

Robert Marvin
Howell Beach
& ASSOCIATES, INC.

27 February 2006

Ms. Susan Jacobson
Chair, Honors and Awards Advisory Committee
c/o Carolyn Mitchell
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal
Chapter Letter of Support for Don C. Collins

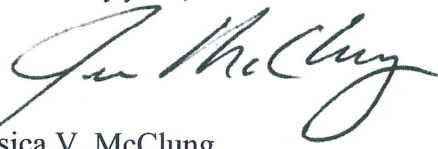
Dear Susan,

It is with great pride and pleasure that the Executive Committee supports the nomination of Donald C. Collins for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal. Over the past thirty-five years, few have done more to advance the cause of landscape architecture, from licensure and registration, to education and awareness, than Professor Collins. From his award winning teaching techniques to years of service on South Carolina's first Landscape Architecture Registration Board, Professor Collins has been a leader and mentor to hundreds of landscape architecture and architecture graduates. His cross-disciplinary vision has touched and guided thousands of professionals by teaching how to design rather than what to design. Don's respect for individualism, yet responsibility, is unsurpassed and it shows in the diversity and quality demonstrated in the professional work of his graduates. His relentless pursuit of the best landscape architecture education in the nation finds him in continuous contact with alumni and SCASLA's Executive Committee to improve the very program he established. As head of Clemson's landscape architecture program, he sought educators from theoretical to historical to practical. Don provided balance to nurture diversity; his vision for the Landscape Architecture program has been and continues to be well conceived and implemented.

Professor Collins has always been there for his students on a higher level, always going beyond the call of duty, a duty he has mastered. He is truly a scholar and mentor, not just in academia but in life as well. My own experience is a great example. I returned to college at age 25 as a single mother. My return as a full time student was a frightening and stressful experience. Don helped ease my fear and encouraged me throughout that first semester and I excelled in the program. As a nontraditional student, Don jokingly referred to me as his "problem child". Little did he know the truth of that statement. During my five years as a student I experienced many personal setbacks. Don not only cared about my performance in school but also about me personally. He helped me through surgeries (my daughter's and my own), my sister's disappearance, and my struggle to support my child. At the lowest point in my life, when I was tired, sick, and depressed, Don personally ensured I was registered for classes and could complete my final semester at Clemson. Without Don's total support, not only as a professor but as a mentor and friend, I could not have made the accomplishments I have made. I cannot express the depth of my respect for and gratitude to Professor Collins.

Professor Collins has never sought accolades or awards for his work but rather concentrated on his goals of educating his students, being a role model inside and outside the classroom, and advancing the profession of landscape architecture. Though Professor Collins has retired, Clemson University's landscape architecture program will forever bear his mark, as will his former students. We, the Executive Committee, were pleasantly surprised to see Don on our yearly trip to Clemson University for the student awards jury this month. Without pause we again looked to him to guide the process and lend us his insight and opinions of the students we were reviewing. Therefore, we can think of no one more deserving of the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal than Donald C. Collins.

Most sincerely yours,



Jessica V. McClung
President, SCASLA



SEAMON, WHITESIDE
& ASSOCIATES, INC

February 27, 2006

ASLA Honors and Awards Advisory Committee
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Committee Members,

It is both an honor and a great privilege to write this letter of support for the nomination of Donald C. Collins, FASLA for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal. When the ASLA Board of Trustees created this medal in 2000 it was intended to celebrate the outstanding life and career of Jot Carpenter, FASLA by recognizing individuals who have made a sustained and significant contribution to landscape architectural education.

Don Collins not only taught for many years at Clemson University but also helped form the new landscape architecture program and as the program's Director, wisely guided it through its formative years, helping create a strong and viable program that produces skilled and talented graduates. Seamon, Whiteside & Associates, Inc has hired several of Don's former students and has found them to be critical thinkers, talented designers, and valuable assets to the firm.

When he was a professor, Don visited our office several times with groups of students. Don always felt that exposing his students to the profession was a very valuable part of their education. Don maintained a very strong relationship with alumni and frequently sent out emails making them aware of various opportunities of which he had become aware.

When our firm was involved in creating Clemson's most recent Campus Master Plan, Don not only participated in the process but also brought students to the meetings and encouraged them to participate as well. I have also sat through several juries where Don was present and I have always been impressed with not only his honesty and clarity with students but with the gentle nature with which he offered criticism. He nurtured the students without crushing their spirit.

Even though I did not attend Clemson University I consider Don Collins to be both a friend and a mentor. His example as a committed and enthusiastic landscape architect has inspired scores of young landscape architects practicing across the country. Don retired from Clemson in 2005 and has taken Emeritus status but remains very involved in the profession. Don received the Award of Distinction from CELA in 2003 and it is very fitting that he also be recognized by ASLA for this 35 year career of exemplary service to the profession of landscape architecture.

Sincerely,

William T. Eubanks, ASLA
Director of Urban Design
ASLA Vice President, Membership

Landscape Architecture March 1, 2006

Master Planning

Environmental Design

ASLA Honors and Awards Committee

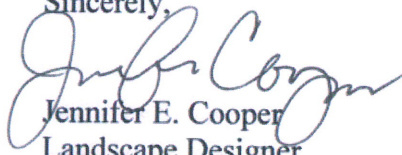
Dear Sir or Madam:

Although Don Collins was never actually my professor at Clemson University, he was my first impression of the school. My mother and I came to Clemson in my senior year of high school to find out more about the program. The department heads at other schools had been unresponsive and not overly hospitable, but Professor Collins made us feel welcome right away. He spent a lot of time showing us around the studios and answering all of our questions. His personal attention was really one of the main reasons I decided to attend Clemson.

It is that sort of caring and personal attention that made him such a beloved member of the Clemson faculty. Often, as a juror at our crits he pointed out the practical details that are critical to good design. Being out in the easily disenchanted working world, I am even more impressed with Professor Collins' boundless optimism that exemplifies his years of teaching. Even now that I am an alumni, Professor Collins still keeps in touch and visits whenever he is in New York.

In conclusion, I strongly feel that Don Collins deserves the Jot Carpenter Medal for his years of dedication to his students and our profession.

Sincerely,


Jennifer E. Cooper
Landscape Designer
NY ASLA President Elect

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

2 March 2006

Carolyn Mitchell
Jot D. Carpenter Medal Nominations
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear Carolyn,

This letter is in support of Professor Don Collin's nomination for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal. In 2003 Don was selected as a Fellow of the American Society of American Landscape Architects and was given the Award of Distinction by the Council of Educators in Landscape Architects. Both of those awards were in recognition of his more than thirty-years of excellence in teaching at Clemson University. Even though Don is now officially retired, he maintains a very active engagement with the program.

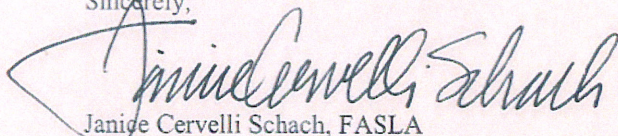
Don taught landscape architectural design in the architecture program before starting a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture program in 1987. Since that time the program has grown from a handful of students to over 140. In addition, we have added a new Master of Landscape Architecture and a Ph.D. in Environmental Design and Planning. Graduates of the B.L.A. have been placed in top firms around the nation including Laurie Olin and Associates and Design Workshop. Two recent presidents of the South Carolina ASLA are program alumni.

Current students and past graduates give the same consistent message about Don's teaching—he is enthusiastic and innovative but also challenging. He expects students to perform at high levels and they seldom disappoint him. In part that is because he spent so much time advising and counseling them. His direct engagement with students began very early. He spent countless hours with every prospective student who visited the Clemson campus. So many of those students ended up coming to Clemson because of Don's obvious passion for the profession of landscape architecture. Don developed a novel approach to teaching the first studio in landscape architectural design. His method of abstracting images and ultimately creating scaled spaces has been recognized for its uniqueness by the AIA.

Don's contributions to student life did not end with his classroom obligations. He worked with students as faculty representative to the student ASLA chapter. In that capacity, he encouraged many of our students to attend state, tri-state, and national ASLA meetings. The size of the student chapter tripled under Don's watch.

I hope you will give Don every consideration. His influence on the landscape architecture program that he founded at Clemson is deep and profound.

Sincerely,



Janice Cervelli Schach, FASLA
Dean, College of Architecture, Arts, and Humanities
Director, Clemson University Restoration Institute



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3 March 2006

ASLA Honors and Awards Committee
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Committee Members:

320
KING STREET
SUITE 202
ALEXANDRIA
VIRGINIA
22314
(703) 683-7447
FAX 683-7449

I am writing to recommend recently-retired Professor Don Collins, FASLA, as a worthy candidate for the 2005 Jot D. Carpenter teaching medal. As a student of Professor Collins in the early 1990s, I was resistant to the concept of "application" when it came to design concepts. While appreciative of creative ideas and novel approaches, he would always ask the question, "How do you build it?" He even went so far as to take us on a tour of badly constructed projects, in an attempt to illustrate why the connection between what you draw on the page and what the contractor interprets when constructing your ideas is so important.

Professor Collins worked tirelessly to make the realities of design a part of our consciousness, a fact that is greatly appreciated by those hiring Clemson graduates. As President of the Potomac Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects I often hear praise for my fellow Clemson graduates, their skills and abilities. Professor Collins' common-sense perspective helped shape our views of and approach to the world of design, so that our future clients (and employers) would appreciate our designs as much as we did.

His door was always open and he remains interested in what his former students are adding to the study and profession of landscape architecture. In addition, he has opened many doors for current and former students by establishing a web-based network of Clemson landscape architectural alumni around the country, which has helped many of us find interesting opportunities to pursue within the profession, as well as helping us maintain contact with our peers. And, more importantly, Professor Collins has given us the means to assist the next generation of Clemson graduates, as they make their way into the landscape architectural workforce.

I hope you will consider Don Collins for this honor. His contributions to education have played and will continue to play an important part in the success of many careers.

Sincerely,



Heather Hammatt, ASLA, LEED, SMPS
Marketing Manager