



Dr. Phyllis Yuhas

The Yuhas room, located inside the Rinker Center for Global Affairs, is named in honor of the late Dr. Phyllis Yuhas. Dr. Yuhas, emeritus professor of history, was one of the founding mothers of international education at Ball State University.

In the mid-1960s, she organized the Office of International Programs at the university and inspired faculty and students alike to seek ways to globalize their research and studies. Her promotion of international studies sowed the seeds of faculty-led programs such as the London and Australia Centers and exchange programs, international consortia and short-term summer programs.

As a charter member, she led Ball State University into the International Student Exchange Program. Dr. Yuhas, a resident of Muncie since 1952, was an ardent traveler who spanned the globe in pursuit of a better understanding of world affairs. Such travels allowed her to pursue her passion for mountain climbing, including the Matterhorn and Mt. Kilimanjaro. On many of her trips, she was accompanied by her mother, Gladys Nelson, an accomplished political leader, who served in the Iowa General Assembly from 1950 to 1956.

To honor her daughter's work in international education, Mrs. Nelson bequeathed a trust fund with which Dr. Yuhas endowed the university with the Yuhas Scholarship Fund for students who wish to study abroad. Phyllis Yuhas also was an active supporter of the work of the Nature Conservancy, the Red Tail Conservancy and the Audubon Society. She also was a serious advocate for the humane treatment of animals. Her lifelong love of nature and devotion to conservation concerns is reflected in the naming of the Frank and Phyllis Yuhas Woods in Randolph County, which will remain her legacy forever.

-from her obituary in the Newton Daily News (IA) in 2006.