

WASHINGTON ASLA

Washington Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the few short months since I and WASLA's other new officers came on board, planning for a number of events and programs has been in the pipeline and is beginning to bear fruit. On April 27 and May 4, two subsequent Saturday afternoons, we offered our annual training seminars for candidates taking the LARE exam. The sessions were held at Gould Hall on the University of Washington campus in Seattle. On Tuesday, May 14 at 6:00 PM, a presentation and update on the status of planning for the Monorail will be conducted at the office of Jones and Jones by members of the Elevated Transportation Council (ETC). Members of the Jones and Jones firm will also present the work they have been doing analyzing possible Monorail route alignments. Other monthly programs are in the works as we pursue the goal of offering more opportunities for members to gather, interact, socialize and be exposed to speakers on topics of broad interest to the profession. Finally, we are planning the Chapter's "Fall Expo," which is a statewide mini-conference or convention. This year's Expo will be held on September 20 in meeting rooms at the brand-new Seahawks Stadium. The date, place and calendar of events are to be confirmed; look for more information on the website as they firm up.

Call for new Officers

Did you know that all of our Chapter officers serve one-year terms, with the exception of the Trustee, currently Dave McNeal? That means that elections for a new slate of officers will need to be held in late summer or early

Fall, 2002. Since our Chapter's fiscal year, corresponding with ASLA/National, begins in October, the new officers will come on board sooner than you think. I know it's hard to believe, but we'd like to see a real election with choices for each position instead of the 'one party/one slate' ballots which you have all seen in recent years. So all I can say is, please consider running for a position! Please call me if you are interested in serving. You can reach me at 206/324-0858. We are particularly looking for two candidates for the position of President-Elect, which is currently open.

Chapter Presidents' Council

I will be attending the Chapter Presidents' Council in Washington, D.C. and Dave McNeal will be simultaneously attending the Trustees' meeting. Both of us will have a lot to report, whether in the next issue of this newsletter or on the website.

Your Chapter officers are working hard to serve the members of WASLA. There are always many ways we can do it better. Please contact me if you have ideas, thoughts, concerns or questions about WASLA, its goals, and its day-to-day operations. I look forward to hearing from you.

-Brooks Kolb, WASLA President

IN THE FIELD

Mike Terrell, ASLA is not your average landscape architect. When he is not leading an Eastern Washington design project, he is commanding a United States Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare Naval Reserve Unit.

Mike earned his commission in 1986 through the NROTC program at the University of Idaho, where he graduated with a degree in Landscape Architecture. After serving his sea tour, Mike moved to Spokane with his wife, fellow landscape architect graduate, Kara. They have two boys, Patrick and Phillip. For the past twelve years, Mike has balanced his family life, his career as head landscape architect for a Spokane-based planning and landscape architectural firm, and as an officer in his Naval Reserve unit.

Mike was commissioned as Commanding Officer of MIUWU 102 on October 6, 2001, not even one month after the terrorist attacks of September 11. His unit was deployed in November to the Puget Sound Naval Base in Bremerton, where Mike's unit has been providing Port Security away from his home and family.

Mike is a tremendous advocate for the profession of landscape architecture and has volunteered countless hours to Spokane-area design causes such as the Great Spokane River Gorge, Liberty Lake Trail System, and Deer Park Community Design Charette.

We congratulate Mike on his achievement and take our hats off to him, his family, and his employer, Ramm Associates, for their sacrifices while Mike and his unit are serving our country. -submitted by Frank Ide



While the weather oscillates wildly from wintry cold one day- or hour-to balmy summer the next, there is no doubt among the plants: spring with its “spirit of divine discontent and longing” is on its way. The ‘status quo’ of winter is being dissolved amidst the floristic fireworks of spring. The season’s insistent message pervades Seattle’s landscapes and is seeping into the dark nooks and crannies of Gould Hall where Spring Quarter has just begun.

The season induces us to break long-established daily habits and we hope that impulse might encourage you to visit us. We welcome alumni/ae of all vintages and other landscape architects to participate in our activities. If you come be sure to patronize the refurbished, student-run coffee shop in Gould court. The multicolored table tops, curving coffee and computer stands, and the beaten copper screen are the work of BLA student Jennifer Carlson and Professor Daniel Winterbottom. The design’s graceful lines and light forms provide an elegant foil to the building’s pervasive evocations of stone age cave life. This work replaces an earlier project by BLA students Bradley D. Huson and Renata Niedzwiecka that served us well for nearly two decades.

Spring Quarters events include the annual Rome Dinner and Auction on May 10th. For a fleeting moment, this party transforms the chrysalis of Gould Hall into a fluttering butterfly. If you benefited from any of the College’s UW Rome Center programs, or wished you had!, or if you simply want to support these outstanding opportunities for this year’s students, please join us on this glitteringly magical evening and ask Professor Streatfield about his plans for the Autumn Italian Field Studies program.

May 22nd is Recognition Day when College and WASLA awards and

departmental scholarships are announced. If you participate on the WASLA jury or have contributed to any of our scholarships please join us that afternoon to celebrate the remarkable accomplishments of our talented students.


End of Quarter studio reviews are scheduled for the afternoons of June 5th and 7th. Let us know if you are interested in serving as a juror for the first year studio on the seventh, or attending Professor Hou’s graduate studio presentation on the fifth. A date for the evening presentation of MLA theses has not yet been set—check our web site for details. The dedication of the completed BLA design build studio at University Heights will take place on the 13th June. Come and share stories of the “spirit of blisters and backaches of years past” with this year’s proud, but aching, students from landscape architecture and other Public Art programs. Finally, this summer Professor Kristina Hill will be taking students to Berlin to examine the recent history and current renewal efforts in that fascinating but troubled city through the lens of urban ecological design. Check with her if you are interested in signing up for this Summer Quarter course.

Although we remain menaced by the impending fall of the sword of Damocles—in the form of state budget cuts and tuition increases—we continue to forge ahead with exciting new ventures: our programs receive

excellent reviews, program applications increase, and our students continue to receive national attention. In January MLA student Christie OHara received the Landscape Architecture Foundation’s prestigious Douglas Dockery Thomas Fellowship In Garden History & Design. She will use the award to complete her research on the Olmsted Brothers firm by visiting East Coast and California archives.

The Department has received two resoundingly positive reviews this year, one reaccrediting the BLA program for 6 years and the other, conducted by the UW Graduate School, recommending the continuation of both programs. Both reports comment favorably on all aspects of our programs and acknowledge the importance of the professional community’s the support. Thank you for your contributions to the Department. Please come and see the results in Gould Hall.

-Iain Robertson



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INTERDISCIPLINARY DESIGN EDUCATION FROM A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Design is design. Whether it is a built structure, within a built structure or outside a built structure, the fundamentals of a human-scale environmental experience are universal. Besides building materials and a few design-specific considerations, landscape architecture, architecture and interior design disciplines are crafted with the same fundamental principles in consideration. So why should the education of these designers be separated from one another? Would there not be more value in a design education that is founded in an interdisciplinary program? I support an interdisciplinary design program, having educational experience in both types of programs and am a recent Master of Landscape Architecture graduate from an interdisciplinary curriculum.

Before returning to school for graduate degree, I worked as a Parks and Recreation Director for a city in the Tacoma area. I quickly realized that significant park facility design and development needed more than a landscape architect. These endeavors required the professional services of engineers, architects, planners, builders and construction and project managers. The project's success relied upon these professionals' abilities to communicate and work with one another. With this knowledge and experience in mind, an interdisciplinary design program held much appeal and interest to me.

There are a number of reasons why an interdisciplinary program approach is excellent for a landscape architecture education. These reasons include the existence of universal design principles, increased insight and appreciation among design disciplines, the practical world application and greater employment opportunities for graduates.

The fundamental design principles are universal in that human-scale design thoughtfully considers the basic elements of the floor/ground plane, walls/vertical elements and the roof/canopy, regardless of discipline. They are the same for interior design, architecture and landscape architecture, with building materials being the most significant difference. During my education one of my interdisciplinary design studios had a modeling assignment with each of these elements considered in separate sections of the project. One of the primary considerations of the project was addressing how the structure would take form in each of the design disciplines, how the form could

be constructed by both architectural and landscape means. It was amazing to us how an architectural structure could be transformed to a landscape feature by a change of materials, but the design intentions staying intact.

Interdisciplinary design education provides an opportunity to increase knowledge and understanding among design disciplines as we are learning our craft. Being in design studios and lecture classes, I was able to learn the various verbal, written and graphic communication styles of the different disciplines. I also gained knowledge of varying building materials and processes in interior design and architecture. I am certain other design students learned the value of landscape features and considerations, such as ecology, building placement on sites and plant materials.

Most importantly, I was exposed to and learned about the different cultures associated with the different design disciplines. As we all know, designers rarely work in a vacuum and this knowledge of various discipline cultures will enable me to better work and communicate with other design professionals. In the working world landscape architects work with planners, architects, interior designers, engineers, surveyors and builders. Being exposed to some of these other cultures and, more importantly, knowing there is a culture to each profession, will make me a more skilled team member and collaborator.

As a graduate with these interdisciplinary skills and knowledge I am more appealing to potential employers and given an advantage over single discipline trained graduates. A more diverse and wider base of design knowledge and skills is a beneficial attribute in a landscape architecture graduate.

Washington State University Interdisciplinary Design Institute

As a graduate student at WSU, all of my courses were interdisciplinary; I had architecture, interior design and landscape architecture students in studios, and research, theory and thesis development coursework. This crossover and combination of coursework made it more conducive to completing a dual degree program. I was able to take advantage of this opportunity and added a Design-Build graduate degree to my credentials without adding a significant amount of time to my education. In addition, each school charrette

included construction management students as team members along with a student from each of the design disciplines, so the consideration of construction costs and schedule were part of the design product. This proved to be quite educational for the design members of the teams and increased the appreciation for the construction management profession. In turn, construction management students were included in the design process. For most, this was a first.

The facilities at WSU also promote and encourage interdisciplinary work through the configurations of the student workspaces, common areas such as the computer and model labs and socializing areas. Students interact with other design students on a daily basis, building camaraderie, friendships and appreciation for other design disciplines.

An interdisciplinary design education for a landscape architect has significant value because a graduate of this program has more exposure and experience with fellow design disciplines and they have the skills and knowledge to function better in the collaborative based working world.

Design is design, whether it is an interior, a building, a park facility or an urban space and requires an interdisciplinary effort as the human environmental experience is based on the same fundamental design considerations. So, the question to be asked is not "Why educate future landscape architects in an interdisciplinary curriculum?" The question should be "Why not?"

By Angela Feser
Graduate Student



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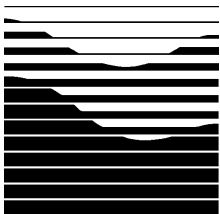
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