

BOOKS *and* LETTERS



Newsletter of the University of Arkansas Libraries

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George Hunt, Walkin' & Talkin'

In celebration of Black History Month, the Libraries hosted an exhibit of paintings by Memphis artist George Hunt, who is popularly known for his "Memphis in May: Beale Street Music Festival" posters each year. Titled "Vision of Blues Icons," the paintings in the exhibit depict legendary blues performers and the blues songs that made them famous.

Hunt hosted two walk-through tours of his exhibit in Mullins Library on Friday, February 8, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Hunt called it his "Walkin' Talkin' Gallery Tour," in which he described each painting.

Paintings titled after songs featured such blues legends as Robert Johnson, who recorded "Kindhearted Woman Blues" in

1936 in San Antonio, Texas, a song that contains Johnson's only recorded guitar solo, and the title of Hunt's painting of Johnson. Likewise, the painting "B. B. King of Clubs" depicts Riley B. King (b. 1925), who got his nickname "B.B." from an early stage name, the "Beale Street Blues Boy." King's Blues Club on Beale Street is a favorite haunt for

Memphis blues enthusiasts. The painting "Death Letter Blues" alludes to the signature song of Eddie James "Son" House (b. 1902), and "Big Bossman aka Bluesman" makes reference to a song written by Luther Dixon and Al Smith in 1960 and recorded by Jimmy Reed in 1961 and covered by the Animals, Elvis, Eric Clapton, and the Roll-

accomplishments in the last decade include being commissioned to paint twenty-four portraits for the Blues & Legends Hall of Fame Museum in 1996, being named the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Museum's American Music Master's featured artist in 1998 and again in 2000, being named the Blues and Legends Hall of Fame Museum's

official artist for the Year of the Blues in 2003, creating the image for the Blues Foundation poster commemorating the 25th annual Handy Awards in 2004, creating the image for the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival Congo Square poster in 2005, and creating the image "Little Rock Nine" for the

2005 U.S. postage stamp honoring the integration of Central High School in 1957.

The George Hunt exhibit and tours were a part of the "My America: The Southern Blues" project, undertaken in conjunction with the Walton Arts Center and the Office of Student Affairs.



George Hunt presents his "Walkin' Talkin' Gallery Tour" to guests at Mullins Library, including library donors Thomas and Sandra Goldsby, and chancellor-elect G. David Gearhart.

ing Stones. "A-Wop-Bop-Alop-Bam-Boom" pays tribute to the Rev. Richard Wayne Penniman (b. 1932), more commonly known as Little Richard.

Each lecture was followed by a reception and poster signing opportunity with Mr. Hunt. The event gave attendees the opportunity to listen to the creative process of this nationally-recognized artist and to ask him questions.

Hunt's formal education came from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1960. He did postgraduate studies at the University of Memphis and New York University, and in the early 1960s studied under social realist painter Hale Woodruff. Hunt spent three decades teaching art education and coaching at George Washington Carver High School in Memphis before turning full time to painting.

Some of Hunt's noteworthy artistic



George Hunt signs prints after the event.



George Hunt describes the painting "Kindhearted Woman Blues."

New Head of Human Resources: A Homecoming

Jeffrey Banks was born in Blytheville, Arkansas, moved to Jacksonville, Arkansas, shortly thereafter, and then lived in Florida and England before returning to Jacksonville as the family followed his father's Air Force career. He says, "I was a military brat who spent some time in Florida and England, but I always considered Arkansas my home." Jeff attended the University of Arkansas from 1990 to 1995, earning his undergraduate degree in biology and completing the rigorous requirements of the Air Force Reserve Officer Training program. He recalls frequenting Mullins Library often as a student, stating, "I can remember spending hours searching through journals for articles I needed for my senior thesis and studying in the study rooms because they seemed to be the only quiet places on campus."

After graduation, Jeff followed in his father's footsteps with an Air Force career of his own, which took him to Oklahoma, Virginia, and North Carolina. Jeff flourished throughout his military career, garnering recognition

as Officer of the Year from his various organizations four times in his twelve-year career, Distinguished Graduate at his Squadron Officer School, and Military Human Resources "Officer of the Year" as director.



Jeff Banks. Photo courtesy of Russell Cothren of University Relations.

Jeff's distinguished Air Force career exposed him to many facets of the human resources career field,

including recruiting, training, employee relations, pay and benefits, quality consulting, organizational structure design, manpower classification and allocation, performance management, diversity programming, strategic planning, outsourcing and privatization. His military career culminated with his position overseeing a forty-five-person human resources office as Director of Military Human Resources for a five-thousand-person organization.

Jeff is excited to be at the University of Arkansas Libraries. "As a University of Arkansas alumnus, I am truly grateful to have the opportunity to come back to my alma mater and make a positive impact," Jeff recently said. "Joining the Libraries' team places me in the center of academia and allows me to have a far-reaching impact on this great institution." Jeff is already making the impact he envisioned, as he is an active member of the U of A Chancellor's Recruitment and Retention Council, Library Cabinet, and Library Program Steering Committee, as well as a member *ex officio* of the Libraries' Diversity Committee.

Dickson Street Book Benefits Special Collections

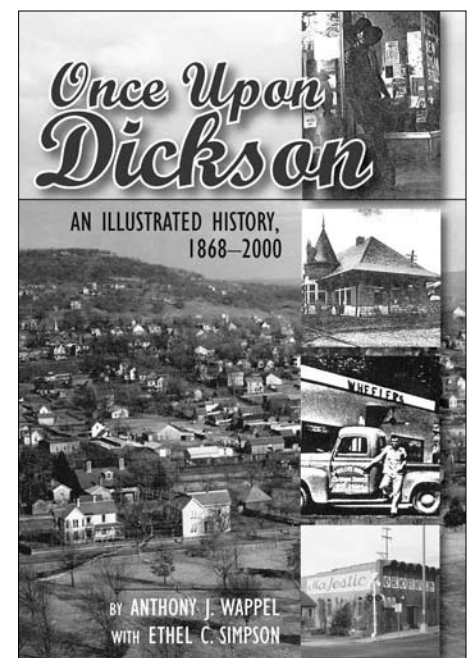
Sales from a new book by Anthony J. Wappel, *Once upon Dickson: An Illustrated History, 1868-2000*, describing the evolution of this vibrant, historic thoroughfare in Fayetteville, directly benefit the Special Collections Department, which partially underwrote its publication.

Once upon Dickson tells the story of the street from east to west, decade by decade. Its author, Wappel, worked for several years in Special Collections and is now Washington County Archivist and Records Manager. Ethel C. Simpson, also formerly of Special Collections, collaborated on the book, which contains more than 400 pages and nearly 370 images.

The book documents and preserves the energy and diversity that continue

to make Dickson Street a focal point of Fayetteville business and culture.

The book can be bought at local bookstores and online at <http://once-upondickson.com>. Phoenix International, a Fayetteville publisher distributed by the University of Arkansas Press, brought out the book in cooperation with Special Collections. The Advertising and Promotion Commission of the city of Fayetteville, the Bank of Fayetteville, the Lighton Family Foundation, Frank and Sara Sharp, and an anonymous donor provided additional financial support. For more information, visit <http://onceupondickson.com>, telephone Phoenix International Publishing at (479) 521-2204, or visit the UA Press online at <http://www.uapress.com>.



In Memoriam: Betty Lighton

The last remaining member of a family that made its mark in Northwest Arkansas died last December, but the legacy of the Lighton family's contributions will continue to be felt for generations to come.

Betty Lighton was a joy to know, a living embodiment of the selfless and empathetic social reformer ideal. At ninety-five years of age, she had seen and accomplished much with her years, but the stories with which she delighted in regaling friends and visitors were mostly about her family.

You might hear about Betty's father, William R. Lighton, a writer whose novel *Happy Hollow Farm* (1914) made Fayetteville famous in his day, or about her mother Laura who was very involved in community affairs, including the Perennial Garden Club, which undertook the planting and beautification of Arkansas Avenue as a memorial to a visit by Will Rogers. You might even have heard the tale of how, after Mr. Rogers' visit to the Lighton home, Laura discovered he'd lost his pocket change in the sofa cushions, and how she had carefully wrapped and preserved Will Rogers' Pocket Change, to be brought out and admired by visitors.

You might have heard about Betty's brother Louis, known as "Bud," who made a successful career in Hollywood, writing forty screenplays and producing thirty movies, and earning

five Academy Awards, including one for *Captains Courageous* (1937) and *A Tree Grows In Brooklyn* (1945).



Photograph of Betty Lighton. Lighton Family Papers (MC 779), series 8, photograph number 806. Courtesy of Special Collections.

You certainly would have heard about her sister Suzanne, who was admitted to the Arkansas bar in 1933 and who became the first juvenile judge in the state during a time when juvenile offenders in Washington County were housed in the same jail as adults. Judge Lighton's highly successful juvenile court system became the model for the state and region.

But you probably wouldn't hear about her own accomplishments, because Betty didn't talk about herself as much. Betty joined the Red Cross during World War II, then worked as

a council advisor for the Girl Scouts serving a region of fourteen states and as executive director for the Dayton, Ohio, YWCA before she "retired" in 1964 to Fayetteville, where she immediately made good use of her experience, and her master's degree in social work from the University of Tennessee, by assisting Suzanne in her role as juvenile judge. Whenever a problem arose from their work with juveniles, the two created a solution that benefitted the entire region. For instance, seeing a need for inter-departmental communication, Betty established the United Community Services, which, in turn, when faced with the lack of mental and behavioral counseling opportunities in the area, incorporated the Ozark Guidance Center in 1970, with Betty serving as a volunteer director until the agency could organize and staff the facility.

Many places and organizations in Fayetteville bear the fruit of Betty's tireless efforts to make the world a better place, from historic Evergreen Cemetery to the Animal Shelter to the Special Collections Department of the Libraries. Betty's charitable organization, the Happy Hollow Foundation, underwrote "Shared History," the first digital image project undertaken by Special Collections, featuring historic photographs of Fayetteville. We lost a friend, and the world lost a lovely lady who truly made a difference.

Goldsby Lab a Major Asset to Library

Two years ago the family of Thomas Goldsby of West Memphis gave a generous monetary gift to the University Libraries, with a portion of it going to create a "preservation" lab in the Special Collections Department. Tom Dillard, head of Special Collections, said recently that the Goldsby Family Arkansas History Laboratory had "made it possible for his department to dramatically improve its handling of fragile or damaged documents in our collections."

Many of the manuscripts, maps, photographs and other materials that are donated to Special Collections arrive with condition problems, such as dry, brittle papers or manuscripts that are rolled up or wrinkled. Tim Nutt, manuscripts and rare books librarian for the Special Collections Department, said the Goldsby Lab has "made it possible to spread out materials, flatten them with steel weights, and perform basic de-humidifying prior to processing." The Lab is also used to

put fragile items, such as maps, in protective enclosures—a process called encapsulation. The life of a document can be dramatically lengthened by encapsulation.

Future plans call for augmenting the Goldsby Lab with additional equipment—such as a separate humidification chamber that will more effectively relax old pictures, documents, and maps that have been rolled up so they can be safely flattened for better storage, copying, and viewing.

Physics Library Updates Facility

The Physics Department celebrated its Centennial during the 2007-2008 academic year. The formal opening of the centennial exhibits on April 4 was held in the hallway outside the Physics Library and was followed by a reception in the Library. The exhibits featured archival materials, including photographs, tracing the history of the Department and changes made to the Library over the years.

The Physics Library began in 1929 as a small collection of books and journals on two bookshelves in Dr. Paul Sharra's office in the basement of Old Main. The collection was transferred to the Physics building in 1960. In 1992 when the Physics building was renovated, the Physics Library collections were moved across the hall to

the present location. In the last fifteen years, technological changes in information publishing have led to much scientific literature becoming available electronically. With the need for more computers to access research information, as well as for additional study space, Usha Gupta, Physics Librarian, headed a smaller renovation and reconfiguring of space in the Library.

Recently, Stacks Management, Facilities, and Cataloging personnel transferred some 9,000 volumes to the Libraries' remote storage facility and condensed shelving to provide more study and computer space. New tables and chairs were purchased for the newly created space to complete the renovation.

The reorganized space is now much

more attractive, and the hope is that it will more effectively serve Physics students and faculty for many years to come.

U. G.



Usha Gupta, head of the Physics Library, and Collis Geren, dean of the Graduate School and vice provost for research, view the exhibit on the history of the Physics department created by Usha for the Physics Department centennial celebration in April.

Measuring How Students Use Mullins Library

Do students prefer a 2' x 3' carrel or a 4' x 6' table? Does ambient lighting affect their choice of study space? Does chair type matter? Where in the library do they like to study most?

The answers to these questions were needed to direct design decisions for a planned renovation and expansion of Mullins Library; therefore, library staff directed by Sheri Gallaher, facilities coordinator, conducted an in-depth and systematic observation of how students use the Library in November 2007. Once each hour, for seven days, personnel surveyed all four floors of the building, recording the number of patrons seated at each public table, workstation, or lounge chair, as well as the basic activity in which they were engaged. Categories of activities were recorded as "academic" (e.g., reading, doing homework, studying, group studying, or practicing presentations), "computing" (using a desktop or wireless laptop computer), "socializing" (chatting with others, using a cell phone—i.e., not studying), and "sleeping." In addition, six times during the week one volunteer roamed the building, digital camera in hand, to capture the details not available from number counts—for example,

the array of coffee cups, soft drink bottles, and candy wrappers; computer cords strung across aisles to electrical outlets; papers and books scattered across large tables; backpacks piled on the floor or in chairs or on tables; students with shoes removed and feet tucked up in a chair; and chairs pulled into a quiet nook for privacy.



A student studying in the Helen Robson Walton Reading Room demonstrates the multi-tasking commonly found during the survey.

Initial findings indicate that a majority of library users are "plugged in" and hard at work. Almost 60 percent were engaged in using a computer, but it must be noted that the nature of use could not be captured by observation — one student might have been writing a term paper while another surfed the Web for personal music to

download. Thirty-nine percent were observed in academic work. Slightly over 1 percent were socializing, while a mere .5 percent had nodded off to dreamland!

These data and photographs are providing insight into the study habits and preferences of students. Not surprisingly, on average the highest building occupancy occurred between 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Of the several types of seating available in Mullins, the majority are 4' x 6' tables and two-seat carrels. The ratio of those tables to carrels is 1.4:1, yet users prefer the 4' x 6' tables at a ratio of 4.6:1.

The number of students choosing seats by a window is only fractionally higher than those who do not. The distribution of total users among the four floors was 58 percent on the main entry level (Level 2), 24 percent on Level 3, 16 percent on Level 4, and 3 percent choosing Level 1 (the basement). It should be noted that the numbers of users on the main floor is due to the fact that the General Access Computing Lab and two large reading rooms are located there; of those students not using computers, a slightly higher percentage chose Level 3 over Level 2.

Art Exhibits

In addition to the George Hunt exhibit of paintings during January and February, Mullins Library exhibited artwork from two printmakers and a creator of pyroengraved gourds during the spring semester.



"Eye on You," pyroengraved gourd by Kate Venus.

Kate Venus exhibited a collection of her pyroengraved lagenaria gourds in December and January. Venus pyroengraves the gourds using a burning pen with interchangeable points. When burning is completed, color from leather dye, wood stain, permanent ink, or paint is applied and interiors are finished with several coats of shellac. Venus says that her inspiration "comes from a fascination with geometric patterns and a respect for the intelligence of nature."

In March and April, an exhibit by Ed Wade, Jr., demonstrated the diversity of his talent through prints of original pen and ink drawings, graphite sketches, watercolor paintings, and creative digital photography.

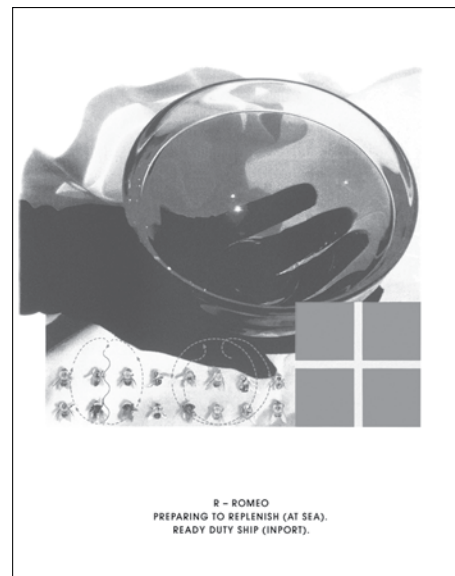
Wade claims that the artist views

the world differently than the average person; he says that while other people see people, places and things, the artist will see "size, shapes, color, contrast, values and texture." Art is, according to Wade, the by-product of the artist's attempt "to show the world what his eyes have seen differently than everyone else's."

University of Arkansas art professor Marilyn Nelson exhibited prints from two projects during May and June. The first project, titled "U.S. Naval Flag Signal Narratives," is a suite of 26 editions of serigraph prints — one edition to represent each alphabetic flag. U.S. Navy maritime flags are



"Gettin' Ready," a watercolor print by Ed Wade, Jr.



"R" from the Signal Flag Series by Marilyn Nelson.

used to communicate with other vessels while maintaining radio silence.

The second project, titled "Color Interpretations/Meditations," is a series of paintings depicting Nelson's interpretation of the "vivid color descriptions" in novels such as Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises* and Tolstoy's *War and Peace*. A "grid field" painting shows each color in the order in which they appear in the novel, and a companion black and white "digital grid" shows the actual color words and the page number on which a reader can locate a specific color mentioned. Nelson says that because the color order is arranged according to the text, "many unexpected color juxtapositions occur" and "areas of pattern, or blocks of similar colors emerge."

Now Texting . . . Your Librarian!

Reference librarians at the University Libraries have expanded the Ask-A-Librarian service to include text-messaging. Anyone may send questions to (479) 595-9296 and receive answers through text messaging from the Reference Desk. The service is intended for simple questions that librarians can answer in 160 or fewer characters. Lengthier questions should be directed to the other reference ser-

vices available through the Libraries, such as Ask-A-Librarian chat service (24 hours per day, 7 days per week), questions answered via e-mail services, by phone or in person at the Reference Desk in Mullins Library or the service desk of any department or branch library. Full descriptions of these various services can be found online at <http://libinfo.uark.edu/mail-forms/questionmenu.asp>.

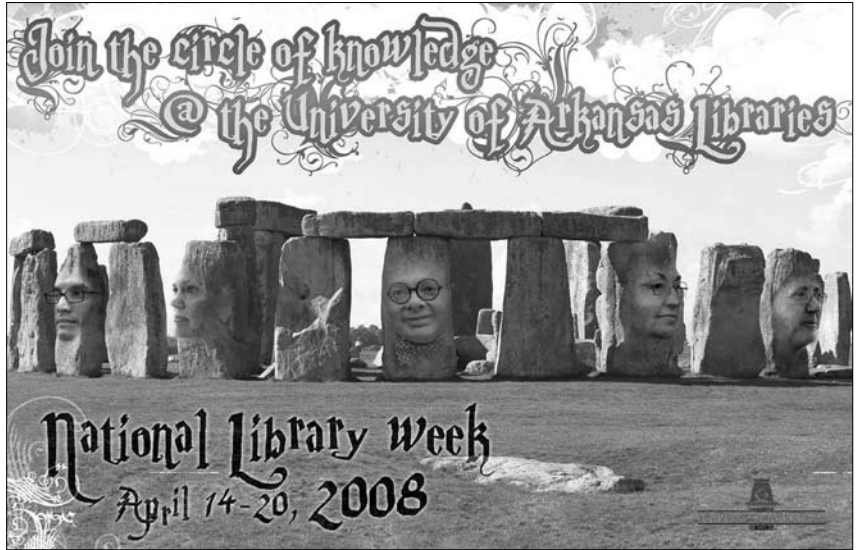
Reference librarians will respond to questions that have been texted within the hour. They might ask the user for an e-mail address or call the user if they cannot address the question in the length of a text message.



National Library Week Celebration & Staff Awards

The 2008 theme for National Library Week in April was “Join the Circle of Knowledge @ Your Library.” The University Libraries celebrated with a poster based on the national theme, featuring: Megan Perez, librarian in residence; Lynn Hodges, assistant director of the Pryor Center; Tony Stankus, biological sciences librarian; Juana Young, associate dean of Libraries; and Lynaire Hartsell, head of Periodicals.

On National Library Workers Day, the dean announced the winners of the 2008 Service Awards at the annual Ice Cream Social created to celebrate the occasion. The winners this year were: Rookies of the Year—George Fowler, head of automated systems, and Case Miner, Special Collections processor; Extra Mile Award—Brian Curtis of Facilities Management and Robin Roggio of Interlibrary Loan; Keystone Award—Tom Dillard, head of Special Collections, and Beth Juhl,



head of Web Services; Outstanding Support Staff Award—Kelvin Summerville of Circulation; and Team Project Award—Tim Nutt (chair), manuscripts and rare book librarian; Molly Boyd, public relations coordinator; Anne Marie Candido,

assistant to the dean; Tess Gibson, head of interlibrary loan; Deb Kulczak of Cataloging, Molly Moore of Serials, and Gwyneth Jelinek of Circulation. The latter group was responsible for planning and conducting the library retreat held in May, 2007.



Dean Carolyn Allen presents Keystone Awards to Tom Dillard and Beth Juhl.



Dean Allen presents the Outstanding Support Staff Award to Kelvin Summerville.



Dean Allen presents Rookie of the Year Awards to Sophia Fowler, accepting on behalf of her husband George who is currently serving in Iraq, and Case Miner.



Dean Allen presents the Extra Mile Award to Brian Curtis and Robin Roggio.



Dean Allen awards the Team Project Award to the Retreat Planning Task Force, who are from left to right, Molly Boyd, Gwyneth Jelinek, Tess Gibson, Tim Nutt, who served as chair, Anne Marie Candido, Molly Moore, and Deb Kulczak.

From Arkansas to the Cosmos: New Electronic Resources

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 online database created and designed by our own librarians, covering publications dealing with Arkansas topics. Sponsored by the Special Collections Department, the index now contains nearly 30,000 citations from Arkansas statewide and regional newspapers, joining more than 60,000 citations from other historical and biographical sources. Coverage ranges from approximately the early 1930s through 1985, with scattered entries from the 1830s through the 1920s.

The Libraries recently added a subscription to the business database *Mintel Reports Academic Edition*. Min-



tel is an industry leader in providing detailed market intelligence reports on consumer products and attitudes, technology, company data (including recent mergers and acquisitions), and services. Students can now access the same comprehensive analyses used by marketing staff in top corporations worldwide.

With support from the Arkansas Center for Space and Planetary Sciences and the Microelectronics-Photonics Program, the Libraries have recently added new subject areas in the *Knovel* Technical Library database: *Aerospace & Radar Technology* — featuring reference works on subjects such as aeronautical engineering, aerospace software engineering, remote sensing systems, geoprocessing, atmospheric sciences, and space vehicle dynamics and con-



trol, and *Electronics & Semiconductors* — offering reference works on topics such as manufacturing, materials, sensors, and superconducting.

The 15th edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style* is now available online to UA students and researchers, covering such tricky issues as citing anonymous newspaper articles, use of acronyms and abbreviations, rights and permissions for republication, treatment of quotations, and, of course, the proper format for bibliographical citations.

Enhancements to existing electronic resources were also added, including new features in the science and technology encyclopedia *Access Science*, and enhanced operational features in the electronic resource *SciFinder Scholar*, which indexes articles related to chemistry and medicine.

B. J.

Processing the Hammerschmidt Collection

The Special Collections Department has processed approximately half of the papers of John Paul Hammerschmidt, the first Arkansas Republican elected to Congress since Reconstruction, who represented Arkansas's third district for twenty-six years. Transforming 1,500 boxes of unorganized materials into a fully accessible collection has been a daunting task.



Processors working on the Hammerschmidt Collection are, from left to right, Alexandria Gough, Olivia Meeks, and Felicia Thomas, who is the head archivist for the project.

The collection was donated in November, 1992, and is comprised of photographs, congressional papers, audio-visual items, and miscellaneous

items. It is the largest manuscript collection held in the Special Collections Department. The boxes came to Special Collections from various National Archives storage facilities and from Hammerschmidt's Washington, D.C. and local congressional offices. After raising the necessary funds to process the collection, the Special Collections Department hired Felicia Thomas to lead the project, which also employs two full-time processors and two honors college interns.

The first step in processing a manuscript collection is taking an inventory of the materials. An organizational scheme is created, composed of series and subseries that form the grid into which processors place all materials. The core series in the John Paul Hammerschmidt collection are the individual congresses in which he served, subdivided into subseries. Processors assign materials to a position in the organizational scheme, which will eventually enable researchers to locate materials. For example, a researcher looking for a speech given by John Paul Hammerschmidt on April 25, 1980, would find



Case Miner, assistant archivist for the Hammerschmidt Collection, works on processing the papers.

it in the 96th Congress Series, Subseries 4 (General Congressional Activities – Speeches). After sorting, processors then prepare a finding aid, which involves entering titles for each file into a detailed guide, that will eventually be searchable on the Internet.

The files in each archival collection are placed in special, standard-sized acid-free boxes, which are then labeled and shelved. When completed, the processed collection is officially “opened” to researchers. Processing of the Hammerschmidt Papers is proceeding on schedule.

D. W.

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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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Subject area of book: Humanities Sciences Social Sciences Business Law Other _____

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