FAMU ALUMNI WIN NEW LAW SCHOOL COMMISSION

Fourth-year student, Shane Moniz, walked away with the top prize in a state-wide, blind-review design competition—$3,000. This was “the Super Bowl for architecture schools in Florida,” said Michael Shiff, chairman of the Florida Board of Architecture and Interior Design—one of the co-sponsors of the competition. Other sponsors were the Oldsmar Cultural Arts Foundation and the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects.

Hundreds of students from the six universities in Florida with schools of architecture competed for the design of the Oldsmar Cultural Arts Center. However, since each school was allowed a limited number of entries, the designs were screened prior to submission to Jan Sapiega, the competition’s chairwoman, and 54 projects were selected for the jury’s review.

In addition to FAMU, students also represented the University of Florida, Florida Atlantic

Florida A & M University has selected the Rhodes + Brito Team as the architect for the resurrected College of Law. The Rhodes + Brito Team is a joint venture between Rhodes + Brito Architects, Inc. and Helman, Hurley, Charvat, and Peacock Architects (HHCP). These two Orlando firms have an established relationship spanning five years and together have worked on projects totaling $900 million in construction costs.

This joint venture combined the skills of Rhodes + Brito Architects’ justice experience and HHCP’s higher education experience. Registered architects Ruffin A. Rhodes, AIA [B.S.’82, M.Arch.’89] and Maximiano Brito, AIA [B.S.’85, B.Arch.’89] formed Rhodes + Brito Architects in 1996, and both are graduates of SOA. Two other members of their growing staff are also FAMU graduates—

—Rob Hsin
[B.S.’94, M.S.’96] and
Tim Johnson
[B.S.’86, B.Arch.’88].

HHCP, a 26-year-old Orlando architecture firm, has two FAMU graduates. One is President and senior partner in the firm—

Larry Ziebarth, AIA [B.S.’79, M.Arch.’83]—and another senior associate—

Vince Mastroeni [B.Arch.’90]—will be the Project Architect for the FAMU College of Law project.

The City of Orlando was selected among stiff competition from the cities of Tampa, Lakeland, and Daytona Beach as the city of choice for the new FAMU College of Law. Rhodes + Brito Architects assisted the City of Orlando in their bid by providing layout drawings for the temporary law school building. The new facility will be located on a 3.77-acre parcel in downtown Orlando along Interstate 4 in the historically African-American Parramore District. This proposed law school facility is currently programmed at 120,000 GSF and has a construction budget of approximately $22 million.
From the Dean

“This past fall was the first time in the last two years that students, faculty, and staff were not greeted with construction barriers and personnel as they arrived in the architecture building.”

I wish I could find the words to articulate my feelings and those of my colleagues about the tragic events of September 11, 2001. A trip to New York City in early November to attend the annual Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) Administrators Conference and a subsequent visit to “Ground Zero” brought me no closer to that reality. Throughout the process of trying to absorb the magnitude of the destruction and its consequences, being frozen in disbelief, confronting our fears, and assessing our resolve, we found refuge in our focus on the many reasons that we have to be thankful—our families, students, alumni, faculty, and staff.

Like many other things in our daily life, this newsletter was significantly delayed or put on hold. As a result, there is much to report since the last issue, Winter 2001. This past fall was the first time in the last two years that students, faculty, and staff were not greeted with construction barriers and personnel as they arrived in the architecture building. At the fall commencement, President Humphries (in one of his final acts as President) announced that the SOA building will be one of three buildings he is recommending to be named during the 2002 legislative session. His recommendation is to name our building after the 2002 legislative session. His recommendation is to name our building after Walter L. Smith, Florida A & M University’s seventh president. The FAMU Board of Trustees approved the recommendation during their January board meeting. We will report to you on its outcome in our next newsletter.

On a personal note, I have concluded my three-year tenure on the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) culminating with a final meeting in Cincinnati, OH at the University of Cincinnati (DAA) in October. I will cherish the experience of interacting with representatives on the Board and the leadership of each of the collateral organizations (ACSA, AIA, AIAS, and NCARB) and its importance on the growth of the School as well as me professionally. The success of my tenure, first as a Board member and then as Vice President and President would not have been possible without the support of the University, faculty, students, and my entire administrative staff.

For the 2001-2002 academic year, we welcomed back Professors Keith Grey and LaVerne Well-Bowie from a year of sabbatical while Professor Tim White started his year away. Robert Goodwin and Judye McCalman completed a semester of Professional Developmental Leave during the fall term. We are fortunate to have two outstanding visiting faculty members. Tom Porter returns to the School from Oxford, England, and Michael Wnuk is a recent graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo. Speaking of returning, we are also pleased to have both George Dombek and Ronald Shaeffer with us during the spring semester.

The news about our students, alumni, and faculty remains a hallmark of every newsletter, and this issue is no exception. We continue to be impressed by each of their individual accomplishments and the collective impact that they have on the reputation of the School and the University. I urge you to join us in congratulating them and to help us learn more about other members of the FAMU School of Architecture community.

Rodner B. Wright, AIA
Dean

LAW SCHOOL, from p. 1

In addition to assisting the City of Orlando, Ruffin and Max prepared by visiting law schools prior to responding to the Request for Proposals. These site visits included Suffolk Law School, Harvard Law School, Boston College of Law, New England College of Law, and Indiana University Law School. Visiting these facilities provided some critical planning issues necessary for a well-designed law school facility.

The team’s proposal and presentation to the Selection Committee focused on the concept of “restoration” or the Latin renovatio, f. [id.]. It was the team’s premise that this project is not only about the restoration of an institution that was unjustly deprived...
qualities. Issues included visibility from Interstate 4, relationship to the future Federal Courthouse, relationship to the adjacent state DMS facilities and plaza, functional organization, and how the architecture might interact with the community.

“The Rhodes + Brito Team provided the Selection Committee a simple and effective concept plan of urban design that creates a sensitive relationship with the existing surroundings while addressing the intent of the FAMU College of Law program needs,” noted Mr. Sam Houston, Director of Facilities Planning at FAMU.

Of course, the selection of the Rhodes + Brito Team was received with great excitement by team members. For Rhodes + Brito Architects, this opportunity is a milestone. The chance to design such a prestigious facility on a high-profile site is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for any firm. It will enable the continued growth of the firm and, for both Max and Ruffin, will fulfill personal goals of wanting to do work for their alma mater.

For Shane, the project presented two major challenges. “While doing the site research on our field trip, I got the feeling from the people in the community that this building was going to be their pride and joy—a real landmark for them. This was a big challenge for such a small community,” said Shane. “The other big challenge was that it was a fairly large site (several acres), but the building program area was fairly small. The competition included designing the whole site, including parking for 150 cars.”

“The community gave widespread support of the project and the competition,” said Huffman. “On the night of the awards, both the mayor and the community turned out. The ceremony was a very special occasion celebrating a major competition, and we were all very proud of Shane.”

In summer 2000, Shane transferred to FAMU with an A.A. degree from Gulf Coast Community College in Panama City, using the articulation agreement reached between the two schools in 1998. While at FAMU, Shane has maintained a 4.0 GPA. He plans to stay for graduate school and obtain an Master of Architecture degree.
AIA FL Board Meets at SOA

When Mike Rodriguez, AIA was elected President of the AIA Florida Board of Directors, he decided that the 2001 meetings should be held at the various schools of architecture around the state. This decision was prompted by his desire for the profession to ensure that future architects have access to and benefit from the experiences of day-to-day practice. He wanted the AIA to play a leadership role in that networking opportunity for students.

The April 2001 meeting was held at the School on April 19. The new large classroom off the south atrium space was the setting for the all-day meeting of 50 professionals from around the state. Break-out sessions took advantage of both spaces to accommodate several small discussion groups. Lunch was served in the atrium. Following the meeting, a reception sponsored by the Tallahassee Chapter of the AIA was held in the atrium where there was also a display of student work. Students and faculty were invited to attend the reception and meet the Board members.

MLA Program Update

The graduate program in Landscape Architecture continues to grow, and the faculty and students are very busy. Student Anne Beavers (who won the first-year graduate student Book Award) served as President of the student chapter of ASLA and attended the Executive Committee meetings of the Florida Chapter ASLA in that capacity. The new president of the student chapter is Sine Murray who was elected spring semester, 2002.

During the fall 2001, the students participated in a trip that included visiting the landscape architecture program at the University of Florida to view an exhibit of student work, a tour of Jacksonville’s historic neighborhoods, a tour of Amelia Island Plantation, and a two-night stay in Savannah. They also made an office visit to Reynolds, Smith and Hills hosted by Chris Flagg, project manager for the firm’s FAMU Master Planning efforts.

The students in the MLA program and first-year students in the M.Arch. program participated in a tour of the new developments on Hwy. 30-A in the Florida Panhandle including Seaside, Rosemary Beach, and Watercolor. This visit took place early in the spring 2002 semester while Professor LaVerne Wells-Bowie was artist-in-residence at Seaside.

Program Director Richard Rome has been working with the chairs of other landscape architecture programs in the state (the University of Florida and Florida International University) to develop a coordinated approach to continuing education credits for licensed landscape architects in Florida.

Along with Jeff Caster, Rome has attended several conferences both in and out of the state (see section on “Faculty News”) and was also nominated for membership in the Academy of Fellows in the ASLA.

The program received a gift from the Florida Chapter of the ASLA of ten significant new books recently published on landscape architecture worldwide.
Visiting Faculty Enrich Programs

The School is fortunate to have attracted two excellent visiting faculty members this year: Professors Tom Porter and Michael Wnuk.

Tom Porter is a familiar name to both our faculty and to many alumni as well. His trips to the School began over 20 years ago (in 1980), and he has made 15 visits of varying lengths since then. His work is also familiar because of his 16 books on environmental color and architectural graphics. He is currently working on three other books (quite a juggling act!), including one co-authored with George Dombek on Airbrush Architecture, Archispeak, and a Manual of Architectural Presentation.

In addition, he serves on the Enrichment Committee.

“This school is still a fresh, open-ended, and malleable place, and I’ve always been interested in being a part of that,” stated Porter. “It is still young enough to look at new ideas and challenge the ‘normal.’ …The thing I enjoy most about being here is experiencing the success of the students. To share the accomplishments of the students who work hard and do good work is quite rewarding.”

Michael Wnuk is a graduate of the 4+2 M.Arch. program at the State University of New York at Buffalo and has worked as a computer programmer. Over the course of the year, Prof. Wnuk will have taught courses in four areas: Computer Applications (Photoshop, Flash, and AutoCad), Intermediate AutoCad (primarily rendering programs), Digital Theory and Criticism, and Computer Applications in Landscape Architecture. In addition, he serves on the Technology and Publications Committees and, working with Pat Ding, monitors the computer labs.

“I love to teach,” said Prof. Wnuk. “I am young, and I want to get as much teaching experience as I can. I enjoy working to raise the level of use and understanding of computers in the School, and I especially like the interactions with the students—getting to know everybody.”

Coming to us from one of the coldest parts of the country (Buffalo) and having raised in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York, he admits that another thing he loves about being here is “the weather!”

Sabbaticals and Leaves

Returning from year-long sabbaticals are Keith Grey and LaVerne Wells-Bowie.

Prof. Keith Grey has returned to teaching this semester after spending a year on sabbatical examining the role of designed and found elements in the overall visual identity of urban communities within the United States. Grey noted that this study was prompted, in part, by the fact that, “…much of the development that has occurred within cities over the past 40 years is mundane and highly repetitive. The rich filigree of architectural landmarks that are so important to the very idea of urbanity has too often been demolished and replaced with banal utilitarian design. This unfortunate condition goes a long way toward explaining why large portions of our cities are so instantly forgettable, with nothing more memorable to offer than what is deemed to be missing, misguided, or just plain uninspiring.”

His study is ongoing and looks at both successful urban environments and the not-so-successful and probes each for lessons to be learned by architects, urban designers, urban planners, and landscape architects alike.

Prof. LaVerne Wells-Bowie spent a sabbatical leave last academic year as the Mickel Chair Scholar in Architecture at Clemson University. She was the first candidate for this new endowed chair. While in South Carolina, Wells-Bowie completed much of the research for an upcoming book on the contributions of black builders to the historic urban fabric of Charleston.

Other activities included delivering a lecture at the Sorbonne in Paris during an international conference on the influences African art forms have had in Europe, the Americas, and other world contexts.

Wells-Bowie also traveled to Cuba as part of a delegation of U.S. architects and preservationists. The U.S. chapter of the...
CAPITOLIO, located in La Habana, is Cuba’s capitol building. It was completed in 1929 and was intended to reflect the style of the U.S. Capitol: neoclassical, with flanking colonnades supported by Doric columns and a cupola that rises over 61 meters. The massive bronze figure facing the entry is representative of liberty and the Cuban Republic.

International Committee on Monuments and Sites hosted this study tour that was arranged as a collaboration of environmental professionals from both countries. She cites this as a unique opportunity and the richest part of her sabbatical experience. In addition to visiting the city of La Habana (Havana), a designated world heritage site, the group toured Cuban cities including Trinidad, Santiago de Cuba, and Cienfuegos.

Prof. Wells-Bowie served as an organizing chair of a significant multi-disciplinary conference on Africanisms in the Americas, sponsored by the National Park Service. She moderated the international session, which included noted scholars from Canada, the Caribbean, and West Africa.

Prof. Tim White is on sabbatical during 2001-2002, and Arleen Pabón is taking leaving without pay for the year while working in Puerto Rico. Bob Goodwin and Judye McCulman were on professional development leave during the fall term.

Conferences

Places of Cultural Memory: African Reflections on the American Landscape convened interdisciplinary panels of experts whose presentations “assisted in the fuller identification, evaluation, documentation, preservation, and interpretation of buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects.” This three-day conference was held in Atlanta in May 2001 and coordinated by the National Park Service. Arleen Pabón presented a paper on the “African Influences on Puerto Rican Architecture,” Richard Dozier served as moderator for the session on “Agricultural Lifeways and Technologies,” and LaVerne Wells-Bowie commented on the session “Legacies of Urban Realms and Rural Communities” and served as moderator of the session on “International Response: Where Do We Go From Here?”

The Collection, the Vernacular, and the Sacred, a paper coauthored by Andrew Chin, Arlene Pabón, and Richard Rome was accepted for presentation at two conferences: the ACSA West Central Regional Meeting at Kansas State University in Manhattan, KS (September 2001) and the ACSA Southeast Regional Meeting at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta (February 2002).

Richard Rome and Jeff Caster attended the Annual Meeting of the Florida Chapter of the ASLA at Celebration, FL where Caster made two presentations. One presentation outlined the latest provisions of the Florida Dept. of Transportation’s request for proposals for “Roadside Landscape Improvements” throughout the state, and the other presentation dealt with “Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation in Florida.” Richard Rome also attended the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) Annual Conference in San Luis Obispo, CA and participated in workshops on curriculum and research issues in graduate programs of landscape architecture.

In October, Professor Emeritus Ron Shaeffer presented a paper entitled, “Special Structures Education in North American Schools of Architecture” at the Annual Symposium of the International Association for Shell and Spatial Structures in Nagoya, Japan. The paper was coauthored with Prof. Patrick Tripeny of the University of Utah.

Creative Activities

Valerie Goodwin was one of 29 artists selected to exhibit in the Northern Spectrum II regional exhibition of fine crafts. Two of her original quilts—Variations on Letter No. 5 and Rotational Displacement—were on display at the 621 Gallery in Tallahassee where Rotational Displacement was awarded an Honorable Mention. In addition, Mach I was accepted into a two-part national juried exhibition, “The Artist as Quiltmaker.” The exhibit opens this spring at the Firelands Association for the Visual Arts in Oberlin, Ohio. Two other quilts have been accepted for exhibit in national juried shows. Organic Grid II will be shown in “Art Quilts at the Sedgwick 2002” at the Sedgwick Cultural Center in Philadelphia. Built Forms at Water’s Edge will travel for three years in the “Fine Focus 02” national traveling exhibit of Small Art Quilts. Both shows open spring 2002. Rotational Displacement is in the “49th Florida Craftsmen Exhibit” at the Center for the Arts in Vero Beach, FL, a statewide juried collection that opened in January ’02.

Temptress, a large-scale outdoor sculpture by Deborah LaGrasse was purchased recently by Gulf Coast Museum of Art in Largo, FL. The piece is painted steel, cast bronze, and stainless steel. During February and March 2001, Deborah joined her husband, FSU Assoc. Prof. Charles Hook, in a two-person sculpture exhibition—A Marriage of Metal—at Artport, Tallahassee Regional Airport. At an exhibition of juried art relating to water and the environment at the Visual Arts Center of Northwest Florida in Panama City, Deborah exhibited Featherstone, a carved red and green sandstone and water sculpture that she created in Wales on her professional development leave from
the SOA in 1999. This exhibition will travel for a year to a number of Florida and Georgia cities.

Service
Craig Huffman was appointed to a three-year term to serve on the Board of Directors for Goodwill Industries. Prof. Tom Martineau presented a continuing education seminar, “Better, Faster, Cheaper: The Promise of Polymers in Construction” at the AIA FL Convention 2001 in St. Petersburg. Bob Goodwin coauthored the seminar material. Richard Rome and Mike Alfano served as jurors for the Tampa Planning Commission’s Annual Design Awards.

Lalo Robles served as architect in residence during a cultural mission to Argentina and Uruguay, July 13-22, 2001. Invited by the Florida Dept. of State, Robles directed art and architecture tours of various cities and selected museums. Over the summer, Robles also participated as a juror in the first annual “The Real Nitty Gritty Beach Party.” The sand castle competition benefitted the Tallahassee Museum of History & Natural Science, the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science, and the Challenger Learning Center—all in Tallahassee. Robles was selected as a Panelist by the Florida Dept. of State’s Office of International Affairs to review grant proposals for both the International Educational Linkage Institute and the Sister City International Program.

Honors and Awards
Retiring Profs. Thorbjoern Mann and Ronald Shaeffer were named Professors Emeritus. Larry Peterson was promoted from Associate to full Professor. Richard Rome was nominated for membership in the Academy of Fellows in the ASLA. Assoc. Prof. LaVerne Wells-Bowie spent January 2002 as an artist-in-residence in Seaside, FL. The “Escape to Create” program is a month-long opportunity awarded annually to ten artists around the country. During her residency, Wells-Bowie developed a series of assemblages related to architecture and cultural memory.

Jax Studio 2001
The purpose of the Jacksonville Studio is to provide first-year architecture graduate students an opportunity to explore emerging architectural and urban design opportunities in the city of Jacksonville. These investigations stimulate debate in the profession, and the visions created educate the community as to the architectural alternatives available.

The design challenge for the spring 2001 Jacksonville Studio was to explore architectural and urban design consequences for the proposed Jacksonville Public Library. The City of Jacksonville had chosen a site in downtown Jacksonville across from Hemming Park, but the generic facility program its consultants had developed was not site specific. Thus the City had no understanding how the proposed program fit the site and what kind of impact would it have on the surrounding urban fabric.

The program as written required a 700-car parking garage as well as a 300,000 (gross) sq. ft. building. At the midterm review, it was clear that the site could not support both the building and garage. The two elements on the

Students decompress after final presentation. (L-R) Rick Navarro, Danny Capoot, Daphne Floran-Melindez, Ken Evert, Ian Astwood, and Karla Castellon.

Jury discussion during Karla Castellon’s presentation. (L-R) Karla, Ray Evans, Alan Wilson, and Tri T. Vu.
site conflicted with each other’s ability to function and caused the library portion to be massive in scale. This insight allowed the City to rethink the location of the parking facility before RFPs were published.

The students’ designs also explored means by which the library could engage the surrounding public domain in a positive manner. Their solutions expanded the program to include more retail, service, and public gathering spaces. These additions allowed the proposed library to enhance the street life surrounding it and help to integrate it to its context by reinforcing the existing fragile retail in the Jacksonville urban core. This aspect of the program was accordingly reinforced and expanded by the City.

The students explored a number of issues regarding architectural scale including the purpose and place of the library in the information age, media and information accessibility, ethos and myth, and structural expressionism. In most cases these were the preliminary research of possible thesis topics. The research and resolution of these topics gave each student’s design work a unique personality and provided grist for a lively debate at the final jury. The final review participants included members of the AIA Jacksonville and members from the City’s and library’s project management team.

The Jacksonville Studio was successful in meeting its goals of providing an excellent educational opportunity for the students, interaction with and within the professionals, and a service to the City of Jacksonville. Students who participated in the project were: Ian Astwood, Danny Capoot, Karla Castellon, Ken Evert, Daphne Floran-Melindez, and Rick Navarro. Jurors were: Ray Evans (ALS Architects), Rex Holmlin (City of Jacksonville), Patricia Houlihan (Richard Skinner & Associates), Melody Linger (Jacksonville AIA). Stephen Ludvig (Jacksonville Public Library), Mike Sherburne (The St. Joe Company), Kenneth Sivulich (Jacksonville Public Library), Tri Vu (TTV Architects, Inc.), Martin Wander (Reynolds, Smith, and Hill, Inc.), and Alan Wilson (The Haskell Co.).

Outstanding Students Honored

Each year, the faculty are asked to select two outstanding students to represent the School and to be recognized at the Honors Convocation. For 2001, the faculty voted for one student from the lower division (Wootton) and one from the upper division (Williams).

Israel Wootton

Though only 17 years old at the time, Israel Wootton had already set academic records. Coming to the School with an A.A. degree from TCC and classified as a junior, he was the youngest student in the School. He arrived with a 4.0 GPA, and he has maintained that academic excellence at FAMU. While at TCC, he broke two records: he was the youngest student ever to graduate (at 16), and he carried the most credits ever taken in one semester (26). In addition, he served as secretary of both the Phi Delta Kappa and the TCC Honor Society.

Israel was born and raised in Israel, and Hebrew is his first language. His family moved to the United States when he was in the seventh grade. In addition to being a burgeoning scholar, he is also a talented artist and a versatile athlete. Though he had planned to study medicine, a chance visit to the SOA and his observation of a thesis defense by a graduate student inspired him to change his major to architecture. He is a highly respected role model for his classmates and often advises them on how to improve their designs, renderings, and other work. He plans to continue his education throughout his life, seeking degrees in a number of fields.

With a grade point average of 3.73 as a third-year student in the School of Architecture, Karen Williams has distinguished herself both academically and as a student leader. In spring 2000, she was selected by the faculty to receive the Rhodes + Brito Award for being the most talented and promising student entering the third year. She is also on the Dean’s List and Who’s Who in American Students.

Karen Williams

Karen was born in London, England, and lived there for ten years; however, she now calls Palm Coast, Florida her home. She has combined her interests in both architecture and theater into a double major, and she participates in extracurricular activities in both fields. In addition to being the Historian in Alpha Rho Chi, she is also a member of the NOMAS.

As a second-year student, she served as Executive Assistant to the SGA President and played intramural volleyball. As a third-year student, she was a stage manager for Orchesis and operated the sound board for the Essential Theater. During summer 2000, she worked as Stage Manager at the Riverside Theater in Vero Beach.
2000-2001 Awards Program

Students who excelled during the year were honored at a special program for family and friends on graduation day, April 28, 2001. In addition to medals, certificates, and books contributed by the organizations indicated, sponsors of cash awards were alumni firms Rhodes + Brito Architects, Inc. in Orlando ($1,000); Pella Windows and Doors ($1,000); the AIA/FL Foundation ($1,000); and, for the Jacksonville Studio graduate program, the Jacksonville Chapter of the AIA ($2,000).

Also recognized during the program was retiring Professor Thor Mann who was presented with a framed copy of the SOA News article featuring him in the Winter 2001 issue and signed by all the SOA faculty and staff. Thor retired January 1, 2001.

Following the ceremony, a reception for family and friends was held in the School’s atrium. Four firms sponsored the reception this year:
- Rosier/Jones Associates, Inc.
- Huffman/Tarmey Architecture, P.A. [Craig Huffman, SOA Associate Professor]

Our thanks to all the award donors and the sponsoring firms. Our congratulations to the student honorees who were selected by the faculty for these awards.

2000-2001 Award Recipients

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<tr>
<th>DeGraff Memorial Award–First Year</th>
<th>Crystal Joy Jackson</th>
<th>Pella Fifth-Year Jurist Finalists</th>
<th>Ennis Davis</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Makya Renee Taylor</td>
<td>Thomas Politi</td>
<td>Melinda Stebbins</td>
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<tr>
<td>DeGraff Memorial Award–Second Year</td>
<td>Jabari Garland</td>
<td>Pella Fifth-Year Jurist Award</td>
<td>Michael Ruiz</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jonathan McCray</td>
<td>AIA/Florida Bronze Medal</td>
<td>Kelly Browning</td>
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<td>Rhodes + Brito Award</td>
<td>Israel Wootton</td>
<td>AIA/Florida Cash Award–Continuing Student</td>
<td>Anna Barbour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology Award–Lower Division</td>
<td>Jestein Futrell</td>
<td>AIA Henry Adams Medal–B.Arch.</td>
<td>Michael Ruiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology Award–Upper Division</td>
<td>Shane Moniz</td>
<td>AIA Certificate of Merit–B.Arch.</td>
<td>Scott Gann</td>
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<tr>
<td>History/Theory Award–Lower Division</td>
<td>Shanathan Crayton</td>
<td>AIA Henry Adams Medal–M.Arch.</td>
<td>Dwayne Daniels</td>
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<tr>
<td>History/Theory Award–Upper Division</td>
<td>Chinh Cong Cao</td>
<td>AIA Certificate of Merit–M.Arch.</td>
<td>Patrick Vaughan</td>
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<td>Third-Year Design Award</td>
<td>Karen Williams</td>
<td>Mellon-Greeley Foundation Scholar</td>
<td>Andre Saunders</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Shane Moniz</td>
<td>Scholarship</td>
<td>Louis Copp</td>
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<td>Most Promising Students–Third Year</td>
<td>Stacy Banach</td>
<td>Jacksonville AIA Award–Honor</td>
<td>Ricardo Navarro</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Daisy Williams</td>
<td>Jacksonville AIA Award–Merit</td>
<td>Ian Astwood</td>
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<td>Fourth-Year Design Award</td>
<td>Donald Gray</td>
<td>MLA Book Award</td>
<td>Daniel Capoot</td>
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<td>Most Outstanding Fourth-Year Student</td>
<td>Dane Miles</td>
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<td>Daphne Floran-Melindez</td>
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<td>Graduating Senior with Highest GPA</td>
<td>Donald Gray</td>
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<td>Anne Beavers</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARCC King Medal</td>
<td>Patrick Vaughan</td>
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Alumni Jury Fifth-Year Projects

Under the direction of Andrew Chin and Dan Donovan, a new fifth-year jury event was initiated for the spring 2001 semester. The goal was to begin a new tradition of a design competition and celebration ending with the granting of the Pella Jurist Award of a $1,000 cash prize sponsored by the Pella Window and Door Co. The jury was made up of in-state SOA alumni invited from St. Petersburg, Maitland, Orlando, and Tallahassee. They were: Ruffin Rhodes [B.S.’82, M.Arch.’89], Max Brito [B.S.’85, B.Arch.’89], and Tim Johnson [B.S.’86, B.Arch.’88] representing Rhodes + Brito Architects, Orlando; Wayne Rosier [B.S.’81, M.Arch.’83] representing Rosier/Jones Associates, Inc. from St. Petersburg; Larry Ziebarth [B.S.’79, M.Arch.’83] representing HHCP, Design International from Maitland; and Ron Walsh [M.Arch.’84] representing the Florida Department of Health, Tallahassee.

All of the final projects were sited in Orlando. Each student’s work was displayed in the south atrium for review by the jury. Included were required drawings and models as well as a 1,500-word essay describing each project. The jury spent two hours individually reviewing each project. They then met as a group and identified four who then presented his/her project. The finalists were: Ennis Davis, Tom Politi, Mike Ruiz, and Melinda Stebbins. After the individual presentations, the jury conferred again for the difficult task of selecting the winner. However, the students were kept in suspense for a week; the winner would not be known until the Awards Reception on graduation day, April 27. At that time, Dean Wright announced Mike Ruiz as the winner of the Pella Jurist Award.

Our congratulations to Mike, the other finalists, and to all the fifth-year students who worked hard on this project. And our deep appreciation to all the jurors who not only gave of their time and expertise but who also covered their own travel expenses!

Fall Field Trips

Accompanied by Profs. Lalo Robles and Beth Dobson, the first-year students enjoyed a tour of historic St. Augustine, where they sketched some of the architectural elements they saw.

Two bus loads of second-year students and their instructors (Valerie Goodwin, Craig Huffman, and Tom Porter) went to Savannah, GA. There they participated in a treasure hunt to find specific architectural elements that they then drew. In addition, Prof. Porter worked with them on the “Savannah Palette,” mapping the colors of the squares in Savannah.

Professors Walter Grondzik and Peter Stone led a group of 19 third-year students on a trip to Biloxi, MS and New Orleans, LA where they sketched and experienced buildings and urban spaces. The group spent two nights in New Orleans.

The focus of the fourth-year design studio led by Profs. Craig Huffman and Roy Knight was modern architecture in Florida. Visits to Oldsmar, Sarasota, and Miami provided an opportunity to research the topic firsthand. In Sarasota, the students met with John Howie, an authority on the Sarasota school of architecture—a unique approach to modern architecture that adapted modernist ideas of space and composition to the Florida...
environment. Located north of Tampa on Tampa Bay, Oldsmar was the site of a statewide competition in which the class was participating. For more on this trip and the competition, see the story on Shane Moniz’ competition win on page 1.

Accompanied by Profs. Andrew Chin and Tom Porter, 15 fifth-year students traveled to downtown Orlando. Dean Wild, City of Orlando Planning Office, and Ken Austin, Downtown Development Board, met with the students to discuss the visions and recent developments in downtown. The students used the trip to complete site-analysis and documentation exercises.


Alumnus in the “Design Vanguard”

Starlight Theatre in Rockford, Illinois showing the kinetic roof structure and exterior “constellation” wall.

If you have had an opportunity to read the December 2001 issue of Architectural Record, you probably saw the focus section noted on the cover: “Design Vanguard: Nine Emerging Architects Challenge the Status Quo.” What you may not have realized is that a SOA alumnus is a principal in one of those firms. Mark Schendel [B.S.’83] is a Tallahassee native who attended SOA during its infancy. He graduated the same year the professional graduate program was accredited and before the B.Arch. was introduced.

After graduating from FAMU, Mark continued his education for several more years. He earned an M.Arch. from Ohio State in 1986, completed an SOM Fellowship in 1987, and received another M.Arch. from Harvard in 1989. He then worked with OMA/Rem Koolhaas, 1989-95; Cooper-Carry and Associates, 1996-97; and DeStefano + Partners, 1997-98. Since 1998, he has been a principal at Studio Gang/O’Donnell, a 10-person firm with a wide range of projects, establishing itself as “one of the most creative firms in Chicago,” according to AR. With $50 million worth of work currently under contract, the small firm stays busy. They found that many of their clients had not been getting enough attention from the more established firms, and they have tried to change that pattern. They make a concerted effort to include engineers and other collaborators in the design process, including the client. “We’re not just bringing architecture products to the client,” O’Donnell says.

Shown above is the Starlight Theatre at Rock Valley College in Rockford, IL. For this 1,200-seat outdoor theater, Studio Gang/O’Donnell developed a kinetic roof structure of fin elements supporting faceted roof panels that can be closed in inclement weather, a proscenium with a fully rigged fly tower, and an exterior wall punctuated by voids that look like constellations at night. Lessons from the stars as well as earthly objects, science, and theater itself informed the design of the facility. “We look at a lot of things outside of architecture for inspiration, not just formal design explorations,” said Schendel. “We’re constantly pulling in from the outside.”

The firm is currently designing the renovation of a building that will become the Chicago Historical Society Collection Center. It includes a gallery, research center, and auditorium. We wish them well and look forward to seeing the finished product.

Michael Alford [B.S.’97, M.Arch.’99] has taken a position as Graduate Architect with Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc., a large engineering firm in Altamonte Springs, FL with offices worldwide. Currently the firm works primarily on municipal government projects for treatment plants. The architecture group is expanding into new areas and envisions more design-oriented work. Michael is active with the Young Architects Forum where he is involved with community projects including Habitat for Humanity and CANstruction. On October 13, 2001, he married Theresa Bryce.

Alysia Bailey [B.S.’97] received a Master of Public Administration degree from North Carolina Central University in December 2001. Her goal is to become a county manager.

Upon graduation, Peter Bennett [B.S.’90, B.Arch.’91] worked for four years in the Pinellas County (Florida) Architectural Services Department doing design and construction administration. He then worked for HOK for two years, including renovation projects in the Hyde Park historic district in Tampa. His growing interest in construction and development led him to create his own company, Samter Construction, Inc., five years ago. Samter specializes in residential development, custom homes, and townhouse communities in the Tampa Bay area. On February 23, 2002, Peter married Andi Diamond.

Patrick Boldrick [M.Arch.’93] is very happy to be back in Florida. After marrying Kristine Olson in May 2000, he moved in August from the cold state of Minnesota to join fellow alumni Joe Dougherty [B.Arch.’91] and Dennis Chavez [B.Arch.’91] in their firm Dougherty + Chavez, Architects in Destin, Florida. The firm was founded in 1997 and currently has nine full-time employees. Its primary focus is on hospitality (resorts, restaurants, etc.)
and athletic/recreation facilities, but it also does custom single- and multi-family residences and educational facilities.

**Steve Chomick** [B.Arch.'89] is the Project Manager and Designer for a Senior Living Studio of Freeman-White, Inc. in Charlotte, NC. The Senior Living Studio is divided into three sub-studios: consulting, for-profit, and nonprofit clients. Steve is in the nonprofit studio, and his clients are affiliated with church groups. His current project is a $7 million skilled nursing facility in Williamsburg, VA. It includes 125 independent living cottages and duplexes, 125 independent living apartments, a wellness center, three dining facilities, a 31-bed assisted living facility, 16-bed special care facility, and a 35-bed skilled nursing facility.

Another lost alum has been found! Thanks to **Thierry-Michel Kawczynski** (see below), we found **Henry Franky** [B.Arch.'89] who has his own firm in Boca Raton, FL. Henry opened his firm in 1995 after working several years for another similar firm in Boca. Franky and Associates Architects is a small firm that does mostly high-end residential projects. Henry is married to Yolando whom he married while a student at SOA.

During her three years at Architecture Plus, Inc. in Miami, Project Manager **Adriana Guerra** [B.Arch.'90] has had a finger in almost every aspect of the six-person firm’s operation. Specializing in industrial and commercial work, the firm focuses on Florida projects but also has several national clients. Adriana works on permitting, client, and consultant relations, and putting projects on CADD. One of her biggest clients is the University of Miami.

**Roxana (Saap) Hernandez** [B.Arch.'95] is currently working as an architect for the Orange County Building Division. She is responsible for enforcing the “Architectural Guidelines of Orange County.” After graduation, Roxanna married Christopher Hernandez and in 1997 moved to Orlando. Before joining the county government, she worked at several private architecture firms. She obtained her license in 1999. She and Christopher have two young sons.

**Sherril Jackson** [B.S.'95, M.Arch.'97] has moved from Atlanta to San Francisco where she is employed by SGPA Architecture and Planning. The firm works mostly in commercial retail projects, master planning, and some residential. Sherril is currently the Job Captain for a large comprehensive/planned community in Santa Clara, CA—Rivermark Village. The community includes a variety of housing: a market; retail and commercial zone; a health club; and police substation, etc.

In 1996, **Thierry-Michel Kawczynski** [B.Arch.'91] became registered in Florida and started his own firm—Architectology, Inc. in Pompano Beach. About 75% of the firm’s work is commercial projects that vary from offices to retail stores, medical facilities to nightclubs and restaurants. His most notable project recently is a successful nightclub in downtown Ft. Lauderdale called Rush Street. It was named the best martini bar for three years in a row! Check out the firm’s Web site at <homestead.juno.com/ARCHITECTOLOGY/website.html> (Thierry-Michel was one of our “lost alumni” who now is found, thanks to Peter Bennett.)

In early 2001, **Rick Kremer** [M.Arch.'96] moved from Raleigh, NC to Austin, TX where he took a position with CasaBella Architects. While in Raleigh, he met and married his wife, Marcia. They moved into a new home in Round Rock, TX in June. CasaBella works primarily on commercial projects as well as public buildings (churches, universities, etc.). Rick is currently working on a renovation to an existing exposition center and a new church. He has also done some renovation work at the University of Texas.

After graduation, **Richard Lucente** [B.S.'94] completed his internship in Palm Beach, FL working on high-end residential projects. He then entered Virginia Polytechnic Institute and earned a M.Arch. in 1998. He remained in the D.C. area for another two years working at Little and Associates. In October 2000, he moved to his current position with Flad and Associates in Raleigh, NC where he works with fellow alumnus **Patrick O’Keefe** (see below).

**Stuart Miller** [B.S.'80, M.Arch.'84] is now the Residential Studio Director for Fugleberg Koch Architects in Winter Park, FL. The firm employs 85 people and is organized into seven studios. It focuses on residential buildings of all types including everything from single-family dwellings to hotels, time-shares, and condominiums.

Since June 1999, **Patrick O’Keefe** [B.S.'98] has worked as a Project Manager with Flad and Associates in Raleigh, NC. Currently, he is managing two university projects: an administration building for the School of Dentistry at the University of North Carolina and a central utilities plant at North Carolina State University. In May 2000, he married Elizabeth Hampson, and they moved into a new home at the beginning of the summer of 2001. Along the way, he also picked up a B.Arch. degree from North Carolina State University in spring 2001.

**Mary Rios** [B.Arch.'87] has recently taken a position as architect at The Hardy Group in St. Augustine, FL. The firm specializes in small- and medium-sized projects in the northeast Florida area. Mary is currently working on a 24,000 sq. ft., tilt-up concrete office building and several other projects. She is single and happily living within walking distance of the beach!

**Mike Schmidt** [B.S.'96] interned for two years after his summer graduation. In fall 1998, he entered graduate school at Clemson University where he received a master’s degree in architecture. While there, he studied in Italy for six months and learned about the influences of art, culture, and aesthetics on architecture and how architects design based on those influences. Mike is currently an Associate Architect at Peacock + Lewis in Lake Worth, FL.

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Please see next page
For the past three years, Phil Smith [B.S.’90] has been a Sr. Site Planning Engineer with Elekta Oncology Systems in Norcross, GA. Elekta is a world-leading supplier of advanced and innovative radiation oncology and neurosurgery solutions and services for precise treatment of cancer and brain disorders (see www.elekta.com). Phil is responsible for the design and layout of all Elekta sites in the U.S., Canada, and Puerto Rico. He has been involved in medical systems space planning for 11 years. Currently taking course work at Keller Graduate School of Management toward a graduate certificate in project management, Phil hopes to become a medical facilities consultant. He and Vicki, his wife of 16 years, and their 11-year-old daughter, Sarah, live in Duluth, GA.

Anson Stuart [B.S.’94, M.Arch.’96] has just completed his self-published first novel, Runaway Love. To find out more about the book and read a sample chapter, see www.sybriadesign.com. Anson is currently a project supervisor with NAC Construction, Inc., a small construction firm in Miami that focuses on schools. Anson is currently supervising $1 million and $1.2 million additions to two elementary schools in the Miami area.

After graduating from SOA, Copeland Stupart [B.S.’90] stayed in education. He took a teaching position at the Caribbean School of Architecture at the University of Technology in Jamaica. In 1993, he decided to get a master’s degree in urban planning from McGill University in Montreal (1996). Since returning to Jamaica, he has been teaching in the Urban and Regional Planning Programme at the University of Technology. During summer 2001, he worked toward a postgraduate diploma in education. Copeland’s wife, Yvette, teaches high school and is a counseling psychologist.

In December 2000, Peter Synoyannis [B.Arch.’89] left KTGY Architects in Fort Lauderdale to join WCI Communities in Coral Springs as a Project Architect. Prior to his four-year stint at KTGY, Peter worked for seven years with Architectural Design Group in Fort Lauderdale.

After leaving SOA, Eduardo Valiente [B.S.’92] earned a M.Arch. degree from the FAMU/USF program in Tampa. He is currently a project manager at Curts Gaines Hall Architects in Tampa. He and his wife, Paige, have a two-year-old son, Evan Ryan.

Cicely Williams [B.S.’98, B.Arch.’00] is working for VOA Associates as an intern architect enrolled in the IDP program. While at VOA, she has worked on several interesting projects including historical Howard Middle School in Orlando; Santa Fe Community College Library; Health Professions, Nursing, and Pharmacy School for the UF; the Health and Life Science Building for FIU; and Brasilia Waterfront Development Master Plan in Brasilia, Brazil. Cicely is a member of the Seminole County NAACP, the Orlando Jr. Chamber of Commerce, and has been a member of the committee to develop the Orange County Professional Services Networking Job Fair.

Akin Akinyemi

Akin Akinyemi [M.Arch.’88] who founded the Tallahassee firm of Akin and Associates Architects, Inc. was recognized during Small Business Week as the Small Business Person of the Year. A luncheon program was held in his honor on May 24, 2001. Included were congratulations from Gov. Jeb Bush, President Frederick Humphries, Mayor Scott Maddox, Tax Collector Doris Malloy, Superintendent of Schools William Montford, Clerk of the Circuit Court Bob Inzer, and many others who attended the ceremony.

Born in Lagos, Nigeria, Akin completed his first architecture degree at the University of Lagos in 1981 and practiced for one year before moving to the U.S. He also earned a dual bachelor’s degree in architecture and housing development from the University of Minnesota in 1985 and the professional M.Arch. from FAMU in 1988. He is married to Elvira and has two children—Rashad, 16 and Dominique, 2.

Akin and Associates was formed in Atlanta in 1992, and the Tallahassee office opened in May 1993. The firm quickly demonstrated the ability to handle projects of various sizes and within two years was able to secure projects ranging from $1 million to $18.6 million in construction cost. Employing a user-interactive approach to design, Akin and Associates is committed to timeless design excellence. Currently employed by the firm are six others who are either current SOA students or graduates: Chinh Cao, Jide Egberongbe [B.S.’90], Johanna Flores [B.S.’82, M.Arch.’00], Ola Oduwole [B.Arch.’95], Eugene Perez [B.S.’98], and Vaughn Samuel.

Akin is very much involved in the Tallahassee community. He serves as a board member of the Capital City Chamber of Commerce where he has made efforts to increase the quality of minority businesses in the construction industry. He is also a member of the Chiles High School Advisory Council, Leon County’s District Advisory Council, AIA, and Construction Specification Institute, among others.

Our sincere congratulations to Akin!
Below is a list of alumni for whom we have no current address. Please help us update our database by reviewing the list and notifying us of any contact information you may have for these alums. Call, fax, e-mail, or road-mail the information to:

Judye McCalman
School of Architecture
Florida A & M University
Tallahassee, FL 32307-4200
850.599.3746; FAX 850.599.3536
<judye.mccalman@famu.edu>

Thank you!

Abegunde, Dayo
Aguilar, David
Ahmandnejad, Saed
Ajose-Adeogun, Oluremi
Al-Abdullah, Bader
Al-Essa, Abdulaziz
Al-Moukeid, Walid
Al-Mufti, Ghazal
Balmer, Nancy
Berkaert, Denise
Berry, John
Bilodeau-Wray, Nancy
Blaney, Kevin
Boden, Elieen
Carroll, Richard
Carter, John
Colome, Joseph
Concepcion, Carlos
Cothron, Michael
Coto, Vivian
Cuervo, Jose
Cushing, Darin
Denmark, James
Desvallons, Beatrice
Ellis, Gregory
Enguerra, Cesear
Estupian, Davis
Evans, Patrick
Fahami, Nader
Fairley, Stephen
Fentress, Marvalette
Francis, Michael
Gab, Rupert
Goshvar, Hamid
Goudarzi, Soheila
Green, Jeffery
Guevera, Jesus
Hernandez, Rhina
Herr, John
Hoch, Arthur
Hodge, Allen
Hussain, Saleh
Jamshidimehr, Mohammad
Johnson, Scott
Jordan-Cason, Joy
Lane, John
Lipshultz-Fields, Deborah
Llera, Vanessa
Lukin, Christopher
Maieli, Pierre
Martin, Virginia
Martinez, Mariano
Mazraehrarahani, Abbas
McLean, Omar
Mehrafshan, Menran
Memari, Hamid
Mobley, Russell
Mortensen, David
Mossey, Craig
Mowlavi, Mohammad
Mullis, Richard
Munroe, Joseph
Nassab, Mohammad-Sa
Opayemi, Oluwole
Opayemi, Owodunni
Oton, Imoh
Padron, George
Patterson, Michael
Poonphool, Chaovalit
Rassouli, Hossein
Rodriguez, Henry
Rodriguez, Oscar
Roura, Aldo
Russell, Roger
Saldarriaga, Maruliz
Saneeinia, Hossein
Sewer, Jerome
Shali-Amini, Majid
Smith, Edward
Strachan, Wendell
Taeb, Ali
Valdivieso, Manuel
Vaudrin, Barry
West, Fredia
Wexler, Stephen
Williams, Rodney
Williams, Roy
Williamson, Louis
Wronksi, David
Zhang, Weiping

Please visit our Web site at <www.famusoa.net>.
New Alumni Join Ranks
Thirty-nine new degrees have been awarded since the publication of our last newsletter. The SOA congratulates and welcomes each of these students to the ranks of the alumni.

FALL 2000
Bachelor of Science
Akintunde O. Akinisola
Michael J. Markofski
William Santiago
Brady Woods

Bachelor of Architecture
Daniel J. Waterman

Master of Architecture
Peyman Ataabadi
Darren J. Lueddecke

SPRING 2001
Bachelor of Science
Gloria Cauble
Chi Wai Chan
John Collins
Tyrone Crosby
Joseph Destafney
Christian Dino
Clancy Dunnigan
Carlos Flores
Donald Gray
Jaron Jackson
Toinana Smith

Bachelor of Architecture
Kimanda Bacchus
Chi Wai Chan
Timothy Chin
Ennis Davis
Gary Feldman
Carlos Flores
Scott Gann
Phuong Tha Le
Lawrence Price
Michael Ruiz
Mark Weigly

SPRING 2001
Master of Architecture
Aaron Coy
Dwayne Daniels
Lennox Russell
Ryan Simmons

Master of Science
John Dills

SUMMER 2001
Bachelor of Science
Kelly M. Browning
Shana M. Williams

The Walking Skyline
For the Homecoming parade in October, 45 students and faculty participated in the second annual “walking skyline.” Each student designed and built an architectural hat to wear during the parade.