

Sequoyah National Research Center Newsletter

Summer 2014

New Exhibit to Open September 5th

On Friday, September 5, 2014, at 5:30pm, the Sequoyah National Research Center (SNRC) will open the exhibit, “Toy Tipis and Totem Poles: Native American Stereotypes in the Lives of Children,” in the Center’s Dr. J.W. Wiggins Native American Art Gallery on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The exhibit will be drawn from the Hirschfelder-Molin Native American Stereotypes Collection, a collection of over 1500 museum objects and archival documents donated to SNRC in 2012 by Arlene Hirschfelder and Paulette Molin, professional educators and authors with decades-long experience in Native American education and Native American studies. Hirschfelder and Molin will be curating the exhibit with assistance from SNRC’s archivist, Erin Fehr, and assistant director, Tony Rose.

Hirschfelder and Molin have been collecting representations of Native American stereotypes for over forty years, acquiring items through e-Bay, yard sales, toy stores, as gifts from friends, and in everyday contacts. Hoping to preserve the integrity of the collection, they elected to deposit it with SNRC. They continue to add to the collection on an almost weekly basis. It is thought that this may be the largest such collection in the world.

The exhibit will highlight the areas of the collection dealing with children and the stereotypes of Native Americans that are omnipresent in the lives of American children. While few would deny that mean-spirited, ugly images can cause pain based on identification with the image, the harm done by images, the intent of which is far more benign, can not only create a sense of marginalization and dehumanization in Native Americans who are supposedly being depicted, but they can serve to marginalize and dehumanize Native Americans in the minds of others. By examining childhood objects – dolls, toys, books, games, clothing, – it is our intent that awareness of the inculcation of the images and their associations will bring attention to the difficulty of changing mainstream American thinking about Native stereotypes.

The exhibit will also speak to the current national controversy surrounding the use of Native American stereotypes as sports mascots, and it is our intent to increase the awareness of the potential for real harm that these images can do to all Americans. In addition to presenting the stereotypes themselves, responses will be included from Native people.

The gallery is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and the exhibit will run through December 19, 2014. Please feel free to contact the Center at 501-569-8336 or by e-mail at ehfehr@ualr.edu.



83.161, Photography by George Chambers



83.197, Photography by George Chambers

SNRC awarded Two Grants

In May 2014, the Arkansas Natural and Cultural Resources Council awarded SNRC a grant in the amount of \$18,000 to frame 70 paintings and conserve one painting and two photographs from the John T. Moncravie Osage Collection. Moncravie, of Fayetteville, AR, was a generous donor to the Center from 2011 until his death in May 2013. He donated Osage archival materials, books, paintings and photographs in an effort to amass the largest research collection of Osage materials. A bibliography of the Moncravie collection is available.

In July 2014, the Arkansas Humanities Council awarded a \$1495 grant to SNRC to re-box and re-label the over 1000 rolls of microfilm in acid-free boxes and updated labels. This grant was written for the Center by former SNRC graduate assistant and current research assistant Ashley Collie-Heath, who is a student in UALR's Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies program. The microfilm collection contains records of Indian Removal, historic newspapers of the 19th century and FBI Files on the American Indian Movement (AIM).

Symposium set for Sept. 13

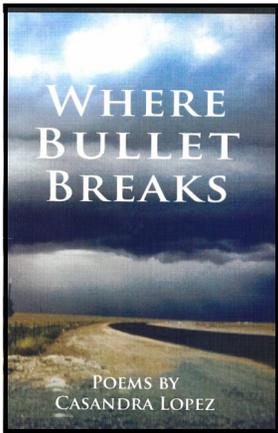
The Arkansas History Commission and the Sequoyah National Research Center will be hosting a free half-day symposium on Saturday, September 13 from 9:00 a.m. until noon in Dickinson Hall at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The symposium's theme, *The Great War: Researching World War I in Arkansas Archives*, will feature presenters, Dr. Daniel F. Littlefield, Roy Boney and Amanda Paige.

Topics will include *Cherokee Code Talkers in World War I and Beyond*, *American Indians in World War I: Choctaw Case Study*, and *Letters, Scrapbooks and Discharges: WWI Treasures at the Arkansas History Commission*.

The Arkansas History Commission, located in Little Rock, is the official state archives of Arkansas and maintains the largest collection of historical materials on Arkansas in the world. Associated with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, the Sequoyah National Research Center maintains the largest collection of Native American expression in the world.

For more information about the symposium, call Dr. Daniel Littlefield at (501) 569-8336.

Native Writers Chapbook Published



This past spring, SNRC published *Where Bullet Breaks* by Casandra Lopez, the latest chapbook in the Native Writers Series. Lopez is a Cahuilla, Luiseno, Tongva, and Chicana writer from Southern California, who received her MFA in Creative Writing/Fiction from the University of New Mexico in 2012. In 2013, she was the Indigenous Writer-in-Residence at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico and a CantoMundo Fellow. She currently resides in Seattle.

The Tribal Writers Chapbook Series was first established in 1989 under the direction of the late Dr. James W. Parins with the mission to publish up-and-coming Native writers. The first series published five chapbooks from 1989 to 1993. In 2005, the second series began and with completion of the latest has published ten chapbooks. *Where Bullet Breaks* was published under the supervision of Dr. Nickole Brown, Assistant Professor in the UALR English Department, and with the editorial help of student intern Kendalyn McKisick.

Upcoming events

Aug. 25—Heritage Seekers, Laymon Library, North Little Rock

Sept. 5—Opening, *Toy Tipis & Totem Poles*, Dr. J.W. Wiggins Native American Art Gallery

Sept. 6—Dec. 19—*Toy Tipis & Totem Poles*, Dr. J.W. Wiggins Native American Art Gallery

Sept. 13—*The Great War: Researching World War I in Arkansas Archives*, Dickinson Hall, UALR

Oct. 7-9—National Trail of Tears Association Annual Conference, Memphis

Oct. 15-17—Society of Tennessee Archivists, Memphis

Nov. 14—Veterans Affairs, Fort Roots, North Little Rock

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Our mission is to acquire and preserve the writings and ideas of Native North Americans by collecting the written word and art of 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.

Student Spotlight



Left to right: Cassy, Andrew and Davina

and Information Studies programs. Davina (Choctaw) is also a student at the University of Oklahoma, where she is an undergraduate student majoring in English with a minor in Native American Studies. Cassy (Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe) is a graduate student in the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she is a member of the Tribal Libraries, Archives, and Museums student group.

SNRC focused the intern class on processing and cataloging part of our growing backlog of unprocessed manuscript collections. They worked hard and accomplished an impressive amount of work in the limited 8-week time span of the internship. Andrew processed and catalogued the Mark N. Trahan Papers, Starr Mitchell Collection, Myrelene Ranville Papers, Dan Lewerenz Papers and the Allan Patenaude Collection. Davina processed the Writers Files Collection and started entering the contents into our online catalog. Cassy stayed busy by processing and cataloging the Gretchen Ronnow Papers, Denise Low-Weso Papers, and the Small Manuscript Collection, which contains 51 collections with five or fewer folders. All of the interns encountered challenges along the way that enabled them to understand the day-to-day aspects of an archive that will help them in their education and future endeavors in the fields of Library and Information Studies, Native Studies and Anthropology. We wish them all the best and look forward to hearing of their future successes!

This summer, SNRC has had the privilege to work with three bright, Native student interns: Andrew Gourd, Davina Caddell, and Cassandra “Cassy” Keyport. Andrew (Seneca-Cayuga) is a graduate assistant at the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center located at the University of Oklahoma, where he is a graduate student in the Anthropology and Library

Staff Research Corner

On June 11th, archivist Erin Fehr presented “Noble Savages, Indian Princesses, Drunken Indians and Vanishing Americans: Resources for Countering Stereotypes and Prejudices” at the International Conference of Indigenous Libraries, Archives, and Museums in Palm Springs, California. The talk focused on the Hirschfelder-Molin Native American Stereotypes Collection and the upcoming exhibit on September 5th. The session was well attended with almost 100 attendees representing four countries: US, Canada, UK and South Africa. Afterwards, several people asked about donating their personal collections of stereotypes materials to SNRC.



Acquisitions

As always, we are indebted to our generous donors for their continued support of SNRC’s mission and their willing donations of archival materials. Arlene Hirschfelder and Paulette Molin have continued to donate materials to the Hirschfelder-Molin Native American Stereotypes Collection. The Oklahoma Department of Libraries donated the Annual Reports of the Smithsonian Institution, 1908-1985, and Statements by the Secretary, 1977-1981. Francine Locke Bray, on behalf of the Garrard Ardeneum in McAlester, Oklahoma, donated 20 cubic feet of archival materials from the collection at the Ardeneum, which include submissions to the Best Play Prize at the Five Civilized Tribes Museum, 1965-2008, and genealogical research on prominent families in East Central Oklahoma.



Garrard Ardeneum Collection, received July 17th.

Associate Director to Visit Indian Country

Associate Director Dr. Bob Sanderson is making plans to visit tribal colleges in the fall of 2014, in order to establish educational partnerships with these unique institutions serving Native Americans. The central focus of this proposed program is to recruit Native American students to enroll in our established online SNRC Internship course, giving students the opportunity to earn internship credit as researchers, collection organizers, and cataloguers. Hopefully, Dr. Sanderson's personal visits will produce a valuable network for recruitment of Native American students to UALR, increase the visibility and utilization of the resources of the SNRC, and create a network of colleges and universities that wish to promote, develop, and contribute to the retention of Native American students enrolled within these institutions. The internships offer students opportunities to learn about the archiving and preservation of contemporary Native American documents and artifacts. Ultimately, the development of networking with tribal colleges and universities will expand the influence of UALR within the region as well as within a segment of the academy that is rarely served or acknowledged by mainstream academia for the wealth of talent and diversity of thought these institutions provide. In addition to the promotion of the partnership proposal, Dr. Sanderson will also work with key tribal college personnel, such as teachers, librarians, or archivists who may wish to archive collections with the SNRC. Dr. Sanderson is looking forward to his excursion through Indian Country, renewing old friendships and making new ones on his journey.



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This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Sequoyah National Research Center at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, edited by Erin Fehr.

Hours of Operation:
Monday—Friday
8:00am—5:00pm

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