

\$1 million goes to UF real estate program

■ Nathan Collier gave the gift in lieu of promised Gainesville properties at his death.

By ANTHONY CLARK

Sun business editor

Nathan Collier, landlord to countless college students for 30-plus years, donated \$1 million to the graduate real estate program at the University of Florida, UF announced Friday.

The gift is in lieu of a previous agreement for Collier to transfer ownership of his College Park properties to UF upon his death. He said he owns 457 units in the area.

When that agreement was announced in 1996, the properties were worth an estimated \$10 million.

"This allows something to be done immediately," he said. "And while I have not made a pledge to the university, we have had discussions that there might be a series of smaller gifts over time instead of the whole thing. They know if they have a specific need to come talk to me."

Collier said UF did not immediately need land north of campus.

Florida is one of the largest states and growing with one of the most active real estate markets in the nation, Collier said. Therefore the state, he said, "should have one of the best real estate programs at the flagship university."

Collier's donation will help endow the Nathan S. Collier Master of Science in Real Estate Program at UF's Warrington College of Business Administration. The gift is eligible to receive a match of \$750,000 from the state of Florida Trust Fund for Major Gifts.

The funds will establish the Nathan S. Collier MSRE Scholarship and support faculty, off-campus field trips and project tours, grants to develop case studies and promote program quality and student



Collier

DONATION: Collier owns 8,000 apartments

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accomplishments, according to the University of Florida Foundation.

“This gift will help bring a national focus to the MSRE program and will help us recruit and enroll the highest quality students

from around the world,” said David Ling, MSRE director.

Collier owns Collier Companies and Paradigm Property Management Team. He started with a duplex and expanded to larger complexes, many in the College Park neighborhood, and now has 8,000 apartments in

Gainesville, Tallahassee, Orlando, Tampa, Ocala, Palatka, and Norman, Okla.

Collier’s great uncle, Peter Collier, founded Collier’s Weekly magazine. His father, Courtland Collier, taught civil engineering at UF for 30 years and is a former Gainesville mayor-commissioner.

Nathan Collier received three degrees from UF and is a board member of the UF Foundation and the UF Center for Real Estate Studies.

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