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Five story glory: Hale Library's renovation nears completion

Kansas State University Libraries

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five story glory

HALE LIBRARY'S RENOVATION NEARS COMPLETION

Thirty-six months after an accidental fire devastated Hale Library and the K-State community, the five story, well-loved campus behemoth has risen from the ashes.

An enormous amount of effort, labor, skill and patience went into not only renovating the building but also making sure that the Libraries still served the community despite the challenge. In the fall of 2019, the Dave and Ellie Everitt Learning Commons on the first floor was completed. While it was an exciting step forward, progress was challenged the following spring by the pandemic. But construction forged ahead, and this spring, floors one through four of the building officially opened with the fifth floor scheduled to follow shortly after.

"It has been a joy and an honor to work with multiple groups to bring Hale Library back to its full potential," Dean of Libraries Lori Goetsch said. "It's been a long and challenging journey, but seeing the community's overwhelming positive response and having their support has made this moment well worth it."

TIME TO EXPLORE

In addition to familiar, renovated spaces, visitors and K-Staters have a variety of new spaces to explore.

The Everitt Learning Commons provides a multitude of study spaces including several collaboration rooms, large lecture rooms, individual study nooks and lots of soft seating.

The building was also planned out so that as visitors go further up in the building, each floor gets quieter and quieter for those who prefer quiet to study.

The second floor serves as the new hub for both the Library and IT help desks. Prior to the fire, these help desks were not located in the same space, which could be confusing for students. Having an easily found co-location for both desks makes it easier for patrons to get help.

While construction is complete on most of the building, the Sunderland Foundation Innovation Lab, which comprises part of both the first and second floors, remains closed to the public while equipment installation continues. The Innovation Lab will open in phases later this spring and fall.

By implementing the latest technologies and designing spaces to be both beautiful and functional, the Libraries hope that Hale Library will serve as a successful example of a modern, top-tier academic library.

"We truly have a next-generation library on K-State's campus that will help to position our students, instructors and researchers for success," said Richard Myers, president of Kansas State University. "With access to cutting edge technologies, collaborative spaces and staff with a vast amount of expertise, our community is now even more empowered to challenge and prepare themselves for a future filled with opportunities."

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—RICHARD MYERS,
PRESIDENT OF KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Joyce and Joe's Cornerstone Café, located on the first floor, provides a space for students to study or have a coffee by the fireplace.

The second floor has 99 computers for patron use.



The popular collaboration rooms include large monitors and HDMI hookups for laptops. The space also has multiple charging ports for electronics and white boards for students to use.

DAVE MATEY PHOTOGRAPHY



Staff at the Library and IT help desks on the second floor are available to help answer questions, check out materials and guide K-Staters to the resources they need.

MAKING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION A PRIORITY

An important goal of the renovation was to create a more inclusive environment and make sure that the new Hale Library meets the needs of our diverse community. Efforts to meet this goal are reflected throughout the library, including the addition of a Wudu foot wash station, family and gender-neutral restrooms, a lactation room for the public and a relocated meditation room.

The foot wash station, located on the third floor, came about in part thanks to input from Muhammad Khan. Khan, a K-State Libraries Student Ambassador at the time who has since graduated, began talks with K-State leadership about the need for Muslim-friendly washrooms. He brought up the idea to Dean Lori Goetsch in one of their monthly ambassador meetings after having success getting a wash station included in the new Morris Family Multicultural Student Center on campus.

“Dean Lori was equally excited to make this idea a reality and suggested we should incorporate the plan into the renovations taking place in Hale, close to the meditation alcove,” said Khan. “I strongly believe that this little change will greatly impact the on-campus experience for both Muslims and other minorities who call K-State their home. It creates a more inclusive environment, giving the message that the differences you bring to K-State are cherished not only in composition but also action.”

A PLACE TO STUDY AND TEACH

The third floor includes graduate study rooms. Amy Plattner, a graduate teaching assistant in the department of English, said she is excited to have this dedicated space.



K-State graduate Muhammad Khan stands in front of the new meditation room on the third floor. Khan played a large role in bringing a Wudu foot wash station to Hale Library.

“I am most excited about the stacks being back and the graduate student study spaces,” said Plattner. “I love spending time amongst the books, and I missed that so much. The graduate study spaces are beautiful and spacious. I can’t wait to spend time exploring.”

♦ [Turn to page 19 for a collections update.](#)

The third floor, which also houses many shelves filled with the beautiful music and art collections, creates a more traditional

library ambiance for students who want to study in a quiet space. In addition, Libraries faculty can make use of the Friends of K-State Libraries Instruction Room. The 60-person room will include desktop computers and allow Libraries faculty to teach research skills to a larger amount of K-State students.

“Today, many research materials and tools for discovering physical sources are online, so library instruction



Academic services librarian Carol Sevin stands in front of the new Friends of the K-State Libraries Instruction Room. The room will provide Libraries faculty a space to teach research skills to students.

requires a computer lab,” said academic services librarian Carol Sevin. “Having desktop computers creates an equitable learning environment and ensures that all students have what they need to access library resources.”

The fourth floor, as the quiet floor, provides study space for those who prefer quiet to concentrate. There are plenty of study nooks as well as more open study areas among the rows of bookshelves. The floor also features the Academic Learning Center, a space for student athletes to receive tutoring support or study between classes. The Libraries have partnered with K-State Athletics for 19 years to provide such a space. The Center saw some of the worst damage but the renovation efforts allowed for a better layout and organization of the space.

The Richard L. D. and Marjorie J. Morse Department of Special Collections, on the fifth floor, includes an improved reading room layout and the addition of the Kenneth S. Davis Seminar Room. The Davis Seminar Room will provide Special Collections faculty and staff a space to teach using their materials. Before the renovation, this type of instruction could only be conducted in the reading room where other researchers were located.

Students have wasted no time exploring the new spaces to find their favorite study spots.



The Special Collections reading room on the fifth floor offers a new seminar room for instruction.

“Hale Library is so important because of the countless resources it provides to students that can be so, so vital to student success,” said Jarrod Kuckelman, a senior in political science. “Whether it’s a great study spot, the amount of research tools, technology or a librarian who can help answer a question, Hale always has what students need.”

Musah Muntari, a graduate student in animal sciences, said he is looking forward to using the graduate study rooms, a dedicated space for graduate students to work.

