A New Chapter Begins at CAP: Interim Dean Arrives

Dear CAP,

For years, I have heard and been witness to the endeavors of this college's faculty, staff, students and alumni and I am honored to be here among you to serve as your interim dean.

I began my Ball State career as a faculty member in the College of Fine Arts, later serving as their Associate Dean. I have held many titles over the years with the most current being Vice President of Information Technology. I am keenly aware of CAP’s commitment to cutting-edge technology and was among one of the first campus leaders to bring digital technology into the curriculum after authoring and co-authoring multiple grants.

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While I have only been in the building for a few days, I can see how the reputation of this college as an energized and innovative community has been earned. My first observations have included the captivating CAPASIA exhibit in the atrium, the thought-provoking thinkfast exhibit in the Gallery and standing room only attendance during guest lecturer Peter Walker’s discussion.

I have noticed faculty and students working together, side by side, to further examine design concepts and I am impressed by your passion, collaborative spirit, and commitment to your work.

It is difficult to find the right words to express how Guillermo Vasquez de Velasco and Michel Mounayar will be missed in the dean’s office. They have shown great enthusiasm and dedication to the college. Tremendous people are often presented with great opportunities and I wish them the best, both professionally and personally, as they move onto new and exciting initiatives.

I view my time with you as a small chapter in a rather lengthy and compelling novel that began in 1965. Sometimes there’s nothing worse for a writer than a blank screen, just waiting to be filled in. In this case, I am excited to see what will be written during this transition.

Looking forward to a great year.

Respectfully,

Philip Repp, Vice President of Information Technology and Interim Dean

...Continued from page 1
Urban Planning Announces a New Digital Training Lab
By Sanglim Yoo

It cannot be emphasized enough the importance of design and data analysis techniques for 21st century urban planners. The Department of Urban Planning has been successful in providing the next generation of planners with the skills that will enable them to help shape the physical development of communities, both large and small. We are proud to be recognized as the only accredited planning program in the State of Indiana that provides leadership in the design and building of regenerative communities.

The department has long recognized that there is a need to improve the learning environment that will integrate studio learning experiences and design and analysis techniques. To better serve this need, the Department of Urban Planning will open a new Digital Training Lab (DTL) for our students. Starting this semester, 16 workstations in AB316 and will be fully operational soon. Since we are hosting workstations inside of the existing studio, we are planning to utilize this space as a multipurpose room as a start, but we are hoping to separate these in the near future as space allows.

Opening DTL in the Department of Urban Planning is exciting for many reasons. Now students can learn and apply their skills and techniques in a more cohesive setting. Thus we believe this opportunity will expand the department’s educational capacity by effectively linking design and analysis and traditional media with those of digital techniques. Since we believe in the power of studio, we are also expecting that this addition will widen the realm of studio education by diversifying students’ problem solving skills. Also this will help the Department of Urban Planning remain competitive with our peers regionally as well as nationally.

In pursuit of this educational goal, priority will be given to studio classes and research method classes that offer various types of digital training to students including digital design, data manipulation and analysis. We are grateful to have this new addition in the department, and deeply thankful for the support from the CAP family.
FARM ANIMALS AND FANS: WHAT USED TO LIVE IN CAP

By Lynne Usdowski, Graduate Student of Architecture

As a CAP student or faculty member, you’re surely familiar with what (and who) lives and lurks in the Architecture Building these days. From the various plants living in studios that provide decoration and good spirit to the not-so-good-spirited students lurking the halls at 3 a.m., pulling all-nighters to finish projects, there is no shortage of activity at all hours in this building. But as times change, so does the extracurricular activity. An interview with Rod Underwood, professor in the College of Architecture and Planning, provided an inside scoop on what this activity used to look like—that is, what used to live and lurk in CAP, including some stuff many now may not be familiar with.

On September 8th, first-year architecture graduate student Lynne Usdowski sat down with Underwood to gain some perspective on CAP life in decades past. The conversation quickly turned to focus on three sorts of “life” in particular: baby chicks, fish, and fan gods.

Let’s first look at what Underwood had to say about baby chicks and fish living in CAP. Back in the old Quonset huts, Underwood says, students used to raise fish in aquariums, that were themselves design projects. The aquarium setup seemed to be going swimmingly (pun intended); that is, until students started going home for breaks and there was no one around to feed the fish. Not surprisingly, the aquarium projects were not long lived.

That’s not all though, when it came to actual living creatures habitating here at CAP. According to Underwood, students designed living spaces for baby chicks, habitats in which real chicks in fact came in to the world and tried to make their way. The living spaces themselves consisted of a pen in the middle of studio, and the chicks were free to roam wherever they pleased within the pen. A nice and cute idea, yes—but it was also a stinky one! Not only did the odors bother those in close proximity to the pen, Ball State researchers came to realize that the situation was an environmental hazard. And a precedent was born, killing any ideas to have live subjects involved with CAP students.

Underwood also discussed the existence of a so-called “Fan God.” In the same Quonset huts that housed the aforementioned fish, there also lived an exhaust fan that came to be looked upon as divine—or devilish, depending on your perspective. Why, you might ask. Well, Underwood told of how students would throw finished models into the exhaust fan, and it would chop them up and spew them into the parking lot. Underwood never surmised just why the fan took on the name Fan God, but it does make sense why a machine with model-destroying capabilities came to take on such an immortal stature.
A BIT ABOUT ME AND OUR CAP:IC

By Justin Ferguson

First of all, I would like to thank everyone for such a warm welcome to CAP, especially MUD program Chairperson, Michel Mounayar, as well as all of the administrative staff who have patiently answered all of my questions and truly supported me thus far. I have had a wonderful time meeting people from across CAP on my visits to campus, and I look forward to meeting even more of you. I, along with my wife, Carol, our seven-year-old daughter, Clare, and our son, Patrick, soon-to-be four years old, moved to Indianapolis at the end of June from Ann Arbor, Michigan, and we have been enjoying getting to know the State of Indiana and the City of Indianapolis, better, everyday.

As the Director of the College of Architecture and Planning: Indianapolis Center (CAP:IC), I perceive my position to be that of a ‘concierge’ for the entire CAP community in Indianapolis. I am working to connect community groups, non-profits, professionals, government agencies, and the public with CAP on campus, and CAP with those of Indianapolis. As the CAP:IC administrator, I really enjoy the different facets of my job such as advising the MUD students, teaching courses, and developing relationships with our community partners; the multiple hats I wear each day definitely keep me from getting bored.

Here, at the CAP: Indianapolis Center, we are breaking down the boundaries between disciplines in order to focus on actual problems and their solutions. The MUD Program demonstrates this by leaving the disciplinary turf wars behind to focus on creating a better, holistic urban environment for communities. To be clear, in order to be admitted to the MUD Program, you need to have a previous degree in a design discipline, but this allows for the collaborative leveraging of each other’s strengths and experiences towards a project. By bringing together the various disciplines of CAP with our community partners and stakeholders, whether it be through CAP:IC or some other initiative, we can truly focus on the wicked problems impacting our cities, both small and large.

This year, we have eight students in the MUD Program: two with planning backgrounds, three with architecture backgrounds, and three with landscape architecture backgrounds. And in order to support the process of stepping outside of disciplinary silos, and being further exposed to multidisciplinary perspectives, MUD students are being paired with mentors from different disciplinary backgrounds than those that they came in with. In addition, I feel fortunate to be teaching in Indianapolis with such an experienced group of faculty from across CAP. This includes team-teaching this semester with Dave Ferguson from Landscape Architecture, inevitably leading to our studio name – Team Ferguson.

I wish to express my gratitude to Ball State University and CAP for this opportunity. For me, this really is the perfect job in the perfect place. I am able to utilize my design background in an interdisciplinary and impactful way to engage a wide spectrum of people in a fun and vibrant city. I am excited to continue connecting with faculty, staff, and students across CAP. Please look out for me around the building as I visit a few times each month. And if you, your class, studio, or group would like to meet with me, on campus, please feel free to reach out. We can also exhibit your work, host reviews and other CAP-related events as well as support your Indianapolis-based endeavors, here, at the Indy Center. So the next time you are in Indianapolis, I invite you to stop by the College of Architecture and Planning: Indianapolis Center, and check out the work of your colleagues. I am also happy to speak with anyone, at the center or on campus, interested in pursuing a Master of Urban Design at the CAP:IC.

Justin Ferguson. Photo by John Wright of MediaWright, Inc. Photography.
DIGITAL FABRICATION LAB NEWS

By Daniel Eisinger

This year the digital fabrication lab facilities are undergoing a significant overhaul that includes new procedures, new resources and some new equipment. Dan Eisinger, a new faculty member who is loaded primarily in service of digital fabrication, is overseeing a team of graduate assistants (GAs) who are providing support for existing and new equipment as well as new procedures for fabrication requests. Some of the GAs will also be working on developing a digital fabrication knowledge base in the form of a wiki with structured text and video elements.

Some short info on the changes this year:

- New procedures are being established internally for working with the CNC mill that will allow the mill to be operated smoothly and in a more organized fashion. This will also facilitate the use of more accessible software tools for students wishing to mill.
- New procedures will be implemented externally requiring a level of training on the related software before CNC requests can be made. This training may be offered in digital format and/or through regular workshops. After completing training, interested persons will have to meet with a GA for file review before a milling session can be scheduled. A similar consultation will be required for anyone wishing to 3D print.
- Beginning very soon there will be daily, pre-established times when GAs will be available for consultation on files and on general digital fabrication-related questions. An announcement was made about the details last week.
- The new digital fabrication wiki will provide information about procedures and equipment as well as tutorial-type content related to laser cutting, 3D printing and CNC milling. Video content for the website will be developed in the form of short introductions to concepts, best practices and fabrication processes.
- New equipment acquired by the college this year includes a new powder-based 3D printer and a small 4'x4' CNC mill, which will be installed at the Design Build Lab. Both pieces of equipment were purchased to provide redundancy in case of downtime on any of the equipment. Additionally, one of the older laser cutters was replaced with a brand new one over the summer.

One thing remaining unchanged this year is the email address for interacting with the GAs running the advanced equipment. If you cannot meet with a GA in person about your request, please reach out to bsufablab@gmail.com.
TRAVELING WITH CAP

By Lynne Usdowski, Graduate Student of Architecture

On September 11, 2015, first year graduate student in architecture, Lynne Usdowski interviewed Professor Harry Eggink about his memories of CAP during his undergraduate years. There were plenty of interesting stories, and how the first CAP field trip went.

The first CAP trip was designed to study history with Professor Hermansen, known for the Visual Resources Collection and David R. Hermansen Slide Collection. Professor Hermansen’s collection composed almost 90% of the total Slide Library in CAP. The trip with Harry Eggink, Professor Hermansen and several other students was in 1969. The trip started in the Netherlands and went to Germany, Munich, Austria, Italy, France, England, and Glasgow.

One interesting experience Harry thoroughly remembers was the news in Glasgow about the first man to land on the moon. He describes it as being outside a glass storefront and watching a TV through the glass while the news footage played clips of the American flag on the moon. A memory he will never forget.

Another interesting field trip adventure was during his trip to the Netherlands, he was given permission to see his family that was living there and later meet up with the rest of the class. During this meeting there was a miscommunication between which World War II cemetery they were going to. Harry ended up missing the group, and having to take a train to the hotel on the itinerary.

Trips back then did not seem to be too different from now, consisting of many museums, cathedrals and anywhere else they could go into. The next trip Harry took was Polyark, a trip developed by Professor Marvin Rosenman, who had connections with Archigram where two schools did a combined study.

Later trips would include following Western architecture through history with Paul Laseau in Greece, Egypt, and Turkey. Summer trips included Germany with Lohren Deeg, World Tour with Rod Underwood and Les Smith, Italy with Michele Chiuini, Argentina with Ana Debrea, and Scandinavia with Pam Harwood.

Trips were designed to explore new countries with any experience, knowledge and connections faculty at CAP had. These trips were open to the entire College of Architecture and Planning, as they are today.

Polyark trip group photo from 1969. Photo courtesy of the Drawings + Documents Archive.
N.O.M.A.S.
By Kyle Miles, NOMAS President

The National Organization of Minority Architecture Students is a society based on unity and culture. Our mission is to champion diversity within the design professions by promoting the excellence, community engagement, and professional development of its members. We look to inform the world that minority professionals have the talent and capabilities to perform in design and construction with any other group. What if you don’t view yourself as a minority? Don’t feel discouraged; that doesn’t mean you are excluded. This year we plan to really demonstrate how people of all descents can come together and show harmony with one another to display one voice.

Upcoming Events:
-NOMA National Conference, Oct. 15-17 in New Orleans, LA

This year we plan to be involved in the Muncie community doing various volunteer works for multiple associates. More information about volunteer work will be provided at the meetings once we have established it.

Want to join Ball State’s chapter of NOMAS? Want to be on the executive board? Want to just check it out and find out a little more? Come to our meetings every Monday after studio from 5-6pm. For more information, contact our chapter’s new president, Kyle Miles, at kmiles@bsu.edu.

A.I.A.S.
By Logan Richmond, AIAS President

Architecture student? Want to get involved with a student group within CAP? Come join AIAS! A club for architecture students, ran by architecture students, AIAS is looking for you to get involved. You might be wondering what is AIAS exactly? AIAS stands for the American Institute of Architecture Students. We are a student organization geared toward empowering our members to get involved and learn more about the profession. Some different events and activities that we do to engage members are: Firm Crawls, YAF Round Table, After Hours workshops, and National Conferences, as well as small informational meetings following studio. Ok, so now that we have briefly covered the WHO and WHAT we are, it is time for the WHEN, WHERE, WHY, and HOW.

There is no better time to get involved with AIAS than now! Getting involved with AIAS as soon as possible will give you more opportunities to participate in our member exclusive events! Go online to aias.org and click on the “Membership” tab. After clicking the membership tab, scroll down and begin registration by selecting whether you are a New Member (“Join AIAS”) or Back For More (“Renew Now”). Be sure to select that you want to become part of Ball State University’s chapter and finally, pay the dues. Dues are good through the entire school year and go toward supporting our local chapter as well as our national chapter to keep students like you involved in a wide variety of activities.

Once you have completed your registration, be sure to send a screenshot of your confirmation page to AIAS@bsu.edu. Not only is this student organization going to help you with gaining connections to firms and help you better understand the transition from academics to the profession, but the organization is a great resume booster. Firms, graduate schools, scholarship committees, etc. love to see that you are getting involved in school. If you have any questions about events or becoming a member, feel free to get in contact with any of the AIAS Executive members: Logan Richmond, Jared Monce, Tyler Bracht, Michael DePrez, Georgia Pogas, Zach Bradby, or Nicole Schendl or emailing us at aias@bsu.edu. We hope to hear from you soon!

S.C.A.S.L.A.
By Jim Zheng, SCASLA President

Welcome back to another exciting year of school. My name is Jim Zheng and I am the current president of SCASLA. I along with the rest of my executive board would like to invite you to join SCASLA! If you do not know what ASLA is, it is a nationally recognized organization that many of our professors are a part of. Luckily for us, we have a student chapter here! There are many reasons to join SCASLA. It is a great resume builder, connects you to professional networks, presents jobs and internship opportunities, and is a great way to connect with the rest of the LA department. As a club, we partake in many service opportunities in the community and around campus. For example, in the past two years SCASLA has been part of creating two community gardens in downtown Muncie. This year we
hope to start work on our third! Our club also offers many opportunities to succeed as a student. Throughout the year we offer professional and student lectures, hands-on workshops, and many other skill-building exercises to better prepare you for the professional world.

If you are interested in joining SCASLA, come check out our meetings every other Monday at 5pm in AB 101. Feel free to contact myself or the vice president if you have any further questions. Hope to see you at our meetings and have a great rest of the year!

Contact information:
President: Jim Zheng jzheng@bsu.edu
Vice President: Kristen Alexa kealexa@bsu.edu

S.L.A.
By Steve Himebrook, SLA President

Purpose:

CAP’s Tau Chapter of Sigma Lambda Alpha (SLA) was established in 1981. SLA is an honor society that encourages, recognizes, and celebrates the academic excellence of its members as they prepare for a career in Landscape Architecture. With a strong sense of leadership and excellence, members aim to preserve the valuable traditions and customs through thoughtful stewardship of the land, while also fostering a spirit of amiability among those of notable ability within the profession.

Eligibility:

Each year the society invites students from both the undergraduate and graduate programs in Landscape Architecture to become members. Qualifying for membership are students who have consistently demonstrated academic excellence within their Landscape Architecture program here in CAP. Undergraduates who have achieved an academic standing as a third year BLA student (or higher) and sustain a 3.2 GPA, are eligible for membership. Graduate students who have completed at least one-third of their MLA degree credits, and sustain a 3.5 GPA are also eligible for membership. Students who accept their invitation to Sigma Lambda Alpha provide a one-time fee, securing their lifetime membership.

Major Activities:

SLA members provide volunteer services to various CAP and Department of Landscape Architecture extra-curricular activities. Some of these include becoming volunteers for local river clean-up events and local environmental conservation initiatives and conferences. SLA frequently organizes a professional improvement workshop that focuses on successful interview behavior and etiquette in meal settings. Of special note are SLA’s recent initiatives to provide home-schooled youth with nature journaling and sketching workshops, while promoting landscape architecture as a career option. Allied with many other CAP scholastic and professional-based student organizations, SLA provides unique opportunities for landscape architecture students to contribute to environmental stewardship initiatives and provide mentorship to others for the purpose of academic improvement.

S.P.A.
By Sam Wiser, SPA President

The Student Planning Association is the Ball State College of Architecture and Planning’s student branch of the American Planning Association. It allows urban planning students of all years, as well as interested first year students, to get together to further their knowledge of urban planning, get to know their fellow future planners, and help out in their community. Events out in the community such as Habitat for Humanity builds and the Future Cities program at Burris Academy allow urban planning students, or anyone interested in planning issues, to understand how to better the communities in which they live and to interact with the kind of people they will work with every day in their careers.

This year, the executive board consists of President Sam Wiser, Vice President Jade Broadnax, Treasurer Andres Nieto, and Media Coordinator Dustin House. The Student Planning Association also chooses studio representatives who act as mediators between SPA and each year’s studios, allowing as many people as possible the opportunity to shape the organization. SPA will be holding a second meeting September 23rd.
which will outline some of the exciting events planned for fall semester, including the upcoming Habitat for Humanity, Living Lightly Fair, a collaboration party on Professor Dunaway’s Michigan Trip, the MPO Conference and the alumni mentor program. Elections for studio representatives as well as the second-year only secretary position will be held. We encourage all who are interested to attend and, if so inclined, to run for positions within the organizations.

A.S.H.P.
By Ryan Hamlett, ASHP President

Associated Students for Historic Preservation (ASHP) isn’t just for HP minors and grads, nor is it only for CAP students! ASHP is a student organization for anyone interested in learning more about preserving our architectural and cultural heritage. We meet once a month in the preservation studio room, Architecture Building room 219, but also take trips outside of Muncie to see adaptive rehab and preservation projects in and around Indiana.

It’s our goal to help change the perception of preservation, that it’s not an unnecessary hobby that stands in the way of progress but instead an important part of both environmental and cultural conservation. We hope that we can do our part to convince people that historic preservation is as much about planning for the future as it is protecting our past.

E.G.B.
By Molly Schultz, EGB President

Emerging Green Builders (Affectionately known as EGB) is the official Ball State student chapter of the USGBC (U.S. Green Building Council). Our chapter promotes green design principles throughout the College of Architecture and Planning, Ball State University, Muncie community, and the state of Indiana. Although we are based in CAP, we are a multi-disciplinary group so welcome students from any and every major who are interested in getting involved! Together, we discuss passive design and renewable energy, as it relates to the world around us, in order to become the future leaders in the green building industry.

We regularly take tours of LEED certified buildings and other sustainability-related sites such as aquaponics facilities, receive lectures from practicing architects and LEED APs, organize our own community events such as Critical Mass and days of service, and get involved in the community by volunteering at Habitat for Humanity. This year we are planning to build our very own recycled pavilion on campus made out of plastic bottles. After the pavilion is up, we also plan to hold a carnival fundraiser using only games made out of re-purposed/recycled materials on Saturday, October 17th. Some of the suggested games include ski ball, ring toss, jenga, toy car races, ping pong, corn hole, etc... Our goal is to get student’s attention about their effect on the waste stream and also educate them about re-purposing materials that otherwise would be thrown away.

We have a lot of opportunities to get involved in and even some leadership positions in the upcoming semester. So come to our meetings the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 5pm in the 1st floor atrium of CAP to help out and learn more about what we do! You can also visit our website at http://usgbcbsu.wix.com/bsu-egb for our calendar, contact information, and updates on events.
FIRST YEAR WOODSHOP TRAINING COURSE

By Lynne Usdowski, Graduate Student of Architecture

Get ready first-years! According to Josh Coggeshall, associate professor at CAP, all first-year students will take a basic shop safety class that will cover the typical “dos” and “don’ts” of the woodshop. Students will learn how to appropriately work with tools such as table saw, sander, planer, jointer, ban saw, and drill press. The seminar will also include an important reminder to students about wearing earplugs and necessary eye protection. In sum, the goal of providing a training seminar like this one to first year students is creating an environment where students and staff can work together safely and efficiently.

The CAP Woodshop with Shop Attendant Steve Mahon. Photo by Lynne Usdowski.