

Leading IDAHO

Major Gifts Change Lives | December 2008



Carmelita Spencer '43

NICCOLLS BUILDING RENOVATION

The Niccolls Building represents where the University of Idaho has been, and where it is going.

The building dates to 1953 and its facade is imprinted with the name of the department it was built to serve – Home Economics.

But, times have changed.

The Niccolls Building now houses the School of Family and Consumer Sciences. More than 300 undergraduate students and 17 full-time faculty depend on the facility to support a modern curriculum that is centered on the many facets of creating strong families and smart consumers.

Now, a \$5 million renovation project will profoundly impact programs and facilities. The Foods Laboratory, Child Development Laboratory and Clothing and Textiles Laboratory all will be modernized and refurbished.

Carmelita Spencer '43 has provided a \$500,000 leadership gift for the Niccolls Building renovation project.

“I am so proud of the faculty, staff and students in the School of Family and Consumer Sciences,” said Carmelita. “It is important to me that they have the best facilities in which to learn and the best opportunities for rewarding careers.”

Carmelita earned her bachelor’s degree in home economics and after graduation she moved to Grangeville to work as a home economics teacher. She later married John W. Spencer, a local rancher and farmer.

Carmelita was a 2004 recipient of the Esto Perpetua Award from the Idaho State Historical Society. She created and managed the Bicentennial Historical Museum at Grangeville that features the history of Idaho County.

“Once you know what needs to be done, it’s time to do it.”

– Margaret Ritchie, professor and head of the Department of Home Economics from 1938-59

MAJOR GIFT HIGHLIGHTS

GIFT: \$500,000 in stock

CONTRIBUTED TO:

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

PURPOSE: Niccolls Building Renovation

DESCRIPTION: Carmelita

Spencer’s leadership gift will go toward the transformation of this proud, once state-of-the-art facility to offer again the most advanced family science, clothing and textiles and food laboratories. Students will benefit from a learning experience with modern facilities like those they will find in a real-world setting.

University of Idaho
A LEGACY OF LEADING