



BEING NATIVE. BEING KANSAN.

With deep roots in the state, Native cultures continue to thrive.



PHOTOGRAPH Jason Dailey

BEING BEING (BEING

Traveling through the rolling, sweeping Konza Prairies, I often see Native Americans on horseback, galloping across a herd of buffalo. Part of experiencing this state is appreciating its history. Today, in the new year, young Native Americans are creating new narratives. Native Americans are embarking on a modern-day journey of entrepreneurship, education, ability, and self-expression powered by resilience and perseverance. They are sharing their voices with confidence and grace, continuing their stories.

In the pages of this special issue, young Native leaders in contemporary media and the mouth-watering frybread stories are told from Native perspectives. Abilities to embrace cultural traditions, living separated from tribal lands in Kansas, these leaders are creating a new narrative and providing generations to follow. It is an honor to be being Native, being young, and being here.

—Lori Hasselman

Lori Hasselman. (Being Young.)
Lori Hasselman is the editor of the student newspaper at Indian Nations University.

...time on her grandmother's
...avajo reservation, Analyss
...ally picked up some of her
...ditions—such as hoops.
...re I'm from, everyone plays
...all growing up. We played every
...d, but nobody ever talked about
...g college ball," says Benally.
...ow they are.

This past year, the 5'9" point guard from
...hita Heights High School in Park City has
...ned a letter of intent to play for San Jose
...ate Spartans, an NCAA Division I team.

Benally credits her family for much of
her success. "My parents always pushed me
to do better and to reach my full potential
in all that I did. I loved to watch my sister
play when I was younger," says Benally.
"I watched her receive a scholarship for
basketball to a NAIA school, I told myself, 'If
she could do it, then so could I.'"

Benally also had two Native role models
for her college career: former University of
Louisville standout Jude Schimmel and her
sister, Shoni Schimmel, who now plays in
the WNBA.

"I realized that as a Native American
going into the next level, I could inspire
more kids," says Benally. "And that made me
work even harder and want my story to get
out there for others, just like the Schimmel
sisters did for me."

The young athlete is already a role
model for the next generation of Native
basketball players.

She's a leader by example. She spends
time in the gym, and when others see
her follow her lead," says Benally's
high school coach, Kip Pulliam. "When
she gets on the basket, the team knows she can
shoot. When she's got the ball,
everyone knows it's going in."

Follow your dreams, believe in yourself,
and listen to other people's stories;
that's the key," says Benally. "Through
my experiences, because they are
there to pick you back up
when you've been let down."

—Raquel Butler



ANALYSS B Rising basketball star |

"MY DAD TOLD ME THAT WHAT I'M FROM CAN'T BE SOMEONE THAT STOPS ME FROM FOLLOWING MY DREAMS."



FINAL FIVE POWWOWS

Isaiah Stewart, a Kansas State University student, is a circuit host/judge, providing a behind-the-scenes look at these events.

AIHREA O.N.E. POWWOW

May TBA | Johnson County Community College

This annual event is marking its 10th anniversary and features guest performers and its superb host. Grand Entries will be held three times a day, and you'll see some of the Midwest's most talented dancers.

PRAIRIE BAND POTAWATOMI POWWOW

TBA June | Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

This event is full of championship dancers who arrive from as far as Canada to compete. The event schedule is packed full, running from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. in the first or second week of June.

WASHUNGA DAYS POWWOW

June 18-19 | Council Grove, Mo. | Mark

Tribal Chair, Elaine Hubert, says attendees to watch for are the celebration of the Kayahwahnee citizens make the event a central Kansas from the 1800s and elsewhere to be a part of this exciting celebration. The event is a celebration of the cultural heritage in the area and also come to honor the people who have lived here. The event exists today between the people of the area and the people of the world. The event is a celebration of the people of good people—Native Americans and non-Native alike. The event is a celebration of the people and continually strengthens the important cross-cultural relationships. —Isaiah Stewart writes on the event website.

HASKELL INDIAN NATIONS UNIVERSITY

September 9-10 | Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence

This is a unique powwow and one of the nation's top authentic powwows. You can purchase jewelry, pottery, paintings and sculptures from local artists and enjoy the regular, free dance performances.

—Isaiah Stewart/KANSAS! Staff



PHOTOGRAPHS Mark and Tree Mangon

SHANNON HAWKINS

Sorority Pioneer | Inupiat

For many college students and grads, the Greek system of fraternities and sororities offers community and lifelong friendships. But the Greek system has not really been a part of Native college traditions. This was something that Shannon Hawkins learned when she left her home in Alaska to begin studies in Kansas at Haskell Indian Nations University.

Here, Hawkins joined the Alaskan Club, an association of students from Native nations of that region. It offered fellowship and more. "It was also important for me to be part of teaching others about my culture as well as learning from others," says Hawkins.

But it was not long before Hawkins became friends with some fraternity brothers from Phi Sigma Nu, the only Greek group on campus at the time. These connections spurred her to explore starting a campus sorority.

Hawkins initially thought to reestablish a dormant sorority before deciding on Gamma Delta Pi, one of only three all-Native-American sororities in the United States. After reaching out to one of the five original sorority members and completing the application, Hawkins won approval for her new chapter and began the pledge process in May 2015 with nine student members.

"It was harder than we all expected," recalls Hawkins, who is now in her junior year. "Trying to organize something from scratch, even though we had a foundation, we still needed to establish connections and partnerships with the different organizations we wanted to work with."

Still involved with the Alaskan Club, Hawkins has helped the Gamma Delta Pi Haskell chapter grow to 19 members. She is also working to reestablish participation in the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, where students compete in a variety of extracurricular categories.

"STARTING A CHAPTER ANYWHERE IS NOT EASY."



FROM NATIVE CONNECTIONS

SAC & FOX NATION OF MISSOURI

The Sac and Fox (Mesquakie) were a Native American tribe who formed an alliance in the 17th century. They were located in the Great Lakes region before being forced into Kansas in 1837. They now reside in Brown County, Kansas, with the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri.

KAW NATION | kawnation.com

Originally the Kaw, or Kansa, they were located in Council Grove, but they were forced to relocate by the federal government. The Kaw have an annual powwow and a marked historical site where they lived in Council Grove. Their traditional language is Shawnee.

IOWA TRIBE OF KANSAS

The Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska were one of the largest tribes in the Plains region. They were located in the Great Lakes region before being forced into Kansas in 1836. They now reside in the reservation in Brown County, Kansas, and Richardson County, Nebraska. Their official headquarters is in Sunflower State Park. The community of White Cloud is located on the four-state border of Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Missouri and Iowa.

KICKAPOO NATION

The Kickapoo Nation is a Native American tribe with roots in Ohio and Michigan before being forced to relocate to Kansas in the 1830s. The Kickapoo Nation in Kansas is located in Horton, Kansas, and continues to have a strong presence in the community.

PRAIRIE BAND POTAWATOMI NATION

Though they are not a traditional tribe, the Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation is a recognized tribe in Jackson County, this nation originally resided in the Great Lakes region. The Potawatomi were forced into Kansas in the 1830s and continues to live on diminished reserves.

—Suzanne Heck

Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri



Kaw Nation



Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF Kansas Historical Society

SHANE WILSON Civic leader | Shawnee

This summer marks Shane Wilson's first year of volunteering with the American Indian Center of Kansas Leadership Academy, a leadership exercise for rising leaders using a mock government as a tool to develop leadership skills, promote mutual respect, and shape identity. Wilson began his involvement in the program as a participant from Abilene in 2006 and was immediately hooked on the education about government.

"I really didn't have a grasp on the importance of having my voice heard and how I could contribute to the issues my family faced into a political arena," says Wilson. "Boys State changed all that for me because I had the capacity to strive for change through collaborative success, I also had the responsibility to make it happen—not just for myself, but for the benefit of my community."

At Boys State his first year, Wilson served as a Supreme Court justice. He returned nearly every year after as a volunteer counselor and served as a program coordinator for the last three years.

Wilson says the experience is invaluable, particularly for Native youth with few opportunities.

"Boys State provides all people, regardless of background, the opportunity to challenge themselves, make critical decisions, and realize their dreams. It's a chance to find out who they are as individuals and as a community."

Wilson firmly believes that his work with the Kansas Boys State is the best way to educate Native youth on the importance of being involved in the political process. "It is a big responsibility to our communities and to be engaged in the process at the tribal government level or the state level. Election. Leadership is action, and it's about addressing our issues as tribal people are being heard."

That leadership experience is essential to expand the base of political participation in our communities. According to the 2014 Census, only 1 percent of Native Americans are represented by someone on the federal level, a group in Congress.

But Wilson notes that the experience is also an opportunity to develop leadership skills and a sense of community.

"For many state leaders, it's a chance to discover your own opinion and to be part of something that's hard to come by."

—Derek Ziegler

"IT DOESN'T TAKE A POLITICIAN TO EFFECT CHANGE—IT TAKES INDIVIDUALS WHO CAN BE EFFECTIVE AND HAVE A PURPOSE."

LEE MEISEL

Butcher and Owner of Kwik's Sausage Making Rock Sioux | 32

It's a Sunday and Kwik's Sausage Making Rock Sioux is closed, but owner Lee Meisel arrives at his home in Rock Sioux to make his own sausage using the recipes his father passed down to him on the reservation in North Dakota. For Meisel, his food is a blend of traditional Native American and American heritage. "Hot dogs evolved from good ones from your childhood at a cookout. It's a lot of memories for me, especially around people, especially around my family. It's that traditional Americana aspect to it."

Many of the menu items at Kwik's reflect Meisel's childhood where family recipes like sausage sandwiches and fried bologna were staples. His grandfather, a rancher, as well as his father, a migrant. Meisel first learned to prepare food from his grandfather. Native cultural influences heavily influence the whole animal in the butchering process.

But Meisel's path to owning Kwik's was anything but direct. Reservation life was not for Meisel, who, as a restless teen, eventually dropped out, then eventually landed at Southwestern Nations University.

His plans were still up in the air. Though he had a business degree, he wasn't ready about owning his own business—something that is still rare for Natives in Kansas. In fact, according to the latest Small Business Administration survey, Native Americans make up less than 1 percent of Kansas business owners. But Meisel was determined of breaking this trend after entering the workforce. "I started to see the way businesses were run and there were things I thought I could do better. I consider improving," recalls Meisel. "I bet you I could do it and I bet you I could do it better."

In 2015, Meisel and his wife, Kelli, opened Kwik's by the initial "K.," opened in Rock Sioux. The couple has put their heart and soul into the shop, which specializes in traditional local-sourced meats. They plan to continue to take the risk with their business.

"Go for it," says Meisel. "It's not just for Native Americans can start their own businesses. There are people who are willing to take the risk. And Meisel, now a successful restaurateur, is a testament to that."

**OF INDIAN STEREOTYPES
DIVERGENT AND DRIVEN.
FROM THOSE OLD
STORIES TO THE ART ON NEW ONES."**



FIVE NATIVES TO KNOW FROM MODERN KANSAS HISTORY

WALTER RICHARD "DICK" WEST (SOUTHERN Artist and Educator (1912–1996)

Dick West was a renowned artist who received numerous awards for his work, primarily pictorial narrative. His art appears at the National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC), the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Tulsa), the Oklahoma City Center (New York City), to name a few. He attended the University of Oklahoma for his high school years and taught art at Haskell Indian Institute from 1970–1977. From 1979–1980, West served on the National Council for the Federally Appointed Arts and Crafts Board. His work should not be confused with the Indian arts and crafts movement.

CURTIS (KAW NATION) of the United States

Curtis was born in 1894 in Lawrence, Kansas. He attended Topeka High School and graduated in 1912. He served six terms and served as a running mate for Herbert Hoover as a running mate in the 1929–1933. In his political life, he was one of the first legislators to support women and fought for the rights of Native Americans.

BILLY MILLS (SOUTHERN Olympic Athlete

Billy Mills won the 10,000 meter run at the 1964 Olympics. He is described by sports historians as one of the greatest runners in the world. He was born on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. He graduated in 1957. He became a member of the University of Kansas before graduating. He won a gold medal at the Olympic triumph, Mills went on to become a coach and helped found the Running of the Bulls. He is dedicated to promoting American Indian athletic history. He is a member of the American Indian Athletic Hall of Fame and visits Kansas often.

CHARLES A. "TONY" COFFIN (SOUTHERN Athletic Director (1916–1966)

Tony Coffin was the athletic director at Haskell Indian Institute from 1945. He was a coach in 1945, and then became the athletic director, coaching Billy Mills. Haskell Indian Institute honored Coffin posthumously. They named their new sports complex after him. Coffin received a degree from the University of Oklahoma.

CHARLES J. CHAPUT (PRAIRIE BAND Religious Leader (born 1944)

Charles J. Chaput, Archbishop of Denver, was named American Archbishop of Denver in September 2015 when he hosted Pope Francis in Concordia and enrolled by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. He wanted to become a priest after attending St. Francis School in Concordia and St. Francis School in Denver. He is a member of the Heck family.

RIC
Artist | Pa | 25

Born and raised in Kansas, Dunwoody grew up with the artistic influence of his Pawnee grandfather. Artist Baptiste Bayhulle Shunatonay Dunwoody says his grandfather's art was a key influence on him and inspired him to tell his own narratives through his art, including his work on Native Americans.

For example, Dunwoody's *Future's Past* depicts a Native American on horseback analyzing a landscape of modern-day Kansas. Another piece, *Toke*, displays a Native American man standing on the Arkansas River against the backdrop of a modern city skyline.

This visual juxtaposition is also reflected in Dunwoody's choice of themes.

"Sometimes I like to keep it light, but I'll focus on more serious matters like alcoholism, and drug abuse."

The questions that Dunwoody asks are also part of the conversation in the Native communities, and he's interested in the work of other artists he admires, such as Bunka Mui.

"His subject matter of his art is a great influence to me. I think of it as modern with a twist," says Dunwoody of his Pawnee heritage.

Ultimately, Dunwoody hopes his work will raise awareness of the role a Native artist can play in the modern world.

"Being a Native modern painter creates overlooked views in life and society," says Dunwoody. "As a Native artist, I would say to not be afraid to share your work. There are many ways to look at being a Native-American."



CREATE PIECES THAT KINDLE VIEWERS TO RETHINK WHAT THEY MIGHT NOT HAVE HEARD OF.

BEING NATIVE.

TIPS FOR RESPONDING TO NATIVE TOURISM

Being a guest at a Native-American event can be exciting and educational. But there is protocol for attending Native events in the age of the ubiquitous smartphone. Here are some guidelines to honor yourself and your host.

SOMETIMES, NEVER IS ENOUGH.

Keep in mind, some Native Americans simply do not want to be photographed. The famous Lakota warrior Crazy Horse, for example, was said never to have been photographed. Not everyone will feel this way, but it's always important to ask before snapping away.

SACRED TIMES

Photographing might be particularly sensitive during religious ceremonies, including some dances performed at powwows. Usually, an announcement is made, and you should refrain from photographing a particular dance or person. If you can always ask if you are in doubt.

SACRED SPACES

Native-American sites in Kansas are available to the public, from the Shawnee Indian Mission to El Cuartelejo. Some sites, like Haskell Indian Nations University, are also schools. Just use common sense when taking photos. At Haskell there is a cemetery for young people who died at the school, and while it is picturesque, it is also a somber memorial. The world has seen too many photos of people at memorials such as Auschwitz or the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin—there's no reason to add more.

TOUCH TOURISM

Eagle feathers, fans and other ceremonial items are sacred. Please do not touch some items without asking permission. Never take anything home without asking as well.

TRIBAL LANDS

Remember, when you attend an event on tribal land, you are effectively on another nation's territory. Tribal laws do not apply to non-Native visitors. Always ask for permission and respect are always appreciated.

Rhonda LeValdo

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