

2007

College of Design, Annual Diversity Report 2006–2007

Iowa State University College of Design

Follow this and additional works at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/diversityreports>

Recommended Citation

Iowa State University College of Design, "College of Design, Annual Diversity Report 2006–2007" (2007). *Diversity Reports*. 3.
<http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/diversityreports/3>

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Iowa State University Digital Repository at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Diversity Reports by an authorized administrator of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.

College of Design, Annual Diversity Report 2006–2007

College of Design - Annual Diversity Report 2006 - 2007

With the information provided by Institutional Research, a statistical profile of the college would indicate that for Fall, 2006 our student body was 8.2% total minority, 4.8% international, and 87% white and of that total number 51.5% were female. The faculty in the College of Design is 10.9% minority and 46.2% female, the P&S appointments are 76.9% female with 7.7 % minority and the Merit employees are 100% white and 100% female. The Department Chairs are all male and all white. (See Appendix)

While Institutional Research can put together a statistical profile of diversity in the College of Design, numbers alone do not and can not tell the story. This year the college has recruited and hired for the positions of Assistant Professor, Lori Brunner (Asian American), Jihyun Song (Korean) and Wei-Cheng Lin (Chinese).

- Lori Brunner comes to Iowa State with a BS in Architecture and a Masters of Urban Planning. She has earned her MFA and is currently completing her PhD in Education. This year she has submitted and has had accepted abstracts for presentations at several 2007/2008 International conferences.
- Wei-Cheng Lin comes to Iowa State with his BA from Chegch (Taiwan), MA's from both Missouri and Chicago and a PhD from Chicago. He his one of several new hires to strengthen the Art History program in the Art and Design Department.
- Jihyun Song comes to Iowa State with a BFA and MFA from Ewha Women's (Korea) and an MS from Wisconsin. She brings a strong research agenda, having presented at a national conference for the Interior Design Educator's Council (IDEC) in this her first year.

The College of Design is a group of individuals that embraces diversity in all its aspects. To that end, the College of Design was involved with the following as a part of its diversity efforts for the 2006 – 2007 school year.

Administration

At the end of the spring 2005 semester, the dean organized a study group of faculty and staff to examine diversity across the curricula. The group's charge was to consider the introduction of diversity into various curricula of the college in a continuous and comprehensive fashion, without relying exclusively on courses specifically designated for diversity or intercultural subject matter.

Committee members determined four areas of focus for the future:

- administrative support,
- knowledge of diversity issues and methods in teaching,
- climate within the college and in classes, and
- values reflected in teaching and research incentives and rewards, hiring, curriculum, etc.

During the 2006-2007 academic year, this Diversity Committee continued to identify and address diversity issues within the college. The committee developed and administered a climate survey for the college. The survey was meant to assess the perception of the faculty and staff relative to issues of race, ethnicity and gender. At this point the data is being

analyzed and will be used to develop initiatives in the college that will improve the “climate” in the college.

The Diversity Committee along with the COD Multicultural Liaison Office provided support for a student organized show entitled “Social (in) Justice through the Arts”.

The Diversity Committee provided support for an interdisciplinary (CRP, LA, Arch) group of graduate students plus faculty to present their research on diversity issues in the curriculum and the environment at the Planners Network Conference in New Orleans.

The Design administration provided financial support for the Women’s Leadership Summit to be held on campus April 27th.

In her position as president of the national American Institute of Architects (AIA), the associate dean has been an invited speaker and has offered workshops nationally and internationally on gender-equity and racial issues in the architectural profession.

During the 2006-2007 academic year, the minority liaison officer (MLO) continued a peer-mentoring program for first-year students in the Core Design Program. The mentoring program paired students in specific design disciplines with first-year students in an effort to improve their chances of being accepted into the professional program of their choice.

The MLO organized activities that resulted in the interaction of students of color in the College of Design with other ALANA (African, Latino/a, Asian, and Native American) students from across the campus as well as with design faculty members. The MLO also consulted students of color on academic issues and academic success strategies.

Faculty and Students

A number of faculty and students presented programs at, served as moderators for, or attended the ISCORE 2007 conference.

The Pacific Rim Traveling Studio took landscape architecture students to Malaysia, New Zealand and Australia in the summer of 2006. Efforts are ongoing to develop both a faculty and a student exchange with several Pacific Rim educational institutions.

The college has an extensive and long-running study-abroad program in Rome, which enables students from all the design disciplines to live and study in Italy for an entire semester or for the summer. Field trips explore not only Italy, but also France, Switzerland, Germany and Spain. Approximately 150 design students annually take part in the Rome Program.

Several faculty members and students in various College of Design departments worked to promote AIDS awareness and participated in the “Day Without Art.”

A graphic design class participated in the Iowa Latino Heritage Festival identity design competition. This project included research on cultural issues and the meaning of culture itself. The students conducted extensive research on what it means to be Latino and what

it means to be Latino in Iowa. The images were judged by the Iowa Latino Heritage Association. Four of the five finalist submissions, including the winning entry, were from this class. The winning design was used to promote the 2007 Iowa Latino Heritage Festival.

A graduate class in Graphic Design did research on and designed educational experiences for children with developmental disabilities. They were asked to research autism, epilepsy and cerebral palsy as part of the project. The project was to design a way to teach sign language to nonverbal children with one of these conditions. The project attempted to increase awareness about how to design for diverse audiences in a way that enhances the lives of those using the design.

Two fifth-year architecture students and their faculty adviser traveled to Nana Keieba in the West African nation of Mali as part of a project to program and design a multi-building complex in that area. This effort involved the nonprofit, nonreligious organization “Medicine for Mali,” which provides extensive medical services to the people of the region. To quote the faculty member, “Designing and advising on a project for a completely different culture, climate and site is a chance of a lifetime.” The work on the design is nearing completion, though the plan is to continue working with the construction project for the next several years.

Design that provided accessibility for disabled individuals represents the primary focus of several courses in each of the disciplines in the college.

In an effort to eliminate the “digital divide”—the varied abilities to manipulate digital media that students from different cultural and/or economic backgrounds bring to their design education—the college, through an interdisciplinary approach, has made efforts to introduce digital literacy early in students’ program of study.

An interdisciplinary group of faculty and students worked with members of the United Houma Nation (a Native American population in coastal Louisiana devastated by Hurricane Katrina) to plan for the rebuilding of the community.

An interdisciplinary group of faculty and students worked with members of the Coeur d’Alene Nation on several projects relative to economic development and tribal heritage.

An interdisciplinary group of faculty and students participated in a studio involving the analysis of homeless communities living in marginal areas in downtown Des Moines. “The project allowed students to acknowledge in a meaningful way the existence of this marginal population, to interact with it and to devise options to legitimize and empower its existence.”

With a “Women Enhancement Mini – Grant” from ISU, an architectural faculty member organized an interdisciplinary lecture series entitled “Women in Sustainable Design”.

A graphic design faculty member developed course projects that involve diversity topics, specifically racial identity and gender identity.

Landscape architecture students in the Mississippi River Studio had the opportunity to visit and to study social conditions and examine disaster areas in the southern US.

Paul Shao, professor of architecture, received the ISU International Service Award, which recognizes a faculty member for outstanding international service in teaching, research or administration, within the United States or abroad.

As a founding member of the Iowa Asian Alliance Foundation and president of the Chinese Cultural Center of America, an architecture faculty oversaw the planning, fund raising and construction of the Asian Gardens in Des Moines, Iowa.

An architectural faculty member was a founding member of the AIA Iowa Diversity Task Force, proposing initiatives and developing research on demographic data in the architectural profession to the 2007 AIA Iowa Convention.

Additional faculty efforts included advising student groups such as the American Indian Rights Organization, the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) the United Native American Student Association and the Black Graduate Students Association. Faculty members participated in the annual AISES conference and the biannual meetings of the American Indian Council of Architects and Engineers to help recruit students to attend Iowa State and the College of Design.

Design students have assumed leadership roles in a variety of groups with an agenda that encompasses diversity issues. One noteworthy effort is participation in Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS), including presentation at a national meeting by a landscape architecture student. Another design student serves as the facilitator for the ISU Gay/Bi Men's Group and is in charge of campus activities for the National Aids Awareness Day.

Gallery/Public Art/Lectures

The College of Design and/or design faculty members organized or presented the following lectures or shows on campus:

- "The Design Process, Autism and Animals"
Temple Grandin, professor of animal science, Colorado State University A prelude to Disability Awareness Week at Iowa State.
- "Changing Realities, Static Theories, and Conceptual Dead Ends: Conceptualizing Changing Livelihood Strategies in African Cities"
Francis Owusu, Assistant Professor, Community and Regional Planning, Iowa State University.
- "Activist Architecture" John Cary, executive director, Public Architecture.
- "A Spatial Approach to Assess Student Performance from Rural and Urban Schools in Brazil" Monica Haddad, assistant professor, community and regional planning, and GIS extension specialist.

- Twelve College of Design faculty members took part in a symposium sponsored by the Center for Excellence in the Arts and Humanities. "Mapping Territories: Dialogues on Places, Peoples, and Spatial Practices".
- "Social (In) Justice through the Arts" Juried art show open to ISU students and recent graduates.
- "Painting with Indigenous Words and Music" Michael Jacobs of the Oklahoma Western Band Cherokee Nation.

Working with a fellow artist who is a native of the island nation of Palau, an art and design faculty member collaborated to produce a project called "50 Self-Portraits." The intent was to address the concerns of race, ethnicity, friendship, competition, and the different experiences and consequences of living in 21st-century America.

Appendix

