



Kansas Studies Courses Summer 2022

AN 372/KS 399: *Archaeological Field School at Brown vs. Board of Education*

Kansas Studies Courses, Fall 2022

EN 138/KS 199 A: *Kansas Literature*

PO 107/KS 199 C: *KS & US State & Local Government*

PO 371/KS 399 A: *2022 Kansas Elections*

AN 314/KS 399 B: *Immigrant Experience in America*

HI 300/KS 399 C: *John Brown*

KS 395: *Independent Study*

KS 397: *Internship*

Stepping into the Co-Director Role

By Laura Murphy

The Fall 2021 semester began with a change in leadership at the Center for Kansas Studies, as co-director Vanessa Steinroetter made the tough decision to step down to focus on other administrative duties at Washburn. In August 2021, Vanessa noted, “It has been my great pleasure to serve as co-director since August 2017, alongside first Kelly Erby and then Danielle Head, and I am proud of the many events, projects, and guest speaker visits that the CKS organized and sponsored over the last four years.” I want to thank Vanessa for her service and leadership, and also for her mentorship during the Fall 2021 leadership transition. I was elected by the CKS fellows shortly after her resignation to serve as co-director alongside Danielle Head. Danielle and I plan to continue many of the initiatives started by Vanessa – including bolstering our formal relationship with *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*, growing the Kansas Studies course offerings and internship opportunities for students, and supporting new collaborative multi-disciplinary research projects. On March 24, 2022, we were finally able to host our first in-person meeting again after two years! It was wonderful to share thoughts and ideas again face-to-face – and, it is with this renewed optimism and energy that we begin to look toward the 2022-2023 academic year. New initiatives we hope to accomplish include revising the learning outcomes of the Kansas Studies minor —cont. on p. 2 ▶

Laura Murphy/
Danielle Head, Co-Directors
cks@washburn.edu

Deborah Altus, Human Services
Tom Averill, English
Jennifer Ball, VP, Academic Affairs
Bob Beatty, Political Science
Roy Bird, KHC Speaker
Chris Bowers, Military Student Success
Marcia Cebulski, Playwright
Stacy Conner, Human Services
Virgil Dean, KSHS
Kelly Erby, History
Dennis Etzel, Jr., English
Connie Gibbons, Mulvane Art Museum
William Gilliland, Geology
Rachel Goossen, History
Chris Hamilton, Political Science
Jonathan Hart, History
Bob Hoard, KSHS
Lindsey Ibanez, Sociology
Martha Imparato, Mabee Library
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
Valerie Mendoza, Director, Title III Grant,
Academic Affairs
Debra Mikulka, KAN TRAIN Grant Mgmt.
Jason Miller, Anthropology
Linsey Modellmog, Political Science
Marguerite Perret, Art
Mark Peterson, Political Science
Benjamin Reed, Biology
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
Kelly Watt, Art
David Winchester, Mabee Library
Kerry Wynn, History
Carol Yoho, Graphic Artist

Center for Kansas Studies
www.washburn.edu/cks

Stepping into the Co-Director Role

—cont. from p. 1 ▶

to better reflect the new breadth of Kansas-related courses being taught. Moreover, we'd like to seek additional ways to bolster community-engaged learning and research. One way to accomplish these initiatives is by bringing new CKS fellows to the table. At the March 2022 meeting, **Dr. Valerie Mendoza** and **Dr. Benjamin Reed** were elected as new fellows! Valerie is the Director of the Title III Grant at Washburn; she studies Mexican American history in Kansas and recently wrote an article on the Guadalupe Center in KC on the efforts of Mexican American women to shape its activities. Ben is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Washburn who studies ornate box turtles (*Terrapene orna-*

ta), an iconic species of the American midwest that inhabits Kansas's tallgrass, mixed-grass, and short-grass prairies throughout the state. He also started a popular "Adopt-A-Turtle" program and has advocated for the ornate box turtle during a recent Kansas House Legislature session. Welcome - we look forward to future collaboration with you! If you have ideas as to how CKS might grow, to include future events, speakers, and research, as well as nominations for new fellows, please do not hesitate to get in touch and let us know. Please also keep us updated on your recent activities and accomplishments. We look forward to what's in store for Kansas Studies in the coming academic year!



Left:
Dr. Laura Murphy, new co-director,
Dr. Valerie Mendoza, new fellow,
and **Dr. Benjamin Reed**, new fellow.

The 2022 Center for Kansas Studies Kansas Day Lecture

CKS hosted our annual Kansas Day Lecture event on Friday January 28th, also a WUmester "Truth" event, with Dr. Sarah Deer, University Distinguished Professor at the University of Kansas and Chief Justice for the Prairie Island Indian Community Court of Appeals. She delivered her talk titled: "A Trail of Tears in Kansas? An Indigenous Perspective of Kansas History" on zoom with approximately 170 people in attendance—a new record for the Center's annual signature event! The talk is accessible on Washburn's YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOaXA6njv24>

The event was co-sponsored by the Washburn School of Law, and the Washburn College of Arts and Sciences and the Division of Student Life/University Diversity and Inclusion. Additionally, CKS co-director Laura Murphy organized a zoom session for students to have one-on-one time with Dr. Deer; 8 students attended to continue the discussion centered on Native American issues.

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR KANSAS STUDIES PRESENTS
A 2022 KANSAS DAY EVENT:

**A Trail of Tears in Kansas?
An Indigenous Perspective of Kansas
History**

DR. SARAH DEER
UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
CHIEF JUSTICE FOR THE PRAIRIE ISLAND
INDIAN COMMUNITY COURT OF APPEALS

Most people associate the "trail of tears" with the removal of Southeastern tribal nations to Indian Territory in the 1830s. In truth, however, most tribal nations experienced upheaval and displacement across the continent. This presentation will consider the 19th century forced removal of tribal nations to and from the land now known as Kansas.

JOIN THE DISCUSSION
FRIDAY JANUARY 28, 2022
2 PM ZOOM: [REGISTER](#)

CO-SPONSORED BY:
SCHOOL OF LAW
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DIVISION OF STUDENT LIFE/UNIVERSITY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

WASHBURN
UNIVERSITY

WUmester's "Truth" and Center for Kansas Studies

By Kelly Erby

The topic for Washburn's WUmester 2022 was "Truth." The WUmester initiative, which aims to engage the entire university in a shared conversation about a topic related to social justice, continued to benefit from the support of the Center for Kansas Studies again this year. The "Truth" theme considered questions such as, "How do power and privilege shape who gets to make truth claims?" What forces affect which 'truths' are heard and believed and which are hidden, ignored, or discredited?" and "What happens when people living in a society together—especially a multicultural democracy—do not agree on what is true?" These questions certainly resonate with the objectives of Kansas Studies and several WUmester events provided opportunities to reflect on truths in Kansas history, politics, and culture. Along these lines, Dr. Sarah Deer's Kansas Day lecture considering Kansas history from an Indigenous perspective served as a thought-provoking start off this year's WUmester events. Additional Kansas connections to WUmester included a dinner on campus featuring locally grown Kansas foods catered by Chartwells, Washburn's on-campus caterer. This dinner preceded a screening of the 2021 film *Fruits of Labor* that follows Ashley, a Mexican-American teenager living in California who dreams of graduating high school and going to college. But when ICE raids threaten her family, Ashley is forced to become the breadwinner, working days in the strawberry fields and nights at a food processing company. CKS fellow **Dr. Jason Miller** organized the event that featured filmmaker Emily Cohen Ibañez, who joined attendees for a discussion after the screening.

In April, Washburn's student chapter of URGE organized an event to discuss the truth about the proposed abortion amendment to the Kansas state constitution that will appear on the ballot for the special election August 2.

The exhibit "Truth" at the Mulvane Art Museum featured a number of pieces by Kansas artists, past and present. Curated from the Mulvane's permanent collection, the exhibition explored the various meanings and definitions of truth. In particular it considered how distinct identi-



ties shape perspectives and understandings of social and political issues.

Several Kansas Studies fellows presented work as part of a WUmester-themed faculty colloquium offered through the College of Arts and Sciences. Some of this work also had direct ties to Kansas history, including an investigation of settler colonialism and military land transfers in Kansas presented by **Dr. Kerry Wynn** of the Department of History. **Drs. Bruce Mactavish and Kelly Erby** shared their research into the role former Missouri Senator and pro-slavery advocate David Rice Atchison did or did not play in the 1856 raid of Lawrence, Kansas Territory.

Truth in Haldeman-Julius Blue Books

By Martha Imperato

In support of the WUmester theme, Truth, Tom Averill and I curated a small exhibit in Mabee Library. We selected titles from our Haldeman-Julius Blue Books collection (part of the Thomas Fox Averill Kansas Studies Collection) that contained the words truth, true, bunk, lies or sham. The covers of 10 books were scanned, printed and framed. Tom wrote the accompanying text and Martha installed the exhibit near the main entrance. A glass case displays the 10 featured Big and Little Blue Books and quite a few additional titles. The exhibit runs April through August 2022. Here are some excerpts from Tom's text:

Of the Blue Books, the Kansas State Historical Society's *Kansapedia* says:

[Emanuel] Haldeman-Julius [along with his partner Marcet] devoted his life to crusading against "bigotry and bunk, prejudices and fanaticism." He believed that the life of the average American was harmed by political, economic, and religious restriction designed to promote inequality. One of his purposes for publishing the Little Blue Books was to inform people about things those in power did not want them to know.

[Emanuel and Marcet Haldeman-Julius] are remembered for their vision of a new and better world, for their commitment to little-known authors and to controversial subjects like birth control and sexuality and for their commitment to free-thought and open discourse, all through the dissemination of affordable books.

Historian Mark Scott explains that [Haldeman-Julius] *believed that by encouraging mankind to be ignorant and irrational, bunk was a primary obstacle to personal freedom and human happiness. It often encouraged men to resort to violence rather than to resolve problems rationally. According to Haldeman Julius, such "bunkist" doctrines [were] racial supremacy, patriotism, and religious superiority.*

In advocating rationality and intellectual freedom, Haldeman Julius mercilessly ridiculed those ignorance mongers whom he thought "worshipped at the Temple of Bunk."

—Scott, Mark. 1978. "The Little Blue Books in the War on Bigotry and Bunk," *Kansas History*, vol. 1, no. 3, Autumn 1978, pp. 155-76.



Photo of the Haldeman-Julius', obtained courtesy of Leonard H. Axe Library, Special Collections & Archives, Pittsburg State University.



Photos of the Haldeman-Julius Blue Books Exhibit inside Washburn's Mabee Library.

New Book Published About World-Famous Frederic Funston

By Carol Yoho

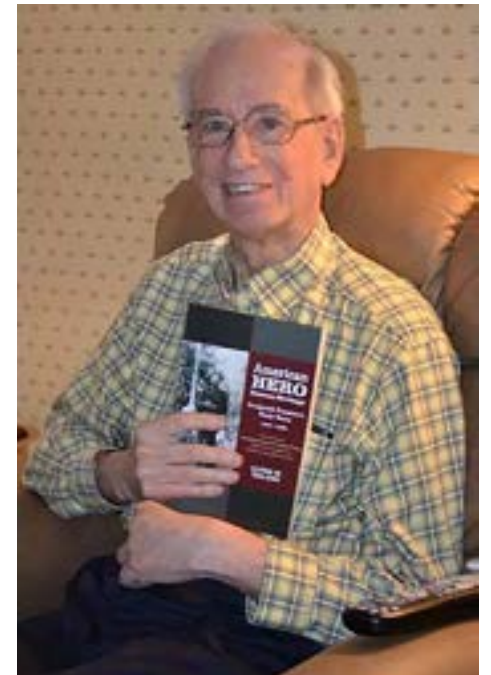
In Spring 2020, Fellow **Tom Averill** asked for and received \$500 from CKS to help fund the planned publication of Volume 1 of a non-fiction trilogy about General Fredrick Funston, researched and written by **Clyde W. Toland**, an Iola, KS lawyer and history lover. Toland had done research over 27 years and gathered more material than he'd expected, so he divided his content into three separate parts. The first volume of his trilogy is named **AMERICAN HERO, Kansas Heritage: Frederick Funston's Early Years, 1865-1890**, and was published by **Flint Hills Publishing** in April, 2022. Volumes 2 and 3 are slated to be published later this year.

Volume 1 focuses on Funston's ancestry, his childhood experiences growing up on a farm in rural Allen County, KS, years attending grade school in a one-room schoolhouse, time attending high school, a one-semester job as a primary-grade school-teacher, and jobs involving surveying of railroad lines, newspaper reporting, and collecting tickets aboard trains. Chapters also include Funston's fraternity adventures while attending State University in Lawrence, KS (now Kansas University) and the fraternity friends he developed (including world-famous Kansas journalist William Allen White). This first volume ends with recreational expeditions Funston made to the Colorado mountains.

Toland's Funston research mostly stops at the beginning of his military career. In 1896 Funston joined the Cuban Liberation Army and found the military to his liking. Several other Funston biographies have covered his military history, his marriage and family life, and his sad death on February 19, 1917, at the age of 51.

A multi-page article was published in the Saturday, April 9, 2022, *Iola Register* about Toland and his successful publishing of Volume 1 of Funston's biography.

Toland's paperback book (ISBN 978-1-953583-30-7, 344 pages, retail price of \$24.99) is available online at the Flint Hills Publishing (<https://www.flinthillspublishing.com/clyde-toland>) and on many other online-search resources, including Amazon Plus.



—This photo of Clyde Toland was taken by Richard Luken and used in the *Iola Register* in an article about Vol. 1 being published.

FELLOWS NEWS

In 2011, CKS Fellow and political science professor **Bob Beatty** interviewed Kansas governor Mark Parkinson in the final days of his governorship. In 2021 he and fellow political science professors interviewed him again. Those two interviews form the basis for the Parkinson profile in the Spring 2022 issue of *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains*. "You can get a hell of a lot done as a governor": A Conversation with Former Governor Mark Parkinson, edited by Grant Armstrong, Bob Beatty, and Amber Dickinson, is the seventh piece in our special series of articles based on interviews with former Kansas governors. The conversation with Mark

Parkinson explores topics such as the Kansas death penalty law, alternative energy and the proposed Holcomb coal-fired power plants, budget cuts and tax increases to deal with the great recession of 2009, and the possibilities for Democrats and Republicans to work together in Kansas. Parkinson, a native of Wichita, narrowly lost his first race for the state legislature in 1978 at age twenty, but after getting his law degree embarked on a state political career that included serving in the state house (1991-1993), state senate (1993-1997), and as chair of the Kansas Republican Party (1999-2003). Parkinson switched his party affiliation —cont. on p. 6 ►

FELLOWS NEWS

—cont. from p. 5 ►

from to Democrat when Governor Kathleen Sebelius shocked the state by asking him to be her lieutenant governor in 2006. He served as lieutenant governor from 2007 until April 28, 2009, when he became Kansas governor after Sebelius joined President Barack Obama's cabinet as Secretary of Health and Human Services. Parkinson's story in Kansas is one of changing with the political tides (switching from Republican to Democrat as the Republican party became more conservative), being thrust into unexpected positions (a surprise lieutenant governorship, and more surprising, governorship), and during his short, 628 days in office, finding ways to bring coalitions together to get substantial things done. In the Kansas History article, Parkinson talks not only about his political roots and Kansas career, but also goes into detail about the political and emotional ramifications of leaving one party to join another.



—Photo: CKS Fellow and political science professor Bob Beatty (left) and Kansas governor Mark Parkinson (right).



Rachel Goossen, Professor of History, received a Thomas Robbins Award for Excellence in the Study of New Religious Movements at the American Academy of Religion's annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in November 2021. The award is for her recent scholarship "'Repent of the Sins of Homophobia': The Rise of Queer Mennonite Leaders" in the religious studies journal *Nova Religio*. Archival material that Goossen developed for this project, including oral histories with former Kansans, is accessible via the LGBTQ Religious Archives Network. <https://lgbtqreligiousarchives.org/collections/rachel-waltnr-goossen-collection-on-lgbtq-mennonite-leaders>



Valerie Mendoza is part of a group that received funding as part of the Stories for All Digital Story Telling Project. "Reclaiming Home" (<https://storiesforall.org/story/reclaiming-home-remembering-the-topeka-bottoms/>) will tell the story of Topeka's Bottoms neighborhood through oral history, a documentary and art. In the 1950s and '60s, more than 3,000 Topekans were forced to leave their homes and businesses in the Bottoms district in downtown to make way for new real estate development as part of the Urban Renewal Project. The area, covering more than 20 blocks, was the heart of a thriving Black business district and robust Latinx community. "Reclaiming Home" aims to reclaim the stories of these displaced communities through the use of oral histories, community mapping, a documentary and an exhibit that recreates the neighborhood through art—all at a critical time when the city is planning another round of urban renovation in the same area.

Mendoza will collaborate with Donna Rae Pearson, local historian and Professors Maria Velasco and Matt Jacobson of the University of Kansas.

Stories for All: A Digital Storytelling Project for the Twenty-First Century brings together over forty Kansas-based partner projects dedicated to gathering marginalized and

—cont. on p. 7 ►

FELLOWS NEWS

—cont. from p. 6 ►

suppressed histories, interconnecting them, and sharing them widely through digital media. Stories for All, a partnership between the Hall Center for the Humanities and the Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities at the University of Kansas, is supported by a major grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.



Laura Murphy, Assistant Professor, Anthropology, will be teaching Archaeological Field School this summer as a Kansas Studies course in collaboration with the Kansas State Historical Society's annual Kansas Archeological Training Program (<https://www.kshs.org/p/kansas-archeology-training-program-field-school/14622>) under the direction of Nikki Klarmann, Project Outreach Archeologist. Archaeological excavations will occur on the north and south sides of the Brown vs. Board of Education National Historic site's Monroe School property in Topeka this June. The Kansas State Historical Society has developed several project goals to explore the potential remains of buried structures on the property. We seek to expand our knowledge of the early life of the Monroe School property from when it was purchased by John Ritchie to when the current Monroe Elementary School was built. The National Park Service has little information regarding the preservation of these buried structures, so we hope that our archaeological investigations will shed light on the story of the people who lived in this neighborhood between the Civil War and the Civil Rights eras – a neighborhood that had such a profound impact on people's lives throughout the country. This project will assist the National Park Service in interpreting a fuller story of the community that surrounded the Monroe School property prior to the 1954 *Brown v. Board* decision. Washburn students enrolled in the field school will have opportunities to present research projects as a result of the work this summer.

KANSAS HISTORY
A JOURNAL OF THE CENTRAL PLAINS

Kansas History is published jointly by the Department of History at Kansas State University and the Kansas Historical Foundation. We publish scholarly articles, edited documents, and other materials that contribute to an understanding of the history, prehistory, and cultural heritage of Kansas and the Central Plains. Visit our website below to subscribe, read past issues, and find our editorial policies.

<https://www.kshs.org/p/kansas-history/12443>

The CKS sponsors *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* and we encourage your submissions!

