

# Collier construction concludes

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Construction workers finished modification of Collier Library January 26, having repaired and improved the windows, columns, floors and the restrooms for the building to have better building structure, appearance, energy efficiency, protection and convenience.

The repairing plan had started around July of 2005, said director of facilities Michael Gautney, and the request of the construction was submitted by UNA in order to fix up the "weathertight integrity" mostly for the southwest walls of the building. It was supposed to be completed by late November or early December, but unexpected problems delayed the process.

Celia Reynolds, a reference services coordinator at Collier, said that there were several reasons why the construction was delayed. She said that it took longer time to attach new windows to the wall; some supplies didn't fit in the predetermined places, so

the library had to return them and reorder the new ones; and new places were also found that should be repaired. Some UNA schedules also caused the delay of the construction; workers stopped working during final exams and worked slowly during the mid-term exams.

Some user troubles were caused during the construction. Reynolds said there were noise and dust from drilling the wall from the outside. When the windows were out, it was hard to maintain the proper temperature in the library because of the periodic exposure of the temperature. The number of computers available was reduced to make enough space for the process of the construction, and sometimes computers were forced to shut down suddenly because the workers had to move furniture.

"Sometimes the fire alarms were being accidentally set off by dust created by the drilling on the columns," Reynolds said. Thanks to the improvements and repair, the building was

made stronger. Reynolds said that support columns along the wall that faces the GUC were reinforced by adding more reinforced steels and by reinstating the concrete on the external columns. "Columns were needed to be redone," a foreman of this construction Mike Mason said, "they were breaking." The workers also repaired the exterior of the building by replacing the support structures and improved the drainage around the building. The new windows were also inserted for energy efficiency and the protection of the library materials from harmful ultraviolet rays and sun heat. It is especially important for Archives materials on the second floor. Two restrooms were also improved to conform to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations "to make them more handicapped-accessible."

"We appreciate the university's funding project because it will help the building's services for many more years," Reynolds said.