

AIA MIDDLE PA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

Penn State AIAS Chapter Reports on Busy First Semester

The Penn State AIAS Chapter is excited to begin their Spring Semester after a fun, successful first half of the year! Here are the highlights from the Fall Semester:

The AIAS started off the school year by organizing and distributing supply kits to the first year students. First year students come into the program overwhelmed by the new experience of college and the demands of being an architecture student. In order to help them through this process, we put together the supplies that they need to survive first year studio. The Kit Distribution also gives the AIAS members a chance to introduce themselves to new students and ease them through the transitional period.

The AIAS also began a Mentoring Group Program this year in which we group a group of students from different year levels is put together. This program gives the first year students multiple resources and familiar faces throughout the building. The program also helps establish relationships beyond each studio level. We have found the mentoring groups to be successful and we plan to maintain these groups in the future.

At the end of September, fifteen AIAS members traveled to Roger Williams University in Rhode Island for the Fall AIAS Quad Conference. At the conference, we interacted with other schools from the Northeast region while participating in design charrettes, tours of the Newport mansions, lectures, workshops, and discussion panels. The trip was very beneficial and we are looking forward to the Spring Quad Conference at University of Massachusetts, Amherst in April.



We are very grateful for the opportunity to attend the AIA Symposium in October. Five of Penn State's AIAS members traveled to Johnstown for the Symposium.

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AIA MIDDLE CHAPTER ADDRESS

If you are using the U. S. Postal Service to Contact the AIA Middle PA Chapter, please use the following:

AIA Middle PA Chapter
c/o Carmen Wyckoff, AIA LEED AP
P. O. Box 1784
Altoona, PA 16603

NEXT MID POINTS

Deadline for articles and information for the next newsletter is:

March 2, 2012

Please contact Dee Columbus,
Editor, tdta2000@comcast.net

STAY CONNECTED

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

David E. Reasinger, Associate AIA
Pennsylvania State University
1113 Physical Plant Building
University Park, PA 16802
P: 814.863.3868
F: 814.865.3737
der19@psu.edu

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 & Advertising
- Mission Statement
- Project Photos

Middle Chapter Board Plans for 2012

In early December, the Executive Board of the Middle PA Chapter and representatives from Penn State University and the PSU AIAS Chapter, met in Hollidaysburg at the U. S. Hotel. Amid the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Season and the busiest shopping push at every store and shopping mall, this group took time out to reflect on 2011 and how to make the coming year even better and more exciting.



Having this beautiful early 19th century building as the back drop for this 2012 Planning Session, and amid stories of hauntings and ghost sitings, this brave group settled in to discuss upcoming events and speaker series and how to best present them to the membership of the Chapter.

The first order of business was to pencil in the state and national meetings and conferences to avoid any conflicts. March 7 – 10 is the National Grassroots Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. April 10 is Architect's Day and Leadership Conference & Board Meeting in Harrisburg, PA. The AIA National Convention which will convene in Washington, DC this year is May 17 – 19. Annual Middle PA Chapter Picnic will be held on July 13 at the Blairmont Country Club in Hollidaysburg, PA. Finally, the AIA State Board Meeting in Harrisburg, PA will be held on November 14.

Once again, the AIA and ASHRAE will hold their annual joint meeting in April, and the committee will arrange another joint meeting with the CSI chapter — possibly in October.

Several presentations will be scheduled throughout the remainder of the year offering pertinent and timely subjects as well as educational credits. The committee will be coordinating with PSU to incorporate many of their speaker series into the mix.

Finally, the group agreed to continue the Chapter's support AIAS at PSU; reach out to other firms in the northern portion of the Chapter's region through a meeting organized in that area; participate again in the Meet the Professionals and Job Fair event at PSU; and begin looking at the Chapter's bylaws to identify any sections that might need to be update.

Please make sure to check our Chapter Calendar on our website for dates, times, and locations.

AIA Associates Corner — 2011 Links

Mellisa Berstine, Associate AIA

AIA PA Regional Associate Director

mbernstein@klingsstubbins.com

Safiya Hodari, Associate AIA

AIA PA Associate Director

safiya.hodari@gmail.com

David E. Reasinger, Associate AIA

PA Associate Committee Member

gram (IDP) der19@psu.edu

Arthur Sheffield, Associate AIA

PA Coordinator, Intern Development Pro-

idp@aia.org

For the Good of the Order

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

I happened to be reading an article from one of our professional affiliates in “Modern Steel Magazine”. The article talked about a wrought iron bridge made in the 1870’s that carried vehicular and pedestrian traffic. It was relocated, not once, but twice, and still is used today in the harsh Minnesota climate. Did you ever wonder how long a design of yours that was built will survive and be used safely and efficiently? The bridge above is going strong after 140 years, outliving the designer and most probably his grandchildren! Yes there are plenty of 140 year old buildings still in use today. Some of which may have surprised the original designer by their longevity, whereas other designers would shrug their shoulders and say “No reason why it could not perform like that.”

We need to make sure our design and affiliate disciplines that are part of the design team do the best design we can muster. The building’s years of longevity (save for calamity or financial issues) will be the proof in the pudding of our ability.

PSU AIAS Chapter *(Continued from Page 1)*

We learned a lot about the profession while enjoying our time interacting with AIA members and vendors. We even managed to win three prizes from the lectures! We are very appreciative of how friendly and helpful the AIA has been to us; we look forward to future AIA events. Thank you again for inviting us to participate!

Our most recent adventure took place in Phoenix, Arizona over the winter break. Nine students took advantage of a great opportunity to attend the AIAS National Forum Conference. After six days in Phoenix, we gained valuable information from keynote speakers, design charrettes, BIM and leadership sessions, architectural tours, and intense discussions with AIAS members from across the US, all while enjoying the beautiful Arizona weather! The event generated a great amount of enthusiasm and we hope to channel this excitement into positive action within our Penn State chapter this Spring.

In February, Penn State will be hosting a Dinner Meeting for the AIA members and architecture students. At this meeting we will go into more detail on what activities we have engaged in thus far. We hope that you will join us for the evening!





Design Practice Founded by Ron Henderson Honored with Several Awards

The international design practice founded by Ron Henderson, chair of Integrative Design in the H. Campbell and Eleanor R. Stuckeman School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and head of the Department of Landscape Architecture, received three awards from the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Henderson and his colleagues accepted the awards, including the only Honor Award given this year, at the annual award ceremony held December 8.

The Honor Award for Planning and Analysis recognized the 12-month Pawtucket (RI) Downtown Design Plan prepared by Thurlow Small Architecture, L+A Landscape Architecture, McMahon Associates, Horsley Witten Group, and Highchair designhaus. (The plan also received chapter awards from both the American Institute of Architects and the American Planning Association.)

The Pawtucket Downtown Design Plan features a robust public outreach and communication process that aims to improve the city's infrastructure and foster sustainable economic and residential development.

The plan's solutions span design transportation, social landscape, event space, ecology, policy, and visual communication initiatives, including an ambitious tree planning effort that will improve air and water quality, while reducing storm water run-off. Tree canopy cover in the city is currently about 9 percent, while the plan establishes a 30 to 40 percent coverage in the downtown by establishing a comprehensive tree ordinance.

L+A Landscape Architecture also received the Special Recognition Award for the "Elmwood Avenue Enhancement Report," a Providence, Rhode Island project completed in collaboration with McMahon Associates Transportation Engineers & Planners; and the Merit Award for Design for the "Anthracite Garden" in Cambridge, Massachusetts. (You can view the garden by going to L+A's site, and clicking on image No. 11 under "modern gardens" in "projects.")

In addition, L+A was part of teams for two AIA-RI awards: an Honor Award for Design for the Pettaquamscutt River Residence with 3six0 and a Merit Award for Unbuilt Projects for the Narragansett Bay Commission Operations Center with KITE Architects.

H. Campbell and Eleanor R. Stuckeman School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture is a leader in professional design education comprised of an interdisciplinary confederation of strong design disciplines: Architecture, Design, and Landscape Architecture.

Reprinted from the PSU Artis and Architecture Website

Landscape Architecture Student Honored for Essay on Tanzania Study Abroad Experience

Penn State's University Office of Global Programs (UOGP) awarded Landscape Architecture student and Ebensburg, Pa. resident Kellie Waksmunski with the First Place Study Abroad Essay as part of International Education Week, a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education celebrating the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide.

Waksmunski, recognized for "outstanding writing skills" and a "global mindset," penned an essay about her experience studying abroad in Udzungwa Mountains National Park. Located in south-central Tanzania, the park contains some of the richest biological diversity in Africa, while bordering settlements populated by villagers who struggle for food, fuel, and clean water. Waksmunski's essay captured her insights into the complicated relationship between the villagers and their natural surroundings.

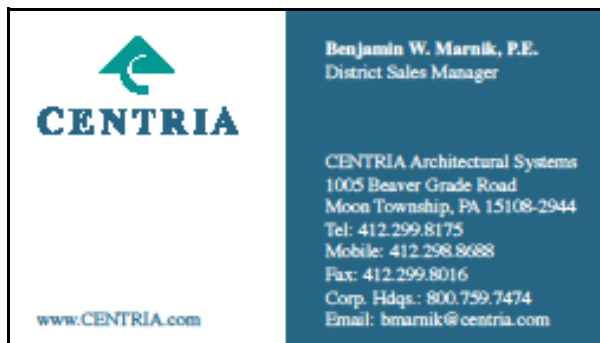
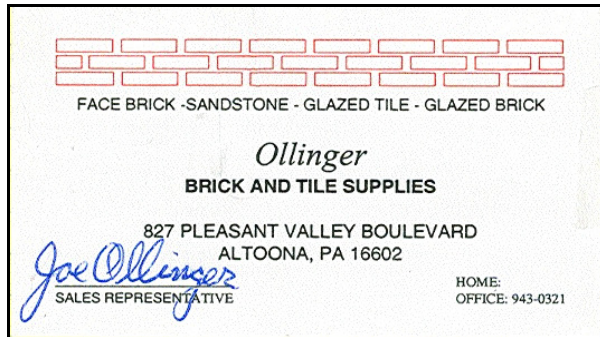
"Now that I have been home for four months, my core understanding of Tanzania is rooted in people and their relationship with nature," Waksmunski writes.

"Whether it is an animosity between the two, one triumphing over the other, or finding that delicate balance where both work together in harmony, nearly everything I have seen, every experience I have had, and everything I have witnessed is clearly connected to this relationship. It is apparent in food production, development, and land use. It affects health, livelihood, and quality of life. People truly depend on nature. However, few successful examples exist when one triumphs over another; there is always a negative effect or an unfortunate outcome for one side. The only way for humans to sustainably grow and continue development and progression into the future is to find a balance with nature. This balance will have to be a give and take for both sides, but it is possible. And finding this balance is the primary challenge facing humanity."

The Udzungwa Mountains National Park Study Abroad Program, administered by the Hamer Center for Community Design and the Department of Landscape Architecture, offers students from all backgrounds an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in environmental design and land-use planning through the applied community design workshop and field trips that allow them to observe and document land use and biodiversity.

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