



## **Jean English-Hurst**

Jean English-Hurst was the founding theatre director and an English professor at TCC. She was hired in 1969 to teach English and began the theatre program that year, directing and producing plays in her classroom. Jean chaired the theatre department for a decade and helped design the Fred W. Turner Auditorium. In 1981 she became the Freshman English chair and served in that position until 1990. During her tenure at TCC Jean created and chaired the TCC Signature Seat Program, designed to raise funds to support the theatre department.

In 1993, she returned to Tallahassee with her husband Ralph Hurst, a noted artist. Jean served as president of the Women's Club of Tallahassee, successfully raising funds to restore their historic clubhouse in the Los Robles district. She was also involved in the creation of Midtown, one of Tallahassee's most vibrant neighborhoods.

In 2003 Jean and Ralph established the Ralph and Jean Hurst Collection at TCC through a donation of his artwork of substantial value. Housed in space next to Turner auditorium and on perpetual exhibition, the collection of their art allows them to share creativity not only with students and faculty of the College campus, but with the entire community and perhaps impart some of their enthusiasm for art as well as inspire and teach others to appreciate art.

Jean is a graduate of Mercer University and holds a master's degree in dramatic literature and speech from the University of Georgia and a doctorate from Florida State University, also in dramatic literature.