

# Sequoyah National Research Center

## Newsletter

Fall 2016

### Native American Heritage Month

The first Native American Heritage Month proclamation was given by President George H.W. Bush in 1990. Every year since 1994, a similar proclamation has been issued. 2016 is no different with President Barack Obama’s proclamation to “celebrate the traditions, languages, and stories of Native Americans and ensure their rich histories and contributions can thrive with each passing generation.”

Each November, the Sequoyah National Research Center is called upon to provide services to the community and speak to different groups. This year, Archivist Erin Fehr is speaking at the Arkansas National Guard Museum’s History Roundtable on “Pomp & Circumstance: Native Americans as Military Musicians” on November 18 at Camp Robinson. In the past, Dr. Littlefield has been asked to speak for the Veterans Affairs in North Little Rock.

Additionally, the Center has two displays on campus. The first is in the Center and focuses on the stereotypes of Native Americans in advertising in the “Selling Indians: Native American Stereotypes in the Hirschfelder-Molin Stereotypes Collection” display. The small exhibit shows examples of stereotyping in five areas: food, alcohol, tobacco, transportation, and technology. The second display is in the foyer of Ottenheimer Library on Alaska Natives. The display introduces the eleven cultures represented in Alaska and provides examples of resources available in SNRC to learn more. While the population of Alaska Natives in Arkansas is small, it is growing.

## Alaska Natives outside of Alaska

Alaska Natives live all around the world. The twelve land-based regional corporations have business subsidiaries in the lower 48 and throughout the world.

At least 234 shareholders from ten Alaska Native regional corporations live in the state of Arkansas.

Aleut	8
Bering Straits	14
Bristol Bay	2
Calista	13
Chugach	18
CIRI	35
Doyon	76
Koniag	5
NANA	16
Sealaska	47
Total in Arkansas	234



# Update on Jeanie Greene Project

In the Spring 2016 issue of the SNRC newsletter, we announced the award of a \$24,000 grant from the Arkansas Natural and Culture Resources Council for the digitization of the Jeanie Greene Collection of 1263 Beta and U-matic tapes. We are pleased to announce that the digitization of the tapes has been completed by Preservation Technologies, and we are in receipt of the digital videos.

The process of readying the tapes for transport, while not difficult, proved to be a time-consuming task. Preservation Technologies shipped three pallets of 72 plastic totes to SNRC in order to pack the video tapes for shipment. We received the pallets in August and began the task of packing them. We had to insure that the tapes would arrive intact, so we carefully packed the tapes with foam for cushion.

The pallets with full totes were then shipped to the digitization lab in Pennsylvania on September 26th, and the first hard drives with digitized videos arrived at SNRC on October 21st.

Since being able to view the videos for the first time, we are struck by what a valuable resource these videos are for Alaska Native people and anyone interested in Alaska Natives. The videos capture elders discussing subsistence hunting and fishing, traditional arts and culture, and topics that impact their daily lives. The stories told preserve the history of the villages and the people who live there. Alaska Native perspectives on important issues such as the relocation of Kivalina and lobbying for a bridge at Aleknagik are recorded. Past celebrations like the Alaska Federation of Natives, Mekoryuk Reindeer Festival, and Golovin Fourth of July can also be found in this film archive. This collection constitutes the largest collection of contemporary Alaska Native archival materials in the lower 48 and will be a valuable resource for Alaska Native Studies.

Beginning in January 2017, we will have public programming to screen some of these invaluable films. We will announce details closer to the beginning of the year. To find out more, visit our website and follow us on social media.



Empty plastic totes to be packed with videos.



Tote with U-matic tapes.



Packed tote with foam.

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*Our mission is to acquire and preserve the writings and ideas of Native North Americans by collecting the written word, art and other forms of expression by Native Americans and creating a research atmosphere that invites indigenous peoples to make the Sequoyah National Research Center the archival home for their creative work.*

# Garrard Ardeneum Collection Update

We are pleased to announce that the Garrard Ardeneum Collection is officially open for research! Thanks to the hard work of our former grant-funded project archivist Zack Whitaker, the collection's finding aid can now be searched through the archives catalog at [ualr.edu/sequoyah](http://ualr.edu/sequoyah).

The collection is already being used for research. This Fall, Professor Larry Smith from the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance has assigned his senior-level *Dramatic Criticism and Theory* class to analyze the plays

from the Five Civilized Tribes Museum Best Play Prize that was established by Allece and Tom Garrard in 1973.



Tom and Allece Garrard, August 1956. P-093.7046



Dramatic Criticism and Theory class hard at work in the Garrard Ardeneum Collection.

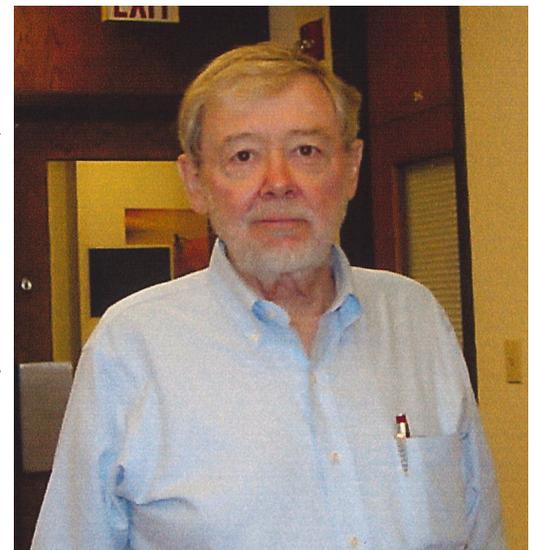
Each student is looking at a different year's entries for the prize and taking note of ways that culture is included in the plays and how Native identity is introduced and handled throughout. The Center staff has enjoyed the steady flow of student researchers looking at primary source materials and hope to see a continued interest in the collection from on-campus scholars and others.

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## James W. Parins Scholarship

Dr. James Parins co-founded SNRC in 1983 along with Dr. Daniel Littlefield. After 30 years of service and dedication to the Center, Parins passed away leaving a legacy of mentorship to UALR student interns. This coming Spring 2017, we want to honor his legacy by awarding the James W. Parins Scholarship to a UALR junior or senior student of American Indian/Alaska Native heritage, who will serve as an intern.

Native American students are statistically the most vulnerable in terms of student success with the highest dropout rates of any identifiable ethnic group. Approximately 1% of the UALR student body population is Native American, and we hope that by providing scholarship to Native American student interns we can help them feel grounded and connected to each other by giving them a sense of belonging and purpose that will increase student retention.



## Cleaning out your attic?

Are you planning to do some house cleaning to make room for presents this holiday season? If you run across old issues of tribal newspapers, keep us in mind. We are always adding to our newspaper collection through donations and realize that many times it is a choice between finding the nearest trash or donating them. We welcome all donations of tribal publications.

We are currently building our collections in areas that are weak. For instance, we are limited on our resources for New England tribes. Some tribes that we are interested in acquiring newspapers and materials on are the following:

- Abenaki
- Passamaquoddy
- Penobscot
- Pequot
- Mi'kmaq (Micmac)
- Mohegan
- Narragansett
- Nipmuck
- Wampanoag

For more information about how to donate items, please contact archivist Erin Fehr at ehfehr@ualr.edu or 501-569-8336.

## Become a Friend of the Sequoyah National Research Center

### Annual membership dues:

Individual: \$25—\$99

Sponsor: \$100—\$499

Patron: \$500—\$999

Benefactor: \$1000 or more

Make checks payable to:  
Friends of the SNRC

Mail checks to:  
Sequoyah National Research Center  
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Little Rock, AR 72204

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Hours of Operation:  
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8:00am—5:00pm

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COLLECTIONS AND ARCHIVES

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