Beloved child you were brought to earth by the Wicanhpi Oyate
Falling to earth you were formed in the imagination of
the people through origin narrative
Spirit was manifest in the flesh of the living
Hopes of the ancestors flow in your blood
Your first breath
a soft soothing song
Singing the story of the lives that have come and gone
before you
Lives that paved the way for your coming
By a falling star you were entrusted to me
A sacred gift from the Creator
To care for
and
protect with my heart
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 18, 2011

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SEEDS FROM THE SCIENCE MUSEUM ABOARD LAST SPACE SHUTTLE

Flight STS-135 scheduled to land July 21 with heirloom seeds from Science Museum’s collection aboard; experiment combines scientific tools with American Indian cultural knowledge

St. Paul, MN – Staff and interns at the Science Museum of Minnesota enjoyed a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to participate in NASA’s last space shuttle Flight STS-135. Indigenously-cultivated tobacco seeds from the museum’s ethnobotany collection are aboard shuttle Atlantis to test the extent to which germination will occur in a microgravity and soilless environment. When the seeds return to earth, they will be returned to the Science Museum where students and staff will conduct control experiments.

Jim Rock, Dakota educator and longtime Science Museum collaborator and Scott Shoemaker, Science Museum ethnobotonist, will work on the project titled “Indigenous Star Seeds for Life” with students from the Nawayee Center School and the American Indian Opportunities Industrialization Center (AIOIC).

The project is designed to shed light on the Science Museum’s ethnobotany collection, which includes indigenously-cultivated corn, beans, squash and tobacco. Ethnobotany is the study of how people of a particular culture and region make use of indigenous plants. The museum is working in partnership with the American Indian community to germinate, grow, and harvest seeds from its permanent collection, bringing cultural anthropology, archaeology, and American Indian perspectives together. Museum visitors can see the ongoing active research in the native gardens section of the Big Back Yard outdoor exhibit.

The seeds for the STS-135 mission were carefully chosen to meet NASA’s strict space requirements and hand-delivered by Rock to Washington D.C. They were then transferred to Cape Canaveral for the shuttle mission.

In a note to NASA, Rock noted the juxtaposition between 21st century technology and ancient traditions, writing: “These are very old heirloom seed ancestor-relatives, like our dearest mothers and grandmothers, who will be flying in your care and company as fellow crew members and specialists.”
Rock and museum worked with John M. Cassanto, President Instrumentation Technology Associates Inc., who designed the cell chambers that will germinate the seeds on NanoRacks carriers aboard the space shuttle.

For more information on the Science Museum’s ethnobotany program, visit http://www.smm.org/anthropology/ethnobotany. The Science Museum of Minnesota has a 100+-year history of bringing science learning to life through hands-on exhibits, giant screen films, and unparalleled educational opportunities for all ages. For more information about the wide range of education programs for school groups, teachers, kids, families, and adults, visit www.smm.org/educationprograms/. For other museum information, call (651) 221-9444 or visit www.smm.org.
NASA Sends Old Tobacco Seeds Into Space
by Jacob Croenenberghs

NASA, one of its final return flights, has brought back experiments aboard the International Space Station that used Native heirloom seeds. The landing on June 22nd marked the completion of the nearly year-long Indigenous Star Seeds experiment involving indigenous tobacco. Scientists have wondered what effects microgravity plays on the growth of plants in space, and for years has researched the viability of crop growth for long term voyages.

“The seeds that were to germinate in zero gravity were 800 year old tobacco seeds,” said Roxanne Gould (Ojibwe/Ojibwe), a Science Museum of MN-American Indian Advisory Committee member. The Science Museum of MN donated the seeds for the project.

“The experiment came about because my husband [Jim Rock] works with the Minnesota Planetary Society. They had done a presentation at a climate change conference in Shakopee and a representative of NASA was interested in the experiment Jim was proposing.”

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NACC Weight Loss Challenge participants lose 610 lbs.

by Andrea Cornelius

This past April over 200 participants of all ages entered a 12 week weight loss challenge at the Native American Community Clinic (NACC) in Minneapolis. The person who lost the most weight would win a grand prize of $500.00, provided by Ucare. Enrollment only cost $3.00 (all of which went towards the second place prize) and anyone was able to participate whether you were a patient at NACC or not. Participants kept food journals, counted calories, exercised regularly and weighed in weekly.

Shannon Fahey, a registered dietician at NACC, worked one on one each week with participants on goal-setting, exercise routines, and nutrition information - after evaluating their food journals at the weigh-ins. Although the weigh-ins were held weekly, Fahey and staff were available anytime participants needed, thereby creating a highly individualized program.

A collective total of 610 pounds were lost at the end of the program, which ended in June 26. Kasa Hohenstein was the first place winner, having lost 16% of her body weight. James Seals came in second place, having lost 13% of his body weight. Participants lost between 8-15 pounds, making an average loss of 5.7% of body weight in total.

continued on page 10
Puzzle Activity:
Constellation Connection of Star-Dot-Letters...
(...Connect-the-Dot-9-Star-Letters below!)

#1 = I W M
    K E

#2 = I O N
    O S

#3 = W E
    E K

#4 = P I M
    I U
Puzzle Answers (continued)
...the 9 Letters in 4 colors spell...

By combining http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tic-tac-toe and the graphic of http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Enneagram.svg and by placing the 9 Star-circles of four letters each on the great Circle...to see Greco-Dakota Constellations and Mythical Meanings! So print out the design and print out the nine star circles and cut them out and place them on to the design at the correctly numbered sites. Transcribe the 4 colored letters into 4 tic-tac-toe diagrams like below to see the names even better!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEST</th>
<th>NORTH</th>
<th>EAST</th>
<th>SOUTH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YELLO</td>
<td>WAKAN</td>
<td>MNEO</td>
<td>ECMUS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YUE</td>
<td>TIPI*</td>
<td>SYNE</td>
<td>EUM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Rem</td>
<td>Sacred</td>
<td>(Memory</td>
<td>(9Sisters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ember)</td>
<td>Cave where they dwell)</td>
<td>-Mother of...)</td>
<td>House)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

...UNKTEHI’s home!

* NOTE: North and South will still be scrambled unless following the exact enneagram order!

Yellow - West
(serpentine style pattern)
Answers to:

A Little Puzzle becomes a GREAT MYSTERY...

Connect these stars in the order given to make a shape...Then figure out the messages in the 4 letters!

#1 = Alnilam = BVNS Tour Station #1
   http://www.constellationsofwords.com/stars/Alnilam.html

#2 = Mintaka = BVNS Tour Station #2
   http://www.constellationsofwords.com/stars/Mintaka.html

#3 = Rigel = BVNS Tour Station #3

#4 = Betelgeuse = BVNS Tour Station #4

#5 = Bellatrix = BVNS Tour Station #5

#6 = Saiph = BVNS Tour Station #6

#7 = Sirius = BVNS Tour Station #7

#8 = The Pleiades = BVNS Tour Station #8

#9 = Alnitak = BVNS Tour Station #9
   http://www.constellationsofwords.com/stars/Alnitak.html