

# Peter Hatch: Freedom from college loans made all the difference

By Diane Rodriguez

For Peter Hatch, college was a family expectation. His grandfather, Ken Hatch, graduated from Oregon State University, joined the ROTC and graduated from West Point. His dad, Dave Hatch, also graduated from OSU. But Peter chose a different path and attended Brown University in Providence, R.I.

The Siletz Tribe helped pay for his college education, which meant Peter graduated from Brown in 2011 with a dual major of anthropology/archaeology in the ancient world – and with no loans to repay.

“The amount the Tribe offered covered fully what otherwise would have been loans. This is important because seeing so many of my peers graduate with the prospect of being poor for decades even if you get a good job,” said Peter. “The freedom of not having loans to pay off gave me the opportunities for internships, for moving back to Oregon and taking a job with the Tribe.”

Peter’s first post-college job was an internship at the National Museum of the American Indian’s Cultural Resources Center in Suitland, Md., working with the collections management team and items collected by George Gustav Heye.

“The museum tries to have collections benefit the communities they come from,” said Peter. “For example, the museum loaned some regalia from Siletz, flew someone out here with it so it could be danced at the opening of the Dance House in 1996.”

His most gratifying experiences occurred several times each week when community groups visited and sometimes individuals saw objects made by relatives. At times, this was the first time someone in a family got to see something made by his/her ancestors.

When his internship ended in 2012, Peter drove to Arizona to help his mom, Anna Jaimes, fix up her old adobe house. Then “Robert Kentta reached out said he was looking for someone new for the Culture Department to be his assistant and do technical research too.” Peter started working for the Siletz Tribe in January 2013 and is the cultural research technician – historical research.

“I use my degree every day as (his work) is related directly to archaeology, excavating ancestral sites, figuring out the likeliest probability of where they

(remains, objects) would be,” said Peter. “We’re trying to continue the historical research project to give Tribal government a fuller view of our own history and legal rights that come from that and to make sure that when the story of Native Americans in Western Oregon is told, that the Tribe has a seat at the table and can bring resources to bear.”

Peter grew up away from Siletz, so his connection to the Tribe then wasn’t a strong one. But that’s changed.

“Working here has been its own education about things I didn’t fully understand, about what it means to be a Tribal member, the challenges the Tribe as a whole and Tribal members individually face in overcoming oppression that Tribal people have faced in Oregon for generations. There’s a lot you don’t learn. This was its own valuable education to come and work here.”

Peter is excited about the plans to open a cultural center in Siletz in an effort led by the Siletz Tribal Arts and Heritage Society.

“The cultural center is an important thing to be a hub for Tribal members, a place people can come back to year-round



Photo by Diane Rodriguez

Peter Hatch

to feel connected to their ancestors and the Tribe today is a really important thing. I want to be connected to that effort in some way.

“If it takes many years to get the cultural center built, then I’ll be here for many years.”



Siletz Reservation Robe Blanket, Size 64” x 80”  
Price: Tribal member - \$153; Employee - \$188; Public - \$202



Siletz Reservation Saddle Blanket, Size 68” x 39”  
Price: Tribal member - \$105; Employee - \$129; Public - \$138

Contact April Middaugh at 541-444-8201 or 800-922-1399, ext. 1201, for more information and to purchase.

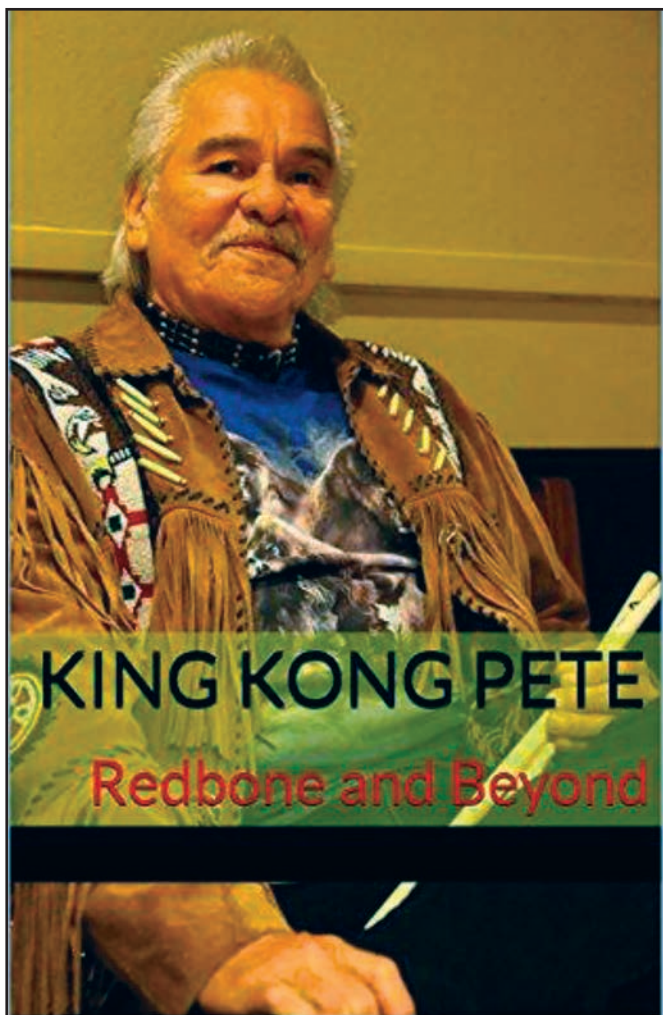
## DePoe authors book about life as a drummer

From amazon.com

What do the King Kong Beat, Redbone, a possible induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and wild and crazy stories all have in common? (Siletz Tribal member) Pete DePoe.

He single-handedly created a new sound in the rock drumbeat category, a unique sound that is dubbed The King Kong Beat. DePoe is symbolic in rock history because he pioneered a completely new sound, essentially marrying jazz and rock drumming through his King Kong Beat.

His life has not only been important in rock history, but also a wee bit wild. Perhaps most importantly, he’s a great story teller. Hear them from the man himself by buying Pete DePoe’s book *King Kong Pete: Redbone and Beyond*, at amazon.com.



Courtesy photo

We wanted to congratulate Jessica Phillips and Justen Hibler on their engagement on Feb. 5, 2018. We are happy for you both.

Nora and Randy