

In Brief

Chad "Corntassel" Smith, principal chief of the Citizens of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma (BSEd '73) was re-elected with 59 percent of the vote for a third four-year term on June 23. Smith taught Indian law at Dartmouth College, Northeastern State University and Rogers State University. He has written college curricula in tribal operations and authored a 600-page course book on Cherokee legal history. Smith holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Wisconsin and a juris doctorate from the University of Tulsa.

David Carpenter was appointed Houston County School Superintendent, effective July 1. Carpenter, who succeeds his retiring brother, Danny, as superintendent, Carpenter, 55, is a product of Houston County Schools himself and played football at Northside High School. He got his undergraduate degree at Georgia Southern College, his master's at Georgia College and his Ed.S. at the University of Georgia. Carpenter has been a teacher and principal at schools in the system for the past 20 years.

Anna Wiley Cox (B.S.Ed. '00) coached the Jonesboro High School Mock Trial Team to a national championship this past spring. Cox, who teaches Latin at Jonesboro, has also led the team to two state championships.

Jena Martin, (M.Ed. '88), was named assistant principal at Eastside Elementary School in Coweta County. She has been teaching in Coweta County Schools since 2005.

Claire Michael was named assistant superintendent for curriculum in Barrow Schools, effective July 1, 2007.

Brian Culp was named the 2007 Hally Beth Poindexter Young Scholar by the National Association for Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education (NAPEHE). Culp, now an assistant professor of physical education at Indiana University Purdue University-Indianapolis, received his Ed.D. in physical and sport studies at UGA in 2005.

Susan Power, professor emerita of art education at Marshall University, who received her doctorate in art education from UGA, has a new book, titled *Art of the Cherokee: Prehistory to the Present*, published by the University of Georgia Press in January 2007.

Sam Howe, who earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in education from UGA, was named vice president of instruction at North Georgia Technical College, effective Jan. 1, 2007.

Mitch McGhee, who earned his Ph.D. at UGA in 2001, was named superintendent of Madison County Schools in January 2007. He had served as assistant superintendent, and as a teacher and administrator in Newton and Rockdale county schools before that.

Phillip Potter, a former University of Georgia police officer who earned a master of education degree in educational administrative and policy last fall, received the 2006 Kassing Scholarship. Potter is currently employed at Morgan County Middle School in Madison.



Pictured are: (L-R) Michael Crespo, a UGA police sergeant who also received the scholarship and earned a master's in public administration, retired UGA Public Safety Director Asa Boynton and Potter.

Cowart Named Nation's Elementary School Counselor of the Year

A University of Georgia College of Education graduate Kelly Cowart, who works at Meadowcreek Elementary School in Gwinnett County, has been named the nation's Elementary School Counselor of the Year by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA).

Cowart (Ed.S. '06), who grew up in the Atlanta suburb of Dunwoody, says her mission is to promote belonging among students, staff and families in the Meadowcreek school community. That commitment is evident in her activities as school counselor for kindergarten and first-grade students at her school.

Thoughtful and deliberate in her decision making, Cowart brings a creative approach to her work, along with an intuitive ability to advocate for students and families. Her goal is to develop connected, capable and contributing people. Her expertise in the areas of using research data, advocating for the ESOL population and creating innovative developmental guidance lessons has made her a sought-after speaker at counseling conferences at both the local and state levels.

"She epitomizes all that an elementary school counselor should be: loving, supportive, understanding, humorous, child-like, honest, resourceful. The list is endless," said a parent at Cowart's school.

Through collaboration with faculty, early learning agencies, the United Way and area businesses, Cowart developed a "KinderCamp" program to prepare more than 40 incoming kindergartners for the transition to school, while their parents attended daily "lunch and learn" sessions. Literacy backpacks boosted the students' literacy exposure and stoked their eagerness for the start of the school year.

Last summer, Cowart spent three weeks in Mexico to learn more about the culture and language to better serve Meadowcreek's Spanish-speaking students and families. She uses a small-group reading program to help Hispanic girls reading below grade level to feel more capable in the classroom through literacy achievement.

A lifelong learner and a frequent presenter, Cowart eagerly shares what she learns with her colleagues. A center-based guidance classroom and play therapy techniques are strategies that she has developed for her school.

"Kelly Cowart is like E.F. Hutton. When she speaks, those around her stop, listen and reflect on her wisdom and advice," said Principal Margaret Ackerman.

Cowart was recognized with other 2007 award winners at the ASCA's annual conference in Denver, June 23-26, 2007.