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Important Chatham University News
Registration for 2008 Spring and Maymester begins!
From: Jennifer Bronson, Registrar
The 2008 Spring and Maymester schedules are viewable on my.chatham. Use the following “drilldown” to access the viewable schedule:
1) Login to http://my.chatham.edu
2) Go to the “CampusVue” tab (top right).
3) Go to “Course Schedule.”
4) Choose the term you wish to view from the dropdown list:

NOTE: Internship, Thesis, and Tutorial courses are listed under a separate link in the schedule.

Students should meet with their academic advisors to review their academic record, discuss schedules and have them cleared by their advisor before registering via the Student Portal http://portal.chatham.edu

Also, in order to participate in the registration process your student account must be paid-in-full or current (if enrolled in a payment plan program or recently billed). If your account is not paid-in-full or current you will not be permitted to register for classes. Questions concerning your student account should be directed to the Student Accounts Office at 412-365-2797 or studentaccounts@chatham.edu.

Open Registration Dates: Wednesday, November 7 – Friday, November 30, 2007.

Wednesday, November 7th – Graduate Students and Seniors can begin enrolling in Spring & Maymester courses

Please Note: Any student who does not register within the open registration period and processes their initial registration after the open registration period closes will be assessed a $150 Late Registration Fee.

The student portal will remain open for course changes through the add/drop deadline for each the 2008 Spring and Maymester terms. Questions regarding registration should be directed to the Registrar’s Office at 412-365-2963 or registrar@chatham.edu.

Chatham’s ASID Chapter is gathering decorations for US troops
From: Lauren Musulin ASID Student Chapter President, Chatham University; Student Rep to the Professional Board, PA West Chatham University
Chatham University's American Society of Interior Designers Student chapter is gathering holiday decorations to send to the troops overseas so they can make the holidays fun while they are away from their friends and families. There will be a box on the second floor of the Art & Design Center for you to drop off lights, ornaments, garland, etc., anything to help brighten the season. Please do not drop off any food or candy. The deadline for donations is Thursday, November 15th so the troops receive their decorations by Christmas. Thanks for all of your help and generosity!!

Mass emergency notification system implemented on campus
From: Bernie Merrick
Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police
Chatham University has entered into a contract with e2Campus to provide a mass emergency notification system for our community members. This web-based system will allow us to instantly send a text message to students, parents, faculty and staff wherever they are physically located via a mobile phone, pager, email, web browser or other wireless data device.

The system will only be used in the event of an emergency on campus, large scale emergency or disaster off campus, severe weather condition, or other event or emergency that may have an effect on the operations of the campus and the safety of our community members.

Students will sign up on myChatham as part of a process to gather emergency contact numbers. Students will be presented with a screen requiring the input of emergency contacts upon entry into myChatham beginning 9/24/07. This screen will also include a link to the e2Campus sign up form described above.
Sign up for e2Campus is MANDATORY and it is important to the Community’s safety that we have redundant emergency notification systems. 

*If you have questions, please call Public Safety at ext. 1274 or ext. 1230.*

**Inclement weather policy to be announced**

From: Dean Norma Burgess

The University will soon issue an emergency closure procedure/policy as they have each year in the past. The decision is made by Public Safety, the President, and Vice President for Finance and Administration. This year notifications will be posted via email, TV stations, and radio. Our new instant messaging system will be used this year as well. The Pittsburgh Public Schools IS NOT the model that is used, but instead Pitt, CMU and Duquesne. Watch for the note, coming soon. Thank you.

**News from the Jennie King Mellon Library**

**Chatham welcomes new reference librarian**

The JKM Library has a new reference librarian. Please welcome Kate Wenger, who comes to Chatham from Muskingum College in Ohio where she worked for two years as a reference librarian. She has a BA in Psychology and English from Muskingum College and an MLIS from Kent State University.

Here at Chatham, Kate will be staffing the reference desk, providing instruction sessions for classes, conducting workshops, and selecting books and other items for the library’s collection.

**Journals now available**

Dana Mastroianni, MLIS announced the library has started receiving the *Journal of Planning Literature*, the *Journal of the American Planning Association*, and *Landscape Journal*. The journals can be found in the current periodicals section in the basement of the library. For more information contact dmastroianni@chatham.edu; 412-365-1602.

**Graduation News**

From: Dr. Esther Barrazone, Chatham University President

I am writing to follow up our correspondence about graduation, as I promised I would do. First, thanks to all of you who took the time and thought to write me and communicate your ideas about what would or would not work, as well as just to engage the dialogue. I really appreciated it. Secondly, thanks for your patience as we work out these growing pains issues, while trying to preserve the best of what is Chatham. And thanks to the University Committee, Vice President David Phillips and the Deans of the Colleges who spent considerable time and thought on the issues before us.

With apologies to those graduate students who received a contrary message, we have decided that it would be best after all to continue, for this final year, the pattern of a spring undergraduate graduation (May 3) and a graduate graduation in the summer (August 16).

After this year, there will be a combined graduation weekend at the end of Maymester, but not combined commencements. There will be “back to back” commencements for graduates and undergraduates on the same day, Sunday, at the end of a celebratory weekend in which there are events for undergraduates, graduate students, and separate degree programs. We will also have a special December recognition ceremony and reception for those whose completion dates for their studies are most appropriately recognized then.

One advantage of having “back to back” commencements for the near future is that we can continue to use our own campus for the events, at least, that is, until we outgrow the Athletic & Fitness Center. When that happens, we will need to revisit the question of how we conduct commencements.

Beginning with this year’s undergraduate commencement, we plan to work closely with the seniors and the juniors to determine what are the special events and ceremonies that
can be continued on a long term basis in whatever combined formats may come to be that will make their experience unique to the undergraduate College. In like manner, we will work with the graduate students and Program Directors to see where their unique ceremonies and recognitions may best take place in the new calendar. Drs. Armesto, Phillips, Skleder and Burgess will be in charge of working with student and faculty representatives of both those groups to find celebratory customs that will make the occasions as joyous as we all want them to be.

Thank you again for all of your constructive input.

Sincerely,

Esther B.

Chatham University Design Competition for Landscape Students

REOPENS

Design a Memorial Labyrinth for the site in front of Berry Hall
If your design is chosen...win $500
For more information see Calls for Entries Section of this Newsletter
Questions ??? contact:
Lisa Kunst Vavro at 412.365.1882
or lvavro@chatham.edu

Graduate Student Weekend Ski Trip to Seven Springs
January 11-13, 2008
The Chatham University Graduate Student Council is hosting a ski weekend at the cost of $189 which includes lodging at the White Spruce Chalet, transportation, food and drink, and lift tickets. (does not include ski rentals; lift ticket can be traded in for Tuba Luba) Only 48 spots are available.

Graduate students, friends and family can purchase tickets. A $50 non-refundable deposit holds your space until November 9th when full payment is due ($189 total). Checks can be made payable to Chatham University (memo: Graduate Student Ski Trip). Deadline for reserving your spot is November 9th. Tickets are on sale now at the Chatham bookstore or by contacting Doug Dmitrzak, President of Graduate Student Council, at dougpgh@netscape.com
For more information about Seven Springs go to: http://www.7springs.com/. 
Conferences/Meetings/Events
Carnegie Museum of Art
Associated Artists of Pittsburgh Annuals, 1910–2006
Through January 21, 2007
Carnegie Museum of Art and the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh (AAP) is presenting the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh 97th Annual and Popular Salon of the People: Associated Artists of Pittsburgh Annuals, 1910–2006. The two interrelated exhibitions feature a retrospective of AAP, the influential group of Pittsburgh area artists founded in 1910, alongside the 97th installation of the association's annual juried exhibition. Presented jointly under the umbrella title AAP: Then and Now, the pairing of exhibitions will be on view in Carnegie Museum of Art's Heinz Galleries through January 21, 2008.

The exhibitions will feature the works of influential AAP artists of the last century, including some who have been members of the organization for decades and continue to create work, as well as contemporary artists who have been selected for this year's Annual.

This historic overview will present the work of more than 75 notable Pittsburgh artists who have participated in the Associated Artists of Pittsburgh Annuals from 1910 to the present. The exhibition is meant to reveal the importance of the exhibition to artists' careers and to showcase the work of some of the most influential artists who have lived and worked in Pittsburgh, including John Kane, Malcolm Parcell, Aaron Gorson, Samuel Rosenberg, Raymond Simboi, Marie Kelly, Andy Warhol, Philip Pearlstein, and Jonathan Borofsky. Vicky A. Clark has organized the show, which is accompanied by a catalogue.

Work in a variety of media by 76 artists from Pittsburgh and the surrounding region was selected for the 97th Annual Associated Artists of Pittsburgh exhibition by juror Polly Apfelbaum, a highly regarded artist living and working in New York City. The exhibition includes 124 pieces. Work by Robert Bowden, Aaronel deRoy Gruber, Adrienne Heinrich, Karen Kaighen, and Richard Stoner crosses over the historic and contemporary shows.

Associated Artists of Pittsburgh is an independent professional arts organization founded in 1910. For more information go to: www.aapgh.org.

Through January 27, 2008
On A Grand Scale: The Hall of Architecture at 100 Carnegie Museum of Art
In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Carnegie Museum of Art’s Hall of Architecture, an exhibition surveying its installation of nearly 150 plaster architectural casts will be on view. While most of the large cast collections assembled by museums in the late 19th and early 20th centuries have been sold or dispersed, the Hall of Architecture has remained intact throughout its 100-year history and continues to impress visitors and inspire artists of all ages. The exhibition will feature architectural drawings, period photographs, and ephemera chronicling the history of Andrew Carnegie’s creation of the third largest cast collection in the world, as well as address the production of casts in the 19th century and how the Carnegie's casts came to Pittsburgh. General support for the exhibition program at Carnegie Museum of Art is provided by grants from the Heinz Endowments and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. For details go to www.cmoa.org or call 412.622.3131.

Friday, November 9
Sustainable Landscaping Conference -- “Turning a New Leaf”
Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council, 8 am -- 6 pm
There is still space available for new registrations for this conference for landscaping professionals taking place at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, Virginia. Topics include: the green in green development; creative stormwater and shoreline management; how-to for nursery and landscape businesses; designing and maintaining native landscapes.

The Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council (CCLC) is a coalition of individuals and organizations dedicated to researching, promoting, and educating the public about conservation-based gardening and landscaping practices in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The Council is committed to fostering changes in public attitudes and the implementation of practices that result in a cleaner, healthier and more beautiful environment benefiting residents and the region’s biological diversity. Go to www.chesapeakelandscape.org for detailed program and registration.

Thursday, November 15, Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia
Sustainable Visions: strategies for Philadelphia will bring special guests- Paul Brophy, principal with Brophy & Reilly, and Raymond Gastil, Director of City Planning, Manhattan, to discuss the opportunities and challenges cities face when bridging the gaps between design and implementation. These two experts will explore the value of design and innovation as well as the policy implications that would enable those design visions to be successfully realized.

In this special two part program, the public is invited to hear the five finalist teams from the international ideas competition URBAN VOIDS: grounds for change present their proposals at 4pm. Presenting teams include Ecosistema Urbano (Madrid), Front Studio (NY), Jill Desimini (Boston), Mathew Langen (Boston), and grand winner- Waterwork, (pictured above), the Philadelphia team of Charles Loomis, Chariss Mcatee, Gavin Riggall and Juliet Geldi. The teams will also take part in the evening panel. (This work along with the other 215 proposals submitted to the competition can be seen at http://www.landvisions.org).

URBAN VOIDS: grounds for change is part of the three phased program- Philadelphia LANDVISIONS, launched by City Parks Association with generous support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Claneil Foundation, the Samuel S. Fels Fund and the Office of housing and Community Development (OHCD). City Parks Association worked closely with a Core Team of organizational partners, including the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and The Reinvestment Fund. For more information, contact Roland Wall (215 299-1108) or Deenah Loeb at cityparksphila@gmail.com.

Friday, November 16
4th Annual Regional Equitable Development Summit
Twentieth Century Club, 4201 Bigelow Blvd., Oakland
The Summit will feature the opportunity for community leaders to become involved in aiding the region's leading institutions in advancing goals to narrow the disparities gap. The Summit will feature reports by regional leaders on their vision for, current activities, and needs for assistance in achieving regional equity across a range of critical public services, investments, and governance. Come participate and learn how you can help in advancing policy and practice for regional equitable development to expand opportunity and bolster the region's productivity and competitiveness. info@sustainablepittsburgh.org or 412-258-6642.

More information is available under “News from Sustainable Pittsburgh”
Monday-Wednesday, December 3-5, Fourth Annual Reinvention Symposium; Charleston, South Carolina

Attend the 4th annual Reinvention Symposium to examine ways you can learn from the past while still advancing the profession and the art of residential design. Join fellow architects in a discussion on the merits of both modern and traditional house designs and what they mean today. Take part in this no-holds-barred conversation about architectural invention and the rich language architects draw from in the past, present and future. A bonus program includes a housing tour of Charleston’s finest at 9 am Monday, December 3. The Congress of Residential Architecture (CORA), convenes immediately after closing remarks (1:30 pm Wednesday, Dec 5). Earn 15.25 continuing education credits (10 HSW). Hanley Wood is an AIA CES registered provider. Registration is $325 before November 1st; $375 thereafter.

Keynote Speaker is Peter Q. Bohlin, FAIA, of Bohlin, Cywinski, Jackson, Wilkes-Barre, PA. Sessions include: Unfettered Inspiration; From Bauhaus Modern to Our House Modern; Considering Context: The New House; Considering Context: The Altered House; Refreshing the Familiar; Sustainable Design Summit. 

For more information email Reinvention@hanleywood.com

Wednesday, December 5
Alliance Building Breakfast: Havard Yale Princeton Club; 619 William Penn Place, Pittsburgh, PA

In the final Alliance Building Breakfast of 2007, join staff, board, committee and members of the Green Building Alliance and US Green Building Council for the annual membership update. This breakfast meeting will share new developments and initiatives happening nationally with the USGBC and locally in Western Pennsylvania by the Green Building Alliance. Guests are welcome to attend the live event in Pittsburgh, or participate via videoconference downlink at Laurel Highlands or the Northwestern PA locations.

Cost: $30 GBA Members; $40 for nonmembers

Full details at: www.gbaphg.org/events.asp

For future consideration...

Friday, February 22, 2008
Carnegie Museum of Art Theater 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Stefan Behnisch presents recent work by Behnisch Architekten, a practice based in Stuttgart, Germany, renowned for buildings characterized by natural light, air, color, vegetation with the legible assembly of components. This lecture marks the opening of the Ecology.Design.Synergy, a collaborative exhibition between Behnisch Architekten and Transsolar Climate Engineering that includes the competition-winning RiverParc proposal for Pittsburgh Cultural Trust in downtown Pittsburgh.

February 23 – June 1, 2008
Ecology.Design.Synergy
Heinz Architectural Center, Carnegie Museum of Art

Exhibition of “green architecture melds environmentally responsible design with a remarkable architectural aesthetic.”
Friday, March 7, 2008
Longwood Graduate Program Annual Symposium
"Powerful exhibitions for Every Institution"
Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA
Registration opens Tuesday, January 1, 2008
Last year sold out!
www.udel.edu/longwoodgrad

Saturday, March 8, 2008
Western PA Garden and Landscaping Symposium
Chatham University Eddy Theater
More details forthcoming

April, 2008
Rachel Carson Spirit & Nature Conference Rescheduled
The Rachel Carson Spirit & Nature conference scheduled for November has been postponed until early April – the new date will be announced soon. This decision was based on a low registration for a conference that we believe provides an important opportunity to expand in the Pittsburgh area the national and international dialogue among world religions on earth stewardship, global warming and sustainable living.
For more information please contact Fiona Fisher, Director of Communications, Rachel Carson Homestead Association, 613 Marion Avenue, Box 46, Springdale, PA 15144, (724) 274-5459, or go to: www.rachelcarsonhomestead.org.

April 31 - May 2, 2008
Sixth Annual Greening Rooftops for Sustainable Communities Conference
Baltimore Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel and Baltimore Convention Center
See www.greenroofs.org/baltimore for details.

News from ASLA

New Report Brings Sustainable Landscapes Mainstream

Washington, DC, November 1, 2007 — A report released today will help usher sustainable landscape design into mainstream use. Featuring over 200 recommendations for designing and building sustainable landscapes, the report is part of the Sustainable Sites Initiative, a partnership between the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas at Austin and the United States Botanic Garden to create voluntary guidelines and a rating system for sustainable landscape design. The report is available at www.sustainablesites.org.

"We want to identify the gold standards in sustainable landscape design and marry them to a practical, real-world approach so that designers, planners, builders and developers can utilize them," said Nancy Somerville, Executive Vice President and CEO of ASLA. "This report is an important step to bring sustainable landscape practices into widespread use."

The Preliminary Report on Standards and Guidelines represents thousands of hours of work in the past year by 32 experts in fields ranging from design and construction to soils, hydrology, and public health. The findings examine the positive environmental impact sustainable landscapes offer. For example, appropriate vegetation can help control erosion, filter out pollutants, provide habitat for wildlife and pollinators and supply oxygen for the air we breathe. The preliminary report...
also details practices that degrade landscapes and should be avoided, as well as techniques for designing landscapes that benefit the environment.

“The truly exciting thing about sustainable landscapes is that they actually help us confront some of the most serious environmental problems the world is facing now, including climate change,” said Susan Rieff, Executive Director of the Wildflower Center. “Plants absorb carbon dioxide—a greenhouse gas and a major cause of global warming—from the air and soils can capture it and hold it. Native grasses may be even more effective in sequestering carbon than trees. This can help mitigate climate change.”

“People want to do the right thing,” said Holly Shimizu, Executive Director of the United States Botanic Garden, “but they need guidelines. The standards developed under Sustainable Sites will integrate landscape into the overall green movement. Without the landscape component, a truly sustainable lifestyle isn’t possible.”

The preliminary report is the first of three for the Sustainable Sites Initiative. A primary purpose of releasing this preliminary work is to solicit feedback, comments and additional information from professionals and other stakeholders who can contribute to knowledge about ways to achieve sustainable landscapes. Interested persons can join this review process at www.sustainablesites.org. The review period lasts 45 days and comments are due by January 11, 2008.

Eventually, Sustainable Sites will create a rating system that will apply to large and small sites, and can be used independently or incorporated into other green rating systems. The U.S. Green Building Council is lending its support to this project and plans to adopt the Sustainable Sites metrics into future versions of LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental design) Green Building Rating System.

After feedback is gathered from the review process, a comprehensive report will be published in October 2008 with the release of final Standards and Guidelines for Sustainable Sites planned for May 2009. The Sustainable Sites Initiative plans to produce a rating system by May 2011 and test the guidelines with pilot projects in 2010 and 2011.

Additional program partners include the U.S. Green Building Council, the Environmental Protection Agency’s GreenScapes Program, the National Recreation and Parks Association, the American Society of Civil Engineers’ Environment and Water Resources Institute, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, the Nature Conservancy’s Global Invasive Species Initiative, and The Center for Sustainable Development at the University of Texas at Austin. For more information, visit www.sustainablesites.org.

About ASLA Founded in 1899, ASLA is the national professional association for landscape architects, representing more than 18,200 members in 48 professional chapters and 68 student chapters. Landscape architecture is a comprehensive discipline of land analysis, planning, design, management, preservation, and rehabilitation. ASLA promotes the landscape architecture profession and advances the practice through advocacy, education, communication, and fellowship. Members of the Society use their “ASLA” suffix after their names to denote membership and their commitment to the highest ethical standards of the profession. Learn more about landscape architecture online at www.asla.org

About the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The University of Texas at Austin is dedicated to increasing the sustainable use and conservation of native plants and landscapes. Founded in 1982 by Lady Bird Johnson, the former first lady, the Wildflower Center maintains an extensive native plant botanic garden and offers professional and adult education. The Wildflower Center also conducts research on landscape restoration and plant conservation at its 279-acre site, promoting the role of native plants in addressing ecological problems. Recent research initiatives focus on native turf grasses, green roof technology in a sub-tropical climate, prairie restoration methods including prescribed fire, the control of invasive species, and ways in which native plants can aid in combating climate change in urban landscapes. Learn more at www.wildflower.org

About the United States Botanic Garden Dating from 1820, the United States Botanic Garden (USBG) is one of the oldest botanic gardens in North America. The Garden informs visitors about the importance and fundamental value of plants to the well-being of humans and our planet. It also highlights the diversity of plants worldwide, particularly their aesthetic, cultural, economic, therapeutic, and ecological significance. Formally placed under the jurisdiction of the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress in 1856, the U.S. Botanic Garden is administered through the Office of the Architect of the Capitol in the Legislative Branch since 1934. With nearly a million visitors annually and located on the National Mall, the USBG strives to demonstrate and promote sustainable practices for individuals, organizations, and institutions. Learn more online at www.usbg.gov
Support the Green Energy Education Act
Ask Senate Committee to Consider H.R. 1716

ASLA needs your help to urge the Senate to act on H.R. 1716, The Green Energy Education Act of 2007, which would help prepare the next generation of landscape architects and building professionals to develop buildings that use less energy and are more environmentally-friendly.

The bill, sponsored by Congressman Mike McCaul of Texas, would create a partnership between the Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation to support undergraduate and graduate programs that offer curricula focusing on the design and construction of high performance buildings. As you may recall, The Green Energy Education Act of 2007, unanimously passed the House of Representatives in early June and included an amendment that specifically included "landscape architects" in the category of design professionals that are critical to designing energy efficient buildings.

Buildings consume nearly 40% percent of our nation's primary energy, more than any other sector of the U.S. economy. Emerging green building techniques and energy efficient technologies have the potential to significantly reduce the carbon footprint of America's 81 million buildings. Through effective site planning and stormwater management plans, landscape architects play a critical role in reducing energy consumption in buildings.

Please contact your Senators now and ask them to urge the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to take action on this important bill.

Reminder
The next ASLA Student Chapter meeting is Thursday November 15th, 5:30 - 6:00 pm in studio 204 ADC.
Please let President Laurie Follweiler know if there are any items you want to put on the agenda-

Hope to see you there! (Remember there will be coffee and snacks!)

Visit the ASLA Student Awards site, http://asla.org/awards/2007/studentawards/
Maybe next year Chatham students will enter???
Welcome to the newest landscape architect baby!
Aidan Michael Kotyk

born on Wednesday October 10th at 11:15am. 9lbs 9oz happy and healthy!!
Daddy Mike Kotyk and Mommy Erin are also doing just fine! Congratulations!!

Design Pittsburgh 2007 - A Great Success!
Thanks to everyone who helped to make this year's Design Pittsburgh a success! Award winning projects have been posted to the website. All submission materials - project binders and boards are now available to be picked up at the AIA Pittsburgh office, which is open Monday - Friday, 9 am - 5 pm.

Call for Entries

Compost Awareness Week Poster Contest
The International Compost Awareness Week Committee of the US Composting Council is inviting participants for its first poster contest. Whether or not you have celebrated or been involved in ICAW in the past, we want you to participate this year and submit a poster. The Possibilities Are Endless....Compost!

The poster contest challenges everyone to express her or his belief in the composting industry and the benefits of using compost. The winning poster will be used to promote our 13th Annual International Compost Awareness Week, May 4-10, 2008.
Contest entries should include an official entry form and must be postmarked by December 14, 2007. Finalists will be announced and the final winner chosen during the 16th Annual USCC Conference and Trade Show to be held in Oakland, CA, February 9-12, 2008.

Complete contest rules and information are available at http://compostingcouncil.org/section.cfm?id=60. For information on the 2008 USCC Conference & Exhibition, go to www.compostingcouncil.org.

Chatham University Design Competition for Landscape Students REOPENS

Design a Memorial Labyrinth for the site in front of Berry Hall
If your design is chosen...win $500

LABYRINTH DESIGN PARAMETERS
Chatham University is investigating the prospect of installing a labyrinth on the campus. A labyrinth is a meditative landscape, typically a pavement or a planar planting. Labyrinths are used as places for meditation and contemplation. They are places designed to center one’s thoughts by walking along or tracing a ground plane pattern as a deliberative activity.

A donor has proposed funds for the labyrinth construction as a memorial to a Chatham student. The University has identified a preferred location for this feature on the green space in front of Berry Hall on the level portion of the lawn. A video overview of the site is on the campus tour on the University’s website. http://www.ecampustours.com/virtualtours

The approximate project budget is $50,000.

Landscape students are invited to submit design concepts on a competitive basis for the labyrinth's implementation. The University will select the best alternative, or combination of alternatives, for further cooperative development from among submittals received by Monday, January 7, 2008 at 6 p.m. in Lisa Kunst Vavro’s office, room 102 ADC.

Programmatic criteria for generating design alternatives include the following:

- The labyrinth design will be modeled upon medieval precedents, e.g., floors at the great crossings of gothic cathedrals such as Chartres. Modern precedents of similar nature include both civic open spaces and other campus installations, which competition entrants may want to reference. The typical scale for the labyrinth itself may be about 40 feet in diameter, and most often less. Even at smaller dimensions, labyrinth advocates cite benefits of marked relaxation response and correlated health benefits.

- Site development proposals should factor sustainable design principles. This site intervention should not have an adverse impact on natural systems, such as existing trees and water run-off. Where trees should be maintained on the site, the condition of selected specimens may warrant prudent remedial care and/or removal.

- Just as site drainage should not be adversely affected, irrigation should be avoided. Careful selection of plant materials is warranted.

- Another aspect of sustainability will certainly be ease of maintenance. The University maintenance budgets and staff hours are limited and must be considered in the design.

- Accessibility must be addressed in the overall site design. Elevation changes from the surrounding roadway and driveway are as much as four feet in some places. While it may not be feasible for the labyrinth itself to be designed for direct wheelchair navigation (although it should be considered), access to this elevated site is imperative. Providing a
prospect for wheelchair-bound individuals to view the labyrinth will encourage meditation and the virtual tracing of the ground pattern.

- Elevation changes from the surrounding roadway and driveway are as much as four feet in some places. While it is not reasonable for the labyrinth itself to be designed for direct wheelchair navigation, access to this elevated site is imperative. Providing a prospect for wheelchair-bound individuals to view the labyrinth will encourage meditation and the virtual tracing of the ground pattern.

- This project also presents an opportunity to improve pedestrian connections between the Mellon Center and Berry Hall. Considerations for walkway extensions and access ramp improvements are encouraged to be integrated with design proposals. At the same time, intrusion upon the meditative aspect of the area by an active walkway should be avoided.

- Design proposals should consider the tranquil and personal nature of labyrinth use and provide an apparent and appropriate sense of shelter for users. The sense of separation should be considered from potential intrusions including: Woodland Road, cars that may be parked on the Berry driveway, and views toward the active delivery area on the east side of the Athletics and Fitness Center.

- At the same time, security and personal safety need to be weighed. Visibility across the site is one means of providing a safe environment and can be balanced with users' senses of privacy. A total enclosure of the site is unwarranted and undesirable for a number of reasons.

- Nighttime lighting for both safety and site enhancement should be factored.

- Seating to encourage lingering and meditative repose should be incorporated within the design.

- Since this new landscape feature is given as a memorial, both an appropriate and permanent recognition of the person memorialized and a modest and permanent recognition of the donor need to be integral to the design.

- Given a modest initial budget, designs should be prepared to accommodate potential phasing of construction over time. An essential core of elements may be enhanced and supplemented by increments.

So Remember:
Design a Memorial Labyrinth for the site in front of Berry Hall as per the above parameters and site plan below.

The University will select the best alternative, or combination of alternatives, for further cooperative development from among submittals received by

Monday, January 7, 2008 at 6 p.m.
in Lisa Kunst Vavro’s office, room 102 ADC.

If your design is chosen…win $500.
Grant Opportunities

American Association of University Women Educational Foundation
Accepting Applications for Career Development Grants
Deadline: Saturday, December 15, 2007

One of the world's largest sources of funding exclusively for graduate women, the American Association of University Women Educational Foundation, supports aspiring scholars around the globe, teachers and activists in local communities, women at critical stages of their careers, and those pursuing professions where women are underrepresented.

The foundation's Career Development Grants support women who hold a bachelor's degree and are preparing to advance their careers, change careers, or re-enter the work force. Special consideration is given to AAUW members, women of color, and women pursuing their first advanced degree or credentials in non-traditional fields.

Grants provide support for course work beyond a bachelor's degree, including a master's degree, second bachelor's degree, or specialized training in technical or professional fields. Funds also are available for distance learning. Course work must be taken at an accredited two- or four-year college or university, or at a technical school that is fully licensed or accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Funds are not available for doctoral-level work.

For further information go to: http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/10009451/aauw

Pittsburgh Rotary has scholarships available for 2008

The Pittsburgh Rotary district in partnership with Rotary International is looking to fill five to six slots as part of the Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarships program for 2008 and possibly 2009. The program is flexible and aimed specifically at non-Rotarians. Undergraduate and graduate students, as well as professionals seeking additional education should contact Richard Beck at (412) 343-9488 or Georgia Petropoulos at (412) 683-6243 ext. 18.

For further information go to www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/amb_scho/index.html

Design Work Opportunities

The following design opportunities ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR STUDENTS:

- Handicap accessible landscape design compatible for a Tudor home in the Point Breeze neighborhood.

- Landscape design for a Tudor home in Munhall. This may include floral design for an upcoming wedding.

- Appropriate planting design with erosion control for eroded hillside in Edgewood.

- Garden design including hardscape and landscape for a new home addition in the Chatham University neighborhood.
Yard design with off-street parking.

Yard design.

Front and side yard design for corner hillside property in Squirrel Hill.

Design ideas needed for Irwin Main Street project.

Any student interested in these design projects  
**Please contact Lisa Kunst Vavro ASAP.**

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**Job Opportunities**

**Salsbury-Schweyer, Inc:** an Akron, Ohio company hiring landscape architects, field crew team member

We are an award winning landscape design and development group in Akron, OH (USA) and currently have a position open for a Landscape Architect.

We are also looking for a new member to join our field crew team who has a good knowledge of plants as well as landscape design, installation & maintenance. Construction experience is also a plus, i.e. carpentry, masonry, irrigation, etc.

Salsbury-Schweyer, Inc is known for progressive residential designs and a personal, sustainable approach to the land. Located in a renovated industrial space near downtown Akron, Ohio, we offer a pleasant work environment in a contemporary office suite. Our company is small, but growing, offering the right individual a great opportunity to advance with the business.

*For more information please visit our website at [www.salsbury-schweyer.com](http://www.salsbury-schweyer.com)*

**Washington and Jefferson College**

**Adjunct position in Botany for Spring 2008**

There is an opening for an adjunct faculty member to teach Botany (BIO 200) and the associated lab (BIO 200L) at Washington and Jefferson College for Spring, 2008. The course (both lecture and lab) will have up to 24 students, and is scheduled as: Lecture T, H 1-2:05; Lab H 2:30-5:30. Students take both lecture and lab to fulfill the botany requirement for our General Biology Track. We are happy for an individual to use his/her own ideas in developing the course. The students will all have had a year of General Biology (BIO 101 and BIO 102 with labs), but they will not have covered much botany, so the instructor could feel free to develop things along his/her lines of expertise.

If anyone at Chatham knows of a graduate student who would be interested in the position, please have them contact me. I will ultimately need their CV and some references to contact, and then would schedule an informal meeting.

*Alice G. Lee, Ph.D., Professor of Biology, Washington and Jefferson College  
60 S. Lincoln Street, Washington, PA 15301  
agleewashjeff.edu; 724.223.5283.*

**Gardener’s Eye seeks Design Assistant**

**Work Status:** Full Time  
**Reports to:** President  
**FLSA Status:** Non-Exempt (hourly)  
**Job Summary:** This position will assist with the creation and presentation of accurate, detailed, knowledgeable and unique garden designs for Gardener’s Eye clients.
Duties and Responsibilities:

- Assist designer with preparing and implementing garden designs. This includes setting up and participating in client consultations, assisting with bid estimates, completing site visits and analysis, preparing proposals that address client requests, ordering materials and coordinating installations.
- Accurately measure locations for new and enhanced garden designs. This includes consideration for existing and planned land areas, planting beds, hardscaping, and all other landscaping and structures that might affect the designs.
- Create drawn-to-scale hand-rendered site plans for garden designs that clearly, accurately and comprehensively depict the proposed design.
- Research, analyze, select materials, provide options and make design and garden recommendations based on clients needs.
- Create, construct and assemble pictures and information sheets of plants and other materials for design portfolios.
- Prepare presentation portfolios for clients that include detailed pictures and information about the proposed plans, plants and color schemes.
- With direction, apply knowledge of plants, landscaping and gardening to develop mini-designs for landscaping areas, such as small perennial beds, that address materials, products and color selection.
- Stage installations of planting areas based on client and company requirements.

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed above are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Supervisory Responsibility: None required.
Budget Accountability: With direction, responsible for adhering to client and company budget requirements and bid proposals.
Computer and Equipment Skills: To perform this job successfully, an individual must be skilled in the use of Word, Excel and Outlook.
Abilities:

- Possess strong analytical and spatial skills to measure, organize and produce accurate, drawn-to-scale designs.
- Possess and demonstrate knowledge of plants and other garden-related materials.
- Demonstrate professional and courteous interpersonal skills when working with clients, customers, co-workers, vendors, suppliers and the public on behalf of Gardener's Eye.
- Work both independently (under direction) and in teams and effectively manage interpersonal relationships and conflict.
- Possess and demonstrate strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Demonstrate ability to multitask, prioritize, work independently, meet deadlines and maintain attention to detail in communication, design, presentation and client service.
- Possess a strong work ethic, intuitive concern for the client, desire to enhance the reputation of Gardener's Eye and passion for gardening and fine landscapes.

Education/Experience:

- High school graduate or equivalent; undergraduate degree in gardening or landscaping related field preferred.
- Minimum three (3) years garden, landscape design, or related experience.

Physical Demands:
The physical demands are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.
• While performing the duties of this job, the employee must be able to sit, walk, use hands; reach with hands and arms; bend, stoop, kneel and crouch.
• Must be able to work outdoors meeting clients, analyzing and measuring sites in all Pittsburgh area climates and temperatures throughout the year.
• Must be able to lift 30 pounds.
• Must be able to manipulate, carry and place plants and containers on properties.
• Must possess a valid PA driver’s license and/or have reliable transportation to client sites.

Gardener’s Eye
3392 Saxonburg Blvd
Glenshaw, Pa 15116
412.487.7802 phone
info@gardeners-eye.com

Volunteer Opportunities

Sakura Project seeks volunteer student for landscape plans
Members of Pittsburgh’s Japanese community are planning to plant 100 cherry trees and create a Japanese garden as part of the Sakura Project. The committee is seeking a volunteer landscape architecture student to help design plans for a land area in North Park, approximately 300ft x 360ft. Fundraising efforts have begun; the committee is meeting with the director of Allegheny County Parks at the end of November. A rough proposal is needed by January, 2008.
For more information, please contact Yoko Motoyama atyokohm@comcast.net

Smart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County needs volunteers for its US Route 30 Design Charrette
Following the Charrette (October 29, 2007) through January 29, 2008
• Professionals who can critique the preferred plan, LEED Building Design and LEED Neighborhood Design, traffic, street design, parking, lighting, transit, economics, storm water, urban design, noise impacts, housing, commercial retail, landscaping and utilities.
• Professionals or students who can render and sketch, plan views, building types and plans for the final document
• Land use development codes specialists to review necessary code language extracted from the prototype design
• A market study for the preferred plan
• Proof readers and editors for the final report
• Communication specialists to review layout of the final report
• Bloggers
• People to attend our meetings on December 13-14
For information contact: Alexander J. Graziani, AICP, Executive DirectorSmart Growth Partnership of Westmoreland County, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg,166 Millstein Library, 150 Finoli Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601, Phone 724-836-7048, www.smartgrowthpa.org.

News of Interest

CMU getting plaudits for getting greener
By Don Hopey, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Friday, October 26, 2007

On everything from building construction to energy conservation to cage-free eggs and organic granola in the dining halls, area universities are turning “green.” The growing environmental bent of area schools was recognized in the November/December issue of Sierra magazine, out yesterday, which named Carnegie Mellon University and Penn State University two of its “10 Coolest Schools” for their efforts to address global warming.
Carnegie Mellon earned its ranking with student-designed “green” roofs on several buildings, the country's first eco-friendly dorm and a collaborative research center with a modular raised floor system that doubles the amount of fresh air circulating in the building.

The magazine gave Penn State "big props" for committing to a systemwide goal of environmental building construction practices, spending $10 million a year to make existing buildings more energy efficient and targeting a 17.5 percent decrease in greenhouse gas emissions by 2012.

Area universities also received higher grades this year than last on the national College Sustainability Report Card released yesterday. The University of Pittsburgh moved up to an overall "C-" from a "D" grade, Carnegie Mellon rose to a "B-" from a "C+,” and Penn State pulled a "B" after receiving a "C+" last year.

"We appreciate the recognition of Penn State as a leader in campus sustainability and our ongoing commitment to environmental initiatives," said Geoffrey Rushton, a Penn State spokesman.

The higher grades of local universities reflect an overall national trend in which two out of three universities surveyed improved their environmental performance.

"The results clearly show a green groundswell on campuses, with nearly 45 percent of colleges committing to fight climate change through cutting carbon emissions," said Mark Orlowski, executive director of the Sustainable Endowments Institute, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit that assessed the sustainability of campus operations and endowment investments at the 200 public and private universities with the largest endowments.

The survey grades the schools in eight categories: administration, climate change and energy, food and recycling, green building, transportation, endowment transparency, investment priorities and shareholder engagement.

Schools performed best in the food and recycling category with 29 percent earning "A" grades. The worst grades nationwide were in shareholder engagement, which assesses how well university endowment shareholder votes reflect the school's environmental programs, and where 66 percent of the schools scored "F."

"Many schools are missing opportunities to connect the dots and bring leadership on the endowment side into alignment with existing campus sustainability efforts," Mr. Orlowski said.

Both the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University received "F" grades for shareholder engagement and for endowment transparency, for failing to make public their endowment holdings.

Teresa Thomas, a Carnegie Mellon spokeswoman, said the university has invested in renewable energy, but like many private universities got poor grades on endowment transparency because of concerns about compromising its investment decision-making process.

"The university discloses a reasonable amount of investment information in its annual report," she said, "and we will continue to pursue thoughtful and appropriate methods for sharing investment information in the future."

Penn State received an "A" grade in the endowment transparency category for annually listing all its investment holdings publicly. It received a "D" for shareholder engagement,
avoiding a failing grade because it is in the process of implementing new proxy-voting guidelines for its investment managers.

Don Hopey can be reached at dhopey@post-gazette.com or 412-263-1983.

Support Your Local Trees
By Diana Ames (originally published by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Oct. 21, 2007)

Pittsburgh's tree trouble is no secret. In response to decades of deferred care, and repeated reductions in the city Forestry Division's budget, Carnegie Mellon's Heinz School conducted a study of Pittsburgh's urban forest in 1995. The findings, published as "Pittsburgh's Urban Forest: Planting For the Future," painted a bleak picture. It declared:

The Forestry Division removes four trees for each one planted. An estimated 20 percent of trees that are planted in city rights of way do not survive five years.

The Forestry Division is critically understaffed, for the most part able to engage only in crisis management. In the 1970s, more than 30 people were employed in the Forestry Division; in 1995 there were 15, including two clerical staff.

A dozen years later, things have not improved. Now there are only 11 people, including one clerical person, to care for the trees along nearly 1,000 miles of city streets. But "Planting for the Future" also offered remedies. One of the recommendations was to conduct a comprehensive inventory of Pittsburgh's street trees.

In 2005 the Pittsburgh Shade Tree Commission, in cooperation with the city's Department of Public Works, conducted a comprehensive inventory of the city's street trees and charted a management plan.

Based on inventory data, a seven-year program of activities including removals, pruning and new planting was prepared, along with a corresponding budget of funding needed to eliminate the backlog. The action plan budget includes only enough tree planting funding to begin to make up for the number of trees on the removal list.

The inventory revealed a total of 30,538 street trees. A previous sampling indicated a population of approximately 45,000 trees. The total value of Pittsburgh's street tree population is $52 million, with an average value per tree $1,706. 3,185 trees were slated for removal because they were dead, or in very poor condition.

The genus Acer (maple) makes up 36 percent of the population. But diversity is imperative for a healthy urban forest; monocultures set the stage for devastation such as happened in the wake of Dutch elm disease.

A high percentage of Pittsburgh's street trees are only small or medium-sized. Without proactive maintenance, larger trees can prematurely end up on the removal list. The Pennsylvania Forest Association points out that too many communities make the mistake
of planting new trees while neglecting older, more valuable trees, and that caring for existing trees should take priority over planting new ones.

A complete cost-benefit analysis of Pittsburgh's street tree data is under way using software recently developed by the U.S. Forest Service called STRATUM (Street Tree Resource Assessment Tool for Urban Managers). The analysis provides a dollar value indication of the environmental work performed by each tree. Preliminary results of Pittsburgh's forthcoming STRATUM study shows that every dollar we invest in planting and maintaining our street trees provides four dollars in benefits.

We are committed to preserving and enhancing one of Pittsburgh's most precious natural features. You can start to help in two simple ways:

Keep your street trees weeded, watered and properly mulched. Become a "Tree Tender" volunteer: Attend our tree care workshops and seminars.

Diana Ames is president of Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest, founded in 2006. She wrote this with Executive Director Danielle Crumrine and Matthew Erb, the volunteer and projects coordinator. Contact pittsburghurbanforest@gmail.com or 412-362-6360.

Pittsburgh development CEO debuts History & Landmarks' venture
by Ron DaParma, reprinted from Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

On Monday, Howard B. Slaughter Jr. officially started his job as CEO of Landmarks Community Capital Corporation, a new nonprofit corporation formed by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

Slaughter didn't wait to begin his quest to raise the $10 million to $15 million he hopes to secure for the new corporation to invest in community development and revitalization projects in Western Pennsylvania and in the neighboring states of West Virginia and Ohio.

"We've already been talking to some companies that have social investment programs," said Slaughter, whose appointment was announced last month. "We also are going to be talking to some local foundations to discuss our new company and the opportunities we see."

Slaughter, 49, can draw on his considerable credentials in urban housing and home financing as he pitches funders on behalf of the new corporation. In essence, he is back home at Pittsburgh History & Landmarks, where he headed neighborhood programs as director of preservation services from 1995 to 1999.

That was before he left to serve an eight-year stint as director of Fannie Mae's Pittsburgh Community Business Center, which has been a major source of home financing in this region.

Fannie Mae, the nation's largest home funding company, decided to close the center along with similar offices in more than 40 cities, citing realignment of goals and the need to cut costs. Pittsburgh's center helped 24,000 families in the region become homeowners at projects that include Summerset at Frick Park, and Bedford Hope VI and the Oak Hill housing complex, both in the Hill District.

Slaughter previously served as vice president of Dollar Bank's Community Development group.
"Howard brings the vision and the working knowledge for the new nonprofit corporation," said Arthur P. Ziegler Jr., president of Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation and president of Landmarks Community Capital.

"We think he is just the person to expand the assistance we hope to render to Western Pennsylvania in revitalizing historic rural areas, towns and urban areas, particularly in Pittsburgh," Ziegler said.

Efforts might include helping the Hill District community fulfill a long-standing need to bring a grocery store to the neighborhood, said Slaughter.

Hill District community leaders want a commitment for a new supermarket to be part of a "community benefits agreement" with the Pittsburgh Penguins in return for their support for the hockey team's new $290 million arena. Slaughter said he's with Penguins President David Morehouse to discuss how the corporation's participation may help make that happen.

Improving neighborhood housing also is a target as is helping preserve some of the historic farms in the region that the South Side-based Landmarks Foundation has identified as worth saving in a recent survey.

"In the first year, we would like to provide funding for at least four of five different projects ranging from $25,000 to $1 million," Slaughter said. "We have a wide range of funding options because the multiplicity of opportunities for investment are wide."

The first investments could come by the first quarter of 2008, he said.

The idea of the new corporation is to raise funds through grants, loans and investments. Roles it can play include as developer, co-developer, or a lender to community development corporations and others that undertake such work.

Slaughter uses the accounting term "FIFO" in describing the corporation's investment strategy. The idea is to be "first in" with its funds to help jump-start projects in early stages, and then be "first out" with those funds when more permanent financing is secured from others to carry development forward.

"We certainly want to focus on urban areas in the Pittsburgh and Allegheny County region," said Slaughter.

Another target area is likely to be Wilkinsburg, where Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation has worked with two $500,000 grants secured from the Sarah Scaife Foundation and the Allegheny County Department of Economic Development to acquire and restore four century-old structures for new housing.

"We also would like to do some work on the North Side and where we have several county Main Street programs. We have pilot areas in Tarentum, Swissvale, Elizabeth Township and Stowe," he said.

Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato is "very excited" about the new corporation and its potential, said spokesman Kevin Evanto. Slaughter and Ziegler met with Onorato several weeks ago to outline their plans.
News from the International HortiFair!

From: www.UrbanGardenerPgh.com

Seems like only yesterday we were writing to tell you we were on our way...now we’re back home and you know how that goes – seems like we were never gone!

We had a blast, of course – Amsterdam is one of our favorite cities, with all of the bikes, pedestrians, and cafes on every corner. And flowers and plants EVERYWHERE – -- in containers on the houseboats on the canals, at the children’s petting zoo around the corner, and the HortiFair, of course. We’ve come home with a whole new appreciation for asters (which never seem to stay nice in their pots at the garden center) and, believe it or not, ornamental cabbages! These are grown on long stalks, with all of the lower leaves plucked off, leaving just the rosettes on the top – and they were amazing!

Hydrangeas galore – Oakleaf, bigleaf and paniculata, we saw them in gardens and pots, red ones, mauve ones, all taking on their fall hues and all totally gorgeous. Climbing hydrangeas in pots and growing up the front of the houses, and Oakleaf hydrangeas as foundation plantings – one right outside our front door that was just stunning. We think Holland should begin to be known for its hydrangeas, rather than tulips!

And bamboo! Mostly it was running bamboo, grown in containers outside of front doors and on houseboats, but also as a hedge at the Zoo. The leaves were broader than the Phyllostachys we know and love, and it was shorter, so maybe it was Sasa senanensis? We did see one nice Black Bamboo specimen in a pot. We’re wondering how it was overwintered, since black bamboo is not hearty in Pittsburgh. But maybe the climate is not quite as severe as it is here, with the ocean to moderate temperatures.

Our canal boat tour guide told us that the canals have not frozen for a long time by. That was quite a boat ride! A private tour on an 80 year old tugboat – we were the envy of every other tourist trapped in those glass topped boats!

Oh yes - the HortiFare! Once we had registered as ‘International Visitors’ we were free to roam the entire complex. At first we were just interested in all of the new cultivars on display – new surfina petunias, gerberas, and some lisianthus to die for! Astilbes that were like small mountain tops, gorgeous delphiniums, clematis, veronica, lobelia in shades we had never seen before – we took lots of notes and grabbed brochures to take back to our growers to see what they can get and grow for us.

Then we looked at pots and containers, but didn’t see much that we hadn’t already carried at the Urban Gardener, believe it or not. We got into a conversation with plastic pot and tray makers about recycling – the Dutch are famous for recycling and reusing. We told them how all of the trays here are 6’s and how we can’t get them recycled – and they were baffled. They told us that 6 is the EASIEST plastic to recycle. So if anyone out there can tell us more – and can explain to us why 6’s aren’t recycled here – please let us know.

We also looked at greenhouses – we can dream, can’t we? We were interested in the technology, particularly the greening of greenhouses. One of the things we’ve found over the last ten years is that as heating costs go up, a number of the smaller, independent growers have gone out of business. We were particularly impressed with a greenhouse system that incorporated a fish farm – not fish to eat, but fish to fertilize the plants. The ‘waste’ heat that would normally be vented outside is instead captured and used to heat the fish tanks. And then the fish do their business and the water is recycled and the fish waste is filtered out to fertilize the plants. Simple and efficient.
What else did we see? Dutchman’s Pipe! A couple of beautiful specimens, growing right up the downspouts of the houses. Wisteria everywhere, as ubiquitous as the bamboo – growing up and over doorways, and in pots on the houseboats. Beautyberry covered with iridescent purple berries. Euphorbia, heliopsis, helenium, monkshood and roses, all still in full bloom. And lots of evergreens – yews and arborvitae mostly – pruned into precise shapes, some interesting, but some just painful! And espaliered trees – look at this picture of the garden at the castle at Muidensport:

This garden has been worked for centuries – the castle was built in the 1100’s! The garden is full of cooking and medicinal herbs as well as flowers.
So as you can see, we were in a gardener’s paradise, and loved every minute of it. Hopefully we’ll be able to find a number of the more interesting and unusual plants and share them with you next spring. Meanwhile, we’re planning our next trip!

For more information:
The Urban Gardener, 1901 Brighton Road, Northside

Finally, we’re seeing some color on the hillsides – this is such a late, strange fall. Not to complain – the days have been just lovely, and it looks like we’ll have a great weekend. Normally we would all be out raking leaves, but it seems like hardly any of them have fallen yet. But fall they will – so we thought that we would offer you some ideas on how to use and recycle those pesky leaves.

For all of you urban composters, now is the time to gather up as many of those leaves as you can, because it’s really hard to get enough ‘browns’ in the city to add to the copious ‘greens’ in your Earth Machines or other composters. We find that we can gather enough leaves from a couple of street trees to last all year. Joan has a leaf grinder but Lynne just puts them in whole, enough to cover the layer of kitchen scraps (no meat or fat!) she’s adding, although she does periodically use a pitch fork to aerate and turn her compost pile.

The other thing to do with your leaves is to use them as mulch – they will break down and add rich organic material to your lawn and gardens. If you have enough of a yard to own a lawn mower, just mow over the leaves to shred them. Then they can be left on the lawn (really!) or raked under your trees, into your flower beds and around your shrubs. If you don’t own a mower, don’t despair – it’s also okay to use the leaves whole. At first it was thought this was not a good practice, that the matted leaves would actually keep moisture away from the plants below. But now it has been found to not really be a problem, so feel free to rake those leaves right into your flower beds. The only disadvantage is that it will take the whole leaves longer to break down than the shredded ones. Either way, there will be less to clean up in the spring, and your plants will reward you for that layer of leaves by thriving and blooming better than ever.

But if you just have more leaves than you can compost or use for mulch, take heart – there are other ways to harvest their rich organic matter. The City of Pittsburgh is introducing a new fall leaf curbside recycling program from November 5 through November 16, 2007. The leaves will be composted and used next year in the city park.
gardens. Residents will need to place leaves in paper bags for recycling collection. Leaves placed in plastic bags will not be accepted as recycling because plastics are contaminants to the composting process. Each resident will receive pickup on their recycling day during this period (one collection day per resident).

Bags must be placed at the curb for pickup on your recycling collection day during this test period only.

Do your part; follow the guidelines and give the program a jumpstart! The City hopes to expand the program in 2008 based on the success of this test program. Residents may still take leaves, grass, and other yard debris to one of the three City yard debris drop off locations. Yard debris is shredded and used for mulch in the public parks. The yard debris drop off locations are:

- **Public Works Second Division** at North Dallas Avenue and Hamilton Ave in the Homewood - East Liberty Area (412.665.3609);

- **Public Works Third Division** in Hazelwood on Melanchton Ave off the 5200 block of Second Ave (412.422.6524); and

- **Public Works Fifth Division** in the West End on Hassler Street, next to Herschel Field. From Steuban Street, turn on Hassler Street, and go past the salt igloo (412.937.3054)

This service is FREE for city residents, but proof of City residency is required when dropping off yard-debris. A fee will be charged for amounts in excess of a personal car or SUV. Cars or SUV’s with trailers, pickup trucks and vans are charged $20. All three locations are open Monday through Friday, 8 am to 2 pm. The West End Drop-off center may offer Saturday hours – call for details.

For additional information about the fall leaf collection, yard debris drop off program and other recycling information check the City of Pittsburgh web page at [www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us](http://www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us) or call the Recycling Division at 412-255-2631.

We’re not sure what some of the other townships are doing about collecting and composting/mulching leaves. It seems a shame to put them into landfill when they can be recycled and reused. If anyone has any information about what other public or private entities are doing please let us know so that we can help to spread the word.

Enjoy this beautiful fall!

Sincerely,

*The Urban Gardener*

**One million trees to be planted in New York City**
Big Bird watches Bette Midler plant the first of one million trees to be planted in New York City over the next decade (Photo by Daniel Avila)

On October 9, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and New York Restoration Project (NYRP) Founder Bette Midler launched the Million Trees NYC initiative to plant and care for an unprecedented one million new trees across the city’s five boroughs over the next decade.

After a parade led by Big Bird, the cast of "Wicked," IMG supermodels and ABC Good Morning America’s Sam Champion, Tree #1 was planted to mark the first of one million that will grace the City by 2017. Million Trees NYC is part of PlaNYC, the most extensive plan to strengthen New York City’s urban environment ever undertaken by an American city. Unveiled by Mayor Bloomberg on Earth Day, the 127-point plan is designed to create the first environmentally sustainable 21st century city.

By planting one million trees, NYC will increase the urban forest–our most valuable environmental asset made up of street trees, park trees, and trees on public, private and commercial land–by an astounding 20%, while bringing all the many quality-of-life improvements that come with planting trees.

Million Trees NYC–launched by the Parks Department and the New York Restoration Project–is a collaboration of many partners, including community-based and non-profit groups; City, State, and Federal agencies; corporations and small businesses; private property owners; and all New Yorkers. Trees help clean our air, and reduce the pollutants that trigger asthma and other respiratory diseases. They cool our streets, sidewalks and homes on hot summer days. Trees also make New York City’s five boroughs an even more beautiful and comfortable place to live, work, and visit.

Every New Yorker can participate in Million Trees NYC, from homeowners and property managers, to schools and community groups, to block associations and small business owners through citywide planting and stewardship programs, including volunteer days, educational training and workshops, public service announcement campaigns and Arbor Day events.

For additional information, please visit www.milliontreesnyc.org.

A Magic Merger?
High Tech, Calmer Lifestyles
NEAL PEIRCE COLUMN; Sunday, October 28, 2007
© 2007 Washington Post Writers Group
By Neal Peirce

Broadband. Telecommuting. Taming our roaring highways instead of multiplying them. Walking or cycling to work. Less tension, better health. “Work to live, not live to work.”

Could all those values come together?

Put your ear to the ground, and you can hear other voices, especially new technologies, suggesting a less frenetic lifestyle in a nation clearly confounded by congestion, obesity, energy consumption, global warming and air quality issues.

Biggest on the technology side: broadband Internet connection. Broadband is usually sold for its economic promise; backers now claim that a robust, border-to-border U.S. broadband network would generate up to 1.2 million new jobs.

President Bush in 2004 announced a national goal that by this year – 2007 – we’d be “ranked 1st when it comes to per capita use of broadband technology.” The U.S. was
then 10th; today it’s actually 15th. Many regions remain limited to dial-up service or such slow and unreliable broadband that critics call it “fraudband.”

Yet, expanding our broadband penetration to leading Europe and Asian nations, Leo Hindery of InterMedia Partners told a recent Brookings Institution forum, would “translate into a half trillion dollars of economic activity.”

New uses keep emerging for broadband service, now the world’s premier messaging, data source, business, entertainment, and video transmitter, and with voice services, a growing competitor to standard telephone lines. With broadband, medical images can be flashed long distances to save lives, schools can be smaller but still receive top level instruction, images and communications for homeland security are speeded... and the list keeps growing.

But there’s de facto “redlining” of geographically remote or poor areas by the “duopoly” of telephone and cable companies -- a modern day version of early 20th century corporate foot-dragging in delivering telephone and electric service to rural America.

Massachusetts, for example, has 32 towns with no broadband at all, 63 with limited service areas. “We are creating a new kind of ghetto,” according to Don Dubendorf, president of Berkshire Connect, a high-speed Internet advocate and negotiator. “It’s morally wrong. It’s stupid economically, it’s dangerous from a health point of view, it’s absurd from a public education point of view.”

Enter then the broadband-transportation link. Fast, reliable Internet connection makes telecommuting far more feasible -- to transfer files, worksheets and video clips, access company databases, create videoconferences and more. But “telework” can’t work function when employees don’t have broadband access. Simple equation: universal broadband equals increased telecommuting, which in turn means less roadway demand, fewer greenhouse gas emissions, and less pollution. Even if a worker telecommutes a day or two a week, it can make a real difference.

Which raises a thorny question: how many new super-road lanes do we need on our highways, anyway? None at all, if they raise greenhouse gas emissions, says King County (Seattle) Executive Ron Sims. Sims is opposing a popular proposal on this fall’s ballot -- $17 billion for a combination of new roads and rail transit in the central Puget Sound region. No good, says Sims -- the overall package raises the area’s carbon dioxide emissions by 18 to 28 million tons over the next 50 years.

Already, notes Sims, Washington State emits as many greenhouse gases as the Philippines, which has 12 times Washington’s population. Metro areas, he says, can’t claim they’re expanding for economic efficiency “and then go down to Brazil and say please don’t cut your tropical rain forest.”

Overall reduction of auto use is the challenge, says Sims, which means growth limits -- tighter, more dense communities: “There’s not enough money in the world to meet the maintenance needs of ongoing sprawl.”

Sims’ highway stand is collaborated by Todd Litman of the Victoria Transport Institute. Expanded freeways, Litman notes, may cut congestion delays in the short run. But in a few years congestion generally returns to its earlier level through “induced travel” -- more thousands of drivers flooding into roadways they perceive as less crowded. The result: “downstream congestion, road costs, accidents, energy consumption and pollution emissions, and sprawl.”

An alternative, Sims suggests: remote work centers, telecommuting, commuting in off hours, “an array of things so people have a life.”
No one should have to commute more than a half hour from home, Sims contends. “The human body,” he argues, “was not designed to be pounded from the stress and strain of long commutes” – they’re clearly bad for health. Plus— we all need “time with our families, to live.” That translates too into time for a mix of exercise and sociability, walking and biking and talking with neighbors -- which reasonably compact communities make easier: “We want to tell people, you don’t live to work, you work to live.”

Heresy in fast-go, roaring roadway, sprawling America? Maybe so. But let’s pause to give it a careful look before we embrace urgent appeals for fresh asphalt.

Enduring Teak
(From CADdetails.com ENewsletter)

The most important characteristic of teak is its durability in all weather conditions. Teak is an extremely dense, grained hardwood that resists rot, warping, shrinking and swelling. Its high natural oil content continually preserves the wood so it can be left outdoors for decades.

How durable is teak when left outdoors? It is said that the first outdoor teak benches were actually made of decking from old sailing ships. The decking on these ships was in such good condition when the ships were about to be scrapped, the wood was recycled and remade into outdoor furniture. Public parks all over England are furnished with teak benches, some of which are nearly a century old.

Here in the United States, teak benches can be found in the tropical gardens of hotels in Hawaii. Tables and chairs made of teak provide maintenance-free outdoor dining for skiers in Colorado resorts, and teak steamer chairs can be found from the coast of Maine to the Arizona desert.

Aesthetics
Teak furniture is very smooth to the touch and does not splinter. Teak even smells good -- it has a faint, pleasant aromatic smell. Not only does teak have a warm appearance, but it also stays very neutral in temperature compared to plastic or metal furniture when exposed to the heat of the sun or cold winter days.

Teak also is one of the few materials that actually beautifies with age. The silvery gray patina that develops over time gives teak outdoor furniture a richness and stately appearance. The slow, natural weathering of teak results in outdoor furniture that blends in naturally to become part of its environment.

When untreated teak furniture is used indoors (as in restaurants, office lobbies, shopping centers, etc.), the wood grain evens in tone, taking on a very rich, golden brown color.

Ecologically Correct
True teak, Tectona grandis, cannot grow in rain forests. It is a hardwood, deciduous tree growing in the dry, hilly terrains of Southeast Asia. Fortunately, strong efforts have been made in the past decade to assure carefully controlled, sustainable-yield sources of teak from Southeast Asia. The teak outdoor furniture sold in the United States comes from tree farms, rather than natural forests.

It is also important to note that the manufacturing of wood products, such as teak outdoor furniture, is very energy-efficient when compared to the energy required to produce aluminum or plastic. Wood comes to us as a finished product from trees, whereas plastics, aluminum and many other materials must be manufactured before being made into furniture. For example, in order to obtain the “raw material” for plastic furniture, factories must be built to manufacture the synthetic resins needed to produce plastic. Resins are produced by heating various chemical compounds, and then processed again to produce plastic products.
In an effort to conserve energy and resources, some conscientious teak furniture manufacturers use the small scraps of teak (normally discarded) as fuel for the boilers. This heats the kilns to dry the teak before furniture manufacturing begins. More integrated wood-product plants salvage larger scraps to make other wood products such as parquet flooring.

And what about our landfills? We can find plenty of old plastic, metal, and aluminum furniture that hasn’t been properly recycled, but furniture made of wood is not a problem. Teak outdoor furniture is simply so durable and usually so timeless in style that it is used for generations. And, if and when it ever is discarded, no harm is done to the environment by returning untreated wood to the earth.

**Design that Works**

Outdoor furniture made of teak is usually very classic and simple in design. The natural appearance of teak wood lends itself to uncomplicated designs that subtly blend in with the surrounding architecture and landscape. The stateliness of teak furniture works equally well on the terraces of traditional country inns or in the lobbies of the most contemporary hotels.

Over the past 10 years, as designers and architects have become more acquainted with the versatility and durability of teak outdoor furniture, the range of available styles has grown. Along with the classic designs, more streamlined, contemporary designs have reached the market. While it is always good to have a broad range of styles to choose from, it is important to avoid styles so modern that they appear to be interior furniture brought outdoors.

When choosing teak outdoor furniture, look for styles that will enhance, but not overpower, the landscape or setting for which it is chosen. Attention should be paid to the scale of the surroundings. For example, vast, estate-like buildings require benches and dining groupings quite substantial in dimension and weight. In contrast, smaller, more delicate architecture needs lighter-weight furniture.

**Consider Comfort**

Well-crafted teak pieces have no sharp edges or angles—armrests, seat slats, back rests and back slats should be chamfered and sanded to round out angles. Similarly, all edges and corners of tables should be rounded. And although many outdoor tables have traditionally been designed with pedestal-type bases, outdoor dining is meant to be informal and relaxing. Stretching out one’s legs underneath a table with a pedestal base is impossible—look for a simple base that allows plenty of legroom.

The number of back slats on a backrest can make a big difference in comfort—the closer the spacing, the better. Also, the front edge of benches and chairs should have an extra horizontal seat slat that prevents the vertical front rail from cutting into the back of legs. This requires additional material and workmanship, and is an important aspect to consider when comparing seating options.

**Details in Workmanship**

Most (but not all) outdoor teak furniture is manufactured with mortise and tenon joinery that provides extremely sturdy finished pieces and tight-fitting joints. The precision of the workmanship varies from manufacturer to manufacturer—joints should fit tightly together with no gaps whatsoever. Be wary of furniture patched with wood putty to hide defects in workmanship, as well as furniture that must be glued together—it will not withstand prolonged outdoor use. The use of dowels to secure the mortise and tenon joinery not only adds to the strength of the construction, but also allows for a perfect finished look with no visible hardware. Dowels should be made of teak to blend in with the furniture.

The quality of the fine sanding on the finished furniture is one of the most important details. This is where one can separate mass-produced pieces from handcrafted ones. Teak garden furniture should be extremely smooth to the touch, with no rough edges whatsoever.
The Value of Teak
For years, teak has had the reputation of being costly, and from some sources it still is. However, competition in the market has brought prices down to more reasonable levels. Today, teak is one of the best values available in outdoor furniture. Be sure to consider design details, workmanship and comfort when comparing prices, and before specifying, to be sure you are getting the value you expect. Don't assume the quality is better if you pay more.
Over the next decade, we will continue to see more and more wood used in outdoor settings as plastic and other materials are phased out. Teak has always been, and will continue to be, a highly prized material for outdoor furniture because of its beauty and durability.
For more information: Gardenside Ltd.; 1-888-999-TEAK; www.gardenside.com

Green Building Alliance Secures $750,000 to Develop Green Building Products in Pennsylvania
The Green Building Alliance received a $750,000 grant from the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority (BFTDA) for Year Two of its Green Building Products Initiative and its role with the Pennsylvania Green Growth Partnership. The announcement came at the BFTDA October meeting. “The green market represents a significant economic stimulus for Pennsylvania, which ranks 2nd in the country in the number of LEED certified buildings. Through the work of GBA’s Green Building Products Initiative and the Pennsylvania Green Growth Partnership, substantial progress is being made as the Commonwealth moves towards improved conservation and energy independence measures,” said Dennis Yablonsky, Secretary of the Department of Community and Economic Development, and chair of the BFTDA board.

The Green Building Alliance is providing consultation and education services, a building product directory, and funding support for the development of new products. GBA is actively recruiting additional product manufacturers and architectural service providers to be involved in the initiative.

Be Listed On and/or Search New Pennsylvania Green Building Product Directory – Free! At the Green Building Product Summit on October 29th, the Green Building Alliance announced that the Pennsylvania Green Building Products Directory is now online. This directory, developed by GBA as part of the Green Building Products Initiative, connects Pennsylvania green building product manufacturers with green building specifiers such as architects, engineers, interior designers, contractors, and other green building professionals. The goal of the directory is to use Pennsylvania-produced green building products in buildings throughout the state, the country, and abroad. To list or search green building products, visit www.pa-greenbuildingproducts.org. For more information, contact Eric Perl at GBA: 412-977-8259.

Two New Local Housing Developments Anticipate Greener Times
Under the sponsorship of the Green Building Alliance, members of two design teams recently showed plans for the River’s Edge of Oakmont by Rothschild Doyno Architects (for Brooks Blair Property Development), and Mellon’s Orchard South redevelopment in East Liberty (under the guidance of East Liberty Development, Inc.).

Both projects are part of the pilot version of the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED-ND initiative. The well-known LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program, through which Pittsburgh has claimed legitimate national leadership in environmental building conscientiousness, is now expanding to document and recognize neighborhood development as one of several type-specific subprograms. River's Edge
and Mellon's Orchard South are two of only four projects in the state to participate in what is essentially beta-testing of the program.

**New Green Schools & Residential Green Building Websites Launched!**

**Build Green Schools** - www.buildgreenschools.org

Green schools are healthy for students, teachers and the environment. Built properly, green schools are productive learning environments with ample natural light, high-quality acoustics, and air that is safe to breathe. Schools everywhere are going green, nurturing children while saving money. Get the facts and learn how you can make the case to build green schools.

**Green Home Guide** - www.greenhomeguide.org

Green homes save money because they use less water and energy than conventional homes. Their use of non-toxic building materials makes them healthier, and they have fewer mold and mildew problems. They are filled with natural daylight, resulting in happier occupants. Additionally, they are better for the environment, consume fewer resources and cut greenhouse gas emissions.

**News from Sustainable Pittsburgh:**

**3E Links**

**Economy, Environment, Equity**

**Sustainable Pittsburgh**

**4th Annual Regional Equitable Development Summit:**

"Most Livable Region By Growing Opportunity for All"

Keynote: David Rusk, author of Cities without Suburbs, Baltimore Unbound, and Inside Game/Outside Game, presented by the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs Annual Wherrett Lecture on Local Governing

This 4th Annual Summit taking place Friday, November 16, 8 am to 12:30 pm, is intended to be a catalyst for engaging civic leaders in helping to advance existing efforts in our region to accelerate regional equity. Listen to how some of the region's leading champions of equitable development are working to close the disparities gap. Get involved—share your thoughts and ideas during the breakout sessions.

As explained by keynote speaker, David Rusk, right now, right here, some of the nation's most innovative civic initiatives are unfolding to narrow the disparities gap. Moderated by Sala Udin (Center for Civic Leadership), panel speakers include Jane Downing, The Pittsburgh Foundation (Community Benefits Agreements & Minority Contracting); Caren Glotfelty, The Heinz Endowments (Environment & Public Health); Bob Grom, Heritage Health Foundation Inc. (Access To Work); Aimee LeFevers, Good Schools Pennsylvania (Education); Scott Smith, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (Affordable Housing); Tim Stevens, The Black Political Empowerment Project (Racial Equity & Empowerment); Bill Thompson, Executive Director, Westmoreland-Fayette Workforce Investment Board; and Luis Rico, Western Pennsylvania Diversity Initiative.

The event takes place at the Twentieth Century Club, 4201 Bigelow Blvd., Oakland, and is free and open to the public.

*More information is available at info@sustainablepittsburgh.org or 412-258-6642.*
Happy Thanksgiving
Chatham Thanksgiving Holiday
Wednesday-Sunday, November 21-25, 2007