

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bruce Niedermeyer, PLA, ASLA

Spring has been a busy time for the ASLA Iowa Chapter Executive Committee! We've been staying involved with Advocacy at a local and national level, planned and executed the Iowa Spring Conference and Awards Program, participated in events for World Landscape Architecture Month during April, and have continued to foster a strong relationship with the Landscape Architecture Department at Iowa State University.

### Spring Conference + Chapter Awards

We hosted our Spring Conference in Ames on March 26<sup>th</sup> this year to align with Iowa State University's annual P.H. Elwood Lecture, which took place that evening on campus and was hosted by the Landscape Architecture Department. From updates regarding licensure in Iowa, to understanding the positive impacts quality landscape architecture can have on incarcerated women of Iowa, the conference highlighted the diverse nature of our profession. Shannon Nichol, founding Principal of GGN, provided an enticing P.H. Elwood Lecture challenging typical design processes and detailing rationale used in our profession while being a refreshing face for who a nationally renowned landscape architect can be. We look forward to continuing our collaborations with Iowa State University and providing quality continuing education opportunities in the future. It is important to remember that



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these events would not be possible without generous support from our Partners and the hard work of the Executive Committee, as well as our Association Manager. Thanks to all!

After taking a break from providing chapter awards last year to focus on promoting the Central States Awards, the Iowa Chapter once again put out a call for entries, coordinated the jury process with the state of Oklahoma, and facilitated the awards presentation. Awards were announced and provided as part of a luncheon during the Spring Conference. This year, we received fifteen professional submittals with three Merit Awards, four Honor Awards, and one Award of Excellence being distributed.



*ISU Students displaying their awards with Professor Julia Badenhope*

We also received three student submittals, of which two received Merit Awards. We cannot thank the Oklahoma Chapter enough for serving as our jury and we look forward to jurying their awards program this Fall. If you're interested in reviewing work from Oklahoma, we have room for you on the jury! If you'd like to volunteer to assist with the planning of future conferences or if you're interested in reviewing work from Oklahoma, please don't hesitate to reach out to anyone on the executive committee!

### ACE Program Scholarships

The Executive Committee once again chose to support Central Iowa's ACE Mentor Program by funding two \$2,000 scholarships



for high school students interested in pursuing careers in fields such as landscape architecture, architecture, engineering, and related disciplines. This support of our local youth continues to align with our association’s national goals and objectives.



*Associate Member-at-Large, Sara Davids, with this year’s recipients.*



## Washington DC

During the last week of April, I traveled to Washington DC with our chapter Trustee, Patrick Dunn, to participate in our annual Advocacy Day and our Spring Chapter Presidents Council meetings. Pat explains more about our advocacy efforts below, but please know that our National ASLA staff, housed at the



*ASLA Center for Landscape Architecture, Washington DC*

newly renovated ASLA Center for Landscape Architecture in DC, are a fantastic group of hardworking individuals that keep our profession at the forefront of national political issues. I’m continually impressed by their dedication in preparing us as chapter representatives to have successful visits to our Senators and Representatives. In addition to advocacy, the Spring Meeting is a time for all chapter presidents to meet and learn from one another. This year we focused on items affecting our profession such as diversity, membership growth, strategic planning, branding, and so much more! Per tradition, we also faced off against the Board of Trustees in a friendly game of kickball. I have to admit that the Board of Trustees won this year, but I do so mainly to boast about our own Patrick Dunn who would have easily won the MVP award, had there been a vote!

Lastly, ASLA needs your help to increase participation in the [ASLA 2019-2020 Federal and State Legislative Priorities Survey](#) that will help determine ASLA's federal legislative agenda for the upcoming 116th Congress and will help shape Iowa's state legislative activities. Please take a moment to click the link and complete this survey if you haven’t already done so!

## Looking Ahead

Please join us on Friday, June 8<sup>th</sup> for our Annual Golf Outing which is being hosted at the Tournament Club of Iowa in Polk City. Registration for golfers and sponsors can be found on our [website](#). The deadline to register is May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018! We are also in the throes of planning our Fall Conference for this year! The Fall Conference will be held September 18, 2018 at the Iowa Arboretum near Madrid. Please keep an eye out for more information regarding this opportunity for more professional development hours as well as other fun events being planned for the Fall!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 8, 2018** – IA ASLA Annual Golf Outing, Polk City, IA

**September 18, 2018** – IA ASLA Fall Conference, Madrid, IA



## TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Patrick Dunn, PLA, ASLA

Spring in Iowa is quickly blossoming into graduation time, which means summer will be here before we know it. Speaking of graduations, just over a week ago, I watched my son walk across the stage at Hilton Coliseum and then drive down the road toward his first career position. Reflecting on this personal moment for me has galvanized my belief in what we all do... day-in-and-day-out and in the overall profession of Landscape Architecture. What we do makes our world a better place!

In addition to travelling to Ames for graduation ceremonies, I recently travelled to Washington DC to represent Iowa at the mid-year Board of Trustee's activities. Below is a summary of key Iowa Chapter related items of interest from this DC trip:

### Advocacy Day in Washington DC

Each year, ASLA identifies key issues that we embrace and discuss with our respective elected national Senators and Representatives. If you wish to learn more about this year's issues, click on the links below:

- [The Living Shoreline Act](#)
- [The Water Infrastructure Flexibility Act](#)
- [The Environmental Justice Act](#)



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*Patrick Dunn, Congressman Dave Loebsack, Bruce Niedermyer*

President Bruce Niedermyer and I had the opportunity to discuss each one of these issues with the following Iowa elected officials and/or their staff representatives:

- Senator Chuck Grassley
- Senator Joni Ernst
- Representative David Young
- Representative Dave Loebsack
- Representative Rod Blum
- Representative Steve King

### ASLA National Elections

During the Board of Trustees meeting, candidates for ASLA 2019-2020 President-Elect presented their policy and belief statements. Balloting for this position is now open, and I encourage you to review the candidate's information and cast your vote. You should each have received either an electronic link or a paper ballot. You can also click on this link for more information: [election page](#)



## ISU Landscape Architecture Department Report

Carl Rogers, PLA, ASLA, Department Chair

The 2017-2018 academic year is wrapping up this May. The department of landscape architecture has had a successful year and here are some of the highlights. This past fall 2017 semester was the 18<sup>th</sup> year of Savanna Studio, the department's traveling second year curriculum. Students travel throughout the Midwest, including Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Missouri, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana studying landscapes, cultures and the environment. It is hard to believe that this was the 18<sup>th</sup> year. Students speak of the experience all throughout their studies at Iowa State and into their professional careers. They speak about how the courses and travel introduce them to landscape architecture as well as create a dynamic culture between students and faculty that makes the Department of Landscape Architecture unique in the College of Design.

On May 5th the department graduated 27 Bachelor of Landscape Architecture students and 10 Master of Landscape Architecture students. Chosen as this year's faculty commencement speaker, Associate Professor Heidi Hohmann had two words for graduates, "GET OUTSIDE!" These students are all getting out of the halls of the College of Design and off the Iowa State University campus to pursue careers in landscape architecture with a few attending graduate school in the fall. Look for the graduates to make a big impact as they forge new paths from their ISU adventure! Congratulations, graduates.

The department faculty continue to pursue their research work in all areas related to landscape architecture. The research work includes:

- Engaged Scholarship in Communities Throughout Iowa (Professor Julia Badenhope & Professor Chris Seeger)
- The Power of Play in both Urban Spaces and Youth Play Environments (Assistant Professor Ben Shirtcliff & Associate Professor Bambi Yost)
- Therapeutic Landscapes (Assistant Professor Julie Stevens)
- Computation and Coding Design (Assistant Professor Caroline Westort)
- The History of Color in Landscape Architecture (Professor Mira Engler)
- The Role Parks Play in Urban Planning (Associate Professor Heidi Hohmann)
- Water Trails Planning (Associate Professor Mimi Wagner)
- The Power of Place through Music (Associate Professor Michael Martin).

The department is excited to welcome a new Assistant Professor this August. Look for a formal announcement in the next month.

Students in the department worked on creative projects in their design studios for both the undergraduate and graduate courses. Second year BLA students, taught by Associate Professor Michael Martin and lecturer Lauren Schunk, completed master plans for Holiday Lake Community Center in Brooklyn, Iowa. The third year BLA students, taught by Senior Lecturer Tom Nepl and Lecturer Scot Schuckert, completed watershed scale master plans and site scale designs for the Prairie Creek Watershed in Amana. The fourth year BLA students are currently off campus either in professional internships, study abroad, or participating in the National Student Exchange program. We look forward to having these students back on campus in the fall.



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Fifth year BLA students and some third year MLA students completed projects in several of the College of Design's Interdisciplinary Option Studios. These studios included an installation at the Iowa Arboretum, innovative proposals for the next generation of toys, competition entries for the redesign of an informal settlement in Mumbai, India, a mother-child design build garden at the Iowa Correctional Institute for Women in Mitchellville, Iowa and master plans for an urban village outside of Munich, Germany. The mother-child garden is the fourth project built at the ICIW prison led by Assistant Professor Julie Stevens and is being built right now by ISU College of Design students. The urban village project in Germany was taught by Lecturer (and President-Elect) Keith Billick. Students travelled to Germany over spring break to meet with planning officials for the village and proposed a variety of urban design solutions.

First year MLA students proposed solutions to transform an industrial site along the Missouri River in Council Bluffs and strengthen the riverfront as a public open space along the city edge. This studio was led by Lecturer Chad Hunter and students travelled earlier in the semester to see the site and study its urban context along the river. Second year MLA students completed urban design solutions for a district in Omaha, Nebraska that culminated with a public exhibition and open house in Omaha. Professor Mira Engler and Assistant Professor of Architecture Sharon Wohl led the urban design studio.

The halls are quiet now for the next couple of months until faculty and students return in August. We look forward to our

current undergraduate and graduate students to return then with new energy and creative visions. We also look forward to welcoming the incoming second year undergraduate students, who just completed the College of Design's first year curriculum. We are excited to welcome the incoming graduate students who are coming from the United States, China and India. Thanks for the support this past year from the Iowa Chapter of ASLA. I look forward to hearing from chapter members and working with the chapter to expand the reach of landscape architecture. Have a great summer!

## World Landscape Architecture Month Garret Munch, ASLA, Public Awareness Rep.

As many of you know, April was World Landscape Architecture Month (WLAM). We celebrated WLAM by looking to the future of the profession. April 1 served as the launch date of ASLA's new logo and rebranding. This rebranding and logo refresh will better embody the entirety of the Society's efforts and the profession as they both continue to evolve. To find out more about ASLA's rebranding process, please visit ASLA's [website](#).

After a successful 2017 campaign, ASLA once again asked its members and landscape architects around the world to share their favorite designed spaces on social media with a card that reads "This Is Landscape Architecture" with #WLAM2018. These posts aim to help the public connect the term landscape architecture to the work of landscape architects that surrounds them. In addition, during the campaign, a different ASLA student chapter took over ASLA National's Instagram account each day. This 30-day takeover highlighted the projects of the next generation of landscape architects and favorite designed spaces on campuses across the country. The landscape architecture students at Iowa State University took over National ASLA's Instagram account on April 14. The students highlighted many notable projects and activities they have the opportunity to be involved with throughout their five-year curriculum at Iowa State.

This April was another successful World Landscape Architecture Month with just under 6,000 posts with #WLAM2018 from



