Holly Wiedemann has generously funded the Clyde Carpenter Historic Preservation Directors’ Office in the Gray Design Building.

As founder and president of AU Associates, (now retired) Holly and her team developed around 2,000 units of affordable housing in Kentucky and West Virginia – serving seniors, families, veterans, survivors of domestic violence and special needs individuals. “Each of our developments has made a significant economic impact in their communities,” she said.

AU’s developments also included the adaptive reuse of historic buildings. They were integrally involved in the Fayette County Courthouse project, and as a guest lecturer in the department of Historic Preservation, Holly led students in a project that involved placing UK’s Spindletop Hall on the National Register of Historic Places.

She was introduced to the College of Design through professional connections, including former Deans David Mohney and Michael Speaks. Along the way, she met Clyde Carpenter who became a dear friend, mentor and advocate for all things historic.

“I loved being at his carriage house and having wonderful conversations,” she remembers. “Clyde recognized the value and importance of respecting, protecting and recycling historic buildings. He lived a life of both contemplation and action, and his legacy will serve as an inspiration to those whose lives he touched.”

Holly continues to enjoy adaptive reuse projects, and is currently restoring an old cabin in Colorado, close to the one Clyde built for his brother. “I think he would have enjoyed a visit there,” she said.