University of Missouri
Department of Architectural Studies, College of Human Environmental Sciences

Sustained Scholarship
Selected Benchmark Dates and Program Accomplishments

2016 Sixteen PhD programs are listed by the Interior Design Educators Council. MU is the only program offering both the Masters and PhD online. Program was the first online doctoral program at MU. Of the 28 PhD completions since 2003 when the online program began, fourteen were online students, four utilized a combination of online and resident instruction, and 10 were resident students. Forty-one PhD’s were granted since the program’s beginning.

2016 Great Plains ADA Center $5 million grant renewal (pending) with Health and Human Services – with home base in the Department of Architectural Studies. Center is known for its National ADA Symposium and in 2016 the symposium had 900 attendees.

2016 Ben Schwarz received MU Graduate Faculty Mentor Award.
2016 Alumna donation by Cynthia Adams Francis invests in renovation of 232 Stanley to become Cynthia Adams Francis Collaboration Lab for synchronous graduate education.


2016 Bimal Balakrishnan, Collaborator (Design and Visualization Training), National Science Foundation Research Traineeship (NRT) Program for NRT-IGE: A test bed for STEM graduate student communication training ($487,468 for 2015-2017; PI – Jack Schultz)


1 Academic scholarship in this listing omits the following: service to professional organizations, conference presentations and proceedings, creative exhibitions, and invitational lectures. Only selected book chapters and internal grants are noted. Scholarship of publications of “then-current” faculty and graduate students are included when related to interior design education.
2016 Fourteen interior design faculty members who are graduate alumni or current graduate students gathered at IDEC meeting in Portland, Oregon.

2015 Jan Parker is third Dean received MU Doctorate benefitting from online program. See video at http://arch.missouri.edu/academics_online2.html. Brian Sinclair at the University of Calgary was first, Ellen Fisher at the New York School of Interior Design was second to benefit from online doctoral program.


2015 DesignIntelligence (Nov/Dec 2015) ranks our MU interior design program #4 in the Midwest among interior design programs in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. The DesignIntelligence survey reports 2,237 U.S. firms and organizations employing design professionals who participated in the ranking.

2015 The Journal of Interior Design reports fifteen doctoral dissertations during the 2014-2015 academic year (Park, 2015). Our department has the highest number with six PhD completions. The department continues to offer the only online doctoral program among its peers. Three of the six completing MU doctoral students were Mizzou–Online distance students.


2015 Tilanka Chandrasekera, MU alum and former graduate teaching assistant receives Council for Interior Design Accreditation Award for Excellence –Honorable Mention.


2015 Doctoral Dissertation completed by online student Kandace Fischer, “Images of community crime in Ferguson, Missouri: Older adults perspectives prior to July 2014” is a study completed one month before the shooting of Michael Brown. Dissertation is in press to be published as a book. Kandace’s experience as an online student is featured at http://arch.missouri.edu/academics_online2.html


2014  Department’s online program was selected and identified by MizzouOnline as being “exemplary.” News story in the video at http://arch.missouri.edu/academics_online2.html is presented to Board of Curators System-wide.

2014  Ronn Phillips receives Graduate Faculty Mentor Award.


2014  Tilanka Chandrasekera, MU doctoral student and former graduate teaching assistant receives Council for Interior Design Accreditation Future Visionary of Interior Design Education Award while Ast Professor at Oklahoma State University and completing his doctoral degree.

2014  Newton D’souza wins Ernest L Boyer International Award for Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology. He also received the 2014 Innovated Excellence award.

2014  The Great Plains ADA Center joined the Department October 1, 2014. Established in 1991 with the leadership of Jim de Jong, Executive Director, the Center’s mission is to provide professional, quality information and services on the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is funded by a five-year, $5 million federal grant awarded in 2011. The center serves people and organizations within Missouri, Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska.

2014  Bimal Balakrishnan, Co-Principal Investigator, University of Missouri System Interdisciplinary Intercampus (IDIC) Research Grant - Informatic and Architectural Analysis of Human Performance in a Clinical Simulation Setting ($94,640 for 2014-2015, PI – Mark Hoffman, Univ. of Missouri Kansas City Center for Health Insights)

2014  Bimal Balakrishnan, Joint-Principal Investigator, University of Missouri Mizzou Advantage Research Grant – Immersive, interactive, integrative: Envisioning media of the future in 3-Dimensions. ($130,795 for 2014-2016, Joint PI – Clyde Bentley)

2014  Newton D’souza wins Excellence in Teaching with Technology Award, Graduate & Professional Teaching Category, Educational Technologies. MU.

2013  Tilanka Chandrasekera, MU doctoral student and former graduate teaching assistant receives Council for Interior Design Accreditation receives Innovative Education Award while Ast Professor at Oklahoma State University and completing degree at MU.
2013 Most Admired Educator Ruth Tofle. One of **top 30 educators in U.S.** *(DesignIntelligence. P.15)*. This same year she was selected by the MU Alumni Association for the Distinguished Faculty Award.

2013 The University of Missouri Alumni Association honored Ruth Tofle with the *Distinguished Faculty Award*.


2012 Emily Roberts completes online PhD and is first to complete concentration in gerontology from Great Plains Interactive Distance Education Alliance (IDEA) with MU as member.

2012 Ruth Tofle, Bimal Balakrishnan, Newton Dsouza Joint-Principal Investigators, University of Missouri – Mizzou Online for New Online Masters Concentration in Design Research. **Significant grant invests in infrastructure for synchronous online graduate education with MizzouOnline.** ($178,000 for 2012-2014)

2012 Newton Dsouza and Bimal Balakrishnan receive Mizzou Advantage Network Grant for Creative Convergence Network (CCN): International Symposium on Assessment and Facilitation of Creativity in New Media. ($25,000 for 2012-2013)


2012 Bimal Balakrishnan receives MU **Superior Graduate Faculty Award**.

2012 Bimal Balakrishnan receives **MU Excellence in Education Award**

2011 Ellen Fisher completes PhD online. Ellen will become Dean, New York School of Interior Design.


2011 **Ranked #4 "Most Admired Graduate Program". "Cited for its distance education program and the number of alumni who are in well-placed academic programs."** *(DesignIntelligence. P. 41).*

2011 Most Admired Educator Benyamin Schwarz. One of **top 25 educators** in U.S. *(DesignIntelligence. P. 49).*


2011 Balakrishnan, Bimal receives **Teaching with Technology Award**, for Graduate and Professional Education, ET@MO, University of Missouri, 2011-2012.
2011 Dsouza receives Journal of Design Studies Best Paper Award.
2010 Bimal Balakrishnan leads effort in establishing Immersive Visualization Lab, a virtual reality facility to support stereoscopic 3-dimensional visualization and design collaboration.
2009 Ranked 11th in the International Solar Decathlon Competition building a solar home with MU Science and Technology on the Washington Mall (U.S. Green Building Council competition). House receives most visited award with 21,402 people. Second place was the house built by Spain with 21,313 visits.


2008 Doctoral student Ji Young Cho receives **First Place Award in Interior Design by the Interior Design Educators Council**.

2008 **First online doctoral program on campus** grants two doctorates to online students Lisa Tucker and Brian Sinclair.


2006 Bostick, J.E., Aud, M. A., Parker-Oliver, D., Schwarz, B., Tofle, R.B., Garret, L. J., Williams, S. Staff Perceptions in Special-Care Units. *Long-Term Care Interface*. Jan 2006

2006 First offering of graduate student summer workshop. Online students are strongly encouraged to come to campus. This is an annual event when online students come to campus and meet resident colleagues and faculty.


2007 Interdisciplinary Center on Aging. READ Award. “Understanding the Meaning of Color Environments among the Elderly: A Virtual Environment Exploratory Study.” Yoon, SY (PI), Laffey, (Co-I), Schwarz, B. (Co-I), Tofle, R. (Co-I), Aud, M. (Co-I) $8,000.

2006 The John A. Hartford Foundation and RAND. Two-year grant for the development of a new center focused on **improving the health of older adults through innovative, interdisciplinary research**. Leaders: Marilyn Rantz, PhD, MSN and Steven Zweig, MD, MSPH and the Interdisciplinary Geriatric Health Care Research Center at the University of Missouri, Columbia, MO. $ 200,000

2005 **First online masters student Diana Allison Ingham receives MS**.

2005 Department has the largest doctoral program in the college with **21 students**: 18 online and 3 resident doctoral students. The master’s program had one resident student and nine online students.


On-line distance learning begins in the Spring semester with MU Direct for graduate education. The Department is the first to begin an online doctoral program among schools affiliated with the Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC) in the nation and also first at MU. (Dean Jan Parker and Dr. Lisa Tucker begin doctoral studies.)


So-Yeon Yoon receives Masters degree and continues to work on her PhD and teach in Department. (Note: So-Yeon left MU in 2013 to join Cornell University and in 2014 was the IIDA Educator of the Year.)


1996  Ken Feldman is in first cohort to receive Masters with concentration in design communication.  (He is hired as Sony Art Director.


1991  Committee Member, American Society of Interior Designers Issues Management Task Force.


1990  Ruth Brent receives  *Presidential Citation, American Society of Interior Designers*,


1984 Kate Ellen Roges retires. Ruth Brent (Tofle) becomes Department Chair.


1982 Undergraduate Diana Allison is featured in *New York Times* for her efforts to protest proposed Department cuts. (Diana would receive the first online Masters in 2005 and her PhD in 2009 from the Department.)

1981 *National Endowment for the Arts*. The Study of Two, Three and Four Year Interior Design Programs. Kate Rogers, Principal Investigator; Ruth Brent, Design Research Associate. 1981-83. $31,000.


1975 *Kate Ellen Rogers is first Editor* of *Journal of Interior Design Education and Research* (Later retitled in 2007 as the *Journal of Interior Design*.)
1974  Faculty member Richard Helmick pioneers digital art using computer punch cards on the main frame. He works with Electrical Engineering Department to develop software for art and design application.

1973  **Interior Design program accredited** by the Foundation for Interior Design Education Research (FIDER). The program was in the first group of five programs in the nation to be accredited and has been continually re-accredited since then. Kate Ellen Rogers played a key role in the establishment of FIDER.

1972  **Kate Ellen Rogers invites Henry Sanoff to speak at the first IDEC research conference.** Henry Sanoff was the Founder and Chair (1969-1974) of the Environmental Design Research Association. (EDRA was incorporated in 1972.) The emphasis on environment and behavior becomes a research focus area in the department.

1967  Kate Rogers is doctoral advisor for Dr. Bob Rice. (This education launched his career and Dr. Rice served 20 years as Director of the university’s School of Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Arizona.)

1967  Program chair **Kate Ellen Rogers instrumental in establishment of the Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC).**

1962  Kate Ellen Rogers’ widely acclaimed authored book *The Modern House* is published.

1954  **Interior design program is established** with Kate Ellen Rogers as program chair.