

MAR 26 1998

UK WILLIAM T. YOUNG LIBRARY



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UK UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Office of the President

Dear Fellow Kentuckian:

It is my distinct privilege to participate in this very special opportunity which heralds the dedication of the University of Kentucky's William T. Young Library on April 3, 1998. This state-of-the-art facility is only the third new general library building to be constructed in the 130-year history of Kentucky's largest university.

When I became President of the University of Kentucky in 1990 it was my intention to not only plan for the university's short-term immediate needs, but to move forward in a way that would always keep UK in the vanguard of the educational community. Providing the very best educational tools to our faculty, staff and to the Commonwealth in which we live has been a guiding principle always in mind. Let a goal of constructing a new library to meet the critical needs for library and information services in Lexington, in all the community colleges throughout Kentucky, and to serve as a resource for other libraries throughout the state.

Today, my vision is a reality in large measure due to the special assistance, countless hours of time, money and dedication and selfless support from so many people in the Commonwealth of Kentucky — people just like you. I am especially grateful to the William T. Young whose generous \$5 million donation was the foundation for the start of the library fund-raising campaign. Mr. Young was one of more than 14,000 donors from every county in Kentucky who participated in the private fund-raising effort that brought in \$4 million in book endowments and \$18 million to build the magnificent structure that will be dedicated April 3.

A special note of thanks goes to Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, which sponsored the sale of revenue bonds to finance the library. Thanks also goes to the UK Alumni Association, the UK Athletic Association and the Kentucky Medical Society — Foundation whose support was critical. There are so many people to thank that space here doesn't afford me the opportunity to recognize everyone who deserves it.

A key goal of the University of Kentucky is to be recognized as one of America's top 20 public research universities. This state-of-the-art library will greatly facilitate our move into that elite top 20 group. I believe it is worth noting that the UK system of libraries is not only one of the best in the nation, but also one of the most modern. It is expected to move even higher with the opening of this new library.

Clearly we are in the information age. It is information that fuels the university. It is information that is so essential to our growth as a Research University. As noted by the Carnegie Institute, "Historically, information in university libraries primarily came from printed materials in books and journals. As we approach the Millennium we find libraries in the midst of a revolution in scholarly communications with information changing at a dizzying pace into digital electronic formats."

The new William T. Young Library boasts the very latest digital communications system that provides boundless resources to meet the needs of faculty, students, and staff. Equally important, the library is dedicated to extending its services throughout the state of Kentucky, making it possible for everyone in the Commonwealth to utilize its vast resources.

This is YOUR library. I invite each of you to search out the library's Internet web pages — to take advantage of the tremendous resources within fingertips' reach. As a handy reference guide to the William T. Young Library. Once again, I thank the countless individuals, corporations and others who have given so willingly of their time and resources. I know that the new library will serve the University of Kentucky and the Commonwealth well — and far into the 21st century.

Sincerely,

Charles T. Wettington, Jr.

Charles T. Wettington, Jr., President
University of Kentucky
March 1998



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WILLIAM T. YOUNG LIBRARY • UK

Doors opened to third millennium

The future has dawned. On the campus of the University of Kentucky stands a gateway to the 21st Century itself.

Within its walls are found billions of words containing the secrets to tomorrow's prosperity for the Bluegrass State, the nation and the world.

Its design provides means to seek information from beyond its walls, guaranteeing access to the most up-to-date developments in every field of human endeavor. And its facilities ensure that faculty at the University of Kentucky will have the resources necessary for UK to assume its position among the nation's top-flight research institutions.

The William T. Young Library. Six hundred personal computers will be available for students and staff to explore information provided on CD-ROM, diskettes, the Internet and the

World Wide Web. Enough data cable, voice cable and fiber-optic cable has been strung through the library to mark a trail from Lexington to Nashville, and beyond.

But the Information Age does not begin and end with computers. The building includes special rooms dedicated to teleconferencing and interactive-television facilities that will

permit UK students and faculty to participate in presentations simultaneously and from faraway locations.

Welcome to the Third Millennium, with doors opened by the William T. Young Library. The \$58 million library, dedicated Friday, April 3, stands as a monument to the University of Kentucky's commitment to present and future generations and their education.

The reality of the William T. Young Library began with the vision of UK President Charles T. Wettington, Jr., who immediately recognized the need for a new library building when he was named president.

"Public building, especially libraries, should be something above the ordinary. We wanted this building to make a statement about the importance of a library. I feel we have done that," Wettington says.

More than 14,000 people gave over \$22 million during a private fund-raising drive to help pay for the building and to fund a book endowment. A blue-ribbon panel assembled by the university selected Kallman McKinnell & Wood, a Boston architectural firm, to prepare blueprints, which were unveiled in September 1993.

Ground was broken on December 6, 1994. As the library began to take shape, it established itself as a marvel of both architectural and technological achievement.

"Some-times buildings become monuments that don't work very well," says Director of UK Libraries Paul Willis. "From the beginning we wanted a building that was functional, easy to use. We have accomplished that."

Standing in the center of a 30-acre park, the building's five floors and basement occupy 362,000 square feet of space. The architects designed an aesthetically pleasing structure using natural light that



pour through a skylight and cascade through a five-story rotunda. Along the first story walls are computer stations that provide visitors with instant access to the library's catalog, the first hint of the heightened emphasis on state-of-the-art technology.

Fatrons make their way to the library's other floors via elevators or stairs, including a circular staircase that leads to the rotunda and triangular spiral stairwells in each of the building's four corners.

The Young Library provides dozens of dark-oak tables and chairs in reading rooms positioned on the second, third, fourth and fifth floors. The fifth floor features a spectacular reading nook within the rotunda, lit by a chandelier that hangs from the domed ceiling.

The designers and builders considered all possible student and faculty needs in preparing the Young Library. Its other features include a 150-seat lecture hall and a cafe that peers onto the east lawn.

Louis J. Swift, dean of undergraduate studies, says the library achieved its purpose of partnering education with technology to enhance students' competitiveness in the Information Age's job market.

"The Internet and all the rest of technology meant, as never before, that scholarship and learning are not a local nor a statewide nor a national enterprise. They are worldwide and ever increasing ways. People all over the world must know about what happens in Kentucky, and vice versa. The Young Library

makes this possible in new ways," Swift says. At the University of Kentucky, a new day dawns with the opening of the William T. Young Library. Join us at the sunrise.

President Charles T. Wettington, Jr.
and the
University of Kentucky Board of Trustees
cordially invite you to attend the
dedication ceremony for the
William T. Young Library
Friday, April 3, 1998
11:00 a.m.
University of Kentucky Campus
Lexington, Kentucky

Reverend Theodore M. J. Hesburgh, C. S. C.
President Emeritus, University of Notre Dame
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