

Honoring *Women* in *Florida* The Women's *Gym*

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Ustler Hall: A Restoration Effort



Kay Ustler

A generous gift from College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) alumna Kay Ustler (BA, 1961) has initiated the gym's restoration process. In gratitude, the university will re-name the refurbished building Kathryn Chicone Ustler Hall, the first academic building at UF named for a woman. When completed, the 14,700 square-foot, 3-level Ustler Hall will house classrooms and faculty and administrative offices for the the college's women's and gender studies programs. The redesigned building also will include a study area and a salon and exhibition space.

A Historic Opportunity...

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Honoring Women in Florida

Preserving a tradition



Built in Tudor Gothic style in 1919, UF's first gymnasium originally served as both an indoor basketball arena and an assembly hall. Through the 1920s, 30s, and 40s, the multipurpose facility was a center of Gator athletic

activities—including gymnastics, fencing and boxing—but 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 labeled the Women's Gymnasium, and it has continued to bear that name despite subsequent changes in use. In 1988, the Women's Gym was granted protection under the National Register of Historic Places.

New Traditions

In 2004, the College selected architects and a construction management firm to begin restoration of the Women's Gym that will become Kathryn Chicone Ustler Hall. The first floor of the restored building will house seminar and classrooms, while the second floor will be divided into program offices, conference rooms, a study area and carrels for visiting scholars.

A salon area, open from the second floor to the vaulted ceiling and clerestory windows of the original gym, will be used for lectures, receptions and performances open to the university and the community.



The Catherine A. and Mary E. Yardley Garden

The Catherine A. and Mary E. Yardley Garden will replace the parking lot at the entrance of Ustler Hall. A gift from Herb Yardley, a CLAS alumnus (BA, 1955), and his wife Catherine, a College of Pharmacy alumna (BSP, 1956), funded the garden that will serve as a greenway where students and faculty can convene, reflect and relax, connecting the gym to the heart of the historic UF campus.

The garden's north and south sides will be flanked by a commemorative wall, upon which donors may inscribe the names of women they wish to honor. An accompanying website will provide additional information about the honorees. Please note that the group of women we wish to recognize is not limited to or even primarily composed of those who have won awards, but also should include women who are special to their nominators as mothers, wives, daughters, other family members, mentors or friends. A \$10,000 donation for each name will provide an endowment fund for the care and development of the wall and garden, as well as programs for the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research.



The Center

Once Ustler Hall is fully restored, it will house, fittingly, the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research (CWSGR). One of the college's fastest growing programs, CWSGR draws affiliated faculty from the humanities, sciences, architecture, education, pharmacy, sports science, political science, law, anthropology, psychology, sociology and medicine. The center boasts the support of some of the nation's principal funding agencies, including the Office of Women in Development, the Global Bureau of the US Agency for International Development and the National Science Foundation.

"My family has always been interested in historical preservation. It's great that you can take an old building, renovate it and make it practical for a new use."

—Kathryn Chicone Ustler



Investing in the University of Florida

Private investment in university performance and productivity is a sure way to build long-term quality. This is particularly true in the case of new and revitalized educational facilities. These spaces sustain and extend the academic work of the university for generations of students and scholars to come. Recognizing this, the State of Florida has created Facilities Enhancement Challenge Grants that match dollar-for-dollar private gifts toward constructing or renovating a UF building and your contribution to Kathryn Chicone Ustler Hall may be eligible.

Naming Opportunities

Salon/Exhibition Space	\$500,000
Lecture Hall	\$200,000
Study Area/Reading Room	\$100,000
Seminar Rooms	\$60,000-\$200,000
Research Offices	\$20,000
Garden Patron	\$10,000
Garden Benches	\$1,000
Garden Walk Pavers	\$500

