**Maximillian T. Frye**

Wichita and Affiliated Tribes

Chairman, Wichita Tribe Industrial Development Commission

Department of Geography, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, University of Georgia

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**EDUCATION**

2027 *M.A. Geography*, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, University of Georgia (Athens, GA) [*In Progress*]

2023 *B.B.A. Marketing & International Business Co-Major; Minor in Geography; Certificate in Personal and Organizational Leadership,* Terry College of Business, University of Georgia (Athens, GA) [*Cum Laude*]

2022 *Franklin Maymester in Tanzania*, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, University of Georgia (Moshi, Karatu, Ngorongoro, Serengeti, and Paje, Tanzania)

*Relevant Coursework*

Athens Urban Food Collective (GEOG4890S), Geography of Food Commodities (GEOG3660), International Strategic Management (MGMT 5560), Marketing Strategy and Decision Making (MARK4900), Organizational Leadership (ILAD5100S), Nation-Owned Enterprises (Law 631D: Module 6), Citizen Entrepreneurship (Law 631D: Module 7)

**CONTINUING EDUCATION**

2025 *Leading Tribal Nations*, Executive Education, Harvard Business School, Harvard University (Cambridge, MA)

2025 *Nation-Owned Enterprises & Citizen Entrepreneurship*, Rebuilding Native Nations, Native Nations Institute, University of Arizona (Tucson, AZ)

**RESEARCH**

*Areas of Interest*

Cultural Revitalization, Food Sovereignty, Indigenous Geographies, Intersections of Business and Culture, Native American Ethnobotany, New England Tribes, Southeastern & Southern Plains Tribes, Tribal Economic Development, Tribal Enterprise & Governance, Traditional Agriculture

*Research Experience*

2025 Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Geography, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, University of Georgia

2023 Research & Outreach Lead, “Colquitt County School District Cultural Competency Training”, Supervised by Dr. Donald Addison II, Institute of Leadership Advancement, Terry College of Business, University of Georgia, October 2022 – April 2023

Designed questionnaires for students’ parents, conducted focus groups of students, faculty, and staff, wrote a comprehensive manual for improving relationships between school officials and students of immigrant backgrounds based on our collected data, and sought input from the Asian-American and Latin-American communities on our research.

*Research Presentations & Written Materials*

2023 Undergraduate Capstone Project; **Frye, M.**, Dent, A., Laufer, J., Cook, D., Heng, A., “Triangle X Bicycle Company: Performance Review”, Supervised by Dr. Son Lam, University of Georgia

2023 Applied Research Project; **Frye, M.**, Fick, B., Beal, D., Puente, M., Blake, J., Deatrick, J., Poindexter, E., “UPS Drone Operations in Nigeria”, United Parcel Service

2023 Applied Research Project; Dino, A., **Frye, M.**, McClintock, M., Moore, G., Tardy, J., “Colquitt County School District Cultural Competency Training”, Colquitt County School District

**SELECT GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & SCHOLARSHIPS**

2025 *Graduate Cobell Scholarship*, The Cobell Scholarship Fund

Cobell Scholarship offers are merit-based following a lengthy application and referral process. The Cobell Scholars' mission is to provide elevated opportunities for high achieving, community involved Native college students with leadership experience through empowering them with an impactful scholarship experience designed to support their success in higher education. ($12,500)

2025 – 2027 *Osborne Graduate Fellowship,* Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, University of Georgia

The purpose of this fellowship is to support outstanding students who are underrepresented in their fields. Recipients are selected through a competitive process, and fellowships are awarded only to the University’s most qualified individuals to support them in their graduate study. ($28,000)

2019 – 2023 *The Gates Scholarship*

Highly selective, last-dollar scholarship for undergraduate students. Only 300 students were selected out of 33,000 applicants in my year. ($50,000)

**HONORS & AWARDS**

*Personal*

2025 *Graduate Cobell Scholarship*, The Cobell Scholarship Fund($12,500)

2025 *2025* *NAFOA Leadership Summit Class*, Native American Finance Officers Association

2025 *Osborne Graduate Fellowship*, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, University of Georgia ($28,000)

2023 *Volunteer of the Year*, Multicultural Services and Programs, Student Affairs, University of Georgia

2023 *Student of the Month (April)*, Education Services Department, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes

2022 *Wichita and Affiliated Tribes Study Abroad Scholarship*, Education Services Department, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes ($2,000)

2022 *Foundation Incentive for Central America, South America, and Africa Scholarship*, UGA Office of Global Engagement, University of Georgia ($3,000)

2022 *Leadership Fellow*, Institute of Leadership Advancement, Terry College of Business, University of Georgia

2019 – 2020 *Wichita and Affiliated Tribes Higher Education Scholarship*, Education Services Department, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes ($4,400)

2019 – 2023 *The Gates Scholarship* ($50,000)

2019 – 2023 *Zell Miller Scholarship* ($41,000)

*Organizational*

2023 *Most Improved Organization*, Multicultural Services and Programs, Student Affairs, University of Georgia – Native American Student Association, University of Georgia

2023 *Student Activity Fee Allocation*, All-Campus Allocations Committee, University of Georgia – Native American Student Association, University of Georgia ($1800)

2022 *Gable Funds*, Office of the Carl and Sally Gable Distinguished Professor of History, Department of History, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, University of Georgia – *Native American Heritage Month Kickoff*, Native American Student Association, University of Georgia ($3600)

2021 – 2022 *Vice President for Student Affairs* *Diversity Fund*, Student Affairs, University of Georgia – *Various Events*, Native American Student Association, University of Georgia ($900)

**CONSULTING EXPERIENCE**

2024 Sugar Creek Casinos (Hinton, OK)

*Focus:* Analyzed 1,100+ pages of financial data to identify key inefficiencies and optimize revenue for a Tribally-owned casino with $300M+ in coin-in. Conducted interviews and assessed executive practices, uncovering areas for performance improvement and potential non-compliance.

*Outcome:* Identified a $5.5M revenue gap and operational inefficiencies, with recommendations projected to improve revenue by up to $10M. Findings led to significant organizational changes, including a management restructuring.

2024 Wichita and Affiliated Tribes Executive Committee (Anadarko, OK)

*Focus*: Conducted comprehensive genealogical research to identify the closest living relatives of Wichita children disinterred from Carlisle Indian School. Utilized historical records, tribal census data, and digital archives to trace lineage connections.

*Outcome*: Delivered a report to the Wichita Executive Committee listing closest living relatives identifiable in public records.

2022 – 2023 Colquitt County School District (Moultrie, GA)

*Focus:* Conducted focus group research on challenges faced by immigrant student populations; developed training materials for cultural responsiveness.

*Outcome:* Comprehensive training manual implemented district-wide, enhancing teacher preparedness and cultural understanding.

**POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS**

*Wichita Tribe Industrial Development Commission*, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Anadarko, OK)

The Wichita Tribe Industrial Development Commission is charged with advancing economic development, including oversight of our $70M government contracting enterprise. All initiatives are governed under a common-jurisdiction structure, with each appointed Commissioner holding equal voting authority. The Commission collectively pursues goals outlined in its charter: promoting employment opportunities for Tribal citizens and residents, generating Tribal revenue to support public services, attracting private enterprise to the Tribal jurisdiction (Caddo County, Oklahoma), and expanding the Tribal land base through strategic acquisitions.

2025 – 2028 Chairman

Presiding over all Wichita Tribe Industrial Development Commission meetings, leading strategic discussions and decision-making processes regarding Tribal economic initiatives, and representing the Commission in governmental meetings. Presenting to the public at the Tribe’s Quarterly Public Meetings, General Council Meetings, and others to report on Commission activities and long-term planning. Also, successfully negotiated a 125% increase in the annual disbursement from the Commission’s government contracting enterprise.

2024 – 2025 Commissioner

Collaborated with fellow Commissioners in evaluating and voting on all economic development initiatives. Provided strategic input on enterprise growth, development, and capital allocation. Authored the *WTIDC Strategy Outline*, the Commission’s guiding strategy document for enterprise development, targeted reorganization, and land acquisition.

**TEACHING**

*Curriculum & Academic Program Development*

2024 – 2025 Co-developer, *Proposed UGA Domestic Field Study Program on Tribal Enterprises, Governance, and Programs*, University of Georgia [*Expected May 2026*]

Collaborating with the University of Georgia's Institute of Native American Studies to develop a domestic field study course introducing students to Tribal enterprises, governance, and programs through a driving tour from Georgia to Oklahoma.

Assisting with course structure and course offerings, itinerary planning and program budgeting, as well as interdisciplinary coordination alongside faculty and administrative staff.

2023 Student Curriculum Developer, Athens Urban Food Collective (GEOG4890S), University of Georgia

Contributed to the development of a college-level curriculum on oyster farming, collaborating with classmates to design key units covering policy, aquaculture techniques, oyster biology, and the history of the U.S. oyster industry.

*Guest Lectures*

2023 *NAGPRA & Tribal Identity*, NAGPRA & the US (NAMS 3000), University of Georgia

Described the nuance of the federal-recognition of Tribal Nations in the United States and the inherently political nature of recognition. Further described the challenges to the implementation of federal policy such as NAGPRA that uneven recognition presents.

*Mentoring*

2020 Mentor for Ruth Bellevue, Prospective college student

Current Status: Alumnus of Vanderbilt University holding B.S. in Human and Organizational Development

2020 Mentor for Alexis Garcia, Prospective college student

Current Status: 5th year undergraduate student at Florida Gulf Coast University

**SELECT ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP**

2025 Co-Founder, Gates Alumni Indigenous Network, The Gates Scholarship

Organizing and building a community-led network of Native American Gates Scholars. Our mission is to connect Indigenous Gates Scholarship recipients across all cohorts, regions, and fields to foster mentorship, share professional opportunities, celebrate cultural knowledge, and build a powerful, intergenerational network of Indigenous excellence.

2022 – 2025 Primary Organizer & Co-Founder, Southern Indigenous Student Coalition

Working on bringing the Native American student organizations and academic units at universities throughout the South together for networking, collaboration, and common research. Over 18 institutions, from Virginia Tech to the University of Texas, have been involved so far.

2021 – 2023 Founding Treasurer, Native American Student Association, University of Georgia

Assisted in founding the organization, kept financial records, and helped plan large-scale events with 100+ attendees. Served as the primary organizer for the first Powwow and Native ceremonies in the history of the University of Georgia.

2022 Multicultural Services and Programs, International Student Life, & Pride Center Representative, All-Campus Allocations Committee, University of Georgia

Evaluated 300+ pages of financial and attendance data as well as 50+ annual budget and event programming proposals from across the university. Worked with the Committee to distribute over $1.5M to various student groups and university initiatives.

**SERVICE & VOLUNTEERING**

*Service* *to University*

2025 President, Native American Student Association, University of Georgia

* 2021 – 2023 Co-Founder & Treasurer

2019 – 2022 Global Buddy, International Student Life, Student Affairs, University of Georgia

2021 – 2022 Member, International Business Society, Terry College of Business, University of Georgia

2022 Multicultural Services and Programs, International Student Life, & Pride Center Representative, All-Campus Allocations Committee, University of Georgia

*Service to Community*

2025 Co-Founder, Gates Alumni Indigenous Network

2025 Interim Principal Speaker, Southern Indigenous Student Coalition

* 2022 – 2025 Co-Founder & Primary Organizer

2024 – 2025 Interviewer, The Gates Scholarship

2024 – 2025 Alumni Ambassador, National Speech and Debate Association

2023 Volunteer, Save Our Legacy Ourself

2023 Volunteer, Shell to Shore

2022 Volunteer, Upendo: One Kid at a Time

2019 – 2021 Debate Judge, Georgia Forensic Coaches Association

2019 – 2020 Mentor, College Application Mentorship Program

**PANELS & INVITED TALKS**

2025 **Frye, M.**, Speaker, *Build Together: Wichita TERO Community Session*, Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance Commission, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Anadarko, OK)

2025 **Frye, M.**, Speaker, *General Council Meeting*, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Anadarko, OK)

2025 **Frye, M.**, Keynote Speaker, *Mid-Year Summit,* Quivera Enterprises (Midwest City, OK)

2025 **Frye, M.**, Speaker, *Lightning Talks,* Seven Generations, Georgia Institute of Technology (Atlanta, GA)

2025 **Frye, M.**, Speaker, *Quarterly Meeting*, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Anadarko, OK)

2023 **Frye, M.**, Panelist, *Intercultural Competence*, Leadership UGA, University of Georgia (Athens, GA)

2023 **Frye, M.**, Panelist, *Imagined Indian: Native Stereotyping in Society*, Native American Student Association, University of Georgia (Athens, GA)

2022 **Frye, M.**, Panelist, *Intercultural and Inclusive Leadership*, Leadership UGA, University of Georgia (Athens, GA)

2022 **Frye, M.**, Panelist, *Lunch and Learn*, UGA Career Center, University of Georgia (Athens, GA)

2022 **Frye, M.**, Panelist, *Appropriation vs. Appreciation*, Multicultural Services and Programs, Student Affairs, University of Georgia (Athens, GA)

2022 **Frye, M.**, Panelist, *Indigenous Voices*, Hispanic/Latinx & Indigenous Initiatives, University of Louisville (Louisville, KY)

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

*Certifications*

2025 *Evaluating Profitable Agricultural Enterprises*, USU Extension, Utah State University [*In Progress*]

2025 *Food Business Basics*, USU Extension, Utah State University

2024 *Interviewer Certification*, The Gates Scholarship

2023 *Certificate in Personal and Organizational Leadership*, Institute of Leadership Advancement, Terry College of Business, University of Georgia

2018 *Certified Pearl Specialist*, Cultured Pearl Association of America

*Continuing Professional Education, Workshops, & Trainings*

2025 *Indigenous Leaders in Governance: Wichita and Affiliated Tribes*, Native Governance Center (Anadarko, OK)

2025 *Strengthening Tribal Procurement to Cultivate Tribal Commerce and Economic Growth,* Reservation Economic Summit, National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (Las Vegas, NV)

2022 *Leadership and Team Simulation: Everest V3*, Harvard Business Publishing, Administered by Institute of Leadership of Advancement, Terry College of Business, University of Georgia (Athens, GA)

**LANGUAGES**

English Spanish Swahili

*Native Proficiency Conversational Proficiency Elementary Proficiency*

**EDUCATIONAL & OFFICIAL TRAVEL**

July 2025 Official Visit (Indian Island, ME and Truro, NS)

Represented the Wichita Tribe Industrial Development Commission during visits to Penobscot Indian Nation and Millbrook First Nation, with a focus on learning about economic development strategy and governance in the Northeast, as well as Wabanaki culture.

May 2025 Official Visit (Fort Worth, Waco, and Austin, TX)

Served as principal delegate of the Wichita Tribe Industrial Development Commission, visiting the city of Waco’s government and business entities. Led meetings with Mayor Jim Holmes of Waco as well as Brazos Innovation Partners, the McLennan Small Business Development Center, the Mayborn Museum, Waco Mammoth National Monument, and the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce to discuss economic development and potential new initiatives. Additionally, took visits with Texas Christian University, Baylor University, and the University of Texas to discuss educational partnerships.

Nov. 2023 – Dec. 2024 Georgia Farm Bureau Passport Program (GA)

Engaged in a state-wide educational initiative to promote awareness of Georgia agriculture and support local farmers. Activities included visits to over 20 certified farm markets, showcasing farming practices that ranged from the most innovative to the most traditional. A highlight of the program was a comprehensive tour of Pearson Farm, featuring a presentation on Georgia's peach and pecan industries and their significance to local economies and communities. This experience reinforced the importance of community engagement, agricultural marketing & agritourism, and the challenges faced by farmers.

April 2023 Field Experience (Hog Hammock, GA)

*Purpose*: Engaged in hands-on agricultural activities aimed at preserving Geechee heritage crops and supporting traditional agricultural practices. This experience provided practical skills in land preparation, irrigation installation, and crop planting while fostering an understanding of cultural preservation through agriculture.

May – Jun. 2022 Franklin Maymester in Tanzania (Moshi, Karatu, Ngorongoro, Serengeti, and Paje, Tanzania)

Participated in an immersive program exploring the intersection of conservation, cultural preservation, and sustainable development. Activities spanned diverse regions of Tanzania, including Northern Tanzania and the island of Zanzibar. Highlights included touring businesses of the regions we visited: including traditional industries like leatherworking and spice farming as well as more innovative enterprises such as the Mwani Centre where seaweed is farmed to craft sustainable products. We also toured Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Conservation Area, and Jozani Chwaka Bay National Park with a focus on conservation and the intersection of conservation with Indigenous cultures. Additionally, we donated our time to Upendo: One Kid at a Time, an orphanage where we installed privacy film for residential quarters and planted Soursop and other traditional medicines for orphanage use.

**SELECTED ARTICLES & MEDIA APPEARANCES**

Crawford, R. (2025) “Economic Futures of Tribal Enterprises – Interview with Maximillian Frye.” Presented at the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma (AICCOK) September Meeting, September 10th (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)

Sain, B. (2025) “Building The Future: A Q&A With Maximillian Frye” *ka:si:h keʔetara:kwa:rʔi.* Vol. 1, Issue 3, June 24th

Frye, M. (2024) “Kuwohi: The Case for Expanded Renaming” *MaxWanders*. November, 16th, <https://maxwanders.com/kuwohi-the-case-for-expanded-renaming/>

Frye, M. (2024) “The Bantu Migration and its Genetic Impact (an AncestryDNA Study)” *MaxWanders*. October, 11th, <https://maxwanders.com/the-bantu-migration-and-its-genetic-impact-an-ancestrydna-study/>

Frye, M. (2024) “The Apostle Islands: New National Park or U.S. Failure of Native People?” *MaxWanders*. August, 3rd, <https://maxwanders.com/the-apostle-islands-new-national-park-or-u-s-failure-of-native-people/>

Frye, M. (2024) “Black Indians: A Wichita’s Journey Through Maasailand” *MaxWanders.* July, 2nd, <https://maxwanders.com/black-indians-a-wichitas-journey-through-maasailand/>