DEDICATED LIBRARIAN
BILLIE WILLARD
REMEMBERED

In 1998 then-UNM Regent Larry Willard endowed part of the Zimmerman Library West Wing to honor his parents, Billie and Edgar Willard. Both spent their lives as educators overcoming incredible obstacles. The Willard Room is one of the most beautiful and popular study spaces and special events locations on campus.

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Dedicated Librarian Billie Willard Remembered
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Billie Pirtle was born in 1924 and Edgar Willard in 1923. Both came from hard-working families. Neither completed grade school—during the Depression a diploma was hard to come by. They married in 1938 when he was 15 and she was 14 and were married for more than 70 years. They started out farming, but in 1953 both decided to complete their G.E.D. In 1954 both Willards decided to go to college while raising their boys. They graduated in 1958 with honors and went to work in the Roswell, N.M. school system.

Billie later attended summer school for three years and received her master’s degree in library science. Edgar also attended summer school and eventually received a master’s degree in education administration.

Billie passed away last November. “As we look back over Mom’s life we remember her as the best of moms,” Larry Willard said. “She was a hard worker with an encouraging can-do attitude, a homemaker for her family, and an educator as her passion and call to service.”

Message from the Dean

Usually the questions start out straightforward—where can I find information on Eastern philosophies? Can you help me find a list of spider species in New Mexico. Where are the microfilms? The answers are seldom as straightforward as the questions. Every day the professionals in our library branches grapple with the needs of our students and faculty and steer the questioner to the right library, floor, shelf, book, electronic journal, digital database, Web site, online reference, map collection, photograph archive or one of the myriad of other sources we maintain.

At the library it’s still about helping students learn the research skills that will take them along the path to academic success. It doesn’t matter if a student leaves UNM after graduating with a bachelor’s degree or continues in the academic world and ends up as a faculty member some day—critical thinking and research skills are always an essential asset. Even with all the electronic information in the world, it still helps to be able to talk to an expert. So we work hard to make that as easy as possible—phone, chat and email services staffed by people are available for students 24/5 not to mention the 130 hours a week our buildings are open.

We know we’re doing a good job every time we hear “You rock!” from a happy student.

Dean
University Libraries

Virginia Dooley Collection Documents R. C. Gorman Artistic Legacy

The Center for Southwest Research and Special Collections (CSWR) recently acquired an important and extensive collection documenting the personal and professional lives of world famous Navajo artist R. C. Gorman (1931-2005), and the executive director of his Navajo Gallery, Virginia Dooley (1943-2008). The collection highlights Gorman’s career as an artist and Dooley’s hand in managing his career as well as their shared interests in entertaining, food, music and art. Dooley prodigiously documented Gorman’s art career through newspaper clippings, articles, pamphlets, press releases, photographs, programs and other publicity. For more than three decades, Dooley and Gorman worked together establishing Gorman’s reputation. The pair made for a formidable force in the art world, and their history will intrigue researchers interested in New Mexico history, Native American history and art history. Please visit or call the CSWR at (505) 277-6451 for more information.

If you are interested in contributing to the University Libraries’ Native American collections, please contact Niña Johnson at (505) 277-5632 or njohnson@unm.edu.
University Libraries (UL) plays a key role in fulfilling UNM’s mission to serve as New Mexico’s flagship institution of higher learning. Student and faculty success, no matter the discipline, depend on great collections, great services and great facilities. For the undergraduate student it’s mostly about good services and facilities. Undergrads are interested in skilled librarians to help them and great places to study and use computers. On the other hand, graduate students and faculty are absolutely interested in in-depth collections in their area of research but, because they have their own offices and research labs, spend less time in the physical library and much more time using our licensed electronic collections through the library Web site.

Balancing these needs takes the flexibility to use our budget dollars where they are needed most. In planning for the future of the library, we intend, with your support, to remain the leading academic library in New Mexico by:

- Making available extensive and valuable collections
- Being a trusted partner in the academic culture
- Enabling students to successfully use information
- Offering extensive and user-centered electronic services
- Providing functional and attractive physical places
- Ensuring that our employees have the skills and tools to serve our customers.

Each of our libraries, programs and services has unique needs, and your support is vital to their success. Donations to the library help us to keep collections current, spaces comfortable and our Web resources at the cutting edge.

Library Holds
Student Art Shows

The first library juried student art exhibition was held earlier this year in the Fine Arts & Design Library (FADL). Besides the pleasure of having interesting artworks to liven up the space, the shows give students a chance to experience the exhibition process—from hanging the show, to writing about their work, to speaking at an opening reception. Last year a special art hanging system compatible with the open ceiling design of the building was installed to make exhibitions possible. FADL will host several juried student art exhibits per year. Look for current exhibition information on elibrary.unm.edu.

Student Spotlight

Amy Sullivan is working on a master’s degree in landscape architecture at UNM. In her role as a UNM library fellow, she meets with students and faculty in the College of Fine Arts and School of Architecture and Planning to talk about their library needs and questions. She shares her observations with us so we can improve our services.
Mystery Writer Donates Papers to Special Collections

Well-known Albuquerque writer and poet Judith Van Giesen recently donated her manuscripts to the Center for Southwest Research and Special Collections (CSWR). This gift is particularly fitting as one of her mystery series features Claire Reynier, a fictional archivist and librarian at the CSWR. The five-book series makes use of rare books and manuscripts to highlight aspects of New Mexico history used in her plots. Van Giesen’s other mystery series features female Albuquerque attorney Neil Hamel. Van Giesen’s papers will join the collections of Tony Hillerman, John Nichols, Frank Waters, Rudolfo Anaya and other writers.

Your gift to the University Libraries’ Center for Southwest Research and Special Collections helps us purchase and preserve important collections of literary manuscripts. Please contact Niña Johnson at (505) 277-5632 or njohnson@unmfund.org for more information.

WAYS TO GIVE

The University Libraries values and appreciates the support of many individuals, corporations and foundations. Every gift supports student success.

Gifts to the University Libraries are tax deductible to the maximum provided by law. You may give to the University Libraries through unrestricted gifts, which are used for the Libraries’ greatest needs, or with gifts toward a particular library, collecting area, special collection, program or other area of interest.

Gifts may be in a variety of forms including, but not limited to, cash, securities or real property. The collection development and special collections departments review and accept donations of collections based on their relevancy to our collecting philosophy.

HOW TO GIVE

If you would like to help support programs and collections at University Libraries, please use the enclosed envelope or:

- Send your check, made payable to The UNM Foundation (please write University Libraries in the memo), to
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  700 Lomas Blvd. NE
  Albuquerque, NM 87102-2520

- Make a secure donation online with your credit card at www.unmfund.org.

- Donate through your employer’s payroll deduction plan or matching gift program. Please check with your human resources department for details.

For more information on giving, please contact:
Niña Johnson
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Thank you for your support!