Forensic Anthropologist Speaks at Mullins Library

Many people shudder at the thought of discovering human remains. For Murray K. Marks, doing that is just another day at work. Marks, an alumnus of the University of Arkansas, presented a lecture titled “All That Remains: Forensic Anthropology and the Medicolegal Investigation of Death” on Thursday, October 12, in the Helen Robinson Walton Reading Room in Mullins Library.

Marks is a forensic anthropologist, someone who uses the traditional tools and techniques of anthropology in contemporary criminal cases. Forensic anthropologists assist investigators in identifying murder victims, interpreting signs of skeletal trauma to infer cause of death, or in establishing the time of death. Marks said that he never gets bored with his job because “human variation makes every skeleton unique,” and, he added, the “perimortem circumstances that bring them to forensic attention only adds to the excitement.”

Marks not only practices and consults in the field of forensic anthropology, he also teaches it. Marks is associate professor of anthropology and of pathology at the University of Tennessee, associate director of the Forensic Anthropology Center, and curator of the Forensic Anthropology Facility in Knoxville, a unique and controversial facility that gained the popular nickname “The Body Farm” from the title of a best-selling crime novel by Patricia Cornwell.

The facility, founded by anthropologist Dr. William M. Bass in 1971, consists of a five-acre wooded plot, in which bodies are exposed to the elements in a number of ways to provide insights into decomposition under varying environmental conditions. These experiments enable Marks and his students to observe and understand the processes and timetable of postmortem decay, which in turn helps them to better determine the time elapsed since death in criminal cases, often a crucial piece of evidence.

In recent years, the Forensic Anthropology Facility has played an increasingly important role in developing or testing new forensic technologies and also in training law-enforcement groups such as FBI agents, crime-scene technicians, and cadaver dogs and their handlers.

Marks gave a fascinating overview of the field of forensic anthropology, provided some details about his own work in the field, and told some anecdotes based on his own experiences and case files. His lecture was accompanied by a slide presentation. Also speaking at the event were Dean Carolyn Allen and Marks’ former mentor, Jerome C. Rose of the U of A Department of Anthropology. More than 120 people attended the event, which was standing-room only.

To provide additional interest for the audience attending the event, Library staff arranged an exhibit in the Walton Reading Room display cases of vintage medical equipment, tools, and potions on loan from the Arkansas Country Doctor’s Museum in Lincoln and the Arkansas Archeological Survey’s U of A Museum Collection, and skeletal remains on loan from Jerome C. Rose and graduate assistant Elayne Pope, both of the department of anthropology.
Educational Poster Series

The Libraries’ Special Collection Department is in the final stages of creating two series of posters on Arkansas topics. The first series, which is completed, is comprised of five posters on “Amazing African American Leaders of Arkansas.” The second series, which is on the topic “Amazing Women Leaders of Arkansas,” is also comprised of five posters.

Tom W. Dillard, head of the Special Collections Department, said the purpose behind the posters “is our desire to see more public school teachers and students make use of the extensive holdings of the Department’s archives.” The posters will be made available free of charge to teachers throughout the state.

Each poster contains a photograph and biography of the subject; the back side of each poster contains a detailed lesson plan for teachers, as well as a time line and other educational features. The Department’s curriculum developer, Anita Mysore, created the lesson plans.

The posters on African American leaders will be released in celebration of Black History Month in February 2007. The subjects of the posters are Charlotte Stephens, who became Arkansas’ first black teacher in 1868 Little Rock; Joseph C. Corbin, the founder of what is today the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff; Scott Bond, a St. Francis County businessman and planter who was known as “Arkansas’s black Rockefeller;” Daisy Bates, the NAACP leader who oversaw the integration of Central High School in Little Rock in 1957; and Silas Hunt, the young World War II veteran who integrated the University of Arkansas Law School in 1948.

The five posters on Arkansas women leaders will be released in March 2007 for Women’s History Month. Among the women leaders included are Senator Hattie Caraway, the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate; Louise Thaden, the record-setting early aviatrix; Florence Price, the premier African American female composer and music teacher; Charlie May Simon, a writer of note and the namesake for the Charlie May Simon Children’s Book Award; and Hazel Walker, a phenomenal basketball player who was the women’s free-throw champion of the world on multiple occasions.

Teachers, regardless of the grade level taught, can obtain a set of posters by contacting the Special Collections Department at University of Arkansas Libraries, 365 N. McIlroy Ave., Fayetteville, AR 72701-4002; or e-mail speccoll@uark.edu.

AMAZING AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERS OF ARKANSAS

Joseph Carter Corbin

Carter Corbin was born March 30, 1866, in Little Rock, Arkansas, to Hiram and Martha Corbin. He attended local schools in Little Rock and then moved with his family to Dallas, Texas, where he attended college. In 1888, he moved to Little Rock, where he opened a law practice. He was a prominent businessman and community leader, serving as the first black mayor of Little Rock. Corbin was also involved in education, serving as a trustee of the University of Arkansas and as a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. He was a member of the Republican Party and was a founder of the Arkansas Republican Party. He was a strong supporter of the Republican Party and was active in the party’s activities. He was known for his political and social activism, and he was a leader in the African American community. Corbin was a strong supporter of education and was a charter member of the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees. He was also a strong advocate for civil rights and was a leader in the African American community. Corbin was a leader in the African American community and was a leader in the Republican Party. He was a leader in the African American community and was a leader in the Republican Party. He was a leader in the African American community and was a leader in the Republican Party.

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AMAZING WOMEN LEADERS OF ARKANSAS

Hattie Wyatt Caraway

Hattie Wyatt Caraway was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas, on August 5, 1898. She attended different schools in Hot Springs and Little Rock, where she graduated from Little Rock High School in 1916. After attending the University of Arkansas, she graduated from Spelman College in 1920. She became a teacher in Hot Springs, where she taught for five years. In 1925, she moved to Little Rock, where she worked as a teacher. She was a member of the Republican Party and was a leader in the African American community. She was a strong supporter of civil rights and was a leader in the African American community. Caraway was a strong supporter of education and was a charter member of the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees. She was also a strong advocate for women’s rights and was a leader in the African American community. Caraway was a leader in the African American community and was a leader in the Republican Party. She was a leader in the African American community and was a leader in the Republican Party. She was a leader in the African American community and was a leader in the Republican Party.

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Teachers, regardless of the grade level taught, can obtain a set of posters by contacting the Special Collections Department at University of Arkansas Libraries, 365 N. McIlroy Ave., Fayetteville, AR 72701-4002; or e-mail speccoll@uark.edu.
Libraries Host International Visitors

The University Libraries were privileged to host two international groups of librarians touring facilities throughout the United States this fall. On September 14, seven librarians from Egypt, hosted under the auspices of the Department of State’s International Visitor Leadership Program, visited the Fayetteville Public Library, the University of Arkansas Libraries, and the University of Arkansas Press. The librarians were examining issues in contemporary librarianship such as information and technology services, public access and databases, services for diverse ethnic populations, community partnerships for cultural events and educational programs, digitization projects, Internet and print trends, and freedom of information and privacy issues.

The second group, made up of five library administrators from Russia, visited the Fayetteville Public Library and the archives in Special Collections at the University of Arkansas Libraries on October 5. The Russians were delegates in the Open World Program and were hosted in Arkansas by the Arkansas River Valley Regional Library System and the National Peace Foundation.

Accompanying the tour group was Donna McDonald of the Arkansas River Valley Regional Library System and Betty Bumpers, wife of former U.S. Sen. Dale Bumpers, who founded Peace Links in 1982, the forerunner to and model for the Open World Program.

The Open World delegates spent the afternoon at Mullins Library. In addition to touring the facilities, the delegates received a brief tutorial about compiling reference materials and archives to meet the needs of community businesses. They also examined the archives in Special Collections, including the Fulbright Papers and the Peace Links Papers.

In Arkansas, the Open World delegates visited the Arkansas State Library, Heifer International, the Clinton Presidential Library, Parkview High School, the Arkansas History Commission and Archives in Little Rock, the Bailey Library at Hendrix College in Conway, and the Arkansas River Valley Regional Library headquarters in Dardanelle.

Managed by the Open World Leadership Center at the Library of Congress, Open World enables emerging political and civic leaders from participating countries to work with their U.S. counterparts to discover ideas and practices they can adapt for use in their own home countries.
Borchard Reception

The late Ruth Borchard of London amassed a remarkable private art collection of more than one hundred self-portraits, featuring a virtual who’s who of British artists of the mid-twentieth century. Borchard collected works that captured the artist’s introspection beyond the canvas, providing an insightful view into the artistic genre of self-identity. Borchard never paid more than twenty-one guineas for any one picture, making the collection all that more astounding.

Dean of Libraries Carolyn Allen, Associate Dean Juana Young, and U of A Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Nancy Ellen Talburt were instrumental in securing an exhibit of the Borchard collection for the Walton Arts Center, in what was the first stop on its inaugural United States tour. Titled “Face to Face,” the exhibit was displayed in the Joy Pratt Markham Gallery and the Cynthia H. Coughlin Gallery at the Walton Arts Center from August 21 to November 25, 2006.

Katherine and Ruth Hallgarten stand beside a portrait of Ruth Borchard, which was included in the exhibit “Face to Face.” Photo by J. D. White, University Relations.

The Libraries sponsored a reception for Katherine Hallgarten of London, whose mother Ruth Borchard collected the works, and for Katherine’s daughter, Ruth Hallgarten, on Thursday, October 5, 2006, at the Walton Arts Center. At the reception, remarks were given by Mary Ann Greenwood of Greenwood & Associates, Jenni Taylor Swain, vice president of programs at the Walton Arts Center, University of Arkansas Provost Bob Smith, Dean Carolyn Allen, and Katherine Hallgarten.

Expanded Research Commons Brings More Students to Library

On September 6, the University Libraries and campus Computing Services announced the grand opening of the Research Commons / General Access Computing Lab in Mullins Library. In the Commons, the number of computer workstations has been expanded from 24 to 97 for use by students, faculty, and guests.

The workstations feature several multi-media applications, accommodate group projects, and include assistive software for students with disabilities. Through this team initiative, Computing Services lab operators and librarians can now help students with both their technical and academic research questions in a single location. The project was jointly funded by the Student Technology Fee, the University Libraries, and Computing Services.

To make room for the 73 additional computer workstations, the non-circulating reference collection was condensed to fit along the north walls on the Lobby Level. Nearly four times as many students and faculty now have simultaneous use of the computers, which provide access to the Libraries’ numerous electronic collections, as well as software for writing papers, checking e-mail, preparing presentations, accessing WebCT, Blackboard and other programs.

The nearly 5,000 reference volumes taken from the reference collection have been relocated to the general stacks so that students and faculty can check them out and take them home.

The current proximity of the print reference collection to the increased number of computers is proving a distinct advantage to students and other researchers in today’s increasingly electronic environment. And, of course, the Commons has the added advantage that it attracts more students to the library—which is increasingly being regarded as a major hub on campus.
Art Exhibits Enliven Student Experience

Mullins Library is a great place for students. Not only does it provide excellent research opportunities, it also offers a variety of cultural enhancements. A good example of this is the Library’s ongoing art exhibition program.

Art exhibits during the summer and fall at Mullins Library were pleasantly eclectic, demonstrating a variety of forms and techniques to viewers.

The summer opened with “Beauty and the Brush,” a showcase of artworks created in the fifth annual Garvan Woodland Gardens plein air painting event. A plein air event involves painting a natural outdoor scene in open daylight. 2006’s invitational event, held from April 3 to April 5, drew eighteen professional artists from six states.

This year’s “Beauty and the Brush” artists were Marian Hirsch of Plano, Texas; John Potoschnik of Wiley, Texas; Ellie Taylor of Hawkins, Oklahoma; Laura Reilly of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Phil Sandusky of New Orleans, Louisiana; Bill Lewis and Barry Thomas of Little Rock; Gloria and Bill Garrison of Russellville; and Deleen Davidson, Robin Hazard-Bishop, Dolores Justus, Carole Katchen, Eric Maurus, Alison Parsons, Gary Simmons, and Long Hua Xu of Hot Springs.

The next exhibit was from portrait artist Monta Black Philpot of Mena. Philpot thinks of a portrait as an opportunity to tell a person’s story. In “A Ouachita Portrait,” which showed in Mullins during July and August, Philpot illustrated the story of her home community by featuring subjects who represented the spirit and character of the region.

To create her portraits, Philpot used an unusual technique. She drew using Prismacolor pencil, then blended the colors by applying paint thinner with a brush. The result was a brilliantly colored, smoothly finished, realistic portrait, exact in details of setting.

Fall opened with “Eight Etchings, Four Cabinets,” an exhibit by Tim LaTourette, shop supervisor and instructor at the School of Architecture. LaTourette knew a thing or two about art, a point that was aptly demonstrated in “Thing One” and “Thing Two,” two of his etchings in the exhibit, which showed during September and October.

The appropriately-titled exhibit included wood cabinetry and copper plate etchings. The cabinets were three-dimensional, actual working pieces placed on pedestals to enable viewers to admire and operate their smooth mechanisms by opening the cabinet doors, which produced a movement of a focused or central piece. Three cabinets also featured copper plates recycled from past printmaking projects inserted as door panels.

The Libraries celebrated American Indian Heritage Month in November with an exhibit honoring the legacy of the Bacone College art department. The art department at Bacone College in Muskogee, Oklahoma, was founded in 1935 during an era when Indian artists were transforming their art, from what had been a form of religious expression and a type of shorthand used mainly to record personal and tribal histories, into a modern graphic art style. “Raising the Standard for Indian Art: The Legacy of Bacone College” gave an overview of the Bacone style and its evolution.

Featured in this exhibit were selections from three well-known directors of Bacone’s art department, Acee Blue Eagle (1909-1959), W. Richard “Dick” West Sr. (1912-1996), and Ruthe Blalock Jones, as well as pieces from some of its world-renowned students and faculty: Archie Blackowl (1911-1992), Lee Joshua (b. 1937), Mars Biggoose (1943-2000), Sharron Ahtone Harjo (b. 1945), and Kevin W. Smith, currently a faculty member at Bacone and curator of the exhibit.
Processing the Hammerschmidt Papers

The Special Collections Department is gearing up to begin processing its largest manuscript collection, the papers of former U. S. Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt. These records, more than 1,400 boxes of materials, document Hammerschmidt’s 26-year tenure as the representative for Arkansas’ third district, 1967-1993.

According to Timothy G. Nutt, the manuscripts and rare books librarian in the Special Collections Department, a staff of three processing archivists as well as an intern from the Honors College have been hired to process the collection. Leading the processing is Felicia Thomas, who previously worked on the papers of another former third-district congressman, Asa Hutchinson. Other processors are Kerry Jones, who previously processed the papers of the late Diane Blair, and Case Minor, a history graduate student. Will Puddephatt, an Honors College junior majoring in German and history, will serve as the project intern.

During his long tenure, Hammerschmidt was known for the attention he paid to his constituents. He was especially strong on transportation issues and veterans’ services, given his long service on the House Public Works Committee and the Veterans Affairs Committee. Many Arkansans fondly recall that Hammerschmidt was an author and sponsor of the bill that designated the Buffalo River as America’s first National River.

A highly decorated combat pilot during World War II, Hammerschmidt flew 217 missions in the China-Burma-Indian theater. He was inducted into the Arkansas Aviation Hall of Fame in 1990. Since his retirement, Hammerschmidt has served on a variety of boards and commissions.

Hammerschmidt is an ordained elder and deacon in the Presbyterian Church. He and his late wife, Virginia, are the parents of a son, John Arthur.

Tom W. Dillard, head of the Special Collections Department, expects the processing of the Hammerschmidt collection to require about three years to complete.

Save The Date: Arkansas Architecture Conference

The University Libraries’ Special Collections Department is co-sponsoring a conference with the UA School of Architecture entitled “The Architecture and Landscapes of Arkansas: A Heritage of Distinction.”

The conference will be held on March 2, 2007, at the UA Continuing Education Center in downtown Fayetteville. Program topics will include preservation of historic Arkansas architecture and landscapes, the proposed establishment of an Arkansas architectural archives in the Special Collections Department, and a tribute to Cy Sutherland, professor emeritus of architecture. Sutherland joined the UA faculty in 1968 and was instrumental in saving and preserving many Fayetteville landmarks, as well as mentoring a number of architects with preservation interests.

The conference kicks off with a reception the evening of March 1st. The March 2nd programs comprise a full day of sessions plus a dinner and tribute to Sutherland.

Richard Longstreth will deliver the keynote speech. Longstreth is Professor of American Civilization and Director of the Graduate Program in Historic Preservation at George Washington University. His research focuses on the history of nineteenth- and twentieth-century architecture in the U. S., retail decentralization in major American metropolitan areas, and the economic, design, and cultural factors that have reshaped the American landscape since 1920.

For further information, contact Tom Dillard, (479) 575-5577, or Diane Worrell, (479) 575-5330, in Special Collections.
New Head of Library Systems Welcomed

The University Libraries recently hired George Fowler as the new head of automated systems. Fowler received both a bachelor’s degree in information science (as well as a minor in computer science) and his M.S. in library science from the University of North Texas. He comes to the University of Arkansas from Temple University in Philadelphia, where he was active in their library’s computing for four years as their systems librarian. Before then, he was reference librarian and electronic services manager for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Fowler’s responsibilities in the Libraries encompass all computing operations, including technical training, maintenance of all staff computers, networking, and the many servers of the Libraries’ computer system that support the online catalog, interlibrary loan, the main library system, and three branch libraries. He also provides technical advice and upgrades in the main and branch libraries, participates in national and state users’ groups and discussion lists, and maintains contact with other regional library sites that use the same automated system that the Libraries use.

Another of Fowler’s areas of expertise and interest—besides computing and librarianship—is the armed forces. He served on active duty from 1991 to 1995 in the Army and then, in 2002, re-enlisted in the Army National Guard and was commissioned as a finance officer. He has recently been assigned as the public affairs officer for the 77th Aviation Brigade in Little Rock. Fowler also has an interest in the Russian language (he became fluent in the language while on active duty in the Army), and he participates regularly in athletic activities outdoors.

He is married to Sophia Fowler, who works as associate for administration for the Division of Agriculture at the University of Arkansas.

Stay More Booklets Issued

The University Libraries’ Special Collections Department has published Donald Harington and His Stay More Novels: A Celebration of 35 Years, a commemorative booklet of the “Stay More Reunion” held recently in Special Collections. The reunion celebrated the 35th anniversary of the publication of Lightening Bug, the first of Donald Harington’s novels set in the mythical town of Stay More, Newton County, Arkansas.

The keynote remarks given by Bob Razer, a veteran librarian at the Central Arkansas Library System in Little Rock and an authority on Arkansas literature, are published in full in the booklet. Razer’s address provides a humorous tribute to and evaluation of Harington’s life and work.

The booklet also features an introduction by Tom Dillard, head of Special Collections, and a bibliography of works by Harington and secondary sources compiled by Andrea Cantrell of Special Collections. Illustrations, such as Harington’s hand-drawn map of Stay More and photos of the Stay More reunion, enliven the text. The booklet concludes with the full text of the Stay Moron’s Oath.

A few copies of the booklet remain, and may be obtained free of charge by contacting the Special Collections Department by mail at 365 N. McIlroy Avenue, Fayetteville, AR 72701-4002, by telephone at (479) 575-5577, or by e-mail at specoll@uark.edu. A PDF file of the booklet may also be downloaded at http://libinfo.uark.edu/specialcollections/news/.
Researcher Publishes Letters from Special Collections

Like Grass Before the Scythe: The Life and Death of Sgt. William Remmel, 121st New York Infantry, edited for publication by Robert Patrick Bender, will be published by the University of Alabama Press in March 2007.

These letters reveal the wartime experiences of a young Union soldier serving in the Army of the Potomac’s 6th Corps during the crucial middle years of the American Civil War. In addition to commentary and observations about camp life and marches, and the various social and political issues of the time, Remmel provides well-written accounts of the military hospital system and several battles of the eastern theater (including descriptions of the controversial 1864 Shenandoah Valley campaign and the development of “total warfare”). Remmel’s letters also provide insights into issues of family dynamics and the assimilation of working-class immigrants into mainstream American society in the mid-19th century.

Bender first became aware of the collection while a doctoral student at the University of Arkansas. Although the collection proved unrelated to his dissertation research, he believed that the quantity and quality of the letters warranted their publication as a full-length edited manuscript. He says he was “particularly interested in the challenge of answering questions related to Remmel’s disappearance after the battle of Cedar Creek; was he killed outright or (as the family believed) did he die in captivity and, if he died in captivity, could his grave be located?”

The donor of the collection, Mr. Harmon Remmel, Jr., still resided in Fayetteville, so Bender contacted him about the project. He immediately offered enthusiastic encouragement and assistance by inviting Bender to his home to discuss his family’s history during the years between their emigration from Germany and the outbreak of the American Civil War. Remmel’s interest in the project made the final manuscript more complete because he provided insights into the family’s internal relationships and a better appreciation for William’s role within the family, even while separated from them by the war.

The letters are from the William Remmel Papers (Manuscript Collection 597) in Special Collections. Robert Bender, who received his Ph. D. degree from the University of Arkansas in 2001, teaches history at Eastern New Mexico University at Roswell.

A. C.

Pi Mu Epsilon Creates Runcinated Dodecaplex

Members of Pi Mu Epsilon (the undergraduate math club) assembled a model of a four-dimensional polyhedron, the runcinated dodecaplex, on November 16 in Mullins Library. Chaim Goodman-Strauss and Luca Capogna, professors of mathematical sciences, organized the volunteers, which also included art and architecture students, passers-by, and math enthusiasts.

The Club used Zometools loaned by the Zome Company to construct the model. Mathematicians use Zome tools to model everything from networks in discrete mathematics, to group theory, and projection models (shadows) of theoretical 4-dimensional objects, such as the runcinated dodecaplex, a three-dimensional shadow of a four-dimensional polyhedron, the “runcinated dodecaplex.” After assembly, the model was suspended with fishing line in the east spiral staircase of Mullins Library.
A Note of Thanks!

Students, teachers, and libraries are not alone in advancing learning and knowledge at the University of Arkansas. The role of our donors is crucial. Their contributions have made a significant impact in improving our collections and services. The University Libraries gratefully list below the names of generous donors who have donated gifts during fiscal year July 1, 2005, through June 30, 2006.

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