

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY



The vision of the School of Architecture is to empower students to make creative contributions in the cause of architecture.

The mission of the School of Architecture is to cultivate a collaborative learning community focused upon critical thinking and ethical responsibility. We embrace established fundamentals and encourage the exploration of emerging innovations in design and technology.

*Reflections
Vol. V Fall 2019*



REFLECTIONS

Hello!

It is my pleasure to bring the fall edition of the *Reflections* newsletter to you as we close out the first semester of the 2019-20 academic year. Our goal for this issue is to introduce our five new faculty, as well as share what some of our Emeritus faculty have been up to. And we also want to share some really good news - first, the OSU School of Architecture was again featured in the top rankings provided by the annual Design Intelligence survey. Wow! In August we welcomed the largest freshman class of recent memory, and simultaneously entered the largest third year class into Professional School. And, alumnus Rand Elliott, FAIA designed a renovation to our Gallery.

We are already planning for the summer of 2020, when we will send 40 of our students on OSU Architecture study abroad programs. In addition, for the second time we are hosting a travel/study program for alumni! Join us in Japan and earn HSW continuing education credits along the way - fun!

We hope you will enjoy learning what's new at the School of Architecture, and please keep in touch! We are proud of our current students and of the accomplishments of our alumni.

Suzanne Bilbeisi, AIA

Centennial Professor

Head of the School of Architecture

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Facebook: Oklahoma State University School of Architecture

Instagram: @OkStateArch

Twitter: @OkStateArch

◀ Students initiate the new gallery walls at the ARCH Centre unveiling on October 31.

NEW FACES

Over the past two years, five new professionals have joined the ranks of the faculty at the School of Architecture, bringing new ideas and new energy to the programs. Let us introduce them to you!

Assistant Professor Christina McCoy graduated from Oklahoma State University in 2007 with Bachelor degrees in Architectural Engineering and Architecture. She received a Master of Science in Architecture from University of Cincinnati, focusing in the history and theory of “tectonics” in architecture. Professor McCoy received a Master of Civil Engineering with a Structural emphasis from University of Kansas. She is both a licensed structural engineer and architect. Her professional experience includes nearly a decade working as a structural engineer in Kansas City, where she focused on the design of long-span structures and stadiums. She taught an “Integrated Systems” class and assisted with design-build studios at University of Kansas School of Architecture prior to joining the faculty at OSU.

Professor McCoy received the Structural Engineers of Kansas and Missouri Young Member Award for Community Leadership in 2016. In addition, she was a member of the 2017-2018 AIA KC Pillars Leadership Program.

Professor McCoy’s interests lie in the intersection of structures and architecture. Of particular interest are instances where building technology leads the cutting edge of design. In addition, she looks for opportunities to demonstrate the value of collaboration between engineering disciplines and architectural design. In both lecture classes and studios, she encourages students to use technical skills in a creative way. As a primary example of this goal, for one of her exams in the Concrete I class this Fall both architecture students and architectural engineering students were asked to design a structural system at three different scales - bus stop, pavilion, and shelter. Students rendered their designs, and included all the calculations necessary to prove the merit of the structural concept.

Christina is teaching Analysis I and Concrete I this fall, and is developing two new courses for the AE curriculum - a course on loads and load paths, and a history/theory of building structures course.





Assistant Professor Dr. Jared Macken was born in Oklahoma, grew up in Kansas, and studied architecture and design in different cities around the US and the world. Jared received his Doctorate of Science in Architecture from the ETH Zurich, his Master of Architecture from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design from Wichita State University. As an architectural designer and theorist, he has taught architecture and design courses at the ETH Zurich, University of Illinois at Chicago, National University Singapore, University of Kansas, Wichita State University, and Emporia State University. The Fall 2019 semester is his first teaching full-time at Oklahoma State University.

Professor Macken's projects investigate the intersections between architecture and the city including the many moments they influence and affect cultural production. His doctoral research titled "Radical Picturesque and Owen Luder's Town Centre of 1960's England" examines architectural discourse related to the city and recuperates the town centre as an alternative twentieth century typology. The design studios and electives Professor Macken teaches at OSU are informed by this research. His courses analyze the histories, ambitions, and design methodologies behind these typologies in order to better utilize them within the architecture discipline.

In addition to teaching design studios, Professor Macken is teaching a spring 2020 elective course called "The Legend of the Town Centre." This course will explore how specific architectural moments found in the small towns and cities in Oklahoma—specifically the town centres, main streets, courthouse squares, homesteads, and even ghost towns—contribute to architectural discourse on the contemporary city. This course is a continuation of Professor Macken's other projects that explore how cultural production has become a key mediator between architecture and the city. One such example is his book *The Western Town: A Theory of Aggregation* (Hatje-Cantz, 2013) which architecturalizes twenty-two towns depicted in Wild West films by drawing them as highly detailed urban plans. The book extrapolates new design methodologies and techniques from these fictional yet very precisely designed towns. Its target audience includes architects, urban planners, and Wild West film buffs alike.



Before coming to Oklahoma, **Assistant Professor Keith Peiffer** was a practicing architect in Baltimore for over ten years. During that time, spent at two different sized firms, his professional work encompassed a broad range of scales, construction types, materials, and programs. On most projects, he contributed to the design team from schematics through completion of construction, including spending many hours in the field doing construction administration. Most recently as an associate at Ziger/Snead Architects, he led project teams and specialty consultants for a diverse range of projects (high-end residential, educational, and institutional). This experience provided a strong foundation in the skillful execution of well-considered architecture.

Keith Peiffer received his Bachelor of Architecture with honors and distinction from Penn State University and his Master of Architecture in Design Research from the Taubman College at the University of Michigan. While a graduate student at Taubman College, Keith was the sole recipient of the 2012 Master of Science Student Award for his graduate research. His professional work with Design Collective and Ziger/Snead Architects has received numerous awards for design excellence from the AIA and other professional organizations, and his project for the Parks & People Foundation was included in the national Emerging Professionals Exhibition titled “Citizen Design.”

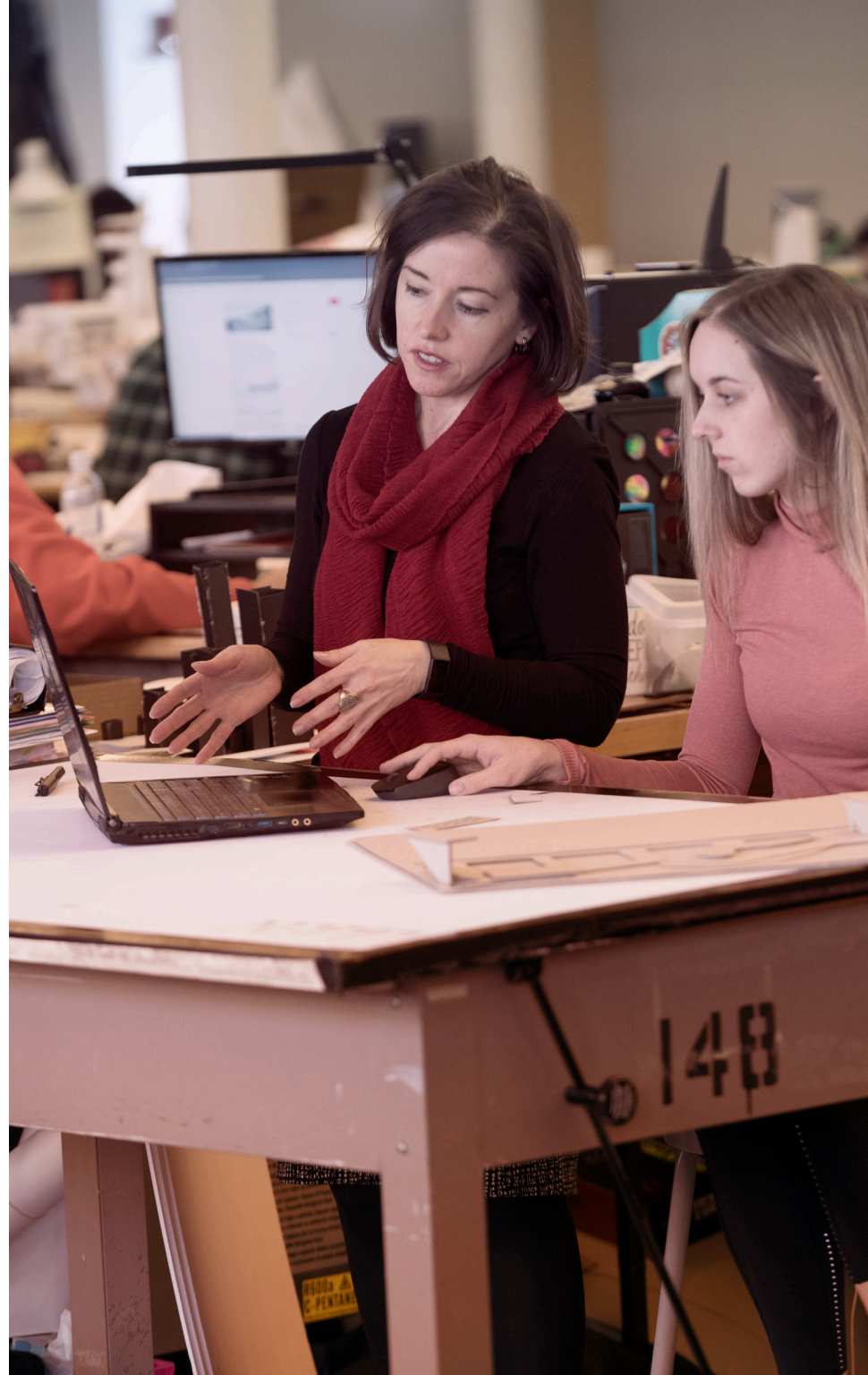
Professor Peiffer’s design and research work has focused on how the built environment manifests broader social, cultural, economic, and political realities. He published articles and presented at conferences on his graduate research project titled *Mass Intimacy*, which explored the ways the big box grocery store is shaped by predictive analytics, digital subjectivities, and infrastructural logistics. His current research is focused on the relational structure around contemporary design elements and materials, with a particular emphasis on turning a critical eye to those elements that we take for granted.

While practicing in Baltimore, he also taught as an adjunct professor at the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) and Morgan State University before coming to Stillwater to teach full time. At OSU, Keith has taught design studios at the second and fourth year levels, the Architectural Materials class, and a new elective focused upon Architectural Criticism and Theory.

Assistant Professor Sarah Ra earned her Bachelor of Architecture degree at Oklahoma State University in 2003 and her Master of Interior Architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design in 2005. She is a licensed architect in the state of Oklahoma, a LEED accredited professional, and a certified interior designer. Her practice experience in New York centered on adaptive reuse, working with corporate clients on several significant buildings in Manhattan, including a large project in the Seagram building. She also conducted projects for clients in World Trade III, the adjacent World Financial Center, and the New York Stock Exchange. After returning to Oklahoma, she opened a design build studio focusing on residential work and materials research.

Sarah taught at the University of Oklahoma, the Department of Design, Housing, and Merchandising at Oklahoma State, and now serves as a full time Assistant Professor at the School of Architecture at OSU. She has taught a diverse range of courses, including materials courses for both architecture and interior design, foundation design theory, first through third year design studios, and graphics. Professor Ra currently teaches first and second year architectural design studios, and History and Theory of Asian Architecture. She also co-leads Urban Asia, a new study abroad program for architecture students in its third year of development. Focusing on urban networks, the course includes travel to China, Japan, and Korea, and allows students to experience cultures and their influence on both historical and contemporary architecture of the region.

Professor Ra's scholarship and creative activities focus on sustainability, adaptive reuse, as well as the study of East Asia. She will be presenting the work of her study abroad course at OU's conference Schools of Thought, as well as her paper "Cultural Influence in the Digital Age" at the upcoming ACSA conference in March. Third year students under her mentorship were recently awarded a sustainability grant through the SGA. They are currently constructing their design for the Green Lotus, a moveable structure for the exhibition of sustainable design strategies, including solar power, aquaponics, and reclaimed materials. The work will be featured at OSU's Earth Day 2020 festival in April.



OSU ARCHITECTURE

AGAIN RANKED IN DESIGN INTELLIGENCE



Each year Design Intelligence prepares a survey of architects asking "Which architecture schools do you most admire for a combination of faculty, programs, culture, and student preparation for the profession?" Of the 82 public undergraduate programs in the United States, OSU ranked in the top 20%! Graduates of OSU Architecture were also noted as among the most desirable to hire.

And finally, Professor Moh Bilbeisi was again named one of the "Most Admired Architectural Educators" in the USA. Each year thirty professors are identified on this list; with only 2400 full time faculty of Architecture this means our Professor Moh is in the top 1% of professors in the country!

OLD FRIENDS

With all the new professors at the School of Architecture, you may wonder what some of our retired faculty are doing now that they've moved on from OSU - let's find out!

Professor Steven O'Hara retired in May 2018 after 30 years on the School of Architecture faculty. Phyllis and Steve left Stillwater for the Pacific Northwest; they live in Suquamish, Washington on the Kitsap Peninsula. Suquamish is a small town on the Port Madison Reservation between the Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains. Phyllis and Steve love to spend time hosting family and friends. The Natural side of the Puget Sound allows for visiting the Pacific Ocean, many great mountains, the expansive sound, Victoria, British Columbia and Seattle. Travel around the Kitsap is a big change from living in Oklahoma. Speed limits are low and roads are winding, but the journey is beautiful. Travel to their new home requires planes, trains, ferries, cars and shuttles, so if you want to visit be prepared for a long haul. With both daughters living in Oklahoma however, trips back to Stillwater will remain a frequent occurrence in their lives.

Professor Jeff Williams is thoroughly enjoying his retirement after 31 years teaching at OSU. His first project was to completely redevelop a home for he and his wife, Debbie, and then they hit the road, putting over 20,000 miles on their RV "Charlie." Jeff then began watercolor painting, eventually cultivating a wonderful group of professional painting friends throughout the country as he honed his skills. Professor Williams describes this group of friends as exceptionally collegial, encouraging and helpful, and at their urging he began submitting his work to juried exhibitions and juried plein air painting competitions. This has proved to be quite fruitful, and as a result Jeff has been traveling the USA painting, cultivating more artistic friends, and having a blast! His paintings have won numerous awards, he is continuing to improve his painting skills, and he has put over 30,000 miles on his "supercool paintmobile" (otherwise known as a 2013 minivan!) in just this year. While Jeff is painting Debbie spends her time working on her first novel.

► "Almost Home" 7.5"x 7.5" plein air watercolor by Jeff Williams. Painted on a section road north of Stillwater as part of the September 2018 Strada Easel Challenge to paint a painting a day en plein air for 30 days, this painting has been recognized as a Finalist in the January 2019 online Emerging Artist Art Muse Contest, by judge Jill Basham, as well as recognized as one of the "FAV15" in the February 2019 online Boldbrush Painting Contest





Professor Nigel Jones retired in October 2017 after 30 years with Oklahoma State University - the first 20 years as part of the School of Architecture faculty, and then in 2006 Nigel moved to the office of Long Range Facilities Planning. As University Architect, Nigel provided oversight for all construction on the Stillwater campus and the other eight campuses in the A&M system. The list of new or renovated buildings completed under his tenure is extensive, but amongst those projects are the recently completed McKnight Center for the Performing Arts, the Spears School of Business, University Commons Dorm and North Dining, the Student Union renovation/expansion, and the restoration/renovation of Old Central.

Nigel recently completed the design and construction of a new home on six acres outside Lawrence, Kansas; nowadays Nigel divides his time between Lawrence, Stillwater, Crested Butte, and the OSU Doel Reed Center in Taos. Recent hip surgery has been unable to slow Nigel down - he remains very active in OSU life by consulting on current building projects on campus, as well as attending performances at the McKnight Center.

Professor Bill Haire retired to Norman, OK to be closer to his family there. Bill established a permanent charitable fund in memory of his wife to support the causes she held dear. Currently, the fund supports annual state-wide musical performance competitions for high school and college classical guitarists and operatic vocalists in Oklahoma. It also supports an annual national flute competition for the same age-group in Texas. Bill attends all of these programs. The fund also provides grants to animal welfare groups, and Bill is sure the fund will support other similar philanthropic causes in the future. If you have an interest in supporting the *Donna Marie Theisen Haire Memorial Fund*, please reach out to Bill (bdhaire@att.net).

Bill also collects, restores and preserves family photos, some as old as 100 years. He divides them into related family groups and produces DVD "slide shows" with the photos arranged in chronological order and accompanied by descriptive captions and appropriate background music. This is an ongoing project which Bill pursues without technical assistance.

Professor David Hanser continues frequently making round trips between his homes in southern Illinois and Stillwater. Since his retirement in 2010, he has largely been able to change his focus from architecture and art to his hobby, music. He says he might have become a musician if he'd had any real talent! He's not ignored architecture entirely, in fact he volunteers once a week at the local house-museum, one of the oldest brick residences in the state of Illinois, and he was appointed to a three-year term on the advisory board of the Illinois State Preservation Agency. He's also been restoring his grandfather's house, which his grandfather and father built in 1905. That has allowed him to create a room, the grandparent's old living room, as his music room where he has his piano and spends part of each day depressing the keys, occasionally in the order the composer specified. The old dining room has become his library. Outside, he fights the never ending battle to tame the six-acre steeply sloped wilderness behind his homes. He stays busy.

Professor Jim Knight retired in 1998, but remains connected to many former students and alumni from 12 years at the U of Illinois, and 26 years at OSU as student and faculty. Jim reports that his twenty years of retirement have been fabulous. He and Pam returned to his home state of Colorado, where he designed and helped build a large family house on 36 acres in the mountains near Gunnison Colorado. They enjoyed many gatherings there with family and friends for skiing, snowmobile adventures, and the many outdoor opportunities Colorado offers. As Jim became less young, they moved to Montrose, Co in 2007 and now play a lot of golf, travel some, and he designs projects for others in their community.

Jim enjoys following former students on Facebook, texts, some from 50 years ago and now retiring themselves, have grand kids etc, etc. It gives him great joy and a sense of pride to see they have, and are doing well in architecture, and in life in general. Jim flies an OSU flag on his golf cart and wears orange on game days!

Jim credits many significant OSU friends and colleagues who so impacted his life and work. Most are now passed, and are Bob Wright, Dick Williams, Donn Wooldridge, Harry Mason, Sasha Erdely, John Bryant, George Chamberlain, George Baumiller, Bill Fash, Bill Lacy, and Dick Cramer.

► Jim Knight, proudly displaying his Orange Power on the golf courses of Colorado



NEWS

School News

The 2020 Career Fair hosted by AIAS will occur February 13. Interested firms may sign up at HireOSU.okstate.edu. The Architecture Career Fair can be found in the 'employer' tab. The annual Career Fair offers the opportunity to meet with an array of potential interns and new graduates in both Architecture and Architectural Engineering.

The Lecture Series for the School of Architecture in the fall was robust. Guests were: Duane Mass of OKC's Mass Architects, Daniel Ralls of Olson Kundig Architects in Seattle, Professor Doris Sung of USC, Marlon Blackwell of Marlon Blackwell Architects in Fayetteville, and Professor Andres Sevtsuk of the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

In the summer of 2020, the school is again offering a travel study opportunity for alumni! Professors Moh and Suzanne Bilbeisi will lead the program, which will connect with the student program in Tokyo and Kyoto. Up to eight hours of HSW learning units will be provided as part of the program instruction—plus sketching with Moh! Dates are May 31-June 7, 2020. If you would like to go to Japan

with other OSU alumni and the Bilbeisis next summer, contact Suzanne by email with any questions, and then sign up at archadventures.okstate.edu!

The School of Architecture unveiled the newly renovated gallery space this October 31. Alumnus Rand Elliott, FAIA developed the design for floating walls, suspended in the space by large steel trusses welded in place to the existing columns. The floating effect is further enhanced with LED lighting along the lower edge of the walls; the magnetized polycarbonate surfacing has a luminous quality. The new ARCH Centre is a signature space for the school!

This fall marked twenty years of the ASTEK program! The *Architecture Students Teaching Elementary Kids* community service project was conceived in 1999 to offer art and design education to fifth grade students in the Stillwater Public Schools. Every year since, a dedicated corps of 30 to 40 Architecture and Architectural Engineering students volunteer as teachers for more than 250 kids over the 10 week curriculum. The program is capped off by an exhibit in our gallery of the cities created by the kids.

► Fall 2019 ASTEK Exhibit in the ARCH Centre



In the summer of 2019, the *Discover Architecture* program hosted 48 high school students over two sessions, the largest number of prospective students the program has ever served. Annual sponsorship from firms is critical to maintaining a low fee for attendance, allowing more students to explore the idea of a career in architecture or architectural engineering. Professor Bilbeisi has directed the school's outreach and recruiting efforts since 1996; many graduates of our program initially arrived through the *Discover Architecture* gateway! If your firm would like to be a sponsor of this career orientation program with the School of Architecture, please contact Suzanne Bilbeisi.

This fall the School of Architecture proudly recognized the new class of third year students - 45 Architecture and 10 Architectural Engineering - in the second ever "Professional School Welcome" event. Students attended professional development and orientation sessions, shop training modules, and a special Professional School ceremony attended by family and friends.

Faculty Awards

Associate Professor John Phillips received recognition as the Regents Outstanding Teacher of CEAT in the fall 2019 OSU Convocation. Congratulations, John! And of course kudos to Moh, for his 3rd recognition in the Design Intelligence rankings!

Alumni Honorees

Jim Hasenbeck, AIA (M Arch 1982), was inducted into the CEAT Hall of Fame this fall. Jim's professional contributions to improving the quality of life of the citizens of Oklahoma, as well as his incredible level of service to his community were factors in his selection. Congratulations, Jim!

Additionally, Todd Hanson (M Arch 1982) was inducted as a Fellow of the AIA this year. Todd practices architecture in New Hampshire.

ALUMNI GIVING

Students of the School of Architecture benefit greatly from the generosity of alumni who give to support student programs, travel/study, and scholarships. Three new fundraising initiatives underway this fall are:

The O'Hara Family Fund, which supports field trips, travel/study, and travel to competitions for students in the Architectural Engineering program. The

endowment not only recognizes Steve's 30 years of educating architectural engineers in our program, but more importantly it promotes his legacy at OSU. The fund was an initiative begun by Gene Brown (B ArcE '98), who wanted to honor the impact that Professor O'Hara had on his career. If you agree that Professor O'Hara had an impact on your professional life, please give a one-time gift or make a monthly pledge in his honor!



O'Hara Fund
QR Code

The Alumni Fund for Travel/ Study Programs is a new fund that supports our students and programs on the now required study abroad. Alumnus Larry Kester (B Arch '68) gave a seed gift to start the fund, he envisions the fund as a place where any alumnus can contribute at whatever level they are able. Help us double the fund to \$50,000 by summer 2020!



Travel Study
QR Code

The new **Architecture Scholarship Fund** similarly provides a place for alumni and

friends to offer assistance to current students on the path to becoming a professional in the world of Architecture. All donations are expended the next year, immediately providing scholarships to deserving students in our programs. Please help us reach our goal of \$25,000 by the end of 2020!



SoA
Scholarship
QR Code

This year we tested a concept - would firms be interested in sponsoring coffee for School of Architecture students? The answer was a resounding YES! Coffee sponsorships for the newly renovated ARCH Centre are a hit! For the nominal fee to cover the cost of the beverages we will gladly place your firm's marketing materials on our Coffee Cart; and our students will appreciate the caffeine! It's a win-win situation!

If your firm would like to sponsor a design competition, the Coffee Cart beverages, the *Discover Architecture* program, or student travel to national conferences (AIAS or AEI), contact Suzanne. Bilbeisi@Okstate.edu - Thanks!

"Shortly after graduating from OSU, I started to consistently make an annual gift to the School of Architecture. At first it was a nominal amount equal to \$10 for each year since I had graduated. Easy math and easily justified. The dollar amount slowly and regularly increased as my ability to increase it matched my career advancement. Through all these years I have shared this strategy with recent grads I meet so they too can get in the habit of giving back to the Schools of Architecture that gave them the foundation to succeed in our profession. Through my long involvement with the AIA I have had the opportunity to travel and meet with architects from all over the country. Invariably somewhere in the "getting to know you" conversations the question of where we went to architecture school comes up. I have been proud to claim my connection to Oklahoma State, and through my annual contributions to the school I feel that in a small way I can help keep the high reputation the school has had since long before I was there. I encourage you to do the math and at least make an equivalent contribution this year."

Bill Seider, FAIA

B ARCH Class of 1974, and member of the 2019 SoA Advisory Board



2019 DONORS

The following alumni and friends provided their financial support of our programs and students in the calendar year 2019. Thank you!

\$25,000+

Larry & Linda Kester

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Mike and Sharon Damore

Randy & Valda Kreie

Merv & Naomi Snowden

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Suzanne & Moh'd Bilbeisi

Ken & Katherine Corbin

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Edward A. Bond

Suzanne & Dallas Branch

Thom & Leslie Campbell

John & Bonnie Chau

Jack & Carol Corgan

Dan & Susan Evans

Jim & Belinda Hasenbeck

Tom Martinez

Joe & Connie Mitchell

Steve & Phyllis O'Hara

Bill & Mandy Seider

Richard Skinner

Jim & Cherrie Turner

Keith & Katherine Yancey

Bob Zahl & Steve Ford

Many other alumni and friends gave to the School of Architecture in the category of up to \$999.

We are truly grateful for alumni support of our school & students; we have the best alumni!

Planned Giving

Donors who included the School of Architecture with their estate plans in 2019:

J. Stephen & Jane Ford

Dr. David Hanser

Firms and companies who have provided support for student design competitions or other special programs include:

ACME Brick

Alpha Consulting Engineers

Architects Collective

Beck Design

Conoco Phillips Co

Corgan Associates

Cynergy

DLR Group

FSB

GH2 Architects

Glenn Partners

Illuminating Engineering Society

Iwpb

MA+ Architecture

Manhattan

Mass Architects

Museum of the Bible

OK Structural Engineers Assoc

OSU Vice President of Research

Richard Simunek

Studio Architecture

US Stone Industries

Wallace Engineering

If you would like to learn of other opportunities to further assist our school and students, please email Professor Suzanne Bilbeisi (suzanne.bilbeisi@okstate.edu).



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