School & Program Updates

Ryan Smith, SDC Director
The Landscape Architecture Program continues to thrive during this COVID-19 induced distance learning season. Student enrollments hold steady, students are engaged, and faculty and staff are putting in extra time and attention to ensure students are succeeding. While learning remotely is safe, it is a challenging way to study landscapes, cultures, and ecologies. In the spring 2021 semester, there will be limited face-to-face learning experiences for some LA courses.

Thank you to the alumni for your continued support, especially with scholarships for students that have experienced financial hardship due to COVID. Thank you to the faculty and staff for their commitment in getting through this tough season of education. Go Cougs!

Jolie Kaytes, LA Program Head
Greetings from the Palouse. We are concluding the fall semester and working hard to gracefully navigate the opportunities and challenges that come with distance course delivery. It is simultaneously difficult and inspiring, and regularly reminds us to remain flexible, patient, and generous amid ongoing uncertainty. As you can imagine, the cascading effects of the pandemic impacted students and faculty in multiple ways. Even so, they have persisted with resiliency, creativity and grace. Some highlights of the semester include:

– LA students and firms participated in the first SDC Career Fair, which happened online.
– The student chapter of the ASLA organized two virtual sketch crawls for the entire SDC community. LA faculty Steve Austin led the tours.
– LA students have initiated the formation of a National Association of Minority Landscape Architects (NAMLA) chapter. LA faculty Michael Sanchez will serve as the advisor.
– WSU LA is participating in the 2020-21 NW Faculty Exchange. Learn more here and page 4.
Sophomore students learned the fundamentals of LA. Faculty developed a graphics standards workbook and analog representation tutorials to create novel approaches to studio delivery.

Juniors completed the LA+ Creature Competition in the first half of the semester and worked with three conservation-based community organizations and an arboretum in the second half.

Seniors participated in the LAF Green New Deal Superstudio and focused on a 2000+ acre community development just south of Joshua Tree National park in California.

The LA Excellence Fund and LA Course Development Fund help support student activities.

Thank you for your support!
Infographic by LA senior Josiah Pearson, generated for the LAF Green New Deal Superstudio.

LA students received special permission to stake and lay-out the path they designed in Spring 2020, for the Kelly Ward Memorial on campus. Campus Facilities supervised the activity.
LA Professional Advisory Board

Craig Andersen
AHBL

Jason Anderson
Design Two Four/Two Six

Mark Brands
Site Workshop

Katie Bang
Seattle Parks & Recreation

Kerstin Dettrich
The Land Group

Derrick Eberle
Bruce Dees & Associates

Peg Staeheli
MIG | SvR

Lucas Vannice
The Watershed Company

Holly Williams
KPG Interdisciplinary Design

LA Faculty Notes

Steve Austin | Presenter at the WASLA Annual Conference and the Penn/Del ASLA Annual Conference; Serving on ASLA Climate Action Committee

David Drake | Research and development of novel high-performance building materials; Website: Reuse Design Laboratory

Jolie Kaytes | National Endowment for the Humanities, Planning Grant Recipient; “Cycling Through It” in Terrain.org; “Seven Dam Surprises” in Weber-The Contemporary West

Kate Kraszewska | CELA Region 1 Director; NW Faculty Exchange lecture “Waterscape: The dynamic moving whole;” Featured on WA Grown TV discussing sustainable design

LA Professional Advisory Board Notes

The LA Professional Advisory Board (LAPAB) met via Zoom in early November. The board spent time with SDC Director Ryan Smith to learn about the state of the school. Following this, they discussed and supported using multiple online tools to forward teaching innovation and sustain industry engagement with students during the pandemic.

The SDC Central Board and LA Board will again meet online in the spring. Everyone looks forward to the prospect of convening and meeting in person with students sometime sooner than later.

STIR WELL /stər/ /wel/ (adverb)

The WSU LA Program is delighted to participate in the 2020-21 Northwest Faculty Exchange lecture series. The series focuses on landscape architecture matters in the Pacific Northwest of the U.S. and British Columbia. This year’s series theme is Stir Well.