SCHOOL RECEIVES FULL RE-ACCREDITATION

The National Architectural Accrediting Board’s Visiting Team spent several days at the School in early November and submitted its report to the Board. The Board has now awarded the School a full five-year term of re-accreditation. The team praised the School on many points, especially:

• A “very talented and diverse faculty dedicated to providing a learning environment that establishes a solid foundation for architecture as a discipline and profession.”

• Leadership that has “established a climate of collaboration with the faculty and students to maintain the school’s current strengths and manage the critical growth process…”

• A diverse student body that “provides a dynamic and rich social context to explore the cultural, political, economic, and spiritual influences on the architecture discipline and profession.”

• Curricula and instructional approaches that establish “a balance of informed poetry and technology grounded in a framework of instruction based on context, precedent, program, method, and physical outcome.”

• A support staff dedicated to “the students, faculty, and to each other, creating a daily work environment supporting strong human values and ethics.”

The report also noted progress made since the last accreditation visit as well as some concerns and suggestions. Overall, the team was very impressed with what they saw and heard and conveyed this to the faculty, staff, and student body in an exit meeting the last day of the visit. A copy of the full report is available in the School library.

BOXES, BOXES EVERYWHERE

Students returning to classes in January found themselves a little lost and confused. Nothing was as it had been when they left for the holidays. Over the semester break, part of the faculty and staff moved from their old offices to the second and third floors of the Wing B extension. Others moved to the ground floor of D-Wing. IBS was relocated to the second floor of the now completed Wing C.

These placements are only temporary, however. When the renovation of the Wing B is complete, faculty members, who are now sharing offices will move into their individual and...
FROM THE DEAN

“IT was the best of times and the worst of times!” “Take the good with the bad, the bitter with the sweet!” These sayings reflect the many highs and lows that the members of the School of Architecture family have experienced since our last newsletter.

While we have much to celebrate with the re-accreditation of our professional programs, the continuing progress on the renovation and expansion of our facility, and a variety of student and alumni activities, we are simultaneously saddened by the death of two friends—Helen Allen and Will Sturgis—and the loss of loved ones by three of our faculty. We are also attempting to adjust to life in the School without Dr. Thor Mann who has retired after 24 years at SOA. To best report these and other activities to our alumni and friends, we are very happy to provide an expanded issue of the SOA News. This third issue has been increased from eight to 16 pages.

You will see that our students, faculty, and staff have been quite productive while working in somewhat ordered chaos. In addition to their regular studies, students have taken field trips, created a unique “float” for the Homecoming parade, worked with young children to develop an educational village, attended the NOMA conference, and won a design prize. You’ll also read about an interesting project that the students at the Washington/Alexandria Study Center have completed.

The faculty and staff have been busy also, with Ron Shaeffer’s traveling to China and back, Tim White’s heading to Spain, and everyone involved in a variety of professional, research, training, and creative activities.

We also have more information to pass along on alumni activities. We are especially pleased to announce the publication of Kent Larson’s book. Other alumni accomplishments are described as well. We hope you will continue to correspond with us so that we can keep abreast of your lives and activities. Please also review the list of alumni for whom we have no contact information. We need your help in trying to locate these “lost” souls!

A good way to do this is through our frequently changing Web site <http://www.famusoa.net>. Using the “People” page, you can access any of us via email, and you will also find an alumni contact form there—an easy-to-use vehicle for keeping your address current for our database. We encourage you to let us know what kind of information and services you’d like to see on the site, and we’ll certainly try to provide them. Remember that this site is for you; you simply need to let us know how it can best serve you.

Please take advantage of the opportunity to visit the School while the facility is still under construction. It’s always interesting and educational to see the process of the “before” becoming the “after.” We would love to have you any time.

Rodner B. Wright, AIA
Dean
Shaeffer Represents U.S. in China

From November 14 to December 1, Prof. Ron Shaeffer joined a group of 40 engineers from the U.S. and Canada to visit the People’s Republic of China as part of the People-to-People Ambassador program started by President Eisenhower. The purpose is to facilitate the exchange of professional expertise and culture. This trip focused on the Three Gorges Dam and its displacement of approximately 1.1 million people. (A total of 400,000 graves will have to be moved as well.)

The group visited Hong Kong, Wuhan, the dam site, Chongqing, and Beijing. Moving about the country by air, boat, and bus, the engineers interacted with a group of their Chinese counterparts in technical sessions at each location and sampled some Chinese culture in the evenings. After the professional program, some went on to Xi’an to see the 8,000 (and still counting) terra cotta warriors built by the emperor Qin to accompany him into the afterlife. “Absolutely amazing,” Shaeffer remarked.

The Three Gorges Dam is truly an astonishing feat of engineering, being 1.6 kilometers long and 175 meters tall. It is being constructed by three shifts of 7,000 men (no women) each, working around the clock. When completed, the dam will provide flood control (flooding is currently a very serious problem), make the Yangtse River navigable from Shangai to Chongqing (some 2,300 km), and provide electricity to millions of families. The cost involves 50 billion yuan for the dam itself, 40 billion for the relocation of people, and one billion for the preservation of architectural monuments (eight yuan equal about one U.S. dollar). The people, mostly urban-dwelling farmers, are being moved to new towns. The group visited one town being built for 200,000; the infrastructure was fully in place with only 6,000 people having been transferred. People are paid to move, and there is an extensive retraining program (with varying degrees of success).

The level of the river will be increased by 75 to 135 meters, flooding some of the natural and much-treasured canyon walls and peaks, but much of the scenery will be unspoiled as most of the cliffs are 300 to 350 meters in elevation. “The rumor that the beautiful canyon will be totally submerged is exactly that!” Shaeffer noted.

The country is enormous: 1.1 billion people—18 million in Shangai, 15 million in Chongqing, and 11 million in Beijing—with several million uncounted transients in each city. There are significant and successful ventures at population control, e.g., from 1975 to 2000, families were allowed to have only one child. (Since males are preferred, many female babies are being adopted by other nations.) China as a whole is socialist. Everybody makes about the same salary, but there are vast differences in the fringe benefits.

(Below) Model of Three Gorges Dam.
ALL PHOTOS BY RON SHAEFFER

Please see CHINA, p. 4
“One of our guides, for example, got free housing. Some investors are very wealthy; you may own as many buildings as you can manage, but the government owns all the land,” Shaeffer explained.

“While most of the people still struggle at agricultural tasks (China has 22% of the world’s people and 7% of its cultivatable land), this is no third-world country! Every city we visited was full of construction cranes and bustling, hustling entrepreneurs. Every cultural site was surrounded by souvenir stands. One has the impression of a capitalistic economy that is healthy and growing. The main source of government income is not the graduated income tax but rather the significant export tax!

“The major cities have incredible pollution problems that will get worse as the number of cars increases. One has the feeling, however, that when China attacks a problem, it gets solved,” Shaeffer said. “Most of the government officials were trained as architects and engineers, and there is a definite ‘get things done’ philosophy permeating both local and national governments. There are down sides to this, of course. While we were there, a small bank was robbed. Within 24 hours, three men were caught; six hours later, they were executed.

“All in all, we visited a very exciting and different country. Everybody in China owns a TV; few own cars or washing machines. There are 50 million people with incomes below the poverty level, but in percentage terms, that is about the same as in the U.S. The streets are hand-swept daily.

“Hong Kong is the cleanest, most modern city I have ever visited,” noted Shaeffer. “The children are impeccably and colorfully dressed. Teachers are highly respected; one guide told me that the Chinese people refer to teachers as ‘architects of the soul.’ The economy is booming, and this admittedly nonexpert predicts that China will pass the U.S. as the world’s economic leader within 25 years,” Shaeffer forecasted.

Visiting Masters Program

Mr. Alan Wilson was this year’s participant in the Master of Architecture’s Visiting Masters program. Mr. Wilson is a design principal of the Haskell Company, one of the largest design/build companies in the U.S. He spent three days with the graduate students (shown above) and challenged them with a real-world design opportunity.

This challenge focused on a multifunctional project that engaged not only the traditional academic concerns of the studio but also the issues of conflicting client mandates, political and social imperatives, and extremely difficult site conditions. The exercise illustrated the need for architects to be creative but demonstrated that, in practice, issues to be addressed are often complex; seemingly at odds with each other; and, while aesthetic considerations are critical, they are not the only concerns to be addressed in a creative manner.

Mr. Wilson also presented a lecture on the “Things You Will Gain from the Practice Experience.” The three-day event exemplified the kind of academic/professional relationship that enriches the educational experience in the graduate program.
**IBS Projects**

Since our last newsletter mailing, several articles have been posted to the Institute for Building Sciences (IBS) Web site (http://famusoa.net/ibs/proj/orl) as part of the “Rebuild America Information Dissemination Project” being conducted by Valerie Goodwin with assistance from Tom Martineau, Tom Pugh, and several students.

Andrew Chin has added information to the site regarding his summer program for high school students, CoFA. CoFA (Connecting to Florida Architecture) has been a very successful project for several years now, serving to introduce and engage talented high school students in the study of architecture. A number of CoFA students have entered SOA as freshmen, and all who have participated have been rewarded with an excellent educational experience.

IBS has some new projects in the embryonic stage—stay tuned and keep checking the site for news and updates. Also, please consider a collaborative venture between the Institute and your city, county, or firm. With several million dollars of work completed and the diverse experience and expertise of our faculty, the Institute is an under-used resource. Perhaps your next project proposal would be strengthened and more competitive if it included FAMU IBS as a partner or consultant. The Institute’s director, Tom Pugh, is always eager to explore the possibilities, so drop him an email or give him a call (thomas.pugh@famu.soa or 850.599.3007).

**“Sketching the City”**

Tim White has been selected to teach in the State University System’s Study Abroad Program in Valencia, Spain during the summer 2001. In his six-week course, “Sketching the City,” students will experience and look closely at Valencia and other cities in Spain by sketching elements and aspects of the urban environment. The intent of the class is to immerse the students more intimately in the wonderful urban life and cityscapes of Spain and to deepen understanding, experiences, and memories.

Ways of seeing and appreciating places, choosing drawing subjects, and sketching techniques will be taught and applied at a range of scales. Simple media such as pencil, pen, and sketchbook will be used. Class methods and exercises will accommodate drawing beginners as well as experts in a positive, supportive learning environment. Classes will be held primarily on site, out in the city.

Class trips will also involve sketching opportunities in other towns.

There are two course offerings: May 11–June 22 and June 22 – August 3, 2001. For details about how the course will be arranged, please call Tim at 850.599.3257. For details and other course offerings in Valencia, call Jill Stevens at 850.644.3272 or see <www.international.fsu.edu>.

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**Project Web page at** [http://famusoa.net/ibs/proj/orl](http://famusoa.net/ibs/proj/orl).

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**Tulane Gate by Tim White**

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**SOA NEWS**

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**WINTER 2001**
Washington/Alexandria Architecture Center

FAMU students at WAAC as well as students from other schools studying there have participated in an exciting visionary study. Taught by Visiting Assoc. Prof. Glenn Smith representing FAMU SOA this year, 21 students enrolled in the urban design seminar, Symbolic Landscapes, exploring “the spatial form and meaning of urban spaces” with an emphasis on the Anacostia River in D.C.

Though the Potomac River usually comes to mind when one thinks of Washington, the Anacostia has a long history as a tributary to the Potomac that has suffered years of environmental and development neglect. To respond to these problems, the City and President Clinton developed the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative which focuses on the environment and ecology of the river.

Early in the term, the students took a riverboat trip up the river and visited the city’s Office of Planning where they received an explanation of the joint Memo of Understanding (MOU) that outlines a central set of development guidelines, a firsthand view of aerial photography, a detailed analysis of the Waterfront Initiative process, and helpful maps and reports.

As part of the learning process, students conducted critical analyses of cinemas about urban environments and completed theoretical readings and case studies of other U.S. city waterfronts. Each of four teams (made up of half architecture and half landscape architecture students) provided a waterfront theme around which they built a specific definition, selected a site along the river, and developed a visionary project.

The project addressed the question: How is the interplay of water and human activity crafted into a choreographed unity and how can the waterfront become a performance between the viewed and the viewer? A project poster (shown above) by one of the teams uses an image reflecting the “Theatrical Waterfront” theme.

The seminar students are producing a booklet of work completed by all four teams. Copies will be available for viewing at FAMU in late March.

In Memoriam

Helen Ruth Allen
1936 – 2000

Will Sturgis
1965 – 2000

SOA faculty, staff, and students mourn the passing of Helen Ruth Allen on October 17, 2000. Born on November 16, 1936 and married to Robert Allen, Jr in 1955, Mrs. Allen is survived by her mother, eight children, 15 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Allen took care of all of us in many ways. She not only conscientiously performed her duties as a building custodian but, more importantly, she modeled for each person she encountered the virtues of a smiling face and a positive spirit. Always upbeat and friendly, “Miss Helen’s” ubiquitous and contagious laugh made it almost impossible to feel bad in her presence. She is sorely missed.

Will Sturgis, Project Architect for the renovation and expansion of the SOA building, died Sunday, Nov. 26, 2000. He was 35. He had bought and renovated a home on the Ochlockonee River, and it was in that river he so loved that he died. He is survived by his parents, a brother, a sister, and his paternal grandmother.

A partner in Barnett Fronzcak Architects, Mr. Sturgis had made Tallahassee his home since 1972. He held architecture degrees from Auburn University and the University of Oregon. He was also a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. He was the President-elect of the North Florida Chapter of the AIA. Will and his very significant contributions to both the community and to SOA will be missed.
Conferences: Jeff Caster presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) in Guelph, Ontario entitled, “Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation: It’s Hot in Florida.” Andrew Chin served as a moderator for the design session at the ACSA Southeast Regional Conference in October hosted by UNC at Charlotte. Walter Grondzik was an invited speaker at a symposium on Architecture and the Environment held in Yokohama, Japan in September. His paper was entitled, “How Comfortable is Green?” Grondzik is the papers review Chair for the 2001 Spring Research Conference of the Architectural Research Centers Consortium and is Chair of the Passive Conference Technical Committee for the Forum 2001 conference of the American Solar Energy Society. The Passive Technical Committee deals with buildings and sustainability issues and related topics. Tom Martineau served as a facilitator for the American Assembly on the Future of Florida in Tampa last September. This invitation-only conference focused on growth and development issues, and participants were selected from leaders in all public and private industries of Florida. Arleen Pabón was invited to present a paper at the Recent Past II Symposium in Philadelphia entitled “The First Developers in Puerto Rico: A Reassessment of Four Urbanizaciones at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.” Coauthors of the paper are Dr. Joe Joseph and Mary Beth Reed.

Consultancies: Lalo Robles is currently working on two residential design projects: a house for an artist in Tallahassee, FL and “Little Cypress Creek House” in Houston. Tim White conducted a workshop this fall in Charleston, S.C. for the U.S. Navy regarding their programming practices. He is also continuing his consulting work with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice on post-occupancy evaluation guidelines and design guidelines for facilities. Over the summer, White conducted six drawing workshops around the state for architects and interior designers.

Creative Work: Valerie Goodwin’s original quilt, “Jungle Boogie,” was accepted into two national juried shows last fall: the Pennsylvania International Quilt Exhibit (PIQE) and the International Quilt Association’s (IQA) Exhibit in Houston. Two other original quilts—“Tactile Techtonics” and “Gestation”—were selected for exhibition in the Florida Craftsmen Exhibition, a state-wide juried competition. “Gestation” received an Honorable Mention award. The quilts will be in the traveling exhibit through June 10, 2001.

Service: Walter Grondzik was appointed to the Advisory Board of a FIPSE-funded project entitled “Agents of Change” (FIPSE = Fund for the Improvement of Post-Secondary Ed.). The project seeks to continue development of the Vital Signs approach to the development of case studies dealing with building comfort and performance. Craig Huffman was presented a banner of appreciation for his four-year term of service as a commissioner on the Leon County Planning Commission. His term ended January 1. Huffman also recently addressed the Tallahassee Westside Business Assoc., explaining the ramifications of an ordinance passed by the city’s Redevelopment Focus Group. Huffman was appointed to that group by the Mayor. Arleen Pabón was appointed by the Governor of Puerto Rico to represent the public interest on the Architects and Landscape Architects Examining Board. She was nominated by Puerto Rico’s Architects Association. In his role as President of the Jefferson Co. Historical Association, Lalo Robles recently worked on the Tour of Homes in Monticello, Florida. Tim White was invited to present a guest lecture in a course on historic preservation taught by Jan Matthews, Director of Historic Preservation for the State of Florida, and sponsored by FSU. The talk was on “Urban Taxonomies: Criteria for Good Public Spaces.”

Tenure: Our congratulations to Lalo Robles who was granted tenure by the State University System of Florida. Robles came to the School in 1994 from Rice University in Houston.

In preparation for the installation of SOA’s new computer network infrastructure, our computer guru Pat (Huimin) Ding attended an intensive 40-hour course on “Implementing Microsoft Windows 2000 Advanced Server and Professional.” In addition to the course’s coverage of a long list of highly technical topics, Pat also gleaned valuable information not covered in the course from discussions with other very talented and experienced network administrators taking the class.

Piccola Randolph, SDA/C RUF, attended the SDA Canada Eastern Regional Conference in Toronto where she made a presentation to the Education Committee on the Design Services Administration degree program. Centennial College of Toronto is interested in initiating a program, and Purdue University is scheduled to begin its program in Construction Management in the fall 2001. Central Piedmont opened its program January 1. For more information on SDA’s academic curriculum, go to <www.dfmef.org> and click on the Power Point presentation.

SOA support staff traveled to Orlando in November for a professional development field trip. They visited the firm of Burke, Bales & Mills Associates where Deborah Rusnock, President-elect of the Society of Design Administrators (SDA), made a presentation. Topics included office procedures in a design firm, office layout, the firm’s design specialty, and the development of a design project. She also discussed current activities and programs of SDA. While in Orlando, the staff toured Disney’s Celebration City and other sites of interest.
THE MANY FACES OF THOR MANN

“Have you ever noticed that when two or more alumni get together and talk about old times, the conversation inevitably leads to a discussion of Professor Thor Mann?”

…asked Ruffin Rhodes [B.S.’82, M.Arch.’89]. “With all due respect to the other professors, the discussion of Thor is, well, different. It is usually accompanied by a shaking of the head and a nervous laugh. It’s sprinkled with statements like, ‘I can’t believe I passed that class!’ or ‘Thank God for that grading curve!’

“The Thor experience is a shared rite of passage, a challenge, and a struggle that bonds every successful graduate from this school. Like old war veterans reliving battlefield stories, we each have a Thor story. Each story is entangled with ‘zwicky boxes,’ ‘morphological trees,’ Horst Riddle, and building economics,” notes Ruffin.

As another alumnus put it, “When I was taking Thor’s classes, I swore at him; now that I’m out in practice, I swear by him.”

Unfortunately, new students at the School of Architecture will not have an opportunity to experience the many faces and facets of Dr. Thorbjorn Mann. He became SOA’s first faculty retiree on January 1, 24 years after coming to SOA from the University of Singapore.

Thor’s undergraduate education was in his native Germany—a Diploma of Engineering in Architecture from Technische Universitaet Muenchen. He went on to pursue both a Master of Architecture and a Doctor of Philosophy in Architecture from the University of California at Berkeley where his major area of study was design methodology.

He is fluent in four languages: French, English, German, and Norwegian. His professional practice includes work in Germany, Bangladesh, France, and the U.S., including the offices of Stanley Tigerman and Robertson Ward, Jr., both in Chicago.

When asked what he found most satisfying about his tenure at SOA, Thor responded, “I love teaching. "When I was taking Thor’s classes, I swore at him; now that I’m out in practice, I swear by him.”

I get some of my best ideas when I’m teaching. I like the give and take with a student’s mind. They see what they actually believe—things they didn’t realize they believe. That give and take was always fascinating to me.”

“‘There’s a lot of Kris Kringle in Thor—a selfless character with twinkling eyes and spectacles on his nose, flashing a big smile,’” describes Ron Shaeffer. “One can almost see him bounding up the chimney. But in addition to being a pleasurable, intellectually challenging, and wonderful companion with great stories, he is also a conscientious person of incredible dedication. When Thor participates in something, you know it will get done,” Shaeffer added.

“To really know Thor, one needs to spend time with him at his spiritual center—a 300-year-old Austrian chalet on a mountainside that’s been in his family for 40 years. It’s all about hiking, the woods, good food, good wine, and hard work,” said his original SOA officemate and Best Man, Assoc. Dean Enn Ots. Thor works on the house each summer when he returns from his native Germany.”

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to Austria. “Thor is a mixture of someone who is rooted in science, but only as an intellectual concept. Thor lives his life as an artist,” added Enn.

Many people may not know that Thor is the person responsible for the development of the FAMU/USF M.Arch. Cooperative Program begun in 1986. He was appointed Acting Associate Dean by former Dean Richard Chalmers to create that program. It became so successful that the program was fully accredited in 1992 and is now independent from FAMU.

“There’s a lot of Kris Kringle in Thor—a selfless character with twinkling eyes and spectacles on his nose, flashing a big smile.”

Thor is also an accomplished author. In addition to numerous articles published internationally, Thor wrote *Building Economics for Architects*, a textbook on the fundamentals of building economics, real estate development, and design issues.

“It has been a pillar of support and continuity in the tenuring process of this institution,” said Roy Knight. “He works at upholding standards and promoting good scholarship. We’ve been very fortunate to have such a scholar as an architect—one with such sensitivity and sense of art and culture.”

In addition to service on practically every committee in the School, Thor has served many years on the University Faculty Senate, including playing important roles on key committees. He also serves the community in a variety of ways including being instrumental in the development of the facility program for the Odyssey Science Center in Tallahassee. His most recent national-level service was as Conference Chair and Organizer of the 30th Annual Conference of the Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA).

In response to a question about his future plans, Thor said he has no fixed plans. He wants to do “some writing on topics I never got to teach. I also want to take the time to draw and paint … and I’ll just explore what I might do next.”

“I think every school should have a Thor Mann. There should always be that one professor who gives you hell, makes you weep and gnash your teeth, but, in the end, you grow to appreciate and have a great deal of respect for. I will miss Thor when I visit FAMU and wish him sincere blessings in his retirement,” said Ruffin.

We wholeheartedly agree. We will always remember and treasure the many faces and facets of Thor Mann—the dedicated teacher, the focused scholar, the conscientious professional, the loyal friend, the amusing raconteur, the talented artist, the cultured gentleman, the mischievous prankster, the Kris Kringle of SOA.

“We’ve been very fortunate to have such a scholar as an architect—one with such sensitivity and sense of art and culture.”

Thank you, Thor, for being who you are. May you enjoy every moment of your new life of freedom. We miss you already!
Peyman Ata-Abadi [B.S.’97, M.Arch. ‘00] has moved to Jacksonville where he is working in the alumni firm of Cronk Duch Miller Architects/Contractors as an Intern Architect.

August 2000 was a big month for Jeffrey Bush [B.S.’95, M.Arch. ’98]. He both got married (August 25 to Lasharn Stewart) and became a licensed architect in Florida. Congratulations, Jeff!

Philip Chisholm [B.S.’90, B.Arch. ’97] has moved from New York where he worked as a Project Manager for HOK Architects to Houston where he is in the highly specialized position of Medical Planner with PageSouthernland Page Architects. He is married to the former Lariann Jenkins. Their first child, William Stafford, was born October 15, 2000.

Darius Ervin [B.Arch.’99] graduated with not only a professional degree in architecture but also a commission into the U.S. Army. He is currently an Asst. Battalion Tactical Intelligence Officer (AS-2) stationed in Mililani, HI (on Oahu) where he will be until May 2003. His 570-man light infantry battalion task force is responsible for worldwide rapid deployment. He is considering pursuing a M.Arch. at the University of Hawaii or perhaps a degree in graphic design.

Earl Farrell [B.S.’96] completed his B.Arch. degree at City College of New York while working for J.P. Design Group, Inc. in Harlem. He now works in the Plant Engineering Department of United Parcel Service in Brooklyn as an Engineering Supervisor. He will soon become a part of the Corporate Design Team.

Rob Hsin [B.S.’94, M.S.’96] joined the ranks of the married on Nov. 18, 2000. He and his wife (Melissa Christenbury) live in Orlando where he works in the alumni firm of Rhodes + Brito Architects, Inc. He has been involved in several high-profile projects including the Universal Studios Hulk Coaster, Orlando International Airport, Orange County Convention Center, and the Pedestrian Connector Bridge over International Drive.

Kesna Hunt [B.S.’96, B.Arch. ’98] is currently working at The Architect’s Incorporated in Freeport, Bahamas as the project manager for an insurance company and the new headquarters for the Grand Bahama Police. She noted in a recent email that “one of the more valuable lessons I’ve (learned) is that detailing is very important in trying to (get) your intentions across to a contractor.” Kesna plans to sit for the licensing exam sometime in 2001.

Congratulations to Ed Jimenez [B.S.’94] who received his M.Arch. from the New Jersey Institute of Technology in August 2000. He and his wife, Stephanie Kostrub (a former FSU student), have bought a new home in Township, N.J. Ed is working as a Project Designer with Ford Farewell Mills and Gatsch Architects in Princeton, NJ.

Enessilee (Nessa) McClain [B.S.’99] is currently working toward her M.Arch. at the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). She expects to graduate in June 2001. While a student, she is employed by the Design Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Savannah as an architectural technician. During the month of November, Nessa exhibited “Shadows of Architectural Thought,” a show of 17 black and white conceptual prints and six conceptual models promoting architecture as art. The one-woman show and reception were held at Joe Bean’s Coffeehouse in Savannah.

Alumni Tim Scarbrough [B.S.’81, M.Arch.’85] and Jeff Warren [M.Arch. ’84] are working together again… sort of. After being co-workers years ago at CRS in Houston, they are now with Jacobs Facilities Inc./Strategic Services Group. Tim is the SSG Director in Atlanta, and Jeff is SSG Manager at...
Abegunde, Dayo
Aguilar, David
Ajose-Adeogun, Oluremi
Al-Abdullah, Bader
Al-Essa, Abdulaziz
Al-Moukeid, Walid
Al-Multi, Ghazal
Alleman, Phillip
Aronson, Neal
Balmer, Nancy
Berkhaert, Denise
Bilodeau-Wray, Nancy
Blaney, Kevin
Boden, Elieen
Bufford-Coakley, Gregory
Cain, Lee
Carroll, Richard
Carter, John
Cason, Michael
Colome, Joseph
Concepcion, Carlos
Cothron, Michael
Courtemanche, Lance
Cuervo, Jose
Denmark, James
Desvallons, Beatrice
Ellis, Gregory
Estupinan, Davis
Evans, Patrick
Fahami, Nader
Fairbrother, Marcus
Fairley, Stephen
Fentress, Marvalette
Francis, Michael
Franky, Henry
Fung, Sai
Gabr, Rupert
Goshwar, Hamid
Goudarzi, Soheila
Green, Jeffrey
Guevara, Jesus
Hernandez, Rhina
Herr, John
Hoch, Arthur
Hodge, Allen
Hussain, Saleh
Jamshidimehr, Mohammad
Johnson, Scott
Jordan-Cason, Joy
Kawcynski, Thierry-Michel
Lipschwitz-Fields, Deborah
Lukin, Christopher
Maici, Pierre
Martin, Virginia
Martinez, Mariano
Mazaariahrarani, Abbas
Mehrafshan, Memran
Memari, Hamid
Mobley, Russell
Mortensen, David
Mossey, Craig
Mowlavi, Mohammad
Mullis, Richard
Munroe, Joseph
Nassab, Mohammad-Saltani
Nkonjera, Attlee
Norman, John
Opayemi, Oluwole
Opayemi, Owodunni
Otun, Imoh
Padron, George
Patterson, Michael
Poonphool, Chaovallit
Rassouli, Hossein
Rodriguez, Henry
Rojas, Oscar
Roura, Aldo
Russell, Roger
Saldarriaga, Mariluz
Sanieenia, Hossein
Sewar, Jerome
Shali-Amini, Majid
Smith, Stephen
Smith, Edward
Strachan, Wendell
Stupart, Copeland
Sunderman, Gregory
Taeb, Ali
Thompson, Vernon
Trapp, Josef
Valdiviezo, Manuel
Vaudrin, Barry
Wernecke, Walter
West, Fredia
Wexler, Stephen
Williams, Roy
Williams, Rodney
Williamson, Louis
Wronski, David
Zhang, Weiping
Students Create Balfourville Village

Led by Enn Ots, 12 second- and third-year students collaborated with teams of pre-kindergarten students to plan and design the buildings for “Balfourville Village.” The village is a simulated, child-sized “town” on the playground of Balfour School for Young Children in Thomasville, Georgia. The 230 four- and five-year-old “citizens” ride tricycles on a six-foot-wide road. The town’s mini-buildings include a variety of functions that the children learn to use: bank, post office, grocery store, dry cleaners, laundry, hospital, courthouse, gas station, library, café, community center, fire station, police station, etc.

For the Balfour teachers, the buildings and roads are opportunities for teaching citizenship as well as basic reading and counting skills. Each building is to be fully equipped with appropriate props for role-playing including costumes, furniture, telephones, and cash registers. The courthouse even includes a jail.

The intent of the design project was to transform the children’s images into buildable structures. Each FAMU student teamed up with two Balfour students to “design” the buildings. The children’s drawings became the primary source of images for the buildings and were translated into large-scale models, including the layout of the town. Once the designs were critiqued by the students, teachers, and parents, construction drawings were produced.

Road system and building construction was completed by students in a construction class at Thomasville High School. To date, nine of the 12 buildings have been completed and “occupied.” The village was sponsored by more than 30 corporations and has become a nationally recognized educational project demonstrating public/private partnerships.
Focus 2000
NOMA Conference

Students Donald Gray, Rashonda Rosier, Ryan Simmons, Daisy Williams, Karen Williams, and Raymond Lee accompanied Asst. Prof. Andrew Chin and Dean Rodner Wright to the Focus 2000 NOMA Conference in New Orleans, November 16-19, 2000. Enjoying the southern hospitality, delicious food, and musical traditions of the French Quarter, 200 students and professionals interacted in the seminars, discussion groups, luncheons, and dinner outings.

The seminars focused on either students or professionals. For students, the résumé and portfolio workshop was popular because of the interaction with the professionals. In an arrangement of about one architect to every seven students, mock interviews were conducted, portfolios were reviewed, and résumés were red-lined with corrections. Other seminars for students included a roundtable discussion on “Hip Hop Architecture” and opportunities to work for Disney Studios as an “Imagineer.” The professional seminars focused on the integration of new technology in architecture firms.

The group (shown above) enjoyed the social interaction and networking that occurred at the scheduled Jazz Brunch and the “Bros. Arts Ball,” a night of music and dancing sandwiched between the two days of seminars.

Election 2000

Is there anyone in the world who hasn’t heard of Tallahassee by now? Are there any media trucks in the country that weren’t in Tallahassee last November-December? Those of us who live here became quite accustomed to driving down streets criss-crossed with wiring, lined with satellite trucks, decorated with media tents, and home to protesters.

Second-year graduate student Lennox Russell caught this view of the trucks on Duval Street. It was rather entertaining to see the Capitol, the Supreme Court building, and many familiar faces on the national news night after night. Some in the School of Architecture took media people into their homes when they were displaced from hotels by football fans with previous reservations.

Though this unique experience was generally positive, certainly educational, and put Tallahassee on the map, we’re counting on its not reoccurring any time soon!

Student Wins Second Prize

During summer 2000, the AIAS sponsored a design competition for a museum of Florida architecture held in conjunction with the AIA Florida. The site selected was in Winter Park. Kolin Gasper, then a third-year student studying under Craig Huffman, was awarded second place at the AIA Florida Convention 2000 in August.

Kolin’s design was praised by the jury for its excellent fit with the historic contextual fabric of Winter Park. He was presented a check for $500 from Keith Bailey, AIA, President of AIA Florida.

NOMA Conference. (L-R) Andrew Chin, Raymond Lee, Paul Taylor (NOMA President), Karen Williams, Daisy Williams, Kenneth Martin (President-elect), Donald Gray, Rodner Wright, Neil Hall (past President), Rashonda Rosier, and Ryan Simmons.
Fall Field Trips

First Year: Beth Dobson, Craig Huffman, Thor Mann, Tom Martineau, and Lalo Robles accompanied 60 first-year students and the landscape architecture graduate students on a one-day bus trip to St. Augustine, Florida. The students sketched buildings, gardens, and the fort, and toured the city. Prior to the trip, Arleen Pabón prepared the students with a lecture on the Spanish settlement of the city.

Second Year: Faculty members Beth Dobson and Valerie Goodwin along with graduate assistants Ryan Simmons and Darren Lueddeke and 40 second-year design students went on a three-day trip to Savannah, Georgia. Before setting out for Savannah, Dan Donovan gave a lecture on the architecture and urban planning characteristics of the city. In addition to touring the Savannah School of Art and Design, faculty and students spent time sketching the architectural characteristics of the city. Upon their return to Tallahassee, students were required to prepare a graphic and written analysis of the city.

Third and Fourth Years: Thirty students spent eight days touring New Orleans, Houston, and San Antonio. In New Orleans, the students visited the French Quarter, riverfront area, Garden District, and Tulane University. In Houston, former faculty member David Brown hosted the students on a tour of the campus and the School of Architecture at Rice University. The HOK and CLR architecture firms made presentations and gave a tour of their firms. In addition, the students visited the Museum District and saw the Menil museum complex.

Highlights of the trip to San Antonio were the Riverwalk and the Public Library designed by Ricardo Legoretta. Throughout the trip, students were given analytical exercises, sketch problems, and urban research issues linked to their design projects. Craig Huffman, Roy Knight, Peter Stone, and Tim White joined the students for the excursion.

Fifth Year: Coordinated by Andrew Chin and Dan Donovan, a two-day trip to Orlando kicked off the final urban design project. Students focused on the Parramore/Callahan Heritage District, west of downtown. They met City Commissioner Daisy Lynum and Chief Planner Dena Wild. From the Parramore Heritage Corporation, the students interviewed the CDC Director Patricia Green and Board Members Howard Nolan, AIA and Ruffin Rhodes, AIA. The hosts described how urban renewal and neglect eroded the Parramore neighborhood and identified recent developments in downtown that will impact the evolution of the District. By semester’s end, the research teams will develop visual design guidelines and test their positions through individual proposals.

Students also completed an assignment for their “Professional Practice I” class by interviewing Keino Furbert-Jacobs [B.Arch.’97], Ruffin Rhodes [B.S.’82, M.Arch.’89], and Tim Johnson [B.S.’86, B.Arch.’88].

Erratum
In the Fall 2000 issue of SOA News, RS&H Architects was mistakenly listed as attending the AIAS Job Fair from Pensacola. The firm is located in Jacksonville.
The Walking Skyline

The Homecoming 2000 parade was different for both SOA students and for the spectators. Instead of creating the typical float, the students designed, made, and walked with a “building hat.” The project was to select a building from any period to use as a model for the hat and to include an aerial object to accompany the building.

This could be birds, airplanes, clouds, rainbow, etc. The group of participating students and faculty walked as a group in the parade, forming the “walking skyline.”

The designs were quite ingenious. **Thor Mann**’s section of first-year students won the prize for highest participation. **Dwayne Daniels** (Ronchamp) and **Arron Coy** (pyramid with UFO) shared first prize. **Patricia Carter** (cityscape with SOA signage) shared the second prize with **Makya Taylor** and **Crystal Jackson** (Golden Gate Bridge bearers), and **Brandon Rogers** received an Honorable Mention for his Guggenheim Museum. The School of Architecture received wild applause from the crowd and a $100 prize.

The Walking Skyline (L-R): Ayonna Patterson, Sami Gyekye (Empire State Building behind), Janice Ratner, Tumeka Turner, Niasha Ross, Crystal Jackson, Patricia Carter, Lennox Russell, Makya Taylor, Craig Huffman, Aaron Coy, Lalo Robles, Jeffery Williams, and Dwayne Daniels.
WE CONTINUE TO WORK ON IMPROVING THE SOA WEB site, though the pace slowed over the holidays and during the move. You can now access faculty telephone numbers and email directly from the “People” tab. For now, the email goes to whatever mailbox faculty prefer, which for many is an Internet service provider rather than the School or University. We hope you find it helpful.

Speaking of finding things helpful, we’re very interested in what services and information we can provide for you through the SOA Web site. Our current focus is largely on serving our enrolled students, so we’re working to establish online course descriptions, syllabi, reading lists, etc. We’re quite eager to address your needs, too, but we need your suggestions. Our thoughts have included an online alumni message board as well as an alumni directory. But what else should we consider? Please let us know by sending us an email with your ideas.

About 40 of you have taken advantage of the form for alumni to update mailing address information. Thank you! This is very helpful to us and, hopefully, easy for you. Please continue to keep your information current using this electronic vehicle.

Finally, please browse through the site as many small changes have occurred. If anything looks amiss, please email us a description of the problem and the browser (e.g., Netscape 4.5, etc.) that you use. We’re committed to making every effort to keep the site reliable and attractive to everyone who visits.

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