

# Speaking of Kansas

## Washburn Center for Kansas Studies



## Kansas Studies Newsletter

Spring 2019

### Kansas Studies Courses

#### Summer 2019

- **KS 399VA** (online) **Lit of American West** taught by **David Weed**

#### Fall 2019

- **KS 199 Kansas Literature** TR 11 am-12:15 pm taught by **Eric McHenry**
- **KS 199B Kansas and U.S. State and Local Gov't**  
TR 9:30-10:45 am taught by **Clark Duffy**
- **KS 399A John Brown** MWF 11-11:50 taught by **Kelly Erby**
- **KS 399B Urban, Metropolitan Government**  
TR 11-12:15 taught by **Clark Duffy**
- **KS 397 Internship in Kansas Studies**
- **KS 395 Independent Study in Kansas Studies**

### Kansas Day 2019

The Center for Kansas Studies hosted its annual Kansas Day event on **January 29** in the **Rita Blitt Gallery** on Washburn's campus. **Dr. Robert Warrior, Hall Distinguished Professor of American Studies and Culture at the University of Kansas** and a **member/citizen of the Osage Nation**, delivered this year's lecture.

Dr. Warrior presented "**The Finest Men We Have Ever Seen': Thomas Jefferson, the Osages, and the Roots of White Supremacy in the United States.**"

According to Warrior, in July, 1804, a delegation of Osage leaders met with President Thomas Jefferson in Washington, DC, Jef-



fer-son's first face-to-face meeting with Native American leaders as president. He remarked of the Osages to the Secretary of the Navy after the meeting that the Osages were "the finest cont. on p. 6 ►

Vanessa Steinroetter/Kelly Erby  
Co-Directors  
cks@washburn.edu

Deborah Altus, Human Services  
Tom Averill, English  
Bob Beatty, Political Science  
Roy Bird, KHC Speaker  
Chris Bowers, Military Student Success  
Marcia Cebulski, Playwright  
Jeannie Chinn, KSHS  
Stacy Conner, Human Services  
Virgil Dean, KSHS  
Dennis Etzel, Jr., English  
Jia Feng, Geography  
Connie Gibbons, Mulvane Art Museum  
William Gilliland, Geology  
Rachel Goossen, History  
Chris Hamilton, Political Science  
Jonathan Hart, History  
Danielle Head, Art  
Bob Hoard, Sociology/Anthropology  
Lindsey Ibanez, Sociology  
Jim Kelly, KTWU  
Robert Hull, Finance  
David Kendall, Film Producer  
Louise Krug, English  
Gabrielle Lunte, Modern Languages  
Bruce Mactavish, History  
Judith McConnell-Farmer, Education  
Eric McHenry, English  
Debra Mikulka, KAN TRAIN Grant Mgmt.  
Annie Miller, Political Science  
Linsey Modellmog, Political Science  
Laura Murphy, Anthropology  
Marguerite Perret, Art  
Mark Peterson, Political Science  
Leslie Reynard, Communications  
Betsy Roe, TSCPL  
Tom Schmiedeler, Geography  
Robin Shrimplin, History  
Bradley Siebert, English  
Sarah Smarsh, Author  
Laura Stephenson, Dean, CAS  
Margaret Stewart, English  
Nancy Tate, VP, Academic Affairs  
Kelly Watt, Art  
David Winchester, Mabee Library  
Kerry Wynn, History  
Carol Yoho, Web Editor

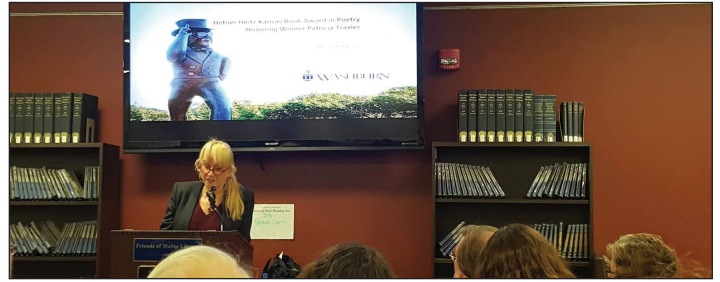
Center for Kansas Studies  
[www.washburn.edu/cks](http://www.washburn.edu/cks)

# Spring 2019: *What's Happening*

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## 2019 Hefner Heitz Kansas Book Award in Poetry

On **Tuesday, March 5**, Salina-based poet **Patricia Traxler** was awarded the 2019 **Hefner Heitz Kansas Book Award in Poetry** for her collection ***Naming the Fires*** in a ceremony on Washburn's campus. In addition to a reading by Traxler, the ceremony featured remarks by **poetry judge Steven Hind** and by **CKS fellow Tom Averill**. Wishing to support other non-traditional students majoring in creative writing, Traxler generously donated her monetary prize to Washburn English major **Jossie Hicks**. The Hefner Heitz Kansas Book Award is



sponsored by the **Thomas Fox Averill Kansas Studies Collection** and the **Friends of Mabee Library**. For more information, visit [www.washburn.edu/mabee/ksbookaward](http://www.washburn.edu/mabee/ksbookaward)

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## A Tale of Two Sites: Kansas Archaeology students explore the prehistory of the Flint Hills

The Kansas Archaeology (AN397/KS399) class, led by **Dr. Laura Murphy**, Center for Kansas Study fellow and assistant professor of Anthropology at Washburn University, teamed up with **Dr. Rolfe Mandel**, Director of the Kansas Geological Survey, to visit two prehistoric archaeological sites in the Flint Hills. The **March 24, 2019 field trip** included scholars and members of the Geological Society of America (GSA) as part of GSA's regional confer-

ence in Manhattan, Kansas. The first site along **Mill Creek** near Paxico, Kansas, which is deeply buried and dates back 12,000 years, offered the students a glimpse into the past, where they viewed an in-situ mussel shell cooking feature and charcoal. Drs. Murphy and Mandel provided a detailed cultural and environmental history at the site based on their collaborative research. The second site, high on the landscape, featured an approximately 1,000 year-old burial mound protected at **Mount Mitchell Heritage Prairie** near Wamego, Kansas. Both sites provided context for 12,000 years of cultural change in the Flint Hills environment.

**Photo, Right:**

Washburn students observing deeply buried archaeological deposits along Mill Creek.



**Photo, Above:**

Dr. Murphy discusses the cultural history at Mount Mitchell.

## Spring 2019: What's Happening — cont.

### Film Showing: *Laramie Inside Out*

Filmmaker **Beverly Seckinger**, professor of Theatre, Film and Television at the University of Arizona, showed her film, *Laramie Inside Out*, at the **Rita Blitt Gallery** on **April 12** as part of the **Washburn International Film Festival** and **GAYpril** activities. Seckinger was given an honorarium from the Center of Kansas Studies due to the film's Kansas connection, as the documentary, in part, grapples with the way the people of Laramie, Wyoming, addressed the hate of the **Westboro Baptist Church** when church members picketed at the trial of the men who murdered **Matthew Shepard**.

With 2018 marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Matthew Shepard's death, many college students today are not familiar with the events surrounding his brutal murder. Seckinger's film keeps Shepard's memory alive by providing a look at the impact of his murder on the town of Laramie and by helping viewers to consider the broader influence of this pivotal moment in LGBTQ history.

In addition to telling the story of how Shepard's death affected Laramie, the documentary also explores Seckinger's personal story of



growing up closeted in Laramie and returning as an out Lesbian to shoot the film. Seckinger writes, "I returned to Laramie afraid that I would be forever alienated from this town where I had marched in the homecoming parade, played high school basketball, and fallen in love for the first time. But thanks to the active and welcoming gay community and its many allies, some of whom I have known since childhood, I felt connected to Laramie in a whole new way."

While the film shows us Fred Phelps with his neon signs proclaiming "God hates fags," "Fags die God laughs" and "Matt in hell," it also introduces us to students and community members in Laramie who don angel costumes to block the protestors' hate and work to create a more just world.

Seckinger donated a DVD of *Laramie Inside Out* to Mabee Library for use by the Washburn University community. The film provides a great springboard for conversations about diversity, social justice, freedom and speech, and LGBTQ history.



**Film promotion:** <https://laramieinsideout.com/>

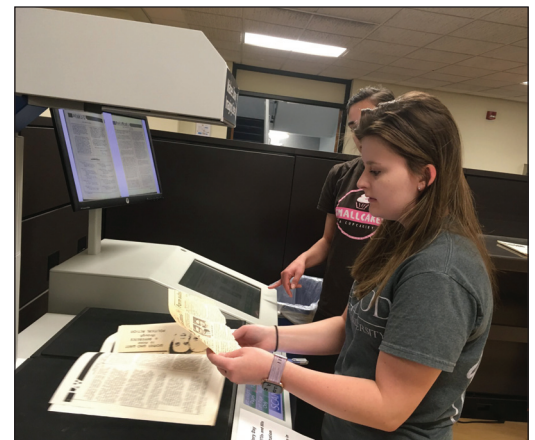
### Support for the CKS

We are grateful to past and present supporters of the Center for Kansas Studies, whose contributions help us to offer student scholarships and enhance our course offerings through guest speaker visits and important field trips. If you would like to give to the CKS, please visit [www.wualumni.org/givenow](http://www.wualumni.org/givenow) and write "Center for Kansas Studies" under "Designation."

# Spring 2019: *What's Happening* — cont.

## U.S. Women's Movements

This spring, **Kerry Wynn** taught a brand new course, “**U.S. Women’s Movements in the 1970s and 80s.**” Supported by grant funds donated by alumna **Cynthia Heath**, the class participated in a community history day, interviewing and digitizing materials from women who were political activists and community organizers in Kansas. To enrich their understanding of the period, the class explored archives of Kansas sources from the period, including the **Kansas Historical Society** and the **State Library of Kansas**. Students in the class also conducted individual oral histories with former and current Kansas legislators, academics, writers, and professionals. With the help of visiting scholar **Robin Morris**, Associate Professor at **Agnes Scott College**, the students learned how to turn oral histories into podcasts. Their work will be displayed on a public website. More details on the site will follow in future newsletters.

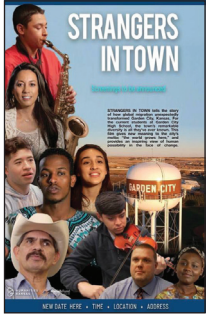


Photos by Tom Prasch

# Spring 2019: *What's Happening* — cont.

## *Strangers in Town*

The Center for Kansas Studies was proud to help sponsor the making of *Strangers in Town* (2019), a documentary by **Reuben Aaronson**



and **Steve Lerner**. The film examines how **immigration** transformed and enriched the town of **Garden City, Kansas**. It tells a story that too often gets left out of national narratives about immigration and life in Kansas and the Midwest, a story about the good things that

can happen when people put aside ideology and come together to live and work as part of a vibrant, diverse community. **CKS**, along with the **History Department**, co-hosted the Topeka premiere of the film in January at Washburn's **Andrew J. and George Neese Gray Theatre**.

The film *Strangers in Town* is now available to stream for free here:

[www.filmfreeway.com/StrangersinTown](http://www.filmfreeway.com/StrangersinTown)

Contact filmmaker Steve Lerner with questions about the film:

[stevelerner@strangersintownthefilm.com](mailto:stevelerner@strangersintownthefilm.com).

## Thanking Kelly Erby and Meeting New CKS Co-Director, Danielle Head

At the end of the 2018/2019 academic year, **Kelly Erby** will step down as co-director for the Center for Kansas Studies to serve as an assistant dean in the College of Arts and Sciences at Washburn. **We are thankful to Kelly for all of her work on behalf of the CKS and excited to introduce Danielle Head, assistant professor of art, as the new co-director** alongside **Vanessa Steinroetter**, who has served as co-director since August 2017.

**Danielle C. Head** is a photographer and conceptual artist whose work examines the dissonance between collective and phenomenological history through the documentation of material and spectral remnants of the past. She holds a BA in Film, Photography, and Video (2007) from Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts; and an MFA in Photography (2011) from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. She is currently **Assistant Professor of Photography at Washburn University**.

Her ongoing project, *Within and Without*, traces the pathways of assassin Lee Harvey Oswald and was selected for inclusion in the Midwest Photographer's Project at the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago, Illinois. Recent exhibitions of her work include: *Within and Without* (solo), Lawrence Arts Center, Lawrence KS; *Within and Without* (solo), Fisch Haus Gallery, Wichita KS; *Developing Spaces/Places*, Contemporary Art Center, Peoria IL;

*Bending the Truth*, University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond OK; and *American Collective: Contemporary Reflections of Landscape and Identity*, Stitches and Pics, Sackets Harbor NY.

When asked about her interest in Kansas Studies, Danielle writes: In the fall of 2015 I came to Kansas as an outsider, stepping into the position of Assistant Professor of Photography in the Washburn University Art Department. I was born in Missouri, but spent the majority of my life in a small town in southern New Hampshire. My understanding of the landscape and character of Kansas were vague - perhaps influenced too strongly by images of the Land of Oz, or the solitude of *In Cold Blood*. Being present in this place, I began to understand that its complexities and idiosyncrasies did not make themselves easily accessed from a view outside but quietly trembled beneath the surface; histories sometimes written on the land and sometimes only written in the wind. I am excited to become Co-Director of the Center for Kansas Studies to continue to foster a more complex appreciation and understanding of Kansas across disciplines, and invigorate Kansas in the imaginations of students, academics, and the public through a contemporary lens.



# Spring 2019: *What's Happening* — cont.

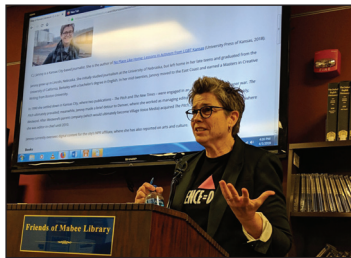
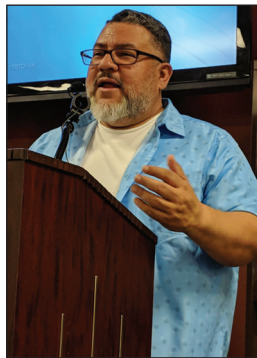
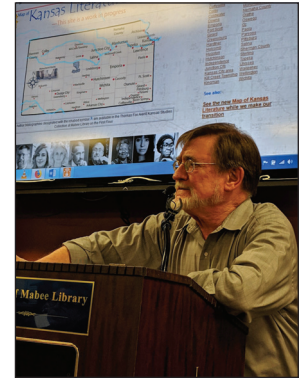
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## Queering Kansas Literature

In April, the Center for Kansas Studies was proud to co-sponsor “Queering Kansas Literature: A Place Like Home,” a program of commentary and readings by Izzy Wasserstein, Miguel Morales, and C.J. Janovy in Washburn’s Mabee Library. This event was one of several across Kansas to celebrate the redesign of the website “Map of Kansas Literature,” a compendium of writers associated with the state, created by Tom Averill, professor emeritus of English, and Dr. Kerry Wynn, associate professor of history and director of Washburn’s Honors Program. Humanities Kansas, a

nonprofit cultural organization connecting the communities with history, traditions, and ideas to strengthen civic life, provided funding for the redesign of the website, and co-sponsored this event. View the new Map of Kansas Literature here: <https://mapofkansasliterature.averillkansascollection.com>

Photos by Tom Prasch



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## Kansas Day, cont. from pg. 1

men we have ever seen. The truth is, they are the great nation South of the Missouri, ...as the Sioux are great North of that river. With these two powerful nations we must stand well, because in their quarter we are miserably weak.” Jefferson had many reasons to make that remark, and historians ever since have been

drawn to it. In this lecture, Warrior discussed Jefferson’s comment in the context of his oft-discussed views on race, examining the extent to which Jefferson brought to Washington—and by extension to the Louisiana Territory—the complex web of racial hierarchy he grew up with and promoted in Virginia.

Presented here are photographs of the event taken by **Peggy Clark**, university photographer.



# Spring 2019: *What's Happening* — cont.

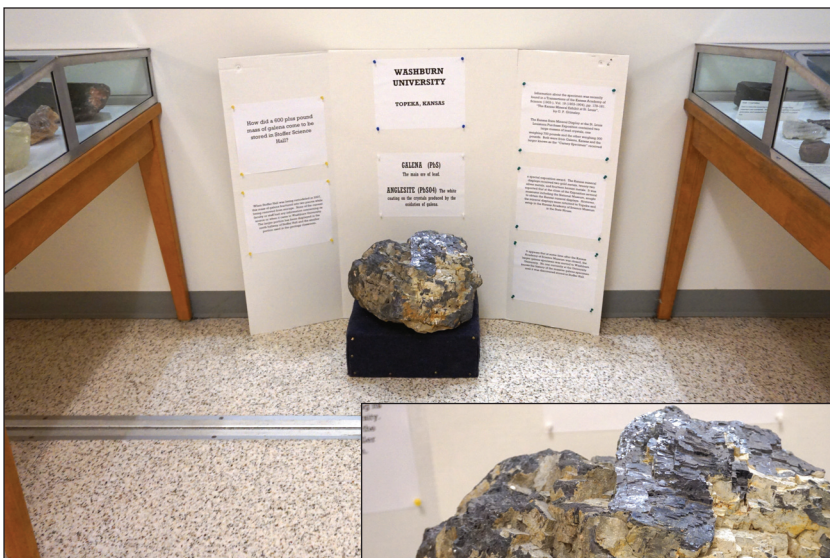
## **A Weighty Mystery Solved**, submitted by **William J. Gilliland**, Geology

The mystery of the origin of two large masses of galena (lead ore) on display in Stoffer Hall has now been solved. When Stoffer Hall was being remodeled in 2007, a mass of 600 plus pounds of galena was moved from storage. In the process of being moved the specimen split into two parts. These parts have since been displayed in Room 118 and the north hallway of Stoffer Hall.

Information gathered by **Martha Imparato**, **Special Collections Librarian, Mabee Library**, has resolved the questions of how Washburn University acquired such a large galena specimen. In the *Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science*, Vol. 19, pp. 129-137, “**The Kansas Mineral Exhibit at St. Louis**”, by **G. P. Grimsley**, indicated the specimen was exhibited in the Kansas State Mineral Display. As a 700-pound specimen it received consider-

able attention and was given a special award from the Exposition. Several museums, including the National Museum, were interested in acquiring the Kansas display after the Exposition closed. The Kansas display was returned to Topeka and installed in the Kansas Academy of Science Museum in the State House. When the museum was disbanded the specimen was apparently moved to Washburn University at a currently unknown date.

When you next visit Stoffer Hall, take time to stop at the mineral displays in the north hallway of the first floor. Just think, this larger galena specimen **still weighs 400 plus pounds** even after its trip from a mine in Galena, Kansas, to the St. Louis Louisiana Purchase Exposition, to the Kansas State House and then to Washburn University.



# CKS Meeting Summary

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January 23, 2019

- I. Meeting called to order at 12:15 p.m.
- II. Updates from CKS Fellows
  - a. Marcia Cebulka traveled to the Phoenix Theater in Indianapolis to workshop her play *The Bones of Butterflies*. Cebulka's authorship of this play was partially supported by a CKS grant.
  - b. Tom Averill recorded several new Olander commentaries for KPR. He has also been working with the 2019 Kansas Book Award (in Poetry) reviewer and says that they are getting close to announcing this year's winner. There were 53 entries. He also continued work on the Humanities KS grant that he was awarded. Averill announced that he is helping to organize an event called "Queering Kansas Literature: A Place Like Home," which will be held April 3 from 4-6:00 pm in Mabee Library.
  - c. Stacy Conner is teaching a course in Human Services this semester where she is collaborating with the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability (KDADS) on a project.
  - d. Deborah Altus has invited Beverly Seckinger, film professor at the University of Arizona who directed/produced a film called "Laramie Inside Out," to present the film at Washburn on April 12 at noon as part of the Washburn International Film Institute. The showing is partially funded by CKS. The film provides a look at Laramie, Wyoming, and the attitudes of the people there in response to Matthew Shepherd's death, juxtaposed against her personal account of growing up closeted in Laramie and returning as an out Lesbian. The connection to Kansas is that the film includes footage of the Phelps family and spends time showing the responses of the people of Laramie to their message.
  - e. Connie Gibbons announced that the Mulvane Art Museum has many events scheduled in connection with the spring 2019 Themester, some of which have a Kansas connection as well. For instance, on Feb. 26 at 7 pm, they are showing the film *BlacKkKlansman* by KU film professor Kevin Wilmott in the Blitt Gallery. On Feb. 1, there is a reception for the new exhibits opening at the Mulvane, including work by WU Art faculty. Gibbons also noted that the exhibit *Flatlander* has been extended through March 8.
  - f. Rebecca Manning announced that the Mulvane is participating in Washburn's Day of Giving this year to raise funds toward the purchase of a limited-edition bronze mask of Abraham Lincoln created by Topeka native Robert Merrel Gage.
  - g. Laura Murphy noted a recent exhibit at the Mulvane Art Museum titled "Preserving Petroglyphs: Rock Art Casts from Ellsworth County, Kansas" that was curated by WU Anthropology student and Mulvane intern Lori Holstrom. Holstrom published an article about the exhibit in *La Pintura*, the official newsletter of the American Rock Art Research Association. Murphy also announced that for summer 2019, she will be partnering with the KSHS and participating in the Kansas Archeology Training Program's summer field school.
  - h. Annie Miller reported that she and Sharon Sullivan (Theater) created a human trafficking screening tool that will be piloted in Kansas for a trial run this year in three counties. She has also started work on a new project titled "Steel Magnolias: Kansas Women in Executive and Legislative Life" that involves interview-



## CKS Meeting Summary, cont.

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ing women who worked in the KS state legislature in the late twentieth century.

- i. Bruce Mactavish is currently teaching his Kansas History class, which has 30 students. He is incorporating some ideas from Laura Murphy in this class. Mactavish also drew attention to a video project called “Let Me Testify” about Topekans who attended segregated schools.
- j. Dennis Etzel, Jr. has an upcoming show with artist Barbara Waterman-Peters at the NOTO Arts Center on March 1 that focuses on the topics of time and water. Etzel has also written several poems with a KS connection lately, including one about the tallgrass prairie that is forthcoming in Taproot. He is also incorporating HICEPs projects again in his Composition classes where students write down the legacy stories of homecare patients in the Topeka community.
- k. Lindsey Ibañez is teaching a course on city and urban life this semester that includes a unite on Topeka, for which she has invited local guest speakers.
- l. Rachel Goossen announced that there will be 400 students participating in regional History Day this year, which will take place at Washburn on Feb. 23. Contact her if interested in judging. She is teaching her course Remembering Vietnam this semester, which includes local guest speakers. Goossen has also published an article, “Historical Justice in the Era of #MeToo,” in the newly-released volume Sightings: Reflections on Religion in Public Life (Eerdman’s, 2019).
- m. Kelly Erby has helped to organize and/or promote many of the spring 2019 Themester events on WU’s campus,

which include many local experts and topics with a connection to KS.

### III.Upcoming Events:

- a. Kansas Day Update: Dr. Robert Warrior, “The Finest Men We Have Ever Seen’: Thomas Jefferson, the Osages, and the Roots of White Supremacy in the United States,” January 29 @ 3 p.m. in the Rita Blitt Gallery. Refreshments (cake!) available beginning at 2:30 p.m.
- b. Film Screening of Steve Learner’s Strangers in Town, February 19 @ 7 p.m. in the Neese Gray Theatre
- c. Rebecca Manning on film screening of A New Deal for Public Art in the Free State, March 27 @ 3 p.m. in the Mulvane

IV. Funding Requests: Marguerite Perret and Connie Gibbons requested funding for their project “Fear No Art: Freedom of Artistic Expression at the Mulvane Art Museum” in the amount of \$500 to support workshops presented by visiting artist Kate Horvat. Perret circulated a written proposal, and the fellows voted unanimously to award the requested funds. Steinroetter and Erby noted that there are now no additional funds remaining in the CKS budget that are not already promised or allotted.

V. Call for Fall 2019 Kansas Studies courses. Steinroetter asked that fellows send information to her and Kelly via email as soon as possible.

VI. Call for Newsletter Stories: The deadline for newsletter stories is April 15, 2019.

VII.Next CKS meeting will be a mixer at the Burger Stand in April.

VIII.Meeting adjourned.

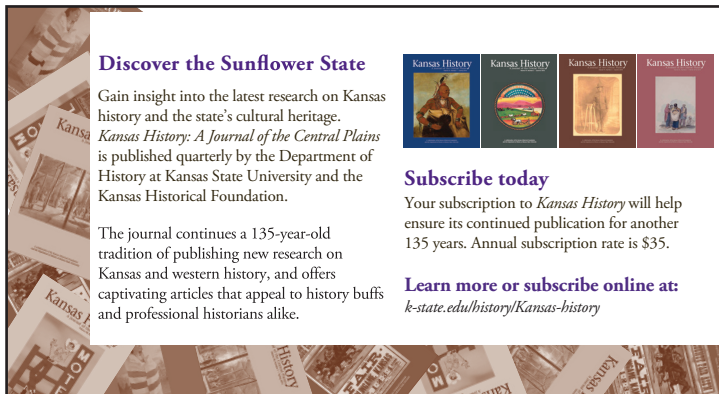
Respectfully submitted by Vanessa Steinroetter

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Center for Kansas Studies

## Speaking of Kansas

Spring 2019



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## 2019 Tulips: Doran Rock Garden, Gage Park, Topeka

