

Inside the Wave

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Mary & Jeff Bell Library
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Summer 1999

Volume 4

Issue 3

Fall Session Library Hours

Mon. - Thurs.
7:30a.m. - 12:00a.m.
Friday
7:30a.m. - 5:00p.m.
Saturday
10:00a.m. - 6:00p.m.
Sunday
2:00a.m. - 12:00a.m.

Library Media Center,
Periodicals Department and
Reference Services

Mon. - Thurs.
8:00a.m. - 10:00a.m.
Friday
8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.
Saturday
10:00a.m. - 6:00p.m.
Sunday
2:00a.m. - 12:00a.m.

Special Collections & Archives
Mon. - Fri. 8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m.
and by appointment

Abby Kratz Named New Library Director

By Nancy Cunningham

The Bell Library is pleased to welcome Abby Kratz from the University of Texas at Dallas as our new library director. Abby's combined education and experience made her the best choice to continue moving the library forward to serve the needs of library patrons and fulfilling its mission to the university.

Abby brings to the Library a rich history of experience from the positions she has held in various academic research libraries, as well as in university administration. Abby has been a reference librarian at the Ohio State University Libraries and Harvard's library for the Graduate School of Education, among others. At the University of Texas at Dallas, Abby began as the Head of Reference and went on to become the Assistant Director for Public Services and the Associate Director for Library Services. Her last position in the library this spring was as Interim Library Director. After attending the Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration at Bryn Mawr College in 1993, Abby assumed the position of Special Assistant to the Provost at UT Dallas.

Her unique vision of the academic library of the future comes from her many years experience as reference librarian, library administrator, and most recently, Assistant Provost. She sees the establishment of partnerships between teaching librarians and faculty, an increase in cooperative agreements between libraries, and new activities in the library building. In a vision statement she said that, "On the home campus, the library building will be used less to store collections and more for instruction, and for group and individual study and media-assisted learning."

Originally from Baltimore, Abby received her undergraduate education at Wellesley College, masters degree in education from Harvard University and library masters degree from Simmons College.

We are very happy to have Abby as the new director. We welcome her to Corpus Christi and the Bell Library.

Coming Attractions...

Last spring, we handed out surveys about library services to TAMU-CC faculty and students. We will publish the results of those surveys in the Spring 2000 Infowave. Thanks to all of you who participated and helped out!

Faculty Publications

The library compiled a list of TAMU-CC faculty publications for 1998 last spring, and copies of that bibliography are still available. If you are interested in obtaining a copy, please contact Christine Shupala at 825-2348 or e-mail her at cshupala@falcon.tamucc.edu.

E.E. Mireles & Jovita González de Mireles Papers Inspire Naming of Elementary School

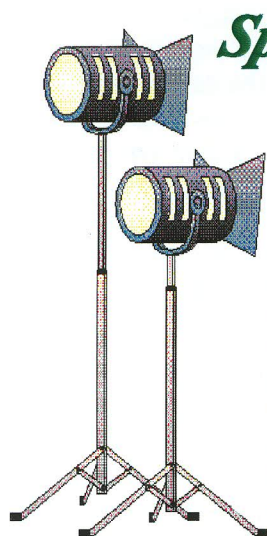
By Dr. Thomas H. Kreneck

The Corpus Christi Independent School District recently named a new elementary school after long time local educators E.E. Mireles and Jovita González de Mireles. The school is scheduled to be opened for the 2000-2001 academic year. The effort to bestow this honor on the Mireles couple came about in large measure by the existence of their papers held by the Bell Library's Special Collections & Archives.

Edmundo E. Mireles (1905-1987) and Jovita González de Mireles (1904-1983) moved to Corpus Christi in 1939 to teach in the public schools. An advocate of bilingualism, E.E. Mireles launched a program of teaching Spanish in Corpus Christi's elementary schools which brought him national attention during the 1940s. He coordinated instruction for the CCISD Spanish program for grades 3-9 until 1965. He also initiated English summer courses for Spanish-dominant pre-schoolers during the 1950s. Mr. Mireles retired in 1971.

Mrs. Mireles taught upper-level Spanish at W.B. Ray, where she inspired legions of students until she retired in 1967. She co-wrote with her husband nine textbooks on teaching elementary Spanish. Well known around Corpus Christi as an expert on South Texas folklore and culture, she had published scholarly articles on those topics in the 1920s and 1930s.

In 1992, Special Collections & Archives obtained the papers of E.E. and Jovita Mireles through donation by their heir. In their papers were two book-length manuscripts written by Mrs. Mireles during the 1920s-1940s. Subsequently edited by Dr. José E. Limón of the University of Texas, these manuscripts were published as *Caballero: A Historical Novel* (1996) and *Dew On The Thorn* (1997). The publication of these volumes played a key role in kindling interest in petitioning CCISD to name a school for these two distinguished people. The community group that led this effort held its first public meeting in the reference room of Special Collections & Archives. To gather information for their cause, members of the group conducted extensive research in the Mireles Papers. Their ultimate success illustrates the value of the Bell Library's local history holdings as a community resource for purposes beyond academic research.



Spotlight on ... Systems

Although most of their tasks are done "behind the scenes," the Systems Department staff works to ensure that patrons can use the library's computer resources more easily. They support the databases and make sure that the Internet connections work properly, and they handle technical problems with the PCs, printers, and software. Also, Systems supports the general access labs in Room 109 and the Media Center, and they create and support all of the library's web pages.

In addition to working with other library departments, Systems works as a liaison to the university's Computer Services Center. They make sure that the two labs in the library work consistently with the other labs on campus, particularly with software, connectivity, and other technological standards.

Systems Staff

Deanna Solomon, Network Manager I

Josie Ortiz, Systems Support Specialist II

Ashwin Patel, Graduate Assistant

Hours of Computer Labs in Bell Library (Room 109 and Media Center):

Monday through Thursday: 7:30 a.m.-midnight

Friday: 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sunday: 2 p.m.-midnight

Next Spotlight: Library Instruction Department

New Curriculum Collection

The Bell Library has signed an agreement with the Education Services Center, Region II, to house and provide access to state-adopted textbooks for grade levels K-12, as well as materials under consideration for adoption in 2000. "This was done as a service to the South Texas community," said Christine Shupala, Interim Associate Director of Technical Services and Systems. The curriculum collection is located on the east side of the second floor at the end of the main collection.

The materials began arriving this summer and will continue through the fall. The library's staff will process, catalog and shelve the materials, and patrons can locate the titles and call numbers through the library's online catalog. Also, a copy of the classification system for grade level and subject is available at the reference desk. Members of the public may check out the materials, and questions about checkout procedures should be directed to the circulation desk at 825-2340.

Textbooks In The Reserve Collection

By Terry De La Garza

The Mary & Jeff Bell Library is pleased to announce that the new Textbook Reserve Collection now offers about 1000 books. Housed in the Circulation Department, this collection is provided by the university Bookstore and currently includes all course textbooks that were required during the Fall 1998 and Spring 1999 semesters. The textbooks are designated as in-library use only and are available to all patrons with current \$andDollar\$ identification cards.

Shortly after its acquisition in October, circulation of the Fall 1998 textbook collection exceeded 120 checkouts. In April, circulation of both the Fall 1998 and Spring 1999 semester books peaked just over 400 checkouts. Circulation for both semesters totaled over 1900 checkouts. The Mary & Jeff Bell Library anticipates continued support from the TAMU-CC Bookstore for the upcoming Fall and Spring semesters as well.



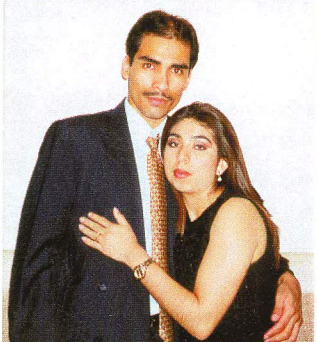
Personnel News

Cindy Bates attended workshops on Access April 26-27 in Lubbock, & Adobe Pagemaker May 24-25 in Austin.

Nancy Cunningham gave several presentations this spring: "Opening the Border for the Future: Texas and Mexico Library Cooperation" on April 16, 1999, at the 33rd National Meeting of the Argentine Library Association, Buenos Aires, Argentina; "Library Instruction and Distance Education Services: Challenges and Opportunities" on May 5, 1999, at the Mexican Library Association Meeting in Morelia; and "Basic Spanish for Librarians" on April 23, 1999, at the Texas Library Association's Annual Conference in Dallas.

Congratulations & Best Wishes

Jose Gonzalez
Library Assistant II in
Interlibrary Loan,
married Idalia Rivera
on July 24, 1999.



Edward Kownslar has been elected Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of the Texas Library Association's New Members Round Table. **Lisa Muilenburg** is the new chair of the TLA/NMRT Quality Books Professional Development Grant, and **Priscilla Shontz** is the ALA Liaison to TLA/NMRT.

Denise Landry-Hyde participated in the university's "Transculturation Program" May 15-30 in Cuernavaca, Mexico. The program focuses on total immersion in Mexican culture and Spanish language.

Brad Meyer attended the Interagency Depository Seminar June 2-9, 1999, in Washington, D.C. The seminar presents various agencies' information products and activities as they relate to the Federal Depository Libraries.

Priscilla Shontz began her term of office as President of the American Library Association's New Members Round Table at ALA's annual conference in New Orleans. She has also published an article in the June/July 1999 issue of *American Libraries* titled "Tips for Enjoying Your First ALA Conference."

Christine Shupala has been elected Vice-President/President-Elect of the American Library Association's New Members Round Table.

The following library assistants graduated in May or during the summer: **Lori Busch**, **Joey Edwards**, **Venu Gurram**, **Pritha Hariharan**, and **Tyrone Ray**. Thanks for your good work, and best of luck to all of you!

South American Librarians Take Tips from Texas-Mexico Library Cooperation

By Nancy Cunningham

Libraries around the world, often constrained by limited resources and challenged by the expanding demands for information, are looking for opportunities to work together across national borders.

During a series of meetings in April in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the United States Information Agency (USIA) organized a series of lectures on models of library cooperation for the librarians of the MERCOSUR countries: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Unlike the trade pact known as NAFTA for the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, the MERCOSUR trade pact examines educational cooperation between the four countries, and librarians are already involved.

The presentation I was asked to give at the meeting in Buenos Aires for the MERCOSUR librarians, "Abriendo La Frontera Para El Futuro (Opening the Border for the Future)," focused on the experience of the Texas Library Association and the Bell Library in building cooperative arrangements with Mexican libraries. In 1996, for example, the Bell Library signed an agreement with the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM) library in Monterrey, Mexico, to share resources and establish a library staff visitor program. So far, a total of 6 library staff members have participated in the visitor program, bringing back to each library new ideas for sharing resources and working together. Mercosur librarians were especially interested in cooperative interlibrary loan projects between Texas and Mexico, such as the one between the Bell Library and the ITESM library.

Although differences in language, lack of common standards, and geographical distances faced by Texan and Mexican libraries present similar challenges to MERCOSUR librarians, the potential benefit is clear. Library cooperation between neighboring countries forges new cultural ties, increases resource sharing, and increases access to information beyond national borders for the benefits of all library users.



Yolanda Maya Ortega

Visiting Librarian for The Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, took in the sights at the Texas State Aquarium June 29, 1999 while in Corpus Christi, Texas continuing the exchange program between sister universities. (TAMUCC & ITESM)

*Special Collections & Archives:
The John W. Tunnell, M.D. Texana Collection*

By Dr. Thomas H. Kreneck

Special Collections & Archives has recently acquired a significant portion of the Texana Collection of John W. Tunnell, M.D., longtime noted physician and lay historian from Taft, Texas. Consisting of over two hundred volumes, the collection was donated by his son, Dr. John W. "Wes" Tunnell, Jr., Director of the Center for Coastal Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, and a daughter, Mrs. Nancy Tunnell Hutto, as a lasting tribute to their father.

Raised in Gregory, Dr. John Tunnell earned his M.D. from Baylor Medical School in 1942. While there, he met and married fellow medical student Rosalie Newman. After World War II, the Tunnells established their practices in Taft. Dr. John and Dr. Rose, as they were affectionately known, became two of Taft's most respected citizens, not only as physicians, but also for their numerous civic endeavors. They retired in 1984.

One of Dr. John's many interests was history. He was an avid collector of coins, stamps, barbed wire, Indian artifacts, and other historical memorabilia. In addition, he was president of Taft's Blackland Museum that chronicles the development of the San Patricio County area. He began to collect books on Texas in the early 1950s, in partial fulfillment of what his son Wes aptly describes as his father's "enormous appetite for learning."

Among the standard references in the Tunnell Collection is a pristine, six-volume set of The New Handbook of Texas as well as several scarce issues of the Texas Almanac not previously owned by Special Collections. It also contains obscure local pamphlets, periodicals, brochures, and other printed ephemera. Altogether, the Tunnell Collection is a wonderful complement to the research resources held by Special Collections & Archives.



Drs. John & Rose Tunnell

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Assistant Editor.....Edward Kownslar
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Visit the Bell Library's website:

<http://rattler.tamucc.edu>



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