



Speaking of Kansas

WASHBURN CENTER FOR KANSAS STUDIES FALL 2001

Six Kansas courses offered in Spring

Six Kansas courses will be offered in the spring 2002 semester:

AN 225EA Kansas Archaeology Tuesday 5:30 - 8
Will Banks

AR 114/314 Art and Architecture of Kansas
Wednesday 1 - 3:45 R. Janzen

BI 180 EA Birds of Kansas Thursday 4-6:30 Joanne
Ramberg

HI 322 V Kansas History to be arranged (This is an
on-line class.) Virgil Dean

MM 404 Kansas and the Media Monday and
Wednesday 1 - 2:15 Barbara Burgess

PO 107A State and Local Government Monday,
Wednesday, Friday 10 - 10:50 Loran Smith

AR 114/314 ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF KANSAS will be offered for the first time. The Art Department is excited to be able to offer the brand-new course in the Spring of 2002. The instructor is Dr. Reinhild Janzen, assistant professor of art history. "Art and Architecture of Kansas" offers a survey of prehistoric, historic and contemporary visual culture in Kansas, including the arts of Kansas' Native American peoples and diverse immigrant groups, public art, architecture, and the "art world" in Kansas. The course investigates how the visual arts have shaped as well as interpreted life in Kansas. It will pursue the meaning and purpose of the visual arts as seen in relation to place, which is the special character and history of Kansas.

Course work will include readings, field trips, lectures and discussions also by a number of guests who are experts on particular aspects of the arts in Kansas. Students will be evaluated on the basis of quizzes, two exams, two papers and a final exam/project. Those who are enrolled in AR 314 will write

an additional research paper. Students will also create an annotated file of new items pertinent to the arts in Kansas and summaries of field trips taken.

Virgil Dean will teach Kansas History in the spring 2002 semester. This course will be offered online for the first time..

HI 322 KANSAS HISTORY gives students the opportunity to explore the prehistory and history of Kansas--its land, its people, and its cultural heritage. How have people related to this land we now call Kansas? What was their vision for this place? What did they do to make their vision a reality? With each assignment students are challenged to ask these questions and to think historically, as they inquire, interpret, and analyze the sources being used, and draw together all the different sources to build a coherent narrative about that experience from which some meaning can be derived.

These objectives are accomplished through required readings, on line discussion and quizzes, two essay/short answer examinations, a comparative book review, and a "mini" research project. The latter is designed by the student in consultation with the instructor and can take many different forms, as long as it involves the use of some primary source material.

To minor in Kansas Studies, a student must complete at least 15 hours from among the courses listed in the catalog with at least six of the hours at the upper division level. The Center is working to increase the Kansas course offerings and include courses from more disciplines.

Barbara Burgess, director of the Washburn Center for Kansas Studies, advises students who minor in Kansas Studies and certifies the minor.

Student sketches Kansas landscape, plants, animals

With the support of the Center for Kansas Studies, Washburn University writing-emphasis English major Tolora Roeckers did research this summer that will prepare the way for a Kansas nature journal.

Tolora traveled to natural areas in Kansas and made over 50 pages of sketches of landscapes, plants, animals and geological formations.

Now she will work with Drs. Mary McCoy,

biology, and Margy Stewart, English, to ask follow-up questions and research the answers. The result will be a nature journal that will not only show the beauty of Kansas but also demonstrate how amateurs may observe what is around them and ask questions about it in order to learn more about the natural world.

McCoy and Stewart hope to use this nature journal in their team-taught Nature Writing/Biological Writing course in the fall of 2002.

Geography students tour the Kansas River Valley

The fifth annual Geography of Kansas field trip was held on Saturday, October 13. The theme of this year's field trip was the geography of the Kaw Valley from Topeka to Manhattan.

The group of twenty-five included students of Kansas Geography, faculty and staff. They left at 8:00 sharp and drove on highway 24 to Menoken on the northwest side of Topeka where we stopped in full view of several grain elevators. Dr. Tom Schmiedeler spoke to the group about grain elevators as more functional than symbolic buildings on the Kansas landscape. His description of grain elevators focused on their internal geography, where the world of "legs," "belts," "garners," "trippers," and "distributors" intersect.

The group then proceeded to the old Prairie Band Pottawatomie pay station in St. Marys, where Dan Baumchen spoke to the group about the history of the pay station and adjacent community museum. Their next stop was a few miles further up the river valley at the Oregon Trail Park. The group was happy to exit the vans and enjoy the hiking trails for an hour or so in the park. Dr. Schmiedeler discussed the geography of coal shipments utilized by the Jeffrey Energy Center, a power plant located to the north of the park.

The group then proceeded further along the Oregon Trail and stopped briefly at the Vieux Cemetery before continuing to Wamego city park where they had lunch. By this time of day, the skies had cleared and the group enjoyed their lunch in

near perfect fall weather. The group was joined at the park by Drs. Charles Martin and Doug Goodin from the Department of Geography at Kansas State.

After lunch Doug Goodin led the group on a tour of the Konza Prairie, a tall grass prairie preserve operated and owned by the Nature Conservancy about five miles southeast of Manhattan. The group made numerous stops to observe prairie ecosystems and test plots at which the effects of fire were studied. They also had a close-up view of the preserve's bison herd in the valley near the old stone house that once served as the Konza's principal ranch house.

After touring the prairie, the group departed for Tuttle Creek Reservoir located just north of Manhattan. Chuck Martin informed the group about Tuttle Creek Reservoir specifically and the construction of dams in Kansas generally. They also learned about buildup of sediments in reservoirs and how they influence the life of the lake.

The group concluded their stay at Tuttle Creek with a drive along the spillway of the lake and proceeded back to Topeka along the old military road, which goes through the small village of St. George en route to Wamego along the north bank of the river. The general conclusion is that participants learned much about the geography of Kansas and look forward to the field trip next fall. Dr. Schmiedeler wishes to thank the Center for Kansas Studies for funding for the trip and Nora Clark of the School of Nursing for driving the second van.

(from Tom Schmiedeler)

Secrets of the Tsil Cafe by Tom Averill

Review by Roy Bird

Secrets of the TSIL Cafe by Thomas Fox Averill.
New York: Blue Hen (Penguin Putnam) 2001.
Hardcover, 302 pp. \$23.95.

Take a young man in search of himself. Mix together a bather who owns the Tsil Cafe, Southwestern-Mexican restaurant in Kansas City, and a mother who operates a catering business featuring Italian cuisine. Fold in thoughts about father and son relationships. Serve in a first novel, garnished with the menu of the eatery's name in the title and a copious display of exotic, spicy recipes. Serve fresh to readers anxious for Thomas Fox Averill's latest work.

Washburn English professor, writer-in-residence and member of the Washburn Center for Kansas Studies, Tom Averill has published a delicious first novel to add to his many achievements.

Reviewers have called it "a lovingly written coming-of-age gem" and "a cross-cultural feast for food lovers, cookbook readers, and fans of literary fiction."

Averill combined his interest in food and cooking by setting his novel in a Kansas City restaurant. In the novel Averill ponders what sons truly remember about their fathers. Narrator Wes Hingler's father has secrets about his cooking and about his lifestyle. But as Wes matures in the cultural milieu, he learns that he has to develop his own tastes, not necessarily for food but for life.

A first novel from a new imprint with a strong Kansas flavor, "Secrets of the Tsil Cafe" belongs on shelves of all who like to read about food, Kansas, and growing up ... but not on kitchen shelves, unless that happens to be where you love to read.

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 either by e-mail or mail from Tom Averill at Washburn University. e-mail: zzaver@washburn.edu or Tom Averill, Washburn University, 1700 College, Topeka, Kansas 66621.

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2001-2002 Fellows

Tom Averill, English

Roy Bird, English

Barbara Burgess, Mass Media

Jenny Chinn, KSHS

Virgil Dean, KSHS

Amy Fleury, English

Rachel Goossen, History

Robert Hull, Business

Reinhild Janzen, Art

Bruce Mactavish, History

Mary McCoy, Biology

Pat Michaelis, KSHS

Tom Schmiedeler, Geography

Bradley Siebert, English

Loran Smith, Political Science

Margy Stewart, English

Glenda Taylor, Art

Sara Tucker, History

Bill Wagnon, History

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.

The Center for Kansas Studies is co-sponsoring the campus visit of Daniel Dancer Friday, November 30 at 1:30 in Garvey Center 143. Dancer will be showing photographs from his two books, *The Four Seasons of Kansas* and his latest book *Shards and Circles: Artistic Adventures in Spirit and Ecology*. He will also have these two books to sell and autograph. The program is free and open to the public. This program is being sponsored by the Washburn Art Department, the College of Arts and Sciences and the Mulvane Art Museum. The Washburn Art Department has more information about the program. Dancer's Web site www.zerocircles.com has more information about the books.

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