It’s snowing **AGAIN**! I know we don’t have nearly as much snow as those living on the East Coast, but for Eastern New Mexico, we’ve had more snow this year already than in many, many years. Yes, I know we need the moisture, so for that I am very thankful. I’d personally rather have a nice slow rain, but.. Oh, well. It’ll be Spring soon.

We’ve had a very busy month starting to work on the Auction (which I’ll talk about later) and three wonderful tapings with a new crew of students for the semester. I know I say the same thing every semester, but I seem to always have the best crew. I’m just very fortunate.

On February 5th, I had the pleasure of meeting and interviewing a mother/daughter team from Espanola, NM. Both are very talented, and I enjoyed working with them. **Monica Duran** is an artist/designer/model and the founder of **Monista Arts & Designs**. She talked about how her multiple life-threatening illnesses have influenced the artwork, jewelry and handmade purses she designs. You’ll be inspired when you hear her story. Then her beautiful daughter, **Destini Duran** talked about her emergence into the world of fashion design. Her company is Destinista Fashion, and she and Monica both modeled two of her original designs, and we showed two additional garments. Destini loves to use prints and out of the ordinary fabric designs. Her motto is “**Where fabrics come to life!”** and she creates every design to bring life to the woman wearing it. Destini has accomplished so much in her lifetime, and she definitely has a bright future ahead. (See her picture on the next page, along with her mother.)
On February 19th, I taped three segments with an artist and designer from Albuquerque, NM. When people ask me where I find all my guests, I have to say, some of the best ones come as a reference from someone else I know. In this case, Jon Birdsong, a wonderful watercolor artist who lives in Portales, told me about Dana Pomroy. He even brought me pictures of her work and suggested I try to schedule her. It took awhile to connect, but I’m so thankful that we finally got a taping date scheduled. Dana was such a delight to work with, and she is amazingly talented.

She makes “almost life-sized” whimsical paper mache animals. Now, these aren’t just your regular animals. They definitely have character. She showed how she makes the base - she doesn’t use wire - how she mixes the paper mache paste, and then how she covers the base and finishes each piece with acrylic paint. She even left us one (the rabbit in the middle) that will be sold during our online Auction at KENW the end of April. It’s in the Crafty Crafts category if you go to our Auction website: auction.kenw.org

Erica Plank taped with me on February 24th, and we just couldn’t break up her topic into multiple segments, so we taped a 15 minute interview on using a 9” seam pressing template to make “Cathedral Window” blocks for quilts, pillows, wall hangings and more. If you’re a quilter, you know how important it is to get all corners and points exact. You can easily do this by using the template Erica has designed. Although she lives in Puyallup, WA, she is traveling across the US promoting her template to quilting groups, retail quilt businesses, and anyone else who is interested. Her business is called Unseen Hands.

As I mentioned earlier, we’re already starting to work on our 40th Annual KENW Online & On-Air Auction which raises money to pay for programming on this PBS station. Last year I was so excited when several subscribers to this newsletter contacted me about donating some things they make. Nothing sells better than “handmade” items. So, if any of you have something on hand that you would be willing to let
us promote and sell on the Auction, please email me at:  sheryl.borden@enmu.edu. I’d like to encourage you to check out the Auction and see what all we have listed so far - and it’s only a start. The auction website is:  auction.kenw.org

I’m working with a new company call Philantopia, and if you’re thinking about a trip anytime during the year, check out our Vacations category. They have made available the following destinations:  San Francisco, Savannah, GA, New Orleans, Crested Butte, Aspen and Telluride, CO. Other packages are for Cabo San Lucas, Santa Fe, NM, Denver, Scottsdale, Napa Valley, Palm Springs and Chicago. Some of the packages even include airfare.

Of course, we also have additional vacation packages. In fact, there are vacations for every pocketbook, to great places throughout the United States, and for whatever interests you.

Remember, if you buy a vacation package, or anything else we’re selling on our Auction, you are helping KENW purchase and broadcast quality programs for all of our viewers. The online auction will be April 20th through the 30th. We’ll also feature three nights of “live,” call-in bidding on Tuesday, April 21st, Thursday, April 23rd and Saturday night, April 25th.

We have lots of interesting guests scheduled to tape during March and part of April, and I’ll be telling you about them next month.

I hope you’ll check out our Auction website, and if you want to donate or know of someone I can contact about donating, please email me. Thanks.

ITEM: 130  2 nights for 2 at Fairmont Chicago, daily breakfast, and passes to Wrigley Field for the game. This package is valued at $1900.

ITEM: 131  Two nights at The Welch House Inn, a 19th century Maine B & B overlooking BoothBay Harbor in mid-coast Maine. This vacation package is valued at $450.