



Specification Roundhouse

NEWSLETTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD CHAPTER OF THE CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS INSTITUTE

WWW.CSIPRR.ORG

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February Meeting



IN OTHER NEWS ...

CONSTRUCT2010, will be held in Philadelphia this year. Visit www.constructshow.com for more information

Sign up for CSI Weekly to the get the latest news on CSI. Visit www.csinet.org for more information.

Want to become certified? Spring national exam early registration deadline is January 29th.

Spring National Exam week is March 29th Through April 2nd.

AIA National Convention, June 6th thru June 12th in Miami, FL.

Our very own Gifford Albright will be presenting Skyscrapers, Past, Present and Future

Skyscrapers - Past, present and future—The Tallest 20 in 2020- A quick look at some of the world's future skyscrapers.

By Gifford Albright, Professor Emeritus of Architectural Engineering, Penn State; And a board member of our CSI PRR Chapter.

Gifford will present an Illustrated PowerPoint presentation that he has prepared to bring us all up to speed on 20 of the world's future skyscrapers, planned for construction over the next 10 years. Some of these are proposed, some have the foundations already poured, and in fact, some of these have halted / cancelled construction today because of various reasons.

Date: Tuesday
February 2, 2010
Time: 4:30 pm (Board meeting)
5:30 - 6:00 social

Cost: \$20.

Where: The Bullpen

Restuarant, Tyrone.

RSVP by February 1st to Mike Lechleitner at mike.lechleitner@lrkimball.com or 814-472-7700 ext 1252

Upcoming meetings and events

February 9th, 2010
Pittsburgh Chapter
Tour of the August Wilson Center for African American Culture.
Visit www.csipittsburgh for more information.

February 3rd—February 5th, 2010
AIA Grassroots Leadership and Legislative Conference.
Washington DC.
visit www.aiamiddlepa.org for more information

February 12, 2010
CSI Central Pa. Chapter - Dinner Meeting & Program at the Radisson, Camp Hill, PA, 6:00 p.m.: "Design Professionals and Product Rep Relationships: How to Maximize yours."
visit <http://www.cpc-csi.org> for more information



2010 CSI President Elect Nominee

Meet Paul Bertram, Jr., FCSI, CDT
By Gilman Hu (PG 20110111)

Paul Bertram, Jr. FCSI, CDT, is the nominee for CSI President-elect. We took this opportunity to ask Mr. Bertram a few questions.

Ballots will be available in early February. Candidates for other offices, institute and region, are posted in the CSI website, www.csinet.org/election.

Members of the 2010 CSI Nominations Committee includes - Michael T. Owen, Sr., FCSI, CDT – Chair; Lane J. Beougher, FCSI, CCS, AIA, LEED AP-Great Lakes; R. Michelle Christen, FCSI, CCCA, BBA, SEGD- Gulf States; Daniel Hargreaves, CSI, CDT, RAS- South Central; William A. Hayward, Jr., CSI, CDT, AIA- South East; Howard A. Levine, FCSI, CDT- North East; Eugene A. Valentine, FCSI, CCS, AIA- South West; Gilman K. M. Hu, FCSI, AIA – Board Liaison.

Q - *Please tell us a bit about yourself – What you do for a living, which chapter do you call “home”, whatever you want to share with the members so they have a better idea of who you are and what you do?*

PB - After a 6 year obligation in the Navy as an electrician/electronics technician, I started my career as a production artist with Walt Disney World in Design & Development in Orlando. In 1978 I formed PRB Design and specialized in developing communication strategies for the Building Team. This practice required understanding the communication, organization and management of project information for delivery of the built environment. The CSI CDT program was critical in developing core knowledge and industry relationships. CSI was and continues to be the foundation of my life-long learning resource and knowledge base as related to construction documentation, processes and communications.

PRB Design was sold in 2005 in order to pursue my passion of developing “sustainable” design strategies. Shortly after forming PRB Connect, I was hired by the NAIMA – the North American Insulation Manufacturers Association as Director of Environment & Sustainability. This experience was invaluable as I worked with top company executives of large companies laying out vision, strategies, budgets and measurable results of the programs I developed. My responsibilities also included interfacing with other associations, code agencies and standards development groups. This experience also brought heightened awareness and experience to issues such as climate change, energy efficiency, carbon reduction, net zero energy, and climate neutral that are all relevant to CSI. My current position, with Kingspan Insulated Panels brings a global perspective in design and construction with 26 worldwide operations and a focus on envelope first energy efficiency.

I have served on many chapter leadership positions including president of the Greater Orlando Chapter, my home chapter. As president I initiated a chapter public/private community service project that was awarded \$1.2 million dollars by the State of Florida to build an 11,000 sq.ft. drug and alcohol rehabilitation center for adolescents.

Q - When and how did you get involved with CSI? What was your first assignment and what were some of the guideposts from then to now?

PB - In 1990, after writing a technical manual for a building product manufacturer, it was recommended to me that I seek CSI membership and CSI's CDT. After achieving that advice, my mentor Don Thompson, took me to school. I spent time with Don in his office learning how to write specifications, going to job sites to review project specifications and to design firms to understand how concepts become reality. That is what CSI is really all about the mentoring attitude of members.

My first assignment was writing and producing Division 17 the Greater Orlando newsletter. Other CSI positions include Southeast Region Director, and Institute Vice President where I brought forward the concept of GreenFormat. I was part of the Construction Specifier magazine's Advisory Board and currently Chair of the GreenFormat Program Management Task Team. I am a charter member of the Pennsylvania Railroad Chapter and have assisted as program chair for the DC Metro Chapter where I am also a member. I continue to assist in the advancement of the CSI's BPMA – the Building Product Manufacturers Council. Most recently I was asked to represent CSI at the EPA 10th District for a meeting on developing PCRs (Product Category Rules) and are considering utilization of CSI classification systems such as Uniformat, MasterFormat and Omniclass.

What interested you most or what event had an effect or contributed to your CSI career?

PB - As a visitor to a CSI chapter meeting I was networked to a mentor who made the difference. Active participation is the key to belonging to any group. The return on investment of my time and money has provided the basis for a successful career on a pathway that you could not plan.

As a President-elect nominee, what would you like to contribute or focus on, CSI wise?

PB - As technology tools advance in the industry the integration and adaption of CSI core organizational structures including Uniformat, MasterFormat, GreenFormat and OmniClass are critical in BIM models for management of project information. Expanding CSI's role to include greater understanding of how climate change issues such as energy efficiency, net zero energy, carbon reduction, climate neutral, cap & trade and environmental assessment impact the management of construction documentation and communication is an opportunity. There are information gaps in these new areas of consideration and the industry is looking to CSI for knowledge based programs and clarity in this growing confusion. Government services and Federal Facilities are also opportunities for CSI regarding the structure in organizing and managing their projects. I recently heard a key GSA official challenge CSI's BPMA (Building Product Manufacturers Alliance) to take on an issue to advance the built environment. This challenge was accepted at the BPMA meeting with the possibility of creation of a Green Building Products Coalition to help reduce "greenwashing" and that ties into GreenFormat.

The economy has affected the construction industry, which has a definite impact on CSI's resources - membership and financial. What, in your opinion, should we be doing?

PB - As challenging as the times are for our industry, I believe CSI membership and participation key to staying informed and relevant in today's building market. I am a firm believer that CSI's delivery of knowledge based programs, networking, and certification programs greatly help improve our projects and careers.

CSI must concentrate on delivering knowledge based initiatives, tools and services that are relevant to today's project challenges as related to CSI's core values in communicating, organizing and managing project information for the lifecycle of the built environment. This direction will lead to the possibility of new education programs, productivity tools and/or certifications, new members and new revenues.

This interview will be distributed to all CSI chapter editors for their newsletter, would you like to take this opportunity to share your views or other comments with the membership?

PB - Leadership is all about building a team that can help advance the stated goals and objectives of the Institute. As I work to define those goals and objectives, I would like to ask for support from all members. Please let me know areas of your interest and expertise so I can find places for you to help make CSI more relevant in our changing market conditions.

I hope to see you soon at a Chapter, Region or Institute meeting, and at Construct 2010 in Philadelphia

Thank you for this opportunity to share my thoughts on CSI.

Q. Thank you Mr. President-Elect.

Pennsylvania Railroad Chapter Officers

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Directions

From the North:

Take the Tyrone exit.

Go to stop sign at the bottom of the exit and turn right.

Go to traffic light and turn left onto Pennsylvania Ave.

Go to traffic light and turn right onto 10th street.

Go under RR bridge and bear to the left onto Washington avenue.

Stay on Washington Ave., turn right into a parking lot between the Kwik Fill gas station and Pizza Hut.

There is a sign for the Bullpen Restaurant and it is located in the middle of the shopping plaza.

Meeting will be on the left side of the restaurant as you enter.

From the South:

Take the Tipton / Grazierville exit.

Go to end of off ramp and merge right onto old 220.

Stay on old 220, turn left into a parking lot between the Kwik Fill gas station and Pizza Hut.

There is a sign for the Bullpen Restaurant and it is located in the middle of the shopping plaza.

Meeting will be on the left side of the restaurant as you enter.

The Construction Specifications Institute is a nationwide non-profit technical organization dedicated to the improvement of specifications and building practices in the construction industry through service, education and research. Founded in 1948, CSI provides a forum for architects, engineers, specification writers, contractors, suppliers, and others in our industry. Membership is open to all who are involved in the built environment.