



## College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Art  
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Date: May 8, 2019

To: Tina Byford, Interim Vice President, NMSU Foundation  
Chair, NMSU Naming Committee

Through: Dr. Enrico Pontelli, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

From: Professor Julia Barello, Academic Department Head, Art

RE: Proposed naming of Devasthali Hall, Room 130

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Barello', with a horizontal line above it.

The Department of Art proposes to name room 130 in the new Devasthali Hall after one of our most supportive suppliers, Rio Grande Jewelry Supply. We propose to name this room the "Rio Grande Jewelry and Metalsmithing Studio".

Founded in 1944 by Saul Bell, Rio Grande began as a wholesale supplier to the jewelers in and around Albuquerque and, as time went by, to jewelers throughout New Mexico, the southwest and eventually the world. Rio Grande, started by one man with a huge dedication to his art, is proud to manufacture and export, serving jewelry makers around the world.

Saul delighted in sharing the old-world skills he had learned as a youth in his uncle's goldsmith shop and honed over years of bench experience. His passion for sharing knowledge and supporting jewelers remains a cultural norm at Rio Grande today. The Rio Grande team, led for decades by Hugh, Eddie, Alan and Molly Bell, four of Saul and Olive Bell's children, includes many active bench jewelers who provide technical support to jewelers. Today, two of Saul's nine children, Alan Bell (President) and Molly Bell (Executive Vice President), continue to lead the Rio Grande team, relying on core principles of integrity, respect for all and a genuine passion to support metal artists everywhere. The leadership team and 400-plus associates collaborate in a highly evolved approach to participative management. Today the Rio Grande vision remains much as it was when Saul founded the company, with customer service, support and satisfaction the basis for all business conduct. It permeates every space of our 180,000-square-foot, solar-powered facility and inspires every associate.

Rio Grande has taken a strong interest in the education of our majors and has provided support to the art department for over 25 years. In addition to past support in the form of sponsorship at conferences, workshop waivers, discounted tools and materials and student tours of their manufacturing facility; they have recently provided in-kind gifts of equipment exceeding the \$25,000 required for the naming of this space. In combination with their long-term support of student education and excellence at NMSU we would like to recognize their commitment to NMSU through this naming.