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2010 Scholarships Awarded for Education in Landscape Architecture

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (CTASLA) has named **Kara Lanahan**, of **Ridgefield, CT** and **Elisa Lathrop**, of **North Stonington, CT** its 2010 CTASLA Student Scholarship recipients. Ms. Lanahan received a \$2,500 scholarship, and Ms. Lathrop was awarded a \$1,500 scholarship. These scholarships, funded in part from proceeds from the Chapter's annual golf outing, are awarded annually by CTASLA to encourage education in the field of landscape architecture and increase awareness of the profession.

"CTASLA is proud to give these scholarships on behalf of our members and sponsors," said David Verespy, the chapter's treasurer and owner of Trumbull-based Rock Spring Design Group. "This year's worthy recipients suggest a bright future for our profession."

Kara Lanahan, a graduate student studying landscape architecture at the University of Virginia, says she has always been intrigued by the interaction between humans and the natural world around them. She strives to create sustainable, dynamic landscapes that allow people to have a closer connection with nature. "I believe the practice of landscape architecture has the potential to improve the way we live on the land, while also providing beautiful spaces that facilitate the critical connection between ourselves and the world around us," she says. Kara is particularly interested in reviving and reinterpreting brownfields, former industrial sites and other derelict landscapes.

Nancy Takahashi, of the Department of Landscape Architecture at University of Virginia School of Architecture, says, "Kara is an extremely mature student and learner. I view her potential as one who will lead her class because of her ability to blend her understanding of ecological processes with other special and visual concerns of landscape architecture."

Elisa Lathrop is a junior in the landscape architecture program at the University of Connecticut. This summer she is interning with Kent + Frost, a landscape architecture firm located in Mystic, CT, where she is applying her knowledge of plants and design and gaining invaluable experience of the profession and its application in the real world. "I enjoy spending every day within an incredible

community of designers and thinkers,” she says. “Each day is filled with creativity, inspiration, and discovery.”

John Alexopoulos, ASLA, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Connecticut, says, “Elisa is a wonderful candidate for the CTASLA scholarship. She consistently performs at the top of her group in all aspects of design. What is clearly a strength is her unrelenting desire to achieve the best.”

The chapter’s 2010 Golf Outing will take place on October 8 at Lyman Orchards Golf Club in Middlefield, CT. Scholarship applications for the 2011 awards are due March 15, 2011. Interested applicants can learn more at <http://www.ctasla.org/scholarships.htm>.

Founded in 1899, ASLA is the national professional association for landscape architects, representing more than 17,000 members in 48 professional chapters and 68 student chapters. Landscape architecture is a comprehensive discipline of land analysis, planning, design, management, preservation and rehabilitation.

Echoing the mission of the national organization, the Connecticut Chapter — with nearly 275 members across the state — aims to lead, educate and participate in the careful stewardship, wise planning and artful design of our cultural and natural environments. CTASLA strives to advance the profession of landscape architecture in Connecticut by providing educational programs, publications, information and resources to members and to those seeking to benefit from landscape architectural services.

Learn more about landscape architecture online at www.asla.org. For more information on activities of the Connecticut Chapter, please see our website at www.ctasla.org.

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(Photos: Kara Lanahan, Elisa Lathrop)