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J. Wilson Newman Gives \$300,000 Toward Completion of Miller Center's Kenneth W. Thompson Pavilion

Charlottesville, VA — January 4, 2002 J. Wilson Newman has donated \$300,000 toward completion of the University of Virginia Miller Center of Public Affairs' Kenneth W. Thompson Pavilion, bringing the fundraising total to over \$6.9 million for the \$7 million project. Newman is the former chairman and chief executive officer of Dun and Bradstreet, the world's leading provider of business information services. Newman said of his decision, "This gift is an investment in our nation's understanding of public policy and governance. I wish the Miller Center and Ken Thompson all the best and I am happy to support this very worthwhile project."

Born in 1909, Newman graduated from Clemson College in 1931. He went on to attend business school and to earn a law degree from New York University in 1937. He joined R.G. Dun and Company as a credit reporter shortly before it merged with the Bradstreet Company. Rising quickly in the firm, at 43 he became the youngest CEO in the company's history. During his career, he has been a director of a host of corporations, including AT&T, General Foods, Western Electric, International Paper, and Chemical Bank. His government service has included membership on the Price Commission and as Chair of the President's Task Force on Improving the Prospects of Small Business.

Newman, a former member of the Miller Center's Governing Council, was instrumental in envisioning a national role for the Miller Center. In the mid-1980s, as the Miller Center hosted increasingly prominent speakers such as Presidents Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford, Newman spearheaded the effort to develop a Forum Room modeled on the Virginia House of Burgesses. His lead gift for that project, in 1988, enabled the Center to better accommodate its growing P.O. Box 400406 Charlottesville, Va 22904-4406 2/2 audiences in an architecturally suitable space. Said Kenneth Thompson, the former director of the Miller Center, "For a quarter century, Wilson Newman's answer to the question posed in the title of his autobiography, *For What Do We Labor*, has been 'The Miller Center.' What began with the Newman Pavilion reached fulfillment with his all-important donation today. It is particularly fitting that he has brought our expansion

project so close to completion, given that he originally helped plan our enlarged and more active Miller Center.“

The Kenneth W. Thompson Pavilion will house the Scripps Library and Multimedia Archive, along with more than a dozen offices for the Center’s research programs on the American presidency. Designed to lend aesthetic balance to the existing Newman Pavilion, the Thompson Pavilion and associated loggia will physically connect the Center’s research and public outreach activities with its central historic structure, Faulkner House. The new Pavilion is named for Kenneth W. Thompson, who served as the Center’s director from 1978-1998.

According to B. Wistar Morris, III, Executive Director of the Miller Center Foundation, “Throughout his long career, Wilson Newman has always been a visionary and an outstanding leader. With this gift he helps complete a center that he has nurtured and supported for more than 25 years.” The Kenneth Thompson Pavilion and Renovation Project will be completed in mid-2002.

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