

## AIA MIDDLE PA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

### AIAS FORUM 2009

Although Mother Nature was still doling out awful weather, that didn't dampen (or freeze) the spirits of the fourteen students who had attended the AIAS Forum in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and were ready to share the sites and sounds of the conference. Nor did the snow and ice keep AIA Middle Pennsylvania Chapter members from attending the January 28, 2010, meeting to take in the students presentation of their experiences and learning opportunities.

Bryan Heritage, PennState University AIAS Chapter President, led the student group's slide presentation. Forum's first day included meeting students from universities across the country. They also participated in tours of 3 Frank Lloyd Wright houses and the Media Insurance Building. During their tours of the city, the students experienced and "skylines" which are covered walkways through Minneapolis that permit pedestrians to travel between buildings without having to go outside. Back at the conference, a graphic rendering workshop gave the students valuable techniques that they will be able to use in



◀ Members of AIAS that attended Forum in Minneapolis participate in the meeting's presentation.

their class work as well as carrying forward into their careers. The featured speaker that day was Esther Sternberg, MD, a psychologist who discussed healing spaces and how bilding finishes affect healing.

Day Two featured the Vendor Disply, software usage and a "firm crawl". This enabled students to visit some firms in which they had special interest.

On the third, the PSU chapter met with others in the northeast quad. An outstanding total of 550 students attended the 2009 Forum. Capping this day, they attended a Beaux Arts Ball — a fitting end to an exciting time.

The final day was taken up with voting for various offices. Jarod McNight is the new director for the Northeast Quad.

The Middle Chapter is proud of these young and upcoming professionals and impressed with the knowledge and growth obtained by attending Forum. We are happy to have played a small part in their success.

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▲ Dave Reasinger gives a brief introduction before AIAS President, Bryan Heritage, begins his presentation.

*Please turn to Page 7 to view the students special thank you to the Chapter.*

## NEXT MID POINTS

Deadline for articles and information for the next newsletter is:

**April 23, 2010**

Please contact Dee Columbus, Editor, [tdta2000@comcast.net](mailto:tdta2000@comcast.net)

## STAY CONNECTED

Please send new member information and any changes and/or additions in your contact information including email addresses to:

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## WWW.AIAMIDDLEPA.ORG

Please be sure to visit the AIA Middle PA Chapter website to view the following:

- Chapter Officers
- Calendars
- Newsletter Archive
- Executive Committee Minutes
- Membership Information
- AIA Links
- Sponsorship and Advertising
- Mission Statement
- Project Photos

## Message From the President

Rick Cyman, AIA

In early February, Dave Macharola and I attended the AIA Grassroots Leadership and Legislative Convention. This was our second year attending together and both of us feel that the conference was worthwhile and time well spent. The conference provided an opportunity to visit with other chapter board members, the state leadership team, as well as listen to speeches presented by the candidates running for national office. We were also given the chance to attend numerous workshops and go to Capital Hill to speak with members of Congress about federal issues that are important to our community, the profession, and the AIA.

When meeting with our Congressional Representatives, we focused on discussing legislation that will help the economy. We sought support for the following five initiatives:

1. Helping struggling communities to rebuild – by rehabilitating and retrofitting abandoned and neglected properties, communities can be revitalize by reducing energy consumption and encouraging businesses to return to vacant properties, which in turn, helps to create jobs.
2. Freeing up credit for commercial projects – the AIA supports legislation that will continue to improve the commercial lending market and allow worthwhile projects to have access to capital.
3. Expanding the energy efficient commercial building tax deduction. Presently, there is a bill in the House and Senate that includes raising the tax deduction for energy efficient construction.
4. Encouraging small business relief efforts, in particular, the manner in which employers are reimbursed for COBRA payments. The AIA would like to see the payment reimbursement process streamlined to provide a faster method for employers to have their money returned for these expenses.
5. Funding for school modernization. Here, the main point is that schools across the country are in desperate need of restoration. Modernized, green schools provide healthier environments, promote higher achievement, reduce the facility's operating costs through reduced energy use, and create additional jobs.

In case you weren't aware, the AIA has more than 83,000 members and the design and construction industries are responsible for one in nine dollars of the US GDP. The architecture profession employs over a quarter million Americans, so we are a key component in the overall economy. In order for us to support the issues that are critical to the AIA, we must have resources to fund these efforts. The most effective way to do this is through PAC (Political Action Committee) contributions. Please consider giving to the AIA State PAC and the AIA National PAC. Like it or not, we are in competition with other professions and if we don't protect our business, others will take it from us.

Rick

## AIA Associates Corner — 2010 Links

**Seth H. Wentz, Associate AIA**

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**Mellisa Berstine, Associate AIA**

AIA PA Associate Director  
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**David E. Reasinger, Associate AIA**

PA Associate Committee Member  
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**Arthur Sheffield, Associate AIA**

PA Coordinator, Intern Development Program (IDP)  
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### ***For the Good of the Order***

Comments on the Profession of Architecture by Tom Columbus Jr., AIA, LEED AP

#### **State-wide Building Code Unconstitutional?**

I happened to attend a meeting this week of the local Construction Specifications Institute's Railroad Chapter. The speaker was Anthony Potter of Powell, Trachtman, Logan, Carrle, and Lombardo, P.C. Tony (he lets you call him that if you are on his side of the deliberation table) serves as general counsel to AIA Pennsylvania. He has represented clients in the design and construction industry before the Commonwealth Court, the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court. But, even with this impressive list of experiences, Attorney Potter seemed thoroughly intrigued by the current injunction filed by the Pennsylvania Home Builders Association claiming the current State-wide Building Code is unconstitutional with respect to Pennsylvania's Constitution. It would be an understatement to say the upcoming ruling can have tremendous ramifications in the Pennsylvania construction and design fields. Our Middle Chapter's legislative representative is closely watching the progress of this injunction along with Attorney Potter and will advise us of the outcome.

## **YOUNG ARCHITECTS FORUM**

We are looking for a representative from the Middle Pennsylvania Chapter AIA to be a local liaison for the Young Architects Forum (YAF).

Young Architects ( 0 - 10 yrs. ) licensed have already been recruited from the Central, Eastern , Pittsburgh and the Philadelphia chapters.

If you are interested or may know of someone who is interested, please contact Denise Thompson by email ( DThompson@franciscauffman.com ) with your contact information. If you cannot fill this position but know someone that is interested, please forward that person's name and contact information.

AIAPA charter for YAF was approved by the State Board of Directors. Facebook page and Linked -In page are up and running. YAF National and the College of Fellows are developing a mentoring program. More to come as this develops.



### **New Member Corner**

**Karen Norris, AIA**  
**President**

Green Collar Consultants, Inc.  
1024 Saxton Drive  
State College, PA 16801  
814-880-3505  
karennorris@greencollarconsultants.com

**WELCOME!!**



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**March 17, 2010**

**10:45am—2:30pm**

Please join us for a workshop showcasing the following providers:

**Marvin Windows & Doors  
Fierst Distributing Company  
iLevel by Weyerhaeuser**

As a participant, you will be able to earn up to 3 learning units.

**Location:** Sheetz Facilities Support Center Conference Room  
351 Sheetz Way  
Claysburg, PA 16625

### Schedule of Events:

10:45 am—11:00 am	Arrival
11:00 am—12:00 pm	Marvin Windows
12:00 pm—12:30 pm	Lunch provided by Sheetz, Inc.
12:30 pm—1:30 pm	Fierst Distributing Company
1:30 pm—2:30 pm	iLevel by Weyerhaeuser
2:30 pm	Adjourn

To reserve your seat, please contact:

Tyne Palazzi @ 814-947-5366 or [tpalazzi@sheetz.com](mailto:tpalazzi@sheetz.com)

> > RSVP by Wednesday, March 10, 2010 < <

### Directions from I-99 South/US-220 South

Take the Sprout/King Exit (Exit #15)

Coming off the Exit, you will bear to the Right onto Appalachian Trwy/Old US-220

Proceed Straight until you come to a Signal Light (approx. 1.1 miles), you will turn Left here onto Quarry Road.

Proceed Straight until you come to another Signal Light (approx. 500 feet)

Proceed Straight; go down a slight hill and across the railroad tracks and follow the road to Entrance D. Keep going until the road ends at the Warehouse, park around back.





# CANNED ARCHITECTS WIN CANSTRUCTION COMPETITION

*The Associated Press*



Dave Albright and Pat Baechle have teamed up to enter this years Canstruction competition at the Blair County Home and Garden Show sponsored by the Blair County Chamber of Commerce. The team dubbed “The Canned Architects”, (go figure), raised over \$4000 in small contributions from friends, family, contractors & consultants. The proceeds were used to buy close to 2800 cans of food. After the event, the food and the additional donations are forwarded to four local food banks along with all the food items from the other teams.

Canstruction is a trademark international competition and is often featured at AIA conventions. It is the most unique food charity in the world, held in cities all over the globe. Teams compete to design and build giant structures

made entirely out of canned foods. The results are displayed to the public as magnificent sculpture exhibits in each city where a competition is held. Since its inception, ten million pounds of food have been donated to aid in the fight against hunger.

The event has very strict rules. A structure must be built from full cans of food in a 10 ft x 10 ft space. Only maximum ¼” wood, hardboard or cardboard stock, packaging tape and wire are allowed to be included in the structure. Only five team members are allowed to build it and the structure must be completed in two days.

The name of the Canned Architects team sculpture is “Mixed Metaphor” It symbolizes the mixed up world we live in of many types of people; those who are fortunate and those who are in need; those who are hungry and those who are satisfied; those who have income and those who have none. The Canstruction project blends together the good generosity of our community with the most basic need of those who are less fortunate. No person should go hungry in our prosperous country.

Preparation for the project involved laying out each level on paper, designing plywood shop drawings, cutting boards, painting plywood to match the cans and building test structures.

The actual canstruction took ten hours to complete, with the assistance of our Project Manager Dave Rispoli, Debbie King and Sandy Albright. It stays on display over the length of the show. On the final day all the cans are packed back into the original boxes and shipped to local food banks.

The Canned Architects team won four awards at this event for their entry: “Best Meal”, “Best Use of Labels”, “Structural Ingenuity”, and Jurors Favorite

Everyone had a great time building the structure and learned a lot about balance and the forces of gravity. If ever there is ever an opportunity in your town to enter this event you are encouraged to participate. It is very challenging and is rewarding as well. Certainly though, it is for an important cause.

Major sponsors to the Canned Architects Team include:

Wilson Construction Company – Winber  
Season Aire – Mechanical Contractors – Duncansville  
P.Joseph Lehman Consulting Engineers Inc. – Duncansville – Civil engineers  
Keller Engineers – Hollidaysburg – Civil Engineers  
Penn Terra Engineering Inc. - State College  
Pyramid Engineering – Mechanical/ Electrical  
Architectural Lighting Sales – Altoona  
Marketing and Design Service – Interior Design – Altoona  
Ralph J. Albarano Builders – Duncansville  
R.B. Magruder Builders Inc. - Bedford  
J.R. Brown Construction, Hollidaysburg  
Montgomery Brothers Plumbing – Altoona  
Avail Business Systems – Compact filing and storage systems  
George R. Snelly Co. Inc. – Contractor - Hopwood



thank you

our work within studio, and we look forward to another great trip next year.

Thanks again for supporting the AIAS.

Sincerely,

AIAS Penn State.

Legmin

Aaron P. Vertman

Erin H

Rebecca H

Ryan G

Erin M. Mayhew

Sam Woodford

Alison Pavilonis

Matthew L. Lander

Ryan G

Michelle & Quinn

Jonathan J

Caroline E. Christensen

Dear AIA,

Thank you so much for your generous donation towards this year's AIAS trip to Forum. Your contribution helped make it possible for 14 students to travel to Minneapolis, MN, where we participated in three days of seminars, lectures, discussions, and tours. Throughout the trip, we met many architecture students from other schools and learned new ways to make our own AIAS chapter more beneficial for our members. We intend to apply all that we have learned to improve our organization as well as

## Powered by the Sun

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Housing and utility costs continue to be significant expenditures in most family budgets, prompting homeowners to try to cut costs using energy-efficient technologies. One such technology that, over time, limits the costs and environmental effects of heating and cooling residences is a photovoltaic (PV), or solar panel, system.

Solar panels absorb energy from the sun and convert it into electricity for home use. These systems, usually built on rooftops, are composed of multiple solar panels, known as an array; an inverter that converts the power from the sun into usable electricity; and a panel that distributes electricity throughout the home. A common design is to combine residential PV systems with utility-supplied power. Electricity needs, if unmet by the PV system, are supplemented by utility-supplied electricity. Excess power can be routed back into the local electric grid so homeowners can receive credits or payment from the utility provider for the surplus.

Not every home can be equipped with a PV system. Generally, homes with roofs that are shaded or facing north, east, or west do not receive the necessary sun exposure to support the purchase and installation costs of a solar panel system; shade-free, south-facing homes are ideal. In addition, the roof must have sufficient surface area to support the required panels. If the home is a good candidate, its construction, size, and electricity demand will determine the features of its solar panel system. For example, a house with significant amounts of natural light and cross-ventilation will rely less on artificial light, air conditioning, and heating, necessitating a smaller system, whereas a home with poor lighting and ventilation will have greater electricity demands.

As the configuration of the solar panel system is determined by the characteristics of the home, so too are the costs. Although PV systems have decreased in price since their introduction, the \$8,000 to \$10,000 per kilowatt (kW) cost, including installation, is substantial. According to the Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing, a typical home would need a 4kW solar panel system to meet its electricity needs. If all costs, including those required for installation and maintenance, are calculated over the lifetime of the technology, the cost of the electricity produced is 25 to 50 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), whereas utility-supplied power currently averages 9.53 cents per kWh.<sup>1</sup>

To make solar panels more widely affordable, as well as to encourage homeowners to view them as a viable tool combating rising electricity use and expenditures, the federal government offers a significant rebate for PV systems through the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. This legislation eliminated the \$2,000 rebate cap on solar panels and extended the homeowner tax credit through 2016.

Many jurisdictions, including the states of California and New Jersey, offer benefits that can be combined with the federal rebate. California, the state with the largest solar panel market, provides per-watt rebates for PV-generated electricity. Participants in the program can also take advantage of benefits provided by local jurisdictions, some of which offer production incentives (often fee waivers or expedited processing) and additional rebates or incentives.

New Jersey, with the second-largest and fastest-growing market, also offers rebates for installing solar panel systems. One estimate to install a 6.75kW solar panel system (projected to produce 8,075kWh of electricity) on 430 square feet of a New Jersey home's rooftop totaled \$50,625. However, New Jersey's state rebate, the federal tax credit, and a state-sponsored loan program reduced the homeowner's up-front cost to less than 12 percent of that total, or \$6,049 (see table 1).<sup>2</sup>

*(See Powered . . . Page 9)*



The projected energy savings in this New Jersey home would lower the home's monthly electric bill by \$127.08, resulting in an annual savings of \$1,524.92 with an expected payback period of 4 years. The estimated increase in home value is \$30,500. In addition, because the home will consume less utility-supplied electricity, it will reduce its carbon dioxide emissions by 13,558 pounds per year. With concomitant reductions in nitrous oxide and sulfate emissions, the environmental advantage of this home's PV system would be comparable to planting two acres with trees.

Property owners may encounter other barriers to installing PV systems. Many homeowner associations and jurisdictions restrict or prohibit solar panel systems, often for aesthetic reasons. A lack of personnel trained to install PV systems also inhibits use in some areas. To address these issues, some states limit the restrictions that localities and homeowner associations can place on solar panels, while local (often university-based) organizations expand the supply of skilled installers.

With the implementation of federal, state, and local installation incentives, solar panel systems show promise as an affordable, viable alternative to traditional sources of residential heating and cooling. More information about solar panel systems is available through the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy website at [http://www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/photovoltaics\\_program.html](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/photovoltaics_program.html), as well as through *Own Your Power! A Consumer Guide to Solar Electricity for the Home* at <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/pdfs/43844.pdf>. See also *Tracking the Sun*, produced by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory at <http://eetd.lbl.gov/ea/EMS/reports/lbnl-1516e.pdf>, and the North Carolina Solar Center's database of state and local financial incentives for renewable energy at [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org).

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1. Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing; see [www.toolbase.org/Technology-Inventory/Electrical-Electronics/pv-systems](http://www.toolbase.org/Technology-Inventory/Electrical-Electronics/pv-systems).
  2. Written estimate for installing a solar panel system obtained by a New Jersey homeowner.
  3. As suggested by the Department of Energy, the estimated change in home value is based on a \$20 increase for every \$1 saved on annual utility bills; see <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/solar/pdfs/43844.pdf>.

**Table 1. Initial Outlay for Solar Panel System on New Jersey Home**

<b>Cost</b>	<b>\$50,625</b>
<b>New Jersey Repair</b>	<b>(11,812)</b>
PSEG Solar Loan for SRECs generated by system*	(21,120)
Federal Energy Tax Credit	(11,644)
Cost After Federal Tax Credit	\$ 6,049

\* PSEG = Public Service Electric and Gas Company; SREC = Solar Renewable Energy Certificate.

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