Program Updates

Gregory Kessler, SDC Interim Director
I am happy to announce that our landscape architecture program enrollment continues to increase this year. This steady growth continues to generate involvement and excitement about the program, the school, and the profession. The SDC is also pleased to be hiring faculty for all programs. We look forward to the energy of new perspectives and ongoing opportunities for our students in the years to come.

Jolie Kaytes, LA Program Head
Spring greetings from the Palouse, where we have snow, hail, and blooms all at once! Students energetically finalize their design projects and ready for summer internships. Here are a few highlights from this semester:

• The LA Program and SDC exhibited "Out/In/Front: Landscape Leading," which featured work by landscape architects throughout Washington State and included many projects by WSU alumni.

• Landscape architect Cary Moon gave an SDC Distinguished Lecture entitled, "Seattle’s Waterfront: Design, Politics and The Right to the City."

• Landscape architecture junior, Zochil Castro, was selected for the Massie Family Endowed Fellowship to design a central trail system with the Yakima Area Arboretum.

• The LA program continues to expand its recruiting strategies. Upcoming plans include establishing articulation agreements with various Washington State community colleges, as well as launching a recruiting video at the end of the spring semester.

We are grateful to all of you that are engaged with the program and appreciate all that you do. Go Cougs!
Student Highlights

- Students in the sophomore studio are working with the restaurateurs of Sangria Grille to design a public outdoor patio and roof garden for their new space in downtown Moscow, ID.

- Students in the junior studio are working with the nonprofit "Save our Wild Salmon" and creating designs for the Lewiston, Idaho Waterfront. Their work will be exhibited in the Lewiston Public Library, with an opening on May 4th.

- Students in design-build have designed and now are constructing a wetland mitigation interpretive garden at Mary’s Park in Pullman. The interpretive garden includes entry and interpretive signage, a mulch walking trail, a large wetland restoration area with native plantings, metal artwork, and constructed wildlife habitat. A celebration event is scheduled for May 1st.

- Students in the senior capstone studio are working in the Yakima River Valley. Projects include a master plan for one of the largest urban redevelopment sites in Washington, sub-watershed restoration planning, daylighting urban streams for Salmon friendly cities, and others. Westside presentations are April 26th.

Site visits and study tours for all of the LA courses were made possible in part by the LA Course Development Fund and the LA Excellence Fund. Thank you for your support!
Alumni Feature
Brian McCormack | Class of 1986

I am an enrolled member of the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho. In 1994, I established McCormack Landscape Architecture (MLA) in Portland, OR and in 1997 moved the practice to the Nez Perce Indian Reservation in Lapwai, Idaho to be close to my family and tribe. I’ve designed many landscape projects where sensitivity and personal understanding of Native American cultural values and beliefs were instrumental to the overall project concept. My experience includes landscape designs for cultural centers, tribal museums, resort hotels, recreational facilities, master-planned residential communities, commercial projects, and single-family residential landscapes. In recent years, I’ve been invited to speak about Native American landscape architecture, indigenous plant design, sacred sites, and culturally appropriate site planning.

I was a very busy student during my four years at WSU. Along with majoring in LA, I worked on minors in piano performance and history. In my limited free time, I played a lot of racquetball, went to $1 movie nights with friends at the Old Post Office Theater, grabbed an occasional pint at Rico’s Tavern, and went to Cougars football games. We had five excellent professors who I am extremely grateful for teaching me the fundamentals of landscape architecture and planning: Fritz Steiner, Ken Struckmeyer, Paul Hsu, Betsy Boehm Hsu and Julie McQuary.

Since I live relatively close to WSU, I return to campus often for lectures, powwows, and of course, to cheer on my Cougar football team. Go Cougs!
LA Faculty

Steve Austin
Clinical Assistant Professor

Jena Jauchius
Adjunct Faculty

Jolie Kaytes
Program Head

Michael Sánchez
Assistant Professor

Sophomores with restaurateur George Skandalos

Juniors along the Snake River

Juniors immersed in wetland planting at Mary’s Park
LA Professional Advisory Board

Mark Brands
SDC Central Board Chair
Site Workshop

Jason Henry
SDC Central Board Member
Berger Partnership

Peg Staeheli
LAPAB Chair
MIG SVR

Katie Bang
Newsletter Editor
Seattle Parks and Recreation

Charlie Hafenbrack
GLY Construction

Dave Nelson
Land Expressions

Kristi Evans
Metro Parks Tacoma

Nicholas Hamad
City of Spokane
Parks and Recreation

Derrick Eberle
Bruce Dees and Associates

Jason Anderson
Design Two Four / Two Six

LA Professional Advisory Board Report

The WSU Landscape Professional Advisory Board (LAPAB) held their annual Spring meeting in Pullman on March 1st and 2nd. The purpose of the spring meeting was to connect professionals and students, collaborate with other School of Design and Construction professionals, and to work with the Landscape Architecture Program to forward various initiatives.

The trip began with a panel discussion in SDC 100, The World of Design and Construction. The panel consisted of professionals in LA, architecture, construction management, and interior design. Panelists discussed a day in the life of a professional, challenges and opportunities we face as an industry, climate change and design innovations, salary, and how to land your first gig.

The LAPAB met with all of the LA cohorts for studio crits, held a question and answer session with the junior class, and toured the new Elson S. Floyd Multicultural Center and the Spark, Academic Innovation Hub.

Another highlight of the meeting included the SDC Advisory Board evening reception at the Brelsford WSU Visitor Center. The Pullman meeting ended with a ride in Jason Anderson’s convertible — with the top down! — in 20 degree snowy weather (Jason is known for wearing shorts at all times). The LAPAB looks forward to a warmer meeting in Seattle in early autumn!

The LAPAB continues focusing on recruitment. Since fall, we have been developing our outreach materials. The LAPAB begins reaching out to local high schools this spring.