New Hope for The College of Santa Fe

Submitted by Mark Harrison

As of the press deadline for this issue, the College of Santa Fe has been granted a new lease on life. According to a press release issued on 6 May by Laureate, Ltd., which owns and/or operates universities in various parts of the world, they are at the table with Governor Bill Richardson, together with the State of New Mexico, city of Santa Fe, CSF officials, and the College’s creditors to work out a plan to “save the college from closing its doors.” Under the plan, CSF “would operate under the ownership and management of Laureate or a related entity.”

At present, plans for the Teach-Out program, already initiated with the expectation that the school would close, are still in place. This is according to President Stuart Kirk and a FAQ published on the CSF website. President Kirk in particular offers two complementary insights into the current state of affairs. On the one hand, President Kirk is very direct about the hurdles to be overcome:

“I want to be very clear and direct with all of you on a very important point: a number of challenges need to be overcome before the plan is finalized, including reaching agreement with the college’s creditors; obtaining government and accreditation body approvals; obtaining state legislature approvals; and completing an agreement between Laureate and the city of Santa Fe.”

However, he also offers words of caution:

“While there is much to be done, I am hopeful that this plan will succeed. The reason for my optimism: the leadership of Governor Bill Richardson and Mayor David Coss, and the continued support of Laureate Education’s chairman and chief executive officer, Douglas Becker. His company issued a press announcement about the plan, and in it he said, ‘I am hopeful that this plan can succeed because of the recent decisive and bold actions taken by city and state officials and members of the college community.’”

It is not yet time to for a sigh of relief. The battle is not won, nor is it finished.

Those interested in reading updated information on a regular basis can go to http://www.csf.edu/update.

##

President’s Message

Hello! For those of you able to attend the annual conference in April I hope it was a rewarding and worthwhile experience. We received very favorable feedback concerning our keynote speakers, Toni Garvey and Michael Stephens, as well as the Youth Services Luncheon Guest Speaker, Neal Shusterman. We received much more positive than negative feedback on the location, the east complex of the Albuquerque Convention Center. We also received much constructive feedback that we hope to incorporate into future conferences. Thanks to all that attended.

It seems that NMLA’s year essentially begins and ends in April as this is when many NMLA committee members and officers change over. As our “year” is still young, I would like to encourage you to get involved with NMLA. There are a wide variety of committees and special interest groups (SIGs) you may join and help serve New Mexico libraries. Joining a committee or SIG is also a good way to network and get to know librarians from around the state! For a listing of committees and SIGs, please see our website at http://nmla.org. If interested please contact me at (575) 439-3806 or dkammer@nmsu.edu.

During my year as NMLA President (now until next April) I hope to implement more convenient ways for New Mexico Librarians to communicate and collaborate as well as to create a venue for discussions on resource sharing amongst New Mexico Libraries.

Thanks for being a part of NMLA. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.
## NMLA Officers and More

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Dan Kammer, <a href="mailto:dkammer@nmsu.edu">dkammer@nmsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Barbara Lovato-Gassman, <a href="mailto:bgassman@cnm.edu">bgassman@cnm.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Kathleen Teaze, <a href="mailto:kteaze@las-cruces.org">kteaze@las-cruces.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Tracey Thompson, <a href="mailto:thomtd@nmsu.edu">thomtd@nmsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALA Councilor</td>
<td>Betty Long, <a href="mailto:longjeanb@yahoo.com">longjeanb@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member At Large: Danielle Johnson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:johnsons@sanjuancollege.edu">johnsons@sanjuancollege.edu</a></td>
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<td>• REFORMA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member At Large: Gary Harris, <a href="mailto:Gary.Harris@state.nm.us">Gary.Harris@state.nm.us</a></td>
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<td>Member At Large: Pam Rishel, <a href="mailto:pam@hatsoff.com">pam@hatsoff.com</a></td>
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<td>• Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Member At Large: Tina Glatz, <a href="mailto:tglatz@lcps.k12.nm.us">tglatz@lcps.k12.nm.us</a></td>
<td>Board Liaison for the following SIGs:</td>
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<tr>
<td>AASL Representative: Alison Alquist, <a href="mailto:alison-alm@comcast.net">alison-alm@comcast.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMLF Chair: Barbara VanDongen, <a href="mailto:VANDON-GEN@aps.edu">VANDON-GEN@aps.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPLA Representative: Lynette Schurdevin, <a href="mailto:Ischurdevin@las-cruces.org">Ischurdevin@las-cruces.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Librarian: Susan Oberlander, <a href="mailto:susan.oberlander@state.nm.us">susan.oberlander@state.nm.us</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archivist: Barbara Edwards, <a href="mailto:barbara.edwards@enmu.edu">barbara.edwards@enmu.edu</a></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Sharon Jenkins, <a href="mailto:sjenkins@elinlib.org">sjenkins@elinlib.org</a></td>
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<td>Local Arrangements Chair:</td>
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<td>Membership Committee Chair:</td>
<td>Norice Lee, <a href="mailto:nlee@nmsu.edu">nlee@nmsu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter Editor: Cary Osborne, <a href="mailto:iroshi@nmsu.edu">iroshi@nmsu.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nominations &amp; Elections Committee Chair: Cassandra Osterloh, <a href="mailto:cassandra.osterloh@gmail.com">cassandra.osterloh@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Public Relations Committee Chair: vacant</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrator: Lorie Christian, <a href="mailto:admin@nmla.org">admin@nmla.org</a></td>
<td></td>
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**Send “Newsletter” submissions, advertisements, and other requests to:**

Lorie Christian

c/o NMLA

P.O. Box 26074

Albuquerque, NM  87125

admin@nmla.org — Fax: 891-5171

**Newsletter Editor:**

Cary G. Osborne

iroshi@lib.nmsu.edu
Librarians at New Mexico State University Highlight the Federal Writers’ Projects

Submitted by Sylvia Ortiz

Colleagues Mardi Mahaffy and Sylvia Ortiz in the Reference & Research Services Department at New Mexico State University Library wrapped up a whirlwind 4-month series of planning and activities in celebration of the Federal Writers’ Projects (FWP). Mahaffy and Ortiz learned in December 2008 that they were one of 50 awardees of the American Library Association/National Endowment for the Humanities “Soul of a People” grant awards. In part, the $2,500 grant had to be used for some specific programming required by the funding agencies, but generally it was up to the awardees to develop outreach and programs featuring the FWP.

The series of events was launched on April 4th with the Great Depression Road Show. The full day of activities included presentations on the history of Depression-Era quilts, Women’s Clubs during the Depression, storytelling featuring stories typically told by African Americans and Spanish New Mexicans during that period, jitterbugging demonstrations, a “show and tell” session during which visitors could bring their personal 1930s items, and crafts and games for children. Throughout the day oral histories were taken of folks who grew up in the 30s. The day closed with a viewing of excerpts from the Soul of a People documentary film followed by a discussion.

The Soul of a People programming continued with a presentation, Local Oral Histories from the Writer’s Project, led by Dr. Jon Hunner of the History Department at NMSU on April 18th. The oral histories of area farmers and ranchers were one of the more well-known outcomes of the FWP. The interviews taken in southern New Mexico concentrated on the Anthony/La Mesa area.

Ortiz and Mahaffy presented a program on New Mexico: A Guide to a Colorful State on April 27th. The tour guides were the most well-known of the publications created by the FWP. When the FWP came to an end in 1939, each of the 48 states had a tour guide written specifically about the geography, culture, and history of their state. This encouraged some travel in a period when travel was not economically feasible.

Dr. Sarah Hagelin of the English Department at NMSU led a book discussion on May 4th. She discussed D’Arcy McNickle’s work The Surrounded, a coming of age novel of a young Native American man in the 1930s. The various themes and subtexts of the novel were explored.

The celebration closed out with a film series featuring Depression Era themes, including the classics The Grapes of Wrath, They Shoot Horses, Don’t They?, and O Brother, Where art Thou?

The NMSU Library partnered with the Branigan Cultural Center and the Thomas Branigan Memorial Library to sponsor the presentations and screenings. The whirlwind of activity presented the Las Cruces/Mesilla area with an opportunity to better understand the role the Federal Writers’ Projects played in the reconstruction of our country. The community response to the activities was positive and gratifying.

If other libraries are interested in trying this type of outreach, feel free to contact Mahaffy or Ortiz: mmahaffy@lib.nmsu.edu, sortiz@lib.nmsu.edu.

UNM Online Courses

Submitted by Leslie Chamberlin
Director, Tireman Library
Albuquerque NM

The Educational Media Library Science program at UNM will be offering two online classes this fall, starting on August 17th. Registration is now open by checking "MyUNM" on the UNM homepage (for returning students) or "quickfinds" on the left side then going to "schedule" (for new students).

The fall classes are EMLS 427/527 Cataloging and Classification, taught by Leslie Chamberlin, and EMLS 425/525 Reference and Bibliography, taught by Mark Emmons. We anticipate that Mark’s class will meet on Wednesday evenings, if there are any face to face sessions.

As usual, LLSS 443/544 Children’s Literature and Books and EMLS 451/551 Related Materials for Young Adults are offered every semester.
Library Science
New Certificates Available!

New Mexico State University – Doña Ana Community College is pleased to announce the addition of two more certificates in Library Science, available online.

The new online certificates are:

- Certificate of Specialized Topics in Library Science – 12 credits
- Certificate of Customized Study in Library Science – 36 credits

These join our existing Certificate of Fundamentals in Library Science (24 credits), and the Associate of Applied Science Degree in Library Science (66 credits), also available completely online. We also offer online undergraduate and graduate courses to fulfill the requirements for the School Library Media Specialist Endorsement.

Now is the time to start planning for fall classes!! Please see the complete listing of upcoming courses, for both summer and fall, at: http://dacc.nmsu.edu/lsc.

For more information on all of the online educational options in library science available through New Mexico State University – Doña Ana Community College, please visit our web site, at http://dacc.nmsu.edu/lsc. Please also feel free to request a packet of information by emailing Dr. Susan Pinkerton, at spinkert@nmsu.edu, or calling 1-800-903-7503, ext. 7567.

##

Legislation Committee to Hold Annual Planning Meeting

The NMLA Legislation Committee will meet on Friday May 29, at 10:00 a.m. to develop plans for the upcoming legislative year.

Planning will begin on a possible 2010 statewide General Obligation Bond Issue for libraries. Members of the Association are invited to attend.

The meeting will be at the Special Collections Library, 423 Central Avenue, NE (Corner of Edith & Central) in Albuquerque. Call 848-1376 for directions.
A Special Thanks to Our Sustaining Members!

These members give extra each year because they believe in NMLA. Thank you, sustaining members! Your confidence is contagious!

Nancy Dennis
Karen Eichbauer
Clyde Henderson
Kathy Matter
Kathleen M. Puffer
Susan M. Sheldon
Cecilia Stafford
Dianna Valdez
Barbara VanDongen
Frederick Walter

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members!

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Kim Dykstra Gallup
Carla Felsted Albuquerque
Joseph Owen Farmington
Meg Ashcroft Albuquerque
Mark Anders Harrison Albuquerque
Marilyn Joyce Gamero
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New Mexico Library Foundation

P.O. Box 30572
Albuquerque, NM 87190-0572
From the Editor’s Desk

Sort of Like Asking Directions

A few weeks ago here in the Political Papers Archives at New Mexico State University, we received a sorting bin. Nothing terribly unusual in that.

We had spent some time in researching what was available that would be strong enough to last through a long time of heavy usage. Something that would be versatile. And something that would look relatively nice.

We found an ideal one in a website online. It’s made of wood, sturdy, and with cubicles and trays that can be moved around to suit our needs. There are three of us and we had hoped to get three complete sets: 40 slots in 10 cubicles.

The cost was way too high, so in the end we ordered one complete set that we could share around among us. It was decided that would work and the bin was ordered, received, and almost immediately unpacked.

It took the three of us several hours to study the pieces parts and decide what fit where and in what order. The printed instructions were mostly helpful, although the pictures had a few items in the wrong places, causing only slight confusion. After all, if the picture showed a screw hole that wasn’t there in the real thing, well clearly, the screw went into the hole that was there.

I left it to my two staff members to assemble the cubes – after all three really was a crowd in the confines of the office and there weren’t enough tools to go around. Once the first cube was finished, the other nine went together much faster.

The cubes were beautiful and when assembled were very sturdy. Each one had slots for the trays to slide in: there were six slots but we ordered three trays for each.

Later that afternoon I heard a plaintive, “Cary.”

“What’s wrong.”

The trays don’t fit.”

“What?”

“The trays don’t fit.”

The cubes were too tight for the trays to slide into the slots. Some trays were too wide by a hair, while others were off by fractions of an inch. We tried different trays in different cubes, but were able to insert only a very few.

“Well, I’ll have to call the vendor in the morning and see if they can tell us what’s wrong.”

Talk about disappointed! We had looked forward to getting this bin for sorting papers for a long time. We’d discussed who would get first crack at using them and how we might divide them up. Instead we all three worried all night about why the darned trays wouldn’t fit.

As soon as I could next morning (the vendor is on the west coast), I called my contact and told her our sad story. She had never heard of such a problem and put in a call to the manufacturer. While I waited, I got to thinking: This couldn’t be happening.

I brought one of the cubes into my office and three of the trays. Picking up one of the trays, I poised it right at the edge of the middle slot in the walls of the cube. Push. It slid right in. I took up the second one and slid it into the second from the bottom, then the second from the top. They all slid in with one requiring only a little force.

We had all tried the first day to get several of the trays into several of the cubes with little success. Yet the next day we managed to get every one inserted where we wanted it.

I swallowed by pride and called the vendor back.

“Never mind,” I said with great humility. “We don’t know what happened, but we’re able to get the trays inserted today.”

“All of them?”

“Every one.”

If anyone can explain this to us, we sure would appreciate it. As for now, we’re happily using the bin and trying to forget how foolish we looked.

###
The latest fad in motivation is the Law of Attraction or more popularly *The Secret* after the motion picture and book by Rhonda Byrne. The idea being that if you use the power of *The Secret* you will attract health, wealth and friends to you in abundance.

*The Secret* takes an old idea and repackages it for our today's society. The core idea is that your thoughts control the world around you. If you have positive thoughts, good things come your way. If you have negative thoughts then bad things come your way. In other words, if you wish hard enough for the things you want -- you will get them. Simple. Or is it? If it were simple, then countless people throughout history would have figured it out over and over, and it would not be much of a secret. Perhaps it takes a little more effort than suggested -- or perhaps it is just a pipe dream.

We, as modern educated people, need more proof. In order to make it palatable to the skeptic in us, *The Secret* adds an element of science. We are told that quantum physics has identified that all things at the sub-atomic level exist as both particles and as waves – constantly shifting between being solid matter and being pure energy. It is then proposed that our thoughts create brain waves which in turn influence the sub-atomic waves of the entire universe. *The Secret* claims that the more intent you are in your wish the faster the universe will act upon it. Is it real, or is it VooDoo.science?

If real, it sounds wonderful! Now, if I understand correctly, if I wish real hard I can become a concert pianist and play to a sold out audience in Carnegie Hall? I only see one hitch: I've never had a piano lesson in my life.

*The Secret* also presents the Law of Attraction as if it had been intentionally kept hidden for centuries. That it was suppressed and held by a few conspirators so that they could control all the wealth of the world. Unfortunately, that notion is nothing other than a marketing ploy to generate interest in the book. It also contradicts the concept of Law of Attraction. The idea that a select group of people have kept it away from the masses intentionally preys on the destructively negative emotion of envy.

To the contrary, people who have understood the Law of Attraction have made numerous attempts at sharing it with the world at large. The best example is Andrew Carnegie, who was one of the most successful so-called “Robber Barons” of the Industrial Age. Carnegie hired Napoleon Hill to research the most successful people in the world, how they got that way, and then record his findings in a book. The book is *Think and Grow Rich* and was published in 1937.

The best thing about *Think and Grow Rich* is that it takes the mysticism out of the Law of Attraction. So, for those of you who find wishing on a star a bit difficult to swallow as a method for acquiring wealth, here is the real secret:

1. Identify your goal. Make a written plan to acquire that goal. Work your plan persistently. Give it your time, attention and energy. The more time and effort you give, the quicker you will achieve it. Visualize it coming to fruition. Draw it, illustrate it, photograph it, then keep it in front of you. Revise your plan as your knowledge grows. Be open-minded to opportunities that arise that may deviate from your plan, but still move you toward your goal.

2. The world's most successful people were extremely focused on achieving one goal. They focused to the exclusion of everything else including family, friends, lovers, recreation, entertainment, vacations and hobbies.

3. Next, tell everyone you know about your goal. Spread the word, so that people who can assist you are aware of your intentions. I truly believe that positive minded people attract more opportunities to themselves because they are so pleasant to deal with.

(Continued on Page 8)

(Continued from Page 7)
The Taos Public Library is participating in this year's Town of Taos Summer of Love event by hosting a series of noted authors and artists as they present their interpretations of the 1960s. There are many peace and love stories to be told through the written word and through the eyes of New Mexico artists.

A number of communes existed in the Taos area back in those days where many talented writers, musicians, alternative thinkers, and artists emerged. As this era began to take on a significant role in history, many of these individuals escaped to Taos to avoid the politics of urban and suburban life.

Along with the series, the library will feature a must read "luv" list, special displays, a photography exhibit, CD with Summer of Love songs, and one-of-a-kind book bags. The program will run from May through September. Check out www.taoslibrary.org for more details.

The library series will provide the audience a look into living in Taos during the 1960s. The series is free and all events are scheduled from 2:00-4:00 beginning May 30.

The schedule of featured speakers/writers/artists is:

May 30    Iris Keltz, Author, and Phaedra Greenwood, author and photographer
June 13    Anne McNaughton, performance poet and Peter Rabbit, performance poet
July 11    Roberta Courtney Meyers, theater artist and composer, and Pat McCabe, poet
August 8   Lisa Law, photographer, and Rick Klein, 60s Commune Owner
August 22  John Nichols, author, and Bill Davis, photographer

The formula is simple, but most of us compromise our goals because we want to enjoy a full balanced life. A life filled with friends, family and good times. We focus on our goals when time allows, and in turn, our goals take much longer to achieve. The true secret is staying focused on your goal.

Robert Evans Wilson, Jr. is a motivational speaker and humorist. He works with companies that want to be more competitive and with people who want to think like innovators. For more information on Robert's programs please visit www.jumpstartyourmeeting.com.
Please check out the website at www.NMLA.ORG

You can find all sorts of information on NMLA — Awards, Continuing Education, Events, Grants, Jobs, Scholarships, etc.