Librarian Molly Molloy Keeps the Count

Since pre-Columbian times, Mayan daykeepers have kept count of the days in a complex system of tracking time. Those who read New Mexico State University librarian Molly Molloy’s popular online Frontera List (http://groups.google.com/group/frontera-list/topics) know that she is a modern daykeeper in a particularly grim sense.

In the absence of an official count, she has taken on the task of keeping and reporting statistics obtained from local newspaper reports on the daily and cumulative count of the murders in Mexico’s deadliest city, Ciudad Juárez. At more than 6,500, these violent deaths number more than one-fourth of the country’s 28,000 dead that its government admits to since the end of 2006.

Molloy’s entry on the Frontera List for August 19 is typical: “Nine more people were killed yesterday in Juárez, a total of 4 women and 5 men. The killings of women this year, 2010, now total about 169, surpassing the total number of women killed in all of 2009 (164). Added to the previous tally, the number of people killed so far in August is 205. In 2010, a total of about 1,900 people have been murdered in Juárez.”

Bond “B” Is Opportunity to Help Libraries

You need libraries… Libraries need you! Libraries are seeing increasing numbers of users and, at the same time, experiencing declining budgets for resources. General Obligation Bonds provide for the purchase of up to 25% of New Mexico academic library materials.

GO Bond “B,” if approved by voters, will provide $7 million to publicly funded academic, public, school and tribal libraries in New Mexico. The bond issue would cost taxpayers 45 cents per $100,000 of their assessed property value.

GO Bond “B” is an opportunity for library users to express their appreciation and support for the services provided by libraries of all types in the state.

The election is on November 2. Absentee voting begins on October 5 and early voting on October 16. — David Baldwin, Associate Dean
NMSU Community College Library News

The four NMSU community college libraries are excited about using the new Request It! Service for inter-campus lending. In collaboration with the NMSU-Las Cruces library staff, the Doña Ana Community College (DACC) library staff has incorporated the Voyager Acquisitions Module into the ordering process.

- Three new librarians, Ken Keeton (Virtual Services), Sara Finch (Instruction, East Mesa campus) and Yubao Li (Instruction, Central campus), were hired at DACC, and Sharon Mann was hired to work part-time at NMSU-Grants. Dan Kammer, the director of the NMSU-Alamogordo Library, will be leaving in October. Both Dan and his wife Jenna have made substantial contributions to the New Mexico library community. Dan served as the president of the New Mexico Library Association (NMLA) and Jenna edited the NMLA Newsletter.

- DACC’s fourth annual Great Book Giveaway was held during National Library Week in April to promote literacy and library assistance for students and staff. The opportunity to discuss fiction instead of coursework was appreciated by the students. The library staff also offered tips for doing well on final exams and discussed the assistance of the Virtual Learning and Information Technology group for the DACC Blackboard community.

- This semester, DACC library staff participated in the annual start of semester orientation event for new students. Library flyers were handed out to all participants, and students were informed about their libraries’ regular and deluxe features.

- Library staff assisted the Associated Students of DACC in welcome back activities at the Central and East Mesa campus during the first weeks of school, including staffing information tables, handing out food and directing lost students. DACC staff did presentations at the DACC Faculty Professional Development Days and the DACC Midterm Madness Days in September.

- Cecilia Stafford, the director of Library Services at NMSU-Grants, joined fellow members of the NMSU-Grants Retention Committee in attending a Noel Levitz student retention workshop in Las Cruces in September.

- The Grants library has added Films on Demand to its online resources. While expensive, the film collection is already quite popular with faculty who teach in all of the delivery modes. It is particularly popular with those faculty teaching online courses.

- The Grants library staff created a Catalog Express table near the entrance of the library that holds four recycled computers for quick access to the NMSU Library Catalog.

- Cecilia Stafford will present “Library Resources: The Missing Link in Blackboard Course Design” on October 15 at the New Mexico Library Association mini-conference in Gallup.—Norice Lee, Access Services

Vote November 2. Absentee Voting Begins October 5.
Lwowski Gift Enriches Collections

Upon his passing, Dr. Lwowski helped build the Library’s collections with a gift from his personal and professional library of nearly 2,100 books, journals, maps, CDs and more. The collection includes some rare and valuable early books. For example, “New Principles of Gunnery” by Benjamin Robins (London, 1742) is considered to mark the birth of the science of ballistics, and it is valued at around $1400. There is a 1614 German translation of Diego Ufano’s “Tratado de la artilleria y uso della platificato” with plates of cannon and their use, a book which probably saw much use during the Thirty Years’ War.

There is a 1559 folio edition of Bartolomeo Cavalcanti’s “Retorica”, several books of which are heavily annotated, and which is worth between $1,500 and $3,000. There are also 18th century works on chemistry and plant physiology and a 1759 edition with commentary of a Greek romantic novel from the first century A.D. The facsimiles of early books and atlases are welcomed by the Library as well. All of these volumes in the history of science and the history of the book will be useful for Special Collections.

Dr. Lwowski also kept documentation of his childhood in Germany as well as his professional career. Thanks to the expertise of Drs. Herb and Reta Beebe, close friends and executors of (Lwowski, continued on page 10)

New Mexico State University astronomer and professor emerita Dr. Reta Beebe has received NASA’s Exceptional Public Service medal in recognition of her many years of dedicated support archiving planetary science data so that it is accessible to the community at large.

Beebe’s friends, family and colleagues were with her when NMSU Executive Vice President and Provost Wendy K. Wilkins recently presented her with a medal and certificate for her work, which dates back more than thirty years.

Beebe and her husband, Dr. Herb Beebe, are longtime NMSU Library supporters who contributed to several important archival collections in the Library. They played major roles working with the Library to receive and process the Dr. Clyde Tombaugh Collection, the Dr. Frank Harary Collection and the Dr. Walter Lwowski Collection. Beebe was nominated for her award by James L. Green, director of the Planetary Science Division of NASA.

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Archives & Special Collections holds manuscript collections of other astronomers as well, including Walter H. Haas, Hugh M. Johnson and Latimer J. Wilson. Researchers can consult these, as well as classic texts from astronomy’s formative years, in the Caroline E. Stras Reading Room, open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A guide to the Tombaugh Papers collection may be viewed at http://rmoa.unm.edu/docviewer.php?docid=nmlcu1ms0407.xml. Most of this article was derived from the guide. — Charles B. Stanford, Archives & Special Collections

GO AGGIES! GO LIBRARY! GO BOND “B”

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View the GO Bond “B” Video at http://lib.nmsu.edu/aboutlib/LibrariesChangeLives/index.html

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