

# THE LAW SCHOOL MAKES A MOTION

The doors to Lane Hall were locked forever on the first of August. The building that housed the law school since 1966 is now an empty shell, quietly waiting for demolition. Only a few reminders of the move remain: old furniture, trash, and a boarded-up window on Fayette Street, where 350,000 books were rolled out of the library and into the back of a truck for the short ride to the School of Law at Campus Center.

Although the school will spend only two-and-a-half years there, Assistant Dean José Bahamonde-González admonishes anyone who calls the School of Law at Campus Center, “the temporary building.” The school didn’t just move into an old building that happened to be available; a considerable amount of time, money, and planning were put into Campus Center. The old Health Sciences Library, plagued for years by leaks, got a new roof and new windows. Old walls were torn down and new ones erected. A third chiller was added to the air conditioning system, which, as the move took place during a record-setting heat wave, was greatly appreciated.

Barbara Gontrum, director of the Thurgood Marshall Law Library, and the library staff led the way into the new building. To move the collection, they contracted with one of only a handful of companies that specialize in moving libraries. Given a 14-day window to do the job, they started late, but completed the work on time, and the library was closed only briefly.

With a core group of library staff watching, books were moved from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. some days, at a rate of 1,300 shelves per day. Over at the new library, construction crews were still tarring the roof. Further complicating the move, some books were headed to closed stacks in the new library, some to open stacks, and duplicates to space in the Health Sciences and Human Services Library across the street from Campus Center. One item that received special care was the bust of Thurgood Marshall: “Movers wrapped him in reams and reams of plastic,” says Gontrum, “and the head of the moving company accompanied the bust on the truck.”

Moving the faculty and staff offices—handled by a different company—did not go as smoothly. According to Katherine McManus, construction and facilities manager, the company grossly underestimated the size of the move, despite a detailed contract and several pre-move meetings. On the third of four scheduled moving days, crews were still moving boxes on the first day’s list. Crews that called it a day after six hours the first day, were working through rush hour and into the evening the remainder of the week. The University’s Operations and Maintenance crews had to be called in to assemble desks, rearrange furniture, and move

# in a Cross-Campus Direction

BY ERIC BROSCHE

boxes to the correct rooms. The contracted moving company, which employed 16 people and three trucks the first day, had called in 35 employees and seven trucks by the end of the process. Even the president of the moving company—called in by the University's procurement office—was on hand moving boxes.

On the third floor, surrounded by full boxes and a few empty ones, McManus, who just orchestrated her own move from the University of Miami School of Law, was exasperated but optimistic. "It's hard going through the growing pains of computers not working and phones not working, but everyone's excited about [the plans for] the new facility."

During the move, the freshly-painted hallways were narrowed with stacks of boxes—about 5,000 were ordered for the job. Stacks of chairs were loaded on overturned tables and rolled in on dollies. Orange "Rent-A-Crates" on wheels, loaded with computer monitors, competed for space. Faculty and staff offices were marked with temporary nameplates and room numbers so movers could match the boxes with their destination. Everything coming over from the old building had a sticker with a name and room number on it: chairs, cabinets, even a lone lampshade. Taped to the walls of each office were rough photocopies of the floor plan with notes, such as "cubicle here" and "shelves," handwritten in.

Inside the offices, desks—those that were assembled—were leaned vertically on walls to make room for more boxes, bulletin boards, and personal items. Phones, fax machines, and coffee makers were among the first things plugged in.

In the basement, movers—coming through doorways without doors—brushed shoulders with painters and crews constructing classrooms under a dropped ceiling missing half of its panels. In a second-floor window of the library, an inflatable version of the central figure in painter Edvard Munch's "The Scream" acted as a harbinger of the chaos within the building.

Throughout the week, faculty members and staff struggled to unpack and continue working, doing what they could with what they had available. Associate Dean for Admissions Jim Forsyth continued to register and admit students amid stacks of boxes. Tricia O'Neill, director of student affairs, continued taking requests but noted, "when students call me looking for something and I have to tell them it is in a box somewhere, I can't even tell them that it won't happen again, because we'll be moving in a couple of years."

But that will be a much-welcome move as faculty, staff and students usher in a new era of legal education in a new building. **JD**

## Who's Where and What's What...

*Now that everyone is settled in, those visiting the School of Law at Campus Center should note that the main entrance for the School and the library is 111 S. Greene St., but access to the building and its elevators is available at 515 W. Lombard St., just around the corner. (Both entrances are ADA compliant.) There are two elevators at the Lombard entrance. The elevator on the left travels from the first floor to the fourth floor of Campus Center, but continues up to the fifth and sixth floor of the Office of Research and Development. The elevator on the right provides access to the lower level and to floors one through four. Campus Center is actually two buildings, the old Health Sciences Library and the east wing of the Lombard Building. They are joined on the lower level, which houses classrooms, food services (Seattle's Best Coffee), and the Moot Court.*

*In the Lombard building, the first floor has room for classes, but is mainly faculty offices. The second floor is devoted to the student practice programs; the third floor to the Dean's Office, Alumni and Development, Admissions and Career Development; and the fourth floor to more faculty offices. Offices for the law school's journals are on the second floor of the library building along with the faculty-student Commons Room.*

