

# Specigram

Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter,  
Construction Specifications Institute

November, 2014



## This Month

- President's Message p.2
- Highlights from the Board p.3
- Member Profile pp.4-5
- Region Review p.6
- Upcoming Programs pp. 7-8
- No one's rich, no one's happy p.9
- Chapter Leadership p.10

### 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*

## November 11 Meeting

### Tour of Scott Hall at Carnegie Mellon University



The Sherman and Joyce Bowie Scott Hall will be the newest addition to the Carnegie Mellon University Campus. The 100K SF building will house wet and dry laboratories, collaborative and office spaces, a cafe, and a 10K SF cleanroom facility.

This will become the new home for Nano Fabrication, Wilton E. Scott Institute for Energy Innovation, and it will provide an on campus location for the Biomedical Engineering Department.

**HARD SOLE SHOES ARE REQUIRED.** Hard hats and eye protection will be provided.

Presented by CMU Campus Design & Facility Development

5:00-6:00 Tour      7:00 Dinner at The Porch at Schenley

Cost \$35

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

# President's Message

November, 2014

---

by *Bill Vernon*

We have a lot going on in CSI with our upcoming tour this month and our holiday party next month - we are going to have some fun!

Next year we will be revisiting the Pittsburgh chapter's strategic plan so we will need your feedback to keep our chapter strong. Please look for the survey coming in January and let us know your thoughts and how we can improve this great chapter.

The board does look at your comments and we do want to know what you think.

How can we attract younger members?  
What do you think makes our chapter strong and what is our weakest link?

All these are questions that, we as a board need to know to keep our chapter one of the strongest in the institute.

I hope to see you at CMU .

*-Bill Vernon, Chapter President*



## November Anniversaries

34th	Lee Lundberg	Veolia Water North America
33rd	Sandra Hundley	Sandra A. Hundley, Architect
32nd	Jeffrey Anderson	Mistick Construction
19th	Kevin Kearney	Builders Hardware
12th	Michael Konkle	Mak Sales Inc.
4th	Matthew Lander	AVT, Inc.
4th	Kevin Shinton	Easley & Rivers, Inc.
4th	Richard Onslager	Robbins Sports Surfaces
2nd	Joe Marini	Joe Marini & Assoc, LLC

## New Members:

Michael Andrews	Allegion
Kurt Scheer	BDA Engineering, Inc.
Megan Sinneway	AVT Inc.

# Highlights from the Board

November, 2014

---

## October 14 Meeting

*at Cefalo's, Carnegie, PA*

**HOSPITALITY:** November tour event will be followed by dinner at The Porch; looking for a dining venue for January tour of Mount Lebanon High School; Holiday party vendor stations are filling up, 12 positions filled with a goal of 21; another golf outing is in the planning stages for the spring.

**PROGRAMS:** December: Holiday Party; January: Mount Lebanon School is a hardhat tour; February: Speed Dating; March: Dave Stutzman – Future of Specifications; April: Are You Smarter Than a Spec Writer.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Lost three members and gained three; CSI pins are available for new members; current membership is 138.

**TECHNICAL/EDUCATION:** McNamee and Dorenkott are looking for ideas on technical seminars (topics); Fedex Ground is looking for information from the Chapter.

**CERTIFICATION:** CMU wants to do IDT presentation, Moyta, K. Brown and possibly Bailey and Vernon volunteered to assist; Buirge presentation will be updated and presented by K. Brown in December.

**AWARDS:** Region awards due date is December 31st; Institution deadline is May 1st; OCC submission deadline is July 15th; Thornton will provide a full list with deadlines at November meeting.

**LONG RANGE PLANNING:** Vernon would like to meet in early December; Dorenkott will inquire with MBA to use their facility for December Long Range Planning meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Region Conference on ballot for officers, Prindible, Nagie and Vargo will be listed, voting in February; LOS will be August 14-15; Region Convention will be in Philadelphia April 30-May 3.

**Find Contractors  
& Suppliers**

**THE BLUE BOOK**  
Building & Construction  
**NETWORK®**

[www.thebluebook.com](http://www.thebluebook.com)

---

**Find Manufacturers**

**BPM SELECT®**  
The Premier Building Product Search Engine

[www.bpmselect.com](http://www.bpmselect.com)



**AMERICAS**

**Allison Birkmeyer, CSI**  
Architectural Specialist – North East

Direct: 724-777-2799  
[Allison.Birkmeyer@ardexamericas.com](mailto:Allison.Birkmeyer@ardexamericas.com)  
[www.ardexamericas.com](http://www.ardexamericas.com)

---

ARDEX Tile and Stone Installation Systems  
ARDEX MC™ Moisture Control Systems  
ARDEX PANDOMO®  
ARDEX Substrate Preparation Products  
ARDEX Polished Concrete Systems  
ARDEX ARDIFLO™ System  
ARDEX Engineered Concrete Systems

# Member Profile: Charles Brown

November, 2014

---

Charles A. Brown, AIA, CCS is in partnership with David Brenenburg, AIA at Brenenburg Brown Group, Architects/Planners since 1987.

I have always enjoyed Architectural Design, but I also found that I enjoy Specification Writing, Construction Drawing Development and even meeting with clients to solve their facility problems. We have had as many as 6 architects and interns but lately, Dave and I have been doing it all because we have been operating with minimal intern assistance for developing drawings in various stages. We anticipate that we will soon be able to bring on another Architect as our work load is expanding. The least enjoyable part of the partnership is surviving the slow times.

I like to think that another occupation I would enjoy is Carpentry.

I enjoy making things out of wood including furniture, and I have done most of the work renovating our house over 30 years as a Hobby. But realistically, I would have probably gone to college anyway and perhaps ended up in construction in another capacity (or another type of design).

**Odd thing** - the very first building I worked on in an Architects Office was a small addition (wood frame) to a student union at a small Illinois college. Several years later, it was blown to matchwood by a 95 mph gust of wind. Glad we got that out of the way at the beginning because I haven't lost any other buildings since. Another is that for several years, Architects, Bill Wharton, Sandra Hundley and Charles Brown working in Pittsburgh all went to High School in Fairbury, Illinois (Maybe 2000 people).

**My biggest gripe about the profession of Architecture** is that it seems to be undervalued compared to most other professions. The compensation is way too low compared to the liability Architects take on in completing their tasks. We would also like to be able to pay our employees more than we currently can. The income just isn't there.

I joined CSI in 1973, although CSI records say that I have been a member since 1977. In that year, WTW (1971 thru 1986), lost track of my membership renewal form and it was about a month late getting paid. I did not realize till later that they started me over as a new member.

I joined CSI because Tom Williams told me, the newly appointed specification writer, that I should look into being a member of CSI. I went to a meeting and I liked it. I liked the people and the program and I saw that CSI could help me with the task of writing specifications and managing projects. So I joined. I later found out that Mr. Williams had been persuaded by Ken Naigie that WTW should have a representative involved in CSI.



# Member Profile (cont'd)

November, 2014

---

[Many people have influenced me over the span of my career](#) but going back to the decision to become an Architect, I give credit to Oscar Niemeyer, world renowned Brazilian Architect who designed Brazil's new interior Capital City. As a high school sophomore I wrote a term paper on Mr. Niemeyer and found that Architecture intrigued me. I researched other Architects. That is when I decided to be an Architect even though my grades to that point were just average. Most Architecture schools pick from the top students. Even though my interest in getting good grades suddenly increased and I managed mostly A's thru the rest of High School, it wasn't enough. So I enrolled at the University of Illinois in Liberal Arts, got A's for the first year, then transferred into Architecture the second year with an acceptable academic record. The truth is I never considered another career.

[In CSI, I found an extremely valuable resource for a Specification Writer and Architect.](#) There are the many written guideline documents (many of which were developed inviting my input while I have been a member), many informative seminars at both the local chapter, Mid Atlantic and National levels, discussions with other spec writers and architects in the Chapter and interaction with the other industry members about processes, products and systems. I took advantage of the CCS program to become certified in construction documents and specification writing. Best of all, I have many great acquaintances and friends in the building industry thru CSI. Consider all of this if you are thinking of CSI membership.

[Being involved as an officer and then as Pgh CSI President was a highlight of my involvement.](#) We, including my family, have many memorable experiences with CSI events and could tell stories for quite a while. Many CSI members helped me over the years and passed on some of their knowledge and experience. I think of Ken Naigie, Zig Rice, Bob Tench, Tom Kennedy, John Groll & George Merges, to name a few. It has been good.

[My wife Marie, just retired from 14 years as a Pastor, 11 of them at Crafton First Baptist.](#) Pastoring was her fifth career after Registered Nurse, Domestic Engineer, Secretary and then Director of Daycare & Christian Education for a Church. Our son Alex is in Computer Engineering and lives with wife and two sons in Mutuchin, NJ near our daughters family with 3 sons in Edison

[I have lived in 7 cities and spent time in several others.](#) Yet, we have lived in Pittsburgh for 45 years and never felt the urge to live anywhere else. I guess that means we like Pittsburgh a lot.

[I think success is achieving a balance between needs, wants and resources and being content - no, happy-with your situation and your contribution to the community and society.](#) For an Architect it is also a history of 'happy' clients and a happy & loved wife and kids.

*Just calculated - my first job in an Architect's Office started in 1962 (for 15 months) between my sophomore and junior years in college.*

# Region Review

November, 2014

by Gail Nagie, 2nd Vice-President, CSI Middle Atlantic Region

The Middle Atlantic Region is already 4+ months into FY15. In August we had a Face to Face Board Meeting and a Leadership Orientation Seminar to help train new Chapter Committee Chairs and Chapter Officers. In September we had a Region General Meeting at Construct in Baltimore. We also had teleconference meetings in July and October.

Plans are well underway for our next Region Conference hosted by Philadelphia April 30 - May 3 2015 and our next LOS which will be in York, Pa August 14 & 15 2015.

If you are interested in becoming active on the Region level contact me, Gail Nagie (twogreenfrg@yahoo.com) for more information.



Pittsburgh will host the Region Conference here in 2017. We need everyone to get involved. If interested contact me.

**DETAILING INNOVATION**

CSI Philadelphia invites you to join us to engage with leaders from across the region and nation in a conference aimed at sharing the latest innovations of the building and construction industry.

**FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**

**Jerry Yudelson**  
President  
Green Building Initiative  
[ Friday Luncheon ]

**AND**

**Francis Rabuck**  
Futurist, Visionary, Communicator  
Technology/Strategy Research Analyst  
[ Saturday Luncheon ]

Conference venue is the **Best Western Concordville Inn**, Concordville, PA nearby to the beautiful Brandywine Valley and Kennett Square

Visit [www.marc2015.org](http://www.marc2015.org) for more info



CSI 2015 Mid-Atlantic Region Conference  
April 30-May 3, 2015



# Upcoming Programs

November 2014

---

**December 9, 2014**

## **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Gala at The Chadwick**

**Make your reservation NOW for the CSI Holiday/Dessert Party  
to be held at The Chadwick (in Wexford)  
on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>!**

*Sponsors will have various stations featuring specialty desserts  
or hors d'oeuvres station supplied by the Chadwick.*

*In addition, vendor sponsors will display promotional literature about their  
company  
and the products they represent.*

**Time: 6:00 until 9:00.**

**Cocktail reception from 6:00-7:00  
allows vendors to socialize with all attendees  
before the trade show begins (7:00-9:00).**

*New for this year we will be accepting payment in the form of PayPal (with nominal service fee).  
More details regarding this option can be found by visiting our chapters website at:*

*[www.csipittsburgh.org](http://www.csipittsburgh.org)*

**Interested in being a sponsor?**

Contact Jim Geist

Sherwin-Williams Co.

Office: 724-933-1900 x104

Cell: 412-389-5635

[Jim.l.geist@sherwin.com](mailto:Jim.l.geist@sherwin.com)

# Upcoming Programs

November 2014

---

January 13, 2015

## Tour of Mt. Lebanon High School Construction/Renovation Project

Architect: Celli-Flynn Brennan Architects and Planners (CFB), architect of record.

Partnering with CFB is the Chicago based firm of OWP/P who led, in collaboration with CFB, the schematic and design development effort.



Aerial view from the south west with new fieldhouse and academic building in the foreground; existing historic academic building and auditorium and theatre buildings beyond.



View of new Center Court.

Tour: 5:00 p.m.

Dinner following tour at Cefalo's in Carnegie.

## No one's rich; no one's happy

I started asking around, and it's kind of a bummer

*By Jeff Haden*

One day I'd like to meet someone who is, in fact, rich. Sometimes I think I've found one, but I'm always wrong. No matter how rich I imagined the person to be, within minutes I find out just how poor that person really is.

Take the guy who sold his company for more than \$40 million. I was sure he was rich. Then he told me how, for tax and estate planning purposes, he had structured the disbursement of funds over 10 years. So, sure, he may be "worth" \$40 million, but he only gets around \$4 million each year. And despite all that nifty financial planning, the taxes are still so high he doesn't see nearly that much. It's a bummer.

Or take the guy who just splashed a cool \$450 grand on a Lexus LFA with the Nurburgring package. His everyday car is a Porsche 911 Turbo S. I was sure he was rich. Then he told me what he wants most in life is a Bugatti Veyron, only they cost about \$2 million. Sure, he has money, he said, but he doesn't have that kind of money. It's a bummer.

Or take the guy with the 110-foot yacht. Strictly speaking, it's a ship, since it's big enough to carry several small boats and a couple of Jet Skis on a platform at the stern. And it has a pool. I was sure he was rich. Then he told me how expensive the yacht is just to own: Fixed costs like cleaning, upkeep and crew run over six figures a year. Firing it up is so expensive he sometimes thinks twice about whether to take it out of the harbor. It's a bummer.

I switched targets. I decided to look for someone who is happy: Not everyone can be rich, but anyone can be happy.

I thought I found one when I met an entrepreneur who had just landed her first big customer, one who made it possible for her to hire needed employees, make long-delayed equipment purchases and get creditors off her back. Surely that made her happy.

Then she told me how much she hates to recruit and interview ... and then actually having to supervise those employees on a daily basis? Ugh. She told me how adding equipment, maintaining a larger inventory and managing the huge increase in production was such a pain. Don't get her wrong, she said, as she looked around to make sure no one overheard, but she often longs for the good old days when life was a lot simpler. It's kind of a bummer.

Or take the guy who, after years of putting out feelers, was finally invited to join the board of a startup. The company has potential, he said, but it's not Twitter. Or Facebook. Or even Fancy. That would be cool. This? He thought it would be fun, but it's kind of a bummer.

The guy who just bought a bigger house? Bummed because it's harder to clean. The guy who just doubled his income? Bummed because his taxes are higher. The gal who just landed her dream job? Bummed because her daily commute is a half-hour longer.

Seems no one I meet is actually rich. Not really. And no one I meet is actually happy. Not really.

But that's OK. I'll keep looking.

Someday I might find someone.

And I hope that someone will be you.

*Jeff Haden is a contributing editor for Inc., where this first appeared. It also was published in Slate and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.*

# Chapter Leadership

November 2014

## Officers

### *President*

Mr. Bill Vernon, CSI  
Renaissance 3 Architects  
Phone: 412-630-9166  
[bjv@R3a.com](mailto:bjv@R3a.com)

### *1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

Mr. Richard Strayer, CSI  
Maffei Strayer Furnishings  
Phone: 412-630-9166  
[rstrayer@mstrayerfurn.com](mailto:rstrayer@mstrayerfurn.com)

### *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*

Ms. Lynn Fulton, CSI  
CDM-Smith  
412-201-5500  
[FultonLM@cdmsmith.com](mailto:FultonLM@cdmsmith.com)

### *Secretary*

Mr. Joshua Telenko, CSI, CCCA  
Baer & Associates, LLC  
412-224-4892  
[jtelenko@Baer-Associates.com](mailto:jtelenko@Baer-Associates.com)

### *Treasurer*

Ms. Gail Nagie, CSI, CDT  
Phone: 724-622-6301  
[twogreenfrg@yahoo.com](mailto:twogreenfrg@yahoo.com)

## Directors

Mr. Michael C. Bosco, RA, CSI, CCS,  
NCARB  
412-855-5876  
[michaelbosco74@comcast.net](mailto:michaelbosco74@comcast.net)

Ms. Courtney T. Watson, CSI, CDT  
Won-Door Corporation  
412-548-3375  
[cwatson@wondoors.com](mailto:cwatson@wondoors.com)

Mr. Michael Moyta, CSI  
Design 3 Architecture  
412-373-2220  
[mmoyta@d3a.com](mailto:mmoyta@d3a.com)

Mr. Phil Dorenkott, CSI  
412-389-5931  
[pdorenkott@yahoo.com](mailto:pdorenkott@yahoo.com)

Ms. Leisa McNamee, CSI  
McGraw Hill Construction  
412-548-2226  
[leisa.mcnamee@mhfi.com](mailto:leisa.mcnamee@mhfi.com)

Ms. Kate Schuster, CSI  
V.O. George Group, Inc.  
412-367-0910  
[kate@voegeorge.com](mailto:kate@voegeorge.com)

## Directors

Ms. Kelly Brown, AIA, CSI, LEED AP  
Radalet McCarthy Poletta  
412-471-4445  
[kbrown@radeletmccarthy.com](mailto:kbrown@radeletmccarthy.com)

## Advisors

Mr. David Miller, CSI  
Keith Bush Associates  
412-216-0219  
[davidmiller.kba@gmail.com](mailto:davidmiller.kba@gmail.com)

Mr. Robert J. Bailey, AIA, CCS, CSI,  
LEED AP  
IKM Incorporated  
412-281-1337  
[rbailey@ikminc.com](mailto:rbailey@ikminc.com)

Ms. Michaelleen Vargo, CSI,  
LEED AP BD+C  
Gerard Associates Architects, LLC  
Phone: 412-566-1531  
[mdvargo@gerardassociatesarchitects.com](mailto:mdvargo@gerardassociatesarchitects.com)

## Committees

Electronic Communications/Editor  
Ms. Kate Schuster, CSI  
V.O. George Group, Inc.  
412-367-0910  
[kate@voegeorge.com](mailto:kate@voegeorge.com)

### Publicity

Mr. David Miller, CSI  
Keith Bush Associates  
412-216-0219  
[davidmiller.kba@gmail.com](mailto:davidmiller.kba@gmail.com)

### Awards

Mr. Marty Thornton, CCS, CSI  
WTW Architects  
412-321-0550  
[MThornton@wtwarch.com](mailto:MThornton@wtwarch.com)

### Membership Co-Chairs

Matthew Lander  
AVT, Inc.  
412-257-5077  
[mlander@avtinc.net](mailto:mlander@avtinc.net)

Damian Carnegie  
AVT Inc.  
412-257-5077  
[dcarnegie@avtinc.net](mailto:dcarnegie@avtinc.net)

### Technical/Education

Mr. Philip Dorenkott, CSI  
724-935-9238  
[pdorenkott@yahoo.com](mailto:pdorenkott@yahoo.com)

## Committees

### Certification

Mr. Michael C. Bosco, RA, CSI, CCS,  
NCARB  
412-855-5876  
[michaelbosco74@comcast.net](mailto:michaelbosco74@comcast.net)

### GBA Liaison

Mr. Phil Dorenkott, CSI  
412-389-5931  
[pdorenkott@yahoo.com](mailto:pdorenkott@yahoo.com)

### Golf Outing

Mr. Mark Womer, CSI  
Assa Abloy  
724-708-6106  
[mwomer@dsstristate.net](mailto:mwomer@dsstristate.net)

### Hospitality

Mr. Marc A. Zell, CSI  
National Gypsum Company  
800-646-2458 x6440  
[MAZell@nationalgypsum.com](mailto:MAZell@nationalgypsum.com)

### Long Range Planning

#### *See Advisors*

### Programs

Mr. Robert J. Bailey, AIA, CCS, CSI,  
LEED AP  
IKM, Inc.  
412-281-1337  
[rbailey@ikminc.com](mailto:rbailey@ikminc.com)

### Student Outreach

Mr. Michael D. Moyta, CSI, CDT, AIA  
Design 3 Architecture, P.C.  
412-373-2220  
[m.moyta@d3a.com](mailto:m.moyta@d3a.com)

### Product Show Chairman

Mr. James Geist  
Sherwin-Williams  
724-933-1900  
[jim.l.geist@sherwin.com](mailto:jim.l.geist@sherwin.com)

## Newsletter Editor

Mr. Robert J. Bailey, AIA, CCS, CSI,  
LEED AP  
IKM, Inc.  
412-281-1337  
[rbailey@ikminc.com](mailto:rbailey@ikminc.com)