



LOOK UP

A new mural finds a home at Hale Library

BY CAILIN RILEY

A new mural titled “2 Americas” now adorns the ceiling of the Dow Center for Multicultural and Community Studies in Hale Library. The mural is a modern-day response to the “We Are the Dream” mural, which was painted in 1980 by various multicultural student groups in the original location of the Dow Center on the fourth floor of Hale Library. “2 Americas” is a collection of work from photographers Luke Townsend and Doug Barrett, owner of 400 North Creative, which amplifies Manhattan area voices and those enrolled at Kansas State University during the protests of civil unrest in 2020.

“Dr. Martin Luther King used the phrase, ‘the other America,’ to portray what many other social classes experience,” said Barrett. “Art with purposeful meaning is the backbone of this piece. The emotion in our imagery over the lives lost through unrest is what helped the ‘2 Americas’ piece come together.”

It took just two days to assemble the mural on the Dow Center ceiling—an impressive feat, considering they needed to use scaffolding to do so, and the mural included more than eight panels, each 13 feet wide.



In addition, the Dow Center’s endowment supports cultural programming on campus and in the community that is compatible with the Dow Center’s mission. “It’s important that we are able to have conversations as a society about difficult topics, and libraries are a prime space for community events like these,” said Melia Fritch, co-coordinator of the Dow Center. “The space provides a chance to share your own truth and learn about others’ experiences as well. That’s what the Dow Center is all about.”

“As artists, it’s important that the work we create, especially around topics of injustice, be used in a way to create actualized change,” added Townsend. “Through combining art with action, our mural can help turn pain into progress by bringing people together to hold meaningful dialogue and create deeper community relationships centered around a visual foundation.”

The project was funded by Linda A. Duke, Mary Vanier and K-State Innovation Partners. The mural helps position the Dow Center as a place to advance a meaningful understanding of multiculturalism and diversity in order to create mutual awareness and respect.

“We are so grateful to both the artists and the donors who were able to envision the impact this artwork would have on the Dow Center’s mission and future programming initiatives,” said Joe Mocnik, dean of K-State Libraries.

The Dow Center has partnered with communication studies students and faculty, as well as others across campus, to host monthly conversations, called Perspectives, on various topics.

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ABOVE & BEYOND

K-State Libraries honored several employees at its annual recognition ceremony in 2022.

ALL AWARDS ARE FUNDED BY THE FRIENDS OF THE K-STATE LIBRARIES.



BRICE G. HOBROCK
DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

Veronica Denison, university archivist, received the Brice G. Hobrock Distinguished Faculty Award. The award recognizes outstanding librarianship and superior accomplishments among the K-State Libraries faculty. As university archivist, Denison has worked diligently to strengthen relationships across campus.



LORI GOETSCH
PROFESSIONAL STAFF AWARD

Tara Marintzer, senior graphic designer, received the Lori Goetsch Professional Staff Award. The award recognizes a non-tenure-track professional’s contributions to K-State Libraries. Last fall, Marintzer helped launch a new and improved Libraries’ website and worked hard to create wayfinding for Hale Library.



SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR AWARD

Jessica Sellers, maintenance and repair technician I, received the Support Staff of the Year award. The award recognizes a support staff employee’s special contribution. One nominator said of Sellers, “Her flexibility in changing workspaces and assisting other library staff was inspiring.”

THE MORSE SCHOLARSHIP

The \$3,000 Richard L.D. and Marjorie J. 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 2022 winner was junior Nick Saia, majoring in civil engineering.



NICK SAIA

THE KIRMSER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AWARD

The Kirmser Awards, which are made possible through a gift from the Phillip and Jeune Kirmser 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 uploaded to the K-State Research Exchange. Group research category: Tamara Brinkley, senior in fashion studies, Berryton; Claudia Filinger, senior in fashion studies, Cottonwood Falls, and Kaylee Bynum, senior in fashion studies, Derby, completed their

project, “The Human Understanding of Garments: An Exploratory Study on Technology Inspired Clothing Design for Young Adults with Anxiety.” Individual non-freshman category: Ceci Schmitz, senior in electrical engineering, Topeka, completed “Integrating Sensory

Feedback into a Neural Bypass Device.” Individual freshman category: Grace Schieferecke, freshman in medical microbiology, Eudora, completed “Friend or Foe: The Importance of Identifying Bacteria With Biochemical Tests.”



TAMARA BRINKLEY



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