Hale Family: The next generation continues their support of K-State Libraries

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Larson: Hale Family. The next generation continues their support of K-State Libraries

THE
HALE
Family

THE NEXT GENERATION CONTINUES THEIR SUPPORT OF K-STATE LIBRARIES

BY MARISA LARSON
Nearly three decades ago, Joyce and H.D. “Joe” Hale of Shawnee Mission, Kansas, helped transform the Kansas State University campus by giving the lead gift to build Hale Library.

That investment brought a much-needed addition to Farrell Library, building space for essential resources and learning spaces for students. The Hale family is investing in K-State again by contributing to the upcoming Hale Library first floor renovation.

When Alan Hale learned about the library renovation and the need for funding, he took the idea of supporting the project to his siblings, John Hale, Dana Nelson, Karen Young, Lisa Hale and Mollie Carter.

“Our family has deep roots in Kansas and a long connection with K-State,” Alan said. “We believe strongly in education, so efforts like the library renovation speak to the values we hold. We’re proud of our family’s association with the library and K-State’s academic achievements. Supporting the library renovation seemed like a natural thing for us to do.”

Despite the May 22, 2018 fire that affected this beloved and historic campus landmark, the first floor renovation will continue — and will likely now expand in scope. In fact, the creative thinking and innovation that inspired the first floor renovation will now fuel the recovery and expedited renovation of the other floors of the building.

“We recognize that our world is changing and academics are changing,” Mollie said. “The way people learn and even the competencies that universities are teaching; all of it is changing, so it seems really important for the infrastructure to keep up with that. The library is a convening spot and clearly, with this project, the university recognizes this and developed a forward-looking plan to address it.”

Prior to the fire, the Libraries were on the cusp of a privately funded $5.8 million first floor renovation. Now that the need is even greater, philanthropy will play an integral part in helping reimagine the Hale Library of the 21st century.

The recovery process will start on the first floor. We hope to open the doors to the new space—including an inviting new café area named in honor of the Hale family—in Fall 2019.

Kansas natives Joyce Vanier Hale and the late H.D. “Joe” Hale were lifelong proponents of education. Joe, a WWII veteran, served as president, and later, chairman of ADM Milling Company. He was a recognized leader in the flour and grain milling industry. Joyce was an employee of Cedar Creek Ranch. Their six children proudly continue the couple’s legacy of philanthropy.

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