

LEFT TO RIGHT, STARTING WITH TOP ROW **Row One:** Pooyan Asadollahi, Michael C. Baruccheri **Row Two:** Paul J. Bracken, David Doherty **Row Three:** Thomas Farrell, Jihane Fazio, Anthony R. Fitzpatrick, Joseph Hole, Matt Kennedy **Row Four:** Craig Kotarski, Nathan Magestad **Row Five:** Jennifer Mayers, Yilei Shi **Row Six:** Jeremy Snyder, Jeff Taylor

# ENR MidAtlantic's Top Young Professionals

Up-and-coming leaders in design and construction build successful records on their firms' projects while mentoring the next generation **BY BRUCE BUCKLEY**

If the adage "success breeds success" holds true, the next generation of leaders is on the rise at design and construction firms. This year, ENR MidAtlantic's Top Young Professionals list includes men and women under 40 years of age who have already recorded impressive accomplishments during their careers. Some are changing how their firms' local offices do business, while others are having an impact on a global scale. Many are expanding business opportunities and boosting their firms' bottom lines. Although those on the list come from a broad range of disciplines and backgrounds, this year's Top Young Professionals share a common commitment to mentoring younger colleagues. Paul Bracken, senior environmental engineer at ARCADIS US, encourages junior colleagues to get out into the field and put their knowledge into practice. Thomas Farrell, regional sales manager at Victaulic, helps recruit younger professionals to the industry by guest-teaching classes at Purdue University. Jihane Fazio, project manager at AECOM, co-founded a grass-roots organization whose mission is to advance women to leadership positions. Craig Kotarski, project manager at Timmons Group, has helped establish the ACE Mentor program at several schools in the Charlottesville, Va., area. Each of this year's award recipients has a promising future but also provides a bridge for the generation of leaders who will follow.

To select this year's Top Young Professionals, ENR MidAtlantic recruited an independent jury.

## THIS YEAR'S JUDGES INCLUDED:

**Steve Knight, Associate, David M. Schwarz Architects**  
Knight serves as the firm's university fellowship coordinator and employee recruiting coordinator. He has worked on many of the performing arts centers the firm has designed. He served as a job captain for Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville and is currently job captain for the Gaillard Center in Charleston, S.C.

**JJ McCarthy, Director of Preconstruction Services, KBR Building Group**  
McCarthy has a background in commercial real estate and contracting with an emphasis in preconstruction, including green building, sustainability and development. He has had various responsibilities during his 25-year-plus career in the Washington, D.C., market, including preconstruction, construction operations, development management and company management.

**Douglas Will, Vice President, MSA**  
Since joining MSA in 1991, Will has been involved in numerous projects for local, state and federal agencies and has experience managing annual services contracts and individual projects. He currently is a board member for the Society of American Military Engineers Hampton Roads Post, a member of the Virginia Society of Professional Engineers and the Hampton Roads Association for Commercial Real Estate.



**PROCESS DRIVEN** Matt Kennedy, associate and process specialist at CRB, provided a perfusion-based cell culture design for process systems at Centocor Biologics' BioCork Bulk Biological Manufacturing Facility in Ireland.



**LOOKING UP** Michael Baruccheri is managing the construction of the \$47-million Parc Riverside—a 13-story, 287-unit residential high-rise building located two blocks north of the Washington Nationals baseball stadium in Washington, D.C.

PHOTO (TOP) COURTESY OF CRB; RENDERING (BOTTOM) COURTESY OF TOLL BROTHERS



Parsons Corp.'s Nathan Magestad works on a \$1.6-billion FAA contract, graduated from a Parsons-sponsored master's program in three years and mentors young colleagues.

#### CRAIG KOTARSKI

**Career comes full circle as he mentors recent graduates**

32, Project Manager  
Timmons Group  
Charlottesville, Va.



A year before his 2006 graduation from the University of Virginia with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, Kotarski accepted a position with Richmond, Va.-based Timmons Group. Ten years after joining the firm, Kotarski still works there as a project manager, with a wide-ranging portfolio that includes work on municipal, K-12, higher education, residential, commercial and public-safety facilities. Over that period, he has served as either lead designer or project manager for hundreds of projects. In addition to his project management responsibilities, he handles business-development duties. Over the last several years, Kotarski has stepped up to mentor other young engineers who are recent graduates, using his recent experiences to guide them to their own successful careers. He also has helped establish the well-known ACE Mentor program at several area schools.

#### NATHAN MAGESTAD

**Helps manage Parsons' largest project to date**

33, Senior Project Manager  
Parsons  
Washington, D.C.



A Parsons employee for eight years, Magestad helps manage the 10-year, \$1.6-billion technical support services contract for the Federal Aviation Administration's National Airspace System modernization—the largest contract ever awarded to the firm. For the past four years, he has served as the program's national technical regional manager,

where he currently oversees more than 25 programs with as many as 200 employees and contractors working across the nation. In 2007, Magestad was selected for the Parsons-sponsored master's program through Texas A&M University. He was one of just 10 people selected out of more than 10,000 employees. Despite working full-time, Magestad graduated in three years. He also regularly mentors others through the Parsons Early Career Professionals program, as an ACE mentor and as a volunteer assistant head coach at the Maret School in Washington, D.C.

#### JENNIFER MAYERS

**Specializes in remediation and munitions response**

35, Federal Principal in Charge  
ARCADIS US  
Baltimore



Mayers joined ARCADIS as an entry-level task manager, but quickly moved up to project manager and program manager before attaining her current role as a senior leader of the environmental division and client development group. She has managed nationwide contracts with federal clients such as the Army and Navy, handling environmental remediation, hazardous waste and munitions response. She currently oversees four environmental and water service line contracts valued at \$230 million for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District. Following Hurricane Katrina, Mayers relocated to Mississippi for several months to support a contract overseeing debris cleanup as the operations administrator and quality-assurance representative. In 2007, she relocated to Alaska for two years to serve as the program manager for the military munitions response program. In both 2013 and 2014, Mayers received the Young Engineer of the Year award from

the Society of American Military Engineers, Baltimore Post, for her work to support STEM education.

#### YILEI SHI

**Contributed to modification of transportation design criteria**

36, Senior Structural Engineer  
A. Morton Thomas and Associates  
Rockville, Md.



In his current position as a senior structural engineer, Shi specializes in bridge design and rehabilitation projects for the Virginia and Tennessee transportation agencies. Previously, Shi worked at the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, where his study and analysis of bridge structures led to developing new standardized methods, materials and specifications for structural concrete repair projects. Shi had studied the performance of other infrastructure types during college, where he participated in a first-of-its-kind seismic research study of innovative materials for bridge substructures. Additionally, earlier in his career, Shi worked as a structural engineer in China, where he contributed to the design of facilities at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, including the Olympic Village and Aquatic Park. While in China, Shi designed underground structures for a landmark Beijing shopping mall capable of withstanding an atomic blast.

#### JEREMY SNYDER

**Sustainable design advocate believes in lifelong learning**

37, Associate Principal  
BuroHappold Engineering  
Pittsburgh



With a bachelor's degree and a master's in architectural engineering from the Pennsylvania State University, Snyder has assembled an impressive portfolio in

Joseph Hole "is a self-starter, and regardless of the different types of projects he's involved in, he grasps the details quickly."

—ROGER SCHUMACHER, Senior Project Manager, STV

his 11 years with BuroHappold Engineering. A staunch sustainability advocate, Snyder consistently pushes the design envelope for his projects, which include The Tower at PNC Plaza in Pittsburgh. For that project, which is considered to be one of the world's greenest high-rise towers, Snyder's team designed a building that will achieve a 50% energy savings—and stands as a testament to BuroHappold's high-performance design work. A proponent of lifelong learning, Snyder not only takes continuing-education classes and seminars, but also teaches classes—at such institutions as Parsons The New School for Design, Stevens Institute of Technology, Pratt Institute, Columbia University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology—on a wide range of topics, including architec-

tural technology; the fundamentals of mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineering systems; sustainability; and energy-efficient design.

#### JEFF TAYLOR

**Design-build specialist has helped deliver successful megaprojects**

38, Deputy Project Manager  
Fluor  
Springfield, Va.



Throughout his 17-year career, Taylor has focused almost entirely on major design-build infrastructure projects. That emphasis began at the start of his career, when Taylor was assigned to work on the Route 895 Pocahontas Parkway project in Virginia. On that project, he served as

a bridge design engineer in charge of overseeing the balanced cantilever, span-by-span and cast-in-place segmental erection of the James River Bridge.

Taylor later was named tolling and traffic management systems manager and was charged with overseeing the design, implementation, testing and commissioning of all toll-system elements of Virginia's \$2-billion 495 Express Lanes project.

The contract proved to be a huge success, opening to revenue service one month ahead of schedule and earning the Intelligent Transportation Society of America's Best ITS Project award in 2013. Currently, Taylor serves as the deputy project director for the 95 Express Lanes project in Virginia, which has a short, 29-month schedule. ■



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