Faculty Reports

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

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Letter from the Dean

Jonathan Beddoes | This is my third Network annual contribution, but the first as Dean, instead of as Interim Dean, of the Faculty of Architecture. I am both excited and honoured to continue my association with the Faculty as Dean, but at the same time humbled. To a considerable extent, my humility stems from the rich history of the Faculty including the significant contributions to design and planning of previous and current faculty, alumni and students. During the last academic year there have been several important occasions to celebrate our Faculty’s history, including recognizing the fiftieth anniversary of the Environmental Studies/Environmental Design program and the 3016 graduates from this program during these fifty years, many of whose names grace the cover of this Network, and celebrating the accomplishments of Patricia and John Patkau who received the University of Manitoba Distinguished Alumni Award for Lifetime Achievement. These and many other events through the last academic year are highlighted in the pages of this Network publication.

To help continue the rich history of the Faculty into the future, it is fitting that the academic year started by welcoming Neil Minuk as a faculty member in the Department of Architecture, and ended by welcoming Leanne Muir as a faculty member in the Department of Landscape Architecture. Their contribution to our Faculty is already obvious to me, and I look forward to continuing to grow and rejuvenate the faculty complement during the upcoming year.

Also joining the Faculty during the last academic year was Liane Veness, in the new positon of C.A.S.T. Coordinator. The individuals in our Faculty’s rich history that had the foresight to establish C.A.S.T. have left us a unique legacy, one that with Liane’s leadership is being integrated more fully into the fabric of both the teaching and research programs. The involvement of students in C.A.S.T. to fabricate their Warming Hut Carbuncle and the Rainbow Gardens facilities are described elsewhere in this Network. The latter successfully brought together students and faculty from both the Faculty of Architecture and Faculty of Engineering to make a unique contribution to the well being of our extended community. Additionally, successfully launched was the C.A.S.T. Researcher-in-Residence program with Emanuel Jannasch from the School of Architecture at Dalhousie University the inaugural Researcher-in-Residence.

I am convinced that the most important two days of the academic year are the Spring and Fall Convocation at which we celebrate the success of our students. In the Faculty of Architecture, we are privileged by the presence of the highest calibre students whose drive and motivation continuously challenges us to keep up with them. This year we celebrated the graduation of 174 students from our Faculty programs, the largest number during the last ten years; we will watch with interest their continuing professional development. Special thanks go to the many students who step up to leadership positions among their peers, positions that include a significant responsibility for
contributing to planning the future of the Faculty. During this last year, as Senior Stick Samantha Blatz’s effectiveness at bringing the student perspective to many discussions and deliberations regarding the evolution of Faculty endeavours and programs was appreciated. As part of Canada’s Sesquicentennial, Samantha was also one of two students that represented the University of Manitoba at Converge 2017 in Ottawa. She joined other innovators, entrepreneurs and community leaders chosen from universities across Canada, as well as the Governor General and Prime Minister, to tackle a variety of topics from pluralism, equity and inclusivity to the role of universities in guiding and building a better Canada.

This last academic year has been productive in evolving Faculty programming and governance, with this evolution aimed at continuing our rich history of program innovations to improve the student experience and preparation for professional careers in design and planning. The composition of the Environmental Design Program Advisory Committee, affectionately know as EDPAC, was altered and emerged as a very productive group. Example results of their hard work include changes to the Urban Media Studio, refinement of the ED1/2 program and ED admission criteria for introduction, pending Senate approval, during the 2018/19 academic year, and design and introduction of a Cooperative Education/Integrated Work (Coop/I) program. The Coop/I program builds on the successful pilot Coop placement of ED4 student Halley Sveinson through 2017 as a Facility Planner with the Government of Nunavut in Iqaluit. In addition, considerable behind-the-scenes work was directed to putting in place the processes and procedures to support programs, such as updated Supplement Regulations for the PhD program in Design and Planning, and establishment of a Doctoral Studies Committee just to name two. All of this evolution would be impossible without the unfailing dedication of the Associate Deans, Drs. Lisa Landrum and Karen Wilson-Baptist; the Faculty is indebted to both of them for their outstanding leadership.

With the momentum of these program evolutions, we look forward enthusiastically to the upcoming academic year. The next year will bring: professional accreditation reviews of both the Master of Architecture and Master of Interior Design programs, the preparation for which consumed considerable effort during the past year; continuing introduction of the Coop/I program; introducing the ED1/2 program refinements; a major renovation and refurbishment of the studio spaces in the Architecture 2 Building is planned; and hiring of several new faculty members. With all this moving forward, I am already looking forward to writing a contribution for Network 2018!

Johnathan Beddoes
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Karen Wilson Baptist | As I write this, lake side, to the sound of large breakers crashing on shore, I reflect upon the idea of reunion. Here, where I sat captive at my desk, summer after summer, completing two degrees, can be found an assortment of reference texts, collected to tempt the scholar away from her tasks, such as bird, insect and wildflower guides, primers for cloud spotting and stargazing and recipes for cocktails. But to aid in my thinking about reunions, I refer to a tattered copy of Webster’s New World Dictionary (The Concise Edition of 1962). This was my Grandma Mary’s, who passed in 2005 at the age of 97, thus I cannot ask her why, out of the nine grandchildren, does Elizabeth’s photograph grace the title page of the dictionary or why the word “Thalomide” is scrawled across the Indo-European Family of Languages chart. Page 635 of the acidified volume provides this definition for reunion: “1. A bringing or coming together again. 2. A gathering of persons after separation, as of members of a family.” Things like this dictionary prompt a reunion of the mind as I recall my grandmother and our times together. This is a private sort of reunion, one that elicits feelings of both sorrow and of joy. For the past graduates of the Environmental Studies/Environmental Design program who came together to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the program, reunion provided an opportunity to gather, for some after years of separation, to celebrate, to commemorate, to experience joy in remembering the toil and the ardor of their education, and to bring forth the sorrow of recalling colleagues who have passed. An education in environmental design seems one particularly adept at forging deep long-lasting friendships, regardless of whether or not one’s paths had diverged or remained ever intertwined.

We count amongst our talented teaching staff, graduates of the Environmental Design program, such as instructors Kim Wiese and Jae Sung Chon. Kim’s creative scholarship pairs well with her role as Director of the FABlab. Amongst Kim’s many collaborative projects in 2016 was the Bee/House/Lab (in collaboration with the Office of Sustainability, the Department of Entomology and Parks Canada). Bee/House/Lab received a great deal of positive press, garnered several awards, hosted a competition, and produced an evocative publication. Jae also had a major role in the Bee/House/Lab in addition to producing numerous articles such as a critique of 5468796 in Space Magazine, the Model Homes A2G Primer, HOUSUS 25 and participating in several design projects and competitions. Jae also serves as Director of the faculty gallery, A2G.

Alyssa Schwann, also an environmental design graduate, enjoyed her first sabbatical in 2016 – a very intense and productive one. Congratulations to Alyssa on the first ‘art-habitat’ project - “Untitled [Nest for Owls]” - sited in Richmond BC, a collaborative installation work with Michael Seymour (B.Env.D.2011). The project provides habitat for the Barn Owl, a designated threatened species.

Dr. Mohamad Araji, although not an environmental design graduate of our program, will doubtlessly be
affectionately recalled by graduates at our 75th anniversary celebrations. Dr. Araji continues to be a prolific researcher in addition to his teaching duties. Congratulations to Dr. Araji on the production of five peer-review publications in 2016, two of which were published at the time of this writing. In fall 2017, we look forward to welcoming another environmental design graduate to our full-time teaching staff, Leanne Muir.

Thank you to sessional instructors in ED2, Scott Barham and his team in the Urban Media Lab, W. Dean Leith and Maria Mavridis for the teaching and mentorship they provided to students in 2016-2017. Welcome to new instructors in ED1 and ED2 during 2017, Honoure Black, John Harper, Julie Kysuk, Shannon Loewen, Michelle Tustin, Liv Valmestad and Rob Zonneveld. Thank you for the fresh energy and insights you bring to the teaching ensemble. May you be the source of fond memories at future alumni gatherings!

This year at the 138th convocation of the University of Manitoba, 99 students were conferred with the degree Bachelor of Environmental Design. Two awards are presented at the Spring Convocation, the University Gold Medal for the student with the highest standing in the final two years of their undergraduate program and the Dan Muir Memorial Award, presented to a student with an outstanding ability in design. Congratulations to Jason Wall on obtaining the University Gold Medal and to Hugh Taylor, the 2016-2017 recipient of the Dan Muir Memorial Award.

The word that lies beneath “reunion” in the Webster’s is “reunite” – “to unite again; bring or come together again.” My hope for the class of 2017 is that when they come together again, be it through ever converging paths or at a future reunion after years of separation, that they remember their time in the environmental design program with as much joy and esprit de corps as the graduates who have gathered here to celebrate this, our 50th year.
Lisa Landrum | The Department of Architecture continued its tradition of learning by making in 2016-17. In addition to the usual intertwining of hands-on making and thinking across the curriculum, two design-build projects deserve special mention:

Carbuncle – Under the leadership of Eduardo Aquino, Chad Connelly, Terri Fuglem and Liane Veness, more than 40 ED3/AMP1 students collectively constructed a Warm Hut sauna as part of the Forks international design competition. Cheekily named after Prince Charles’ pejorative label for an architectural monstrosity, Carbuncle incorporates serious sustainable features, including a cattail and wood residue pellet stove, donated by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). The social process of making Carbuncle, its eco-friendly features and aesthetically provocative results are celebrated in a DoA publication, and UM Today.

Rainbow Gardens – Guided by Lancelot Coar and Liane Veness, and involving academic partners in Landscape Architecture and Civil Engineering, this project began as a fall design studio and culminated with a summer build elective. Students worked closely with an immigrant gardening community to manifest a series of small support structures on the garden site near Chancellor Matheson and Pembina Highway. The structures incorporate sustainable site design, passive water catchment and retention, recycled materials, and a composting toilet. Generous donations were provided by the Canadian Institute of Steel Construction, Sperling Industries, Shopost Steel, Westman Steel, Barkman Concrete, the Friends of Engineering, the Centre for Engineering Professional Practice and Engineering Education, the Assiniboine Credit Union, the Home Depot and Partners Program. See press in the Winnipeg Free Press and UM Today.

Other studios included: Analysis as Design (Sotirios Kotoulas); Critical Path (5468796); Spatial Recall (Ed Epp); Open City (Ted Landrum & Carlos Rueda); Berlin Studio (Ralph Stern); Light & Sound, Space & Span (Herb Enns); Logic of the Limit (Neil Minuk); and Radical Campus (Lisa Landrum). As part of these studios, students traveled to Mexico City, New York City, Los Angeles, Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa, Berlin, Iceland, and various parts of rural Manitoba.

For the second year in a row, the Department of Architecture has published an online Archfolio, gathering samples of exemplary student work from design studios and graduate courses, as well as summaries of the research themes guiding each course. Archfolios are being archived on the DoA Publications webpage.

Under the stewardship of Liane Veness, the Centre for Architectural Structures and Technology is continuing to enhance research and teaching across the Faculty, with implications for and beyond architecture. In Winter 2017, the Visiting Researcher in Residence, Emmanuel Jannesch from Dalhousie University, led hands-on workshops, lectures and technical consultations with students, in addition to advancing his own research on mortarless masonry and non-funicular forms. Two new visiting researchers will be in place for winter 2018. Stay tuned to the C.A.S.T. website for the next call.

As part of Cultural Events, the
Department hosted several distinguished architect speakers. Talks by Billie Tsien and John Ochsendorf were made possible with the generous support of the Manitoba Masonry Institute. David Leatherbarrow, Brigitte Shim and John Patkau not only inspired audiences with their words and works, but also discussed methods and motives of design research with our Design Thesis students.

2016-17 culminated with preparations for our CACB Accreditation visit on Feb. 24-28, 2018. In support of this, a comprehensive Architecture Program Report was produced. It describes the curricular and administrative refinements implemented over the last three years. A self-assessment of our Departmental identity and direction was informed by extensive consultation with faculty members, students, alumni, and members of the professional community. Valuable insights were gathered via four outreach sessions with regional architects and MAA Council members, and through an alumni survey, with over 150 participants who graduated between 1964 and 2017. The survey results suggest we have many accomplishments to celebrate and some areas to enhance. One thing for sure is the majority of our architecture graduates are becoming architects: 83% responding to the survey were either already licensed or on the path to licensure. Our graduates are also finding work fast: 92% were working in their field of choice within a year of graduating; 72% were employed in just three months.

Other Departmental acknowledgements: After seven years of leading Design Thesis, Lisa Landrum is shifting attention to new roles as Associate Dean Research and Academic Liaison for the new Co-op program. Lisa was honoured this year with an Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring Award from the Faculty of Graduate Studies. In 2017-18, Design Thesis will be led by Terri Fuglem. Following years of architectural contributions to the region, Neil Minuk has obtained licensure as a registered architect with the MAA. For highlights of faculty members’ individual research, see their bio page on the DoA website.
Richard Milgrom  |  During the 2016-17 academic year, the Department of City Planning built on its relationships with a range of communities, continued in its efforts to improve curriculum choices for students, and enhanced its research profile.

City Planning students worked in a variety of situations and a range of communities in their studios. Dr. Orly Linovski led the incoming students in an examination of issues emerging in Fort Richmond, the neighbourhood adjacent to the Campus. The group addressed several issues, however, concerns around student housing and illegal rooming houses caught the attention of the ward’s City Councilor and the local media. The Reginal Studio continued to develop work with the Partnership for the Manitoba Capital Region under the guidance of Dr. David van Vliet. This collaboration has now become a long-term arrangement, providing valuable research to the PMRC as well as internship possibilities for students.

Dr. Janice Barry continued to develop the Indigenous Planning Studio, and coordinated student groups working with Long Plain First Nation, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, and Sagkeeng First Nation. Dr. Barry was also successful in applying for Indigenous Initiatives Funds from the University to facilitate student travel to remote communities for another year, and to hire temporary staff to assist with building the network that supports the studio.

The Urban Design Studio was reactivated this year, and Dr. Richard Milgrom led an exploration of the urban design and development potential for alignments that the City is considering for the Eastern Rapid Transit corridor. For some stages of the work, the City Planning studio worked in collaboration with students in Jean Trottier’s undergraduate Landscape + Urbanism studio, and all of the students spent a week in Alberta touring and discussing transit-oriented development opportunities and challenges in Calgary and Edmonton.

With the reintroduction of a fourth studio, the Department is continuing it efforts to offer a broader range of choices to students in the program. We have also been designing a new Capstone Stream that will provide a more structured final project for students in the program,
completed within a defined two-term timeframe. Although the thesis/practicum stream will still be available, we anticipate that most students will choose the Capstone approach, that will be launched in the Fall of 2018.

Drs. Linovski and Barry continued to pursue active research agendas, both working on social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Development Grants. Dr. Linovski’s grant that addresses issues of transit equity funded a Post-Doctoral Fellow, Dr. Dwayne Baker. She published papers in the Journal of the American Planning Association and the Journal of Planning Education and Research; and she contributed an essay to Wendel and Samuels’ (2016) Spatializing Politics: Essays on Power and Place. Dr. Barry spent the Winter term on research leave, pursuing her interests in New Zealand and Australia. Her book Planning for Coexistence? Recognizing Indigenous rights through land-use planning in Canada and Australia (co-authored with Libby Porter, Routledge 2016) was well received. She also contributed sections to The Participatory City (edited by Yasminah Beebeejaun, Jovis 2016), and Planning Canada: A Case Study Approach (edited by Ren Thomas, Oxford Press Canada 2016).

As always, we are grateful for the contributions of the Manitoba Professional Planners Institute, that continues to support mentorship activities, awards and events for students in that Master of City Planning program.
Writing this article for Network provides an opportunity to share the good news, encourage feedback from alumni and to consider the progress of the department. It is a reflective exercise; therefore, I will start with our goals before providing some evidence and thoughts on our accomplishments.

One of our primary goals of the Department of Interior Design is to prepare graduates to become leaders in the profession. We value an approach to design education that places social, ethical and environmental responsibility in the forefront. We do this by preparing students to approach problems with a variety of skills including, but not limited to, design, communication, research methods, building science, history and theory, travel and work experience.

In 2016-17, solving complex problems occurred in all of the Interior Environment and Masters of Interior Design studios. The undergraduate students (ED 3 & 4) explored changing workplaces, adaptive reuse, work/live and urban parks. Meanwhile, our Masters of Interior Design students studied the needs of ageing populations in rural Manitoba, sacred spaces in Winnipeg and access to health care services in a West African village.

Our First-Professional and Post Professional Master of Interior Design students took investigations to deeper levels in their Practicum and Thesis Projects. It is in this final stage of the degree where students show that they have gained the necessary skills and knowledge to organize and conduct a comprehensive design or research project. These projects seek answers, make comparisons and arrive at conclusions that inform design solutions. The following are examples of projects that were identified as ‘exceptional’ by their committees last year.

Umid Abdullaev, The Rumi Cultural Events Centre – Design for Winnipeg’s Second Generation Muslims

Theo Rutherford, Bread and Roses: Stronger communities and healthier food systems from the inside out

Lynn Marie Dolyniuk, Culinary learning centre: using interior design to connect people and promote healthy living

Stephanie Prouse, The Koza Centre - an alternative to the custody of federally sentenced women in Canada (PIDIM Prize Winner)

Jason Shields, The Travelling New Media Centre

Julia Schaffel, Continuing the journey: a funeral home for Indigenous Peoples of Saskatchewan

You can access these documents on our website http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/architecture/programs/intdesign/mid_practicum_and_thesis_projects.html or the University of Manitoba’s MSpace.

Our full-time faculty members supervise the Practicum and Thesis students. As a result, students confidently examine issues related to enhanced building systems, professional practice, history, theory, research methods, cross-cultural design, workplace design and more. The students also benefit from working with a wide range of talented sessional instructors and scholars from across the campus.
In October 2016, Interior Designers of Canada and Milliken announced two recipients of the second annual Design Research Award. The award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated excellence and innovation through interior design research in two categories: the Educator/Practitioner Category for research conducted at the masters or doctorate level and the Student Category for significant research projects undertaken by final-year students. Dr. Lynn Chalmers received the prize in the Educator/Practitioner category with her research focused on personalia and women’s spatial practices in the office environment. MID graduate, Umid Abdullaev, won in the Student category for his work that focused on designing for second-generation Muslims in Canada.

Partnering with students and members of the professional interior design community created meaningful opportunities for the department to learn with others as well as to network with future employers. In 2016-17, PIDIM and IDAS co-hosted several events such as the ID Meet and Greet and the Dale Henwood Lecture. PIDIM and department members also hosted two Think Tank sessions where participants discussed work readiness of MID graduates. The department initiated an Alumni Profile series as an additional effort to expose students to a full range of job opportunities available to interior design graduates.

The 2016-17 academic year marked the first year that we have offered the new ID Work Experience Program. This program, led by Adjunct Professor Katherine Isaac, aims to give students context to their learning experiences in the Masters of Interior Design program. I would like to thank Katherine and all of the other participants for contributing to the success of this program.

This report offers only a brief description of what the Department of Interior Design accomplished last year. However, the process of writing this article revealed that we are on our way to reaching our goals. We have much to celebrate regarding high quality work, recognition and our collaborative approach to providing excellence in interior design education. Moving forward, I would like to build on the partnerships we have formed this year and continue to work with students and PIDIM to accomplish the goals of the department and beyond. With that said, I encourage readers to take a closer look at our student and faculty accomplishments on the website and thank everyone for contributing to another productive year!
The faculty strike in November 2016 was probably the most impactful event of the academic year. Otherwise, Alan Tate continued in the position of Head of Department having been appointed for a five-year term from 1 July 2014. Karen Wilson Baptist continued in the roles of Associate Dean Academic and Chair of the Environmental Design Program. Brenda Brown was promoted to the position of Associate Professor with effect from 1 April 2017.

Marcella Eaton was on Administrative Leave until 31 December 2016. Brenda Brown commenced a 12-month Research / Study Leave on 1 January 2017 and Jean Trottier commenced a 12-month Research / Study Leave on 1 July. Leanne Muir (MLA 2010), who has been teaching as a sessional instructor in the program for the last couple of years, was formally appointed as a joint Instructor in the ED2-year and the MLA program, from 1 July 2017. A search for a tenure-track Assistant Professor will be conducted in 2017-18, replacing Professor Ted McLachlan, who retired in August 2015.

Thirteen students graduated from the MLA program in 2016-17. Ryan Coates – a much-in-demand Teaching Assistant – was nominated as the University of Manitoba Olmsted Scholar for 2016-17.

The MLA Program continues to be covered by the full six-year accreditation from the CSLA Accreditation Council following a review in March 2015. A review of curriculum commenced in academic year 2015-16 in response to recommendations in that Report. The review continued during 2016-17 and a number of minor changes will be introduced in academic year 2016-17.

Probably the most significant change – staging a capstone studio as an alternative approach to the Thesis / Practicum, will be implemented in 2018-19.

One beneficial side effect of the strike was the number of informal encounters on the picket line between academic colleagues in different disciplines. One of these included Richard Perron’s conversations with botanists and soils scientists. This eventually led to the arrangement by Professor Perron of a workshop in March 2017 on phyto-remediation of polluted sites, including participation and a public lecture by Niall Kirkwood from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard, author of Phyto: Principles and Sources for Site Remediation (2015).

Niall was one of a trio of exceptional external landscape architecture speakers...
during Winter Term. Ellen Braae from the University of Copenhagen, author of Beauty Redeemed: Recycling Post Industrial Landscapes (2015), was the landscape architecture keynote speaker at the Atmosphere symposium. The congruity of Ellen and Niall’s topics is a clear reflection of one major current concern in the discipline. The third member of the trio, Johanna Gibbons a principal of her own firm in London England, addressed another current concern, community engagement, at the student-organized MALA Night. All three events were opportunities for students to engage with international leaders in the field.

It was also a notable year for increased engagement with social and environmental issues of design for indigenous populations. One of the L+U 3 studios worked on the site of a former residential school and the MLA “regional studio” addressed environmental and landscape issues in Manitoba Census Areas 22 and 23 – effectively the area from Lake Winnipeg north to Hudson Bay and the border with Nunavut. The student visit to the region included taking the last train south before the line was closed for weeks by a blizzard. Both of these studios increased student awareness of the land and landscape dimensions of all indigenous issues … and, hopefully, their capacity to contribute as professionals to resolution of those issues.

Alan Tate, Ph.D.
Department of Landscape Architecture
Head and Professor

Department of Landscape Architecture
Brenda Brown	Assistant Professor
Marcella Eaton, Ph.D	Associate Professor
Ted McLachlan	Senior Scholar
Richard Perron, Ph.D	Professor
Alex Rattray	Professor Emeritus
Dietmar Straub	Associate Professor
Charlie Thomsen	Professor Emeritus
Anna Thurmayr	Associate Professor
Jean Trottier	Assistant Professor
Karen Wilson Baptist, Ph.D	Associate Professor

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