MARCH ANNIVERSARIES!!!

ELIZABETH THOMPSON
MOODY/NOLAN LTD., INC.
33 YEARS

TIFFANY GOULET
TNEMEC CO., INC.
13 YEARS

ROSS RHoadES
DRAPER, INC.
4 YEARS

BILLY MARTIN III
HUBER ENGINEERED WOODES, LLC
2 YEARS

JASON PANNU
LEWIS, KING, KRIEG & WALDROP, P.C.
1 YEAR

JOHN McNICHOLAS
JOHNS MANVILLE ROOFING SYSTEMS
21 YEARS

J MARK BUCK
J. MARK BUCK AIA, ARCHITECT
11 YEARS

MICHAEL GOBER
PC & QC BY SHAW
3 YEARS

CLAY CHRIStAIN
1 YEAR

DUDLEY DOLINGER
DOLINGER & ASSOCIATES, LLC
1 YEAR

BRITTANY WELLER
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE CHATTANOOGA
1 YEAR

NEW MEMBERS!!!

CARSON CHANATRY

DARIUS MONTGOMERY
MONTGOMERY ROAD INC.

ROBERT QUALEY
STATE OF TENNESSEE

TIMOTHY MAJORS
PPG ARCHITECTURAL FINISHES

JEREMY KEOPF
PPG ARCHITECTURAL COATINGS

SCOTT WILSON
CARLISLE SYNTec
APRIL ANNIVERSARIES!!!

REBECCA DUNKLEY
CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS, INC.
42 YEARS

THOMAS PARSHALL
TLP ARCHITECTS
24 YEARS

LORETTA BALTZ
MCGRAW HILL CONSTRUCTION DODGE
16 YEARS

LEE CAVETT
ASSA ABLOY, DSS
16 YEARS

LYNN JOLLEY
SPECS & DETAILS, LLC
14 YEARS

JAMES LEE II
METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE
6 YEARS

ROBERT CROSBY
MTSU STUDENT
1 YEAR

J. BARRY HOLT
MOODY/NOLAN LTD., INC.
39 YEARS

STEVEN HONEY
SOUTHLAND BRICK & BLOCK
20 YEARS

VICKIE LONG
MCGRAW HILL CONSTRUCTION DODGE
16 YEARS

LARRY MARVEL
KAATZ BINKLEY JONES & MORRIS
ARCHITECTS, INC.
15 YEARS

JARROD FINGER
WISE ENGINEERS, INC.
7 YEARS

TODD MASON
HAFELE AMERICA CO.
2 YEARS
I’m not sure what will be in this but Beth needs my message real soon so here goes. Hasn’t she done a marvelous job? In fact all committee persons have done outstanding jobs in my tenure. Jack, can we afford to give everyone an award? Speaking of which, the awards banquet is in June and if you’ve never been to one you’ve missed out. It’s a great reception, fellowship, really great food, a little humor and a few awards. I hope to also bring back a few awards from the Gulf States Regional Conference.

I was in NYC over the Easter weekend. A friend invited me up ostensive to see the NY car show. We did see some amazing cars. All the manufacturers were pushing their electric versions. An electric Rolls Royce, who knew? TVA should dust off their 30 year old electric car campaign and be at the forefront.

Once again I was looking at the health of the city, the construction projects and the daily lives of the people in the city. It all looked vital. Urban living was really happening. The Whole Foods at Columbus Circle couldn't have been more crowded if they were giving away money. The food prices in NYC weren't as bad as I had remembered and of course the pizza was worth any price charged.

Every part of the city I traveled was in motion: new buildings, renovations, conversions and rentals. I saw one rental realtor window where a nice looking 800 SF 1 BA 1 BR was $3900 per month in The Village. I taxied over to the west side, had lunch with a friend from 1974, got on The High Line and walked south to Ground Zero. The High Line was packed with Easter holiday walkers. Everywhere there was a staircase down, development was happening. The entire west shore has become a linear park with so many runners and bikers you have to watch your back.
Ground Zero is still Ground Zero. Although construction has replaced demolition there is still a somber mood, police everywhere, fences around construction, security and now lots of tourists. I was there nine months after 911 when the entire city was sullen and brooding. St Paul’s Chapel looked more somber without the remembrances hung on its wrought iron fence. After the towers fell, the tiny 18th-century Episcopal church became a relief center and then shrine. The 911 Memorial office is just beside it where you wait in line to get tickets to the site and to be screened and go through the metal detector and all. The fountains are finished and 1 WTC (Freedom Tower) is skinned. Everything else is under construction. There is a much better vibe in the fountain gardens until you notice the fountain copings have the names of the victims inscribed. It is very well done.

Easter is something in NYC. I expected the church bells and services but never an Easter parade. Not just any parade, I might add. They close Fifth Avenue and the locals strut in everything from their Easter finest to outrageous Mardi Gras type costumes. Take a camera. I forgot mine and had to use my phone.

I hope you had a great Easter. It has been a great term! Thank you for your support. See you at the next meeting where the new baseball stadium will be unveiled, the golf tournament and then the aforementioned awards banquet.

The old lame duck, Jim
Classes & Certification in Nashville
Lynn Jolley AIA, CSI, CCS, CCCA, SCIP

The Construction Specification Institute (CSI) offers the following certifications and administers examinations in the Fall and Spring as part of the certification process:
• CDT: The Construction Documents Technologist Certificate is a comprehensive overview for anyone who writes, interprets, enforces, or manages construction documents.
• CCCA: The Certified Construction Contract Administrator truly understands all facets of the construction process & contractual relationships.
• CCPR: The Certified Construction Product Representative has an in-depth understanding of the construction process & superior ability in effective representation.

CSI Nashville offers CDT preparation classes that begin in January and meet every Thursday for 10 weeks. These classes have been facilitated by dedicated CSI members such as Carl Manka, Jerry Preston, Kevin Corkern, Rex Garton, Cheryl Crosby and Lynn Jolley for over 10 years. The exam pass rates for attendees through the years have been very good.

The classes are free of charge and open to anyone that would find them beneficial, including non-CSI members and those not intending to sit for exams in April.

For additional information, please email Carl.Manka@tbr.edu.

Congratulations!

THOMAS BRATTEN
LELLYETT & ROGERS CO.

ROBERT BRYANT
TENNESSEE BOARD OF REGENTS

DONNA ELLETT

PAUL LAW
HASTINGS ARCHITECTURE ASSOCIATES, LLC.

YEZAN SWAIES

MARY VONGSAGA
AMSURG CORP.

...to those who received their CDT certification in April.
Benefits and Opportunities  2013-2014

As a CSI Nashville Chapter member, you get many benefits. As in all organizations, you must engage to reap the rewards. Here are some of our benefits and how you can get involved.

Networking: This is probably the single best benefit of your CSI membership. Monthly meetings and various events throughout the year provide many opportunities to network. Also by volunteering and working on committees, you can really get to know your fellow professionals. Many of our members have become best friends for life. People tend to do business with folks they know, trust, and like. So get involved! Contact our President, Jim Chrystain, to learn more about committees needing help at jchristain@aol.com.

Certification: The CSI Program of Certifications is designed to educate, inform and validate those in all areas of design and construction. The Nashville CSI Chapter aggressively promotes the CDT program which is the basis for the three certifications: CCS, CCCA and CCPR. Starting in January each year the Nashville Chapter provides 10 weeks of two hour classes focused on the Construction Documents Technologist criteria. The Construction Documents Technology Certificate is a comprehensive overview for anyone who writes, interprets, enforces, or manages construction documents. Classes are open to anyone interested. You do not need to be a member and there is no cost to attend. To find out more about CSI and the CDT and other Certification program check www.csinet.org and click on the Certification menu item. In addition to the CDT classes, the chapter provides assistance for candidates who intend to take the CCS, CCCA or CCPR exams. This assistance can be tailored to meet specific needs. The CDT classes will cover MasterFormat, UniFormat, AIA A201 – 2007 General Conditions and other documents commonly used in construction. For more information contact: Carl Manka at Carl.Manka@tbr.edu.

Monthly Meetings: Ten monthly meetings per year – held the third Tuesday of each month at the Adventure Science Center at 11:30. Lunch is provided in local membership dues. You must RSVP prior to meetings. We strive to provide AIA credits for many of our meetings. Networking with fellow professionals and learning about new local projects are also benefits of attending. We do not schedule a meeting in July and December. The October meeting is our Product Show. Contact Devin Righter at devin@bxtn.org to get on our meeting announcement and RSVP list.

Spec Heads: This group meets the second Tuesday of every month and is designed primarily for spec writers. A vendor provides the program each month and complimentary box lunches for attendees. AIA credit for attending. You must RSVP. Contact Jerry Curtis at tnbass@comcast.net to get on the announcement list or to provide an AIA program.

Product Show: Held in October at LP Field, home of the Titans. We normally have many vendor booths as well as seminars through-out the day that offer AIA continuing education credits. Free lunch and reception to all attendees. This is our single largest event of the year. Contact Melanie Kenney at mkenney@southlandbrickandblock.com to find out more about our upcoming show Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2014.
Benefits and Opportunities 2013-2014 cont...

**Golf Tournament:** Contact Steve Honey at shoney@southlandbrickandblock.com for information. This event was held at the Old Hickory Golf Course on Monday, May 12th 2014 in partnership with IFMA and IIDA.

**Holiday Party:** Sometimes we hold our own event and sometimes we partner with other groups.

**Thirsty Thursday Events:** Thirsty Thursday events are held the first Thursday of each month at various local restaurants where CSI partners with IIDA and IFMA to provide free appetizers and opportunities to meet fellow construction professionals.

**Awards:** Our chapter gives out awards to individuals who work hard for our chapter. We also submit for Region and Institute awards for our chapter and for individuals. We have a very special awards banquet every year to celebrate those achievements, open to all chapter members. Contact Troy Williams at troy@bargecauthen.com to find out more.

**On-Line Education:** Webinars are offered to CSI members regularly. Join a chat group on Linkedin. See us also on Facebook.

**Emerging Professional Sponsorship Program:** There is a program available for folks entering their careers as construction professionals (within three years of employment in the Nashville area) to receive a one year benefit of $50 total dues. CSI Nashville will pay the balance of the cost for selected recipients. Contact Jarrod Finger at Jarrod@wisengineers.com for more information or an application.

**Regional Meetings:** The CSI Gulf States Region holds two meetings per year where you can get involved with folks throughout the southeast. The Leadership Meeting that is held each fall is great for new members wanting to learn about particular committees.

**Institute Convention:** Once a year in the fall, there is a CSI Convention held in a major city. Nashville was the designated city in 2013 and will be again because of the positive response and attendance from that event. Many CSI Nashville Chapter volunteers made this event so successful.

**CSI Academies:** Once a year, during the first quarter of the year, there is an educational gathering of CSI members and educators to discuss technical issues for Specifiers, Contract Administrators, and Product Representatives. The educational sessions are provided over a 2 ½ day period, providing education by presenters of various backgrounds who use real world experience. Contact CSI directly for more information: csi@csinet.org.
Emerging Professionals Sponsorship Program

The Construction Specification Institute continually strives to incorporate a variety of opportunities for members. Benefits and opportunities for members include many educational opportunities: access to webinars, self-paced online education, live education during chapter meetings and free CDT (Construction Documents Technologists), CCPR (Certified Construction Product Representative), etc. classes taught by local seasoned professionals, and an opportunity to qualify for those certifications. Many networking and fellowship opportunities are provided to get you acquainted with fellow professionals in the construction field.

This year, we are striving to provide easy access to the CSI Nashville Chapter for those emerging professionals who have recently been employed within the last three years in a construction related field and are operating in the Nashville, Tennessee area. This sponsorship offers assistance with Institute and local chapter dues providing access to the many CSI benefits and resources and relieving most of the financial obligation of the member fees for the first year - the recipient will only be responsible for $50 dues. All other fees and expenses will be absorbed by the CSI Nashville Chapter. This is a benefit of $195 to the recipient to experience our organization and all that we offer for one year and to get immediately involved in the Nashville Construction community. This opportunity is only available to those who wish to pursue a career in the field of architecture, engineering, construction, product representation, or any other “approved” construction-related field.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a recent graduate or a person within their first three years of employment within a construction or design related field in the Nashville area. Non-paying internship positions will also be considered.

- Possess a serious career driven attitude, good character, leadership qualities, and well-rounded personal development and be willing to commit to attendance at a majority of our monthly meetings held on the third Tuesday of each month at the Adventure Science Center at 11:30 AM.

- It is recommended that applicants have a CSI member advisor.

Those interested in applying for this sponsorship should contact:

Jarrod Finger
jarrod@wisengineers.com
615.953.9474, ext. 704
Emerging Professionals Scholarship Application

Purpose:
To encourage and assist qualified emerging professionals and students who wish to pursue a career in a field of engineering, architecture, or other construction-related field so they, in turn, might further the goals and exemplify the ideals of the Construction Specification Institute.

See Attached for Eligibility Requirements

(Please print all information)

1. ________________________________ ________________ ________________ ________________
   Last Name   First Name   Middle Initial   Suffix

2. Current Mailing Address______________________________________________________________

3. Permanent Mailing Address (if different from current address)

4. Current Telephone No.. ________________ Permanent Telephone No. ________________

5. Are you an active student member of the Nashville Chapter CSI? Yes____No____N/A____

6. Sponsoring member or Educator (recommended, not required):

_____________________________________________________________________________________

7. If you have graduated from or are currently attending a post-secondary institution, please fill in the following:

__________________________________________________________________________
   College/University/School  Major

__________________________________________________________________________
   College/University/School  Major

8. Please indicate your area of concentration:

   Architecture____   Engineering____   Construction____   Owner____   Product____   Representative____

   Finance____   Legal____   Other, please explain__________________________________________________

9. List areas of interest of being involved in CSI or areas of interest (i.e. continuing education, networking, team building, etc.):

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

10. Your Signature____________________________________________ Date_____________________

   Applications must be postmarked no later than April 20, 2014 and mailed to:

   CSI Scholarship/  c/o WiSEngineers, Inc.
   attn.: Jarrod Finger
   4011 Armory Oaks Drive
   Nashville, TN 37204

   CSI Sponsorship/  c/o WiSEngineers, Inc.
   attn: Jarrod Finger
   4011 Armory Oaks Drive
   Nashville, TN 37204
WHAT YOU MISSED in MARCH

MARCH CHAPTER MEETING

Dan Palmer
McGraw-Hill Construction
Senior Director of Editorial Global Operations

McGraw-Hill Construction is the leading provider of construction information in the industry. McGraw-Hill Construction provides access to business intelligence through Dodge, Sweets, Architectural Record, Engineering News Record, Green Source and its Economic Forecasting services.

Dan Palmer is a 28 year veteran of McGraw-Hill. He began his career as a reporter and has held various management positions throughout his career. Headquartered in Pittsburgh, Dan is currently responsible for the news-gathering operation for all of the USA and Canada and International News, as well as the US Census relationship. Dan has a degree in journalism/communications and a Master's in Organizational Management.

The 2014 Outlook presentation included a look back at how we got to where we are in the construction industry. It also looked at some future expectations and some things that could impact recent progress on a national level as well as state level and locally here in Nashville.
THE TEMPLE MOUNT IN JERUSALEM: AN ARCHITECTURAL JOURNEY
Incredible architecture, fascinating history, religious intrigue, unsolved mysteries

Sanctus Locus
The Most Sacred Place on Earth

What was Solomon’s Temple?
Why was it destroyed? Who rebuilt it?
Why did Herod enlarge the temple, and what was in it?
How was the massive 37-acre Temple Mount constructed?
Why was the Temple destroyed by the Romans in AD 70?
Who built the spectacular Dome of the Rock shrine?
How did the Crusaders alter the Temple Mount?
What is the Western Wall, and why is it important?
Where is the sacred Ark of the Covenant?
Finally, why did your presenter almost get arrested in Jerusalem?
“For centuries, the Temple Mount in Jerusalem has been one of the most, if not the most, sacred places on an ever-shrinking planet. It has contained several religious structures, architectural wonders documented in holy books and by noted historians. Currently, the site is the location of the spectacular Dome of the Rock shrine, and a portion of the acropolis-like mount’s supporting wall known as the Western Wall. It is an embattled place, one that has been repetitively sanctified, conquered, enlarged, pillaged, destroyed, and reconstructed. Adaptive reuse is an understatement.

The purpose of this seminar was to explain the ancient history of the site, share the known information about the numerous religious buildings that have been erected at this location, and explore the fascinating evolution of the property. Many myths surround this unique place, some based in fact, others in fiction, and these were examined. The seminar concluded with an overview of the location’s current political status, existing structures, and recent archaeological investigations on its past architectural masterpieces.”
Up Next...Join us for our monthly CHAPTER meetings on the THIRD Tuesday from 11:30-1:00 at the Adventure Science Center

When: Tuesday, May 20th, 11:30am (registration) 12-1pm (program)
Location: Tennessee Engineering Center, 800 Fort Negley Blvd., Nashville
Speaker: Ronald Gobbell of Gobbell Hays Partners, Inc.
Topic: Nashville Sounds New Baseball Stadium
http://www.nashville.gov/Sports-Authority.aspx

Please join us in welcoming Toby Compton, with the Metropolitan Sports Authority, and Ron Gobble, with Gobbell Hays the Program Manager, to hear about our new Nashville Sounds Ballpark, plus further development of the Jefferson Street area. They will discuss the project, the redevelopment of the area and the schedule.

This project paves the way for baseball to return to its historic home at Sulphur Dell, the original home of professional baseball in Nashville.
Spec Heads June 10th
The Renaissance of Steel Windows

Spec Heads July 15th
Dal-Tile Flatwork Natural Stone

This class is designed for Architects, Designers and Landscape Architects to gain a full understanding of natural stone as a building material. Learn more about the various stones: Granite, Limestone, Marble, Travertine, Slate, Onyx Serpentine, Sandstone and Quartzite. Obtain information about quarrying techniques, fabrication and finishing methods. With this understanding you will enhance your ability to select the right stone, fabrication technique and finish for your project.

Spec Heads August 12th
Ameristar Fence Products-Wayne Norman

WANT TO ADVERTISE YOUR COMPANY BY HAVING YOUR BUSINESS CARD IN THE SPECIFACTS?
CONTACT VICKIE LONG FOR INFORMATION.

CSI NASHVILLE CHAPTER
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Visit our webpage at http://www.csinashville.org/events.php

This calendar is a live Google calendar so anyone using an Android smartphone or iOS (Apple) can link to it quickly and get chapter events on their calendars and agendas. Please contact Devin Righter with any questions.
OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS...

THIRSTY THURSDAY
we can promise lots of fun networking with great people from three organizations

WE WILL NOT HAVE A CHAPTER MEETING IN JUNE. INSTEAD PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND OUR ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY! LOOK FOR EMAILS WITH MORE INFORMATION TO COME.

2014 NASHVILLE CSI PRODUCT SHOW
OCTOBER 21ST
LP FIELD
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MELANIE KENNEY OR GO TO WWW.CSINASHVILLE.ORG

CONSTRUCT offers a relevant, accredited education program, an expansive exhibit hall floor filled with the latest services, products and technologies, as well as a myriad of networking opportunities. In conjunction with the CSI Annual Convention, the event is coupled with technical tours, activities and special events. CONSTRUCT is the only dedicated national event specifically designed to provide the commercial building team real-world, practical products and education solutions.

Find hundreds of exhibitors with the newest trends and practices on the show floor and, with non-conflicting hours, attend your choice of over 50 accredited courses. The education program sessions, taught by experts, offer AIA LUs and HSWs and GBCI CE. Unparalleled networking opportunities include the Welcome Reception, the CSI Night Out event and other social events.

We look forward to seeing you in Charm City.
Purpose:
To provide a forum to allow Young Professionals to exhibit creative, real world solutions to current opportunities throughout the Construction and Design Industry.

Opportunities:
Those Young Professionals interested in participating will be able to address one item of their selection which addresses a current need of the built environment and can be applied to any sector of occupancy: residential, commercial, industrial, entertainment, etc. Final presentations will be displayed at the 2014 Nashville CSI Product Show to be held on Thursday, October 21 at the Tennessee Titans’ Stadium for viewing by the attending Architect, Contractors, Product Representatives, Consultants, and Owners. Awards will be provided to the three finalists.

Project Criteria:
The design and construction industry is currently facing challenges to develop better ways to solve outstanding opportunities and improve the quality of life for those inhabiting the built environment. This year’s competition will center on problem solving and communication; the former being the development of a building component or system that will allow for integration into the built environment; the latter being for the clarity of concept in the final presentation. Select one of the two options below:

Option 1: Building System Element
The concepts can range from rain water harvesting for gray water usage in a facility to better insulation methods, integration of more efficient design delivery to the design and construction teams, construction of facilities in controlled environments (factory built structures), etc. Creative solutions are encouraged. Final reports are not required to include drafting or drawn elements, but will require a graphic submission that can be composed of photographs, hand sketches, electronic sketches or other representations of visual aids. Reports shall not exceed 50 pages, but there is no minimum requirement as long as the concept is adequately communicated.

The designer is to develop the presentation to provide enough material to provide a programmatic/schematic board to the owner for consideration of the element and would need to be noted well enough to clearly define intent (identify system elements/components and adjacent connections, requirements, etc.) to proceed with integration to an existing or new facility.
Option 2: The Building System

-Single building project to be located on a sample provided site

-Owner/primary tenant would occupy 10,000 sf or open space (build-out would not be included in the design; only the shell and space allocation for service core).

-6,000 sf of space would be allocated for rentable space to be distributed to three separate tenants (again, no build-out work, only shell and preliminary tenant separation).

-Designer is to determine, based on the site and access requirements, the best layout on the site single floor, split level, or multi-floor) and also determine the best type of construction to be used based on the layout.

-Minimum requirements would be floor plan(s), 2 schematic elevations, 1 schematic building section or two building details and a brief narrative of the type or approach (to take the place of a verbal client presentation). Any additional material the designer would like to add would be acceptable as long as the format remains a single display board as indicated below. The designer is to develop the presentation to provide enough material to provide a programmatic/schematic board to the owner for consideration and would need to be noted well enough to clearly define intent (identify elevator, stairs, mechanical space, etc.) to proceed with Design Development documents.

Submitations should include presentation incorporating written and graphic components prepared on a tri-fold poster board; size shall be 36” x 48”. Final reports will be judged on three elements:

- Clarity of Concept
- Quality of Presentation
- Feasibility of Solution
- Narrative Clarity

Eligibility Requirements:

-Be a current junior or senior Undergraduate student, enrolled in a graduate program, or be an, emerging professional within 10 years of college graduation.

-Submissions may be made by individuals or teams (maximum 5 participants per team). Prize considerations shall be awarded per entry and will be provided as follows:

  First Prize: $500 + CSI One year Membership (up to a $370 value) for one team member
  Second Prize: $300
  Third Prize: $200
Preliminary Competition Schedule:

- **May 30th, 2014**
  *Intent to Participate and initial topic to be provided via e-mail to the event coordinator.*
  The Intent to Participate should include contact information of the participant or team coordinator and presentation topic for review. Any preliminary information relating to the selected topic would also be accepted for review.

- **June 30th, 2014**
  *Follow-up report from participants of status and final topic selection.*
  Any change of topic, contact information shall be provided to the competition coordinator. Electronic copies of preliminary entries shall be reviewed by the event coordinator to verify appropriate formatting.

- **September 30th, 2014**
  *Final submissions due.*
  Final project submissions (tri-fold posters) shall be received by this date for review and judging among the competition panel for adequately addressing the competition parameters. Entries shall be provided no later than 5:00 pm to the event coordinator and addressed as follows:

  WiSEngineers, Inc.
  Attn: Jarrod Finger
  Re: CSI, Nashville Chapter Young Professional Competition
  4011 Armory Oaks Drive
  Nashville, TN 37204

- **October 21st, 2014**
  *Recognition of participants, display of finalists’ projects at the Nashville CSI Product Show, naming of 3 individual or team finalists and awarding of prizes.*
  Updates and reminders shall be provided by the event organizing team throughout the schedule and questions by the participants are always welcome throughout the competition.

Those interested in participating in the 2014 Nashville CSI Young Professionals Competition should contact the Event Coordinator:

  Jarrod Finger
  jarrod@wisengineers.com
  615.953.9474, ext. 704
Return on investment

I recently received an e-mail from CSI, encouraging me (and, I trust, thousands of others) to volunteer to work on an Institute committee or task team. It reminded me of how I became involved in volunteer work for CSI, and how much that work meant to my career.

When I became a specifier, in 1985, I had not written any specifications, nor had I heard of CSI. I knew that I had a lot to learn, but I have a natural interest in finding out how things work, so I was confident I could figure out what to do. Fortunately, my boss suggested I join the local CSI chapter, and within a couple of years I studied for and passed the CCS exam. So far, my interest was self-centered; I wanted to be the best specifier I could be, and I saw the benefit of networking with product representatives.

I soon was influenced by the more active members who served on chapter committees, and I joined the education committee, where I learned that it’s necessary to completely understand something before you can teach it. However, not having any bad habits to unlearn, I found it relatively easy to ingest and accept the principles of the Manual of Practice, to understand the relationships between the various construction documents, and to understand how they are used, and I became a regular instructor for chapter education and certification programs. Without any conscious intent to do so, I had become a volunteer, helping others understand construction documents.

Many members who are interested in committee work and leadership roles mistakenly believe there is a fixed path to follow. While it is common to begin at the chapter level, gain experience, then move on to the region level, and eventually the Institute level, there is nothing to prevent members from asking to start at a higher level. Following a progression that begins at the chapter level makes sense for those who lack experience, but it always has been possible to skip one or more steps along that path.

Years ago, Institute directors were expected to seek out potential members for Institute committees, and in 1993, I was surprised by an invitation to join the Institute Specifications Subcommittee. And then the fun began. Working in Institute level committees is a lot of work, but it can be among the most rewarding things a member can do, and I suspect that is true in any organization.

At the time, the Specifications Subcommittee was responsible for maintaining SpecText, which then belonged to the Construction Sciences Research Foundation, and for maintaining SpecGUIDEs, a well-intentioned but not so well organized attempt at providing specification guides that relied on CSI chapters for content. Before each of the quarterly meetings, SpecText and SpecGUIDE sections were sent to committee members for review. As soon as I got them, I called local product representatives to get their comments, and I would search for applicable standards and references. By the time I left for the meeting, I was prepared to discuss each section in detail.

At my first meeting, I was thrilled to learn that my research was nothing unusual; virtually every member of the committee had done the same thing. Between preparing for the meetings and participating in the discussions, I learned more and improved my own work far more than I would have in the ordinary course of writing specifications for projects. A couple of years later I moved on to the Institute technical committee, where the experience continued.

I have found few things as professionally satisfying and useful as working on Institute level committees. Everyone shares the same commitment, and all bring tremendous knowledge and experience to share. The intensity is such that issues are discussed throughout the day, through lunch, through dinner, and on into the after-hours meetings. I quickly learned that some of the most important work is done in the less formal, free-for-all atmosphere of the dinner and evening debates.

If you want to help others and help yourself at the same time, I encourage you to get involved, not just at the Institute level, but wherever you can help. If you don’t find what you want in CSI, go to AIA, ASCE, ASTM, NSPE, USGBC, and other organizations. Call the committee chairs and members. Ask what they do, and ask what they get out of serving on the committees; they’ll probably say something similar to what I just said.

If you make the commitment, you will realize a return on your investment.

© 2014, Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, CSC

CSI BOGO
BUY-ONE/GIVE-ONE MEMBER REFERRAL CAMPAIGN

You already know involvement in CSI is a good investment. Now you can share CSI with others who haven’t yet experienced the benefits of membership. When you recruit one professional member who joins, CSI will provide you with one membership to GIVE to a potential new member.* You’ll be able to sponsor another colleague in CSI, and make your network and chapter that much stronger.

How it works:

Recruit an individual to join as a professional member. Make sure they enter your name and member number under “Member Referral Information.” (They need to have the right information about you!) CSI will send you a membership to give to a potential new member. We will mail you a special membership certificate to give to someone who is not a CSI member, good for one full year of CSI membership. The person to whom you give your gift will need to join by the deadline cited on the certificate. All new memberships are for one year. Renewal fees will be at full price. This offer cannot be applied to renewals – including renewing your own membership. Former members who left CSI more than two years ago are eligible to receive this gift. Chapter dues are not covered by this offer.

With your help, we can recruit others in the industry to join our ever-growing community. For your help, CSI will also award you 25 CSI Bucks for purchasing CSI products or services.

Don’t know your member number? To get credit for your recruiting efforts, the new member must put your member number on their membership form. Forgot your number? Look it up:

Log onto CSInet.org
Click “Update Profile”
Find your number under “Supplementary Information”

Contact CSI Member Services csi@csinet.org at 800-689-2900 if you have difficulty retrieving your Member Number.

Let your recruits know how valuable this gift is, why you gave it to them, and what they can get out of it. Encourage them to join a chapter, invite them to meetings, introduce them to other members, and help them start taking advantage of CSI.

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About Us...

Founded in 1948, CSI is a non-profit technical organization dedicated to the advancement of construction technology through communication, research, education, and service. CSI serves the interests of architects, engineers, specifiers, contractors, product manufacturers, and others in the construction industry.

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