

Dean's Message



I recently participated in an assessment of a professional program at another leading university, one that has a solid reputation in the field of urban planning. The site visit provided evidence that the program's well-earned reputation was more than justified, much like our own School of Architecture's recent accreditation site visit suggested the same for its program.

One of the virtues of these site visits is that they provide an opportunity for self-reflection, whether one is hosting the visit or serving as an evaluator. One lesson these accreditation processes provide is to consistently remind us of the value of "glue."

Glue?? Yes glue. In academia in general, and especially among professional programs like ours that draw our faculty and our students from various disciplines, it is the common intellectual threads, or glue, that binds us together into a distinct and hopefully distinguished enterprise. And as we go about the work of developing a strategic plan for DCP, this becomes especially relevant.

One of the ways to develop these necessary common intellectual threads is to engage in collaborative learning activities. For students, this may involve crossing disciplinary boundaries, such as in examining issues of sustainability in a course outside their major. Or it may involve stepping outside the comfort zone of the practice world to see how professions function throughout the globe.

For faculty, it frequently involves finding ways to broaden a core set of specialized research and teaching interests to make connections with similarly narrowly construed agendas of other faculty. Certainly, there is great value in faculty specializations within a given discipline, and to pursue that area of interest even if it doesn't necessarily mesh precisely with others. Yet without the connecting links, the commonly shared interests and the intellectual glue that these afford, faculty scholars can operate in isolation, resulting in programs that lack identity and shared purpose.

When we think about intellectual glue from the vantage point of a college like ours with strong individual units, we are confronted with the

challenge of maintaining the credibility of those individual units while achieving a shared vision of what makes DCP distinctive. We currently have a variety of groups within the college looking at issues affecting all of us, including our current and future offerings in sustainability, our needs and desires in instructional and research-focused technology, our expanding activities in the area of preservation, funding priorities for our long-term development, space needs and opportunities, further collaborations with other campus units, such as the colleges of Fine Arts, Health and Human Performance, and Law, our expanding international and off-campus programs, strengthening our Ph.D program, and the development of distance learning and web-based courses. These separate but related explorations, in conjunction with efforts ongoing within our departments, schools and programs, will lead us to better identify those intellectual threads that bind our individual parts into a unique enterprise. And that should enable us to create a logical and compelling shared vision that will further our efforts to be the best at what we do.

A key ingredient of a glue that can bind effectively such a diverse group as we are in DCP is "collegiality." Collegiality simply is the act of practicing camaraderie among colleagues. Interestingly, however, it also implies an equal sharing of authority among those colleagues. In this sense, it is the essence of what we refer to here at UF as shared governance. As we go about the task in the months ahead of identifying our individual and shared visions for the future, we will need to draw upon a fair share of collegiality to make the process work well. If we approach the task with an understanding of our responsibilities to work as comrades as well as our authority to be engaged on an equal footing in the decision process, we will have created the sort of glue that so many other colleges like ours just can't quite manufacture.

Sincerely,

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

DCP Places High in 2007 DesignIntelligence Rankings

UF's School of Architecture and Departments of Interior Design and Landscape Architecture continue to be recognized as top programs in the country and in the South by DesignIntelligence. All three programs were strong contenders in DI's 8th annual America's Best Architecture and Design Schools 2007 survey.

Both Interior Design's graduate and undergraduate programs were ranked, 6th and 7th respectively, on the Top 10 Interior Design Programs list. Additionally, both programs were listed 1st in the South. This is the highest Interior Design's programs have been collectively ranked since the survey began in 2000. The 2007 survey included new questions this year about sustainability preparedness. Interior Design ranked 3rd in the nation on DI's Skill Assessment Ranking questions about

sustainable design concepts and principles.

Architecture's master's program was listed 17th on the Top 20 Architecture Programs list and 1st in the 12-state South region. Landscape Architecture was listed 5th in the South.

DI's 2007 survey ranks accredited undergraduate and graduate architecture and 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. Congratulations to all units for continuing to produce graduates recognized as best prepared in the nation by design firms.

News Bulletin

Phillips Selected as External Expert for OECD

URP professor Rhonda Phillips recently was selected as an external expert for the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development's (OECD) project on designing skills strategies.

The OECD, with funding from the European Commission, selected only ten external experts in the world to participate in the Local Economic and Employment Development Project (LEED). As one of two North American experts, Phillips will develop a case based on North American experience in skill strategy development. Low skills represent a considerable risk in the global economy, and policy makers are developing specific strategies to address approaches to upgrading skills for hard-to-reach groups. The LEED project will serve to bring together a variety of approaches and strategies that are effective for this environment. Phillips' case focuses on the Choctaw Tribe of Mississippi, which has served as an innovator in low-skills worker development with outcomes that have garnered national attention.

Smailes and Schattner to Receive Teaching/Advising Awards

BCN professor Dr. Richard Smailes and BCN staff Sallie Schattner have both been selected to receive Teaching/Advising Awards for DCP's 2006-2007 academic year. Smailes and Schattner were selected by a review committee composed of faculty representatives from all five academic units and student representatives from the Architecture College Council and Building Construction College Council. This recognition by students and peers is a great honor and exemplifies their extraordinary commitment to the art of teaching and advising.

DCP Staff and Faculty Recognized at Service Luncheon

Congratulations to those staff members recognized for their continuous years of service to the University of Florida.

25 Years of Service:

Crystal Lee, Dean's Office
Richard Markle, Dean's Office

20 Years of Service:

Dave Ellis, Dean's Office
Rebecca Hudson, Architecture

10 Years of Service:

Mary Kramer, Architecture

5 Years of Service:

Stanley Amos, Dean's Office
Cynthia Dennison, Dean's Office
Robert Matckie, Dean's Office
Diep Nguyen, Shimberg Center
Jim Martinez, Shimberg Center



DCP Service Award recipients at the DCP Service Luncheon on Feb. 8 (left to right): Stanley Amos, Diep Nguyen, Mary Kramer, Rebecca Hudson and Crystal Lee.

▲ Phillips Serves as Journal Editor, Completes Fifth Book

URP professor Rhonda Phillips was named as community indicators section editor for the journal of Applied Research in Quality of Life (ARQOL) for the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies (ISQOLS).

The aim of the journal is to publish conceptual, methodological and empirical papers dealing with quality-of-life studies in the applied areas of the natural and social sciences and is the official journal of ISQOLS. It welcomes papers crafted from inter-disciplinary, inter-professional and international perspectives.

The research guides decision making in a variety of professions and industries and helps decision makers apply performance measures and outcome assessment techniques based on concepts such as well-being, human satisfaction, human development, happiness, wellness and quality of life. The Editorial Review Board is divided into specific sections indicating the broad scope of practice covered by the journal, and the section editors are distinguished scholars from many countries across the globe. For submission guidelines, see www.isqols.org.

Phillips also recently completed her fifth book, *Community Quality-of-Life Indicators Best Practices III*, as co-editor with Joe Sirgy (Virginia Tech) and Don Rath (College of William & Mary). Her work in community indicators includes international applications, as well as participation as a presenter for the 2006 United Nation World Urban Forum on Community Indicators in Vancouver.

Historic Preservation Lecture Series

2/22/07, 5:50 p.m.

Michael Tomlin, Director

Graduate Program in Historic Preservation
Planning, Cornell University

3/08/07, 5:50 p.m.

Richard Pieper, Director of Preservation
Jan Hird Pokomy Associates, NYC

3/29/07, 5:50 p.m.

Nancy E. Richards, Curator of Collections
Tyron's Palace, New Bern, NC

**All lectures are held in
Fine Arts Building B, Room 103**

School of Architecture Spring 2007 Lecture Series

3/19/07

Terence Riley

Director, Miami Art Museum
Miami, FL
www.miamiartmuseum.org

3/19-24/07

Agostino Bossi

Preside del Corso di Laurea
Facolta of Architecture, Universita di
Napoli
***Sponsored by Historic Preservation

4/9/07

Tom Kundig

Principal, Olsen Sunberg Kundig Allen
Architects
Seattle, Wash.
www.oksaarchitects.com

**All lectures are located
at the Harn Museum's
Chandler Auditorium at 6 p.m.**

▲ International BCN Students Visit DCP



Dr. Charles Kibert (pictured above right) with building construction students visiting from Nantes, France.

Eighteen students from Eugene Lycee Livet, a French school of building construction in Nantes, France visited Gainesville on Feb. 15 as part of a two-week trip to Florida. The students were given walking tours of the UF campus and Downtown Gainesville, a luncheon at Rinker Hall and a reception at the Florida Community Design Center.

Facets of Sustainability Lecture Series

Upcoming Lectures:

2/27/07, 4:30 p.m.

Environmental Justice

Dr. Joan Flocks, UF Levin College of Law

3/6/07, 4:30 p.m.

Cultural Pluralism and Sustainability

Dr. Allen Burns, UF Department of Anthropology

3/20/07, 4:30 p.m.

Creating Sustainable Communities

Dr. Mark Hostetler, UF Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation

4/3/07, 4:30 p.m.

How Green is your Gator? - Panel Discussion

Chris Machen, UF's First Lady,
Dedee Delongpre, Director, UF Office of Sustainability
Student Leaders from Gators for a Sustainable Campus

4/10/07, 4:30 p.m.

Diet and Sustainability

Gary Yourofsky

4/17/07, 4:30 p.m.

The Greening of Gainesville: Gown Meets Town - Panel Discussion

Erik Lewis, UF Facilities, Planning and Construction
Rob Brinkman, Gainesville Sierra Club
Gainesville Community Leaders

**All lectures take place in
Turlington Hall, Room L011**

■ Dukes Attends National Diversity Conference

Walter E. Dukes, DCP's Diversity Officer, attended the First Annual Meeting of the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE) in Washington, D.C. on Feb. 12-14, 2007. The theme for the conference was "Leading Higher Education Toward Inclusive Excellence." The mission of NADOHE is to serve as the preeminent voice of higher education diversity policy by organizing, supporting and guiding the collective efforts of individuals charged with institutional diversity leadership to transform institutions, inspire colleagues, engage campus, governmental and private sector leaders and advance the ideals of diversity. The goal of NADOHE is to establish a network in the United States, and globally, that links senior and chief diversity officers, multicultural experts and other similar experts who are interested in policy-oriented issues related to institutional transformation that leads to a more inclusive environment.

Dukes was appointed Diversity Specialist for DCP in January of 2005 by former dean, Dr. Jay M. Stein. His duties include serving on faculty search committees and working with college committees, addressing diversity issues college-wide. For more information about NADOHE, please visit the website at www.nadohe.org.

■ Williamson Serves as Panel Moderator

Anne Williamson, associate director of the Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing, moderated a panel of national experts in the discussion of inclusionary zoning at Hillsborough County's Hot Topics in Attainable Housing conference. The conference was held in Tampa, Fla. on Oct. 27, 2006 and participants included developers, local government housing policy makers and administrators, nonprofit groups, planners, bankers and other community members. The conference represented the first in a continuing series.

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