Letter from the President
Aaron Zahm, PLA, ASLA

Accolades for NMASLA! We ended 2011 with quite a bang, holding the largest Design Awards Gala in our Chapter’s history. But if the first half of this year is any indication, 2012 is sure to be a memorable one as well. In the short time since our last newsletter, we’ve held two exciting events and received awesome accolades from ASLA National.

In April, we held a very successful Q1 event in honor of National Landscape Architecture Month. The transportation-themed event was fun, educational, and well-attended. A recap and photos of “Multi-Modal Experience 2012” are available at www.nmasla.org.

In May, current UNM MLA student Andrew Bernard joined Chris Green, Greg Miller, Rob Loftis and I on the annual trek to Capitol Hill for Advocacy Day. Our meetings with Congress and Senate staff members were well-received. This year, we were urging support of a long-term transportation bill in the House and Senate that continues to include funding for Transportation Enhancements, Safe Routes to School, the Recreational Trails Program, National Scenic Byways Program, Land and Water Conservation Fund, and Complete Streets. We were also thrilled to personally thank Senator Udall’s staff for his sponsorship of the Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Act. We offered them the assistance of ASLA and our local chapter members to continue to raise awareness of the issue and to highlight green infrastructure projects in our State. (Hint- our Q4 event in late October will focus exclusively on the topic!) We ended the day with an exciting announcement from ASLA- the New Mexico Chapter was awarded as the year’s Outstanding Chapter for Advocacy! Huge thanks to all of you that have sent, and continue to send, Advocacy...
Alerts and personal messages to your lawmakers! And we need you to keep it up, as transportation enhancement funds are once again being threatened in Senate and House committees. We were also recognized as the ONLY Chapter in the country to see membership growth in each of the last ten years! Pretty cool for little ol’ New Mexico. Just last week, we held a great Q2 event in Santa Fe to visit the award-winning Salazar Elementary School Project, Pecos National Historical Park, and the Santa Fe Historic Trail. We ended the day with a reception at the National Park Service’s Southwest Regional Office on Museum Hill to honor two NMASLA members (John Moseley and Laura Wilson) as co-recipients of this year’s Outstanding Professional Service Award. Check out a recap and photos from the event on pages 3-4 of this issue.

Also in this issue, NMASLA is pleased to present the first in a series of articles highlighting the birth of our profession in New Mexico, as told by the early practitioners. Over the next few years, we will share the stories of the NMASLA members who worked tirelessly to lay the foundation of Landscape Architecture in New Mexico. For our opening article featured on page 5, we are proud to feature Gil Berry, FASLA. If you’re a “Pioneer” and you’d like to share your story in a future newsletter, please contact me. Don’t forget to sign up for our Annual Golf Outing and Vendor Expo on August 24th at Desert Greens Golf Course in Albuquerque. We’ve added a few exciting features to this year’s event and you won’t want to miss it. Registration forms will be emailed and available online next week. And lastly, it’s election season for NMASLA. You have until the end of June to nominate yourself or someone else for one of many open positions on the Executive Committee. (Check the website and recent email BLASTS for descriptions of each position.) Look for electronic ballots in your email inbox during the month of July and please vote! As I pass the “presidential baton” off to Rob Loftis this October, I’ll be looking forward to another great year of service as Past-President with these enthusiastic volunteers. We’d love to have you join us. Enjoy the summer and visualize rain!

To comment on the President’s message, please email responses to Aaron:
azahm@mrwnm.com

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!
We’re updating regularly with fantastic content.
A beautiful Friday afternoon greeted the 30+ participants of our Q2 event in Santa Fe. We began the day with a tour of Salazar Green at Salazar Elementary School. The project was an Honor Award recipient at last year’s Design Awards Gala. Claudia Horn of Design Office in Santa Fe described the successful implementation of a school garden and outdoor classroom that is deeply integrated into the curriculum.

Our next stop was lunch and walking tours of the ranch house, river area, and homesteads of Pecos National Historical Park, just outside Santa Fe. Jill Cowley and Carrie Mardorf of the National Park Service described NPS’s Cultural Landscapes Program and development of the Cultural Landscape Inventory at Pecos.

We ended the day at NPS’s Old Santa Fe Trail Building with a tour of the adjacent Santa Fe National Historic Trail. Steve Burns lead the tour and discussed the National Trails Program. We took full advantage of the beautiful courtyard at the NPS Southwest Regional Office building to have a reception in honor of two pioneers of landscape architecture and the National Park Service. John Moseley and Laura Wilson are co-recipients of the 2012 Outstanding Professional Service Award.

John is a Bataan Death March survivor and served with the NPS for many years. Laura Wilson was the first female landscape architect to be employed by the NPS. Both live in Santa Fe and we were honored to present them with this award. Congratulations and thank you for your service!

Huge thanks to Dan Smith, Craig Campbell, Judy Kowalski, Jill Cowley, Claudia Horn, Steve Burns,

Congratulations to the 2012 Outstanding Professional Service Award Recipients

John Moseley and Laura Wilson
Solange Serquis, Carrie Mardorf, and all who helped organize the event and lead our tours! And thanks to our event sponsors: Avants Stone, Coates Tree Service, and Envall Associates for Landscape Forms.

To comment on the President’s message, please email responses to Aaron Zahm: azahm@mrwnm.com

Image above: Q2 Participants learn about the design and implementation of Salazar Green at Salazar Elementary School from Claudia Horn, ASLA.

Image to the left: Courtyard of Forked Lightning Ranch House, part of Pecos National Historical Park.

Image below: Jill Cowley, ASLA, leads tour along Pecos River at Pecos National Historical Park.
Pioneers in New Mexican Landscape Architecture

President's Note: NMASLA is pleased to present the first in a series of articles highlighting the birth of our profession in New Mexico, as told by the early practitioners. Over the next few years, we will share the stories of the NMASLA members who worked tirelessly to lay the foundation of Landscape Architecture in New Mexico. For our opening article, we are proud to feature Gil Berry, FASLA. Thanks for sharing your story, Gil!

Life in Landscape Architecture Hell: The Early Years
Gil Berry, PLA, FASLA

My personal journey begins in 1966. With a degree in Landscape Architecture and no more deferments, I was drafted into the Army and sent off to Vietnam for a tour, most of which was spent in Alaska. Once out, I came to Albuquerque to visit my brother who was in the Air Force at Kirkland at the time. About to be married, I also was looking for a job. While here, I saw an ad in the newspaper for a position at a local design/build/nursery operation.

The place was called Taro’s Gardens and it was on the far end of San Mateo—so far north that there was nothing between it and Santa Fe except Raphael’s Silver Cloud in Algodones. It is no longer there, but it was at the corner of San Mateo and what became Osuna. Later we got neighbors in the form of Uncle Cliff’s Amusement Park and a Gulf gas station north of us. Taro Akutagawa and his family had bought this property and constructed a nursery, restaurant, and gift shop, along with the landscape operation. I spent a wonderful ten years with Taro and learned constantly. Taro’s sense of design and balance were amazing. We worked all over the state: Hobbs, Roswell, Santa Fe and Albuquerque. We did work for Great Western Cities, planning and landscaping both Colorado City, Colorado and Cochiti Lake, New Mexico. When AMREP Corporation started planning and selling lots in what was to become Rio Rancho, we were very involved. We started with the model home complex and AMREP’s corporate offices, and then moved into individual homes.

AMREP sold throughout the east coast and really concentrated on New York. With each home sale came a “Complete” landscape! Actually it was only the front yard and had a budget of $300.00! Each house was to have an amount of seeded lawn with sprinkler system, a couple of trees, and some plants…and oh yeah, three fruit trees for the back yard. The seeded lawn was impossible because of the silting, blowing sand so common to new Westside development.

Yours truly would design an average of 10 to 12 per day, hand drawn of course at 20-scale. There were five different models. (I mean, how many different versions could you do?) And then the best part: you had to meet with the home owner and show them their plan. “Is this all we get?” “The Misses likes Gardenia’s. Can we have some?” They were usually a little upset because they bought the lot while out of state and it was actually miles from the current development. But for a slight upgrade, they could move where there were actual utilities. Taro would take his crew out and install four to five house landscapes per day!

There were just a few other
firms around at that time and most were associated with nurseries or design/build. Yonemoto’s and later Ken Yarborough’s Los Patios, Lopers and Jim Deflon’s The Hilltop. There were some great people associated with these firms. There were very few professional landscape architecture offices at that time. Jose Yugato and Ken Larson were two of the early practitioners. Tommy Weaver, Walt Weaver, Dennis Wilkinson, Bill Perkins, Craig Campbell, Bob Johns, Faith Okuma, Liz Fish (Reardon) and Baker Morrow all came along later and contributed greatly to our industry. This is where I apologized for those not mentioned. Hopefully each of them will share their remembrances with us as well.

After I left Taro’s in 1976, I went into private practice sharing offices with Walt Weaver, who has left us. I would draw for a number of small landscape companies; Collatz, Benedetto, and Sierra were a few. These plans were done on the hope that the job would sell or you didn’t get paid. This was a tough way to practice, but a very common occurrence. Occasionally, you would find out the plan was indeed installed and the contractor somehow “forgot” to pay you!

So when I got tired of starving and dodging creditors, I found a job in 1981 with the State Highway Department at the general office in Santa Fe. The office was called the Roadside Development Office and was run by a landscape architect named Mil Fleig, with another LA, Grady Stem, in office. Our job was to do revegetation and reclamation plans and to design the rest area facilities around the state.

We had great opportunities to research and experiment with early passive solar things and early wind turbines. One of the rest areas I was assigned to design was the Walking Sands Rest Area between Belen and Socorro. This was an elevated plan to allow for the sand dunes to move and shift as they wanted. We used passive breadbox water heaters, phase change rods for heating, and a small wind turbine for electricity. The idea was to make it just warm enough in the winter so that you didn’t stick to the fixtures. Another rest area I was responsible for was the Welcome Center/Rest Area in Lordsburg, N.M., where again we used passive solar to heat the building.

In 1984 I left the Highway Department to assume the job of campus landscape architect at UNM. Bob Johns had been the campus landscape architect and had decided to rejoin the private practice cadre. Thank You, Bob! No more commute to Santa Fe! It was a great opportunity to do landscape architecture on a dynamic college campus with many unique challenges. I worked for Van Dorn Hooker and the University Architects Office. It was my first really professional office experience. I spent a wonderful 22 years there, retiring in 2006. Hooker retired in 1987 and I was asked to serve as the interim director of the office which I did for two years. The name of the office was changed to the Department of Facility Planning and eventually a new Director was hired. Roger Lujan was hired as the University Architect and Director of the Department. I was asked then to serve as the Associate Director/University Landscape Architect.

I was fortunate to be involved in some really great projects and was given more than 50 awards and recognitions for projects under my direct design or control.

Some of my greatest memories of my career center around wonderful friends and peers. The long battle for licensure brought many of us closer as we attended endless hearings and meetings with folks bent on denying us our professional standing. The joy coming in 1986 when we finally were allowed to license ourselves.

Over the years, I have served on the State’s Joint Practices Committee, serving since 1986 and on which I currently continue to serve. I have served on the State Board of Landscape Architects on two occasions (1999-2001 and 2004-2008), serving as President of the Board on two occasions and have represented the New Mexico Chapter of ASLA as
Chapter President (1984-85) and Trustee (1995-2001). I have been heavily involved with CLARB for over twenty years, serving on the Board of Directors as Secretary, Member and Chair of the Examination Committee, Grader, Master Grader and currently as Grading Session Leader.

Perhaps my biggest honor in this long career was being elected a Fellow in the ASLA, after being nominated by the NM Chapter. I can think of no greater honor than to be recognized by one's peers for one's contribution to your vocation.

So for those of you still awake, I would like to share some parting thoughts. The New Mexico Chapter of ASLA is more vibrant and active than any time in its history. The young group of landscape architects active in the chapter makes me think that our industry has a very bright future. For that, I thank you all! The profession is in a very desirable position and our impact on the future of this world will be staggering. Keep up all the good work!

Please direct any comments or questions to Gil Berry:
gilberry@comcast.net

Mid-Year Board of Trustees Meeting 2012
Chris Green, PLA, ASLA

Bylaws Amendment/Expansion of LAAB
At the fall 2011 meeting, the Board of Directors approved the recommendation of the Task Force on Accreditation and Reciprocity to authorize the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) to accredit non-degree granting programs; the programs must meet the same standards that are used to evaluate degree-granting programs, and a bachelor's degree must be a prerequisite to entry into a certificate program. The Board also charged the Constitution and Bylaws Committee with writing the necessary changes to the Bylaws to implement the task force recommendation. The Board motion was approved with 17 opposed.

Since the Board action, the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) and its members have continued to express strong opposition to the proposal. Most or all of the substantive concerns raised in opposition were reviewed by the Task Force and addressed in the Task Force report and/or can be mitigated or eliminated in implementation, either in the language of the Bylaws change, or in LAAB procedures. However, the nature of the opposition at this juncture is a significant concern. President Hatchell, Vice President of Education Zweifel, and Education Director Leighton discussed this issue at length with the CELA board and attendees at the recent CELA meeting.

Based on the prevalent belief that not enough time and discussion has been devoted to the issue, the Executive Committee recommended, and the BOT agreed, and voted to defer action on the Bylaws amendment until the midyear 2013 meeting. The one-year delay will: 1) give all parties the opportunity to express their concerns and present any new information/data that should be considered; and 2) allow time to respond to individual concerns and to explain how concerns will be addressed through implementation.

As part of this process, an open forum will be scheduled at the Phoenix annual meeting to discuss concerns and potential implementation strategies. Further technical implementation input can be requested from LAAB as part of this ongoing discussion. In addition, further consideration can be given to determining if there might be a way to structure the change in LAAB authority in a more limited way.

Society Finances
Regarding the Society's finances, first quarter cash requirements tend to be low, so ASLA has a strong cash position. Additionally, the stock market is doing well, which helps ASLA's long-term reserve position. Revenues and expenses for the quarter are generally on
track, but will continue to be carefully monitored. The most significant observation for the quarter is that ASLA is making contributions to the long-term reserve. Based on ASLA's strong cash position a $75,000 contribution was made from the short-term reserve to the long-term reserve as authorized by the Finance & Investment Committee. If all goes as planned, by year end the contributions to the long-term reserve should total $315,000 and represent approximately three percent of the 2011 expenses.

Executive Committee Presentations
Candidate presentations were made to the BOT for the positions of VP for Finance, Professional Practice, and Membership. After voting, your new VP's are David Lycke (Finance), Annette Wilkus (Professional Practice), and Shawn Kelly (Membership). Presentations were also made by the two President-elect candidates; Mark Allen Focht, FASLA, and Vaughn B. Rinner, ASLA. I hope you all took the opportunity to vote for the candidate of your choice.

Dues Increase
While the Society has successfully weathered the economic constraints of the past few years, it has come at a cost to the membership activities. Therefore, a dues increase of four (4) percent or thirteen ($13.00) dollars, effective January 1, 2013, was approved for all Full, International, and Affiliate Members. The approved dues increase will help to avoid cuts in the services provided to members. The increase will also keep membership dues as a percentage of the 2012 and 2013 budgets at an average of approximately 35 percent. The average is consistent with prior years and within an acceptable range to maintain the Society’s tax-exempt status. The approval also included the tenet that dues would not be increased for any membership level in 2014.

Advocacy Day
Your New Mexico contingent paid visits to the offices of our congressmen and senators to discuss legislation related to continue funding of transportation enhancements, Safe Routes to School, and Recreational Trails as part of a comprehensive surface transportation bill. We also discussed S. 1115, the Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Act, which was originally sponsored by our very own Senator Tom Udall. Without repeating the recap provided by President Zahm, suffice it to say that the role of our profession in the planning and design of these types of projects is understood and supported by our elected officials.

Please feel free to ask if you’d like additional information on these topics or any other ASLA issues.

Please direct any comments or questions to Chris Green:
cgreen@consensusplanning.com

NMAPA
Landscape Architects,
The New Mexico Chapter of the American Planning Association is holding its 2012 State Planning Conference on October 8-10 at the Inn @ Rio Rancho. NMAPA welcomes all ASLA members to attend the conference as we will be seeking continuing maintenance credits for ASLA. We also want ASLA members to submit proposals for conference sessions. Topics that we plan to cover at the conference this year include: water conservation, complete streets, stormwater management practices and green infrastructure. We are in need of landscape architects to help round out conference sessions to give a wider breadth of knowledge to the various professions involved in development.

The conference agenda will be available on the NMAPA website at www.nmapa.org. Direct questions to: John Korkosz, Conference Organizer, at 505-891-5035; jkorkosz@ci.rio-rancho.nm.us
Reclaiming Histories
Kristina Guist, Dominique Dupont and Jessica Dunn

Reclaiming Histories was selected as one of twenty-five semi-finalists in the National Ideas Competition for the Washington Monument Grounds. The entry was one of three semi-finalists on display as part of an exhibition titled Unbuilt Washington at the National Building Museum in Washington DC this spring, and is currently on display as part of an exhibition titled Someday in the Park with George at the Virginia Center for Architecture in Richmond, Virginia. Reclaiming Histories was a collaborative effort between landscape designers Kristina Guist, Dominique Dupont, and Jessica Dunn.

The National Ideas Competition for the Washington Monument Grounds asked entrants to “develop innovative and creative ideas for making the Washington Monument grounds more welcoming, educational, and effectively used by the public. As the “defining feature of the Washington DC skyline and the centerpiece of the National Mall” the current grounds are a “vast open space that remains unfinished and underutilized”.

The location of Washington DC was not only chosen for its centralized position between the northern and southern territories, but also for its proximity to water and for the quality of the land. The location at the confluence of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers made a rich and safe location for the nation’s new capital. The location of the Washington Monument was
originally planned to be on Jefferson’s “prime meridian” at the center of the cross axes of the National Mall, but at the time the monument was built that center point was on the edge of unstable, marshy land.

This entry, titled *Reclaiming Histories*, seeks to reconcile the history of the Washington Monument and the Mall with the natural history of the landscape. The design represents a series of abstracted ecologies that provide a conceptual platform for the human-made structures now occupying the site. Landscape elements radiate from the monument, and a new plaza surrounds the Jefferson Pier, which marks the intended site of the monument at the intersection of L’Enfant’s two main axes.

The design is organized on a framework of Baroque radial geometry with axial paths and a canal. The orientation of site elements is towards the Washington Monument. The canal slices the axis diagonally, connecting the city to the Potomac, as well as day-lighting the original path of the Tiber Creek. The fifty-five foot square footprint of the monument sets the scale for the site elements, referred to here as nodes.

There are four node types organized by quadrant around the Jefferson Pier, which acts as a counter-weight to the existing raised plaza around the Washington Monument. The pier becomes a node as well, surrounded by a fifty-five-foot square pool of water. The pool is a gallery for the pier and the centerpiece of the Jefferson Pier Plaza. An amphitheater cut into the mound surrounding the Washington Monument, faces west with the plaza as its stage.

The four node types correspond to the four abstracted ecological zones that are incorporated into the grounds of the Washington Monument. Oriented towards the monument, the ecological zones create contemplative settings from which visitors can view an American icon.

The Upland Forest zone represents the forests that once covered the hills surrounding Washington DC. The trees are arranged to form alleés that frame the monument and reference...
many of the historic visions for the monument grounds. The node in this zone is a pool, referencing the ponds that were commonly found in forests as they transitioned towards riparian forests and then wetlands. Integrated seat walls around the pools provide a quiet place to sit and contemplate the monument.

The Wetland Zone and its floating pier nodes offer an ecological refuge within the urban fabric of Washington DC, providing habitat for migratory birds and a place of pause and reflection for Washington Monument visitors. The abstracted wetlands filter all of the storm water run-off that hits the monument grounds before releasing the water into the adjacent Tidal Basin.

The Pasture Zone remains an open and expansive lawn that allows the grounds to remain a center-place of civic gatherings such as presidential inaugurations, protests, and festivals, as well as all types of passive and active recreation. Located along the canal path, the nodes in this zone are splashpads, contributing a playful activity to the lawn.

This design weaves multiple histories through the site, from the reason this marshy piece of land along the Potomac was chosen as the location of the nation’s capital, to the original alignments and axes of the National Mall, to the ecological environment that functioned on the site long before it was our capital. Reclaiming Histories transforms the grounds of the Washington Monument from a nondescript landscape that surrounds a monument, to a landscape that is a monument.

Please direct any comments or questions to Kristina Guist: kguist@mrwnm.com
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Letter from the new Student ASLA President

Alex Leider, President, Student ASLA

As the spring semester has come to an end, we say goodbye to our graduating members and welcome in a new executive committee. The new elected officials are: Alex Leider (President), Andrew Bernard (Vice President), Roxie Carpenter (Secretary), Claire Heywood (Treasurer), and Hang Ding (Web Guru). We will also be introducing a new position this Fall, First Year Representative. This new position will allow for an easier transition between Ex-Comms and will give the first year class a voice on the Ex-Comm.

At the end of the semester Student ASLA celebrated the end of another successful school year at the Albuquerque Press Club. As the summer begins the Ex-Comm is beginning to plan some great events for the 2012-2013 school year. We look forward to working with the NMASLA Ex-Comm to create great opportunities for student-professional interaction and to kick off the mentorship program this fall.

We are also beginning to plan Park(ing) Day 2012 and encourage professionals to come out on September 21 and support the student chapter, a location is yet to be decided. We are also looking forward to a portfolio review and the student-professional mixer with NMASLA. Keep an eye out for announcements of student-professional events, dates and locations.

I encourage NMASLA members to send us ideas and input on ways to increase networking and interaction between students and professionals.

I would like to thank last year’s Student ASLA Ex-Comm for all the great trainings and events they put on, including the showing of Women in the Dirt and the exhibition, and the intensive Rhino training that took place shortly after the spring semester ended. I hope that this year’s Ex-Comm will be able to provide even more successful trainings and events. Finally, I would like to thank Patrick, Windy, and Jitka for their hard work in making this a successful year for Student ASLA and wish them and the rest of their graduating class luck in their new lives after graduation.

Please direct any comments or questions to Alex Leider: aleider@unm.edu
New Member Spotlight:
Patrick Sinnott, Assoc. ASLA

Initially, I was drawn to landscape architecture because of a passion for open space, trail systems, and how recreational infrastructure could improve communities. It was a logical affiliation. I grew up biking, trail running, and skiing the mountains of Idaho and New England, which helped me develop a healthy passion for the outdoors. Despite spending summers mowing soccer fields and digging irrigation ditches for my Dad, a landscape contractor, I became fascinated with the transformation of ideas in the form of blueprints into beautiful, useful places. I also began to recognize how urban areas tend to conflict with the surrounding environment.

Still, I never considered landscape architecture as a possible profession. My background includes working as a professional photographer, outdoor retail manager, and cross-country ski coach. In hindsight, they were attempts in which to share my enthusiasm for recreation and the natural environment. It wasn’t until 3 years ago that I realized I could participate in the creation of sustainable, active spaces in which people might cultivate their own passion for being outside.

This past May, I completed the MLA program at the University of New Mexico where I was able to refine this design vision. My thesis examined landscape as a palimpsest, or series of layered inscriptions, formed by humans and natural processes. These elements contribute to the evolution of places when layers are added to, covered, destroyed, or forgotten. Simply put, an examination of a site’s past reveals traces that can be used to generate cultural memory. Using techniques that utilize personal experience, collective identity, and dynamic systems, ‘active memory’ helps create a new inscription that embraces change while remaining connected to the past.

While trail networks and open spaces remain important to me, I believe this idea of landscape palimpsest can be used in the urban setting to connect people to their landscape heritage as well as natural systems. I embrace the idea of landscape evolution and strive to create designs that are adaptable and relevant to local communities. If people are cognizant of a landscape’s past they may begin to understand how irresponsible development shapes (or often abuses) our environment. Rather, a good design can connect people to a place and show them the value of setting aside green space in our towns and cities.

I’ve only just begun to implement these ideas. I currently work as a freelance designer amidst a job search aimed to keep us in New Mexico. My wife, a hydrologist, and I have grown to appreciate the arid southwest with its dramatic environmental extremes. We also feel fortunate to live in Santa Fe, near the mountains and abundant trails. After three years of school, I am excited to have more time to participate in the Santa Fe community and serve as a steward for the high desert ecosystem. I’ve lived in numerous places over the years and I’ve worked a variety of jobs, but like the metaphorical palimpsest, I feel that my approach to landscape architecture is a culmination of interests derived from a lifetime of experiences.

Patrick’s website is www.patrick-sinnott.com
Please direct any comments or questions to Patrick Sinnott: plss22@hotmail.com

Note: Patrick is one of the two recipients of this year’s NMALSA Student Merit Awards. See his thesis in the showcase of student award winners on pages 24-25.
Steps to Becoming a Licensed Landscape Architect in New Mexico

Kristina Guist, Assoc. ASLA

1. Earn a degree in landscape architecture. To be eligible for a landscape architecture license, all candidates must graduate from an LAAB or LAAC accredited program and receive an undergraduate or graduate degree in landscape architecture. (For those with degrees in related fields, go to clarb.org to learn more about the CLARB’s licensure eligibility requirements.)

2. Start a CLARB council record. A CLARB council record is a verified, permanent record of your education, experience, and examination history. All candidates who wish to apply for licensure in New Mexico must hold a CLARB council record. A record may be started at anytime. It usually takes several weeks for CLARB to receive all of the necessary verification paperwork; the earlier you start, the better. It is easy to go back and add transcripts, references or employer information if necessary. Go to clarb.org to start your record. Once your record is started, you must request that CLARB transmit your record to the New Mexico State Board of Landscape Architects to continue with the licensure process.

3. Apply for licensure with the New Mexico State Board of Landscape Architects. In the past this step was required before candidates could sit for sections C and E (graphic sections) of the LARE, which were administered by the board at their office in Santa Fe. When the new exam format takes effect this fall, the board will no longer be administering any of the exams. It has not been decided if application to the board will still be required for candidates to sit for sections 3 and 4 (new graphic sections) of the new exam format. The board will discuss this issue at their next meeting on July 20th.

If you are planning on taking the December administration of the graphic exams, you should apply to the board for licensure now. If you wait until the board makes a decision on whether the application is required, you will be too late to apply for the December administration. Your application must be in by July 20th as the board will not meet again until November, which will be after the registration deadline for the December exams.

Even if the application is not required to sit for sections 3 and 4 of the LARE under the new format, it will still be required to actually become licensed once you have passed your exams. More information about the requirements for sections 3 and 4 will be available from CLARB by early September.

Applications for licensure are available online at: www.rld.state.nm.us/boards/Landscape_Architects_Forms_and_Applications.aspx
Your CLARB council record will cover much of the information on the application. The board only sits four times a year, and they only review applications during those quarterly meetings. Plan accordingly. Call the State Board (505-476-4930) with questions.

Sections 1 and 2 of the LARE (multiple choice sections) may be taken any time after a candidate graduates. A CLARB council record and an approved application are not necessary.

4. Register for the LARE. Decide which section(s) of the LARE you are going to take first. The LARE is changing to an all-digital format, starting with the September administration of the multiple-choice exams. Sections A and B of the old format will closely translate to Sections 1 and 2 of the new format. Sections D, C, and E will roughly translate to Sections 3 and 4 of the new format. For more information on how credit will be given for exams passed under the old format, go to clarb.org.

Sections 1 and 2 are offered in September and March. Sections 3 and 4 are offered in December and June.

CLARB administers Sections 1 and 2, and now 3 and 4 as well, on behalf of all licensure boards, so you must go to
clarb.org to register for those sections of the exam. The website will walk you through the process, which will end with scheduling a test time at a local test taking center. Check CLARB’s website for information on registering for Sections 3 and 4 or call the State Board.

5. Study, study, study.
According to CLARB’s website, New Exam Specifications, a new LARE Orientation Guide, and new Practice Tests for the new format LARE exams will be available on their website in June. NMASLA does not yet have any study materials for the new exam format. Old study materials are still available to be checked out by contacting Kristina Guist at kguist@mrwnm.com.

ASLA Encourages All Licensed Landscape Architects to Use PLA

With the Board of Trustees approval, ASLA is encouraging all licensed landscape architects to use the post-nominal letters “PLA” after their names. As an abbreviation of the title “professional landscape architect,” it will better enable potential clients and the general public to identify licensed practitioners. It will also provide consistent recognition for the landscape architecture profession across the nation.

Why PLA? To truly establish a designation that can be used universally, it is necessary to avoid words that have specific legal meanings, like the terms registration and licensure. While these terms are often used interchangeably, in reality each has a distinct meaning in the realm of professional regulation. Like the PE designation for engineering, PLA can be used in any jurisdiction where a landscape architect is duly licensed. Most important, the use of PLA can raise the profile of landscape architecture by creating a universally recognized symbol for licensed landscape architects.

The use of PLA by landscape architects is intended as a customary designation, just as similar abbreviations are used today. No legislative changes or rule development
for state licensing is necessary, given that it falls under current title restriction provisions that restrict the use of any title (or abbreviation) that indicates the individual is a landscape architect. Further, no state law or regulation assigns specific post-nominal letters that licensed landscape architects must use.

The development of this policy and the discussion of this issue have raised many questions, particularly regarding how such a designation interacts with licensure laws. For more information, see below.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

Why did ASLA adopt this policy? There is currently no uniform way for a licensed landscape architect to indicate that he/she is licensed. Many use PLA, RLA, LLA, or LA to signify licensure. The lack of a consistent post-nominal abbreviation makes it more difficult for potential clients and the general public to identify a licensed practitioner.

Why did ASLA choose PLA? State laws and regulations use different terms to denote professional regulation of landscape architects, with many using licensure, others using registration, and several using both. These terms were originally intended to signify different levels of regulation; however, common usage has blurred these definitions for the design professions so that licensure and registration are often used interchangeably. The ASLA Licensure Committee chose PLA for two reasons. First, PLA does not conflict with the existing legal terminology (licensure and registration), thereby allowing for universal usage. States that use registration or licensure may not be comfortable with its licensees using the other term, making PLA a neutral designation that can apply to both terms. Second, PLA is consistent with existing post-nominal abbreviations for related disciplines, such as engineering (PE) and land surveying (PLS).

How would the use of PLA affect existing licensure laws and regulations? State laws are written to ensure that only qualified individuals hold themselves out as landscape architects. Laws typically reserve “landscape architect” and “landscape architecture” for licensees and sometimes include restrictions on other titles, such as “registered landscape architect” or “licensed landscape architect.” Further, the title protection provisions prohibit any unlicensed individual from in any way holding himself or herself out to practice landscape architecture, which includes abbreviations and other derivations of the term landscape architect. At the present time, no state law or regulation assigns specific post-nominal letters that licensed landscape architects must use. States may be interested in changing rules to specify that the use of PLA (professional landscape architect) is restricted, but it is not necessary because existing language covers use of all iterations of “landscape architect.”

My state uses RLA on its stamp. Can I use PLA? Yes. The post-nominal abbreviation PLA is intended as a customary designation to identify oneself as a landscape architect with a valid license/registration. As long as the individual has a valid license in the state, that licensee can use PLA after his/her name to signify licensure. The state could choose to change its rules and stamp design to be consistent with PLA, but it is not necessary, and ASLA does not intend to advocate for such changes. It is important to note that a landscape architect should always follow the state specifications for the official stamp.

What is the responsibility of the landscape architect? As the PLA designation is intended to signify licensure, it is the responsibility of licensees who use PLA to remain in compliance with their respective licensure requirements and only to use the designation in jurisdictions where they have a valid license. Those who are unlicensed should never use PLA.

What is the responsibility of the licensing board? Because the use of PLA would signify licensure, the existing title restriction provisions...
will provide the authority for state licensing boards to take enforcement action in the same way that they can currently enforce the use of the title landscape architect by those who are not licensed. In keeping with existing title restriction provisions, state licensure boards alone have the authority to ensure that only individuals with a valid license hold themselves out as landscape architects, including the use of PLA.

How does this policy affect the ASLA designation? The ASLA designation will continue to denote that the individual has met the qualifications of membership in the Society and has a membership in good standing. PLA does not replace ASLA as a designation, but establishes a supplementary designation that can be recognized by all to signify licensure (e.g., Jane J. Smith, ASLA, PLA).

I am not a member of ASLA. Can I use PLA? Yes. ASLA intends for the PLA designation to be open to all licensed landscape architects. Otherwise, it could not truly become a universally recognized designation for clients and the general public to identify licensed landscape architects.

Questions? Contact ASLA Government Affairs Director Julia Lent at jlent@asla.org.
2012 NMASLA Honor + Merit Student Award Winners

Landscape Generator: renewable energy and art as landscape design foundations

Elham Morovvati, Honor Award Recipient

Issue exploration:
Contemporary, ecological landscape architecture is driven by the human demand for food and energy. In particular, achieving sustainable cities is an imperative in our rapidly urbanizing world. "Consumption" is unavoidable, but are there any solutions for preserving resources from being depleted so quickly? Is there any real action being done by landscape architects to fight against climate change and energy consumption? Landscape architecture is not as responsive as it should be to these issues. In today's complex world, it is important to ask if there are any self-contained elements or materials that can play a core role for designers in terms of saving energy and reusing it. How can we make the idea of ecological design a basis for responsive and dynamic surfaces in landscape architecture projects? How can we use clean energy methods such as bio fuel from biomass productions, solar energy, wind turbines, thermo logical lands, etc. as a foundation for making landscape surfaces more usable, flexible, and smart?

To reach that goal, we must research renewable energy options and look for materials, methods and processes that can respond to our needs. Projects would have to increase in scale, to the level of urban design.

Renewable energy as an excellent solution against climate change and energy consumption, has been commonly used in various fields of study. However, there are still gaps for using them in design, particularly in landscape projects. Aesthetic consideration, in which design is focused, is needed for this technology. Landscape architects or designers may go a long way towards creating a unique and iconic environmental spaces worthy of public attention, if they would be aware of the benefit and wide range of possibilities of design toward renewable energy installations.

This project explores the potential of using renewable energy as a generative, interactive and aesthetic component in landscape design.
Context and History
The project site is located at the Freshkills, in the Staten Island, NY. Like most landfills constructed in the 1940s, the Fresh Kills Landfill was not designed with a liner or any other form of leachate control. Thus, for many years, untreated leachate from the landfill flowed directly into local surface water and groundwater, allowing chemicals in the waste to gradually dissolve into the rainwater and snow melt that flowed through the garbage piled within.

At 2,200 acres, Freshkills Park will be the largest park developed in New York City in over 100 years. The transformation of what was formerly the world’s largest landfill into a productive and beautiful cultural destination will make the park a symbol of renewal and an expression of how our society can restore balance to its landscape. In addition to providing a wide range of recreational opportunities, including many uncommon in the city, the park’s design, ecological restoration and cultural and educational programming will emphasize environmental sustainability and a renewed public concern for our human impact on the earth. The capped piles of waste rise 150 feet up into the air, creating captivating views towards the Manhattan skyline. Garbage is the reason this project came about. The very reason for Freshkills park originates with massive amounts of garbage. But where does the garbage go now? Virginia? Other states? Where after that? Is it right to plan a great park for Freshkills and leave these questions unanswered? To address those questions and rethink the way we consume and dispose, I propose “the continuum” as a theme of this project to address the past, present and future. This project is meant to be educational and a reminder for visitors and future generations alike about their role in transforming the land.

Site
Freshkills is located along the Arthur Kill on Staten Island’s western shore. It encompasses the Freshkills Estuary and the Isle of Meadows. It is bounded on the north by Victory Boulevard and Travis Avenue, to the east by Richmond Avenue, and in the south by Arthur Kill Road. The West Shore Expressway bisects the entire site in a north/south direction.

The pedestrian-bike way in Lautourette Park, on the western side of site, is disconnected from Freshkills park and the neighbourhoods on the eastern side by Richmond Avenue.

Considering the history of Freshkills and the fact that this site used to be a home for New York’s waste, is unavoidable for the design proposal. Huge mounds of garbage make unique views to and from the site. Renewable energy (technology) and art,
would make an excellent combination to address this message to the visitors of Freshkills.

The Atlantic corridor for birds inspired me to propose the horizontal corridor of the art and technology integration to make a pleasant, dynamic and energy generated landscape spaces. Wind, solar, transportation, and art have been main factors in investigating for the possibilities of their potential on the site. Based on the site analysis, the southern slopes of north park has the most potential for wind technology and specially wind turbines.

Since the east and west slopes of the garbage mounds are partially shaded by the mound’s peak, both peaks of east and north mounds of Freshkills, have the optimal opportunity for solar systems deployment.

On the other hand, the existing bikeway for the residential neighborhood east of Freshkills, is disjointed by Richmond Ave. Continuing this bikeway lead to the heart of Freshkills would make a great opportunity for inhabitants to enjoy easy access to the site.

Program
This project is designed to be a home for public art, relaxation, and interaction between people and the history of Freshkills by focusing on renewable energies as a core to the design. It would provide many opportunities to be flexible for viewers including individual or groups. Aesthetics play a big role in this project since attracting people to be engaged with energy is quite new. To reach that goal, art installation, sculptures, lighting, and materials will guide this project.

Environmental & Social Impact
The design interventions for Freshkills Park, the world’s former largest landfill, demonstrates the importance of landscape design opportunities, and begins to outline an analytical approach by which such sites might be addressed. As natural resources are being depleted quickly, and the public does not respond to regular renewable energy technologies as a solution for aesthetic issues, landscape designers must rethink creating environmental spaces through applying these technologies on their projects. Not only do aesthetics matter, but also renewable energy installations must reflect the diversity of uses, that can encourage people to learn, interact, experience and use. It is indeed possible to integrate energy, production with beautiful spaces, providing a unique and meaningful experiences. The more new methods and technologies are embraced, the more dynamic spaces will be provided. As a result, the benefit of renewable energy on environment, economy, and communities is something to look forward to. Expression of spaces through artistic design coupled with the fusion of art and sustainable technology in landscape architecture will result in building a better, more beautiful environment for our current and future generations.

Please direct any comments or questions to Elham Morovvati: elham.morovvati@gmail.com
Re-thinking the American Front Yard: Alternatives for the High Desert Suburban Environment

Jitka Dekojova, Merit Award Recipient

“All front yards in America are much the same, as if they had been copied from one another, or from a remote prototype.” - John Brinckerhoff Jackson, Ghosts at the Door

When I started to write my thesis, I thought that front yards were underused spaces with their main function being to show the homeowner’s ability to conform to the ‘good neighbor standards’. I searched for how we got from row houses with minimal front yards to stand-alone houses with front porches and back alleys to contemporary suburban houses with three-car garages on the front. Car dependency, the elevation of the front lawn from a patch of grass to something resembling a national symbol, the inwardness of our private lives, and the cultural importance of single-family detached houses symbolizing the American Dream – which were all codified in zoning codes, city ordinances, and various covenants – all led to the changes in our built environment.

The way a single-family detached house is set on a lot in a typical residential subdivision has not changed for decades. Even though the demographics of suburban developments have changed, and the residents have begun to demand sustainable, environmentally responsible developments, developers and zoning codes still follow the post-war pattern of wide streets, prominent garage...
entries, excessive pavement, and conventional storm water run off management.

In my thesis, I explored multiple ways of how a house's position on a lot relates to the streetscape through the design of front yards. I compared house entrances, the sizes of front yards and backyards, the availability of street parking, storm water run off management, the street widths, and the size/usability of outdoor living spaces. To evaluate alternative configurations and compare them to the prevailing configuration in Albuquerque's suburbs, I developed four sets of criteria (environmental, social/cultural, economic, and criteria based on human preference principles).

The thesis concludes that the current configuration of both the streetscape and the way a house is positioned on a lot is the least suitable option for the high desert environment. A house with a front courtyard scored the highest of the alternative configurations followed by a house with a recessed garage entry of the type in older, established Albuquerque neighborhoods like Nob Hill.

Even though redesigning the front yard does not resolve all the negative impacts of current suburban developments (car dependency, the uniformity of subdivisions, and the environmental impact on the land) it demonstrates strategies for improving the streetscape of current residential subdivisions.

Please direct any comments or questions to Jitka Dekojova: jitka.dekojova@yahoo.com
Using Landscape Palimpsest To Generate Meaningful Design

Patrick Sinnott,
Merit Award Recipient

This project, located in Santa Fe, examines landscape as a series of layered inscriptions formed by humanity and natural processes over time. These elements contribute to the evolution of places when layers are added to, covered, destroyed or forgotten. Therefore, a thorough examination of a site’s past revealed traces of previous layers that could be used to generate cultural memory. Embodying the idea of landscape palimpsest, the design forms a new inscription: one that embraces change while remaining connected to the past. Thinking about landscape as a living document provides useful inspiration for designers and helps people connect to their landscape heritage.

Please direct any comments or questions to Patrick Sinnott: plss22@hotmail.com
Chapter Events

**Q3 Golf Tournament**
**Date/Time:** Friday, Aug 24  
**Location:** Desert Greens Golf Course, Albuquerque

**Professional-Student Mixer + Mentorship Program Kick-Off**
**Date/Time:** Friday, Sept. (tentative)  
**Location:** Albuquerque

**ASLA Annual Meeting**
**Date/Time:** Sep 27 thru Oct 1  
**Location:** Phoenix, AZ

**Q4 CEU Mini-Conference “Green Infrastructure”**
**Date/Time:** Friday, Oct 26 (tentative)  
**Location:** UNM Campus, Albuquerque

**Holiday Party**
**Date/Time:** Dec 7 (tentative)  
**Location:** TBA

### Newsletter
The NMASLA newsletter is produced by students in the MLA program at the University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning.

Please submit articles, news, photos, corrections, etc., to the editor:
Alex Leider
aleider@unm.edu

**Call for Articles!**
We want to showcase YOUR projects in our newsletter! Please send us your case study of a project completed in the last year and a half for inclusion in the next or future newsletters.

Additionally, if you have ideas for a different type of article, please send us your suggestions. Help us keep our newsletters relevant and interesting for the NM Landscape Architecture community.

Please send your questions, case studies and/or articles to Alex Leider: aleider@unm.edu

**Website**

Have you visited the NMASLA Website? Please check it out: www.nmasla.org

Want to show off your projects??? We are requesting project images or landscape images that anyone would like to have posted on the website. Please include a note with a brief description (name of project/landscape, location… anything else to explain the image).

Please send projects to Victor Trujillo:
vtrujillo@sites-sw.com

### LARE Study Materials
NMASLA now has a collection of LARE Study Materials that can be checked out by NMASLA members.

Please email Kristina Guist: kguist@mrwnm.com

### Membership & Address Changes
Please email Victor Trujillo: vtrujillo@sites-sw.com

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Advocacy Day 2012