

CTASLA 2022-2023 Executive Committee Candidate Bios

PRESIDENT (2-year term: Pres, Past Pres):

Ellen H. Fallon-Senechal

Ellen H. Fallon-Senechal is working at SLAM Collaborative in Glastonbury, CT. She works on projects in the Independent Education, Higher Education, and Health sector, as well as smaller-scale projects for non-profits. As a recent graduate (May 2020 from Rutgers University), Ellen is working on her licensure and is excited to grow in this field. At Rutgers, she served on the executive committee of both the Landscape Architecture Graduate Student Association and the New Jersey Student Chapter as President and Co-President respectively. She looks forward to the opportunity to give back to her home state's chapter as President and supporting CTASLA members through the coming year.

PRESIDENT-ELECT (3-yr. term: Pres-Elect, Pres, Past Pres):

Rachel Meier

Hi, my name is Rachel Meier and I am a Landscape Architect with Richter & Cegan Inc. I began my involvement with the CTASLA Executive Committee after graduating from Thomas Jefferson University in 2019 and returning home to Connecticut, the place that inspired me to pursue a career in landscape architecture. As a current Member-at-Large, I have assisted with organizing online and in-person programs in addition to co-hosting our most recent virtual award ceremony. Outside of the office, I have passion for volunteering with local environmentally-focused organizations and increasing the visibility and reach of the profession to younger generations.

As my first two-year term with the CTASLA Executive Committee comes to an end, I am eager to maintain my involvement with the organization and serve our members and allied professionals. I am interested in running for President-Elect to support the upcoming President with reaching our Strategic Plan goals, advocating for our local organization with the national chapter, and providing meaningful program and networking opportunities for our members. Thank you for your support and I hope to have the opportunity to represent Connecticut Landscape Architecture for many years to come!

VICE PRESIDENT (1-yr term):

Sean Ragan

Sean Ragan is a Senior Landscape Architect with Halvorson | Tighe & Bond in Shelton, CT. He served this past year as Member-at-Large and is looking forward to the opportunity to continue giving back to the Chapter in this new role. In addition to supporting the Chapter's Strategic Plan, he is excited about helping the Chapter return to more in-person educational events that support members and advocacy for the profession.

SECRETARY (2-yr term):

Allison Cassella

Allison Cassella is a Landscape Architect with Langan in New Haven, CT. She graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut Landscape Architecture program in 2020. As a member of the student chapter she aided in categorizing and filing the CTASLA chapters paperwork and historical documents dating back to its founding. In her current role, Allison works on a variety of projects including commercial, higher education, K-12, and waterfront preservation & redevelopment. She is excited to begin working towards licensure and continuing to design beautiful and equitable spaces for all. She looks forward to participating in post-COVID CTASLA chapter events and continue her involvement with a more hands-on position.

TREASURER (2-yr term):

Katherine Day

I want to serve on the CTASLA Executive Committee as Treasurer to stay connected with ASLA and help CTASLA educate and advocate for the profession. I have always been interested in getting involved in committees or communities that I value. I graduated UConn in May 2022. During my time there, I was involved with the UConn Student Chapter of ASLA for three years, two of which I was on the Executive Board. My first year in the club, I was a standard member, the second year I was elected treasurer, and my final year I was elected Vice President. I enjoyed hosting and creating activities and events that brought all the landscape architecture students together on a social and learning basis. I feel as though I would be a great asset to the ExComm based on my previous experience in the student chapter and I also have a connection to the current professors and students at UConn.

Currently I am employed at a multidisciplinary firm, BL Companies in Meriden, CT. Our team tackles land development and public infrastructure projects. I have always enjoyed larger-scale projects and community planning over small-scale or residential. But let me tell you how I got here. I started UConn as a business major and soon found out it was not for me. I was undecided for a while and tried out different general education courses when I stumbled upon one called Common Shared Landscapes offered by Peter Miniutti, the Program Coordinator of the landscape architecture major. This class helped to spark my interest in the profession and the professor was offering a study abroad trip. I was lucky enough to be able to go on this incredible three-week trip where we studied European influence and design on landscape architecture. I then changed my major and have been so happy with that decision. At my time at UConn, I also worked as an undergraduate researcher with Dr. Mariana Fragomeni on a project entitled: Identifying the Change in Heat Vulnerability and Land-use Influence for Resilient Connecticut Project. I graduated in May and got hired full time at BL where I interned last summer. I grew up in West Hartford, CT and still live here. I am looking for more ways to get involved and meet new people, joining CTASLA would be a great way to do this.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE (2-yr term):

Cynthia Reynolds

My love for gardening led me to pursue a Bachelor's degree in landscape architecture at UConn, and then on to earning my Master's degree (also from UConn) with a focus on sustainable community planning. I've worked in Connecticut for ten years, and am looking to become more involved in the CTASLA to help promote the profession and continuing education initiatives.

Kate Montgomery

Kate Montgomery graduated class of 2017 from the Landscape Architecture program at SUNY ESF in Syracuse, NY, and currently works at Freeman Companies in Hartford, CT. Born and raised in Syracuse, Kate has spent the last few years exploring the parks, coffee shops, farmers markets, and historic gardens of Connecticut. She is actively working towards licensure, has attended many CTASLA Emerging Professional events, and is excited to continue her involvement on the Executive Committee, having served most recently as Secretary.

Please cast your vote here: https://bit.ly/2022-23_Election