

SACD Diversity Initiatives

Fall 2016

AIA Diversity Statement

“Diversity is a cultural ethos embraced by AIA membership to foster inclusion, service and a quality of life in celebration of all communities in our society. This is regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, religion, physical ability, sexual orientation or identity, age, geography, intellectual or practice area.”

AIA “Diversity in the Profession of Architecture Report”:

<http://www.aia.org/about/initiatives/AIAS078656>

From the 2016 SACD Strategic Plan:

1. Seek diversity in full-time faculty, adjunct appointments, visiting appointments, lecture series guests, external critics.
2. Seek diversity in student cohort.
3. Recruit to develop greater diversity.
4. Expand diversity in academic coursework, both existing and proposed.
5. Seek input from student cohort regarding climate of diversity and gender issues in the school.

Initiatives & Accomplishments

Faculty & Staff Hiring

Taryn Sabia: Associate Research Professor and Head of the Florida Center for Community Design and Research. Professor Sabia holds degrees from Eckerd College, Harvard, The Rhode Island School of Design and USF. She is co-founder of the non-profit “Urban Charrette” and has practiced architecture in Florida. Prof Sabia has led two grant supported graduate design studios in the Florida cities of Oldsmar and Cape Coral.

Josue Robles: Visiting Research Faculty holding a joint appointment with the SACD and the FCCDR. Prof Robles holds degrees from USF SACD (M. Arch) and University College London / The Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment. As a Hispanic male, Prof Robles provides an important conduit to our Hispanic students and deepens our ethnic diversity. As a graduate of the Bartlett he leverages relationships to support the ongoing SACD effort in London with the Bartlett DPU and recently established the school’s new relationship with the City of Aberdeen. Professor Robles has also worked with municipal leaders, educators and architects in Puerto Rico and multiple advanced graduate studio trips to San Juan and surrounds.

Kristen Ring: Assistant Professor Ring holds degrees from NC State and KHB Kunsthochschule Berlin-Weissensee (University of the Arts, Berlin). She brings to the SACD a sophisticated international experience and outlook, long residency in Berlin, Germany, diverse expertise in the realms of education, practice, scholarship and public outreach through her AA Gallery in Berlin.

Krystyna Sznurkowski: Adjunct faculty teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in Architectural History and frequently serves as a jury critic and a Master’s Project committee member. Sznurkowski is a graduate of the University of Florida (M. Arch) and practices as an architect and landscape designer.

Janelle Wisheart: Adjunct faculty in drawing and a graduate of the USF School of Art and Art History (MFA). Wisheart brings a critical presence to drawing and rendering by hand.

Giancarlo Gusti: Adjunct faculty teaching the “Detail Making” workshop and a USF graduate (M. Arch). Gusti brings an extraordinary background in construction at the detail/furniture scale and is a Hispanic male.

Judith Birdsong: Visiting Professor in the advanced graduate design studio and external reviewer for Masters project presentations. Birdsong is a graduate of The University of Texas in Austin and the University of Florida. She is a faculty member at UT Austin.

JoAnne Fiebe: Visiting Research Assistant directing projects in the Florida Center for Community Design and Research. She also serves as an adjunct faculty teaching “The City”, a Gordon rule writing intensive course. She is a graduate of the University of Miami and USF (MUCD) and recently returned to Tampa from the public sector, working as a planner/urban designer with Fairfax county near Washington, DC.

Cynthia Mason: Adjunct faculty in freehand drawing and a graduate of the USF School of Art and Art History (MFA) as well as the Ringling College (graphic design) in Sarasota, FL. Mason also studied architecture at Virginia Tech. She is a working artist with numerous shows, most recently in NYC.

Student Hiring

The SACD faculty and staff takes careful stock of hiring opportunities for students in graduate teaching, graduate research and other hiring positions.

The gender diversity of Graduate Assistant positions largely echoes the gender make-up of the student cohort. The percentage of m/f students lags behind the university.

Fall 2016 SACD graduate enrollment: 85 males/80 females (48.5%f);

Fall 2016 SACD undergraduate enrollment: 48 males/39 females (44.8%f).

Fall 2016 SACD Graduate Assistants: 11 males and 13 females (54%f).

Fall 2016 USF gender: 44% male / 56% female (total, all students)

The faculty are aware of diversity/social equity issues and address these matters in discussions ranging from appointment of graduate assistants, nominations for student awards, accommodation of students with disabilities (physical and learning) and respect for the diversity of cultural and religious beliefs.

Recruiting

In reaching out to high schools and community colleges as well as four year colleges, the SACD staff and leadership emphasizes – to faculty as well as prospective students – the inclusionary nature of the school, faculty, staff and, by extension, the discipline. We discuss student organizations, opportunities for leadership positions, research opportunities and inroads to the profession. Recruiting visits & meetings: St. Pete College (Clearwater); Hillsborough Community College (Tampa); Valencia College (Orlando); University of Central Florida (Orlando); Miami Dade College (Miami/Kendall Campus); Palm Beach State College (W. Palm Beach); Dunedin High School (Pinellas County); Recruiting packages distributed to 50+ regional high schools.

We have recently been able to develop a new shop platform for a wheelchair bound student. In order to accommodate height limitations, the Shop Head Michael Lemieux and the wood shop GTAs developed a portable shop on wheels that is designed to be properly accessed from wheelchair height. The mobile platform house a table saw, band saw and sanding belt.

New & Emerging Coursework

Design NOW (Weston)

Urbanism NOW (Green)

Buildings & Ideas (Sznurkowski)

Architecture & Film (Sabia)

Latin American Architecture (Robles)

Student Cohort

SWiA

Student Women in Architecture (SWiA), founded in 2013, has emerged as a strong organization sponsoring social and educational events and a new “mentor/mentee” program for beginning students.

Studio Reps

New Student Studio Representative program.

Future Initiatives:

High School Summer Architecture Program: encourage a diverse groups of high school students to experience and consider architecture as a career path.

NOMAS: Encourage and support SACD student cohort to found a chapter of NOMAs / National Organization of Minority Architects Students.

<http://www.noma.net>

Gensler Diversity Scholarship: Support SACD students to pursue the prestigious Gensler Diversity Scholarship and similar awards.

<http://www.gensler.com/scholarships>