When he was living in Washington DC, Tom Kvan grew his own herbs and vegetables. Bushes of basil, oregano and rosemary were on hand for culinary-minded neighbours; Professor Kvan used his healthy and varied tomato crops to make pasta sauce from scratch. The relationship between agriculture and urban living – and the design possibilities that such research collaboration could spawn – is a passion for the Faculty’s new Dean of Architecture. Professor Kvan, a specialist in design management and computer-aided architectural design, belongs to an international research team investigating alternative urban forms of intensely used land.

The group has developed conceptual designs for Mong Kok in Hong Kong, one of the most densely inhabited parts of the world.

“We are bringing the landscape back into the city by designing high-rise, multi-layered villages, with hiking ‘tracks’ across the top of buildings, commercial herb farming, and garden allotments on roofs and down the walls,” he says.

Describing the work as a “conceptual provocation”, he hopes that the visionary designs will inform the future of urban development. “Doing research involves dreaming up the impossible. It takes at least 40 years for new ideas to be accepted and digested.” Such ideas, says Professor Kvan, are often the products of innovative, intellectual collaborations which are borne out of chance meetings in unlikely places. “When you design places in a university, you need to design places where people can interact in unexpected ways,” he says. The interstices or meeting points – such as corridors, courtyards and tea rooms – offer opportunities for scientists and philosophers, educators and technicians to bump into one another and swap ideas. “That’s when invention and creativity occurs.”

Professor Kvan’s attraction for these in-between places – and the feeling of movement within them – is part of his cultural and professional history. A Danish citizen born in Hong Kong, he has worked in Europe, Africa, North America and Asia, and grew up speaking Danish, English and Cantonese. He has been a principal in a multinational Swiss-based architecture practice; a founding partner in a venture capital funded software company based in California; and a management consultant to design professionals worldwide. His tertiary training was equally diverse. After completing a Master of Arts at Cambridge, Professor Kvan worked in Botswana designing and supervising the construction of low-cost bush hospitals. He did a Master of Architecture degree at the University of California, LA, which led to him co-authoring a college textbook on computer programming for design. His doctorate, from the Open University in England, was on design technologies, and specifically, on long-distance collaboration over the internet.

Apart from the active lifestyle – he cycles to work and swims laps every morning – he is in Sydney “because it is a great city facing lots of architecturally interesting issues”. He also loves the potential for interdisciplinary research that the University offers – a dimension unavailable to him in previous posts. Professor Kvan is keen to work with colleagues from agriculture, information and communications technology, engineering and economics in order to challenge existing ideas about urban design and the use of green spaces. “There’s no reason why you need to live on the ground to have your garden,” he says.

Kate Rossmanith (courtesy of Uninews)

Visiting Professor Terence Smith is currently the Andrew W.Mellon Professor of Contemporary Art History and Theory in the Department of the History of Art & Architecture at the University of Pittsburgh. He was previously associated with the University of Sydney as Personal Chair in Modern Art History and Theory from 1998-2002. He has been appointed to work alongside the Architecture and Allied Arts discipline, and will add strength to our Art History and Theory capabilities which will also be bolstered at the end of the year with the commencement of our Senior Lecturer, Greg Castillo.

Adjunct Professor Laurence Nield has strong links with our Faculty having served as Chair of Architecture from 1992 to 1996. He is a former president of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, was the Master Planner / Urban Designer for the Sydney Olympic Master Plan and was involved in the master planning for both the Athens and Beijing Olympics. We welcome him back to the Faculty and look forward to his contribution to the Architecture discipline.

Adjunct Associate Professor Liz Farrelly and Adjunct Associate Professor Paul Pholeros also join us. Liz has long links with the Faculty and is a distinguished journalist. Paul is an alumnus of the Faculty and won the prestigious Alumni Awards for Achievement in Community Service.

We have 2 new Lecturers in Design Computing Dr Xiangyu Fang and Dr Rob Saunders. Rob joins us from the UK where he is currently working as a consultant on Artificial Intelligence and Artificial Life projects. Rob is a former student at the KCDCC completing his PhD in Artificial Intelligence and Design here in 2002, so some of you may remember him from that time.

Marc Schnabel joins us from the University of Hong Kong. Marc has taken up the role of Lecturer in Digital Architecture. Marc taught here as a visiting lecturer in August 2004 and received very enthusiastic feedback from students for his teaching.

We were also honoured to have one of the world’s leading urban settlement scholars, John Landis joining the faculty this week. John is joining the faculty as a Visiting Professor. He provided advisory support to the Housing Teaching Stream in Urban and Regional Planning Program as well as contributing to the development of a metropolitan housing model for Sydney, working with colleagues in AHURI.

SUAS intends to revive the traditional revue and take it into a contemporary context, giving a voice to the students of the Faculty. Already, the revue has the support of the Sydney Theatre Company and the Architecture Alumni Association of the University of Sydney. They are dedicated to making this revue a success, and paving the way for a continuing tradition of the Architecture Revue.

The Architecture Revue will be held 21 -23 September in the Seymour Centre. Bookings can be made on 9351 7940 after 1 September.

The Architecture Alumni Association is hosting an Alumni Reunion Night on Thursday 21 September. This will be an event not to be missed! Catch up with old friends, relive the revues gone by, see footage of old revues!

If you have any memorabilia from previous revues, SUAS would love to borrow it for an exhibition. Please contact Nath on Nath_Rank@hotmail.com.

“If these walls could talk”
CONGRATULATIONS COL JAMES AM

The Alumni Council is very proud to announce that one of our distinguished alumni Col James AM (DipTCPlan’77) has been awarded the Alumni Award for Achievement in Community Service by the University’s Alumni Council. He has been dedicated to creating improvements in the lives of the urban poor, aborigines, the homeless and the disadvantaged for over 30 years. He is a well-respected member of staff and the Director of the IB Fell Housing Research Centre. Col will be presented with this award at a reception in MacLaurin Hall on 2 September at 6pm. Please join Col and his family on this important occasion. This event is supported by the Alumni Relations Office, and is free to attend. RSVP to rsvp@usyd.edu.au. Congratulations Col.

THE ARCHITECTURE REVUE IS BACK!

The Alumni Council is also proud to be involved with the Architecture Student Revue. Yes, its back!! And we can’t wait to see it. The Council is supporting the revue by holding an Alumni Reunion on the opening night, 21 September at the Seymour Centre. Meet up with old mates, have a laugh at the antics of the current students and walk down memory lane. An alumni space will provide a meeting place, with drinks and canapés provided.

Tickets will be on sale through the Seymour Centre from 1 September.
Keep 21 September free in your diary. See you there!!

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AGM

The Alumni Association Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 19 October at 5pm in ALT1. Nominations for Office Bearers are called for and will be received by David Turner until close of business 12 October 2006. More information www.arch.usyd.edu.au > alumni

ALUMNI EVENTS THIS YEAR

The Alumni Association continues to provide support to the Faculty, bringing alumni together and raising money for student scholarships and bursaries. This year these activities have included:

**Showcase:** An exhibition of the work by recent alumni was displayed in the Hearth. Showcase will return in October, as a special show of the current work of all alumni for the benefit of our students. Please contact David Turner at davidwturner9331@hotmail.com if you would like to exhibit.

**Careers Market Day** returned to the Hearth for the third year, sponsored by recruitment firm, BLOOMFIELD TREMAYNE. This highly successful event allowed students to meet with practicing firms and discuss their employment opportunities. Workshops were run on resume writing, and skills needed in the workforce. Participating firms included Designinc, Woods Bagot, Mirvac, PTW, Hassell, HBO + EMTB, Neustein Urban, AJC Architects, GTA Architects, Tanner Architects, Morris Bray and Bates Smart.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the Council members, whose tireless work makes all of these activities happen.

David W Turner BArch’71, MDesSc(FM)'97, Honorary Secretary
Varoujan Bedrossian MDesSc(Build) ’97, Honorary Treasurer
Robert Cahill BSc(Arch)’74, BArch’77
Masaaki Ikeda MTCp ’78
Peter McDonnell BArch ’63
Patrick O’Carraig BSc(Arch)’78 Barch’81

Do keep in touch with the University and with your Alumni Association. We hope to see you at the Faculty soon.

Regards,
Michael Neustein, BArch ’71, President
This year Professor Henry J Cowan celebrates nearly 50 years of editing internationally renowned journal Architectural Science Review. In a celebration to mark his retirement from the editorship the Vice-Chancellor will pay tribute to the Professor’s dedication and legacy. This celebration will take place on Monday 11 September 4pm – 6pm, in the Hearth.

Professor Cowan – who shares the auspicious birth date of 1919 with the Faculty of Architecture, also established in 1919 — left England in 1953 to take up a newly created Chair of Architectural Science in the Faculty. He was born in Germany and at 15 years of age came to England as a Jewish refugee with rudimentary English. He achieved first class honours in Engineering at Manchester University and between 1941-45 served in the Pioneer Corp and later the Royal Engineers where he was injured clearing a mine. In 1948 he resumed his academic life with a lectureship in civil engineering at the University of Sheffield.

ASR originated more than 50 years ago from a collection of essays gathered from extension courses for practising architects initiated by the Professor. After accepting a chair in Architectural Science in Sydney University’s Faculty of Architecture the Professor initially had little support. The story of founding ASR is etched with the Professor’s tenacious battles against obstacles, the courage to break through the then jealously guarded borders of disciplines and professions, the ability to employ brilliant and loyal staff, and turning a difficult situation into an opportunity. Coupled with an enduring passion for the inter-relationship of the history of architecture and technology — he set about enriching the body of knowledge of architects.

Professor Cowan said the idea of a Chair of Architectural Science originated with the Royal Institute of British Architecture in the early years of World War II. “When it became clear that the reason for Britain holding out against Hitler was its superior; radar, spitfire and so forth. Never before or since has science been held in such high esteem in Britain,” he said. “The RIBA set up a science committee which reported that architects risked losing the leadership in the building industry unless they learnt more science. Its solution was to create chairs of architectural science.

“I was a lecturer in reinforced concrete in England before I got the chair, and I acquired an international reputation for research as a result of my PhD project. It included a theory for the torsional resistance of reinforced concrete, but more importantly I managed to measure the strain in the reinforcement with electric resistance strain gauges without cutting a hole in the concrete to expose it.

“The committee for the chair was university-wide and I guess that impressed its scientific members, as did my list of publications. Unlike my predecessors I taught reinforced concrete to architecture students with visual aids rather than mathematics with financial support from the concrete industry who were keen to persuade more architects to use it rather than structural steel,” Professor Cowan said.

Prior to the second world war the height of buildings in Sydney were mainly steel-
framed and limited to 150 feet. "The height restriction was removed in 1955 and Sydney and Melbourne thus acquired some tall buildings and these created new technical problems, as did the introduction of light curtain walls," he said.

The Professor was confident he had much to offer architecture students and positioned his growing department of Architectural Science at the nexus of architecture, science and technology. The Department of Architectural Science taught architects about concrete so that they could design confidently and talk knowledgeably with their engineers about it. Professor Cowan initiated graduate and extension courses for practising architects on building materials and environmental science and knowledge necessary for "buildings to work". Studies in computer design, sustainable design, passive solar design, acoustics, illumination and thermal properties evolved out of the Department established by the Professor. It was the notes from these popular courses — given by the Professor, other lecturers from chemical and civil engineering and industry experts in aluminium, stainless steel, glass, thermal qualities and acoustics — that drove the need for a publication.

Publisher William Ingleby approached the professor and agreed to publish and distribute a magazine in exchange for the rights to take paid advertising. Professor Cowan started building up what would become paid subscribers and a subscriber-funded journal by sending complimentary issues to all the major libraries in the world. "After a few years Ingleby sold ASR to a technical magazine publisher, who charged subscribers, but gave me about 200 copies to post at my expense, so that I could keep up the more prestigious overseas recipients.

"Then there was a severe recession which meant the loss of building advertising revenue. I found another publisher in Melbourne, whose most prestigious magazine was one for the hairdressers' union who was willing to publish at a loss because of the prestige of publishing a professional magazine," Professor Cowan said. After the publisher had a serious car accident the Professor was offered to take the magazine back at no charge. "I went to see the VC and told him we now had a prestigious refereed journal, and he agreed that the uni would publish it," Professor Cowan said.

The postgraduate courses he established not only provided impetus for the founding of ASR, but established ground work for the faculty's research profile — the Faculty now boasts one of the largest proportions of postgraduate students in the University. He pioneered Masters research, PhD research, and later Masters coursework degrees in the Faculty of Architecture.

Associate Professor Peter Smith was Professor Cowan's first Masters student and in 1963 was the first person in to be awarded with a PhD in Architecture in Australia. He has co-authored eight books with Professor Cowan.

ASR has always emphasised the international nature of its Editorial Board and sought papers from all parts of the world, says Associate Professor Smith. "At the same time, it has maintained a close connection with both Asia and Africa, a legacy of some of our earlier research students, who came from these areas and returned in many cases to become senior researchers and administrators," he said. "ASR therefore occupies a unique position, enabling discourse between researchers in the diverse range of disciplines that contribute to Architectural Science, and combining contributions from both established and emerging research groups, and at the same time keeps the Faculty at the forefront of scholarship in these areas," Associate Professor Smith said. "Architectural Science gained a name and an identity due to the name of the chair and Jack's promotion of teaching and research across the range of individual subjects of building physics, structures and materials etc. The Design Computing area developed thanks to John Gero and his colleagues. He got commonwealth funding for the 'Key Centre for Design Computing' within the department," Associate Professor Smith said.

On Professor Cowan’s retirement in 1984 Associate Professor Smith succeeded him as Head of the Department of Architectural Science and Professor John Gero secured the Chair of Architectural Science changing its name to Chair of Design Science. The Faculty’s Professor of Environmental Behaviour Studies Dr. Gary Moore having recently retired as Dean of the Faculty of Architecture after two terms of service succeeds Professor Cowan as editor of ASR. With Dr Moore’s assiduity and impressive research record ASR is set to flourish under his helm.
Imants Tillers is one of Australia’s leading post-modernist artists, whose exhibition, IMANTS TILLERS: one world many visions is on display 14 July - 16 October 2006 at the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra. Imants is an alumnus of the Faculty of Architecture (BSc(Arch)'73), and an alumnus of the International Science School (ISS) (1967), run by the School of Physics. Alison Muir, Science Foundation for Physics, spoke with Imants.

AM: You worked with Christo when he came to Australia. Was that a turning point for you?

IT: I was in my first year of Architecture at the University of Sydney in 1969 when Christo came to Australia and our 1st Year Design Coordinator, Marr Grounds, offered to supply some of his students to Christo as full-time workers on his project or the three weeks required. I was one of ten who volunteered. Participation on his Wrapped Coast One Million Sq.Ft. changed my concept of what art could encompass. While working on the Wrapped Coast I met other young artists, such as the avantgardist, Ian Milliss, who introduced me to the international art magazine Artforum and encouraged me to begin exhibiting my work with the Contemporary Art Society in Sydney.

AM: You have a degree in architecture and a background in mathematics, do you think your interest in deconstruction and appropriation is related in any way to these areas?

IT: I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Architecture with 1st Class honours and the University Medal in 1973. An unusual starting point for a career in art! But part of my requirements for that degree was a thesis that did have something to do with art. My thesis was titled The Beginner’s Guide to Oil Painting and it looked at contemporary art in relation to ideas from Ludwig von Bertalanffy’s General Systems Theory. (Bertalanffy was a biologist not a physicist or a mathematician.) Indeed Graham Coulter-Smith has written on how these early interests informed my later engagement with deconstruction and appropriation in his book: The Postmodern Art of Imants Tillers; Appropriation en abyme 1971-2001, published by Southampton Institute in the UK in 2002.

AM: Which do you think has the greater impact on society – science or art?

IT: I think art and science have an equally profound impact on society. Art can reach people directly as a form of expressions but for the artist, art is also about discovering new information, new knowledge. Art can, like science, be a way of knowing.

AM: Do you think technological changes have or will have any impact on art now or in the future?

IT: Technological change can always influence the course of art but new technology is not enough on its own to make interesting art – the art itself has to transcend its technological means. Just as video art took some time to produce an artist of great vision and quality like Bill Viola to rise above a level of mediocrity, today’s information and communications revolution will eventually undoubtedly produce artists working with PCs and the Internet who rise above the banal and superficial. On the other hand, there will be always others like myself who prefer to work in more traditional and low-tech ways. I like to control all aspects of my production, I like labourious manual tasks, I like the attitude of the amateur and I eschew most technological aids except perhaps for the photocopier!

more exhibition information: http://www.nga.gov.au/Exhibition/Tillers/DEFAULT.cfm


Photograph: Sophie Payes
Professor Maher has lived her adult life outside the square. At 17, she moved to New York and attended Columbia University, one of very few girls studying civil engineering. She became pregnant and made a life-defining decision to adopt out her baby son.

"While abortion was available at the time, single parenthood wasn’t. Nowadays I would never encourage adoption. A mother should be with her babies, babies should be with their mother," she explains.

After graduating, she “built bridges” for a while before enrolling in a PhD in civil engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. “My supervisor was so inspiring I knew I never wanted to leave uni. I wanted to be a researcher,” says Professor Maher. This is exactly what happened. Sixteen years ago, she moved to Australia and took up a position at Sydney developing new technologies for designers.

At 48, she has seven children. In her late teens, she married Brad’s father and had another four children with him. She is now married to John Gero, Professor of Design Science, and had her youngest two children with him.

“At home, I look around the table and think, ‘Wow, all these kids!’ The kids, of course, include her eldest, Brad.

When he contacted me, it was extremely emotional for both of us. For me, the grief happened again but it was amplified. I went through the loss again. I lost 20 years of his life,” she says.

After gaining a Master of Philosophy at Sydney, Brad is now a professor of philosophy in the US; Professor Maher – and the rest of the family – will see even more of him when she returns.

“Going back, it will be interesting to be American again. In Australia, there is an even playing field; over there, they love tall poppies,” she says.

Is she a tall poppy? “In Australia, I probably am. I’ve achieved a lot here,” she says. She’s attracted large research grants, established a new degree program, grown a group of researchers, and supervises PhD students who publish regularly. But the faculty hasn’t lost her to the US – she’ll be back for a week in August and September, and in two years she’ll be back for good.

Professor Maher may be a tall poppy, but physically she’s tiny. “I run marathons. I run up to three hours every Sunday. It’s my thinking time.” With seven children and a demanding career, she has a lot to think about.

Kate Rossmanith (courtesy Uninews)
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Dean’s List

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Philip Chang BSc(Arch)”75 BArch’79
CDK Stone P/L
Development Planning Strategies
Suzanne Dance
China has offered many opportunities for Tim Schwager (BArch’71, University Medal ‘71). Since 1997 he has been involved in many projects that have utilized his interest in large-scale urban design issues, as well as his expertise in designing big buildings.

Tim is a distinguished alumnus of our University. He recently visited the faculty, and provided a fascinating insight into the numerous opportunities awaiting architecture graduates in China. With the influx of the Chinese population into urban areas, China must design and construct an enormous infrastructure of buildings and roads in a very short period of time.

Tim’s projects to date have involved other alumni including Oi Choong, Bill Morrison, Phillip Cox, Andrew Andersons, and Virginia Carroll. Sydney firms that Tim has invited to work with him in China include Allen Jack and Cottier, Cox Group, PTW, Occulus, Tonkin Zulaikha Greer, and Stanisic and Associates (formerly Stanisic Turner). He has co-ordinated and built, in collaboration with Australian colleagues including Connybeare Morrison, a 7,000 unit housing estate and a major university - both in Pudong, a new area of Shanghai.

In 2002 he invited AJC to plan and design a 12,000 unit development for his development company. It is now 30% completed and a major commercial and architectural success with significant design innovations. In 2004 he engaged Cox Group, already well known in China, on his Yellow Mountain (Huangshan) project as master planners. Phillip Graus and Phillip Cox, together with Gary Player, created a wonderful design for the 1000 room hotel, 36 hole resort – a major resort in the sacred mountain province of China.

In 2004 Tim introduced Page Kirkland Partnership as project managers on two of his housing projects; and brought in Hassall (already established in Shanghai) to design a smaller elementary school.

In the last few years Tim has brought several young Australian architects to Shanghai to work with him as Design Managers. Working for a Chinese development company has been a great experience for all of them.

Looking through his work in China, Tim commented on the positive influence of Australian design in China. He genuinely believes that Australian designers and planners have significant experience that is readily transferable to the huge development that is occurring in China today. He is hopeful that he will be able to facilitate more Australian design in China in the future.
From June 25 to July 4 2006, around 60 architecture, planning, landscape architecture, industrial design and international relations students, and some 20 academics and professionals worked with five different communities in Vancouver’s downtown eastside. Participants in Global Studio 2006 came from Canada, India, Brazil, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Kenya, USA, UK, Colombia, Mexico, Argentina, Finland, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Indonesia and Australia.

University of Sydney academics Associate Professor Anna Rubbo and Dr Rafael Pizarro represented the Faculty.

Although Vancouver is one of the world’s most liveable cities, it also has some of the developed world’s most excluded communities. Working with community groups and NGOs, students worked with disadvantaged communities of women drug users and indigenous Canadians, and members of the Chinese community, and local arts groups. One group of students took on the highly contested waterfront development, and sought to engage local people in an online participatory process. A key aspect of the project was to create an event— a film screening, a public display or conversation, as well as providing reports that were given back to the communities. These included proposals for how the local group might further the work begun by Global Studio.

The Global Studio concept was spearheaded by the United Nations Millennium Project Task Force on Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers in 2004, to address the need identified by the taskforce for design professionals to work more effectively with socially excluded urban communities. Led by the Faculty of Architecture’s Anna Rubbo in Istanbul in 2005, and now in Vancouver in 2006, Global Studio aims to contribute to the successful implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The MDGs serve to focus a worldwide effort to combat poverty and its impacts, and sustainability. All countries have signed on to these goals. Cities face unprecedented challenges, including rapid growth and the consequences of climate change. Social cohesion and stability are tested by social exclusion and inequality including the lack of adequate and affordable housing and unsustainable development. Public engagement in these processes is increasingly seen as essential to building liveable communities and sustainable cities. Global Studio focuses on tactics of inclusion, by developing appropriate and effective participatory design and planning skills, and knowledge that emerging professionals can also take back to their home countries.

Themes of inclusion and participation were central to the United Nations Third World Urban Forum- Sustainable Cities- Turning Ideas into Action, attended by Global Studio participants. GS also organised a networking session titled, Working Towards the MDGs: the Global Studio Model, and was an invited participant to the newly formed Millennium University initiative, which aims to focus university research efforts towards realising the MDGs.

**people, places situations: response**, a multidisciplinary exhibition was also part of Global Studio Vancouver. Curated and produced by Global Studio Istanbul alumni Genevieve Blanchett and Jennifer van den Bussche, the highly successful Australian exhibition to mark World Refugee Week in 2005, pp:s:r was adapted and developed to provide an examination of architecture’s role in restoring the loss of place experienced during crises of political and ecological disaster, exile and the seeking of asylum, indigenous dispossession, homelessness and urban poverty. Many of the Global Studio students became involved, working with downtown eastside residents to represent life in the downtown eastside for indigenous people. pp:s:r was on display in the downtown eastside streets and was also presented at the United Nations World Urban Forum in Vancouver.
archetype is published periodically on behalf of the Architecture Alumni Association and the Faculty of Architecture by the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Architecture, University of Sydney.

Sue Lord, Editor
Ricardo Gutierrez, Designer
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August 2006

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Upcoming Events in the Faculty of Architecture

Celebrations to mark the commitment of Emeritus Professor Jack Cowan AO to Architectural Science Review
11 September 4pm – 6pm
Hearth
More information 9351 5906

If These Walls Could Talk
Architecture Student Revue
21 -23 September Seymour Centre
Bookings 9351 7940

Architecture Student Revue - Alumni Reunion Night
21 September 8pm
Seymour Centre
Bookings 9351 7940

TNLectures
Thursday night 6:00 pm in ALT 1
see www.arch.usyd.edu.au > go to news and events

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Tuesdays 1:00-2:00 pm - ALT2
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