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A New Beginning: Hale Library renovations take shape

Kansas State University Libraries

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A New Beginning

A BLANK CANVAS.

LOFTY ASPIRATIONS. AN INSPIRED VISION.

BY SARAH MCGREER HOYT
The Dave and Ellie Everitt Learning Commons will be filled with collaborative seating arrangements and technology-equipped, reservable study rooms, a top request from K-State students.
How many times in our lives do we have a blank canvas?

Here: Start over. Dream big. Create something new, something better.

The first four floors of Hale Library are empty. The damage from the May 22 fire has been torn out, scraped away, scrubbed off.

Without carpet, furnishings, technology, books and—most importantly—people, the spaces feel cavernous and cold.

Now, it’s time. We have been given a fresh start, and we’re creating a new Hale Library.

It will welcome K-Staters at the center of campus. Whether they’re looking for a reprieve from the bustle of college life, a serene spot to check out from their academic demands or a place to plug in and grind out a research assignment, they will come to Hale Library.

It will be an oasis in between classes and an on-campus sanctuary late at night. It will offer research support that engenders new ideas and interiors that inspire.

If students need a comfortable table for two or a private study room for ten, they will turn to Hale Library’s enhanced collaborative environments. If they need to escape, our quiet floors will provide a retreat for uninterrupted focus. No matter what their work, the new building will allow K-Staters to achieve their goals in improved ways.

Hale Library’s movable white boards were always in demand—which also meant they had to be replaced frequently. In the renovated building, white board surfaces punctuated by exposed limestone from the 1955 expansion will stretch across entire walls, offering plenty of room for collaboration.
An Innovation Lab on Hale’s first and second floors will be the creative nexus of the new library. Users will generate virtual reality experiences through 360-degree video or 3-D animation. They will create artificial intelligence, edit audio and video and learn to use state-of-the-art technology that is not readily available elsewhere on campus.

Spaces for collaboration will be scattered throughout the building, including generous amounts of comfortable seating and improved lighting.

Our renovation of Hale Library will honor the building’s history while augmenting it with technology and new innovations.

And it will continue to be an on-campus refuge for all students: No matter who you are—regardless of your nationality, religion, income, race, gender or what you’re studying at K-State—you will be welcome in Hale Library. When K-State students come back to the new, improved library, they will be coming home.
Old meets new in a renovated first floor space named for the Hale Family. It will feature a warm, welcoming café with historic wood details salvaged from the Great Room. Visitors will be able to choose from a variety of seating, including comfortable lounge chairs situated around a large two-sided fireplace, a feature frequently requested by students.

“We have been working for nine months to reach this stage, and now the renovation begins in earnest,” Dean Lori Goetsch said. “We know how important the building is to our students. For them, we can’t complete this project soon enough.”

The Libraries have completed the disaster recovery work and partnered with architects from PGAV to create our aspirational plans for the building. We haven’t been working in a vacuum, though. Last fall a survey went out to the entire K-State community to ask them what they want in the new Hale Library. Many students said, “I love Hale! Don’t change it too much!”

We’re confident that the new Hale will be everything that the old building was—and so much more.

“In some ways we were lucky,” Goetsch said. “We’d already been dreaming about changes to the building in the run-up to the creation of the Dave and Ellie Everitt Learning Commons that was supposed to start last summer, so we had plenty of ideas for ways we could improve Hale Library. Now we have an opportunity to create a first floor that surpasses our original vision and to expand that vision through the rest of the building.”

Construction on the multiphase project has begun, and parts of the first floor are scheduled to open fall 2019.

However, as we embark on this journey, we face the reality of what insurance will cover versus what we aspire to create. Insurance will cover the cost of like-for-like replacements. It will not cover some of the new amenities and improvements that would truly define a next-generation library.

Philanthropic contributions will be the key in creating the library that our students deserve and that everyone in our K-State community can be proud of.
Previously, noise complaints were one of the top issues reported to the help desk. Although third floor was the dedicated quiet floor, it was difficult to enforce because of the way sound traveled through the building. The Hale Library renovation will address the problem and rezone the noise levels: The Dave and Ellie Everitt Learning Commons on the first floor will be the most active and bustling; fourth floor will be the quietest.
Our plans for the new Hale Library have been informed by thousands of students, faculty and community members.

- Last fall the Libraries launched a survey that drew nearly 2,300 respondents, including 1,445 undergraduates, and garnered more than 400 comments.
- A group of librarians conducted focus groups to follow up with survey respondents in person.
- Architects from PGAV held an open forum on December 4 to share existing plans and get feedback from the K-State community.

“It’s been a huge priority to gather as much feedback as we can, even though we’re working with a very short timeline,” Dean Lori Goetsch said. “We’ve worked to engage the K-State community at every turn.”

How have their voices influenced plans for the new Hale Library? Several improvements have been described already; here are a few more:

- Information Technology Help and Library Help Desks were previously housed in different second floor locations. After the renovation, those services will be located side-by-side so that visitors can access both types of assistance in the same place.

- Since the building has to be completely rewired, we’ll increase the number of electrical outlets exponentially—a direct response to student demand.

- A centrally located elevator and restrooms will make the building more user-friendly.

- Heating and cooling improvements will eliminate temperature fluctuations and make the entire building more comfortable, regardless of exterior weather conditions.

- An improved quiet space for graduate students will give them additional space on campus where they can maintain intense focus for prolonged periods.

Before the fire, Historic Farrell Library’s first and second floors housed collections and office cubicles. Once they’re renovated, more K-Staters will be able to appreciate their gorgeous natural light and architectural details: These spaces will be converted into public gathering spots featuring high-use materials like juvenile literature.

WE HEAR YOU:
K-STATE VOICES SHAPE HALE LIBRARY’S FUTURE
We’re creating a variety of environments so all students find their ideal study spot. For example, some expressed that they like a more traditional library setting where they can work surrounded by books.

HALE LIBRARY FIRST FLOOR: THE DAVE AND ELLIE EVERITT LEARNING COMMONS

1. Juvenile Literature/Curriculum Materials Reading Room *
2. Innovation Lab (1st and 2nd floors) *
3. All-Gender Restrooms
4. Campus Partner Space
5. Group Study Rooms *
6. Seminar Rooms *
7. Direct Entrance to the First Floor
8. Hale Family Café Area
9. Lactation Room
10. Event & Lecture Space *

* Naming opportunities available.

The ability to close the first floor off from the rest of the building will allow us to keep the space open 24 hours a day.
FUNDING THE NEW HALE LIBRARY

Q Where does the insurance process stand?

A I never realized how complicated it would be to negotiate an insurance settlement of this magnitude. Hale Library is so large, and it was packed with furniture and technology. The insurance adjustors and all of the various parties have been working for months to estimate the costs. We’re still not finished!

They aren’t just looking at the value of our physical building; they have to consider its contents. There are more than 8,000 unique line items on our inventory of what was inside the library at the time of the fire. We have to agree on a replacement cost for every single item. We will continue going back-and-forth until the building has been constructed and we agree on the costs to restore the building and the lost inventory.

Q Will insurance ultimately cover everything?

A Insurance has covered the costs for cleanup and will pay what it would cost to put the building back the way it was before the fire and replace the damaged inventory. However, since the building will be under construction, we are taking this opportunity to enhance the design of the building and add features that we know our students want. Not all of these enhancements will be covered by insurance.

Q But the renovation depends (in part) on insurance money. How much will that payment be?

A The insurance process will be ongoing for the duration of construction, or about two years. We won’t know the final amount until the renovation is almost complete. The building will come back up in phases, and the insurance funds will be allocated as the costs are incurred.

So, what role will philanthropy play in the renovation?

A Philanthropy plays a very important role in this renovation. We anticipate a funding gap between how much insurance pays to restore the building to the way it was and how much it will cost to open a new and improved Hale Library.

We’ve heard loud and clear from students how difficult it has been not to have Hale Library this past year, so we are moving forward with the renovation as quickly as possible.

We want nothing more than to incorporate all of the amazing new features, and the generosity of alumni and friends will help make that happen.
On the third floor, a renovated space suitable for rotating exhibits will welcome visitors into the Great Room. Improved study rooms for graduate students will be located on either side of the gallery.

HELP FOR HALE

TOGETHER WE CAN CREATE THE HALE LIBRARY THE K-STATE COMMUNITY DESERVES, BUT TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.

Only through donor support will we be able to create study rooms for students, incorporate classroom space and secure advanced technology. In short, donor support will make an ordinary library experience extraordinary.

For more information about the project and naming opportunities, contact

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To give online, visit give.evertrue.com/ksu/help-for-hale

HALE LIBRARY RENOVATION TIMELINE

FALL 2019  
Portions of first floor complete

SPRING 2020  
Second and fifth floor complete

FALL 2020  
Third and fourth floors complete

LATE 2020/EARLY 2021  
Historic Farrell Library, all floors complete