



# Speaking of Kansas

Washburn Center for Kansas Studies Fall 1998

## Speaking of Kansas

FALL 1998

### Washburn Center for Kansas Studies

1700 College  
Topeka, Ks 66621  
(785) 231-1010 Ex.1316  
Director: Bill Wagon  
HOME PAGE:  
[www.washburn.edu/cks](http://www.washburn.edu/cks)

#### 1998-1999 Fellows

Tom Averill, English  
Barbara Burgess, mass media  
Bob Fidler, KTWU  
Amy Fleury, English  
Marilyn Geiger, history  
Reinhild Janzen, art  
Jim Kelley, KTWU  
J. Karen Ray, dean CAS  
Michele Reid, Mabee Library  
Tom Schmiedeler, geography  
Bradley Siebert, English  
Wayne Sheley, VPAA  
Loran Smith, political science  
Glenda Taylor, art  
Sara Tucker, history  
Bill Wagon, history  
Ron Wasserstein, assoc. VPAA  
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 courses offered in spring

A record number of Kansas Studies courses will be offered during the spring 1999 semester. Students can enroll in Kansas Archaeology, Kansas Birds, Kansas Literature, Kansas Folklore, Kansas History, State and Local Government.

Kansas Birds is a new course being offered for the first time this Spring. This course is listed as BI 280 EA Kansas Birds and will be taught by Joanne Ramberg on Monday evenings from 5:30 to 8:20.

Kansas Literature will be taught by Tom Averill on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1 to 2:15. This course is listed as EN 138 Kansas Literature in the class schedule. Students in this class will study poetry, novels, short stories and film written by Kansans and about Kansas.

Kansas Folklore will be

team taught by Tom Averill and Jenny Chinn on Thursday afternoons from 1 to 3:40. This class is listed as EN 193 or EN 393.

Kansas History will be taught by Virgil Dean from the Kansas State Historical Society on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 6:45. It is listed in the schedule as HI 322EA Kansas History.

Two sections of State and Local Government (PO 107) will be taught by Loran Smith on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10-10:50 and at 12-12:50.

An internship in state and local government is available to students who have completed PO 107.

The complete description of the requirements for a minor in Kansas Studies are listed in the University Catalog under Kansas Studies.

## Kansas Studies Spring Semester

AN 225 EA	Kansas Archaeology	T 5:30-8	Thies
BI 280 EA	Kansas Birds	M 5:30-8:20	Ramberg
EN 193	Kansas Folklore	R 1-3:40	Averill
EN 138	Kansas Literature	MW 1-2:15	Averill
HI 322 EA	Kansas History	MW 5:30-6:45	Dean
PO 107A	State & Local Govt	MWF 10-10:50	Smith
PO 107 B	State & Local Govt	MWF 12-12:50	Smith



# Center for Kansas Studies is active in fall '98 semester

by Bill Wagon, director

The Center for Kansas Studies began this academic year with a salute from Karen Ray, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dean Ray has made it a practice to recognize entities associated with the college for exceptional programs. This year the Center received the dean's acclaim for vision in developing plans to recreate a television series on the history of Kansas.

Under the Center's auspices, Tom Isern of North Dakota State University spent the spring semester outlining a 30-part series, researching archives and collections, producing a pilot program and outlining a proposal for funding the project. The project has been given priority status in the forthcoming Washburn Endowment Association's Capital Campaign. The goal is to have the project underwritten by the beginning of 1999 in order that Isern and the production staff at KTWU can devote the coming academic year to the series production.

The television series, called *Kansas*, is expected to be of general interest to the television viewing public as well as serve as a text for a college course offered by Washburn on the history of Kansas. Supplementing that product will be an Internet resource of documents and materials available to schools for instruction of secondary students in the history of the state. This project would position the Center as a major source for the study of Kansas history and culture.

At its fall convocation, the fellows of the Center reviewed

on-going projects and subscribed to new initiatives. Among those was underwriting guest speakers in classes at Washburn where a Kansas authority would enrich the course. Several guests have been scheduled for campus presentations this fall.

The field trip associated with the Kansas Geography course was promoted and underwritten by the Center. The Center will republish Bruce Cutler, "A West Wind Rises," in time for including in the readings for Kansas Literature scheduled for the spring semester. In keeping with its partnership with the Kansas State Historical Society, the Center will again underwrite the forthcoming summer teacher institute devoted to the 1950s in the state. Tom Averill and Clark Britton have been scheduled to give the Kansas Day program on Wednesday, January 27 in the student union. The Center continues to cooperate with the Shawnee County Historical Society in preserving and interpreting the John and Mary Ritchie Historic House.

Among the new initiatives are co-sponsoring with the Mulvane Art Museum a presentation by Gordon Parks as artist in residence. The Center's fellows also provided resources for the Kansas Humanities Council sponsored community-wide conversation "Topekans Talk Community" featured several fellows engaged in dialogue with community residents. In keeping with its mission to involve students in the study of Kansas, three fellows created an interdisciplinary seminar

entitled "Kansas Character, Kansas Characters" in which students will acquaint themselves with a Kansas personage and develop a presentation on that individual's life and influence. Students will be available to make public presentations based on their research during the spring semester, ambassadors as it were for Kansas Studies.

## Students minor in Kansas Studies

Two students have graduated with a minor in Kansas Studies since the minor was approved five year ago. Susan Mahoney graduated with a double major in history and political science and minor in Kansas Studies, and Lillian Edwards graduated with a major in history and minor in Kansas Studies.

The minor is interdisciplinary, and courses are offered in several departments at Washburn University. Courses in history, English, biology, geography, political science, archeology, have been approved for the minor. Other departments are thinking about adding new courses for this minor.

To minor in Kansas Studies, a student must complete at least 15 hours of approved courses and then apply for certification of the minor from the director of the Center for Kansas Studies.

New courses are offered each semester for the minor, so students should look for the course offerings in the "Kansas Studies" section of the course catalog.