







**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
**FLORIDA**  
College of Liberal  
Arts & Sciences



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# *Dedication Ceremony for Kathryn Chicone Ustler Hall*

*September 29, 2006*

*10:30 a.m.*



## *Program*

Welcome and Introductions.....	Neil S. Sullivan <i>Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</i>
Opening Remarks.....	J. Bernard Machen <i>President of the University of Florida</i>
Accepting of the Building.....	Milagros Peña <i>Center Director</i> Virginia Hamner <i>2006 Alumna</i>
Historical Comments.....	Willard W. Harrison <i>Emeritus Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</i>
Benefactor Comments.....	Kathryn Chicone Ustler <i>1961 Alumna</i> Craig T. Ustler <i>1991 &amp; 1995 Alumnus</i>
Conclusion.....	J. Bernard Machen

# From Women's Gym to C



Once the home to women's sports at UF, the former Women's Gym basketball court has been transformed into a grand atrium where students and faculty converge for the exchange of ideas.



Built in Tudor Gothic style in 1919 and an indoor basketball arena and assembly hall, the first permanent structure at the University of Florida. The structure reflected the needs of an expanding campus generated by the community led UF President James B. Conant for spring training in 1919, which they used for campus activity.

Throughout the 1920s–40s, the multipurpose facility was home to Gator athletics—including gymnastics, fencing and boxing—but it was also used as a chapel, dance hall, movie theater and lecture hall. When the UF campus became co-educational in 1948, the building was designated the Women's Gymnasium. It was used for general athletic purposes until 1979, when the Women's Athletic Department moved into the Florida Gymnasium.

The university received state support to demolish the Women's Gym, which had fallen into disuse and disrepair, but an interest in preserving original campus structures prevailed in 1988, when it was granted protection under the National Register of Historic Places. A generous donation from alumna Kathryn Chicone Ustler in 2000 allowed the gym to be restored into a 14,700-square-foot, three-level academic structure housing classrooms, meeting space and faculty and administrative offices. Restoration began in spring 2004 and faculty and students from Women's Studies moved in during the summer of 2006. The fall

# Campus Gem

named “The New Gym,” the building originally served as an all. Funded by the citizens of Gainesville, the gymnasium was of Florida intended for campus-wide use. The demand for anding student body following World War I. The excitement ent A.A. Murphree to invite the New York Giants to use the accepted. Henceforth, the gym became the focal point of



2006 semester marked the beginning of classes held within the 87-year-old campus fixture.

In gratitude of her support for saving this landmark structure, the gym was renamed Kathryn Chicone Ustler Hall in 2000—making it the first academic building at the university named solely after a woman. Now that the restoration is complete, a garden is being planted in the front lawn of the facility in what previously served as a parking lot. The Catherine A. and Mary E. Yardley Garden will exist as a greenway connecting the building to the heart of the historic campus and will include a commemorative wall honoring the many women who have made contributions to the university and state.

## Kathryn Chicone Ustler

Kathryn Chicone Ustler spent her early childhood in Winter Garden, Florida, but has called Orlando home since 1951. Her father, Jerry J. Chicone, Sr., came to central Florida from New Jersey in the 1920s and established himself as a citrus grower and real estate investor. Her mother, Maude Lee, met Jerry when she came from Sylvania, Georgia to visit relatives. They were married for 64 years and had two children, Jerry Jr. and Kay. In honor of their parents, Kay and Jerry bought the 1918 Atlantic Coast Line depot in downtown Winter Garden and gave it to the city to become the Winter Garden Heritage Museum.



Kay graduated from Orlando’s Edgewater High School and still lives in the same neighborhood. She attended Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, before transferring to the University of Florida. Stephens has also been renovating its historic campus and, as a collector of antique Coca-Cola memorabilia, Kay seized the opportunity to restore an original 1930s soda fountain in its original student center, Lela Raney Wood Hall.

Kay joined Delta Gamma sorority at the University of Florida, and has always been one of the first to respond when the chapter house needs renovations. She also endows an annual scholarship. Kay graduated in 1961 with a degree in sociology and with great respect for a liberal arts education.

Ties between the family and UF cover several generations. Jerry Chicone, Sr., was among thirty people who established the Gator Boosters program in the 1950s. The north end zone Gator Booster offices are named in his honor. Jerry Jr. graduated in 1956 and is a former president of Gator Boosters. Kay’s son, Craig, also graduated from Edgewater. At the University of Florida, he received a bachelor’s degree in economics in 1991 and a master’s in real estate and urban analysis in 1995.

The combination of the family’s tradition of commitment to the university, her belief in the value of a liberal arts education, and her interest in the preservation of historic buildings all played a part in Kay’s decision to get involved with the restoration of the Women’s Gym into the beautiful, state-of-art facility we celebrate today.



A six-woman steering committee created Women's Studies in the early 1980s: (left to right) Jacquelyn Resnick, Counseling Psychology; Ruth McQuown, Political Science; Madelyn Lockhart, Economics; Maxine Margolis, Anthropology; Faye Harris, Nursing; and Irene Thompson, English.

# Women's Studies

*at the University of Florida*

Once the center of women's activities at the University of Florida, the newly renovated Ustler Hall, fittingly, now houses Women's Studies. One of the college's fastest growing programs, Women's Studies draws together scholars from many diverse backgrounds—the humanities, sciences, education, political science, law, anthropology, psychology, sociology and medicine—and places the experiences of women at the center of inquiry.

Founded in 1977, the center offers a bachelor's and master's degree, as well as a Ph.D. concentration and certificate program. It boasts support from some of the nation's principal funding agencies, including the Office of Women in Development, the Global Bureau of the U.S. Agency for International Development and the National Science Foundation.

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