



Speaking of Kansas

WASHBURN CENTER FOR KANSAS STUDIES SPRING 2003

Center plans for 2004

The Center for Kansas Studies is planning for celebrations in 2004. The year 2004 is the 150th Anniversary of Kansas Territory. The Territory was created on May 30, 1854, when President Pierce signed the Kansas Nebraska Bill into law.

Topeka was founded on December 5, 1854, and Topeka will be celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2004.

The Lewis and Clark expedition explored northeast Kansas from June 30 to July 9, 1804, and celebrated July 4 in Atchison County. This 200th anniversary will be marked by many activities.

The 50th anniversary of Brown v Board of Education of Topeka will also be observed. The U.S. Supreme Court returned its verdict in this case May 17, 1954.

Kansas Studies Fellows are serving on committees planning events to observe all four of these anniversaries.

The Kansas Studies classes have large enrollments this spring. GL 103 EA Kansas Historical Geology taught by Will Gilliland is being offered this spring for the first time in several semesters. Fifty-four students are enrolled in this course. This course will be offered again in the fall semester.

In the fall EN 399A/IS 399 Kansas Characters is scheduled. BI 280 EA Kansas Amphibians & Reptiles and two sections of PO 107 State and Local Government will all be offered in the fall. During the summer, Patricia Bender will teach PE 198B Kansas Outdoor Activities during the first five week session. Students will hike, bike and canoe in Kansas.

New CKS director elected

Barbara Burgess, director of the Center, announced her plans to retire from teaching at Washburn University at the end of this academic year. The Fellows elected Tom Schmiedeler to serve as the new director.

Tom Schmiedeler, assistant professor of geography, will serve as the director of the Center beginning in the 2003 -2004 semester. He has been active in the activities of the Center and has taught Kansas Geography during fall semesters since he came to Washburn University.

He grew up in the Smoky Hills of north-central Kansas in the small town of Tipton. He earned a B.A. degree in English from St. Mary of the Plains College, Dodge City.

For the next decade he worked for the Kansas State Grain Inspection in Salina, and traveled extensively to Europe and Asia, including an overland trip from London to Delhi, India and other parts of South Asia.

In 1981 he began the master's program in geography at the University of Kansas and earned a doctorate in geography from K.U. in 1990. His dissertation work on frontier forms of towns in a six-county area of north-central Kansas has evolved into a study of frontier forms of Midwestern county seats.

He is also interested in the evolution of small-town Kansas and the Kansas landscape.

Spring Colloquium

Brown v Board of Education

Tom Averill, professor of English, is leading a study of the Brown v Board of Education in anticipation of the 50 year anniversary of this court decision. The schedule of the colloquium is:

Week One, Feb 3-7 Common readings—discussion

Week Two, Feb 10-14 Common readings—discussion

Week Three, Feb 17-21 Past Sins—The Roots of Segregation Presentations by Bruce Mactavish on “historical processes which physically separated the black and white races in 19th century America.” Bob Beatty/Mark Peterson on the “backstory” of “local and state political conditions from the time that the Brown case was begun, forward to the 1956-57 school year.”

Week Four, Feb 24-28 Social Science and Social Work in the Courtroom Presentations by Laura Stephenson on the “possible reciprocal influences of Brown and the civil rights movement on the psychological literature of race and IQ.” Mark Kaufman on the “role that social science data played in the Brown decision ... and the ongoing, contentious debate over whether and how the courts will utilize social science data and reasoning in many areas of the law.”

Week Five, Mar 3-7 Individuals and Brown Presentations by Virgil Dean on Gov. Walter Huxman’s role in integrating the KU Medical School in 1938, but, as U.S. Court of Appeals judge in 1951, siding against Brown and for Topeka Board of Education. Judith McConnell on oral histories gathered from Linda Brown Thompson and Vivian Scales, one of the adult plaintiffs in the case.

Week Six, Mar 10-14 Brown Times

Presentations by Tom Averill will read his short story set during the time of Brown, and each participant will be asked to bring a song, a poster, a magazine article, a piece of art, a poem, etc., to give insights into the world of popular culture during the late '40s, early '50s.

Week Seven, Mar 24-28 Brown and the Unfixed World of Race Relations Presentations by Cheryl Childers on “the interaction of housing segregation, perceptions of learning ability ... and access to educational opportunities both before and after” Brown. Steve Cann on all four Brown cases, each necessary to continue the struggle against school segregation.

Week Eight, Mar 31-Apr 4 Brown and the World Stage Presentations by Bill Wagnon on how the “inherent racism of Americans is trumped by the exigencies of world leadership with the onset of the Cold War.” Tom Prasch on comparisons between Brown in the U.S. and the fight for Civil Rights in South Africa.

Week Nine, Apr 7-11 Brown and Pedagogy—How We Teach Now Presentations by Timothy Fry on how to create “strategies, activities and resources that chronicle and explore” Brown. Carey McDougall on feminist pedagogy as it relates to Brown v. Board, and the tradition “to make explicit the implicit political agendas within our classrooms and to empower our students to use knowledge to make responsible social change.”

Week Ten, Apr 14-18 Art and Brown—Celebrating Brown Presentation by Marcia Cebulski, playwright, who will have actors read from her work-in-progress, a play to be performed at the Brown celebration here at Washburn in the Spring of 2004.

Courses offer opportunity to explore Kansas

Not many departments require their majors to complete a minor. Out of the 18 departments in the College of Arts and Sciences, one department, the Department of Mass Media, requires majors to complete a minor. One department, the Department of History, requires majors to complete one of two options: a second major or a minor.

Three departments (Anthropology, Communications, and Sociology) strongly encourage their majors to complete a minor.

Since the minor in Kansas Studies is just one of perhaps 20 minors available to students, the number of students who elect to minor in Kansas Studies may not be large.

The minor will be promoted among the students who major in mass media, history, communications, sociology, and anthropology. All students will be encouraged to explore Kansas through the Kansas Studies courses.

Department chairs and instructors are reminded that the Center for Kansas Studies will support speakers, field trips and other class activities in classes that have a Kansas focus. For more information e-mail or telephone Barbara Burgess, director of the Center for Kansas Studies.

Kansas books available from the Center

The following Kansas Literature reprint series are available from the Center for Kansas Studies of Washburn University:

A West Wind Rises, Massacre at Marais des Cygnes, by Bruce Cutler. First published in 1962, this classic of Kansas territorial literature, by a master of the narrative poem, sees print again. "A West Wind Rises" charts the events of 1858, when Charles Hamilton and a group of followers perpetrated a bloody massacre on the soil of an already "Bleeding Kansas." \$7.50

The Kansas Poems, by Kenneth Wiggins Porter. These evocative poems from the Kansas Dust Bowl were put together by Kenneth Porter just before his death. \$5.00

Dust and Short Works by Marcet and Emanuel Haldeman-Julius. The novel "Dust" challenges our traditional notions of pioneering, showing the spiritual costs of agricultural life. "Short Works" is a collection of short stories and plays that comically depict life in a small town in southeast Kansas. \$12.00

As Grass, by Edythe Squier Draper. With an introduction by Jeffrey Ann Goudie. These

short stories are some of the best ever written by a Kansas writer. Set in the small town, depicting the lives of minorities, women and those not usually seen as heroic, Draper's stories shine as both literature and human drama. \$6.00.

That Trick of Silence, by Steven Hind. Hind's second collection of poems includes many from his first (published originally by Cottonwood Press, in Lawrence), along with new work from Hutchinson and the Flint Hills. Though regional work in terms of setting, Hind's poetry transcends all boundaries. \$6.00

In A Place With No Map, by Steven Hind. New and selected poems make up Hind's third collection, and further his ever sensitive and wise sense of his place, the Kansas Flint Hills. \$7.00

[These books may be ordered e-mail: zzaver@washburn.edu or by mail : Tom Averill, Washburn University, 1700 College, Topeka, Kansas 66621]

Center for Kansas Studies

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2002-2003 Fellows

Tom Averill, English

Cindy Barry, KTWU

Patty Bender, Physical Education

Roy Bird, English

Jenny Chinn, KSHS

Virgil Dean, KSHS

Amy Fleury, English

Will Guilliland, Geology

Rachel Goossen, History

Jim Kelly, KTWU

Dave Kendall, KTWU

Reinhild Janzen, Art

Bruce Mactavish, History

Mary McCoy, Biology

Pat Michaelis, KSHS

Mark Peterson, Political Science

Joanne Ramberg, Biology

J. Karen Ray, English

Tom Schmiedeler, Geography

Bradley Siebert, English

Loran Smith, Political Science

Margy Stewart, English

Gienda Taylor, Art

Sara Tucker, History

Bill Wagnon, History

Ron Wasserstein, VPAA

Brenda White, ITS

Tom Wolf, Biology

The Washburn University Center for Kansas Studies works to encourage Kansas studies, to create resources and provide information about Kansas resources at WU and around the state, to offer programming and courses on Kansas topics, and to conduct outreach programs that focus on Kansas.

Kansas Studies Fall 2003

Barbara Burgess, director
Washburn Center for Kansas Studies
1700 College
Topeka, KA 66621

GL 103 EA Kansas Historical Geology (3)

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Tuesday 1 -3:40 T Averill & K Ray

• BI 280EA Kansas Amphibians & Reptiles

Monday 5:30 - 8:15 Joe Collins

• PO 107 State & Local Government

MWF 10 - 10:50 & TR 8 - 9:15 Loran Smith

Summer 2003

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1st 5 weeks, TWR 7:30a - 9:59 P Bender

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