Ode to Kathryn Buder

She had a vision
For one day to see
By planting a seed
For growing a tree.

The tree would become
A center to learn
From which Native students
Master's degrees they would earn.

This center would be known as
Our beloved Buder Center
Where Native students from afar
Would have the chance to enter.

Back to their communities
With degrees they proudly hold
Changing lives, changing families
Planting seeds for young and old.

From vision and dream
To graduation gown with collar
We assume a role of leadership
As a proud Buder scholar.

Impacting our communities
To make the right decision
Let's now give our thanks
For this amazing woman's vision.

Kerry D. Bird
Buder Alumni Reunion
April 9, 2010
Kevin Washburn speaks at St. Louis Assembly Series

Kevin Washburn, JD, professor and Dean of the School of Law at the University of New Mexico, spoke in September at the Washington University in St. Louis Assembly Series in September. Kevin Washburn is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Kevin Washburn discussed the Tribal Law and Order Act, which expands significantly the powers of tribal courts to combat crime on reservations. Washburn played a significant role in the creation of the act, including testifying at the first Senate hearing on the bill, and he attended the July ceremony at the White House when President Obama signed the bill into law.

The Buder Scholars also had a chance to speak with Kevin at a roundtable discussion. This was a wonderful opportunity for the scholars to speak with Kevin about his experiences.

Kevin Washburn was the first Buder Law Scholar at Washington University in 1990.

Rulan Tangen & Dancing Earth Visits Washington University in St. Louis

Dancing Earth, the nation's foremost indigenous contemporary dance ensemble, has created movement workshops for a wide range of communities, including populations encountering high rates of obesity, substance abuse, domestic violence, suicide, and unplanned pregnancy.

Director Rulan Tangen (Métis) is a cancer survivor with a personal and a professional perspective on the holistic benefit of relaxation exercises. Her approach integrates physicality with breath, imagination, and visualization.

Ms. Tangen held a Professional Development workshop at the Edison Theatre at Washington University in St. Louis demonstrating and discussing some of these approaches.

Dancing Earth performed Of Bodies of Elements at the Edison Theatre at Washington University in St. Louis. This performance was designed solely for Washington University in St. Louis.

Representing over 15 First Tribal Nations, Dancing Earth is an ensemble of performance artists and dancers committed to fusing indigenous and contemporary dance styles that speak to all beings. It is primal, yet articulate. Led by director and choreographer Rulan Tangen, this ancestral style of dance tells vivid stories of cultural heritage and explores the identity of contemporary Native peoples. This is dance as a primal force. Tangen was noted in Dance Magazine as one of the "Top 25 to Watch" for 2007 and was recently recognized as a visiting distinguished scholar at Washington University in St. Louis.
Elder in Residence Visit

In October, the Buder Center welcomed Crucita & JoAnn Melchor for our first Elder-in-Residence visit. The Elder-in-Residence is an event which brings respected American Indian/Alaska Native leaders to Washington University in St. Louis to interact with students, faculty, and fellow community members. This is a great opportunity to integrate knowledge of Native Americans into the curriculum and culture of our campus, to learn from the experience and wisdom of the distinguished Elder, and to answer questions for students and staff.

Crucita Melchor, of Santo Domingo Pueblo in New Mexico, is the daughter of Santana Melchor, the renowned matriarch of a family of Pueblo Indian potters. A mother and grandmother and potter in her own right, Crucita Melchor designs pots using ancient forms and decorations, including black and brick colored motifs. Pueblo pots are hand-formed with coils of native clay, lightly stone burnished, and then decorated with natural pigments and pit fired. Crucita has received several awards for her work in pottery. In the 1970’s, both Crucita and her mother were invited to the White House and honored as part of a group of top Pueblo Indian potters.

Molly Tovar appointed Director of the Kathryn M. Buder Center

Molly Tovar, Ed.D., former director of leadership for the Bill & Melinda Gates Millennium Scholars Program, has been appointed the new director of the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies at the Brown School.

Dr. Tovar, both of Native American and Hispanic descent, earned a doctorate in higher education and administration from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, where she later was the director of student academic services for the Graduate College.

As director, Dr. Tovar will lead and provide strategic direction for the Buder Center and advance the Center’s goals to educate and train health and human services professionals who want to work in Indian Country. Tovar will also work to advance a robust research agenda and new knowledge creation to inform practice and policy that impacts Indian Country.

Fall 2010 Events

The Buder Scholars attended a variety of events in 2010. Some highlights include:

August 2010

Drs. Joe & Carol Conner from Paradox Consulting visited Washington University in St. Louis and presented at the Buder Center’s Orientation.

October 2010

REEL INJUN: On the Trail of the Hollywood Indian film and panel discussion at the Missouri History Museum

Poetry at the Point - Carter Revard and Alice Azure read new and selected poems

November 2010

Russell Means spoke at St. Charles Community College

Jean O’Brien spoke at the History Department Colloquium at Washington University in St. Louis. “There was Probably an Indian Village Here”: New England Local Histories as Replacement Narratives

19th Annual Stella Artois St. Louis International Film Festival presented Facing the Storm, an epic account of our tempestuous relationship with the buffalo.

Program Manager Position Available

Responsible for the program management for the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies at Washington University in St. Louis, including national relationship development, grant writing, program and operations management, and university-wide collaboration and coordination. This person will manage project budgets, attend meetings and conferences, engage in Outreach, serve on various departmental committees, and provide direct supervision to employees. Reports to Director of Buder Center.

Requirements: Program management and competence — ability to plan, oversee, and track multiple projects. Ability to maintain a professional demeanor when working with Masters & PhD students, administrative personnel, and faculty, as well as contacts at other institutions and tribal communities. Ability to work with a variety of communities, universities, and department staff. Interest and experience in working with American Indian students and representatives. Bachelor’s degree or equivalent experience and five years supervisory and administrative experience. Demonstrated communication, supervisory skills, and professional writing skills. Five years professional experience in program and budget management.

To view the complete job posting and to apply, please visit the Washington University employment website at https://jobs.wustl.edu and search for job title “Program Manager” or job id “21166”. To learn more about the Buder Center visit buder.wustl.edu.

“Equal Opportunity Employer”
The donor and founder of the Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies respected and admired American Indians from childhood. Kathryn Buder’s belief that education is a key factor in empowering American Indian communities and her commitment to an education that honors the American Indian culture led her to establish the Center in 1990. Originally founded to provide scholarships for American Indians, the Buder Center has grown into one of the most respected centers in the nation for the academic advancement and study of American Indian issues related to social work. The Center offers one American Indian course per semester, which Buder Scholars are required to take. Additionally, the Center is charged with developing Buder Scholars into leaders who will serve Indian Country.