Pete Domenici Legacy Lives On at Library

Nearly 2,000 boxes filled with documents and memorabilia chronicling the legacy of U.S. Senator Pete V. Domenici are now housed in the NMSU Library. Additional boxes are expected to arrive at NMSU later this year as the university works to build the Domenici Archive collection.

Last November, the Library received 1,923 linear feet of printed material, enough to stretch more than a quarter-mile high if the single sheets of paper were stacked on top of one another. The documents are currently being stored at Branson Library in a controlled access area. In all, the initial load of documents weighed approximately thirty tons. It took three moving vans and two and a half days to load, transfer and unload the shipment.

“These documents and the information they contain are incredibly valuable,” said Elizabeth Titus, Dean of the Library. “As a research library, we are engaged in preserving historical documents which reflect on the history of New Mexico and the Southwest. Senator Domenici’s papers clearly represent the legacy of one of the most prominent and influential senators in our state’s history.”

The university expects to receive additional printed materials and electronic documents as well as memorabilia including awards and photos from the senator’s offices in New Mexico and Washington, D.C. The additional documents could be enough to fill eight semi-tractor trailers. Library staff members have been working with the senator’s staff to get a better idea of how many documents to expect.

“We’re absolutely delighted to have these papers here. As an archivist, someone could wait his entire lifetime to see a collection like this,” said Steve Hussman, head of the NMSU Library’s Archives and Special Collections Department. “Senator Domenici has done a lot for the state. We are fortunate to have a collection like this.”

Right now, the Library staff is working to provide the necessary space for the additional documents. Hussman said the Domenici collection will be one of the largest archival collections at the NMSU Library, but he believes they are more than prepared to handle the volume. Once all the papers arrive, the Library will begin processing the documents and sorting them into categories. The university plans to hire a political papers archivist and another staff person to work on this project. (Domenici, continued on page 2)
Library Helps Crack Cold Case

In 1929, there was an alleged double homicide on the Turner Ranch near Hatch, perpetrated by Marvin Kossey. A descendant of one of the victims had been trying without success to find out what happened to Kossey—what kind of sentence he got and where he was incarcerated.

The descendant, who lives in Texas, contacted the cold case department of the Doña Ana County Sheriff’s Office. The only item the Sheriff’s office had was a clipping from what they believed to be the Hatch newspaper. They looked for a copy of the original old newspaper, which they couldn’t find in Hatch or anywhere else. The office contacted the New Mexico State Archives. They could find no record of conviction or imprisonment, odd for a double homicide.

So an investigator came to the Library’s Archives & Special Collections Department. The department didn’t have the newspaper, either, but archivist Martha Shipman Andrews suggested that he search other New Mexico papers of the time in the Library’s recently acquired electronic Newspaper Archive.

The investigator searched variously under “homicide,” Kossey and 1930, and quickly found a front page article from an Albuquerque newspaper. The man was jailed for a year before his trial, then acquitted on the grounds that he was protecting the land from trespassers, so his “record” was expunged. It was the Law of the Old West in action.

And the Doña Ana County Sheriff’s Office loves the Library or, rather, its database.

For more information, contact Andrews at (575) 646-5028 or mandrews@lib.nmsu.edu.
—Martha Shipman Andrews, Archives & Special Collections

NM Library Conference Coming to NMSU

The New Mexico Library Association’s (NMLA) Annual Conference is coming to New Mexico State University. The organization of academic, public and school librarians will meet at NMSU’s Corbett Center from Wednesday, April 9, through Friday, April 11.

NMSU Library staff members Sarah Baker, Vicki Baldridge, Ellen Bosman, Mary Chavarria, Alisa Gonzalez, Steve Hussman, Vicki Minnick, Charles Stanford and T.J. Urbanski are presenting at the conference. Presentation topics range from the library job search to digital collections.

Several dignitaries will take part in the NMLA conference. Two keynote speakers are being featured this year. Dr. Loreine Roy, the 2007-2008 American Library Association President, will speak on Thursday, April 10. Roy, a professor in the School of Information of the University of Texas at Austin, is Anishinabe and a member of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, enrolled on the White Earth Reservation.

On Friday, April 11, Greg Notess, an expert on the Internet, will present the second keynote speech. The awards dinner will be emceed by Dr. Mary Bushing, professor emeritus at Montana State University. The featured speaker for the Youth Services Luncheon is Jeanne DuPrau, author of the highly acclaimed young adult novel, The City of Ember, and a second novel, The People of Sparks.

For more information about NMLA and the upcoming conference, please visit http://www.nmla.org.
—Alisa Gonzalez, Reference & Research Services
The New Mexico State University Library’s Archives and Special Collections Department opened a photo exhibit on February 14 in honor of Valentine’s Day. The exhibit, entitled “Couples,” will be displayed in Branson Library’s fourth floor Milton Gallery through August.

The display features photographs from the Green Edward Miller and Amador Family collections. Miller, an itinerant photographer originally from Texas, settled in New Mexico’s Sacramento Range in the last years of the 19th century. He chose as his subjects the lives of fellow homesteaders ranching and logging throughout the area (see photo at left).

While the well-to-do Amador family’s photographs chronicle the glamour and bloom of young love, Miller’s photographs emphasize the etched and furrowed faces of relationships forged through the hardship, resolve and endurance of the pioneer experience.

For more information, contact archivist Martha Shipman Andrews at (575) 646-5028 or mandrews@lib.nmsu.edu.

Two murals by Tom Lea, restored in 1996, are now displayed proudly in the lobby of Branson Library (see photo at right). They were originally painted in 1934 for exhibition in Young Hall, NMSU’s first library building.

The lovely Olive Rush mural depicting the agricultural roots of New Mexico can be seen in the entry to Foster Hall, and some Spanish Colonial furniture built and carved in Las Cruces is in the care of the University Museum. In addition to these examples, Treasures on New Mexico Trails identifies several other examples in southern New Mexico.

The 75th anniversary of the New Deal Arts Projects presents an opportunity for libraries, museums and historians to celebrate this significant art movement and to educate future generations on its importance.

In 2008, the U. S. will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the introduction of the New Deal Arts Projects. Many individuals are unaware of how these works of art came about or even that the art may be located in their own neighborhoods. There are generations of Americans who have limited knowledge of the Great Depression and the monumental value of New Deal programs that helped restore self confidence and self respect to thousands of Americans. Librarians Sylvia Ortiz and Mardi Mahaffy are planning a celebration to be held next fall that will call attention to the importance of this artistic movement.

The celebration will bring to light hundreds of works created during that time and introduce community residents to these treasures and the artists who created them. While much New Deal art has been diligently cared for over the years, unfortunately some has not. The upcoming anniversary provides an occasion to illustrate some unusual ways government funding was used to enrich our culture as well as to provide much needed employment during a period of extreme hardship in our country’s history.

The celebration will include a bilingual self-guided tour brochure directing visitors to all publicly accessible New Deal Art in southern New Mexico and El Paso. To accompany the tour, a traveling photo exhibit created by the National New Deal Preservation Association will be displayed in Zuhl Library in October 2008.

A poster, brochure and postcard designed by students in the New Mexico School of Design (Art 458) will advertise the events. The programs are planned to be of interest to the general public from school age children to senior citizens, and the brochure will be printed in both English and Spanish. Guest speakers will lead discussions on the New Deal Arts Projects in conjunction with the photo exhibit. An exhibit of federal government documents illustrating the importance of the New Deal and the arts projects will also be displayed in the lobby of Branson Library. Contact Ortiz at (575) 646-7481 or sortiz@lib.nmsu.edu or Mahaffy at (575) 646-6925 or mmahaffy@lib.nmsu.edu.—Sylvia Ortiz, Reference & Research Services

Man, Wife, and Dog: Sacramento Mountains by Green Edward Miller, circa 1900. Photo, Archives & Special Collections.
I first heard of the work of Esther Chávez Cano in the late 1990s. By that time she had already been working for nearly a decade to document the violent changes in Ciudad Juárez that often crept into the pages of Mexican newspapers, with notices of young girls and women missing or found dead in the vacant lots of the sprawling desert city of free trade factories and fear.

It was late into the NAFTA decade before these events made it into the English-language press. Even as the real body count rose, those in power sought to diminish the significance, or even the reality, of the deaths in the border region.

But thanks to Chávez, this reality cannot be denied. Journalists from all over the world began to visit Esther in the late 1990s, and she would share with them her files and talk to them about the interlocking crises of uncontrolled growth with no economic and social infrastructure for the people living and working in the city that led to such violence. Her files document crimes that in many cases have never been solved and have essentially disappeared from the justice system as completely as the young lives disappeared from the streets of Juárez.

Chávez found that her files were sometimes disappearing, as she would generously loan things to reporters and researchers who might not always return them. In 2006, she contacted NMSU Criminal Justice Professor Cynthia Bejarano who has worked with many families of victims and with activist groups in Mexico and the U.S. Cynthia contacted me at the NMSU Library, and I worked with Steve Hussman and Dennis Daily of the Archives to secure Chávez's collection. In late 2006, we brought seven large plastic file boxes from Chávez's house to the Library, but it was not until archivist Charles Stanford joined the faculty in the fall of 2007, that the collection was processed and made available to the public.

On November 9, 2007, the NMSU Library held a program and reception to honor Esther Chávez and to thank her for donating this unique and valuable collection. The event also honored Paula Flores, the mother of Sagrario González Flores, a young maquiladora worker murdered in Juárez in 1998. Speakers at the event included Chávez's friends and co-workers: Eva Moreno of Casa Amiga Centro de Crisis, Washington Post journalist Brian Barger, border researcher Greg Bloom, El Paso labor activist Victor Muñoz, Professor Cynthia Bejarano and Provost Waded Cruzado-Salas.

But it was the words of Charles Stanford that brought tears to the eyes of many at the event and elicited a joyful embrace from Chávez, who now considers Charles a member of her family. Although he is a newcomer to the border region and to NMSU, Charles read and processed each clipping and document, and he is surely the only person other than Chávez who really knows the tragic and sometimes heroic stories told in the documents. Charles addressed the gathering in both Spanish and English:

“Everyone can be taught the importance of not shrinking from the problems of life and of recognizing the unpleasant things that may be going on close to their homes. By holding this collection we present more evidence of what people are capable of, the bad and the good.... It is unpleasant to confront the countless newspaper articles telling of murders, abuse, oppression and violence that happen so close to us. But this collection is important precisely because so much of what it contains is unpleasant. Besides the human tendency to shrink from unpleasant things there has always been additional pressure by some to erase or suppress evidence of things that they may find embarrassing. It is an honor to us to be trusted with this collection and to help to keep the stories of the women of Juárez from fading into comfortable ignorance or being silenced.”

On November 9, an event was held in Zuhl Library in honor of Esther Chávez Cano, a women’s rights activist living in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua. Organized by assistant professor of Criminal Justice Cynthia Bejarano and librarians Molly Molloy and Charles Stanford, the event honored Chávez’s work on behalf of abused and murdered women in Juárez and thanked her for donating her collection of newspaper clippings and other records to the Library.

A related event later that evening featured Paula Bonilla Flores, another human rights activist from Juárez. Bejarano and Molloy were instrumental in acquiring the collection from Chávez, and Stanford completed the processing with help from student workers. A finding aid is available in the Caroline E. Stras Research Room on the fourth floor of Branson Library as well as online through the Rocky Mountain Online Archive.

The Chávez collection traces stories of the murders and other crimes against women which have attracted international attention to Ciudad Juárez, and it includes some documentation of activist groups seeking justice for the murders and improved conditions for women in Juárez and in Mexico. Newspaper clippings from 1993 to 2006 make up the majority of the collection, which touches on questions of factory conditions, women’s rights—including questions of sexual abuse and freedom and reproductive choice, and the politics of activist groups—including the controversies and rifts that occur in them.

Making this collection available on this side of the border opens it up to access by researchers and activists in the USA, and keeps it more secure than it would likely be in Ciudad Juárez, where Chávez’s work has attracted controversy and hostility.

This collection will form an important part of the growing holdings related to women’s studies in the Archives and Special Collections Department, and it is hoped that this will also help to continue bringing in more representation of Hispanic culture, more collections in Spanish and more representation of the character and problems of the border between the U.S. and Mexico.—Charles Stanford, Archives & Special Collections
In, Out & About the Library

- Martha Shipman Andrews was awarded the Katharine D. Stoes Award for Outstanding Historical Writing in the Southern New Mexico Historical Review for 2008. Her article, entitled “Coeds at War,” discussed the World War II activities of several NMCA&S female students who corresponded with Dean Daniel B. Jett. The girls served variously in the WAC, the WASPs, WAVES, SPARS (Marines), as biologists in the U.S. Public Health Service and also as anxious wives worried about the fates of missing husbands.

- Susan E. Beck was appointed to the AMIGOS Fellowship Selection Committee for 2008-2009. AMIGOS is a library resource-sharing network that contracts with libraries throughout the Southwest.

- Melinda MacCall has joined the Library staff as a temporary reference librarian for the 07-08 academic year. She has worked as a reference librarian in Indiana and Illinois.

Publications & Papers


Donors Demonstrate Their Commitment to the Library

A gala naming event for the Caroline E. Stras Research Room, formerly the Library’s Archives and Special Collections Research Room, took place on October 19.

The naming celebrates the legacy of Stras, who retired in 1978 as the Senior Vice President of Operations at the Bank of El Paso. Edward, Jo Ann and Judith Sears created the Caroline E. Stras Endowed Fund for the New Mexico State University Library in 2005.

On November 9, the Library hosted a program and reception to honor Esther Chávez Cano of Juárez for her efforts toward establishing justice for women in the border region and to celebrate her donation of the Esther Chávez Cano Papers to the Library’s Rio Grande Historical Collections (see stories on page 4).

The recent annual fund campaign for the Library’s Archives & Special Collections Department was a success. Included in the Library’s thank you notes to the thirty generous donors was this apt quotation from Carl Sagan’s Cosmos:

“The library connects us with the insight and knowledge, painfully extracted from Nature, of the greatest minds that ever were, with the best teachers, drawn from the entire planet and from all our history, to instruct us without tiring, and to inspire us to make our own contribution to the collective knowledge of the human species. I think the health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries.”

Barbara and Ed Foreman gave $10,000 to the Library in behalf of their daughter Rebecca and their son Preston Kirk, both NMSU graduates.

Irene K. Willey is donating a bronze sculpture entitled “The Student” to the Library. The gift is in memory of Darrell S. Willey. Willey requested that the sculpture, a commissioned work by Gary Price, be located at Zuhl Library. She noted that it was the perfect piece to represent “much that Darrell stood for and modeled—remaining excited about learning all his life.”

The sculptor said about “The Student,” which depicts a scholar in his eighties: “For wisdom’s sake, this octogenarian should be called ‘The Mentor.’ However, for that very reason he remains the one who refuses to stop taking notes—to stop the learning process. I see contemporaries not only in art but in many fields who now revere themselves as the ‘Grand Pooh-Bah’ in their respective elements. That’s when I see their attitude and work take the long slide downward. I refer to the overly proud as ‘legends in their own minds.’” In a lighter vein, one viewer said of the sculpture, “It is sure taking this guy a long time to graduate.”
Library Welcomes Three New Employees

Elizabeth Flores
Elizabeth Flores has joined the Technical Services Department as a Library Technician II in the End Processing Unit, where she oversees the preservation and quality control of library materials. She was previously employed as a student aide in the Cataloging Unit.

Elizabeth earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts at NMSU with an emphasis in photography and graphic design.

She is currently working on an Associate of Applied Science degree in Library Technology at Doña Ana Community College. Elizabeth enjoys spending time with her toddler-age daughter, Kadyn, and she enjoys reading.

Dean Wilkey
Dean Wilkey started working in Archives and Special Collections in December as the Archival Reprographics Manager. Just prior to his move to the Library, he worked at the Student Art Store in Williams Annex.

Dean's wife, Jean Reese Wilkey, is a graduate student at NMSU working on her B.F.A. in painting. They have lived in Las Cruces for a little over two years.

Dean has a B.A. in photography from Columbia College in Chicago. He grew up in Illinois and later moved to Salem, Oregon, where he was manager of the pre-press/camera department of a regional printing plant for approximately twenty years. He then moved to Haifa, Israel, where he worked for seven years as an Archival Darkroom Tech/Photographer for the Bahai World Center Audio-Visual Department. Dean considers his years in Israel as the most enlightening experience in his life, and he highly encourages anyone to experience living overseas, as it opens up a world of new vistas.

Dean's interests include enjoying a good cup of Italian coffee, listening to folk music and spending time with his wife and their new family member, an Australian Shepherd dog named Simon.

Tracey Thompson
Tracey Thompson has joined the NM State University as the Acquisitions Librarian in Technical Services. Tracey worked for three years at the Vogelweh Library on Vogelweh AB, Germany.

She recently graduated from Drexel University with an M.S. in information and library science. Tracey has a strong interest in digital information, metadata, information retrieval and acquisitions. Her undergraduate work was at Central Missouri State University where she received a B.S. in computer science and mathematics. Her areas of interest are artificial intelligence and linear algebra.

Tracey's husband, Kyle, is an air traffic controller with the U.S.A.F. They have three children. Zachary, 15, currently wants to be a librarian. Jordan, 14, is musically inclined. Kalie, 12, is involved in dance and music. Tracey is an avid reader, and she enjoys quilting, renaissance festivals, movies, traveling and chocolate. She works in Branson Library, and she may be contacted at (575) 646-8093.

Vicki Minnick Receives Library Degree
Vicki Minnick of Access Services was awarded a master's degree in library science in December from the University of North Texas. Vicki also received a Graduate Academic Certificate in Advanced Management in Library and Information Agencies as part of her regular coursework. Vicki was able to complete the master's program completely online via distance education, and she became a UNT alum without having ever been to the campus.

Vicki was awarded several scholarships, including two scholarships from the School of Library and Information Sciences at the University of North Texas for $1000 each. Vicki was also awarded the New Mexico Library Association's Marion Dorrath Scholarship in April of 2006 for $2000. In 2005, Vicki received $1000 from the Border Regional Library Association.
Library Outerwear Tree Helps Children

In December, the Library elected to donate cold weather clothing to children through the Children, Youth, and Family Department (CYFD) as a community service. The Library’s Social Activities Committee Executive Board, which coordinated the endeavor, announced that there would be an Outerwear Tree at the Library holiday party on December 18, 2007, for staff to decorate with their donations.

The response was overwhelming as current and retired Library staff members decorated the Outerwear Tree, and it was quickly realized that the donations would need to overflow into a big box and several bags around the tree. Items donated were mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, coats, shoes, sweaters and other cold weather clothing in children’s sizes from 0 to 18 years of age.

When CYFD staff came to pick up the donations, they expressed appreciation for all children who would be receiving the outerwear. CYFD issued the Library staff a certificate of appreciation in recognition of their charitable donations to the children and families in Doña Ana County. For more information, contact Jo Anne Vincenti, Chair, Social Activities Committee, at (575) 646-3103.—Jo Anne Vincenti, Technical Services

Library Receives NMSU Golden Star Award

NMSU’s Executive Vice President and Provost Waded Cruzado-Salas has established a Golden Star Award to recognize the contributions of campus units. The first-ever recipient of this award is the University Library. The Provost commended the Library for its leadership on three particular projects: securing the Esther Chávez Cano Papers, establishing the Caroline E. Stras Endowment to enhance the women’s studies collections and securing the Pete V. Domenici Papers.

Library Dean Elizabeth Titus said, “This achievement acknowledges the generosity of our donors as well as the dedicated work of the Library staff.”

The Provost also noted the Library’s ongoing contribution to campus projects such as accreditation. The award was presented during a meeting of NMSU’s Administrative Council.

Golf Cart Improves Library Service

The Library recently added a Club Car Carry All golf cart to its inventory of service tools. The cart has enabled Pegasus Delivery Services to increase efficiency and speed up the delivery and return of library materials on campus.

Pegasus student employee Jared Selders said “We have seen a significant decrease in turnaround time for book delivery to NMSU faculty and Ph. D. candidates. When I started working for Pegasus in 2003, we made all deliveries on foot carrying heavy book packs. It took my entire work shift just to deliver several books.”

When you see the Library’s shiny new golf cart driving around campus, be assured that Pegasus is rapidly delivering materials to faculty members who are close to their publishing deadlines. For more information about Pegasus, please contact Deborah Parker at (575) 646-1854 or debparke@lib.nmsu.edu—Deborah Parker, Access Services

Deanna Litke Retires

Deanna Litke retired on January 31, 2008. Deanna began working for the Oñate High School library in 1990 with Nova Duhrsen Jennett, and she has worked in the Interlibrary Loan office at the NMSU Library for the past twelve and a half years.

Deanna is married to Stan Plumer, a retired Las Cruces Public Schools counselor. She has two sons, two step-sons and one step-grandson. Her son Patrick Valdez, who worked for the NMSU Library while he was a student, graduated from the Doña Ana Branch Community College. Her son Christopher Valdez graduated from NMSU.

Deanna and Stan plan to travel and thoroughly enjoy their retirement. Through her work, Deanna has contributed greatly to the research needs of the NMSU community. Her dedication and hard work will be greatly missed in the Interlibrary Loan office.—Jivonna Stewart, Access Services
Big Read Contest Winners Announced

Last October, the Big Read in Las Cruces and Doña Ana County sponsored three contests in celebration of the novel Bless Me Ultima. A photography contest, an essay contest and a film contest were held. Contest winners received a total of $2,400 in prizes. The photography contest, which portrayed images and themes in the book, was a great success. Photos by James Hill and Michael Polka won in a tie for first place. Second place was won by the youngest winner, twelve year old Rose Choneska. Keith Risinger placed third with his images of three crosses at sunset. The entries were of such a high caliber that there were also three honorable mentions, which were awarded to Austin Fulmer, Karen Lieberman and G.K. Strawn.

The theme of the essay contest was "The Novel that Changed My Life." Clifton Butt won first place in the adult category for his essay on To Kill a Mockingbird, and Zachary Flores won the teen category with his essay on Ayn Rand’s Anthem. The film contest winner was Mary Keith’s English class from Las Cruces High School with its interpretation of a funeral for Ultima. For more information on the contests, please contact Alisa Gonzalez at (575) 646-6926 or acgonzal@lib.nmsu.edu.—Alisa Gonzalez, Reference & Research Services

Two Roads Diverged in a Wood, and I Took the Information Superhighway: A Look at Reading in the Digital Age

I’ve always been an avid reader. From the time I read my first novel, Little House on the Prairie, in second grade I was hooked. Reading has always been an escape, a relaxing and stimulating experience that transports me to new places, helping me to navigate the future and reshape the past. My love of reading has led me to a liberal arts education and to a career as an academic librarian.

After years of college, grad school and employment, I realize that both my reasons for reading and my formats for reading are constantly changing. My entry into the academic and professional worlds took place at the same time as the explosion of electronic information. I am part of the net generation. Whereas ten years ago, most of my reading was done from the printed page, these days I find myself staring at a computer screen up to eight hours a day. I have to read mountains of materials: news to keep up with what’s going on in the world; library journals to stay current in the profession; books and articles in information literacy, research and teaching methods to work with students and faculty; and emails to function in the workplace and stay connected with friends and family.

My experiences with information overload don’t seem to be isolated. For all the ways technology has changed the faces of information, it hasn’t changed the functions. We are finding, however, that we have to consult more and more sources of information to survive and become successful in our professional and personal lives. There is an ongoing debate about how the newest and greatest technologies will change people’s reading habits and how to profit from ever-expanding options such as Amazon Kindle, Google Books, audio books, podcasts, e-books, e-journals, electronic databases and RSS feeds for news.

Readers, of course, bring their preferred learning styles and physical abilities to the digital domain. Whether they are audio learners, visual learners or kinesthetic learners, visually impaired, hearing impaired or learning disabled, there is a plethora of choices for how electronic information is disseminated. Information is more mobile than ever before since it is downloadable in mass quantities on smaller and smaller devices. None of these new devices or formats changes the fact that it’s the information itself that’s important, not the delivery vehicle. Finding good writing and useful sources of information is one of the most demanding and exhausting jobs of online readers, and this frustration creates job security for librarians and teachers all over the world. (Reading, continued on page 10)
Big Read keynote speaker Jimmy Santiago Baca gave a moving talk to the large audience of students and the general public about the power of literature to literally change lives. Confining in prison after a troubled youth, he learned to read and chanced upon a copy of Rudolfo Anaya’s Bless Me, Ultima.

In order to save his eyes for reading, Baca stopped fighting in the prison yard and gave up his unlawful ways. Soon he began writing poems. When he was released from prison, he took a bus to Anaya’s house. Anaya answered the door, and when he took Baca into his home, Baca thanked him for saving his life.

The Big Read Las Cruces was a month-long program led by the NM SU Library last fall which touched the lives of hundreds of community residents with programming and book discussions related to themes in Rudolfo Anaya’s classic New Mexican novel Bless Me, Ultima. It came to a successful conclusion on November 3 with the screening at the Creative Media Institute of the film “The Cry,” a contemporary exploration of the La Llorona legend directed by New Mexico native Bernadine Santistevan.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in celebration of great American literature in which month-long festivities and programs are held in communities across the country. The Big Read Las Cruces offered a wide range of programming and activities.

Jose Tena and the Ballet Folklorico de la Tierra del Encanto opened the October 5 kickoff event at the Court Youth Center with several festive and colorful dances. Nationally known Chicano poet Jimmy Santiago Baca then took the stage as the keynote speaker. Baca was joined at an informal press conference before the program by David Kipen, the director of literature at the NEA. Kipen was traveling around the U.S. visiting many Big Read programs, and it was an honor for us that he elected to appear at our celebration. When asked to finish the following sentence, “Writing without passion is...” Kipen replied, “Writing without passion is typing.”

The kickoff was followed the next day by a hands-on workshop at Branigan Library on creating one’s own herb garden, geared to families with children and led by local master gardener Jackye Meinecke. The songs of northern New Mexico were performed on October 6 at the Rio Grande Theatre by musicologist Cipriano Vigil y Familia of El Rito, New Mexico. On October 13 there was a screening of the lyrical and magical film The Milagro Beanfield War. Throughout the month, the Storytellers of Las Cruces, featuring Florence Hamilton and Nancy Jenkins, shared traditional New Mexican stories with several elementary school classes. On October 14, NM SU professor Deborah LaPorte led a writing workshop on how to “Make Your Own Big Read” at Branigan Library.

Nationally known Chicana novelist Denise Chavez led an evening of readings from Bless Me, Ultima in four languages by Benjamin Alire Saenz, Jens Tillmanns, Claude Fouillade and herself on October 20 at the Rio Grande Theatre. Chavez’s own reading was especially dramatic when she assumed the identity of Ultima. On October 27, folklorist Nasario Garcia presented programs on Hispanic fiestas of yesteryear at Branigan Library and spooky tales of the Devil, the Bogeyman and La Llorona at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. On October 28, practicing curandera Cristina Villalpando and NMSU professor Mary O’Connell spoke in the lovely outdoor setting of the Fabian Garcia Science Center landscape garden about healing herbs and curandera traditions. Historian Rick Hendricks shared his research on witchcraft and religious tradition in Northern New Mexico.

The Big Read offered photo, essay and film contests and many lively discussions of Bless Me, Ultima at locations including Milagro Cafe y Espresso, The Bean, Munson Senior Center, Las Cruces High School, Spirit Winds and the NMSU Library. Big Read participants gave away hundreds of copies of the book, and local libraries and Barnes & Noble stocked extra copies.

At many levels, the Big Read Las Cruces was a community event. It brought together young and old, longtime residents and newcomers, grassroots participants and civic leaders, traditional print-based readers and the multimedia generation. It truly raised consciousness of the value of recreational reading. Many years ago Bless Me, Ultima changed Jimmy Santiago Baca’s life. Last October it changed ours.—Jeanette Smith, Library Administration
We know that people are forced to read for work, for school and for networking purposes, but a logical next question becomes, “Is anyone reading for pleasure anymore?” No matter how much I’m bombarded with information at work, I still find myself wanting to sit in bed and read a good book at the end of the day. A new report from the National Endowment for the Arts (To Read or Not to Read, http://www.nea.gov/research/ToRead.pdf) shows that I am definitely in the minority in this regard. Even though there are more vehicles for information than ever, Americans—especially young adults—are reading less and less, especially for fun. The report tells us that “In 2002 only 52% of 18-24 year olds read a book not required for work or school” (To Read or Not to Read, p. 27).

For young people today there seems to be more competition for their time, as well as more distractions in all aspects of their lives. They can be wired all of their waking hours to one or more types of technology: computers at home and school, audio and video on their iPods, cell phones, video games and TVs. They have information coming at them from all sides. “The average 6-17 year old spends an hour and 17 minutes a week reading, 2 hours and 45 minutes with computer activities, 2 hours and 59 minutes a week playing sports, 4 hours and 47 minutes visiting and socializing and 14 hours and 37 minutes watching TV” (To Read or Not to Read, p. 40). It’s no wonder that kids have stopped reading recreationally; they are bogged down with homework and extracurricular activities and are spoon fed information in so many other forms.

And then came Harry Potter. Every once in a while a book comes along that incites an epidemic of reading. In this case, it was seven books that will make kids miraculously turn off the computer, turn off the TV and read. To me this proves that young people today are just as likely to read for fun as anyone when they find a good book that inspires fan clubs, midnight book launch parties and branded merchandise, but most importantly, a book that gets people talking. There seems to be an unmistakable commonality between good reading sources for information and good reading material for pleasure. If the writing is good and the information is useful or entertaining, people will read it, listen to it, evaluate it, absorb it, manipulate it and share it.

Are young people really not reading as much, or are social networking pages, text messages and emails creating new forms of reading and writing that will transform communication? Reading and writing are inextricably linked. To write well, you have to read and read and read. Is it possible to learn new vocabulary, new concepts, ideas and opposing viewpoints from online social writing with peers? Many people would argue that social networking sites may be entertaining but that they don’t often provide models of good writing or reliable information. If young people are reading fewer books for pleasure, what are the implications for reading comprehension, writing skills, for literacy rates, occupational outlook, political activism and for intellectual curiosity? Will deteriorating literacy skills spiral out of control? What will this mean for future generations? Will there be other types of reading and writing that will fill in the gaps left by recreational reading? We seem to know the questions but not the answers. Teachers, librarians and parents alike are trying to re-integrate recreational reading back into the lives of children with community programs like the Big Read. The forecast for reading is not all doom and gloom. There will always be advocates for books and reading. There will always be those of us, including some young people, who want to sit back, relax and curl up with a good book.

As a member of the digital generation, I moved from Little House on the Prairie to the Internet and from academic databases to iPods. In the future, readers will find their own comfortable balance with different formats to fill their information needs. They will have to be able to find their own path through the maze; to be able to read, write and evaluate information on many different levels. I’m not saying that there is only one route to get there, but in my mind, the book is still a worthwhile destination and the Internet is primarily a navigational tool. It’s our job as librarians to help readers who may be getting lost in the maze of information.—Sarah Baker, Reference & Research Services
Jeanette Smith: I first read Bless Me, Ultima when I arrived in Las Cruces from the Midwest in 1983. I found the title at Branigan Library on a list of the top ten books about New Mexico. Those were the days when I read everything I could get my hands on about my adopted state: Bless Me, Ultima, Death Comes for the Archbishop, all the works of Rudolfo Anaya, Tony Hillerman and much more. Bless Me, Ultima is remarkable for the beauty of its language, the strong emotions it evokes, its portrayal of the interplay between generations and the way it transcends its regional setting to become archetypal and universal.

I have had several individuals who grew up in the northern parts of New Mexico tell me that the book paints a genuine picture of the life and customs they themselves experienced in that time and place. Those of us new to the area, however, have also found much that is familiar within the book’s pages. We may recall an older mentor such as Ultima who guided us through the trials of growing up. We may reflect upon a setting, such as the llano, the natural power of which mirrored and influenced our life experiences. We may remember our own personal struggles with spiritual faith.

It is a wonderful book that personifies a time and a culture as truly as Bless Me Ultima does. It is a powerful book that at the same time transcends the question of culture to show us the commonality of all human experience.—Jeanette Smith, Library Administration

Mardi Mahaffy: I first encountered Rudolfo Anaya’s Bless Me Ultima in a Chicano and Native American Literature course I took in college. The course was an elective I took to fulfill a multicultural requirement, so I approached the class expecting to encounter something new—something foreign to myself. Midway through the reading of Bless Me Ultima I found myself thinking, with some surprise, “I relate to this!” The story remains compelling to me today because it provides me with a look into a particular culture I don’t know while simultaneously reminding me of my own.

We see Antonio facing a myriad of questions about how his life will unfold, what his choices will be in situations ranging from the mundane to the metaphysical. The humor, warmth and understanding with which Anaya portrays this coming of age is remarkable. I came away enriched for meeting Antonio and his family, for having gotten to know Ultima and it all reaffirmed my belief that we are all seekers on a quest to discover answers that may or may not change as time goes by. But that is the glory of being human.—Mardi Mahaffy, Reference & Research Services

Mark Pendleton: I have always been more interested in the questions than in the answers. Bumper stickers proclaiming that this or that philosophy or religious figure is the answer leave me cold. However, when we start talking about life’s questions, then you have my interest. Anaya does that in Bless Me Ultima.

While I was re-reading Bless Me, Ultima for the Big Read project, it occurred to me that its Midwestern counterpart is Giants in the Earth by O.E. Rolvaag. This stark novel of how Scandinavian pioneers Per and Beret Hansa settled in Dakota Territory, like Bless Me, Ultima, is both regional and universal. The story of Per and Beret’s profound sacrifice, joy and pain while building a life for themselves in the New World is similarly a timeless story of the human condition. And like Bless Me, Ultima, Giants in the Earth is masterfully written. My personal copy of Giants in the Earth first belonged to my mother’s mother, a Norwegian immigrant and a stranger in a strange land. Every immigrant’s—every family’s—hope for a better life for generations to come is embodied in her handwritten inscription on the title page: “O.E. Rolvaag is the father of Karl Rolvaag, who became the governor of Minnesota in 1963.” Both the story and my copy of it are precious to me.—Mark Pendleton, Outreach Librarian, Thomas Branigan Memorial Library

Curandera Cristina Villalpando.

Folklorist Nasario Garcia (left) and Mark Pendleton.
Remembering Main Street

When Dominic Metta of Las Cruces created a 2007 exhibit for Las Cruces Downtown entitled “Remembering Main Street” for the Las Cruces 1907-2007 centennial celebration, he tapped many sources of information on the Las Cruces of yesteryear. Metta supplemented his own historical photographs with those of NMSU public historian Jon Hunner and those from the Library’s Archives & Special Collections Department.

Metta credits archivist Steve Hussman and the Archives staff with helping him “a lot.” He gleaned more information for the exhibit from his own research, recollections of longtime residents and history books, including Las Cruces and Doña Ana County—A Pictorial History (1999). Jim Turrentine, the owner of The Big Picture and Main Street Gallery, designed the exhibit, which was produced by Fastsigns. A major sponsor was the City of Las Cruces, which held the centennial celebration on the Downtown Mall last November.

Library Haiku

1.
Fine if returned late—
It wasn’t, she informed me.
Fifteen dollars, please.

2.
Summer afternoon,
This is where my true love lives—
The romance section

3.
Stacks of unread books,
Final exam tomorrow—
Information, please!

—Subha Subramaniam, Hayward, California.

Land/Sky. Pastel by Lenny Silverman, Archives & Special Collections.
NMSU Dissertations are Digitized

The Library announces the online availability of 1,459 digitized New Mexico State University dissertations produced from 1960 to the present.

The scholarly materials are available to the NMSU campus community through the Library’s web site at http://lib.nmsu.edu/article.shtml. Select the option “Dissertations by NMSU Graduates” under the heading “Article Indexes by Name.”

Both citations and full-text PDFs of the dissertations are accessible to NMSU students, faculty and staff through Dissertations & Theses @ , a service that ProQuest provides to universities that publish their students' graduate works with UMI Dissertation Publishing, a part of ProQuest. The service was previously known as Current Research @.

Ellen Bosman, head of the Library’s Technical Services Department, said, “Researchers at NMSU will appreciate having instant access to dissertations from New Mexico State University.” For more information, please contact Bosman at (575) 646-1723 or ebosman@lib.nmsu.edu.

New Copy Cards Here

The Library announces that it has installed new Xerox copy machines. Because old Xerox copy cards are not compatible with the new equipment, NMSU Library personnel will be happy to exchange them for new copy cards.

Go to the Library’s Copy Center on the first floor of Zuhl Library, and the existing value on an old copy card will be transferred to the new card at no charge. Persons who do not have old copy cards may purchase a new Xerox card for $2.00 and then add the desired value to the new card.

The Library Copy Center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday. For more assistance, contact the Library Copy Center staff at (575) 646-6918.

Electronic Resources Enhance Library’s Collection

This fall the Library added many databases, digital archives and electronic journal backfile collections covering subjects ranging from American history to physics. These resources add important depth to the Library’s growing collection of electronic journals and research materials. As most Library users prefer to access materials online whenever possible, it is making a concerted effort to transition much of its traditionally print-based collection to an electronic environment.

Databases & Database Backfiles

- Art Full Text. Full text access to almost 500 journals from 1997 to the present with indexing for those titles from 1984 to the present.
- CAB Abstracts Archive (1910-72). Information on agricultural science, veterinary medicine, nutrition and natural resources. Additionally, other topics covered in the database include biodiversity, pest control, environmental pollution, animal diseases, food production, managing natural resources, plant and animal breeding and more. The Library also has the current CAB Abstracts database, covering 1973 to the present.
- Newspaper Archive. Full text access to 2,818 historic newspapers from almost 700 communities in the U.S., Canada and several other countries. Important historic local papers include the Mesilla Valley Democrat (1890); Rio Grande Farmer (1923-34); Rio Grande Republican (1881-1914).
- Techstreet Standards. Full text access to the complete collection of ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) standards. All standards may be downloaded and printed.
- Web of Science (Science Citation Index & Social Science Citation Index). The Library has greatly expanded access to this invaluable research tool. Provides access to the complete Science Citation Index (1900-present) and Social Science Citation Index (1956-present) via Thomson/ISI’s Web of Science.
- Zoological Record, 1864-Present. The entire Zoological Record, from 1864 to the present, giving researchers the most complete record of animal science and taxonomy literature for living and fossil species currently available.

Digital Collections

- American State Papers, 1789-1838. Primary source material on American history from 1789 to 1838. Approximately 6280 numbered publications, largely Congressional and Executive Department materials, issued from 1832-1861. Unlike the Serial Set, these publications are not divided into reports and documents and do not include House and Senate journals. Approximately two-thirds of the publications cover the first 14 Congresses (1789-1817), whereas the remaining third chronologically overlap with the U.S. Serial Set from 1817-1838.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (New Mexico). Digitized large-scale maps, 1867-1969, showing the commercial, industrial and residential sections of cities. Originally designed to assist fire insurance agents, Sanborn maps are meticulously detailed and provide an (Resources, continued on page 14)
Resources (continued from page 13)

excellent resource for historians. The New Mexico collection contains 209 maps from 51 cities, spanning a period from the 1880s to the late 1940s.

- Serial Set Maps. Map images, records, and indexing for maps published in Reports and Documents of the 42nd Congress, 3rd session (1872) through the 52nd Congress, 1st session (1892).

- U.S. Congressional Serial Set, 1817-1980. Begun as the official collection of congressional reports and documents, this collection was published in a “serial” fashion. This version from Readex includes congressional documents from the 15th (1817) through the 70th (1928) Congress. The complete set should be completed by Fall 2008.

**Electronic Journal/Periodical Collections**

- American Chemical Society Legacy Archives. Full text access to 23 journal titles. Coverage ranges from 1879 to 1995. The Library also has a current electronic subscription to American Chemical Society titles.

- American Periodical Series Online, 1740-1900. Digitized images of the pages of American magazines and journals originating between 1741—marking the launch date of American Magazine and General Magazine—and 1900, a new era in periodical literature. The series, derived from the acclaimed American Periodicals Series microform collection, features more than 1,100 periodicals ranging from Medical Repository to Vanity Fair.

- American Society of Agronomy Online Journal Archive. Complete electronic access to Agronomy Journal (1907-present); Crop Science (1961-present); Journal of Environmental Quality (1972-present); Soil Science of America Journal (1921-present).

- Annual Reviews [Complete backfile]. Critical reviews written by leading scientists since 1932. Specific titles focus on 33 different disciplines within the biomedical, physical and social sciences. Annual Reviews publications are among the most highly cited in scientific literature (Journal Citation Reports, ISI). They critically review the most significant primary research literature to guide researchers to the principal contributions of the field and to keep them current with their research. Researchers can access the entire backfile at http://yw2pn3mr9l.search.serialssolutions.com/. Researchers can link to the full text via the article linker service.

- High Energy/Nuclear Physics & Astronomy Journal Archive Collection. Available from Elsevier’s Science Direct, this journal backfile provides access to 38 journals, with some titles dating as far back as 1955.

- JSTOR Collections: Arts & Sciences II, III & Biology. An archive of essential scholarly journals. JSTOR electronic journal collections incrementally add new volumes to the collection, typically 3 to 5 years old. The Library already subscribes to Arts & Sciences I. Arts & Sciences II comprises 125 titles from the fields of economics, history and Latin American studies. Arts & Sciences III contains 150 titles focusing on language and literature, music, film studies, folklore and the study of the history of art and architecture. Biology contains 100 core titles in the areas of biodiversity, conservation, paleontology, evolutionary biology, plant science, cell biology and zoology.

- Nature (1950-Present)

This collection allows researchers seamless, full text electronic access to all issues of the long respected, weekly, international and interdisciplinary science journal, Nature.

Please address questions to either Susan E. Beck, Collection Development Coordinator, at (575) 646-6171 or susabeck@lib.nmsu.edu or the appropriate Library subject specialist (see http://lib.nmsu.edu/depts/collserv/sel-liai.shtml).—Susan Beck, Reference & Research Services

Chávez (continued from page 4)

On the Saturday morning after the events, Charles and I escorted Chávez to the archives stacks so that she could see her collection in its new secure location in Branson Library.

All of us who worked with Chávez on this project have been inspired by her courage and her good humor. For the past several years, she has fought her own battle against cancer while continuing to work at Casa Amiga and telling all who will listen about the struggles of women, children and families in Juárez. As she said to those assembled to honor her on November 9, 2007:

“We have much work left to do; the road ahead is long and hard. There will come a time when my voice becomes silent so that new voices can be heard to carry on the struggle for the rights of women, which, as I have said, is also for the rights of men, because it is the struggle for a more just and democratic society for all.”

Sadly, according to press reports, thirty-eight people have been murdered in Juárez in the first twenty-right days of 2008, including several women and children.—Molly Molloy, Reference & Research Services

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Special Collections Receives J. Phelps White Collection

Last June, the Library's Special Collections received a gift of 431 volumes from J. Phelps White III. The books were valued at over $37,000 by an independent appraiser. The collection consists of about twenty percent of the library of Mr. and Mrs. James Phelps White (1856-1934), a prominent rancher and business man in the southwest, particularly in the Roswell area. A number of these titles were previously owned by the industrialist, miner, and rancher J.J. Hagerman (1838-1909), from a ranch he had owned near Roswell. After the death of Lou Tomlinson (Mrs. James Phelps) White in 1972, the collection was divided, and about one quarter of the library, which dealt with Napoleon, was given to the New Mexico Military Institute.

The collection consists primarily of sets of literary and historical works from the middle and late nineteenth century. There are large sets of the writings of George Eliot, John Ruskin, Carlyle, Longfellow, Poe, Thomas de Quincy and other, mostly nineteenth century major literary figures. There are first editions of The Literary Remains of Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1836-1839) and James Gillman's The Life of Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1838). The historical works cover a wider range. There are works on ancient history, the Crusades, England and France in the eighteenth century and American history. Especially noteworthy, given the time and place, is a set of volumes on the history of Asia, India in particular.

There are eight volumes of the Clarendon Press series Rulers of India (1891-1898), J. Talboys Wheeler's History of India (1874) and his A Short History of India (1880), Lancelot Lawson's Empires of the Far East (1912), Miss Pardoe's City of the Sultan (2nd ed. 1838) and George Rawlinson's Sixth and Seventh Great Oriental Monarchy. A medievalist, I was happy to see several books on this period, ranging from the crusades and Charles the Bold to an early copy of Henry Charles Lea's History of the Inquisition of the Middle Ages (1888), the publication of which in 1887 marked the inauguration of modern scholarly study of the Middle Ages. Many of the books are bound or half-bound in leather with gold stamping or tooling and marbled endpapers. Others are in nineteenth century cloth. While individual sets were bound together, there is no common binding for the library, as might have been done in a large city. Very few of the books appear to have been rebound.

As a collection, the books provide a valuable snapshot of the library of a wealthy family in small town New Mexico around 1900. The occasional indications of provenance give some indications of how the library might have been assembled. We hope to have J. Phelps White III come and give a talk about his gift in the fall.—Larry Creider, Archives & Special Collections

Ask Me Table Welcomes Students

Library staff members offered assistance with directional and informational questions and supplied hot chocolate, cookies, maps, and NMSU Library pens to 313 campus newcomers the first day of Spring Semester.

The "Ask Me" table is a partnership between the Library and NMSU's Office of Student Marketing and Transitions/Student Success that began in Fall 2006.

Project organizers Vicki Baldridge, Cindy Pierard and TJ Urbanski said that the project is an effort to help better orient students and others who are new to the NMSU campus.

Table volunteers were Donna Burkholder, Mary Chavarria, DJ Chavez, Yolanda Chacon-Valle, Veronica Gomez, Graciela Martinez, Kimberly Miller, Mardi Mahaffy, Vicki Minnick, Deborah Parker, Lorena Ramos, Kathy Sowa and Irene Tellez.—Cindy Pierard, Reference & Research Services

At right, New Mexico librarians rallied during Library Legislative Day in Santa Fe to raise awareness of the need for library funding in the next statewide general obligation bond bill.
Never Give Up!

A tip o’ the Library hat to guest contributor Mark Pendleton, Outreach Coordinator at the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library. Known throughout Las Cruces as the author of the column “Greater Words and Things” in The Ink and editor of the BookLetters newsletter and Mark’s Musings, he is perhaps best known for his stirring battle cry on behalf of libraries:

“Never give up! Never say die! And above all: Keep on readin’!”

Library Sports Beat

NMSU President Michael Martin recently shared his thoughts regarding the Library’s athletic program. Martin said, “It would be wonderful to have 10,000 fans show up to cheer for the unloading of new books at the library.” We couldn’t agree with you more! Go, Aggies! Go, Library!