

Speaking of Kansas

Washburn Center for Kansas Studies



Spring 2006 Kansas Studies

Apr. 2006

- **GG 304 Geography of Kansas** — 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm MW — Living Learning Center-Public 162 — Lecture — Tom Schmiedeler
- **PO 107A and PO 107B State and Local Government** — PO 107A, 10:00 am - 10:50 am MWF — Henderson Learning Center 207 — Lecture — Loran Smith
PO 107B, 8:00 am - 9:15 am TR — Henderson Learning Center 104 — Lecture — Loran Smith
- **HN 201 C / MLS 590 Mapping Kansas Literature** — 1:00 pm - 3:40 pm — R — Morgan Hall 016 — Seminar — Thomas Averill / Carol Yoho
- **GL 103A Historical Geology** — 5:30 pm - 8:10 pm — M — Morgan Hall 179 — Lecture/Lab — William Gilliland

History class remembers WWII

Rachel Goossen, Associate Professor of History, is offering an upper-division course, "Remembering World War II," through the History Department and Honors Program at Washburn University. This oral history course focuses on the experiences of veterans of World War II who live in northeast Kansas. The course is being offered for the first time this spring, with 20 undergraduate students and one auditor, each of whom are interviewing three veterans or others with relevant wartime experiences (including women who did wartime work on the home front).

A special focus of the class is in race relations in the 1940s, and field trips have included the Colmery Collection at the

historical research center of the Kansas State Historical Society and the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic site. Robin Shrimplin, a senior history major, is serving as project manager for the oral history component of the course, and transcripts of interviews will be available in mid 2006.

Funding for the course has been made possible in part by the Center for Kansas Studies. HI 300/HN202, "Remembering World War II," will be offered again in the fall of 2006 for 3 credit hours. Contact Rachel Goossen at: rachel.goossen@washburn.edu or 785-670-1762 for more information.

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

Deborah Altus, Human Services
Tom Averill, English
Robert Beatty, Political Science
Roy Bird, English
Marcia Cebulka, Playwright
Jennie Chinn, KSHS
Virgil Dean, KSHS
Paul Fecteau, English
Amy Fleury, English
William Gilliland, Geology
Rachel Goossen, History
Amanda Hamon, Mulvane Art Museum
Robert Hull, Finance
Reinhild Janzen, Art
Jim Kelly, KTWU
Dave Kendall, KTWU
Robert Lawson, English
Gabrielle Lunte, Modern Languages
Bruce Mactavish, History
Ed Marchant, CIS
Judith McConnell, Education
Mary McCoy, Biology
Marguerite Perret, Art
Mark Peterson, Political Science
J. Karen Ray, English
William Roach, Business
Betsy Knabe Roe, Art
Tom Schmiedeler, Geography
Bradley Siebert, English
Loran Smith, Political Science
Margaret Stewart, English
Sara Tucker, History
William Wagnon, History
Mary Wanless, Art
Ron Wasserstein, Academic Affairs
Tom Wolf, Biology
Margaret Wood, Soc./Anthropology
Carol Yoho, Art

Center for Kansas Studies
www.washburn.edu/cks

Fellows News

Faculty Colloquium for Fall 2006: "The Matter of Kansas"

Tom Averill, Writer-in-residence and Professor of English, reminds faculty that the next Faculty Colloquium, "The Matter of Kansas," will be Tuesdays 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.

"Mapping Kansas Literature" is cross-listed as Honors & Liberal Studies course

Tom Averill, English, and **Carol Yoho**, Art, will team teach "Mapping Kansas Literature," cross-listed as an honors and Master of Liberal Studies course. Students will read, research, create and collect content to make web maps of Kansas writers and books. With Carol as facilitator of web design and technical skills and Tom as facilitator of reading and research, the course will provide students with the practical skills to make their knowledge visually available to each other and to the larger community interested in Kansas Studies. The product of the course will be loaded onto the Center for Kansas website. This course was inadvertently not included in the fall schedule of classes as an Honors course.

Kansas topics tackled by playwright Cebulka

Premiere of Inge play, *Touched*, at Inge Theatre Festival, Independence.

Marcia Cebulka's play *Touched* will premiere at the William Inge Theatre Festival on April 26.

Commissioned with support from the Center for Kansas Studies, the play is set in the last 2,000 heartbeats of Bill Inge's life. Inge was the most popular playwright of the 1950s and received the Pulitzer Prize and an Oscar for his work.

Marcia Cebulka, award-winning playwright, is best known to Kansans for her play *Now Let Me Fly* presented at TPAC as part of the Brown v. Board 50th anniversary celebration. John Herzog, who bears a striking resemblance to Mr. Inge, will play William Inge. John has a national reputation on the stage, played on TV's *One Life To Live* and has appeared in several films. Carmen Thomas will play a dozen characters from Inge's life. Carmen spent five years on *All My Children*, has guest-starred on over 20 TV shows and has had a stellar career in regional theatre and film. Peter Ellenstein, Artistic Director of the Inge Center and former Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Repertory Theatre, is directing.

The William Inge Center for the Arts and the Center for Kansas Studies at Washburn co-commissioned the writing of the script, which tells the human, humorous, and moving story of Bill Inge's life. Inge wrote about small town Kansans in his plays *Picnic*, *Bus Stop*, *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs* and *Come Back, Little Sheba*, all of which were made into movies. He received the Oscar for his screenplay *Splendor in the Grass*. William Inge was the most produced playwright on Broadway in the 1950s.

Touched, also to be performed at Washburn University

May 5th and 6th at 8 pm, May 7th at 2 pm, Andrew J. and Georgia Neese Gray Theatre
Box office: 670-3020 for reservations

Free for Washburn and high school students, \$15 for other students and seniors; \$20 for general admission

Seating is limited to 300 seats for this occasion, so please make your reservations early.

Shooting to start on *Through Martha's Eyes*

Marcia Cebulka's film script, *Through Martha's Eyes*, will be shot this May, supported through the Center. The story is set in Territorial Kansas at the Shawnee Mission Indian School and is seen through the eyes of a 15-year-old African-American female slave.

English classes write about Truman Capote

Paul Fecteau's spring classes are writing about Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*. Topics may include the impact of the book and Capote's research on Kansas, as well as the treatment of this material in Bennett Miller's recent film. Links and student work will be posted at <http://www.washburn.edu/faculty/pfecteau/capote.htm>.

Dr. Fecteau is Managing Editor of the Bob Woodley Memorial Press, Department of English, Washburn University.

For more news of Fellows see page 6 ➡

Fellows Meetings: *Minutes*

April 6, 2006

Fellows of the Center for Kansas Studies held their final breakfast meeting of the academic year on Thursday, April 6. Attending the meeting were Virgil Dean, Tom Averill, Rachel Goossen, Marguerite Perret, Marydorsey Wanless, Bill Roach, Marcia Cebulska, Bob Lawson, Will Gilliland and Tom Schmiedeler. During the round-the-table update of activities, Marguerite Perret mentioned that the "Prairie Earth" exhibit opens in early August, 2006 at the Interactive Gallery of the Wichita Art Museum. This exhibit focuses on Kansas prairie ecology and land development, especially in the Flint Hills and Wichita areas. Washburn participants are art professors Marguerite Perret, Glenda Taylor, Betsy Knabe Roe and Marydorsey Wanless who will be creating new artworks for this installation. Washburn students will be creating the interactivities—art-based activity stations for children. Additionally, students from Margy Stewart's nature writing class will be contributing Haiku reflecting on the prairie that will be posted throughout the gallery.

Director Tom Schmiedeler

reported on the year end budget and announced on behalf of Margaret Wood that her Archaeological Field

School to be held at Nicodemus, Kansas from May 15 to June 2 has attracted students from not only Washburn but also from Southern Methodist and Wichita State universities. She expressed her appreciation for Center funding for advertising brochures and announced that she has received a \$20,000 grant from the National Park Service to fund her archaeological investigations into the everyday lives and extraordinary struggle of this unique and important community. Tom also mentioned that he has been asked by Dr. Wasserstein to continue serving as Center Director for an additional two years at which time a decision will be made as to the future Director. Tom also requested a response from Fellows concerning the issue of whether former instructors could remain as Fellows although they were no longer teaching at Washburn. Several members pointed out that former instructors remain active members in a number of capacities and should therefore remain as Fellows as long as they wished to do so.

Tom Averill has extended the deadline for applications for the fall colloquium entitled The Matter of Kansas in hopes of attracting additional faculty. He reported that there

is currently a nice mix of faculty disciplines represented but a few more participants would be welcomed. He also mentioned that he and Carol Yoho will be teaching "Mapping Kansas Literature," which is cross listed as LS 590 GA. Students will read Kansas Literature then research, create, and collect content to make maps of Kansas writers and books. Carol will facilitate web design and technical skills and Tom will facilitate reading and research. The product of the course will become part of the Center website. Tom reminded advisors that the course was inadvertently not included in the fall schedule of classes as an Honors course.

Rachel Goossen discussed the status of the History Department's Remembering World War II project. The accompanying course is being offered again this fall and she requested additional funding from the Center of \$750 to continue funding a student worker involved in the project. Fellows approved the funding to be paid partially by any amount remaining in this year's budget or entirely by next year's budget. The meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Meeting minutes by
Tom Schmiedeler

January 20, 2006

The luncheon meeting of the Center for Kansas Studies was held on Thursday, January 26. Those attending the meeting were Bob Beatty, Carol Yoho, Karen Ray, Betsy Roe, Bill Roach, Tom Averill, Rob Hull, Virgil Dean, Marcia Cebulska, Judy

McConnell-Farmer, Bob Lawson, Dave Kendall and Tom Schmiedeler. After providing an update on the Center budget, Tom Schmiedeler, Director, encouraged attendance at the Center-sponsored showing of the film The Confederate States of America on Friday

evening, January 28. Film director, Kevin Willmott was to be present for a question and answer period after the film. Tom also mentioned that deadlines for the spring Center for Kansas Studies Newsletter was April 1.

— continued on page 4

Fellows Meetings: *Minutes, cont.*

— continued from page 3

Rob Hull stated that he has started teaching Entrepreneurial Finance of Small Business (BU310) as a seminar-like course that can be oriented toward helping individuals start a business. One does not have to be a business student to take the course. A large part of the course can involve a student project related to Kansas economics and/or business. Kansas studies students are welcome to talk to Rob about the course. Page five of the course syllabus, <http://www.washburn.edu/sobu/rhull/bu310.sy.pdf> has statements on how the course satisfies student learning outcomes for Kansas Studies minors as well as information on Entrepreneurship Certificate Program.

Virgil Dean announced that the Kansas History Teachers Association conference is scheduled for

March 31-April 1 in Lindsborg. A competition for students will be held. The paper session deadline is coming up quickly; those interested should contact Virgil at vdean@kshs.org

Among agenda items were several requests for funding. Bob Beatty requested \$600 funding for the production of two half-hour TV programs on Kansas political issues to be aired on public television. Also, Bob reported that he was going to testify before state legislators to promote a bill to fund Kansas legislators' oral histories. Bruce MacTavish, in absentia, requested funding in the amount of \$600 to help cover costs for a field trip for his Civil War class in the spring. His plans are to have Tom Goodrich, author of several books on the Border War struggles, to accompany his students on a motor coach tour of

the Kansas-Missouri border region on April 29. Marcia Cebulska thanked the fellows of the Center for the support she has received while writing the play on William Inge, the premier of which is scheduled for April 26. She also requested funding in the amount of \$1,000 for writing a film script for *Through Martha's Eyes*, to be directed by Charles Cranston. The film will be a narrative based on the life of Martha, a young African-American aged 15 who is illegally enslaved to Reverend Thomas Johnson, missionary at the Shawnee Indian School.

Fellows voted to fund the above requests as follows: Beatty, \$500; MacTavish, \$300; Cebulska, \$1,000. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40.

Meeting minutes by
Tom Schmiedeler

November 10, 2006

Fellows of the Center for Kansas Studies held their breakfast fall meeting on Thursday morning, November 10. Attending the meeting were Tom Averill, Virgil Dean, Marydorsey Wanless, Margaret Wood, Bill Roach, Roy Bird, Bob Beatty, Bruce MacTavish, Will Gilliland, Robert Lawson, Paul Fecteau, Carol Yoho and Director, Tom Schmiedeler. In an around-the-table discussion of activities, Roy Bird announced his appointment as Director for the Kansas Center for the Book and discussed forthcoming activities and events of the Center. Virgil Dean reported that the compilation *John Brown to Bob*

Dole: Movers and Shakers in Kansas History, has been published by the University Press of Kansas. Virgil, who is Director for Publications at the Kansas State Historical Society and editor of *Kansas History*, edited the volume of essays, the publication of which was in part made possible by funding from the Center.

After a short announcement of the status of the Center budget and of publication of the fall newsletter, Tom Averill announced that he had contacted Kevin Willmott, director of Confederate States of America, and that Kevin had agreed to be the speaker at the

Center's Kansas Day event, tentatively scheduled for Friday evening, January 27 at 7:00 P.M. Discussion then began on where the film should be shown and the format of the post-film presentation. The consensus was to have the film shown in Henderson Hall, room 100, with possible overflow in an adjacent room. Tom Averill suggested that he contact Willmott again to determine his interests in the post-film format.

Tom Averill also spoke briefly about the publication of two books: a collection of poetry by Steven Hind and *Speaking French in Kansas* by — continued on page 5

Fellows Meetings: *Minutes, cont.*

— continued from page 4

Robert Day. Tom and **Carol Yoho** will be team teaching a new course, Mapping Kansas Literature, next fall. The course is designed to teach students how to do WEB work and research Kansas writers. The goal is to create a cartographic website of Kansas authors. Tom also has in mind a new colloquium for the fall of 2006. This one is the topic of Kansas and he is soliciting input from anyone who has interest.

Margaret Wood discussed a new archaeological project she will be undertaking at the Nicodemus, Kansas, townsite. Founded in 1877, Nicodemus was a farming and commercial settlement established by African Americans after the end of the Civil War. The site is symbolic of the pioneer spirit of African Americans who dared to leave the only region they had been familiar with to seek freedom and self determination. During the summer of 2006 (May 15-June 2) Margaret and several students enrolled in her field school class will be attempting to identify and test some of the early dugout houses that sheltered the early inhabitants. The work this summer is conducted in association with the Kansas Anthropological Association, the National Park Service and the Kansas State His-

torical Society, and will lead to more extensive excavations next summer. Margaret's request of \$200 from the Center for costs associated with production and distribution of a tri-fold brochure about the project was approved by Fellows.

Margaret also passed around a 2006 calendar entitled "Faces of the Past." This calendar features photographs of artifacts excavated from sites in Kansas which highlight human faces and forms. She is selling the calendars for the Professional Archaeologists of Kansas who raise funds to promote Kansas Archaeology Month (April) each year. The calendars are \$12 and are available through Margaret at extension 1611 or at margaret.wood@washburn.edu or stop by room 218, Henderson Hall.

In news relevant to her photo documentary class, **Marydorsey Wanless** reported that *National Geographic* photographer Jim Richardson donated his time to Washburn by presenting a showing of his work to the Washburn Community on November 7, and by spending the afternoon with the Documentary Photography (AR 399) class. The class enjoyed sharing their experiences of working in small Kansas towns with Jim, who

has been documenting Cuba, Kansas for over thirty years. The documentary class will be hosting a reception for their Photography Exhibit on December 11 from 3:00 to 5:00 P.M. at Mabee Library. The exhibit will run through March. The entire collection including film will be donated to the Kansas Historical Society at the end of the semester. One of the students will be making a web page on the Washburn site next semester.

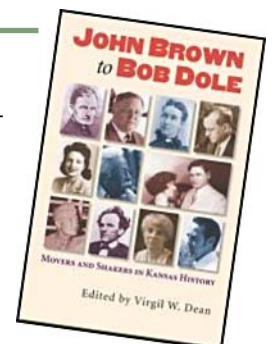
Bruce MacTavish, Rachel Goossen and **Tom Prasch** of the history department have requested \$1,500 from the Center in support of an oral history project, "The Experience of Race, the Experience of War." This project will involve conducting interviews with 50-75 Kansans who had some significant experience during war-time. The requested amount will support a project administrator who will coordinate interviews and the transcription process. Fellows have tentatively approved \$750 of the request and will review authorization of the remaining amount at the January meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 A.M.

Meeting minutes by
Tom Schmiedeler

From John Brown to Bob Dole, edited by **Virgil W. Dean**. Reformers and preachers, publishers and artists, these fascinating personalities are brought back to life by Dean and his fellow authors. They offer a fresh look at many of the important themes of Kansas history—especially the state's identification with some of the great radical movements, including abolitionism, populism, and civil rights—and ultimately recapture the true spirit of Kansas and its meaning for the rest of the nation.

424 pages, 26 photographs, 6 x 9, Cloth ISBN 0-7006-1429-X, \$29.95



More Fellows News

Summer Archaeological Field School set at Nicodemus

Margaret Wood will offer a unique class this summer. Please encourage students to enroll in the Archaeological Field School class (AN 372) where they will explore the westward migration and settlement of the Great Plains by early African American Settlers. This summer we will be working at the community of Nicodemus in northwestern Kansas. Nicodemus is the first and only

remaining Western town established by African Americans at the end of the Reconstruction period (1877). Our 2006 field season is the first phase of a multi-year project designed to explore the early settlement of the community. From May 15 to June 2 students will survey, identify, map and test archaeological features (dugouts) in order to piece together the everyday lives and extraordinary struggles of this unique and important community.

AN 372, Nicodemus, KS, May

15-June 2 (M-F, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm), tuition (\$492) + \$500 additional fee (housing and transportation)

For further information please call Dr. Wood at 670-1611 or visit the Field School Web Site: <http://www.washburn.edu/cas/anso/mwood/fieldschool.html>

Online resource: [kansaspets.com](http://www.kansaspoets.com)

Visit the web site authored by Jonathan Holden, first and current Kansas Poet Laureate.



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

April 2006
Speaking of Kansas
Center for Kansas Studies

Department: Geography

WASHBURN UNIVERSITY
1700 SW COLLEGE AV
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66621