Honors College Interns Bring Energy to Special Collections

The Special Collections Department has been extremely fortunate to have the services of six Honors College interns this past school year. Students from all majors who meet its eligibility requirements are invited to join the Honors College, thus becoming eligible for enhanced opportunities for scholarship support, research, interaction with faculty and study abroad. “The Honors College interns have had a profound impact on the Special Collections Department. They bring enthusiasm, intelligence, a desire to do things well, and a unique perspective in terms of addressing problems and needs. I hope the Department has, in turn, provided beneficial experiences for the interns,” says Tom W. Dillard, Special Collections Department Head.

ALEX GOUGH works as a manuscripts processor with the John Paul Hammerschmidt Project. A junior majoring in history with a minor in art history and French, Alex hopes to teach American history at the college level one day, focusing on the American West and U.S./Native American relations. Alex enrolled at the University at the tender age of 16 and is the recipient of the History Department’s David W. Edwards scholarship. Of her work in Special Collections, she says, “I have learned so much more than I ever thought I would. I previously worked at Barnes & Noble, but working in an academic environment is a lot more satisfying.” An Arkansas resident for four years, Alex grew up in Ozark, Missouri. She enjoys sewing, quilting, listening to the radio and playing violin in the Civic Symphony of Benton County. Alex says she is a fan of “anything vintage.” She especially enjoys “keeping history alive through the lost art of quilting.”

Are you Arkansas-literate?

1.) The first capital of Arkansas Territory was: Camden, Hot Springs, Washington, Arkansas Post
2.) Which of the following is not one of the six natural divisions of Arkansas: Ozark Plateau, Ouachita Mountains, Piney Woods, Crowley’s Ridge, Mississippi Alluvial Plain
3.) Arkansas became a state in: 1819, 1836, 1843, 1849, none of these
4.) The first Arkansan to be selected Miss America was: Elizabeth Ward Gracen, Betty Houlon, Janine Perry, Donna Assum
5.) Only four Arkansas governors have served more than two terms. Which of the following was not one of them: Francis Cherry, Orval Faubus, Bill Clinton, Mike Huckabee
6.) The Ozark Folk Center is located at: Mountain Home, Mountain Pine, Mountain View, Mount Gaylord
7.) The University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff was originally known as: Branch Normal College, Arkansas AM&N College, Corbin College, Pine Bluff College
8.) The Delta town that is home to the Arkansas Blues Festival is: Lula Village, Mariana, Ferrer City, Helena-West Helena
9.) The author of the novel True Grit is: Charles Portis, Vance Randolph, Raport Vanas, John G. Ragdale
10.) The Quapaw Indian whose tombstone described him as “Friend of the Missionaries; Rescuer of captive children.” Sarasin, Hickaton, John Ridge, John Rau

ANSWERS: 1.) Arkansas Post  2.) Piney Woods  3.) 1836  4.) Donna Axum  5.) Francis Cherry  6.) Mountain View  7.) Branch Normal College  8.) Helena-West Helena  9.) Charles Portis  10.) Sarasin
Leadership Report
From the Desk of Tom W. Dillard, Head of the Special Collections Department

Welcome to the second issue of The Arkansian. We have had a wonderful response to the introduction of this new newsletter, and I am grateful to everyone who contacted me about it. I hope you will find this issue to be rewarding reading.

I am a bit pensive as I write this report because the end of the spring semester is here and that means we will be losing many of our student employees and interns. Like libraries in general, special collections departments could not survive without the assistance provided by student employees.

Student archivists process a large number of our smaller collections. In the past few months, our student employees have processed collections ranging from the papers of novelist Douglas Jones to the records of the northwest Arkansas branch of the National League of American Pen Women to the papers of El Dorado oil magnate T.H. Barton.

Zach Moseley, a senior from Little Rock, has worked steadily to help us document and more properly store our art collection. Every piece of art in the collection has been carefully documented, fitted with proper hanging wires, and hung in our climate-controlled off-site storage facility.

One of the wonderful aspects of my work is getting to associate with student researchers. Every day of the week we have a variety of students using Special Collections research materials. Many of the students are undergraduates, young historians who are for the first time doing research using primary sources.

Primary sources are all those “eye-witness accounts” that we collect—manuscripts, oral histories, photographs, rare books, government documents, periodicals, and much, much more. It is a wonderful experience to see the expression on the face of a young student doing research for the first time when he or she is delivered a box brimming with original letters and documents. We assist a first-semester freshman just as we do a seasoned historian or any other researcher.

We have had a wedding among our staff. Cheri Pearce, a 10-year veteran as departmental secretary, has gotten married and moved to central Arkansas. The lucky husband is John Riggs, an archeologist. We are in the final phase of hiring a replacement—which is not an easy task for this position is far short of being an easy one.

The Special Collections Department is largely due to the generosity of Dr. Robert L. Morris and his sister Elizabeth Morris Walker, benefactors who worked in the library as student workers in the 1920s and 1930s. Natives of Indiana, Walker and Morris attended high school in Fort Smith, continuing their education at the University of Arkansas. They endowed funds at the University of Arkansas Foundation to support the work of Special Collections, and in 1995 the university named the Special Collections reading room the “Robert L. Morris and Elizabeth M. Walker Reading Room.”

At the time Morris worked in the library in the 1920s, it was located on the first floor of University Hall (Old Main). After receiving his B.A. in English from the University of Arkansas, Morris went on to earn an M.A. from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. Morris taught literary criticism and pioneered courses in creative writing and folklore at the University of Arkansas, where he was a faculty member in the English Department from 1931 until his retirement in 1969. A writer of plays, poetry, periodical articles, and book reviews, he also penned the 1965 biography Otis Read: American Humorist. Read published the humorous Arkansas Traveler periodical, wrote fiction about the South, and was city editor of the Arkansas Gazette in the 1870s.

Walker majored in music and voice at the University of Arkansas. In the 1930s when she worked in the library, it was located in Vol Walker Hall. Walker worked as an accountant for Fayetteville High School for twenty-one years before retiring in 1986. She served on the Ozarks Regional Library Board for nearly twenty-five years and volunteered at the Fayetteville City Hospital for forty years.

Morris and Walker were fans of the theater, making frequent trips to New York to attend Broadway performances. Morris wrote plays which were produced at the University Theater, including “Giants from the South,” a play based on the life of Thomas Wolfe, and “The Story in Song,” a 1972 production commemorating the history of the University.

Tom W. Dillard, head of the Special Collections Department, observed, “Mrs. Walker and Dr. Morris, by their generous gift, have made it possible for the Special Collections Department to excel. Without the foresight of Mrs. Walker and Dr. Morris, the preservation of Arkansas history would have suffered badly. These people are special to all of us in this Department.”
In recent months the Pryor Center conducted visual history interviews with Donna Axum Whitworth, former Miss America; Frank Broyles, retired University Athletic Director; former Senator David Pryor and his wife Barbara; Charles Scharlau, University Trustee and President and CEO of Southwest Energy Co.; Harry P. Ward, Chancellor Emeritus of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; and Dale Hawkins, singer, songwriter and rock musician. Transcriptions of these interviews will be available on the Pryor Center Web site later this year.

In November the center formed a partnership with the South Arkansas Historical Foundation (SAHF) and conducted interviews with local historians from El Dorado. Pryor Center Advisory Board member Diane Alderson was instrumental in bringing the two groups together. Pryor Center Director Kris Katrosh and his staff made presentations at an SAHF fundraising event on November 13, 2007, which featured Senator David Pryor as the guest speaker. Pryor Center Director Kris Katrosh and his staff made presentations at an SAHF fundraising event on November 13, 2007, which featured Senator David Pryor as the guest speaker. The Pryor Center recently upgraded its facility to include 4 new high-definition edit workstations, an HD projection system, and a very large (28 terabyte) digital storage system, capable of holding up to 2,500 hours of HD video material. In January the center began a test phase of posting video interviews on the library’s Web site. Plans call for a selection of video clips and audio recordings to be available to the public by the end of 2008. Eventually hundreds of interviews will be available as transcripts and audio files. Each video interview will also feature video clip highlights. “You will soon be able to read an interviewee’s transcript, hear their voices, and view portions of each interview and event on our Web site,” Katrosh said.

The Special Collections Department recently obtained a 1960 film produced to promote Little Rock and to counter the negative publicity following the 1957 Central High School integration crisis. The film, Take A Giant Step, was donated by Mrs. Billye Stockton, who created it in collaboration with Irving Skipper of Videotone, Inc., Jason Rouby, director of Urban Progress for the City of Little Rock, and John Pounders, program director for Channel 11, the CBS Affiliate in Little Rock.

The idea for Take a Giant Step originated when Stockton and Nell Ritchie, officers in the Greater Little Rock Council of Garden Clubs, took advantage of a program sponsored by the Sears-Roebuck Foundation offering funds for local clubs to encourage citizen participation in community beautification. The foundation encouraged them to do something more ambitious than “little planting projects.” Stockton appointed chairmen to organize contests in city schools, churches, businesses and homes, involving a variety of community improvement and beautification projects. She then scripted and directed a twenty-minute film on the results of this project and others involving community development and urban progress.

Used to promote the city, Take A Giant Step is a valuable record of Little Rock as it recovered from the Central High integration crisis. The University Libraries hosted a screening of the film in Little Rock on November 13, 2007, which was attended by about 150 people including Stockton and her three sons.
We recently welcomed Geoffrey Stark as the new supervisor of the Special Collections Reading Room. Geoffrey grew up in Little Rock and later moved to Fayetteville to attend graduate school. His interests are movies, books, politics, and sports.

Currently writing his dissertation for a doctoral degree in the area of late antiquity, Geoffrey received his Master’s Degree in History. In spite of his affinity for classical studies and with more than four years of experience working in the department, Geoffrey has developed a wide ranging knowledge of and interest in Arkansas history. He has authored entries for the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture about state legislator William Lee Cosart and William F. Kirby, state senator and Arkansas Supreme Court Judge. Before assuming the duties of his current position, Geoffrey previously worked in the department as a Reading Room Assistant. He has also worked as an intern for the Washington County Historical Society, as a graduate teaching assistant at the University of Arkansas, and as an assistant with the University Museum.
Dillard Honored for Work in Arkansas Black History

Arkansas historian and Special Collections Department Head Tom W. Dillard received a 2008 “Salute to Greatness” Community Award from the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission on January 18 in Little Rock. Dillard was selected for the award due to his pioneering work in documenting the history and role of African Americans in Arkansas. Among his early work was the first documented biography of Scipio A. Jones, a renowned black Arkansas lawyer, who was successful in saving the lives of twelve men unjustly convicted after the Elaine Race Massacres of 1919.

In 1976 Dillard published a detailed article on M.W. Gibbs of Little Rock, the first black municipal judge. Gibbs opened a black-owned bank in Little Rock and was the American consul to Madagascar during the presidency of William McKinley. Dillard also published extensively on a variety of other topics dealing with African American Arkansans, including political movements, black educators, and black members of the 19th century Arkansas legislature. In 1976 Dillard became a founding member of the Little Rock Branch of the American Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.

The Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission was established in 1993 to advocate the legacy and philosophy of Dr. King. Composed of legislation, state government officials, members of the general public, and high school students, the commission promotes racial harmony, understanding, respect, and goodwill among all citizens.

Each issue of The Arkansian will feature one or more of our manuscript collections. In this issue, three collections involving the Works Progress Administration are highlighted.

Three Joseph T. Robinson collections (MC MS R563, MC MS R563 Supplement 1, and MC 1193) document the professional, political, and governmental career of the former state representative, Arkansas governor, and U.S. senator. A skilled orator with a booming voice, Robinson was elected state representative in 1894 at the age of 22. In 1912 he announced he would run for the Senate but decided instead to run for governor. He won the gubernatorial election, but less than two weeks after his inauguration, Robinson was elected state representative in 1894 at the age of 22. In 1912 he announced he would run for the Senate but decided instead to run for governor. He won the gubernatorial election, but less than two weeks after his inauguration, Robinson was elected state representative in 1894 at the age of 22. In 1912 he announced he would run for the Senate but decided instead to run for governor. He won the gubernatorial election, but less than two weeks after his inauguration, Robinson was elected state representative in 1894 at the age of 22. In 1912 he announced he would run for the Senate but decided instead to run for governor. He won the gubernatorial election, but less than two weeks after his inauguration, Robinson was elected state representative in 1894 at the age of 22. In 1912 he announced he would run for the Senate but decided instead to run for governor. He won the gubernatorial election, but less than two weeks after his inauguration, Robinson was elected state representative in 1894 at the age of 22. In 1912 he announced he would run for the Senate but decided instead to run for governor. He won the gubernatorial election, but less than two weeks after his inauguration, Robinson was elected state representative in 1894 at the age of 22.

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conference of the Arkansas Historical Association. I was so proud to see us represented by Diane Worrell, Andrea Cantrell, Ellen Compton, and Tim Nutt—who also served as program chairman for the conference. The department’s Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral & Visual History continues its amazing journey toward Arkansas’s first WPA administration. 

The United States Works Projects Administration, Arkansas Administration (MS Un3) pertains to selected activities of the WPA office in Little Rock. Containing correspondence, reports, minutes of meetings, memoranda, financial records, contracts, bulletins, procedural and training manuals and scrapbooks, much of the material in this collection relates to the formation and operation of the Dyess Colony, one of the most famous resettlement colonies for impoverished farmers during the Great Depression. The Dyess “Colonization Project No. 1” was established in 1934 in Mississippi County in northeast Arkansas. Named after William Reynolds Dyess, a Mississippi County plantation owner and Arkansas’s first WPA administrator, the Dyess Colony was laid out in a wagon-wheel design, with a community center at the hub and farms radiating out from the middle. The government selected white families with farming backgrounds from the relief rolls, each of which received a subsistence advance to purchase twenty acres, a new five-room house, a mule, a cow, groceries and supplies. Families cleared the land and farmed their acreage.

The town operated as a cooperative in which families would receive a share of any profits from the crops and other businesses. A scrip called “doodlum” served as currency, and the town center eventually grew to include a bank, beauty salon and barber shop, blacksmith, café, candy store, cotton gin, feed mill, furniture factory, harness shop, hospital, ice house, library, theater, newspaper, post office, printing shop, service station and garage, sorgum mill, and school. After repaying the advance, farmers would receive a deed to their house and land. At its peak, the colony had 2,500 residents. Dyess was immortalized by the song “Five Feet High and

(LEADERSHIP continued from page 2)
Rising)” about the evacuation of Dyess during the flood of 1937, written by Johnny Cash, who spent his childhood there. In 1964 Dyess incorporated as a municipality; its population is 515 in the year 2000.

The Arkansas Historical Records Survey (MS 1662) of the WPA inventoried federal, state, county, municipal, and church archives as well as historical manuscripts, historical imprints, newspaper files, and other records in the state’s courthouses, city halls, governmental offices, libraries, newspaper offices, churches, and other repositories, 1935-1942. Of particular interest are the two hundred thirty-three Early Settler Personal History Questionnaires resulting from WPA interviews with senior citizens. Background information and transcripts of seventeen of these interviews are available on the Special Collections home page at http://libinfo.uark.edu/SpecialCollections/wpa/.

(W.P.A. continued from page 5)

(HONORS INTERNS continued from page 4)

a perspective he had not considered or learning of actions that are rarely discussed. Matt’s father is a psychology professor at the University of Central Arkansas, and his mother is a bookkeeper and secretary. He has a younger sister attending Conway High School and a younger brother who attends UA but is currently studying abroad in Australia.

OLIVIA MEEKS works as a manuscripts processor with the John Paul Hammerschmidt processing project. Originally from Hot Springs, she is a senior studying economics and political science. Describing her main hobby as “activism,” she is currently the president of the OMNI UA Center for Peace, Justice and Ecology; vice-president of communications for the Young Democrats; and assistant music director and DJ with KXUA, the student-run radio station at UA. Olivia is an Honors College Fellow and the recipient of a Governor’s Distinguished Scholarship, a National Merit Scholarship and a Truman Scholarship. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a master’s degree in public policy from either Georgetown University or the University of California Berkeley and a career in either labor economics or education policy. Her work with the John Paul Hammerschmidt project has been especially valuable to her, since she hopes to work in government. “My work with the John Paul Hammerschmidt papers has provided me with a priceless insider’s look into the world of American government...” —Olivia Meeks

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OLIVIA MEEKS

JOHN TERRY, a senior majoring in history and classical studies, works as a processor in the Rare Books and Manuscripts Unit. He is a Sturgis Fellow, co-founder of the Arkansas chapter of the Student Taking Action Now (STAND) Students Taking Action Now: Darfur, and a member of the University of Arkansas Master Chorale community choir. Growing up in Fort Smith, John played piano and trumpet. His current hobbies are reading novels, running, hiking, kayaking and knitting. John hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in medieval history and is currently writing his honors thesis on early medieval England. He has been accepted to Cambridge University for a master’s course. John appreciates his work in Special Collections because he feels it is important to stay firmly grounded in the history of his home state. John reflects that, “The University of Arkansas and the Honors College have afforded me unparalleled opportunities. The relationships I have enjoyed with the students, faculty and administration have been wholly positive, and I remain ever grateful for the education and experience I have received here.” John got a SURF (State Undergraduate Research Fellowship) to help with his thesis.

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JOHN TERRY

TIMOTHY G. NUTT, Manuscripts and Rare Books Librarian, oversees development of the manuscript collections and the Arkansas book collection, a job which includes the management of both collecting and processing. The scope of Tim’s position is broad; he supervises 16 employees. Tim was employed by the Central Arkansas Library System (CALS) from 1993 until 2005, most recently as Deputy Curator of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies. While at CALS, he served as Managing Editor and Staff Historian for the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture. He is currently Special Projects Editor for the Encyclopedia.

Tim earned his B.A. in History from the University of Central Arkansas and his Master of Library and Information Science Degree from the University of Oklahoma. He is past editor of the Arkansas Historical Association Newsletter and the Pulaski County Historical Review and current editor of The Flashback, the journal of the Washington County Historical Society. A native of Bigelow, Arkansas, where his parents still reside, Tim is a huge fan of train travel, state and local history, and collecting all things Arkansas.

ANDREA CANTRELL, Research Services Head, grew up in Springfield, Missouri, although she spent a lot of time on her grandmother’s farm near Omaha, Arkansas. Before coming to Special Collections in 1985, Andrea was director of the library division at the Oklahoma Historical Society. Previously, she was director of the Joplin, Missouri, Public Library and head of consultant services at the Washington State Library in Olympia, Washington. After two years at Drury College (now Drury University), Andrea graduated from American University in Washington, D.C. She earned her Master of Library Science Degree from the University of Maryland, College Park. She has held offices in the American Library Association, the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies, the Arkansas Library Association, and the Missouri Library Association. She is a life member of the Arkansas Historical Association.

Andrea enjoys the puzzle-solving aspects of helping researchers find sources and answers, an enthusiasm she shares with the two full-time employees and two half-time employees who make up her team in the department’s reading room. Speaking to classes of students and visiting groups gives her additional opportunities to bring about our wonderful collections and to connect researchers with resources, she says. Andrea is married to University of Arkansas Reference Librarian Steve Chism who was born in Galveston, Texas, but is otherwise a Fayetteville native.

TIMOTHY G. NUTT

Andrea Cantrell

Staff Profiles

IN APPRECIATION

This newsletter and other operational funding for the Special Collections Department is provided through the generosity of the late Elizabeth Morris Walker and Robert Morris.
extensive farming and business enterprises. This reprint makes available again the story of an extraordinary man who was widely respected for his integrity, prodigious energy, and strong work ethic.

Scott Bond was also the subject of one of the department's posters in the series "Amazing African-American Leaders of Arkansas.

With this 2008 reprint edition, the current generation can be inspired by the man who has been referred to as the black John D. Rockefeller of Arkansas.

Willard B. Gatewood is Alumni Distinguished Professor of History emeritus at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, and the author or coauthor of eleven other books, including Aristocrats of Color (University of Arkansas Press, 2000).

For more information or to purchase a copy, please visit the University of Arkansas Press at www.uapress.com or by calling 1-800-626-0090.

In Memoriam

During the second week of April, two pioneering professors and founding members of the University of Arkansas architecture program died within 24 hours of each other.

Herbert K. Fowler and John G. Williams donated their papers to the University Libraries and were special friends of the Special Collections Department. The Department extends its condolences to the families of these two esteemed architects and educators.

Two Sources of Preservation Supplies:
Light Impressions
P.O. Box 787
Brea, CA 92822
800-826-6216
www.lightimpressionsdirect.com

Metal Edge
6340 Bandini Boulevard
Commerce, CA 90040
800-862-2228
metaledgeinc.com

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1717 K Street, N.W. Suite 200
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 452-9545
aic.stanford.edu/
(Click “Public Info” then “Selecting a Conservator”)
Images of Transportation

Steam ferry for railroad cars prior to the construction of a railroad bridge at Helena, ca. 1920s, Thomas E. Tappan, Jr. Steamboat collection, MC 416, Box 1, Folder 2

Dedication of the Hot Springs Airport, 1946, from the Mary D. Hudgins Collection, MC 534, Box 99, #291

Locomotive, Springtown, Benton County, ca 1905, William S. Campbell Collection, MC 1427, Box 8, #4

Allen Roane, drayman, Hot Springs, ca. 1900, Mary D. Hudgins collection, MC 534, Box 100, #643.

Ledwidge Ambulance, Hot Springs, ca. 1920, Mary D. Hudgins collection, MC 534, Box 99, #368

Ostrich-powered buggies available for rent in Hot Springs, ca. 1900, photo by McLeod of Happy Hollow, Edsworth Family Papers, MC 1162, Box 13, Folder 3