



Greetings & News 2014



Dr. Ruth Tofle
Department Chair

Dear friends, We are blessed to work with exceptionally talented students and faculty. They are creating meaningful places for people while their work is placed between the world of physical realities and the imaginary. Our good news stories of 2014 are a result of high energy, serious commitment, and amazing creativity. I am well aware how these educational experiences and achievements are possible because of your friendship, generosity, and involvement. I am thankful to you. Together we are making a positive difference in our communities and our world.

PEOPLE | PLACE
CONNECTING
INTERIOR DESIGN | ARCHITECTURE

The Department of Architectural Studies' high ranking CIDA interior design program was again cited in the **TOP FIVE of INTERIOR DESIGN PROGRAMS IN THE MIDWEST FOR 2015**. *DesignIntelligence* conducts an annual study of "America's Best Architecture & Design Schools" during the summer months and the results are reported in November. This year 1,426 U.S. firms and organizations employing architecture, design, and landscape architecture professionals participated in this year's research.

New Beginnings...



New students entering our professional program participated in an intense orientation the week before the Fall semester began. Arranged by **Lyria Bartlett**, the orientation included meeting with faculty and experiences in team building and problem solving using the University's Venture Out Complex used in athletic training. Students climbed the 60 foot Alpine Tower and they maneuvered the Odyssey High Ropes Course. The Odyssey structure is designed for teambuilding 30 feet off of the ground and ends with a zip-line or rappelling. **Dr. Ruth Tofle** took the challenge and joined students on the high ropes. In Ruth's words, " This is continuing education! "



Students Design City of Columbia Bus Shelters

MU Architectural Studies is partnering with CoMET/PedNet and the City of Columbia on an exciting community project. Led by **Michael Goldschmidt**, students in the Sustainable Technologies class proposed bus shelter designs to meet criteria outlined by COMO Connect (formerly Columbia Transit), the Office of Sustainability, and the Office of Cultural Affairs. Shelters were required to be sustainable, modular, fully accessible, attractive to riders, and include components that allow for public art. Seven concepts were presented and made available for public input and voting. The winning design (pictured here) will be built throughout the city.



Dr. Schwarz Takes Students to Fallingwater

Twelve students joined **Dr. Benjamin Schwarz** on a week-long trip to Fallingwater in Pennsylvania during their Summer Design Studio. The students sketched and completed several exercises as part of the workshop that was led by the educational staff on site that included our online doctoral student, **Roy Young**. Roy is a curator of Education at Fallingwater. Along with the visit to the renowned house, the group visited two other houses designed by Frank Lloyd Wright: the Kentuck-Knob House in Pennsylvania and the Westcott House in Springfield, Ohio.

Undergraduate Research Projects

Our Department had the largest number of students receiving competitive funding from the HES College for undergraduate research. The College and Department invest in the **Program for Undergraduate Research Experience (PURE)**. Students work side by side with faculty as they learn new research skills and conduct research. Undergraduate students also present their research work at local, national, and international conferences—some achieving honors and publications.



Graduate Student Programs

The department's graduate program offers an online masters and PhD in environment and behavior. Professors from many design programs across the country are eager to advance their credentials through our distance learning program. Distance learners are encouraged to come to campus for one week in June for the summer workshop. While the department can accept a limited number of graduate students because of the individualized instruction involved in graduate education, there were over 120 inquires since January.

The Department is now launching its new online graduate **Design Research Concentration**. Online coursework can be stand-alone or apply to a graduate degree. The Annual Fall 2014 HES Statistical Review reports the Department granting 37 undergraduate degrees, seven masters degrees, and three doctoral degrees. See <http://arch.missouri.edu/academics.html>



Mr. Watkins Manages Building Technology Lab

Ben Watkins began as manager of the building technology lab this Fall Semester. Ben was eager to install a *SawStop* table saw we believe to be the safest on the market. The blade carries a small electrical signal, which the safety system continually monitors.



Landmarks, Nodes, Pathways

Ehsan Naderi, a doctoral student in the Design with Digital Media program, designed two murals at entrance points in Stanley Hall. Using Kevin Lynch's theory of navigation, a proposed third mural will be of pathways and edges.

Our Advisory Board is Working with Faculty and Students...



The September Advisory Board met in our newly renovated Gwynn Lounge. It was good to be back in our historic quarters with its new finishes, furnishings, and lighting. Special thanks go to **Marcia and Robert Healy** who contributed to the renovation and also sponsored the Fall Lectureship featuring Jon Otis. Board members participated in individual mock interviews of student portfolios and led a Forum with all students to provide professional guidance. See roster of members: http://arch.missouri.edu/people_advisory.html



The Spring Advisory Board featured Ron Rochon, AIA (Miller Hull Partnership in Seattle) gave the 2014 Carol Ann Williams Lecture in Design. The lecture was held in conjunction with the MU Architectural Studies Advisory Board meeting. Following the lecture and meeting, Ron Rochon and advisory board members participated in student critiques.



The Fall Advisory Board featured Jon Otis, Professor, Interior Design/EDI, Pratt Institute “Intimate Space: Defining Public & Private Intimacy” as part of the Marcia Wehrle Healy & Robert N Healy Interior Design & Architecture Lecture Series.

We are Connecting with Our Community...



Great Plains ADA Center Joins Department

The federally grant funded Great Plains ADA Center joined the Department of Architectural Studies October 1, 2014. With the leadership of Jim deJong, Executive Director, the Center's mission is to provide professional, quality information and services on the Americans with Disabilities Act. MU Extension CEU's will be offered. The staff services individuals, families and entities of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. We look forward to many fruitful collaborations in the future. See: <http://www.gpadacenter.org/>



Hosting HERA Conference

University of Missouri Extension and Department faculty hosted the 2014 Housing Education & Research Association (HERA) conference October 5-8, 2014: "*Revitalization, Sustainability...and All That Jazz*" in Kansas City, Missouri. We also hosted the organization's first meeting in 1965 and its 25th Silver Anniversary meeting in 1990. Colleen Starkloff gave a keynote address, "Universal Design: Preparing the Next Generation of Designers to Change How We Live in the New Millennium."



iLab Featured in Local Newspapers

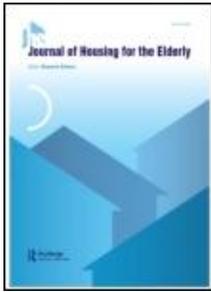
Open houses held at the Immersive Visualization Lab was recently featured in the Columbia Missourian and the Columbia Tribune. After the April HES Open House, guests were invited to experience the wide array of visualization tools available to students, teachers and researchers. These open houses have attracted collaborators from Engineering, Journalism, and School of Medicine. **Dr. Balakrishnan** and **Dr. D'souza's** research in the **iLab** has attracted over \$300,000 in grants this year. These grants, in addition to supporting graduate students, will significantly enhance the visualization infrastructure by implementing high-end video conferencing, multi-actor motion capture, advanced virtual reality software, a variety of latest 3-D display devices as well as eye tracking and psychophysiological measurement. This will position iLab as a unique research and teaching facility with capabilities for advanced visualization, behavioral simulation and measurement, all under one roof.



Dr. Ronn Phillips Delivers "Last Lecture"

Dr. Ronn Phillips began his career at MU in September, 1985 and began his retirement September, 2014. To honor his contributions, we invited students, alumni, and friends to his "Last Lecture" delivered on the last day of the Spring Semester. At the lecture Dr. Tofle said, "Ronn understands how buildings are made, doesn't miss a graduation, and has many devoted alumni as fans. He donated his personal hand tools to begin our building technology lab and he also recruited our first class of online graduate students—both of which have made a significant difference to our department". The event was well attended by alumni and friends wishing him well in his future endeavors.

Our Faculty are Actively Involved...



Dr. Schwarz Continuing Editor of *Housing for the Elderly*

As Editor of the *Journal of Housing for the Elderly*, **Dr. Ben Schwarz** works with colleagues across the globe to publish four issues each year. The current special issue is an international collection of papers from Scandinavia entitled Northern Light on Housing for Older Adults. Outstanding special issues are reprinted as books. Dr. Schwarz has been the Editor for the past 14 years and the publisher is Taylor & Francis. **Dr. Ruth Tofle** serves as an Associate Editor.



Dr. D'souza Wins International Teaching Awards

Dr. Newton D'souza was selected by MU to represent the campus in international teaching competitions at the International Conference on College Teaching and Learning in Jacksonville, Florida. We are pleased to report he brought home top prizes. He received the 2014 Ernest L. Boyer International Award for Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology. In addition, he received the 2014 Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology Award.



Dr. Balakrishnan Selected for Reynolds Journalism Fellowship

As a Reynolds Fellow, **Dr. Bimal Balakrishnan** is exploring the potential applications (and challenges) of 3-D technology for the journalism and advertising industry. He is one of the two faculty fellows this year selected from outside of journalism to receive this fellowship. His work with graduate students in the **iLab** investigates how techniques developed for architectural visualization and entertainment could enable stories to be presented in a more innovative, interactive and immersive manner.



Mr. Goldschmidt appointed National Program Director

Providing national leadership, **Mike Goldschmidt** is directing the Healthy Homes Partnership (HHP), a national initiative to reduce health and safety hazards in American homes. The HHP, which is funded by the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Goldschmidt's job will be to coordinate healthy homes curriculum and training throughout the United States and coordinate states receiving federal grants for outreach, education and research. See: <http://extension.missouri.edu/insider/>



Dr. Kutty is Studying Places Where People Learn

Dr. Asha Kutty and **Dr. Newton D'Souza** are evaluating informal study spaces on Mizzou's campus. The project has completed its first stage with an analysis of a university-wide survey of study behaviors of undergraduate students and their preferred study spaces.

Dr. Kutty teaches *ArchSt2100 Understanding Architecture and the American City* to Freshmen as a general education class. This term there were 179 students from many majors across campus enrolled in her class.

Alumni Strengthen Our Program to Help Our Students

We are thankful to our generous alumni. With their gifts reaching endowment distribution levels in 2014, we thank **Tracy Stearns, Susan Lordi Marker, Betty Ann Cortelyou, and Cynthia Adams Francis**. We are grateful for your investment in our aspiring designers.



Best wishes to you and your loved ones for a new year filled with peace, health, and joy.

We Serve Students on Campus and off Campus...

Our 2014 Fall semester staff is a talented and energetic group of full time faculty, part-time practicing professionals, graduate students, an administrative assistant, and now includes our new colleagues at the Great Plains ADA Center.

Department Teachers, Researchers and Staff: Ruth Tofle, Ben Schwarz, Newton D'souza, Bimal Balakrishnan, Mike Goldschmidt, Asha Kutty, Lyria Bartlett, Ben Watkins, Nick Peckham, Jerry Thompson, Lisa Goldschmidt, Jason Waters, Elke Altenburger, James Hopfenblatt, Michael Lam, Janna Lancaster, Art Mehrhoff, Ehsan Naderi, Benjamiin Schrimf, Rachel Siefert, Dawn Van Scoik, and Julie Shea.

Great Plains ADA Center Staff: Jim de Jong, Chuck Graham, Julie Brinkhoff, Troy Balthazor, Mike Edwards, Ray Petty, Rich Sternadori, Lisa Tucker, and Martha Jennings.

Stay in Touch by keeping your contact information current with us. Using our email list, we can email you this Holiday Letter, job opportunities, and more. Email Department Chair, Ruth Tofle at TofleR@missouri.edu or Senior Director of Advancement, Nancy Schultz at SchultzN@missouri.edu.

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