What I see here is...wow! You're doing incredible work and I congratulate you.”

Provost Dana Dunn
Community Spotlight

Allie Puppo

Tiny homes are popping up all over the United States and in Greensboro as well! Some are familiar looking with traditional doors, roofs and windows, but Tess Wynn of Greensboro took a different path and is working on converting an older school bus into her home. Last summer, Ms. Wynn, an animal science major at NC State acquired the bus on Craigslist and journeyed to Atlanta to pick up her ambitious project. Learning all she can from others who have converted buses she teamed up with local sculptor John Martin to learn how to weld and cut metal. John has helped Tess have access to the tools and instruction to allow her to renovate the bus herself as it would be too expensive otherwise. Removing the flooring, patching holes and eventually cutting off the roof to raise it a foot has been a tremendous amount of hard work...and fun! She has also painted the bus blue and white. Next she will build a fiberglass extension for the roof and continue to put windows back in the openings and construct walls for her closets, bathroom and bedroom. She is learning as she goes and is part of a subculture of bus conversion enthusiasts known as Skoolies. More information at www.skoolie.net.

Did You Know?

The average American spends 25% of their income on housing

Alexis Stephens and Christian Parsons are a filmmaking couple who have embarked on an extraordinary expedition across the United States in a tiny house on wheels. The couple will be documenting communities built of tiny houses, 900 square feet or smaller, all across the nation who wish to tell their stories. These community stories include how each tiny home came into being, the people or families within the home, and how each tiny home is making a difference within a larger community. Alexis and Christian’s goal for their expedition is to serve as a basis for an engaging and relevant documentary that will inspire and empower communities everywhere.

Alexis and Christian’s plan is to build a tiny home on wheels so that they may travel cross-country for 12 to 18 months. Their intention is to spark community conversations about practical and unconventional solutions for providing economically and environmentally sustainable housing for the every man and the homeless alike. The couple’s mission is to inspire and empower people to think big while building small through their documentary storytelling and direct community engagement.

Alexis and Christian, based locally in North Carolina’s Winston Salem area, were recently interviewed by an NPR affiliate, WFDD (88.5), where the couple introduced their Tiny House Expedition project. The expedition is planned to take place in 2015, and travel stops include major tiny house communities such as Madison, Wisconsin. It was later announced, with much excitement, that WFDD would be following the couple on their expedition across the nation.

Along with contributions from Habitat for Humanity, the couple collaborated with local residents in Community Build Days, December 6th and 7th, to help construct their tiny home or to stop by for a sneak peek. The weekend event included beginner to experienced contractor volunteers, a fund raising silent auction, and a workshop for attendees. Other contributions were accepted through the project’s Indiegogo web page campaign during the month of November.
community REcycling

By Lakiesha White

One of the newest projects at the CC-ED is a collaboration with the City of Greensboro's Recycling Center. Starting in the spring 2015, we will have the opportunity to redesign the education center at the recycling center on Patterson Ave in Greensboro, NC. Working with the staff at ReUse will give us the opportunity to showcase what the center really needs for children and others to learn how to recycle and how the process of recycling works. ReUse wants to intergrate a space for co-mingling, and an interactive environment at large. The fellows of the CC-ED had their first of many meetings with Alex, Mary, and Jess to discuss the possibilites for the space. Many of us thought about creating ways to introduce natural light, recycled light fixtures and storage alternatives. We hope to provide a more exciting environment for all who visit the space. Look for more information on this project in the upcoming semester! This will be just one of many collaborations within Greensboro's communities that we hope will have a lasting impression.

Staff Highlight

Shelley Gates has accepted a short-term appointment as the Assistant Director of the CC-ED. She graduated from UNCG in December 2014 with a BFA in Interior Architecture and a BA in History. Shelley's involvement with the CC-ED began in 2014 during the Center's first summer in their current space at 842 B West Lee Street and continued during the Fall semester, during which she served as a student fellow. Her familiarity with the CC-ED's projects allows her to step into her new role seamlessly.

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www.facebook.com/CCEDGreensboro
Brigitta Mills

We are kicking off a Spartan Project Campaign for the development of ‘Graffiti Garden’ on West Florida Street in Glenwood Park. Justin Lee has begun Graffiti Garden, a youth garden initiative that teaches gardening to homeless youth so that they can grow their own food. At the Graffiti Garden, youth learn to grow their own food, which conveys a deeper lesson about caring for Greensboro and for themselves.

Fostering food growth through working together: Along with Lee and the Graffiti Gardeners, we plan to design structures that Graffiti Gardeners can utilize for storage, produce sales, and organize the space for maximum possible use.

Why this matters? Investing time and energy into growing food in the city breaks the “food desert” that surrounds Glenwood. The Graffiti Garden breaks the trend of packaged foods that are sold within city limits, and spreads awareness about eating natural foods. Graffiti Garden goes beyond informing youth, it makes access to healthy vegetables a physical reality.

Graffiti Garden is an ecological investment with a socially responsible mission for the Greensboro community. The literal returns through the collaboration and care that goes into the growth of Graffiti Garden.

Support the youth and help the Graffiti Garden grow! Every little bit helps the homeless youth in our city!

Revisiting Glenwood Grove

By Elizabeth Leonard

During the summer of 2014 the CC-ED and members of the Glenwood community painted a mural on Greg Porter’s building at the corner of Glenwood and Grove streets. The reactions to the mural have been very positive, and have inspired Greg Porter to update the facades of his adjacent buildings. Mr. Porter approached the CC-ED to produce design suggestions that would further improve the properties at the corner of Glenwood and Grove streets. His vision for the property is to create a safe and inviting environment for the surrounding residents and begin the process of regenerating historic commerce in Glenwood Park. In addition to upgrading the buildings’ exteriors and facades, he is also updating interior systems within the building to make them more appealing to potential businesses. Throughout the fall we have been working on ideas and plans that might help revitalize commerce in the area.

Photos by Elizabeth Leonard with Revit
Collaboration

Tiny House Greensboro

By Natalie Johnson

I have been involved with Tiny Houses Greensboro since the beginning of their meetings; before they had even chosen a name. I remember when the idea of building a tiny house was just a dream and the day that it became a possibility. Now, about six months later, it’s amazing to see the green tiny house parked outside the IRC (interactive resource center).

In the past four months Tiny Houses Greensboro, in partnership with R.E.A.L (Resources for Artful Living), has run an indiegogo campaign that raised money to begin construction. They ran a workshop and weekend workday in October. I attended the workday and I will never forget driving up the hill and seeing the crisp fall sunshine beaming through the frame of the house. I spent most of the day measuring and cutting the last few pieces of sheathing that was needed before we could weatherize the house. By the end of the day the house was covered with house wrap and windows and doors were in place. After spending so much time reading and researching tiny houses and being able to meet other people who are passionate about this movement, I am excited to see it come to Greensboro!

In mid-November I attended a second workday in which I helped to finish installing the siding around the front of the house. Though the workdays are focused on building the house, friends and memories were made along the way. At the end of the second workday I stood outside of the house and marvelled at how far it has come, but thinking about how far it has yet to go. Knowing that this house has the potential to be a catalyst for change is an encouraging step toward an idea on which many other cities have already embarked.
We inaugurated the CC-ED’s space with an open house on Friday, September 19th. There was a fantastic turnout of faculty, students, community partners, and interested supporters. We opened our new space at 842B West Lee Street and the vacant space next door. In the CC-ED we encouraged a community brainstorming activity by hanging posters on the wall with prompts on them and asked our guests to answer each prompt. In the adjacent space we offered our guests light snacks to enjoy while perusing the photographs that express the history of the Interior Architecture’s involvement in community-engaged design. Thanks to Maxie B’s for generously donating the brownies that we served.

Provost Dana Dunn and Dean Tim Johnston were in attendance and expressed their excitement about the work the CC-ED is doing. They also expressed their thanks to IARc Department Chair, Dr. Anna Marshall-Baker, and Travis Hicks, Director of the Center for Community-Engaged Design for working so diligently to make the CC-ED happen.

Our thanks to all who attended! If you are interested in finding out more about the CC-ED, check us out on Facebook!