



COLLEGE of DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION & PLANNING

# PERSPECTIVE

BUILDING COMMUNITY

2007/2008



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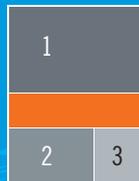
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# BUILDING COMMUNITY

## ABOUT THE COVER



1/ The beauty of the engineered landscapes of Tegallalang entice visitors to venture deep into the country sides of Indonesia. Greeting them are young capitalists with eyes fixed on opportunity. As agricultural lands are encroached upon to provide for tourists needs and as natural resources are consumed as the raw materials of the handicraft industry, the very landscapes that attracted these visitors in the first place are literally disappearing before their very eyes. Through "Cultural Landscape Documentaries," assistant professor of landscape architecture Kevin Thompson works to preserve the stories that bind this culture to place. These films help to muster preservation energies at the grassroots and may well persuade its foreign visitors from loving it to death. Photograph by Kevin Thompson.

2/ TunaHAKI Centre founder and director David Ryatula shares a new book with the children at the center, an orphanage in Tanzania. Due to lack of resources, books are in short supply at the center, and the children were captivated as David read to them. Photograph by Donna Cohen (see related story on p. 8).

3/ Children in São Paulo, Brazil pose for student Michael Honig. Michael took this picture during his travels with the Department of Urban and Regional Planning's study abroad program, Urban Planning and Design in Brazil.

Dean's *message*

## Building Expertise in Community Building

Community development – the process of designing, planning, building and conserving the places where we live – forms the essence of what we teach and preach through our professional programs. And, of course, it is at the heart of what many of our alumni do in their practices.

We build the expertise of our students in community development in many ways, whether it is through an applied project like the urban studio focusing on the Waldo Road Corridor here in Gainesville or our recent preservation studio in the Abbott Tract neighborhood of nearby St. Augustine. Through community projects like these, students have the opportunity to apply their newly acquired professional skills. In structured and less formal settings, we provide our students the opportunity to engage in applied research on community development topics, which adds to how effectively we teach innovative practices.

For an increasing number of our students, the chance to explore community development in other parts of the country and throughout the world is a unique dimension of the University of Florida experience. Through the preservation programs in Nantucket and New Lebanon, N.Y., and through our overseas programs in Brazil, Italy, France, Hong Kong, Australia, Germany and Indonesia, students acquire invaluable exposure to different dimensions of community building that expand and challenge their professional horizons.

Through service learning, faculty guide students on collaborating with communities to address local concerns. Students learn the complexities of working with a client and of addressing the desires of community leaders and stakeholders.

To support and to expand our service learning and international engagements, we have added the talents of a senior School of Architecture faculty member, **Bill Tilson**, to the Dean's Office administrative team. In addition, new curricular initiatives that underscore DCP's commitment to make "sustainability" a core principle of our professional education are being advanced under the leadership of another new Dean's Office administrator (but a familiar face to our Landscape Architecture alums) **Peggy Carr**. Regarding research, our effort to expand the opportunities for DCP faculty, and to enlarge graduate enrollment in our program, is the principal charge of our third new team member, **Paul Zwick**. Much of DCP's research activity comes through our research centers (as discussed throughout this magazine) and deals explicitly with issues of community development.

This past September, we launched publicly the University of Florida "Florida Tomorrow" capital campaign in support of our efforts to realize a bold vision for the future. For the College of Design, Construction and Planning, this vision has three components. One critical component is to provide new technologies in the studio and the classroom to prepare our professionals to advance the state-of-the-art.

A complement to that is to enhance current programs in sustainable community development both on campus and in off-campus facilities, and to support research centers to facilitate community changes.

Finally, our complete vision is to solidify our well-earned reputation as one of the top colleges in the world where the faculty teach and research, and where the next generation of professionals learns the art and the science of building better communities. We welcome your partnership to realize this lofty but achievable vision.

Sincerely,

Christopher Silver, Ph.D., FAICP  
Dean and Professor



Chen Wang

During the weekend celebration of Preservation Institute: Nantucket's 35th anniversary, Dean Silver worked with DCP staff and PI:N alumni to renovate the institute's cabins. On page 6, read about the impact PI:N has made during its 35 years.



Julie Frey

## Campus

### Community Development on Campus: UF as a Client

“Hopefully, our proposals and research on ‘green’ living communities will spur a new focus for UF living communities, as well.”

Interior design students Camille Rusch, Jimmy Wall and Ashley Erhart present their ideas for a sustainability-focused residential learning community at UF's Diamond Village.

Community is not a new concept at the University of Florida College of Design, Construction and Planning. From the first dean of the college, **Rudolph Weaver**, who served as university architect, to current students taking part in various service-learning projects, the college has worked with the campus community to help explore solutions to challenges UF has faced as the number of students, faculty and staff has grown and as needs have changed.

Throughout the years, college faculty have partnered with various units across campus to incorporate current UF projects into the studio or classroom. The students gain experience from working for a client, and UF receives project analysis and creative solutions from the students.

During the Fall 2007 semester, one example of such a partnership occurred between interior design and landscape architecture faculty and students and the UF Department of Housing and Residence Education, or DHRE.

Third-year and graduate interior design students and graduate landscape architecture students developed design proposals for a sustainability-focused residential learning community, or RLC, at UF's Diamond Village. The village is a 208-unit residential community for graduate students and students with families located on the southeastern corner of campus.

“We had the unique chance to offer our students a real-life service learning experience through partnering with the DHRE,” said interior design associate professor **Maruja Torres-Antonini**, who led the project. “This kind of experience enriches student

learning while building more connection and community between two different departments – DCP and UF Housing – that otherwise might never have had the chance to develop a relationship.”

The project explored options for converting this existing student village into a community integrating academic learning and community living around an academic theme or approach—in this case, sustainable living. The students worked under the direction of Torres, interior design professor **M. Jo Hasell**, interior design assistant professor **Nam-Kyu Park**, landscape architecture associate professor **Kay Williams**, and landscape architecture doctoral student and adjunct professor **Gail Hansen**.

The DHRE served as the project's client and students were asked to propose both short- and long-term enhancements that would allow Diamond Village to become a model for sustainable living and sustainability education. The project responded to university-wide interest in promoting environmentally conscious practices and advancing sustainability through education, research, operations and outreach. Another unique aspect of the project was that interior design and landscape architecture students had the opportunity to collaborate.

“Despite the differences in scale and scope, interior design and landscape architecture share interest in creating sustainable, healthful environments that support people's needs,” Torres said. “Collaboration across our disciplines seemed natural from this perspective, but negotiating specific learning objectives and course schedules proved more of a challenge. We ended up developing parallel rather than joint projects, but our students had many opportunities for interaction and for learning from each other.”

Torres continued, “Together, we went on the site visit and on a field trip to see conservation communities in Georgia, shared information gathered by students and faculty and gathered for casual exchanges as well as for formal project presentations.”



The field trip gave students an opportunity to see sustainable communities in action. With funding from DHRE and a mini-grant for the Enhancement of Sustainability Education from the UF Office of the Provost, the students traveled to Atlanta and Decatur, Ga., and visited cohousing communities, talking with residents and conservation community specialists.

“It was amazing to actually see a community that was living out all the principles of ‘living green.’ From simple things like recycling to actually harvesting rainwater, the communities we visited were great examples of how we should live,” said **Sereen El-fakhri**, a senior interior design student who served as student assistant for the course. “Hopefully, our proposals and research on ‘green’ living communities will spur a new focus for UF living communities, as well.”

The students had the opportunity to pitch their ideas to current residents of Diamond Village and the client, including the assistant vice president and director of DHRE **Norb Dunkel**. Their innovative ideas ran from countertops and flooring made of metal shavings and sunflowers to sculptural gates and fences made of old bikes and metal signs. Many of the projects addressed specific and immediate issues at Diamond Village, but they also explored solutions that could be implemented at any housing site – and elsewhere on campus, too.

Student work was documented in a comprehensive project book that combined the ideas of both landscape architecture and interior design students, so DHRE can use all of the aspects of the students’ research and design proposals to choose the right direction for Diamond Village.

“Your work was extremely impressive,” Dunkel said after the presentations. “Be assured that many elements from your designs will be included in the future of Diamond Village and we invite you back in the coming years to see your designs in action.” 

## Collaborating Across Campus

The college works with many departments across campus. Below are two more examples.

### VA HOSPITAL COURTYARD

Pictured right: Landscape architecture graduate students **Josh Lowr** and **Charlotte Paganini** present their vision of a new courtyard for patients in the psychiatric ward at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Gainesville, Fla. The idea for designing a courtyard came from a landscape architecture student’s senior project in Spring 2006. **Ryan Renuart** created redevelopment plans for the Gainesville VA Hospital, and through that project, he recommended creating the courtyard to provide more outdoor space to psychiatric patients.

Under the direction of landscape architecture associate professor **Kay Williams** and adjunct professor **Gail Hansen**, the Fall 2007 Graduate Studio built upon Renuart’s basic concepts and goals, including a mix of active and passive activities and security and safety. In addition to proposed designs, the students created cost estimates, brochures and PowerPoint mock-ups to be used in raising funds for the courtyard.



Melissa Filipkowski

### LAW SCHOOL CHARRETTE

Pictured below: Landscape architecture student **Xavier Balerdi** pins up a section of his team’s design proposal for the restoration of a University of Florida Conservation Area. Under the direction of landscape architecture professors **Tina Gurucharri** and **Kevin Thompson**, 32 students developed eight design proposals during a four-hour charrette.

Working closely with the UF student organization Environmental and Land Use Society, the landscape architecture students provided a vision for the restoration of the DASH Course

Woods, a 3.3-acre wooded UF Conservation Area just west of the UF Levin College of Law. The students based their designs on input received from project stakeholders, including members of the Environmental and Land Use Society, college faculty, the adjacent Golfview neighborhood and the UF Physical Plant Division. After receiving feedback at the charrette, the UF student chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects created the final design, which is scheduled to be installed this year.



Julie Frey

## Building Community **IN STUDIO**

If you've ever participated in a design studio, you certainly remember the long hours throughout the semester and lack of sleep when a project was due. But you also may remember the sense of community you shared with the students around you. As you spent long nights working together, you learned about each other and discussed your opinions on school, the latest news and other hot topics of the day. Sometimes, your studio felt like your home.

In this respect, today's studio culture is no different. Students work on projects into the wee hours of the morning. They collaborate and bounce ideas around. They socialize, but they also work hard.

"The studio was definitely my home and I miss it," says **Lauren Mitchell** (ARC 2003, MSAS 2007), adjunct professor at Clemson University. "There was a social atmosphere in studio. It's incredible to have the ability to socialize while having beautiful and stimulating projects to look at all around. As a working professional, I wonder how I might find that kind of environment."

When asked to explain studio culture, University of Florida architecture graduate student **Kelly Ard** says it's hard to define. "It's just the way you exist. You eat here; you are productive here; you waste time here. The people you meet in studio become your closest friends."

"It's a public way of learning," says UF architecture graduate student **Everaldo Colas**. "You get comfortable sharing ideas, and you become interested in seeing everything else that is being worked on. For your future career, you learn to express your ideas clearly. You have constant practice conveying your ideas."

While the culture of studio as a community has been around for a long time, there have been many changes in studio culture to encourage open communication between faculty and students in a nurturing environment.

In 2002, the American Institute of Architecture Students advanced the national dialogue of studio culture by releasing its report, "The Redesign of Studio Culture." This was followed by the Studio Culture Summit in 2004. Also that year, the National Architectural Accrediting Board created a 13th Condition for Accreditation, requiring schools to have a written policy regarding the culture in their studio environments.

At UF, architecture associate professor **Nina Hofer** brought the discussion to her Teaching Methods class. "When we discussed the studio model with the students, we were surprised by their intense response. They felt strongly that the students owned the studio culture, and that it was a critical component of their education as architects."

UF architecture graduate student **Jennifer Daniels** agrees. "The studio encourages the most dynamic and educational experience in the field, and arguably the profession, of design. It generates energy within and outside the scheduled class, making the students responsible for the success of each level of the program. We have to protect and preserve the infrastructure of studio culture." Along with Ard and Colas, Daniels has taken part in the studio culture initiatives at UF through her concentration in architectural pedagogy.

"Being involved in studio culture teaches students to understand their discipline and how to interact with their colleagues and professors, a crucial skill when bridging into professional practice," Daniels says.

In addition, through the School of Architecture's mentored teaching program, students have the opportunity to learn from each other.

"The vertical engagement allows students from third year through post professional studies to interact with each other and with faculty while teaching the first-year studio," says Hofer. "This creates a studio culture greater than that found within any given studio, as it reaches across years and between studios."

For some, like Mitchell, the absence of the studio environment is a difficult transition as they graduate and begin their careers.

"The lack of the studio atmosphere in my life now is actually very hard for me to fill because it is so unique. There was always a roar of music and laughter, followed by the pure still silence of hard work and focus. The work actually gets done after a silly celebration of what is to come that night," says Mitchell.

"You get really close to your classmates when you work in studio. A subtle look from my friend while the professor assessed the night's work is all it took for me to know exactly what she was thinking, and we fought the urge to giggle.

"I miss studio culture. It makes me wonder how students in other fields live without it." 

*"The studio was definitely my home and I miss it"*

Architecture graduate student and Preservation Institute: Nantucket program assistant Gareth Morgan answers student Veronica Tasker's questions while working in the institute's studio.



Julie Frey

## Urban Studio Emphasizes Stronger Collaboration With Community Stakeholders

This fall, the College of Design, Construction and Planning moved off campus. Or at least one studio did. While the college has several semester-long, off-campus programs in places such as Vicenza, Italy and Paris, France, this was different. The students didn't travel out of the state or out of the country, but rather, they traveled across Gainesville to the Commerce Building in the city's downtown.

While the students didn't travel far, it was a significant move. They were removed from the known environment of the Architecture Building and brought into the heart of the city, where they would be able to interact with community leaders, stakeholders and citizens while working on projects for the City of Gainesville, Alachua County and other municipalities in the state.

The Urban Studio led by architecture associate professor **Martin Gold** allows the students to see first-hand and engage in the process of public debate. Gold designed the studio so students would collaborate not only with each other, but also with community members.

"The students were exposed to the elasticity in terms of ownership, scheduling, phasing and budgeting of future projects while advancing a positive community vision. Their projects included a focus on the integration of architecture with civic space and the transportation network," Gold explains.

The Urban Studio engages experts from the various disciplines related to urban infrastructure to define needs and opportunities for design. Design

methodologies layer seemingly contradictory requirements, and expectations to find added value and amenity.

The recent Waldo Corridor project on the east side of Gainesville relied on a team of experts including urban and regional planning professors **Joseli Macedo** and **Ruth Steiner**, landscape architecture professor **Tina Gurucharri**, architecture professor **Kim Tanzer**, experts from Gainesville Regional Utilities, North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, Florida Department of Transportation and **Stephen Luoni**, urban design consultant from the University of Arkansas Community Design Center.

Rather than make a case for a specific design solution or strategy, the students worked to visualize options and alternatives for the future, looking five, 10 and even 35 years out. The goal was to put forth design alternatives for remaking the character and quality of the corridor.

Students prepared urban design proposals for nodal districts along the corridor that would eventually support a light rail infrastructure. Schemes integrated sustainable site strategies and suggestions for sustainable architecture that range in scale from big box to medium density residential. At the time of this writing, a small team of students from the Urban Studio is preparing final recommendations and presentations for community leaders. **P**



Martin Gold

*While the students  
didn't travel far,  
it was a significant move.*

## UF Among Top Interior Design, Landscape Architecture Programs

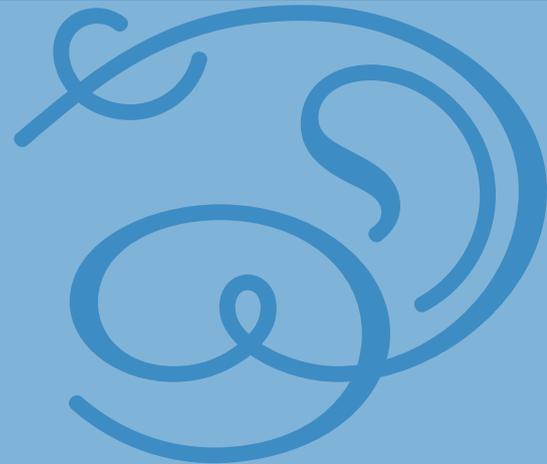
The University of Florida undergraduate program in interior design was ranked 5th in DesignIntelligence's 9th annual America's Best Architecture & Design Schools 2008 survey. The interior design graduate program was ranked 7th, and the undergraduate program in landscape architecture was ranked 13th.

The professional publication's survey ranks accredited undergraduate and graduate design programs from the perspective of practitioners in the field. Respondents are required to be highly involved in the hiring and performance of graduates and are asked to indicate which schools produce the most prepared graduates.

"Both the interior design and landscape architecture programs provide a consistently superior quality of professional training that justifies such a high ranking by leading practitioners," said Dean **Christopher Silver**.

In addition, the Department of Interior Design also tied for 1st in presentation skills and tied for 3rd in cross-discipline experience in DI's national Skills Assessment Ranking.

"It is exciting to see how highly valued our interior design graduates are in the profession. Our department is recognized for research-based innovation in areas such as corporate and institutional design, the adaptive use of historic properties as well as in sustainability, lighting and design security," said **Margaret Portillo**, department chair. **P**



## Education

### 35 Years of PRESERVING COMMUNITY



PI:N alumna Christy Everett helps renovate the institute's cabins.

**Randolph C. Marks** remembers the summer of 1973 vividly. Marks, like the more than 500 students after him, traveled 1,200 miles to study historic preservation on the island of Nantucket as part of the University of Florida College of Design, Construction and Planning's Preservation Institute: Nantucket, or PI:N. According to Marks, his last minute decision to take part in the program shaped his entire architectural career. And today, after 35 years of successful summer programs, PI:N still continues to provide an exceptional educational experience to all program participants.

Co-founded by UF professor emeritus **F. Blair Reeves** and Nantucket developer **Walter Beinecke, Jr.** in 1972, PI:N is a cooperative effort between UF and the community of Nantucket, Mass., educating students in a broad range of historic preservation issues, while helping to research and document the history of the island.

While on the island, students are immersed in the community of Nantucket and participate in project-oriented coursework involving real problems on the island. Students' complete immersion creates a unique learning experience. They are not just learning, they are becoming part of and contributing to the Nantucket community.

"Every student got to learn the real lifestyle of living on Nantucket," Marks said. "We would walk out of our studio and into a living lab that was right outside our door. We were seen by the people of Nantucket, recognized as contributing and above all, we were making a difference. The aura of being part of that island is not something any outsider can describe."

The students didn't only become part of the Nantucket community though. As word of the program's popularity and prestige spread, students came from all over the country to participate. Today, the community of PI:N program alumni is more than 500 strong

and represents more than 100 universities.

"The cross section of attendees is just incredible," Marks said. "We came from everywhere: Chicago, California, everywhere. Most people were not associated with UF beforehand but after PI:N, they were."

Members of the PI:N alumni community gathered in Nantucket this summer to mark the 35th anniversary of the program. Program alumni gathered at PI:N's headquarters, Sherburne Hall, to share memories and honor the creation of the F. Blair Reeves Fund in Historic Preservation.

"It's incredible to think it's been 35 years already," said **Peter Prugh**, director of PI:N. "When the University of Florida started on Nantucket, we were one of the first schools in the nation to do something like PI:N. In that way, UF was one of the developers of the preservation movement and our students have been an integral part of historic preservation development."

As students from universities all over the country and from a wide variety of disciplines continue to participate in the historic preservation program year after year, not only will they be added to the Nantucket community, but also to the UF community and the historic preservation community.

**Susan Tate**, who recently retired from the Department of Interior Design and was director of P:IN for a decade said, "Even though the historic preservation program at UF now is one of the most visible and progressive in the country, the Nantucket work remains the 'crown jewel' of the educational experiences." Tate herself was a product of training at P:IN. Other current college faculty that attended include associate professor **Diana Bitz**, assistant professor **Kristin Larsen** and visiting professor **Gail Naylor**.

"The students all leave footprints there," Prugh said. "The things they do leave a ripple effect. They just didn't have a class in Nantucket, they were Nantucket." **P**



Bottom left: PI:N alumna Kathi Auerbach reviews professional preservation projects with students participating in PI:N's summer 2007 program.

Bottom right: PI:N board members pictured at Sherburne Hall (l to r): Roy Hunt, Mary Nell Reeves, Blair Reeves, Patricia Jacobs, Barbara Spitler and Buddy Jacobs.



All Photos this page: Julie Fry

## Students Provide Innovative Designs for Jacksonville Convention Center



aerial image of the site.



design by: April-Ann Creech



design by: Dustin Pasteur

designs below by: Miguel Porras



Last spring, University of Florida architecture graduate students participated in a major project in Jacksonville to help develop building design proposals for the city's new convention center. The initiative was led by associate professor of architecture **Michael Kuenstle**, AIA, in collaboration with members of the local American Institute of Architects (AIA) Jacksonville Chapter through the support of the Mellen C. Greeley AIA Foundation, Inc.

A primary goal for the building design project was to weave the three principle functions of a major civic building – the aesthetic/symbolic relationship to the cultural context, the relationship to the immediate site and the programmatic experience – into an integrated and layered spatial unity guided by a clear architectural concept.

“The learning through service model of teaching made possible with the UF/AIA Jacksonville studio provides the framework for a unique educational experience that facilitates building a stronger relationship between the university, the profession and the communities in which we work,” Kuenstle says. “A key component of our initiative is to help grow and nourish a culture of design that benefits everyone.”

In turn, the students also provide a valuable service to Jacksonville and the community.

“This gives them a look into the real world,” he says. “They get to meet working architects, city officials, community leaders and other stakeholders. They can't get this kind of exposure in the classroom, so this educational experience helps teach them about working within the community.”

The studio was especially unique because it was incorporated into the “AIA Jacksonville 150” initiative, a year-long event celebrating the 150th anniversary of the American Institute of Architects.

The studio also had three generations of UF alumni involvement. **Melody Bishop** (BDes 1979, MAARC 1981) and **Thomas Reynolds** (BArch 1971) served as the AIA Jacksonville liaison committee to the School of Architecture and both have a rich and productive history of developing academic projects with the university and the city. **Glenn Dasher** (MArch 1987), 2007 president of AIA Jacksonville, organized the student activities in Jacksonville and **Eugene Damaso** (BDes 2002, MArch 2004) brought a fresh perspective to the student work as a representative of the AIA Jacksonville emerging professionals group. **P**

culture: space: event

## RESEARCH

*New home and theater provide hope for Tanzanian orphans*

Watching Tanzanian orphans perform acrobatics at the TunaHAKI Centre in Moshi, architecture associate professor **Donna Cohen** knew the design project before her was much more than a building; it was an opportunity to give the children a space to learn their craft and become part of their community.

“It was inspiring to watch the children perform,” Cohen said. “I also directed them during a workshop and was moved by their enthusiasm and spirit.”

TunaHAKI Centre is a home for orphans, started by Tanzanian artist **David Ryatula** and his wife **Mary**. The orphans are taken off the streets and given food, shelter, medical care and a complete education, as well as a chance to participate in arts like acrobatics and drama. While the center has rescued more than 100 children from the streets of Moshi since 1998, the orphans currently live in a rental home without running water, a proper kitchen or adequate drainage.

Cohen and her partner, research associate for historic preservation **Claude Armstrong**, first learned of the opportunity to design a sustainable home and cultural center for the orphanage through Architecture for Humanity. The non-profit organization seeks architectural solutions to humanitarian crises, and brings design services to communities like Moshi.

Armstrong + Cohen was chosen from more than 40 firms who applied to design the

theater and cultural center. The Finnish firm Hollmen Reuter Sandman Architects will design the children’s residence.

“Our sustainability curriculum is strengthened by projects like this, as faculty incorporate their research into their courses. Students have the opportunity to gain a global perspective on sustainability and the built environment,” said Dean **Christopher Silver**. The college provided a research grant for the team’s first trip to Tanzania this summer.

“This international collaboration allows us the opportunity to work on contemporary architecture in a culturally significant site,” said Cohen, emphasizing that the partnership is successful because everyone agrees the most fundamental design principle is the necessity of acting locally.

The design team will focus on local production techniques and materials in an effort to support the local economy. The project also will provide opportunities for job training for older children at the center. The hope is that the techniques used in the design of the home and theater will serve as a model for other orphanages in Tanzania.

“It’s important that we are not simply importing our ideas and technology. For the project to be sustainable – to live on and be replicated – it has to integrate with local production and processes, and at the same time, embody aspirations for the future,” said Cohen. 

Pictured (l-r):  
Donna Cohen,  
Claude Armstrong,  
Helena Sandman,  
Saija Hollmen,  
Jenni Reuter



“IT WAS INSPIRING  
TO WATCH THE CHILDREN  
PERFORM”

## Center's Research Focuses on *Protecting Our Homes and Businesses*



*“The aim of the center is to conduct research in areas of mitigating natural and human-caused hazards in the built environment.”*

Hurricane Ivan caused severe damage to Florida in 2004. Conducting research to protect our homes and businesses from hurricanes and other disasters is the central mission of the Center for Collective Protection in the Built Environment.

Photo provided by T. Grosskopf of the Florida Emergency Mortuary Response (FEMORS) team courtesy of a flyover by the Escambia County Sheriff's Office

Sept. 11, 2001 and the hurricanes of 2004-05 have driven home the importance of preparing as much as possible for catastrophic events, but are the buildings and communities in our state and nation really ready? That's the question that the Center for Collective Protection in the Built Environment, a research organization within the M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Building Construction, is trying to answer.

“The aim of the center is to conduct research in areas of mitigating natural and human-caused hazards in the built environment,” explains the center's director, **Kevin Grosskopf**. “We try to work on things that address multiple hazards, from hurricanes and tornadoes to events caused by humans, such as building fires, industrial accidents and acts of terrorism.

“There is a lot of overlap,” Grosskopf adds. “Some of the technologies that protect buildings against hurricanes and tornadoes, for example, also protect from explosives.”

With the help of a \$150,000 gift from University of Florida alumnus **Edward Proefke, Sr.**, in 2007, the center is more involved than ever before in making sure Floridians – and all Americans – are safe.

Among the center's efforts that are of particular importance in Florida are a few hurricane-related projects. One involves using software to simulate the effects of a hurricane in a particular community to evaluate its preparedness.

“In Alachua County, for example, we can plug either U.S. Census or property appraiser data into the software, and we can create a scenario to show us what would happen if

a Hurricane Katrina-strength storm came across Cedar Key to Alachua County,” Grosskopf explains. “What would its intensity be? What type of debris and destruction would occur? We're working with the NWS (National Weather Service) in developing realistic inland and coastal hurricane scenarios.”

This software, which comes from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is being used to assess the vulnerability of several communities to a major hurricane, and could be used to help coordinate potential emergency response to an approaching storm.

“If we have a hurricane coming, it could help predict the community's turnaround time,” Grosskopf says. “NWS can tell us the probability of a storm hitting, so they'd have things like forward speed and radius. We can plug that into a model and it would tell us whether it coincides with a high tide, which would make flooding worse. It would give us a realistic estimate of damages, shelter requirements, downed trees, structural damage and even how many police stations and fire stations could sustain damage. And it will even tell you based on rainfall and flooding which escape routes will be shut off.”

The center also is preparing for future hurricanes by evaluating building codes and low-cost ways to fortify new buildings against high winds. One project, for example, involved students looking at manufactured housing before and after a HUD building code changed in 1994. (“After Hurricane Charlie, there were areas where homes built after 1994 were relatively untouched and those built before 1994 were destroyed, which

is pretty compelling,” Grosskopf notes.) Grosskopf and his team also are evaluating an elastomer that can be sprayed into the shell of a manufactured housing unit during production, significantly improving wind-load resistance.

“This material provides tremendous tensile strength and can stand up to windborne debris too,” he says. “Here you have something that we can actually put in everyday housing that is affordable.”

Another hurricane-related project the center is involved in with the Fluor Center for Construction Safety is providing safety training to low-literacy and non-English speaking workers, who are often the ones to come in after destructive storms to assist in cleanup and reconstruction efforts.

The center also is involved in a number of other research projects, such as looking into “sick building syndrome.” The center, along with the Associated General Contractors of America and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, has developed a computer program to help builders avoid conditions during construction (and post-storm reconstruction) that would promote mold growth in homes and buildings. More than 33,000 general contractors nationwide now are able to access this program.

“We're living in an environment where we have to protect our populations, workforce and economy from a multitude of hazards,” Grosskopf says. “We need to do things in a way that is practical and cost-effective. Safety shouldn't be just for those who can afford it.” **p**

## Crime Mapping: Helping Law Enforcement Keep Our Communities Safe

A lot has been said about the College of Design, Construction and Planning helping to build up communities, but thanks to **Richard Schneider**, a professor of urban and regional planning, the college is helping citizens and law enforcement officials fight crime in those communities too. In fact, some of the projects Schneider and his team are working on sound like they could have been ripped straight from an episode of CSI or Law & Order.

For the last two years, along with associate professor **Ilir Bejleri**, department assistant **Stanley Latimer**, and graduate student **Eric Kramer**, Schneider has been working with the Alachua County Sheriff's Office on a project to electronically map crime in their jurisdiction. Schneider and his team also have been involved in doing crime-prevention and crime-analysis programs with the Gainesville and Palatka Police Departments.

"The general overall intent is to combine computer technologies we already have with the data police gather normally so that we are able to quickly identify where crimes are taking place," Schneider says. "So it's a crime prevention tool but also a police administration tool, because police can allocate officers to specific areas based on crime activity."

Before the advent of crime mapping technologies, police officers would record incident locations, and oftentimes, these locations would be plotted on a pin map, which authorities would use to help them determine where crimes were taking place.

"Pin maps have been used for over a hundred years to track crime epidemics, housing conditions – anything that has a relationship to the surface of the earth," Schneider explains. "But the problem is they're static. It's harder to understand patterns and analyze them. With computers, we can do this very rapidly and ask lots of questions. In which parking lots did the car burglaries take place, for example? Are assaults occurring around bus stations or certain nightclubs? If so, are there local natural and built environmental conditions that make it easier to commit these crimes in these locations? Knowing the answers help planners and police respond appropriately.

Crime mapping isn't unique to this area; many communities around the country are using this technology to help identify crime patterns and allocate police officers appropriately. But Schneider, whose recent book on crime prevention and urban planning contains a chapter on the technology, is paving the way for even more useful applications of the tool.

"The key is that you have to have a very good base map first," Schneider explains. "Once an officer records an address, the address is transferred using a mapping program to that base map electronically, so then you have a point on the map which shows where the crime ostensibly took place. This allows us to capture these points and put them in a computer database, and then we can quickly do statistical and comparative analyses that really weren't feasible before.

"Supplemented by police reports, you can more readily document the m.o. (method of operation) of various crimes," he adds. "You can look at how crime moves in response to police patrols and can more easily identify hot spots and crime sprees. Crime mapping

and analysis helps cops know pretty quickly if it's one person knocking off a bunch of convenience stores, for instance."

Schneider and his team also are helping law enforcement agencies use crime-mapping tools to evaluate the success of the programs they implement. For example, the U.S. Department of Justice provided money for a "Weed and Seed" program in Palatka, where violent offenders were "weeded" out, and community development programs such as youth after-school programs and GED prep courses were "seeded" in the community. Schneider and his graduate students used crime mapping technology to help evaluate the success of these efforts.

"We just gave the report to the community, in fact," he says. "We've also participated in Weed and Seed in Gainesville. It's a great collaboration between the university and police, because the cops have the data and the experience, and we have the technology, graduate students and research capability.

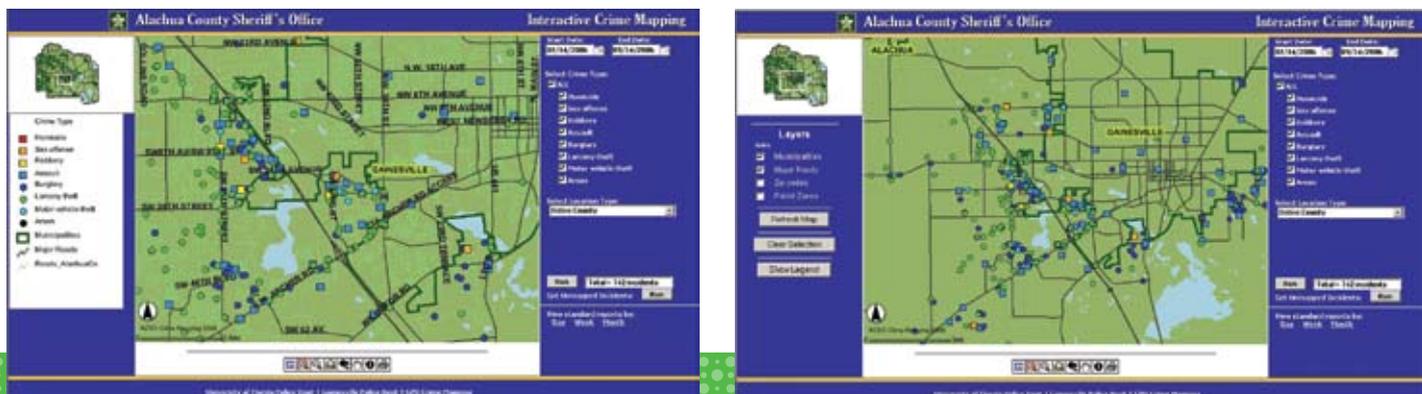
"We hope that as a result of all this, crime rates and opportunities will be diminished," he adds. "No one knows for sure how much these systems have helped, but we're tracking crime better. It's ultimately about improving the quality of life for citizens. And our expectation is that crime mapping will help cities and counties save money and make law enforcement coordination easier in the long run."

It's all part of UF serving the community, and in turn, getting their students valuable experience in the real world.

"We live here; this is our hometown, so it's a civic responsibility," Schneider says. "It's also a great opportunity to get students out of their comfort zone. Most of my students are middle class kids who have lived in the suburbs and who have had all the benefits of life. As part of crime-mapping research and related crime prevention planning courses, I take these kids to housing projects and to distressed neighborhoods, and acquaint them with some harsh realities, and it gives them a greater understanding of daily quality of life issues that people face. They grow as professionals and people, and the community benefits." 

"We hope that as a result of all this, crime rates and opportunities will be diminished"

Crime maps of Alachua County, Fla.



## Affording to Live Where You Work

Tourism is one of the biggest industries in Florida, but without adequate housing for the employees that keep the industry going, it could all fall apart. That's where the University of Florida's Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing comes in.

"We have in Florida, as well as other portions of the nation, a lack of housing affordability for people who clean hotel rooms, work in food service and other people in the tourism industry," says **Anne Williamson**, the associate director of the center, which is housed in the M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Building Construction. "This is very important. If housing needs are not met in a community, it means that people who provide essential services in a community can't live in the community they work in.

"And it's not just people who work in tourism," she adds. "Everyone from a childcare worker to a school bus driver to a healthcare aid to police officers and firefighters are very essential to our communities and need to be able to live where they work."

But that's not the only housing issue confronting Floridians. Many people have found homes to live in but are spending more on housing costs than they can afford, leaving little money leftover for other essentials. Still others are living in homes that might be hazardous in a hurricane, tornado or other disaster.

"It's really important that we pay attention to getting safe homes and apartments built at the right price that people can afford," says the center's director, **Robert Stroh**.

To this end, the Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing, which was established in 1988 in response to a mandate from the state

legislature, is divided into three main areas.

Professor **Bill O'Dell** runs the center's Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse, a huge, county-by-county database that tracks housing inventory and pricing data. It's accessible to the public at <http://flhousingdata.shimberg.ufl.edu> where users can pull up an area and see how many homes are available, what the median prices are for home sales and rentals, and how many people living in the area are living in homes beyond their means.

"It has come to be known as an authoritative source for this type of data," Stroh notes. The center's database has been used by numerous local governments to study housing issues in their communities.

Stroh leads the center's efforts and research into building technology and hurricane resistant housing. "It's a question of how you protect windows and hold roofs on and keep hurricanes from destroying your home," he says. (The Center for Collective Protection in the Built Environment, another center within the college, also is doing hurricane-resistance research work. See page 9.)

Williamson is in charge of the center's third arm, which examines housing policies and programs across the state.

"We typically respond to requests for assistance," Williamson explains. "We regularly give a great deal of technical assistance in terms of data for planning and assessing affordability needs."

For example, Williamson and her team recently finished evaluating a revitalized public housing area in Tampa. The area included public housing units that had been torn down and rebuilt with the help of a Hope VI grant from the U.S. Department of Housing

and Urban Development. "We were able to verify a dramatic reduction in crime and a dramatic increase in the quality of living conditions," Williamson says.

Nearby, Williamson and her team are helping to document efforts to decrease crime rates in a depressed area near the University of South Florida by building up community programs and community involvement. "We've done everything from help evaluate the success of the efforts, to a detailed housing study, to this year, we're creating a more sustainable community," she says.

The Shimberg Center may soon be involved in a major international housing project too, taking the college's international influence to a new level.

"We've been asked by the largest real estate development company in China to work with them on policies and policy solutions in terms of moving from a socialist state to a free market economy," says Williamson. "We're in the beginning phases of that. Many of their challenges are similar to those we've dealt with here in the United States; we all have basic human needs. As China grows more and more into a free market economy, they are suffering the growing pains we've had in the past in United States."

But despite its growing worldwide scope, the center is, first and foremost, a resource for Floridians, who are facing some of the biggest housing challenges in the nation.

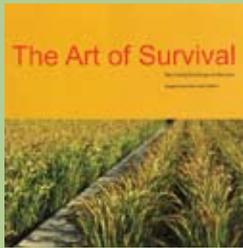
"A center like this is necessary because a large percentage of people can't afford homes nowadays," Stroh says. "The information we maintain is a very useful tool for a lot of people." 

The Shimberg Center recently evaluated The Oaks at Riverview, the result of the redevelopment of Tampa's severely distressed public housing complexes Riverview Terrace and Tom Dyer Homes. It is located in the popular Seminole Heights area and has contributed to the revitalization of the neighborhood. The evaluation helped the community and policymakers better understand how the redevelopment has contributed to reductions in crime, rising property values and other aspects of neighborhood improvement.



Amanda Brown, Tampa Housing Authority

**“The Art of Survival: Recovering Landscape Architecture”** by landscape architecture professor **Mary Padua** and **Kongjian Yu** of China.

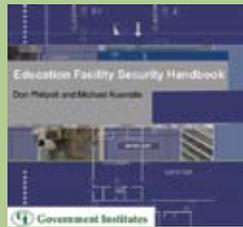


This book is a compendium of essays that cover the trends in landscape architecture at the end of the 20th century in China. The book chronicles projects carried about by Turenscape and Peking University's Graduate

School of Landscape Architecture under the leadership of China's pioneering landscape architect, Kongjian Yu.

**“Education Facility Security Handbook”**

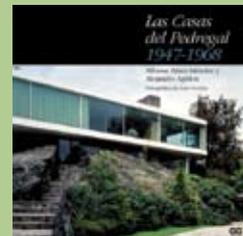
by architecture professor **Michael Kuenstle** and **Don Philpott** of Reuters and the Homeland Defense Journal was published by Government Institutes, Scarecrow Press Inc. in October 2007.



This handbook provides design guidance for architects, engineers, facilities planners and school administrators with a twofold approach to creating a safe environment for schools. The first part

of the book addresses how to design and build a safe school and includes a section on safe school building design research with contributions by architecture professor **Nancy Clark** and urban and regional planning professor **Richard Schneider**, Ph.D., AICP. The second part of the book shifts from physical infrastructure to inhabitants with a discussion of various policies and practices implemented to reduce crime and violence in schools.

**“Las casas del Pedregal, 1947-1968”** by architecture professor **Alfonso Pérez-Méndez** and **Alejandro Aptilon** was published in Spanish in August 2007.

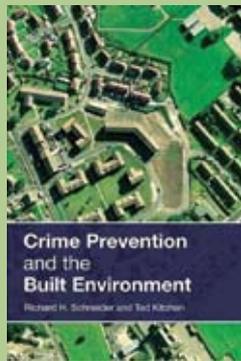


The book is part of the efforts of UF's School of Architecture Preservation Institute: Caribbean to document 1950's Latin American modern architecture. It covers an important monographic event

in Mexican architectural history, the creation of 1,500 modern houses in a small suburb of Mexico City. In the era, **Esther McCoy**, the historian of the Case Study Houses, wrote that it was the only experience comparable to the famous Los Angeles experiment in modern single family houses.

**“Crime Prevention and the Built Environment”**

by urban and regional planning professor **Richard Schneider** and **Ted Kitchen** of Sheffield Hallam University in the United Kingdom was published in March 2007 by Routledge Press.

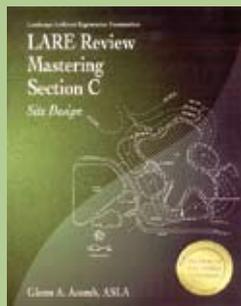


In seeking to advance the field of crime prevention planning, this book builds upon established theory and incorporates original research on the evolving relationships between planning systems, police and citizens. Surveying classical place-based crime prevention as well as concepts such as space

syntax and new urbanism, it provides an international perspective on these issues and takes a look at the ways in which terrorism and technology affect place-based crime prevention. It also seeks to investigate the connection between crime prevention and development planning at a policy level.

**“LARE Review, Mastering Section C: Site Design”**

by landscape architecture professor **Glenn Acomb** was published by Professional Publications Inc. in June 2007.

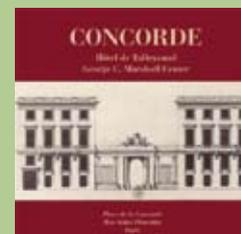


This book, the first to address the guiding principles in site design for the licensure examination, offers the most complete and comprehensive coverage available for Section C of the Landscape Architect Registration Examination. The book shows how to approach site planning

vignettes analytically through three basic tasks: analyzing the site and requirements; understanding the relationships between the land and the uses of the land; and creating optimal plans and design solutions. In addition, each chapter offers a wide variety of sample vignettes to provide exposure to a range of project types.

**“Concorde: Hôtel de Talleyrand & George C. Marshall Center”**

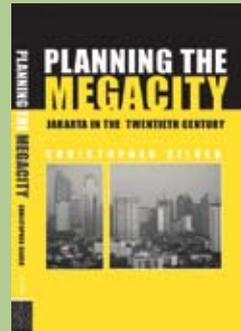
by the University of Florida Publications Office with lead author **Susan Tate**, interior design professor, was published by StarterChilds in 2007.



This book marks the 60th anniversary of the Harvard University address of George C. Marshall in which the U.S. Secretary of State proposed a program of European recovery. It commemorates the

architecture, interiors, history and restoration of the Hotel de Talleyrand, particularly those rooms which constituted the European offices of the American administration of the program known around the world as the Marshall Plan.

**“Planning the Megacity: Jakarta in the Twentieth Century”** by Dean **Christopher Silver** was published in 2007 by Taylor & Francis Inc.

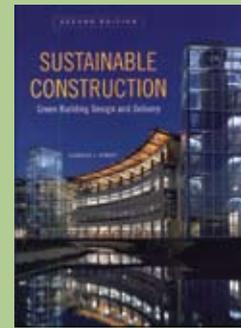


This book, the first on the planning history of Jakarta, describes how planning has shaped urban development in Southeast Asia, and in particular how its largest city, Jakarta, Indonesia, was transformed from a colonial capital of approximately 150,000 in 1900 to a megacity of 12-13

million inhabitants in 2000. The book places the city's planning history within local, national and international contexts, exploring not only the formal planning actions, but how planning was shaped by broader political, economic, social and cultural factors in Indonesia's development.

**“Sustainable Construction: Green Building Design and Delivery,”**

second edition, by building construction professor **Charles Kibert**, director of Powell Center for Construction & Environment, was published by Wiley in October 2007.

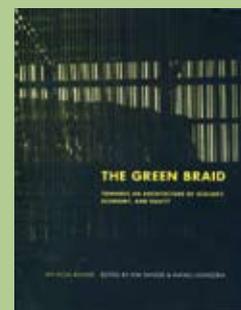


The green building movement has come a long way in a short time. Responding to this exponential growth, with its attendant technological as well as aesthetic developments, this book guides construction and design professionals through the process of developing commercial and

institutional high-performance green buildings in today's marketplace. This revised edition delivers a detailed and passionate overview of the entire process of green building, covering the theory, history and state of the industry and of best practices in green building.

**“The Green Braid: Towards an Architecture of Ecology, Economy and Equity”**

by architecture professor **Kim Tanzer** and **Rafael Longoria**, an architecture professor at the University of Houston, was published in March 2007 by Routledge Press.



Drawn from over 15 years of peer-reviewed essays and national design awards published by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, this volume presents the discipline's best thinking on sustainability in written, drawn and built form. Providing a

primer on sustainability, useful to teachers and students alike, the selected essays address a broad range of issues. Combined with design projects that highlight issues holistically, they promote an understanding of the principles of sustainability and further the integration of sustainable methods into architectural projects.

## REACHING OUT: CENTER HELPS FLORIDA COMMUNITIES

The Center for Building Better Communities is one of the units within the college that works directly with local communities to help them plan for the future. Established in 2002, the center does hands-on research into areas that impact cities and regions, such as urbanization and economic revitalization.

"We provide continuing education, technical assistance and applied research to local governments," says the center's director, **Gene Boles**, who took over the center in Fall 2006. "We essentially do planning projects with local and state governments, usually associated with comprehensive planning and growth management."

For example, the center is heavily involved with the issue of providing adequate facilities for public school students within the state. In 2005, the state legislature passed legislation requiring school districts to begin setting up programs to get kids out of portable classrooms and into real school buildings, a hot issue with Florida's population expected to grow 30 percent by 2020.

"This basically says that if you propose a new housing development, you have to have school capacity concurrent with the level of development," explains urban and regional planning associate professor **Ruth Steiner**, who works with the center. "So the developer may have to contribute their fair share of providing for that new build-

ing. Concurrency has been required for 20 years for water and sewers and such, but they are just starting to require it for schools. School districts need to know how to implement this, so that's something the center has spent a lot of time looking at."

The center also is involved in helping communities throughout the state come up with their official comprehensive plans, which are government documents that set the context for future growth and development within the community.

"Each community within the state is required to have one," Boles says. "We're helping with that in several communities. We're also doing some work on land development codes and zoning regulations."

Boles also runs a two-day training program for planning officials, local commissioners and elected officials throughout the state who will have some involvement in making land-use decisions. The intensive course familiarizes them with urban planning issues and decision-making. Boles currently teaches the course five times a year, but with the help of the center, and of the university's IFAS extension offices in all 67 Florida counties, he hopes to double the frequency and reach more people involved with urban planning.

Finally, the center is available for communities throughout the state to call on when they're in need of urban planning advice.

"We basically provide professional planning services," Boles says. "We try to stay at the forefront of some of the major issues, so we don't look at projects that consultants would routinely do. We look at areas where our applied research can be converted into best practices. For example, we worked recently with the state Department of Community Affairs to develop transportation practices for small cities."

For communities who call on the center for help, the benefits are multiple, Boles says.

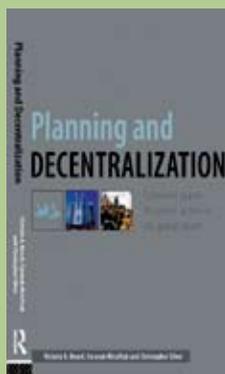
"There are some cost advantages, to begin with," he says. "Also, when they come to the university, they contract with the university directly, and there are advantages in the resources and people we can draw upon to contribute to our work. It's usually a little bit broader."

In turn, the work benefits the graduate students who work with the center too. During the Fall 2007 semester, there were 12 graduate students working on projects with the center; in Spring 2008, there are eight.

"This is the kind of work the students will be doing in the future," Boles says. "I believe that giving our students that link now is especially critical for their future as urban planners because that is what they are training to do. To engage them in that process now is significantly beneficial." **P**

### "Planning and Decentralization: Contested Spaces for Public Action in the Global South"

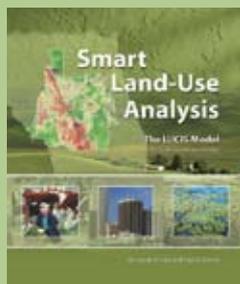
by Dean **Christopher Silver** and co-authors **Victoria Beard** and **Faranak Miraftab** will be published in 2008 by Routledge.



One of the most pervasive development trends of the current global era is the decentralization of governmental responsibilities from strong central governments to localities. Yet, despite the global dimensions of the decentralization movement, there is a limited understanding of its rather dramatic impacts on the planning process, governance

structures, civil society organizations and communities around the world. This book addresses this gap through original, case study research drawn from diverse national contexts in the global south. The book examines the intersection of planning and decentralization from three perspectives: the central state, local government, and civil society and the community.

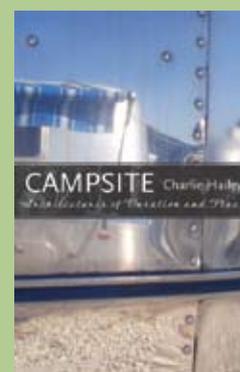
"Smart Land Use Analysis" by landscape architecture professor **Margaret Carr** and urban and regional planning professor **Paul Zwick** was published by ESRI Press in March 2007.



This book presents the land-use conflict identification strategy (LUCIS), a proven method for using geographic information system technology to analyze land-use suitability, stakeholder preferences, and conflicts between

competing land interests. In the hands of a knowledgeable analyst, LUCIS can provide a reliable projection as to which lands will remain in their current use and which lands will likely change in the future. With this information, various land-use scenarios can be considered by planners.

"Campsite: Architectures of Duration and Place" by architecture professor **Charlie Hailey**, will be published in June 2008 by Louisiana State University Press.



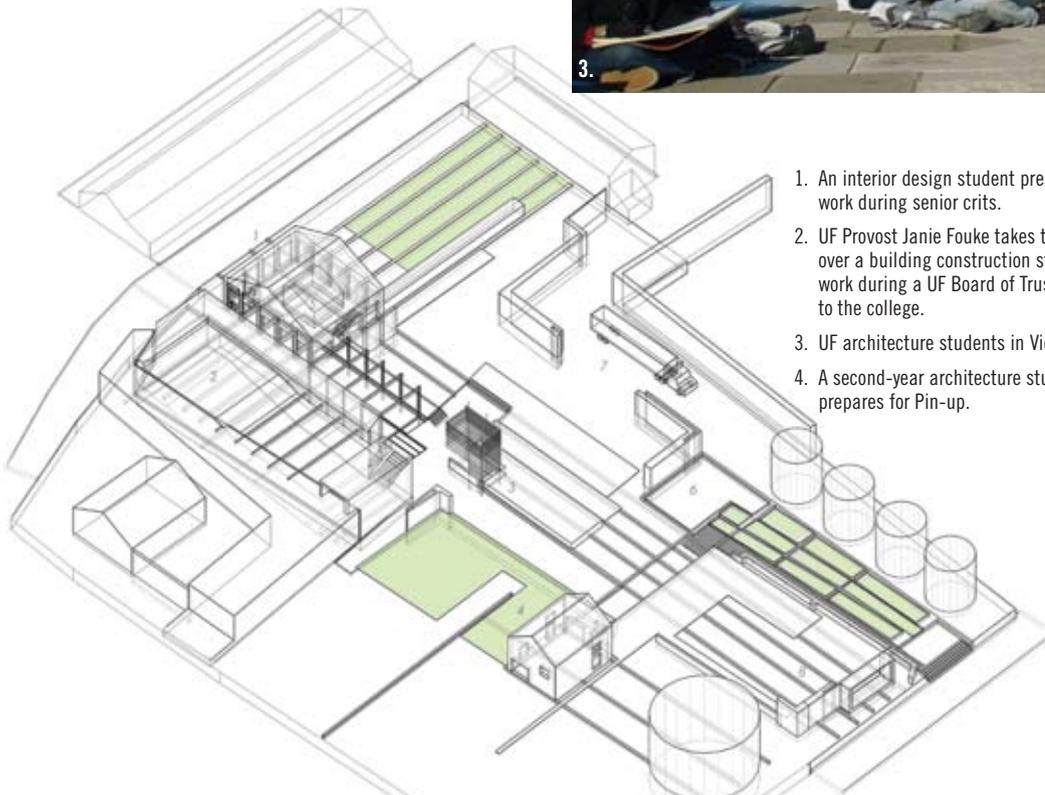
This book investigates the cultural significance and inherently paradoxical nature of camps and camping in contemporary American society. Offering a new understanding of the complex relationship between place, time and architecture in our increasingly mobile culture, the

author explores campsites as places that necessitate a unique combination of contrasting qualities, such as locality and foreignness, temporality and permanence, and public domesticity. And camping practices themselves ultimately reflect how our places, our built environments, our homes are constantly being made and always becoming.

# Students *in Action*



Featured on this page is graduate student Will Zajac's proposal for a new venue for the annual Nantucket Film Festival. Zajac created his proposal while participating in the design studio offered through the Preservation Institute: Nantucket.



1. An interior design student presents her work during senior crits.
2. UF Provost Janie Fouke takes time to look over a building construction student's work during a UF Board of Trustees visit to the college.
3. UF architecture students in Vicenza, Italy.
4. A second-year architecture student prepares for Pin-up.
5. Urban and regional planning students attend the Department of Urban and Regional Planning's annual awards ceremony.
6. An architecture student leans down for a closer look at work on display in the Architecture Gallery.
7. A group of student participants huddle over their competition rule book during the 2007 Witters Competition.
8. (2 photos) Landscape architecture students participate in a design charrette at the UF Levin College of Law.
9. A building construction student carefully applies mortar to brick during the first demonstration in the Charles R. Perry Construction Yard.
10. A student works at Sherburne Hall while participating in the Preservation Institute: Nantucket Summer Program.

Malissa Filipkowski

Malissa Filipkowski

Photo courtesy Carlos Campos



4.

Melissa Filipkowski



5.

Melissa Filipkowski



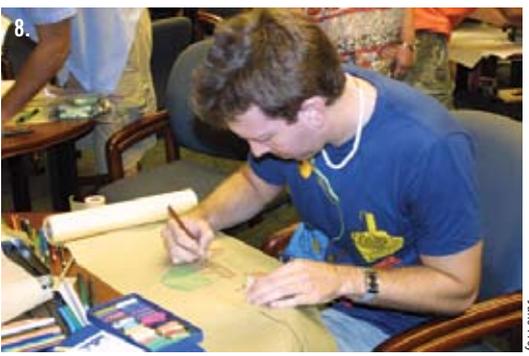
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Melissa Filipkowski



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Julie Frey



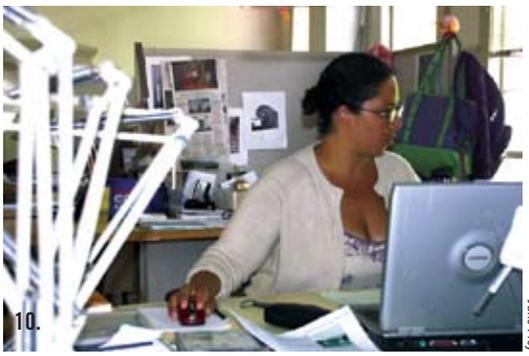
8.

Julie Frey



9.

Melissa Filipkowski



10.

Julie Frey

## SERVICE

## SERVICE LEARNING: Gaining Knowledge &amp; Experience First-Hand



Neal Silvers



John Beary

(Top) On their way to a national conference in Louisiana, landscape architecture students made a detour to New Orleans, donating their time to work on improvements to the Gentilly neighborhood.

(Bottom) Students learn the craft of preserving buildings while participating in Preservation Institute: New York in Mount Lebanon.

Last fall, **Christopher Silver**, the dean of the College of Design, Construction and Planning, created a new position within the college to oversee the college's increasing emphasis on service learning.

"Service learning is an essential component of all of our professional programs, and it has been long before the idea of service learning gained the growing interest that it has on campus today," Silver says. "Our students will go out as professionals to work with communities to solve problems. To prepare them for that effectively, we have always built into our programs opportunities to learn by doing."

Now that longtime architecture professor **Bill Tilson** has been hired into this new position as the assistant dean of international studies and service learning, the college's commitment to the community is clearer than ever.

"We created the position to provide assistance and greater coordination to the wide-ranging activities of our programs in both internationally-focused education – which often involves getting students outside the Gainesville classrooms – and service learning," Silver explains. "It was also intended to make it even more evident to the campus community how much service learning is integral to what we do in the College of Design, Construction and Planning."

As Silver notes, the college's curriculum has long emphasized reaching beyond the walls of the university and allowing students to learn in real-world settings—in a way that benefits the community around them too.

A good example of this is the Florida Community Design Center, which engages student participation to help communities cope with rapid growth, sprawling development and transportation congestion.

"The center can provide design visioning and community design consulting, and can host workshops, exhibits and educational or informational events," says the center's executive director and architecture associate professor **Martin Gold**. "These efforts promote both innovative and best practices for a community to move toward more sustainable growth infrastructure and to focus community resources effectively.

"As design professionals, our careers are in effect a continual service learning exercise," Gold adds. "We provide temporary solutions to an ever-changing set of facilities and difficulties. As a faculty, if we are not engaged in the needs of our time, how can we provide new knowledge, and subsequently serve the need?"

**Kay Williams**, an associate professor of landscape architecture, is another faculty

member who is active in getting students out in the real world to learn outside the walls of the classroom.

"We seek real-world projects that fit with the curriculum of each particular course," Williams explains. "Once they finish school, our graduates are expected to be able to solve problems based upon the knowledge, skills and abilities they obtained here. Rote learning has little to do with what they will be doing in their careers. So it makes sense to give them basics – like land-use planning codes, theories for developing therapeutic environments, technical parameters of landform grading and stormwater management, etc. – then make them apply those in a real physical situation.

"We could just make up a project and program, but there are so many good opportunities out there," she continues. "It is hard to manufacture the depth and breadth that we often find in service projects. Plus, working with real clients means that students have to learn to balance their personal ideas with those of the client, often educating the client as to new directions and at the same time, often educating students that they need to take into consideration all the myriad concerns and issues and desires. All this teaches students far better than professors' war stories and instructions."

Plus, says Williams, exposing students to real clients in the real world is fun. "The richness of the projects, the wonderful people we get to meet and the satisfaction of doing something that really may help someone go a long way," she says.

Tilson says that service learning is a vital part of what makes the college such an integral part of the university community – and indeed a part of the worldwide community too.

"Service learning is synonymous with the core mission of the design, construction and planning disciplines," says Tilson. "Our teaching and research methods are predominately action oriented which demands that we develop and maintain a consistent interaction with communities locally and globally. Currently, more than 75 percent of the students in our college participate in international and service initiatives. Our goal is to make that 100 percent."

Silver says he's proud that his college participates in service learning programs to such a degree.

"We encourage our students to make contributions to their community beyond the classroom requirements," he says. "It is part of the ethical and value foundations of the professions we represent. Yet what we want to emphasize as well is that service learning is not about just being a good Samaritan, but is a skill and value set that is fundamental to our professional training." **D**

"Service learning  
is synonymous with the  
CORE MISSION of the  
design, construction &  
planning disciplines."

## Small Town, Big Opportunities

The University of Florida's College of Design, Construction and Planning involvement with communities has resonated with towns throughout Florida for many years. One example of the college's work impacting a community is the small town of Chipley, which is about 45 minutes inland from Panama City in the Panhandle.

Under the direction of associate professor of architecture **Peter Prugh**, UF became involved with Chipley in the 1980s when the city needed to revitalize its failing economy. Now, under the guidance of associate professor of architecture **Martin Gold**, the college will once again work with the city to address its new and changing needs this year.

"Chipley is a small town located along the railroad; in fact, their main street downtown is the railroad," Prugh says. "Numerous towns evolved in the 19<sup>th</sup> century along the railroad because they were stops for trains. Then, US-90 used to run right next to the downtown, so they were able to lure people in, but once I-10 was built, the economy began to fade. Now, the town is bypassed by I-10, and the railroad is no longer a major element. The economy was just gone."

Chipley city leaders approached UF in 1984, and in the next three years, Prugh, urban and regional planning professor **William Weismantel** and several classes of students came in and helped the flailing community revitalize itself.

"We looked at what was going on economically in the town and the region, what businesses they had and needed," Prugh recalls. "We also got together with some architecture students and went over the state's rules and regulations for setting up redevelopment districts that qualify for aid."

Back in the 1980s, heritage tourism was just beginning to catch on, so the UF team decided to play up Chipley's many historic buildings. Instead of suggesting that they tear

down their downtown and rebuild, the team suggested downtown streetscapes, complete with ample parking, old-fashioned street lamps and park benches. They helped found a farmer's market and helped create a plan that supported local merchants coming into the downtown area and opening up businesses in historic buildings. And they helped the town secure state and national grants to pave the way for redevelopment.

"This was actual real world experience for the students," Prugh says. "They were working with communities and seeing the nuts and bolts of how finance and funding go together. You can have all the creative ideas in the world, but if the community doesn't have the resources, they're just creative ideas with nowhere to go. This gave students an opportunity to see an integrated approach that looked at economics and design."

So successful was UF's involvement in the 1980s that Chipley came calling again. This time, Gold, the executive director of the Florida Community Design Center, a not-for-profit organization in partnership with the College of Design, Construction and Planning, answered the call.

"The economic development board in Chipley recognized that growth from those fleeing the coast and those retiring to Florida will put a lot of development pressure on the area," he explains. "They hope to direct this resource to revitalizing the downtown in a manner that adds residential density and economic vitality for local business and enhances the character of the town. We will look primarily at a variety of housing and mixed-use typologies that would support mixed demographic groups and development phasing alternatives that might best capture market opportunities."

The partnership between the college and the design center enabled the project team to leverage seed funding from the town of

Chipley to secure additional funding from the Federal Department of Commerce. Total project funding is \$67,000. The funding will provide travel money and research assistantships for students who will stay on over the summer to complete the project.

So far, Gold and his team have met with a development group in Chipley and have drafted a work plan to develop housing strategies for the future. Students have started conducting case studies on a variety of urban and sustainable housing types and initiating analysis of the urban core. As with the 1980s project, the team will provide visioning studies, assist in prioritizing the allocation of future resources and help Chipley seek additional grants to provide needed infrastructure.

Prugh is happy to see the university involved again with the historic town. He will be working closely with the current project team to evaluate and advance relevant strategies that were proposed in the 1980's study.

"This is what we're here for," Prugh says. "We're a land grant university, and that's part of the notion of the land grant system. It's part of the very core of the University of Florida, and this is one of the many ways our college does that." 



Martin Gold

Students working in Chipley, Fla.

## Students work in nation's oldest city

This fall, DCP graduate students had the opportunity to research the Abbott Tract neighborhood in St. Augustine, Fla., and provide preservation and design solutions in neighborhood conservation and revitalization. The project was the focus of a new seminar led by **Roy Eugene Graham**, FAIA, director of the DCP Historic Preservation Programs.

"Much like the Legal Aid Society's of the 1960's, I envisioned this seminar as a way to provide preservation aid to areas and neighborhoods that have been identified by historical societies and preservation agencies," said Graham. "This is an example of the kind

of resources that the University of Florida can provide to St. Augustine once we establish a presence there in the 32 historic buildings that the state legislature is providing the academic programs."

The students presented their research to the residents of Abbott Tract in December. They recommended the neighborhood seek designation as a Neighborhood Conservation District, which would preserve the look and feel of the neighborhood, without the regulations associated with local historic districts. About 150 townspeople crowded the Government House for the presentation. 



Julie Frey

## Building Communities *Worldwide*

The College of Design, Construction & Planning has a long history of working with communities throughout Florida and across the United States and the world. Our faculty and students have collaborated with community leaders and stakeholders in countries as they've studied and conducted research on local issues to explore creative solutions. Our students benefit from this outreach as they learn how each community is unique and how to respect and incorporate local culture into the possible solutions.



Photo courtesy Meredith Leigh

**PARIS:** Landscape architecture students pose at the Louvre in Paris, France. The students traveled to France as part of the Department of Landscape Architecture's study abroad program at the University of Florida Paris Research Center. Led by landscape architecture professor **R. Terry Schnadelbach**, the program features contemporary design theory and real Paris projects.



Kaitlin O'Farrell

**SARASOTA, USA:** Senior interior design students help develop design solutions for rehabilitating and adaptively reusing the original 1958 Riverview High School complex near Siesta Key in Sarasota, Fla. A seminal post-World War II school design by renowned U.S. architect **Paul Rudolph** (1918-1997), Riverview High was scheduled for demolition. Following outcry from the architecture and design community, the Sarasota Architectural Foundation collaborated with UF students on the Riverview High School Adaptive Reuse project to save the building. Advocates for the restoration hope their campaign will serve as a benchmark for the preservation of Modern architecture.



Jennifer Cannon

**BRAZIL:** Dr. Fábio Mariz Gonçalves, a professor at São Paulo University (USP), explains to students the process of re-urbanization of an informal settlement implemented by the housing and urban development authority for the State of São Paulo. The students were visiting the settlement as part of the UF Brazil Study Abroad program, directed by **Joseli Macedo**, a faculty member in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning.



Robert MacLeod

**CHINA:** University of Florida architecture students visit the Xi'an University School of Architecture and Technology in Xi'an, China. Led by architecture professors **Nancy Sanders**, **Robert MacLeod**, **Hui Zou** and **Albertus S.L. Wang**, the UF students participated in a design workshop/charrette with the Xi'an University students and faculty as part of the UF School of Architecture's Hong Kong-China Summer Program.

.....**TANZANIA** (See page 8.)



Christopher Silver

**VICENZA, ITALY:** Architecture students work in their studio at the Vicenza Institute of Architecture, a satellite learning program of the School of Architecture. The institute is based in an area with an abundant architectural heritage. The program focuses on evaluating and understanding the historical, social, cultural and physical aspects of this particularly rich urban context through design, research and documentation.



Robert Ries

**SRI LANKA:** A member of Unawatuna, a tsunami-affected coastal village in Sri Lanka, reviews materials at a village stakeholder meeting held by building construction assistant professor **Robert Ries** and doctoral student **Lanka Thabrew**. The goal of the meeting was to understand the current state of Unawatuna and to introduce life-cycle thinking, a way to understand and visualize the broader consequences of development planning and implementation.



Kevin Thompson

**BALI:** In the foothill regions of Bali, change is underfoot. Shifting economies compel changes in land uses that threaten to undermine the significance of important cultural landscapes. On the ground with a small contingent of landscape architecture students, assistant professor **Kevin Thompson** helps produce Community Landscape Documentaries: films that express a community's deep connection to the land. These films serve as new cultural documents, giving voice to the softly spoken and seldom heard.

## News



Pictured (l to r): Paul Zwick, Margaret Carr and William Tilson

## College's New Senior Administrative Team

This year, the College of Design, Construction and Planning announced the appointment of associate and assistant deans **Margaret Carr**, **Paul Zwick** and **William Tilson**. Carr and Tilson join Zwick in the Dean's Office after internal searches to fulfill the positions during the 2006-07 academic year.

"We are extremely fortunate that three of our distinguished senior faculty were willing to step forward to provide administrative leadership," Dean **Christopher Silver** said.

Margaret Carr, professor of landscape architecture, was appointed as the associate dean for undergraduate student and academic affairs. Carr joined the Department of Landscape Architecture in 1988 and has been very active with the department serving as interim chairperson and co-director of the GeoPlan Center. She recently co-published a book, "Smart Land Use Analysis: The LUCIS Model," and continues to teach studios in site planning, environmental planning and design and environmental policy. Carr will be responsible for undergraduate student affairs.

William Tilson, professor of architecture, was appointed to the newly created assistant dean for international studies and service learning. Tilson started with the School of Architecture in 1980 and will remain active in design

studio and architectural history and theory teaching. He currently serves as director of Preservation Institute: Caribbean. In his appointment, Tilson will work with all units within the college to assist in the coordination of international and service learning programs and initiatives and monitor progress of these activities. He also will represent the college across campus in international and service learning discussions and initiatives.

Carr and Tilson join Paul Zwick, professor of urban and regional planning, who will continue as associate dean for research and graduate affairs. Zwick received his Master of Arts in Urban and Regional Planning and Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering Studies from UF and currently teaches graduate level quantitative methods courses, environmental planning studio and geographic information systems. Zwick will be responsible for master's and doctoral programs, and external research and education programs.

"The College of Design, Construction and Planning is engaged in top flight professional education in the building and design fields, our research leads the campus initiatives in sustainability, and we do so within the context of global challenges. Our three new deans will help to ensure that we effectively serve that mission," Silver said. **D**

## DCP Students Place in National Competitions

### ARCHITECTURE

The University of Florida Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students placed second in the 2007 Student Design Competition, sponsored by the National Organization of Minority Architects. The competition focused on the design of a neighborhood-sensitive urban school in Parramore, Fla. The following students participated in the competition: **John Taylor Bachman, Justin Bienvenu, Kyla Booher, Will Choi, Matt DeLoatche, Shelby Downs, Tahir Edwards, Danny Fisher, Justin Fong, Daniel Greenspan, Daniel Harper, Jessica Kuo, Jourdon LaFate, Victor Lorenzo, Naomi Maki, Marek Mroz, Angel Nieves, Eduardo Ponce, Tim Ruscello, Phat Tran, Ryan Wicks, Alexander Yoon.**

### BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

The Rinker School of Building Construction's Construction Management Team took home first place in Estimating, second place in Project Management and second overall in the national construction management student competition, hosted by the Associated Builders and Contractors and held in the spring of 2007. Coached by building construction lecturer **Michael Cook**, the team members included: **Christine Fernandez, Eric Weiss, David Smith, Jordan Keen, Scott Dennis and Kevin Chupp.**

The Rinker School teams excelled once again at the Associated Schools of Construction and Associated General Contractors Region 2 Competition in Jacksonville in the fall of 2007. The Design-Build Team ranked 1st, the Management Team ranked 2nd, and the Heavy/Civil Team ranked 3rd. Congratulations to the faculty coaches, building construction lecturer **Doug Lucas** of the Design-Build Team, building construction lecturer **Michael Cook** of the Management Team and building construction associate professor **Ed Minchin** of the Heavy/Civil Team, and team members for their outstanding performance.

The Design-Build Team, comprised of four building construction and two architecture students, will represent the Southeast region in the national competition that will take place in March 2008 in Las Vegas, Nev.

### INTERIOR DESIGN

Interior design students **Belle Murphy, Haley Russell** and **Catherine Siemon** placed second in the national Interior Design Education Council's competition for their design of a 2,688 ft. prototypical shelter for women and children fleeing domestic violence. In addition, interior design doctoral student **Marlo Ransdall** received Best Poster Session recognition at the IDEC conference for "The Online Learning Community in Interior Design Education." Ransdall also received the prestigious Carol Shannis Graduate Scholarship.

Interior design master's student **Anne Baumstarck** was chosen as the recipient of the 2007 Gensler Brinkmann Scholarship. Her work was selected from more than 100 project submissions from 50 top interior design programs across the country invited to participate in the commercial design competition. Baumstarck received the award for her design of a retail store and café using a footprint from a historic building in downtown Gainesville. The Gensler Brinkmann Scholarship Fund, established in 1999, awards talented interior design students in memory of **Donald G. Brinkmann**, a former partner at Gensler. The award also is sponsored by Contract magazine, a design industry publication.

### LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Landscape architecture student **Kimberly S. Heiss** received an Honor Award as part of the 2007 Student Awards presented by the American Society of Landscape Architects. She won the award in the Research Category for her project, "Visual Preference for Stormwater Pond Edge Treatments." Her project studied Gainesville residents' preferences for either manicured, moderate or naturalized edges of ponds. The national competition represents the top student honors in the profession. Heiss's faculty advisors were landscape architecture professors **Lester Linscott** and **Gary Purdum.**

## College Hosts the Spring 2007 and Spring 2008 Commencements

In the past year, more than 600 students graduated from the University of Florida College of Design, Construction and Planning during the Spring 2007 and Spring 2008 commencements. Dean **Christopher Silver** presided over both ceremonies, wishing the students the best as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

At the college's Spring 2007 Commencement, **Stephen Smith**, executive director of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, served as keynote speaker at the ceremony.

During his address, Smith discussed the challenge the current and future generations face regarding global climate change and asked students to consider their role. "How we build in the natural environment will make a dramatic impact on the world of the future," Smith said. "Go forth and be part of the solution and make the world a better place."

**Janice Tuchman**, editor-in-chief of the *Engineering News-Record*, served as the keynote speaker during the Spring 2008 Commencement.

Each year, the college recognizes two students by awarding the Undergraduate Student Academic Achievement Award and the Student Leadership and Service Award. The recipients of the academic achievement award were interior design students **Andrea Ryan** (for 2007) and **Catherine Siemon** (for 2008). The recipients of the leadership and service award were landscape architecture student **Leah Mader** (for 2007) and building construction master's student **Dereck Winning** (for 2008).

### Additional presentations for each ceremony:

» For Spring 2007, the college presented a diploma posthumously to **Jerry and Martha Marlar**, parents of **Jeremy Marlar**, a building construction student who lost his battle with cancer. Through the efforts of Jeremy's family and friends, the university conferred his bachelor's degree in building construction.

» For Spring 2008, the University of Florida Alumni Association recognized building construction student **Ryan Hammond** as an Outstanding Four-Year Scholar. 

## INTERNATIONALIZING THE CURRICULUM AWARDS

As part of the continuing effort to meet UF's strategic goal of internationalizing the campus and curriculum, the UF International Center also grants awards to UF faculty for proposals that add international components to an existing course or create new courses with substantial international content. The additional grants are provided by the UF Transnational and Global Studies Center and UF Research and Graduate Programs. This year's recipients from the College of Design, Construction and Planning, along with past college recipients, are listed to the right. 

- 2007: **Hui Zou**  
for Architectural History 1 for Majors
- 2006: **Nancy M. Clark**  
for Materials and Methods of Construction 2
- 2005: **Roy Eugene Graham, Claude E. Armstrong, Donna L. Cohen, Bob Stroh (along with Brijesh Thapha and Steven Brandt)** for New Study Abroad Program focused on the Horn of Africa
- 2004: **Nancy Margaret Sanders**  
for Architectural Design 8

## INTERNATIONAL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

In 2004, the University of Florida International Center created the International Educator of the Year Award to recognize outstanding international endeavors by UF faculty. Winners are selected at the college level, and then, nominated for the university's overall award. This year's recipients of the College of Design, Construction and Planning's International Educator of the Year Award are listed at the right, along with the previous recipients. 

### SENIOR FACULTY

- 2007: **Alfonso Pérez-Méndez**,  
Professor of Architecture
- 2006: **R. Terry Schnadelbach**,  
Professor of Landscape Architecture
- 2005: **William Tilson**,  
Professor of Architecture
- 2004: **Robert S. McCarter**,  
Professor of Architecture

### JUNIOR FACULTY

- 2007: **Joseli Macedo**,  
Assistant Professor of Urban and Regional Planning
- 2005: **Nancy Sanders**,  
Associate Professor of Architecture

## 2007 TOP AWARD RECIPIENTS

*During the Spring 2007 semester, the college's schools and departments each held award ceremonies to honor donors and to recognize faculty, students and alumni. Many honors were bestowed, including the top faculty and alumni awards (listed below). For more information on the 2008 award ceremonies, please contact the school or department or you may contact the college at (352) 392-4836 or [perspective@dcp.ufl.edu](mailto:perspective@dcp.ufl.edu).*

### 2006-07 Teacher of the Year

**Richard Smailes**  
Lecturer of Building Construction

### 2006-07 Adviser of the Year

**Sallie Schattner**  
Admissions and Registrar Officer  
**M.E. Rinker, Sr.** School of Building Construction

### 2007 Dean's Faculty Service Award

**Kristin Larsen**  
Assistant Professor of Urban and Regional Planning

### 2007 UF Research Foundation Professorship

**Richard Schneider**  
Professor of Urban and Regional Planning

### Distinguished Architecture Alumnus

**Cathy Roche**, Class of 1994  
**Schenkel Shultz**  
Orlando, Fla.

### Distinguished Building Construction Alumnus

**Sidney J. Jordan**, Class of 1981  
Clark Construction Group  
Tampa, Fla.

### Distinguished Interior Design Alumnus

**Phyllis Taylor**, Class of 1976  
Taylor&Taylor Partnership  
Miami Beach, Fla.

### Distinguished Landscape Architecture Alumnus

**Stephen J. Steward**, Class of 1982  
ARCADIS US, Inc.  
Jacksonville, Fla.

### Distinguished Urban & Regional Planning Alumnus

**Lois Bush**, Class of 1992  
Florida Department of Transportation  
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

### Construction Hall of Fame Award

**William R. Derrer**  
**James A. Cummings, Inc.**  
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

**William G. Lassiter**  
W.G. Lassiter Properties, Inc.  
Palm Beach, Fla.

See the 2008 Top Award Recipients on our web site: «[www.dcp.ufl.edu](http://www.dcp.ufl.edu)»

## faculty RETIREMENTS



tony DASTA

» Those who know **Tony Dasta**, know that his students, the Gators, his beloved Chicago “Cubbies” and his love for architecture were major tenets in his professional life. A professor, a dean and, most of all, a beloved teacher, Dasta rarely could be seen in his office, and was usually found walking around the Architecture Building looking for some improvement that could be made, or talking with various students.

“He liked to get up, wander around and check things out,” said Dean **Christopher Silver**. “He always wanted to be in the middle of what was going on around the building.”

At the time of his retirement, Dasta served as associate dean for curriculum and student services, a position he held since 1997. Dasta came to the University of Florida and DCP 40 years ago when he joined the faculty of the School of

Architecture. In 1988, he joined the college administration as director of computer facilities and was appointed assistant dean for student services in 1991.

Dasta’s title of student services couldn’t have been more appropriate. A running joke throughout his time at DCP was that Dasta didn’t own a single book; this joke is a testament to his love of being in the classroom and working with students.

“Tony was a teacher above all,” said Silver. “While I am sure he owned some books – well, maybe – his heart and place definitely was with the students.” According to Silver, Dasta even made the “Structures” course, historically not the most popular of subjects, an interesting and fun time.

In 2005, Dasta stepped into the role of interim dean for the college and kept the college moving forward until Dean Silver joined the college one year later. “He was so active in his time as dean, and it seemed

like what he needed to do was just stored in his head,” Silver said. “When he left we literally had to look around and say ‘Well, how do we do this?’”

Overall, Dasta’s lasting legacy is his integral part of developing DCP into what it is today, an outstanding and well respected college and program, not only across UF’s campus, but across the country. “He was very much a part of the fabric and extremely visible in advocating the college across the campus, in committees, anywhere,” Silver said. “He was the rock of stability and continuity from his years as associate dean and complete dedication to the college.”

Dasta has since moved to the mountains of North Carolina with his wife Judy, and is enjoying fly fishing, skeet shooting as well as the fresh mountain air. As an avid Gators fan, Dasta surely will continue to follow UF sports teams and come back to visit for years to come. **P**



» Architecture professor **Gary Ridgdill** has roots to the School of Architecture that go back to 1960. Ridgdill attended University of Florida as an undergraduate in 1960 and has taught at the school since 1972, for nearly four decades.

After completing his degree in 1964, Ridgdill went on to receive his master’s degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He then spent time in Chicago, Ill., and Cambridge, Great Britain, working as a professional architect, until he decided to return to Florida and establish himself in Gainesville, both as an academic and professional.

Ridgdill reached the rank of professor in 1984. His signature course, “Connections,” which he taught for more than 20 years, tackles the key issue of how the nature of assembly of materials is so intimately linked to the success of making buildings work.

He has won various prestigious awards for his work and has taught generation after generation of our most renowned professionals from throughout the state

of Florida. “Alumni from all corners of the state continue to ask for Gary,” said School of Architecture Director **Martha Kohen**.

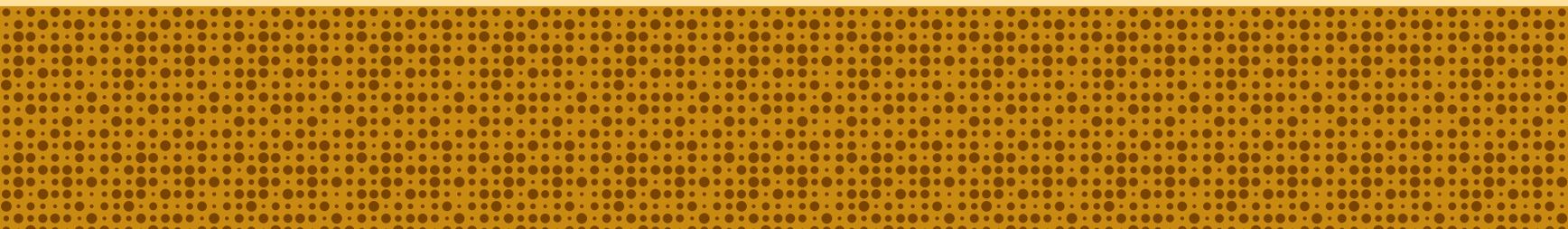
Ridgdill also acted as interim chair of the School of Architecture for two periods, first in 1987-1988 and then in 2001-2003 and was trusted by all faculty. Soft spoken and with a permanent smile, he was a graduate advisor for 25 years, dealing with the multiple options of architecture graduates, and advising returning professionals as much as young graduates. “His door was always open for advice to the faculty and I, along with the rest of the school, feel that with his retirement, we have a lost one of our fathers – the stabilizing force of a deeply knowledgeable and acute thinker,” Kohen said.

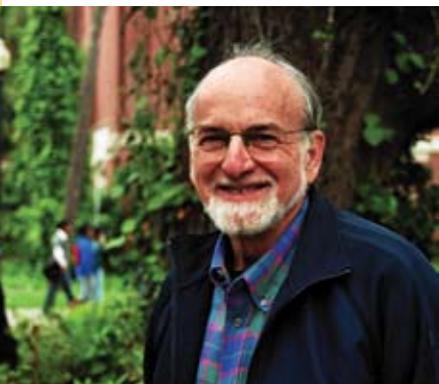
In his retirement, his professional, life-long commitment to designing houses will take the lead along with the fishing expeditions from his other base in Suwannee. As emeritus professor, it is the school’s hope that he will continue to enlighten student juries and crits for many years ahead. **P**

*Right: Architecture professor Gary Ridgdill and Lourdes Neugart, MArch 1976, look over her design for a UF visitor’s information and welcome center during a 1974 presentation in the Tigert Hall conference room. Lourdes created the project as part of Ridgdill’s working drawings fourth-year architecture class. “This class was very informative and important as part of a portfolio for locating a job after graduation,” she wrote in a note sent to Perspective. Neugart sent in the photo after reading Ridgdill’s retirement announcement in the magazine’s last issue. She wrote that she wishes all the retiring architecture professors the best of luck.*



gary RIDGDILL





ira WINARSKY

» **Ira Winarsky** joined the School of Architecture in 1972 as assistant professor, coming from Oklahoma and Virginia and became a full professor in 1983. During the past 35 years, Winarsky conducted a triple career as a practicing architect, a professor and an artist.

Winarsky is best known as an indefatigable preacher for the environment and environmental design. Possessing a rare and talented interdisciplinary mind, Winarsky developed his acclaimed course “Energy Ecology and Architecture” to influence not only his students, but also his colleagues, to focus on the impact architecture has on the natural world around us.

“His passion for ecology and architecture

made him a champion for the development of the certificates in Sustainable Design and in Sustainable Architecture that are a fine legacy for the future of our college disciplines,” School of Architecture Director **Martha Kohen** said.

Early on Winarsky was an ardent defender of what we now call sustainability, providing the School of Architecture a direct link between the modern Florida masters, the environmentally minded and the continuing advances in sustainability consciousness. Winarsky also was associated with other units on campus, including the Florida Center for Wetlands and Water Resources, where he was responsible for cornerstone publications on our Florida

conditions for settlement.

As an architect, he has been active in Pennsylvania, Oklahoma and Florida. With his own hands, he built the marvelous house he inhabits over a lake south of Gainesville. His house is dwarfed by a much bigger structure nearby, his ceramic studio, the alchemist retreat, where, with a lifetime of patience and passion, he produces exquisite pieces of contemporary abstract art in iridescent ceramic pieces. Winarsky has exhibited individually in Florida and his works are published in nationally acclaimed magazines. In his spare time, Kohen believes Winarsky’s full dedication will be to the alchemist part of his personality, where immense success is assured. **P**

» Most students, faculty and staff at the M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Building Construction know **Dr. Leon Wetherington** as “Doc” or by his signature tobacco pipe. Wetherington could be called an institution himself at the college, especially since he received his bachelor’s, master’s and Ph.D. all from the University of Florida. Wetherington received his bachelor’s in building construction from UF in 1968, and went on to receive his master’s in building construction and his Ph.D. in construction management.

He became a professor in 1991 and has taught courses ranging from construction drawing, construction mechanics, construction techniques,

methods lab and estimating.

Wetherington has been the faculty advisor to Sigma Lambda Chi (SLX), the national honorary society of building construction for more than nine years, and has been the lower division adviser for building construction since 1992. In both positions, his high level of spirit has helped him reach out to more than 200 students a year. He also served as the coordinator of the Charles R. Perry Crafts Awareness Program.

According to Rinker School of Building Construction Director **Abdol Chini**, Wetherington’s most noteworthy service to the school was the introduction of a community service requirement for BCN students in 1999. He supervises

and directs groups of students usually making repairs to owner occupied homes of elderly, low income citizens and has received immense support for the program from local businesses and the Neighborhood Housing Development Corporation.

“Doc has been a perfect role model to show building construction students that commitment to social responsibility is a large part of the University’s history and tradition,” Chini said. “Doc’s goal has been to encourage students to accept the challenge to experience some kind of outreach work during their time here at the Rinker School.”

Wetherington will remain with the school as an adjunct professor, but when

### leon WETHERINGTON



he finally does fully retire, he will be missed. In his spare time, Wetherington said he looks forward to spending time fishing with his new Gator fishing pole and hunting. **P**

### susan TATE



» Since 1972, **Susan Tate** has been a part of the community of faculty in the Department of Interior Design at the College of Design, Construction and Planning. During her 35-year tenure, Tate was the second woman in the history of the college to achieve the rank of full professor.

From 1988-1993, Tate served as director of the Preservation Institute: Nantucket and during her time, made significant strides positively impacting the property and the advancement of student scholarships. Tate was responsible for the selection of student participants from a national and international pool, course and lecture series development and cultivating pro bono support from a cadre of directors and preservationists from distinguished programs and offices.

Since 1976, Tate has been active on the university’s Committee for the Preservation

of Historic Buildings and Sites where she has been a tireless advocate for preservation efforts across campus. Notably, Tate received a \$150,000 grant award in 2003 from the Getty Foundation to create a campus historical preservation master plan with dissemination activities. Susan’s scholarship not only centered on campus heritage but took her to France during the past several years. For this scholarship, Susan conducted archival research with DCP doctoral student **Linda Stevenson** that in April culminated in a book entitled, “Concorde: Hotel Talleyrand and George C. Marshall Center.” Her richly illustrated book documents social-political milestones in an architecturally significant property owned by the U.S. State Department.

According to Department of Interior Design Chair **Margaret Portillo**, Tate is

particularly known for her “wicked sense of humor and panache.”

“Her independence and tenacity sustained her most recent scholarship endeavors, often surmounting seemingly impossible barriers and deadlines to ‘get the work done,’” said Portillo. “Her deep commitment to preserving UF’s rich architectural heritage leaves a lasting legacy on campus and her important documentation and sharing of the process of establishing guidelines creates a heritage that not only impacts the present, but will impact future generations of those learning, as well as those who research and teach on this campus.”

Tate will be spending her time after UF with her husband James, restoring their yacht and sailing all across the Gulf of Mexico, as well as working on various consulting projects across the state of Florida. **P**

## Meet Our New Faculty *The College of Design, Construction and Planning would like to welcome eight new faculty members who joined the college this year.*

**Ruth Ron** joined the School of Architecture as an assistant professor. A former visiting professor at UF, Ron received a master's degree in advanced architectural design from Columbia University, a master's degree in interactive telecommunication from New York University and a bachelor's degree in architecture from the Technion Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, Israel. Prior to coming to UF, Ron was a clinical assistant professor at Arizona State University.

Ron's work focuses on the extension and de-formation of real space by using virtual assets. She explores the borders between architecture and technology, form and media.

ruth RON



The M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Building Construction added two new faculty this year, associate professor **Edward Minchin** and assistant professor **Robert J. Ries**.

Minchin earned a Ph.D. from Iowa State University and master's degree in construction engineering from UF. He also received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from UF. Minchin has taught undergraduate construction curriculum at both Pennsylvania State University and Iowa State University, and has served in the U.S. Naval Reserve as a Civil Engineer Corps officer and with the Florida Department of Transportation as Chief Area Construction Engineer.

His areas of expertise and research interest include automated, real-time construction quality control as well as construction contract administration and project control.

Ries received his Ph.D. in architecture (building performance and diagnostics) from Carnegie Mellon University, a master's in architecture from Carnegie Mellon University, and a bachelor's in architecture from the Pratt Institute. Ries came to UF from the University of Pittsburgh where he taught at the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

edward MINCHIN and robert J. RIES



nam-kyu PARK and morris HYLTON III



and was director of the Green Construction Sustainable Development Program since 2001. Additionally, Ries practiced architecture in New York for 11 years. Ries has performed extensive research in the areas of life cycle assessment for the built environment and green building design, construction and performance. He has attracted more than \$1 million in funded research as principal investigator throughout the past six years, has published more than 50 papers and has made close to 30 national and international presentations.

The Department of Interior Design also added two new faculty this year, assistant professors **Morris Hylton III** and **Nam-Kyu Park**.

Hylton received a master's degree in historic preservation from Columbia University and a bachelor's degree in architecture and art history from the University of Kentucky. Immediately prior to coming to UF, Hylton was an initiatives manager for the World Monuments Fund (WMF) — a New York City-based nonprofit dedicated to conserving endangered cultural heritage sites internationally. While at WMF, he helped identify, develop and fund programs to conserve more than 60 sites in nearly 30 countries, including Indonesia, India, Turkey, Egypt and Brazil. Hylton also served as an adjunct professor in the interior design department of the School of Visual Arts in New York.

Hylton's research interests explore issues impacting the preservation of the United States Modern architectural heritage by focusing on post-World War II school design, specifically the buildings of Walter Gropius and The Architects Collaborative.

Park received a Ph.D. in environmental design and a master's degree in interior design from Oklahoma State University, and a bachelor's degree in housing and interior design from Kon-Kuk University in

## COLLEGE news

- **Iilir Beljeri** recently was promoted to associate professor of urban and regional planning with tenure and **Nancy Sanders** was promoted to associate professor of architecture with tenure.

- Building construction associate professor **Ian Flood** was appointed coordinator of the Ph.D. program for the Rinker School of Building Construction. In addition, building construction lecturer **Chuck Smeby** was appointed coordinator of the school's Fire and Emergency Services program.

- **Dean Christopher Silver** was awarded the Laurence C. Gerckens Prize in October at the biennial Society for American City and Regional Planning History (SACRPH) conference in Portland, Maine. The prize is

awarded once every two years to a scholar-teacher who has demonstrated sustained excellence in the teaching of planning history. SACRPH is an interdisciplinary society of scholars and planning practitioners who are engaged in the advancement of teaching and research in the field of planning history.

- Building construction assistant professor **Kevin Grosskopf** received the 2007 National Teaching Award at the Associated Schools of Construction 43rd International Conference in Flagstaff, Ariz. ASC is the professional association for the development and advancement of construction education through excellence in teaching, research and service. Each year, ASC selects member faculty for the National Teaching Award on the basis of teaching philosophy, performance and innovation.

- Urban and regional planning associate professor **Ruth Steiner** was the recipient of the Kermit Sigmon Award for Citizen Participation, which is given by the Gainesville Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization for outstanding contributions to the community's transportation planning process.

- Architecture associate professor **Michael W. Kuenstle**, AIA, has been elected to serve a third term on the Board of Directors to the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects. As a state director Kuenstle's service, in combination with his teaching and research-based practice in Florida, provides for a strong link between the school and the profession within the state. Kuenstle also serves as a Chapter Director for AIA Gainesville. 

Seoul, South Korea. Park comes to UF from the Interior Design Program at the School of Planning Design and Construction at Michigan State University. She also is a LEED Accredited Professional and holds memberships in the Interior Design Educators Council, the Environmental Design Research Association and the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America.

Park's research interests focus on how traditional and energy-efficient interior lighting technologies affect and are affected by psychological, social and cultural factors that inform and relate to peoples' perception, and therefore, acceptance. She also will continue to emphasize a global, multicultural and multi-ethnic approach to design and sustainability in her teaching, research and scholarly activities.

**Mary G. Padua** and **Kevin Thompson** joined the Department of Landscape Architecture as associate professor and assistant professor, respectively.

Padua currently is completing her Ph.D. at Edinburgh College of Art at the University of Edinburgh, received a master's degree in architecture and urban design from the University of California – Los Angeles and a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from the University of California – Berkeley.

She is a licensed landscape architect with more than 20 years of professional experience and also is an exhibiting fine arts photographer. Padua has been a full-time educator in urban design and landscape architecture and an active researcher since 2001.

Her research interests are focused on the design of contemporary public open space in modernizing Asian cities and vernacular open space or undesigned landscapes in cities.

Thompson received master's and bachelor's degrees in landscape architecture at Pennsylvania State University. Most recently, he served as a visiting

professor at Washington State University. Drawing on more than a decade of international private practice, Thompson's research is focused on exploring methods that enable young designers to recognize and comprehend the subtle and often elusive characteristics of place in landscapes outside of their own cultural familiarity. He also is helping to produce community landscape documentaries. Thompson has battled the flies of the Australian Outback and has been plunged into the treacherous mountain ravines of the central Indonesian highlands while producing these narratives that express a community's deep connections to the land.

**Dawn Jourdan** joined the Department of Urban and Regional Planning as an assistant professor, through a joint appointment with the UF Fredric G. Levin College of Law.

Jourdan received a Ph.D. in urban planning from Florida State University, a joint degree in urban planning and law from the University of Kansas and a bachelor's degree in urban affairs and theater arts from Bradley University in Peoria, Ill. Jourdan came to UF from the College of Architecture at Texas A&M University and was a faculty fellow at the Center for Heritage Conservation. Prior to her work at Texas A&M, Jourdan worked as an advocate for growth management in Florida on behalf of the 1000 Friends of Florida and as an associate with the Chicago office of Holland & Knight, LLP, where she assisted with the legal representation of numerous municipal clients in the Chicago area.

Jourdan's research interests include youth participation in planning processes, historic preservation and the ways in which U.S. legal structure affect planning policy and those governed by it. 

*mary* **PADUA**



*kevin* **THOMPSON**



*dawn* **JOURDAN**



## Zhong-Ren Peng Appointed Chair of Urban and Regional Planning

**Zhong-Ren Peng** joins the Department of Urban and Regional Planning as chair and professor. Peng is considered by his colleagues and peers as one of the most productive planning scholars in the nation. He has a distinguished record of scholarly accomplishments and a research portfolio of projects funded by some of the most prominent sources in the world.

His overall research interest is in planning for sustainability from the perspective of transportation and land use planning in the context of globalization and technological innovation. His most current research focuses on issues relative to developing good planning and design principles and planning information technologies to address global warming, fossil fuel depletion, auto dependency and poverty. In the past seven

years, Peng has secured \$3.5 million in research grants, published a book that has been regarded as a definitive work in the field of Internet geographic information systems and authored numerous peer-reviewed journal articles.

Peng earned a Ph.D. in Urban Studies and a master's degree in economics from Portland State University, Portland, Ore. He also holds a master's degree in Geography from the Graduate School of the University of Science and Technology of China, Beijing, PRC.

Peng comes to UF from the School of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where he was a full tenured professor and founding director of the Center for Advanced Spatial Information Research. 

*zhong-ren* **PENG**



## ALUMNI & *Development*



### The Promise of Tomorrow

At the College of Design, Construction and Planning, we are proud of the rich tradition of educational excellence offered throughout the past century. We are equally invigorated by the opportunity to create the next generation of professionals to lead Florida and the nation in achieving better and more sustainable communities.

The mission of the college is to offer exceptional professional education programs addressing design, development, construction and preservation of the built and natural environments. Through basic and applied research, DCP faculty and students assess the ongoing processes of change in human settlements. Students engage in projects intended to guide these processes and bring new strategies and approaches.

Our graduates are leaders in designing, building and planning communities. Their remarkable accomplishments, coupled with the academic and professional outputs of DCP faculty, have propelled our college to

achieve a well-deserved national reputation for excellence. Our challenge is to sustain excellence by recruiting and retaining the best new faculty; updating and upgrading our educational facilities; supporting our vast educational offerings that provide students engagement beyond the classroom; enhancing our research capabilities; and ensuring we continue to attract the best students for both primary and advanced professional preparation.

On Sept. 28, the University of Florida kicked off the Florida Tomorrow capital campaign with the goal to raise more than \$1 billion. At DCP, our goal is to raise \$31 million to support faculty, students and our programs and research centers, as well as to provide top-notch facilities and cutting edge technology. Gifts received through the Florida Tomorrow capital campaign will support these goals and will help continue our tradition of leadership in educating those who envision and create great places. **D**

*Florida Tomorrow is a place where... educators, students and professionals are working to envision, design, create and preserve renewable and affordable communities.*

### Building Construction, Pediatrics Receive \$2 Million Gift

A \$2 million gift made to the College of Medicine and the College of Design, Construction and Planning at the University of Florida will help mend buildings, construct hearts and reduce pediatric diabetes.

**William G. Lassiter, Jr.** (BCN 1951) and his wife **Aneice** of West Palm Beach, Fla. have given \$1 million to UF's M.E. Rinker Sr., School of Building Construction and \$1 million to UF's College of Medicine Department of Pediatrics.

"I wanted to put back something into the university that would help a lot of young people in building construction," said William Lassiter, director of W.G. Lassiter Properties, Inc., a major real estate development company in Palm Beach, Fla. "My wife wanted to do something for kids, so we also decided to give to the Department of Pediatrics."

Lassiter is also the president of Palm Beach Development Corp. and Legal Leasing Corporation and director of Gardens Park Plaza, Inc. and the Beltub Park Property Owners Association, Inc.

The gift to the Rinker School of Building Construction in the College of Design, Construction and Planning will endow the William G. Lassiter, Jr. and Aneice R. Lassiter Professorship in Building Construction. The funds will provide spendable income to be used to support a professorship in the school.

"The resources generated by Lassiter's endowed professorship will be used to bring outstanding construction professionals into the classroom to share their knowledge with our students and give them a broader exposure to the real world of construction," said **Abdol Chini**, school director.

The Lassiters also gave \$600,000 to endow the William G. Lassiter, Jr. and Aneice R. Lassiter Professorship in the Department of Pediatrics to support a professorship with an emphasis on congenital heart disease, and \$400,000 to endow the William G. Lassiter, Jr. and Aneice R. Lassiter Pediatric Diabetes Research Fund.

The gift is eligible to receive state matching funds from the State of Florida Trust Fund for Major Gifts and it will be recognized as part of President Machen's Faculty Challenge Initiative.

"We want young men and women to further their education, graduate and go on to make good careers," said Lassiter. "We also wish that our gift will help provide funds for someone to discover a cure for congenital heart disease or take pediatric diabetes research to another level." **D**

## 2007 Witters Competition FOCUSES ON ARCHITECTURE BUILDING

Since its start in 1993, the Witters Competition has looked at various structures around Gainesville, but this year, students participating in the competition were asked to look in their very own backyard – the Architecture Building.

Sponsored by **Col. Arthur G. and Beverley A. Witters** of Orlando, the annual Witters Competition fosters cooperation between designers, builders and planners through a problem-solving exercise involving multi-disciplinary student teams from the college. Six student teams participated in the 44-hour competition in March 2007, which focused on adding nearly 94,000 square feet of extra space to the Architecture Building.

The annual event, coordinated this year by architecture assistant professor **John Maze**, pits teams of students in the college against each other in an interdisciplinary design-build competition with a winner-takes-all prize of \$3,500. Each team consisted of five members from a minimum of four of the DCP academic units. Members of the winning team were: **John Begeman, Erik Bellin, Cuyler Hendricks, Christen Hutton and Michelle O'Carroll**.

According to Maze, it has long been known that the Architecture Building is running out of space. National Architecture Accreditation Board teams have noted since 1991 that the existing space is inadequate for the number of students. To put it into perspective, DCP has 46,905 sq. ft. being shared by 1,500 students, while Ohio State University has 165,000 sq. ft. being shared by 600 students.

"Space is a hugely critical issue at UF," Maze said. "It continues to amaze me the quality of the teaching and curriculum here with so few resources and so little space for students to work and learn. In my 13 years of

teaching design, attending conferences, lecturing, and visiting schools, I have never seen such cramped conditions. But as I said, the student work is truly exemplary despite it."

Students were tasked with adding a large amount of studio space, a bigger gallery, an auditorium, faculty and staff offices and even a cafeteria to the existing building. Since students were asked to modify the existing structure, they expanded any way they could, including up, out and even underground.

"Everyone engaged the roof," Maze said. "Whether it was a green roof or solar panels or building an extra floor, many of the students decided to go up. The other area all teams addressed was the atrium space under the fourth-floor graduate studios."

One of the most interesting designs called for a partially underground auditorium, starting at the Atrium and expanding out toward the north, where a large grassy null currently exists. Instead of losing the popular outdoor recreation area, students added an elaborate green roof so the outdoor space is not lost.

Col. Arthur and Beverley Witters traveled to Gainesville to see the competition presentations and were very impressed with the results.

"We started this competition so all disciplines in the college could talk and work with one another," Col. Witters said to teams after the winning team was announced. "Your hard work this weekend made it possible and we are very proud of all of you."

The Witters are not the only people impressed with the work; the UF Board of Trustees and the UF Provost's Office responded positively to the ideas as well.

Melissa Filipkowski



Since the competition, Maze, School of Architecture Director **Martha Kohen** and Dean **Christopher Silver** have talked with campus architects and facilities planning to start the process of turning the ideas into reality.

"This was an initial gesture towards a much more involved planning and feasibility study necessary before considering any additions to the existing DCP structures," Maze said. "I do hope, however, that the energy generated by the students was convincing enough for administration, faculty and alumni to see the needs and the possibilities, and work together to seize the opportunity to do something."

The subsequent creation of the aptly named Space Committee to identify ways and means to expand and enhance the spaces for the college's programs was a direct outcome of this exercise. And moreover, in the end, the Witters Competition achieved its real objective – to engage students from DCP disciplines in an exercise comparable to conditions in the real world. **D**

To see the projects from the 2008 Witters Competition, visit our web site at:  
« [www.dcp.ufl.edu](http://www.dcp.ufl.edu) »



Model of winning team's project.

*"We started this competition so all disciplines in the college could talk and work with one another."*  
- Col. Witters

## Shimberg Leaves His Legacy in Affordable Housing

**JIM SHIMBERG**, a noted developer whose generous grant more than a decade ago supported the University of Florida Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing, passed away in June.

“He was a very wonderful person,” says the center’s director, **Robert Stroh**. “His entire family is so oriented toward the community. I don’t know of any other family like that. Jim, his wife, Amy, and their five children have a tendency to be very oriented in community service and outreach to people. They’re a great family.”

The center was created in 1988 after a mandate from the state legislature, but because the mandate was unfunded, the center didn’t re-

*jim* SHIMBERG



ally take off until Shimberg stepped forward in 1991 with a \$1 million endowment, which was matched by state funds.

“He played a key role in keeping the center alive and well,” Stroh says. “There were an awful lot of people who used to look at the budget in the state, and they just saw us as a line item. One year, we went through it almost being zeroed out. But with Jim’s gift, and also his acknowledged leadership in the world of housing, he kept us alive and well.”

Shimberg was officially honored by the university a decade ago with a distinguished achievement award for his dedication to providing safe, decent and affordable housing for Floridians.

The original developer of Town ‘n’ Country (a community just northwest of Tampa), the 84-year-old Shimberg also was honored in early 2007 as Tampa’s Outstanding Citizen of the Year. In addition to being a developer, he held a law degree and was a member of the Florida bar for nearly 50 years. He served terms as the president of the Tampa Bay Builders Association and the Florida Home

Builders Association and was the former vice president of the National Association of Home Builders.

Says the center’s associate director **Anne Williamson**, “He endowed us with a million dollars during a recession, and we are always thankful for that.”

Despite his massive professional success, Shimberg was perhaps best known for his generosity and community spirit, which will live on through his endowment to the Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing, an organization that continues to perpetuate the ideals he stood for.

“He was very unassuming and he was also very generous and very brilliant,” says his longtime friend **Phil Emmer**, the chairman of the Emmer Group, a company that has built more than 8,000 homes and apartments in more than 100 communities all over the state of Florida. “Affordable housing was very important to both of us, which is why he established the center. He was very proud of the center and of its accomplishments. He’d be proud to see this continue.” **P**

## ALUMNI news

Thank you for sending us your updates. They have been edited for space. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact us at [perspective@dep.ufl.edu](mailto:perspective@dep.ufl.edu). All cities are in Florida unless otherwise noted.

To submit your news, please complete the form on our web site at [www.dep.ufl.edu/perspective](http://www.dep.ufl.edu/perspective) or complete and return the card enclosed in this magazine. We look forward to hearing from you!

### MASTER’S

**Thomas Hester, MArch 1993**, has been working with the City of Tampa’s Contract Administration Department as a project architect since after Labor Day 2006.

**John Dehart, MArch 1995**, is a founding partner with thoughtSPACE architecture and construction in Lexington, Ky.

**Jason Faulkner, MArch 1996, ARC 1994**, has joined Rink Design in Jacksonville as project manager.

**Michael Halfants, MArch 1998**, received the Young Architect Award from the UF School of Architecture. The award is given to Florida alumni who graduated within the previous 20 years and who have made significant design contributions in the architecture profession. Michael is a partner with John Pichette in the firm Halfants + Pichette/Studio for Modern Architecture in Sarasota. He has worked for the Polshek Partnership in New York and is a professor of architecture at the University of South Florida.

**Marc Schaut, MArch 1998, ARC 1993**, is an adjunct assistant professor in school of architecture at Pratt Institute.

**Adam Carnow, MAURP 1999**, is the vice president and corporate GIS manager for WilsonMiller Inc., a multi-disciplinary consulting firm with offices across Florida. He is working in the Tampa office as one of the corporate leaders behind the firm’s award-winning rural land stewardship growth management strategy. He is married to **Lara Ratliff Carnow, MAURP 1996**, who is a full-time mother to their two children, 5-year-old Grace and 1-year-old Addison.

**Albert Dambrose, MArch 2001**, recently became a licensed architect in Florida. He has his own firm, Studio A.D.—Architect, and is practicing architecture in both commercial and residential markets. He also will begin another company called Studio A.D.—Homes.

**Judi Shade, MArch 2001**, will be assisting Richard Meier in the instruction of an advanced studio at Yale University in the spring of 2008.

**Christopher Stoll, MAURP 2002**, has been working with EDAA Inc. in Seattle for three years and was named an associate in the fall of 2007. The company has recently merged with AECOM, a larger architecture and engineering firm. Christopher works on GIS and planning projects across the U.S. that strive to integrate new technologies and provide innovative approaches to tackling large scale planning and design. One of his projects has been the master planning of the West Bench of Salt Lake City, which will add more than 70,000 acres of mining lands and accommodate over 250,000 new homes over the next 50 years.

**Jennifer Logun, MArch 2003**, accepted a full-time position as assistant chair for the interior design department at Pratt Institute. She will teach junior-year studio and also act as the curriculum coordinator.

**James Blythe, MArch 2004**, earned the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional status in September 2006 and moved to Athens, Ga., in January 2007. He is currently testing for his license.

## College Receives \$500,000 Gift from Wachovia Foundation to Research Affordable Housing

As housing costs have skyrocketed, the availability of affordable housing has declined. The issue has become critical throughout Florida as communities try to ensure that people of all income levels have access to affordable housing.

A \$500,000 gift from the Wachovia Foundation to the University of Florida College of Design, Construction and Planning will allow researchers to address the state's affordable housing issues by identifying and assessing the suitability of sites for affordable housing development and preservation.

"Wachovia is extremely proud to partner with and support the University of Florida in this innovative research. We believe that everyone deserves a safe, stable place to live, which is why we have made community development one of our top priorities," said **Robert Helms**, Florida CEO for Wachovia.

The three-year grant will support an interdisciplinary research project in the college between the Department of Urban and

Regional Planning and the Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing, located in the Rinker School of Building Construction.

"Wachovia's funding of this project allows us to bring together the expertise of the Shimberg Center, the research and knowledge of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and the cutting-edge spatial analysis available through the department's GeoPlan Center," said **William O'Dell**, associate director and manager of the Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse in the Shimberg Center.

O'Dell will work with urban and regional planning professors **Kristin Larsen** and **Illir Bejleri** and college researcher **Eric Kramer** to create a model that will assist Florida communities in evaluating and ranking the areas identified as suitable for affordable housing. The software and mapping tool they create will be unique in that it will incorporate the local values and vision of the communities with which they work. A critical

component of the process is seeking and receiving community input through public hearings and meetings.

"We plan to work with three case study communities. We are already beginning to work with Jacksonville, and we hope to identify two other communities who are interested in working with us," Larsen said.

"The community-based solutions that will result from this model represent an exciting potential breakthrough in the Florida affordable housing market. Wachovia is delighted to be a part of this evolution and to be a catalyst for community development in Florida," said **Michelle Braun**, Florida Community Relations Executive for Wachovia. 



**Veronica Hofheinz, MBC 2004, IND 2002**, is currently working as a designer for Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in New York City. Her projects include the NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium and JP Morgan Chase in New York. She resides in Brooklyn and, despite the cold, is having a great time.

**Jeffrey Huber, MArch 2004**, married Julie M. Ciembronowicz on November 5, 2005.

**Tzveta Panayotova, MArch 2004**, is working for HOK in New York City. She is enjoying the city and the culture it has to offer.

**Kelly Wiczorek, MArch 2005**, has earned the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional status. She is a designer in DAG Architects' Pensacola office and is a member of the organizing group for the new northern gulf coast chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council. Kelly joined DAG Architects in September 2006.

**Sarah Dexheimer, MArch 2007**, has joined Street Dixon Rick Architecture, PLC, as a project designer.

### BACHELOR'S

**Kalvin Platt, ARC 1953**, is the chairman of the SWA Group, a 50-year-old Sausalito, Calif.-based international landscape architecture and urban planning firm that has been at the forefront in creating projects that are in harmony with natural systems. Although he retired in 1996 after an almost 40-year career, he is still working at SWA as a consultant. He has had a hand in many high-profile projects, including the master plan for the Marin portion of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

**Albert Will, LAE 1960**, retired from teaching at Broward Community College. He is now a landscape consultant and runs a business called Arbor Grow. < [www.arborgrow.com](http://www.arborgrow.com) >

**Jeffrey A. Huberman, ARC 1964**, was elected second vice president of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards in June 2007.

**Roger Bass, BCN 1969**, was recently inducted into the Alabama Road Builders Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame was created by the Alabama Road Builders Association's Board of Directors "to honor, preserve and perpetuate the outstanding accomplishments and contributions of individuals and companies that have brought significant recognition to the state of Alabama in the field of transportation construction." Roger retired as chairman of Dunn Construction in 2003. He remains active in the Alabama highway construction industry as a minority partner in Mobile Asphalt Company and as the owner of Strada Materials, LLC, which markets construction aggregate in Alabama.

**Julius Gribou, ARC 1971**, was appointed interim provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He has served as the founding dean of the College of Architecture at UTSA since 2002. Julius also is the Roland K. Blumberg endowed professor of architecture.

**Randolph C. Henning, ARC 1976**, has relocated his architectural practice to Lewisville, NC, after almost 15 years in nearby Winston-Salem. Licensed in the Carolinas and Florida, he specializes in the general practice of architecture. He also is working on a monograph for

publication on the creative life work of architect and current DCP visiting distinguished professor Alfred Browning Parker, FAIA. For more information, visit < [www.rcharchitect.com](http://www.rcharchitect.com) >

**Alice Macfarlane, ARC 1977**, has joined Ziegler Cooper Architects of Houston as senior project manager in their Work Place Studio. For the past 10 years, she served as project manager for Texas A&M University Facilities Planning and Construction. She was previously CEO and partner in her own firm, Williamson Macfarlane Architects, where she oversaw architecture, interior design, historic preservation and renovation services for government, retail, educational and medical facilities.

**Darrall Henderson, BCN 1981**, recently retired after serving 26 years with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Colonel Henderson's last position in the Army was as an academy professor in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at West Point. Prior to that he was the lead analyst and deputy chief of strategy for the multinational force in Iraq and served in the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. Darrall accepted a position as a principal consultant with Hromadka and Associates, a forensic engineering firm specializing in hydrological, earth, and atmospheric sciences.

**John P. Wiseman, BCN 1987**, is the president of CORE Construction Florida. The company recently celebrated its 25th anniversary and is currently involved in the construction of several independent living, assisted living and skilled nursing facilities across Florida. In 2006, John was named president of the Florida Home Builders Association.

# HONOR ROLL *of* DONORS

DCP is fortunate to receive many gifts from alumni and friends, all of which have a measurable impact on the quality of our students, faculty and programs. The honor roll printed here includes gifts of \$100 and above to DCP from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007. We also gratefully acknowledge the many others who prefer to remain anonymous. Space limitations prevent us from listing all donors in the *Perspective*. However, the complete donor list is available on our web site at «[www.dcp.ufl.edu/perspective](http://www.dcp.ufl.edu/perspective)». Thank you for your continued support!

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## Matthews and Rivas-Camp Receive Beinecke-Reeves Award

Each year, the University of Florida College of Design, Construction and Planning awards the Beinecke-Reeves Distinguished Achievement Award to an individual who exemplifies the spirit of historic preservation in Florida.

The award is given to an individual or group having a connection to the state and demonstrated dedication to historic preservation. It is named in honor of the late **Walter Beinecke Jr.** and UF professor emeritus **F. Blair Reeves**, both of whom were recipients of the National Trust for Historic Preservation Crowninshield Award for their accomplishments in historic preservation.

### 2007 Recipient: Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D.

As Associate Director of Cultural Resources for the National Park Service, Matthews manages the nation's most important historic preservation and cultural resource stewardship programs. These programs affect thousands of communities nationwide and all of the nearly 390 national parks in the United States. They include the National Register of Historic Places and the National Historic Landmarks Program, among others.

"Janet Matthews has spent over 30 years in research, writing, publishing and interpreting diverse cultural resources in private and public sectors," said **Roy Eugene Graham, FAIA**, director of the college's Historic Preservation Programs. "Her leadership in the field is attested by her dedicated service as the State Historic Preservation Officer, and her being recruited by the United States Department of the Interior to be the associate director of cultural resources for the National Park Service."

### 2008 Recipient: Rolando Rivas-Camp

As Director for the Center for Historic Buildings at the U.S. General Services Administration, Rivas-Camp, a UF alumnus, oversees preservation activities within GSA's national office and 11 regional preservation programs. He received the award in recognition of his innovation in identifying methods, policies and programs to preserve and reuse prominent U.S. government buildings from the 1950s to the 1970s. With his guidance, a December 2000 industry conference identified nine important GSA buildings in Florida, including the 1961 and 1964 federal buildings in Ocala and Gainesville respectively.

"For Rolando's efforts to expand the vision of GSA to include this vast inventory of historic buildings, he has been internationally recognized as one of the leaders in historic preservation," Graham said. **D**



Left to Right: UF Provost Janie Fouke, 2007 Beinecke-Reeves Award recipient Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D., Director of DCP Historic Preservation Programs Roy Eugene Graham, FAIA, Dean Christopher Silver, Professor Emeritus Blair Reeves and Mary Nell Reeves.

Melissa Filipkowski

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Our college is proud to oversee more than 70 endowed funds of \$28 million. The forward-thinking donors who have given endowed gifts are providing support of a sustainable nature. The on-going interest generated by these invested funds helps to support DCP students, faculty and research with steady income beyond state budgets.

For more information on endowments or other giving opportunities, please contact the college at 352-392-4836.

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## DCP dean, director inducted into AICP College of Fellows

The American Institute of Certified Planners inducted Dean **Christopher Silver** and **Claude E. "Gene" Boles Jr.**, director of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning's Center for Building Better Communities, into the elite membership of AICP's College of Fellows at the American Planning Association's national conference this spring.

For more than 80 years, AICP, the professional institute of the APA, has promoted professional excellence in the field of planning by setting high standards for competence, education, experience and ethical conduct. Election to the Fellowship may be granted to planners who have been longtime members of AICP and have demonstrated excellence in professional practice, teaching and mentoring, research, community service, leadership and communication. 

## UF Alumni Receive 2007-08 ACSA Awards

Each year the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) honors excellence and distinguished achievement in architectural education, in recognition of those who embody these qualities and have advanced the art and science of the field. These award-winning professors inspire and challenge students, contribute to the profession's knowledge base, and extend their work beyond the borders of academia into practice and the public sector.

*Congratulations to our alumni winners! We are pleased to announce our alumni among the 2007-08 ACSA Award Winners:*

**Sarah Gamble, ARC 2002** and **Patrick Rhodes, ARC 1996**, at Tulane University ACSA Collaborative Practice Award: To recognize programs that demonstrate how faculty, students, and community/civic clients work to realize common objectives.

**Aaron Gabriel, ARC 1997**, at the University of Arkansas's Community Design Center ACSA/AIAS New Faculty Teaching Award:

Given jointly by ACSA and the American Institute of Architecture Students. This award recognizes demonstrated excellence in teaching performance during the formative years of an architectural teaching career.

**Jason Alread, ARC 1988**, at Iowa State University. ACSA Creative Achievement Award: To recognize a specific creative achievement in teaching, design, scholarship, research, or service that advances architectural education.

**Aaron Gabriel, ARC 1997** and **Jeffrey Huber, MArch 2004**, at the University of Arkansas's Community Design Center ACSA/AIA Housing Design Education Award: Granted jointly by ACSA and the American Institute of Architects, Housing & Custom Residential Knowledge Committee to recognize the importance of good education in housing design to produce architects ready for practice in a wide range of areas and able to be capable leaders and contributors to their communities.

### ALUMNI NEWS CONTINUED »

**Robert Alfert, Jr., ARC 1988**, was invited by FTI Consulting to speak at the 2nd Annual Best Practices in Building University/City Relations Conference June 7 to 10 in Gainesville. He specializes in the practice areas of construction law and litigation and commercial litigation as an Orlando partner in the statewide law firm Broad and Cassel. He also is a construction arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association. Robert's experience and knowledge of construction earned him a spot as one of Florida's "Legal Elite" in Florida Trend Magazine, in addition to being listed in the Orlando Business Journal's "Best of the Bar," and Woodward & White's 2007 "The Best Lawyers in America." He will participate on a panel discussion on procurement, contracting and dispute resolution issues surrounding the city of Gainesville and UF's capital improvement projects.

**Jay M. Bargeron, Jr., BCN 1989**, is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps. He recently assumed command of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division. He previously served as the regimental executive officer for 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, in Camp Pendleton, Calif.

**Dan Kirby, ARC 1989**, has earned the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional status. Dan is the director of development services for Boyken International Inc. in Orlando.

**Merrill Romanik, ARC 1989**, is a principal architect at CubellisISGR. In July 2006, Sinalovaki Gutierrez Romanik Architects Inc. in Fort Lauderdale merged with Cubellis Associates in Boston to become this new firm that now has 26 design professionals in South Florida and 340 nationally.

**Martha Skinner, ARC 1989**, reports that she and husband **Douglas Hecker, ARC 1989**, were runners up in the 2007 Next Generation® Design Competition. The competition looks for bright ideas that focus on energy, its uses, reduction, consumption, efficiencies, and alternatives. Their project, the superABSORBER, is a proposal for a

new kind of highway wall barrier system that, in addition to mitigating light and noise pollution, also absorbs airborne pollution. The project will be featured in an upcoming Metropolis Magazine issue and will be exhibited at various venues including the ICFF in May and the 2007 Greenbuild International Conference and Expo in November. The superABSORBER also was recently selected as Transmaterial Product of the Week and will be published in Transmaterial 2 by Blaine Brownell later this year. Martha and Doug also recently traveled to Florence, Italy, for Beyond Media 05, where Martha presented the lecture "A Section Dissection of Time/Space: The Study of One City" and Doug presented the work of his thesis studio, "Southern Cities." Martha and Doug are both professors at Clemson University and partners in a practice called fieldoffice. [www.field-office.com](http://www.field-office.com)

**Ron Foster, Jr., BCN 1990**, is the CEO of Stellar, a contractor in Jacksonville that was recently ranked 13th in the top 50 green contractors in the country by Engineering News-Record. EN-R ranked the firms based on contracting revenue from registered sustainable projects. Stellar had \$154 million of such revenue, mostly from work in the industrial market. The green projects are based on Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a system designed by the U.S. Green Building Council.

**Grant Rimbey, ARC 1990**, earned a MArch at the University of Texas at Austin in 1995 and worked for eight years for renowned architect Charles Moore, FAIA, in Austin. He moved back to Florida in 2001 and has designed a number of buildings in the new urban communities in the panhandle. He now lives in his hometown of Temple Terrace, where he has been assisting in the downtown redevelopment of the 80-year-old city. Grant just received a regional award for these efforts.

**Allen Troshinsky, BCN 1990**, is a construction executive with M. A. Mortenson Company. Having relocated to Minneapolis in 1994, Allen has since led Mortenson project teams on several notable projects, including the

RiverCentre (Saint Paul convention center), Xcel Energy Center (home of the NHL's Minnesota Wild), and FedExForum (home of the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies). Currently, he resides in Kansas City and managed construction of the recently completed Sprint Center, a \$250 million multi-purpose facility. Allen, his wife, Stacey (UF 1992), and their three children will soon be relocating to Louisville in preparation for the construction of the Cardinal's new 22,000-seat basketball arena.

**Patricia (McGee) St. Lawrence, IND 1991**, and the St. Lawrence family welcomed their new child and baby Gator, Megan Mary, on Oct. 6, 2006.

**Michael Foley, Jr., BCN 1992**, purchased assets of RoyalAire Mechanical Inc. in September of 2006. He is president of the new RoyalAire Mechanical Services Inc., which is a full-service commercial mechanical contracting and service business in the Tampa Bay area.

**Christopher Benninger, ARC 1996**, was awarded the Golden Architect for Life Time Achievement by the Spectrum Foundation in India. He taught at the Graduate School of Design and then moved to India to found the School of Planning at Ahmedabad in 1972. In 1994 he started a professional practice, which won the 2000 American Institute of Architect's/Architectural Record/Business Week Award for the design of the United World College of India. Christopher's designs have been widely published and have won numerous awards. He has studios in Pune, India and in Thimphu, Bhutan where he is designing the new Capitol Complex.

**Sean Meehan, ARC 1998**, is currently working in California at Perkowitz+Ruth Architects as an associate project manager.

**Carrie (Finlay) Shores, ARC 1998**, was recently selected as one of nine emerging architects in New England by Design New England Magazine. She has been running her firm, In House Architecture, in Maine for the last four years and has just moved back to California to expand her business. Her

## FRIENDS *we'll miss.*

*DCP lost some dear friends this past year. The UF community remembers the professors and alumni who are no longer with us.*

### **Dr. Ernest R. Bartley,**

*Urban and Regional Planning Professor Emeritus*  
Dr. Bartley, 88, helped form the UF Department of Urban and Regional Planning in 1975. "Bart was the state's foremost authority on zoning and growth management issues," said Richard H. Schneider, urban and regional planning professor. "We were fortunate to have him as a constructive colleague, outstanding teacher and loyal friend at the University of Florida for six decades and at the Department of Urban Regional Planning for more than 30 of those years. We will miss him very much and honor his memory." Dr. Bartley passed away Jan. 22.

### **Dr. Bill Gordon Eppes,**

*Building Construction Professor Emeritus*  
Dr. Eppes, 76, taught for three decades at the M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Building Construction as one of its most versatile

professors. In addition to his numerous teaching honors, he received awards for his design of Holy Faith church and the Campus USA Credit Union in Gainesville. "Bill was a great architect and a superb professor, and he added greatly to the school while he was with us. He was a great friend," said Brisbane Brown, building construction professor emeritus. Dr. Eppes passed away June 11, 2007.

### **Franklin S. Bunch, ARC 1934**

Franklin, 95, was a founding member of KBJ Architects Inc. and helped create Jacksonville's modern skyline. In 1961, he was the second Jacksonville architect to be elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. He passed away Jan. 22.

### **Maurice Weintraub, ARC 1947**

Maurice, 87, was a major in the Corps of Military Police during WWII. After his service, he designed many prominent private luxury residences and commercial properties in the Miami area. He passed away Aug. 8, 2007.

### **Jerry Garrison, BCN 1950**

Jerry, 86, was an Air Force captain during WWII and, after his service, designed

and built Florida houses, several of which were featured in *Southern Interiors*, *Good Housekeeping* and *Palm Beach Life* magazines. He passed away July 31, 2007.

### **James Mitchell Hartley II, ARC 1950**

James, 84, helped shape the look of the city of Hollywood, Fla., from the 1950s to 1990s, designing numerous churches, hospitals, banks, county buildings, and schools, including Nova University. He passed away June 12, 2007.

### **Noel R. Lake, LAE 1950**

Noel, 81, was instrumental in designing UF's landscape during his years as superintendent of grounds. He also invented the "bike hitch," the U-shaped racks that cyclists use to lock up their bicycles. Noel passed away Nov. 4, 2007.

### **Ed Seay, LAE 1961**

Ed, 69, was a renowned golf-course architect. He designed hundreds of courses worldwide, including many PGA Tour and Champions Tour courses. He passed away Aug. 14, 2007.

new firm, Larson Shores Architects Inc., will continue to run the New England office as well as its new Berkeley, Calif. location.

**Athena (Constantakos) Kosier, IND 1999**, announces that she and her husband, **Tom Kosier, BCN 2002**, welcomed their third child, Jacinda Brodie, on Jan. 5, 2007.

**James Frey, ARC 2001**, has earned the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional status.

**Brian Murphy, BCN 2001**, is currently working as a project engineer for Ajax Building Corporation.

**Eric Bellin, ARC 2005**, will be traveling to Naples, Italy in February to study under the guidance of Professor Agostino Bossi. He will be there for six months, working as a teaching assistant and publishing research based on the concepts of the joints of architecture.

**Sara Mikkelsen, ARC 2007**, was one of six finalists in the 2007 Chair Affair competition, sponsored by the International Corrugated Packaging Foundation and managed by the American Institute of Architectural Students. Entrants were challenged to design a chair with corrugated cardboard and glue. This year, a record 176 entries were submitted by either teams or individuals from 56 universities or colleges. The winners can be viewed on the competition Web site at «[www.aias.org/chairaffair](http://www.aias.org/chairaffair)»

**Adam Pollock, ARC 2007**, is currently working as a junior designer in Nantucket, Mass.

### **We Want to Hear From You**

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## Is This You?

Last year, we added this feature, enlisting your help to identify people in candid photos from the college archives. Last issue we ran this photo (top right), and here's what we found out.

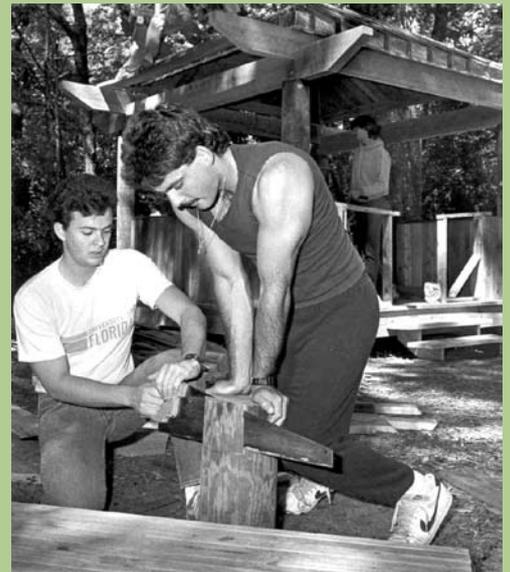
The photo was taken in the late 80's during the Design Exploration Program, a concentrated summer design program at UF for high school students. On the left is **Jeffery Gross, ARC 1972**. He was the president of the Fort Lauderdale AIA chapter, which sponsored a student who won a spot in the program through a local architectural design contest. Today, Jeffery is the founder and managing partner at Jeffery Gross Associates Architects P.A. in Hollywood, Fla.

On the right is **Michael Alpert**, a high school student in the summer program. He was identified by childhood friend **Gregg E. Hutt, ARC 1991**, who is now a lawyer with Trenam Kemker in Tampa. Michael went to the University of Miami and is now a city planner for the City of Miramar.

Thank you to everyone who responded! Now, here's another photo (bottom right). If you recognize someone in the photo, please email us at [perspective@dcp.ufl.edu](mailto:perspective@dcp.ufl.edu) or write to the college to let us know. Please include an update of what you've been doing. Then, we will report what we find in the next issue of the magazine. **D**



Pictured at left: Jeffery Gross. Pictured at right: Michael Alpert.



## Student Spotlight

### *Iris Patten*

Ph.D. Student in Urban  
& Regional Planning

“How does urban planning help create sustainable communities? In theory, it is through understanding the process and potential implications of solving problems. I agree, but I believe urban planning is about more. Urban planning is an opportunity. Urban planning is one of the few professions that emphasize the power of relationships in solving problems, especially between members of diverse communities. Urban planning is an opportunity to create change in the community, on the landscape and for the world.”

Doctoral student Iris Patten knows future communities need to be built with diversity and sustainability in mind. Both are critical for her doctoral dissertation, as she is researching what attracts young creative professionals to an area. Last year, as an urban and regional planning master's student at UF, her thesis focused on land use conflict. It was the runner up for the 2007 Best Master's Thesis Award from the National Center for Smart Growth Research and Education. Iris also was a member of the winning team for the 2006 Witters Competition and received the 2006 WRS Infrastructure & Environment Inc. award for outstanding achievement in planning information and analysis.



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