February 13, 2017

Library named in honour of university’s first president

Edmonton – The Board of Governors at MacEwan University is pleased to announce that the library at the City Centre Campus will be named in honour of John L. Haar, the institution’s first president.

Currently, the university’s west-end campus houses the John L. Haar Theatre. The naming of the library in his honor comes in light of the upcoming move of MacEwan’s operations at the CFAC campus for the Fall 2018 academic year.

"John Haar played an immeasurable role in the development of MacEwan University, and it is important to us that we continue to honour his legacy," said David Atkinson, president, MacEwan University. "The library is a central part of MacEwan's architecture, identity and student success—a fitting place to pay tribute to a man whose hard work and vision in many ways remains at the core of all that we do."

Born in Vancouver in 1918, Haar served overseas in North Africa and London during World War II, where he was involved in deciphering German messages. After the war, he attended the University of British Columbia.

Before coming to MacEwan, Haar held several posts at academic institutions including the University of British Columbia, the Banff School of Fine Arts and as the first president of Centennial College in Scarborough, Ontario. In 1971, he became the founding president of Grant MacEwan Community College (now known as MacEwan University).

During Haar’s tenure, the college grew from two small makeshift campuses with 410 students in 16 programs, to three campuses with 2,417 full-time students in 43 programs. Haar served as president until retiring in 1981, and passed away in 1982.

Three of Haar’s daughters will be on hand to commemorate the event.

Date: Wednesday, February 15
Time:  4:00
Location: MacEwan’s University main library, City Centre Campus

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.

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