

Benefactor



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EDITOR

Jennifer Holland

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Ross Maute

PHOTOGRAPHY

Russell Cothren

Cheiko Hara

Whit Pruitt

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A Message from Vice Chancellor for Advancement Mark Power



This year is a milestone for the University of Arkansas, as it commemorates 150 years since its founding on March 27, 1871. The sesquicentennial has brought the opportunity for a great deal of reflection, but it has also given the entire campus and community even more of a reason to look toward the future.

A quick dive into the university's history shows that philanthropy has become more prominent in the last few decades, and – as time moves forward – its importance will surely continue to grow. What originally started out as campaigns for books or fundraising for the renovation of Old Main has grown into comprehensive campaigns aimed at transforming the entire campus experience. The importance of private gift support is underscored by the incredible opportunities that typically come with it. These gifts change lives, bring people together, expand horizons and fulfill dreams.

As benefactors of the University of Arkansas, you too have played a part in our history and are helping to write our future. Thank you for helping ensure our success for the next 150 years!

Mark Power
Vice Chancellor for Advancement



ON THE COVER

The Arkansas State Legislature established the University of Arkansas as the state's first public institute of higher education in 1871. What began as an initial class of seven boys and one girl taught in a frame building in Fayetteville has now grown into a thriving campus of more than 27,500 students on "the Hill."

This fall, the university is inviting all alumni and friends to return to campus for Come As You Arkansas, a day-long progressive-style event that will highlight innovative ideas and research on September 10th. Attendees are encouraged to come as they are – comfy and casual with Razorback attire encouraged but not required.

For more information about Come As You Arkansas and the university's sesquicentennial, visit 150.uark.edu.



Compton, Stevenson Gifts Enhance University Libraries

With more than 3 million titles, access to hundreds of thousands of journal articles, and librarians eager to help students, faculty, researchers and community members find what they need, the University Libraries are the intellectual fuel cell of campus. Two recent gifts will enhance the research and scholarly support efforts of the Libraries.

The Ellen Compton Fund for Special Collections

University of Arkansas alumna Ellen Compton worked for the university for 30 years and was an integral part of establishing the nationally recognized collecting focus for architectural records within the University Libraries Special Collections division. A gift from her estate of nearly \$100,000 will augment the division by funding the acquisition of materials and the digitization and maintenance of collections, as well as supporting the use of collections. In recognition of the impact of this gift, a student position in Special Collections will be known as the “Ellen Compton Student Assistant.”

Compton passed away in March 2020 at the age of 81. During her time with Special Collections, she traveled the state as a field archivist, collecting materials for preservation, and worked on the extensive professional and personal papers of architect Fay Jones.

David Shipley, one of Compton’s sons, said, “Though Ellen first became part of the University of Arkansas as a freshman in the fall of 1956 and remained active in university activities from that time until her passing last year, it wasn’t until she began her career in Special Collections in 1980 that she truly found her home. This gift is from her to a place she loved, where she formed lasting relationships and where she found her purpose: collecting and preserving Arkansas stories for all of us.”



Ellen Compton shares the Fay Jones archives with architect Glenn Murcutt in 2009
PHOTO BY RUSSELL COTHREN

In June 2020, Tom and Jill King of Fayetteville created the Ellen Compton Memorial Fund, which supports the collecting focus of architectural records within Special Collections. Contributions are still being accepted for that fund.

The Dorothy Ann and Ed Stevenson Corridor

Dorothy Ann Stevenson of Mena is supporting the renewal of the David W. Mullins Library, the main branch of the University Libraries, and the third-floor quiet study area of Mullins will be named the Dorothy Ann and Ed Stevenson Corridor in honor of her and her late husband, Ed.



Ed and Dorothy Stevenson

“The library is such a critical part of the university’s student community,” she said. “Throughout my life in Mena, I was involved with our library as a volunteer and board member and always put value in its important role. Having the opportunity to contribute so that students have access to information and materials in a beautiful, state-of-the-art environment is something I am very proud to be a part of.”

Thanks in part to Stevenson’s gift, Mullins Library will be able to advance to the forefront of offering an exceptional experience for its students and faculty, while also adapting to meet their changing needs.

The first phase of the Mullins Library renewal project, focusing on the third and fourth floors, began in December of 2019 and is expected to be completed in time for the 2021 fall semester. The planning for Phase II, which will renovate the first and second floors, has recently begun. The project will not only modernize the main research library of campus with increased access to technology, power outlets and restrooms, it will provide students with refreshed and new spaces for group and individual study in a setting enriched with abundant natural light.

New Scholarship Created for Students From Pulaski, Jefferson Counties

Alumna Cathy Crass and her husband, Kevin, want to help students achieve their educational dreams. The Little Rock couple has established the Cathy and Kevin Crass Advance Arkansas Endowed Scholarship with a \$50,000 gift directed toward students from Pulaski and Jefferson counties.

Cathy Crass, who is originally from Little Rock, has remained involved with her alma mater since her graduation in 1981 and served on the Campaign Arkansas Steering Committee for eight years.

“The campaign committee is where I heard about the Advance Arkansas scholarship initiative,” she said. “I liked that many of the scholarships could be directed to first-generation college students.”

Cathy’s husband, Kevin, grew up in Pine Bluff and is a partner with Friday, Eldredge & Clark. They are both actively involved in their community and believe education is a vital component to strengthening communities.

“We raised our two sons in Little Rock and they both graduated from schools in the U of A System,” Cathy

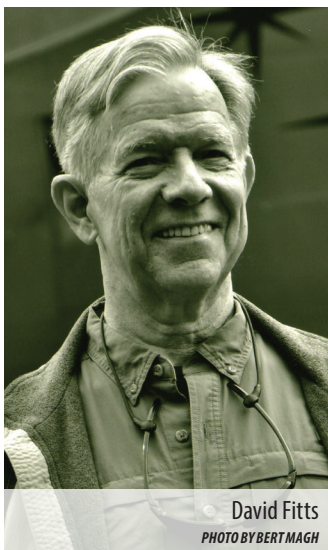


Cathy and Kevin Crass

Crass said. “We see the value of education and are glad we can play a small role in helping students achieve an education with the support of an Advance Arkansas scholarship.”

The Cathy and Kevin Crass Advance Arkansas Endowed Scholarship will support new, returning and transfer students from Arkansas who exhibit financial need, records of academic success and a strong desire to complete their degree at the University of Arkansas.

Alumnus Gift Supports ‘Design Futures’ for Fay Jones Students



David Fitts
PHOTO BY BERT MAGH

Alumnus David Fitts never dreamed his degree in architecture would lead to a career at NASA. However, that experience, as well as his appreciation for design thinking, inspired him to make a planned gift to the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design.

His gift will establish an endowment in support of curricular initiatives across the school intended to inspire, engage and educate students interested

in growing, stretching and expanding their individual design skills and experiences into new creative territories and toward new “design futures.”

This approach to design will be collaborative and interdisciplinary, with a human-centered emphasis on improving and enhancing quality of life, while also incorporating multiple initiatives that include social justice and racial equality. The new program will provide funding for an annual visiting professorship, student scholarships, seminars, studios and lectures.

Fitts has spent 27 years with NASA and noted how the skills he learned in architecture were applicable to many design-build, program management and problem-solving scenarios. To this day, he feels that architecture and design education provides training applicable to a wide variety of career opportunities in design, management, engineering and the arts.

“That’s why I’m interested in making this gift,” Fitts said. “I want to help students think outside the box. One can do amazing things with an architecture degree. The training and perspective it gives you is unique — it combines technical skills, artistry and history.”

McIntosh Gift Supports Student, Faculty Diversity in Architecture and Design

Alumni Lanny and Becki McIntosh of Tulsa have made a \$150,000 planned gift to support future diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives in the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design.

“Becki and I believe in giving back — to our school, to our professions, to our community and to causes we believe in,” Lanny McIntosh said. “I — and many of my classmates — greatly value our education, experience and relationships with our dean and faculty, so giving back in some meaningful way is a natural thing.”

The couple’s gift will create the Ellis and Rebecca McIntosh Endowment for Faculty Excellence in Architecture, which will not only provide faculty enhancement in the Department of Architecture but also funding for outreach and recruitment of diverse students. The fund will be used to attract, recruit and retain diverse faculty while also providing funding for long-term student outreach and recruitment in Arkansas to create a pipeline for diverse students to enter into architecture education and the profession.

Funds from the endowment will be used to provide an annual architecture faculty enhancement award or stipend in support of the school’s long-term commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

Outreach and recruitment activities by the school’s faculty and staff will also be funded, with the goal of increasing student enrollment from the Arkansas Delta, and a mentorship program will be developed, providing opportunities for faculty and professional mentors to work with students already enrolled in the school’s professional five-year architecture program.



Becki and Lanny McIntosh

Tyson Family Foundation Gift Creates Digital Library and Art Publication Funds

The Tyson Family Foundation is contributing \$300,000 to the U of A to create the Tyson Digital Library Fund and the Tyson Art Publications Fund. Both funds will support the University of Arkansas Press in the Division of Research and Innovation.

Mike Bieker, director of the U of A Press and assistant vice chancellor and director of operations and finance, said, “As the University of Arkansas Press celebrates its 40th anniversary, we are grateful for this tremendous gift from the Tyson Family Foundation. These funds will be used for two purposes: to digitize our entire collection of books, making them more widely available and accessible than ever before, and to advance our potential in the field of art publishing by supporting scholarship that explores the history and meaning of art and its effect on our lives.”

The Tyson Digital Library Fund will be used to recoup previous investments in digital book technologies, including the conversion to eBook of approximately 300



TYSON FAMILY
FOUNDATION



of the Press’s titles. It will also be used for continued investment in digital book technology, including the conversion of the remaining titles in the Press’s catalog.

The Tyson Art Publications Fund will support books in the Press’s art list with an emphasis on those books authored or contributed to by Tyson Scholars. These scholars are Ph.D. candidates (or equivalent), post-doctoral researchers and senior scholars who are part of the Tyson Scholars of American Art Program, which was established at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art.

Olivia Tyson, president of the Tyson Family Foundation, said, “My family has been a proud supporter of the UA Press for over 20 years, a legacy we are proud to continue through art publications and digital initiatives. Enhancing digital access to the incredible titles of the UA Press through this initiative will not only give the Press’s catalog further reach but also position the Press for the future.”

New Sculpture Garden Part of Memorial Gift for Garvan Woodland Gardens

Tom and Nancy Vandegrift of Hot Springs are contributing \$120,000 to the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design to create a permanent sculpture garden in memory of their daughter, Lee Vandegrift Felts.

The Lee Vandegrift Felts Sculpture Garden will be located in the Bob and Sunny Evans Children's Garden in Garvan Woodland Gardens, which is an outreach center of the Fay Jones School.

The oldest of three children, Lee Vandegrift Felts passed away in 2019 at the age of 56. She was an avid horsewoman and started riding hunter and jumper horses when she was 12 years old. Felts rode competitively for four years and ran a thoroughbred horse farm outside of Lexington, Kentucky, where she lived with her two daughters, Taylor and Alexandra (Lexi).

"Lee was kind and loyal and radiated love to all around her," her father, Tom Vandegrift, said. "Nancy and I have been involved with Garvan Woodland Gardens from the beginning, and we wanted to establish something permanent to express Lee's joy and love for people. We also wanted this to be something parents and children could enjoy together."



Lee was an avid horsewoman who loved spending time in the barn.



Lee and her daughters, Lexi and Taylor, at Garvan Woodland Gardens.

Nancy Vandegrift noted that, as friends of Bob and Sunny Evans, it was important for them to do something in memory of Lee to enhance the children's garden, and she let Sunny know about their plans personally. The sculpture garden will feature the work of artist Tim Cherry, who is inspired by wildlife and creates artwork with graceful, simple lines and forms.

The Lee Vandegrift Felts Sculpture Garden is scheduled for completion by the end of 2021, and its naming is subject to the approval of the chancellor and the Board of Trustees of the university.

Taylor Felts, Lee's older daughter, said, "This gift is a wonderful, whimsical idea. It could not be more reflective of our mother and would make her so happy. She was always a light to other people and was such a bright and joyous person — and she had such a tremendous capacity for fun. She loved everyone — including her horses — and was so nurturing and maternal. Our mother loved us infinitely, and nothing was ever more important to her than ensuring that we felt loved. It's very special to both Lexi and I that her name will now be associated with a place of such love and laughter between parents and their children."

Tom Vandegrift said, "When I think of Lee, many things were descriptive of her life — her faith, her courage, her dedication to her daughters and her animals... really, everything she participated in."

King Endowments Create Support for Public Programs, Student Experiences

Tom and Jill King believe in helping students who are bright and willing to work hard, so they can have a full university experience. Therefore, the Fayetteville couple has chosen to support the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design and the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences with two gifts totaling \$1.95 million, resulting in three new endowments that will fund public programs and student experiences.

The JATK Endowment for Public Programs in Architecture and Design, created with \$1.5 million of the gift, will provide funding for the Fay Jones School's internal and external public programs and special events, the advancement of the school's teaching and learning mission, and for its public outreach.

The couple has also committed another \$450,000 to establish the JATK Endowment for the Enhancement of Student Experience in the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design and the JATK Endowment for the Enhancement of Student Experience in the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences. Both will further enhance, enrich and positively impact the overall student educational experience.

Approximately half of the proceeds from the JATK Endowment for Public Programs in Architecture and Design will be used for discretionary funds for public programs and activities, including a public lecture series, a public exhibition series, publications, tableau series, recital series, annual events and external exhibitions.

Another 25 percent of the endowment will be used for an annual award to faculty for specific support of a faculty-based public program, including an exhibition or publication, and the remaining 25 percent will be utilized as an annual award to a student, team of students or student organization for specific support of a student-based public program.

Funding from both of the student experience endowments may be used for travel expenses, field trips, conference



Jill and Tom King
PHOTO BY MARY PURVIS

fees, entry fees to museums and other educationally significant venues, class supplies, incentive awards for student competitions and events, as well as any activities that positively impact the recruitment and retention of superior and diverse students and faculty. They may also be used to provide incoming first-year students with financial assistance in support of the Fay Jones School's and Fulbright College's efforts toward recruiting first-generation students and fostering diversity, equity and inclusion. Preference will be given to students who are graduates of a high school located in any county in the Arkansas Delta and who have been in the foster care system.

"Jill and I were particularly moved by some stories we have read of the plight of foster children in Arkansas who 'age out.' We'd like to help disadvantaged children who are bright and willing to work, so they can have a full university experience," King said. "We also want to support the effort to provide something extra to promising students via the Honors College. We would like to do what we can to ensure that any really good student, willing to work hard, can attend the U of A and get an excellent education."

Late Student's Family Establishes Scholarship in Her Name

Joe and Kim Dill, parents of Jenée Torng Dill, have established the Jenée T. Dill Memorial Endowed Scholarship for students in the School of Human Environmental Sciences in the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences at the University of Arkansas. The endowment was founded from gifts totaling \$80,000, and an additional gift of \$3,000 was contributed to ensure awarding for the 2020-21 academic year.

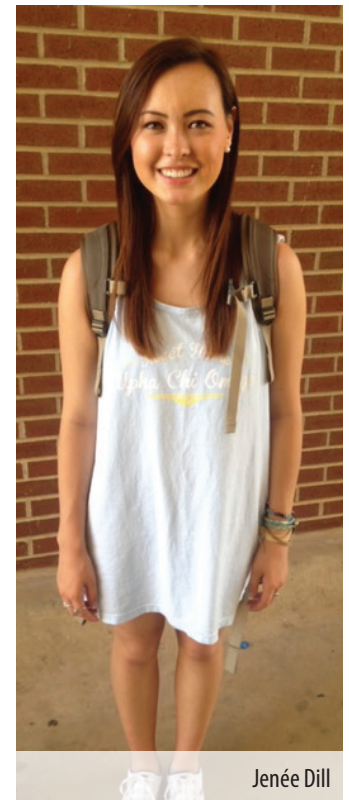
Jenée was only 22 years old when her life was cut tragically short in an automobile collision. At the time of her passing, she was a senior pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in the School of Human Environmental Sciences.

She was described as a loving, kind-hearted person and a devoted volunteer for many causes, including senior assisted living centers, kids with Down Syndrome, the Boys and Girls Club of America, homeless shelters, food banks and her church.

She was also a math tutor who loved animals, exercise and swimming, and she devoted herself to the friends and family she loved.

Her parents said they created this scholarship because they would like to be able to help someone else get their degree, "to pick up where she left off."

Preference will be given to those majoring in the food, nutrition and health program or the human nutrition and dietetics program.



Jenée Dill



Carol and John Mott

Mott Gift Expands International Experience Opportunities

Alumnus John Mott has made a \$500,000 planned gift to enrich students' international experiences in the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design. The John K. and Carol Baer Mott Endowment for the Enrichment of the Student International Experience will help students extend their international travel experiences and provide

them with the opportunity and financial resources to make the most out of their time abroad.

"I think international experiences are broadening and valuable — not just for architecture students but for any student," Mott said. "It's an opportunity to see other places, most of which are older than the U.S., to see how other people live and to gain experience that one will remember for the rest of his or her life."

Mott joined the U.S. Navy in 1962 and followed that experience with a career in historic preservation, amplifying his childhood love for travel and inspiring him to create the endowment.

"I believe it's important to have experiences beyond just the Arkansas region," Mott said, noting that he has been to almost 20 different countries in his life.

"I believe the cost of a semester abroad is a challenge to many families and that the individual student might have a difficult time affording some of the opportunities that would make the trip a real experience," Mott said. "To me, it's beyond just being able to afford to go to a place like Rome to study architecture. Once in Europe, I'm hoping this endowment will be able to provide students with some additional time to see the continent when their semester ends. In my opinion, the experience I've gained just by traveling through other countries is something I can never replace. What I hope is that this will allow some students to gain these experiences earlier in life rather than having to wait as long as I have."

MEET *Larissa Whale*

When Larissa Whale enrolled at the University of Arkansas, she knew she wanted to major in engineering. Her father earned a degree in engineering from West Point and influenced her decision to pursue a career in the field, and her interest in medicine led to a focus in biomedical engineering with a pre-med track.

She quickly found engineering to be a rigorous program, but one that was made easier thanks to the Engineering Career Awareness Program (ECAP), which recruits and supports underrepresented students in the field, and with the help of other engineers from the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE).

During her freshman year, she joined a cohort of 26 other students in the program, where she quickly formed friendships and found a sense of belonging. In addition to this, she found sisterhood within her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., which has further contributed to her success in college and beyond.

“To this day, me and my ECAP friends plan our schedules together and stay up at night studying to make sure we’re passing and understanding the course materials,” said Whale, a junior from Little Rock. “Engineering is hard, especially if you’re going through it alone, so just having that community has been so helpful to me all throughout college.”

Whale is a recipient of numerous scholarships, including the Silas Hunt Scholarship, which is awarded to students from underrepresented communities who have demonstrated outstanding academic leadership qualities and potential.



Larissa Whale

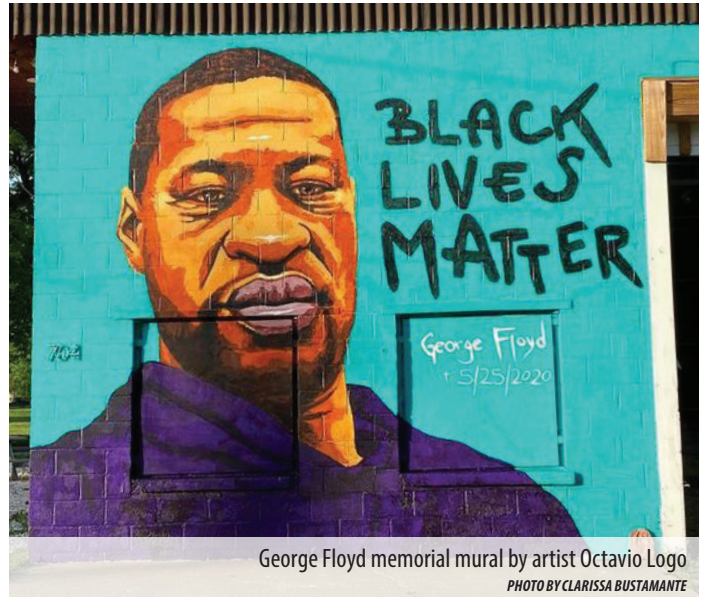
This summer, she is taking advantage of an undergraduate research opportunity at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences to help prepare her for her next step: medical school.

“The connections I have made and skills I have gained at the University of Arkansas have prepared me for the professional world and have allowed me to take on opportunities I was once fearful of pursuing. I am super excited to form new relationships and take on new roles as I enter my senior year.”

Donors Heed Call to Establish Fund in Memory of George Floyd

The death of George Floyd and the subsequent protests during the summer of 2020 shed light on societal issues and made an impact on individuals like alumnus Rickey Medlock. Medlock, who is no stranger to supporting causes, felt compelled to give back in memory of Floyd after hearing remarks from Scott Hagan, president of North Central University, at Floyd's service. Hagan challenged every university and college in the U.S. to start a fund in honor or in memory of Floyd, and Medlock rose to that challenge.

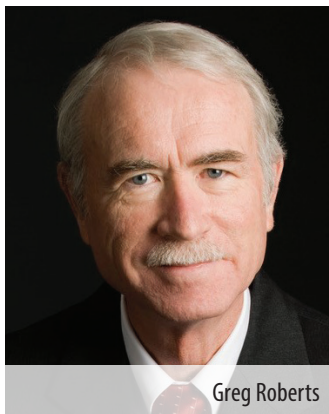
Medlock and his husband, Scott Heffington, pledged \$15,000 to create the George Floyd Memorial Scholarship, which seeks to improve enrollment, retention and graduate representation of students of underrepresented populations at the university. The ultimate goal is to fully endow the scholarship at the \$50,000 level, so additional donations are being accepted towards the fund.



George Floyd memorial mural by artist Octavio Logo
PHOTO BY CLARISSA BUSTAMANTE

"I think we have a responsibility to ourselves," Medlock said. "We started this, and we now have a responsibility to go out and convince others to give back as well."

To make a gift, contact Victor Wilson, senior director of priority initiatives and development, at (479) 575-4411 or vawilson@uark.edu.



Greg Roberts

Career in Healthcare Design Inspires Roberts Gift

Alumnus Greg Roberts has had a successful career in healthcare design and is supporting curriculum development for his field in the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design.

His \$1 million planned gift will establish an endowed chair that will direct the school's proposed Master of Design Studies concentration in healthcare and wellness.

Roberts' extensive career in healthcare design includes the development of the "Green Guide for Health Care," the first health-based sustainable-building best-practice tool in use worldwide by design and healthcare professionals. He was one of only three American Institute of Architects member healthcare architects on the guide's Steering

Committee, and the document became the foundation for the LEED for Healthcare rating system.

His expertise in the field inspired him to approach the Fay Jones School about developing course curriculum in healthcare design, similar to programs at other schools, such as Texas A&M and Clemson.

"Healthcare design is becoming increasingly important, and it's been an interest of mine to get the U of A moving in that direction," Roberts said. "I figured, what better place to leave my estate than the Fay Jones School, especially if it can promote this focus."

The endowed chair resulting from his gift will direct the school's proposed Master of Design Studies concentration in healthcare and wellness and signify his lifelong commitment to healthcare design.



Sue Hein (left) with her parents, Faye and John Williams.

PHOTO BY RICHARD HEIN

Hein Creates 'Beautiful Symmetry' With Gift

Alumna Diana “Sue” Hein has an appreciation for beautiful symmetry and the feeling of life coming full circle. It makes sense, really, given that she is the daughter of the late John G. Williams, founder of the university’s architecture program.

In recognition of her father’s legacy at the U of A and her own personal history with her alma mater, Hein is donating her family home to the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design — a testamentary contribution valued at \$750,000.

Williams is credited with founding the school in 1946, which began as a degree program in architectural engineering. He was the sole teacher for architecture courses from 1946 to 1950 and helped the program grow to become its own department. It later became the School of Architecture in the 1970s, when a landscape architecture program was added. In 1984, the University of Arkansas Press published *The Curious and the Beautiful: A Memoir History of the Architecture Program at the University of Arkansas* by Williams that chronicled the development of the school.

Williams was recognized as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1985 for his role as an educator in architecture, received the Distinguished Professor Award from the Association of Collegiate Schools

of Architecture in 1987-1988 and was awarded the Pioneer Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects in 2002.

He also designed and completed 15 houses in his Ozark Modernism style, primarily in Northwest Arkansas, all while continuing to teach until he retired in 1985. The house Hein is donating is one of the 15 and is one of three in Fayetteville that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the other two being the Durst House and the Clack House.

“I want my father’s legacy to be recognized in this house that he designed, built and lived in,” she said. “It signifies a full circle — the way he built the architecture program at the University of Arkansas and this house and how this physical gift of a built house is being given to the school. It’s beautiful symmetry. ‘Poetic’ is the best word to describe this donation, and it represents my recognition of my father’s legacy and my history with the university.”

In 2021, the Fay Jones School of Architecture and Design is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its founding by Williams.

“I’m proud that what started as my dad’s efforts led to it being named a school of architecture,” Hein said. “He would be so impressed and happy to see how it has grown, developed and flourished.”



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150
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