Project Director and Instructor

Jon Davey, the project director for the Kid Architecture and LEGO Camps, is starting his 35th year of design teaching. He has experience at the School of Architecture-University of Wisconsin and at the SIU Architecture Studies and Interior Design programs. As a teacher of architecture and design, he has been awarded department Teacher of the Year five times, college Teacher of the Year twice, Distinguished Faculty Award twice and college Scholar of the Year. Davey has a special concern with inspiring young people to be creative and have fun while learning. To contact Davey, call 618/453-3734, fax 618/453-1129, cell phone 618/559-8931 or email jdavey@siu.edu.

Davey will be assisted by other instructors and assistants this summer. He will not be the instructor for all sessions.

LEG0 Learning Institute Research

“Defining Systematic Creativity” (excerpt)

By Edith Ackermann, David Gauntlet and Cecilia Weckstrom

Godtfred Kirk Kristiansen, the founding father of the LEGO® System of Play, believed that children should not be offered ready-made solutions, instead they needed something different that would strengthen their imagination and creativity. He devised the notion that a range of toys should fit together to form a system, in order to create a toy with value for life.

Over 50 years later, the LEGO brick has become part of popular consciousness, an indelible part of the childhood memories of many people the world over and a symbol for the exuberant optimism of children to imagine what could be and to create that vision with their own hands. Despite its near ubiquity as a symbol for creativity, little insight previously existed as to just why an open-ended system like the LEGO brick is such a powerful tool for creativity.

Creativity is the ability to generate ideas and artifacts that are new, surprising and valuable. When children make things (build and create), when they make things up (imagine and fantasies) and when they play make believe (doing ‘as if’ and pretending) they harness curiosity and playfulness into three different kinds of creativity: combination, exploration and transformation.

It is possible for individuals to engage their creativity systematically by cultivating the relevant mindsets behind the creative process:

- Curiosity – triggers our imagination
- Mental readiness – fuels our imagination
- Confidence – allows us to experiment with our imagination
- Positive framing – helps us see where our imagination can be useful
- Commitment – makes us willing to persevere in shaping our imagination into something new, surprising and valuable.
Beginning Engineering LEGO® Camp

Camp projects will include basic LEGO® construction, level and catapult, car, pulley, conveyor, gears, gears with belts, simple crane, gears with chains, motorized gears, motorized turnstile and motorized car construction. There will also be a take-home project as well as challenging creative time. For children in first and second grades.

Registration fee: $99

Advanced Engineering LEGO® Camp

Camp projects will include street cleaner, disk car, hand-held crane, mechanical hammer, disk speedster, balance, balance with dial, windmill, sail car, motorized go-cart, motorized rail, motorized walking stick, motorized dog, motorized crane, weighted crane, motorized dragster, mobile crane, tow truck, helicopter and airplane. There will also be a take-home project as well as challenging creative time. New projects will explore renewable energy sources; investigate energy supply, transfer, accumulation, conversion and consumption; and use measurements and data analysis to describe and explain outcomes through hands-on activities. There will also be a take-home project as well as challenging creative time. For children in third grade and up.

Registration fee: $99

Important Information

• Registration will begin 30 minutes prior to each camp beginning.
• The LEGO® kits are reused by the other camps. Your child will not take them home at the end of the camp session.
• A refund, minus a $15 dollar deposit, will be issued if cancellation is received three weeks before the start of camp.
• Campers are to be picked up and signed out at the studio promptly at the conclusion of each camp daily.
• Collaborative design is enhanced by campers working in teams of two.

To register, call 618/536-7751 or log on to conferenceservices.siu.edu