

## AIA MIDDLE PA CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

*Members Hear Details of Nashville, Tennessee FORUM*

### PSU AIAS CHAPTER HOSTS AIA MIDDLE PA CHAPTER MEETING



With the contribution from AIA Middle PA Chapter, approximately 25 students from AIAS Penn State attended their annual conference, FORUM, in Nashville, Tennessee over winter break. Representatives from AIAS presented the AIA members in attendance with a summary of their experience. While in Nashville they attended learning sessions, portfolio workshops, city tours, keynotes, including architects Brooks and Scarpa, and broke out into groups based on their region. While at FORUM they voted on the 2015-2016 AIAS Board of Directors. Penn State's own Danielle Mitchell was voted in as the next national AIAS President!

Offices for 2014 / 2015 are as follows: Maria Hurtado President; David Ackerman Vice President; Natalie Hetu Treasurer; Valerie Alvarado Secretary; Owen Marhefka IDP Coordinator; Brad Pawelczyk Social Chair; Amanda Rigoni Fundraiser Chair; Mike Lindemayer Media Chair; Tyler Rafferty Freedom by Design (FBD) Director; Anastasia Limogiannis FBD historian; Alice Stewart Castner FBD project manager; Lauren Obermiller FBD treasurer; Meghan Tierney THON Chair; Brian Grundel THON Family Relations Chair; Danielle Mitchell Past President and Northeast Quad Director.

While consuming veggies and pizza, the students formed small groups joined by an AIA member to allow for more candid and personal conversation about the profession. The AIA members rotated between groups to give the students varying perspectives on the profession. It was a great evening bridging the gap between architecture education and practice. We look forward to future involvement and events with AIAS Penn State!

Rebecca Griffith Assoc AIA CDT LEED<sup>AP</sup>



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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 Rebecca Griffith, Assoc AIA  
P. O. Box 1784  
Altoona, PA 16603

## NEXT MID POINTS

Deadline for articles and information for the next newsletter is:

**May 1, 2015**

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:

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](mailto: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

## Message from the President

### Building Professionals

Elsewhere in this newsletter (See Page 1) you will read about our recent joint meeting with Penn State's AIA Chapter. This is the second consecutive year (and second time ever) I've attended the event and was greatly impressed by these students' commitment to AIA when they need to expend so much energy and attention on their studies. What was less impressive was our member participation. It's the poorest attended event we have and looks pretty bad to have six chapter members show up to address the eager questions of dozens of students.

The ubiquitous question is career oriented. These are mostly third-year students already focused on how to best secure their professional futures. I think that bodes well. On a related note, Dave Reasinger and I met with Architecture Department Head Mehrdad Hadighi earlier that day to discuss resurrecting a chapter-sponsored student design competition. Much of that conversation focused on the emerging role of IDP in the academic process, and the pending changes to the ARE that could allow some tests to be taken immediately after studying the relevant material (remember relearning structures about 5 years after you packed up the textbook and notebooks?). I'm encouraged that we are seeing a better system of professional readiness that creates a better and more effective transition from school to practice.

The one part of this transition that is most difficult for these students is securing effective internship opportunities before graduation. Many ask, "How do I get a summer internship?" And unfortunately, there's no easy answer. Those opportunities are rare, especially when paid (as is required by our code of ethics), and we do a disservice to our profession by not offering these opportunities. It can be costly in time and money, but I've done it in my tiny practice many times and have never regretted it. On the contrary it brings energy and personal development to my office. One of those interns even became an integral part of the firm's success for 9 years after graduation.

I was very fortunate to be given that opportunity by John Haas when I took a year off school to work in an office and see if this would really be my life's work. I was very naïve about actually getting a job in a firm and, like the fool I was (was?) tucked my portfolio under my arm and walked into office after office without an appointment. But I got lucky and had a great experience. I obtained great mentors like John, Won Lee, and Dallas Miller there, and after really working for a year in the "real world," enthusiastically went back to the wonderland that is architecture school. Seriously.

So I encourage all of you to find a way to help develop future professionals, and in the process, make our profession that much more valuable and viable.

David B. Albright, AIA

## AIA Associates Corner — 2014 Links

### **Safiya Hodari, Associate AIA**

AIA PA Regional Associate Director  
safiya.hodari@gmail.com

### **Joanna Beres, Associate AIA**

AIA PA Associate Director  
joannaberes@gmail.com

### **David E. Reasinger, Associate AIA**

PA Associate Committee Member  
der19@psu.edu

### **Sean Sheffler, AIA**

PA Coordinator, Intern Development Program (IDP)  
idpcoordinator.pa@gmail.com  
[https://twitter.com/IDP\\_PA](https://twitter.com/IDP_PA)

### *GOOD OF THE ORDER*

Interestingly, an innovative architect in Utah was able to use lumber from trees that had been recently killed or were on the path to dying, due to the mountain pine beetle. The wood was layered or cut thick enough to be structurally sound in constructing one-story cabins for a local Girl Scout Troop. All met Code in terms of fire, smoke, and structural ability and turned out to be aesthetically pleasing. It sparked some thoughts in my mind in that we are now witnessing the devastation of our attractive ash trees in our region by a foreign insect. The thought of using dead or dying trees in construction would conserve and lengthen existing lumber. Kudos to our colleague in Utah for giving us this example of using his talents of creativity, sustainability, and vision that inspires us to think outside of the norm in our work.

Until next time,

Tom

# 2015 SYMPOSIUM SET FOR SEPTEMBER 23!

## ***Speakers to focus on industry trends and updates***

We're off and running! Planning for the AIA MPC 2015 Symposium is well underway. Several speakers are confirmed and nearly one-third of the exhibitor booths have been reserved. This year's event will be held on **Wednesday, September 23, 2015** at the Penn Stater Conference Center in State College.

To date, the confirmed 2015 slate of speakers includes:

### **Michael Facente, C.E.M.**

Automated Logic Corporation  
*Building Automation*

### **Anthony S. Potter**

Powell, Trachtman, Logan, Carrle & Lombardo  
*Common mistakes that can lead to legal trouble*

### **Irv Spoonhour, ICC Master Code Professional**

Approved Code Services, Inc.  
*Highlights of the 2016 PA Accessibility Code*

Additional speakers are expected to be confirmed soon. Check your inbox and mailbox in the coming months for regular updates on speakers, exhibitors and special events related to the Symposium.

We look forward to seeing you in September!



(Continued . . . See Page 5)

*(Continued from Page 4)*

## **CALLING ALL EXHIBITORS!**

In just a few weeks, more than 25% of 2015 Symposium booths have already been reserved for the popular vendor exhibition. Several hours are devoted to the exhibition each year so that guests can learn more about the latest products and services, and meet one-on-one with industry specialists. Be sure to say ~~th~~anks to these companies that have already signed on as 2015 exhibitors!

Appleridge Stone International . Steve Doyle, Don Broadbent, 724-459-9511

Architectural Clay Products . Duke Bope, 412-322-0700

Bricks and Stones Supply (formerly CH Mason Supply) . Byron Singer, 814-364-1688

Brodwill . Randy Kania, 412-515-0504

EB Endres . Todd Speck, Larry Shontz, Rick Sheffield, Richard Endres , 814-643-1860

Fierst Distributing . Amber Britton, Bob Duffy, 800-242-1614

Glen-Gery . Bill Raab

Keller Engineers . Diana McClure, Randy Diviney . 814-696-7430

Modernfold of PA . Mark Kennedy, Mark Nattress, 610-682-0700

Van Gelder, Inc./Portico Systems . Sam Stein, 443-545-6364

If you know any companies that would be interested in exhibiting, please have them contact Anne McGrath at [annefmcgrath@verizon.net](mailto:annefmcgrath@verizon.net) for more information or to reserve space.

Please save the Date:

**ASHRAE/AIA Joint Meeting**

Tuesday 21 April 2015

At

Marzonna's Restaurant

164 Patchway Road (off route 22)

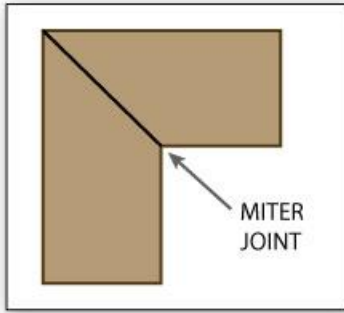
Duncansville, PA

Meeting begins at 6:00 PM

Topic of Presentation: To Be Announced







## AFFILIATES CORNER

### **AIA MPC Welcomes 2015 Affiliates**

#### *Memberships still available*

Please join us in welcoming the following companies as 2015 affiliate members:

Appleridge Stone International . Steve Doyle, Don Broadbent, 724-459-9511

EB Endres . Todd Speck, Larry Shontz, Rick Sheffield, Richard Endres , 814-643-1860

Fierst Distributing . Amber Britton, Bob Duffy, 800-242-1614

Keller Engineers . Diana McClure, Randy Diviney . 814-696-7430

Modernfold of PA . Mark Kennedy, Mark Nattress, 610-682-0700

Companies and individuals that support architectural firms can join the AIA MPC as affiliate members. Membership provides several benefits, including:

- Invaluable relationships with architects, engineers and other building professionals
- Business-producing networking opportunities at bi-monthly and other events
- Immediate access to AIA MPC membership listing
- High visibility promotion via newsletter case studies, ads, web links and meeting sponsorships
- Complementary admission to the AIA MPC July picnic

Membership information is available at [http://aiamiddlepa.org/affiliate\\_members.html](http://aiamiddlepa.org/affiliate_members.html).

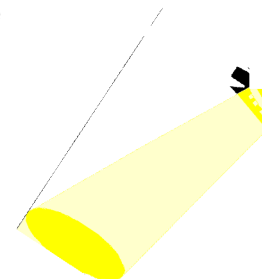
Companies that also purchase a booth at the 2015 Symposium can become an affiliate member at a reduced rate. Contact Anne McGrath at 814-242-6079 or [annefmcgrath@verizon.net](mailto:annefmcgrath@verizon.net) for more information. We look forward to working with you!

### **Affiliate Spotlight**


#### *A Focus on ... Modernfold of PA*

Modernfold can assist architects, contractors and interior designers in many ways. Services include product selection, layout assistance, budget pricing and specification writing. Its experienced sales staff helps you save time by providing the needed **CAD drawings, technical documents and specifications you require for operable walls, tubular daylighting systems, smoke/fire curtains and vertical lift operable walls.** Visit [modernfoldofpa.com](http://modernfoldofpa.com) and call us today at 1-800-248-8300. We look forward to working with you.

Regards,  
Mark Nattress. President  
Modernfold of Reading, Inc.



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