



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The Business Alliance is a group with members from a diverse group of professional sales people, professional contractors, manufacturers and others in the building industry, all supporting the School of Architecture. This support comes in the form of giving time, talent as well as financial support to the school and to the endowment fund of the college.

After four years of wondering what the real purpose or goal of the group really is, the Business Alliance accepted the responsibility to develop a 500 level course for 5th year students. After considerable discussion the consensus of the group was to find a method to enhance the practical experience of the student about to leave the safety and comfort of the design studio into the real world architectural practice.

In accepting the challenge, the group thought we were to have almost a year to develop the course of study. The reality of the situation is that a class is to be offered for the spring semester of 2006 for graduating 5th year students, and the course content has yet to be developed. In the last three weeks since the fall meeting, through the efforts of Corey Griffin, Lindsay Payne, Clark Llewellyn, Mary Byron, of the school of architecture and John Bartram of the Business Alliance, a course called "The Bridge" has come alive.

Course Title: The Bridge: Collaboration and Communication in Architectural Practice

Goals:

- Highlight the value and advantages of bringing contractors, engineers, manufacturers and the suppliers into the design process early.
- Emphasize the various people/resources available to access information when the students'/architects' knowledge base ends.
- Discuss the working relationships between architects and other building professionals---contractors, subcontractors, engineers, suppliers and manufacturers.

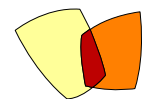
The classes will consist of field trips to construction sites, manufacturing facilities, supplier facilities, along with lectures and seminars by various building professionals.

When we meet again in February for our spring meeting, the 5th year students will be in the midst of the course. We will give a report to the advisory council as to our progress. At that time we will also be working on the course to be offered in the next academic year.

Sincerely,

John Bartram
Chairperson, Business Alliance

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