

WINTER 2005

ARCHITECTURE NOTES

Spoke to **Ron B. Blitch**, '76, New Orleans for a Katrina report. His house, several miles away from downtown, suffered some structural damage from fallen trees but the house of his business partner, Toby and **Ken M. Knevel**, '74 suffered severe damage with four feet of water flooding. Their office in the Warehouse District had no damage but for eight weeks they had no phone, fax, mail, or deliveries. The office is now in operation and the 30 member staff has returned from evacuation to seven different states. Ron was on campus in September talking to Asst. Prof. **Richard S. Bullene**, CSC, '76, and Prof. **Norman Crowe** in an attempt to get the architecture school involved in the rebuilding of New Orleans. 200,000 trailer homes (most made in Elkhart) are on their way from FEMA and with Tulane's architecture department temporarily relocated to Arizona, he thought this would be an ideal design project opportunity for our students. His visit was followed by ND President; Fr. Jenkins visiting New Orleans so there may be hope for ND's involvement in the rebuilding. That city's Holy Cross H.S. also requested help from ND; they had four feet of water throughout its campus and all its buildings. The school was founded by Holy Cross Brothers sent to New Orleans by Fr. Sorin in the 1800s and when the original Administration Building burned the high school sold hundreds of acres of their land to help the rebuilding. Now would be a good time to pay back that support. Ron wanted everyone to know they really appreciated all the support and e-mails they received from alumni and friends. From **Mrs. Shaun H. Yurcaba**, (M. Arch 06) I learned that she and husband, **Ryan Yurcaba**, '04 (M. Arch) since his graduation have worked for a traditionally and classically based architectural firm, Historical Concepts, LLC, Peachtree City GA. The 23-year-old firm is involved with developers recreating communities "that recall a bygone era" such as the prominent, 28-acre new community in town project, Glenwood Park near downtown Atlanta. The site was a former industrial eyesore. Ryan and **Kelly Ann (Andrews) Scibona** '02 (M. Arch) were on the invitational design team that created one of the 3094 sq. ft. model homes, "Parkview," that has the look of a 1920s Atlanta home featuring historic design features such as 10-foot high ceilings, heart-pine board floors, wrap around porch plus enough sustainable green products and methods to make it the 2005 Southern Living Magazine Idea House featured in the August issue. Professor Emeritus **Kenneth Featherstone** (1961-92) recently completed the officially sanctioned Shelbyville Triathlon. He was the first in his age group, "mainly because no one else over 70 years was foolish enough to enter!" While at the recent American Institute of Architects (AIA) Academy of Architecture for Health conference in Los Angeles, I met attendees **Glenn S. A. Gall**, AIA, '81, Regional Supervisor, Facilities Development Division, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD), Sacramento, CA and **Brian P. D. Smyth**, AIA, LEED AP, '81, vice president, HOK, St. Louis, MO. **Elvira R. (Kehler) Para** '84, Westborough, MA earned her license

to practice architecture, married Robert, an architect, raised a family and had her own architectural practice, Design Innovations. Currently she is focusing on expanding her architectural rendering business while still designing residential projects. When not practicing architecture, she enjoys her passion for community theater by designing sets and singing and dancing in musicals. She was in rehearsals as a Kit Kat girl in "Cabaret."

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