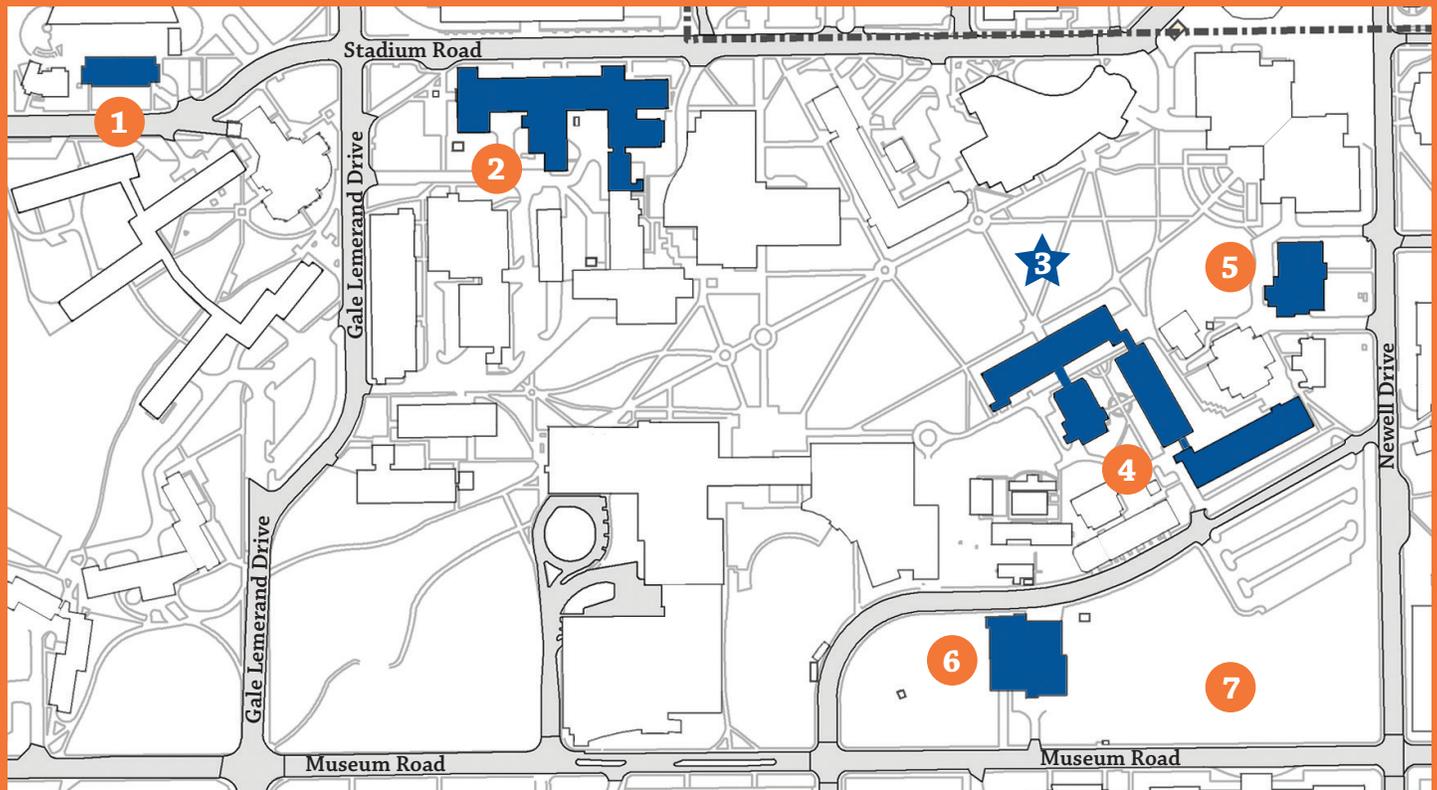


A Land Grant History Walking Tour for Spring

campus buildings tell the story of UF's land-grant legacy



1. Van Fleet Hall, built in 1952 to house UF's ROTC program, fulfills the military education mandate in the Land Grant Colleges Act of 1862. It rests on the site of battalion drill fields that once stretched north to University Avenue. Upstairs, display cases honor four-star general James Alward Van Fleet, a war hero whom President Harry Truman called "the greatest general we ever had." Van Fleet was an ROTC professor and UF's first nationally celebrated head football coach.
2. A plaque over the north entrance to Weil Hall depicts engineering tools. Weil became UF's main engineering building in 1949 and remains so today. Lobby displays of recent student and faculty accomplishments are worth a look.
3. On the Reitz Union Lawn outside McCarty A, find the historical marker recognizing UF's 100-year partnership with 4H.
4. McCarty Hall, built in 1954, is the seat of UF's agricultural programs and has been home to the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) since IFAS's founding in 1964. Walk through McCarty A from the Reitz lawn (don't miss the dedication plaque and biography of Governor McCarty in the foyer) and out the back door: you'll find a courtyard oasis of palms, flowering shrubs, and citrus trees.
5. The old dairy building where dairy science students once made ice cream for all of campus is now the Aquatic Food Products Pilot Plant. (Check for signs: If your timing is right, you can participate in a taste test.) The building's 1937 form is concealed under a contemporary remodel, but the side on Newell Drive still retains some of its original personality,

and the dairy-themed stone medallions that once graced the entrance still exist: They were relocated to the new dairy sciences building when it was built in 1985.

6. Newins-Zeigler Hall, built in 1977, houses the School of Forest Resources and Conservation and the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation. The building's lofty breezeway, wooden benches, and wood-grain-textured concrete emphasize the forest theme of the departments it houses. If time permits, check out the partial cross-section of a giant sequoia in the lobby.
7. Next door is McCarty Woods, a tiny but mighty wooded area preserved by UF/IFAS students and faculty to serve as a natural teaching and research lab. Small as it is, McCarty Woods nevertheless supports several "champion trees"—the largest trees of their species found in Florida.

Credits:

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