

Speaking of Kansas

Washburn Center for Kansas Studies



Kansas Studies Newsletter

Fall 2015

Kansas Studies Courses Spring Semester 2016

- Kansas Literature, EN 138 A** 3 credits T 2:30-5:10 PM
Kansas Literature, EN 399 B 3 credits T 2:30-5:10 PM
Geography of Kansas, GG 304 A 3 credits MW 1:00-2:15 PM
Historical Geology (w/ KS emphasis), GL 103 C 3 credits TR 9:30-10:45 AM
The Adventurer's Library, HI 300ST D 3 credits TR 2:30-3:45 PM
Kansas History, HI 322 A 3 credits TR 11:00 AM-12:15 PM
Internship in Historical Agencies, HI 397 XA 3 credits Arranged
Internship in State and Local Government, PO 307 XA 3 credits Arranged
Kansas Legislative Experience, PO 309 XA 3 credits Arranged

Prairie Heritage Awards

The top **Jan Garton Prairie Heritage Book Award** will go to two authors this year: **Ian Michael Spurgeon**, for ***Soldiers in the Army of Freedom: The 1st Kansas Colored, the Civil War's First African American Combat Unit*** (University of Oklahoma Press, 2014); and **Iralee Barnard**, for ***Field Guide to the Common Grasses of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska*** (University of Kansas Press, 2014).

Both authors will receive the full \$1000.00 award because, as Prairie Heritage board member **Delilah Hamilton** explains, "Both books were tops in their fields, one in social history, the other in natural history. How could we compare the two? We had to give two awards!"

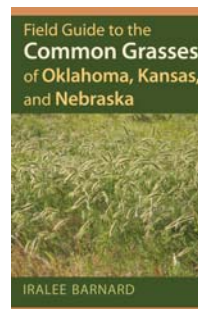
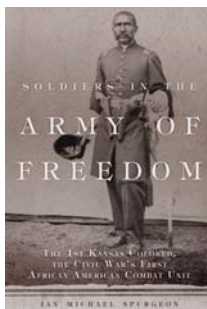
"Jan Garton would be pleased," said board members **Margy Stewart**. Jan Garton was the beloved Kansas conservationist who led the successful fight to preserve Cheyenne Bottoms and who endowed the Prairie Heritage book awards with a bequest from her estate.

"Jan would be so happy to see how these two skillful and dedicated

authors have illuminated our prairie heritage in different and important ways," Stewart added.

A number of meritorious finalists will receive small cash awards as well.

Books published in 2015 are eligible to apply for next year's awards.



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

Deborah Altus, Human Services
Tom Averill, English
Bob Beatty, Political Science
Patti Bender, Health
Roy Bird, KHC Speaker
Marcia Cebulka, Playwright
Jeannie Chinn, KSHS
Charles Cranston, Mass Media
Virgil Dean, KSHS
Tambra Eifert, Geology
Kelly Erby, History
William Gilliland, Geology
Rachel Goossen, History
Chris Hamilton, Political Science
Robert Hull, Finance
Reinhild Janzen, Art
Jim Kelly, KTWU
David Kendall, KTWU
Gabrielle Lunte, Modern Languages
Bruce Mactavish, History
Judith McConnell-Farmer, Education
Eric McHenry, English
Linsey Modellmog, Political Science
Marguerite Perret, Art
Mark Peterson, Political Science
J. Karen Ray, English
Leslie Reynard, Communication
William Roach, Business
Tom Schmiedeler, Geography
Robin Shrimplin, History
Bradley Siebert, English
Sarah Smarsh, English
Margaret Stewart, English
Marydorsey Wanless, Art
David Winchester, Mabee Library
Margaret Wood, Soc./Anthropology
Carol Yoho, SCHS

Center for Kansas Studies
www.washburn.edu/cks

The Mulvane Art Museum presents *Garden Plots: Tom Averill & Clint Ricketts*

Got the Winter Blues?
Visit *Garden Plots* at the Mulvane Art Museum!

From December 4, 2015, to January 23, 2016, the Mulvane Art Museum on the Washburn University campus will be showing *Garden Plots*, original work by Center for Kansas Studies fellow **Thomas Fox Averill** (text) and **Clinton Ricketts** (art). The exhibit is just one form that Averill's interest in gardens has taken.

As a lifelong gardener (mostly of vegetables) and an admirer of gardens and gardeners, as well as Writer-in-Residence and Professor of English at Washburn University, Thomas Fox Averill took advantage of a summer Sweet Sabbatical to visit botanical gardens in the UK and France. With his wife and son, he toured 21 gardens in 31 days, first in London, then Paris, then the Moors, the Lake District, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Each day, he fashioned a short story idea, and came home with a notebook full of possible plots. Since then, he has visited gardens in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Oregon, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Mexico, and Kansas (to name a few), and he has written down nearly one-hundred of those story ideas using short forms—the short-short story, the prose poem, the brief mini-essay, the meditation, the rant, and, of course, poetry. Over fifty of the pieces have found literary homes in magazines around the country.

In 2013/14, with the help of a Washburn University Small Research Grant, Tom began work with Clinton Ricketts, Adjunct Professor of Design, Drawing and Print-making at WU, to create a visual landscape for what he began to think of as *Garden Plots*. With

Clint's art, and with his own text, Tom created a website that features over 80 pieces. That "cyber garden" can be visited at <http://www.washburn.edu/cas/english/taverill/garden>

The latest garden viewing is the Mulvane show with Clinton Ricketts' delightful, framed watercolors and Thomas Fox Averill's text excerpts displayed in a garden-like setting from **December 4, 2015 to January 23, 2016. The opening, December 4 at 5:30 p.m.**, will feature Averill reading from his work, and a improvisational dance performed by **Eleanor Goudie-Averill**, Dance Artist-in-Residence at the Lawrence Arts Center; and **Juliet Remmers**, University of Kansas dance instructor.

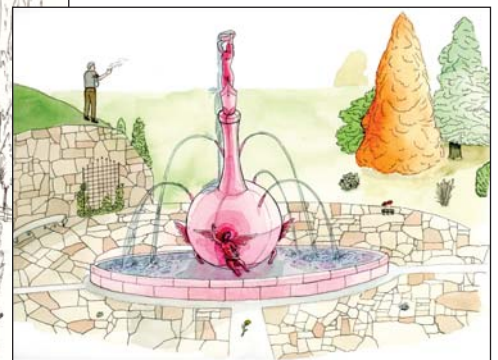
Overall Garden Plots map



Article submitted by **Thomas Fox Averill**, Washburn English department

Readers are invited to visit the Mulvane's website: <http://www.washburn.edu/mulvane/>

Poetry Fountains



Garden House



Garden Shed
This will actually be painted on the gallery wall, with real tools hung in it.



Also at the Mulvane Art Museum

Albert Bloch: Scenes from the Life of Christ

—Article by **Dr. Reinhild Janzen**

This exhibition, which will run through January 23, 2016, presents rarely seen works about key events and teachings in Christ's life by internationally recognized American painter and poet **Albert Bloch** (1882-1961). Albert Bloch was born into a German-Jewish family in St. Louis, then a predominantly Catholic city. As a young artist he lived and worked in the mostly Catholic setting of Munich and environs (1909-1919). There he exhibited with the modernist Blue Rider group and formed friendships with its leading members Franz Marc and Wassily Kandinsky, who sought revitalization of the spiritual in art. In 1923 Bloch became head of the Department of Drawing and Painting at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, where he taught painting, drawing and art history for 24 years.

In highly personal, unconventional images of Christ's birth and childhood, his ministry, his passion and resurrection, Bloch the painter made visible what Christ meant to him. Bloch the poet called Jesus "That other Jewish seer," "my alpha and omega," "preacher of

the mount," "the living word," and "all love which lives in some few words."

Spiritual searching and genuine faith were a unifying force in Bloch's life. He kept the Bible at his bedside and marked passages as he read it. Throughout the five decades of his artistic



Gethsemane, 1926

activity he consistently interpreted and reinterpreted biblical themes. However, he never joined a church. Both in his writings and his art he criticized the hypocrisy among professed believers of all denominations.

His art emphasizes Christ's call to care for the weak and the marginal, the af-

licted, fugitives and outcasts. He visualized this in images based on Christ's parables such as *The Woman Taken in Adultery*, *The Good Samaritan*, and *The Prodigal Son*, as well as in works depicting the conflicted moral struggles of Pontius Pilatus and Judas. Bloch's images are never mere illustrations of biblical themes but also allude to both his personal life and contemporary events, such as the suffering and devastation of World Wars I and II.

Over time Bloch's manner of drawing and painting became increasingly expressive of his spiritual quest. This process of Bloch's "spiritualization of reality" is manifest both in his symbolic use of color and light, the increasing dominance of blues and his emphasis on themes that entail Christ's resurrection.



Rest on the Flight into Egypt, c. 1930-32

Fellows News

Rachel Goossen, Professor of History, received the **2015 DeBenedetti Prize** at the Peace History Society's biennial meeting in West Hartford, Connecticut, for her scholarship "**Disarming the Toy Store and Reloading the Shopping Cart: Resistance to Violent Consumer Culture,**" published in the journal *Peace & Change*. Goossen's research included analysis of Kansans **Carol Rich** and **Bernice Esau**, whose longtime peace activism included creative public protests of violent toys and games marketed to children.



• The official fossils of the State of Kansas

In 2014 the Kansas Legislature named two Cretaceous age fossils found in the chalk beds of western Kansas as "state fossils." **Pteranodon** was a flying reptile that soared above the Western Interior Seaway.



Tylosaurus was a marine reptile that was the largest of the mosasaurs that swam in that sea.



Stoffer Science Hall Displays

William Gilliland, Professor of Geology, set up two displays along the west hallway in Stoffer Science Hall, to be shown through the fall semester:

• Scientific and Engineering Instruments from the Pre-Digital and Pre-GPS Days

Today students have concerns about how to do their class work, if their computers crash or their batteries are dead. This display was prepared to provide the science and engineering students a look at the equipment and methods that were used before the electronic age. Exploration of most of North America and the rest of the Earth was documented using these types of instruments. Even today some of these devices are still in regular use. If you need to fertilize your lawn would you buy a GPS unit or calculate the area by pacing two sides?



This display case will next be used to display Kansas fossils from the **Marvin E. Rolfs Collection** that was donated to Washburn University by the Rolfs family. Professor Rolfs was a mathematics instructor at Fort Hays State University and collected Western Kansas fossils for many years.

Special Topics History Course, HI 300B/HN 202D: John Brown

This fall, Kansas Studies fellow **Kelly Erby** taught a special topics history course examining controversial abolitionist **John Brown**. Through close readings of primary sources, students investigated Brown as a family and businessman, in addition to a committed and, eventually, militant abolitionist. Students also used the methods of cultural biography to understand Brown as a man of his time, delving into political, literary, and religious movements of the nineteenth century. The final portion of the course considered Brown's place in America's historical memory and the ways in which his story has

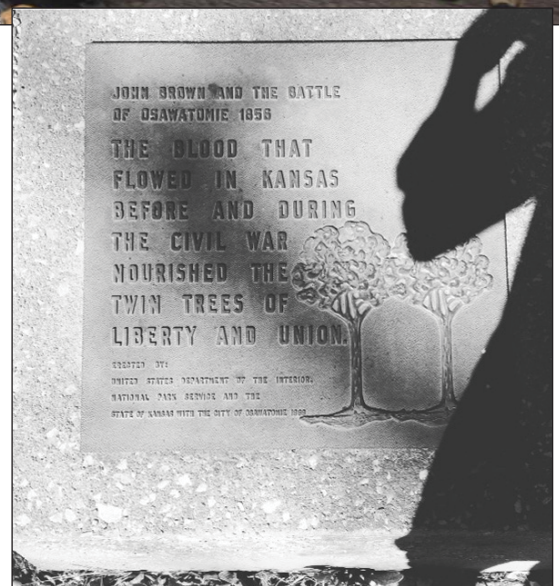
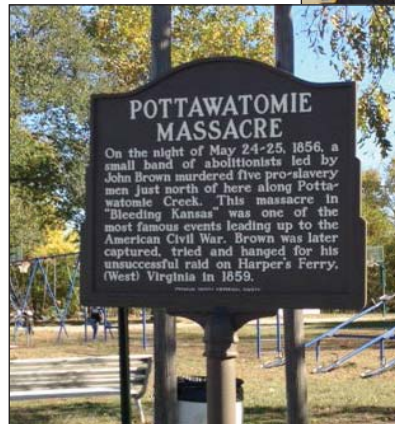


Fellows News — cont.

been appropriated in the 150 years since his execution.

Thanks to support from Center for Kansas Studies and the Department of History, students enjoyed numerous opportunities to take their learning out of the traditional classroom with field trips to such historic sites as the **John and Mary Jane Ritchie House** in Topeka and the **John Brown Museum** in Osawatomie. While in Osawatomie, the class took a brief detour to the **Pottawatomie Creek** area where Brown and a posse of men executed five proslavery settlers.

During another class period, students engaged in archival research using the impressive digitized collection related to Brown through the Kansas Territorial website. Early in the semester, the class received a surprise visit from Brown himself (Topeka re-enactor **Steve Germes**, accompanied by his wife **Suzanne** as Mary Brown), as well as from the **Lecompton Players**, who reenacted a Kansas constitutional debate. The spirit of historical reenactments proved popular among these students, many of whom wore period dress during an in-class debate of Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry, Virginia.



Visions of Right Goes On the Road

—Article by **Marcia Cebulka**, playwright of *Visions of Right*

We have a hit on our hands.

Visions of Right, written in response to the hate ministry of the Westboro Baptist Church, was performed by the **Ad Astra Theatre Ensemble** from September 17-20 at Warehouse 414 in Topeka and received standing ovations from full houses. “I’ve NEVER been so moved by theatre. Never,” wrote **Chris Grandmontagne** in her Warehouse 414 blog. **Ric Averill**, Director of Performing Arts at the Lawrence Arts Center, cited the play’s “phenomenal success” when he invited Ad Astra to join the LAC in a co-production of the play on Friday and Saturday, January 8 and 9, 2016. For more information, see <http://www.lawrenceartscenter.com/> Next, Off-Broadway director and Artistic Director of the William Inge Center for the Arts, **Karen Carpenter**, invited the production to be part of the William Inge Theatre Festival for a performance on Friday, April 22. The festival’s website is: <http://ingecenter.org/festival/>

The cast and director will remain the same as in the Topeka production for both venues and tickets will be available to the public.

Visions of Right follows the story of Christina, a fictional photographer who moves to Topeka when her life is affected by a hate crime in New York City only to find herself and her loved ones the targets of picketing and protest here in Kansas. *Visions of Right* asks: How should we respond to bigotry? Can love survive in the face of secrets revealed to the world? The Ad Astra cast features **Jesyca Rodenberg**, **Matt Briden**, **Craig Fisher** and **Scott Kickhaefer**. The WBC did, indeed, picket the last Topeka performance. See a trailer for the play at: <https://youtu.be/oqsegFbqy40>

Concurrent with the Topeka production, *Voices and Visions* offered additional programming on the play’s theme of responding to hate: an art exhibition of the photography of **Danielle Head** and **Gus Koffler**; an open rehearsal; two differently themed, after-performance panels; and a booklet of essays. Almost all audience members stayed after performances as late as 11 p.m. to discuss topics such as Otherness, The Religious Context of the WBC, and The Response of The Arts to Hate. Panelists included psychologist

and best-selling author **Harriet Lerner**; Stanford University LGBTQ specialist **Inge Hansen**; Washburn Dean of Libraries **Alan Bearman**; photographer **Danielle Head**; Washburn Emerita art historian **Reinhild Janzen**; and the play’s director, **Darren Canady**. Washburn faculty **Tom Prasch** (Department of History) and **Marguerite Perret** (Department of Fine Arts) acted as moderators. The Kansas Humanities Council and Stanford University granted funding for *Voices and Visions*.

Abundant thanks go to The Center for Kansas Studies for helping to make the extremely successful Topeka production of *Visions of Right* possible.



Above: **Jesyca H. Rodenberg**, who plays Christina, attends a Westboro Baptist protest event in Topeka.

Right: **Scott Kickhaefer** as the Reverend Noah Jones.



Ad Astra Theatre Ensemble presents

Visions of Right

Marcia Cebulka's award-winning play

Directed by Darren Canady

A Downtown Underground Guest Production Featuring
 Jesyca Rodenberg
 Matt Briden
 Craig Fisher
 Scott Kickhaefer

January 8 & 9 | 7:30 PM
 \$15 adults
 \$12.50 seniors
 \$10 student

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Upper left: *Visions of Right* Lawrence Art Center production poster.

Lower left: Center stage, Warehouse 414 production.

Upper right: Oscar and Christina look into the future.

Middle right: **Craig Fisher** as Larry Uffizi, with his dear friend Christina.

Lower right: **Matt Briden** and **Jesyca H. Rodenberg**, acting as spouses.

CKS Meeting Summaries

September 3, 2015

The Center for Kansas Studies held a luncheon meeting on Thursday at 12:30. Present at the meeting were **Bob Beatty, Marcia Cebulska, Eric McHenry, Rachel Goossen, Julie Myers, David Winchester, Carol Yoho, Marguerite Perret, Tom Averill, Will Gilliland, Danielle Head, Virgil Dean, Connie Gibbons** and **Tom Schmiedeler**. Fellows of the Center welcomed new members **Danielle Head** from Art and **Louise Krug** from History, and they recognized Fellow **Eric McHenry** as the new Poet Laureate of Kansas.

Director **Tom Schmiedeler** reported on the budget for the year and encouraged Fellows to submit their contributions to the fall newsletter. He also announced that five Kansas Studies courses will be taught this spring. Along with **Kelly Erby**, Tom introduced the idea for a new Kansas Studies brochure and flyer to be designed by **Carol Yoho** that could be given to prospective students as a way of introducing them to the Kansas Studies program. Tom also reported that he will have an essay published in his hometown quarterly newspaper titled "The Place of Tipton." **Carol Yoho** helped with the submission by cleaning digitized copies of several historic photos of the town site.

Will Gilliland reported that he has judged 4-H geology displays at five county fairs in eastern Kansas this summer. On September 11 he will judge displays at the Kansas State Fair and on October 10 he will judge the 4-H geology displays at the Topeka Gem and Mineral Show, which will be held at the Expo Center's Agricultural Hall. **Rachel Goossen** wanted to remind everyone that Kansas History Day judges are always needed for the annual event scheduled for February 27.

Carol Yoho announced that the Kansas Authors Club District I is hosting their 2015 Convention at the Ramada Inn from Friday to Sunday, October 2-4. A major part of the convention will consist of writer workshops on a variety of topics led by well-known Kansas writers including Fellow Tom Averill. Carol requested a donation to the convention from the Center in the amount of \$150. Fellows approved her request.

Marcia Cebulska discussed "Visions of Right," a play about a photography professor whose life and marriage have been devastated by a hate crime and her response to the anti-gay and anti-Semitic ministry of a Topeka church. The play is being produced by the Ad Astra Theatre Ensem-

ble of Topeka from September 17-20. "Voices and Visions" is a series of events related to the text of the play including a First Friday art show and open rehearsal, a reception to meet playwright and cast, and two post-performance panels. Among Washburn faculty involved as panelists and as moderators are **Danielle Head, Reinhild Janzen, Marguerite Perret, Tom Prasch** and **Alan Bearman**. The Kansas Humanities Council has awarded a grant to Ad Astra to pay a number of expenses and Stanford University is funding out-of-state travel. Marcia requested additional funding of \$800 from the Center for the rights to documentary photographs projected during the play, projector rental, and for tickets to be given to Washburn students and Highland Park High School students. Fellows approved her request.

Julie Myers, on behalf of the Mulvane Art Museum requested \$750 to pay for one half of the Guest Curator fee for the Mulvane's Art Museum's forthcoming exhibition *Albert Bloch: Scenes from the Life of Christ*, which will run from October 23, 2015, to January 23, 2016. The guest curator will be **Reinhild Janzen**, retired Professor of Art History from Washburn University. Dr. Janzen has selected the works of art for the show and is writing the text and label panels and gallery guide for the exhibition. She will be giving a gallery talk Wednesday, January 20, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. Fellows approved funding for the project.

Tom Averill requested funding of \$1,000 from the Center's book fund for support for a judge to determine an annual Kansas Studies Collection Book Award winner for poetry, fiction and non-fiction over a three-year cycle. Additional funding is to come from Washburn Endowment. Tom also requested funding of \$500 for an art/writing exhibit created by him and **Clint Ricketts**, Washburn Adjunct in Art. The exhibit will be displayed at the Lawrence Arts Center and the Mulvane. Additional funding was made for his Kansas Literature class for **Carol Yoho** in the spring semester. Tom will teach the literature segment in the first half of the course in which students will be researching and presenting on writers, and then Carol will teach them Dreamweaver and Photoshop so that their research can be transferred to the data base for the Map of Kansas Literature. Fellows approved all requests.

Marguerite Perret requested support for an installation project titled "Waiting in Place." She requested funding costs of installation printing

CKS Meeting Summaries —cont.

for an interdisciplinary and multi-media project that will debut in Asuncion, Paraguay, in June 2016. *The Waiting Room Projects* are a series of Kansas-centric, art-based investigations on the subject of health and healthcare in the U.S. and elsewhere. These projects are led by Marguerite in collaboration with geographically diverse communities, artists, designers, writers, performers and healthcare professionals. To date, *Waiting Room* related projects have been presented in Minnesota, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Florida, Boston and the Netherlands. Future plans include the project at sites in China and Scotland. Fellows approved her request.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.
—Minutes submitted by **Tom Schmiedeler**

November 19, 2015

Fellows of the Center for Kansas Studies met at a breakfast meeting on Thursday, November 19. In attendance at the meeting were **Kelly Erby, Julie Meyers, Rachel Goossen, Will Gilliland, Bradley Seibert, Tom Averill, Marcia Cebulka, Carol Yoho** and **Tom Schmiedeler**. Director **Tom Schmiedeler** briefly spoke of the remaining Center budget, the forthcoming Center Newsletter and the Kansas Day speaker.

Tom Averill requested \$200 for **Eleanor Goudie-Averill**, Lawrence Arts Center Dance Artist-in-Residence and **Juliet Remmers**, University of Kansas Dance Instructor, for their forthcoming performance at the opening reception of *Garden Plots*, an exhibition of writings and drawings by Tom and **Clinton Ricketts**. The reception will be on Friday, December 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Mulvane Art Museum. Fellows approved the Averill request. Associated with this exhibition, **Marguerite Perret**, Associate Professor of Art and Washburn will discuss her art series “The Simulated Garden” at noon on Thursday, January 21 at the Mulvane.

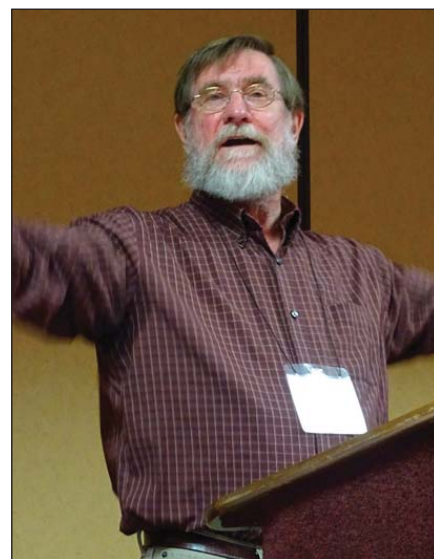
Julie Myers announced that from March 15 to May 15, the Mulvane will be holding a retrospective exhibition of the work of the late **Glenda Taylor**, the former head of WU’s art department. The exhibit will be works of her ceramic sculpture in both wall forms and free-standing pieces that were part of her “Prairie Memories” series. A gallery guide will be printed. More information is forthcoming. Julie also mentioned that the show on the art of *Albert Bloch* continues at the Mulvane. See <http://www.washburn.edu/about/community/mulvane-art-museum/exhibitions/current/Bloch.html>

and also see information on the Bloch in the Topeka Capital Journal <http://cjonline.com/blog-post/jan-biles/2015-05-04/blue-rider-and-albert-bloch>

Marcia Cebulka reported that her play, *Visions of Right*, winner of the Dorothy Silver Award and the Stage Three Festival of New Plays, will be performed at the Lawrence Art Center on January 8 and 9, 2016 and at the William Inge Festival in April 2016 in Independence, Kansas. For more information on Marcia’s plays including “Visions of Right” see <http://marciacebulka.com/plays/>

Rachel Goossen is requesting volunteers to serve as judges for Kansas History Day on Saturday, February 24. Those wanting to participate can contact Rachel or **Kim Morse** in the history department. **Carol Yoho** thanked the Center for its contribution to the success of the recent Kansas Authors Club Convention in Topeka. Carol is busy preparing the fall newsletter and has been a great asset for the Center this fall, along with **Kelly Erby** and **Rachel Goossen**, in the creation of the Center’s new brochure on the Kansas Studies minor.

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



CKS Fellow **Thomas Fox Averill** presents his writers’ workshop at the Kansas Authors Club Convention, Ramada Inn, Topeka, October 3, 2015.

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY
1700 SW COLLEGE AV
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66621

Department: Geography

Center for Kansas Studies

Speaking of Kansas

Fall 2015

2016 Kansas Day Celebration

Mark Your Calendar!

“The Kansas Budget: Are We Really in Kansas Anymore?”

The CKS annual Kansas Day presentation will be given by **Duane Goossen** on **Kansas Day, January 29, 2016**. It is tentatively scheduled for **4:00 PM** in **Room 208** of **Henderson Hall**.

Duane Goossen hails from Goessel, Kansas. He graduated from Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas, and holds a master’s degree from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He began his career as a building contractor and ran for the State House of Representatives in the late 1980s. While representing Marion and Chase counties for seven terms in the Kansas House of Representatives, he became recognized as a moderate Republican and a voice of reason on budgetary matters, and an expert on the state’s finances. Eventually Governor Bill Graves chose Goossen to be Director of the Kansas Budget Division in the governor’s office. Duane served in that capacity for twelve years from Republican Bill Graves’ second term through the administrations of Democrats Kathleen Sebelius and Mark Parkinson. He received the National Association of State Budget Officers’ Gloria Timmer Award for career achievements in a state budget office.



Duane left the Kansas Budget Division position with the advent of the Brownback Administration. Since that time he has continued to be a voice of clarity and reason regarding the Kansas’s precarious fiscal situation, first as a member of the Kansas Health Institute, the foundation-supported, think-tank created from the proceeds of the sale of Wichita’s Sisters of Mercy Hospital, and now as an independent consultant, editorialist and blogger. He currently writes and speaks about the Kansas budget and state finances as a Senior Fellow with the Kansas Center for Economic Growth. He is married to Dr. Rachel Goossen of the Washburn History Department.



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