

She Is Doing Well In School And She Wants To Give Something Back

■ Tribal member Tiffany Greenberg is learning about her family heritage and her Tribe's history, and still finds time to be a cheerleader.

By Peta Tinda

Tribal member Tiffany Greenberg, 20, is a junior at Linfield College, and is studying for her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. She maintains a 3.3 grade point average, all while taking 18 credits this semester. She is an excellent example of a young Tribal member pursuing her educational goals and achieving success along the way. She said that her parents, David and Joyce Greenberg, always stressed the importance of getting an education.

Her grandparents are Elbert and Tribal Elder Clarise Ellison and her great grandparents are the late Abraham and Mildred Holmes.

"I've always been curious of hearing stories from my uncles and grandparents who said 'It's important to know who you are.'"

She attends the Grand Ronde and other area pow-wows regularly.

"It was important to her (her grandmother) that we knew our family history. The more you know, the more you can be proud of," she said.

For her senior project at North Salem High School she choose to study Native American myths and legends, for which she had a unique perspective due to her heritage. She interviewed Grand Ronde Tribal Elders, and worked with the Tribal Cultural Resources Department.

"The work with the culture department went really good, I looked at the archives, which are really amazing. And the cultural depart-



Photo by Peta Tinda

Tiffany Greenberg at the Linfield College campus in McMinnville.

ment was really excited to see one of their Tribal youth interested in learning," she said.

"It was good for me to talk with the Elders, I learned a lot from them. I think it's important to learn as much as you can from Elders... it's great to talk to Elders," she said.

When asked how she was faring at Linfield, she said: "I've always had different beliefs. I get it from my grandma," she said. "I want to learn a lot more about the myths and legends and different spirits. I'm fascinated by spirits. And people are very respectful. I think that it's special that I can

believe in a different way."

She said that her educational experience at the college has been very good, and she is pleased with the quality of her education and the amount of time she spends in class.

She also earns credits by working at the Linfield pre-school, excellent experience for her choice of careers.

"The kids are a lot of fun," she said. "They're so curious about the world. I think they have so much to offer."

Greenberg explained that she gets the most satisfaction from knowing she did her best.

"Knowing that I have a crazy schedule, and hearing the professors tell me I'm doing exceptionally well is nice. And for me it's getting things turned in on time and knowing I did my best."

She is doing well enough to have received the Eula Petite Memorial Scholarship, in addition to other grants and scholarships from the Tribe.

Next semester, she wants to do student teaching for college credit at the Grand Ronde pre-school. She said that her advisor was excited at the idea.

"It would be really neat to work with the kids. I also want to see the Head Start program."

"My folks are really proud of me. It was always expected that I would go to college. My parents have always been really supportive, even though my dad wanted me to be an engineer, like him.

When I was little he'd say: 'So do you want to be an engineer?' and take me to work with him. It was so cute. But those engineers all dress alike. I'd rather be a teacher... but he's always been supportive. It's important to him that we're happy."

When she's not studying or in class, Tiffany finds time to volunteer with her sorority. "We do tons of philanthropic work around the community," she said. This includes working with Habitat for Humanity in the McMinnville community, and weekdays she helps out at Kids on the Block, an after school program for local kids. Her sorority just won a Greek philanthropy award for its volunteer efforts.

On top of all this, she is on the cheerleading team and practices two hours a day.

"It's very competitive," she said. "Over 100 girls tried out for the team. But it's also fun and I think it's good to have positive school spirit. It teaches you to work as a team."

What more could you ask from this intelligent, respectful and educated young Tribal member? How about playing classical violin, which she learned from her father and relatives. She has played for 14 years, participating in youth symphonies and her high school orchestra.

When she's done with her education she eventually wants to work for the Tribe, said Greenberg.

"I feel it would be nice to give something back," she said. ■

Pilebuck Apprentice of the Year Graduates

■ Tribal Member John Flansberg follows his step-dad into the trade.

By Ron Karten

John Flansberg took on the four-year apprenticeship program in three years and still graduated as Pilebuck of the Year. "He's a journeyman now," said his mom, Tribal member June Burneman. Tribal Elder Blanche Lillard is her grandmother and Tribal Elder Donna Casey is her aunt. "I'm so proud of him and have been from day one."

Her joy comes at a difficult time, however, as her husband and Flansberg's step-father Cliff Burneman, rests in a Spokane hospital, a mechanical heart in his chest, awaiting a rare donation.

Flansberg almost declined to attend graduation to be in Spokane by Burneman's side. "He was talking about not being there, to be with his (step-)dad," said Charlane Carlson, Office Manager for the Piledrivers, Bridge, Dock and Wharf Builders Local #2416 in Portland.

"This is a big deal," she said, "but to see him walk across the stage with the heavy heart he was carrying was very moving to me."

With the graduation from apprenticeship school in late April, Flansberg followed his well re-

garded step-father into the trade. Among those he has to thank now for the kind reception he received is Dale Garland, Superintendent at Advanced American Diving Service, the company both members of the family work for. "He kind of sponsored me when I got in."

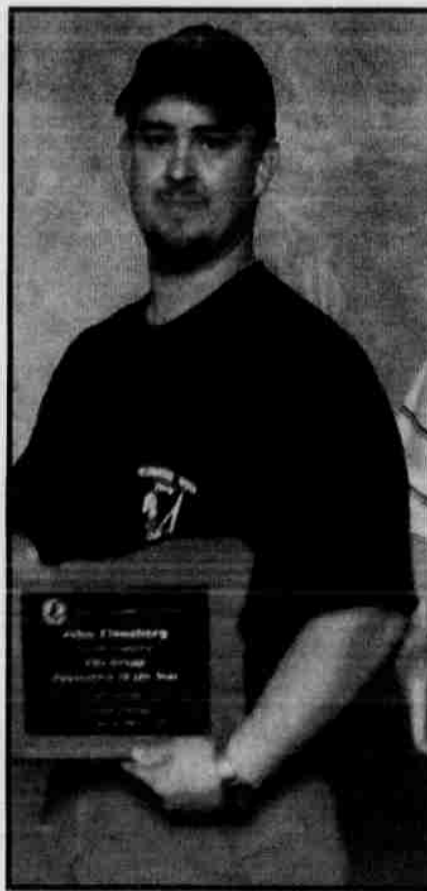
"Dale watched him grow up," said John's mom, "and knew what kind of worker he was."

"I remember Garland coming over to the house when I was little," said Flansberg. During the apprenticeship, "he spoke up for me. I guess I kind of grew up in the trade. My father was in the trade for 25 years."

"Pile drivers are on the heavier end of construction," said Bob Acker, business representative for the Local 2416. "They put in the footings for high rises and deep foundations. We do marine work from floating rigs and on the beach." The esplanade on the east side of the Willamette River in Portland is held up by pilings "installed by our people," said Acker.

In fact, the East Side Esplanade is the project that gave Flansberg his start as an apprentice.

"Everywhere he's been," contin-



John Flansberg

ued Acker, "we've had contractors sing his praises very highly. All say that he's a hard worker, well-rounded, gets along with co-workers and he's a leader."

And Flansberg names his co-workers when asked about the highlights of the job. "Working around the other journeymen and the crew. Really great bunch of guys," he said.

"John is very detail oriented," said Ron Hansen, Director of the union's Training Center in Portland. "Every apprentice has to turn in progress reports monthly. His were always on time. He did everything the best he could. He is a prime example of what we want apprentices to be. We got real good praise from the instructors. All of the classes that he attended were A's. I wish we had more apprentices like John."

"It's kind of hands-on with the apprenticeship," said Flansberg. "Some of the harder stuff, they keep you back, but you see how it was done."

Flansberg lives in Lyle, Washington, across the river from The Dalles with his wife, Lisa, and their sons, Johnny, 9, and Joshua, who is almost 7. And they also played an important part in his decision to join the trade.

"I've got a family now," he said, "(and the job provides) great benefits and decent money." ■