Emily Schlickman Joins LA+ED Faculty

LA+ED is pleased to welcome Professor Emily Schlickman as an assistant professor, effective as of November 1st, 2019. After completing her Masters in Landscape Architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, she worked with SWA group, an international landscape architecture, planning and urban design firm renowned for the creativity, responsiveness, and resilience of its work. At SWA, she was a former co-founder of the XL Research & Innovation Lab which focused on providing insights into future conditions of the built environment, analyzing constructed spaces, and experimenting with new tools and technologies.

As a faculty member, Professor Schlickman will be teaching advanced graphic courses and urban planning. Her research focuses on the intersection of technology, digital representation, urban futures, and climate change adaptation. Currently, her work explores the role of mapping, modeling, and monitoring techniques in democratizing data on climate-related vulnerabilities and opportunities to design for urban resilience.

See Professor Schlickman's U.C. Davis profile here

de la Pena’s workshop in Mexico

In October, Professor de la Peña traveled to Mexico to deliver a keynote talk on participatory design and to facilitate a 3-day workshop with architect Marcela Lopez of the Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí. Working with a dozen students and community members, they evaluated ecological and social conditions in the polluted and flood-prone Rio Paisanos and proposed conceptual improvements. The workshop helped catalyze interest in a “Save the River” project that will continue in the coming year and will hopefully lead to further collaborations.

Kiers leads A5 Student Challenge in Hainan Island, China

This past December, Professor Kiers led a group of students made up of individuals from five universities across the world, including U.C. Davis, in the A5 Student Challenge on Hainan Island in south China. The challenge seeks to work out a conceptual plan for the construction of a University City in Hainan Island to develop Hainan for the National Free Trade Zone and the National Agriculture and Ocean Science Base. This initial four day trip rigorously set-up the mixed student groups to pursue the development of their conceptual plans over a six month period. The competition will conclude in Hainan late June where participants will
Boults Leads Workshops in Calgary + Prague

This past fall Continuing Lecturer Elizabeth Boults led workshops with landscape architecture students at the University of Calgary, Canada, and at Mendel University in the Czech Republic. She spoke at the City Building Design Lab in downtown Calgary as part of the ‘Design Matters’ Lecture Series in September, and organized a ‘sketch crawl’ there with colleague Chip Sullivan. In Prague, she spoke at the Center for Architecture and Metropolitan Planning, and organized a field sketching workshop with local landscape architects. The landscape architecture program at Mendel U is located in the Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape complex, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Owens to Publish Book with Routledge in April 2020

This April, Routledge will release Routledge Handbook of Designing Public Spaces for Young People: processes, practices, and policies for youth inclusion. In this handbook, Professor Owens, Adina Cox, Sarah Little, and Janet Loebach emphasize how, “the ability of youth to freely enjoy public spaces, and to develop a sense of belonging and attachment to these environments, is critical for their physical, social, cognitive, and emotional development. [...] The handbook provides up to date research and case studies that highlight both the need and strategies for creating inclusive, youth-friendly public outdoor environments from around the world.”

For more information, please see here.

Milligan Serving as Fellow/Designer in Residence at Exploratorium Museum

In 2020, Professor Milligan will be a fellow and designer in residence at the Exploratorium Museum in San Francisco. His collaboration with the Exploratorium will be focused on the adaptation of Bay landscapes to conditions of accelerated climatic, ecological and social change. The fellowship will build off previous work in the Bay Area, including the Bay Area Resilient by Design Competition (Public Sediment team) and DredgeFest California. The Exploratorium is a public learning laboratory exploring the world through science, art, and human perception, with a mission to create inquiry-based experiences that transform learning worldwide.

Find the Exploratorium online here.

Napawan contributes to LAM article on Bay Area Sea Level Rise

In the January 2020 issue of Landscape Architecture Magazine (LAM), Lisa Owens Viani authors the article, Sea Change, an article on rising sea levels which prompt a turn for a Bay Area regulatory agency. In the article, Professor Napawan states, “I think most of these sea changes in environmental policy are community driven. The science has been really consistent for decades. What we’re seeing is landscape architects become better advocates for the role of science in building resilience. We’re seeing community groups coalesce behind wanting change.”

For the full article, please find the click here.

Wheeler Publishes + Helps Organize Conference

Professor Wheeler recently published two journal articles related to reducing heat in arid cities in the era of climate change. One compares heat islands in 10 dryland urban regions globally; the other analyzes strategies to reduce heat in these locations through vegetation, built form, and surface materials. Both were done with Geography Graduate Group doctoral candidate Jake Dialesandro.

Further, with Professor Suad Joseph (Distinguished Professor in Anthropology and Women’s Studies), Prof. Bryan Jenkins (Chair of Biological and Agricultural Engineering), and Bernadette Austin (Acting Director of the Center for Regional Change), Professor Wheeler has been
organizing an invitation-only conference on the Next Generation of Sustainable Communities at U.C. Davis. The goal of this conference, the final event in a multi-year series of collaborations between U.C. Davis, Arab Region universities, and developers of The Sustainable City in Dubai, is to distill lessons from sustainable neighborhood projects worldwide and identify strategies to facilitate a successful next generation of sustainable communities.

Kiers’ Planting Design Studio

Professor Kiers teaches her yearly planting design course this winter, emphasizing the planting design process from analysis and synthesis to the implementation and maintenance of a project. Plant material selection will be based on knowledge of visual, ecological, and structural characteristics of individual plant species; the incorporation of the plant materials into student designs are expected to meet high aesthetic standards while concurrently promoting biodiversity through habitat creation. For inspiration from a real-world project, the class visited the Salesforce Transit Center + Park in San Francisco with a tour led by the main designer of the project, Adam Greenspan of PWP Landscape Architecture. The class’s final project will be focused on creating a planting project for Mariposa Parkway, also known as the “Gateway to Yosemite”.

Visit PWP’s Salesforce Transit Center + Park Project online here

Perry’s Green Infrastructure Studio

Lecturer Kevin Perry teaches a studio this winter quarter that is designed for students who are motivated to learn the latest strategies for retrofitting our buildings, streets, and parking lots with green infrastructure, with a specific emphasis on Tactical Green Infrastructure. The full "toolbox" for stormwater management will be explored including green roofs, green walls, pervious paving, stormwater swales, stormwater planters, rain gardens, stormwater curb extensions, and green gutters. A heavy emphasis will be placed on identifying existing inefficient spaces within the urban fabric and how these spaces can be fully retrofitted to incorporate green infrastructure.