

## Dean's Message



Exactly one year has passed since my first visit to the University of Florida, and my introduction to the College of Design, Construction and Planning. The past year has been transformative in so many

respects, and not just in terms of me getting swept up in the Gator Nation. DCP is a college in the midst of transformation, as it has been at various stages of its illustrious history, and how this transformation works in the months ahead should have a substantial impact on all of us for years to come.

Right now, we are in the throes of an enormously robust season of faculty and administrative searches which has engaged every part of our College. There is no question that these searches are yielding faculty and administrators who will chart new and productive paths, and that we will be strengthened and rejuvenated in the process.

At the same time, we are embarking on an ambitious effort to enhance our teaching facilities, from completion of the BCN Perry Construction Yard and the establishment of new off-campus design studios, to the fashioning of a new laboratory to support advanced technology for students in our designed-based programs. Our goal is to have this design laboratory up and running before the Fall semester.

This has been nothing short of a banner year for DCP in the area of fund raising to support our academic and professional missions. We reached our annual fund raising target back in February, and still, the support pours in through the continued vigilance of our development staff and the energy expended by our unit heads and faculty.

Successes have abounded from the work of our students as well, from the Interior Design students who won the top awards at a recent state and national conferences, to the Landscape Architecture students who brought added visibility to our College through their volunteer efforts in hurricane-ravaged New Orleans. Of course, one of the most gratifying outcomes was our School of Architecture's perfect score handed down by the accreditation site team following its February visit.

The quality of our design curricula and faculty

also was reflected in the high national ranking of the School of Architecture and the Department of Interior Design (both #1 in the South and among the top programs nationally) and Landscape Architecture within the region, and the continued national acclaim for the Building Construction programs. Through our new faculty hires, targeted support and through the right sort of outreach efforts, all of our programs will be recognized as regional and national leaders.

We'll all benefit from a little break in the action over the summer, but at the same time we must continue to press ahead with some of the unfinished business. Some of these items involve implementing our new sustainability curricula, creating a new research center and degree program devoted to heritage and preservation activities, strengthening our recruitment and advising of students, upgrading our web site, pressing ahead with new international initiatives, creating more off-campus studio opportunities, developing strategies to meet ongoing space needs and expanding our funded research output.

As you can see, we are faced with the sort of extended "to do" list that many of us create for ourselves to ensure that we keep things moving forward. For DCP the "to-do" list is quite ambitious, and will challenge the talents and dedication of all of us. If the past year is any indication, however, we will rise to the challenges. It should be both fun and personally rewarding as we all guide the transformation forward in the months to come.

In the meantime, enjoy the summer break and accept my sincere thanks for a year of sustained success. Give yourselves a round of applause!! But also join me in applauding those retiring from DCP who have done so much to propel us to such an enviable position. Gary, Ira, Leon, Susan and Tony, you will be missed.

Sincerely,

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

## Architecture Students Travel to Netherlands to Research Biking Systems

Senior architecture students in ARC professor Martin Gold's design studio are attempting to make it easier and more efficient to bike in Gainesville and the surrounding areas. Gold and his Design 8 students even traveled to the Netherlands during spring break, where they researched European methods of cycling pathways and systems.

"The idea was to be able to show students and say, 'This is how it's done in Europe and we think it's the best,'" Gold said. However, instead of directly copying the European systems, Gold was trying to show students how it can be adapted to the United States culture and needs.

"We're not trying to directly import European ideas here," Gold said. "We're looking at ways they've been adapted other places."

While some of the issues with biking systems are cultural, Gold believes the problem in Gainesville is mainly a design issue. "Our system is not designed to

accommodate the bike, it really just tolerates the bike," Gold said.

Through their research this semester and their trip to the Netherlands, Gold and his students have identified priority areas in Alachua County that could benefit from a biking system. By analyzing Gainesville MPTOs Alachua Countywide Bicycle Master Plan they identified an area, called the Archer Braid, which emerged as an immediate priority based on cost benefits and citizen priorities.

Braids are artery-like linkages including existing, streets, roads and paths that link residential areas with commercial and employment destinations. "Once this is built, technically you would be able to ride your bike from the town of Archer to the Gainesville airport, a distance of 12 miles, without having to be on the road with other vehicles," said Gold.

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## News Bulletin

### IND Students Place Nationally at IDEC Conference

IND students Belle Murphy, Haley Russel and Catherine Siemon placed second in the national Interior Design Education Council's competition for their design of a 2688-square-foot prototypical shelter for women and children fleeing domestic violence. After winning the regional competition, the students work was sent to be judged in the national competition which took place in Austin, Texas on March 11-17. The design statement called for intense research to understand the problem, programming that builds on the research by determining appropriate allocations of space which achieve conceptual and functional goals and design solutions that address ideas of security, flexibility, empowerment and community.

IND doctoral student Marlo Ransdall also received Best Poster Session recognition at the IDEC conference for "The Online Learning Community in Interior Design Education." In addition, Ransdall received the prestigious Carol Shannis Graduate Scholarship at the conference. Ransdall is completing her doctorate under the direction of IND chair Meg Portillo.

### BCN Students Place Second in Nation

Members of the BCN Construction Management Team took home first place in Estimating, second place in Project Management and second overall in the national construction management student competition. Twenty-six teams from across the country competed in the three day event. The competition was hosted by the Associated Builders and Contractors during their national convention on March 21-26 in Nashville, Tenn. BCN professor Michael Cook was the team advisor.

While other schools received a full set of plans and specifications five weeks before the competition, the BCN team received the bidding documents with only three weeks remaining. The teams used the documents to determine a guaranteed maximum price (GMP). During the first day of competition, bid packages from all subcontractor trades were released in 15-minute intervals for teams to analyze and use to determine a new GMP.

After five intense work hours of subcontractor bid analysis and three hours of waiting, the top five teams moved on to the final round. This included a 30-minute oral presentation to the owner, followed by a 15-minute question and answer session explaining the team's principles, their project management and safety plans and a review of the team's estimate.

RCC Associates of Deerfield Beach, Fla., Professional Construction Estimator's Association Orlando Chapter and The Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of the ABC sponsored and supported the team in the event.

Team members, all juniors, included: Christine Fernandez, Eric Weiss, David Smith, Jordan Keen, Scott Dennis and Kevin Chupp.

#### ▲Grosskopf Receives National Teaching Award

BCN professor Kevin Grosskopf received the 2007 National Teaching Award at the International Associated Schools of Construction (ASC) Conference in Flagstaff, Ariz. last week. The Associated Schools of Construction National Teaching Award is made annually to a faculty member of a four-year ASC member school. This award recognizes the faculty member's contribution to construction education, excellence in teaching, and dedication to the construction profession.

#### ▲Schneider to Publish Follow-Up Book

"Crime Prevention and the Built Environment," co-authored by URP professor Richard Schneider and Ted Kitchen of Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom, has been published this month by Routledge. The book is a follow-up to Schneider and Kitchen's 2002 text, "Planning for Crime Prevention: A TransAtlantic Perspective," also published by Routledge. The book takes a new look at the theory and practice of place-based crime prevention planning in the United States, Britain and in selected developing nations which have begun to incorporate defensible space and crime prevention through environmental design strategies into planning and development processes. Schneider completed research for the book during a 2005 sabbatical in Britain.

#### ▲BIKE FLORIDA Has Another Successful Year

The annual BIKE FLORIDA event, organized and administered by URP professor Linda Crider, with assistance from numerous graduate students, recently finished another terrific week of bicycling and camping in some of Florida's most beautiful natural and historic places. Co-sponsored by the Florida State Park system and city tourism boards of Daytona, Deland and New Smyrna Beach, the week-long tour brought more than 700 cyclists from all over the United States and Canada, to enjoy some of the best beaches, springs, trails and natural sites in Florida. This year's event presented a unique experience for cyclists to ride laps of the Daytona International Speedway, which many of the cyclists stated was a "once in a lifetime opportunity." The proceeds from the event help to support the UF/URP/FDOT contracted training program for Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Education for the State of Florida.

#### ▲Book to Be Presented at Hotel Opening in Paris

IND professor Susan Tate is the lead author of the in press book "Concorde: Hôtel de Talleyrand & George C. Marshall Center." This commemorative publication will be available for presentation at the Grand Opening of the Marshall Center in Paris in June 2007.

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### Zwick, Carr Recognized Nationally for Land-Use Analysis Process

URP professor Paul Zwick and LAE professor Peggy Carr were co-recipients of the 2007 American Planning Association's Best Use of Technology by a university award. The national award was given for Carr and Zwick's modeling on land-use planning for the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRP). The council used the GIS modeling for their client, myregion.org, and more specifically, the Orlando area. ECFRP and myregion.org also won national awards in their respective categories, all which would have not been possible without the work of Carr and Zwick.

According to Carr and Zwick, while they knew they were being nominated, they were very surprised by the win. "We're very excited," Zwick said. "You don't win a national award in your profession every day. It speaks well for UF's expertise with GIS and how it's applied to planning and land-use analysis."

Carr and Zwick have been working on the project for ECFRP for approximately eight months, and also have

just recently published a book on their GIS mapping and land-use planning process. The book, titled "Smart Land-Use Analysis," presents the land-use conflict identification strategy (LUCIS) and conflicts between competing land interests. It will be available from ESRI press sometime this month.

Zwick traveled to Philadelphia, Penn. to accept the award on his and Carr's behalf. According to Carr, the process will be able to be applied to many future applications and used by numerous organizations looking to solve future problems of land-use. "I am encouraged that the interest in applying the process will continue," Carr said.

Zwick also believes the process is an amazing resource for the future. "It's a huge benefit to the state and profession," Zwick said. "It helps people understand where there are going to be fights over the types of land uses."

## LAE Students Volunteer in New Orleans During Annual Conference

While attending the annual LAbash conference (Landscape Architect Bash) in Baton Rouge, La., 11 LAE students decided give back to the community of New Orleans. Students spent the day planning and planting landscape designs on road medians for the town of Gentilly, located just south of Lake Pontchartrain. "It was a really great event for us," Schafers said. "It was a lot of hard work, but it was fun. I think we made a really small impact but, an impact nonetheless."

Road medians are historically important to citizens of New Orleans, due to their historical significance as "neutral grounds."

"We found out the medians, which are called neutral grounds in Louisiana, were historically social places where citizens met when New Orleans was controlled by both the French and the English," Schafers said. "We decided to do a planning design there so it could be a focal point for people coming back to the neighborhood." According to Schafers, the town was still in disrepair and in desperate need of landscape development. The students

coordinated for plants to be donated for the neutral grounds from a local New Orleans nursery and spent an entire day planting their designs.

The event was such a success local Fox News crews came out to cover the students, and the coverage made the students feel like local celebrities. "We went to the UF vs. LSU men's basketball game while we were there and people came down three or four times to say they recognized us from television and thanked us for what we did," Schafers said. "It was kind of a little pat on the back from them, which was really nice."

Schafers is not only trying to make this a tradition for UF LAE students, but LAE students from across the country. "Every year there is a LAbash, and every year it's in a different city that I'm sure has something we could help with," Schafers said. "I thought the 700 LAbash students that attend each year are a major untapped resource. It's a great way to not only give back to the community but also a way for us to apply our skills in a more giving way."

### ▲ Winarsky Artwork on Display at Thomas Center

ARC professor Ira Winarsky's work "Iridescent Landscapes" will be on display at the Thomas Center Main Gallery until May 20. Winarsky's landscapes and their iridescent ceramic glazes are inspired by his love of nature, his peacocks, the ceramic glazes of George Ohr, one of the greatest ceramists of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and Beatrice Wood of the 20th century. These masters never disclosed how they made their iridescent luster glazes, and they died with the secrets of their formulae. Ira has re-created their glazes along with hundreds of others, and they have become an essential part of his sculptural landscapes and landscape vessels. The glazes are the result of 15 years of passionate original research using thousands of formulae and hundreds of firing techniques. The iridescent glazes include the entire spectrum of visible color. Each glaze reflects its own set of light wavelengths, and many reflect all of the colors of the rainbow.

### ▲ Patten Recipient of McKnight Fellowship

Iris Patten, an URP master's and soon to be DCP Ph.D. candidate, recently was awarded the McKnight Doctoral Fellowship for her work in planning. Established in 1984, the Florida Education Fund's McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Program has increased the number of African Americans who have been awarded the Ph.D. in historically underrepresented, crucial disciplines and fields of study where African Americans have not historically enrolled and completed degree programs. Patten is the first student in the college to ever receive a McKnight Fellowship.

### ▲ ACC Gives Back to Students

The Architecture College Council (ACC) had a surplus of \$5,000 earnings this year and decided to give it back to the school in the form of a new large drum scanner. While the college was already considering purchasing a new scanner, this donation will help DCP allocate resources to other college needs. This scanner will be the first large scanner available for design students within the college. Students currently have to scan their drawing in fragments and piece separate scans together, which is time consuming and inaccurate.

The ACC was also awarded the most improved college council by the UF Board of College Councils. "It's been a very intensive year," said Vanessa Heppner, ACC president. "It's been an honor representing the school and DCP and especially being able to give back to students directly in the form of this donation."

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