

Speaking of Kansas

Washburn Center for Kansas Studies



Fall 2009

Spring Semester Kansas Studies Courses, 2010:

GG 304A, *Geography of Kansas* MW 1:00–2:15, Tom Schmiedeler

GL 103A, *Historical Geology* (with Kansas emphasis) MW 5:30–6:45, Will Gilliland

AN 138/HN 201, *Kansas Literature* W 1:00–3:40, Tom Averill

PO 309A, *Kansas Legislative Experience* TR 3:00–4:15, Bob Beatty

Tom Schmiedeler, Director
785-670-1559
tom.schmiedeler@washburn.edu

Sharon Ashworth, Biology
Deborah Altus, Human Services
Tom Averill, English
Bob Beatty, Political Science
Patti Bender, Health
Roy Bird, KS State Library
Marcia Cebulska, Playwright
Jeannie Chinn, KSHS
Marilyn Cott, KHC
Charles Cranston, Mass Media
Virgil Dean, KSHS
Paul Fecteau, English
David Feinmark, Mabee Library
Jessie Fillerup, Music
William Gilliland, Geology
Rachel Goossen, History
Chris Hamilton, Political Science
Robert Hull, Finance
Reinhild Janzen, Art
Jim Kelly, KTWU
David Kendall, KTWU
Robert Lawson, English
Gabrielle Lunte, Modern Languages
Bruce Mactavish, History
Judith McConnell-Farmer, Education
Eric McHenry, English
Marguerite Perret, Art
Mark Peterson, Political Science
J. Karen Ray, English
Leslie Reynard, Communication
William Roach, Business
Betsy Kanabe Roe, Art
Bradley Siebert, English
Sarah Smarsh, English
Margaret Stewart, English
Sara Tucker, History
William Wagnon, History
Marydorsej Wanless, Art
David Winchester, Mabee Library
Margaret Wood, Soc./Anthropology
Carol Yoho, Art

Kansas Day Presentation, 2010

The Center for Kansas Studies will sponsor its annual Kansas Day presentation on Friday, January 29, 2010, in room 208, Henderson Hall, on the Washburn campus, Topeka. The speaker will be **Craig Miner**, the Willard Garvey Distinguished Professor of Business History at Wichita State University.

“Busted: Hard Times Come to Kansas, 1883-1890” will focus on the boom psychology, especially in real estate and agriculture, and its historically disastrous results. This presentation is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Watch a short video interview with Miner on-line: <http://www.vimeo.com/5418482>



Craig Miner,
Kansas Day Speaker, 2010

Unfolding Untold Stories, a 2009-2010 Program Series, is co-sponsored by the Brown Foundation and Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site. Two programs are scheduled for early 2010: “The World Will Move: Civil Rights and Public Transportation, 1860s-1950s” is a traveling exhibit on display for the entire month of January. The documentary film

Garrett Morgan: An Uncommon Inventor will be shown in the Brown v Board auditorium February 21. Visit www.nps.gov/brvb and click on the Special Events link for a complete list of the special events and exhibits in the Unfolding Untold Stories Program Series, or to print your own copy of the Program Series booklet.

Fellows News

Fellow Marydorsey Wanless, Department of Art, currently has her photography on display at the Kansas City Artists Coalition, 201 Wyandotte St., Kansas City, MO.

The work, "**Evidence of Ageing**," consists of Holga Camera images printed as tintypes. Wanless states, "As we age, we look in the mirror and imagine what it would be like without all those wrinkles and sagging skin. The camera documents the process of ageing, and the tintype references the decay. The bright reflection of the metal allows the viewer to see him/herself in the imagery, providing for personal reflection. The beautiful seductive surface provides contrast for the grotesque facial distortions and ageing skin."

The show runs from Saturday, November 21 through Friday, December 4, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Please note that the gallery will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday between November 25 and 28.

Visit these web sites for additional information concerning Marydorsey and her work: www.kansascityartistscoalition.org and www.marydorseywanless.com



Robert N. Lawson, professor emeritus of the **Department of English**, is having his novel, **The Bridge of Dreams**, printed in paperback by Washburn's Woodley Press.

Lawson previously self-serialized this work on his website in 2000 and 2001. A "bridge" (chapter) was published each month for twenty-four months.



The work is still available on-line, freely accessible to web visitors: www.washburn.edu/reference/bridge24

Lawson has long been associated with Woodley Press, a publisher founded in 1980 that features Kansas writers and poets. He takes pride in the fact that his work is the fiftieth book produced by Woodley Press.

Woodley Press published **Kansas Poems of William Stafford** in 1990 to celebrate their tenth anniversary. They published a second edition, a greatly expanded version of their first book, **Flights Through Inner Space** by Eleanor Bell, in 2000. The press will undoubtedly look for a new book to publish by a distinguished Kansas writer in celebration of its thirtieth anniversary in 2010.

Those associated with the press, staff or authors, are proud of its his-

tory, unmatched by any other non-profit press in the state.

Bill Roach, School of Business, mentions that he would like to turn over management of the **Center list serve** to another volunteer. Bill has managed the list serve for several years. Any Fellow interested in university service that doesn't require large amounts of time should contact Bill.

Other News

Diane Miller of the United States Department of the Interior announced that the National Park Service, National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program is sponsoring a **national conference on the historic Underground Railroad** in Topeka on June 23-36, 2010. She writes, "This is an exciting opportunity to highlight, through a national conference, the important role that Kansas played in the Underground Railroad and freedom struggles." This important effort builds on the national conferences that the Friends of the Network have hosted since 2007. The Ramada, 420 Southeast 6th, will be the conference hotel. Those wishing to attend should call Ms. Miller at 402-661-1588 or email her at diane_miller@nps.gov

Work will begin soon in updating and adding personal profiles on our web site. All members joining the Center over the past 5-6 years or any other members who do not have profiles, please send exactly what you would like included to **Carol Yoho** (cyoho@cox.net). Our Fellows page to be edited is www.washburn.edu/reference/cks/fellows.html

Green Houses Bring Culture Change in Long-Term Care to Kansas

For most people, the word greenhouse conjures up images of a structure that provides a controlled environment for the cultivation of plants. However, for some people in Newton and Hutchinson, Kansas (and other parts of the country), this word has taken on an entirely different, and somewhat surprising, meaning.

The new meaning of the term greenhouse does not focus on bricks and mortar (or plants, for that matter) but describes a new model of caring for older people in small, elder-centered group homes that are referred to as “intentional communities” by the founder. Why the term greenhouse? The Green House model is designed to provide the optimal environment for the health and well-being of elders in the same way that greenhouses are built to provide the optimal conditions for plants to thrive.

Asbury Park retirement community in Newton and Mennonite Manor in Hutchinson are the first communities in Kansas to build Green Houses. They are on the forefront of what is referred to

by **Deborah Altus, Ph. D.**,
Professor, Dept. of Human
Services

as “culture change” in long-term care.

The founder of the Green House model, Dr. William Thomas, is a key player in the culture-change movement. His work focuses not simply on designing humane living environments for elders but

...a new model of caring
for older people in small,
elder-centered group
homes...

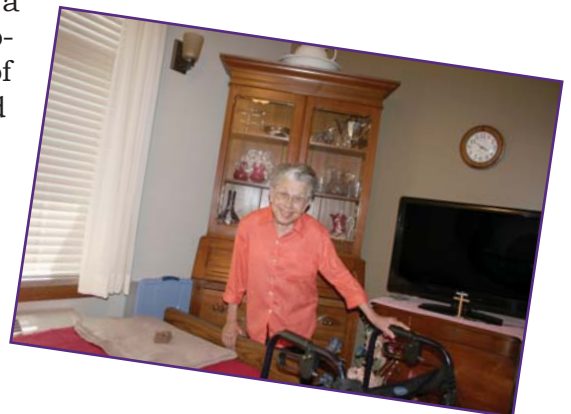
on changing the way society views aging – earning him a spot on the Wall Street Journal’s list of the 12 most influential Americans shaping aging in the 21st Century.

In the 1990s, Thomas, a geriatric physician and professor at the University of Maryland, developed the Eden Alternative, an approach that brings person-centered schedules, children, plants and

animals into nursing facilities to humanize the institutional environment. One of Thomas’ goals is to alleviate what he sees as the “three plagues” of long-term care institutions: loneliness, helplessness and boredom.

With his new Green House model, Thomas proposes a more radical departure from traditional nursing facilities. To Thomas, the medical model of long-term care is an inappropriate approach because it views aging as a disease. In contrast, the Green House model views aging as a natural part of the life course. In this model, older people are looked up to as wise elders rather than treated as sick patients. They live in small (six to ten bed) family-style homes rather than hospital-like institutions. Their schedules are person-centered rather than staff-centered. And their needs are addressed from a holistic (bio-psycho-social-spiritual) perspective rather than a medical one.

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Green Houses Bring Culture Change in Long-Term Care to Kansas —continued from p. 3

In Green Houses, the direct service providers, who are typically Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), are called shahbazim, a Persian word meaning "royal falcon." Thomas chose this word because he feels strongly that caregivers should be honored and respected. He refers to the shahbazim as "the midwives of a new elderhood."

The role of the shahbazim is much broader than that of traditional CNAs. They cook, clean, do laundry, and provide personal care, much as a family member would do. This is part of the Green House plan: to create a family-style environment that feels like home rather than an institution.

The nursing station, often the hub of activity and power in a nursing facility, is deliberately kept small in the Green House model and located at the periphery. This is done to normalize the environment and to encourage staff to interact with the elders. The shahbazim oversee the day-to-day operations of the home, while nurses act in a consulting role but are responsible for clinical outcomes.

Each elder has a private room and bath which opens onto a central living area called the hearth room -- the focal point of activity in a Green House. The hearth room is situated next to an open kitchen where elders and shahbazim can interact during the daily routines of cooking, cleaning, and other activities.

Under the direction of CEO Tom Williams, Asbury Park has built four Green Houses. Williams, who has been in charge of much bigger projects throughout his career, says that building the Green Houses is the most gratifying thing he's done. "We are making a place where people can spend the last years of their life with dignity," says Williams. "We grow up in households that are nurturing, protective and caring, and this is what we get in a Green House."

Williams gives a lot of credit to former Governor Kathleen Sebelius and Kathy Greenlee (the former Kansas Secretary on Aging and current U.S. Assistant Secretary for Aging) for bringing leadership to culture change in Kansas. "The Kansas Department on Aging was very helpful.

They worked with us and wanted us to succeed." Williams adds that Kansas is a national leader in improving and humanizing the care of elders. "We are walking our talk," Williams says. "We are doing it. Elder and family satisfaction is our focus and our reward."

This is not to say that Green Houses are without their problems. Williams is the first to admit that any new approach will have kinks to work out. Dealing with zoning, building codes, and licensing can be challenging for Green House adopters because local and state officials are often unfamiliar with this type of housing. Nurses and CNAs who have worked in traditional nursing facilities may find it challenging to adjust to their new roles. And administrators may find this new path hard to navigate without established programs to emulate. "We've had to learn as we go", says Williams, "but the rewards have been worth it."

Author note: Deborah Altus conducted her sabbatical research at the Asbury Park Green Houses in Spring, 2009.



Oleander on Fossils and Evolution

KPR Current Commentary, by **Thomas Fox Averill**

Folks, Kansas was once submerged beneath a great inland sea. As a result, we are rich in fossils, and proud of our fossilized past. Iola Humboldt and I, being fossils ourselves, decided to turn our summer vacation into a fossil run.

The Natural History Museum at the KU began collecting fossils early. Professor B.F. Mudge, walking down Kansas Avenue in Topeka in 1873, noticed the footprint of a Paleozoic amphibian in a curbstone. The rock had been quarried near Osage City, so he went for more. His discoveries are in the Museum basement. “Upstairs,” a staff member told us, “you’ll find an exhibit on evolution. It traces the theory from before Darwin and natural selection, on up to the present.

“That’s good for those busloads of Kansas kids,” I said.

“Some won’t come,” the staff member said. “Evolution has been controversial.”

“I’ll climb the stairs toward evolution,” Iola said. “It may be the ascent of man,” I cautioned, “but we’ll have to do it slowly. These bones feel as old as the ones in the basement.”

Folks, we also drove to the Fick Fossil Museum in Oakley. The Ficks found an ocean of fossils on their land. Out of them, Mrs. Fick created fossil art. Shark’s teeth are arranged to make an American flag. Small clam shells are the bark on the Tree of Knowledge in her portrayal of the Garden of Eden. Nearby stands a four-foot, wax painting of Mr. Fick as a Cro-Magnon man, shaggy and stooped. “Did the Ficks believe in evolution?” I asked the volunteer. She didn’t know. “Do you?” I asked.

“Not so much,” she said, even though surrounded by case after case of fossilized plants and animals.

The Keystone Gallery, near Monument Rocks north of Scott City, is packed with local discoveries. Chuck Bonner and Barbara Shelton are the proprietors and fossil hunters. The Bonner family has made significant fossil finds for generations.

I asked Chuck Bonner if he believes in evolution. “Of course,” he said. But, he qualified, he doesn’t like the self-satisfied humans who think they are the end-all and be-all, the highest rung of the evolutionary ladder. He excavates and admires the bones of complex, strong creatures.

Bonner’s grandfather worked with Charles Sternberg, and any fossil trip will include the Sternberg Museum in Hays, an institution that shows how evolution works, from before inland sea to after. How refreshing, given that Kansans so frequently submerge themselves in controversies about evolution. Each step to understanding the theory helps us.

Folks, 2009 is the 150th anniversary of The Origin of Species, and the 200th birthday of its author, Charles Darwin. Let’s celebrate our contribution to the knowledge of a rich and revealing fossil past. As Iola and I discovered, Kansans too often love their fossils, but hate evolution. Let’s be more like Iola Humboldt, climbing the stairs at the KU Natural History Museum. “I want to take the next step,” she said, “even if it’s not easy.”

This commentary was aired on Kansas Public Radio on September 3, 2009. **Thomas Fox Averill, Department of English**, read his own writing in the character of William Jennings Bryan Oleander.



CKS Meeting Summaries, Fall 2009

November 13, 2009

Fellows of the Center for Kansas Studies had a breakfast meeting on Thursday, November 13. Those present at the meeting were **Marguerite Perret, Tom Averill, David Winchester, Virgil Dean, Marydorsey Wanless, Carol Yoho, Will Gilliland, Bill Roach, Bob Lawson** and **Tom Schmiedeler**.

Director Tom Schmiedeler reported that funds are still available for spring semester projects. He also announced that Craig Miner, Willard Garvey Distinguished Professor of History at Wichita State, will be the Kansas Day presenter. The title of Dr. Miner's presentation is "Busted: Hard Times Come to Kansas, 1888-1890." The theme of the presentation is the boom psychology, especially in real estate and agriculture, and its disastrous results.

Tom also announced that the Center-sponsored film "Porubsky's: The Transcendent Deli" has been showing at several venues in Topeka and Lawrence. **Tom Averill** and **Tom Schmiedeler** have provided introductory remarks at these showings. **Tom Averill** will once again deliver opening remarks when the film is shown in Manhattan at the Wareham Theater, 410 Poyntz Avenue, on Sunday, November 22 from 7-9 PM.

Tom encouraged those who are submitting to the fall *Newsletter* to send their information immediately to **Carol Yoho** (cyoho@cox.net). Tom also announced notes of thanks that he has received from Fellow **Sarah Smarsh** and from Errol Anderson of the Kansas Authors Club for the Center's financial support of their projects.

Bob Lawson reported that Washburn's Woodley Press is now

publishing the book version (in paperback) of his novel, *The Bridge of Dreams*, which he self-serialized, on his web-site (<http://www.washburn.edu/reference/bridge24>). A "bridge" (chapter) a month in 2000 and 2001—where it is still available, is free to anyone with internet access. Bob thinks that his publication is one of at least fifty books of poems, plays, and stories by Kansas writers published by the press in their thirty-year history. In 1990 they published *Kansas Poems of William Stafford*, to celebrate their tenth anniversary, in 2000 the second edition of the first book published (in 1980), the much expanded version of Eleanor Bell's *Flights Through Inner Space*, and next year they will probably be looking for a new book by a distinguished Kansas writer to celebrate their 30th birthday. The staff and authors (frequently the same) are proud of this history and don't believe it can be matched by any other non-profit press in the state.

Marguerite Perret spoke about *The Waiting Room*, a mixed media installation incorporating sculpture, sound and image that sensitively examines the nature of women's health care in Western culture. As Marguerite related, the manner in which women's health has been represented, defined and treated reveals more about the social and political forces affecting women than it does about their particular maladies and afflictions. The history of women's health care is, in essence, the history of women's rights. Collaborating artists and contributors include Washburn faculty members **Marguerite Perret**, Art; **Stephanie Lanter**, Art; **Sharon Sullivan**, Theatre; and **Sarah Smarsh**, English. A catalog

for the show will be produced. The installation opens at the University of St. Catherine, November, 2010, and will be on view at the Sabatini Gallery at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library in the fall of 2011.

Marydorsey Wanless announced that she has a show entitled "Evidence of Ageing" opening at the Mallin Gallery of The Kansas City Artists Coalition located at 201 Wyandotte in Kansas City, Missouri. The show will run from November 13 to December 4. Gallery hours are Wednesday-Saturday, 11-5 PM.

Tom Averill has been busy with a number of projects including giving introductions to the Porubsky film mentioned above, a presentation at Leon High School, participation in the Darwin Colloquium at Washburn and several commentaries as the character William Jennings Oleander. Tom announced that he is teaching Kansas Literature in the spring and will be requesting funds for several classroom speakers.

Virgil Dean mentioned that *John Brown to Bob Dole: Movers and Shakers in Kansas History* will be released in paperback and that *Kansas History* will publish a special issue in the spring. **David Winchester** encouraged Fellows to submit book titles for purchase to him at Mabee Library.

William Gilliland has developed a one hour educational presentation "Development of Kansas, The Land and the State." The presentation is on the geologic development of Kansas and how natural resources have shaped the modern state. The presentation is for one hour of professional

development credit that Geologist and Engineers need to renew their licenses under the Kansas Technical Professions Board. Thirty hours of professional development credits are required every two years for license renewal. The presentation was given in October at the Kansas Water

Office, with links to four other offices across the State, for several agencies. In November the presentation will be part of the American Institute Of Hydrology seminar in Topeka. An additional presentation is planned for the Kansas Geological Society in Wichita in March, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

— *Minutes submitted by*
Tom Schmiedeler, Director

September 3, 2009

Fellows of the Center for Kansas Studies met for their first meeting of the new academic year in the Cottonwood Room of the Union at 12:30 P.M. Present at the meeting were **Marguerite Perret, Karen Ray, Tom Schmiedeler, Eric McHenry, Rachel Goossen, Marcia Cebulka, Will Gilliland, Mark Peterson, Patty Bender, Rob Hull, Bruce MacTavish, David Winchester, Bradley Siebert, Sarah Smarsh, Carol Yoho, Roy Bird** and **Bob Lawson**. Fellows welcomed two new members—**Eric McHenry** and **David Winchester** (replacing David Feinmark as Mabee representative)—to the group. During the round-the-table discussion of summer activities and projects, **Patty Bender** noted that the Health, Physical Education and Exercise Science Department, along with the Music Department and International Programs, were sponsoring a visit by the Björksta Folkdanslag or Swedish folkdance group on Sunday, October 11, from 3-4 p.m. in White Concert Hall. The concert is free and open to the public.

Director Tom Schmiedeler stated that the Center's budget allocation remained the same as it has been for the past several years. He encouraged contributions to this fall's newsletter

and suggested a November 1 deadline for submissions. He asked that Fellows identify potential Kansas Day speakers and send him relevant background information on them so he can then solicit approval from Fellows and then contact the speaker. Tom also reported that Matt Porubsky had contacted him regarding forthcoming premiers in Topeka and Lawrence of the documentary film on the well-known Topeka landmark, Porubsky's Diner. Fellows from the Center last year funded "Porubsky's Story Swap" an inaugural event for publicizing and soliciting funds for the film. Matt is now requesting additional funding in the amount of \$400 to help cover costs associated with the rental of Hollywood 14 theater in Topeka at which the film will premier on November 5. Matt and Fellow Tom Averill will speak about the documentary at the showing. Matt noted that the Center's contribution would be publicized, along with the Kansas Humanities Council and other supporters that night and in all publicity about the film. Fellows approved the request but suggested that Tom contact Matt regarding the possibility of having the film premier at White Concert Hall on the Washburn campus. Tom mentioned that he would contact Matt and explore the possibility

of a Washburn premier with him.

Mark Peterson announced the "Affirmative Action: Requiem or Renaissance" Conference at Washburn on September 22-23. Historians, constitutional law experts, public policy scholars and others interested in Affirmative Action will discuss its meaning, impact over the last forty years and its future. Events include a presentation by Oliver Brown ("Affirmative Action: 40 Years On") on Tuesday evening, September 22, and paper presentations and a panel presentation on Wednesday, September 23. Events are free, but pre-registration is requested through Academic Outreach online at www.washburn.edu/ao. **Marguerite Perret** mentioned that she and Tom Prasch are co-chairing the annual fall faculty colloquium on Charles Darwin.

Bruce MacTavish, in conjunction with the Kansas State Historical Society and the forthcoming state sesquicentennial (2011), discussed the possibility of producing "Kanipedia" an interdisciplinary online encyclopedia. Bruce's discussion focused on introducing the topic to Fellows and ascertaining the level of interest of

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those who might like to participate in some way. Although Bruce noted that Bobbie Athon, Public Information Officer at the state historical society, was the contact person, questions arose as to who would be the chief coordinator of the project when the historical society lacked funds to hire a coordinator. Fellows interested in participating in the project could contact Bruce or Bobbie Athon.

Eric McHenry requested funding of \$800-\$1,000 for preparation of a manuscript on the Memoirs of Zula Bennington Greene, more widely known as Peggy of the Flint Hills, who wrote columns for the *Topeka Daily Capital* and the *Topeka Capital Journal*. Costs will be associated with printing, photo copying and an honorarium for an author who will write the forward. Fellows approved \$500

for the fall term and asked Eric to request additional funding at the first meeting of the spring semester in late January.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50.

— Minutes submitted by
Tom Schmiedeler, Director

Plan Now: Sesquicentennial of Kansas Statehood is coming, **January 29, 2011**



Visit us on-line: www.washburn.edu/reference/cks/

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Department: Geography

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