



## February Meeting

### Fourth Annual CSI Pittsburgh Speed Dating

Come join us Tuesday, February 10 for our fourth annual CSI Speed Dating event. Architects, spec writers and designers, come and meet some of the area's most prominent product representatives and learn about the products and services they offer. Product reps, bring your latest product literature and your business cards to set up at your table, and meet many architects and spec writers out there who would like to learn more about your product.

CSI Speed Dating works like this: Each "couple" has 4 minutes to meet and talk about their current project and products to see if they are compatible, and when the buzzer sounds, the architect/spec writers move to the next table.

Product Reps: During each date, we ask that you have a question ready for the architect/spec writer regarding your product. The architect/spec writer will have a punch card with them, which will be punched by you if the answer is correct. Completed punch cards will be put into a hat to be drawn for doors prizes.

Architects and Specifiers: At the end of the night 5 door prizes will be given away, including tickets to a Penguins hockey game.

*Hor d'oeuvres will be served during the Speed Dating event.*

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*Architects and Specifiers: In order to participate you must fill out the form sent by email blast and return by email to Lynn Fulton,  
fultonlm@cdmsmith.com*

**Cefalo's Restaurant, Carnegie.**

4:45 Registration  
5:30 Speed Dating Begins  
7:00 Dinner  
8:00 Board Meeting

**Cost \$35**

**Reservations:**  
**MAZell@NationalGypsum.com**  
**(412) 951-8715**

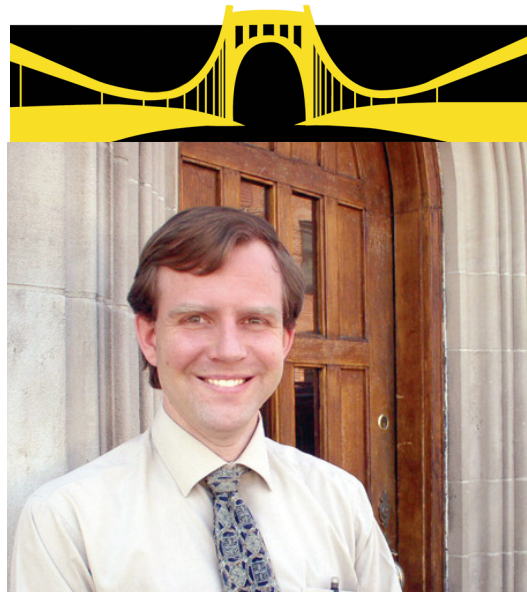
# President's Message

February 2015

by Bill Vernon

## Happy Valentine's Day!

As we move into the month of February I am sure the institute has no love of the internet because of unforeseen technical problems with the installation of CSI's new database system. However we are hopeful that as you read this the institute is getting back to normal. The troubles with the web site have interfered with a lot of things like membership renewal and certification exam registrations. Since October the institute has not been able to track financial data including who has renewed or signed up for what. However we can rest assured that no one has lost their membership during the trouble and with the fix the membership rolls should soon be updated.



If your membership was due for renewal between October and the end of January you will want to make sure your membership is current as the regional and institute elections will open February 6 through March 6, 2015. This is your organization don't forget to choose your leaders at the regional and national level.

If you are planning to sit for a certification exam CSI has delayed opening registration for the spring 2015 CDT, CCS, CCCA, and CCPR exams CSI will hold the exams this spring, as planned, starting March 30, 2015.

- CSI will set and publicize new early and final registration deadlines as soon as registration for the exams is open. CSI may also choose to extend the length of the exam window based on the opening of the registration date.
- CSI will email prospective candidates and CSI leaders as soon as these dates are set. You may also watch CSI Weekly, CSI's Certificate/Certification page on Facebook, and CSI's Twitter handle for updates.

On a lighter note, January and February are a good months for hunkering down and being warm, being a home body, reading the Specifier, studying for certification exams or playing board games with the family. Even though we are dealing with the cold heart of winter this time of year brings the seeds of spring, the first garden catalogs arrive in the mail the registration for kids spring sports. But if thoughts of gardening are not enough to warm you join us for Speed Dating at Cefalo's for warmth of friends and fellowship.

*"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."*  
-Benjamin Franklin

# Highlights from the Board

February 2015

**JANUARY 13, 2014** CEFALO'S RESTAURANT, CARNEGIE, PA

## **TREASURER:**

Christmas party profit contribution of \$325 to be contributed to the Pittsburgh Food Bank.

## **PROGRAMS:**

April program Mike Moyta "Smarter than a CSI Member" for student participation. Invitation of interested schools only to be considered.

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

CSI membership registration web site continues to have problems. Unavailable for on-line registration. Information is unavailable/unreliable. Any expiring memberships are being extended by CSI until the problem is resolved.

## **CERTIFICATION:**

Sold one (1) educational certification course.

## **AWARDS:**

Pittsburgh Chapter submissions (11) were 50% of total regional chapter submissions.

## **LONG RANGE PLANNING:**

Original program moderator has been contacted to provide a copy of the completed document. Issues with file size in emails. Document to be uploaded to CSI Google Docs website. Once available others should review. Directions to be provided on Google Docs access. New survey form to be distributed to members for Plan update future activities.

## **GOLF OUTING:**

Date to be determined for the Spring Golf Outing. Location agreed to be Strawberry Ridge Golf Course in Harmony, PA. Dates and costs TBA.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

CSI participated in Electric League Show in 2014 at the Expo Mart. It was deemed a good experience at no cost. Booth may be available again in 2015. Possible opportunity to meet other architects and solicit new members. Gail Negie volunteered to help cover booth during part of day. Details for 2015 TBD.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Awards often require CSI member biographies as part of submission. This is the hardest part of Award registration/submission. Thornton has a standard biography format that will be provided to Pittsburgh Chapter Members for completion and uploading to the Google Docs website.

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# Member Profile: Gregg Scharrer

February 2015

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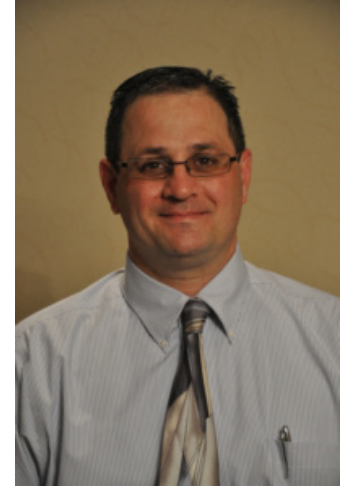
## What is your company and what is your position?

My company is USG, which is North America's leading producer and distributor of gypsum wallboard and joint compound materials. We are also a global leader of ceiling suspension systems with premier acoustical panel and specialty ceiling systems. My position is Architectural Services Representative, covering Western PA and Northeast OH.



## Tell us about your job.

I call upon Specification Writers, Architects and Interior Designers in support of USG Ceiling & Specialty Ceiling Systems and Gypsum Wallboard Assemblies (Fire Rated Assemblies, Abuse Systems, etc.). My job is supporting anything and everything USG for use in Floors / Walls / Ceilings as well as interior and exterior installations.



## What part of your job do you most enjoy?

Easy question, interacting with the Design Community and visiting the many offices. While there are similarities, no two offices are alike.

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

Traveling, for sure.

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

The Pittsburgh CSI event – Do you know more than a Spec Writer? Reps. were called from the audience to team with visiting CMU students. Murphy's Law, I'm called first and promptly go 0 for 3 answering questions in support of my CMU student teammate. Borrowing a baseball phrase, I believe the CMU student traded me afterwards for a Player (Rep.) To Be Named Later.

## What year did you join CSI?

I had to look this one up. April 2001. I'm a member of two chapters: Pittsburgh & Akron/Canton, OH.

## Why did you join CSI?

My initial reason (that's still true) was the relationship building opportunity and to learn about other industries. CSI is a great way to interact with the design community outside of the office setting.

## What people influenced you most?

My father and my first manager with USG out of college. Life lessons that are as important today as ever: Integrity & Work Ethic.

# Member Profile (cont'd)

February 2015

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## **What do you see as the value of CSI membership?**

Besides the interaction with the design community, it is the relationship building with fellow product & manufacturing representatives. You grow in your position as you learn from fellow reps. about other industries that you normally would not encounter. It's taken me years but I've come to the realization there's more to a project than ceiling systems and drywall.

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

I view CSI from a manufacturer's lens and is absolutely worth your time investment.

## **Tell us about your family.**

Married for 22 years with three children. HS senior & sophomore girls and son that's a sophomore in college. Life goes by fast.

## **What's your favorite city?**

Toronto. What a great city to visit!

## **What's your passion?**

Passion revolves around my family. Whatever the kids are doing, that's my passion.

## **What's a true sign of success?**

Obviously everyone has a different answer. I'll answer from a Reps. perspective, being the person that receives the phone call or email with project technical questions, concerns or product opportunity. You strive to become a technical resource and go to person.

## **Best advice anyone ever gave you.**

Always answer someone in terms of what's in their best interest. Follow the Golden Rule. One should treat others as one would like others to treat oneself.

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

I'm an avid College & HS Wrestling fan. Great sport! Win or lose, it's all up to the person that steps on the mat. Please no one come up to me at the next meeting with a Hulk Hogan take! NCAA Basketball and Wrestling championships are in March. By far, March Madness is my favorite event of the year. Unfortunately, I never win the betting pole. As everyone is picking their Final Four and dark horses, I'm submitting the 165 lb. & 174 lb. brackets.





# Region Report / Member News

February 2015

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It's February and in CSI that means elections. You should have received your Ballot from the Institute via E-mail February 2nd. You have until March 2nd to complete and return it.

This year the Middle Atlantic Region is also included in the election as we elect an Institute Director, Region President, 2 Vice Presidents and a Secretary. Every vote is very important so please take a few minutes to complete your ballot and return it.

The Middle Atlantic Region Conference will be April 30 - May 3 in Philadelphia. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

21st	Michael Moyta	Design 3 Architecture, P.C.
14th	Richard Kosuda Jr.	Tremco
8th	Harry Walsh	ASSA ABLOY DSS
6th	Gregg Scharrer	United States Gypsum Company
5th	Richard Kernick	R.O. Kernick, Architect
4th	Brian Joyce	PPG Industries
3rd	Joshua Telenko	Baer + Associates, LLC
2nd	Greg Koledin	Wesex Corporation
1st	Brad Bartley	AGC Glass Company North America
1st	Walter Postufka	GAF

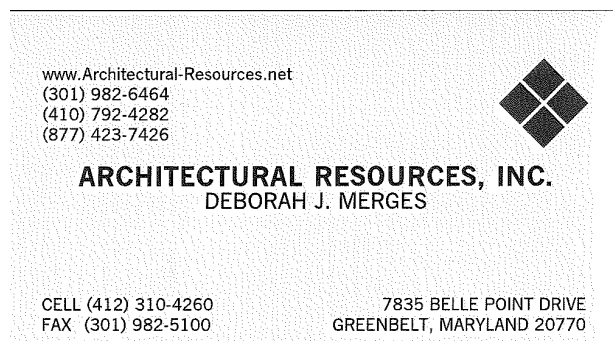
## NEW MEMBERS

Not Available

## PINS

At the January meeting  
the following chevrons were presented:

-Bob Bailey	30 years
-Lynn Fulton	5 years
-Kate Schuster	5 years



# March Meeting

February 2015

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## *Evolving Specifications – What's the Future?*

**David Stutzman, AIA, CSI, CCS, SCIP, LEED AP**

*Principal of Conspectus, Inc.*

*President SCIP (independent specifiers)*

*Immediate Past-President Philadelphia Chapter CSI*

*Thought Leader CSI's Specifying Practice Group*



Just as drawings evolved from linen to electronic models as BIM so must specifications evolve. The traditional MasterFormat specifications served an industry organized by design discipline and construction trade. Today, these distinctions blur as design and construction teams become more collaborative. BIM supports collaboration, while traditional specifications encourage segregation.

Traditional specifications hinder design and construction teams from tapping the power of electronic data describing each construction project. **Instead, consider new forms for specifications to meet the ever changing project delivery systems springing from today's electronic capabilities.**

Data until it is organized has little meaning. Organizing BIM, specification, and estimate data by the same means will provide improved understanding of each project element and, therefore, the entire project. Replacing MasterFormat specifications with UniFormat project descriptions (or dynamically switching between the two formats) allows models, specifications and estimates to be aligned, all under the same organizational system. The direct connection provides an effective means for simultaneous analysis of costs relative to function, performance, and materials.

***The future is never certain. So come ready to share your opinion, too.***

### ***Sponsored by The Blue Book***

At Cefelo's, Carnegie, PA

5:00 Board Meeting   5:30 Social   6:15 Dinner   7:00 Program

Cost \$35   Reservations: [MAZell@NationalGypsum.com](mailto:MAZell@NationalGypsum.com) (412) 951-8715

# Last Month's Meeting

February 2015

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Tour of Mt. Lebanon High School Renovations and Expansion project,  
hosted by Dr. Ron Davis and Mr. Rich Marciniak of Mt. Lebanon School District,  
and Kathy Stoughton and Fred Watts of Celli Flynn Brennan Architects





# CSI Academies and Certification Exams

February 2015

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## The CSI Academies

April 16-18, 2015  
San Francisco, CA  
[www.csinet.org/academies](http://www.csinet.org/academies)

Early registration (By Feb. 27): member \$510/non-member \$610  
Final registration (By April 9): member \$645/non-member \$745

The CSI Academies teach construction industry skills that can improve your performance.

Product Representatives Academy (PRA)  
For session topics, or for more information on the PRA, visit [www.csinet.org/prs](http://www.csinet.org/prs).

Contract Administrator Academy (CAA)  
For session topics, or for more information on the CAA, visit [www.csinet.org/caa](http://www.csinet.org/caa).

Construction Specifier Academy (CSA)  
For session topics, or for more information on the CSA, visit [www.csinet.org/csa](http://www.csinet.org/csa).

## Registration for the spring 2015 CSI Certificate/Certification Exams is now open.

The new registration deadline and extended exam window are:  
Registration deadline: March 13, 2015  
Exam window: March 30, 2015 - May 9, 2015

By opening registration now and extending the exam window, CSI is allowing candidates the 8-12 weeks of study CSI's Strategic and Maintenance Certification Committees recommend. To keep registration easy during this truncated registration window, CSI will have only one registration deadline, and candidates will pay only the early registration exam fee. There will be no "final registration deadline" or associated higher price.

To register, candidates should visit [www.csinet.org/certification](http://www.csinet.org/certification). They'll be directed into CSI's new web portal ([portal.csinet.org](http://portal.csinet.org)), where they will first log in, and then select an exam under "Apply for New Certifications" on the right. Candidates who do not already have a profile with CSI will need to create one before they register.

Candidates who register online are processed faster than candidates who fax or mail in applications, which can affect their options when scheduling their exam at a testing center. I strongly encourage your candidates to register online.

We encourage candidates to focus their preparation using the appropriate Candidate Handbook and CSI Practice Guide at this time. Certificate/Certification support materials, including study workbooks updated for this exam cycle, will be released through CSI's online store shortly. CSI will announce the release of these materials in CSI Weekly, in CSI's social media channels, and by email.

# Chapter Leadership

February 2015

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