

# the alliance®

always aligned with clients in mind

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Volume ONE  
Issue FOUR

## financial stewardship

Summit Credit Union's newest branch in Waukesha certainly doesn't look like the typical financial institution.

### in this issue:

- > world changers
- > chain gang
- > trending

summit  
CREDIT UNION

STRANG



# The View From Here

Perhaps one of the most rewarding parts of our work is a front row seat to witness client growth. Diverse industries, different regions, distinctive markets. And while no two clients are alike (not even close) they do share multiple key performance indicators. For example, they all turn obstacles into opportunities and roadblocks into pathways. They have a remarkable resolve for excellence, tenacity beyond compare and an unwavering determination to continually redefine success. And they are ever-curious, a prologue to innovation. Perhaps the most intrinsic value they share is a celebration of their colleagues - a genuine caring for their people. They work hard to create respectful, productive, and safe built environments. Their people are their priority. Frankly, we cheer their victories, celebrate their triumphs and most certainly admire their principles and priorities. We are better for knowing them. Thank you.

## Speaking Of Growth

### In this issue

- It is at once an honor and privilege to be of service to Summit Credit Union. Our partnership spans more than 10 years. During that time, we have grown to finish each other's sentences, collaborate with respect and become genuine friends. In the pages that follow, we feature one of our most recent collaborations - their new location in Waukesha, Wisconsin. Check out the story behind this award-winning design.
- Comparatively, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship / USA is a newer client. From modest origins in the UK, members of this college campus ministry have moved into leadership roles in churches, organizations, corporations and agencies around the world. Tour their new space and learn more on the following pages.



INSIDE

The Alliance eZine

Volume ONE  
Issue FOUR



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*InBusiness Magazine* readers named Strang the top commercial architectural firm in Madison.



NEVER  
stop  
looking up



advice

connections

insights

resources

value



## Now Helping Waukesha Secure A Brighter Financial Future



Driving by, you'll look. Then you'll want to take a closer look.

The Summit Credit Union branch in Waukesha certainly doesn't look like the typical financial institution. With dynamic trapezoidal forms along the sides and an angled roof that shoots up toward the sky, it's apparent there is something special about this place.



## Summit Credit Union Understands, Indeed Anticipates, The Needs Of Small Business Owners

The design creates an openness and transparency with forward-looking architecture that offers clues to what Summit is truly about.

The one-story, 3,540-square-foot facility reflects Summit's ongoing commitment to member service, adding value and supporting Milwaukee-area communities. It's a message that Summit CEO / President Kim Sponem wants to convey as she works





informal

secure

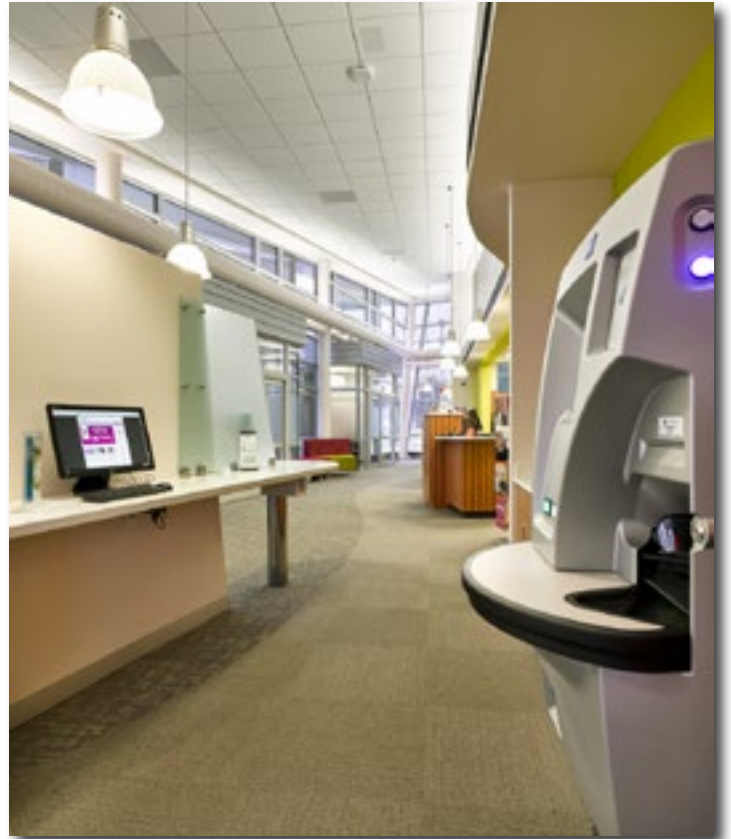
colorful

sustainable

to establish a strategic presence outside of Madison where the company is headquartered.

“It’s our statement to Milwaukee that we are serious about serving the Milwaukee market,” she said. “We have an opportunity to help a lot of small businesses in the Milwaukee area either get off the ground or expand their existing business.”

A not-for-profit financial cooperative, Summit started as CUNA Credit Union in 1935. The \$2.4 billion business with more than 153,000



members and 34 locations is now the second-largest credit union in the state.

While Summit has come a long way in the past 81 years, it continues to grow, especially outside of Dane County.

Including Waukesha, there are three new locations in the Milwaukee area that give Summit eight locations in and around Milwaukee.

## Strang And Summit Celebrate Victory

*In Business* Publisher Jon Konarske (right) presents Summit Credit Union CEO and President Kim Sponem and Strang Executive Vice President | Design Principal Peter Tan with the magazine's **Commercial Design Award for the Best New Retail Development of 2015**. The award recognized Summit's new branch building in Waukesha, Wisconsin.



Kim hopes that everything Summit has been able to do for its members in the Madison area will be realized by those living an hour drive to the east.

“We’re excited to bring Summit’s holistic approach to financial education and wellness to new members in the area,” she said.

Under Kim’s leadership, Summit has developed a reputation for providing exceptional service, leadership in financial education and for connecting the community.

Financial outreach is the core value of Summit, helping members save more, pay off debt, set goals and reduce financial stress through a variety of programs.

“Project Money” helps four families dramatically improve their financial position. “Money Smarts” on SummitCreditUnion.com offers tools, calculators and additional financial education programs for inspiration and guidance. Summit also conducts educational seminars throughout the communities it serves.

winner

solid

inviting

caring





Summit also offers a variety of mortgage programs to help provide the opportunity and benefits of home ownership. Its dedicated bilingual staff is available to assist with loan applications, transactions, advice and education.

It will partner with “A Fund for Women” through 2016 on their agenda to advance women’s economic empowerment. This effort will bring local women, non-profits and businesses

together to create a blueprint for women’s economic security.

One area in which Summit has been especially successful is in helping small businesses. The credit union is an important resource to many small businesses, whether they’re just getting started or starting to grow.

Most small businesses need financial support throughout their growth cycle and Summit is able to help through loans, deposit accounts and cash management services. Summit has provided that expertise more than any other credit union in Dane County. In fact, it was named the SBA Lender of the Year for the number of loans among Wisconsin credit unions every year since 2011.

“From new ventures to non-profits, every day we’re helping the business community thrive with financial services, advice, connections and insights,” Kim said.

Summit Credit Union reaches beyond home loans and small business services. It actively works with a variety of institutions and organizations to support social service programs and advance financial education.

Summit donates to local charities and community groups, offers financial education to children, and awards more than \$20,000 in educational scholarships to students each year.

Please consider joining Strang in support of Brat Fest.



Summit even opened branches at a three high schools in Madison, making services available to students and staff during lunch. Its efforts don't go unnoticed.

In 2014, Summit received the Wisconsin Governor's Financial Literacy Award for its "CUatWork" educational program.

The program provides financial education in the workplace so employees have greater control over their money, fewer financial worries and less stress leading to better health and productivity.

One of Summit's most unique programs is STAR Credit Union, co-founded by Kim in 2005 in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County.

STAR is the first youth-chartered credit union in the world. Any club member can join for as little as a quarter.

It includes financial literacy activities that range in complexity. The young members learn the importance of savings, earn great incentives and participate in programs that teach everything from budgeting to investing to entrepreneurship.

For some kids, it's the kind of financial education they could never get at home or school.

The Greater Madison Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals recently presented Summit the Outstanding Business Award for its contributions to the financial education of youth. Summit was nominated by the Boys and

Girls Club for the impact of the STAR Credit Union.

Summit's newest branches in the Greater Milwaukee Area were designed to showcase the kind of organization Summit is and the types of services it provides.

They feature teller pods instead of traditional teller lines, for more casual and friendly interaction between members and staff. They also include intimate cube-shaped meeting booths with glass sliding doors with varying degrees of privacy.

Along with the floor-to-ceiling windows, it all conveys an image of openness, transparency and service to members.

In this case, appearances don't lie. There is something special about this place.



*STAR Credit Union, co-founded by Kim Sponem in 2005 in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County, is the first youth-chartered credit union in the world.*



inclusive  
principled  
purposeful  
inspirational  
world changers

# InterVarsity

## Christian Fellowship / USA



When Your Organization Has  
Thousands of Volunteers Serving  
A World-Wide Ministry, Sometimes  
Having Office Space For 150  
Employees Isn't Quite Enough

That's the situation the folks at InterVarsity's National Service Center found themselves in. So last year they moved to a different building in the University Research Park in Madison.

The new headquarters provide the National Service Center with plenty of space. More importantly, it is the right kind of space to run the campus ministry for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA. The Center's role is to build, lead and sustain InterVarsity's work and to provide an infrastructure to support its mission.

InterVarsity was started in 1877 by a group of Christian students at the University of

“ You don’t realize the difference  
light makes until you experience it”

KARON MORTON

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND VICE PRESIDENT



Cambridge, England. The students began to meet together to pray, study the Bible and witness to fellow students. Their success sparked similar groups to form on other campuses. They eventually formed the British InterVarsity.

The group expanded to Canada. Then in 1938 the organization opened its first U.S. chapter in Michigan. Today, there are more than 1,000 staff members serving 40,000 core students and faculty nationally. More than twice that number of students participate in some way. Overall, InterVarsity serves 100,000 students across the country.

Their work includes everything from small group Bible studies and leadership training to large campus gathering and national conferences. InterVarsity also produces training materials, books, and media tools for use at churches and on campus.

On most days, the Service Center’s office is a quiet place with more than enough room for the staff to go about their work. But when things get busy, the space needs change drastically.

One of the largest events hosted by InterVarsity is called Urbana, a student missions conference held once every three years. The event is held





Bible studies  
leadership training  
campus gathering  
national conferences

in St. Louis, MO, but planned in Madison. For the first time, InterVarsity leaders in Madison had the space they needed to plan Urbana. Numerous short-term staff members and various guests came to their new offices during December and January to organize, run and review the event.

While the additional space was the most appealing factor in InterVarsity's move to the Research Park, one of the more pleasant improvements was the amount of natural light that makes its way into offices throughout the building.

"The two things that made the biggest differences were space and light," said InterVarsity Director of Operations and Vice President Karon Morton. "You don't realize

the difference the light makes until you experience it."

The 32,000-square foot, four-story building offers more room for everything the Center needs: large format printing, an audio/video recording studio, work stations for 150 employees, prayer rooms, conference rooms, small collaboration spaces and a library. Equipment and materials are now stored in-house instead of at an unheated storage facility.

It's the kind of welcoming and accessible location InterVarsity hasn't had since moving to Madison from Chicago in 1969. More importantly, it was designed to provide ample space for large groups with the flexibility to seamlessly adapt with fluctuations in staffing.

Space for collaborative discussion is abundant throughout the building. From traditional conference rooms to couches and easy chairs in open areas, there's always a place for employees, volunteers and guests to sit for a quick chat or a serious meeting.

The first-floor reception area is big and bright with casual seating next to floor-to-ceiling windows. On the second floor, an informal café space allows for highly social gatherings. It was inspired by the notion people like gathering in the kitchen.

High-boy tables and chairs fill out the café space, edging up to the windows on the second floor. Staff will often gather here even when the rest of the room is empty, just for a chance to meet in a well-lit, quiet space. It also allows more options for second-floor workers, who may not want to traverse stairs to find a conference room.

The office was renovated with budget and efficiency in mind. Existing glass panels were reused to frame the large conference room, creating a striking entrance into the space and allowing natural light to flow into the hallways. Moveable wall partitions inside the conference room allows the flexibility to form three smaller rooms. These were used extensively during the planning and wrap-up for the Urbana conference.

They made the building their own, bringing in pieces of personal furniture and mounting framed posters, pictures and artwork reflecting InterVarsity's values and missions.

It's become a place where InterVarsity leaders, employees and volunteers can gather to build their values of service and leadership, people development, excellence and collaboration.



Please consider joining Strang in support of Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Start Something **BIG** Today.  
Change a Life Forever.



Pictured above: Big Brother Mark Richardson and Little Brother Jamani.



Celebrating 50 Years in Dane County!

**Be a BIG or Give BIG**  
[www.bbbs.org/danecounty](http://www.bbbs.org/danecounty)  
(608) 661-5437



# Blood, Sweat & Gears

Strang Staffers Are Passionate Cyclists Who Can't Wait To Hit The Circuits, Trails And Byways



STRANG



## Taking It To The Streets

**T**ake a spin through Strang's office on the topic of bicycles and you'll get a different story at every stop.

Some here compete on bikes. A few ride for the scenery while others enjoy building their own bikes. This group takes cycling seriously, whether cruising down country roads, pedaling city trails or flying down steep tree-sided slopes.

These riders all have their own story. There's the architect who competed in his first triathlon at 8 years old and the construction administrator who didn't start competing until he was in his mid-40s. Their two-wheeled adventures are as compelling as they are different.

Some commute, some compete, some cruise down highways. But the chain that links them all together is a love for cycling. Read their stories, then consider your own.



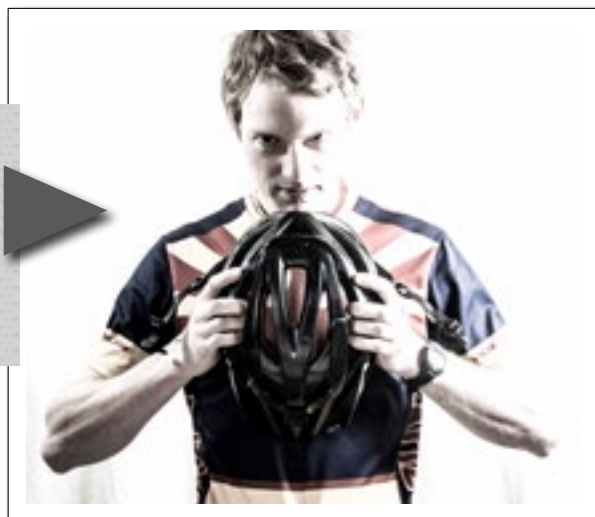
There are so many reasons to get on your bike. Just think of the health and environmental benefits alone. But we think one of the best reasons to ride is in support of your favorite non-profit organizations. Our colleagues have ridden in events to support Restoring Hope Transplant House, Brat Fest and the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County, to mention a few. Check and see if your favorite charitable cause has a bike ride. If not, perhaps you'll consider organizing one. Great fun for a great cause.





# NOT SO EASY RIDERS

**ALEC HEMBREE, ARCHITECTURE** Alec is a natural-born rider. He started when he was just two and began riding no-handed by the time he was four. When he was 8, he competed in a youth triathlon. These days Alec commutes to work about three days a week. He also enjoys mountain biking, riding his unicycle and building everything from a swing bike to a monowheel.



**WAYNE WHITING, ARCHITECTURE** Wayne has always enjoyed riding. As a kid in Madison, he first rode around Lake Monona. As a Milwaukee College student, he biked the Spirit of 76 Route. He also rode with his wife, Becky, before they had kids. Now that the kids are grown, the couple have what Wayne calls a biking rebirth. He especially likes to get engaged with local fundraising rides and organizes the Strang team for its annual Boys and Girls Club benefit ride in July.

**PETER TAN, ARCHITECTURE** Growing up in Malaysia, Peter rode his bike everywhere. Things didn't change when he started his career in Washington, D.C. and commuting 15 miles to work. Peter incorporates biking into his everyday life, whether commuting, riding for fun or fundraising. He was a long-time member of the Brat Fest bike team and helped organize Strang's benefit ride for the Restoring Hope Transplant House. He says biking is one of the silent sports, like skiing or kayaking.

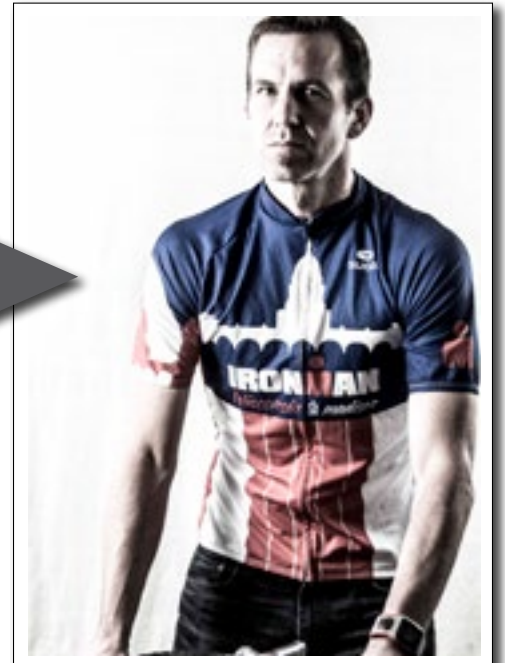


**IVO ROZENDAAL, ARCHITECTURE** A long-time rider, Ivo comes from a family of bicyclists. He always enjoyed watching the Tour de France and saw the race in person once as a child. He started serious road biking as a young adult and is still serious about it. While he doesn't compete, he's a regular with the Wednesday Night Bike Ride group in Madison and rides 30-40 miles twice a week.



**AL SCHAPPE, CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION** Al was a late-comer to the world of competitive bike riding. He started riding regularly for fitness after he turned 40. When he saw Ironman competitors on the road, he discovered he was plenty capable of competing with them. He's competed in several Ironman triathlons and rides whenever he can. He recently logged 170 miles while on vacation in Florida. A typical ride for Al is about 30-40 miles - usually on the hilliest of roads.

**BRANDON HALVERSON, ARCHITECTURE** When he was young, Brandon was really into BMX biking. But after he was old enough to drive a car, he had to sell the BMX bike to pay for a speeding ticket. While he misses the old BMX, Brandon has enjoyed mountain biking and road biking. He is now a triathlete and a very serious road biker. But he really loves working on bikes and recently built a mountain bike for his 11-year-old son.



### STEPHANIE FITCH, INTERIORS

Stephanie started riding in college after she met her husband, Michael. He was a serious cyclist and got her into long rides and, eventually, competing in triathlons. After their son, Owen, was born two years ago, Stephanie's biking habits changed again. While she still takes some long rides, she cycles more often on city trails with Owen riding in a bike trailer. It won't be long before the two-year-old joins his parents on the road - he already has three bikes.



**TIM CRUM, ARCHITECTURE** An avid runner, Tim began cycling in order to compete in triathlons. It didn't take long for riding to become a big part of his life. These days he routinely rides up to 50 miles at a time and totals more than 100 each week. While he trains inside all winter, Tim considers himself a good-weather rider. But when the weather is good, he's all-in. Last year he competed in, and finished, the Wisconsin Ironman.



# NOTEBOOK

## > Strang EVP Leads Youth Group At ETC

Peter Tan, Executive Vice-President/Design Principal at Strang, led a group of high school students from the Leadership Greater Madison Youth program on a tour of Electronic Theatre Controls in Middleton. Peter, an LGM alumni and designer for ETC's innovative



workplace, talked about how creative collaboration and innovation come together to make a dream a reality. He then showed students the features of the building which emphasize ETC's connection to the theater and the lighting industry.

## > Student Job Shadows in Marketing Dept.

Anna Solowicz, a junior at Verona Area High School, spent a few hours



during her spring break with Strang's marketing staff.

Anna is considering a career in marketing and is in the process of choosing a college. She job-shadowed with Senior Communications Specialist Peter Gill in March.



WE ASKED OUR STAFF...

## WHAT IS CHANGING OR ADVANCING IN YOUR INDUSTRY?



Nathan Zach, Engineering:

**“Because of changing climate data, Madison moved into Climate Region 5 – a region with more moderate climate standards. This means we must adjust to new ventilation, cooling and heating requirements.”**



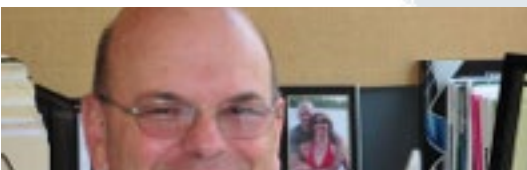
Alice Clark, Interiors:

**“Biophilia – the incorporation of nature into design – has been widely used in healthcare and is now coming into play in corporate and commercial design as well.”**



Clark Solowicz, Civil Engineering:

**“Because of the serious water problems in Flint, Michigan, we have a greater sense of awareness of aging infrastructure when tapping into a municipal water system for a building’s water supply.”**



Jim Lambright, Low Voltage IT:

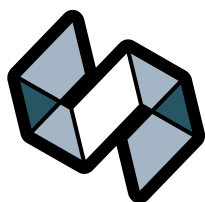
**“Requirements for connecting cables to Wireless Access Point (WAP) locations are changing to meet the need for faster wireless service. This means two cables will be recommended for each WAP location instead of one.”**

*From Best Practices To Next Practices*  
[www.strang-inc.com](http://www.strang-inc.com)

Questions or comments, please contact Randy Banks at [RBanks@strang-inc.com](mailto:RBanks@strang-inc.com)

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