Wildcat Alumni Plaza Unveiling
April 20, 2012

Thank you Nikki, George and all of you for joining us here this afternoon.

This alumni plaza is going to be a picturesque entrance to UK ... Another front door to a splendid history. A door that opens to those seeking education and research; and a door through which we will pass tremendous service to our state. I can tell already it’s going to be a new memory lane at the University of Kentucky.

I, too, on behalf of the faculty, staff and students -- those generations who came before me and those who will come after all of us -- want to extend thanks to our Alumni Association and its leadership.

Again, former president Diane Massey, Cami Grant, who this morning I spoke to, and after hearing of her serious accident last weekend, was so glad to hear that voice full of spunk. She said to me, “There’s nothing else I had looked more forward to than this.” I told her she would be in our hearts and prayers and we’d all think about her at this moment.

I want to thank George for the leadership he will provide in the future. And I’m glad to see that the Alumni Association recognized Stan and those that came before him in a special way.

Success has lots of fathers and mothers at the University of Kentucky. We had an Alumni Plaza advisory committee, the alumni and friends who purchased the pavers to make this dream come true, and our sculptor who, I imagine after being here that evening would have been thought one night was enough. But we’ll have him back some time, too.

This story of success exemplifies the affection so many people have for the University of Kentucky...and what a wonderful story. The idea was birthed by our students. It was championed by our Alumni Association and supported by the generous contributions of our many friends and donors. It’s a hallmark moment for us as we begin thinking of how we’re going to celebrate our 150th anniversary. This is a precious legacy that all of us enjoy.

Today we provide another touchstone to that legacy and another cornerstone to all of our members.

I thank all of you for what you’ve done to make this and so many wonderful things happen at the remarkable University of Kentucky. Thank you.