



DEPARTMENT HEAD UPDATE

Landscape Architecture Affiliate Program Group (APG) Meeting: 19 October 2013

- + **We welcomed 26 B.L.A. students in August.** Our target is 40 however, we measure that in our second year as we accept change-of-major and transfer students. Anecdotal evidence that I hear indicates that enrollment is trending lower again this year across the country. The notable exception is the number of students from Asia nationwide. This has also impacted us for the first time as we have as many freshmen from China as we have from the US outside Pennsylvania. Our applicants are more or less steady with last year; yield and paid accepts slightly better. We continue to benefit from the ARCH to LARCH migration which, this year, accounts for over half our incoming students.
- + **We welcomed 13 change-of-major and transfer students** in our second year which brought our cohort in that year to the 39, which is close to our target of 40 students.
- + **We welcomed 9 M.L.A. students to our newly-accredited M.L.A. program and 1 student to our M.S.L.A. program.** Applications were significantly higher this year and the academic and design level of applicants is excellent. We had over 50 applicants, up from the low 30s last year. We now have almost 2/3 as many graduate applicants as undergraduate applicants. The students are about 2/3 from Asia and 1/3 North America.
- + We received official notification in late August that our **M.L.A. program is fully accredited** for a period of six years by the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB). Professor Andy Cole and Bonj Szczygiel, along with Kelly Riser, Lorraine Reitz, and Zach Pyle, were instrumental in preparing the accreditation report. We did not receive any requirements for our next accreditation and only five suggestions that address: 1) clear and concise mission statement; 2) clarity of administrative structure; 3) faculty credit for capstone advising; 4) define roles of the centers; and 5) improve IT support.
- + **Associate Professor Kelleann Foster** has been named Interim Director of the Stuckeman School for the academic year 2013-14. The search for a new director is underway with the advertisement for the position likely to be out before the APG meeting. If you would like to nominate any candidates, please contact Kelleann Foster or Dan Carter, Head of the School of Music, who is chair of the search committee.

+ **Matt Moffitt (B.L.A. 2013)** received the 2013 ASLA national Student Award of Excellence for Design. Matt has accepted a position with Michael van Valkenburgh Associates and is working in their Cambridge office so it will be easy for him to take the subway over to accept his award at the 2013 ASLA annual meeting in Boston in November. This is a tremendous accomplishment as he was competing with students in both undergraduate and graduate programs from around the world for this award. He is the first Penn State student to receive this highest of student design awards.



+ **Sean Burkholder** resigned his position at Penn State to accept a position as Assistant Professor of Architecture and Urban Design at SUNY-Buffalo. Sean was the faculty advisor for Matt Moffitt's project that received the ASLA Award of Excellence, so it is safe to say that we are sorry to see Sean leave.

+ **New fixed term faculty this year include:**

Joshua Beblo has a fixed term appointment and is co-teaching LARCH 060 with Bonj Szczygiel this Fall. He received his BLA (2005) and MLA (2008) from Penn State.

Maria DeBye Counts has a fixed term appointment and is teaching the graduate design visualization course and additional courses in the Spring 2014. Maria received her BLA from Cornell and her MLA

from Rhode Island School of Design and was the first student to be awarded a garden at the international Metis Garden Festival in Quebec.

Karen Lutsky has a fixed term appointment and is teaching Design Visualization and an advanced studio this Fall and additional courses in the Spring 2014. Karen received her B.A. from Brandeis and M.L.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.

+ **Stuckeman Professors for this year include:**

John Dixon Hunt, Professor Emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania, returns as Eleanor R. Stuckeman Professor. In the Spring 2014, he will lead two seminars: Contemporary French Landscape Architecture and

Darla Lindberg, Professor of Architecture, has been appointed Stuckeman Professor of Design.

Thaisa Way, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Washington, has been appointed Stuckeman Professor of Integrative Design. She will lead a research and design studio based on the house that the architect, John Hejduk, designed for A.E.Bye (known as the Wall House) and the landscape proposal that Bye designed for his own unbuilt house. The work from the studio will augment an exhibition of the Hejduk/Bye collaboration in the Rouse Gallery of the Stuckeman School in late Spring 2014.

Chris Counts, ASLA has been Stuckeman Career Development Professor of Landscape Architecture for a period of three years. Chris is founding principal of Christopher Counts Studio (CCS) in Brooklyn (and a new office in State College) and was formerly senior associate at Michael van Valkenburgh Associates. His work for the renovation of historic Moore Square Park (plan below) in Raleigh, North Carolina just received an ASLA Honor Award for Analysis and Planning which he will accept in Boston in November. CCS also just celebrated the opening of their project at the 2013 Beijing Horticultural Exposition (photo below) and the ongoing construction of their project in Zhuhai, China (model below).



Bryan Hanes, of Studio Bryan Hanes in Philadelphia, is the Stuckeman Practitioner Instructor again for 2013-14. He is reprising his leadership of the Embedded Practice Studio, where thirteen of our students travel to Philadelphia each Friday afternoon and Sunday for an intensive studio situated within Bryan's own professional office.

Laura Foxman is the Stuckeman Practitioner Instructor in the Department of Architecture.

+ We have many things to celebrate at the 2013 ASLA annual meeting in Boston in November. **Dean Barbara Korner** is trying to arrange her schedule so she can join in some of the celebrations:

1. The department's special guest at the alumni reception is our very own **Kelly Riser!** She will be our guest of honor at the **Friday** night alumni reception so let everyone know to come stop by and say hi!

2. We will celebrate **Mark Focht's** ASLA presidency.

3. Distinguished APG member **Ed Black** will be inducted into the College of Fellows! Well deserved and hearty congratulations to Ed.

4. Professor **Eliza Pennypacker** will lead an Education Session on Artful Rainwater Design

5. Department Head **Ron Henderson**, FASLA will lead a Field Session that included a stop at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum (I hope APG's own **Demo Staurinos** can join in on that since he knows it better than I do)

6. We will celebrate **Matt Moffitt's** Student Award of Excellence in Design.



+ Our new **Geodesign** program, under the guidance of Kelleann Foster, has been approved by the University and online classes will begin in 2014. Kelleann, as usual, has a lot on her plate ... online faculty include alumnus **Stephen Mainzer**.

+ **Online alumni updates:** A reminder that the College of Arts and Architecture has a new easy way for alumni to record updates: <https://alumni.arts.psu.edu/>