

# C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO LIBRARY

Volume 5, Issue 1

May 2019

## News and Updates

Welcome to the Special Collections semiannual newsletter!

During January to May 2019, we welcomed 947 researchers (from 11 different states and two foreign countries—Mexico and Norway), did instruction for 9 classes (178 students), and answered 610 reference questions. Online usage of resources was high: 3,797 oral histories were downloaded and 6,859 images were viewed. 270 archival collections were used by in-person researchers.

In January, Juan Sandoval retired after 38 years of working in the UTEP Library. Juan helped thousands of students over his long career as the subject specialist for Art and Chicano Studies.

Special Collections would

also like to congratulate Owen Williamson on his retirement in May, and our student worker Chantal Diaz and intern Scott Blumanhourst on their graduations from UTEP.

On April 28, Claudia Rivers received one of UTEP's highest honors during Convocation: the President's Meritorious Staff Service Award. Congratulations, Claudia!

The Border Regional Archives Group (BRAG) is hosting a free Archives 101 Workshop on June 27, 9am-4pm in UTEP's Special Collections Department. To register, please contact Dylan McDonald ([dylanmcd@nmsu.edu](mailto:dylanmcd@nmsu.edu)) before June 14.

BRAG is also planning its third (!) Border Archives Bazaar at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Museum on September 28, 10am-4pm.

## Outreach Activities

Special Collections staff and volunteers participated in multiple outreach activities this semester.

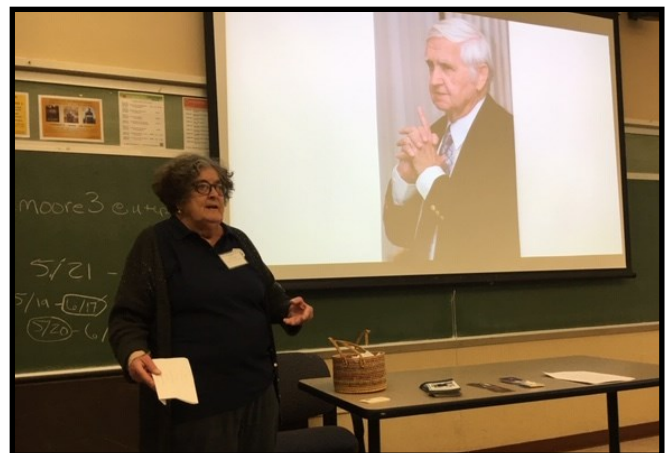
In March, Abbie Weiser and volunteer Eva Ross participated in a panel discussion about women's suffrage in El Paso at the El Paso County Historical Society. And on

March 30, Abbie and Claudia appeared on *The El Paso History Radio Show*.

During April, Abbie helped lead a preservation workshop at the El Paso Museum of Art, and Claudia presented to a group of retired educators in Special Collections. She also presented at



Claudia Rivers and Dr. Diana Natalicio, April 28. Photo courtesy of University Communications.



UTEP's Moral and Political Philosophy on the Border Conference along with volunteer Nancy Wilson. Claudia discussed the Dr. John Haddox papers, and Nancy recounted her experiences as a student of Dr. Haddox. He taught philosophy at UTEP for over 50 years.

Nancy Wilson presented about Dr. John Haddox at the UTEP Moral and Political Philosophy on the Border Conference, April 26. Nancy processed the Dr. Haddox papers last year. The guide to the collection is available [here](#).

# C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department



Touring the Center for Creative Photography in Tucson.

## SSA-CIMA in Tucson

Claudia Rivers and Abbie Weiser attended the joint annual meeting of the Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA) and the Conference of Inter-Mountain Archivists (CIMA) in Tucson from May 15-18.

Claudia and Abbie both presented at sessions organized by SSA's State Partnerships and Outreach Committee (SPOC). Claudia discussed presenting to community groups and at non-archival conferences. And Abbie pre-

sented about reasons for declining collections.

Meeting session topics included preserving architectural records, newspaper digitization projects, diversity in archives, and social media.

In addition to meeting sessions, Abbie and Claudia attended two "Lunch and Learn" sessions—one about Texas Archival Resources Online (TARO) and the other about regional State Historical Records Advisory Boards'

activities.

Conference attendees also toured local archival repositories, including the Center for Creative Photography (home of Ansel Adams' archives), the Arizona State Museum, and University of Arizona's Special Collections Department.

The all-attendee reception at the Arizona State Museum featured traditional Arizona-Sonora foods, live music, and history and art exhibits.

## The Many Deaths of Danny Rosales Panel Discussion



Playwright Carlos Morton in Special Collections, April 5.

On April 5 Special Collections hosted a well-attended panel discussion about Carlos Morton's play *The Many Deaths of Danny Rosales*. The play was based on a real-life police brutality case in Central Texas during the late 1970s.

Organized by Carlos Morton, Claudia Rivers, and the UTEP Humanities program, the

panel featured playwright Carlos Morton, Dr. Kathleen Staudt (retired UTEP political science professor), Hector Serrano (creator of *Viva El Paso!*), Cristina Goletti (UTEP theater and dance professor), and Ruben Sandoval (son of the lawyer involved in the real-life case).

During the program, the panel discussed the continued

relevance of the play, police-community relations, Latinx theater, the UTEP Theater and Dance Department, and answered multiple questions from the audience.

The following evening, the Chamizal National Theater held a free reading of *The Many Deaths of Danny Rosales*.

## Exhibits



Image from the Lalo Delgado exhibit, El Paso Herald-Post records, MS348.

During the spring semester, the Special Collections Department created several exhibits in the UTEP Library.

Photo archivist David Flores curated an exhibit of Manuel Carrillo's black and white photographs in Special Collections in January, while the *Carrillo in Color* exhibit con-

tinued on the third floor.

Abbie Weiser created an exhibit about Chicano activist and poet Abelardo "Lalo" Delgado on the second floor in March.

In April, Claudia Rivers curated a temporary "pop-up" exhibit in Special Collections about *The Many Deaths of*

*Danny Rosales*.

Claudia also set up a *Count-down to D-Day* display to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the allied invasion of Europe during WWII. The front page was turned every day in the May and June 1944 issues of the *El Paso Times* until June 6, 1944.



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## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO LIBRARY

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The [C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department](#) is located on the sixth floor of the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

### Overview

The collections contained in the C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department directly support research and learning at The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). The Department currently has over 750 archival collections, over 1,600 oral histories, various rare book collections, and thematic book collections, such as the Southwest, Chicano, Judaica, Art, Military, and McCord Poetry collections. During the 2017/2018 fiscal year we welcomed over 3,500 researchers and visitors.

### Mission Statement

The Special Collections Department supports the University's mission of education, research, scholarship, and community service. The mission of the C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department is to acquire, preserve, and make available for use the archival, rare book, media, and digital collections of the University Library. Areas of collection emphasis include primary sources for the history of the University, El Paso, and the border region; women's history; photography; fine printing and book design; and military history.

### Vision

The Library sits on a hill within sight of the Mexican border. Our unique position informs our attitudes and the services we offer. We aim for excellence in serving our users and in making our collections accessible.



Old UTEP swimming pool, circa late 1940s, UTEP photograph collection, MS001.

Hope everyone has a safe and happy summer!

Please support the [Special Collections Department](#)—Thank you!