**Director’s Note:**  K. David Pijawka

As most of you are aware the term for Director rotates every four years. We are now in the process of searching for an outstanding faculty member from the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture to be the new program director. I continue to be very proud of the program as it has matured into a nationally-recognized PhD degree that is reflective of the ideals of the “New American University”. I was able to build the program from the solid foundation built by John Meunier, who as Dean of CAED was ahead of his time in establishing an interdisciplinary PhD degree, and the program’s first director, Professor Michael Kroelinger. Today our PhD serves as the only doctoral program in the college and provides a unique interdisciplinary education and research experience for the brightest graduate students from architecture, the design disciplines, urban and environmental planning and related disciplines.

During the last four years our students have received fellowships and assistantships from research units across ASU including those within the College of Engineering, Business, the International Institute for Sustainability, the President’s Office, and others. With growing recognition of the quality of our students, participation by faculty across campus to be involved in lectures, brown bag sessions, and on dissertation committees grew concomitantly. The Juratovac Memorial Endowment was established in 2003 and the Alumni Scholarship Fund was initiated in 2002.

This year the PhD program will co-host the 4th International Conference on Doctoral Education in Design and the US Agency for International Development has awarded our program with scholarships to finance faculty from the Instituto Technologico de Sonora (ITSON), Mexico to earn their PhDs here. There is no question that our stature as an interdisciplinary PhD program has grown significantly.

The program would not have grown and received such recognition without the commitment of the Executive Committee which has included professors Bryan, Cameron, Crewe, Cook, Ellin, Herring, McCoy, Miller, Thibeau-Catsis, and Weed. Thank you all.

I am especially proud of the students that are enrolled here or have graduated. Many are publishing and presenting research papers at national and international conferences and recent graduates are placed in prestigious universities and high-level positions in government and private sectors.

Lastly, so we should not forget, my gratitude to Jeffery Cook who passed away two years ago and who strongly supported this program and its students; and to Paul Rothstein who passed away this month who continually inspired me and students on the importance of interdisciplinary teaching.

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**Program News**

The program is pleased to announce that Dr. John Blair (2001) made a recent donation to the Ph.D. Alumni Fund. Thank you John for your very generous donation. We hope to build this fund so that it can provide scholarships to incoming students.

The Ph.D. program was happy to see two students graduate last semester — **Linda Guarascio-Howard** and **Carlos Licon**. Linda was hooded at the Commencement Ceremony, along with Fred Dilger, who graduated in August 2004. Unfortunately **Carlos**, who is now living and teaching in Toluca, Mexico, could not be present. We wish Linda, Fred, and Carlos the best of luck in their future endeavors.

**Alumni News**

**Ayona Datta** (2003), was recently awarded a research grant from the British Academy for a project in India titled “Mapping the Architecture of Resistance and Control: Women’s Organisation and Social Agency in a Squatter Settlement”.

Ayona was also awarded a Visiting Researcher Fellowship from Queen’s University to visit Izmir Institute of Technology. This is for a project titled “New Communities, New Identities: The Architecture of ‘California Homes’. Ayona will be conducting this research jointly with **Sebnem Yucel** (another 2003 grad) this summer.

Ayona is currently a Lecturer in Architecture at Queen’s University in Belfast, Ireland. Sebnem is the Associate Dean and Assistant Professor at the Izmir Institute of Technology in Turkey.
Alumni News (cont’d.)

Hayriye Esbah (2001), currently an Assistant Professor & Director of Landscape Architecture at Adnan Menderes University in Turkey, visited ASU during spring break. Hayriye presented a paper at the Urban Remote Sensing conference, hosted by the International Institute for Sustainability. Hayriye really enjoyed seeing the campus and old friends again.

Student News

Manu Juyal was married in his home town of Dehradun, India on December 25, 2004, to Richa Maheshwari. Congratulations and best wishes to both Manu and Richa!

After nine months of rehearsal, Yilun and Jenny Yang are proud to announce the debut of their daughter, Victoria Yuyao Yang, 6 pounds 12 ounces, 19.6 inches, on January 13, 2005. Yilun says that their hearts are filled with happiness and their lives are filled with love. Congratulations!

Dominique Laroche recently moved from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences to the Office of the University Architect, as Assistant Director, in charge of space planning and management, CADD services and classroom furniture and services.

During the fall and spring semesters Joonwon Joo, Manu Juyal, Mimi Majumdar-Narayan, Linda Oviedo, and Robert Pahle passed their comprehensive exams. Shankara Babu, Aaron Gannon, Jesus Lara, Mimi Majumdar-Narayan, Linda Oviedo, and Bill Yoder were admitted to candidacy. Congratulations to you all!!

Student Presentations

John Turpin presented a paper, “Interior Designer as Interior Merchandiser: Dorothy Draper Redefines the Professional Boundaries of the Decorator,” at the 8th Annual Conference on Cultural and Historic Preservation, Salve Regina University, Newport, RI. (September 2004)


Mimi Majumdar-Narayan has been invited by a key group of researchers in her field to present at one of the intensive sessions of the Environmental Design Research Association’s 36 Conference (EDRA) in Vancouver, BC in April. This is a wonderful opportunity for Mimi to present her dissertation research and exchange ideas with others in her field. Mimi will also be presenting her own paper, “The Physical Setting and Peer Negotiation in the Early Childhood Classroom: Case Study Discussions” at the same conference. (April 2005)


William Calvo will present a paper, “Genealogy of an Identity: Lowriders as Storytellers of the Chicano Experience,” at The Car in History Conference at the University of Toronto’s Munk Centre of International Studies in Toronto (May 2005)

Anne Marshall was invited to give two lectures at University of New Mexico in January, “Recent Research on Great Houses at Chaco Canyon” in the Department of Art and Art History and “Ancient Southwestern Architecture” in the School of Architecture and Planning.

Anne will present "Deconstructing Pueblo del Arroyo, Reconstructing Chaco" at the Society for American Archaeology 70th Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City (March 2005)

Shankara Babu will present “Environmental Justice—Is it Another Facet of Societal Inequity: Case Study in Phoenix, Arizona” at the International Conference on Creative Interaction and Sustainable Development in Tainan, Taiwan (May 2005)

Research

Mimi Majumdar-Narayan is part of the evaluation team for the Arizona—System Ready/Child Ready (AZSRCR) project. The AZSRCR project is a collaborative effort by the Governor’s office, ASU and Arizona’s Community Colleges, to establish an innovative approach to the professional development of educators who serve children in high-need communities. Mimi’s participation in this project primarily involves data collection and evaluation. She will travel with a team of researchers to early childhood centers across the state and observe math, language and literacy in the classrooms. She will also analyze the experiences of early childhood practitioners who participated in the AZSRCR project through phone interviews. Additionally, being the only designer involved with this project, Mimi will provide alternative perspectives to classroom environments at leadership meetings with Community College program directors and mentors from Southwest Human Development.

Yilun Yang, Qiawen Wu, and Noom Hutanuwatr are currently working together on a research project under the direction of Dr. Jacques Giard, Director and Professor of the School of Design. The research is intended to understand how American design doctoral programs can meet Asian students’ need and facilitate their transition from master to doctorate. So far, two papers from this research group coauthored by Yilun, Qiawen, and Noom have been accepted for presentation at the 4th Doctoral Education in Design conference in June, 2005.