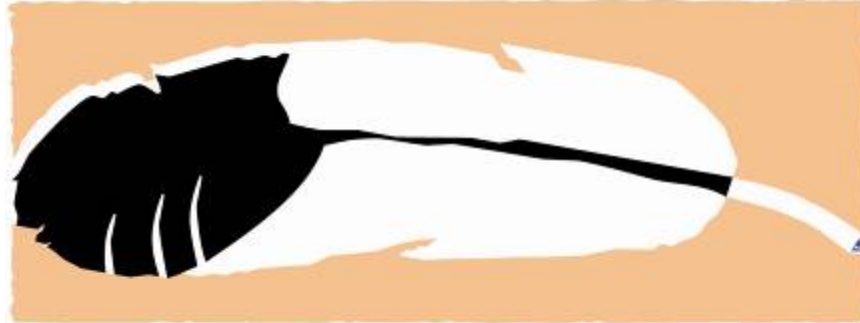


**YOUNG NATIVE WRITERS**



**ESSAY CONTEST** Holland & Knight  
Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Washington, D.C. Trip Pictures  
July 2010

Day One: The Young Native Writers and their Teachers Toured the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI). Much to see and learn.



Julian NoiseCat calls the artist of “Raven Steals the Moon” in the *Our Stories* exhibit at NMAI. The artist is Ed Archie NoiseCat (Salish), Julian’s father!





“Mitsitam’ means “Let’s eat!” in the Native language of the Delaware and Piscataway peoples. The museum’s Mitsitam Native Foods Café enhances the museum experience by providing visitors the opportunity to enjoy the indigenous cuisines of the Americas and to explore the history of Native foods.” (Taken from NMAI Web site on Mitsitam.)



Students Mya Sampson and Ashley Vance say Mitsitam!

Students and teachers made important connections while visiting the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). NCAI was founded in 1944 in response to termination and assimilation policies forced upon the tribal governments in contradiction of their treaty rights and status as sovereigns. Today, NCAI secures the rights and benefits to which American Indians are entitled and educates the public about Indian people.





Day Two: Students visited the Smithsonian's Cultural Resource Center where the entire NMAI collection is held. Here, Tashina Swalley views artifacts of her Lakota ancestors.



Noted Native American author and storyteller, Tim Tingle, donated a creative writing seminar for the group. He worked with each individual writer, teaching and praising throughout the afternoon.





Day Three: The group at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) just prior to the Honor Ceremony.

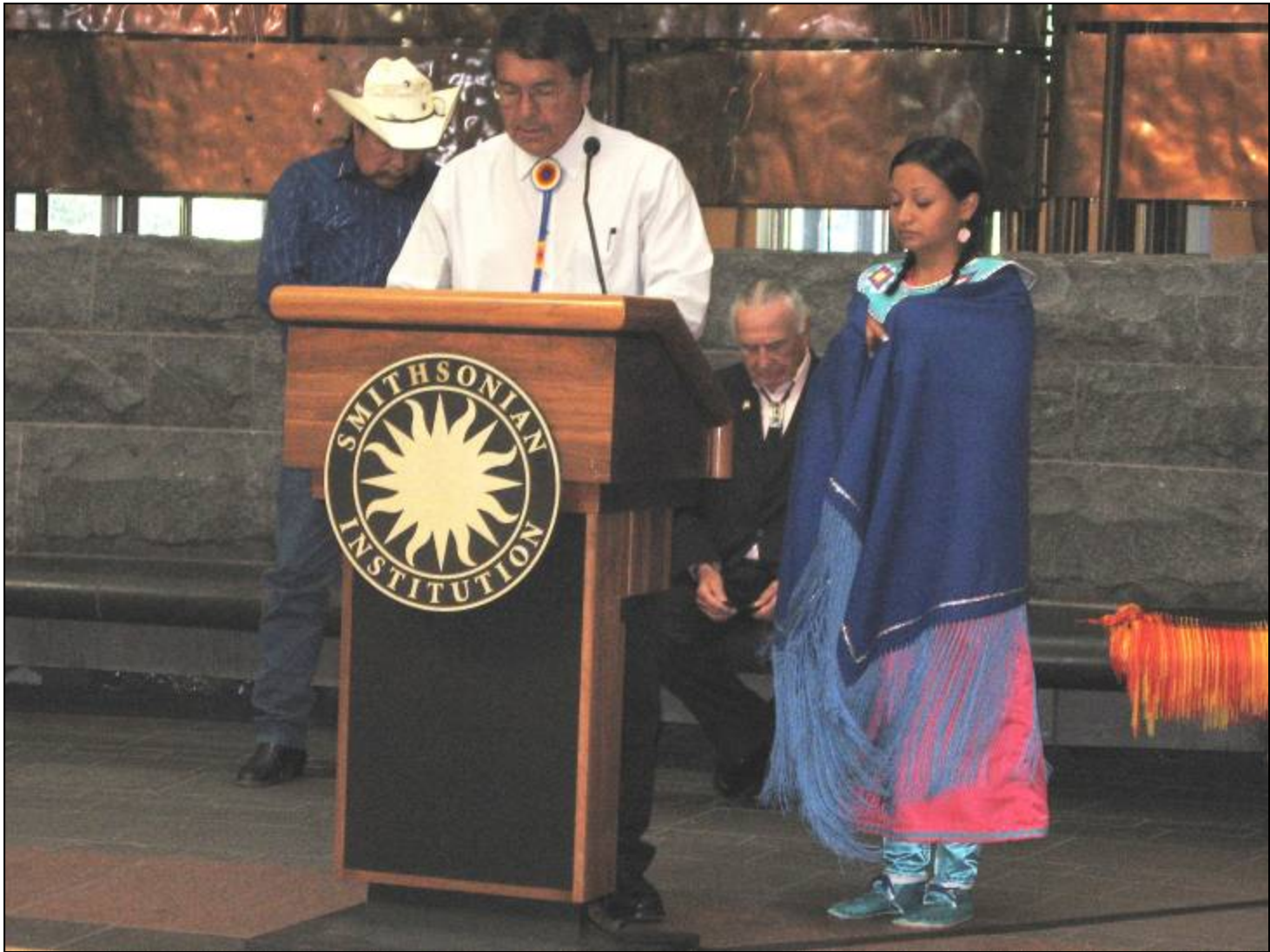
From the back: Native American Author Tim Tingle, Teacher David Fierke, Student Julian Brave NoiseCat (Shuswap), Teacher Leona White Hat (Sicangu Lakota), Teacher Judith Harper, Student Ferguson Nez (Navajo), and Teacher Matt Meyer.

Front Row: Teacher Carol Blosser, Student Ashley Vance (Chickasaw), Student Mya Sampson (Navajo), Student Tashina Swalley (Sicangu Lakota).





From the Honor Ceremony at the National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI): Rodney Bordeaux, President of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, guest of Holland & Knight at the ceremony comes center stage to honor one from his own tribe, Tashina Swalley, whose essay told of teens at risk for suicide within the Rosebud South Tribe. President Bordeaux's speech was followed by an honor song by Rosebud Councilman Dennis "Charlie" Spotted Tail.



Senator Campbell and Rodney Bordeaux, President of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe with the group. Senator Campbell was key note speaker at the Honor Ceremony.





Dennis Zotigh of NMAI brought his drum and sang out in honor of our group. Many within hearing distance were drawn to the circle that formed afterwards, and danced with us.





## With Holland & Knight Friends

*Back Row:* David Lautenberger (WAS), Kathleen Nilles (WAS), Debbie Roman (TPA), Tim Tingle, Julian NoiseCat, Angela Ruth (TPAQ), Ferguson Nez, David Fierke, Leone White Hat, Robbie Benson (LAX), Tim Evans (WAS), Shannon Graving (WAS)

*Front Row:* Judith Harper, Matt Meyer, Tashina Swalley, Carol Blosser, Ashley Vance, and Mya Sampson



# Our 2010 Scholars





The Young Native Writers were then interviewed for a radio segment on WPFW 89.3 FM - Pacifica Radio, for the Jay Nightwolf show entitled "The American Indian Truths." Their one hour segment can be heard in an upcoming show to be announced at a later date.





The Young Native Writers and teachers were invited to the home of Kathleen Nilles for a kayak ride on the Piscataway Creek, a delicious home-cooked dinner, and an evening of storytelling, something that has become somewhat of a tradition for the program. This year, however, we had the prince of storytelling: Tim Tingle, author of *Texas Ghost Stories*!





Tashina Swalley and David Fierke take a break on the Piscataway!



One of the students telling a tale from her Chickasaw heritage.





Day Four: A busy morning and afternoon before the flights leave. Here, the students and teachers take their seats in the Senate Indian Committee Hearing Room and speak to Denise Desiderio, Senior Democratic Counsel and Jim Hall, Senior Republican Counsel both with the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.



Philip Baker Shenk arranged for the group to find out why the Senate's famous navy bean soup and bread pudding are such popular items. Phil's time with the students at lunch resulted in many new friends.





After a lively lunch with great food and conversation, Phil walked the group through the Senate underground, pointing out various sites of interest.



After our morning at the Capitol and lunch at the Senate Buffet, the Young Native Writers took a quick tour of the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum,

Before everyone knew it, it was time to say goodbye. That was the hardest part of the week, but we pledged to keep in touch, always.



Good  
Bye!