

# BOOKS and LETTERS



Newsletter of the University of Arkansas Libraries

"Real People, Real Research Help"

Vol. 24 No. 2, 2010

## Archives Month Celebrated

To commemorate American Archives Month in October, the University Libraries' Special Collections Department hosted an open house. Titled "Discover Arkansas in the Archives: Archives Month 2010," the event began with refreshments and a reception, followed by Tom W. Dillard, head of Special Collections, giving an overview of the past year's acquisitions of manuscripts, rare books, and maps.

The featured presenters were teen-aged documentary film makers Sarah and Emma Bailin of Little Rock. The Bailins have been making films and documentaries since they were eleven years old and own and operate their own production company, Double-Troublets Productions. Together they

have produced fifteen documentaries and short films, which have been screened at more than fifty film festivals around the nation. Their documentaries have also aired regularly on the Arkansas Educational Television Network and the Manhattan Televi-



*Sarah and Emma Bailin. Photo courtesy of Russell Cothren of University Relations.*

sion Network, New York.

The Bailins' presentation was followed by a screening of their documentary film *Return to Sender* (2008), the story of Arkansas' role in the months following the Cuban Mariel Boat Lift in 1980. The film focuses on the effect that Cuban refugees who were housed at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, had on the political landscape of Arkansas. *Return to Sender* is the third documentary in the DoubleTroublets Productions' "'It Happened Here' Arkansas History Collection" and has garnered more than twenty state and national film awards and screenings, including official selection at the Los Angeles Film Festival and best documentary in the Senior Division at the Tampa Film Festival in Florida.

## First Annual Faculty Tenure & Promotion Reception

Provost Sharon Gaber hosted a reception on September 8 to honor the forty-six faculty members at the University of Arkansas who received tenure and/or promotion in 2010. The event was organized by the University



*Provost Sharon Gaber, Dean Carolyn Allen, and Chancellor G. David Gearhart spoke at the reception.*

Libraries and took place in the Helen Robson Walton Reading Room in Mullins Library.

Speaking at the event, Chancellor Gearhart congratulated the attending honorees for their achievements, thanked them for their outstanding service, and spoke of the importance of good faculty to the success of the University. He noted that these faculty members "have shown passion, industry, and excellence" in the course of their duties.

To commemorate the event, Gaber and Allen asked each of the faculty members to designate a book of significance to their lives or careers and to describe the book's importance. The descriptions ranged from appreci-

ation of a scholarly book that was crucial to their research, one that inspired or encouraged them as readers, to a book read in childhood that brought back distant memories. An exhibit of those books and the faculty comments were displayed in the Walton Reading Room.



*Members of the faculty honored at the reception attended with their families.*

# Arizona Library Dean Discusses Trends for the Future

Carla J. Stoffle, Dean of Libraries at the University of Arizona, spoke to an audience of University of Arkansas Libraries' faculty and staff members in September about trends and challenges facing academic libraries. Her presentation, titled "From Surviving to Thriving," detailed the University of Arizona Libraries' experience in transforming their organization based on the application of a business model to library services, combined with focus on satisfying the needs of students in the most effective, and cost-effective, manner.

Stoffle maintains that academic libraries can no longer expect a level of funding that will simultaneously maintain the traditional libraries of the past, manage the libraries of the present, and build the libraries of the future. She therefore advocates development of an organizational structure focused on the library's users, continually identifying their specific research and study needs as they change from

year to year. Stoffle maintained that economics, not technology, should drive organizational change in academic libraries. The effective library of the future, she said, focuses less on systematically building collections based on a theory of what a library should own, and which may or may not address faculty and student needs, and more on innovative, dynamic, and cost-effective ways of addressing the constantly changing needs of students and faculty.

Building the ideal library of the future, according to Stoffle, is dependent on transforming the traditional bureaucratic library organizational structure into one that is more flexible, innovative, and continuously responsive to change. The University of Arizona Libraries, for example, constantly review and alter their organizational structure, with the goal of developing leadership and shared decision-making throughout the organization. They use the budget as a

tool for implementing innovative and strategic goals by allocating \$500,000 annually for new strategic initiatives.

Following her presentation, participating faculty and staff broke into small groups to discuss potential strategic initiatives for the University Libraries based on some of the points of her presentation.

Stoffle is a prolific, outspoken, and provocative speaker, scholar, and writer, and an award-winning academic librarian. She is the author of three books and more than fifty major articles and book chapters on such topics as academic library management, user education, diversity, public services, and budgeting. She has participated in over ninety presentations, workshops, and panels on academic library subjects. Under her leadership, the University of Arizona Libraries received the 2001 Association for College and Research Libraries Academic Libraries Excellence Award.

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## New Magazine to be Launched by Special Collections

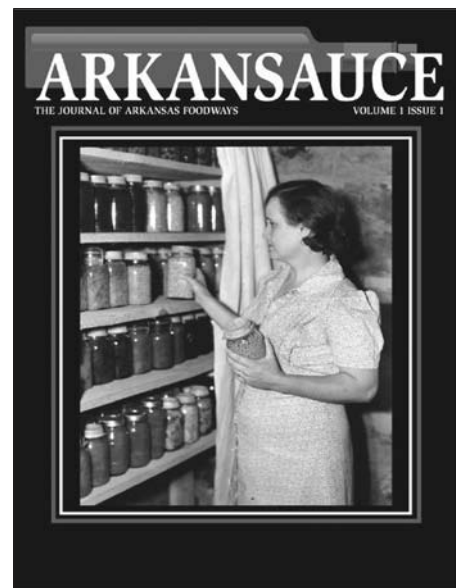
The Special Collections Department is launching a new journal titled *Arkansauce: The Journal of Arkansas Foodways*.

John G. and Dora J. "DeDe" Ragsdale of Little Rock are underwriting the publication, which will be a mix of popular and semi-scholarly articles, heavily illustrated with original documents, drawings, and photographs. *Arkansauce* will explore topics such as food-related history, customs, and literature, as well as nutrition, cooking, table manners, chefs, food production, restaurants, cookbooks, recipes, menus for both ordinary and special occasions, and the culinary heritage of minority groups, immigrants, and specific geographic regions of the Natural State.

The term "foodways" refers to everyday, conventional food-related practices and traditions among a group of people, such as bringing casseroles to a bereaved family in the neighborhood or grilling hamburgers or hotdogs on the fourth of July.

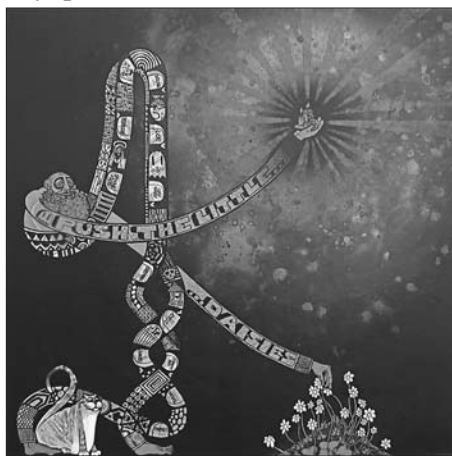
The journal will be published annually, using guest editors. Rex Nelson, author of *Rex Nelson's Southern Fried* blog, will serve as guest editor for the first issue, which will be distributed free of charge in early 2011 to subscribers and to the Special Collections mailing list. Preliminary cover art for the first issue is pictured to the right.

Persons interested in receiving the journal should send an e-mail to [dfworrel@uark.edu](mailto:dfworrel@uark.edu) or call 479-575-5577.



# Art Exhibits Celebrate Diversity . . . and Fun

Due to the construction in the lobby and exhibit area during the summer, the Libraries did not host an exhibit during June and July. But as the fall semester began in August, patrons and visitors were treated to an exhibit of confounding “Works by Matthew Lyman.” Lyman’s work is not easily described. He himself explains it as “poetic storytelling that is abstract and painfully absurd.” Lyman adroitly combines technical skill and humor in paintings that are part social commentary, part riddle, a combination that he



“Push the Little Daisies” by Matthew Lyman.

calls a “system of iconic folklore.”

Another exhibit in August and September was displayed in conjunction with the University’s 2010 One Book, One Community project. Rebecca Skloot’s *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, the non-fiction bestseller chosen for the project, is the story of HeLa cells and the life they have had in medical research around the world. The One Book, One Community committee hosted a display of photographs of HeLa cancer cells in various stages from the Biomedical Collections of the Wellcome Trust of London, England.

In honor of American Indian Heritage Month in November, the Libraries displayed artwork spanning the past one hundred years and the many locales, cultures, and genres that collectively combine to define the colorful world known as the American West. The Ashworth Collection includes pieces on loan from Chris Ashworth of Fort Smith, Ark., a large-animal veterinarian and owner of New Frontier Angus Ranches. The exhibit includes watercolors, lithographs,

pencil sketches, bronzes, and pottery depicting the Native American history and lifestyle. Ashworth says, “I like older pieces of art that were painted on site or seen as history actually took place,” but he also appreciates contemporary art.



“Enemy Country” by Beatin Yazz, a WWII Navajo code talker. From the Ashworth Collection.

## Library Guides Tailor-Made to Classes

LibGuides are new class and subject guides designed by University of Arkansas librarians and reference staff. Each LibGuide is customized to help students navigate resources to complete their research assignments and papers. These guides offer not only suggestions for article sources, search strategies, and citation information, but also links to library services, chat windows to contact librarians 24/7, and RSS feeds to allow students to keep up-to-date with new resources. Students can also rate or comment on the guides, as well as share resources with other students. Instructors may ask their subject librarian to create a LibGuide, which they can then link to their course Web pages or Blackboard classes for use by students.

## Mobile Catalog: Libraries in Your Pocket

Students and faculty at the University of Arkansas can now take the library with them using the Libraries’ new mobile catalog. Offering access to 1.4 million records for books, journals, internet resources, sound and video recordings, maps, musical scores, manuscript collections, and more, this mobile version of the InfoLinks library catalog will allow students and faculty to check library holdings with any browser-enabled phone or mobile device. They can follow links to elec-

tronic journals and databases, check library hours and locations, and view or renew checked-out items through the “My Library Account” function.

The Libraries also offer a growing number of mobile interfaces to article databases such as Ebsco, the WorldCat union catalog of libraries worldwide, streaming music services, and even the RefWorks citation manager. Students can consult the Libraries’ mobile apps page for announcements of new services as they are developed.

# 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, 2009, through June 30, 2010**. The list does not contain matching gifts by corporations or organizations.

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# Extreme Makeover Snapshots from Mullins Library

In the last issue of *Books & Letters*, we reported on the work of the Extreme Makeover Task Force, which was charged with transforming the Lobby Level to accommodate the needs of a growing student population and an expanded computer lab.

The Extreme Makeover Task Force, consisting of personnel from the Libraries and campus IT Services, devised and executed a plan in five months. On September 1, the Libraries and IT Services hosted an Open House of the renovated University Learning Commons, which includes the General Access Computing Lab, tutoring space for the Quality Writing Center and Enhanced Learning Center, and a central help location for research, circulation, and technology.

New furniture throughout the Lobby Level offers greater flexibility, with comfortable lounge seating and tables configured for groups and laptop users, as well as desktop computing pods suitable for working in pairs. The north wall of the lobby area was painted with lively blocks of colors that mirrored those on the new furnishings.

In addition to the forty new PC and Macintosh computers (including six 27-inch iMacs) added to the expanded GACL, secure and guest wireless networks were installed in all study areas. Extensive improvement of the network and electrical infrastructure resulted in increased network speed and performance as well as computing flexibility for users. Scanning capabilities were improved by increasing scanning stations and adding the ability to scan to a USB flash drive and e-mail using Xerox copiers.

Support for the project was provided by the Student Technology Fee Committee, the Office of the Provost, the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, and the Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities Management.

The changes were well received by users. The *Arkansas Traveler*, the student newspaper, named Mullins Library the number one place to study on campus in their special final exams issue. Calling the newly renovated facility "Club Mullins," the editors noted that Mullins was "[w]here all the cool kids go to write term papers."

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