



**Updates from Julie Mosbo Ballestro**  
**University Librarian & Assistant Provost**  
**Texas A&M University Libraries**  
**Friends Board Meeting**  
 February 6, 2026

#### Space Planning

- Since the November Friends meeting, we have completed the Program of Requirements process for Evans 2<sup>nd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> floors, Annex 6<sup>th</sup> floor, WCL 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, and MSL 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. After evaluating the proposed budget alongside our available funding, we have decided to proceed at this time with renovations to the Evans 6<sup>th</sup> floor only. This project will create a reading room, additional study rooms, and more efficient open study spaces – all areas of high demand based on student feedback. The next step is approval by the Board of Regents at their May meeting. If approved, the project could be slated for the 2027 cycle.
- The Evans 2<sup>nd</sup> floor renovation, which will house our academic partners, will also be presented to the Board of Regents for approval in May. Our partners include the Academic Success Center, Math Learning Center, Transfer Student Programs, University Health Services, and the University Writing Center. This project will create classrooms, tutorial rooms, and office space for these services, with the instructional and tutoring rooms available for general student study when not in use. Funding for this project is provided by the Office of the Provost. If approved, it could be scheduled for the 2028 cycle.
- We remain committed to pursuing the Annex 6<sup>th</sup> floor project, which focuses primarily on makerspace development. We are actively working to secure funding to move this project forward.
- The WCL and MSL renovation projects are temporarily on hold while I seek clarity on the future of the MSL building and explore alternative options for our west campus presence.
- Speaking of MSL, construction on their new space in Clinical Building 1 on the Health Science Campus on Highway 47 is moving along. They are on schedule to move in and open by the beginning of fall semester.
- At the McAllen campus, a new building is under development that will include Public Health, Pharmacy, instructional and lab spaces, as well as a library. We are currently in the design phase and determining the range of library services that will be offered in the new facility.

#### 150<sup>th</sup>

- Here is a brief outline of what is planned:
  - o The celebration will begin with **Spirit of 150 Week**, taking place **October 2–10**. We will open with an afternoon ceremony on **October 2**, followed that evening by **Kick Off at Kyle**, featuring yell practice as well as a drone and fireworks show. The **October 3** Arkansas football game will also be part of the week's activities.
  - o Throughout Spirit of 150 Week, there will be **student organization celebrations**, the **first Sesquicentennial Speaker Series event**, a **concert at Reed Arena**, and the **opening of the signature exhibit** at Stark Gallery.
  - o Over the course of the year, we plan to host approximately six speakers in the Sesquicentennial Speaker Series, each highlighting themes connected to the core values that define Texas A&M.

- We are working toward holding a **Sesquicentennial parade during Family Weekend in 2027**.
- The year-long celebration will conclude around the end of April with a **Festival at Kyle**, featuring food, games, rides, and an Aggie boutique.
- The **Sesquicentennial website** will go live within the next week and will include these details and much more.