

2015

# Special Collections Newsletter

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department

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## C.L. SONNICHSEN SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT

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## 2015 IN REVIEW

Welcome to the 2015 annual Special Collections newsletter. Happy Holidays! Since January we have had over 2020 researchers (local and out-of-town) visit Special Collections. We also had numerous email and telephone reference requests.

In 2015 Special Collections received several new archival collections including: Robert Stevenson papers, Get the Lead Out Coalition records, Willie Ray Parish papers, and Becky Hendrick papers. Additionally, we received accretions to the Hal Marcus papers, the Tom Lea papers, the Mario Garcia papers, and the Leon Metz papers. Special Collections staff were acknowledged in many published works.

2015 brought many



Special Collections staff at Laura Hollingsed's retirement party, July 2015.

changes to the department. Laura Hollingsed (Manuscripts Librarian/Archivist) retired in July, Abbie Weiser was promoted to Assistant Head of Special Collections in September, and David Flores joined the staff as Processing Archivist in

December. He will specialize in processing and preserving our large photographic collections.

## STAFF NEWS

Laura Hollingsed was honored in February by the Border Regional Library Association as Librarian of the Year. Gracie Galvez, Library Assistant II in Special Collections, was selected as the Classified Library Staff Member of the Year for the UTEP Library.

The Society of Southwest Archivists elected Claudia Rivers, Head of Special Collections, as Vice-President/President Elect for 2015—2016. Claudia will also chair the Program Committee for next year's annual meeting in Oklahoma City.

Claudia worked with three UTEP professors in 2015 through the UTEP Library Course Enhancement Grant program. These partnerships resulted in high use of Special Collections materials by UTEP students.

## EVENTS

Special Collections held several events during the Fall 2015 semester as part of UTEP's Hispanic Heritage Celebration. These events were funded by a Latino Americans grant received by



**Dr. Ignacio Martinez presenting at the Latino Americans exhibit opening.**

Claudia Rivers from the American Library Association and the National Endowment for the Humanities. In addition to an exhibit, *Scribes and Printers of New Spain*, Special Collections sponsored talks by Dr. Ignacio Martinez on September 15, 2015 and Dr. Yolanda Leyva on October 2, 2015. Episodes of the PBS documentary, *Latino Americans: Foreigners in Their Own Land* and *Empire of Dreams*, followed the two talks.

On October 27

Abbie Weiser and Special Collections intern Michael Reyes provided a tour of the exhibit, *Building a City and a Nation: Immigration Stories from El Paso, Texas*, to Dr. Natalicio and visiting Centennial Lecture series speaker, Stephen Briganti, from the Statue of Liberty—Ellis Island Foundation.

Special Collections also participated in campus Día de los Muertos activities. The Department dedicated an altar to journalist and pilot Betty Ligon and screened two movies in Blumberg Auditorium.

## INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS

Special Collections was fortunate to have several excellent interns this year. Carrie Ann Chavez, a graduate of the archives program at Simmons College, processed and helped catalog several nursing and health-related archival collections. Michael Reyes, a UTEP undergraduate, assisted with several Special Collec-

tions exhibits. Ryan Alford, a graduate student at University of North Texas, helped with editing several finding aids for inclusion in Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO).

Eva Ross, a longtime volunteer in Special Collections, continued her work with the vertical files. Marsha Labodda, another longtime volunteer, continued working on the ASARCO ledg-

ers. New volunteer Cindy Milazzo inventoried the Hertzog Ephemera collection. Another new volunteer, Na Yuan, inventoried several book collections and the UTEP poster collection. And Nancy Wilson, a UTEP retiree, rehoused and inventoried the James Cassell collection of magic lantern slides.

We greatly appreciate their hard work.

## SPECIAL PROJECTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Special Collections staff also completed several special projects this year. Abbie Weiser and David Flores worked with Woman's Club of El Paso member Carolyn Breck on a 2016 Woman's Club calendar for their building centennial. And David and Claudia Rivers completed a Special Collections calendar for 2016 that features images from our collections.

Some upcoming events for 2016 include:

- ASARCO exhibit
- Woman's Club of El Paso exhibit
- Hertzog Award for Excellence in Book Design
- Woman's Club of El Paso article project in the *El Paso Times*

Please check the UTEP Library web site for more information about these future events.



## PRESENTATIONS AND MEETINGS

During 2015 Special Collections staff attended several professional and academic meetings. Claudia Rivers and Abbie Weiser attended the Historical Society of New Mexico annual meeting in Albuquerque, and Claudia attended the annual meeting of the Society of Southwest Archivists in Arlington, Texas. Additionally, Abbie and volunteer Eva Ross attended the inaugural UTEP Borderlands History Conference in November. Several presenters had used Special Collections materials in their research.

In February Claudia Rivers, Juan Sandoval, and Abbie Weiser presented Southwest Book Awards to several authors at the annual banquet of the Border Regional Library Association.

On April 2, 2015 Claudia Rivers, Laura Hollingsed, and Abbie Weiser presented at the UTEP Women's History Conference. The presentations discussed resources about women's history in Special Collections.

In July Claudia Rivers and Abbie Weiser appeared on the El Paso History Radio Show. Claudia discussed several upcoming projects in Special Collections, and Abbie explained how archivists process and preserve archival collections. During the show, host Jackson Polk asked questions about the newly processed Woman's Club of El Paso records and about the history of the organization.

## OTHER NEWS

Special Collections was fortunate to receive a generous endowment from Jo and Haskell Monroe. Earlier this year the Special Collection reading room was named the Jo and Haskell Monroe, Jr. Special Collections Research Center in their honor.

The UTEP Library also received a generous donation from the Price-Curlin family. The sixth floor terrace was named the Price-Curlin Family terrace in recognition of the family's generous support to the UTEP Library over the years.

We received almost forty phone calls about the Casasola photograph featuring a group of young boxers that the *El Paso Times* published on November 3, 2015. The group was identified as the Catholic Youth Organization's Golden Gloves Boxing team. Another photograph was identified as a portrait of Ramona Losoya - her story and the Casasola Photo Identification Project were featured in an El Paso Proud news segment in July.

## EXHIBITS

Special Collections exhibits for 2015 included:

*Scribes and Printers of New Spain*

*Building a City and a Nation: Immigration Stories from El Paso, Texas*

*Photographs of ASARCO by Carol Eastman*

*The Virgin of Guadalupe*



*Scribes and Printers of New Spain exhibit,*

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The **C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department** is located on the sixth floor of the UTEP Library.

The Department's mission is to acquire, preserve, and make accessible the special book and non-book resources in the UTEP Library, especially those relating to the history of the University of Texas at El Paso and the El Paso region.

Priorities for acquisitions include visual and textual materials documenting the University of Texas at El Paso and its predecessor institutions; people, organizations, and history of El Paso and Ciudad Juárez; the natural and built environment of El Paso and Ciudad Juárez; and the history and environment of the U.S.-Mexico border region. Subject areas of particular interest are immigration, basic industries such as railroads and mining, photography, and under-represented minority communities along the border. Records of local businesses or organizations, papers of faculty members, papers of local residents and political figures are sought. The department also collects literary manuscripts from local and regional authors and materials documenting the publishing process.

Other priorities for collecting include materials documenting far West Texas, southern New Mexico, and Northern Chihuahua. As a Regional Historical Resources Depository, the department also accepts and preserves records of historical importance from county and local government agencies from several West Texas counties.

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