



SPECIGRAM

Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter, Construction Specifications Institute

April, 2013

APRIL 9 PROGRAM – “ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A SPECIFIER?”

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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.

CSI PITTSBURGH

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A SPECIFIER?

Apr. 9, 2013

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. 5th!
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MAZell@NationalGypsum.com or (412) 951-8715

A SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE PROFESSOR

Six AECM students from Carnegie Mellon University will be participating in this month’s program, “Are You Smarter Than A Specifier?” which is hosted by our own Bob Schrockworthy.

We need EVERYONE to join us to network with these bright young students and teach them what CSI is all about!



President's Message

April 2013

Miki Vargo, Chapter President



Happy spring, CSI Pittsburgh! Spring invokes a feeling of rebirth and change, a sense of excitement for new opportunities. Maybe this will be the year the Pirates actually have a winning season. The Pens look like they are on the road to another Stanley Cup chase. Maybe next year we will remember the name, "Wichita State" when we fill out our NCAA Brackets. (Sorry, I'm still a little bitter about losing to my husband... there is such a thing as pride...) And within CSI, we are reminded that our ability to embrace and explore advancements in our industry and then educate the project team is just one reason why CSI membership is so beneficial.

At the Institute level, a new logo and tagline have been developed. I'm sure you have all seen this in your Construction Specifier and in any emails from the Institute. The Institute is encouraging all of us to begin to use this new logo and tagline immediately. CSI members may add the Member Logo to their business cards and email signatures. Download the logo at www.csinet.org/memberlogo (login required). It is important to remember, however, that the logo and tagline have no meaning without the CSI experience **YOU**, the members, provide. We are what make CSI successful. The best thing you can do for CSI is to be a knowledgeable expert in your field, share your knowledge with others and tell people what CSI is to you.

Last month, I and leaders from the chapter attended the Leadership Orientation Seminar (LOS) in Frederick, MD. Our chapter was the only chapter from our region to have 6 representatives present. I would like to thank Bill Vernon (1st VP), Rich Strayer (2nd VP), Ronna Prindible (past president and Region VP), Gail Nagie (Treasurer and Region Secretary), and David Miller (past president, Publicity Chair and Region Communications Chair) for attending the seminar. We learned quite a bit about what is going on at the Institute level, Region level and tips for becoming better leaders.

Registration for the 2013 Mid-Atlantic Region Conference is currently open. This year's conference will be held in Gettysburg, PA and is titled, "Your Gettysburg Address." The conference will be held May 2-5, 2013 and a special hotel rate at the Wyndham Gettysburg is available until **April 5, 2013**. More information is available, as well as, registration links at www.csimarc13.org. I strongly encourage you all to attend. For those of you who are unaware, this is the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. The Central Pennsylvania Chapter, host of the conference, has done an amazing job of scheduling tours, programs, lectures, etc. I hope to see you all there.

This month we will be holding our Chapter elections. Any member who is interested in becoming more involved or helping with a committee please let me know. Our program this month is titled, "Are You Smarter than a Spec Writer?" Yes, this is a play on the popular TV show, "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?" We are excited to announce that several students from CMU's Architecture, Engineering, Construction Management Graduate Program will be participating in this program. We will be pairing a student with a product rep from our audience to participate as a team as we test their construction knowledge. Please plan on attending what is sure to be a fun evening and help show these future professionals the benefit of being in CSI.

I'd like to take a moment and thank all of our Committee Chairs, Board Members and volunteers for working so hard to make this year a success so far. I look forward to things to come and to seeing all of you at a CSI meeting.



Member Profile: Mark Zell

April 2013

Mark Zell



Tell us about your job:

Based out of Pittsburgh, I have been the regional Sales Representative for the National Gypsum Company since January 2005. I focus most of my energy on gypsum dealers and contractors in both the commercial and residential markets.

What part of your job do you enjoy the most?

I am fortunate to have a career that makes me feel good every day. Being instrumental in the construction of magnificent structures like Consol Energy Arena, the Rivers Casino, Children's Hospital and UPMC East overwhelms me with pride every time I travel throughout our beautiful city.

What year did you join CSI?

2006

What is your role in CSI Pittsburgh?

I joined the Hospitality committee in 2006 and have been the Chairman since 2007.

What CSI certifications have you earned?

This is a work in progress!

Why did you join CSI?

For me, getting face time with area professionals outside the office is priceless and CSI offers this opportunity at a very reasonable expense.

Did you have a CSI recruiter/mentor?

That would be Marty Thornton, currently with WTW.

What do you see as the value of CSI membership?

Our Pittsburgh Chapter has worked hard to create an atmosphere of kindness and respect, which is quite an achievement, considering today's unattached corporate mentality. We provide resources to one another that would otherwise be extremely difficult to duplicate. These resources include current market opportunities, networking or simply a fresh opinion.

What one thing would you change about our Chapter if you could?

Eliminate desert from the dinner programs; however, that would be a perilous decision!

Tell us a memorable CSI experience:

I must say there have been several, but having 100 people touring the Consol Energy Arena followed by an incredible dinner at the Carlton was a fabulous evening!

What would you want somebody considering CSI membership to know?

If you are serious about taking your game to the next level, you need to not only join, but participate in the CSI Pittsburgh Chapter.



Region Events

April 2013

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN
for the
Middle Atlantic Region
Conference!

To register visit:

[www.csimarc13.org/index.
php](http://www.csimarc13.org/index.php)

“Your Gettysburg
Address”

Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel
95 Presidential Circle
Gettysburg, PA 17325
717-339-0020

-Gettysburg National Military
Park Museum and Visitor
Center and 2 Hr Battlefield
Tour

-Keynote Speaker: Architect
for the Renovation of the
Visitor's Center, LEED Gold
certified

-Tour of Historic Gettysburg

-Education Seminars

-Plant Tour

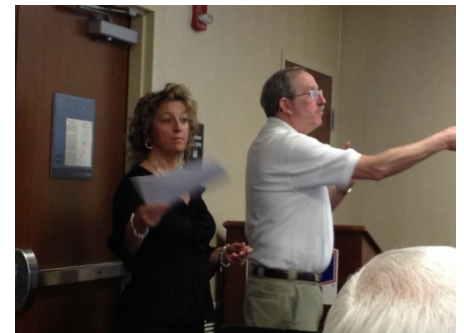
-Region Awards Banquet

2013 Leadership Orientation Seminar was held March 8 and 9 the Hampton Inn in Frederick, MD



David Miller presents
“Newsletter/Website- CSI Microsite”

Ronna Prindible and Ray
Gaines(Central Virginia chapter)
present “CSI Jeopardy”



Marvin Kemp (Baltimore Chapter)
and Ray Gaines present “Awards”.



SketchSpec 2013

April 2013

This competition is open to all members of the CSI Pittsburgh Chapter.

Test your specifications writing skills by entering!

If you know the four C's of specifications writing, you can win this competition.

As the great, great, great (x 144) grandson of Khufu, known as Cheops by those crazy Greeks, I would like to reface his Giza pyramid substantially completed approximately 4,572 years ago. As the tallest structure in the world for over 3,800 years, the aesthetics took a turn for the worse in 1,300 AD when an earthquake loosened many outer casing stones that were eventually stolen for other buildings.

I received word that your CSI Pittsburgh Chapter is holding a specification writing competition, SketchSpec, where anyone can write a short form specification. Since I have yet to establish a construction budget, my offer is for you to prepare a specification for refacing the pyramid with the material of your choice. Your material need not relate to pyramid Khafre (constructed by Khufu's son) and its sphinx, whose face may have been used for target practice, or the smallest pyramid Menkaure (constructed by Khufu's grandson). Interpret hieroglyphic message below for another reason of pursuing the refacing.

Due to the rather large size of Khufu's pyramid, which has a base of 756 feet and its current height of 455 feet, I plan to reface only one side using your proposed material as a mockup, which will let me confirm if it properly interfaces with the 51.85 degree angle of the pyramid, as well as restoring the pyramid to its original height of 481 feet. Your material need not match that selected by Hemon, or Hemiunu, the one believed to be the royal pyramid architect.

Planning for computer simulations of proposed materials sometime during the summer of 2013, please forward your SketchSpec submission to my friend Marty Thornton by May 3, 2013, which will permit time for judging prior to the computer simulations. Attached is a registration form that should accompany your specification submission. Since I will not be accessible prior to the deadline, please contact Marty if you have any questions. I look forward to your creativity.

Mohammed M. Mohammed Khufu

	Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I	O	P	
	A	S	D	F	G	H	J	K	L	Return	
Greetings	Plural	Z	X	C	V	B	N	M			

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	100	1,000	10,000	100,000	One Million	year	Month	Day	Night	Return	
I / Me	You	Male	Female	Father	Mother	Kiss	Love	Happy			

2013
"SKETCHSPEC"
Specification Competition
Entry Form

Sponsored by the Pittsburgh Chapter CSI

Title: Refacing of the Great Pyramid

Deadline for Submissions: May 3, 2013

SECTION A

Name(s) of Entrant(s): _____

Address of Entrant(s): _____

Firm Name of Entrant(s)
and Address: _____

Position/Title: _____

Entrant's Email: _____

Entrant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

SECTION B

Submit to Awards Chair: Martin E. Thornton II, CCS, CSI
WTW Architects
Timber Court
127 Anderson Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
412-315-3471
Email: mthornton@wtwarch.com

Prefer format and method of submission: PDF via email; please follow-up with a call.