

UCDAVIS

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE + ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN

Newsletter

March 26, 2015

Greetings Friends and Colleagues!

Welcome back to the UC Davis Landscape Architecture and Environmental Design (LA+ED) quarterly newsletter, where we share our latest news, announcements, and resources. Please share in our enthusiasm, excitement, and pride as we recount the events of Winter Quarter.

New Faculty Spotlight: Sheryl-Ann Simpson

"The second graders are coming" a student announces as a group of kids come bounding into the garden area at Margerite Montgomery Elementary (MME) in South Davis. MME is just one of the four communities where students in our new LDA141 course (Community Design and Planning) worked this winter quarter.

This course brings together students from Landscape Architecture and our new Sustainable Environmental Design Major to learn skills for sharing and presenting their design work, incorporating existing uses and community dreams into their designs, and thinking about equity issues in landscape architecture and environmental design.

Throughout the quarter students helped to build a hoop house greenhouses in the Oak Park neighborhood of Sacramento, and new garden benches at MME. They also helped facilitate community design forums at Student Family Housing on campus, collected mental maps from students and staff as part of the new on-campus land use planning process, and collected over 100 visual preference and program surveys on campus, at MME and in Oak Park.

This quarter was just the start. Students in following years of the course will be able to continue the work students started this year, students in the Fall design-build studio taught by David de la Peña will work at the site in Oak Park. And students from this year are eager to stay involved, making these communities the focus of their senior projects, or just continuing to volunteer.

LDA141 is taught by our newest faculty member, Sheryl-Ann Simpson, who comes to LA+ED with expertise in community engagement as well as GIS for urban analysis.



Faculty member Sheryl-Ann Simpson



LDA Senior Nathan Oakley Nominated for Olmsted Award

LA+ED has nominated Nathan Oakley for the prestigious Olmsted Scholars Program. The [Olmsted Scholars Program](#) is the premier national award program for landscape architecture students. Nathan now has the chance to compete for a \$15,000 award given to the student that best demonstrates leadership potential in the field of landscape architecture. We proudly congratulate Nathan and wish him luck as his program

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Our Mission



As the only accredited undergraduate Landscape Architecture program in the University of California system, we strive to prepare students to be future leaders in the profession. Our design philosophy, present throughout our coursework, is to increase the quality of life through the development and preservation of landscape design and planning processes that are meaningful, relevant and sustainable.

To find out more, click [here](#).

Links

[More About Us](#)

Faculty Promotions: Steve Greco and Steve Wheeler

LA+ED is pleased to announce that two of our faculty members, Steve Greco and Steve Wheeler, have been promoted to full professor.

Steve Greco is an alumnus of the UC Davis Landscape Architecture program and has been a faculty member since 2000.

Steve Greco has taught courses on ecology, GIS, and greenway design. He also heads the Landscape Analysis and Systems Research (LASR) Laboratory.

Steve Wheeler is an alumnus of UC Berkeley, where he received his PhD in City and Regional Development. Steve Wheeler has been a faculty member since 2007, teaching courses on community and regional planning, urban design, and sustainable development.

We are grateful for the professors' dedication to our program. We congratulate them on this milestone and look forward to many more years of inspired research and student mentorship.



Steve Greco (left) and Steve Wheeler (right)

LDA 198 Takes On EPA Stormwater Challenge

Practicing urban designer Kevin Perry is leading our 2014-2015 directed group study course, LDA 198, as they prepare an entry for the USEPA's Office of Water 3rd Annual [Campus RainWorks Challenge](#). The object of the challenge is for students to design an innovative green infrastructure project for their campus.

Kevin has been working in sustainable stormwater design for over 10 years. "My emphasis is to create and often re-create landscape systems that balance the needs of urban form and natural systems. I believe that universities and other educational institutions are a perfect canvas to help test and showcase these new ideas with green infrastructure."

The design team's submission "Rain or Shine" aims to reduce landscape irrigation use and to provide rain gardens along campus corridors. You may read the original design brief [here](#). The LDA 198 class now anxiously awaits the contest results, which will be announced in April.

If you would like to give feedback and ideas to our RainWorks team, you may fill out [this questionnaire](#) or email ucdrainworkschallenge@gmail.com.

Steve Wheeler Receives CalCAN Award

On March 25th, LA+ED faculty member Steve Wheeler was awarded the Climate and Agriculture Leadership award from the California Climate and Agriculture Network ([CalCAN](#)). Steve won for his research on the climate change adaptations and mitigation benefits of agricultural land preservation in Yolo County. This award took place as part of the 4th [California Climate and Agriculture Summit](#). Steve stands alongside Craig McNamara and Senator Lois Wolk, who also won awards for leadership. We congratulate Steve and thank him for his wonderful contribution to sustainable agriculture and climate change science.

Curriculum changes! New Senior Studio introduced

LA+ED has adopted a new curriculum framework for our seniors graduating in Landscape Architecture. In years past, all Landscape Architecture seniors prepared a comprehensive final project under the guidance of faculty and professional advisers. However, this structure has put increasing strain on faculty and students alike. To ease strain and maintain a high level of educational quality, LA+ED is introducing a new studio course that seniors can take in place of doing a senior project.

The new course will focus on a single site and ask students to solve problems through applied design. Select students who are passionate about landscape architecture research will still be given the opportunity to complete a senior project if they so choose. 2015 remains a transitional year as it's the first time these curriculum changes will be implemented. Nonetheless we anticipate another year of outstanding work from our seniors.

If you would like to work with our seniors on an upcoming project, please email abvera@ucdavis.edu for more details. To view past senior projects, you may click [here](#).

Upcoming Events

[UC Davis Picnic Day- April 18th](#)

[ASLA Professionals Dinner- April 30th](#)
[2015 Commencement Ceremony- June 14th](#)

Contact us

For questions and comments, please email abvera@ucdavis.edu or call (530) 752-3907