



# THE UNIVERSITY COLONNADE

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**FOR OVER 50 YEARS,**

THE UNIVERSITY COLONNADE AT LIBRARY WEST HAS PROVIDED STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF WITH A PLACE TO MEET WITH FRIENDS, SHARE INFORMATION, AND SHELTER FROM SUN OR RAIN.



[ufdc.ufl.edu/source](http://ufdc.ufl.edu/source)

**SURCE**



1967



When Library West, originally called the Graduate Research Library, opened in 1967 the Colonnade provided a new outdoor space for the campus community. Situated in a prime spot on the Plaza of the Americas, the Colonnade welcomes millions of people each year as they cross campus or come to study in Library West.

The Colonnade is also prominently featured in photos and videos of the UF campus as so many activities take place on the Plaza, including ESPN and SEC Nation Game Day events during football season.



PILLARS OF PURPOSE



Anyone who has been on campus over the years will remember the Krishna Lunches served under the Colonnade on rainy days or will have participated in special library events like Constitution Day or the Edible Book Contest.

It has also served a very practical purpose of allowing books to be transferred between Library West and the Smathers Library without exposing them to the elements. However, as times change, the needs of our students and visitors change. Several years ago, the Libraries began to reimagine both how the Colonnade looks and how it is used.





KRISHNA LUNCH

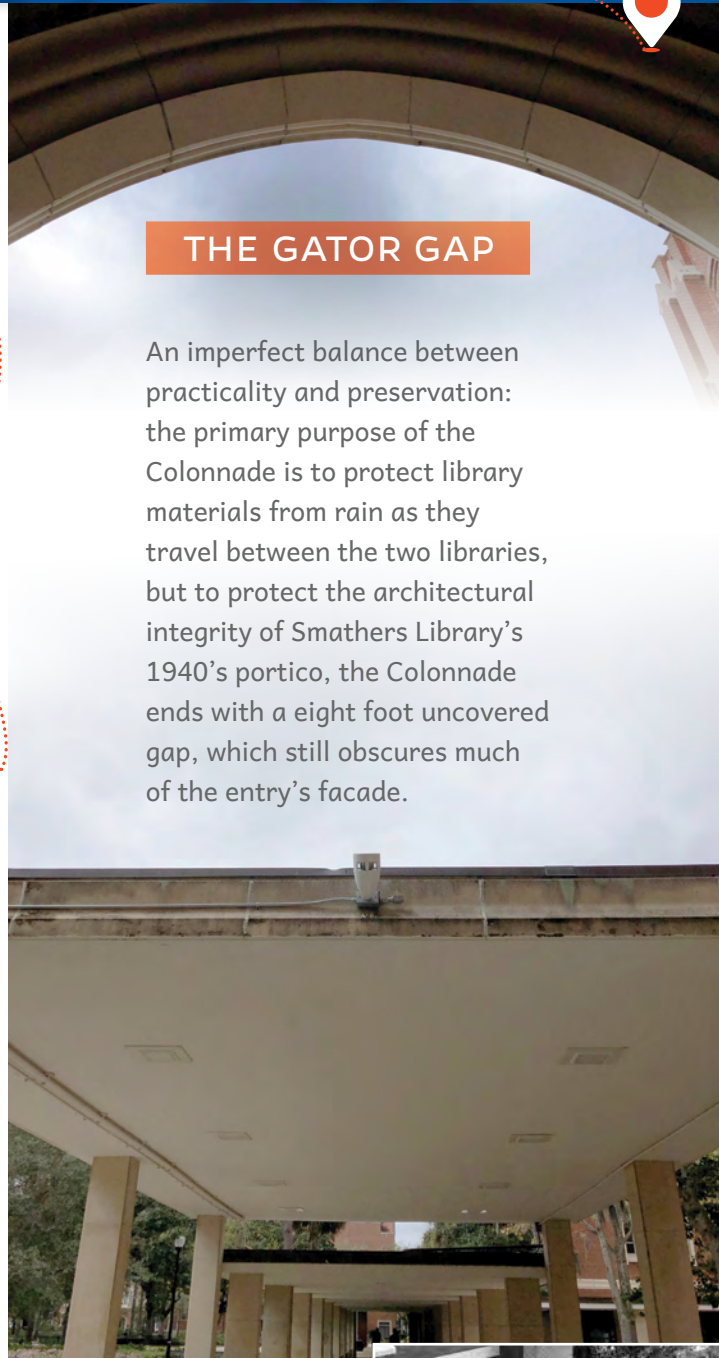


Srila Prabhupada, founder of the Hare Krishna movement also known as the International Society of Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), speaks at the UF Plaza of the Americas in 1971. Note the Colonnade in the background

The Hare Krishnas first arrived in Gainesville in 1970, and since 1971 have served “karma-free food” at the Plaza of the Americas, while performing musical mantra meditation. They were also key funding contributors to the University’s 2019 beautification of the Plaza.

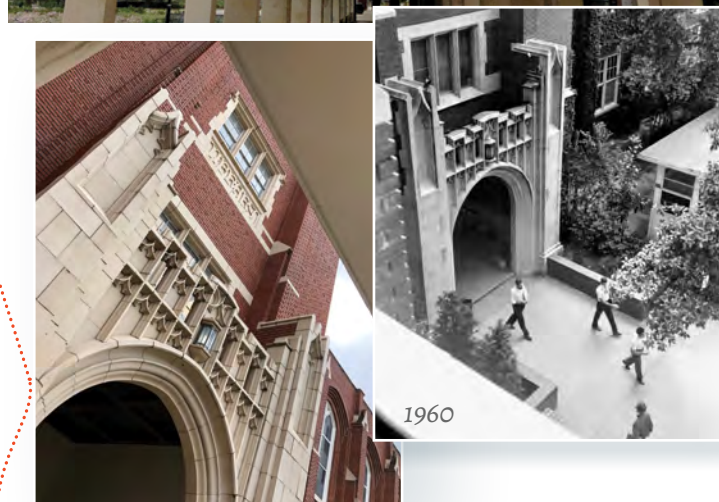


Find out more! [krishnalunch.com](http://krishnalunch.com)



THE GATOR GAP

An imperfect balance between practicality and preservation: the primary purpose of the Colonnade is to protect library materials from rain as they travel between the two libraries, but to protect the architectural integrity of Smathers Library’s 1940’s portico, the Colonnade ends with a eight foot uncovered gap, which still obscures much of the entry’s facade.



1960

[ufdc.ufl.edu/source](http://ufdc.ufl.edu/source)



# PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

THE RESULT WAS A PLAN FOR A MORE ATTRACTIVE AND ARCHITECTURALLY COMPATIBLE ENTRANCE TO LIBRARY WEST, WHILE PROVIDING AN ENHANCED OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS AND OTHER VISITORS.

The new University Colonnade will have seating for approximately 300 people, replacing low brick wall seating with benches and tables for study or meetings, along with power outlets, improved lighting, and large fans, all supported with solar power from the roof.





**UF LIBRARIES' FOCUSED ATTENTION TO DETAILS.**

The Libraries' vision for our statue's new Colonnade home: students leaving West rushing off to classes can get a bit of Gator good luck!



Feeling "swamped," give me a GATOR CHOMP &...



**...wherever you go, whatever you do, Focused Attention will follow you!**



*All Paths Lead to Library West - University Colonnade  
Brame Heck Architects Inc.*

When the new Colonnade is built, the Libraries' own Gator statue, Focused Attention, sculpted by Florida artist David Price, will have the opportunity to move from its temporary quarters on the third floor of Library West to a prominent space outside.

In addition to the Gator, generously donated by the A. H. Burnett Foundation, there are many spaces within the new Colonnade to leave a legacy and honor a student, faculty member, family member or friend through naming opportunities.

**Learn more at:**  
[www.giving.uflib.ufl.edu](http://www.giving.uflib.ufl.edu)

[ufdc.ufl.edu/source](http://ufdc.ufl.edu/source)

