



# SPECIGRAM

Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter, Construction Specifications Institute

June, 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*

## June 10 Program Membership Appreciation & Awards Banquet



**CEFALO'S RESTAURANT AND NIGHTCLUB  
428 WASHINGTON AVENUE  
CARNEGIE, PA 15106**

**Cocktails 5:00 p.m.  
Dinner 6:00 p.m.  
Program 7:00 p.m.**

**Cost \$35/person.**

Reservations by **Friday June 6** to [MAZell@NationalGypsum.com](mailto:MAZell@NationalGypsum.com)

# Editor's Message

June 2014

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To paraphrase Cuba Gooding Jr., sometimes life trumps other activities. Normally this column is for the president's message, but for Chapter president Miki Vargo, life has trumped being able to write what would have been her final president's message as her term comes to an end.

A few years ago, I spoke to Miki about the possibility of her becoming Chapter president. She was tentative, unsure. I was not. I saw a commitment there and a sense of conscientiousness that it takes to run this Chapter and keep things moving forward. Miki eventually agreed to "get in line," and now here we are at the end of her term.

Miki's style might not be everyone's cup of tea, but the one thing you can't argue with is that she has brought substance to her presidency, and this is a position where substance trumps style. Miki has risen to the occasion as I was confident she would and has been a firm hand on the Chapter tiller.

Under Miki's leadership the Chapter has continued to garner CSI's coveted Outstanding Chapter Commendation and I am confident that we will receive the Commendation this year in Baltimore. Also under Miki's term, the Chapter was selected to host the 2017 Middle Atlantic Region Conference and planning is underway. If you've been paying attention the past two years, you've noticed the Chapter's interaction with local universities and their students has increased dramatically as well.

There are lots of good things happening in our Chapter right now. Unfortunately for Miki, family concerns have arisen that are stressful, demanding and emotionally draining. It's a time when she needs our support and thoughts and prayers. Miki has done a great job for our Chapter the past couple of years; let's be there for her during this difficult time.

*-Bob Bailey*

## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

14 <sup>th</sup>	William Fiedler Jr.	Hatch Mott MacDonald
13 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Szwedko	Bennet Supply Company
6 <sup>th</sup>	Danielle Hunsicker	Ardex Engineered Cements
5 <sup>th</sup>	Kate Schuster	V.O. George Group, Inc.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Allison Birkmeyer	Ardex Engineered Cements
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ron Morris	Overhead Door Co. of Greater Pgh
1 <sup>st</sup>	Damian Carnegie	AVT Inc.
1 <sup>st</sup>	Scott Short	Epic Metals Corporation

## NEW MEMBER

Pamela Neely, InPro Corp.

## Member Profile: **Bill Vernon**

June 2014

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**Company and Position:** Renaissance 3 Architects, P.C.

My title is “Senior Project Manager.”

**Tell us about your job:** My position is manager of the office specifications, Sustainable team leader.

**What part of your job do you most enjoy?** Detailing & research.

**If you weren't in your current job, what would you be doing?** Building something.



**What is the funniest/oddest thing that has happened in your professional career?** I had project where an adult diaper caught fire during some welding.

**Most important attribute a spec writer needs:** Patience (and time) to be thorough.

**What year did you join CSI?** 2006

**Why did you join CSI?** I believed in the mission of education for clear, concise complete & correct information.

**What people influenced you most?** Bob Bailey & Denny Buirge.

**What do you see as the value of CSI membership?** Knowledge & sense of community.

**Person you learned the most from:** Mark Weber. *(Ed. note: Mark was a partner in R3A who passed away in 2011.)*

**Tell us about your family:** My wife and I were married in 1999 we have two beautiful children; a girl age 5 & boy age 8.

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

**What's your passion?** Detailing & building working with my hands

**Best advice anyone ever gave you:** Play to your strengths -- you can hire someone for your weaknesses.

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARD

June 2014

## MAY 13, 2014 AT CEFALO'S IN CARNEGIE, PA

**Membership** –135 total members.

**Tech/Ed** – Planning for July 10 seminar on Legal Implications of LEED, to be presented by attorney Mike Cremonese, 8:30 a.m. start, 90 minutes in length.

**Certification** – FedEx Ground is looking for a personal class for CDT training. Mike Bosco will chair. Miki will try to find information from another chapter. Institute exam will probably occur in the fall.

**Awards** – Submission for 2013 Outstanding Chapter Commendation has been made. Preparing OCC for 2014. No SketchSpec this year.

**MARC 2017** – Individuals have begun volunteering for planning efforts.

**Old Business** – LOS will be held in Altoona on Aug. 16; CONSTRUCT 2014 will be in Baltimore Sept. 12. Tall ship cruise \$50.

**New Business** – Will consider PayPal policies in Chapter Policy Manual.

## 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.

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# HAPPENINGS

JUNE 2014



**CONSTRUCT** CSI **2014**

**BUILT WITH  
YOUR FUTURE  
IN MIND**

**BALTIMORE**  
EDUCATION: SEPTEMBER 9-12 | EXHIBITS: SEPTEMBER 10-11  
BALTIMORE CONVENTION CENTER | MARYLAND

Stay Connected:     

## SHOW DATES

Education: September 9-12, 2014  
Exhibits: September 10-11, 2014

## LOCATION

Baltimore Convention Center.

## ON-SITE REGISTRATION HOURS

Tuesday, September 9, 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Wednesday, September 10, 6:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
Thursday, September 11, 6:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
Friday, September 12, 7:00 AM – 11:00 AM

## CONFERENCE

Tuesday, September 9, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Wednesday, September 10, 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM  
Thursday, September 11, 7:30 AM – 5:30 PM  
Friday, September 12, 7:30 AM – 10:30 AM

## GENERAL SESSION/KEYNOTE

Wednesday, September 10, 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

## EXHIBIT HALL

Wednesday, September 10, 10:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
Thursday, September 11, 10:30 AM – 4:30 PM



# CSI PITTSBURGH SEMINAR

June 2014

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## Legal Aspects of Sustainable Design

*Presented by Michael J. Cremonese; Burke Cromer Cremonese LLC*

Mr. Cremonese focuses his practices on construction law, professional liability and business law. His clients have included architects, engineers and design-builders throughout all phases of the design and building. His experience includes mediation, arbitration and litigation at both the trial and appellate levels. Mr. Cremonese currently serves on the Construction Section Council of the Allegheny County Bar Association and is an active member of the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

- What are the ramifications of LEED V.4?
- What are the responsibilities of the design professional, the contractor, the manufacturer, and the owner/developer if a project is intended to achieve a benchmark level of a sustainable design rating system?
- What is the design professional's risk/liability in terms of whether this criteria is achieved or not? -To what extent are sustainable design goals such as LEED legally enforceable?
- What is the contractor's responsibility in terms of product/material/system procurement and providing required documentation of that product or system?
- What is the manufacturer's responsibility in terms of published product literature and providing appropriate documentation?
- What are the ramifications of EPDs and HPDs (health product declarations) in particular? Not just for design professionals but also for contractors and manufacturers?
- Where does the design professional draw the line on "green" product research?
- What are the obligations of the specifications towards sustainable design?

**When: Thursday, July 17, 2014**

Time: Continental Breakfast at 8:00 AM  
Presentation at 8:30 AM

**Location: Master Builders Association of Western PA**

631 Iron City Drive, Green Tree, PA  
Credit: This presentation earns 1.5 AIA CEU's

**Advanced registration and payment required by Monday, July 14, 2014**

Send to Phil Dorenkott (412-600-5306)  
4161 Timberlane drive, Allison Park, PA 15101

**MBA, GBA, AIA & CSI Members: \$20**

**Non-members: \$25**

Checks payable: CSI Pittsburgh

# INDUSTRY NEWS

June 2014

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## [The Skinny on the Skinny Building](#)

The Skinny Building, at the corner of Forbes and Wood in downtown Pittsburgh, 5 feet 2 inches wide and 80 feet long, is thought by some to be the world's thinnest building. Built in the early 1900s, it has been a lunch counter, a produce stand, a cookie shop, a jewelry store, and a hair salon. These days the street-level open-air retail space is used by a vendor selling T-shirts, hats and other items.

The Skinny Building is slated to be rehabbed. The three-story exterior, with tile roof, tin detailing and wooden columns, will be restored along with missing or damaged architectural details. The open-air retail space will stay.

The empty second and third floors of the building, too narrow to be inhabited, may be used as display areas or become part of the adjacent Roberts Building, whose vacant upper floors could be turned into offices or apartments.

## [Union Trust Building being Refurbished](#)

The new owner, The Davis Companies has plans to bring back the grandeur of the iconic Grant Street building built nearly a century ago by industrialist Henry Clay Frick, while adding 21st century upgrades.

While the Boston-based real estate investment and development firm toyed with the idea of converting the building to residential or hotel space, it ultimately decided to keep the structure as an office complex, with a healthy dose of retail. The developer noted that the geometry of the building does not lay out well for multifamily or a hotel.

The Davis Companies, which bought the ornate 11-story building for \$14 million at a sheriff sale in March, plans to spend "north of \$25 million" to renovate the office space, 60 percent of which is vacant, and to make sure all other aspects of the property are in prime condition.

The plan is to bring the building up to class A standards.

Elkus Manfredi, a Boston architectural firm, is leading the restoration, assisted by Perfido Weiskopf Wagstaff + Goettel Architects, Downtown.

The Davis Companies has hopes of restoring the building's retail space, which, like the offices, is mostly vacant. A Flemish Gothic structure designed by architect Frederick J. Osterling, the Union Trust Building opened as a four-story shopping arcade with 240 shops on lower levels and 700 offices above. Its defining feature is a central rotunda with a stained-glass dome.

The Davis Companies has no plans to alter the historic characteristics in order to modernize parts of the building.

## [Ugly Building Demolished, Former Morgue Now More Visible](#)

The former Allegheny County Morgue was designed in 1903 by architect Frederick Osterling in the Richardson Romanesque style. Originally sited on Forbes Avenue, the building was moved lock stock and barrel 235 feet to Fourth Avenue. Amazingly, work continued within the morgue *while it was being moved*, a process that took about three months.

Not long after (c. 1932), a large building was built at 552 Fourth Avenue, on the east side of the former morgue, obscuring the view of the morgue from the area that is now Crosstown Boulevard. This building became a parking garage, and was purchased by Allegheny County in 1989. The building was closed in February 2012 because of its deteriorated condition. Demolition began earlier this year and is mostly complete.

One of the added benefits of this unattractive building being gone is that we now have a good view of Osterling's building after 80+ years of being hidden behind the parking garage.

The county reportedly has no plans for the garage site at this point.

# INDUSTRY NEWS

June 2014

## Fire Damages Famed Glasgow School of Art

The Glasgow School of Art in Glasgow, Scotland, was designed by Scottish architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

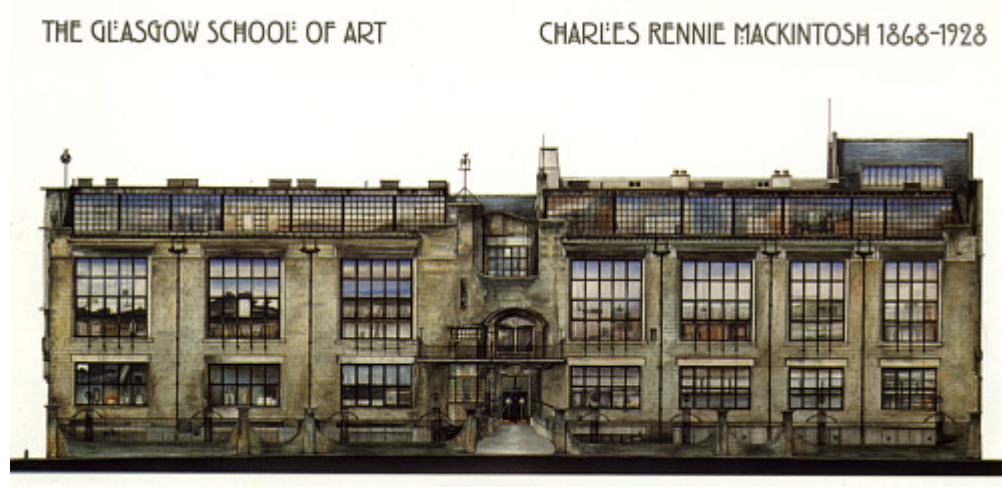
The building was recently severely damaged by fire. The blaze completely destroyed the school's iconic library, but fire crews managed to preserve most of the building and its contents.

They include the archives, museum and and lecture theatre.

The main damage was to the west wing of the building, built between 1907-09.

The 1897-99 part of the site, including the Mackintosh Museum and Mackintosh Room has survived intact.

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service said more than 90% of the structure was viable and they had protected up to 70% of the contents.



The destroyed library was recognised as being one of the finest examples of art nouveau in the world.

The Mackintosh building, completed in 1909, is "unique" in that it is a working art school as well as a work of art.

It has an A list rating, meaning it has been classified by Historic Scotland for its age and rarity.

From the facade to the fixtures and fittings every detail shows the craft of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, lauded as Scotland's most influential architect and designer.

The art school building is considered by many to be his greatest masterpiece.

He was a 28-year-old junior draughtsman at a Glasgow architecture firm when he drew up the designs for the building, which features distinctive heavy sandstone walls and large windows.

The dramatic art nouveau design took about 12 years to be completed, opening in 1909, but it signaled the birth of a new style in 20th Century European architecture.





MAY 2014 MEETING  
*R.I. Lampus Co. Parkway Block Plant, Aliquippa*

June 2014



# CSI's *Corporate Partner Program*

June 2014

## Join CSI's Corporate Partner Program!

**Gain Visibility for Your Company**

**Educate Your Project Teams More Effectively**

The **Corporate Partner Program** is designed for building product manufacturers, design firms and other commercial construction related organizations that have multiple employees interested in joining CSI and accessing CSI's products and services at **value pricing**.

Each partnership is **customized to meet your strategic business goals and objectives**. This program provides businesses and organizations the opportunity to develop a formal relationship with CSI and its member network. By joining, Corporate Partners demonstrate their support for CSI and its mission: to advance building information management and education of project teams to improve facility performance.

## **Corporate Partner Benefits**

- Logo on [CSI Corporate Partner Page](#)
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- Recognition on [CSI's Facebook page](#) and [Corporate Partner Twitter Feed](#)
- Networking at local CSI chapter meetings and invitation-only events
- Free listing in the [CSI BusinessLinx](#) and [Corporate Partner directories](#)
- Use of CSI's contact list once each year

"ATAS International has been a CSI Corporate Partner for about 3 years now, and we have found it to be very beneficial. ATAS has 23 sales employees who are CSI members and decided that we want all of our Product Reps to become CDT certified through CSI. ATAS has been extremely pleased with the Corporate Partner pricing we have received. We plan on renewing our commitment to the program in the years to come."

- Lee Ann Slattery, CSI, CCPR, LEED AP BD+C, National Sales Manager for ATAS International, Inc.

For more information, contact Susan Konohia at [skonohia@csinet.org](mailto:skonohia@csinet.org) or Lee Ann Gardner at [lgardner@csinet.org](mailto:lgardner@csinet.org).

*Some corporate partners represented in the Pittsburgh Chapter include:*

*Allegion - Assa Abloy - ATAS - Bayer - Carlisle - Knauf Insulation - McGraw Hill Construction*

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June 2014

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