

## **The University of Florida School of Architecture Acoustics Program Description**

Acoustics, as an architectural specialization at the University of Florida, School of Architecture, dates back to 1959 when Professor Bertram Y. Kinzey, Jr. joined the faculty as a young assistant professor espousing collaboration and integration of architectural acoustics and environmental technology in architectural design. While at University of Florida he co-authored *Environmental Technologies in Architecture* that articulates a theory as well as practical methods to support students and architects engaged in this area by outlining core principles and providing meaningful charts and graphics that support integrated design – one of the staple texts in the US through the 1970's. A reading of this text today shows that it was likely 50 years ahead of its time in terms of looking at sustainable design in the broadest sense of the word and articulating means and methods to achieve it. A fundamental aspect of Professor Kinzey's curriculum were integrated lecture/lab design exercises, experiential sessions where one listened, felt, and measured environmental phenomena and pursuing long term research efforts to more fully understand the sensory environment of buildings. One of Professor Kinzey's many students, Professor Gary Siebein has carried the integration of technology lineage forward establishing the University of Florida as one of the premier architectural acoustics programs in the nation having received NSF funding to establish standard digital room acoustics measurement systems in the early 1980's; and with his masters and doctoral students has received awards for research from Progressive Architecture, NCAC and other groups; contributed to the development of acoustical standards; and has contributed, through acoustic modeling studies, to the designs of world class concert halls in the United States and Asia. Under Professor Siebein's leadership, Doctoral and Masters students in the program have advanced the discipline of architectural acoustics and have gone on to lead in acoustics firms and academic programs nationally and internationally in the continued development of measurement systems, perceptual studies of acoustical qualities in buildings and the application of integrated acoustical design methods in buildings. The new program leader will oversee the Master of Science in Acoustics program, mentor professional degree students interested in this area, will recruit and supervise Doctoral students, and will chart the future research focus for the acoustics laboratory.