

## Dean's Message



Research is one of the three cardinal components of the university faculty role. Given the range of disciplines from which the College's faculty has been drawn, the approaches and the contents of our research activities vary considerably. That is our strength, but it is often the case that we know too little about what our colleagues are undertaking, and how that might relate to what others are doing.

Over the past two years, the Dean's Office has made available modest funding to support faculty research initiatives, in some cases to finish up work already underway, and in others to launch new projects that would benefit from assistance in the purchase of needed software or equipment, to finance a graduate assistant to help collect data, or perhaps to travel to places to obtain data or to observe phenomena.

Last year (2006/07), we financed some or all of 12 faculty projects, and this year, another dozen faculty proposals were supported. We have already seen some of the fruits of these grants, such as Susan Tate's lavish book, "Concorde: The Hotel de Talleyrand and George C. Marshall Center" and Donna Cohen's recent exhibition at the Reitz Union. In the forthcoming edition of *Perspective*, there will be a substantial illustrated summary of the many books and monographs published by DCP faculty over the past year (or forthcoming later this year). It is a truly impressive display.

To share our faculty research interests and outcomes with the entire College community (including students, faculty and alumni), we are organizing the first ever "DCP Research Showcase," to be held on April 4. This day-long event will be focused on the current research work by DCP faculty through exhibits, displays, presentations by faculty, poster sessions and any other media appropriate to their work. This is not just for those faculty who received

research grants but is an open invitation to all DCP faculty to showcase their work.

We are hoping to schedule visits during the April 4 event by prospective graduate students in our disciplines so they might get a taste of what we can offer them. Obviously, those students would be ones we had already admitted and who we want to have signed on (does this sound like Urban Meyer's recruiting strategy!!). Most important, I think we will come away from this day's event with a fuller appreciation of the tremendous research accomplishments of the DCP faculty, and the possible synergies that can be derived from reaching out beyond one's individual world of enquiry to better understand what others are doing.

More details, including a request for both research grant recipients and other DCP faculty to indicate a presentation topic and format for that day, will be coming in a separate email message. We are pleased that Dr. Eugenie Birch, Lawrence C. Nussdorf Professor of Urban Research and Education, College of Design, University of Pennsylvania, will be our featured "inspirational" speaker. The College of Design at Penn has spearheaded the university's nationally acclaimed efforts to address the challenges of Philadelphia and its region through a combination of applied policy research and direct action.

DCP's research showcase will enable us to celebrate our own accomplishments as scholars and practitioners trying to create and sustain livable communities. I encourage all of you to participate in some way, to share your work, and to encourage our students and friends to join in the celebration of what we are so passionate about.

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

## Recently Published & Presented

■ **Roy Eugene Graham**, FAIA, director of Historic Preservation Programs, was a featured speaker at the annual meeting of the St. Augustine Historical Society on Jan. 15. Graham described the work that UF students were doing in the various historic sites around the city and the potential for other classes to participate in the initiatives. He also spoke at the University of Miami School of Architecture Conference, “Preserving the Modern: Building and Landscape Preservation in Miami – A Contemporary Agenda,” on Jan. 26. He was a respondent for the session “Historic Preservation and Cultural Memory.” The conference was co-sponsored by the Bass Museum of Miami Beach and the Florida Chapter of DOCOMOMO.

■ **Edward Minchin**, BCN professor, presented two papers based on his recent research at the 87th Transportation Research Board Meeting in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 14 and 15. The papers were entitled “Identification and Demonstration of a Technology Adaptable to Locating Water in Post-tensioned Bridge Tendons” and “A Highway Construction Quality Index for Florida.” Minchin also presented the first paper to the Virginia Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville on Jan. 10.

■ **Mary G. Padua**, LAE professor, presented a paper on her research that investigates post-Mao parks in late 20th Century Chinese cities at the 6th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities held Jan. 11 to 14. Her peer-reviewed paper was published in the conference proceedings.

■ **Robert Ries**, BCN professor, had his journal paper, “Life Cycle Assessment of Industrial and Institutional Water-based Acrylic Floor Finish Maintenance Programs” published in the first 2008 issue of International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment.

■ **Gary W. Siebein**, ARC professor, authored two papers for the 154th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America in New Orleans last November. “Acoustical Renovation of Music Rooms in Schools to Improve Teaching and Listening Conditions” focused on case studies that showed how the strategic placement of sound absorbing and diffusing elements can significantly improve acoustical conditions in the room. The second paper, “Development of soundscape assessment and design methods for large institutional projects,” focused on innovative methods to conduct analysis and design of soundscape elements to reduce noise impacts and preserve high quality urban environments. Siebein also co-authored the paper “Case Studies Illustrating the Importance of De-coupling the Mass Layers of Demising Walls in Multi-Family Luxury Condominiums and Townhomes” for the Institute of Noise Control Engineer’s Annual Meeting in Reno last October. The paper focused on the use of an innovative wall isolation mounting to significantly reduce noise transmitted through demising walls in housing projects.

■ **Dean Christopher Silver** has two books, “Planning the Megacity: Jakarta in the Twentieth Century” and “Planning and Decentralization: Contested Spaces for Public Action in the Global South” in publication. His chapter, “Tourism, Cultural Heritage, and Human Rights in Indonesia: The Challenges of an Emerging Democratic Society,” was published in “Cultural Heritage and Human Rights” by Helaine Silverman and D. Fairfield Ruggles (Eds.).

## Research Funding Services

The UF Office of Research and the UF Foundation work in close collaboration to assist deans and faculty in obtaining external funding for priority university initiatives, including those programs that may or may not have been successful in obtaining state or federal appropriations.

The Division of Sponsored Research provides a search service to help UF faculty members identify external support for their specific research projects. If you wish to use this service, please contact Gail Francisco, senior information specialist, at [frisco@ufl.edu](mailto:frisco@ufl.edu). Faculty are also encouraged to visit <http://rgp.ufl.edu/research/programinformation.html> to access several user-friendly searchable grants databases. Faculty also can subscribe

to “FYI Digest” – a biweekly online newsletter with funding opportunities, information on Office of Research activities, and UF research news – by going to <http://apps.rgp.ufl.edu/research/fyi/subscribe.cfm>.

The UF Foundation’s Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations is another valuable resource for faculty seeking guidance and information about specific foundations and corporations that support university research and outreach programs. Deans and faculty with questions regarding a specific company or foundation’s funding interests are encouraged to contact Chris Needles, Assistant Vice President for Development, at [cneedles@uff.ufl.edu](mailto:cneedles@uff.ufl.edu).

## UF Among Top Interior Design, Landscape Architecture Programs

UF's undergraduate program in interior design was ranked 5th in DesignIntelligence's 9th annual America's Best Architecture & Design Schools 2008 survey. The interior design graduate program was ranked 7th, and the undergraduate program in landscape architecture was ranked 13th.

The professional publication's survey ranks accredited undergraduate and graduate 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.

"Both the interior design and landscape architecture

programs provide a consistently superior quality of professional training that justifies such a high ranking by leading practitioners," said Dean Christopher Silver.

In addition, the Department of Interior Design also tied for 1st in presentation skills and tied for 3rd in cross-discipline experience in DI's national Skills Assessment Ranking.

"It is exciting to see how highly valued our interior design graduates are in the profession. Our department is recognized for research-based innovation in areas such as corporate and institutional design, the adaptive use of historic properties as well as in sustainability, lighting and design security," said Margaret Portillo, IND chair.

*Mark your calendar for the ...*

**24th Annual  
American Institute of Architects  
Gainesville Scholarship "Scramble"  
Golf Tournament**

*at Haile Plantation Golf & Country Club*

**Friday, April 18**

*Contact Joe Garcia, golf chairman,  
at 352-372-0425  
for additional information.*

### LAE Student Wins 2007 ASLA Award

Representing the top student honors in the profession, the American Society of Landscape Architects presented the 2007 Student Awards to 25 projects from 22 colleges and universities at the ASLA Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

LAE student Kimberly S. Heiss won an Honor Award in the Research Category for her project, "Visual Preference for Stormwater Pond Edge Treatments." Her faculty advisors on the project were LAE professors Lester L. Linscott and Gary Purdum.

### ARC Student Receives Internship with Innovative Dutch Firm

Architecture student Froukje Akkerman was awarded an internship with the Dutch firm MVRDV, a world leader in innovative architectural design, for the Fall 2008 semester. Principles in the firm include Winy Maas, Jacob van Rijs, and Natalie de Vries, a former guest lecturer at UF. The firm works to conceptualize spaces in new ways.

### Interior Design Student Wins Gensler Brinkman Scholarship, Internship

UF interior design student Anne Baumstarck was chosen as the recipient of the 2007 Gensler Brinkman Scholarship. Her work was selected from over 100 project submissions from 50 top interior design programs across the country invited to participate in the commercial design competition.

Baumstarck, a DCP master's student, received the award for her design of a retail store and café using a footprint from a historic building in downtown Gainesville. Her project emphasized environmental stability and branding and client identity.

During the competition's final round, Baumstarck presented her project at the New York City office of the leading international design firm Gensler to a jury of 12

design principals from across the country. In addition to the \$7,500 scholarship, Baumstarck also received an internship in one of Gensler's 25 offices worldwide. She chose the midtown Manhattan office.

"Anne embodies excellence in critical thinking and innovation," said Margaret Portillo, chair of the department of interior design. "During her program at UF, Anne has assisted with faculty research on retail security and is developing a specialization in retail lighting. These experiences helped fuel her problem solving."

The Gensler Brinkmann Scholarship Fund, established in 1999, also is sponsored by Contract magazine, a design industry publication.

## Upcoming DCP Events

### *Architecture Spring 2008 Lecture Series*

#### **Feb. 25 - 6 p.m. at the Harn Museum**

Max Underwood, master teacher at Arizona State University

#### **Feb. 27 - 3 p.m. at TBA**

Agostino Bossi, Preside del Corso di Laurea  
Facolta di Architettura at the Universita di Napoli

### *Building Construction Career Fair*

#### **Feb. 12 - 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

The M.E. Rinker, Sr. School of Building  
Construction will host its Spring 2008 Career Fair  
in the Stephen C. O'Connell Center.

### *Historic Preservation Spring 2008 Lecture Series*

#### **Feb. 21 - 6:30 p.m. at the Harn Museum**

Jon Fowler, chair of US/ICOMOS and executive  
director of the Advisory Council on Historic  
Preservation

#### **Préstamo: UM Prof. Emeritus, Author, Architect**

Felipe J. Préstamo, Professor Emeritus of the University of Miami's School of Architecture, passed away Dec. 6 after a long illness. Préstamo, 79, authored many works on architecture and urban planning in Cuba, where he was born. He was the country's first director of the Department of Physical Planning and, after leaving Cuba in 1961, he received his Ph.D. in education from UF.

A friend to the UF community, he will be missed.

## Crider to Move to Alaska, Offer Internships

Linda Crider, associate scientist in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, will be leaving the department at the end of this summer for a new life in Cordova, Alaska.

Fortunately, she will stay connected to the college and offer summer internships for three to four students interested in working two months in Alaska on various local projects. Students will stay in the loft of Crider's newly completed "cabin" she has been building over the past four summers. And visiting professors will always be welcome!

Before she leaves, Crider will direct the annual Bike Florida cycling event to be held March 30 to April 4. This year's ride, "Trail link 2008," will combine five state trails: the Pinellas, the Suncoast Parkway, the Withlacoochee State, the Withlacoochee Bay, and the Nature Coast. For more information and to register, visit [www.bikeflorida.org](http://www.bikeflorida.org).

## Bartley: URP Dept. Pioneer, Friend

Ernest R. Bartley, URP Professor Emeritus, passed away January 22.

"Bart was the state's foremost authority on zoning and growth management issues," said Richard H. Schneider, URP professor. "We were fortunate to have him as a constructive colleague, outstanding teacher and loyal friend at the University of Florida for six decades and at the Department of Urban and Regional Planning for more than 30 of those years."

Bartley, 88, helped form the URP department in 1975. In 2007, an annual life-time achievement award was established in his name by the department.

"We will miss him very much and honor his memory," Schneider said.

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