



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**RESTORATION OF WILMOT GARDENS AT
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA CONTINUES**

Work On Chapman Healing Garden Moves Ahead

Tampa, Florida – June 23, 2016 – David Conner + Associates (DC+A), a landscape architecture, planning and design firm that provides design solutions to reshape our environment into safe, walkable and enjoyable outdoor spaces, announced today that restoration of Wilmot Gardens continues with work on the Chapman Healing Garden. The Wilmot Gardens are located next to the Shands Medical Plaza and Judith and Jerry Davis Cancer Pavilion on campus of the University of Florida at Gainesville.

Wilmot Gardens were originally built in 1946, span five acres and serve as a peaceful place where students, faculty, patients, and their families can engage with nature. For the past ten years DC+A has worked closely with University of Florida at Gainesville and Dr. C. Craig Tisher, former Dean of the UF College of Medicine, to develop and restore Wilmot Gardens

The most recent installation to Wilmot Gardens is the Chapman Healing Garden. The Healing Garden will feature a curve-linear winding path for relaxed walking while shaded by over 50 Japanese Maple trees, as well as a beautiful array of Camellias. The Chapman Healing Garden is specifically designed to be therapeutic and stress reducing for patients, staff, families, and other visitors who seek out the peace and tranquility of the garden. A quiet, calm fountain garden awaits visitors in the middle of a secluded and tranquil destination at the garden's center.

“The spaces we create are intended to connect people with nature and deliver something deeper than aesthetic value,” said David Conner, landscape architect and principal of DC+A. “This is the case with the Chapman Healing Garden. Medical research has shown that people who spend more time outdoors tend to be happier, have better immune systems, and have increased creative production. Healing gardens simply help people feel better.”

With the advancement of modern medicine in the 20th Century, healing gardens were directed toward rehabilitative efforts concerning psychological issues. Today, in comparison, the therapeutic features of healing gardens are seen as an integral piece in the design of all healthcare landscapes.

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The Gardens have seen dramatic changes over the past decade, stemming from the original Masterplan DC+A designed in 2007. The addition of the new Wilmot Gardens Greenhouse and the Community Lawn, which hosts UF's College of Medicine Hippocratic Oath Ceremony, serve as meaningful locations dedicated to the future of medicine and horticultural therapy. UF recently started a new curriculum based upon the changes made to Wilmot Gardens; the Therapeutic Horticulture Certificate Program began in 2015 and is facilitated in the Greenhouse. Patients also have the opportunity to participate in a rehabilitative program within the garden's Greenhouse.

ABOUT DAVID CONNER + ASSOCIATES—

David Conner + Associates provides design solutions that reshape our environment into safe, walkable and enjoyable outdoor spaces. The firm includes planners, landscape architects, and urban designers who understand human movement and the interactions we have as we commute, circulate, socialize, and work.

We provide design solutions in balance with environmental systems, thereby improving sustainability, reducing maintenance and increasing value.

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