



NMSU Library News Release

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NMSU Receives \$3 Million Library Naming Gift from Zuhls

Herbert and Joan Zuhl of Las Cruces have donated a record \$3 million to NMSU as a naming gift for the New Library. The Library will receive the earnings from the endowment, which will be managed by the NMSU Foundation. According to Joe Creed, Interim Vice President of University Advancement, the ultimate gift from the Zuhl's estate could be as much as \$6 million. The Library will display the couple's extensive collection of petrified wood, which is millions of years old, and other geological artifacts such as meteorites and fossils. Ron Jordan, Assistant Vice President of University Advancement, met with the Zuhls for several months to plan the gift.

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. Now retired, 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 NMSU's regents praised the Zuhls as they stood before an applauding audience at the March 24 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. Davis 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. These artifacts will work perfectly in the building that will be named for the Zuhls and make the Library one of the great showcases of the Southwest. The endowment provided by the Zuhls will make the quality margin of difference. The generous contributions of the Zuhls will enable the Library to acquire important collections and develop new, cutting edge services that will greatly enhance the education of NMSU students and support important research by University faculty. All of us in the NMSU Library are honored to have their support and excited about naming our building after these two wonderful people. We look forward to a long-term working relationship with the Zuhls to present their collection and to honor their support.

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