NMSU Receives $3 Million Naming Gift for Library from Zuhls

Herbert and Joan Zuhl of Las Cruces have donated a record $3 million to NMSU as a naming gift for the New Library. The Library will receive the earnings from the endowment, which will be managed by the NMSU Foundation. According to Joe Creed, Interim Vice President of University Advancement, the ultimate gift from the Zuhl's estate could be as much as $6 million. The Library will display the couple's extensive collection of petrified wood, which is millions of years old, and other geological artifacts such as meteorites and fossils. Ron Jordan, Assistant Vice President of University Advancement, met with the Zuhls for several months to plan the gift.

Former New Yorkers Herbert and Joan Zuhl moved from Manhattan to Las Cruces ten years ago. They first visited Las Cruces on a vacation trip. Herbert worked as a chemist for several large companies. In 1970 they dug up a piece of petrified wood “for the fun of it” on private property near Holbrook, Arizona. This led to the establishment of a very successful business selling the petrified wood to architects, collectors, and others. Now retired, the Zuhls enjoy their life in Las Cruces. Joan is an artist and Herbert enjoys golf, riding a motorcycle and activities as a Mason. Each of NMSU’s regents praised the Zuhls as they stood before an applauding audience at the March 24 meeting of the Board of Regents. Herbert Zuhl said “We have always been interested in promoting education because it is one of the answers to the world’s problems.”

“We look forward to a long-term working relationship with the Zuhls to present their collection and to honor their support.”

Interim Dean of the Library R. David Myers said “The University Library is very excited to receive two generous gifts from Herbert and Joan Zuhl. We will be honored” (Naming... continued on page 14)
A Day in the Life of a Fulbright Lecturer in China

by Charles Townley, Professor, Zuhl Library Reference, ctownley@lib.nmsu.edu

Charles Townley spent the Fall 1999 Semester as a Senior Fulbright Lecturer at Beijing Normal University. He is also active in the International Federation of Library Associations.

The sword women usually wake me as they walk and talk their way through my courtyard at 6:10 a.m. Many people say that early morning is the best time to see the real China. And I believe them. Certainly, morning is the best time to see Beijing Normal University, my home for the Fall 1999 semester. I use the sword women as an excuse to get up and explore during this time of day. I try to get out of the Foreign Experts Residence by 6:30 and walk the perimeter of the campus -- a distance of about three miles. The sights and sounds are always revealing. Come along with me as I take my walk.

I head south and pass a joint venture university office building and mall construction project, one of four major construction projects on campus. I turn right into the southeast quadrangle and am met by two or three hundred people, my age and older, doing tai chi exercises, fan dances and sword practice in front of the New Library. (Yes, they have two libraries, too!) These are all veterans of the Cultural Revolution. They are delighted to be back in a University and to have the leisure time to exercise. It beats working like the peasants, something almost all of them did for 10 years during the Cultural Revolution.

Next is the Dong Yi Building on the southwest quadrangle. It is a seven-story, block square building housing the College of Education. Beijing Normal University is among the top ten comprehensive research universities in China and the College of Education is the best in

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Many NMSU librarians have visited libraries and universities outside the U.S. They value not only the exchange of ideas but the lasting friendships that have been formed.

http://www.theodora.com/maps

Map courtesy of http://www.theodora.com/maps
Karen Stabler participated in a study tour of libraries in Northern Ireland in 1998. She has also been active in bringing several visiting Mexican librarians to NMSU.

Armagh, a city in Northern Ireland, became a center of Christianity during the 5th century under the influence of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. It is here where the famous Book of Armagh was written in 807. The Book contains a copy of the New Testament in Latin, famous confessions of St. Patrick, and some of the earliest documents written about him. Tradition has it that St. Patrick built a church at the current site of the Anglican Cathedral, the Church of Ireland’s Cathedral of St. Patrick. The Anglican Church is an 18th century rebuilding of the Cathedral, originally built in the 13th century.

Located beside the Cathedral is the Armagh Public Library, a private library. This library, founded in 1771 by Archbishop Richard Robinson, houses many early books from the Archbishop’s personal collection. The collection contains about 20,000 volumes with a concentration of ecclesiastical history including incunabula, Colgan’s Acta Sanctorum Hiberniae (1645), a Breeches Bible, and the original copy of Jonathan Swift’s Gulliver’s Travels with corrections in the margins made by him. The setting for Gulliver’s Travels is the Belfast coast. As one of thirteen American librarians who were guests of the British Council of Northern Ireland, we spent part of a day touring the Armagh Public Library. It was fascinating to look at such treasures. However, we all noticed the lack of security and that almost no preservation practices were observed. We were not surprised to read recently that on December 20, 1999, several of the books were stolen from the library. This past January, two men were arrested for the theft of five literary treasures from the Armagh Public Library. The 1726 copy of Gulliver’s Travels has still not been found.

On a hilltop across from the Anglican Cathedral is the impressive St. Patrick’s Roman Catholic Cathedral. Both the Anglican and Roman Catholic Cathedrals have been objects of attacks during the “troubles.” In fact, the British soldiers were very visible during my visit in 1998. The large Irish-American population in the United States celebrates St. Patrick’s Day with parades, parties, and commercialism. In Ireland, people attend Mass wearing sprigs of shamrock and greeting each other with the Gaelic expression in the title above. St. Patrick’s association with the shamrock stems from his supposed use of its 3-part leaf to explain the concept of the Holy Trinity. He is also fabled to have driven out all the snakes from Ireland. However, biologists say that there were no snakes in Ireland at that time.
Graciela Martinez has joined the Serials and Special Projects Unit of Bibliographic Services as a Library Technician II. Previously, Gracie (pictured at right) worked in the Children’s Department of the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, where she conducted arts and crafts and story time sessions. Gracie has almost completed the Library Technician Program at the Dona Ana Branch Community College. She enjoys taking walks and going to movies.

Several long-term Library employees participated in the NMSU Administrative Council’s Employee Service Awards Ceremony on March 6. They include Austin Hoover (25 years); Rose Marie Garcia, Ceci Mendoza, Floyd Ransom, and Kathy Sowa (all 20 years); and Irene Shown (15 years). Sherry Ward has also completed 25 years of service with the University.

John Freyermuth and his wife Carolyn Gressitt ran 10,000 meters in Anthony, New Mexico, during the Leap Year 2000 festival. Proceeds from the run benefited the Women’s Intercultural Center.

Electronic Reserves Corner Expands

by Holly Reynolds, Access Services, hreynold@lib.nmsu.edu

The Electronic Reserves (E-Res) Corner, the best-kept secret of the Library, is expanding to better serve the students of NMSU. Located in Room 149 of Zuhl Library, the E-Res Corner now has 12 PCs available, including one workstation specially configured to run CD-ROM products. All the other machines are networked, providing improved access to the library’s electronic reserve collection via the Internet. In addition to these machines, there are also two PCs in the Circulation area of Branson Library.

Electronic reserves are PDF files, and require Adobe Acrobat for reading. Currently 230 files are available online, with more added daily. The current directory is listed at http://lib.nmsu.edu/reserves/fultxt~1.html. The benefits of electronic files are threefold: 1) files are always complete, 2) files may be accessed from anywhere one has Internet access, and 3) files are always available, even the night before the big exam. While many files are still class note compilations, homework solutions or sample test files, there are a growing number of copyrighted materials available as well.

Gwen Gregory’s article “The Library Services and Technology Act: How Changes from LSCA are Affecting Libraries” was based on her MPA thesis research. The article was recently published in the journal Public Libraries 38 (Nov./Dec. 1999): 378-382.
The Transborder Library Forum: U.S. and Mexican Librarians Working Together

by Gwen Gregory, Interim Associate Dean, ggregory@lib.nmsu.edu

Gwen Gregory has been involved in organizing the Transborder Library Forum for many years.

The Transborder Library Forum, also known as FORO, is a volunteer organization that works to provide a venue for the cooperative exchange of ideas and discussion of experiences and efforts concerning the provision of library services in the binational border regions between the U.S., Mexico, and Canada. A conference is held each year where librarians from these three nations meet and present programs on topics of mutual interest. The conference is held in Mexico and the U.S. in alternating years.

FORO origins extend back to 1989, when librarians from the states of Arizona and Sonora identified the need for better communication between libraries in Mexico and the U.S. From the initial informal meetings of a few dozen librarians, attendance has grown to over 300. A wide range of programming and breakout sections enables librarians in academic, public, school, and special libraries to discuss their specific needs and projects of particular interest to their type of library. Ongoing simultaneous interpretation ensures that every FORO attendee has the opportunity to participate equally across linguistic borders. In 1990, Arizona librarians invited their counterparts from Sonora, Mexico, to participate in organizing FORO I, held in Rio Rico, Arizona (1991). The following year librarians in Hermosillo, Sonora (1992), hosted the group. Subsequently, FORO conferences have taken place in El Paso, Texas (1993); Monterrey, Nuevo Leon (1994); Mexico City (1995); Tucson, Arizona (1996); Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua (1997); Riverside, California (1998); and Mexicali, Baja California (1999). Librarians from NMSU have participated in this conference since its beginning. We have contributed programs, papers, and exhibits as well as participating in conference planning and coordination. We were especially closely involved in organizing the conferences in El Paso and Ciudad Juárez.

In 2000, the FORO was held in New Mexico for the first time. It took place March 23-25 in Albuquerque at the Sheraton/Old Town Hotel. Librarians from the University of New Mexico did much of the planning and organizing, with participation from others throughout the state. Several librarians from NMSU attended. Molly Molloy participated in two programs: one on Latin American Internet resources and one on U.S.-Mexico conflict resolution, which included NMSU faculty member Nancy Oretskin. Gwen Gregory coordinated a panel about border health issues. This panel included NMSU faculty member Dr. Hugo Vilchis-Licon, who discussed the Border Health Information and Education Network (BIEN!) grant project. Over 200 participants from the three countries attended. The presidents of the American Library Association, Special Library Association, and AMBAC, the professional association of librarians in Mexico, were in attendance. (FORO... continued on page 10)
Following completion of that move, the rest of the Branson circulating collection will be shifted forward. The Library staff will do their utmost to control disruption in the stack areas, but ask your patience and understanding during this long and complex project.

Mary Chavarria, the supervisor of Branson Circulation, is responsible for coordinating this massive project, working with a three-member crew: Lisa Ramirez, Laura Mendoza, and Anthony Vielma. To accomplish this shift, all items have to be moved off existing shelving to a temporary shelving area, then moved again when that part of the collection is reached later in the shifting project. To help minimize confusion, signage is constantly updated. The shifting is confusing, however, so please do not hesitate to ask for assistance at either the Circulation or Reference desks in Branson.

When this phase is completed, the second phase will begin. It will involve moving a substantial portion of the business collection (HA-HJ) down from third floor.
Donor Leland H. Gile has made a major donor gift to the Rio Grande Historical Collections. The Dora Blossom Gile Endowed Memorial Research Support Fund for the Rio Grande Historical Collections, a $20,000 endowment, was established to provide monies for the acquisition, processing, and making available for research the collections, archives, manuscripts, and other unique and near unique documentary materials.

Molly Molloy has received $800 from the Mexico Small Grants Program. The funding will support Molly’s travel to the Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR) in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, in summer 2000. She has been invited to provide classes for the ECOSUR library staff and faculty in the use of specialized electronic databases. She will also spend time learning more about the special collections and services of this important research center located near Mexico’s southern border.

Christine Moreland-Bruhnke, a staff member in Archives, has received the Colonial Dames Scholarship Award. The award will enable Christine to attend the Spring 2000 Modern Archives Institute in Washington, D.C. Award recipients will be honored in a ceremony during the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists.

Library and Partners Awarded $214,000 for Border Health Network

by Jeanette Smith, Professor, Dean’s Office, jcsmit@lib.nmsu.edu

The NMSU Library is the lead agency for the Border Health Information and Education Network (BIEN!), a consortium of seventeen public and academic libraries, hospitals, and health organizations in Dona Ana, Luna, and Otero counties. Two recent grants, a $10,000 planning grant from the Paso del Norte Foundation of El Paso, and a $204,000 Information Access Grant from the National Library of Medicine, have been awarded to BIEN! These awards will enable BIEN! to achieve its goal of creating opportunities for improving the health of people in the Border region through the provision of quality health information resources in electronic and traditional formats and through health education outreach activities in Border communities.

BIEN! is the brainchild of Notice Lee, director of the Dona Ana Branch Community College (DABCC) Media Center and chair of the BIEN! Executive Board. Sylvia Ortiz, the head of Branson Reference at the NMSU Library, is the project director. Members of the BIEN! Executive Board are Carol Brey of Thomas Branigan Memorial Library, Dr. Hugo Vilchis-Licon of the Border Epidemiology and Environmental Health Center, Frances Scappaticci of Memorial Medical Center, Dr. Paul Lang of the New Mexico Public Health Division, and Molly McGetrick of the DABCC Media Center.

BIEN! partner institutions in addition to those mentioned above are: NMSU Alamogordo Townsend Library, NMSU Health Science Department, Mimbres Memorial Hospital of Deming, La Clinica de Familia, Southern Area Health Education Center, NMSU Cooperative Extension Service, New Mexico Border Health Office, Hatch Public Library, Alamogordo Public Library, Marshall Memorial Library of Deming, and the Valley Community Library of Anthony.
Right now a lot of people are getting all excited about the latest thing in radio — web radio.  

Big deal! 

I doubt if it will ever hold a candle to the last great innovation in radio — color radio! 

You wonder what color radio was? It was drama, soap opera, comedy, sports, religion, news, politics, and yes, even music, all of this without images superimposed on a screen. Radio was like somebody talking to you in a normal conversation, describing things. You supplied the images in your mind; therefore, they were in color. 

I remember, in particular, on cold winter nights, my brother and I listening to Sergeant Preston of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, with the lights out, lying on the floor staring at the action on the radio that was unfolding on the ceiling. 

I only got in on the last of color radio in the early 1950’s, shortly before it was done in by black and white television. Eventually, we seemed to be the only family on the block who could afford to own a color radio, everyone else making do with a black and white television. 

One night my brother and I were invited over by one of the neighbors to watch Sergeant Preston on one of those flickering boxes of light. 

What a fraud! 

Oh, I could look past the fact that it was in black and white. What got to me was that it was on a sound stage. The snow looked like a pillow fight. 

That was enough for me. 

At home, our radio really snowed. 

Photo, Theodor Horydczak, Library of Congress.
**My experience** with a foreign library occurred in 1992 when I had the opportunity to spend a semester studying in Germany at Albert-Ludwigs Universität. The university, founded in 1457, is located in Freiburg im Breisgau, close to Stuttgart and even closer to Basel, Switzerland. Minutes from downtown Freiburg it is possible to hike in the beautiful Black Forest, where you can look down at vineyards and the lovely, lace-like steeple of the cathedral.

But back to the library. The first thing to understand is that there is actually not just one library. In addition to the University Library (the Universitätsbibliothek) each department had its own subject-specific library. The university has grown considerably over the past few centuries, and, being located in the center of a city, expansion into adjacent areas was not always possible; hence there are departments here and there in some locations quite far from the university itself. This meant that the libraries too were scattered around. Luckily there was an excellent public transportation system.

One of the classes I was taking was called "Introduction to Prehistoric Archaeology." The Prehistory department was one of the newer ones, and was way out in the suburbs; the library was in a small building in a rear courtyard. The initial appearance was quite favorable -- in fact, a stereotypical library. Wooden floors, high narrow windows. Very very quiet. And there was even a card catalog. As it turned out, the card catalog was not finished. This made it quite difficult (for a foreigner, at least) to find anything. Even worse, I realized that the books were not arranged by subject. American libraries typically use the Library of Congress or Dewey Decimal classification systems, which means that books with similar subjects are assigned similar call numbers and thus end up near each other on the shelf. If you know the number assigned to your subject area, you can go there and browse to see what materials your library owns. The books in the Prehistory library, however, were apparently arranged in the order in which they were purchased; in other words, if you didn't find it in the catalog, you didn't find it at all. The numbers on the spines of books referred only to their locations, and had nothing to do with their contents.

This was also the case in the university library. The main floor of this gigantic building (seven floors plus an underground garage and two underground storage levels) was filled with the largest card catalog I have ever seen, with at least two hundred cabinets. There were also two separate catalogs in an adjacent room for the subjects of art and history. There were books in several areas you could reach yourself plus others in closed stacks which you had to request.

One time while collecting books for a paper, I spotted a book on Stalin next to a book on Buddhism. (Pretty surprising even for a non-librarian.) Another student, who was in the same exchange program as myself, commented that he had been looking for a book by Michener; he got the location number, and when he reached the shelf where the book was, there were no others by Michener on that shelf or anywhere in sight. It made me realize just how wonderful the Library of Congress and Dewey Decimal classification systems really are; by having books on related topics arranged together, it is possible to find additional material by browsing.

Other interesting tidbits (Freiburg... continued on page 10)
About two weeks after I started to work here at NMSU, I went to a Los Alamos National Laboratory consortium meeting in Albuquerque. Besides being new to the area and the fact that the meeting was held on Kirtland Air Force Base, I was coming into the middle of a conversation of which I had no real idea. Fortunately, at this same meeting, I met Jonathan Eldredge. Jonathan is Chief, Collections and Information Resources Development and an Assistant Professor at the University of New Mexico (UNM)’s Health Science Library. Later, I learned that he had recently won The Louise Darling Medal for Distinguished Achievement in Collection Development in the Health Sciences. From this meeting, and through David Myers’ support, Jonathan has made several trips to Las Cruces.

Jonathan is giving his knowledge and experience to benefit our Nursing and Health Sciences collections. He has spent considerable time in the Branson stacks getting an image of what we have as opposed to what we may need to better serve our clients. Our Subject Specialists in these two areas, Roger Steeb and Gwen Gregory, have both met with Jonathan and have gained additional insight into what they might order for the collection. Jonathan has met with several NMSU faculty members. The direction that NMSU has evolved in over the years makes it necessary to acquire material in new areas of research, and Jonathan’s experience and suggestions will aid in our collection building.

What is of particular interest to me in Collection Services is that through Jonathan’s own contacts, he is arranging meetings later this Spring with two major medical book vendors. Rittenhouse is an East Coast seller with whom I did some work when I was at Long Island University, Brooklyn. Majors Scientific Books in Dallas is a Midwest vendor of medical and health sciences material. It is hoped that we can set up subject specific approval plans in the noted areas to cover the lacunae that our current plans have left. The relatively new program for a Master’s degree in Public Health and the brand new Bachelor’s in Environmental Health will need some work.

Jonathan will make several more trips this school year and I hope that he will have the time to continue his treks south for longer than we may need him.

Freiburg...
(continued from page 9)
about the library: there were classrooms on the first two floors. Smoking was not allowed in the classroom, but you could smoke in the halls, which rather defeated the purpose. When entering the library proper it was necessary to surrender your backpack and carry your writing materials loose. There were people stationed at the security gate to make sure you complied. The library was also closed evenings and Sundays, and on Saturday it was only open from about 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. There were five computers in the library (and about 20,000 students in the university), which allowed you to see how many books you had checked out or to request a renewal. There was no online catalog then. (The library now has a web site as well as an online catalog.)

The most unusual thing was the little book shelving device. When you went down in the stacks, you could see something that looked like a little monorail. Sometimes it was suspended below the ceiling, and would slope down to run about two feet above the floor in certain strategic areas. There were little plastic bins with wheels that automatically ran along the track and carried books that needed to be shelved.

The library experience I had was interesting, although occasionally frustrating. It was surprising just how different a library could actually be, considering that you start off with a building, books, and an academic community to serve. Doing research in any library is rather like detective work; in Germany the detective work started when you had to figure out which library to go to and where it was.
New Health Information Database Offered by Library

by Marlo Brown, Assistant Professor, Branson Reference, marlo@lib.nmsu.edu

A cooperative agreement between the New Mexico State Library and the Gale Group has given New Mexico State University access to the InfoTrac Health Reference Center - Academic database. This electronic resource features full-text journal articles, entries from dictionaries and other medical reference books, textbook excerpts, pamphlets, magazine articles and other resources. The database covers 1995 to present. It should prove useful to student and faculty researchers, as well as to anyone looking for general health information.

The InfoTrac Health Reference Center is available by going to the NMSU Library’s Article Databases page (http://lib.nmsu.edu/article.html) and clicking on “Health & Medicine” in the colored box on the left side of the screen. You can also go directly to Health Reference Center by pointing your browser to http://lib.nmsu.edu/resources/dbhrc.html.

Health Reference Center fills in some gaps in the NMSU Library’s electronic resources by providing access to health information in plain language for personal medical research and with some full-text material from medical journals for those looking for more academic information. Although it lacks the depth of CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature) or MEDLINE (medical database from the National Library of Medicine), it has enough variety to make it a good starting point for almost anyone looking for information on a medical topic.

Useful Health and Medical Databases

- **Health Reference Center** - Wide variety of medical information, some of it in full-text. Available through the Article Databases page (and at http://lib.nmsu.edu/resources/dbhrc.html).

- **CINAHL** - Nursing and health information, abstracts only. Available through the Article Databases page.

- **MEDLINE** - Medical research database, abstracts only. Available through the Article Databases page.
China. I teach on the seventh floor in the Department of International and Comparative Education. It is one of only 20 social science departments throughout China receiving national recognition and support for its outstanding research and teaching. It is the only department at Beijing Normal with this recognition. I teach 25 master’s and doctoral students, including two Assistant Presidents, who will soon be leading universities throughout the country.

The students are excellent, but their preparation seems uneven to an American. For example, they have no background in budgeting or planning. Only late in the semester do I learn that these topics have been considered unnecessary because, until recently, all planning and budgeting were done by a few party officials and transmitted through the Education Ministry. Now, universities are being asked to become entrepreneurial, and the budgeting and planning units were possibly the highlight of the course.

I now enter the student dormitory area on the west side of the University. China is trying to increase the number of students in higher education from four to seven and, ultimately, ten percent of high school graduates (compared to more than 50 percent in the U.S.). So undergraduate students are packed in at eight to a room. By 6:45 a.m., a few brave souls are staggering forth with their dishes for breakfast at the cafeterias. Others are making sleepy moves to the athletic fields with basketballs or badminton racquets.

Athletic fields are also on the west side of the campus. There is a lot of basketball, soccer and badminton. A few do gymnastics and tennis. Later in the day there will be intramural games among classes and majors. There are no intercollegiate sports in China. But most students actively participate in intramurals. Most of the people at this time of the morning are faculty and staff taking exercise before going to classroom and laboratory. These people are 45 or younger. Universities in China were closed during the Cultural Revolution and people in my age group are almost entirely missing on campus. You jump from young and middle aged faculty to people who are 60 and older. With these people retiring, there is a great demand for new faculty.

Next I walk by the Communist Party Headquarters and the President’s Office. China has a long tradition of dual administration. It began over a thousand years ago when scholar/bureaucrats were appointed to govern political units. They reported to the ministries in the central government for civil administration. A second official appointed by the Emperor reported directly to the court. The tradition continues today with the University President reporting to the ministry and the Party Secretary reporting to the Party. Who is really in charge depends on the circumstances and the individuals. In the library the Party Secretary was clearly in charge. She and I worked closely on projects. I saw the Director exactly three times. He is a scholar of Chinese literature and basically just lends his reputation to the library, and continues his teaching and research.

Beijing Normal University has 15,000 students. But almost 40,000 people live on campus, the largest portion in faculty and staff housing on the north side of campus. Faculty and staff, their children, and frequently their parents or adult children live in six-floor apartment blocks on the north side of campus. This housing, while very cramped, is highly desirable because it is free. Each family also has health care, recreation, and educational privileges as well. Never mind that a professor makes only $300 a month. Their only out-of-pocket expenses are food and clothing. Everything else is covered. The ideal arrangement is for one wage-earner to work for a foreign firm making the big money and the other wage-earner to work for the University to obtain benefits. The indirect costs to the University must be enormous. It is part of the reason for the growing popularity of private for-profit education. I pity the poor physical plant department that has to meet both educational and personal concerns of faculty and staff.

As I turn back south towards the Foreign Experts Residence, I pass some of the service facilities for our University city. First is the hospital with complete cradle to grave services. Then there is the dumpling restaurant where everyone goes in the morning to buy steamed dumplings for breakfast. I also pass the University Nursery. Imagine if the Greenhouse was a University operation and you will have the sense of it. Finally, I reach the food market where vegetables, fruit, meat, fish, and nuts are available. These foodstuffs are, for the most part, far fresher than anything you can get in an American supermarket. Indeed, the fish are still swimming around in...
plastic buckets. And in January, there were excellent tomatoes and strawberries from hothouses. One thing I really liked was the tofu or bean curd. We only get one kind here. In China there are six, including a smoked one that tastes like a smoked cheese, one rolled thin and used like a tortilla, and one cut into pasta. There is also a fermented version that tastes and smells like Limburger and one with blood that I did not care for. And the food is dirt cheap. Over the course of the semester, I learned enough Chinese to bargain and could come home with the makings of a good dinner for a dollar.

Adjacent to the market, but outside the University walls, are some of my favorite restaurants. Within ten minutes of my apartment are 22 restaurants that can only be matched by three or four places in Las Cruces. There are three generic Beijing, three Beijing duck, two Korean, three dumpling, one Japanese, one Indian, two American, two Sichuan, one Hunan, two Moslem, one Northeast and one Shanghaiese. There are also McDonald’s, KFC, and Domino’s Pizza. As a result I gained 10 pounds (now gone!). Dinner is a social event. You take people out frequently, since apartments are so crowded. And even the restaurant food is cheap. Dinner with beer would run $3.00 - $4.00 in the neighborhood. Maybe $5.00 with Soong Shu Yu (fish like squirrel), my favorite fish. And it was so good! But I digress from my walk.

Next, I walk by the Beijing Normal University Experimental School on the east side of the campus. I almost always have a short conversation or two in English with the students. They take English every year and some are quite fluent by the age of 10. I even had one of the students attend some of my lectures! The Primary School and the Kindergarten are considered the best in Beijing and I frequently have to avoid some of the new rich in Mercedes, Buicks, and Citroens dropping off their kids. Yes, there are rich Chinese. One of my colleagues, for example, is married to a venture capitalist. Both are members of the party. But as the Party now says, “to be rich is glorious.”

After a brief stop at the Internet Café, I pass both library buildings and the College of Informatics. My work in the library is giving lectures on current issues in American library management. I found the exercise to be stimulating as a summative experience. I came away with the opinion that libraries are well suited to assuring the management of knowledge necessary for universities, but they need to change even faster than they already are. The College of Informatics is an interesting combination of engineers, computer scientists, librarians, and instructional technologists. I teach a second course in this college in library management. I have a small but excellent class of 13. I am very proud of my graduate assistant who has received a full scholarship for the doctoral program at the University of Tennessee.

As I enter the Foreign Experts Residence, I sometimes pass my British floormates on their way to an 8:00 a.m. Chinese class. Fate has put me on the same floor with three recent Oxford graduates who are future economic attaches at the British Embassy. They are here for a full year to perfect their Chinese. They, along with a contingent of humanists from William and Mary, the Belgian education officer and his Spanish spouse, and teachers at an offshore high school run by Phillips Andover, are my primary, non-Chinese social contacts. Since we are all in the same building, we see each other frequently. We have high and low times together. But that is another story.

I hope you have enjoyed this small tour of Beijing Normal University. As a Visiting Professor, I plan to visit again. I encourage my NMSU colleagues to consider a Fulbright lectureship or research grant. They are truly rewarding.
The NMSU Library collection contains books and other study materials of value and interest to the public as well as the campus community. Permanent residents of New Mexico are eligible to check books out of the NMSU Library. To qualify for a free Guest Card, adults must provide proof of current address. Local high school students (grades 9-12) are also eligible, and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian when applying. Guest borrowers are restricted to a total of five books checked out at any one time. They may borrow the books for twenty-one days, with no renewals. Applications for free Guest Cards are taken at the Circulation Desks in both Branson Library and Zuhl Library.

Library Associates, who support the Library through an annual donation of $50 or more, receive extended borrowing privileges. They may borrow twenty-five books for six weeks, with one renewal. Library Associates also receive a subscription to the Library newsletter, Citations.

Interlibrary loans are available only to NMSU students, staff, and faculty.

The Library’s circulation policies may be accessed on the Library’s home page at http://lib.nmsu.edu/depts/circulation/policies.html. The Circulation Unit also maintains the schedule of Library hours, available at http://lib.nmsu.edu/aboutlib/libfaq.html or 646-4749.

According to Holly Reynolds, unit head, service to community users ties in with the University’s public service mission. For more information on NMSU Library Guest Cards, contact the Zuhl Library Circulation Desk at 646-6910 or the Branson Library Circulation Desk at 646-3101. To join the Library Associates, please contact Jeanette Smith at 646-7492.

Library a Center for Life-long Learning

The NMSU Library is a center for life-long education, serving the public of Las Cruces and Dona Ana County as well as the campus. Stop in today, and see what you can learn at the Library.

The Library’s two buildings offer different collections to serve a variety of subject interests. Zuhl Library, located on campus at the intersection of Breland Drive and McFie Circle, offers books, journals, computer databases and other resources on the humanities, social sciences, art, and education. It also holds a depository collection of New Mexico state documents. The nearby Branson Library, located on the comer of Williams Street and Frenger Street, specializes in agriculture, business, engineering, health, and science materials. It is a depository for U.S. government documents, serving the entire Second Congressional District. The historical, rare, and unique materials in Archives and Special Collections are also located in Branson Library.

Each library maintains its own reference, periodicals, and circulation desks, which will provide assistance for any questions that you may have. Special events such as programs and displays on local and historical topics are sponsored by Special Collections and the Rio Grande Historical Collections. Watch for announcements of other displays and educational workshops that will enhance your life-long learning experience at the Library. For further information, please call Library Information at 646-2932.

Naming...

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to house and display the wonderful geological artifacts that Mr. Zuhl has collected and preserved. These artifacts will work perfectly in the building that will be named for the Zuhls and make the Library one of the great showcases of the Southwest. The endowment provided by the Zuhls will make the quality margin of difference.

The generous contributions of the Zuhls will enable the Library to acquire important collections and develop new, cutting edge services that will greatly enhance the education of NMSU students and support important research by University faculty. All of us in the NMSU Library are honored to have their support and are excited about naming our building after these two wonderful people. We look forward to a long-term working relationship with the Zuhls to present their collection and to honor their support.”
Is That Your Final Answer?

by Jeanette Smith, Professor, Dean's Office, jcsmith@lib.nmsu.edu

I have been a quiz show fanatic all my life. This makes sense to those who know that I carry my own copy of the World Almanac. I love information.

If you follow the current quiz show craze on television, you most likely remember the librarian from a Chicago suburb who made it to the hot seat on “Who Wants to be a Millionaire?” She left the show having realized her modest dream of building a pergola in her back yard, with about $100,000 in cash to spare.

Quiz shows have great appeal to people who 1) want to make large amounts of money and 2) are interested in facts. While these shows are despised by those who see them as vehicles for greed, and parodied by those who see them as rife with humor, the fact remains that in our information society the correct answer to a question is power. But do the quiz show contestants really know the answers to these questions, or does the prompt “Is that your final answer?” confirm that many of their answers are guesses?

Unlike most quiz shows, “Millionaire” acknowledges that most human beings, even librarians, do not know everything. It offers a set of lifelines to help contestants with the answers. However, most of these lifelines may also just provide guesses.

You may never become a contestant on a quiz show, but your need for correct information is life-long. This is getting more and more difficult in an age when data is growing exponentially. How does one sort out incorrect information in bogus sources from the real thing?

Early in my library career a friend gave me a pin bearing the motto “We never guess — we always look it up.” That is the reference librarian’s creed.

The world of information is much more complex than when I began my library career twenty-seven years ago. But one thing remains constant. Librarians are trained never to guess, but always look it up. They will teach you as well how to locate and evaluate reliable information on your own as an “invisible user” of Internet resources. Librarians are your true lifeline to the power of information. You can rely on a librarian’s response to be — not a guess — not even an educated guess — but a documented correct answer. And that, Regis, is our final answer.
Voyaging With the NMSU Library

by Gwen Gregory, Interim Associate Dean, gggregory@lib.nmsu.edu

This summer the NMSU Library will install a new integrated library computer system. The new system, called Voyager, is produced by Endeavor Information Systems. Voyager is popular with many academic libraries in the United States. Other Voyager libraries include the National Library of Medicine, the University of Kansas, and the University of Vermont. NMSU is the first site in New Mexico to use Voyager. It is also the 500th library to sign on with Endeavor. We have already been contacted by other libraries to find out how we like Voyager and how our implementation is going.

A task force of eleven Library staff members from various departments coordinates Voyager installation at the NMSU Library. Librarians from the Alamogordo and Dona Ana branches are also participating since they share our online catalog. Several members of this task force attended the Voyager Users Group Meeting in Chicago in early April. Other members attended the New Mexico Library Association conference in April to present a panel discussion on our migration process and how we have managed it.

The switch to Voyager brings a number of advantages for Library users. Voyager includes a web-based online catalog, which will make access to our collections easier as well as more complete. Right from the catalog, users will be able to see which individual issues of a journal title the library has received. Voyager also enables us to link our electronic indexes directly to the catalog, so that researchers can immediately tell if we have a journal title listed in the index they are using. Further in the future, we will explore Voyager’s capabilities to index electronic images and to manage reservations for rooms and media equipment.

Watch for more information about the exact date of the Library’s switch to Voyager. This switch was delayed from an original January target date to avoid disruption to our users in the middle of the semester. The Library will be celebrating with exciting events and special user training sessions. At the beginning of the Fall 2000 semester, special training will be provided for students and faculty.

Voyager Task Force

Gwen Gregory, Chair
Carol Boyse, Systems
Nancy Turner, Reference/Public Interface
Holly Reynolds, Access Services/Circulation
Deborah McCarthy, Cataloging
Sherry Ward, Authority Control/Data Management
Ken Slagle, Acquisitions/Monographs
Grace Gonzales-Small, Serials
Anne Moore, NMSU Branch Campuses
Susan Beck, Instruction
Norice Lee, Dona Ana Branch

Voyager... catch the wave!