



NMSU Library News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT Jeanette Smith, Library, 646-7492, jcsmith@lib.nmsu.edu



*“Stan,” a cast of a 67 million year old Tyrannosaurus Rex, part of the Zuhl Geological Collection, guards the entrance to NMSU’s Zuhl Library.
Photo: Dennis Daily, NMSU Library*

Zuhl Library Features Geological Collection

In a June 16 naming ceremony, NMSU’s New Library was renamed Zuhl Library for donors Herbert and Joan Zuhl of Las Cruces, who turned a passion for petrified wood into a successful career, and ultimately into the largest gift ever presented to New Mexico State University. The former New Yorkers donated \$3 million for an endowment to benefit the NMSU Library and Department of Geological Sciences. Their gift also includes an extensive collection of petrified wood, fossils, minerals, and other geological artifacts millions of years old, displayed in Zuhl Library.

According to Dr. Greg Mack, who designed the display of the Zuhl Geological Collection, 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 be changed at least twice annually. In addition, many specimens will be used for teaching purposes by the Department of Geological Sciences.

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. Many pieces are from the famous Chinle Formation of northern Arizona. The collection also contains a large number of fossils of invertebrate and vertebrate animals from all over the world, including the Solenhofn Limestone of Germany, the Green River Formation of western Wyoming, and the White River Badlands of South Dakota. The collection is completed by minerals and rocks, including specimens of rhodochrosite, malachite, and rutilized quartz. Many of the rocks were ground and polished into spheres.

Both NMSU libraries, Zuhl Library and Branson Library, are open to the public. For information on NMSU Library hours, please call 646-4749.

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