

UVa-Wise honors Benefactors, Volunteer of the Year

Former Wise residents Martha and James Holyfield were named Benefactors of the Year and James M. Gott '72 of Kingsport, Tenn., was named Volunteer of the Year during the College's annual benefactors celebration.

Martha and James Holyfield were high school sweethearts who moved from the area in 1947 after graduating from Wise High School. Residents of Denver for the last 50 years, Mrs. Holyfield retired in 1990 as vice president and comptroller of Chase Manhattan's western district. Mr. Holyfield retired from the state of Colorado's human resources department where he worked as a health programs administrator.

In 2003, the Holyfields made a gift of \$520,000 to the College for the creation of the Martha Ann Roberts Holyfield Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship benefits local students based on merit and financial need with preference given to graduates of J. J. Kelly High School in Wise. The Holyfields have also included UVa-Wise in their estate plans.

James M. Gott, a 1972 graduate of UVa-Wise, was honored as Volunteer of the Year for his tireless service to the College. During his college days, Gott was a standout basketball player and student leader. He served two terms as president of the Student Government Association. After graduation, Gott worked in the Admissions Office and then served as housing director.

The chair of the UVa-Wise Board, Gott is a former member of the UVa-Wise Foundation Board. He served as tri-chair of the College's highly successful first campaign, which raised \$21 million. In 1998, Gott was inducted into the UVa-Wise Athletic Hall of Fame for his Outstanding Service and Support. The president of Coal Energy Resources, Inc. in Weber City, Gott lives in Kingsport with his wife, Eva.

Above right, Chancellor Ernie Ern and UVa-Wise Foundation President Don M. Green '61 join Martha and James Holyfield. Mrs. Holyfield is seated in a rocker presented in appreciation of the Holyfields' recognition as Benefactors of the Year.

Right, Don Green and Chancellor Ern flank Volunteer of the Year James M. Gott '72.



ODK establishes merit scholarship honoring the late Judge James C. Roberson



Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership honor society at UVa-Wise, has established a merit scholarship honoring the late Judge James C. Roberson.

Judge Roberson, who passed away in January 2004, was instrumental in the establishment of an ODK circle at UVa-Wise. ODK, a nearly 100-year-old organization which was inaugurated at the College in 1994, recognizes students who have achieved high

standards for themselves, their institutions, and their communities and who have been brought together to further develop and

encourage their abilities. ODK recognizes and encourages achievement in scholarship; athletics; campus or community service, social and religious activities, and campus government; journalism, speech, and mass media, and creative and performing arts.

Judge Roberson "understood well how important it was to recognize students for their demonstrations of achievement and leadership through membership in Omicron Delta Kappa," said former UVa-Wise chancellor L. Jay Lemons. "All in the College family owe him an enduring debt for his vision and leadership in making Omicron Delta Kappa a part of the fabric of the institution."

Now celebrating its tenth anniversary, the ODK circle at UVa-Wise has nearly 150 members. ODK alumni can stay informed about the local chapter by logging on to <http://people.uvawise.edu.odk>.

Gifts to the James C. Roberson ODK Scholarship are welcomed. Make checks payable to the scholarship fund and mail to the Office of Development, UVa-Wise, One College Avenue, Wise, VA 24293.