WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO PURSUE AN MLA?
My interest in landscape architecture began during my undergraduate degree. I tended to spend equal amounts of time designing both the interior and exterior spaces. When I graduated, I worked in a landscape architecture firm where I was able to further explore my interest. I also began to see the need for designers who are able to bridge architecture and landscape architecture to create cohesive designs that are responsive to both the occupant and ecology of a site.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE KNOWLTON SCHOOL?
There are numerous reasons why I chose the Knowlton School; the distinguished faculty, the incredible facilities, the access to resources, etc., but probably the main reason is the unparalleled environment. It is an environment of mutual respect, encouragement, and exploration. Stepping inside Knowlton Hall is like entering into an ideas laboratory of sorts. Design theories are being developed, modes of representation are being tested, and new forms are being created on a daily basis. Three design disciplines are housed in Knowlton Hall and this leads to an environment of cross-disciplinary interaction. Being able to consult with the architecture or planning students on a design challenge, or advise them on their projects is beneficial to the learning process and as preparation for my career.

DESCRIBE YOUR STUDIO EXPERIENCES AND HOW THEY HAVE BEEN INTEGRAL TO YOUR LEARNING.
For me, the design studio is the most important aspect of studying a design discipline. It’s your primary course and also the primary space you occupy during your graduate career. It’s where you get to test out your ideas, develop projects, and bounce ideas off of and learn from the others in your cohort. You’re constantly surrounded by people building models, sketching, doing computer renderings, and answering design challenges in creative and innovative ways. You can’t help but be inspired. For a designer it’s an ideal environment.

DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE AS A GRADUATE ASSOCIATE AND HOW IT HAS BEEN BENEFICIAL.
I have been fortunate enough to serve as a Graduate Teaching Associate for two years now and it has been one of the most enjoyable and fulfilling aspects of my graduate career. I have been able to instruct and guide a broad range of students from freshmen who are just beginning to develop their design language to seniors who are constantly developing and refining their perspective of the built environment. This experience has led me to discover a passion for teaching.
There have been many opportunities presented to me during my time in the Knowlton School, but certainly one of the most influential was being awarded a travel grant to conduct research into landscapes of production in Germany. This gave me the chance to pursue an interest that I would otherwise not have been able to do. Another example is the incredible lecture series the school hosts annually. I have been able to hear, meet, and interact with some of the world’s most influential landscape architects, architects, urban designers, artists, etc. It is still unbelievable to me that on any given day I could bump into and have a conversation with a designer that I have admired for years or whose projects have served as precedents for me.