

20 January 2009



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ASLA Executive Committee
C/O Carolyn Mitchell
636 Eye Street
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Dear Colleagues

I am honored to write a letter of support for Professor Dennis J. Day, *FASLA*, as a viable candidate for the ASLA Jot Carpenter Teaching Medal. Jot Carpenter was a long-time friend of mine and I know that Dennis Day is the type of a professor that Jot would have been honored to eventually bear his prestigious name through this award. Likewise, Dennis Day is a Jot Carpenter type of a teacher, committed to both the profession and to the students.

Since its inception in 1979, Kansas State University has been among the perennial winners in ASLA student design competition awards. Dennis Day, years ago, basically developed a construction sequence that each student goes through in their K-State academic experience that adds greatly to the design results. Those student awards, while exhibiting excellent design skills, have all been within the context of sound construction knowledge and skills and the jury readily recognizes this when selecting the awards.

In my position as Dean of the College, I annually meet with hundreds of alumni and practitioners around the nation. Those alumni report to me that the construction series at K-State was rigorous but highly effective as they eventually discovered when they entered the professional arena. Professor Dennis Day, out of 75 tenured and tenure-track faculty within the College of Architecture, Planning and Design, is by far, the single most asked about faculty member by former students including all the disciplines within the College. I can say with some authority, that he is probably the most admired and respected among those 75 faculty. His former students report to me that, after graduation, they were equipped with skills that were higher than work colleagues who graduated from other programs, sometimes whom had been out of the academy for three or four years. This was particularly true when it came to landscape architecture construction.

Non-alumni practitioners tell me continually, that the graduates of Kansas State University have the best work ethic and construction skills of anyone from other well-known programs. We have a substantial number of graduates in offices from coast to coast and border to border, but obviously with heavy numbers in the Midwest. Those graduates are assuming roles of leadership in many of the prominent offices throughout

the country and they bring with them the conviction that construction is at the heart of design, something that is paramount with the training of students by Professor Dennis Day, FASLA. This means to me that Dennis' excellent teaching skills have had a positive impact on the profession as a whole. Having taught with Dennis in construction many years ago, I can testify that he sincerely does what is in the student's best interest, even if it means that he has to extend his workday by hours. Dennis brings to the construction series, years of practical construction experience through his own practice.

Finally, each year, *DESIGN INTELLIGENCE* queries professionals and makes assessments and rankings for design programs. Landscape architecture programs have been a part of their annual survey for the past three years. In the 2007 survey, Professor Dennis J. Day, FASLA, was named one of eight "landscape architecture educators of the year". In the 2009 survey, K-State was ranked number one in "construction methods and materials" for the fourth consecutive time in all four years landscape architecture has been assessed.

Professor Dennis J. Day, FASLA, retired at the end of last academic year. Awarding the ASLA Jot Carpenter Teaching Medal to this outstanding teacher, would be a fitting climax to what has been a very successful career. Professor Day epitomizes the very purpose of establishing this medal- *"to recognize an individual who has made a sustained and significant contribution to landscape architecture education"*

Your worthy consideration of Professor Dennis J. Day, FASLA, as the recipient of the ASLA Jot Carpenter Teaching Medal will be greatly appreciated.



Dennis L. Law, FASLA
Professor and Dean

lds



Jot D. Carpenter Medal Nominations
c/o Carolyn Mitchell
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Re: Nomination of Dennis Day

Dear ASLA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees,

It is our privilege to submit this letter endorsing Dennis Day's nomination for the American Society of Landscape Architects Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal. Mr. Day's unique abilities as an educator are embodied by his practical approach, tireless work ethic and a deep caring for the students he teaches. As his students, we have come to know an inspiring man who often sees more in us than we see ourselves.

We consider ourselves very fortunate to have Mr. Day as an instructor and mentor for the landscape construction series courses at Kansas State University. Mr. Day's classes are, to say the least, quite a challenge. He makes clear to us on the first day of class that his expectations of us will be the same as if we were his own employees. As a good mentor should, Mr. Day expects us to follow his example by working hard and carrying ourselves professionally in all endeavors. As students we are aware that our level of commitment and effort will always be exceeded by that of Mr. Day.

Mr. Day's commitment is best illustrated through his interactions with students. A knock on his office door late at night will usually find Mr. Day hard at work. He is willing to sacrifice his personal time to answer questions or help us further explore our own academic interests. Mr. Day is also willing to take the steps necessary to get us back on track when needed. If expectations have not been met, we will be on the receiving end of Mr. Day's famous scowl and likely more than a few stern words. This figurative swift kick to the backside might be painful in the short term but looking back it was always well deserved. There is a lighter side to Mr. Day as well that keeps us on our toes. It includes giving us grief when we are looking a little tired in class and telling entertaining stories of how things were done "back in his day." You can also always count on a lively discussion of a few of his favorite interests including football and fishing.

The value of Mr. Day's experience as a contractor is evident to us on a daily basis. One of his favorite sayings is that, "construction is design," and he stresses to students the vital importance of designing a project with its construction and maintenance in mind. Construction methods, materials and costs are stressed as key components for us to consider during the design process. We also take part in hands-on demonstrations of materials and engaging site visits that supplement the technical knowledge gained in class lectures. Mr. Day always emphasizes the importance of communication in the


construction documentation and administration phases of a project. Some of his most valuable insight deals with effectively communicating with non-landscape architecture professionals like civil engineers, structural architects and electricians.


Throughout his many years of academic and professional practice, Mr. Day has remained abreast of the new and innovative work being done in our field. He utilizes practicing professionals to present to us the latest in design ideas and technology. He also encourages us to attend outside-of-class lectures, ASLA conferences and professional seminars that broaden our knowledge base and will help us become future leaders in our profession. Leading by example, he has worked diligently on his own continuing education, particularly in the area of stormwater management. He shares what he has learned with students as part of the landscape construction series courses and in an advanced construction class focusing on stormwater management techniques and design.

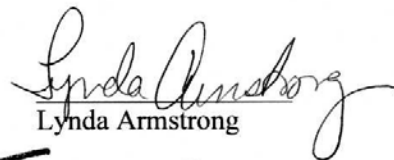
While Mr. Day has spent the last 42 years teaching the details of landscape architecture to generations of students, we believe his greatest influence stretches well beyond our technical training. During this pivotal time of change known as college, it is often difficult for us to grasp where we fit into the bigger picture, both professionally and personally. Mr. Day, in a style all his own, has a special way of making each of us grow up, both as landscape architects and as people. Mr. Day's ability to mentor, challenge and inspire his students while delivering critical technical knowledge is what sets each of us up for future success. For us, the students, this process is by no means easy. It often pushes us beyond our comfort zones and requires us to search for new approaches to being effective problem solvers. It is a credit to Mr. Day that he requires the effort, both from students and himself, necessary for our continued growth and development. By demanding from us the highest levels of accountability and integrity, Mr. Day teaches us to not only be professionals in our field of practice, but to be professionals in life. This is best said in his own words which he reminds us of often, "Do it right!"

Mr. Day's extensive service to the students of Kansas State University and the profession of landscape architecture is invaluable. Mr. Day has selflessly dedicated his career to educating students like ourselves and positioning us to succeed. It is our belief that Mr. Day would be a worthy recipient of the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal and strongly encourage his consideration for this honor.

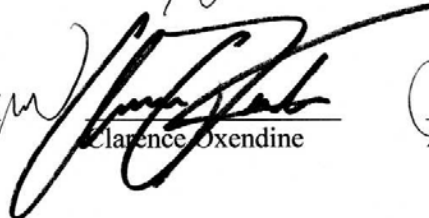
Sincerely,

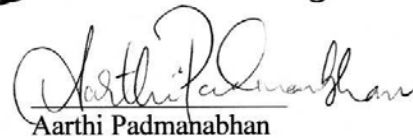

Daryn Soldan


Brett Tagtmeyer


Lynda Armstrong


Hilary Kemper

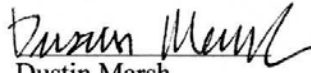

Clarence Oxendine

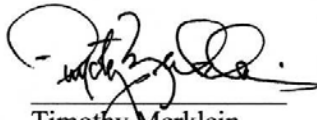

Aarthi Padmanabhan


Joe Schreider


Kyle Grist


Pete Simpson

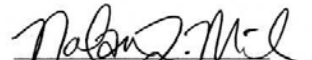

Dustin Marsh

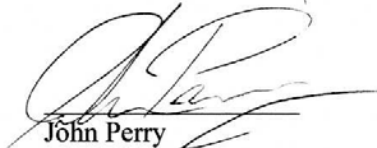

Timothy Merklein


Yun-Chieh Chiu


Sean Ray


Greg Pfau



Nolan Miller


John Perry


Kent Burnham


Luke Schooler



Jon Champlin


Megan Bryan


Ryan Debold

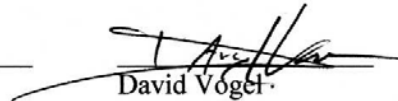

Kristopher Kleinschmidt

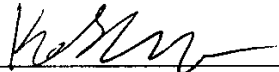

Desmond Poirier


Jeremy Merrill


D. Nathaniel Kersey


Cody Peratt


David Vogel


Kelsey Kern

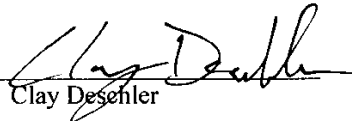

Brett Rolfs


Katie Sobczynski


Amy Staffer



Josh LaMartina


Andy Meessmann

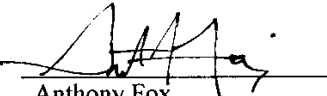

Clay Deschler



Kevin Kroen


Sarah Morrow

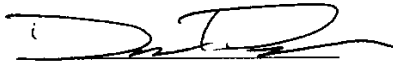

Robin Banks


Matthew Dugan


Anthony Fox

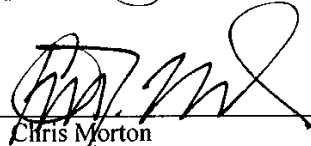

Krista Coen


Ian Scherling


Daniel Robben

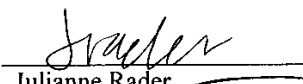

Lindsey Richardson


Jeremy Anterola

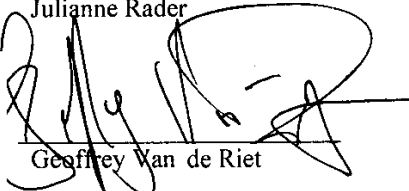

Chris Morton


Michael Meihaus


Jessica Blackwell


Julianne Rader


Amanda Ulrich


Geoffrey Van de Riet

January 24, 2009

ASLA Executive Committee
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RE: Nomination of Professor Dennis J. Day, FASLA, for the Jot D. Carpenter Medal

Dear Executive Committee and Board of Trustees:

I'm very happy to have this opportunity to support Dennis J. Day's nomination for the prestigious Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal which recognizes the sustained and significant contributions of a landscape architecture educator. I've known Dennis for forty-two years. Not only is he a valued colleague but he, and Vi, are among my closest and most valued friends.

Dennis and I have been colleagues at K-State for thirty-seven years where we both developed our teaching careers. The first four years I was here, we shared an office. From the very first year, it was apparent to me that Dennis was going to be a very dedicated and effective teacher. He has four qualities that I think make him a great teacher: tireless dedication to making the learning experience excellent for the student; the rigor of his courses; the fairness in dealing with students and his loyalty to people around him – students and colleagues.

Dennis worked tirelessly to make each lecture, each project a better and more relevant learning experience than the previous. He always embraced innovation and worked hard to keep abreast of new technology, new concepts of dealing with site development issues. He incorporated concepts and information he acquired from innovative designers, engineers, from his own experiences as a developer and co-founder of a design-build company into his coursework. His construction courses were always content rich, dynamic and contemporary.

Another characteristic of Dennis' construction courses was their rigor. As mentioned, Dennis put a lot of effort into making and keeping the subject matter relevant. He expected students to demonstrate their knowledge of the subject matter in a carefully considered, thorough and precisely developed set of documents. The lesson here, went beyond calculating the correct psi, proper spacing of contours, etc., it also had to do with taking responsibility to be diligent and thorough in your work. Dennis also applied the same rigor to the evaluation of student work. He believed strongly that the comments and "red lines" were an extension of the lecture and learning process. Every facet of a project was evaluated completely, carefully and above all else, fairly. While students may not always have liked the grade they got, very few will tell you that their work was evaluated unfairly. Though very demanding, students quickly grasp the value of Dennis'

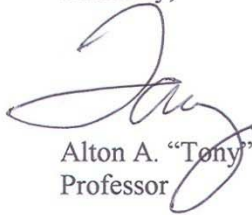
courses as evidenced by the numerous times they voted him the department's "Teacher of the Year Award." Alumni continue to appreciate how that value has grown as they have moved through their careers. Over the years, I've been fortunate to be a member of many national-level boards and committees with ASLA, LAAB and CLARB. I have often come into contact with alumni, some of whom have graduated many years ago and without fail, the first thing they say is, "how is Professor Day" and this is followed immediately by statements of how much they learned, how often they are still using their construction notebooks, and most of all, how much they had come to appreciate his contribution to the successes in their career.

For forty-two years, Dennis dedicated himself to making the student's learning experience progressively better. While others now teach the construction courses, Dennis developed the framework for construction series at K-State – a series that is the hallmark of the landscape architecture programs. The construction series is widely respected by the practice community and is arguably among the best, if not the best construction curriculum in the country. This was borne out in the 2007 issue of Design Intelligence, which rated K-State's construction curriculum number one in the country.

The final characteristic which I believe contributed significantly to Dennis' success as an educator is the loyalty he has toward colleagues and students. Relationship with his colleagues was and continues to be important to Dennis. He is very willing to assist them in any way he can. I believe he sees his role as one of trying to help them become successful at what they want to do. For students, unless a student so chooses, they did not simply take his classes, get a grade and go away. They enrolled for life. Later, as alumni, they've called on him for advice; they freely contributed projects to his courses and returned to his classes to present new design concepts and technology.

I had the pleasure of escorting Dennis during his induction into the ASLA Fellows. As we stood in the foyer waiting to begin the ceremony, Bill Wenk, FASLA, left his table and walked up to Dennis and offered his congratulations to Dennis on being elected to Fellow as an educator – a very fitting award. I agree with Bill but I think there is one more award that would be a very fitting recognition of Dennis' contributions as an educator and that is the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal. I have the greatest admiration for Dennis and the things he accomplished and the things he's done for the landscape architecture programs at Kansas State University over the years. For this reason and those described above, I enthusiastically and without the slightest hesitation or reservation, recommend Dennis J. Day for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal.

Sincerely,



Alton A. "Tony" Barnes, Jr., FASLA
Professor

Larry Walling, FASLA

February 7, 2009

American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20001-3736

Re: Endorsement of Dennis J. Day
For the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal

Dear Executive Committee and Board of Trustees,

Please accept this letter in strong support of Dennis J. (DJ) Day, Professor Emeritus, Landscape Architecture Department, College of Architecture, Planning and Design, Kansas State University for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal.

I have known DJ for over 35 years, as an instructor, as a peer and for the last thirteen years, as an actively engaged faculty member working effectively with the Landscape Architecture Department Advisory Council which I chaired. In all capacities, he is without equal and eminently deserving of this award.

- **Demonstrated excellence in classroom instruction from the perspectives of students and peers, resulting in positive educational outcomes:**
 - *Students begin to appreciate DJ during their first internship. They quickly realized that as third and fourth year students, they already have considerable construction knowledge and marketable skills. This is a story I have heard repeatedly during my 13-year tenure on the advisory council. Another measure of DJ's success is the strong demand for his students by practitioners. Advisory council members are often told by employers that they have great confidence that his students will walk in the door with knowledge, skills and enthusiasm for the profession of landscape architecture and are immediately ready to go to work.*
- **Demonstrated commitment to the growth and development of students:**
 - *DJ's career has always been focused first on his students and teaching. His approach to teaching has been to give students practical skills*

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necessary to take an idea, put it on paper, refine it, describe it and build it. No easy task. He began, as all projects begin, with a written proposal to the client. When finished, the student had a package complete with all documents necessary to construct a legal and successful project. From first-hand knowledge and lots of anecdotal evidence, I know that former students often referred to them during their early professional career. DJ always attended meetings and events discussing improvement of curricula or specific class offerings sacrificing his personal time during evenings and weekends to explore new teaching ideas and concepts.

- **Consistent availability to students for advice and guidance:**
 - *My personal story. When I was a student, DJ enforced a rigid deadline policy for handing in project work and a severe reduction in grade was imposed based on the number of days late. His deadlines would occasionally coincide with the deadlines of other faculty. Once, when this situation occurred, I stopped in his office. I explained the conflict and acknowledged that I had to make a choice, plagiarize from another student's work or spend extra time, miss his deadline, and learn the material myself, regardless of the grade penalty he would impose. I chose the latter approach and when the work was returned to the class, I was asked to report to DJ's office. I received a high grade, no penalty, and was told if I shared that information with my classmates the grade would be changed to zero. He wasn't as strict as we thought.*
- **Use of innovative teaching methods and techniques:**
 - *I would categorize DJ's methods and techniques as effective and reliable. Many of his students retained the complete body of their student construction class work for reference during their early professional careers. DJ's approach to teaching construction was to use the same process employed by the profession, beginning with a proposal to the client, then a contract, site design, a full set of construction drawings and a book of specifications. In my 30+ year professional career, I know of few other teachers who understand the process so well and who are so effective at its instruction.*
- **Personal integrity:**
 - *The teaching doesn't end when students graduate. DJ frequently provides instruction and advice to former students and colleagues. His opinion and advice are in great demand.*
- **Passion and enthusiasm for the profession of landscape architecture:**
 - *I have observed DJ's passion and enthusiasm for the profession for 35 years. He was passionate about the profession and construction as an instructor. Those qualities were evident at many ASLA Annual Meetings where former students, friends and colleagues lined up to catch his ear or discuss topics of mutual interest. For the last 13 years during annual Advisory Board Meetings he was always present and engaged in conversations and dialogues discussing improvements to the curricula or delivery methods.*

- **Record of actively encouraging student participation in the American Society of Landscape Architects:**
 - *In this area, DJ leads by example with his attendance at meetings both locally and nationally. For over three decades he has supported ASLA and encouraged his students to actively participate in the student chapter and attend chapter and national meetings.*

Finally, DJ has had a profound effect on many individuals and their careers. But to me he gave knowledge, he made me curious about how things were constructed; he instilled in me a love of the profession. All of those gifts have contributed to a very successful career. One where I was more than able to work effectively with other professionals to improve the quality of the built environment in many national parks from Maine to the U.S. Virgin Islands, to Guam and Samoa, to Alaska, and back to Maine. At one point in my career I was Chief of Construction, Western Team, Denver Service Center. My counterparts on the Eastern and Central Teams were both civil engineers. That I was qualified and successful in such a position is a testament to DJ. That many, many of his students have had successful and rewarding professional careers is what being a successful teacher is all about. Please favorably consider D.J. Day for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Larry D. Walling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Larry D. Walling, FASLA
National Park Service, Retired

William J. Johnson FASLA

February 6, 2009

ASLA Executive Committee
C/O Carolyn Mitchell
636 Eye street
Washington DC 20001-3736

RE: Nomination of Professor Dennis J. Day for the Jot D. Carpenter Teaching Medal

Dear Executive Committee Members and Board of Trustees,

Reviewing Dennis Day's career for this award has been one of those special moments when a teacher remembers with great pride one of his former students. As his design instructor during Dennis' graduate work at the University of Michigan (1964-65) I recall him so well – a bright spirit, high energy and strong problem-solving sensibilities. Since those early days I have followed his growth, first in professional office apprenticeships then through an impressive teaching career at Kansas State University. His interest in the building and construction process showed early during graduate school and he became a master at how to implement design ideas.

A teaching and service career was a natural for Dennis. He had a gift for engaging young people and inspiring them to excel. I can attest personally to this in that my son, seeking to find the right graduate school in Landscape Architecture met Professor Day in Kansas. He was taken by Professor Day's no-nonsense approach to professional learning and his genuine interest in a young person's future. 25 years later my son counts Dennis as the primary inspiration in his own planning and design career.

While a superb teacher, Dennis is also a serious advocate for his profession. His work with the ASLA and professional registration initiatives has been tireless and exemplary. Such commitment to the profession demonstrates how diligently he has championed the practice of Landscape Architecture.

Dennis is a remarkable human being. His integrity and thoughtfulness in both his family life and professional life is legend. Here's an instance on how Dennis works – Recently, I was working on a site inspection with my son in a remote rural area of Michigan. A strange car came slowly up the lane, a man got out and walked towards us...it was Dennis from Kansas! I had not seen Dennis for ten years. He said "I heard you were out this way and I wanted to see you and thank you again for giving me the right start in my field." So here were the three of us, alone in the countryside, me having helped Dennis start his career and Dennis the one who triggered my son's career! We hugged.

I'm proud to call Dennis J. Day my esteemed colleague and valued friend. Please consider his nomination with great care for he is most deserving of this prestigious award.



William J. Johnson, FASLA

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