PROGRAM UPDATES

PHIL GRUEN, SDC DIRECTOR
I am thrilled to announce that our landscape architecture program nearly doubled its overall undergraduate enrollment this year. This not only should pay some fantastic dividends down the road, but has generated a lot of involvement and excitement about the program, the school, and the profession. We are also happy to welcome six new members to the landscape architecture professional advisory board this year, bringing our total numbers to eleven. We look forward to more exciting opportunities for our students in the years to come! GO Cougs!

STEVE AUSTIN, LA INTERIM PROGRAM HEAD
Spring greetings from the Palouse! The hills are finally free of snow and we eagerly await warm days and new growth. Our students are working hard at learning to become landscape architects. And in case you were wondering, I am filling in for Jolie Kaytes, who is on sabbatical this spring.

This spring, the Landscape Architecture Program has reached a significant milestone: we’ve just completed our fifth successful year in the School of Design and Construction (SDC). Within the SDC, the program is joined by Architecture, Interior Design and Construction Management. The school mirrors the collaborative workplace of contemporary design and construction practice and there are integrated course requirements for all of the school’s students throughout their education.

This year our program is continuing three major initiatives: developing an emphasis in Water and Green Infrastructure; fundraising for the LA Student Excellence Fund which assists our students and supports the highest needs for the LA program; and continuing to grow the Ken Struckmeyer Student Scholarship Endowment Fund. We also support WSU’s entry into the US Department of Energy’s Solar Decathlon.

The SDC recently completed its semi-annual visit with our Professional Advisory Board. This board, which includes two members from each SDC discipline, is chaired by Mark Brands of Site Workshop. The purpose of this board is to help guide our disciplines in creating graduates who are well equipped to work in the professional world. During this meeting, our own Landscape Architecture Professional Advisory board convened in Pullman as well. Nine professionals from across the state and representing diverse practices held intensive reviews and conversations with all our students and also met with our faculty to discuss ways to continue the growth our program. It was great to a part of this paradigm changing relationship between our students and professionals. Visit the SDC website to see all of the great activities at our school: http://sdc.wsu.edu
STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Students in the second year design studio, Lnd_Arch 263, are preparing a master plan for Tacoma’s eastside. This master plan will incorporate urban agriculture with green stormwater infrastructure.

Third year design students in Lnd_Arch 363 are working with experts, residents, and youth from San Francisco to propose public realm design interventions to better adapt its eastside communities to sea level rise, flooding, and drought.

Student in Design Build, Lnd_Arch 367 have worked with Architecture and Interior Design students on WSU’s Solar Decathlon project. They are also working with the City of Pullman and the Pullman civic Trust to develop and construct a public art and engagement piece on the city’s College Hill.

Students in Construction 1, Lnd_Arch 365 are learning the fundamentals of surveying, topography, interpolation, grading, drainage and storm water management. Students in the landscape architecture capstone studio, Lnd_Arch 485, are generating designs in response to the Puyallup River Watershed and the dynamics among urbanization, stormwater, and ecological systems. The capstone presentations are being held at WSU West in Seattle on April 27.

Site visits and study tours for all of the LA courses were made possible in part by the LA Excellence Fund. Thank you for your support.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 24-28: 
SDC Design Review Week

April 27: 
LA Senior Capstone Presentations and WASLA Review, WSU West, Seattle

April 29: 
SDC Senior Portfolio Review (ID and LA), Seattle, WA

May 6: 
SDC Breakfast and Commencement Ceremony

October 5-15: 
Solar Decathlon, Denver CO
ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Chris Cain (2000) is a Senior Landscape Architect at Studio Hanson|Roberts on Bainbridge Island. Studio Hanson|Roberts provides planning, design and facilitation services in creative partnership with zoos, aquaria, botanic gardens, and nature reserves and interpretive centers ... worldwide.

After graduation in 2000, Chris started his career in the Denver area working for development planning firms. He moved back to the Northwest in 2009 and has been working with Studio Hanson Roberts since 2010. Chris’ work with Studio Hanson Roberts spans the globe with recent projects ranging from the Giant Panda Interpretive Center in the mountains of Wolong, China to Owen’s Playground, an inclusive playground right here on Bainbridge Island. Other projects include zoo and theme park master plans in Australia, the master Plan for the Lima Aquarium (Peru) and exhibits at the Al Ain Zoo (United Arab Emirates) and the Odense Zoo (Denmark).

As a “guinea pig” for WSU’s 5-year professional degree program, I was part of the first class to transplant to the Spokane campus and integrate the interdisciplinary focus into the curriculum. The early exposure to different disciplines has proven invaluable as I have yet to work on a project that hasn’t required some degree of professional collaboration. Go Cougs!

WSU ASLA STUDENT CHAPTER

PHILIP VANDEVANTER, ASLA STUDENT PRESIDENT

This Spring the WSU ASLA Student Chapter has focused on engaging with professional mentors, identifying and applying to internships and engaging with other majors to brainstorm public realm improvement projects in Pullman.

WSU ASLA members Collin Schweikl, Marissa Easter, Anna Staal, Ola Stuj, and Zochil Castro designed a pocket park at a prominent intersection on the main street of Colfax, WA as this spring’s annual Community Design Team (CDT). The CDT is the club’s major design project and fundraiser.

FACULTY

Jolie Kaytes
Sabbatical Spring 2017

Hope Rising
Assistant Professor

Michael Sanchez
Assistant Professor

Steve Austin
LA Interim Program Head
THE LAPB WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Jason Anderson, WSU LA Class of 1998, is the owner of Design Two / Four Two Six in Renton. After working at Design 24/26 for the last ten years, Jason purchased the company July 1, 2016. Jason specializes in irrigation design, athletic field design, irrigation system auditing, commercial design, multifamily housing, and educational facilities.

Derrick Eberle is currently an associate at Bruce Dees & Associates, a Tacoma landscape architecture firm that’s been defining places in the Puget Sound area and beyond for the past thirty years. He manages projects from design through construction review primarily for public jurisdictions. “I am amazed at how much I have learned working over the 6 years. It is an awesome profession to be in, and one that I am very proud to be a part of.

Nicholas Hamad is currently works as the landscape architect for the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation in the City’s newly formed park planning division. As parks landscape architect, Nick manages dozens of park design & construction projects throughout the city of Spokane. He is dedicated to the innovative development of public park space, preservation of open space, and the improvement of parks & streetscapes through the integrated management of storm water.

Kristi Evans For the past 25 years, she has worked for Metro Parks Tacoma, where she has managed projects from sports fields, spraygrounds, bridges and master planning for future parks. One of her favorite projects has been Tacoma’s popular historic Wright Park. Kristi led the development of a master plan for the park and its iconic W.W. Seymour Botanical Conservatory. She met her husband there (both are 1988 LA graduates), and her son graduated from the university in 2016.

Charlie Hafenbrack is a WSU Alum with degrees in Business Administration and Agricultural Economics. He has been involved in the Seattle construction industry for 28 years in the areas of marketing and business development. Currently serving as Director of Business Development for GLY Construction, he is involved early in project development, typically up to the point the project team is established. Engineering News Record Northwest named GLY the Contractor of the Year in 2016.

Peg Staeheli is a 1978 graduate of WSU’s Landscape Architecture Program. After 11 years of working across design disciplines for various A/E firms, she co-founded SvR Design Company an integrated civil engineering and landscape architecture practice in Seattle. Expanding their practice nationally, SvR merged with MIG Inc. in 2015. MIG, Inc. is a multidisciplinary firm, founded in 1982, that focuses on planning, designing and sustaining environments that support human development and active lifestyles. The Seattle based Portico Group joined MIG in January 2017.