

Volunteers & Continuing Support Needed!

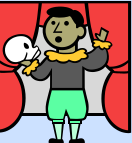
KIPCOR works in part because of generous assistance from volunteers, many of whom have now retired from their volunteering days (thanks to every one of you!). **So we are calling all volunteers! The gift of your time or a referral to others who might help is most welcome!**



FOOD: KIPCOR is known for the quality of food provided during our trainings & events. **Do you enjoy cooking and baking?** Volunteer to help and we'll contact you to see if it would be convenient for you to provide baked goods, or perhaps a full meal (cooking duties can be shared with another volunteer).



MAILINGS: We have a large mailing list and our mass mailings (newsletters, for instance) need **many hands to help** with folding, sealing, and labeling. Volunteer and we will add your name to the contact list so you will know when we need help.



ROLE-PLAYERS: KIPCOR trains student mediators throughout the year, and part of that training can include rigorous role-play practice...which requires help from **volunteer thespians**. Do you long for the stage every now and then? Volunteer and play the part of a parent fighting for more parenting time, a landlord or tenant, a consumer or business owner, or an unhappy neighbor.



FINANCIAL SUPPORT: We are associated with Bethel College, but **almost entirely self-funded**. Since money does NOT grow on trees, we need to find it somewhere else. Without the generous support of friends and corporate/foundation sponsors, our work simply cannot continue.

If you can help us in our mission of peacemaking, please contact our Office Manager, Doug Lengel, at: 316-284-5217 or dlengel@bethelks.edu. He will be happy to explain the volunteer process to you.

We're on the Web www.kipcor.org and on  www.facebook.com/kipcorks

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Spring 2017

Return of the Delaware to NE Kansas

The introduction to the Haskell Indian Nations University's Student "Code of Conduct" begins:

*"Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect."
~ Chief Seattle, 1854*

This concept of being bound together with others and all things was evident in the work KIPCOR's Great Plains Consensus Council did with the Delaware Tribe of Indi-

ans and the Douglas County (KS) partners.
Nearly three years ago, the Consensus Council was asked by representatives of the Delaware, Douglas County, USDA, and others to design and facilitate meetings pertaining to the use of 90 acres of land recently purchased by the Delaware just north of Lawrence, KS –land which had been once owned by the Delaware before they were forced to leave northeast Kansas in the late 1860s.
Despite some concern from locals that the Delaware were only interested in gaming, the tribe made it clear from the beginning

that their interest was in establishing a Kansas tribal location that, in cooperation with local governing and educational entities, could re-establish a presence in Northeast Kansas.
A look at the history of the Delaware diaspora demonstrates why this was of interest to the tribe. The Delaware Tribe of Indians is the 25th largest recognized tribe in the United States. Yet after being forced from the eastern US (Delaware and New Jersey, among other areas), they were removed to western Pennsylvania, then Ohio, then Indiana and Missouri,
(continued on page 3)

Happy Anniversary to US! The Celebration Continues

A celebration 30 years in the making is your opportunity to see and hear two special guests.
To mark its 30th Anniversary, KIPCOR has been planning a series of events as a way to say 'Thank You' to its many friends and supporters. First up is an appear-

ance by Leonard Pitts, Jr., long-time newspaper columnist and author. Pitts will be on the Bethel College campus (specific venue to be determined) Tuesday, September 12, 2017 to deliver an evening lecture and sign copies of his most recent books.

Pitts has been plying his craft as a writer for more than 35 years and twice each week, millions of readers still turn to his Miami-based, syndicated column for his insightful take on current affairs. Among the many awards Pitts has received are the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for commentary and the National Association of Black Journalists' Award of Ex-



Leonard Pitts

cellence (three times). Pitts is also the author of several books and will be signing copies of Freeman and Grant Park following his September 12 lecture.
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Happy Anniversary to US!

(Continued from Pg. 1)



Rafe Martin

If you love a good story, then be sure to attend one of many events in April 2018 involving Rafe Martin. Martin is a renowned children's author whose work really comes to life when he 'performs' his writings through storytelling as a way to illustrate the empowering

nature of language. He also tailors each of his appearances to the specific audience and has broad appeal among adults as well as children. Martin will kick off his multi-day visit with a storytelling performance on the Bethel College campus (specific venue to be determined) the evening of Sunday, April 22, 2018. He will also appear

at a college Convocation the following morning, and then spend three days making the rounds of area elementary schools.

Martin is another individual whose awards are too numerous to mention. Among them are Parent's

Choice Gold awards and Storytelling World awards. At each of his appearances, Martin will also be signing copies of his printed works.

Please stay tuned for additional details about these two events. If you or your company are interested in financially supporting and sponsoring one or both of them – which would also gain you and a guest admission to a private dinner with the author at KIPCOR – please call Dan at (316) 284-5829.

The Celebration Continues!!

KIPCOR loses long-time friend and supporter

Dan Miller, Senior Associate ~ Dan Wassink

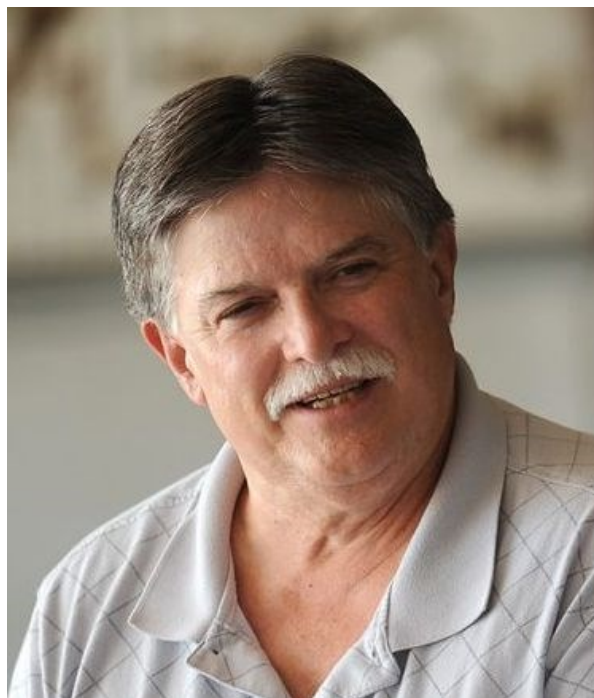
Volunteers are the lifeblood of KIPCOR. Without willing and talented volunteers to coach trainees, cook homemade meals and assist with a myriad of other tasks, the work of our Institute would suffer.

On April 23, 2017, KIPCOR lost one of those essential volunteers when Dan Miller passed away unexpectedly just five days shy of his 64th birthday. KIPCOR relied on Dan for many years as a coach for students engaged in role plays as they learned the craft of mediation. Dan was a Kansas Supreme Court approved mediator himself, and also served as volunteer coordinator and principal mediator for the Harvey County Small Claims Mediation project, a program sponsored by KIPCOR's Community Mediation Center. He earned a Certificate of Conflict Resolution from KIPCOR, as well as an M.B.A. from Friends

University in Wichita.

When he wasn't busy volunteering at KIPCOR, Dan followed his passion for flying as Director of Aviation at Hesston College starting in 1999. He served Hesston College in various roles for 26 years. Dan is survived by his wife, Jaynette; as well as his father, sister, two sons, two daughters, and several grandchildren.

At his memorial service, Dan's family showed a moving video tribute that depicted his love for family and aviation. Dan's other love for encouraging people to use their talents to resolve conflict in a peaceful manner was frequently on display at KIPCOR. His friendship and support will be missed.



Donating to KIPCOR online is REALLY easy, and SECURE.

STEP 1: Go to the KIPCOR website at www.kipcor.org.

STEP 2: Click on the word "Donate" at the top right.

STEP 3: Read the information on the Donate page; pay particular attention to "Donation Instructions"

STEP 4: Click on the "Donate Online Today!" button.

STEP 5: Fill out all of the information required. At the bottom, just before entering your credit card data, is the "Gift Destination" selection. The box says "Select One" and has a downward facing arrow at the right. Click anywhere in this box, and a box will appear with choices. Click on "Other". When you do that, a second box will appear just to the right of this box. In that box, type the word **KIPCOR**. Fill out your credit card information, and click on "Submit Form." That's all there is to it!

STEP 6: (Optional) If it's not too much trouble, let Doug (dlengel@bethelks.edu or 316-284-5217) or Gary (gflory@bethelks.edu) in the KIPCOR office know that you've made an online donation so we can watch for the receipt from the development office, and give you a proper THANK YOU!!!

Thanks for your continued support!

2017-2018 Film Series

Lights, camera, action: New wrinkles in store for KIPCOR's 2017-18 film series

The dates are set and your theater seat will be waiting for you as KIPCOR continues its long-running film series in 2017-18. So grab a pen and mark these Sunday dates and times on your calendar now:

- November 12, 2017 at **2:00** p.m.
- January 14, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.
- March 4, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

Those are the dates for KIPCOR's upcoming films, to be shown as always in Krehbiel Auditorium inside the Luyken Fine Arts Center on the Bethel College campus. You may notice we've altered the normal schedule a bit – this was done so you can attend KIPCOR's 30th Anniversary celebration events in September 2017 and April 2018 (see article, "The Celebration Continues"). And PLEASE NOTE the earlier-than-normal starting time on November 12. This change was made so you can leave the auditorium and head across campus to the Chapel in plenty of time for an organ recital later in the afternoon.

In retrospect, KIPCOR's 2016-17 films highlighted the plight of Syrian refugees, the militarization of local police forces, and offered a modern twist on the Doctrine of Discovery. As usual, there were lively post-film discussions thanks to local experts (and a Syrian refugee and her son from Wichita) who volunteered their time to provide their perspectives and answer audience questions.

We are still reviewing a long list of films and possible topics for 2017-18. So if you have ideas, please share them by calling Dan at (316) 284-5829, or emailing him at dwassink@bethelks.edu. He will be happy to consider your input as he sets the movie line-up.



KIPCOR Calendar

More information & registration is
available at www.kipcor.org/Calendar/

June 27, 2017

[Divorce Impact Education Class](#)

5:15 PM - 7:15 PM

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton KS 67117

June 28-30, 2017

[Domestic Mediation](#)

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton KS 67117

July 13, 2017

[Divorce Impact Education Class](#)

5:15 PM - 7:15 PM

Melhorn Hall Room 112 McPherson College
McPherson, KS 67460

July 25, 2017

[Divorce Impact Education Class](#)

5:15 PM - 7:15 PM

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton KS 67117

August 10, 2017

[Divorce Impact Education Class](#)

5:15 PM - 7:15 PM

Melhorn Hall Room 112 McPherson College
McPherson, KS 67460

August 16-19, 2017

[Core Mediation - Health Care Settings](#)

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton KS 67117

August 22, 2017

[Divorce Impact Education Class](#)

5:15 PM - 7:15 PM

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton KS 67117

September 14, 2017

[Divorce Impact Education Class](#)

5:15 PM - 7:15 PM

Melhorn Hall Room 112 McPherson College
McPherson, KS 67460

September 25 2017

[HOPE Class Fall Session](#)

5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton KS 67117

September 26 2017

[Divorce Impact Education Class](#)

5:15 PM - 7:15 PM

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton KS 67117

October 12, 2017

[Divorce Impact Education Class](#)

5:15 PM - 7:15 PM

Melhorn Hall Room 112 McPherson College
McPherson, KS 67460

October 24, 2017

[Divorce Impact Education Class](#)

5:15 PM - 7:15 PM

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton KS 67117

November 9, 2017

[Divorce Impact Education Class](#)

5:15 PM - 7:15 PM

Melhorn Hall Room 112 McPherson College
McPherson, KS 67460

November 12, 2017

[KIPCOR Film Series](#)

2:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Luyken Fine Arts Center Bethel College
North Newton, KS 67117

November 28, 2017

[Divorce Impact Education Class](#)

5:15 PM - 7:15 PM

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton KS 67117

December 1, 2017

[CME/CEU Class](#)

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Luyken Fine Arts Center Bethel College
North Newton, KS 67117

Return of the Delaware to NE Kansas Gary Flory (Continued from Pg. 1)

and finally to Indian Territory in what is now Kansas in the Leavenworth and Douglas County areas. When they were forced from Kansas to Oklahoma, there was no land available designated specifically as Delaware tribal land, so the tribe purchased land from the Cherokee Nation through negotiations with the federal government. While current relationships between the Delaware and Cherokee seem to be working, that has not always been the case. So there has been some impetus for the Delaware to return to Kansas.

The Consensus Council's task was to facilitate introductory plan-

"That's where the Consensus Council came in, providing a framework for a safe, honest, and accountable conversation."

ning conversations among the Delaware and a group of potential Douglas County partners – which included the Douglas County Commission, Lawrence City Commission, the US Department of Agriculture, Douglas County Conservation District, the University of Kansas, Haskell Indian Nations University, Kansas State University, Lawrence public schools, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, and others.

Initial meetings were designed to build enough trust among participants that planning ideas could be shared and developed. Douglas County Commission chair Nancy Thellman described the early process as follows:

"The early conversations between the Delaware Tribe and Douglas County partners were pret-

ty tenuous. We didn't know each other, we didn't understand each other's motivations, and we didn't have an organized way to come to any understanding. That's where the Consensus Council came in, providing a framework for a safe, honest and accountable conversation."

After multiple meetings and an increased sense of cooperation among all the parties, the Delaware and other participants entered into a formal cooperative agreement which incorporated a "Vision Outline" that would assist the Delaware in developing a Multi-purpose cultural/education center, and an Agricultural component.

An architectural design firm out of Kansas City was then retained to help design more specific plans and assist in writing grant proposals. The design is based on the initial work with the Consensus Council, and is currently described as the **Delaware Tribe Agricultural Heritage Planning Project**. It is described in the graphic to the right:

The Vision: A sustainable agricultural education center that honors people and the land.

While the project is still ongoing, the foundation for the collaborative work was one of the more satisfying Consensus Council projects. Thellman emphasizes how early facilitation set the tone for good relationships and ongoing collaboration among the parties – something the Con-

sensus Council strives for in all of its work.

"As a result of navigating what might have been a conversation set with many land mines, we actually got on a positive path pretty quickly, thanks to facilitation. We were able to put aside early concerns and set our sights on a great collaborative project that honors the land and will give the tribe a decent return on their substantial investment. I don't know for sure, but I think it's pretty rare to have such positive interaction and mutual good will between a tribe and local government. In this case, that's exactly where we landed. We're still in conversation, now awaiting a final site plan and business plan for the tribe's future use on their 90 acres. The neighboring landowners are excited about the agricultural project; the larger community has given its thumbs up in public meetings and most important, the leadership of the Delaware Tribe of Indians know they have genuine friends in Kansas."



Jacob Miller Wins KIPCOR's C. Henry Smith Peace Oration Contest - Again

KIPCOR again sponsored the Bethel presentation of the Mennonite Central Committee's C Henry Smith Peace Oration contest. Jacob Miller, senior from Westmoreland, Kansas, placed first with **"Mennonites' Protest of the U.S. National Anthem Lacks Inclusivity of the Black Community: A Call to 'Lift Every Voice and Sing'."**

Miller graduated from Bethel May 21 with a double major in communication arts and English with a minor in business.

This was Miller's third straight year in the top 2 of Bethel's contest. As a sophomore, he placed first and went on to finish third in the binational competition (first-place winners from all participating Mennonite colleges in the United States and Canada). Last year, as a junior, he was second in Bethel's contest.

Miller summarized his speech by saying, "While the traditional Mennonite emphasis on peace and social justice is admirable, most Mennonites are in a position of privilege as part of the dominant, oppressive white culture." "Mennonite-affiliated institutions are especially guilty when they play the U.S. national anthem, 'The Star-Spangled Banner' [as does Bethel], or even 'America, the Beautiful' in its place,

because these anthems do not fully entail the black community's history of oppression." "Lift Every Voice and Sing' is a song



easily found in most Mennonite hymnals, but few know that it is the official 'Black National Anthem,' adopted by the NAACP in 1919. As a call to action, Mennonite-affiliated institutions, in order to provide more inclusivity for the black community, should play 'Lift Every Voice' alongside 'America, The Beautiful,' but remain wary of appropriation."

This year's second place winner, Emily

Alexander, freshman Bible and Religion major from Wichita, wrote and presented a speech entitled "K(no)w God, K(no)w Peace."

In her speech, Alexander noted that individuals, and society in general, are grappling with how to find and sustain lasting peace, and that much of this struggle can be attributed to the gradual disappearance, and sometimes deliberate removal, of faith-based values and morals from everyday life that has taken a peace-loving God out of the equation.

Both students received cash awards. KIPCOR sent Miller's manuscript and a DVD recording of his speech to Mennonite Central Committee headquarters in Akron, Pennsylvania, to be judged against the winners from the other Mennonite and Brethren in Christ colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. Results of the 2017 Bi-National contest will be announced in the Fall of 2017.

You can find Jacob's entire presentation here:

<http://kipcor.org/Students/PeaceOratory.php>

The Search Is On to Find a New Director for KIPCOR

As many of you know, Gary Flory, Director of KIPCOR for 13 years, has announced his retirement effective June 29, 2017.

Dr. Robert Milliman, Bethel College's Vice President for Academic Affairs, has formed a search committee to find a new Director. The search is proceeding slowly, as the search committee looks for candidates who bring as many of the strengths Gary brought to the job as possible.

Bethel College will be holding a reception honoring Gary on Tuesday, July 11th from 3:30 to 5:00 PM. You are welcome to attend and extend well-wishes to Gary. To help the college plan the event, please contact us at dlengel@bethelks.edu or (316) 284-5217 so that we can let the administration know how many people will be attending.



Thanks to those of you who have so generously contributed to KIPCOR in response to our April fundraising appeal. With your help, and those of the other supporters, **we have already raised almost \$10,000.00** Thank you!!!

If you would like to make an electronic donation, see page 7 for detailed instructions.

KIPCOR Designated as Recipient of Award

America's Farmers Grow Communities program conducts a drawing each year among farmers in approximately 1,300 counties nationwide. The winner of this year's drawing for Harvey County, Kansas was Alma Unrau of Newton. Alma designated KIPCOR as the recipient of the \$2,500 award.

After visiting with Alma about how the funds should be used, KIPCOR decided to use the funds to support low-income families participating in educational and mediation programs to help keep families and their children out of court.

Thank you, Alma, for your support for KIPCOR!

Neighbor Signs available at KIPCOR

What does it mean to be a good neighbor? Several months ago, KIPCOR made some neighborly signs available to the Newton, Wichita, and surrounding areas. The signs read: "No matter where you're from, we're glad you're our neighbor" in Spanish, English, and Arabic.

The increase in relational isolation – from increased "social" technologies, indoor living, heightened individualism, etc – has been a frequent topic for commentary. We're increasingly concerned that our values for independence and individualism have led to less contact with diverse viewpoints and backgrounds. We form our own "filter bubbles" through technology's algorithms feeding us material that we're known to like and agree with.

When I lived in Indiana, I recognized that I had inadvertently created my own "filter bubbles" in my relationships. The physical manifestation of my work and personal interests led me to recognize a lack of diversity among people I associated with. I began making conscious choices to try to diversify my world – I hung out at the public library more, and moved to a more economically and racially diverse neighborhood, both of which gave me the opportunity for physical proximity with people I wasn't naturally meeting in my other circles.

Our neighborhoods have the potential to be rich networks of relationships which challenge our "filter bubbles." While neighborhoods still tend to create their own

bubbles (many neighborhoods are socioeconomically and ethnically homogenous), and this in itself can have value, if you're not currently working or spending social time with your neighbors, building those connections will diversify your relationships. Relational diversity and connection fights against our isolation, builds a stronger safety net for our wellbeing, increases community resilience, and gives us a wider understanding of – and therefore a greater ability to navigate – our diverse neighborhoods, cities, and world.

When KIPCOR decided to make these signs available, I was keen that we wouldn't be supporting another form of slactivism (also referred to as "armchair activism"). In a time when there is public support for exclusion-

ary tactics and attitudes towards immigrants, Muslims, and many others, putting a sign of "welcome" and inclusion out in a visible place can certainly be a risky and vulnerable action. However, our hope is that these signs don't just offer a positive message, but that they are visual representations of the owner's actions in being a truly welcoming neighbor. We hope that these signs spur all of us to increase our welcoming behaviors and actions like meeting new neighbors, building stronger connections, and recognizing that our diversity makes us stronger... beginning with those who live next door and down the road from us.

~ Sharon Kniss, KIPCOR
Director of Education and Training

