

STUDY ABROAD 2016: a Journey through Europe

Rayshaun Landrum, MSU LA student

Nürtingen, Germany

The first destination of our European study abroad journey was Nürtingen, a town in southern Germany on the river Neckar. The river Neckar is a beautiful natural feature that flows into the larger river Rhine, complemented by amazing timber-framed architecture. As a class, we all gained appreciation of this destination as a result of a design charrette hosted by Dr. Burley and Dr. Michael Roth of Nürtingen Geislingen University. The

Paris, France

With its dense urban form, historic context, and diverse population, it is easy to understand why Paris is a top global tourism destination and a world-class city. We stayed within walking distance of the Place de la République, a large square-shaped plaza with an impressive central fountain. People were using the plaza as if it were a park without natural features. Below Place de la République is an underground transit system that we

Rotterdam, Netherlands

Arriving in Rotterdam, we were instantly impressed by its appealing landscape and skyline. The Nieuwe Mass (a tributary of the river Rhine) and the Erasmus Bridge enhance the city's landscape with its distinctive skyline and visual appearance. Observing the interrelationship of bike lanes, parks, detention ponds, and architecture was fascinating. For example, the flow and communication among people who



Paris, France



Rome, Italy

charrette involved Nürtingen Geislingen University students whose majors ranged from urban planning to construction management, and it included a mapping investigation with the objective to design an enjoyable experience for people along the river. The collaboration with the students revealed different approaches toward the project, which became a great learning experience in successful project delivery.

used frequently to travel around France. One of those destinations was Champs d'Elysees, an extensive urban corridor designed as an allée (traditional straight path or road with a mirrored line of trees) filled with a series of cafes, restaurants, shops, and movies theaters. The allée leads to the Arc d'Triomphe: the most famous monument in Paris, honoring those who fought and died in the French Revolutionary and the Napoleonic Wars. The streetscape space was massive in scale yet very functional. The streetscape design was a great example of creating a diverse environment to serve the city's diverse population.

were walking, biking, and driving was impactful. One of the most remarkable works of architecture that we encountered was the tilted Cube houses designed by architect Piet Blom. The concept behind the Cube houses was "living as an urban roof" in a unique high density form. Of course, exploring Rotterdam would not be complete without investigating its windmills, which control water by moving it from the field into a reservoir. Not only a lovely place to visit, Rotterdam is a well-functioning city with its use of bike lanes for transportation, its promotion of social engagement through urban design, and its implementation of green infrastructure.

England, United Kingdom

On to yet another different atmosphere, we spent two weeks in London. London is absolutely astonishing; its atmosphere reminded us of American culture, and its use of the English language brought us comfort. The underground train system is an effective method to alleviate traffic congestion caused by the tremendous number of people who live there. Also

Rome, Italy

Rome's power comes from its historical context as one of the oldest cities in the world, with each inch of land having a fascinating background. Our first destination was the Colosseum, used to entertain the public with gladiator fighting and other sporting events. Being able to visit attractions like the Trevi Fountain, the largest and most famous baroque fountain in the world, and The Villa Lante, a formal Italian garden

experience, involving a variety of activities such as exercising, fishing, water sports, dining, clubbing, and relaxation. Although the beach is a defining feature, Gaudi's architectural style offers Barcelona an attention-grabbing aesthetic, influenced by religion and nature, that is far from ordinary. For example, Casa Mila, Gaudi's masterpiece housing venue, uses structural forms that resembled those found in nature with both aesthetic and functional benefits. Placa



Barcelona, Spain



Barcelona, Spain

unique are the number of parks and the extensive land area they cover. The functional use of these parks is wonderful because people can observe or partake in various activities such as boating, cycling, swimming, and skating. The parks are a perfect example of promoting public health through the incorporation of public open space.

dominated by unique fountains, was awe-inspiring. Another wonderful experience was walking through the Roman Forum, allowing one to imagine what the lifestyle was like back in ancient times. Those who visit come to understand that Rome is an eternal city that appreciates its history.

Barcelona, Spain

Barcelona is the perfect city in which to relax and embrace its unique way of life. The number of people who visit is a testament to its amazing qualities. Barcelona's beachfront is an adventurous

de Catalunya, within the city's center, is a large area of land surrounded by fountains and sculptures where impromptu musical performances are regular occurrences. Another unique feature is La Rambla, a 1.2 kilometer street connecting Placa de Catalunya with the Christopher Columbus Monument at Port Vell with wonderful markets, gift shops, and street performers. Ending our journey in Barcelona was an amazing way to cap off a fabulous study abroad experience.



The First LA Ride

Bob Ford

Ride participants at Crego Park

It rained most of Monday through Wednesday, and the temperatures were in the 50s—a normal grey spring in Michigan as April showers give way to the promise of May flowers. The first bicycle tour was scheduled for Thursday, May 5th at three o'clock, and we were worried that it would be a bust due to the wet and cold weather. Lo and behold, on Thursday the sun appeared and the temperatures were forecast well into the mid 60s. Those temperatures were perfect for a RIDE, especially a first RIDE, a RIDE designed to celebrate spring and landscape architecture, even though we just missed LA month in April, otherwise known as LAM. This first ride inaugurated the "LA RIDE," sponsored by the Michigan Association of Landscape Architects (MASLA) 2016.

A small crowd gathered at the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum on the campus of Michigan State University in downtown East Lansing. We chose "The Broad" because it is a world class exhibit that is easy to find, and it was the site of the first MSU Landscape Architecture Alumni and Advisory Board (LAAAB) speaker series. We thought it would be a great way to recognize both organizations and to attract existing and new members as well as students, faculty, and allied professionals. We had no idea who would show up for a bicycle ride like this, since our advertising was mostly by word of mouth, the Michigan ASLA website, and the School of Planning and Design (SPDC) website. We also scheduled it during finals week, which may not have been too smart since most students were getting ready to leave or had already left

campus for the summer. Our goal was to test it out and to see if there was interest: an experiment of sorts. We hoped to have a dozen people show up and maybe half of them to ride. We had no clue what was to happen next.

Our efforts were certainly not in vain—we attracted 45 people. Everybody's spirits lifted as people gradually filtered onto the plaza to meet friends and make acquaintances. We had a nice selection of music playing, some light refreshments, and a delightfully diverse group of people who were curious, energetic, and willing to participate. Our group was evenly bracketed with ages ranging from 17 to 68. Most all were ready to ride!

Karen Russcher, MSU landscape architecture instructor, agreed to be our local school representative. In a

The LA RIDE had a feeling of authenticity, camaraderie, and an inner sense of belonging to something special. It was a cool thing we were doing and we knew it.

green and white riding outfit, she led our group from the Broad Art Museum through Benefactors Plaza to the MSU Bicycle Center for some impromptu safety instructions from director Tim Potter. From there, we were off to the Lansing River Trail and officially on the First LA RIDE ever! It was exhilarating to know that this was actually happening after months of planning! It was a relief to know that it was becoming a thing! The LA RIDE had a feeling of authenticity, camaraderie, and an inner sense of belonging to something special. It was a cool thing we were doing and we knew it. This was a collection of people young and old, women and men, with thirst for knowledge all the while huffing and puffing as we rode the trail through woods, meadows, and wetlands of the Grand River and Red Cedar watershed.

Our first stop was Crego Park. Richard Schaefer, landscape architect with the City of Lansing, gave a brief description of the rehabilitated toxic waste site that was transformed into a beautiful park with a large pond, new walkways, sandy shorelines, and docks designed for fishing, wading, and paddling within 200 acres of woodlands right in the center of the city. From there, we rode to Mt. Hope Cemetery, where Loretta Stanaway, cemetery caretaker and historian, gave a brief lecture. She told us the stories of the past legends who built Lansing, such as R.E. Olds, Potter, Ranney, Cahill, and many others. Some people said they had driven by that cemetery a thousand times but never stopped to see the granite sculpted tombstones, sunken columbarium, or the gracefully meandering service roads (which were, by

the way, perfect for a peaceful bicycle ride). The talk was captivating and tranquil, and it was inspiring to learn of the deeds that these men and women performed in building their city during the early to mid 1900s.

We rode onward to Hawk Island County Park, operated by Ingham County in the heart of Lansing. We stopped at the bottom of the newest addition to the 180-acre park, "the urban snow park." A brief presentation on the history, design, and operations for the park was given by Robert Moore, previous Ingham County Park Director; Aaron Senchuk, LA student and snow hill digger; and myself, LA designer for the Hawk Island Master Plan and construction plan for the Snow Hill. Afterward, the LA RIDE met at the Red Tail Hawk Shelter for refreshments as the speakers gave the development history of Hawk Island Park, an abandoned gravel pit that has been reclaimed and remade into a regional destination.

Next we rode to Hunter Park, an urban agricultural neighborhood food producer. Rita O'Brien, Director of Hunter Park Garden House, provided a guided tour of the hoop house, compost center, free pick-your-own open garden plots, and of course the neighborhood gardens. We learned how the community works together to supply food to themselves, the local farmers market, and to people of less fortunate means. While we were there, two MSU students volunteered to learn more about gardening and to work in the gardens. About 100 yards



Riders gather at the Broad Art Museum

away from the gardens, President of the MSU/Lansing Bike Polo Club Eddie Glayzer provided us an understanding of what "guerilla recreation" looks like up close by demonstrating their craft on one of the abandoned tennis courts. This group finds abandoned or underutilized hard surfaces, usually within parks, and transforms them into a hockey games on bicycles during the spring, summer and fall. They have a blast doing it.

On this first first LA RIDE, I overheard someone say "this is like education in motion," and it was exactly that. Our post-opinion survey proved that point specifically with an overwhelming majority (95%) stating that they would participate again, and that they loved the educational component, the exercise, and meeting old friends and developing new ones they met on the ride.

Our goals were met. To: 1. Educate, 2. Outreach, 3. Mentor, 4. Exercise, 5. Socialize.

Our new goal is to improve, by reaching out to more: LAs, students, related professionals, and others.

After we had a beverage and dinner together, we decided to take the LA RIDE to Grand Rapids for the 2016 MASLA conference. This is the first ride offering three continuing education credits. Consider joining us for a RIDE to remember next year in Detroit!

STATE OF THE PROGRAM AND UPDATES

Karen Russcher

I have the great opportunity as interim program leader to present the state of Michigan State University's Landscape Architecture Program, as well as my new role, hopes and aspirations, opportunities, and my heart-felt feelings about what the LA program and our profession means to me.

We have had quite a few changes recently. I came to MSU in 2013 with the retirement of Duane Mezga and Warren Rauhe. The LA department was making changes to accommodate the two class years known as the "bubble group" (two classes that were merged together) that were nearing BLA graduation or entering the MED program. We were also juggling studio spaces to accommodate 4 class years in a new facility.

We have transitioned with new faculty, curriculum, and spaces, and we are settling in with established practices, values, and organization. I am proud to say that the students graduating this year were my first class that I taught in the fall of 2013. I have had them in each year's design, planning, and construction classes. They are a great group, and I'm glad that they did such a wonderful job learning and growing each year. I was able to track their growth in skills and cognition, and to see them bridge the varied knowledge across the landscape architecture curriculum.

I will continue to be an advocate and conduit for the students to the LA program and faculty. I want to make the process of applying to upper division simple, direct, and accessible. I also want the available scholarships to be widely

known, and have asked that the dates for application be sent out much earlier and with more reminders. There are so many activities during the semesters. Since I can see the student stress level on a daily basis, I want to help minimize that stress where possible. For example, coordination among all the professors could help lighten the work load during the week of the career fair and vertical studio in the spring semester. Another concern is the work load for the 3rd year students (the most rigorous year of study) just before they go to study abroad. The faculty has sat down to discuss how students struggling with time management and outside activities can find balance and make hard choices.

Many students' college loans are so large and overwhelming that students have to work while in school. They must be able to manage both school and work at the same time, not to mention all the valuable co-curricular opportunities that happen during the school year. Some of these program-related activities include LA Club, speaker series, design competitions, ASLA meetings, field trips, and supporting the professors as graders for classes as well as research assistants – not to mention the student's personal interests and life in general.

Future employers are not only looking for scholastically-strong students, but also students who are active in their community and participate in activities that enhance their service to the profession and learning environment.

My understanding of the students' experience helps me to advocate for them so that they have a rich experience in the MSU LA program, which in turn makes the program the best it can be.

Some updates on what happened Spring of 2016 and Fall of 2016:

The 2016 Spring Semester Career Fair was held in February with over a dozen firms attending. Thanks to all of those who attended and provided the students with career insight and advice. LAP Inc., Beckett & Raeder Inc., English Gardens, EDSA, City of East Lansing, Mariani Landscape, SmithGroup JJR, TBG, and Three C's Landscaping, Hamilton Anderson, TBG, Rivertown Landscapes, KWLA, GMB, Dow Gardens, and Field Operations. Please contact me (karenrus@msu.edu) if you or your firm are interested in participating in future career fairs.

Photo courtesy of Communications and Brand Strategy.



Beal botanical garden

We have some amazing students, and I would like to congratulate them on their achievements!



Alumna Beth Hagenbuch working with students in studio

During fall semester 2016, the MSU LAAAB and the LA program hosted the Distinguished Speaker Series featuring Debra Guenther, FASLA. Deb received the ASLA President's Medal in 2010, and her BLA from MSU in 1982. Deb's presentation highlighted the rapid urbanization in the world today and the means in which landscape architects serve globally and locally together. In her lecture Anthropocene, she discussed how building and living in our cities is the greatest opportunity to explore and respond to human and natural processes, such as climate change, species loss, and social equity. Deb shared a wide range of work from Mithun, an interdisciplinary firm in Seattle and San Francisco that strives to design for positive change. She also joined our fifth-year and first-year students in a vertical studio. The fifth-year students explained their research and capstone design work with the first-year students, and together built models to express ideas of their work to serve diverse functions. Afterwards, she continued working with our fifth-year studios, taught this year by Robert Dalton, to develop a list of necessary inventory and analysis material and vital programming for their projects.

In closing, my heart is with helping the students succeed and grow into well-rounded practitioners. With my new position as the interim program leader, I will still continue to teach courses ranging in scale and complexity, based on student knowledge and the demands of the profession. This broad interdisciplinary approach to landscape architectural design has evolved from my professional practice, training, and philosophy. It is my hope that sharing these insights will inspire in my students to develop

their personal philosophies and talents that allow them to become the next generation of standard-bearers for the practice of landscape architecture in the future. We have some amazing students, and I would like to congratulate them on their achievements! This year's award and scholarship recipients are:

2016 MI ASLA Awards

- Nicholas Blok – Honor Award
- Cameron Robinson – Honor Award
- Mike Hou – Merit Award
- Cresha Wee – Merit Award

Abigail Reimel – National Student Advisory Committee to the board of Trustees of ASLA

Abigail Reimel – passed the LEED GA exam to become a LEED Green Associate through the United States Green Building Council

Spring 2016 Scholarship Recipients

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Nick Blok | LA endowment |
| Brad Hornburg | LA endowment |
| Jacob Weiss | LA endowment |
| Abigail Reimel | Thomas K. and Sheila T. Moore |
| Xiaoyi (Cindy) Wang | June Knostman |
| Arrianna Zannetti | Hamilton Anderson |
| Stephani Onwenu | Kenneth and Shirley Polakowski |
| Rayshuan Landrum | Kenneth and Shirley Polakowski |

William C. and Kathryn Burgess Stenquist awards 2nd years:

- Harrison Boruszewski
- Brandon Chaney
- Abigail Reimel
- Wang Chi (Vincy) Tam
- Sarah Van Dyke
- Rachel Walsh
- Allison Newbegin
- Stephanie Onwenu
- Xiaoyi (Cindy) Wang
- Rachel Wilke
- Jiabin Zhang
- Yige Qu

William C. and Kathryn Burgess Stenquist awards 3rd years:

- Dexin Chen
- Brad Hornburg
- Rayshaun Landrum
- Yinliang Li
- Curtis Schaldach
- Jacob Weiss
- Cuiting Wu
- Arianna Zannetti

William C. and Kathryn Burgess Stenquist awards 4th years:

- Brock Downs
- Collin Manns
- Cameron Robinson
- Cresha Wee
- Haoxuan Xu
- Yanzhi Xu
- Nicholas Blok
- Morgan Haffey
- Xiao (Mike) Hou
- Hanbing Liang
- Cole Mauti
- Aaron Senchuk
- Xumei Wang



The MSU LA program was pleased to see that respondents valued the role of internships, and that just over 50% of respondents indicated that they would be interested in hiring an intern.

Students in studio

2016 Landscape Architecture Alumni Survey

Trish Machermer

Survey Purpose

The 2016 Landscape Architecture Alumni Survey was conducted for several purposes: to better understand the skills landscape architect (LA) professionals look for when they hire; to inform alumni about, and set expectations for, the Landscape Architecture Alumni and Advisory Board (LAAAB); to assess the role of the MSU LA study abroad program; and to identify mechanisms for connecting with alumni. The survey was sent to 1081 email addresses provided by the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. There were 253 respondents who started the survey and 190 completed surveys.

Survey Structure

The first set of survey questions assessed the importance of a variety of skills in the LA profession, including communication, people, evaluation, and design. The second set of questions focused on new hires (within 5 years), assessing their level of preparation for the above skills and seeking information about starting salaries and degrees sought. The third set of questions related specifically to computer and technology skills. The next question inquired about trends in the LA profession, internships, and

study abroad/international travel and its impact on professional development. The final set of questions provided input on the role and tasks of the LAAAB, and preferred methods of communication between the MSU program and alumni. Questions were asked using a Likert scale of 0-5, with 0 being "not at all important" and 5 being "extremely important."

Key Findings

Skills

When asked about the importance of communication skills for a new LA hire, professional writing and professional speaking received the same mean score of 3.9. When asked about the importance of soft skills such as the ability to work in a team and independently, both had mean scores over 4 (4.6 and 4.3 respectively). Importance of evaluative skills was assessed, including the ability to analyze and critique work; to gather and synthesize information; to critically think; and to creatively problem solve. These received importance scores of 3.9, 4.3, 4.4, and 4.5. With regard to design skills, respondents scored ability to understand the design process at 4.2; ability to develop concepts at 4.0; ability to integrate functions in designs at 4.3; ability to integrate the environment

in designs at 4.1; ability to integrate culture/people/history in designs at 3.6; and ability to integrate aesthetics in designs at 4.2.

An open-ended question asked respondents to provide additional skills desired. Responses included creating bid documents, public participation, ecology, horticulture, time management, and grant writing. Repeated responses included work/interact with allied professionals and working in teams; ability to be critiqued; AutoCAD; project management; rendering; site analysis; earthwork and grading; construction & engineering experience, documents, irrigation and cost estimating; regulations and zoning; critical thinking; and computer graphic skills.

Computer and Technology Skills

The specific computer skills identified included: AutoCAD, Civil 3D, Prezi, SketchUp, Adobe Creative Suites, Revit, BIM, Google Earth, Quickbooks, Lumion, Rhino, Kerkythea, AutoCAD LandFX, Hydrocad, Ecotect, 3D Max, Grasshopper. AutoCAD, Adobe Creative Suites, and SketchUp were repeatedly identified as needed and wanted skills.

LA Trends

The survey sought to identify upcoming trends in landscape architecture. Survey responses indicated environmental justice, placemaking, regenerative design, integration into urban systems, sustainable design, public health and wellness, green infrastructure, computer modeling, water access and management, biophilia, and climate change.

Landscape architects recognize the value of the global citizen in addressing local design situations.

Karen Russcher with students at Oxford



Internships

The MSU LA program was pleased to see that respondents valued the role of internships, and that just over 50% of respondents indicated that they would be interested in hiring an intern. Next steps for the LAAAB and LA program are to define how to strengthen student internship opportunities while connecting students with our incredibly supportive MSU LA alumni.

Study Abroad and International Travel

While 53% of respondents (81 people) indicated they participated in the MSU LA study abroad experience, just 32% of

those under the mean respondent age of 50 participated in the study abroad program. If the number of open-ended comments indicates support for the study abroad or international travel, then the number of comments (89) suggests that professionals indeed see overseas travel as an important element in their professional development. For the 53% that indicated participation in the MSU LA study abroad program, the average score for impact was 4.24, while the average score for international study impact was 3.91. Respondents identified a myriad of impacts of international travel on professional development. Seeing and physically experiencing alternative cultures, design methods, approaches,

construction methods, and materials allows designers to communicate, plan, design, and implement their designs in enhanced ways. Landscape architects recognize the value of the global citizen in addressing local design situations. Through international travel, respondents have a greater and deeper appreciation for the differences in history, people, and culture, and how those differences impact design and function. Greater understanding and valuation of the importance of context sensitive solutions came with international exposure. Overseas travel was identified as providing inspiration and enhancing creativity.

What Do Designers Emphasize the Most?

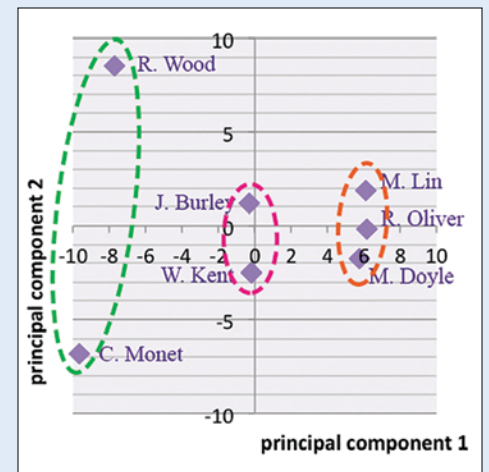
Na Li, Master's Student

From my seven years of studies in the landscape architecture program at Michigan State University, I learned that our world is not linear. There is always a new perspective to see just by adding a bit of seasoning to change our routine dishes.

I enjoy drawing and painting, so I was interested in understanding the ideas and values that various authorities have concerning these activities. For my master's thesis, I investigated the relationships among seven artists, designers, and sketchers in terms of their normative guiding principles: Mike Lin, Jon Burley, Robert Oliver, Michael Doyle, Robert Wood, William Kent, and Claude Monet. I then collected 156 principles from the written materials about them.

A common social science statistical tool, Principal Component Analysis (PCA), was used to ordinate the relationships of the principles.

I discovered that the first two components (dimensions), explained 48.66% of the variance amongst the designer's normative ideas. By plotting the results, I could observe three different clusters: graphic artists, space designers, and painters. The "positive cluster" of graphic artists, Michael Doyle, Mike Lin, Robert Oliver, was most concerned with line. The "negative cluster" consisted of painters Claude Monet and Robert Wood, who were most concerned with color. Finally, the "near-zero cluster" of space designers Jon Burley and William Kent were most concerned with composition.



Without all my fellows, my advisors, and my instructors who helped me at MSU, I probably could never have found a good point of view to start my master's thesis. They helped me find the right seasonings to make my school life richer and more cheerful than before.

2016 LA Scholarship Fundraiser Golf Outing



Golfers gather before the shotgun start

Steve Troost

This year's scholarship fundraiser, held at the picturesque Eagle Eye Golf Course, was historic on many levels. First, the team hosted by professor Paul Nieratko was not in the top three; the weather was fantastic; and the winning team's age spread was 83 years!

Jim Carrier, Chris Wilczynski, Jennings Burley, Bill Pierce, and Bob Kretchman overcame the top-rated course with a winning scramble score of 55! The team, while excellent golfers unto themselves, capitalized on a unique rule allowing people eight years and younger to hit from the striped pole in the middle of

the fairway on all par 4 and par 5 holes, from the beginning of each fairway on par 3 holes, and from the designated drop zone on the island green par 3. Noting this advantage, many teams are actively looking for young golfers under the age of 8 for next year! All kidding aside, Jennings Burley (age 6) has a natural swing and the winning team earned the top spot fair and square.

This year's event raised \$2,586 for landscape architecture scholarships. Thank you to all who participated in person or who sponsored and donated for the cause!

Donors:

SmithGroup JJR
Charlevoix Community Foundation
Polakowski Family Fund
Robert and Maria Lasky
Robert and Dianna Leipprandt
Professor Tim Mrozowski

Event Sponsors:

Beverage Cart, Landscape Forms, Inc.
Women's Longest Drive, Beth and Steve Troost
Women's Closest to the Hole, Hank Byma
Longest Putt, Charlevoix Community Foundation

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Jon Burley
MSU Student Chapter of the ASLA
MSU LA Club
Landscape Forms, Inc.
The Naturalist
Maureen and Paul Nieratko
Danny Bulemore and Josh Seyfried
Eagle Eye Golf Club

Congratulations to the following individuals who demonstrated amazing skills on the course:

Women's Longest Drive:

Amy Broersma

Men's Longest Drive:

Wes Landon

Women's Closest to the Pin:

Maureen Nieratko

Men's Closest to the Pin:

Paul Nieratko

Longest Putt:

Cole Mauti



A JOURNEY FOR ALL

Scott Reinholt

It's an exciting time for the world of landscape architecture as the economy is strong and the profession continues to get involved in important projects all over the world. People are using outdoor spaces now more than ever during work and recreation, and landscape architects continue to develop spaces that enrich quality of life and enhance our standards of living.

As the incoming President of the MSU LAAAB, I am encouraged by the students I have met and I am impressed by their hunger for knowledge and change. They want to make a difference in the world, and they see our profession as a way to make not only physical changes to our environment but social ones as well. I travel often for work, and it is always fun to meet MSU grads in offices large and small doing many different types of great work. Spartan landscape architects are a proud and loyal group, and with today's social media and ease of communication, there is no reason we cannot increase alumni support for the students and share with those who would like to know more about what is currently happening at MSU.



Incoming LAAAB President Scott Reinholt

I look forward this year to helping our board focus on a few initiatives that we hope will help MSU and benefit the profession.

One area we are working on is increasing student enrollment through campus outreach with the LA Club, as well as by working on a kit of products that landscape architects can use for high school career days. Even though we are one of the fastest growing design professions, we still do not get enough publicity and the recognition we deserve,

so we need to be tireless in our push for more students. Increasing enrollment is an important factor in the success of all university programs.

We also want to continue our Speaker Series. These events bring alumni and students together for social interaction along with continued education on a multitude of topics presented by design professionals from around the country. This once-a-year event has the potential to be an even bigger success than we have seen so far. Many hours of hard work and dollars have been donated by committed alumni to create these special opportunities.

Finally, I look forward to stronger alumni relations that increase the number of supporters who can participate with the program on many levels, depending on their areas of interest. Whether participation occurs for social interaction, continual learning, recruitment, financial support, or student mentorship, just getting involved to help us create the best landscape architecture program in the country is an exciting journey in which to partake.

Charles Leider elected as an AICP Fellow

Dr. Charles Leider (class of 1957), professor and director emeritus of the Landscape Architecture Program at Oklahoma State University, has been elected as a fellow in the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). He is recognized for excellence in teaching and mentoring. Leider was nominated for the organization's highest honor by the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA), where he was already the chapter's first nationally-designated fellow. His induction makes him one of only three individuals in the country to be named a fellow in both the national APA and AICP.



"For nearly 30 years, Charles worked tirelessly to create various hands-on projects for his students that allowed him to mentor them while often advancing Oklahoma's historic preservation efforts," said OSU President Burns Hargis. "He also emphasized interaction between the students and seasoned professionals as well as practical outreach to towns and communities, which benefitted all those involved. We congratulate him for this nationally-recognized honor as a model planner who has set a high standard through significant contributions to his profession and society."

As a member of the AICP College of Fellows, Leider will address student organizations, state APA conferences, and professional development programs in support of mentoring and the advancement of the planning profession.

The LAAAB requests articles of interest from alumni and friends for future newsletters. We plan to publish an annual newsletter each fall. Please send articles, notes, photos or other news about alumni to the newsletter editor Steve Troost via email at: troosts@msu.edu or via mail at: 552 West Circle Drive, Rm 101 East Lansing, MI 48824.

All information should be submitted no later than June 1st.

Please contact the School of Planning, Design and Construction to change any contact information at 517.432.0704 or email spdc@msu.edu.

Also, please visit the school's website at www.spdc.msu.edu for additional program and LAAAB information.

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