

Giving Thanks

Zach Peterson, President, PLA, ASLA

Yeah. I admit it, I am a procrastinator. ...Or as we in the industry call it, 'deadline motivated.'

I started to write this newsletter article with the intent of showcasing the amazing Spring Conference schedule that we in collaboration with our partners at ISU had assembled. This year's theme of Social Entrepreneurship was captivating, engaging, and dare I say, a cutting edge look at some unique grass roots led organizations and the unique impacts they have made upon the landscape and regional watersheds.

Then one day, it all changed.

That darn COVID-19 virus that I started to read about late last year began to assert itself this side of the Pacific Ocean and the effects were beginning to be felt in our own backyard. As a result, one by one, our commitments began to fall apart. Kimberly Garza, our P.H. Elwood Lecturer had to cancel. Then ISU made the difficult decision to close campus as a proactive measure to prevent the spread of the virus and with that, our Memorial Union conference venue was out of the question. For a minute, we briefly considered switching to another venue in order to salvage what we had left of the conference but when confronted with the tough question of whether or not to cancel, the socially responsible choice was to cut our losses and bow out.

In the words of the immortal Ron Burgundy, "That escalated quickly."

Our situation isn't unique. Our regional partners involved in the Central States Conference planning subsequently decided to postpone this year's conference in Omaha until Spring 2021. The Spring CPC in-person meetings planned for next month in Washington D.C. have also been canceled and reduced to an online virtual format as well. Day by day, the narrative continues to change as far as what the overall impact that COVID-19 will have on our lives, our livelihoods, and our quest to return to a sense of normalcy.

So where do we go from here? At this point, your guess is as good as mine. Who knows how long this new normal of social distancing and 'flattening the curve' is going to last? As far as



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that is concerned, I am inclined to follow the advice of those experts who are specifically trained in this area to guide us on a rational and science-based path forward.

In the meantime, a rare bit of good advice given to me through the social media 'facey pages' is to focus on the things that we actually have control over. So, thinking about that from an organizational perspective, that makes a lot of sense. I DO know that quite a few of our members were relying upon these recently cancelled conferences to secure the required HSW-CEUs in order to maintain their license. For those that may be at risk of not getting the required in-person contact hours in time, don't panic! Our chapter is working with the State board and will be proposing either a licensure renewal deadline extension and/or a temporary waiver of the limit of credits that can be secured via online distance learning at their next meeting. The ASLA is also offering free distance learning opportunities online. An informational email was sent out today for further details. For those that can hold out until Fall, we are currently examining the logistics behind offering an expanded conference. Perhaps some of the speaking engagements we had arranged for the Spring will be available to share their experiences this Fall.

While we are on the topic of continuing education requirements, I have heard from several of our members about their somewhat frustrating experiences with recent audits (I was also audited earlier this year and I can empathize). It has become apparent that we can all benefit from a clearer defined procedure for securing and tracking CEUs which will ultimately make audit time less stressful.



As means of achieving this goal, the IA-ASLA is in the process of becoming an approved education provider via the Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System (LACES). LACES is a national clearinghouse that certifies and tracks continuing education opportunities and it is a free service offered to State Chapters such as ours. In the future, all CEU content provided by our chapter will be able to be pre-certified as HSW by the LACES board which will eliminate some of the guesswork out of the subjective nature of what may or may not qualify as HSW come audit time. Users will be able to track their credits as well as download course records and associated certificates of completion via their online database.

Our chapter has also been encouraging private companies to register via LACES as approved education providers. Recently, Kings Materials was able to pre-certify their entire group of Landscape Architecture track sessions at their annual Build-It Conference, an available total of 10 credits.

In the near future, the IA-ASLA will be working with the ISU Horticulture Department to pre-approve their education sessions and develop a model that could be adopted throughout other departments within the University.

In closing, my ask of you is to think of ways our chapter can better serve you as a design professional and more importantly, tell us about it! These are some challenging times, the bulk of said challenges remains to be seen. We will continue to work to ensure your needs are met. Together, we can meet this challenge.



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Public Relations Update

Nate Byro, Public Relations, ASLA

Life Grows Here – 2020 World Landscape Architecture Month

"An incredible thing called Life grows in the spaces we create..."

April kicks off World Landscape Architecture Month. Around the world, we take this time to recognize the work and importance of landscape architecture. Especially in this time of distancing, it is important to recognize the public spaces that bring us together, responsibly. ASLA National has chosen the campaign of "Life Grows Here" to highlight the spaces we design as incubators of life.

Our chapter's page will be highlighting award-winning work from across the state, community involvement of our members, reposts from our members, and sharing of videos submitted by our members. We want you to get involved, as well! Take to your project photos, your previous travel photos, or photos you gather (abiding to social distancing recommendations) to share how landscape architects cultivate life. Due to the sustainability of the cards typically distributed in the past, ASLA National has decided to keep an all-digital format for adding the sticker. Head over to asla.org/WLAM to download the "Life Grows Here" or many text alternatives and place them into the bottom corner of your posts. A useful app to do this on a phone is "InShot." You can also print out a copy of these and cut them out. Make sure to include #LifeGrowsHere and #WLAM2020 in your posts, as well as tagging [@IAASLA](https://twitter.com/IAASLA).

Over the course of April, as World Landscape Architecture Month, we will be sharing projects across Iowa that show the impact of [#LandscapeArchitecture](https://twitter.com/LandscapeArchitecture) to the communities around us. We need your help sharing these stories! Share your projects on your own, give us a mention, or send us some pictures or videos, and we will repost!





One new aspect to WLAM this year is a video portion. Set yourself up in selfie mode on your phone and record a brief version of your "why." (Absolutely no longer than a minute!) Be personal. Share your inspiration. Help the world understand what's special about landscape architecture. . . and landscape architects! Post the video on your social media with our hashtags: **#LifeGrowsHere** and **#WLAM2020**. If you can, tag **@NationalASLA** and **@IAASLA** so we can see and share.

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Carl Rogers, PLA, ASLA

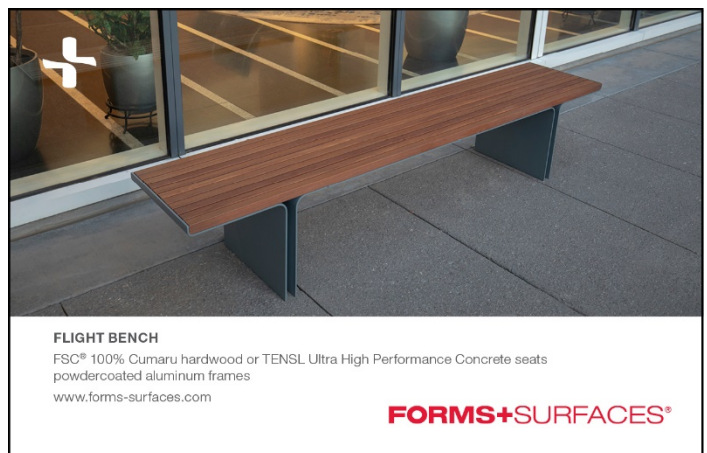
Greetings Iowa Chapter ASLA Members!

These are definitely uncertain times! I hope that each of you, your families, and your firms are all safe and healthy. As many of you have read in the news, Iowa State University moved to online instruction starting on March 23, 2020, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. We will remain teaching online through the end of the spring semester and for the first part of the summer session. Students are away from campus and faculty are also

recommended to work remotely, limiting the amount of people on the ISU campus.

The university remains open and everyone is committed to completing the semester so that students learn as well as make progress in their course of study. We are also committed to the 5th year BLA and 3rd year MLA students so that they meet their final requirements in order to graduate in May. Graduation will be different and the college as well as the university are working on details for a virtual commencement. Given the circumstances and the changing situation, we are all doing the best we can to make the semester successful.

All Landscape Architecture courses migrated to online instruction and faculty remain connected with students in order to deliver the content, speak with students about their assignments, critique student projects and above all understand how they are physically and emotionally. One of the many strengths of the Department of Landscape Architecture is the commitment by faculty to understand the needs of students and sustain a strong departmental community. As you might guess, this is challenged by working remotely, and in speaking with faculty and students, the face-to-face conversation is critical to maintaining a strong relationship between everyone. Studios are also online and faculty have made changes to the pedagogical method in order to maintain the value of critiques, discussion and peer learning. We all will be reaching out to chapter members for your availability for virtual reviews. Look for emails soon from me and other faculty asking for your help.



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In other news, the department completed the accreditation visit during the first week of March. I am very happy that this happened prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, in fact, during the visit, I was going from accreditation meetings to university meetings in preparation for the move to online instruction. As for the accreditation visit, it was a huge success. The team spoke highly about the department, programs, faculty, students and alumni. Thank you to those who traveled to Ames to meet with the visiting team and share your thoughts on the program's commitment to the relationship between its alumni and the profession. The next step in the accreditation process is for the team to write a report of its findings. Once this is written, the Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board (LAAB) and the department will provide a first reading of the report and suggest necessary revisions and edits. The LAAB Board meets in the summer to vote on the final decision. In principle, the team felt the department meets all the standards of accreditation and suggested some key recommendations that will help the department into the future. I will keep you posted once I hear from the board about its decision.

Finally, in these times of working remotely and social distancing, I feel it is even more important to connect and make conversation. I hope you all are staying connected with the people that are in your lives both personally and professionally. If you want to connect with me and chat about landscape architecture or anything else in the world, please do not hesitate to email me and set up a virtual meeting. Stay healthy, six feet from the next person, and wash those hands!

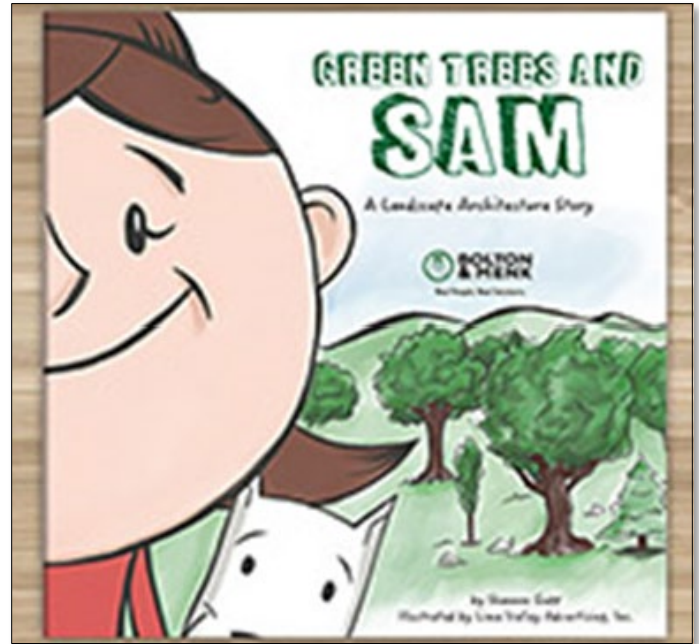
With warm regards,
Carl Rogers, Department Chair

TRUSTEE UPDATE

Patrick Dunn, PLA, ASLA

During our current spring of THE pandemic and its potential to isolate us all, this Trustee Update centers on recent successes connecting with our fellow design professionals, our legislators, and most importantly our children.

On February 26, 2020, I personally represented Iowa ASLA and set up our Iowa Chapter displays during the annual 2020 Design Professional's Day on the Hill. The Iowa State Capitol rotunda



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was encircled by those of us that design and implement many of the most meaningful places throughout our state. The event was successful in providing visitors and legislators a well-rounded exposure to Landscape Architects, Architects, Interior Designers, Planners, and affiliated professions.



One highlight to those folks visiting with me and our booth was “Green Trees and Sam”. Copies of this fun publication authored by Shannon Gapp, Bolton & Menk, and Lime Valley Advertising, Inc., went home with several legislators and will undoubtedly influence their children and grandchildren. If you haven’t seen this publication check out this link: <https://www.bolton-menk.com/books/sam/sam.html>

One final note that made me smile. The March 24, 2020 ASLA “LAND” Newsletter hit my inbox this last week, and as I scrolled down the featured articles, there was Sam (Samantha) and the cover of Green Trees and Sam. Mind you that this newsletter is distributed to thousands of Landscape Architects and affiliated professional. Kudos to ASLA for continuing to promote the advocacy of our profession to our children. In addition, what a wonderful way for the Iowa Chapter of ASLA to be associated with such a meaningful cause. If you missed this issue, here is a link: <https://www.asla.org/land/LandArticle.aspx?id=57266>

Upcoming Dates!

2020 ASLA Iowa Golf and Putt-Putt Outing

The ASLA Iowa Annual Golf Outing will be held at Toad Valley Golf Course in Pleasant Hill, IA. Putt-Putt will be available for those who would like to join the fun but prefer not to golf. We hope you will plan to join us for this outstanding annual event! Hole sponsorships available.

Click here to register! <https://www.iaasla.org/golf-outing-registration/iowa-asla-golf-outing>



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