Poet Richard Tillinghast, introduced by Friends Chair Dr. Jane White, read his verse to about 40 attendees in Tuttle Dining Room, McBryde Hall, at Winthrop, on Thursday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m. He also invited his brother David, a fellow poet and artist at Clemson, to read some selections from his poetry.

Tillinghast, born in Memphis, Tennessee, attended Sewanee, University of the South, and worked with southern agrarian poets, including John Crowe Ransom and Allen Tate. Tillinghast won a Woodrow Wilson Scholarship to the Harvard Graduate School and studied with Robert Lowell and is author of the leading biography of that poet, entitled Robert Lowell’s Life and Work: Damaged Grandeur (Univ. of Michigan, 1995). He taught at Harvard, the University of California at Berkeley, Converse College, and the University of Michigan for twenty years. He is author and co-author of some 15 books, including his Selected Poems (Dadaelus, 2009).

Tillinghast stressed, between his readings, the intimate relationship between poetry and music. He even sang from some popular songs to illustrate his point.

Tillinghast started his readings with a translation of a Turkish poem by Edip Cansever entitled “The Table,” where...

A man filled with the gladness of living
Put his keys on the table,
Put flowers in a copper bowl there.
He put his eggs and milk on the table...
On the table the man put Things that happened in his mind.
What he wanted to do in life, He put that there...
Those he loved, those he didn’t love,
The man put them on the table too.
Three times three make nine: The man put nine on the table...
It didn’t complain at all about the load.
It wobbled once or twice, then stood firm.
The man kept piling things on.

Poet Tillinghast read “We Kept Missing Each Other,” and several other poems, mainly from the Selected Poems. Afterwards, he autographed copies of his books and discussed poetical matters with some of the students, faculty, and Friends in attendance at the event. An enjoyable time was had by all.
Friends Board Meeting and Actions February 24

On February 24, the new Friends of Dacus Library Board met at the Library to review activities for 2014. Attendees included: Jane White (Chair), Janet Gray (Vice-Chair), Ronnie Faulkner (Sec.-Treas.), Doris Leitner, Kay McSpadden, Joyce Plyler, and Ruth Webb.

Attendance of Friends at two upcoming events was strongly encouraged: The Poetry Reading by Richard Tillinghast, scheduled at 6:30 p.m., March 6, in Tuttle Dining Room, McBryde Hall (see story on p. 1 of this newsletter); and the review by Roger Baumgarte of his book Friends Beyond Borders (2013), which will take place at the same time and location on April 7.

The Board then voted to transfer additional monies into the Friends of Dacus Library Endowed Fund, which resulted in the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Friends Account</td>
<td>$ 5,626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends Endowment Fund</td>
<td>$55,669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Friends Assets</td>
<td>$61,295</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you can see, we are over halfway to our $100,000 Board-established goal and hope to reach it by December of 2014.

The Board voted to authorize Dr. Ronnie Faulkner to pursue a speaker for the Fall meeting from a list of suggested speakers submitted by Board Members and other Friends.

The Board also discussed some possible fundraising ideas, though no final vote was taken on which to pursue. The ideas including the conducting of a silent auction of items donated by library supporters, the sponsorship of well-known authors (especially those connected with movies, TV and/or radio) as fundraising event speakers, some Friends conducted book sales, commitments on the part of sitting Board members to each recruit up to four new members, coordination of speakers with other colleges and universities in the area (to lower costs), and other suggestions.

When asked about the purpose of fundraising, Dr. Faulkner indicate it was two-fold: to raise funds to support the Dacus Library and to support the educational mission of both the Library and Winthrop University.

Professor Emeritus Roger Baumgarte to Speak 4/7/14

Dr. Roger Baumgarte, a member of the Friends of Dacus Library, Emeritus Professor of psychology, and former director of the International Student Center at Winthrop University, will speak at 6:30 p.m., Monday, April 7 in Tuttle Dining Room, McBryde Hall. He is sponsored by the Friends of Dacus Library and will talk on his recent book Friends Beyond Borders: Cultural Variations in Close Friendship (2013). One reviewer of Baumgarte’s book noted it would be “extremely helpful for those about to embark on an international exchange—whether as a university student, international business person, or new arrival to a different culture.”

Dr. Baumgarte speaks French and Spanish, as well as a smattering of other languages. In addition to his research on friendship, he has provided numerous workshops helping immigrants and visitors adjust to living and working in the U.S. He holds a BA from the University of Detroit, and an MA and PhD from Bowling Green State University. In 1984 he was the first winner of the Kinard Award for Excellence in Teaching at Winthrop. His presentation is eligible for both Cultural and Global (GLI) event credit.
By the time you read this, Winthrop will have completed yet another inauguration event. It’s been nearly thirty years since we had one, so such events, marking as they do, the changing of the guard, become very big deals in the life of a university. Indeed, they are very big deals in the life of the communities in which they occur.

I hope you had a chance to take in some of the events during Inauguration Week, as well as the service itself. The pomp and circumstance that universities bring to such events is only rivaled by those one finds in churches and in royalty. The idea behind them is to underscore, in a very big and public way, that a new chapter has begun, a new story is being written. And yes, of course, I would choose a book as a metaphor to extend the idea.

As far as which word one should use to describe such an auspicious occasion, there is a slight difference, or possibly a difference without a distinction. An inauguration refers to the events during a day or week that mark a new beginning, quite often ending with the installation of a new president. The ceremony itself is the investiture that confers on an individual new rights, a new rank or a new title. An investiture takes place at an inauguration in which there is invested in an individual the rank, or office, or title, in this case, the title or rank of president.

While these events are rightly couched in very formal terms, what could they possibly have to do with libraries?

So glad you asked. In case you missed it, Dacus had a small exhibit, while Pettus had a very large one. In Dacus we housed photos of past presidents and presidents’ inaugurations. Pettus showcased past inaugurations, photographs of past presidents, all laureled in Winthrop’s rich and variegated history. In the campus center, Pettus put together a fine exhibit of over 200 presidential certificates from past inaugurations, recreated Winthrop uniforms from the irrepressible thimble and sew of Alison Bolton, and displayed more Winthrop history and photographs.

Along the way Pettus answered questions, filled in the blanks on various stories, tried to excise fact from fiction and provide engaging background to whoever called. I won’t go so far as to say that Dacus and Pettus were indispensable only because everyone on campus made a contribution. But I will say that for much of what we provided the information seekers would have been hard-pressed to discern what they wanted.

All of this merely underscores how important libraries are, why they endure, and why they will never, never be obsolete!

Perish the thought!
In my hometown (Coats, NC—population 1,900) a new public library branch had a special dedication in 2001. The Chamber of Commerce president called the event “a milestone in the history of our small town.” As the town history noted:

It was truly a milestone in more ways than one. This nice brick building was once an abandoned ABC (Alcoholic Beverage Control) store. Coats must be one of the very few towns in America where a store selling intoxicants was closed down due to lack of business. The conversion of the ABC store from a place selling a substance that kills brain cells into a place that circulates books to stimulate brain cells is poetic irony.

Another fact that is little known about the original ABC store is that a certain percentage collected from the sale of alcohol was to go to a public library… Now, there are no taxes collected from alcohol sales, but there is still a public library.

This leads one to reflect upon what is and what is not important in life. Libraries are one of those vital things that make for a better world.

Books and libraries have been central to my own life since I first learned to read. They were especially important in my case because my father was functionally illiterate and my mother only went to grade seven in public school. Now, after thirty-five years as a librarian, I can say that libraries have made me who I am.

Libraries and the printed word still change lives. If you do not believe me, then ask William Kamkwamba, author of this year’s Winthrop University common book, The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope (2009). Even when his parents in Malawi were faced with famine and could not afford the necessary fees to send him to school, William still made regular trips to the local library. From reading books in that small library, he learned to build a windmill that generated electricity for his parents and eventually others in his small village. His achievements gained him local recognition and eventually international renown. So much so, that in 2013 Time selected him as one of the “30 People Under 30 Changing the World.”

God knows I use computers daily, but I still have and always will have an affinity for printed books. Electronic books have their uses. I have used them for research projects in the past. Nevertheless, I love printed books in a way that I can never love the words on a computer screen. I still agree with what the late Isaac Asimov said of the printed book: "It will never be surpassed because it represents the minimum technology with the maximum interaction you can have."

Very Sincerely,

Ronnie W. Faulkner
Secretary-Treasurer of FOL
Membership Application: The Friends of Dacus Library (Mail to address in box below)

Name: ____________________________________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address: ____________________________________________________________________________________

Home Phone No.: ____________________________________________________________________________________

Cell Phone No. (if different than home no.): _______________________________________________________________

Primary Email Address: _______________________________________________________________________________

Class Year (if applicable): __________         Relationship to Winthrop (check one):

___ Alumni  ___ Faculty/Staff  ___ Friend  ___ Parent  ___ Student

Amount of Gift: ____________________________________________________________________________________

Levels: Life (Individuals Only) $1,000.00+

Corporate (Businesses/Organizations Only) $500-$999.99

Patron $200-$499.99

Sustaining Member $100-$199.99

Member $50-$99.99

Winthrop Student $10-$49.99

If you wish to make a gift ___ in honor of, or ___ in memory of someone, please indicate whom:

____________________________________________________________

Name/address of person to be notified about honor/memorial in box below:

Make check payable to: Winthrop University Foundation

Mail to: Winthrop University Foundation

302 Tillman Hall

Rock Hill, SC 29733

In memo line of check write: Friends of Dacus Library