Dear Friends -

I hope you all had happy and joyous holidays and that the first weeks of 2012 have been good to you. With the spring semester underway, our beautiful campus is alive once again and it serves as a reminder of our mission as trustees of the foundation. Now more than ever, private support is needed to ensure that deserving students in Georgia are afforded the opportunity to earn a degree from the state's flagship institution.

Recent news that HOPE Scholarship funds may again be reduced for students in the years ahead means that as trustees, our efforts to secure gifts for the university and our stewardship of donor funds are vitally important. It is comforting to know that on this foundation we have a board that is laden with knowledgeable, hard-working, dedicated professionals who understand what it takes to meet some of the most pressing needs at the University of Georgia. With you, our trustees, leading the way, I have every confidence that we will fulfill our mission in 2012 and the years ahead.

I hope you enjoy reading the stories that follow. They underscore just what incredible talent, innovation and resources are part of the institution we all love so dearly. It is oft stated that a primary goal of the foundation is help the university attract the best and brightest students and faculty to Athens. This newsletter offers a small sampling of the success. Thank you so much for your service to the foundation.

I look forward to working with you in 2012!

Sincerely,

Bill Young, Jr., Chairman

University of Georgia Foundation board meeting coming up next month

President Adams addresses UGAF trustees at a past meeting.

I hope you all will be able to attend our winter board meeting in Athens on February 16 and 17 as we have a lot to accomplish. We have an aggressive agenda planned for each committee and for the full board session on Friday. At the conclusion of Thursday's meetings, there will be a reception and tour of the Richard B. Russell Building, the beautiful new campus home for the university's special collections libraries.

On Friday at 11:00 a.m. we will have the pleasure of joining President Adams and a host of elected officials and dignitaries on the front lawn of the Russell Building for dedication ceremonies (see story on page 2).

I also want those of you among our emeritus trustees to know that your presence is more than welcome and sincerely appreciated. Although you may no longer be a voting member of the board, your expertise and insights are valued and if you can make time to be with us for any or all winter board meeting activities, the door is always open. A detailed winter meeting schedule will be coming your way soon.

Foundation trustees join Board of Visitors for lunch, tour of Georgia Aquarium

About a dozen trustees of the University of Georgia Foundation accepted invitations to attend the Board of Visitors’ recent lunch program and meeting at the Georgia Aquarium. Attendees were treated to a presentation by UGA College of Veterinary Medicine Dean Sheila Allen who discussed the University of Georgia’s relationship with the Georgia Aquarium, including a visit inside the massive main pool area (left) and a trip to the veterinary care center.
The University of Georgia special collections libraries have been moved into a new state-of-the-art facility, the Richard B. Russell Building Special Collections Libraries. The new facility will be dedicated on February 17 at 11 a.m. on the building’s front lawn. It houses the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, the Russell Library for Political Research and Studies, the Walter J. Brown Media Archives and the Peabody Collection.

Each of the special collections libraries has galleries in which to display permanent and rotating exhibits. Additionally, classrooms open for public programs allow the libraries to integrate primary source materials into instruction and meeting spaces. The building also includes digitization facilities for paper-based materials, moving images and audio as well as an oral history studio.

What visitors will not see is a 30,000-square-foot Harvard-model high-density storage facility constructed primarily below ground level. This type of storage model is generally used for offsite shelving, making UGA’s special collections vault unique for its incorporation into an actual library. Items are retrieved using a motorized order-picker to reach the 30-foot high shelves.

Groundbreaking for the $46 million, 115,000-square foot facility took place in January last year. UGA raised a third of the Russell Building’s cost from private sources, along with $7 million from program endowments.

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