Bauers Establish Endowment

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Bauer of Las Cruces recently established the Regis J. Guest Memorial Endowed Fund for the New Mexico State University Library. Annual earnings from the endowment will be used for the acquisition, processing, and preservation of music-related material for the Library.

The endowment is named in memory of the Bauers’ son, the late Regis J. Guest. Mr. Guest enjoyed music, especially jazz.

Library cataloger and music fund manager Gary Mayhood said, “We are so grateful to the Bauers for their generosity. This gift will benefit the University Library’s music program in perpetuity.”

Gifts are being accepted for the Regis J. Guest Memorial Endowed Fund (fund 89017) from all interested persons. Gifts may be sent to the New Mexico State University Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 3590, Las Cruces, NM 88003.

Area Students Explore Library

Hundreds of area students recently visited the New Mexico State University Library, as the Library Instruction Program partnered with local public and private elementary and secondary schools to increase the students’ awareness of the specific resources the University Library offers and to develop the foundations of lifelong information literacy skills among pre–college students.

Leslie Bergloff, the Regional Coordinator of Southern New Mexico History Day, librarians and professors taught sessions for local students about locating library and web resources relating to “Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History,” the theme for History Day 2002. Jon Hunner, a history professor, introduced the students to historical research and the use of primary sources. Librarians Molly Molloy, Latin American Specialist, and Kate Manuel, Instruction Coordinator, gave the students practice in using the Library’s online catalog, the resources of the Library’s Rio Grande Historical Collections, and web sites to identify primary sources on their topics. More than two hundred students from Mesilla Valley Christian School and Vista Elementary School attended these instructional sessions.

One hundred students, many accompanied by their parents, attended a special research session on History Day 2002, Saturday, February 9. The use of Zuhl Library’s electronic classroom and consultation with reference librarians was made available from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Portia Vescio of the University Archives/Rio Grande Historical Collections and Cheryl Wilson of Special Collections also provided students with an opportunity to learn about and make use of unique resources that most people do not encounter until reaching college.

February also brought a visit from a class of elementary school students who were studying dinosaurs in a special education program in the Las Cruces Public Schools. Ten students learned about the Library’s dinosaur–related resources from Laura Thode, Humanities Librarian, and Irene Shown, Library Specialist.

In March 2002, a group of library assistants from Santa Teresa High School and their school librarian, Ida Garcia, visited the Library. These students were amazed at the size of a library with resources on seven floors in two buildings. They learned about how a university library differs from a high school library, and about the various electronic resources the Library makes available. The students looked on in fascination as researchers read and printed text from microfiche/microfilm readers.

Sixty–four students from the New Mexico Junior College Outward Bound Program also visited the Library in March. Monica Kirby, Outreach Librarian; Dora Morales, Library Specialist, Zuhl Periodicals; Irene Shown; and Fabian Franco, a student assistant, conducted these students on a tour of the Library, introducing them to the type of resources we make available and how our students use the Library. (Students, continued on page 2)
Database Provides Border Coverage

Full-text news articles from border newspapers may now be retrieved by searching the Base de Datos de la Prensa de Chihuahua. The CD-ROM database contains nearly 200,000 articles about the Mexican state of Chihuahua published between 1976 and 2000, from about ninety different Mexican publications. The majority of the articles are from border newspapers, including Diario de Chihuahua, Diario de Juarez, El Diario, El Fronterizo, El Heraldo de Chihuahua, El Norte, El Norte de Ciudad Juarez, and Novedades de Chihuahua. The database also includes selected articles about the state of Chihuahua from national newspapers and magazines such as El Financiero, El Universal, Excelsior, La Jornada, and Proceso.

This database provides coverage of border news not available from other sources. For instance, the researcher can find hundreds of articles on crimes against women in Juarez with a level of detail not provided in the English-language papers. More than five hundred articles discuss Border Patrol operations and several dozen articles mention “Operation Hold the Line” and other law enforcement issues in the region. More than one hundred seventy articles mention deceased drug lord Amado Carrillo Fuentes and other narcotics activities in Juarez. Many articles are available on politics, society, sports and cultural activities in the region. This CD-ROM ends with December 2000, but updates may be available in the future from the publisher, Información Procesada, located in the city of Chihuahua.

All articles in the database are in Spanish. It can be searched by author, title (headline), date, place of publication, keyword, and by any combination of these and other database fields. Articles retrieved can be printed and/or downloaded. At this time, the database can be searched at the reference desks in Zuhl and Branson libraries and in Special Collections. For more information and assistance with searching, please contact Molly Molloy, Latin American and Border Information Specialist, at 505–646–6931 or email mmolloy@lib.nmsu.edu. -- Molly Molloy, Southwest and Border Research Center

Ceci Mendoza Retires

Cecilia (Ceci) Mendoza retired on January 31, 2002, after twenty-three years of service to the Library. Ceci said that she especially enjoyed her work as a Library Specialist I in the Bindery Area of Technical Services because of the many graduate students she met when they turned in their theses and dissertations to her. She also enjoyed working with her student employees, many of whom still keep in touch with her.

Ceci made the chile for a Chile Cook-Off during NMSU’s Hispanic Week during the 1980s, and won second place for the Library.

The Library thanks Ceci Mendoza for her many years of service and wishes her well in her retirement.

Library Staff News

Several Library staff members were honored at a recent Library Employee Service Award reception:

- John Freyermuth, 25 years
- Holly Reynolds, 25 years
- Grace Gonzales–Small,* 20 years
- Vita Montano,* 20 years
- Cindy Watkins, 20 years
- Mila Smith, 15 years
- Barbara Peale,* 10 years
- Stuart Peale,* 10 years
- Kay Simpson,* 10 years
- Dennis Daily, 5 years

* also attended the NMSU Employee Service Awards Ceremony

The Library welcomes two new employees:

- Elia Mojica works in the Bindery Area of Technical Services.
- Matt Grubaugh is working at Zuhl Reference part-time.

Archivist Portia Vescio lectured on “Women’s Primary Resources at the Rio Grande Historical Collections” during Women’s History Month in March. See Portia’s online exhibit on the Shalam Colony at http://archives.nmsu.edu/exhibits/shalam/.

Library faculty Susan Beck, Joe Becker, Jan Hylen, Monica Kirby, Kate Manuel and Laurence Creider presented programs at the New Mexico Library Association (NMLA) 2002 annual conference in Las Cruces April 17–19. Cindy Watkins chaired the NMLA Education Committee, Jeanette Smith chaired the Public Relations Committee and Monica Kirby served on the Local Arrangements Committee.

Leilani Horton, long–time volunteer at the Border Book Festival, was a member of this year’s festival panel and workshop team.

Contact Kate Manuel, Instruction Coordinator, at kmanuel@lib.nmsu.edu or 505–646–6932. -- Kate Manuel, Zuhl Reference

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Oral History is a Little-Known Resource

Among the books, journals, CD-ROMs and other resources in the Library are some types of materials that you may not know existed. One of these resources is oral history collections, which can be found in the Rio Grande Historical Collections (RGHC).

The oral histories in the RGHC consist mainly of interviews and speeches. The collections are composed of audio and videotapes as well as some transcripts of the tapes. The RGHC currently houses more than one thousand oral history interviews and it receives about eighty new interviews annually from projects conducted in collaboration with classes at the university, from local organizations, such as the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, and from individuals whose personal papers we collect.

These interviews cover a wide range of topics, but usually relate in some way to New Mexico history. Some of the RGHC’s major oral history collections are:

- White Sands Missile Range Oral History Legacy Project. The project documents the lives and lifestyles of ranching families of the Tularosa Basin displaced during World War II, when it became a bombing and nuclear test site.
- Prisoners of War in New Mexico Agriculture. This collection contains interviews of former POWs and farmers who utilized the POW labor during World War II.
- Oral Histories of Low Income and Minority Women. The Southwest Institute for Research on Women undertook a project to record the oral histories of low income and minority women from across the United States.
- New Mexico Federation of Women’s Clubs Oral History Project. This project documents several decades of civic and charitable activity in southern New Mexico.

The RGHC recently received a mini-grant from the Southwest Oral History Association to purchase a new cassette deck to make its oral history collections more accessible to researchers. For more information about using the oral history collections in the RGHC, please email the RGHC at archives@lib.nmsu.edu or phone 505–646–3839.

-- Portia Vescio, Southwest and Border Research Center

Karen Stabler

Karen Stabler Receives Award

Karen Stabler, Head of the Access Services Department, was awarded the New Mexico Library Association (NMLA) Community Achievement Award. Karen initiated a Mexican librarian exchange program, hosting eight librarians from the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez, who spent one week each at the Library.

She also received a grant from the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials that enabled a Mexican librarian to spend three months at New Mexico State University. She is currently directing a Southwest Center for Environmental Research grant project.

Karen has authored many articles published in peer-reviewed journals, and has held elected leadership positions in many professional library organizations.

LibQUAL+ is being undertaken by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) in collaboration with Texas A&M University, with financial support from the U.S. Department of Education’s Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, ARL, Texas A&M and participating libraries, including New Mexico State University. The project will continue through 2003, and it is anticipated that it will evolve into an ongoing program.

More than 170 academic libraries nationwide are project participants in 2002. For more information, see the LibQUAL+ home page at http://www.libqual.org or email Dr. Elizabeth Titus, Dean of the University Library, at etitus@lib.nmsu.edu.

Library Measures Service Quality

The New Mexico State University Library is a participant in LibQUAL+, a co-sponsored national research and development project. LibQUAL+ is defining and measuring library service quality across institutions and creating useful quality-assessment tools for local academic library planning. Each participating library will send invitations and reminders to a random sample of its user population, encouraging recipients to complete a web survey. Survey data will provide the basis for comparative data generated for each library on how users perceive the quality of their library service. The survey of NMSU faculty, staff and students started in March 2002.

Donors Honored

Several Library donors were honored by the New Mexico State University Foundation, Inc., for achieving membership in prestigious University giving clubs:

- Mr. Leland Gile
  Crimson Society
- Mrs. Barbara Lee Myers
  Regents Associates
- Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Bauer
  University Ambassadors
- Drs. Herbert and Reta Beebe
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- Dr. Elizabeth Titus
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- Dr. and Mrs. Charles Townley
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Think Like a Poet, Enter Our Contest

Many years ago, in another library in another time, a friend of mine invented card catalog poetry. All you had to do was go to the card catalog -- remember them? -- open a drawer, select a card at random and write down the headings on it and the next few cards in consecutive order. Titles worked especially well. It was amazing how beautiful and profound the verses were (it seemed to us) as in these examples by retired librarian Helen Levang:

All, from Drawer 126

All things common
All things considered
All things made new
All this, and Heaven, too

Advice, from Drawer 159

Go up for glory
Go where the money is
Go with God
Go with the odds

A variation of random poetry was invented by Dave Kapell, an aspiring Minnesota musician and poet. Kapell glued individual words to refrigerator magnets, and his business, Magnetic Poetry, Inc., was born. His word-bits and the resulting poems are often seen on refrigerators and file cabinets. Many of these poems are posted in an online anthology on Kapell’s web page at http://www.magpo.com.

Today’s technology has changed the format and nature of most library catalogs. Can random “card catalog” poetry be created from an online catalog? Why don’t you give it a try? Visit the Library’s online catalog at http://lib.nmsu.edu, click on “Catalog,” and find some consecutive headings, such as titles, that work as a poem. The headings must be consecutive, and they must be from the New Mexico State University Library’s online catalog. A title and punctuation are optional. Email your poem, your name, address, email address and the date that you accessed the catalog for contest purposes by May 31, 2002, to the editor at jcsmith@lib.nmsu.edu. Please limit your entry to one poem. The two poems judged the best will be published in the library newsletter and the two winning authors will receive gift certificates for dinner for two. Everyone except members of the editorial board of this newsletter is eligible to enter. Have fun, and remember, think like a poet!

-- Jeanette Smith, Library Administration

Poster a Finalist

Sylvia Ortiz, Head of Branson Reference and Norice Lee, Dona Ana Branch Library Director, participated in a NIST conference on “Communicating Science Information” in Gaithersburg, Maryland, on March 6-8, 2002. Their poster presentation on the seventeen-partner Border Health Information and Education Network (BIEN!) was selected as one of fifty finalists. Ortiz participated in a panel presentation, and Lee conducted the poster session. Visit the BIEN! web site at http://www.bienhealth.org.

The University Board of Regents met at the Library in December 2001.