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2011 Scholarships Awarded for Education in Landscape Architecture

The Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (CTASLA) has named **Oliver Gaffney**, of **Weston, CT** and **Abigail Smith**, of **Middlebury, CT** its 2011 CTASLA Student Scholarship recipients. Mr. Gaffney was awarded a \$2,500 scholarship, while Ms. Smith received a \$1,500 scholarship. These scholarships are funded in part from proceeds from the Chapter's annual golf outing, this year taking place on Friday, October 7 at Lyman Orchards Golf Club in Middlefield, CT. Scholarships 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 Bill Pollack, the chapter's president, a landscape architect with Keith Simpson Associates, Inc. in New Canaan, CT. "This year's worthy recipients suggest a bright future for our profession."

Oliver Gaffney, a senior in the landscape architecture program at the University of Connecticut, has been passionate about plants and horticulture for as long as he can remember. "Ever since I was young, my mother would take me to the local nurseries and introduce me to perennials, annuals, herbs, shrubs, and trees," he says. As President of the UConn Horticulture Club, Oliver applies the design and horticulture skills he gains in the studio environment toward real-world projects. Recent projects include displays in the Connecticut Flower and Garden Show as well as a garden restoration plan for the Hicks-Stearns Family Museum in Tolland, CT. With a major in Landscape Architecture and a minor in Ornamental Horticulture, Oliver hopes to continue working with the ecological and cultural use of plants in his career.

John Alexopoulos, ASLA, Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Connecticut, says, "Oliver is very deserving of my recommendation for the CTASLA scholarship. He is a force in my junior-level studio, works harder than any, brings his talents to the table, and adds a deep love for horticulture, too. He aspires to be a leader and a very sound professional."

Abigail Smith is a graduate student pursuing a dual degree of Landscape Architecture and Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania. Her passion for architecture stems from her desire to revitalize desolate cities and transform them into walkable, desirable destinations. She says, "I seek to unearth latent potentials, and generate networks of ideas which may otherwise appear unrelated." In the studio, Abigail works with an array of compositions to facilitate her knowledge and understanding of crucial issues which, she notes, includes issues such as "green infrastructure, sea-level rise, social structure, preservation, and tourism." Abigail plans to devote her last year at the University of Pennsylvania studying the Naugatuck River Valley as part of her thesis, which she claims, "should provide a foundation for a larger initiative to one day work on landscape and architectural interventions within the greater Waterbury area."

Karen M'Closkey, Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, says, "Abigail stands out as an engaged and keen student. She produces high quality work in the design studio and responds well to criticism. She is willing to explore, change course if necessary, and is always looking for inspiration from diverse sources."

Scholarship applications for the 2012 awards are due March 15, 2012. 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 16,000 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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