

# SPECIGRAM

Official Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter, Construction Specifications Institute (CSI)

## Communication Challenges in the AEC Industry

### Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Tired of miscommunication dragging down your team? Learn how to bridge the gap between understanding and being understood across professions. This workshop will explore unique communication styles, identify common pitfalls in design and construction, and equip you with practical tools to adapt your message for clarity and impact. We will home in on CSI's four C's of communication (clear, concise, complete, and correct) to guide the discussion. Get ready for a cross-disciplinary interactive session to not only learn from Katelyn, but learn from your community of professionals and be able to take back actionable lessons to your firm or organization.

**Katelyn Rossier**, AIA, CSI, and founder of mentorDINO, will lead this collaborative session.

*This event is co-sponsored by AIA Pittsburgh's Young Architect Forum.*

**YAF members get a discounted rate for this meeting.**



**Location: Rothschild Doyno Collaborative, 2847 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA**

Networking: 5:30 pm

Buffet Dinner: 6:00 pm

Presentation: 6:45 pm

Catering provided by Salem's Grill (Mediterranean food)

REGISTRATION: <https://app.memberplanet.com/#/event/csi-pittsburghchapter/thecommunicationchallenge>

\$40 (CSI/AIA members) / \$20 YAF member discounted rate Register by 5:00 pm Friday, April 5

We are using a new registration system that will hopefully be easier called MemberPlanet. You can pay at the door (cash or check) or use a credit card on the MemberPlanet site which will add an additional processing charge. Everyone should register on the MemberPlanet site whether you are paying ahead of time or at the door (both options are available).

This program meets the AIA/CES requirements for continuing education and qualifies for 1.0 HSW Learning Units.

Questions: E-mail Brian Trimble at [btrimble@imiweb.org](mailto:btrimble@imiweb.org) or call 703-300-0109.

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

### THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER:

#### **Katelyn Rossier, AIA, CSI, NCARB, LSSBB, mentorDINO**

*Katelyn is an architect who brings a practical yet human touch to her work. Beyond her technical expertise, she's committed to fostering personal and professional growth with her team. Known for her empathic approach, attentive listening, and building trust with clients, Katelyn excels in navigating the complexities of design projects. Her skills extend across various industries, including healthcare, workplace, higher education, and research. Her business, mentorDINO is focused on empowering the AEC industry through professional development training and sharing stories. Her commitment is to elevate the entire profession by fostering a holistic and collaborative environment.*



#### **MAY 14th, 2024 -- CSI PITTSBURGH**

Tour of **Glen-Gery Brick Plant**, Pittsburgh.

<https://www.glengery.com/>

#### **MAY 17th, 2024 -- AIA PITTSBURGH**

**Build Pittsburgh** continuing education conference and expo.

**Pittsburgh Carpenters Training Center, Parkway West.**

<https://aiapgh.org/events/build-pittsburgh/>

#### **JUNE 5th-8th, 2024 -- AIA NATIONAL**

**Conference on Architecture & Design**

Washington, D.C.

[https://conferenceonarchitecture.com/?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=search&utm\\_campaign=aia24-search-convert&gad\\_source=1&gclid=EAlaIQobChMI34vmv93shAMVIGIHA R2ffwd4EAAYASAAEgl9zPD BwE](https://conferenceonarchitecture.com/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=search&utm_campaign=aia24-search-convert&gad_source=1&gclid=EAlaIQobChMI34vmv93shAMVIGIHA R2ffwd4EAAYASAAEgl9zPD BwE)

#### **JUNE 11th, 2024 -- CSI PITTSBURGH**

**Top Golf** event and Chapter awards

Top Golf, Bridgeville, PA

<https://topgolf.com/us/pittsburgh/>

## April Anniversaries

44th	Brian Joos	The J3 Group
38th	Martin Thornton II	WTW Architects
28th	Joseph Kostuch	The K Group PGH LLC
25th	Barbara Matejka	HHS DR Architects/Engineers
13th	John Bliss	R.I. Lampus Company
7th	Jason Hamilton	Tnemec
3rd	Sam Astorino	Avanti Design Build, Inc.
2nd	Justin D'Alessandro	Vitro Architectural Glass
1st	Denise Rector	Larson Design Group

## Current Membership: 70

**Chapter Elections** are upcoming.

Two Director seats are open.

If you are interested in filling a Director position, please contact Rich Strayer, Miki Vargo, or Bob Bailey.

Watch for emails regarding the elections process.

Watch for CSI Middle Atlantic Region's  
CDT Study Preparation Course  
in the Fall of 2024!

## CSI National Conference 2024 October 16-18, 2024 Houston, TX

If you are interested in attending the 2024 CSI National Conference, use this link to sign up to receive the latest updates and news:

<https://consti.realmagnet.land/national-conference-early-access>



### What is your company and what is your position?

I'm the Technology Specifications Manager at PPG. I work with two other paint gurus to list PPG products in specification platforms such as RIB SpecLink and Deltek SpecPoint. We also work alongside our specification representatives to help firms update their office masters and project specs, build paint schedules, and import content into platforms.

### What is your education background?

I graduated from Robert Morris University with a BS in Organizational Leadership. I also hold several paint/corrosion certifications such as AMPP Basic Coating Inspection, KTA Tator Basic Coating, MPI Architectural Coating Technologist and MPI Maintenance Repaint Specialist.

### How many years have you been in the industry?

Professionally, I have 12 years in paint and 2 years in plumbing. My Dad's side of the family all worked in the trades as stone masons, plumbers, and general contractors, so I've been around construction my whole life. I ended up in paint completely by accident through a temp agency many years ago.

### If you weren't in your current job, what would you be doing?

Marine Biologist or Wildlife Conservationist somewhere tropical. I'd rather swim with sharks that I can see than boat-sized catfish that I cannot..



### What is the funniest/oddest thing that has happened in your professional career?

In my early days I did coating analysis for paint failures. A painter handed me a piece of "peeling paint" that was sticky on the back. He told me we "must've put too much glue that doesn't stick to walls in that batch." Long story short, we figured out that it was a piece of invisible tape from the cheerleaders hanging up posters in their school gymnasium. The tape peeled off when a fresh coat of paint was applied on top.



**What you want somebody considering CSI membership to know?**

Having a membership that is reciprocal across the country allows you to connect with professionals you may not otherwise cross paths with. The online communication threads are a great example of having a supportive network.

**Do you have a favorite architect?**

No, I like them all : )

**What's your favorite building?**

The PPG Building, known as the "glass castle" at One PPG Place. The elevators are my favorite part. There aren't any buttons - the floors are selected by your badge scan or touch screen if you have access to multiple floors.

**What's your favorite city?**

Raleigh, NC.

**What are your hobbies?**

I'm converting my backyard into a homestead. I've been growing veggies and keeping quail for eggs for a few years now. This year I'm trying "chaos gardening" by sprinkling wildflower seeds across the open space

**What would people be surprised to know about you?**

I used to run 5Ks for fun.

**Playlists or podcasts?**

Cleaning: Playlists. It's true I clean my house to the songs I used to dance to in middle school. Gym: Podcasts. I like a good motivational speech to keep me going.

**Dine in or dine out?**

Dine in. I prefer cooking outside on the Blackstone. I can't flip spatulas like a hibachi chef yet.



How many of the following 10 questions can you correctly answer?

QUESTION 01: Can you be 'sure' when filling in the following blanks using assure, ensure, and insure? Please \_\_\_\_ the Owner that the Contractor will \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ the project?

- A. Assure ... Ensure ... Insure.
- B. Insure ... Ensure ... Assure.
- C. Ensure ... Assure ... Insure.
- D. Ensure ... Insure ... Assure.
- E. Assure ... Assure ... Assure.

QUESTION 02: Which of the following have all words properly capitalized as defined in Blog #11?

- A. Agreement, Work, Contract, Subcontract, and General Conditions.
- B. Project Manual, Specifications, Drawings, Change Order, and Project.
- C. Section, PART, Article, Paragraph, and Subparagraph.
- D. Architect, Engineer, Owner, Contracting Officer, and Subcontractor.
- E. Contractor, Division, Room Names, Clause, and East.

QUESTION 03: Which of the following are defined in level hierarchy within a specification according to SectionFormat?

- A. All of the following.
- B. PARTS.
- C. Articles.
- D. Paragraphs and subparagraphs.

QUESTION 04: What is the most current version of MasterFormat?

- A. 2023.
- B. 2022.
- C. 2021.
- D. 2020.

QUESTION 05: How many inspection(s) does the design professional perform during the construction of a project, albeit site, landscape, building, or facility related?

- A. None. Only observations are performed.
- B. One. Only at substantial completion.
- C. Two. At substantial completion and final completion.
- D. Many. During each site visit and job conference, as stipulated in Owner/Professional Agreement.

QUESTION 06: Which of the following are writing methods used in specifications?

- A. All of the following.
- B. Descriptive.
- C. Proprietary.
- D. Reference Standard.
- E. Performance.

QUESTION 07: Which of the following have requirements explained in PageFormat?

- A. Headers and footers.
- B. Margins (left, right, top, and bottom).
- C. Indentations of PARTS, Articles, Paragraphs, and subparagraphs.
- D. All the above.

QUESTION 08: Which of the following is an example of a performance specification writing method?

- A. Inline Pump: Close coupled with suction and discharge connections 180 degrees apart. [This defines the product by its characteristics.]
- B. Software Alarm Dialers: AlarmWorX-MMX software by ICONICS. [This identifies the product by the manufacturer's name and model.]
- C. Resilient Base: ASTM F 1861, Type TS, Group 1, Style B, 4 inches. [One must know what is meant by these terms and product options in a Standard, in this case: rubber type, solid (non-layered) group, and coved style that is 4 inches in height.]
- D. Lighting Level: 30 foot-candles minimum maintained horizontal over playing surface. [Any light fixture, lamp type, and placement is acceptable, pending compliance with the result.]

QUESTION 09: Which is not a Division 01 Section that would be part of Execution - Closeout?

- A. 01 61 13 - Software Licensing Requirements.
- B. 01 71 13 - Mobilization.
- C. 01 73 23 - Bracing and Anchoring.
- D. 01 78 43 - Spare Parts.
- E. 01 78 39 - Demonstration and Training.

QUESTION 10: Text can be written in various moods: Imperative, Subjunctive, Indicative, and Interrogative. Which two of these are used in specification writing?

- A. Imperative and Subjunctive.
- B. Indicative and Interrogative.
- C. Subjunctive and Interrogative.
- D. Imperative and Indicative.

EXTRA CREDIT (1 point): Which is the 'preferred' mood to be used when writing specifications?

If you scored 10 correct answers, you might consider preparing your own quiz.

While scoring 10 is perfect, 9 is very good, 8 is good, and 7 is borderline, 6 means you were probably talking on the phone when taking a course on spec writing.

Scoring 5 or less either means you should not be writing specs or you are not a good test taker.

Your first question should then be, what are the correct answers?

The answers in order spell out "A BAD CAD DAD".

The answer for the extra credit is Imperative; therefore, try not to use the indicative, except when it is required, as with multiple prime contracts.

If you got the extra credit question correct, add that to your correct answers to give you a final score.





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