



14 February 2008

Members of the Selection Committee
ASLA Jot Carpenter Teaching Medal
American Society of Landscape Architects
Washington, D. C.

College of Architecture,
Planning, and Design
Office of the Dean
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Manhattan, KS 66506-2902
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www.arch.ksu.edu

Dear Colleagues:

I am honored to write a letter of support for Professor Dennis J. Day, FASLA, as a viable candidate for the ASLA Jot Carpenter Teaching Medal. Jot Carpenter was a long-time friend of mine and I know that Dennis Day is the type of a professor that Jot would have been honored to eventually bear his prestigious name through this award. Likewise, Dennis Day is a Jot Carpenter type of a teacher, committed to both the profession and to the students.

Since its inception in 1979, Kansas State University has been among the perennial winners in ASLA student design competition awards. Dennis Day, years ago, basically developed a construction sequence that each student goes through in their K-State academic experience that adds greatly to the design results. Those students awards, while exhibiting excellent design skills, have all been within the context of sound construction knowledge and skills and the jury readily recognizes this when selecting the awards.

In my position as Dean of the College I annually meet with hundreds of alumni and practitioners around the nation. Those alumni report to me that the construction series at K-State was rigorous but highly effective as they eventually discovered when they entered the professional arena. Professor Dennis Day, out of 75 tenured and tenure-track faculty within the College of Architecture, Planning and Design, is by far, the single most asked about faculty member by former students including all the disciplines with the College. I can say with some authority, that he is probably the most admired and respected among those 75 faculty. His former students report to me that, after graduation, they were equipped with skills that were higher than work colleagues who graduated from other programs, sometimes whom had been out of the academy for three or four years. This was particularly true when it came to landscape architecture construction.

Non-alumni practitioners tell me continually, that the graduates of Kansas State University have the best work ethic and construction skills of anyone from other well-known programs. We have a substantial number of graduates in offices from coast to coast and border to border, but obviously with heavy numbers in the Midwest. Those graduates are assuming roles of leadership in many of the prominent offices throughout the country and they bring with them the conviction that construction is at the heart of

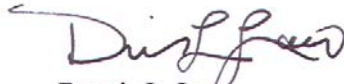
design, something that is paramount with the training of students by Professor Dennis Day, FASLA. This means to me that Dennis' excellent teaching skills have had a positive impact on the profession as a whole. Having taught with Dennis in construction many years ago, I can testify that he sincerely does what is in the student's best interest, even if it means that he has to extend his workday by hours. Dennis brings to the construction series, years of practical, construction experience through his own practice.

Finally, each year, *DESIGN INTELLIGENCE* queries professional and makes assessments and rankings for design programs. Landscape architecture programs have been a part of their annual survey for the past three years. In the 2007 survey, Professor Dennis J. Day, FASLA, was named one of eight "landscape architecture educators of the year". In the 2008 survey, K-State was ranked number one in "construction methods and materials" for the third consecutive time in all three years landscape architecture has been assessed.

Professor Dennis J. Day, FASLA, will be retiring at the end of the current academic year. Awarding the ASLA Jot Carpenter Teaching Medal to this outstanding teacher, would be a fitting climax to what has been a very successful career. Professor Day epitomizes the very purpose of establishing this medal – *"to recognize an individual who has made a sustained and significant contribution to landscape architecture education"*.

Your worthy consideration of Professor Dennis J. Day, FASLA, as the recipient of the ASLA Jot Carpenter Teaching Medal will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dennis L. Law". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Dennis L. Law, FASLA
Professor and Dean



March 3, 2008

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

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Re: Nomination of Dennis Day

Dear ASLA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees,

It is our privilege to submit this letter endorsing Dennis Day's nomination for the American Society of Landscape Architects Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal. Mr. Day's unique abilities as an educator are embodied by his practical approach, tireless work ethic and a deep caring for the students he teaches. As his students, we have come to know an inspiring man who often sees more in us than we see ourselves.

We consider ourselves very fortunate to have Mr. Day as an instructor and mentor for the landscape construction series courses at Kansas State University. Mr. Day's classes are, to say the least, quite a challenge. He makes clear to us on the first day of class that his expectations of us will be the same as if we were his own employees. As a good mentor should, Mr. Day expects us to follow his example by working hard and carrying ourselves professionally in all endeavors. As students we are aware that our level of commitment and effort will always be exceeded by that of Mr. Day.

Mr. Day's commitment is best illustrated through his interactions with students. A knock on his office door late at night will usually find Mr. Day hard at work. He is willing to sacrifice his personal time to answer questions or help us further explore our own academic interests. Mr. Day is also willing to take the steps necessary to get us back on track when needed. If expectations have not been met, we will be on the receiving end of Mr. Day's famous scowl and likely more than a few stern words. This figurative swift kick to the backside might be painful in the short term but looking back it was always well deserved. There is a lighter side to Mr. Day as well that keeps us on our toes. It includes giving us grief when we are looking a little tired in class and telling entertaining stories of how things were done "back in his day." You can also always count on a lively discussion of a few of his favorite interests including football and fishing.

The value of Mr. Day's experience as a contractor is evident to us on a daily basis. One of his favorite sayings is that, "construction is design," and he stresses to students the vital importance of designing a project with its construction and maintenance in mind. Construction methods, materials and costs are stressed as key components for us to consider during the design process. We also take part in hands-on demonstrations of materials and engaging site visits that supplement the technical knowledge gained in class lectures. Mr. Day always emphasizes the importance of communication in the


construction documentation and administration phases of a project. Some of his most valuable insight deals with effectively communicating with non-landscape architecture professionals like civil engineers, structural architects and electricians.

Throughout his many years of academic and professional practice, Mr. Day has remained abreast of the new and innovative work being done in our field. He utilizes practicing professionals to present to us the latest in design ideas and technology. He also encourages us to attend outside-of-class lectures, ASLA conferences and professional seminars that broaden our knowledge base and will help us become future leaders in our profession. Leading by example, he has worked diligently on his own continuing education, particularly in the area of stormwater management. He shares what he has learned with students as part of the landscape construction series courses and in an advanced construction class focusing on stormwater management techniques and design.

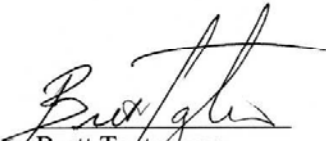
While Mr. Day has spent the last 42 years teaching the details of landscape architecture to generations of students, we believe his greatest influence stretches well beyond our technical training. During this pivotal time of change known as college, it is often difficult for us to grasp where we fit into the bigger picture, both professionally and personally. Mr. Day, in a style all his own, has a special way of making each of us grow up, both as landscape architects and as people. Mr. Day's ability to mentor, challenge and inspire his students while delivering critical technical knowledge is what sets each of us up for future success. For us, the students, this process is by no means easy. It often pushes us beyond our comfort zones and requires us to search for new approaches to being effective problem solvers. It is a credit to Mr. Day that he requires the effort, both from students and himself, necessary for our continued growth and development. By demanding from us the highest levels of accountability and integrity, Mr. Day teaches us to not only be professionals in our field of practice, but to be professionals in life. This is best said in his own words which he reminds us of often, "Do it right!"

Mr. Day's extensive service to the students of Kansas State University and the profession of landscape architecture is invaluable. Mr. Day has selflessly dedicated his career to educating students like ourselves and positioning us to succeed. It is our belief that Mr. Day would be a worthy recipient of the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal and strongly encourage his consideration for this honor.

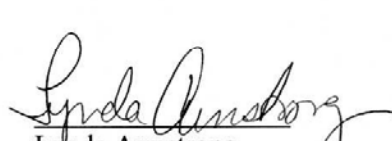
Sincerely,



Daryn Soldan



Brett Tagtmeyer



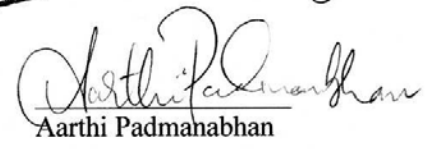
Lynda Armstrong



Hilary Kemper



Clarence Oxendine

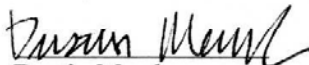


Aarthi Padmanabhan


Joe Schneider


Kyle Grist


Pete Simpson


Dustin Marsh

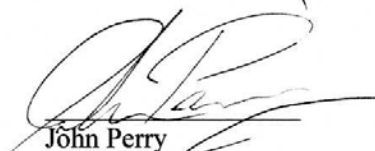

Timothy Merklein


Yun-Chieh Chiu


Sean Ray


Greg Pfau



Nolan Miller


John Perry


Kent Burnham


Luke Schooler


Jon Champlin


Megan Bryan


Ryan Debold

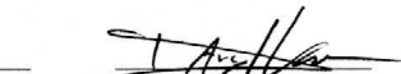

Kristopher Kleinschmidt


Desmond Poirier


Jeremy Merrill


D. Nathaniel Kersey


Cody Peratt


David Vogel



February 28, 2008

William P. "Chip" Winslow, FASLA, Professor
Department of Landscape Architecture/Regional & Community Planning
302 Seaton Hall
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Dear Chip:

I'm very happy to have this opportunity to support Dennis J. Day's nomination for the prestigious Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal which recognizes the sustained and significant contributions of a landscape architecture educator. I've known Dennis for forty-one years. Not only is he a valued colleague but he, and Vi, are among my closest and most valued friends.

Dennis and I have been colleagues here at K-State for thirty-six years where we both developed our teaching careers. The first four years I was here, we shared an office. From the very first year, it was apparent to me that Dennis was going to be a very dedicated and effective teacher. He has four qualities that I think make him a great teacher: tireless dedication to making the learning experience excellent for the student; the rigor of his courses; the fairness in dealing with students and his loyalty to people around him – students and colleagues.

Dennis has worked tirelessly to make each lecture, each project a better and more relevant learning experience than the previous. He has always embraced innovation and worked hard to keep abreast of new technology, new concepts of dealing with site development issues. He has incorporated concepts and information he has acquired from innovative designers, engineers, from his own experiences as a developer and co-founder of a design-build company into his coursework. His construction courses have always been content rich, dynamic and contemporary.

Another characteristic of Dennis' construction courses has been their rigor. As mentioned, Dennis puts a lot of effort into making and keeping the subject matter relevant. He expects students to demonstrate their knowledge of the subject matter in a carefully considered, thorough and precisely developed set of documents. The lesson here, goes beyond calculating the correct psi, proper spacing of contours, etc., it also has to do with taking responsibility to be diligent and thorough in your work. Dennis also applies the same rigor to the evaluation of student work. He sees the comments and "red lines" as an extension of the lecture and learning process. Every facet of a project is evaluated completely, carefully and above all else, fairly. While students may not always like the grade they get, very few will tell you that their work was evaluated unfairly. Though very demanding, students quickly grasp the value of Dennis' courses as evidenced by the numerous times they have voted him the department's "Teacher of the Year Award." As students become alumni, they continue to appreciate how that value grows as they move through their careers. Over the years, I've been fortunate to be a member of many national-level boards and committees with ASLA, LAAB and CLARB. I have often come into contact with alumni, some of whom have graduated many years ago and without fail, the first thing they say is, "how is

Professor Day” and this is followed immediately by statements of how much they learned, how often they are still using their construction notebooks, and most of all, how much they have come to appreciate his contribution to the successes in their career.

For forty-one years, Dennis has dedicated himself to making the student’s learning experience better tomorrow than it is today. While others now teach some of the construction courses, Dennis developed the framework for our construction series – a series that is a hallmark of our landscape architecture programs. The construction series is widely respected by the practice community and is arguably among the best, if not the best construction curriculum in the country. This was recently borne out in the most recent issue of Design Intelligence, which rated K-State’s construction curriculum number one in the country.

The final characteristic which I believe contributes significantly to Dennis’ success as an educator is the loyalty he has toward colleagues and students. Relationship with his colleagues is important to Dennis. He is very willing to assist them in any way he can. I believe he sees his role as one of trying help them become successful at what they want to do. For students, unless a student so chooses, they do not simply take his classes, get a grade and go away. They enroll for life. Later, as alumni, they call on him for advice; they freely contribute projects to his courses and return to his classes to present new design concepts and technology.

I had the pleasure of escorting Dennis during his induction into the ASLA Fellows. As we stood in the foyer waiting to begin the ceremony, Bill Wenk, FASLA, walked up to Dennis and offered his congratulations to Dennis on being elected to Fellow as an educator noting it a very fitting award for his contributions. I agree with Bill but I think there is one more award that would be a very fitting recognition of Dennis’ contributions as an educator and that would be the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal. I have the greatest admiration for Dennis and the things he’s accomplished and the things he’s done for the landscape architecture programs at Kansas State University. For this reason and those described above, I enthusiastically and without the slightest hesitation or reservation, recommend Dennis J. Day for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Tony Barnes, Jr.", with a stylized, flowing script.

Alton A. “Tony” Barnes, Jr., FASLA
Professor



INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY AND HORTICULTURE

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February 28, 2008

Professor William P. Winslow III, FASLA
Department of Landscape Architecture/Regional and Community Planning
302 Seaton Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506-2909

Re: Letter of Support for Professor Dennis J. Day, FASLA
Nominee – ASLA Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal

Dear Chip:

It is with sincere pleasure that I support your nomination of Professor Dennis J. Day for the ASLA Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal. Dennis has had a profound impact on the lives of hundreds of landscape architecture students, myself included, and I can't think of a more worthy individual to be considered for such a special award.

Dennis has been a mentor, colleague, and friend over the twenty-five years that I have known him. I entered the MLA program at K-State in 1982 with a forestry degree, several years of landscape contracting/Christmas tree growing experience, and a sharp focus on becoming a landscape architect. I chose K-State because it was "only" sixty miles from where I lived and would commute from for the first year of school. Little did I know then how fortunate my choice would be. K-State has been blessed over the years to have a synergistic, talented landscape architecture faculty providing vision and follow-through for a nationally renowned program. Many of the faculty have significantly impacted my career, and will continue to be lifelong colleagues and friends. But if I had to select one member that has had the most impact over the years both during and since graduate school, it would be Dennis.

Dennis strongly meets every selection criteria established for the Teaching Medal. His hands-on, nuts and bolts, real-world approach to landscape construction and thesis committee involvement resulted in an unsurpassed level of learning, comprehension and application. I still keep the construction notebooks that summarized our coursework handy – and they have been referenced many times in the past twenty-five years. When I worked for you as a Graduate Teaching Assistant in Construction during Fall Semester 1985, it became even more apparent to me how well-structured, -taught and -evaluated the construction sequence was at K-State. Working with you was a valuable experience, but in a broader context, Dennis's earlier work in establishing a framework for construction curriculum excellence and rigor was also very apparent and valued.

His passion for and commitment to the growth and development of students is legendary, as is his availability to students (and graduates) for advice and guidance. I have vivid memories of Dennis's availability in the studio late at night when projects were due, and to this day, he and I continue to compare and share information on stormwater management and low impact development.

Winslow
February 28, 2008
Page 2

Student involvement in ASLA was expected by faculty and anticipated by students. Dennis, and virtually every other faculty member, practiced what they preached and showed by example the importance (and benefits) of strong involvement with ASLA. My involvement with ASLA started early in the MLA program and culminated with receipt of a Prairie Gateway Chapter Honor Award and a National Distinguished Graduate Student Award – two humbling awards highly indicative of the quality of the investment that Dennis and others made in me and so many other students. I've been on the Executive Boards of ASLA chapters in three states, and am currently serving as Trustee for the Great Plains Chapter. My commitment to ASLA is grounded in the commitment I heard about and witnessed from mentors such as Dennis. For me, one of the highlights of ASLA annual conferences continues to be the Alumni Receptions, where the cumulative successes of former students as landscape architects *and ASLA members* are genuinely celebrated.

Dennis reflects quality at every level of his teaching and professional career, but I believe the attribute that has impacted me most deeply is his commitment to personal integrity, professional/environmental ethics, and "give back to those that gave to you." He taught me that some of the best projects I would ever do might not be noticed – because they were that sensitive to location, context and sense-of-place. He taught me how important the human resource is – in design, in a company, as an employer, and as a professional. Lastly, he encouraged me to "pay back" the investment that he and others made in our profession and in me as an MLA student. After eight years of practice aimed at enhancing teaching credibility and additional real-world experience, I entered academia at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1994. I have spent the past fourteen years teaching design, landscape/environmental appreciation, and plant materials as a faculty member in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, and have given over 200 presentations and workshops as an extension specialist to a wide variety of regional, national and international audiences. My teaching themes and publications reflect my MLA roots: sustainability, the importance of interdisciplinary design...and landscape architecture, the ethical implications of design, form follows function, and an enhanced awareness of really seeing landscapes.....not just looking at them. For the past seven years, I have also been actively involved with the creation of the new BLA program at the University of Nebraska. I believe it has the potential to set high standards for a quality program that emphasizes an interdisciplinary, art/science, hands-on, nuts and bolts approach to landscape architecture education. As I've helped develop the program I've been acutely aware of how strongly my biases for a program structure/focus come directly from Dennis, and how much his influence continues to expand across students, careers and other programs beyond K-State.

I cannot overemphasize how influential Dennis Day has been in my professional aspirations and achievements, particularly as they support the "payback" to my profession he so strongly encouraged me to consider twenty-five years ago. His influence on the profession and on ASLA has been immeasurable – and my judgment, identifies him as a prime candidate for consideration as a recipient of the Jot Carpenter Teaching Medal.

Thank you for the opportunity to support Dennis's nomination, and please let me know if you need further information or clarifications.

Sincerely,



Steven N. Rodie, ASLA

Assoc. Professor/Landscape Horticulture Specialist

Department of Agronomy/Horticulture - UNL

Coordinator

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Programs - UNO



United States Department of the Interior

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DENVER, COLORADO 80225-0287

IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 27, 2006

American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20001-3736

Re: Endorsement of Dennis J. Day
For the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal

Dear Executive Committee and Board of Trustees,

Please accept this letter in strong support of Dennis J. Day, Professor, Landscape Architecture Department, College of Architecture, Planning and Design, Kansas State University for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal.

I have known DJ for over 35 years first as an instructor, then as a peer and for the last thirteen years, as an actively engaged faculty member working effectively with the Landscape Architecture Department Advisory Council which I chaired. In all capacities, he is without equal and eminently deserving of this award.

- Demonstrated excellence in classroom instruction from the perspectives of students and peers, resulting in positive educational outcomes; *Students begin to appreciate DJ during their first internship. They realize from their peers from other universities and their employers that as third and fourth year students they already have considerable construction knowledge and marketable skills. This is a story I have heard for 13 years as a member of the advisory council. Another measure of DJ's success is the strong demand for his students by practitioners. They repeatedly tell advisory council members they have great confidence that his students will walk in the door with knowledge, skills and enthusiasm for the profession of landscape architecture and ready to go to work*
- Demonstrated commitment to the growth and development of students; *DJ's career has always been focused on teaching. His approach to teaching has been to give students the practical skills necessary to take an idea, put it on paper, refine it, describe it and build it. No easy task. All the while including in the process the relationship with the owner and the paperwork necessary to be legal and successful.*
- Consistent availability to students for advice and guidance; *My personal story. When I was a student, DJ enforced a rigid deadline policy for handing in project work and a severe reduction in grade would be imposed based on the number of days late. His*

deadlines would occasionally coincide with the deadlines of other faculty. Once, when this situation occurred, I stopped in his office. I explained the conflict and acknowledged that I had to make a choice, plagiarize from another student's work or spend extra time, miss his deadline, and learn the material myself, regardless of the grade penalty he would impose. I chose the latter approach and when the work was returned to the class, I was asked to report to DJ's office. I received a high grade, no penalty, and was told if I shared that information with my classmates the grade would be changed to zero. He wasn't as strict as we thought.

- *Use of innovative teaching methods and techniques; I would categorize DJ's methods and techniques as effective and reliable. I know many of his students who retained the complete body of their student work for reference during their early careers. DJ's approach to teaching Construction was to use the same process employed by the profession, beginning with a proposal to the client, then a contract, site design, a full set of construction drawings and a book of specifications. I know of few other teachers who understand the process so well and who are so effective at its instruction.*
- *Personal integrity; The teaching doesn't end when students graduate. DJ frequently provides instruction and advice to former students and colleagues. His opinion and advice are in great demand.*
- *Passion and enthusiasm for the profession of landscape architecture; I have observed DJ's passion and enthusiasm at many ASLA Annual Meetings where there is frequently a line of former students, friends and colleagues waiting to catch his ear or discuss topics of mutual interest.*
- *Record of actively encouraging student participation in the American Society of Landscape Architects; In this area, DJ leads by example with his attendance at meetings both locally and nationally. For over three decades he has supported ASLA and encouraged his students to actively participate in the student chapter and attend chapter and national meetings.*

Finally, DJ has had a profound effect on many individuals and their careers. But to me he gave knowledge, he gave curiosity for how things were constructed, he instilled in me a love of the profession. All of those gifts have contributed to a very successful career. One where I was more than able to work effectively with other professionals to improve the quality of the built environment in many national parks from Maine to the U.S. Virgin Islands, to Guam and Samoa, to Alaska, and back to Maine. At one point in my career I was Chief of Construction, Western Team, Denver Service Center. My counterparts on the Eastern and Central Teams were both civil engineers. That I was qualified and successful in such a position is a testament to DJ. That I and many, many others of his students have had successful and rewarding professional careers is what being a successful teacher is all about. Please favorably consider D.J. Day for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal.

Sincerely,



Larry D. Walling, FASLA
Acting, Director