



## Remebering a dear friend *by Mark Schwartz*

As I was going through my e-mail InBox cleaning up old stuff, I came across some past ones from our recently-passed colleague, Shed Glass. When one got a non-biz e-mail from Shed, you knew before you opened it that it was going to be either funny or controversial, never both! At the funeral Jack Freeman, AIA, CSI and I were reminiscing that Shed always had an opinion on certain things and was always willing to share it with those who knew him well. I had the privilege and

honor to have Shed serve as my Technical Director when I was Chapter President or when I was SpecHeads Chair...never a dull moment, but always 'right-on' when we got down to CSI business. Of all the professionals in SCIP, CSI, or AIA, Shed was "Mr. CSI Specifications" through-and-through.

Those whom may have not know Shed from "the early years" would be interested to know he was trained as an Architect and according to Jack Freeman, when

he bought Ed Meirs firm, Shed was a draftsman there. I am not sure when he moved into private practice, nor how long he was a CSI Member, but would speculate it has been several decades. When he was in better health and more active on the Chapter's Board, he attended most of the Gulf States Regional Meetings. I recall a particular one in New Orleans where he and I stayed up late into the evening talking shop about MasterFormat and what Shed thought CSI "ought to do,"

which was his way own particular saying, this is the best way I am going to incorporate this methodology (or whatever) into my practice. I know any one out there that used Shed for their Project Manuals has had more than one similar conversation/debate/argument!

If you knew Shed like most of us did, you knew that he was a modest person when it came to himself and his practice, yet outspoken when it came to his passion, Specifications. He had a major

surgery (a scar on his throat like I've never seen" this year and was doing well recovering. At the funeral, his wife said that a heart rhythm irregularity was what took him from us so quickly. I had just the week before got a "catching-up, How are you doing/" e-mail from him that never alluded to what we now know was the inevitable. From all of us in the design and construction professions, the loss of our Friend Shed is a great one. He will be missed.

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# Missing Standards

by Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI,  
CCS, CCCA

Although there may be a few products that require little thought in specifying, most require some minimum amount of research, comparison of similar products, and determination of the right combination of characteristics best suited to a project.

Even then, the process can be straightforward and fairly simple, provided the type of product is common, governed by widely accepted standards for materials and performance, well-described in product data, and supported by reputable manufacturers and representatives. Hollow metal doors and frames are a good example. Most manufacturers produce them according to one or both of two sets of common industry standards, published by the Steel Door Institute (SDI) and the National Association of Architectural Metal Manufacturers (NAAMM). Unfortunately, not all types of building products can be specified by use of similar standards.

Before you start that e-mail telling me how difficult it is to specify hollow metal doors, let me add that the number of grades, types, options, and finishes requires the specifier to understand the hollow metal door and frame standards before making the several decisions needed to write the specifications. Each of the hollow metal standards organizations has described every component of hollow metal doors and frames,

how they are fabricated and installed, and which models are suitable for a variety of applications. All of those things are well-defined in the standards, and most manufacturers indicate which doors and frames comply with which standards.

However, some products are far more difficult to specify than others, despite abundant and readily available information. One group that comes immediately to mind is coatings. Unlike hollow metal doors, coatings have little in the way of industry standards, and there are many ways of achieving the same result.

For example, say we want a waterproof coating for an indoor floor. A variety of basic chemistries are available - acrylic, epoxy, polyester, polyurethane, and perhaps others. Some of these are better than others depending on what they will be exposed to, and some are more decorative than others, but it's likely that all would be acceptable if they need to contain only water.

Even if one type of chemistry rises to the top as being superior to the others, there may be countless varieties of that type. To add to the fun, manufacturers use different combinations of primer and top coats, have widely different test results for physical characteristics, sometimes use different test standards for the same characteristic, combine different types of chemistries in different ways, require different preparation, have different application

rates, and specify different requirements for curing.

One manufacturer may claim you need 6,000 PSI compressive strength and 200% elongation, while another says you need 10,000 PSI and only 125%. One says you need a primer for a given situation, another says you don't. One says you need to apply two topcoats, another says only one. One says you need a seal coat, another says you don't. And so on.

All of them make logical arguments for their particular systems, and all can produce long lists of local applications. All of which makes it difficult to logically select a product to specify, and makes it equally as difficult to evaluate substitution requests.

Paints are almost as bad as floor coatings, but, because they will be repainted every few years, the performance characteristics are far less important. Otherwise, paints suffer from the same problem as floor

coatings - few widely accepted standards.

I'd like to have a rational basis for making decisions about coating properties. By that, I mean a scientifically derived set of standards based on actual performance requirements. I'm fairly certain that the reason manufacturer A says you need 6,000 PSI tensile strength, and manufacturer B says you need 10,000 PSI, is that those are the values their products have. I have yet to see someone say, "Oak Ridge National Laboratory has determined that a floor coating system should have a minimum compressive strength of 4,792 PSI."

Coatings aren't the only problem; foam thermal insulation is another. We have specified extruded polystyrene with 25 PSI compressive strength for a long time, not because of any research, but because that's what is required by ASTM C578 - and *that* is because that is what is

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## Standards...

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produced and commonly used. Polyisocyanurate roofing insulation is available in 16, 20, and 25 PSI varieties. How do we compare the two types of insulation? If extruded polystyrene should be 25 PSI, should not polyisocyanurate also be 25 PSI? What is the rational basis for making this decision?

Going back to hollow metal doors, I doubt there is any research that tells us what the thickness of the face sheets should be, but in this case I don't think it's necessary. The gauges used probably are based on empirical evidence, but more important, one manufacturer isn't trying to tell me that the face sheets should be one thing while the other manufacturers are saying something else.

It has been stated that industry standards such as those published by SDI and NAAMM are not sufficient, as they tend to reflect the lowest

performance of the association members. Even if that is true, those standards still provide a valuable service by specifying a multitude of characteristics, allowing the specifier to use them as a base. After that, it is relatively easy to specify that a hinge reinforcement or some other component be something different from that required by the standard.

By setting standards, industry organizations serve a valuable purpose. While I encourage coating manufacturers, suppliers, and installers to cooperate in establishing standards for their industry, I also encourage the same for other products that suffer from missing standards. And if those standards are based on analysis rather than just a consensus of what is available, so much the better.

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<http://twitter.com/swolfsearch>

## President's Message

Merry Christmas! I trust by the time you read this you are stuffed with turkey and well on your way to finishing up the Christmas shopping.

For those that missed our November chapter meeting, you missed an interesting program presented by Scott Bergsbaken with Specialty Products Group, "LEEDing The Way Through Green Concrete". Scott provided valuable information on the EPA's new limitations on interior VOC's, and how the proper specification and use of integral water repellants in concrete can greatly improve indoor air quality.

Please remember that we will not have our typical chapter meeting in December; instead please make plans to attend the Holiday Reception on December 16<sup>th</sup>. The Reception will be held at Piedmont Natural Gas (83 Century Blvd) from 4:00 – 6:30 PM. Once again this year CSI will be partnering

with ABC for this event. There is no charge for members, however; we do ask that you register so that we can insure there is plenty of food and refreshments. Also, ABC and CSI will be collecting Toys for Tots. If you are interested in participating, please bring a new unwrapped toy to the reception.

As we wrap up 2010 and look forward to 2011, I would ask everyone to focus on membership recruitment. The institute is currently running a membership drive called "Every1Counts". By participating in this program, CSI members have the opportunity to not only help their peers by introducing them to the benefits of CSI but also win great prizes. There is a brief outline of this program included in this month's Specifacts.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Holidays and I hope you have a successful and prosperous 2011.



Randy Huffman  
CSI CDT

### Nashville Chapter CSI Contact Us

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Construction Specifications Institute

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Thomas L. Parshall RA, CSI



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**The Construction Specifications Institute – Nashville Chapter**

**Board Meeting**

**Meeting Date:** November 16, 2010

**Present:** Randy Huffman, Kevin Russell, Erin Chambers, Tiffany Goulet, Dan Cress, Jack Potter, Jerry Curtis, Cheryl Crosby, Troy Williams

**Call To Order and Officers' Reports**

1. Randy Huffman called the meeting to order and passed out the Agenda.
  - a. A quorum was not present.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Jack Potter
  - a. The Budget Report was presented and reviewed. The Budget was not voted on since a quorum was not present. Randy Huffman will distribute the Budget via email to voting members not in attendance.
  - b. A budget number for the CSI Chapter website needs to be confirmed and included.

**Committee Reports**

1. **Academic Affairs:** Kevin Russell
  - a. MTSU Student Chapter President Matthew Russell is requesting selection of Andrew Ennis as Vice President. Matthew will be looking to the MTSU students in the Interior Design program for student Secretary and student Treasurer officers. Dr. Heather Brown, director of the Concrete Industry Management program has agreed to take on the role of Designated Faculty Advisor.
  - b. Matthew will be meeting with students in the Concrete, Construction Management and Interior Design programs at MTSU next week for an informational meeting about the CSI Student Chapter. He is requesting Board members from the CSI Nashville chapter to help facilitate the meeting. Randy Huffman, Tiffany Goulet and Kevin Russell offered to attend.
  - c. A draft of the constitution and bylaws of the MTSU Student Affiliate of the Nashville Chapter of CSI was handed out and reviewed. Some editing is needed. Troy Williams offered to edit the grammar, which needs to be done prior to sending to the National Institute for review and comment.
  - d. An Accounting structure for the Student Chapter needs to be developed for eventual future needs. Existing CSI or MTSU student government guidelines should be utilized for reference. Questions regarding possible student chapter dues and/or expenses were discussed. Kevin Russell will raise these questions for discussion at the MTSU meeting next week.
2. **Awards:** Troy Williams
  - a. The deadline for Region/Institute Awards submissions needs to be confirmed. In the past, the President Elect has been responsible for the chapter commendation award submittal package; however, Troy Williams has been handling this in recent years. Nominations for specific individuals were discussed.
3. **Electronic Communication:** Woody Bruhn
  - a. The new website is operational. However the link from the Institute website to our Chapter website is incorrect and needs to be corrected.
4. **Holiday Party:** Randy Huffman
  - a. This year's party will be held in conjunction with the Middle Tennessee Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors at the new Piedmont Gas building on December 16<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm to 6:30pm. A toy drive will be included. Invitations via email blast will be sent out.

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David Scott, AHC, CDT

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5.   **Membership:** Tiffany Goulet
- a.   There are 134 current members, up from 132 last month and 129 the previous month. Current members includes 11 students.

b.   The National Institute is promoting a new membership campaign with a points system and prizes for recruitment of new members.
6.   **Product Show:** Randy Huffman for Tim Yoko
- a.   There was an excellent turnout for the Product Show, with approximately \$7,000 in funds raised.
7.   **Programs:** Jerry Curtis for Tex Stohl
- a.   Tile and high performance coatings are forthcoming topics.
8.   **Publications:** Erin Chambers
- a.   Content is still needed for Specifacts. Submitted articles are preferred to be limited to approximately 500 words.

b.   The new Specifacts format and graphics is much improved.
9.   **Technical:** Jerry Curtis
- a.   The December Specheads meeting may have two 45-minute topics.

Meeting adjourned.  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Daniel Cress, AIA, CSI, LEED AP  
Secretary

December Member Anniversaries	
Tim Pedigo CSI Alley-Cassetty Brick 28 Years	Ray Cahoon CSI Brandon Company 8 Years
Cheryl Crosby CSI, CCCA AmSurg 24 Years	Dan Cress CSI Thomas, Miller & Partners 6 Years
Larry Hart CSI, CDT, AIA Thomas, Miller & Partners 24 Years	James Mullins CSI Proj X, LLC 6 Years
Kent Kile CSI, CCPR PPG Industries 21 Years	Michael Cripps CSI W.R. Meadows of GA 3 Years
Thomas Tarpay CSI Stanley D. Lindsey and Associates 17 Years	Christopher Gray CSI South East Associates 2 Years
Jim Clement RA, CSI, CDT Clement & Associates 11 Years	Tav Cooke CSI Architectural Window Solutions 1 Year
Ken Adkisson CSI, CDT Isenhour Door Products 10 Years	

# Everyone 1 Counts

## Membership Campaign

Recruit a new member and participate in the “Every1Counts Membership Recruitment Campaign” and you’ll receive recruiter points, win great prizes and earn local and national recognition. Receive recruiter points for each member recruited to CSI. Make sure your name and ID Member Number is on form.

Professional, Industry and Associate Members = 10 points/each

Intermediate Member = 5 points/each

Student = 1 point/each

Meet the point threshold and automatically qualify for a chance to win one or more of the following prizes.

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50 Recruiter Points
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200 Recruiter Points
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400 Recruiter Points  
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For each member you recruit your name goes in for the Grand Prize Drawing. The more you recruit the greater your chances! Grand Prize – Construct2011 & The CSI Annual Convention

Registration, airfare up to \$400.00, 4day/3night hotel stay at one of the Construct2011 host hotels.

Every1Counts Membership Recruitment Campaign ends June 30, 2011 so get RECRUITING!!!!!! For more details and information please visit

<http://www.csinet.org/Main-Menu-Category/Communities-2109-14280/CSI-Biz/Every-One-Counts-Campaign.aspx>

## Chapter Officers

**Randy Huffman, President**  
(615) 244-0440  
(615) 244-4553 fax  
rhuffman@alley-cassetty.com

**Tim Yoko, President Elect**  
(615) 377-9773  
(615) 370-4147 fax  
tyoko@tmpartners.com

**Woody Bruhn, 1st Vice President**  
(615) 772-3468  
woody@coolsunlight.com

**Mike Leonard, Immediate Past President**  
(615) 329-1399  
(615) 329-1486 fax  
mleonard@haa.us

**Dan Cress, Secretary**  
(615) 377-9773  
(615) 370-4147 fax  
dcress@tmpartners.com

**Jack Potter, Treasurer**  
(615) 370-8500  
(615) 370-8530 fax  
jpotter@hfrdesign.com

## Directors

Kathy Richards, Chapter Director (615) 754-5393 (615) 754-5340 fax krichards@kbjmarshitects.com	Bob Grummon, Chapter Director (615) 322-2715 (615) 343-4830 fax Robert.grummon@vanderbilt.edu
--	--

Woody Bruhn, Chapter Director (615) 772-3468 woody@coolsunlight.com	Becky Wagoner, Chapter Director (615) 743-3334 bwagoner@hermitagelight-ing.com
---	--

Kevin Corkern, Chapter Director (615) 399-5275 (615) 399-5285 fax kevin@tlparchitects.com	Kent Kile, Chapter Director (615) 347-4572 (615) 251-1885 fax kkile@ppg.com
--	--

## Committee Chairs & Co-Chairs

Kevin Russell, Academic Liaison (615) 767-6139 krussell@mcclroymetal.com	Tiffany Goulet, Membership (615) 333-1000 (615) 333-1006 fax tiffanyannwil@aol.com
--	---

Troy Williams, Awards (615) 356-9911 (615) 352-6737 fax troy@bargecauthen.com	Tom Parshall, Planning (615) 399-5275 (615) 399-5285 fax tlparch@bellsouth.net
--	---

Carl Manka, Certification (615) 504-6625 (615) 366-3992 fax carl.manka@tbr.edu	Tim Yoko, Product Show (615) 377-9773 (615) 370-4147 fax tyoko@tmpartners.com
---	--

Kent Kile, Education (615) 347-4572 (615) 251-1885 fax kkile@ppg.com	Tex Stohl, Programs (615) 360-7013 (615) 360-7137 fax tex.stohl@kone.com
---	---

Tiffany Goulet Electronic Communications (615) 333-1000 (615) 333-1006 fax tiffanyannwil@aol.com	Erin Chambers, Publications/Editor (615) 790-9840 (615) 790-9927 fax echambers@lojac.com
--	---

Loretta Baltz, Friendship (615) 844-1017 (615) 250-9425 fax Loretta_baltz@mcgraw-hill.com	John Arndt, Scholarship (615) 256-3185 (615) 256-6263 fax johna@dwccares.com
--	---

Jerry Curtis, Technical  
(615) 790-2828  
tnbass@comcast.net

## 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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