

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

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- **SNRC received a grant from the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resource Council.**
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SNRC Newsletter

July 2011

SEQUOYAH NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER WELCOMES SUMMER INTERNS

The Sequoyah National Research Center (SNRC) welcomes three tribally affiliated student interns for the Summer Interns Program at the Center from June 1 through July 31. Interns work at least 25 hours per week in the Center doing basic archival and research work under the direction of Center staff.



Antonia Frydman is a graduate student in the Information School of the University of Texas and is processing part of the Paul DeMain Collection.



Angie Buckman is a member of the Gros Ventre tribe and is a student at Haskell Indian Nations University. She is processing the correspondence in the Littlefield Research Collection. Her home is in Elmer City, Washington.



Donovan Pete is a Navajo graduate student in library science at the University of Arizona. He is developing a resource guide to the Navajo materials in the SNRC collections.

Student interns are a vital component of the SNRC because we are able to witness a direct impact on tribal communities and affiliates through working with tribal people on tribal materials and preparing the next generation of archivists and researchers for roles in preserving tribal cultural artifacts and documents. In our second year of the internship program we expect to build upon the success of the previous year and advance toward our goal of assessing and cataloguing our expansive compilation of tribal newspapers, documents, collections, and artworks.

J. W. Wiggins Art Collection News

More art from the Collection has been publicly exhibited since the first of 2011 than ever before. Interest in the Collection continues to increase.

Exhibitions: The Central Arkansas Library's invitation to exhibit artworks at the Arkansas Studies Institute's gallery in the River Market District of Little Rock introduced a new audience to the SNRC's art presence in our community. In the main gallery "Anticipating The Future: American Indian Art" was on exhibit from February 11, 2011 until April 30, 2011. We look forward to more exhibits in their galleries.

"Influence of the Cross: The Incorporation of Christian Iconography and Symbolism in American Indian Art" in the Dr. J. W. Wiggins Native American Art Gallery was guest curated by Mr. Tony Tiger, Art Director at Bacone College, Muskogee. The Show formally opened the SNRC's 2011 Symposium. Mr. Tiger involved Bobby Martin (art faculty John Brown University, Siloam Springs, AR), Christina Burke (Curator for Native & Nonwestern Art, Philbrook Museum, Tulsa, OK), and Robert Taylor (professional artists, Claremore, OK) in selecting artwork from the SNRC's Collection. This group attended the show's opening then participated in the Symposium's program.

Another exhibit, "Native American Landscape Art," will go up in September. Plans are underway for shows in 2012 in our gallery: (1) an exhibition by artists from the Lac Courte Oreilles tribe of Woodland art from Wisconsin, (2) a one-man show of Robert Taylor's art, which is always popular in our shows, and (3) a show from the Collection of Dr. Charles Little of New York.

Grants: A major need in the Collection is conservation, and a lesser need is restoration of the art. We have received grants to begin the conservation and restoration program, which will be an ongoing project.

The Philip Jonsson Family Foundation generously provided a two thousand dollar grant to start the process in December 2010. This grant is in its final stages and will be completed in August. The Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council in May 2011 provided a grant of thirty six thousand one hundred dollars beginning July 1, 2011.

Work is in progress on this grant. We are fortunate to have both generous groups' assistance in maintaining the collections.

Presence in Indian Country: In March 2011, Dr. Wiggins attended the Heard Museum's Indian Art Market in Phoenix, AZ. An estimated six hundred Indian artists participate in the "Market." Following the Market, Dr. Wiggins went to Los Angeles, where the (Gene) Autry Museum was premiering the play *Fry Bread Queen* written by Carolyn Dunn (Cherokee, Seminole and Muscogee Creek). In June it was *Red Earth Festival* time in Oklahoma City which provided another opportunity to see and visit with artists.

Indian Market in Santa Fe, NM will be held in late August. again this year Dr. Wiggins will be a judge in the Diverse Arts Category for the art that does not fit into any of the "normal" artwork categories.

Dr. Wiggins has also agreed to judge the Diverse Arts Category at the Heard Museum's Indian Art Market in March 2012. The Indian Art Market in Santa Fe, NM and the Heard Museum's Market in Phoenix, AZ are the two most prestigious competitions for Indian artists in the country. Winning either gives the artists "bragging" rights that continue throughout their careers. Dr. Wiggins proclaims, "It is an honor to be asked to judge these shows."

Trail of Tears Park at UALR



This is a view of the Trail of Tears markers commemorating the tribes that traveled on the Southwest Trail during the removal of the Southeastern tribes to Indian Territory. The marker on the left outlines the Southwest Trail, while the one in the middle commemorates the Choctaw Nation, and the one on the far right commemorates the Chickasaw Nation. The photo was taken facing the southwest, toward Asher Avenue, the highway that runs over the former “Military Road,” the actual trail used by these two tribes as they journeyed through Arkansas on their way to Oklahoma.

The photo below is another view of the markers being read by Bob Sanderson, Associate Director of the SNRC. Both photos were taken by SNRC Director Dan Littlefield.



SNRC
Advisory Board
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Director Littlefield Building Bridges to the SNRC

Director Daniel Littlefield, Jr. has been very active in his quest to help the SNRC fulfill its archival mission through frequent visits, presentations, and meetings with people in and around Indian Country. Although we are hopeful that people will submit their archival material to the SNRC, the director has taken the “show on the road” and has been able to make significant progress toward expanding the Center’s collection holdings.

On May 28th, Director Littlefield attended the official opening of the Chickasaw Nation’s Holisso Research Center at Sulphur, Oklahoma, and engaged in book signing. He also attended the Oklahoma Chapter Trail of Tears Association meeting, Claremore, Oklahoma, on April 30; spoke at the Dedication of Trail of Tears marker, Old Austin, Arkansas, May 14; and spoke at the Society of Southwest Archivists meeting, Little Rock, May 19-20, 2011.



Peyote Dreams
— Beatien Yazz

Grant Funding Helps the SNRC Grow

The SNRC has been able to grow and achieve several goals with the help of local, national and private granting agencies that support research about indigenous peoples of the Americas. We are pleased to announce the receipt of several recent grants that contribute to our mission and growth of the Center. The Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council (ANCRC) has been one of our strongest supporters and recently awarded us with a \$36,100 grant to cover the cost of conservation and restoration of 150 works in the Dr. J.W. Wiggins Collection of Native American Art. Previous ANCRC funding has significantly impacted the SNRC by providing much needed support for the infrastructure of our current facility and ongoing conservation and preservation projects.



Maestro
— Donald Montileaux

The Sequoyah National Research Center provides its services through the University of Arkansas at Little Rock with the help of its staff of professional personnel.

Dr. Daniel F. Littlefield, Director
 Dr. James W. Parins, Associate Director
 Dr. Robert E. Sanderson, Associate Director
 Dr. J. W. Wiggins, Art Gallery Curator
 Mr. Tony Rose, Administrative Specialist
 Ms. Lamika Killingsworth, Graduate Assistant

SNRC Staff

Significant Collections Added

Director Littlefield visited with James and Sallie Frazier, caretakers of a massive collection of the Morgan family papers that cover the period 1820s to the 1960s. The Morgans were a prominent Cherokee family during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. To date, the Frazier Trust has donated the letters of Llewellyn Morgan, a nineteenth-century Cherokee basket woven from honeysuckle, a 1920 Sac and Fox beaded necklace, copies of about 2,000 documents, an impressive mass of printed matter and original letters, and other items. In the future, Center staff will document the art careers of Sallie Frazier's mother, Gunter Payne Anderson, a Cherokee basket maker, and her grandmother, Sallie Mayo Morgan Kinsey, a Cherokee painter.

Other collection donations received recently are listed as follows:

John Berry, University of California, Berkeley, CA: personal and professional papers

Tony Rose SNRC Administrative Assistant: books, music and film CD and DVD, and a CD containing Arkansas Railroad maps, 1833-1934

Mark Trahant (Shoshone-Bannock): personal papers

Worth Camp, El Dorado, AR: book on the Indian tribes of Oklahoma

Trail of Tears Association, AR: organization records

Dusty Helbling, Ozark, AR: book, *Advancing the Frontier*, by Grant Foreman 1933

Trace DeMeyer, (Cherokee) Massachusetts, personal papers and manuscripts

James and Sallie Frazier, Cushing, OK: prominent Cherokee, Morgan family papers

John Moncravie, Fayetteville, AR: archival materials related to Osage history and genealogy

Jada Aitchison, Little Rock, AR: Doyon Corporation materials

Pheobe Farris (Powhatan-Renape) Washington, D.C.: personal papers

Zabelle Stodola, Little Rock, AR: Olive Oatman captivity research notes, books

SNRC Symposia

The 10th SNRC Symposium this past April was well received by those in attendance, but future symposia have been postponed indefinitely. Past symposia have been elemental in getting the word out about the events and activities of the SNRC, and to that end they have been successful. Interest, visitations, and research activities have all increased at the Center and these have been the types of effects we were hoping for by instituting the symposia programs and presentations. Many Indigenous speakers, artists, and other presenters have served the Center and our patrons by participating in past symposia and we certainly wish to thank every one of them for their gifts of time and talent.

The Center will now give more attention to support for visiting scholars, writers, and artists but will plan symposia on occasion.

Sculpture Donated to the Center

In June 2011 a bronze sculpture by Roxanne Swentzell, *Island Flower*, was donated by June and Edmond Freeman of Little Rock, AR. Roxanne Swentzell is a clay sculptor from Santa Clara Pueblo. She is acknowledged to be one of the best, if not the best, clay figural sculptors today. She has been working in bronze for several years. Her work is highly prized and sought after. The SNRC is proud to have such a wonderful sculpture in its collection.



Island Flower
— Roxanne Swentzell



Calm Before the Storm
—Stephen Wood

Distant Thunder
—Bert Seabourn



Eubanks Oral History Project

Since March, the SNRC has been conducting the Royal Roger Eubanks oral history project in northwest Arkansas. Eubanks, a Cherokee citizen, graduated from the Cherokee Male Seminary in 1897 and became a teacher in the Cherokee Nation, working his way up to the superintendent's position at the Seminary. In 1903 he had begun drawing political cartoons for newspapers in the Cherokee Nation, and in 1905 went to Chicago, where he drew cartoons for a newspaper syndicate. He returned to the Cherokee Nation, then Oklahoma, and wrote and illustrated stories for Oklahoma magazines. He illustrated the traditional Wyandot stories published by B. N. O. Walker (Hentoh) in 1920. Shortly after that he moved to Carroll County, Arkansas, where he taught school at Berryville and at Blue Eye, Missouri, until his death in 1955.



(Photo Courtesy of the Carroll County Historical Society)

The SNRC began the oral history project to document his Arkansas years. His former students have been forthcoming with their reminiscences of their teacher, who seems to have been very well liked. The project is producing a large body of information regarding Eubanks' years in Arkansas, including writings and cartoons in regional publications. It has also resulted in the location of a large number of original artworks by Eubanks, including sketches, drawings, paintings, and cartoons. In keeping with its mission to collect information by and about Native artists, the Center will continue to locate, document, and catalogue Eubanks' work.



Seminary Students

— Virginian Stroud

Awards and Honors Bestowed on Center Personnel

Drs. Daniel F. Littlefield, Jr. and Robert E. Sanderson were winners of the 2011 Walter L. Brown Award for *Best Article* in a county or local journal by the Arkansas Historical Association for their article "African-Descended People and Indian Removal: Cherokee Case Study."

Dr. Sanderson presented their paper at the *Black History of Western Arkansas and Indian Territory* conference held in the Reynolds Room of the Smith Pendergraft Campus Center at the University of Arkansas Fort Smith, January 30, 2010. Later that year the article was published in *The Journal of the Fort Smith Historical Society*, Vol. 34, No.1, 2010.

Presentation of awards took place at the Arkansas Historical Association's annual banquet on April 15, 2011, at the Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock.

Amanda L. Paige, Fuller L. Bumpers, and Dr. Daniel Littlefield, Jr. were finalists in the Oklahoma Book Awards competition for the best non-fiction book of 2010 with their work *Chickasaw Removal*, winner of the Holisso Book Award from Chickasaw Press.



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Thank You Recent Donors

As always, we are grateful to those individuals and organizations who contribute to our efforts on a regular basis. In addition to those who regularly send us materials, we thank the following for their monetary gifts:

Naomi G. May
Daniel and Mary Littlefield
James W. Parins
Elaine H. Scott
Marilyn T. Keys
Arkansas District Council, Inc.

The Sequoyah National Research Center welcomes contributions of materials, including the following:

- Newspapers, periodicals, and other information concerning Native press history, editors, publishers, reporters, photographers, cartoonists, and others involved in publishing activities.
- Copies of works by American Indian, Alaska Native, and Indigenous Canadian writers, bibliographies of their works, biographical information, and portfolios of works by cartoonists and photographers.
- Personal and professional papers of Native professionals in any field.
- Monetary contributions, which can be made by check, payable to Sequoyah National Research Center.

Contributions can also be made online by going to <http://ualr.edu/sequoyah>, clicking on “Support SNRC,” and then clicking on “Paying by Credit Card.”

Contributions should be sent to the address below. Inquiries about donations can be made to the directors at 501-569-8336 or by e-mail to dflittlefiel@ualr.edu, jwparins@ualr.edu, or resanderson@ualr.edu or by U. S. Postal Service to

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