

# **ANNUAL**      **2018 -** **REPORT**      **2019**

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

# PROCESSING HIGHLIGHTS

The department is honored to be the repository for **Crescent Dragonwagon's archival collection**. Ms. Dragonwagon's career includes writing over 20 children's books, two novels, seven cookbooks and culinary memoirs, as well as a book of poetry, and a biography of Stevie Wonder. No stranger to Northwest Arkansas where she lived for nearly twenty years and operated the Dairy Hollow House, an inn and restaurant in Eureka Springs, Ms. Dragonwagon returned full-time to the area in 2018. Processing her collection is the department's Assistant Head, Melanie Griffin. Dr. Griffin's PhD in literacy studies with a concentration in children's literature enables her to bring that expertise and experience to her work with this collection:

*"The Crescent Dragonwagon Papers are such a delight to work with and make available for research and teaching use. My favorite discovery so far has been the ingenious methods Ms. Dragonwagon used as she revised her book manuscripts. The first draft is almost always a typescript, and later revisions have collage-type edits, with sections or sentences cut out and moved to another section of the page and handwritten additions layered on top of the collage. The collection provides a fascinating glimpse into the creative process."*

We anticipate opening this collection for research in 2020.

**41**  
manuscript  
collections acquired

**37**  
donations to existing  
collections

**27**  
new publications in  
Arkansas Collection

**6**  
new rare books

**134**  
accruals made available for  
research

**883.39**  
linear feet processed

**1113**  
titles in Arkansas Collection  
made available for research

**1495**  
rare books made available  
for research



*Examples of manuscripts from the Crescent Dragonwagon Papers (MC 441).*

# STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

**60**  
classes taught

**16**  
students employed



*Top: Professor Josh Smith, Claire Hutchinson, and Joshua Youngblood explore one of the new acquisitions.*

*Bottom: Students in medieval studies class analyze rare books and related texts.*

Seeking to provide our graduate students with a professional development opportunity and a space to develop a scholarly community on campus, the Department began its **Graduate Student Speaker Series**. Over the course of the year, six different students presented their research in this colloquium setting. Topics ranged from religious conservatism, to the use of pesticides, to food culture.

This series continues in fall 2019.



*Graduate student, Robyn Spears, presents her research on food culture in the South.*



a year's overview

# PUBLIC HIGHLIGHTS

**39**

News wire stories and announcements

**18**

public events

Committed to strengthening partnerships with units and faculty across campus, together with the University of Arkansas Press, the Department co-hosted international studies faculty member, Jared Phillips, who spoke of his book *Hipbillies: Deep Revolution in the Arkansas Ozarks*.

Presented in front of over 100 attendees, the event coincided with an exhibit curated by the librarian-in-residence, Marianne Williams.



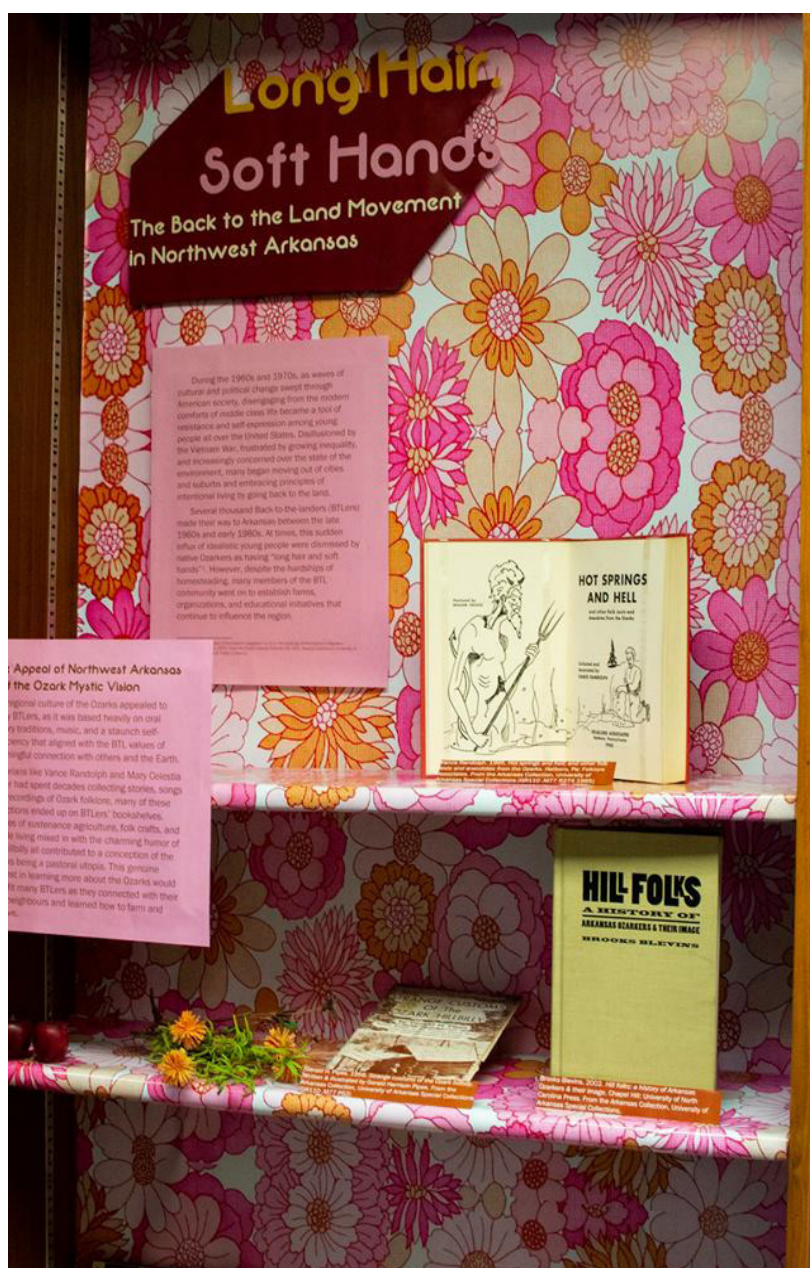
Audience listening to Professor Jared Phillips discuss his book project.

# EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS

**9**  
library exhibits

**3**  
digital projects

Marianne Williams, the librarian-in-residence, curated **“Long Hair, Soft Hands: The Back to the Land Movement in Northwest Arkansas,”** which featured items from the Department’s collections (pictured below).





Spotlight

# FOCUS ON FULBRIGHT

It has been an active year involving all things Fulbright related!

In November, we participated in the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board's meeting in Fayetteville, and introduced board members to items in these rich archival collections. Our successful collaboration with partners in Fulbright College enabled us to use funding from a Chancellor's Grant to hire a graduate student who processed 5 new collections now open for research, as well as enhanced the discoverability of two other Fulbright-related collections. On the collection development end, Dr. Birrell was invited by the State Department to give a presentation to visiting Fulbright commissioners as part of their annual meeting in Washington, D.C. This presentation invited them to consider the UofA as a possible repository for their historical records. As part of the commissioners' time in the US in May, a number visited campus and had the opportunity to view items from the collection as part of the "Building Bridges: The Fulbright Legacy and the Future of International Exchange," conference, which was hosted by the University of Arkansas International and Global Studies Program and Office of Study Abroad.

All of these efforts contribute to our planning underway to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Fulbright program in 2021.



*Fulbrighters visit the Reading Room*



*Two Fulbrighters examine collection materials.*



a year's overview

# DIGITAL PROJECTS

The University Archives has begun a number of projects in anticipation of the University's 150th anniversary in 2021, including one to make freely available online the Arkansas Traveler student newspaper. Launched in April, the University Libraries have digitized the first issues of the newspaper from 1907 to 1947. The collection is now searchable online. In the coming months, subsequent issues will be published, with all issues available online by 2021.

## Mary Schilling Rules As 1930 Traveler Queen

Prominent In Journalism  
Activities For Three  
Years

Mary Schilling has been named "Miss Arkansas Traveler" by the Men's Press club. She was chosen on the merits of her work in journalism.

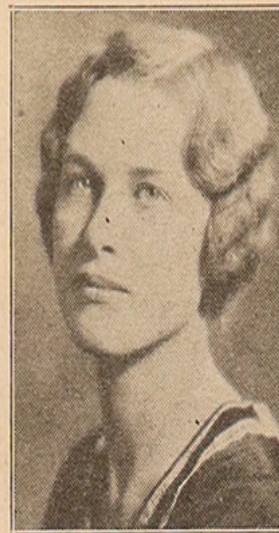
Mary will be crowned at the "All-Journalism Banquet" to be held tonight at the Blue Moon. After being crowned she will reign for the remainder of the evening.

Mary has been a member of Pi Kappa, honorary journalistic fraternity for the past two years and is now president of the organization. She was society editor of the Traveler last year and is a member of the editorial board this year.

Mary is not only outstanding in journalism, but in other activities as well. She was named one of the members of Arkansas' Who's Who, being one of the outstanding girls on the campus.

Organizations Are Fined

Miss 'Arkansas Traveler'



MARY SCHILLING

Arkansas Journalists  
Work On Many Papers

Former Students Employed  
In All Parts of  
Country

## Commencement Site and Speakers



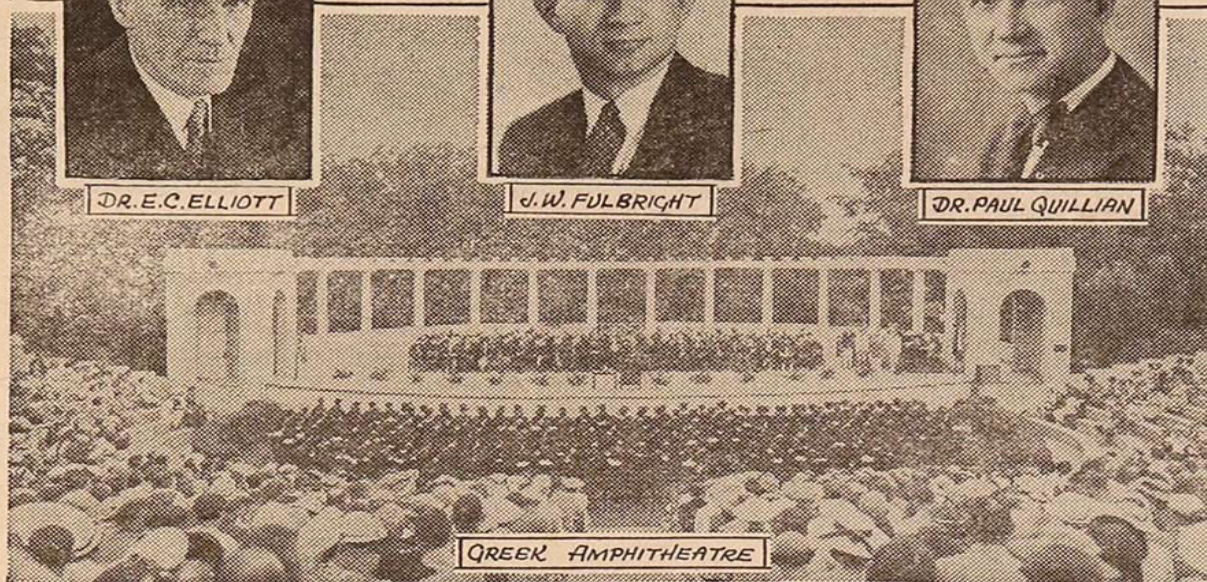
DR. E.C. ELLIOTT



J.W. FULBRIGHT



DR. PAUL QUILLIAN



GREEK AMPHITHEATRE



*a year's overview*

# TOP 10 COLLECTIONS

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| 1. MC 988  | Florence Price Papers  |
| 2. MC 144  | J. William Fulbright Papers  |
| 3. MC 468  | Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs Historical Collection (CU) Papers |
| 4. MS 301  | Orval Faubus Papers  |
| 5. MS R563 | Joseph T. Robinson Papers  |
| 6. MC 703  | Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) Records                |
| 7. MC 1412 | Billy James Hargis Papers  |
| 8. MC 236  | Edward Durell Stone Papers   |
| 9. MC 1373 | Fay Jones Papers   |
| 10. MC 582 | Daisy Bates Papers   |

# READING ROOM

**2498**  
researchers

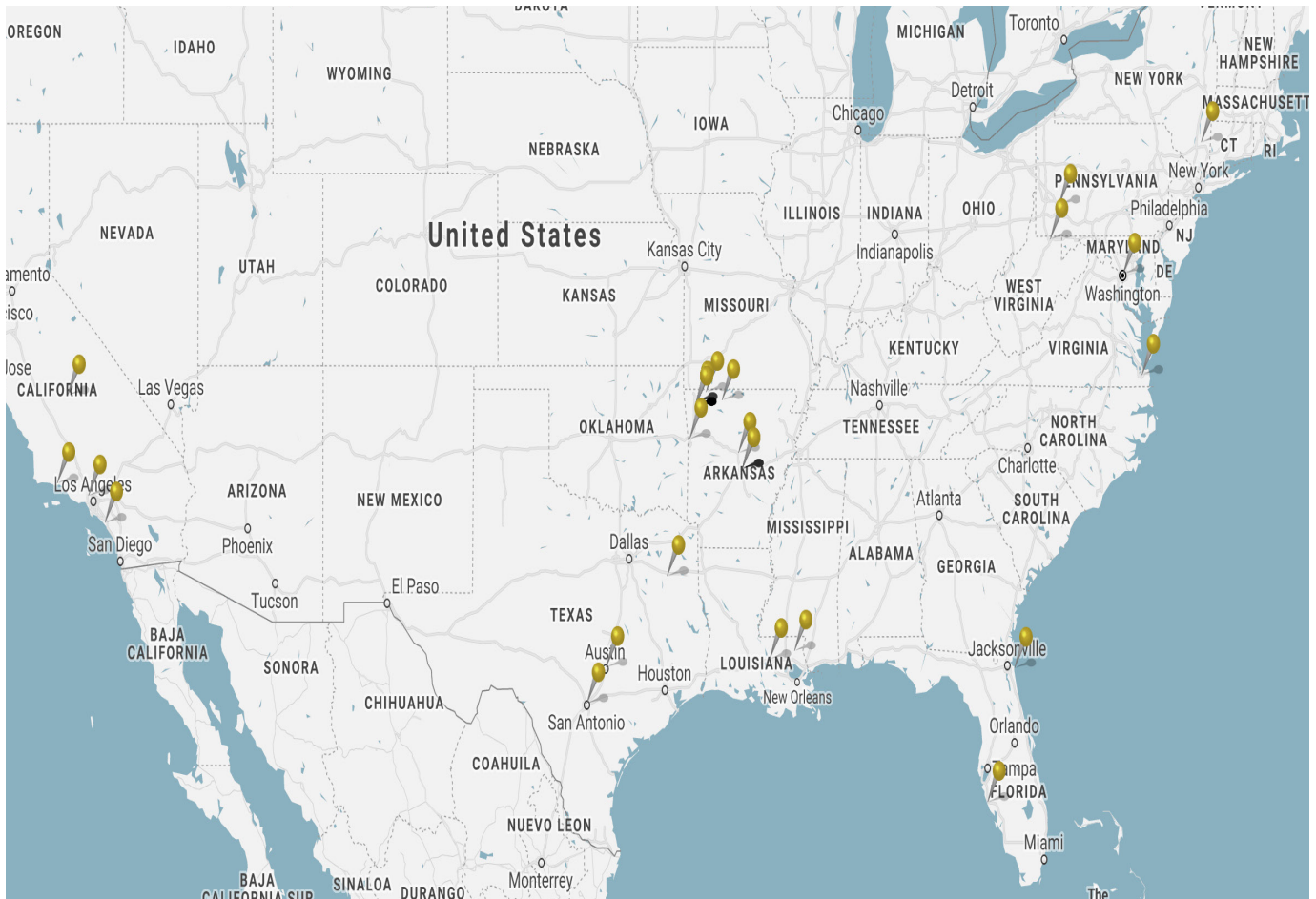




*a year's overview*

# DONATIONS

Special Collections has received  
donations from coast to coast!



If you're interested in speaking with someone about donating your records, please contact, Lori Birrell, head of the Special Collections Department, [lbirrell@uark.edu](mailto:lbirrell@uark.edu), 479-575-8443.

Your financial gifts provide students with project-based hands-on learning opportunities, enhance our facilities to better meet the needs of our growing instruction and outreach programs, and support the growth, arrangement, description, preservation, and digital conversion of our collections. Whether you want to make an impact with your financial contribution today, or set up a plan to support Special Collections through your estate, please contact:

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