Renew your license for 2015!

Individual architectural license renewals must be completed by December 31, 2014 or late fees must be paid. You may log into the LSBAE website at www.lastbdarchs.com and renew online by paying with Visa, MasterCard or check.

Please note that online renewals paid by check must print out a receipt page and be mailed with said check, postmarked by December 31, 2014. You can also download a hard copy, which can be manually completed and mailed in with a check or money order, postmarked by December 31, 2014 to avoid late fees.

All architects (both in-state and-out-of-state) must complete 12 CEHs of HSW per year in order to renew their individual Louisiana licenses. Please review the instruction sheet on the website for additional information.
I hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for. As quickly as we bow our heads to say a blessing over the food at Thanksgiving, we find we are lifting it in preparation for Christmas planning and shopping. Don’t blink, 2015 is nearby!

Since our summer newsletter, the Board continues to stay busy with firm renewals and now personal license renewals. Please note the deadline to renew is December 31 in order to avoid a delinquent penalty. Last month we mailed renewal reminder postcards and address the deadline on the front page of this newsletter.

We use the latest address or email you have on file at the Board office, but please know that whether or not you received the reminder postcard or this newsletter, you are responsible for renewing your license. Don’t wait until the last minute. State offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, December 25 and 26 and also January 1 and 2.

Mike Armstrong and Kathy Hillegas of NCARB attended our September 19 Board meeting. To my knowledge, this is the first time we have had anyone from NCARB attend a meeting, although NCARB has always been good about sending representatives to the state and university activities. When Mike became CEO of NCARB, his goal was to visit every licensing Board in the country within 3 years and it appears he will meet his goal shortly.

The LSBAE office staff continues to enjoy working with your Board and each of you. Our top priority is providing quality customer service to you, the state’s architects, while also improving processes and procedures to benefit the architectural profession in Louisiana. If you have any problem with the office, please feel free to let us know.

Talking about time going by quickly, 2015 will mark 40 years that I have worked for you and the licensing Board, more than half my lifetime and I can truthfully say I still enjoy it today. I was young when I started, right out of college and business school. I was eligible for state retirement in 2003 but continue because I love my job and working with you. I probably licensed most of you (and many remind me of that to this day). Several have asked when I plan to retire, and I answer as long as I am in good health and have somewhat of a memory, then only the good Lord knows.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Creed Brierre for his years of service to the Board. His term expires December 31 and he will be missed, not only as a Board member, but also as a friend.

Have a wonderful Christmas holiday season and let’s continue to be thankful to the Lord for each and every day.

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You are our top priority

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**Congratulations to our new licensees by examination**

The Board is pleased to announce that the following individuals have been licensed from June 1 through November 30, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIRST NAME</th>
<th>LAST NAME</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>FIRST NAME</th>
<th>LAST NAME</th>
<th>CITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Justina Marie</td>
<td>Alford</td>
<td>Fort Worth TX</td>
<td>William H.</td>
<td>May III</td>
<td>Baton Rouge LA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joshua Daniel</td>
<td>Beezley</td>
<td>New Orleans LA</td>
<td>Seamus R.</td>
<td>McGuire</td>
<td>Baton Rouge LA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jared A.</td>
<td>Bowers</td>
<td>New Orleans LA</td>
<td>Mark D.</td>
<td>Nauck, Jr.</td>
<td>Baton Rouge LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Andrew</td>
<td>Colosino</td>
<td>New Orleans LA</td>
<td>Kim-Trang N.</td>
<td>Nguyen</td>
<td>Baton Rouge LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean Early</td>
<td>David</td>
<td>New Orleans LA</td>
<td>William Tyler</td>
<td>Sandlass</td>
<td>New Orleans LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Stehlin</td>
<td>Durio</td>
<td>Chicago IL</td>
<td>Thomas W.</td>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>New Orleans LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Althoff</td>
<td>Gilmore</td>
<td>New Orleans LA</td>
<td>Wesley Adam</td>
<td>Thiele</td>
<td>Youngsville LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa</td>
<td>Higbie</td>
<td>Springfield MO</td>
<td>Ben Binghuann</td>
<td>Tsai</td>
<td>Metairie LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David M.</td>
<td>Lachin, Jr.</td>
<td>Metairie LA</td>
<td>Nathaniel O.</td>
<td>Walker</td>
<td>New Orleans LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angelle</td>
<td>Laverge</td>
<td>Baton Rouge LA</td>
<td>Marcelle Robards</td>
<td>Walter</td>
<td>Metairie LA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle Arndonin</td>
<td>Lawson</td>
<td>Covington LA</td>
<td>Marcus J.</td>
<td>Williams</td>
<td>Baton Rouge LA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Challenging issues focus of 2014 activities

The Louisiana Licensing Board has had a very active and productive year in 2014. The Board has registered and regulated the practice of architecture for 1,238 resident licensees (1,182 active and 56 emeritus) and 2,071 out-of-state licensees (2,039 active and 32 emeritus).

The Board has focused on several interesting and challenging issues including firm registration, enforcement and formal disciplinary actions, continuing education, the electronic transfer and signature of the architect seal, the practice of architecture/interior design work, and proposed changes to IDP, BEA, BEFA.

NCARB CEO Mike Armstrong and Kathy Hillegas attended our September Board meeting held in Covington to update the Board on several NCARB initiatives. They include a proposed model framework to facilitate an integrated path to licensure, which could result in a license at the time of graduation; and a more efficient EESA tool managed by NAAB and used by NCARB to determine education deficiencies for those individuals who do not possess a degree from a NAAB-accredited program. Our Board sincerely appreciated their attendance and the updates given.

I attended the MBC/MBE Conference this year. Topics of discussion included current changes to the Intern Development Program, pre-graduation access to the ARE, BEA proposals, NAAB BEA proposals, and alternative BEA proposals. Lots of information and dialogue was shared, and a lot is on the horizon for 2015.

Members of the Louisiana Board continue to be very active and committed to serving on committees at the national level for NCARB and the regional level for NCARB/SC. They include: Allen Bacque – Chair the ARE Graphics, Education Committee; Ron Blitch – Chair of the Licensing Task Force; Dave Brinson – ARE 5.0 Development and Evaluation; John Cardone — NCARB/SC - Vice Chair, NCARB Internship Committee, Internship Advisory Committee, NCARB Public Members Task Force; Richard LeBlanc – ARE 5.0 Mapping; Robert McKinney – NCARB/SC - Treasurer, NCARB Exam Committee, NAAB accrediting Team, Chair Board Member/Educator Conference; and Teeny Simmons (Executive Director) - Professional Conduct Committee.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as president of the LSBAE this year. On behalf of our Board, I wish everyone a very happy holiday season.
One of the many delights I have as the State IDP Coordinator is the opportunity to visit the schools of architecture throughout Louisiana. In doing so, I meet many of the students, familiarize myself with their programs, and develop a relationship with the hardworking Licensing Advisors at each school.

Through this newsletter, I hope to introduce you to these advisors as well. In this edition, I am featuring W. Geoff Gjerston, AIA, of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's School of Architecture and Design.

Gjerston, an architect and Professor of Architecture at UL, serves as the co-director of the Building Institute, a “hands-on” design/build program. This program provides the community market-rate, sustainably-designed homes, as well as other community projects in urban neighborhoods. Several houses so far have followed in the footsteps of the BeauSoleil Louisiana Solar Home, an award-winning 2009 Solar Decathlon house.

Gjerston’s book on the BeauSoleil Home, GENERATING HOPE, was just recently published.

In addition to providing these important design and research efforts, he combines his endeavor to promote licensure through both his role as the AIAS Faculty Advisor as well as the faculty-appointed Architect Licensing Advisor. His initiatives include:

1. Design Day: high school students from several area schools are brought to the campus for a half day design charrette and information session
2. Career Fair: area firms interview ULL students
3. Design Camp: summer 2015 high school residential design camp on campus
4. Case study Project: teams of students are paired with practitioners analyzing a built project
5. Mentorship Pairing: all thesis students paired with a local architect as an advisor
6. Integrated Design/Build Studio: students work with practitioners, engineers, stakeholders and contractors to complete projects benefiting our community. This program doubles as a community design center (NCARB IDP Designation), in which students can earn additional credits beyond community service
7. Local Partnership: community service IDP credits through our partnerships with Habitat for Humanity
8. Emerging Architect Outreach: recently licensed architects come to speak about their experience
9. Open Office Policy: invitation to show the students how to sign up for IDP

Please join me in extending a heartfelt thank you to Geoff for all of his hard work in mentoring our future practitioners in the licensure process.
Reinstatement of Architectural License

In September of 2014, the Board amended its rules regarding reinstatement of an architectural license. The previous rules provided that if an architect was being re-registered after having been unregistered then, in addition to all other requirements, the architect had to acquire that total number of continuing education hours that would have been required if registration had been regularly renewed.

The new rules fix a limit upon the maximum number of continuing education hours which must be earned for reinstatement. The new rules provides that a former registrant may only apply for reinstatement if he has earned all delinquent continuing education hours in the year proceeding the application, or the current year; however, the maximum number of continuing education hours to be earned shall not exceed twenty-four hours. The new rules, which are available on the Board website, apply to an architect seeking to re-register after having been unregistered and to an architect emeritus seeking to return to the active practice of architecture.

Signing/Dating Construction Drawings

The Board considered the following question at its last meeting: Do the rules of the Board require the signing and dating of each sheet in a set of construction drawings? Answer: rule § 1505.A provides in pertinent part: “[a]n architect shall affix his or her seal or stamp to all contract drawings and specifications requiring the services of an architect which were prepared by the architect or under the architect’s responsible supervision.”

Although there is a requirement that an architect seal or stamp be on all contract drawings, there is no requirement in the licensing law or the Board rules that an architect sign and date each sheet in a set of construction drawings.

Federally Owned Facilities on Federal Land

The Board has been asked recently and several previous times: Is an architectural license from the Board required to provide architectural services for a federally owned facility on federal land (such as a military base or post office) located in Louisiana?

Answer: the licensing law provides that no person shall practice architecture in this state unless such person shall have secured a license from the Board. See La. R.S. 37:145.A. At the same time, the United States Supreme Court has consistently held that “the activities of federal installations are shielded by the Supremacy Clause from direct state regulation unless Congress provides ‘clear and unambiguous’ authorization for such regulation.” Goodyear Atomic Corp. v. Miller, 486 U.S. 174, 180 (1988). Congress has not specifically authorized states to regulate the design of federally owned facilities on federal land. Thus, an architectural license from the Board is not required to provide architectural services for a federally owned facility on federal land (such as a military base or post office) located in Louisiana, as the Board lacks jurisdiction to require such licensure.

Electronic Transfer of Architect Seal and Signature

Concerns were recently expressed to the Board concerning possible security issues attendant to the electronic submission of plans and specifications, an increasingly common practice. Board rule § 1303.C provides that computer generated seals are acceptable. At the same time, the licensing law expressly prohibits removal of an architect’s seal or stamp and/or use of another architect’s plans, unless otherwise provided by law or by written approval of the architect. See La. R.S. 37:152. The Board believes that its current law and rules are adequate to address whatever security issues which may be attendant to the electronic submission of plans and specifications, but it is willing to consider any specific suggestions.
HOLLY SMITH AWARD ... The Ochsner tenant build-out at Benson Tower in New Orleans, designed by Holly Smith Architects, won an Award of Recognition at the International Interior Design Association Delta Regional Chapter’s annual awards gala in August. The Delta Regional Chapter consists of Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi. The space previously housed a department store, but had been gutted after Hurricane Katrina. Working with the building shell, Holly Smith designed the space to provide an industrial feel, leaving concrete columns, ceiling structure, and ductwork exposed. All enclosed rooms were located away from the exterior wall in order to provide as much natural light as possible and a view of the Superdome.

NCARB

How New Program Rules Are Passed

Ever wonder how we make new rules for the IDP and ARE? All proposed changes are thoroughly vetted through a seven-step process that involves input from subject-matter experts, state Boards, collateral organizations, and architects at various stages of their careers.

1. NCARB president sets agenda for the year
2. Committees and NCARB staff conduct research, recommend changes
3. Recommendations sent to the NCARB Board of Directors
4. Recommendations sent to the state Boards
5. State Boards have 90 days to review the recommendations and submit comments
6. NCARB Board can move forward committee recommendations for a vote at our Annual Meeting in June
7. NCARB Board of Directors and state Boards vote

Implementation of new rule
During the past few years, I have been actively pursuing the path to licensure while working at Blitch Knevel Architects, a New Orleans-based architecture firm. Additionally, I have volunteered with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, serving on two task forces for the organization.

In late 2013, NCARB selected me from a pool of 279 applicants to be one of 12 members of the 2014 Intern Think Tank. We convened in Washington, DC at NCARB’s headquarters to discuss, debate, and charrette experimental ideas related to the three ‘E’s: education, experience, and examinations.

Over the course of a year, we created four distinct proposals for hypothetical ‘licensure upon graduation’ scenarios. Our work culminated in two presentations: one given at a summit held in New Orleans in January, and the other at the annual IDP Coordinators Summit in Miami in August.

Following a successful experience taking part in NCARB’s Intern Think Tank, I have had the honor of being selected as part of this year’s Future Title Task Force, a diverse committee of architects and unlicensed professionals looking at issues related to titling and experience in the profession of architecture. The Intern Think Tank and the Future Title Task Force are important initiatives that NCARB has established to ensure the voice of emerging architects is heard. More information on opportunities to get involved are available on the NCARB website.
The Board continues to investigate alleged violations of statutes and rules which regulate the practice of architecture in Louisiana. Substantiated violations result in disciplinary or enforcement action being taken either through Consent Orders or by Board Orders following a formal hearing.

Below are summaries of the disciplinary actions imposed by the Board since the June 2014 newsletter on cases that have been concluded.

**THE UNLICENSED OFFERING AND/OR PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE**

**Architect Mundi Consulting, L.L.C.**
Springfield, Louisiana
Firm offered and/or provided architectural services in Louisiana without receiving a certificate of compliance or proper licensure from the Board.

**VIOLATION:** The offering and/or providing of architectural services in Louisiana without receiving a certificate of compliance or license from the Board. La. R.S. 154 (A).

**PENALTY:** $500.00 fine and $125.00 administrative fee imposed by Consent Order dated September 19, 2014.

**Dye Aviation Facility Architecture, L.L.C.**
Atlanta, Georgia
Firm offered and/or provided architectural services in Louisiana without receiving a certificate of compliance or proper licensure from the Board.

**VIOLATION:** The offering and/or providing of architectural services in Louisiana without receiving a certificate of compliance or license from the Board. La. R.S.154 (A).

**PENALTY:** $1,500.00 fine and $125.00 administrative fee imposed by Consent Order dated July 11, 2014.
Progress Elementary
(Reion Haley Herpin Architects)

St. Jude the Apostle Catholic Church
(GraceHebert Architects)

Private Residence
(Cockfield Jackson Architects)