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Fay Jones School of Architecture

Annual Report
2010-11
Fay Jones School of Architecture
University of Arkansas
Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2011

August 15, 2011

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FAY JONES SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

University of Arkansas

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2011

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DEAN’S NARRATIVE

Historic library building reshaped with new design center addition, new vision for architecture school

John Mott is in familiar territory. His father, Ralph Mott, was principal architect at Haralson and Nelson, the Fort Smith firm hired as the prime architect for Vol Walker Hall, which was built in 1935 as the University of Arkansas Library. As director of the architecture and historic preservation department at John Milner Associates, John Mott is a consultant on the renovation of the 65,000-square-foot Vol Walker Hall, working with Marlon Blackwell Architect and Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects. Pre-construction on the renovation and a 34,000-square-foot addition started in July. Mott, a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, is no stranger to the UA campus himself. He’s an alumnus (B.Arch. ’60). He practiced with his dad for more than 25 years in Fort Smith, and, with that firm, he worked on the renovation of Old Main in the late 1980s. He’s also twice before worked on improvements to Vol Walker Hall.

With a design based on the library at the University of Rochester, the building was constructed for less than $1.2 million with Public Works Administration (PWA) funding, a New Deal agency created during the Great Depression. Over the years, the building was also used for administrative offices, including the university president, as well as the museum. In 1968, the architecture school moved from the Fine Arts Building to the newly renamed Vol Walker Hall. Mott has managed more than 150 preservation projects and has completed 40 projects on 11 college and university campuses. In 2005, Mott worked on the exterior restoration of the building’s limestone walls, repointing the mortar in the joints, and an interior renovation to upgrade the building to comply with safety codes by adding interior fire stairs. Mott learned much from his dad while they practiced together for so many years, but he’s also worked on many of his buildings through historic preservation.

According to the “Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties,” the treatment of historic structures can happen on various levels, Mott said. Restoration means truly taking a building very near to its original state. Rehabilitation, the most common, is recognizing or honoring the past while rehabilitating the structure so it serves in modern times as a functional building. And preservation does enough repair work just to preserve a structure in its current state. In 1992, Vol Walker Hall was added to the National Register of Historic Places, as Vol Walker Library, along with other older campus buildings. It was noted for its contribution to the beginnings of public education in the state and as a strong example of the Classic Revival style. In the current rehabilitation of Vol Walker Hall, the steel windows will be restored, realigned and repainted, with missing hardware replaced. Marble will also be restored, fixing drill marks and other blemishes, and the lobby’s terrazzo floors will be preserved. Doors to the main level studios and the former reading room will be restored and clad in leather, as were the originals. The three skylights above the grand staircase will be restored to the original condition. In the transition space between the old and new buildings, they’ll return to original paint colors and restore marble. In the gallery and staircase, they’ll use cork flooring, the original material. Some developers choose historic preservation because it’s less expensive than new construction. Reusing an existing structure is also one of the most sustainable actions within architecture today. Mott said the university has been very good about preserving its historic buildings when possible, citing Old Main and Carnall Hall. Historic preservation is important, especially for the home of an architecture school, Mott said. This process will offer a real-life laboratory for current students. As a preservationist, Mott said solid knowledge of the past is important for architects designing today.
Blackwell’s firm is the primary architect of record on the project, with Polk Stanley Wilcox as the associate architect. Unlike many multi-designer projects, this one is truly collaborative all the way through. Both firms were involved in the programming and design phases, and both firms will be involved throughout construction. With the interior of Vol Walker, two studios on the first floor are being restored and the second floor reading room will be basically the same. Students will walk into the completed building and be able to discern the historic space. When they get to the old library stacks area, however, things will be very different. The renovated space within Vol Walker will allow the freedom to walk directly through the center of the building. The new building will change how architecture, landscape architecture and interior design students and faculty can operate.

With this project, the Senior Walk section between the addition and Mullins Library will be relocated to the west, to occupy the new green space between the buildings. The west edge of the addition will feature a series of low-maintenance, natural landscapes. The top floor will have a covered outdoor classroom, and a new exterior terrace to the south will extend the main level exhibition gallery. Trees felled for the project will be cut into lumber and made into a 5-by-28-foot tableau that will serve as a table and seating in the new main level hallway that will run through the building’s central axis. Inside, the lobby space formerly used by the crit cube will have two large vitrines, designed by lighting designer Richard Renfro, which will help light the space and allow for the display of drawings and models. Made with limestone, architectural concrete, Arkansas white oak and glass, the addition will provide for more conference rooms and classrooms than before and an appropriate number of faculty offices. The main level will feature a new 200-seat auditorium, a securable exhibition gallery and lounges for students and faculty members. The addition will also hold a wood shop and lighting, visualization and fabrication labs, as well as a new computer classroom and the media center.

‘Ozark Modern’ Highlights Stone-Designed Furniture
Her fascination with the mid-century modern furniture designed by renowned American architect Edward Durell Stone prompted Catherine Wallack to put together the “Ozark Modern” exhibit. It occurred as part of the 60th anniversary celebration of the University of Arkansas Fine Arts Center, which Stone designed in 1950. Wallack, last year an assistant professor of interior design in the Fay Jones School of Architecture, is now the architectural archivist for University Libraries. Prominent projects by Stone include Radio City Music Hall and the Museum of Modern Art, both in New York City, the El Panama Hotel in Panama, the United States Embassy in New Delhi and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.

Sen. J. William Fulbright wanted to diversify two of his family’s companies, the Springfield Wagon Co. and Phipps Lumber Co., due to a decreased demand for wagons. Stone agreed to design furniture, so workers could produce that instead of wagons. Fulbright Industries operated from roughly 1950 to 1952. Stone’s designs capitalized on the company’s existing machinery and skills to create this exceptional furniture line. This tactic led to furniture that was distinctly modern in appearance yet utilized regional materials and techniques in its manufacture. Workers making Stone’s designs had previously made farm implements — such as wagon wheels and plows.

Stone’s furniture designs also called on the region’s basket-weaving tradition, with pieces such as the sensuously curved chaise made from woven oak strips by members of the Gibson family. The Gibson family has been handcrafting baskets locally for generations. As part of the exhibit, Terry Gibson demonstrated split-oak basket weaving techniques. Also, Hicks Stone, Stone’s youngest son, gave a lecture on Stone’s work. The event was partially funded by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the Department of Arkansas Heritage.
**NEA Grant Propels Scenario Planning**

The University of Arkansas Community Design Center received a $20,000 National Endowment for the Arts grant to support preparation of a 2030 Transit Scenario Plan for Fayetteville. The center was one of 22 programs to receive a 2011 design grant from the NEA through its Access to Artistic Excellence Program. This scenario-planning project advances research the center gathered while compiling the study *Visioning Rail Transit in Northwest Arkansas: Lifestyles and Ecologies*, which envisioned how a light rail system could impact the region’s development. This scenario plan for Fayetteville shifts the scope to an urban streetcar system, which typically provides a local service within a two- to six-mile range. Streetcars are an easier way to introduce the rail transit concept to populations that lack familiarity with fixed guideway development, which uses exclusive or controlled rights of way or rails.

Transit-oriented development integrates land use and affordable housing with transportation planning. That will become important because Fayetteville’s population is expected to double by 2030, adding 80 million square feet of built space within the existing boundaries of the city. Architecture students and Community Design Center staff collaborated with the city of Fayetteville’s strategic planning and internal consulting department as it prepared the 2030 city plan. The NEA grant provided the center with the opportunity to do this scenario-planning work as a supplement to the city’s 2030 plan.

These scenario plans illustrate a future based on development around a streetcar system along College Avenue between downtown and the Northwest Arkansas Mall “uptown,” about a five-mile distance. Sixty percent of the city’s population lives within a mile, or walking distance, of College Avenue, the city’s central north-south axis. Fayetteville has an urban landscape ideal for this concept, and this could serve as a starter system for a larger, modulated regional transit system. Public transit is a logical next step toward addressing smart growth, congestion and energy-intensive suburban sprawl.

**Design Center Nets Two AIA Honor Awards**

The University of Arkansas Community Design Center received two 2011 Honor Awards for Regional and Urban Design from The American Institute of Architects. The awards were for two projects that address pressing issues in sustainable design: the center’s *Low Impact Development* design manual, and a suburban retrofit plan,—*Townscaping an Automobile-Oriented Fabric: Farmington, Arkansas*. Both projects address problems of the built environment that have no prevailing sets of solutions, and they demonstrate to professionals that the nonprofit realm can do compelling design work without sacrificing the triple bottom line. These projects also involve many disciplines, moving beyond just architecture to involve urban design and planning, landscape architecture, engineering and ecology.

The book *Low Impact Development: a design manual for urban areas* makes complex water management concepts accessible through the visual explanations used so well by architects and designers. An abundance of photographs and drawings illustrates the issues covered in this cleanly designed, 230-page manual. Concepts include harvesting rainwater, design of neighborhood blocks and parking lots as natural stormwater utilities, prototypes for green streets, and low-impact development of open space at municipal and regional scales. This publication is the first to devise a menu of the low-impact development facilities available, organized from mechanical to biological functioning, and based on increasing levels of treatment service (quality) and levels of volume reduction service (quantity) – akin to the periodic table of elements. The AIA jury called it “a very clear manual that should become the primer for creating beautiful and sustainable public streets and spaces.” The design manual is now in its second printing, having sold more than 4,200 copies.
**Tallied Awards = 63**

To date, the Community Design Center has won 63 awards. More recent award-winning projects include a 2011 Merit Award in the *Residential Architect* Design Awards, in the On the Boards category, for the Ralph Bunche Neighborhood Vision Plan, Benton, Ark. This was the second *Residential Architect* design award earned by the center. The center also received a 2010 American Architecture Award, sponsored by the Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture, and the European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies, for *Visioning Rail Transit in Northwest Arkansas: Lifestyles and Ecologies*, a study regarding light-rail transit (created by the UACDC and Fay Jones School of Architecture, as well as Washington University in St. Louis and its Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts). “Putting the Farm Back into Farmington, Ark. – Agricultural Urbanism for Public Spaces” won a 2010 Award in the Unbuilt Architecture Design Awards, conducted by the Boston Society of Architects.

**Garvan Woodland Gardens Weathers Severe Storms**

Having weathered the severe spring storms that hit the state, Garvan Woodland Gardens in Hot Springs continues to thrive and grow into a top-notch botanical garden. The University of Arkansas’ botanical garden, it’s one of only eight public, woodland gardens in the country and the only one located on a body of water. A few years ago, rains generated by hurricanes caused some damage to the gardens. Heavy rains, winds and flooding earlier this year didn’t harm the plantings, structures or the property, and only led to typical debris. In fact, as the gardens mature, they just get more popular – with a 4 percent increase in visitors in 2010, or a total of 134,450 people. One-third of those visitors in 2010 came for the annual “Lights on the Landscape” event, when nearly 2 million holiday lights illuminate about 15 acres with displays created by the garden staff. More than 47,000 people visited the display last fall and winter, increasing the gardens’ revenue by 37 percent. They expect more than 150,000 visitors this year.

Garvan Woodland Gardens was chosen as one of the top 10 places to visit in Arkansas, as determined by online voting. The Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism conducted the poll to mark the state’s 175th birthday in June. And getting to the gardens is now easier for tour busses and other traffic, following the widening of Arkridge Road from Carpenter Dam Road to the front gate. The project, paid for by local, state and federal funds, was completed in late summer. As part of the master plan, the gardens also purchased 5 acres at the front gate to ensure the integrity to the entrance. Improvements inside the gardens include the Weyerhaeuser Bonsai Learning Center, a pavilion being constructed by volunteers from the Hot Springs Village Woodworkers Society.

Another project, the exterior project at the Perry Wildflower Meadow Overlook, was recently completed and dedicated. Located on the far western point of a 210-acre peninsula, the overlook boasts expansive views of Lake Hamilton and Mount Riante. The project includes a 1,500-square-foot flagstone terrace that extends visitors about 30 feet into a 1-acre planting of wildflowers, featuring more than 20 different varieties, with new ones to be added each spring. Additional plans include restrooms and basic catering facilities for accommodating small weddings, receptions and other types of events. The gardens currently host more than 175 weddings each year, most of them in the 160-seat, wood and glass Anthony Chapel. Bob Byers, the gardens’ associate executive director for operations and design, designed the overlook structure, with the help of Ike Carroccio (B.L.A. ’09), garden superintendent, in a style complementary to other structures in the gardens, which were designed by Fay Jones, Maurice Jennings (B.Arch.’75) and David McKee (B.Arch. ’82).
Stuart and Diana Perry, dedicated volunteers and benefactors of the overlook, were recognized in 2006 as the gardens’ Volunteers of the Year. In 2010, Stuart Perry was recognized as the Volunteer of the Decade, with more than 5,000 hours donated to various garden projects. After retiring from a Little Rock construction steel company, Perry wanted to stay occupied with a hobby. He takes this hobby pretty seriously, typically putting in 20 hours a week, when not traveling, and sometimes more than 40 hours.

General work continues on the 25-year master plan, which was revised in 2009. The plan is less focused on new construction and more focused on enhancing the visitor experience in the garden. Still, future construction and projects include a new welcome center and meeting facility and education venue, new trails and a rose garden. Also, 17 entries competed to design interactive pods, or treehouses, for the Evans Children’s Garden. Officials chose Portico Group, of Portland, for the landscape architecture and architecture design, with Crafton Tull, in Little Rock and Tulsa, providing engineering and local support. The firm will design all three pods – focused on birds, insects and forest ecology – and then build the forest ecology pod, which has primary funding from the Ross Foundation, a philanthropic organization established by Jane Ross with the family timber fortune.

West Memphis Memorial Designed for Fallen Officers

Memorials are for the living. They represent those lost to us and what their lives stood for. But they allow the living, who carry on in their absence – both alone and as a community – to remember, reflect, honor and heal. A collaborative project between second-year architecture and landscape architecture students created a space for that to happen in an east Arkansas community on a high-profile project. Officers Brandon Paudert and Bill Evans, of West Memphis, were shot dead during a traffic stop in May 2010. Soon after, state Rep. Keith Ingram, D-West Memphis, requested that students in the school create a memorial to the fallen officers. Carl Smith, a landscape architecture professor, David Buege, the Fay Jones Chair in architecture, and Greg Herman and Alison Turner, architecture professors, led the four-week studio project. Students from both disciplines worked in pairs to create a design for two possible sites: in an existing downtown park and near the site of the shooting, along Interstate 40. Smith liked seeing the collaboration among students, and having them understand that the different disciplines share a design language and can contribute to each other’s work.

Thirty-two projects were narrowed down to eight through an internal exhibition and critique process. Judges included Mark Boyer, landscape architecture department head; Marlon Blackwell, architecture department head; Grace La, renowned architect of La Dallman Architects, and a visiting lecturer; and John Harrison Jones (B.Arch. ’79), of John Harrison Jones Architect in Memphis, and Lissa Thompson, of Ritchie Smith Associates Landscape Architects in Memphis, who also served as project advisors. Designers of the eight shortlisted projects took a very sophisticated approach, with layers of meaning, in commemorating the officers without a straightforward statue or plaque. In a May 18 event arranged by the West Memphis Chamber of Commerce, students stood before the community and the officers’ families and presented their eight projects. The judges, which included Ingram and West Memphis Mayor Bill Johnson, made their choice later that day.

Architecture students Tyler Jones and Brandon Bibby created the selected design. Beside a reflecting pool, two masses of black stone stand separated by a tree, which represents the fragility of life. The stones represent the strength of the officers, shielding and protecting the tree. The inside of the stones is extremely rough hewn, while the outside is smooth and reflective. The community is raising funds to build this memorial, through the West Memphis Chamber of Commerce.
**A Tower Grows in Brooklyn**

Chase Pitner found inspiration in the efficient, compact space in trains, planes and other transportation modes when designing a tiny Brooklyn hotel room. In the yearlong studio, professors Tahar Messadi and Marlon Blackwell asked fifth-year students to design a pod hotel, an emerging boutique style hotel that has roots in Japan. In the eastern culture, the room, conceived as a pod, is reduced to a capsule-like environment to accommodate that society’s desire for minimal and efficient use of premium space. Early adopters of the pod types in Manhattan, which students visited on a field trip, have opted for a dorm room-size space. These hotels convey a boutique style image but also emphasize the public common spaces as urban hubs of interaction and entertainment, mixing locals with out-of-towners. Housed in retrofitted buildings, these pod hotels lack an original, distinctive character. Examples in New York include the Jane, Roommate Grace, the Hudson and the Pod Hotel. Yet, none have been built from the ground up yet, so this studio focused on introducing a pod hotel tower to the Gowanus Canal area of south Brooklyn. This hotel, the first tower in the horizontal landscape, was proposed to trigger the revitalization of the area. The pod hotel is aimed at a niche market, providing efficient, economical lodging for travelers who don’t intend to spend all their time in a luxurious hotel room. New space-saving collapsible furniture is re-introduced into the pod. Restrooms are often in a communal space, as with a college dormitory. Blackwell and Messadi like challenging students with project types that haven’t been done before because an answer isn’t obvious or expected. With this concept, Pitner successfully merged the tiny eastern style room with that of the western boutique style. His design proposal also hinged on the ability to collapse the circulation space, since only one person occupies and moves through the 3½-by-10-foot room. In this small room, Pitner built a pull-down bed into the wall. The sink is small, and a mirror folds down into a tray table. Luggage is stored in the hallway above the door.

**Sustainable Design in Housing, Planning**

In architecture and planning, a development must go beyond environmental considerations to be truly sustainable. It also has to balance with social and economic aspects. Carl Smith, assistant professor of landscape architecture, explored those concepts in his interdisciplinary course on sustainable development, “Housing as if the Future Mattered.” In broad terms, sustainable development is a manmade intervention on the land that provides for the needs of the current generation while allowing future generations to meet their own needs. It has to balance not only being economically viable — which is usually the reason for development to occur — but it also has to balance ecological capacity with social equity. When those three are balanced, sustainable development occurs. Smith created this course so students could consider these problems and devise possible solutions through alternative housing designs. As driving a car becomes increasingly expensive, a more compact, walkable city makes good sense. Building more densely facilitates a citywide or regional transit system, which would decrease dependence on the automobile. Five students in the disciplines of architecture, landscape architecture, interior design and crop, soil and environmental sciences took this course in summer 2010. They spent six weeks considering sustainable development concepts as they focused on a nearly 8-acre tract of land in south Fayetteville. They worked with Partners for Better Housing, of which Smith is a board member, developing a design for a site with about 40 to 50 affordable homes, costing between $85,000 and $115,000. Their design had a strong ecological component and looked to preserve vegetation and a stream corridor, which a lot of developments wouldn’t do, Smith said. Students clustered the housing with communal space, to encourage a mixed community. All houses have access to their own private space, as well as to shared gardens and orchards. Sustainable aspects of the landscape design in this project included keeping many of the natural features, including oak, hickory and cedar trees, while adding evergreens to block the northern wind. They also preserved a stream that runs through the site instead of rerouting it, giving the clustered homes views of that waterway. Gardens allow residents to tend and harvest their own food, decreasing their reliance on cars and encouraging walking within the community.
Emphasizing Nature in Urbanism

Stemming from research he’s done on complete regional transportation systems, professor John Crone presented an introduction to housing and regional systems in his spring Design 4 studio. Students examined projects across the country with regional significance and developed a flow chart for how various projects handled environmental issues on several levels. They did a series of studies, complemented by several lectures on the Ian McHarg Layer Cake method, which focuses on geology, hydrology, soils, topography, vegetation and microclimate. On the local level, they considered housing densities. One project concerned a conservation subdivision in Little Rock, called Woodlands Edge, an award-winning project done by Rocket Properties. An alumnus, Bradford Gaines (B.L.A. ’06), who works for Ron Tyne at the company, made several trips to campus to work with students. For the studio, students took a section of the development that had already been built, so they had something with which to compare their own designs. Students had to leave 30 percent greenspace while integrating a bicycle system. They introduced a wildflower meadow and three major types of vegetation, and also designed a clubhouse complex. For another project, they considered a complete transportation system for northwest Arkansas. Students took an intensive graphic information systems course with another alumnus, Brian Culpepper (B.L.A. ’92). Conceptually, their designs borrowed from the work of Peter Calthorpe, who pioneered the use of nodal developments with light rail and bus systems. Using GIS, students looked at aspects of the two-county area – population density, forested versus nonforested, farming soil, topography, existing circulation – and then incorporated land use plans. Integrating natural and transportation systems is important, especially considering recent incidents like the Mississippi River flooding its banks in April and May. “If you go building in the floodplains, you’re going to get wiped out. And if you take away too much of the natural ecosystem, there’s no buffer capacity.”

Building Blocks of Interior Design

In Design 1 studio, interior design students learn to better observe their world as they delve into the process of design. They are introduced to the basic vocabulary, principles and skills that will serve as the building blocks of a design education and career. Nann Miller, an associate professor who has taught the studio every year since arriving on campus in 2002, organizes the syllabus and projects each year. Within the language of design, a line is more than just thick or thin; it becomes abrupt, intermittent – even sinuous. Students also learn to think about a two-dimensional line being three dimensional and developing into a plane. They also analyze a picture of a building’s interior or exterior and describe way color is used – not just the hue, but aspects such as saturation, intensity and shade. For Catherine Wallack, assistant professor, it was important that students last fall understood that the design process is reiterative, which requires persistence and the ability to self-critique. Travis Brooks, an adjunct instructor for the studio, said they also encouraged students to see their surroundings with a critical eye, noticing details they might have previously missed. To do that, students completed a montage of black line drawings, capturing five or six views of very specific things. Students also documented their thoughts about their own work and their classmates’ work through a journal sketchbook, which reinforces the lessons they’ve learned. They discussed color and completed various color studies, to understand the phenomenon of color, including the relationships between colors and between color and light. Through two- and three-dimensional pattern making, students learned to take a physical thing and interpret it as an abstract pattern. By starting the design process with a specific object of origin, students learn the value of limitations. For several weeks, students progressed through each step of the process, taking the object from a black and white drawing to a two-dimensional color image to a translation of that pattern to a three-dimensional model. Along the way, students often rotated or mirrored the image; they also zoomed in tight or suppressed certain characteristics. After this evolution, the inspirational, original object was unrecognizable in the resulting design. As students design interior spaces, they are making the most of those volumes. Interior design is primarily
concerned with the user’s long-term, personal relationship with the space. The connection is intimate, one concerned with the ability to use it. Through this class, students become more thoughtful about their own relationship with the spaces they’re in.

**Interior Design Goes Large-Scale**

The Design 6 studio allows interior design students to hone the skills they need to stand on their own for their required third-year summer internship. To that point, they’ve incorporated building systems, programming and construction documents into their studio projects. Using a mix of hand-drawn and computer-generated images, students spent most of the spring semester designing a large-scale office space. Whether designing office spaces for 50 or 5,000 people, they have to know how the building systems interact with the furnishings, said Jennifer Webb, associate professor. This is a chance to bring all those technical skills together, with expressing a design idea, and also start to bring diverse bodies of research together and apply it to the design solution. Students studied research produced by furniture manufacturers Herman Miller, Steelcase, Knoll and Haworth on issues such as acoustics, privacy, collaboration, lighting, productivity and generational differences in the workplace. An architecture firm allowed them to use the plans from an office building in Rogers that meets basic sustainability standards. Sustainable features required in the project include showers and bicycle storage for commuter employees; outside views for 90 percent of employees; the use of rapidly renewable resources, such as bamboo or wheat board, for furnishings and materials; and the amount of materials that are recyclable or made from recycled content. The kinds of carpets, paints and wall coverings also matter regarding the amount of volatile organic compounds they contain, which emit harmful gasses. For the program, Webb found a real company that publishes art, design and architecture books, and she researched the company’s goals, mission and values. Students investigated ways to improve employee attitudes and increase collaboration – within different departments and between departments – simply by the design of the interior space. Up to this point, students have designed spaces ranging from 4,000 to 7,000 square feet. This time, they had 16,000 square feet on the ground floor, with up to 4,000 more square feet by adding an optional mezzanine. Some chose smaller workstations with more collaboration areas for group workspaces, while others chose larger workstations with guest seating. Erika Moody, a member of the school’s professional advisory board, also worked with students throughout the semester on their projects and solutions.

**Major Supporters of the School Recognized**

Two couples who are significant supporters of the Fay Jones School of Architecture were recognized as Chancellor’s Medal recipients, an honor that speaks to their ongoing support and service to the University of Arkansas and the state of Arkansas. As such, they were honored in April at the Towers of Old Main event, which celebrates individuals whose cumulative giving or commitment to the university has reached or exceeded $100,000. Don (B.S.B.A. ’58) and Ellen Edmondson of Forrest City, Ark., are long-time supporters and friends of the university. While many of the couple’s contributions have had an important impact on students and the institution as a whole, the Edmondsons’ gift to name the School of Architecture in 2008 in memory of their dear friend and prize-winning architect, Fay Jones, changed the university’s future. The couple’s support will enhance student experiences for many years to come. Also benefiting the architecture school is the couple’s gift in 1999 to endow the Fay Jones Chair in Architecture, which brings nationally respected architects and teachers to campus to work with students and faculty. The couple have also funded an international scholarship to honor architect Maurice Jennings, a long-time colleague of Jones. Don Edmonson is a life member of the Arkansas Alumni Association, served on the university’s Campaign for the Twenty-First Century Steering Committee, and chaired the School of Architecture’s Campaign Committee. He currently serves on the university’s Board of Advisors. Bob and Sunny Evans of Hot Springs, Ark., were also recognized for their unending generosity and commitment to the university and, specifically, to the Fay Jones School of Architecture’s Garvan Woodland
Gardens in Hot Springs. Their contributions helped complete the sanctuary within the Anthony Chapel and provided funding for the Evans Groom’s Quarters, the Evans Celebration Garden and the Evans Children’s Garden. Bob and Sunny Evans are life members of the Arkansas Alumni Association, as well as members of the university’s Board of Advisors and the Garvan Woodland Gardens Advisory Board. During the Campaign for the Twenty-First Century, he was a member of the Steering Committee and the Leadership and Principal Gifts Committee.

Students Honored at Banquet
The Fay Jones School of Architecture honored 76 students at the 2011 Honors Recognition Banquet, held April 11 in the Verizon Ballroom at the Arkansas Union on the University of Arkansas campus. More than $122,000 was handed out through in scholarships that recognized various aspects of achievement among architecture, landscape architecture and interior design students. Several students were selected from the entire school for recognition, including Leanna M. Medal, a landscape architecture student who was named the Senior Scholar; Chloe A. Costello, an architecture student who received the University of Arkansas Presidential Scholar; William J. Fleming III, a landscape architecture student who received the Alpha Rho Chi Medal; Sarah DaBoll Geurtz, a landscape architecture student who received the Michael J. Buono Sustainability Medal; Patrick A. Templeton, an architecture student who received the Pella Student Essay Award for “Cardboard Columns and Postmodern Culture”; Suzana D. Christmann (architecture), William C. Towl (landscape architecture) and Chasity D. Whyte (interior design), who received Professional Advisory Board Fifth-Year Scholarships. Notable recognition for architecture students included Addison W. Bliss, who received the National AIA Henry Adams Medal; Jamie E. Edwards, who received the National AIA Certificate of Achievement; Chase A. Pitner, who received the Edward Durell Stone Medal; Stephenie C. Foster, who received the Barbara C. Crook Medal; Tyler K. Cukar, who received the C. Murray Smart Medal. Notable recognition for landscape architecture students included the American Society of Landscape Architects Honor Award given to Sarah DaBoll Geurtz, and the ASLA Merit Awards given to Chris Phillips and Derek Linn. The Andrew A. Kinslow Interior Design Scholarship was established this year, the first year the interior design program was part of the Fay Jones School of Architecture, and was awarded to Jennifer Admire and Ariel Anglin.

Fleming Leads by Example
After graduating with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture in May, Billy Fleming went straight to an intern position at the University of Arkansas planning office before heading to the University of Texas at Austin this fall. Fleming is the first student in the architecture school known to serve as president of the university’s Associated Student Government. Running for office helped him prepare to enter graduate school and eventually the work force. Leading a team of fellow officers, Fleming took on several initiatives, in areas of development, sustainability, service outreach and student advocacy. With development, ASG handed out its first-ever scholarships funded by private money. In student advocacy, Fleming and fellow student leaders focused on setting up a student lobby network for higher. They also formalized the Foundations of Sustainability minor, which is administered through the Office of the Provost and co-directed by professors Stephen Boss and Tahar Messiad. Fleming was the only student on the committee that researched and designed the curriculum for the minor, which will be offered for the first time this fall. Also, ASG spent money for the first time on a sustainability project, helping to fund Earth Cups, a composting project that allowed them to take pre-consumer waste from all campus dining facilities and turn it into compost. For service outreach, they engaged college students with elementary school children in Fayetteville elementary schools and helped students with reading and homework. Graduating with a 3.2 GPA, Fleming also garnered some impressive recognition this past year: the Alpha Rho Chi medal from the school; the Henry Woods Student Leadership Award from the university; and the Senior Honor Citation from the Arkansas Alumni Association. In the future, Fleming would like to do
infrastructure and land-use planning in other areas of the world, such as Iraq or Afghanistan. His undergraduate work was based in the Middle East.

2011 Fay Jones Alumni Design Awards
Fifteen designs for homes, historic renovation, retail and corporate space, and structures dedicated to health care, education and religion vied for recognition in this year’s Fay Jones Alumni Design Awards competition. Entries came from Fay Jones School of Architecture alumni practicing in cities around the state, as well as in Oklahoma, Missouri, Tennessee and Texas. After careful review, the three-member faculty jury chose four projects for accolades. Reese Rowland (B.Arch. ’90) took this year’s top award, the Honor Award, as design principal for the Arkansas Studies Institute in Little Rock. Rowland is a principal with Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects in Little Rock. He won the first prize in the 2010 alumni design competition, with his design of the Heifer International Education Center in Little Rock, and was a co-winner of the 2008 alumni design competition, with his design of the Heifer International Headquarters in Little Rock. The jury commended the Arkansas Studies Institute project for its “sensitive and innovative adaptive reuse of existing buildings” in the River Market District of Little Rock. “The architects successfully combined a modern, inviting series of spaces and materials, with the skillful and sensitive renovation of the historic existing buildings containing special collections as an extension of the main library.” Two Merit Awards went to Tim Maddox (B.Arch. ’02) of deMx Architecture in Fayetteville for RomWoods and Bakhita Ridge, two homes in Fayetteville. Maddox is a 2002 graduate with a Bachelor of Architecture. An Honorable Mention was given to John Dupree (B.Arch. ’69) of Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects in Fayetteville for restoration of the 1905 Historic Washington County Courthouse.
SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHANGES

Department Mission and Accreditation
The mission of the Department of Architecture is rooted in the best traditions of architectural education: responsibility and service to the societies and cultures to which we are inextricably connected, and the nurturing of the individual curiosity and capabilities of our students. Consequently, although most of our students aspire to become architects, the department seeks to balance the requirements, constraints, and challenges of an undergraduate professional education with the necessity for exposure to the humanities, the arts and the science that comprise the intellectual core of a university education. For students who wish to enter the profession of architecture, we provide preparation for successful internship and for the increasing scope of responsibilities in required of professional practice. For those students who seek other roles in the design professions and allied disciplines, we offer the four-year architectural studies degree, which, for many of our students, is a path toward graduate education.

The professional program in architecture enjoys a six-year term of accreditation (2008-14) by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB). At the end of the academic year, the Department submitted to NAAB a required “Focal Evaluation Report,” documenting its progress in two areas of concern articulated in our 2008 accreditation: social equity and physical resources.

The report documents a broad spectrum of initiatives the Department of Architecture has implemented to achieve intellectual and cultural diversity among its students and faculty and, equally important, through its curriculum. These efforts culminated in the crafting, in fall 2010, of a Department of Architecture Diversity Plan. A faculty committee oversees implementation of that plan, ratified by the architecture faculty in January 2011. In response to concerns about our physical resources, the report demonstrates that substantial renovation of and addition to Vol Walker Hall (in progress) will resolve all issues of concern related to compliance with ADA requirements as well as enhance the learning environment for all School of Architecture students through careful adaptive use of our National Register of Historic Places listed building and the design of a 34,000-square-foot addition, created by a collaboration of Marlon Blackwell Architect and Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects, both Arkansas firms, a modern complement to the traditional architecture of Vol Walker Hall. Moreover, the construction of the addition will enable the school to house under one roof the Architecture and Landscape Architecture departments, together with the Interior Design program, which joined the School of Architecture on July 1, 2010, creating for the first time in the School’s history an environment that is fully conducive to multi-disciplinary learning.

Curriculum Review and Development
Building upon nearly two years of intensive discussion of curricular issues, the architecture faculty adopted a revised set of goals and objects for both foundation and advanced design studios. As a result of these decisions, the fifth-year degree project, heretofore the capstone project for all candidates for the professional degree in architecture, will be eliminated, and a comprehensive design project will be introduced in the fourth year of the professional program. This comprehensive design studio will provide a context within which design skills and potentials of students are assessed in preparation for their careers. Requirements of the comprehensive project will measure students’ abilities to conduct research relative to issues of project site, program, and building technology and to apply that knowledge in the resolution of spatial, structural, environmental and programmatic aspects of project design. Students will be expected to demonstrate that they are prepared for advanced academic work in their fifth and final year, and that they are capable of applying these conceptual frameworks and skills in their future work outside the academy.

With the elimination of the degree project (and its learning objectives served by the proposed comprehensive project), the fifth-year studios will provide students opportunities for speculative design, research and outreach in a range of studio settings, involving research and creative activities for the resolution of complex problems pertaining to the civic realm within which architecture contextually operates. This focus represents a new emphasis in the professional curriculum on civic engagement; consequently, projects will be developed around diverse and tangible architectural issues that both advance the profession and find resonance with the community. The education experience of the studios will hinge on reflective and projective practice to address current professional obligations.

In light of changes proposed in the studio sequence, the faculty approved a reorganization of the architectural technology sequence.

To better prepare students with a foundational knowledge base in all areas of the curriculum, the first-year “design methods” courses will be replaced by courses that introduce the discrete domains of knowledge of architectural history and architectural technology.

In concert with these ongoing discussions and looking forward to the revisions of the professional program curriculum that they influenced, faculty participate in a Curriculum Review at the conclusion of each semester, through which they can assess learning and teaching throughout the professional curriculum. The Curriculum Review, a daylong event, involves all faculty in a frank and self-reflective discussion and critique of the term’s accomplishment, affording real opportunity to effect coordination and foster collaboration across the curriculum.

**Super Jury**

The annual “Super Jury” remains a capstone event of the academic year. Super Jury features review by guest jurors of the most outstanding work produced in the design studio, at every year-level, during the academic year. Through Super Jury, students have the opportunity to showcase their work to leaders in the design professions and architectural education, and faculty take advantage of the occasion to discuss and critique pedagogical issues with these respected peers. Traditionally, introductions made during Super Jury have placed our students in advantageous positions to secure internships in the field as well as entrée to leading graduate programs. This year’s guest reviewers for Super Jury were Wendy Redfield, formerly Associate Professor of Architecture at North Carolina
State University, where she served as Associate Director of the School of Architecture and Director of Graduate Programs, and recently appointed Associate Dean for Academics at Tulane University’s School of Architecture; and Colman Coker, principal of buildingstudio, a small collaborative firm founded in New Orleans. Previously, Coker was in partnership with Samuel Mockbee as Mockbee/Coker Architects. In addition to reviewing student projects and studio curriculum, Redfield and Coker offered presentations on their work and philosophies of architectural education.

**Diversity**
In addition to strategic recruiting of underrepresented populations, with a view toward introducing students in two-year colleges, with high proportions of under-represented populations, to the field of Architecture, this fall the Department launched its university-core course, *Introduction to Architecture*, (ARCH 1003) for distance-education delivery across the state. The Department of Architecture continues to enjoy a mutually beneficial relationship with the Springdale High School Architecture and Engineering. Professor of Architecture and Associate Dean Ethel Goodstein-Murphree sits on the Advisory Board of the Springdale Academy and will continue to explore ways to attract its students to our program. Insufficient funding prevented the Department from offering a summer academy to introduce young women to the field.

School of Architecture faculty engage their professional networks and maintain an active presence at professional and scholarly conferences and affinity groups to identify appropriate candidates for continuing faculty appointments as well as visiting positions. In fall 2010, architect Santiago Perez joined the department as the Fay Jones School of Architecture’s Twenty-First Century Chair in Integrated Practice, adding a role model of Hispanic heritage to our faculty mix.

**NOTEWORTHY INITIATIVES IN TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND OUTREACH**

*Tom Kundig, John G. Williams Distinguished Visiting Professor*
Distinguished Visiting Professor Tom Kundig, of Olson Kundig Architects, a nationally recognized firm based in Seattle, Washington, recently honored with the 2009 National AIA Architecture Firm Award, taught a fourth-year design studio with the assistance of “home” critic Clinical Assistant Professor Chuck Rotolo. Olson Kundig’s award-winning work has been exhibited widely and has been published extensively, including articles in the *New York Times Magazine, Architectural Digest*, and *Architectural Record*; books on the firm’s work include *Jim Olson Houses* (The Monacelli Press, 2009), *Tom Kundig: Houses* (Princeton Architectural Press, 2006), and a monograph of the firm’s work, *Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects: Architecture, Art and Craft* (The Monacelli Press, 2003). Following a field trip to Camp Muir, Mount Rainier National Park, Washington, that also included a stop in Seattle to study Kundig’s own oeuvre, students made close, phenomenological studies of Camp Muir’s sense of place in preparation for the design of a spa in this unique physical and cultural landscape. Kundig’s interests in detail and engagement with site and landscape, hallmarks of his own work, were central to the pedagogy of the design studio.

**Design/Build**
Continuing the initiative begun last academic year Visiting Assistant Professor Mark Wise led a group of fourth- and fifth-year students in the design and construction of an affordable house for Little Rock’s historic Pettaway Park district. Designed in a Fayetteville warehouse and shipped to Little Rock for installation, the 1,200-square-foot house design was built in modules suitable for
transportation. Students were not only involved in the design and fabrication of the house, they produced construction documents, interfaced with sub-contractors, and negotiated with manufacturers and suppliers. The house was the product of a partnership between the School of Architecture and the Downtown Little Rock Community Development Corporation (DLRCDC). As well as providing the students with a singular experience in design and construction management, the project is a significant outreach endeavor, placing our students in contact with a minority community in central Little Rock. Little Rock Mayor Mark Stodola; Erma Hendrix, Ward 1 Representative to the Little Rock Board of Directors; and Sharon Priest, Executive Director of the Downtown Little Rock Partnership; joined Department Head Marlon Blackwell, faculty and students of the School of Architecture and representatives of the DLRCDC for a “ribbon cutting” to dedicate the house on May 20. Our relationship with the DLRCDC will continue, with an additional house design/build house planned for next academic year.

**Computational Studio**

This spring semester, Clinical Assistant Professor Lynn Fitzpatrick extended the reach of the department’s initiative for exploring new technologies for integrative practice in a fourth-year design studio focused on computational strategies for design thinking.

**Third-Year Design Studio, Generator of Award-Winning Project**

Under the direction of Clinical Assistant Professors Russell Rudzinski, Santiago Perez, Lynn Fitzpatrick (fall semester) and Chuck Rotolo (spring semester), the third-year design studio’s identity as an integrative curriculum focused on merging design sensibilities and technological expertise continued to distinguish it as an essential learning experience for students in the professional curriculum. Both semesters’ work required deeply structured and detailed studies of precedents in construction technology as departure points for design strategies, a reflection of the department’s overarching interest in “making” and craft as hallmarks of excellence in architectural design. The spring project, a rest area at the intersection of the Great Salt Lake Desert and Interstate 80, where one end of the structure starts at ground level and eventually rises, over a distance of 960 feet, to a 19-foot height, prepared for submission to the prestigious Lyceum Fellowship Competition, challenged students to develop large-scale structural systems that fit in the climate and expanse of the region. Third-year student Joseph Weishaar won second place in the Lyceum Competition, in a field of approximately 250 projects comprised of works by both undergraduate and graduate students; in addition to the honor of this recognition, the award brings a $7,500 prize for travel.

**Warren Segraves House HABS Documentation and Rehabilitation**

During the 2011 summer semesters, Associate Professor Greg Herman led a group of student in a close study of the Warren Segraves House, built as the home of Fayetteville architect Warren Segraves, a 1954 graduate of our program and an important example of the mid-century modern house in Arkansas. The house embodies the influence of the International Style in the United States and relates to national efforts to adapt that high style to meet the needs of postwar American families, such as the renowned Case Study Houses. With the cooperation and guidance of National Parks Service professional staff, students documented the house according to the meticulous standards of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), a repository of documentation of America’s historic buildings that is housed in the Library of Congress. In addition, students prepared a nomination to list the house on the National Register of Historic Places. This work continues the
Department’s commitment to document and foster the preservation of our state’s mid-century modern houses, an important yet often threatened component of our architectural heritage.

**International Programs**
The department’s international programs in Rome and Mexico, distinguished components of the architecture curriculum, continue to thrive. During the academic year, 23 fourth-year students participated in the Rome program, and in summer 2011, 14 students, including rising fourth- and fifth-year students, went to Mexico.

As the University of Arkansas Rome Center has grown through our collaborative relationships with peer institutions, including Auburn University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and Philadelphia University, as well as a renewed relationship with the university’s J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences, we have responded to increased demands on space and facilities by moving to a new and larger site, the Palazzo Taverna. On October 1, 2010, ceremonies to dedicate this remarkable space, an historic building with both Baroque and Empire style elements, were conducted. Architecture Department Head Marlon Blackwell, Fay Jones School of Architecture Dean Jeff Shannon, and Professor Davide Vitali, Director of the Rome Center, were joined by Chancellor G. David Gearhart, and representatives of both our American partners and peer institutions in Rome to celebrate the official “opening” of our program’s new center.

**New Faculty**
Architect Santiago Perez joined the department this fall as our new Twenty-First Century Chair in Integrated Practice. A scholar and practitioner focused on the confluence of craft, digital fabrication, and generative design, Assistant Professor Perez has organized two workshops for the School this year, “Digital Form-Finding Using Parametric Software” and “Computer Aided (CNC) Digital Fabrication Utilizing Steel Plasma Cutting.” Work accomplished by his students was featured in “Computational Design & Digital Fabrication,” an exhibition at the University of Arkansas Student Gallery (known as sUgAR) in Bentonville, and he has initiated the design of digitally fabricated landscape installations for the Fayetteville bike trails system.

**Visiting and Adjunct Faculty**
The department community was enriched and diversified by the contributions of distinguished chairs, visiting appointments, and adjunct faculty that, this year, included: John G. Williams Distinguished Visiting Professor Tom Kundig, whose fourth-year studio is described above; and David Buege, a respected critic and leader in foundation design issues, who continues to hold the Fay Jones Visiting Chair. Professor Buege taught in the second year studio and offered upper-level courses in architectural theory and minimalism and post-minimalism in the arts. Visiting Assistant Professor Mark Wise, an Auburn University graduate with experience in its renowned Rural Studio founded by Samuel Mockbee, led the department’s design/build initiative described above as well as teaching seminars in drawing and metal work. Adjunct Instructor Craig Peacock, a Fay Jones School of Architecture alumnus who participated in previous design/build efforts, assisted Assistant Professor Wise in administering the design/build project. Adjunct Assistant Professor Alison Turner, AIA, LEED AP, who was a member of the second-year studio teaching team and taught Architectural Technology (ARCH 4154); and Adjunct Assistant Professor Bradley Edwards, a member of the first-year studio teaching team.
Looking to the Future
The legacy of engaging internationally recognized leaders in design through the John G. Williams Distinguished Professorship will continue next year with South African architect Peter Rich named to serve in this position in fall 2011. Rich will offer a fifth-year option studio focused on designing housing for Kilgali, Rwanda, and our students will travel to Kilgali. The department plans to conduct a national search to fill at least one tenure-track position in the 2011-12 academic year.

RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING FACULTY

Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity
The architecture faculty continues to attain distinction in research, scholarship and creative practice that represents well its intellectual and sub-disciplinary diversity. Members of the architecture faculty produced, as authors or editors, two books, five book chapters, two refereed articles, and six refereed scholarly papers. In the area of creative practice the architectural design endeavors of our faculty were covered in six books, and twenty-two magazine and journal publications; ten buildings and urban designs by architecture faculty currently are in planning or construction phases. The creative work of the senior faculty was featured in two group shows and two one-woman exhibitions.

Awards and Distinctions
Our faculty garnered recognition in highly competitive regional and national awards programs. Recognition of scholarly works include award of the Southeast Society of Architectural Historians Publication Award for “best article” of 2010 to Associate Professor Dr. Kim Sexton for her “Justice Seen” Loggias and Ethnicity in Modern Italy,” published in the September 2009 Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, and the American Society of Interior Designers Educational Foundation Joel Polsky Prize for Just Below the Line: Disability, Housing, and Equity in the South, co-authored by Dr. Korydon Smith, Associate Professor of Architecture, and Dr. Jennifer Webb, Associate Professor of Interior Design, and published by the University of Arkansas Press. Documentation of the Fay Jones House for the Historic American Building survey accomplished by Associate Professor Greg Herman and a team of architecture students including Jillian Jung, Chloe Costello, Addison Bliss, Joseph Weishaar, Micah Szabo and Tony Parsons, earned the Peterson Prize awarded by the National Parks Service, October 2010 and the Outstanding Achievement in Preservation Education Award of the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas.

In the arena of critical practice, Distinguished Professor Blackwell won four of the eight design annual design awards presented by the Arkansas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). His firm received the only two Honor Awards, given for the Porchdog House in Biloxi, Mississippi, and the Saint Nicolas Eastern Orthodox Church in Springdale, Arkansas. He also won a Merit Award for an addition to the Blair Residence in Fayetteville and a Citation Award for the Cottages at Fallingwater in Bear Run, Pa. At the national level, Blackwell’s work was recognized at the AIA convention in New Orleans with two Gulf States Regional AIA Design Awards: the Porchdog House won an Honor Award, while the St. Nicholas Orthodox Christian Church won a Merit Award. In addition, the Porchdog House was one of 14 winning entries in the inaugural Architectural Review House competition, and Blackwell is one of two department faculty to be mentioned in the summer 2010 issue of Dwell magazine, dedicated to “100 Houses We Love.” His Tower House, built for James Keenan in Fayetteville, was originally featured in the August 2001
issue of *Dwell*. Also featured in this special summer issue is the Wisener Renovation in Fayetteville, by Bradley Edwards, an adjunct architecture professor. It was first featured in the magazine’s February 2002 issue.

Two members of the architecture faculty held distinguished professorships outside the University of Arkansas, Associate Professor Korydon Smith, who was Visiting Professor at the State University of New York at Buffalo, and Distinguished Professor Marlon Blackwell, who served as the University of Virginia’s Thomas Jefferson Chair in Architecture, both in the spring 2011 semester.

Professor Jeff Shannon, dean of the Fay Jones School, was chosen as one of the 25 “most admired educators” of 2011 in the November/December issue of *DesignIntelligence*.

**Other Achievements**
The School’s bibliographic listing includes a complete chronicle of the architecture faculty’s accomplishments in research and scholarship, creative practice, and community engagement and outreach.

**STUDENT SUCCESS**
While the accomplishments of the department’s students are listed in the “student achievement summary” of this report, a number of attainments warrant special notice.

**Honors Program**
Architecture students continue to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the University Honors College, and the Department’s commitment to providing challenging required courses and professional electives for its honors students.

Four fifth-year students, most of whom received Honors College Undergraduate Research Grants to support their projects, produced honors theses that addressed a broad range of critical problems in architectural research, including an historical analysis and articulation of an historic preservation plan for protecting “middle landscape” conditions in post-Katrina New Orleans by Jamie Edwards; a scenario plan for urban design in Fayetteville focused on the relationship of housing and big-box retail by Nick Pierce; an investigation of energy efficiency and pre-fabrication systems for affordable housing by Stephenie Foster; and an investigation of design strategies to facilitate perception of place by visually impaired populations by Elizabeth Phillips, who competed successfully for a Student Undergraduate Research Fellowship (S.U.R.F.).

Other research endeavors of honors students that garnered recognition include third-year honor student Patrick Templeton’s Pella Writing Award for his essay, “Cardboard Columns and Postmodern Culture,” and third-year honor student Laurence McMahon, who presented a scholarly paper, “Monument and Memory,” at the 21st annual Arkansas College Art History Symposium, held at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in March.

**Hnedak Bobo Award**
Two fourth-year architecture students, Elsa Lo and Andrew Arkell, and fifth-year student Ben Cruce won the third annual Hnedak Bobo Group International Design Award, endowed by Hnedak Bobo Group, a Memphis, Tenn., architecture firm. This award recognizes excellence in design work
produced in one of the department’s international programs. This year’s recipients were recognized for a collaborative project developed in Mexico during the 2010 summer semester.

**Ghost Lab Fellowship**

For the several years, department students and faculty have participated in Ghost Lab, a two-week summer design/build internship directed by acclaimed Nova Scotia architect Brian MacKay Lyons. This year’s program featured a conference to explore the ideas that have emerged from the design/build workshops and from MacKay Lyons’s architectural practice. An impressive collection of leading practitioners and theorists, including Architecture Department Head Marlon Blackwell, theorists Juhani Pallasmaa and Kenneth Frampton, and Pritker Prize winner Glenn Murcutt participated. A department fellowship insures that a Fay Jones School of Architecture student can take part in this prestigious program annually; this year, rising fifth-year student Hanna Ibrahim earned this honor. In addition, two recent alumni of the department, Angie Carpenter (B. Arch. 2007) and Emily Baker (B. Arch. 2007), both currently graduate students at the Cranbrook Academy, also participated.

**Career Fair**

The Department of Architecture, in cooperation with the Department of Landscape Architecture and the Interior Design Program hosted our annual Career Fair, February 22, 2011. As a result of the economic recession and its profound impact on the design professions, only nine firms participated in the career fair. Despite the dismal economy, our students benefitted substantially from the opportunity to hone their interview skills as well as network and socialize with practitioners in architecture and the allied professions. The tradition of firms sending Fay Jones School of Architecture alumni to represent them at the career fair offers the added dividend of maintaining relationships with our graduates and keeping them actively involved with the life of the school. With a view toward enhancing our student’s abilities to market their skills in an increasingly competitive professional environment, the three departments of the School of Architecture have begun planning a collaborative portfolio preparation workshop for their students, to be held in advance of the Career Fair beginning in academic year 2011-12.
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

A Financial Summary of the year will be forwarded to the Dean under a separate heading for this year. In that summary, a budget will be presented for the new fiscal year and a summary will be presented of the year preceding. Counsel was given to the Director that our planning should reflect the actual state of the economy and not try to project new bold initiatives. With that in mind, the following reflects the ongoing goals and objectives related to the financial health of the Gardens this year in this economic climate.

Garden Capital Campaign: THE Gardens for THE Generations is still actively seeking funding for the Garden endowment and capital for additional meeting space. It is true with us, as with all non-profits, that private support has been a challenge with the economy experiencing a major downturn. We shall proceed with this endeavor with the idea of seeking more gifts of a less than major category and joyfully accept the major gifts when made available. The Director is pleased to announce the addition of a full time Development Director for Garvan Woodland Gardens, Ms. Karen Dooley. Karen has been given the assignment of developing new areas of private support for the Gardens with the goal to complete ongoing projects that lack complete funding.

State support: I am pleased to report that the Gardens were included in discussions at the Legislature last year. It was determined during session that the Gardens would receive $350,000 per year as a part of the overall University budget. The caveat to this good news is that our money was in what is called the “B” list of budget items. This means that if revenue is available through state collections the “B” items will be funded. If funding lags, then “B” list items will not be fully funded. Further counsel given the Director indicated that the likelihood of new money given to the Garden by the Legislature is more than four years away. With the economic downturn, this counselor feels that new state money will not be forthcoming.

With public money most likely not a possibility, it is the hope of the Director that he can secure from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville assurances of their continuing support through underwriting the Garden deficit. The Director seeks annually a meeting with Dr. Don Pederson and Dr. G. David Gearhart to lay out the budget plans to stay viable and economically responsible.

The Gardens also seeks ways to follow the University model outlined by Chancellor Gearhart on Cost Saving Strategies and Revenue Enhancement. We will seek to use more seasonal help rather than carry full-time positions year-round. Further, we will likely seek to meet our operational needs through hourly positions rather than through the full-time classified or non-classified route. We will seek this year to raise the prices for wedding rentals in the Gardens. We will seek to provide a semi-annual newsletter rather than a quarterly newsletter and freeze levels of growth in the Holiday Light Show at 2011 levels. In short, the goal for the Gardens, until such time that this economic crunch is relieved, is to maintain the Gardens at their present level of operations.
FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS GOALS FOR 2010

The Evans Children’s Adventure Garden
The formal dedication and associated opening to the public of the Evans Children’s Adventure Garden was held June 18, 2009. Phase I and Phase II of the project are now completed and open for patrons of all ages to enjoy. Currently, we are raising funds for Phase III of the garden, which will include the interactive features, and an RFQ has been prepared seeking a design contractor for the interactive features. I expect that this year will be a year of design work and engineering work on the interactive features. Just a general observation of the area does show increased activity and attendance with younger patrons to the Gardens.

The Wildflower Meadow
The Wildflower Meadow is located on the far west end of the property and includes completed hard surfacing of the path, the meadow itself and a vista viewing deck. The exterior of the project was completed this year and dedicated in March 2011. An additional $70,000 will be needed to complete the interior, which includes a warming kitchen and restrooms.

The Weyerhaeuser Bonsai Potting Shed
Presently, the pad has been cleared and the foundation is in place, with construction of the walls and interior features in progress, with a projected completion date of October 31. This building will be used for the care and maintenance of the garden’s bonsai collection. The facility will also be available for small groups to use for meetings at facility rental rates. The Gardens plan to employ a subcontractor to complete this project freeing garden staff to work with other garden projects. Funding from private sources and from General Improvement Fund money through the state should see this project through to completion.

The Stella Boyle Smith Rose Garden
The goal this year for this project is really quite simple. We will be seeking to raise funds toward the completion of the Rose Garden. To date, an addition of $100,000 has been pledged for the Garden with the naming of the water feature. Discussions are presently being made with a large donor family for an additional $1 million. There is no question that the project will be done in phases, based solely on the funds available. I expect that this year will be a year of seeking funds, planning to spend the funds wisely and seeking additional donors.

The Floating Cloud Bridge
A new feature presently under construction using funds from ANCRC is The Floating Cloud Bridge. This trail and bridge will connect the Rose Garden with the lower trail from the Garden of the Pine Winds near the waterfall. David Slawson will design the bridge using cedars and boulders. There will also be trail improvement this year near the Garvan Pavilion. An additional $40,000 is needed to complete this project and could be considered to be a part of the Rose Garden Project fundraising goal.
**Maintenance**

As the Gardens age, the issue of maintenance becomes increasingly apparent. With much of our raised funds going to capital projects, the neglect of endowing for the future will increasingly become an issue. In order to properly maintain what is presently here, the plan to address this issue is to increase the endowment and seek state and university permanent funding. Also, toward this end, a new metal building has been constructed at the site of the Garden Shop, and new office space for garden supervisors has been completed this year. This new building will house volunteers for assistance in fabrication of garden projects, offices for the Garden Superintendent and clerical. Additionally, a new metal roof has been added to the existing shop and an additional metal building will be built in the new fiscal year to house the Horticulture Supervisor and plants. These projects are funded by ANCRC and with the help of volunteer labor the buildings have been erected. This pilot project holds promise moving into the future with the greater use of volunteer labor.

**Arkridge Road Access Improvement**

Garland County Judge, Rick Davis, informed the Executive Director that work to widen Arkridge Road should be complete by October 2011. The County Judge has made the widening of the road his top priority this year.

**Golf Cart Depot**

Private funds have been secured for $65,000 to improve housing for our golf cart fleet. The structure will be attached to the northwest corner of the present Pratt Welcome Center. The structure will be covered, assigned parking bays and electrical charging ports elevated to make for easy ingress and egress. The plan is to finish construction on this project before the Holiday Light season 2011.

**The Garvan Annex Project**

When property adjacent to the front gate at the Gardens became available because of a return of the property to the lender, Garvan Gardens made an offer to purchase five acres along our entrance to buffer our entry from unsightly development. The University of Arkansas loaned $82,000 to the Gardens for the purchase, which we made. To date, half the repayment for the loan has been raised through a direct appeal to our members, with the other half to be raised in 2012.

**PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS**

**Staffing**

Providing a world-class botanical garden that the state of Arkansas and the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville can both be proud of requires intensive labor. This labor force must be willing to work long and odd hours in order to ensure quality. This issue coupled with historically low state salaries continues to challenge. There are some things that may be addressed from a management standpoint that can relieve some of the pressure, but it is the opinion of the Executive Director that this will be an ongoing challenge in the desire to provide a quality product. To the garden’s credit, the current staff is highly dedicated to their work. Toward this end, a plan is in operation to focus on a group of core workers in the Garden that are classified and then supplement with hourly or FTE workers on a seasonal, demand basis. It seems that sub-contracting on projects is more fiscally responsible than trying to do it all with a salaried crew.
Display
Attendance to the Gardens continues to increase with two prime times in the calendar year that sees amazing spikes. The spring display of color continues to provide high attendance during peaks of bloom. The spring display months account for roughly 30% of the Gardens’ revenue and attendance. The winter holiday season is the second period of unusually high attendance. Again this year, the holiday lights display proved to be both a financial and attendance boom. The Holiday Light Display accounts for some 30% of overall Gardens revenue and attendance. It seems that these two seasons should and will be capitalized upon in the future to assure continued growth.

Special Events
The use of special events in the early years of the Gardens’ history was strategic to raising attendance numbers. This strategy proved viable, though the stress on staff and the low return on investment indicates to us that special events should truly be special in the months ahead. The focus on special events that work better into our scheduling and produce good income will be the direction pursued in the future. With that said, the Garden Gala, Denim and Diamonds and the Garden-wide Plant sale still play prominent roles in our Gardens strategy. A new perspective is being observed in our evolution – that new perspective being the low- or no-cost concerts in the Anthony Chapel and sponsored-only Special Events.

Education
This element of the Gardens’ mission holds great promise though not great financial returns. The educational component of the Gardens’ mission is strongly stated in the revised Mission Statement. To date, the educational component of the Gardens’ mission has taken a back seat to garden display presentations and special events. This is largely due to the real need to generate revenue for the Gardens’ bottom line. I envision education as being a growing strength of the Gardens. Education will never be as strong as it could be until such time as we have a new facility to house educational events. Particular focus is being given at the present time to the increased numbers of grade-school aged children visiting the Evans Children’s Adventure Garden. A program is being developed to enhance their practical education in the natural setting of the Gardens. On Sunday afternoons, children are admitted free to the Gardens when visiting with their families.

General Operations
It should be expected that, as the Gardens grow, weaknesses in our infrastructure and procedures will be exposed. This has proven true over the past year. The issue of procedures is a matter of addressing old familiar habits that are often counter to good business and University policy. The Executive Director has, through tenacity, sought to address these concerns and make the relationship between the University and the Gardens one of a partnership rather than one of imposition. Also, matters related to human resources are issues in need of persistent attention. The goal is to provide a good working environment in keeping with all University policies while maintaining a high level of work ethic.
PROGRESS TOWARD STRATEGIC GOALS AND UNIVERSITY

Garvan Woodland Gardens seeks to provide a venue to the general populace that features displays of seasonal plantings, both exotic and local. It seeks to highlight the relationship we have with the University of Arkansas and provide an educational resource to the state through research, scholarships and seminars, and as a laboratory facility. Through a very simple method of reminding staff of the purpose the Gardens and its role within the University System, we seek to strengthen the bond between the two entities. The Gardens will continue to pursue a strategy of greater cooperation between itself and the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. That relationship would include a more active financial role, but it would also include a greater presence of the school within the Gardens, promoting itself as the university of choice to potential students. The association of the success the Gardens with the success of the University should be pursued in a defined way.

A level of sophistication and excellence exists at the gardens and extends to the Little Rock area. In central Arkansas, Garvan Woodland Gardens is the place of choice when a first-class wedding is sought. We seek to build upon this reputation and, by association, show the University in a similar light.

REPORT ON BENCHMARKS FOR ASSESSION EFFICIENCY

Garvan Woodland Gardens experienced a sound rise in attendance and revenue for the year. The Director is attempting to have in place an administrative infrastructure that can grow and accommodate attendance growth of 50%. That would put us near the 200,000 mark for a year. We need to have the ability to handle such growth over the next few years. The two simplest ways of assessing progress and efficiency are still revenue and attendance. It is my opinion that these two benchmarks will continue to see positive growth based upon positive approaches to management.
SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHANGES

Department Mission and Accreditation
The Interior Design Program’s purpose is to provide excellent teaching and research with a significant commitment to service, or civic engagement. We are a learning-centered professional interior design program that focuses on the value of good design, and fosters the critical thinking, resourcefulness, and human-centeredness necessary for our students to achieve academic, professional, and personal success. The program strives to provide graduates with the skills, knowledge, and experience that will benefit their clients, colleagues, and communities. Faculty and students are excited and energized by the move, and the faculty is confident that being affiliated with like disciplines will effectively foster the skills and values critical for our graduates’ long-term professional success.

The most notable event in the history of the Interior Design program occurred in July 2010 when the program officially was moved from the School of Human Environmental Sciences in the College of Agriculture, Food and Life Sciences to the Fay Jones School of Architecture. A “design identity” is critical to the professional development of interior design students, and, now educated in a mutually supportive pedagogical situation with other design disciplines, we anticipate that our students will benefit from a learning environment that models the collaborative nature of professional practice.

Curriculum Review and Development
Despite the significance of the recent move, the immediate impact on the program has been moderate in terms of changes to the curriculum, program philosophy, mission and goals. Our professional degree, the Bachelor of Interior Design (B.I.D.), was reaccredited for a six-year term in 2005, and our next regular visit will be conducted in fall 2011. Following the accreditation, the faculty will study ways in which to take fullest advantage of our relationship with peer units in the School of Architecture, in the spirit of the School’s vision for the integration of academic programs articulated in its Strategic Plan.

Conferences and Special Events
The program launched its relationship with the Fay Jones School of Architecture by hosting a regional think tank in cooperation with the Design Futures: Interior Entity project, organized by the International Federation of Interior Architects and Designers. On August 14, 2010, a diverse panel of interior designers from the regional gathered for a full day’s discussion on the future of the profession. The discussions were published in a “white paper” authored by Associate Professor Dr. Jennifer Webb. In October, the program hosted the annual conference of the Southwest Region, Interior Design Educators’ Council, providing another opportunity to showcase the resources of the program and the School of Architecture to our academic peers.

Teaching, Research, and Outreach

Visiting and Adjunct Faculty
The department community was enriched and diversified by the contributions of visiting adjunct faculty that, this year, included: in the Fall Semester, Visiting Assistant Professor Jeff Walker, a
practitioner from Springfield, Missouri, and, for the Spring Semester, Visiting Assistant Professor Joanne Martin and Visiting Assistant Professor Aubrey Pate, both alumni of the program with distinguished records in design practice. Adjunct Assistant Professor Travis Brooks joined the first year studio team for the entire academic year.

Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity
The Interior Design faculty continues to attain distinction in research and scholarship. Members of the Interior Design faculty produced, as authors or editors, one book, three book chapters, and two refereed scholarly papers. Recognition of scholarly works include award of the American Society of Interior Designers Educational Foundation Joe Polsky Prize to Associate Professor Dr. Jennifer Webb for Just Below the Line: Disability, Housing, and Equity in the South, co-authored by Associate Professor of Architecture, Dr. Korydon Smith, and published by the University of Arkansas Press. Traditionally, the faculty has assumed leadership roles in the Interior Design Educator’s Council, and, this year, both Dr. Nann Miller and Dr. Marie Gentry contributed to the society’s International Conference; Dr. Jennifer Webb joined the Editorial Review Board of its scholarly journal, Journal of Interior Design, w dedicated to issues related to the design of the interior environment, and representing the entire spectrum of interior design theory, research, education and practice.

Other Achievements
The School’s bibliographic listing includes a complete chronicle of the Interior Design faculty’s accomplishments in research and scholarship, creative practice, and community engagement and outreach.

Honors Program
The Interior Design faculty is enthusiastic about the opportunities to redevelop its Honors Program presented by our new situation in the School of Architecture. Faculty are working with the School Honors Committee to revise the Interior Design Honors requirements, which, in the past, were limited by the overarching regulations of the Bumpers College and, often, irreconcilable with the mission and intent of a professional design curriculum. We look forward to creating a program that will allow our students to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the University Honors College.

Career Fair
The Interior Design Program joins the Department of Architecture and the Department of Landscape Architecture in an annual Career Fair, hosted this year on February 22, 2011. As a result of the economic recession and its profound impact on the design professions, only 9 firms participated in the career fair. In spite of the dismal economy, our students benefitted substantially from the opportunity to hone their interview skills as well as network and socialize with practitioners in architecture and the allied professions.

With a view toward enhancing our student’s abilities to market their skills in an increasingly competitive professional environment, the three departments of the School of Architecture have begun planning a collaborative portfolio preparation workshop for their students, to be held in advance of the Career Fair beginning in academic year 2011-12.
DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHANGES

Administration
The professional program underwent a re-accreditation visit at the end of March and we were awarded a full six-year reaccreditation in August 2010. There were several recommendations affecting accreditation from the team that the department will be working to resolve. Those recommendations include: reconsider the program mission statement and goals and strategies to include more explicit language as to measurable learning outcomes; resolve the question of permanent leadership for the program and fill at least one additional faculty line to ease instructional loads; and, review the IT equipment situation in Memorial Hall and provide equal access to computer facilities in Vol Walker Hall for Landscape Architecture students.

To date, the faculty has revised the Department’s Mission Statement and has begun including measurable learning outcomes in each course syllabus. Work on Department measurable learning outcomes, goals and objectives will commence in the next academic year. The permanent leadership question has been resolved with the appointment of Mark Boyer to a five-year term as Department Head. We are still working on securing the recommended additional faculty line. The IT equipment situation has begun to be addressed with increased equipment to facilitate printing, and students were provided equal access to equipment in Vol Walker Hall this year.

Faculty
The department has four full-time faculty and one administrator that teaches a part-time load. Mark Boyer has been appointed to the administrator position.

In the fall and spring semesters, several adjunct professors were employed to cover the unstaffed courses due to a faculty member being appointed to the administration position and the resulting unfilled faculty line. We were able to keep all students on their academic schedule by hiring practitioner Travis Brooks for Design I Studio and Melissa Evans for the Construction II courses in the fall semester. Practitioner Travis Brooks was also hired to teach our Construction I course in the spring semester.

Achievements
Curriculum Faculty continue to review student portfolios after the second year of study. Year-end curricular reviews are conducted with summary observations being disseminated to all program faculty—this is our primary and most effective form of assessment for both individual courses and the program as a whole. Action plans and activities will be based upon faculty discussion and conclusions of these observations. Course modifications based on consensus agreement will be implemented for the next academic year. Faculty utilized alumni participation in selected studio projects and two faculty members strengthened the relationship with the U of A CAST facility and personnel in a course or a project.

Garvan Woodland Gardens Terra Design Studios has completed an interpretative master plan for the Garden. An RFQ for second phase of the Evans Children’s Garden was developed and the design teams were interviewed and the Portico Group was selected for the design team.
Recruitment Professors Smith and Erdman led an Eagle Scouts Activity Event during the Merit Badge workshop on campus in March. Professor Smith presented to an Upward Bound Program Career Development Class about careers in landscape architecture. Professor Boyer presented to twenty KIPP students about careers in landscape architecture in July. Adjunct Professors Terry and Turner conducted a summer design academy for 8th and 9th grade girls, and funded by the University’s Women’s Giving Circle. Judy Stone, School Recruiter, continues to advance recruitment for the department.

**Progress related to strategic plans and university priorities: Writing Across the Curriculum**
Writing exercises and papers continue to be integrated in the design studio, construction labs, and history courses in the professional core. Faculty reviewed critically the writing performance of students at all levels of the program.

**Progress related to strategic plans and university priorities: Collaboration Across the Disciplines**
Professor Crone completed his research and grant work for the Multi-use Paths study with the College of Engineering. Professor Smith represents the department in the student art gallery “sUgAR”, which is a joint effort of the Art, Architecture, Interior Design and Landscape Architecture Departments. Professor Boyer continues to conduct joint green roof research with Biological and Agricultural Engineering and Horticulture faculty members and graduate students. Professor Smith conducted a Sustainable Housing summer studio with students from Landscape Architecture, Architecture, Biological and Agricultural Engineering and Interior Design departments. Professors Smith and Boyer participated in the University interdisciplinary sustainability minor SUST 1103 course. Professors Boyer, Smith, Brittenum and Erdman all serve on Master’s candidates’ theses committees for students in other departments or at other institutions.

The School’s lecture series continues to offer outstanding presentations by nationally renowned architects, landscape architects and interior designers, which expose the students and faculty to high quality work and innovative thinking. The organizing committee is comprised of architects, landscape architects and interior designers.

**Achievements in Teaching**
Professor Erdman was awarded the Howell Vancuren Outstanding Faculty Teaching award. Professor Smith was awarded the Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society Silver medal.

**Research and Creative Activity**
See bibliography in School report.

**Achievements in Public Service**
Department faculty members regularly conduct public service projects for the design studios and construction labs.

Professor John V. Crone was a ROVE team for LAAB/ASLA member; Phi Beta Delta member; Alpha Zeta member; Landscape Journal manuscript reviewer; Sigma Lambda Alpha – Mountain Arkansas Student Chapter Faculty advisor; City of Fayetteville Tree and Landscape Committee member; Peer Reviewer for CELA annual meeting–four abstracts; University of Arkansas
Nominations and Elections Coordinating Committee member; University of Arkansas Faculty Panel, Complaint Procedure for Undergraduate Students Committee member; and Department Faculty Search Committee member

Associate Professor Judy B. Brittenum, FASLA, was a Nominating Committee of ASLA member; Professional Practice academic committee of ASLA member; Professional practice and historic preservation committee of ASLA member; ASLA Professional interest groups (Context Sensitive Design, Horticulture Therapy) member; University of Arkansas Campus Curriculum Review Committee member; University of Arkansas Campus Appellate and Advisory Committee member; Honors College Review, Selection and Interview Committee, member; Garvan Woodland Gardens Executive Advisory Board member; Garvan Woodland Gardens Design Review Board member; Washington County Historical Society Board of Directors member; Headquarters House Garden and Grounds Committee chair; School of Architecture Lecture Series Committee member; School Faculty Peer Review Committee member; Department Faculty Search Committee member; and Department Student Chapter ASLA faculty advisor

Associate Professor and Department Head Mark E. Boyer, ASLA, was an Academic Information Service development task force member; Inquiry Publication board member; School Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society faculty advisor; School Leadership By Design Steering Committee member; University of Arkansas Teaching Academy member; Water Conservation Professional Interest Group of ASLA member; Washington County Extension Council member; Garvan Woodland Gardens Design Review Board member; University of Arkansas Design Review Board ex-officio member; University of Arkansas Continuing Scholarship Selection Committee member; University of Arkansas Honors College Study Abroad Grant Selection Committee member; School Scholarship Committee member; and School Alumni Design Awards Committee member.

Assistant Professor Carl A. Smith was a Peer Reviewer for CELA annual meeting–seven abstracts; Fayetteville Partners for Better Housing Board member; Fayetteville Partners for Better Housing Public Relations Committee chair; University of Arkansas Continuing Education Committee member; University of Arkansas Arts and Concerts Committee member; School Scholarship Committee member; School Strategic Plan Committee member; Department Scholarship Committee member; Department Faculty Search Committee chair; and Department sUgAR faculty liaison member.

Assistant Professor Kimball Erdman was a University of Arkansas Faculty Panel, Complaint Procedures for Undergraduates member; Department Scholarship Committee member; Boy Scout Troup 846 Scoutmaster; Joseph Smith Birthplace Memorial Cultural Landscape Report reviewer; and Department Faculty Search Committee member. Department Head shielded Professor Erdman from any other service assignments.
This past year, we completed two major projects of note and are close to finishing a third — the 2030 Transit City Scenario Plan for Fayetteville. The completed projects — Townscaping an Automobile-Oriented Fabric for Farmington, AR and our publication, Low Impact Development: a design manual for urban areas — allowed our staff and students to develop new areas of design and planning expertise. Both projects allowed us to develop more substantive policy, advocacy, and design positions that have proven to be timely. We were delighted to see that the urban agriculture/edible landscapes component of our Farmington project and McIntosh Faculty Award research predated this year’s annual meeting of Congress for the New Urbanism, where the governing theme was urban agriculture.

The LID publication, now in its second printing, has sold more than 4,200 copies through bookstores and websites nationwide. The manual has become an important education and advocacy platform for environmental groups and classroom teaching. The Arkansas Natural Resources Commission purchased 1,000 books for distribution at conferences and other teaching events in Arkansas, including those for our students in the Fay Jones School of Architecture. We are pleased that, in addition to our design projects, our book projects can win national awards. Both projects received 2011 American Institute of Architects Honor Awards, while the LID publication also received a 2011 American Society of Landscape Architects Honor Award for Communication and was a finalist for the Great Places Book Award by the Environmental Design Research Association.

Presentations of preliminary work for the 2030 Transit City Scenario Plan for Fayetteville have already garnered excitement from the city, who incorporated our analytic mappings of Fayetteville’s growth into its 2030 Comprehensive Plan. We are particularly excited by the new area of knowledge in large-scale planning and “futuring” that the project has allowed our students and staff to develop. This is again timely, as scenario planning has become a popular and powerful decision-making tool among planning agencies engaged in disaster planning and management. This is important, as clients for design services are demanding greater resourcefulness and familiarity with alternative decision-making paths than those traditionally taught in most design programs. Indeed, employers and other architecture program administrators indicate that the only employment demand is for the graduate who can comfortably shuttle between design methodologies, scales, and problem sets, precisely our focus at UACDC.

The economic downturn and its dampening effect on planning opportunities in both the private and public sectors has been a real challenge for us over the past year. Due to the withdrawal of Habitat for Humanity of Washington County from its commitment to build the Porchscapes project and the subsequent loss in further funding from the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, I was forced to layoff one staff member in September. Much of my time has been devoted to pursuit of project opportunities, mostly entailing government grant programs and some municipal RFQs — with 30 proposals submitted — which typically involved participation in, or assembly of, project teams. The competition for each opportunity is fierce, as federal funding has either been decreased or eliminated all together (some after we submitted our completed proposal), while intact programs are attracting multiple increases in applicants. Several education award programs were victims of the downturn, including NCARB, USGBC, and the AIA Education Honor programs. Nonetheless, we have
managed to attract three additional grants, payable in this fiscal year, all from the National Endowment for the Arts. The upside of our proposal work is that we have had the opportunity to cultivate new partnerships with firms in civil engineering, ecological engineering, water conservation management, and landscape architecture. Two notable ventures included our participation as urban designer for the team to plan the St. Paul, Minnesota waterfront led by Diana Balmori Associates in New York, and as urban designer for an exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art led by Marlon Blackwell Architect.

Nonetheless, we look forward to our forthcoming urban redevelopment project for a neighborhood in Little Rock, incorporating Main Street and smaller in scale than recent work. Our focus will allow a greater detail in architectural resolution than the scenario planning studios and introduce new vocabularies in neighborhood-scale technologies.

**CURRENT PROJECTS**

**Revitalization Plan for Pettaway Neighborhood: Little Rock, AR, commissioned 2011**

*National Endowment for the Arts*

UACDC’s proposal received an Access to Artistic Excellence grant from the NEA valued at $30,000 with additional match to UACDC of $15,000 from the City of Little Rock.

The University of Arkansas Community Design Center (UACDC) and the Downtown Little Rock Community Development Corporation (DLRCDC) will partner to prepare a revitalization plan for the historic 60-block Pettaway Neighborhood in downtown Little Rock. The effort will consist of three activities. First, an inventory of the neighborhood’s cultural assets will be mapped and communicated in descriptive analytic drawings. Second, a neighborhood charrette will be held to explore planning approaches in concert with local interests. Third, a revitalization plan with eye-level renderings and place-based planning vocabulary will be prepared. The planning objective is to develop affordable housing infill that integrates innovative neighborhood technologies (e.g., “green” and shared streets, transit-oriented development, urban agriculture, low impact development, live-work housing configurations, etc.) with historic building fabrics.

The goal is to illustrate a redevelopment vision for this traditionally African-American neighborhood. The Downtown Neighborhoods represent the most important phases in Little Rock’s history, from the boom era of the post-Civil War years to the tumultuous school integration period of the late 1950s. Since massive white flight from Little Rock to the suburbs in the 1960s, these neighborhoods have suffered from disinvestment. With the return to downtown of younger populations mostly consisting of creative class types in the arts, professional design, nonprofits, and higher education, the downtown neighborhoods are ripe for reinvestment. The challenge is to provide a plan that balances the needs of the existing population with a new demographic representing a wide income range.

**2030 Transit City Scenario Plan for Fayetteville, AR, commissioned 2010**

*National Endowment for the Arts*

UACDC’s proposal received an Access to Artistic Excellence grant from the NEA valued at $20,000
According to a recent Brookings Institution study, 80% of the built environment projected to exist by 2050 has not yet been built. This opportunity to realize intelligent growth, however, cannot be fully optimized until risk-averse municipal planning processes explore scenarios that may in the present seem unlikely. As a complement to Fayetteville’s 2030 City Plan finalized and accepted by the city council this year, a 2030 Transit City Scenario Plan is independently under preparation by UACDC to model a future based upon development of a streetcar system. We ask: what if 80% of future growth (60 million square feet of conditioned space, 23,000 housing units) was incented to locate around a street car system proposed for Fayetteville’s main commercial arterial, presently dominated by aged low-density commercial development? Fayetteville could create a five-mile signature multimodal transit boulevard, transforming underperforming development into mixed-use transit-oriented neighborhoods.

The planning objective is to help the community envision a plausible planning possibility that would not have otherwise emerged from charrettes and other community participation processes, which often favor a “directionless incrementalism.” The design team, including nonprofit organizations, worked with city staff and several “Fayetteville Forward” citizen committees. This scenario platform will assist the city, developers, and the entire decision-making ecosystem in connecting transit planning with land-use development. The immediate goal is development of a streetcar system, which involves the difficult conversion of College Avenue from state highway to municipal management. The plan is scheduled for completion by the end of summer.

UPDATES

**Ralph Bunche Agape Neighborhood Vision Plan, Benton, AR, commissioned 2010**
Central Arkansas Development Council and the Ralph Bunche Agape Community Development Corporation $15,900.

UACDC was contracted to provide a neighborhood vision plan to spark reinvestment in this 100-year old African-American neighborhood at the edge of downtown Benton. The primary objective is to attract investment from a younger generation of homebuyers in this aging neighborhood of approximately 300 homes. The plan was completed in early Fall 2010. Planners from Metroplan and CADC are organizing a neighborhood association to implement components of the plan.

*Our jury praised the development’s compactness and the buildings’ strong, simple geometry. “The sculptural nature of it is very successful,” said one judge. Residential Architect magazine March-April 2011*

**Xeriscape Garden Designs for the Fayetteville Wastewater Treatment Plants, commissioned 2009**
CH2MHILL OMI $22,000

Chris Suneson is consulting as the landscape architect of record. One of the country’s largest engineering and design firms, CH2MHILL, contracted with the UACDC for the design of xeriscape gardens at the two wastewater treatment plants it manages for the City of Fayetteville. The garden for the Paul Noland Wastewater Treatment Plant has been constructed while construction for the West Side Wastewater Treatment Plant is pending budget approval. In consultation with local
nurseries and horticulturalists, UACDC and several landscape architecture students developed a database of Ozark native and naturalized plants available in our region.

Townscaping an Automobile-Oriented Fabric: Farmington, AR, commissioned 2010
National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

UACDC’s proposal received an Access to Artistic Excellence grant from the NEA valued at $20,000. Chris Suneson is consulting as the landscape architect of record.

The townscape plan for Farmington proposes new public landscapes to re-stitch the 5,000-person bedroom community fragmented by the dominance of automobile-oriented planning. The plan employs context sensitive highway design solutions to create a walkable environment in an automobile-oriented fabric. As a retrofit planning strategy, townscaping offers a model for the incremental urbanization of other auto-dominated communities. The goal is to create a memorable town fabric for anchoring new growth in an otherwise fragmented urban landscape.

The plan was completed last summer. On behalf of the City of Farmington, UACDC wrote a grant application to secure Transportation Enhancement Funds from the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department to construct Phase I. However, all funding for Northwest Arkansas from this program was allocated to development of the NWA Greenway and Trail — an effort spearheaded by the Walton Family Foundation.

“An urban design approach that is both design driven and community oriented simultaneously. This plan proves that a place laid out originally for cars can be adapted to a future where people are connected in other ways... A beautiful model for greening and organizing small town USA... There is much that we can learn from smaller communities, and “townscaping” is a creative example of what a small, long-established community can do to transform its 20th century roadway system into a 21st-century amenity.” – 2011 AIA Institute Honors Award Jury

LID Low Impact Development: a design manual for urban areas, 2010
UACDC and the University of Arkansas Press with the Fay Jones School of Architecture
Arkansas Forestry Commission, National Center for Appropriate Technology, Illinois River Watershed Partnership, Beaver Water District, Upper White River Basin Foundation with the Community Foundation of the Ozarks, the U.S. Green Building Council, and the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission are publication sponsors.

Now in its second printing, UACDC has sold more than 4,200 copies, generating more than $40,000 (gross) in sales. The publication was featured this year in conference bookstores at the American Institute of Architects, the Congress for the New Urbanism, and the forthcoming American Society of Landscape Architects. The book is used by many for educational purposes, while civic organizations employ the book in support of their advocacy for water management policy reform.

“A very clear manual that should become the primer for creating beautiful and sustainable public streets and spaces... What a useful, easy-to-understand tool, not only for architects, but also for community leaders and citizens working to ensure environmentally sustainable development. Urban Design at a scale that architects can grasp and incorporate into their own projects. It is a project
both specifically technical and inspiring all at the same time.” – 2011 AIA Institute Honors Award Jury

**Visioning Rail Transit in Northwest Arkansas: Lifestyles and Ecologies, 2009**

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

UACDC’s publication received an Excellence in Design grant from the NEA valued at $25,000. The grant was matched by $4,500 from the University of Arkansas Women’s Giving Circle, and $16,000 from the Office of the Provost.

While the goal of commissioning a regional rail feasibility study has not yet been achieved, UACDC’s publication was distributed to Arkansas General Assembly legislators in support of an initiative to revise legislation governing transit financing. Before the legislative session this year, public-private partnerships for funding transit projects were illegal in Arkansas. Advocates for the creation of transit-supportive state enabling legislation enrolled *Visioning Rail Transit in Northwest Arkansas: Lifestyles and Ecologies* to illustrate the benefits of transit and the need for alternative financing models to federal support. The legislation passed. Among others, we are involved in very preliminary discussions with a large planning and development organization in Texas, who is interested in bringing private equity investment to the project, which would negate the need for federal and majority state funding.
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Books Published


Chapters


**Refereed Articles and Papers**


**Unrefereed Publications, Proceedings, and Critical Reviews of Work**


“Citation Awards”, *2010 Design Awards, The Arkansas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects*, pg 9.


**Research Reports**


**Invited Lectures**


Erdman, Kimball. “Beck Mill Cultural Landscape Masterplan” Faculty advisor/instructor for student poster presentation, Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation, Fort Worth, TX. April 2011.


Herman, Gregory. “Arkansas’ Farm Security Administration Houses,” Phi Alpha Theta Honors History Society, University of Arkansas History Department. Fayetteville, Arkansas, November 2010.

Huber, Jeffrey. Mississippi State University.


Luoni, Stephen. Urban Design Workshops and Lecturer: American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. Various Independent Studies with architecture and landscape architecture students


Luoni, Stephen. Mithun Endowed Lecturer, University of Washington, Seattle.

Luoni, Stephen. University of Texas at Austin.

Luoni, Stephen. Drury University.


Sarpaneva, Pia. “Student Work,” Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island, November 2010.


**Other Lectures, Papers, and Oral Presentations**


Other Creative Endeavors


Blackwell, Marlon. Cabin (1,200 sq.ft.) and bunkhouse (600 sq. ft.), Burnett Cabin and Bunkhouse, Caddo Gap, Arkansas

Blackwell, Marlon. Addition (15,000 sq.ft.) and master planning, Washington University in St. Louis School of Architecture, St. Louis, Missouri

Blackwell, Marlon. New construction (30,000 sq. ft.) and renovation (60,000 sq.ft.), University of Arkansas School of Architecture: Steven L. Anderson Design Center, Fayetteville, Arkansas


Blackwell, Marlon. Invited competition to design 6 cottages (800 sq.ft.), Fallingwater Cottages, Mill Run, Pennsylvania.


Perez, Santiago R. Fabcraft Exhibition: “Computational Design & Digital Fabrication,” University of Arkansas sUgAR Gallery, Bentonville, Arkansas, March 3 – April 17, 2011.

Perez, Santiago R. Fayetteville Bike Trails Initiative for ongoing presentations of digitally fabricated landscape installations along Fayetteville bike trails. Skull Creek Bike Trail, Fayetteville, AR. In progress/Ongoing.

Smith, Carla. “Blockbuster.” Public art and outreach demonstration of compact suburbia. University of Arkansas Student Gallery (sUgAR), Bentonville, AR, and Fayetteville Public Library, Fayetteville, AR. Completed and decommissioned.

Smith, Korydon. RERC-UD, Project Consultant. NIDRR, Washington, DC & IDEA Center, Buffalo, NY (research in progress).


University of Arkansas Community Design Center. “Townscaping an Automobile-Oriented Fabric: Farmington, Arkansas.”


University of Arkansas Community Design Center. Exhibition, “Low Impact Development: a design manual for urban areas.” Arkansas APA Annual Meeting, Bentonville, AR.

University of Arkansas Community Design Center. Exhibition, “Townscaping an Automobile-Oriented Fabric: Farmington, AR.” Arkansas APA Annual Meeting, Bentonville, AR.


University of Arkansas Community Design Center. Exhibition, “Visioning Rail Transit in Northwest Arkansas.” Arkansas Chapter of the Sierra Club.


**Chairs, professorships, distinguished professorships, lectureships and faculty awards given by the school/university**


Blackwell, Marlon. Citation (National), St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Springdale, Arkansas, Architect Magazine Design Review, October 2010.

Blackwell, Marlon. Arkansas AIA Honor Award, Porchdog House in Biloxi, Mississippi, October 2010.

Blackwell, Marlon. Arkansas AIA Honor Award, St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Springdale, Arkansas, October 2010.


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Boyer, Mark. Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award for undergraduate student Leanna Medal SURF grant. University of Arkansas. August 2010.


Herman, Gregory. First Place, Peterson Prize (National), Historic American Buildings Survey / National Parks Service, October 2010.

Herman, Gregory. Outstanding Achievement in Preservation Education Award (state), Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas, December 2010.


Luoni, Stephen. Associate AIA, and affiliate. Distinguished professor, Fay Jones School of Architecture.

Luoni, Stephen. Advisory Council Member, Applied Sustainability Center, Sam Walton College of Business.

Luoni, Stephen. Member, School of Architecture Strategic Planning Committee.

Luoni, Stephen. Member, Fayetteville Forward: Mayor’s Transportation Committee, 2009-2011.

Luoni, Stephen. External Reviewer, Community Research Awards, School of Public Policy, University of Arkansas.


Smith, Korydon. Visiting Professor, University at Buffalo, spring semester 2011.

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University of Arkansas Community Design Center. 2011 AIA Honor Award for Regional and Urban Design. “Townscaping an Automobile-Oriented Fabric: Farmington, Arkansas.” The American Institute of Architects


University of Arkansas Community Design Center. 2010 Arkansas AIA Citation Award. University of Arkansas Community Design Center + Washington University in St. Louis. “Visioning Rail Transit in Northwest Arkansas.” Arkansas Chapter of The American Institute of Architects.


University of Arkansas Community Design Center. Unbuilt Architecture Design Awards. "Putting the Farm Back into Farmington, AR: Agricultural Urbanism for Public Spaces." Boston Society of Architects

Webb, J. Nominated for Co-Director of the Wally Cordes Teaching and Faculty Support Center

Webb, J. Interior Design Educators’ Council, Southwest Regional Chair

Webb, J. Interior Design Educators’ Council, Chair 2011 International Student Design Competition


Webb, J. Journal of Interior Design, Board of Directors, 2007-2010

Public, Professional, and Community Service

Breshears, Katie. AIA, LEED AP (July-September 2010).

Breshears, Katie. Participant: City of Fayetteville Environmental Action Committee Watershed Lecture Series

Breshears, Katie. Juror: USGBC’s 2010 Natural Talent Design Competition, Arkansas

Breshears, Katie. Committee Member: Fayetteville Environmental Concerns Committee LID Task Force

Breshears, Katie. Member: Sustainable Northwest Arkansas.

Breshears, Katie. Steering Committee Member: Northwest Arkansas Chapter of the United States Green Building Council.


Gentry, G.M. Interior Design Educators’ Council, Abstract reviewer for annual International Conference.


Huber, Jeffrey. Juror: Hnedak Bobo Scholarship Award: University of Arkansas.

Miller, N. G. Interior Design Educators’ Council, Abstract reviewer for annual International Conference.

Miller, N. G. Interior Design Educators’ Council, Initiator and coordinator of Service-Learning Network

Webb, J. Interior Design Educators’ Council, 2011 International Conference Committee