The Library of the Future, Florida's Largest, Celebrates a Truly Grand Opening

The opening of the new Library, Research, and Information Technology Center was a day of pomp and circumstance and grand celebrations befitting Florida's largest library.

"It is thrilling to see our vision become reality, and in an even grander form than we ever imagined," said NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr. "This incredible new library will impact the lives of thousands of people in and around the university and the community."

Special guests and speakers included Florida Secretary of Education Jim Home; Lori Nance Parrish, chair, Broward County Board of County Commissioners; Robert A. Steele, chair, NSU Board of Trustees; NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr.; George L. Hanbury II, NSU executive vice president; Eugenie Suter, chair, Broward County Library Advisory Board; Donald E. Riggs, NSU vice president for information services and university librarian; Sam Morrison, Broward County Library director; and Janet Craft, vice president/general manager, BellSouth Business—Florida.

Daylong events included library tours, special performances and exhibits, technology demonstrations, games, and more.

Construction dust settled, confetti swept, balloons and hullaboo gone, the library's long road to completion is done. The building hums with the top academic libraries, not only in size but as a trendsetter in leading-edge communications technology. Yet the grandest achievement of all is the unique partnership between this private university and the public.

NSU's Library, Research, and Information Technology Center is proud to emerge among the nation's leading academic libraries, not only in size but as a trendsetter in leading-edge communications technology.

Yet the grandest achievement of all is the unique partnership between this private university and the public.

Hundreds of South Florida families, leading educational and community leaders, elected officials, and NSU faculty members and students enjoyed the historic ribbon-cutting ceremony and festivities for all ages on December 8, 2001.

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The lobby offered an Academic Showcase, with representatives from NSU's academic departments available to answer questions and talk about their programs with visitors. At the second floor reference desk, guests had fun playing the ever-popular game, "Stump the Librarian," testing the librarians' research skills.

After the ribbon-cutting, visitors lined up for library cards, toured the library, and were impressed with the fabulous design and state-of-the-art equipment. NSU's cutting-edge technological capabilities were demonstrated in the classrooms and computer labs. NSU library staffers welcomed visitors with a smile.

In the first floor Youth Services area, President Ray Ferrero, Jr., gave an inaugural book reading for children, sharing the stage with Florida Secretary of Education Jim Horne.

The Rose and Alfred Miniaci Performing Arts Center featured groups of students from the NSU University School, grades K through 12, performing throughout the day. The concert band, jazz band, dance troupe, and choral singers gave lively performances.

Charles Messing, Ph.D., of the Oceanographic Center, displays an artifact at the Academic Showcase.
Hundreds joined in the singing of America the Beautiful, led by Colin Jones, student, Farquhar Center for Undergraduate Studies, with the University School Singers, Sunsations, and Concert Band.

Jana Katz, eighth grade soloist, performed with the University School Middle School Choir. Pre-ceremony entertainment also featured the University School Upper School Concert Band, David Walker, director; University School Singers, Thomas Gress, director; and the University School Sunsations, Debi Gill, director.

A Technology Showcase was presented in the library’s classrooms and computer labs, featuring activities such as Web-based Tools/Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences; “The Dynamic Spine”/Teaching Tool for Osteopathic Diagnosis; Interactive Internet Learning/Law for Nonlawyers in the Health Care Industry; Using EPA Superfund Sites/Environmental Science; Supporting Learners at a Distance; Instant Messaging Services; Virtual World Classrooms of Tomorrow; eLabs/Computer Science; Multimedia Case Studies; and more.

The official program began with a presentation of colors, of particular significance after September 11, with the United States Southern Command Joint Armed Forces Color Guard, led by Alaric Burn, military affairs officer.

Candice Carveno, NSU Student Government Association president, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Youngsters were entertained by singer Darrell House; Tootsie the Clown; Lucia Gonzalez, bilingual storyteller; the clown duo of Betty Spaghetti and Meatball; face painting by Abbie Willingham; and Critter Talk, a visit with animals presented by Endangered Species.
Many supporters and community leaders celebrated the library’s historic growth and expansion.


Silvia Flores, M.D., Circle of Friends Founding Friend and board member.

Circle of Friends Life Members Larry and Sally Robbins, board member.

Jerome Chernak, Ed.D., headmaster, University School and Circle of Friends member; and Ronnie Silverman Bianco, major library donor.

Circle of Friends members, Ken Tate, chair, University School Headmasters Advisory Board, and his wife Sandy.

Barry Silverman, M.D., and Judy Silverman.

NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr., his wife Raquel, and son Raymond III, with NSU Chairman of the Board Robert A. Steele, as the president accepts a rendering of the university’s new Ray Ferrero, Jr. Boulevard, named in his honor.
and opening on December 8, 2001.

Calendar

SPRING SPECIAL EVENTS

March 21 – June 21, 2002—The library plays host to a unique Malaysian photography exhibit. Call for viewing hours: (954) 262-4601.

May 22, 2002—Circle of Friends holds its Third Annual Meeting. Call for information: (954) 262-4627.
With 325,000 square feet, NSU's five-story Library, Research, and Information Technology Center will house 1.4 million volumes at capacity. Taking advantage of today's and future technologies, the library is a conduit to resources around the world through wired and wireless modes of communication. The library stacks use electric compact shelving; common areas feature numerous data ports and computer connections; and 1,000 seats have Internet access. Parking is available at the adjacent 1,525-space parking garage.

Broward County Commissioner John E. Rodstrom, Jr., said, "This new facility will further advance our library system's mission to provide materials and services for residents seeking knowledge, lifelong learning, and recreation."

"This is a research and high-tech library like none other," said Don Riggs, NSU vice president for information services and university librarian. "The library of tomorrow has arrived and everyone at NSU and in the county will benefit."

Library patrons and campus visitors alike are enthralled with the sculpture, "Withstanding Presence," one of Beverly Pepper's Magma Series works that explores the idea of presence.
Art Sculpture Portrays Timelessness; Graces Library Atrium

What is the most fitting gift for Florida's newest, largest library? The Circle of Friends chose an 11-foot abstract sculpture by renowned American artist Beverly Pepper carved from a rare Jurassic Age stone from Chauvigny, France. The light-colored material, estimated to be 160 million years old, replicates man's fossilized beginnings, starkly contrasting with the 21st century technology of the new library.

Pepper created the work in Sache, France, at the Atelier Calder, after receiving the Alexander Calder Prize in 2000. Trained as a painter, Pepper has been creating mesmerizing abstract sculptures in stainless steel, ductile iron, forged steel, bronze, granite, and other stones for more than 40 years.

After a trip to Angkor Wat in the late 1950s, Pepper was so impressed with the exotic sculpture and stone reliefs that she returned to her home in Italy committed to becoming a sculptor. Pepper mastered the craft of welding, producing welded works, as well as pieces modeled from scratch and then cast from molten substances. She has worked in hard metallic surfaces, baked enamel planes, and patina-brushed bronze. More recently, she has been exploring the qualities of stone, particularly those with evidence of wood, shell, or fossil, shaping the sculptures so they retain a natural affinity with their origins and remind us of ours.

Pepper's work can be viewed in public spaces throughout the United States and Europe, including:

- Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York
- Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.
- Power Institute of Fine Art, Sydney, Australia
- Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France
- Fattoria Celle, Pistoia, Italy

Sculptor Beverly Pepper (left) and Gail Kaplan, Circle of Friends president.
You're invited to join the NSU Library Circle of Friends, a group of individuals committed to advancing—and enjoying—the intellectual life of Broward County.

When you join the Circle of Friends...
You will be associated with individuals, families, corporations, and others who share a vision of furthering the intellectual and cultural goals of NSU and the community-at-large. The Circle of Friends is committed to

- promoting awareness of the Library, Research, and Information Technology Center
- funding special exhibits, programs, and collections
- supporting and cooperating with the library to develop services for the public and academic community
- providing opportunities for networking, communication, and intellectual development among Circle of Friends members

Benefits of membership
Every year, the Circle of Friends will sponsor diverse programs—lectures, exhibit openings, and symposia.

All members receive a subscription to Tidings, the library's newsletter. In addition, members receive recognition in annual reports and invitations to Friends-only events.

Patrons and Sustaining Members are invited to VIP Friends events. Sustaining Members are also awarded a bookplate in the library's circulating collection. In addition to all above benefits, Special Friends, Corporate Members, and Life Members receive special borrowing privileges, priority seating for events, and an invitation to a private reception with NSU President Ray Ferrero, Jr.
☐ YES. I accept your invitation for membership in the Circle of Friends for Nova Southeastern University Library, Research, and Information Technology Center in the category checked below.

**Membership Levels**
- $5,000 – Life Member
- $2,500 – Corporate Member
- $1,000 – Special Friend
- $500 – Sustaining Member
- $250 – Patron
- $100 – Family
- $50 – Individual/
  NSU Student

Name ____________________________

Company ____________________________

Address ____________________________

City/State/ZIP ____________________________

Phone (work) ____________________________

Phone (home) ____________________________

Fax (work) ____________________________

Fax (home) ____________________________

Email ____________________________

NSU Alumni: School __________ Year ______

☐ My company sponsors a matching gift program. Enclosed is the form.

☐ I wish to include the NSU Library, Research, and Information Technology Center in my will or trust. Please send additional information.

Payment type (Please check one.)
- Check—Make payable to Nova Southeastern University.
- Credit Card—Please fill in below.
  ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Credit card number ____________________________

Expiration _____ / _____ / _____

Signature ____________________________

Please send check and application form to:
Nova Southeastern University
Department of Library Development
3301 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7796
Institutional and Community Pride

Imagine more than 6,000 people entering the new Library, Research, and Information Technology Center during its grand opening/dedication on December 8, 2001. This figure does not include the hundreds of people who visited the joint-use facility between October 8 (the “soft opening”) and the grand opening. Just saying that Nova Southeastern University and Broward County are proud of the joint-use library would certainly be an understatement. It is obvious that Broward County residents and the NSU family are very proud of the new 325,000-square-foot facility.

Unquestionably, the building is well designed, architecturally pleasing, functional to the point that it can be described as intensely human, energized, and elegant. The five-story structure honors tradition and encourages change. It was designed with a capacity to grow (e.g. 1.4 million volumes), transform, reinvent itself, and significantly improve as a library, information commons, and cultural center for NSU and Broward County. We want to provide the necessary traditional library services while concurrently becoming one of the nation’s most technologically sophisticated libraries of its size and type in the world.

The new joint-use library has been mentioned in several national publications; and it is scheduled to appear on the front cover of an international journal. Librarians from other institutions (e.g., University of Florida) are visiting us to gain more information about aspects they want to include in their new libraries. Our “pride and joy” is the result of much work and support by many. Special thanks to all.

Donald E. Riggs
Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian

NSU Library, Research, and Information Technology Center
3301 College Avenue • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7796
Tel: (954) 262-4601 (Circulation)
Tel: (954) 262-4627 (Development Office)
Fax: (954) 262-4006 (Development Office)
Web site: www.nova.edu/library

Mon–Thurs: 8:30 a.m.–11:00 p.m.  Saturday: 8:30 a.m.–7:00 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m.  Sunday: noon–9:00 p.m.