



SPECIGRAM

Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter, Construction Specifications Institute

April, 2014

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CSI PITTSBURGH CHAPTER MISSION STATEMENT

1. To support and promote the mission and core values of the Institute.
2. To help its members perform their jobs better by providing education and promoting certification programs.
3. To provide an opportunity for networking to facilitate project team building.

*Pittsburgh Chapter
Construction Specifications Institute
P.O. Box 367
Wexford, PA 15090*

April 8 Program

CSI PITTSBURGH

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A SPECIFIER?

Apr. 8, 2014

5:00 p.m. Social Hour
5:30 p.m. Board Meeting
6:15 p.m. Dinner
7:00 p.m. Presentation

Cefalo's Restaurant
428 Washington Ave
Carnegie, PA 15106
(412) 276-6600

Cost: \$35/person

You know the game! Flaunt your knowledge of the construction industry to the entire class. Contestants will be chosen from our studio audience and asked three questions. Don't worry though because just like the show, you'll have a partner to call upon for help as well as two "cheats" and a "save". If you know the answers, you just might be smarter than a specifier. So join us for what will be a great evening of fun and learnin'.

I will not RSVP to Marc Zell later than Friday, Apr. 4th!
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MAZell@NationalGypsum.com or (412) 951-8715

This program will provide an opportunity for local students in construction industry-related studies to see a sampling of some of the basic construction specifications knowledge that they will need in their field, in a fun game show-styled program, and win cash prizes. In addition to being able to network with local construction industry professionals, students will learn about the variety of construction topics often encountered, and expand their appreciation for the collaborative resources available to the design team's communication tools.

President's Message

April 2014

Miki Vargo,
Chapter President



Take a minute to look up...

I am one of those people that no matter where I go, I am always looking around at the buildings and spaces. What timeframe were they built in? What style do they display? What stories could they tell? I am one of those people that actually “look up” to the tops of high rises and skyscrapers to see what adorns their tops, their capitals. Having an office on the 16th floor of the Arrott Building, downtown is only an added benefit, and sometimes distraction, to my fascination with “looking up” at our buildings. For instance, my window opens up to the elaborate balustrade and colonnade that defines the capital of our building. It also creates a wonderful picture frame of the new PNC Tower rising up right outside my window. Around the corner, the new Gardens at Market Square are

aggressively under construction. Each morning, Jim Gerard (CSI member since 1978) and I go for coffee and walk around the block checking out the construction of both sites. It's one of my favorite parts of the day, as we discuss the progress, question what we think is going on and why, and just enjoy the situation we currently find ourselves in, smack in the middle of watching what will be the world's largest green building being constructed along with another equally challenging building going up right around the corner. As we watched the crew at the Market Square site dig screw piles one morning, Jim was excited to see the process develop, he had never used or witnessed this actual type of construction before. I said to Jim, see, no matter how long you've been in the business, you can still learn new things. He chuckled and made some comment about age. Regardless, it is pretty cool to be here, in the city right now and every day I am reminded of how amazing our city is and rich in architectural history and style.

So it is not uncommon to see me standing on the street staring up at a building, which is exactly what I was doing the other day when a Pittsburgh History and Landmarks tour guide threw me a curve ball. A little background first; I am lucky in that my husband drops me off at work in the morning on his way to work and then picks me up in the evening. So there is no need to worry about parking, paying to park, bus schedules, etc. It's a pretty cushiony set up. Typically he calls me right when he is about a few blocks away so that I will head down to meet him. More times than not (or that I will admit to him to,) he is already downstairs, waiting for me by the time I actually get down to meet him. On a few occasions, I make it downstairs ahead of him and then wait on the street outside of the Traffic Court office for him to pick me up. That is where I was last week when a group of people accompanied by the PHL guide walked up beside me. We were all looking at the same building, the Investment Building on Fourth Avenue. As an architectural history buff, I was eavesdropping on the discussion the group was having.

(continued on p.3)

President's Message (cont'd)

April 2014

That is when the tour guide, who I will add was a very energetic orator; the type of person you could listen to talk about anything and just be mesmerized by it, well, that's when he asked the question. Pointing to the Investment Building he asks, "What happened after the Civil War..." (yes, Civil War) "... that caused buildings to go from this to this?" (gesturing up.) So I start thinking, a million miles a minute, what is he referring to? Admittedly, the Civil War thing threw me, but I was not on the tour, so it could have been a reference to something previously discussed that I missed... but regardless, I am looking at this building that I have stared out many times and thinking, ok, this building is a classic, textbook example of early skyscrapers, the ones designed after the proportions of a column with a base, shaft and capital. Is that what he's referring to? Is it the invention of steel or at least the availability of steel that enabled us to build up like never before? On and on and on, my mind is racing; and then he says it; "...The elevator." WHAT!!! The Elevator! At this point, my husband pulls up and I jump in the truck still taken back by the question I just heard; and I ask Ron, pointing to the Bank Tower in front of us and gesturing up, I ask, "What happened after the Civil War that caused buildings to do that?" He thought for a second and I burst in, "The Elevator!" He looked at me and said, "Wow, what a trick question, I bet you could get quite a few architects with that one." And I was thinking to myself, yeah, that tour guide just did...

Why am I relaying this story? Well, I do think it was a witty question, because it got you thinking and observing. After I asked Ron the same question, it led to an hour plus discussion on architecture, technology, Pittsburgh, etc. But it also made me think and wonder, how many of us Pittsburghers truly grasp how fortunate we are to have the menagerie of buildings we have here in Pittsburgh and our outskirts; designed by a who's who of famous architects, Frank Lloyd Wright, Phillip Johnson, HH Richardson, Walter Gropius, Daniel Burnham, Marcel Breuer, Richard Meier, Robert Venturi, Mies Van Der Rohe, Frederick Osterling, Albert Kahn, etc.? We have so much history here, right outside our doors; I think we could all benefit from just taking a minute and looking up.

Another way to look up is to join me and other CSI members from around the region at the 2014 Middle Atlantic Region Conference in Hampton, Virginia. Time is running out, the conference is April 3-5. I encourage everyone to attend, if not this conference, perhaps next year's conference in Philadelphia. Remember, our chapter will be hosting the Middle Atlantic Region Conference in 2017, so all ideas, help, sponsorship and manpower are greatly needed and appreciated. I am excited to announce that while at the conference next week, I will be accepting on behalf of our member awardees, 6 region awards for 9 of our members. Probably the most notable of those awards is **Gail Nagie's Distinguished Service Award**. (Which Gail will be accepting, herself.) This is the Region's highest honor and I am so happy to announce that Gail will be receiving it. So again, come to MARC14 and cheer Gail and your other fellow members on while we clean house, again, at the Awards Banquet.

(continued on p.4)

President's Message (cont'd)

April 2014

This month we will be holding our “Are you smarter than a specifier?” program. As we did last year, we have invited local college students to attend and participate in the game. I encourage all of you to please, come and help represent our Chapter and our Organization. As you all know, CSI is the only professional organization whose members include architects, engineers, specification writers, product representatives, and contractors working together to organize, standardize, and communicate construction information. CSI is unique, in that it facilitates an exchange of information between all participants in the construction process—a benefit not found in one-discipline organizations. We, the members, make CSI what it is, so please come and help welcome the future of our field and hopefully our organization; let's show them why CSI is important and why as students and soon to be young professionals they should want to be involved.

Also on the student outreach end, I would like to thank Mr. Denny Buirge for yet another fantastic presentation of “Spec Writing for Non-Spec Writers” to the student's at the Art Institute. A while back, Mike Moyta was contacted by a professor at the Art Institute who was wondering if anyone from CSI Pittsburgh would be willing to come into her class and give a presentation on Specifications. Denny graciously stepped up and gave his presentation last month on March 7th. According to the feedback I have received from Denny and the Art Institute, the presentation was a huge success. The students enjoyed it, the teacher enjoyed it and most importantly, Denny enjoyed presenting it. **Thanks again, Denny** for taking time out of your day to share your knowledge and the mission of CSI. **Thank you, Mike**, for all of your hard work in establishing a student outreach program. If it were not for your efforts thus far, I do not know if the Art Institute would have ever thought of contacting us. Great Job, Mike and Denny and everyone who has helped to establish our student outreach committee and achievements.

In closing, remember to take a minute and look up, whether that be physically, figuratively or psychologically; I think spring is finally here, warm weather awaits and there is a lot to look forward to. Who knows, you might just learn a thing or two; or you might find yourself inspired. I bet those basketball players from the University of Dayton believe in looking up, even if they did help to single handedly destroy every March Madness bracket out there.

-Miki Vargo, Chapter President

2014 Chapter Nominations – Officers and Directors

President:	Bill Vernon
1st VP:	Richard Strayer
2nd VP:	Lynn Fulton
Secretary:	Josh Telenko
Director:	Courtney Watson
Director:	Leisa McNamee
Director:	Kelly Brown (to serve remainder of Lynn Fulton's term)

Member Profile: Jim Geist

April 2014

Company and Position: Architectural Account Executive for The Sherwin Williams Company.

Tell us about your job: I consult with architects, designers, and specifiers for coating selection and assisting in their firms projects.

What part of your job do you most enjoy?: The collaboration process which allows me to help make an architectural firms design a reality.

If you weren't in your current job, what would you be doing? Coaching Track & Field



What is the funniest/oddest thing that has happened in your professional career? I actually made a jobsite visit which was at Mario Lemieux's house with a painting contractor to assist in a coating recommendation and got to meet Mario and his wife Natalie.

Tell us about your family. My wife Judy and I have been married for 21 years. We have two teenage sons. Jared who is a Senior at Knoch High School and will be attending Slippery Rock University in the Fall, and Jordan who is a Freshman at Knoch. Both boys are currently participating in Track & Field.

What year did you join CSI? 1999.

Why did you join CSI? I heard about the networking opportunities available and as a young architectural consultant wanted to make the most of those opportunities in helping advance my career.

Did you have a CSI recruiter/mentor? Bob Bailey & Marty Thornton were the ones who first discussed and encouraged me to join CSI

What is your role in CSI Pittsburgh? Chairman for our annual Holiday/Dessert Christmas Party

What do you see as the value of CSI membership? The great professional and personal relationships that I have made with the other chapter members.

What would you want somebody considering CSI membership to know? Becoming an active member and supporting a committee will go a long way in developing the professional relationships that can help you be successful and advance your career.

What's your passion? I enjoy fishing and helping coach my sons in Track & Field.

What would people be surprised to know about you? I was a four-time NCAA Division II All American Javelin Thrower at Slippery Rock University and still hold the school record. I have also been inducted into both the Slippery Rock University Athletic Hall of Fame and Butler County Sports Hall of Fame.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARD

April 2014

MARCH 11, 2014 AT CEFALO'S IN CARNEGIE, PA

President Vargo's comments included remarks on upcoming Middle Atlantic Region Conference (MARC), Zero Landfill program for 2014, ladies of ASHRAE & CSI Social, upcoming Chapter elections, and Chapter presentation to the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. Chapter Member Loyalty Program as drafted by Marty Thornton was proposed for addition to Chapter Policy.

Programs – May will be a plant tour of R.I. Lampus manufacturing in Aliquippa. June is the annual Awards Dinner.

Website – still working out issues on Paypal implementation which should be resolved by April meeting.

Membership – 138 total members.

Need to get your name out there?

Get included in our Newsletter!

Only \$50/year!

Host a table top display at our next meeting!

Be seen on the CSI website!

Click [here](#) for details.

Member Anniversaries:

34 th	Brian Joos	
28 th	Martin Thornton II	WTW
26 th	Michael Bosco	
24 th	S. Philip Hundley	DRS Architects
18 th	Joseph Kostuch	TBI Contracting, Inc.
16 th	RonnaLeah Prindible	McGraw-Hill Construction
15 th	Barbara Matejka	HHSDR Architects/Engineers
15 th	Mark Viola	Source Architechnology
15 th	James Geist	The Sherwin-Williams Co.
9 th	Maria Holupka	HoLampCo International
4 th	Alexandra Apostolou	Apostolou Associates Inc
3 rd	John Bliss	R.I. Lampus Company
2 nd	Joseph Beerens	U. of Pitt. Facilities Mgt. Division
1 st	Benedict Brands	Cleanetics
1 st	Valerie McKee	Laface & McGovern
1 st	Kevin Spence	Marvin Windows and Doors



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HAPPENINGS

April 2014

GBA'S INSPIRE SPEAKERS SERIES

Dr. John Francis: *Planetwalker: Spreading a Message of Sustainability Through Silence and Action*

Thursday, April 10 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

Ticket Prices: \$15 - \$45

[Learn more and register here](#)

Colonel Mark Mykleby: *Sustainability: An American Grand Strategy for the 21st Century Featuring Local Guest: Mayor Bill Peduto*

Thursday, May 15 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

Ticket Prices: \$15 - \$45

[Learn more and register here](#)

MBA "Meet the Master Builders"

Thursday, April 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Hill House Kaufmann Center, located at 1835 Centre Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219.

Attendees will meet some of the region's general and prime contractors and learn about the benefits of the MBA and other resourceful organizations. For a listing of the contractors and organizations that will be present with a vendor table at this event [click here](#). This FREE event is ideal for emerging and small businesses that work in the construction industry, especially minority, women and veteran-owned companies. To register [click here](#).



AIA PITTSBURGH'S 13TH ANNUAL CONTINUING EDUCATION CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITOR SHOW MAY 8TH 2014

DAVID L. LAWRENCE CONVENTION CENTER 1000 Ft. Duquesne Boulevard, 3rd Floor
West Atrium, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

<http://aiapgh.org/aia-programs-events/build-pittsburgh/build-pittsburgh-2014/>

HAPPENINGS

April 2014

EMERGING INNOVATION for the Electrical Industry



EXPOSITION & CONFERENCE

MAY 14, 2014 • 8AM-8PM • MONROEVILLE CONVENTION CENTER

Keynote Address by Dennis Yablonsky, CEO of The Allegheny Conference

For more information:

<http://www.electricleague.com/>

Durability + Design is holding **D+D 2014**, the first annual conference and exhibition designed to integrate the emerging technical community of specifiers, architects, contractors, and facility owners united by their interest in achieving building performance and aesthetics.

This event will bring groups from all ends of the industry together to learn and share new ideas in a common conversation about "Advances in Protective and Aesthetic Technologies for Buildings". D+D 2014 will be held in Cincinnati at the historic Hilton Netherland Plaza Hotel on May 20-22.

A promotional graphic for Construct 2014 Baltimore. The background is a light gray grid. On the left, the text 'CONSTRUCT 2014' is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'CONSTRUCT' in black and '2014' in red. Below this, a blue arrow points down to the text 'BUILT WITH YOUR FUTURE IN MIND' in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font. On the right, there is a dark blue rectangular box with a white border. Inside the box, the word 'BALTIMORE' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif letters. Below 'BALTIMORE', in smaller white text, it says 'EDUCATION: SEPTEMBER 9-12 | EXHIBITS: SEPTEMBER 10-11' and 'BALTIMORE CONVENTION CENTER | MARYLAND'. At the bottom right of the graphic, the text 'Stay Connected:' is followed by five social media icons: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, and a share icon.

SHOW DATES

Education: September 9-12, 2014

Exhibits: September 10-11, 2014

MARCH 2013 MEETING
Cefalo's, Carnegie

April 2014



Jeff Burd, owner and president of Tall Timber Group, presented “Forecast 2014: Gaining Confidence,” the outlook for construction in 2014.

LOOKING AHEAD

April 2014

May 13, 2014 Program



Tour of R.I. Lampus Company Aliquippa Plant

The tour of the Aliquippa plant and showroom will include a brief overview of some of Lampus products and masonry design considerations along with an opportunity for you to ask questions of the Lampus representatives on hand. They are individuals with years of experience in all aspects of block manufacture, construction, and sales. You will have the opportunity to witness first-hand the batching, mixing, and machine production of concrete blocks during an actual production run.

R I Lampus Company is celebrating 90 years of concrete product and building materials production and distribution. Founded in 1924 by R I Lampus, the company was led through the 80's and 90's by Don Lampus Sr., and now Don Lampus Jr.

With home offices and the original concrete block plant still in Springdale PA, Lampus also produces blocks and has a brick showroom in Aliquippa, PA at the former Parkway Block.

Lampus also manufactures hardscape products in Wampum, PA and has just completed a new production facility for wet-cast products in Wampum. Lampus has created, introduced, and distributed many innovative products over the years and is the area manufacturer of Versa-Lok retaining wall units, Omni-Stone Pavers, Rosetta Precast modular wall systems, and currently represents most of the major clay brick lines in the greater Pittsburgh market.

This spring Lampus will open their first hardscape direct factory outlet in Erie, PA where they will offer hardscape and other products in a unique factory direct setting.

Further details about the program such as time, meeting place, dinner arrangements afterwards, etc. will be forthcoming.

Editor's Note: Recently, a 14-year-old from Pittsburgh suggested that the US government could save hundreds of thousands of dollars by switching to Garamond font. It's a lighter face type that would presumably use less ink in printing.

This issue of Specigram is using Garamond to illustrate how that font looks.

There is one "small" point that this young man may not have considered, and that is that Garamond when compared to other fonts of the same size is smaller. And so to read it, you have to use a larger font size anyway. In other words, not all 12-point type is the same size.

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April 2014

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