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ANNOUNCEMENTS / ADVICE FOR RECENT GRADUATES

June 15, 2009

Dear Recent Graduates of the University of Tennessee:

Since I am serving as the President of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, I am more aware of some of the national trends and issues facing recent graduates. I have some (potentially) important professional announcements/advice for all of you, whether you are working in an office or not.

1. Be aware of the July 1 deadline regarding NCARB changes for the IDP reporting requirements.

If you start an NCARB Record (\$100) before July 1, 2009, the latest IDP changes won't affect you until 2010. If you start your record after July 1, the changes* will affect you immediately. See below. You could lose years of credit.

2. Sign up for an NCARB Record (\$100) even if you don't have a job.

This will make you eligible for the Structures Exam and for IDP: you can receive all the email blasts about IDP and about the ARE: Architects Registration Exam.

[NCARB=National Council of Architecture Registration Boards / IDP = Intern Development Program]

3. Plan to take the STRUCTURES PORTIONS of the ARE Registration Exam as soon as possible.

In Tennessee, and in most states, graduates can take the Structures sections of the Architects Registration Exam (ARE) without completing IDP. If you don't have a job, or if you are working in a slow-down, you should definitely take this exam. You will need to start a NCARB Record (\$100) and follow all the info on their web site. If you received a C+ or better in structures at school, you should be able to review your notes and pass the test. If you were very weak in structures, find or form a study group, or buy some test-prep materials. UT has a high pass rate for the exam.

4. You can get some IDP credit, even without a job. You have to start with the "NCARB Record" (\$100). You can rack up IDP credit in community service and similar areas.

5. Sign up for a free email blast regarding IDP and the ARE: signup on the NCARB web site.

This is good for those of you who don't want to pay the \$100 yet for the "NCARB Record."

6. Look up the Emerging Professional Companion [EPC]: <http://www.epcompanion.org/>

This is a great resource to learn about different aspects of IDP, including areas where you don't need a job.

7. AIAS National has written a great "Survival Guide".

This guide is filled with good advice about what to do while you "wait out" the weak economy. See their website. [AIAS = American Institute of Architecture Students]

8. Join your local AIA as an Associate Member, for a very nominal charge.

You can join even if you are not in an office and you can keep in touch with old friends while making new ones. In Knoxville, the AIA Associates are part of a legendary volleyball league...(I guess this is a step-up from the kickball training you received in school.)

***ATTENTION PROCRASTINATORS: What is the 6 month Rule? and the July 1, 2009 deadline:**

There is a new IDP rule, enacted about a year ago, that will affect you:

*The new "6 MONTH RULE" for IDP means that any IDP credit must be reported within 6 months of its occurrence, or it will expire.....Imagine losing months/years of IDP credit because of procrastination. You can now report IDP credits directly through the web, and the rule does not apply to your sponsor's signature.

This new rule will take effect July 1, 2009. For anyone who has started an NCARB Record before July 1, 2009, this rule will take effect July 1, 2010. If you've been working for 3 years, and start your record on June 25, 2009, you can document the three years until July 2010. If you start your record on July 2, 2009, you can only enter the last 6 months of your experience.

As a disclaimer, remember that the final rules and regulations for IDP and the ARE are on the NCARB Web site: I am just trying to be helpful.

Meanwhile, best of luck to the class of 2009! We miss all our graduates, and hope you are doing well.

Best wishes,

Marleen Davis FAIA

PS: Please pass this on to other graduates from your class or other architect-interns if it would be helpful.