On the evening of October 3, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Martin hosted our fall program event. They welcomed current members and interested friends into their beautiful home, where the guests were able to enjoy the warm atmosphere, delicious food, and great company. The attendees consisted primarily of bibliophiles with a wide range of interests and experiences, and the conversations were as interesting and educational as the occasion’s scheduled presentation promised to be. The highlight of the evening was an intellectually stimulating presentation, “The Curious Case of the Tolerant Bigot,” which was given by Austin Peay President Timothy Hall. President Hall’s excellent and engaging speech briefly summarized the subject of his book, *Separating Church and State: Roger Williams in America*, which is available at the Woodward Library as well as from Amazon and other booksellers. The moral to his talk was inspiring, “Anything is possible for someone that fervently believes in themselves and their cause,” just as Roger Williams did. The historical tone set to the age-old issue of separating church and state, religious beliefs and new beginnings was truly inspiring. This warm, inviting gathering gained the Woodward Library Society ten new members, bringing the total WLS family to 121.

**LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S COLUMN**

Welcome to our new e-mail newsletter, which is intended to provide you with information about the Society’s activities and events, and also about the Felix G. Woodward Library’s collections, services, facilities, programs and needs. A sincere thank you to APSU students Jessica Bender and Lisa Sims, who shared the responsibility of writing and editing this issue.

The Woodward Library is a dynamic, vital component of Austin Peay State University. You are part of the reason we are able to fulfill our contribution to the University’s mission. We want to ensure that you know what we are doing, and why! By informing you about the information resources and services available to Austin Peay’s students and faculty, we hope to keep you abreast of how the Library serves the University, and how your generous gifts contribute to that service.

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Prosperous New Year to you. Thank you for all you do for the Felix G. Woodward Library and Austin Peay State University.

–Joe Weber, Director of Library Services  
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Q&A WITH APSU PRESIDENT TIM HALL

Q: When did you first become involved with the Woodward Library Society?
TH: I suggested a library society to the Woodward Library in 2007, to create a community that supports different projects and strengthen resources. Many university libraries struggle to obtain new materials and current technology. A library society helps the library remain a central part of university life.

Q: What were some of your favorite books or authors growing up?
TH: C.S. Lewis, especially when I was in junior high and high school; Allan Quatermain books; biographies; science fiction, such as Isaac Asimov and Arthur Clarke.

Q: What have you read lately, that left an impression on you?
TH: I like leadership books. Also, Leavings, a collection of poems by Wendell Berry.

Q: What are you reading now?
TH: Enchantment by Guy Kawasaki.

Q: Who is your favorite author?
TH: For novels, Tolstoy, Anna Karenina, and George Eliot, Middlemarch.

Q: Is the Woodward Library Society a model that other Universities should follow?
TH: Absolutely. Libraries are no longer the quiet places we grew up with. Especially university libraries are becoming social spaces and information hubs. For the last three years, the Woodward Library Society has given a $5,000 check to the Woodward Library to help buy books, in addition to the money for other media and improvements to the library.

LIBRARY RESOURCES PURCHASED WITH WOODWARD LIBRARY SOCIETY DONATIONS

Since the spring of 2009, when the Society made its first donation to the Woodward Library, the library has used funds generated by the Society to acquire more than 300 books, 80 videos, 10 Kindle e-book readers, and a laser color printer, at a grand total of $16,000. The books and DVDs cover a wide variety of disciplines, including history, literature, sociology, psychology, criminal justice, homeland security, leadership, and African American studies. Thanks to your generosity and commitment, this fall alone the library has acquired 75 DVDs and 105 books.

MAKING PROGRESS

Construction on the Woodward Library’s new Starbucks coffee shop has begun. The coffee shop is scheduled to open in late February or early March. The seminar room and writing center construction will begin next spring. If all goes well, the new rooms should be available for use by late spring or early summer. An artist’s rendition of the coffee shop is on the following page.
We had a fabulous fall event on the evening of October 3rd. I want to thank all of those who made the event a huge success: Kay and Larry Martin who once again opened their home to us; Austin Peay President Tim Hall, who wowed us with an enthralling presentation on Roger Williams; Society board members who provided delicious food for attendees; and last, but not least, Society members who attended and brought their friends. We billed our fall event as a membership drive, encouraging members to bring non-member friends. At the end of the evening we had six new family memberships for a total of ten new members. Fabulous! I thank each new member who joined at the fall event and ask you to encourage your friends who may be interested to become Society members.

The Programs and Events Committee is working on planning events for the current year and also identifying speakers for next year’s programs. We hope that publishing our events calendar further in advance will allow people to plan ahead and increase attendance at our events. Our winter program, which is highlighted on page 2 of this newsletter, will be January 26, 2011. Also, please mark your calendars for our spring gala on March 20, 2012. David Alford, playwright and APSU alumnus, is giving the program.

We still need additional members on several standing committees. The Membership, Communications, and Nominations & Elections committees have openings. If you are interested in serving on one of these committees or have questions, please contact me. I urge you to consider serving.

I want to thank Lisa Sims and Jessica Bender, students in Dr. Mickey Wadia’s Business Writing class, for producing our newsletter as a service learning project.

I will close by thanking all of you for making the Woodward Library Society the extraordinary organization that it is.

—Elaine Berg, President, Woodward Library Society