



NMSU Library Newsletter

Citations

Library Health Information Project Improves Borderland Wellness

The **Border Health Information and Education Network (BIEN!)**, led by the NMSU Library, is a partnership of seventeen academic and public libraries, hospitals, clinics and other public health service organizations in New Mexico's Dona Ana, Luna, and Otero counties. BIEN!'s mission is to create opportunities to improve the health of residents of the borderland region by the provision of quality health information in all formats in English and Spanish. Since its beginning in 2000, BIEN! has made much progress in accomplishing its goals:

- Installation of computers with Internet access and printers at all 17 BIEN! Project partner locations.
- Creation of a BIEN! Project Internet web site accessible at <http://www.nmsu.edu/bien>. This site includes many links to quality consumer/patient health information web sites in Spanish and English as well as links of interest to health care providers and health educators. Besides locating health/medical information, BIEN! web site visitors can provide feedback to the site's webmaster and BIEN! Project Health Information Reference Librarian **Molly McGetrick** and post messages to the site's bulletin board.
- Purchase of various web-based health and medical information database subscriptions, now available to project partners. Because the NMSU Library is a BIEN! partner, faculty, students, and staff have access to EBSCO Publishing's AltHealthWatch, a full text alternative and complementary health information database, and MDConsult, a health and medical information database geared to health care professionals. Ask about accessing these databases at the (Health... continued on page 2)



Parents and children enjoy a BIEN! health information training session at Thomas Branigan Memorial Library on March 9, 2001. Photo, Molly McGetrick.

SPECIAL ISSUE ON HEALTH

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Health...

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Reference/Information desks at Branson and Zuhl libraries.

- Conducting electronic health information access training sessions at BIEN! partner sites in February and early March. A total of 20 sessions were conducted by project staff members **Judith Pearson** and Molly McGetrick. Participants were groups of public librarians and staff, academic librarians and staff, health educators, and health care providers. Approximately 140 people have participated in training sessions thus far. More sessions will be scheduled in March and April.

Training sessions include presentation of BIEN! web site features and instruction on navigating the site to locate and retrieve information. Training/instruction is also provided on searching EBSCO and MDConsult databases. Each training session includes a time period for "hands-on" practice using the resources to reinforce learning. Overall response to the training sessions by both participants and trainers has been very positive. Participants are invited to complete training evaluation forms which provide valuable feedback to the trainers, including suggestions for modifying the BIEN! web site. These suggestions have been implemented.

NMSU academic departments and community groups interested in participating in a BIEN! training session may contact Judith Pearson, BIEN! Project Outreach/Training Librarian, at 646-3078 or jupearso@lib.nmsu.edu.

Approximately \$28,000 has been spent to purchase health information resources in Spanish and English in print and other formats based on results of a needs assessment survey of project partners. Each partner site will receive a core collection of materials tailored to that location's stated needs, to be used for reference and distribution.

One of the goals of the project is to provide

timely and quality health-related research information and other health reference information to consumers, health care providers, health educators, allied health professionals, students, faculty, and librarians. Already, the project staff has responded to numerous information requests via email and phone and will continue to provide this service for the life of the project.

BIEN! has been funded by a \$10,000 planning grant from the Paso del Norte Foundation of El Paso and a \$204,000 information access grant from the National Library of Medicine (NLM). NLM funding for the project ends this September. However, plans are underway to seek future funding to continue and expand the project's activities and services.

If you wish to help BIEN! in its good work bringing health information to residents of the Borderland, please contribute to the Library's BIEN! fund (see page 3). Your help is very much needed and appreciated.

For more information about BIEN! or the BIEN! Project, please contact project staff members Molly McGetrick or Judith Pearson at Branson Library (505-646-3078), **Sylvia Ortiz**, project director/principal investigator and Head of Reference at Branson Library at 505-646-7481, or **Norice Lee**, Chairperson of the BIEN! Executive Board and DABCC Library Services Director at 505-527-7556.

Visit the BIEN! web site at
<http://www.nmsu.edu/bien>



Citations
NMSU Library Newsletter

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Border Health Information and Education Network (BIEN!) Provides Humanitarian Service to the Community

Description

The **Border Health Information and Education Network (BIEN!)** is a consortium of seventeen academic and public libraries, hospitals, and health care and education organizations in Dona Ana, Luna and Otero counties, led by the New Mexico State University Library. BIEN!'s mission is to improve access to health information in English and Spanish to underserved consumers, health care professionals and health educators in the border area. Visit BIEN!'s state-of-the-art web site at <http://www.nmsu.edu/bien>.

Background

Planning for BIEN! was funded by a \$10,000 grant from the Paso del Norte Foundation, which provided personnel to conduct focus groups and surveys of the health information needs of border residents. One year of the full project was funded by a \$204,000 information access grant from the National Library of Medicine, which provided computers, health information resources and 1.5 FTE medical librarians assigned to train BIEN! partners in providing **quality health care information**.

BIEN! is making progress toward achieving its goals: 1) Identify and provide quality consumer health-related information in all formats; 2) Provide timely and quality health-related research and reference information services to consumers and health professionals/educators; 3) Develop an information network for the BIEN! partners; 4) Provide information literacy training for consumers and health professionals/educators; 5) Conduct a community awareness campaign to reach **children, senior citizens, and other underserved health information consumers**.

Relevance

Focus groups, surveys and statistics demonstrate that **critical health information needs exist in this poor, rural, medically underserved area**. The energy and enthusiasm of the seventeen BIEN! partner institutions and the leadership of the NMSU Library have resulted in a strong beginning for the project.

The Next Step

Your help is needed to ensure BIEN!'s ongoing success. \$240,000 is needed to continue the project for one year; \$2,400,000 is needed to continue the project for ten years. **Your generous gift to the Border Health Information and Education Network provides health information that can and will save lives**. For more information, please contact project director **Sylvia Ortiz** at 505-646-7481 or Library Dean **Elizabeth A. Titus** at 505-646-1508 or mail your contribution to the NMSU Library/BIEN! fund 69032. Thank you for your generous support!

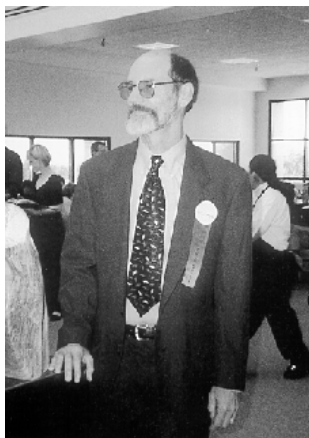
NMSU Employee Service Awards were received by the following Library staff members: 5 year award: **Joe Chavez, Deanna Valdez, Marv Wiburg**; 10 year award: **Gary Mayhood, Mike Mitchell, Jivonna Stewart, Marti Torres, Charles Townley**; 15 year award: **Helen Barber**; 20 year award: **Wylene Saunders**.

Gwen Gregory of Bibliographic Services was selected to be a mentor in the American Library Association Reforma/ALA Spectrum Latino Mentoring Program. Gwen will mentor **Rebecca Gonzales**, who is studying at the University of Texas, Austin.

Vita Montano of Interlibrary Loan is a proud mom -- her son, **Ryan E. Orme**, worked on the Luxembourg crew of the film *Shadow of the Vampire*, a remake of the 1920s film *Nosferatu*. Look for Ryan's name in the credits!

Roger Steeb Retires

Roger Steeb, the Life Sciences Librarian at Branson Library, retired in January 2001. After serving in the Peace Corps in Iraq in the early 1970s, Roger began a new career in librarianship at Texas A&M University. He came to NMSU in 1978. Roger coordinated the Online Bibliographic Search Service, provided library instruction, selected materials in the life sciences and engineering and helped innumerable students with their assignments. Roger holds master's degrees in library science and biology. The Library staff thanks Roger for his many years of service and wishes him well in his retirement.



Roger Steeb, pictured at the Zuhl Library Naming Celebration on June 16, 2000. Photo, Rio Grande Historical Collections.

Library Welcomes New Staff Members

Wendy Simpson is the new Library Specialist I in charge of federal government documents receiving and processing. This function is now part of the General Cataloging Unit in the Bibliographic Services Department. Wendy is an NMSU graduate with B.A. and M.A. degrees in history. She recently moved back to Las Cruces from California, where she worked for the National Archives. Wendy enjoys spending time with her family, especially her children, ages 9, 10 and 19 months.

Franklin Tate is a Library Technician II in the Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery Unit of the Access Services Department. He has a B.A. in English from the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, and recently received a M.F.A. in creative writing. Franklin co-founded a work education program in Oregon teaching job search skills in an alternative high school, emphasizing hands-on experience with the Youth Conservation Corps.

Portia Vescio is the new Archives and Manuscript Librarian in the Rio Grande Historical Collections/University Archives. Portia recently received her master's degree in Library and Information Science from Indiana University, where she worked at the University Archives and the Lilly Library. Portia also holds a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with concentrations in American history and media studies. Her interest in libraries and archives was developed during four years as a student assistant in the MIT archives. Portia's research interests include copyright of digital materials and oral history. Her hobbies include baking, quilting and yoga.



Wendy Simpson (left) and Portia Vescio (right) smile for the camera under a tree outside Branson Library. Not pictured, Franklin Tate. Photo, Mike Mitchell.

Urban Myths, Folklore and Fairy Tales of Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery

by Cynthia Watkins, Assistant Professor, Access Services, cwatkins@lib.nmsu.edu

Myth: I may submit only five requests per day to Interlibrary Loan (ILL)/Document Delivery (DDS).

Reality: On the contrary, there is no limit to the number of requests you may submit at one time. However, during peak times we may have to limit the number processed per patron each day.

Myth: It is wise to begin research the night before the proposal is due.

Reality: This is not a good idea, although many times your request can be filled quickly. A better plan would allow 1-3 weeks for a book to arrive, and 1-2 weeks for photocopies.

Myth: If the words "in press" or "unpublished" are part of the citation, ILL/DDS will be able to get the resource.

Reality: Probably not right away. We will ask you to resubmit the request after the book or article has been published.

Myth: Books borrowed from ILL are due at the end of the semester.

Reality: No -- due dates are based on the date they are due at the lending library. Each lending library has its own lending policies. Most libraries allow one renewal. Contact ILL/DDS before the due date and a renewal will be requested. Find the ILL Renewal Form at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/depts/illdds/renu.html>.

Myth: The best way to make an ILL/DDS request is to telephone the ILL/DDS Office.

Reality: No -- actually there are only two ways to submit a request. Here's how:

1. NMSU Library's electronic ILL/DDS form. Order a book/dissertation/book chapter at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/depts/illdds/ddsbook.html>. Order a photocopy/article at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/depts/illdds/ddsphoto.html>.
2. Electronic form within the FirstSearch databases. From the NMSU Library Home Page (<http://lib.nmsu.edu>), choose Article Databases (<http://lib.nmsu.edu/article.html>). Highlight FirstSearch, and click the GO THERE button. Select TOPIC TO SEARCH or DATABASE TO SEARCH. Perform your search. From the DETAILED RECORD for a book or article, click the ILL icon located in the upper right-hand corner of the screen. Fill out patron information on the ILL Request Form. Click the SUBMIT button to send the request to ILL, or click the CANCEL button to cancel the request.



Library Wins National Library Publicity Award

The NMSU Library is among nine national winners of the **John Cotton Dana** Library Public Relations Award, the most prestigious award of the American Library Association, which recognizes and honors outstanding achievement in library public relations. The award was announced on January 13 at the mid-winter meeting of the American Library Association in Washington, D.C.

In recognizing the winning library organizations, **Caroline Oyama**, chair of the John Cotton Dana award committee, said, "This was an exciting year with a very wide range of libraries entering. The entries depicted public relations programs reaching out to many diverse populations and interests. The committee was extremely pleased to see the overall strength of the entries, as well as a significantly greater number of submissions."

Dr. Elizabeth Titus, Dean of the Library, said, "We are delighted that NMSU has received this prestigious national award. It reflects upon the outstanding library staff and their contributions to the university community."

The NMSU Library won in the academic libraries category for its "Dino-mite" campaign, which capitalized on the public relations power of the dinosaur skull "Stan," the most popular attraction on campus, by celebrating a \$3 million library naming gift and honoring the donors, **Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Zuhl**. The campaign was conducted and the application prepared by library Grants and University Relations Officer **Jeanette Smith**.

Other winners included the Bellingham, Washington, Public Library for its "Catch 'em Reading Photo Contest"; Denver Public Library for mounting an energetic and effective pre-emptive public relations strategy towards an expose on "Dr. Laura" Schlessinger's television show, in which the library was targeted; Dr. Eugene Clark Library in Lockhart, Texas, for "Up on the Roof with the Loony Librarian," in which a librarian camped on the library's dome for a week to raise funds for renovations to the library; King County Library System in Issaquah, Washington, for their updated visual identity featuring a new branding mark and a focused strategic marketing effort that encouraged their community to "Turn to Us"; the Metropolitan School District of Washington Township, Indiana, for its "Once Upon a Millennium" community party; Phoenix Public Library for "Read Your Way to the Ballpark"; and the West Bloomfield Township Public Library, Michigan, for "Score Big With Books: They'll Score Big With You."

The John Cotton Dana Award is sponsored by the H.W. Wilson Company of Bronx, New York, a publisher of library materials, and the Library Administration and Management Association (LAMA), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). H.W. Wilson and LAMA have jointly sponsored the awards since 1946. The winning entries will be on display at the John Cotton Dana Award booth in the exhibit area during the annual ALA Conference, June 14-20, 2001, in San Francisco. The awards will be presented to winners at a reception held during the conference.



A March 13 reception honored the Tombaugh family for their gift of the Clyde Tombaugh papers to the Rio Grande Historical Collections. Photo, Michael Kiernan, University Communications.

Monica Kirby of Zuhl Reference received a scholarship to attend the national conference of the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association.

Charles Townley has published an article, "Knowledge Management and Academic Libraries," in *College and Research Libraries* 62 (January 2001): 44-55.

Canadian Librarian Enjoys Visit to NMSU Library

by Gwen Gregory, Associate Professor, Bibliographic Services, ggregory@lib.nmsu.edu

From January to April 2001, Doug Suarez is visiting the NMSU Library. Doug is a reference librarian at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario. His specialty is working with the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences at the university, including the departments of Physical Education, Recreation and Leisure, Nursing, and Community Health Sciences. Doug holds Honors Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in Anthropology from McMaster University as well as a Master of Library Science from the University of Western Ontario.

In his job at Brock University, Doug is currently developing a better medical collection at his library. He also designs and presents bibliographic instruction and has taught an introductory lecture course on the Internet for the Department of Computer Sciences. He has been involved with web page development at his library since it began in 1996. From May to August 2001, Doug will be in Albuquerque at the University of New Mexico General Library. He chose to visit two libraries during his sabbatical so that he could meet and work with more people during the time he had available.

While on his sabbatical, Doug will produce a tutorial designed to teach physical education students to use library resources and conduct research. He wants to create a basic interface that he can tailor to fit the needs of students in various courses. The end product will be a web-based interactive learning product which can also be used in CD-ROM format. He is learning web authoring tools like Macromedia's Dreamweaver, Fireworks and Flash. He will build in tests and quizzes with the CourseBuilder add-on. He wants the end product to interface with Web CT, which is used at Brock for web-based courses. To work on this project, Doug brought along a laptop computer with plenty of RAM as well as a drive for writing CDs. So far, he is making great progress at learning the software and exploring its possibilities. He has found that being in a new environment away from all the daily pressures of his regular job has really helped him focus on this project. Most of the manuals he is using are designed for business applications rather than educational ones, so he has to experiment with the software and find out how it can work for bibliographic instruction.

Doug is enjoying the experience of being on a university campus in the U.S. Of course, there are both similarities and differences. In Canada, all universities are publicly funded and thus are subject to some of the same budget constraints that we feel here at NMSU. At Brock University, the library is all housed in 6 floors of one 13-story building, which also houses many campus offices and classrooms. The Brock campus is much more compact than NMSU. He likes the way that our bound periodicals are interfiled in with the books instead of being housed separately; this is not common in Canadian libraries. Doug appreciates the opportunity to work with the faculty and administration of the NMSU Library and he thanks them for their help in arranging his stay here.



In memoriam: El Paso painter, author, illustrator and muralist Tom Lea died on January 29, 2001. His murals have appeared in the Benjamin Franklin Post Office in Washington, D.C.; the West Texas Room of the Hall of State in Dallas; the Federal Building in El Paso and in the lobby of Branson Library, where the murals pictured above are hung. Photos, NMSU Library.

Recommended for Your Summer Reading: Library and NMSU Staff Picks

• *PU-239 and other Russian Fantasies* by Ken Kalfus. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Milkweed Editions, 1999. Call # PS3561 .A416524 P8 1999

This book of short stories and one novella by young American writer **Ken Kalfus** was a finalist for the 1999 PEN/Faulkner award. All stories take place in Russia during the Soviet era. The stories vary in style, length, subject matter, and time period.

The author lived in Moscow for 4 years in the mid-1990's while his wife worked as Moscow bureau chief for the Philadelphia Inquirer. He evokes the sense of Russian life and realities so well that one could easily mistake him for a Russian writer. J.F.

• *Fingers Pointing Somewhere Else*. Stories by Daniela Fischerova. North Haven, Connecticut: Catbird Press, 2000. Call # PG5039.16 .l82 P7713 2000

This collection of seven masterful short stories by modern Czech women's author **Daniela Fischerova** vary widely in their points of view. The stories take place in a magical time in China, in a mysterious ashram in contemporary India, and in modern Czechoslovakia.

The opening story, "My Conversations with Aunt Marie," is about a four-year-old girl and her thoughts and experiences with various family members. The translator, **Neil Bermel**, provides a useful and interesting introduction. Ms. Fischerova is also an award-winning, renowned playwright. J.F.



Note: Picks for summer reading, all with an international flavor, are brought to you by John Freyermuth (J.F.) of Collection Services, Rebecca Sellars (R.S.) of NMSU's Development Office and Charles Townley (C.T.) of the Library Administration.

• *Neruda at Isla Negra*. Poems by Pablo Neruda. Photos by Milton Rogovin, edited by Dennis Maloney, Translated by Maria Jacketti, Dennis Maloney and Clark Zlotchew. Fredonia, New York: White Pine Press, 1998.

Neruda at Isla Negra is a great little book for summer reading -- especially beach reading, especially in Spanish speaking countries -- be it a beach in Chile, near Neruda's own Isla Negra, or nearby Puerto Peñasco. The work captures the feeling of living near the ocean, complete with poems and odes in typical Neruda fashion about the sea, its spirit, and sea creatures in addition to featuring bits of prose written by Neruda and photos from his home at Isla Negra -- his desk, a mona from his collection of mast heads, an anchor in his garden.

The writings and photos in *Neruda at Isla Negra* capture the world of Neruda without sadness. Like Neruda and the place he wrote from, these poems emulate all the bitter sweetness of life and death and living near the sea. A wonderful, haunting little book to have on hand while beach combing, watching the dolphins run, or examining a fish skeleton or a piece of sea glass. Well translated, it includes the original words of Neruda, in Spanish, on corresponding pages. R.S.

• *Full Woman, Fleshy Apple, Hot Moon*. Selected poems of Pablo Neruda. Translated by Stephen Mitchell. New York, N.Y. : Harper Perennial, 1997.

Mitchell's selection and translation of poems by Pablo Neruda in this collection manage to capture Neruda at his earthiest best. Taken from some of Neruda's most popular works (*Canto General, Elemental Odes, One Hundred Love Sonnets*), this collection features a set of wonderful treasures. In the words of **Stephen Mitchell**, "Making a selection from the abundance of Neruda was like standing in some treasure cave I made no effort to be representative. To take an equal number of diamonds, pearls, emeralds, sapphires I just took what I loved most. When my pockets were full, I left."

This collection features the charming and humorous ("Ode to an Artichoke") as well as the poignant and touching ("Ode to a Yellow Bird"). Mitchell's translations are accurate without losing the magic sometimes lost when translating too literally. Includes the original words of Neruda, in Spanish, on corresponding pages. An enjoyable collection to nap with under an open window on a warm Sunday afternoon. R.S.

More Summer Reading: Notable Books

The Notable Books Council of the Reference and User Services Association of the American Library Association selected the titles listed below for their significant contribution to the expansion of knowledge or for the pleasure they can provide to readers.

Fiction

- Atwood, Margaret, *Blind Assassin*, Doubleday
- Busch, Frederick, *Don't Tell Anyone*, Norton
- Chabon, Michael, *Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*, Random
- Coetzee, J.M. *Disgrace*, Viking
- Crace, Jim, *Being Dead*, Farrar Strauss & Giroux
- DeWitt, Helen, *Last Samurai*, Hyperion
- Kalpakian, Laura, *Delinquent Virgin*, Graywolf
- King, Thomas, *Truth and Bright Water*, Atlantic Monthly
- Kneale, Matthew, *English Passengers*, Doubleday
- Nelson, Antonya, *Living to Tell*, Scribner
- Ondaatje, Michael, *Anil's Ghost*, Knopf
- Paine, Tom, *Scar Vegas*, Harcourt Brace
- Smith, Zadie, *White Teeth*, Random
- Williams, Joy, *Quick and the Dead*, Knopf

Nonfiction

- Barzun, Jacques, *From Dawn to Decadence: 500 Years of Western Cultural Life, 1500 to the Present*, Harper Collins
- Eggers, Dave, *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*, Simon & Schuster
- Fleming, Fergus, *Barrow's Boys*, Atlantic Monthly
- Kaplan, Alice Yaeger, *Collaborator: The Trial and Execution of Robert Brasillach*, University of Chicago
- Ridley, Matt, *Genome: The Autobiography of a Species in 23 Chapters*, Harper Collins
- Sciolino, Elaine, *Persian Mirrors: The Elusive Face of Iran*, Free Press
- Shakespeare, Nicholas, *Bruce Chatwin*, Doubleday
- Thubron, Colin, *In Siberia*, Harper Collins

Find the Notable Books Council at
[http://www.ala.org/rusa/
notable.html](http://www.ala.org/rusa/notable.html)

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- *Circle of Hanh: A Memoir* by Bruce Weigl. New York: Grove Press, 2000. Call # PS3573 .E3835 Z464 2000

Bruce Weigl, known for his poetry and for his translations of Vietnamese authors, offers a moving and highly readable autobiographical account of several important traumatic events that have been important and especially meaningful to him.

The book begins and ends with Weigl's recent trip to Vietnam where he attempts to deal with agonizing, bureaucratic red tape and personal physical problems while adopting a Vietnamese daughter, Hanh. Sandwiched in between are several entertaining personal stories and memories from his childhood in Lorain, Ohio, as well as emotional retellings of personal experiences related to the war in Vietnam. Highly recommended. J.F.

- *China Pop* by Jian Ying Zha. New York: New Press, 1995.

Since my Fulbright in China, people ask me many questions regarding society and change.

This book shows post-Tiananmen China, warts and all. It is written in a quick popular style that is eminently readable. **Jian Ying Zha** knows China and America well enough to be able to clearly explain one to the other. C.T.

A Gift to the Library is a Gift to the University

- The entire Las Cruces and Dona Ana County area benefits from having a research library of the caliber of the NMSU Library. Perhaps you or your children have borrowed books or used journals from our collection, accessed the world of electronic information from our home page, had a question answered by a reference librarian, used our special and unique research collections or attended one of our instructional sessions or special presentations.
- As a center for lifelong learning, the Library endeavors to provide the highest quality information and instruction to our community. You deserve nothing less. As major changes occur in how information is accessed, the Library plays an important role in bridging the gap between technology and users. Our services add value to information by helping you find exactly what you need when you need it.
- However, the cost of providing this excellence in services and resources is rising, and costs greatly exceed allocations. Private support is necessary for preserving and enhancing the quality of the Library. Now more than ever we need your generous assistance. No gift is too small. We hope that you will be among our loyal Library supporters and friends this year and in the future. Thank you for your support!

Please photocopy or cut out this form and return with your gift!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

Yes, I want to help build the NMSU Library!
Enclosed is my check for:
_____ \$1,000 _____ \$500 _____ \$250 _____ \$100
_____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ \$10 _____ Other

I want my gift to benefit:

89013 Southwest and Border Cultures Institute

69002 Gift Books

69000 Library Associates (\$50/yr.)

69473 Zuhl Geological Collection

69005 Rio Grande Historical Collections

69032 Border Health Information and Education Network (BIEN!)

Other (please specify) _____

Please make your check payable to the NMSU Foundation and mail to: **Dr. Elizabeth A. Titus**, Dean of the Library, NMSU Library, P.O. 30006, MSC 3475, Las Cruces, NM 88003-8006. Thank you!

Health Information Resources: A Reference Desk Perspective

by Sylvia Ortiz, Associate Professor
Branson Reference, sortiz@lib.nmsu.edu

As the lead partner in the Border Health Information and Education Network (BIEN!), the NMSU Library has benefited from several new health-related electronic databases and the added value of the expertise provided by BIEN! staff members **Judith Pearson** and **Molly McGetrick** and the reference librarians.

With funding from the National Library of Medicine, the BIEN! Project was able to subscribe to MDConsult and AltHealthWatch, and currently has temporary access to BioMed Full Text. Since the availability of these full text databases, librarians at the NMSU reference desks have made widespread use of them in providing users with information for term papers and background materials for professional consulting and personal health information. Because all three of these databases are full text, users are excited about using them.

MDConsult provides access to major medical reference books, the medical journal literature, drug updates, and practice guidelines among others. For those of you who are interested in finding articles on alternative sources of health care, AltHealthWatch is the database for you. Its focus is the holistic and integrated approach to health care and wellness.

The third database, BioMed Full Text, provides access to journals covering the biomedical disciplines. Some of these are clinical medicine, public health, nutrition, health management information, and pharmacology. Several students, faculty researchers and health information consultants have made extensive use of these databases. Examples of their research include the controversy over performance-enhancing drugs, the use of media in the nursing profession, the economic value of physician assistants, and oncology nursing.

If you are interested in using these databases for your research, please contact Judith Pearson or Molly McGetrick at 646-3078 or the reference desks at Branson or Zuhl libraries. The databases are also available at most BIEN! partner institutions.

Veterinary Scientist Diamant's Papers Now Available at Rio Grande Historical Collections

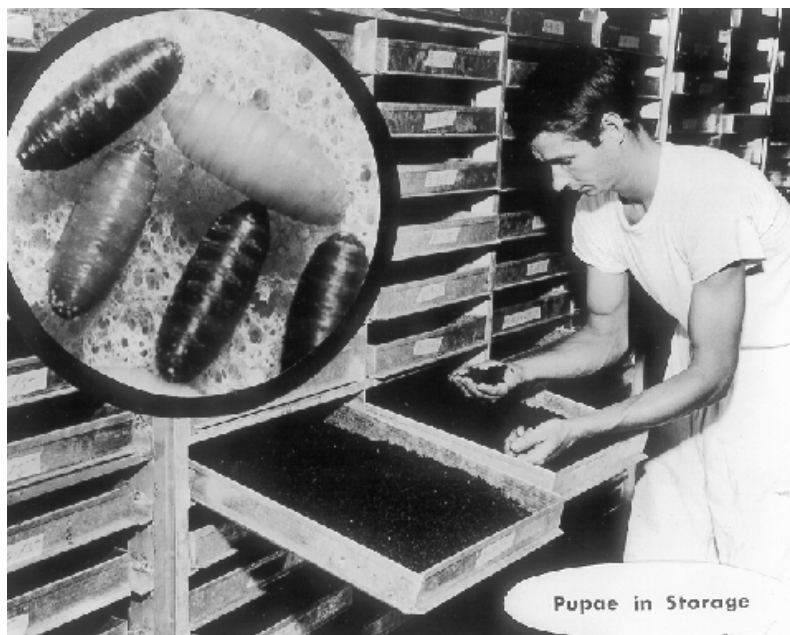
by Portia Vescio, Instructor, Rio Grande Historical Collections, pvescio@lib.nmsu.edu

The Rio Grande Historical Collections is pleased to announce that the Gerald Diamant Papers are now available for use by researchers. The papers comprise 3.5 linear feet and include Diamant's research notes, speeches, biographical information, photographs and some printed materials.

Gerald Diamant was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1914. He received his veterinary degree after spending time in the military during World War II. From 1950 to 1952, Diamant worked for the Joint Mexican-American Commission for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease. After working in private practice for several years, Diamant came to Las Cruces, New Mexico, in 1958 to work for the Animal Disease Eradication Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Diamant left Las Cruces to work for the Screwworm Eradication Program and after several years went to work once again for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He retired from veterinary medicine in 1977 and moved to Elephant Butte, New Mexico. He died there in 1998 of pneumonia.

Of special interest in the collection of papers is the research and work done by Diamant while working for the Screwworm Eradication Program. The life cycle of the screwworm fly is only 21 days, but in that time much damage can be done to livestock and other, smaller animals. The female screwworm fly lays her eggs in the wounds of an animal. These eggs hatch into larvae which feed for several days on the flesh of the infected host. The larvae then drop from the host and burrow into the ground until the pupal stage is over and the adult flies are born, starting the cycle over again. This process kills the animal host and might have wiped out the cattle industry, had the insect not been eradicated from the United States.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture first funded research for the control of the screwworm in 1934. Because the adult female fly mates only once, scientists irradiated male flies, causing sterilization. The sterile males were then released into the environment so the female's eggs were not being fertilized, thus preventing future generations of the screwworm. Diamant worked with the Southeastern Screwworm Eradication Program where a mass production facility for sterilizing flies was constructed. By 1966, the screwworm had been successfully eradicated from the United States.



Male screwworm flies are stored in the pupal stage in the late 1950s in a Florida plant. Photo, Rio Grande Historical Collections.

Help Keep Us Up-To-Date!

Donor Quest was recently implemented as the Library's new database to organize Library friends and donor names, addresses and gifts. With the help of the new system, the Library has greatly expanded its mailing list.

Please contact **Jeanette Smith**, the Grants/University Relations Officer, if there are any corrections that should be made to your mailing label or if you would like to have a friend or relative added to the Library's mailing list.

Community friends: the date on your mailing label, if any, is the date of your last recorded gift to the Library. The date does not appear on campus mailing labels. Your current generous gifts to the Library are very much appreciated. Please email Jeanette at jcsmith@lib.nmsu.edu or photocopy this form:

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Please send to **Jeanette Smith** at University Library, MSC 3475, P.O. Box 30006, Las Cruces, NM 88003-8006.

Have a Great Summer!



Jeanette Smith, Editor
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