

Greetings from John Harrington



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Spring has arrived, or we could say summer here in Wisconsin, since we are having record warm temperatures for March. In fact, maple syrup season is already past, wildflowers that should be blooming in late April are flowering now, and the ornamental trees that typically flower in sequence, such as serviceberry followed by redbud, are blooming at the same time. In the Department and College, change is also in the air. I took over as chair this past fall, and the college has a new dean, Kate VandenBosch. Next door to Agricultural Hall is a new School of Human Ecology building and, most astonishing, after 10+ years, Henry Mall is no longer under construction and a new landscape has been planted.

In Department news, Janet Silbernagel is now chair of the Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development graduate program in the Nelson Institute of Environmental Studies (while still maintaining her activities with the Department). Evelyn Howell and I, along with Steve Glass, former UW Arboretum Grounds Supervisor and UW graduate (MSLA 1988), completed a textbook, *Introduction to Restoration Ecology*. Sam Dennis and I completed the first Cloud Forest Studio, a two-week service-learning course in Monteverde, Costa Rica, that was conceived by Sam during a recent sabbatical. And last, but not least, our students secured the 2014 berth for LABASH.

Inside this issue we focus on the recent activities of retired professor Arne Alanen, undergraduate Wally Graeber, graduate student Evan Slocum and long-term faculty associate Shawn Kelly. This newsletter is about the Department, but it is also about you, our alumni and constituents. We would like to regularly include information about projects and activities in which you are engaged and note any awards you have received, so please share your activities with us. Along those lines, Lee Somerville (MALA 2008) recently published the book, *Vintage Wisconsin Gardens*, on the region's ornamental vernacular gardens of the 19th and early 20th centuries. And Barbara Geiger (MALA 1997) completed her book, *Low Key Genius: The Life and Work of Landscape Gardener O.C. Simonds*.

Finally, I know not all of you are near enough to attend, but I want to invite you to the Jensen-Longenecker Awards Banquet to be held April 27. If you can't make this event but will be in Madison on another day, please stop by the Department. My colleagues and I would love to hear what you have been doing and how our program can serve you better!

Olmsted Scholar Wally Graeber

Each year, every accredited landscape architecture program recognizes only one student for the prestigious *Olmsted Scholars Program*. The program selects finalists, and the national award winner receives a



\$25,000 prize. This year, Shawn Kelly and the Landscape Architecture Department at UW selected Wally Graeber for the honor. Wally will receive his Bachelor of Science Degree in Landscape Architecture in December 2012. This summer, Wally will travel to Kochi, India under the direction of the Sweet Water Foundation. There, Wally and an interdisciplinary team of students will work alongside residents to implement aquaponic systems which will deliver affordable, toxin-free, nutritious vegetables and fish for consumption and sale. The result

will introduce a needed protein source in their diet, reduce the chance of organic or fecal pollution into groundwater, and spur economic development in dense urban areas.

Wally's accomplishments range from a 2011-2012 Wisconsin Idea Undergraduate Program Fellow and the Wisconsin ASLA Student Chapter Vice President to the Slow Food UW Garden Intern and a Special Olympics Fundraiser. In 2011, his work with the Nelson Institute took him to Freiburg, Germany to conduct research, volunteer for community projects, and network with engineering and landscaping firms. While filling these roles during his university career, Wally continues to manage and oversee a landscape maintenance business he established in

"Wally is someone we can count on to succeed in the larger picture of the practice of our profession."
-Shawn Kelly

2004, WG Lakefront & Lawn Services LLC in his hometown of Twin Lakes, Wisconsin.

Wally's yearlong senior capstone project aims to design implementable solutions using a network of community gardens, walkable environments, visible stormwater amenities, and renewable energy elements. Wally's passions include teaching, designing, and constructing food systems on a local level with school-age children, and at an international level with families in developing countries.

If chosen as the 2012 National Olmsted Scholar, Wally would use the funding to help utilize his growing knowledge and experience to design integrated food networks that educate urban and rural communities, increase affordable access to good, clean, and fair food, and promote self-sustaining sources of income for families in Madison, WI.

Update from Arne Alanen

After serving on the faculty in the Department of Landscape Architecture for more than 34 years, Prof. Arnold Alanen retired in early January 2009. During his tenure, some 3,000 students enrolled in his courses, which included the History of Landscape Architecture, Cultural Resource Preservation, and Landscape Theory. He served as a thesis advisor to 45 graduate students, and as a committee member for an additional 100 UW-Madison students. He also was departmental chair for five years. Just prior to his retirement Arne was elected as an Honorary Member of ASLA, and named a Fellow of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture. Now in "retirement," he continues to work on books, articles, and public presentations in his fields of interest.

Arnold Alanen & Lynn Bjorkman Scholarship Fund for Cultural Landscape Studies. In 2005 Arne and his wife provided \$25,000 to fund an annual scholarship, through the UW Foundation, for either a second-year graduate student or a junior who has interests in the growing area of cultural landscape studies. Seven students have received scholarships to date.

Those who wish to make a donation online should go to:

www.supportuw.org

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Your gift will help extend Arne's legacy into the future by assisting worthy students.

And, of course, **thank you.**



Faculty Associate Shawn T. Kelly has taught at University of Wisconsin – Madison for 16 years. The topics he teaches range from Sustainable Grading, Drainage and Construction Practices to the Senior Capstone Class. Beyond the classroom, Kelly created and organizes the career fair for LA students and the annual senior display at the state capitol for National Landscape Architecture Month.

Kelly works professionally as a registered landscape architect in California and Wisconsin. He is the principal of Kelly Design Group, LLC, a design-bid office. The firm has produced drawings for projects including aggressive stormwater management and harvesting, zoo design, and college campus plans. In 2009, Kelly was invested as a Fellow of the American

Landscape Architect and Faculty Associate Shawn Kelly

Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) – an honor bestowed upon less than one percent of all Landscape Architects.

In Wisconsin as well as nationally, Kelly has excelled in the ASLA and has served in a number of prestigious positions. Kelly has been awarded three State Chapter ASLA Certificates of Achievement, and one National ASLA Certificate of Achievement.

Kelly uses these industry and ASLA links for the benefit of his students. He says that he runs his studios as he runs his offices, and provides extensive experience for students in LA. It's "one reason our graduates are appreciated by industry, and typically find employment in the best firms," said Kelly.

One of Kelly's proudest accomplishments is his success in the Wisconsin government, working tirelessly for 11 years on the Practice Act (2009 WI Act 123). After writing the law and getting a sponsor, the Act was signed into law in Feb. 2010.

Today, Kelly is a candidate to be the 2013-2014 National ASLA Vice President in Membership. This position will work with emerging professionals and member benefits to maintain and better the membership benefits and encourage new members, including those potentially lost due to economic downturns. The decision will be announced in Washington, DC at the beginning of May.

Evan Slocum on Urban Forestry

Evan Slocum, who plans to graduate in May with a Master of Science in Landscape Architecture, presented his research about Urban Forestry at the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) Conference.

Slocum studies how current planting trends are shaping the urban forest composition on public and private properties in the Madison Urban Area. His presentation focused on how the species planted in urban areas influence diversity, ecosystem services, and potential damage from pests and disease.

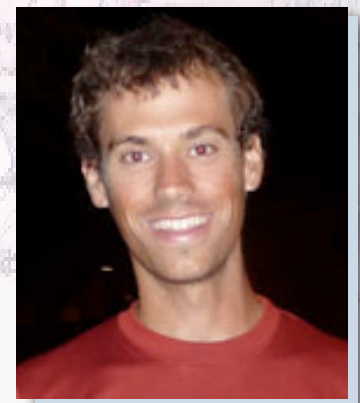
Detrimental insects and pathogens, such as emerald ash borer, oak wilt, and Dutch elm disease, are of major concern to the health of the urban forest. This,

along with stressors such as compacted soil, poor air quality, and elevated urban temperatures, predispose urban trees to short life spans. However, if more species of trees are utilized in urban plantings, there is less risk of large losses, lower cost of maintenance, and greater provision of ecosystem services

Slocum is the only student in the Landscape Architecture department focusing exclusively on urban forestry. A native of New Richmond, Wisconsin, Slocum says that there is not much communication between landscape architects and urban foresters at the moment, but advocates for professionals to think about regional urban forest diversity when incorporating trees into their designs.

Slocum started a non-profit organization in December, called the Urban Tree Alliance. His research, as well as his background working in the New York City Parks Department as an arborist, motivated him to begin the organization.

The CELA Conference was held at the University of Illinois at the end of March.



Alumni News

Save the date!

The Jensen-Longenecker banquet will be held at the **UW Arboretum** on **Friday, April 27, 2012**. In addition to honoring our students, we would like to share the evening with our alumni. We particularly want to recognize alumni from the classes of 2011, 2007, 2002, 1997, and 1992 (those celebrating their 1-, 5-, 10-, 15- and 20-year graduation anniversaries). Look for an invitation in the mail!

Wedding Announcement

Department of Landscape Architecture Alumni **Amy Peterson** and **Paul Heding** (class of 2007) were married in Madison on April 21, 2012. Congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple!

We're putting together an **Alumni Directory** and we'd love to hear from you!

Our new directory will be online for easy access and we would like to include updates on our alumni.

Please send us any information you would like in the directory, including what you are doing now, a picture, and/or your contact information to:

dagriffin@wisc.edu

Please note: we will not put any of your information into our directory without your consent.

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