



# SPECIGRAM

Newsletter of the Pittsburgh Chapter, Construction Specifications Institute

September, 2013

## September 10 Program

### Tour of the Scalo Solar SunScape Demonstration Project

The Scalo Solar SunScape Demonstration Project consists of three energy producing PV (photovoltaic) technologies, 5 different vegetative green roof systems, and a variety of energy efficiency products, including daylighting and reflective roof membranes.

The project is a living laboratory for universities and professionals to study and enhance sustainability in our region.

Scalo Solar Solutions, LLC, was the project manager for the \$1,000,000 solar installation on the roof of the Scalo Companies headquarters building in Crafton. Scalo Solar wrote and submitted a \$500,000 grant for Burns & Scalo Roofing Company, Inc. to the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority. The award was approved by PEDDA on August 27, 2010.

The 105 kW system features three different solar technologies on varying roof types – all measured and compared by installation cost and operating efficiency.

In addition, a section of the polycrystalline panel system is mounted over vegetative green roofing to improve panel efficiency by lowering ambient air temperature. The research data obtained by this project will be correlated by local universities and professionals to provide objective performance data on solar for Western Pennsylvania.

#### Please meet at

Burns and Scalo:  
22 Rutgers Road, Suite 200  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

**4:30 p.m. Tour**

#### Social Time and Dinner at:

Sharp Edge Creekhous  
288 W Steuben Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205  
(412) 922 - 8118

Cost: \$35/person

6:00 p.m. Social Time

6:45 p.m. Dinner with  
Board Meeting to follow.

#### Reservations

by Friday Sept. 6  
to

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

### THIS MONTH

- President's Message pp.2-3
- Vice-president's Message & Building Brain Teaser p.4
- In Memoriam p.5
- The Six Enemies of Greatness pp.8-9

#### 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.

# President's Message

September 2013

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*It's that time of year again –*

College Football is back, the horrible Steeler preseason is over, yellow school buses are everywhere, and yes, CSI is back for another year. I hope everyone enjoyed their CSI summer vacation and are ready to for an outstanding FY13-14.

Your Chapter Board and Committee Chairs have been working hard all summer to ensure another great year of programs and opportunities for our members. We will be kicking off this year with a [tour of the Scalo Solar Sandscape Demonstration Project on Tuesday, September 10, 2013](#). This facility is a living laboratory for the study of sustainability in our region. It consists of energy producing photovoltaic technologies, various vegetative green roof systems, daylighting systems, reflective roof membranes and an assortment of other energy efficient products. After touring the rooftop laboratory, we will have a brief educational presentation on the PV panels and solar roof designs. We are quite fortunate to have a facility such as this one in our backyard. I hope all of you will take advantage of this opportunity and join us for the tour.

Miki Vargo, Chapter President



In addition to planning this year's programs, the board has been working on ways to help add value to your CSI membership. We have updated our website to make it a little more user friendly and informative; behind the scenes we are developing user guides and tracking guides to aid future leaders in transitioning into their positions; and for our product rep members, we will be offering tabletop displays opportunities and/or 3 minute "elevator speech" opportunities at our home base meetings during social hour. We are also offering advertisement spots on our website and/or newsletter to any of our members.

We have begun the initial phases of planning for the [2017 Mid Atlantic Region Conference](#) to be hosted by our Chapter. Committee Co-Chairs are RonnaLeah Prindible, Gail Nagie, and myself. We would like to welcome any member who would like to help with the planning of this conference. If you are interested, please contact any of the chairs and let us know what you would like to help with. For those unfamiliar with what happens at a region conference, there are tours of local points of interest, educational seminars (for CEU's, GBCI), social activities/outings, hotel accommodations, website, registration, Region Awards Banquet, etc. *(continued on p.3)*

# President's Message (cont'd)

September 2013

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So, if there is anyone out there that has an interest or talent for any of the previously mentioned topics, we need you! If you have any suggestions for activities or tours; or are interested in sponsorship opportunities for the Conference, please feel free to let me know. Any and all help/input is appreciated.

Later this month is the Institute Convention, CONSTRUCT 2013, in Nashville, Tennessee, September 25-28. I will be at the convention to accept our Outstanding Chapter Commendation. I hope to see some of you there, as well. If you are planning on attending the convention, please let either myself or Gail Nagie know, so we know to look out for you.

I'd like to thank Mark Womer, our new Golf Outing Chair, and everyone who helped him organize our Fall Golf Outing, held last week. Although I was unable to attend, I hear it was a great success and very enjoyable. Thank you to everyone who did attend the outing and helped our chapter in this fundraising program. Keep your eyes open for our Spring outing later this year.

As I embark on my last year as President of the Pittsburgh Chapter of CSI, I'm excited and encouraged for the year ahead. Oh, and how could I forget; "**Lets Go Bucs!**"

- *Michaeleen D. Vargo, LEED AP BD+C, CSI*

## **ADVERTISING AND TABLETOP DISPLAYS**

- Advertising on Website: \$50.00 for 1 year (must include digital artwork/layout of final image.)
- Advertising in Newsletter: \$50.00 for 1 year.
- Advertising on BOTH Website and Newsletter: \$75.00 for 1 year.
- Table top display during Social Time: \$50.00
- 3 minute product/business promotional speech at beginning of meeting: \$50.00.



# Vice-President's Message

September 2013

Bill Vernon, First Vice-President



A friend of mine commented in a blog post that “Commitments LOVE Company” and to make a commitment “It means growing up and taking responsibility”. I believe that is good advice for everyone personally, but especially professionally. If you want a long career you need to commit to keeping yourself healthy. However more pertinent, if you want a strong healthy career you need to commit to developing your knowledge skills & talents. You need to develop your networks of friends, contacts and resources.

Committing to CSI while the good food at Cefalo’s may not help with your health, the meetings can help with your other career commitments. I have found friends at the meetings as well as good contacts, and sources of information that have helped me as an architect and a specifier.

*-Bill Vernon*

## **BUILDING BRAIN-TEASER**

Can you identify the location of this juxtaposition of curtain wall, metal panels, stone panels, and precast concrete panels? Do you know this building? It’s somewhere in downtown Pittsburgh.



*July-August’s Brain-Teaser: Perry High School*

# *In Memoriam: Larry Justice*

September 2013



## *Larry Bruce Justice -1952-2013*

CSI Pittsburgh lost one of its most colorful members last month with the passing of Larry Justice. Larry lost his battle with cancer on Saturday, August 17, 2013 at Kindred Transitional Care in Greenwood, Indiana.

Larry had been a resident of Sewickley, PA working as an architect at Matthews International in Pittsburgh, PA for 14 years. A native of Indiana, Larry was a graduate of Ball State School of Architecture.

With Matthews International Gibraltar Mausoleum Construction Company, Larry designed mausoleums all over the United States and held architectural registration in nearly every state. Larry was a member of the American Institute of Architects as well as Preservation Pennsylvania.

As a CSI Pittsburgh Chapter member, Larry was a former Membership Chairman. He enjoyed dressing up as Santa Claus at the Chapter's Holiday Gala and handing out door prizes and other gifts. At Chapter tours, Larry would appear in a hardhat shaped like a cowboy hat. Larry drove a Mini Cooper and was a member of the PittStop Mini Club.

I had the opportunity to spend some time with Larry at CSI Convention in Philadelphia in 2010 and then again in Chicago in 2011. We played a trivia game at the host chapter event in Philly and it was surprising to see just how much Larry knew. He had a variety of diverse interests, and was interesting to converse with.

When Larry got sick this past spring, some of us visited him in the hospital. He was recovering from surgery to remove a brain tumor, and although his memory was giving him problems, he was cheerful as usual and asking about what was going on in the Chapter. The day after my visit, Larry went home to Indiana for the last time.

He was truly one of a kind. We will miss him.

- Bob Bailey

*Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 5635 W. 96<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100, Indianapolis, IN 46278*

## Summer Golf Outing August 29, 2013



The Chapter Golf Outing was held at Strawberry Ridge Golf Course in Harmony, PA.

In the accompanying photo, left to right is Rob Volt (friend of Mark Womer), Denny Buirge (Specifications Manager for CDM Smith) and Joe Marini (representative for Safti-First Fire Rated Glass, VALE FRP Doors, and Bendheim Channel Glass).

Mark Womer, Chapter Golf Outing Chairman, organized an outstanding event. The weather was fine (if a bit warm), we had a solid turnout of 40 golfers, and the steak dinner afterwards was delicious. Thanks to all who participated, and to all those who provided prizes. Tee Sponsors included Assa Abloy (2), Architectural Resources (2), Stanley Security, Safti-First, Chicago Metallic, and A.L Harding & Co.. We appreciate your support of the Chapter!

### Hope to see you at the CSI Institute Convention in Nashville!

**CONSTRUCT** is headed to Nashville for its 2013 show in the brand new Music City Center.

**CONSTRUCT** is the only national trade show and educational conference for the commercial building teams that spec and source building products. Join thousands of industry leaders to procure real-world, practical knowledge for building success.

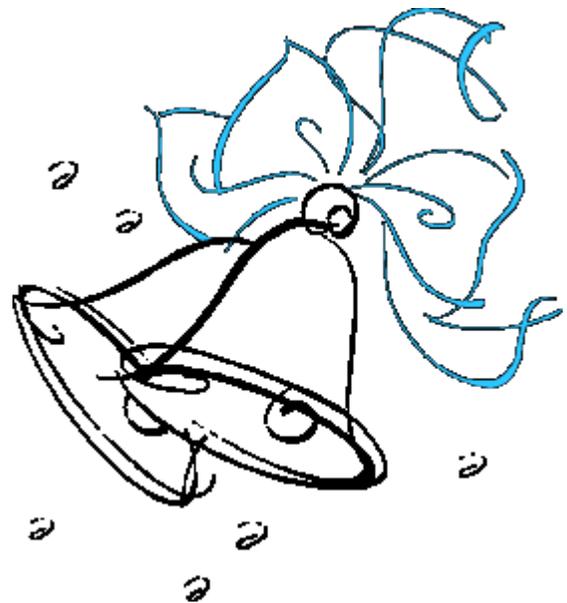
A promotional banner for the CONSTRUCT trade show. The background is a dark blue grid. On the left, the word "CONSTRUCT" is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Below it, in smaller white text, is "Sponsored by:" followed by the CSI logo. To the right of the logo, the following text is displayed in white: "Exhibits: September 25-27, 2013", "Education: September 24-27, 2013", and "Music City Center | Nashville, TN".



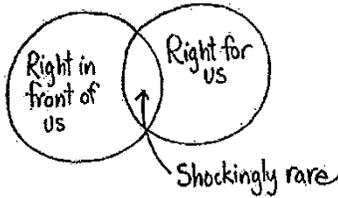
Chapter Director and Certification Chairman Michael Bosco married Leslie Godisart on August 24, 2014 at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Glenshaw, PA.

Chapter Treasurer, Gail Nagie noted, *"This was a very small wedding and Reception at The Chadwick in Wexford. The hit of the day was Mike's Grandson 3 yr old Braden Bosco the ring bearer. He charmed everyone! He also loves to dance and spent much of the evening on the dance floor with his cousins Lindsay, Lauren and Hanna Bosco. At the reception Mike Bosco Jr, the best man, sang. His voice sounds exactly like Frank Sinatra. It was a beautiful day."*

We wish Lee and Mike all the best in their new life together.

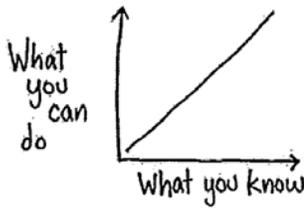


## The Six Enemies of Greatness (and Happiness)



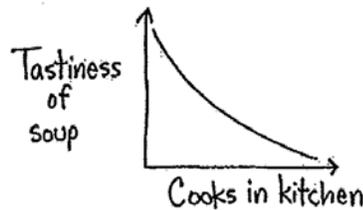
### 1) Availability

We often settle for what's available, and what's available isn't always great. "Because it was there," is an okay reason to climb a mountain, but not a very good reason to take a job or a free sample at the supermarket.



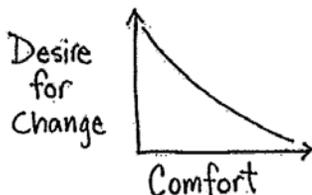
### 2) Ignorance

If we don't know how to make something great, we simply won't. If we don't know that greatness is possible, we won't bother attempting it. All too often, we literally do not know any better than good enough.



### 3) Committees (except CSI committees!)

Nothing destroys a good idea faster than a mandatory consensus. The lowest common denominator is never a high standard.

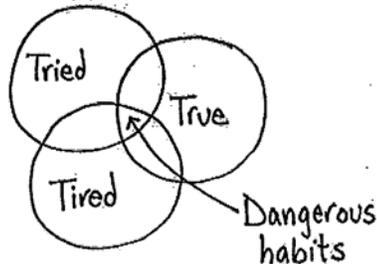


### 4) Comfort

Why pursue greatness when you've already got 324 channels and a recliner? Pass the dip and forget about your grand designs.

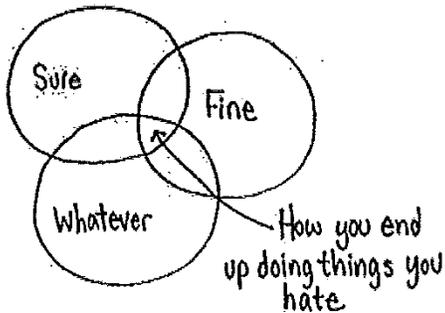
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## The Six Enemies of Greatness (continued)



### 5) Momentum

If you've been doing what you're doing for years and it's not-so-great, you are in a rut. Many people refer to these ruts as careers.



### 6) Passivity

There's a difference between being agreeable and agreeing to everything. Trust the little internal voice that tells you, "this is a bad idea."

### Pittsburgh Chapter Officers

#### *President*

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