

Remarks by University Libraries Dean Kathleen Webb

## **BLESSING OF THE RENOVATED ROESCH LIBRARY**

Friday, Sept. 27, 2019

Gathering Place on second floor of Roesch Library

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Good afternoon. My name is Kathleen Webb, and I have the honor of serving as dean of the UD Libraries. On behalf on the entire faculty and staff of the Libraries, I would like to welcome you to the blessing of the refreshed Roesch Library.

I am so very happy you have joined us today. While there are still a few things remaining to be ordered, and a punch list that is a work in progress, for the most part, the space is exactly how we imagined it when, with the help of many students, staff and faculty, we completed the design almost two years ago.

The Libraries' vision is to be an intellectual fulcrum for the campus, opening doors, activating scholarship and inspiring creativity. These new spaces were developed with that vision in mind. I hope you find Roesch Library a source of scholarship, inspiration, creativity and motivation.

I have been asked several times how long this project has taken, and I have found that hard to answer. As some of you know, there have been conversations about renovating the first and second floors of Roesch for more than 10 years — maybe more than 20 years — but the official answer is that planning began in 2017, and construction started in February of 2018 and was largely completed last month.

Many people deserve thanks for moving this project from conversation to action. Beth Keyes, former vice president of facilities, and Joe Saliba, former provost, helped get the ball rolling. But President Eric Spina, Provost Paul Benson, Vice Presidents Andy Horner and Rick Krysiak, and the facilities and finance committees of the Board of Trustees deserve our deep gratitude for recognizing the value of this project and moving it from vision to reality. Please join me in thanking them.

So many people contributed to the success of the Roesch Refresh — too many to name. But a handful of people have really been our partners throughout the whole project, and I would like to take the time to recognize them.

- First, our amazing construction manager, Anna Hedley, from UD's facilities division.
- Our talented architects and designers, Matt Franklin and Robb Brown and others from Levin Porter.
- Our amazingly easy-to-work-with and fun crew from Danis Construction — Gerred Laake, Jeff Barhorst, Dan Kurtz, and Rob Lupidi. I really will miss our weekly meetings!

- Our subcontractors: Nadia Bochenek from Heapy Engineering; our plumbers from Wat-Kem Mechanical; our electricians from Denier; our abatement crew from EDG; and Ashley Kahrs from Business Furniture.
- Our partners from UDiT: Brent Qvick, Nick Cummings and Seth Staker.
- Our collaborators from the Institute of Applied Creativity for Transformation, Adrienne Ausdenmoore and Brian LaDuca.
- The entire library staff, especially Katy Kelly, Ann Zlotnik, Risé Kreitzer, Paul Remsen and the recently retired Tina Powell.

Please join me in thanking them.

It is now my pleasure to introduce President Eric Spina, who will share his thoughts on the Roesch renovation.