CREATING ENERGY

It is an amazing privilege to live one’s life surrounded by the creative energy, optimism and ambition of architecture students and faculty. Each day I walk into my office, I am inspired by the buzz of activities and possibilities in Lee Hall, but perhaps never as much as I’m being inspired by the work of the Indigo Pine team.

More than two years ago, when our faculty and students first began discussing the possibility of submitting a proposal to compete in the Department of Energy 2015 Solar Decathlon (Solar D), I was cautious. I have “lived through” a Solar D competition project before, and I know the significant intellectual, personnel and fiscal resources needed to compete. There is a danger that a big, multiyear project like this can take away from other efforts, consuming all of the energy and resources of an academic unit. Our experience with Indigo Pine has been the opposite. This is a project that is creating energy and activating the entire Clemson Family and far beyond.

As the Indigo Pine team says, “It’s not about the house.” It’s about the deep, broad collaborative process of creating the house and the intellectual capital and connections that are being forged by that process. This is a project that is focused on the people, products, culture and climate of South Carolina. Our students are learning how to lead collaborative, multidisciplinary teams toward an original proposal based on a powerful, collective idea. This is a project that is about pushing an idea toward its most extreme and yet obvious conclusions. The innovation of this house, in its design and delivery systems, is setting a new paradigm for the Solar D competition and creating intellectual capital for the University as it seeks to improve the lives of South Carolina families, South Carolina industries and the planet. The level of innovation shown in this project impresses even our competitors.

The tripartite mission of a land-grant university such as Clemson is based on a “set of beliefs about the social role of the university,” (Bronner, James T., “The Land Grant Idea and the Evolving Outreach University, New York: Garland, 1988). A land-grant university’s unique importance is as a change agent in society as it creates knowledge and transfers that knowledge through teaching, research and engagement with the peoples of the state and needs of society.

Indigo Pine is the most powerful of vehicles to accomplish the land-grant mission of Clemson University and the School of Architecture’s mission to produce transformational architectural leadership, shaping the environment of the 21st century for a better future by:

- educating future architects, through rigorous and expansive design education, with local and global understandings of firmness, commodity and delight;
- generating knowledge to address the great challenges of the time, through innovative, interdisciplinary research, practice and scholarship; and
- advocating for the improvement of built, natural and social environments, through design activism, public service and public education.

Thank you to all of Indigo Pine’s partners, supporters and volunteers. By the time this newsletter finds its way into your hands, the Indigo Pine team will have completed their first build at the South Carolina Botanical Garden, with a ribbon-cutting scheduled for April 21. Stop by and experience Indigo Pine, and add to the energy.

Kate Schwennsen
Director + Professor

Sophomore bridge designs were on display in the Lee Hall 90s tower, a space affectionately known as “the hairdyer.”
Anjali Joseph, Ph.D., EDAC, joined Clemson in January as the first Endowed Chair in Architecture + Health Design and Research. Joseph joins Clemson after nine years with the Center for Health Design in California as the director of research and more recently as the director of grants and research advisory services. As endowed chair, Joseph will ensure that the approved multi-institutional SmartState initiative in health facilities design and testing will collaborate with other endowed chairs, faculty and industry collaborators at the Medical University of South Carolina, Health Sciences South Carolina member institutions, and the health care and design community at large. Joseph’s position is funded through the Commission of Higher Education’s SmartState Program and a gift from Spartanburg Regional Health System.

Joseph earned a Ph.D. in architecture at Georgia Tech, a Master of Architecture from Kansas State University and a Master of Architecture from the School of Planning and Architecture in New Delhi, India. She has extensive research experience as both a project leader and principal investigator. She has published widely in her field and has been invited to lecture and present her work at conferences and colloquia across the United States and in Europe, India, Canada and the United Arab Emirates.

Ray Huff, FAIA, associate professor and director of the CAC.C, is a newly elected Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. The AIA Fellows program was developed to elevate those architects who have made a significant contribution to architecture and society and who have achieved a standard of excellence in the profession. Election to Fellowship not only recognizes the achievements of the architect as an individual, but also honors before the public and the profession a model architect who has made a significant contribution to architecture and society on a national level. Congratulations, Ray, for this very deserved recognition!

DesignIntelligence named Kate Schwennsen, director of the School of Architecture, one of the nation’s 30 Most Admired Design Educators for 2015. In honoring Schwennsen as an exemplary role model in architecture education, the publication stated, “Kate Schwennsen has brought renewed energy and focus to Clemson’s program.” Clemson’s teaching faculty includes three previous recipients of this recognition: Professor David Allison (2014), Professor Dan Harding (2013) and Clemson University President Emeritus James F. Barker (2011).

Dustin Albright will present his research paper “Recalibrated: An Interdisciplinary, Studio-Based Study of Massive Timber for Student Housing” at the 2015 conference of the Architectural Research Centers Consortium in Chicago. The paper describes the work of the 2013 Comprehensive Studio, co-taught by Albright, Ufuk Ersoy, Ph.D., and Ulrike Heine, in which students used cross-laminated timber panels for student housing designs. The paper also presents findings from ongoing research on long-span alternatives to CLT panels.

In October 2014 David Franco presented the paper “Imitation of Life: The Simulation of the Everyday as a Political Expression” at the Mediated City, an interdisciplinary conference of architecture, media and politics, which was organized in Los Angeles, California, by Woodbury University and the research journal Architecture.

Keith Evan Green, Arash Soleimani, Ph.D. candidate, and Dani Herro, Ph.D., (School of Education) have brought the near-final prototype of CyberFtK to sixth grade students of the new Fisher STEAM Middle School neighboring CU-ICAR.

President Emeritus James Barker, FAIA, brought in a few of his drawings to share with his sophomore students.

Carlos Barrios, Ph.D., received a grant to conduct studies in parametric research on the designs of the vaults in the Sagrada Familia Basílica. Through this grant, Barrios continues his research on parametric analysis to understand the complex nature of the work of Spanish architect Antoni Gaudí as computational design. He is also researching parametric explorations on Islamic geometric patterns with Ph.D. student Mostafa Alani. They will present this research in the paper “A Parametric Metamorphosis of Islamic Geometric Patterns: The extraction of the new from traditional?” at the 2015 Architectural Research Consortium Centers in Chicago, Illinois. The paper will also be published in the conference proceedings.

Chairman Joseph Choma, lecturer in architecture, was released by Laurence King Publishing in January 2015. The book strikingly guides readers through the basic foundation for using these mathematical transformations as design tools. Joseph delivered the lecture “Designing an Understanding” at the Georgia Institute of Technology as part of the School of Architecture Lecture Series, Unconventional Practice.

Congratulations to Brian Leounis, manager of the Digital Design and Materials Lab, who with his partner, Elizabeth Coor, created the winning entry in AIA Charleston’s 2013 Way This Way design competition.

Adjunct Professor Miguel Roldan’s (Roldan + Berengue) project, adaptive reuse of the old Poble Sec fire station in Barcelona as a Fire Prevention Center and museum, is now under construction. Roldan + Berengue’s Economists


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UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

The undergraduate curriculum at Clemson is conceptualized as fluid, broadening the education to allow students to transform into diverse, well-rounded and proficient critical thinkers and designers. The concept of fluidity builds upon the existing Fluid Campus, and it is also evident in the general education requirements in which students choose a minor as well as a foreign language. Fluid is choice. Choice broadens experience and encourages students to shape their own educational path. Several changes to the curriculum structure have taken place over the past semester, which strengthen this idea of fluidity: the Fluid Studios, Synthesis Studio and the organization of studios.

MIXING STUDIOS SPATIALLY: ENCOURAGING MENTORSHIP

Studio spatial organization is an essential tool for creating a mentorship culture. Mentorship has been increased among students in first-, second-, third-, and fourth-year studios by distributing the year levels throughout Lee Hall. It is now possible for first-year students to sit adjacent to fourth-year students and therefore increase the opportunity for collaboration and collegiality.

FLUID STUDIOS: CREATING MORE OPTIONS

The second change instituted is an extension of the Fluid Campus concept into the Fluid Studios, as outlined in more detail elsewhere in this publication.

SYNTHESIS STUDIO: CREATING A CULMINATING EXPERIENCE

The capstone Synthesis Studio, during the final spring semester before graduation, provides a celebratory culmination of the students’ time at Clemson. The project topic this year is a performing arts center in Greenville, South Carolina, and is a comprehensive test for the graduating seniors. An invited jury of architects and academics will award a monetary prize for the best design in late April.

All of these changes enhance the Clemson architecture students’ engagement in making their educational experience their own. These choices allow students to customize their education according to their interests and goals, while being grounded in the discipline of architecture.

FIRST YEAR

The façade analysis of a building on campus has become a tradition in the first year, fall semester, as a means of teaching students how to look at buildings and the built environment. Freshman student Ann Gallant, under the instruction of Professor Sallie Hambrigt-Belue, studied Memorial Hall. Her analysis uncovered many layers in the façade, and her drawing craft was considerably high. These images show the range of her investigation and representation.

SECOND YEAR

In the fall semester, ARCH 2510 Architectural Foundations I, emphasizes tectonics as the art of construction. Throughout the semester, students learn and then radicalize historical crafts and methodologies for drawing and making. Students must first understand, then challenge and invent. Students learn to think and work through drawing, making, modeling and fabricating. They work back and forth between analog and digital methods, as well as two and three dimensions. Constraints and rules are given as a means to design within.

In fall 2014, the first half of the semester focused on design experiments by introducing several design operations: carpenter’s ellipse, Boolean operations, folding and ruled surfaces. The objective was not to record preconceived ideas, but to reflect-in-action and generate ideas (suggestive of architectural consequences) by rigorously playing with each operation. The second half of the semester synthesized these studies into a design project: a 30-foot-long pedestrian bridge with a lookout point and zones of rest. The project further developed the prior lessons learned by systematically manipulating the previous operations according to the newly established pragmatic parameters. One of the final deliverables for the project was a full-scale fabrication prototype of an architectural joint with wood joinery.

THIRD YEAR

The fall 2014 third-year undergraduates began their academic year studying some of the world’s greatest cities and creating clay models and maps for analysis and comparison. This introduction to urban design included seminal readings from Lynch and others. The final project for the fall semester was a mixed-use living-learning proposal for College Avenue in Clemson.

1. 2. 3.
4. 5. 6. 7. 8.
9. 10.

1. Second-year undergraduate student Rayshad Dorsey presented his final project, “Bridging the Gap,” in the fall 2014 class taught by Annemarie Jacques (Photo by Annemarie Jacques)
2. Hannah Vant created a string and plexiglass model of her pedestrian bridge in Courtney Cox’s class.
4. Robert Heaton utilized ruled surfaces (curves from straight lines) in the design of a pedestrian bridge in Joseph Choma’s class.
5. Matthew Krider designed a 30-foot-long pedestrian bridge with Boolean operations (shapes carving shapes) in the class taught by Joseph Choma.
6. Students from Bob Hogan’s section presented their city analysis projects for review.
7. Third-year undergraduate student Kevin Daughtry presented his final mixed-use project for review.
8. Tyler McKeon’s final model and plans for his mixed-use living-learning community were completed in Julie Wilkerson’s class.
9. Andrew Collins completed an early building section and final model for his mixed-use, living-learning community in Julie Wilkerson’s class.
10. A few of the students’ city models were on display in Lee Hall.
The University’s graduate architecture programs once again have been named among the nation’s best in an annual ranking of all accredited programs in the U.S. DesignIntelligence magazine ranked Clemson seventh among public institutions and 18th overall nationally in the annual edition of “America’s Best Architecture and Design Schools.” Clemson has been ranked in this highest tier of architecture programs in eight of the most recent 10 years.

During the 2014 fall semester, ARCH 8510 Design Studio III focused on the evolving needs of Greenville’s Nicholtown neighborhood. Working with a local nonprofit and with input from Greenville community planners (instruction provided by professors Albright, Essay, Franco and Heine), the studio designed affordable housing prototypes for a variety of family situations, ranging from adults with aging parents to a single youth pastor. Additionally, students paired up to analyze the neighborhood’s existing shared spaces and propose strategic, phased enhancements with an emphasis on community health and active engagement.

The ARCH 8410 Design Studio I furniture design project was an early project for first-year M.Arch. I graduate students. Under the direction of professors Laurence and Satoh, the class emphasized rethinking familiar objects and testing material properties.

Amy Trick conducted tests on her chair.

ARCH 8410 Design Studio I M.Arch. I graduate student Sylvia Lu presented her final project for a mixed-use retail and residential storefront building for Main Street in Greenville, South Carolina.

This sectional drawing shows Devin Carlson’s proposed house design.

This circulation plan of a market and crop stop was developed by Beth Koeppel and Alison Martin.

This axonometric drawing displays Tatiana Guimardova’s proposal for a Nicholtown community center.

This working structural model shows the prototype house created by Allie Williams.

Kendall Stephens and Spencer Hutchison presented their proposals for the Nicholtown neighborhood.

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CLEMSON TEAM TO COMPETE IN INTERNATIONAL SOLAR DECATHLON

For the first time, Clemson will be among the 20 teams selected from universities around the world to compete at this fall’s international Solar Decathlon, hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy in collaboration with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

The competition, held every two years in Irvine, California, challenges teams to design and build a cost-effective, energy-efficient and visually appealing solar home, blending affordability, consumer appeal and design excellence with optimal energy production and design efficiency. Comprised of architecture, engineering and social science majors, along with dedicated faculty members, Clemson’s team is eager to take part in the event that will take place this fall.

The University has embraced the challenge to build and operate the home, named Indigo Pine, all within a three-bedroom, 1,000-square-foot, net-zero-energy, solar house that is cost-effective in today’s market and comfortable in South Carolina and comparable climate zones. The name “Indigo Pine” originates from the home’s Southern roots. Indigo was historically grown in South Carolina while yellow pine remains a vital cash crop to the state’s economy. The concept focuses on stitching together innovative building methods, Southern charm and local products in a home for a Southern family.

Clemson University is taking the competition to a new level by choosing to “email” the house across the country using only digital files to cut out the structural system with a CNC, a computer-controlled cutting machine. This system, referred to as Sim[PLY], allows Indigo Pine to be built virtually anywhere a CNC is available using off-the-shelf materials and hand-held tools. Indigo Pine is challenging the construction and design world to think differently about light wood framing and construction in general.

Utilizing the Sim[PLY] system to “email” the house digitally from coast to coast rather than shipping the entire home by truck allows the team to vastly reduce the production of carbon dioxide emissions from the project. Furthermore, Team Clemson plans to construct not one but two versions of Indigo Pine, one in the South Carolina Botanical Garden this spring and the other in California this fall. This will allow for testing of the home’s functionality and will showcase the ability of the home to be built anywhere.

Without the support of our Indigo Pine family of donors and volunteers, the team members would not be able to pursue their dream of seeing Indigo Pine come to life. If you are interested in learning more about the project or would like to donate to Indigo Pine, please visit clemson.edu/indigopine. Team Clemson and the entire Indigo Pine family have come together to create a revolutionary home that will serve not only as a viable competitor this fall, but also as a hub for innovative design and construction research on Clemson’s campus for many years to come.

The graduate program in Architecture + Health, under the leadership of professors Allison and Edwards, received the 2014 NCARB award of $30,000. The award recognized their proposal for a spring 2015 design studio to help advance the state of the art in a rural, ambulatory, health care facility design as a part of a professional-academia-industry collaboration. The primary outcome of the NCARB grant will be to directly expose a cohort of Architecture + Health Master of Architecture students to the pressing real-world problem of access to primary health care for medically underserved populations and the challenges of designing a setting that supports the delivery of high-quality, cost-effective, culturally relevant health care for rural, poor and aging populations.

Architecture + Health students and faculty presented their ideas about the future of College Avenue in Clemson at a series of public forums in city hall. These forums were intended to stimulate public discourse and present ideas generated during a semester-long inquiry into healthy community planning and design for downtown Clemson.

The sectional drawing of student Jonathan Jiang’s design for mixed-use residential takes advantage of topography.

Student Tyler McLemore’s rendering, looking north on College Avenue, shows his mixed-use design proposal, which includes a vegetated parking structure.

The fall 2014 Indigo Pine team members show off their orange.

Graduate students Lauren Komen and Donna Grasske present their part of the Indigo Pine story.

The College Avenue urban design proposal site plan is a collective effort of the Architecture + Health fall 2014 studio.

The sectional drawing of student Jonathan Jiang’s design for mixed-use residential takes advantage of topography.

Spring 2014 Architecture + Health graduates Julie Randolph and Yanwen Xiao accepted their health care Environment Awards at the Health Care Design Conference in San Diego in November 2014. Their studio projects were published in the October issue of Contract Magazine.
In today’s global economy, nothing can replace the experience of graduates who have learned to view the world from a different perspective. The Fluid Campus refers to the School of Architecture’s geographically distributed learning opportunities, the integration of these opportunities within our degree-earning graduate and undergraduate curricula, and the fluidity of communication and work practices between our centers.

The Clemson Architecture Center in Barcelona (CAC.B), Spain, is part of a partnership with the Barcelona Architecture Center (BAC) in which Clemson students share a studio with students from Texas A&M University and live in a nearby university residence hall. Students are immersed in Spanish architectural history, contemporary design, urban practices and culture.

CAC.C students work and study in a unique urban and pedagogical environment that grafts academic and professional practices into its culture and curriculum. Combining practical and scholarly studies, the CAC.C emphasizes hands-on experience in public design and craft. Students study in a Robert Mills building and live in their own apartments on the Charleston peninsula.

The first group of students took up residence at the Charles E. Daniel Center for Building Research and Urban Studies (the Villa) in Genoa, Italy, in fall 1973. The program balances the studio experience with the study of Italian architectural history, contemporary design and urban practices. Students live, eat and work together in the Villa, overlooking the city of Genoa.

1. During a review of the project for LaEscocesa redevelopment in the Poblenou neighborhood, the students offered new approaches to the reinvention of the area.
2. Students visited the offices of Miralle/Tagliabue-EMBT in Barcelona.
3. Student Alexandra Williams presented her site analysis and first project proposal during the first quarter review.
4. An opening social was held on the piazza of the CAC.C at 20 Franklin Street. Participants enjoyed Lowcountry cuisine with the award-winning film Dear Charleston playing in the background.
5. This urban design project was developed by students Jianfei Shen and Mary Tran under the direction of Ray Huff. The goal was to mitigate removed urban infrastructure and reconstitute two formerly separated low-income African-American neighborhoods.
6. This highlights the second of two farm kitchen built projects led by David Pastre. The College of Charleston was a collaborator, and funding was provided by Boeing as a prototype for sites across the state. This image shows phase 1, a porch element constructed in Greenville.
7. Fall 2014 Genoa students and faculty are shown considering some study models.
8. Student August McRaney Lehnert presented this final model of a proposed urban insertion.
9. Fall 2014 Genoa students were led by Resident Professor David Lee (and his family) in Firenze.
During semesters six and seven of the eight-semester B.A. degree program and semesters four and five of the six-semester M.Arch. degree program, the school offers students on the Clemson campus a selection of Fluid (elective) Studios. These studios take advantage of the great depth and diversity of faculty expertise, are vertical and multidisciplinary, and allow upper-level students to direct their own educational areas of emphasis.

Michael Beveridge, a graduate student in the Fluid Studio of Robert Bruhns, completed this watercolor of the proposed site as part of his final presentation for the design for a mixed-use project in Clemson on Hartwell Lake.

MHG-Tower LLC, a development group including McKibbon Hotel Group and Glenn Wilcox (owner of Asheville's BB&T building), partnered with the University's School of Architecture to support a student design studio and honor its participants. Graduate and undergraduate architecture students, under the tutelage of Doug Hecker (who also serves as the coordinator of the Fluid Studios), participated in a semester-long project competing for best design, using Asheville’s BB&T building as a basis for the academic exercise. The $1,000 award for best design was presented to Brad Mann, a third-year graduate student in architecture.

“Exposure” is a food hub, urban farm and community garden strategy to support and enhance the local food community in the Upstate of South Carolina. This studio project, by students Kathleen Peek and Aaron Peter, approached the problem by fusing building and site solutions to ensure sustainability and transparency throughout. The project was completed, in partnership with the nonprofit Feed & Seed and Clemson’s Service Alliance, in Sallie Hambright-Belue’s class.

“The Treaty Vessel: Spaces of Transnational Migration in Miami, McArthur Causeway” was a fall 2014 Fluid Studio offered by Armando Montilla. In their final project, “The Line of Ancestry,” students Elizabeth Cooney and Ian Zapata interpret immigration through the navigation of a modular and gridded space, conducting and displaying ancestry data in a personalized fashion.

Another student in the Bruhns Fluid Studio, undergraduate Austin Deloi, completed this short-duration proposal for the design of a radio station.

Undergraduate student Meredith Lenti’s design for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library is based on her research on wellness and circulation and was completed in a Fluid Studio led by George Schafer.

Undergraduate student Johanna Nemetz presented “Tessellations,” her final project in the PCI Fluid Studio.

The first PCI-funded Precast Concrete Studio was conducted by Carlos Barrios, Ph.D., in fall 2014 with the participation of eight undergraduate architecture students and six graduate and undergraduate civil engineering students. The studio explored the design opportunities afforded with the use of precast concrete at different scales in a collaborative environment between the School of Architecture and the Glen Department of Civil Engineering. Students traveled to the local precast plants of Metromont and Tindall to observe firsthand the fabrication process of precast concrete products and fabricated a full-size concrete panel with different finishes. The studio is scheduled to continue in fall 2015 in collaboration with Brandon Ross, Ph.D., assistant professor of civil engineering. The PCI foundation will continue the support of the studio.
In December the faculty, staff and the school's Professional Advisory Board held a celebration lunch in recognition of the second class of Architecture Alumni Achievement Award recipients. The School of Architecture and the Clemson Architectural Foundation established this honor in 2013, architecture's centennial year, to recognize exceptional alumni who are both the cause and result of the school's centennial theme — individuals of great accomplishment with “Southern Roots + Global Reach.” Eight graduates composed this second class.

Award recipients and others posed for a group shot after lunch. From left to right, back row: Professor Ray Huff ‘77, AIA Dean Richard Goodfriend, School of Architecture Director Kate Schwinden. CIF President Bill Perkins and Jack Wilson Moore ‘93, ‘95, front row, left to right: Robert J. Hutt Vi ‘73, ’75, Randall Davis ‘89, H. Ruth Sadle Wil ‘82, John Davis Rogers ‘39 and Arthur Joel ‘46 (Linda) Uih. Paul Curtis Steelman ‘78 was unable to join the celebration but provided an entertaining video message of acceptance.

In November, in response to vocal neighborhood opposition to the proposed design, Clemson University withdrew its application for BAR approval of the design of the Spaulding Visitor Center in Charleston. The University remains committed to providing a permanent home for the long-standing CAC and historic preservation programs in Charleston, but in the spirit of transparency and being good neighbors, is taking a step back to explore the best options for a solution acceptable to all parties.

On Tuesday, March 3, the NOMAS Clemson chapter hosted a very fruitful event. Ray Huff, FAIA, delivered a phenomenally inspirational lecture to students and faculty. While touching on his path in the field of architecture, Huff delivered many words of wisdom and encouragement to the students. Afterwards, students expressed their gratitude for his council and support. His mentorship has had an immeasurable impact on students at Clemson.

In March, more than 40 firms attended the 2015 Architecture and Landscape Architecture Career Expo at the University’s Maxson Center. Firm representatives were very busy discussing career opportunities with students.

In October the second-year undergraduate architecture students participated in a hands-on workshop with renowned artist Patrick Dougherty. In this photo, the artist is showing a few students what needs to be done. (Photo by Annemarie Jacques)

Awards lunch attendees enjoy the remarks of one of the Alumni Award recipients.

The Intuitive Drawing Workshop was an intense, demanding two-day workshop in which students worked on large-scale paper, creating a work of art that evolved through many stages. The structure, design and pacing of the workshop, held in the Lee Gallery, was led by Clive King, an artist and professor, and open to all art graduate students.

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Almost five years ago, I graduated from high school with the intention of going to college for architecture. I admittedly had no idea what architecture meant or design either. Perhaps I was already a critically creative thinker, but I had surely not tapped into that yet. I went into the School of Architecture with no idea what the next four years would entail. I want to describe the importance of being involved and how leadership is truly a design exercise at its heart. This is a challenge to you to be a part of changing the future of design and architecture.

I currently serve as part of the National AIAS Board of Directors as the south quadrant director, and I was recently elected as the 2015–2016 national vice president, a one-year position served at the national office in Washington, D.C. My involvement all started here at Clemson, serving in several positions including chapter president, as well as serving on several national committees. Over the course of five years, I have traveled to more than 12 U.S. cities, Canada, Ecuador and soon Bahrain, discussing the importance of design education and the impact we have as designers.

While I’ve mainly been involved with the AIAS, it is surely not the only way to be involved. There are plenty of conversations to influence. No matter the conversation, it is important that you become involved, for self-betterment as well as the betterment of the professions in and around our built environment. Whether that is an ever-important conversation with NOMAS about increasing the diversity in the design professions or playing a part in increasing the relevance of the University’s School of Architecture, there are educators, professionals and members of the public seeking your thoughts and opinions. I challenge you each to be a part of a conversation about the greater good of design. Being involved in these conversations also helps to fine-tune important professional skills, including critical thinking, public speaking and professional development skills.

How does this relate to design? Leadership is simply another design exercise. Although I seek every opportunity to design in the common sense of the word, I also treat leadership as an additional design output. It starts with a question. Much like a building, object or master plan, you have to ask, “What is the relevance? What is the value of what I am designing/implementing?” Then the design process continues with research. “What is the history of what/ where I am designing/setting up perfectly saying, “Architecture is an expression of values.” Now, go bring value to those around you.

Joseph Pominnville is pictured shortly after his election as the 2015–16 AIAS national vice president. Senior lecturer Annemarie Jacques has said of the leadership provided by Joel and his Clemson co-leader Nick Tufel, “This commitment and energy, especially between Joel and Nick, was synergistic. This synergy expanded to all around them. They grew the membership, participation and enthusiasm within AIAS and Freedom by Design. And they have inspired me. I ask myself how I can continue to do even more through architecture.”

On October the second-year undergraduate architecture students participated in a hands-on workshop with renowned artist Patrick Dougherty. In this photo, the artist is showing a few students what needs to be done. (Photo by Annemarie Jacques)