



CAMPUS NEWS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan. 28: Chalk Talk: The Future of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Education
5 p.m., Juan Jimenéz Room, Adele H. Stamp Student Union—Center for Campus Life

Invited guests will participate in an interactive discussion with College of Education faculty and industry leaders centered on industry needs, trends in STEM education and the key role of education in preparing the work force for the future. For more information, contact **Rochella McKoy**, 301.405.0903.

Jan. 30: The Brand Is Right: How

■ Helping Students Reach for the Stars

An Encounter with a Brick Wall

By Lauren Brown



Alan Richardson, president of Potomac Valley Brick and Supply Co. supports the annual brick wall-building event.

Drawing an architectural plan for a brick structure doesn't necessarily suggest an understanding of what it takes to build it. Several professors in the Master of Architecture program at Maryland and a former Terp are closing that gap with a one-day project that gives students a down-and-dirty education.

Alan Richardson, president of Potomac Valley Brick and Supply Co., sends a team of his masons, 200 to 300 bricks, mortar and other equipment to the university each fall

semester so graduate students can help build a brick wall across the **School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation's** Great Space.

For each of the last 10 years or so, students and the professional masons have spent a day constructing a temporary wall about 4 feet high by 30 feet long, allowing the students to get a taste of – and an appreciation for – the craft.

Richardson, who attended Maryland in the early 1970s, says he enjoys being a part of a unique learning experience for the region's next generation of architects.

"Anyone who lays a brick remembers this day when they go out into their careers," he says. "I sometimes meet someone in an office or on a job who tells me how he remembers Brick Day."

It brings together students in the four sections of Comprehensive Design

Maryland Launches Brands, Businesses and Beliefs
2 p.m., Van Munching Hall, Pownall Atrium

Colonnade Society members are invited to join Robert H. Smith School of Business alumni in interactive marketing experiences with a game-show twist to learn how authentic corporate brands can create economic social and environmental value.

[RSVP Details >>](#)

Feb. 13: Valentine's Day Dinner Dance

7 p.m., Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center

It's the day to show your love. Come back to Maryland with that special someone and share your affection for the university during a romantic, unforgettable evening hosted by the Maryland Alumni Association. Be present when the winning raffle ticket is drawn for a 2010 Ford hybrid – the Fusion or the Escape.

[RSVP Details >>](#)

Studio, taught by Professor of the Practice Peter Noonan '88, M. Arch. '92, Assistant Professors Luis Quiros and Isaac Williams and Visiting Professor Caterina Frisone, as well as those in Associate Professor Carl Bovill's advanced architecture technology seminar.

Noonan, a principal at McInturff Architects in Bethesda, says the brick project allows students to learn firsthand about construction technique, processes and appropriate detailing.



Architecture graduate students got down and dirty with brick and mortar, learning the fine points of constructing a brick wall that should be considered in their designs.

"Often students get overly abstract about their designs," he says. "This is a way for them to really make a connection about what it means to make two lines that represent a brick wall and to actually build one and feel how much a brick weighs, see what the detail implications of a design are."

Richardson's interest in supporting the university goes back years; his company supplies the pavers used in the Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center's Legacy Brick Campaign, and he supports a foreign travel award for architecture students who are required to return with drawings of building details they observed abroad.

Richardson likes to attend the brick-building event, and was on this year's cleanup crew, in his dress shirt and tie. His brother Dave, the manager of installation and saw operations at Potomac Valley, is the mainstay of the project. He arrives each time with an engaging talk for students and a mix of sand, lime and water that forms a short-term version of mortar.

His masons build the backup block wall and start the "leads" of the brick wall in the Great Space, a massive open area in the architecture building. As undergraduate students encircle the spectacle, the 30-plus graduate students take turns grabbing the trowel and digging into the mortar. Last fall, participants were soon racing against each other—lefties vs. righties—to lay their side of the wall and work toward the middle.

Emilie Rottman, who as a left-hander enjoyed being in demand, says she realized how important it was to stop the mortar from dripping and causing later waterproofing problems, and she learned a lot from watching the masons

work with the mortar so expertly.

"The mortar is very heavy," she says. "You have to have good control over the trowel. (The masons) had to kind of slough the mortar so it has weight to it, and get the right amount on the shovel, and they had it down how to lay bricks as quickly as possible. It was a great learning experience."

**Learn how you can make your mark on Maryland by
supporting the School of Architecture,
Planning, and Preservation.**

Contact [John Maudlin-Jeronimo](#), 301.405.8628.

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