Pryor Papers Opened

The papers and collections of former U.S. Senator David H. Pryor were opened to researchers in an afternoon celebration on Thursday, April 14, in the Helen Robson Walton Reading Room in Mullins Library.

“The materials in Senator Pryor’s collection document a lifetime of public service to Arkansas, the United States, and the world,” said Chancellor John A. White. “Without question, David Pryor exemplifies the ideal of the public servant. We are so proud he is an alumnus of the University of Arkansas.”

Carolyn H. Allen, dean of the University Libraries, said, “Senator Pryor has always been a consistent and generous supporter of the Libraries. We are honored that he entrusted his papers to our Special Collections.”

Pryor was a representative in the Arkansas legislature from 1960 to 1966, a U.S. representative from 1966 to 1972, the governor of Arkansas from 1974 to 1978, and a U.S. senator from 1978 to 1996. He served as a Fulbright Distinguished Fellow of Law and Public Affairs at the University of Arkansas in 1997, and as a fellow at the Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 1999. He was director of the Institute of Politics from 2000 to 2002. In 2004, Pryor became the founding dean of the Clinton School of Public Service in Little Rock.

The Senator David H. Pryor Papers were donated to the Library’s Special Collections Department in two major accessions: his early career, congressional, and gubernatorial papers in 1978 following his election to the Senate, and then his senatorial papers in 2000. The collection measures 821 linear feet in 705 boxes and contains more than 4,000 unique photographs. The collection also includes correspondence, speeches, legislative bills, position papers, microfilm, scrapbooks, posters, video and audio tapes, and artifacts.

Tom W. Dillard, head of Special Collections, remarked, “David Pryor is one of the titans of Arkansas history. It is exciting to have his papers. Generations of students and scholars will find these records invaluable to their research.”

The Special Collections Department was created in 1967 to encourage research and writing in the history and culture of Arkansas and the surrounding region. Its mission is to acquire, preserve, and provide access to historical manuscripts and materials supporting scholarly investigation of Arkansas and its customs and people. Special Collections houses papers from some of Arkansas’ most influential citizens, including Daisy Bates, Dale Bumpers, J. William Fulbright, John Paul Hammerschmidt, and Sid McMath.

Pryor, who was honored at the event, said, “I hope that the items in this collection will be of benefit to those who research and study this time period in our state’s history. I am grateful that the University has accepted this gift and has worked tirelessly to bring some order and organization to it.”

A reception in the Helen Robson Walton Reading Room followed the ceremony.

From left to right: Tom W. Dillard, Chancellor John A. White, Senator David H. Pryor, Barbara Pryor, Senator Kaneaster Hodges, and Dean Carolyn Allen. Photo courtesy of Roy Cordell of University Relations.

Senator David H. Pryor. Photo courtesy of Roy Cordell of University Relations.
Commemorative Bookplates

Readers of our newsletter who have contributed to our Commemorative Volumes Fund (described on the last page of each issue), or who have sent the University Libraries a gift of money in honor or memory of someone special, know that the Library places a bookplate such as the one pictured below inside each book or other item purchased with their gift.

Harrison Memorial Fund

John A. Harrison, former dean of the University Libraries, who died in December 2003, was an avid lover of twentieth-century classical music, literature, and philosophy—especially works by Benjamin Britten, Jorge Luis Borges, Ludwig Wittgenstein, and Stephen Mitchell. Generous donors have contributed over $2,300 to the Harrison Memorial Fund, and the Library thought it appropriate to purchase works by and on these major figures with this commemorative gift money.

This enhancement of the Library’s collection will go toward supporting the University’s programs in music, philosophy, literature, religion, Latin American studies, comparative literature, and translation. Each book or CD purchased with this Fund will be plated with the words “Purchased with John A. Harrison Memorial Fund,” and the online catalog record of each book purchased with these gift funds will contain the words “John A. Harrison Memorial Fund.”

The materials purchased related to Borges will supplement nicely a database the Library already offers called “The Borges Electronic Resources.” It provides electronic bibliographies and digital images of original materials from the Jorge Luis Borges Collection and Documentation Center of the Fundación San Telmo in Buenos Aires, which houses the world’s largest collection of materials related to Borges.

Arkansas Publications Index Launched

Tom W. Dillard, head of Special Collections at the University Libraries, announced the launch of the Arkansas Publications Index (API) on Friday, April 15, at the Arkansas Historical Society’s annual convention at Arkadelphia.

The API is an online database prototype of citations to information published on Arkansas subjects in selected magazines, county history journals, books, and other Arkansas publications. It can be a valuable research tool for easily identifying what has been published in the region about the state of Arkansas. For instance, if you were to search for the words “Clinton” and “governor,” you would find three periodicals that mention Bill Clinton from the 1980s.

The API began as a card file index to articles about the state compiled in the 1950s by Georgia Clark, then head of the Reference Department. In the late 1980s, Elizabeth Chadbourn McKee and Andrea Cantrell compiled these and other citations into a searchable database format called the Arkansas Periodical Index.

The electronic index just released is a combination of these records, recent records compiled by library faculty and staff, and additional card file indexes unique to the Library. Its structure and search features are much like those of InfoLinks, the online library catalog, and entries can be searched by keyword, author, article title, subject, and publication title. Moreover, the new index was developed to link directly to the relevant online catalog records in InfoLinks.

Dates covered by the 35,000 entries range from the 1880s to 2000, and topics covered include history, biography, natural science, business, folklore, genealogy and politics. The API is an ongoing project; an estimated 70,000 additional records will be added in the coming months.

Dillard said, “The Index has the potential for revolutionizing the study of Arkansas history. It will open up sources as never before. This tool will also play a leading role in teaching Arkansas history in our schools.”

Carolyn Henderson Allen, dean of Libraries, said, “I’m excited that this innovative tool was created here at the Libraries by our faculty and staff. We’re opening up our resources and the study of Arkansas to researchers around the world.”

The database can be accessed from the Special Collections Web site or directly at http://arkindex.uark.edu.
Lutishoor Salisbury Named University Professor

On April 22, Lutishoor Salisbury, agriculture, food & life sciences librarian at the University of Arkansas, became the first U of A librarian to be promoted to University Professor. In the Faculty Handbook, the rank of University Professorship is described as “a distinction bestowed upon active faculty . . . who are widely recognized for their sustained excellence in scholarship, teaching, research, or creative activity germane to their respective disciplines and who have provided exemplary service to the university or to their profession or to the public through professional activity. Appointment to a university professorship signifies a special honor conferred only upon active faculty of extraordinary merit.”

Salisbury has been employed at the University Libraries for over eleven years. Her academic and library colleagues call her “Luti” for short and admire her seemingly inexhaustible fund of energy, her prodigious scholarly output, and her skills in technology and computerized research tools that have proven valuable to the Library (and, through her many publications and conference presentations, valuable to the scholarly world, as well). She often takes on high (sometimes the highest) leadership roles in very visible national and international organizations, serves patrons along with every other reference librarian at the reference desk, teaches students and faculty in innumerable training sessions on navigating often complex research databases in her field, is a very active and effective liaison with the faculty in the departments to which she is assigned, and selects books and journals for purchase in support of the University’s numerous programs in agriculture and the life sciences. Her schedule is always full, ofentimes—by her own choice—overflowing, but her high energy level and wonderful dedication to the Library always allow her to meet each challenge of the moment with thoroughness and success.

Among her numerous distinguished credentials, Salisbury has been chosen as President-Elect of the United States Agricultural Information Network beginning June 1, 2004. This is a three-year appointment encompassing a one-year term each of President-Elect, President, and Past-President. The United States Agricultural Information Network is a national organization for information professionals that provides a national forum for discussion of agricultural issues, makes recommendations to the National Agricultural Library on agricultural information matters, takes a leadership role in the formation of national information policy as it relates to agriculture, and promotes cooperation and communication among its members.

We congratulate Professor Salisbury for an honor well deserved!

Self Check-Out Service at Mullins

Speed, convenience, ease of use, and privacy—that’s what Mullins Library now offers students and faculty when checking out library materials. A sleek looking self check-out station has been installed near the west entrance, and on May 23, Mullins held a small kick-off event to introduce this new service.

The compact check-out system allows you to check out library books by yourself without waiting in line at the main Circulation Desk. You just insert your University ID, scan your books and other library materials, and out pops a “receipt” that lists the titles and due dates of all your items. If you happen to lose the receipt or forget when the due date for your item is, you can access your library account at any time, as always, through the University Libraries’ home page at http://libinfo.uark.edu/ to find out the due dates for all your checked out items and to renew items.

Tim Zou, head of Access Services, remarked how this check-out station “will not only be convenient for students and faculty, it will give our Circulation Desk personnel more time to perform many of their other duties.” Alberta Bailey, head of Public Services, stated, “This service will be certain to help with lines at the Circulation Desk, and I think students will appreciate how easy it is to use this technology. If it proves to be successful, we plan to install another station near the east entrance.”

Books and Letters is published twice a year. Editors: Anne Marie Candido, Tom W. Dillard, Juana R. Young, and Molly D. Boyd (also designer). Ellen Compton also contributed to this issue. ISSN 1047-983X. Correspondence should be addressed to University of Arkansas Libraries, 365 N. Ozark Avenue, Fayetteville, AR 72701-4002. The material contained herein may be quoted or reprinted without permission, provided that appropriate credit is included.
“Chat” Reference Service Now Offered

In February, the University Libraries began offering “chat” reference service. This service is just another dimension of reference service offered in addition to the already well established service by telephone, e-mail, and in person. Students already familiar with using instant messaging on their computers will welcome this new service, which allows users to interact with librarians in “real time” at a virtual reference desk.

The Library is currently collaborating with two other major research libraries—both members of the Greater Western Library Alliance—in testing and implementing this cutting edge reference service. The other university libraries participating in this effort are the University of Southern California and Iowa State University. The three universities trade chat reference duties during weekdays when classes are in session. Librarians from the University of Arkansas share chat reference duties with these other libraries to take advantage of differing time zones and so that more hours of the weekday can be covered with fewer librarians on call.

The U of A librarians answer questions from students and faculty at all three campuses during certain designated days and hours, while librarians from the other two libraries provide chat reference services to all three campuses at other times. There is a movement afoot to solicit a library in Australia to help even further with coverage of late night and early morning hours.

Phillip Jones, head of Reference, said, “Working with the other two universities, Southern California and Iowa State, has been a challenge, though enjoyable. We have been able to cover the service more efficiently working together, a benefit to patrons at all three universities.”

The Library is using the OCLC QuestionPoint software, which allows the librarian not only to answer questions, but also to send sample pages to the patrons to help with their questions. The Library plans to adopt a new, more sophisticated version of the software, which will allow the librarian and patron to work on the same page together, or “co-browse.” This feature will allow librarians to instruct users by showing them how to search a specific page or database.

Watch for expansion of features and service hours as the U of A further tests this innovative form of reference service.

Student Assistant Works With Fay Jones Collection

Gretta Tritch, a fifth-year architecture student, brings her expertise in architecture to her current role as assistant to Ellen Compton, the primary archivist for the papers documenting the life and work of the late architect, Fay Jones. Tritch is a great asset to Special Collections, and her expertise is frequently called upon to answer the questions of researchers. In return, Tritch learns through practical experience the skills she’ll need for her future vocation in the field of architectural history.

Tritch views her architectural education as a window to the world. Most important to her was the opportunity to travel in the U.S. and Europe. She was influenced by her architecture history classes, which gave her a strong background for study abroad. Her study in Rome with the School of Architecture’s Rome Program, convinced Tritch to become an architectural historian.

Fay Jones, one of America’s most celebrated architects, won the American Institute of Architects Gold Medal in 1990. Tritch points out that Jones himself was profoundly influenced by his experiences in Rome. Twice he was awarded a Fellowship in the American Academy in Rome and had lived and studied there. Tritch had studied Jones’s work and welcomed the opportunity to assist with processing his papers in Special Collections.

Tritch is currently organizing the drawings for the 219 projects designed by Jones from the 1950s to the 1990s in preparation for a move to a new archives room. She uses her analytical skills to study each drawing and identify the sometimes subtle differences and the larger, common themes. She particularly enjoys using other materials in the collection, such as the notebooks and appointment books kept by Jones, the photographs, and the slides, to follow the process from architectural concepts to reality. Tritch points out how beneficial it is to have the collection “all together, the drawings within a few feet of the other material.”

Tritch likes to describe and demonstrate Jones’s work for others. She particularly enjoys seeing the surprise on their faces when they come into the archives and see the original documents, records, photographs, and models. She herself is “surprised and delighted at how much there is to study here.”

Tritch was born in Paragould, Arkansas to Orin and Ann Tritch. She graduated from Marmaduke High School and enrolled in the University of Arkansas in 1999. After a brief time studying engineering, she transferred to the School of Architecture. She will graduate this year as the Murray Smart Medal winner for excellence in architectural history and theory.

Working with the Jones papers has helped Tritch think about her future. She is learning to think more and more like an architectural historian, always asking herself what the researcher will need to know. Learning the inside workings of an architectural archive is a continuation of her own education as a researcher, and she will be a better historian for the experience.
Library visitors and patrons were able to view the works of world-renowned artists through the exhibits displayed in Mullins Library during the late fall and spring semesters. Nationally-renowned artist Charles Banks Wilson exhibited giclées of some of his more famous works in November and December. “Celebrating Native America” showcased individuals and scenes recorded by Wilson in his self-appointed task of recording his time and place. He began sketching the scenes and people of Oklahoma in 1936.

Avant garde art movements of the early- to mid-twentieth century that broke conventions and redefined what was then considered “art” were the focus of an exhibit of lithographs and etchings from the private collection of Tim and Connie Kral on display in March and April. Titled “Twentieth-Century Modernes,” the exhibit featured works by such modern masters as Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Salvador Dali, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Georges Braque, Joan Miro, Victor Vasarely, and Alexander Calder.

The Library is grateful to generous artists and collectors like these for sharing their art collections for the enjoyment and cultural enrichment of students, faculty, staff, and other visitors to Mullins. You can view these and other past exhibits in the Library’s “Artchive” at http://libinfo.uark.edu/info/Artchive/default.asp.

The University Libraries next celebrated African American History Month with a display of works in January and February from the private collection of Shirley and Lenthon Clark entitled “The Artistic Legacy of John Biggers.” The exhibit featured lithographs, charcoal drawings, woodcuts, and paintings by Biggers—who founded the Art Department of Texas Southern University in 1949—and some of his talented students, including Charles Criner, Kermit Oliver, and Bertram Samples. Biggers is best known for his twenty-seven murals that enliven many public spaces in Houston, Texas.

New School Visits Mullins

On Friday, April 8, 2005, Steve Chism, reference librarian at Mullins Library, presented an informal art lesson to a group of fourth-grade students on a field trip from the New School, a local private school. One of the New School students is Bethany Kral, whose parents, Tim and Connie Kral, loaned artworks to Mullins for the exhibit.

Steve Chism instructs students from the New School about 20th century modern art. Photo courtesy of Don Batson.
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**Commemorative Volumes Fund**

The University Libraries invite you to participate in the Commemorative Volumes Fund to honor a student, parent, friend, or family member. This is an opportunity for you to make a personally meaningful and lasting contribution to the Libraries which will benefit our students now and in the future. With your donation of $50, $75, or $100 to the University Libraries, a librarian will purchase a book with the value and within a subject area that you specify. We will place a special bookplate in the book purchased with your gift to honor the person you have identified. You and the person you designate will be notified of the book selected and will be given a copy of the bookplate that appears in the book. The book will be placed on the shelves as a part of the permanent circulating collection.

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