DEPARTMENT NEWS

- The 6th Fábos Conference on Landscape and Greenway Planning will take place in March 2019 at UMass Campus Center. The deadline for abstract submission is October 29, 2018. [https://sites.google.com/umass.edu/fabosconference2019](https://sites.google.com/umass.edu/fabosconference2019)

- The Department hosted the 2018 ACSP PhD workshop this summer. This year’s workshop attracted PhD students from planning programs from around the world to gather and discuss the practical details of creating, producing, distributing and consuming planning knowledge among scholars.

- Our Undergraduate Landscape Architecture Program is ranked number 2 in the country! According to bestcolleges.org

- The Hills House was demolished in Winter 2018. See Professor Mark Lindhult’s final Photo Tour of Hills North. [https://goo.gl/aWJ6Jd](https://goo.gl/aWJ6Jd)
Marielos Arlen Marin (PhD Candidate) was selected as a recipient of the 2018 Gill-Chin Lim Student Travel Award. Arlen is also a Fulbright-LASPAU Alumna (2013-2015). She holds a master’s degree in Urban Planning and Land Management from the Rafael Landivar University in Guatemala and specializes in Land Policies in Latin America. She is an architect for the Central American University “José Simeón Cañas” (UCA), El Salvador. Simultaneously she is developing her doctoral dissertation where she aims to understand the Linkages between Resilience and Climate-Induced Migration in Developing Countries. Her topics of interest are: Cities and Climate Change, Adaptation, Resilience, Climate-Induced Migrations, Land Policies in Latin America, and Sustainable Cities.

Karina Ramos (BSLA ’18) has been selected as LAF’s 2018 National Olmsted Scholar! This is the highest honor in the Landscape Architecture Foundation’s Olmsted Scholars Program, the premier national award program for landscape architecture students. Karina is passionate about using landscape architecture to design informal settlements to help others in a larger scale. Her Peruvian background has made a huge impact in her life and has influenced her when choosing landscape architecture. She has seen first-hand the socio-economic disparities happening in developing countries, especially in Lima, Peru. She’s focused on creating a strong framework using landscape-based designs for the development of informal settlements. She wants to use these principles and apply them in Lima, Peru. She is determined to use landscape architecture as a tool that will provide societal benefits.

Michelle Chung (BSSCD ’18) graduated as a Sustainable Community Development (SCD) major in May 2018, and has been a part of the SBS Academic Fellows Program as well as UMass Women into Leadership (UWiL). Michelle studied abroad for two years of her four-year college career, and will go to Brazil in the fall for a Fulbright Student Fellowship.

Our 2018 National Collegiate Landscape Competition Team, led by LARP lecturer Mike Davidsohn, brought back amazing scores: 710 students from 62 Colleges and Universities attended. Four of our students placed in the 100 top students (#18 Matt Nelson, #31 Ben Liebman, #57 Genevieve Shepard, #60 Dan Nelson).

Our top events:

- Maintenance Cost Estimating - Dan Nelson (1st Place)
- Landscape Plant Installation - Matt Nelson, Ben Liebman, Camron MacDougall (1st Place)
- 3D Exterior Landscape Design - Genevieve Shepard (2nd Place)
- Arboriculture Techniques - Michael Tilton, Cory Rebello (2nd Place)
- Hardscape Installation - Matt Nelson, Ben Liebman (3rd Place)
Department Chair and Professor **Robert Ryan** was invited to present at the 2018 International Landscape Architecture Symposium in Beijing Forestry University, China. The symposium, 'Regional Landscape System' took place on September 22-24. Professor Ryan's presentation is titled 'Water Resource Planning in Urbanizing Watersheds: The Role of Landscape Architecture and Green Infrastructure'.

Professor **Elizabeth Brabec**'s research on refugee gardens is featured in the September issue of Landscape Architecture Magazine. She says, "These gardens are not just a means of food production but symbolic representations of home, featuring flowers and other ornamentals, even fountains. Gardening can also provide refugees a sense of agency, a modicum of control at a time when the majority of their lives is dictated by external forces."

https://landscapearchitecturemagazine.org/2018/09/06/far-from-home/

Assistant Professor **Carolina Aragon**'s art installation High Tide received the Merit Award in the Landscape Category for the 2018 International CODAawards! The project was commissioned by The Rose Kennedy Greenway in Boston. The project is an abstract interpretation of a marsh during high tide, where the water is represented through kinetic circles which reflect different colored light. The marsh serves as a tool for visualizing an imaginary flood line, inviting the public to reflect on Boston's historical marsh landscape and future flooding due to climate change.


Professor **Jack Ahern** was invited to review the Landscape Architecture programs at Beijing Forestry University this summer. During his trip to Beijing, Professor Ahern also attended the LARP alumni reunion and gave a talk about Green Infrastructure. The alumni reunion was hosted at EcoLand, a multi-disciplinary planning and design firm founded by MLA alumni Jenny Tang & David Chen.

Three faculty presented their research during this year’s CELA Conference at Virginia Tech. Assistant Professor **Carolina Aragon**, presented research in a paper titled "Energy Gardening: Photoluminescent Applications for Landscape Architecture". Professor **Elizabeth Brabec** presented a paper co-authored with PhD student Sean O'Donnell titled "The Role of Heritage in Displacement and Community Resilience". Assistant Professor **Theodore Eisenman**, gave a presentation entitled "Urban Ecosystem Services: A Critical Review." https://goo.gl/JWnHUh

Professor **Ethan Carr** is quoted in the New York Times Article “Far From the Great Lawn, Saving a Home Tied to Central Park”. He says, "When you’re talking about large numbers of trees being purchased and transplanted, soils amended and improved and subsurface drainage, those were the technologies necessary to create Central Park, So his experience as a farmer was quite valuable, because he was experimenting with techniques." https://goo.gl/9VrJSE

After 35 years of teaching, scholarship and creative work at UMass Amherst, Professor **Mark Lindhult** officially retired this summer. But we are fortunate that Mark will remain active in the department as emeritus faculty.
SmithsonianMag article quoted MLA alumna Kate Tooke. Kate is a Landscape Architect at Sasaki in Boston who specializes in children’s outdoor environments. “‘Micro-interventions’ such as Urban Thinkscape can actually have a larger impact for more people than big, expensive playgrounds or parks. When a community invests in these tiny little interventions that are interesting along the route to school or the park, that becomes these really powerful learning moments for children and parents.” https://goo.gl/PMibuJ

PhD Alumna Alina Gross, Assistant Professor at Westfield State University, recent published a book, titled "Housing in America: An Introduction". With an exploration of theoretical frameworks, short case studies, reflective exercises, and strong visuals, Alina’s book explores improving housing choices in America.

MRP Alumna Katie Stebbins, Vice President of Economic Development at University of Massachusetts, was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award by the department in Spring 2018.

**STAY CONNECTED**

We’ll host more alumni networking receptions this coming year, so check our Facebook or the website for announcements and join us. Please consider a gift to support our students, the department, or the design building. Our Facebook page, twitter, instagram and our website give quick news updates and in-depth stories. When you have a job opening, send us the notice and we’ll be thrilled to share it with our students and alumni. And send us your own news – we love to hear how our alumni are doing, and would gladly post onto the department social media for you.