

ARKANSIAN

Newsletter of the University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections Department

CONTENTS

- Tim Nutt Interim Head of Special Collections..... 1
- Home Demonstration Records 1
- Leadership Report..... 2
- International Education and Exchange Collections 3
- Ozark Society Papers..... 6
- Neil Compton Film 7
- Images of Arkansas: Travel and Leisure 8
- Furbush Civil War-Era Photographs 10
- Thanks to Our Donors 10
- New Exhibits from Special Collections..... 11
- Tom Dillard Retires 11
- African American Student History 12
- Featured Researcher and Lioneld Jordan Fellow, Keith Orejel..... 13
- Staff Profiles 14
- Are You Arkansas-Literate? 15

Tim Nutt Named Interim Head of Special Collections

University Libraries Dean Carolyn H. Allen appointed Timothy G. Nutt interim head of Special Collections after the retirement of Tom W. Dillard in January. Tim brought his considerable talents to Special Collections in 2005 as manuscripts and rare books librarian and in 2009 became the assistant head of the department. A dedicated and passionate Arkansas historian and archivist, Tim also serves as president of the Arkansas Historical Association. See his column on page 2.

Home Demonstration Records Document Twentieth Century Services to Rural Families

By Joshua Youngblood

The year 2012 marks the one hundredth anniversary of the first of what came to be known as Home Demonstration Clubs in Arkansas. In 1912, an appropriation of \$1,500 from the United States Department of Agriculture General Education Board to Arkansas allowed more than 400 girls in Pulaski County to join tomato canning clubs. The “Tomato Girls” of Pulaski County laid the groundwork for 100 years of service from clubs dedicated to bettering home management and rural farm life for women and families in Arkansas.



Arkansas Assistant Home Demonstration Agents for Negro Work, 1950. From the Dorris Vick Collection (MC 961), Box 2, Folder 2, Image 57.

“The foresight these women showed in knowing how important it would be for women to have an education is remarkable,” said Eva Marie Pearson, journalist and publicity

continued on page 4



Leadership Report

From the Desk of Tim Nutt

As I read the articles in this issue of *The Arkansian*, a few of them brought memories from different phases of my life bubbling to the surface. This year we celebrate the centennial of Home Demonstration Clubs in Arkansas. The article in this issue by Joshua Youngblood reminded me of my late mother and her involvement in her local Home Demonstration Club, while the article on one of our digitization projects brought to mind my initial meeting with one of Arkansas's prominent novelists, E. Lynn Harris. Finally, a photograph of our former leader in Special Collections took me back to my college days. Of course,

these are only a few of the interesting articles found in the newsletter.

Growing up in rural Arkansas, I always looked forward to summers and spending those hot and humid months playing in the creek, visiting my grandparents, and helping my mom can vegetables. My mom was a member of the local Home Demonstration Club, and one of their activities was canning demonstrations. My mom probably learned how to can from her mother, but I remember her going to the demonstrations and then taking that information back home to apply to the bounty of vegetables planted, tended, and harvested by my dad. Even though we had a large family, including my parents and my five siblings, we had plenty of okra, tomatoes, cucumbers, and squash to put up for future uses. Under my mom's supervision, the kids would sterilize the Mason or Ball jars and then fill them with the vegetables before putting on the lids and lowering them into the heavy, yellow pressure canner. My favorite vegetable to can was squash. Although I hated the taste of fried squash (which my mom cooked frequently), squash pickles were heavenly to my adolescent taste buds.

We've recently digitized issues of the *BAD Times*, a newspaper published by Black Americans for Democracy, a group founded on the University of Arkansas campus in the late 1960s. The original newspapers were unavailable for use due to their fragility, but the issues are now scanned and posted online. They are fully-searchable online, thus allowing researchers to mine this wonderful resource easily. One of the students who contributed to the *BAD Times* was E. Lynn Harris. In addition to writing for the newspaper, Harris was the first African American male cheerleader at the University. After graduation, he published a series of successful novels and returned to the University to teach. He was one of the first people I met after I started



Tim Nutt, Interim Head of Special Collections

working here. Harris was gracious, and I enjoyed visiting with him. Sadly, he died three years ago, but I will always remember our nice—but all too brief—conversation.

We also have a story from the recent retirement party of Tom Dillard. The photograph takes me back about 20 years. Tom recently retired after nearly eight years of doing a great job as head of Special Collections here at the University. I have been here for about seven years, but I have known Tom much longer. In fact, Tom hired me for my first job in the archival world, when he was director of the University of Central Arkansas archives. I had just switched my major from accounting to history, and my advisor set up an interview for me with Tom. He has been my mentor since. While we miss Tom's leadership, we wish him only the best in retirement.

This newsletter also contains articles about the records of the Foundation for the International Exchange of Students, an organization that has supported international students on the U of A campus since 1949. We have an article on a newly digitized 1963 Buffalo River film made by Dr. Neil Compton. Special Collections staffer Janet Parsch wrote the successful grant proposal to the National Film Preservation Foundation, which allowed us to preserve this wonderful piece of Arkansas and national

continued on page 15

Collections Released on International Education and Exchange

Foundation for International Exchange of Students

By Janet Parsch

Two important manuscript collections documenting local efforts in international education and exchange have been processed and opened for research in Special Collections—the Foundation for International Exchange of Students Records and the Marie Louise Lavallard Materials.

The Foundation for International Exchange of Students Records (MC 1881) consist of three linear feet of materials containing legal and historical documents, board meeting materials, mailing and donor lists, plus records of the foundation's scholarships, newsletters, and brochures.

The Foundation for International Exchange of Students (FIES) was founded in Fayetteville in 1949 with the mission of supporting international students at the University of Arkansas. Over the years, board members, families, and civic organizations in the community arranged for and supported room and board, travel, and opportunities for mentoring and moral support for international students by organizing used-book sales, producing cookbooks, and conducting annual mail solicitations and silent auctions.

More than 570 students from countries across the world have benefited from FIES support over the past 63 years. FIES has also supported American students in their study abroad opportunities and arranged reciprocal exchanges with colleges in Japan, Austria, Finland, Korea, the Dominican Republic and Honduras.

Almost synonymous with FIES are the names of Marie and John Lavallard, who were early members of the FIES board and involved with FIES and other international student organizations until their deaths. The Lavallards moved from Vermont to Arkansas in 1946, where Marie began a thirty-six year career with the University of Arkansas College of Agriculture. She held various positions, including



Marie Lavallard, ca. 1981. From the Marie Lavallard Materials (MC 1644), Box 1, Folder 25.

chair of the Department of Agricultural Communications, and founded the *Arkansas Farm Research Journal*. Ms. Lavallard was tireless in mentoring and keeping ties with FIES and international students who attended the university. For more than fifty years she maintained the FIES newsletter, in which she reported university happenings as well as updates on the vast number of students with whom she stayed in contact. She was long associated with the *Escuela Agricola Panamericana* in Zamarano, Honduras. In 2000, Ms. Lavallard, one of only thirty-two nominees nationwide, received the Millennium International Volunteer Award from the U.S. Department of State.

The John and Marie Lavallard International Scholarship became fully endowed in 2005. John died in 1990, and Marie died on April 3, 2006. The Marie Louise Lavallard Materials (MC 1644) contain correspondence and personal papers, records concerning the Lavallard Scholarship, memorabilia from the Lavallards' domestic and international travels, photographs and slides, scrapbooks, and other materials. Both the FIES and Lavallard collections were processed by Vera Ekechukwu.

An event was held in Holcombe Hall on April 18 to celebrate the opening of the FIES and Lavallard collections and to recognize current FIES and Lavallard scholarship recipients.

THE ARKANSIAN

The Special Collections Department of the University of Arkansas Libraries collects, preserves, organizes and provides access to research materials documenting the state of Arkansas and its role in the regional, national, and international communities. *Arkansian* is an old name by which our early ancestors called themselves, as well as the name of an antebellum newspaper in Fayetteville. *The Arkansian* is published twice a year.

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Home Demonstration Records

continued from page 1



Women and girls from a Pulaski County tomato canning club display fresh fruit and preserved items they produced, ca. 1912. From the Mablevale Home Demonstration Club Records (MC 1640), "Canning Club Work of Emma Archer," scrapbook, Image 53.

chairman for the Arkansas Extension Homemakers Council, who attended club meetings as a little girl with her mother. "They began working in many areas of community service early on—such as rural electrification, hospital development, and immunization—that later came to fruition."

With passage of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, the U.S. Congress provided federal support for a Cooperative Extension Service, coordinated between universities, state government, and county officials, to disseminate information about modern agriculture and home economics to rural communities. Over the next several decades, the pioneering agents of the Women's Division of the Extension Service journeyed across Arkansas to bring the latest information about household management, agriculture, nutrition, and child-rearing to thousands of mothers, wives, and future farmers through the creation of home demonstration clubs in local communities.

"Though the groups themselves have changed a great deal over the years, with many of the new members being retired women with a lot of professional and life experience already, the core areas of their work have never changed: leadership development, community service, and education," Pearson said.

In Special Collections, the work of women involved with rural outreach and agricultural extension programs is represented by 27 separate manuscript collections related to home demonstration groups. The records of local home demonstration clubs, county and state associations, and the Extension Service all provide invaluable insight to the rapid changes the twentieth century brought to farming communities, as well as the everyday concerns farm women and their families confronted. Clubs were established in towns and cities too, as Arkansas women and girls joined together to study and share the traditions and skills of homemaking. In 1951, the president of the Arkansas

Council of Home Demonstrators, Mrs. J. Howard Crawford, boasted that there were 1,641 clubs in Arkansas with more than 40,000 members.

The history recorded in these collections ranges from the establishment of Extension Services and the formation of the nation's first home demonstration group, the Mablevale Home Demonstration Club (MC 1640) of Pulaski County in 1914, to the decades of work by local, county, and statewide organizations to provide education and resources to the women and families of Arkansas.

The University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service Records (MC 1145) consist of ten boxes of material providing the primary record of the service as administered through the University for its first 74 years, from 1914-1988. The Arkansas Association of Extension Home Economists Records 1940-1990 (MC 1171) document efforts to coordinate the state associations with the national movement. Founded as the

The records of local home demonstration clubs, county and state associations, and the Extension Service all provide invaluable insight to the rapid changes the twentieth century brought to farming communities, as well as the everyday concerns farm women and their families confronted.

Arkansas Home Demonstration Agents Association in Conway in 1940, most of the fourteen committees overseeing organizational concerns are still active.

Surprising treasures are available in collections from individuals. The records of the Arkansas Council of Home Demonstration Clubs, a statewide federation of home demonstration clubs founded in 1929, are included within the Dorris Vick Collection (MC 961). The collection contains records of the earliest appointment of home demonstration agents in the state, narrative histories of home demonstration work, and efforts to form county and state federations.

The Blanche Hanks Elliott Papers (MC 1272) illustrate the career and personal interests of a home extension instructor who worked in Pope and Benton Counties. The collection documents her interactions with folk artists and writers such as M. E. Oliver, Edsel Ford, and Ernie Deane, and prominent Arkansans, including Clay M. Anderson, David Pryor, and Orval Faubus.

County-wide collections provide documentation of local groups. The Searcy County Extension Homemakers Clubs Collection (MC 1046) contains correspondence and reports of county extension and home demonstration agents and the scrapbooks and record books for the home demonstration clubs of South Mountain, Leslie, Pine Bluff, Marshall, Silver

Hill, Gilbert, and the greater Searcy County Council. It also includes the records of the Flintrock Strawberry Growers Association in Marshall.

The Washington County Extension Homemakers Council Records (MC 906) include records spanning 71 years, from 1916-1987. This collection, combined with six collections from local clubs, make Washington County the best-represented county in the holdings of Special Collections. Although the records only begin in the 1940s, the Garland County Extension Homemakers Club Records (MC 1117) is one of the largest home demonstration collections, comprising fourteen boxes containing information on twenty-three different clubs in the county.

In addition to personal and county group records, collections of local clubs, such as the Savoy Extension Homemakers Club (MC

The Cooperative Extension Service is still active in each of Arkansas's 75 counties, sponsoring educational programs disseminating the latest research via agricultural, financial management, and youth programs.

1169) often contain detailed information about the history of small communities and the contributions of individual members. Records from local clubs illustrate the grassroots organizing efforts inspired by the Extension Service. The Liberty Hill Friendship Extension Homemakers Club collection (MC 1237) includes organizational records such as by-laws, membership and attendance rolls, and progress reports, as well as photographs, clippings, and other materials showing the club's activities in the community.

In addition to manuscript collections, the Arkansas Collection

of published materials includes manuals and reports from the Extension Service, as well as publications produced by home demonstration clubs such as cookbooks and yearbooks. *The Horticultural Handbook for County Agricultural and Home Demonstration Agents* (SB318 .H67 1900z) is an early publication from the state program for agents' use in the field.

A 1940 thesis, *A History of the Agricultural Extension Service in Arkansas* (S544.3.A8 H65) by Mena Hogan, includes original photographs she compiled to illustrate the meetings, instruction, and agricultural activities conducted in Arkansas. One particularly valuable chapter covers the early years of the African American extension program. *History of Home Demonstration Work in Arkansas 1914-1965* (TX24.A8 H57), published by the Cooperative Extension Service, as it came to be known in the 1960s, provides an historical overview of statewide home demonstration work in every county.

The Cooperative Extension Service is still active in each of Arkansas's 75 counties, sponsoring educational programs disseminating the latest research via agricultural, financial management, and youth programs. Extension clubs in Arkansas continue to provide programs directed at self-improvement, continuing and adult education, and community service. The materials in Special Collections offer opportunities for rewarding research on subject areas such as the evolution and work of women's clubs, the preservation of traditional skills such as knitting and quilt making, the economic development of rural communities and small towns in Arkansas, women's charitable work, nutrition science, and general standards of living in different regions across the state. Home Demonstration Club records are rich in first-hand accounts of the dramatic changes the twentieth century brought to Arkansas rural life and to the work of professionals and private citizens to improve the lives of all Arkansans.

Ozark Society Papers Released

In Celebration of Environmental Anniversaries

By Erin Robertson

With the approaching fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the Ozark Society, the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the Buffalo River as the first national river, and the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Ozark environmentalist Neil Compton, the Special Collections Department gears up for these celebrations with the release of an

Dr. Neil Compton founded the group in May 1962 to promote “conservation, education, and recreation” in the beauty of the surrounding Ozarks.



A popular swimming hole on the upper Buffalo River situated at the Highway 7 crossing near Pruitt, ca. 1965. The caption on the back reads: “Stone ledges provide natural diving platforms.” From the Neil Compton Papers (MC 1091) Box 27, Folder 14, Image 434.

addendum to the Ozark Society papers.

In 1974 the board of the Ozark Society designated Special Collections as the official depository of the society’s records. The organization, which focuses on environmental conservation, began donating their records to Special Collections in 1975. The original materials consisted of 65 boxes or 32 linear feet of correspondence, financial records, legislative bills and other materials from 1957–1975 pertaining to the establishment of the Buffalo River as the nation’s first national river.

The materials in the recent addendum have now been processed and opened for research. This manuscript collection, Ozark Society Records 1962–2001 (MC 477), encompasses 13 boxes of materials that stretch 12.5 linear feet. Research Assistant Vera Ekechukwu processed the manuscript collection, which consists of administrative files, membership records,

tax information, legislative bills pertaining to the Buffalo River hearings, and files pertaining to subjects such as the Ozark National Forest, stream channelization, and wilderness conservation. Various chapter records include newsletters and bulletins, as well as clippings from non-Ozark Society publications. The collection also contains photographs plus video and audio recordings.

Dr. Neil Compton founded the group in May 1962 to promote “conservation, education, and recreation” in the beauty of the surrounding Ozarks. The group soon expanded its purpose to larger conservation issues, such as the preservation of the Buffalo River as a free-flowing, undammed river. Due to the efforts of the Ozark Society, in March 1972 the Buffalo River became the first national

Due to the efforts of the Ozark Society, in March 1972 the Buffalo River became the first national river in U.S. history. To this day, the Buffalo remains a symbol of the power of environmental activism and the crowning glory of the Natural State.

river in U.S. history. To this day, the Buffalo remains a symbol of the power of environmental activism and the crowning glory of the Natural State.

In the foreword of Compton’s book *The Battle for the Buffalo River*, Ozark Society member and author Ken Smith



Top: Inaugural Ozark Society cleanup float on the Buffalo River. Photograph by Neil Compton, August 1967. The Ozark Society still regularly hosts such events to keep the Buffalo River in pristine condition. From the Neil Compton Papers (MC 1091), Box 27, Folder 21, Image 1193.



Bottom: L to R: Neil Compton, Congressman Asa Hutchinson, and Senator John Paul Hammerschmidt attending the Buffalo National River Park’s twenty-fifth anniversary celebration on Jun 14, 1997 at Tyler Bend Recreational Park. From the Neil Compton Papers (MC 1091), Box 27, Folder 21, Image 490.

Early Film of Buffalo River Restored

Special Collections received a grant of \$4,590 from the National Film Preservation Foundation to preserve a 14-minute 8mm film produced in the spring of 1963 by Dr. Neil Compton of Bentonville. The Film Technology Company of Hollywood, California, recently completed the re-mastering and conversion of the film. Titled *Opportunity for Arkansas—The Buffalo National River*, the film is one of thirteen that Dr. Compton, founding president of the Ozark Society, shot, edited, scripted, and narrated in the early 1960s as part of the effort to keep the Buffalo River in north Arkansas from being dammed. Ellen Compton, former Special Collections archivist and daughter of the late Dr. Compton, observes that, “Seeing the sunshine and sparkling water in the re-mastered film is delightful. The music once again delights the ear.” Plans are underway for special showings of the film in conjunction with anniversaries occurring this year: the fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the Buffalo River as America’s first national river, the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Ozark Society, and the one hundredth anniversary of Dr. Compton’s birth.—Janet Parsch

wrote: “It is simply that the Buffalo National River and its surrounding natural landscape can be our sanctuary, a refuge—at least from time to time—for physical, mental, and spiritual renewal. A place to be enjoyed, cherished, treasured, and defended.”

Ellen Compton, retired Special Collections manuscripts processor and daughter of the late Neil Compton, shared an anecdote about her father. “My dad had given his Ozark Society papers (Neil Compton Papers, MC 1091) to Special Collections in the seventies, all organized beautifully,” she said. “After my mother died, he spent his days rereading all of the Ozark Society papers, and that is how he wrote his book *The Battle for the Buffalo River*. This is just

an illustration on how papers like this can help people, even if they are their own papers,” Compton said.

Neil Compton wrote, “To realize that we are a part of this grand combination of natural forces and basic particles woven on the loom of time comforts the soul and restores our often jaded spirits. With that comes the realization that if we are to survive the unpredictable future, we must not upset this wonderful balance on planet Earth.”

In the same way that Neil Compton and countless Ozark Society advocates after him championed the preservation of the Natural State, so too is Special Collections doing its part to preserve the history of environmental conservation in Arkansas.

Images of Arkansas

Travel and Leisure

Selected and Annotated by Todd E. Lewis



Men relaxing in the sun parlor of the Lamar Bath House in Hot Springs, January 31, 1905, Mary D. Hudgins Collection (MC 534), Box 105, Folder "Lamar Bath House," Image 1838.



Top Ruth Dickinson of Fayetteville and friends, Northwest Arkansas, ca. 1895, Berry, Dickinson, Peel Family Papers (MC 1372), Box 13, Folder 11, Image 149.



Tourists at the Happy Hollow resort in Hot Springs, July 5, 1899, Mary D. Hudgins Collection (MC 534), Box 103, Folder "Happy Hollow," Image 1218.



Man "surf planing" on Lake Chicot, 1926. From Arkansas Bureau of Mines, *Playgrounds in Arkansas*, 1926.

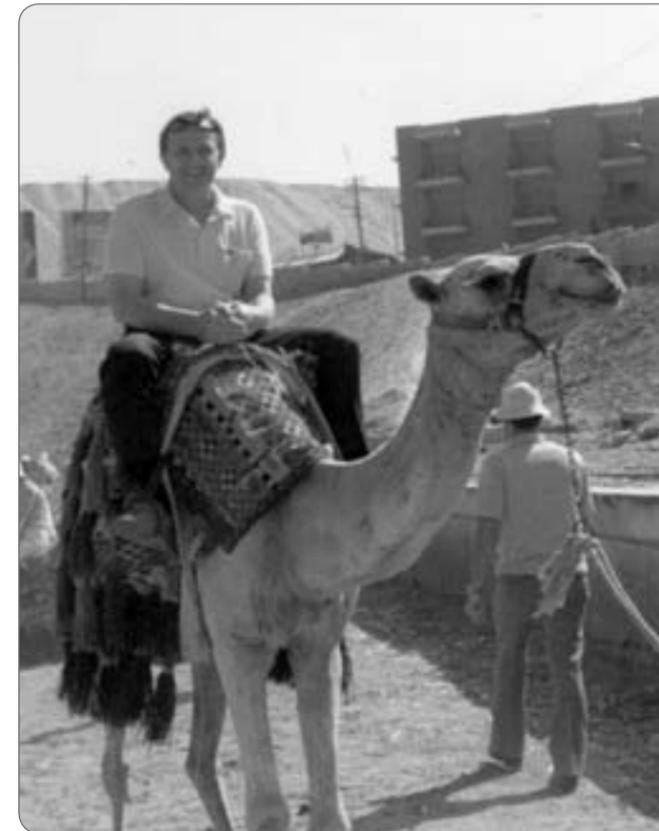
Wish You Were Here!



The Scott Bond family of Madison (St. Francis County), 1917. From Dan A. Rudd and Theo Bond, *From Slavery to Wealth: The Life of Scott Bond*, 1917.



Governor Orval and Elizabeth Faubus in front of the Jubilation T. Cornpone statue at Dogpatch, U.S.A., ca. 1970, Orval Faubus Papers Addendum, (MC 922), Box 54, Folder 4, Image 1747.



Senator Dale Bumpers in Egypt, 1976, Dale Bumpers Papers (unprocessed).



Tourists in Eureka Springs, 1890, Cora Pinkley Call Papers (MC 727), Box 14, Folder 1, Image 5.

New Photos Acquired of Civil War-Era African American Photographer

By Erin Robertson

Special Collections recently added two new photographs to the William Hines Furbush collection (MC 1783). The original collection of images, acquired in 2008, consisted of ten photographs of Civil War soldiers. The two newest photographs, acquired through both private and public auctions, were added in 2012.

Furbush, an African American born in 1839 in Carroll County, Kentucky, operated a photography studio in Ohio before moving to Helena, Arkansas (Phillips County) to continue his photographic work. Apart from his photography, Furbush was also known for his involvement as Commissary Sergeant in the Forty-second Colored Infantry at Columbus, Ohio and for his political involvement in the Arkansas General Assembly. Furbush was one of the first to experiment with the Back-to-Africa movement in Liberia before he settled in Arkansas.

In 1872 he was elected as a Republican to the Arkansas General Assembly to represent the Arkansas eleventh district—comprising Monroe and Phillips Counties—and during his tenure was credited with the creation of Lee County. Furbush served as the first sheriff of Lee County from 1873–1879. In late 1878 he resigned as sheriff and was named the Democratic nominee to the Arkansas House of Representatives.

One of the new photos is from Furbush's Ohio photography studio, but the second is the only known example with the stamp of Furbush's Helena photography studio. The photograph features a young woman, Henrietta Cameron, wife of Helena grocery store clerk Alex K. Cameron, with the insignia of the Helena studio on the reverse side. Not only is the photo's origin important, but what it symbolizes is significant.



Henrietta Cameron, wife of Helena grocery store clerk Alex K. Cameron. Photograph by William Hines Furbush, ca. 1862. From the William Hines Furbush Photographs (MC 1783), Box 1, Folder 1, Image 12.



Reverse side of the photo showing the stamp of Furbush's Helena photography studio.

"In our newest acquisitions, there are two images of women," observed Krista Jones, who processed the new photographs. "When we think of Civil War photographs, we automatically think of the masculine identity and soldiers in uniform. We don't think of the home front. To have photographs of Civil War-era women, especially taken by an African American photographer working in Helena, Arkansas during the Civil War, is a special thing."

Thanks to Our Donors!

Donations to Special Collections, July 1, 2011 to December 21, 2011

Arkansas Archaeological Survey, Fayetteville
Margaret Stokes Bateman, Starkville, MS
Robert W. and Virginia C. Bradsher, Jr., Little Rock
Travis Glen Brooks, Fayetteville
Kenneth Danforth, Arlington, VA
Carolyn Magruder Davids, Woodinville, WA
Tom W. Dillard, Farmington
Frank S. Faulkner, Jr., San Antonio, TX
Gene R. Fry and Jane Ann Heinze-Fry, Brookfield, MA
Greg and M. Cilinda Giezentanner, Fayetteville
Reed and Mary Ann Greenwood, Fayetteville
Kathryn Grover, Rogers
Betty A. Harrison, Fayetteville
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Charlotte Schexnayder, Dumas, AR
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Billye Stockton, Little Rock
Nancy Ellen Talburt, Fayetteville
Kenneth Trapp, Bella Vista
Margaret Whillock, Little Rock
Estate of Ann J. Wilkie, Champaign, IL
Bobby G. Williams, Fayetteville

New Exhibits from Special Collections

Arkansas Heritage Month: Arkansans at Work

Arkansas Heritage Month 2012 celebrates the working lives of Arkansans. Through the years, the way people make their living has changed dramatically, from farming and agriculture, to technology. This exhibit showcases images of Arkansans working in the early twentieth century with images from our photograph collection.

Images showcase the rice, cotton, fruit and sorghum industries. Other photographs illustrate the coal and oil industries, which have contributed to the state's economy since the early twentieth century. The railroad and lumber industries that radically changed the landscape of Arkansas forever are also recognized. (Location: Special Collections Display East, Mullins Library)

War and Reflection: Selections of Rare Books Related to the Civil War

This exhibit showcases rare books that relate to the historical themes of the American Civil War. The rare books holdings of the University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections include more than 2,000 titles housed in the department because of their exceptional value, curiosity, or distinction.

The works included show some of the ways the Civil War was documented and remembered in the final years of the war and in the decades after. These included an early first-hand account of the war in Arkansas published in 1864, *Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove* by William Baxter. The earliest histories of the war attempted to more fully understand the meaning of the catastrophic conflict that costs hundreds of thousands of lives and left large swaths of the country in ruins. The *Atlas to Accompany the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, published by the U.S. Army in the 1890s, provides scholars with site plans of fortifications, illustrations of soldiers in uniform, and maps of battlefields. Numerous authors published nostalgic and elegiac writings that helped create the mythologies that endure even today, such as *Sparks from the Camp Fire; or, Tales of the Old Veterans: Thrilling Stories of Heroic deeds, Brave Encounters, Desperate Battles, Bold Achievements, Reckless Daring, Lofty Patriotism, Terrible Suffering and Wondrous Fortitude, as Re-told To-day Around the Modern Camp Fire*, ed. Joseph W. Morton, Jr. (1893). (Location: Glass case near Reference Desk, Mullins Library)

Sidney S. McMath: A Man for Arkansas at 100

Tim Nutt, Cat Wallack, and Joshua Youngblood recently traveled to Little Rock to install a display at the McMath Library, which is part of the Central Arkansas Library System. The exhibit, which honors the 100th anniversary of Governor Sid McMath's birth, was created by Special Collections in conjunction with a conference and various other celebratory activities held in Little Rock during the month of June. A similar exhibit is being installed in the hallway outside of Special Collections in Mullins Library.

Farewell to Tom Dillard



Tom Dillard cuts cake at a January 2012 reception held in the University House in honor of his retirement.

Tom Dillard retired in January 2012 after a long and illustrious career in archives and Arkansas history. He became head of Special Collections in 2004. During his tenure, he successfully recruited collections, raised funds for special projects, implemented digitization initiatives, and raised the profile of Special Collections and the University of Arkansas Libraries.

At the January reception held in his honor, Tom remarked, "Arkansas history has been neglected for so long. When I started my career in 1971, there were more references to Ohio in the *Journal of Southern History* than to Arkansas! In 1976, during the American Revolution Bicentennial, we did not have an elementary level textbook on Arkansas in print. I am pleased to have played a role in reversing the neglect Arkansas studies has suffered in the past."

Commenting on his retirement Tom recently said, "I am still savoring my retirement even after four months! While I miss the students and everyone in Special Collections, I must admit that I am enjoying working in the garden, researching, writing my history column in the *Democrat-Gazette*, and spending time with my wife and dogs. My time in Special Collections was the culmination of a career of 42 years spent documenting our state. I am now enjoying being a user of Special Collections, and every time I go there to do research, I am reminded of what a spectacular resource the department is."

Editor's note: Many of the photographs published in the Fall issue of *The Arkansian* were by Special Collections employee Valerie Robertson. We regret that her contributions were not acknowledged and apologize for the oversight.

Newly Released Collections Document African American Student History

By Amy Allen

Special Collections, in celebration of Black History Month in February, released two collections from the student group Black Americans for Democracy (BAD)—a digital collection of the organization's newspaper, *BAD Times: The Black Americans for Democracy News*, and a complementary manuscript collection. Both are open for public research, providing insight into black history at the University of Arkansas.

BAD, formed in 1968 after the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., was a registered student organization for African American students at the University of Arkansas. The club—which operated under this name through the 1970s—was a political and social group striving to bring attention to issues black students faced on campus, to promote achievements of black students and faculty, and to provide social interaction. The group encouraged black students to get more involved on campus and urged administrators to provide more opportunities for black students.

BAD Times: The Black Americans for Democracy News, also known as the *Times*, was a newspaper written and produced by BAD students, providing a first-hand look at everyday issues occurring during a turbulent time of change in America's history. Topics in the paper ranged from editorials on University administrative decisions to highlights of social activities.

Special Collections has twenty issues of the newspaper, dating from 1971–1977, in its holdings. The newspapers have been popular for research over the years, but frequent use, combined with the age of the newspapers, created preservation problems for this valuable resource. Some of the newspapers were crumbling, making them increasingly difficult to



History was made by Mellonee Carrigan (L) and Jo Lynn Dennis (R) when they became the first African American homecoming maids in 1974. Photograph from *Bad Times: The Black Americans for Democracy News*, December 12, 1974.

handle. Now all twenty issues have been digitized for preservation and easier access. The digital copies are available online and include full-text searching capabilities. The collection can be viewed on the Special Collections web site: <http://libinfo.uark.edu/eresources/digitalcollections.asp>.

Articles in the *Bad Times* newspapers covered topics concerning both local and national issues, including editorials on local subjects, such as the color divide in dormitories on campus, and national topics, such as affirmative action. Students also wrote about popular social activities, such as Black Emphasis Week (later changed to Black Awareness Week) and the Miss BAD Pageant (later changed to Miss Black University of Arkansas). The newspaper also brought attention to achievements of black students, such as Gene McKissic, the first black president of the student body in 1972, and Mellonee Carrigan and Jo Lynn Dennis, the first black homecoming maids in 1974. The collection contains articles

by and about E. Lynn Harris, who later became a nationally recognized author.

Complementing the digital collection, the manuscript collection, Black Americans for Democracy Materials (MC 1915.UA), contains meeting minutes for the organization during the time period when *BAD Times* was written. The collection contains photos and other materials documenting the group as it evolved over the decades.

In the fall of 1979, members changed the name of the group to Students Taking a New Direction (STAND) to project a more positive image. STAND continued to promote appreciation of black heritage, improve interracial relations and educational quality, and help members develop leadership skills. During this time period, STAND was granted two permanent seats on the Associated Student Government. The organization changed its name again in the late 1980s to the Black Students Association, a group which remains active today.

Featured Researcher: Keith Orejel, First Lioneld Jordan Fellow, Visits Special Collections



Keith Orejel (center) surrounded by (L to R) Special Collections Interim Department Head Tim Nutt, Fayetteville Mayor Lioneld Jordan, Communications Professor Stephen Smith, and Carolyn Henderson Allen, Dean of the University Libraries.

Keith Orejel was named the first annual recipient of the Lioneld Jordan Fellowship in Labor and Working Class Studies. He has been working in the Special Collections Department since January 2012. Originally from California, Keith is currently a Ph.D. candidate in history at Columbia University in New York City. For his dissertation work, he is using materials in the Arkansas Collection in addition to the manuscript collections of Arkansas political leaders—most notably that of John Paul Hammerschmidt—to examine rural and small-town communities after World War II. His work focuses specifically on local community efforts to achieve industrial development in response to the rapid decline in agricultural employment after the widespread mechanization of farming.

Keith's leisure activities include spending time with his fiancée Laura and his dog Buford. His favorite family activities include walks in the park, trips to museums, and rooting for the Philadelphia Phillies.

Funded by communications professor Stephen Smith, the Lioneld Jordan Fellowship in Labor and Working Class Studies was established to honor the leadership and vision of Lioneld Jordan, the current mayor of Fayetteville. Mr. Jordan was an undergraduate student at the University and a carpenter with the University Physical Plant for 26 years. He serves as president of AFSCME Local 965 and of the Northwest Arkansas Labor Council. He is a champion of working families.

Applications are being accepted for the 2013 Lioneld Jordan Fellowship. The fellowship conveys reimbursement up to \$500 for expenses incurred while using the Special Collections' materials on Arkansas history, labor culture, labor education, labor lore, occupational folk life, trade union traditions, and worker culture. For more information, contact Tim Nutt in Special Collections at (479) 575-8443 or timn@uark.edu.

Donate Your Historical Materials!

Special Collections is always on the lookout for materials that document the history of Arkansas, such as:

Family papers

Records of Arkansas clubs and organizations

Records of Arkansas businesses

Photographs

Videos and films

Books about Arkansas or written by Arkansans

Scrapbooks

Letters

Arkansas cookbooks

Menus from Arkansas restaurants

Menus and recipes from family meals

If you are interested in donating materials, please contact:

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Staff Profiles



Erin Robertson

Editorial assistant **Erin Robertson** graduated in May with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English literature and print/editorial journalism, with a minor in history. She grew up in Green Forest, Arkansas, where she enjoyed a close-knit family, playing outdoors, and reading all the books she could get her hands on. She graduated from Green Forest High School in 2008 and was awarded an Honors College Fellowship from the University of Arkansas.

Erin was hired in August 2011 to assist with departmental publications and communications. She helps produce and edit *The Arkansian*, and she does archival research and copy editing for *Arkansauce: The Journal of Arkansas Foodways*. Of her work in Special Collections, Erin says, “I especially enjoy learning about the wealth of information available in Special Collections. I feel as if I’m treasure-hunting each time I work with the archival collections.”

In her leisure time, Erin enjoys running, reading, and traveling. She recently married Andrew Van Genderen who in May commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and will become an intelligence officer in the U.S. Air Force.

Erin will remain in Northwest Arkansas with her husband for another year. She plans to pursue journalism, travel, read, and wait for Air Force to send them on the first of many adventures.



Jonathan Browning

Jonathan Browning was born and raised in Benton, Arkansas, where he graduated from Benton High School. As a first year architecture student in the Fay Jones School of Architecture, Jonathan is pursuing a demanding course of study with classes in engineering, architecture, and sustainability. In the future he plans to put all this coursework to use in building his own architectural firm in Arkansas.

Jonathan’s work in the Arkansas Architectural Archives involves organizing and preserving architectural documents. For him, the opportunity to observe firsthand the design processes of prominent architects is a privilege. His work experience has reinforced lessons he has learned in his architectural design studio classes and expanded his awareness of design history.

When he has the opportunity, Jonathan enjoys hunting, gardening, and raising goats.



Megan Massanelli

Megan Massanelli holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in art history with a minor in gender studies from the University of Arkansas. She was hired as the reading room assistant for Special Collections in October 2011. Megan grew up in Conway and North Little Rock and graduated from Mount St. Mary Academy in Little Rock.

In addition to assisting Special Collections researchers, Megan also helps with preservation tasks and maintaining the organization of the collections. She compiles monthly reading room statistics which help to guide decisions made by administrative personnel.

Megan enjoys researching topics related to social change, public policy and librarianship, as well as the history of American craft and decorative arts. One of her favorite aspects of working in the reading room is being able to learn more about these topics from the perspective of Arkansas history and culture, while helping patrons pursue their own research.

In her leisure time, Megan finds pleasure in knitting, reading, and spending time outdoors. She plans on applying to graduate programs in the future but has not yet decided between library science, art history, or women’s studies.

Leadership Report

continued from page 2

history—coinciding with the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the legislation that made the Buffalo a national river.

The article on the acquisition of a new batch of 19th century photographs is particularly exciting. These recently-acquired photos, all Civil War-era portraits by African American W.H. Furbush, have allowed Special Collections to not only preserve these important images, but also to reintroduce this remarkable individual to historians. I hope, after you read the article, you are excited as I am. Furbush photographs are rare, but we are always looking for additional examples of his work. We are in the process of digitizing our Furbush images, which we plan to make available on our website. Of course, we always welcome you to visit us in Fayetteville to see the original photographs.

As in previous issues, we have included the “Are You Arkansas-Literate?” quiz. This issue’s quiz focuses on Arkansas novelists, and our state has certainly had its fair share. I don’t think the quiz is overly difficult—our resident New Yorker on staff correctly answered three of them—but I hope it is informative and fun.

Of the many new duties associated with being interim head of Special Collections, writing this column has been one of the most pleasurable. It gave me the opportunity to think back over my career, celebrate some of our important collections, and share our heritage with the people of this state.

Timothy G. Nutt

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Are You Arkansas-Literate?

Arkansas Authors

1. Acclaimed author Charles Portis is best known for this novel featuring the character Rooster Cogburn:

(A) *Masters of Atlantis* (B) *The Dog of the South* (C) *True Grit*
(D) *Norwood*

2. Which Arkansas novelist met and became fast friends with fellow writer Norman Mailer during the Philippines Campaign in World War II?

(A) Francis Irby Gwaltney (B) Donald Harington (C) Dee Brown
(D) Laurell K. Hamilton

3. Who is known for writing about the fictional heroines Aurora Teagarden and Sookie Stackhouse?

(A) Barbara Taylor Bradford (B) Steve Whisnant (C) Valerie Robertson
(D) Charlaine Harris

4. The novel *A Brief History of the Dead*, written by this Arkansan, revolves around the main character slowly becoming the last person on earth as everyone around her disappears:

(A) Guy Lancaster (B) John G. Ragsdale (C) Kevin Brockmeier
(D) Sean Fitzgibbon

5. This novelist was the first African American male cheerleader at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville:

(A) William Wright (B) E. Lynn Harris (C) John Johnson
(D) Sidney Moncrief

6. Using a pseudonym, this novelist wrote a series of novels on the adventures of retired florist Theo Bloomer:

(A) Joan Hess (B) Jill Curran (C) Octave Thanet
(D) Thyra Samter Winslow

7. Of the following authors, who was the first female Arkansan to be included in *Authors and Writers Who's Who* in 1903?

(A) Marcia Camp (B) Tumpy Harrison (C) Charlie May Simon
(D) Bernie Babcock

8. This author, who was also a dentist, is often credited as the first black Arkansas novelist:

(A) Archie Moore Jr. (B) J.H. Smith (C) Linda McDowell
(D) E.C. Morris

9. Who authored two published novels and was the son of an Arkansas Governor and U.S. Attorney General?

(A) Will Garland (B) Robbie Rector (C) Francis Cherry Jr.
(D) Jeff Davis Jr.

10. This nationally-known novelist wrote a string of novels such as *Up Terrapin River* and *An Arkansas Planter*, but he is probably as well-known for editing the folksy newspaper *The Arkansas Traveler*:

(A) Joe Candido (B) Trenton Lee Stewart (C) Opie Read
(D) Douglas C. Jones

ANSWERS: 1 (C); 2 (A); 3 (A); 4 (C); 5 (B); 6 (A); 7 (D); 8 (B); 9 (A); 10 (C)

THE
ARKANSIAN

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Costumed Special Collections staffers hosted a reception for the 2012 annual meeting of the Arkansas Historical Association on April 12, 2012 at the Headquarters House in Fayetteville. L to R: Krista Jones, Andrew Donovan, Megan Massanelli, Tim Nutt, and Amy Allen.