WELCOME HOME
Students return to Hale Library
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 school. They say the new space has eased their stress.

“THIS SEMESTER IS GOING SO MUCH SMOOTHER ALREADY. IT’S GOTTEN RID OF SOME OF MY STRESS HAVING A GOOD PLACE TO STUDY.”

— LOU BARGER, SENIOR

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

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.”

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.
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.

“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 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

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

Enhance Hale Library with Inspired Study Spaces

New reading rooms on the first and second floors of Historic Farrell Library will provide inspired study spaces.

Improved Infrastructure

Stronger wi-fi and more electrical outlets will transform Hale Library into a hub of student productivity.

Improved Graduate Study Rooms

Improved graduate study rooms will facilitate prolonged periods of research and reflection.

A restored Great Room will return to its full glory.

To learn about naming opportunities, contact CHRISSPOONER, Associate Vice President of Development Programs

KSU Foundation | 785-775-2130 chriss@ksufoundation.org

HALLE 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.

“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
The Sunderland Foundation, Leawood, Kansas, has invested $2.5 million in the new innovation lab included in Hale Library’s renovation.

The lab will be located on the first and second floors of Hale Library and will open later in 2020. With the development of the Sunderland Foundation Innovation Lab, students, faculty and library patrons will have access to new technologies such as digital media production, virtual reality, artificial intelligence, immersive digital environments and other emerging innovations. This advances the capacity of K-State Libraries to meet the needs of 21st-century students as they prepare to launch into all areas of society such as industry, education, research and community.

“We’re profoundly grateful for the Sunderland Foundation’s support of a next-generation Hale Library,” said Dean of Libraries Lori Goetsch. “Their generosity will provide our students with cutting-edge technology in a creative, high-tech environment. I know we will be blown away by what K-State students can create when they have access to such amazing resources.”

Recognized among Kansas City’s most powerful business leaders in 2018 by Ingram’s 250, the Sunderland Foundation continues its longtime investment in the spaces that support stronger, safer and more vibrant communities such as Kansas State University.

“Our family foundation is committed to strengthening higher education, and what better way than to invest in K-State Libraries’ innovation lab where countless students will research and build next-generation technologies?” said Kent Sunderland, president of the Sunderland Foundation. “We see this lab as a cutting-edge learning environment that will benefit communities and industry in the region and beyond the Midwest.”

“The Sunderland Foundation has recognized the importance of investing in the innovative technology available to students,” added Debra Holcomb, director of the K-State Alumni Office. “This gift will create access to new technologies for students, faculty and library patrons.”

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— Kent Sunderland, Sunderland Foundation President

BY ALLIE LOUSCH

SUNDERLAND FOUNDATION INVESTS IN K-STATE LIBRARIES’ INNOVATION LAB

lib.k-state.edu
Workshop series gives graduate students a solid foundation for a successful academic experience

BY SARAH MCGREEER HOYT

Graduate students arriving on campus face a conundrum: They are expected to know how to conduct graduate-level research. However, not all of those new graduate students have mastered the unique vocabulary and resources that graduate-level research requires.

In spring 2014, Taylor Wadian, then-president of the K-State Graduate Student Council, decided to address the issue head-on. As the son of a librarian, he understood the importance of libraries and knew what an asset they could be for graduate students across all disciplines.

Wadian approached Adriana Gonzalez, head of academic services, to ask if the librarians would be willing to offer workshops to equip grad students with the tools they’d need for scholarly success.

The resulting series, “The Library & Your Research,” just embarked on its sixth year.

Initially offered only during the fall semester, the workshops became so successful they are now offered both in the fall and the spring. The mainstays in the series cover skillsets like how to complete a literature review. Offerings have evolved, though, to include more thorny and complex topics such as copyright and data management.

In all, the workshops have had more than 800 attendees since the series began.

“I wish all grad students would take these workshops as early as possible in their academic careers,” Gonzalez said. “The classes help create the solid foundation they’ll need in their future as scholars.”

Laura Bonella, academic services librarian, has taught the literature review workshop since the series’ inception.

“It teaches students how to engage with scholarly resources that are specific to their discipline by using advanced search techniques,” Bonella said. “They are encouraged to think about how their research and writing will fit into the context of, and contribute to, the scholarly dialogue in their field.”

Doris Wright Carroll, associate professor in special education, counseling and student affairs, promotes the series to her graduate students to elevate their research abilities and confidence.

“They are fantastic because they provide research information in a timely way that is rejuvenating for all who participate,” Carroll said. “These workshops are reaffirming and say to my students, ‘You can do this research and be successful.’”

The workshop series has become a part of the culture of grad life at K-State, as reflected by the solid partner effort from the Graduate School.

“They give us first dibs at getting the workshop series on the calendar every semester so as many of their students can attend it as possible, and they promote it widely,” Gonzalez said. “It’s been a very rewarding initiative.”

“And beyond the specific topics covered in any given workshop, we’re accomplishing a larger goal,” she added. “Librarians work with these academic issues day in and day out. The most important thing the workshop series really does is to connect students with librarians.”

“The series teaches grad students how to navigate the scholarly world in ways that they don’t necessarily get in the classroom.”

— LAURA BONELLA, ACADEMIC SERVICES LIBRARIAN

Alissa Turner, master’s student in academic advising, said, “I’ve never done a literature review and wanted to learn. The workshop was excellent! Definitely worth my time and effort.”

Changmin (Casey) Liao, master’s student in architectural engineering and construction science, took the workshop in preparation for a project: “I really appreciated this workshop. Fifty percent of my research paper will be a literature review, so it’s very helpful to me.”
When people think of the rolling prairies of Kansas, they rarely consider the viability of competitive rowing in the same location. Yet, the story of rowing at Kansas State University shows how these seemingly disconnected elements can combine.

Rowing has been an NCAA sport at K-State since 1996. K-State students, though, have been rowing boats for pleasure or competition for over a century. Examples include YMCA conferences in Wisconsin as early as 1904, juniors versus seniors on the Kansas River in 1908, numerous social outings on nearby rivers and creeks during the early 20th century, and the K-State chapter of Alpha Phi Omega annually challenging the University of Kansas chapter to canoe races starting in the 1950s. The roots of K-State’s rowing program began as three items converged. In 1962, Tuttle Creek Dam became operational and created a large body of water near campus. That same year, Don Rose started as night manager at the K-State Student Union. He previously was coxswain on the rowing crew at the University of Wisconsin and coached at Columbia University and Princeton University. Finally, students started a water sports club in 1963. Rose was the group’s advisor, and he heavily influenced the growth of rowing as a sport at the university and in the state for the next 40 years.

By the end of 1963, the club had received second-hand racing oars from colleges in Florida and Ohio. Group members also traveled to Purdue University to retrieve a donated 1932 racing shell. Their main challenge was figuring out how to transport the 61-foot craft over 600 miles to Manhattan. They purchased a used school bus, and the crew’s first captain, John Wundrock, outfitted it with framing to hold the shell, which was at least 10 feet longer than the bus. After dealing with engine problems and other obstacles, they placed the boat in the Student Union basement to get it operational.

Knowing that one nickname they gave it was “Sieve” should give an idea of the challenges they faced in the few years they used that shell.

These humble beginnings led to competitions with crews at other institutions, including their first in Minnesota against St. Thomas College and the University of Minnesota in April 1964. Aggieville merchants even supplied the crew with purple and white uniforms for the inaugural competition, which K-State won. Since then, Kansas State University Crew has existed for more than 50 years as a student organization and club sport that welcomes interested students to participate in local and regional regattas.

The first women’s crew, which included Marcia Almond, Jo Ann Davis, B.J. McCrae, Jane Withee, and Pam Orioff, competed in August 1974. They competed as a club sport until a petition elevated it to become an NCAA sport, which also helped K-State comply with Title IX requirements. The first official NCAA competition for K-State Rowing happened in October 1996, and the first time they won a race was March 1997. Over the years, they have participated in 212 competitions, nearly all featuring multiple races. In 122 of them, they have finished first in at least one race.

In this unlikely location, both men’s and women’s rowing teams have shown that even landlocked locations can support successful competitors.
A team led by Adriana Gonzalez, K-State Libraries’ head of academic services, has been selected as the inaugural winner of the Gail Schlachter Memorial Research Grant. This award offers financial support to an individual or collaborative group conducting research into reference or user services.

Gonzalez’s research team members include Jason Coleman, head of library user services; Ryan Otto, scholarly communication librarian; and Joelle Pitts, head of academic affairs. Their work sits at the intersection between reference content development. Their work sits at the intersection between reference content development.

The group intends to use collections cuts at K-State Libraries as an opportunity to explore effective communication between librarians and faculty. They will examine discussions that occur — or in some cases, don’t occur — about the ongoing need to cancel resources. During the most recent round of cuts, a survey to the faculty about titles under consideration for cancellation during our most recent round of cuts drew more than 2,240 comments from 435 researchers on approximately 500 of the 924 titles.

“Librarians with content development responsibilities want to gather all of the feedback at their disposal when it comes to potential cancellations,” Gonzalez said. “While we were pleased with the overall response to the survey this spring, there were 13 departments from which we didn’t receive any responses. We want to know more about why they did not weigh in and what we can do to encourage them to join in these vital discussions.”

The group plans a survey, focus groups and interviews with faculty. The Gail Schlachter Memorial Research Grant was established in memory of Gail A. Schlachter by her children Andy Hersh and Eric Goldman. Schlachter worked for nearly five decades in the library and information fields as a reference librarian, library administrator, educator, author, reviewer and publisher.

THE SERIALS CRISIS

K-State Libraries currently spend about $5 million each year on subscriptions to electronic databases and journals. However, publishers continue to increase their prices by exorbitant amounts. With average annual inflation rates of six percent, prices have become unsustainable. As a result, libraries around the world have been forced to cancel subscriptions for several years. Gonzalez’s team will make important strides toward creating effective communication practices between librarians and faculty members so everyone remains informed as difficult decisions are made.

THE 2019 KIRMSER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

The Kirmsers Awards, which are made possible through a gift from the Philip and Jeanne Kirmsers estate, recognize and promote outstanding undergraduate scholarship. Applications are evaluated in part on use of library resources. Each grand prize winner receives $1,000, and their work is deposited in the online K-State Research Exchange.

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THE MORSE SCHOLARSHIP

The $3,000 Marjorie J. & Richard L. Morse Family and Community Public Policy Scholarship is awarded to an undergraduate project that encourages the development of public policy for improving the quality of family and community life. The 2019 winner, Alec Hathaway, spent two years working on a project that encourages the development of public policy for improving the quality of family and community life.