



LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

COLLEGE OF BUILT ENVIRONMENTS | UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Dear alumni and friends,

I hope this letter finds you all well and in good spirits. I am happy to report we are just past midway of the Autumn term here at the University of Washington, and we are back in person. While we learned much over the past 18 months, I think all our faculty would agree that it is wonderful to be teaching face-to-face (masked and vaccinated) with our students again. While we have much to be proud of in our rapid transition to online teaching and our sustained efforts over the entirety of last academic year, the energy and collaborative spirit the students have brought with them over the past few weeks brings a whole new level of excitement to the work we do.

All this said, the past year has not been an easy one. The past few months have been challenging with the loss of several members of our community including long time department champion, Affiliate Professor [Grant Jones](#), Affiliate Professor Emeritus [Iain Robertson](#) who taught in our program for nearly four decades and was likely a teacher and mentor to many of you, and most recently past Interim Department Chair [Fritz Wagner](#). Each of them has been critical to our success as a department, and they will be missed greatly.



Our community together in Gould Court – 50th Anniversary Gala in 2010. Photo credit: Jeff Hou

Through all of this our students have continued to thrive. We would like to recognize our students Alanna Matteson, Zoe Kasperzyk, and Danielle Dolbow (MLA 2021) for their recent recognition in this year's student ASLA Award of Excellence in Communications for their work [Mud Gallery](#) (front cover of [LAM October Issue](#))! We would also like to recognize the Design Build 2020 class (BLA 2021 and MLA 2022) for their Honor Award in the Student Community Service Category for their project [Celebrating Memory + Connecting Community + Creating Beauty](#).



CONNECTION DURING COVID

This exploratory design-build program brought students out of the isolation of remote learning into the tactile realities of working on-site. Through this process students were challenged to bring their designs to life, respond to site conditions, and embrace adaptability in the field. While students followed social distancing protocols and wore masks everyday, it was therapeutic to work with friends again.

Further, our faculty continue to do great things. Several of which include Assistant Professor Catherine De Almeida's published case study in the Landscape Architecture Foundation's Landscape Performance Series on the [Liberty Bank Building](#) in Seattle, Washington in collaboration with Mithun, Professor Daniel Winterbottom's recently published book [Design-Build](#) (Routledge), Professor Lynne Manzo's publication of two books [Place Attachment, 2nd Edition](#) (Routledge) and [Changing Senses of Place in the Face of Global Challenges](#) (Cambridge University Press), and Professor Nancy Rottle's chapter in the ASLA award-winning [Ecoregional Green Roofs](#) (Springer) edited by Bruce Dvorak. Finally, we are grateful for our faculty who banded together, particularly lecturer Kristi Park, in helping Iain complete a book he had been working on for several years prior to his passing. [Cultivating Creativity](#) (NYU Press) is available for pre-order now with an anticipated release in January 2022. These are among many of the scholarly works, research grants, symposia, and creative exhibits our faculty have collaborated on over the past year.



We are also changing. We recently said goodbye to Nick Dreher, our Undergraduate Program Advisor. Nick Dreher left the University of Washington to pursue his own education at Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario. We thank Nick for all his dedication and advocacy for our community and students, for co-leading the College of Built Environments recent [Strategic Planning](#) efforts, and taking a staff lead in engaging departmental structures and practices for ensuring equity and justice for all in our community. We now welcome [Jennie Li](#) (MLA/MUP 2015) into the role of Undergraduate Program Advisor and look forward to continuing to work with her in the coming years to support and build upon the strong history and foundation of our BLA program.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we recognize that we cannot return to the ways of the past. We look forward to translating all that we have done and learned into new directions that provide the highest quality of education to our students while continuing to push upon the nebulous boundaries that frame our discipline and profession. We would particularly like to thank Site Workshop and [MIG](#) for spearheading efforts to create scholarships in support of our students from underrepresented communities in the field and practice. In partnership with other individuals and firms, these professional firms are actively working to diversify our understanding and practices of the potential of landscape architecture for shaping the future of our built environments.

We welcome you to join us in this endeavor and look forward to hearing from each and every one of you.

Sincerely,
Ken P. Yocom
Associate Professor + Chair
Department of Landscape Architecture

University of Washington

K. Yu

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