



KANSAS STORIES



The KHC Humanities catalog features presentations and discussions that examine our shared human experience—our innovations, culture, heritage, and conflicts.

The Kansas Humanities Council conducts and supports community-based programs, serves as a financial resource through an active grant-making program, and encourages Kansans to engage in the civic and cultural life of their communities. Visit us online at www.kansashumanities.org.



Nonprofit organizations within the state of Kansas are invited to participate in KHC programs.

Speakers Bureau

The presentations in this edition are available through December 31, 2017 or as funding allows.

[Booking a Program](#)

How to Bring a KHC Speaker to Your Event

- Review the Kansas Stories catalog and select a speaker and topic.
- Contact the speaker and confirm time, date, and location.
- Apply online for KHC program funds to bring the speaker to your community.
- Publicize your event. Download a press release, speaker bio, photo, and KHC logo poster.
- Tell us how it went. After the event, download and fill out a Speakers Bureau evaluation and cost-share form and email them to Leslie Von Holten (leslie@kansashumanities.org).

Contact:

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[785/357-0359](tel:7853570359) or leslie@kansashumanities.org

The opinions expressed by the speakers do not necessarily reflect those of the Kansas Humanities Council.

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William Allen White courtesy of the Kansas Historical Society

Nicodemus child courtesy of the Nicodemus Historical Society

Storm photo courtesy of Stephen Locke, www.TempestGallery.com



Onward Haskell: The Making of an Indian Nations University

The United States Indian Industrial Training School welcomed its first 22 students to Lawrence in 1884. Now known as Haskell Indian Nations University, the school continues to educate American Indian and Alaska Native young people who move to Kansas from all over the country. This presentation examines the early days of Haskell: the goals of the U.S. government in providing an American Indian-specific school, the responses by native peoples, and the effects of assimilation policy on them. The first 25 years were tumultuous and presented hardships for the students and their families. However, these American Indian students proved resilient, and some even used their experiences to agitate for change within the government's Indian Service. *Presented by Eric Anderson.*

Eric is Chair of Indigenous & American Indian Studies at Haskell Indian Nations University and a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

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Irrigation in Kansas

Water irrigation has made Kansas an agricultural powerhouse, but it has also opened the floodgates for unintended consequences such as lawsuits, soil salinity, water scarcity, and continually larger, more ambitious irrigation plans. From ditches in Garden City, to center-pivot units across the state, to new plans to divert Missouri River water to Goodland, this presentation will encourage Kansans to consider how the past can inform present-day discussions of water usage in the state. *Presented by Jay Antle.*

From Fort Laramie to Standing Rock: The Dakota Access Pipeline Controversy

For most Americans, the debate over the Dakota Access Pipeline comes down to images of protesters facing off against militarized police, or perhaps Facebook memes supporting one side or the other. This talk will take a step back from recent contested events to trace the historical origins of divergent ideas about land use, Federal Indian Law, energy development, tribal self-determination, and national politics that set the stage for these events. Those wishing to have preconceived ideas reinforced may be disappointed by what they hear. This talk will use a number of maps and legal documents to provide context for the audience that will encourage thoughtful discussion of these issues. *Presented by Jay Antle.*

Jay teaches history and serves as executive director of the Center for Sustainability at Johnson County Community College.

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Care for the Creation

Natural resources are not only vitally important to the economy of Kansas, they have contributed mightily to the quality of life for generations of Kansans. As these resources face unprecedented challenges, people of faith are leading efforts to advocate for what they call “creation care.” Leaving behind the old debate over “who caused climate change,” these faith communities are looking for common ground to respond to what they agree is a threat to the world that they believe God entrusted to them as stewards. This program will tell a diverse range of stories, geographically and religiously, about creation care in Kansas, and move audiences into a wider discussion about the role of religious people in civic life. *Presented by Aaron Barnhart.*

Aaron is an author whose work focuses on history, civil society, rural America, and foodways.

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Children of the Promised Land

Nicodemus, a small unincorporated town in Graham County, is the only remaining western town that was established by African Americans during the Reconstruction Period following the Civil War. This pictorial history explores the unique experiences of the children of Nicodemus who were the first members of their families born free from the physical and psychological effects of slavery. The discussion will explore the stories of children conceived in slavery but born free, the experiences of mothers during this transitional time, and how baby names were changed or used to reflect attitudes about free-born children. *Presented by Angela Bates.*

Angela is the executive director and past president of the Nicodemus Historical Society.

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Water in Kansas: Past & Present

Early evidence of Native peoples in Kansas shows that they lived near springs, seeps, and rivers. Later, European settlers moved along water sources, and eventually cities were established in areas with plentiful water supplies. Even today, demographic changes in Kansas are the result of water: scarcity connected to water-level declines in the Ogallala Aquifer is impacting depopulation in western Kansas, whereas some eastern Kansas counties, which are relatively water-rich, are gaining population. Recently the state government developed a 50-year water planning vision, identifying two major issues: reservoir sedimentation and the rapid drawdown of the Ogallala portion of the High Plains Aquifer in western Kansas. This presentation will highlight how water issues today define much about Kansans in the future, just as it always has. *Powerpoint. Presented by Rex Buchanan.*

Rex is the interim director of the Kansas Geological Survey and the author of books about Kansas geology and water.

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Cowboys and Clerics

In the days when Wild Bill Hickok might ride his horse into your church service—it happened in Junction City—the life of a minister was a rowdy affair. This presentation looks into the early years of Kansas clergy and the colorful characters that made up our early faith communities, such as Pastor Gay of Mulvane who faced a gunman in church—and then converted him. Later, this converted gunman used his jail cell to preach to passersby in Winfield. Other congregations met in butcher shops, saloons, dugouts, and by the side of rivers. Join us to discuss how abolitionists, early missions, and the temperance movement all played a role in the lives of religious leaders in Kansas. *Presented by John Burchill.*

John is an author and criminal justice historian who teaches at Kansas Wesleyan University.

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The Harvey Girls

The Harvey House chain of restaurants got its start in Topeka, Kansas, when Fred Harvey opened a café geared to those traveling on the Atchison, Topeka, & Santa Fe Railroad line. Preferring the term “Harvey Girls” to waitresses, he recruited single women to work at the Harvey Houses that gradually sprang up all the way to California and Texas. Between the 1880s and the 1950s more than 100,000 women, many of them Kansans, proudly wore the black and white uniform of the internationally known Harvey Company. The presentation will explore the adventures of these pioneering young women. *Presented by Michaeline Chance-Reay.*

Mickey is an author and historian who teaches at Kansas State University.

Michaeline Chance-Reay
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Flour Power

During the period of the Mexican Revolution, many immigrants made their way to Kansas to raise their families and work in the railroad, agricultural, industrial, and hospitality sectors of the state. A cultural offshoot of this new group of Mexican residents settling in the Midwest was the search for the perfect tortilla, a staple of Mexican cuisine. Because corn tortillas were difficult to make by hand, many restaurants and home cooks substituted wheat flour tortillas for their signature dishes. Join us to discuss the rich history of Mexican immigration to Kansas and the journey of the humble but important tortilla. Presentation available in English or Spanish. *Presented by Gene Chavez.*

Gene consults on diversity issues as president of Chavez and Associates.

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Politics on Paper

The personal papers of U.S. presidents were not considered the property of the American people until after the Watergate scandal. Federal law now prohibits their destruction and mandates their retention and eventual public access. Their counterpart, Congressional working papers, such as those of U.S. Senator Bob Dole housed in the Dole Archives at the Dole Institute of Politics in Lawrence, are not considered public property and would be lost if not for the advocacy of archivists, historians, and individual legislators. This presentation will explore these essential historical resources that act as both a window into the processes of governance and a mirror reflecting our culture, society, and communities. When possible, materials representing your community will be included. *Presented by Audrey Coleman.*

Audrey is the senior archivist at the Dole Institute of Politics.

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Sharing Patterns, Sharing Lives: Kansas Quilt Workshop

In the early 20th century, Emporia was home to a group of innovative quilters that included Rose Kretsinger, Charlotte Whitehill, and Hannah Haynes Headlee. Today their quilts are housed in art museums and revered internationally. Learn about Kansas quilts from this time period and the unique collaborations that sparked “the Emporia, Kansas phenomenon” and some of the finest quilts of the 20th century. Following a brief lecture and discussion, participants will make a Kretsinger-inspired quilt square of their own. *Presented by Deborah Divine.*

Workshop requirements: Please allow 2 hours for this presentation & workshop. Minimum 5 participants, maximum 25. Participants should bring a thimble, needles, thread, fabric, scissors, and straight pins.

Deborah is a researcher, instructor, planner, and quilting historian.

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The Kansas City Monarchs in Your Hometown

Formed in 1920, the Kansas City Monarchs revolutionized baseball: not only were they charter members of the Negro National League and the first professional team to use outdoor lighting, the Monarchs also sent more players to the major leagues than any other Negro League franchise. This presentation explores the exciting early barnstorming days of the Monarchs, highlights great players such as Wilbur “Bullet” Rogan, Satchel Paige, and Jackie Robinson who wore the uniform, and connects the spirit of the Monarchs to the many Kansas communities in which they played. Where possible, specific games and players from your community will be discussed. *Presented by Phil S. Dixon.*

Phil is a baseball historian and author.

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Women Soldiers of the Civil War

During the Civil War, hundreds of women cut their hair, bound their breasts, donned men’s clothing, and reported for duty to Union or Confederate army recruiters. Others served as scouts and spies or rode with husbands and brothers in service. All of this occurred at a time when there was great emphasis on women’s and men’s separate roles. Two Kansas women stand out in this story: An unnamed woman from Elmore who fought in the Battle of Wilson’s Creek and serves as an emblem of others who served in anonymity, and Emma Edmonds, the best known female soldier in the Civil War who settled in Fort Scott afterward. This program explores how and why a fascinating group of women defied cultural norms to become soldiers. *Presented by Diane Eickhoff.*

Diane is an historian and the author of Clarina Nichols: Frontier Crusader for Women’s Rights.

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African Refugee Stories—and Silence—in Kansas

The Bantu people of Somalia are an ethnic minority who were forced to leave their lands during the Somali Civil War. In 1999, the U.S. State Department made it a priority to resettle these refugees in America. Today, many Somali Bantu call Kansas City home. Just as it is across the African continent, stories are an important part of Bantu oral histories and identity. But what happens to vulnerable and marginalized communities when stories are interrupted, silenced, or forgotten? Through the power of stories and their erasure, this presentation explores the struggles of Somali Bantu in Kansas City to “live again” and to redefine themselves collectively in the aftermath of violence, exclusion, and resettlement. *Presented by Marwa Ghazali.*

Marwa is an anthropology PhD student at the University of Kansas with research interests in African Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies.

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Head ‘Em Up & Move ‘Em Out

The early days of ranching and trail driving required stamina and determination. The drover of yesteryear had little choice but to face the elements placed before him if he was to get his wild cattle to market. A thousand miles of the trail brought him into contact with all that nature could throw at him: lightning, flooded rivers, hail, tornadoes, and stampeding cattle were constant challenges. Today’s massive beef industry owes its beginnings to the men and women who were bold enough to “head ‘em up and move ‘em out.” Explore this exciting story of cowboys, cattle, and the steak on your plate. *Presented by Jim Gray.*

Jim is an author, speaker, promoter of cowboy heritage in Kansas, and executive director of the National Drivers Hall of Fame.

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At Home on the Range

Community cookbooks have carried the stories of Kansas women over the years, sharing sentiments of home, family, and faith. This talk provides a survey of Kansas cookbooks from 1874 to the present, which reveal not only changes in foodways but also poems, prayers, personal reflections, and histories. These humble publications show that food, home, and community were the foundation upon which Kansas women constructed their lives. *Presented by Louise Hanson.*

Louise is a librarian and researcher with over 400 Kansas cookbooks in her collection.

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Throw Like a Girl

Many female athletes in Kansas have fascinating tales of perseverance, hard work, and success on levels where they were previously barred from competition. Margaret Thompson Murdock of Berryton competed in the 1976 Olympics as the first woman to represent the United States in a shooting competition. Kendra Wecker, a native of Marysville, made headlines in 1995 when at age 12 she became the first girl to reach the finals of the NFL's Punt, Pass, & Kick competition. This presentation will explore the landscape for women athletes before and after Title IX legislation and how opportunities for women have impacted sports in our country. *Presented by Laura Hartley.*

Laura is a public historian and director of the Wichita Boathouse at the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame.

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Lawbreakers for the Common Good

In the mid-1800s, some Kansans defied federal, state, and territorial laws in pursuit of a common goal: liberty for all. This presentation explores true accounts of little-known operatives who worked illegally on the Underground Railroad in Kansas, a clandestine network that helped guide enslaved people to freedom. Risking fearful penalties for their underground involvement, these men, women, and children—both black and white—offer us examples of what is possible for justice-seekers working together. This talk is accompanied by PowerPoint slides and short selections of recorded historical music. *Presented by Anne Hawkins.*

Anne is a historian and teaches at Washburn University.

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Soda Fountains in Kansas

During the glory days of the soda fountain, Kansas pharmacists created tonics and curatives that evolved into refreshments like the Brown Cow, the Mudslide, and Don't Care. Mineral springs, World War I luxury taxes, and bottled soda pop played a role in these ice cream concoctions that became a profitable sideline business. The presentation will explore soda fountains in Kansas today and the revival of soda fountains throughout the nation. *Presented by Cindy Higgins.*

Cindy is a journalist and Kansas historian.

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Kansas Legends and Folktales

Grasshoppers so big that cowboys can ride them to herd cattle. Summers so hot that corn pops in the field. Rancher Henry Mudge wrecking pianos, shooting sheep, and fooling European dignitaries. Kansas is a place of big skies and tall tales, but these exaggerated narratives help us understand the character of our state and its people. This talk will explore some of the many Kansas legends and folktales and help audiences decipher between a myth (folk religion), legend (folk history), and tale (folk literature). When possible, local legends and folk tales—and what they say about that particular community—will be discussed. *Presented by Jim Hoy.*

Jim teaches folklore and literature at Emporia State University.

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Angels of the Kansas Coalfields

When coal was discovered in Southeast Kansas in the late 1860s, thousands came from all over the world to work the mines. The mix of nationalities created an ethnic geography unique to Kansas that came to be known as the Little Balkans. Miners faced hazardous working conditions, poor pay, and discrimination. In 1921, thousands of women marched on the coal mines in support of striking miners. The New York Times dubbed them the “Amazon Army.” This spirited act linked men and women together in one of the most dynamic pages in the history of American labor. *Presented by Linda O'Nelio Knoll.*

Linda is an educator, author, and historian who researches the local history of southeast Kansas.

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Shifting Waters: International Conflict & Cooperation

The Rio Grande, like many waterways that serve as international borders, has been endowed with both symbolic and practical importance. Around the globe these living, shifting boundaries have sparked both conflict and cooperation among rivals. From the Jordan, Indus, and Mekong river basins, to the San Juan River in Central America, water is a key area of diplomacy. The presentation explores the role of water in the modern history of international relations and how they hold the key toward future conflict or cooperation. *Presented by Aaron Margolis.*

Aaron teaches history at Kansas City Kansas Community College.

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Foam on the Range

Kansas was on the forefront of the temperance movement, eventually becoming the first state to prohibit alcohol consumption. This enforced abstinence clashed considerably with many German, Czech, Irish, Italian, Mexican, Croatian, Greek, and Jewish immigrants who had settled in across the state. Indeed, anti-foreign prejudice helped drive support for prohibition in some areas. In response, ethnic communities frequently violated prohibition laws in an effort to preserve an important expression of cultural identity. Although Kansas breweries and vineyards were forced into neglect, immigrant communities improvised and persevered. *Presented by Isaias McCaffery.*

Isaias is a historian and the chair of the Humanities and Social Sciences at Independence Community College.

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Land Ethics and Water Resources

In 1949 Aldo Leopold sparked the modern conservation movement with his treatise on “land ethics,” declaring that ethical individual cooperation should also consider soil, water, plants, and animals. But what role does culture play in determining the land ethics of place? This presentation explores different land ethics and how they influence land management and local water resources. Special focus will be on agricultural practices in Kansas and how they compare with the indigenous land ethics of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, the Altai Republic of Siberian Russia, and tea growers in central Kenya. *Presented by Heidi Mehl.*

Heidi is the manager for the Healthy Streams Initiative at the Nature Conservancy.

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Kansas Weather in Life, Literature, and Photography

When it comes to talking about the weather, we have a lot to say in Kansas, and for good reason: not only is our weather some of the most dramatic in the world, but our relationship to weather shapes how we see ourselves. This presentation opens with weather chaser Stephen Locke's vibrant images of Kansas weather paired with poetry by contemporary Kansas writers inspired by the drama that unfolds in the Kansas sky. Audience members will have an opportunity to share their own weather-related stories and striking images through a short 10-minute writing prompt that will lead into a discussion about how the weather influences our lives, our understanding of the natural world, and what it means to be a Kansan. *Presented by Caryn Mirriam-Goldberg.*

Caryn is an author and was the 2009-2013 Poet Laureate of Kansas.

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Water Is Life in a Kansas Tribal Community

A safe, sustainable water source is essential to the health and vitality of every community. For over three decades, a local Native American group has had limited success in achieving water security on their reservation. This presentation will provide an overview of a community "photovoice" project—using photography and grassroots social action—to explore the daily lives of Tribal members and their experiences and perceptions of living in a water-insecure community. DVD/Powerpoint required. *Presented by Felicia M. Mitchell.*

Felicia is a social worker who researches community health in American Indian communities.

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Make Art, Not War

Kansas: A frontier where strong people with strong opinions find their voice. Throughout our turbulent history, Kansans have vociferously and voraciously pursued the greater good, working both within established systems as well as outside these systems to affect change. With these movements come a rich array of protest art—art made to draw attention to a topic of great concern in the hope of eliciting change or expanding the conversation. From John Steuart Curry's depiction of John Brown's call to action to M.T. Liggett's politically charged fence-line artwork, protest art in Kansas includes an array of forms. Sometimes humorous, sometimes biting, and often clever, this presentation will look at the ways artists craft their messages. *Presented by Erika Nelson.*

Erika is the creator and curator of the World's Largest Collection of the World's Smallest Versions of the World's Largest Things Traveling Roadside Attraction and Museum.

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Women Writers on the Santa Fe Trail

Some of the first women to travel across present day Kansas were travelers on the Santa Fe Trail. This presentation looks at the adventures and reflections of four of these remarkable women who wrote their own stories. Susan Shelby Magoffin traveled with her husband's wagon train in 1846, while Katie Bowen traveled the trail in 1851. From the age of 7 to 17, Marion Sloan Russell traveled the Santa Fe Trail five times with her single mother. Perhaps the most famous of this group, however, was suffragist and abolitionist Julia Archibald Holmes who wrote letters as she traveled the Santa Fe Trail across Kansas Territory to the Rocky Mountains, where she became the first woman to climb Pike's Peak. *Presented by Leo E. Oliva.*

Leo is a historian with a research focus on 19th-century Kansas.

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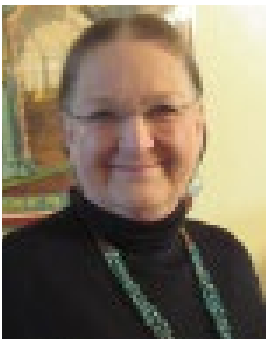


The Beats in Kansas

As the experimental Beat writers traveled across the country seeking jazz and illumination, some landed in Kansas. William S. Burroughs lived in Lawrence from 1981 until his death in 1997. *On the Road* car thief and driver Neil Cassady was jailed in Russell, and Allen Ginsberg wrote "Wichita Vortex Sutra," a poem inspired by our largest city. As devoted followers of Kansas City's Charlie "Bird" Parker and jazz, both as an art form and as a way of life, Kansas and Kansas City became an intermittent hub of Beat activity. *Presented by Kevin Rabas.*

Kevin is a poet and musician who teaches creative writing at Emporia State University.

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Opera House Culture on the Kansas Frontier

Frontier Kansas was not a cultural desert. Opera houses were homes to important community events such as dramatic productions, commencements, and traveling theater performances. This presentation explores how settlers arriving from European countries and Eastern U.S. cities brought with them ideas of the cultural life they wanted to establish. An important part of that life involved the construction of opera houses. Whether they were simple or magnificent, these structures were vital to the cultural development of our state. *Presented by Jane Rhoads.*

Jane is an author and a 2009 Notable Kansas Book award winner.

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Dressing for Success, Victorian Style

Victorian women in the United States and Britain took upward of 4 hours to dress themselves per day, and they usually had a maid to help them dress. Layer upon layer of prim and proper clothing was worn, from bare necessities to gloves, hair pins, umbrellas, shoes, and brooches. There were outfits to be worn in the morning after rising, at mid-morning, at early afternoon, and in the evening. This presentation explores why these women endured such restrictive and sometimes deadly clothing, as well as the elements, purpose, and the proper way to put it all on. *Presented by Sara Jane Richter.*

Sara teaches English and is Dean of the School of Liberal Arts at Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell.

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Immigration in Kansas Today

Since settlement in the 19th century, the story of Kansas has largely been a story of immigration. This presentation explores how immigration today compares to immigration since the 1860s, connecting the trends in the benefits and challenges that communities face when new people move in. Looking at history, how can today's Kansas towns and neighborhoods develop socially and ecologically resilient communities? The social processes of integrating new cultures into our increasingly shared space will be examined, as well as the impact these changing demographics have on their natural environments. *Presented by Matthew Sanderson.*

Water: Why Is It so Difficult to Conserve?

Water is the most precious natural resource, sustaining all life on Earth. Despite its value, freshwater consumption is not sustainable in many areas around the world, including Kansas. Why is it so difficult to conserve this vital resource? This presentation will look at the role of culture—our values, norms, and beliefs—and consider their impact on “the water problem” and how they can help solve this issue. *Presented by Matthew Sanderson.*

Matthew is an associate professor of sociology at Kansas State University.

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William Allen White and the Russian Revolution

William Allen White is best known as an outspoken newspaper editor of the *Emporia Gazette*. His down-to-earth descriptions of the social and political issues brought Kansas into the national spotlight and helped shape public perceptions of the world. Less known is White's personal involvement in global issues. For instance, as a representative of the American Red Cross, he went to Europe in 1917 to view the Western Front and welcome the first of the American soldiers. This presentation will explore White's surprising interest in Russia and his diplomatic appointment to the Paris peace conference and how one Kansas editor's search for the common good won national approval. *Presented by Norman Saul.*

Norman is a historian who specializes in Russian history, international relations, and Mennonites and Volga Germans from Russia in Kansas.

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The Irrigation Crusade

From the 1880s to the earliest days of the 20th century, the "Irrigation Crusade" was promoted as a way for grassland farmers and community boosters to continue thriving during droughts. Charles "Buffalo" Jones—colorful Kansas frontiersman—led the crusade in western Kansas by organizing four irrigation companies to divert water 100 miles from the Arkansas River to land in and around Garden City. This presentation gives context to Jones in the larger Irrigation Crusade of the west. *Presented by Jim Sherow.*

Kansas v. Colorado

In 1902, Kansas accused the state of Colorado of taking more than their fair share of water from the Arkansas River and diminishing land values because of the reduced water flow. The argument eventually escalated to the U.S. Supreme Court, where *Kansas v. Colorado* (1907) became the first suit of original jurisdiction brought before the court that involved a dispute over interstate river rights, and was the largest, most in-depth suit ever argued before the justices at the time. This presentation tells the dramatic story and legacy of *Kansas v. Colorado*, a legal fight that continues to this day. *Presented by Jim Sherow.*

Jim teaches Kansas and environmental history at Kansas State University and has authored books and articles about people living in the grasslands.

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The Murder of Emmett Till

On August 25, 1955, Emmett Till whistled at a white woman outside a Mississippi grocery store. Three days later, the 14-year-old African-American boy from Chicago was kidnapped, tortured, murdered, and thrown into a river. For the next 50 years, there was not a single memorial to Till's murder in the Mississippi Delta. Since 2005, however, nine roadside markers, two restored buildings, a museum, an interpretive center, a community building, and a nature trail that tells the story of Till's 1955 murder. This presentation introduces the audience to the various Till memorials and uses them to explore the competing narratives of exactly what happened on the night of the murder. *Presented by Dave Tell.*

Dave is an associate professor of communication studies at KU and co-creator of the Emmett Till Memory Project. His work on Emmett Till has been recognized with a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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Well Owners and Groundwater Citizenship

Extreme droughts and heat waves have stressed water supplies in Kansas, making the state increasingly reliant on its underground reserves of freshwater. Growing demand is now tapping aquifers beyond their natural rates of replenishment. This presentation explores the environmental awareness of Kansas well owners and their interconnectedness to and sense of stewardship toward the Ogallala aquifer. It also describes the public's opinion of the proposed Kansas Aqueduct, the massive waterworks project aiming to divert millions of acre-feet of water from the Missouri River to western Kansas. *Presented by Brock Ternes.*

Brock researches and teaches environmental sociology at the University of Kansas.

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Serving America While Serving Time

As the United States entered World War I, men across the country volunteered for service, including six inmates from the Kansas State Industrial Reformatory. When news of the inmates' wishes to sign up for duty came to light in the local *Hutchinson News*, many people in the area questioned their morality and ability to serve. This presentation tells the story of these men and why, in 1918, the Kansas adjutant general instructed the draft boards and recruitment offices to induct them into service. Eventually, nearly 250 inmates and former inmates of the Kansas Industrial Reformatory were either drafted or enlisted and served in some capacity during World War I, and some even died in combat. *Presented by Kori Thompson.*

Kori is an instructor at Hutchinson Community College.

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When Freedom Changed America

One hundred years separate the Emancipation Proclamation (1863) and the March on Washington (1963). Both movements were defined by the pursuit of freedom: one from the institution of slavery, the other from economic and political inequality. But what did freedom mean to Americans who participated in these important historical events? Today, as seekers of the American Dream, we can learn a great deal from the devotion and commitment of those looking to reclaim America and the principles for which it stands. *Presented by John Edgar Tidwell.*

Edgar teaches African American and American literature at KU.

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Free Speech in an Information-Overloaded World

Being informed requires information. Yet in today's 24-hour news cycle, Wikipedia, and social media, do we have the right information to be informed citizens? Understanding government policies regarding public access to data collected is key. This presentation provides an overview of information policy access and changes. It raises critical questions and gets people thinking: What do we know about how people use information? Do they have the right information, and enough of it, to make informed choices in their lives? How much more access to information do we still need? With the federal government as both a collector and publisher of massive amounts of information, does the U.S. population take advantage of this content? One example of real-world opportunities in Kansas is the expansion of e-government resources, community partnerships, and more strategic use of public libraries throughout the state and nation. *Presented by Jim Walther.*

Jim teaches library and information management at Emporia State University.

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Finding Common Ground

The only constant is change. Kansas has seen many changes in population, with shifts from rural to urban and to increased multicultural diversity. In such a setting, how does our state work toward the common good? This presentation provides an overview of recent economic and population changes across the state. Stories of Kansas communities that are demonstrating positive growth with new immigrants, such as a rural 4-H club that actively engages new Latino families in southwest Kansas, will be explored. Such real-world examples can inspire Kansans to work together for the future. *Presented by Ron Wilson.*

Ron produces a weekly radio program and news column about rural Kansas.

Ron Wilson

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Free Speech in Times of Crisis

“Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press...” With these simple words in the First Amendment, U.S. citizens are granted an inalienable right to express their opinions, a right that does not dissipate at times when society is under stress and disagreements get heated. Even when we do not agree with someone’s language, we believe in the speaker’s right to utter it—and that if we disagree with someone’s speech, the best response is more speech. History shows us, however, that sometimes people in positions of authority actively work to close off public discussion. This presentation will look at the reasons free speech is protected and provide current examples of how people in authority dissuade the public from speaking up. Events of today can be connected to William Allen White’s famous editorial, the work of Joseph Pulitzer, and the history of journalism in the United States. *Presented by Stephen Wolgast.*

Steve is a former New York Times editor who now teaches journalism and digital media at Kansas State University.

Stephen Wolgast

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FLIKS Short Film Discussions

Documentary short films and facilitated discussions that offer insight into today's water issues in Kansas. *(Equipment needed: Computer or DVD player, data projector, and speakers.)*



When the Well Runs Dry

This short documentary tenderly portrays the vital connection that rural Kansans have with water, our most precious resource. Ranchers, farmers, and residents of small Kansas towns tell us their heartfelt, personal stories about water, including the ongoing threats they face to the availability of the water on which they depend. Film running time 31 minutes. *Presented by Stephen Lerner, director.*

Steve Lerner
stephenlerner@gmail.com

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Kinsley: Navigating Rough Waters

Mother Nature and tough choices lead to consequences for a community on the floodplain. After a series of floods in the 1960s and 1970s, Kinsley was faced with a decision: Should they build a levee system to mitigate future damage? The question did not have an easy answer. Film running time 5 minutes. *Presented by Joan Weaver, film project director.*

Joan Weaver
director@kinsleylibrary.info

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The Waters of Kansas

A serial documentary project dedicated to telling the story of water in Kansas. Films in the series are *The Cheyenne Bottoms*, *Farming Over the Ogallala*, and *Our Shrinking Reservoirs*. All three films can be viewed in about one hour, or you can screen the individual films that most interest your group. *Presented by Sharon Ashworth, film project director.*

Sharon Ashworth
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The Pulitzer Project in Kansas: Community Writing Workshops

The Pulitzer Prizes

As part of the special Pulitzer initiative, Kansas nonprofits can invite trained instructors to facilitate writing workshops in their communities. Just as William Allen White defended free speech “by voice, by posted card, by letter, or by press,” participants are welcome to express themselves through essays, poems, letters to the editor, memoirs, fiction—any way they so choose. *Writing workshops are available as program funding allows.*



Anthony Funari teaches writing and literature at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park. A published author and scholar of Renaissance Studies, Anthony works to help writers articulate their thoughts and to understand their readers’ perspectives.

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Paula Ripple taught English composition at Dodge City Community College and Dodge City High School and has served as a mentor to new writing teachers. In retirement she continues to explore writing and innovative techniques employed by contemporary writers.

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Daniel Hoyt teaches fiction writing and literature, including the Literature of Rock and Roll, at Kansas State University. His short story collection, *Then We Saw the Flames*, won the Juniper Prize for Fiction. Dan asks his writers to rediscover the world, to see it through new and different points of view.

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Kim Stanley teaches courses in English and World literature, poetry, and beginning and advanced writing at McPherson College. She is interested in the ways in which literature can affect people’s lives and beliefs, and in using literature to help people talk about values.

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