Thanks to a group of generous donors including Thomas Hickey, Patrick Hobgood, Stephanie Morrison, James Pennington, Leah Ray, and Greg Reaves, we are pleased to announce that a space in the Gray Design Building will be named after College of Design Professor Emeritus Maria Dallerba-Ricci, known to her colleagues, students and friends as “Pucci” (1936-2021).

Pucci was a beloved faculty member in the School of Architecture for nearly 40 years. Promoted to Professor in 1982, Pucci actively engaged in the formation and direction of the professional program. She also participated in research work sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the UK Research Foundation, focusing on the edges of growing cities, a topic of significant importance in Lexington in the early 1970s due to the implementation of the Urban Service Boundary.

For two decades, she ran a series of European workshops for UK students with the assistance of her late husband, architect Leonardo Ricci. This culminated in the creation of a dedicated academic program in Venice in 1986, known as the Atelier Veneziano. Many young architects-in-training studied abroad with Pucci and emerged as conscientious and well-rounded professionals.

In the words of her former student Greg Reaves, “Pucci inspired so many students and gave us the platform and courage to open our eyes and dreams to the world. Like many of us, my first trip overseas was to attend Atelier Veneziano and everyone lucky enough to know her - across multiple generations - treasured the impact Pucci had on our education and on our lives. As we now build for the future, I am honored to join with others inspired by her, in recognizing Pucci’s legacy and contribution in forming the foundation upon which the College stands.”

There are additional opportunities to contribute to the Pucci Ricci Studio and the Gray Design Building. Please contact Don Witt at dwitt@uky.edu to learn more.