamphetamine."

*The Meth abuse workgroup would like to recognize Dr. Harold R. Smith for his work and effort to assist the Meth Work Group.*



## A Collaboration for Greater Self Determination:

*A Memorandum Of Understanding  
Between The BIA And BIE*



The Self-Determination Division is proud to announce that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) and Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Indian Services (BIA OIS) has recently been signed and is in the process of being implemented. The MOU's purpose is to ensure that tribal Self-Determination contracts for BIE programs are executed and funded in an accurate and timely manner. As a result of the MOU, BIA will be getting two new employees to concentrate on Self-Determination issues who will be stationed in Oklahoma City. This collaboration between the two bureaus will benefit tribes because it will allow for greater efficiency and effectiveness in implementing Self-Determination contracts.

## Tribal Justice & Safety: Tribal Training and Technical Assistance Partnership

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## PEOPLE AND PLACES

### ...NEW ADDITIONS TO THE OIS



Back: Brandi Sweet, Christian Jock and Stephanie Birdwell

OIS would like warmly welcome **Stephanie Birdwell** as the new Chief of the Human Services Division. Ms. Birdwell previously worked in the Southwest region, and she has brought her enthusiasm for human services here to the Central Office in Washington, DC..

**Christian Jock** is also new to the team; he accepted a position as Special Assistant to the Deputy Bureau Director-Indian Services in November 2006. Mr. Jock is a recent graduate from St. Lawrence University and he was the first Outstanding Indian Scholar in the BIA. In the coming months, Mr. Jock will be working in the Self-Determination Division as a policy analyst.

**Brandi Sweet** is the latest addition to OIS staff. Ms. Sweet interned in the Division of Human Services through The Washington Center (TWC) internship and leadership program in the Spring 2007. She received her M.S.W. in May 2007 from Washington University in St. Louis. She was hired through the BIA Outstanding Indian Scholars

Program as a Social Work Associates following the completion of her internship.

### INTERNSHIPS WITH OIS

The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Office of Indian Service offer internship opportunities to students interested in learning more about the Bureau. In Spring 2007, OIS had the help of three interns at the Central Office in Washington D.C.



Cheryl Arviso, Navajo

**Cheryl Arviso** received her M.A. in American Indian Studies with an emphasis on Federal Indian Policy from the University of Arizona in Tucson, and her B.S. in Applied Indigenous Studies with a minor in Navajo from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. Cheryl worked

with the Division of Tribal Government Services during her internship and she was also able to attend many hearings and events focusing on issues within Indian Country.



Lindsey Fletcher, Luiseno

**Lindsey Fletcher** is a junior undergraduate at the University of California-Santa Barbara.

In June 2008 she will receive a B.A. in Political Science with a minor in American Indian and Indigenous Studies. During her internship she worked closely with the Division of Self-

Determination. Through her experience with the BIA she was made aware of many pertinent issues facing Indian Country and hopes to learn more about these issues in the future.



## PEOPLE AND PLACES

### PROGRAM REVIEWS

The Office of Indian Services has recently made many trips to Indian Country to perform regional program reviews in the Alaska region, Great Plains region, Western region, and Southern Plains region. Every three years a review of Indian Services programs is conducted. Ed Mouss, acting Chief-Division of Self Determination, acted as the team leader on these reviews. Fortunately, at each region the team was able to meet with local tribal leaders and tribal members. Christian Jock, a review team member, reflected that “Meeting with tribal leaders and tribal members at the local level is the most beneficial aspect of traveling to Indian Country. It allows for us to show our concern for what is going on in tribal communities.” Program reviews for Southwest region, Rocky Mountain region, Northwest region, and Pacific region will occur next year.



From left: Evangeline Campbell, Art Hacker, Christian Jock, Elizabeth Colliflower, Paul Sunwoo, Ed Mouss

### LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL

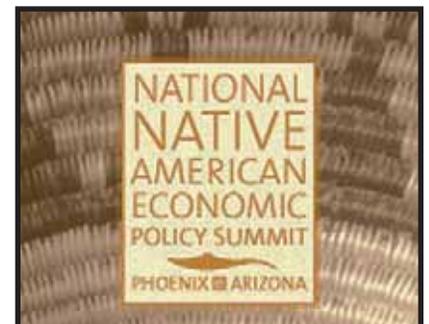


The 16th Annual Indian Country Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service was recently held at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Artesia, New Mexico. In order to show their support, Jerry Gidner, Deputy Bureau Director-Indian Services and Patrick Ragsdale, Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs attended with the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Carl Artman. “It is appropriate that we take time each year to remember the men and women who have died while trying to protect Indian Country,” says Mr. Artman. The Bureau of Indian Affairs holds this event each year to honor tribal, state, and federal law enforcement

personnel killed in the line of duty while working on Federal Indian lands, and this year marks only the third year since the Memorial’s initial dedication when no names were added to it.

### TRIBAL ECONOMIC POLICY SUMMIT

Jerry Gidner, the Deputy Bureau Director-Indian Services and Brandi Sweet, Social Work Associate, recently attended the Tribal Economic Policy Summit in Phoenix, AZ. This conference was the first national collaboration devoted to addressing American Indian economic development. Tribal leaders, federal officials, and leaders of national Native organizations attended this event to discuss economic development and its implications for improving Native communities. At the conference, attendees developed 314 policy recommendations and strengthened their strategic efforts to move these policies forward. Follow up sessions for the Summit will be scheduled in the near future, please refer to [www.ncai.org](http://www.ncai.org) for more information.



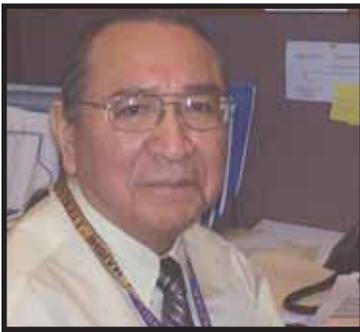
## PEOPLE AND PLACES

*Ralph Gonzales, Tribal Relations Specialist retired on March 2, 2007 after 33 years with the Federal government*

Ralph, a member of the Laguna Pueblo Tribe, served in the U.S. Army for over three years with a tour in Vietnam. He graduated from the College of Law at Denver University in 1975. Prior to beginning his work with the BIA in 1980, Ralph worked as an attorney advisor for the Office of Indian Programs. He also did work for the Native American Rights Fund and HUD. His major career interest has been working with Tribal governments and courts, and he plans to continue to work on Tribal justice issues after his retirement. He leaves the bureau to spend time playing with his grandson and to go boating with his son who resides in Florida. Good Luck and Best Wishes Ralph!



Ralph Gonzales, Tribal Relations Specialist/Courts



Chet Eagleman, IIM Specialist

*Chet Eagleman, IIM Specialist, retires after 15 years with the Bureau of Indian Affairs*

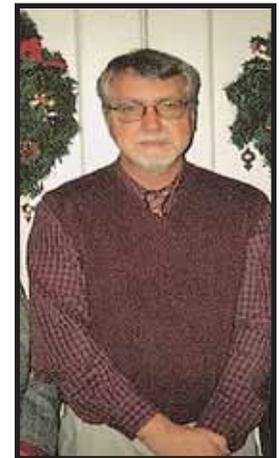
Chet Eagleman has worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Human Services Division since 1992 and was an integral part of the OIS operation during that time. "He truly cared about improving the lives of Indian people" says colleague Karen Lindquist. As a farewell message Mr. Eagleman remarks, "I just want to wish all of you the best of luck in your work with the BIA and social service. When I retired from the State of Michigan (for two weeks) and came to work for the BIA in 1992, I did not plan on staying for fifteen years. I have enjoyed my stay with social services here at Central office." We'll miss you Chet!

*Ron Smith, Ph.D, Honored BIA Alcohol and Substance Abuse Research and Evaluation Specialist, Deeply Missed after Passing February '07*

Harold Ronald (Ron) Smith, Ph.D, whose passion and hard work brought concern for issues of alcohol and substance abuse in Indian Country to the forefront will be greatly missed in the Office of Indian Services. He passed in February 2007 after nearly 28 years of dedicated work to the Federal Government.

Ron was Coordinator and Chair of the DOI/BIA Interagency Work Group, and facilitated the identification and assessment of social and economic consequences of alcohol and substance abuse by American Indians and Alaskan Natives. His work earned him the reputation as greatly respected expert in American Indian empirical study. Ron was particularly concerned with the growing abuse of methamphetamine in Indian communities, and he spearheaded a training program to raise awareness among BIA employees. As a result of Ron's efforts, over 4,000 BIA and tribal employees received the training.

According to Jerry Gidner, Ron's supervisor for two years prior to his death, Ron was a kind, quiet, thoughtful scholar, who brought a unique expertise to BIA social programs. He was an enthusiastic traveler, who enjoyed making trips to Indian Country and learning about Native American cultures. In recent discussions, he had described how he wanted to expand his knowledge in that area to improve his delivery of culturally appropriate services to tribes. Ron is remembered and honored in the Office of Indian Services as an extremely compassionate and thoughtful man who demonstrated and received great respect from all those around him.



Ron Smith, Ph.D

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“Let us put our minds  
together to see what  
kind of future we can  
make for our children.”  
by Sitting Bull.

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## Indian Country Conferences and Events

September 5-7, 2007  
25th Annual NAFOA Conference “The Wall Street Summit”  
Jersey City, NJ [www.jerseycity.hyatt.com](http://www.jerseycity.hyatt.com)

September 16-19, 2007  
9th Annual American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association Conference  
Cherokee, NC  
Joanie Pop (360)357-8044

September 24-28, 2007  
NIHB Annual Consumer Conference  
[www.nihb.org](http://www.nihb.org)

November 11-16, 2007  
NCAI National Congress of American Indians  
64th Annual Convention and Trade Show  
Hyatt Regency Denver  
at the Colorado Convention Center  
650 15th Street,  
Denver, Colorado, USA 80202  
Tel: 303 436 1234 Fax: 303 486 4450

July 29-Aug. 3  
Tribal Justice & Safety Conference  
Phoenix, AZ  
[www.tribaljusticeandsafety.gov](http://www.tribaljusticeandsafety.gov)

The OIS newsletter team consists of: Brandi Sweet, Lindsey Fletcher, Olivya Perry, Christian Jock, Stephanie Birdwell and Evangeline Campbell. The team would like to thank BIA offices and personnel, and the Crow tribe for their support and contribution to the newsletter



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