



THE BIG READ BLESS ME, ÚLTIMA



<http://lib.nmsu.edu/bigread/>



Caroline E. Stras.
Photo, Sears Family

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Big Read Kicks Off on October 5

A reading festival to be held throughout October will see the residents of Doña Ana County avidly reading and discussing the same book, the classic New Mexican novel *Bless Me, Última* by Rudolfo Anaya. The month-long Big Read will include a rich schedule of programs, book discussion groups, readings, music and dance performances, film screenings, contests and other events and activities showcasing Anaya's work and the culture it describes. All events are free and open to the public.

Kickoff Event 1, to be held on Friday, October 5, at 7 p.m. at the Court Youth Center in Las Cruces, will feature an inspiring keynote address on the power of reading to change lives by award-winning poet Jimmy Santiago Baca of Albuquerque. The Ballet Folklorico de la Tierra del Encanto will open the show.

The vibrant musical group Cipriano Vigil y Familia of El Rito will perform at the Rio Grande Theatre in Las Cruces for Kickoff Event 2 on Saturday, October 6, at 3 p.m.

Visit the Big Read web site at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/bigread/> for the program schedule and information about *Bless Me, Última* and Rudolfo Anaya. For more information, please contact Mardi Mahaffy at (505) 646-6925 or the Reference desk at (505) 646-5792. Read more about the Big Read inside this newsletter.

Caroline E. Stras Research Room to be Dedicated October 19

The grand-reopening and naming event for the Caroline E. Stras Research Room, formerly the Library's Archives & Special Collections Research Room, will be held on Friday, October 19, from 4 to 6 p.m. on the fourth floor of Branson Library. This gala event will celebrate the legacy of Caroline E. Stras of El Paso, who retired in 1978 as Senior Vice President of Operations at the Bank of El Paso. A presentation on Stras will be held from 4 to 5 p.m., followed by a wine and cheese reception.

Caroline E. Stras was the daughter of Jouett Fall Elliott and Brant Elliott and the granddaughter of Albert B. Fall. She was the first woman vice president of a bank in El Paso, beginning in the late 1950s. In many ways, she broke down gender barriers in the banking industry.

In November 2005, Edward, Jo Ann and Judith Sears created the Caroline Stras Endowed Fund for the New Mexico State University Library. The endowment will reach \$100,000 within five years. The income will be used to support the acquisition and preservation of collections in Women's Studies at the NMSU Library in honor of the achievements of Caroline E. Stras. For more information, please contact the Archives staff at (505) 646-3839.

The Big Read Celebrates the Novel *Bless Me, Última*, by Rudolfo Anaya

The aim of the Big Read is to celebrate and revitalize reading and to bring Doña Ana County residents of all ages together to discuss Anaya's classic New Mexican novel. Like the popular Harry Potter novels, *Bless Me, Última* is a coming-of-age story full of magic, legends and folkways that appeals to a broad range of readers. The reading festival is sponsored by the New Mexico State University (NMSU) Library in partnership with the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, the libraries of the Las Cruces Public Schools, the Doña Ana Arts Council, the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico, the Storytellers of Las Cruces and many other project partners.

Mardi Mahaffy, the NMSU Library's Humanities Librarian and local Big Read project director, said "I encourage everyone to get a copy of the book and join us in reading and celebrating *Bless Me, Última*."

The Big Read is a national initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest, that encourages reading by asking communities to come together and discuss books.

Support for the Doña Ana County festivities comes from a \$10,000 NEA grant to the NMSU Library and the generosity of private donors and institutional sponsors in providing a \$10,000+ match.

The Big Read Steering Committee includes Susan Beck, Alisa Gonzalez, Mardi Mahaffy, Cindy Pierard and Jeanette Smith of the NMSU Library, Connie Loyd of NMSU Development, Mark Pendleton of the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, Rebecca Sellars and Cindy Robbins of the NMSU Advancement Office, Stephanie Johnson-Burick of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico, Amy Johnson Bassford of the Doña Ana Arts Council, Earl Phillips and Margo Lamb of the libraries of the Las Cruces Public Schools and Laurie Churchill of the NMSU Research Office. For more information on the Big Read, visit <http://lib.nmsu.edu/bigread/> or call Mahaffy at (505) 646-6925 or the Reference desk at (505) 646-5792. — Jeanette Smith, Library Administration

The Las Cruces Big Read programming is part of The Big Read, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest.



The Author

Rudolfo Anaya was born in the small village of Pastura, near Santa Rosa, New Mexico, in 1937, to a farm girl mother and a vaquero father. The curandera who presided at his birth set out tools of both family trades near the newborn — only to see him reach for a paper and pencil instead.

As a boy Anaya hunted and fished and swam the Pecos River. After the family left the countryside for Albuquerque, he gravitated toward baseball and football. While roughhousing around an irrigation channel with friends, Anaya dove in and hit the bottom. Years of arduous rehabilitation and bedridden reading would pass before he regained full movement in his neck.

Anaya discovered a different kind of movement during his years at the University of New Mexico. El Movimiento, the Chicano Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, encouraged Anaya's dream of writing books that would explore his cultural heritage.

After receiving his B.A. and M.A., Anaya taught at middle schools, high schools, and universities while writing at night. In 1966, he married Patricia Lawless, who shared his passion for books and storytelling.

After more than seven years of writing and rewriting his novel, Anaya submitted his first manuscript, *Bless Me, Última*, to the small Berkeley press, Quinto Sol. A \$1,000 prize accompanied the novel's printing, and the mainstream New York publisher, Warner Books, later acquired its rights. Since its publication in 1972, the novel has become part of high school English and university Chicano literature classes. Writer Tony Hillerman has praised Anaya as the "godfather and guru of Chicano literature."

The Book

Bless Me, Última is a coming-of-age novel about a young boy's loss of innocence and approach to maturity. It deals with tradition and education, faith and doubt, and good and evil.

The summer before Antonio Juan Luna Márez turns seven years old, an old woman comes to live with his family in Guadalupe, New Mexico. This woman – called La Grande or Última – is a curandera, a traditional healer feared by many and mysterious to all.

Because she served as his mother's midwife, Última has a special connection to Antonio. As she teaches him, their bond deepens. Antonio witnesses several tragic events that shake his understanding of his history and future. After witnessing a murder, Antonio begins to consider sin, death and the afterlife in earnest.

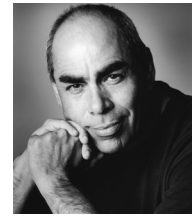
Among the many conflicts Antonio seeks to resolve, the tension between his parents ranks foremost. His devout mother, María Luna Márez, the daughter of farmers, wants Antonio to become a priest. His father, Gabriel Márez, is a former vaquero whose wandering spirit has not settled.

Antonio's surreal dreams often foreshadow the future and reflect his existential questions: Why is there evil in the world? Why does God sometimes seem to punish the good? Where will I go after death? How can I know the truth? Believing that his first Communion will answer these questions, Antonio studies his catechism and proves an able scholar.

Throughout Antonio's dreams and his challenges – including a mob beating from his schoolmates, the death of a close friend and his brothers' waywardness – Última and her owl remain a watchful, benevolent presence in his life.

Big Read Schedule of Events Announced

Keynote speaker **Jimmy Santiago Baca** has devoted his life to writing, teaching and speaking about the power of literature and how it can change the lives of those overcoming hardship. A runaway at age 13, he earned his GED in 1979 and received a B.A. in English in 1984 and an honorary doctorate in literature in 2003, both from the University of New Mexico. A prolific poet and novelist, he has received the Pushcart Prize, the American Book Award for Poetry and many more awards and honors. In 1990, Baca received the International Hispanic Heritage Award for his memoir *A Place to Stand*. In 2005, he created Cedar Tree, a nonprofit foundation that provides free writing workshops, books and scholarships to people in all walks of life.



Jimmy Santiago Baca. Photo, Jimmy Santiago Baca

- **Friday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m., Court Youth Center - Kickoff Event 1** - Ballet Folklorico de la Tierra del Encanto and Award-Winning Chicano Poet Jimmy Santiago Baca
- **Saturday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m., Branigan Library** - Jackye Meinecke, "Create Your Own Herb Garden," for all ages, call (505) 528-4003 or (505) 528-4000
- **Saturday, Oct. 6, 3 p.m., Rio Grande Theatre - Kickoff Event 2** - Music and Stories of Northern New Mexico by Cipriano Vigil y Familia of El Rito
- **Book Discussion Groups**

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| Oct. 9, 3 p.m., NMSU Library | Oct. 21, 2 p.m., Spirit Winds Cafe |
| Oct. 11, 7 p.m., Milagro Cafe y Espresso | Oct. 23, 7 p.m., Barnes & Noble |
| Oct. 14, 3 p.m., The Bean Cafe - Mesilla | Oct. 24, 4 p.m., NMSU Library |
| Oct. 16, 7 p.m., Branigan Library | Oct. 25, 7 p.m., The Bean Cafe - Mesilla |
| Oct. 17, 10 a.m., Munson Senior Center | Nov. 1, 2 p.m., NMSU Library |
- **Saturday, Oct. 13, 2 p.m., Rio Grande Theatre** - Feature Film
- **Sunday, Oct. 14, 1 p.m., Branigan Library** - Deborah LaPorte, Writing Workshop for ages 17 and up, "Make Your Own Big Read!" call (505) 528-4005 to register
- **Saturday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m., Rio Grande Theatre** - *Bless Me, Última: An Evening of Readings* by Denise Chavez and Company
- **Saturday, Oct. 27, 3 p.m., Branigan Library** - Nasario Garcia, "Hispanic Fiestas"
- **Saturday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m., Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum** - Nasario Garcia, "Would You Like to Meet the Devil, Bogeyman, or La Llorona?"
- **Sunday, Oct. 28, 2:30 p.m., Fabian Garcia Science Center Landscape Garden** Mary O'Connell and Cristina Villapardo, "Healing Herbs & the Curandera Tradition"
- **Thursday, Nov. 1, noon, NMSU Library** - Rick Hendricks, "Witchcraft and Religious Conflict in New Mexican History"
- **Saturday, Nov. 3, 2 p.m., NMSU Creative Media Institute** - Feature Film, "The Cry," a contemporary thriller based on the "La Llorona" legend

Visit the **Big Read** web site at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/bigread/> for the full program schedule, contests, and more!

Library Hosts New Plagiarism Web Site

The Library announces that it is hosting a new web site on plagiarism issues. The site, available at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/plagiarism/>, provides resources for both students and faculty. The user-friendly site begins with a list of the most common misconceptions about plagiarism.

For students there is a description of plagiarism, a list of the most common mistakes and how to avoid them, definitions of important terms, examples of correct citations, links to citation guides and links to tutorials and quizzes at other universities.

Faculty resources include tips on how to prevent plagiarism, tips on creating effective research assignments and links to resources with practical advice on avoiding and dealing with plagiarism. The site provides faculty with two documents that can be used in their classes:

- A worksheet for students, designed to facilitate learning from the web pages
- A quiz that tests students' understanding of basic plagiarism concepts

Tara Gray, the director of NMSU's Teaching Academy, said "This web site provides a great resource for faculty and students alike." The members of NMSU's Plagiarism Web Site Committee are Stuart Brown of the NMSU English Department; Terry Cook of the Center for Learning Assistance; Tara Gray of the Teaching Academy; Travis Marley Dulany, an NMSU honors student and member of the ASNMSU Senate and Grace Ann Rosile of Management and General Business. James Caufield of the Library chaired the committee, and Carol Boyse and Teresa Roberts provided technical support. — James Caufield, Reference & Research Services

Carl Faubion Memorial Endowment Established by the Halligans

Former NMSU President James E. Halligan and Mrs. Ann E. Halligan have established the Carl Faubion Memorial Endowment for the NMSU Library. The endowment will fund an award to be made annually to a Library staff or student worker. The endowment is expected to reach \$10,000 within five years.

Library Dean Elizabeth A. Titus said, "The Library sincerely appreciates this generous gift, which will recognize the work of Library employees."

***This gift will recognize
the work of
Library employees***

The endowment was established in memory of Carl Faubion, Mesilla Valley farmer and former NMSU regent, who passed away on October 29, 2005.

The Harding County native earned a bachelor's degree in range management in 1950 and began farming in the Mesilla Valley the following year. Among his many awards is the 1992 Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award from the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau. Faubion served on NMSU's Board of Regents for twelve years.

In, Out & About the Library

- Cindy Pierard, Reference & Research Services, was one of ten librarians awarded a full scholarship to attend Vanderbilt University's Summer Institute for Academic Library Leadership.

- Martha Andrews, Archives & Special Collections, and Theresa Valko, Reference & Research Services, were both awarded Library Dean's Faculty Research Awards.

- Steve Hussman, Archives & Special Collections, was appointed a reviewer for digital project proposals to the National Endowment for the Humanities.

- Jeanette Smith, Library Administration, is participating in NMSU's ADVANCING Leaders Program.

Publications & Papers

Susan Beck, Mardi Mahaffy and Susan Metcalf have chapters in *Information Literacy Course Handbook for Distance and In-class Learners* (Library Instruction Publications: Pittsburg, 2006).

Susan Beck presented a paper, "Films Along the Border: Building a Borderland Feature Film Collection," at the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials conference in April.

Molloy, Molly, "Love on the Line," in *Open Windows 2006*, edited by Sonya Unrein (Ghost Road Press: Denver, 2006).

Pierard, Cindy, and Kathryn Graves, "Research on Student Retention and Implications for Library Involvement," in *The Role of the Library in the First College Year*, Monograph #45 (Columbia, SC: University of S. C., National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition, 2007).

Van Dusen, Melissa, "Open Up With Community Outreach," *Library Media Connection* 25 (March 2007): 24-26.

Library Awarded Grants and Gifts

- The Big Read Festival is supported by a \$10,000 National Endowment for the Arts grant to the Library and the generosity of private donors and institutional sponsors in providing a \$10,000 match. The festival is sponsored by the Library in partnership with the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, the libraries of the Las Cruces Public Schools, the Doña Ana Arts Council, the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico and partners. The project director is Mardi Mahaffy.
- The Library recently received a PNM Partnership Grant of \$7,000 from the PNM Foundation. Reference librarian Cindy Watkins will purchase needed water resources materials with the gift.
- This spring, the Library received a gift of \$5,000 from the Robert E. and Evelyn McKee Foundation of El Paso. Project directors Theresa Valko and Cindy Watkins purchased engineering and water resources materials with the gift.
- Gary Mayhood of Technical Services and Molly Molloy of Reference & Research Services received a \$2,000 grant from the Southwest Border and Cultures Institute to strengthen the Mexican/Border Region sheet music collection.
- Sylvia Ortiz of Reference & Research Services was awarded \$1,982 by the Southwest Border and Cultures Institute for a celebration of the 75th anniversary of New Deal art, especially New Deal art in the border region.
- Cindy Pierard, Reference & Research Services, received a \$1,895 scholarship from the Institute for Museum and Library Services through Vanderbilt University to attend the Summer Institute for Academic Library Leadership.
- Charles Stanford, Archives & Special Collections, received a \$250 conference scholarship from the Conference of Intermountain Archivists.

New Research Databases Added

During the summer, the Library added several important databases, all of which are available on networked campus computers. The databases are also available to all main campus NMSU students, faculty and staff connecting from off campus through a link to the Library's *Find Articles* page at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/article.shtml>. New databases include a general full text resource, *Academic Search Premier*, a full text upgrade to the nursing database, *CINAHL Plus with Full Text* and a tests and measurements resource, *Mental Measurements Yearbook*.

Academic Search Premier provides full text for nearly 4,500 journals, updated daily, including more than 3,600 peer-reviewed titles. Backfiles to 1975 or earlier are available for well over one hundred journals, and searchable cited references are provided for one thousand titles.

CINAHLPlus with Full Text is the world's most comprehensive source of full text for nursing and allied health journals, providing full text for more than 560 journals indexed in *CINAHL*. With more than 600,000 articles dating back to 1937, it is the definitive research tool for all areas of nursing and allied health literature.

The *Homeland Security Digital Library Collection* provides quick access to important U.S. policy documents, presidential directives and national strategy documents as well as specialized resources such as theses and reports from various universities, organizations and local and state agencies.

Mental Measurements Yearbook (MMY) is a well-known resource from the Buros Institute. The online version provides users with a comprehensive guide to over two thousand contemporary testing instruments and information essential for evaluation of test products within such diverse areas as psychology, education, business and leadership.

The Library realized cost savings through a consortial license agreement

The Library realized cost savings by adding *Academic Search Premier* and *CINAHL Plus with Full Text* through a consortial license agreement with other state-supported New Mexico academic libraries.

However, in order to purchase the new databases, the Library had to eliminate some of its general subject databases. The journal title coverage for most of these resources overlapped with *Academic Search Premier* or other currently licensed subject-specific databases. Because the Library already had ample indexing coverage in these areas, canceling these fourteen databases was its best option. The databases no longer on the Library's *Find Articles* web page are: *Applied Science and Technology Abstracts*, *Art Abstracts*, *Biography Index*, *Biological and Agricultural Index*, *Book Review Digest*, *Education Abstracts*, *Essay and General Literature Index*, *General Science Abstracts*, *Humanities Abstracts*, *Index to Legal Periodicals and Books*, *Library Literature*, *Readers' Guide Abstracts*, *Social Sciences Abstracts* and *Wilson Business Abstracts*.

Please send your questions about any of these databases to your Library subject specialist (see <http://lib.nmsu.edu/depts/collserv/sel-liai.shtml> for a complete list of subject specialists by academic department) or to Susan Beck at (505) 646-6171 or email susabeck@nmsu.edu. — Susan Beck, Reference & Research Services

Library Welcomes Four New Employees



Sarah Baker

Sarah Baker

Sarah Baker is one of the Library's latest acquisitions. A former reference and instruction librarian at California State University, San Bernardino, she is joining the Library faculty as the Education Librarian.

Sarah received her master's degree in library and information science from San Jose State University in 2005 and her bachelor's degree from the Hutchins School of Liberal Studies at Sonoma State University in 2000. Her research interests include digital libraries, information literacy/instructional design and intellectual freedom issues.

Outside the Library you will find her watching movies, reading, painting (using the amazing New Mexican light) or cooking and baking up a storm. You can reach Sarah in her office at Zuhl Library or email sbbaker@lib.nmsu.edu.

Alisa Gonzalez

Alisa C. Gonzalez has joined the Library faculty as the Social Science Librarian in Reference & Research Services. Coming from the El Paso Public Library, Alisa was the Public Services Senior Librarian for the West region.



Alisa Gonzalez

Previously, Alisa was employed as an assistant reference librarian at Youngstown State University. She was the Business Librarian and liaison and also the liaison to the School of Engineering.

Alisa received her master's degree in library and information science from Kent State University. Her research interests include the cultural and sociological aspects of library use as well as the effectiveness of information literacy instruction. She enjoys spending time with her family, painting, music and playing poker. Alisa can be contacted at her office in Zuhl Library or email acgonzal@lib.nmsu.edu.



T.J. Urbanski

T.J. Urbanski

T. J. Urbanski, the new Access Services Department Head, comes to NMSU from Illinois State University (ISU). T.J. received a M.L.I.S. from Indiana University in December 1998, and he served seven years in the Navy. He served at ISU as the Access Services Division Head for four years while earning a master's degree in history, which he received in December 2006.

T.J. worked at ISU to integrate a more customer service centered approach to a busy public service center. His current research focuses on the changing nature of public services in academic libraries, and he is also interested in applying new technologies to library services.

T.J. has presented several history papers, the most recent at the Southwest/Texas Popular & American Culture Associations conference in Albuquerque in February. He enjoys spending time with his daughter, hiking and learning more about New Mexico. Contact T.J. at his office in Zuhl Library or at tjurban@lib.nmsu.edu.

Teresa Roberts

Teresa Roberts, the Library's new Web Coordinator, is a 2002 NMSU graduate with a B.S. in business administration and a major in business computer systems. Since graduation Teresa has worked for NMSU at University Communications and Marketing Services, the NMSU Foundation and Human Resources. Most of her work has been in a technical capacity as a systems analyst, database programmer and web designer.

Teresa is busy making the Library's web presence attractive, professional and efficient. She is interested in digital graphics and continues to pursue education in this area. She enjoys china painting, playing the guitar, reading and desert exploration. Contact Teresa at her office in Branson Library or at troberts@lib.nmsu.edu.



Teresa Roberts



Genevieve Bauer

Genevieve was instrumental in working with her family toward donating funds to the Library by establishing the Regis Guest Endowment in a lasting tribute to the memory of her brother. The endowment supports the continuing purchase of library materials related to jazz, big band and classic rock music.

Genevieve Bauer Retires

Genevieve Bauer retired from the Library on June 1, 2007, with more than twenty-eight years of service to NMSU. Genevieve began working in the University Bookstore in February 1979. In June 1981 she became a Library Technician I in the Serials Unit of the Cataloging Department.

Over the years, Genevieve's responsibilities increased in importance to where she was the project coordinator for Technical Services special projects. Genevieve left many lasting marks on the Library over the years, but without a doubt her greatest contribution has been the many years she spent entering data for the retrospective conversion of the library's collections from card catalog access to online access. She worked steadily on retrospective conversion alongside her colleagues in the department until 2004, when she had the honor of entering the last piece of data from our old catalog cards into machine-readable form for the Library's present online public access catalog.

In her last two years before retiring, Genevieve worked tirelessly with members of NMSU's classified staff to help establish the AFSCME union contract, which was ratified this summer. — Gary Mayhood, Technical Services

Ask Me Table Welcomes Students



Library staff members offered directional assistance, bottled water and fortune cookies to 485 campus newcomers the first day of Fall Semester. The "Ask Me" table is a partnership between the Library and NMSU's Office of Student Marketing and Transitions/Student Success. Organizers Vicki Baldrige and Cindy Pierard said that the project is an effort to help better orient students and others who are new to the NMSU campus.

Table volunteers were Beverly Cano, Graciela Martinez, Wendy Simpson, Marti Torres, Irene Shown, Theresa Valko, Mary Chavarria, Yolanda Chacon-Valle, Dora Morales, Vicki Minnick, Kimberly Miller (pictured above), Donna Burkholder, Deborah Parker and Irene Tellez. — Vicki Baldrige, Access Services, and Cindy Pierard, Reference & Research Services

Irene Shown Retires

Irene Shown retired on September 1, 2007, after thirty years of service to NMSU. Irene first worked at NMSU in 1974 as a student employee in the Physical Science Lab snack bar. She became full-time staff in the Personnel & Security Office in 1976, and later took positions in the Housing Department and Employee Benefits Office.

Irene joined the Library staff in October, 1984, as a Library Assistant in the Cataloging Department, and she was promoted to new positions in what is now known as the Technical Services Department.

She then worked in Government Documents for six years. In 1997 she went to Collection Management and then came to Reference & Research Services in May 1998 as a Library Specialist. In Reference, Irene's interests have been in library instruction and outreach, and she has developed a deep appreciation of issues facing non-English speaking users.

Irene completed an A.A. degree and a B.A. degree in foreign languages while working full time at NMSU. Her retirement plans include traveling with her husband, Ed, and moving closer to the mountains and ski slopes. — Cindy Pierard, Reference & Research Services



Irene Shown.
Photo, Ed Shown

With her colleagues, Irene did conference presentations, co-authored a book chapter and coordinated local celebrations of El día de los niños/El día de los libros, a national festival that promotes reading to young children. She was also a leader in REFORMA, a library organization devoted to providing services to Spanish-speaking and Latino patrons, and she was president of the New Mexico chapter in 2006.

In Memoriam: Kay Simpson

The Library staff mourns the loss of Kay Simpson, who passed away on June 7, 2007. Born in Portales, New Mexico, she moved to Las Cruces in 1969. She leaves behind her husband, two daughters, two granddaughters, both of her parents and an older brother.

Kay worked at the NMSU Library in the early 1970s, and then returned in 1991 to work as a bindery technician. She worked her way up to Bibliographic Specialist II, and she made considerable contributions to the General Cataloging Unit of the Technical Services Department.

Kay was always learning more about her job, and even took Spanish classes to improve her Spanish-language cataloging skills. She learned to catalog visual and special collections materials. Her co-workers appreciated her quiet, hard-working, kind and friendly manner. She bore her illness quietly and with dignity.

Outside of work, Kay enjoyed reading, gardening, doing crossword puzzles and spending time with her granddaughters. She will be missed.

Electronic Course Pack Service is Here

Effective Fall 2007, the NMSU Library is the central point for submission of NMSU faculty requests for all course packs for copyright clearance and preparation for posting through the web-based DocuTek System.

DocuTek has been configured to provide seamless access from WebCT, and an electronic archive of up to three years will be created for future use of e-pack materials. Students will have electronic access to course materials 24/7 through Docutek.

Library staff will review each e-pack item submitted and seek needed copyright clearances through the Copyright Clearance Center. NMSU has a strong commitment and legal obligation to adhere to copyright compliance throughout its system. The NMSU Library Access Services staff is trained to ensure that all course pack materials will be in copyright compliance.

Library Dean Elizabeth A. Titus thanks all NMSU faculty members who participated in the Library's pilot test of the electronic course pack service. Last Spring Semester, more than forty-five professors transformed their traditional paper course packs to e-packs.

For more information about the e-pack service or to discuss course pack plans, faculty members are asked to contact T.J. Urbanski, the Access Services Department Head, at tjurban@lib.nmsu.edu or (505) 646-5091. The NMSU Library will begin processing these documents on a first-come, first-served basis.

National Union Catalog Relocated



(Left to right) Students Kyle McCracken, Amanda Stroud, Angelina Malone and Chris Torres moved the NUC. Photo, Kimberly Miller

The National Union Catalog, commonly referred to as the NUC, is a printed catalog of books and other materials held by more than 1,100 libraries in the U. S. and Canada. Although many researchers now use online union catalogs, some of the older records found in the NUC are not yet replicated in online resources. The NUC is considered an important bibliographic resource, and it is still used by our patrons, among them the library students in the DACC program.

With the goal of making this title more accessible to our patrons, the Library's multi-volume NUC set was recently moved to the fourth floor of Branson Library and integrated into the regular collection by call number order. Technical Services staff provided new labels and updated the catalog to reflect this move.

The physical work of moving the NUC was accomplished in record time due to the hard work of shelving and reference student employees Stephanie Hernandez, Angelina Malone, Kyle McCracken, Sara Samani, Amanda Stroud and Chris Torres. — Kimberly Miller, Access Services, and Cindy Pierard, Reference & Research Services



The Federal Depository Library Program was initiated in 1813 after the British forces burned down the Library of Congress in the War of 1812, destroying much of the nation's legacy of printed resources.

In the aftermath, Congress initiated a system of distribution of federal documents to specially designated libraries throughout the United States. These were known as "depository" libraries as they were the recipients of government-issued documents.

In 1895, the Government Printing Office, charged as the official printer of federally distributed materials, became responsible for the distribution of these printed resources to all designated depository libraries in the United States.

Two major goals were the underpinning of the depository system:

- that the nation would never experience another complete loss of its Congressional publications, and
- that the people of the nation should have free access to the materials produced by their government.

— Sylvia Ortiz, Reference & Research Services

Library Celebrates 100th Anniversary in Federal Depository Library Program

The Library is celebrating its centennial celebration as a land-grant institution in the Federal Depository Library Program. In 1907, the U. S. Congress passed legislation under the provisions of the Nelson Amendment to the First and Second Morrill Acts granting depository status to land-grant college and university libraries. That auspicious legislation, 44 USC 1905, allowed the largest number of libraries, forty-three specifically, to enter the program in a single year.

In the September 11, 1907 issue of NMSU's student newspaper, *The Round Up*, we are informed that the Library was made a depository for United States documents. It further goes on to say that space must be found in which to shelve these materials and make them accessible to the public as well as the students and faculty: "...the library is overcrowded and we will not now receive the benefit of this concession. Being a valuable one, however, it is expected that arrangements will soon be made to receive the documents" (*The Round Up*, Sept. 11, 1907: 3).

The Library at New Mexico State University specifically serves the government information needs of the Second U.S. Congressional District of New Mexico. The Library's primary responsibility is to fulfill the research needs of the university community and the needs of the citizens of the Second Congressional District. With this in mind, the collection is as broad as it is deep.

The collection is as broad as it is deep

Users of the collection will find the current laws of the land, census data, travel information, recipes, maps and small business requirements among the many items available for research.

In recent years, many depository items have become available on the Internet at agency and program web sites and are widely accessible to many researchers. The documents staff in Branson Library is still enthusiastic about helping users locate the information they need for their particular research. Don't hesitate to drop by the second floor to discuss your specific needs, or you can call (505) 646-4385 for further information. The Library is committed to serving its constituencies through its membership in the Federal Depository Library Program, and it invites you to take advantage of this exceptional resource. — Sylvia Ortiz, Reference & Research Services



Meadow. Pastel by Lenny Silverman, Archives & Special Collections

Serials Collection Review and Assessment Project Wraps Up

Last spring the Library launched a serials review project (SCRAP) with the aim of more closely aligning its collection with the University's current research and curricular needs. The Library prepared serials lists, sorted by academic department and in broad disciplinary groups and distributed these to all academic departments to review, prioritizing titles on a 1 to 3 scale. A total of 46 academic departments (86.7%) participated in the project.

Although the Library experienced some challenges regarding its license agreements for electronic journal packages with several commercial vendors (John Wiley, Springer and Elsevier), it has identified important serial titles to add to its collection as well as more than several that no longer warrant inclusion.

The results of SCRAP will be posted at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/scrap/>. Questions about the SCRAP project should be directed to the Library's subject specialist for specific academic departments (see a list of all subject specialists at <http://lib.nmsu.edu/depts/collserv/sel-liai.shtml>). Those interested can also contact Susan Beck at (505) 646-6171 or by email at susabeck@nmsu.edu. — Susan Beck, Reference & Research Services

Class Explores History, Art of the Book

An exhibit on the history and art of the book was displayed in the lobby of Branson Library during the summer and early fall. The exhibit showcased the work of students in Art 394/595, an innovative Book Arts Intensive class offered at New Mexico State University for the first time this summer.

The students explored the history of the book, its place in the modern world and the changing definitions of what constitutes a book and what a book may be and contain.

The class constructed a variety of classic and experimental bindings, using different tools and techniques including work with paper, leather, cloth and even metal. Students also made their own decorative paste papers, handmade papers and design elements to produce these unique books.

The books and papers on display demonstrated how the students in this class explored, developed and created books as objects, environments and containers for communicating in physical, textural and visual ways. The class was taught by NMSU art professor Mark Nero. For more information, please contact Nero at (505) 646-7550 or Deborah Parker at (505) 646-1854.



NMSU art students produced unique books. Photo, Mark Nero

RGHC Calendar Ready

The Library's Rio Grande Historical Collections is offering its 2008 calendar, "Flood and Drought," for sale. Copies can be purchased for \$6 each at the NMSU Bookstore, the second floor administrative offices at Zuhl Library and the fourth floor Archives research room at Branson Library.

The calendar features photographs of flood and drought, elemental images that serve as a constant reminder that life in the desert is a delicate balance. The "flood" photographs were selected from the collections of engineer Herbert W. Yeo and local professional photographer Jim Rives, who captured the flood images on August 29-30, 1935. The "drought" images are from the Jornada Experimental Range Station Program in Rangeland Research.

The calendar makes a great gift. For more information, please contact the Library Administration at (505) 646-1508 or the Archives & Special Collections Department at (505) 646-3839.



The Zuhl Geological Collection

Many choice specimens from Herb and Joan Zuhl's world-class collection of petrified wood, fossils and minerals are on display throughout Zuhl Library. The Zuhls gave a \$3 million naming gift to the Library, and "New Library" was named Zuhl Library in 2000.

When you are walking around Zuhl Library, be sure to visit "Stan," a handsome Tyrannosaurus Rex who guards the lobby.

DeWitt Writes Novel



Dave DeWitt.
Photo, Dave DeWitt

Library donor Dave DeWitt has written a new historical novel, *Avenging Victorio: A Novel of the Apache Insurgency in New Mexico, 1881*. The book covers the events following the death of Victorio, an Apache war chief who rebelled against the impoverishment and enslavement of his people.

This is DeWitt's first foray into the world of historical fiction. Widely known as the "Pope of Peppers," he is an expert on chile peppers and has published more than thirty books, most of them cook-books.

Last January, DeWitt/Sunbelt Shows, Inc., established the \$25,000 Dave DeWitt Chile Pepper Institute Endowed Fund at the Library.

Avenging Victorio was published by Rio Grande Books of Albuquerque. It is available on Amazon.com.



Editor: Jeanette Smith,
jcsmith@lib.nmsu.edu.

Editorial Board: Carol Boyse, Kimberly Miller, Mike Mitchell and Elizabeth Titus. Photos by Jeanette Smith unless otherwise attributed.

Published Fall and Spring semesters at <http://lib.nmsu.edu>.

NMSU Service Awards Announced

NMSU Employee Service Awards recognizing a total of 185 years of service by 14 Library staff members were awarded in University and Library ceremonies last spring. Honored employees are:

Twenty-Five Years

Grace Gonzales-Small, Technical Services
Kathryn Sowa, Reference & Research Services
Cindy Watkins, Reference & Research Services

Fifteen Years

Yolanda Chacon-Valle, Access Services
Deborah Chavez, Library Administration
Barbara Peale, Technical Services
Stuart Peale, Technical Services
Kay Simpson, Technical Services

Ten Years

Lorena Ramos, Library Administration

Five Years

Joseph Becker, Technical Services
Kimberly Miller, Access Services
Deborah Parker, Access Services
Lenny Silverman, Archives & Special Collections
Wendy Simpson, Reference & Research Services

Bonus Program Awards Announced

Eleven members of the Library staff were recognized by the Library's Bonus Program in an awards ceremony last spring. The program rewards staff for exceptional performance above and beyond the normal scope of duties. Receiving the \$500 awards were:

Donna Burkholder, Access Services
Yolanda Chacon-Valle, Access Services
Mary Chavarria, Access Services
Veronica Gomez, Library Administration
Alice Granado, Systems
Mavis Johnson, Reference & Research Services
Connie Loyd, Library Administration
Mardi Mahaffy, Reference & Research Services
Gracie Martinez, Technical Services
Irene Shown, Reference & Research Services
Marti Torres, Library Administration

Big Read Promotes Reading for Pleasure

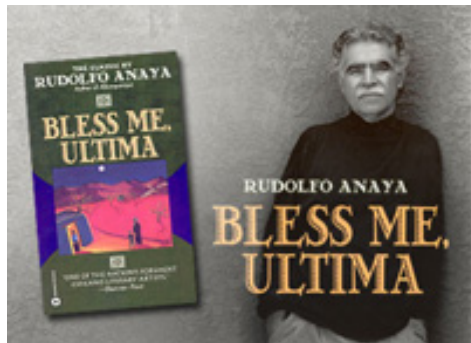
The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts, in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and in cooperation with Arts Midwest. It brings the transformative power of literature into the lives of its citizens. A 2004 NEA report, *Reading at Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America*, identified a critical decline in reading for pleasure among American adults. The Big Read aims to address this issue directly by providing citizens with the opportunity to read and discuss a single book within their communities.

The purpose of The Big Read, like the purpose of literature itself, is pleasure. Not necessarily an easy pleasure, but a deliciously rich and complex one. A great book combines enlightenment with enchantment. It awakens our imagination and enlarges our humanity. It can even offer harrowing insights that somehow console and comfort us. The prospect of an America where only a few people share a love of reading is just too lonely to bear. Even if statistics didn't show that readers are more active in their own communities and more engaged in their own lives, the act of reading would still be an indispensable part of what makes us fully human. It is for these reasons, with the incredible legacy of our nation's literature, that we at the NEA invite you to join The Big Read. — Dana Gioia, Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts



Dana Gioia, Chairman,
National Endowment
for the Arts. Photo, NEA

***A great book combines
enlightenment with
enchantment. It awakens
our imagination and
enlarges our humanity***



Did You Know?

The national Big Read program is the largest federal literature program since the W. P. A.

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