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### "Understanding Local History, with Some 'Little Balkans' Notes Along the Way"

Robert W. Richmond

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# Gene DeGruson Memorial Lecture

## Third Annual - April 10, 2001

**"Understanding Local History, with Some 'Little Balkans' Notes Along the Way"**

*Robert W. Richmond, speaker*

*Axe Library*

*7:00 p.m.*

The third annual Gene DeGruson Memorial Lecture, which took place on April 10, 2001 at 7p.m., featured a talk by Kansas writer Robert W. Richmond entitled "Understanding Local History, with Kansas: A Land of Contrasts with Some 'Little Balkans' Notes Along the Way". Richmond is the author of *Kansas: A Pictorial History*, and centennial histories of the Kansas Children's Service League and the Kansas Library Association. He is co-author of *A Nation Moving West*, *Kansas in Newspapers* and *Take a Look at Kansas*. He was an adjunct associate history professor at Washburn University for 40 years, and has also taught in the history departments of Baker University and Emporia State University and the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada. Richmond is also a past president of the Friends of Kansas Libraries, the Kansas History Teachers Association and the American Association for State and Local History. He is currently the principal partner of the Richmond Group, a historical consulting firm in Topeka.

Mr. Richmond's lecture was followed by a performance entitled "Gene and Miss Haughawout," a tribute to DeGruson and Margaret E. Haughawout, a legendary PSU English faculty member and author. When Gene DeGruson came to PSU as a teenage student, he met and became good friends with Miss Haughawout, who was then 77 and retired. The tribute, which was written and compiled by Charles Cagle, PSU English department professor emeritus, consists of excerpts from the correspondence and poetry of DeGruson and Haughawout. Assisting Cagle was Jan O'Connor, co-owner of Mostly Books bookstore, who portrayed Haughawout.