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The Library Associates

Annual Meeting

The Library Associates held their Annual Dinner Meeting on March 25 at the Singletary Center for the Arts. A reception was held in the UK Art Museum before dinner, providing Associates and their guests with an opportunity to meet the evening’s honored guest and the tenth Edward F. Prichard, Jr. Lecturer, George Plimpton. Approximately 150 members of the Associates enjoyed dinner on the stage of the Concert Hall before adjourning to the Recital Hall for the business meeting and program.

Hill Maury, President of the Associates, presided over the meeting and introduced Paul Willis, Director of Libraries, who reported on recent library activities. C. M. Newton, UK director of Athletics and Chair of the Library Challenge for the 90s campaign, provided an update on the library endowment fund campaign and encouraged Associates to participate in the Library’s 5K Classic Walk/Run, to be held April 6. Eugene R. Williams, UK’s Vice-President for Information Systems, awarded five-year service pins to Faye Claiborne and Hill Maury for their weekly volunteer contributions to the Library in the Special Collections and Government Publications Departments.

The report of the nominating committee was given by Mr. Maury. The following slate of officers and new Executive Committee members was approved: President, Robert Houlihan, Sr.; Vice-President, Dr. Peggy Meszaros, Dean of UK’s College of Human Environmental Sciences; committee members, Dixon Barr, Scott Breckinridge, John Gaines, Frances Lamason, Ellsworth Mason, Boynton Merrill, Jr., Mary Genevieve Murphy, Angela Rice, Woodford Van Meter, Anne Vonderheide, Judy Wethington, and Adalin Wichman.

Dr. Charles T. Wethington, Jr., President of the University, spoke to the Associates about his plan to make a new library facility the University’s top building priority for the upcoming legislative session. He noted the many ways a state-of-the art facility with strong collections supported by private endowments would enhance the academic programs at UK and improve the national stature of the University.

Paul Willis then introduced John R. Gaines, co-chair with Dr. Wethington of the Library Campaign, and presented him with a
certificate of recognition for his untiring efforts on behalf of the Library. The certificate was designed, printed and hand-colored at the King Library Press. Mr. Gaines echoed Dr. Wethington's enthusiasm and dedication to seeing a new library facility in place at UK in the near future, and he called on the Library Associates to support this effort in every way possible. Mr. Willis then announced the laureate for the second UK Library Medallion for Intellectual Excellence. Judge Bert T. Combs was named as the 1991 recipient for his long history of support for education in the Commonwealth. His efforts include launching UK's community college system, establishing Kentucky Educational Television, enacting a sales tax to support Kentucky's public schools, and his recent efforts leading to public school reform in Kentucky. Judge Combs, in accepting the medallion, expressed his support for the library and its premier importance in the future of education in Kentucky.

Bill Curry, head football coach, introduced his long-time friend George Plimpton as the tenth annual Prichard Lecturer. Mr. Plimpton's talk, "An Amateur Among Professionals," included a number of anecdotes relating to his adventures as a "participating journalist," as well as passages from several of his published works.

The meeting was adjourned by the new president of the Executive Committee, Robert Houlihan, Sr.

—Paula Leach Pope