

Honorary Membership Nomination Narrative

Nominee: President Emeritus and Professor James F. Barker, FAIA

Nominee's Address: Clemson University, School of Architecture, Lee Hall 3-135

City/State/Zip: Clemson, SC 29634

Phone: (864) 656-3884

Nominator: William T. Eubanks, FASLA

I have worked directly with Jim Barker on several projects at Clemson University during his time as President of the University. These projects included the Campus Master Plan, the design of the International Center for Automotive Research, the Baruch Institute, Sandhills Research Center, The Scroll of Honor, The Military Heritage Plaza, and several others. It was unique having an architect as President of the University and it often was apparent in meetings when President Barker removed his "President" hat and put on his "Architect" hat. But with either hat in place he still had a "Landscape First" approach to campus development. Barker once said "We should think of the campus as a garden for teaching."

Jim Barker, FAIA has worn almost every hat possible in his almost five decades as a member of the Clemson family – student, athlete, alumnus, teacher, dean, parent, fan, and president. Of these varied roles, he would say that the most important was as a student. "I often tell people I learned everything from plumbing to poetry in architecture school, and I use every bit of that knowledge as president of Clemson University," Barker has said.

A 1970 Clemson graduate, Barker was named President in 1999 with a mandate from the Board of Trustees to lead Clemson into the top ranks of American universities. At his inaugural address in April 2000, he said: "I am convinced that there is no university in American stronger than Clemson when we are 'One Clemson.' A united Clemson is unstoppable." During the "One Clemson" decade that followed, the university harnessed the competitive, determined spirit of the Clemson family to transform itself from a respected state institution into one of the nation's finest public universities. Clemson climbed into the Top 25 public universities in the *US News* guide to "America's Best Colleges." The University has been recognized for value, affordability and return on investment by *Kiplinger's*, *Smart Money*, and *Bloomberg Businessweek* magazines.

During the decade undergraduate applications soared, Ph.D. enrollment doubled, research awards topped \$1.25 billion and more than 140 grants and contracts and 60 gifts of \$1 million or more were received. Despite severe cuts in its permanent, basic state appropriations, Clemson protected its academic core and competed successfully for the lion's share of the state's highest-achieving students, the Palmetto Fellows, and for tens of millions in state funding for endowed chairs and research infrastructure.

Barker's tenure as university president (1999 to 2013) and Dean (1986 to 1999) of the College of Architecture ('86-'95) and the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities ('95-'99) has seen many noteworthy accomplishments. Many of these have elevated the profession of landscape architecture either directly or indirectly, with allied fields of study. Some of these include establishing and elevating degree programs such as the Master of Architecture, Master of Construction Science and Management, Master of Real Estate and Development, Master of Landscape Architecture, Master of Science Historic Preservation, and Doctor of Philosophy in Planning, Design and the Built Environment. Graduates from these programs hold positions in universities, public agencies, and private firms.

The School of Architecture and Department of Landscape Architecture accredited programs have consistently ranked nationally and regionally by DesignIntelligence and The Department of Landscape Architecture was established through a re-organization during President Barker's tenure. President Barker expanded the off-campus programs for architecture and landscape architecture students from Genoa, Italy to include Charleston, SC and Barcelona, Spain. These occurred as a result of his strong belief in a global experience to expand a designer's point of view.

The current capital building program (the largest capital project program in the history of the university) on the Clemson University campus was initiated during President Barker's watch. It was also Barker that insisted that all new projects at Clemson reach at least LEED Silver status.

Barker's research (1970's through 1990's) has been funded by the NEA (Arts), NEH (Humanities) and has focused on the American small town. He is also Co-Founder of the South Carolina Design Arts Partnership (1994-1996) which has morphed into the current AAH college research center, Community Research Design Center/a.LINE.ments public outreach studio. This research focuses on the support of a design studio utilizing students and faculty to solve real world problems in South Carolina communities.

Barker has served on national-level design juries for the AIA and ASLA as well as for the AIA chapters, Tennessee, West Virginia, Mississippi, the Carolinas, and Alabama. Even while he was the President of Clemson he continued to teach a class on American Small Towns and place-making. Barker's research on the American Small Town has been published widely and cited by scholars. He has delivered lectures on his research around the world (e.g., Tokyo, Russia, Prague, Paris, France) and delivered keynotes at conferences and universities across the nation.

He is the recipient of several national awards. Of significant note: 2004 selected by *DesignIntelligence* as one of the Top 30 Educational Leaders who Bridge Practice, Education; in 2001 elected as Fellow of the Institute for Urban Design; 1980 NEA Special Recognition Award (The Small Town as an Art Object). He is 2004 recipient of the Order of the Palmetto, presented by SC governor Mark Sanford – the state's highest civilian honor and the 2014 Medal of Distinction – SC-AIA's highest award.

Due to his decades of work as an architect and as President of Clemson University where he has always valued "sense of place" and has continually promoted and valued the profession of landscape architecture he is very worthy of being elevated to Honorary Membership in ASLA.

Honorary Membership Nomination
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

RE: ASLA Honorary Membership for James F. Barker, FAIA

Dear ASLA Board of Trustees,

In 2003, I was made a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects. In 2006, I received the American Society of Landscape Architects' Jot Carpenter Medal. It is possible that I might not have received either of these extraordinary honors had not my professional career path crossed paths with nominee James F. Barker.

**Department of
Landscape Architecture**

Clemson University
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My career at Clemson University was already over a decade long as a Professor of Architecture when Jim Barker arrived at Clemson as the newly appointed Dean of the College of Architecture. At the time, I was the Coordinator of the Third-Year Architecture Studios. Soon after his arrival, Dean Barker reviewed and discussed with me the Academic Master Plan for the College of Architecture that had been prepared for South Carolina's Commission on Higher Education long before his arrival on campus. The Academic Master Plan for the College of Architecture contained the first discussion of the intent of the College to implement a landscape architecture degree program at Clemson University. Dean Barker also reviewed a document complimentary to the Academic Master Plan more specific to the details of a professional level landscape architecture degree program that I had prepared sometime later (with the assistance of Professor Jose Caban from the Planning Degree Program).

Soon thereafter, with the arrival of Max Lennon from Ohio State University as the new President of Clemson University, Dean Barker instinctively knew that the time to act on implementing the Landscape Architecture Program was at hand. Knowing that President Lennon would be fully aware of the high visibility the Landscape Architecture Program at Ohio State University, under the tutelage of Jot Carpenter, had brought to that university, he soon raised the possibility of a Clemson landscape architecture degree program with President Lennon.

BLA

Landscape Architecture

MLA

Landscape Architecture

I will never forget the day when Dean Barker burst into my office to tell me of his just ended conversation with President Lennon. His forehead was damp with perspiration from having walked swiftly across campus to inform me of President Lennon's unofficial endorsement of a landscape architecture program! I say unofficial for the landscape architecture degree proposal would still have to transit the required curriculum approval steps of the university. I was given 10 days to update the necessary forms, curriculum, course descriptions, projected enrollment figures, etc. Having secured the "blessing" of Clemson University's President, the proposed landscape architecture degree program sailed through the approval process gauntlet. With the President's signature, it was forwarded to the State's Commission on Higher Education for further staff review and Board approval. Projected enrollment was 70 students.

The approval would not be automatic. The Commission on Higher Education's staff "educational specialist" who reviewed Clemson's request to provide a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture Degree Program said in her report she "could see no reason Clemson University

would propose a degree 5-years in length when the State's Technical Colleges were turning out landscape graduates in 2 years." Dean Barker, on reading her report, without flinching, said, "she does not know the difference between a landscaper and a landscape architect. Get her to agree to come to Clemson to discuss her findings. Put together a slide show of projects in South Carolina done by landscape architects that she will surely have experienced. We will show her the projects first, followed by a presentation of our proposed educational program's process. Only then we will enter into a discussion with her about changing her recommendation to the Commission's Board from "deny" to "recommend."

The staff reviewer agreed to a Clemson visit to discuss her report. With the support of the state's landscape architects, a slide presentation was assembled. The show consisted of about 20 projects. When the lights came back up, she stood up, turned and addressed the small audience of academics and professionals present saying "I have experienced many of these projects. I mistakenly assumed they were the work of architects. I will rewrite my report with a recommendation for 'approve' for a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture Degree at Clemson."

Once the Commission's Board had given its vote of approval, Dean Barker made another strategic decision that greatly benefited the landscape architecture program in its early years. He placed the program in the Department of Architecture for faculty and student operational matters, but under the Office of the Dean for operating budgets and miscellaneous financial support items such as additional faculty positions. Most importantly, his move insured the fledgling program it would get the resources it needed to grow the faculty numbers needed to match growth in student population as the program unfolded. It meant the program could hire experienced professionals. When the position of Head of the Department of Architecture became open, he appointed me as its Acting Head, giving further visibility and credence to having the Landscape Architecture Program on campus.

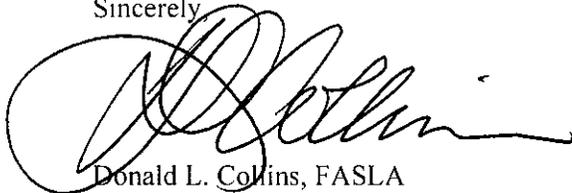
In 1995, with a reorganization of the University and a drop from 10 Colleges to 5 coupled with a threat to shutter programs with low enrollment, we together conceived of the idea of moving the Landscape Architecture Program out of the Department of Architecture and the Office of the Dean to form a new Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture. (While this gave increased visibility to Landscape Architecture, the primary motive was to save the low-enrollment graduate degree in planning by adding in the healthy student enrollment from landscape architecture.) I was appointed the first Chair of the newly formed department. The College of Architecture became the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities in the reorganization.

Fast-forward a few years and Architecture, Arts and Humanities' Dean Barker becomes Clemson University's President James F. Barker. With the now open position of Dean of the College of Architecture, Arts and Humanities, a national search was launched for a new Dean. Out of that search, President Barker appointed American Society of Landscape Architects President and University of Kentucky Professor Jan Cervelli as Dean. This move further raised the profile of Clemson's Landscape Architecture Program.

With James F. Barker's support, Clemson's Landscape Architecture Program, which began with 4 students in 1987 had grown to 140 students by the time I retired in 2005. Without the support and strategic moves made by James F. Barker along the way, the landscape architecture program would not have risen in just 16 years to a ranking of 12th in Design Intelligence's 2003 rating of landscape architectural programs which coincidentally was my final year as Chair of the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture. Our program became so strong during the time of Barker's support that the last Accreditation Visit Report under my watch declared there were "no recommendations for improvement," a report for which he was very proud. Clemson's program on that visit became the first to be accredited for a six-year period.

As I said in the beginning of this letter, Barker's actions on behalf of landscape architecture throughout our time together as colleagues no doubt allowed my career and the landscape architecture program to flourish. I have both my elevation to Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects and the Jot Carpenter Medal as evidence of his support for the profession. I would not have received these honors without the support from students and professional I encountered during my time in academia enhanced by Barker's support. I can think of no one from my own professional journey more deserving of the designation *Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects.*

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Collins', with a large, stylized flourish at the beginning.

Donald L. Collins, FASLA
Professor Emeritus of Architecture
Founding Faculty Member of the Landscape Architecture Program



March 21, 2016

Honorary Membership Nomination
American Society of Landscape Architecture
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

RE: Honorary Membership for James F. Barker, FAIA into the ASLA

Dear Board of Trustees, ASLA;

This letter is intended to express my sincere endorsement of my longtime friend Jim Barker as a nominee as a Honorary Member into the American Society of Landscape Architects. There can be no doubting Jim's qualifications when one considers his education, services to his fellow man, accomplishments and his integrity all of which manifest the ideals of our Society.

Jim has exemplified all the qualities that we, as a profession, expect from our members. By example, Jim's education and training as an architect and as the President of a major University, Clemson University, Jim has used these skills to train and educate the world through his lectures and presentations on his scholarly written work on the importance of ethical standards for environmental stewardship. His work and research into the communal quality of small towns have fostered a better understanding of quality of life issues and the importance of the "Sense of Place" as an important design issue. It is through this research that he has established objectives and strategies of proper relationships of environment and development.

These objectives and observations have been expressed further as President of Clemson University. Throughout his tenure as President, Jim drew upon these quality of life observation in the expansion of the University campus master plan. It was through the goals that he placed upon himself as the new President that Clemson was transformed from a very well established state institution into one of the top 25 universities in the Nation. All through this expansion, however, he did not lose sight of his goals for quality of life and stewardship issues and concerns for the Clemson students.

Most important to the ASLA, Jim did not forget about his 'roots.' Having been the Dean of the College of Art, Architecture and Humanities, which included Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Planning, Construction Science and Fine Arts, he did not forget Landscape Architecture. During his time as President, the Baccalaureate degree in Landscape Architecture became accredited and the Master of Landscape Architecture program became established.

Under his tenure as President the Campus grew, but not without Jim's influence and determination to maintain the ideals of quality of life manifested in the office of President, Jim's training as an architect kept him involved in all aspects of the planning and design of every building whether new or refurbished. This manifestation was found most profoundly in the design of the addition to Lee Hall. Jim began his study as an architect in the original Lee Hall. It was Lee Hall that had influence Jim's education as an architect. Jim wanted the addition to Lee Hall to also influence the new students of architecture as the original Lee Hall had him. I would think that this effort was accomplished, as the addition to Lee Hall was awarded the National Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects. I think that if he were asked, it would not be that the building won an award for architecture, but most important to him would be the quality of education that the students will have the opportunity to achieve in the new Lee Hall building, is most important.

Its because Jim Barker shares his talent, education, scholarly pursues and those many accomplishments all to improve the quality of life and education for young people, that place him in a unique position to continue as a leader in the profession of communicating stewardship and environmental influence in the classroom today.

ASLA should be honored to have him as an Honorary Member of the Society!

Sincerely,

J. K. Tiller, FASLA

LetterofRecommendationforJimBarkerNomination.wpd

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Honorary Membership Nomination
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

RE: ASLA Honorary Membership for James F. Barker, FAIA

Dear ASLA Board of Trustees,

I wholeheartedly endorse the nomination of James F. Barker for Honorary Membership in the American Society of Landscapes Architects. I believe that he embodies the principles and values of our Society.

As a Campus Master Planner and Director of University Planning and Design, I had the privilege to work with President Barker through one of the most active times in the development of the Clemson University. He spearheaded the largest and most important expansions in the history of the University while maintaining a focus on quality and student experience.

Barker was named president in 1999 with a mandate from the Board of Trustees to lead Clemson into the top ranks of American universities. At his inaugural address in April 2000, he said: "I am convinced that there is no university in American stronger than Clemson when we are 'One Clemson.' A united Clemson is unstoppable." During the "One Clemson" decade that followed, the university harnessed the competitive, determined spirit of the Clemson family to transform itself from a respected state institution into one of the nation's finest public universities. His visionary leadership resulted in the accomplishment of his goal to make Clemson University one of the top 20 public universities in the country. Jim Barker is a remarkable individual that led the institution to its highest level of renown while in the midst of the worst recession the country has known since the 1930's.

Under Barker's leadership as Dean of the College of Architecture, the Bachelor of Landscape Architecture received accreditation in 1994, an arduous but fruitful process. It was under his leadership as President that the Master of Landscape Architecture program was established sixteen years later in 2010. The programs have thrived and the faculty, once just a single professor, is now robust and thriving.

Clemson University was one of the first institutions of higher education to adopt LEED as a requirement for all major projects. President Barker was instrumental in that process, and LEED silver certification is now the standard that is now also state law. Clemson now has more than a dozen major buildings that are LEED certified.

In President Barker's tenure, a new wing to the Architecture building (Lee Hall) was added. The building was given a National Honor award by the AIA. President Barker was deeply involved in the process, and was instrumental in the success of

UNIVERSITY PLANNING & DESIGN

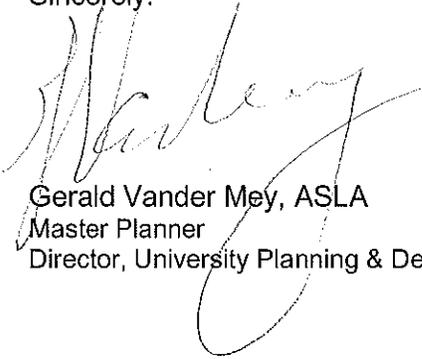
Gentry Hall Clemson, SC 29634-5951

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the project. Of note on this project and many others was his mandate that the perspective of the design team should be "Landscape First". This shocked many of the principals of the design teams, but it was a heartfelt and effective mandate. Understanding the context and building environments that stem from an integral understanding of the landscape is key. This Honor Award project is a tribute to that vision.

Therefore, I strongly encourage the Board of Trustees to elect James F. Barker as an Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Recognition of his vision, his tireless work and leadership to better the campus, the environment, and educational opportunities for students is well deserved. Thank you for your consideration of his nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. Vander Mey".

Gerald Vander Mey, ASLA
Master Planner
Director, University Planning & Design



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Honorary Membership Nomination
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear ASLA Board of Trustees,

On behalf of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects we offer our full support for the nomination of President Emeritus of Clemson University, James F. Barker, FAIA, as an Honorary Member of our Society.

The Executive Board voted unanimously to support a long time visionary of one of the largest institutes of higher learning in South Carolina.

Through President Barker's tenure at Clemson, the profession of Landscape Architecture has been positively impacted through his academic leadership. As an architect and AIA Fellow, he has placed an emphasis on good design of outdoor spaces for campuses and small towns throughout the state. As former Dean of the College of Art, Architecture and Humanities, President Barker led the creation of the state's sole BLA program with graduates now spread throughout the country.

President Barker has been a supporter of Landscape Architects as well as our Society for many years. We are very pleased to help a close friend and visionary to be recognized on a national level.

Most sincerely,

Kathleen Duncan, ASLA
South Carolina Chapter President
American Society of Landscape Architects