THE PAGES of a book are held together by its binding. Sewn together, one after another, each page adds to the book, creating a whole. *Bindings* represents the continuing relationship between alumni and other supporters of the University of Iowa Libraries, its students, and faculty.

This publication is printed with private funds.

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   The Old Capitol Rises

**Archives and remembrance**

A University of Iowa service memorialized Martin Luther King, Jr., April 19, 1968. The service took place at the Old Capitol’s eastside entrance, facing the Pentacrest lawn. King dedicated his life to the use of nonviolent strategies to advance the civil rights movement. His assassination in Memphis, Tenn., April 4, shocked the world and memorials were held on college campuses throughout the country.

Photograph from the collections of the University of Iowa Archives.
Read more about the University Archives and its holdings on page 11.
On April 12, 2002, the University Libraries will host a celebration of two major accomplishments—the acquisition of its four-millionth volume and the 10th anniversary of the Iowa Women’s Archives. I am especially delighted that Marian Rees, award-winning film producer, philanthropist and University of Iowa Distinguished Alumni, will be our guest speaker.

The University of Iowa Libraries developed from an extraordinarily modest collection of 50 volumes in 1855. Just 147 years later, a relatively short time in history, this seed of a collection has grown into one of the country’s largest research libraries. Among these four million volumes are unique and other specialized collections held by very few other libraries and essential to the high-quality research conducted throughout the University. Much of the collection consists of core materials, representing a wide range of academic disciplines and professions, to support the instructional needs of undergraduate, graduate and professional students. Increasingly, the medium of publication is shifting from print to digital format as more and more books and journals are delivered electronically. In a very real sense, these four million volumes are symbolic of the University of Iowa’s strong commitment to first-rate teaching and research throughout its history. You cannot have a high-quality university without a high-quality library.

Although the Iowa Women’s Archives has a much shorter history, its evolution during the last 10 years is no less impressive. These unique collections represent a critical piece of Iowa heritage previously unavailable to students and scholars. Through the vision and support of Louise Noun and Mary Louise Smith, the Iowa Women’s Archive was created to collect and preserve the papers of Iowa women who have contributed to many aspects of our society. In just 10 years, the collection has grown to more than 700 collections of papers, representing a wide range of accomplishments, activities, and interests. The papers of Marian Rees are among these 700 collections. For the last three years, approximately 100 collections have been added each year to the Iowa Women’s Archives. This has been a truly impressive initial decade, especially since the Iowa Women’s Archives operates entirely on the revenue generated by its growing endowment along with occasional grants.

I hope you can join us the evening of April 12 for this celebration of the University of Iowa Libraries, the University’s historic support for its Libraries, and Iowa women.

In the spirit of celebrating the four-millionth acquisition, be sure to visit a new web site that provides a comprehensive look at the history of the University of Iowa Libraries: http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/history/index.html. Designed by Libraries staff member Kelly Avant, The Pictorial History of the University of Iowa Libraries is an online exhibition of photographs drawn from the University Archives that date back to 1855. Pictured: in 1934 the Campus Course Library, an informal lecture room, library, and lounge, was opened on the third floor of Schaeffer Hall. It contained 2,500 volumes for “general reading in many cultural fields.” Professor Shambaugh conducted his course “Approaches in Liberal and Cultural Education” in this library.
AN EVENING TO REMEMBER

Dinner Honors Members of the University Librarian’s Club

Deborah Dreusicke, Director of Development for the University of Iowa Libraries

On Saturday, November 3, 2001, members of the newly formed University Librarian’s Club were welcomed to a special celebration hosted by University of Iowa President Mary Sue Coleman. Since this was the first year for honoring these donors, President Coleman cordially opened her home for an evening of good company, gracious surroundings and a wonderful dinner.

The University Librarian’s Club was formed to honor donors who have given $1,000 or more annually to the Libraries, including the main library, branch libraries, and all collections. Private gifts make a difference, and University Librarian Nancy Baker and the Libraries Board took this opportunity to thank supporters for investing in the University Libraries as a resource for the University and community. Among the Board members who welcomed guests were Jeff Disterhoft, Susan McDermott, Phyllis Fleming, Brian Strayer, Joseph McGill Jr., Kay Halloran, Miriam Gilbert and Bill Burger.

President Coleman spoke briefly about the importance of private gifts to the University and the Libraries. She emphasized the tremendous impact a great research library can have on all areas of education at a university. University Librarian Baker also explained how private gifts continually improve the resources and services of the libraries. She specifically highlighted several examples where private gifts have either completely or partially created and supported superior projects and collections. They include the Iowa Women’s Archives, the University Oral History Project, and preservation of rare acquisitions.

For information about how to become a member of the University Librarian’s Club or make a private gift to the libraries, contact Deborah Dreusicke, Director of Development, University of Iowa Foundation, 319.335.3305, or deborah-dreusicke@uiowa.edu.
“The essence of all beautiful art, all great art, is gratitude.”
- Friedrich Nietzsche, Philosopher (1844-1900)

Angelo Garzio
and the Rose Garzio Library Funds for Music and Art

There is a familiar saying about those who teach and those who do. And then there are those extraordinary individuals who do everything with a passionate commitment. Angelo Garzio is one of these, an accomplished artist and influential teacher whose life is infused with a love of music, art and libraries. He lives in Manhattan, Kansas, where he is a professor emeritus of art at the State University of Kansas, but his life and interests have taken him all over the world. This past summer he traveled to Bolivia to present a lecture and workshop.

Born in Italy, Angelo and his family moved to Syracuse, New York, when he was seven years old. His family had to work hard to persevere through the Great Depression. As a young man, Angelo found employment as a professional symphony orchestra musician, performing on the French horn. “My first horn teacher, was Bernard Mott,” says Angelo. “He was the first horn of the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra, in New York State, where I played third horn.” Mott had a strong effect on young Angelo’s life, both as a mentor and a friend, inspiring a life-long love of music.

World War II interrupted Angelo’s professional career as a musician. He served in the US Army Air Force from 1942-1945. When he returned, he attended Syracuse University under the G.I. Bill and earned a BA, followed by a degree in library science. “This nation gave me an opportunity to attend a university, something which was unthinkable if I was still in the old country.”

After graduating from Syracuse, he studied art history at the University of Florence, Italy, for a year and later accepted a position as a reference librarian at the Bridgeport, Connecticut public library. But Angelo still felt unsettled, and he decided to go back to graduate school. He began a doctoral program in library science at the University of Chicago, but the fine arts proved the greater draw. After a few quarters at the UC, he enrolled as a graduate student in art history at the University of Iowa (then State University of Iowa). Angelo was impressed with the reputation of the art department at Iowa and appreciated the more intimate size of the school and town.

In 1952 he met Glenn C. Nelson, a fellow graduate student who was working towards an MFA in sculpture. During his second year of study, Nelson was asked to teach an introductory course in ceramics. He proved himself a popular and knowledgeable teacher, and soon he was offering two courses. Angelo, who at the time was still in the art history program, registered for Nelson’s evening class. Three weeks later, Angelo realized that he had finally found his calling, and he transferred into the studio arts program after completing a MA in art history in 1954. When Glenn Nelson also graduated in 1954, he was hired by the university to establish a curriculum for ceramics, and Angelo became his first MFA candidate. Nelson was an important innovator in teaching ceramics in higher education. In addition to founding the UI program, he developed one of the leading university textbooks. “I have never met another person like him,” said Angelo. “The four years I spent in Iowa City were some of the most fulfilling and gratifying I can remember. It allowed me the freedom of discovering and pursuing that discipline which has become one of the great passions of my life. And,” he added, “I met my future wife there.”

To honor his mentors, Mott and Nelson, Angelo has created funds that help support the UI Music and Art libraries, and established a scholarship and monies for guest lectures in clay at the UI School of Art and Art History. The library funds are named for Rose Garzio, Angelo’s mother. “Even though she passed away almost twenty years ago, she remains an important example in my life,” he explained. “What I am now is in no small part due to her strict standards, respect for education, and insistence on hard work for its own reward. I wish I could do more to memorialize her, but hopefully she may look down and nod with a slight smile of approval at her son. I daresay, she must have often wondered whether he would ever get the message.”

Angelo Garzio has contributed immeasurably to the cultural and educational landscape—through his leadership as a teacher, his impact in the field of ceramics, and through a personal generosity that will continue to influence the lives of students, musicians and ceramic artists far into the future. Rose Garzio is most certainly smiling.
The Louise Noun - Mary Louise Smith Iowa Women’s Archives (IWA) is a unique resource for the people of Iowa and anyone interested in the history and lives of women. The archive was established in 1992 and named for its founders, Louise Noun and Mary Louise Smith, two prominent Des Moines women who conceived the idea of a repository that would collect solely on Iowa women and who worked to bring it to fruition. Noun is an art collector, historian, social activist, and philanthropist. Smith was a Republican Party activist and the first woman to chair the Republican National Committee, serving from 1974 to 1977. In 1991 Noun auctioned the Frida Kahlo painting “Self-Portrait with Loose Hair” to permanently endow the archives. The Iowa Women’s Archives is supported by that initial gift and by the generosity of donors who continue to contribute to the fund.

As one of only two state women’s archives nationwide, the Iowa Women’s Archives seeks to document the experiences of a broad spectrum of Iowa women and to represent the cultural, ethnic, religious, and occupational diversity of women in Iowa. The current strengths of the collection are in the areas of women in politics and the women’s movement, rural and farm women, African-American women, women’s social activism, women in the professions, home economics, women in the arts, and girls’ and women’s sports in Iowa.

The archives is open to the University of Iowa community and to the general public. For more information about the Iowa Women’s Archives, call 319.335.5068. For more information on how you can help support the mission of this important resource, contact Deborah Dreusicke, Director of Development for the University Libraries, 319.335.3305.

The Women of the IWA: (clockwise from right top) A 1923 photo of Ruth Beard Fuller who played for the Mount Ayr girls’’ basketball team in the 1920s and later played basketball in college.

The Iowa Women’s Archives staff (left to right), Kareen Mason, curator; Janet Weaver, library assistant; and Doris Malkmus, who served as assistant archivist through December 2001.

A photograph of Bettye Tate (b. 1906 Fairfield, Iowa) from the Elizabeth (Bettye) Crawford Tate papers, which date from 1932 to 1996. When Bettye and her husband, Junious (Bud) Tate moved to Iowa City in the 1930s, they discovered that African-American students were not allowed to live in university housing. The Tates opened their home as a boardinghouse for male students in 1938 and “Ma” Tate, as she was affectionately called, housed up to 20 tenants at a time at the Tate Arms for more than 30 years.

Mary Louise Smith and Louise Noun, for whom the Iowa Women’s Archives is named. Photo by Jon Van Allen.
To Infinity and Beyond:

Mass Deacidification and Cultural Preservation

Nancy E. Kraft, Head, University of Iowa Libraries Preservation Department

Everyday, in libraries across the world, our cultural heritage—the essence of civilization—is slowly disintegrating. This is not the theme of a sci-fi movie plot. Instead, the problem lies in a simple change that actually helped to increase access to the information found in books.

Nineteenth-century paper manufacturers unwittingly created a nightmare for librarians when they switched from using cotton or linen to wood pulp. Although the new, cheaper manufacturing process made books more affordable and accessible, the process left an acid residue that, over time, breaks down the paper fibers, creating brittle pages which eventually crumble to the touch.

While we can’t turn the clock back and bring brittle books back to life, there are treatments available — singly or in quantity or mass — to deacidify or neutralize books that are not yet brittle. In January 2001, the University Libraries began sending their newly acquired English-language publications from South Asia to Preservation Technologies in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania, for mass deacidification treatment. Preservation Technologies uses a process called “Bookkeeper.” The Bookkeeper technique deposits magnesium oxide particles that neutralize the acid and leave a protective alkaline reserve.

Limits on budget demanded treating a targeted area. “We decided to go with incoming rather than older material,” Ed Shreeves, director of collections and information services, stated. “Treating material as it arrives is more efficient and greatly reduces future costs.”

The majority of U.S. publications are now being published on acid-free paper that meets national permanent paper standards, as do most publications from developed countries. The publications of developing countries are a mixed bag — publications may be printed on high-quality, long-lasting or on highly acidic paper. The University Libraries’ program focuses on South Asia because publications from there have a significantly high percentage (65-75%) of acidic paper. Similarly, current titles from Africa, South America and other parts of Asia are often published on acidic papers that would benefit from treatment.

Susan Hansen in the Preservation Department tests each book to distinguish safe alkaline material from unsafe acidic materials with a special pH-sensitive marking pen. Normally purple, the pen leaves a yellow mark if the paper is acidic. Susan pencils an infinity symbol (∞) on books passing the pH test — levels of 6.8 or above — and sends them on for shelving. The books needing treatment are packed and sent to Preservation Technologies. Each treated volume has a label attached by Preservation Technologies. The labeling of the books that pass the pH test and the books treated by Preservation Technologies allows staff to monitor the condition of treated and untreated books on a long-term basis.

Decades from now, faculty and students researching and studying South Asian topics will greatly benefit from today’s mass deacidification program. They will be able to use books that do not crumble to the touch.

Dust thou art to dust returnest, was not spoken of the soul.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)
American Writer

Above Left: Cover from an East Indian publication that has been treated. Treated publications include both contemporary and traditional subjects.

UI Libraries Preservation Staff: (left to right) Nancy E. Kraft, department head; Susan Hansen, book repair supervisor; and Gary Frost, university conservator, discuss a recent shipment of treated books before they are inspected and reshelved.
Deacidification at Home  Nancy E. Kraft, Head, Preservation

If you have precious paper documents that you would like to deacidify, there are two products available for use at home. Preservation Technologies has developed a non-aerosol spray called Archival Mist that is available at many scrapbook, hobby, craft and framing supply stores. Or call Preservation Technologies at 1-800-416-2665. The 5.3-oz. bottle will cover up to 300 3 x 4-inch clippings or items. Wei T’o is another product available for deacidification. Wei T’o comes in an aerosol spray can and is available through archival product catalogs. Many of these catalogs are available from your public librarian.

To determine whether your paper item is acidic or not, you can purchase a pH testing pen through most archival product catalogs. Please note that the pH-testing pen will leave a permanent mark on a tested item. Make sure you test in an inconspicuous place. Many paper items are now alkaline or non-acidic. In a random test on items in my home, I discovered that every single piece of mail that day (including my bills) was not acidic. My daughter’s college-ruled notebook tested fine as did a nonfiction paperback book. The items that tested acidic were our local phone book, the newspaper, and my paperback mystery novel.

These products are not meant to be used on photographs. It’s always a good practice to try something new on a throwaway item and to always do a test spot on the actual item you are working with. When in doubt, consult a conservator.


1. Once our shipment arrives at Preservation Technologies, each book is logged into a computer database and given a slip with tracking information.

2. & 3. Preparing the books and placing the books in the cylinder. The books are attached to a paddle or book holder by clamps (note empty book holder in foreground) and then set into a large cylinder with magnesium oxide solution. The paddle rotates and goes up and down once the lid is shut and equipment is started.

4. Operating the cylinder. Items stay in about 2 1/2 hours. During this time, the cylinders are emptied and items are vacuum dried.
During December 2001 and January 2002, the ‘Book Drop’ represented a unique experiment in the promotion of the book arts. Conceived and implemented by the University Libraries Conservation Unit and the UI Center for the Book, the project consisted of handmade books, sold as kits and in completed form, through a vending machine in the North Exhibition Hall of the Main Library. Historical information about each book type as well as complete instructions and materials, in the case of the kits, was also included. The books were modestly priced from $5 to $15, and proceeds will be used to support the UI Book Studies curriculum.

The book arts vending project grew out of a class offered at the UI Libraries, Structure of the Handmade Book. When the listed course was unexpectedly cancelled, its instructor, University Conservator Gary Frost, and the students decided to move forward under the cover of an independent study course. Because the class size was small, the opportunity was present to do something different, to push the envelope or perhaps more fittingly, the book case.

The UI Libraries and the UI Center for the Book regularly collaborate on projects and programs that enhance understanding of and appreciation for the written record in all of its various forms. There are plans to expand on this idea so that books will be available through museum gift shops and other such venues throughout the year.

For more information, contact Gary Frost, university conservator, 319.335.5908, <gary-frost@uiowa.edu>, or Tim Barrett, director, UI Center for the Book, 319.331.5013.

A $194,922 grant from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust of Muscatine will enable the Libraries to broaden and enhance digital information resources in science and technology. While the University Libraries has been making significant investments in digital resources in many fields for some time—and especially in science, technology and medicine—the grant will allow the Libraries to supplement these print and electronic titles. Acquisitions will include additional back volumes issued by Elsevier Science, a major publisher of scientific journals, and two new modules from JSTOR, a full-text database of back issues of scholarly titles covering a wide range of subjects from anthropology to statistics.

Edward Shreeves, director of collections and information resources, notes the grant “will substantially increase the amount of digital information available to students and faculty in the sciences. While the UI Libraries already provides current issues of many electronic publications, this grant will enable us to increase the range and depth of resources we offer to students and researchers in the sciences.”

The Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust is the largest private foundation in the state of Iowa with assets totaling $300 million and an annual grant-making budget of more than $14 million. It was created through the will of Roy J. Carver, a Muscatine industrialist and philanthropist, who died in 1981. Since the beginning of the Trust’s grant-making activities in 1987, more than $130 million has been distributed in the form of 1,046 individual grants. Scientific research, scholarships, general education and other issues related to the needs of youth are the program areas of greatest interest to the Carver Charitable Trust.
The UI Engineering Library has taken on a new shine in an old location. For the past two years, engineering students have been making do in a temporary space on the 2nd floor of the Main Library while the engineering building, including the old library space, was renovated. Library staff and collections moved back into the Seamans Center for the Engineering Arts and Sciences in Fall 2001.

The space formally occupied by the Engineering Library was renovated and expanded as part of the larger Seamans Center and modernization project at the College of Engineering through a gift from William and Patricia A. Lichtenberger. In recognition of the generosity of the Lichtenbergers towards the college and in enabling these enhancements, the UI Libraries have agreed to rename the library the Lichtenberger Engineering Library.

Renovation and improvements to the new library include better access to electronic resources, the addition of a multimedia classroom and new furniture, book stacks and flooring. Many of the changes improve both the aesthetic and functional aspects of the library, making for a more productive, comfortable study area.

The new space also opens into a large sun-filled lobby, increasing opportunities for library users to study and interact.

“The renovation of the Engineering Library will enable us to better provide students and faculty with electronic and print information well into the 21st century,” says John W. Forys, Jr., head of the Engineering Library.

“We are delighted to be back in Seamans Center, where we can better serve and have closer contact with our users,” Forys said.

For more information, call the Engineering Library at (319) 335-6047 or visit the library online at http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/eng
Special Events

Marian Rees with Carol Burnett and Elizabeth Taylor on the set of *Between Friends*, a 1986 HBO movie about two women whose friendship pulls them through a difficult divorce. From the Marian Rees Associates, Inc. papers in the Iowa Women’s Archives.

This event is free, but reservations are appreciated. Call 319.335.5867 or email lib-friends@uiowa.edu. This is a special invitation to all friends and supporters of the University of Iowa Libraries.

Please join us on the occasion of two important milestones, the four-millionth acquisition of the University of Iowa Libraries and the tenth anniversary of the Iowa Women’s Archives. Our distinguished guest speaker is Marian Rees, an award-winning filmmaker and Iowa alumna. Ms. Rees is a strong advocate for the University Libraries and a contributor to the Iowa Women’s Archives. She has donated both her personal papers and documents from Marian Rees Associates, Inc.

Since she began her career in 1959, Marian Rees and Marian Rees Associates have produced more than 22 made-for-television films, won 11 Emmy Awards and received more than 36 Emmy nominations. Her well-known projects include work on the *All in the Family* and *Sanford and Son* sitcoms, the critically acclaimed mini-series *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, the Emmy award-winning 1992 made-for-television movie *Miss Rose White* and several *Hallmark Hall of Fame* films. Her contributions to a variety of professional and civic groups have been recognized through numerous awards and distinctions including the University of Iowa Hancher-Finkbine Alumni Award in 2001, six Christopher Awards, the Humanitas Prize, the Genii Award and others.

This program is partially underwritten by the University of Iowa Community Credit Union.

Other Events

BUSINESS PM
University Libraries and the
Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce
Thursday, July 18, 4:30-6:30 PM
Marvin A. Pomerantz Business Library
Room 401 West,
John Pappajohn Business Building
$4 for Chamber members, $6 non-members.
All proceeds benefit the Iowa City Area
Chamber of Commerce.

Reception with refreshments, brief program and
tour of the business library. For more information, call 319.335.5867.

Upcoming Events

CELEBRATION DINNER
Celebration of Excellence and
Achievement among Women
Spring 2003
Iowa Memorial Union
For more information call 319.335.5867

A Celebration of Excellence and Achievement Among Women, The University’s annual tribute to the accomplishments of women at the University of Iowa, selects one outstanding organization each year to honor at the annual Celebration Dinner. In 2003 the Iowa Women’s Archive of the University Libraries will be recognized.

Conferences

DIVERSITY: BUILDING A
STRATEGIC FUTURE
3rd National Conference on Diversity in
Academic Libraries
University of Iowa Libraries, Main Library
April 4-6, 2002
For more information call 319.335.5867
Web site, http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/
icdiversity/
The wording and fashions may have changed over the years, but the recommendation remains sound. Back in 1949, incoming women freshman students were advised to plan their wardrobes for most any occasion, “from the hobo hops to the sophisticated.”

“The Iowa Coed is doomed when she runs out of white socks, so bring as many as you can cram into the crevices of your trunk,” the Code for Coeds advised new female students during the 1949–50 academic year.

Such helpful hints were a staple of the Code, a student manual published for more than 30 years by the University Women’s Association, copies of which are now housed at the University Archives in the Department of Special Collections. The Archives has a near complete run of the publication, which began in 1937 and ceased in 1969. It is a barometer of social mores and attitudes and depicts an aspect of student life in another era.

Founded in 1931 by Ruth Gallaher, Ph.D., of the State Historical Society of Iowa, the University Archives houses faculty papers, department records, University publications, and other documents reflecting the UI’s history as well as its intellectual contributions. Noted collections include the papers of physicist James A. Van Allen, philosopher Gustav Bergmann, and 1920s law student Mildred Foster Crawford. One collection, known as the Manuscript File, contains many records documenting the school’s early history, including meeting minutes, secretary’s reports, and even insurance receipts from as early as 1863.

More than 50,000 photographs comprise the Kent Collection, depicting University and Iowa City life throughout much of the twentieth century. The archives’ oral history collection features more than 70 interviews with individuals who have contributed to the University. Among them: Richard Culberson of Cleveland, Ohio, who in 1944 as a Hawkeye center became the first African-American to play basketball in the Big Ten. He was interviewed in November.

A long-term goal of the archives is to improve access to the varied and rich collections. At present about 65 finding aids, or collection guides, are accessible on the archives’ web site, a number that will gradually increase as collections are processed, or organized. The web site itself will be redesigned in 2002, and to improve access, archives staff hope to begin linking InfoHawk records for the collections to their corresponding online finding aids.

For more information about the archives, visit the web page at http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/spec-coll/Archist.htm, email david-mccartney@uiowa.edu or call 319.335.5921.

Exhibitions

OLD CAP: REMEMBRANCE AND RENEWAL
January — Mid-March
Department of Special Collections
3rd Floor, Main Library
Free and open to the public M-F, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm and visible from the public corridor on weekends and evenings.
Companion online exhibit: http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/archives/oldcapitol

A MORE VARIED UNION: DIVERSITY IN AMERICAN SOCIETY
February — May
North Exhibition Hall, Main Library
Free and open to the public during regular libraries hours

An exhibition planned in conjunction with the “Diversity: Building a Strategic Future” conference.

A view of the Old Capitol during the 1920 restoration project. Image from the University Archives at the University of Iowa Libraries.

Cover of the 1949-50 Code for Coeds published by the University Women’s Association.

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A view of the Old Capitol during the 1920 restoration project. Image from the University Archives at the University of Iowa Libraries.

Cover of the 1949-50 Code for Coeds published by the University Women’s Association.
For more than 160 years, the Old Capitol, with its distinctive gold dome, has been an important emblem for the State and the University of Iowa. When an accidental fire destroyed the dome during renovation work on November 20, 2001, UI President Mary Sue Coleman announced that the dome would be rebuilt. Now, in addition to other historical associations, the dome will become a symbol of hope and recovery after a difficult year.

Despite the devastation to the dome, the rest of the building received only smoke and water damage, protected from the flames by a firewall installed under the dome during a 1920s restoration project. UI Libraries Conservator Gary Frost and Preservation Librarian Nancy Kraft were on hand to provide their expertise and assistance. After the fire, they met with UI officials to assess and help monitor the extent of the damage during the Thanksgiving break.

The Old Capitol was the first capitol of Iowa from 1840-1957. It was deeded to the university when state government moved to Des Moines and has since served as a chapel, law school, central administration building and library from 1859-1878. The Old Capitol was designated a national historic monument and became a museum in the 1980s. In celebration of the Old Capitol, an exhibit will be on view in the UI Libraries Department of Special Collections on the 3rd Floor of the Main Library through mid-March. See the calendar section of this publication for more information.