

COLUMNS

The Newsletter of the American Institute of Architects, Arkansas Chapter Winter 2008

Last Notes to Myself

A MESSAGE FROM AIA ARKANSAS PRESIDENT THAD KELLY

This is the last issue of *Columns* in which I will have my President's Message published. Experiencing ALL that this office offers was a pleasure. I have truly enjoyed all of the responsibilities, activities and meetings that this office requires. If you will, indulge me while I reminisce with a few of AIA Arkansas' accomplishments this past year.

January 2008 Board Retreat at Big Cedar: The board's commitment to AIA Arkansas and their energy and enthusiasm are contagious. The 2008 Board worked tirelessly on many issues, one of which was the re-defining of our Design Awards process. Your AIA Board served all our members with distinction.

Associated General Contractors meeting February 2008: Sitting on the Arkansas Construction Hall of Fame Committee with leaders of the building and highway contracting community as well as engineers, to review nominations and select the 2008 Class of Arkansas Construction Hall of Fame honorees: James H. Cone, Sr. – Building; Les Mills – Highway; Charles Witsell, Jr., FAIA – Architect; and L. Carl Yates, P.E. – Engineer.

AIA Arkansas Convention and EXPO October 2008: Frank Barksdale, AIA, set a very high standard for future convention chairs to match. He even immortalized himself with the "Barksdale Bucks," a fun, highly competitive, interactive scramble! The success of our state convention is making fellow Gulf States chapters envious. Great job by Joie Ketcham, Tim Maddox, Michael LeJong, Craig Boone, David

Swearingen, Chris East, Michael Rogers and everyone involved!

An issue that was spawned during Past-President Galen Hunter's reign was the University of Arkansas' architect selection process. AIA Arkansas initiated a challenge to the preference/selection of out-of-state architects. I am pleased to report that Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Don Pederson invited himself to the October School of Architecture Advisory Board meeting, and announced that "there will not be a project awarded that does not have an Arkansas architect as the lead."

The only exception, he said, was a specialized building, such as the Nano-Science building. This is a great change from the recent past selection of out-of-state architects by the university's facilities planning staff.

In 2009, one of the initiatives that President-Elect Wallie Sprick will pursue will be to help initiate a "Good Samaritan law" in Arkansas. This is the foundation for AIA Arkansas to coordinate with other relief agencies to respond to natural disasters. First, there has to be this law so architects can do pro-bono relief volunteer assistance without the threat of litigation. We have surrounding states with viable programs willing to help AIA Arkansas get started!

I thank each and every one of you for allowing me the privilege of – and I am grateful for the honor of – having served as AIA Arkansas President 2008.

Fore!

Thad R. Kelly, III, AIA, LEED AP
AIA Arkansas President 2008

AIA Arkansas Honors See With Fay Jones Gold Medal

Jack F. See Jr., AIA, of Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson, Inc., in Little Rock received the 2008 Fay Jones Gold Medal from AIA Arkansas. The award recognizes an individual architect who demonstrates touchstones of excellence through artistic vision and design, leadership and service to the State of Arkansas and the AIA Arkansas Chapter. Excellence is measured not only by the mark of architectural and individual achievement, but through the esteem and regard held for the architect by professional practitioners and the community as a whole.

The Gold Medal Award is aptly named after the late Fay Jones, FAIA, whose work encompasses and embodies all the qualities AIA Arkansas admires in an architect and a person. It represents his excellence as well as those who receive this prestigious award.

A respected representative of his profession in his community and state, See has made significant contributions to society and the practice of architecture for more than 46 years. See joined the Little Rock firm of Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson, Inc., in 1962 as a project designer and became a principal in 1972.

A member of AIA Arkansas since 1963, See has served in various capacities of chapter leadership, including treasurer, secretary, vice president, president and past president of the Board of Directors. In 1981, the chapter president, Terry Rasco, FAIA, appointed See to serve on a special Futures Committee, which explored future goals and options for professional organizational management, membership development and budgeting.

Before serving as Arkansas chapter president in 1984, See conducted the chapter's Annual Planning Retreat and proposed a number of major new initiatives that the board adopted and that continue to this day. They include the Award of Merit, the Arkansas Chapter Gold Medal Award, the Arkansas Chapter Service Award, the past president board position and the Professional Advisory Board.

He also recruited a group of fellow AIA members to work together to form a statewide AIA Arkansas

Education Committee, which recently updated construction standards in the Arkansas School Facility Manual. He continues to serve as an AIA member of the Legislative Advisory Committee on Educational Facilities and is the committee chairman.

Having been heavily involved with the University of Arkansas School of Architecture, See has proposed and helped to implement several significant programs to benefit the school's architectural students. Those initiatives include the 22-year-old School of Architecture Professional Advisory Board, School of Architecture Development Committee and the Dean's Circle.

See also served on the UA National Development Council and, in 1997, received the first Distinguished Service Award presented by the School of Architecture "for his vision, leadership and service to the School of Architecture." See established himself at both the regional and national levels as a specialist in the design of educational facilities when he joined the Council of Educational Facilities Planners International in 1996.

Regional officers recruited him in 2004 to serve on the Southern Region Board, and he brought state architects and educators together by forming an Arkansas Chapter of CEFPI.

In 2007, the Southern Region CEFPI Board of Directors presented See with a Service Citation Award for his leadership in forming the Arkansas Chapter CEFPI and for promoting membership growth in Arkansas. His dedication to the exceptional design of educational facilities was recently highlighted when he received the 2008 Distinguished Service Award from the Southern Region Council of Educational Facilities Planners Southern Region.

In 2003, leadership in the Arkansas Legislature asked See and two construction industry colleagues to assist in recommending options to meet an Arkansas Supreme Court mandate to bring the state's K-12 educational facilities into constitutional compliance. As these initiatives were brought forward, See was elected vice chairman of the Task Force to the Joint Committee on Educational Facilities of the Arkansas Legislature and chairman of the Educa-

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Jack See (second from left) with AIA Arkansas President Thad Kelly, AIA, Wallie Sprick, AIA, and Frank Barksdale, AIA, following presentation of the Fay Jones Gold Medal.

CHAPTER AWARDS

2008

Dick Savage Award Goes to David Perry

David W. Perry, AIA, LEED AP, of Roark Perkins Perry Yelvington, PA, in Little Rock received the 2008 AIA Arkansas Dick Savage Award. The award, for outstanding member of the year, recognizes an AIA Arkansas member who has made notable and significant contributions to both the state chapter and the profession of architecture.

Perry graduated from Benton High School in 1972. Upon graduation from high school, he attended the University of Arkansas School of Architecture and completed the required curriculum in five years to graduate with a Bachelor of Architecture Degree in 1977. During the summers while in college, David chose to work construction, which proved later to be beneficial with his tasks of supervision of project administration in the firm of Roark, Perkins & Kennedy where he was employed in the summer of 1977.

Today, David is a member of the U of A School of Architecture Advisory Board; a founding member of the Arkansas Chapter



Gordon Duckworth, AIA (second from right), presents the Dick Savage Award to David Perry, AIA, LEED AP as Thad Kelly, AIA, and Frank Barksdale, AIA, look on.

of the U.S. Green Building Council and currently on their Advisory Board; past Board Member of Camp Aldersgate and current Building and Grounds Committee member; president of the Top 25 Business Lead Group; President of Harbor East Estates P.O.A. at Mt. Harbor on Lake Ouachita; licensed in 12 states; member of NCARB; and past president of the Arkansas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Currently, Perry is involved as the Project Architect of the 12th Street Corridor Master Plan for the city of Little Rock. This involvement is forged from a commitment to strive to improve the architecturally neglected areas of Little Rock, and in turn make Little Rock a more secure and appealing place to live.

Perry says he owes his long-time commitment to AIA to the

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UAMS Chancellor Receives Award of Merit

I. Dodd Wilson, M.D., chancellor of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) in Little Rock, received the 2008 AIA Arkansas Award of Merit.

The award recognizes an individual, public official, member of any allied profession, public agency or company that through interest, activity and concern with the profession of architecture, shall have advanced the cause of good planning and design and/or contributed to the dignity and value of the architectural profession.

Dr. Wilson came to UAMS in 1986 as a professor and dean of the College of Medicine from the University of Minnesota Medical School, where he was a professor and vice chairman of the Department of Medicine. He was named executive vice chancellor at UAMS in July 1994.

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Steve Kinzler, AIA, presents the Award of Merit to Chancellor I. Dodd Wilson.

See

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tional Facilities Standards Committee.

See's work for more than two years to support the adoption of new educational facilities standards resulted in legislation to create a new state Division of Public School Academic Facilities & Transportation.

This division would, for the first time in Arkansas, provide state construction funding assistance, adopt new policies and criteria for the care and maintenance of school facilities, create a new Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities Manual and develop an achievable plan to raise the bar on educational facilities for the children of Arkansas.

Some of See's most notable architectural projects include the Riceland Foods Headquarters and Rice Research Center in Stuttgart; seven district headquarters facilities for the Arkansas Highway Department; the Donald W. Reynolds Center for Educational Excellence at Mid-South Community College in West Memphis; Tyndall Dickinson Hall at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock; and the Willis Shaw Elementary School, the Hellstern Middle School, the Mary Frances George Junior High School and Har-Ber High School, all for the Springdale School District.

Perry

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leadership of his partner and mentor, Price Roark.

"Price always encouraged us to be involved with AIA, and he did this, not only financially, but he did it with sincere enthusiasm."

He always said, "You must give back to those that give to you."

Perry has been married to his wife, Tracy, for 23 years and has two children, Aaron and Brittany, and one grandchild, Evie.

Wilson

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Named chancellor in October 2000, Dr. Wilson has remained committed to meeting the critical health-care needs of all Arkansans. In addition to overseeing the education of Arkansas' future doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other health-related professionals, his leadership has garnered significant private and public funds to support numerous UAMS expansion projects. Those projects include a new university hospital, the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute addition, the Psychiatric Research Institute and a new education building – all now under construction.

Dr. Wilson also has made it a priority to increase UAMS' services outside Little Rock by establishing new clinical and education programs through its nationally recognized use of technology that links UAMS' subspecialists with patients and their doctors across Arkansas. For example, the number of Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) under Dr. Wilson has grown from six to eight. These nationally recognized centers provide primary health care to the regions they serve and are where many family medicine physicians complete their residencies. The AHECs also provide continuing education for health-care professionals who live and work nearby. He also has overseen the establishment of eight Regional Centers on Aging, putting 90 percent of elderly Arkansans within 60 miles of an interdisciplinary geriatric health care team.

Dr. Wilson has spearheaded the creation of a satellite campus in Fayetteville to address growing health care work force shortages. UAMS-Northwest will open in 2009 and will include the UAMS colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy and Health Related Professions.

Research also has taken precedence for Dr. Wilson, and UAMS' level of research funding now ranks in the top 20 percent of the nation's colleges and universities. In the 2008 fiscal year, UAMS secured approximately \$98.8 million in research grants and contracts from all extramural sources. Grants and contracts from all federal sources were approximately \$63.4 million and of this amount \$49.9 million came from the National Institutes of Health. This represents significant growth over the past 25 years; In 1984, UAMS received about \$6 million in grants and contracts from federal sources to support research.

In April 2005, he became the first recipient of the Harry P. Ward Chancellor's Chair at UAMS. It was the first chancellor's chair endowed at an Arkansas university. He is past chair of the Council of Deans of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and served on its Executive Committee. He served on the Board of Directors of the Association of Academic Health Centers. Dr. Wilson is a graduate of Dartmouth College and received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School. He and his wife, Ginger, have three grown children: Matt, Kit and Dan, and seven grandchildren.



Arkansas Public Health Laboratory in Little Rock.

Blackwell Firm Takes Home Two Honor Awards

The Marlon Blackwell Architect firm of Fayetteville received two Honor Design Awards in the AIA Arkansas Design Awards program for its work on the Gentry Public Library in Gentry and the Fulbright Building in Fayetteville.

Ati Blackwell, Associate AIA, was the design architect for the new, modern public library in Gentry that was surgically placed within the 100-year-old brick shell of a former hardware store.

Jurors said: "The jury was unanimous in feeling that this project stands out, and would in any grouping of meritorious works. Its architectural and urban design, its community significance, and the clarity of the presentation are extraordinary. From the moment we saw the submission, we all felt we liked everything about it. We hope that this carefully designed public facility will realize its potential to act as a catalyst for positive change in Gentry, and we commend the community that has had the wisdom to support such an exceptional effort."

Gentry Mayor Wes Hogue said the Blackwell firm was "very good to work with. The budget was an is-

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Wilcox Group Earns Honor Design Award, Member Honor Award

Wilcox Group Architects of Little Rock, in association with Lord Aeck Sargent of Atlanta, received an AIA Arkansas Honor Design Award for their work on the Arkansas Public Health Laboratory in Little Rock.

Wesley Walls, AIA, was the principal-in-charge for the laboratory, which is a three-story, 82,000-SF facility that contains about 50,000 SF of lab space for the testing and control of bio-terrorist agents as well as infectious and genetic diseases.

The jury said it "appreciates how very difficult it is to do successful buildings of this type. While the bio-terroristic testing that is central to this structure is so inherently uninviting, the architect has succeeded in making a very elegant and friendly exterior." The jury particularly appreciated the use of clerestory windows around the inner block of the building, allowing for a sense of the outdoors through the glassy exterior façade.

This project also received the prestigious Member Honor Award, which goes to the project selected by AIA Arkansas members in balloting at the state convention.



Gentry Public Library in Gentry.



The Fulbright Building in Fayetteville.

Blackwell

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sue as it always is on public projects. They hung in there with us and worked with us throughout the entire process. We love the design and the way they used the space – it is a nice usable design.

“Our library attendance has gone up maybe 400 percent,” he added, “so it’s having the desired effect. The folks who use the library and our volunteers really like it.”

Gail Shepherd, AIA, was the design architect on the Fulbright Building project, which involved renovating the former Fayetteville Public Library into space for professional offices.

“This design takes an architectural paradigm usually thought of as cold and makes it warm and inviting,” jurors said. “While the architect has respected the Miesian design of the original library, there is also a carefully conceived playfulness with some of the elements. The jury believes that the revitalized building will seem fresh years from now, as it does today.”

In an e-mail statement, Richard Alexander, Ted Belden, John Nock and Rob Merry-Ship, co-owners of the Fulbright Building, said: “The idea of the project was to restore a Fayetteville icon using historic restoration on a modern building. We felt Marlon Blackwell Architect was the best candidate to pay proper homage to Mr. Warren Seagraves’ original design while adding a 21st century edge, creating a totally modern structure. Marlon and his team left the bones of the structure and the alternating rhythm of the exterior the same.

“The vision of the interior was modeled after a Renaissance village concept of narrow, winding roads rather than a grid structure. There are very few straight lines on the interior. Each of the suites, as well as the shared conference room, is unique. The use of glass and skylights throughout the building provides natural light throughout the interior of the sub-terrain structure. Pleasantly, their stamp is heavily imprinted on the building.

“We enjoyed working with Marlon’s team,” they said. “They fused the vision of the firm with the vision of the client. We are very pleased with the functionality of the project. We are thrilled with the outcome and feel it is one of the finest examples of modern architecture in the city. Marlon is a great architect and person. We enjoyed working with him and his firm.”

About the Design Awards

The Design Awards program honors works of distinction of AIA Arkansas members and draws public attention to examples of outstanding architecture.

Projects are submitted in two categories – Built and Unbuilt. The Built category has two levels of awards: Honor, the highest award, granted for overall design excellence; and Merit, granted to projects worthy of recognition because of their design quality. The Unbuilt category has one award, the Citation, granted in recognition of creativity and/or design possibility.

Practicing architects from Massachusetts — J. Roger Boothe, AIA, David Hacin, AIA, and John Stebbins, AIA, LEED AP — selected the awards. They gave close attention to the detailing and care that was put into each of the projects.

The jurors said of the Arkansas entries: “Among the interesting range of building types, there were a few truly exceptional designs, and many with commendable qualities.”

DESIGN AWARDS

2009



Anthony Trust Carillon Tower at Garvan Woodland Gardens.

Jennings and McKee Receive Merit Award for Carillon Tower

Maurice Jennings, AIA, and David McKee, AIA, and their firm, Maurice Jennings and David McKee Architects, received a Merit Design Award for their work on the Anthony Trust Carillon Tower at Garvan Woodland Gardens at Hot Springs.

The tower, which serves as an instrument of celebration and a monument to time, acts as a marker, guiding people to the chapel, and provides a gathering space for the gardens.

“This very elegant, simple structure succeeds in reflecting the stand of trees that form its setting,” the jurors said. “The carillon is both beautifully detailed and extremely well-executed.”

Bob Byers, director of Garvan Woodland Gardens, said, “We are extremely pleased with both the process and the end result of this project. The way in which the 16 copper towers blend with the woodland is magical (and will be more so when final weathering of the copper is complete), the structure is surprisingly engaging in its detailing and the interaction of the many vertical and diagonal elements, and it echoes the Anthony Chapel’s architectural language beautifully, providing the perfect entry element to the entire complex.”

UA Community Design Center Project Earns Citation Award

The University of Arkansas Community Design Center received a Citation Award from AIA Arkansas for Porchscapes, an Affordable LEED-Neighborhood Development.

Katie A. Brashears, AIA, LEED AP, of the UA CDC, was the design architect for the project for the Habitat for Humanity of Washington County, the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission and the U.S. EPA, Region 6.

The 43-unit project leverages urban and ecological services.

“This thoughtful, multifaceted presentation of ‘The Green Neighborhood Transect’ is a model,” jurors said, “for how to integrate more nuanced open space design and stormwater management into suburban development, and the designers are to be commended for illustrating and promoting this much-needed vision.”



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News Briefs

Nabholz Blackout Program to Shed Light on Site Safety

Nabholz Construction has announced a new Black-out Blitz program designed to highlight safety efforts and raise awareness of the more than 1,000 construction site fatalities that occur each year throughout the industry in the United States.

Now through January 9, all employees will wear a black armband with a high-visibility reflector to help keep safety on everyone's mind – as well as their sleeve.

"Safety is always a top priority for us," said Joey Ryan, Ozark Division safety director, "but we wanted to go a step further and really get our team members thinking about and talking about workplace safety."

Nabholz was founded in 1949 and has grown into a multi-service leader in the construction industry throughout the United States. The company has offices throughout Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri. Nabholz maintains a "zero incident" safety goal and has received recognition for past safety initiatives.



AIA Now Requires 4 Hours Sustainable Design Credits

Recently, the national AIA Board of Directors voted to modify the annual education requirements to include a minimum four hours of education in sustainable design within the mandated annual 18 learning units. This change is effective on Jan. 1, 2009, and will apply to membership renewal beginning Jan. 1, 2010.

The four hours of sustainable-design education must be part of the eight hours currently allocated for health, safety, and welfare (HSW) education. When appropriate, a single HSW course can also count toward the sustainable design requirement; however, members would still need to fulfill the 18-hour requirement. To learn more, go to www.aia.org/ces_sustainabledesignrequirements.

Justice Facility Projects Wanted

The AIA Academy of Architecture for Justice invites all registered architects to submit projects that represent the state of the art in justice facility design including courts, detention/corrections, law enforcement, emergency operations and communication centers.

The submission deadline is Jan. 23, 2009.

The *Justice Facilities Review* offers an opportunity to put your firm's jury-selected projects before administrators, architects, representatives of state and local jurisdictions, and others involved in the justice system.

Selected projects will be published in the companion publication, *Justice Facilities Review 2009*, and featured in several traveling exhibits. The AIA encourages architects to submit their design work for consideration. This year an online submission process will be used, in order to foster greater environmental sustainability, as well as

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American Architecture Awards Recognize Acxiom Data Center

The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design, together with The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies and Metropolitan Arts Press Ltd., has announced that Polk Stanley Rowland Curzon Porter's design of the Acxiom Corporation Data Center has been honored as a winner in the prestigious American Architecture Awards program for 2008.

The award honors and celebrates the most outstanding new accomplishments for architecture designed and



Acxiom Data Center

built in the United States by leading American and international architecture firms practicing in the USA.

"The American Architecture Awards" have become the foremost, prestigious awards program for public recognition for Excellence in Architecture in the United States both nationally and internationally. The awards identify the new cutting-edge design direction, urban philosophy, design approach, style and intellectual substance in American Architecture today.

This year's European jury took place in Athens, Greece, with participation of noted Greek architectural practitioners, educators, government leaders and architecture journalists.

The information technology company's new data center redefines an often maligned building type, weaving humans and machines with nature while expressing elegance in the data storage process. The design philosophy is based on the juxtaposition of void and solid, man and machine, public and private.

The Entrance Pavilion, nestled in evergreen trees, is crafted as a pure glass cube juxtaposed against the solid raw concrete data box beyond. Trees filter setting sunlight, combining with sunscreens to protect the space without compromising views.

The Data Center also received a prestigious AIA Arkansas Honor Award, and was voted by other state architects as the AIA Arkansas Member's Choice Award for 2007. This is the firm's second American Architecture Award in two years, joining the Heifer International Headquarters, which also received the AIA National Honor Award.

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News Briefs

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to facilitate the administrative process. Details and instructions are available at www.aia.org/aaj_jfr09.

WD&D Design Receives Honors at ASID Awards

Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson, Inc., has been recognized for excellence in interior design with a Silver Design Award from the American Society of Interior Designers—South Central Chapter for interior renovations to the Crowne Plaza in Little Rock.

The award-winning renovations were designed by Stephanie Monroe, ASID, and Courtney Burton, ASID, and provided an extreme face-lift to the lobby, atrium, meeting spaces, banquet rooms, ballroom, corridors and the guest rooms of the existing hotel. Rich wood tones and deep warm colors set the stage for the dramatic vies in the cityscape atmosphere of the hotel. WD&D PPrincipals John Sloan, AIA, and Chad Young, AIA, provided architectural services for the project.

The Crowne Plaza renovation was honored because its design includes all the elements of maintainability, while producing an environment that meets the client's needs – a progressive, clean design where every part has a purpose. In September, the Crowne Plaza was one of 15 hotels honored to receive the InterContinental Hotels Group 2008 Renovation Award.

Nabholz on Magazine's List of Green Contractors

Nabholz Construction is the only firm in Arkansas to receive a ranking in *Engineering News-Record* magazine's first list of Top Green Contractors in the U.S. The list is based on volume of contracting-specific revenue from sustainable, "green" projects registered or certified by third-party organizations.

Barn Again – Book Planned on Barn Restorations

An author is seeking suggestions for a book on barn conversions/restorations and wishes to locate appropriate architects. Plans are for an internationally distributed coffee table book and published by Schiffer Books in early 2010. Architects/builders/designers will be given credit and listed in the book's resource guide. Interested? Contact Ashley Rooney at earooney@rcn.com.

Welcome New Members!

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