

Newsletter Launch



Interim Dean **Bob Baron**

I am pleased to introduce the first issue of the **College of Architecture - CoA - Newsletter**. As a community of scholars focused principally on educating the next generation of transformative leaders, we are committed to preparing for the inconvenient truth of climate change through research and design that propose more sustainable ways of living and building within specific places.

We want to keep you informed about our activities and achievements. A lot is happening here in the College; we want to give a sense of the energy and excitement that the CoA is generating within UTSA, the city of San Antonio, and the region.

To this end, we will be sending you news stories frequently, one story every two weeks; and at some point, perhaps once a week. Each edition will focus on mainly one story. Topics include reviewing what the design studios are doing — the participants, and field trips, our new faculty members, student achievements and scholarships, study abroad programs, guest lecturers, CoA initiatives, curricular changes, and new programs. Also, we want you to know about all the exciting academic activities of our faculty members who are working on book and research projects; and about the papers that they have presented at national and international conferences. The newsletter will be integrated with the new CoA web site that is in works.

The first issue reports on the CoA retreat facilitated by our Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Research **Mahesh Senagala** that initiated the development of



our strategic plan. This effort supports the University's labors last year to develop a strategic plan for the institution. The UTSA is committed to becoming a premier public research university providing access to educational excellence and preparing citizen leaders for the global environment. The University has identified five strategic initiatives that will demand the collaborative work of the entire university community. Three foundational themes underpin these initiatives—promoting diversity, globalization, and transformative leadership and five areas for collaboration have been identified: health, security, energy and environment, human and social development, and sustainability. We are planning to support each of these university wide initiatives in our strategic plan.

Associate Dean Senagala and the CoA Strategic Planning taskforce, that includes Associate Professor **Dr. Vincent Canizaro**, ASO **Janice Kelsey**, Associate Professor **Andrew Perez**, and Assistant Professor **Irina Solovyova**, is currently fleshing out the CoA Strategic plan which will be completed by mid December after it is vetted through feedback from the College community.

I wish to thank Associate Dean **Taeg Nishimoto** and Assistant Professor **Dr. Hazem Rashed-Ali** for their work in developing and editing our newsletter.

We hope you will feel more connected to the College of Architecture and appreciate the energy and efforts of our students and faculty within a great urban university on the move.

Bob Baron