

## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Zach Peterson, President, PLA, ASLA

### Elections and Life

I'm sure you are all familiar with the old adage that there is never a good time to have a baby. As a father of two, I have found this to ring true. We as humans possess the ability to adapt to life changing events and integrate them into our daily routine. In the case of fatherhood, I wouldn't trade that experience for the world (outside of the rare occasions where I want to wring their necks, that is).

Along similar lines, given our daily schedules and work demands, there is never really an ideal time to seek office within the ASLA. I have spoken to quite a few of you out there about considering a run for office. More often than not, the answer is yes, but the follow up is usually .... someday.

I used to be in the 'yes, ...someday' camp concerning serving on the Executive Committee. That is until the fateful day where I learned that someone nominated me to be President Elect. I still don't know the identity of the masked individual who gave me the nod and I really had no idea what I was getting into and but whomever that person is, thank you! Thank you for challenging me to step up into a leadership role. Thank you for taking me well outside my comfort zone. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make a difference at both a State and National level and thank you for the network I have built as a result. Thank you for introducing me to some great colleagues who are fun to work with as together we tried to make sense of the barrage of curveballs that had been thrown at us during the COVID-19 pandemic. On the superficial side, thank you for two paid vacations a year!

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Most importantly, thank you to those on our Excom who have gone above and beyond the call and have agreed to serve additional terms along with me when the pool of nominations has come up empty.

Like a lot of businesses out there post pandemic, the Iowa ASLA also has a "help wanted" sign in our window. The call for nominations has been sent and candidates are being confirmed for the election ballot. The success of this organization depends on its membership to rise to the challenge of leadership. Our collective contributions are needed in order to gain new and evolving perspectives on the practice. Your perspectives as a member are valued and needed in leadership roles.

We need your help in changing 'yes ...someday' into 'yes, TODAY'!

## A CALL FOR ENTRIES... AND JUROROS!

Lara Guldenpfennig, PLA, ASLA

The Iowa Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects issued our Call for Entries for the 2021 Iowa ASLA Awards Program on July 19<sup>th</sup>! Professional and Student Award Winners will be honored on Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at Honey Creek Resort in Moravia,



Iowa during the Awards Luncheon which will be held in conjunction with the 2021 Iowa ASLA Fall Conference. More details about this year's fall conference will be forthcoming. Award submissions are due by Friday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Participation in the awards program helps broaden professional boundaries, increases public awareness of the role of landscape architects, raises the standards of the discipline, and brings recognition to organizations and individuals who demonstrate superior skill in the practice and/or study of landscape architecture. A jury of qualified professionals from the Nebraska-Dakotas Chapter will review each submittal and determine winners in each award category.

Due to the proximity of our chapters, jurors will be asked to recuse themselves from judging any submission by their own firm/organization. If you are interested in jurying the Nebraska-Dakotas Chapter submissions, please contact me by email at [lguldenpfennig@snyder-associates.com](mailto:lguldenpfennig@snyder-associates.com).



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## TRUSTEE UPDATE

Michael Gaunt, PLA, ASLA

First and foremost, a quick reminder that registration is now open for the return of the ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture! While COVID upended so many of our plans, the 2021 ASLA Conference will happen in person this year. We hope to see as many attendees as possible at the Music City Center in Nashville, November 19-22. Included with the amazing educational programs, we currently have 193 vendors who will be on hand during the Expo.

For registration information and FAQ: [ASLA Conference](#)

Recently the Council of Fellows announced it's 2021 Class of Fellows. This year produced a wide range of talented landscape architects from a wide variety of background. And although we were not successful in elevating an Iowa member to Fellow, we have many strong candidates and will continue working hard to gain the recognition our Chapter and its professionals have earned.

Check out the full press release: [Council of Fellows](#)



The 2021 Iowa Legislative Session ended this year with several items we had been tracking not making it to the floor for votes. On a national level, ASLA remains engaged and committed to advocating for our profession in numerous ways. In conjunction with CLARB, ASLA [submitted formal comments](#) to U.S. DOT's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requesting they remove or revise language in the most recent proposed revision to the Manual on Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) that would limit the scope of landscape architecture practice. ASLA is extremely concerned the proposed language calling for only engineers to interpret and apply the



provisions of the MUTCD would conflict with state licensure laws. Landscape architects are competent to use, interpret, and apply the MUTCD, and frequently do

so to prepare and implement project designs while protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

And thanks to the tremendous efforts of our advocates, ASLA [submitted a petition](#) to the U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) with 1,060 signatures supporting the request to remove harmful language from the proposed revised Manual on Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The petition also urges the FHWA to reframe and rewrite the MUTCD, creating a path for guidance that more closely aligns with the equity, safety, and sustainability goals of communities nationwide.

Have you remembered to check out The Dirt since our last newsletter? No? That's fine, I'm here to remind you. This is a great publication that often touches on aspects of the professional that hit close to home for all of us. Most recent is an article of the history of the Rails to Trails movement. There has been immense effort and expense put into the trail system throughout the State.

Check out the latest from [The Dirt](#).



*"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you." Frank Lloyd Wright*





**NEWS FROM THE IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**  
Carl Rogers, PLA, ASLA

Greetings IA-ASLA Chapter members!!

I hope this message finds you well and that you are enjoying the summer months. I am writing with some updates about the Department of Landscape Architecture at Iowa State. We are on summer break, and busily preparing for the fall semester. We are moving back to campus for in-person instruction, but we cannot forget all the hard and determined work that was accomplished by our faculty, staff, and students. What a year! We all learned things that we can integrate into our new teaching and learning strategies and we hope to continue the innovative ways of exploring landscape architecture.

For the fall semester, Savanna courses will be back on the road, and Associate Professor Michael Martin is planning the routes for the two trips. It will prove to be an exciting fall for sure. Other faculty are working on course content and developing studio projects in both urban and rural environments. Assistant Professor Hans Klein Hewett is leading the third year studio, and is planning on participating again in the National Parking Day. In partnership with the chapter, the third year students will

team up again and build parklets that we are planning on installing on Parking Day in Ames. You can read more about it in this newsletter and definitely be on the lookout for additional information.

I am working to get a group of students to participate in the chapter's fall conference. Students have done this for the past several years and we are grateful that the chapter continues to see the value of students who present their experiences as they complete their education at Iowa State. More information is coming, and students present on independent projects they have been working on, interesting experiences from internships, as well as any other exciting adventure they have been on while studying landscape architecture.

An exciting development about our programs, is that we recently changed on Classification Instructional Program (CIP) code to one that is identified as a STEM field. One quick side note, is that National ASLA has released a white paper regarding landscape architecture as a STEM field all the while members at the national level advocate for the federal designation of landscape architecture as a STEM field. Here is a link to the white paper, "[Landscape Architecture Is a STEM Discipline.](#)" Back to the department's CIP Code. Unfortunately, landscape

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architecture’s CIP code is not identified as STEM. Every program at any university has a code, developed by the National Center for Educational Statistics. The code supports accurate tracking and reporting of study and program completions activity. We recently changed our code to “Sustainability Studies,” which is identified as STEM, and interestingly enough, lists landscape architecture in its descriptions. This change benefits students as they now have a degree from a STEM program according to the CIP code, and for international students, this allows them to work in the United States for up to two years after graduation. We see this has a recruitment strategy for prospective students, and we fully support ASLA’s efforts to advocate for landscape architecture STEM designation.

Another exciting recruitment effort is that ISU undergraduate and graduate programs will be featured in a full page advertisement in the August Higher Education section in Landscape Architecture Magazine. This is part of ASLA’s Dream Big with Design virtual event (late September), and ASLA is promoting the event, along with advertising university programs, to invite graduating STEM high school students and school counselors across the United States. A formal invitation is being sent to 32 top ranked STEM High School Principals and School Counselors with the August issue enclosed with the letter. The advertisement showcases students on the road during their Savanna courses, and encourages those that see it to “Grab their Sketchbook and Get Outside.” This is part of our programs recruitment strategy to get the word out about landscape architecture and pique the interest of future landscape architects.

These are some of the highlights of what we have been doing in the College of Design at Iowa State University. I

wish you all well, email me if you want to connect, and GO CYCLONES!!!

