Silver Awarded Biennial Prize

DCP 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.

LAE Students Collaborate in Law School Charette

On Oct. 19, eight teams of LAE students met in the cafeteria at the UF Levin College of Law to help provide a vision for the restoration of the DASH Course Woods, a 3.3-acre wooded UF Conservation Area across from the college on Village Drive. The 32 students, under the direction of LAE professors Tina Gurucharri and Kevin Thompson, developed eight design proposals during the four-hour charrette.

The students based their designs on input received from the project stakeholders, including members of the adjacent Golfview neighborhood, the UF Physical Plant Division and the UF Environmental and Land Use Society, a student organization. The society, led by project manager Ashley Henry, received grants from UF Student Government and PPD to restore the woods and already has organized work parties to remove exotic plants and spread mulch.

While developing their designs, the teams needed to consider the desires of all the key stakeholders. The members of the Golfview Neighborhood Association wanted a family friendly setting to enjoy nature, learn about native plant communities and enjoy walking or jogging. The students wanted covered areas for eating and studying. PPD wanted existing footpaths enhanced and the forest canopy increased. In addition, the designs needed to follow the Conservation Area Land Management Plan.

At the end of the charrette, the teams presented their designs to the key stakeholders. After receiving feedback, the UF student chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects created the final design, which is scheduled to be installed during the spring semester.

ARC Students Place 2nd in National Competition

Last Month, 22 students from the UF Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architecture Students traveled to Orlando for the annual national competition and placed second out of 11 other schools that participated.

For the competition, the students were asked to present a design of a neighborhood-sensitive urban school in Paramore in the Orlando area, which they had been working on for about three weeks.

Among the schools also competing were Georgia Institute of Technology, Cornell University, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Howard University and Kansas State University. The UF design team has been one of the strongest competitors every year, and is the only team to place in the top three every year in the past three years.

The team was a very diverse group, both academically and racially, representing five different races and every level of design from design 1 students to grad 3 students.

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, Jourdona LaFate, Victor Lorenzo, Naomi Maki, Marek Mroz, Angel Nieves, Eduardo Ponce, Tim Ruscello, Phat Tran, Ryan Wicks, Alexander Yoon.

Silver Awarded Biennial Prize

DCP 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.
Docomomo Florida Introduced in Miami

The Docomomo Florida (Documentation and Conservation of Modern Movement Architecture) chapter was introduced at the Miami Art Museum on Oct. 27. It was founded in 2007 as a response to the need to promote and preserve the Modern heritage in Florida. It is a non-profit regional association (part of the national Docomomo-U.S. and Docomomo-International) that promotes research, scholarship, education, as well as the conservation of buildings, urban districts and natural landscapes of the Modern movements in Northern, Central and Southern Florida.

Docomomo Florida provides a forum for the interchange of ideas among architectural historians, architects, designers, preservationists, real estate companies, academics, students and others interested in the Modern environment and its preservation for future generations.

Enrique Madia, Jean Francois Lejeune of the University of Miami, Tony Abate of the Florida Atlantic University and ARC director Martha Kohen worked for a year to establish Docomomo Florida's legal and institutional framework. ARC professor Martin Gundersen and DCP research associate Claude Armstrong and DCP professor Roy Eugene Graham, FAIA, also joined in founding the group. Gundersen, Graham and Kohen currently serve on the Docomomo/U.S. Florida Officers and Board of Directors.

Cohen, Armstrong Awarded Commission in Tanzania

ARC professor Donna L. Cohen and DCP research associate Claude Armstrong recently were awarded an architectural commission in Tanzania. Their firm, Armstrong + Cohen Architecture, is collaborating with a Finnish architectural firm, Hollmen Reuter Sandman Architects, on the design for the TunaHAKI children's center in Moshi. The project includes a children's home, school and a community theatre. Project sponsors include the TunaHAKI Foundation, Architecture for Humanity and Cirque du Soleil. Cohen received research funding from DCP to make the initial site visit in September.

Hollmen Reuter Sandman Architects visited UF and presented a lecture as part of the ARC Lecture Series entitled “Beyond Design” at the Harn Museum of Art, which focused on their work in Senegal and the collaboration in Tanzania. In conjunction with the lecture, photographs of their work were on exhibit in the gallery in the Architecture Building. UF architecture alumnus Brook Denison also had pencil/digital drawings of carved churches in Lalibela, Ethiopia on display at the exhibit. Denison’s perspectives and sections record his measurements of the site. His work was sponsored by a travel grant from Yale University.

ARC/BCN Students Place in Regional Competition

The Rinker School student competition teams who participated in the Associated Schools of Construction and Associated General Contractors Region 2 Competition in Jacksonville were very successful. The Design-Build Team ranked 1st, the Management Team ranked 2nd, and the Heavy/Civil Team ranked 3rd. Congratulations to the faculty coaches, BCN professor Doug Lucas of the Design-Build Team, BCN professor Mike Cook of the Management Team and BCN professor Ed Minchin of the Heavy/Civil Team, and team members for their excellent performance.

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

The Rinker School would like to thank Balfour Beatty Construction, Nelson Construction and Haskell Construction for providing financial support and helping the teams prepare for the competition.

Design-Build Team: BCN Students: Jesse Belknap, Adrian Barrios, Jason Roberts, Thomas Manos, Lesly Jerome, Vijay Baldeo, ARC Students: William Choi, Alexander Yoon

Management Team: Eric Weiss, Kevin Chupp, Scott Dennis, Adam Panzaella, Samuel Keen, Cassidy Resnick

Heavy/Civil Team: Chris Carswell, Ryan Fisher, James Swick III, Ryan DeHahn, Cory Donoghue, Allen Smith

Derrer Inducted into Construction Hall of Fame

The M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Building Construction at the University of Florida inducted William R. “Rick” Derrer, president of James A. Cummings, Inc., into the school’s Construction Hall of Fame at 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 3 as part of the school’s homecoming activities.

Derrer has been in the construction industry for 33 years, and has earned a reputation of dealing with everyone with integrity and facing challenges on jobsites with a no-nonsense approach. Rick also serves as a member of the Rinker School’s Advisory Council Executive Committee and attends meetings semi-annually to assist with fundraising and curriculum development. He was the chairman of the organizing committee for the South Florida Gator BCN Club’s 70th Anniversary Banquet, which raised $100,000 for the school’s 70th Anniversary Endowed Professorship.
Under the leadership of IND professor Maruja Torres-Antonini in collaboration with IND professors M. Jo Hasell and Nam-Kyu Park and LAE professor Kay Williams, FASLA, third-year and graduate IND students and graduate LAE students developed design proposals for a sustainability-focused residential learning community at UF’s Diamond Village.

Research conducted by Torres-Antonini over the summer of 2007 identified the residence and academic benchmarks for sustainability-oriented Residential Living Communities (RLC). The purpose of the project was to propose enhancements that will allow Diamond Village to become a sustainability-oriented RLC in the short-term and to develop a vision of an ideal sustainability-oriented RLC to be created in the future on the Diamond Village site.

Information gathering and site analysis for the project involved student and faculty travel to Atlanta and Decatur, Ga., to experience a co-housing community and talk with residents and conservation community specialists.

Williams involved her graduate seminar with this project. The IND students, in cooperation with the LAE students, developed proposals that responded to the aims of the project and the UF Department of Housing and Residence Education.

The students presented extremely innovative ideas such as countertops and flooring made of metal shavings and sunflowers and 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 and ideas that could be implemented at any housing site—and elsewhere on campus too.

Project presentations of ideas for the design and landscape architecture ideas were well received by the clients, including Norb Dunkel, UF director of Housing and Residence Education, and his colleagues, as well as representatives from UF student families currently living in Diamond Village and DeDee DeLongpre, director of the UF Office for Sustainability.

**Flood Appointed Coordinator of BCN Ph.D. Program**

BCN professor Ian Flood was appointed coordinator of the Ph.D. program for the Rinker School. He will be responsible for developing a request to offer a doctoral degree in Construction Management, submitting the request to University officials and following its approval process, establishing the policy and procedures for the Ph.D. in Construction Management and developing a marketing strategy for recruiting high caliber Ph.D. students.

**Smeby Appointed Coordinator of FES Program**

BCN professor Chuck Smeby was appointed coordinator of the Fire and Emergency Services program. His role is to improve the quality of the program and increase its enrollment. This includes, course content, continuity among courses, marketing of the program and recruitment and retention of students, identification and nomination of qualified instructors and overall program updates and revisions through continuous assessment of an industry advisory council and student surveys.

**Carmel-Gilfielen Awarded Grant for Loss Prevention Research**

IND professor Candy Carmel-Gilfielen was awarded a $12,000 grant from the Loss Prevention Research Council to study the effectiveness of visible security within store spaces. This investigation will provide empirical data on store environments at the urban, store and fixture scale to understand visible security intentions.

The study also examines visible strategies employed as well as their effectiveness measured by quantitative sales and loss data coupled with qualitative perspectives of the consumer, employee and offender. Strategies such as product keepers or safers are hypothesized to provide superior open-display protection for very high-loss items since they simultaneously provide product security by limiting quantity thefts, inhibiting item concealment and making item theft more obvious.
First Ever AGC/SLX Golf Tournament Held

On Nov. 2, the first ever Associated General Contractors/ Sigma Lambda Chi (AGC/SLX) golf tournament was held at Ironwood Golf Course. The joint efforts of the two student clubs and the generous sponsorships from the contracting community resulted in a successful event that was enjoyed by all.

More than 70 golfers committed to playing and the event raised about $2,000, which will be used to fund various club events during the course of the academic year. The venue for next year’s event is scheduled for the UF golf course.


Grosskopf, Hinze Receive Grant from OSHA

BCN professors Jimmie Hinze and Kevin Grosskopf received a grant from the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) in September to develop and provide safety training to non-English speaking, low literacy workers performing clean-up and reconstruction in hurricane-prone Gulf states.

The proposed 12-month education and training program includes low-literacy curricula development and delivery in both English and Spanish and at-risk employee and employer recruitment in partnership with the Associated General Contractors of America and the Florida Roofing, Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors Association.

Ries Presents Paper at NSF Conference


The conference was intended as a forum and workshop for faculty, students and post-doc grantees to report on the first experiences from research conducted under NSF’s IREE program. Ries and Thabrew researched participatory decision making for sustainable development. Their field component is based in Sri Lanka and concerns post-tsunami reconstruction.

Hylton Speaker at Florida AIA Conference

IND professor Marty Hylton gave a talk titled, “Modernism at Risk: Design Advocacy,” at the AIA Florida Third Annual Emerging Professionals Conference on Oct. 26-27, in which he discussed his work to address the issues that impact the preservation of modern movement architecture and design, including the creation of the “Modernism at Risk” program at the World Monuments Fund.

Hylton’s talk highlighted some of the challenges in preserving modern sites and existing organizations and programs that professionals can join and/or volunteer with including: Docomomo, the Recent Past Preservation Network, National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation. His talk concluded with a summary of the Riverview High School documentation and rehabilitation project by upper division IND undergraduate and graduate students.

Pérez-Méndez and Macedo Receive College International Educator Award

ARC professor Alfonso Pérez-Méndez and URP professor Joseli Macedo have been selected to receive the International Educator of the Year Award for DCP. Pérez-Méndez and Macedo represented the college in a campus-wide competition to select the International Educator of the Year Award for the University. The International Educator of the Year Award was created in 2004 by UF’s International Center to recognize outstanding international endeavors by UF senior and junior faculty members.

Kibert, Grosskopf Awarded Grant For Hurricane Damage Study

BCN professors Charles Kibert and Kevin Grosskopf were awarded a grant from the Florida Center for Solid and Hazardous Waste (FCSHW) to study hurricane damage and debris generation in the state of Florida.

Kibert and Grosskopf along with URP researcher Eric Kramer, will compare and contrast damage and debris for coastal, inland, rural and urban communities associated with various hurricane events, including a worst-case “Katrina” scenario.

Results of the research will be presented at a Spring 2008 UF workshop for all Florida county emergency managers and solid waste directors in an effort to help state and local officials prepare, respond and recover from hurricanes and other disasters. Matching funds for this project were provided by the Powell and Rinker Foundations.
Schneider Publishes Articles

URP professor Richard Schneider has published two recent articles including a section of the United Nations’ Global Report on Human Settlements 2007 on “Urban Crime and Violence” (Earthscan Publication). Schneider was a recent panelist and presenter at the UN-sponsored conference in Monterrey, Mexico on Safe Cities where the 2007 report was released to the general public.

He also authored an article for UN-HABITAT which focuses on the roles of planners, designers and community development officials relative to crime prevention in developing nations. The article titled, “Crime Prevention Is Not Only a Police Matter,” is published in UN-HABITAT Debate (Vol. 13, No. 4, 2007).

Grosskopf, Oppenheim, Sullivan Publish and Present Papers


Grosskopf also presented a paper with BCN visiting professor Jim Sullivan titled, “Safety and Sustainability of Monolithic Dome Structures in Hurricane Prone Regions,” at the 4th International Structural Engineering and Construction Conference (ISEC-4) in Melbourne, Australia in September.

Williamson Presents Paper on Florida’s Truth-in-Millage Act

BCN professor Anne Williamson presented a paper entitled, “Informed Citizens and the Local Government Budget Process: Florida’s Truth-in-Millage Act,” at the annual conference of the Association of Budgeting and Financial Management in Washington, D.C. on Oct. 25. The paper included the results of telephone survey and focus group research regarding citizen knowledge about Florida’s property taxation process and how it relates to local budget decisions. This research arose from a $500,000 grant to the Shimberg Center for Affordable Housing by the Florida Legislature for the study of property taxation issues.

Kohen Attends ACSA Directors Meeting

ARC director Martha Kohen attended the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture Directors meeting Oct. 30 - Nov. 3 in Minneapolis, Minn. She is collaborating with the preparation of the General ACSA Convention in Houston, Texas held from March 17-20, 2008 where a joint meeting will be held between the heads of the Latin American schools and their North American counterparts.

AIA Gainesville Awards Student Scholarship

ARC professor Michael Kuenstle and Joseph A. Garcia, AIA, of Brame Architects in Gainesville presented this year’s AIA Gainesville annual student scholarship award to Garrett Garner at the AIA Gainesville annual dinner held on Sept. 18.

The award is unique this year because it was part of “AIA 150,” a worldwide celebration of the American Institute of Architect’s 150th anniversary. The scholarship is funded through the proceeds of the annual AIA Gainesville Student Scholarship Golf Tournament and a matching grant program initiated by AIA National as an effort to show support for the profession’s future leaders. The joint program will help ensure that the scholarship endowment continues to grow and provide valuable assistance to UF ARC students. The event is organized by the AIA local component under the leadership of Joseph Garcia, AIA.

Kuenstle Publishes Book on Educational Facilities Design

“Education Facility Security Handbook,” coauthored by ARC professor Michael Kuenstle, AIA, and Don Philpott of Reuters and the Homeland Defense Journal, has been published this month by Government Institutes, Scarecrow Press, Inc. The book 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 ARC professor Nancy Clark and URP 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.

This project builds on Kuenstle’s funded research accomplished with the publication of the “Florida Building Code Handbook for New Educational Facilities Construction (2004)” in collaboration with Clark and the publication of the “Florida Safe School Design Guidelines (2002)” in collaboration with Clark and Schneider.

Gundersen, Thorne Attend Installation Ceremony in Jamaica

Honoring the School of Architecture’s recently signed cooperative agreement with the University of Technology (UTech) in Kingston, Jamaica, ARC professors Martin Gundersen and Karl Thorne attended the Installation Ceremony for the third UTech President, the Honorable Dr. Errol Morrisson on Nov. 1. They also visited the School of Architecture and numerous alumni on the island.
**IND Students Present Designs for Historical Sarasota School**

Senior and graduate IND students presented final design solutions to the “Save Riverview Committee” of the Sarasota Architectural Foundation and local community on Oct. 29 in Sarasota. The design studio was coordinated by IND professor Candy Carmel-Gilfelen and historic documentation and funding was coordinated by IND professor Marty Hylton.

The students were engaged in an adaptive reuse design of Riverview High School in Sarasota, designed by internationally recognized architect, Paul Rudolph. These buildings are threatened with demolition following the School Board’s decision for a new complex. In March 2007, following an outcry from the architecture and design community, the Sarasota County School Board granted a one-year period for the purpose of allowing the public an opportunity to develop preservation alternatives for the original 1958 Riverview High School buildings.

The studio project involved a two-part process that included documentation of the building to the standards of the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) and a design project detailing possible reuse solutions. Preliminary work included extensive research surrounding the design and reuse of the building and a three-day site visit where students documented 90,000 square feet of the original Rudolph buildings. Student drawings and work have also supported the International Design Competition to “Save Riverview High School.” The World Monuments Fund provided funding for this initiative.

**ARC Students Participate in Orlando Charette**

ARC graduate students Katie Galea and Ryan Wicks participated in a three-day design charrette in Orlando to develop ideas for a new health care facility for the homeless and underinsured being developed by the Orange Blossom Family Health Center.

They were joined by grad students from the University of South Florida and young interns from Orlando offices with technical advice provided by Orlando AIA health care specialists. DCP assistant dean William Tilson was on hand as the faculty advisor. The event, now entering its third year, is sponsored by the Orlando Chapter of the AIA. Christopher O’Brien, AIA, (ARC 1984, MArch 1990) director of production for the Architectural Group, Inc., was one of the program’s principle organizers.

** Sanders, Wang and MacLeod Participate in Invited Competition**

ARC professors Nancy Sanders, Robert MacLeod and ARC visiting professor Albertus Wang, through their professional office SWiMcau (Sanders Wang MacLeod international consortium for architecture & urbanism) participated in “counterMEASURES,” an invited competition, exhibition and symposium sponsored by the University of Texas at Austin School of Architecture on Nov. 1-3.

In response to the catastrophic damage wrought by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the competition organizers asked invitees to examine New Orleans as a case study for what strategies and tactics landscape, urbanism and architecture adopt as a means of achieving resilience in the face of extreme circumstances.

The firm’s entry, entitled “Six Ways from Sunday,” explores links between institutions and infrastructure and proposes six strategies for repairing and redefining urban territory throughout the city of New Orleans. Aside from Sanders, Wang and MacLeod, the design team included ARC graduate students Kelly Ard, Everald Colas, Jennifer Daniels, JJ Eckler and Bihn Nguyens. The work will be exhibited in the Mebane Gallery at the University of Texas at Austin through Nov. 30.

**APX Supports Alzheimer’s Association With Halloween Event**

Each year the Alpha Rho Chi (APX) Professional Architecture Fraternity holds an annual Halloween Festival in lieu of raising funds for a choice charity. This year, the fraternity raised more than $300 for the Alzheimer’s Association. Held on Halloween in the atrium, the event lasted more than three hours. In cooperation with Magnumwood, a local model material supplier, the fraternity showcased an event which included Halloween themed games, activities and a yearly tradition - the APX Costume Contest.