

Dean’s Newsletter 1.2

09.01.2020

Dear friends,

The first two weeks of the semester have confirmed to me that the spirit of our educational mission at the School of Architecture and Planning (SA+P)—to set an ideal stage for teaching and learning—is unyielding, even in the face of our current challenges. We clearly all agree that life must just go on.



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Announcements

COVID-19 – Please visit UNM’s [Bringing Back the Pack](#) webpage for current pandemic response information.

Thank you to our Associate Dean of Student Equity and Excellence, **Katya Crawford**, for setting up the **YOU HAVE MY EAR** drop-in Zoom sessions. Every Friday morning, from 10-11am, students are invited to join in and meet other students,

Across UNM’s campus, a recent survey shows that we have attained about 95 percent mask-wearing on campus. I am also thrilled to report that while most university colleges and schools have seen a dip in enrollment, the SA+P numbers are up by 3.4 percent overall—both in terms of headcount majors and semester credit hour production—leading to this recent observation from UNM Provost and Executive President for Academic Affairs, **James P. Holloway**: “You all must be doing something right at the School.” I responded that we house the disciplines that creatively address challenges with—and care immensely about—the built environment. Yes, we know we have important work ahead of us.

The current challenges call for big action. While we are a small UNM school relative to the units across campus, our organization chart demonstrates that today’s demands require our SA+P community to expand its operations.

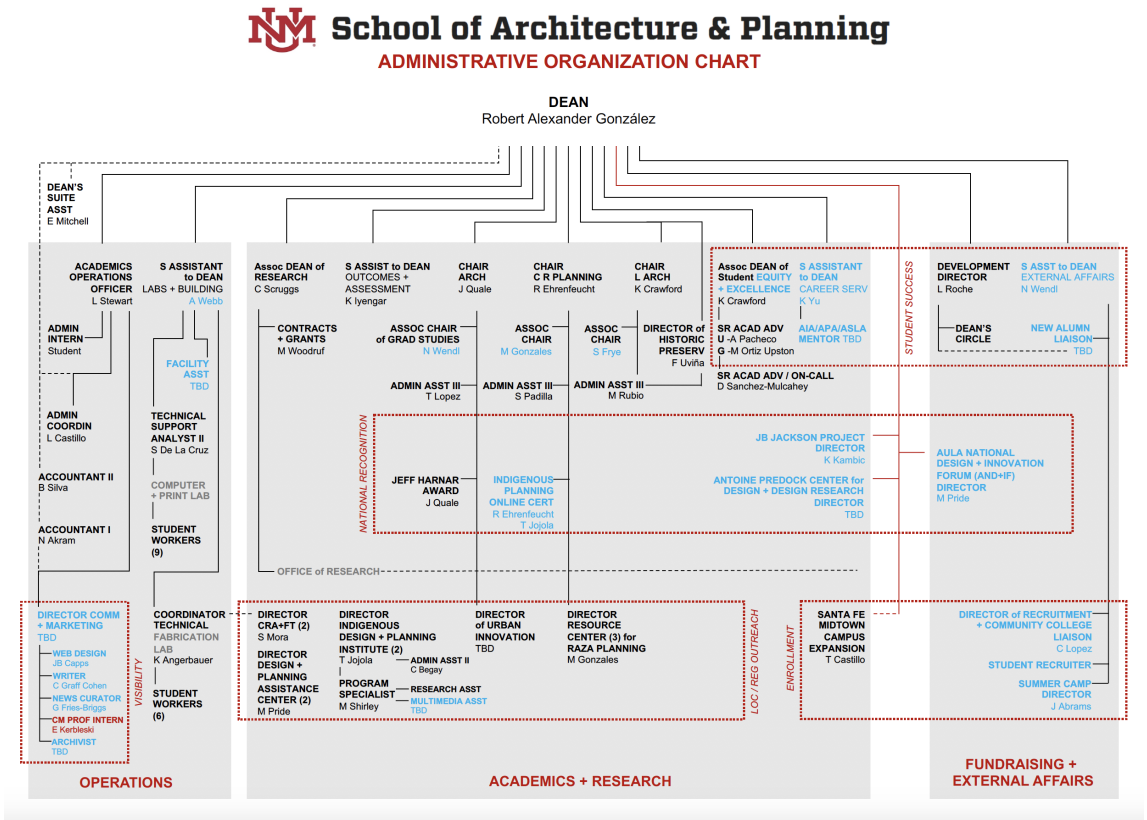
To reach our potential, we are concentrating on five specific areas of growth that are inter-related:

- + enrollment
- + local and regional outreach
- + national recognition
- + student success
- + visibility

What appears in blue on the organization chart below represents all the areas in which we are actively adding resources. One area that did not require as many new

listen, be heard, and share well-being resources, etc.

resources, however, is the Design and Planning Assistance Center (DPAC), which was established in 1969 and is the second oldest community design center in the country. DPAC's new director, Professor of Architecture **Michaele Pride**, is featured below in this newsletter.



News

John Quale, Chair of the Architecture Department, was invited to be on the Golden Trezzini Awards for Architecture and Design 2020 Jury, in the International Experts Section. This award program is open to faculty and students. [Read more...](#)

Ted Jojola, Community and Regional Planning Distinguished Professor and Regents' Professor, and Director of the Indigenous Design and Planning Institute (ID+PI), was awarded a \$525,000 Award from ArtPlace America to continue the legacy of the 23 Indigenous ArtPlace projects (IAPs) by creating a consortium that builds partnerships between the IAPs and Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs). This collaboration will empower sectors of people at the post-secondary level to reimagine their communities through scholarship and curricula.

Three faculty members have recently stepped up to help us develop some initiatives at the departmental level. Congratulations to our new Associate Chair for Graduate Studies in Architecture, **Nora Wendl**, to our new Associate Chair in Community and Regional Planning, **Moises Gonzales**, and to our new Associate Chair in Landscape Architecture, **Susan Frye**.

While expanding these areas, we are also honing in on new School-wide initiatives, and we are taking this opportunity to meditate on the best way to set that “ideal stage” for learning and teaching. To do this, we recently named three Special Assistants to the Dean.

We give thanks to newly appointed Associate Professor of Architecture, **Alexander Webb**, the Special Assistant to the Dean for *Labs and Buildings*, who worked tirelessly this summer to ensure our building was safe and ready to open its doors to students and classes.

Thanks also to **Kristina Yu**, the Special Assistant to the Dean for *Career Services*, for the work she is doing to ensure that our students are connecting with firms for employment opportunities, and overseeing ways to best prepare our students for the “big interview.”

A final thanks to new Special Assistant to the Dean for *External Affairs*, **Nora Wendl**, who is leading our efforts to keep close contact with our recent alumni and with potential applicants—and yes, she is wearing many hats this year!

In future newsletters, I'll delve into some of the other areas we are growing, specifically in enrollment and student success. Another way to enact big change, especially in these unprecedented times, is with small (or large) gestures. We can

Kirsten Angerbauer, SA+P Fab Lab Coordinator, is a visual artist, sculptor and designer. Check out her solo exhibition "brand new in box," which reflects on the construction, demolition, and reallocation of space in arts and design schools. Check out her work at [Kirsten Angerbauer](#).

SA+P Students can participate in Virtual Career Events at UNM site [HANDSHAKE](#), and employers can post jobs. For queries, please contact our Special Assistant to the Dean for Career Services, **Kristina Yu**, who can be reached at khyu@unm.edu

do this with scholarships, those gifts that can have an enormous impact. I want to close with some thoughts from a letter that recently moved me. I share this with the permission of **Gabriel Raab-Fabre**, who received the 2020-21 J. B. Jackson Award for his excellent student work in the Landscape Architecture Department. He writes:

(This) degree has completely changed my life path and enhanced my perception of the world we all share...These types of scholarships are crucial to support a diverse range of students in achieving their dreams and working for a more equitable urban environment...My family and I thank you for this opportunity to allow myself to apply more time and energy to schoolwork, and we look forward to providing this opportunity for someone else in the future.

In Gabriel's words, we hear not only his deep appreciation, but also the impact which our support gives students and, at times, their entire households. We also hear his promise to pay it forward. It is wonderful to see how our philanthropic gestures can be contagious—in the best sense of the word—modeling character and generosity.

This is indeed an unprecedented time, yet the challenges have not curtailed any of the visionary work our faculty, staff and students are determined to pursue. This is a good thing, and we are so fortunate to have each other to carry us through this year.

My very best,



Robert Alexander González
Dean and Professor

 [@Gonzalez_UNM](#)



Michaelae Pride: Shifting the Conversation

Cindy Graff Cohen

At The University of New Mexico's School of Architecture and Planning, Professor Michaelae Pride, Associate AIA, NOMA, is busy teaching, writing and directing the Design and Planning Assistance Center (DPAC). Yet beyond Albuquerque, Pride, who Design Intelligence named one of the 25 Most

Admired Design Educators in the country, is seen as a leader in shifting the conversation about architecture and how people learn to be architects. In a career of many contributions to the field and to the places she has shaped, one of her most important achievements has been her key role as a national leader in rethinking the entire accreditation process for every school of architecture in the United States and Puerto Rico. In 2020, that conversation became codified, in a remarkable new set of standards for the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB).

After years of visiting architecture schools as an accreditation examiner, Pride peers under the surface of a school to see its core. What does she look for in the soul of an architecture program? A balance of three elements: understanding the responsibility of the architect to the public, fostering achievement and creativity, and committing to a certain community.

Research

Landscape Architecture Assistant Professor **Anthony Fettes** has been invited to participate in a panel discussion, titled “Nature-Based Solutions to Address Today’s Urban Climate Challenges,” which will take place on October 4, 2020 at the National American Society of Landscape Architects Conference.

Community and Regional Planning Assistant Professor **Jennifer Tucker** published “Outlaw Capital: Accumulation by Transgression on the Paraguay-Brazil Border,” in *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography*. [Read more...](#)

Architecture Professor and Chair **John Quale** is editing a special issue of the Open Access Journal, *Sustainability*, titled “Sustainable Design in Offsite Construction,” which has an extended deadline of June 15, 2021. [Read more...](#)

Design

Architecture Associate Professor **Tim Castillo** and Visiting Assistant Professor **Stephen Mora** recently presented their Maker Lab Express

“You’ll see schools that drift really far on one end of this triangle, like all they teach is the law, the technical aspects, the legal responsibilities; others dismiss or disregard that responsibility on behalf of creative expression, more like an art school,” she said. “More and more programs are committed to their communities. We have a responsibility to the public to be thoughtful about our work and its impact on all society and the way the built environment treats, supports and uplifts the human spirit.”

Accreditation: Tackling the Tough Questions

Pride’s interest in professional standards for architecture schools goes back to 2005, when she taught and served as the director of the University of Cincinnati School of Architecture and Interior Design. During that time, the school had its own accreditation team visit coming up – and she did not know what to expect. Across the board, these accreditation ordeals have been more than a little intimidating, requiring months of preparation for the visitors’ meticulous review of student work. To be better prepared, Pride volunteered on an accreditation team. She enjoyed what she learned so much that the one-time experience developed into an almost annual trip: she has visited a dozen of the 123 institutions offering NAAB accredited programs.

In 2018 when the time came to update the NAAB’s 2014 accreditation code, she became the ACSA (Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture) representative on the Accreditation Review Forum steering committee. The “update” turned into a substantive re-think of what the profession needed of its practitioners – and how to best teach those skills and values.

Pride sees rigorous accreditation as absolutely essential and notes that in the eight years between team visits, each accredited program still files comprehensive annual reports. However, she and her colleagues also saw that the time was right for a fresh approach for NAAB, which celebrates its 80th

project at the AIA Santa Fe Luncheon and at the AIA New Mexico Christopher Kelley Leadership Development Program. [Read more...](#)



Photography: Isaiah Smith

Student Team: Carlos Martinez, Eric Santti, Keenan Boliek-Poling, Wesley Eccles, Siavash Rezaei, Kurtis Mccurdy

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year of service to the profession this year. For two years, the committee’s 15 members met, brainstormed, and widened their constituencies, eventually bringing in over 100 participants for writing teams and specific study groups. Pride was on the writing group that finalized the new document.

“The new conditions are dramatically different,” Pride emphasized. “There’s a shift to self-assessment and setting goals along with simplicity: we went from 26 student performance criteria to just 14 criteria.” Only two criteria require student work as evidence of meeting standards: traditionally accreditation examiners spent hours in closed-off rooms going over portfolios, projects, and papers. More conversation will take place with more interaction among faculty, students, and examiners.

Directing DPAC, at Last

Today, Pride is especially happy to begin her second year leading DPAC, a job she applied for 25 years ago and says she has worked toward ever since. Pride’s journey to run this Center started while she was in private practice after graduating with her Bachelor of Architecture degree from Arizona State University. She was working in L.A., not far from where she grew up in Granada Hills. After the city’s civil unrest in 1992, she helped found the Design Professionals’ COALITION, which offered architectural and planning assistance to the neglected communities of South L.A. The experience taught her the power of socially responsible architecture and community engagement in urban planning and she knew that is what she wanted to do with her life.

When she heard about an opening at DPAC, she applied immediately. It fit her interests and mission. “I didn’t hear anything so I called them,” she recalled with a laugh. She learned that she missed out because she didn’t have a graduate degree.

So, with the help of former SA+P dean, Geraldine Forbes Isais, who recruited her to teach architecture courses at Woodbury University, along with mentors in the architecture programs at University of Southern California, where she taught, and UCLA, where she served as diversity coordinator, Pride immediately began applying to graduate schools. However, before matriculating, she was recruited to be the inaugural director of the new Downtown Design Center in Lexington, Kentucky – a college-community collaborative similar to DPAC.

The next year, she took off to get that graduate degree she lacked, earning her Master of Architecture in Urban Design from Harvard University Graduate School of Design. She then returned to Lexington to spend seven years on the University of Kentucky College of Architecture faculty.

Today she enjoys being a colleague with former dean Forbes Isais, and now she looks forward to working with another person from her past: Robert Alexander González, the new

dean. After González earned his undergraduate architecture degree from UT Austin, Pride, as the UCLA architecture school's diversity coordinator, tried to recruit him to their graduate program. He chose MIT instead, but they kept in touch over the years.

This fall she is working with students on a number of DPAC projects, including a major development in Santa Fe, where she lives in a historic home. The project is in Midtown, a 64-acre area of mixed-use growth not constrained by the historical layers of other sections in the city. The project includes designing and implementing a community engagement process to inform the final development plan and the agreement between the city and the developers. “Just think,” Pride said, “how often do students get to influence a signature development in the middle of a city?”

And how often do architecture professors have the opportunity to shape how architecture students learn their craft, now and into the future?

For years to come, accredited architectural schools—and their students and faculty—will benefit from Pride’s insights into what makes a great academic program for training great architects.

Professor Michael Pride can be reached at mlpride@unm.edu



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