Greetings!

It is with enormous pleasure that I pen this welcome for the third issue of our newsletter, CAUPA Connections. I am especially delighted that we are able to report so many extraordinarily wonderful happenings in CAUPA in spite of the challenges wrought by the increasingly severe fiscal crisis we are experiencing. Our enrollments continue to grow, and our faculty, students, and staff continue to demonstrate academic excellence.

Dr. Efraim Ben-Zadok has continued in his second year as the John M. DeGrove Eminent Scholar and hosted a series of colloquia on climate change, urban planning, growth management and sustainability in Florida, and ethics in the public sector.

This year the college is hosting a visiting Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Romeo Santos, in the School of Architecture. Dr. Santos is a professor of Architecture at the University of the Philippines. Much of his work over the years has been in the socio-urban development and he is here to study the hurricane resiliency of vernacular homes in South Florida.

The School of Public Administration launched the Public Ethics Academy in February 2009. The Academy is headed by Norman Ostrau, faculty member in the School and the former deputy attorney for Broward County.

The final planning project for Urban and Regional Planning alum, Rachel Kalin, is the basis for the new solar roof installation on the Higher Education Complex (HEC) on the Fort Lauderdale campus. The installation was funded by a private gift and funds from Florida Power & Light, the State of Florida Solar Energy System Incentives program and other state funding. The savings on campus utilities will be set aside for scholarships for Urban and Regional Planning students.

James Murley, who has served for many years as the Director of the Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions, was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to Chair the Florida Climate and Energy Commission. He has also been appointed CAUPA's Assistant Dean for External Affairs. In his new role, he will be working with Dr. Leonard Berry, Director of the Center for Environmental Studies and Dr. Jaap Vos, Director of the School of Urban and Regional Planning on a university wide initiative in climate change research.

The FAU Chapter of the American Criminal Justice Association welcomed Mr. Kirk Bloodsworth to campus for a lecture on our criminal justice system. Mr. Bloodsworth was wrongly convicted of murder and sentenced to death in the state of Maryland and is the first death row inmate to be exonerated on the basis of DNA testing.

Dr. Rachel Boba from the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice was awarded the first Excellence in Law Enforcement Research Award by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and Sprint-Nextel. The award was given for her innovative and ongoing research partnership with the city of Port St. Lucie directed at improving police operations and public safety.

The School of Social Work's Dr. Naelys Diaz won the 2009 Undergraduate Teaching Award. She was honored for her outstanding and innovative instructional techniques.

These are just a select handful of the many exciting accomplishments in CAUPA this past year. I invite you to look inside and read about our many wonderful activities.
School of Social Work

On February 26, 2009, the FAU School of Social Work, the Acolyte MSW Student Society, the FAU Social Work Alumni Society, the Phi Alpha Honor Society, and the National Association for Social Workers Florida Chapter cosponsored a Legislative Training for Lobby Day. This training prepared them for effective civic engagement (see: http://www.fau.edu/ssw/lobbyday2009/index.html) for those who visited their legislators in Tallahassee on Lobby Day, March 31, 2009. Special Guest Speaker, Senator Nan H. Rich, was honored by the School of Social Work for sponsoring the Professional Social Worker Identification bill and for her dedication to the social work profession as one of Florida’s leading champions of children and social justice issues.

Kudos to everyone who helped make FAU Lobby Day 2009 a glowing success. Not only did our students meet with many of the leading senators (Nan Rich, Jeff Atwater) and state representatives (Adam Hasner, Ellyn Bogdanoff), but some students also met Governor Crist, Batman, and Wonder Woman. Now that’s super power and empowerment! We were able to leap over steep challenges in a single bound and our social justice efforts were more powerful than a locomotive.

On March 19, 2009 The School of Social Work heard first hand from Lori Jo Baach (Schiller) about living with schizophrenia. Lori Jo was diagnosed after graduating from Tufts University with honors. She is now working full-time in the mental health field, teaches C.I.T. (Crisis Intervention Team) training for the police on how to treat the mentally ill. Lori Jo has been a board member of her local NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) affiliate for 10 years and sits on the Board of Directors of South County Mental Health Center. Lori Jo is well known as Lori Schiller who wrote the book, “The Quiet Room”. Naelys Diaz won the 2009 undergraduate teaching award. Naelys was presented with her award at the Honors Convocation last month by President Brogan. She was honored for her outstanding teaching abilities and SPOT scores.

The Social Work Alumni Society has been holding networking and social events to maintain and extend the bonds of friendship among FAU alumnae. For further Alumni information, see www.fau.edu/ssw/swalumni.html.

In faculty news, Dr. J.J. Choi coauthored “Toward a culturally competent restorative justice practice framework: A focus on Asian Americans” in Families in Society. Dr. Allan Barsky published “An interest-based approach to child protection mediation” in the Social Workers’ Desk Reference. Drs. Michele Hawkins, Woody Hamlin, Naelys Dias, Allan Barsky, Diane Green, and Phil Dybicz were in Philadelphia at the Counsel on Social Work Education conference, presenting workshops.

In new course developments, Dr. Michele Hawkins and Arlene Brown will be escorting a group of students to London as part of FAU’s new international social work offerings. We are also developing a new general studies course in oppression and privilege, as well as a service learning course on social action for incoming freshmen who will be joining a “living-learning community” that focuses on peace and social justice issues.
Implementation of the model in the PSLPD prevention and reduction. improve daily operations related to crime policing scholars, was awarded a grant by In 2003, Boba, along with several other relegation to the lower ranks. "For problem solving to become truly organization’s mission and the day-to-day department. The city is primarily made up mid-level single family homes, and the 120 miles north of Miami with a population of more than 160,000, covering 114 square miles. There has been a significant growth in the number of residences, commercial buildings, and officers in the police department. The city is primarily made up of mid-level single family homes, and the Part I crime rate averages around 2,900 per 100,000. “Our biggest challenge with the model is what we considered ‘normal resistance’ to change in any police organization and the time needed to engage personnel to help them understand and carry out the aspects of the model,” said Boba. Boba received additional funding in 2007 from the COPS Office to share details of the model, the PSLPD evaluation results, considerations and challenges of implementation, and examples of practices with the entire policing community through the publication of a guidebook and training. Because of PSLPD successes, other police agencies have shown interest in the model with some implementing the model and others requesting training and guidance for future implementation. 

Interview on Identity Theft

On March 20, 2009, Miami NBC affiliate WTVJ conducted an on-camera interview with Professor Richard Mangan of the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. The interview, which was conducted on the Boca campus, centered around an increase in Identity Theft during economic downturns and specifically about ATM skimming. Identity thieves place devices on ATM machines that read the credit/debit cards of unsuspecting bank customers and transmit the information to a computer the criminals have in a vehicle a short distance away. Frequently they also place a small, dime-sized camera that records the PIN number of the customer, which now enables the thieves to not only clean out the individual’s account, and to later sell the information to groups that purchase stolen identities.

DNA Evidence Lecture by Kirk Bloodsworth

On March 31, 2009 The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice hosted a lecture by Kirk Bloodsworth. Kirk Bloodsworth was the first death row inmate to be exonerated based on DNA testing. An honorably-discharged U.S. Marine with no criminal record, Bloodsworth was convicted and sentenced to death in Maryland in 1985 for the rape and murder of 9 year old Dawn Hamilton. He spent nine years in prison before DNA testing proved his innocence in 1993. Bloodsworth is the first death row inmate to be exonerated by DNA evidence. Now a program officer for The Justice Project, a nonpartisan organization dedicated to fighting injustice and creating a more humane and just world, Bloodsworth currently travels the country to speak about his ordeal. His story is also chronicled in Bloodsworth: The True Story of the First Death Row Inmate Exonerated by DNA, written by author Tim Junkin. The lecture was funded by the student organization "The FAU Chapter of the American Criminal Justice Association.”
School of Public Administration

Public Ethics Academy Panel on June 17th

On June 17, 2009 from 12 noon to 1:30pm in the School of Nursing auditorium on the Boca campus the academy will present “A Case Study in Voting Conflicts and Gifts: United States of American vs. Mary B. McCarty and Kevin McCarty”, The Criminalization of the Ethics Code.

The panel will include:

**Norman Ostrau**, Director, Public Ethics Academy and former Chair of the Florida Commission on Ethics

**Bruce M. Lyons**, former president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and past chair of the American Bar Association’s Criminal Justice Section.

**Bruce Reinhart**, former prosecutor for the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Southern District of Florida and U.S. Dept. of Justice, Public Integrity Section.

This event is open to the public, those wishing to attend can RSVP to mwilliam@fau.edu.

The Public Procurement Conference of the Americas

Delegates from over 20 countries throughout North, South and Central America participated in the Public Procurement Conference of the Americas which was held in Washington, DC from April 27-29, 2009. Professor Cliff McCue the Director of the Public Procurement Research Center in the School of Public Administration was the Director of Paper Submissions for the conference and Dr. Eric Prier from The School of Political Science was one of the conference advisors. Both also participated as speakers at the conference.

The Public Procurement Conference of the Americas was a three-day conference that provided a forum for discussing government procurement needs and processes within the Americas. Led by an international panel of experts in government procurement, this public-meets-private sector event brought together government, corporate, and academic professionals from throughout the Americas. Through workshops and lectures, participants exchanged best practices and shared efficient methods and standards for acquiring goods and services in an effort to move toward mutually beneficial inter-country procurements.

The conference was originally hosted by the U.S. General Services Administration, the Canadian Commercial Corporation, and the Organization of the American States, and is made possible this year through the support of these entities, as well as the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, Florida Atlantic University, and WG Scorpion. Those in attendance were excited to see a renewed interest in dialogue among the procurement community throughout the Americas. Through this international forum, they were able to address challenges, advance procurement relations, expand markets, and establish shared standards and best practices to achieve significant progress in procurement across borders.

2009 Awards Ceremony

On Friday April 17, 2009 The School of Public Administration held it’s annual awards ceremony. Three items filled the agenda for the afternoon, student scholarships, the induction ceremony into Phi Alpha Alpha and the Adjunct Faculty of the year award.

The following students were awarded scholarships:

**Nadia Mangal**: John Miklos Scholarship ($2500)

**Jennifer Dean**: Jane Thompson Scholarship ($1000)

**Diane Vienne**: John Canada Scholarship ($500)

**Joshua Salazar**: R. B. Johnson Award, graduate ($500)

**Aneta Stepniak**: R. B. Johnson Award, undergraduate ($500)

The next item on the agenda was the induction into the Pi Alpha Alpha honor society. Fifteen students with GPA’s 2.7 or above were inducted two of which were also scholarship recipients.

Last on the agenda was the Adjunct faculty of the year award, this year’s recipient was Dr. John Donohue.

Nadia Mangal receiving her award from Director Hugh Miller on April 17th.
Events of the DeGrove Eminent Scholar Chair

The Chair sponsored three major events this academic year, the opening of the Public Ethics Academy, “Planning Politics & Policy in Florida: Merging Past and Future” and “The Impact of Climate Change on South Florida: Science & Practice for the Next Decade”. All three events were well attended by the public.

On February 4, 2009 The DeGrove Chair and the School of Public Administration hosted the official opening of the Public Ethics Academy. The event was attended by well over 100 people including public officials from all over Broward County. The discussion panelists included James Svara from Arizona State University, Bruce Rogow from Nova Southeastern University, Michael Mayo from the Sun-Sentinel, Nancy Blosser FAU Chair, Board of Trustees and Marco Rubio former Speaker of the Florida House.

Norman Ostrau, a former deputy county attorney for Broward County who served on the Florida Elections Commission, is overseeing the academy on a voluntary basis. Motivated by the parade of elected officials who have found themselves recently charged, or imprisoned, for crimes committed in office, the academy, will research ethics laws, provide ethics training for public officials, develop model legislation, and generally ask the question: “What has made people think the public sector is a place to enrich themselves rather than a place to perform public service?”

On February 24 and 25, 2009 The DeGrove Chair and The School of Urban and Regional Planning presented “Planning Politics & Policy in Florida: Merging Past and Future”. This two day lecture series featured Richard G. RuBino, Professor Emeritus of Urban and Regional Planning, Florida State University and Earl M. Starnes, Professor Emeritus of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Florida.

The lectures were based on the book “Lessons Learned: The History of Planning in Florida” that the two professors co-authored. The lectures and discussions centered around the planning history of Broward County, what we can learn from it and ideas on how to make the future better.

The lectures culminated with a public event on the evening of the 25th that not only featured RuBino and Starnes, but also featured Bob Graham, Former US Senator and Florida Governor (pictured below) who was able to add his views and comments on the subject from the unique view from the Governors Mansion. After the lecture Mr. Graham was on hand to sign his book “Florida: The Next Decade”. All three events were well attended by the public.

On April 3, 2009 The DeGrove Chair and The School of Urban and Regional Planning hosted a conference on climate change titled “The Impact of Climate Change on South Florida: Science & Practice for the Next Decade”. The presenters for the conference were grouped into two panels, with the following participants:

Science Panel
Rising Sea Levels in South Florida: Harold Wanless, Dept. of Geological Sciences, University of Miami
Climate Change in Marine Ecosystems: Marguerite Koch, Dept. of Biology, FAU
Urban Assets at Risk Due to Incremental Sea Level Rise: Diana Mitsova Boneva, School of Urban and Regional Planning, FAU.

Practice Panel
National Initiatives in Climate Change Adaptation: Dan Kimball, Everglades National Park
State Actions to Adapt to Climate Change: Jim Murley, Florida Energy and Climate Commission
Regional and Local Government Responses: Carolyn Dekle, South Florida Regional Planning Council
Water Supply in South Florida: Frederick Bloetscher, Dept. of Civil Engineering, FAU

The John M. DeGrove Chair was established in 1989 in honor of Dr. DeGrove who led growth management in Florida and the United States for decades. The original donation from an anonymous source was combined with other donations and the Florida Legislature’s matching gift program to fund the chair. The essence of these programs lies in Dr. DeGrove’s own work. A leading authority in planning and public administration, DeGrove directed the FAU/FIU Joint Center for Environmental and Urban Problems from 1971 to 1998 with vision and passion. He saw the Center as an applied research and public service unit that reached out to other state universities and, through his involvement in efforts to manage growth and change around the nation and beyond, draw ideas from national and international growth strategies. He further summed up the task commenting on the new Eminent Scholar Chair which he held for one year upon his retirement in 2000: “Whether it’s called smart growth, building sustainable urban and rural communities, or managing growth and change, the heart of the challenge is to plan carefully for the growth that has and will continue to come in Florida.”

Dr. Efraim Ben-Zadok is the current John M. DeGrove Eminent Scholar in Growth Management and Development and a Professor in Public Administration. In 1989, he joined the faculty of the College of Architecture, Urban and Public Affairs at Florida Atlantic University. Since then he has served as Director of the Ph.D. Program for the School of Public Administration; Director of Graduate Studies for the College; Co-Director of the Florida-Israel Institute - a Florida State University System international linkage institute; and a visiting scholar at the Amsterdam Study Centre for the Metropolitan Environment, University of Amsterdam. Ben-Zadok began his academic career at Tel Aviv University and thereafter at the State University of New York.

The current focus of the DeGrove Chair is on interdisciplinary urban-regional research. The interdisciplinary purpose lies in promoting research with emphasis on architecture, design, planning, policy, intergovernmental administration, criminology, criminal justice, social welfare, and human services. The urban-regional purpose lies in promoting research with emphasis on growth management, sustainable development, and smart growth, especially in emerging urban-regions like South Florida. The advancement of interdisciplinary urban-regional research is central to the mission of the CAUPA. The College and the South Florida region thus serve as ideal home for the DeGrove Eminent Scholar Chair.

For more information on the DeGrove Eminent Scholar Chair please see the web site at http://www.fau.edu/caupa/eminentscholar. Excerpts of this article were taken from the web site.
Broward Community Design Collaborative

Subtropical Cities Conference to be hosted by FAU in 2011

CAUPA’s Broward Community Design Collaborative (BCDC) at FAU will be the host venue for the biennial Subtropical Cities Conference in the spring of 2011. Being held in partnership with The Centre for Subtropical Design at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), this prestigious interdisciplinary conference will bring together leading scholars, thinkers, and practitioners from around the world to address the multi-faceted and interconnected problems of the subtropical city.

The Centre for Subtropical Design at Queensland University of Technology (QUT), in Brisbane, a leading Australian university and leader in collaborative industry research and teaching, inaugurated the international conference on Subtropical Cities in 2006. “The Centre is particularly interested in the interaction and integration amongst climate, landscape, and human culture as a starting point for achieving sustainable urban place-building and supports long-term and resilient approaches to energy and water resources,” according to Rosemary Kennedy, director of the Centre. The 2006 conference embraced subtropical cities around the world and shed light, according to Dr. Helen Armstrong, on the commonality of shared problems of subtropical “cities at breaking points socially and environmentally, challenging the notion of subtropical cities as lazy, relaxed places where the living is easy.”

Thus the second conference, in 2008, themed “Fault Lines” focused broadly on forging new connections with place, landscape, and ways to work with communities in a renewed form of engaged citizenship to address the need for resiliency to confront the challenges for subtropical urbanism.

The upcoming 2011 Conference will focus on similarly universal themes and solutions.

“The Centre for Subtropical Design in collaboration with the CAUPA’s Broward Community Design Collaborative (BCDC) are in the early stages of organizing the third international Subtropical Cities Conference in Fort Lauderdale,” according to Anthony Abbate, Associate Professor in the School of Architecture, and director of the BCDC. “This form of collaboration is significant because it demonstrates that our problems, at once local and global in scale and scope, require that we all identify and work together with colleagues who share a concern for urban and environmental issues unique to subtropical cities.”

A joint QUT-CAUPA committee will be formed to work collaboratively to identify the theme and goals for the 2011 conference and determine the program. The committee will also appoint an academic review committee to secure papers, appoint reviewers, select papers for the program, and co-ordinate subsequent publication of proceedings, ensure all physical and technical requirements for the conference to international standards, establishing a website and electronic registration process, supervise the conduct and content of the program and evaluate the quality of the conference, and propose strategies to improve conferences held in subsequent years.

Institute for Design and Construction

FAU’s Institute for Design and Construction in the School of Architecture and the Florida Department of Corrections have been providing training classes at Polk Correctional Institution in Polk City, Florida since May of 2006. Since then IDaC (formally the Florida Institute for Safety and Construction) has graduated 270 students in the Construction Project Coordinator Certificate Program in the state prison program.

The Construction Project Coordinator Certificate Program has been developed in partnership with the American Society of Professional Estimators. Classes have been offered at FAU Campuses since 1995. Courses are taught by experienced Master Estimators from the Society featuring practical, effective teaching for persons ready to enter the estimation profession or the construction industry in general.

The program is of value to students because they gain skills that are immediately applicable on the job. And, they do so in a relatively short length of time.

It is, therefore, of great value for inmates who need another chance to enter the workforce once they are released.

The prison program is funded by a Federal Grant named The Specter Grant (after the bill’s sponsor, Arlen Specter.) The Grant is designed to provide “youthful offenders” (25 years old or younger) with job skills that will help them find gainful employment upon release thus reducing recidivism.

FAU has recently renewed its contract with the Department of Corrections for the second time. The latest contract is for three years and expands the program to a second prison in Martin County. We have completed one class under the new contract at Polk CI. The first class at Martin CI is in progress.

FAU’s IDaC projects that it will graduate over 700 inmates over the next three years.
FAU Fort Lauderdale Installs City’s First Large-Scale Solar Roof Project on Higher Education Complex Building

Florida Atlantic University’s School of Urban and Regional Planning in the College of Architecture, Urban and Public Affairs, Florida Governor Charlie Crist, FAU President Frank T. Brogan and community leaders unveiled downtown Fort Lauderdale’s first large-scale solar roof installation today on FAU’s Higher Education Complex (HEC) building, Fort Lauderdale campus.

“Florida’s universities are taking a leadership role in the state’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the use of renewable energy technologies,” said Governor Crist (pictured below along with Director Jaap Vos, President Frank Brogan, and Rachel Kalin). “The research done on campuses like FAU not only prepares our future workforce, but it also fosters advances that will lead to more ‘green’ jobs.”

The Photovoltaic Solar Panel installation project, conducted by Advanced Roofing, Inc. and headed by Dr. Jaap Vos, associate professor and director of FAU’s School of Urban & Regional Planning, is funded by a generous private gift from an anonymous donor, as well funds from Florida Power & Light, the State of Florida Solar Energy System Incentives program and other state funding. FAU is the first university in South Florida to implement the solar panel project initiative.

“This is an exciting time for Florida Atlantic University, as we continue to embark on our mission to promote sustainability,” said FAU President Frank T. Brogan. “The solar panel initiative reflects how FAU continues to chart new ground in this mission, serving as a role model in the implementation and success of alternative energy through educational outreach.”

The initiative covers the installation of 240 photovoltaic panels, as well as the future installation of a flat panel display and a “real time” monitoring system in the building to allow users to see the energy produced. The panel is designed to produce 50,000 watts of energy.

Other benefits that the university and environment will reap from the project annually are as follows:

- Reducing between 20 and 25 percent of current energy demand
- Preventing 70,000 pounds of carbon dioxide to be emitted into the atmosphere
- Saving 4,000 gallons of oil
- Preserving more than 4,200 trees
- Providing a pilot for other buildings in the downtown Fort Lauderdale area

A portion of the budget savings from the HEC building utility bills will be used to fund the Sun Fund Scholarship for one graduate student each year in the School of Urban and Regional Planning. This is believed to be the first scholarship of its kind in the nation to be completely paid for by the sun.

Grant Awarded to Diana Mitsova to Study Urban Runoff

Assistant Professor Diana Mitsova and SURP Director Jaap Vos received a research grant in the amount of $46,854 from the FAU Environmental Sciences Everglades Fellowship Initiative funded by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior. The project titled “Seasonal Flushing of Oil and Grease from Urban Runoff to the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve” will fully fund one master’s level student for two years. Although previous studies have documented the presence of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the sediments of Miami River and the Biscayne Bay, the contribution of urban stormwater to the concentrations and loads in the estuarine environment is not yet well understood. In contrast to large oil spills which represent significant but rare and relatively well-studied point sources, the chronic release of low-level PAHs contained in urban runoff to the Bay requires further investigation. The impact of non-point source pollution entering the Biscayne Bay is aggravated by the fact that large amounts of pollutants are discharged with the first large tropical storm at the end of the extended dry season. In addition, polluted runoff enters the Bay along the shorelines where flushing and dilution is sluggish. Significant pollutant loadings delivered to the Bay as a result of the seasonal first flush may affect the productivity of the estuarine ecosystems which harbor many fish and shellfish species, providespawning grounds, nurseries and shellfish beds, and secure a vital link between primary producers and larger marine organisms. The study would provide information that can improve stormwater runoff management from high intensity urban land.
Florida Atlantic Planning Society
Wednesday Lecture Series

It has been a very successful and busy year for the Florida Atlantic Planning Society (FAPS) and the School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP). As President of FAPS, I am very proud to say that this year’s Board did an excellent job of maintaining the tradition of organizing the School’s annual Wednesday Lecture Series. The long-established series, sponsored by SURP and the Broward Section of the American Planning Association, fulfills an integral component of the School’s mission by providing an environment to discuss, develop and disseminate new ideas and concepts. Students, SURP alumni and local planning professionals all attend and are afforded the opportunity to hear professional planners present their most current projects and ideas for the future of planning and South Florida. This year we focused on visionary planning projects from a wide variety of planners and an architect.

The Series’ first installment of the 2008 academic year was held in September and featured Jim Murley, AICP. Mr. Murley presented the Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions’ biannual regional report entitled “Preserving Paradise – SoFlo’s Call to Action”. This report covered demographic and economic trends affecting the 6.2 million people living along the South Florida Region. Based on the report, Mr. Murley explained that there is a need for more regional collaboration in the area; hence, naming his presentation SoFlo: Collaborate or Die. The presentation gave us a perspective on how important it will be for our generation to find the means of working in a collaborative environment within the urban planning profession at a regional level.

For the second lecture, in October, FAPS decided to host a Transportation Panel. This panel included four different aspects of transportation: bicycling, car-pooling, light rail, and tri-rail. The presenters included Robyn Chiarelli from South Florida Commuter Services, Chris Wren who is the Director of the Downtown Development Agency (DDA) in Ft. Lauderdale, and Joseph Quinty from the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA). The interesting concept behind this lecture was to have an interactive session with the students, who were given the opportunity to see the future transportation projects proposed by the different agencies and how these would affect their daily lives. The students discovered both existing and future visions proposed for public transportation in the area.

In November, a standing room-only audience of students, professors, alumni and professionals attended our Wednesday Lecture, which featured architect Bernard Zyscovich, AIA. His firm had been named the 2008 AIA Florida Firm of the Year, along with other prestigious awards. Mr. Zyscovich’s lecture presented his concepts of Real Urbanism and his new master plan for the City of West Palm Beach. He also discussed his recently published book Getting Real About Urbanism: Contextual Design for Cities, which goes into detail about his work in urban planning and design. Mr. Zyscovich is a true visionary, who has designed the new WPB Master Plan based on his extensive experience working on public-private partnerships in Tokyo, Japan. Mr. Schnidman reviewed in detail a few of the projects he worked on and highlighted the lessons we could learn from the collaborative methods used in Tokyo. This brought an international perspective to possible solutions on large-scale developments. The collaboration theme was very prominent, letting us discover that planning projects can not be done only by planners, but in collaboration with many entities and stakeholders. Similarly, our last Wednesday Lecture featured Mr. Gary Rogers, AICP, who serves as Executive Director of the City of Lauderdale Lakes Community Redevelopment Agency. He presented us with a project on State Road 7 in Lauderdale Lakes, which proposes a new Light Rail system with a Multi-use Station that includes housing, retail, and office developments. This project also works with many stakeholders and serves as a prime example of the type of projects planning professionals work on in South Florida.

This year was very eventful and brought many opportunities for the students to learn from and network with planning professionals. We were delighted to find these wonderful speakers, who volunteered their time to come and share with us their extensive knowledge of the field and give us insight into their work. We are very grateful for everything they taught us and for taking the time to invest in the future generation of planners that attend the School of Urban and Regional Planning.
School of Architecture

Architecture Students Design for People in Need

This fall Mate Thitisawat’s Environmental Technology class participated in a socially aware and eco-friendly design project involving two regional non-profit organizations: the Cooperative Feeding Program and the Rebuilding Together Program.

Dave Reierson approached the School with the idea of building a hot shower facility for the Cooperative Feeding Program that provides meals and auxiliary support to people in need. The goal was to design and build six shower stalls to be located near the organizations’ canteen where meals and other services are provided each day.

Through the course of this project, Prof. Thitisawat taught his students about several passive methods of responding to our subtropical climate; daylighting (designing to maximize sunlight use), acoustics, and building service systems (heating, ventilating and air-conditioning [HVAC], plumbing, electrical, transportation, and life safety support).

The students were impressed with the services provided by these two community programs contributing to their enthusiasm and interest in the project. Through this work they learned to incorporate scientific assessment and research in their passive solar designs. They learned to size a rainwater catchment cistern, solar water heating collectors, gutters, leaders, and plumbing. The students’ designs have been very well received by the Programs, the City of Lauderhill, and the neighborhood.

Recently the Lowe’s home improvement stores have agreed to sponsor $10,000 via the Rebuilding Together Program toward the construction of the facilities. The project stakeholders are still seeking additional sponsors. In early February Prof. Thitisawat represented FAU at a meeting with the City of Lauderhill and its Police Department for a discussion of the projects continued development.

Visit Fullbright Scholar Romeo Santos

Romeo Santos, a professor of architecture at the University of the Philippines, is visiting the School of Architecture as a Fulbright visiting scholar this spring. His purpose in coming here is, first, to learn from the FAU architecture community, and second, to conduct research on hurricane resiliency of vernacular houses in South Florida. He will tie this research in with the research he is doing on houses in Thailand and the Philippines. “The task is a bit tough”, he says, “considering that my stay is short, but I know it will give me a lot of perspectives for discovering things that are of value to my research and my teaching”.

The research he is conducting here is only a minor subset of a bigger domain of research in architecture that he is involved in. His early career in practice began in a rather narrow thrust, with the building production & technology side of architecture, however, as years passed by, his practice inclined toward the socio-urban development field. As he become engaged in works dealing with housing and shelter development, both formal and informal, his involvement in the study of poor neighborhoods and urban settlements widened. He began to see how advancement in building technology could be put to better use if it could help find ways to remedy the disparity in the lives of people. This drove him deeper into activities that were more social and urban development in nature.

His 15 years of practice in the building industry has exposed him to the realities of architecture and its links with the wider, reality of the built environment, and the complexities of socio-urban living. Having been personally involved in implementing more than forty building projects of varying natures and complexities, he has experienced how good design intentions do not necessarily translate into good buildings. He also concluded that architecture is not always about beauty, and that beauty in architecture is not a monopoly of select sectors in the society. Even in the most depressed of communities and poor informal settlements, people have their own concept of ‘good’ design and ‘the beautiful’.

For more information on his research and conclusions you are invited to attend his lecture on May 22 at 6:30 pm at the Ft. Lauderdale Art Museum.

08/09 Lecture Series: INTROSPECTION

The School of Architecture has been engaged in a lecture series entitled “Introspection”. The premise of the lecture series is that a critical evaluation of the influences on design through the mindset of the maker is responsible for the result of the architectural project. Topics range from color perception to design to architectural history and more. The series features the school’s faculty and highlights their fields of expertise that are as diverse as they are, who when merged, form the fabric of the school.

Professor Anthony Abbate kicked off the series with his lecture on “The Sustainable Subtropical City: from Conversation to Conservation”. The lecture was presented in a very methodical manner highlighting some of our local designing practices and how they compare to long standing subtropical cities in other countries, and he proposed ways we could learn to improve our own practices. In contrast, Professor Henning Haupt gave the next lecture on “Color in Architectural Design”. Dr. Haupt is an accomplished artist as well as an architect. His view of Architecture can best be defined by his statement “The relationship between color and material is what defines the space”.

(Continued on page 10.)
08/09 Lecture Series: INTROSPECTION continued from page 9

The third lecture of the series was given by Professor Emmanouil Vermisso, titled “Nature within Architecture”; his focus was on biomorphic design, his premise was that analogies of nature can influence architectural design. In a similar vein, Director of the school, Aron Temkin’s lecture titled “Boiling Water”, sought to answer the question, “How can architectural design help reveal the beauty of nature rather then shield us from it?”. He used the Japanese tea ritual as a jump off point to show how buildings can be made in harmony with nature.

Professor Vladimir Kulic gave the fifth lecture titled “Made in Yugoslavia”. Just as the title implies he gave a historical look at architecture in Yugoslavia. He focused on two architects, Vjenceslar Richter and Bogdan Bogdanovic who both were prominent after WW II. Though they were contemporaries their styles were diverse, however their one commonality was underlying political statement. Keeping with a historical theme Professor Ralph Johnson’s lecture “Preserving Architectural and African - American Cultural Heritage” focused on the historical importance of the Gullah/Geechee corridor that runs along the eastern seaboard and extends from North Carolina to Northern Florida. The corridor includes parks and historical sites that document the ravages of slavery.

On a much more technical note Mate Thitisawat highlighted the use of double skin facades as an avenue to regulate air flow in his lecture “Form Follows Performance”. His mathematical approach to the subject was clear in the three line formula he touted as simple. With a similar technical approach Deirdre Hardy in her lecture “Two Colonial Cities a World Apart” presented a technical look at Adelaide, Australia and Savannah Georgia and how the basic planning of the two cities was derived from a similar plan. Moving back to a more theoretical vain, Francis Lynn presented “Tradition and Modernity” in which he expounded on the mixing of traditional components with more modern displays and emphasized that these two styles are not exclusive of each other. Keeping with the idea that boundaries are subjective, John Sandell spoke on “Domain Interaction and the Permeability of Boundaries”. His flow of thought was centered around metaphorical imagery and how the whole suggests something foreign to the individual parts.

Relating to the social aspect of architecture Jean-Martin Caldieron’s lecture “Architecture Without Architects” presented an emotional look at Shanty Towns and the people who live there. He has preformed extensive research in this area and found that these structures are designed to meet the specific needs of the builders/occupants who form a group of squatters and have a sense of community that might not be found in a more formal setting.

Concluding the series Philippe d’Anjou presented “The PROJECT of the Project”, which was a very philosophical look at ethics in architecture. He proposes that through structures one human being can affect another and therefore must be ethical in his practices as a means to positively affect the users of the structure. As a wrap up to the whole series, Director Aron Temkin briefly spoke on the positive effect that the series had on the faculty, students, alumni and other spectators.

One last lecture will be presented at 6:30pm on May 22, 2009 at the Ft. Lauderdale Art Museum by Romeo Santos, visiting Fulbright scholar, on “Introspection in Design and Development”. The public is invited to attend.

Lecture Series posters, orchestrated by Dr. Henning Haupt.