

Are you Arkansas-literate?

- 1.) **Arkansas takes its name from which Indians:**
Quapaw, Caddo, Cherokee, Osage
- 2.) **From Little Rock, which direction would one drive to reach Camden?**
- 3.) **The worst peacetime marine disaster, with 1,443 killed, involved which boat?**
Mound City, Sultana, Andrea Doria, Lusitania
- 4.) **America's first black municipal judge was:**
Scipio A. Jones, M. W. Gibbs, Wiley Branton, Marion Humphrey
- 5.) **Which town is known as the Little Switzerland of America?**
Petit Jean, Magazine, Harrison, Eureka Springs
- 6.) **Sam Walton began his retail career with a "Five and Dime" in:**
Newport, Marianna, Jonesboro, Paragould
- 7.) **The automobile made in Arkansas was the:**
Rebel Roadster, Hurricane, Cosmic, Climber
- 8.) **The first state park in Arkansas was:**
Petit Jean, Mount Nebo, Lake Fort Smith, Moro Bay
- 9.) **The Bowie Knife is believed to have been made at:**
Parkin, Hot Springs, Washington, Bigelow
- 10.) **The Baltimore Orioles hall of famer from Little Rock was:**
John G. Ragsdale, Preacher Roe, Brooks Robinson, Lon Warneke

Answers: 1.) Quapaw, 2.) South, 3.) Sultana, 4.) M. W. Gibbs, 5.) Eureka Springs, 6.) Newport, 7.) Climber, 8.) Petit Jean, 9.) Washington, 10.) Brooks Robinson

THE ARKANSIAN

Special Collections Department
University of Arkansas Libraries
365 North McIlroy Avenue
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701



THE

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Newsletter of the University of Arkansas Libraries Special Collections Department

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Special Collections Celebrates 40th Anniversary: Please Join Us for Workshops and Open House

Special Collections will hold several public events, including workshops on preserving family history and oral history and an open house/reception, in celebration of the repository's 40th anniversary. These anniversary events coincide with Archives Month 2007. Archives Month is celebrated annually nationwide to promote public awareness of the value of historical records and the importance of the archival profession in preserving historical documents.

Workshops on preserving family history records will be held on Saturday, October 20, 2007 at the Fayetteville Public Library. Sessions will focus on issues in and methods of preserving documents and photographs and principles and procedures for capturing oral history interviews with family members. An open house, including refreshments, a short program, and tours of the Special Collections repository, will take place on Thursday, October 25 from 3:00

PM to 5:00 PM. Registration is not required, and all events are free of charge. Call 479-575-5577 for more information.



Veteran Special Collections staff members Ellen Compton (left) and Andrea Cantrell (right) attending a 1989 conference

Leadership Report

From the Desk of Tom W. Dillard, Head of the Special Collections Department

I hope you like our new journal. The Special Collections Department is doing amazing things these days, and I want you to know about them. A recent photo of the Special Collections staff reminded me how lucky we are to have such a fine group of employees, and I want you to meet these folks. Arkansians, as well as people from throughout the United States, donate great treasures to the Special Collections Department every year, and I can't wait to tell you about the best ones—and show pictures, too.

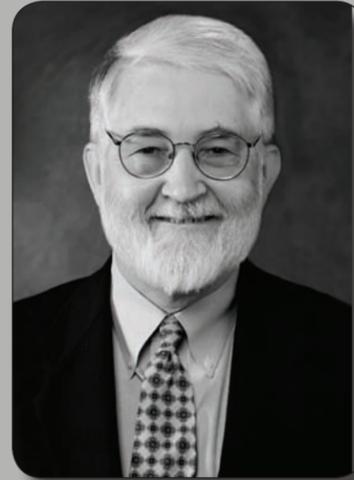
Please don't take my words as boasting, for I do not mean it that way. But, my pride is

especially strong right now, for this year marks the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Special Collections Department. The history of the University Libraries goes back to the founding of the university in 1871, but the Special Collections Department began in 1967. What better way to celebrate our entry into middle age than launch a newsletter?

We are lucky to have Dr. Diane Worrell serving as editor of this new journal. Diane is the Department's special projects librarian, and she has brought great skill and gusto to this new undertaking. Although Diane's doctorate is in library science, she has professional training in journalism—and her father, James Featherston, was a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist who covered many of the most important stories of the twentieth century, including the Little Rock integration crisis and the Kennedy assassination.

Where did we get the name "Arkansian?," you are probably asking. It is not a misprint, but rather is a name our early ancestors called themselves. In a long career that has involved reading old Arkansas documents and newspapers, I have seen *Arkansian* used repeatedly. There was even a newspaper by that name in antebellum Fayetteville.

I also want to take this opportunity to invite you to visit us in the Special Collections Department.



Tom Dillard

We are located on the first level of the Mullins Library. An especially good time to pay us a visit will be October 25, when we celebrate American Archives Month with an open house and birthday party. You will hear more about this get-together later.

I realize some of you might not be familiar with the Special Collections Department. I believe our work is extremely important—not only to support the research and study of our students and faculty, but to preserve the historical documentation of our state and people. Arkansas has a long and complicated history, and I am honored that the UA Libraries Special Collections Department is in the forefront to document and share that heritage.

(HISTORY continuance)

al Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections maintained by the Library of Congress. This catalog, known as NUCMC, was an important tool for locating research materials in American repositories.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the manuscript holdings of Special Collections grew steadily. Large collections were donated, including the papers of composer William Grant Still and politicians Joe T. Robinson and Oren Harris, along with many smaller collections. A federal grant paid salaries of temporary processing staff. By this time, a significant beginning had been made in processing the department's picture collection.

Despite Sizer's success in obtaining government support for specific projects, the department was hampered by lack of funds. For example, a single copy machine served the entire library, as did a single telephone line. Staff generally occupied the lowest rungs of the University's pay scale. The first two staffers to pursue training at the National Archives did so at their own expense and on their own time.

When Sizer resigned his post in 1982, he was succeeded by Michael Dabrishus, who had credentials as a librarian and archivist. The staff became more professional, publishing in scholarly and professional journals and participating in historical and archival societies and library associations. He appointed a field archivist to solicit manuscript collections and other gifts. The department received grants

from the Arkansas Endowment for the Humanities and the National Endowment for Humanities to tackle the department's processing backlog. Significant progress was made in cataloging the department's large collection of historic maps.

The scope of the collections expanded during this time to include Arkansas business and cultural resources, Arkansas agricultural history, and the contributions of women to Arkansas history. Examples include papers of home demonstration clubs and of the Arkansas Rice Millers and the Tucker and Wilson family farming businesses. The department also began

The Internet has greatly enlarged the pool of users of Special Collections materials.

to acquire audio-visual materials, sheet music, and photographs. The physical layout of the department grew steadily as the staff increased. Processors no longer routinely interacted with researchers. Gradually the card catalog was replaced by computerized records, and many technical processes were assumed by the cataloging department.

Many rare and collectible print works of Arkansas history, literature, and culture have been acquired for the Arkansas Collection, but rare books have never been a strong collecting focus of the University Libraries. The Rare Books collection, although it contained some distinguished and beautiful volumes, had been chiefly an assortment of books considered too rare, fragile, expensive, or controversial to survive in the open stacks. When, in 1982,

library director Royal V. Pope resigned, he was succeeded the following year by John A. Harrison, who had a strong interest in rare books and first editions. Many additions to the Rare Book collection were subsequently acquired, almost all by donation.

The University Libraries were not in the vanguard of library automation, and most of the work with manuscripts still required human labor. When the libraries began to develop Internet resources, Special Collections started posting finding aids and other information on the libraries' Web site. The Internet has

greatly enlarged the pool of users of Special Collections materials. With on-line finding aids these users can often complete a simple research project by e-mail, without visiting the reading room. Staff

functions were again reorganized to accommodate the greater volume of long-distance research.

In 2004 Tom Dillard was appointed head of Special Collections. A lifelong proponent of the study of Arkansas history, Dillard envisions the department as supporting the teaching of Arkansas history at all levels. The Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History has recently been assigned to Special Collections, with facilities and staff for creating Arkansas history materials in digital formats. Dillard is attempting to raise the profile of the department by means of publications, public events, and collaboration with broadcast agencies, associations of educators at all levels, local historical societies and other institutions. —E.S.

THE ARKANSIAN

"Arkansian" was the name commonly used throughout the 19th century to denote residents of Arkansas. It was also the name of a prominent Fayetteville newspaper before the Civil War. The name "Arkansian" evolved from this earlier form. *The Arkansian* is published four times a year by the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Libraries. Inquiries should be directed to Diane Worrell, University of Arkansas Libraries, 365 N. Mellroy Avenue, Fayetteville, AR. 72701-4002, telephone 479/575-5577, fax 479/575-3472, or to dfworrel@uark.edu.

The Special Collections Department collects, organizes, and provides access to research materials documenting the state of Arkansas and its role in regional, national, and international communities.

Diane Worrell, editor
Ashley Piediscalzi, designer

included a photograph and biography of the subjects, a detailed lesson plan for teachers, a time line, and other educational information. Response to the posters was overwhelming; more than 1300 poster sets were distributed to schools all over Arkansas.

Personnel

The year's most exciting personnel news was the hiring of a full-time director, Kris Katrosh, for the Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History, a unit of Special Collections. Katrosh joined the Pryor Center after spending a long career at the Dempsey Media Group in Little Rock, where he was an award-winning filmmaker and general manager.

Felicia Thomas was hired to manage the processing of the John Paul Hammerschmidt papers. James De-fibaugh joined the Pryor Center as Coordinator for Oral History. Janet Parsch joined the staff as Assistant to the Head of Special Collections, and Diane Worrell was reassigned to plan and implement an expanded public relations program for the department.

A History of Special Collections at the University of Arkansas

From the earliest history of the university, librarians and teaching faculty assembled an outstanding Arkansas Collection, including scholarly and popular works, magazines, academic journals and newspapers. Even when money was tight, the library collected and preserved print materials related to Arkansas history and culture.

Many outstanding items of Arkansiana were gifts. In 1924 George W. Donaghey, former governor, created an endowment to acquire materials for the study of Arkansas history. The first manuscript collection was acquired in 1932, a bound typescript of thirty-one nineteenth-century letters. Manuscript collections have generally been donated by collectors or by politicians, academics or writers who were persuaded that the records of their life achievements had permanent research value. Some important early acquisitions include the folklore collections of Professor Mary Celestia Parler, the papers of Pulitzer Prize-winning poet John Gould Fletcher, the research files of journalist Otto Rayburn and of Henry Alexander, an authority on Arkansas government, and the papers of Governor Charles Hillman Brough.

When Special Collections was created in 1967, department head Samuel A. Sizer was responsible for its physical and technical organization. In 1968 Special Collections acquired facilities in the new library designed specifically for its use, with secure stacks, processing areas, a reading room and offices. The department has been enlarged several times since then. Towards 2000, the department acquired off-site facilities for processing and storage.

At first, all Special Collections personnel assisted researchers, maintained the card catalogs, exercised security, and processed collections in the large reading room. As a result, the entire staff acquired considerable knowledge of the department's manuscript and print holdings, as well as interacting with researchers. In the mid-1970s, a professional librarian was appointed, plus staff with advanced degrees in history and literature and experience in scholarly research and writing. In 1976 Sizer earned

a master's degree in history. His thesis, *Guide to Selected Manuscript Collections in the University of Arkansas Library* (Fayetteville, University of Arkansas Library, 1976), contains descriptions of 211 collections, ranging from the 222 cubic feet of the Fulbright papers to collections comprising only one item. Sizer's *Guide* made it possible to publicize the collections to other libraries and repositories and to register them in the Nation-

(HISTORY continued on page 15)



An early scene in Special Collections

Joan Watkins to Lead *Index Arkansas* Project

Joan Watkins is the new manager and senior editor of the *Index Arkansas* Project, formerly entitled the *Arkansas Periodicals Index*. The project, sponsored by the Special Collections Department of the University of Arkansas Libraries, involves indexing a large number of Arkansas-related journals and other publications dealing with Arkansas topics.

Watkins, an enthusiastic supporter of Arkansas studies, started her career as a librarian and then went on to a variety of administrative positions in the public sector. She held various positions with Governor Bill Clinton's office, including press secretary and policy advisor, followed by several leadership posts at the University of Arkansas. She also worked as a consultant in the areas of information systems, records management, policy analyses, communications, and management. Watkins graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1973 with a Bachelor of Arts in history with Phi Beta Kappa honors.

She earned a Master of Library and Information Science degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1974. "I am intrigued by the fact that this job brings me full circle in my library career, so there is a level of professional comfort," she said.

Computer technologies have significantly changed the field of librarianship since Watkins first worked as a librarian for the University of Arkansas. The challenge of this project for Watkins is organizing and providing access to materials electronically. "That's the new part for me, and what attracted me to the project," Watkins observed. She named another attraction as "her de-

votion to this state and to the people who are trying to understand Arkansas and its geography, its history, and its literature."

Arkansas is one of the more under-studied states in America, according to Tom W. Dillard, head of the Special Collections Department. With Arkansas history education now mandated by state law, more students are doing research in various fields of Arkansas studies. One of the major hurdles faced by researchers on Arkansas topics has been the lack of good, easily available guides to published literature on the state. The need for good indexes has increased as the periodical literature has grown; there has been a substantial increase in the number of county history journals and regional periodicals. "Arkansans need to tell our own story; no one else will do that for us. A comprehensive index such as *Index Arkansas* offers the possibility of dramatically increasing the quantity and quality of research done on Arkansas," Dil-

lard said. The current index is available electronically on the University Libraries web site at <http://arkindex.uark.edu>, but plans call for updating and improving future editions of the index.

The *Arkansas Periodicals Index* project, predecessor to *Index Arkansas*, has been in development for many years, initiated by long-time librarian Georgia Clark and expanded by the work of Elizabeth McKee and Andrea Cantrell of the University of Arkansas Libraries. The project was recently placed under the administrative supervision of the Special Collections Department, the largest academic archives in the state of Arkansas. Special Collections was created in 1967 to encourage research and writing in the history and culture of Arkansas. With the addition of Watkins' leadership, Dillard hopes to revive this project, which will greatly improve access to the growing published record of Arkansas topics.



Joan Watkins

Special Collections Embarks on Large Civil Rights Digitization Project

Fifty years ago, 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 at Little Rock Central High School, the University of Arkansas Libraries' Special Collections Department launched a digitization project titled "Land of (Unequal) Opportunity: Documenting the Civil Rights Struggle in Arkansas."

Project staff members are busy identifying and digitizing 1,000 original documents, illustrations, video recordings and audio recordings on the history of civil rights in Arkansas, according to Tom W. Dillard, head of the Special Collections Department. While emphasizing the 1957 Little Rock Central High School integration crisis, the scope of the civil rights project also includes materials from earlier and later eras so that the events of 1957 are placed in their historical context.

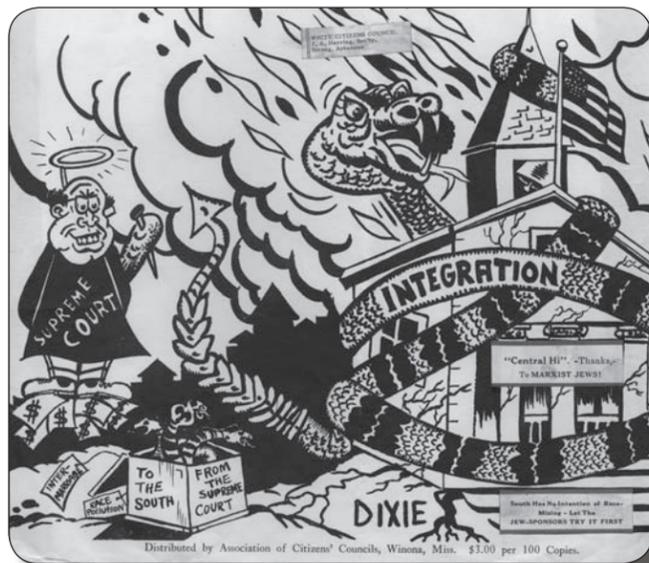
Lesson plans, a detailed bibliography, and a timeline on Arkansas civil rights history are also under development. Digitized documents and images will be stored electronically by the UA Libraries, providing permanent access to the materials for researchers, students, teachers and the general public. Partly supported by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council, the digital library project should be completed by the end of October.

Special Collections is the largest academic archives in the state, with holdings of books, manuscripts, audio and video recordings, music, and



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.

over 100,000 photographs. Most of the documents and illustrations included in the project are from the holdings of Special Collections, such as the Daisy Bates Papers, Orval Faubus Papers, Federal Bureau of Investigation Records, Oral History Interview Transcripts, Southland College Papers, WPA Interviews,



An editorial cartoon from the Citizen's Council, from the Broadside Collection, B1-82, Special Collections

George Fisher Cartoons, photographs from the Geleve Grice and Larry Obsitnik collections, and writings by Arkansas African American attorney Scipio A. Jones. Special Collections is also searching other archival repositories for appropriate items.

Further information on the digitization project may be obtained by contacting the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Libraries, 479-575-5577 or specoll@uark.edu.



Left to right, front: Phillip Stephens, Tom Dillard, Gentry Collier, James Defibaugh. 2nd row: Janet Parsch, Jennifer Koenig, Anne Prichard, Geoffrey Stark, Callie Williams, Tim Nutt. 3rd row: Lynn Hodges, Andrea Cantrell, Olivia Meeks, Alex Gough, Danielle Hansen, Diane Worrell, Sarah Simers, Ellen Compton, Scot Oldham. Back row: Todd Lewis, Scott Lunsford, Kris Katrosh, Cheri Pearce, Vera Ekechukwu, Case Miner, Anita Mysore, Felicia Thomas, James Wilhelm. Not pictured: Cody Hackett, Matt Lammers, Jim Kelton.

(REPORT continued from page 12)

board met in April, the same month the newsletter, *Pryor Center Connections*, began publication.

Pryor Center staff filmed 40 new high-definition video history interviews, including two videos produced to support the Towers of Old Main event in April. The Center received 188 oral histories and processed 114 of them. Phase 1 of the Clinton History Project was completed. The Pryor Center web site was redesigned by Beth Juhl and Arthur Morgan of the Library Web Services staff.

Programming and Outreach

In October 2006, the department held an Archives Week open house,

which was attended by nearly 100 people from the library, the university, and the general public. In March, Special Collections and the School of Architecture co-sponsored a conference on historic preservation entitled *The Architecture and Landscapes of Arkansas: A Heritage of Distinction*, which culminated in a banquet and tribute to emeritus professor Cyrus Sutherland. The Pryor Center issued a press release in January and held a "roll-out" event at the Clinton School of Public Service in Little Rock to celebrate the completion of Phase 1 of the Clinton History Project.

In April Special Collections sponsored a reception to welcome Kris Katrosh, the Center's first full-time director. The reception occurred in conjunction with the first meet-

ing of the Pryor Center's advisory board and the university's Towers of Old Main event. Tom W. Dillard and Tim Nutt from Special Collections were instrumental in program planning and made presentations for Arkansas Statehood Day, a June event sponsored by the Washington County Historical Society.

One of the department's most successful outreach efforts was the production of an educational poster series. The first in the series, five posters on Amazing African American Leaders of Arkansas, was released in February during Black History month. In March five posters on Amazing Women Leaders of Arkansas were released during Women's History Month. Posters

(REPORT continued on page 14)



Please join us
for a birthday celebration
**40th Anniversary/
Archives Month
Programs**

**Saturday,
October 20, 2007**

- **Preserving Your Family History**
- **Doing Oral History**
- **Workshops Beginning at 9:00 AM**
- **Fayetteville Public Library**

**Thursday,
October 25, 2007**

- **Special Collections Open House & Program**
- **Celebrating 40 Years of Preserving Arkansas History**
- **3:00-5:00 PM**
- **Special Collections Department, Room 130, Mullins Library, University of Arkansas Libraries**

Free of Charge
No Registration Required
Call 479-575-5577
for information

Celebrating a Busy Year . . . Annual Report, 2006-2007

The Special Collections Department had a busy and exciting year. The department broadened its public profile with a record number of programming and outreach activities. The manuscripts unit made considerable progress in reducing the backlog of unprocessed manuscript collections. New staff members were hired, and numerous researchers were served. The Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History acquired its first full-time director; convened an advisory board; and embarked on its expanded mission of capturing selected interviews in digital audio/video format.

Manuscripts Unit

Fifty-one manuscript collections were added to our collections, including the papers of long-time University history professor Thomas C. Kennedy and the papers of James J. Johnston, a Searcy County historian and genealogist. Johnston's papers include important and rare information on his home county. In addition to the manuscript collections, a total of 1,900 books were added to the Arkansas and Rare Book collections.

The number of manuscript collections processed totaled 35, an increase of more than 300 percent over the previous year. Processing of manuscripts is vital to the department's operations. It involves organizing materials and creating finding aids, enabling our researchers to find what they need. The Manuscripts Unit was fortunate to have the services of four Honors College

interns, working on various manuscript projects.

Research Services Unit

Research services assisted 2,263 researchers and conducted instructional sessions and follow-up consultations for 14 university classes. Forty-three percent of our researchers were students, faculty, staff, and alumni of the university; fifteen percent were affiliated with other universities and colleges; fourteen percent were from businesses, media, government agencies, libraries or museums; and the general public comprised twenty-eight percent.

Special Collections materials were cited in 13 books, 4 theses, 11 papers, 2 book chapters, 46 journal/periodical articles, 79 web sites, and 16 film, television or radio broadcasts. There has been a continuing increase in the number of researchers served via e-mail and postal mail, which accounted for over 36 percent of those served. Much of this is due to researchers contacting us after consulting the departmental web pages.

Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History

Kris Katrosh became the Center's first full-time director on January 16, 2007. Katrosh immediately upgraded the facilities and equipment, organized the work flow, established a marketing and public relations program, and formed an advisory board. The inaugural advisory

(REPORT continued on page 13)

News from the Manuscripts Unit



Margaret Ross with J.N. Heiskell, long-time editor of the *Arkansas Gazette*, ca. 1960

Margaret Smith Ross Papers.

Processing is now complete on the Margaret Smith Ross Papers, acquired in 2004. Ross was a journalist, historian and an avid collector of Arkansiana. The collection includes her personal papers, historical and genealogical materials, and court records dating from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Her personal papers include correspondence, published "Chronicles of Arkansas" and "Grass Roots" articles, and drafts of writings. Historical materials include items related to Arkansas during its territorial and early statehood period, Civil War and Reconstruction, and the late nineteenth century.

The history of the *Arkansas Gazette* is highlighted through nineteenth century court documents and papers produced during Ross's career as the *Gazette's* librarian. Also included is significant correspondence of Walter Lemke as well as photographs made by him. This large collection was processed by Todd E. Lewis, Krista Jones, Jim Kelton and Gentry Collier. De-

tailed information is available on our web site at libinfo.uark.edu; click on Manuscript Collections, Finding Aids and Descriptions.

Jerry Russell Collection. Special Collections is in the process of acquiring the papers of Jerry Russell of Little Rock. This large collection documents Russell's career in political consulting and his interest in the Civil War and the preservation of Civil War battlefields. The Jerry Russell Collection is not yet open for research.

New Processing Staff. The Manuscripts Unit is fortunate to have the services of six Honors College interns: Cody Hackett, Matt Lammers, John Terry, Olivia Meeks, Alex Gough, and Darby Gieringer; plus three student assistants: Zach Mosley, Nick Cannella, and Phillip Stephens.

By Timothy G. Nutt, Manuscripts and Rare Books Librarian.

News from Research Services: Anne Prichard Retires

Researchers in the Special Collections Department have been greeted by Anne Prichard's welcoming smiles since September of 2001. Anne retired July 31 as Reading Room Supervisor, and we will all miss her gracious, enthusiastic research assistance.

Before coming to Special Collections, Anne was with the Fayetteville Public Library, the Robert A. and Vivian Young Law Library at the University of Arkansas, and the Ottawa (Ontario) Public Library. She received her master's degree in library science from the University of California, Berkeley, after attending the



Anne Prichard

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University and receiving her bachelor's degree in European Civilization and Fine Arts from Mills College in Oakland, California.

Anne will continue her participation in community service organizations, including the Friends

(NEWS continued on page 6)

(NEWS continued from page 5)

of the Fayetteville Public Library; the OMNI Center for Peace, Justice, and Ecology; the Washington County Historical Society; the League of Women Voters of Washington County; and Marion Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

By Andrea Cantrell, Head of Research Services.

Architecture Group Visits Special Collections

The Friends of Kebyar, an international network of architects, artists and others devoted to organic architecture, recently paid a visit to Special Collections to see the Fay Jones collection. The first job Fay Jones had after completing his

master's degree in architecture was a faculty position at the University of Oklahoma, where he was influenced by the iconoclastic head of Oklahoma's architecture program, Bruce Goff. Jones would later say that next to Frank Lloyd Wright, Goff was his most important mentor. Goff taught and practiced architecture that defied stylistic labels but was rooted in the movement generally called "organic architecture."

Near the end of his life, Goff was planning a school of creative arts and architecture that would be named "Kebyar," the Balinese word for "flowering." The school never developed, but an international group of architects formed to advance "creative organic architecture."

They named themselves the "Friends of Kebyar." Today with some 300 members, they publish a newsletter and hold gatherings. From June 8-10, 2007 they visited the UA School of Architecture,

the Fay Jones collection in Special Collections, and Jones buildings in our area. Fay Jones was a lifetime beloved member of the Friends of Kebyar, and the 2007 meeting was a successful, happy time.

The group of 40 attendees spent time in Special Collections, examining and discussing material in the Fay Jones collection. Ellen Compton presented a history of the collection, and Callie Williams described management of the Fay Jones web page.

The attendees praised the collection's depth and level of preservation. They admired the working models of Thorncrown Chapel, Pinecote Pavilion, and the Cooper Chapel as well as Jones's early original project drawings, works of art in themselves. The University Libraries have a valuable cultural resource in the Fay Jones collection, and the Friends of Kebyar have been among the most appreciative and interested of our visitors.



Ellen Compton talks with a member of the Friends of Kebyar.

(STAFF continued from page 10)



Scott Lunsford

Scott began full-time work for the University at the Center for Continuing Education. After 15 years there as an Associate Producer, he moved to University Relations to work for University Advancement and the Campaign for the Twenty-first Century. He produced events and campaign videos, the nationally released University of Arkansas public service announcements, and many other high-profile events and videos, such as the Distinguished Lecture Series, the Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium dedication, the Towers of Old Main dinners, and the Fulbright Peace Fountain Dedication.

Scott left University Relations to help establish the David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History in the Library in 2005 as Associate Director. He and his wife Claudette have three children: Ted, a graduate of Lehigh University, Andy, a graduate of Washington and Lee University and the University of Arkansas School of Law (both of whom work in Washington D.C. for Contract Solutions), and a daughter, Elise, currently a junior at the UA majoring in French and psychology.

Ellen Compton, Architectural Archivist. Having worked in Special Collections for 27 years, Ellen is our "go-to" person for questions dealing with the history of the department and the university. She has worn many different hats, such as manuscripts processor, reading room supervisor, development officer, field archivist and currently, the archivist responsible for the papers of architect Fay Jones.

A native Arkansan, Ellen grew up in Bentonville and earned her M.A. in history from the University of Arkansas in 1963. She has training in Arkansas folklore from Arkansas College and the Ozark Folk Center plus certification in archives administration from the National Archives. Ellen taught history at the UA for 13 years before coming to Special Collections.

Ellen has been a member of the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission; past president of the Arkansas Historical Association; member of the Washington County Historical Association and past editor of its *Flashback* journal; board member of the Arkansas Women's History Institute; and the archival chair for the Ozark Society. She is currently president of the Oversight Board of the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. She has written for the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, *Arkansas Libraries*, and the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Ellen enjoys giving presentations on Arkansas history and literature to various groups, including schools and clubs.

Ellen has two sons, David Shipley and Neil Shipley. David and his wife Jamie live in Little Rock, where David works for Security Bank. Neil and his wife Sally live in Fayetteville with their two children, Sarah Anne and Harrison, who attend Root Elementary School. David is a partner in Doxa, a Fayetteville-based graphics design company.



Ellen Compton

The Pryor Center advisory board includes Carole Adornetto, Diane Alderson, Paul Austin, Paul Berry, Carmen Coustaut, Willard B. Gatewood, David Gearhart, Kaneaster Hodges, Jr., Suzanne McCray, Ark Monroe III, Marilyn Porter, Charles R. Robinson, Steve Ronnel, Archie R. Schaffer III (Chair), Dennis Schick, James Baxter Sharp III, Todd Shields, and Parker Westbrook. In addition to Katrosh, the center's staff includes Scott Lunsford, associate director, Trey Marley, associate producer, Lynn Hodges, assistant director, and James Defibaugh, oral history coordinator. Additional information is available on the center's web site, <http://libinfo.uark.edu/SpecialCollections/pryorcenter/>.

Staff Highlights

Any modern research facility is only as good as its staff, and the Special Collections Department is blessed with good employees. Each issue will highlight a few staff members. This issue features Felicia Thomas, Scott Lunsford, and Ellen Compton.



Felicia Thomas

Felicia Thomas, John Paul Hammerschmidt Papers archivist. Felicia Thomas grew up in Arkansas, splitting her time between Springdale (Washington County) and Possum Trot (Newton County). She graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Arkansas in 2003 with a B.A. in History, German and European Studies. An Elizabeth W. Fulbright Study Abroad Grant afforded her the opportunity to attend classes and conduct undergraduate thesis research in Graz, Austria.

Felicia's employment with the University Libraries began in 2003 with a position in the circulation department. In 2005 she was hired to work in Special Collections as the Congressman Asa Hutchinson Papers Archivist. After wrapping up the Hutchinson project in August 2006, she became the archivist for the Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt Papers.

Felicia manages a team of two full-time employees, Case Miner and Danielle Hansen, and two part-time Honors College Interns, Alexandria Gough and Olivia Meeks, to process the largest manuscript collection in Special Collections. The Hammerschmidt collection consists of 1600 cubic feet of Congressional papers from Hammerschmidt's thirteen terms in Congress. Felicia wrote articles on both Hutchinson and Hammerschmidt for the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*.

Felicia recently arranged for the donation of the papers of her maternal grandparents, Marjorie Kiddoo and Vernie Lee Bartlett, to Special Collections. Vernie Bartlett was a rural minister in central and southern Arkansas for forty years; Felicia plans to process these papers in her spare time.

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Scott Lunsford, Associate Director, Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History. A native of Fayetteville, Scott attended Washington Elementary, Woodland Jr. High and Fayetteville High. He earned a bachelor's degree in art from the University of Arkansas, with emphasis in sculpture and art history. Scott played football all through the public schools and formed a rock band in junior high school, playing into his college years. With his younger brother, he established Sequoyah Recording, a multi-track audio recording studio. They recorded many bands including Ronnie Hawkins' album "The Hawk," on location at a farm outside Bentonville.

(STAFF continued on page 11)

Pryor Center Expands Mission, Goes "High-Def"

The David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History strives to put a human face and voice on Arkansas history. At the center's inaugural advisory board meeting in April of this year director Kris Katrosh stated "the mission of the Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History 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.

Oral history transcripts are currently available on the Pryor Center web site, including projects on the *Arkansas Democrat*, *Arkansas Gazette*, Arkansas Governors, Arkansas Memories, and William Jefferson Clinton. The center will continue to conduct traditional oral history interviews with selected subjects, transcribe the interviews, and post the text on the center's web site. However, greater emphasis will be placed on conducting interviews in high-definition digital audio and video formats, which will facilitate a wide variety of distribution methods, including video and audio web streaming for research and classroom use. Producing the interviews in a 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



Kris Katrosh, director of the Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History



academic community. Shifting the center's emphasis to digital video requires a substantial outlay for equipment, and this process is already underway. The upgrades to date include camera, lighting, and audio production equipment, as well as post-production editing equipment and expansion of the server system.

The next phase of development will focus on outreach. The Pryor Center will establish partnerships with school and community groups by providing high-quality digital au-

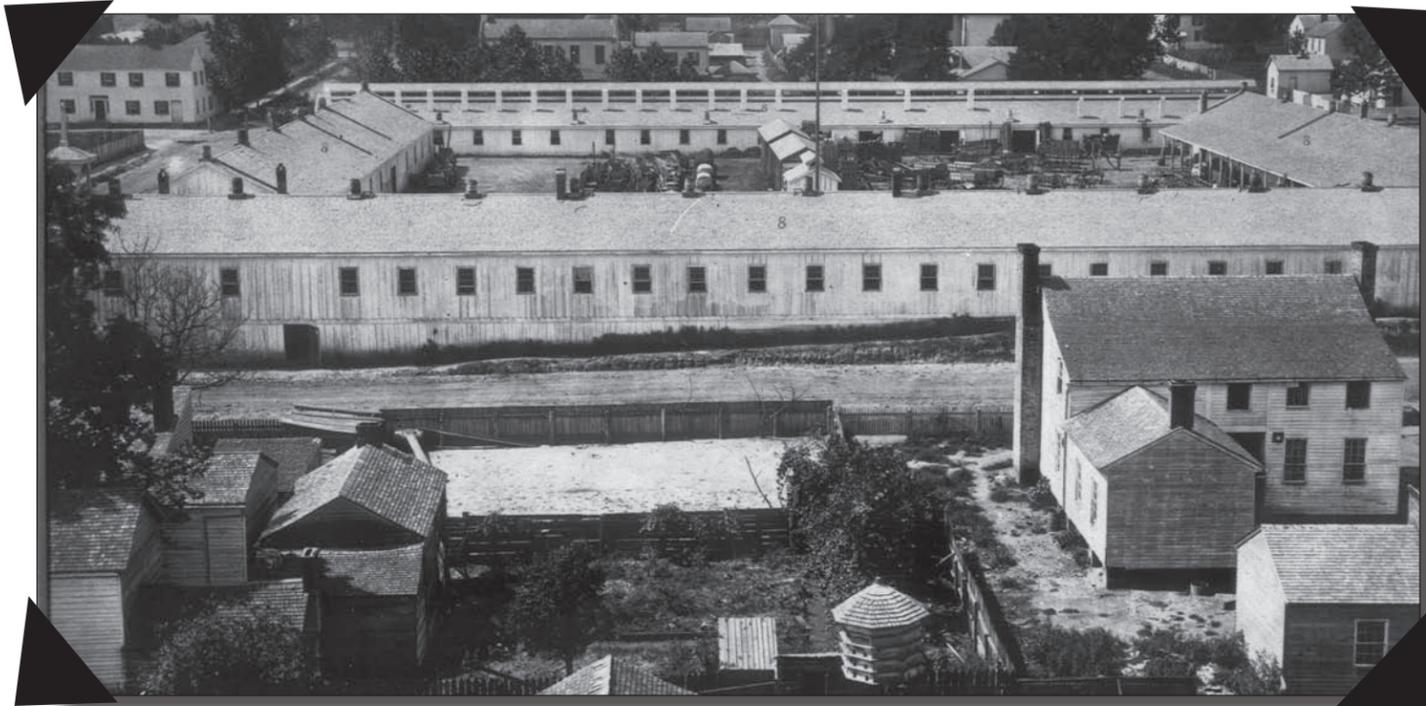
dio equipment, as well as the training necessary to use the equipment and conduct oral histories. This will enable these groups to conduct their own oral histories, which will ultimately be deposited with the Pryor Center. Such outreach projects provide a fun way for the public to engage in collecting and connecting with history. 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.

In addition to producing oral and visual histories, the Pryor Center will collect irreplaceable films, video tapes and audio tapes from sources across the state, transfer them to electronic files, and provide permanent archival storage for them. The files will one day be available for downloading on the Pryor Center web site. The center aims to become one of the largest repositories of state-focused historical footage in the United States.

The Pryor Center seeks nominations of interviewees who can provide first-person accounts of Arkansas history. Nomination forms are available on the center's web site (libinfo.uark.edu/specialcollections/pryorcenter/). Fundraising is critical to the long-term sustainability of 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" mobile history laboratory. Donors may also endow a single interview or an entire community's history.

(PRYOR continued on page 10)

Images from the Margaret Ross Collection



Civil War scene: U.S. Mechanics Square, repair shops, Little Rock, block bounded by 2nd, 3rd, Cumberland, and Rock Street, ca. 1864.



Mr. Speiser delivering ice for Little Rock Brewing and Ice Company, ca. 1900.



Arkansas State Senate, 1883