

Ann Whiteside-Dickson Scholarship

Former School of Interiors Director, professor, and College of Design Interim Dean Ann Whiteside Dickson and her husband Dr. Robert C. Dickson have made a generous donation of \$50,000 that will directly benefit School of Interiors scholarships at the College of Design, as well as a substantial estate gift to the University of Kentucky.



Hailing from the South Central Kentucky town of Glasgow, Dickson's first introduction to the world of design was her rich family heritage in textiles. The women in her family specialized in many forms of textile creation, all inspired by the beautiful Kentucky landscapes that surrounded them. She remembers, "They had an incredible sense of color and texture. The precision looked like it had been done by machine, but it was all handmade, just impeccable quality."

It was from that enthusiasm for creative and practical pursuits that she embarked on a rewarding career in interior design, teaching, and higher education administration. Her first teaching experience was at Ball State University, where she developed the Interiors program from the ground up. In 1980, she returned to her home state to work for the then-new Interiors program at the University of Kentucky. She taught in the department for 36 years and served as Director for 12 years.

Dickson has a deep sense of gratitude for her fellow UK faculty. "They were wonderful about figuring out how the program should grow and develop." She retired in January 2016, following a two-year appointment as Interim Dean. That experience was invaluable, she says, as it provided perspective on university-level operations.

Looking back on her career, Dickson is proud of how the School of Interiors has evolved. Dean Mitzi Vernon notes, "I am personally grateful to Ann for her guidance as I took my seat as Dean in 2015. But as a College, we are even more gratified for Ann and Robert's gift, which will enhance the legacy that she and her fellow faculty have built in the College of Design."



Scholarship Campaign



The College of Design at the
University of Kentucky
design.uky.edu/newbuilding