November 2002 will be an exciting time for the School. November 1 will mark the opening of our first Alumni Exhibition of work and 2002 Pre-Connect* event. A reception scheduled for 5:00-7:00 PM is open to the public, and we encourage all our friends to attend. The work will be on display through November 20, 2002.

The exhibition simultaneously celebrates several milestones for the School. First, it marks the 25th anniversary of our first graduating class in 1977. Second, it commemorates the official naming and open house of our newly renovated and expanded facility. And third, because of these one-time events, it is a special observance of the University’s annual Homecoming celebration.

The purpose of the exhibition is to honor the rich legacy of our graduates and to showcase their accomplishments. Many have outstanding professional and creative achievements, and we would like to share these with students, faculty, other alumni, and the general public. We plan to display both built work and design proposals. A space will also be set aside for other creative work such as painting, sculpture, and furniture. Associate Professor Lalo Robles and alumna Sally Dowlen [B.S.’82, M.Arch.’88] have been named co-curators of the show. The event is being coordinated by Judye McCalman.

Over the summer, a Call for Entries was mailed to all in-country alumni for whom we have mailing addresses. Unfortunately, any alumni who did not receive the card will most likely not receive this newsletter either because the address we have for you (if we have one) is not current. This is only one example of why it is important for alumni to keep SOA informed about changes in your contact information. Remember that you can do this easily by going to the “People” section of our Web site and completing the alumni change-of-address form.

As we go to press, we are delighted that 36 alumni have submitted a Statement of Intent to Exhibit. The deadline for receipt of the items for display is October 15. If you missed the deadline for the Statement of Intent to Exhibit for some reason but would still like show your work, please contact Judye McCalman to see if arrangements can be made.

Please join us on Friday, November 1 for the opening reception of this alumni Pre-Connect event. ☺

*For more on the Connect concept, please see articles on pages 3 and 10.
From the Dean

“The challenges for (Dr. Gainous) are many, but the School of Architecture stands ready to offer and provide its support toward making his tenure a successful one.”

These are exciting times on campus and in the School of Architecture. Construction on the building is virtually complete, and it comes just in time to greet our new president. On July 1, the FAMU family welcomed back one of its graduates, Dr. Fred Gainous, as the ninth President of the university. The challenges for him are many, but the School of Architecture stands ready to offer and provide its support toward making his tenure a successful one.

Also during the month of July, the SOA greeted 36 high school students for the annual “CoFA: Connecting to Florida Architecture,” three-week, residential camp exploring architecture, architectural education at the SOA, and the FAMU campus. This year’s enrollment was the largest we have had to date, and we expect one-third of those students to enroll in our program this fall.

For the 2002-2003 academic year, we are pleased to have back Professors Tim White from a year of sabbatical leave and Arlene Pabón from a year’s leave of absence. Robert Goodwin will have an opportunity to enjoy his professional development leave this fall, and Beth Dobson and Michael Wnuk will spend another year visiting with the School. Additionally, we will have the benefit of the expertise of a long-time friend of the School, Karl Thorne, as a visiting faculty member while on sabbatical from the University of Florida.

We are also excited about several significant activities scheduled for this academic year that involve our building, students, faculty, and alumni. From September 27 through September 29, the School will host the National Alpha Rho Chi Leadership Council. The organization’s national leadership and individual chapters from all over the country will be represented. Our own Seshait Chapter will be the host chapter.

During Homecoming week, we will participate in a ceremony to name the architecture building after the seventh President of Florida A & M University, Dr. Walter L. Smith. The activities will precede the opening of our first-ever Alumni Exhibition and reception on Friday, November 1. This will be the first “Pre-Connect” event of a three-year span of activities to celebrate the success and creativity of our alumni.

In February 2003, the School is co-sponsoring a “CANstruction” competition with the North Central Chapter of the Society of Design Administrators, the Tallahassee Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and America’s Second Harvest of the Big Bend. We are expecting to have each design team associate with an area high school to compete in this worthwhile event to raise the public’s awareness of hunger in the Big Bend area as well as the creativity that exists within our professional and educational communities.

Please take the time to read this issue and learn more about what’s in store for the upcoming year and inquire about how you can become more “Connected” to the School.

Rodner B. Wright, AIA
Dean
peripherals such as digital scanners, video editing equipment, and printers.

- **Studios**: Studios occupy all three floors of Wing D, one and a half floors of Wing C, and a portion of Wing A. Most are divided by four-foot high partitions, with each segment accommodating four to eight students. Most studios are connected to a fiber optic network and have spaces with sinks, countertop work space, and paint exhaust hoods.

- **Classrooms**: A 120-seat flexible classroom located on the ground floor of Wing C supplements the original classroom spaces: the old “red room” (now beige) and the “fish bowl” (next door), both of which have been refurbished. All the classrooms are equipped with Internet connections and digital projectors. In addition, the new classroom is equipped with a sound system and VCR.

- **Administrative Suite**: The second floor of Wing A (where the library and computer lab used to be) was converted into administrative offices, conference rooms, and file and equipment rooms. All administrators and their support staff are housed there.

- **Student Work Archive**: A large space has been created for the storage and photographing of student projects. This is very helpful for re-accreditation visits and other promotional needs.

- **Student Organizations Office Suite**: The student organizations are now housed in two offices with a lounge area and display space. In addition, a student store has been established in the “old” student office space.

We invite you to attend the ceremony to name the building and to tour the new facility. Feel free to contact SOA or visit our Web site for scheduling details as they are developed.

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**FAMU Under New Leadership**

Dr. Fred Gainous was the Chancellor of the Florida A&M University. Prior to accepting his new position, Dr. Gainous earned his undergraduate degree in agricultural education at FAMU in 1969 and moved to the University of Florida for his Master of Agricultural Education and Doctor of Education degrees.

Taking the reins from Interim President Dr. Henry Lewis, III, Dr. Fred Gainous moved into the University’s top leadership position on July 1, 2002. A 54-year-old Tallahassee native and FAMU graduate, Dr. Gainous earned his undergraduate degree in agricultural education at FAMU in 1969 and moved to the University of Florida for his Master of Agricultural Education and Doctor of Education degrees.

Prior to accepting his new position, Dr. Gainous was the Chancellor of the Alabama College System’s Dept. of Post-secondary Education where he directed all matters involving the public two-year college system. He was responsible for the 19 community colleges, two junior colleges, seven technical colleges, a training institute, and Athens State University. As CEO for the system, he was responsible for state-allocated funds of $578.3 million in 2001.

Dr. Gainous has also served as Associate V.P. for Educational and Student Services at St. Petersburg Jr. College, Assistant Commissioner for Community Colleges and Vocational Education at the Kansas State Dept. of Education, and Coordinator of Occupational Programs at the Florida Dept. of Education.

The School of Architecture faculty, students, staff, and administration welcome Dr. and Mrs. Gainous to the FAMU family and wish him and his administration good luck and much success as he leads the University into the 21st century.

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**Alumni Coordinator Appointed**

In January 2002 Dean Rodner Wright appointed Judye McCalman to be SOA’s first Alumni Coordinator. In this role, Judye will develop and coordinate School-sponsored alumni events; correspond with individual alumni; continue to research, write, and supervise production of the SOA News; oversee the maintenance of the alumni database; and chair SOA’s new Alumni Committee. Judye will continue to serve as SOA’s Information Officer and work on numerous special projects.

Working with others at the School and with alumni, Judye has developed a three-year plan of activities referred to as the 2002 Pre-Connect, 2003 Connecting and 2004 Connected events.*

The first event is the Alumni Exhibition of work to open during Homecoming 2002 (see page 1 for more on this Pre-Connect event). Judye is also working closely with the Alumni Reunion Organizing Committee in their hosting of the first Alumni Reunion in 2003 (see p. 10 for more on this Connecting event). The culmination of these two events is the anticipated establishment of the SOA Chapter of the FAMU National Alumni Association planned for 2004—the Connected event.

Judye has worked at SOA since 1979 and has served the School in a variety of capacities. Because of her long tenure, she has developed personal relationships with many of the alumni and welcomes meeting...
those she does not yet know. Suggestions from alumni are strongly encouraged. Please write, call, email, or visit Judye any time to offer your ideas about how she can develop the program to help meet alumni needs.

Recent Gifts

Mr. Phillip Eugene DeTurk, a retired Professor of Landscape Architecture at Purdue University, has donated to the SOA library his personal collection of books related to architectural and landscape architectural history. The titles include a few signed first editions and many out-of-print works. These will be placed in a special case for in-library use only. “The gift is a rich collection of works on a diverse range of topics that will provide our students an understanding of how we got to where we are as landscape architects today,” said Prof. Richard Rome, Director of the Graduate Program in Landscape Arch. Prof. DeTurk and his wife, Colleen, personally delivered the books over the summer. The collection is valued at $10,000.

The Tallahassee Chapter of the AIA has donated $525 to support the AIAS Store located in the old student office space on the ground floor of Wing A. It offers a range of supplies and other items to support the AIAS chapter.

Professor Emeritus Francis T. Ventre retired from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPI) and now lives in Tallahassee. He has graciously donated a collection of books, slides, and video tapes to the School’s library. The titles cover a broad range of topics in the field of architecture. Nine of the books are signed by the authors (including Robert Venturi) and will be kept on special reserve in the library.

The family of Thomas E. Woods, Jr. [B.S.’87] has donated a collection of books from Tom’s library. Tom was a licensed architect working for the Tallahassee firm of JRA when he died in early 2002. The items were donated by his twin sister Tammy Woods-Dunaway and his brother Charles R. Woods of Panama City Beach, FL.

CoFA ’02: Connecting to FL Architecture

From July 7-26, 36 high school students and incoming freshmen participated in a residential program that explored Florida’s architectural history, design, computer modeling, freehand drawing, oral presentation skills, and the challenges of working in a team. Field trips to historic sites and architecture firms provided a firsthand appreciation of architectural treasures and contemporary professional practice. The program was funded by SOA, the Florida Dept. of Education, and the FAMU Title III Programs Office.

Students spent their mornings in drawing class, the computer lab, and lecture halls. Afternoons were spent in design studio, and at night students returned to the School with graduate assistants to complete their homework assignments. Students had full access to the SOA library and all other resources across the campus. The students were required to show evidence of learning in the development of their studio projects, electronic journals, and team project. All three were presented to their families and SOA faculty at the final review/jury.

The CoFA program is an annual summer event initiated in 1993 and directed by Assoc. Prof. Andrew Chin. The design studio, freehand drawing class, and computer workshops were taught by Valerie Goodwin, Deborah LaGrasse, and Michael Wnuk respectively. Additional lectures were provided by LaVerne Wells-Bowie. The teaching assistants included Jackie Lynch, George Gilchrist, Dean Yates, Kasheef Kennedy, Tiffany Willis, Ken Koontz, Vanessa Galloway, Daisy Williams, Calvin Pemberton, Valerie Strom, Naisha Ross, Natasha Richardson, Adam Taylor, and Johnathon McCray.

Delegate from Ukraine Visits SOA

A nine-person delegation from Nikolaev, Ukraine—an industrial town on the Black Sea with a population of 500,000—visited the campus as part of FAMU’s International Programs cultural exchange efforts. One member, civil engineer Piotr Maslyayev, spent time at SOA during the spring term where he sat in on classes and visited local architecture firms and construction sites. Mr. Maslyayev is starting a computer consulting company specializing in CADD in Georgia (former Soviet Union) and is very interested in architecture as practiced in the U.S. While here, Mr. Maslyayev worked with Profs. Enn Ots and Tom Martineau who helped him arrange local site visits.

CoFA students Margaret McLarty from Tallahassee (left) and Anna McCorvey from Moss Point, MS work on their design studio figure/ground assignments.
2002 Spring Lecture Series

During the spring semester, the School’s Enrichment Committee chaired by Deborah LaGrasse presented a lecture series including several outstanding African-American architects and a prominent architect/builder. First, the team of Ray Huff and Mario Gooden (Huff + Gooden Architects LLC, Charleston, SC) delivered a joint lecture focusing on their exploration of linkages between architectural theory and design practice. Offering a dramatic and eloquent testament to the power of a well-conceived and impeccably executed presentation, the team provided a noteworthy evening for their standing-room-only audience.

Next, Dr. Sharon Sutton, FAIA, spoke on “Designing a Great Public Theater: Where All Can Perform Their Part.” Assoc. Dean Enn Ots served as the respondent to the talk, and a lively Q&A session followed her lecture delivered in Perry-Paige auditorium. Dr. Sutton was the first African-American female to become a full Professor of Architecture at an accredited university. She is now an internationally known architect and Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Washington. She is the recipient of many awards, including the ACSA Distinguished Professor Award. This lecture was co-sponsored by the VSA Arts in Florida.

Mr. Bill Morthland, FAIA is the Vice President and General Manager of Turner Construction Co. in Orlando. He spoke to the students on “Non-Traditional Roles in Architecture.” Trained in architecture but working primarily as a construction manager, Mr. Morthland often sits “on the other side of the contract table” from designers. His talk emphasized the variety of types of employment with which those with architecture degrees can become involved including architectural programming, management of construction, etc. Alumnus Jean-Pierre Hurd [B.Arch.’98], a current employee of Turner Construction, arranged for the lecture, Turner exhibit, and reception sponsorship.

The last speaker was the prominent and highly acclaimed New York architect Jack Travis who delivered a personal account of his experiences in the pursuit of an architecture that speaks of the African-American experience in North America. Mr. Travis has operated his own firm (JTA) headquartered in NYC since 1985. Probably his best known design is the residence for actor Wesley Snipes in Los Angeles. An accomplished speaker and a compelling role model for students, Mr. Travis provided a dramatic and thought-provoking experience for his audience. Earlier that day, Mr. Travis conducted a small-group symposium on “Hip-Hop and Architecture.”

2002 Master’s Symposia

The focus of the Spring 2002 Master’s Symposia was “Expertise” and featured artists, educators, and design practitioners who demonstrated various facets of this broadly defined and often heard term. The series began with Dr. Lynda Davis of the FSU School of Dance whose students performed her choreography of “Dance and Space” in the SOA atrium. These imaginative and visually intriguing presentations offered a dramatic introduction to the theme of “Expertise” and introduced the audience to the visualization of performance art and its relationship to the physical setting in which it occurs.

Next, Senator Victor Crist offered an entirely different perspective on the theme through his presentation of his efforts to bring about positive societal change through a series of design interventions at the community level in Tampa. The students came away with life lessons in the day-to-day reality of getting a design idea built and operating.

Expertise is one of the primary areas of research for the third guest, Dr. K. Anders Ericsson of the FSU Dept. of Psychology. Relating his research in the development of expertise in athletic skills among university
SOA Offers Degree Option for Interns

For most architecture interns, quitting a full-time position, becoming a full-time student, and relocating to a college town is not possible. Recognizing the problem, SOA is pleased to offer a unique professional development alternative for architecture interns. The new opportunity helps candidates transfer their four-year bachelor’s degree, recognizes their recent professional experiences, and provides an alternate design studio schedule. The targeted market is architecture interns working near Pensacola, Jacksonville, and Orlando. Because all three locations are fewer than four hours away, occasional Tallahassee commutes are possible. To remove potential transcript evaluation problems, we limit admissions to FAMU and UF alumni.

The School began begin to provide the opportunity this fall with six students from Orlando, Jacksonville, and Tallahassee. The students will complete the design studio courses on a rotating Friday/Saturday class schedule that meets 9:00 AM-6:00 PM. The class will be taught by Craig Huffman. Professional Practice and four other non-studio courses will be completed as independent studies. For more information, contact Andrew Chin, Assoc. Prof. and B.Arch. Program Coordinator.

SOA Employees Recognized

On April 17, 2002, seven SOA employees were honored at the University’s Employee Recognition Program held in Lee Hall. Mr. Alton Royal, Director of Special Programs and Scholarships, presided over the ceremony, and Interim President Dr. Henry Lewis, III presented the awards.

One of the University’s four Private Partnership Awards went to Mrs. Sandra Cloud. Administrative Assistant to the Dean. “This Superior Performance Award is given to “an individual whose performance was exemplary and made a positive and noteworthy impact upon the overall goals and objectives of the School.” Mrs. Cloud was nominated by Dean Wright for her “tireless coordination of the administrative support functions through two moves of the administrative offices during the construction of our building.” Additionally, she was recognized for her support of the Dean during his tenure on the NAAB Board as VP and then as President which occurred during the same period as the moves. This award is sponsored by the Capital City Bank and was presented by Ms. Sheila Reddick, Compliance Specialist at the bank.

Continuous Service Awards were conferred on Dean Rodner Wright (5 years); Dr. Richard Dozier (10 years); Robert Goodwin, Keith Grey, and Ron Lumpkin (15 years); and Ms. Bernice Henderson (25 years).

Visiting Faculty Member Returns

Beth Dobson is a very busy person. In addition to being mother to four children, putting two through college at the same time, and wife to criminal defense attorney Steve Dobson, Ms. Dobson is returning to SOA as a Visiting Professor. She has worked at the School at different times since the late 80s, but since fall 2000 she has been a regular part of the SOA scene. She has taught first-, second-, and third-year design; Intro to Technology; and Building Arts. Somehow she also finds time to paint and travel—her favorite hobbies.

After obtaining a B.A. degree from Tulane University in New Orleans, she went to Washington University in St. Louis for the M.Arch. degree. While in St. Louis, she worked in the office of the campus architect. After graduation, she worked with the firm of Nathaniel Curtis in New Orleans before moving to Tallahassee where she continues to maintain her professional license.

Beth Dobson

“I have always thought that architecture is a fantastic undergraduate degree for anyone to have,” she said. “It provides such a broad and well-rounded education.” When asked why she continues to work at the School, she said, “I just love teaching! I was especially inspired by the class I taught this summer (2002). I had a variety of students who brought a
special mix and set of skills to the studio. It was great.”

We think Mrs. Dobson is pretty great, too, and we welcome her back.

Faculty-Staff Activities

Promotions and Tenure

Andrew Chin received tenure and was promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor. Deborah LaGrasse was promoted from Assistant to Associate in Architecture, and LaVerne Wells-Bowie was promoted from Associate Professor to Professor.

Awards

Associate Professor Andrew Chin wrote one of 11 winning proposals for a FAMU Distance Learning Development Grant. The course Chin designed, ARC 5910 Architectural Research, guides students through the process of preparing research documentation, developing ideas, and identifying resources that support the student’s spring design project. Offered during the summer semester, the course is posted at www.famusoa.net/classes/arc5910/. The grant provides an IBM laptop, docking station, and printer as well as training by IBM representatives.

Prof. Chin was also presented a Faculty Research Award by the FAMU School of Graduate Studies for the “e-racing project: a critical examination of race, space and the american city.” The “e-racing” project is a digital multimedia project that explores the intersection of race, architecture, and urbanism through a study of Florida’s African-American communities. By documenting and dissecting the structure of African-American landscapes, the research illustrates how racial difference influenced urban landscapes. The result is a complex social and cultural geography where contemporary African-Americans occupy distinct and/or marginalized landscapes.

Prof. Richard Dozier was awarded a grant to participate in the 2002 Fulbright Hayes Group Projects Abroad Program called “Broadening Horizons: Building Educational Linkages Between Brazil and the United States.” Dr. Dozier will use the grant to study, visit, and document the contributions of persons of African descent reflected in the architecture and public spaces of Brazil’s largest cities. His findings will be incorporated into courses, exhibits, and publications.

Prof. Walter Grondzik was invited to serve as a Visiting Scholar at Ball State University’s Scholar-In-Residence program during the spring 2002 term. While there, Professor Grondzik worked with graduate students and faculty, focusing his work on their green and sustainable design program.

Conferences & Workshops

Assoc. Prof. Andrew Chin was one of 24 faculty invited to participate in the 19th Annual HBCU Summer Faculty GIS Workshop. The workshop provides GIS training by research faculty and federal agency representatives that demonstrates how ArcView software tools can be applied to higher education programs. The event was sponsored by the National Capital Planning Commission, the U.S. Dept. of Education, Howard University, and ESRI.

Asst. Prof. Valerie Goodwin presented a paper entitled “Quilting Connections Between Two- and Three-Dimensional Design for the Beginning Design Student” at the Beginning Design Conference held at Portland State University, Portland, OR.

Assoc. Prof. Craig Huffman participated in a workshop on “Building Enclosure and Glazing” at Taliesen, WI.

Assoc. Prof. Tom Pugh attended an international conference on “Indoor Air 2002” in Monterey, CA during the summer. The conference, sponsored by a variety of federal agencies and other groups, meets only every three years.

Administrative Assistant Piccola Randolph attended the 33rd Annual Society of Design Administration and Leadership Conference at SDA’s Convention in Charlotte, NC. Mrs. Randolph currently serves as Chair of the National Nominating Committee and Co-chair of the Academic Curriculum Committee for SDA’s Virtual University. This group is researching e-learning as a delivery method to bring education as a Design Firm Administrator directly to those interested. She also participated in the annual meeting of the Past Presidents Council.

Creative Activities

Asst. Prof. Valerie Goodwin displayed one of her original quilts, “Rotational Displacement,” at the annual juried Art Show in Tallahassee City Hall in April 2002. Her quilt, “City Grid II,” was one of 50 selected from over 600 entries to show at “The Quilted Surface,” a national exhibit at the Columbus Museum of Art held in Columbus, OH beginning May 9, 2002. She also served as a panelist on the Tallahassee Cultural Resource Commission to review grant applications and award funds to city programs related to the arts. Her work, “Organic Grid II,” was recently published in the “Art Quilts at the Sedgwick: 2001” digital (CD-ROM) catalog as part of their annual national juried exhibit held in Philadelphia.

Associate in Architecture Deborah LaGrasse participated in an invitational international exhibition, “Reinventing the Wheel,” December 2001 - April 2002 at the National Ornamental Metal Museum in Memphis, TN. She also participated in a juried Southeastern College Art Conference exhibition held at the South Carolina State Museum in Columbia and the Artist Collective Regional Invitational at Carillon Beach Resort, FL. Deborah was both a moderator and a panelist for the Fourth International Conference on Contemporary Cast Iron Art, hosted by Johnson Atelier and “Grounds for Scupture” in Mercerville, NJ.

Service

Assoc. Prof. Michael Alfano, Jr. served as the Chair of the Tampa Hillsborough County Environmental Design Awards Jury. This competition is an annual event that focuses on
design works that promote the common good of the community. The awards provide recognition of excellence in architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, environmental and regional planning, and community participation programs.

Mr. Jeff Caster, adjunct professor in landscape architecture, was recently appointed by the Florida Dept. of Transportation as State Transportation Landscape Architect. He is responsible for Florida’s highway beautification programs.

Assoc. Prof. Andrew Chin is currently leading a group of students who are providing urban design assistance to Dunnellon, FL. The project will look at alternative parking strategies, design guidelines, and waterfront development issues. The work is funded by the State of Florida Dept. of Community Affairs.

Prof. Chin was an invited critic for the architecture final project reviews at the University of South Florida, Tampa. He also served as a reviewer of papers submitted for the ACSA National Conference in New Orleans.

Assoc. Prof. Keith Grey was one of eight experts assembled by the Urban Land Institute of Washington to provide officials of the City of Waukegan, IL a plan for the city’s lakefront. The city’s decision to hire the team was motivated by a controversial proposal to build a power plant below the lakefront bluff. The outside experts are to study the issue and apply their collective expertise to develop a guide for the city to promote responsible use of the land.

Associate in Architecture Deborah LaGrasse was a volunteer at Woodville Elementary School working to create wire figurative sculpture for pre-K students.

Asst. Prof. Ron Lumpkin serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of the FAMU Campus Ministry and as a volunteer at the Apalachee Tapestry Magnet School of the Arts and at the FAMU New Beginnings Daycare Center.

Assoc. Prof. Enn Ots serves as an advisor to Eldercare Services regarding their facilities. He is also education advisor to the Society of Design Administrators.

As part of the School’s ongoing recruiting efforts, Assoc. Prof. Eduardo Robles visited four community colleges where he held workshops with the pre-architecture faculty. They were: Florida Community College, Ocalaosa/Walton Community College, Gulf Coast Community College, and Valencia Community College. In April, Professor Robles served as a panelist for the International Cultural Exchange Program sponsored by the Florida Dept. of State, Division of Cultural Affairs. Prof. Robles is also working with the Brogan Museum of Art and Science in Tallahassee on the design for their new science exhibits.

During the spring 2002 semester, graduate students in the Master of Landscape Architecture program worked on plans for the downtown renewal of Fort Walton Beach, FL. The students were led by Professor and Program Director, Richard Rome. He was an invited juror for the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) Awards Competition at its tri-state conference (GA, NC, and SC) and for the Sigma Lambda Alpha Outstanding Student Scholarship Awards. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Florida Chapter of ASLA and as the Chair of the Education Committee.

Professor Emeritus Ron Shaeffer continued his national committee service on the Aesthetics in Design and Special Structures Committees at the American Society of Civil Engineers’ Annual Structures Congress held in Denver in April 2002.

At the student awards ceremony in April, a special surprise recognition was conferred by the 5th-year class to Mrs. Shirley Johnson, SOA’s Coordinator of Student Affairs. Students Tiffany Hamler and Toinama Smith presented Mrs. Johnson with a beautiful bouquet and a card signed by the entire 5th-year class. The students thanked Mrs. Johnson for her patient and kind assistance to them through their years at SOA and noted that she served as a mother figure for them—always there and always understanding and helpful.

Students Give Special Recognition

(From left) Hamler, Smith, and Johnson

At the student awards ceremony in April, a special surprise recognition was conferred by the 5th-year class to Mrs. Shirley Johnson, SOA’s Coordinator of Student Affairs. Students Tiffany Hamler and Toinama Smith presented Mrs. Johnson with a beautiful bouquet and a card signed by the entire 5th-year class. The students thanked Mrs. Johnson for her patient and kind assistance to them through their years at SOA and noted that she served as a mother figure for them—always there and always understanding and helpful.

National Leadership Conference

The student chapter of Alpha Rho Chi Fraternity, Inc. (APX) is hosting their national Leadership Conference Friday-Sunday, Sept. 27-29, 2002. Working with the national office, chapter President Karen Williams is coordinating the event along with the chapter’s professional committee. Karen expects 14-15 Chapter and Colony leaders and 12-13 Grand Council members to attend. The DoubleTree is the host hotel, but conference meetings will be held at SOA on Saturday. The School will also sponsor a welcoming reception on Friday. For more information about the organization and its membership, please visit the display panel on the downstairs exhibit wall in front of the library from Sept. 18-Oct. 2.

APX is also hosting the second annual Faculty Luncheon on Oct. 2, noon-1 pm in the gallery and the annual White Rose Formal on April 27, 2003.
Graduate Degrees Conferred

Students graduating with the M.Arch. and M.S. degrees worked long and hard on their thesis projects and presented their work in mid-April. Our congratulations to each on the successful completion of the degree. The presenters and their thesis titles are listed below:

**Master of Architecture**
- Ian McGregory Astwood: *Expressing the Essence of Place in Architecture*
- Kurt R. Bourne: *Phenomenology and Architecture*
- Danny P. Capoot: *Form and Space at the Edge of Thought and Feeling*
- Karla Vanessa Castellon: *The Application of an Organic Method to the Creation of Architecture*
- R. Ken Evert: *Paths and Pedestrian Place*
- William A. Hees: *The Composition of Entrance Corridors*
- Daphne Floran-Melendez: *An Architecture About Time’s Consciousness, Memory, Perception, and Imagination*
- Rick B. Navarro: *Fractals and Architecture*
- Patrick S. Vaughn: *The Sacred and the Profane: An Airport for Barbados*

**Master of Science in Architectural Studies**
- Nicholas Johnson: *Implementing Theories of Sustainability and Building Commissioning*

Students Inducted into Honor Society

Alumna **Rhonda Hammond** [B.Arch.’91] was the keynote speaker at the April 26 induction ceremony for the Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society. A Graduate Architect with the Tallahassee firm of Gilchrist and Crowe Architects, she spoke to the students about the necessity of moving from theory to practice in the real world of architecture.

Tau Sigma Delta is the only honor society nationally recognized in the fields of architecture, landscape architecture, and allied arts. Its primary objective is to celebrate excellence in scholarship, to stimulate mental achievement, and to recognize students who attain high scholastic standing through membership in an honor society. Members are selected solely on the basis of scholarship. No student with less than a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is considered. In addition, students must be in the upper 20% of their class. Our hearty congratulations to the following students who were inducted into this prestigious society.

- Azizi Arrington-Bey
- Jordache K. Avery
- Chinh Cong Cao
- Louis A. Copp
- Karla Vanessa Castellon
- Clancy Dunnigan
- Venicha Nicole Fore
- Kolin Gasper
- Vanessa Greenaway
- Kenneth Albert Koontz
- Nashae C. Hall
- Tiffany A. Hamler
- Shane A. Moniz
- Bradley McCollough
- Jonathan McCray
- Sine A. Murray
- Dane T. Niles
- Jason Peat
- Adam K. Pelkey
- Calvin A. Pemberton
- Kim-Bao Pham
- André P. Saunders
- Toinana L. Smith
- Karen Eugenie Williams
- Daisy-O’Lice Williams

Alumni Jury Fifth-Year Projects

Under the direction of Assoc. Prof. **Andrew Chin** and Visiting Professor **Tom Porter**, a group of alumni juried the final projects of fifth-year students. The tradition of a design competition for the fifth-year juries began last year and was quite successful. Again this year, the top prize is the granting of the Pella Jurist Award of $1,000 sponsored by the Pella Window and Door Co. The jury was made up of in-state SOA alumni invited from Orlando, Maitland, and Tallahassee. They were: **Mo Arthur** [B.S., B.Arch. ’98] from Cuhaci & Peterson Architects in Orlando, **Bret Hammond** [M.Arch. ’91] from Hammond Design Group in Tallahassee, **Jean-Pierre Hurd** [B.S., B.Arch. ’98] from Turner Construction Co. Inc. in Maitland, **Howard Robertson** [B.S. ’96, M.Arch. ’99] from Interplan Practice Ltd. in Orlando, and **David Vincent** [B.S. ’84, B.Arch. ’89] from JRA Architects in Tallahassee.

The finalists selected by the jury were **Clancy Dunnigan**, **Kolin Gasper**, **Nashae Hall**, and **Toinana Smith**. The jury was then confronted with the difficult task of selecting a winner. The students were kept in suspense until the Awards Reception on April 21. At that time, Dean Wright announced **Toinana Smith** as the Pella Jurist Award winner.

Our congratulations to Toinana, the other finalists, and all the other students who worked hard on this project. And our deep appreciation to all the jurors who not only gave their time and expertise but who also covered their own travel expenses.
Alumni Reunion Planned

In mid-June 2002, a small group of alumni met at the School to begin planning the first SOA Alumni Reunion—the 2003 Connecting event. Initiated and spearheaded by Sam Andras [B.Arch.'93], the Reunion Organizing Committee was made up of representatives from the classes of 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, and 1998. Graduates from these years (at five-year intervals) are the focus of this first reunion, but all alumni are welcome to participate.

The members of the committee by year represented are:

1978  Randy Lewis [B.S.’78, M.Arch.’84]
       Terry Peterson [B.S.’78, M.Arch.’91]
1983  Blakeley Bruce [M.Arch.’83]
       Dean Perkins [B.S.’79, M.Arch.’83]
1988  Sally Dowlen [B.S.’82, M.Arch.’88]
1993  Sam Andras, Chair [B.Arch.’93]
       Nate Goldberger [B.Arch.’93]
1998  Jeff Bush [B.S.’95, M.Arch.’98]
       Johanna Flores [B.S.’98, M.Arch.’00]

After considerable discussion, the decision was made to hold the reunion during Homecoming 2003. As of this writing, the schedule for Homecoming has not been finalized by the University, but it is almost always held during the latter part of October or the first week in November. Please pencil in that block of time on your calendar, and we will keep you posted as specific dates are determined. Please note that families are welcome!

The committee very much wants to make this reunion memorable and fun, and many ideas for activities were discussed at the meeting. In the end, however, it was clear that, to do the best job, the committee needs feedback from other alumni in order to plan activities that their classmates will most enjoy. Consequently, this newsletter includes a survey insert that we would very much appreciate your completing and mailing or faxing to us no later than November 8, 2002. You may also complete the form online at our Web site <www.famusoa.net>.

The committee is working hard to create a time when alumni can reunite, rekindle relationships, and reminisce about their common experiences and bonds. This is a wonderful opportunity for all alumni to reflect on a significant period in your lives and to join together in fun and support of each other and the School. Please take a minute to complete the survey for the Organizing Committee and to mark your calendars to join them in 2003. The event will be what you help make it!

New Alumni Join Ranks

Thirty-seven students were awarded degrees during the last academic year. SOA congratulates and welcomes each of these students to the ranks of the alumni.

**FALL 2001**

**Bachelor of Science**

- Javan T. Gordon
- Darlene R. Patton
- Barrett V. Pujol

**SPRING 2002**

**Bachelor of Science**

- Anna M. Barbour
- Chinh Cong Cao
- Louis Anthony Copp
- Abinis F. Correa
- Joseph Michael Destafney
- Diedre Diana Gary
- Kolin Keane Gasper
- Karen Ann-Marie Griffiths

**Alumni Reunion Organizing Committee. (l-r) Randy Lewis, Sally Dowlen, Blakeley Bruce, Johanna Flores, Jeff Bush, Sam Andras (Chair), and Dean Perkins. Not shown: Nate Goldberger and Terry Peterson.**
Alumnus Wins AIA Awards

In May 2002, Cliff Duch [B.Arch.’87] and his Jacksonville firm Cronk Duch Miller, were honored with two AIA awards—Craftsmanship and Merit—for the Shepherd residence in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. This vernacular-style beach home featured rafter tails, porch louveres, and balcony outriggers. The exact rhythm, detail, and spacing of these components showcased both the artistic element and precision of craftsmanship.

Cliff launched his own firm with partner Joe Cronk in 1998. The multi-million dollar design-build organization continues to receive notable attention in Jacksonville. Their unique home designs have been featured in the coastal magazine, The Water’s Edge, and a distinctive home renovation in Ortega was profiled on HGTV. With over 30 years of combined architectural and construction experience, the team is dedicated to the renaissance of the “Master Builder,” where the architect is the contractor. Projects range from restoration and renovation to new construction in commercial and high-end residential markets.

Cliff explains that “as both the architect and builder, the conceptual ideas and construction methodologies are developed in unison, resulting in a project that responds to the financial, aesthetic, and scheduling needs of the client. Our goal is ultimate customer satisfaction by exceeding expectations. We place a high value on our clients’ input and involve them in every aspect of the design/build process.”

Currently, the company is diversifying with a new division, Cronk Duch Developers (CDD). CDD is proud to announce “The Island” at Queens Harbor in Jacksonville. Cliff notes that “this undeveloped piece of land, beautifully situated along the intracoastal waterway and marshlands, will boast eight custom Mediterranean Villas with private docks. The ambiance of the island will evoke feelings of an exclusive resort in ‘old Florida style.’”

Cliff has served as a liaison for FAMU graduate students and the University of North Florida, participating as advisor and judge in forums and project competitions. Two years ago, the company recruited a FAMU graduate student, Peyman Ata-Abadi [B.S.’97, M.Arch.’00]. According to Cliff, “Peyman is our leading intern architect, and he exemplifies the talent and dedication we would expect from FAMU graduates. We are always interested in team players who share the same passion and commitment to classical architecture.”

Cliff is currently designing and building his own personal residence with his wife and favorite client, Sylvia, and their three children, Victoria, Nicholas, and Alexander.

Important Dates for Alumni

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 15, 2002</td>
<td>Deadline for receipt of exhibition materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 1, 2002</td>
<td>Alumni Exhibition opening and reception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 8, 2002</td>
<td>Deadline for return of Alumni Reunion survey (insert)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 20, 2002</td>
<td>Alumni Exhibition ends</td>
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(SPRING 2002 B.S., cont.)
John Spencer Shepard
Karen Eugenie Williams
Joseph S. Yates

Bachelor of Architecture
Louis Anthony Copp
Joseph Michael Destafney
Karen Ann-Marie Griffiths
Nashae C. Hall

Tiffany Ann Hamler
John R. Nolan
Andre Patrick Saunders
John Spencer Shepard
Tionana Lynne Smith
Melinda Grace Stebbins

Master of Architecture
Ian McGregory Astwood
Kurt Bourne

Danny Patrick Capoot
Karla Vanessa Castellon
Robert Ken Evert
Daphne M. Floran Melendez
William A. Hees
Richard Boris Navarro
Patrick St. Elmo Vaughan

Master of Science
Nicholas Anthony Johnson
Alumni Notes

One of the partners in the AIA Florida’s “2000 Firm of the Year” is alumnus José Aguila [B.S.’81, B.Arch.’88]. The Robert Currie Partnership in Delray Beach, FL has also won 44 design awards—more than any other firm in Palm Beach County. With the exception of a five-year stint in the ‘90s as the Construction Manager for the City of Delray Beach, José has spent most of his career at Robert Currie Partnership and was named partner three years ago. The 12-person firm designs primarily commercial and government facilities. For government, they specialize in fire stations, community centers, city halls, etc. Commercial work includes retail, hotels, office buildings, restaurants, condos, and townhouses. In addition, they have designed several bridges.

Hates off to Alycia Bailey [B.S.’97] who finished a Master of Public Administration degree from North Carolina Central University in Dec. 2001. She is now the Town Planner of Holly Springs, NC—the third fastest growing town in the nation. There she will gain experience for her ultimate goal of becoming a town manager.

John Batchelor [B.S.’87] officially got his degree in 1987 but was “really” in the class of 1980. (There was a transfer-of-credits mixup that took a while to fix.) He was in the first group of 12 students to go to the SOA’s center in Washington, D.C., led by Prof. Grant Genova. After leaving school, he returned to his hometown of Ellenton, FL (40 miles south of Tampa) where he worked with various architects. Over 10 years ago, he opened his own practice and specializes in designing traditional southern cracker houses. He is still grinning about the recent birth of his second grandchild.

After graduation, Tony Benton [B.Arch.’87] returned to his home town of Panama City, FL and began working for Collins and Associates. In 1989 he took and passed his licensing exam and worked briefly for Dennis Evans Architect. The following year, he opened his own practice where he focuses on residential designs, churches, and some retail work. He and his wife of 19 years, Teresa, have one 14-year-old son.

When Kelly Browning [B.S.’01] left FAMU, she went to the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VPI) to obtain a master’s degree. Her first year there, she earned the 5th-Year Design Studio Award. On the national level, she was one of three recipients of the prestigious RTKL Architecture Traveling Fellowship. After completing a 2002 summer internship with RTKL, she received the $4,000 Fellowship award to travel through Europe for her master’s thesis studies. She will then return to VPI.

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree from FAMU, Michael Byrd [B.S.’79] went to Auburn University and earned a B.Arch. degree in 1981. He then worked with Trent Manausa in Tallahassee until 1985 when he moved to Jacksonville to work for Reynolds, Smith and Hills, Inc. and simultaneously started his own firm. In 1989, he earned general contractor and roofing contractor licenses and opened Byrd Construction and Roofing Company. Mike also works as a consultant to TCI Construction where he is involved primarily with retail development projects. He has two children: 12-year-old Michael, Jr. and a 15-year-old daughter, Heather.

One month after graduation, Richard Cortes [B.Arch.’87] married Annette. They have three children aged 7, 9, and 12. For the first six years, Richard worked for various architecture firms in Miami and in April 1993 opened his own practice. He designs both residential and commercial projects but only for the private sector. He is also involved in building construction.

After 10 years out of Florida, Rodney Crockett [B.Arch.’91] is glad to be back. He has left cold and snowy Indiana and settled in West Palm Beach where he is a Project Manager for Fanning Howey Associates, Inc. Rodney is working on projects located primarily in the Florida Keys. A new high school in Key West, Coral Shores High School, and other miscellaneous projects in Monroe County are keeping him busy.

Working with José Aguila at Robert Currie Partnership is Jim Currie [B.Arch.’97]. After graduation, Jim worked for four years with Affiniti Architects in Boca Raton, FL where he assisted project managers with drafting and other tasks. Last year, he moved to Robert Currie Partnership where he is a CADD operator. In May 2002, he married Jacqueline Alcantara.

Steve Elias [B.S.’82, B.Arch.’88] has recently made some major changes. In May 2002, he married Ruthie Conteras (from south FL), and in June he opened his own firm, S.M. Elias Architects in Royal Palm Beach. Steve spent the years between degrees and after graduation working at a variety of firms in south Florida gaining the experience he needed to open his own practice. Initially, the practice will focus on residential design but will move into other building types over time.

Local firm Elliott Marshall Innes collaborated with HOK (Hellmut, Obata + Kassabaum, Inc.) in Tampa on the FSU College of Medicine. During that time, HOK got to know Robert Furr [B.Arch.’98] who had worked for Elliott Marshall Innes since his graduation. When Robert’s wife, Heather, graduated from FSU and received a job offer in Tampa, HOK offered Robert a job as a Senior Architectural Technician. In January 2002, the couple moved to Tampa. HOK is one of the largest firms in the country. For more information on their work, see www.hok.com.

Upon graduation with a B.Arch., Owen Gibson [B.S.’84, B.Arch.’88] worked for the local firm of Barnett Fromczak Architects for 10 years. In 1998, he moved to Atlanta where he is a project architect for Heery International, Inc. His first few years there, Owen worked in the healthcare division on various projects for Northside Hospital in Atlanta and the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville. For the last couple of years, he has been in the sports group. He worked on a stadium expansion for Clemson Univ. and is now involved with a project with the basketball arena at the University of Texas. The project consists of a new basketball practice facility and renovations to their existing arena. Owen is currently registered in FL and GA. He has been married to Resa for 22 years, and they have four children (one girl and three boys) ranging in age from 7 to 18.

Angela Coakley Gray [B.S.’97, B.Arch.’99] married Eddie Gray in Aug. 2000, a year after she began working at Swilley, Curtis, Mundy, Hunnicutt Associates Architects, Inc. in Lakeland, FL. She is an intern and does a lot of CADD work, attends job meetings, coordinates drawings, etc. She is preparing to take the licensing exam soon.

This year, Mark Griesbach [B.Arch.’87] celebrated his 15th year in private practice in Tallahassee. Prior to coming FAMU, Mark earned a B.S. degree in architecture at the University of Wisconsin/Milwaukee and worked in the Milwaukee area before moving to Tampa in 1982. He remained in Tampa gaining experience from several firms before coming to SOA for a B.Arch. degree. Upon graduation, he and his wife, Kate, decided to stay in Tallahassee where he opened Mark Griesbach Architect. The firm has won numerous awards for its rehabilitation, remodeling, and design work. In addition, Mark has participated in many civic organizations and activities where he serves as board member, does volunteer work, and acts as a mentor.

Please see next page
After leaving the SOA with his B.Arch. degree, Joel Helms [‘91] moved to Atlanta to work for Sizemore Floyd Architects. He decided to earn an M.Arch. degree and did so in 1996 at the University of Texas at Austin. A four-year stint with 3D/International in San Antonio included work on their River Walk Visitor’s Services Building, a large Children’s Shelter in an historic downtown neighborhood, downtown redevelopment plans, and many other interesting projects. In 2001, Joel moved to Asheville, NC and works for PBC+L Architecture, a medium-sized firm with a broad range of clients and building types with an office also in Raleigh. A major component of their practice is the design of college and university facilities. Joel is currently working on a $20 million School of Nursing for UNC at Chapel Hill. He is registered in NC and TX. Joel and his wife have two sons: a 3-year-old and a newborn.

After getting his degree from SOA but before leaving FAMU, Eric Hickox [B.S.’94] earned a B.A. in Construction Engineering in 1995. Armed with the dual degrees, Eric went to work for Elkins Constructors, a large construction management firm in Jacksonville. After three years, he became the Project Manager for the then-largest project the company had ever built—a $17 million expansion and renovation of the County Jail. Eric noted, “Until one experiences firsthand the things that Peter Stone and Ron Shaeffer show in their presentations and lectures, the magnitude and the tedious nature of the various construction systems simply don’t sink in.” After seven years with Elkins, Eric recently accepted a position as Asst. Dir. of Preconstruction Services with Batson-Cook Company. Here, Eric enjoys the fact that his work in the early stages of design/build often allows him to use his design background. In 1995, Eric married Heather Pratt, an IT professional in Jacksonville. They had a daughter, Hagan Annslee, in 2001.

When Howard M. Huckaby [B.S.’81] became a FAMU student, he had owned a local communications business for 10 years. Business was slow then, so he decided to get an architecture degree. Huckaby Communications Evaluation & Design, Inc. now deals with computer, cable, and telephone systems and has a lot more going on now, so Howard hasn’t pursued architecture. He said, however, that his education at the SOA is very useful to him in all kinds of problem-solving.

Jack Huggins [B.S.’79] is a Certified Building Contractor living and working in Florida’s panhandle. He is a consultant and project manager for building companies both in and out of Florida and focuses on high-rise condominiums in the panhandle. He recently completed three in Destin (one 10-story and two 12-story), has a 17-story underway in Panama City, and started a 18-20 story in Pensacola this summer.

In fall 2002, Lavina Liburd [B.Arch.’98] began the Master of Science in Architecture program at UC Berkeley. In addition, she has been given advanced standing to enter the Ph.D. program after one year if all goes well. Before starting graduate school, Lavina worked at Del Campo and Maru Architects, Inc. in San Francisco.

Bob Maggiore [B.Arch.’87] has been a Senior Associate at Bullock Tice Associates Architects, Inc. in Pensacola since 1999. He works on many Dept. of Defense high-tech and high-security buildings as well as a variety of other building types such as fitness centers, dining facilities, and command center facilities that are developed through traditional design-bid-build and design-build delivery methods. In addition, Bob is a team leader for the healthcare market for local and national healthcare organizations. Prior to moving to Bullock Tice, Bob worked at Graves and Carlos Architects/Engineers in Pensacola where he was the architect for the Pensacola Regional Airport expansion and a USDA Research and Quarantine facility project.

For a year now, Tom Miller [B.Arch.’87] has been with the local firm of Elliott Marshall Innes, PA (EMI) where he is currently working on the golf clubhouse and downtown area of the new Southwood community in southern Tallahassee developed by Arvida. Even before he received his degree, Tom worked for Hicks/Nation Architects, Inc. and was made a partner (Hicks/Nation/ Miller Architects, Inc.) in 1996. He left the firm to join the FL Dept. of Management Services where he oversaw $60+ million in statewide construction. From there, he moved to EMI.

On May 29, 2002 Major Thomas L. Mitchell, Jr., CFM [B.S.’87] took command of the 96th Civil Engineer Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base, FL. Tom and his 313-member organization are responsible for providing civil emergency services to the USAF’s largest base—a 11.6 million sq. ft. physical plant spanning 724 square miles and 3,450 facilities. After graduation Tom worked briefly as an architectural project coordinator with the

Please see next page

Orlando Firms Work Together Again

The Lynx Regional Intermodal Center is a 103,000 square foot multi-modal transit center serving as a regional hub for commuter rail, light rail transit, public bus system, and commercial taxi service. The facility will include a passenger lounge, retail spaces, operational facilities, and a 60,000 square foot mid-rise office tower. Located in the heart of downtown Orlando, the facility forms a true downtown mixed-use center.

The alumni firm of Rhodes + Brito Architects, Inc. (R+B) is currently teamed with Helman, Hurley, Charvat, and Peacock Architects (HHCP) in the design of this facility. HHCP is responsible for the Passenger and Bus Terminal facility and acts as the prime architects over the project while R+B is responsible for the mid-rise office tower. Rob Hsin [B.S.’94, M.S’96] is Project Coordinator and Project Architect for the office tower. Alumnus Larry Ziebarth, AIA [B.S.’79, A.Arch.’83] is President and senior partner at HHCP.

The Intermodal Center will be just a few blocks away from the site of another R+B/HHCP project, the FAMU Law School (see article in the Spring 2002 issue of SOA NEWS). In that project, the roles of the two firms are reversed. R+B is the prime architect with HHCP acting as associate architects. The completion of these two high-profile, downtown facilities marks a transition point for R+B from a small, upstart firm to an established player in the design of the urban fabric of Orlando.
Marriott Corporation in Bethesda, MD. Since entering active duty service in 1988, Tom has held project management and supervisory positions directing the planning, programming, design, construction, repair, maintenance, and environmental stewardship of facilities and infrastructure at multiple installations world wide. He recently received his fourth Dept. of Defense Meritorious Service Medal for his service at Headquarters Air Force Special Operation Command where he planned, programmed, and provided execution oversight on a multi-location $260 million facility capital investment program. Tom completed professional military education programs at Squadron Officers School and Air Command & Staff College. He earned a master’s degree in management, a Master of Military Operational Arts and Science, and received the 1996 USAF Design Excellence Award in recognition of sustained years of contributions and achievements in facility design and construction excellence. Tom is currently completing course work at Michigan State Univ. toward a graduate certificate in facility management and plans to pursue a doctorate in business administration with a concentration in strategic leadership. He and his wife, Michele, have four children and live in Ft. Walton Beach, FL.

After earning his degree, Ben Mundy [B.Arch.’87] went back to the firm where he had worked prior to obtaining the diploma. What then was Swilley Curtis and Associates is now Swilley, Curtis, Mundy, Hunnicutt and Associates Architects, Inc. located in Lakeland, FL. Ben was made a partner in 1992, and his name was added to the letterhead in 1997. Also working in the firm as interns are more recent graduates, Angela Coakley Gray [B.Arch.’97] and Ennis Davis [B.Arch.’01] whom Ben met through the AIAS Job Fair. The firm focuses primarily on schools, industrial facilities, religious-related buildings, and municipal work (fire stations, airport terminals, etc.).

Sarah Nagy [M.Arch.’98] is a Project Manager for BVM Architects in Fort Walton Beach, FL. Her projects range from high-rise condominiums to churches to residences. Sarah also finds time to contribute to her community by serving on the Board of Commissioners for the local Community Redevelopment Agency and volunteering design work for the Ft. Walton Beach chapter of Main Street. She was recently inducted into the Junior League of the Emerald Coast and dances with the North Florida Ballet.

After working for seven years with architecture firms in south Florida, Frank Navarro [B.Arch.’87] decided to go back to school. In 1993, he received a MBA degree from Columbia University with a concentration in finance and real estate. He moved to Charlotte, NC where he co-founded Navarro Lowrey, a fully integrated real estate service provider that owns, develops, and acquires land and industrial, flex, and suburban office buildings located in secondary cities with strong underlying real estate fundamentals. Navarro Lowrey’s successful track record of developing and managing properties includes the Cameron Creek Business Park in Austin, Texas as well as current portfolios in Avon and Vail, Colorado and West Palm Beach. As President, Frank oversees all operations of the organization. He has two daughters, ages 6 and 9.

Even before starting her architecture degree program, Maribel Betancourt Parzych [B.Arch.’94] got her feet wet by working for Pendleton and Associates in Seaside, FL where she was exposed to small commercial and residential projects. After graduation, she began working at the local firm of Elliott Marshall Innes, PA and has been there since. She is currently working on the team that is doing the five-story addition of the Coleman Library on FAMU’s campus. Maribel is also a licensed interior designer and is taking the architecture licensing exam. In 1991, while a student, she married Jeffrey Parzych.

Roberto Rodriguez [B.Arch.’87] moved to Miami after graduation where he worked for himself and in various firms until he got his license in 1991. In 1992, he started working at Dade County Public Schools. For eight years, he worked in the Architect/Engineer Selection Dept. where he chose professionals to be hired, negotiated their contracts, etc. In 2001, he moved to the Capital Improvement Projects Dept. where he is an owner’s representative. He’s been married to Noras Adis Diaz since 1982. Three years ago, Tom Ryan [B.Arch.’90] opened his own firm in the Chicago area. His focus is on custom homes in the Chicago suburbs. After graduation, Tom worked in Ft. Lauderdale for three years on school, commercial, and custom residential projects. He then moved to Chicago, earned an Illinois license, and worked in two Chicago offices focusing on corporate interiors, retail facilities, and custom residential projects prior to opening his own firm in 1999. He and Christine, his wife of 12 years, have two daughters, ages 7 and 4.

After receiving his B.Arch. from the SOA, Steve Saff [’87] went to Catholic University where he received an M.Arch. in 1989. He remained in the Washington, D.C. area working for David Schwarz Architectural Services, Shalom Baraues Architects, and running his own firm for seven years. Last year, he became a designer for Davis, Carter, Scott Ltd. in McLean, VA. Steve has done work for the Guggenheim Museum, the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas, and won a GSA award for the design of the Pittsburgh Courthouse. Currently, he is concentrating on residential projects, office buildings, and urban planning work.

Before coming to FAMU, Ramadan (Sam) Seyam [B.S.’80, M.Arch.’82] received a B.S. in Architecture in Cairo, Egypt. After completing his degrees at FAMU, he went “next door” to earn a master’s degree in interior design from Florida State University. He also obtained his license as a

Maali Estate home (17,600 sq. ft.) designed and built by Sam Seyam, Zoser Design Build Group and featured on House and Garden television.
general contractor. In 1990, Sam started Zoser Design Build Group, Inc. in Winter Park, FL. The firm is involved in the design and construction of several building types: retail, restaurants, office buildings, multi- and single-family residences, and high-end custom homes and mansions. As the owner of Zoser Design Build Group, Sam has established a unique philosophy and work ethics that have brought him many repeat clients for 12 years. The firm’s motto is, “Beauty does not have to be expensive.” Zoser’s work was recently featured both on House and Garden television and in Orlando Home Design magazine. The project was an upscale residence on a golf course in Orlando, the Maali Estate at Islesworth (shown on page 14). Another major residence is a 38,000 sq. ft. mansion designed and built at Waive Springs, FL for Prince Naive, the Minster of the Interior of Saudi Arabia and the brother of the King. Sam and Nawal, his wife of 29 years, have three children: two sons 20 and 16 and one daughter 18.

In early 2002, Jerry Thomas [B.Arch.'97] opened his own firm—TT Design Development in Coral Springs, FL. While the new business is revving up, Jerry also works full-time at Tamara Peacock Co. in Ft. Lauderdale where he has been since 1999. In both endeavors, the work centers around commercial, public, and multi-family residential projects. Between graduation and going to Tamara Peacock, Jerry got experience at Anderson Architects and Saltz Michelson Architects, both in Broward County, FL.

After graduation, Bobby Thompson [B.S.’93] moved back to home town Panama City and began working for Collins and Associates, Inc. Ten years later, he is still there serving as Project Manager for a number of projects, primarily condominiums, apartment complexes, and banks. Bobby and his wife Constance have three children: a 20-year-old son and two daughters, 5 and 3.

Manuel Valdivieso [B.S.’84] is a registered architect, certified general contractor, and certified building inspector. His 17 years of experience range from designing commercial and industrial buildings to residential and renovation projects. Along with design and contract document preparation, he has served as an on-site contract administrator representing architects for various projects. Currently at The Stellar Group in Jacksonville, his work is primarily in cold storage and food processing design departments. Responsibilities include coordination of design development between the owner/client and the design/construction disciplines, developing international architectural/ construction relationships, and budget preparation.

After Cal Walton graduated [B.S.’80], he moved back to his home town of Jacksonville where he has remained. After working on design teams at KBJ Architects and Patterson Enterprises Design/Build Constructors for a total of nine years, Cal took a position as Project Manager in Facilities Planning and Construction at Duval County Public Schools, completing $65+ million in school construction and remodeling. In his fifth year, he was promoted to Supervisor of Plant Services where he dealt with $26+ million annually in maintenance, repairs, and improvements for 160 schools. After five more years (2001), he was promoted to Operations Manager of the Business Services Division. He and his wife of 20 years (Veronica) have three sons: Marcus, 2002 graduate in Biochemical Engineering from FSU and planning to attend medical school; Cal, a 2002 freshman member of the FAMU Marching 100 and planning to attend law school; and Brian, a high school junior who plays football and participates in many other extracurricular activities.

We are sad to report the deaths of Stephen Weder [B.S.’79] in 1990 in Dallas, Texas and Thomas E. Woods, Jr. [B.S.’87] in 2002 in Tallahassee. (Also see the article on “Recent Gifts” to the School, page 4.)

Return to Sender—Address Unknown

Our list of alumni for whom we have no contact information is shrinking, but it is still far too long. Thanks to calls from some of you and to a good bit of detective work, we have been able to remove 12 names from the list published in the last newsletter. Those listed below, however, are still “lost.” Please review the list and let us know of any information you may have for any of these alumni. Send to: Judyce McCalman, 850.599.3746, or <jmccalman@famusoa.net>. Thank you!

Abegunde, Dayo
aguilar, David
Ahmadnejad, Saed
Ajose-Adeogun, Oluwem
Akinsola, Akinunde
al-Abdullah, Bader
al-Essa, Abdulaziz
al-Moukeid, Walid
al-Mufti, Ghazal
Balmer, Nancy
berkaert, Denise
Berry, John
Bilodeau-Wray, Nancy
Blaney, Kevin
Boden, Eileen
Carroll, Richard
Carter, John
Cason, Michael
Chan, Chi Wai
Colome, Joseph
Concepcion, Carlos
Cothron, Michael
Coto, C. Vivian
Cuervo, Jose
Cushing, Darin
Denmark, James
Desvallons, Beatrice
Ellis, Gregory
Enguerre, Cesar
Evans, Patrick
Fairley, Stephen
Fentress, Marvalette
Francis, Michael
Gabb, Rupert
Goshvar, Hamid
Goudarzi, Soheila
Green, Jeffery
Guevara, Jesus
Hernandez, Rhina
Hoch, Arthur
Hodge, Allen
Hussain, Saleh
Jamshidimehr, Mohammad
Johnson, Scott
Jordan-Cason, Joy
Kawczynski, Thierry-Michel
Lane, John
Lipschultz-Fields, Deborah
Lukin, Christopher
Martin, Virginia
Matos, Juan
Mazraehrarahani, Abbas
McLean, Omar
Mehrafshar, Menran
Memari, Hamid
Mobley, Russell
Mortensen, David
Mowlavi, Mohammad
Mullis, Richard
Nassab, Mohammad-Saltani
Nkonjera, Attlee
Opayemi, Owodunni
Oton, Imoh
Padron, George
Parsons, Ray
Patterson, Michael
Poonch, Chaolat
Pujoel, Barrett
Rassouli, Hossein
Rodriguez, Henry
Rodriguez, Oscar
Roura, Aldo
Russell, Roger
Saldarriaga, Mariluz
Sanieenia, Hossein
Sewer, Jerome
Shali-Amini, Majid
Smith, Edward
Smith, Stephen
Smith, Toinana
Strachan, Wendell
Taeb, Ali
Thompson, Vernon
Trujillo, Angel
Waddell, Jeffery
West, Fredia
Williams, Roy
Williams, Shana
Williams, Louis
Wronski, David

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Student Awards

Students who excelled during the year were honored at a special program for family and friends on Sunday, April 21. In addition to medals, certificates, and books contributed by the organizations indicated, sponsors of cash awards were alumni firm Rhodes + Brito Architects, Inc. in Orlando ($1,000); Pella Windows and Doors ($1,000); the AIA/Florida Foundation ($1,000); and, for the Jacksonville Studio graduate program and the Mellon-Greeley Foundation Scholarship, the Jacksonville Chapter of the AIA ($2,050).

The School thanks all the award donors and congratulates the honorees who were selected by the faculty.

DeGraff Memorial Award—First Year  Kirsten Dahlquist
First-Year Design Award  Marketa Clark
DeGraff Memorial Award—Second Year  Randell Duggins
Second-Year Design Award  Niasha Ross
Rhodes + Brito Award  Juan Hollingsworth
Technology Award—Lower Division  Crystal Jackson
Technology Award—Upper Division  Venicha Fore
History/Theory Award—Lower Division  Ray York, Jr.
History/Theory Award—Upper Division  Shanathan Crayton
Third-Year Design Award  Jonathan McCray
Most Promising Student Award—Third Year  Jonathan McCray
Fourth-Year Design Award  Chinh Cong Cao
Most Outstanding Fourth-Year Student  Karen Williams
Graduating Senior with Highest GPA  Shane Moniz

ARCC King Medal  William Hees
Alpha Rho Chi Medal  Toinana Smith
Pella Fifth-Year Jurist Award  Toinana Smith
AIA/FL Bronze Medal  Richard Navarro
AIA/FL Cash Award—Continuing Student  Daisy Williams
AIA Henry Adams Medal—B.Arch.  Dane Niles
AIA Certificate of Merit—B.Arch.  Karen Griffiths
AIA Henry Adams Medal—M.Arch.  Danny Capoot
AIA Certificate of Medal—M.Arch.  Daphne Floran-Melendez
Mellon-Greeley Foundation Scholarship  Shane Moniz
Jacksonville AIA Award—Honor  Lemuel Rios
Jacksonville AIA Award—Merit  Calvin Pemberton
Jacksonville AIA Award—Merit  William Santiago
MLA Award—First Year  Ryan Simmons
MLA Award—Second Year  Sine Murray