“...a view of the past, future and present...
WITH A BRASS FANFARE, a flurry of speeches, and a dedicatory poem by Miller Williams, Fayetteville opened its first new library in 45 years. An extraordinary community like Fayetteville deserves an extraordinary library, and last October 9th we got one. Blair Library has caused a stir across the region, gotten national attention, and exceeded our wildest dreams.

Involved as we are in the day-to-day operations of our new home, it’s hard to fathom how far we’ve come. But years of preparation paid off when we opened our doors:

- A host of technical systems launched with minimal glitches, including our RFID-based automated bookdrop and check-in system, self-check stations, wireless access, computer sign-up software, and more
- Polaris, our system software introduced late in 2003, made the transition beautifully
- A month of opening celebrations came off without a hitch, including scores of well-attended author readings, live musical offerings, lectures, and other special events
- Thanks to a grant from the Arkansas Arts Council, the FPL Writers’ Center was unveiled in November as a resource for writers and readers.
- FPL book club offerings have more than tripled since opening
- Children’s programs have expanded to include an array of teen events

For the numbers crunchers, FPL statistics are off the charts. By year’s end, after being open for just under three months, the number of cardholders had jumped by 15% to 48,419 and circulation had climbed 12% to 718,159 from a previous high of 644,312 at the end of 2003. Children’s programs averaged 69 participants. SBC Communications Inc and Fayetteville Public Schools sponsored tours for every Fayetteville elementary student, over 4,000 children. And there’s been a giant leap of 38% in the number of volunteer hours over the previous year.

Tempting as it might be to look back, the old saying about the end of one chapter being the beginning of another has never been more appropriate. Our task now is to grow into our new space by continuing to build the FPL Foundation endowment, by continuing to grow and train our library staff to meet the demands of an ever-larger community of users, and by crafting programs and extending our collection to satisfy Fayetteville’s hunger for a vast array of literature, arts & culture, and sound information.

We’d like to thank the greater Fayetteville community for its steady support throughout the five-year process of building Blair Library. And finally, here’s a sincere thank you to the FPL staff who worked such long hours over many months, giving of their hearts and talents to make this transition as seamless as it’s been. We may just have the friendliest, most brilliant staff in the world.

Louise Schaper
Executive Director

Louis Gottsponer
President, Board of Trustees
Jan 24
Celebrating Chinese New Year...And Grant from Wal-Mart

FPL's Chinese New Year family festival serves as the backdrop for the announcement of $50,000 community grant from the Wal-Mart/SAM'S CLUB Foundation and Fayetteville-area Wal-Mart Supercenter and Neighborhood Market associates. Says Josh Petree, Fayetteville’s University Wal-Mart Supercenter store manager, “Our grassroots style of giving enables our associates to identify and support organizations that are making a difference in their communities.”

June 15th
First Runner-up for the Library of the Year Award...Again!

The Gale Group/Library Journal names FPL one of the nation’s top libraries for the second straight year in its 2004 Library of the Year awards. FPL is chosen as runner-up for the prestigious award, which honors the library that most profoundly demonstrates outstanding community service, creativity and innovation in programming, a dramatic increase in library usage, and leadership in creating programs that can be emulated by other libraries.

July 31st
An Incredible Journey Begins...And Story-Time Room Gets a Name

In front of a crowd of several hundred children and parents outside the Roberta Fulbright Library, FPL announces a gift of $250,000 from the Wal-Mart/SAM’S CLUB Foundation and Fayetteville-area Wal-Mart Supercenter and Neighborhood Market associates. The gift names the Wal-Mart Story-Time room at the new Blair Library. Accompanied by music and dancing, the crowd then parades through the streets of Fayetteville, past the Farmers’ Market on the square, and on to the new building, where they are treated to refreshments in the not-quite-finished lobby.

Sept 13th
Saying Good-Bye

The Roberta Fulbright Memorial Building, FPL’s home since 1962, closes its doors to the public. In a simple, heartfelt ceremony, remarks by Michael Thomas, FPL Board Vice-President, and music by Jeremy Hess are followed by the final locking of the doors. Everyone in attendance is invited to sign a memory book, which will be included with the time capsule of the Blair Library.

Oct 6th
Blair Library Time Capsule Sealed Off

A plexi-glass time capsule containing historic documents, photographs, and other memorabilia is cemented in place behind a stone in the library’s outer lobby, not to be re-opened until 2029. Included in the capsule, which is sponsored by Cox Communications, are four winning essays written by area students for FPL’s Capture Fayetteville Essay Contest.

Oct 8th
Blair Library Pre-Opening Gala

More than 500 supporters of the Blair Library share a gracious Tuscan evening with Francis Mayes, celebrated author of Under the Tuscan Sun. Guests are treated to music on the terrace, Tuscan cuisine by Chef Miles James, Italian madrigals with the Ozark Chamber Singers, and a talk...
and book signing by Ms. Mayes, whose new book *Bringing Tuscany Home* was released earlier in the week.

**Oct 9th**

**“Ladies & gentlemen, Blair Library is open for business!”**

The milestone day begins at 10:00 a.m. The North Arkansas Symphony, under the direction of Jeannine Wagar, performs Aaron Copland’s “Fanfare for the Common Man.” Miller Williams, renowned poet, reads his dedicatory poem, “The Alphabet as Part of What We Are.” Hundreds of eager patrons crowd the plaza to hear remarks by Fayetteville Mayor Dan Coody; Jim Blair, lead donor; Louise Schaper, Executive Director; Jeff Scherer, architect; Ann Henry, Capital Campaign Chair; Marsha Woodruff, Library Foundation Board President; Lois Alward, Friends of FPL Board President; and Louis Gottspner, Library Board President. Jim Blair cuts the banner, the doors slide back, and a new chapter begins in the history of the Fayetteville Public Library.

**Oct 9th-Nov 15th**

**A Month of Celebrations**

Starting on opening day and running for a full month, FPL hosts more than 75 public events, showing off its new facilities. The library rings with live music, from classical to jazz to acoustic folk. There are readings galore—by Joan Hess, mystery writer; Michael Heffernan, poet; and such authors as Donald Hays, Molly Giles, and Donald Harington. Talks by Randall Woods, Charles Robinson, James Gilmore and others on a wide array of topics including history, marketing, mental health, architecture, politics, religion and science fill the evenings in the Willard & Pat Walker Meeting Room.

**Nov 1st**

**FPL Unveils New Writers’ Center**

Thanks to a grant from the Arkansas Arts Council, the library launches the FPL Writers’ Center to run writing workshops, seminars, readings and other services for area writers and student writers, including the Arkansas Playwrights Workshop, the Writers Café, and publication of the student anthology, *The Wanderer*. Robert Ford, former FPL reference librarian and author of the novel *The Student Conductor*, is hired as writer-in-residence.

**FPL “Nails” Construction Award**

At its Third Annual Construction Industry Appreciation Night, the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce honors Blair Library with its Golden Shovel Award.

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We did it! Six years ago when the community looked to the future of the Fayetteville Public Library, could we have imagined that we would be able to accomplish so much in so little time? The community has done a amazing job supporting this project. The Foundation Board of Directors and Campaign Committee cannot fully express our appreciation and gratitude.

We have not only built a spectacular facility, which when the doors were opened was paid for in full through a one-time 18-month sales tax and private donations, but have also started an endowment to help us fulfill our promise to future generations.

Jim Blair’s words “Our fortune is our community…” are displayed above the donor wall in our main lobby, and so aptly reflect the sentiment felt by all those who have given countless hours of their time and financial resources to see this wonderful project to completion. Our fortune is indeed our community, and our community should be proud.

The Foundation will continue to work to provide resources to the Fayetteville Public Library in order to ensure that this is not just a good library, but a great library.  Thank you for all of your support!

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The Friends had a very successful 2004, taking part in the closing of the Roberta Fulbright Library and participating in the opening of Blair Library. We sponsored a gigantic moving sale in August in preparation for the move to the new facility. Friends provided $30,000 in 2004 on larger pledges to the capital campaign.

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Barnes & Noble Bookellers
Bedford Camera and Video
Bibliotheca RFID Systems AG
Collier Drug Stores
Crossland Construction Company, Inc.
DOXA
Eventures
Flora
Andrea Fournet
G.I.S. Information Systems (Polaris)
Donna Y. Geller
Green Anderson Engineering
Morriss and Ann Henry
Jose’s
La Maison des Tartes
Liquor World
Lowy’s
Mailco USA, Inc.
McBridence Distributing
Moon Distributing
Morning News of Northwest Arkansas
Off The Press Printing
Ozark Natural Foods
Papa John’s Pizza
SBC Communications, Inc.
Len and Louise Schaper
University of Arkansas Walton College of Business
Carolyn Walton

**Business and Organization Support**

American Library Association
Arkansas Party Rentals
Arkansas-Missouri Railroad
Arkansas Urban Forestry Commission
Beaver Water District
Bob’s Studio of Photography
Burger King
City of Fayetteville Community Block Grant Program
Clairion Inn
Dixie Café
DOXA
Embassy Suites
Eureka Pizza
Fayetteville Adult and Community Education
Fayetteville Parks & Recreation Dept.
First Baptist Church
Gator Golf
Harps Bakery
Hastings
High Roller Cyclery
Hiland Dairy
Horsemen’s Roundup
Hunan Manor Restaurant
J. D. China
Jones, Jones, & Doss, PLC
K-Mac Enterprises
Lin’s Chinese Restaurant
Lokomotion
Madame Wu
Maj. Brian Pendleton Chapter NSDAC
Marion Chapter DAR
National Endowment for the Humanities
National Video Resources

**National Railway Historical Society**

Nestle-Purina
Ozark Bowling
Ozark Cooperative Warehouse
Panda Chinese Restaurant
Penguin Ed’s Barbecue
Pitts Piano Service, Inc.
Radisson Hotel
Razorback 6 Cinema
Red Lobster
Round Mountain Joinery
Seoul Oriental Market
Shake’s Frozen Custard
Silver Dollar City
Sonic
Sports Park of Arkansas
The Goddard Book Project
The Skate Place
U.S. Pizza Co.
Uncle Sam’s Safari Outfitters
University Wal-Mart
Wal-Mart #359
Walton Arts Center
Wendy’s - Fourjay L.L.C.
Westwood Gardens
Will Hall Books
Young Democrats of U of A
Zelenka, Sally

**Docent Jo Marr conducts a tour of Blair Library for a class of elementary school students.**
Fayetteville Public Library

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Dan Ferritor, Vice-President
Ann de Noble, Treasurer
Lorraine Brewer, Secretary
Elizabeth Jordan
Maury Roberts
Beverly Bassett Schaffer

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Shawna Thorup, M.L.S., Assistant Director
Catherine Rew, C.P.A., Manager, Finance & Facilities
Nima Khamooshi, B.S., Manager, Information Technology
Laurel Greenwood, B.A., Manager, Children’s Services
Gale Golden, M.Div./R.E., Manager, Circulation Services
Michele Raine, M.L.S., Manager, Reference Services
Sarah Houk, M.L.S., Manager, Technical Services
Georgia Kunze, M.F.A., Manager, Volunteer & Special Services
Sam Palmer, Manager, Facilities
Denise Stramel, Assistant Manager, Circulation Services

Fayetteville Public Library Foundation

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Linda McBride
Greg Jones
Jane Gearhart
Louis Gottsponer
Louise Schaper, ex officio
Dorothy Wood

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Ann Henry, Chair

Director of Development

Hope Bradberry

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Walt Danforth, Vice-President
Rhoda Woods, Treasurer
Betty Solis, Secretary
Cathy Boyd
Genie Donovan
Georgia Kunze
Jake Lamkins
Nan Lawler
David Luhn
Donnie Porter
Anne Prichard
2004 Financials and Performance Measures

Operating and Materials Revenues

FISCAL YEAR 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Fayetteville</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>$ 22,738,126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIP Capital items</td>
<td>$ 62,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIP Books</td>
<td>$ 161,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>subtotal</td>
<td>$ 22,961,246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library millage</td>
<td>$ 825,004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Aid to Public Libraries</td>
<td>$ 42,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fines, Fees &amp; Other</td>
<td>$ 121,093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from FPL</td>
<td>$ 894,287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions from Friends of FPL</td>
<td>$ 46,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand total</td>
<td>$ 24,889,753</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Library Expenditures

JANUARY 1, 2004 – DECEMBER 31, 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Benefits</td>
<td>$ 1,345,592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
<td>$ 496,376</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Materials</td>
<td>$ 312,827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>$ 155,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>subtotal</td>
<td>$ 2,192,922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital Outlay</td>
<td>$ 21,521,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$23,831,552</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2004 Library Measures

POPULATION SERVED (2000 CENSUS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fayetteville</td>
<td>58,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington County</td>
<td>157,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Cardholders</td>
<td>48,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Program Attendance</td>
<td>41,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Programs</td>
<td>31,314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials Owned</td>
<td>186,124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodicals</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference Questions Answered</td>
<td>69,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of Materials (Circulation)</td>
<td>718,159</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Materials</td>
<td>218,471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visits</td>
<td>576,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer hours</td>
<td>14,697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff (Full-Time Equivalent)</td>
<td>33.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff with M.L.S. degree</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Library Ratios and Peer Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>FPL</th>
<th>National</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>AVERAGE 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-99,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library holdings per capita</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual visits per capita</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference transactions per capita</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection turnover</td>
<td>3.86</td>
<td>2.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Circulation per capita</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent population with library card</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>63.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book/materials expenditures per capita</td>
<td>$5.43</td>
<td>$5.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>annual expenditures per capita</td>
<td>$33.55</td>
<td>$39.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Includes the transfer of Blair Library, including furniture and equipment, to the Library. Actual day-to-day operations revenues were $862,250.
2 Capital outlay for Blair Library construction and furnishings.
3 Includes assets for new Blair Library Bldg.
5 Cardholders may live outside Fayetteville city limits; cannot filter by city boundaries.
6 FPL exceeded national average for annual book expenditures for the first time. This is due to opening day collection funds provided by the Friends of the FPL and the Book Endowment Fund.

2004 was a unique year in the life of the FPL. With the completion of the Blair Library, many items were purchased to equip the new facility. Our community’s shared vision to build a new library comparable with the best-in-class nationally was brought to fruition through the extraordinary generosity of our citizens and the hard work and support of the Library staff, City of Fayetteville staff and elected officials, FPL Foundation, and Friends of FPL.
THE ALPHABET AS PART OF WHAT WE ARE

Some of what we came from came for a chance.
Others came indentured, others in chains,
to these potential—then united—states,
except for those who crossed the Bering Straits,
but they were immigrants, too, although they came
before there was a colony to name.
We’re still astounded to find ourselves here,
children of brave and slave and musketeer,
coolie and buccaneer and wetback,
what we call white and yellow, red and black,
believing in living together and learning to.

Knowing how flesh can fail, minds misconstrue,
we have to wonder how we have come this far
toward what we want to be, being what we are.

Part of what keeps us restless and dreaming ahead
is paper printed with ink, words to be read,
thoughts to be spread about, newspapers and books,
journals and magazines—for lingering looks,
on slow strolls in the garden called the brain,
at long impressions where a truth has lain.

Miller Williams
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