

BOOKS *and* LETTERS



Newsletter of the University of Arkansas Libraries

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Preserving What's Ours: Arkansas Historic Preservation Conference

The University Libraries and the UA School of Architecture hosted a conference titled "The Architecture and Landscapes of Arkansas: A Heritage of Distinction" beginning March 1 at the UA Continuing Education Center in downtown Fayetteville.

The Washington County Historical Society hosted a reception for conference participants on the evening of March 1 at the Headquarters House on Dickson Street, during which Historical Society members in Civil War era costumes greeted and served guests.

Richard Longstreth, director of the graduate program in historic preservation at George Washington University, was the keynote speaker at the conference on the following day. Other featured speakers were Charles Witsell, award-winning Little Rock architect with more than thirty-seven years experience in historic preservation, Harriet Jansma, former editor of *Magnolia*, the journal of the Southern Garden History Society, and Ethel Goodstein-Murphree, UA professor of architecture.

Several representatives from the UA Special Collections Department also presented at the conference, including Tom W. Dillard, head of Special Collections, Tim Nutt, manuscripts and rare books librarian, and Ellen Compton, architectural collections archivist. Dillard, organizer of the conference, said, "Arkansans can take pride in the incredible number

and variety of historic buildings in our state. This conference gave us the opportunity to celebrate that heritage while at the same time train a new generation of Arkansans to carry on the work of preservation."



Richard Longstreth, director of the graduate program in historic preservation at George Washington University, presents the keynote address.

Session topics included historic preservation in Arkansas, Arkansas landscape history, methods and strategies for preserving the historical record of architecture and landscapes, and an informational session on Arkansas-born architects Edward Durrell Stone and Fay Jones. The conference was capped by an evening banquet and tribute to Cyrus A. Sutherland, professor emeritus of architecture at the U of A. Sutherland joined the School of Architecture faculty in 1968 and was instrumental in saving and preserving some forty historically significant buildings in Arkansas, including such Fayetteville

landmarks as Headquarters House, the Walker Stone House, the Old Post Office and Old Main.

Speaking at the banquet were School of Architecture alumnae Leslie Belden, historic preservationist and Fayetteville Presbyterian minister; Tommy Jameson, veteran preservation architect in Little Rock; and John Mott, director of the architecture and historic preservation department of John Milner Associates, Inc. of Alexandria, Virginia. Following the tributes by his former students and colleagues, Sutherland addressed the audience, giving them the charge of championing Arkansas historic preservation for future generations.

Jeff Shannon, dean of the School of Architecture, said, "Cy Sutherland is indeed the father of historic preservation in Arkansas and has mentored a number of architects with preservation interests. This is indeed a fitting tribute."



Cyrus and Martha Sutherland are greeted at the banquet by Carl Miller, Jr. of Little Rock.

Pryor Center Debuts Director and Board

The David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History strives to put a human face and voice on Arkansas history. April 27 marked the first meeting of the Center's inaugural advisory board, which was followed by a reception at the Cosmopolitan Hotel honoring Kris Katrosh, the Center's first full-time director. The reception, which was hosted by David and Barbara Pryor and the University Libraries, featured speeches by Katrosh, Tom W. Dillard, head of Special Collections, Dorothy Mayo Stevens, Shay Hopper, and David Pryor. Samples of videos and oral interviews made by staff of the Pryor Center were also shown.

Current members of the Advisory Board are: Carole Adornetto, Diane Alderson, Paul Austin, Paul Berry, Carmen Coustaut, Willard B. Gatewood, David Gearhart, Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., Suzanne McCray, Ark Monroe III, Marilynn Porter, Charles R. Robinson, Steve Ronnel, Archie R. Schaffer III, Dennis Schick, James Baxter Sharp III, Todd Shields, and Parker Westbrook.



Dorothy Mayo Stevens, an oral history interviewee, speaks at the Pryor Center reception.

"The mission of the Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History," Katrosh said, "is to document the history of Arkansas through the collection of spoken memories and visual records, preserve the collection in perpetuity, and connect Arkansans and the world to the collection through the Internet, television broadcasts, and

educational programs." The Pryor Center records interviews with people from all walks of life and from all areas of the state, focusing on the lives of Arkansans and their work, families, ancestors, and communities.

The Center was established in 1999 with a gift from former U.S. Senator David H. Pryor and his wife, Barbara. In 2005 the Center was transferred to the University Libraries' Special Collections Department, and the University Board of Trustees renamed the Center in honor of David and Barbara Pryor. That same year the Tyson family of Springdale made a generous gift to help the Center embark on an expanded mission of capturing historical memories in video, as well as audio, formats.

Oral history transcripts are currently available on the Pryor Center Web site, including the *Arkansas Democrat*, *Arkansas Gazette*, Arkansas Governors, Arkansas Memories, and the William Jefferson Clinton history projects.

The focus of the Center's program is changing to high definition digital audio and video formats. Shifting the Center's emphasis to digital video requires a substantial outlay for equipment. The upgrades include camera, lighting, audio, and editing equipment, software, and expansion of the server system.

Producing the interviews in digital video format will enable the Pryor Center to partner with public broadcasting as well as community cable access channels to reach an audience far beyond the academic community. The Center will partner with AETN and others to develop broadcast opportunities for Pryor Center programming, and selected programs will be made available to libraries on DVD. All of its programs will eventually be available as streaming video on the Center's Web site.



Tom Dillard, Kris Katrosh, Barbara and David Pryor at the Pryor Center reception. Photo courtesy of Cheri Pearce.

The Pryor Center will also undertake outreach projects, such as providing equipment and training to school and community groups to enable them to conduct their own oral histories. The Pryor Center aims to become one of the largest state repositories of archival footage in the United States, collecting irreplaceable films and video and audio tapes from sources across the state, transferring them to electronic files, and providing permanent archival storage for them.

Fund-raising is critical to the program. Individuals or organizations interested in supporting the Pryor Center may fund programs, upgrade equipment, provide vehicles for mobile video production, or fund a vehicle for a "storymobile" rolling history laboratory. Donors may also endow a single interview, an entire community's history, or a special project, such as the *Arkansas Democrat* and the *Arkansas Gazette* projects.

Additional information, including nomination forms for interviewees who can provide first-person accounts of Arkansas history, is available on the Center's Web site, <http://libinfo.uark.edu/SpecialCollections/pryorcenter/>.

D. W.



Libraries Welcome New Director of Pryor Center

In January 2007, the University Libraries welcomed Kris Katrosh in his new role as director of the David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History.

Katrosh came to the Libraries from Little Rock, where he worked for ten years for the Dempsey Film Group. There he worked as general manager and director of long-form programming, serving the Group's clients in the capacity of producer, director, and editor of commissioned visual products. He has produced several documentaries and television programs aired in Arkansas, many of them winning the National Telly Award.

Since the day he began his new job, Katrosh has been busy equipping the Center, traveling in the "field" to conduct interviews, creating a Pryor Center Advisory Board,

developing a budget, and crafting a mission statement, program goals, internal policies and procedures, and the beginnings of a full-fledged Web presence (see the Center's Web site at <http://libinfo.uark.edu/SpecialCollections/pryorcenter/>).

It doesn't take long to notice Katrosh's high energy and positive thinking. Believing that he has "the best job in the world," he has more than once expressed his pleasure in working with Tom Dillard (head of Special Collections) and Dean Carolyn Allen to make the Center an indispensable part of the Libraries' efforts to preserve the heritage of our state.

Katrosh said, "Arkansas is a truly great state, full of wonderful people. We have so much to proud of and the Pryor Center wants to make sure everyone knows about it."



Kris Katrosh, director of the Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History. Photo courtesy of Russell Cothren, University Relations.

Pryor Center Releases Clinton Interviews

The Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History has been authorized by the William J. Clinton Foundation to conduct a series of in-depth interviews to document the life of former President Bill Clinton. The Center announced the release of the first set of twenty-eight interviews in the President Bill Clinton History Project at a press conference in Little Rock on January 30. Speakers at the press conference were Tom W. Dillard, head of Special Collections, Skip Rutherford, dean of the Clinton School of Public Service, and interviewee Patty Criner. Andrew Dowdle, UA assistant professor of political science, is the Clinton History Project Coordinator.

The Project is outlined in five phases: the Hope / Hot Springs years; the Georgetown / Oxford / Yale years; the post-college years when Clinton was teaching at the University of Arkansas

School of Law and serving as Arkansas Attorney General, 1973-1978; the gubernatorial years, 1979-1981, 1983-1992; and the post-presidential years.

The Miller Center for Public Affairs at the University of Virginia is responsible for conducting interviews focusing on the White House years — as it has done for every outgoing administration since that of President Carter.

The Pryor Center has interviewed forty individuals in the first phase covering the early years in Hope and Hot Springs, seventeen from Hope and twenty-three from Hot Springs.

Transcribed interviews have been posted on the Pryor Center Web page. Those interviewed and posted are Sheila Foster Anthony, Marie Russell Baker, Dan Clinton, Roy Clinton, Jr., Glenda Cooper, Rose Crane, Patty Howe Criner, Joe Dierks, Clay and Kathy Farrar, Robert Hanes,

Myra Irvin, Paul Leopoulos, Liz Clinton-Little, Lonnie Luebben, Richard McDowell, Jewel Dean Moore, Bill Nipper, Margaret Polk, Tom Purvis, Paul Root, Carter Russell, Carolyn Yeldell Staley, Floris Tatom, Larry Thrash, Mac and Mary Nell Turner, Donna Taylor Wingfield, and George Wright, Jr.

Over the course of the project, the Pryor Center plans to conduct about three hundred interviews. The tapes and transcripts will be deposited in the Special Collections Department, with copies going to the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock and the Miller Center in Virginia.

More Clinton Project interviews and transcriptions will be posted as they become available on the UA Libraries' Web site at <http://libinfo.uark.edu/specialcollections/pryorcenter/projects/clinton>.

Land of (Unequal) Opportunity Digitization Project

Fifty years ago in September, nine black students faced angry, jeering mobs as they integrated Little Rock Central High School, an episode which evolved into one of America's most important civil rights events. To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1957 integration crisis, the University Libraries launched a digitization project titled "Land of (Unequal) Opportunity: Documenting the Civil Rights Struggle in Arkansas."



An editorial cartoon from the Citizens Council. From the Broadside Collection, B1-82, Special Collections.

Project staff members in Special Collections are busy identifying and digitizing one thousand original documents, illustrations, and audio recordings on the history of civil rights in Arkansas. While emphasizing the 1957 Little Rock Central High School integration crisis, the civil rights project also includes materials from earlier and later eras, so that the events of 1957 are placed in their historical context.

Some of the more compelling images and documents are being reproduced as a set of posters containing ten lesson plans, a detailed bibliography, and a time line on Arkansas civil rights history. Digitized documents and images will be stored electronically by the Libraries, providing permanent access to the materials for researchers, students, teachers, and the general public. Partly supported

by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the Department of Arkansas Heritage, the digital library project began on February 1 and should be completed by the end of the summer.

The Libraries hold the largest academic archives in the state, with holdings of books, manuscripts, audio and video recordings, music, and over one hundred thousand photographs.

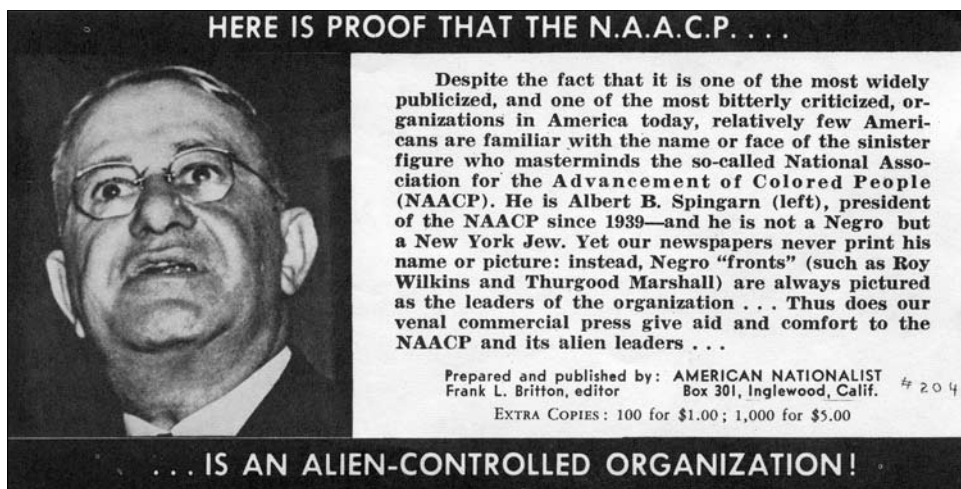
Most of the documents and images included in the project are from the holdings in Special Collections, such as the Daisy Bates Papers, Governor Orval Faubus Papers, Federal Bureau of Investigation Records, Oral History Interview Transcripts, WPA Interviews, George Fisher Cartoons, the 1871 Arkansas Civil Rights Act, photographs from the Geleve Grice and Larry Obsitnik collections, and writings by Arkansas African-American attorney Sciopio A. Jones. Special Collections is also searching other archival repositories for appropriate items.



The U. S. Army 101st Airborne Division enters Little Rock in 1957. Image taken by Larry Obsitnik and located in Special Collections MC 1280, B11 F7, Image 441.

The Libraries will host "Before Little Rock: Successful Arkansas School Integration" on September 12-15, 2007, to focus on the successful integration of the UA Schools of Law and Medicine in 1948, the 1954 integrations of Fayetteville and Charleston public schools (the first public school integrations below the Mason-Dixon Line), and the 1955 integration of Hoxie public schools. For more details about these and other upcoming events in the Libraries, log on to the Libraries' Web site at <http://libinfo.uark.edu/>.

D. W.



Anti-Integration card from the Sara Alderman Murphy Papers in Special Collections, MC 1321.

National Library Week 2007

The 2007 theme for National Library Week was “Come Together @ Your Library.” The University Libraries celebrated by creating a poster based on the national theme featuring Carolyn Allen, dean of Libraries, Phil Jones, head of Reference, Ellen Compton, architectural manuscripts processor, and Anne Marie Candido, assistant to the dean, in a vintage Beatles pose.



The 2007 National Library Week poster featuring Phil Jones, Carolyn Allen, Ellen Compton, and Anne Marie Candido of the Libraries.



Dean Carolyn Allen presents Sarah Makowski with the 2007 Outstanding Service Award.

The Libraries celebrated National Library Workers Day with an Ice Cream Social for faculty and staff hosted by Dean Allen and Juana Young, associate dean. According to the American Library Association, National Library Workers Day was created in 2003 and is meant to “recognize the hard work, dedication, and expertise of library support staff and librarians.”

This year’s event included the announcement of the winners of the first annual Library Employee Awards, which were Rookie of the Year Award for Kimberly Rolf, Extra Mile Award for Gwyneth Jelinek, Keystone Award for Angela Hand,



Dean Carolyn Allen presents Gwyneth Jelinek with the 2007 Extra Mile Award.

Outstanding Service Award for Sarah Makowski, and Team Project Award to the Staff Concerns Committee, who were Angela Hand, David Lacy, Erin Wilson, Gregg Doty, and April White.



The Staff Concerns Committee displays their 2007 Team Project Award. Pictured from left to right are: Angela Hand, David Lacy, and Erin Wilson. Not pictured are Gregg Doty and April White. Angela Hand also won the 2007 Keystone Award.

Libraries Launch New Development Initiatives

Benjamin K. Carter and the Development Office undertook two initiatives this spring. The first involved a library appeal coordinated by the Annual Fund, the third in a series. With a tagline of “Turning Pages, Opening Minds,” a brochure featuring Dean Carolyn Allen was mailed to more than 22,000 targeted households. The response included 218 gifts for a total of \$18,615 and an average of \$85 per gift. The brochure was followed up by a telephone appeal, which collected

514 additional pledges and gifts totaling \$34,620 and an average of \$67 per gift. Altogether the appeal garnered \$53,235 from 732 households, 104 (26 percent) of which were first-time donors to the Libraries.

The Development Office also undertook the formation of the Library Leadership Council, a group of donors who are dedicated to the advancement and support of the Libraries. A letter of invitation from Dean Carolyn Allen was mailed to loyal supporters of

the Libraries, asking them to become charter members of this group. Membership in the Council guarantees invitations to special events hosted by the Libraries and planned “members only” receptions and other programs throughout the year. The Council opened with fifteen charter members. Those who are interested in learning more about the Council may contact Benjamin Carter, director of Development, at (479) 575-2966 or bcarter@uark.edu.

Lecture on Exhibit Celebrates Black History Month

During Black History Month, the Libraries joined with the Center for Arkansas and Regional Studies to host a lecture by Susan Marren, associate professor of English who has published on Armstrong, titled "Taking Care: The Photography of Ralph Armstrong" on Wednesday, February 21, in the Walker Reading Room in Special Collections.

The lecture accompanied the display of some of Armstrong's photographs in Mullins Library. Seven members of the Armstrong family, including his son Ralph Armstrong IV and daughter Annette Johnson, traveled from as far away as Seattle to attend the lecture and the reception that followed.

Marren discussed Armstrong's life and career as a photographer in Little Rock. Born in North Little Rock in 1925, Armstrong served in the navy during WWII then enrolled in photography school in Chicago. Armstrong operated a photography studio and service in Chicago from 1947 to 1951 before returning home to Little Rock with his wife, fellow Arkansan Ruby Joshua Stanton, to raise his family.

Armstrong worked as a mail carrier

in downtown Little Rock for thirty-seven years while also maintaining his photography studio. He began to specialize in portraits, most of them taken on location rather than in his studio. Armstrong said, "You get a sense of how your subjects want to

gathered outside of the school's front door on their last day before graduation. The students are casually grouped; some wave to the camera, others turn away from it.

A keen sense of the perishable architectural heritage of his community led Armstrong to photograph scores of houses, churches, and schools, many just before their demolition. He said, "I started going by old churches and houses when I had a few shots at the end of a roll. I guess I was pretty aware of what I was doing even at the beginning—knowing an old church or school was going to be demolished, I'd run out to get a picture of it, something for a record."

Armstrong's collection contains hundreds of images that, taken together, preserve a visual record of Little Rock's African-American community in the postwar era, a community that was whole and self-sustaining, but also one that was pressured by change. Integration and urban renewal are forces of progress that also entail loss, and Ralph Armstrong's camera vividly recorded both faces of such social change as they affected his home community over the last half-century.



Descendants of Ralph Armstrong at the lecture on February 21.

present themselves and you work to capture that for them." He took countless individual and group portraits—of African-American judges and college presidents, doctors and preachers, professional and civic associations, school groups and fraternities. Other portraits are less formal. "Students at St. Bartholomew's Catholic School" shows St. Bartholomew's high school seniors

Boylan Named New Head of Fine Arts Library

Margaret Boylan joined the library faculty in January as the new head of the Fine Arts Library. Boylan received her B.F.A at Alfred University in New York State College of Ceramics in 1982, a Master of Arts from the University of Colorado in 1988, and a Master of Library Science and Information Resources from the University of Arizona in 1997. She was also a Florence Fellow at Syracuse University in the Masters of Arts Program for Renaissance art history in 1992.

She came to the University Libraries from Maine College of Art Library in Portland, Maine, where

she was director of the Joanne Waxman Library. Before then, she was Arts and Humanities Librarian at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Among the activities Boylan has been engaged in since her hiring are planning collection development strategies, creating a renewed Web presence for the library, and establishing a rapport with the art and architecture faculty.

Challenges facing Boylan in the coming months and years include the exploration of options for space to house collections, and adapting services to the rapid changes in technology.



Margaret Boylan, head of Fine Arts Library. Photo courtesy of Russell Cothren, University Relations.

Spring Art Exhibits Feature History and Aesthetics

During the spring semester, the rotating art exhibits in Mullins Library featured two photography exhibits and a collection of paintings. In January and February, a selection of photographs from the late Little Rock photographer Ralph Armstrong titled "Something For the Record" were exhibited. Trained in a photography school in Chicago, Armstrong worked as a mail carrier in downtown Little Rock for thirty-seven years while also maintaining his photography studio. He specialized in portraits, but a keen sense of the perishable architectural heritage of his community led him to photograph scores of houses, churches, and schools, many just before their demolition.

The second exhibit, showing in March and April, featured large format images from Rice University professor Geoff Winningham's collection of photographs titled "The Vernacular Architecture of Arkansas: Photographs by Geoff Winningham." The photographs in the collection were from a survey of the vernacular architecture of Arkansas commissioned by First Federal Savings and Loan of Little Rock in 1980 and 1981. Included were photographs of residences, churches, stores, cabins,

garages, barns, businesses, outhouses, and bridges throughout the state. The collection was donated to the Libraries by the Arkansas Arts Center of Little Rock in 1992.



"Unidentified Residence," from the Vernacular Architecture of Arkansas: Photographs by Geoff Winningham, MC 1188.

In May and June, Megan Chapman's exhibit of paintings entitled "The Path that Light Takes" delighted viewers with calming colors and shapes. Chapman, a Fayetteville native, received her B.F.A. in painting from the University of Oregon. The paintings were connected to one another by repeated themes: bands of color, outlines of an organic shape suggestive of a lotus flower or a water lily, clusters of ovals, and overlays of blended colors.

Chapman uses brush and overlay techniques to create pleasing textures that add dimension to the pieces so that they appear not as flat canvases, but as windows opening into deep and evocative spaces. Chapman also influences the viewer's perception by assigning intriguing titles to the paintings. Titles such as "A Distant Sweetness" and "Tiny Virtues" tantalize the viewer into contemplating the murky depths of their own experiences.



"Spellbound" by Megan Chapman.

Celebrating the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The University Libraries partnered with the UA Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Planning Committee to host three university lectures in the Helen Robson Walton Reading Room during the week of celebrations surrounding Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

On Thursday, January 18th, Joyce Elliot, who served as the representative from District 33 in Little Rock in the Arkansas House of Representatives, presented "Leaders in the Mirror: Meet Your Future Today" in the Helen Robson Walton Reading Room in Mullins Library. Joe Seabrooks, UA assistant vice chancellor for Student Affairs, gave the second lecture

in this series on Friday, January 19th. Seabrooks's lecture, titled "Hip-Hop Influence on Violence and Incarceration Rates among African-American Men: What Would Dr. King Say?" was a follow-up to a lecture he gave last year titled "Does Hip-Hop / Rap Influence African-American Consumer Trends: Art Imitating Life?"

The third lecture in the series, "A Fine Line: Serving My Community and Working to Achieve Dr. King's Dream of the Beloved Community," was delivered by Sybil Jordan Hampton, former director of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, on Wednesday, January 24th.



Johnetta Cross Brazell, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, (left) introduces speaker Joyce Elliot, university lecturer for MLK Week.

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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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