

The Student Connect

ASLA Student Advisory Committee's Newsletter

For Student Members - By Student Members



American Society of
Landscape Architects

"The practice of Landscape Architecture becomes a moral mandate to make this world better"
- Thomas Woltz

The last few months have been packed with incredible ASLA events. April was World Landscape Architecture Month and chapters all over the country participated in events and social media campaigns to spread the word that landscape architecture is the world's coolest profession. All month ASLA hosted chapter takeovers of their national social media accounts. The month kicked off with LABASH, hosted at the University of Georgia in Athens. As the Chair of the Student Advisory Committee, ASLA sponsored my trip to LABASH to personally meet Student Chapter Presidents from all over the country. I was so impressed with the work put in by the UGA LABASH executive team to produce such a high-level conference. The theme this year was 'Find Your Roots' and featured 12 speakers, 7 workshops, 3 tours, 2 panels, an expo, 3 top tier keynote speakers including Kona Gray, FASLA, Barbara Deutsch, FASLA and Thomas Woltz, FASLA.

The three day conference kicked off with an address from ASLA President Shawn Kelly, FASLA. On Friday night ASLA invited all the student chapter presidents to a private dinner with Shawn Kelly, VP of Membership Denis Nola, ASLA, two ASLA staff, James Taylor and Makeeya Hazelton and myself. During the dinner, we were all able to connect and share our experiences of leading our student chapters and the challenges and joys encompassed within the role. It was so cool to be in a room full of extraordinary leaders and share in this elevated fellowship opportunity that only ASLA can provide.

I was really impressed with all of the programming of the conference, but there were definitely highlights. The Keynote speakers all delivered provocative, hopeful messages of improving the world through design, but the real call to action came during the Q+As after each speaker. I watched in awe as one by one students got up and asked these famous landscape architects tough questions about gentrification, environmental justice and equitable design practices. I see the future of the practice and it is answering the call to make our world a better place in the face of climate change, systematic inequity and inherited environmental injustice. I believe you all, the students, are the key to carrying out the mission and core values of ASLA. We need you to help us translate our vision of 'healthy, beautiful and resilient places for all' into a reality with your designs, minds and passion. Thank you for bringing your practice to the ASLA community.

Respectfully,

Robynne Heymans, Student ASLA
2018-2019 SAC Chair

Meet the LABASH Team



Stuart Harriott: Executive Director
5th year at the College of Environment + Design,
"I believe in the betterment of the human and natural built environment."

Julia Alcorn: Director of Finances + Registration,
3rd year at the College of Environment + Design,
"A commitment to improving quality of life through design."



Benjamin Gladstone: Director of Sponsorship and Expo,
5th year at the College of Environment + Design,
"Landscape architecture is the solution to climate change."

Teresa Nguyen: Director of Communications,
4th year at the College of Environment + Design,
"Landscape architecture is about getting people out and interacting with the environment as well as each other."



Behind LABASH

The inside scoop on what it takes to host a student-led conference:

What was the highlight of the conference for you as the planners?

It was rewarding to see students and professionals from across the country and world come to our school and experience what we have to offer to landscape architecture.

Any funny behind-the-scenes disasters we didn't ever find out about?

Actually yes. Teresa left her car in the North Deck overnight and on the last morning of Labash, she found her car door open, but nothing was stolen. She walked onto the other side and found someone's cell phone in her car. Turns out some UGA student (not a part of Labash) who had a little too much to drink slept in her car that night. It was a very random experience, but funny nonetheless.

What overall message do you hope conference attendees took away with them?

To not ever forget where you came from and always to keep your core values close. Also don't be afraid to put yourself out there and make those interactions happen because it only takes one to change the course of your life.

Do you have words of advice or encouragement for Cornell next year?

Just do the absolute best you can and that's all that matters. Planning Labash takes a lot of time and effort and has a lot of stress to go along with it. Surround yourself with a good committee and get a good foundation going and the rest will fall into place.



What does your chapter do to make the world better through design?

Respond: Tag an instagram post [#studentASLA](#) or email: membership@asla.org with pictures and/or responses to be featured in our next newsletter!

Looking Ahead

- 01 Jul National Parks and Recreation Month
- 12 Jul Early Bird Deadline for Conference Registration
- 12 Jul Call for nominations to serve on the Student Advisory Committee
Nomination form open online. Join us!

Questions?
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