



William H. Hannon Agreed to Pay Back \$800 in Tuition when He Graduated – His Longtime Commitment to LMU is Honored with Lead Library Gift

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A Loyola Marymount University alumnus who attained his degree in 1937 on a handshake deal to pay back his \$800 tuition after he graduated and got a job is still making good on that promise after his death, most recently with the lead gift for a new state-of-the-art university library.

Continuing the legacy of William H. Hannon's longtime commitment to Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, the William H. Hannon Foundation will donate \$10 million for the new William H. Hannon Library.

"My uncle cherished Loyola Marymount," said Kathleen Hannon Aikenhead, president of the William H. Hannon Foundation, Hannon's niece, and a foundation board member since the organization was created in 1983. "My uncle's story is truly a Horatio Alger epic, and he never forgot the people who gave him his first big break. We are proud to carry on his personal legacy by making this pledge for the William H. Hannon Library. Through gifts to his alma mater, my uncle has now paid back his original \$800 tuition over 37,000 times."

The library, which will be located on the bluff overlooking the Los Angeles basin, will be a major step forward in developing library and information services to support generations of students for the next quarter century. The donation is one of the largest single gifts given to the university.



THE WILLIAM H. HANNON LIBRARY
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT
UNIVERSITY

LEO A DALY
ARCHITECTS

Architect's rendering of façade of William H. Hannon Library

“Mr. Hannon had such vital connection with the university during his lifetime,” said LMU President Robert B. Lawton, S.J., “... (the) donation will allow the university to create an even more visible symbol of our commitment to academic excellence.”

A prominent real estate developer and philanthropist in Southern California, Hannon played a key role in transforming farmland and oil fields into what are now the thriving communities of Panorama City,

Ontario, Monterey Park, Playa del Rey, and North Hollywood. He also maintained a close involvement with LMU and the Westchester area. “The selected site for the new library is fabulous,” said Jim Hannon, Treasurer of the foundation and nephew of William Hannon. “My uncle the developer certainly would feel that it satisfies the old real estate adage of ‘location, location, location.’”



Architect’s rendering of William H. Hannon Library atop Westchester bluffs

In his early years, as part of Fritz B. Burns & Associates, Hannon assisted in the subdividing of Windsor Hills and Riverside Ranchos in Burbank. In 1942, he helped with the development of Westchester. The firm constructed thousands of homes built in Westchester during that time. During the 1950’s, Hannon helped to build the Airport Marina Hotel and the adjoining shopping center at the corner of Lincoln and Manchester. His dedication to the Westchester area continued throughout his life. Hannon was a graduate of Loyola University in 1937, a Regent Emeritus and an Honorary Trustee of LMU until his death in 1999.

During his life, Hannon, along with his brothers and sister, donated the funds to construct LMU’s Eugenie B. Hannon Student Apartments, the Hannon parking lot, Hannon Field, and Hannon Loft, among many other gifts. “The new library will be the capstone gift of the Hannon’s to LMU,” said Nancy B. Cunningham, William Hannon’s niece and foundation Secretary. “My uncle’s presence will now be felt in academic, residential and athletic facilities at the university.”

Throughout his 11 years as Chairman of the Fritz B. Burns Foundation, Hannon continued Burns' legacy with major gifts for buildings and scholarships at LMU. In 1991, the William H. Hannon Foundation funded the Trial Advocacy Center at Loyola Law School.

Said Edward Evans, associate academic vice president for Library & Information Services, "This remarkable gift, which honors Hannon's legacy, will help to enhance LMU's library and information services to support students far into the future. The new library will reflect collaborative study space to emphasize the teamwork that today is key to organizational success, a new 24-hour study room and numerous other special rooms for the group use of music and video materials where the shared exchange of ideas is as encouraged as individual study. There also will be wireless network access throughout open areas and hard wiring for the collaborative study rooms. It truly will be a library of the future."

Along with an outstanding physical facility, which will accommodate collection growth and use for the next quarter century, the design of the new university library is set to include a state-of-the-art advanced automated storage and retrieval system (ASRS). The ASRS system will allow the library to house nearly 1.5 million items with its high-density storage capabilities. One of the most unique aspects of LMU's new facility will be that, unlike other library installations, nearly all of the paper-based resources will be housed in the ASRS unit, along with select archival materials and a wide range of media formats. Users may search the online catalog and request an item in the same time it takes to identify, locate and bring a book to the checkout desk in a "traditional" library environment – about 7 minutes.

Internationally recognized planning, architecture, engineering and interior design firm Leo A. Daly has created an initial conceptual design for the new structure.