



ACE MENTOR PROGRAM
ARCHITECTURE • CONSTRUCTION • ENGINEERING

Mentor News

March 2017

**ACE Mentor Program
of Sarasota Inc.**

Volume 3, Issue 1

March 2017

Chemistry Can Lead To Architecture Through the ACE Program

Written By: Joseph A. Kelly, AIA, NCARB, Hive Architects

Everyone has a story to share about their professional journey. If you think back and reflect on your personal path, you may have twists and turns that ultimately led you to your final destination. These are valuable experiences that when shared with students can help open their minds to the potential career options they have in their future, feel comfortable following their instincts, and ultimately discover themselves along their personal journey.

Not long after meeting as lab partners in Chemistry Lab in the mid 90's, my wife Gwen and I both obtained our AA degrees. I was on a Pre-Med track and she was studying to be a Veterinarian. After many completed courses over the past two years of college, we both found that our passion was for the arts with a technical component. This is when we both decided to take a hard left down the long road to becoming an Architect. This can be a scary proposition, know-

ing that very few of your prerequisite classes apply towards your new professional track and additional time will be required to complete college, not to mention the additional costs. With all of this in mind, we hunkered down and never looked back. We followed our gut instincts and found our true passion while attending the College of Design, Construction & Planning at the University of Florida in Gainesville. When it happens, you just know. You spend every waking hour trying to achieve your goals and all of the time investment goes by in a flash. Over your lifetime, school is only a moment, and it's worth taking the time and left turns if necessary, as we did, to find your passion. When you do this, you will never work a day in your life! Today, Gwen and I are Principals of Hive Architects, where our firm focuses on concept driven design that specializes in residential architecture, interior de-

sign, and private commercial projects.

The ACE Mentor Program was our chance to help educate, guide, and inspire young high school students who have a focused interest in Architecture, Construction, and Engineering. As Architects, we work closely with Engineers through project design and Contractors through project Construction, so we have a universal language of communication that helps us work together to mentor the ACE students. Together, we can share our personal stories of how we found our chosen profession, the lessons learned along the way, and ultimately provide them the tools to make an informed decision about their professional journey. (see page 2)



2016-2017 ACE Mentors

- Mara Putt, P.E.**
*Stantec
Riverview LEAD Mentor*
- Tara McKinney, E.I.**
*Stantec
Venice LEAD Mentor*
- Steve Arrington**
Tandem Construction
- Doug Brauer, P.E.**
Stantec
- John Brosnan**
Gilbane Building Company
- Gillian Carney**
City of Venice
- James Clinch, P.E.**
City of Venice
- Bobby Connor**
Hall Architects
- Laney Cummings, AIA**
TMPartners, PLLC
- Mike Elfers, P.E.**
Sarasota County Public Works
- Travis Fledderman, P.E.**
Stantec
- Sonya Fronckowiak, P.E.**
Marsabel Engineering
- Jordan Hoover**
Gilbane Building Company
- Scott Huber**
E.T. MacKenzie of Florida, Inc.
- Anita Keitel, AIA**
Hall Architects, PA
- Gwen Leroy-Kelly, Assoc. AIA**
Hive Architects Inc.
- Joe Kelly, AIA**
Hive Architects Inc.
- Rachel Markowitz, E.I.**
Stantec
- Kevin Morris, P.E.**
*Peace-River-Manasota
Regional Water Supply Authority*
- Brett Raymaker**
Willis A. Smith Construction
- Kenneth Slezak, P.E.**
Willis A. Smith Construction
- Tyler Wilkinson, E.I.**
Stantec

Student Corner



Emerson and his team presenting during class

"The most important lesson that I have learned from ACE is to stay in the habit of treating every moment as an opportunity. Rather than treating ACE as just a mandatory weekly meeting for example, I now think of it as a rare chance to learn from well-respected professionals of the community qualities that I want to apply to my own future business endeavors. I've lost count of how many time in ACE I've been told "someone you

know now could be an asset in the future!" This is mind, I actively try to make good impressions rather than just being 'present' during an introduction. I consider opportunity hunting the most important lesson ACE has taught me." - Emerson Robbins, ACE RHS Senior

Emerson plans to attend Florida State University with a major in Mechanical Engineering in Fall 2017.

Banquet Season!

This is an exciting time for the ACE Mentor Program of Sarasota! Adding to the excitement is we have two end-of-year banquets this year— one for each of our participating high schools, Riverview (3/30) and Venice (4/13). We are so excited to celebrate with our 123 students, their families, and our 2016-2017 sponsors you see on the opposite page. This year will prove to

be our most generous year to-date in our scholarship giving, thanks to our amazing community and industry partners. We are also excited to have Commissioner Alan Maio as our keynote speaker! We do not want you or your company to miss out on the enriching opportunity to sponsor next year, so contact us today about getting involved!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
COMMISSIONER ALAN MAIO



Chemistry Can Lead to Architecture

(continued)

Gwen and I were honored to be invited to participate in the ACE Mentor program. We truly enjoyed getting to know each student, learning about their academic paths, and seeing the excitement they share for their chosen professional tracks. We encourage everyone to get involved and share their knowledge and personal journey. Your time investment will surely be rewarded each time you walk into class and see the inspired, passionate, focused, and soon to be professionals of our Architecture, Construction, and Engineering futures. ■



Sincere Thanks to Sponsoring Companies and Contributors!

Your generosity makes the ACE Mentor Program possible, and positively impacts the lives of tomorrow's industry professionals and tradespeople. Don't see your company's logo here but think you should? Contact Tara McKinney, sarasotafl@acementor.org, about Sponsorship opportunities.

2016-2017 Program Sponsors

Platinum (\$10,000):



The MacKenzie Companies



Gold (\$5,000):



Bronze (\$1,500):



Gilbane Building Company

Silver (\$2,500):



Table Sponsors (\$1,000):



Seat Sponsors:

2016-2017 Program Partners* To Date:



The MacKenzie Companies



*Our Program Partners are those who offer volunteers as mentors, board members, or both from their companies. Our schools are also important partners.

6900 Professional Parkway East
Sarasota, Florida 34240

Phone: 941-907-6900 ext 268

Mobile: 941-586-0142

Fax: 941-907-6910

**2016-2017
Board Members**

Melanie Smith, P.E., LEED GA
President
Stantec

Tara McKinney, E.I.
Vice-President
Stantec

Ilyas Sayeg, Esq
Legal Counsel
Maglio, Christopher, & Toale

Mara Putt, P.E.
Secretary
Stantec

Sandra K. Pridemore, CPA
Treasurer
Sandra K. Pridemore CPA

Frank Domingo, P.E.
Community Growth
Stantec

Scott Huber
Contractor Development
E.T. MacKenzie of Florida, Inc.

Anthony Catalano, AIA
Architecture Development
TMPartners

Open Position
Public Relations

Julian Norman-Webb
Education Liasion

ACE Mentor Program of Sarasota, Inc. is the local affiliate of the national ACE Mentor Program of America. Our program's mission is to motivate and enlighten high school students toward related careers in Architecture, Construction, and Engineering and to provide mentoring and scholarship opportunities for future designers and constructors of America. ACE Mentor Program of Sarasota, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and operates exclusively for charitable purposes.

**Lighting the Torch for
the Next Generation**



Your Sponsorship Dollars Matter!

In 2016, the ACE Mentor Program of Sarasota, Inc. awarded 4 college scholarships totaling \$5,500. All scholarship recipients are pursuing a field of study within our industry.

Our local affiliate is 100% volunteer; our professional mentors and Board Members selflessly donate their time.

All financial support goes straight to affect the lives of students. We proudly acknowledge and sincerely thank our benefactors and want to let you know your dollars are hard a work. With more mentors and financial support, the Sarasota Affiliate will reach more students and more schools in the future!

With two schools, Riverview High School and Venice High School, your sponsorship matters now more than ever! Help us provide support to the next generation of our industry.

Will there be enough architects, construction managers, contractors and engineers to fill the industry's needs ten years from now? The ACE Mentor Program of America, Inc. is working hard to make sure there will be in the future.



Tyler Wilkinson working with some VHS students

ACE is a unique partnership among industry professionals, architects, interior designers, engineers, construction managers, college and university representatives, and other professionals from related corporations and professional organizations—who work together to attract young people to their professions. Industry professionals volunteer to become mentors to high school students in order to introduce them to the professions and encourage them to pursue students and careers in these fields. In return, the industry gets a much-needed boost of new talent.

Join Us!

CALL FOR MENTORS

If this newsletter has piqued your interest and you would consider donating your time, please contact us!

The RHS program meets Tuesday mornings and the VHS program meets Thursday mornings! (Both 7:30—9:30 AM)

Please email us at:

sarasotafl@acementor.org



We're social! Follow us on Twitter @acesarasotafl