One of the great things about being the director of MBI is getting to meet so many people from different parts of the world. Historically, this happens during our annual conference — World of Modular. In fact, at the 2014 event, we had a record forty-four attendees from outside North America.

Lately it seems as if we are connecting with people from around the globe on a weekly basis. With more of our members having business operations in other parts of the world, it is not altogether surprising. Many of our members now have a more global footprint, operating in places like the UK, China, Poland, Russia, Australia, South Africa, and in several countries in South America.

I have been pleasantly surprised by the level of interest in sharing and collaborating from similar overseas organizations. MBI has been in communication with the leadership of at least five different overseas construction-related organizations interested in working with us. What we have found is that modular companies in other parts of the world have challenges with marketing the advantages of modular (perception issues), difficult regulatory climates, and a lack of research towards new and innovative products and services. Sound familiar?

Now we may all have different terminology, but generally speaking, it really is a World of Modular. For our part, MBI intends to work as closely as possible with these groups, or any groups whose interests align with ours. We think we have a lot to offer our peers in other parts of the world. We also think there is a great opportunity to learn from their best practices too.

As owners, developers, and government agencies around the world begin to more fully embrace this construction process, we owe it to our members to ensure MBI is not only leading this cause to change the way the world builds, but that we are also learning along the way.

Tom Hardiman, MBI Executive Director
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MBI Town Hall: Sacramento
Sacramento, CA
September 15, 2014

MBI will host a Town Hall meeting in Sacramento on the afternoon of Monday, September 15th. The town hall-style meetings give MBI members an opportunity to discuss issues of local importance as well as receive updates from MBI’s industry lobbyist and attorneys on the prevailing wage off site determination issue. We have also invited officials from the Department of Housing and Community Development to speak. This is a free event for members but registration is required. Town Hall sponsored by Mule-Hide Products.

Modular Construction Summit: San Francisco
California College of the Arts
September 17, 2014

The reality of an expedited schedule and lower costs has made offsite construction a valued building solution for decades. With curiosity about this process at an all-time high, schools and universities throughout North America are hosting Modular Construction Summits. The California College of Arts will be joining MBI to host one of these summits this fall in San Francisco. Sponsored by Mobile Modular Management Corp. and Mule-Hide Products.

To register for these MBI events or to view more upcoming events, please visit our website at www.modular.org/events_calendar.aspx.

MBI Lunch & Learn: October
University of Alberta Faculty Club
October 16, 2014

The MBI Lunch & Learn series are once every month on a Thursday to communicate information, increase visibility, and meet with members/nonmembers/potential end-user clients. The series features a wide variety of industry experts from the business community offering the resources to help you take your business to the next level. Join us from 11am-2pm for October’s Lunch & Learn!

MBI Town Hall Luncheon: Edmonton, Alberta
University of Alberta Faculty Club
November 6, 2014

MBI will host a town hall luncheon in Edmonton on Thursday November 6th from 9am-2pm. The town-hall-style meetings give MBI members an opportunity to discuss issues of local importance as well as receive updates from MBI’s industry lobbyist and attorneys on the prevailing wage off site determination issue. Town Hall sponsored by Mule-Hide Products.

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For more information visit www.worldofmodular.org
In a unanimous vote, the board of trustees of the MBI Educational Foundation approved a $10,000 grant to support modular construction research at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Professor Joe Wheeler, AIA, serves as co-director of the Center for Design Research at Virginia Tech’s School of Architecture and presented trustees with a proposal to build prototype modules for the Chicago Southworks development that includes 13,500 single family residences and 17,500,000 square feet of commercial space. Professor Wheeler is already familiar with the greener, faster, smarter attributes of modular construction having led three teams to the US Department of Energy’s Solar Decathlon, his most recent team having won first place at the 2010 Solar Decathlon Europe in Madrid, Spain as well as receiving a 2012 award for architecture from the American Institute of Architects.

As for his Chicago Southworks research, to help disseminate findings directly to MBI members Professor Wheeler and his team will provide four whitepapers on innovative structural modular frames, optimal assembly line processes, optimal design tools and software for use in modular construction, and the ability of modular construction to deliver high-performance buildings. Deliverables also include exhibitions at national venues like the AIA annual convention; numerous articles, videos, and teaching resources; and the potential to have states adopt prototype modules as preapproved assemblies. In addition to research, as an integrated academic/teaching effort a long-term deliverable will be engaging students and architects.

The project will eventually cost over $500,000 in cash and in-kind donations. In addition to MBI, Professor Wheeler has commitments from Mark Line Industries, Jenn Air, Samsung, Plain & Fancy Cabinets, Lutron, Kohler, Sylvania, Corning Glass, and others. If you are interested in partnering with Virginia Tech on this research project, contact Steven Williams at 888-811-3288 or steven@modular.org.
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Modular Genius Completes Hospital Addition

Modular Genius, Inc., Mobile Modular Express, and a veteran-owned contractor have just completed a two-story, 14,500 square-foot hospital addition located in Washington, DC. Comprised of twenty-four modules, both floors are designed to include private offices, conference rooms, storage rooms, electrical & data closets, utility closets, open office spaces with cubicles, kitchenettes, restrooms, as well as two stairwells and one elevator. The addition utilized high-end, upgraded design specifications to match the existing building.

In order to maximize campus real estate and to eliminate any loss of parking spaces, the new modular building addition was strategically “tucked” into an area where three sides of the existing building surround it. This was an ideal location for space planning; however, the tight quarters made it very challenging during the construction process.

Modular construction was chosen for this project for speed and to minimize disturbance on site. A special delivery and traffic plan was required for the building modules and construction materials so the main entrance and main loading dock area to the hospital was never blocked or compromised.

Installation occurred from Friday to Sunday, with the core building put into place over these three days. The addition attached to the existing building with a site-built entry vestibule and a corridor to create two seamless access points to the newly constructed permanent modular building addition.


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MBI Mourns the Loss of Industry Pioneer John Harty

MBI Hall-of-Famer John Richard Harty passed away on June 3rd, 2014 at the age of 73. According to all who knew him, John was a visionary, a pioneer and a friend, contributing his knowledge, talent, resources, and leadership to MBI and its members. As president and owner of PBS Building Systems, John was a key personality in the promotion of Permanent Modular Construction (PMC). He was inducted into the MBI Hall of Fame in 2007.

His colleagues remember him fondly:

“…when NRB began exploring permanent modular construction in the early ’90s we attended all of the MBI annual conventions and were amazed at the level of sophistication PBS brought to the industry in their design applications and overall capabilities. John and PBS truly were pioneers in PMC. I would say that our being exposed to that level of possibility helped inspire NRB to become what we are today.”

-- Laurie Robert, VP Sales and Marketing at NRB Inc.

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-- Mike Slataper, CEO at Ramtech Building Systems, Inc.
USModular, Inc. Selected For Valencia Grove, an Affordable Senior Living Project

The Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino and Perera Construction and Design, Inc. have selected US Modular, Inc. as their Modular Installation Contractor for the 3-story, 86-apartment project in Redlands, CA.

This 105,317 square-foot Affordable Senior Housing project will consist of 13 apartment buildings and a Community Center set on 11 acres of land formerly occupied by housing built in the 1940s. The 172 modules, built off site by Silvercreek Industries, will be craned onto the foundations and site-built garages. The mix of 5-unit, 6-unit and 9-unit buildings will transform the landscape of concrete foundations to 2- and 3-story structures at the rate of 1 building every day and-a-half.

The use of modular construction will allow the apartments to be occupied months earlier than if they were built on site. When the modules arrive at the site, the interiors will already be sheetrocked and painted, the plumbing all installed and tested, the light fixtures installed and wired, and the cabinets and appliances already in place. Connecting the services and utilities between modules and the minor finishing to cover the module-to-module marriage lines is a simple, quickly accomplished task. US Modular, Inc. is proud to be named as part of the team for this ground-breaking project that includes the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino, Silvercreek Industries, and Perera Construction and Design, Inc. The County of San Bernardino joins the growing list of owners that have recognized the benefits of Modular Construction for quality, speed, efficiency and green building practices.

This will be the one of the first 3-story multi-family housing projects in this region and will be the beacon for many other projects to follow. More information can be found at www.usmodularinc.com.

Pacific Mobile Structures installs 9 SAGE modular classrooms

Pacific Mobile Structures has announced the upcoming installation of nine high efficiency SAGE modular classrooms at five Edmonds, Washington elementary schools in July of this year.

In keeping with the high standards it has set for quality student learning spaces, Edmonds also invested in many upgrades to its new SAGE units. Steel floors, advanced light fixtures and Energy Recovery Ventilator (ERV) systems that maximize fresh air circulation are a few of the added features that will increase durability and stimulate learning.

Each 28 by 32 foot SAGE classroom will take about three days to install and will be ready for students well before the start of the 2014-15 school year.

“These are some of the first public schools in the state of Washington to go green with their modular classrooms,” said Patrick Allen, the Account Executive on the project. “This initiative shows that Edmonds is a district that is committed to providing healthy classroom environments for its students.”

SAGE classrooms, which are 40 to 50% more efficient than a standard portable, were honored with a SEED (Social Economic Environmental Design) Award in 2013. More information about Pacific Mobile’s innovative SAGE classrooms is available at www.sageclassroom.com.

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