Speaking of Kansas Washburn Center for Kansas Studies

Kansas Studies Newsletter_____

Kansas Studies Courses Spring Semester 2017

- **EN 138 B:** *Digital Storytelling-KS-HisLit*, 3 credits, 1:00-2:15pm TR, MA-206, Averill | Crosslisted with: EN399D, HI300D, HN201B, HN202B, IL398A, IL399A
- **EN 192 C:** *Worlds of Oz—Lit & Film*, 3 credits, 1:00-3:40pm W, M0-052, Steinroetter | Crosslisted with: EN399C
- **EN 399 C:** *Worlds of Oz—Lit & Film*, 3 credits, 1:00-3:40pm W, M0-052, Averill | Crosslisted with: EN192C
- **HI 322 A:** *Kansas History*, 3 credits, 11:00am-12:15pm TR, HC-006, Mactavish
- HI 397 XA: Internship in Hist Agencies, 3 credits, Goossen | Prerequisite(s): HI111 AND HI 112 and 6 HOURS UPPER DIVISION HISTORY AND CONSENT
- **PO 307 XA:** *Internship in State & Local Gov't*, 3 to 6 credits, Beatty | Prerequisite(s): PO107 AND JUNIOR OR SENIOR STATUS AND/OR CONSENT OF INSTRUCTOR | Internships/Externships-EXPER | Crosslisted with PO309XA, HN202XD
- **PO 307 XB:** *Internship in State & Local Gov't*, 3 to 6 credits, Peterson | Internships/Externships-EXPER -- Crosslisted with PO309XA, HN202XD

PO 309 XA: *Kansas Legislative Experience*, 3 credits, Beatty | Internships/Externships-EXPER | Crosslisted with: PO307XA, HN202XD

Memorialization of the Vietnam & Korean Wars

Dr. Rachel Goossen, **Professor of History**, was awarded a **2016 Sweet Sabbatical** grant for **research and travel to Vietnam and South Korea**. A historian focusing on U.S. twentieth-century history, she regularly teaches courses on the Cold War. Her visit to these cour-



Since returning to Washburn, Goossen has been developing a new upper-division

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Rachel Goossen emerging from one of the Cu Chi Tunnels, a wartime center that now serves as a tourist destination outside Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Fall 2016

785-670-1559 tom.schmiedeler@washburn.edu Deborah Altus, Human Services Tom Averill, English Bob Beatty, Political Science Roy Bird, KHC Speaker Chris Bowers, Historian Marcia Cebulska, Playwright Jeannie Chinn, KSHS Virgil Dean, KSHS Kelly Erby, History Connie Gibbons, Mulvane Art Museum William Gilliland, Geology Rachel Goossen, History Chris Hamilton, Political Science Ionathan Hart, Historian Danielle Head, Art Bob Hoard, Sociology/Anthropology 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. Linsey Moddelmog, Political Science 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 Vanessa Steinroetter, English Laura Stephenson, Dean, LA&S Margaret Stewart, English Nancy Tate, VP, Academic Affairs Kelly Watt, Art David Winchester, Mabee Library Kerry Wynn, History Carol Yoho, Web Editor

Tom Schmiedeler, Director

Center for Kansas Studies www.washburn.edu/cks

Memorialization ... continued from p. 1

history course, "Remembering Vietnam," which she'll teach in the spring of 2017. Faculty members, including Center Fellows **Will Gilliland** and **Tom Averill**, will serve as guest speakers on their wartime experiences abroad and in Kansas. Goossen's summertime conversations with young Vietnamese, whose parents had supplied the Ho Chi Minh Trail and fought in the late 1960s and early 1970s, frames her analysis of how Vietnamese citizens regard the legacies of what they refer to as "the American War."

Additionally, Goossen will present an illustrated talk on her travels at **Washburn University's International House**, on **Wednesday**, **March 8**, **2017**, at **12:00 noon**. *Everyone is welcome to attend*.

New Map Additions

The subtitle of the Center for Kansas Studies website, **A Map of Kansas Literature**, is **"A Work in Progress."** And progress is being made, with the help of capable students workers, and webmaster and Center Fellow **Tom Averill**. This fall semester work-study student **Michelle Clearwater**, a graduate student in the School of Social Work, has added numerous writers. The goal for the map, according to Averill, is "to represent all writing in Kansas, highlighting the variety, the importance, the merit, and the scope of Kansas Literature, past and present."

From the past, the map now has a page for **James R. Mead**, early Indian trader in Kansas and early founder of Wichita, who served in the Kansas House and Senate. Mead wrote a fine memoir, *Hunting and Trading on the Plains*. Mead's library of some 400 volumes is also part of the Thomas Fox Averill Kansas Studies Collection.

To dovetail with Center for Kansas Studies

efforts, the map also has a new page for **Helen Poole Tonish**, whose book, *One Time on the Upper McDowell*, a memoir of growing up in the Flint Hills, was edited by Center Fellow **Margy Stewart**, now retired, and published by the Center for Kansas Studies/Woodley Press.

A glaring omission has been rectified with the addition of **Charles Plymell**, who was born in Hugoton in 1935 and attended Wichita University. An early Beat Generation writer, Plymell's novel *The Last of the Moccasins* was published by City Lights Books in San Francisco. Plymell, who now lives in New York, has published work by Allen Ginsberg and William S. Burroughs through his press Cherry Valley Editions. Plymell also hosted Ginsberg on his Vortex tour, which resulted in the famous poem "Wichita Vortex Sutra."

Finally, new Kansas writers are coming onto the literary scene, and the Map is happy to include **Tyler Sheldon**, son of poet **Bill Sheldon**, who has long been on the map. Tyler published his first chapbook in the past year, and is seeing work in literary magazines across the country. He is currently studying poetry writing with **Amy Fleury** at McNeese State University. Amy, who has long been on the map, is last year's winner of the **Kansas Book Award in Poetry**, awarded by the Thomas Fox Averill Kansas Studies Collection.

Soon, the map will designate, with a special symbol, all books on the map that are also part of the Kansas Studies Collection, and Averill and history professor and Center Fellow **Kerry Wynn** will teach a Kansas Studies course, **Digital Storytelling**, that will use the collection as the text for telling stories of writers, of events, of places, of institutions, of social movements—anything the student can tell as a story using digital humanities platforms for mapping, photographs, audio files, timelines, and text boxes.



http://www.washburn.edu/reference/cks/mapping/



Sweet Sabbatical Experiences Captured

—Article by **Tom Schmiedeler**, Director of Center for Kansas Studies

As I approach retirement this spring, some of my fondest memories from my career at Washburn are those involving the wonderful summers of travel as part of the Sweet Sabbatical grant program. All of them were spent in Europe, a regional specialty of mine. They involved such diverse research themes as the decline of village pubs in Kent, the Garden of England; the distinctive Nordic and Celtic cultures of Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides island chains; the challenges posed by the seemingly endless economic prosperity in Norway; the interminable Dutch fight against the unwelcomed incursions of the North Sea; the regional geographies of the sandy dunes of Landes, France, and the Lüneburger Heide of Germany; the exquisite ecology of the Camargue Delta of the Rhone River of France; and finally, the tracing of my father's path through the Netherlands, Germany and the Czech Republic in World War II when he was a member of Troop B of the 87th Reconnaissance Squadron Mechanized.

Photography has always been part of recording my experiences in Europe. I originally took photographs to provide my geography students with examples of the great physical and cultural diversity we studied, particularly that which relates to the lives of ordinary people who sometimes create extraordinary places, and to the wonders of





I decided to write a "story" about each image and to include a map showing its place in Europe. The

the natural world. The art of photography for me has been capturing a moment in time that best expresses the essence of a place and the lives of its people. Friends have encouraged me to display my photographs publicly and so when I received an invitation from the **Phoenix Gallery** to have an exhibition, I began thinking about how to convey the meaning given by the geographical contexts of the images. result was **"Stories to Tell: Photography from the Soul of Europe."** Some examples, along with photos from the opening at the Phoenix on October 28, are included here. Three of them are from my most recent and last Sweet Sabbatical during which I researched the geography of three of the realm's micro states: Andorra, Liechtenstein and San Marino.

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Sweet Sabbatical Experiences Captured, cont.



Algarve Shepherd, July 2016...the Story:

Mester (Master) Chico, a traditional goatherd and shepherd, leads his animals through a rural area near the village of Santa Rita in the **Algarve province of southern Portugal**. He controls wayward movement of the animals through three methods involving sound: he vocalizes general sounds the animals seem to understand, he hurls stones from a slingshot whose thump startles strays back to the herd, and he calls sheep and goats by name.









The Pensive Poet, June 2016 ...the Story:

This prominent sculpture is one of seven male, sitting figures known as the "Poetas" (2014) by Catalonian artist Jaume

Plensa. It is located in front of the General Council of **Andorra**, the country's unicameral Parliament in the capital of Andorra la Vella. The figures, each of which represents a parish of Andorra, are approximately two meters high on steel posts up to ten meters high. The figures light up in different colors at night. This poet's gaze toward the mountains includes colorful modern architecture that stands in contrast to the limestone structures of the old town of Andorra La Vella and the small towns and villages in the countryside.

Sweet Sabbatical Experiences Captured, cont.-



In Liebe und Dankbarkeit (In Love and Gratitude), June, 2016...the Story:

Many of the tombstones for the souls of the dearly departed at St. Joseph's Parish Cemetery in **Triesenberg**, **Liechtenstein**, are very expressive of the lives of their deceased. They are adorned with photos of the departed and some have carved emblems of their callings, such as an anvil and hammer for a metal worker or a mountain scene for one who loved to hike in the country's magnificent Alps. As is the case with the one depicted in this photograph, most are beautifully decorated with flowers and large votive candles, but the exquisite stone work on the "book" at this grave is exceptional.



First Tower, June, 2016...the Story:

This view of "Rocca Maggiore" (Major Fortress) or more commonly known as First Tower, is at **San Marino**, a World Heritage Site and an enclaved microstate of only 24 square miles surrounded by Italy. It is taken from the second and highest (756 meters) of three towers that lie on Mount Titano, an escarpment at the edge of the Apennines only six miles from the Adriatic Sea. The Public Palace, the seat of the government, is the higher building downslope from the fortress and nestled among the winding streets, hotels and shops that comprise much of this delightful city, where a carafe of the region's excellent sparkling wine and pizza, and a spectacular sunset view, can be enjoyed from the city's many open-air restaurants. The hazy, flat terrain at the horizon is the Po Valley.

Sweet Sabbatical Experiences Captured, cont.





Water Poem, June 2016 ...the Story:

Location is "Little Sparta," the garden and soul of Scottish poet, writer, artist and gardener Ian Hamilton Finlay in the

Scottish Borders region. Little Sparta is a created landscape begun in 1966 and contains over 260 individual works, some of which were commissioned by Finlay. The view here is not one of his works but a scene at the pond in the area of Little Sparta known as The Lochan Eck Garden.





View through an Open Window Alfama, July, 2016 ... the Story:

Alfama is the oldest district of **Lisbon** and a survivor of the 1755 earthquake that destroyed most of the rest of the city. Its narrow steep streets twist and turn down the slope of a hill from the Castle of São Jorge to the Tejo River. During the Moorish domination, Alfama was nearly the entire city, but after it spread westward Alfama became the district of the poor. The renovation of old houses and the addition of restaurants, such as this one, where Fado, the melancholy music of Portugal can be heard, have reinvigorated this oldest part of the city.

Visions of Right @ Washburn____

-Article by Marcia Cebulska, playright of Visions of Right

Visions of Right, written in response to the hate ministry of the Westboro Baptist Church, will be presented as a concert reading at the **Andrew J. and Georgia Neese Gray Theater** on **Washburn's campus** on **Thursday, January 26, 2017,** at **7:30 pm.** Professor and CKS Fellow **Kelly Erby** (History) initiated the invitation for the award-winning play to come to campus following a similar reading at Texas Lutheran University where it was part of a year-long program on hate speech. Professor Erby hopes the script-in-hand performance will engage the Washburn community as it did at TLU and serve as a beginning for meaningful conversation on hate speech and hate crimes.

The play centers around the character of Christina, a photographer teaching at Washburn who is the object of picketing and hate speech directed



at her by a Reverend Noah Jones. When she finds her name listed among the victims of Auschwitz and her Jewish husband and gay friend are also attacked, Christina is emboldened to confront the Reverend. Balancing the serious topic, the play offers a considerable amount of humor and hope.

Jesyca Rodenberg will play the lead as she did in the Ad Astra productions in Topeka and at the Lawrence Arts Center, which played to capacity crowds. **Craig Fisher**, artistic director of Ad Astra Theatre Ensemble and adjunct professor at Washburn, will reprise his role as Larry. **Darren Canady** who has directed previous hit productions of *Visions of Right*, will direct the concert reading. Professor **Thomas Prasch** (History) will moderate discussion. Funding to help make the event possible is being provided by the **Mulvane Art Museum** and **University Diversity and Inclusion**.

Video trailer: https://youtu.be/oqsegFbqy40

For more information on the background of the play, please see earlier CKS *Newsletter* articles:

http://www.washburn.edu/academics/center-kansasstudies/kansas-resources1/newsletters/F2015.pdf

http://washburn.edu/academics/center-kansas-studies/kansas-resources1/newsletters/S2015.pdf

A full production of **Visions of Right** is slated for **May 18-27** at the **Jewish Theatre of Bloomington** in **Bloomington**, **Indiana**.

My web site: http://marciacebulska.com/



left: Marcis Cebulska, playwright

below: Craig Fisher as Larry Uffizi, with his dear friend Christina, played by Jesyca H. Rodenberg



right: Ad Astra Theatre publicity for their production, Fall 2015





above: Hate message, as carried by church members

CKS Meeting Summaries

September 1, 2016

ellows of the Center for Kansas Studies met for their first meeting of the new academic vear in the Lincoln Room of the Washburn Union on Thursday at 12:30. Tom Schmie**deler**, Director, spoke briefly about the budget, and Kansas Studies spring courses (see below). He encouraged members to contribute to the fall newsletter and to think about potential speakers for the Center's annual Kansas Day presentation. He gave an update on the Flint Hills Tallgrass Preserve film project to which the Center has contributed funding. Tom also announced that he is retiring from Washburn after the spring semester and so would begin the process of finding a new director within the next month when he will release a description of the duties of the director and set a deadline for nominations.

In news from members, **Carol Yoho** mentioned that the 23rd annual Buster Keaton Celebration will be held in Iola on September 23-24. This year's show is titled "Buster Keaton in the Wild West." For more information see the following link: http://iolakeatoncelebration.org/

Connie Gibbons, Director of the Mulvane Art Museum reported on three exhibitions ongoing or scheduled for the Mulvane this fall. "Zak Barnes: At Home in Bazaar" has been extended through October 1. Barnes spoofs Kansas mythologies by juxtaposing such icons as sunflowers, windmills, bison, prairie burning, and picket fences with women in lawn chairs and above ground pools, drinking wine, watching television and wearing tiaras. "Bud Holman: a Retrospective" continues through October 22. A reception is scheduled for September 30 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. This exhibition features more than fifty works that span seventy years of painting. Born on a farm north of Topeka in 1926, Holman spent twenty years in New York City interacting and exhibiting with such American icons as Jasper Johns, Cy Twombly, and Andy Warhol before moving to the Southwest where he resides today. Holman explores the landscape through color, form and texture. The third exhibition is "Dance of the Line: Rita Blitt in Motion," which runs through December 23. Reception is scheduled for November 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Welcome to a sneak preview of the Rita Blitt collection and archive recently added to the Mulvane Art Museum collection. Blitt's paintings and drawings are a celebration of music, dance, and life.

In other Mulvane news, Museum Curator and Fellow **Julie Myers** left the Mulvane and Washburn in August when her husband, Chuck, took a position at the University of Chicago Press. Center Director, **Tom Schmiedeler**, sent a note of appreciation to Julie for her many contributions to the Center over the past few years. A search for a Collections Manager/Registrar has begun and interviews will be conducted over the next few weeks.

In regard to Kansas Studies spring course offerings, **Tom Averill** announced two new courses. In "Digital Storytelling: History and Literature" (HN 201/212, EN 138/399, HI 300), students will use digital tools to understand and critique narratives about Kansas. Utilizing the Thomas Fox Averill Kansas Studies Collection at Mabee Library, students will conduct primary source research to produce an original project exploring the history and literature of Kansas. The course will teach students digital tools important to practitioners in the humanities and social sciences. Students will exhibit their projects as websites, which will be hosted and publically available.

The second course is "Worlds of Oz: Literature and Film" (EN 192/399). Ever since the 1900 publication of L. Frank Baum's The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, the Oz books, the films (especially the 1939 Wizard of Oz), the adaptations, cartoons, comic books, novels and popular cultural conversations about Dorothy and Kansas have been plentiful, controversial, playful, cynical and as wonderful as the Wizard. Students will explore this Oz-some material in all its forms as they journey to the Emerald City and back, replenishing their hearts, brains, and courage.

Among funding requests, **Bob Beatty**, as part of his continuing series on Kansas governors, requested \$715 for transcribing and close captioning of recent interviews of former Governor Sebelius on the Washburn campus. Fellows approved his request. Tom Averill requested funding for Speaking of Kansas honoraria and for a film/interview project on the Wichita artist David Quick, whose work will be shown in a retrospective at the Mulvane in the future. The request for \$1,000 was for hiring two people to conduct a two-hour interview of Quick. Tori Lawrence of Lawrence and Alex Unruh of Wichita will film, edit and create a half-hour film featuring David and his work. Tom also requested \$200 for mounting and publicizing at the Mulvane an exhibition of posters, broadsides, art, photographs, fineprint literature, post cards and other visual and textural fine art materials from the Thomas Fox Averill Kansas Studies Collection. The exhibit will be curated by Tom, Martha Imparato and Jason

Hanna (student majoring in English/Writing and Art). Fellows approved funding for both of these projects.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m. —*Minutes submitted by* **Tom Schmiedeler**

November 17, 2016

ellows of the Center for Kansas Studies met for their late fall meeting on Thursday, November 17, in the Lincoln Room of the Union. Present at the meeting were **Tom Schmiedeler**, Bradley Siebert, Tom Averill, Marcia Cebulska, John Hart, David Winchester, Kelly Erby, Rachel Goossen, Carol Yoho, Will Gilliland, Marguerite Perret, Danielle Head, Laura Mur**phy** and **Chris Bowers**. After a brief discussion of the remaining budget, Director Tom Schmiedeler encouraged members to submit information on their projects and activities to the fall newsletter. He also gave an update on the Kansas Day presenter, Brent Campney, who will speak on "The Black Freedom Struggle and the White Backlash in Small Town Kansas, 1960-1975." The presentation is scheduled for Friday, January 27. More is forthcoming in the fall newsletter.

Tom also read an update from Dave Kendall on the film "Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve: A Flint Hills Love Story." Dave reported that the documentary premiere at the Granada Theater in Emporia was a great success with three hundred in attendance. A panel discussion followed featuring writer Jim Hoy, professor of English at Emporia State; Heather Brown from the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve; Rob Manes, Director of the Nature Conservancy of Kansas; and Ron Klataske, Director of the Kansas Audubon. A second public screening occurred on Sunday, November 20, at the Wareham Opera House in Manhattan. The broadcast premiere for the production is scheduled for 8 pm on Tuesday, November 29 on WIBW, Channel 13, which is providing an extra half hour to present additional material related to the topic.

In other news, Fellows welcomed two new members, **Johnathan Hart** and **Chris Bowers**, who will be completing Washburn history degrees this spring. **Kelly Erby**, Assistant Professor of History, continues to be the book review editor at *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*. She has been working on two research projects related to Kansas history: 1) a child custody battle that took place in Kansas in 1877 and made national news and 2) how the Kansas–Nebraska Act impacted Frederick Douglass's strategizing for ending slavery in the 1850s. Laura Murphy, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Sociology & Anthropology, will teach a field school this summer in Meade County partially funded by the Washburn Foundation. **Marguerite Perret** from Art spoke briefly of her time in Paraguay this summer and announced that Manuel Vera, a visiting professor from Paraguay, is on campus.

In the most recent edition of *Kansas History*, **Tom Averill** published the article "Writing (from) Kansas History." Vanessa Steinroetter, another Center member, also published in the same edition "Walt Whitman in the Early Kansas Press." Tom announced that the Kansas Studies Collection at Mabee Library will receive 400-500 volumes from the Topeka Public Library soon and that an additional twenty writers have been added to the map of Kansas literature.

Rachel Goossen related her experience of a summer Sweet Sabbatical in Vietnam. She will teach a course "Remembering Vietnam" in the spring and requested that Fellows provide her with names of potential speakers for the course. Rachel also reminded everyone that the Department of History is in need of volunteers for History Day on February 25. This year's theme is "Taking a Stand."

Will Gilliland is teaching his last Historic Geology course currently. He has taught thirty years as an adjunct. Danielle Head is working on a photography project involving the Kennedy assassination. **Carol Yoho** continues her fine work with the Center publications and is finding the time to display her photography more often. **David Winchester** announced that Mabee Library has received the Choy family donation of six hundred volumes involving Chinese literature, art, history and political science. **Bradley Siebert** continues his research on sexual diversity in the Mennonite Church.

Marcia Cebulska requested funding in the amount of \$100 for Martin Wisneski who handles the on-line requests from schools around the world for the Brown v. Board play, *Now Let Me Fly.* She also requested \$100 for travel expenses to attend rehearsals for her play *Visions of Right* at the Bloomington, Indiana, Jewish Theater. **Bob Beatty** in absentia requested funding of \$300 to pay Carol Yoho to digitize and load 75 new TV ads to the Kansas Political TV Ad web site. Fellows approved all requests.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m. —*Minutes submitted by* **Tom Schmiedeler**

2017 Kansas Day Presentation

Mark Your Calendar!

"The Black Freedom Struggle and the White Backlash in Small Town Kansas, 1960-1975"

The CKS annual Kansas Day presentation will be given on **Friday, January 27, 2017**. *Watch for updates as to presentation time and place.*

Brent Campney, Associate Professor of African American History and Ethnic Studies at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, will be the Kansas Day presenter. Dr. Campney has a Ph.D. from Emory University and is the author of **This Is Not Dixie: Racist Violence in Kansas, 1861-1927** (University of Illinois Press). He has published a dozen articles in journals such as *Western Historical Quarterly, Middle West Review*, and *American Nineteenth Century History*. He is currently at work on



two new monographs, including *The Pecu*liar Climate of this Region: Racism, Repression, and Resistance in the Midwest, which examines Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Kansas in the century from the 1840s to the 1940s, and A White-and-Negro Environment which is Seldom Spotlighted: The



Black Freedom Struggle in Śmall Town Kansas, 1940-1975.

The title of his presentation is "The Black Freedom Struggle and the White Backlash in Small Town Kansas, 1960-1975." This subject builds on his work in *This Is Not Dixie* but carries the story into the postwar period.

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY 1700 SW COLLEGE AV TOPEKA, KANSAS 66621

Department: Geography

Center for Kansas Studies

Speaking of Kansas Fall 2016

