Here in New Mexico, we’re truly blessed to live...where art and culture are such an intrinsic part of our beings.

Greetings from the Executive Director

New Mexico Arts’ Mission
To Preserve, Enhance, and Develop the Arts in New Mexico through Partnerships, Public Awareness, and Education, and to Enrich the Quality of Life for Present and Future Generations.
Greetings from the Executive Director

I have been thinking a lot about the art of living in the wake of the death of a very good friend. David Conway died at the age of 53 when he was caught in an avalanche while skiing on an open ski trail at Arapahoe Basin on May 20. It was the first inbounds avalanche at a Colorado ski area in 30 years, and it left a hole in the hearts of all of us who knew David.

Here’s an excerpt from what we wrote about David for his memorial service program: “His work, his friendships, his marriage and his fatherhood were pieces of art—art done by the hand of a master. David was a master of the art of life and relationships. He could see the big picture, while understanding the details associated with each part. David deserves to be remembered as the Grand Master of Common Life—a model for how we should live our lives by simply doing the right thing.”

We can all learn a lot about art from people like David.

Here in New Mexico, we’re truly blessed to live in this Land of Enchantment where art and culture are such an intrinsic part of our beings. In this issue, we feature the recipients of the 2005 Governor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts, our state’s most prestigious lifetime artistic honor.

As Governor Bill Richardson said, “This year’s Arts Awards recipients are talented, diverse and their art celebrates the spirit of New Mexico.”

First Lady Barbara Richardson said, “The Governor and I applaud these distinguished artists and arts supporters for their outstanding...
For more information contact ARTSpeak at 505/827-6490 or via e-mail at ARTSpeak@nm.state.nm.us.
For more information contact, Lynn Stein, Exhibition Program Director, email Lstein@rocklandcenterforart.org, Rockland Center for the Arts, 27 South Greenbush Rd, West Nyack NY 10994, website at www.rocklandartcenter.org.

Deadline: On going
The Ohio University Art Gallery in Athens OH is accepting proposals for upcoming solo and group exhibitions. All media is eligible for exhibition. Send 10-20 slides with current resume, artist statement, and exhibition proposal. Also include an SASE for return of slides. For more information, contact OUG, Director of Exhibitions, Seigfred Hall 534, Athens OH 45701, website at www.ohiou.edu/artgalleries.html.

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The Baltic Center for Contemporary Art in Gateshead, United Kingdom, is accepting proposals from artists for possible exhibitions. Expositions are planned approximately one year in advance, but unsolicited submissions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. To submit send a cover letter, CV, brief description of project proposal, work samples (slides, photographs, or web site URL), and an SASE for return of materials. Send materials to Program Department, Baltic Center for Contemporary Art, South Shore Rd., Gateshead, NE3 3RA, United Kingdom, website: www.balticmill.com.

OUT OF STATE OPPORTUNITIES

Deadline: June 1 – September 5, 2005
The Smithsonian’s National Portrait Gallery in Washington D.C. announces the Outwin Boochever portrait competition 2006. Exhibitions will focus on innovation and excellence in portrait painting and sculpture. Competition is open to all U.S. emerging and mid-career professional artists 18 years and older. Artists may enter one original work depicting anyone—friend, relative, or a self-portrait—but it must be the result of the artist’s direct encounter with that person. The work must have been completed after January 1, 2004. For more information, contact the National Portrait Gallery, Attn: The Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition 2006, PO Box 37012, Washington DC 20033, telephone 202-357-1000, fax 202-275-1904. For a complete prospectus, visit the website at www.ngp.gov.

Deadline: On going
The Rockland Arts Center for the Arts in West Nyack NY accepts artist submissions on an ongoing basis for the sculpture park. Interested artists should submit 12-20 images (no CD-ROMs), resume or CV, artist statement, and an SASE for return materials. Applicants are asked not to make follow-up calls to the center.

The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department and Austin Zen Arts, sponsors of the exhibition, determined the specific sites for each of the artwork that were then created onsite by the artists. The lifespan of the works ranged from one month to one year depending on the longevity of the materials and the intent of the artist. Mr. Henel’s artwork will be displayed in Austin through July 2005. Henel was also able to attend APTA’s Public Art Pre-Conference, The Last of the Land, Public Art, Politics, and the Environment. He represented New Mexico and was able to learn about the creation of ecologically and environmentally based public art. Henel was born in Annamalai MP and studied both industrial design and fine art on the east coast and in Arizona and New Mexico. He often works with steel to create forms that are developed through a random-pattern construction process that allows for an intuitive approach to shape and meaning. The objects reflect aesthetic “euros” extracted from high technology, everyday products, and natural forms, and are intended for desert locales to be discovered much like found objects. Ryan also constructs earth works that engage the viewer in exercises in perspective, optical phenomenon, and scale, using available materials and resources for site-specific works.

The AIPP program hopes to reinstall the work on state property in New Mexico in late summer or fall so the artwork can be enjoyed locally.

Acclaimed Artist Series

AIPP will be announcing its 2006 prospectus for the Acclaimed Artist Series (AAS) to the full edition of ARTSpeak. The AAS prospectus will invite participants who are late to mid-career artists, who possess their own unique style, whose accomplishments are recognized regionally or nationally, have a diverse exhibition record, and live in one of the Four Corner states of New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, and Utah. Look for the Acclaimed Artist Series prospectus in the next issue and on NM Arts website at www.nmarts.org in the fall.

Governor’s Arts Awards 2005 Awardees

Glenna Goodacre is recognized for her important sculpture work including the Vietnam Women’s Memorial on the national Mall in Washington D.C., and her design for the Sacagawea dollar, minted in 1999. Goodacre was also selected to create the Irish Memorial at Penn’s Landing in Philadelphia. Her life-size bronze Water Bearers, part of the Capitol Art Collection, is located on the grounds of the State Capitol. She created a standing portrait of President Ronald Reagan for the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City and for Reagan’s presidential library in California.

Goodacre has been awarded numerous public commissions and received several important awards including the James Earl Fraser Sculpture Award at the Prix de West Exhibition, the Gold Medal for Career Achievement from The Portrait Society of America, and the Texas Medal of Arts. Originally from Texas, Goodacre moved to Santa Fe in 1983. She graduated from the Colorado College and studied at the Art Students League of New York.

William Goodman of Tinnie, known for his monumental steel sculptures and his large oil paintings, lives and works in the Hondo Valley west of Roswell. Born in Wimbledon, England, Goodman was an instructor at the University of New Mexico. He left UNM to participate as an early fellow in the Roswell Artist-In-Residence Program. Goodman’s work is held by museums, including the Roswell Museum and Art Center, the Anderson Museum of Contemporary Art in Roswell, the Museum of Fine Arts in Santa Fe, and the Atlantic Richfield Corporation and the Thunder Basin Coal Company.

Frederick Hammersley of Albuquerque has been painting for four decades. He has spent much of his adult life and artistic career in New Mexico, but is linked to the Los Angeles-based Abstract Classicist list of the late-1950s. Hammersley received international recognition in 1959 when his paintings were exhibited with fellow Abstract Classicists John McLaughlin, Louis Feinblatt, and Karl Benjamin. The works, called “hard edges,” were developed with large format and refers to paintings with large areas of flat color.

Hammersley moved to Albuquerque in 1968 to teach at the University of New Mexico. He is best known for his large body of work produced in New Mexico defined by geometric and organic abstractions. His works are in major public collections including the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., San Francisco Museum of Art, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, La Jolla Museum of Art, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the University of New Mexico’s Art Museum, the Albuquerque Museum, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Santa Fe.

Douglas Kent Hall has photographed New Mexico for more than 30 years. Born in Utah, Hall is also a writer, poet, and filmmaker. His photography captures New Mexico’s unique mix of people and places, and has focused on subjects from ancient ruins to portraits of people in urban Albuquerque to New Mexico churches to body builders and rodeo cowboys. Hall’s books include The Education of a Bodybuilder (with Arnold Schwarzenegger) 1977, Working Cowboys 1984, New Mexico Voices in an Ancient Landscape 1995, and Prison Tattoos 1997.

Kevin McIlvoy, a writer, editor, and teacher in Las Cruces and Professor of Creative Writing at New Mexico State University’s English Department, will write an essay for award literature. Recognized for several important works, McIlvoy has received Governor Bill Richardson, First Lady Barbara Richardson, and members of the New Mexico Arts Commission have announced the recipients of the 2005 Governor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts.

The Governor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts are presented on Glennne Goodacre for Sculpture; William Goodman for Sculpture and Painting; Douglas Kent Hall for Photography; Frederick Hammersley for Painting; Kevin McIlvoy for Literature; Patrick Oliphant for his work as a Cartoonist and for Painting and Sculpture; Ford Rudyling for Painting, Sculpture, and Printmaking; J. Paul Taylor of Mesilla—Major Contributor to the Arts; and Edward Lujan—Major Contributor to the Arts.

Jaime Quick-to-Saw Smith is the recipient of the 2005 Allan Houser Memorial Award. This award is presented along with the Governor’s Arts Awards to a Native American who has demonstrated outstanding artistic success and community involvement. The awards were established in 1974 by Governor Bruce King and First Lady Alice King to celebrate the role of artists and craftspeople in enhancing the economic and cultural life of New Mexico. During its vibrant 30-year history, many individuals have been recognized for their contributions to the arts in New Mexico.

Nominations are invited each year from arts groups and individual New Mexicans. The nominations are reviewed by a committee of the New Mexico Arts Commission, which sends its recommendations to the full commission and the governor.

The Allan Houser Memorial Award was created in 1994 to pay tribute to Allan Houser, the late Chiricahua Apache sculptor and former instructor at the Institute of American Indian Arts. The award is presented each year by the governor and first lady in conjunction with the Allan Houser family and the IAIA Museum.

The 2005 Governor’s Arts Awards ceremonies will be held Friday, September 16, 2005, at the St. Francis Auditorium, Museum of Fine Arts, in Santa Fe. An afternoon reception and exhibition opening in the Governor’s Gallery, 4th Floor, State Capitol, will precede the awards ceremonies. Both events are free and open to the public.
Oliphant has published many books including Santa Fe Great Hall. He has also exhibited at the Museum of Fine Arts in Gallery. The Library of Congress commemorated the acquisition retrospective at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Portrait Gallery. His work has been the subject of many exhibits including a retrospective at the University of New Mexico and studied privately with artist Ford Ruthling of New Mexico and studied art education at Framingham State University of New Mexico Native Ford Ruthling is a painter and printmaker who grew up on his family’s ranch in Teague. He attended the University of New Mexico and studied privately with artist Randall Davey. Ruthling was the curator of the Museum of International Folk Art from 1964-64. His work portrays nature and is well known for the detail in the environment of a number of media including oil, graphics, metal, and wood. His work has been exhibited in many permanent collections in various museums including the Museum of Fine Arts in Santa Fe, Roswell Museum and Arts Center, and fine art museums in Oklahoma City, Wichita Falls, and Dallas. Ruthling was a sponsor for last summer’s first Santa Fe International Folk Art Market.

J. Paul Taylor of Mesilla will be recognized for Contribution to the arts. Taylor, an arts advocate, educator, and, former state–representative, has dedicated much of his life to public service. During his career with the Las Cruces Public Schools (1951-64) he was a teacher, principal, and superintendent. He served as a member of the Museum of New Mexico Regents and spent 10 years in the New Mexico House of Representatives.

As a legislator, Taylor championed programs for New Mexico’s poor and disabled, and was a strong advocate for arts and culture. Taylor was key to the success of several important pieces of legislation for arts and culture, including financial support to begin conservation of the retablo and ex–costo collection of the New Mexico State Art Gallery, considered one of the largest public collections of religious images in the United States. His support also resulted in an appropriation to preserve the state’s extensive collection of WPA art.

In 2002, Taylor and his wife Mary made a bequest of his historic home and property on the plaza in Mesilla to the state to be operated as a state monument. They will also leave to the state their extensive collection of historic furnishings, art objects, and paintings.

Taylor has received many other honors for his public service, including a New Mexico Endowment for the Humanities “Contribution to the Arts” award in 2000, and a Historic Preservation Division “Heritage Preservation Lifetime Achievement Award” in 2004.

Edward Lujan is recognized for being an important force in the community. Since 1964, he has worked as a contractor for the state’s Department of Cultural Affairs and for the Department of Education. In 1980, Lujan became director of the department’s Arts Program, serving in that capacity until 1984. In 1984, he was appointed as the Arts Program Manager for the State of New Mexico. In 1989, Lujan became Executive Director of the New Mexico Arts Commission. In 1998, he was appointed as the Executive Director of the New Mexico Commission on the Arts. Lujan has served on the boards of numerous organizations, including the New Mexico Arts Commission, the New Mexico Foundation for the Arts, and the New Mexico Council on the Arts. He has also served as a member of the National Endowment for the Arts. Lujan has received numerous awards for his work, including the New Mexico Arts Commission’s “Artist of the Year” award in 1993 and the “Artist of the Year” award from the New Mexico Fine Arts Association in 1994. He has also been named a “Distinguished New Mexico Father” by the New Mexico State University Foundation. Lujan has been a member of the New Mexico State University Board of Regents since 1995. He has also served as a member of the New Mexico Humanities Council and the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs.

Edward Lujan is the former CEO of Manuel Lujan, Inc., a company founded by his father, Edward Lujan, in 1951. The company is a leading provider of services to the state of New Mexico, including construction, engineering, and real estate services. The company has won numerous awards for its work, including the New Mexico Business Journal’s “Company of the Year” award in 2001. Lujan is a member of the New Mexico State University Board of Regents and the New Mexico State University Foundation. He is also a member of the New Mexico Humanities Council and the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs. Lujan has received numerous awards for his work, including the New Mexico Arts Commission’s “Artist of the Year” award in 1993 and the “Artist of the Year” award from the New Mexico Fine Arts Association in 1994. He has also been named a “Distinguished New Mexico Father” by the New Mexico State University Foundation. Lujan has been a member of the New Mexico State University Board of Regents since 1995. He has also served as a member of the New Mexico Humanities Council and the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs.
the Indiana Review Prize for Fiction, and has written four novels that have won distinction and praise. His short story Permission was published in the November issue of Harper's Magazine, and his collection of short stories The Complete History of New Mexico was published this year by Graywolf Press. McIlvoy is also well respected for his writing on the development of the arts. He has traveled the state and visited small communities to assist aspiring writers. He has taught creative writing classes at the Muson Senior Center. He created and continues to find support to produce Strope, a publication of the creative work of older writers. Strope has been produced since 1983 and has been praised by AAP and the federal government's US Agency on Aging.

He has been a primary element in the renovation of the Rio Grande Theater in Las Cruces. He worked on a CD based on intensive interviews to promote the renovation. His efforts through presentations and lobbying have been credited with raising the $3 million necessary for the renovation.

Patrick Oliphant of Santa Fe is a Pulitzer Prize winning Cartoonist—and celebrated painter and sculptor—whom the New York Times has called “the most influential cartoonist now working.” He is the most widely syndicated political cartoonist in the world.

A native of Adelaide, Australia, Oliphant began his career at his local newspaper before moving to the United States in 1964 to work as a political cartoonist at the Denver Post. In 1965 his work became nationally and internationally syndicated, and in 1967 he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. His other awards include two Reuben Awards and a Best Editorial Cartoonist Award from the National Cartoonists Society, the Thomas Nast Prize in Germany, and the Premio Satirico Politica of Italy.

His work has been the subject of many exhibits including a retrospective at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Portrait Gallery. The Library of Congress commended the acquisition of 60 of his works with a special exhibition at the Library’s Great Hall. He has also exhibited at the Museum of Fine Arts in Santa Fe.

Oliphant has published many books including The New World Order, Oliphant’s Anthems, and Oliphant’s Presidents: Twenty-Five Years of Caricature by Pat Oliphant. He and his wife Susan Conway divide their time between Santa Fe and Washington D.C.

New Mexico native Ford Ruthling is a painter and printmaker who grew up on his family’s ranch in Teague. He attended the University of New Mexico and studied privately with artist Randall Davye. Ruthling was the curator of the Museum of International Folk Art from 1964-64. His work portrays nature and is well known for the detail demonstrated in a number of media including oil, graphics, metal, and wood.

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Edward Lujan is recognized for being an important force in the founding and vision that has created the National Hispanic Cultural Center. He worked for its creation by the state and served as president of the center’s board since it was formed in 1995.

Lujan left his position as board president this spring, but was honored by Governor Bill Richardson with the position “Chairman Emeritus.”

Lujan was part of a group that secured about $20 million in state funds and $14 million in private funds for the center. The center is located in Albuquerque along the famous Camino Real on 30 acres of land.

Now retired, Lujan is the former CEO of Manuel Lujan Agencies, based in Albuquerque with offices in Santa Fe, Belen, and Taos, which is the largest privately owned insurance agency in New Mexico.

The Allan House Award winner is Jaune Quick-to-Smith of Cortez, a painter and printmaker. Quick-to-Smith became an artist in her 30s and works with paint and collage, using abstract images to address issues such as governmental oppression of Native cultures and the destruction of the environment.

Her work uses traditional images in the context of current issues facing Native Americans. Quick-to-Smith was born in Montana and raised in the Flathead Reservation. She is of Salish, French-Cree, and Shoshone heritage.

She completed a master of fine degree from the University of New Mexico and studied art education at Framingham State College in Massachusetts. Her work can be found in numerous museums including the Museum of Mankind in Vienna, Austria, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, National Museum of American Art in Washington D.C., the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, and the Denver Art Museum.

AIPP New Mexico Only Purchase Initiative

Through the New Mexico Only Purchase Initiative, three works of art have been purchased for sites around New Mexico.

The Selection Committee for Albuquerque’s Ema Ferguson Library chose a quilted fiber work by artist Irene Bicheno and artist Gerald Gentz of Albuquerque. The work Spectrum Analysis is made from brightly colored cotton and silk, and was inspired by Japanese kimonos and the paintings of Abstract Expressionists. Grossenfeld Community Center’s Selection Committee purchased a silver gelatin photograph by Santa Fe artist William Hyden. Sweet Eyes represents the beauty and soul of the American Quarter Horse. The work will be placed on a wall before the center’s registration center.

In Aztec, committee members selected an acrylic painting by Martin Montoya of Las Vegas, entitled Fishing Time, for placement in the community lunch room at the Boys & Girls Club. The work depicts a lazy fisherman half asleep under a big tree near a river. Its thick paint and striking colors are perfect for such an active center.

NM School for the Deaf Installation Completed

Santa Fe artist Kim Crowley finished the installation of his bas-relief sculpture at the New Mexico School for the Deaf in April. The 25’ x 10’ x 12’ cast fiberglass resin and stone dust art work is installed on the exterior wall near the main entrance of the newly expanded Student Activity Center. The artwork is based on the very first class of the School for the Deaf.

Crowley has worked on many projects across the country, but this was his first public art project in New Mexico. The school is located at 1060 Cerrillos Road in Santa Fe. A date for the dedication ceremony has not been set.

AIPP New Initiative: Temporary Environmental Public Art Installation at AFTA

by Kathryn Minette, Art in Public Places Program Manager

The Art in Public Places Program commissioned Albuquerque artist Ryan Henel to create a temporary environmental public art installation for an exhibition and tour of similar artworks created by artists for the community, during Arts for the (AFTA) national conference Leading the Charge that took place in Austin, Texas, in June. The project is New Mexico Arts first venture into the increasingly popular trend of temporary public art.

Henel’s artwork, entitled Range, was composed of latillas or wooden poles used for fences and in decorative ceilings. The latillas were approximately 3-5 inches in diameter and ranged in height from 2-3 feet. They were inserted into the ground at varying heights to create a large-scale contoured slope. The vertical placement and repetition of the poles created a physical and visual vibration of positive and negative space. The tops of the latillas were painted with a photoluminescent paint that glowed in the dark, which created a different visual effect at night. The 30’ x 10’ installation was featured at Austin’s Zilker Park.

Commission for the New Mexico School for the Deaf, bas-relief sculpture cast fiberglass resin and stone dust, 25’ x 10’ x 12’, Kim Crowley, Santa Fe.

Workshops for Artists in the Classroom

The final workshops of the Artists in the Classroom project took place May 7. Uma Krishnaswami, Beth Rudolph, and Janet Stein-Romero conducted day-long workshops in 9 communities: Deming, Des Moines, Farmington, Gallup, Hobbs, McLean, Mori, Raton, and Taos. Local hosts included arts councils, school districts, community arts organizations, and others.

73 artists and educators attended the sessions, which were designed to introduce artists to working as artists in the schools and to other educators to having artists in their classrooms. The workshops covered basic logistics (contracts, invoices, and other necessities) as well as working with classroom teachers to develop art lessons that meet the state standards and benchmarks in arts disciplines. Participants gave both the workshops and the instructors outstanding evaluations. Senator Gay Kernan, Hobbs, and Representative Donna Irwin, Deming, stopped by to visit the workshops in their respective communities.

We plan on offering the workshops in six additional communities in the coming fiscal year.

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Spectrum Analysis
The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department and Austin/Onsen Arts, sponsors of the exhibition, determined the specific sites for each of the art works that were then created onsite by the artists. The lifespan of the works ranged from one month to one year depending on the longevity of the materials and the intent of the artist. Mr. Henel's artwork will be displayed in Austin through July 2005.

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Goodman’s work is held by museums, corporations, and private collections throughout the country, including the Roswell Museum and Art Center, the Anderson Museum of Contemporary Art in Roswell, the Museum of Fine Arts in Santa Fe, and the Atlantic Richfield Corporation and the Thunder Basin Coal Company.

**Governor’s Arts Awards for Excellence in the Arts**

Frederick Hammersley of Albuquerque has been painting for four decades. He has spent much of his adult life and artistic career in New Mexico, but is linked to the Los Angeles based Abstract Classicist clade of the late-1950s. Hammersley received international recognition in 1959 when his paintings were exhibited with fellow Abstract Classicists John McLaughlin, Loner Feitelson, and Karl Benjamin. The works, called “hard edge,” were developed with large four artists and refers to paintings with large areas of flat color.

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Kevin McIlvoy, a writer, editor, and teacher in Las Cruces and Professor of Creative Writing at New Mexico State University’s English Department, was awarded an award for literature. Recognized for several important works, McIlvoy has received

**For more information contact, Lynn Stein, Exhibition Program Director, email Lstein@rocklandartcenter.org or call 1-800-654-8777.**

**For more information contact, Anne Shaffer, elder artist at Open Hands.**
ARTSpeak is a free, quarterly publication of New Mexico Arts, a Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs. Funding for New Mexico Arts comes from the State of New Mexico and the Department of Cultural Affairs.

I want to take this opportunity to welcome Nancy Lafflin, appointed by Governor Richardson to head the newly created Music Commission that is attached to New Mexico Arts, within the Department of Cultural Affairs.

Initially, the society supported lectures, folk life festivals, and produced a few publications. In 1947, the society began publishing the New Mexico Folklore Record, a scholarly journal of the findings of its members in their work around the state. In 1948, they began work on their most popular publication, New Mexico Place Names, which was first published by UNM Press in 1965. They also created an endowment to assist their members in the publication of articles. The society’s past presidents include many recognized New Mexican folklore scholars.

The New Mexico Folklore Record was published sporadically between 1947 and 1981, and a final edition appeared in 1987. After the death of Ernest Baughman in 1987, the society moved into a new loop tours that highlight artisans and craftpeople in rural North Carolina. She’s also a very stimulating speaker and presenter, so mark your calendars for this very special event.

I recently received a query asking what contributions to their communities and to the state’s economy.”

New Mexico Arts is sponsoring a workshop on rural cultural tourism and using the arts to promote economic development with Becky Anderson of HandMade in America August 5-6 at the Madonna Retreat and Conference Center in Albuquerque. You are invited to come and hear Anderson speak on Friday, August 5, beginning at 1:30 p.m., at the Stage 2 auditorium on the campus of St. Pius X High School. Admittance will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Anderson is the driving force behind HandMade in America’s very successful loop tours that highlight artisans and craftpeople in rural North Carolina. She’s also a very stimulating speaker and presenter, so mark your calendars for this very special event.

New Mexico Arts welcomes Dana Beck of Roswell, a new member of the New Mexico Arts Commission. Commissioner Beck credits an internship in museum conservation with the National Park Service’s Division of Museum Services with beginning her love of art and artifacts. Beck, who has a bachelor’s degree in art history from the University of Arizona, mentors students who are interested in pursuing careers in the arts.

New Mexico Folklore Society

The New Mexico Folklore Society

by Claude Stephenson, PhD, New Mexico State Folklorist

I n the spring of 1931, a group of five people got together at UNM’s Hodgins Hall and founded what was to become one of New Mexico’s finest and most productive academic organizations, the New Mexico Folklore Society. Four UNM professors, Anita Osuna and Lolita Poole of the Spanish Department, T.M. Pease of the English Department, and Lansing Bloom of the History Department, with James Thrilled, owner of the New Mexico Bookstore, founded the New Mexico Folklore Society.

Initially, the society supported lectures, folk life festivals, and produced a few publications. In 1947, the society began publishing the New Mexico Folklore Record, a scholarly journal of the findings of its members in their work around the state. In 1948, they began work on their most popular publication, New Mexico Place Names, which was first published by UNM Press in 1965. They also created an endowment to assist their members in the publication of articles. The society’s past presidents include many recognized New Mexican folklore scholars.

The New Mexico Folklore Record was published sporadically between 1947 and 1981, and a final edition appeared in 1987. After the death of Ernest Baughman in 1987, the society moved around various New Mexico universities for a few years, but by 1995 it folded. The endowment left was given to UNM to use as a competitive stipend for promising folklore students in the English and Anthropology departments. I recently received a query asking what had happened to the society. I had attended meetings in 1993 and 1994 but had no idea what its fate was. In my research, which included calls to former members and past presidents, the message I received was quite clear. Everyone felt the loss and wished that the society still existed. So I decided to resurrect it.

Research with the State Corporation Commission turned up the fact that the society had never officially incorporated. I drafted papers of incorporation, a mission statement, and a basic set of bylaws. I enlisted the aid of two fellow folklorists, ethnomusicologist Jack Loeffler and documentary photographer and UNM professor Miguel Gandert, to be initial incorporators. The three of us put together a beginning board consisting of Joyce Lee, Director of the Museum of International Folk Art; Helen Lucero, Director of Visual Arts at the National Hispanic Cultural Center; and Enrique Lamadrid, UNM professor and Director of UNM Chicano/a Studies. We hope to expand this initial board and meet this summer to elect our officers and set a date and place for our first statewide conference.

On May 20, 2005, we incorporated with the SCC, so it’s now official. The New Mexico Folklore Society, albeit still in its second infancy, is alive and kicking again. As we meet and develop our structure and membership dues, I will keep you apprised. As soon as we are ready to accept membership, we will solicit in a broad variety of venues.

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