



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **AIA MICHIGAN ELECTS HONORARY AFFILIATES**

Detroit, Michigan- May 5, 2015- AIA Michigan President Jeff Ferweda, AIA announced that three new names will be added to the role of Honorary Members of the American Institute of Architects Michigan at its annual Celebration of Architecture on June 5 at the Woodward Garden Theater in Detroit.

Honorary Affiliate Membership is one of the highest honors that AIA Michigan can bestow upon a person who is not an architect but who has made important contributions to the profession of architecture. This year's honorees, Evelyn Dougherty, Mike Mort and Daniel Zechmeister have made important contributions to architecture and design in Michigan.

Evelyn Dougherty has given distinguished service to the AIA and the profession of Architecture for the past 21 years. Even began at the AIA as a Co-Op student in high school and has continued to grow not only as an employee of AIA Michigan but as an advocate for the profession of Architecture. You might call Evelyn the voice of AIA Michigan as she is the first contact for many who are calling or visiting the AIA Michigan office. She has a contagious positive attitude that serves the AIA well. She pursues tasks diligently until the job is done all the while exceeding expectations. The last several years the AIA Michigan has had many transitions. Throughout these transitions Evelyn has proved to be a loyal, dedicated service oriented member of the AIA family that has helped to grow the AIA Michigan.

Evelyn's dedication to the Emerging Professionals goes beyond the job description. She is the contact point of the ARE Seminars and the Emerging Professionals Committee. She works tirelessly with the committee to put on innovative and quality sessions. This year Evelyn aided the committee in developing and implementing the ARE Challenge for licensure. Evelyn also manages the Mentoring Program developed by Tom Mathison, FAIA for students and emerging professionals that AIA Michigan recently acquired. Evelyn is an active committee member of the Health Facilities committee working with the state of Michigan, the Design Retreat committee, Membership Committee and the Mid Summer Conference committee.

Michael Mort, owner of and executive producer at Equity Studios, Inc., began his career 40 years ago in religious education and music. His initial humanities degree from Trevecca College plus additional study at the Dana School of Music of Youngstown State University in classical guitar, positioned him later in life to create and sustain a successful media production company. For the past 30 years Mr. Mort's work in television and film has led him to assignments in every county of Michigan, throughout the United States and three continents abroad.

Mr. Mort is the author of the book, *A Bridge Worth Saving, A Community Guide for the Preservation of Historical Bridges*. He has won awards from the Historical Society of Michigan and the Michigan Preservation Network for his contribution to historical preservation in Michigan. He is the creator of *Michigan Avenue*, a film series about the history of Michigan as seen on Michigan PBS. Some of these programs include: *Blue Ribbon Walkways: 150 Years of the Michigan County Fair*, *To Have and to Hold: A Call to Preserve the Lighthouses of Michigan*, *Archways to Our Past: The Story of Michigan's Historic Bridges*, *A Clean Slate: The Story of Michigan's One Room Schools*, and *Windows to Our Past: Michigan's State Historical Museums*.

Mr. Mort's most recent broadcast works include "From Moccasins to Main Street", an hour long docu-drama about the history of the Chicago Road from Detroit to Chicago, and "Old Buildings" a documentary about the restoration of the 19th century opera house, Tibbits Opera House of Coldwater, Michigan. Apart from his historical documentary work, Mort has produced, in collaboration with Clinical Psychology Division of Western Michigan University, a seven hour interactive film about Depression, and an equally in-depth program about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Mr. Mort does not plan on retiring, but if there were to be a concluding film to cap his professional life, it will be a comprehensive film about the history of Michigan he plans to produce in conjunction with Michigan's 200th birthday.

Daniel S. Zechmeister joined the Masonry Institute of Michigan's (MIM) staff as a structural engineer in a joint venture with Lawrence Institute of Technology's (LIT) School of Architecture as a lecturer in 1986. His capacity with MIM was providing masonry design and construction assistance to Michigan's architects, and to teach structural courses in the LIT School of Architecture.

In 1990, MIM appointed Zechmeister as the Executive Director. He was instrumental in educating design professionals and architectural students through various programs and activities of MIM. Recognizing the lack of formal masonry training at the collegiate level for architects, Zechmeister works continuously at bridging the gap. In 1989 he was successful in getting the Structural Masonry Design course at LIT open to design professionals. . Dan created the MIM's magazine, the *StoryPole*, followed by the regional *MasonryEdge/theStoryPole* for Michigan and greater Chicago architects and now as *Smart*, dynamics of masonry it is an international publication throughout the US and Canada. His goal is to educate architects on the fundamentals and advancements of masonry. Dan has achieved success through this education which includes the structural masonry wall system, optimizing energy performance of buildings and building with masonry for resiliency. Dan has served on the Editorial Advisory Board and as a peer reviewer for articles since inception.

In 1995, AIA approved MIM as a registered provider. Also in 1995 he was successful in bringing the Masonry Wall Workshop to the Pellerin Courtyard at Lawrence Technological University's College of Architecture and Design. Where architects of tomorrow got the opportunity to spread mortar and lay brick under the tutelage of bricklayer journeymen. This was the beginning of many bricklaying demonstrations for several of the AIA chapters throughout Michigan and LTU. He organized a block plant tour and a lecture for students at the University of Michigan's College of Architecture and Urban Planning. The students let their imaginations soar in creating unique shapes for block, a first time exercise for the U of M design studio. He was responsible for arranging a bricklaying demonstration at Andrews University

School of Architecture. Some would say Zechmeister has gone out of his way to educate architects. Over the years, he played Santa Claus in delivering the masonry fireplace lecture to architectural students at LTU. As emcee of the Masonry Honor Awards Banquet, co-sponsored by AIA Michigan, he has portrayed Zorro, Elvis, Jake Blues and Johnny Carson in honoring the selected architectural M-Award recipients.

Zechmeister assisted in the masonry restoration of the Shrine at Our Lady of Providence in Northville, and in the construction of a new limestone Shrine to our Savior. He participated in the construction of a masonry labyrinth for the Boys and Girls Republic in Farmington. He organized MIM working with Livonia Career Technical Center in teaching students to brick veneer the front of a new Livonia home.

Zechmeister is a registered professional engineer in the state of Michigan. He is active with the American Society of Testing and Materials with C12 and C 15 committees. He has been recognized with the ASTM Award of Merit. He is also active with The Masonry Society TMS 402/602 committee. He recently served six years as a board director on the Building Enclosure Council of Greater Detroit in association with AIA Detroit. AIA Detroit has recognized Zechmeister as an Honorary Affiliate.

The American Institute of Architects Michigan, headquartered in the historic Beaubien House across from the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit, established its awards program to bring to public attention the value and importance of architectural excellence and to recognize those whose notable achievements encourage all to make excellence in architecture the standard. Visit [www.aiami.com](http://www.aiami.com) or call 313.965.4100 to learn more.

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