



**Professional Development &
Leadership
Kali Meeks**



PennDesign Office of Professional Development & Leadership:

1. Develop and nurture relationships with prospective private and public sector employers (including alumni)
2. Organize Studio Visits and events to expose students to a diverse range of career opportunities
3. Develop materials and programs to help students explore a variety of career options and enhance their leadership, public speaking and team building skills
4. Create opportunities for faculty and alumni to review student portfolios
5. Work with employers and alumni to link students to internships and residency programs
6. Maintain the [Career Resources](#) website



Fall 2017 & Spring 2018 Events

Getting to the Top of the Pile: A Conversation with Industry Hiring Experts



This panel discussion included senior leaders at regional architecture, landscape architecture, and planning firms. They focused on the do's and don'ts of the job application, networking, and interviewing process, including tips about preparing an interview pitch and building and presenting your portfolio. They shared personal anecdotes about interviewing successes and failures.

- **Lucinda R. Sanders**, Adjunct Professor of Landscape Architecture, CEO and Partner at OLIN
- **Scott Erdy**, Lecturer of Architecture, Principal at Erdy McHenry Architecture
- **Matt Krissel**, (M.Arch '05), Partner at Kieran Timberlake

Preparing for the Job Market: Practicing Your Interviewing & Networking Skills



Part I: Self Marketing & Interviewing Skills Workshop

Students learned and practiced techniques that helped build their confidence in answering the “Tell me about yourself” question often asked on job interviews and in networking situations.

Part II: Practicing Your Interviewing & Networking Skills with the PennDesign Board of Overseers

Students met in 15-minute one-on-one sessions with our PennDesign Board of Overseers!

Architecture & Landscape Architecture Studio Visits to NYC and Philadelphia



A studio visit involves a brief overview of the firm or organization, a tour of the office, and a Q & A session with studio representatives, which may include alumni. Studios visited this academic year:

- Locus Partners
- Ballinger
- Ewing Cole
- Blackney Hayes
- James Corner Field Operations
- KPF
- Olin
- MGA Partners
- Deborah Berke Partners
- Rogers Partners.

Forging Your Own Path: Alternative Careers in Design



Industry professionals discussed the diversity of career paths available to design graduates. Our guests shared personal examples of their own non-linear career choices and the myriad of roles for designers in the 21st century. Panelists included practitioners at various stages in their careers from firms of different sizes who have carved out alternative and interdisciplinary paths.

- **Lois Brink**, Chief Strategist, The Big Sandbox
- **Dorothy Daly**, Senior Environmental Planner/Registered Landscape Architect
- **Eric De Feo**, CEO/Co-Founder, [ROOT](#)
- **Catherine Nagel**, Executive Director, City Parks Alliance
- **Richard Roark**, Partner, Olin
- **Anthony P. Sorrentino**, Assistant Vice President, Office of the Executive Vice President Penn
- **John Szot**, Architect, John Szot Studio
- **Thor Thors**, Licensed Real Estate Salesperson, Compass

Speak Up! Spring 2018 Public Speaking Series



Students learned 10 strategies for how to effectively present their work from Julianne Reynolds, Associate Director, Office of Learning Resources at the Weingarten Center. The series was free and open to all PennDesign students. It offered an opportunity for students to work on their confidence and strategy as it pertained to public speaking.

Julianne focused on organizing and preparing a presentation as well as making it memorable without being distracting.

City Planning Alumni & Student Social Networking Event



PennDesign students were invited to a City and Regional Planning Alumni & Student Social Networking event. It was an opportunity to meet one-on-one with a number of distinguished alumni. The alumni work in the following specializations: sustainable transportation and infrastructure planning, public and private development, and general planning.



PennDesign Alumni Association (PDAA) Portfolio/Resume Review



In January, the PennDesign Alumni Association hosted its annual Portfolio Review Event, where students had the opportunity to have their work reviewed by Penn alumni who are working professionals in their fields. This event was for all PennDesign current students, especially students in their last semester.

Penn Career Services representatives reviewed resumes.

PennDesign Alumni Association (PDAA) Firm Crawls



PennDesign alumni sponsored visits to local firms where students got an exclusive tour and presentation at the following firms:

- **Digsau** (Architecture)
- **Studio Bryan Hayes** (Landscape Architecture + Urban Design)
- **Interface Studio LLC** (Planning + Urban Design)
- **Philadelphia City Planning Commission**
- **Philadelphia Historical Commission**
- **WRT** (Planning, Urban Design, Architecture, Landscape Architecture)



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