

DIRECTOR WITTER'S MESSAGE

Dear Landscape Architecture Alumni and Friends:

We have had another great spring and summer. Our faculty continues to do terrific things. Paul Nieratko was awarded the 2013 Howard and Lili Ann Camden Endowed Teacher/Scholar Award. This is a prestigious award at MSU, and Paul is most deserving of it for his continued excellence in scholarly teaching. Dr. Pat Crawford has stepped down as the Senior Director of the Bailey Scholars program and has become the Associate Director of the School of Planning, Design and Construction. Her focus will be on our undergraduate programs and accreditation. I am very pleased to have Pat in this role as she brings both skill and energy to the School.

LandTEXTURE

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Fall 2013

Dr. Jon Burley had an amazingly productive sabbatical last year. His work has resulted in eighteen publications, four professional presentations, three articles published about him and his work, and the winning entry at a design festival competition in France. Dr. Joanne Westphal continues to have great success with her green roof work, and her students are being recognized widely for their work on her research projects. This upcoming academic year will be Warren Rauhe's last as a regular member of our LA and SPDC

faculty, as he will retire in 2014. The good news for us all is that he will continue to teach a class or two, do research, and "not go to meetings."

The Landscape Architecture Alumni Advisory Board (LAAAB) has worked with the faculty to put on our first two Distinguished Speaker Series. They have been huge successes, even when scheduled on an evening we were supposed to have a blizzard. Thank you to the Board!

by MSU President Lou Anna K. Simon to envision a World Class East Lansing University Community. Thirty-four faculty and students participated in this work, and over twenty presentations have been held in East Lansing, Lansing, and at MSU. The work will be expanded to include a corridor in Lansing, Grand Rapids, and in Spartan Village at MSU during this upcoming academic year. These great learning experiences present an opportunity for our students and faculty

“Dr. Trish Machemer has agreed to serve as Program Leader for the Landscape Architecture program for a three year term focusing on the LA curriculum and accreditation”

Starting this fall, we are very happy to have Karen Russcher joining our faculty. She has master's degree in LA from Harvard and a number of years of experience in the private sector and teaching courses at other universities. Please make sure that you get to meet Karen this fall.

The faculty and students in SPDC have been engaged in an academic project envisioned

to work seamlessly together. We have been able to secure over \$200,000 in funding to support this work.

I am looking forward to fall semester, to seeing all of our new and old students, and to getting back to MSU Football and Basketball – Go Green!

Sincerely,
Dr. Scott G. Witter, Director



Creating a World Class Community

By Stephen Troost

What began as a conversation over coffee between university President Lou Anna K. Simon and SPDC Director Dr. Scott G. Witter grew into a serious effort to better understand the diverse mix of ingredients required for evolving a world class community along the Michigan-Grand River Avenue corridor in East Lansing, Michigan.

Lead by Drs. Scott Witter and Pat Crawford, a team of 34 people participated on Team MSU SPDC, contributing to the planning and design process over a three and a half month period that began in January 2013. Undergraduate and graduate students worked with faculty to analyze existing studies, determine development targets that could crystalize existing assets into world-class opportunities, and generate potential development ideas. The design process included two design charrettes, over 16 presentations to community groups and leaders, dozens of meetings and interviews with key stakeholders, integration of twenty years of SPDC coursework and research

on local redevelopment opportunities, and extensive literature review. The SPDC team partnered with the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum to bring in the Philadelphia architectural firm Digsau for a two-day charrette in early May. Senior Kim Dietzel notes "Presenting this project at Mid-Sure was a great way to practice presenting our research to the public along with opening up people's minds to how any place can be impacted by placemaking practices."

Senior landscape architecture student Katie Ling believes that involvement in this project provided a unique real-world experience to complement her education. Ms. Ling says, "Working with other undergraduate and graduate students alongside faculty and professionals in related disciplines, such as urban

planning, community development, and construction management, has given me a realistic preview of what my career in landscape architecture might look like. The self-management skills needed to organize my time during the summer months and school year (especially) pushes every limitation I thought I'd had to go further."

Students were involved in the project from all four SPDC programs. The study reveals a solid framework for building a world class corridor, stating, "There is growing consensus that the Michigan-Grand River corridor is a regional gem, a beloved community asset that stakeholders are ripe for addressing with strong leadership and community involvement. The corridor provides infinite opportunities to plan, design, and build an environment necessary to not only construct a world class corridor but to transform Lansing, East Lansing, Lansing Township and surrounding communities into a world class community."

Essential elements that need strengthening include enhancing connectivity at all levels; coalescing regional leadership; increasing partnerships amongst the major employers for establishing an entrepreneurial environment and job creation; providing greater housing diversity in higher density urban form; and developing a more complex multi-modal transportation network.

“This is the most engaging project the school has tackled given its breadth of scope ranging from a regional to a personal scale.”

Dr. Crawford

Opening Young Eyes to Landscape Architecture

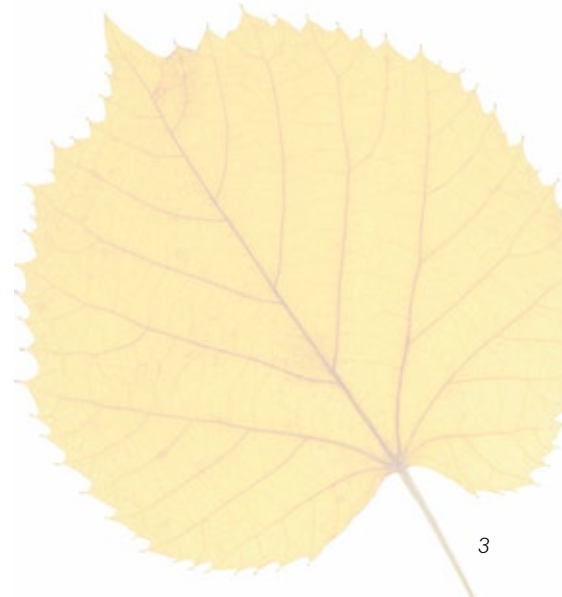
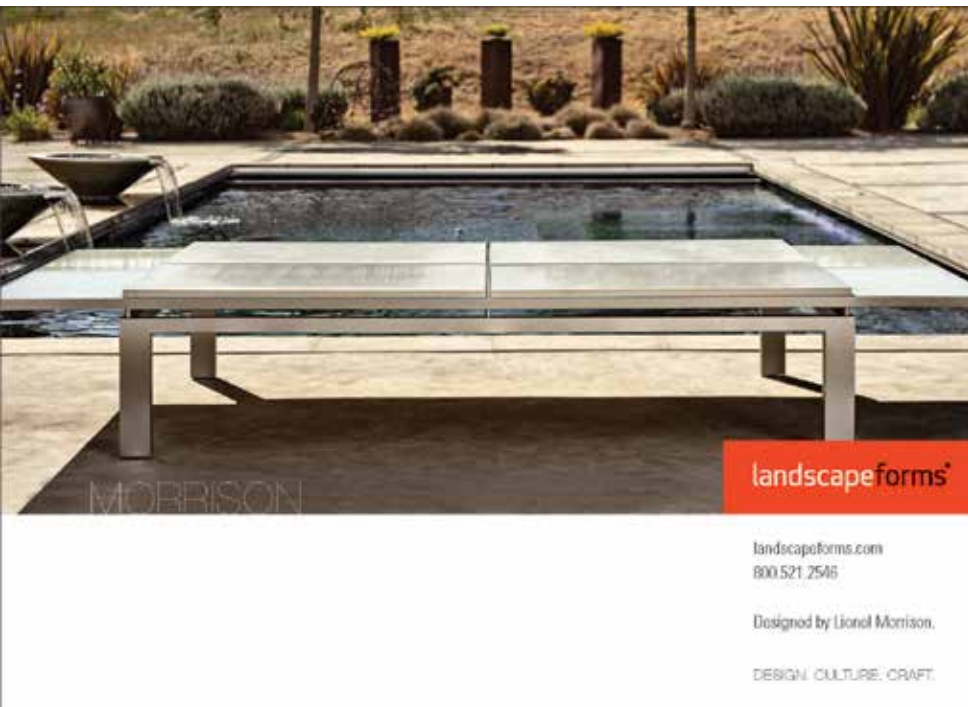
By Mark Wilson, Professor SPDC

Landscape Architecture has undertaken a new effort to expose middle and high school students to the profession through Pre-College Summer Programs offered every year on MSU's beautiful campus. For the past two summers, Paul Nieratko and LAClub student volunteers have offered a two-day program called "Landscape Architecture Design Adventure" as part of the annual State 4H Exploration Days.

The program gives participants the opportunity to learn about and explore the Landscape Architecture design process through two hands-on model building exercises. In the first exercise, students chose between a canoe shelter and campground on an island or a lakeside horse trail campground and stable. The second, a design and model building exercise completed by all, was a new permanent amphitheater for the MSU Summer Circle Theater on the Red Cedar River behind the Auditorium and Kresge Art Center, near "The Rock" on Farm Lane. Landscape Architecture also participated with the Urban and

Regional Planning Program in the MSU Grandparents University (GPU), where alumni may bring their grandchildren back to MSU for a complete "university experience" that includes staying and eating in the dorms and attending GPU classes as if they were students once again... sharing the experience with their grandchildren. The Planning course, led by Professor Mark Wilson, was entitled "Secrets of the Olympics" and offered in two parts. Part 1 was a lecture about locating Olympic facilities in cities and a behind-the-scenes tour of Spartan Stadium. Part 2 was a design studio program led by Paul Nieratko and his team of LAClub volunteers to build a stadium model for the (fictitious) site of the 2024 summer Olympics.

It is hoped that through this type of early exposure to the design studio environment, young people will consider selecting a professionally accredited career in Landscape Architecture or Urban and Regional Planning.



“Next to my own family and the successes of my students in the professional world of Landscape Architecture, this is the most significant achievement in my career.”



Paul Nieratko and Dr. Kelly Millenbach

PAUL NIERATKO SELECTED FOR 2013 HOWARD AND LILI CAMDEN TEACHER/SCHOLAR AWARD

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) selected the Landscape Architecture Program’s Paul Nieratko for the 2012 - 2013 Howard and Lili Ann Camden Endowed Teacher/Scholar Award. The annual award is intended to acknowledge quality teaching within CANR, the university’s largest college. Candidates must demonstrate a teaching record that has helped students gain skills conducive to problem-solving; innovative teaching methods with successful

application; mentoring both within and outside the classroom; respect amongst faculty peers; and teaching excellence, scholarly achievement, and professional linkages. The award, first announced in 2005, has seven award winners including Paul.

Dr. Kelley Millenbah, Associate Dean and Director Office of Academic and Student Affairs, notes that “(Paul) is a well-respected and active community

participant and that the industry knows his students will be high-performers.”

Paul began his career at MSU in 1986 as an Instructor and was promoted to Specialist in 1988 with a split teaching/advising appointment. He went on to be appointed as a Senior Academic Specialist in 2003. Paul played a significant role in several curricular revisions for the college and has taught over 30 unique courses in his 27 years with MSU. A brief interview with Paul found him both honored and humbled by the nomination and award selection

The award brings recognition to Paul, the Landscape Architecture Program, and the School of Planning, Design and Construction in a world of growing complexity that requires balancing teaching, publishing, and conducting research with one’s own personal life.

Karen Russcher Joins Faculty in Fall 2013

The School of Planning, Design and Construction's Landscape Architecture Program is pleased to announce the addition of its newest faculty member, Karen Russcher. Ms. Russcher has been practicing Landscape Architecture and master planning for over 20 years in North Carolina and California. She received her Master in Landscape Architecture from Harvard Graduate School of Design in 1992 and her Bachelor of Science from University of Kentucky in 1990.

Karen has extensive experience in large-scale master planning, including educational, recreation, and corporate campuses, as well as in streetscape and mixed-use design projects. While in North Carolina, Karen was a principal with LandDesign and participated in many large-scale master planning projects in Charlotte as well as surrounding states.

Her love of the natural environment brought her to California, where she focused on sustainable design practices, carefully incorporating best management practices that connect the built environment with the natural environment. Karen is an avid hiker and leads hiking groups teaching people about local natural systems, flora, and fauna. Her passion for teaching design and her appreciation for our natural resources have helped to define creative solutions that integrate with the environment.



Karen Russcher

SPDC Aids Allegan Riverfront Revitalization Study

Allegan was one of five cities statewide to gain planning assistance through an effort called PlacePlans. The effort brought together expertise from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, the Michigan Municipal League and Michigan State University's School of Planning, Design and Construction.

SPDC faculty, Warren Rauhe and Wayne Beyea, facilitated the planning and design process with the City, citizens, Michigan Municipal League staff, and both landscape architecture and urban and regional planning students. SPDC students developed a conceptual master plan, design concepts, images of the proposed improvements, and text for the final report. The nine month long project included three local meetings and a three day design charrette.

"The design and planning process in Allegan allowed our students to work as an interdisciplinary team on a unique and highly visible project."

Warren Rauhe

Warren stated, "The community was involved at all stages, some 150 people at each meeting, whereby our students were interactive with the public. The community plans to implement a major riverfront development project with private consultants. The new design will connect the entire area by a walking path, create a plaza complete with a clock tower behind the Griswold, and transform a large segment of what is now parking into a multi-seasonal space with a water splash pad for summer and an ice rink for winter and an area for temporary concert staging. With concept in hand, city officials hope to make the project a reality within the next five years."



2013 Student Awards

Scholastic achievement was honored at the spring graduation awards banquet. This year's award recipients include the following.

Excellence in History and Theory

Award - This award is given for the highest combined GPA in LA 200, ISS 310, LA 480, UP 494, and LA 492. This year's recipient is **Mr. Jon Doherty**.

Excellence in Design and

Environmental Award - This award is given for the highest combined GPA in LA 220, 240, 341, 342, 334, 345, and 447. This year's recipient is **Ms. Kennon Lorick**.

Excellence in Academia and Research

Award - This award is given for the best undergraduate research project with a potential for publication and Masters level work. This year's recipient is **Ms. Jessica Pilon**.

The Albe Munson Excellence in

Landscape Construction Award - This award is given for the highest combined GPA in LA 330, 331, 437, and HRT 311. This year's recipient is **Mr. Eric Jazdzyk**.

ASLA Honor and Merit Award - Each accredited LA Program in North America may nominate students to their state chapter for the ASLA Honor and Merit Awards. The number of nominations is determined by the program's total enrollment. MSU nominated four students for outstanding overall academic achievement from the 2013 graduating class. The award jury was comprised of Mark Robinson, ASLA MI Chapter President, Steve Troost (class of 1982), and Adam Lawver (class of 2007). This year's Honor Award recipients are **Jonathan A. Doherty and Eric C. Jazdzyk**. This year's Merit Award recipients are **Eric J. Kopinski and Kennon Lorick**.

Alumni Memoirs

By Samuel A. Milstein, Class of 1960

After reading the recent LandTEXTURE newsletter, I felt compelled to write and tell you about my experience at MSU and life in the 1950s.

I started college in 1953 and finally graduated in March, 1960 after being in and out of school due to a back injury playing baseball, mumps one term, marriage with two children, and working almost fulltime. I received my BS in Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning, attending classes in the old Quonset hut south of the Red Cedar River. Next door was the Art Studio Quonset. Other than the old Forestry Cabin, that was all there was south of the river. I worked several hours a week, nights and any available time during the day, in the Student Union Building as a janitor starting at 75 cents an hour. I worked there for twelve terms until graduating. I also worked with Robert O'Boyle, a classmate, for the last two years in college at Jane Smith & Associates in Lansing.

I remember my professors Carl Gerlach, Dean Glick, Donald Caven, Myles Boylan, Charles Barr, Milt Baron, Charles Lewis, and Harold Lauhtner. The LA program bounced around in different departments, including Social Science, Engineering, Business, and Agriculture. Upon my graduation, it was in Business and Public Service.

One of my fondest memories was in Dean Glick's class, when we had an all-nighter and I was rendering my almost-completed design on a heavy rag paper at 3:00 a.m. when I spilled a cup of coffee on it. I quickly took a rag and spread the coffee all over the rendering, giving it a tan color. It dried and looked good enough to turn in the next morning. Dean gave me an A and everyone in class wanted to know

how I had made such a beautiful rendering. I just said it was a special idea that came to me.

We carried our drafting tools around in a metal tool box that included our triangles, French curves, rapidograph pens, chalk, etc. Our T Square was carried under our arm. My drafting table at my living quarters was a smooth, plain door that sat on two saw horses.

After graduation, I was hired by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, State Park Division. After coming up with a new method of master planning, I was soon promoted to Design Section Chief. Spending only about three years in the State Park Division, I was quickly promoted over several layers of management to the Executive Office of the whole agency. I became Deputy Director of the DNR and spent 17 of my 23 years in that capacity. My responsibility included managing 4,000 employees and a budget of \$165 million. I took an early retirement from the DNR in 1982 and started a business called Made in Michigan Gift Shoppes, Inc. with my wife. We are located in Petoskey where we still live.

I have had a long and great career and even though I only practiced LA for a few years, I kept my registration for over 25 years. MSU and the field of landscape architecture gave me the background to accomplish all that my attached resumes show. I will be 78 years old this fall and only feel tired when looking back on all the things that happened in my life.

Thank you for letting me share these memories with you.

Landscape Architecture Alumni Association 2013 Golf Scholarship Fund Raiser



Burke Jenkins thought he had a eagle until we told him he had hit the ball in the 150 yard marker.

After a slight weather delay, the 64 participants in the 2013 Landscape Architecture Alumni Association golf outing came out swinging to raise money for student academic scholarships. When all the divots settled, this year's event raised \$5,500, the most money ever raised through the golf outing.

While the challenging Hawk Hollow Golf Course brought many players to their knees, the foursome of Paul Nieratko, Maureen Nieratko, John Clark, and Sue Wilson recorded the low scramble-format team score of 17 strokes below par!

Special thanks go out to Paul Nieratko for once again organizing the event with help from the LAclub volunteers!

2013 EVENT SPONSORS

Silver Sponsor
Landscape Forms, Inc.
(see advertisement this issue)

Bronze Sponsor
MDC Contracting, Inc.
(see advertisement this issue)

Cash Donations
**Bill Main, Don Fox,
Daniel Bulemore, and
Joseph P. Wilson Design Associates**

Hole 3
Dixon Golf, Tempe Arizona

Hole 6, longest putt
**School of Planning,
Design and Construction**

Hole 7, men's closest to hole
Great Lakes Construction Services

Hole 12, women's closest to hole
David and Stacey Tobar

Hole 14, women's long drive
Beckett & Raeder, Inc.

Hole 15, men's long drive
SmithGroup JJR, inc.

Hole 15, senior long drive
Steve and Beth Troost

Scoreboard
**Kenneth Weikel Landscape
Architecture**

Breakfast Buffet, Student Team
**Bob Chipman Landscape
Architecture, Inc.**

2013 TEE SPONSORS

Holes 1 & 13
Landscape Forms, Inc.

Hole 2
Dr. Jon B. Burley and Family

Hole 3
Dixon Golf

Hole 4
Maureen and Paul Nieratko

Hole 5
Garden Works

Hole 6
Eagle Eye Golf Club

Hole 7
**MSU Student Chapter of
the ASLA- The LAclub**

Hole 8
VIRIDIS Design Group

Hole 9
William J. Briggs, ASLA

Hole 10
SmithGroup JJR, Inc.

Hole 11
Unilock Michigan, Inc.

Hole 12
**LA Class of 1991,
Laurie Harmon**

Hole 14
MDC Contracting, Inc.

Hole 15
**The Naturalist,
Jim Carrier**

Hole 16
**The Polakowski and
Zuellig Families**

Hole 17
East Jordan Companies

Hole 18
SmithGroup JJR, Inc.

2013 INDIVIDUAL WINNERS

Longest drive - men
Adam Lawver

Longest Drive - women
Stephanie Crockatt

Longest drive - seniors
Kent Anderson

Longest putt
Drew Jackson

Closest to the pin - men
John Clark

Closest to the pin - women
Christy Summers

“Not only did I learn about landscape architecture while abroad, but the experience taught me about myself.”

Ben Clone, student



The 2013 Overseas Study gang.

2013 OVERSEAS STUDY

Brought out of retirement, Professor Duane Mezga led the 2013 overseas study program. The students began their experience by traveling to Istanbul, where they and MSU Professor Trish Machemer collaborated on a project with Turkish students from Istanbul Technological University. From there, the students were off to Paris to spend the next seven weeks working with Duane on a variety of projects. For two of these weeks, the students worked with Agro-campus Quest Students and Dr. Vincent Bouvier. The remaining weeks were spent completing projects related to Chenonceaux, Loire Project Artilisation of the Loire, and ecology of landscape inspired

by Dr. Veronique Beaujouan and Dr. Herve Daniel. The program concluded with one week of study in Rome, Italy. According to student Ben Clone, “The trip itself was the single greatest experience I have had in my life. I was able to collaborate with students in Turkey and professors as well as students in France. Working with them allowed me to see how landscape architecture (students) from other countries thought and worked through a similar problem.”



The Power of the Pencil:

PDC991 Cross-Disciplinary State Parks Study Away

By Barbara Firman-McManus

Learning, connecting, informing, transforming, collaboration...all are buzzwords that describe this session of PDC (Planning, Development, and Construction) 991. Masters, PhD, and upper division students with an interest in exploring design process and working in a collaborative environment with Michigan State Parks make up its core. In PDC 991, students create their own syllabus, deciding what they will learn, how they will learn it, and how success will be measured, but first they have to come together as a group.

It always takes time getting a group to gel, and PDC 991 was no exception. We had seven students from five specialties: Janelle and Rob, environmental design; Joe and Eric, landscape architecture; Wenda, construction management; Meghan, anthropology; and I (Barbara), a tourism student. Compared to everyone else, Meghan and I just seemed "out there." The first 150 mile bus trip from the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing to the Ralph A. MacMullan (RAM) Center in Roscommon, Michigan, included more than 70 students from five SPDC classes participating in the two day project retreat. We weren't quite sure how we all fit together, or what it was we had agreed to do. It felt good to get off the bus and stretch after a long 2-hour ride, and we shuffled along to drop our belongings off at the dorm-style cabins. When lunchtime came, we sat with the people we "kind of" recognized, usually

instructors and sponsors of the project. We knew only enough to give a polite smile to other group members.

We donned our jackets and left on a tour of the property, to help get everyone in the same thought process. The cool

and "this area (pointing on the map) feels very secluded and peaceful, like walking into a different place." I attribute the beginning of the strong bonds that eventually formed within our group to this exercise. We met on campus a short time later, enthusiastic about sharing

A simple statement from one of the landscape architecture students brought me into the project with full force. Joe held out a pencil to me and simply said, "Here. Hurry up. C'mon."

Michigan breeze whispered through the pines, the gentle lap of Higgins Lake sang softly to us, yet we retained our distance and individuality. When it was time for the brainstorming session, a large sheet of tracing paper appeared suddenly. Just as quickly, the designers and architects in the group sketched a comprehensive layout of the RAM center. Dr. Pat Crawford led this portion of the project, encouraging us to write what we knew on the map. Meghan, Wenda, and I hung back, unsure of our place in this exercise.

It turns out that the "soft" sciences had quite a bit to add to the map. We included statements such as, "the majority of tourists participate in wildlife viewing," "more people will take a walk on a boardwalk than on a dirt path,"

not only our areas of specialty, but how our areas meshed with the others. We roughed in our recommendations and agreed to another trip north to pair theory with reality. We carpooled this time, and enjoyed lively conversation the whole time. Our conversations seemed to begin with, "Did you know..." instead of the polite nods of several weeks earlier. We could not wait to share our knowledge and ideas with the other group members, and our enthusiasm only increased when we reached the RAM Center for our final visit. We had become a tightly knit, highly polished group. Moreover, it all began with a pencil, some tracing paper, and the invitation, "Here. Hurry up. C'mon."

SOFT SKILLS FOR A NEW GRADUATE: WHICH ONES ARE IMPORTANT? AND TO WHOM?

By Pat Crawford and Robert Dalton

Facing the realities of increased education costs, competitive job markets, and new demands of the 21st century, Universities are exploring how they can revitalize education and make their graduates more competitive in the workforce.

Today's employers are looking for skills beyond discipline, knowledge, and technical acumen. The study explores the ranking (using a force-rank response system) of soft skills (7 clusters with 7 characteristics each) such as communication, listening effectively, cross-disciplinary experiences, working well under pressure, ability to self-start, and leadership.

The soft skill priorities are compared to identify where students, faculty, alumni, and employers in Landscape Architecture and allied professions (n=1,036) agree

or differ. The data is a subset of a larger study with over 8,000 respondents in Agriculture and Natural Resource disciplines from all 50 states and 31 Land-grant Universities. Mean scores are used to identify rankings of soft skills, and ordinal regression is used to identify significant differences between the stakeholder groups.

The soft skill clusters can be seen as a spectrum, with the top priorities being the basic building blocks. For example, Communication is a foundational skill for work. Self-management is then the ability to work without explicit directions and monitoring, building towards working with others in teams. With development of personal and team skills, then Decision-making and Problem-solving in the workplace become viable roles for a new employee.

The value of Experiences is influenced by the development of the previous skills. Experiences, such as internships or study abroad, may not have the impacts needed to foster learning and professional development if basic communication or decision-making skills have not been developed.

The last two, Professionalism and Leadership, are then higher-order skill sets which are possible because of the foundational skills.

For soft skill clusters at the entry level of the spectrum (Communication, Self-management, Teamwork and Decision-making), all of the significant differences with students are with the students valuing the skill lower than faculty, alumni, and employers. As a cautionary note, because employers ranked Communication as number one doesn't



mean new graduates don't have these skills; it just says this is their top-priority soft skill when looking at new hires.

Students place significantly higher emphasis on the other end of the spectrum (Experiences, Professionalism and Leadership) and not the foundational end of the spectrum. There can be a host of explanations for the students' emphasis on the upper end of the spectrum. Some may be from generational norms or trends such as organized youth sports and activities where their activities are

organized for them and they don't realize skills are missing, inflated expectations of entry level employment, the plethora of unit or university "leadership" events, to the influences of web 2.0 on what is considered 'valid' knowledge, or appropriate communication and social interaction. For whatever the reason, exploring the disconnect is important. Employers are looking for base skills first, while students may be seeking leadership and other experiences more than the base skills.

Significant findings include:

- 1 All of the stakeholder groups agree Communication is the most important soft skill. Employers value listening as the top Communication characteristic. Faculty place a higher value on written skills while Employers emphasize oral communication skills.**
- 2 Employers place a higher value on the interpersonal skills which are developed through Teamwork, while the Faculty place a higher value on critical thinking skills which are developed through problem identification and decision making processes.**
- 3 Students underestimate the importance of self-starting and that having a positive attitude is an important attribute in the work environment.**

Employers' ranking of soft skill priorities:

- 1 Communication**
- 2 Self-management**
- 3 Teamwork**
- 4 Decision-making/
Problem solving**
- 5 Experiences**
- 6 Professionalism**
- 7 Leadership**



Bill Johnson

Distinguished Speaker Series: **Bill Johnson**

As part of the continuing Distinguished Speaker Series, Bill Johnson (class of 1954) discussed his career, philosophy, and ideas for the profession's future on October 24 at 6:00 p.m. in the Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum.

Bill has focused on issues of environmental design throughout his 50-year career as planner, designer, teacher, and academic administrator. A landscape architect by training, his early interests focused on broad-scale land development/protection strategies. He pioneered cross-disciplinary ways-of-working by fitting land development programs to sensitive environmental conditions. His practice has ranged across projects of regional and community planning, urban design, long-range campus development, natural resources, and historic preservation. His contributions emphasize the balancing of social, cultural, and environmental values in problem-solving initiatives.

After graduating from MSU, Bill went on to complete an MLA from Harvard after his military service. Mr. Johnson co-founded Johnson, Johnson, and Roy in Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1963 with his brother Carl and Clarence Roy. He held a teaching position as professor of landscape architecture at the University of Michigan from 1958 through 1989. He served as Dean of the University's School of Natural Resources from 1975 to 1983. A Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects (1973), Mr. Johnson received the Society's Gold Medal in 1986. He was the 1992 President of the Landscape Architecture Foundation, an American Planning Association member, and remains a Professor Emeritus of the University of Michigan today.

Building Foundations for International Collaboration

By Dr. Ruya Yilmaz, Ph.D.

Landscape Architecture at MSU merges ideology, design, technology, and ecology in order to create a sustainable world. For this purpose, I visited MSU in the summer of 2013 to work with Dr. Jon Bryan Burley, giving me an opportunity to improve our relationship and follow the latest achievements on our subjects. Studying with Dr. Burley has enhanced my professional experience and increased my knowledge, which is very important for my research activities. I will benefit from his experience in Turkey in the future. This visit is important for me in terms of establishing professional relationships by collaborating and exchanging views with other researchers in the Landscape Architecture Program at MSU.

Dr. RÜYA YILMAZ is an Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture. She is a member of the Landscape Architecture Department bound to Fine Arts, Design and Architecture Faculty of Namik Kemal University in Turkey. She received her BS in Horticulture from the University of Trakya- Türkiye, a Master of Ornamental Plants from the same University, and a Ph.D. in Landscape Architecture from Ege University in Izmir-Turkey. She has also worked as Deputy Mayor of Tekirdağ Municipality for two years in Turkey. She was Director of Hayrabolu Vocational College of Namik Kemal University in 2006-2010. Her research subjects are: landscape reclamation, landscape management, landscape ecology, landscape planning, environmental problems, natural vegetation, ornamental plant material, social research in landscape architecture, and land use planning. She has published multiple articles and abstracts related to



Dr. Ruya Yilmaz, Ph.D.

landscape architecture. She is a member of the Balkan Environmental Association (BENA), Turkish Ecolog Association, and a member of Colloquim on Cooperation the Academic Members of Landscape Architects in Turkey (PEMAT).

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MESSAGE FROM THE LAAAB PRESIDENT

By Bob Ford, LAAAB President

Welcome to the first complete newsletter that the 2011 MSU Landscape Architecture Alumni and Advisory Board (LAAAB) has produced. The previous newsletter was abbreviated to announce the board's inception and to give our alumni basic updated information. This version is more in depth, providing our alumni with better insight and a greater understanding of our mission and the academic efforts underway. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this publication, especially Steve Troost for his sustained efforts as publisher and Chair of the Communications Committee. Steve has done an excellent job of coordinating, editing, and helping package this effort. I would also like to thank Kent Anderson and Angela Hicks of Hamilton Anderson and Associates for their creative design and layout of this publication and Robert Chipman for his help in formatting and shaping the final format. Finally, I would like to thank the board members as well as faculty and administration members who have all contributed their time and energy to make this publication possible by editing, creating articles, and providing content; without their effort, this would not be possible.

Another goal for the LAAAB is to enhance the acknowledgement of distinguished alumni by introducing the "Distinguished Speaker Series". The Distinguished Speaker Series continues a tradition started by the faculty many years ago. Each event in the series starts with a tour of the current exhibit within The Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, followed by the distinguished alumni presentation and a reception. Enrichment funds from the School have made piloting this series possible followed by a generous donation by Mr. Robert Chipman to help foster not only this event but also practical "hands on" educational workshops of various types. The LAAAB's extensive network has been the primary contributor to the Distinguished Speaker Series. The LAAAB is always looking for future contributors to

enhance this marvelous initiative, so please don't hesitate to contact us with your ideas and suggestions.

The series started in February of 2012 against the glass and steel backdrop of MSU's new world-renowned Broad Museum, located two buildings east of the Human Ecology Building that houses the Landscape Architecture, Construction Management, Urban and Regional Planning, and Interior Design programs. These events have created wonderful evenings consisting of a mixture of friends, colleagues, and a hallmark commemorating their remarkable

her 30-year career as an urban designer, author, and professor and was recently named a Fellow with AECOM. She was a former principal with EDAA, where she chaired their board of directors. In 2007, Design Intelligence named her one of the top 15 women who are changing the world of architecture. She received the Distinguished Alumni Award in Landscape Architecture from MSU in 2001, and currently plans to complete a dissertation for a PhD in public policy at the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2013. We can't express how delightful it was to experience her journey and hear the stories that made it real to students and



Bob and Barbara share a moment at The Broad Museum.

achievements. The LAAAB's first speaker was Mr. William Wenk of Wenk Associates, Denver Colorado. The firm is recognized internationally for integration of natural systems and processes into urban settings. Their philosophy maximizes the benefit from public investment by creating artful landscapes that have meaning and solve basic human needs. His topic was "Designing the Natural City," and it was met with a very enthusiastic audience despite the dreadful snow storm that evening.

Our second distinguished speaker was Ms. Barbara Faga, FASLA. She is celebrating

alumni alike. In October 24, 2013, the LAAAB, faculty, and students celebrated Mr. William Johnson's career achievements. Bill's topic was "Strategic Design: The Power of Framework Thinking."

In order to sustain these efforts and the many others that the board

has forecast, we need your help. Please consider making a small gift and/or providing us with your talents and expertise. Sustaining funds will allow us to continue our work and support our students by providing mentorship, programs, and events. The volunteers on the board spend a significant amount of time helping to foster these efforts, but as we all know, it takes funds to run them. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Please contact us at the School of Planning, Design and Construction at 517.432.0704 or email spdc@msu.edu.

- All home and community landscapes should **include natural stormwater management technologies** such as a bioswales, bio-retention ponds, rainwater gardens, and local sustainable water recycling and drip irrigation systems.
- Sustainable Residential Design should **focus on improving water efficiency** by promoting safe and appropriate storage and recycling of greywater (and even blackwater) for landscape maintenance, car washing, and toilet flushing.
- **Wastewater reclamation should be promoted** at the community scale broadly across the US, rather than only in the dry western and southern states.
- More thought should be given to the ability to **address the rural landscape**.



Joan B. Rose

The Role of Landscape Architecture as a Water Resource Steward

By Joan B. Rose
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water problems of the world. Thus lack of infrastructure for stormwater, community systems, and agriculture causes economic disparity around the world.

In the United States (US), our infrastructure allows for increasing use of water in our 54,000 communities, where utilities process 38 billion gallons of water daily. The average residence uses over 100,000 gallons (indoors and outside) annually, which averages out to about 100 gallons per day per person.

Billions of dollars are needed in the next 10 years to fix our infrastructure, which is greatly aging.

Much of our quality of life is associated with the beautification of our landscape and recreational activities afforded by our abundant water resources. Yet this lifestyle is threatened. One example is a favorite pastime: golf. According to Golf Digest* the 300,000 gallons of water used per day on golf courses will be a critical issue in the future. Golf will need to adapt to the challenge by using reclaimed water (providing nutrients as well as moisture) and more efficient irrigation instead of using drinking water.

Thus the water challenges include:

- water shortages due to imbalances between water demand and supply,
- water pollution and ecosystem deterioration due to increases in urban and industrial wastewater as well as stormwater, and
- increased potential for flood damage caused by improper land use.

Landscape architecture has done an excellent job of addressing stormwater with green infrastructure.

All of us have a role to play in the looming water crisis; in particular, the landscape architecture profession can make significant contributions toward addressing these water resource issues.

But it is not often recognized that this approach is protecting our health. There is no doubt that green infrastructure can decrease pollution and destruction impacts associated with extreme precipitation events.

Over half of the drinking water outbreaks associated with viruses, parasites, and bacteria that cause diseases in humans are associated with high rainfall events due to sewer leaks, overflows, and transport of key pathogens from human sewage (including septic tanks) and animal manure.

Michigan, like all areas in the US, has many sources of these pollutants, including sewage treatment plants, combined sewer overflows, and septic tanks. Animal wastes are also of great concern as sources of non-point pollutants that threaten our health. Thus landscape architecture has a role to play in improving water quality and protecting human and ecosystem health. This role should be expanded to address both quantity and quality. The opportunities need to be included explicitly in training for the profession.

Resources:

American Society of Landscape Architects
<http://www.asla.org/waterefficiency.aspx#>
<http://www.cws.msu.edu/stormwater.htm>
<http://www.artfulrainwaterdesign.net/projects>
Dave Dempsey, Greening of Stormwater, August 30, 2006, Clean Water Fund, American Rivers

* (http://www.golfdigest.com/magazine/2008-05/environment_intro#ixzz2PYg1PaiB)



Students take a break while volunteering at Woldumar Nature Center.

Landscape Architecture Students Continue Volunteer Efforts

By Tony Bauer

During each of the last six years, LA students have volunteered at the Woldumar Nature Center in Lansing, Michigan. In good and bad weather, they have cleared and improved trails, removed invasive species, and rebuilt split rail fences.

LAs like to build things. This year's project attracted their attention because it involves construction of a 16 x 24-foot stage as part of a new amphitheater project. The first phase included digging post holes and installing 19 posts. The spring project will include construction of steps and ramps and installation of the decking.

Woldumar Nature Center is a not-for-profit organization located along the Grand River on Lansing's west side. It contains 186 acres, 5 miles of trails, and 1.5 miles of river frontage. Its primary focus is on the education of people, particularly children, about the natural environment.

MARIO SCHJETNAN COMING IN FEBRUARY 2014 TO THE DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SERIES



Mario Schjetnan

Coming in February 20, 2014, Mario Schjetnan will discuss his international accomplishments and water resource planning at the Broad Museum. Born in Mexico City, Mario holds a degree in Architecture from the National University of Mexico and a Master Degree in Landscape Architecture with an emphasis in urban design from the University

of California, Berkeley. In 1984 he was selected as a Loeb Fellowship at the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University.

Mr. Schjetnan and José Luis Pérez started Grupo de Diseño Urbano in 1977. The firm has executed a wide range of projects, including diverse typologies and scales in architecture, urban design and landscape architecture. GDU and Mario Schjetnan have been distinguished with national and international awards and recognitions in architecture, urban design and landscape architecture.

Mario Schjetnan has also devoted his life to teaching. He has facilitated numerous workshops and studios at several universities including Harvard University in 1994, 1998 and 2005. Mario was the director of the School of Landscape Architecture at the University of Arizona, Tucson from 1999 to 2001. He was distinguished with the Federico Mariscal Chair in Architecture from UNAM in 2001. He has been a lecturer at Universities in the USA, Spain, Colombia, Argentina, Chile, Puerto Rico, Australia, and China.

In 2006, he received the Cathedra Rose Carter Award from the University of Austin

Texas and in 2007, the Cathedra Talbott from the University of Virginia.

The LAAAB would like to hear from you on who we should consider for future presentations or specific topics of interest. Please let us know if you have any ideas and we hope to see you at an upcoming event in 2014!

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: 408 West Circle Drive, Room 412 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 for you, a classmate, or a friend 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.