

# Friends

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2002

## Basque Studies Library lands EXCLUSIVE Basque film archive

**T**he Basque Studies Library isn't one to be flashy. You never hear it banging drums for recognition or demanding publicity. That's just not its style. Instead, librarian Marcelino Ugalde and his staff work quietly and conscientiously on its collection of Basque materials, the most comprehensive outside of Europe.

For a library that began in 1969 with 3,200 volumes and now has approximately 50,000 volumes, isn't that worth some claim to fame? Add to that, this recent news: The library is now the site of the only Basque film repository in the United States.

Bang the drums.

The genesis for the Basque film archive began in 1999 when Martin Ibarbia, the president of the Basque Film Association in Europe, was on campus doing research and learning English. He floated the idea of a film repository at the Basque Library that would be a sister to the one in San Sebastian in northern Spain. The details were put in place last summer and an agreement was signed in August.

The first of three shipments of films arrived earlier this winter. Work has begun copying them – but not without clearing some hurdles.

Ugalde quickly discovered two major glitches: European and American VHS player-recorders are not compatible and DVD

players have built-in software that prevents you from copying discs. The library now has two multi-system VHS player-recorders to overcome the incompatibility problem and a code-free DVD player that allows you to play European DVDs.

By 2003, the Basque film collection on campus will mirror San Sebastian's archives. It will include critically acclaimed full- and

short-length films and documentaries from the 1930s to the present. The subjects range from animated children's films promoting the Basque language to full-length features from Basque directors, the leading filmmakers of Spanish films today.

"We have been collecting films for years," said Ugalde, adding the library's

*(continued on page 3)*



Head librarian Marcelino Ugalde pours over a rare edition in the Basque Studies Library

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The Basque Studies Library

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[www.library.unr.edu/depts/basqilib](http://www.library.unr.edu/depts/basqilib)

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# Friends

Winter 2002

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## A Letter from Friends President **Kelly Bland**

**B**efore I introduce myself and my goals as your new president, I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to past-president Joanne Hildahl. Her conscientious stewardship of the Friends has placed us on solid ground to take the next step.

Looking into the future, those steps promise to be giant ones. They include keeping our endowment growth on target, as well as building a larger base of donors to help us achieve the next level. And that is to build a new campus library!

As a member of the business community, my goals for the Friends lean toward expanding our financial health. At present, the endowment is valued at approximately \$600,000. My goal, for the next two years, is to build its value to \$1 million. Once that is accomplished, we can begin using interest income to fund needed library programs.

We have some ideas and several strategies, including solicitation of large private gifts from individuals and/or corporations, grants and matching funds from foundations. We will also be calling on current donors to make additional contributions in an effort to reach our goals. But new ideas, other than the standard ones, are needed.

In my first board meeting as president, the board met my challenge with some creative ideas. Suggestions ranged from small, specialized events that introduce prospective donors to the university community to broader outreach activities. In the coming months, we will hone in on these ideas and more, developing strategic plans to put them into action.

However, we would be remiss if we did not recognize the other important role the friends are involved in – cultural outreach.

We will continue to acknowledge the best Nevada writers during our Nevada Writers Hall of Fame event. Likewise, we will honor the most promising new writers with the Silver Pen award. Both of these events will take place December 6.

An increasing number of Friends have taken part in our travel programs including trips to Monticello and the Art and Food tour of France. We will continue this tradition with an upcoming tour of Homer's Greece (May 6) and a tour of Copper Canyon and the Sea of Cortez (December 10). Even for those of us who are unable to attend, we can live vicariously through those who do take part with the stories they bring back.

We will also continue to present lectures and author reading forums in an effort to bring to life the personality of writers, their written words, and the circumstances surrounding literary creation. Our next lecture is by University of Nevada, Reno alumna Rosemarie Thomson (March 25).

To the Friends, the library is more than the repository of numerous books. It is a place of gathering with a sense of community. It truly is the heart and soul of the university. Please join us in making the upcoming year the most productive and meaningful for the University Library and its supporters.

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## Basque Studies Library

(continued from page 1)

collection, gathered from both sides of the Pyrenees, previously numbered around 100. "But now there will be depth and breadth." Obtaining the repository isn't just another day in the life of a librarian. As Ugalde puts it: "It's an opportunity to establish an important resource."

The repository is open to researchers and

scholars, students and university staff. The archive contents, which include documents related to the history of Basque cinema, will also be available through inter-library loan and to other universities for Basque-related conferences and programs.

"We're holding back a bit on promoting it within the university community until we've established a data base," said Ugalde. "We're shooting to have it by May."

Once everything is catalogued, other

things can happen. Such as offering an online Basque film course through the Center for Basque Studies (the scheduled date is set for the Fall 2002 term) and organizing a Basque film festival, open to the public.

"Basque film is a subject little understood," said Ugalde. "A festival would increase awareness of the contributions of Basques involved in Spanish film. Many of these films no longer have a regional flavor, but have gone beyond to a national one."

Who would have predicted, 33 years ago, that the Basque Library would become such a valuable resource, its specialty unique in the United States.

The library, the research hub for the Center for Basque Studies and scholars from all over the globe, sprang into life with donations of two collections. One belonged to French-Basque scholar Philippe Veyrin, the other to Ramon Goni Nagore, a Spanish-Basque. Robert Laxalt was instrumental in getting Veyrin's collection while former director of Basque Studies William Douglass and the late Jon Bilbao, a leading Basque biographer and historian, helped in obtaining Nagore's.

The library's collection grew from there, despite having no book budget until 1986. "The Center for Basque Studies purchased material as much as it could," said Ugalde, who has been with the library since 1980.

In the beginning, the Basque Center and its library were one family, living under the Desert Research Institute's roof. In 1972, they became part of the University of Nevada, Reno Libraries system, moving to Getchell Library where they shared the space that is now the library's alone. But in 1994, administrative changes took place: the Basque Center was placed under the College of Arts and Sciences while the Basque Library remained with the library system.

On a banner day in 2000, the two separated physically. The Center relocated to a room of its own down the hall, a welcome move for both after living in cramped quarters for so long.

The Basque Studies Library entered the technology age in 1998 with its own Web site. You can get to it by going to [www.library.unr.edu](http://www.library.unr.edu) and following the link to the Basque library or you can go directly to the site: [www.library.unr.edu/depts/basqlib](http://www.library.unr.edu/depts/basqlib). Its current Web page features the archive of Huarte Jauregui, consisting of 5,000 documents. Jauregui was a commandant for the Spanish Nationalist occupation forces. But his talents went beyond that. He also was an archivist with degrees in philosophy, letters and the arts.

"Our next step," said Ugalde, "is to scan a number of the documents and put them online. We have a ton of work to do here."

— Sandra Macias



## Tree trunks, rare books, equal treasures

It's the tree trunks that grab your attention when you walk into the Basque Studies Library. One greets you at the door while two others are tucked in odd corners among the stacks.

So what are tree trunks doing in the Basque library? They are among its many treasures.

The tree trunks bear carvings – what we might call graffiti these days – done in the early 1900s. The artists were Basque shepherders, longing for their homeland and loved ones. While tending their sheep in the mountains, they carved messages and images on Aspen trees. Their artwork ranged from initials within a heart to female figures. These trunks in the library came from fallen trees found in the Thomas Creek and Peavine area.

Though the most well known, the tree trunks aren't the only treasures in the Basque library's collection. Others include diaries and letters, photos and fascinating family archives. In its rare book collection is a thick Latin-Basque-Spanish dictionary written by Father Larramendi in 1745. A companion to this is Larramendi's treatise, written in 1729, on the difficulty of learning the Basque language.

Other rare books:

- A scrapbook made by the children of Navarra given to the people of New York in appreciation for post-war aid. It was presented in 1957.
- The only known copy of a 19th century Basque journal written in French and Basque by immigrants of a French-Basque community living in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- The 1895 book, *Les Paroisses du Pays Basque*, (*The Parishes of the Basque Country*). The copy is bound and decorated by Philippe Veyrin whose collection was purchased in the 1960s to start the Basque Library.

## Thanks to everyone who ensured the success of the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame reception, November 30, 2001:

- The selection committee: chairperson Peggy Urie, Bonnie Buckley, Betty Glass, Marian LaVoy, Wes Reid, Bob Blesse and Michele Basta.
- Friends and library staff for event support: Joanne Hildahl, Deborah Nelson, Barbara Nielsen, Karen Cronmiller, Tori Nigro, Roshana Moojen, Janita Jobe, Clair Wojcik.
- And especially the award winners for sharing their voices and words with the audience: Morris Brownell, Rollan Melton, Bob Gorrell, Steven Nightingale, and Claudia Keelan.



2001 Silver Pen award winners Steven Nightingale (far left) and Claudia Keelan (second from right) gather with Hall of Fame inductees (from left) Rollan Melton, Morris Brownell and Bob Gorrell.



Enjoying the Writers Hall of Fame (left to right): Ann Ronald, Lois Sneddon, Peggy Urie and Sandra Macias.

**Thanks to Lynn Bremer**, Friends of the Library Board Director, for offering to underwrite the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame event scheduled for 6 p.m., Friday, Dec. 6, at Getchell Library.

**Be sure to look at the newly created website, Alumni and Friends** ([www.library.unr.edu/friends](http://www.library.unr.edu/friends)). There are links to our tours, book award lists, book reviews, library services, Special Collections art donated by Dr. James Herz, and more (See related story, page 7).

**Thanks to Reno Printing's (Sue Stout) creative design wizardry and the editorial prowess of Sandra Macias**, the Friends newsletter was selected to receive the Silver Spike Award for non-profit newsletter 2001. The award is given annually by the Sierra Nevada Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. (See related story, Editor's Corner.)

## It takes three to be a winner

Usually we are a modest bunch. But back in November (after the fall newsletter had been published), something happened that made us swell with pride: our Friends of the Library newsletter won an award.

The honor took place at the annual Silver Spike Awards dinner, sponsored by the Sierra Nevada Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. We received kind compliments and a snazzy award – which sits, well placed, in Michele Basta's

second floor office in Getchell Library.

Allow me to toot our horn for a moment to acknowledge one of the newsletter's invisible forces: Sue Stout. Not only is she a friend of

the Friends, she is one of the newsletter's pillars. If you look at our masthead on page 2, you'll see her name listed under the editors' names. It says: Design/Production: Sue Stout.

Her job entails putting together our newsletter and it's kind of like working on a giant jigsaw puzzle. It works this way: Michele and I write the copy and Bob Blesse, head of Special Collections, often helps gathering graphics and/or taking photos to illustrate our words. Then, we drop the whole thing – words, photos and all – into Sue's lap. More accurately, most of this is done electronically from our computers to hers, but you get the picture. With a hodgepodge of information and elements to fill several pages, her challenge is to get them to fit in an eye-pleasing design.

"It must have 'reader flow,'" says Sue, a graduate of the University of Iowa. "You have to make it appealing to the reader."

She uses numerous layout tricks to do that. They include breaking up gray space by adding subheads, photographs and illustrations and using type in a creative manner. Mindful for clutter – which means plastering the page with too many elements – she's also uses "white space" to direct the reader's eye from story to story.

### EDITOR'S CORNER

by Sandra Macias

**Thanks to an anonymous donor**, the library has established an endowment for student employees. The interest from the endowment account will provide supplements to the salaries of deserving students.

**Thanks to the Friends of the Library membership**, the library has added the following improvements: new task chairs in the electronic reference center, a drapery in the multimedia 2-way video room, and, coming soon, new carpet for the multi-media center. Twenty percent of the monies raised by the Friends is used for library improvements and additions to the collections; 80% is placed into the endowment account.

**Thanks to Campus Facilities** for replacing the carpet in the staff dining room and to the Friends of the Library Board of Directors for requesting the improvement.



At Christmas gathering (left to right): Bob Blesse, Professor Kevin Stevens, and Friends member Carol Pallesen.

**Thanks to Professor Kevin Stevens** for his slide presentation of Medieval and Renaissance manuscripts at the Friends annual Christmas gathering. Thanks, too, to **Anne and Wesley Hall** for opening their home for the event and to Friends members **Andie Crowell and Barbara Nielsen**, who provided catering and **Bob Blesse**, who provided technical support.

When Sue is swamped with deadlines, she enlists help for the newsletter from Todd Kelly, a UNR graduate from the Reynolds School of Journalism. Todd, who has been with Reno Printing for a year and a half, also works as a publication designer.

Sue's history with our newsletter began in the spring of 1998, but her profession in the publishing business goes back more than 30 years to the Iowa City Press-Citizen. She was transferred to Reno in 1974 as the corporate director of marketing and promotion for Speidel Newspapers, Inc., then a publicly-held group of 13 dailies, including the Reno Evening Gazette and Nevada State Journal.

Sue and her husband Rich bought Reno Printing in 1983. The oldest, continuous commercial printing company in Nevada, it dates back to 1887. The company designs and produces all manners of publications, from quarterly magazines to brochures, posters and various newsletters. But, says Sue: "The Friends newsletter is one of my more 'fun-ner' labors of love."

We thank Sue for being part of our team. Without her, we couldn't call ourselves winners.

## New (and old) faces on Friends' board

**Meet Lynn Bremer, Andrea Crowell and Paul M. Laxalt, newly named to the Friends of the Library board. Bremer is a renewing board member; Crowell and Laxalt are new members.**

■ Andrea Crowell is an all-around Friends volunteer: She worked on the 2001 Nevada Writers Hall of Fame and the Friends Christmas gathering. "I'm also interested in working on the tour program – and if you need someone to edit the newsletter, call me."

In real life, Crowell is a research consultant for government attorneys – mostly the Navy's. Her research involves class action employment discrimination cases – "I do research studies that back up expert witness testimony."

A member of a third-generation Nevada family, Crowell lived in tiny Beatty from her toddler to teen-age years. Graduating from high school (class size:15), Crowell left for the University of Nevada, Reno, receiving a B.A. in history.

"What I like about being on the Friends board is that I'm doing something for the university," she said.

■ Laxalt, a native Nevadan born in Carson City and a long-time resident of Reno, is the associate director for St. Mary's Foundation. But he gives back to the community by being part of several organizations. Besides the Friends board, he sits on the Nevada Diabetes Association, the Association of Fundraising Professions, and Bruka, a local theatrical group.

A theater company? Does that mean he is an actor? "Good heavens, no," Laxalt quickly countered. "My wife and I are just lovers of the arts."

Laxalt's family name is well known in Nevada. His father is Peter (Mick), a retired lawyer. He is the nephew of the distinguished writer Robert, who died in March 2001, and was one of the first authors to be inducted into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame. His other uncle is Paul, former Nevada governor and United States senator.

Laxalt and his wife Janet have two children, Michelle, a junior at UNR, and Brandon, a Reno High School junior. Janet Laxalt is a social worker who runs group homes in Las Vegas and Reno.

Laxalt is honored to be on the Friends board: "Whatever role I play on the board, I look forward to it."

■ After taking a three-year hiatus to step into the presidency of the Reno Chamber Orchestra's board, Lynn Bremer is back on the Friends board. Typical of her go-get-'em style, Bremer hit the ground running.

In her previous stint with the board, Bremer worked on the popular Voices of Democracy. She would like to revive the Voices concept for a Friends' event next year.

Bremer is not one to hold back suggestions. One of her ideas as a former board member was to organize a Friends' tour to Virginia with Jenkinson as Thomas Jefferson. Her idea spearheaded the popular Travels With Friends tours. The trips, which are fundraisers (as well as fun-raising and educational), now go beyond U.S. borders.

"It was Michele's (Basta) creativity that expanded the horizon," said Bremer. Bremer, herself, has had her share of tours. Earlier in her career as an educator, she worked in the Peace Corps in Limon, Costa Rica, where she instructed special education courses to teachers through an extension university.

A native of California, Bremer moved to Incline Village in 1989. Always the advocate, Bremer started a new program there: Through the Children's Cabinet, she initiated citizenship classes in Incline – until then, they were only available in Reno and Sacramento.

## Still Time to join us in Greece

May 6 - 20, 2002

*Each time Betty and I have gone to Greece, we have discovered anew the thrill of the origins of Western Civilization. The idea of doing it again in the presence of Friends of the University Library makes our excitement even richer.*

—Jim Hulse

Don't miss this opportunity to travel with two of Reno's most beloved scholars, Jim Hulse and Clay Jenkinson and explore Mycenaean and Minoan culture. Stays include Nafplia, Crete, Rhodes. Trip cost of \$3898 (double occupancy) includes all transportation from Reno, 4-star hotels, sun and water, many meals, all cultural excursions listed on the itinerary and a \$400 tax-exempt donation to the Friends of the Library.

Call Michele at 784-6500 ext. 265 for more information.

Sign up now to guarantee this price.



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# Friends



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Italy's Po River Valley offers a wealth of art, beauty and culture...and cuisine. Sail onboard the *Swiss Venice* and see the renowned cities of Venice, Padua, and Cremona. Visit Parma, Mantua and Ferrara, home to Lucrezia Borgia. Enjoy your time both on and off the ship. Extend your holiday with additional time in Venice (*optional through the tour company*).

Prices start at \$2998 including airfare from San Francisco or Los Angeles and a \$400 donation to the Friends. Let Michele know if you're interested (784-6500 ext. 265), and she will send the details.

## Lewis and Clark Odyssey Tour

August 11-17, 2002

Many of our readers know scholar Clay Jenkinson, a member of our Friends Board of Directors, and enjoy traveling with him. We invite you to write or e-mail for information about an opportunity to travel with Clay that is neither Library nor University sponsored, but that promises to be a worthwhile choice for travel. If you sign up, mention that you heard about the tour through the Friends newsletter and the library will receive a \$100 donation from Odyssey Tours.

Contact: Odyssey Tours, P.O. Box 1573, Lewiston, Idaho 83501. Phone 208-791-8721 (Becky Cawley); e-mail: [bek@hibek.com](mailto:bek@hibek.com); web site: [www.hibek.com](http://www.hibek.com)

## Copper Canyon and the Sea of Cortez

December 10-18, 2002

You will receive a brochure from Lindblad Expeditions in a few months. At a great price, this train and ship voyage will show you the Mexico of your imagination. Michele, along with Lindblad cultural guides and naturalists, will escort you. You will spend four days on a 70-passenger ship exploring marine life in the Sea of Cortez. Then, you will board the Chihuahua el Pacifico railroad in the Copper Canyon for a view of one of the world's most compelling landscapes.

Land/sea costs start at \$1500 per person. Airfare is extra and can be arranged by the tour company. The requested tax-exempt donation to the Friends of the Library is \$300 per person. Watch for the mailing from Lindblad Expeditions.

# Friends go global with new Web site

Lee Prosser, an author living in Oklahoma, was surfing the Web in January when he stumbled across the University of Nevada, Reno library's Web site, [www.library.unr.edu](http://www.library.unr.edu). The site has a number of links and one of them is a new portal, Alumni & Friends (as in Friends of the Library – the direct route is [www.library.unr.edu/friends](http://www.library.unr.edu/friends)).

Clicking it, Prosser was whisked to our backyard, so to speak, where he found the list of the Nevada Writer's Hall of Fame honorees. One of the names was of particular interest to him: Virginia Coffman.

"I just discovered the listing for Virginia Coffman and did not know she was still alive," Prosser wrote in an email to Michele Basta, the contact for the Friends' site. "I am currently writing an essay on her for inclusion in my new book. I remember when I first read her Moura series and became a fan of Gothic fiction."

With the Friends of the Library now online, Prosser – as well as the rest of the world – has immediate access to us. That's the wonder of going global. The site, which is extremely user-friendly, offers all sorts of information, directly or indirectly related to the Friends. You can check out the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame or the Friends' educational tours. Even the Book Nook has a spot.

Want to read the Friends of the Library newsletter? Click "newsletter." Want to know what year Virginia Coffman was honored? Click "Nevada Writers Hall of Fame." (It was 1990.) Want to learn more about the upcoming Friends' trip to Greece with Clay Jenkinson and James Hulse? Direct the mouse to "tours."

The link to the educational tours – a.k.a. Travel with Friends – offers itineraries, related readings, a calendar of what's coming up and a scrapbook of past tours. Flipping to the scrapbook, you'll find Basta and Jenkinson standing in front of an 18th century wine chateau in Bordeaux. And there's a group shot of the Friends in Turkey – hey, isn't that CeCe Gable?

Follow other links on the Friends' site and you'll find yourself in a world of limitless doors. One door links you to e-postcards with a Sierra Nevada scene to send a friend or wallpaper with Sierra images for your PC. Another opens to a virtual bookstore of publications on or about the Sierra Nevada and yet another links you to everything from the National Book Awards to KUNR public radio.

The site also offers off-campus access to Nevada university libraries, including both



[www.library.unr.edu/friends](http://www.library.unr.edu/friends)

University of Nevada, Reno and Las Vegas, Western Nevada Community College and Sierra Nevada College, as well as the Washoe County Library.

When Prosser found the Friends portal and entered the virtual Nevada Writers Hall of Fame, he opened more doors – this time in reality. Prosser's and Basta's email correspondence led Basta to call Coffman to tell her how much Prosser admired her work. "She was delighted," said Basta, who has since put the two authors in touch with each other.

Prosser's book, *Night Tigers* – the one with an essay on Coffman – will be published this month. Other books by Prosser can be found on Amazon.com, including his memoir, *Isherwood, Bowles, Vedanta, Wicca and Me*. Prosser knew Christopher Isherwood personally, and Paul Bowles was the godfather of his two daughters. Now he can count Coffman, whom he calls a "gifted writer," as another friend.

— Sandra Macias

## Goodbye Dear Friends

The Friends of the Library have lost two generous and supportive members. **Moya Lear and Rollan Melton** were longtime members of our organization. In 1998, the Friends hosted a reception and display of Lear family Christmas cards.

The following year, the Friends hosted a reception highlighting the Melton family Christmas cards and the publication of Rollan's book, "Sonny's Story." In 2001, the Friends inducted Rollan Melton into the Nevada Writers Hall of Fame and were delighted that he was able to attend the November reception. Many of our readers are aware of the close association that the Meltons have had with the Friends of the Library: they were among several key community



Marilyn and Rollan Melton at the November 2001 Nevada Writers Hall of Fame reception.



Moya Olsen Lear

leaders who revived the organization from dormancy in the 1970s. Rollan and Marilyn Melton helped lead the organization for many years, bringing in speakers such as Robert Allard and Peter Pritchard. We will miss the community leadership and dedication to local cultural organizations that Moya and Rollie provided so well.

# Friends

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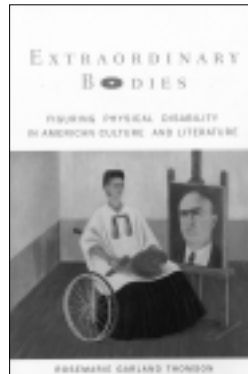
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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Scholar alumna makes special appearance on campus, March 25

Thanks to UNR alumna Dr. Rosemarie Garland Thomson for agreeing to come to the campus to share some of her scholarly research. Rosemarie will present a lecture at 4 p.m., Monday, March 25, in the Alumni Room of Jot Travis Student Union. The title of her presentation is "Seeing the Disabled: Visual Rhetorics of Disability in Modern Photography."



Rosemarie Garland Thomson's newest publication

Following the lecture, sponsored by the Hilliard Endowment, the Friends will host a reception.

Rosemarie will also participate in the University's Women's Studies film festival on March 24. She will introduce the film, "The Body Beautiful," exploring body image and racial identity, at 3 p.m., in Getchell Library. There will be a reception following the film. For more information about the film festival, featuring eight other films, call the Women's Studies Department, 784-1560.

Rosemarie, who received her B.A. and M.A. degrees in English from the University of Nevada, Reno, earned her Ph.D. from Brandeis and is now associate professor of Women's Studies at Emory University.

### Join the Friends, pop a cork, toast the Bard on May 1

This spring, the Friends of the University Library and KUNR Public Radio invite their new and renewing members to toast Shakespeare on his 438th birthday, at 7 p.m., Wednesday, May 1, – (O.K., so it's the week after his birthday) – to view a not-to-be-missed theater performance of "The Taming of the Shrew" produced by Nevada Shakespeare Festival. The stage is set at the Jot Travis Student Union. The production, a creative interpretation of one of Shakespeare's most popular comedies, will feature more than a dozen classic songs from the 1970s. It promises to be rollicking, good fun.

The festive evening is free to members of either organization. Use the form at left to join or renew as a Friends member.

