

Indian Country

THIS WEEK FROM

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THE 2016

50

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A LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Shekóli. Who in the world does not have preconceived notions of American Indians? For centuries we have been packaged and sold, dissected and entombed in commercial images, history books and movies (particularly the movies). We know how difficult it is to change deeply held beliefs outside our nations, but what hurts most is when these perceptions are forced upon our children regardless of the true and proper alternatives.

To fight perception with reality these days one must level the playing field, and use the same media and messages with as much skill and persistence as outsiders have done. This is something widely understood in Indian country. It's why Native lodges, resorts and casinos so often are built with unique cultural and architectural characteristics, and why they are so appreciated. People know when they're being had. They thirst for the real thing, and they appreciate learning the truth from the source.

While much of the day-to-day struggle for us to regain what was taken seems like an uphill battle, it is important to take a moment and savor our victories. This magazine, our second year of the *50 Faces of Indian Country*, is such a moment. It's an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of young Forrest Goodluck, who co-starred in *The Revenant* with Leonardo DiCaprio; Dakota Brown, who cam-



paigns against Native mascots while still in college; and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Chairman Dave Archambault II, who is redefining Native activism in the fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline. And they are just a few of the great people who grace these pages.

Everyone in this magazine would agree that they are carrying on the work that was initiated by our parents and grandparents. In every walk of life, every field of business, Native pioneers are making a difference. Most important, they are changing perceptions. That's what powers the vision of 50 Faces. The number of names we contemplated for this issue could have filled three magazines. However, 50 Faces is not just a list; nor is it a ranking. It's a celebration. It's a chance for our youth to understand that

it's possible to achieve their dreams without sacrificing our strength and beauty.

We hope you enjoy it.

Na ki wa,

Ray Halbritter



We had a feeling this would happen. Someone in this magazine also appeared in it last year, and that someone is movie star Adam Beach. We also had a feeling that he'd be joined by first-time 50, all-time great Wes Studi, and Martin Sensmeier (new to acting but not to us, and starring in the upcoming blockbuster, *The Magnificent Seven*). That's because we're privy to movie production schedules far in advance. What we couldn't see coming, perhaps, was the emergence of gymnast Ashton Locklear, or *Teen Vogue* model Daunette Reyome, but we're certainly glad they came along in 2016. We're equally glad to showcase photographer and photo-journalist Matika Wilbur, who is featured on both sides of the camera.

There's nothing more uplifting than enjoying the positive contributions being made by some of the most talented people on the planet, whether it's famed poet Joy Harjo, author Sherman Alexie, or chef Ben Jacobs. But there's a reason we've bookended this issue with pictures of beautiful Native youth. Last year, Indian Country Today Media Network Publisher and Oneida Nation Representative Ray Halbritter called on ICTMN's editors to produce a magazine of contemporary Native heroes in a "visual,

dramatic way." And so, the idea of 50 Faces of Indian Country was born.

"Indian kids need to see people like themselves, and role models they can aspire to be such as lawyers, doctors, artists, business leaders, models and musicians," says Halbritter, (pictured above with a group of Haudenosaunee children). It's an important message: Using positive imagery to replace clichéd and negative stereotypes works.

On the last page, we present another inspiring photo, this one from President Obama's historic trip to Standing Rock Sioux tribal territory. There's no denying the uplift and pride on the faces of the children of Standing Rock as they enjoy a moment with a national leader. The picture is a poignant reminder of the President's stated commitment to Indian country, and comes at a time when Standing Rock's leaders and people are engaged in a lengthy campaign against the Dakota Access Pipeline to protect their water, now and for the next generation.

So here's to the 50 Faces of 2016, and to the 50 Faces of the Future.

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THE 2016

50

FACES

OF INDIAN COUNTRY

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THE BLOCKBUSTER: ADAM BEACH

At just 43 years of age, Adam Beach, a Saulteaux raised on the Dog Creek First Nations Reserve, has appeared in more than 60 films and television shows all over the world. It is noteworthy to mention due to his success in 2016, appearing in one of the year's biggest blockbusters along with projects in post-production, Beach is ICTMN's only repeat from last year's 50 faces. Though he is known overwhelmingly in Indian country for his 1998 role as Victor Joseph in *Smoke Signals*, Beach has also racked up a slew of awards, including a Golden Globe nomination for his

role in *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* (2007) and his role in the Oscar-nominated feature *Flags of our Fathers*, (2006) directed by Clint Eastwood, for which he was nominated for a Critics Choice Award. Also worth noting is Beach's most recent role in the blockbuster *Suicide Squad*, (2016) in which Beach played the super-villain Slipknot. Though his time on screen was brief, he set a precedent for a Native appearing in a Hollywood super-hero movie that has already grossed hundreds of millions of dollars.

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and Celebrating Five of Our Very Own...



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State of Alaska



Richard Peterson
President
Central Council
Tlingit & Haida



Jacqueline Pata
Executive Director
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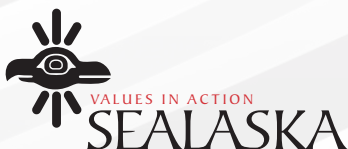
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Actor & Wellness
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of Public Instruction
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THE DANCE LEGEND: DAYSTAR/ROSALIE JONES

For more than 50 years, Daystar/Rosalie Jones has danced, choreographed and taught throughout North America, nurturing the development of indigenous talent. Born on the Blackfeet Reservation in Montana, she recognizes Little Shell ancestry through her mother's lineage. She earned a Master's Degree from the University of Utah, and studied at Juilliard School in New York City with Jose Limon, a pioneer of modern dance. In 1980, she founded Daystar: Contemporary Dance Drama of Indian America, considered the first Native modern dance company in the United States. In April 2016, she received the Institute of American Indian Arts' First Annual Lifetime Achievement Award in Performing Arts presented "in honor of her lifetime of creativity, inspiring others and service to the field." Her 30 works include *Wolf: A Transformation* and the scripted dance-dramas *No Home but the Heart* and *Legacy of the Dream*. Special Collections at University of California-Riverside houses the Daystar Archive. "In the beginning, the Creator gave to each one of us our own unique gift," Daystar told ICTMN. "It is our responsibility to develop that gift throughout a lifetime so that, at the end, that will be our gift back to the Creator."



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THE VISIONARY: RICHARD PETERSON

Economic Development. Partnership. Tribal Sovereignty. Community Sustainability. Richard (Chalyee Éesh) Peterson, Tlingit and Haida from the Southeast Alaska village of Kasaan, has aggressively pursued all these goals as president of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, the largest regional tribe in the state. Peterson's ability to bring cultural values and business together via partnerships with federal, state, tribal and municipal governments has gained him national recognition. A founding member of the tribally owned Prince of Wales Tribal Enterprise Consortium (POWTEC), Chalyee Éesh promotes self-sufficiency in rural Alaska. He brought millions of dollars into

POWTEC and did the same for his village tribe, the Organized Village of Kasaan. In just two years as president, he has planned a cultural immersion park, a language immersion daycare, secured certification for the Tlingit Haida Tribal Business Corporation, and acquired a multimillion-dollar government contracting firm. He has received numerous awards, and serves on several boards representing Alaska Native interests. "Credit can never belong to one person," he tells ICTMN. "I work with an Executive Council comprised of true leaders and have aligned a strong management team. We work hard to uphold the mission of the tribe, and our true strength is in our vision for tribal self-governance."



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- HEAD DANCE JUDGE** Michael Roberts
- TABULATOR** Mariea Jones
- TABULATOR** Christina Johnson

DRUM CONTEST

NORTHERN	SOUTHERN
1st \$4,000 plus 1st place jackets	1st \$4,000 plus 1st place jackets
2nd \$2,500	2nd \$2,500
3rd \$1,500	3rd \$1,500
4th \$1,000	4th \$1,000

Host Drum will not be entered in contest.
 Point system in effect for dance and drum contest.

DANCE SPECIAL

- IRONMAN FANCY**
\$3,000
(Must be 18 years and older)
- WOMEN'S TEAM**
\$4,500
- MEN'S TEAM**
\$4,500
Team Dance: Min. of 3 dancers.
(Must be 18 years and older)

1ST, 2ND AND 3RD PLACE PRIZES

GRAND ENTRY TIMES

FRIDAY 12/09 AT 7:00PM
SATURDAY 12/10 AT 1:00PM & 7:00PM
SUNDAY 12/11 AT 1:00PM

INFORMATION

VENDOR INFORMATION:
 Arts & Craft Vendors and Food Vendors Allowed
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DANCE CONTEST

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
MEN'S 18 to 54 N. Traditional, S. Straight, Grass Northern Fancy, Southern Fancy, Chicken Dance	\$1,000	\$800	\$600	\$300
WOMEN'S 18 to 54 N. Traditional Buckskin, S. Traditional Buckskin N. Traditional Cloth, S. Traditional Cloth, Jingle, Fancy Shawl	\$1,000	\$800	\$600	\$300
SENIOR MEN'S 55 to 64 N. Traditional, S. Straight (Grass and Fancy Combined)	\$1,000	\$800	\$600	\$300
SENIOR WOMEN'S 55 to 64 N. Traditional, S. Traditional (Jingle and Fancy Shawl Combined)	\$1,000	\$800	\$600	\$300
MEN'S GOLDEN AGE 65 & Up N. Traditional, S. Straight	\$1,000	\$800	\$600	\$300
WOMEN'S GOLDEN AGE 65 & Up N. Traditional, S. Traditional	\$1,000	\$800	\$600	\$300
TEEN BOYS 13 to 17 N. Traditional, S. Straight, Grass, Fancy	\$325	\$225	\$125	\$100
TEEN GIRLS 13 to 17 N. Traditional, S. Traditional, Jingle, Fancy Shawl	\$325	\$225	\$125	\$100
JUNIOR BOYS 7 to 12 (N. Traditional and S. Straight Combined) (Grass and Fancy Combined)	\$150	\$100	\$75	\$50
JUNIOR GIRLS 7 to 12 (N. Traditional and S. Traditional Combined) (Jingle and Fancy Shawl Combined)	\$150	\$100	\$75	\$50

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THE CYBER-WARRIOR: GEOFFREY C. BLACKWELL

Described as both a legal eagle and a cyber-warrior, Geoff Blackwell (Muscogee Creek, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Omaha) considers representing tribal voices in Washington, D.C., moving the needle on the digital divide, and increasing tribal business among the greatest accomplishments of his career. He became the first tribal member to work at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in 2000. For more than five years, he directed FCC activities to incentivize the deployment of broadband and communications technologies across Indian country. From 2005-2010, he helped lead Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc., before returning to the FCC in 2010, when he established its Office of Native Affairs and Policy. Blackwell served as the FCC's founding chief through 2015, before moving on to his current job – Chief

Strategy Officer and General Counsel – at AMERIND Risk, where he oversees finance, IT, human resources, communications, as well as its newest entity, AMERIND Critical Infrastructure. Through AMERIND Risk, Blackwell helps tribes protect their homes, businesses and workforces and acquire broadband technologies. A graduate of Dartmouth College and the University of Virginia School of Law, Blackwell “stands on the shoulders” of a family dedicated to tribal and public service. His parents were both attorneys, and his mother Sharon Blackwell was the first Indian woman to work as an attorney in the Solicitor’s Office of the Department of Interior, later becoming deputy commissioner at the BIA.

AMERIND Risk to Help Tribes Develop Broadband with AMERIND Critical Infrastructure

While much of America enjoys the benefits of high-speed internet or “broadband” – such as distance learning, telemedicine, and online business – a stark contrast exists across Indian country. According to the 2016 Broadband Progress Report of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the agency that oversees broadband regulation, 41 percent of people living on tribal lands have no access to broadband. It’s even worse in rural regions of Indian country, where 68 percent of residents lack broadband.

AMERIND Risk, the only 100 percent tribally-owned and operated insurance solutions provider, has a groundbreaking new business line to address this huge need – AMERIND Critical Infrastructure. This new business will help tribes develop and deploy robust broadband networks which, in the 21st Century, have become as necessary as clean water, reliable energy, and good roads. This complements AMERIND’s core mission and values perfectly, as it already protects tribal infrastructures and governmental functions - tribal homes, businesses and workforces.

“Technology is key to the future of tribal sovereignty and self-determination. Tribes are part of the Internet Age, and for many priorities they want better internet access. They need it and deserve it now,” said Geoffrey Blackwell, AMERIND’s Chief Strategy Officer and General Counsel. Blackwell, a top legal expert in the field, is also a former senior manager at the FCC and the founding Chief of the FCC’s Office of Native Affairs and Policy (ONAP).

AMERIND has assembled a uniquely knowledgeable team in AMERIND Critical Infrastructure (ACI), whose capabilities can make high-speed connectivity a reality across more of Indian country. ACI will use its expertise to provide management services to assess and determine broadband needs, plan and execute deployments, and complete the multi-step application and accounting processes for major federal subsidy programs.

The ACI team is led by Blackwell and the Director of ACI, Irene Flannery,

another former FCC senior manager and the founding Deputy Chief of the FCC’s ONAP. Before working directly with tribes, Flannery wrote regulations and policies for almost two decades as a senior manager in several key areas of the FCC’s federal subsidies. She then worked with tribes across the nation in consultations and rulemakings aimed at the infamous tribal digital divide. Blackwell and Flannery crafted large parts of many of the FCC’s regulations and programs that benefit and incentivize broadband deployment on tribal lands.

41 percent of people living on tribal lands have no access to broadband

For example, the FCC’s federal E-rate program makes \$3.9 billion available every year to bring broadband to schools and libraries across the country. And yet, tribal schools and libraries have lagged far behind in getting a share of that funding. “Careful planning and bringing broadband to a tribal government building or institution, like a school or library, is often the first step in taking that connectivity to homes and communities. It’s about time that tribes benefit from these dollars and share in the advantages that technology brings, be it jobs, education, or a world of opportunities” said Flannery.

The ACI team also includes its new Manager of Tribal Technology, Kimball Sekaquaptewa. She is the Manager of Tribal Critical Infrastructure at

Santa Fe Indian School, and a top expert in the application processes and tribal-side management of key fiber and Wi-Fi deployment programs. She helped make Santa Fe Indian School nationally renowned for its connectivity capabilities. During the 2016 graduation ceremonies at the famous school, the IT network that Sekaquaptewa built supported the nation-wide online airing of First Lady Michelle Obama’s graduation speech from trust lands - a White House first.

ACI also reflects AMERIND’s core value of social investment. Since 2001, AMERIND has provided funding for public service projects, charitable giving, educational scholarships, and investments promoting Native community health and well-being. ACI will also offer low-cost financing to provide the matching funds that many federal programs require. Both the lack of matching funding and very complicated application processes have been major barriers to broadband build-out across Indian country. With ACI, that will change.

With a deep experience of *Tribes Protecting Tribes*, AMERIND Risk began 30 years ago to provide insurance coverage to tribal housing authorities when no other company would. AMERIND provides property and liability coverage, and offers tribal workers’ compensation and employee benefits programs. To protect against catastrophes, AMERIND utilizes sound management, investment and diversification strategies.

Now, AMERIND brings together movers and shakers who know how to make billions of dollars available in federal broadband subsidies. “AMERIND is an institution of Indian country, founded by tribes and operated by tribal people. Hundreds of tribes are its members. AMERIND can respond to this huge need knowledgeably and cost-efficiently, and ACI provides tremendous value to our Members,” Blackwell said. “The heart and spirit of our company is protecting tribal families and communities. We are always looking for more ways to continue that tradition.”



**THE WORDSMITH:
JOY HARJO**

The brave writer of the 2012 memoir *Crazy Brave* has been an esteemed poet, author, artist, musician and activist for decades. Joy Harjo, Mvskoke (Creek), has written eight books of poetry, a memoir, two children's books, a collaboration with photographer/astronomer Stephen Strom, an anthology of North American Native women's writing, several screenplays and two plays. In 2015, she was the first American Indian to receive the Academy of American Poets Wallace Stevens Award, one of the country's most prestigious awards for poetry. *Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings*, her latest poetry collection, is on the shortlist for the Griffin Prize and was named an American Library Association Notable Book. This grandmother and great grandmother has also championed the arts, mentored and inspired young artists and activists throughout Indian country. Among her current projects is an ambitious musical play, *We Were There When Jazz Was Invented*, which will change the origin story of American music to include southeastern Native peoples.

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THE LEADER: BYRON MALLOT

Making history has become a habit for Alaska Lt. Governor Byron Mallot. He took office in December of 2014 as the first Alaska Native leader elected to statewide office, and joined Governor Bill Walker as the first non-partisan administration in Alaska history. Mallot was born in Yakutat, the ancestral home of his mother's Tlingit clan. That's still where he's registered to vote, along with his wife Toni, an Athabascan, who was born and raised in the Alaskan village of Rampart. Mallot entered public life as mayor of Yakutat at the young age of 22 and has since held many positions in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. He has served as the state's first commissioner of community and regional affairs; president of the Alaska Federation of Natives; founding president of the

First Alaskans Institute; trustee, chair and executive director of the Alaska Permanent Fund Corporation; and chair of the Nature Conservancy of Alaska. In the private sector, Mallot has served as chair, president and CEO of Sealaska Corporation (one of 12 Alaska Native Regional Corporations); served on the board of Alaska Air Group, and Bank of America subsidiary boards in Washington and Alaska; and as a director of the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco. Mallot has also been a small business owner and commercial fisherman. However, Mallot says his proudest service is as clan leader of the Tlingit Raven Kwaash Kee Kwaan Clan of Yakutat.

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THE DOCUMENTARIAN: BILLY LUTHER

Billy Luther, Navajo, Hopi and Laguna Pueblo, is the director/producer of the award-winning documentary, *Miss Navajo*, which premiered at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival and aired nationally on PBS' Independent Lens that same year. He studied film at Hampshire College and worked on projects for the New York City Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian's Film & Video Center. His second documentary feature *Grab* premiered at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival and aired nationally on public television that same year. He co-directed the Native America episode for the MTV documentary series *Rebel Music*, which was MTV's highest viewed and shared content in their history of online programming. His latest short documentary film *Red Lake* had its world premiere at the 2016 Los Angeles Film Festival. He has been selected for the Sundance Institute's Native and Indigenous Fellowship, Film Independent's Project: Involve, and Tribeca Film Institute's All Access program. Luther's films have screened with the American Documentary Showcase, a collaborative program with The State Department and U.S. Embassies around the world. He served on the Sundance Institute Alumni Advisory Board and the International Documentary Association Board of Directors. He is currently Executive Producer on the upcoming documentary *Remember My Name*, a working title for a film following a heated primary election for the presidency of the Navajo Nation, examining the world of LGBTQ rights and the meaning of identity in the largest Native American tribe in the United States. He is also working on a world of Native fashion designers project.



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TODAY MEDIA NETWORK

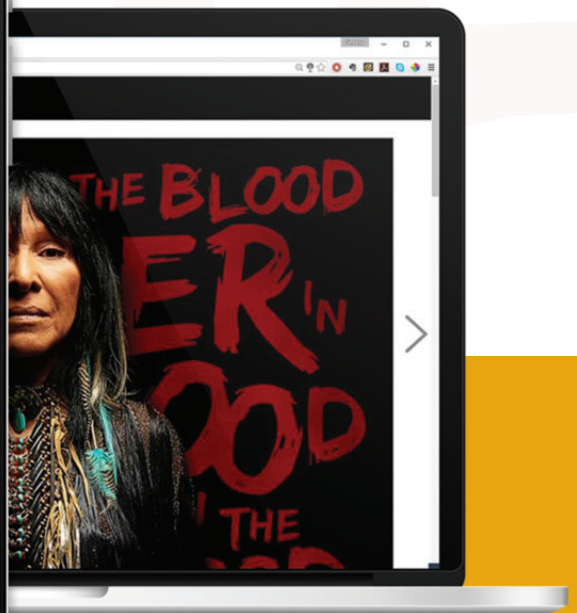
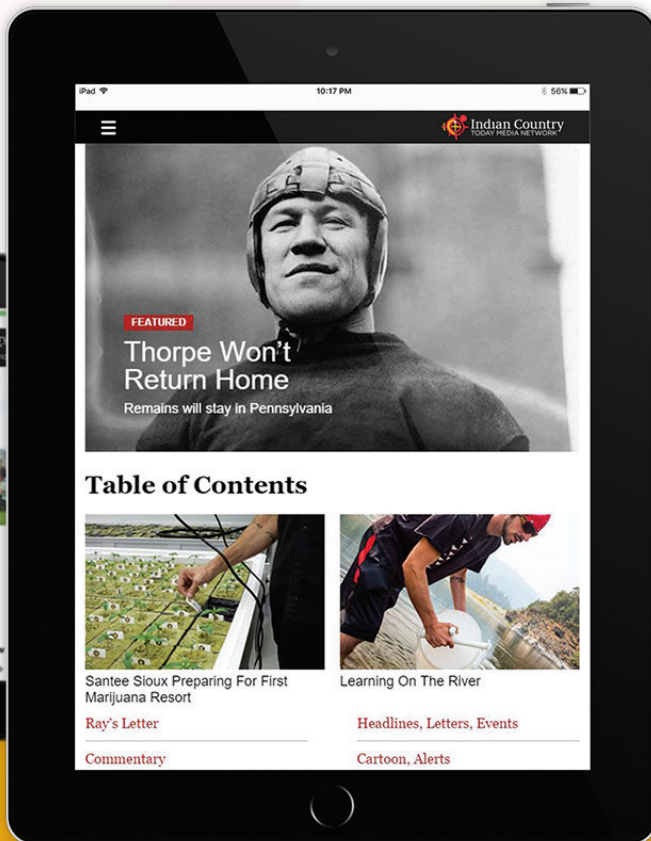
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THE RAPPER: TALL PAUL

Paul Wenell Jr., better known by his stage name, Tall Paul, Leech Lake Ojibwe, began writing lyrics in 2002, when he was just 14, inspired by his older siblings and cousins, and the diverse hip-hop they were listening to on the radio. In 2009, he began recording and performing in his hometown of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Paul's music deals largely with the challenges that come with growing up an urban Indian, and the identity struggles that come along with that. He seamlessly raps in both English and Ojibwe, his indigenous language, as he strives to learn more of the language. And this, in turn, helps others learn more about him, his music and his culture. "I hope my music not only entertains, but also inspires people to get back to the love we were all full of as babies and kids," Paul said. "To break down all barriers and labels that separate us, so we can recognize our oneness, that would be the highest achievement for me. We all live under the same sky and breathe the same air. I'm honored and surprised to be included in *The 50 Faces of Indian Country* list; to know that people are paying attention to my movement still leaves me in awe."



THE HISTORY MAKER: DENISE JUNEAU

She's been breaking down barriers since 2008 and come November, Denise Juneau (D-MT) could become the first American Indian Congresswoman. An enrolled member of the Mandan Hidatsa Tribes and a descendant of the Blackfeet tribe, Juneau became the first American Indian woman elected to a statewide office in Montana when she was elected as Montana's Superintendent of Public Instruction in November 2008. She is currently campaigning to unseat incumbent Ryan Zinke as Montana's sole congressional representative. In her tenure as superintendent, Montana's academic standards have risen, while college and career opportunities have expanded. She's also an advocate for "responsible natural resource development in a way that benefits Montana's schools, keeps the state's resource economy moving forward and preserves access to public land." She has continued to fight for quality education in her home state so much so Montana has seen increased opportunities and a collective boost to the state's economy. "I'm honored to be included among the American Indian leaders who are making a difference. I grew up in rural Montana on the Blackfeet Reservation. We certainly didn't start out with much, but my parents instilled in me a work ethic that can only be found in Montana. They taught me that with a good education, hard work, and a lot of support...it is possible to go from Head Start all the way to Harvard. Now, I want young American Indian kids to see it's also possible to go from a rural Montana reservation to Congress."



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**THE CRUSADER:
GABE GALANDA**

He's been called a crusader, and if you ask Gabe Galanda about that he'll say, "I guess I'm guilty as charged." Just look at his longstanding work with the non-profit *Huy* (which in Lushootseed means "see you again/we never say goodbye"), which he founded to get Native inmates the right to worship in traditional ways. Or his latest commitment: to "find a cure" to the disenrollment epidemic. He's emerged as one of the most outspoken critics of the practice. The Round Valley citizen and Indian civil rights lawyer says the roots of disenrollment lie in colonialism, not indigeneity. "Disenrollment threatens our very existence. It is self-termination. It has to end." In 2010, Galanda formed his own firm, Galanda Broadman, PLLC, which has seven attorneys and offices in Seattle and Yakima, Washington and Bend, Oregon. He and his "Indian country law firm" ("we are legal servants to both the people and the land") also represent tribal governments and businesses in what he calls "bet the tribe" controversies (those where the tribe's very being is at stake) — treaty rights, taxation and sacred lands. Galanda says his legal work is so much more than just work. "We are family, and so are our clients," he explains. "When it comes to family, you go beyond the call of duty." — V.S.

GALANDA BROADMAN LAW FIRM



THE YOUNG EDUCATOR: DAKOTA FRANKLIN KICKING BEAR BROWN

Dakota Brown, 17, a recent high school graduate with a 4.4 GPA, is the first minor White House advisor appointed by a president. He serves on the National Advisory Council on Indian Education under the United States Secretary of Education. His passion for education began in 2012. He feared Native students did not have the resources to graduate from high school, so he founded the nonprofit organization, NERDS (Native Education Raising Dedicated Students). With 10 chapters and hundreds of students, NERDS has a 100 percent success rate of students graduating after participation in its summer school program. The awards have poured in: The Center for Native American Youth as a Champion for Change in 2013, named him one of UNITY's "25 Under 25" outstanding young leaders in 2014 and he was the first federally recognized Native American selected to attend the United States Senate Youth Program in 2015. He is also a recipient of NCAI's 2015 Ernest Stevens Jr. Youth Leader Award, the 2016 NEA "Leo Reano Memorial Award," a 2016 Coca-Cola National Scholar, and a winner of the 2016 Gates Millennium Scholarship. He began attending Stanford University this fall, majoring in Political Science, with a focus on Native issues. "Being recognized as one of the *50 Faces of Indian Country* is an extreme honor," he tells ICTMN. "I am completely humbled to be in the presence and likes of such inspirational people and personal heroes."

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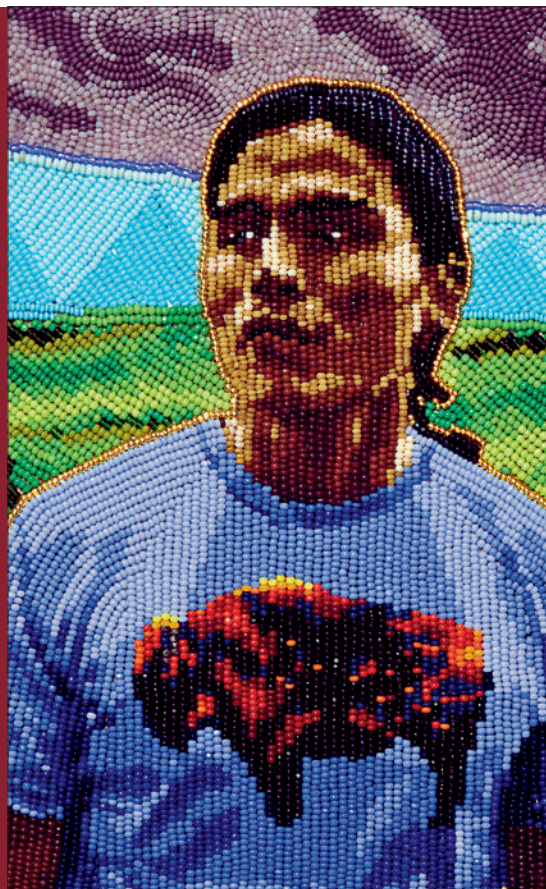
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THE FOODIE: BEN JACOBS

If you haven't had a Tocabe Indian taco yet, you're seriously missing out. Ben Jacobs, Osage, owner of Tocabe, a Native American restaurant out of Denver, Colorado, opened the eatery in 2008. Since then, Tocabe has been featured on the Food Network's *Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives*, has opened a second location, operates a catering service and even has a food truck. Tocabe also regularly

sets up shop at popular area pow wows, such as Denver March Pow Wow. Jacobs focuses on foods that have become synonymous with Native culture, such as frybread, and on traditional ingredients. Bison, corn, hominy and chiles feature prominently on the menu, and wojapi—a traditional Lakota berry recipe—even makes an appearance on his dessert menu.

THE ELDER TEACHER: HENRIETTA MANN

Dr. Henrietta Mann, *Tsetsehestaestse* (Cheyenne), the founding recipient of the Endowed Chair in Native American Studies at Montana State University, is MSU professor emeritus of Native American Studies, and an active member of MSU's Council of Elders. She spent 28 years at MSU as the director/professor of Native American Studies. She also taught at the University of California, Berkeley; Graduate School of Education at Harvard University; and at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. Even though she is retired, she continues to travel the country teaching, speaking and advocating for Native American education. In March 2016, she was elected to the National Academy of Education. She told ICTMN then that "education has always represented true north on my compass." About being named a *50 Faces of Indian Country* recipient, she says, "I am honored, which is truly an understatement of a lifetime. This little, small-town Cheyenne girl from the Red Moon Community has traveled far to be recognized along with 49 others. You pay tribute to her family, community and ancestors. I wish to do nothing but to labor in the garden of humanity, doing what good I can and being of what assistance I can, utilizing the incredible gifts I have been given to help make this world a better place for Cheyenne and Arapaho children. Thank you."



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**THE STYLISH BLOGGER:
JESSICA METCALFE**

Jessica Metcalfe began her blog, Beyond Buckskin, in 2009 to challenge the rampant cultural appropriation found in the mainstream fashion industry. In her posts, the Turtle Mountain Chippewa citizen has taken on a plethora of well-known retailers and designers, such as Urban Outfitters, Paul Frank and Etsy. In 2012, Metcalfe expanded the blog by creating an online shop to highlight Native designers, highlighting the contrast to fast-fashion retailers that rip off “Native-inspired” designs, colors and patterns. The store features apparel, jewelry, moccasins, accessories and even décor from people such as Jared Yazzie, of OXDX, Candace Halcro and Alano Edzerza, among others. In summer 2016, Metcalfe opened a brick-and-mortar Beyond Buckskin Boutique, on the Turtle Mountain Reservation in Belcourt, North Dakota. Check out the blog and online storefront at beyondbuckskin.com. – S.L.R

JASON S. ORDAZ

THE FLYER: KENNY DOBBS

Kenny Dobbs is always flying high...on the basketball court that is, with an overwhelming 48-inch vertical. He is a member of the Choctaw nation who is widely recognized as the best slam dunk artist in the world. He has toured with the NBA, Sprite, Nike and RedBull as a celebrity dunker, performed in sold-out arenas during halftime shows, celebrity games and NBA All Star Weekends, appeared on ESPN, TNT, Fox Sports, MTV, BET, *Good Morning America* and NBA TV. He is also a YouTube sensation and is featured in the NBA2K video game. Off the court, Dobbs co-founded the Dare2Dream nonprofit, which provides athletic training and opportunities for inner-city youth, and is a sought-after motivational speaker. "I am honored to be part of the *50 Faces of Indian Country*," he tells ICTMN. "I've dedicated my time and talents to impacting our Native communities by instilling hope, and challenging the youth to overcome negative obstacles while pursuing their goals. I would not be where I am today without the love and support of my family and friends across the U.S and in Canada. My vision is to help empower more leaders throughout Native country to rise up and capture their dreams, whether that be through professional sports, artistic talents or educational careers. Again, I am honored to have been selected, this will only further fuel my passion to inspire our generations. Thank you!"



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**THE FUNNY ACTIVIST:
DALLAS GOLDTOOTH**

If you don't know who Dallas Goldtooth is, it's possible your ceiling is a very large rock, or you share your quarters year-round with a bear. Goldtooth, Mde-wakanton Dakota and Diné, is one of the five well-known faces from comedy troupe 1491s. Goldtooth has emerged as one of the most popular faces of Indian country today, thanks to 1491s videos such as the *Pow Wow Emcee* series. If you do know who Goldtooth is, it's still very possible you didn't know he's also a key player in the Indigenous Environmental Network. Goldtooth has been an outspoken opponent of the Keystone XL Pipeline, and more recently the Dakota Access Pipeline, among other environmental threats. Goldtooth is a master at combining serious issues, such as pipelines and protecting sacred sites, with humor, which is, of course, what Natives do best. Follow him on Instagram (@dallasgoldtooth) or on YouTube (username the1491s).

COURTESY DALLAS GOLDTOOTH

THE STRATEGIST: CHARLIE GALBRAITH

Charlie Galbraith, Navajo, serves as an advisor for presidential-hopeful Hillary Clinton's Native American strategy. Galbraith also works as a lawyer and lobbyist, and was instrumental in President Obama's success with the Native American vote four years ago. "Every Native working in politics or government has a responsibility to ensure Native young people have access to the political process, not just to be engaged, but involved," he tells ICTMN. "Native youth need to be working on the Hill, on campaigns, in newsrooms, and building relationships to other communities. It's how the broader public best comes to understand our issues and how we start to see more Native people become judges, senators, ambassadors, cabinet members, and one day the president." Galbraith served as the White House Associate Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement, and has worked on everything from budgets and tribal police to the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013. As one of Clinton's top Native American advisors, Galbraith could become a key figure in Indian country during the 2016 election season. "I've been able to meet a lot of young Native leaders through my work and I'm especially excited to see a generation that is challenging the status quo and building a more unified and organized effort to confront bigger and bigger issues facing Indian country in a changing world," he says. —S.L-R



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THE FAVORITE AUNTIE: TONIA JO HALL

Tonia Jo Hall, Lakota and Hidasta, perhaps better known as Auntie Beachress, is quickly becoming an Internet sensation with her short Instagram video caricatures of everyone's favorite, feisty auntie. Auntie Beachress has been known to pop off about everything from not getting into the Black Hills pow wow to, more recently, the Dakota Access Pipeline. She has well over 40

videos on both YouTube and Instagram, with more than 10,600 and 47,000 followers, respectively. Hall is also a mother, wife, jingle dress dancer and fitness advocate, as well as a member of the four-strong Ladies of Native Comedy. Check out her YouTube (username Toniajo Hall) and Instagram (@toniajohall) for regular updates on what Auntie Beachress, and Hall, are up to.

**THE NATIVE RIGHTS FIGHTER:
LADONNA HARRIS**

She's been a steadfast advocate for Native American rights for more than four decades and is the current president of Americans for Indian Opportunity. LaDonna Harris is known as a remarkable statesman and national leader who has enriched the lives of thousands. She has also been a powerful advocate in areas of civil rights, environmental protection, the women's movement and world peace. The Comanche citizen applies much of her energy to strengthening tribal governments, and has encouraged tribes to reweave traditional value-based methods of consensus building into their governance systems. In the 1960s, she founded Oklahomans for Indian Opportunity, and she's presided over the national AIO since the '70s. She is also responsible for founding some other leading Native organizations, including the National Indian Housing Council, the Council of Energy Resource Tribes, the National Tribal Environmental Council and the National Indian Business Association. "I was so fortunate that my grandparents instilled in me Comanche values, especially that everybody has medicine and that we are all related. My work has always centered on building relationships with people who have embraced my Comanche values and helped me with my work," Harris tells ICTMN. "Now, we are collaborating with our global family through our shared values and worldview. Together, with our Indigenous brothers and sisters we can continue to advance our rights and protect the rights of Mother Earth."



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THE HALL OF FAME: ERNIE STEVENS JR.

Now on his eighth two-year term leading the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA), Chairman Ernie Stevens Jr. is an anchor in Indian gaming, a tireless advocate for Indian sovereignty and economic growth and sustainability. “We have to move our economies forward, not just in diversifying, but by strengthening and building upon the gaming world we’ve built,” Stevens has told ICTMN. Throughout his tenure, Stevens, a member of the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin, has represented Indian country before Congress, and influenced policies that impact the gaming industry. Under his leadership, Indian gaming revenues

have risen from \$11 billion in 2000 to \$28.6 billion in 2014. Prior to joining NIGA, Stevens served as an elected councilman for the Oneida Tribe from 1993-99, and as the first vice-president of the National Congress of American Indians. In 2014, Stevens was inducted into the American Gaming Association’s Gaming Hall of Fame, the gaming industry’s highest honor given to those who have made significant contributions in leadership and entertainment. Stevens and his wife Cheryl have been married for more than 30 years, and have five children and 13 grandchildren.

THE MOLD BREAKER: KAREN DIVER

If there was a search in Indian country for a person who best exemplifies determination and perseverance, Karen R. Diver's name would be on the list. The former chairwoman of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in Minnesota stepped down from that position after nine years to serve as the Special Assistant to the President for Native American Affairs in November, 2015. Diver's career path wasn't an easy one. It began when she was a 15-year-old single mother struggling to support her daughter while continuing to educate herself. The hard work has certainly paid off. Prior to her role in the White House, Diver served as Vice President of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, and chaired its finance corporation. She was also Director of Special Projects for Fond du Lac. Her 11 years as Executive Director of the YWCA in Duluth saw her working on human rights issues that included early childhood education and reproductive rights. "During my time with the Obama Administration, I have focused on engaging with the federal agency staff that support the White House Council on Native American Affairs. Their commitment to Indian country will survive this Administration and their ambitious efforts will continue to benefit our communities," Diver told ICTMN. "Consultation and engagement with tribes is also a key part of our work, ensuring that Indian country has a voice in the policymaking process."



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THE HEALTH GIVER: PATRICIA PARKER

Patricia Parker, a member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, is dedicated to giving back to Indian country. She was raised in the small Indian community of Kulli Tuklo until age 5, when her family relocated to Idabell, Oklahoma. She followed in her father Gabe Parker's footsteps: "We're second-generation Indian Health Service (IHS) and second-generation working for Indian people," she says. She became the IHS director of communications, meanwhile gaining keen insight into the administration of federal contracts. This experience led her to found Native American Management Services (NAMS) with her sister, Tonya Parker, in 1992. NAMS leads training and technical assistance, and handles conference and media management with the Administration for

Native Americans, Indian housing and tribal child care. Last year, the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma through Miami Nation Enterprises bought a majority stake in NAMS. Parker continues to serve as CEO. Throughout her 24 years of leading NAMS, Parker has remained steadfast in her dedication to financial and business transparency. The number-one piece of advice she gives to new entrepreneurs and small businesses is "find your passion... and a good accountant." In 2011, she was asked to join the board of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development. Parker is instrumental in "organizational development and business process management. Those are things that I love to do."



THE HEALTH WARRIOR: JO ANN KAUFFMAN

Jo Ann Kauffman, a prominent Nez Perce tribal member, overcame poverty and a difficult childhood to become a nationally recognized advocate for Indian health and justice. In 1990, she founded Kauffman & Associates, Inc. (KAI), based on Capitol Hill and in Spokane, Washington. The firm has about 40 contracts with tribes; tribal organizations; foundations; private-sector businesses; and regional, state and federal agencies. She is particularly proud of KAI's work that empowers youth and fights to turn the tide on

substance abuse, suicide, violence and bullying in Indian country. Prior to founding KAI, she worked in the field of Indian health-care for many years, including serving as executive director of the Seattle Indian Health Board, and also founding the National Association for Native American Children of Alcoholics. She holds a Master of Public Health from the University of California at Berkeley.

COURTESY KAUFFMAN AND ASSOCIATES



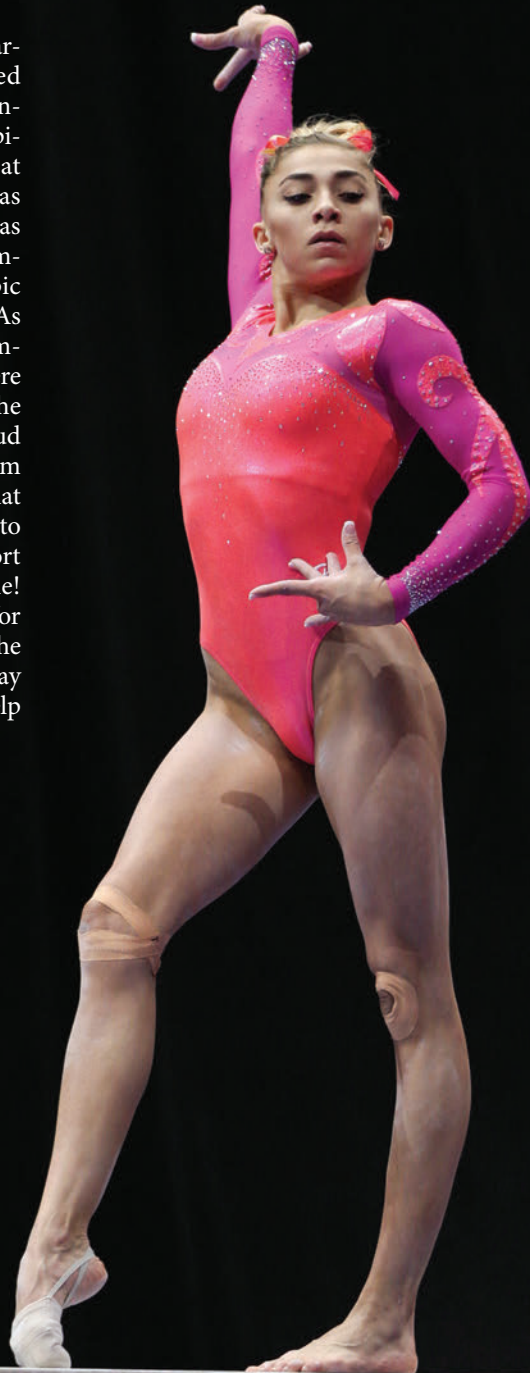
THE FRESH FACE: FORREST GOODLUCK

Despite being just 18, Forrest Goodluck is already a veteran of community theater, having been on stage since the age of 10. And this year, he took a huge step forward in his acting career, making his major film debut in one of the biggest pictures of the year, *The Revenant*, which starred Leonardo DiCaprio. Goodluck plays the part of Hawk, the half-Pawnee son of Hugh Glass (played by DiCaprio). Goodluck, a member of the Diné, Mandan, Hidatsa and Tsimshian tribes, is just graduating high school and is

hoping to take his film career to new heights, and in the name of Indigenous Peoples worldwide. As he recently told ICTMN, his advice for young aspiring actors is this: “For the kids out there who have a passion they want to pursue, just go for it and take it as far as you can go. People will always say there are obstacles, especially for a lot of brown youth out there. Yes, you are going to have to hustle and work a little bit harder than the people you usually see on screen now, but it is important to know that it is possible.” – V.S.

**THE GYMNAST:
ASHTON LOCKLEAR**

Ashton Locklear, Lumbee, is an 18-year-old gymnast who has already claimed seven national and world titles in the uneven bars. Even though her first championship was a state-level competition at age 5, Locklear considers her career as a gymnast beginning at age 11. She was one of three alternates on the U.S. Olympic team that competed at the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro this summer. As she told ICTMN on her way to the Olympics, "Indian country is in my heart! There has never been a Lumbee gymnast at the Olympics... I hope to make them all proud and to bring recognition to my people. I'm so appreciative of my parents for all that they do to help make it possible for me to pursue my dreams. Without their support none of this would have been possible! My mother works at my gym to pay for my tuition and competition expenses. She drives me to and from my gym every day and sees that I have what I need to help make this journey a success."





THE GROWTH SPECIALISTS: TED & RUSSELL PEDRO

Ted Pedro says helping the Native American private sector grow has been the greatest achievement of his storied career. Born and raised on the Laguna Pueblo, Village of Paraje, he earned his bachelor's degree in business management from Western New Mexico University, and soon after began assisting the All Indian Pueblo Council with its business center. In 2004, he became executive director of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of New Mexico (AICCNM). AICCNM assists small business with government certifications, and helps members and clients with loan and financial packaging, lines-of-credit, bonding, insurance, procurement assistance and packaging, exporting and networking. In 2007, with the assistance of his son, Russell Pedro, AICCNM's business development specialist, he launched a Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Business Center in Santa Fe. Russell Pedro's motto guides his work: "Access to capital, plus access to opportunities, equals job creation and economic development." He joined the American

Indian Chamber of Commerce, New Mexico in 2005 and has played a vital role in developing the MBDA Business Center in Santa Fe, which provides minority entrepreneurs and businesses with the expertise and tools to succeed. "I love what I do," he says. "I am passionate about Native small businesses." Beyond advising Native-owned small business, Russell is devoted to promoting youth entrepreneurship and empowering future leaders. In May, the Chamber held its 3rd Annual Youth 'Impact' Initiative Conference, hosted in conjunction with its Annual New Mexico Native American Economic Summit. High school and college students from across New Mexico attended business sessions and competed in a 'Shark Tank' Business Plan Competition that challenges students to write a 10-page business or service plan to satisfy a need, solve a problem or create a demand in their community. "Our Youth 'Impact' Initiative has been my biggest undertaking and proudest accomplishment," he says.



THE SOVEREIGNTY FIGHTER: JACQUELINE PATA

Jacqueline Pata, Tlingit, has served as executive director of the National Congress of American Indians for more than 10 years, and is vice president of the Central Council of the Tlingit-Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. She also served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American Programs of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development during former President Bill Clinton's tenure. Pata lobbies for Native American interest on Capitol Hill, and is an invaluable member of her home community in helping to establish culture camps and language programs,

and fights tirelessly for tribal sovereignty across the United States. "Indian country is extraordinary. It is true that we have our challenges, but we are demonstrating that when we show our inherent resolve, when we exhibit our boundless ingenuity, and when we unite as one, we can achieve great things for our tribal nations," Pata tells ICTMN. "There is more to be done, and that pushes me and my NCAI colleagues to continue working hard to advance tribal sovereignty and self-determination for the benefit of the generations to come." – S.L-R



THE DIVERSIFIER: LANCE MORGAN

In 1994, the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska invested \$8 million in the tribally owned economic development corporation Ho-Chunk Inc, looking to diversify its business ventures beyond gaming. Lance Morgan, who graduated from Harvard Law School in 1993, was appointed CEO (and is currently president) of that entity. In 1995, the firm's first full year of operations, revenue totaled \$182,301. Today, annual revenue exceeds \$260 million, and the company employs over 1,000 employees, with operations in 16

states and eight international countries. Ho-Chunk operates 35 subsidiaries in information technology, construction, government contracting, green energy, retail, wholesale distribution, marketing and transportation. Most recently, Morgan began turning 40 acres of the reservation into a mixed use development center featuring commercial and residential areas. The tribe is creating opportunities for homeownership for its 5,500 members with new single-family homes and multi-family housing options.

COURTESY HO-CHUNK, INC.

**THE STORYTELLER:
SHERMAN ALEXIE**

Sherman Alexie (Spokane/Coeur D'alene) may be best known for his oft-banned novel, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, but the prolific writer has racked up impressive work in multiple genres — as a poet, short story writer, novelist and performer. A recipient of numerous literary awards, Alexie has published 25 books, the most recent being his first picture book, *Thunder Boy Jr.* He wrote the novel *Smoke Signals*, and penned the screenplay for the film adaptation of that, which won several awards at the prestigious Sundance Film Festival. He also wrote and directed the 2002 movie *The Business of Fancydancing*. This year, he was invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. “Thank you for this great honor,” Alexie told ICTMN via e-mail, when informed that he was to be honored in *50 Faces of Indian Country*. “To paraphrase that non-indigenous thinker, Jung, I hope my stories and poems continue to kindle light in the darkness. And to paraphrase Thomas Builds-the-Fire, I’ll keep telling stories even if only stray dogs are listening.”



LEE TOWNDRON/COURTESY OF LITTLE, BROWN BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS



THE NUMBERS WIZARD: SEAN MCCABE

Sean McCabe, Navajo, CPA, runs an accounting and consulting firm based in Albuquerque that exclusively serves clients in Indian country, including his tribe. He works with about 20 tribal governments, Native-owned businesses, Indian-owned casinos, Indian schools and Native media across Idaho, Oregon, California, Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma. “First and foremost, I love working with my people,” McCabe says. “I love going into a tribal enterprise and coaching them on best practices, following compliance issues and accounting standards.” McCabe co-founded

Anuskewicz & McCabe, P.C. in 2006, and recently started hinting about an expansion of services. “There will be some news about where the firm’s going shortly,” he says. McCabe co-owns Native Payroll Services, LLC, the only Native-owned payroll processing company in the U.S., and serves on the board of directors for NOVA Corporation and the Notah Begay III Foundation. “Outside of my professional work, my life revolves around my children [8 and 6 years old] and my wife,” he says. McCabe is also a guitar maven and says he’s on the lookout to join a rock band.

COURTESY SEAN MCCABE

THE ART ACTIVIST: BUNKY ECHO-HAWK

Bunky Echo-Hawk, Pawnee and Yakama, is an activist and artist, a graduate of the Institute of American Indian Arts and co-founder of NVision, a nonprofit focusing on Native American youth through the arts. His work focuses largely on appropriation and sports mascots. It has tackled teams such as the baseball's Cleveland Indians and the Washington, D.C. NFL team. His work often uses purposefully shocking imagery, such as his "Honor YOU" painting, which shows Apache leader Geronimo defiantly showing the viewer both his middle fingers, with the racist mascots of the Cleveland team painted on one hand, and that of the NFL team on the other hand. "I try to use my art to shed light on injustices in Indian country, both historical and contemporary, in hopes that it helps inspire people to take action," Echo-Hawk said. "It's incredibly humbling to be included in this group of people whose work has done so much for Indian country." Echo-Hawk's work is regularly featured in exhibitions around the country, most recently Native Pop! in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Find out more at bunkyechohawk.com. – S.L-R





THE MOHAWK WARRIOR: BEVERLY COOK

Beverly Cook (Wolf Clan) is a Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council Chief, and one of three Chiefs who serve the Akwesasne Mohawk community in northern New York State. She says her activism began after graduating from nursing school in 1974. “I participated in the occupation of an abandoned girls camp, which resulted in the establishment of Ganienkeh in Altona, New York. I took part in the Longest Walk in 1978, and the barricaded encampment at Raquette Point in Akwesasne (1979 to 1982). I worked with others to establish a volunteer rescue squad after the nearby town withdrew emergency services to our reservation. A group of us were trained as EMT’s and I became an EMT instructor. In 1975, I was one of the

first founding parents of the Akwesasne Freedom School.” Before becoming a chief, Cook worked at the Saint Regis Mohawk Health Services Clinic as an RN, Clinic Coordinator and Family Nurse Practitioner for 30 years. “Taking on a leadership position has given me the opportunity to advocate for change in the old paradigms of service delivery; to help support community based movements that include culture and endeavor to guide adolescents through puberty rites or adults through recovery or moms through their pregnancies,” she says, adding that it is an honor to be recognized in *50 Faces of Indian Country*. “I’m flattered to be selected for this but I feel others have done so much more.”

**THE AWARD WINNER:
LOUISE ERDRICH**

When she is not busy writing award-winning novels, poetry, children's books, short stories or all manner of other works, Louise Erdrich, Turtle Mountain Ojibwe, is helping oversee Birchbark Books. That's the Minnesota bookstore she co-owns with her sister, Heid Erdrich, with whom she also founded the Ojibwe-language Wiigwaas Press. The author of 15 novels, Louise Erdrich won the National Book Award in 2012 for Fiction for *The Round House*, and her latest novel, *La Rose*, has been highly acclaimed. Erdrich was receiving awards right out of the gate, with her first novel, *Love Medicine*, garnering the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1984. She has also been awarded the Library of Congress Prize in American Fiction, the PEN/Saul Bellow Award for Achievement in American Fiction, and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, among others. On being selected for the *50 Faces of Indian Country*, she tells ICTMN, "I am very honored."



PAUL EMMELHARPERCOLLINS



THE HOLLYWOOD ICON: SONNY SKYHAWK

Sonny Skyhawk has been an actor for more than 40 years and was the first Native American member of the Motion Picture Academy. He is also the founder of American Indians in Film and Television. “I wanted to give our people a voice in the industry,” he told ICTMN. Skyhawk said Hollywood’s depiction of Natives has “evolved somewhat, [but] Hollywood has their own perception of Native people—the old Western has implanted a negative perception of our people for far too long. There continues to be this proliferation of the negative images of our people.” Skyhawk, Sicangu Lakota, has been outspoken about the lack of Native rep-

resentation in the film industry from the beginning of his career, back when many Native characters were still portrayed by white actors wearing redface. He has been an adamant proponent of creating mainstream films that focus on a Native storyline. “The only change that I see is that Native people are becoming part of the solution, becoming the filmmakers, writing our own scripts,” he says. “Hollywood created us as the antagonist and the white people as the protagonist. I would hope that we as Native people would become interested in the arts, and that’s the only way we’re going to change it, unfortunately.”

**THE VOICE:
SHAWNEE TALBOT**

Shawnee Talbot, a Mohawk from Six Nations Grande River, is a singer/songwriter whose hard work and powerful voice have lifted her to success. She's performed across Canada and the U.S., has appeared on Disney TV and *Canadian Idol*, and was a supporting singer for the Glass Tigers Canadian tour, where she shared the stage with Lady GaGa, Roxette, and Tegan and Sara. Talbot, who openly identifies as Two Spirit, takes on some issues related to that in her single "Mirror Me," which speaks to the struggle of self-identity. It has played on radio stations across North America, and was used on several TV shows, including *Mohawk Girls*. The official video was added to the popular Canadian music site Much Music, and hit number one on the Aboriginal Music Countdown in 2013. After releasing the single *Canadian Cry* in 2015, which addresses the Canadian government's accountability for all the murdered and missing aboriginal women in Canada, Talbot performed the song on the Indspire Awards. She tells ICTMN that being selected as one of the *50 Faces of Indian Country* is an honor. "Woah! Nia Wen. [Thanks!] This is very special to me to be included in this list of people. I am inspired everyday by the powerful hearts and minds in the indigenous community. We can provide so much strength, energy and healing to each other and I am beyond grateful to be able to express my passions through music."



COURTESY SHAWNEE TALBOT



USET PRESIDENT: BRIAN PATTERSON

Brian Patterson, Bear Clan, is on the Oneida Indian Nation's Mens' Council. Dedicated to the cultural and historical revitalization of the Oneida people, Patterson has worked diligently over the past two decades to ensure that his nation provides for the well-being of the seventh generation to come. In 2006, he was elected President of United South and Eastern Tribes (USET), and is involved with advocating for federal laws and policies regarding the proper repatriation of remains and artifacts, the protection of sacred sites and the promotion and protection of American Indian cultural identity. Clear purpose and intent establishes USET's continuing mission to build capacity of member Tribal Nations leading to self-determination. USET is a leading advocacy organization with a strong foundation that gives voice to and advances a comprehensive policy and legislative affairs agenda reflecting the interests of USET Tribal Nations, their citizens, and Indian country. "Each and every one of us holds purpose and duty as we place our footsteps on Mother Earth," Patterson tells ICTMN. "No matter how large or small that purpose may be we advance on that path from our ancestors forward. My duty and servitude is based on the deep-rooted knowledge handed down from our great prophet, the Peacemaker. The Peacemaker taught us that unity is the principal in any advancement. Unity has never been more critical than it is now as we come together across Turtle Island, to preserve and protect our water and homelands."

THE UNCAPPED CRUSADER: SUPAMAN

“Supaman” is the stage name for Christian Takes Gun Parrish, a Native dancer and innovative hip-hop artist who is a member of the Apsaalooke Nation. He calls the Crow reservation in Montana his home. As an artist who has dedicated his life to spreading a message of empowerment through culture and music, he has been the recipient of a Grammy Native American Music Award, a North American Indigenous Image Award, and seven Tunney Awards. He was recently awarded The Aboriginal Peoples Choice Music Award in Canada for best video. He was also voted as MTV’s new Artist of the Week, in March of 2014. His videos for *Prayer Loop Song* and *Why* have received more than two million views on YouTube and Facebook with *Prayer Loop Song* grabbing nearly a million and a half. Supaman tours extensively throughout the U.S. and internationally; he has also performed at non-traditional venues such as the Google headquarters in San Francisco and the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parade in New York City. “I’m truly honored to be chosen as one of *50 Faces of Indian Country*,” he tells ICTMN. “It goes to show you that no matter where you come from or what you have been through in life, if you start moving in the direction of wanting to impact people in a good way, you can achieve anything. The Creator will bless that desire. Our greatest fear shouldn’t be of failure, it should be of succeeding in life at things that don’t matter. A’ho!”



ADAM SINGS IN THE TIMBER



THE SHORT FILM QUEEN: TRACY RECTOR

Tracy Rector (Seminole), is a filmmaker and Executive Director of Longhouse Media, a Washington State nonprofit indigenous media arts organization that nurtures Native artists. Since its founding in January 2005, Longhouse Media has produced more than 370 short films. Rector's work has been featured on Independent Lens, at the Cannes Film Festival, ImagineNative, National Geographic's All Roads Film Project and in the Smithsonian's Museum of the American Indian. As co-producer of the award-winning film *Teachings of the Tree People*, producer of *March Point* and director of *Unreserved*, she has demonstrated that modern media and film can be powerful storytelling tools for Indigenous peoples worldwide. Rector has been honored many times. In 2009, she received the National Association for Media Literacy award for outstanding contributions in the field of media education (an award that was previously given to Jon Stewart and Bill Moyers). As a Sundance Institute Lab Fellow and recipient of the Horace Mann Award for her work in utilizing media for social justice. She says she was "blown away by the honor of being selected" for *50 Faces of Indian Country*. "Art is not separate from life for many indigenous people. It's as essential as food and water in many ways. It keeps us grounded and connected to creator and spirit."



THE STAR: CHASKE SPENCER

Chaske Spencer is perhaps best known for his extensive work as one of the infamous “wolf pack” werewolf-Native characters in the *Twilight Saga* films. After that show, he continued to blaze on the screen when he joined the police force on the Cinemax series *Banshee*, which aired its final episode earlier this year. Spencer, a member of the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, has four film projects coming out soon: *New Amsterdam*, *Indian Summer*, *Walking Out* and *Addiction: A 60’s Love Story*. In *Indian Summer*, he plays a mysterious U.S. Marine who seduces a family living

on a remote farm in the Scottish Highlands in 1967. As a hot-list actor for over a decade who doesn’t show any signs of cooling off, Spencer has told ICTMN he feels a great appreciation for his achievements, ones that he has worked so hard for. “As a Native American,” he said, “I feel that we still have a long way to go in the entertainment industry because there is not a lot out there for us. But we do what we can. I have a lot of gratitude for the work that I get and where I am at in my career.”

THE DIRECTOR: TAIKA WAITITI

Maori director, actor and writer Taika Waititi is a skyrocket shooting to the top of his game as director of the upcoming *Thor Ragnarok*, the latest super-hero blockbuster from Marvel Comics. Waititi got an Academy Award nomination for his 2004 short *Two Cars, One Night*, and international exposure for his films *Boy* and *Hunt for the Wilderpeople*, two of the top-grossing films in New Zealand. He has also grabbed a slew of awards worldwide for his acting and direction of the hilarious vampire spoof, *What We Do in the Shadows*. Waititi told ICTMN that being chosen as director for *Thor Ragnarok* was, “truly amazing. This is a big deal for me, this is a big deal for our community and

for any indigenous community. We don’t have that kind of representation—I feel as though it is about time, but being Maori you carry a lot of weight and expectation when you’re doing a film like this.” He said this opportunity to bring an indigenous perspective to a major movie franchise is a big step forward, and added that the film executives worked hard to bring young aboriginal people into the film’s workforce. “This is a large Hollywood film so you can only do so much,” he explained, “but you can do the best you can to have little bits and pieces added into the film. Just being who I am will serve as notice that we are here.”



MATT SAYLES/INVISION/AP IMAGES

THE POWER COUPLE: HOLLY AND MARK MACARRO

Holly Cook Macarro and her husband, Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians Chairman Mark Macarro, have long been active in Native politics. He works hard at keeping the Luiseño language alive through education and song, and has served on boards ranging from the Native American Rights Fund to the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development. “Our Payómkawichum/Luiseño Bands have endured much in the span of America’s history—especially when so many did so much to make us disappear,” he tells ICTMN. “Among the things my Pechanga forebears left us is a political legacy of tenacity. It’s the responsibility of living up to that legacy.” Holly, Red Lake Band of Ojibwe and a partner at Ietan Consulting LLC, has worked to bridge the gap between Native nations and

the federal government in Washington D.C. and in Indian country. This has included stints in the White House, policy-making with the Democratic National Committee, and campaign organizing on the Pine Ridge Reservation. She also worked with both Hillary Clinton and President Barack Obama’s teams formulating Native policy during the 2007–2008 Presidential campaign. “I am driven by the great history of my own tribe, the Red Lake Nation, and by every opportunity presented to move Indian country forward,” she tells ICTMN. “I am continually inspired by the strong voices of tribal leadership, brilliant colleagues, and the truly dedicated elected officials who fight for us in Congress. After 19 years, I still marvel at how lucky I am to do this work.”



COURTESY HOLLY AND MARK MACARRO



THE PERFECT LENS: MATIKA WILBUR

In December 2012, Matika Wilbur, Swinomish and Tulalip, sold most of her belongings and packed up the remaining essentials in her self-described “war pony” to travel around the United States documenting members of the then-562 federally recognized tribes. She has been on the road ever since, creating one of the most moving and important photographic records of Indian country. Project 562 was born from Wilbur’s frustration with the lack of contemporary representation for Native peoples. Largely relegated

to history books as a people who only existed in the past, Natives are too often portrayed as stoic characters in outdated, black-and-white photographs. Wilbur sought to change this stereotypical and harmful perception by documenting as many different Native individuals as possible in striking and artful ways. Project 562 is now on exhibit, travelling throughout the country, from Albuquerque to Harvard. Keep up with Project 562 and Wilbur via her blog at matikawilbur.com.



THE WATER PROTECTOR: DAVE ARCHAMBAULT II

When David Archambault II campaigned to be elected chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe a few years ago, he expressed the desire to create change. “I know it will be difficult to create change but I am hoping that if given the opportunity, I could move our tribe in a new direction,” he wrote in a biography outlining his platform. “There are numerous issues that need to be addressed, but the only way they will no longer be issues is if we look at them from the future.” The words have proved more than prophetic, as over the past several weeks, Archambault, Tokala Ohitika, has become known to the world as the voice of calm and reason in the standoff between indigenous and environmental concerns, and the backers of the Dakota Access oil pipeline. The son of renowned educator Dave Archambault Sr. (Joe Bucking Horse) has been put to the test at the forefront of resistance to

the routing of the 1,172-mile-long pipeline under the Missouri River within a half-mile of the Standing Rock Reservation. Having welcomed President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama to the reservation in 2014, Archambault appealed for help in this crisis—and the result may be a new look at how tribal consultation is conducted nationwide. But appearances on MSNBC and editorials in *The New York Times* notwithstanding, Archambault’s underlying attitude and mission are humble. “As a young father, I want my children to experience reservation life,” he wrote in his biography. “It’s hard because more and more we are losing our identity. If we don’t pass on some of the good ways that were shared with us, our children’s children will not know who or what they are.”

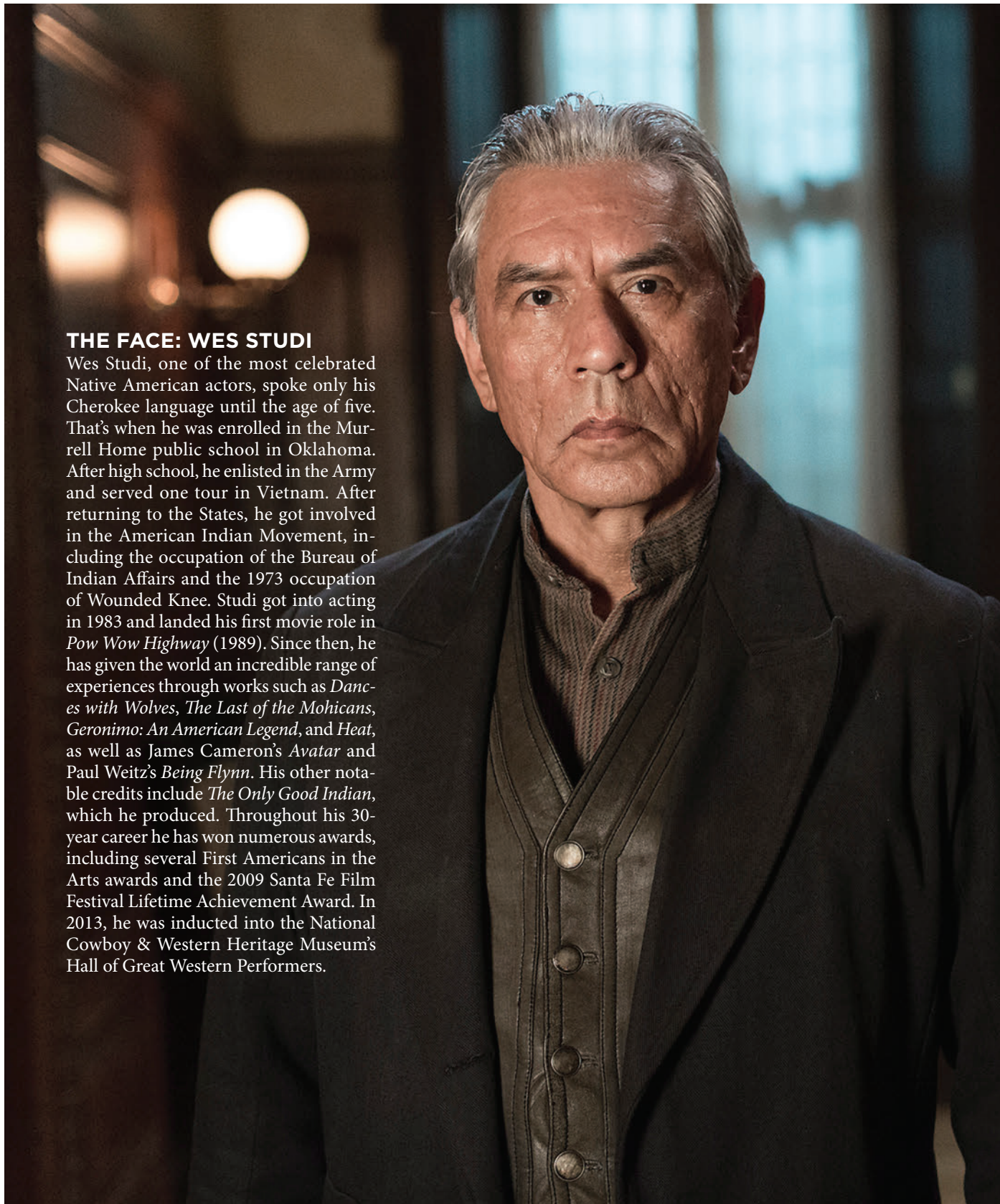


THE MODEL CITIZEN: DANIELLE TA'SHEENA FINN

In April of 2016, Danielle Ta'Sheena Finn (Standing Rock Sioux), a 25-year-old Arizona State University law school student, was crowned 2016 Miss Indian World. Her list of accomplishments prior to becoming Miss Indian World include being chosen as a 2013 Center for Native American Youth's "Champion for Change," *Glamour Magazine's* "1 of 50 Hometown Heroes of 2014: 50 Phenomenal Women of the Year Who are Making a Difference" (representing the state of North Dakota and the only Native American selected), and being the ASU Law School's 2015 First Year Student Pro Bono Achievement Award. Danielle is a humanitarian who focuses on the welfare of all Indigenous people. In her public statement during the competition, she chose to speak out on the topic of Native youth suicide. She tells ICTMN: "I feel very honored to be selected as one of the *50 Faces of Indian Country for 2016*, along with the many other admirable Indigenous leaders and I will continue to fight for all Indigenous People's Rights for the rest of my life."

THE FACE: WES STUDI

Wes Studi, one of the most celebrated Native American actors, spoke only his Cherokee language until the age of five. That's when he was enrolled in the Murrell Home public school in Oklahoma. After high school, he enlisted in the Army and served one tour in Vietnam. After returning to the States, he got involved in the American Indian Movement, including the occupation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the 1973 occupation of Wounded Knee. Studi got into acting in 1983 and landed his first movie role in *Pow Wow Highway* (1989). Since then, he has given the world an incredible range of experiences through works such as *Dances with Wolves*, *The Last of the Mohicans*, *Geronimo: An American Legend*, and *Heat*, as well as James Cameron's *Avatar* and Paul Weitz's *Being Flynn*. His other notable credits include *The Only Good Indian*, which he produced. Throughout his 30-year career he has won numerous awards, including several First Americans in the Arts awards and the 2009 Santa Fe Film Festival Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2013, he was inducted into the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum's Hall of Great Western Performers.





THE STORY-WEAVER: GYASI ROSS

Gyasi Ross, a member of the Blackfeet Nation, is a traditional and contemporary storyteller who shares his tales through books, music, video and even the law. As an attorney who graduated from Columbia University, Ross is one of Indian country's most well-known lawyers. He is also the voice behind ICTMN's extremely popular news column, *Thing About Skins*. Ross is an avid activist unflinchingly addressing the issues of Native stereotypes, cultural appropriation and Native mascots at the national and international level. He's the author of *Don't Know Much About Indians (but I wrote a book about us anyways)* (2011) and *How to Say I Love You in Indian* (2014). He also released a spoken word/hip-hop CD, *Isskootsik (Before Here was Here)*, on Cabin Games Records. He is thankful to the many Native people who entrust him with their stories. "The world needs to listen to indigenous people," he tells ICTMN. "The world does not need to listen because of political correctness or altruism, but instead because we have important lessons to teach that might save humankind from itself, from unrestrained consumerism, greed and lust for power. We have those answers and have demonstrated those behaviors for tens of thousands of years, into the modern day." – V.S.



THE GUIDE: TANAYA BEATTY

Tanaya Beatty's breakout role came in 2011, when she played Rachel in *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1*. The Da'naxda'xw First Nation citizen from Canada has appeared in a variety of TV shows since then, among them *True Justice*, *The 100* and *Blackstone*, and she could take her stardom to the next level with the airing of a major production from HBO. In June of 2015, Beatty was cast to play Sacagawea in HBO's six-hour miniseries *Lewis and Clark*, about the journeys of the explorers who ventured into the West, from St. Louis to Oregon, at the behest of U.S. President Thomas Jefferson. Born in Vancouver,

British Columbia, Canada. She is also known for her films *Words and Pictures* (2013) and *Arctic Air* (2012), in which she acted alongside Adam Beach. On being selected for *50 Faces of Indian Country*, she told ICTMN, "I feel both surprised and flattered to be selected. Indigenous stories have inspired and enchanted me since I was a kid- to be recognized for doing something I get such joy from is heartening. I hope acting continues to be a medium through which I may express the gratitude and respect I feel for our ancestors and Indigenous communities."



THE ROLE MODEL: DAUNNETTE REYOME

Having just started the 9th grade, Daunnette Reyome, UmonHon (Omaha) Tribe of Nebraska, has already taken the fashion world by storm: she appeared in the May issue of *Teen Vogue*, which ran a photo feature that celebrated diversity in a cultural appropriation versus cultural appreciation. The 14-year-old Native began modeling two years ago in Atlanta. As she told ICTMN, “I was such a shy girl when I first started out but with the help of my father I quickly overcame my fear of the runway. He came up with this saying: ‘One look to New York, one look to Paris, now turn around and bring it home.’ That’s what I repeated to myself every time I walked down the runway because I was so afraid of making a mistake.” Even with

modeling, she still knows the value of an education. She is taking all AP and Honors courses with a Business Management focus and maintains an A/B average while playing volleyball. She plans on competing in the Miss Georgia Teen USA pageant on November 17 - 19, 2016. Her goal is to hold charitable events on every reservation in Indian country. She also hopes to help the fashion industry understand that cultural regalia isn’t a fashion accessory. “I do want to achieve all my goals, so with everything I involve myself with,” she said, “I live it and breath it. I give 100 percent at all times because I want my peers to be motivated and inspired to do the same.”



THE ACTING AMBASSADOR: MARTIN SENSMEIER

Martin Sensmeier, of Tlingit, Koyukon-Athabascan, and Irish descent, was raised in a Tlingit Coastal Community in Southeast Alaska, where he grew up learning about the traditions of his tribes. In 2007, he moved to Los Angeles to become an actor, while occasionally working on an oil rig in Alaska. His most recent role is in the big-budget remake this fall of *The Magnificent Seven*, directed by Antoine Fuqua, starring alongside Denzel Washington, Chris Pratt, Ethan Hawke and Vincent D'Onofrio. Even though Sensmeier now lives in Southern California, he maintains strong ties to his roots. He is an ambassador for The Native Wellness Institute, as well as the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and advocates for wellness of Native people, focusing largely on the youth. "I think the best part about making my dream become a reality is the reaction I've gotten from the youth," he says. "When they hear me tell them that their dreams are valid and that they can make them become a reality, no matter what those dreams are, they get excited about that. They believe me because I did it. I am them. Inspiring the youth inspires me to want to do more. I love what I do. I feel incredibly blessed and honored to have come this far, and it suits me much more than working on an oil rig ever did. So the kids, and not wanting to go back to work on the rig- those two things motivate me a lot!"



**THE NORTHERN
DESIGNER:
SHO SHO
ESQUIRO**

Sho Sho Esquiro (Kaska Dene/Cree/Scottish) is a Vancouver, B.C.-based *haute couture* fashion designer from Ross River, Yukon. She is known for her meticulous attention to detail and the mixing of fabric, furs, skins and embellishments. She creates clothing that reflects the Northern Territories, incorporating materials like carp leather, seal skin, lynx fur and floral beadwork. In 2013, her collection was featured at Mercedes Benz Fashion Week Haute Couture Show in New York City, and in 2014 she represented Canada at Jessica Mihn Anh's Fashion Phenomenon on the Eiffel Tower in Paris. Among her many awards is being named Best in Show (Couture Fashion Competition) at the SWAIA Indian Market in Santa Fe.

50 Faces Photographers



THOSH COLLINS

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JIM WATSON/AP/GETTY IMAGES

President Obama embraces stars of the next generation at Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, 2014.

50 FACES OF THE FUTURE

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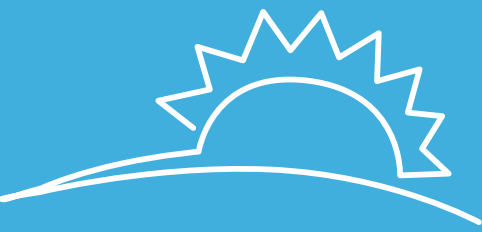


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