

TRIBAL MEMBER NEWS

Graduates!



Congratulations to SVECA class of 2007!

Siletz Valley Early College Academy graduates (l to r): Ryan Knight – salutatorian, Karli Jay, Josh Smith, Liana Kaiser, Charlie Jones, and Brittney Payne. Not pictured: Monica Serna – valedictorian. (photo by Stephanie Morrow)

Kelani Tomiko Burke Leilehua HS

from Mom, Dad, Tashina, Stevie,
Grams, Gramps, Andy, and Big Boy

Congratulations to Kelani Tomiko Burke, who graduated from Leilehua High School in Hawaii on June 1.

We are very proud of you, Nani, and wish you the best in life with much Aloha!

Samantha Danielle Lynch

with so much love and happiness –
Mom, Dad, and
the Rilatos and Lynch Clan

Congratulations to Samantha Danielle Lynch! Sam is the daughter of Dan and Selene Rilatos-Lynch; granddaughter of Maxine and the late Robert Rilatos Sr., and Jim and Cleo Lynch; and great-granddaughter of Tuton and Pearl Rilatos and Honorary Chief Archie and Victoria Ben.

Sam graduated from Toledo High School with many High Honors, both academically and athletically: Honor Society member, Honors Diploma recipient, and CIM Achievement. She carried a 4.0 GPA throughout her school career and was a valedictorian along with her cousin/friend Ami Case.

She will attend the University of Oregon in the fall and we wish you all the success and happiness in the world.

Sam is the one and only young woman thus far since the removal of our people to the Siletz Reservation to have had the flower dance in her honor. This dance represents the celebration of her becoming a woman and helps in the preservation of our people.



This is a big feat and will help you and future generations to come. We most humbly still are grateful and carry so much appreciation for all the family and people who witnessed and participated in this historical ceremony.

Like your Grandpa Rilatos would say, always remember where you come from, who you are, and remember always those who paid a price for you.

You're our shining star and like in your valedictorian address, tell your own story. Keep up the good hard work and dedication and remember to follow your dream. Ta gah huska sho na schily to our "Sam I Am."

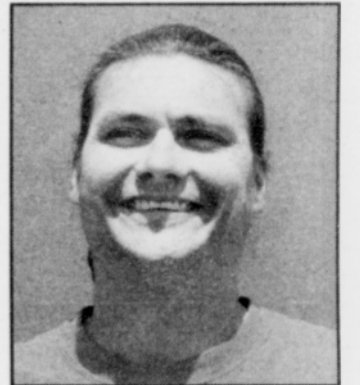
PSU Honors Indian Graduates

Five Siletz Tribal Members are Recognized

by Katy Kaady, Portland Area Education Specialist

This year at Portland State University's Native American Graduate Ceremony on June 8, five Siletz Tribal members were recognized for their achievements and their upcoming graduation. The Portland Area Siletz Tribal Education Program also would like to recognize the accomplishments of all these wonderful people:

- Joe Scott graduates with a master's degree in education.



- Clifford Higgins graduates with a BA in English and anthropology and a minor in Native American studies.



- Michelle McKelvey graduates with a bachelor's degree in psychology.



- Theresa Smith (Bostrom) graduates with a bachelor's degree in child and family studies and a minor in Native American studies.



- Norma Trefran graduates with a bachelor's degree in social science.



- Not able to attend this special ceremony was Shannon Larsen who will graduate with a bachelor's degree in English and German.
- Becca Saunders will finish her finals/practicum hours and graduate soon with a bachelor's degree in child and family studies.

All of these students have graduated with Honors and we are so very proud of them for all their work and their commitment to furthering their education. We know it's never easy to be full-time students and in some cases parents and/or partners, supporting themselves and their families while all the time focusing on their studies.

Getting to know these graduates has been a very special pleasure and seeing how many of them have overcome many obstacles to reach this point. Congratulations to each of you.

And to all our other students who are still in the process – you are getting closer to your goal. We know you will get there and way beyond this in your life.

Congratulations to



all graduates!

Butler Receives Outstanding Achievement Award

The folks at the Portland area office would like to congratulate Gary Butler Jr. for his most recent accomplishment.

Gary was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award for the 2007 school year at Reynolds Middle School. His proud parents are Gary Butler Sr. and Patricia Martin, and his grandfather is Reggie Butler Sr.

We all know Gary has worked very hard this year to receive this honor. He has been active in many tribal youth events and has always been one of the kindest and most respectful young men to everyone. He has always been there to give a helping hand, especially to Katy Kaady as she prepares for youth activities.

Gary's summer plans include working out at his local fitness center and



Gary Butler Jr. and Gary Butler Sr.

working at the Oregon Humane Society through the Tribal Youth Education and Employment (TYEE) Program.

Congratulations, Gary, on receiving this honor. We all are so very proud of you.