

Interim Dean's **Message**



Well, this has turned into an interesting summer for me with my appointment as the Interim Dean. Even after 39 years in teaching and administration, I realize that there are many different responsibilities as the Interim Dean than there are as the Associate Dean, and I must admit it continues to be a learning experience.

I want everyone to know that my door is still always open. Please take the same approach in meeting with me now as in past.

In terms of other changes in the college administration, I have appointed Dr. Paul Zwick, the Chair of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, as the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs. I have asked Mr. Andrew Wehle, Assistant In for Student Services, to accept some of the responsibilities that I performed as the Associate Dean.

Let's all work together to make this an exciting and fruitful year for our students, faculty and staff. We can accomplish this in many different ways as we continue with teaching, research and service, but I also believe that much can be accomplished through communication. So if you have any suggestions or comments you feel will benefit the college and its programs, please contact me by e-mail or phone.

I hope you have all had a productive and relaxing summer, and I look forward to working with the faculty and staff of the college as we move into a new time with new opportunities.

Sincerely,

Interim Dean and Professor

DCP Administrative Changes

Dr. Jay M. Stein tendered his resignation in June as dean of DCP after six years of distinguished service at the post. Interim Provost Joe Glover accepted Stein's resignation reluctantly in his announcement to the faculty and staff of the college.

"Dean Stein has contributed considerably to the evolution of the college, and his leadership will be missed," Glover said in his memo.

As dean of the college, Dr. Stein helped create multiple international initiatives; established the Center for Health and the Built Environment; led a five-year college capital campaign raising \$27 million and contributed to increased levels of funded research in the college.

After a one-year sabbatical, Dr. Stein will rejoin the faculty of the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and will continue in his role as director of the Center for Health and the Built Environment. Glover appointed Associate Dean Anthony Dasta as interim dean of the college effective August 6.

Other changes in the administration include the appointment

of URP professor Paul Zwick as associate dean for research. Dr. Stein announced Robert Stroh's resignation from the post in a July 12 memo saying, "Bob has worked tirelessly with many of our faculty to assist in identifying research opportunities and in the preparation of proposals. On behalf of our college, I thank Bob for his service and contribution to our college's research program."

Dr. Zwick also will assume the position of director of the college's Ph.D. program. Professor Mary Jo Hasell resigned from the director position after six years of tireless and dedicated work, said Dr. Stein in his announcement to faculty and staff.

"Jo succeeded during her tenure in taking the program to a far higher level of academic excellence and national prominence."

Dr. Hasell will continue as professor in the Department of Interior Design, and Dr. Stroh will continue his position as research professor and director of the Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing.

Rinker Hall Receives National Award for Architectural Design Excellence

University of Florida's Rinker Hall recently was selected by the American Institute of Architects Committee on the Environment as a Top Green Project for 2005, one of eight selected nationally. Rinker Hall received a gold rating in May 2004, by the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings.

"Rinker Hall's success has resulted in UF adopting a policy that all future buildings be designed and built according to LEED standards," said Abdol Chini, director of the Rinker School of Building Construction, which is housed in Rinker Hall.

LEED is used to measure a building's environmental performance and emphasizes state of the art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, material selections, indoor environmental quality and enhancing occupant comfort and health.

Rinker Hall was recognized at the national AIA convention in May for design that protects and enhances the environment by integrating architecture, technology and natural systems.

Randy Croxton of Croxton Collaborative Architects, the project architect, accepted the award in Los Angeles on behalf of his firm and the project partner firm, Gould Evans Associates, Tampa, Fla.

Croxton recognized the outstanding resourcefulness of the project and the participation of the faculty and students of the Rinker School and the School of Architecture which contributed to the project's success.

Rinker Hall's uniqueness comes in many forms. It was the first LEED Gold rated building in the state of Florida and 26th in the United States. The technological innovation used in the construction of the building minimized the amount of construction waste produced and maximized energy efficiency.

"This particular project is an exemplar in materials minimization. It has facilitated characteristics of long-life loose fit, which allows for easy modification or change to the building over time with moderate impact on occupants in the building," Croxton said.

Construction materials were recycled in an attempt for reuse in the most efficient manner. One example is the reuse of bricks from UF's deconstructed Hume Hall for the retaining walls and service areas at Rinker Hall.

"Anytime you're resourceful in a way that is highly pragmatic and measurable saves money and resources for future generations rather than consuming and throwing the waste into landfills," Croxton said.

During the LEED rating process, the building received an innovation credit for the building's use as a teaching tool and the way it is integrated with the building construction curriculum.

"There has been a very robust sustainability curriculum that is embedded in the Rinker School's mission as developed by building construction professor Dr. Charles Kibert," Croxton said.

"Also, Rinker Hall accomplishes its sustainability mission through design intelligence rather than through capital-intensive technology, and therefore, at the end of the day was completed very close to campus standards of cost for a classroom building," Croxton said. "Resourcefulness does not defeat design excellence."

Making a building that was energy efficient and also fit with UF's collegiate gothic style posed a challenge to the designers. To maintain energy and heating efficiency, the building was framed with glass and steel. However, buildings on UF's campus have brick facades. To incorporate the architectural elements required of new buildings, the designers constructed a colonnade consistent with the Southern tradition of porches and columns and a shade wall of brick that is free standing on the western side.

"We call this a building that both performs and belongs," Croxton said.

The Rinker School is housed within the UF College of Design, Construction and Planning. Designed and constructed as a green building, Rinker Hall uses 55 percent less energy than typical buildings of its size and its future operation will be more environmentally friendly.

In addition to being recognized as a top green building, Rinker Hall, which was dedicated in October 2003, also received the 2003 H. Dean Rowe, FAIA Award for Design Excellence from AIA Tampa Bay, the 2003 Sustainable Florida Architecture Honor Award by the Council for Sustainable Florida and the AIA, the Gold Award in recognition of excellence in the institutional facilities category by the City of Gainesville Beautification Board and the Excellence in Construction Eagle Award by Associate Builders and Contractors First Coast Chapter.

--- Paul Wiseman

Faculty Summer Updates - While You Were Out...

In this special feature, find out what the faculty at DCP did during the summer

▲ ARC assistant professor **Shivjit Sidhu** spent four weeks this summer in his native Bombay, India, examining the Dharavi slums, which is known as Asia's largest slum. Home to more than one million residents, the Dharavi slums have been described as filthy and despicable, yet Sidhu is more optimistic.

"There is a fantastic vitality in this space," says Sidhu.

He describes what he saw as a human catastrophe, but at the same time it has a vibrant economy of its own where craftsmen, peddlers and children share street space for their daily activity.

Traveling with a senior administrator from the slum redevelopment authority, Sidhu observed how people utilize unoccupied space for bathing, manufacturing, cooking and playing and how it defines the organic nature of the area.

He will take what he has seen in person and learned through literature reviews to develop a graduate seminar to be taught in the Fall semester. This trip was made possible by a Research Creativity Faculty Summer Appointment from DCP.

▲ IND assistant professor **Debra Harris** continued work this summer on a year-long research project with Texas A&M University and 14 hospitals across the United States to study a new trend in neonatal intensive care facility design. According to Harris, the recent trend in these facilities has been to change from an open-bay layout to a single-room intensive care design. However, this change has come without any research confirming the benefits of such change.

Harris and her research assistant Paige Hardy developed a survey

instrument which department directors at the participating hospitals can use to analyze their neonatal intensive care units (NICU). The hospitals' participation is completely voluntary and uncompensated. Among the variables being studied are the cost of constructing with this new design, medical outcomes for patients, quality of care and the psychological effects on parents with newborns in the NICU.

The surveys from hospitals, selected parent users and qualitative interviews will be combined and analyzed to assess the quality of the methodology used in this research at the end of the study. Harris and her colleagues hope to publish the results of their study in the *Journal of Perinatology*.

▲ ARC professor **Robert McCarter** recently published a comprehensive architectural monograph on Louis I. Kahn. The book, with more than 600 illustrations, is published by Phaidon Press, Ltd., London and New York and includes new drawings and models by students in the UF School of Architecture. In addition to this latest book, "Louis I. Kahn," McCarter is working on two books about Frank Lloyd Wright. "On and By Frank Lloyd Wright: A Primer of Architectural Principles" is currently at press, and McCarter completed a manuscript for a second contracted book called, "Frank Lloyd Wright: Critical Lives," Reaktion Books, Ltd., London.

McCarter continues work on a manuscript for a contracted book called "Alvar Aalto: Art & Ideas," also by Phaidon Press. Additionally, he participated in the second annual International Conference on Research in Architecture, "Architecture + Art," the Alvar Aalto Academy, Jyväskylä, Finland, August 11-15.

Continued on next page

A Message From the 2005 University of Florida Community Campaign



The UF Community Campaign, themed "Gators Give in a Million Ways," kicks-off September 12 with the goal of reaching the \$1 million mark! With a campus community of more than 12,000 faculty

and staff, each of us has a wonderful opportunity to join others in helping to fund the critical services extended by the 76 charitable agencies that work everyday to improve the lives of all Gainesville residents.

These organizations may provide low-cost clinical services to our working poor or shelter for abused women and children. They may fund research to ease human suffering from diseases such as diabetes, cancer or Alzheimer's, or, they may extend end-of-life care for our elderly and ill. Each of these agencies makes a difference in the lives of people in our community. You can too. Last year, nearly 6,000 UF faculty and staff demonstrated this great university's commitment to its community by raising \$928,466 during the campaign.

Let's go the extra mile to make it a million this year! Once you receive it, please take a moment to complete your pledge card and

return it to your coordinator. Supporting the UF Community Campaign couldn't be easier with payroll deduction.

Your contribution, no matter what amount, will join others who share a commitment to the quality of life in Gainesville, proving that Gators really do give in a million ways.

This year's campaign will run from September 26 through October 7.

For more information and to learn how your donation can improve the lives of people in our community, visit www.ufcc.ufl.edu.

Improving Contractor Customer Expectations

Robert Cox, associate director of the Rinker School, began this summer working with several state agencies to analyze building contractor complaints in an effort to reduce costs and increase understanding among contractors and their clients.

Three years of data are being provided by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation for examination to Cox and Raymond Issa, director of graduate and distance education programs at the Rinker School.

“There are tens of thousands of complaints filed every year in Florida. The ultimate goal is to analyze the data to determine how we can better educate both the consumer and the contractors,” says Cox.

A comprehensive study of complaints filed by Florida contractors will look to find similarities among complaint types and what type of contractor, engineer or architect is filing them.

Consumer misconceptions about standard practices in building construction may lead to an excessive number of complaints in the state, says Cox.

Building contractor complaints are costly to the state for processing and resolution, and therefore, this research also will look to determine just how much money is spent at the state level on contractor complaints and how to mitigate these costs.

Cox expects a series of informational materials, like educational booklets, to be created for the consumer as a result of their study. They also will use this information to improve contractor continuing education courses taught by the state.

The results of this study will be presented to the state building commission and may be available as early as next spring.

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▲ ARC director **Martha Kohen** participated as a keynote speaker at the Asia Design Forum International Summer Session in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in August. Five ARC students traveled with her.

▲ IND chair **Margaret Portillo** and J. Meneely of Cornell University recently were published in *Creativity Research Journal*. She also is finishing another article co-authored with IND doctoral student Marlo Ransdell which examines the relationship between creativity and sense of place in community-based art installations.

To identify directions in higher education with a direct influence on interior design programs, Portillo is conducting interviews with university administrators across the country with her colleagues on the Research Council of the Foundation for Interior Design Education Research (FIDER). This research will continue with focus groups from select programs, additional surveys and literature reviews to further examine these new trends and their potential impacts.

▲ **Linda Crider**, associate scientist in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, spent her summer building her dream cabin in Eccles Lagoon, Cordova, Ala. The property overlooks Orca Inlet in Prince William Sound.

Crider also has printed 100 gift copies of her recently completed book, “Children of the Bay, A Story of Alaska,” and has submitted it for consideration to Delacorte Press, a division of Random House.

Upon her return to Gainesville in August, she accepted a research grant from Bike Florida, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote safe cycling in the state of Florida, to administer and plan this year’s annual springtime ride for more than 1,000 people from around the world.

▲ URP associate professor **Rhonda Phillips** has published a book titled “Community Indicators Measuring Systems.” The book draws together both U.S. and Canadian researchers to explore the dimensions of monitoring and evaluating progress toward meeting community and regional goals via indicator systems. The book is a comprehensive review which takes the reader from theory to technical dimensions, addressing the questions of how concepts associated with indicator systems are measured and whether these systems can serve as a tool for long-term sustainability.

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