

*Naming Celebration for*  
*Zuhl Library*

*Friday, June 16, 2000*  
*Zuhl Library, New Mexico State University*



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# *Naming Celebration*

*2:15 p.m.*

*Naming Ceremony, Library Courtyard*

*Trumpet Fanfare: Kenneth Van Winkle, Daniel Brown, Joe Barriga  
Unveiling of Zuhl Library Sign  
Ribbon Cutting*

*2:30 p.m.*

*Program, Library Lobby*

*Speakers*

*President of the Board of Regents Adelmo E. Archuleta  
President William B. Conroy  
Dean of the Library Elizabeth Titus  
Professor of Geological Sciences Gregory Mack  
Interim Vice President for Advancement Joe L. Creed  
Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Zuhl*

*Viewing of Zuhl Geological Collection*

*2:45 p.m.*

*Reception, Library Third Floor West*

*Refreshments, Entertainment and Library Tours*

*String Quartet: Joseph Manig-Sylvan, First Violin; Nancy Morey,  
Second Violin; Barbara Creider, Viola; Paul Thomas, Cello  
Madrigal Singers: Christine Sanders, Jennifer Pinnow,  
Melody Burns, Aaron Malone, J.R. Spurlin*

## *Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Zuhl*

*Former New Yorkers Herbert and Joan Zuhl moved from Manhattan to Las Cruces ten years ago. They first visited Las Cruces on a vacation trip. Herbert worked as a chemist for several large companies. In 1970 they dug up a piece of petrified wood “for the fun of it” on private property near Holbrook, Arizona. This led to the establishment of a very successful business selling the petrified wood to architects, collectors, and others. The Zuhls enjoy their life in Las Cruces. Joan is an artist and Herbert enjoys golf, riding a motorcycle and activities as a Mason. Each of the Regents of New Mexico State University praised the Zuhls as they received a standing ovation at the March 24, 2000, meeting of the Board of Regents. Herbert Zuhl said “We have always been interested in promoting education because it is one of the answers to the world’s problems.”*

*Interim Dean of the Library R. David Myers said “The University Library is very excited to receive two generous gifts from Herbert and Joan Zuhl. We will be honored to house and display the wonderful geological artifacts that Mr. Zuhl has collected and preserved. The endowment provided by the Zuhls will make the quality margin of difference. We look forward to a long-term working relationship with the Zuhls to present their collection and to honor their support.*

# *The Zuhl Geological Collection*

*The Zuhl Geological Collection works perfectly in the building that has been named for Joan and Herbert Zuhl, and makes the Library one of the great showcases of the Southwest.*

*For over thirty years Joan and Herbert Zuhl have collected fossils, minerals and rocks, both for a private collection and to be sold at their gallery on Madison Avenue in New York City. In April 2000, the Zuhls, who for the past decade have been residents of Las Cruces, generously donated their personal collection to New Mexico State University. Many of the larger floor-standing and wall-mounted specimens of petrified wood will be on permanent display on the second and third floors of Zuhl Library, while other pieces will be exhibited in the first floor lobby. In order to show the full range of specimens, the lobby display will change at least twice annually. In addition, many specimens will be used for teaching purposes by the Department of Geological Sciences.*

*The Zuhl Geological Collection, which numbers almost 1000 pieces, consists of three categories of geologic specimens: petrified wood, invertebrate and vertebrate fossils, and minerals and rocks.*

## *Petrified Wood*

*The bulk of the Zuhl Geological Collection is composed of petrified wood ranging in size from twigs and stems a few centimeters long to logs over a meter in diameter. Although there are specimens of wood from all over the world, most come from three regions in the United States. Perhaps the most famous is petrified wood from northern Arizona, extracted from the Chinle Formation of Late Triassic age (~220 million years ago). Wood from the Chinle Formation represents conifer trees and is noted for vibrant red and yellow colors.*

*Equally impressive are geologically younger petrified logs of middle Tertiary age (~20 million years ago) from eastern Oregon. These logs, which consist of both conifer and angiosperm wood, have beautifully preserved growth rings. Finally, there are also many petrified twigs and stems of early Tertiary age (~40 million years ago) from Wyoming.*

## *Invertebrate and Vertebrate Fossils*

*The Zuhl Geological Collection also contains a large number of fossils of invertebrate and vertebrate animals from all over the world, including trilobites, corals, ammonites, insects, and fishes. Included in the collection are fossils from three famous sites: the Solenhofn Limestone of Germany, the Green River Formation of western Wyoming, and the White River Badlands of South Dakota. The Solenhofn Limestone is Late Jurassic in age (~150 million years ago) and was deposited in a shallow lagoon. Because of the stagnant nature of the lagoon, organisms that fell or were washed into it decayed slowly, resulting in exquisite preservation of vertebrate bones and impressions of soft tissue of invertebrates. Included among the Solenhofn fossils are fish, insects, crustaceans, and flying reptiles (pterosaurs).*

*The younger Green River Shale of western Wyoming consists of thousands of meters of sandstone, shale, and limestone deposited in a middle Eocene (~50 million years ago) lake. Noted for a great variety of perfectly preserved fish skeletons, the Green River Formation also contains well preserved fossil leaves. Finally, river sediment and volcanic ash of Oligocene age (~30 million years ago), exposed in the Badlands of South Dakota, contain a tremendous quantity of vertebrate fossils, including early grazers, predators and numerous tortoises.*

## *Minerals and Rocks*

*The smallest part of the Zuhl Geological Collection, but nonetheless of great quality, are minerals and rocks from throughout the world. Particularly impressive are specimens of rhodochrosite, malachite, and rutilized quartz. Many of the rocks were ground and polished into spheres ranging in size from a few centimeters to a meter in diameter.*

*New Mexico State University extends thanks  
to the following individuals  
who made this celebration possible:*

*Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Zuhl*

*President of the Board of Regents Adelmo E. Archuleta*

*President William B. Conroy*

*Interim Vice President for Advancement Joe L. Creed*

*Dean of the Library Elizabeth Titus*

*Professor of Geological Sciences Gregory Mack*

*Celebration Committee*

*Jeanette Smith (chair)*

*Karen George      Michael McDonald*

*Michael Mitchell      Sandra Padilla*

*Laura Thode      Cheryl Wilson*

*Interim Associate Dean of the Library Gwen Gregory, ex officio*

*Assistant Vice President for Advancement Ron Jordan, ex officio*

*Interim Dean of the Library R. David Myers, ex officio*

*Executive Vice President John Owens, ex officio*

*New Mexico State University Library Staff and Students*

*Text on the Zuhl Geological Collection by Gregory Mack*