March 2015

Keeping in Touch

In January, I had the good fortune once again to visit the nation's capital (the other Washington) to attend the annual conference for the American Association of Colleges and Universities. I returned to Spokane literally 12 hours before the big snow of 2015 blew in. During my visit, I had the exciting opportunity to visit alumnus Lee Nilsson at the U.S. State Department. Lee, a public history MA from EWU, works as a cultural and digital analyst. He told me that the combination of skills and experiences he received from the Public History Program at Eastern were exactly the right match for his career, and he beat out many applicants from much larger or more "prestigious" universities because his education prepared him the best. There you have it!

I hope you enjoy this format for finding out about the exciting things happening for students and faculty in the college.

Vickie Shields

News

In Honor of Lucy Covington

EWU's Board of Trustees Chair, Jo Ann Kauffman, has initiated an endowment fund to honor the legacy of the late Colville Tribal member, Lucy Covington, by establishing an enduring program at EWU. It is undeniable that Lucy Covington's work changed the course of history. Her visionary efforts beginning in the 1950s spanned three decades and helped end the federal policy to terminate American Indian tribes. Covington's determination to protect tribal sovereignty affected not only her tribe, but also all federally recognized Indian tribes across the United States. She was among the first women elected to her tribal council. Her visionary achievements paved the way for generations of tribal leaders. Through her inspiring work,
Covington stands as an important role model for today's youth on the importance of civic advocacy in matters of public policy, an example as relevant today as it was in her era.

Kauffman wishes to tap EWU's long-standing commitment to create goodwill and respect with the tribes across academic departments and the capacity to nurture this effort in the American Indian Studies Program, continuously supported since the mid-1960s by the university. She invited a distinguished panel to form an advisory committee comprised of tribal leaders, educators, scholars, cultural experts and other professionals, who have acted to protect tribal sovereignty and advance Native youth. This committee, together with the staff, faculty and administration of Eastern Washington University have begun to work together to develop academic and cultural programming, scholarships, opportunities for youth leadership and an annual forum for the scholarly examination of tribal sovereignty.

The advisory committee convened for the first time on Oct. 8, 2014, expressing their collective belief that "it is about time," that her legacy was recognized and honored. The committee was challenged to create programs worthy of her stature by Mark Trahant, professor of journalism at the University of Alaska, Anchorage and author of The Last Great Battle of the Indian Wars. He has called Covington "the most significant advocate for American Indians in the last half of the 20th century."

### Honors and Awards

**Liping Zhu**, PhD, history, was awarded the 2014 Caroline Bancroft History Prize, sponsored by the Denver Public Library for *The Road to Chinese Exclusion: The Denver Riot, 1880 Election, and Rise of the West*, published by University Press of Kansas. This prestigious award is given annually to the best book on history of the American West. The winner receives a certificate and $3,000.

Liping Zhu was also named "Distinguished Speaker" by the Western History Association at its annual meeting in October 2014. This honor is often bestowed on a scholar who has made significant contributions to his or her field.

### The Three C'S of being the first Carper Foundation Graduate Preparation Scholar

The 2014-2015 Daniel and Margaret Carper Foundation Graduate Preparation Scholarship recipient is Kaneesha Lloyd, a senior majoring in applied developmental psychology and minoring in sociology. The scholarship provides full tuition, fees and expenses for an outstanding student who will be continuing on to graduate school.

For Lloyd, having this scholarship provided the **chance** to go to graduate school, the **confidence** to be proactive in her classes and the affirmation that she has a **calling** to become a mental health counselor after finishing her master's degree. She grew up in the small town of Connell, Washington – a community about halfway between Ritzville and Pasco. Her high school provided opportunities for her to earn college credit, and she worked hard
to earn as many as possible before enrolling at EWU.

Receiving the Carper Foundation scholarship has inspired Lloyd to push herself to complete her degree and pursue her dream of attending graduate school. It also has increased her time and potential for scoring highly on the GRE (graduate record examination) that all potential graduate students must take for admission. Having the scholarship means that Lloyd can purchase extra study materials and she has more time to study because the financial burden has been removed.

One of the most important things that Lloyd has been able to do differently this year is buy and keep her textbooks. Previously, she had to either rent her books, or resell them in order to purchase her next quarter's materials. The joy of owning her books in order to reference them in the future is invaluable to her.

Lloyd reported that receiving the Carper Foundation Scholarship gives her an inner confidence that she is doing well, and that she can continue in her major with success. She now has extra motivation to do her very best, be more outgoing and meet deadlines effectively.

She said that there is no way to adequately express her thanks to Daniel and Margaret Carper. Her desire is to turn around and give back to others in her community, and to use her education to help people who might be struggling with mental health.

**Spotlight on Faculty**

**Sharon Bowland**, PhD, associate professor in the School of Social Work, joined Eastern's faculty in 2013. She is a John A. Hartford Geriatric Faculty Scholar, a distinction for faculty who are recognized for advancing geriatric social work through research and the training of social work students. Her major research interests include the intersection between trauma, mental health and aging. She is currently conducting a study funded by the Hartford Foundation identifying the mental health needs of older African-American women who are survivors of interpersonal trauma. One of her recent articles, "All the Pain Along with All the Joy: Spiritual Resilience in Gay and Lesbian Christians," will be published in an upcoming issue of the American Journal of Community Psychology. At the Gerontological Society of America's annual meeting in early November, she chaired a pre-conference institute on using qualitative research to support social action; she also presented on the safety needs of older trauma survivors living in public housing.