Using everyday ceramic forms, I can subtly, and even a little subversively, explore my interest in issues surrounding food production, energy use and climate change. Researching these interconnected contemporary themes drives my current studio practice but the seeds of this work were sown nearly thirty years ago. As a child in Alaska I witnessed the devastation wrought by the Exxon Valdez oil spill of 1989. The essence of my experience simmered beneath the surface, ebbing and flowing with the world’s evolving energy story. My subconscious inklings became concrete realities after reading The Omnivore’s Dilemma by Michael Pollan. Pollan’s book identified a thread running through agriculture, pesticides, fertilizers and oil – intertwining layers that feed my current body of work. Ultimately, I hope that with use of my pots in everyday moments, users will peel back the layers, open dialog with those who share their tables, and explore how their own personal actions can influence our collective future.

Kip O’Krongly is a studio artist and instructor living in Northfield, Minnesota. She earned a BA from Carleton College in 2001 and continued her ceramics education in studios across the country before landing at Northern Clay Center in Minneapolis in 2008. There she was a Fogelberg Fellow, Materials Technician, and then Anonymous Potter Studio Fellow. Kip has been featured as a Ceramics Monthly Emerging Artist, showcased on the cover of both Pottery Making Illustrated and Ceramics Monthly, highlighted in a number of ceramic books and publications, and was Best in Show winner of the Strictly Functional Pottery National Exhibition. Kip is a founding member of Objective Clay and has taught numerous workshops at craft schools across the country, from Penland and Arrowmont, to Watershed and the Archie Bray Foundation. She has been a resident artist at both Watershed and Archie Bray, and in 2014 was the recipient of a $25,000 McKnight Artist Grant.

To reserve your spot, contact David Bolton, Head of CLC Ceramics & Club Advisor at dbolton@clcillinois.edu. After registering please immediately mail your check payment made out to the College of Lake County, Attn: David Bolton, College of Lake County, Com Arts B210, 19351 W. Washington St., Grayslake, IL 60030-1198. Please include your name, and phone if not on check. If you are a student at CLC, you may sign up and pay in person.