Forsyth Library Commemoration program

Fort Hays State University

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Forsyth Library Commemoration
Forsyth Library Commemoration
Saturday, October 6, 2001 • 9 a.m.

Welcome
Kent Steward, Director of University Relations, FHSU

Remarks
President Edward H. Hammond, FHSU

Comments on the 75th Anniversary of Forsyth Library as a Federal Depository
Jerry Moran, U.S. Representative, First District

Francis Buckley, Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office

John Ross, Director of Forsyth Library, FHSU

Dedication of Presidential Collection
John Ross

Edward H. Hammond

Jerry Tomanek, FHSU President Emeritus

Dedication of Roemer Lobby
John Ross

Richard and Florence Roemer, FHSU alumni

Closing
Kent Steward

Forsyth Library as a Federal Depository
This year marks the 75th anniversary of Forsyth Library as a federal depository. On November 16, 1926, the Office of the Superintendent of Documents designated the library as such. The original letter of designation stated that the federal government would work with the depository library so that United States Government "publications when forwarded shall be made available for the free use of the general public; and that they remain the property of the United States."

Since the beginning of the depository program at Forsyth Library, the Government Documents collection has grown to encompass more than 700,000 items, including maps, microfiche, DVDs, compact discs, books and periodicals. The collection houses items dating from the 1700s to the present day. In addition, the Government Documents staff maintains an online presence that provides 60 percent of government information through the Internet. While the first documents librarian was hired in 1938, Lawrence "Mac" Reed has held this position since 1975.
Presidential Collection

The newly created Presidential Collection at Forsyth Library houses books that provide a unique insight into the leadership and vision that define the university. Designated by Dr. Edward Hammond, past university presidents or their descendents, the Presidential Collection consists of the ten favorite books held in the personal collections of the presidents. Each book is available for open circulation among library patrons and contains a bookplate that illustrates special status within the entire Forsyth Library collection.

Roemer Lobby

Charles Richard “Rich” Roemer and Florence Dietz were married December 20, 1947, in Hays. Rich earned a B.S. in agriculture and Florence a B.S. in home economics, both in May 1948. As undergraduates, they were very active in campus life. Rich participated in varsity football and tennis, was a member of Phi Sigma Epsilon fraternity and several other student groups and still managed to work part-time. Florence held membership in such organizations as Theta Sigma Upsilon sorority, German Club, Home Ec Club and International Relations Club, and she was employed part-time at the library.

After their marriage, the Roemers made their home near Gove, Kansas, where they began a farming and ranching operation. Both remained active in the community, serving on various boards and taking part in many activities. They had three children, Janet and twins Douglas and Tima. Following in their parents’ footsteps, the Roemer children all attended Fort Hays State University.

Through the years, Rich and Florence have been strong supporters of FHSU. Rich continues to serve as a trustee for the Endowment Association, while Florence was a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. They were inducted into the Half-Century Club in 1998 and have been active participants ever since. To recognize Rich’s service to the university, the Alumni Association bestowed upon him the 2000 Nita M. Landrum Award.

Rich and Florence have been generous toward FHSU not only with their time, but also with their money. For many years, they have contributed to various departments and projects. Last fall, it was announced that the Roemers had made a combined cash and estate gift of $500,000 to the Centennial Campaign. Of this, the $100,000 cash gift established endowed scholarships for residents of Gove and Trego counties. The remaining estate gift was designated for more endowed scholarships and unrestricted funds for Forsyth Library.

We thank the Roemers for their long-time association with and support of Fort Hays State University and, in particular, Forsyth Library, by naming the front lobby in their honor.