Dear Fellows of the American Society of Landscape Architects,

I hope this holiday season brings peace and joy to you and your families. We completed 2012 with the addition of 33 new Fellows to the society. It was a grand event in Phoenix and as Chair I was privileged to welcome our newest members to the Council.

As you begin the next chapter of your involvement with ASLA, and as I discussed at our Council meeting, it is my sincere wish that current and new Fellows take seriously their responsibility to mentor young practitioners struggling to find their place in a difficult economic marketplace. I ask each of you to find at least one landscape architect, just starting out, and begin a dialogue of opportunity, motivation and support as they begin their own journey. This is important not only as a guiding hand but to insure our profession's future strength.

I also presented a new challenge to our Council to investigate ways of extending our own legacy by implementing a Fellow's Endowment Fund within the society. This program, in addition to the current scholarship fund, will establish opportunities to give to our future generations. We have asked the Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF) to assist us with ways to implement such a campaign in the coming year.

I look forward to seeing you next year in Boston. As leaders in our profession, recognized for our own talents, please take my challenge seriously and make a difference in the life of someone new to the field of landscape architecture.

Best Regards,

Patrick W. Caughey, FASLA, COF Chair

COUNCIL OF FELLOWS NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS FOR 2013

The 2013 COF nomination process is well underway with all chapter presidents and trustees receiving lists of eligible candidates in September, a few weeks before the annual meeting in Phoenix. In addition, members with 10 or more years of continuous membership received notification that they were eligible for nomination during the same time. COF Chair Pat Caughey, FASLA, and VP Education Dick Zweifel, FASLA, met with the Chapter Presidents Council (CPC) in Phoenix to help clarify the nomination and selection process and to answer questions and receive feedback from chapters who are often on the frontline of the process. During the annual Council business meeting on Monday morning, attendees raised a number of suggestions and concerns about the process. Among the topics discussed was whether the nomination categories are clearly defined; the notification procedures to non-elevated candidates; and the need for more comments from the jury for non-elevated candidates.

Following the annual meeting, the COF Executive Committee held conference calls to discuss the issues voiced in Phoenix and will continue to do so. As a result, the committee decided that, in future, the secretary of the COF Executive Committee will notify non-elevated candidates, not the chapter presidents. Chapter presidents will still be notified regarding the outcome of their nominations but will not be responsible for notifying the candidates. The jury will also be encouraged to provide constructive comments for each candidate. Other topics to be discussed further include the highlighting of national awards on lists sent to chapter presidents; clarity of nomination categories and general eligibility communication procedures.

Since the annual meeting, ASLA followed up with chapters to provide them with copies of the presentation made by Caughey and Zweifel, as well as a one-page fact sheet and a few other tools to help them get started.

Click here for nomination eligibility and guidelines and here for the nomination form and template (required for 2013) or visit www.asla.org.

If there is someone you would like to recommend for nomination, begin by contacting their local chapter. Click here for a directory of chapter leaders and contact information or visit the chapter leadership section of www.asla.org.

Also, please contact your local chapters if you are interested in advising or helping prepare nominations for candidates in your area. Questions? Please contact Curt Millay, cmillay@asla.org, 202-216-2340.
Two COF Scholarship Recipients Receive Awards at Annual Fellows Business Meeting

COF Chair Caughey recognized the two Council of Fellows 2012 scholarship recipients, Viviana Castro, Student ASLA, from the University of Florida, and Lynette Osinubi, Student ASLA, from the University of Georgia at the annual business meeting in Phoenix. Both Ms. Castro and Ms. Osinubi were able to attend the meeting and thanked the Council of Fellows for their generosity. Each made brief remarks about what receiving the scholarship meant for their ability to continue their studies and graduate on time. Ms. Castro was recognized for her organizational and illustrative talents and inquisitive nature and aspires to demonstrate by example that the profession is wide open to Latin American women. Ms. Osinubi plans to pursue a doctorate in urban planning with a focus on how landscape architecture can improve living conditions in dense, underprivileged neighborhoods.

The COF scholarship fund was established by the ASLA Council of Fellows in 2004 to: 1) aid outstanding students who would not otherwise have an opportunity to continue a professional degree program due to unmet financial need; 2) increase the interest and participation of economically disadvantaged and under-represented populations in the study of landscape architecture; and 3) enrich the profession of landscape architecture through a more diverse population. The deadline for 2013 applications is February 15.

Mentoring Through ACE:
Engaging, exciting, and enlightening high school students to pursue careers in architecture, engineering and construction

Founded in 1994, the ACE Mentor Program is the design and construction industry’s fastest-growing high school mentoring program, reaching more than 8,000 students each year through local Affiliates in nearly every state. The local ACE Affiliates organize multi-disciplinary teams of design and construction professionals to mentor local high school students and inspire them to pursue careers in design and construction.

The ACE curriculum exposes students to real-world design and construction projects. Further, ACE provides financial support for each student’s continued success through scholarships and grants. Since its founding, ACE has awarded over $12 million in scholarships to promising participants. In January 2010, an eye-opening benchmark research study of ACE students who completed the program between 2002 and 2009 revealed that:

- ACE participants graduate from high school at a greater rate than non-ACE participants.
- ACE increases the diversity in architecture, construction, and engineering program enrollment.
- Female ACE participants enter college engineering programs at double the national rate of their non-ACE counterparts.
- More minorities are enrolled in ACE than other afterschool programs as a whole.
- More low-income students are enrolled in ACE than other afterschool programs as a whole.

ASLA has been working with ACE since 2006, contributing $10,000 per year to support ACE programs and scholarships. In 2007, ACE founder Charles Thornton, PE, was the keynote speaker at the ASLA Annual Meeting. Each year since 2008, the annual meeting host chapters have teamed up with their local ACE Affiliates to design and build a “Legacy Project” in the community using plants and products donated by EXPO exhibitors. Please check with your chapter for a list of local ACE mentor chapters and affiliates. Chapter contacts can be found here.

2010 ASLA Legacy Project:
Partnering with ACE Mentoring Program in the Nation’s Capital

In the fall of 2009, the ASLA Potomac Chapter partnered with the ACE Mentoring Program of the Greater Washington Metropolitan Area, Inc. (ACE DC) to undertake the 2010 ASLA Legacy Project in conjunction with the ASLA National Convention in Washington, DC. Over the course of 15 months, the ASLA Potomac Chapter volunteers work hand in hand with Coolidge High School, the Calvin Coolidge High School Alumni Association, and the community to prepare a Campus Beautification Master Plan and to design and build the Greenhouse Garden and Outdoor Classroom.

The garden grew out of the students’ desire to refurbish a 1938 greenhouse that had fallen into disrepair in the late 1970s. As First Lady, Michelle Obama was raising the nation’s interest in healthy foods, the ACE DC students chose to refurbish the greenhouse as their design and engineering project. Their ultimate goal was to restore this keepsake and create the first LEED certified greenhouse in the city. The school, Alumni Association, and community took note—many of the alumni had fond memories of the greenhouse as part of their educational experience—and began a campaign to fund refurbishment of the greenhouse.

In November 2009, the ASLA Potomac Chapter and ACE teamed up to see how they could help. In April 2010, more than 50 students, neighbors, teachers, and alumni participated in the charrette to prepare the Master Plan and to design a garden focused on the greenhouse. The master plan identifies short- and long-term projects the school and Alumni Association can use as a fundraising tool and guide implementation of the Master Plan. The Greenhouse Garden was the school’s priority project.

The landscape architect volunteers held five after school mentoring sessions with students about the Landscape Architecture profession. The students learned about the different types of work landscape architect do, they created and shared image boards illustrating the type of activities and spaces they would like to create, they took tree measurements and performed percolation tests, and had an introductory lesson on how to read site and construction plans. The volunteer league between 80 – 100 people—comprised of landscape architects, students, faculty, and community members—came together over two consecutive weekends in November 2010 and once in April 2011 to construct and plant the garden. The garden incorporates nine distinct landscapes, each with a unique ecological purpose and learning objective. The school’s intent is to foster learning opportunities that extend well beyond the observation of seasonal cycles. The garden is an outdoor classroom that provides opportunities to enhance academic curriculum in math, science, and the humanities as well as provide the students with opportunities to learn about nutrition, to connect with nature, and to enjoy its beauty. [Done something similar? Send to cmillay@asla.org for inclusion in a future newsletter.]