



Focus on Faculty

In this issue we focus on longtime Sherman faculty member Lorene Sisquoc (Fig. 2). Lori is a Fort Sill Apache (Oklahoma) and a descendent of the Mountain Cahuilla Tribe of California. Lori and her family are no strangers to Sherman. Lori's great grandfather Anthony Largo and his brothers attended Sherman in the 1890's and early 1900's when our school was located in Perris, California. Also Lori's mother and grandmother were employed at Sherman. Lori started her employment at Sherman in 1982 within the dormitories and continued working there for 15 years. In 1995 she began



Figure 2. Clarke Cultural Center Director Ms. Lorene Sisquoc.



Figure 1. Sherman students at a curriculum based educational field trip to the San Andreas Fault

teaching Native Traditional classes at Sherman. Currently she is the Director of the Clarke Cultural Center at Sherman and each year spearheads numerous Native activities on campus. Lori is proud of her latest contributions to Sherman, which include the Whale Tail Project and the Indigenous Language Center. When asked what she likes most about Sherman and Sherman students she shared the school culture and history and the impact that our school has had on our students over the years. She added that our brightest hopes are the students as they become the future in preserving our Native heritage.

From The Editor

This digital newsletter was created to keep parents of students enrolled in Biology informed about this course as well as current news in the Science Department and at our school. During October the Honor and Regular Biology students studied enzyme function and cellular respiration. In a laboratory students investigated the effects of pH on the enzyme amylase. Enzymes are protein components in the cell that speed up chemical reactions. Ms. Bonners Geology class studied plate tectonics (the movement of the plates of the earth crust) and the effect of phases of the moon on the magnitude of earthquakes. During this unit of study her class visited the San Bernardino Mountains to observe and study the infamous San Andreas Fault (Fig. 1). This fault extends 800 miles through California and is predicted to produce a major earthquake in the near future.



Homecoming Day at Sherman

On October 28th, Sherman hosted over 200 parents and guests for Homecoming Day. To start the morning, Principal Mary Yarger gave a warm welcome to parents and guests (Fig. 3) and the White Rose Singers performed several songs. This was followed by classroom visitations by parents that lasted most of the morning. After lunch 21 colleges and organizations participated in the annual College and Career Fair at Sherman. In midafternoon students and staff were treated to a pep rally in the gymnasium (Fig. 4). The day concluded with the anticipated homecoming football game. In a hard fought football game the Braves fell to C.S.D.R. by a score of 8 to 14.

National Honor Society at Sherman

The National Honor Society was founded in 1921 to create an organization that would recognize and encourage academic achievement and the development of essential characteristics, such as character, service, and leadership. Today there are more than 16,000 National Honor Society chapters worldwide. The National Honor Society at Sherman was founded in 2004. To date over 120 students have been inducted into the National Honor Society at our school. To qualify for the National Honor Society at Sherman students must be at least a sophomore, maintain a GPA of 3.2 or higher, and have no major disciplinary referrals. In addition, students must participate in service and leadership, and maintain high character attributes. This year we have 16 National Honor students and plan to induct 15 additional students at the beginning of 2017.



Figure 3. Principal Mary Yarger addressing parents and guests at the start of the parent-teacher conference.



Figure 4. Pep Assembly in the school gymnasium.

Native Cultural Activities at Sherman

Although at Sherman we focus on academics, our school also strives to educate the whole student through the availability of numerous extra-curricular Native oriented activities on and off campus. A few of these are listed below.

- **Lyda Kipp Duran Audio Presentation Multimedia Indigenous Language Center** – The center opened in 2015 with the goal of allowing students a place after school to practice their own language or to learn a new Native language. Currently Julia Roubideaux is teaching Kiowa at the center to interested students.
- **Whale Tail Project** – This project allows students in small groups to conduct research on ocean biology and study the Maritime Indigenous Culture of the Pacific Coast. Currently 25 students participate in this project.

Each week various other traditional activities are conducted on campus after school.

- **Monday** – Fancy Shawl, hoop dancing, and drum practice
- **Tuesday** – Cahuilla Language Acquisition
- **Wednesday** – Powwow evening – students share songs and dancing
- **Tuesday/Thursday/Friday** – Arts and crafts activities at the Clarke Cultural Center

Sherman Museum – The museum was opened in 1970 and is now a National Landmark. It is open from 1:00 to 4:30 PM Monday – Friday. Specific groups can reserve specific tour times. During the 6th and 7th periods on weekdays students use the museum for class research and also aid in



Figure 5. Local community members B. Hale and D. Calderon with Sherman students erecting the Sherman teepee by the Clarke Center.

museum activities. Contact personnel for the museum include: Julie Roubideaux and Jordan McMorris.

Other traditional activities held at Sherman include Talking Circle, Smudge Circle, gathering of boys and girls at the sweat lodge, cultural bearer

speakers, basketry, the White Rose Singing Group, Two Boys Drum Group, and the Apache Crown Dancers. Last year the Sherman teepee was erected by the Clark Cultural Center to further facilitate Native culture and pride (Fig. 5). Students use the teepee for prayer, smudging, and talking circles.