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The Board of Directors is thankful for everyone who made contributions.

**FRIEND OF THE FUND ($100 each year):**

Susan Jenkins

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**CONTRIBUTING MEMBER ($500 each year):**

Lucille Wolfe

**GIFT IN HONOR OF:**

Dr. Carmaleta Monteith by Virginia P. Baxt

**GRANTS:**

Harrah’s Cherokee Tribal Scholarship Fund

**MEMORIAL GIFTS IN MEMORY OF:**

**Jim and John Allison** by Dr. Carmaleta Monteith

**Ray Bane** by Dr. Reva Ballew (Past grant recipient)

**George Beck** by Mary Herr, Dr. Carmaleta Monteith, Jan Smith (Past grant recipient) and Lucille Wolfe

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**Carroll Parker** by Dr. Carmaleta Monteith

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**Betty Wilson** by David and Anita Smith

**2021-2022 Contributors to Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund**

OUR MISSION:

To award scholarships from the RICHARD (YOGI) CROWE SCHOLARSHP FUND to members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians demonstrating a desire to pursue graduate or post graduate degrees.

www.yogicrowescholarship.org

October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022

ANNUAL REPORT

**A Family Tradition**

By Shannon Swimmer

If you asked someone today what they know about The University of Kansas they would probably say something about basketball. They may as say it’s where basketball was invented by James Naismith. Or maybe they know that the men’s basketball team is the current NCAA National Champions. But for four siblings from Cherokee North Carolina, the University of Kansas offered the opportunity to learn more about tribal law, Native American entrepreneurship, and the revitalization and preservation of Native languages.

Shannon Swimmer, Luke Swimmer, Micah Swimmer, and Jakeli Swimmer all earned graduate degrees from the University in Kansas, three with financial assistance from the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship fund. All four siblings had families of their own by the time they attended graduate school, so funding that could be used on expenses such as child care and household needs was crucial. Most scholarships restrict the use of funding to tuition and related expenses and are often paid directly to the school. The Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund differs in that it provides funding directly to the student and does not restrict the usage. Recipients are required to provide an accounting of how the funds were used, write an acknowledgement to the Board, contribute to the Fund after graduation, and if given the opportunity, serve on the Board.

Currently, Shannon serves on the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund board of directors. Luke is a successful entrepreneur having created his own clothing line: Buffalotown and also works for Lehigh University. Micah is the Cultural Specialist for the Eastern Band of Cherokees Human Resources Department. Jakeli is the Cultural Resources & Archives Officer for the Eastern Band of Cherokees and is the creator of the satirical cartoon series Around the Boundary.

The Swimmer siblings have received the following degrees from the University of Kansas:

Shannon—Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor with certifications in Tribal Law & Advocacy

Luke—Bachelor of Applied Behavioral Science, Masters in Business Administration, Masters in Indigenous Studies with an emphasis in Native American Entrepreneurship

Micah—Masters in Indigenous Studies with an emphasis in Language Revitalization

Jakeli—Masters in Indigenous Studies with an emphasis in Language Reclamation

Please consider contributing to the Yogi Crowe Scholarship Fund so that others like the Swimmer siblings can realize their dreams and further their education for the betterment of Native people.

**2021-2022 Scholarship Recipients**

A total of 115 Eastern Band of Cherokee Tribal Members have received the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship since 1986. This 2021--2022 year eight recipients received a total of $31,370 raising the total grants given to students over the years to $431,371. Here are the following scholarship grantees:

Brittany Beck-Masters Business Administration, Montreat College

Beau Carroll-Doctorate of Anthropology, University of Tennessee

Celia Lynn Catt-Masters of Education Administration/ Curriculum/Supervision, Oklahoma University

John C. Cooper-Masters of Business Administration, Western Carolina University

Caitlyn Dills-Doctorate School of Law, University of Mississippi

Cruz Galaviz-Masters of Business Administration, University of Tennessee

Jessica Lambert-Doctorate Veterinary Medicine, North Carolina State University

Jakeli Swimmer-Masters Degree Indigenous Studies, University of Kansas

A group of people posing for a photo

Description automatically generated

It was exciting to be able to give our first grant to Jan Smith in 1986. Jan completed her Master’s degree in Education Counseling and worked in this field for many years until her retirement several years ago. Jan currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund and her son Beau Carrol is pursuing a Doctorate in Anthropology at the University of Tennessee.

Reflecting on the early years of the Yogi Crowe Scholarship Fund, I would be remiss if mention was not made of two of the founding members who held the group together for a number of years. Ruth Littlejohn and Charlotte Whittemore, Cherokee elders who knew the value of higher education and the cost of it, were persistent in their dedication to the establishment and growth of the scholarship fund. When board members sometimes became discouraged, Ruth would always have some positive thoughts and encouragement. Since 1998, Ruth Littlejohn’s daughter, Dr. Carmaleta Littlejohn Monteith, has served on the Board of Directors and as Board President and Treasurer for a number of years.

Throughout the years, we have had 24 dedicated board members who served faithfully for a variety of terms, each bringing their particular expertise to the organization. Past board members include former Principal Chiefs Joyce Dugan and Michell Hicks. Likewise, we have had the loyal support of many contributors who helped our endowment grow. Some began contributing in the 1980’s and continue to do so today. Because of their generosity, the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund grew from less than $1,000 in 1985 to over $896,392 in 2022.

The current Board of Directors is Dr. Jennifer Thompson, President; Dr. Reva Ballew, Vice President, Tamitha “Sis” Fourkiller, Treasurer, Dr. Carmaleta Monteith, Barbara “Sunshine” Parker, Jan Smith, Shannon Swimmer and myself as Secretary. Five of the board members are past grant recipients.

It has been rewarding to see an increased number of our past grant recipients in supervisory and leadership positions in tribal government and other entities in the area. One of Yogi Crowe’s dreams was to see more tribal members in professional and supervisory positions. Never in his wildest dreams would Yogi have thought that the scholarship fund named in his memory would grow as it has and enable 115 tribal members in the amount of over $391,401 as of July 2022 to further their education and become community leaders. This includes not only master’s degrees, but doctoral, law, veterinarian and medical.

The Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund will be celebrating our 40th year in 2025. The current board has recommended that we try to increase our endowment fund to $1,000,000 by then. We need to raise $103,608 by 2025 to reach the $1,000,000 goal. We are asking people to contribute $4, $40, $400, $4,000 or any other amount to help us achieve that goal. In the past one of our largest donations was $169,000 from the estate of Robert Murray. We encourage others to include the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship fund in your wills and estate planning. We can also accept gifts of stock.

It has been my honor to serve on the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund board of directors for so many years. It has been encouraging to see so many students that we have funded now working in key tribal positions which was a dream of Yogi Crowe and the original board members. This has been a wonderful experience and a part of my legacy in Cherokee. I look forward to continuing to serve on the board of directors as long as I’m able and the board wants me to serve.

The Board of Directors of the Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund has requested that I write an article as the last surviving founding member. This is my attempt to do so.

I first met Yogi Crowe in 1976 when I was living in Knoxville, Tennessee and received a grant to do paralegal training in several places in Appalachia including Eastern Cherokee Legal Services in Cherokee, North Carolina. Yogi worked part-time at Legal Services while working on his Master’s degree in Public Health at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, and he was one of the people that I trained. We became friends and after the training in Cherokee ended, Yogi would sometimes stop by to see me in Knoxville where I lived when he was commuting from Cherokee.

Yogi Crowe graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1982. He became the Director of the American Indian Recruiting Program for the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. This job gave Yogi the opportunity to do what he wanted to do – encourage more Native Americans and especially Eastern Cherokees to attend graduate school.

Yogi Crowe was the driving force behind many Eastern Cherokees enrolling and completing graduate school. His encouragement at many times kept students from quitting their undergraduate and graduate programs. At his untimely death in 1983 at the age of 36, Yogi was working to recruit Native Americans and particularly Eastern Cherokees to attend graduate school. After Yogi’s untimely death, several of us who were Yogi’s friends including Mary Wachacha wanted to honor him and continue the work he had started by helping more tribal members attend graduate and post-graduate school. We wanted to establish a scholarship fund in Yogi’s memory for Eastern Cherokees seeking higher education because at that time there was very little funding for graduate school from the tribe.

A Steering Committee comprised of Jack Bradley, Ruth Littlejohn, Phillip Smith, Julius Taylor, Ruth Taylor, Charlotte Whittemore and myself submitted a resolution to Tribal Council requesting sanctioning by the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to pursue funding and establish eligibility guidelines for a scholarship fund for enrolled members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians pursuing graduate degrees. Resolution #94 was approved by the Tribal Council on January 5, 1984.

After unsuccessfully exploring options with several colleges and universities to establish the scholarship fund, the Steering Committee decided to form a non-profit organization. The Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund was incorporated on January 4, 1985 with Ruth Littlejohn, Charlotte Whittemore and me being the incorporators. In July 1985, the Scholarship Fund was granted 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service.

The original Board of Directors of the Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc. were Charles “Jim” Hornbuckle, President; Charlotte S. Whittemore, Vice President, Mary A. Herr, Secretary-Treasurer, William Crowe, Ruth S. Littlejohn, Julius Taylor and Mary Wachacha.

It was determined that the scholarships would be awarded to Eastern Band of Cherokee graduate school applicants utilizing the interest earned on the perpetual endowment. This would leave the fund principal untouched to ensure available monies for future scholarships. The Board of Directors serves without financial compensation, and there are no paid positions associated with the organization. The Board members pay annual dues which go into the Scholarship Fund

**Reflections of a Founding Board Member of Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund**

By Mary Herr

**Donations by PayPal:**

The Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund is pleased to announce that you can now make donations using PayPal.  Just go to our website – www.yogicrowescholarship.org and click on Donate.

**Donations by AmazonSmile:**

 The Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund is now registered with AmazonSmile as an eligible charitable organization. When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization. If you select the Richard Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund as a charitable organization, the Scholarship Fund will receive a donation of 0.5% of the purchase price. If you usually shop on Amazon.com, the Board of Directors of the Yogi Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund encourages you to shop on AmazonSmile by going to smile.amazon.com and selecting our organization.

**Updating our Mailing List:**

If you have an email address you would like to share or if you want to be removed from our mailing list, please email [maryherr2017@gmail.com](mailto:maryherr2017@gmail.com%20) or call 828-497-9498.

**Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund Pledge Card**

In Memory of Richard (Yogi) Crowe, I wish to be an annual contributor to his Memorial Scholarship

Fund to help more Eastern Cherokees attend graduate and postgraduate school. I hereby designate that I will be a:

\_\_\_\_ Friend of Fund ($100 each year) \_\_\_\_ Contributing Member ($250 each year)

\_\_\_\_ Supporting Member ($500 each year) \_\_\_\_ Sustaining Member ($1,000 each year)

\_\_\_\_ Contributor as Past Grant Recipient \_\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Please make checks payable to Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc. and mail

to P. O. Box 892, Cherokee, North Carolina 28719. Contributions are tax deductible.

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Richard (Yogi) Crowe Memorial Scholarship Fund, Inc.

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