

# Speaking of Kansas

## Washburn Center for Kansas Studies



## Kansas Studies Newsletter

Spring 2017

### Kansas Studies Courses Fall Semester 2017

- **AN300 C Kansas Archaeology**, 3 credits, 5:30-8:00 pm, T, PC-225, Murphy
- **HI397 XA Internship in History Agencies**, 3 credits, Prasch / *Prerequisites*: HI111 and HI112 and 6 hours upper division History and consent
- **PO107 A KS and US, State & Local Gov't**, 3 credits, 9:30-10:45 am TR, HC-208, Peterson
- **PO307 XA Intern-State & Local Gov't**, 3 to 6 credits, Peterson / *Prerequisites*: PO107 and Jr. or Sr. Status and/or consent of instructor



## CKS, going forward...

With the retirement of **Tom Schmiedeler** as Director of the Center, **Vanessa Steinroetter**, Associate Professor of English, and **Kelly Erby**, Associate Professor of History, will be the **new co-directors** beginning this fall. *Congratulations to Vanessa and Kelly.*



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

Deborah Altus, Human Services  
Tom Averill, English  
Bob Beatty, Political Science  
Roy Bird, KHC Speaker  
Chris Bowers, Historian  
Marcia Cebulka, Playwright  
Jeannie Chinn, KSHS  
Virgil Dean, KSHS  
Kelly Erby, History  
Connie Gibbons, Mulvane Art Museum  
William Gilliland, Geology  
Rachel Goossen, History  
Chris Hamilton, Political Science  
Jonathan Hart, Historian  
Danielle Head, Art  
Bob Hoard, Sociology/Anthropology  
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  
Debra Mikulka, KAN TRAIN Grant Mgmt.  
Linsey Modellmog, Political Science  
Marguerite Perret, Art  
Mark Peterson, Political Science  
Leslie Reynard, Communications  
Betsy Roe, TSCPL  
Tom Schmiedeler, Geography  
Robin Shrimplin, History  
Bradley Siebert, English  
Sarah Smarsh, Author  
Vanessa Steinroetter, English  
Laura Stephenson, Dean, LA&S  
Margaret Stewart, English  
Nancy Tate, VP, Academic Affairs  
Kelly Watt, Art  
David Winchester, Mabee Library  
Kerry Wynn, History  
Carol Yoho, Web Editor

Center for Kansas Studies  
[www.washburn.edu/cks](http://www.washburn.edu/cks)

# Honoring Washburn Women

**I**n honor of Women's History Month, University Archivist **Martha Imperato**, in collaboration with the **Department of History** and **Women's and Gender Studies**, created an impressive exhibit featuring the **leadership abilities and accomplishments of Washburn female faculty, staff, students, and alumni throughout Washburn's history.**

The display included women such as **Richetta Ann Manager** (1953- ), ba 1975, who had a long career as the lead soprano for the Gelsenkirchen Opera in Germany, and **Brigadier General Deborah S. Rose** (1950- ), bsn 1982, the highest-ranking female to ever serve in the Kansas National Guard. Also featured was the **Honorable Kay E. McFarland** (1935-2015), ba 1957, jd 1964, who served 13 years as chief justice of the Kansas Supreme Court. McFarland's groundbreaking judicial career began in 1971 when she became judge of the probate and juvenile courts, the first female elected to a judgeship in Shawnee County. In 1973, she was elected to the Fifth Division of the District Court in Topeka,

by **Kelly Erby**  
Assistant Professor  
History

becoming the first female district judge in Kansas. Another first for a female came in 1977, when the governor appointed McFarland to a seat on the Kansas Supreme Court. **Mamie Luella Williams** (1864-1986), ba 1915, was also featured in the exhibit. Williams served 45 years in Topeka, 1918-63, as a prominent teacher, counselor and principal at Buchanan, Washington and Monroe elementary schools. She also taught at Lane College, Jackson, Miss., and earned a master's degree with a special Teacher of Education diploma in 1924 from Columbia University, New York City. She was appointed to the Kansas Commission on the Status of Women, served as a delegate-at-large to the 1971 White House Conference on Aging, chaired the Republican Senior Citizens Advisory Council in Kansas, served on the Washburn College Board of Trustees, and was active in Nonoso and Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

**The exhibit was displayed at Mabee Library throughout the month of March.**



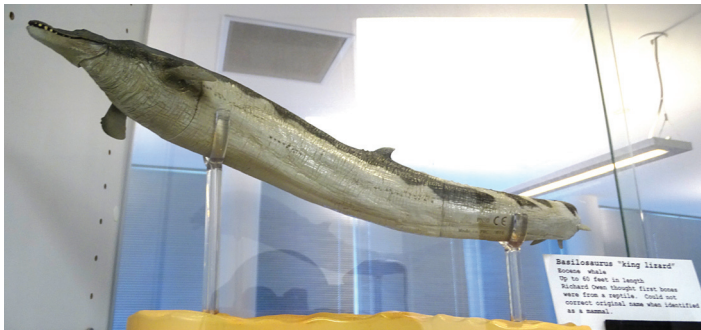


# Two New Geologic Displays in Stoffer Science Hall

**L**ocated along the west hallway of the first floor of Stoffer Hall are displays of models of life forms from the Cenozoic Era. They represent an important geologic time boundary located in Kansas.

## Life From The Cenozoic Era

The Cenozoic Era is sometimes referred to as the “Age of Mammals.” The extinction of the dominate life forms of the Mesozoic Era opened up many ecolog-



ic niches into which mammals could expand, thereby resulting in the many unusual creatures seen in the display. Examples are a small, primitive, browsing horse that was the size of a modern dog. At the other extreme is a model of a sixty foot or more snake-like whale that still showed evidence of hind legs that are now lost. If you wished to fish the Cenozoic seas, you might want to consider what bait to use for a Megalodon, a shark up to eighty feet in length, which is represented by a cast of one of the largest shark’s teeth ever found.

## A Time Boundary in Kansas

Rocks that were exposed in the spillway of Tuttle Creek Reservoir by erosion during the 1993 flood are rich in fossil life from the Paleozoic Era. Extensive studies have been made of fossils from the layers of the Red Eagle Limestone Formation. Of special in-

by **William Gilliland**  
**Adjunct Professor**  
**Geology**

terest are the fossils found in the Bennett Shale Member and the Howe Limestone Member which appear to match with fossils in the Perm Basin of Russia. The time boundary between the Pennsylvanian and Permian Periods was defined there in the 1840s, and now is considered to be 299 million years ago.

In Kansas, the boundary between the Pennsylvanian and Permian Periods has been the subject of much debate over the last 170 years. The freshly exposed fossils in the spillway provided evidence of the exact location of this boundary in the Bennett Shale Member and it has been proposed that the location be designated as the Stratotype (standard of reference) for the time boundary for the North American continent.

Displayed are rocks from the two geologic members found at Tuttle Creek. The Bennett Shale is a black, carbon-rich shale that was deposited in oxygen-poor conditions when the ocean encroached on the Pennsylvanian North America as glacial ice melted from the southern polar margins. Some small, round shellfish fossils can be seen on the black shale. The overlying Howe Limestone was deposited as sea level fell during the early Permian as glacial ice formed again in the polar regions. This limestone shows an example of a stromatolite that was formed in an intertidal environment. These stony structures are formed by the daily growth



layers of single-celled cyanobacteria that were limited by high and low tides. Modern stromatolites only develop in areas where water conditions limit grazing of the cyanobacteria by marine herbivores.



# Kansas Day 2017 Speaker: Brent Campney

**T**he annual **CKS Kansas Day presentation** was given on Friday, January 27, in Henderson Hall, Room 208, beginning as 4:00 p.m. Guest speaker was **Dr. Brent Campney**, Associate Professor of African American History and Ethnic Studies at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. Dr. Campney is the author of ***This Is Not Dixie: Racist Violence in Kansas, 1861-1927*** (University of Illinois Press). The title of his presentation, **“The Black Freedom Struggle and the White Backlash in Small Town Kansas, 1960-1975,”** builds upon his research concerning racial violence but carries the story into the post-war period.

Dr. Campney has published a dozen articles in journals such as *Western Historical Quarterly*, *Middle West Review*, and *American Nineteenth Century History*. He is currently at work on two new monographs, including *The Peculiar Climate of this Region: Racism, Repression, and Resistance in the Midwest*, which examines Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Kansas in the century from the 1840s to the 1940s, and *A White-and-Negro Environment which is Seldom Spotlighted: The Black Freedom Struggle in Small Town Kansas, 1940-1975*.



right:  
Brent  
Campney,  
KS Day  
speaker





# CKS Meeting Summary

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January 26, 2017

**M**embers of the Center for Kansas Studies met for their annual January meeting in the Lincoln Room of the Washburn Union. **Carol Yoho, Tom Schmiedeler, Will Gilliland, Tom Averill, Laura Murphy, Bob Beatty, Vanessa Steinroetter, Eric McHenry, Chris Hamilton, Marcia Cebulka** and **Mark Peterson** attended the meeting. After a brief discussion of the budget, Director Tom Schmiedeler spoke briefly about the Kansas Day presentation that was held the next day in room 208 Henderson. The presenter, **Brent Campney**, was scheduled to meet with several members of the Center in the early afternoon on Friday before his presentation. Tom also encouraged early contributions to the spring newsletter.



**Eric McHenry** announced the **Gwendolyn Brooks Centennial Celebration** to be held at the Brown vs. Board of Education Historic Site on June 10, just three days after what would have been her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Brooks, who was born in Topeka, was a poet of great influence and was the

first African American winner of the Pulitzer Prize in any category, and was awarded an honorary doctorate degree from Washburn. Eric and colleagues have discussed having a poet of national prominence to speak at the event, possibly Kevin Young, also a Topeka native. Eric requested support from the Center to help with the honorarium award for the speaker. With limited funding available, members of the Center pledged all possible remaining funds near the semester end to the project and Tom Averill suggested the Center's book fund as another source of support for the project.

**Marcia Cebulka** announced that her play **"Visions of Right"** was performed at Texas

Lutheran. A reading is scheduled at the Washburn Theatre.

**Carol Yoho** reminded everyone about the 21st annual **Kansas Silent Film Festival** on February 24-25 at White Concert Hall. At the Cinema-Dinner, special guest speaker will be **Dr. Harriet Fields**, granddaughter of comedian W.C. Fields. For more information use this link and then click on 2017 Program. <http://www.kssilentfilmfest.org/>

Fellow **Roy Bird** was featured in the *Capital-Journal Extra* in an article **"Author Helps Keep Kansas History Alive"** posted on January 24. See this link: <http://cjonline.com/life/arts-entertainment/2017-01-24/c-j-extra-author-helps-keep-kansas-history-alive>

**Will Gilliland** announced he is retiring from teaching at Washburn this semester. He will be assisting with **Rachel Goossen's** class about the **Vietnam War**. **Laura Murphy** spoke of a **funding request to the Washburn Foundation** for lab equipment to research a mammoth site in western Kansas. She will also offer a new 300-level course offering in Kansas Archaeology this fall.

**Eric McHenry** discussed the project **"Poetry Unites Kansas."** From the call for entries on the excellent web site <http://poetryunites.com/#winners> Eric writes: "For the past year and a half, I've driven all across Kansas as poet laureate. And everywhere I've gone, I've met people who care about poetry and who have a favorite poem—farmers, firefighters, nurses, teachers, truck drivers, students, waiters, painters, retirees, and children. Are you a Kansan with a favorite poem? Something you say to yourself on difficult days? Words that speak to you so profoundly they seem to be speaking for you? We want you to share that poem, and your love of it, with us. In 600 words or fewer, tell us why that poem is your poem, and why your life is better because of it."

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Minutes provided by **Tom Schmiedeler**

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Department: Geography

Center for Kansas Studies

## Speaking of Kansas

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### Illuminated Authorship Original Art, Fine Printing, and Collectibles

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A spring show at the **Mulvane Art Center** is from the **Thomas Fox Averill Kansas Studies Collection** and is curated by Washburn student **Jason Hanna**.

The artwork in this exhibition examines the interplay of authorship and illumination: the drawing inspired by landscape or poem, the art illustrating the poem, the printer seeking to enhance text with font, paper, and pictorial elements. Art helps us see more than text; text helps us see the story in the art.

**Thomas Fox Averill** is this project's faculty mentor.

Jason explains, "Ekphrastic art is a collaboration where one medium of art is inspired by another. The artwork in this exhibition shows the interplay of authorship and illumination: the drawing inspired by landscape or poem, the art illustrating the poem, the printer seeking

to enhance text with font, paper, and pictorial elements. Art helps us see more than text; text helps us see the story in the art."

Visit Jason's web site and select images to view works of art and read supplemental information:  
<http://thejasonhanna.com/illuminated-authorship/>



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