

NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture 2023-2024 Winter Newsletter



Acknowledgments

This newsletter is for alumni and friends of the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

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uwalumni.com/news-stories/alumni-notes.



Department of
PLANNING & LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

University of Wisconsin – Madison

Message from the Chair

The DPLA is almost seven years old, and our impact deepens and expands in our work with communities, the awards we win, and the opportunities we pursue thorough, and I am VERY proud and thrilled to share DPLA accomplishments in this electronic edition of the Connections newsletter.

Thank you, Alumni and friends! Your support fuels student initiative – please continue your generous support! **Throughout this newsletter, you will find colorful fonts and placements of how your donation is making a difference in student lives.**

I hope you will find inspiration in these pages and I hope you'll find much to celebrate! You'll be proud of the DPLA impact in communities around Wisconsin and the Nation! Please remember our best wishes to you and yours!

Read ON and ON, Wisconsin!

Alfonso Morales, Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor and Chair
Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture



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Eric Wilcots - Dean, College of L&S



This year, UW–Madison celebrates 175 years as one of the world’s premier public universities.

Since its founding in 1848, UW’s traditions of teaching excellence, academic discovery and public service have set the standard for institutes of higher education throughout the world. And since its own founding in 1889, the College of Letters & Science has advanced the university’s commitment that innovations developed here will impact the world.

How will L&S lead for the next 175 years? By focusing on the core values that define our liberal arts mission: honing our creative talents, developing the intellectual courage to ask tough questions about the world around us, and building the connections between disciplines, people and ideas that drive tomorrow’s innovations.

Our breadth is our greatest strength, from the disciplines we teach to the students who learn and thrive in our classrooms. That diversity – of thought, skills, backgrounds and lived experiences – is what makes L&S such an extraordinary place. It is why our faculty, students, staff and alumni continue to be recognized on campus and around the globe for their teaching, research and service. And it is why Letters & Science will continue to remain an academic leader and the heart of this great university.

Join me this year in celebrating this incredible milestone, and thank you for supporting us as we help lay the foundation of excellence for UW–Madison’s next 175.

On, Wisconsin!

Eric Wilcots, Dean
Mary C. Jacoby Professor of Astronomy
UW–Madison College of Letters & Science

DPLA Survey Updates

Please consider filling out the DPLA Planning and Landscape Architecture Alumni Council (PLAAC) Connect [Survey](#) to opt in or out of Alumni News.



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Student Highlights and Spotlights

Our Students

Undergraduate Students

BLA & LUS

141 Undergraduate Students

60% Female

23% Underrepresented Minorities This is almost double the University Enrollment, which is 12%!

59 Total Graduate Students

20% Minority Students in Graduate Programs

35% International Students in Graduate Programs

Historic Highs for Minority Student Enrollment!

9 Students in Double/Dual Degree Enrollment:

- 6 Master of Public Affairs
- 2 Master of International Public Affairs
- 2 MS Water Resources Management

Certificate Enrollment

2 Students Enrolled in BESR

1 in Tech, Orgs, & Soc GCrt

1 in Entrepreneurship GCrt

1 in EAP

22 Students Funded on Assistantships: 11 TAs and 9 PAs. This number is up from 13 in 2022!

Graduate Students

Master of Science Urban and Regional Planning

Master of Science in Landscape Architecture

PhD in Urban and Regional Planning

Graduate Students Employed by the Department

Student Spotlight: DPLA Team Players

I'm currently a fifth year PhD student in DPLA. Having a background in both fields enables me to think systemically and creatively regarding issues in the built environment. Over the past few years, I have been involved with the Kaufman Lab, investigating questions of climate resilience, equity, diversity, and inclusion at farmers' markets. I worked closely with Professor Ely-Ledesma on a variety of USDA funded research projects. They led to meaningful collaborations with community partners, local non-profits, government, and research institutions at multiple scales. The Covid-19 pandemic and climate change fueled natural disasters brought significant disruptions to the food supply chain, alarming food systems at all scale to be proactive and resilient confronting the renewed global challenges. Our research delves into how local farmers market organizations respond to addressing these environmental challenges while extending the reach of farmers market to low-income, low-access communities. The works have been presented at multiple conferences including ACSP, with one co-authored publication forthcoming and another article currently under review.



Hanbing Liang
URPL Ph.D. candidate



Qinqin Liu
URPL Ph.D. candidate

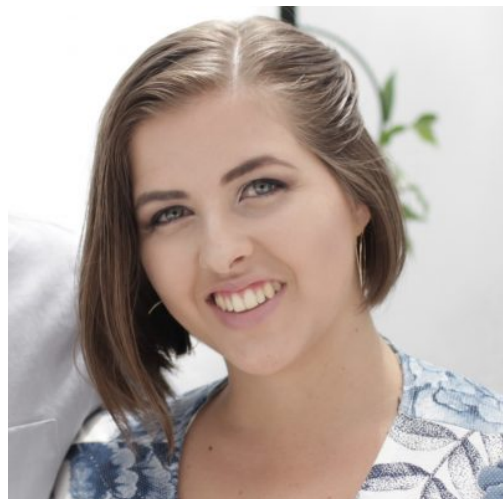
As a third year Ph.D. student, the constant support and guidance from our department have fostered a warm, family-like atmosphere for me. This nurturing environment has broadened my academic horizons, sharpened my professional skills, and crystallized my career aspirations. During the past two and a half years, I've had the opportunity, thanks to our department's support, to enrich my teaching capabilities by serving as a Teaching Assistant for three semesters. Concurrently, I am working as a project assistant for CARPC on zoning reforms, a role that has significantly expanded my insights into policy, urban design, and sustainability. Continuing on my academic path, I am excited to further explore the environmental and economic facets of infrastructure continuum and urban patterns within the context of climate change. My proposal is on the development of a resilient infrastructure continuum, under the supervision of Professors LaGro and Genskow.

Your donations supported this project with the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission - CARPC!



Renata Camila de Toledo
MS URPL

As an international student, the challenge of pursuing a master's degree is especially intense. However, I have found amazing support from professors and staff in DPLA. This past summer I interned as a Community Development Specialist at Common Wealth Development and I could not be happier with my experience. I worked in the Wanda Fullmore Youth Internship program, which employs about 25 high school students yearly. As part of a team, I facilitated a series of community engagement activities for the students to develop their own proposal for two important sites in Madison. Their dedication and interest were inspiring to watch and culminated in their final presentation to City of Madison staff, Alders, and community activists. The skills and knowledge I gained in this role were only possible through the care of the department, to whom I am deeply grateful.





Liliana Ruiz Ballesteros

MSLA

I am from Colombia, and I have lived in Madison since fall 2022. I am a student in the MSLA and I have been a TA in many courses, my favorite so far is Social Justice and the Urban Landscape. I have had a fantastic experience, I have expanded my knowledge and developed wonderful relationships with faculty advisors, staff and students.

My MS is using community-focused design to help create public spaces that support unhoused populations. I have been interviewing unhoused people who use the Porchlight services here in Madison. I am aiming to help create more equitable, welcoming, and inclusive public spaces.

I now have a strong practical understanding of social structures in the US. I think it is essential to do applied research from the community perspective so that everybody feels welcome in public space.

Jacob Smith

BLA

I've grown a lot in knowledge in my junior year at UW. LA 460 and 560 have helped me to grow my knowledge and skills as a designer. Both classes have given me the chance try new ideas, while I learned how to use the software needed to make my ideas a reality. The class I have learned the most from is LA 354. I have learned a lot about construction documents and details and different materials that I can use. This has been one of the most important classes I've had at UW.

This past summer, I worked as an intern at Old World Wisconsin (an open air museum located in Eagle, WI). My job was to help develop a plan to make the trails and buildings more accessible. As someone in a wheelchair, accessibility is very important to me. For this project, I did a lot of research into the ADA standards for trails and I examined precedents from similar facilities. This was a very rewarding project that I am still assisting with today.





Zachary Golden
LUS

I'm a senior majoring in Landscape & Urban Studies and Economics, with an Architecture certificate. My goal in choosing these areas of study has been to engage with a few different fields relevant to the built environment.

I've also learned a tremendous amount from pursuing opportunities beyond my core classes. Last summer, I worked on design projects in a rigorous and engaging summer program at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. This past spring, in an independent study with Dr. Alfonso Morales, I read urban and architectural theorists and wrote analytically to synthesize their ideas. These focused experiences have allowed me to pursue my core interests with greater depth and intensity than typical courses, and I am very grateful for these opportunities.

I hope to pursue my interest in design further in graduate school, making greater sense of the entangled aesthetic and humanistic challenges

Student Organizations & Updates

Student Awards & Recognition

Elisabeth Byowski - MS URPL

DPLA graduate student Elizabeth Byowski became part of the UniverCity Alliance (UCA) Scholars Program in Fall 2023 with students ranging from undergraduate juniors to PhD students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

During the course of the Fall 2023 semester, Elizabeth Byowski is one of nine students who will work on an individual project for one of UCY's partner communities. Upon completion of the project, the students will receive \$1,500 scholarships that were generously provided through the philanthropy of UW alumni John Holton, Pat Thiele, Colleen Goggins, John Nelson, Bill and Karen Monfre, John Bauman, and Curt Fuszard, and others. Congratulations Elizabeth!





Alex DeSena - MS URPL & MPA

DPLA graduate student Alex DeSena recently won a competitive award from The Morgridge Center's Community-Based Research (CBR) Grant program. The \$5,000 award is intended to advance high impact, community-based research practice at UW-Madison's unhoused population and gentrification. Congratulations Alex!

Kareem Harris - BLA

BLA student Kareem Harris was selected into the second cohort of The Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF) Ignite program. LAF Ignite is a multi-year program for BIPOC landscape architecture students, who receive an annual \$10,000 scholarship, various forms of mentorship, and annual paid summer internships to explore different career paths within the field. Each year, 3-5 students are selected to join the program, and participation is ongoing until they have completed their landscape architecture degree. Congratulations Kareem!



Dhruv Lokhande - BLA

BLA student Dhruv Lokhande was selected as the 2023-2024 BLA Travel Fellow (\$4,000). Dhruv, who is a sophomore, proposed travel exploring and documenting indigenous acts of placemaking in India this upcoming winter break. Specific destinations on his trip will include Pune, Mumbai, and the Indian State of Maharashtra. He will also be partnering with design studies Assistant Professor Uchita Vaid to help guide his travel documentation. Congratulations Dhruv!

**Your donation supported this
Department Scholarship that Dhruv
was able to receive!**

Wisconsin Undergraduate Planning Association (WUPA)



The Wisconsin Undergraduate Planning Association (WUPA) is a social and professional organization for UW–Madison Landscape and Urban Studies majors and is also open to other undergraduate students. WUPA provides opportunities for students to engage in social events, professional development, and making deeper connections with department faculty. The organization serves as a great place for building community within a new and fast-growing major. During the fall semester, WUPA has been growing in its membership. We have a lot of projects in the works including the new Wisconsin Urbanist Journal, a new journal in which student work including Landscape and Urban Studies Senior capstones will be showcased.

Additionally, WUPA is working on our travel plans to attend the National APA Conference which will be held in Minneapolis in April. We are very excited with our progress this year and look forward to the Spring semester.

Thanks to your support, students will have a better opportunity to travel to the National APA Conference and were able to publish the Urbanist Journal!

Donate to DPLA

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WUPA Officers 2023-2024:

Senior Co-president:
Ndemazea Fonkem

Junior Co-president:
Hollyn Gaffner

Wisconsin Urbanist Editor-in-Chief:
Zach Golden

Conference Coordinators:
Shea Wegner and Will McAllister

Alumni Relations:
Leah Bulbula and Kareem Harris



Wisconsin American Society of Landscape Architects (WI - ASLA)



The WI Student ASLA brought nearly half of the BLA program to Minneapolis for the yearly National ASLA Conference! We had the opportunity to visit and tour two firms based out of Minneapolis: Damon Farber and Coen+Partners. Students were also able to meet and catch up with many Badgers at the alumni tailgate. Lastly, we got to learn so much about cutting edge work happening in the industry and explore the expo, where we talked to vendors whose products could help realize our designs. So many relationships were started and strengthened at the conference this year, and we are feeling more inspired than ever.

Thank you for your support, students were able to travel for the yearly ASLA Conference!

DPLA Survey Updates

Please consider filling out the DPLA Planning and Landscape Architecture Alumni Council (PLAAC) Connect **Survey** to opt in or out of Alumni News.

ASLA Officers 2023-2024:

President:
Keegan Ripley

Vice President:
Holly McCloskey

Secretary:
Lance Erdman

Treasurer:
Josh Redfearn

Social Media Director:
Jenna VanBoxtel



Wisconsin Student Planning Association (WSPA)



Fall 2023 has been a busy semester for many of us, and the Wisconsin Student Planning Association is no exception. And while a lot of the activity has been behind-the-scenes - updating our file-sharing and communications systems - we've also hosted some events for students in the department and across campus. We welcomed our new MSURPL cohort at the Union South bowling lanes, attended the APA Wisconsin's annual conference in Milwaukee, and partnered with Madison Bikes to put on a film screening & panel discussion around The Street Project; see below! Keep an eye out for our upcoming pop-up merch sale as well, where you'll be able to grab some snazzy department-branded jackets and sweaters, as well as the DPLA career fair in mid-February that we've been working alongside the department to plan.

**Thanks to your continuous support,
students were able to attend the
Wisconsin APA Conference!**

WSPA Officers 2023-2024:

Chair:
Gabriel Wilkins

Communications Director:
Elisabeth Bykowski

Professional Development
Coordinator:
Heidi Putnam

Social Coordinator:
Dan Hauck

Faculty Liaison:
Gabriel Terrell

Alumni Liaison:
Karen Armendariz

APA Liaison:
Lidia Villazaez



Pictures feature the Street Film Event collaboration between WSPA and Madison Bikes.

Education and Outreach

Kaufman Lab



Kaufman Lab Fall Retreat

Kaufman Lab students and faculty gathered at Troy Gardens for their annual fall retreat to engage in strategic planning and welcome new members to the team. Faculty leaders Edna Ely-Ledesma, Alfonso Morales, and Nathan Larson facilitated planning discussions related to the growing community-university partnerships through Farm 2 Facts and statewide and national school garden networks. We also enjoyed a delicious Rooted Troy Farm dinner prepared by guest chef State Representative Francesca Hong. It was a wonderful experience and a great way to kick off the year!

Thank you for your support as your donations contributed to this Fall Retreat!

Southern Piedmont Climate-Smart Partnership Project

As part of the new multi-year, \$25 million Southern Piedmont Climate-Smart Partnership Project (SPCSP), Kaufman Lab student and faculty team members joined SPCSP partners at the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association's 2023 Sustainable Agriculture Conference in Durham, North Carolina from November 11-13. Kaufman Lab Director Edna Ely-Ledesma joined SPCSP partners for a panel presentation about the project, and our team co-hosted an information session for farmers market managers.



Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program Workshop

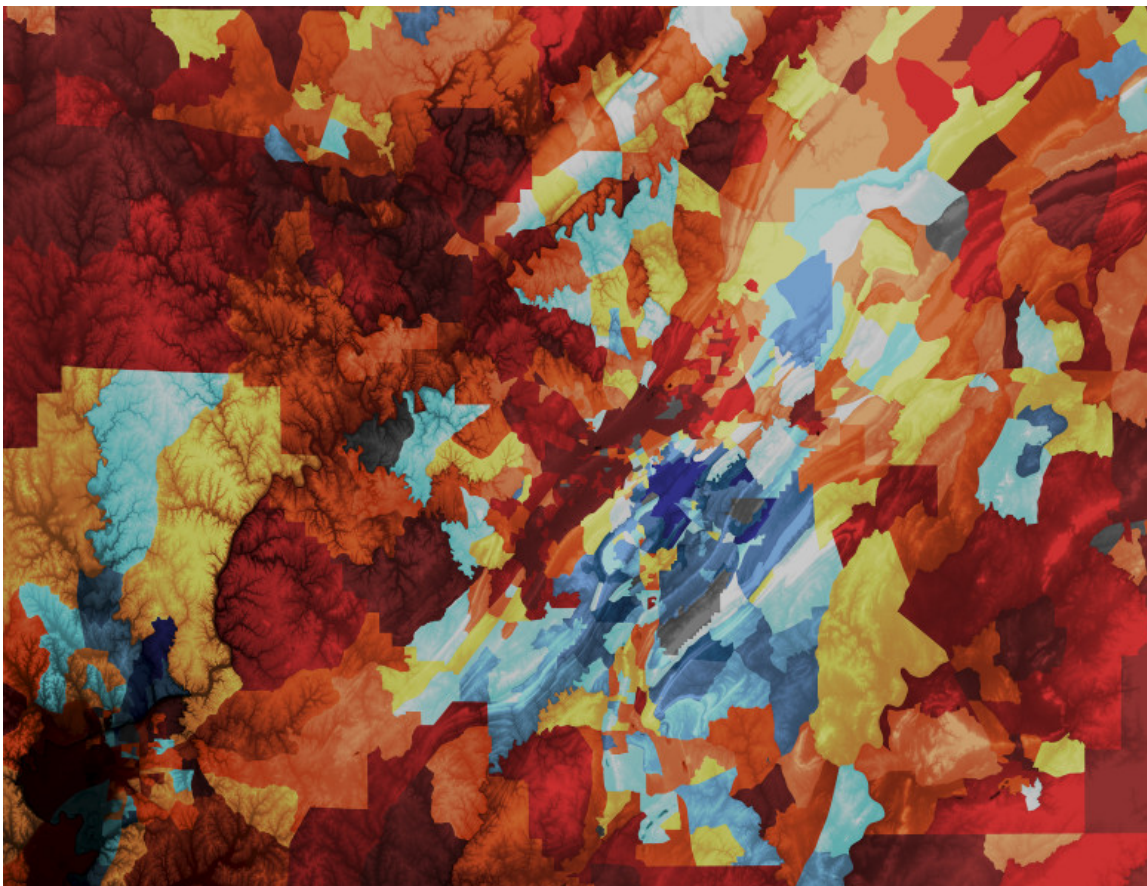
We joined Extension colleagues and statewide partners on November 16 to participate in the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program Workshop. Over 42 partners participated in panel discussions and data jam sessions focused on increasing local fruit and vegetable access, and strengthening local food systems for the health of communities across Wisconsin.



Farm 2 Facts & Slow Food UW Fall Dinner

Kaufman Lab students and faculty joined UW Slow Food again this year to co-host the second annual Farm 2 Facts & UW Slow Food Family Dinner Night on Monday, November 20 at The Crossing. It was a great event with over 100 people in attendance enjoying a delicious autumnal meal together!

Geodesign Collaborative



Notes from Teaching Faculty, Edward Boswell:

The Geodesign Collaborative has been growing steadily and increasing our range of services to partners on- and off-campus. As the UW-Madison campus esri GIS license manager, we have maintained a high level of service to campus users and recently expanded our campus offerings to include ArcGIS Indoors which will be used by Physical Plant staff to map indoor infrastructure and assets in the 420 buildings on campus. We have also worked with DoIT to enable ArcGIS products (e.g., StoryMaps, Dashboards) to be embedded within campus websites increasing accessibility and distribution of spatial data. We have introduced geospatial approaches and technologies to classes in History, Civil Society and Community Studies, and Chican@ & Latin@ Studies and are broadening our efforts to encourage other disciplines to explore geospatial relationships. Our off-campus activities include teaching a two-day GIS workshop for the Menominee Indian Tribe and Menominee County highway staff and providing online mapping applications for the WI Council of Churches. The Geodesign Collaborative provides opportunities for students to become FAA-certified drone pilots and we continue to explore the application of drone technologies in and out of the classroom.

PA Spotlight - Dane County



Over the past 10 months, Aaron Levine (M.S URPL, 2024) has been involved as a Project Assistant working to expand upon the language relating to cultural and historic preservation in the Dane County Comprehensive Plan. The Project Assistantship is the result of a partnership between the Department of Planning and Landscape architecture and The Dane County Office of Planning and Development. Working with Dane County Senior Planner, Brian Standing, a steering committee was established with representatives from the UW-Madison Division of the Arts, DPLA, Dane County Towns Association, and the Dane County Historical Society. The project sought to provide clearer guidance for the protection of culturally and historically significant sites, but also expand what these sites may be. Archaeological sites, historic buildings, and burial sites are the well-known, but other cultural resources might include folk arts and crafts, historic and indigenous farming practices, dance, music, oral history, murals and public art, and any other culturally significant practices, or the buildings that house them. Ultimately, the project will lead to increased community education initiatives, as well as assisting Dane County Towns in becoming Certified Local Governments for historic preservation. The next steps will include the creation of resources for town governments, and the implementation of a cultural historic marker program for Dane County.

DPLA will be using Dane County funding to hire two Planning Assistants to start this January!

PA Spotlight - PEOPLE Program: Mayor Rhodes - Conway Recognition

Brian Wiedenfeld

2023 APA - WI Planning Excellence Award



The University of Wisconsin - PEOPLE (Pre-college Enrichment Opportunity Program for Learning Excellence) is a pre-college pipeline for students of color and low-income students attending 9th through 12th grade, most of whom are the first in their families to potentially attend college. As part of their education, the students participate in an after-school program. In order to encourage PEOPLE students to pursue a degree at UW, our Academic Leads are UW graduate students who also serve as peer mentors, so that PEOPLE students can benefit from their knowledge as well as their life experiences in college. Brian was placed in the afterschool site at Vel Phillips Memorial High School here in Madison.



Vel Phillips Memorial High School's proximity to West Towne Mall on the west side of Madison, currently under a redevelopment plan by the city, presented the perfect opportunity for Brian's expertise and have the PEOPLE student's wishes and ideas be heard by city leadership. All through the project, the students were able to learn more about community planning, Madison's history as well as urban youth movements and other development projects in the city. They learned about data collection, asset mapping and using a modeling system to re-imagine the space to better serve not just themselves but the community around it. City planning professionals were invited to participate in some of the sessions and the PEOPLE student's final recommendations were presented to the City of Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway and the staff that was directly involved with the current re-development plan for the area. With Brian's assistance, the students did a brilliant job in their presentation and many of their suggestions are now going to be taken into consideration for the re-development of West Towne Mall. Congratulations Brian!



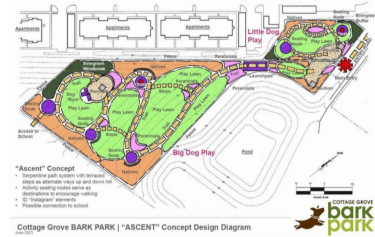
Since Fall 2023

The Program has now expanded to 4 Project Assistants, one for each high school in Madison! Two of them are MS-URPL, Tommy Pack (2025) at Memorial High School and Kayley Schultz (2025) at West High School. They will continue to use the Neighboring Modeling System in their work with the PEOPLE students.

Projects with UniverCity Alliance

A Walk in the (Dog) Park

As the village of Cottage Grove is envisioning what a future destination dog park could look like, Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture students are lending a hand and gaining practical experience. Through **UniverCity Year**, Cottage Grove connected with DPLA's James Steiner, senior design fellow Keegan Ripley, and sophomore Henry Hinchsliff.



The team worked over the summer to create potential plans for a dog park. Although a final design hasn't been chosen, several features like a pavilion, shade trees, and areas for large and small dogs are priorities. Working with Cottage Grove provided important experience for the students such as scouting the site and designing layout concepts and connected course concepts to real-world projects.

Your donations for Design Fellow, Keegan Ripley, played a vital role in the development and success of this project!



'Welcome to Your Urban Future' course piques passion for housing policy

Mia Chapman '23 credits **Urban and Regional Planning 215: Welcome to Your Urban Future** with clarifying her future career goals of working in housing policy. She took the introductory course as a first-year student and went on to complete four internships related to urban issues and policy and earned a bachelor's of science degree in landscape and urban studies from the **Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture**. "It was just a great foundation," Chapman said. "It's just a good opportunity to be able to figure out what you are interested in and then be able to gain more experience."

The course was created by **UniverCity Alliance** (UCA) in partnership with DPLA to continue connecting a growing community of people on campus looking to improve their communities. UCA is a network of interdisciplinary leaders across UW–Madison who are inspired to improve local governments and foster innovation in communities of all sizes.

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Students get their feet wet gathering watershed data

At Cottage Grove, Wisconsin — After studying Koshkonong Creek and its surrounding land during the school year, University of Wisconsin–Madison Water Resources Management students waded in – literally – to the next phase of research this summer.

In the initial phase, students were first able to get hands-on experience with the creek cleanup. Under the guidance of experienced water trail volunteers involved in Capitol Water Trails, Mauneshia River Alliance, and Friends of Koshkonong Creek, the students were practicing different strategies that can be used to clear blocked waterways during a Wisconsin Water Trail Development 101 seminar on April 29. The April 29 event drew participants from the community, including nearby property owners, nonprofit volunteers, and interested residents. UW–Madison Planning and Landscape Architecture Professor and Extension Statewide Specialist Ken Genskow and Ed Boswell, a teaching faculty member in GIS and geodesign, participated in the event. To hear more about this phase of the research, please read the article attached [link here](#).

In August, the students investigated the waterway’s hydrology and gathered data, like the depth of the sediment in order to inform a watershed management plan. “Hands-on field experience often requires problem-solving skills and provides insight into the challenges of environmental work,” Ed Boswell, a teaching faculty member in GIS and geodesign, said. Below, Boswell is seen wading through the water with the students for research. At Koshkonong Creek, students also practiced different strategies that can be used to clear blocked waterways. For more details on this research, please view the [article here](#).



Earth Partnership



In 2022, Native Hawaiian partners hosted Bad River, Red Cliff and Earth Partnership. In July 2023, Earth Partnership in collaboration with Bad River and Red Cliff Tribal Partners created a cultural exchange for the Native Hawaiians partners. This immersive event included participation in Ojibwemoen Language Camp at Red Cliff to share hands-on Ojibwe crafts in an intergenerational setting. Bad River hosted our Native Hawaiian partners at the Bad River Fish Hatchery along the Kakagon River which comprises the traditional manoomin (wild rice) beds as well as being deemed a "Wetland of International Importance", the first such designation on Tribally held lands. Elder Edith Leoso shared the cultural, ecological and historical significance of the sloughs. In the evening, members of the Bad River community and friends prepared a dinner of traditional dishes for the guests at Bad River Food Sovereignty. To continue the immersive week together, the guests traveled to Mooningwanekaaning-minis (Madeline Island) and participated in a workshop to weave a cedar bark sail to outfit a traditional dugout canoe to sail the open water. A focus group held on Saturday following the summer event offers insight into how these experiences connected the participants.

Notes from the event. This cross-sharing of experiences with one another. I think it inspires everyone. It uplifts everyone... I think that we can now bring it back with us, reflect on it, and of course, digest it a little bit. I can see the potential of a lot of these relationships continuing between our visitors in Hawaii and folks here at Red Cliff and Bad River. It was a really good relationship-building.

Well, for me it was just having those face-to-face conversations and starting those relationships with other Natives. Being able to talk about language revival, being able to talk about cultural nuances, being able to talk about elements and different myths and what we call water, what they call water, things like that.

Earth Partnership Indigenous Arts and Sciences Cultural Exchange with Hawaii

On the left, Hawaiian and Ojibwe participants admire the beautifully crafted birch bark baskets at the workshop on Madeline Island.



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I think back, last year, our Hawaiian partners hosted us and we were able to see your beautiful lands and learn and experience something together. Now we've come full circle where you've now come here and we're able to share these experiences. I really feel like we've grown in many good ways.

Funding by NSF GEOPATHs and ITEST.



In early October, Cheryl Bauer-Armstrong, Earth Partnership director, was invited to showcase the Indigenous Arts and Sciences model for equitable education and research in collaboration with tribal communities in Wisconsin at the *Sami Indigenous University Symposium*. The symposium focused on ways in which sustainability (cultural, linguistic, environmental, etc.) can be integrated into educational settings (classrooms, museums, cultural centers, etc.) and how various forms of sustainability can be cultivated and encouraged in local communities. As a feature of the symposium later in the week, The Earth Partnership Indigenous Arts and Sciences FIG (Freshmen Interest Group) **students participated in a birchbark canoe** event led by canoe builder Wayne Valliere from Lac du Flambeau.

Earth Partnership Indigenous Arts and Sciences FIG students listen to Wayne Valliere share his story about making the birch bark canoe 10 years ago and the canoe's cultural significance and connection to Ojibwe language, culture and education. Photo by Catherine Reiland.

FEEDBACK

We want to hear from your about our annual printed newsletter! Do you prefer a copy by mail or email? Let us know by sending a message

Sami Indigenous University Symposium and Ojibwe Birchbark Canoe Cultural Exchange.

Alumni Professional Updates Survey

We want to hear from you!

We are looking for professional updates from Alumni. Please fill out the survey link using the QR code above or the link [here](#).



Earth Partnership Travel to Washington DC



Earth Partnership's Michelle Cloud and Cheryl Bauer-Armstrong along with colleagues Liz Hennessy and Aireale Rodgers attended a Just Future Initiative event with other Mellon Foundation recipients in Washington, DC October, 2023. They represented the Humanities for the Education of Anti-Racism Literacy in the Sciences and Medicine (HEAL) initiative. The purpose of this meeting is to have discussions about our humanities-focused projects that address issues of racial justice, participate in a round table with several Mellon Foundation recipients, and imagine future collaborations. UW-Madison, University of California Riverside, Cornell University, Florida International University, University of Pennsylvania and the University of Texas at San Antonio are working toward creating equitable educational systems and collaborations with communities. They found it encouraging to learn about other models to transform higher education by drawing on humanities research to advance anti-racist practices and pedagogy in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM).

In DC, Michelle, Cheryl, Liz, and Aireale met with the staff of Wisconsin Congressman Mike Gallagher and Thomas Tiffany, Kansas Congresswoman Sharice Davids (Ho-Chunk) and with Rep. Derrick Van Orden to inform them about Earth Partnership's accomplishments implementing federal funding from NSF, USDA NIFA New Beginnings for Tribal Students, and NOAA B-WET. They also met with a staff member from the Committee on Natural Resources, Water, Wildlife and Fisheries to provide program information. They felt honored to be given a tour of the Capital by Rep. Van Orden along with faculty and students from UW-La Crosse.

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Pictured above, starting from the left. Cheryl Bauer-Armstrong, Aireale Rodgers, and Michelle Cloud on the Capital's balcony with the Washington Memorial in the distance.

Faculty & Department Updates

Staff News

Lizzie Drake, Human Resources Generalist

Amy Rivera, Graduate Advisor & Program Manager

I'm part of the Human Resources track of the Job Rotation Program (JRP) at UW-Madison. The JRP is a two-year professional development program for early career employees. I'm grateful to have spent six months in a Human Resources Generalist role at DPLA during my third rotation in the program. At DPLA, I have learned about payroll, benefits, compensation, creating new job posts, hiring new employees, and how working in an academic department differs from working in our campus's central HR office. I've enjoyed getting to work with the faculty, staff, and students in the department. I'm particularly impressed by the resilience of the undergraduate and graduate students at DPLA. I've witnessed them work hard and support each other all semester, and I commend them for their commitment to fostering a positive learning environment for themselves and their peers.

As the Graduate Program Manager for the DPLA, I pride myself in the relationships that I have with the department's Graduate students. I love to be in the office where students drop by any time to ask for help with anything they need. One of many other great things about Planning & Landscape Architecture is the Department's desire to continually create an environment where our students can feel supported and welcomed. In doing so, I find it exciting to research new ways to share information with students, collect resource materials, develop informational presentations and even online course modules. All my research and development are focused on career and professional development and collecting and assimilating other resources (i.e. financial aid, mental health support, student housing, campus groups, etc.) that students would need during their time in our program. The world is constantly evolving, as is the needs of our students, and I am excited to see what else I can find and share with them.

Staff & Faculty Spotlight:



Anna Bierbrauer

Anna Bierbrauer is a new assistant professor of Landscape Architecture in the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture. Anna is originally from rural Nebraska, has lived across the Midwest, and is delighted to have landed in Madison with her husband and two kids. Her research combines political ecology, environmental history, critical physical geography, and geospatial data into the landscape architecture and planning professions to understand current and historical equity issues related to urban vegetation and water resources. Anna's recent dissertation, "Concealing, Forgetting, and Recalling Aridity: Denver's Garden System, 1902-1980," explored how urban vegetation expressed the political, economic, and social powers that controlled water infrastructure development to produce and reproduce racialized landscape typologies across the city of Denver. Her past landscape architecture and design projects have stretched from a mobile education station about stormwater to urban streetscape and green infrastructure designs, and from federal forest management policy to historical garden maintenance plans and residential gardens. Anna enjoys working collaboratively to further interdisciplinary dialogue about changing landscapes, our connection to the world around us, and long ignored histories.

Here at UW-Madison, Anna is interested in exploring how power dynamics, cultural values, and changing climates challenge current values, approaches, and management of urban and regional landscapes. She is currently developing research projects to investigate these broad topics through collaboration with local and regional community members, local landscape professionals, colleagues here at UW and other institutions, and with students in studios projects. This semester, she has been instructing the 3rd-year BLA “Plants and Ecology in Design” studio where students have had the opportunity to assist the award-winning landscape architecture firm, Sasaki, on the Lake Monona Waterfront Project. Learning from Sasaki’s work has allowed students to see how design and research respond to one another in a professional setting and challenged them to integrate urban ecological research and thoughtful planting design to achieve multiply project goals. Students have gained confidence voicing design suggestions by carefully assessing the current vegetation on the site and assessing how the firm’s proposed design could be adjusted to maximize the existing mature tree canopy, provide the necessary protection from strong winds, or appeal to a young, diverse Madisonians. Anna hopes to continue building such connections between local communities, professional colleagues, and future landscape architects in her other courses.



Wenwen Cheng

Dr. Wenwen Cheng joined the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture as an assistant professor in 2023. She received her Ph.D. from the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning at Texas A&M University where she focused on microclimatic landscape research and design.

Her research focuses on how landscapes can become climatically responsive and sustainable to provide people, especially socially vulnerable populations, with resilient, equitable, and healthy living environments, on multiple scales. She examined this topic by weaving health, climatic, environmental, ecological, and socio-economic factors together using interdisciplinary technologies such as remote sensing, spatial statistics, energy budget modeling and simulations. Her specializations include 1) urban heat islands and heat vulnerability/risk assessment under climate change; 2) resilient communities encountering multiple hazards; 3) evidence-based microclimatic design; 4) outdoor thermal comfort for heat vulnerable groups especially children; and 5) low-cost meteorological instrumentation.



Ken Genskow

Professor Ken Genskow has been working on a variety of projects related to water quality, climate resiliency, and collaborative approaches to protecting and restoring the environment.

Many of these issues play out as regional land management challenges, and Ken is part of several multi-state research teams, including "#DiverseCornBelt" exploring underlying community and systemic pre-conditions to enable Midwest farmers options to diversify their cropping systems and reduce negative environmental impacts from agriculture. A related project, "Climate Ready Midwest," explores opportunities for collaboration between USDA Climate Hubs and state Extension programs to help with decision-support tools for climate adaptation and mitigation. Overlapping both of those, he is currently co-chairing a multi-state extension and research activities committee with members from 12 Land Grant Universities across the Mississippi River Basin; the committee partners with USEPA and the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force to reduce landscape nutrient loss that contributes to regional and national water quality problems and the "dead zone" in the Gulf. Other recent projects explored Wisconsin's phosphorus pollutant trading, connections between hazard mitigation planning and climate resiliency, rural household drinking water, and continuing work around social indicators for water quality management.

Within DPLA, Ken leads the URPL-PhD program, and he teaches the revised Intro to Planning course (reconstituted as a 1-credit, Orientation Seminar), a spring PhD seminar, and in alternating Fall semesters, graduate level classes on Water Resources Institutions and Policies (URPL 865) and Public Participation for Planning and Policy Making (URP 917). As of January 2024, Ken will take on the chair role for the MS Water Resources Management program through the Nelson Institute. He remains active with UW-Madison Division of Extension, working with UW colleagues and state partners on environmental planning and policy issues.



BLA Program Chair and Teaching Faculty Eric Schuchardt is a licensed landscape architect with over 10 years of experience working on projects throughout the world. His professional experience has involved a variety of scales across the design and planning spectrum, from small intricate plazas and community parks, to large comprehensive waterfront and campus framework plans. He recently started POPLAND Studio, LLC as a small design firm based in Madison, WI. Much of his professional work and teaching focuses on integrating topics of experiential design, equity, sustainability, and beauty into the design process.



Eric created the WI ASLA Mentor Program that will kick off Spring 2024. This Mentoring Program is intended to inspire and empower UW-Madison Landscape Architecture students through personalized mentoring to support their growth. **For more information, please review the Looking Ahead Section below!**

Eric Schuchardt



Revel Sims

Revel Sims joined the University of Wisconsin–Madison as an assistant professor in the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture (DPLA) and the Chican@ and Latin@ Studies Program (CLS) in September 2016. Prior to joining these units, he was an Honorary Fellow at the DPLA and Visiting Assistant Professor in CLS.

On Friday, October 27, DPLA Professor Revel Sims, gave a lecture entitled, "The predictability and temporality of gentrification in the “fourth wave”" at a conference hosted by Boston University's Initiative on Cities, Gentrification & Displacement What Can We Do About It? An International Dialogue. Additionally, Professor Sims continues to inspire the Department as he was also an invited speaker for the Zube Lecture series at the University of Massachusetts - Amherst. On Thursday, November 2, presented on paper entitled "Housing justice in the weeds: the complications of reducing housing poverty and insecurity through subsidized housing in the context of racialized concentration and exclusion."



Kurt Paulsen is a professor of urban planning in the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. His teaching and research focuses on housing, affordable housing finance and policy, land use, and municipal finance. In addition to his published academic research, he has authored two Dane County housing needs assessments, has chaired the City of Middleton Workforce Housing Committee, and does economic impact analysis research for Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority. He is most recently the author of “Falling Behind: Addressing Wisconsin’s workforce housing shortage to strengthen families, communities and our economy,” published by the Wisconsin Realtors Association. Professor Paulsen is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP).

Faculty In The News



Center Stage: Making sense of Madison's housing crisis with UW's Kurt Paulsen

During the Summer, Professor Kurt Paulsen was recently featured on the Wisconsin State Journal. He met with the State Journal editorial board, explaining why housing in the Madison region is so expensive, and what can be done about it. [Listen here.](#)

Earlier this Fall, PBS Wisconsin recently released a documentary called "Wisconsin in Black and White" which examines racial disparities in the state. Professor Kurt Paulsen was recently featured in the segment "Racial Wealth Gap" discussing redlining and housing discrimination. [Watch it here.](#)

Wisconsin in Black and White

Department & Faculty Awards

DPLA Visit to WI APA Conference:



Notes from Ph.D. Candidate Hanbing Liang

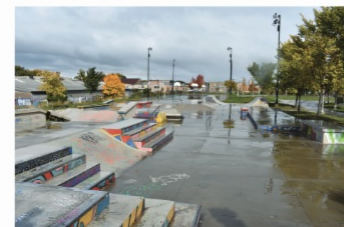
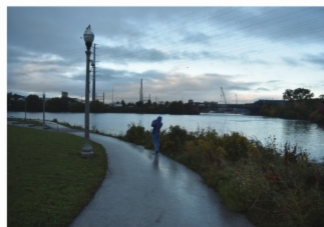
At the Wisconsin APA conference on September 21st in the City of Milwaukee, my peers, Deaken and Brian, and I were there to get the award for last year's Workshop since Associate Professor Ely-Ledesma was traveling. It's a student award for the whole class. And Brian W. also got a student award for his professional development project. And Brian Ohm was there for a retiree award.

Pictured above left to right: Hanbing Liang, Brian Wiedenfeld, Deaken Boggs.

Brian Ohm, former DPLA Faculty member and Professor, was awarded the lifetime Achievement Award on September 21st. Congratulations!



Images: From Pilsen to Little Village
Credit: Edna Ely-Ledesma



Study Area

In the fall of 2022, the planning workshop and regional design course partnered with local community stakeholders to explore the Paseo Trail Network in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago as it relates to the city's push for a connected trail network.

The core purpose of this interdisciplinary workshop is to address social justice in the design of the 21st century American city. The workshop therefore studies the impact that introducing a rails-to-trails network has on a rapidly gentrifying area. The potential transformation of the surrounding districts will forecast how bike/ped infrastructure can be a catalyst for social and economic change, the role of placemaking, and the significant impact that access to hike and bike infrastructure and community assets have in addressing mobility, health, education, housing and economic development as an extension into the wider city context. Collaboration with local stakeholders is integral to the workshop methodology to address a socially based urban design and planning strategy that is community driven.

Donate to DPLA

Please consider donating to the department using the [Donation Link](#) or by scanning the QR code below.



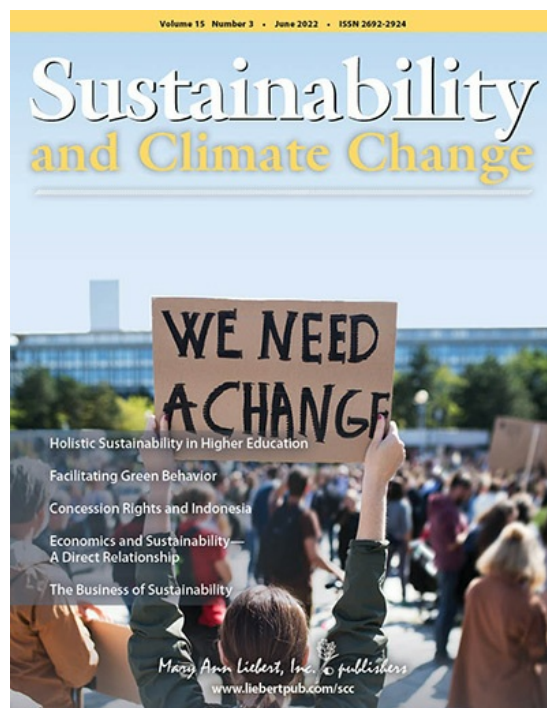
GameChanger Competition Winner

Gaylan Williams



The ASLA Climate Action Plan, published last year, seeks to transform the practice of landscape architecture by 2040 through actions taken by ASLA and its members focused on climate mitigation and adaptation, ecological restoration, biodiversity, equity, and economic development. Leading up to the national conference, ASLA asked, "Do you have an idea that will change how the field approaches climate action?" They sought submissions focused on a Climate Action Plan goal. DPLA Research Associate, Gaylan Williams, was selected as a 2023 ASLA Game Changer. He presents his research on urban forestry and landscape performance at this year's conference in Minneapolis.

Article Award - Sustainability and Climate Change



Tracy Harvey, Alfonso Morales, and Catherine H. Middlecamp. Defining Sustainability in Higher Education Institutions. *Sustainability and Climate Change*. June 2022 Vol 15, no 3. pp 182-188.
<http://doi.org/10.1089/scc.2022.0011> was selected to receive the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education 2023 Sustainability Award in the [Campus Sustainability Research Category](#).

Faculty & Instructors Page

Rooster of Current Faculty and Instructors. View attached links to the website to learn more!

David Bart

Professor

Anna Bierbrauer

Assistant Professor

Edward Boswell

Teaching Faculty

Wenwen Cheng

Assistant Professor

Edna Ely-Ledesma

Assistant Professor

Ken Genskow

Professor

Doug Hadley

Senior Lecturer

Evelyn A. Howell

Professor

Shawn T. Kelly

Distinguished Faculty Associate

James A. LaGro Jr.

Professor

Nathan Larson

Teaching Faculty

Dave Marcouiller

Professor

Carolyn (Carey)

McAndrews

Professor

Alfonso Morales

Chair and Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor

Maria Moreno

Teaching Faculty

Kurt Paulsen

Professor

Eric Schuchardt

Teaching Faculty, Chair Bachelor of Landscape Architecture Program



Pictured above left to right: Anna Bierbrauer, Wenwen Cheng, Gaylan Williams, Alfonso Morales.

Alumni Professional Updates Survey

We are looking for professional updates from Alumni. Please consider filling out the [survey link](#) or by scanning the QR code below.



DPLA Survey Updates

Please consider filling out the DPLA Planning and Landscape Architecture Alumni Council (PLAAC) Connect [Survey](#) to opt in or out of Alumni News.



Donate to DPLA

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Curriculum

Curriculum: Community Based Learning

Scaffolded Learning: Collaborating with Sasaki on the Lake Monona Waterfront Project

Notes from Anna Bierbrauer's Studio Class during Fall 2023:

For this fall semester, students in LA560 “Plants and Ecology in Design” collaborated with Sasaki on the Lake Monona Waterfront Project. Working on a studio project near campus with the expertise of a world-renowned landscape architecture firm to guide the process offered an exciting opportunity to learn how visionary landscapes are made. This collaboration was successful in numerous ways and highlighted the importance of scaffolded project-based learning to introduce new subject matter content, promote deeper investigations, and help emerging design students to articulate their ideas.

Scaffolded learning provides embedded expert guidance, explicit introduction of disciplinary thinking and strategies, and reducing students’ cognitive load to achieve targeted learning outcomes (Hmelo-Silver et al, 2007). This collaboration with Sasaki was sought out specifically because the firm’s focus on ecological design solutions aligned with the curriculum goals for this class around plants ecosystems processes and implementation, and the firm’s winning proposal provided an extensive introduction to the design problem. Student used Sasaki’s proposed Ecological Masterplan and associated Ecological Typologies (e.g., fringe wetlands, mesic prairie, floodplain forest, etc) to learn more about the plant species, hydrologic soil groups, and spatial relationships that activated two of Sasaki’s guiding principles, “Water Dialogue: Creating a Living Edge along the Waterfront” and “Nature Dialogue: Inspiring Generational Stewards.” Learning from this framework provided an expert model for students to use as they moved through the semester and began layering ecological goals, programmatic needs, personal design aesthetics, and existing site conditions.

With the ecological framework as a knowledge base and use of the guiding principles, students were able to conduct their own site inventory and vegetation assessment as active contributors; the overwhelming project site became manageable and legible. Students honed their observational skills through frequent site visits, employing qualitative and quantitative methods to visually document the site. Quantitative analysis involved cataloging on-site vegetation and establishing a rating system for the existing vegetation and overall tree canopy. For qualitative documentation, students engaged in field sketching and repeat photography (each student selected one location and then returned to twice weekly to take repeat photos of the same view for the duration of the project). Students then over laid the qualitative and quantitative data they gathered with Sasaki’s proposed Ecological Masterplan and developed an “Amended Ecological Masterplan.” Depending on individual interests, students made suggestions about how ecological typologies might move slightly to preserve existing tree canopy, how certain planting schemes might be oriented to catch low angles of light in winter or offered new ecological typologies that incorporated existing vegetation and programmatic goals. Finally, students selected one location along the waterfront to develop a site design and a Preliminary Planting Plan including a plant schedule, container sizes, and plant quantities. Their final presentations showed design sophistication and ecological understanding far beyond their 3rd-year BLA student status.

Through this collaboration, students went from doubting their knowledge to bravely presenting their suggestions to Sasaki. Their confidence grew immensely. As they repeatedly reviewed expert materials and they became more familiar with the site itself, they began to see how—even as undergraduate students—they could provide Sasaki with crucial insights about the site's ecological context, diverse user experiences, and fleeting phenomenology. The collaboration with Sasaki on the Lake Monona Waterfront Project yielded profound insights and opportunities for students and the Sasaki team alike. The accumulated knowledge and experiences garnered from this scaffolded project-based learning opportunity will undoubtedly shape future studio endeavors, contributing significantly to landscape architecture pedagogy of ecological design at UW-Madison.

Cindy E. Hmelo-Silver, Ravit Golan Duncan & Clark A. Chinn (2007) Scaffolding and Achievement in Problem-Based And Inquiry Learning: A Response To Kirschner, Sweller, and, Educational Psychologist, 42:2, 99-107, DOI: 10.1080/00461520701263368

List of Community Capstone Projects:

BLA Capstone:

- **Hannah Boer:** Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Plan, Milwaukee, WI. In collaboration with the Milwaukee County Parks.
- **Lance Erdman:** Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary Framework Plan, Green Bay, WI. In collaboration with the City of Green Bay's Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department.
- **Kyra Flynn:** Industrial Riverfront Redevelopment Plan, Green Bay, WI. In collaboration with the City of Green Bay Community and Economic Development.
- **Sam Franzblau:** Community Garden Framework Plan, Madison, WI. In collaboration with Rooted Wisconsin.
- **Elena Landsman:** Urban Watershed Redevelopment Plan, Madison WI. In collaboration with the Clean Lakes Alliance, City of Madison.
- **Neng Lor:** Open Space and Trails Framework Plan, Cottage Grove. In collaboration with the City of Cottage Grove, UniverCity Year Project.
- **Joshua Redfearn:** Open Space and Mobility Framework Plan, Marinette, WI. In collaboration with the City of Marinette, UniverCity Year Project.
- **Keegan Ripley:** County Park and Open Space Framework Plan, Saukville, WI. In collaboration with Ozaukee County Planning and Parks Department.
- **Aaron Rooney:** Urban Mixed-use Corridor Plan, Kenosha, WI. In collaboration with the City of Kenosha Department of City Development.
- **Brianna Stevens:** Community Framework, Fitchburg, WI. In collaboration with the City of Fitchburg Department of Planning.
- **Jay Sullivan:** Urban Street and Open Space Redevelopment Plan, Madison WI. In collaboration with Downtown madison Inc (DMI).
- **Jenna VanBoxtel:** Urban Street and Riverfront Redevelopment Plan, River Falls, WI. In collaboration with the City of River Falls Planning Commission.
- **Sam Waltman:** Park and Open Space Framework Plan, Port Washington, WI. In a collaboration with the City of Port Washington, WI.

LUS Capstone:

Zachary Golden: Senior in LUS. Creating Conceptual Ideas for a Central Public Space, Village of McFarland.

Tyler Franklin: Senior in LUS. Capstone Project for Landscape Architecture 611 centers on the redesign of a mid- density housing development in Fitchburg in order to meet local demand needs while balancing the desires of the existing neighborhood. The developer Tyler is collaborating with is Ayesha Liaqat.

Samantha Caches: Senior in LUS. As part of the Capstone Project, Samantha currently works with the Milton Public Library staff to design a portion of their Story Garden, an open air branch of the library that promotes literacy and life-long learning through its literature-based themes and outdoor library programs. Their job is to create a space that children of the Milton community can memorialize their pet and understand what it means to do so! Our goal is to design a welcoming outdoor space where people can celebrate their

pets, enjoy nature native to Wisconsin, and reap the mental, emotional, and physical benefits of the outdoors. The money raised will go directly towards the Milton Public Library to help complete this project!



Pictured above, Milton Public Library of Samantha Caches Capstone Project. She successfully raised money to continue the development of this project!

Field Trips

Minneapolis, MN Field Trip - URPL 912: Planning Workshop



Minneapolis, MN Planning Workshop & LA Regional Design Field Trip

Professor Edna Ely-Ledesma and URPL Students from URPL 912: Planning Workshop, visited the City of Minneapolis, MN on October 6 and 7.

During Workshop Presentations on December 11 and 12, the following Faculty, Staff, and External Colleagues reviewed student presentation and findings:

Ashley Craig, Associate Prinicepal
Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill (SOM)

Kenneth Hurst, Assistant Professor of Practice
Texas A&M University

Gaylan Williams, Post-Doctoral Fellow
DPLA, University of Wisconsin- Madison

Kurt Paulsen, Professor
DPLA, University of Wisconsin- Madison

Nathan Larson, Teaching Faculty
DPLA, University of Wisconsin- Madison

Matt Frater, Community Development Specialist
City of Madison

Maria Davila, Community Development Specialist
City of Madison

Thanks to your contribution, students, faculty, and staff were able to make this trip and support this workshop project!



**Wausau, WI Field Trip -
URPL 721: Methods of Planning Analysis**



Wausau, WI URPL and UniverCity Alliance Field Trip

Professor Carey McAndrews and URPL Students from URPL 721: Methods of Planning Analysis, visited the City of Wausau on Friday, November 3. Prior to the trip, students completed research methods and statistics to analyze a Regional Transit Plan for the City of Wausau and other neighboring municipalities in Marathon County, WI. During the site visit, students met with stakeholders and local residents to discuss the transit plan, and rode the city's Metro for perspective!

**Your donations helped to
support this project, thank you!**



Surprise Design Jury - URPL 611: Urban Design Theory & Practice



Above, students from Sean Higgins' URPL 611: Urban Design: Theory & Practice class. Working with donated block supply kits to create the Neighborhood Modeling System / N-Vision (created by Richard McLaughlin) within a 40-acre quadrant in a 160-acre neighborhood. Each of the four groups were tasked with creating the neighborhood vision and presentation in front of each other and invited faculty and staff. The goals for the charrette were to demonstrate some of the urban design concepts they have learned so far this semester.

What Are Those Students in "Urban Design" Learning Anyway?



Slower Design Learning in a Digital World

I can't claim ownership over many original ideas, nor in this case even an original turn of phrase. But I'm a firm believer that "slow learning" has its place in contemporary design education. Allow me to back up a bit and explain. I'm a practicing planner with diverse training in architectural history, urban planning, architecture, and just a dash of landscape architecture. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to teach "Urban Design: Theory and Practice" (URPL 611) during the Fall 2023 term to a great group of 24 students. The experience forced me to recall, reevaluate, and adapt much of what and how I was taught in design school. Three practices in particular served me well.

Measuring without Measurement Aids

Thanks to orthophotography, street view, and for many cities even digital simulacra we can visit and revisit places we design and plan for. We don't necessarily need to physically visit a space to understand things about how it functions. So why were the first exercises I passed along from my education about how to measure without digital aids? Why bother with knowing how to count your paces, eyeball distances using your outstretched arm and a pencil, or intuiting the size of things based on your wingspan? The value isn't necessarily in knowing how to do these things. After all, we have specialized technology, and it works quickly and reliably. Why not employ it? It will always be more accurate than our guesses and have higher fidelity than our memories. Why put students through an exercise in ancient design history?

In-person visits and manual measurements aren't just for when street view isn't available or you forget your phone. They are not about creating a reverence for the past or an appreciation for how good we have it here in the present. (Though they certainly can do those things.) The true value in these exercises is slowing down and observing. We don't *digitally* inhabit the spaces and places we design and plan. We inhabit them *physically*. It's one thing to know the dimensions of a plaza. It's something entirely different to internalize and feel those dimensions. Too often those numbers are abstract concepts to a novice designer or planner. Being there, seeing the distance, and feeling the time it takes to cross that plaza on foot gives meaning to its measurements. Besides, there is no technological replacement (just yet) for the haptic.

Keeping a Sketchbook

The second practice was drawing, diagramming, and annotating in a sketchbook all semester long. Here again, we could have done these activities digitally...or not at all. This was a lecture format course and not a design studio, after all. The reason that this activity was so important was because learning about urban design is at its best when urban design is experienced. Keeping the sketchbooks was an exercise in actively observing and not just seeing.

For many of the students, sketching was completely foreign. The thought of being evaluated based on their sketches? Forget about it. But the importance of this exercise and the success of it as a learning objective—as I told my students—isn't the accuracy or artistic expressiveness of their drawings. It's about slowing down and observing spaces critically. Provided a student could document what they were observing in a way that allowed them to recall that information later on, their sketchbook was a success. Working with them to ensure that their sketches adequately conveyed that same information to another party was our stretch goal.

I was amazed by what my 24 students were able to produce. Most of them had no leisure let alone formal experience with drawing. And yet, many of their sketchbooks at the end of the semester looked like what I was familiar with from my own design education. I'm not foolish enough to believe that my teaching or artistic ability was what got my students there. I believe it was the simple act of repeating a process with the knowledge that it was a means to an end rather than the end itself. They trusted the process; I provided copious encouragement and a few pointers along the way.



Manipulating Physical Models

The final practice that we used in the classroom was physical modeling. This past year, DPLA was fortunate to be the recipient of hundreds of scale model buildings made from different hardwoods, lovingly sanded by hand in a basement in the Twin Cities. These “blocks” are a part of a system of 3D and 2D wood and paper components used to model walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods called the Neighborhood Modelling System (NMS) or “model blocks.” The system was originally conceived as a way to make public design charrettes and the principles behind Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) more approachable to the layperson. So why physical models specifically? Come on, who doesn’t enjoy playing with blocks! I’ve been a part of quite a few workshops using the NMS. There is something every one of them had in common. Participants approach the table where the wooden buildings are staged for the charrette, they pick a house up, turn it over in their hands, and smile. Using physical models seems to break down invisible barriers that people unfamiliar with design erect around precision tools like drafting pencils or pens and CAD. You haven’t seen true terror until you’ve asked a citizen in a public meeting to sketch their idea on a sheet of paper. Ask them to move little blocks around and it’s an entirely different story.

The last third of our semester was spent working with the model blocks during class periods to simulate various designs. Students worked in four groups on a generic site with the goal of creating a neighborhood that embodied walkability, mixture of uses, and human-scaled environments. Each group was assigned 40 acres of space. Joined together, all four plots represented a walkable sized neighborhood. We modeled a 2-mile transportation corridor where we attempted to understand what scale of buildings, roads, etc. were required to support a walkable and bikeable “last mile” and a transit system. On the final day of class, students worked in competing teams to propose a redevelopment plan for a 2-acre site in the downtown of small Wisconsin city.

In Defense of the Analog

I will be the first to admit that the seduction of the digital is hard to resist. To say it has transformed our fields would be an understatement. I recall my teachers in design school—people who had worked most of their professional lives with manual technology—pushing us as new students into digital design very early in our education. Reflecting on my semester with the URPL 611 students, I see the value of starting simpler and moving slower. Digital design is ubiquitous. It is fast and it is powerful. But it can also be a distraction that inhibits critical observation and overwhelms novices with minutiae. Yes, physical modeling, hand drawing, and intuiting dimensions have their drawbacks. None of these practices can or are intended to replace digital tools in the designer and planner’s toolkit. But in the context of introductory design education, and in settings where students come from and will return to a wide variety of allied programs, there’s a strong case to be made for analog in the classroom. Ask my students, they’ll tell you.

Alumni Connections



A Message from PLAAC

We have constituted the Planning and Landscape Alumnae Advisory Council! The message bears repeating because we support DPLA, now five years old. You can see [the PLAAC membership and bylaws here.](#)

We have two missions, first, we work together to increase the visibility of DPLA, especially in recruiting new students to the five DPLA degree programs (BLA, MS-URPL, PhD-URPL, MS-LA, and LUS – Landscape and Urban Studies, BS or BA). Second, we advise and support DPLA by listening to reports from the Chair, making suggestions based on what we learn, and raising funds to support internships, scholarships, and department activities.

Message from Dan Rolfs, Class of 2001:

As we head into the new school year, the Planning and Landscape Architecture Alumni Council wants to give a huge thanks to Dan Rolfs (Class of 2001) outgoing chair, for his leadership over the last five plus years. Dan has been pivotal in helping create the original URPL Alumni Relations Council (ARC), connecting the previously separate groups of Planning and Landscape Architecture alumni into one entity (the PLAAC) following the merge of the two Departments, and enhancing the connection between department staff, faculty, students and program alumni. Now he is going to ride off into the sunset as a proud Badger and a dedicated hockey dad.

Interested In What Alumni Are Up To? See What A Few Have to Share!



Daniel Besinaiz (MS URPL December 2019) recently left his job with the Bossier City-Parish Metropolitan Planning Commission where he was nominated for Northwest Louisiana 40 Under Forty and Mayor Tommy Chandler declared March 21, 2022 as "Daniel Besinaiz Day." He now works as the Senior Planner for the City of Colorado Springs Long Range Planning Division. In October 2023, he was elected as the APA Latinos and Planning Division Chair for the 2024-2026 term.

Lucy Thompson (MS URPL 81) was appointed to the Minneapolis Arts Commission by Mayor Jacob Frey in 2021, serving as Chair since 2022. The Minneapolis Arts Commission (MAC)

Alumni Update

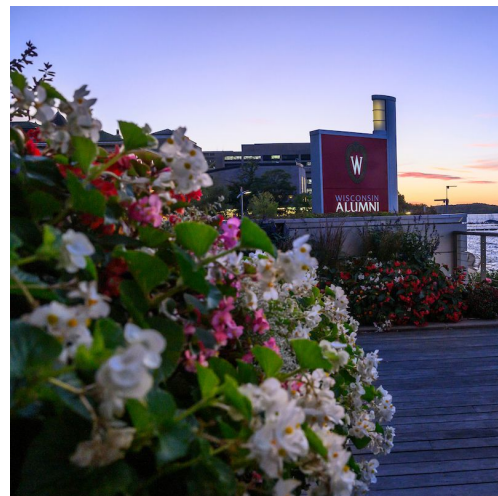
advises the Mayor and City Council on all matters of arts and culture in the city, including approving public artworks, recommending policy changes to strengthen the role of the arts in Minneapolis, advocating for and supporting the new City of Minneapolis Department of Arts and Cultural Affairs, seeking financial support for the arts and artists, and using art to celebrate the diversity of Minneapolis' residents and neighborhoods.

Hannah Brickner (MS URPL 2023)

I am a mere four months into working as an Associate County Planner in the mid-Willamette Valley here in Oregon. When I first started, it was a little bit disheartening working at the local level within the top-down regulatory land use approach in Oregon. A majority of my job involves interpreting state land use law, and sometimes I have to give people bad news. However, it is just the place for somebody like me who questions everything. It has challenged me to ask questions like "why is land use law important?" and "what would the alternative be like, if we didn't have any land use laws?" and "how can we balance environmental protection and peoples' livelihoods?" and of course "what is it that people need to live better lives?". Thankfully, I have supervisors and coworkers who welcome my questioning and are wonderful at giving me perspectives I would have never otherwise considered. The lattermost question in the aforementioned list of questions has also inspired me to search for ways I can help people in my free time, such as in areas of restorative justice/mediation and serving the needs of unhoused people. I hope to start some volunteering in these areas soon. Perhaps something I already take for granted as a new resident of Oregon, the work I do as a planner is especially tangible as I hike forested mountain sides, drive by sprawling fields of hazelnuts and vineyard, swim in crystal clear rivers, and walk the public beaches on the coast. My advice to other planners beginning their professional journey is to ask hard questions and look deeper for the lessons each experience has to teach you, even if your first (or second... or third...) job isn't everything that you dreamed of.

Kevin White (MS URPL 2009)

I am a Parking and Mobility Consultant with Walker Consultants in Minneapolis/St. Paul. Walker is a national firm. I help clients with a variety of parking, mobility, and curb management planning, operations, and technology projects. A primary objective of our practice is to help clients right-size their parking assets and use them efficiently. We use data analytics and public engagement to help out our work.





Alumni Update

Lily Mank (BSLA 2015)

After completing my MSLA in 2018, I worked as a designer for 3 different design firms, earned my professional license in 2021 and returned to school later that year to earn a PhD in Environmental Science with a minor in public health from The Ohio State University.

Tiara Wuethrich (BLA 2022)

I've been working as a landscape designer at Ayres Associates in Eau Claire since July 2022. We mostly design parks and playgrounds for various municipalities in Wisconsin. Notable projects my coworkers and I have gotten to work on include Echo Lake Park in Burlington, WI, Wick and Emigh Playfields in Milwaukee, WI, the Leinie Lodge beer garden and pilot brewery in Chippewa Falls, WI, and the County Materials Complex in Eau Claire, WI. I've enjoyed learning more about landscape architecture since graduating such as construction documents, playground design, and signage design. I've had a blast so far in my professional career.

Genevieve Kohn (MS URPL 2021)

I have been working as a city planner for the City of Kansas City, MO for just over two years now and completed my AICP in June. I have gotten to work on a variety of projects for proposed development around the entire city. I will be presenting my work on the recently adopted tree preservation and protection ordinance, Kansas City, MO's first tree protection ordinance, at the upcoming APA Bi-State Planning Conference for KS/MO.



Hogan Edelberg (BSLA 2009)

I currently work with the Manhattan Coastal Resilience, which focuses on studio management, client representative, CA on public agency projects, concept to cd, and interdisciplinary teams.



Ruben Anthony, (MS URPL), is CEO of the Urban League and has played a major role in the new Black business hub, at the corner of South Park and Hughes Pl.

After four years of fundraising and nearly two years of construction, the four-story, 81,000-square-foot, \$25.5-million Black Business Hub stands just yards from where the Urban League CEO made the announcement. Located at the corner of South Park Street and Hughes Place, it's an emblem of the transformation underway on Madison's south side.

The Hub is the brainchild of Anthony, Urban League executive vice president Edward Lee and former president of Forward Community Investments, Salli Martyniak. They envisioned a massive incubator for minority-owned businesses, a one-stop shop for everything Madisionians of color would need to start and grow businesses. It was inspired by Milwaukee's Sherman Phoenix project, which transformed a building burned in the 2016 Sherman Park riots into a home for Black entrepreneurs.

For more information, [please check out the featured article here](#).

The Hub, pictured below, is a new building dedicated to helping entrepreneurs of color, is in the final phase of construction at 2352 S. Park St. in Madison on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023.



Alumni Help For Curriculum!

MS URPL Alumni: Are you willing to spend an hour talking with a current MS URPL student about planning? Each fall, first-year students conduct interviews with MS URPL alumni to broaden their understanding of the profession. If you are interested or are interested in learning more, please send a message to info@dpla.wisc.edu. Thank you!

BADGER BRIDGE

Badger Bridge, created by the Wisconsin Alumni Association, is a networking website for alumni with tools to help you to reconnect with fellow classmates and employ or mentor graduating students. Leverage your professional network by joining Badger Bridge at badgerbridge.com

ALUMNI NOTES

Share your story! Submit a professional or personal update online at any time at uwalumni.com/news-stories/alumni-notes. Or, just email them to us at

VISIT US

Please let us know if you would like to visit! We can arrange a visit to Music Hall, Environmental and Safety Building, or even our new DPLA Space in H.C. White! We can also arrange conversations with students, a campus tour, or another interaction that suits your interest. The department and our students always enjoy connecting with alumni. If you're interested, contact any of us directly, or send a message to info@dpla.wisc.edu.

Donate to DPLA

Please consider filling out the [donation link](#) or by scanning the QR code below.



Innovations in Curriculum



Certificate in Integrated Design of the Built and Natural Environment

Beginning Fall 2023, the Department of Planning & Landscape Architecture launched a new Undergraduate Certificate in Integrative Design of Built and Natural Environments. This certificate is focused around an exciting trans-disciplinary design approach that relies on design processes and thinking and integrates spatial data technologies to effectively and efficiently inventory, represent, analyze, evaluate, and communicate planning and design alternatives for landscapes, cities, and regions.

Proactively co-designing and co-producing healthy places comprehends, plans, and acts on social and environmental information and, therefore, a diverse suite of elective courses addresses social and environmental considerations through stakeholder engagement, environmental justice, policy, conservation, and management.

Required courses will apply spatial technologies (GIS, Geodesign) to enable collaborations among the design professions (landscape architects, planners, engineers, and scientists and humanists from various disciplines), and community members. This collaborative process will help prepare you to work

in interdisciplinary teams and to appreciate diverse perspectives and values while addressing complex problems.

4 Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the frameworks and processes involved in integrative design of built and natural environments
2. Understand and demonstrate how to use techniques and research from biological, physical sciences, and social sciences in design, planning, and management contexts to create frameworks and designs
3. Select and evaluate geospatial technologies appropriate for a variety of design, planning, and management contexts
4. Understand and evaluate the role of stakeholder values and ethics in design frameworks relative to design, planning, and management of the built environment within social and natural systems

Department Programming



DPLA Welcome Orientation and Picnic

The Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture held its annual Fall 2023 Student Welcome on September 5th. The department welcomed new & returning students, introduced them to each other & faculty and staff, learned about the department, its policies, resources, and everything else students need in order to feel welcome & supported. Refreshments and catering order from a local business, La Mestiza restaurant, was provided at the Allen Centennial Garden. Events of this nature contribute to the positive, supportive & student-centered environment that DPLA strives to maintain; the students will encourage other students to join the program. We look forward to creating more events as the year progresses.

**Thanks to you, the donations helped to support this project
and to kick off the new academic year with a strong start!**

Donate to DPLA

Please consider filling out the [donation link](#) or by scanning the QR code below.

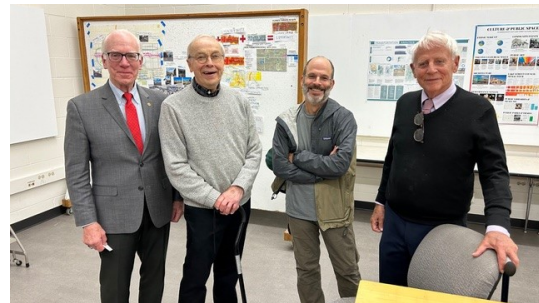


Parking Day



WI - ASLA students joined in on the global event on September 15, Parking Day, where people across the world temporarily repurpose curbside parking into parks. Above, students gathered on Langdon St near Library Mall.

Tishler Event



The Tishler Event is part of an Alumni series event the department host semi-annually (The Born Lecture will be this upcoming February) This year, Susan K. Weiler, partner at OLIN in Philadelphia, PA, returned back to Madison, WI as the event's the guest speaker. Susan holds a Bachelors of Science and Landscape Architecture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1979, and a Masters of Landscape Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania, 1983. She is a longstanding faculty member at Penn.

This year's event was held on October, 12, 2023, entitled, "**The World Is A Glorious Bounty.**"

Wisconsin has engendered an abundance of pioneers in the understanding, design, and protection of our natural and cultural environment. Are we doing enough to honor and enhance this legacy? Our part in this irrevocable history and collective ethos will be explored through a modest inquiry into what we learn, how we learn it, and how we practice landscape architecture ahead of the global challenges we face.

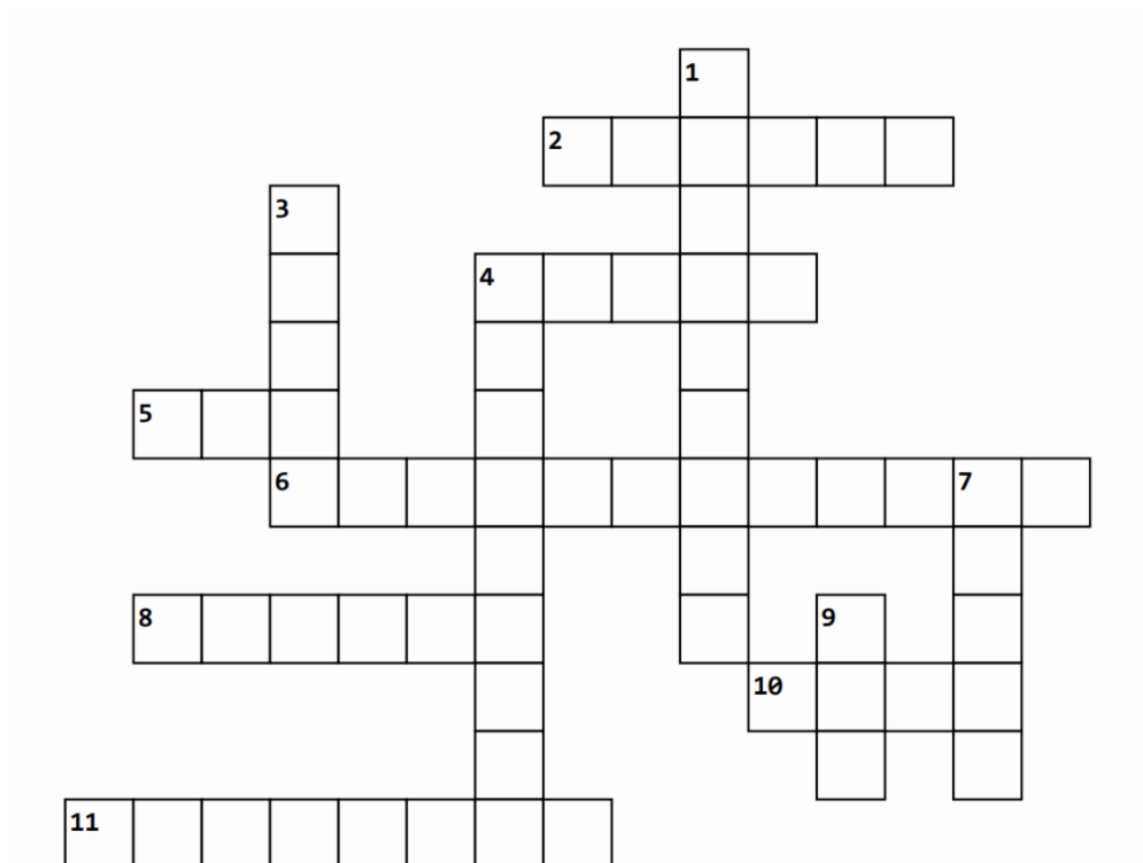
Thank you for your donations! Your donations support the advancement of the Tishler Event Series each and every year!

Slow Food Event



Notes from Kaufman lab student, Josie Reeve: "Members of the Farm to Facts team partnered with Slow Food UW on November 20th for family dinner night, which consisted of a variety of homemade foods, including Swedish meatballs, turnip a gratin and carrot cake. This delicious night of food and conversation marked the second year of collaboration, an exciting partnership between two campus organizations working to create more equitable food access."

Crossword Puzzle



Across

2. Last name of Tishler Landscape Architect Alumni Guest Speaker this year.

4. Last name of the newly elected UW Provost.

Down

1. One of three department principles.

3. The department's current alumni advisory body.

5. The largest planning membership organization in the nation.
6. One of three department principles.
8. A geographic mapping system that allows you to create and work with spatial data on your desktop.
10. The number of years since the URPL and LA programs came together.
11. Land that the university occupies.

4. One of three department principles.
7. The number of student organizations in the department.
9. A governmental finance tool used primarily by local governments to provide funds to construct public infrastructure, promote development opportunities and expand the future tax base.

1. DIVERSITY 2. WELL-BEING 3. PLACEMAKING 4. INCLUSION 5. AFFORDABILITY 6. COLLEGIATILITY 7. THREE 8. ARCS 9. TIF 10. FIVE 11. HO-CHUNK

Looking Ahead



2024 Upcoming Items

Strategic Planning

The department is initiating its five year strategic planning process, feel free to inquire at info@dpla.wisc.edu.

In late February 2024, during the Career Fair, we will host the Born Lecture! Details to come...

Born Lecture

Career Fair

The Annual Career Fair dates are set for February 15 and 16 for Spring 2024. We look forward to welcoming 30 or more firms and students from all programs in DPLA

The department is preparing for the out-of-state trip to The National APA Conference in Minneapolis, MN that will occur from April 13 to April 16.

NPC24 promises a selection of cutting-edge sessions, mobile workshops, and discussions led by industry experts. From the latest in sustainable planning to innovative housing solutions, you'll gain invaluable insights to enhance your skill set and impact on your community.

We are looking forward to experience firsthand unique opportunities that Minneapolis offers:

- Proactive housing and zoning policies put into practice
- How the Twin Cities work together to build strong

Trip to the National American Planning Association

community

- Walk the world's largest Skyway System that connects Minneapolis

Support DPLA

Please consider supporting our Department.

[The donation link can be found here.](#)

The 2024 Landscape Architecture Mentorship Program Registration Now Open!

The WI ASLA Mentoring Program is intended to inspire and empower UW-Madison Landscape Architecture students through personalized mentoring to support their growth.

The program consists of meetings and events throughout the spring semester of 2024. This inaugural phase will serve as a trial for the mentorship program, laying the groundwork for a full school-year program starting in the fall of 2024.

To accommodate varying levels of interest, mentors and mentees may be grouped into smaller, diverse cohorts comprising of students from different stages within the program, fostering increased participation and engagement.

Goals

- Enhance students' professional development.
- Assist students in establishing personal and professional goals.
- Build deeper relationships between Student ASLA and WI-ASLA.
- Build deeper relationships between students at different stages within the program.

WI ASLA Mentorship



For more information, view the **[official document here.](#)**

If you are interested in becoming a Mentor, complete the application below by January 12, 2024. **[Application Link](#)**

Come Visit Us

Thank you for keeping up with the updates and adjusting to the new format! We look forward to the creativity as we expand and grow our department. In a short time, we've seen unique growth that has involved you all in combination with the staff, faculty, and students. Keep an eye out for our Summer Newsletter next!



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