Celebrating Milestones: James White Library's 75th Anniversary [Poster]

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75 Years Ago
• Built in 1937, the James White Memorial Library served the campus for 25 years  
• 20,000 volumes were trundled through the snow to the new library in December, 1937

50 Years Ago
• With the addition of the graduate school in 1960, a new library building project was begun  
• The new library was completed in 1962  
• An expansion program in 1976 doubled the library’s physical space

20 Years Ago
• Remember the card catalog?  
• Online catalog launched in 1992  
• 1,000,000th record added in 2012

Abstract
James White Library celebrated its 75th anniversary with a series of activities in the year 2012-2013, starting with the alumni homecoming in 2012 and projecting its capstone event during the alumni homecoming in 2013. The activities focused on how the library, first as a small brick building in 1937 filled with print resources, progressed to its current building with its technological emphasis. Landmarks through the years include the naming of the building in 1937, the construction of a new facility in 1962, the addition in 1976, the replacement of the card catalog with an online catalog in 1992, and the growth of the library’s holdings to one million bibliographic records in 2012. A special celebration was held in May 2013 in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Sept. 2012
Alumni Parade  
Alumni Tours

Campus Open House  
Ribbon Cutting Instruction Lab  
White Portrait Unveiling

May 2013
Preparring Exhibits  
Clouten Speech Birthday Bash  

What We Did
• Formed a committee which met regularly to plan activities and events for the entire year  
• Created subcommittees involving more library employees and significant campus departments: Integrated Marketing and Communication, Student Life, Center for Adventist Research, and Alumni Services  
• Commissioned a new painting of James White  
• Provided additional advertising and publicity: bag stuffers, footprints to the library, announcements and directional signs throughout campus  
• Made each event festive: balloons, flowers, food, commemorative shirts, music, University mascot (Cardinal), displays, giveaways  
• Gave opportunities for participation: prize drawings, co-curricular credit for completing quiz, artist demonstration, oral history project  
• Recognized library employees, past and present; invited former library directors to participate

What We Learned
• Organize the planning committee early  
• Distribute the work to share the responsibility with non-committee members  
• Proofread programs and publicity materials in committee to prevent misinformation  
• Develop good communication methods: meeting time, regular attendance, prompt minutes, follow up, “To Do” list for each person  
• Run activities by the planning committee to avoid surprises, but be prepared for the unexpected  
• Leave documentation for library archives