CHSD fellow is key advisor in U.K. health system overhaul

Sabbaticals usually involve taking a break from teaching to pursue research at another university; however, Dr. Roger Ulrich, professor of architecture at Texas A&M University, recently spent his sabbatical year as a key advisor for a massive building industry design competition undertaken by Great Britain’s National Health Service (NHS).

Specifically, Ulrich served as NHS’s senior advisor for the patient care environment, a position that utilized the professor’s internationally recognized expertise in healthcare architecture and evidence-based design. He also served as liaison between the project’s various stakeholders, which included ministers of state, senior administrators of NHS hospitals, the Royal College of Nursing, and numerous architecture firms and construction companies.

Ulrich also met with representatives of NHS hospitals, the Royal College of Nursing, and the British government, including Prince Charles and the Prime Minister’s personal advisor on health care, to discuss the importance of the patient experience in healthcare settings. He will lecture this January, prior to a speech by Prince Charles, at an event sponsored by the U.K. Department of Health and the Prince’s Foundation for the Built Environment.

“This was a once in a lifetime experience for a researcher like me. It has been a unique challenge, unlike anything that I have done in my career,” said Ulrich.

The NHS is currently in the process of constructing a historic number of new healthcare facilities throughout Great Britain to keep pace with rising demand while improving the quality of care provided to its citizens. The project’s current goal includes the construction of 100 major hospitals, over 4,000 clinics and numerous mental-health facilities. This project is currently the largest of its kind in the world, with total expenditures estimated in excess of $25 billion.

Multimedia design tool earns national recognition

A CD-based educational design tool titled “Outdoor Space for Aging,” developed by two CHSD faculty fellows, received first place in the Product Design category at the First Annual Active Place Design Competition held last April at the Environmental Design Research Association Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia. A total of 43 competition entries from several different countries focused on how the designed environment can encourage physical activity and promote good health.

The same project won another first place award for product design when exhibited at a May 2005 competition at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston.

Texas A&M architecture professors Susan Rodiek and Elton Abbott developed the prototype educational tool working with CHSD fellow Marcia Ory and other prominent gerontologists, landscape architects and educational psychologists. The project was designed to reach a broad audience of design professionals and industry decision-makers. The lessons, Rodiek said, will be especially important to practicing professionals who lack sufficient time to study this rapidly growing design specialty.

The multimedia CD provides research-based information on designing outdoor space at long-term care settings, with case studies, models, photos, drawings, interactive exercises and links to research and design resources. The project, currently in a testing phase, will ultimately include six instruction modules covering topics like entry gardens, walking loops, transition zones, nature parks and activity areas. It is funded by a grant from the National Institute on Aging, a division of the National Institutes of Health. For information about the “Lifezones For Aging” multimedia series, contact Susan Rodiek at (979) 862-2234, or rodiek@tamu.edu.

Faculty fellows’ papers published from CHSD

Along with teaching and conducting research, CHSD fellows have been busy publishing their findings as shown in the following examples. You can obtain reprints by contacting CHSD at (979) 845-7009, or chsd@archone.tamu.edu.


Graduate symposium kicks off HIAC meeting

On November 10, 2005 the College of Architecture at Texas A&M University is sponsoring a Graduate Research Symposium. The event, open to current and former students as well as members of HIAC organizations, will feature presentations of research undertaken by the masters and doctoral students from the College of Architecture. While several areas of specialization are represented, including health, sustainability, visualization, theory, etc., the symposium provides exposure to new research trends and offers visitors an opportunity to interact with students.

On November 11, the Center for Health Systems & Design will showcase the work of students who are currently pursuing the Certificate in Health Systems & Design.
CHSD Newsletter: Fall 2005

Why we work in health care

By MARDELLE SHEPLEY, Director, and SUSAN RODIEK, Associate Director
Center for Health Systems & Design

The devaution of Hurricane Katrina forces us to measure our accomplish-
ments against the needs of humankind. As designers, researchers, and specialists
in health care, we clearly have a role in improving the quality of life—a reason to
get out of bed in the morning and go to work. Unfortunately, we are easily distracted
from our original intentions. Paper shuffling and ledgers—the necessity to keep our organi-
izational ships afloat—must be addressed rigorously, but can serve as staves between
us and our idealistic objectives.

At the beginning of every academic year, we at the university are reminded to take
stock of where we have been and where we are heading. The intention of the Center
for Health Systems & Design in 2005-06 is to continue to improve the quality of our orga-
nization, while tallying around our mission to relieve suffering, provide comfort, and
generally make the world a better place.

Distance education courses in the works

In a time when distance education is a must for students and practitioners, two
new courses are being developed to ad-
dress that need by the Center for Health Systems & Design.

This fall, “The History and Theory of Healthcare Architecture” is offered to
graduate students focusing on architecture for health. The course, which adds
pre-20th century design and contemporary healthcare design, is currently a pilot pro-
gram that will be later offered online. The course will be streamed over the Internet
allowing users to watch live discussions and participate via e-mail or to watch “on-
demand” at a time of their choosing.

The second course, “Typologies of Con-
temporary Hospital Design,” will be offered in
the spring. It focuses on current health care
trends, ranging from hospital form to
detailed critical unit design.

Continuing education is among the
Center’s long-range goals, therefore these offerings are being developed with prac-
titioners in mind. Ultimately, practitioners using the Web could earn an advanced prac-
titioner certificate from the Center.

Additionally, the two new courses provide
current students interested in architecture-
for health with flexible opportunities for
pursuing this interest. Signature faculty member and CHSD faculty fellow, Kirk Hamilton, developed
the courses using his expertise gained as an architect and healthcare researcher. He
intends to involve healthcare experts as part of the course’s curriculum. The lectures
are intended to enrich students’ knowl-
edge while connecting them with top
architecture-for-health practitioners. CHSD plans call for the lectures to be recorded. The resulting library of oral histories from
contemporary healthcare practitioners will
be housed in the Center.

2005 grads earn CHSD certificates

Last May, the Center for Health Systems & Design presented 13
students with the Certificate in Health Systems & Design at the Col-
lege of Architecture’s spring 2005 master’s hooding ceremony.
The certificate provides students in any graduate degree pro-
gram in the College of Architecture an opportunity to concentrate
their studies in the field of architecture for health. The certificate is awarded
after the completion of 15 hours in health related courses and
a final project focusing on a health facility. Projects from the
spring 2005 graduates ranged from a center for autistic children to
an ambulatory care facility.

Meet the new associate director of the Center for Health Systems & Design

Dr. Susan Rodiek teaches architectural
design at Texas A&M University, where she is associate director of the Center for Health Systems & Design. She is a nationally reg-
istered architect with expertise in environ-
mental issues, with an emphasis on facili-
ties for aging, health care, and therapeutic garden environments. Her design studios
frequently produce real world projects in local and regional areas.

Rodiek’s recent research in residential
long-term care facilities has measured na-
ture-related health outcomes and assessed outdoor environmental factors from the
perspectives of both residents and staff.

College of Architecture students receive prestigious AIA Fellowships for 2005-06

Two graduate students in the College of Architecture at Texas A&M University were awarded AIA Arthur N. Turtle Jr. Graduate Fellowships in Health Facility Planning for 2005-06.

Shane Boren, a master of architecture student, was awarded the highest amount
given to any student for his final project study. His project involves designing a 45-
acre master plan for a new medical campus for the Cherokee Nation in partnership with
the Indian Health Service in Tahlequah, Oklahoma.

The design focuses on an adolescent re-
habilitation unit and an education initiative that would provide healthy living informa-
tion to the community.

Min-Young Seo, a Ph.D. candidate, also received a Turtle Fellowship for her work
titled, “Therapeutic and Developmental Design: The Relationship between Spatial
Endorsement and Elder-Child Social Interac-
tion.” Her study investigates how the built health care environment can influence ac-
tivity space usage and support the health and well-being of seniors with Alzheimer’s
disease in long-term care settings in rela-
tion to interpersonal interaction.

The fellowship is funded by the STERIS
Corporation, the AIA Academy of Architec-
ture for Health and the AIA Foundation.

The goals of the fellowship are to increase
students’ awareness of healthcare facilities and to advance the knowledge of planning and design for healthcare environments.

From the directors

“Using my experience as a practitioner, I hope to contribute to the context of the healthcare curriculum being offered by the College of Architecture at Texas A&M.”

— KIRK HAMILTON

NEWS BRIEFS

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Distinguished professor of marketing
appointed to CHSD faculty fellow post

To continue its goal of interdisciplinary
research, the Center for Health Systems & Design named Dr. Leonard L. Berry to its
growing list of faculty fellows. Berry is a distinguished professor of marketing and
holds the Beaman Chair in Retailing and Marketing Leadership in the Mays Business
School at Texas A&M University.

During his doctoral academic term he studied healthcare service while serving as
a visiting scientist at the Mayo Clinic. He is currently involved with the Center for
Health Design’s Pebble Projects, in which his studies focus on healthcare service
improvements.

Berry has been identified as the most
frequent contributor to marketing litera-
ture in the world. He has twice been recog-
nized with the highest honors Texas A&M
bestows on a faculty member: the Distin-
guished Achievement Award in Teaching and the Distinguished Achievement Award in Research.