Peña Endowment to Build Farm and Ranch Collections

The Library announces the creation of the Abe M. and Viola R. Peña Endowment for Farming and Ranching Collections in the Rio Grande Historical Collections. The endowment, established by Abe M. and Viola R. Peña, pictured at left, will support the acquisition, preservation, processing and sharing of primary research materials on the history of farming and ranching in New Mexico and the Southwest.

The Library expresses its sincere appreciation for the Abe M. and Viola R. Peña Endowment and the many contributions of the Peña family over the years. During the 1970s, Abe Peña was one of the original founders and organizers of the Library’s Rio Grande Historical Collections (RGHC). He served as a member of the RGHC board. A long term donor to the RGHC, the Durango Microfilming Project and Library Associates, he has also given his papers to the RGHC. The papers document his numerous accomplishments, including ranching, foreign service, politics, writing and service with state and national organizations.

Born in San Mateo, New Mexico, Peña is a 1949 NMSU agriculture graduate. He was the president of NMSU’s Conquistador Club from 1948 to 1949, and he was selected as Conquistador of the Year in 2001. He received an honorary doctorate from NMSU (Peña, continued on page 5)

$21,000 IMLS Grant Educates a New Librarian

The Library has been awarded $21,000 by the Rio Grande Initiative, a collaborative library education project coordinated by the University of North Texas and funded by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Library will sponsor one of approximately twenty bilingual librarians-in-training living in Borderland communities, who will work in participating libraries while they obtain their master’s degrees in Library and Information Sciences from the University of North Texas.

Dennis Daily, an employee in the Archives & Special Collections Department, has been selected as the librarian-in-training at the Library. Grant funds will support his tuition and fees, salary and project-related travel.

Daily said, “It is the perfect opportunity for me to obtain my MLIS and learn the things that others working in the Library already know. I feel very fortunate to have been chosen for this program.” His studies will include web courses and site-based institutes. Local project director Library Dean Elizabeth Titus has named Norice Lee, head of the Library’s Access Services Department, as Daily’s mentor.

“Send us librarians who will stay” has been the cry of library directors along the Rio Grande. Because the librarians-in-training currently live in border communities, the project goal is that they will continue to live and work in these communities after graduation. The new bilingual librarians will be in a good position to communicate with and meet the information needs of the Spanish speaking population in the Borderland. For more information, contact Dean Titus at (505) 646-1508.

— Jeanette Smith, Library Administration
New Computer Cluster is Gift From Students to Students

A partnership of the Associated Students of New Mexico State University (ASNMSU), NMSU Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) and the Library has brought a cluster of ten new computers to Zuhl Library. ASNMSU and ICT provided funding and the Library provided the space for the new computers. The Zuhl Library ASNMSU/ICT Cluster is located in the southeast corner of the first floor of Zuhl Library. Computers in the cluster are available every hour the Library is open.

Because the computers require an NMSU login, use is restricted to students and other members of the NMSU community. The computers are configured in the same way as other computers in clusters. Users have access to their networked My Documents directory, which means that they can store documents on one computer in a cluster and access them from another computer in that cluster or another campus cluster. A printer is available in the area which uses the same copy card as other printers and copy machines in the Library.

Many thanks to ASNNSW and ICT for making these computers available in the Library! For Library hours, call (505) 646-4749. — Carol Boyse, Systems.

All Microforms are in Branson

Library microforms, formerly divided between the two library buildings, are now all located on the first floor of Branson Library. The extensive collection, consisting of microfilm, microfiche and microcards, includes government documents, ERIC documents, newspapers, general periodical titles and several other unique collections. The microforms are organized for easy access by format. Eight microform reader/printers are now conveniently located within close proximity of the microform cabinets to optimize viewing and use of the collection.

The Access Services Department successfully completed the microform collection merge on December 17. Ninety-two microform cabinets were moved by NMSU Facilities and Services in a process that required library staff to pack up hundreds of boxes filled with microforms in Zuhl Library. The microform merge marks the completion of a series of departmental consolidation projects, occurring over the past two years, that improve and enhance access to the Library’s collections, resources and services. — Norice Lee, Access Services

Web Exhibit on Women Pioneers Scheduled for March

The Library will present a web exhibit, Women Pioneers in New Mexico, in March. The exhibit, featuring photos from Archives & Special Collections, will celebrate Women’s History Month. To view the online exhibit, visit http://archives.nmsu.edu/exhibits/exhibits.html.

The exhibit is being prepared by two new archivists at the Library, Martha Andrews and Maura Kenny. Andrews is the processing archivist for the Hobson-Huntsinger University Archives, and Kenny is the processing archivist for the Rio Grande Historical Collections.

New Web Pages Announced

The Library announces two new web pages. Learn about giving opportunities at the Library at http://lib.nmsu.edu/giving/index.html. The Library seeks the partnership of donors so that it may serve its thousands of constituents by fully supporting research, teaching and learning. For more information, call Lesley Heiser, Development Officer, at (505) 646-3642.

View a database of Library grant awards at http://lib.nmsu.edu/aboutlib/grants/GrantsPage.htm. The awards have supported many projects beneficial to Library users and the local community. For more information, call Jeanette Smith, Grants/University Relations Officer, at (505) 646-7492.
Library News Briefs

The Library’s circulation policy has been revised. For more information, please contact Mary Chavarria, Circulation Coordinator, at (505) 646-1860 or visit the circulation web page at http://lib.nmsu.edu/depts/circulation/policies.html.

While the Library is not offering workshops during Spring 2005, it is anticipated that the series will return in the Fall. Those interested in learning more about resources in their areas of research and teaching may contact a Library subject specialist. See http://lib.nmsu.edu/about/librarian.html for a list of subject specialists. Other requests for workshops or instruction sessions may be submitted online at http://lib.nmsu.edu/instruction/requestform.html.

Donor Response is Largest Ever

In December, the Library had the largest donor response ever to the annual holiday mailing of the 2005 Rio Grande Historical Collections calendar, “Vanished Landmarks of Southern New Mexico.”

Dr. Thomas Gale donated $3,000 for an oral history project in the Archives & Special Collections Department, and Barbara Lee Myers gave $3,000 for a graduate student to work in the department and receive training in archival processing. Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Thomas donated $500 to the Abe M. and Viola Peña Endowment announced on page 1. A hearty thank you to these donors and all of our loyal Library supporters!

Rocky Mountain Award Goes to Archives

The Library was awarded $5,000 each year for two years by the Rocky Mountain Online Archive, a project headed by the Collaborative Digitization Program at the University of Denver. The goal of the Rocky Mountain Online Archive is to provide access to finding aids for archival collections located in Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming. The project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation and Access grant program, is modeled on the successes of the Online Archive of New Mexico and other regional online archives.

Project directors Steve Hussman and Maura Kenny of Archives & Special Collections will use the funds to update and create finding aids for a total of 127 previously processed archival collections in the Library’s Rio Grande Historical Collections, which have not yet been encoded in Encoded Archival Description. The ambitious project will provide access to these collections and complete the processing work with “best practices” archival description. For more information, contact Hussman at (505) 646-4756.

University Archives Illuminates Campus Life

The Hobson–Huntsinger University Archives is planning many new initiatives in documenting NMSU. The University Archives has in the past assiduously preserved the official records of the school, traditionally the first responsibility of an institutional archives. Newer archival practice, however, emphasizes the contribution of non-official documentation in creating a more holistic understanding of an institution.

Creating a more holistic understanding

The Archives staff hopes to expand its collecting into areas that illuminate, for example, the experience of being an NMSU student. There are a variety of informal documents that contribute to a fuller picture of campus life — letters home from homesick students, scrapbooks, dance cards from early 20th century formals, posters and ephemera relating to campus events, including underground publications.

To encourage interest in the school’s history both within and outside the community, the staff will augment the Archives web site with new exhibits and research tools. In conjunction with Women’s History Month in March, Martha Andrews and Maura Kenny are mounting a web exhibit of women pioneers in Southern New Mexico drawn from the Archives’ rich photographic resources (see related story on page 2). — Martha Andrews, Archives & Special Collections

“Many Voices” to Read April 11

Put Monday, April 11, on your calendar, and watch for future announcements of the “Many Voices, One Nation @ Your Library” read-aloud events at the Library and elsewhere in Las Cruces that day. There will be similar read-alouds on the same day at libraries all over the U.S during this coast-to-coast celebration of reading during National Library Week. Norice Lee, the head of the Library’s Access Services Department, is the national chairperson of this unique initiative of the American Library Association (ALA).

In addition to the read-alouds, the project will create a “nation’s booklist” of representative multicultural works from contributions by ALA state chapters. The booklist will showcase the diverse voices that exist in our nation and its literature. The project is one of two national “Many Voices” initiatives. According to ALA President Carol Brey-Casiano, the “Many Voices, One Nation @ Your Library” program celebrates the unifying role that libraries play in building a literate nation. For more information or to volunteer to participate in the event, please contact Lee at (505) 646-5091 or nlee@lib.nmsu.edu.
Frances Alvarez Retires

Frances Alvarez, a familiar face on the front line service desks for twenty-two years, retired in January. Her career at the Library began in 1983 in the Bindery Unit in the Serials Department, where she served for more than nine years.

Frances then spent eleven years in Zuhl Library Circulation. In 2003, she moved to Branson Library where she continued working at the Circulation Desk.

Frances played a significant role in the recent transformation of the Circulation Desk in Branson Library into an Information Service Desk. She managed the consolidated reciprocal borrowing program that expands resource sharing opportunities among area libraries, and she was also responsible for the Library’s Guest Borrower program.

She was recently honored as “Frontline Minister of the Year for 2004” by the First Assembly of God Church. She and her husband Eddie look forward to spending time with their grandchildren, Nicholas and Jordan, and indulging in their passion for travel.

Service Awards Announced

NMSU Employee Service Awards recognizing a total of ninety years of employee service by twelve Library staff members were awarded in campus and Library ceremonies in February. Honored employees are:

- Sherry Ward, Technical Services, 30
- Genevieve Bauer, Technical Services, 25
- Floyd Ransom, Systems, 25
- Irene Tellez, Access Services, 25
- Irene Shown, Reference, 20
- Mike Lopez, Technical Services, 15
- Veronica Gomez

Frances Alvarez

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Classified Staff Receive Bonuses

The Library recognized seven members of the classified staff in its Classified Staff Bonus Program Award ceremony on February 24. The program rewards staff for exceptional performance above and beyond an employee’s normal scope of duties. Receiving the $500 awards are:

- Mary Chavarria, Access Services
- Graciela Martinez, Technical Services
- Elizabeth Mendoza-Valdivia, Technical Services
- Kimberly Miller, Access Services
- Stuart Peale, Technical Services
- Irene Shown, Reference
- Kathy Sowa, Reference

Staff News


Dr. Laurence Creider of Technical Services was elected Chair of the NMSU Faculty Senate for the 2005–2006 academic year.

Steve Hussman of Archives & Special Collections was elected as an alternate member of NMSU’s Advisory Council on Administrative Policy for three years.

“On My Mind: Can I Have Your Autograph,” an article by Myra Brown, the digital media librarian at the Texas Tech University Libraries in Lubbock, formerly of the Library, was published in the November 2004 American Libraries magazine.

Veronica Gomez

Veronica Gomez has joined the Library staff as the Records Specialist in the Library Administration. Veronica previously worked at the General Studies Division at NMSU’s Doña Ana Branch Community College (DABCC), and she was named a DABCC Outstanding Graduate in Fall 2004. Veronica is working on a bachelor’s degree in Family and Consumer Sciences at NMSU. She enjoys spending time with her son, Adrian.

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in 1978. He studied sheep breeding in Australia as a Fulbright Scholar from 1953 to 1954. In 1955, he married Viola R. Cisneros. From 1958 to 1972, he owned and operated with his family the Peña and Sons Land and Livestock Corporation. During this time he served on the boards of the Grants Chamber of Commerce, the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association, the New Mexico Livestock Board and the National Wool Growers Association.

From 1972 to 1976, he was the director of the Peace Corps in Honduras and Costa Rica, and from 1976 to 1984 he was the mission director of the United States Agency for International Development in Paraguay and Bolivia. In 1984, he returned to family ranching in New Mexico.

Peña's national service includes two years on the national board of directors of the American Association of Retired Persons and service as Vice President of the National Hispanic Cultural Center. He has also been active in the American Red Cross, the New Mexico Hospital Board, Toastmasters and many other organizations.

He has written history columns for the Cibola County Beacon, and in 1997, his book Memories of Cibola: Stories from New Mexico Villages, was published by the University of New Mexico Press.

(Archival Images Appear in Historical Video)

The Archives & Special Collections Department recently contributed numerous maps and photographic images for a video entitled “El Tratado de La Mesilla: Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Gadsden Purchase.”

The video offers a brief history of the Gadsden Purchase and Mesilla's important involvement. Produced by the New Mexico Tourism Department in November 2004, it runs approximately twelve minutes.

The Archives owns a draft version of the VHS video, which may undergo more editing. According to the Tourism Department’s photographer, this video would not have been possible without the assistance of the extensive collection of maps and images in the Archives.

The Library’s copy of the video may be viewed in the Archives & Special Collections Department. For more information, contact the Archives staff at (505) 646–3839. — Steve Hussman, Archives & Special Collections

Communication/Media Database Announced

The Library recently subscribed to a new electronic resource, Communication & Mass Media Complete (CMMC), the most comprehensive database available for the study of communication and mass media.

CMMC originated with the merging of two key databases in the fields of communication and mass media studies: CommSearch (formerly produced by the National Communication Association), and Mass Media Articles Index (formerly produced by Pennsylvania State University).

The database provides indexing and abstracting of articles in more than four hundred journals in all aspects of communication and mass media, and it includes the full text of articles from more than two hundred journals. Recent encyclopedias, dictionaries and handbooks are also included.

CMMC appears in the alphabetical list of databases available on the Article Databases portion of the Library’s web site at http://lib.nmsu.edu. For more information, contact Reference at (505) 646–5792. — Cindy Pierard, Reference & Research Services

A Word from a Dinosaur

Stan, the Tyrannosaurus Rex who surveys the entrance to Zuhl Library, invites you to view the Zuhl Geological Collection all hours that the Library is open.

The collection, which remains a big Library attraction, consists of more than 1,000 pieces of petrified wood, invertebrate and vertebrate fossils, and minerals and rocks displayed on all three floors of Zuhl Library.

The current exhibit in the display cases on the first floor is entitled “Fossils and Fossilization.” For Library hours, call (505) 646–4749. — Stan, Library Administration

McKee Grants $5,000 to Library

The Robert E. and Evelyn McKee Foundation of El Paso has awarded the Library $5,000. The grant will be used for the purchase of engineering resources for the Library’s collection.

Angela Murrell of Reference & Research Services and the Library’s engineering selector, said “This gift will enable the Library to better serve engineering students by updating our collection.”

Robert E. McKee is remembered as the “master builder” who built major structures in El Paso as well as Los Angeles, Dallas, New Orleans and Atlanta.

For more information, please contact Murrell at (505) 646–3079.

(Peña, continued from page 1)
The December airing of TNT’s action flick The Librarian: Quest for the Spear drew seven million viewers, making it basic cable’s most watched movie of 2004. While librarians awaited The Librarian with hope, their reactions to Noah Wyle’s portrayal of comic librarian action hero Flynn Carsen were mixed, tending toward the negative. While some found that the movie portrayed librarianship as exciting, others thought it an unrealistic attempt to modernize the stereotyped “bunhead” image. Nearly all respondents to a survey conducted by the American Library Association’s Public Information Office pointed out that while Carsen has twenty-two advanced degrees, not one of them is a master’s degree in library science.

As geeky as Carsen appears, his parody of the librarian stereotype is positively hip compared to another recent librarian icon, the Librarian Action Figure. This figure, manufactured and marketed by Archie McPhee, is modeled on real librarian Nancy Pearl, the former director of the Washington Center for the Book at the Seattle Public Library.

Outreach librarian extraordinaire, Pearl has published three books on reading and she reviews books on National Public Radio. Her “If All of Seattle Read One Book” program has been replicated in more than 250 cities and countries.

As a true library superstar, what heroic action of Pearl’s is highlighted in her action figure? You guessed it — her finger moves to and from her lips in a “shushing” motion!

There have been some admirable fictional librarians, including super reference librarian Bunny Watson, played by Katharine Hepburn in the movie Desk Set, and the Rupert Giles character in TV’s Buffy the Vampire Slayer. However, the more recent Flynn Carsen character and the McPhee Librarian Action Figure are downright regressions. If you want to see some real-life library heroes in action, you know what to do. Visit your library! — Jeanette Smith, Library Administration

At the end of The Librarian, Carsen notes that “Being a librarian is actually a pretty cool job,” a thought echoed by Regis Philbin and printed on the Librarian Action Figure bookmark: “What can I say? Librarians rule.”

Being a librarian is actually a pretty cool job

Librarian Action Figure. Image courtesy of Archie McPhee, http://www.mcphee.com/amusements/.

Five NMSU students are winners in the Library’s recent copy card survey drawing. Jorge Carrillo, Christina Murphy, Erica Benedicto, Amanda Melendez and Suzette Barraza each won a $5 copy card.

The students participated in a customer satisfaction survey conducted by the copy center in Zuhl Library. There were 156 respondents to the survey, including undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and staff.

The Library’s Access Services staff will use the survey results to evaluate and improve copy center services. Contact the copy center at (505) 646-6918.

Can You Manage Your Time?

A workshop entitled “Time Management for the Organizationally Impaired” will be presented by Jan Hylen of Reference & Research Services on Friday, April 8, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Milton Hall Room 50.

The workshop, sponsored by NMSU’s Teaching Academy, will provide practical and useful tips to help manage work schedules and work space in a manner that’s consistent with personal style.

Visit http://www.teaching.nmsu.edu to register.