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Lalo Castro, 1975 - 2004

Lalo Castro passed away unexpectedly last Wednesday, November 24, 2004. He was 28 years old.

What can you do when confronted by the inconceivable? What can you say to make sense of the unbelievable? We have lost someone very special; in Myrna's words, "someone so bright and beautiful". Nothing we can do or say will make the pain and confusion any better.

Lalo Castro worked for the University Library for a mere two and half years, a remarkably short time as we realize how much he affected so many of us. Talking with you all over the past several days, the first thing everyone mentions is Lalo's sweetness. Everyone has favorite stories about Lalo, heartwarming and funny, reflecting the genuine lovely spirit of the man.

In that spirit, here are a few tidbits Annie culled from his personnel file:

Did anyone know that Lalo had been Chairman of the Poetry Dept. for the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, starting when he was 18 years old? Also before coming to UCSC, Lalo worked for Watsonville Parks and Recreation (1995-98), Soquel Elementary School District (1995-2000) and Santa Cruz County Office of Education (2000-2001). He came to work at UCSC in 2001 in order to pursue a degree in Computer Science.

In his application, Lalo included, "...Exposure to wide range of technologies and positive attitude when faced with an unknown error. Desire to continually learn. ...Effortless communication, both with machines and people, is a goal of mine."

And, my personal favorite, on his two evaluations, under Employee Comments, Lalo wrote simply, "I like my job."

(Cont.)

To say that it was a privilege and a pleasure to work with Lalo is an understatement. He was fun to be around and we were lucky to have him with us five days a week, though all too briefly.

As everyone who had the opportunity to work with Lalo knows, he was very good at his job. Beyond technical skill, he took on every task with a positive attitude. Lalo got the jobs no one else could do. I didn't like to bother him with extra work, but he was never bothered. Invariably, Lalo would come back from working on the extra task in a little while and pick up where he'd left off, the job done and another satisfied customer, as if it was nothing special.

It was something special. Lalo certainly met his goal of "Effortless communication, both with machines and people." I hope he knew just how special that was.

Lalo was unique. We will miss him terribly.

--Lee Jaffe

Appointment

Kristen Sanders has accepted the Special Collections Assistant position (LA III) and began working there yesterday, December 1st. Kristen obtained a BA in Literature from UCSC and an MLIS and MA in History from Simmons College. While at UCSC, Kristen worked as a student assistant in Special Collections, Acquisitions and Serials. While at Simmons, she continued to work long distance for UCSC as a Document Transcriber for the Hihn-Younger Archive. She also worked for the New England Historic Genealogical Society, first as an Intern, Manuscripts Department, and then as a Reference Assistant, Microtext.

--Annie Kearney

More good news from development

UCSC alumna Karoline Delaney, Crown 1987, has established a library subject endowment, the Karoline A. Delaney Chemistry Endowment to honor her UCSC education and chemistry professors, such as Eugene Switkes and Pradip Mascharak.

Friends of the UCSC Library board member Nick Bilardello and his wife Linda Valdés have designated a planned gift to the library to provide support for the collection.

--Liz Sandoval

Positions Here

All positions are open until filled.

- Collection Planning Assistant (Lib. Asst. III); full-time, permanent. Collection Planning. Amended IRD 11/12/04.
- Lib. Asst. IV; part-time (75%), permanent. Maps (S&E Library). IRD 11/3/04.

Reminder! Dickens Holiday Evening

Friday, December 3, 2004



4:30-6:00 p.m.
McHenry Library Foyer

Join the Friends of the UCSC Library and The Dickens Project for our annual festive evening of music, holiday treats, and fun raffle prizes. The ever-popular Robert Fenwick will entertain us with Victorian music and song, move us with his reading from *A Christmas Carol*, and delight us as he leads the traditional sing-along caroling. A wonderful family holiday event right here at your own library.

--Liz Sandoval

UCSC Fire Department Toy Drive

Please consider bringing a toy or book for the annual UCSC Fire Department Toy Drive. Gifts should be unwrapped, and if you bring a toy that requires batteries, please remember to tape them to the package.

There are two ways to contribute:

1. Bring your gift to the McHenry staff room during the Holiday party on Thursday December 9th, or
2. Drop off your gift at my desk in the Reference Office any day before the party.

The UCSC Fire Department will be picking up the toys Friday morning, December 10th, so any contributions need to be at my desk by that time.

Thank you for helping make this a great holiday for less fortunate children in Santa Cruz County.

--Lucia Orlando

The Broadside is a weekly newsletter. Deadline for submitting items is 12:00 noon on Wednesdays. Copy should be sent to the Library Office or via e-mail to: nancyt@ucsc.edu. Hard copy should be signed; emailed articles will be credited to the person submitting the article, unless otherwise indicated.