Miami Firm Initiates Traveling Fellowship Endowment Fund

As a memorial to alumnus Fred Botelho [B.S. ’93, M.Arch. ’95], the firm of Oppenheim Architecture + Design in Miami has generously donated $25,000 to open the Fred Botelho Traveling Fellowship Endowment. Fred was employed by the firm from 2005 until the time of his death on April 14, 2006. (Also see article on p. 19.) The fund was eligible for a 50% match by the State of Florida, boosting its initial balance to $37,500.00.

Chad Oppenheim [B.Arch., Cornell University, 1994] founded the firm and has developed a highly skilled, 35-person team whose award-winning work covers all aspects of architecture, interior design, and urban design processes. While the firm is most respected for its cutting-edge design abilities, it is in construction document production and field supervision that the firm is most grounded.

Oppenheim himself is an emerging architecture star at both the national and international levels where he has received distinguished design awards. He is the 1994 recipient of the Kume Fellowship in Japan, a two-time winner of the Chicago Athenaeum’s American Architecture Award, and the recipient of numerous design awards between 1999 and 2005 from the Florida and Miami Chapters of the American Institute of Architects.

According to the firm’s Profile, it is “redefining the luxury condominium in tropical South Florida and beyond by

Please see page 3.

Architecture Programs Receive Full Accreditation

In a July letter to FAMU President Castell Bryant, C. William Bivins, FAIA, President of the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) formally granted a full six-year term of accreditation to both the professional B.Arch. and M.Arch. programs at the SOA, effective January 1, 2006. This designation was based on the Board’s review of the February 2006 Visiting Team Report prepared by a national team who scrutinized the programs February 18-22. The next accreditation visit will be in 2012.

The Report noted several strengths of the programs, including:

• A “thriving” studio life;
• The opportunities made possible by the recent renovation and expansion of the SOA facility;
• The variety of access points offered enrolling students that help both program diversity and access to professional careers;
• The diversity, respect, and awareness of the students;
• Student participation in a wide variety of student organizations;
• The advising and counseling system in place for students; and
• The dissemination of information about the work of faculty, students, and alumni through vehicles such as the SOA News.

Please see page 5.
“There is no greater sorrow than to recall a happy time in the midst of wretchedness.”—Dante

Nothing can be more wretched than the loss of a family member or loved one. It pains me to reflect on the words of the Italian Philosopher Alighieri as I recount the most recent and tragic loss of Fred Botelho and the other three graduates we memorialized in our spring newsletter: Damon M. Heyward, Kenneth E. Logan, and Damon P. Ward. This summer I had an opportunity to meet and spend a short time visiting with Fred’s parents, his brother, and his girlfriend as well as his extended family with whom he worked. It was evident that there are many happy times and memories of Fred, and I am hopeful that each of them will help soothe their sorrow.

We are grateful to the firm of Oppenheim Architecture + Design for the generous donation to the School to honor Fred’s memory. This gift, the largest to the School, will be used to establish the Fred Botelho Traveling Fellowship and to support the enlightenment of future designers through travel. We will endeavor to be good stewards of this endowment fund. If you have an interest in contributing to this fund, please see the cover story to find out more about how you can support this effort and Fred’s memory.

In the last newsletter, I spoke philosophically about our accrediting visit, which took place during the Spring 2006 Semester (see cover story). This is a position one usually takes when awaiting the decision on the term of accreditation from the NAAB Board. I am pleased to announce that their decision was to award the SOA a full six-year term of accreditation with a two-year report on three conditions. We are very excited about the outcome of this insightful but arduous process, and we will use the thoughtful comments of the team to examine several aspects of the programs so that they can be made stronger and richer for our students.

One of the areas we will focus our attention on in the coming year will be to build an Annual Fund that will ensure that our current and future students can continue to have an enriching experience while they matriculate in either of our two programs: Architecture and Landscape Architecture. You will recall that, in the last issue of the newsletter, we launched the initial stage of our first Annual Fund Drive. This fall we will be continuing that effort with a phone-o-thon, using FAMU SOA student leaders and faculty to solicit from our enthusiastic alumni. We want to build upon the tradition of giving to the School of Architecture.

This fall we will be saying our goodbyes to another valued member of the SOA Family, Judye McCalman. I have had the pleasure of knowing Judye for the last ten years. Eight of those years I have worked directly with her. During that time I have developed both appreciation and admiration for her organizational skills as well as her writing and editing talents, not to mention the occasional fresh vegetables that come from her and Earl’s ponderosa in Gadsden County, Florida. Among her many accomplishments at the School are the growth and development of this newsletter. It has been the result of her sheer will and determination. The newsletter was started to provide a window to view the activities of the School for our alumni. Because of Judye, it now provides a panoramic view into the activities and accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff, and our alumni and friends. She will be missed, and we wish her the best in her retirement.

Please take the time to read about the 2005-2006 student award winners. An awards ceremony for the graduating seniors and graduates of the three professional degree programs was held on the Saturday before the Spring 2006 Commencement. Through the generosity of the SOA Alumni Network, the graduates of the B.Arch., M.Arch., and the M.L.A. programs were awarded custom sashes to commemorate their accomplishment.

As always, we have a lot of stories to share with you, and I hope you enjoy reading about them as much as we enjoy telling them.

Rodner B. Wright, AIA
Dean
challenging the status quo of design quality in a developer-driven market through the combination of cutting-edge architecture, innovative spatial arrangements, and contextual urban planning. Each project melds innovative structural strategies to create an architecture that is elegantly reductive yet provocatively romantic—diminishing the visual impact of the building while reconciling it to the urban context that surrounds it.”

During Fred Botelho’s short tenure with the firm, his primary projects were the Park Hyatt Hotel in Bal Harbor, FL and the expansion of the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, NV. The Park Hyatt Hotel is a 250-room, 300,000 sq.ft., five-star facility that includes 50,000 sq.ft. of spa and fitness area, restaurants, pool areas, ancillary service areas, and direct connection to the existing Bal Harbor shops.

Expansion of the existing Hard Rock Hotel and Casino consists of over two million square feet of commercially programmed areas including restaurants, ballrooms, The Joint (a live performance venue), and ancillary parking structures. The project includes five high-rise towers composed of three luxury condominium buildings, two condo-hotels, and 35 private bungalows.

The SOA is deeply saddened by the sudden and tragic loss of its talented alumnus and is grateful to the firm of Oppenheim Architecture + Design for its initiation of the Fred Botelho Traveling Fellowship Endowment. We invite Fred’s friends and family to contribute to the fund in Fred’s memory.

Please make your tax-deductible donations payable to the School of Architecture and put “Fred Botelho Traveling Fellowship” in the memo line. Mail to:

Office of the Dean
School of Architecture
Florida A & M University
1938 S. MLK, Jr. Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32307-4200

State Posts Fee Guidelines

To assist architects and engineers in placing bids for State jobs, in July 2006 the Florida Department of Management Services posted the State’s “Design Professional Fee Guidelines for ‘Basic’ Architectural and Engineering Services” on the following website: http://smsisdmz02.state.fl.us/docs/DMSAEFeeGuidedefinition.asp. The page includes a link to a fee guide calculator tool. Check it out. You should find it helpful.
The HOPE (Housing Opportunities and Personal Empowerment) Community in Tallahassee opened in March 2005 to provide transitional temporary housing and supportive services for people who are homeless. Operated by the Big Bend Homeless Coalition, the program is sustained by community volunteers and business partners. Recently, HOPE dedicated an expanded playground and recreation area for which volunteers built a wooden swing set and miniature basketball court for the children.

Concurrently, Visiting Professor C. L. Bohannon, Assoc. ASLA, who teaches in the SOA's landscape architecture program, began working professionally last year with Tallahassee's newest landscape architecture and land-planning firm, Wood+Partners, Inc. (WPi). Founded in 1988 and with offices on Hilton Head Island, SC, WPi is an award-winning firm with extensive expertise in comprehensive planning and design services for communities, resorts, colleges and institutions, downtown and urban center revitalization, parks and recreation areas, and commercial centers and villages.

Both Professor Bohannon and WPi associate, David Malcolm, ASLA, have committed to assisting HOPE Community and its volunteers, and the WPi firm has entered into a partnership with the organization. With the assistance of the SOA's landscape architecture students, the associates at WPi will develop and donate a comprehensive master plan design for continuing the expansion of the playground/recreation area as well as an overall landscape plan for the facility grounds located at 2729 W. Pensacola St.

The master plan will be a "large paint-by-number template of sorts," explained Mr. Malcolm. "This will make it much easier for returning volunteers, such as the Tallahassee Garden Club or new volunteer groups, to easily donate their services to a particular area of need, take ownership, and contribute to filling in the blank spots and creating the whole picture."

"We want to give action to this place and more direction as it changes," Professor Bohannon added. Five landscape architecture students began working on the plan August 28, 2006, and it is expected to be completed September 27. "I think this is an excellent opportunity for the SOA to reach its arm out to the community and provide not only design assistance but also practical projects for our students," concluded Professor Bohannon.

This year, AIA/Florida included a new session at its convention at the Boca Raton Resort & Club held July 26-30, 2006 titled Design Matters. The Saturday afternoon session ("Design Matters for the Future") presented the work of two graduating students selected by the faculty at each of the six schools of architecture in the state. Attendees were offered continuing education credits and encouraged to "meet the new promising designers and their exciting work...featured in an exhibit."

The FAMU SOA faculty tapped 2006 M.Arch. graduate Crystal Jackson to present her master's thesis, "Architectural Communication: Bridging the Gap Between Architects and Laypersons." At the B.Arch. level, Michael Kruger was selected to present his final project, "Mixed-Use Transit Center—Tallahassee, FL." Mike was unable to attend the convention, so Crystal presented both projects. Judging from the comments after the session, Crystal did an outstanding job with both presentations.

Session requirements included a PowerPoint presentation of no more than five minutes and one 24" x 36" panel to exhibit the work. After all the students presented, the audience asked questions, inquiring about current topics in architecture as well as about the students' personal endeavors in the profession.

Many were impressed with the turnout and with the enlightening discussion between the architects and students. Consequently, the AIA now plans to continue the seminar each year. "This was a great experience and opportunity to see work from other students at other schools of architecture in Florida. It gives you a sense of how the schools differ from one another in terms of design theory, principle, and style," Crystal remarked.

Our congratulations to both Crystal and Mike for their outstanding projects and for representing the FAMU SOA so well.
Area professionals filled the School’s largest classroom on August 17, 2006 to take advantage of the all-day “Code Seminar.” Offering nine hours of continuing education credit for architects and engineers, the seminar was co-sponsored by the Tallahassee Chapter of AIA and the School. With a special low price for AIA members and SOA alumni, the event attracted 81 people who were treated to breakfast, a boxed lunch, and beverages. Twenty-one SOA alumni attended the seminar.

Coordinator of the event for AIA Tallahassee was current President, Karin Zawrotny. Assistant Professor Beth Lewis (Dobson), AIA Tallahassee President-elect, was the coordinating liaison for the SOA. Dean Rodner welcomed the group and invited continued interaction and corroboration among the School of Architecture, the AIA, and professionals in the field.

Professional Code Consultant, Joseph D. Belcher, CBO, was hired to conduct the seminar. Owner of JDB Code Services, Inc., code construction specialists located in Homosassa, FL, Mr. Belcher specializes in building codes, fire codes, and product approval, and he led each of the sessions.

The four-hour morning session was devoted to a core course in Building and Fire Safety. The afternoon was divided into two sessions: a four-hour segment on the Florida Existing Building Code and a one-hour session in Code Requirements for Windows, Doors, Glass, and Glazing.

The Visiting Team also noted opportunities the programs have working in their favor:

- Professional employment opportunities available to students and the fact the many students currently work in architectural practices;
- The “growth, intellectual challenge, interdisciplinary work, and extension of skill development” created by the addition of the now-accredited Master of Landscape Architecture (M.L.A.);
- Possibilities for constructive influence in the Gulf Coast, north Florida, and south Georgia because of the programs’ location;
- New “vigor, research development, and skills” that can be brought to the faculty as a result of filling vacant positions; and
- Integration and implementation of a technology plan that would include the School’s pedagogical approach, provision of hardware and software, funding mechanisms, reflection of changes in professional use, and access for students.

As always, the Report included the Team’s concerns and suggestions for improvement. They included the following needs:

- Clarification of administrative roles and responsibilities as the School continues to grow,
- Increased student financial aid,
- Increased financial support for the faculty’s creative work and research,
- Permission from the University to fill vacant and new faculty and administrative positions,
- Ongoing self-assessment of the new 3.5-year path to the M.Arch. known as “Path B,” and
- Resolution of the problem presented by the state’s maximum of 120 credit hours for the B.S. degree and the NAAB’s minimum requirement of 45 general education credits.

Because the Team found insufficient evidence that a few of NAAB’s “Student Performance Criteria” were met, a “focused evaluation” reporting on those specific criteria will be submitted in two years—2008.

“We are pleased with the decision of the NAAB Board,” commented Dean Rodner Wright. “We have already begun to address the areas of concern that the Visiting Team highlighted in their report as well as to celebrate the many strengths that both programs provide to our students.”
“Judye’s career at the SOA began in 1979.”

Judye McCalman Retires

By Professor Tim White

In September, Judye McCalman retired from the School of Architecture after more than 27 years of service to our program. During her time at the SOA, she served with distinction in several positions, handling a wide range of responsibilities vital to the growth, quality, and image of the School.

Her last assignment was Alumni Coordinator and Information Officer. Among other duties, in this role Judye initiated the SOA newsletter series and wrote, edited, and coordinated the production of all the editions; initiated, developed, and coordinated the SOA’s first alumni events (e.g., exhibition and reunion) that led to the organization of the Alumni Network; served as an *ex officio* member of the Network’s Executive Board and as its liaison with the SOA and university; organized, wrote, and guided the production of accreditation reports; planned and managed accreditation visits; and collected, organized, and submitted School news to the university and national architecture publications. On many occasions over the years, Judye has been a guest lecturer and writing advisor in our project research and thesis planning courses, assisting with critical thesis components such as research methods, report organization, and technical writing. She has also coordinated numerous special projects for the Dean.

In addition to her official titles and responsibilities at the School, Judye has graciously made herself available to the faculty, students, staff, and administration as editor and writing consultant. She has been an unofficial resident expert in all matters grammatical and for that, her many years of exemplary service, her outstanding organization and communication contributions, her modeling of care and craft, and her energetic positive spirit, we are fortunate and grateful to have had her with us at the School of Architecture. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

Judye’s road to the School has been varied, interesting, and adventuresome. She was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee and in 1970 graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude*, in political science. Her minors were psychology and sociology. After earning her degree, she worked in South Florida with Florida Rural Legal Services, Inc. assisting migrant workers with matters relating to law. She and a small group of colleagues left FRLS to open a legal collective in Gainesville, Florida.

During 1973-76, she worked at the Florida State Hospital in Chattahoochee, first as a social worker and counselor and then as a procedures analyst concerned with the efficiency of administrative operations. In 1976 she left to become a counselor in the office of E. Arthur Larson, Psychiatrist in Quincy and a consultant/counselor on the Family Therapy Psychiatric Team at the Wetumpka Center in Quincy. During this busy period Judye also owned and operated an exotic plant nursery located in the Wetumpka Community.

Judye’s career at the SOA began in 1979 when she served as the Assistant Project Director for a training program in low-cost energy-efficient technology, a grant obtained by the SOA’s Experimental Low-Cost Construction program. The job was especially appealing because she was eager to learn methods and techniques for designing and building her own home at Wetumpka. Since joining the School she has also served as Associate Director of the Institute for Building Sciences, Assistant to the Dean, Assistant Dean for Administration, and Co-principal Investigator for the three-

Please see page 16.

Above (l-r): Judye loves to laugh. At home in her organic garden. In southern France in 2003 with her husband of 27 years, Earl Morrogh.
During the past 19 years, thinking about her retirement, Judye McCalman, who was then the Assistant to the Dean. She exuded competence and professionalism. Communication was restored, and the Keystone Cops were reduced to phantoms. Her deportment and demeanor were always, and will continue to be, the core of all her work. Her presence will be missed by all of us who shared in the task.

Beth Lewis
Assistant Professor
I will miss Judye and her outstanding positive and cheerful disposition here in the School of Architecture. We should be increasing our female presence, not decreasing. Judye has always been so willing to share whatever, be it advice or the fruits of her garden. I will miss her but hope we can stay in touch outside of the School. Girls get together…!

Tom Martineau
Professor
When I came to interview at the School of Architecture in November 1984, there followed a six-months-long comedy of errors that led me to believe that the School was mired in miscommunication and populated by Keystone Cops. I told my wife that I would “not accept any kind of job offer from FAMU, even for a million dollars.” Finally, I was introduced to Judye McCalman, who was then the Assistant to the Dean. She exuded competence and professionalism. Communication was restored, and the Keystone Cops were reduced to phantoms. Her deportment and demeanor allowed me to regain my confidence in the School. Simply put: Judye is the reason I accepted employment 21 years ago, and for a lot less than a million dollars.

Larry Peterson
Professor
Judye McCalman is one of the smartest, most focused, and most tenacious people I have ever worked with. I admire her greatly for many of the qualities that I do not possess. I rarely find people with her talent and expertise who handle themselves with such grace, thoughtfulness, and kindness. When I have had disagreements with Judye, they have hurt me deeply because she was usually right, and I was wrong. I have very few people that I trust implicitly, and I am happy that Judye is one of them—and she always will be.

Tom Porter
Visiting Professor
My life in architectural teaching has always been filled with change, but when someone like Judye steps down, one knows that the establishment she leaves will never be quite the same again. However, while change happens, some things remain constant, and this refers to those warm and special friendships that develop between people. My fond memories of Judye began during my early teaching visits to the School. As with many ex-colleagues in the School, it seems this friendship has spanned a lifetime. I would like to wish Judye and Earl every happiness in the next phase of their lives.

Thomas Pugh, Director
Institute for Building Sciences
At least two of the words I would use to describe Judye are “indispensable” and “unappreciated.” During the past 19 years, I’ve had the pleasure of working with her on myriad tasks. None would have ever been accomplished as well (or on time!) without her tireless hard work, keen insight, patience, intellect, and organizational skills. Whether it has been writing the APBPs, designing administrative systems, creating the SOA News and SOA Alumni Network, or handling major portions of the DMS Florida Energy Update project, Judye has always been indispensable (and nearly invisible to all but those of us who shared in the task.) There are other words, of course—kind, insightful, wise, generous, patient—the list would be very, very long. I consider myself blessed to be able to call Judye my close friend. Work will never be quite the same.

Richard C. Rome, Director
Graduate Program in Landscape Architecture
I would like to recognize Judye for the valuable contributions she made to the MLA Initial Accreditation Report. I suspect that she made equal or even greater contributions to the Architecture Program Reports on which she worked during the years she has been here in the School of Architecture. Having prepared such reports in the past, I truly appreciated the high level of expertise that she brought to the endeavor, and she displayed an absolute commitment to the goal of preparing the best possible document. She returned my drafts in a consistent and timely manner, and her meticulous comments and corrections always improved the clarity and quality of the text. Her input made the report so much better than it would have been if it were simply done by me and my faculty unassisted. We were authors who knew the subject matter so closely that we often made the common mistake of assuming that the reader knew as much as we did. She kept our narrative “on track,” she made sure the text was free of “jargon,” and she upgraded the report to the level where it was accepted as a well-prepared, high-quality submission from a graduate program deserving a full accreditation. I will miss her greatly, and I will always be grateful for the contribution she made to the Landscape Architecture Program.

Ron Shaeffer
Professor Emeritus
This letter was written to make sure the Dean understood just how indispensable Judye was (and is now, for that matter) to the operation of the School. My analogy is that of an Executive Officer to a Naval ship!

August 17, 1984
Dear Dean Chalmers:
This is an unsolicited letter written on behalf of Ms. Judye McCalman. Over the past few weeks, I have worked very closely with Judye trying to get prepared for registration. Her splendid cooperation and exceptional organizational ability were once more very much appreciated and reminded me to write this letter which has been intended for over a year now.
Ms. McCalman is, in no uncertain terms, the single person who somehow keeps the
LaGrasse creating pattern for “Birmingham.”

Instructor Deborah LaGrasse was one of only 14 artists selected from the United States and Wales to participate in a “Sand Casting Symposium” at the Berlinderi Sculpture Workshop in Raglan, Wales March 28 - April 4, 2006. The symposium was a pre-conference activity for the Fifth International Cast Iron Conference in Coalbrookdale, England, the site of the first cast iron bridge.

The sand molds made by the artists during the symposium were transported to the conference, and the works were cast in iron at the Rayburn Foundry at the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site. They were exhibited during the conference and will be on tour throughout England and Wales for the next year. In addition to creating sculpture at the symposium, Ms. LaGrasse also served as conference moderator for a panel discussion on “Iron Casting Opportunities in Poland and Bosnia.”

“The use of fire and the profound material transformation that exists in the casting process have intrigued me for over 30 years,” Ms. LaGrasse said. “Iron has long been our most important elemental metal. I love the color of iron and its contrast to some metals and materials and its similarity to others. I enjoy the many processes and casting iron using a cupola. I like the versatility and immediacy of sand molding over other molding techniques,” she explained.

Featured in the symposium’s catalog was “Birmingham,” a three-dimensional plan of a portion of downtown Birmingham where the roads are recessed and pronounced. “Roads are our prevalent architecture, representing complex urban density as spatial imprints on the land. The focus is path, not only my own, but also the evolution of ley lines and the placement of stones on hilltops as locators. Iron ore sometimes found in quartz and pyrite stones is imbedded in my iron sculptures just as paths and roads are imbedded in our landscapes,” notes LaGrasse.

“I use collective, universal, and timeless symbols that emphasize the instability and stability of life. The layering of opposites as a continual process of alchemy and the use of combining various metals, materials, and processes help me define the mystery, strength, and power of the human spirit.”

Cast iron and stone piece: “Birmingham,” W 16” x L 24” x D 5”.

Faculty and Staff Activities

Publications

“The Water Was There. . .” a poem by Assistant Professor Beth Lewis (Dobson), AIA was selected for publication in the September 2006 issue of the Journal of Architectural Education (JAE). The theme for that issue was “Katrina and New Orleans: One Year Later.” The selection was the result of a juried, peer-reviewed essay competition.

Sabbaticals and Leaves

Professor Tom Martineau is on leave during the 2006-07 academic year during which time he will pursue three activities. First, he will intensify his facilities management consulting work for K-12 school systems in the United States. He began this work on a part-time basis with MGT of America, a Tallahassee-based management firm. He has since continued it with Evergreen Solutions LLC, also of Tallahassee. His goal is to develop the facilities practice area of Evergreen Solutions as a self-sustaining enterprise (www.ConsultEvergreen.com). Second, as a board member of International Making Cities Livable (IMCL), he will work with others in the organization to launch the Livable Cities Institute, a seminars and studies program for city officials, real estate developers, and students of urban planning and architecture (www.livablecities.org). Third, he will spend some time at the University of Stuttgart’s College of Urban and Regional Planning in Stuttgart, Germany and at the Royal Technical University’s School of Architecture in Stockholm, Sweden. He will present lectures on mixed-use urban and suburban developments in the United States, and work with the students.

Professor Larry Peterson is also on leave during 2006-07. He has been retained as Director of Planning and Development for the Babcock Ranch project in Charlotte County, FL, working for Kitson & Partners (K & P). Syd Kitson purchased the 91,000-acre ranch from the Babcock family and sold 74,000 acres to the State as a wildlife preserve—the largest purchase in Florida’s history. K & P will build a new town of 45,000 people on the remaining 17,000 acres, while placing over half in permanent conservation easements. Mr. Kitson has stated publicly that the new development will be a new model of sustainability and energy-efficiency in town planning and community design.

Associate Professor Richard Rome, Director of the Master of Landscape Architecture Program, will be on sabbatical during the Spring Semester, 2007. While on leave, Professor Rome will complete research on “Non-resident Credit-Generation Activities for Graduate-level Courses.” This research focuses on such activities as “Study Abroad, Internships, Independent Credit-Generation Activities for Graduate-level Courses.” This research focuses on such activities as “Study Abroad, Internships, Independent

Please see page 9.
Activities continued from p.8

Studies, and Thesis Completion, as well as courses that utilize Distance-learning and Web-based technologies. The incorporation of such activities into the SOA graduate programs will ensure that they remain competitive to other professional degree offerings at peer institutions, and they will increase graduate student credits generated by the SOA as mandated by new University guidelines.

The results of the study were presented over the summer at Harvard School of Public Health in Boston. One of the significant aspects of the grant award is the fact that Professor Powers was one of the few grant recipients who is not in a medical or health-related field. The next step in Professor Powers’ research will be to look at the same factors in two communities, one in Gadsden County, FL, and one in Boston, MA.

Conferences

Assistant Professor Beth Lewis (Dobson), AIA presented a peer-reviewed paper at “Intersections,” the 22nd National Conference on the Beginning Design Student held at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa in April 2006. Her paper, “Enter-Secting Environmental Cube Constructions: Designing Folding Portable Cubes as an Ecologically Friendly Environmental Stage Set,” was published in the conference Proceedings.

A new elective architecture course at the SOA is one outcome of Assistant Professor Beth Lewis’s (Dobson), AIA interest and research in energy conservation. She served on the Passive Technical Review Committee and as Chair/Moderator of the conference session titled, “Toward Zero-Energy Buildings” at the American Solar Energy Conference. The conference, “Solar 2006,” was held in Denver, CO in July 2006. “Sustainable Construction: Green Building, LEED Preparation, Zero Energy Buildings” (ARC 6291/4291) is offered during the fall 2006 term and is open to both graduate and undergraduate students.

Service

Professor Tom Pugh was one of about 30 volunteers from his church to participate in hurricane relief work in New Orleans, LA and Pass Christian, MS. His labors have included “mucking out” as well as new construction. According to Prof. Pugh, it is impossible to convey the impact of the devastation or the experience of working alongside joyful and hope-filled people who have lost everything, yet count themselves blessed. The church began its relief efforts after hurricane Ivan and now sends about 30 people (along with food and building materials) on four-day work trips about every two months.

Assistant Professor Beth Lewis (Dobson), AIA is the President-elect of the Tallahassee Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). In that role, she represented the chapter at the 2006 AIA Grassroots Conference in Washington, D.C. She met with state senators and district representatives and/or their staffs on current legislation affecting the built environment and the profession and practice of architecture in Florida. Also in her role as President-elect, Professor Lewis served as a convention delegate at the June 2006 AIA National Convention in Los Angeles.

Creative Activities

Associate Professor Valerie Goodwin was one of 12 fiber artists from around the nation invited to exhibit her work in the show “Artists of the Cloth: Trends in Contemporary Textile Art—Ladies in Waiting.” The exhibition was held June 15-August 5, 2006 at upstairs [artspace] in Tryon, NC. One of her four pieces exhibited—Labyrinth of the Hidden Goddess, painted, pieced, and quilted with thread and embroidery—was selected as artwork for the promotional materials for the show. The same piece was featured in the summer 2006 issue of FiberARTS magazine, p. 32. (See photo above.) The theme of the issue was “Landscapes, Maps, and Nature,” and it included information about the quilt and Prof. Goodwin’s work. To see her work in color, please visit her website at www.quiltsbyvalerie.com.

Professor Goodwin was also invited to exhibit her quilt Riverside Settlement in the “Changing the World One Thread at a Time” exhibition at the 12th annual Carrefour Européen du Patchwork in Val d’Arpent in Alsace, France. That show ran September 14-17, 2006.

Instructor and sculptor Deborah LaGrasse was invited to include her cast bronze work, Elemental Paradox, in the “Suitcase Exchange Sculpture Exhibition” at the Expressions Art and Entertainment Centre in Upper Hutt, New Zealand. This is the last year (2006) of the five-year, traveling international exhibition.

The traveling invitational exhibition, “Micro Monuments” at the Brush Art Gallery and Studios in Lowell, MA included another of Ms. LaGrasse’s works: Hypostrophe, a small cast iron and stone sculpture. This piece was sold to the gallery owner before the exhibition even opened!
Students who excelled during the academic year were recognized on two occasions. On April 29, 2006 the graduating students were honored at a reception for their friends and families, and those award winners were announced. On September 27 continuing-student award winners were acknowledged at a special School-wide ceremony. (See box below for recipients.)

In addition to medals, certificates, and books contributed by the organizations indicated by the awards, sponsors of cash awards were alumni firm Rhodes + Brito Architects, Inc. in Orlando ($1,000); Pella Windows and Doors ($1,000); the Florida Foundation for Architecture ($1,000); and the Jacksonville Chapter of the AIA ($1,500). The School thanks all the award donors and congratulates the honorees who were selected by the faculty or by the jurors for project awards.

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<td>Rhodes + Brito Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Graham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology Award—Lower Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sean Morgan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology Award—Upper Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Watson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History/Theory Award—Lower Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derek Dewolf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History/Theory Award—Upper Division</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emmanuel Cofie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third-Year Design Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon Barrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Promising Student—Third Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Dana</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fourth-Year Design Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leon Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Outstanding Fourth-Year Student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole Taylor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduating Senior with Highest GPA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Randy Olais</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alpha Rho Chi Medal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Brokaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pella Fifth-Year Jurist Award</td>
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<td>Kirsten Dahliquist</td>
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<td>Pella Fifth-Year Jurist Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pella Fifth-Year Jurist Award—Most Outstanding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Kruger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida Foundation for Architecture Bronze Metal—Graduating Student</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kirsten Dahliquist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida Foundation for Architecture Award—Continuing Student</td>
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<td>Sommer Spencer</td>
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<tr>
<td>AIA Henry Adams Medal—B.Arch.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Kruger</td>
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<tr>
<td>AIA Certificate of Merit—B.Arch.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April Plummer</td>
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<tr>
<td>AIA Henry Adams Medal—M.Arch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crystal Jackson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIA Certificate of Merit—M.Arch.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janice Ratner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLA Award—First Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Urban</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLA Award—Second Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yun Cao</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacksonville AIA Foundation Award of Honor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelli Graham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacksonville AIA Foundation Merit Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shelly-Anne Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacksonville AIA Foundation Merit Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shayla Stallworth</td>
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On Saturday afternoon, April 27, 2006, graduating students from all SOA degree programs were honored at a reception held in the North Atrium. The space was packed with friends and families who enjoyed an array of refreshments. Dean Rodner B. Wright, AIA welcomed the guests and congratulated the students. Each class was recognized, and a group photograph was taken. For students graduating with master’s degrees, the advising faculty formally signed their respective thesis documents. (See pp. 11-12 for photos.)

In addition to the presentation of student awards by the Dean, Assistant Dean Andrew Chin, and Director of the Landscape Architecture Program, Professor Richard Rome, Ms. Karla Castellon, presented to each graduating student on behalf of the Network a specially embroidered sash commemorating their degree and year.

Sixty-two students were awarded degrees at the commencement ceremony on Sunday, April 28, at the Civic Center. The SOA congratulates and welcomes each of these students to the ranks of the alumni. Students graduating with the four-year Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies and/or the professional, five-year Bachelor of Architecture degrees are listed on the following page.
### Students

#### Bachelor of Science in Arch. Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Major</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bennett, Atwaul</td>
<td>Mesidor, Lyndia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Castro, David</td>
<td>Noone, Matthew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark, Sheldon</td>
<td>Olaes, Randy</td>
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<td>Harrison, Eric</td>
<td>Owusu, Kwabena</td>
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<td>Hernandez, Martin</td>
<td>Politie, Eric</td>
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<td>Hodge, Lendl</td>
<td>Rios, Erik</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hollinsworth, Juan</td>
<td>Rittner, Robert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaiser, Lawrence</td>
<td>Rochester, Kenloy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb, Patrice</td>
<td>Scriven, Tehran</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marshall, Jennifer</td>
<td>Shaw, Zoion</td>
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<tr>
<td>McIntosh, Garth</td>
<td>Taylor, Nicole</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Telker, Andrew</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Terry, Shannon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tucker, Steven</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wallace, David</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Washington, Veronica</td>
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<td>Wilson, Carma</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wilson, Patrick</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Younkin, Kathryn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Atwaul Bennett</td>
<td>B.S. '06, Fellow</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Bachelor of Architecture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Major</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Behar, Jordan</td>
<td>*Hinkle, Todd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boone, Devin</td>
<td>*King, Vickie</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chase, David</td>
<td>*Kruger, Michael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dahlquist, Kirsten</td>
<td>*Mitchner, Larry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essa, Jonathan</td>
<td>Moore, Johnny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayas, Robby</td>
<td>Nemethy, Christopher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hagan, Erika</td>
<td>*Plummer, April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savage, Jonathan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Sukhu, Sean</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Students who attended the graduation reception and received the Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies degree. (Clockwise, beginning with lowest seated): Jonathan Essa, Lawrence Kaiser, Kirsten Dahlquist, April Plummer, Michael Kruger, Sean Sukhu, Atwaul Bennett, Ava Joseph, Larry Mitchner, David Wallace, Andrew Telker, Randy Olaes, Todd Hinkle, Shannon Terry, Lyndia Mesidor, Kwabena Owusu, Erika Hagan, and Jennifer Marshall. (Bottom to top, center column): David Chase, David Castro, Sheldon Clark, Eric Polite (left), and Leon Williams.

### Student Selected for Summer Research Workshop

Atwaul Bennett [B.S. ‘06], a current first-year graduate student in the landscape architecture program, was selected to be a fellow in the Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program. The Program is designed to help students from historically underrepresented populations prepare for entry into graduate programs. The FAMU Summer Research Workshop provided intensive assistance in the

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Students who attended the graduation reception and received the professional Bachelor of Architecture degree. (Lowest level, l-r): David Chase and Larry Mitchner. (Second level, l-r): Jonathan Essa, April Plummer, Vickie King, and Kirsten Dahlquist. (Third level, l-r): Sean Sukhu and Erika Hagan. (Top level, l-r): Todd Hinkle and Michael Kruger.
Students graduating with the M.Arch. or M.L.A. degree worked long and hard on their thesis projects and presented their work at the end of the semester to the faculty, other students, and guests. Our congratulations to each on the successful completion of the degree. The presenters and their thesis titles are listed below:

### Master of Architecture


**Thomas G. Brokaw**, Architecture’s Role in Sustaining Community

**Matthew Lee Houchin**, Placemaking: Architecture as a Catalyst

**Crystal J. Jackson**, Architectural Communication: Bridging the Gap between Architects and Laypersons

**Ryan N. J. Mullin**, Architecture That Sustains Place

**Ayonna Marie Patterson**, A Model for Enhancing and Fostering Creativity in the Beginning Design Studio

**Janice Melissa Ratner**, Accessible Building Measures: A Study of Attitudes

**Sarah Marie Hefner Robertson**, Main Street U.S.A.: A Reinterpretation of an American Urban Icon

**Charner A. Rouse, II**, Low-Cost Housing and the Potential of Cob Construction

**Nicholas Allen Sneed**, Creating Place Through Connections

**Valerie Strom**, Layers of Time: The Architectural Intersection of Past and Present within a Suburban Historic District


### Master of Landscape Architecture

**Cheryl C. Callender**, Ecological Sensitive Design: Residential Development Adjacent to the Boundaries of Natural Protected Areas in Panama

**Kemuel Stephen Cox**, The Role of Landscape Architects in Future Brownfield Redevelopment Projects

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**We Need Your Help**

One of our most difficult tasks is keeping up with the whereabouts of our alumni. Without a mailing address, we can’t get this newsletter or other mailings to you. Since the newsletter is published only twice a year, we also need your email address so we can send important information between newsletters. In addition, the School’s accrediting agency requires that we report on what our alumni are doing, where they are working, etc. Please help us with this task.

The best way to give your contact information is for you to complete our online alumni database form. This tool was created as a service to alumni who may be looking for professional networking and collaboration opportunities or just looking for an old friend from the SOA, but it also helps the School. The database is easy to use, is password protected, and features individual privacy settings.

To be included, simply go to our website (famusoa.net) and click on “People/Alumni/Alumni Database.” There, click on the “Complete My Database Information” link on the left. The form allows you to specify which of the information you want kept private and which you are willing to have posted on the site for other registered alumni. Once it’s done, all you have to do is update it as your circumstances change. Do yourself and the School a favor . . . complete the database form.

At the very least, please send your email address TODAY to alumni-info@famusoa.net so we can contact you electronically. Thank you!
## Students Tour Construction Site at Bainbridge College

Field trip to Bainbridge College. (l-r) Prof. Martineau and Sam Andras with students Clifford Achilles and Emmanuel Coffie.

Students from two sections of the “Materials and Methods of Construction” (M & M) class and those from the “Environmental Technology II” (ET) class joined their instructors on a field trip to Bainbridge College in Bainbridge, GA on March 30, 2006. Professors Bob Goodwin and Peter Stone (M & M) and Professor Tom Martineau (ET) arranged the trip with alumnus Sam Andras [B.Arch. ’93] who is a principal at 2WR/Andras Architects in Columbus, GA.

Mr. Andras is the new Architect of Record for the completion of the Charles H. Kirbo Regional Center, a conference center located on the campus of Bainbridge College. The original project begun by another firm went so far over budget that it was cancelled upon reaching the dry-in phase of construction. At that point, the College asked Andras to consider taking over as project architect. After new construction documents are completed, a new construction manager will be hired.

A tour of the site led by Mr. Andras was instructive for the students. They were able to see firsthand some of the important design and construction issues that were not properly detailed. They were also able to compare the original drawings of the building to drawings of another building completed by 2WR/Andras for the campus. Mr. Andras discussed with the students how they proposed to increase the size of both the auditorium and the dining area.

All three faculty members have expressed the same comment about the trip: “The students were very excited during the tour of the building, and they continued to talk about it afterward. It was a most successful field trip.”

## Alpha Rho Chi Sponsors Reunion

April 7-8, 2006 was a special time for the Seshait Chapter of Alpha Rho Chi. For the first time in over 10 years, fraternity members reunited to celebrate and renew their bonds through Reunion 2006: Reflections of a Timeless Design. Approximately 75 people (over 50 alumni + actives) joined the fun and participated in the variety of activities planned for them.

Festivities began on Friday evening with registration and a reception held in the SOA Gallery. Attendees received information packets about the weekend, viewed 24” x 36” posters and other memorabilia on exhibit in the Gallery, and were given the opportunity to purchase APX polo shirts. After registration, people gathered on the steps under the bridge to play Taboo. This allowed late arrivals to register while those playing games enjoyed each other’s company.

At 9:00 p.m., the group moved to Harry’s, a New Orleans-style restaurant in downtown Tallahassee, where they filled most of the tables. In addition to enjoying the food and catching up with old friends, they celebrated current student George Johnson’s birthday.

On Saturday morning, the revelers were in for a treat. A 10:00 a.m. breakfast under the bridge included the works: pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, fruit, Danish, yogurt, etc.—all provided by the members. Following was an awards brunch in the “Red Room” with a presentation recapping the 2005-2006 APX accomplishments. These included the largest Job Fair in SOA history (Feb. 24, 2006); the Secret Garden: Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil (Feb. 24, 2006); the National APX Convention in Denver, CO (March 17-19, 2006); this first annual Seshait Reunion; and the welcoming of 16 new members over the course of the year. Many were recognized for their hard work in organizing these activities, and the alumni were appreciated for their continuing support.

The afternoon was spent in a fierce game of dodgeball at the SOA. Punctuated by screaming and sideline cheering, all the running, blasting the ball, and hiding wore everyone out. There was no rest for the weary, however. It was time to head home to get ready for the culminating event that evening—the White Rose Formal at the Silver Slipper restaurant.

Everyone was elegant in formal attire. Unusual centerpiece of clear cylindrical vases with live beta fish placed on crisp white tablecloths with APX embroidered napkins added another level of distinction to the event. A salad bar and buffet of lemon-glazed chicken, Greek-style ocean fillet, rice pilaf, and vegetable medley were topped off with cherry cheesecake for dessert. The guests were entertained with a video presentation that included photos of the founders when they were at the SOA and moved through APX history to current active members. Finally, the chapter showed its deep appreciation with a gift to 2005-06 President Crystal Jackson [B.S. ‘04, M.Arch. ’06] for her hard work throughout the year.

With plans to make the reunion an annual event, the alumni returned home on Sunday while the actives got back to their school work. The School congratulates the chapter for its many accomplishments throughout the year and for its successful and enjoyable reunion.
Alumni Jury Critiques Final Projects

For the second year, the SOA Alumni Network coordinated the return of 12 alumni on Friday, April 21, 2006 to serve as jurors for the final projects for fifth-year students seeking their professional Bachelor of Architecture degree. The process is considered a competition in that the jury must select the winner of the Pella Fifth-Year Jurist Award, a $1,000 cash prize for the student with the best project. Pella Windows and Doors provides this annual award.

The day began early with a breakfast sponsored by the Network held at the Radisson Hotel. Joining the jurors for breakfast were Network Co-Chair and local architect Akin Akinyemi [M.Arch. '88] and Assistant Dean Andrew Chin. Mr. Akinyemi spoke to the group and explained the goals and objectives of the alumni organization. Prof. Chin oriented the jurors to the project, explained the process and structure for the day, and emphasized the importance of their role as alumni and their contributions to the School.

After breakfast, the group moved to the SOA where until lunch they reviewed all the student projects exhibited in the south atrium. The jurors were provided the parameters for the project, definitions for the scoring points, and a log for scoring each parameter for each project. They were asked to consider the following:

Concept: Articulation of thematic intentions and conceptual resolution that demonstrates critical thinking and a concise understanding of the student’s project research.

Site/Context: Definition and utilization of site relationships, creation of architectural identity, expression of intent development, and reinforcement of conceptual form.

Functionality: Resolution and organization of programmatic spatial components into meaningful proximities and relationships.

Structure/HVAC Assemblies: Selection and integration of service and structural assemblies that are appropriate technological solutions.

Building Envelope: Selection and integration of exterior materials that are appropriate technological solutions.

Communication: Communication of work completed in a professional and well-organized manner.

Overall: Demonstration of a comprehensive understanding and mastery of the content and skills one would expect from a graduate of the B.Arch. curriculum.

During a working lunch, the jurors were charged with selecting three finalists to present their work to the jurors. After analysis of the individual scores and please see page 15.
considerable discussion about the projects moderated by Keith White [B.Arch. ’00], the group decided to ask for presentations by four students instead of three. The group signaled the end of their deliberation, and all the students and their professor, Michael Alfano, gathered anxiously in the atrium for the announcement of the projects chosen for presentation. The four finalists were: Kirsten Dahlquist, Jonathan Essa, Michael Kruger, and Istvan Peteranecz. During a 15-minute break for the jurors, the selected students prepared for their presentations.

After impressive presentations by each of the students and probing questions from the jurors, the group retired for their selection of the winner of the $1,000 Pella Jurist Award. And the winner was... Michael Kruger who designed a mixed-use transit center in Tallahassee. The jurors were impressed with all aspects of his project. Our congratulations to Michael for a job very well done!

For a listing of all the jurors, please see the box at the left. For comments from some of them, please see p. 16.

During a working lunch, the jurors deliberated and selected four finalists for afternoon presentations.
2006 Jurors Comment on Their Experience

I really appreciated the hard work the fifth-year students put into their final projects. I wish them luck on their transition from school to the workplace. The best word of advice I can give is to be excellent in all areas of your life. That means being on time, on task, and on top of any challenges that come your way. Remember, when they see you, they see FAMU. Represent yourselves well in the workplace, and doors will open for future FAMU graduates to enter behind you.

**Marcus Barnes, B.S. ’05**
*Cuhaci and Peterson Architects, Orlando*

I want to thank everyone for inviting me to participate. Perhaps more important than the invite is the respect shown to me and the other jury members—respect from the faculty, the administration, and the students. The group dynamics were especially interesting. We, as the jury, were able to make decisions (I think) as a product of the SOA—26 years of history, from me (1979) to Nicole Fore, Marcus Barnes, and Bryant Watson (2005). We have all learned to make decisions with limited information. This is a credit to the FAMU SOA. I look forward to sharing my observations with Mike [Alfano] and Andrew [Chin] and pledge my availability for future contributions to SOA juries/design sessions.

**Ed Budnick, B.S. ’79**
*Real Estate Consultant, Philadelphia*

I was grateful for the opportunity to be an alumni juror, this being my second year. Not only do I approach this task as a means of giving back to the School of Architecture, but it is also a way to help these new graduates transition into the “real world.” The rigors and high standards to which Prof. Chin and his team hold these fifth-year students was still apparent. However, it would be interesting to see the final-year project be structured as a standard “design competition.” All the students would be given the same project typology to design (for example, a natatorium, a museum, etc.), and the major element would be glass, steel, or concrete. Sound like a plan?

**Lennox Russell, M.Arch. ’01**
*Timothy Gaus, AIA, Inc., Altamonte Springs*

I for one really enjoyed coming back to the old alma mater! I was impressed with the quality of the work and how far the School has progressed from when I started. (Jacobs has) a very robust intern program that we are recruiting for. . .so if there are any interested interns, we have openings throughout our offices (Orlando; Atlanta; Dallas; St. Louis; Washington, D.C.; Los Angeles). Keep up the good work.

**Tim Scarborough, B.S. ’81, M.Arch. ’85**
*Jacobs Facilities, Inc., Atlanta*

As a whole, the students did not show us the same level of concept, design, and presentation as the class from the previous year. There were, however, a handful of projects that were exceptionally done from concept through presentation. The projects that were most interesting to review were the ones that created conversation and debate among the jurors. We all agreed on the top three projects and identified two others that were worthy of being recognized among their peers. These students clearly put forth the time, effort, and commitment to produce a successful project. . .our agenda for the day was better organized and thought out this year, which made our time spent more valuable to the students.

**Dan Waterman, B.Arch. ’00**
*Ai Group, Atlanta*

Thinking about her retirement, Judye said “Though everyone has a ‘work life’ and a ‘home or personal life,’ the dichotomy for me has been fairly dramatic. I’ve felt as if I’ve been leading two lives. One is in the city, heavily scheduled, technology driven, and highly stimulating. The other is rural, timed by nature, worked by hand, and deeply relaxing. Each is a full-time endeavor. As I get older, I look forward to focusing on my life in the country, allowing me to slow down and enjoy the beauty and bounty of what I truly love—nature.”

Finalist Kirsten Dahlquist answers questions from the jurors.
Local Firm Celebrates Addition of Alumnus Partner

For those in the Tallahassee built-environment community, the annual Gallie Alley Rally is an event not to be missed. This year’s party—the 26th annual—was celebrated in honor of SOA alumnus Doug Barlowe [B.S. ’82, B.Arch. ’87]. Beautifully catered by Andrew’s Catering, over 250 people were entertained in the creatively decorated “Alley” on May 16, 2006.

After working with several local firms over the years since his graduation, Doug made the move to become the third

Alumni Notes

After working for more than five years at alumni firm Cronk Duch Miller in Jacksonville, FL, Peyman Ata-Abadi [B.S. ’97, M.Arch. ’00] has opened his own firm in Jacksonville—P.A. Studio, Inc. Peyman says he “learned a lot” while with Cronk Duch Miller, including “how to survive,” but he was ready to explore his own architectural journey. Currently, he collaborates with other Jacksonville architects and developers who specialize in boutique-type projects.

Though still the Director of Design for John Peterson Architects in Tallahassee, for the next two years Hugh Bosely [B.Arch. ’96] will be spending 75% of his time in San Francisco. While there, he plans to earn a M.Arch. from Berkeley, get more professional experience, enjoy the city, and surf. After a few offers from large firms, Hugh decided to work with Soularch Design, a small firm owned by a fellow surfer. It offers not only interesting work but also allows the flexibility needed for taking classes. Hugh loves San Francisco. He lives in the Cole Valley neighborhood near the entrance to the Golden Gate Park and is within walking distance of great restaurants, shops, and clubs. Other activities are only a short skateboard ride away. “The car leaves the garage only on weekends,” he reports, “when I take trips to the coast to surf and explore.”

Both spring 2006 graduates from the M.L.A. program immediately landed positions in Florida. Cheryl Callender [M.L.A. ’06] is working as a Junior Associate in the Landscape Architecture Division of Keith and Schnars, P.A. in Fort Lauderdale, and Stephen Cox [M.L.A. ‘06] is a Landscape Designer with HDR Engineering in Panama City.

Since 1997 Lisa Mills Cook [B.Arch. ’89] has been the Facilities Planning Coordinator at St. Petersburg (FL) College, and she is also currently the 2006-2007 President of the Florida Educational Facilities Planners’ Association, Inc. (FEFPA). Lisa lives in Clearwater with her 12-year-old daughter, Christi, and she is currently working toward a master’s degree in public administration at Florida Gulf Coast University.

Kevin Foster [B.S. ‘03] is celebrating a 50th anniversary this year. McCar Homes, the 40th largest home builder in the nation and where Kevin is employed, marks its 50th year in business. Kevin started at McCar in Alpharetta, GA in late 2004 as an intern architect but has been promoted to Project Manager. His responsibilities include training new architecture employees in Architectural Desktop 2006 and Data CAD-11, maintaining and updating all current home plans, creating and maintaining a time line for new home designs, and finalizing all plans before they are released to the builders. McCar builds homes primarily in the southeast region, with Atlanta being its top market. Their projects include single-family homes and town houses ranging in price from $150k to $700k. In 2003 Kevin married FAMU CIS alumna Raven Bobo, and their son Quentin was born April 13, 2004. Kevin treasures spending time with Raven and Quentin at their home in Dallas, GA. When he gets a break from his busy schedule, he also enjoys conceptual drawing, watching football, and telling the occasional joke.

Congratulations to Tiombe Jenkins Garmon [B.S. ’93, M.Arch. ’96] and her husband Demone on the birth of their first child, Hassan Samir, born on Dec. 21, 2005. While Tiombe was on a four-months maternity leave from the Orlando office of Jacobs Facilities, Inc., the couple decided to leave Orlando and move to the D.C. metropolitan area. Tiombe is now back at work in the Jacobs Arlington office where she is currently focusing on schematic design development for Dept. of Defense local and international operations facilities.

Recent graduates Crystal Jackson [B.S. ’04, M.Arch. ‘06] and Thomas Brokaw [B.S. 04, M.Arch. ’06] have now settled in Orlando. They are employed by two firms who participated in the 2006 Job Fair, and they join other alumni in those organizations. Crystal is with Forum Architecture and Interior Design, Inc. in Altamonte Springs, and Thomas is employed by Schenkel Shultz Architecture in downtown Orlando. The couple intends to become licensed in a few years and, from there, “the sky’s the limit!”

José Jaramillo, AIA [B.S. ’95, M.Arch. ’97] is looking toward the third Please see page 18.
Alumni Firm Celebrates 10th Anniversary

On April 27, 2006, the alumni firm of Rhodes + Brito Architects, Inc. celebrated their 10th anniversary in downtown Orlando at the Courtyard at Lake Lucerne. More than 100 guests joined Ruffin Rhodes [B.S. ‘82, M.Arch. ‘89], Max Brito [B.S. ‘85, M.Arch. ‘89], and the entire firm team, including alumni Stephanie Mendez [B.Arch. ‘05] and Don Williams [B.S. ’95; M.Arch. ‘98], in the celebration of their 10 years of success in Orlando.

The guests were entertained in a courtyard garden by a four-piece, jazz/rhythm-and-blues band. In addition, a number of guests spoke at the event to congratulate the firm. They included representatives from several of the firm’s clients as well as Orlando dignitaries. The client speakers were: Interim Dean James Douglas, FAMU College of Law; Dr. Jeraldine Perkins, retired Principal of Nap Ford Community School; and Mr. Gary Cain, President and CEO of the Boys & Girls Club. Others publicly congratulating the firm were: Orlando City Commissioner Daisey Lynum and City of Orlando Downtown Development Board Executive Director Frank Billingsly.

Rhodes + Brito Architects, Inc. has been a strong supporter of the SOA since 1999 when the firm began the first alumni-awarded sponsorship of a student by initiating the annual “Rhodes + Brito Scholarship Award,” a cash award to a deserving third-year student selected by the faculty. In addition, the firm made the inaugural contribution to the SOA's first Scholarship Endowment Fund. These generous donations broke new ground in the School’s history and set the tone for future fund-raising activities.

We congratulate Ruffin, Max, and their team on their 10 years of success and growth, and we wish them a bright and prosperous future.

Max Brito (l) and Ruffin Rhodes.

On Oct. 8, 2005, William Jermaine Richardson [B.S. ’97] married Crystal Cuby, a high school math teacher and Ph.D. candidate at GA State University. (Crystal also holds a master’s degree in electrical engineering from GA Tech.) The couple lives in the Atlanta area where Jermaine is employed by the Dallas-based firm, The Samuel Group Architects. The firm has done work for various banking clients throughout the country, including Bank of America, Wachovia, and SunTrust as well as La-Z-Boy Furniture Showrooms and 7-11 Stores. He is also pursuing the Master of Divinity degree at Turner Theological Seminary at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta.

Thanks to a little help from our friends, another “lost alum” has been found! After receiving his degree at the SOA, Kurt Schneider [B.S. ’82] designed a Lake Jackson home for Andy Reese and his family, owners of several Tallahassee restaurants. Thereafter, Kurt moved to Atlanta and worked for a couple of firms while he studied for and took the Georgia Registration Exam. He received his license in 1986 and moved to Roswell, GA where he operated his own practice until 1998. The following year he retired and moved to Fairhope, Alabama. In 2002, he bought a cottage and set up an office in the sunroom where he creates all his drawings by hand. When he’s not at the drawing board, he’s sailing on Mobile Bay.

Please see page 19.
IN MEMORIAM

Frederick Botelho
1970-2006

The School of Architecture is sad to report that alumnus Frederick Botelho, 35, died Friday, April 14, 2006 as the result of a car accident. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on April 18, 2006 at the St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Boca Raton, Florida, followed by entombment at the Boca Raton Mausoleum. Fred received both the Bachelor of Science in Architecture Studies and the Master of Architecture (1993 and 1995) from the Florida A & M University School of Architecture.

Fred was born in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, but the family moved to Miami when he was 17. He is survived by his parents, Nelson and Cecilia; his brother, Alex; his maternal grandparents, John and Maria Farias; and his longtime girlfriend, Marianela (Mary) Gomez.

After earning his degrees, Fred accepted a position with Carlos Zapata Design Studio in Miami where he was employed for five years. During that time, Fred played an instrumental role in the design and construction of the Publix supermarket in Miami Beach and the design of Concourse J at the Miami Airport. In 2000 he moved to M.C. Harry + Associates, also in Miami, and remained there until 2005 when he took a position with Oppenheim Architecture + Design where he worked until his death.

Fred was an accomplished, dedicated, talented, and successful architect. Over the course of his short career, his work was recognized in publications and with awards. While a student, his work was selected for “Architects in the Making,” an exhibit in the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. He also earned the Alpha Rho Chi Medal and was tapped as a member of Tau Sigma Delta, national honor society for architecture and the allied arts.

In 1999 Fred was featured in Architecture magazine’s article on young architects, and the following year, his work was published in Georgia Houses and Abitare Magazine. In 2001 he was honored with the AIA Unbuilt Design Award of Merit for the Graham Center Expansion at Florida International University in Miami.

Out of the office he always took his passion home where he managed to fuse it into all the other aspects of his life. He relished home improvement projects and his hobby for cars. On his down time you could always find him in front of his computer, eating Italian ice and discussing BMW topics on forums where he befriended fellow members. He was as faithful to his friends as he was to his career, always keeping in contact with childhood friends and traveling as often as he could to see them. Fred has left a legacy manifested not only by landmarks he designed but also through the people he touched in the course of his life, the life he designed for himself—his best work to date.

Workshop continued from p.10

Completion of a “mini-thesis” project that required them to select a research topic, complete a literature review, design a research methodology, conduct their research, and document it in a scholarly format so that it can be published in journal format. Each student was assisted by a mentor from the graduate faculty in the program to which they have been accepted.

The McNair fellows work closely with their mentors not only on their own research for the McNair summer program, but they also assist the mentor in his or her ongoing scholarly research. Atwaul Bennett’s mentor was Richard Rome, Director of the Graduate Program in Landscape Architecture. She assisted him in his research, which seeks to identify off-campus, credit-generating activities within graduate programs in landscape architecture.

The FAMU students also presented their research at the National McNair Scholars Research Conference in Nashville, TN. Of the 13 FAMU students, six received awards for their work. Atwaul Bennett received 1st Place in the Poster Presentation Category. Her research addressed the topic of the potential of built landscapes to improve the physical and mental health of users. She specifically addressed the characteristics of built landscapes that have the potential to reduce stress in users. Atwaul intends to continue research in this area of study in her MLA thesis studies while a student in the SOA graduate program.

“The McNair summer research program is one of the best orientation programs to graduate student research of which I am aware,” Prof. Rome noted. “I personally salute the Director, Lisa McClelland, for making this program as good as it is.”

www.famusoa.net
Family-owned Architecture Firm Thrives in Bermuda

On August 20, 2006, Keino Furbert-Jacobs [B.Arch. ’97], his wife (Enid), and their two children (Jaiden, aged 4½, and Mya, almost 3) moved into their new home in Pembroke, Bermuda. The home is part of a small development conceived of and designed by the couple through their company, E4 Designs Architectural Services. They opened the company upon Keino’s return to his native Bermuda in August 2004. The company currently services 53 clients with 15 active developments and another seven currently under review by the local Planning Department.

The new family home, referred to as the Grand Garden Home, is one of four homes in the development called Ja-Mya Colony Homes. The name was created from the names of their children: “Ja” from Jaiden and “Mya.” The project broke ground in October 2005, and the first certificate of occupancy was received August 2006.

The family’s new four-bedroom home has four levels: a basement, first and second floors, and a mezzanine. A body-building competition winner, including a stint as “The 1997 Mr. Tallahassee” when he was a student, Keino included a well-equipped gym in the basement.

With new and renovated space totaling 8,500 sq. ft., the development includes the renovation of two existing 2-bedroom, 1-bath attached Garden Homes; the addition of one new 2-bedroom, 1.5-bath, basement, three-level City Home; and the 4-bedroom Grand Garden Home. The interior finishes for all are inspired by and radiate an eclectic combination of Mediterranean and Asian influences.

“The E4 work ethic is very similar to that of the studio hours at the SOA in that work starts at 6:00 p.m. and carries through to 2:00 or 3:00 a.m.,” Keino observed. The idea is to “do more now in order to rest and reduce stress later in life.” Because the company consists of only Keino and his wife, it is family-oriented. “Family time is always respected, and the majority of business is conducted when the children are asleep,” Keino reported. “Generally, overhead is low, which effectively helps keep costs attractive to middle and upper-middle market clients.” The name “E4” comes from “Euphoric and Eclectic Designs for Evolutionary and Eventful Lifestyles.”

If you are wondering why work begins at 6:00 p.m., it is because Keino also has two other jobs. In September 2004, he was hired by the Bermuda Land Development Co. (BLDC) as a Project Manager but was quickly promoted to Project Architect and Project Manager. Prior to Keino’s joining BLDC, another alumnus, Stephen Tucker [B.S. ’96] held the position of Facilities Manager and was later appointed to Acting V.P. of Facilities Management.

Recently and after the many successful developments, both Stephen and Keino were invited by the Government Ministry to work with the Bermuda Housing Corporation (BHC) on residential initiatives in various stages of development. They make recommendations to the government and serve as liaisons with other professionals. In general, their role is to create and enhance an informed decision-making process in the government as it relates to commercial, industrial, residential, multi-use, and sustainable developments.

Keino’s productive professional life began upon his graduation when he was hired by Fugleberg Koch Architects in Winter Park, FL. During his seven-year tenure there, he learned the ropes for designing and implementing large, multi-family developments. His projects include the 334-unit Twin Oaks development on east Capital Circle in Tallahassee that is spread among 30 buildings. It includes a clubhouse, tennis courts, and several other ancillary buildings. A few others of the 33 Florida development projects under his belt are Abacoa in Jupiter, Park Central in Orlando, and Royal Palm Nursery Apartments in Bradenton. Six more are located in Michigan. In short, “I have not stopped since my graduation from the SOA,” Keino reports.

Our congratulations and best wishes to Keino and his family on the completion of their new home and the continuing success of their business.
The Executive Board of the FAMU SOA Alumni Network needs your help in building the organization. To do this, we need each SOA graduate to participate so the organization can become a vibrant entity to help support the students, faculty, administration, and staff.

The Executive Board has been involved in a variety of activities to support SOA students. Over the past year, we have accomplished the following:

- Organized and participated in a Professional Development Seminar at the SOA.
- Coordinated the Alumni Jury for the B.Arch. final project and annual pre-jury breakfast.
- Provided and presented commemorative sashes to the 2006 professional-degree graduates.
- Represented the alumni during the February NAAB re-accreditation visit.
- Participated in the February Job Fair organized by Alpha Rho Chi.
- Completed a Network promotional brochure.
- Organized a football Tailgating Party in Atlanta, GA.

Please see the back cover of this newsletter and join us in the first 2006-07 activity—a reception celebrating the retirement of Alumni Coordinator Judye McCalman.

For additional information on the Network, please call or email Network Chair Dion Storr any time at 614.282.1458 or wdstorr@yahoo.com. He looks forward to hearing from each of you.

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Barbados Alumnus Designs for Florida’s Panhandle

We were pleasantly surprised this summer by a visit from Doug Luke [B.Arch. ’90] who was on his way to review several projects his firm currently has in the Florida panhandle. Doug is an architect and director at Gillespie & Steel Associates Ltd. in Barbados (West Indies), and the firm is part of the team working on Rosemary Beach, a new urban town about seven miles east of Seaside and approximately twice its size.

Doug’s firm has developed the swimming pool and its attendant buildings, aptly named the “Barbados Pool.” They are also responsible for a live/work building called “The Savannah,” a four-story residential/commercial building that covers an entire block. The firm has also designed several residences—cottage-type beach houses—at Rosemary Beach. Appropriately, the theme for the town is Anglo/Carribean architecture influenced by Barbados, St. Augustine, New Orleans, and Charleston.

The Gillespie & Steel approach to design places considerable emphasis on problem solving in the local context. They have conducted studies of traditional island architecture and use what they learned as well as their extensive experience to develop the use of traditional design elements in a contemporary way to produce an up-to-date Caribbean architectural style that works well within the climatic, financial, and technical constraints of the region. For more on Doug’s firm and their work, see www.gillespieandsteel.com.

Also in the panhandle, Gillespie & Steel is one of the firms that designed the coastal village of “Draper Lake,” situated on a dune lake. Split by a river, the village is located about 10 miles west of Seaside. Doug was part of the design team for the master plan, and the village is currently developing its amenities. Following the village theme of the Adirondacks, Gillespie & Steel has designed two pools and their associated buildings.

A third project underway is a 500-acre development called “Sky” located north of Panama City. Gillespie & Steel has developed its master plan with Julia Sanford Architects, Duany Plater-Zyberk, and Dungan Nequette Architects.

Barbados Pool at Rosemary Beach, FL by Gillespie & Steel Associates Ltd.

We Need YOU!

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Barbados Pool at Rosemary Beach, FL by Gillespie & Steel Associates Ltd.

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Fuji Shono: A 25-Year Update

After earning a degree in health sciences in 1975 from Kyushu National University in Japan, Fuji Shono, AIA [B.S. ‘81] moved to the States, came to the then-new School of Architecture at FAMU, and earned her B.S. in 1981. After graduation, she moved around a bit, living in Chicago, the District of Columbia, and Florida before starting graduate school in Oregon in 1985. While living in D.C. in 1982, she married fellow architect, Rick Browning. After earning the M.Arch. from the University of Oregon, Fuji worked in Eugene for three years. The couple then took off five months for around-the-world travel. Upon their return, they moved to Portland in 1991.

Two years later, Fuji and Rick opened Browning Shono Architects, LLP in Portland. Though the firm is small, they have worked on a wide range of projects including small commercial and mixed-use renovation, institutional remodeling, industrial/office buildings, and residences. They have also done several urban design/planning projects for the City of Portland: main street development, alternative transportation-related retail, bicycle parking facilities, etc. In addition, they have completed study/research projects such as writing a building maintenance manual for the State and design guidelines for the City of Newberg, OR. For more on their firm, please visit their website at www.browningshono.com.

Between 1993 and 1996, Fuji taught Japanese architecture classes at Portland State University. During the spring 2006, she taught a design studio at the University of Oregon, Eugene campus. This year, she is teaching a seminar on Japanese architecture at the UO’s Department of Architecture Portland Center. Fuji is now interested in pursuing more teaching and research possibilities on Japanese architecture, past and present, on various topics such as sustainable aspects, energy-conscious traditional living customs, spatial concepts of Japanese architecture, preservation of Kyoto mixed-use houses, materials and details, Japanese urbanism, etc.

Fuji and her husband, Rick, at home with (l) Bare, formerly Barefoot, rescued from the Oregon Humane Society and at (r) Dale who was rescued by Rick while on a bike ride in Goldendale, WA.

Alumni Notes continued from p.18

Anson Stuart [B.S. ‘94, M.Arch. ‘96] has recently completed his second novel, Runaway Love: 1st Born. After spending three years writing and another two editing and formatting the book, Anson and his friends celebrated its official release on August 30, 2006 at The Bohemia Room inside Power Studios in Miami. For preview chapters of each of his novels, go to www.runawaylove.com.

Congratulations to David Vincent [B.S. ‘84, B.Arch. ‘89] who has been promoted to Senior Vice President and Partner at JRA Architects in Tallahassee, FL. See article about his recent work on p. 23.

While cleaning his office recently, Associate Professor Enn Ots came across this poem written over 15 years ago by alumnus Tom Cardinal [M.Arch. ‘90]. Tom died in January 2004.

Architecture Is Building by Thomas John Cardinal

Architecture is building
Building as dwelling
Dwelling is the experience of being in a place
Dwelling place, peace, safeguarded, free from harm
sky
earth
divine

Space is “made room for”
Space is interval

Time is event, time is activity
Events are the patterns of place

Place is space in time—a process
Process is dwelling in place
Building is the soil of process

cultivate
nurture
growth

the essence of building is “letting Dwell”

Light is the form giver
Light is divine
Light is the energy of place

Building is architecture of light as space

Lost Alumni: Where In the World Are You?

Due to limited space and the growing number, our usual list of “Lost Alumni” is posted on our website. Please visit us at famusoa.net/alumni/lost.
SOA Alumni Help Revitalize Bond Community

Main entrance to the Bond/Wesson Elementary School designed by JRA Architects.

Tuesday, August 1, 2006 was a banner day for the Bond community near FAMU. The Rickards High School band played, majorettes twirled their batons, and the crowd of more than 200 was jubilant. The occasion: the ribbon cutting for the new Bond/Wesson Elementary School at Saxon and Campbell Streets—the first new school on the south side in 30 years!

Dignitaries including School Board members Maggie Lewis and Joy Bowen, former Superintendent Bill Montford, Superintendent Jim Croteau, and County Commissioner Bill Proctor looked on as Principal Pamela Hightower proclaimed, “It’s a good day in the neighborhood!”

After the ceremony, attendees toured the facility and marveled at its many beautiful features. In addition to standard school spaces like classrooms, the new $17 million building houses a dance studio with bamboo floors and mirrored walls, state-of-the-art computer and science labs, and a well-equipped media center. Even the playground is full of colorful equipment, including a climbing wall.

Founded in the 1930s by people in the neighborhood, Bond Elementary has remained an important part of the community with current neighbors still heavily involved. After the announcement five years ago that the Bond and Wesson Schools would be closed, Bond alumni and neighbors organized. The community worked with City, County, and School Board officials to place the school on the site of the existing school. In order to accommodate the new facility, one street was closed to allow direct access to existing playfields, and the City allowed the stormwater to be held at the new regional facility being constructed for the Bond community.

SOA alumni David Vincent [B.S. 84, B.Arch. 89] and Mario Nunez [B.S. 88] of JRA Architects worked with community leaders, district staff, teachers, and the City of Tallahassee for more than two years on the design of the school. With so many parties having so much interest in this project, the greatest challenge facing the design team was assembling, organizing, and implementing the enormous amount of input into a single coherent design. “But it was worth the effort,” noted Vincent. “It is one of the true pleasures of architecture when you can not only see your design come to life but when you can also see it have such a positive effect on an entire community.”

This project also signified the “passing of the torch” for JRA Architects and FAMU SOA. Founding partner, project Principal-in-Charge, and SOA alumnus Bobby Cresap [B.S. ’79] retired from JRA during the early phase of construction documents and was replaced by David Vincent as Senior Vice President and partner at JRA. To complete the circle, recent SOA graduate Brian Cannady [B.S. ’06] joined JRA shortly after Mr. Cresap’s retirement and was instrumental in the completion of the project.

Reflections continued from p.7

School in a state of equilibrium. Since she assumed the position of Assistant to the Dean, there has been an incredible increase in the productivity and morale of the entire support staff.

She is truly committed to her position and consistently goes beyond its normal demands. She has an uncanny ability to handle difficult situations for which there are frequently no precedents and about which she has no particular experience or training. In short, she is an outstanding front-line person.

I have also observed her acting as a very effective administrator. She commands the respect and loyalty of both staff and faculty as a facilitator and problem solver. Ms. McCalman does, indeed, function “to enable others,” and this is most refreshing as it constantly serves to elevate the academic climate of our School.

If you ever need to convince the University to raise her position or to increase her level of compensation, I would hope that you would call on me and other faculty members for support. I can assure you it would be gratefully forthcoming.

Sincerely,

Professor

Tim White

Judy has always been my model and guru for impeccable organization; clear writing; getting things done efficiently; and positive, cooperative approaches to leading and participating in group efforts. If ever I needed a copy of something, no matter how many years back it was produced, I went to Judy. She not only had it, but knew right where it was in her files. I worked with her in editing my books, and I’m sure I drove her crazy with my insistence on breaking grammatical rules. I have enjoyed many conversations with her about larger life issues and admire her thoughtful perspective. I’ve learned from her professionalism and will always value her friendship.

Professor

www.famusoa.net
The FAMU SOA Alumni Network Executive Board Cordially Invites You To A Reception Honoring Judye McCalman

During Homecoming Week On Friday, October 27, 2006 7:00 p.m. At Huffman/Tarmey Architecture 450 St. Francis St. Tallahassee, FL

Some of you may know that Alumni Coordinator Judye McCalman retired on September 29, 2006. The FAMU SOA Alumni Network Executive board is honoring her 27 years of dedicated service with a reception. Without Judye, the Network may not have been established. This organization is one of Judye’s legacies at the SOA.

Please Join Us For This Celebration!