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Greetings

As the profession enters 2009, much of our collective focus is on the economy's affect approaching the upcoming months. As Vice President of the Academy for Emerging Professionals, I have heard countless individuals informing me of their (or their co-workers) situations in being forced to furlough their time at work. They are worried about their firm's financial stability, what that means for them, and worst of all, being laid off. Equally concerning is whether these individuals return to the profession when things turn around? Will the profession lose a large percentage of this generation's talent as they search for work? Despite the fact that the upcoming generation of design professionals has been hit hardest during this economic downturn, the Academy is focused on helping Emerging Professionals through this year as we provide resources to assist in career development.

Recently the Academy of Emerging Professionals held its first Strategic Planning Session in San Francisco. Sixty plus designers, at all levels of experience from all around the state, came together to discuss the future of the Emerging Professional. After six hours of reflection, discussion and envisioning, the Academy came away with a direction as to where we should go during the next five years. In addition, we developed several specific goals outlining potential points of focus to consider in the long-range plan. On February 21st, the Academy's Council of Advisors convened to organize the information from the Strategic Planning Session into the beginning stages of a long-range plan. When finalized this long-range plan will guide the Academy how best to support programming on mentorship, leadership and career development to emerging professionals around the state, as well as assist us in honing our communication efforts and enhancing the structure of our resource documentation and networking tools.

Whether you are employed, working a contract, or have unfortunately been laid off, now is the best time to look at your career and give it a reality check. Gone are the days of firms scrambling to find anyone to fill CAD stations. Firms have learned that quality takes precedence over quantity, as they continue to integrate Building Information Modeling (BIM), Integrated Project Delivery (IPD) and LEED into their office and projects. When the profession picks back up, firms are going to be looking for dedicated individuals who have a working knowledge of the new modeling software, are savvy in LEED and have a clear focus on their career.

Therefore, in this time when work is slow and the future is uncertain, use this opportunity to focus back on your career. Start working on strengthening your skill set and resume. If you are not yet licensed, finish your exams or complete your IDP/CIDP requirements. NCARB's "6th month rule" takes effect in July. If you have yet to become LEED accredited, now is a great time to do so. If you have little experience in certain aspects of the profession look for volunteer activities that will help you get experience in these areas. Do you need to develop project management skills? Get involved in your local AIA Chapter or another association to lead an event or program. Opportunities to strengthen your skills and give your resume a boost are widely available, and the AIA along with the Academy of Emerging Professionals has many opportunities and resources to help you reach your goals.

Sincerely,



Jason Dale Pierce
Vice President
Academy for Emerging Professionals

EMERGING ARCHITECTS

Yeah, but What's in it For Me?

By Erik Hagan, AIA, NCARB, LEED-AP

So, you're a newly licensed architect! Congratulations! So much work and energy went into getting you where you now are. Unless you can sustain going out on your own during these tough economic times, what does being licensed really do?

In the six years since I got licensed, I've been acting as an AIA Young Architect Liaison in one capacity or another. A Young Architect, by definition, is one who has been licensed 10 years or less. I've seen what licensure has to offer (or not) through my involvement in large, successful firms, as well as small, struggling firms, and even on my own. It took me six years to finally actually use my stamp.

Along the way, I've seen many ways in which licensure has helped me move forward in the profession. And, I've seen even more ways in which it hasn't, which may be why licensure is on the decline).

To read this article in its entirety [click here](#)

EMERGING ASSOCIATES

"What is the AEP Anyway?"

An Associate's Perspective on the AEP Strategic Planning Session

By Gray Dougherty, Assoc. AIA

The AEP Strategic Planning Session was a great event where Associates, students, young architects, and many other interested parties from the state and nation convened in San Francisco to share ideas about how this organization can bring the best value to its members. While this was definitely a large part of the discussion, one huge question kept coming up (and you may be asking the same thing): "What is the AEP, anyway?" At the root of this question are, "How is the AEP different from my

Chapter Associates Committee or Emerging Professionals Committee?", "Am I a member of the AEP?" and "Why do we need the AEP?"

While the answers to these questions are definitely important, the biggest issue to come out of the strategic planning session stems from why these questions are being asked in the first place. As a member of the AEP Council of Advisors (COA), I sometimes assume that everyone knows the role of The AIACC and the AEP; understanding how the group interacts with their local chapter officers, but this couldn't be further from the truth. In fact, it seems that every year we take a step back as the Emerging Professional leadership turns over in the local chapters.

To read this article in its entirety [click here](#)

EMERGING STUDENTS

The Next Generation

By Stephonie Nash, AIAS

Calling all students of architecture! Whether you are in your 3rd, 4th, or 5th year of study, the state of the economy and the future of the practice of architecture seems uncertain. In this time of economic slow down and financial strain in universities, there are still many opportunities for students to gain the knowledge and mentorship they so desperately desire. I encourage you all to get involved and participate in all that AIA and their local chapters have to offer.

It all starts with membership. The AIA is THE voice of Architects, and as we are the future of the profession, it is crucial that you give your input and take advantage of all the organization offers. Many local chapters are giving free student memberships and discounted access to a vast array of career development programs ranging from portfolio and resume review to ARE tutoring sessions.

To read this article in its entirety [click here](#)

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Helpful Links

- AEP [Academy for Emerging Professionals](#)
- YAF [Young Architects Forum](#)
- NAC [National Associates Committee](#)
- AIAS [American Institute of Architectural Students](#)

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