



# STUDENT ASLA NEWSLETTER

*"You have brains in your head.  
You have feet in your shoes.  
You can steer yourself  
any direction you choose."  
-Dr Seuss (Oh the Places You'll Go)*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SASLA PUMPKIN CARVING

5.30pm on Mon, October 28th

*Get into the spirit of Halloween and join us for a bit of healthy competition between pumpkins, whilst enjoying pizza and a movie.*

### ASLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Fri-Mon, November 15-18th  
SAN DIEGO

*Don't miss out on a good networking opportunity, while finding out the latest ideas circulating in landscape architecture!*

*Tickets are still available on [asla.org](http://asla.org)*

### THANKSGIVING BAKE-OFF

5.30 pm on Mon, November 25th

*Instead of the traditional thanksgiving meal, students and faculty will go head to head in a foodie critique.*



SASLA students enjoying the creation

## ALL PARKED OUT

Another year marks another celebration of Park(ing) Day! Some of our Landscape Architecture undergraduate students band together to design a mini garden in a parking space on Friday September 20th. Inspired by the materials granted by Community Forklift, the concept of a revitalized trailer park was envisioned. With enthusiasm and a bit of elbow grease, the design came to life with bold colors and elements found in a stereotypical backyard. Once the plants were incorporated into the space, it became a more approachable spot of road to sit and enjoy.

This international event is always worth celebrating, as it brings to light the need for more greenspace in the urban setting. The thought of having more plants and less impermeable materials is something that excites us landscape architects, and I'm sure others would agree. Globally, we pose to question the implications of car dependence, such as the compromise in open space for parking.

Much like the trees on our campus, the scale of parking day will continue to grow. While various students graduate, this day signifies a tradition of spreading the message of our roles to the UMD community and beyond.



One of the several hand-made flamingoes for the Park(ing) Day garden

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## OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO

One thing's for sure, UMD's landscape architecture students have been on the move. We have spread in all directions; from Rio to Costa Rica, and all the way to Australia. There is something so rewarding to be able to expand our experiences and knowledge in other countries.

Last Spring, our two juniors, Evan Schaum and Jess Meilman went to the 'Great Southern Land', or Australia as you will, for exchange at the University of New South Wales in Sydney. Whilst emersing themselves in the 'Gday' culture and university life, they were always a stones throw away from the white sandy beaches and it's Great White sharks.

Over summer, we had Olivia Duley, Greg Remesch and Rachel Greenhawk study abroad for a studio and sustainability course with the Monteverde Institute of Costa Rica. Working mostly with architect students, they were kept fully occupied working designing and implementing their projects.

Undergraduates Linda MacSorley, Allison Fields, Audrey Wilke and graduate Chris Samoray, ventured to Rio de Janeiro for two weeks. Here they were given real insight of the unique ecologies and design interventions of Brazil.

*Let's have a chat with some of those nomads about their encounters, starting with Jess.*

**While you were on exchange, did you notice any major differences between studying in Australia and America?**

**Jess:** Yes, I definitely noticed a change in the way that they ran studio, so it took a little time to adjust my working methods. I felt we didn't get a lot of individual critique in Australia, so a lot of work and interpretation was done on my own. It was an adjustment going from around 18 students to 80 students in a studio course, so it was interesting to see how they run desk critiques within the given time periods of class time. I also had to learn the metric system and get used to envisioning in meters and millimeters!



Jess M and EVan S at a Sydney cafe.  
-Australia



Greg R, Rachel G and Olivia D with their studio group  
-Costa Rica



Chris S and Audrey W, sight seeing  
-Rio de Janeiro

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**In what ways has your design experience been enhanced, has it made you more versatile?**

**Jess:** I definitely feel that this experience has broadened and expanded my design skills. I had to think in new ways and adjust my designs to fit into a completely different environment. In my studio, I was asked to relate my design to a system, such as hydrology or topography and then base my design off that connection which I had never been asked to do before.

**Do you think more students should elect to go on exchange?**

**Jess:** I think that more students would be interested, I just don't think many even know that they CAN study abroad in Australia for a semester. Overall, it is such a great growing experience. You learn a lot about yourself, not only on an academic level but also on a personal level. You might run into some struggles because everything is new and unfamiliar, but it has overall made me a better and stronger person. It's worth it!



*Evan S and Jess M travelling with their friends  
-New Zealand.*

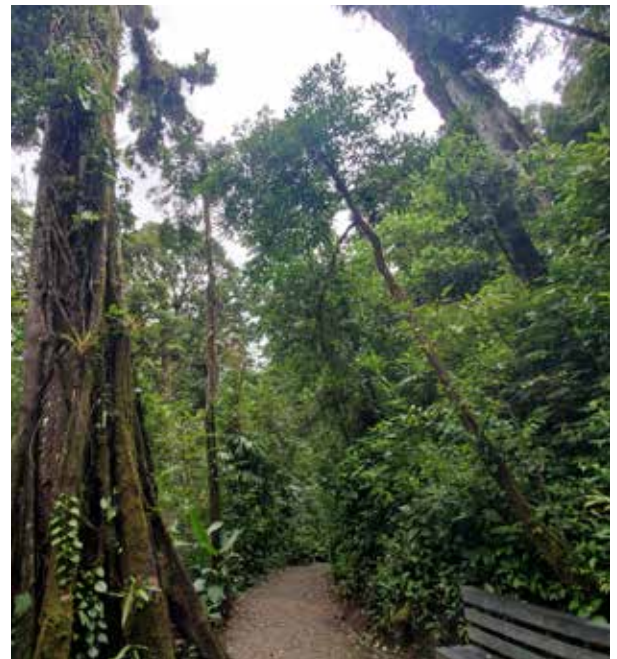
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*Moving over to Rachel, on her studies in Costa Rica...*

**Could you talk about some of the projects that you participated in?**

**Rachel:** During the trip, we had two main projects. One project was a design-build, which we worked with a local school to enhance the outdoor experience for staff and students. Alongside University of Buffalo students, we designed and constructed playground equipment for students ages 0-13. We worked directly with community members for our second studio project.

Olivia designed the landscape for the school mentioned previously, while her partners focused on architectural expansion of the school. Greg and I worked with the Chamber of Tourism of Monteverde, tasked with alleviating traffic in the downtown area. We designed parking facilities to incorporate community needs while improving traffic conditions.



*Vegetation of Costa Rica (by Rachel G)*

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**Would you say this trip has influenced the type of work you'd like to pursue in your career?**

**Rachel:** I'm not sure if it has influenced the type of work so much as it has reinforced my confidence in this career path. Working with the community was so gratifying and they were just as grateful for the work we did while there. I do have to mention; the turnaround from concept to construction during the design-build project was very satisfying. To see the students using our equipment was really a beautiful thing. .

**Did the rural qualities of Costa Rica have any effect the availability of resources and how you designed?**

**Rachel:** Speaking again on the design-build, each group had a \$300 budget. Using recycled and natural materials was critical, not only stay within our budget but to meld with the surrounding landscape and typical material use of Monteverde.

**Why would you recommend partaking in this Costa Rica project to other Landscape Architect students?**

**Rachel:** From start to finish, this program was a fantastic experience. The climate couldn't have been more agreeable and I felt right at home with my host family. It was such a fun time working with the architecture students from Buffalo and we all quickly became great friends. We learned tips and tricks from each other and it was helpful from a learning perspective to understand their design process. This program was rigorous and fast-paced but if you love the sound of that, I would 100% recommend the trip.



*Greg R, Rachel G and Olivia D  
-Costa Rica*



*Monteverde Cloud Forest Preserve (by Rachel G)  
-Costa Rica*



*The Rio group at Escadaria Selarón*

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*Now time to hear from Audrey Wilke, who went to Rio de Janeiro...*

**Why do you think it's important to maintain a relationship between Maryland and Rio for the landscape architecture faculty?**

**Audrey:** Yes! I was impressed how strong of a relationship Rural (our partnership school) and Maryland have, it was started over 20 years ago. Dr. May, our professor, actually went on this trip when he was a student, and now he helps to run the program. We saw how the schools share research with each other and collaborate.

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They are currently working together to create a carbon off-set program that will be incorporated into future trips. On a more personal note, the friendships between professors made us feel like we were well looked after. We were toured around by family and even started off the trip with a barbeque at one of the professor's home.

**Were there any memorable environmental qualities, such as the plants and animals that you noticed in Rio, that differ from Maryland?**

**Audrey:** Many plants that we saw in the forest understory are common house plants here, due to their low light growing conditions. It was fun to see them in their natural habitat thriving. We even went to the Burle Marx house/museum, to see the design approach that made him famous- with a use of native vegetation to create the gardens. Marx went on several expeditions and brought back plants naturally growing in Brazil to be used in the urban landscape. Before that, mostly non-native plants were used in Brazilian landscape design, which is crazy to think about considering how much we envy being able to grow these vibrant plants.



*Vegetation of Rio (by Allison F)*






*Praia da Gávea beach (by Allison F)  
-Rio de Janeiro*

**Are there any projects from your trip that you think are relevant to implement in your designs?**

**Audrey:** Ecology was a major focus in this class. We learned about a lake which is an ongoing governmental project. Within the past decades it, has been used to dump waste, but historically it is vital as an ecological buffer. Additionally to considering the stakeholder's preferences for future use (fishing, tourism, or mangroves), the designers are carefully researching how each option affects the specific ecologies. This has inspired me to gain a deeper understanding of the existing and potential ecologies for the sites that we design in studio.

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