

The Butler eBanner

Newsletter of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies

Spring 2015

Butler Center Events

Art Exhibitions

May 8 – July 25, 2015

Human Faces and Landscapes

Butler Center West Gallery

A collection of distinctive portraits and landscapes by Sui Hoe Khoo

June 12 – Aug. 29, 2015

An Exhibition by the Arkansas

Arts Educators

Butler Center Underground Gallery

Artwork in a variety of media by K-12 students from across Arkansas

July 10 – Oct. 31, 2015

Textiles from Rohwer

Butler Center Loft Gallery

A display of fabric art created by Japanese Americans in an internment camp in Arkansas during World War II. Exhibitions open during each month's Second Friday Art Night (2FAN), 5 – 8 p.m. in the ASI building.

Arkansas Sounds

Fri., May 29, 7 p.m.

The Wildflowers

Tickets: \$10

CALS Ron Robinson Theater

Amy Garland, Mandy McBryde, and Bonnie Montgomery with a backing band perform country, folk, and blues

Fri., July 17, 7 p.m.

Iron Tongue / Adam Faucett & the Tall Grass

Tickets: \$10

CALS Ron Robinson Theater

Performances by Iron Tongue, a classic Southern hard rock and heavy metal band, and Adam Faucett, a singer/songwriter who plays music with rock, folk, and soul influences, joined by his band, the Tall Grass

Legacies & Lunch

Noon – 1 p.m.

Wed., May 6

Chris Engholm—creator of *White River Memoirs*, an exhibition of artwork created by people who are connected to the White River, plus photos and information about the river. (The exhibition is on view in the Butler Center's Concordia Hall Gallery through July 25).

Main Library's Darragh Center

William Champ Rodgers Papers Available

The William Champ Rodgers Papers have recently been opened to researchers and are available in the Research Room of the Arkansas Studies Institute (ASI) building. W. C. Rodgers was an attorney who lived in Nashville (Howard County); he was elected mayor of Nashville and later served one term in the Arkansas State Senate. Rodgers was elected president pro tempore of the Senate and, as such, served as acting governor of Arkansas when Governor George Donaghey was out of the state. In 1915, Rodgers returned to Nashville, where he continued his legal practice for many years. Rodgers also lectured at the Arkansas Law School in Little Rock and wrote a book about domestic relations that was required reading in several law schools. Rodgers was the last surviving charter member of the Arkansas Bar Association until his death in December 1961 at the age of ninety-eight.



William Champ Rodgers seated at desk in his Little Rock office ca. 1912, Lucille and Parker Westbrook Collection

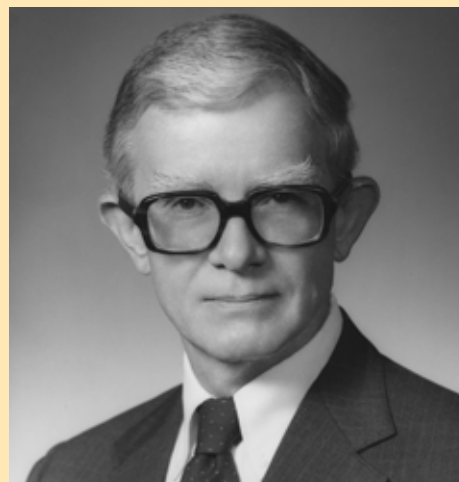
While Rodgers was active in law and politics, his wife, Cora Rodgers, was equally active in community organizations, including the Women's Literary Club of Nashville, the Tuesday Music Club of Nashville, and the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The William Champ Rodgers Papers include several

Cont. on page 2

Opening of Judge G. Thomas Eisele's Papers

The G. Thomas Eisele Papers have been processed and are now available for use in the Arkansas Studies Institute (ASI) building's Research Room. The collection mostly consists of correspondence, journal articles, journals, and court documents related to Eisele's forty-one-year judicial career. Also included are documents and photographs related to Eisele's family.

Garnett Thomas Eisele was born in Hot Springs (Garland County) on November 3, 1923, to Garnett and Mary Eisele. He attended the University of Florida, Indiana University, and Washington University, graduating with his bachelor's and his Mas-



Judge G. Thomas Eisele

ter of Law degrees from Harvard University. Eisele interrupted his university education in 1943 when he enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II. Eisele later served as a naval re-

Cont. on page 2

Wed., June 3

Remembering Rosey—A panel discussion commemorating Roosevelt Thompson CALS Ron Robinson Theater, in partnership with the Clinton School of Public Service

Wed., July 1

Bill Ward—author and photographer who has published books documenting the history of Conway, Arkansas, and life on the Arkansas River

Main Library's Darragh Center

Finding Family Facts

A free genealogy course

May 11, June 8, and July 13

3:30 – 5 p.m.

ASI Room 204, 401 President Clinton Ave.

Other events

Thurs., May 21, 6 p.m.

Launch Party for Butler Center Books' Spring Releases

Main Library's Darragh Center

A celebration of the release of *They'll Do to Tie To: The Story of Hood's Arkansas Toothpicks* by Maj. Calvin L. Collier; *Arky: The Saga of the USS Arkansas* by Ray Hanley and Steven Hanley; and *To Can the Kaiser: Arkansas and the Great War* edited by Michael D. Polston and Guy Lancaster. Authors/editors will speak about their books and sign copies, which will be available for purchase at the event. Refreshments will be served.

Sat., July 25, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

2015 Genealogy Conference

CALS Ron Robinson Theater

Featuring Lisa Louise Cooke, author of multiple books and creator of Genealogy Gems, a family history multi-media company. (See below for more info.)



Cont. from William Champ Rodgers, p. 1
essays that Cora Rodgers prepared for the literary club. They also include mementos from trips taken by the couple, including World's Fairs held in Chicago in 1893 and in St. Louis in 1904. Also included are various publications and clippings saved by the couple, showing a wide range of interests that they shared.

The papers were maintained by preservationist Parker Westbrook after Rodgers died in 1961. In 2007, they were part of a large donation made by Westbrook to

the Butler Center. This donation includes many documents, photographs, and other items that illustrate life in southwestern Arkansas during the twentieth century.

The William Champ Rodgers Papers have been separated from the Lucille and Parker Westbrook Collection to make Cora and W. C. Rodgers' contribution to the state of Arkansas and the city of Nashville more easily accessed by researchers.

The finding aid to the collection is available online [here](#). ■

Cont. from Eisele Papers, p. 1

servist from 1952 to 1961.

He married Kathryn Freygang in 1950. They had four children: Wendell Eisele, Garnett Martin Eisele, Kathryn Eisele, and Jean Eisele.

Admitted to the bar in Arkansas in 1951, Eisele served the state until his retirement in 2011. Eisele worked as an attorney from 1951 to 1970. He was Assistant U.S. Attorney from 1953 to 1956. He began a private practice in 1960, which lasted until 1970. In 1964, Eisele worked as campaign manager for Winthrop Rockefeller in his bid for governor. From 1967 to 1969, he joined the office of Governor Rockefeller as private legal advisor. Eisele left Rockefeller's office to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees for the University of Arkansas in 1969. In August 1970, he was appoint-

ed as U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas by President Richard Nixon. Eisele became Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas in March 1975, a position he held until he assumed senior status in August 1991. Eisele continued to preside over a reduced docket until his retirement. He was well known throughout the country for his stances on desegregation, sentencing guidelines, voting rights, and court-mandated alternative dispute resolutions.

Eisele received numerous awards throughout his career. He was named Outstanding Federal Trial Court Judge by the American Trial Lawyers Association in 1977 and 1989, and was chosen the Best District Judge in the Eighth Circuit by *The American Lawyer* in 1980.

The finding aid is online [here](#). ■

Annual Genealogy Conference

The Butler Center will host Lisa Louise Cooke—owner of the genealogy and family history multi-media company Genealogy Gems at www.genealogygems.com—as speaker for our annual genealogy workshop. This day-long workshop will be held on Saturday, July 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Central Arkansas Library System's Ron Robinson Theater on the Main Library campus. The workshop is free and open to the public; registration is required and will be available in June [here](#).

Lisa Louise Cooke is producer and host of the *Genealogy Gems Podcast*, an audio show available at www.genealogygems.com, on iTunes, and through the Genealogy Gems app. Her podcast brings genealogy news, research strategies, interviews, and inspiration to genealogists in seventy-five countries, and it recently reached 1.5 million downloads.

Cooke is also the author of four books: *Turn Your iPad into a Genealogy Powerhouse*, *How to Find Your Family History in Newspapers*, *The Genealogist's Google Toolbox*, and *Genealogy Gems: Ultimate Research Strategies*.

Cooke works with *Family Tree Magazine* as producer and host of the *Family Tree Magazine Podcast*, as a regular contributor to the magazine, and as curriculum developer and instructor for Family Tree University. ■



Lisa Louise Cooke

lum developer and instructor for Family Tree University. ■

A Word from the Center

David Stricklin, Manager of the Butler Center

I'm pictured here with the remarkable Kay Bland, who is retiring from the Butler Center and CALS after eight spectacular years as our outreach coordinator for K-12 education. It is impossible to measure Kay's impact on our work and, for that matter, her impact on the teaching of Arkansas history. She has been stalwart in making sure our teaching resources



have passed muster with the curriculum frameworks adopted by the State of Arkansas's education leadership and in getting the word out about those resources. She has traveled to every part of Arkansas, meeting with teachers and students, consulting with education co-op staff members, and making presentations at conferences and other events. At one of those conferences, she wowed a longtime friend of mine from Dallas. Our families know each other, and we were visiting on a trip to Texas when I happened to mention our work in creating teaching resources. She said something about Kay, and I said, "Well, that's the person who heads up our efforts," to which she responded, "You work with Kay Bland? She's a rock star!" Indeed, she is.

She is both a cheerleader and an in-

novator. She has probably gotten more people onto the Encyclopedia of [Arkansas History & Culture](#) website, because of telling teachers and students about the EOA, than any other person. She co-constructed the Arkansas History Hub. She has brilliantly placed Arkansas history resources in other parts of the state curriculum, in the areas of reading and math and science particularly. She's promoted our BASE program for putting Arkansas books in school libraries. And she led in designing our summer seminar for teachers, the management of which this June will be her last major duty with us. A veteran, talented teacher told me after one of those events, "That's the best thing I ever attended." That assessment is pretty much par for Kay's course. Nothing but excellence. We will miss her greatly.

The *Butler eBanner* is the quarterly electronic newsletter of the

**Butler Center
for Arkansas Studies,**
a department of the [Central
Arkansas Library System](#)

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Ali Welky: Editor
Mike Keckhaver: Design



Spring 2015

All of us at the Butler Center are proud of our four Arkansas Historical Association award winners, pictured on page 7. We brag on them all the time, but it's a special pleasure when outside groups or individuals confirm our high opinions. I must assure you, however, that they were all happier about receiving these nice recognitions than the looks on their faces might suggest. I'm sure they were all deep in thought when the picture was taken, planning their next forays into uncharted territory in the service of Arkansas history!



Spring at the Galleries

Butler Center Galleries offer:
Paintings • Sculpture • Pottery
Clothing • Photographs • Cards
Purses • Gifts • Jewelry



401 President Clinton Ave. • Little Rock
(501) 320-5790 • Open Mon.-Sat., 9am-6pm • www.butlercenter.org/art

Butler Center Introduces Education Initiative with U.S. State Dept. and Crystal Bridges

The Butler Center has launched the “Arkansas Declaration of Learning” initiative in partnership with Secretary of State John F. Kerry, the U.S. Department of State’s Diplomatic Reception Rooms, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, and the Arkansas Department of Education.

This innovative public-private partnership will initially work with up to thirty Arkansas teachers and school librarians teaching 7th-12th grade students in the fields of art, English language arts, and social studies to develop an innovative curriculum that brings history to life and shares the importance of stewardship and civic engagement during the 2015–16 school year.

Secretary of State Kerry said, “People make connections in lots of ways, and sometimes that connection is quicker to take hold through music, dance, theater, film more so than the words of a diplomat. This is a side of diplomacy that a lot of people don’t often hear about...the connection between artistic expression and freedom.”

Arkansas is the first state in the country to participate in this national program. The program is part of a national Inter-Agency Educational Initiative that began when representatives from fourteen national partnering organizations signed the “Declaration of Learning” in 2012. This document pledged that the U.S. De-

partment of State, the Diplomatic Reception Rooms, and twelve other national organizations would work with state and local partners to co-create learning tools for educators and students in middle and secondary education using historic art and objects from their respective collections, coupled with best practices in education. Through this program, teachers will develop new tools that inspire student learning.

For this pilot year, a select group of exemplary Arkansas teachers and school librarians will create dynamic teaching tools working with historic objects, works of art, and primary sources from the collections of the founding partners: the Butler Center, the Diplomatic Reception Rooms, and Crystal Bridges.

According to Kay Bland, Butler Center K-12 education consultant, a two-day session was held in mid-March with a Central Arkansas group of teachers and school librarians to field test the presentations by the partner organizations and to observe and record the curriculum developed over the two days of what they dubbed “March Madness.” The educators visited exhibits at the Butler Center and the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center and showcased their ideas for development of object-based curricula.

Objects selected for this field test from the U.S. Department of State Diplomatic Reception Rooms, the Crystal Bridges

Museum of Modern American Art, and the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies all dealt with culture. Using Japanese American culture as one example, Crystal Bridges selected a Ruth Asawa art object from its collection while the Butler Center selected a Ruth Asawa [digital object](#) from its [Art of Living: Japanese American Creative Experience at Rohwer](#) online collection. Additionally, the Butler Center provided an [oral history clip](#) describing Asawa’s formal art training after the experience at Rohwer.

Objects selected for the Arkansas Declaration of Learning program will be used to tell national and state-based stories that illustrate the many ways our nation valued stewardship and civic engagement during its formative years, and the importance of this continued focus today.

Selected teachers and school librarians will commit to a year-long initiative, which will begin with a two-and-a-half-day program at Crystal Bridges in July. During the program, teachers will learn about the primary resources held by the participating museums. From these objects, educators will begin developing lesson plans and learning activities, refining and testing them in Arkansas classrooms and school libraries during the 2015–16 school year. They will share the results of their work at an event at the Butler Center in the fall of 2016. ■

In Concert ...

The Wildflowers

Amy Garland
Bonnie Montgomery
Mandy McBryde

Fri., May 29, 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$10
CALS Ron Robinson Theater

arkansas sounds

Tickets available at www.arkansasounds.org



flash

... Butler Center Events in the Spotlight



Aretha Dodson discussed her book *That's the Way It "Wuz" Back Then* at March's Legacies & Lunch.



Beth Brickell gave a talk in March at the Arkansas Studies Institute building about her book *The Disappearance of Maud Crawford*, which is a compilation of a nineteen-article investigative series that ran in the *Arkansas Gazette* in 1986.



February's Legacies & Lunch—held in the Ron Robinson Theater in partnership with the Clinton School of Public Service—featured a panel discussion about Black History Month. The panelists were (*left to right*) John Graves, Cherisse Jones-Branch, Freeman McKindra Sr., and the Butler Center's Rhonda Stewart.



At April's Legacies & Lunch, Brian Mitchell gave a narrative history of free blacks expelled from the state by the Arkansas legislature in 1860.



Arkansas Sounds, February, featured the traditional folk music of Charley Sandage & Harmony.



Butler Center staff members rung bells on April 14 at 1:00 p.m. (1300 hours) as part of the national "Let Freedom Ring" event to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery. Former CALS board member Nate Coulter (*left*) read the text of the amendment.

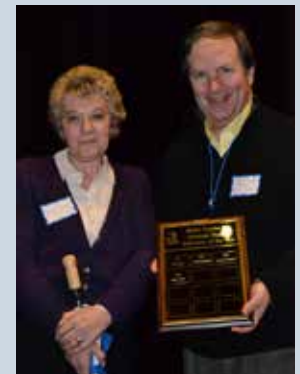
arkansas sounds



For Arkansas Sounds, April, singer/songwriter Brian Nahlen performed original and Beatles music.



Arkansas Sounds, March, was a Celtic cultural celebration in honor of St. Patrick's Day, including the Lyon College Pipe Band (shown here entering the Ron Robinson Theater).



Kate Buck, the 2014 Butler Center Volunteer of the Year, with Butler Center Manager David Stricklin.



Butler Center Hosts Vietnam Documentary

On Saturday, March 28, the Butler Center hosted the regional premiere of *Last Days in Vietnam*, a documentary focusing on the emergency evacuation of U.S. forces and others in the final days of the Vietnam War. *Last Days in Vietnam* is a PBS *American Experience* film which has been nominated for numerous awards including an Academy Award for Best Documentary. The film was shown free of charge in the CALS Ron Robinson Theater. The television broadcast premiere was held on Tuesday, April 28, on AETN. At the screening, the audience was invited to contribute materials to the Butler Center's Arkansas Vietnam War Project, which documents Arkansas's role in the war and preserves materials from the period. For more information on the project, click [here](#).



BUTLER CENTER DONORS

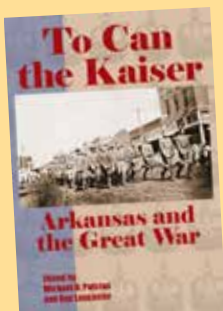
Materials donations:

Arkansas Children's Hospital
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
W. Chris Barrier
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Equal Justice Initiative, Montgomery, AL
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Republican Party of Arkansas
Clarice Rodgers, New York, NY
Nathania Sawyer
Rhonda Stewart
David Stricklin & Sally Browder
Buddy Villines
Westover Hills Presbyterian Church
Wildwood Park for the Arts

Monetary donations:

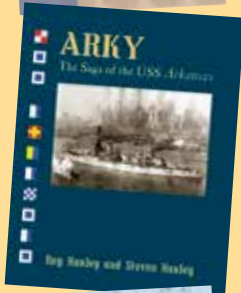
Arkansas Pioneers, in memory of Mimi & Harry Worley
David Austin, in support of Arkansas Sounds
Ken & Kay Bland, in support of the EOA in honor of Bob Lyford
Beth Peck Cooper, in support of the EOA
Pam Dunaway, in memory of Ann Somers
Edelweiss Club, in appreciation of Stephanie Bayless's work
Mary Sue Jacobs, in support of the Butler Banner
Bob Razer, in support of Butler Center Books
Wilbur Smithers, *Ouachita Speakers Series*, in honor of Rosalie Gould
Logan Scott Stafford
Steven Strauss, in support of the Butler Banner
David Stricklin, in support of Arkansas Sounds

New this spring from Butler Center Books!



To Can the Kaiser Arkansas and the Great War

edited by Michael D. Polston and Guy Lancaster
ISBN 978-1-935106-80-7, paperback, 6 x 9, \$22.50
World War I connected Arkansas to the world in ways that changed the state and its people forever, as shown in the essays collected here.



Arky The Saga of the USS Arkansas

Ray Hanley and Steven Hanley
ISBN 978-1-935106-78-4, paperback, 8 1/2 x 11, \$29.95
The story of Arkansas's namesake battleship told through previously unpublished photos and the journals of sailors who were writing in the midst of service and combat.



"They'll Do to Tie To!" The Story of Hood's Arkansas Toothpicks

Calvin Collier
ISBN 978-1-935106-76-0, paperback, 6 x 9, \$21.95
The 3rd Arkansas was one of the most distinguished and well-respected Confederate regiments of the Civil War. First published in 1959, the book describes how the Arkansas troops found themselves in some of the fiercest fighting of the war.



Butler Center Books are available in bookstores and [online](#).



Wine and cheese pair well with new books! Join us as Butler Center Books hosts a party to celebrate its spring releases on Thursday, May 21, at 6 p.m. in the Main Library's Darragh Center, 100 Rock Street. Authors/editors will speak briefly about their work and sign copies of the books, which will be available for purchase at the event.



THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ARKANSAS HISTORY & CULTURE

WANTED: AUTHORS AND MEDIA

We need entries, photographs, documents, videos, maps, and audio clips to help make the EOA the most comprehensive and engaging resource on Arkansas history.

Entries Needing Media (photographs, etc.):

Arkansas Model United Nations (AMUN)
Avilla (Saline County)
Bank of Osceola
Lasker (Las) Bell (1928–)
Shawn Camp (1966–)
Cedar Grove School No. 81
Cestodes (a.k.a. Tapeworms)
Clarksville National Guard Armory
Columbus (Hempstead County)
Crenshaw Site
Dardanelle Agriculture and Post Office
Dover to Clarksville Road
Frank Joseph Ginocchio (1886–1969)
Kathryn Hall-Trujillo (1948–)
Lawrence Oliver Hamilton (1954–2014)
Helena National Guard Armory
Jerry T. Hodges
George R. Hoelzeman
John Hornor Jacobs

Billy Farrel (Bill) Johnson (1939–)
Glenn T. Johnson (1917–2010)
Lost Louisiana Mine
William Starr Mitchell
Monticello Post Office (Historic)
Mountain View Waterworks
Nashville Post Office
Old U.S. Highway 67
Rabbit Foot Lodge
Henry Shead
Willis S. Smith (1810–1891)
Washington Historic District
Harold L. "Brother Hal" Webber (1926–2005)
Lloyd Garrison Wheeler (1848–1909)
Willford Methodist Church

If you have photos or other media, please contact Mike Keckhaver at mkeckhaver@encyclopediaofarkansas.net

Entries Needing Authors:

Alma School District v. Arkansas
Blaze Foley (a.k.a. Michael David Fuller)
Easter Seals Arkansas
Eureka Springs & North Arkansas Railway
J. M. Products, Inc.
Jonesboro Baptist College
Lubavitch of Arkansas—Center for Jewish Life
Stella Boyle Smith Trust
True Soul Records
Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)

If you would like to write one of these entries, please contact Guy Lancaster at glancaster@encyclopediaofarkansas.net

AHA Awards Presented at Conference

Several Butler Center staff members won awards from the Arkansas Historical Association (AHA) for the exemplary publications they have produced this past year. The awards were presented at the annual conference of the AHA in West Memphis in April 2015.

Mike Polston, staff historian for the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture, won the Walter L. Brown Award for Best Edited Document for "'Dear Home Folks': The Camp Pike Letters of an Iowa Sammy in the Great War." His article was published in the fall 2014 issue of the *Pulaski County Historical Review*.

The same issue of the *Pulaski County Historical Review* published University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) staff member Colin Woodward's article "At Cummins Prison: Johnny Cash and the Arkansas Penitentiary, 1969," which won the Walter L. Brown Award for Best Article in a County and Local Journal. The Butler Center and UALR share the research room, resources, and archival space in the Arkansas Studies Institute building.

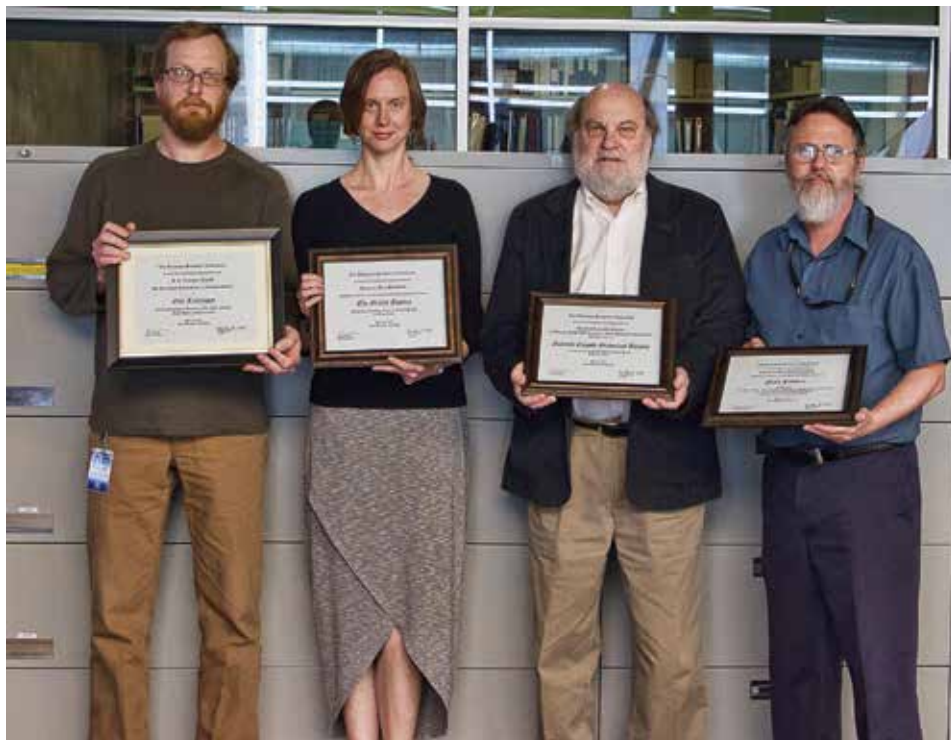
Guy Lancaster, editor of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas, won the J. G. Ragsdale Award for Best Book-Length Study in Arkansas History for his book *Racial Cleansing in Arkansas, 1883–1924: Politics, Land, Labor, and Criminality* (Lex-

ington Books, 2014).

The Pulaski County Historical Society's *Pulaski County Historical Review*, editor Bob Razer (Archie House Fellow and manager of Butler Center Special Services), won the Walter L. Brown Runner-up for Best County or Local Historical Publication. This is the third year in a row the *Pulaski County Historical Review* has been honored with this award.

The *Butler Banner*, editor Ali Welky

(assistant editor of the Encyclopedia of Arkansas), won the Walter L. Brown Award for Best Newsletter Published by a County or Local Society or Other Entity Working in the Field of Arkansas History. This is the second consecutive year the *Banner* has won this award. ■



Guy Lancaster, Ali Welky, Bob Razer, and Mike Polston display their awards.

Inside Our eCollections



Effie Mae Jones Bowers-Hatten Interview

Effie Mae Bowers-Hatten describes the difficulties she encountered and the lessons she learned as one of the students desegregating Hall High School.



Kazuko Tanaka and Yetsuko Saguchi Interview

Twins Kazuko Tanaka and Yetsuko Saguchi were three years old when their family was relocated to the Rohwer Relocation Center during World War II. They talk about their memories of that time and the stories they heard from their parents. They discuss how the relocation affected their lives and their families.



This feature of our *Butler eBanner* invites readers to click their way into our many and varied digital resources. Featured this time is the Butler Center's collection of oral histories. Click on the link below each photo to watch a video of the interview.

The Butler Center serves not only as a repository for oral histories, but we are also active in assisting our patrons in collecting oral histories. On the third floor of the Arkansas Studies Institute building is a recording room (pictured below), which our patrons can use for audio and video interviews. If a copy of the interview is donated to the Butler Center to be archived, the service is free. We will assist you with preparing for the interview, running the equipment, and creating a digital copy of your interview. If you are interested in conducting an oral history interview, please contact [Anna Lancaster](#).



Hasegawa, Hasegawa, and Kanase Interview

Mary Masako Kanase—with her daughter Joyce Hasegawa and granddaughter Lisa Hasegawa—discusses being interned at the Jerome Relocation Center during World War II.



Recording Room