On a blustery November evening, Middle Chapter members gathered at the site of the new Indian Valley High School to tour this beautiful new educational facility. This high school is part of the Mifflin County School District which encompasses most of Mifflin County. Located in Lewistown, Dwight Knouse conducted the tour on behalf of Hayes Large Architects. (See Pages 4 and 6 for photos of the building)

Project Schedule. The project began in 1998 when a study for the project was conducted. In 2004, the program analysis for the building was first looked at with design started in 2006. A short delay was encountered while the School District acquired some necessary property. With the project put out for bid in July, 2008 (just before the economy’s problems began), construction started in the fall of 2008.

Cost. Because of the timing, the District was not able to take advantage of lower bid prices that might have been received had the project been bid a little later. The total project cost, including furniture, was $64.9 million. There are 251,088 square feet of space in the structure and the per square foot cost was $221. This reflects the construction cost only. The furniture and some technology costs were around $800,000. Included in the construction cost of the facility is the geothermal technology that is being utilized. This system required the drilling of 220 bore holes — each 525 feet deep.

Occupancy. Although the school will be completed before the end of the 2010/2011 school year, the School District has decided that the students will occupy the building beginning the fall of 2011. The building has a core capacity of 1,300 — 1,150 students. The design also allows for the addition of six classrooms on each side of the classroom core.

This is a beautiful educational facility incorporating classrooms, science labs, broadcast facilities, technology rooms, music and band rooms and storage, an incredible auditorium with a seating capacity of 1,500, a large well-equipped kitchen and cafeteria. The students attending the Indian Valley High School should do very well in today’s world with a high school offering them the most up-to-date learning environment.
Message From the President

Dave Marcharola, AIA

I would like to thank the membership for providing me the opportunity to serve as the Chapter President. I especially want to thank our past president Rick Cyman for his excellent term of service to the chapter and our profession. Rick’s mentorship in preparing me for this role and challenge has been very valuable to me. Since I have been involved in the chapter, I have had the opportunity to meet many people, develop friendships and have enjoyed attending events like the Grassroots, National Conventions, and Architects Day in Harrisburg.

As we start another year, working hard to maintain our practices despite an unstable economy and a concern with declining chapter revenue, optimistically and with pride I begin this term, with the belief that the middle chapter will continue to provide the best educational seminars, symposiums, and advocacy possible.

The Middle Pa Chapter will continue to actively support the American Institute of Architecture Students at the Pennsylvania State University, since these students are our future architects, AIA members and, of course, future AIA Middle PA chapter members.

Our chapter has plenty of room for new members, associates, and corporate sponsors. Please feel free to invite fellow nonmembers to our seminars and other professional events to showcase the benefits of being AIA. As in past years, we still have open slots in our organizational structure that need to be filled with volunteers.

The December planning meeting resulted in a calendar of events similar to the events that were scheduled last year. Some of the events include the Penn State Lecture Series, the Brueggebor Memorial Competition, and educational seminars. We are also planning an educational trip to Architectural Testing in York PA. The Middle PA chapter is continuing its association with ASHRAE, and CSI by planning joint meetings.

I encourage all to attend as many chapter events as possible, and look forward to seeing you.

Dave
For the Good of the Order

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

A Marriage in Cyberspace

The age of technology in the field of architecture continues to evolve. GIS (Geographic Information Systems) has become familiar to all of us in one way or the other. BIM (Building Information Models) has also become familiar to all of us. BIM is currently being used in many architectural practices. Work is in progress to capture information from both BIM and GIS systems and use this information in the design of a building or development of buildings. We will soon be able to “better fit” our building or buildings into the site environment by better knowing what goes on around it and also what sort of impact the building will have on the immediate environment. We will also understand what impact “downstream” our building will have. This helps with sustainability and any “green” design process you may be following. If you desire to be on the cutting edge of this marriage, visit www.buildingsmartalliance.org/index.php/projects/activeprojects/27.
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 LinkedIn page are up and running. YAF National and the College of Fellows are developing a mentoring program. More to come as this develops.

Indian Valley High School Tour Photos (More Photos on Page 6)

Dwight Knouse addresses tour attendees

Main Entrance

Interior Stairway

High School Library

Band Room Area
Symposium Set for October 20, 2011!

Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2011 AIAMPC Symposium, scheduled for October 20 in historic downtown Johnstown.

Plans call for the day-long event to focus on emerging design trends and how firms can make these trends pay off. Don't miss this opportunity to earn continuing education credits, network with other design and engineering professionals, and see some of the industry's latest products at our vendor exhibition.

Check your email and your mailbox for more Symposium updates in the weeks and months to come. In the meantime, sponsorships and booth spaces are now available. Contact Anne McGrath, event coordinator, at annefmcgrath@verizon.net or 814.539.1317 for more info. See you in October!

Yearly Chapter Planning Meeting Held

The Officers of the Middle Chapter gathered at Marzoni’s Restaurant in early December to map out the activities for 2011.

New President, Dave Macharola, conducted the meeting. Also in attendance were Immediate Past President, Rick Cyman; First Vice President, Tom Columbus, Jr., Treasurer, Carmen Wyckoff, Dave Reasinger, Dee Columbus, and Penn State AIAS President, Aaron Weitman.

All executive committee meetings, general chapter meetings, tours, programs, and the annual chapter picnic were scheduled through the coming year. There will be many exciting and interesting activities in 2011 to enhance your skills and fulfill your education requirements for the AIA. Also happening this year is the Middle Chapter’s bi-annual Symposium 2011. See the announcement above on this page for the date and place.

This promises to be another great year for the Middle Pennsylvania Chapter and we invite all members to participate.
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