

Dean's **Message**



It is an honor, and a great thrill, to join the College of Design, Construction and Planning as Dean and as Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, and to let you know that I am now here on the job. I arrived in Gainesville on Friday, September 29, just in time to enjoy the Florida victory over Alabama. On my first visit to "The Swamp," I had a chance not only to watch a great game but also to meet several of the College's distinguished alums and friends who were there for the festivities. What a great way to begin a new job.

As my first public act, please join me in extending a sincere thanks to Interim Dean Tony Dasta for his masterful leadership of DCP during the administrative transition. It is obvious that Tony did not approach the task merely as a caretaker, however. He helped to usher in the College's new system of shared governance, provided support for expanded international initiatives, handled numerous staff changes, maintained close relations with alums by representing the College at numerous events, and continued to do what he has done so well for so long, which is to ensure that our facilities, as crowded as they are, are in the best possible shape to carry out our business. With sustained support from a great staff and dedicated faculty, Tony's leadership during the transition in DCP has helped us to move forward. Tony, thanks!!

Yet many strategic decisions about the future of DCP's program remain to be made. Through the involvement and careful deliberation of all of us – faculty, staff, students and alums – we can make the right decisions and continue progress toward the goal of becoming the premier college of our kind in the nation. It is my view that we can, and will, succeed in this challenge by keeping all of our professional programs strong and vital. This includes sustaining strategic synergies that we've already established between our units. All of the professional accreditation organizations to which we report value the sort of collaboration we already have launched

in the areas of sustainable design and construction, internationalism, historic preservation and community design.

Also, DCP's rich tradition of high powered professional preparation must be complemented by vigorous research programs. We will do this through several strategies, including support for individual faculty research, targeted resources to recruit master's and doctoral students to work with faculty on cutting edge research, and support to ensure strong research centers. Increased involvement of DCP students and faculty in international initiatives also will contribute to the goal of making our College the model to emulate.

There is a lot to do, but it will be fun and a source of great satisfaction for all of us when we have a chance to reflect on our accomplishments. But for now, let's get going. I look forward with anticipation, and enthusiasm, to working with all of you as we pursue the mission of our terrific College.

Sincerely,

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

“Vertical Studio” is UF’s First Venture to India

ARC students embarked last month on UF’s first international program ever offered in India. ARC professor Shivjit Sidhu and eight students voyaged to Pune, India, to take part in “The Vertical Studio, India,” a semester-long studio focusing on architecture and urban design.

Incorporating the historical, cultural, physical and conceptual context of the Indian Subcontinent, the studio will prepare undergraduate and graduate students to study and practice contemporary architecture with a global perspective.

Students will help design master plans and charettes for both Pune and Mumbai, India. Both cities are experiencing the pressures of extreme growth due to large economic expansion and have a need for sustainable urban design guidelines. Without proper urban planning and design, the cities will evolve rapidly with short-term considerations that may lead to catastrophic effects on human, social and economic development.

“Hopefully, the work of our students and professional

partners can raise awareness of the issue,” Sidhu said.

Upon the group’s arrival in Delhi, graduate student Matt Demers said, “The urban environment here is indescribable. Across the group, we share experiences living in places like Hong Kong and Mexico City and New York, but the reaction is still unanimous – we’ve never experienced or imagined a place this intense.”

“The Vertical Studio, India” is a collaboration of UF students and architects, engineers and other consultants across the globe.

“We are very happy the School of Architecture has taken the initiative to include India, and UF hopes to add more programs in the future,” said Suzanne Hill, coordinator of study abroad services for UF’s International Center.

The trip is partially funded by Muttha Associates, one of the leading development companies in Pune, India. The company will pay for the students’ airfare, accommodations and studio space, among other items.

News Bulletin

Professors Honored at AIA Florida Convention

2006 AIA Florida Honor and Design Awards recipients were recognized in July at the 2006 AIA Florida Annual Convention in Boca Raton, Fla. In the Unbuilt Awards category, ARC professors Michael Kuenstle and Nancy M. Clark were recognized with an Award of Merit for Beach House 5. In the Award of Excellence category, ARC professors Robert MacLeod and Nancy Sanders were recognized with an Honor Award for Hand-Made House.

ARC professor Karl Thorne also was recognized with the prestigious Gold Medal. This award recognizes an individual architect in Florida who has distinguished himself or herself in a manner resulting in a profound impact on the profession over an extended period of time. This is the highest award that AIA Florida can bestow on one of its members and only one may be given in a year. Any individual who has been a member of AIA Florida for a minimum of 10 years is eligible. The individual’s long-term, noteworthy accomplishments in the AIA, as well as community organizations or governmental bodies, must demonstrate distinguishable results characterizing one’s career in a manner over and above what is normally expected.

Tanzer Receives University Awards

ARC professor Kim Tanzer recently was recognized for two awards at the university level. The University of Florida Association for Academic Women recognized Tanzer with “Woman of Distinction, 2006,” which is given to a UF faculty member or administrative/professional woman who has made significant contributions to the quality of life of women. Defined broadly, these contributions include those directed to women at the University, in the local community, the state, nation or society in general. Tanzer also received the “Morton Wolfson Faculty Award for Outstanding Service to University of Florida Students, 2006,” presented by the Division of Student Affairs.

Gurucharri Presents Paper in Italy

LAE professor Tina Gurucharri presented a paper at the international 2006 Sustainable Tourism Conference in Bologna, Italy. The paper “Costanera Sur: Gateway to the Osa, a scenic conservation and development corridor in Costa Rica” described a conceptual framework developed by an interdisciplinary team of practitioners, faculty and students from the University of Florida, the University of Costa Rica and the Universidad de Diseño. The goal of the study was to develop a replicable model for neotropical conservation and development using an existing road corridor as the organizing principle for the protection of ecological, cultural, recreational and scenic resources in a developing country where tourism represents the largest source of foreign exchange.

▲Larsen Appointed to Affordable Housing Study Commission

Gov. Jeb Bush recently appointed URP professor Kristin Larsen to the Affordable Housing Study Commission. Each year, the commission makes public policy recommendations to the Governor and Legislature to stimulate community development and revitalization to promote the production, preservation and maintenance of safe, decent affordable housing for all Floridians. This year, the commission will be assessing Florida's State Housing Trust Fund, which provides funding to local governments to address housing needs in their communities for very-low, low and moderate income households, and recommending changes to make the program function more effectively.

▲LAE Students Sweep Awards

LAE students swept the Annual Design Awards Gala for the Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects this summer. Students were recognized in five categories, where they competed against not only students, but professionals in the field. UF student projects were recognized in the following categories: open space, planning and analysis, preservation and conservation, resort and entertainment and philanthropy.

▲ARC Students Participate in International Architecture Exhibition

Students participating in the Vicenza Institute of Architecture helped install the Architectural Record's exhibit "After the Flood: Building on Higher Ground" in the U.S. Pavilion at the 10th International Venice Architecture Biennale. The exhibit discussed and dealt with rebuilding New Orleans and Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina. The exhibition, held by the Fondazione La Biennale di Venezia, was dedicated to cities, architecture and society.

▲Witters Competition Call for Proposals

Proposals for the Spring 2007 Witters Competition are due in the Dean's Office by Monday, October 23. The Witters Competition is a juried competition, held annually in the Spring Semester to promote a collaborative approach among students and faculty within the design and construction professions. It is sponsored by an endowment created through the generosity of Col. Art and Beverley Witters who wished to foster interdisciplinary communication and provide a financial award to the multidisciplinary student team that generates the winning solution to a project problem.

Tenure and Promotion

We are very pleased to announce that LAE faculty member Margaret Carr has been promoted to professor and ARC faculty member Donna Cohen has received tenure and has been promoted to associate professor.

Welcome to our New and/or Visiting Faculty!

Architecture:

Bahar Armaghani, Visiting Assistant Professor
Ruth Ron, Visiting Assistant Professor
Leland Shaw, Professor Emeritus
Tom Smith, Visiting Assistant Professor
Albertus Wang, Visiting Assistant Professor

Interior Design:

Jason Meneely, Assistant Professor
Maruja Torres-Antonini, Associate Professor

Hong Kong Studio Displayed in Gallery

Images and designs from the 2006 Hong Kong-China Summer Program were on exhibit last week at the Architecture Gallery. "The program was amazing," said ARC student Thomas Sharp, who participated in the program. "It's great to see everyone's work on display." ARC professor and program director Nancy Sanders, and ARC professor and program co-director Robert MacLeod, have taken students to Hong Kong and China since the program successfully launched in 2004.



Senior design student Thomas Sharp looks over his work on display in the Architecture Gallery.

Students Design for Film Festival During Summer Studio

Lights, camera, action!" is not a phrase usually associated with Nantucket Island, Mass. However, DCP students had movies on their minds this summer while exploring alternative venues for the Nantucket Film Festival. Undergraduate and graduate students participating in a new design studio at UF's Preservation Institute: Nantucket developed venue designs and concepts for the festival, which were exhibited in June at the Nantucket Film Festival, and in September in the Architecture Gallery.

For years, the Nantucket Film Festival has been held at a historic Nantucket cinema called Dreamland. Recently, Dreamland was halted as a movie venue, thus leaving the festival in a crisis. Limited available property and venue space on the highly exclusive Nantucket Island called for a creative solution.

Instead of designing for total re-development, the students were asked to explore contemporary additions for the historic properties. Extremely creative design aspects, such as using huge cylindrical water tanks on an industrial site and showing movies on house shingles that could move like shutters as film screens, were

conceptualized by the students.

"Film festivals are a contemporary event," Cohen said. "The challenge for our studio is to design contemporary architecture within this important historic context."

The students mainly explored two sites, university-owned property called Coffin Street and a relatively abandoned industrial space they titled "The Generator," where they conceptualized how the spaces could hold the film festival.

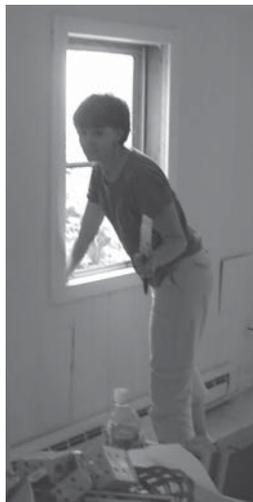
"The studio was so dynamic. It generated some powerful architecture that still situates itself with the historical Nantucket style," graduate student Will Zajac said.

The design studio, open to students in all design disciplines, will be offered to students again this summer, and will be headed by Cohen and visiting professor Claude Armstrong. The six-week course includes four weeks on Nantucket Island and a study tour of Boston. For more information, please contact Cohen at dcohen@ufl.edu.

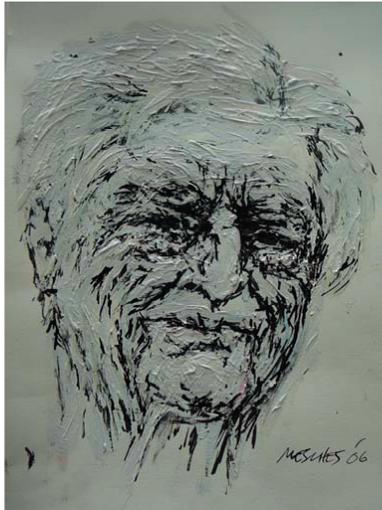
"We really interacted with the community," Zajac said. "It's [the studio] building a relationship between UF, Nantucket and the film festival."

Dean's Office Staff Lends a Helping Hand

Sally Morris (top left), Marcia Bourdon (bottom left) and Crystal Lee (right) lent a helping hand to PI: N this summer. The group, along with Bourdon's son, Blaine, and Lee's husband, Johnie, spent three days renovating two faculty cottages in Nantucket, Mass. They replaced and glazed the windows, painted the interior and completely renovated the bathrooms of the cottages.



A Parker's Exhibit
Celebrating 90 years of
Achievement



TIME: OCTOBER 19 5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM
 PLACE: ARCHITECTURE GALLERY
 ENTERTAINMENT: PEYTON & DAY

▲Oppenheim Appointed Director of BCN Undergraduate Programs

BCN professor Paul Oppenheim has been appointed as the Director of Undergraduate Programs for the Rinker School. As director, Oppenheim's main role is to improve the quality of the undergraduate programs including course content and continuity, student relations, continuous assessment of industry needs and student outcomes. Oppenheim received both his bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Florida.

▲BCN Hall of Fame Inductees Recognized at Homecoming Barbecue

BCN held its homecoming barbecue on Saturday, October 7. During the barbecue, Bob L. Moss, president of Moss & Associates, and Charles P. Reid, chief executive officer of Current Builders of Florida, Inc., were inducted into the school's hall of fame. The Construction Hall of Fame was established in Fall 1980 to recognize the accomplishments of those builders who have distinguished themselves throughout their careers in construction. Recipients of this prestigious honor receive a plaque declaring their induction, in addition to having their name displayed on the Hall of Fame wall at the school.

▲Phillips Recognized with Fulbright Scholar Award

URP professor Rhonda Phillips recently returned from her Spring 2006 Fulbright fellowship at the University of Ulster located in Belfast, Northern Ireland. As a traditional Fulbright Scholar award recipient, Phillips conducted research and lectured at the University of Ulster's School of Policy Studies. Phillips' research was collaborative work with non-profit and public organizations to develop evaluation frameworks for Northern Ireland community and economic development programs as well as research visits to Scotland and England. Phillips also worked with the U.K.'s Townscape Heritage program, evaluating historic preservation approaches for community regeneration and economic revitalization of towns and cities throughout the country.

The traditional Fulbright Scholar Program sends 800 U.S. faculty and professionals abroad each year. Grantees lecture and conduct research in a wide variety of academic and professional fields. The Fulbright Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Under a cooperative agreement with the Bureau, the Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) assists in the administration of the Fulbright Scholar Program for faculty and professionals.

International Conference Addresses Future of Sustainable Construction

BCN hosted the 12th Rinker International Conference, "Re-thinking Sustainable Construction 2006" from Sept. 19-22 in Sarasota, Fla.

While the development of green building has come a long way, the future of the practice is relatively unknown. "Re-thinking Sustainable Construction 2006," unlike any other conference on green building, focused almost solely on the evolution of high-performance green building in the next 10 to 50 years. The conference brought together an international collaboration of people and organizations committed to the advancement of high performance and next-generation green buildings.

Conference speakers included Andy Serwer, contributor to CNN's "American Morning" and "Fortune" magazine editor-at-large, and Richard Lorch, editor of the European-based international journal, "Building Research and Information." Conference attendees included designers, product manufacturers, builders and policymakers from across the globe.

"Many congratulations to you, Charles Kibert and the many other people involved in creating RSC06," Lorch said. "It was an excellent conference and the quality of discussion was very high. It really was an outstanding event and well worth the trip. The thematic and practical organization of the event was superb. I've been to many sustainability conferences, but none have matched the combination of breadth and depth achieved at RSC06. The conference certainly moved the sustainability agenda forward."

BCN professor Charles Kibert said the conference committee chose Sarasota as the conference site because Sarasota County serves as a model for others.

"Sarasota is committed to sustainability. The county offers builders and developers incentives for incorporating sustainable practices and encourages citizens to actively participate in sustainable lifestyle practices, such as energy conservation," Kibert said.

School of Architecture Fall 2006 Lecture Series

October 23 – Alex Wall

Professor, Urban Design and Planning
Faculty of Architecture
University of Karlsruhe
Karlsruhe, Germany
6 p.m. Harn Museum

October 30 – Ken Yeang

Principal, T.R. Hamzah & Yeang International
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
6 p.m. Harn Museum

- *sponsored by C.T. HSU Associates, BCN, URP and LAE*

November 13 – Philippe Ruault

Photographer
Nantes, France
France-Florida Research Institute Visiting Professor

Lecture Series Sponsors:

*Alfonso Architects
Guy Peterson/OFA, Inc.
Holmes, Hepner and Assoc. Architects
Gresham, Smith and Partners
Canderday, Belfsky + Arroyo Architects
HHCP Architects*

▲ **Siebein Delivers Keynote Lecture**

ARC professor Gary W. Siebein presented the keynote lecture titled “Recent Research and Design in Architectural Acoustics” at the fall meeting of the Florida Chapter of the Acoustical Society of America. The talk focused on research for a new acoustical testing technique for the performing arts halls, called the Orchestral Impulse Response, Siebein has developed with Ph.D. student Youngmin Kwon; recent research in the acoustical texture of music conducted with Ph.D. student Pattra Smitthakorn; innovative methods to measure occupational hearing loss for law enforcement and military firearms training; and an urban planning soundscape study conducted with ARC professor Martin Gold and the Florida Community Design Center for the SW 20th Avenue Project in Gainesville. Siebein and professor Rahul Shrivastav of the UF Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders organized the meeting, which included participants from universities throughout Florida. Papers were presented on various topics related to acoustics and the way in which people perceive sound.

▲ **Acomb Serves on AIA/SDAT team in Washington and Guest Editor of UF JUR**

LAE professor Glenn Acomb served on the American Institute of Architect’s Sustainability Design Assistance Team (AIA/SDAT) in Guemes Island, Washington this summer. Acomb and a team of five others evaluated the issues of sustainability for a small island in the San Juan Island archilepago that has 800 permanent residents and 2200 additional seasonal residents in the summer. The area has issues with potable water, transportation, energy supply, ecosystem protection, rural cultural landscape character, among many others. All of these issues are threatened by the amount of growth on the limited-resource island. Through the charrette process, Acomb and the SDAT team helped community residents and their planning committee create a blueprint the island can use for its sub-area plan recommendations to the county’s commissioners.

Also, Acomb served as the guest editor of the University of Florida Journal of Undergraduate Research’s September/October 2006 edition. The journal focused on the environment and featured eight scholarly works from UF undergraduate students. The JUR strives to publish outstanding scholarship of UF undergraduates and showcases the work of the University Scholars.

▲ **Hailey to Present Paper in Canada**

ARC professor Charlie Hailey will present a paper at the ACSA Northeast Conference in Quebec City. Hailey also has been invited to speak on October 13 at University of Central Florida’s College of Arts and Humanities, where he will give a talk titled “More Notes on Camp: A Field Guide to Florida’s Unfinished City.” Last month, Hailey completed his registration as a licensed architect in Florida.

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