

# Speaking of Kansas

## Washburn Center for Kansas Studies



## Kansas Studies Newsletter

Fall 2016

### Kansas Studies Courses Spring Semester 2017

**EN 138 B: *Digital Storytelling-KS-HisLit***, 3 credits, 1:00-2:15pm TR, MA-206, Averill | Crosslisted with: EN399D, HI300D, HN201B, HN202B, IL398A, IL399A

**EN 192 C: *Worlds of Oz—Lit & Film***, 3 credits, 1:00-3:40pm W, MO-052, Steinroetter | Crosslisted with: EN399C

**EN 399 C: *Worlds of Oz—Lit & Film***, 3 credits, 1:00-3:40pm W, MO-052, Averill | Crosslisted with: EN192C

**HI 322 A: *Kansas History***, 3 credits, 11:00am-12:15pm TR, HC-006, Mactavish

**HI 397 XA: *Internship in Hist Agencies***, 3 credits, Goossen | Prerequisite(s): HI111 AND HI 112 and 6 HOURS UPPER DIVISION HISTORY AND CONSENT

**PO 307 XA: *Internship in State & Local Gov't***, 3 to 6 credits, Beatty | Prerequisite(s): PO107 AND JUNIOR OR SENIOR STATUS AND/OR CONSENT OF INSTRUCTOR | Internships/Externships-EXPER | Crosslisted with PO309XA, HN202XD

**PO 307 XB: *Internship in State & Local Gov't***, 3 to 6 credits, Peterson | Internships/Externships-EXPER -- Crosslisted with PO309XA, HN202XD

**PO 309 XA: *Kansas Legislative Experience***, 3 credits, Beatty | Internships/Externships-EXPER | Crosslisted with: PO307XA, HN202XD

Tom Schmiedeler, Director  
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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

## Memorialization of the Vietnam & Korean Wars

**Dr. Rachel Goossen, Professor of History**, was awarded a **2016 Sweet Sabbatical** grant for **research and travel to Vietnam and South Korea**. A historian focusing on U.S. twentieth-century history, she regularly teaches courses on the Cold War. Her visit to these countries in May and June focused on memorialization of the Vietnam and Korean Wars, including visits to museums, cemeteries, and historic sites, as well as conversations with family members of soldiers who fought in the Vietnam War (from both north and south); and in the Korean War (from both north and south). She traveled to the former demilitarized zone in Vietnam, as well as to the current DMZ at Camp Bonifas along the South Korean border with North Korea.



Since returning to Washburn, Goossen has been developing a new upper-division

*Continued on p. 2* ▶

**Rachel Goossen** emerging from one of the *Cu Chi Tunnels*, a wartime center that now serves as a tourist destination outside Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

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## Memorialization ...continued from p. 1

history course, “Remembering Vietnam,” which she’ll teach in the spring of 2017. Faculty members, including Center Fellows **Will Gilliland** and **Tom Averill**, will serve as guest speakers on their wartime experiences abroad and in Kansas. Goossen’s summertime conversations with young Vietnamese, whose parents had supplied the Ho Chi Minh Trail and fought in the late 1960s and early 1970s, frames her analysis of how Vietnamese citizens regard the legacies of what they refer to as “the American War.”

**Additionally**, Goossen will present an illustrated talk on her travels at **Washburn University’s International House**, on **Wednesday, March 8, 2017**, at **12:00 noon**. *Everyone is welcome to attend.*

## New Map Additions

The subtitle of the Center for Kansas Studies website, **A Map of Kansas Literature**, is “**A Work in Progress**.” And progress is being made, with the help of capable students workers, and webmaster and Center Fellow **Tom Averill**. This fall semester work-study student **Michelle Clearwater**, a graduate student in the School of Social Work, has added numerous writers. The goal for the map, according to Averill, is “to represent all writing in Kansas, highlighting the variety, the importance, the merit, and the scope of Kansas Literature, past and present.”

From the past, the map now has a page for **James R. Mead**, early Indian trader in Kansas and early founder of Wichita, who served in the Kansas House and Senate. Mead wrote a fine memoir, *Hunting and Trading on the Plains*. Mead’s library of some 400 volumes is also part of the Thomas Fox Averill Kansas Studies Collection.

To dovetail with Center for Kansas Studies efforts, the map also has a new page for **Helen Poole Tonish**, whose book, *One Time on the Upper McDowell*, a memoir of growing up in the Flint Hills, was edited by Center Fellow **Margy Stewart**, now retired, and published by the Center for Kansas Studies/Woodley Press.

A glaring omission has been rectified with the addition of **Charles Plymell**, who was born in Hugoton in 1935 and attended Wichita University. An early Beat Generation writer, Plymell’s novel *The Last of the Moccasins* was published by City Lights Books in San Francisco. Plymell, who now lives in New York, has

published work by Allen Ginsberg and William S. Burroughs through his press Cherry Valley Editions. Plymell also hosted Ginsberg on his Vortex tour, which resulted in the famous poem “Wichita Vortex Sutra.”

Finally, new Kansas writers are coming onto the literary scene, and the Map is happy to include **Tyler Sheldon**, son of poet **Bill Sheldon**, who has long been on the map. Tyler published his first chapbook in the past year, and is seeing work in literary magazines across the country. He is currently studying poetry writing with **Amy Fleury** at McNeese State University. Amy, who has long been on the map, is last year’s winner of the **Kansas Book Award in Poetry**, awarded by the Thomas Fox Averill Kansas Studies Collection.

Soon, the map will designate, with a special symbol, all books on the map that are also part of the Kansas Studies Collection, and Averill and history professor and Center Fellow **Kerry Wynn** will teach a Kansas Studies course, **Digital Storytelling**, that will use the collection as the text for telling stories of writers, of events, of places, of institutions, of social movements—anything the student can tell as a story using digital humanities platforms for mapping, photographs, audio files, timelines, and text boxes.



left:  
**James R. Mead**  
**Helen Poole Tonish**



left:  
**Charles Plymell**  
**Tyler Sheldon**

<http://www.washburn.edu/reference/cks/mapping/>

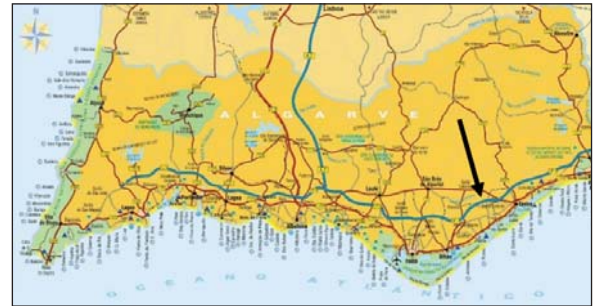


# Sweet Sabbatical Experiences Captured, *cont.*



## **Algarve Shepherd, July 2016...the Story:**

Mester (Master) Chico, a traditional goatherd and shepherd, leads his animals through a rural area near the village of Santa Rita in the **Algarve province of southern Portugal**. He controls wayward movement of the animals through three methods involving sound: he vocalizes general sounds the animals seem to understand, he hurls stones from a slingshot whose thump startles strays back to the herd, and he calls sheep and goats by name.



## **The Pensive Poet, June 2016**

*...the Story:*

This prominent sculpture is one of seven male, sitting figures known as the “Poetas” (2014) by Catalanian artist Jaume

Plensa. It is located in front of the General Council of **Andorra**, the country’s unicameral Parliament in the capital of Andorra la Vella. The figures, each of which represents a parish of Andorra, are approximately two meters high on steel posts up to ten meters high. The figures light up in different colors at night. This poet’s gaze toward the mountains includes colorful modern architecture that stands in contrast to the limestone structures of the old town of Andorra La Vella and the small towns and villages in the countryside.

# Sweet Sabbatical Experiences Captured, cont.

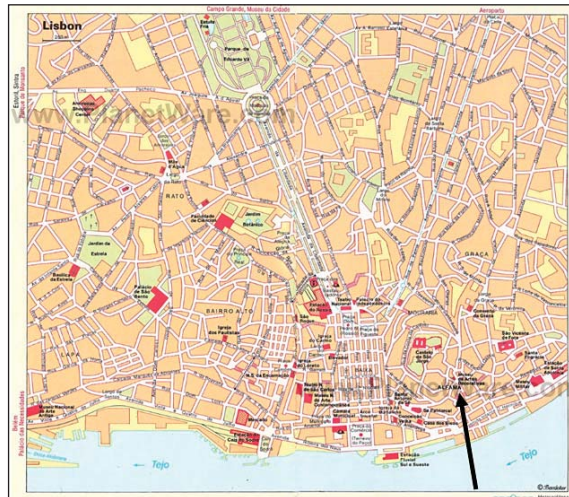


## *Water Poem, June 2016*

*...the Story:*

Location is “Little Sparta,” the garden and soul of Scottish poet, writer, artist and gardener Ian Hamilton Finlay in the

**Scottish Borders** region. Little Sparta is a created landscape begun in 1966 and contains over 260 individual works, some of which were commissioned by Finlay. The view here is not one of his works but a scene at the pond in the area of Little Sparta known as The Lochan Eck Garden.



## *View through an Open Window Alfama, July, 2016*

*...the Story:*

Alfama is the oldest district of **Lisbon** and a survivor of the 1755 earthquake that destroyed most of the rest of the city. Its narrow steep streets twist and turn down the slope of a hill from the Castle of São Jorge to the Tejo River. During the Moorish domination, Alfama was nearly the entire city, but after it spread westward Alfama became the district of the poor. The renovation of old houses and the addition of restaurants, such as this one, where Fado, the melancholy music of Portugal can be heard, have reinvigorated this oldest part of the city. 🌀

# CKS Meeting Summaries

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September 1, 2016

**F**ellows of the Center for Kansas Studies met for their first meeting of the new academic year in the Lincoln Room of the Washburn Union on Thursday at 12:30. **Tom Schmiedeler**, Director, spoke briefly about the budget, and Kansas Studies spring courses (see below). He encouraged members to contribute to the fall newsletter and to think about potential speakers for the Center's annual Kansas Day presentation. He gave an update on the Flint Hills Tallgrass Preserve film project to which the Center has contributed funding. Tom also announced that he is retiring from Washburn after the spring semester and so would begin the process of finding a new director within the next month when he will release a description of the duties of the director and set a deadline for nominations.

In news from members, **Carol Yoho** mentioned that the 23rd annual Buster Keaton Celebration will be held in Iola on September 23-24. This year's show is titled "Buster Keaton in the Wild West." For more information see the following link: <http://iolakeatoncelebration.org/>

**Connie Gibbons**, Director of the Mulvane Art Museum reported on three exhibitions ongoing or scheduled for the Mulvane this fall. "Zak Barnes: At Home in Bazaar" has been extended through October 1. Barnes spoofs Kansas mythologies by juxtaposing such icons as sunflowers, windmills, bison, prairie burning, and picket fences with women in lawn chairs and above ground pools, drinking wine, watching television and wearing tiaras. "Bud Holman: a Retrospective" continues through October 22. A reception is scheduled for September 30 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. This exhibition features more than fifty works that span seventy years of painting. Born on a farm north of Topeka in 1926, Holman spent twenty years in New York City interacting and exhibiting with such American icons as Jasper Johns, Cy Twombly, and Andy Warhol before moving to the Southwest where he resides today. Holman explores the landscape through color, form and texture. The third exhibition is "Dance of the Line: Rita Blitt in Motion," which runs through December 23. Reception is scheduled for November 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Welcome to a sneak preview of the Rita Blitt collection and archive recently added to the Mulvane Art Museum collection. Blitt's paintings and drawings are a celebration of music, dance, and life.

In other Mulvane news, Museum Curator and Fellow **Julie Myers** left the Mulvane and Washburn in August when her husband, Chuck, took

a position at the University of Chicago Press. Center Director, **Tom Schmiedeler**, sent a note of appreciation to Julie for her many contributions to the Center over the past few years. A search for a Collections Manager/Registrar has begun and interviews will be conducted over the next few weeks.

In regard to Kansas Studies spring course offerings, **Tom Averill** announced two new courses. In "Digital Storytelling: History and Literature" (HN 201/212, EN 138/399, HI 300), students will use digital tools to understand and critique narratives about Kansas. Utilizing the Thomas Fox Averill Kansas Studies Collection at Mabee Library, students will conduct primary source research to produce an original project exploring the history and literature of Kansas. The course will teach students digital tools important to practitioners in the humanities and social sciences. Students will exhibit their projects as websites, which will be hosted and publically available.

The second course is "Worlds of Oz: Literature and Film" (EN 192/399). Ever since the 1900 publication of L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, the Oz books, the films (especially the 1939 *Wizard of Oz*), the adaptations, cartoons, comic books, novels and popular cultural conversations about Dorothy and Kansas have been plentiful, controversial, playful, cynical and as wonderful as the Wizard. Students will explore this Oz-some material in all its forms as they journey to the Emerald City and back, replenishing their hearts, brains, and courage.

Among funding requests, **Bob Beatty**, as part of his continuing series on Kansas governors, requested \$715 for transcribing and close captioning of recent interviews of former Governor Sebelius on the Washburn campus. Fellows approved his request. **Tom Averill** requested funding for Speaking of Kansas honoraria and for a film/interview project on the Wichita artist David Quick, whose work will be shown in a retrospective at the Mulvane in the future. The request for \$1,000 was for hiring two people to conduct a two-hour interview of Quick. Tori Lawrence of Lawrence and Alex Unruh of Wichita will film, edit and create a half-hour film featuring David and his work. Tom also requested \$200 for mounting and publicizing at the Mulvane an exhibition of posters, broadsides, art, photographs, fine-print literature, post cards and other visual and textural fine art materials from the Thomas Fox Averill Kansas Studies Collection. The exhibit will be curated by Tom, Martha Imperato and Jason

## 2017 Kansas Day Presentation

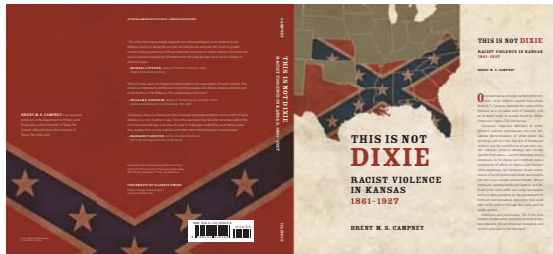
Mark Your Calendar!

# “The Black Freedom Struggle and the White Backlash in Small Town Kansas, 1960-1975”

The CKS annual Kansas Day presentation will be given on **Friday, January 27, 2017**.

*Watch for updates as to presentation time and place.*

**Brent Campney**, Associate Professor of African American History and Ethnic Studies at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, will be the Kansas Day presenter. Dr. Campney has a Ph.D. from Emory University and is the author of ***This Is Not Dixie: Racist Violence in Kansas, 1861-1927*** (University of Illinois Press). He 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*.

The title of his presentation is “The Black Freedom Struggle and the White Backlash in Small Town Kansas, 1960-1975.” This subject builds on his work in *This Is Not Dixie* but carries the story into the postwar period.

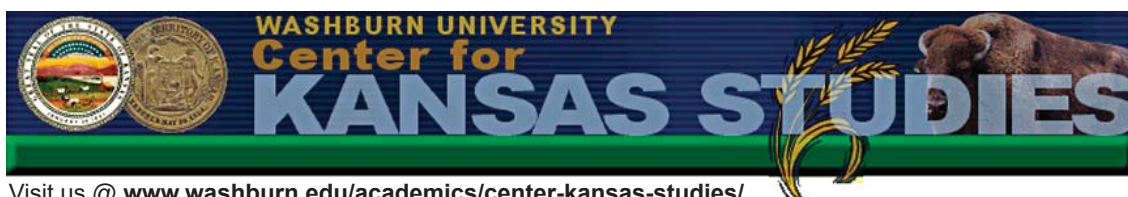
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**Center for Kansas Studies**

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Fall 2016



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