

THE INDIAN LEADER

Since 1897

Haskell Indian Nations University

the oldest Native American student newspaper



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DECEMBER MEANS THE END OF FALL SEMESTER 2016



Haskell Veteran's for Standing Rock

Story on Page 2



CONGRATULATIONS HASKELL FALL 2016 SEMESTER GRADUATES

Story on Page 3

NEWS

Haskell Vets for Standing Rock

PAGE 2

Haskell Fall 2016 Graduates
PAGE 3

OPINION

Of Sovereignty
Page 4

Millineials with a Voice
PAGE 8

ENTERTAINMENT

2016 Fall Graduates Gallery
PAGE 4 & 5

TRY YOUR PICK WITH NEW
RECIPES
PAGE 11

SPORTS

What's next for Haskell Athletes?
Page 12

Haskell Honors Senior Athletes
PAGE 7

NEWS



Haskell Veterans Stand with Standing Rock

RACHEL WHITESIDE

This past weekend was the Veteran's Arrival at the Standing Rock Reservation, thousands of veterans including former Haskell Student Army Veteran Chris Turley and student Zachary Cling who is a Veteran of the Marine Core joined in the Veterans for Peace and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe against the construction of the North Dakota Access Pipeline.

The pipeline itself was set to be built under the Missouri River which could lead to the pipeline breaking and contaminating the river itself. The Standing Rock Sioux tribe have been battling out in court the rights to build or continue the North Dakota Access Pipeline. Finally ending on Sunday, December 4 when the Army Corps of Engineers announced that they will seek other routes for the pipeline to be built so that it would not contaminate the tribe's water supply.

Veteran Chris Turley of the Osage Nation and former Sr. Scout Observer of the 101st Airborne Division in the United States Army. Turley showed his support with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and help raise awareness for Veteran Suicide Prevention as well as PTSD through social media. Turley announced his walk to the North Dakota Reservation starting from his home state Oklahoma, giving it the hashtag "walktostandingrock". Stating how this will be a new chapter in his life by announcing his journey on Facebook post in November.



"I am walking for those that can't, I am walking for those who continue a daily struggle with thoughts of taking their own lives. I am walking for those who battle PTSD daily. I am walking for my fellow veterans. I am walking for those deployed right now. I am walking for the fallen..."



Pictured is former Haskell student and Army Vet, Chris Turley.

Haskell's Indian Leader team was able to get an interview with Turley and Cling during while reporting at Standing Rock this past weekend.

Chris Turley explained how he wanted to make this journey completely on foot, the veteran made it about 280 miles before the council and the headman asked him to come up earlier for the Veterans Arrival December 4th as well as the eviction notice on December 5th.

"Whenever I was in the Army I was told I would never walk again, so this walk was very important for me, it means something for me a second chance to do it again. I was pretty much given a second chance at life

and a second chance at walking. I thought it would be very symbolic and what other way to show support but with a peaceful walk."

When asked about his stay at the Oceti Sakowin camp he explained how it was nothing he's ever experience before, that it has been overwhelming. "I've had a lot of support and love online and it's truly a blessing and I want to thank everybody for their prayers and blessings. There's a lot of love and positive energy here, being welcomed with open arms." Stated Turley "We have some of the nation's finest warriors, heroes from all the different wars ranging from World War II to the most recent conflict in Afghanistan."

Zachary Cling of the Passamaquoddy Tribe is a Pipe Carrier as well as a Veteran. Cling was a part of the United States Marine Core, First Battalion 6th Marines Alpha Company. He is not only at Standing Rock as a Veteran but as a duty as Pipe Carrier for his tribe.

"I came out here because I wanted to pray with all of our people, not just indigenous people but all the people of the world. Being a pipe carrier means to me being a warrior, always being there for the people I was given that pipe that's what I was told and that's what I'm going to do. Go to the people when they need help. That was probably the most important teaching out of it" stated Cling.

"United States Marine Core, First Battalion 6th Marines Alpha Company MOS rifle men, infantry men Zachary Cling explained how being at Standing Rock had a very powerful impact on not just him but the whole nation. Many countries participated in helping the Sioux Tribe stand against the North Dakota Access Pipeline. There were people that travelled from New Zealand,

Pakistan, Hawaii, England and more to help participate with the tribe.

"It was definitely really powerful, but at the same time it just goes to show that how much the dominant society really doesn't care about us. You know it's good that people kept to their oath to protect and serve foreign



Haskell Student and Marine Veteran Zachary Cling

and domestic, showing support to the Standing Rock people and all the indigenous people not to just us but everybody that would have been affected by that water. They came out here to stand for that and they knew it was a just cause."



Congratulations Haskell's Fall 2016 Semester Graduates!

WINTER GRADUATES 2016 SEMESTER

Bachelor Graduates

Marcus Barnoskie
Business Administration

Arnetia DeShawn Begay
Environmental Science

Ernie Blueback
Business Administration

Shara Jean Brown
Business Administration

Hunter John Collins
Business Administration

Jonathan W. Cook-Furst
Business Administration

Jade Dee
Indigenous & American Indian
Studies

Kenneth Joseph Flanders
Environmental Science

Leilani Rose Freeman
Business Administration

Michael A. Garcia
Environmental Science

Darwin Evan Holyan
Environmental Science

Devin Lance Leitka
Environmental Science

Kyndall S. Noah
Indigenous & American Indian
Studies

Dominick Panzy
Business Administration

Winston D. Robinson
Business Administration

Apollo Leroy Sitting Up
Indigenous & American Indian
Studies

Marissa Lee Snapp
Environmental Science

Taylor Allen Thurman
Indigenous & American Indian
Studies

David John Waybenais
Environmental Science

J. W. Wood, IV
Business Administration

Associates Graduates

Jeremy Jene Attocknie
Liberal Arts

Dakota Botone
Community Health

Aaron K. Circle Bear
Recreation & Fitness Mgmt

Lacey Jean Coleman
Liberal Arts

Aliceson L. Cournoyer
Social Work

Michael Dewayne Davis
Liberal Arts

Daryline Pearl Dayzle
Natural Science

Nateland Denny
Social Work

Danielle Dunn
Liberal Arts

Joshua Floyd Eaton
Liberal Arts

Sabrina Ann Etcitty
Natural Science

Joshua Wilson Falling
Liberal Arts

Rissa Alexandra Garcia Prudencio
Natural Science

Melanie S. Goodbear
Liberal Arts

Sydney Virginia-Maime Harper
Liberal Arts

Shannon Christine Hawkins
Liberal Arts

Makayla Holiday
Recreation & Fitness Management

Baron Jack Hoy
Liberal Arts

Kiraly Kinlecheenie
Natural Science

RaeShelle Largo
Liberal Arts

Tanae Zenobia LeClaire
Liberal Arts

Tiala Lewis
Liberal Arts

Mariah Hunter Lighthall
Natural Science

Emily M. McKinney
Liberal Arts

Carmen M. Morgan
Liberal Arts

Michael B. Nelson
Liberal Arts

Mikayla Annette Paul
Liberal Arts

McKenzie Pepiakitah
Liberal Arts

Jacqueline Poleahla
Liberal Arts

Esther R. Roehl
Liberal Arts

Sara Nichole Shamblin
Liberal Arts

Derrick Thomas Sleeper
Liberal Arts

Shawmn Sacheen Smith-Harjo
Communication Studies

Kristen Dianne Torres
Liberal Arts

Zackary Towey
Natural Science

Theodore D. Wahquahboshkuk
Natural Science

Haley Want
Para-Professional Education

Jayleen RosaLynn Star Want
Liberal Arts

Tesia Marie Want
Liberal Arts

Justis William WolfLeader
Liberal Arts

FALL 2016 GRADUATES PHOTO GALLERY



FALL 2016 GRADUATES PHOTO GALLERY



Haskell Library Says Goodbye to Gloria Graves

LORI HASSELMAN



When Library Technician/Account Manager, Gloria Graves began her career at Haskell, Tommaney Hall was still under construction. Graves has seen many changes since then and has fond memories of students who have come and gone.

Graves is now preparing for her own departure and will retire after this semester with over 40 years of service.

“When I started in the fall of 1972, the library was in Sequoyah Hall where the math department is now. I worked over there for a year and I remember moving all the books to Tommaney Hall when this library opened,” said Graves.

After graduating from Haskell, Graves worked in Lawrence for about 6 months before starting at the Haskell Library. She had planned to stay just a few years, but realized how much she liked working in the library. Graves had worked in a library as a student worker in high school.

“I fell in love with this place and the students. It was so interesting to see new students coming through every year,” said Graves.

Planning to retire in 2013, Graves kept delaying her departure but this year she decided to make it official.

“I always look forward to fall semester seeing students come back and new students coming in wondering what will they be like, and then seeing them in the library all the time, studying all the time, doing homework, I think, ‘that’s going to be an ‘A’ student.’ I will miss that,” said Graves.

Over the years, Graves had thought of moving to other departments but said she felt most comfortable at the library where she could continue her engagement with students.

“I love students because when you help them a little bit with research, mentoring, give them encouragement, or sometimes just listen, some of them will come back and say, ‘hey, I got an advanced degree’ and that really makes your day. It really makes you proud that you had a part in their education,” said Graves.

Graves recalled many fond memories of the relationships she has established over the years with co-workers and students alike. Of all the experiences she shared, the one closest to her heart was the support she received from the Haskell community during her time of need.

“When I had health problems, the Haskell community was there for me and I’m so thankful. I never

knew people really cared. We may have arguments or disagree, but when it really comes down to something like that, they all are there for you,” said Graves. “It gives me goosebumps just talking about it.” Leaving students will be the most difficult part of retirement for Graves. After 40 years of mentoring and working with students, Graves had some inspiring words for the Haskell student body.

“Focus on your education because it will take you far. Everything else will be there. When you are done, they’ll be there, so don’t worry about that just focus and you’ll do great,” said Graves. “I just want to see young adults move forward with their degrees and make the world better. I want them to go as far as they can and be a role model for other students.”

As for the rest of the Haskell community, Graves had a few words for them too.

“I just want to say thank you and take care of yourself to all the Haskell community, and be kind to each other,” said Graves.



Gloria Graves



From Left: Beverly Fortner, Gloria Graves, Venida Chenault

Haskell Honors Fall Senior Athletes

SHANA LOMBARD

Haskell is saying farewell to a few of its student athletes who are graduating either this December or in May. There was one senior on the volleyball team this year and three on the cross country and track and field team.



Aspen Shepard

Aspen Shepard is our one volleyball player leaving the team after the season. She is from Window Rock, Arizona. She came here straight from Window Rock High School. Aspen is a member of the Navajo Nation. She is graduating from the Environmental Science program here at the school.

Her Haskell career stats include: 303 games played, 970 kills, 152 digs, and 31 assists. Aspen was also honored as being a part of Haskell's Honor Roll and for also being selected to the 2014 AI-MCAC First Team, 2014 Volleyball Hitter of the Week MCAC, 2015 Association of Independent Institutions Second Team All-Conference.

Cross Country team had two female runners being honored for their work done on the team in the last four years. The track and field team also had one member also being recognized for his work on the field.

Kaana Watchman is the first senior that Cross Country recognized at the N7 basketball game. She is from the Navajo Nation as well and is studying in the American Indian Studies program with an emphasis in Sovereignty. She intends to pursue a Master's degree in Indigenous Studies and go on to law school for American Indian Law.

She has many other plans like opening a rez dog sanctuary, develop a non-profit law firm to help Native

American women and families who cannot afford adequate legal representation, implement sustainable living and energy on her home reservation and work on indigenous rights to clean air, water and land.

Next is Cherica Eckiwaudah. She is also on the cross country team. Ms. Eckiwaudah has been named as a two-time cross country All-American and one time track All-American, cross country Most Valuable Runner and American Indian College Fund's 2016 Student of the Year.

Cherica hopes to pursue a master's, PH'D and go on into Law school. She is from the Delaware Nation coming to Haskell from Anadarko, Oklahoma. Cherica will be graduating from Haskell's School of Business with a Bachelors in Business Administration.

Track and Field recognized Hunter Collins for all of his work done for the team. He is from the Cherokee Nation. He was named to Haskell's Deans Honor Roll from 2014-2016. He was also named track and field's Most Improved Runner. Hunter

earned the MCAC Haskell High Point male recipient for the 2015 season. MCAC Second Team All-Conference in High Jump, Haskell track and field's MVP for the 2016 season. He qualified for the Haskell Relays for the men's javelin with a throw of 52.49 meters (172 feet).

Hunter is a part of the Phi Sigma Nu fraternity, Haskell Cheer stunt, peer instructor in Vision Quest for multiple semesters. In his spare time, Hunter also volunteers at a local homeless shelter in Lawrence. Hunter will be graduating in December 2016 with a Bachelors in Business Administration and will be pursuing a career as a firefighter and paramedic.



Haskell Athletics honoring its Fall Senior Athletes

Millennial's Have A Voice to Make a Difference

RACHEL WHITESIDE



When I began this fall semester I never would have thought I would be participating in the peaceful protesting against the North Dakota Access Pipeline. I would have never guessed that I would travel up to Cannon Ball North Dakota on the Standing Rock Reservation for a third time this year.

It was definitely an experience to be able to use my media communications degree and my voice to help represent native youth by reporting on the events and issues that took place throughout the battle against the "Black Snake." I felt that as a rising Native Journalist it was my responsibility or duty to report the truth that was happening within the Oceti Sakowin Camp.

With all the major news outlets there were reporting on the events many were reporting for the North Dakota Pipeline (DAPL), calling the protesters violent and radical. Only few news outlets would report on the side of the Peaceful Protestors and show their point of view and how the people who worked for DAPL were using inhumane tactics against them.

There would always be videos stating how the protestors were violent when there were actual videos and photographs, proof of Native American people being sprayed with water cannons in freezing temperatures, concussion grenades thrown at them, bitten by attack dogs, beaten, shoved into dog cages and torn from prayer circles.

It was saddening, it was inhumane and immoral the way they treated our elders, children, men and women as if they were criminals.

There is already a limited amount of journalist that are reporting on Indian Country let alone Native Journalist. Native Journalist make up about 0.4 % of the journalist population when it comes to diversity. It's their duty as Native Journalist to report on hard hitting stories that are affecting Indian Country and bringing awareness to the public.

OPINION



It's important for our own people to be able to show that we can beat our percentage, that we can report on hard hitting stories such as the Protesting at Standing Rock, the toxic oil spill in the Animas River on the Navajo Nation, Suicide on Reservations, hard hitting stories that will not only open the eyes of Native Americans but for Non-Natives as well.

Being a Native American Journalist will always have those challenges where others will try to belittle your race and skill. It's a challenge that requires strength, patience, and confidence to be able to break pass those stereotypes that place us in a category that we were forced into a long time ago.

I noticed that this year was the year of an awakening for my generation, more and more of Native Youth are becoming more active in their culture, in politics, music, movies, sports, goals, and occupations.

It's important for our generation to teach the old and future generations the power of freedom of expression and to not be afraid or embarrassed to be Native.

Freedom of expression in the Millennials era is a major advantage for Native Americans, with idols such as Frank Waln, SupaMan, Becca Lynn & Dyami Thomas, Bunky Echo-Hawk, Antonia Gonzalez and more that have a talent or skill with what they do and how they use it to reach audiences across Native Country.

We need Native Americans that inspire the youth such as these strong idols that encourage reaching goals, ambitions, and fighting hard for what they want in life.

As a Millennial we have a voice that past generations did not have, it's important to use that voice because you never know who is listening. We have a chance to make a difference in today's society without barriers or challenges stopping us. We have a voice and as a Millennial, and as a journalist I plan on using my voice to produce articles that will inspire others in Native Country to do the same.



Student Senate Report

LORI HASSELMAN

- **Guests:** Mr. Prue
- **Stand Up/Wake Up Event:** A music video is being produced at the East South Park gazebo downtown Lawrence, KS for Standing Rock on Sunday at 4:30 p.m. on Dec 11, 2016. The filmmakers would like to have Haskell student representation present. For more information, see the Facebook event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/126316531187480/>
- Student Senate will have a Prayer Circle inside the teepee to be set up in front of the auditorium Sunday, December 4th. A fire will be lit Sunday morning and maintained all night for Standing Rock. Veterans are expected to arrive in Standing Rock on Sunday. The prayer circle is open to the public.
- Student Senate sponsor, Carrie Cornelius, will have computers set up in the library computer lab for students to send emails to President Obama regarding Standing Rock.
- **Committees**
- Budget Committee will release end of semester final budget report via the Student Senate Facebook messenger group after receipts have been reconciled after at the bank.
- Concessions Committee will work with other clubs who want to join the concessions rotation next semester. Softball reports a \$200 profit from last concessions proceeds.
- Empowerment Committee dates have been set for April 13-15th Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The committee will begin to look at speakers for the event. Committee meets Mondays at 4pm in the Student Senate office.
- Haskell Royalty Committee has completed and distributed the new Miss Haskell/Haskell Brave application. One Haskell Brave candidate has already been identified. Current Haskell Brave, Steven Laravie talked about his current positive experience in his role and encourages all to apply or attend the committee meetings on Fridays 5:15p at Winona 1st floor study room.
- Constitution revisions we will presented the first meeting of Spring 2017 semester.
- Library hours have been adjusted to support finals week starting Sunday-Tuesday. Snacks will be provided courtesy of Student Senate and will be open until 11:00 p.m. Librarian, Carrie reports that staff has been flexible on hours for students who need to finish up studying as closing hours approach. Reminder for students to turn in books as soon as their finals are over.
- Junior Representative, Shawny Harjo will graduate and transfer to KU next semester. Junior Rep. position will be open for Spring 2017 semester.
- Students who need to store their vehicles over winter break will need to complete a form sent out over Haskell email and turned in to facilities or vehicle will be towed.
- Next meeting 1/18/2017 at 6:30 pm.



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Letters to the Editor

All letters received are subject to edit and refusal of publication. By submitting a letter, you are giving us permission to publish and edit. You also acknowledge that you are the author and accept all responsibilities. Your full name, Haskell email, and contact information MUST accompany all submissions and are subject to verification.

As students and members of the Haskell community, it is our job to ensure you are represented to the best of our ability. Please contact us with any concerns, issues, or suggestions for The Indian Leader by phone, email, or stop by our office located on the main floor (gym level) of Tecumseh Hall.

Entertainment

DIAMOND WILLIAMS

Creamy Crockpot Chicken Gnocchi Soup

8-10 servings

Ingredients

1 Cup Onion
1 Cup Celery
1/2 Cup Corn
5 oz Baby Spinach
32 oz Chicken Broth
8 pieces Bacon
24 oz Evaporated Milk
2 lbs Italian Gnocchi
3 cloves Garlic
1 tsp Poultry Seasoning
1 1/2 tsp Italian Seasoning
1/2 tsp Pepper
1/2 tsp Salt
3 Tbsp Flour

1. Dice Onions and Celery, add to Crockpot along with the Corn.
2. Cut chicken into small cubes, add to Crockpot.
3. Add all spices; Poultry Seasoning, Italian Seasoning, Salt, and Pepper. And Chicken Broth to crock pot.
4. Cook on high for 4-5 hours, stir occasionally.
5. After 4-5 hours, remove one cup of broth. Add flour to removed broth slowly, mix until nice and creamy, no chunks.
6. Add Evaporated Milk, Gnocchi, and flour broth mixture into the Crockpot.

7. Cook for another 45-60 minutes, as sauce thickens
8. On stove top heat pan over medium heat with a splash of oil.
9. Cut bacon into small centimeter pieces, add to pan.
10. Fry back until a bit golden, removed from pan and place on paper towel/brown paper bag to remove excess oil.

11. Drain almost all bacon grease, leaving about a tablespoon of grease left in pan to sauté spinach.
12. Add spinach and garlic to bacon grease pan. Cook over medium heat until spinach is wilted.
13. Add Spinach and Garlic to Crockpot. Stir and cover, cook for remaining time.
14. Add 1/2-1 cup of water to desired thickness. Serve and enjoy.



Fried Hasselback Bacon Potato

Ingredients

4 Small Potatoes
1 Cup Flour
1 Tbsp Garlic Powder
1 tsp Pepper
1 tsp Salt
1 tsp Paprika
1/2 Stick Butter
6 slices Bacon
4 Slices Swiss Cheese.

1. Heat pot of Oil over Medium heat.
2. While Oil is Heating up, prepare Flour mixture, Potatoes, Bacon, and Cheese.
3. Making the Flour Mixture, in a bowl add Flour, Garlic Powder, Salt, Pepper, and Paprika.

4. Cut Potatoes "Hot Dog" way, cut straight down almost all the way through leaving just about an 1/2 centimeter uncut. Repeat step making multiple cuts through the Potatoes.

5. After cutting the Potatoes, Coat them in the Flour Mixture, making sure to get the mixture between the cracks on the Potatoes. Set aside and let sit.

6. Cut Cheese into small centimeters square slices, cut Bacon into finger width pieces.

7. Once oil is hot enough then drop the flour coated Potatoes into the pot, fry for 8-10 mins. Or until a fork and easily punch the Potatoes.

8. Turn over on 400°

9. Then remove from Oil and set on Paper Towel/Brown Bag for drain excess oil off.

10. As you wait for the Oil to drain off the Potatoes, fry up bacon in a separate pan, and place on Paper Towel/Brown Bag to take off excess oil. Save bacon grease in pan for later

11. Add Cheese into the Potatoes by placing the little slices between the cuts of the Potatoes.

12. Create a little Aluminum foil boat to place the Potato in. Drizzle bacon grease over the Potatoes with cheese in them. Sprinkle Bacon over the Potatoes, cube butter and place three cubes on each Potato.

13. Cover with Aluminum Foil and bake for 25 mins.

14. Remove Aluminum Cover, bake for 5 additional minutes. Remove, Serve, and Enjoy.



Pumpkin PieIngredients

1 Can Pumpkin Filling
 1 12oz. Can Evaporated Milk
 1 Cup Sugar
 2 Large Eggs
 1 Tbsp Cinnamon
 1 tsp Ginger
 1 tsp Nutmeg
 1 deep Dish Pie Crust.

1. Preheat oven to 400°
2. In a large bowl, Mix Pumpkin Filling and Evaporated Milk. Combine until smooth.
3. In a separate bowl, combine Eggs and sugar until no lumps are present
4. Add Egg mixture to Pumpkins mixture, mix until

fully combined.

5. Continue mixing, sprinkle spices, cinnamon, ginger, and nutmeg in to the filling.
6. After mixture is fully combined, pour into deep dish Pie Crust.
7. Let sit for 5-10 minutes to release any air from the filling.
8. Place pie in over, Cook Pie at 400° for the first 15 mins, then reduced heat to 350°, continue cooking for 40 mins or until filling it totally set and toothpick comes out clean.
9. Let sit for 30-50 min or until fully cooled. Serve and Enjoy :)

Jam Buttons(Cookies)Ingredients

2/4 Cup Flour
 1/2 Cup Coconut
 1/4 Cup Corn Starch
 1/3 Cup Unsalted Butter (softened)
 1/3 Cup Sugar
 1 Tbsp Grapefruit Zest
 1 Tbsp Milk
 2-3 Tbsp Jam filling of your choice.

1. Heat over at 350°
2. In a large mixing bowl, add Flour, Corn Starch, and Coconut. Mix until combined and set aside.
3. In another bowl mix sugar and butter together until smooth and creamy.

4. Add Grapefruit Zest, and Milk to sugar mixture. Stir until nicely combined.

5. Add sugar mixture to flour mixture, combined until everything is mixed.

6. Let dough chill for 5 mins.

7. Using a serving spoon, spoon out little 1 in. balls.

8. Place balls on a greased baking sheet or a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.

9. Using your thumb, make a little well in the middle of the ball, pushing only to the middle of the dough ball.

10. Spoon a little bit of jam into the well you just created. Make sure not to over fill with jam.

11. Place cookies in the over for 10-15 mins, until around the cookies are a golden color.



Haskell Athletics, what could be next

REID WILLIAMS

For two years now Haskell Indian Nations University has been missing their football program, the iconic Haskell Stadium has continued to fall apart, and with no Athletic Director in place we are no closer today to resurrecting the suspended football program, then we were on the day Dr. Chenault announced its suspension.

So where does that leave this university? Well, students like Terrance Littlejohn think maybe lacrosse could be the answer “I think Haskell should look into adding lacrosse to its sports programs. Since they no longer have football, lacrosse is the next thing closest to football. Many students here play stickball, and I think that could help with the transition to the game.”

With stickball having deep roots in many tribes like the Cherokee Nation, and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw, lacrosse has been an easy transition for many Native Americans. Just look at the professional lacrosse level. It is full of extremely talented Native American athletes, none more famous than the Thompson brothers Lyle, Miles, Jeremy, and Jerome.

While in college at Albany Lyle Thompson, would set the NCAA Division 1 career points and assist record, with 400 points and 225 assist. When Lyle Thompson was drafted number one overall in professional National Lacrosse League by the Georgia Swarm, John Arlotta the Owner and General Manager had nothing but promising remarks about Thompson, stating “Lyle has proven at every level of lacrosse that he is one of the games best.

With the opportunity to once again play with his brother Miles, along with several of his teammates from the Iroquois Nationals, we believe

that Lyle is in the perfect position to succeed here in Georgia.”

Georgia Swarm Co-Owner and President Andy Arlotta praised Thompson for his outreach to young lacrosse fans, Native and non-Native saying “Lyle along with his brother, Miles, are great role models for young lacrosse players and we know the local community is eager to meet them”

With such a strong Native American presence in lacrosse right now, if Haskell were to add a lacrosse program this would be the time to do it. It is currently the fastest growing collegiate sport. In the Kansas City area, we would be able to find plenty of competition with schools like Ottawa University, the University of St. Mary, and many others who have been recently adding lacrosse programs.

The financial burden of lacrosse would be significantly less than the cost football imposed on Haskell’s Athletic Department, while in football you carry a roster of 50 plus student athletes, lacrosse carries only half that number. Also with Native youth seeing lots of success like the Iroquois National team taking a bronze medal in the Under-19 Lacrosse World Championship, Haskell would have plenty of Native American talent to start recruiting to build its program.

Nobody should forget though that there are many former Haskell football players that would have to come to terms with Haskell cutting their program and starting another. Clayton Saiz a former football player for Haskell didn’t like the idea of starting a lacrosse program that some people would like to see on campus, stating “Personally I’d find it incredibly disrespectful to the former football players, especially those who had their careers cut short because of the loss of the program.

SPORTS

Haskell has a rich history with football and I think rather than starting a new program, football should have been given the opportunity to thrive.” Saiz would continue saying football players are still left with a “bad taste” in their mouths over the administration’s handling of the football program.

There are many hurdles that stand in the way of Haskell starting a lacrosse program, like having an Athletic Director and funding for the program, but if Haskell was able to overcome those hurdles they would have a leg up on other schools looking to start a program in the near future.

