Architecture Program Report

Prepared for the
National Architectural Accrediting Board
Washington, D. C.

By the
School of Architecture
Florida A & M University
Tallahassee, Florida

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2005
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1.0 INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAM

1.1 HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE INSTITUTION

Florida A & M University was founded on October 3, 1887 as the State Normal College for Colored Students. At the time, it was the second post-secondary institution in the state. Four years later, the school was given a share of the funds allocated to states for agricultural and mechanical education, was moved to its present location, and its name was changed to the State Normal and Industrial College for Colored Students. In 1905, management of the school was transferred from the Board of Education to the Board of Control, officially designating the school as an institution of higher education. The name was changed again in 1909 to Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes. The following year, with an enrollment of 317 students, the college awarded its first degrees.

By 1944, Florida A & M had constructed 48 buildings, accumulated 396 acres of land, had 812 students and 122 staff members, and had received accreditation from several state agencies. Five years later, the school had obtained an Army ROTC unit, and student enrollment had grown to more than 2,000. In 1951, the institution's name was changed from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes to Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College. And in 1953, by legislative action, the college was renamed Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU).

The University experienced its most rapid growth during the years 1950-68. The hospital was completed, 23 buildings were erected, staff increased by more than 500, the quarter system was implemented, and it became the first Negro institution to become a member in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Enrollment increased to more than 3,500. In 1971, FAMU was recognized as a full partner in the nine-university Florida State University System.

In the 1980's, the University grew to 12 schools and colleges including a School of Graduate Studies, Research, and Continuing Education. A major building program was undertaken including the new $5.3 million School of Architecture. Since 1986, the University has completed over $100 million in new construction. In 1984 the University was granted the authority to offer its first Doctor of Philosophy degree and awarded its first Ph.D. (in pharmaceutical sciences) in 1989.

Under the administration of the eighth President, Dr. Frederick S. Humphries, student enrollment reached its all-time high, climbing from 5,100 in 1985 to 9,551 in 1992-93 and approximately 12,000 in 1998-99. The University's national ranking in enrolling National Achievement finalists moved from fourth place in 1989 to first place (in 1992, 1995, and
1997) and second place (1993 and 1994), surpassing institutions such as Harvard, Yale and Stanford. During the celebration of its 110th Anniversary, Florida A & M University’s accomplishments were recognized nationally, and it was selected the 1997-98 College of the Year by *Time Magazine-Princeton Review*.

After the resignation of President Humphries in 2002, the FAMU Board of Trustees named Henry Lewis III, Pharm.D., Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, interim president. In May of that year, the Board selected alumnus Fred Gainous, Ed.D. to be the ninth president. During his tenure, Dr. Gainous initiated the implementation of the new University operating system, and he pushed the University to over $100 million in research dollars. Castell Bryant, Ph.D. is currently the University’s Interim President, the first female appointed to this position.

### 1.2 institutional mission

The mission of Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University (FAMU), as an 1890 land-grant institution, is to provide an enlightened and enriched academic, intellectual, moral, cultural, ethical, technological, and student-centered environment, conducive to the development of highly qualified individuals who are prepared and capable of serving as leaders and contributors in our ever-evolving society. The University seeks and supports a faculty and staff of distinction dedicated to providing outstanding academic preparation at the undergraduate, graduate, doctoral, and professional school levels, with a particular emphasis on integrity and ethical conduct. FAMU is committed to inspirational teaching, exemplary research, and meaningful public and community service through creative partnerships at the local, state, national, and global levels. The University is also committed to the resolution of complex issues that will enhance humankind.

While the University continues its historic mission of educating African-Americans, persons of all races, ethnic origins, and nationalities are welcomed and encouraged to remain lifelong members of the university community. The University, through its diverse faculty and staff, provides a caring, nurturing, collegial, and respectful environment.

Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University holds the following values essential to the achievement of the University’s mission: scholarship, excellence, openness, fiscal responsibility, accountability, collaboration, diversity, service, fairness, courage, integrity/ethics, respect, collegiality, and freedom.

### 1.3 Program History

In 1973 the State University System completed *A Study of Florida's Future Need for Architects* which concluded that the state would need more than twice the number of professional architects the two schools then existing in Florida could produce. Since the Board of Regents had no control over the private University of Miami and the program at
the University of Florida was considered too large to expand further, a new school of architecture at one of the other eight universities was proposed.

At the same time, the 1974 version of Florida's Plan for Equalizing Educational Opportunity in Public Higher Education was completed. This document, along with the Federal Equalizing Educational Plan of 1974, called for increasing the number of black students in the eight state universities which were traditionally white schools and for increasing the number of non-black students at the historically black Florida A & M University. The establishment of a professional school that traditionally attracts very few other-than-white males provided a solution to both the desegregation of FAMU and the need to educate more architects to practice in the state. Consequently, the School of Architecture (SOA) at Florida A & M University (FAMU) was opened in September 1975 under the leadership of Dean Richard Chalmers from SUNY Buffalo.

The original plan for the School was to offer a four-plus-two program structure, providing a four-year pre-professional Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies and a two-year professional Master of Architecture. The School was to maximize articulation with the pre-architecture curricula at designated community colleges. The development of the graduate program emphases was done with an effort not to duplicate options offered at the University of Florida. The options chosen were to reflect the emerging needs of the architecture profession and to provide an atmosphere of innovation in the new school.

In 1983 the Board of Regents (BOR) approved the School's request to offer a non-professional Master of Science degree which allows concentration and special study for students who already have a professional degree or for those who do not seek one. At the same time, approval was given to offer the five-year professional Bachelor of Architecture and the Master of Architecture option for students with prior degrees in other fields. These three programs—all suggested by accreditation teams—allow the School to serve the needs of a broad range of students, to utilize its resources more effectively, and to promote both the professional and research interests of the graduate faculty.

In 1981, the Institute for Building Sciences was approved by the BOR, and a faculty member was appointed part-time to direct this umbrella organization for conducting sponsored research and community service projects. As more faculty became involved with sponsored projects, the need for a full-time director grew. In 1985, a search was conducted, and Professor Thomas Martineau was hired as the first full-time IBS Director. Under his leadership, the Institute earned its first $1 million in research funded by federal, state, local, and private sources. In 1991, Professor Thomas Pugh, a faculty member and researcher, was appointed as Interim Director; in 1994, he was appointed as Director. Under his leadership, the Institute has continued to grow and excel and has now topped $4 million in funded projects.

In 1985 founding Dean Richard Chalmers resigned, and Professor Enn Ots was appointed as Acting Dean. He served in that position until 1988.
In 1986 the eight-semester FAMU/USF (University of South Florida) Master of Architecture Cooperative Program was opened to students who had undergraduate degrees in other fields. (This program received its own accreditation in 1992 and shortly thereafter became independent from the FAMU School of Architecture.) During the same year, the FAMU B.Arch. program received its first accreditation.

Professor Roy F. Knight was appointed Dean in 1988 as the School looked toward the '90s and its 15th birthday. Both professional programs were re-accredited in 1990 and again in 1995 with full five-year terms of accreditation. Professor Knight served as Dean until 1996 when he resigned, and Professor Rodner B. Wright was appointed as Dean.

In 1992 the School applied for and received federal funding through Title III grants to enhance its previously unfunded student retention endeavors. Professor Andrew Chin was hired as the Student Retention Coordinator, and new activities were initiated. In 1997 the second five-year cycle of Title III funding was renewed.

In 1997 Professor Enn Ots was asked to serve as Interim Associate Dean. That fall, students were admitted to the new Master of Landscape Architecture (M.L.A.) program, and an Interim Director, Professor Glenn Smith, was appointed.

The two professional programs received full re-accreditation in 2000. The turn of the century also brought other “firsts” for the School: the first M.L.A. degrees were awarded, a summer program for high school students (CoFA: Connecting to Florida Architecture) was initiated, and the first School newsletter (SOA News) was published.

The following year (2001) saw not only the School’s first faculty retirement (Dr. Thor Mann) but also the State’s abolishment of the Board of Regents. The Board had been the governing unit of the State University System, and it was replaced by a Board of Trustees appointed for each university by the governor. Dr. Fred Humphries resigned as the eighth University President after serving in that position for 16 years. Dr. Henry Lewis, Dean of the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, served as Interim President until Dr. Fred Gainous was appointed in 2002.

That same year (2002), the Dean appointed the first Alumni Coordinator (Ms. Judye McCalman), and she coordinated the first organized alumni activity—an exhibition of alumni work that celebrated 25 years of graduates. After five years of service, Professor Enn Ots resigned as Interim Associate Dean. An evening and weekend study opportunity was initiated for architecture interns with pre-professional degrees to help them complete their B.Arch. degrees. Rehabilitation of the building and the addition of new space was completed in April 2002.

The year 2003 brought the appointment of Dr. Arleen Pabón as Interim Associate Dean and Associate Professor Andrew Chin as Director of Professional Architecture Programs. The first Alumni Reunion was held during Homecoming Week, and the School participated in
its first Tallahassee CANstruction event. A major redesign of a fully featured website was deployed, including an electronic, password-protected “office” for internal use.

In 2004 Dr. Pabón was named Associate Dean, and Prof. Chin was promoted to the new position of Assistant Dean for Architecture Programs. Dr. Castell Bryant was appointed as Interim President to replace Fred Gainous. Professor Emeritus Ronald Shaeffer retired after 26 years teaching in the structures area, and Associate Professor George Dombek also left the University after 23 years of teaching design and rendering techniques.

In early 2005, the Master of Landscape Architecture Program assembled and met with its first Advisory Council, and the initial accreditation visit was held. In August, the Program was advised of its full six-year accreditation. Professor Keith Grey retired at the end of the academic year.

*Figure 1* gives a brief sketch of the program’s history.

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**Figure 1**

**Program History**

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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<td>1975</td>
<td>Program start: B.S. and M.Arch.; Richard K. Chalmers appointed Dean</td>
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<tr>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Graduate option: Experimental Low-Cost Construction State of Florida Board of Regents Program Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>Center of Excellence designation by the Board of Regents NAAB Advisory Visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Quality Improvement Program designation by the Board of Regents Graduate Option: Architectural Programming and Design</td>
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<td>1980</td>
<td>Graduate option: Architects in Government and Industry Opening of the Washington, D. C. Study Center NAAB accreditation of the M.Arch. program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Institute for Building Sciences (IBS) approved by Board of Regents</td>
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<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>NAAB re-accreditation of the M.Arch. (2 years) State of Florida Board of Regents Program Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Program start: B.Arch. and M.S.Arch. Florence Program involvement</td>
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<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Move into new facility NAAB re-accreditation of the M.Arch. (5 years)</td>
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First full-time Director of IBS hired—Professor Thomas Martineau
Resignation of Dean Richard Chalmers; appointment of Professor Enn Ots as Interim Dean

1986  Program start: FAMU/USF M.Arch. Cooperative Program
      NAAB accreditation of the B.Arch. program (4 years)

1987  Move of Washington, D.C. Study Center to Alexandria consortium of schools

1988  Professor Roy F. Knight appointed Dean
      State of Florida Board of Regents Program Review
      SACS re-affirmation of FAMU (10 years)

1989  Institute for Building Science (IBS) tops $1 million in sponsored research support

1990  NAAB re-accreditation of B.Arch. and M.Arch. (5 years)
      Student retention program formalized

1991  Professor Thomas Pugh appointed Interim Director of IBS

1992  Title III funding for student retention program received
      NAAB accreditation of FAMU/USF M.Arch. Cooperative Program

1993  State of Florida Board of Regents Program Review
      First SOA website launched

1994  Professor Thomas Pugh appointed Director of IBS
      IBS tops $2 million in sponsored research support

1995  NAAB re-accreditation of B.Arch. and M.Arch. (5 years)

1996  Resignation of Dean Roy Knight
      Professor Rodner B. Wright appointed Dean
      IBS tops $3 million in sponsored research support

1997  Master of Landscape Architecture (M.L.A.) program begins
      Title III five-year funding cycle for student retention program renewed
      Professor Enn Ots appointed Interim Associate Dean

1998  SACS reaffirmation of FAMU (10 years)
      IBS tops $4 million in sponsored research support
      Articulation agreements with community colleges

1999  Construction begins on renovation and expansion of SOA facility
2000  B.Arch. and M.Arch. programs receive re-accreditation  
First School newsletter, *SOA News*, published  
First M.L.A. degrees awarded  
Summer program for high school students begins—CoFA: Connecting to Florida Architecture

2001  First faculty retirement—Dr. Thor Mann  
Dr. Henry Lewis named Interim President  
The Board of Regents abolished and replaced by a Board of Trustees

2002  Dr. Fred Gainous named FAMU President  
Substantial completion of building renovation and expansion  
First alumni coordinator appointed—Judye McCalman  
First organized alumni activity—Alumni Exhibition of work  
Evening and weekend course schedule offered for architecture interns  
Five-year funding cycle for Title III funding renewed

2003  Dr. Arleen Pabón appointed Interim Associate Dean  
Prof. Andrew Chin appointed Director of Professional Architecture Programs  
Major redesign and deployment of fully featured website  
School's first participation in CANstruction  
First alumni reunion held

2004  Dr. Castell Bryant appointed Interim President  
Dr. Arleen Pabón appointed Associate Dean  
Professor Andrew Chin appointed Assistant Dean for Architecture Programs  
First SOA alumni organization established—the *FAMU SOA Alumni Network*  
Full implementation of 3½-year M.Arch. program  
Professor Ronald Shaeffer retired.

2005  First meeting of M.L.A. Advisory Council  
M.L.A. program receives initial six-year accreditation  
Professor Keith Grey retired.

1.4 Program Mission

The School recently revised its mission statement to be more closely aligned with that of the University and social and cultural transformations. The following statement was adopted by the faculty on March 15, 2005:

The mission of the School of Architecture (SOA) is to provide an enlightened and enriched academic, intellectual, moral, cultural, ethical, technologically advanced, and student-centered environment conducive to the development of highly qualified individuals who are prepared and capable of serving as leaders and contributors.
within the fields of Architecture and Landscape Architecture in an ever-evolving society. The School aspires to seek and support a faculty and staff of distinction dedicated to providing outstanding academic education at the undergraduate, graduate, and professional school levels, with a particular emphasis on integrity, creativity, and ethical conduct. The SOA is committed to motivational teaching, imaginative research, and meaningful community service. The SOA is also committed to cultural diversity by means of its course offerings, special programs, and recruitment efforts.

1.5 PROGRAM SELF-ASSESSMENT

1.5.1 Program Strengths

Diverse Population: The Florida A & M University is the only Historically Black College and University (HBCU) with an accredited architectural program in the state of Florida. It also has the only accredited B.Arch. program in North and Central Florida, and is one of only three HBCUs in North America with an accredited M.Arch. program. In addition to the African-American students attracted to the program from across the United States, non-African-American students enroll in the program in significant numbers. As a result, the FAMU SOA has a racially and culturally diverse student population, whether measured by socio-economic status, ethnicity, gender, or age criteria.

Generate Minority Faculty: The FAMU SOA is in a unique position to contribute to other NAAB programs by developing future minority faculty, and/or minority Ph.D. students. As stated earlier, the FAMU SOA is one of only three HBCUs with an accredited M.Arch. program.

Faculty Enrichment: The FAMU SOA faculty regularly participate in personal research, service, and scholarly activities. Many have recently benefited from leave and sabbatical opportunities. Most have had the opportunity to incorporate their personal interests in elective courses.

Growth: The FAMU SOA has enjoyed a modest but steady growth for the last four years. Since the number of students needing higher education in the state of Florida will continue to grow, the School can expect that growth to continue.

Resources/Enrichment: The FAMU SOA benefits from renovated physical facilities and the presence of a second discipline—landscape architecture—in its program. The M.L.A. program has just completed its first accreditation visit and its initial accreditation.

Geographic Location: The FAMU SOA exists within a growth market. "The Forgotten Coast," a now rapidly developing portion of the coastline of the Gulf of
Mexico, is only 30 miles away. Additionally, the Florida State University (FSU) and Tallahassee Community College (TCC) are within a three mile radius of the campus and adjacent to the central business district of the city of Tallahassee and the state Capitol.

**Alumni:** With the establishment of an official alumni organization, the FAMU SOA alumni have increased their involvement in the School’s activities. Since the last NAAB visit, significant alumni activities have included an exhibition of alumni work, the first alumni reunion, alumni participation in the lecture series, service on final juries, the creation of an organization (the SOA Alumni Network), and their sponsorship of an alumni and School-wide design competition for a logo for the Network.

1.5.2 Program Challenges

**Diverse Population:** The diverse students arrive at the School with diverse expectations, levels of college preparation and financial conditions. In 2003-04, the median family income of parents of students receiving financial aid at FAMU was $30,347 per year. By comparison, the median Florida and U.S. family incomes for that period were $45,625 and $50,046 respectively. As a result, a disproportionate number of our students work long hours outside the School, go to school year-round, and are not easily able to pay for or participate in field trips.

**Generate Minority Faculty:** Traditionally, minority students do not pursue Ph.D. coursework or a professional future in academia.

**Faculty Enrichment:** As new administrators within the University’s central administration attempt to bring cost containment across the University, there is a sense of uncertainty at the program level. This has hampered the execution of research and service activities and reduced the Program’s funding for faculty travel and visiting lecture programs.

**Growth:** Recent hiring freezes have restricted the SOA from filling vacant faculty positions created by the retirements of several long-time faculty members.

**Resources:** Limitations and reductions in state funding have resulted in a flat expense budgets and annual spending freezes. These conditions have made it difficult to remain current with the ever-changing digital equipment demands and software upgrades.

**Geographic Location:** The University is isolated from the larger professional centers such as Orlando, Tampa, Ft. Lauderdale, Miami, and Jacksonville, FL. This has limited our student access to the profession.
1.5.3 Plan to Address Challenges

**Diverse Population:** The School will continue to provide a nurturing environment and meet the unique needs of these traditionally at-risk students in various ways. First, the School will continue to maintain a relatively low student-to-teacher ratio. Second, the senior and professional program classes are typically provided in a Monday-Wednesday-Friday block scheduling pattern so that students can work on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Third, the School will maintain multiple entry points into the program so that students in non-traditional circumstances can find an efficient means of pursuing an architecture degree.

**Generate Minority Faculty:** The School will continue to expose graduate students to academia through Graduate Research Assistantship (GRA) and Teaching Assistantship (GTA) appointments. Additional opportunities will be provided through postgraduate teaching positions and continued support for graduate-student participation at academic conferences. The School will invite those recent alumni who have been awarded teaching positions at other institutions to visit the School.

**Faculty Enrichment:** The SOA will continue to support faculty applications for sabbatical and leave. We expect that the growth in the graduate program will provide opportunities for more elective courses. Also, this will provide additional opportunities for faculty to work in their area of interest with thesis students.

**Growth:** We expect to advertise four vacant faculty positions during the 2005-2006 academic year, three in the architecture program and one in the landscape architecture program. The School will employ recent M.Arch. graduates in the beginning design and computers classes. It will provide these alumni with an introduction to academia and increase the presence of minority teachers in the program. As a limited-access program, the number of students admitted to the professional program is capped at the capacity of the School to deliver a high quality program. As a result, admission standards are steadily increasing, along with the increase in demand.

**Resources:** We have begun the process to establish a Board of Visitors made up of state and regional professionals and alumni who can advise the program on matters of fund-raising and academic direction.

**Geographic Location:** In addition to the ongoing Jacksonville graduate studio, we are looking to provide a more meaningful professional experience for our traditional fifth-year students by developing the fifth-year of the Bachelor of Architecture program at a remote site, such as in Orlando, FL where the FAMU Law School is located. The program would be modeled after our current program for non-traditional students who remain employed in architecture offices and take two years to complete the fifth year.