Patsy Owens receives 2018 CELA Outstanding Administrator Award

Head of the Landscape Architecture + Environmental Design program and Vice Chair of the Human Ecology Department, Patsy Eubanks Owens was selected to receive the 2018 Outstanding Administrator Award by the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA). Yearly, CELA confers this award to honor a faculty member's outstanding administrative accomplishments or excellence in academic administration during their tenure as administrator.

Stated by her nominator, "This brief outline of Patsy Eubanks Owens' accomplishments as an outstanding administrator highlights just a few of her many contributions to the LA+ED program at UC Davis. Those of us who have the pleasure of teaching and working with Patsy can attest to her other effective leadership qualities-her compassion, enthusiasm, sincerity, and diplomacy-that characterize exceptional leadership."

Patsy's career as an educator began at Virginia Tech three decades ago where she established the Community Design Assistance Center as a junior faculty member. As Patsy was presented this award at the 2018 CELA conference held by Virginia Tech, it is fitting that she receive this award in Blacksburg, Virginia, as the Community Design Assistance Center was simultaneously celebrating its 30th anniversary.
Team Public Sediment, which includes LA+ED faculty members Brett Milligan and Claire Napawan, unveiled their final design for adapting the Alameda Creek Watershed for the Resilient by Design Bay Area Challenge at a presentation at the San Francisco Jazz Center on Thursday, May 17. It includes a range of strategies that increases the flow of sediment from uplands to the Baylands to address rising sea levels, builds greater diversity of edge conditions within the creek to improve habitats for plants and animals, and provides community access to the Alameda Creek to build a public constituency. The design was recognized by the Jury as a model for research, design, and practice around the bay and beyond: "This project recognizes the power of sediment, the creek the river; the power of scale; and the power to start."

A public workshop with all nine final teams was held on Friday, May 18 at the Rock Wall Winery in Alameda to share the projects with communities throughout the Bay Area. This included the team’s dynamic models created to illustrate the Unlock Alameda Creek design and the engagement tools for community participation. You can explore their digital participatory tools and community feedback at the online Alameda Creek Atlas. The evening concluded with an awards ceremony in which the Public Sediment team was recognized with a certificate of support presented by Rocky Fenevez on behalf of Senator Wieckoski’s office.
Despite the formal end of the design challenge, UC Davis faculty continue to work on design and engagement in the watershed with generous funding support from the Center for Regional Change and the Davis Humanities Institute. A future LDA and Design program collaborative studio is also being planned to integrate with SFPUC plans for a Watershed Interpretative Center in Sunol. Lastly, members of the team will return to participate in the Alameda County Watershed Confluence Conference, planned for October. To learn more about the project, see the team’s final video [here].

Article written by Claire Napawan

Mark O. Francis receives 2018 EDRA Career Award

Mark’s career has been dedicated to understanding environment and behavior relationships, applying this knowledge to the creation of supportive places, and educating the next generation of informed environment-behavior researchers and designers. While this award seeks to recognize someone that has made a contribution in one of these areas, Mark has had significant contributions to all.

Mark’s research and publications have advanced our knowledge of the interactions and influences between people and places for more than four decades and includes often-cited articles and books such as Public Space and The Meaning of Gardens. The landscape architecture profession has embraced his work as evidenced by the publication and adoption of his case study method by the Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF). Spurred by his publication, LAF has funded more than 100 projects following this method through their Case Study Investigation program. His publications have been translated into a dozen languages and are informing and influencing design education around the globe.

Mark has also translated his research to numerous award-winning design projects. His built projects include urban gardens, community open spaces,
and urban areas. These include the Davis Central Park and Farmer’s Market, a project that was recognized by the Urban Parks Institute and the Lila Wallace Reader’s Digest Fund as “a new model for urban parks” and also received an ASLA Centennial Medallion as one of the most significant designed landscapes of the past 100 years. His projects also include designing the first 100-acre master plan for the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

For more than 30 years, Mark taught students primarily at the University of California, Davis, but also UC Berkeley, City University of New York and Pratt Institute. His instruction included lecture courses and design studios, and undergraduate and graduate students. He mentored many students that have continued on to make their own significant contributions to environment and behavior research and education, and many more that continue to apply the principles they learned from Mark to their daily design activities.


Endorsement of Midtown Passenger Rail Station Project from Kimberly Garza’s LDA senior studio

This past fall quarter (2017), the senior studio, instructed by landscape architect Kimberly Garza of Atlas Lab, envisioned and created potential designs for Sacramento’s midtown space. The designs specifically focused on the 19th Street & Q Street intersection.

On April 26th, 2018, The Valley Rail Project announced that it received major grant funding from the State. This Valley Rail Project will fund a series of new stations and track improvements to increase the connectivity and frequency of a Passenger Rail Service to the Sacramento region.
The work created by the students of Garza's course was imperative in receiving this funding as it focuses on how the Passenger Rail Service and the area it occupies can become a feature of Sacramento.

For the full article on the announcement, please see here.

LDA142 Senior Projects featured in the Davis Enterprise

On Thursday, June 7, seniors in UC Davis' sustainable environmental design major unveiled a dozen concepts for branding downtown Davis as an example of sustainable urbanism. The new ideas are intended to inform the city's Downtown Plan process. Concepts included additional vegetation and tree canopy along streets, new pocket parks, a downtown zero-waste center, a green business incubator, a sustainability information center, new zero-net-energy buildings, affordable housing, more extensive use of downtown alleys, and a Third Street bike/pedestrian boulevard. City of Davis Sustainability Coordinator Kerry Loux and Arts & Culture Manager Rachel Hartsough reviewed the proposals, as did several members of the Downtown Plan Advisory Committee and national green street expert Kevin Perry. The downtown sustainability concepts soon will be displayed in City Hall and will be presented to the city's next Downtown Plan Design Workshop scheduled for July 10-14.

For more information, contact Professor Stephen Wheeler at smwheeler@ucdavis.edu or 530-754-9332.
The accreditation review for UC Davis’ Landscape Architecture program occurs every six years. This May the Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board (LAAB) team visited campus to assess the curriculum to ensure it met accreditation standards. The team included Professor Jolie Kaytes from the University of Washington, Professor Lorraine Davis from the University of Oregon, and Whitney Talcott, a landscape architect and fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects (FASLA).

Our program successfully passed each of the seven standards, verifying our program’s ability to award an accredited Bachelor's of Science in Landscape Architecture.

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Successful SED University Program Review

This year the SED major underwent its first university program review and successfully passed. Reviewers included Tim McNeil from Design and Kelli Larson from Arizona State University.

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Michael Rios Promoted to Full Professor

Michael has recently been promoted from Associate Professor to Full Professor. Congrats, Michael!