

Z 732
C63C628



University Libraries

LIBRARIES

FEB 10 2000

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

[Feb. 1998]

Flash Flood Hits Morgan Library

A ten-foot wall of water which swept through the Colorado State University campus July 28 as flash flooding hit Fort Collins caused extensive damage to several campus buildings, including the newly-renovated and expanded Morgan Library.

The flood dumped up to seven inches of rainfall in a matter of hours on portions of Fort Collins and caused the deaths of five community residents. No lives were lost on campus in the flooding, but nearly a half-million books and bound journals were submerged when a wall in the garden-level basement burst and flood waters poured in ceiling-high. Shelving was knocked over and books, journals, desks, chairs and debris were swept helter-skelter in the swirl of muddy flood waters.

In the first few days after the flood, Morgan Library was the site of frenzied activity as huge pumps removed the water. A crew of clean-up workers sorted



through the mush of ceiling tiles, furniture and debris in an effort to begin saving the library materials. Other crews were called in to pack out and wrap the books and journals, which were then shipped to centers in Texas and Wyoming to be freeze dried.

Devastation of this extent to a major research library is virtually unprecedented in the United States, with the closest comparison being the Los Angeles County Library fire in the 1980s. All of the bound journals in every subject area were affected by the flooding.

Among the experts called in to assist with restoring the library was Boss and Associates, a firm which has lent its expertise in recovery in major disasters worldwide, including the World Trade Center bombing in New York. The company will oversee processing of returned materials, which will arrive at the rate of about 20,000 volumes per month beginning in October. (Normally, the library processes about 21,000 volumes per year.) The books and journals returned from the freeze-drying process will be inspected to determine their condition and will be returned to the shelves, repaired, or discarded, depending on their condition. The restoration process is expected to take about

See **Flood** page 6

Colorado
State
University



U18402 3946534

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



New Dean Checks into Colorado State in Time for a Flood

For eight days in July, Camila Alire was busy settling into her new job as Colorado State's Dean of University Libraries. She was getting to know people and becoming familiar with the new look of the renovated Morgan Library, preparing to steer its crew into a grand new millennium. She even had time to sleep like most normal people.

Funny how a flooded basement can ruin the best-laid plans.

The flood of July 28, which reached depths of 8-1/2 feet, or 6 inches above the drop ceiling in the basement, took about 425,000 books, periodicals and monographs and spun them into a muddy, sickening mess. Instead of thinking about esoterica like millennial plans and future research projects, Alire found herself, after eight days on the job, fighting for the life of the library.

"Looking at the damage, I felt nothing but disbelief at first," she said. "But then the adrenaline started pumping day and night and the urge kicked in to start reclaiming from the disaster. All you want to do is get things back to normal."

Normal may be a few years away, but then, nobody has ever grappled with the logistics of reclaiming nearly a half-million books. The closest comparable disaster Alire could name off the top of her head involved a public library that burned down in Los Angeles. However, those books were destroyed beyond salvaging. At Morgan Library, the books were boxed by a special disaster recovery company, frozen in refrigerated trucks to prevent mold and mildew from forming and shipped to storage facilities in Fort Worth.

On the front cover: Water was pumped from the basement of Morgan Library so that books could be removed and possibly salvaged. An estimated 425,000 volumes were affected. (Photo by Bill Cotton)

Although the flood lasted only a matter of hours, it will take at least two years for all salvaged materials to be returned to the library. Starting in mid-October, about 7,000 books will arrive each week to a special processing center in the basement. A crew of 100 to 170 workers will take a look at the books, enter titles into a database and decide how to route each book according to three categories: 1) the book is fine, shelve it; 2) the book may or may not be OK, better call in a library specialist to help decide; 3) the book is beyond hope.

"We've come such a long way. The library is back, and that's a great feeling."

"It's remarkable where we are today," Alire said. "It took a tremendous effort by the library staff and hundreds of workers to move all those books out, to clean the basement and to open the library as fast as we could for the beginning of the semester. It's been extremely difficult for the staff, because they're working on flood recovery projects in addition to their regular jobs, but they're doing exceptional work."

Alire's drive to bring back the library better than ever can be traced to her family and the small-town environment in which she



Sink or swim: Camila Alire, new dean of University Libraries, in the restored basement of Morgan Library. The flood of July 28 filled the basement with water that reached almost 4 feet above Alire's head. (Photo by Bill Cotton)

was raised in the San Luis Valley of Colorado. Her father was active in the community, and her mother championed minority causes; both parents believed strongly in setting goals and pursuing them despite ethnic background.

"I realize I'm a groundbreaker as far as being an administrator, a woman and member of a minority population, but I really don't dwell on that," she said. "At the same time, I know I have a tremendous responsibility as a role model. I think it's a professional and moral obligation to ensure others have the chance to be successful in their chosen careers."

In keeping with her beliefs, Alire is involved in mentoring programs and has written and published such work as "Library Services to Latino Populations," "Recruitment and Retention of Librarians of Color: The Future," and "Equal Access for All." Her interest in minority issues also can be seen in book reviews, one of which she wrote for Colorado Libraries titled "Incident at Bitter Creek: The Story of the Rock Springs Chinese Massacre," a book by Craig Storti. A future research project, whenever Alire

catches her breath and finds the time, will be a monograph on readers' advisory for Latino fiction.

When Alire mentioned that there was a lot of work left to do, she was speaking not only about minority issues but the more tangible goal of seeing Morgan Library 100 percent recovered. The basement, in fact, has been transformed from a foul-smelling dungeon littered with trash to a clean, brightly lighted place filled with the sound of workers' hammers and drills. New metal ductwork shines alongside pipes for the fire sprinkler system, and soon moveable shelving and standard shelving will arrive for installation. Only one remnant of the flood remains—the hole in the west wall where water breached the building, which now is covered with plywood.

"I'd like to keep that hole as a monument to the flood, but I think we all have enough memories to last a lifetime," Alire said.

"We've come such a long way. The library is back, and that's a great feeling." — Paul Miller

Reprinted with permission from Comment, October 1997.

Vital Stats: Camila Alire

Name: Camila A. Alire

Born: Monte Vista, Colorado:
"I'm a Valley Girl."

Occupation: Dean of
University Libraries.

Education: Doctoral degree in
higher education
administration and
curriculum and instruction,
University of Northern
Colorado, 1984; master's
degree in library science,
University of Denver, 1974;
bachelor's degree in history
and secondary education,
Adams State College, 1970.

Before CSU: Dean and director
of Auraria Library at the
University of Colorado-
Denver; director of
Learning Resource Center
at Pikes Peak Community
College in Colorado
Springs; served as
coordinator of student
services and assistant to the
dean at the University of
Denver graduate school of
librarianship and
information management.

Recent recognition:

Appointed to the board of
the Colorado Endowment
for the Humanities; named
1997 Librarian of the Year
by REFORMA, the Latino
affiliate of the American
Library Association, an
award she learned about
only weeks before being
chosen dean of University
Libraries at Colorado State;
received the 1997 Elizabeth
Futas Catalyst for Change
Award from the ALA.

Family: Husband Alan Radcliffe
is a systems analyst for US
West; two dogs and two cats
comprise a menagerie at
home in Sedalia.

Waiting for: Leaves to change
to gold, red and yellow on
scrub oaks at home: "The
colors are spectacular."

Library Receives Help from Friends from Across the Country

When Colorado State University alumnus George Johnson heard of the devastating flood that hit campus July 28, he immediately felt compelled to help. Johnson's generosity – and the generosity of other businesses, university libraries, faculty and alumni, and Colorado State supporters – will dramatically help the Morgan Library's efforts to replace some of the estimated 425,000 books and journals damaged in the flood.

Johnson, who with his father, Herbert M. Johnson, runs JAI Press Inc. and Ablex Publishing Corp. in Greenwich, Conn., has donated one of every book and journal the two companies publish to help replenish some of the items damaged in the Morgan Library's collection. In all, the company's gift includes about 3,000 book and journal titles worth an estimated \$250,000. The large shipment arrived before the library was able to begin accepting and processing materials post-flood, so it was stored at AMICK Moving and Storage, a local company which offered to donate warehouse space to the library.

"When we heard of the disaster at Colorado State, we thought the best way to help as a publisher was to give materials students and faculty need to be successful in their academic pursuits," said Johnson, a 1992 graduate.

Since the flood, the library has received offers from more than 2,000 individuals, libraries and businesses nationwide, with offers to donate everything from single books to giant libraries. A total of at least 215,000 volumes had been offered to the library by October 1. Library staff currently are compiling the titles into lists, which will be checked against materials needed. "There's been a huge outpouring of support," said Joel Rutstein, who is coordinating gifts of books and journals. "We're frankly scrambling to deal with it."

A web page devoted to listing flood-damaged materials and especially needed items can be accessed at: <http://www.coalliance.org>. That site, which can be searched by call number or title for needed books and journals, also includes a form through which donation information can be e-mailed directly to the library.

In one example of community support, a man from Cheyenne, Wyoming, drove to the Library just days after the flood to donate his personal collection of *Architectural Record* spanning 20 years. The University of Colorado at Boulder has offered an extensive collection of bound journals it no longer needs.

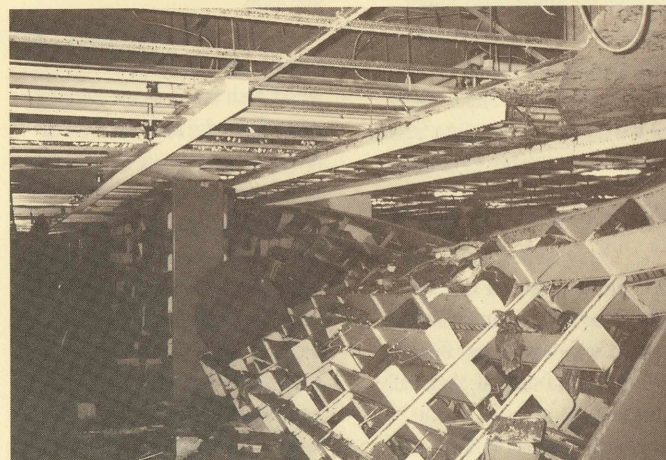
Gifts to the library have come not only in the form of donated books and journals, but

also in monetary contributions. Gifts range from a donation of \$10,000 from a retired school-teacher, to four \$1 bills tucked into a note from elementary school student Anna Knowles of Littleton. Cash donations to the Morgan Library flood recovery effort now total more than \$35,000, according to Julie Karbula, Director of Development for the University Libraries.

"The letters and notes which come in with these gifts are so touching," said Karbula. "People feel a personal connection with the Library and often share stories about the library in letters sent with the gifts."

The Library also received help from Hewlett Packard, with a grant which will enable the library to better use the Internet to help offset losses from the flood. With the aid of six cooperating libraries, Colorado State will use computers and printers donated by HP in a high-speed document transfer system called Ariel. Ariel will allow articles from cooperating libraries to be scanned, digitized and transmitted at high speed via the Internet to one of the seven receiving stations donated by HP. The grant is valued at more than \$30,000.

See *Alumni Assistance* page 6



Nearly a half-million books and bound journals were submerged when a wall in the garden-level basement of Morgan Library burst and flood waters poured in ceiling-high. (Photo by Library Staff)



Book rescuer Greg Bartch takes on the role of Mr. Freeze

Greg Bartch never thought he'd be part of a long line of book rescuers, but then, he rarely knows where his job will take him next.



A force of nature: This view from the inside illustrates the extent of the damage as the flood waters smashed this opening in the newly-constructed west wall of the basement of Morgan Library. (Photo by Library Staff)

Bartch works for UCISCO, a Praxair subsidiary based in Houston that supplies industrial gases to businesses around the world. But supplying gas for non-nuclear catalytic reactors is probably as ordinary as his job gets. One project last year took him to the movie set of *Batman* in Long Beach, Calif., where he created fog effects with liquid artificial air. Another job brought him to assist with flood recovery efforts at Colorado State, where he fed liquid nitrogen into tractor-trailers to freeze boxes of books.

Working with Batman

In Long Beach, he worked with movie crews on special effects for *Batman* and watched Arnold Schwarzenegger thump around as the surreal, titanicly costumed Mr. Freeze. All the impressive stuff of Hollywood, though, didn't compare to the efforts of hundreds of people salvaging books from the Morgan Library on campus.

"It was pretty amazing to see how films are made," Bartch

said. "What you think you see on a movie set doesn't have any relationship to reality. Ice is made out of plastic, and rocks are only Styrofoam, but on screen the effects are real.

"But who ever heard of freezing books? I'm pretty impressed with what (Colorado State) is doing to salvage a difficult situation."

That difficult situation, of course, was the flood of July 28, when flash floods came barging down from the foothills west of town, inundating the basement of Morgan Library and other buildings on campus. Close to a half-million books, monographs and bound journals in the library were damaged by the murky water, but as soon as waters subsided, there wasn't much time to stand around wringing hands. The books had to be removed and placed in frozen storage as quickly as possible to prevent mold and mildew from permanently damaging the volumes.

And that's where Greg Bartch came in. Shaped somewhat

like Schwarzenegger himself, but without the buff, Bartch stood beside his Peterbilt truck in the parking lot on the west side of the library, and talked about really cold stuff. His tanker, 74,000 pounds of engine, chrome, wheels, valves and pipes, sported a diamond-shaped sign on the tank that said, "Non-Flammable Refrigerated Liquid Nitrogen." It may have been a queasy experience for some people, standing next to a bulging tank of chemicals resting on armpit-high tires, but Bartch fit right into the scene, an easy-going giant dressed in a nappy red T-shirt and yellow-tinted driver's glasses.

Moreover, he was well aware of hazards and followed safety regulations with all due care, something he admitted with unabashed sincerity.

"Crews load the books onto refrigerated tractor-trailers, then drivers bring the rigs over to me," he said. "We pump liquid nitrogen into the truck, and as soon as the liquid hits, the books start cooling down in a hurry. They'll hit 30 or 40 below zero and stay frozen until restoration folks get a chance to look at them and salvage what they can."

Bartch explained that the boiling point of liquid nitrogen is 320 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. The minute it hits air, it warms up and turns into a gas, which puts the deep-freeze to whatever it touches.

As if to illustrate, a tractor-trailer driver backed a rig close to the rear of Bartch's tanker. With the help of another man, Bartch fed a long, black pipe along the length of the trailer floor. He shut the doors and stuffed foam insulation in the cracks, tapped a connecting collar tight with a brass mallet, then busied himself with valves and gauges at the back of his rig. The faint hissing sound of gas floated in the air.

"This is where it gets interesting," Bartch said. He was in full safety regalia, including

hard hat, safety goggles and blue insulating gloves. "This trailer will start talking now."

As the nitrogen changed from liquid to gas in the bowels of the trailer, white vapor started pouring out of the back like heavy fog, and before long the trailer started popping and crackling and groaning, as if some monster inside were trying to escape. Bartch stood close to the back of the rig, tweaking valves and tapping with his brass mallet while the vapor gathered strength, flowing down across the back of the doors and spreading along the ground in a dense, chilly fog. Bartch's legs were obscured by the fog, turning him into a floating torso, while other workers hustled in and out of the swirling vapors to place a sheet of plywood over the back tires of the trailer. Otherwise, Bartch said, the rubber would freeze and break off in chunks.

An eerie scene

The cracking and heaving continued for many minutes, long enough to create an eerie scene, a movie without the screen, a Mr. Freeze without the costume. Rivulets of liquid nitrogen flowed out the bottom of the trailer and froze white circles on the pavement, and, when the wind was right, the frigid fog crept all over the place like a living creature looking for a place to hide. A surprisingly loud pop emerged from the trailer, but Bartch, breaking the magic of the moment a bit, said all that noise wasn't doing any harm. It was just the normal sound of metal shrinking as it froze.

After about five minutes the show ended, and reality returned to normal, mundane dimensions. Bartch removed the frosted, whitened pipe from the trailer and shut the doors, and another load of books rolled away to cold storage.

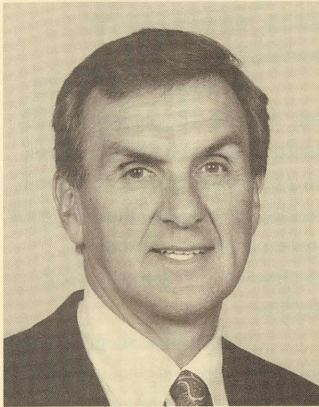
Bartch made some notes in a log, then arranged his tools to

See **Mr. Freeze** page 6



Read Any Good Books Lately?

We recently asked Colorado State notables what books were on their current reading lists.



Sonny Lubick, head football coach and former English teacher.

Permission to Win –
“a great blueprint for life.”
The Winner Within –
“profound feelings and strategies for stressful moments.”
The Edge –
“quotes for everyone.”



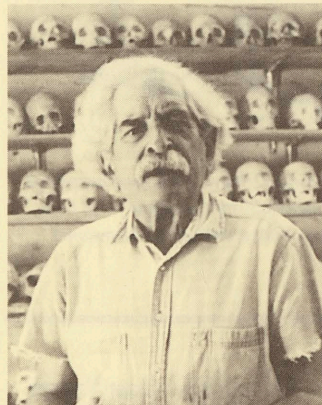
Mary Crow, Colorado State English professor and Poet Laureate of the State of Colorado. Her most recent works are *I Have Tasted the Apple*, a book of poems, and *Vertical Poetry: Recent Poems* by Robert Juarroz, translations.

Landscape and Memory, Simon Schama – “I loved this book’s exploration of how landscape is shaped by culture

and vice versa; it is a brilliant study that draws upon history, naturalism, mythology, and art.”

Rilke’s Book of Hours, Rainier Maria, translated by Anita Barrows and Joanna Macy –
“This early book of poems by one of this country’s greatest poets shows his genius as he comes to terms with his spirituality.”

White Pine: Poems and Prose Poems, Mary Oliver – “Mary Oliver has won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. Her moving, clear, and fine poems are one more reason we all should be reading more poetry.”



Dr. Michael Charney, professor emeritus at Colorado State’s Forensic Science Lab

The Complete Essays of Mark Twain, Charles Neider, editor – “There are two Americans who stand out well above all others: Thomas Jefferson and Mark Twain. No one even comes close to them. Twain’s writings and his philosophy hold for all times and conditions. He is a delight to read as well.”

On the Origin of Species, Charles Darwin, 1859 Harvard University Press, 1966



facsimile of the first edition –
“I am not alone in believing Darwin is the greatest biologist that ever lived. This book is well organized in thought and expression. It has the most profound effect on the thinking of who and what we are. As his closest friend, Thomas Huxley said, ‘that law is so simple (natural selection) why didn’t I think of it myself?’ For years now I have wanted to teach a class on Darwin, the man, the scientist, and the philosopher.”

Two Years Before the Mast, Richard H. Dana, 1840 – “As an old navigator of the sea (amateur – small sailboats, oceans and the teaching of the science of navigation as well) there is always a book on the sea at hand. Dana’s is truly a classic tale of life and work on a square rigger. Dana puts it better than anyone else I have read about the vastness of the water, its power, strength, and infinite majesty. Others, like Masefield, have written about storms at sea that are untouched for description by others – this I know firsthand. Monserrat in his book, *The Cruel Sea*, deals with what man has made of the oceans in war and that is terrible enough. I always have one book about the sea on my night table.”



Dr. Camila A. Alire, dean of libraries at Colorado State University

A Time to Kill, John Grisham –
“This book had such an impact on me that I think everyone should read it, no matter their political persuasion, ethnicity, or geographical location. Besides the racial and social injustices presented throughout the story, Grisham was superb in presenting the reader with moral dilemmas.”

So Far From God, Anna Castillo – “My emotional index must have gone bonkers while reading this book! I experienced uncontrollable laughter, shed many tears, and became very angry while following this saga of a Mexican-American woman and her four daughters living outside Albuquerque, New Mexico.”

Joy Luck Club, Amy Tan – “Tan offers such insights into the Chinese and Chinese-American cultures by weaving a story about modern-day Chinese females, and the challenges and opportunities they experience when dealing with their traditional Chinese parents and culture.”



Flood continued from front page
two years to complete.

In the first few weeks after the flood, library personnel worked out of borrowed offices, on the run with cellular phones in hand, or from their homes. The doors of the library were reopened in time for the start of classes, and library staff have been hard at work to provide students with a high level of service. The library has purchased about 6,200 books to replace items that in the past were among the most-often used and checked out. A high-speed document transfer system called Ariel has been installed in seven sites around campus to allow quicker access to articles from journals damaged in the flood. In addition, shuttle buses are taking students to libraries at several neighboring campuses which offered to allow Colorado State students to utilize their facilities for research.

**"The letters and notes
which come in with these
gifts are so touching . . .
people feel a personal
connection with the
Library . . ."**

An extensive effort currently is underway to restore a portion of the collection through donated books and journals. Community members, alumni, faculty, publishers, and public, higher-education and corporate libraries have come together in an outpouring of support through offers of donated items. To date, about 2,000 offers of donations have been received, totaling about 215,000 books and journals. Overall, donations of books in subject areas lost in the flood and collections of journals which span the past 20 years are the most urgent needs.



More than 100,000 items were removed from Morgan Library. Items were boxed and sent to freezer-storage facilities. Freezing the materials stops mold and fungi from developing and allows library staff time to assess what materials can be restored. (Photo by Bill Cotton)

Alumni Assistance continued from page 3

Events are another way in which supporters have assisted the Library. Fund raisers include:

- A book fair by Barnes & Noble, during which \$5,729 was raised. The fair was held in 11 stores in Colorado on September 25 and a percentage of the day's sales was donated to benefit the library. All stores featured CSU banners and other green and gold Ram items.
- Colorado State alumni Tamara and Tom Rhoads, '87, owners of the Juice Stop in Fort Collins, donated \$500 in proceeds from a fund raiser held at their store October 8-11.
- Jones New York and Executive Suite-Jones New York donated 20 percent of sales from a fund raiser held at the two stores in the Rocky Mountain Outlet Stores in Loveland on October 29.

Visit the University Libraries on-line at
<http://manta.library.colostate.edu/>

Mr. Freeze continued from page 4

get ready for the next trailer of books. For the first time in 20 minutes he scanned the horizon, settling his gaze on the heavy clouds rolling in from the northwest.

"Looks like we might get hit," he said. The clouds certainly looked ominous, which gave rise to a question that hung unspoken in the air: Could the thunderheads spawn another tidal wave of destruction on campus, in Fort Collins?

Suddenly the scene seemed surreal again: people strolling calmly around campus under a bank of clouds that could give life to gardens or cause misery, where hundreds and hundreds of people at that moment were pooling resources in the aftermath of the flood to help each other recover, and how that hard work could be symbolized in the wonder and expertise of this truck driver and chemist standing serenely in the parking lot, our own version of Mr. Freeze, the good-natured giant of liquid nitrogen, defender of library books. — Paul Miller

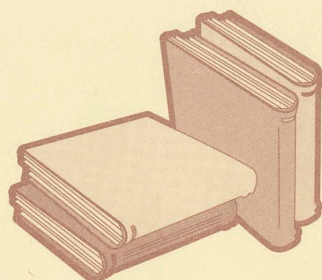
University Libraries

is published by Colorado State
University Libraries and the
Division of University
Advancement.

Julie Karbula, Editor
Contributors and Advisors

Camila Alire
Carmel Bush
Linda Castor
Irene Godden
Carl Kichinko
Paul Miller
Joel Rutstein
Julie Wessling





Great libraries are inherent to great universities . . .

. . . Attracting renowned scholars, superb teachers and talented students. To meet the ever-expanding needs of those it serves, the Library's collections must not only be maintained, but must grow in quality and depth.



Students meet with classmates in Morgan Library. Behind them, a portion of the gift recognition wall with donor messages carved in native sandstone.

Morgan Library now has its first significant endowment totaling \$2.2 million, as a result of the "A Promise Fulfilled" Campaign. **Your gift to the Morgan Library Endowment will enable the Library to develop and enhance its collections.** Donors to the Morgan Library Endowment will be recognized for their gifts in the following ways:

- ◆ For each gift of \$125, the donor is entitled to one recognition message stone with a personalized message, located in the three-story entry to the Library.
- ◆ For each gift of \$1,870, the donor will receive one recognition message stone enhanced with the Morgan Library Campaign graphic.
- ◆ For a gift of \$10,000 or more, in addition to having your name on a prominent recognition wall, you may create a named book endowment and be entitled to five enhanced recognition message stones.

Yes, I would like to support the Morgan Library Endowment!
This gift is from:

Name _____

If joint gift, spouse's full name _____

Home Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Home Telephone (_____) _____

Daytime Telephone (_____) _____

Enclosed is my/our check in the amount of \$ _____

Please charge this gift in the amount of \$ _____

To my/our ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA.

Card Number _____

Name as it appears on card _____

Cardholder Signature _____

Expiration Date _____

This gift will be matched by: _____
(Employer)

**If your gift entitles you to receive a message stone(s),
please fill in the following:**

I/we would like the message stones to say:

(Each message stone has two lines of 14 characters, including spaces.
Please print in upper case letters. No punctuation except "&" and "-")

Message Stone Wording

(This form may be duplicated to accommodate additional orders)

For more information on contributing to the University Libraries,
please call Julie Karbula, Director of Development, at (970) 491-0297.

M9803 45115

Meet the University Libraries' New Development Director

The University Libraries has been extremely fortunate this year in having a new development officer, Julie Karbula, assigned part-time to give leadership to our efforts to develop ongoing support for library collections and programs. Julie, who is also Assistant Director of Annual Giving, has worked hard to ensure our success. The University Libraries newsletter has been created to keep you informed of events, service updates, and the newest materials added to the

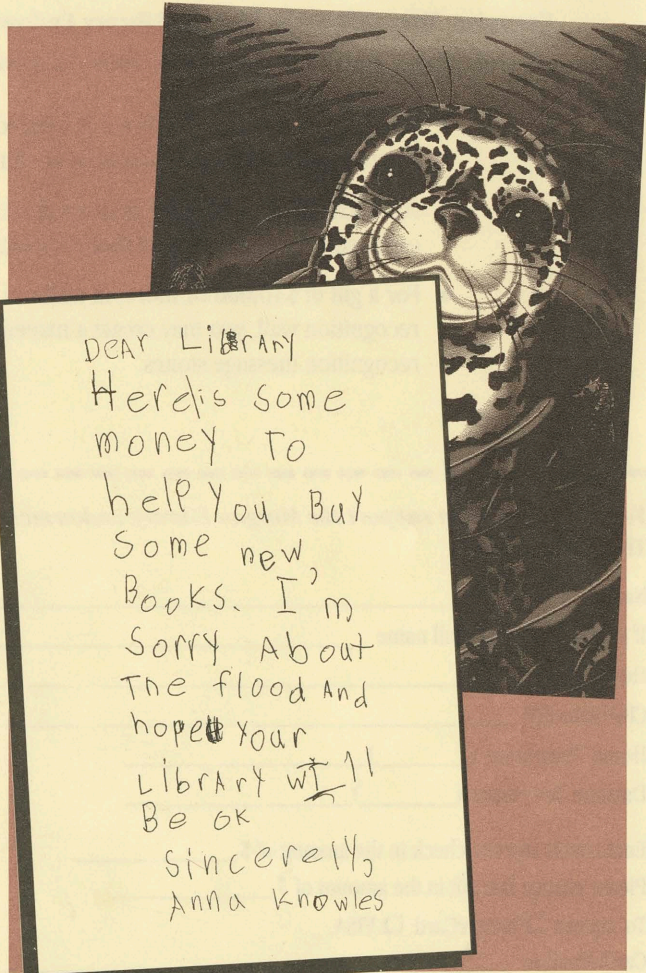


Julie Karbula

collections. Julie's leadership in this endeavor is truly appreciated. She also has spent time getting to know library faculty, staff, our operations, and, of course, our friends and donors.

Julie is a natural fan of the University and the Libraries, having graduated from CSU in 1978 with a B.A. in technical journalism. She holds an M.S. in telecommunications from the University of Colorado, and has experience working as a newspaper reporter and editor. Previously, she worked on Wall Street as a telecommunications project manager for J.P. Morgan. Julie's husband, John, a high school teacher, is a graduate student in educational administration at CSU. They have two daughters, Caitlin, 9, and Lauren, 6. In her spare time, Julie gardens, reads, hikes, and attends musical events and movies.

We are very pleased to have Julie on our team! — Irene Godden
Emeritus Associate Dean of
University Libraries



DEAR LIBRARY
Herdis some
money To
help You Buy
Some new
Books. I'm
Sorry About
The flood And
hope Your
Library will
Be ok
Sincerely,
Anna Knowles

This notecard from Anna Knowles was among the many expressions of support the library staff received in the weeks following the flood.