

## 7th Annual HEEF Silent Auction A Success!



Through the combined support of multiple volunteers, artists and attendees, the Hopi Education Endowment Fund (HEEF) raised over \$40,000 during their 7th Annual Silent Auction held in Phoenix on March 6th,

2010. With 71 pieces contributed by both

Hopi and non-Hopi artists, the auction was able to provide a variety of items for bid including katsina dolls, jewelry, paintings, pottery and even a designer handbag. In addition to the auction, over 50 items were donated by businesses and individuals, which were raffled throughout the evening. Attendees were also able to purchase commemorative t-shirts. Miss Hopi Junell Puhuyesva was joined by Miss Hopi High Tonelle Huma, Derrick Davis and Mr. Indian ASU Hugh Dawahoya who performed a dance that honored the Paiute people, with Ed Kabotie also providing entertainment throughout the evening.

Thanks to the generous support of Premier Sponsors San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and Peabody Energy in addition to other sponsors, the HEEF was able to offset all costs of the auction. Through the combined sales of art, raffle tickets, merchandise and sponsorship the HEEF's total was \$40,359.



As the HEEF's biggest fundraiser, much of the success from the event is attributed to volunteers, most notably co-chairs, Kerry Green and Gloria Lomahaftewa, who help staff to plan and implement the event over a 7-month period. Kerry shared, "Our 7th Annual Silent Auction for HEEF was a fun and successful event. HEEF helped to fund the education of Brad Martin, a Hopi law student, who showed us the importance of our mission and that HEEF has tremendous impact on the lives of Hopi students. The quality of artwork donated by the Hopi and non-Hopi artists was impressive. We are grateful that they see the value of education and are enriching the world by encouraging these students."

One of the highlights to each auction is the unveiling of the signature piece. For this year's auction, the piece, "Blessing Song" was a collaboration between accomplished Hopi jewelers Verma "Sonwai" Nequatewa and Duane Maktima. Each shared their common sentiments of, "reciprocity and joining together to contribute not only their talents, but to also serve as role models for younger generations, that helping in any way



possible is always appreciated." HEEF Marketing/Special Events Manager Sam Tenakhongva shared, "It is through the generous contributions of artists like Verma and Duane that help to make our events successful. They actually had the idea of collaborating in mind several years back and I am glad that they chose to HEEF to showcase this idea." He added, "With over 70 pieces of art and numerous raffle prizes, the HEEF thanks each artist, raffle donor, sponsor and attendee who helped to make this our biggest auction to date and for those unable to attend we still have a limited amount of t-shirts, which feature "Blessing Song" available."

## Fall 2009 Graduates

The HEEF & HTGSP would like to congratulate the following Fall 2009 graduates:

Verna Thompson: Associate of Art  
General Studies  
Coconino Community College

Darren Tungovia: Bachelor of Arts  
Hotel Restaurant Mgt.  
Northern Arizona University

Claire Kooyahoema: Bachelor of Arts  
Psychology  
Northern Arizona University

Melinda Secakuku: Bachelor of Science  
Elementary Education  
Fort Lewis College

## "Tsu'wari" Shawn Namoki, Sr.: Looking to the Future

As a father and current student attending Coconino Community College, Shawn Namoki, Sr. didn't always see himself pursuing a degree in Network Engineering, instead he said, "I wanted to be Firefighter and drive the big red engine trucks, but growing up on Hopi I did not often see the big red trucks that you normally see on TV, so at times I was at a loss of what I really wanted to be." It wasn't until graduating from high school and attending the Academy of Business College, now Everest College, under the Hopi Tribe Adult Vocational & Training Program that he realized the direction computer technology was headed and how becoming a professional in the field would provide great job security.

After graduation, Shawn worked several years as a Network Assistant at Hopi High School, but felt the desire to learn more about computer networking and realizing the steps the Hopi Tribe has taken in upgrading their communication infrastructure, he shared, "I see that our telephone company is coming up to speed with today's technology and I would like to help bring my knowledge and experience back to Hopi and help implement current and future technologies within our schools, Tribal offices and communities. There are many great benefits that our children, students, communities and government would achieve and accomplish with the implementation of this new technology. Imagine our students being able to sit in a classroom and communicate with another group of students thousands of miles away in another country."

When asked how funding received from the HEEF and HTGSP has supported his educational endeavors Shawn shared, "the funding support which I

have received has impacted my educational experience tremendously. In a time when our world economy is struggling, the monies have helped me find a place to live and to build a foundation to help get my wonderful education experience underway. Through my educational experience at the Coconino Community College I have received great grades and with great grades come great rewards as I was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society of a two year college, a reward and honor that I never accomplished in High School." And to donors and supporters of HEEF, "Thank You! Thank You for your kind and generous donations to the Hopi Education Endowment Fund. Without your contributions we (students) would not have been able to reach and achieve our goals in pursuit of higher learning, AND without your generous support that's all they would have been ...DREAMS. So thank you again. Kwak Kwai!"

As Shawn pursues his degree he also realizes the example he is setting. "As a parent I hope my educational success impacts my children as it has impacted me. I would like to see them pursue their dreams and become what they dream of becoming. I would like to see them pursue a higher education and become successful in their lives."

Shawn is from the Village of Sipaulovi and member of the Bear Clan. He is currently pursuing his degree in Network Engineering from Coconino Community College with an expected graduation in December 2010. His parents are Dolly and Selwyn Namoki.

## Thandi Myron: Future Filmmaker



Thandi Myron spent a week rubbing shoulders with screen writers, a talent agent and other film insiders at the world-renowned Sundance Film Festival held annually in January in Park City, Utah. The experience

puts her one step closer to her dream of sharing her stories with the world through her own production company.

A December 2009 graduate of the University of Arizona in media arts with a dual minor in business and marketing, Thandi or Söletsnem (Star Girl) was selected as a volunteer for the Sundance Film Festival after a competitive application process. While working as a ticketing agent, Thandi met many people within the film industry. This was a pretty big deal, as Thandi's goal is to write, film, direct and produce her own films. Someday she would also like to tell her mother's stories (a screenwriter) set on Hopi, or even be the conduit to tell other Hopi's stories.

Thandi says her parents; Cynthia Dagnal-Myron and Leon Myron, from Kykotsmovi have always encouraged and supported her dreams. She says, "My parents were always there for me, through it all. When I couldn't pay my bills, they were there, when I needed help with research, they were there, when I walked across the stage and shook hands with the dean, they were there". Although grateful for the support, Thandi learned lessons on her own as well. She says, "For me, my college education was one of the milestones in my life; I learned what it is to be truly responsible for my own actions, whether they turned out to be good or bad".

Currently Thandi is looking for media & marketing related internships in the Tucson area. She is anxious to put all she's learned to work and gain the experience necessary to further develop her skills and taking the next step toward her dream of owning her own production company.

Thandi wishes to thank the HEEF donors who give so much to Hopi adolescents and their futures. She says that without their support, she wouldn't have been able to attend the University of Arizona and earn her Bachelor's degree.

# Thank You to the Following 2010 HEEF Silent Auction Sponsor & Art Donors

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## Message from HEEF President Romalita Laban

Although it has only been a short time serving as President, I have found we have accomplished much already. Through the support, guidance and knowledge provided by HEEF Executive Committee members my role as President has been made much easier than expected. Members of the HEEF board have been working diligently, challenging ourselves to become more involved with strategic planning, governance and of course fundraising, by setting a "Board Goal".

Something, we as individuals, hear often from friends and visitors to Hopi is "How did you do all of this?"...and the usual humble and honest response is "I didn't do it all by myself, we did it", reminding me of an article on planned giving and the impact boards have in growing an endowment. In the article, 'committee work' is described as the real work of the board and an effective way to focus a small group on designing a solution. In reflection, I noticed how similar HEEF work is to Hopi community work and what an interesting connection it is.

In the last newsletter LuAnn Leonard, HEEF Executive Director notified readers of a planned visit by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe from Minnesota. I was honored to be invited to a roundtable discussion with the group and founding members such as Wayne Taylor, Jr., Barbara Poley, and LuAnn who shared the story of the HEEF's creation, work over the past ten years, and goals for the future. We were blessed with the group's presence along with a ton of snow which we credited to their journey to Hopi. The loss of electricity during the visit was a challenge, but HEEF staff didn't allow it to become a hindrance

by rallying and ensuring our visitors were comfortable, while practicing real "Tribal Philanthropy" work through mentoring, teaching and sharing our story with our visitors to help others strengthen and enrich their communities.

Our 7th Annual Silent Auction was not only exciting and fun, but was a wonderful opportunity to once again witness our Hopi community members, sponsors, artists, volunteers and attendees join in supporting the HEEF. Also, many thanks to Silent Auction Co-Chairs, Gloria Lomahaftewa and Kerry Green for their excellent work in providing helpful guidance and ensuring the success of the event.

In closing, I look forward to continued work, connecting with our members and meeting new friends of the HEEF in our 10th Anniversary Year. I am so grateful, happy and blessed to be linked, since 2003, to such a wonderful group of people involved with the HEEF, a great organization with a wonderful mission of nurturing our Hopi people in the educational realms of our beautiful world. The connection truly reminds me of what it is to be Hopi - in giving, helping one another, praying for others and taking time to nurture one another towards a mutual goal. Askwali and warm regards to all.

Sincerely,

Romalita Laban, HEEF President

**Kwakwhá/Askwali (Thank You)! On behalf of the numerous Hopi students who received financial support in 2009 from the Hopi Tribe Grants & Scholarship Program, Hopitutukaiki, Hopi Lavayi Program the HEEF gratefully thanks the following donors for their generous monetary support:**

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