



Marginalia

friends of merrill-cazier library

“the world is in these walls”



The numbers are impressive: 304,000 total square feet with 189,000 square feet of new construction; 2,200 available seats; 30 study rooms; 190 computer terminals; 24 wireless hubs; 240,00 feet of telecommunication cable; 1,360 telecommunication jacks and 13,000 yards of concrete. Those are the numbers. Facts. Figures. Statistics.

Much more was celebrated and recognized April 14 as the campus - students, faculty, administrators, staff and community members - came together to celebrate and dedicate the Merrill-Cazier Library at Utah State University. Members of the Milton R. Merrill family were on hand including Merrill’s sons, Richard and Steven, as were Stanford O. Cazier and his son, David, and members of his extended family.

A highlight of the dedication was the keynote speech by guest Richard Rodriguez who was introduced by USU’s Executive Vice President and Provost Raymond Coward. Additional speakers included Linda L. Wolcott, Vice Provost for Libraries and Instructional Support, Utah State University President Stan L. Albrecht, former ASUSU student body President Quinn Millet.

Since opening in September 2005, the Merrill-Cazier Library has seen a 15 percent increase in use over the former facility.

Among the library’s many advances and new technology is the automated storage and retrieval system. Its numbers, facts and figures are also impressive. It has a 1.5 million volume capacity; 4,939 shelving units; three automated cranes with room for one more that travel 5.5 feet per second horizontally and two feet per second vertically. The average retrieval time is five minutes. Known as The BARN, the facility is 60 feet wide, 120 feet long and 85 feet high.

The technology is important, but everyone agreed, so is “place,” and the Merrill-Cazier Library is an important place. It will serve for generations to come.

As noted by many, including President Albrecht, the highlight of the day was the keynote address by Rodriguez, who is known as one of America’s most important essayists and master of the personal essay. He writes about the intersection of his personal life with some of the great vexing issues of America. His keynote address mirrored his writing style. He spoke of his youth, his family, his friends, of learning and libraries, of society and life. [See page 7 for highlights.]



Photos courtesy USU Public Relations & Marketing.

“I tell those of you who are young and new to this building, use it,” Rodriguez said. “Become a traveler here. The world is in these walls. Generations are held in these walls. There is something alive here. There is something continuous. As you leave [you will notice that] somebody had the presence of mind to rescue from the heap, the cornerstone from the old library in the 1930s. The past is here. The past is here to school you into the future.”

— Patrick Williams
USU Public Relations & Marketing

MERRILL-CAZIER LIBRARY DEDICATED



The following is adapted from the dedication remarks given by Linda L. Wolcott, Vice Provost for Libraries.

Three years ago, I spoke at the ground-breaking about the importance of the library as a place. Despite the trend toward electronic access, the role of the library has not diminished. In fact, I think that its role has been enhanced. Web access, multi-tasking cell phones, and Blackberries to the contrary, libraries remain central to the life of the University — especially to the intellectual and social life of its students.

Not only are libraries changing as the packaging and means of distributing information change along with the users and their needs for information, but libraries are actually re-inventing themselves. The word “library” may conjure up particular images and even some stereotypes, but the concept of libraries today and for the future is a very different one from the libraries we knew just a decade or two ago. In the re-invention process, libraries have retained the best of the past (such as the expertise of the librarians who serve the users), but they have also embraced the new.

Today, we see our library, the Merrill-Cazier Library, re-invented. The most obvious manifestation can be seen in the physical appearance of the building. This library is a quiet, perfect blend of form and function. It is, simply, great space! It is study space. . . learning space. . . thinking space. . . meeting space. . . greeting space. . . sharing space. . . solitary space. . . social space. . . eating space. . . sleeping space. . . sunny space. . . lively space. . . quiet space. . . gathering space. . . cultural space. . . multi-use space. . . re-invented space. . . my space. . . your space.

Seven concepts guided the design of the building and its many spaces. **The first concept is Integration.** A central atrium connects the former Science and Technology library with the new construction that replaces the Merrill Library. The atrium allows the two to work as one. It also serves as the crossroads of the Information Commons. Just as the atrium is the portal to the building, the Commons is the portal connecting users with information and integrating the more traditionally-perceived library services and resources with digital technology.

The second concept is Interaction. The building is designed to facilitate collaboration which is a fundamental part of learning and working in today’s environment. Spaces that invite and accommodate interaction are front and center in the building but are also found throughout. The more quiet and individual study areas are located on the upper floors and adjacent to the windows to take advantage of the natural light and great views.

Third is Flexibility. We have a range of study and gathering spaces that accommodates a variety of needs. Staff areas are also modular and flexible. The building can easily adapt to changing, future needs.

Fourth, Connectivity. The building is technology-friendly and technology-rich. It is wireless throughout. The Information Commons provides for the confluence of content and technology.

Fifth, Functionality. Spaces are designed around a purpose and the parts work well with the whole. We have a 21st century library to serve 21st century information needs.

Sixth, Aesthetic Appeal. The building is inviting and pleasing to the senses. It draws people in. It feels spacious, and with the soaring atrium and mountain views, it’s uplifting as a center of learning should be. The Library is comfortable — a living room that contributes to the quality of student life.

And lastly: Engaging. In addition to having features that make the library a welcoming place, it is also a place of engagement with users engaging with ideas . . . and engaging with one another. As academic libraries re-invent themselves, their social function emerges as an important concept. An engaging library is a destination — a place where students want to be.

Integrated, interactive, flexible, connected, functional, appealing, and engaging — the new Merrill-Cazier Library expresses both spirit and excitement for inquiry and scholarship. We have achieved our goals; in fact, I think we exceeded expectations. In doing so, we have re-invented the library, and imbued it with a great sense of place. The University has a Library that is well-prepared to serve the needs of present and future generations of students.

JOSEY BARNES wayman names the news lounge



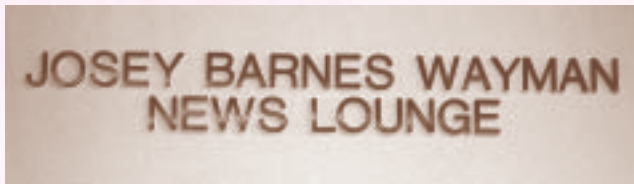
As a pioneer in television, theater and business, Josey Barnes Wayman has long been a devoted Aggie and a generous friend to her alma mater. She continues in that tradition with a recent gift of \$50,000 to fund the News Lounge in the new Merrill-Cazier Library.



Josey Barnes Wayman earned her Bachelor's Degree with a composite Speech/English major from Utah State University in 1951. While a student at USU, she was active in student affairs, performed in eleven theater productions and was crowned queen of the 1950 Junior Prom. Immediately after graduation, Josey became a pioneer in a new industry called "television" at KDYL-KTVT Channel 4, NBC, in Salt Lake City, the first television station west of the Mississippi. In a nine-year career in television, she rose from model, to hostess of a daily program, to women's program director. Before the age of thirty, she had won three consecutive Lifeline of America broadcast awards, was elected Western States Vice President of American Women in Radio and Television, hosted both the first weekly network program and colored television program in the Intermountain West, and had her biography appear in both Who's Who of American Women and Who's Who in the West.

In 1960, Josey accepted an executive position with her long-time television sponsor, Avon Products, Inc., a career which took her to Southern California, New York and Europe. In both her careers, Josey was a "first" woman, "youngest" woman, and sometimes the "only" woman in numerous positions. In 1991, forty years after her graduation, she came back to Utah State Theater and starred in the first amateur production of Elizabeth Forsythe Hailey's one-woman show, A Woman of Independent Means. On December 8, 1993, Josey was installed as a National Trustee of Boys' and Girls' Clubs of America and was again honored in 2001 with the National Service to Youth award and medal for her 26 years of devoted service to the organization.

On Founder's Day in 2006, Josey was honored with a Distinguished Alumnus Award from Utah State University in recognition of her life long support of the University, and her generous gift to the Merrill-Cazier Library. In addition to being a member of the Utah State University Advisory Council, the Support Council, and the Old Main Society, she is an Alumni Lifetime Sustaining Member and has established two scholarships for female students in Theater and Broadcast Journalism.

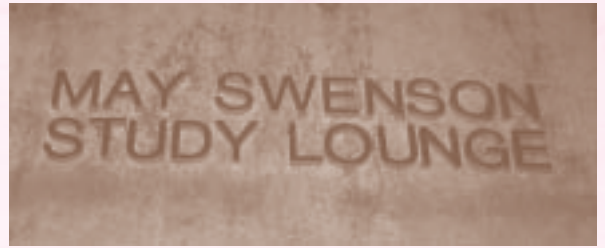


"In ... her careers, JOSEY was a "first" woman, "youngest" woman, and sometimes the "only" woman in numerous positions."



may swenson study lounge dedication

The new May Swenson Study Lounge, located on the fourth floor of Merrill-Cazier Library, was the setting for a special event honoring the poet May Swenson on the day of the official library dedication. Researchers on Swenson's writing gathered with Swenson's brothers and sisters to discuss the influence of the Mormon West on May's poetry and prose. The event, as an informal discussion, allowed the family to learn what faculty and students are doing and respond by recalling past experiences and reading poems. Utah State English professor Paul Crumbley opened the discussion by describing the exhibit of poetry and photographs installed in the southwest corner of the study lounge, focused on Swenson's relationship to the Mormon West. Graduate students Melissa Bowles and Maure Smith then described the master's theses they are completing on Swenson, and undergraduate Brian Harding showed the film he made about Swenson and the Mormon West. Margaret Woodbury, Ruth Eyre, Beth Hall, Roy Swenson and Paul Swenson then read poems and shared memories of their sister.



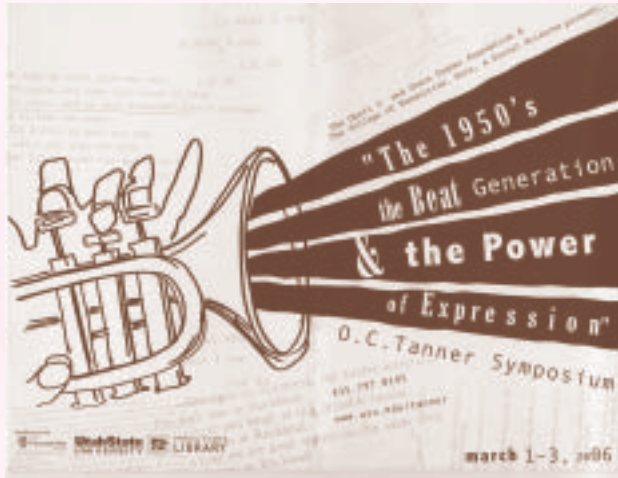
The exhibit of photographs and poems will remain in the May Swenson Study Lounge for much of the summer. Visitors are invited to view it. Composed of eleven framed poems and thirteen photographs, plus four display cases, the exhibit concentrates on Swenson's lifelong connection to the West and the way her Mormon heritage influenced her writing. Swenson, who grew up at the foot of Old Main Hill and graduated from Utah State University, spent most of her adult life in the New York vicinity where she published eleven books of poetry and won numerous national awards for her achievement as a poet. The poems and photographs trace a rough chronology of her life, beginning with her family and concluding with the poem she wrote about receiving the honorary doctorate Utah State awarded her in 1987, two years before her death. Two of the display cases contain first editions of all her books courtesy of the library's Special Collections. The remaining two cases match Navajo blankets from the Nora Eccles Harrison Art Museum with Swenson's poem "A Navajo Blanket." Paul Crumbley, Director of the May Swenson Project, created the exhibit with the support of a Faculty Fellowship awarded him by the Mountain West Center for Regional Studies.



"so much that we
care about, so much
that gets close to
our soul, so much
that holds our heart
together is held by
this shivering sheet
of paper that we
keep, that we trust
to time, because
without it we would
be lost"

— Richard Rodriguez
Merrill-Cazier Library
Dedication

tanner symposium's "the 1950's, the BEAT generation, and the power of expression."



In March the Merrill-Cazier Library was a co-sponsor of the Tanner Symposium's "The 1950's, the Beat Generation, and the Power of Expression." The symposium coincided with the Semina Culture exhibition at the Nora Eccles Art Museum. This traveling exhibit featured Wallace Berman's nine Semina publications borrowed from the Merrill-Cazier Book Arts Collection. The event also prominently featured items from the Library's Beat and Little Magazine Collection and the Book Arts Collection.

The symposium brought together Beat poets David Meltzer, Anne Waldman and Michael McClure for performances and readings. The USU Faculty Jazz Combo provided 50's style jazz for Meltzer's reading and two symposium participants surprised the audience by improvising with the group. On Friday night Provo poet Alex Caldiero performed Alan Ginsberg's poem Howl. Prior to his performance, two USU students read poems that they wrote in Caldiero's workshop the previous afternoon.

The highlight for the library was a Thursday morning breakfast sponsored by the Special Collections Division which featured an exhibition of broadsides and material from the Beat Collection. Poets Meltzer and Waldman saw items from past performances that they did not know existed. Many of the participants raved about the Merrill-Cazier Beat Collection.

After the symposium, poet Waldman and writers Sam and Ann Charters donated poems and books to the collection. Poet Alex Caldiero and Utah artist Frank McEntire donated an art piece and poem "Tzim Tzum for Burroughs" in honor of Utah Poet Laureate Ken Brewer. The piece, with poem, is on permanent exhibit in the Merrill-Cazier Art Book Room.

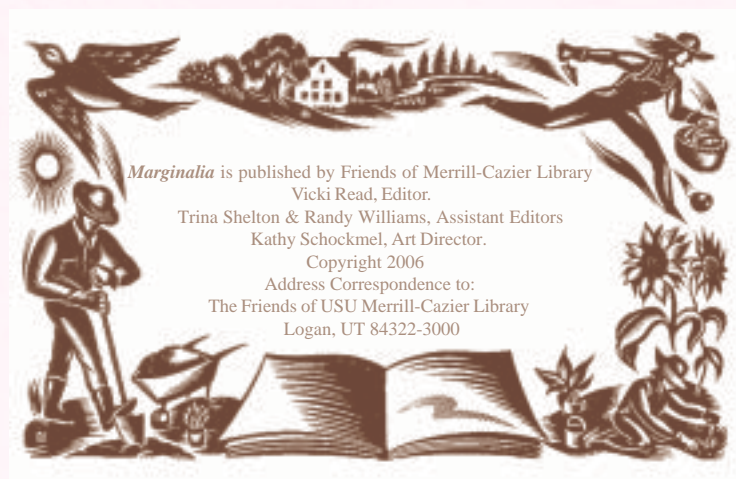
For those interested, a three-hundred and eighty-four page "Semina Culture" exhibition catalog is available for viewing in the Merrill-Cazier Library's Art Book Room.

—Brad Cole
Head, Special Collections & Archives

merrill-cazier staff and administration

thank the following
for sponsoring the
library dedication

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Jacobsen Construction
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Spectrum Engineers
Sun Advance Systems



follow the

yellow BRICK ROAD



Have fond memories of your time spent studying and socializing in the Milton R. Merrill Library? Perhaps you worked in the Library, spent long hours on research, or met your sweetheart there.

If you're feeling nostalgic about the familiar Library on the Quad, here's your opportunity to have a piece of USU history while helping future students.

As the bulldozers and wrecking ball reduced the building to rubble, we salvaged 500 bricks from the familiar façade. We are making a commemorative brick available for a \$100 donation to the new Merrill-Cazier Library Endowment Fund. Each commemorative brick will come with a handsome engraving and a brief history of the Merrill Library and its replacement. Funds raised through the sale of bricks will create an endowment expressly for the acquisition of library materials. Reserve your limited edition Merrill Library brick today. Help future Aggies pave the way to success!

**RESERVE YOUR
BRICK**

for more information,
please call

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Demolition photos courtesy Lee Brilliant, Faculty Assistance Center for Teaching.

Cornerstone photo courtesy Rebecca Clark, Faculty Assistance Center for Teaching

“something wonderful IS BEING BUILT IN THE WORLD ...”

From the start Richard Rodriquez captured his audience with an emotionally charged keynote address. The 500+ audience at the Merrill-Cazier Library Dedication learned that Rodriquez is a cancer survivor as he recounted an experience two years ago of sitting in a room full of “shockingly young” people receiving chemotherapy treatments. For this and other reasons, he admitted to being sentimental lately, and his passion for libraries was immediately clear. “Here I am at the creation, at the opening of the building of a library. And it is extraordinary to me that something is being built in the world. Something wonderful is being built in the world of concrete and mortar and steel. Something is being built against the sky, in the sky. Something is being built for the future for people we don’t even know yet. People who will use this building generations to come we say, lives upon lives, strangers upon strangers.”

He continued by describing the role libraries have played in his life. “I am not a stranger to buildings like this. I was a child who spent hours and hours, the happiest hours of my life in libraries.” Rodriquez spoke of being a boy “who wanted very much to learn what’s inside this room, what’s inside this building. What does this building know that I need to know? How can I take it into myself? How can I absorb it? How can I make this mine? I wanted the library to make me knowledgeable. To give me this voice.”

The audience was treated to a passionate, honest, personal account of the importance of libraries, and his very strong opinion that we cannot replace books with technology, wisdom with information, or libraries with Google. He admitted, “I Google as much as you Google. I Google in my sleep. I’ve Googled myself to sleep. I use it for information. I don’t use it for wisdom. I go to the library for wisdom.”

— Kim Winger
Marketing / PR / Events
Merrill-Cazier Library

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Former Utah State
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on Dedication Day.

Milton R. Merrill's
sons, Richard &
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the dedication of
the new
Merrill-Cazier
Library.

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