One of the most astonishing scenes in Cervantes’ masterpiece *Don Quijote de la Mancha* occurs when the priest and the barber, in order to counteract the mental deterioration of their friend Don Quijote, decide to burn his books about chivalry and knighthood, which, in their opinion, were driving Don Quijote to insanity. The priest and the barber decide to save just one—*Amadí de Gaula*, because this book, an outstanding sample of its genre, had been the most marvellous chivalry novel of all times.

Cervantes believed that the book illustrated how immigrants to America since 1492, exchanging the Old World for the New World as the land of their dreams, transported the magical adventures of this fabulous knight not only in their minds, but also in physical copies of the beloved chivalry novel. Through its magic stories, they were able to fill their minds with profound
CASE MINER was recently promoted to assistant archivist of the John Paul Hammerschmidt Papers Project. Originally from Oklahoma, he attended both Oklahoma State University and the University of Central Oklahoma, where he received his B.A. in English in 2001. After working as a juvenile detention officer and a fire alarm technician in Oklahoma City, he moved to Arkansas in 2004. Saying he was “seduced by the natural beauty and outdoor opportunities of the Ozarks,” Case lived in Eureka Springs for two years, helping his father maintain Big Cilf Park for the Corps of Engineers on Beaver Lake. During that time he began pursuing a master’s degree in history at the University of Arkansas.

Case grew weary of the commute and was moved to Fayetteville in January 2006. In November 2007 he began working in Special Collections, processing the John Paul Hammerschmidt manuscript.

In German, he has taught at the University of Memphis and York College in York, Nebraska. A Northwest Arkansas native, Steven lives with his wife Nancy in his childhood home, a house in Johnson which is over one hundred years old. In his spare time, Steven enjoys poultry farming and gardening.

Civil War Book Collection Acquired

The Jerry Russell book collection was purchased from Russell’s son, Andrew, a Little Rock attorney. The nearly 5000-title collection is comprised entirely of Civil War volumes, including both mainstream titles and limited press run works. This book collection not only enhances the Library’s existing collection on the Civil War, but also complements the Jerry Russell Papers, which contain much information on the war and Russell’s efforts for the preservation of military battlefields. In 1989, Russell founded the Arkansas Historical Association, and during his career he worked as a teacher or administrator at every level of elementary and secondary education.

He joined the State Department of Education in 1941, succeeding A.B. Bonds as State Commissioner in 1953. Ford’s career in Arkansas state government is significant not only for its timeliness (his tenure coincided with bringing jingles to political advertising and press run works). This book collection not only enhances the Library’s existing collection on the Civil War, but also complements the Jerry Russell Papers, which contain much information on the war and Russell’s efforts for the preservation of military battlefields. In 1989, Russell founded the Arkansas Historical Association, and during his career he worked as a teacher or administrator at every level of elementary and secondary education.

A Special Thanks

Donors to Special Collections
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Feature Manuscript Collection
The Arch Ford Collection

One of the most enjoyable things about working in Special Collections is getting the opportunity to open up a collection, and in doing so, gain a completely new view of our history. The Arch Ford Collection is one such example.

The collection came to the Department as a gift from Ford in April 1982 and was made available to the public in June of 1982. The collection consists of 73 scrapbooks of mounted newspaper articles focusing on issues in education and state government during his tenure as State Commissioner of Education from 1953-1978, as well as a volume of Ford’s editorial articles written for the Education Department publication, Newsmagazine, and a volume dedicated to his retirement. The collection represents a fascinating perspective of issues that faced the state, including the desegregation and later consolidation issues of Arkansas schools, the development of vocational education and special needs education in Arkansas.

The fourth of six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ford of Faulkner County, Arch Ford was born January 25, 1906. He graduated from Conway High School and later the Arkansas State Teachers College (now UCA) in Conway. Arch and his wife Ruby Lee were blessed with three children, but their two older children died young. Their third son, Joe, became a successful executive, as President of Allied Telephone (later Alltel) and served with distinction in the Arkansas State Senate. Arch Ford went on to receive his M.S. degree from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. In 1962 Ouachita Baptist University awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Laws. He served as an educational advisor for the Civilian Conservation Corps, and during his career he worked as a teacher or administrator at every level of elementary and secondary education.

(ARCH FORD continued on page 12)

News from the Manuscripts Unit

NEWS FROM THE MANUSCRIPTS UNIT

Steven Wohlford

STEVEN WohlFORD recently joined Special Collections as a reading room assistant. His duties include assisting with research requests and compiling statistics for Research Services.

He has three degrees from the University of Arkansas: a B.A. in history, an M.A. in history, and an M.A.

in German. He has taught at the University of Memphis and York College in York, Nebraska. A Northwest Arkansas native, Steven lives with his wife Nancy in his childhood home, a house in Johnson which is over one hundred years old. In his spare time, Steven enjoys poultry farming and gardening.
The Special Collections Department leadership is always alert for new ways to fulfill its mission to preserve the history of Arkansas and share it with the citizens of the state. Recently, the Department published its first full length book—and the public reception has been very positive.

**Once Upon Dickson: An Illustrated History, 1886-2000**, by Anthony J. Wappel and Ethel C. Simpson, describes the evolution of Dickson Street, an eclectic, historic thoroughfare near the University of Arkansas and downtown Fayetteville. Often compared to Austin’s Sixth Street, Dickson Street has developed into the entertainment district of Fayetteville. Special Collections provided research and administrative support, plus partial funding for the book, and is receiving proceeds from its sales. Department Head Tom W. Dillard said, “We are pleased to help make this important new book possible. **Once Upon Dickson** helps our department fulfill its mission of documenting the history of Arkansas.”

The book is the result of years of work. When Wappel came to Fayetteville to attend graduate school in 1986, he did not own a car and spent a lot of time walking on Dickson Street. He was curious about the history of the street as evidenced in older businesses and homes, abandoned flower beds and partially demolished stone walls. Wappel began researching yearbooks, university publications and other sources from the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as images in the Special Collections Department’s manuscript holdings and the photograph collections of the Washington County Historical Society, now housed at the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History in Springdale. The book also includes notable images from private owners and more contemporary photographs taken by Wappel himself to document how the character of the street was changing.

Ethel Simpson, emerita Special Collections librarian, managed the transition of Wappel’s manuscript to the finished book. She wrote grant proposals to raise the money, oversaw scanning of the images and selection of additional illustrations, and worked on promotion and advertising with the publisher. Wappel, a self-described “armchair historian,” previously worked in Special Collections and is now Washington County Archivist and Records Manager.

The location of the University of Arkansas at what would eventually become the western end of Dickson stimulated the establishment of shops and services catering to the university community. When passenger train service came to Dickson Street in 1881, so did rooming houses and eating places for travelers. The book reproduces advertisements for hotels, barbershops, dry cleaners and eating places that have existed along Dickson, as well as bars and music venues. Many of these eventually left Dickson and were replaced by other businesses more oriented to entertainment. Wappel’s and Simpson’s book documents and preserves the energy and diversity that continue to make Dickson Street a focal point of Fayetteville business and culture.

**Once Upon Dickson** tells the story of the street from east to west, decade by decade. The book contains more than 400 pages, with nearly 370 images and a color dust jacket. Maps and diagrams help to locate the houses and businesses described in the text. An appendix contains a comprehensive inventory of businesses and residents at every address along the entire length of the street. An index makes the volume even more useful. The price of the book is $22.50; sales have been brisk. It is offered for sale online at http://ouncesanddickson.com.

Phoenix International, a Fayetteville publisher distributed by the University of Arkansas Press, brought out the book in cooperation with the Special Collections Department. The Advertising and Promotion Commission of the city of Fayetteville, the Bank of Fayetteville, the Happy Hollow Foundation, Frank and Sara Sharp, and an anonymous donor provided additional financial support. For more information, visit the Web site or call (479) 521-2204.

**Leadership Report**

**From the Desk of Tom W. Dillard, Head of the Special Collections Department**

Another academic year is underway, and everyone in the Special Collections Department is scurrying around providing services to new students, hiring and training new student employees, and seeking out Honors College students to appoint as interns. We have new collections to accession, process, and make available to researchers. The Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral & Visual History is moving out in many directions and at a dizzying speed. The manuscript unit is always on the alert for new collecting opportunities, and I am trying to train a new departmental secretary from Long Island to speak the local dialect.

The Special Collections Department has the mission of documenting the state of Arkansas, especially its history—and perhaps just as importantly—sharing that history with the students, faculty, and the general public. This is not always so easy. We could use some help in documenting this year’s elections in Arkansas. I appreciate talks like Professor Steve Smith who has donated a wealth of political campaign materials—yard signs, bumper stickers, flyers, lapel pins—over the years.

Thanks to everyone who made a financial gift to the Department since the last issue of the *Arkansasian*. While state funds pay for departmental staffing, most of our operational funding comes from gifts made by people who believe in our mission. These gifts from people whose values we share make it possible for the Special Collections Department to continue to document our state.

The Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral & Visual History is making great strides in documenting the people of the state in both traditional oral history interviews and high definition digital video interviews. Jerry McCon nell, a retired newspaperman from Greenwood, is wrapping up work on the *Arkansas Democrat* newspaper history project—which will result in more than 100 interviews transcribed and posted on the Internet.

Kris Karrath, director of the Pryor Center, has about completed work on establishing state-of-the-art video production facilities, and work has turned toward building the Center’s endow ment. As we are able to raise the funds to produce the programs, the Pryor Center will reach out into the schools and homes of the state with first-rate video resources never before seen in Arkansas.

Tim Nutt, head of the manuscripts and rare books unit, is working hard to build our book collections. Work has begun on cataloging the Civil War book collection purchased recently from the estate of the late Jerry Russell of Little Rock. Jerry, who was a friend of mine, was amazingly successful in building the international Civil War Roundtables movement. Jerry also became the nation’s primary spokesman for Civil War battlefield preservation. We were honored when Jerry’s widow, Alice Anne Russell, offered the collection to Special Collections.

The Department’s research services unit, under the leadership of Andrea Cantrell, continues to provide outstanding quality assistance to researchers from across the campus and around the world. I receive emails regularly praising the quality of the research assistance provided by our staff.
thoughts about the necessity of being honest, loyal, and valiant. Amadís de Gaula was clearly on the minds of Spanish pioneers who settled the Pacific Coast of America. They decided to call it California because that was the name of a very similar land described in Las Sergas de Esplandián, the chivalry novel by Esplandián, Amadís de Gaula’s son. Today we continue to trace Amadís’ tracks in America through a significant finding: the Special Collections Department holds a valuable jewel of Spanish literature within its vault: an edition of Amadís de Gaula printed in 1533.

During the present year, Hispanism has been celebrating the 500th anniversary of the first known printed edition of the adventures of Amadís, his mentor Gandules, his friend Urganda the Witch, his enemies Arcalius the Wizard and Galoar the Knight, and of course his beloved princess Oríana. The first known edition of 1508 was edited by Gareci Rodríguez de Montalvo. We know that Rodríguez de Montalvo was not the original author of Amadís, but a compiler or editor who added an extra chapter. No less than eight editions were printed between 1508 and 1533, making Amadís de Gaula number one on the hit parade of Early Renaissance Spanish literature. The 1533 edition was printed in Venice by Giovanni Antonio de Nicolini de Sabia, and it is proof of the extent to which Spanish culture had penetrated in Italy during those years. The proofreader and editor of this edition was Francisco Delicado, author of La Lezana Andaluza, a paramount example of a Spanish Renaissance novel published in Venice five years before. The Venetian origin of the Amadís impression of 1533 suggests that the first owner of the University of Arkansas’ copy was Italian. The entire book contains marginal notes, in which the owner translated into Italian some difficult words in Spanish that he had previously underscored in the text. This is an indication of the importance of Peninsular literature in Italy during the Spanish empire age.

The Special Collections Department is fortunate to have one of the thirty issues known to date of this 1533 edition. Most of them are located in European libraries; only ten copies are located in North America—at the libraries of colleges and universities such as Harvard, Yale, Toronto, Arizona at Tucson, Williams College and California State at Sacramento; and the public libraries of Boston, New York, and Cleveland and the University of Arkansas. The state of the copy is excellent, thanks to the care taken by the staff of Special Collections. The University of Arkansas should be especially proud of having this gem of Spanish literature in its library.

The Pryor Center experienced another busy summer of recording interviews with Arkansans from around the state. Interviewees from February through August of 2008 included Governor Mike Beebe and first lady Ginger Beebe (Little Rock), Dr. B. Alan Sugg and Jean Sugg (Little Rock), Il Adacox (Amazon), Al Witte (Fayetteville), Earl Hale (Mulberry), and Dan Ferritor (Fayetteville).

Kris Katrosh, head of the Pryor Center, said, “These interviewees all have great Arkansas stories. For example, Earl Hale’s work with the Civilian Conservation Corps and his service as a World War II soldier provide a lot of insight into Arkansans’ participation in these significant events.” Hale also told a number of stories about his childhood in Mulberry (Crawford County) in the 1920s and 1930s.

The Pryor Center recorded a number of historical events. A meeting of the Political Animals Club at the Governor’s Mansion in Little Rock was recorded in April and featured U.S. Congressman Marion Berry (Arkansas 1st District) as the main speaker. Another event was the world premiere of a play about a Jewish American soldier’s experiences in World War II, written by award-winning Arkansan playwright Robert Ford, and featuring University of Arkansas drama professor Amy Herzberg. The Center’s recording of this play at the Nadine Baum Theatre in Fayetteville is being considered for public television broadcast next year. A special service was held in May for John Williams, a beloved emeritus professor in the University of Arkansas School of Architecture. The Pryor Center recorded the speakers at the memorial, as well as six interviews with colleagues who discussed Williams’s contributions to the department and to the history of local and regional architecture.

At the Center’s Advisory Board meeting in April, a launch of a new series of biographies was announced. The first program of a series about entrepreneurs of Arkansas will begin this year with the story of Sheridan Garrison of Harrison. Garrison was involved with a small family trucking operation in the 1950s. By 1982 he had founded Arkansas Freightways, which, through his unique personal management style and industry innovations, became one of the largest and most successful trucking companies in the nation. Now FedEx Freight, the company has around 17,000 employees and is still headquartered in Harrison, Arkansas.

“The Entrepreneurs of Arkansas” series is part of an overall educational programming plan that highlights success stories of Arkansans who decided to build their homes and businesses in the state. The Pryor Center hopes these stories will inspire students considering their own careers, engage younger generations in the history of Arkansas, and instill in them a sense of pride in our state.

On June 6, 2008 Arkansans native and famously quirky folk musician Kenneth “Reagan” Cole passed away during a visit to New York City to see his daughter, Helen Cole. Reagan Cole was also a scientist, inventor, husband and father. His family suggested that, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be sent to the Special Collections Department for the benefit of the Mary Parler Folksong Collection.

The funds that friends, family, and admirers of Reagan Cole donated to Special Collections, currently totaling over $2,000, will be used to organize and preserve the folksong portion of the Mary Parler Collection. Many of these folksongs are recorded on reel-to-reel tapes. In order to preserve them, they need to be converted to digital format. This is a time-consuming and costly practice; these funds will enable the Library to make strides toward that endeavor.

Cole’s “nonconformist ideals, his boundless curiosity and creative intellect” (Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, July 6, 2008) are a perfect match for the Mary Parler Collection, as Parler shared many of those same qualities. Reagan Cole spent most of his life singing and collecting folk music and was familiar with the work of Mary Celesta Parler as well as that of her husband, folklorist Vance Randolph.

The friends and family of Reagan Cole celebrated his life with two evenings of folk music, conversation, and delicious meal at the Governor’s Mansion in Little Rock.

The Special Collections Department is involved in many activities which would benefit greatly from gifts of any size. For example, we are working hard to enhance Index: Arkansas—an on-line index to periodicals and books about Arkansas. Index: Arkansas is a wonderful opportunity for anyone who supports our mission and would like to invest in a project that offers a quantum leap in the study of Arkansas. Until recently, Arkansas was the least studied state in the South. Only a few years ago one could find more references to Ohio than Arkansas in the Journal of Southern History.

If you would like to help take Index: Arkansas from its adolescence to full fledged adulthood, get in touch with me. I’m looking for partners. My contact information can be found on page 3.

News from the Pryor Center For Arkansas Oral and Visual History

Reagan Cole Memorial Donations

Preservation of Mary Parler Folksongs

On June 6, 2008 Arkansas native and famously quirky folk musician Kenneth “Reagan” Cole passed away during a visit to New York City to see his daughter, Helen Cole. Reagan Cole was also a scientist, inventor, husband and father. His family suggested that, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be sent to the Special Collections Department for the benefit of the Mary Parler Folksong Collection.

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with events that changed the shape and scope of Arkansan government but for the change in the methods by which the Governor staffed state departments. Ford’s appointment by Governor Chery represented a change in policy with regard to the selection of the State Education Commissioner. Previously the position was a reward of patronage by the incoming Governor, generally based on service to or knowledge of the State Education Department. Ford was the first commissioner with any real education experience prior to his appointment. Newspapers, such as the Memphis Commercial Appeal, saw the selection of Ford, based on merit alone and unencumbered by political “coat tails,” as a symbol of commitment to minimizing waste and improving the education of Arkansan youth. As a testament to Arch Ford’s merit as an educator, by the time of his 1978 retirement, he had served five Arkansas Governors, both Democratic and Republican.

The collection reflects the reality that Commissioner Ford, with a few months of his appointment, faced grave challenges. In May of 1954, before he had been on the job six months, the Supreme Court handed down its decision on Brown vs. the Board of Education, which would begin the process of desegregating schools. The most pressing issue was the creation and development of a dual school system intended to remove the concept of “separate but equal” in public education. The Ford scrapbooks document “separate but equal” in public education on the state and national level with regard to busing. However, the Ford collection also chronicles a number of successes in Arkansas education. Arch Ford was largely responsible for the creation and development of vocational education in Arkansas, the extension of educational opportunities to adults and the disabled, the development of kindergartens (the bill for their creation was authored by Senator Joe Ford), the necessary consolidation of rural school districts and the development of a state-wide educational television system. The collection tracks the rise of Allied Telephone from its beginnings in 1947 in Sheridian with 275 hand-cranked phones, to one of the top ten independent telephone companies in the United States. Ford’s son, Senator Joe Ford, began working for Allied Telephone in 1959 and in 1977, at the age of 39, he succeeded his father Hugh Willborn as president.

The collection includes a celebration of Ford’s career. Colleagues and critics alike praised Ford as a man of impeccable character and wisdom. Despite the nearly impossible challenges that Ford faced as Commissioner of the State Department of Education, his legacy remains his commitment to improving the lives of all Arkansans and his devotion to faith and family. Just as the lives of all Arkansans have been enriched through the lifelong work of Arch Ford, so is Special Collections, which will continue to educate and inform present and future generations about the events of our collective past.

—James Wilhelm

Arkansas Baptist

By Diane Worrell, Arkansasian Editor

This is the first appearance of what I hope will be a regular Arkansan feature—recipes and stories from selected books in our Arkansas cookbook collection. Currently the cookbook collection contains over 1,000 titles from all over the Natural State. Credit goes to Manuscripts Librarian Timothy G. Nutt, our resident panster, for coming the clever name “Arkansauce.”

From My Ozark Cupboard: A Basic Ozark Cookbook, 1950

I have recently been researching the life of Cora Pinkley-Call (1892-1966), a popular Ozark writer, naturalist, herbalist, folklorist and Eureka Springs historian and booster. Call wrote poetry, short stories, magazine and newspaper articles, and both fiction and nonfiction books. I have seen four editions of this cookbook, three of which were published in 1950. In 2005 it was reissued by Jenkins Enterprises, in cooperation with the Eureka Springs Historical Museum, where I recently purchased a copy in the gift shop.

Call was a staunch advocate of traditional family values, religion and patriotism. In the cookbook “Foreword,” she wrote that homemaking is the most important career that a woman can have. Encouraging her readers to experiment with recipes, she exclaimed that, “No wonder one marriage out of every five ends in divorce courts, when so many wives will rush into their kitchens at the very last moment and hash up the same old dish day after day!”

Also in the “Foreword,” Call commented on her pet peeves: communist and outsiders’ depictions and stereotypes of the Ozark hill folk. She wrote, “The modern ‘isms’ that plague the world today are not found among the real Ozark folk, and they will have no part of the red anti-Christ propaganda sweeping the world today…. With this [Christian] philosophy and the bash bountifulness of mother nature’s larder, the Ozark folk live well and happily within the 400 mile boundary of the enchanting hills, regardless of what the fourth-rate journalists and mediocre novelists have to say about them.”

From My Ozark Cupboard contains recipes for standard fare as well as instructions for cooking squirrel, coons, and groundhogs. Call described a typical hog-killing and provided instructions for plucking and cleaning a chicken. Among the more conventional recipes is this one for dill pickles:

Dill Pickles
(Makes about 10 quarts)

• Cover the bottom of a 3 or 4 gallon crock with grape leaves and twigs that have been washed.
• Place a layer of cucumbers fairly uniform in size, then another layer of leaves and so on, until the crock is filled.
• Make a brine of the following mixture: \( \frac{1}{2} \) pound salt, \( \frac{1}{2} \) pint vinegar, 1 gallon water.
• Pour mixture over cucumbers and cover with a weight which will keep the cucumbers well under the brine.
• Let set about two weeks. Then place in jars (with a spoonful of dill added) and cover with old brine which should be brought to a boil, then cooked a bit before filling the jars with it.
• Seal and set in a cool place.
The Special Collections Department is busy refining the Web site it launched last spring, entitled, “Land of Unequal Opportunity: Documenting the Civil Rights Struggle in Arkansas.” Available at http://scipio.uark.edu, this on-line resource provides historical materials documenting the changing nature of civil rights in the state. The Web site contains over 2,000 pages of documents, photographs, broadsides, pamphlets, drawings, cartoons and other images. In addition to documents and images, the Web site offers a detailed bibliographic and timeline, ten lesson plans for junior high school students, and five digital posters, all free of charge. The Web site is named for Scipio A. Jones, in honor of Arkansas’s premier black attorney.

While the project emphasizes the 1957 Little Rock Central High School integration crisis and the rights of African American Arkansans, it covers all time periods and includes civil rights issues pertaining to women, homosexuals, and the Japanese Americans held in Arkansas relocation camps during World War II. Users may browse the collection, search items by keywords. “Arkansas has a long and remarkably complex civil rights history,” according to Tom W. Dillard, project director and head of Special Collections. While the 1957 Little Rock Central High School integration crisis is well known, it is just one of many historical events involving civil rights.

Dillard noted that as early as 1868, Arkansas enacted a civil rights law. Before the Civil War, a few farsighted Arkansas leaders advocated granting property rights to married women. When a wave of segregation laws was enacted around 1900, black leaders organized protests. “During World War II 16,000 Japanese Americans, mostly American citizens, were incarcerated in relocation camps in Arkansas—adding a unique aspect to our collective civil rights history,” Dillard said. In more recent decades, Arkansas was the scene of a dramatic confrontation in the legislature over adoption of the proposed U.S. Equal Rights Amendment. The state has now begun to grapple with recognizing the rights of homosexual Arkansans. Dillard predicts that in the future the state is likely to struggle with civil rights issues for Spanish-speaking immigrants.

While the majority of the materials on the Web site are held by the Special Collections Department, other institutions around the state also contributed materials, including the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies at the Central Arkansas Library System in Little Rock; the Riley-Hickingbotham Library at Ouachita Baptist University; the Archives at Ottenheimer Library at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock; the Tompsey Library of the University of Central Arkansas; the Arkansas History Commission; and the Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives, Washington, Arkansas.

The project, which was funded in part by the Arkansas Humanities Council, is ongoing. Department staff will add materials to the Web site over time. In addition to Dillard, the project staff also included Timothy G. Nurt, Scot Oldham, Berh Jubal, Arthur Morgan, Amina Mysooe, Todd Lewis, Cheri Pearce, Andrea Cantrell and Molly Boyd.

Researchers seeking newspaper articles about historic Arkansas events and people now have an easier task. Arkansas newspaper indexing has recently been added to Index Arkansas, an on-line database for publications covering Arkansas topics. Managed by the Special Collections Department, the Index now contains nearly 30,000 citations from Arkansas and regional newspapers plus 60,000 citations from Arkansas periodicals and books. Index Arkansas is available on-line at http://arkindex.uark.edu/. Use of the Index is free of charge and available to everyone. Index Arkansas is an important resource for students and scholars. The 30,000 newspaper citations join other historical and biographical sources in the Index, which currently contains 90,913 citations. Tom W. Dillard, head of Special Collections, says, “The development of Index Arkansas is a transforming event in the study of our state. For so long researchers have labored without a good index to state literature, but now we have one. And, we fully expect to expand it substantially in the years to come.”

The newly available newspaper citations began as records kept in an old-fashioned card file of 40 drawers. The records were carefully computerized and are now easily searchable by author, title, keyword, and subject. Coverage is mostly from the early 1930s through 1950s, with scattered entries from the 1830s through the 1920s. Index Arkansas is unique. While other states and universities have undertaken similar projects, Index Arkansas stands apart from them because of the large number of publications covered and its availability online.

Big Things Come from Small Gifts — Tom W. Dillard

We are all accustomed to reading about individuals and corporations making large gifts to libraries and other institutions. Those large dollar gifts, often in the millions of dollars, prove incredibly valuable as an institution struggles to be all it can be. Despite the immediate impact of large contributions, small gifts have an impact that can grow over time and ultimately prove to be the impetus for incredible advancement.

Several years ago, before joining the Special Collections Department, I was involved in creating the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture. That immensely valuable resource, which is well on its way to reaching the goal of 3,000 entries, got its start with a gift of $25,000—and it was paid out over two years. Ultimately, that initial gift enabled the Encyclopedia to raise well over $1 million and hire a full-time staff.

In addition to newspapers, 43 Arkansas periodicals, 30 county history journals and 80 books with historical and biographical content are indexed. Researchers might find citations to newspaper articles ranging from an 1838 article about a Washington County dinner honoring Judge Archibald Yell, to articles from the 1930s about drought in Arkansas during the dust bowl era and articles concerning the Cuban refugee crisis at Fort Chaffee in the early 1980s.

In development for many years, Index Arkansas was initiated by the late Georgia Clark and expanded by Elizabeth McKee and Andrea Cantrell of the University Libraries. Administration of the Index was transferred to Special Collections in 2007, and Joan Watkins was named project manager. Watkins has been working to improve and publicize the Index, including the addition of newspaper citations. Use of the Index has increased dramatically. In June 2008, there were more than 2,000 searches; whereas in June 2007 there were about 1,000. Numbers for July 2008 were 1,100 compared to 540 in July 2007.

Dillard says, “Index Arkansas is a new bridge to our heritage. It will help Arkansans discover that, yes, we do have a heritage—and it is worth studying.” We hope researchers will make great use of it.” After finding citations to newspaper articles on their topics, researchers can obtain copies of the articles through their local library or its interlibrary loan service.

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Tom W. Dillard with Index Arkansas staff (seated L to R): Elizabeth McKee and Andrea Cantrell, (standing L to R): Joan Watkins and Rachel Skoney

Tom W. Dillard with Index Arkansas staff (seated L to R): Elizabeth McKee and Andrea Cantrell, (standing L to R): Joan Watkins and Rachel Skoney

Arkansas Newspaper Citations Added to Index Arkansas

Civil Rights History Web Site

Work Continues on Arkansas Civil Rights History Web Site

This page from the Encyclopedia of Arkansas, including the addition of newspaper citations, has increased dramatically. In June 2008, there were more than 2,000 searches; whereas in June 2007 there were about 1,000. Numbers for July 2008 were 1,100 compared to 540 in July 2007.

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(GIFTS continued on page 13)
Council for work on the topic “Racial Politics in Arkansas, 1865-1894.” Todd’s current studies focus on Christian fundamentalism in America and racial politics in Arkansas.

As a graduate student, Todd began work in Special Collections in 1991 as a reading room assistant, transferring to manuscripts processing in 1996. In October 2003 he became Lead Processing Archivist. Following the retirement of Ethel Simpson, he served as Interim Head of Archives and Manuscripts from January to September 2005. He has processed many collections, both large and small, including the David Pryor papers (with Vera Ekechukwu). He is currently processing the Billy James Hargis Papers.

Todd’s interests range from World War II to dinosaurs, science fiction and fantasy. He enjoys his membership in the medieval living history group, the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), because it “combines his interest in history with his skill as an artist.” He plays alto recorder in a local SCA music ensemble and hopes to learn the bagpipes and hurdy gurdy. An avid animal lover, Todd currently lives in Fayetteville with his dog Arnold.

**James Defibaugh** is the Oral History Coordinator for the David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History, a unit of the Special Collections Department. A native of the Gulf coast hamlet of Handsboro, Mississippi, James grew up in Virginia, North Carolina, Mississippi and Texas. He describes himself as a “World War II baby in a military family.” His family moved frequently, as his father was re-assigned to various military bases after World War II and during the Cold War. James attended high school in Gulfport, Mississippi, winning a National Merit Scholarship. He enrolled at the University of Mississippi majoring in chemistry. He was also a civil rights activist during his Ole Miss days.

James’s early work history includes stints at the Library of Congress, the NASA Mission Test Center, and the Harrison County, Mississippi Community Action Agency. He has also worked as an adjunct history professor at the University of New Mexico, New Mexico Highlands University, and the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith. Persuaded by Hurricane Camille to seek higher ground, James left Mississippi in 1969 and headed to the University of New Mexico, where he earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in U.S. history and met his future wife, Michelle Chavez, a native of Boulder, Colorado. His primary research interests are in the American West and Native American history.

A man of amazingly wide interests, James is a horseman, gardener, amateur blacksmith and farrier, amateur machineist, woodworker, amateur astronomer and telescope maker, film and digital photographer, bibliophile, railroad history buff, and sometime actor. He raises bees, heirloom chickens, herbs and vegetables; collects and refurbishes old hand tools; enjoys competitive rifle and hand gun marksmanship; and reads and writes about Southern life and history. James does judo and is a baseball, soccer, and track fan. He enjoys family history and is currently editing the Civil War letters exchanged by his great-grandparents. Additionally, James says he is “deeply committed to making post-secondary education available to returning or nontraditional students.”

James lives with his wife, Michelle, on several acres in the Cane Hill area. Michelle, who recently retired from a senior executive position with the U.S. Department of the Interior, now works in the Bumpers College of Agriculture. James has five talented and highly educated children, who live in Texas, New Mexico, Canada and Arkansas.

**Val Roberton** recently joined the staff of Special Collections as a Library Academic Technician. She grew up in Long Island, New York, where she had a long career as a medical office manager. Once her two daughters were grown, Val was eager to further her education. She obtained her B.A. in sociology from S.U.N.Y. at Old Westbury in 2001.

After moving to Arkansas in 2003, she found her way to the University of Arkansas, where she obtained an M.A. in Sociology in 2007. For her thesis, Val studied the needs of male cancer patients in North-west Arkansas, assisting the community organization HOPE (Helping Oncology Patients Excel) in identifying unmet needs and improving service to male cancer patients.

Val enjoys many artistic pursuits and loves travel, animal, and meeting new people. She plays the mandolin, sketch-es, paints, and especially enjoys working with clay. She and her husband John live on 27 acres near Elkins with their four dogs.

**Todd E. Lewis** is Lead Processing Archivist with the Special Collections Department. He was born in Reifel, South Dakota and spent his early childhood in West Texas. Following moves between Texas, Colorado and Oklahoma, his family settled in Conway in 1971. Todd graduated from Conway High School in 1982. He attended Hendrix College, where he was a member of the swim team, lettering three years. In 1986 he graduated with honors, winning the U.S. Staples History Prize for the outstanding senior history major.

Todd began graduate school in the History Department of the University of Arkansas in 1987, receiving the Gordon H. McNeil Award for the best graduate research paper in 1988. A student of Willard B. Gatesow, Jr., he completed requirements for a Master of Arts degree in 1989. He continued in the History Department’s Ph.D. program, publishing the article “Mob Justice in the ‘American Congo’: Judge Lynch in Arkansas During the December After World War I” in the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* in 1993. Todd received his Ph.D. in History in 1995; his doctoral dissertation was, “Race Relations in Arkansas, 1910-1929.” In 1996 he received the Arkansas Historical Association’s Violet B. Gingles award for the best paper on Arkansas state history for his article “Caesars Are Too Many.” Harmon Liveright Remmel and the Republican Party of Arkansas, 1913-1927,” published in the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* in 1997. In 1998 the Association awarded him the Walter L. Brown award for the best paper published in an Arkansas county history journal in 1995, “From Bull Mooser to Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan: James A. Corner of Little Rock” (*Pulaski County Historical Review*). In 1996 and 1997 he received research grants from the Arkansas Humanities Commission for work on the topic “Racial Politics in Arkansas, 1865-1894.” Todd’s current studies focus on Christian fundamentalism in America and racial politics in Arkansas.

As a graduate student, Todd began work in Special Collections in 1991 as a reading room assistant, transferring to manuscripts processing in 1996. In October 2003 he became Lead Processing Archivist. Following the retirement of Ethel Simpson, he served as Interim Head of Archives and Manuscripts from January to September 2005. He has processed many collections, both large and small, including the David Pryor papers (with Vera Ekechukwu). He is currently processing the Billy James Hargis Papers.

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