

# THE INDIAN LEADER

HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY



Since  
1897

*The oldest Native American student newspaper*  
[theindianleader.com](http://theindianleader.com)

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## The Haskell Indian Nations University Art Market in Pictures



Photo courtesy of Portia Goseyun



Photo courtesy of Sumer Al-Ahdali

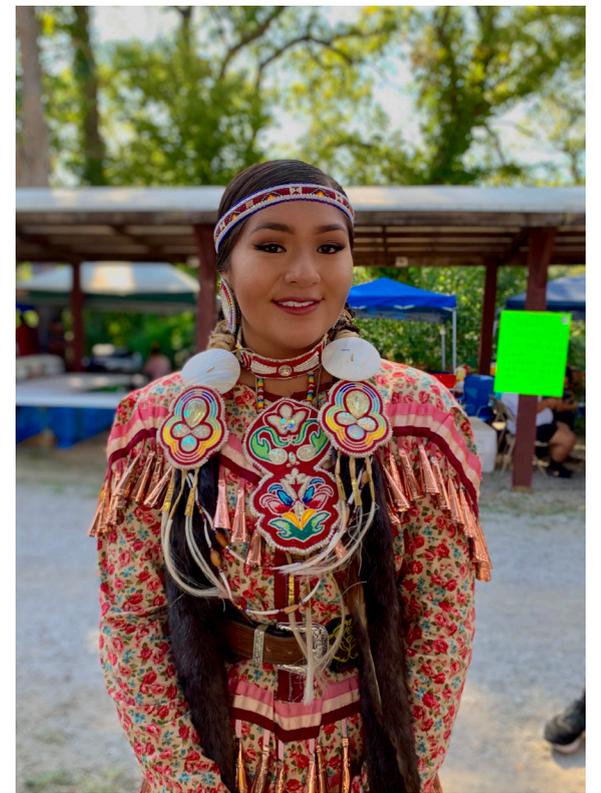


Photo courtesy of Portia Goseyun



Photo courtesy of Sumer Al-Ahdali



Photo courtesy of Sumer Al-Ahdali



Photo courtesy of Sielak Tuckfield



## Haskell Presidential Speeches

ASHLEY PETERS

### Dr. Ronald Graham

Thursday, September 5th, the first presidential candidate took to the auditorium stage. Dr. Ronald Graham made a warm entrance to the room acknowledging the fellow veterans among the crowd. The heart of his speech touched on many passionate topics such as his philosophy on teamwork.

Having served our county as a part of the Army Airborne serving multiple times in Iraq and Afghanistan, Dr. Graham believes in getting into the trenches with his troops and has a strong belief in integrity and transparency (wanting to establish an open-door policy as well). He appears to be a man proud of his Oklahoma roots who was inspired by his father who had gone to a school similar to our Haskell.

When responding to the questions of his experiences and background, Dr. Graham claims to have had twenty years of education experience, worked with seventeen programs, experienced with multiple intercollegiate sports programs, and has worked on at least three campuses.

When asked about what he brings to the table, Dr. Graham responded with three key points. He has experience with grant-writing, budgets, and is skilled at finding funding. He's an experienced supervisor and works well in a team. Finally, he has extensive experience working in universities. Dr. Graham is passionate about student success and is confident with having a one year, five year, and

ten-year plan. He describes himself as a man who can hit the ground running.

As a member of the crowd, it sounds like Dr. Graham is prepared for the long haul in restoring and building upon Haskell's legacy. Dr. Graham has strong interest in eventually adding a nursing program, engineering program, communications program, and many more over the long term. It was well said that you can't grow programs without money, but so far Dr. Graham seems to have the right background and skill set for the vision of Haskell he would like to achieve.

Dr. Graham's statement for the paper: "I think this is probably one of the most awesome schools nationally that I have ever seen, and I really look forward to coming on to here as a president should you have me. It would be a pleasure."

### Dr. Lane Azure

Friday, September 6th, the second presidential candidate rose to take the auditorium stage. Dr. Lane Azure began his speech with a heartfelt slideshow of his family and their deep-rooted history. With Dr. Azure, his motivation, his inspiration, and all- ties back to his love for his family.

Dr. Azure answers in response to why he should be president with that it should be a rhetorical question. He said that he didn't wake up one day always knowing that this is the profession he would strive for. He believes that by making it to the stage, he has already succeeded in his personal quest.

Dr. Azure passionately talked about his history in education with teaching native studies and math. When asked about his experience, Dr. Azure responded with having success in being an educator, has owned his own business and has gotten a teacup grant before. He has also mentioned not being experienced with federally funded schools, intercollegiate athletic programs, and modernizing internet technology departments. Dr. Azure assured the audience that he believes in himself and that he is wide open when it comes to embracing other's ideas, and even has a plan to get the school on track.

Dr. Azure believes that as an educator, we don't have it right yet [A school system that meets every student's needs.], that we have to keep looking out of the box to help us navigate the western education that had been forced on us. Dr. Azure would ideally like to help create individual learning paths and help teach students by assessing where they are underprepared. As a member of the audience, Dr. Azure

comes across as a man who is very passionate about his family and his experience as an educator, he seems to have the background for and skillset to make a very compassionate president.

Dr. Azure's statement for the paper: "It's just an honor that I have actually been able to come and visit your wonderful campus that is here, and the future it'll bring to students is phenomenal to them. So I'm just very grateful and honored to be here."

*Comments on overall experience:* It was a very intellectually intriguing experience and privilege getting

to be a part of the audience for both presidential speeches. For a person not well versed in school politics, it was definitely an educational and eye-opening experience. There will always be much more to a person's speech than a summary, but for those who couldn't make it to the speeches, I hope this article helps.

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## The Indian Leader Staff

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### Staff Advisor

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### Staff Writers

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Sylvia Villanueva  
Diamond Williams  
Joseph Singh  
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### Assistant Editor

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### Secretary & Treasurer

Jamie Colvin



Native American Journalists Association

[indianleader10@gmail.com](mailto:indianleader10@gmail.com)

The Indian Leader  
155 Indian Ave. Box #4999  
Lawrence, KS 66046

All articles received are subject to edit and refusal of publication. By submitting an article, 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.

Please contact us with any concerns, issues, or suggestions for The Indian Leader by email or stop by our office on the main floor (gym level) of Tecumseh Hall.



## Welcome back to Haskell!

KAYLA BOINTY

Congratulations! Returning students and freshmen, we made it through the first week of classes! For those of us are returning, let's get our sleeping schedules back on track and our minds into study mode, back to the ol' grind. For the freshman, Welcome Home! Yes, I said home, for those of you who may not feel it yet here is some advice from upperclassmen.

The first few weeks on campus are so impactful on all new students. Whatever you do, be sure to be yourself and try to enjoy your college experience as much as possible.

Get organized, stay on top of your assignments, knowing what assignments are coming up and when they're due will alleviate some of that stress. I hope you are all moved in and adjusted to your dorm life, add/ drop has not closed yet! So if you need to change a class or drop/ add a course, please talk to your advisor or go to the Student Success Center and do so. Do not procrastinate, prioritize! Take advantage of the study resources available, there's TRIO, student success center, the library. If you need help there is always someone super gracious and willing to help. Remember college will be what you make it! Your mindset will affect your experience. You start college with a clean slate, along with a lot of inde-

pendence. What you choose to do with that independence is entirely on you. You will experience some stress and homesickness but don't let that wear you down.

Get involved on campus.

Put yourself out there, meet new people, join clubs, go to highlight night! Seek a balance.

College is a mix of academic responsibilities and social life, find a good balance in between the two, you are here to better yourself and your people with an education!

Take care of yourself,

Physically – get enough sleep, eat right Drink Water. Spiritually- The wonderful thing about Haskell is having this element available if you would like there are plenty of fellow students and clubs

The NAC club for example. Emotionally- if that homesickness starts to weigh heavy on you, or stress, anxiety, or any other problems do not hesitate to seek help! From a counselor or peer. You are not alone and there is always someone there to help. Remember Haskell is home.

## My Summer Research Experience

JAMIE COLVIN

This summer of 2019, I was honored and humbled to be accepted as one out of the 13 students participating in the Research for Undergraduate Students (REU) Sustainable Land and Water Resources Program (SLAWR). The program has three main groups that divide the students to work in different areas for the summer; the first team is in Pablo, MT working from the Salish Kootenai College, the second team is in Duluth, MN working from the University of Minnesota Duluth and the third team is in Minneapolis, MN working from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities. I was located in Minneapolis, MN for the summer work in a geochemistry laboratory as well as a hydrology laboratory.

The specific project I was conducting research on with the assistance of my mentors Dr. Gene-Hua Crystal Ng and Dr. Cara Santelli, is called Kawe Gidda-Naanaagadawendaawin Manoomin meaning, "First we should consider manoomin." The word manoomin is derived from the Ojibwe language meaning Wild rice (*Zizania palustris*). This project has many portions to the overall big picture which is concerns of depleting manoomin populations within the Great Lakes region. Through my research essay, I formed three main

objectives. The first being to integrate indigenous traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) into scientific environmental preservation and indigenous resource sovereignty. This is key for conducting research on manoomin in the Great Lakes region. The second objective is formulating a productive project plan that is built around partnerships and relationships with tribal nations and communities. The final objective is delivering results that relate to all aspects of science and traditional ecological knowledge. This entails articulating findings or reasons behind why particular methodologies need to be conducted, in order to establish a positive relationship. This comes from all sides of the partnership - university researchers and tribal participants.

One of the many partners within this project is the Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians located in northern Wisconsin. In regards of the stated objectives, my field site was located on the Bear River that runs through the Lac Du Flambeau reservation. This is where I conducted fieldwork and extracted samples along this river. I traveled by canoe along this river to reach my sites and would extract whole sediment cores from the bottom of the river itself. After doing so I would extract the porewater to be taken back to the laboratory for testing. Porewater is the water that lies within the sediment itself. After conducting laboratory tests, the analysis was next.

Manoomin is ecologically important to the Great Lakes region and in other northeastern parts of the US. It creates habitat and nesting grounds and establishes a food source for animal species living within these ecosystems. Manoomin is also important because it is the only annual aquatic grass that is native to the U.S. This great significance means if this plant were to vanish, how would these other species thrive? How would these water systems that manoomin resides in obtain nutrients and prevent erosion? Manoomin also provides to the Indigenous peoples that are throughout this region. It is a main staple. The food source that brings together the people for ceremonies, gatherings or feasts, and the processes for harvesting. If manoomin populations are depleting not only is the ecosystems impacted but the indigenous peoples that utilize this resource.

This research experience allowed me to grow as an undergraduate in my field of study. I learned new techniques from the various methodologies presented to me. I gained more experience of what it is like to work in the field versus in the laboratory. I have also learned so much from the tribal partners that I had the privilege of working with. They really demonstrated to me what manoomin means to them through their view and voice. I will always have a place for manoomin in my heart.

I encourage all Haskell students to engage in some type of summer intern-

ship of your interest. This is where you can network, to possibly engage in more opportunities within the future. This demonstrates experience for your resume whether you present this to a future job opportunity or for a future education opportunity. Take advantage of what you wish to experience and encounter for your goals. Take that leap towards your future.





# SPOTLIGHTS

## Humans of Haskell

### JAYDA LOONSFOOT

“I am a Haskell Alumni, I graduated in 1976.”

Darla Harrison speaks in a very calm, and respectful manner. Harrison's energy is very connected with her spirituality, you can tell as soon as you are in her presence. Darla Harrison an RA, who works within the housing department, some may know her, others have seen her around, but this is her story told in her own way. Harrison talked about what initially made her want to work at Haskell, “I always wanted to work at Haskell after I graduated... I decided to put in an application at housing, and got the job.”

Harrison's parents both worked in government positions, her father for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and her mother was a nurse. Harrison described herself as what you may call a “BIA brat” equivalent

with the term “Army brat” as she recalls constant moving. During the interview, Harrison mentioned the moving was a deciding factor in settling down in Lawrence. Harrison has lived in Lawrence since 1987, two years prior to that she became sober. 34 years to be exact. She wanted to mention that she used to be an alcoholic, a chance to show she changed for the better and redefining the stereotypes. Harrison is also a breast cancer survivor, beating the genetic disease in 2002. She likes to mention before her surgery, she attended ceremony, again mentioning her spiritual roots. In addition she prefers to be called Two Spirited, and has been married to her wife since 2016.

Harrison speaks highly of Haskell, stating “the gazebo is the heart of the campus... the library is the brain.” She plans to retire from Haskell, not too soon though. She believes that the history of Haskell is highly prominent. If you ask her

from 5:00pm through 8:00pm.

October 23 - What should I know about Sexually Transmitted Infections? HIV/AIDS & Native Americans and Alaska Natives Education and Prevention. Free condom distribution from Haskell Health Center and the Haskell Counselors offices.

October 30 - Keep calm, trick-or-treat, and carry on! (No topic today).

November 6 - What is budgeting and why is it important? Applying for a credit card? How to use a credit card responsibly.

November 13 - Things I wish I knew before going to graduate school and to a bigger college. Tips for a successful transition.

November 20 - You Got This! Stress management and test-taking tips.

November 27 - Bystander Intervention. What would you do?

December 4 - I Survived the Semester. Now what? Spiritual blessings as you leave and return to your family.

for her opinion, you will understand why she puts offerings out. The atmosphere though in Osceola-Keokuk Hall is calm when she is around, she mentions “I don't really attend the campus events, because I am working, but I am fine with that... my job is to keep you all [students] safe” though she wishes she could, her main priority is the safety of the hall. The last thing she had to say was “No matter how old you get there is always something new to learn...be open to new things.”

Darla Harrison's story is one of redemption, battles within, and acceptance, she is understanding to others situations and embodies respect. Harrison is indeed a Human of Haskell.



## Tribal Climate Leaders Program

Are you interested in a graduate degree exploring how climate may impact natural and cultural resources and resilience?

The North Central Climate Adaption Science Center is seeking applications from students affiliated with the 31 federally-recognized tribes in the North Central region (ND, SD, NE, KS, MT, WY, or CO) who are interested in completing a Master's degree at the University of Colorado Boulder on a topic related to climate adaption science.

Full funding is available for a two-year Master's program for up to 5 eligible students between Fall 2020 and 2022.

More information is available at <http://nccasc.colorado.edu/>



## Dine and Learn at Curtis Hall

A 16 week educational series for students, by students, cohosted by Counseling Services.

Every Wednesday from 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Bring your tray and going us in the Rose Room at Curtis Hall

### Upcoming:

September 25 - Personal Strength for you. Custom online tools to help you overcome the challenges you face.

October 2 - What is Anxiety? What is Depression? How do I cope?

October 9 - National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Break the Cycle. Everyone deserves a healthy relationship.

October 16 - National Native American Heritage Month. Paying Tribute to our rich traditions and culture. Make-and-Take examples displayed. Your choice of Make-and-Take at Stidham Union

## Financial Aid Office Restricts Hours

The Financial Aid Office will be closed Tuesday and Thursday until further notice to process student's Pell and/or scholarship awards.

The Financial Aid Office will be open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 am to 4:00pm to provide services to our Haskell

Students. If your class schedule does not allow time for you to come by the Financial Aid Office during open office hours, please email us at [faoffice@haskell.edu](mailto:faoffice@haskell.edu) to set up an appointment.

Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

*Financial Aid Office Staff*



## Haskell Cross Country

### ALEXANDER MANYGOATS JR

With a new season, the Haskell cross country team has a fresh new mindset. From last year's conference champions for the men's team and runner up for the women's team, sophomore Dorian Daw of the Navajo Nation, stated, "It might be tougher than last year because everyone else is really determined, if there's still runners from last year they're going to be pretty tough running against too." As for his perspective on the men's team "I think the men's side is doing pretty good. The majority are pushing themselves during practice, which is good to see and there's quite a few good runners too."

On the women's side, Junior Anika Francis of the Navajo Nation said, "I'm pretty excited, I really look forward to seeing how the boys do. Last year they won conference and

this year we have a couple of new runners and I feel like our girls have gotten a lot faster, were definitely bonding a lot better. It's just positive thoughts about the upcoming season, looking forward to it. I know both team goals are to bring back conference titles and hopefully head back to nationals again."

Francis also stated about the women's team, "I feel like they're really hard workers and they're really determined to do good and I can just see at practice, them doing the best they could, putting in some good effort and that what makes me excited for the upcoming season knowing that they're motivated and willing to get things done."

The Haskell cross country team starts its season opener at Baker University.

## Haskell Softball

### SHAYLA CHICKAWAY

After ending the 2018-2019 season, the Indians have returned with a determined mindset and an optimistic outlook for the 2019-20 season. Although the season opener is quite a way out, our Fightin' Indians have begun their work on the field. The team has an overall goal of unity and, of course, winning.

With this being their last year, Seniors Sabrina Branch (Pitcher/1st base) and Kasi Lucio (Catcher/2nd base) want to win as many games as possible. Branch (Choctaw) wants to "find a good team chemistry to put on the best team in the spring." Pre-season, Lucio (Coushatta) wants to work on fundamentals and continue to build the teams' chemistry. Junior Amber Quis Quis (Comanche) (LF) wants to "come together as a team". With the incoming players, Lucio stated, "the incoming players have a good work ethic." The upperclassman are determined on having a good season and focused on building the team chemistry.

The incoming players have a similar mindset. Incoming freshman Halia Shirley (RF), Shyann Chischilly (Pitcher/SS), and Marilyn Goodman (CF) shared their thoughts on their personal goals for the team, working together, and what fans can expect from our Indians this coming season. Similar to her seniors, Halia Shirley (Navajo) wants the team "to be able to be one, unified because the key to having a good team is to be unified." Shyann Chischilly (Navajo) said: "we practice, push each other as hard as we can, and do not give up".

On what fans can expect from the team, Marilyn Goodman (Ponca) commented, "they can expect a loud, cheerful, hard-working team." Chischilly added, "the team is ready to play and we mean business." Shirley ended expecting good chemistry between the upperclassmen and incoming players.

Our Fightin' Indians will begin their season on the road. They are scheduled to play at Ottawa University at 2:00 p.m. on February 3, 2020.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### Marilyn Hale Wakolee: Indian Leader Scholarship

"Marilyn Hale Wakolee" Merit Based \$100 Scholarship for the Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 Semesters

Requirements:  
Essay Topic: Why you got involved in the Indian Leader? How could we get more students involved in the Indian Leader?

Complete a 250 word essay with the FERPA and submit it to the Financial Aid Office located in Stidham Union.

Deadline Date: Friday, 4:00pm, September 27, 2019

MLA Format, typed and double

spaced.

Must be a current or previous member of the Indian Leader.  
Cumulative GPA of 2.0 is required.

Full-Time or Part-Time Status, F'19 Semester, SP'20 Semester

Complete and return FERPA with your application.

Include a shoulder picture.

Award will be announced on Thursday, November 14, 2019

### Marilyn Hale Wakolee: Indian Leader Scholarship

"There Wright-Plank and Tyler Levier" Merit Based Scholarship (1) \$500 Scholarship for the Fall 2019 semester

Requirements:  
Accepted in the 4 year School of Business program.

Prefer a non-traditional student 25 years of age or older.

Cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required.

Full-Time or Part-Time Status, F'19 Semester

Complete and return FERPA with your application.

Include a shoulder picture.

Complete a 250 word essay about you with a completed FERPA and submit it to the Financial Aid Office in Stidham Union.

Deadline Date: Friday, 4:00pm, September 27, 2019

MLA Format, typed and double spaced.





## Horoscopes

JOE SINGH

### Aquarius

(Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Stay focused. The summer is sizzling down, but that does not mean you have too. Make a plan for fall and execute it with continued vigor. Keep your eyes open for unlikely friends.

### Pisces

(Feb 19 - Mar 20)

Your life is amazing! Remember to be grateful for all the good things happening to you. Be humble and meek. You are a true powerhouse this month Pisces. Be yourself. You will be a rock star.

### Aries

(Mar 21 – Apr 19)

Things may seem difficult now Aries, but persist. The situation will get easier. Reach out to family often, as they are your greatest support. Leave the past behind and focus on the brighter future.

### Taurus

(Apr 20 - - May 20)

Have fun, but BE SAFE Taurus! You are a rowdy bunch. Be smart, aware, and conscious. If something seems like a bad idea, it is! Avoid the temptations and you will find success.

### Gemini

(May 21 – June 20)

Relax Gemini. You are doing great. Settle into new routines and embrace a fresh schedule. Open up to new people and you will find someone special to spend the winter with.

### Cancer

(June 21 – July 22)

This is a time of prosperity for Cancer. You have achieved much. Remember the teachings along the way. Your life is about to better than you could ever imagine! Keep it up Cancer. We are all proud of you!

### Leo

(July 23 – Aug 22)

Leos, you are older and wiser. We expect you to act your age. Believe in yourself. Your sixth sense is heightened. Trust your gut. You are right. Exercise control and quiet dignity and you will be surprised by what you see.

### Virgo

(Aug 23 – Sept 22)

Times seem tough and they are. Do not give up. Do not lose hope. This too shall pass. Accept help when it is given. None of us do this life alone. Smile when you do not feel like it. You will be alright soon.

### Libra

(Sept 23 – Oct 22)

Take a walk. Enjoy the season. Life is beautiful and you know it. Do not be afraid to give or receive credit. Your energy is contagious. We love you Libra! Keep on shining!

### Scorpio

(Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Work hard before the holidays. There is much work to do. You will be happier if you prioritize and get big projects out of the way. Devote your energy to what you should and leave everything else to the universe.

### Sagittarius

(Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Hello daydreamers. Wake up Sagittarius! A great season is at hand and the time to act is now. Get organized and you will sleep better.

### Capricorn

(Dec 22 – Jan 19)

You are struggling Capricorns. Consequences of your actions weigh heavily on you. Forgive yourself. Time heals all. You can find peace with someone you are not talking to at the moment. Look to Pisces for guidance.

\*For entertainment purpose only

## Trying to Be More at the Comedy Store

JOE SINGH

I was beyond exhausted, but I had jokes I wanted to tell. I had traveled thirty-six hours from Lawrence, Kansas to Los Angeles, California. Aboard the Southwest Chief, we made stops in New Mexico, Arizona, and California. The ride was beautiful, but the duration was difficult. The train does not stop anywhere long enough to venture out, clean up, or have a lay down. The voyage was not grueling, but it was challenging. At last I arrived at the Los Angeles Union Station. I had arranged for my cousins to pick me up at the terminal. I would be staying on their couch for a few days as well. When we got to their house it was dark. I was exhausted. I visited with the family for a while and then everybody went to bed. The travel funk was still fresh on me. I was wired, I was free, I was loose on the city of angels, and I was a twenty dollar Uber ride away from Hollywood.

Located on the legendary Sunset Strip, The Comedy Store in Hollywood is an iconic staple of the

performing world. Many famous performers have graced those stages; Sam Kinnison, Richard Pryor, Rodney Dangerfield, Joe Rogan, Theo Von, and Dave Chappelle to name very few. I have always thought about trying my talents at this location. Through my travels, I often listen to stand-up and stories from this spot. It holds a mythical place in my mind.

I seized the day. In a haze and an Uber, I took to the streets of Hollywood. I was hypnotized and enthused by the large digital billboards. Posters for upcoming films were stuck to the sides of buildings. Leonardo Di Caprio stared at me like a frozen giant. His expression, so large, invited me to partake in my fantasies. I had my joke book and I was ready to see the territory. At around 12:20 AM we arrived at The Comedy store. I walked in. I paid no admission. I found the nearest stage and took a seat. Annie Lederman was performing. She is a young and beautiful comic. Next on stage was Punkie Johnson. I was not impressed with their jokes. I sat, I watched, and I learned. I saw stage technique that was honed. Their crowd work was next level. I could see why they were on stage,

but in my heart I knew I could do better than them. I enjoyed the shows and the atmosphere. In the darkness bursts of laughter exploded like land mines. I felt comfortable and in my element. I was glad I had not stayed in.

I did not perform that night, but I gained vital information. Their open mic was on Mondays. It was set up like a raffle. Anyone could sign up, but only fifteen comics got picked randomly to go on stage that night. This was my opportunity. I told some of my family I was going, but that I expected around fifty comics to sign up. The odds would be against me getting on stage. The odds were worse than that. I arrived to The Comedy Store early and was told to expect a zoo of talent. What was told to me was true. At the time of open mic sign up, I estimated around three hundred comics waiting for their chance to grace the stage of the “Store”. I took advantage of my time. I talked to people and networked. In the midst of the fray I saw three of my cousins and my dear Aunty. They had come to support me. I did not think they would. Nobody had ever cared about what I did before, but there they were. I was moved

by their presence. I greeted and hugged them. They wished me luck. They stood by me as the random names for that night’s lineup were read. I was not chosen. I was proud of myself for taking the initiative. Even though I would not perform on The Comedy Store stage that night, I knew the procedure and I had made contacts. As a comedian, I still had a tight 3 minute set that was ready to go. I had to get it out of me. I found another open mic at a bar called The Cinema. I went, I performed, and I killed.

I have had a glimpse into what it takes to be a successful comedian in Hollywood. I think I have what it takes. I am currently working on new material and refining existing acts. I remember what I saw that first night at The Comedy store. I will implement what I observed. I will be ready for the next time my character, Joe Mega, is on the Sunset Strip. Please strive and try to achieve your dreams. I encourage you to put yourself out there, create your own opportunities, and seize the day.

## Stories of the Supernatural

JOE SINGH

### Rumors of Osceola-Keokuk Hall

*These tales are taken from personal accounts, witness testimony, and convincing retellings. Any likeness is coincidental. For entertainment purposes only. Reader discretion is advised.*

Showers running with nobody in the stall, Shadows that dart around corners, and childlike laughter in the late hours of the night; these are but a few examples of the rumors of Osceola-Keokuk Hall. The history of the Haskell campus is peppered with true tragedy. Unrest can be felt at times. OK Hall has its share of stories and rumors. Some say OK Hall is built on top of the original cemetery on campus. Others tell a tale of a friendly staff member who, though deceased, continues to serve the campus. Secretly, some whisper of a door that leads to the dorm of a devilish entity.

Before OK Hall was built, the land was home to a cemetery that held the bodies of deceased Indigenous children. These children were taken from their homes and forced to assimilate into American culture. Their hair was cut and their language was banned. Many fell ill and died on this land in Lawrence, Kansas. The rumor is around the 1950's the land where the original cemetery was located was selected to be the site of the building now known as OK Hall. The company commissioned to exhume the bodies and relocate them were corrupt. They cut corners. Old ones say that only the headstones were moved to their current location, but the remains of the deceased were left in the earth. The ground was flattened and foundation was laid over the bodies of the first generations of Haskell. Nobody asked questions and only whispers of the incompetent job remain.

In the 1980's a male resident adviser was staying upstairs in the current OK Hall building. The student employee had his five year old son with him. In the middle of the day the boy would ride his three-wheeled plastic vehicle through the halls of the building. The narrow hallways made a miniature Talladega for the tot. One day the resident advisor was in his room with the door propped open. The man could hear his young son wheeling through the halls as usual. As he worked, he noticed his go abnormally fast passed the door. He heard his son's squealing laughter as he accelerated. The man stared out the door as he watched his son push himself backward toward the end of the hallway. The boy bore a wide grin. It was then that the man witnessed his son speed past the door with a force

no child could generate on its own. He stood up and walked outside the door. He looked down the hallway at his son who was now giggling hard and pushing himself back to his starting point. "Are you alright?" The man asked his son. "I'm just playing with the old janitor man" replied the boy as he gestured to the end of the hall where he had been starting. "Oh! The old man is gone now! He probably had to go back to work" exclaimed the boy in disappointment. A beloved member of the Haskell custodial team had died two weeks prior to this occurrence. The deceased is described as being an elderly man with a ring of white hair around his head. It is said he was fond of wearing a one-piece mechanic jumpsuit.

In the mid 90's something dark and diabolical is rumored to have taken place in an unnamed room. In the witching hour of the night a large male student ran into the staff office downstairs. The student was wearing only his boxing shorts. He was sweating, panting, and visibly upset. The resident adviser asked what was going on. The student said he was sleeping in his bed when he saw something in the corner of his room. It was on the ceiling near the door. It was watching and taunting him. The thing hung darker than the night and appeared to be smiling at the young man. The student began to shout and yell for it to leave to which the shadow creature only grinned wider. The student began to hurl objects in its direction; shoes, books, clothes, and anything else within arm's reach. The boy mustered up the strength and courage to run at the door and leave in haste. He ran without looking back to office where he was catching his breath. The resident adviser called for back-up. Together, the student and two staff members went back to the room. The decision was made to move the boy into a vacant room that night. They accompanied him to investigate the room and to help the student gather his belongings. Upon entering the dorm, the door did not fully open because of miscellaneous objects strewn across the linoleum floor. The room showed signs of panic. It reeked of sweat and fear. On the inside of the wood door, a grinning face dorm hell looked at the bunch. It was as if the door was made that way. The face was ingrained in the natural designs of the wood. The student gathered his belongings and moved into another room. The anonymous room was closed off. Sage was burned. Cleaning rituals were done. The door was taken off its hinges and thrown away.

On the day the new door came, a custodial member went to install it. Coinci-

dentally, one of the staff members that had worked the night of the dark encounter was present. The custodial staff came to the office soon after finishing the door mount. His eyes were wide and his complexion pale. "You have got to see this" he said in a whisper. The two men went to dorm room. They entered. The room was clean. It smelled fresh. The resident adviser asked what the problem was. The custodial staff member closed the door. On the inside of the door, the new door, was a face. The face was grinning at the men. The resident adviser recognized it. The dorm room was kept empty for years.

As the story goes, on a desperate occasion a decade later the room was opened. Amidst protests to keep it closed, the occupancy for the campus had been reached and there was no other choice. A student was put into the forbidden room. The student resident adviser had now become a salaried staff member. He personally oversaw this occupancy. The student put in the room was an artist. He was an Indigenous youth with true talent and a flare for gothic fashion. Though his look was dark, his demeanor was respectful and polite. After a few weeks the old resident adviser asked the student how the room was working out. The student arched his eyebrows suspiciously and grimaced. "Why do you want to know" he sneered. The student became more reclusive. His demeanor had changed. His artwork was gaining attention. They say he graduated Haskell and went on to become a very successful comic book artist. The room has not had an incident or occurrence since. Maybe he took whatever was in that room with him.

Fear not friends. These are simply tales and rumors. Sleep well.

*If you or someone you know has had a paranormal, supernatural, or preternatural experience at Haskell Indian Nations University and would like to share your story please contact Joe Singh at joseph.singh@haskell.edu*

## Good Monster Book Review

TIM GRAY

### *At the Mountain's Base*

Written by Traci Sorell

Illustrated by Weshoyot Alvitre

Ages 4-8

Penguin Publishing

This book is a poem about a family that waits for their female family member to return from war. It attempts to capture the indigenous feel of this group and the glory of serving in the armed forces. I did not like this book.

Without reading the cover flaps one would never know this family is Cherokee. This poem is beautiful, but to try and extrapolate some kind of cohesive story is challenging. I did not understand the relationships of the family members, who happen to be all female. Nonetheless, I admire how it does try to pay homage to Indigenous women pilots.

The illustration is nice. Thick, black lines outline everything. The drawings are intricate and detailed. The use of color is light and powdery. Some pages are panels and it is apparent Alvitre is a comic book artist and illustrator.

Overall, I would say this book is boring and confusing. Though, I applaud the messages attempted by this book. For a child this book is fine. It leaves much to be expounded upon and could lead to a great parent and child conversation about culture and life. I do not see this being any child's favorite book. It is a beautiful poem and the artwork is interesting, but together they take away from each other and leave the reader feeling lost.

*Editor's Note: An advance copy of At the Mountain's Base was provided to the Indian Leader free of charge for review.*