Director’s Note: K. David Pijawka

I am pleased to report a number of important activities that have started this fall semester as part of the Ph.D. program and will have long-term impacts. One of the most significant activities in teaching and research has been influenced in part by ASU’s interest in developing university-wide initiatives in sustainability. Therefore, motivated by these campus-wide initiatives and the interest by our students in this topic, I was deeply motivated to develop an interdisciplinary undergraduate course on Sustainable Cities. Two Ph.D. students from our program, Linda Oviedo and Izzet Ozkeresteci, have been involved in the course’s development, coverage, and teaching.

Also, this upcoming spring semester, our program will offer its first studio, The Sustainability Studio, for Ph.D. students and advanced master’s students. The intent is to connect research, planning, and design on a real-world sustainability project for advanced graduate students in our program, and to ensure participation by other Ph.D. students in Biology, Engineering, Social Sciences, and other related disciplines.

Further, several students in our program will be involved in helping coordinate the 4th Annual Conference on Doctoral Education in Design to be held this Spring 2005 in the College of Architecture and Environmental Design. Professor Jacques Giard and I will be the conference organizers.

I would like to congratulate William Calvo, Linda Guarascio-Howard, Manu Juyal, Jesus Lara, Mimi Majumdar-Narayan, Anne Marshall, and Linda Oviedo for their successful participation in presenting their scholarly work and participation in important conferences during the last seven months. This speaks highly of our program and its students.

Lastly, in its 9th year, the Ph.D. program has reached an important phase in its trajectory. This year the college established two committees that will have significant impacts on shaping the future of this very successful and highly recognized Ph.D. degree, a committee established specifically to address the future direction and structure of our program, and a college-wide research committee. Recognizing that student participation is an important element of this decision-making process, Susan Goldsmith and Rachel Harris have been asked to research the trends in interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs comparable to our program. This report will provide valuable information for both committees.

College News

Kenneth L. Brooks is our new Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Before coming to ASU, Associate Dean Brooks was Professor of Landscape Architecture at Kansas State University where he also served as Graduate Program Director from 1986 to 1993.

Associate Dean Brooks will be looking at the possibility of expansion of the disciplines in the college, new initiatives emerging at the university level, and the need for much stronger relationships with the other schools and centers at ASU. His office is located in ARCH 111.

The Landscape Architecture program has moved from the School of Planning to the School of Architecture. Therefore, the school names are School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and the School of Planning.

Program News

We have nine new students in the 2004-05 class who were welcomed to the program at our ninth Annual Welcome Reception on September 9. The new students are Shaine Alleman, Effie Bouras, Marwan Elmubarak, Khanin Hutanuwar, Vasudha Lathey, Ray Quay, Akram Rosheidi, Elif Tural, and Aleks Webster.

Also joining us at the reception were two 1999 alums, Ross Cromarty and Tom Helmer. It was great seeing both of them.


William Calvo opened a community symposium at the Mesa Southwest Museum on September 18, with his presentation, “Genealogy of an Identity: Lowriders as Storytellers of the Chicano Experience.”

In October, Linda Oviedo will be presenting a paper, “Partnerships for Sustainability in the U.S.-Mexican Border Region,” at the North American Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education in Portland, Oregon. Co-authors were Francisco Lozano, David Pijawka, and Jorge de los Santos.

In December, Anne Marshall will be presenting a paper, “Reclaiming Identity through Architecture: New Native American Cultural Facilities” at the International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments conference in Dubai, U.A.E.

Effie Bouras, one of our new students, has had two articles published recently. The first article, “Leaving Las Vegas—Ruminations of the City Through a Series of Personal Journeys” was published in the July 2004 issue of Canadian Architect (www.cdnarchitect.com). The second article “Interview: Michelle Kaufmann and Glidehouse: Chic and Green” was published in the September 8th edition of ArchNewsNow.com.

Mimi Majumdar-Narayan co-authored the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Report 562 called “ITS Technologies and Mature Drivers” published in July 2004. The lead author was Dr. Mary Kihl.

The Graduate College has changed its name to the Division of Graduate Studies. Please visit their remodeled website (www.asu.edu/graduate) for information about all aspects of graduate studies.