



### “Among the Nimiipuu: The Summer of Peace”

The Nez Perce Tribe will host one of the 15 national signature events celebrating the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial. The celebration is scheduled for June 14-17, 2006, at various locations in north central Idaho, which were part of the Nez Perce ancestral lands.

Aaron Miles '95, manager of Natural Resources for the Nez Perce Tribe, is overseeing the planning for the signature event. Activities include cultural and educational programs, rodeos, jet boat races, elk-bugling and quilt-making contest and a basketball tournament.

The capstone event will be a re-enactment of the tribal ceremony between the Corps of Discovery and the Nimiipuu.

“When the expedition arrived on the Weippe prairie, they were bedraggled, exhausted and starving, and in the company of our enemies,” said Miles. An elderly Nimiipuu woman, Weetxuuwiis, spoke from her heart and set the course of history when she told the council of great leaders and warriors, “Do them no harm.”

# Dancing Pictures

## Chasing Powwows

A successful commercial photo business in Seattle allows Ben Marra '62 to pursue his labor of love—photographing Native Americans in full dance regalia at powwows. For 15 years, he and his wife, Linda, have traveled countless miles in order to record images of modern Native American life.

“We spend a lot of our weekends out on the road chasing powwows,” he says.

His most recent exhibit, “Faces from the Land: A Photographic Journey Through Native America,” displays 36 images of dancers from tribes the Corps of Discovery encountered. The exhibit recently completed a seven-month display at the Speed Art Museum in Louisville, Ky., and a special showing at the Genoa U.S. Indian Boarding School Museum in Genoa, Neb.

A native of Wallace, Marra arrived at UI in 1958, where he was a liberal arts major. After five years in the service, he entered the Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, Calif., which has since awarded him an honorary Master’s of Science degree for his work.

The turning point in his life came in 1988. On assignment to deliver a colorful photo, Marra was invited to his first powwow.

“That evening, we photographed 11 people and began our new lives as photographers of powwow dancers,” he writes in his book, “Powwow...Images Along the Red Road.”

“It’s the spirit that’s in the people that I’m recording,” he says. “They’re dancing, having fun, telling stories. It’s just a spiritual time.”

Marra speaks passionately about the power of positive imagery to dispel myths and stereotypes. “Lewis and Clark had a lot of help from the Indian people. People have to know that the Indian people are still here. They’re bankers; they work at Boeing; they’re schoolteachers, college professors. And, yes, on weekends, a lot of them take off their business suits and put on their regalia and go dance. That’s what my project’s all about.” ❶



Ben and Linda Marra

Photos above: Rose Ann Abrahamson, Lemhi Shoshoni, and a descendant of Sacajawea and Paris Leighton Greene, Nez Perce. Photos from “Faces from the Land: A Photographic Journey Through Native America.”