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Home Sweet Hale: K-State Libraries open the Dave and Ellie Everitt Learning Commons

Kansas State University Libraries

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HOME sweet HALE



BY SARAH MCGREER HOYT

K-STATE LIBRARIES OPEN THE DAVE AND ELLIE EVERITT LEARNING COMMONS

Home: It's where you live, flourish, relax and spend time with your people. That's how our long-time K-State students remember Hale Library.

During the 15 months that Hale Library was closed for renovation, students struggled to find what Hale had provided them. A safe haven where they could focus on their studies. A space they could relax and gather their thoughts. And a place for community where they didn't feel alone.

But on August 28, that all returned when we opened the Dave and Ellie Everitt Learning Commons on Hale's first floor. Since then, students have flocked to the new space. Some called Hale Library home before the fire, while others are making it their home for the first time.

On a bright day in early September, Lou Barger, a senior in philosophy and communication studies, and Ashley MacDonald, a junior in anthropology and philosophy, had their heads together over a laptop. Both hope to go to law

Barger (left) and Ashley MacDonald are just two of the K-Staters who say they felt Hale Library's absence.



On August 28, the doors to Hale Library opened for the first time in 15 months. The new entrance opens directly onto Hale's first floor.

During the 2018-19 academic year, they had to make adjustments in the absence of their campus home base.

"Honestly, for me it was kind of a nightmare because I live in a sorority, and it's always very loud," MacDonald said. "I need a quiet study place. And the Union was never quiet, and Leadership Studies was never quiet, and my house was never quiet. I did fine in school, but it's because I usually stayed up till 3 or 4 in the morning so I'd have some peace and quiet to study."

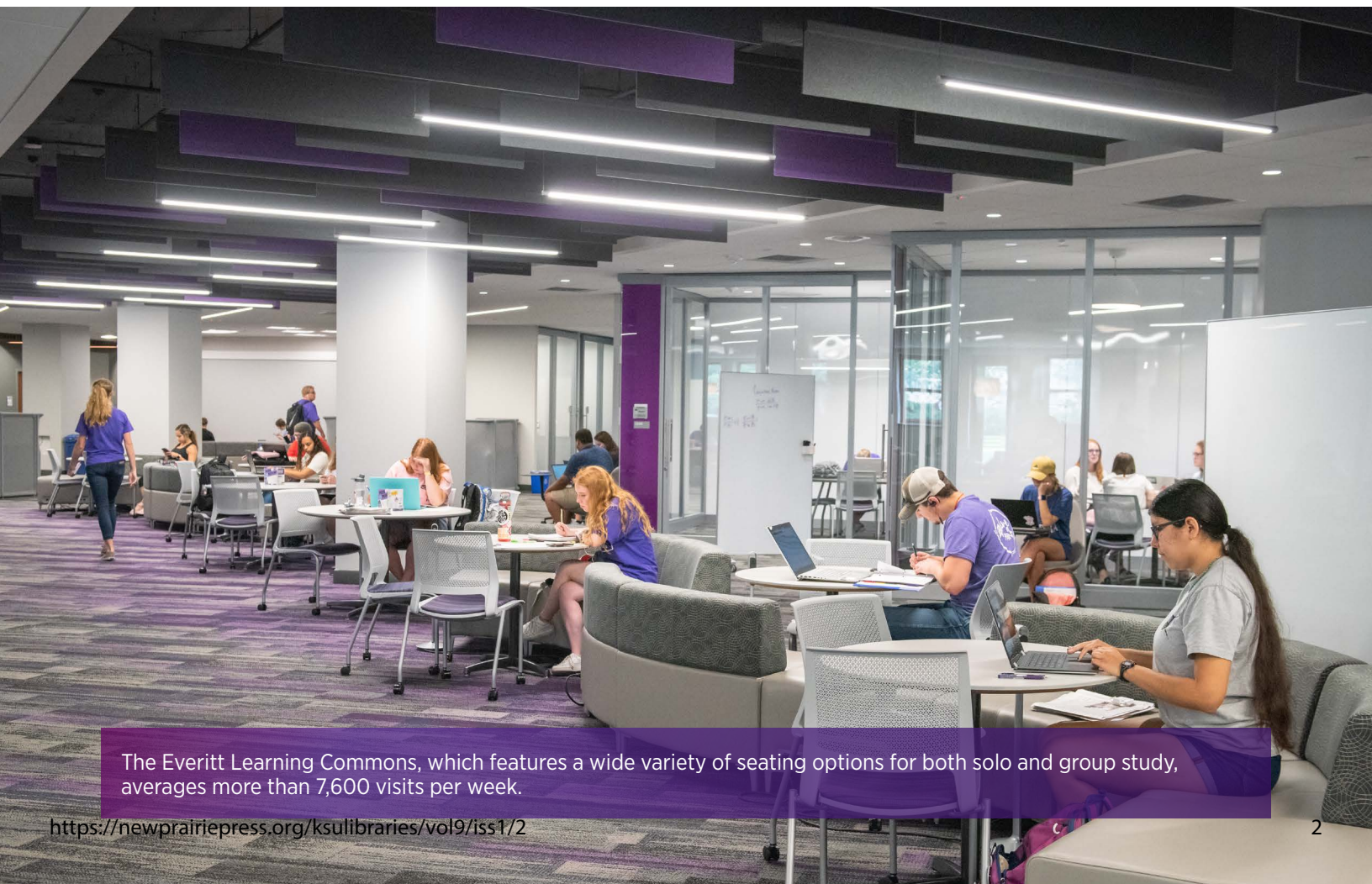
Naturally, they are relieved to have Hale Library in their lives again, and they love its new look.

"It's very modern, but still homey," Barger said. "It communicates a sense of togetherness, but if you want to be alone there are places to be alone, too. ... This semester is going so much smoother already. It's gotten rid of some of my stress having a good place to study."

school in the near future. They were Hale Library regulars in their earliest years at K-State, and they felt its loss.

"It broke my heart," MacDonald said. "Before the fire, I was on campus at 7:30 every morning and didn't leave until at least 10:30 at night. So between classes I was here."

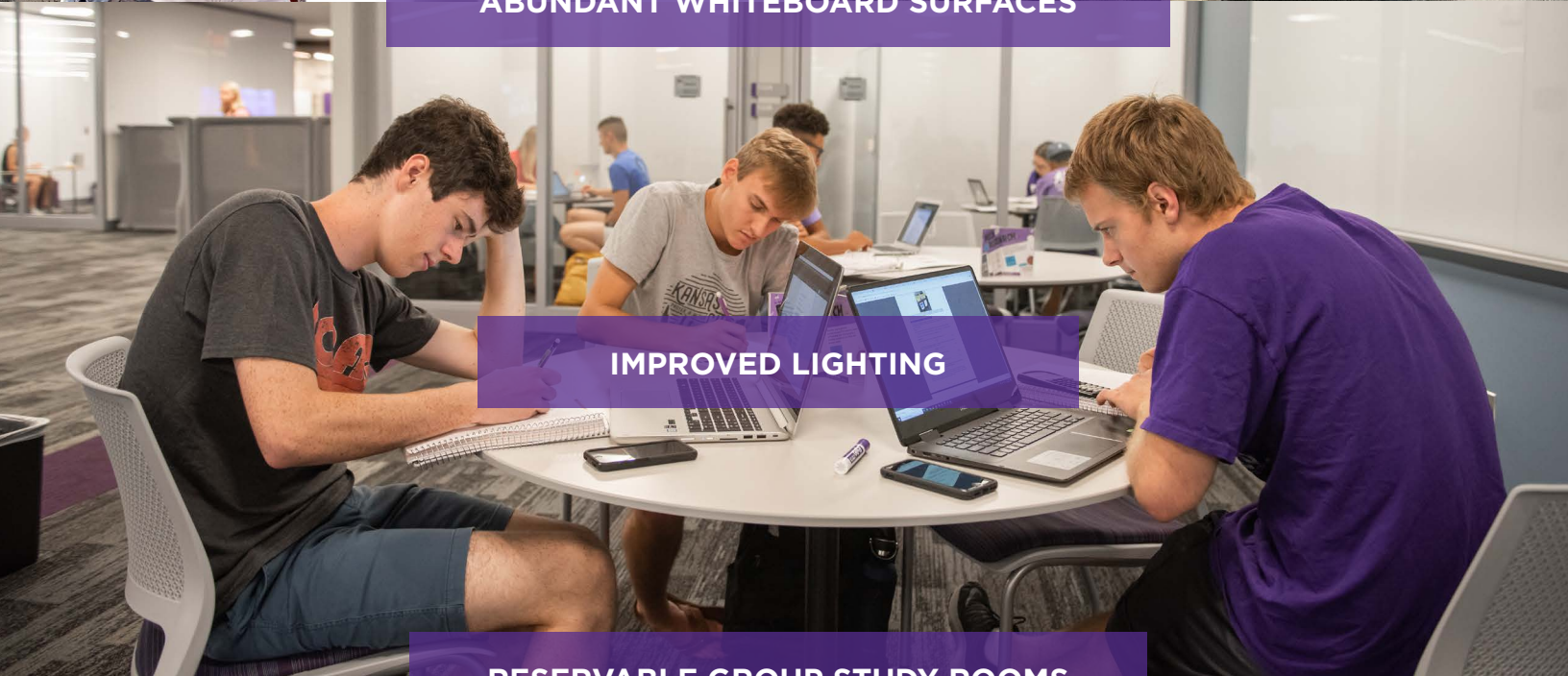
Barger agreed: "I'd get here a lot of times before classes, and then ... if I had a break between classes I'd come and study, and it was a little haven. I could get stuff done, but I could also interact with friends because there's always, always somebody you know at Hale."



The Everitt Learning Commons, which features a wide variety of seating options for both solo and group study, averages more than 7,600 visits per week.



COLLABORATIVE SEATING

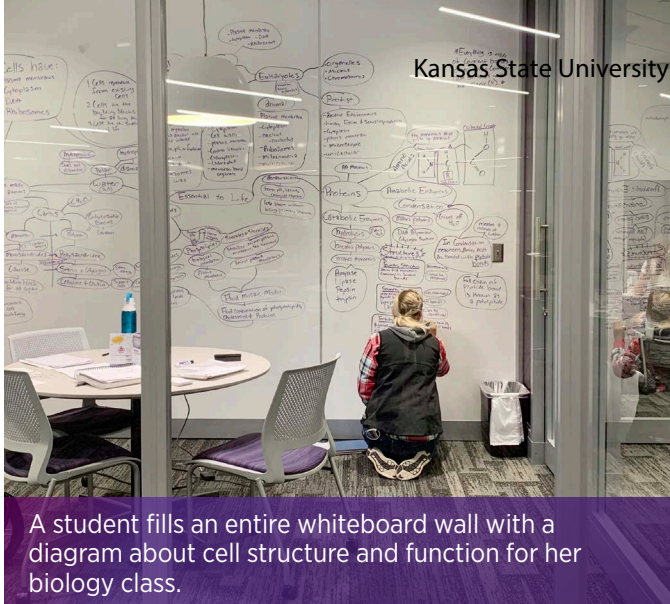


IMPROVED LIGHTING

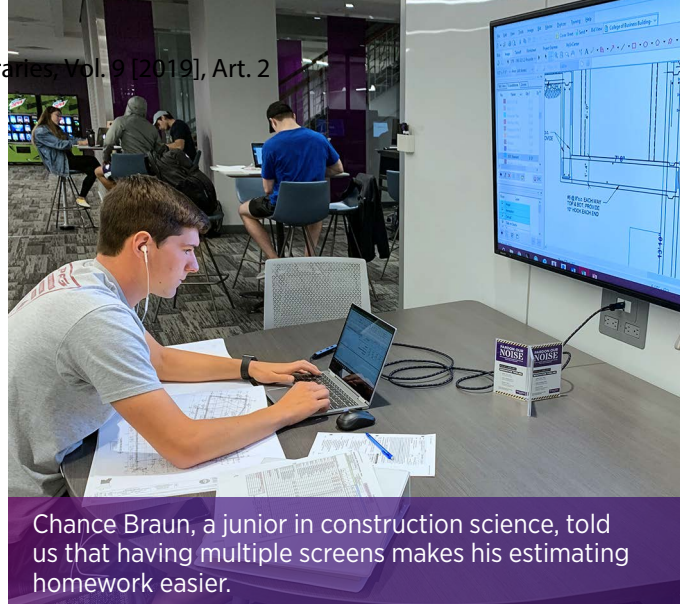
RESERVABLE GROUP STUDY ROOMS



TECHNOLOGY-EQUIPPED SPACES



A student fills an entire whiteboard wall with a diagram about cell structure and function for her biology class.



Chance Braun, a junior in construction science, told us that having multiple screens makes his estimating homework easier.

They aren't the only students with a ringing endorsement.

Emanuel Serrano, senior in athletic training, and Timothy Kohls, senior in life sciences, are both in the pre-physician assistant track. They were in Hale Library working on organic chemistry assignments, and they agreed that it's a place where they find community but can focus, too.

"It's the quietness and the technology and the accessibility to everything," Kohls said. "I think a lot of students were excited to come back. I'm seeing more of my classmates here, like tenfold."

Serrano said he thinks the group study rooms are an addition that has made the space even more desirable.

"Having these rooms sectioned off is a lot easier to have people join us so we can study together," he said. "When we go other places, it's more open and prone to distraction, but here there are spaces closed off where you can come as a group."

Zach Barrie, sophomore in biology, is excited about the whiteboard walls.

"If I study with my friends for an exam or I do some chemistry homework, I have a lot of room just to write out the whole problem," he said. "It's better than having a little piece of paper, you know?"

And Mary El-Aasar, freshman in life sciences, loves that the new Hale Library has ample outlets, something that students have been requesting for years.

"I really like the way it's laid out and how the furniture can be moved around," she said. "My laptop has the worst battery life ever, so I don't have to sit next to an outlet; the outlet comes to me."

By all accounts, students are loving the new Hale Library. The layout of the Everitt Learning Commons, the group study rooms and the amenities like whiteboards: They all add up to make a wonderful Home Sweet Hale.

"I REALLY LIKE THE WAY IT'S LAID OUT AND HOW THE FURNITURE CAN BE MOVED AROUND. MY LAPTOP HAS THE WORST BATTERY LIFE EVER, SO I DON'T HAVE TO SIT NEXT TO AN OUTLET; THE OUTLET COMES TO ME."

— MARY EL-AASAR, FRESHMAN

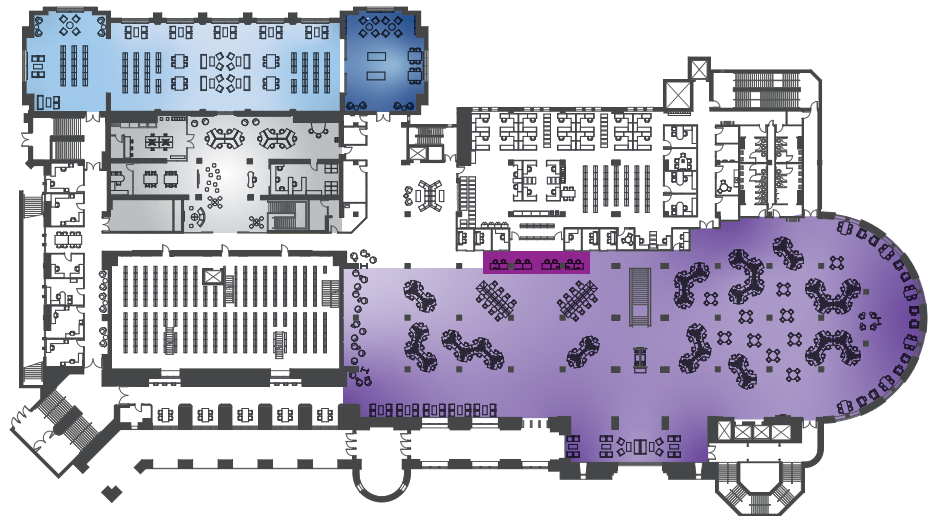


WHAT'S NEXT

Opening the first floor was a huge leap forward, but there's a lot left to accomplish. We plan to open the second floor in the spring 2020 semester. The remainder of the library is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2020.

Prior to the fire, the second floor was home to the InfoCommons, which featured more than 80 computers plus multiple copiers and scanners. It will all be coming back better than ever, since the majority of that equipment had to be replaced.

The technology is just one component of the InfoCommons, though. The space will also feature a combined help desk where both Libraries and Information Technology Assistance Center staff will be co-located. Visitors will be able to



INFOCOMMONS WITH NEARLY 100 COMPUTERS

LIBRARY AND IT HELP DESK

READING ROOM*

SUNDERLAND FOUNDATION INNOVATION LAB*

DOW CENTER FOR MULTICULTURAL & COMMUNITY STUDIES*

**(open late 2020)*

stop in one spot for a very wide range of research and technology needs.

"We're eager to bring key library and technology assistance back to Hale Library from their temporary

locations in the K-State Student Union," Dean Lori Goetsch said. "The new building is wonderful. But Hale won't be its best self again until our people move back home."

HOW YOU CAN HELP

HALE LIBRARY is one of the most utilized spaces on campus, and it serves the entire K-State community. Insurance is covering replacement costs—but not the improvements that will make an ordinary library experience extraordinary.

There is still time to shape Hale Library's future.

To learn about naming opportunities, contact CHRIS SPOONER,

Associate Vice President of Development Programs
KSU Foundation | 785-775-2130
chris@ksufoundation.org

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



New reading rooms on the first and second floors

of Historic Farrell Library will provide inspired study spaces.



Improved infrastructure, including stronger wi-fi

and more electrical outlets, will transform Hale Library into a hub of student productivity.



Improved graduate study rooms will facilitate

prolonged periods of research and reflection.



A restored Great Room will return to its full glory.