Anna Masayesva: Grandfather’s Knowledge, Mother’s Advice, Land Steward

As a recent graduate from the University of Arizona, with a Master’s of Science in Natural Resources, Anna Masayesva’s motivation and inspiration to pursue her education in the natural resource field came from a place she terms “quite simple”, sharing, “being raised with traditional Hopi values regarding land stewardship, I have been able to observe my grandfather Victor Masayesva Sr., a master farmer, rancher, and naturalist who has served as a consistent role model throughout my life.”

Asked about the role and importance of education, Anna stated “Education is very important to my family. It is encouraged that we all receive some type of education in order to earn a decent living and to be contributing members of society.” She also credits her family and notably her mother’s advice and support which often helped, “steer me back in the right direction when I would call to complain about courses that I believed were overly theoretical, which goes against my applied way of thinking!”

Comparing her undergraduate educational experience to her graduate one, she said, “Federal funding is more limited (no Pell Grant), but Graduate fellowships are available which tend to be more flexible and can provide year-round support. When pursuing a science degree you are often required to find existing studies to team up with in order to obtain funding, with space being limited. I was fortunate to obtain a Sloan Foundation Fellowship and a HTGSP scholarship, which allowed me to develop my own thesis subject.” She also added that through the financial support provided by HEEF and the Hopi Tribe Grants & Scholarship Program for both her undergraduate and graduate education, she was able to focus solely on her studies without having to worry about employment, allowing her “a full graduate experience with lots of time to spend on campus.”

With her knowledge and expertise Anna’s next steps have her seeking employment within the Natural Resources field to not only expand her professional and technical skills, but also utilizing her education to benefit her Hopi people, remarking, “there is a need for Hopi professionals that understand both the cultural and scientific aspects of natural resource management on the Hopi Reservation.” To HEEF donors Anna says, “Thank you for investing in Hopi students. Most students would have a difficult time pursuing higher education without this valuable and unique resource.”

Anna is Paaqapwungwa (Reed Clan) from the Village of Bacavi. She graduated in December 2010, with a degree focus in Rangeland Ecology and Management. Her parents are Marilyn and Victor Masayesva.

2011 Community Grant Program: Request For Proposals (RFP)

The HEEF is pleased to announce that proposals are being accepted for the funding of Community Programs and projects that provide educational programs for Hopi students. A total of $16,392 is available for 2011.

Deadline: Full and complete proposals must be submitted in person to the HEEF office in Kykotsmovi village or postmarked by Friday, April 1, 2011. Proposals are expected to be competitive.

Examples of programs that have been funded in the past are: Hopilavayi Summer Institute, Hopitutuqaiki, Hotevilla Ngumanki, Tewa Summer Youth Program, Three Mesa Productions, Kykotsmovi Summer Youth Program and Hopi Foundation:Beginnurz Hoyam.

All proposals will be competitively reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Grant applications can be downloaded at www.hopieducationfund.org or requested by calling 928-734-2275.
Stewart Koyiyumptewa: Author, Cultural Keeper, Advocate for Education

“College is one of the greatest life experiences”, says Hopi graduate student, author and Hopi Tribal Archivist, Stewart B. Koyiyumptewa.

A graduate of the University of Arizona in 1999 with a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, he did not always believe that a college education was in his future, stating, “When I was a young boy, I used to be the type of person who went through the motions when it came to school. My way of thinking changed while working labor jobs right out of high school.” It was during this time period when he asked himself, “Is this the type of work I will be doing for the rest of my life?” This was the turning point when he began his college career.

Although encouraged to pursue a graduate degree by his family and numerous colleagues over the years, the late Ferrell Secakuku who completed his studies in the same graduate program, was the inspiration and catalyst for him to take the next step and take advantage of the opportunity. Koyiyumptewa adds, “There are many missed opportunities to learn from our own family, our own people, about our history and about life as it once was, compared to today.”

Now working toward a Masters of Arts in Cultural Anthropology at Northern Arizona University, the emphasis of his study is looking at changes in cultural traditions over time and how these changes are incorporated and become acceptable within communities. Stewart said, “The Hopi people are a unique group of people and have involuntarily become idealized as keeping its traditions intact, especially by other native groups. The Hopi people are not immune to change and have undergone its share of changes in its cultural traditions, but the core of (its) cultural philosophy is intact and living today.”

While pursuing his graduate degree, Stewart is also employed full-time for the Hopi Tribe’s Cultural Preservation Office as the Tribal Archivist, which afforded him the opportunity to work with a collection of 900+ pristine black and white photographs which were donated to the Hopi Tribe, leading to his co-authoring The Hopi People (Images of America).

Education is held as a high priority in his families’ life, saying, “We value education as a critical component in paving the way for the future. Education and college are a part of our everyday vocabulary at home.” There is an expectation that his children complete their college education, saying, “College is one of the greatest life experiences and I would be cheating them of that milestone by not expecting such. By setting the example, I believe my children are inspired to pursue their career goals, they see that not everything comes easy, but through perseverance and family support, anything is possible.”

His wife, Blythe is also University of Arizona alum who completed her undergraduate degree in Engineering.

Stewart says that the support from his and Blythe’s family has been the crucial to their academic endeavors. He also added that the support from the HEEF donors is also important and is thankful for their support. He says, “If it wasn’t for the program, I would not have considered applying for graduate school and would not be as close to graduation as I am now.” He added, “I encourage anyone of any age to think about college and then put that thought into action. Education is an amazing option in life, set your mind on a goal and work toward it.”

Stewart Koyiyumptewa is Honanwungwa/Poovolwungwa (Badger/Butterfly Clan) from the Village of Hotevilla. He is the son of Patricia Selestewa.

Visit our website: www.hopieducationfund.org for more news and updates.
Also follow HEEF on Twitter (http://twitter.com/HEEF) and become a Fan on Facebook.
“HEEF to Host Art Sale to Benefit Hopi Students”

The Hopi Education Endowment Fund (HEEF) will hold an art sale in Phoenix on Saturday, March 5th and Sunday, March 6th, 2011 at the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona (2214 N. Central Ave, directly across from the Heard Museum) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Titled “2011 HEEF Art Sale – Supporting Hopi Students”, through the sale of donated art pieces from renowned artists such as Dan Namingha, Tony Abeyta, Iva Honyestewa and others, it is the goal of HEEF to raise funds that will go towards the support of Hopi students in the form of grants and scholarships as well as supporting Hopi educational programs. In addition, other items such as a “Three Corn Maidens” Pendleton blanket, jewelry and more will be available as prizes during a raffle to be conducted at the sale. HEEF Executive Director LuAnn Leonard stated, “We invite and welcome everyone to join us at our event as this is not only a great opportunity to purchase art and raffle tickets, but to also support and learn about HEEF and the many ways the organization contributes to future generations of Hopi students.”

In support of HEEF’s efforts and the event, 27 artists have joined the financial commitments of Premiere Sponsors Central Arizona Project & Peabody, Major Sponsors Husk Partners, Arizona Public Service, Osborn Maledon Attorneys at Law, and Supporter Sponsors Walker & Armstrong, LLC & Hufford, Horstman, Mongini, Purnell & Tucker P.C., in donating an art piece. HEEF Development/Resource Manager Vernon Kahe stated, “We’re very grateful to our sponsors, and with their support we look forward to hosting a wonderful event.” He also added that the HEEF is still accepting sponsorship.

Since being established by the Hopi Tribal Council in 2000, the HEEF has provided over $6 million in funding for scholarships, grants and educational programs for the Hopi people. For more information on the sale and to view artwork visit www.hopieducationfund.org or to donate artwork/purchase raffle tickets contact the HEEF staff at 928-734-2275 or email heef@hopieducationfund.org

No’ayatiwqam: Those who have given

No’ayatiwqam is the Hopi Education Endowment Fund’s planned giving group. The concept of giving or transferring assets in a thoughtful and deliberate manner in Hopi is called No’a. No’a describes the passing of knowledge, wealth or other possessions to another, after careful consideration and with the intention that the gift continue to benefit all.

Practicing the concept of No’a through Planned Giving is one way to ensure that your gift is used to benefit future generations to come. A planned gift to the HEEF also demonstrates your commitment to the Hopi Education Endowment Fund vision of an educated nation to perpetuate the Hopi way of life.

It is our hope that you consider the HEEF as a part of your estate planning. We invite you to join No’ayatiwqam or “those who have given”. Please let us know if you decide to include the Hopi Education Endowment Fund in your estate plans through your Will, Bequest, Life Insurance, Retirement Plan or other vehicle by returning the form below. We would like to thank you for your commitment and welcome you to No’ayatiwqam.

Let us know if you have included the HEEF in your estate plans...

☐ I/we wish to be acknowledged in any Hopi Education Endowment Fund publication as: .........................................................
☐ I/we would prefer to remain anonymous
☐ Please contact me to discuss ways in which I can include the Hopi Education Endowment Fund in my estate plans.

Name: .......................................................................................................................................................................................
Address: ..................................................................................................................................................................................
City: ........................................................................................................... State: .............................................. Zip Code: ...............................................................
Phone: ................................................................................................................ Email: ............................................................................................................
Kwakwhá/Askwali (Thank You)! On behalf of the numerous Hopi students who received financial support in 2010 from the Hopi Tribe Grants & Scholarship Program, Hopitutukaiki, Hopi Lavayi Program, Beginnurz Hooyam, and the Kykotsmovi Summer Youth Program, the HEEF gratefully thanks the following donors for their generous monetary support:

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- Husk Partners
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- Squire, Sanders & Dempsey, LLP
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**Qötsaqó (White Corn) $750 - $999 Donors**

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- Daryl Melvin
- James D. Spivack
- Pam Powell
- Tom & Barb Anderes
- University of Arizona Foundation

**Palaqó (Red Corn) $500 - $749**

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- Guy Suetopka, Jr.
- Hopi Jr. High School Natl. Honor Society
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- John W. Troutman
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- Lois Reynosa
- LuAnn & Bernard Leonard
- Patty Talahongva
- Sheilah Nicholas
- Susan A Lippold
- United Way of Northern Arizona
- Vernon Kahe

**Sakwapqaó (Blue Corn) $250 - $499**

- Anonymous
- Bonnie & Micha Koeppel
- Bradford & Loretta Jenkins
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Sikyaaq’ö (Yellow Corn) $1 - $249
I am truly honored to serve as the 2010-11 President of the Hopi Education Endowment Fund (HEEF). As we celebrate our 10th anniversary, this is a very exciting time for HEEF, and we have ambitious plans to meet the needs of the community in the next decade. HEEF could not have been so successful without a talented staff, committed board members and dedicated community members. We also value the friendship of our many supporters who also believe that investing in HEEF today will help Hopi people for many generations to come.

HEEF is committed to serving the Hopi community by growing resources to invest in individual students and supporting other educational programs such as curriculum development and research on Hopi through expansion of resources and educational partnerships. Together we can carry forward HEEF’s vision as stated in the organization’s strategic plan: “The HEEF envisions a strong, local, educated community that allows Hopis to maintain their cultural roots, pursue their educational dreams, and have opportunities to contribute to the Hopi Nation at home.”

The recent HEEF 10th Anniversary Celebration focused on four words: Honor, Celebrate, Imagine and Realize. We are empowering our youth to pursue their educational dreams to enrich their own lives, and to make a difference in the lives of their families, communities and beyond. That evening we honored those who came before us and who believed that creating the HEEF was the key to social and economic renewal for Hopi people. We also celebrated the accomplishments of the students and alumni who benefited from HEEF’s work. Today, we imagine a future where every student has the access and means to pursue their educational dreams. To that end we are committed to building the capacity to realize the full potential of HEEF to empower our youth.

Thanks to all of you, students have received over 3,500 individual awards of financial support from HEEF in the last decade. These students and alumni are our future. They are the scientists, accountants, physicians, educators, social workers and engineers that will return to a vibrant sustainable community that reaches beyond this day.

Thank you for your commitment and friendship.

Sincerely,

Eileen Egan, HEEF President, Old Oraibi