INTRO

What is the Red Nation News?

The Red Nation News is an electronic news-magazine that will present news and feature articles about Native American people from throughout the Midwest. This web-based publication will not be available in print and only be accessible via the Internet.

The e-magazine will be hosted by the University of North Dakota’s School of Communication Native Media Center and is funded in part by the John S. & James L. Knight Foundation. Native Media Center team members Paul Boswell and Holly A. Annis will serve as editors and be responsible for the content of the Red Nation News. The e-magazine will be a high-tech training ground for students (from high schools, tribal colleges, and UND) and a new source of information about Native Americans in our region.

If you are interested in writing an article or becoming a regular contributor to the Red Nation News, contact the Native Media Center by calling Paul Boswell at 701.777-6388 or Holly Annis at 701.777-2478 or via email: paul.boswell@und.nodak.edu or holly.annis@und.nodak.edu. We encourage all interested persons to provide us with stories and photos.

The Red Nation News is a non-profit educational publication, thus we are unable to pay for articles and photos. However, the inclusion of your work in this e-magazine will be an excellent addition to your resume and portfolio.

Photos would enhance articles but are not always necessary. We encourage individual writers to provide at least one appropriate photo to accompany each article. If a photo is unavailable, we will still consider including the article in our e-magazine. Stand-alone feature photos will also be considered; please include information for a photo caption.

The Red Nation News will present a variety of articles about Native Americans in the Midwest. Only stories related to Native Americans will be considered for inclusion. News and feature articles are ideal, but columns, editorials, and letters will also be considered. The e-magazine might also have room for fiction (short stories), poetry, original art, editorial cartoons, and other items.

We hope to present a new edition of Red Nation News once each month throughout the academic year. Each edition will include at 3-5 original articles, and these stories will not be available from any other source.
If you are taking a School of Communication writing course at the University of North Dakota during the 2004-2005, there may be opportunities for you to receive extra credit for contributing to the Red Nation News.

We will consider contributions from everyone, including students, faculty, staff, and community members. However, all stories must be about Native American topics or have some connection to the Native Media Center and/or the School of Communication.

Call the UND School of Communication Native Media Center at 701.777.2478 or stop by the center, 231 O’Kelly Hall, during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, during the school year. We appreciate your interest and look forward to receiving your contributions.

**NEWS**

*AmeriCrps*VISTA Program working with tribes

The AmeriCorps*VISTA Program is funding a project within the Governmental Rural Outreach (GRO) Initiative office in the College of Business and Public Administration at the University of North Dakota (UND). The project, which is sponsored by the federal program, is working toward the “building of sustainable rural community capacities, utilizing community assets, to address poverty-related issues through electronic access to services, education, healthcare, and jobs.”

The project supervisor is Monique Vondall, UND School of Law graduate and a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. “This project is an exciting one for addressing poverty in reservation and rural communities,” Vondall said. The project title is Rural Reservation Community Partners and helps to bring technology to the rural and reservations throughout six states.

*Tribal Sites*
Currently, the project has three locations on reservations throughout North Dakota (one extends into South Dakota) and one on the Trenton Indian Service Area (TISA), which extends into Montana.

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa is currently working on developing a project that will address some issues with drug problems in the housing units and places emphasis on methamphetamine abuse. Lola Greatwalker is the site supervisor on that project and works in conjunction with Andy Laverdure, Turtle Mountain Housing Director. Lola and Andy are currently working on re-development of a work plan that will accompany this project and meet all of the goals within its scope. Once the work plan is completed, they will actively recruit and select from the applicants for this project.
The Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara Nation (MHA Nation) is developing a program that will work in conjunction with the tribal employment and training program that is under the direction of Leo Cummings. Leo’s efforts will include a cultural component of the AmeriCorps*VISTA experience. Essentially, the VISTA members who will participate at that site will be adopted by the MHA Nation Sobriety Riders.

The Trenton Indian Service Area has already begun to finalize the first phase of their project, which is to provide an online directory of resources available to the American Indian community in the Trenton service area. They have developed a website, with the help of Noel King, who is currently serving as a consultant to the GRO Project and who is scheduled to attend training to become an AmeriCorps*VISTA Member in November.

Noel’s tie to UND is a unique one. He was attending the University until an incident left him with serious physical trauma, disabling him so that he was unable to continue his education. He is beginning to work his way back to attending classes at UND and his work with AmeriCorps*VISTA will assist him by giving him an educational scholarship at the end of his one-year term. Noel is a webmaster and was majoring in computer science before his incident forced him to take a leave of absence.

“I am excited about Noel working for this project,” Vondall said. “I know that he is extremely intelligent and the fact that he was pretty much a 4.0 GPA student before his tragic incident is frustrating for those of us who know how capable Noel is.”

Deb Hanson is the site supervisor for the TISA project. Their website is: www.tisa.ndgro.com and is still in the development stages. The website is being designed by Noel and Billie Jo Collins, the other VISTA member at TISA.

The other location is at the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Miles Mcallister, Tribal Management Specialist, is the site supervisor at Standing Rock. The project at the tribe will work, like the other locations will, on the development of a directory, which is the result of mapping the assets of the community. Mcallister has finished developing his work plan and is ready to recruit VISTA members that will help him accomplish the goals and objectives outlined in the work plan.

AmeriCorps*VISTA At a Glance
According to the website (www.americorps.org) “AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs that engage more than 50,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment. AmeriCorps members serve through more than 2,100 nonprofits, public agencies, and faith-based organizations. They tutor and mentor youth, build affordable housing, teach computer skills, clean parks and streams, run after-school programs, and help communities respond to disasters. Created in 1993, AmeriCorps is part of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which also oversees Senior Corps and Learn and Serve America. Together these programs engage more than 2 million Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service each year.”
AmeriCorps members are essentially volunteers who, once their service is competed, can receive either an educational scholarship or a lump stipend. The scholarship amount is currently set at $4,725 for one year of full-time service and the lump stipend award is $1,200. Other benefits include a modest monthly living allowance, child care assistance, relocation assistance, training and orientation, and limited health care benefits.

“This is an excellent way for people to give back to any community,” Vondall said. “I know that Noel intends to use his educational scholarship to return to UND and, in return, he will gain valuable experience and provides an excellent resource to his community – where he grew up and still calls home.”

Contact Information
The AmeriCorps*VISTA program that is being hosted by UND’s GRO Initiative is unique in that it focuses on bringing technology to rural and reservations communities, said Vondall. The opportunity to join the project is remarkable in that new relationships are being formed on an ongoing basis as projected sites are still in development phases. Overall, 26 VISTA members will be placed within six states: North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming. The project is divided into different phases of development and fits within GRO’s initiative, to bring technology to rural and reservation communities.

GRO, for example, is working on a project with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to develop online services that will assist the Community Health Representatives in that community in providing improved and increased services to the patients and clients that they serve.

For more information on the AmeriCorps*VISTA Rural Reservation Community Project or the Governmental Rural Outreach Initiative (www.ndgrow.com), contact Monique Vondall at (701) 777-0878, or email her at: monique@ndgro.com.

FEATURE
Comm Students spend two weeks studying in Germany
By Paul Boswell

University of North Dakota students Holly Annis and Jessica Veeder spent two weeks in May studying in the fascinating and diverse country of Germany. They were among a group of 20 U.S. students participating in an international education program, Germany for Young Journalists.

Annis, an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of South Dakota, is working toward a double major in American Indian Studies and Communication. She also serves as assistant director of the School of Communication Native Media Center. Veeder is majoring in Communication and Honors.
Michael Nitz, associate professor of Communication at UND, recruited both students to take part in Germany for Young Journalists. The students had to apply in order to be accepted, writing an essay explaining why they wanted to be a part of this extraordinary opportunity.

Annis was delighted when the program decided that in addition to Veeder, she would be representing the University of North Dakota. Most of the students were in their 20s and Annis, at 33, was one of the oldest participants.

It was the first trip to Europe for both Annis and Veeder. “It was exciting and scary,” Annis said. “I have a young son that I’d never been away from and here I am going to Europe! My mom and dad took me to the airport and, as we were getting closer, I was giving them my will verbally.”

The Germany for Young Journalists program lasted from May 16 to 29, about two weeks but it seemed much longer for someone who had never traveled abroad before.

After a flight that lasted about eight hours, the students arrived in Amsterdam, Holland. “It was a long flight,” Annis said. “Our feet and ankles were swollen from sitting so long and not moving. So a word of advice to people when they fly across the ocean: get up and walk around the plane.”

From Holland, the students traveled on to Berlin, where they were greeted by one of their guides, Christian Hauck. “We got off the plane, feeling weird, unsure, and probably already a little homesick,” Annis said. “But Christian was warm and welcoming, saying, ‘Welcome to Germany. I’m so happy that you’re here. You’re going to have a wonderful time. You must be so excited and tired but curious too.’”

During their two-week stay in Berlin – which also included jaunts to Frankfurt and Hamburg – each day was well planned to make maximum use of the time allotted. From morning until night, the students were kept busy with meetings with officials, including from the German Parliament, tours of famous buildings and landmarks, and field trips throughout the 700-year-old city.

Berlin is perhaps most famous for being one of the few cities in the world to have been split in half by different political ideologies. In 1961, the city was divided into two cities, East and West, one becoming Communist and the other remaining Socialist. A physical wall was erected, cutting off West Berlin from the rest of the world.

“Basically, West Berlin was an island in a sea of Communism,” Annis said. “Even people who would escape from East to West were not safe because of the secret police. They had spies everywhere. There were husbands who spied on their wives and children on their parents.”

Although the Berlin wall came tumbling down in 1989, 15 years later the city remains two distinct personalities. “There is still that division and people are still suffering from the effects of that, but they are definitely happier,” Annis said.
“Today people still self-identify as East or West. In the East, there’s a younger, working class, Bohemian lifestyle and most people go to a university. In the West, people usually have more money so the neighborhoods are beautiful,” Annis said.

The people of Germany are haunted by a past that includes two devastating world wars and three decades of the Berlin Wall. Fifteen years after the wall was torn down, however, Germans have a new attitude and hope that the rest of the world sees them in a different light. Annis said, “1989 was the reunification of Germany and the people refer to themselves as a new country.”

Prior to her visit, Annis’s perception of Germany had been shaped by the American media. “I had expected to find a grey, industrial city, sort of dead,” she said.

Upon her arrival, Annis was amazed by the beauty of Berlin. She had not expected to find the city so full of visual splendor – trees, flowers, landscapes, parks, shops, and architecture, with busy people rushing to and fro.

Yet for its size, Berlin was relatively low-key. Annis said the city is quieter than most American cities and it’s as though a certain segment of the population thinks that the tranquility helps heal the wounds of history.

Not only was Berlin divided by the infamous wall, but also Germany started two world wars in the 20th Century. “There are still are barriers and they call history their collective guilt,” Annis said.

At the same time there a growing number of young Germans refuse to run away from the past and instead chose to discuss it openly, perhaps to prevent history from repeating itself.

And national pride is growing, Annis said. “For the first time in a long while, people are beginning to be proud to be German again.”

Her visit helped retire a misconception that she’d previously held about Germany. Annis had mistakenly assumed that the young people were few in number and were not progressive like places like Great Britain or the United States.

“But in Germany we met lots of young people who are interested in what’s happening in the world and talking politics,” she said. “They have strong ideas and that was exciting to me.”

Annis had been concerned that the Germans she met during her two-week visit would be critical about the American involvement in Iraq since Germany chose not to serve as an ally. “The wonderful thing about the Germans that we met is that they are very good about making distinctions between government and the American people,” she said.
The few and the proud has often been used to describe the Marines, but for an aspiring journalist, the Chips Quinn Scholar Program fits that saying perfectly.

For most junior and seniors you start to think about that ‘real world’ after college. My goal was to find an internship before my senior year to hopefully get a feel for what being a workingman was all about.

Upon looking for an internship, I came upon a brochure at the Native Media Center. I had seen the brochure years before and never thought much of it until this past year. I figured I would give the application a try and maybe, just maybe, get a real job instead of working at the gas station.

Don’t get me wrong. Working in the convenience store environment has given me tools in dealing with strangers on a day-to-day basis. But I think I needed to focus more on my future profession in the communication field. This reality surprisingly came true after one phone call.

I was casually sitting at home watching the endless hours of reality dating shows when my cell phone rang. “May I speak to Daryl please,” the voice on the other end said. “Speaking,” I replied in a timid voice, not knowing of the future phone interview. “This is Joe Spear and I’m the city editor at the Mankato Free Press and we have received from the Chips Quinn Scholar program your application and I wanted to ask you a few questions.”

Wow! The application I sent in the mail months before has finally caught up to me at the perfect timing. I was trying to figure out that week, to be exact, what I wanted to do for the summer.

The phone interview, which seemed to last for hours, only went on for 30 minutes. Questions ranged from what books I’m currently reading to what I do for fun and led up to the words I’ll never forget. “We would love to have you this summer if you’re interested.” At last my future as a Chips Quinn scholar was set in motion.

If you are unaware of the Chips Quinn Scholars Program, it’s dedicated to offering journalism students of color intensified training in the craft of news coverage, newsroom internships, scholarships and mentoring by all kinds of new veterans. The goal of the program is to provide diversity to the nation’s news-rooms. To get acquainted with what exactly your role as a Chips Quinn scholar is, the Summer Class of 2004 spent four days in Arlington, VA.

For any students of color this is what you dream about. This program focuses on making you better journalists, while at the same time making the newsroom a place of diverse minds in the future.
The four days of orientation were an experience I will never forget. The World Center of The Freedom Forum is located on the other side of the Potomac River, which makes a great view of Washington D.C. from the rooftop located many stories up. Each day of orientation was spent on categories such as how to localize a story, note taking and how to deal with editors.

I had no idea what I was getting myself into when Caesar Andrews, an editor of Gannett News Service, Carol Knopes, writing coach at the USA Today, and John Quinn, the founding editor of the USA Today, would be giving us speeches and lectures. To be in that environment with so many great people of the journalism world really made me stand back and realize how much more I need to learn. The four days of orientation were spent learning, listening and meeting fellow great journalists. What I learned in three years of school could never compare to the orientation weekend where I took away more information than I could store.

After flying back home, I had to get ready for a 10-week internship in Mankato, MN.

###### end here I think it will be way to long to write about my actual internship. Maybe this way I can create a base to read my continuation next time