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SUMMER 2012

Department of Landscape Architecture ● The University of Wisconsin - Madison

New Lecturer

Eric Schuchardt



The Department of Landscape Architecture is pleased to welcome back alumni Eric J. Schuchardt as a lecturer and coordinator for the Senior Thesis and Capstone Project.

Schuchardt graduated from the department in 2008 before attending Harvard University Graduate School of Design. There, the Ladysmith, Wisconsin native earned his Master of Landscape Architecture in Urban Design.

Over the past seven years, Schuchardt has earned an array of awards and scholarships, including the ASLA Award of Honor in 2008. His main research interest is landscape urbanism, which includes rural and urban issues involving landscape ecology and its intersection with systems of mobility, food, waste, energy and water.

Schuchardt's professional experience includes LandDesign in Asheville, NC; SWA Group in Houston, TX; and OLIN Partnership in Philadelphia, PA. While at OLIN, Schuchardt took part in a design competition for

the US Embassy in London. His team worked with Morphosis, an architecture firm out of Los Angeles. It was a very demanding, but creative project. Although his team did not win, Schuchardt found the project to be impressive because of its collaborative effort.

As a new lecturer for the department, Schuchardt is looking forward to pushing students in a design direction that ties into their individual passions, as well as helping them to understand how their designs operate at multiple scales. He believes landscape architects have the potential to change the future interaction of rural and urban developments. "Landscape architects have never had a greater voice than they have today," he said.

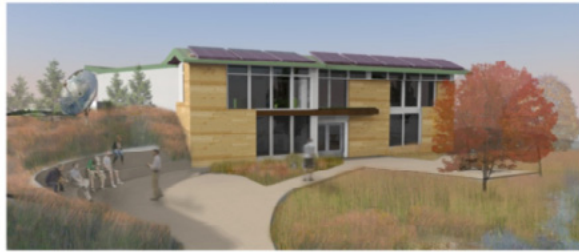
Returning to UW-Madison is refreshing, Schuchardt said. As an undergraduate, the university provided him with a challenging but enjoyable undergraduate experience. Now, he is excited to be a part of that experience in a new role.

Contents

- 1 New Faculty Member
Eric Schuchardt
- 2 USGBC Design
Competition;
Wisconsin Shoreland
Initiative
- 3 Alumni Updates:
Kerri Da Silva;
Matt Baumgarten
- 4 Announcements: Shawn
Kelly Named VP; WI
West Wing Social

Natural Talent

Amphitheater Perspective ▾



For the past four years, The United States Green Building Council (USGBC) has held an annual design competition challenging students with backgrounds in architecture and landscape architecture to push their understanding of green building practices. The 2012 Natural Talent Design Competition calls on those leaders to share their design ideas for projects that better their communities

and raise the bar on green building, according to the competition website at www.usgbc.org.

This year, third year ALA students Stefan Golos, Parker Jones, Zach Small, and Jake Wievel are representing University of Wisconsin – Madison in this competition under the name “H.S. Well Design.”

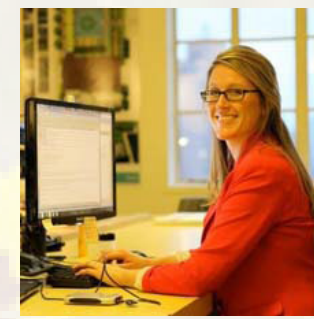
The competition site is located on the Dakota County Technical College campus in Rosemount, Minnesota. Teams will design a 5,000 square foot building that offers class and workshop space. It must also serve to educate people about green building and sustainable technologies. Designs should aim to make the building an example of net zero energy and zero emission site. The project entry must be under the \$500,000 budget. Designs also must utilize innovative

technologies, such as a solar concentrator and “living machine,” to minimize energy and water expenditures.

Final submissions must include a comprehensive site design and grading plan, building floor plans, a wall section detail, four building elevations, three perspective renderings, a building section, and cost estimation and precedents.

Projects were submitted by August 15 and the winners will be announced on September 18 at an awards ceremony and networking event.

Atrium Perspective ▾



Kerri da Silva has seen the world. Since graduating in 2008 with her Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture from UW-

Madison, da Silva has shared her time between Texas and China.

Da Silva recently moved to Houston, TX after spending one and a half years helping to start SWA’s Shanghai office. In Texas, she continues to work for the SWA Group.

In 2009, da Silva was awarded the ASLA Texas Chapter Award of Excellence for Lake Houston Wilderness Park Planning and Analysis. Originally from Wells, Minnesota, da Silva’s landscape interests include quality of life enhancements.

In Texas, da Silva has worked on a number of projects such as the Katy Prairie Conservancy Master Plan, Lake Houston Park, and The Commons in Beaumont, TX. Currently, SWA is designing and documenting an improved pedestrian system that connects transit stops along major streets and thoroughfares in preparation for a future light rail system. This project includes widened sidewalks, improved accessibility, pedestrian lighting, and street trees.

Her connection with China has also led to a number of interesting projects. One project at the Beihai Wetland Park in Tengchong, China was an opportunity to gently develop the site into one of the world’s great tourism destinations while honoring and preserving the rich



Alumni Kerri da Silva

cultural and natural resources of the area. Other projects include Mayu Valley in Tengchong, China and the Hainan Tongguling Park Overall Landscape Design and Stone Park Schematic Design in Hainan, China.

Da Silva encourages incoming and current students to apply for internships at the top. “While much is learned in school, the real fun of landscape architecture is learned on the job,” she said. She also advises students to look for travelling opportunities within landscape architecture. “Older landscape architects are always willing to help,” said da Silva. “Don’t be afraid and ask questions.”

Wisconsin Shoreland Restoration Initiative



The Wisconsin Shoreland Restoration Initiative seeks to restore native plants on the shores of Lake Mendota in Madison, as well as across the state. The initiative hopes to

show how shorelands planted in native vegetation can improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and control erosion. The project is taking place at the State Executive Residence, the current official residence of Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and his family.

Graduate student Bradley Vowels became involved with the project in

November 2009. He volunteers with the initiative and has used his design experience to serve as an independent landscape architecture consultant. Vowels developed color rendered planting plans and photo simulations to show what the project would look like and calculate planting estimates.

The project was approved in 2011 and installation will begin this fall. Volunteers will continue to maintain the shoreland, including planting, placing mulch, and watering new plants. Native flowers, grasses, and shrubs will be planted in the spring.

Vowels is currently finishing a dual Master’s degree in Landscape Architecture and Water Resources Management at UW-Madison. His thesis, entitled “Making Meaningful Participation Useful: Testing the Efficacy of Meaningful Participation in Water Resources

Management in Mazomanie, WI,” evaluates commonly used participatory processes in the context of environmental engineering, design, and planning, specifically focusing on water resources management. He has held numerous internships, teaching assistantships, and a project assistantship in his field.

Upon graduation, Vowels will return to his hometown of Sturgis, Kentucky to work with the county planning commission as an AmeriCorps volunteer. There, Vowels will continue his involvement with rural area development and sustainable communities. His work will include establishing community gardens, helping to redevelop parks and other open space, creating a regional trail network, and forming a farmer’s market.

To find out more about the Wisconsin Shoreland Restoration Initiative, visit <http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/>.

Since graduating from the Department of Landscape Architecture at UW-Madison in 2004, Matt Baumgarten has honed his interests in ecological restoration, watershed planning, innovative stormwater management practices, waterfronts, park design, and the creation of multi-use trail facilities.

Baumgarten is from Spencer, Wisconsin. Like da Silva, Baumgarten now works at SWA Group in Houston, TX and has worked on Chinese projects. In Foshan, China, Baumgarten has been involved with the Boai Lake project and Nanhai Thousand Lantern Lake.

This year, Baumgarten was awarded the ASLA Texas Chapter Merit Award in the category of Constructed Residential for his work on Flewellen Creek. Additionally, he won the ASLA Texas Chapter Honor Award in the Constructed Public category for Shenzhen Bay Waterfront.

Matt Baumgarten Alumni

Baumgarten has won a variety of other awards for his excellence in Landscape Architecture. While attending UW-Madison, Baumgarten won the prestigious CLARB Wayne Grace Memorial Design Competition for his senior capstone project, entitled “Keeping Time: An Examination of Osceola’s Past, Present, and Future.” In his senior year, he also won the ASLA Honor Award for the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

SWA Group has had great success with Wisconsin graduates. Students are often technically sound, dedicated, and willing to learn, said Baumgarten. Students are knowledgeable of current landscape architectural trends and present strong graphics relative to other student portfolios received by SWA Group.

To current students, Baumgarten says this: “Learn to start a project by walking

and learning each square foot of a site, then create a design based on your initial assessment, return to the site to reassess the relationships you have conceptualized, and complete the process with a willingness to redesign however daunting it may sometimes feel.”

Furthermore, Baumgarten suggests that students find their greatest passion in the profession and pursue it to the fullest. “The most rewarding projects often do not stop at beautiful renderings but are those where one is able to study a site, create a thoughtful design, and guide it to final construction.”

In his free time, Baumgarten enjoys hiking, running, biking, swimming, reading, and enjoying the company of his daughter and son.

Announcements

CONGRATULATIONS...

...to Faculty Associate Shawn T. Kelly, who was chosen as the 2013-2014 National ASLA Vice President in Membership. This position works 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. Kelly will be sworn into office on October 1, 2012 during the national ASLA conference in Phoenix, AZ.

Wisconsin West Wing Social

Join UW-Madison and the Wisconsin ASLA for the Wisconsin West Wing Social! Here, you can reconnect with students, faculty, staff, alumni, and other design professionals. Come learn about LABASH 2014, which will be held at UW-Madison. Bocce, Lemonade, and freshly grilled food are provided. The event will be held in the Ag Hall West Courtyard (1450 Linden Drive) on September 6, 2012 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Questions can be sent to Eric Schuchardt at ejschuchardt@wisc.edu

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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