

Tracy Lynn Van Niel, FCSI

"For your extraordinary dedication to promoting the principles of CSI through your work in education by serving on and chairing the Institute Education Committee; for your steadfast service and leadership at the chapter, region and Institute levels; for your consistent, passionate, and enduring promotion of student activities; and for your inspirational commitment to the mentoring of others, you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on the 22nd day of June 2007."
Baltimore, Maryland"



TRACY VAN NIEL was born in Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and has, essentially, grown up "CSI."

Education and learning the process of specification writing were the two reasons behind Tracy's decision to join CSI in 1980. Tracy has always believed that if you are a member of an organization then the best way to get the most from your membership is to be involved. From the time that she joined the Columbus, Ohio Chapter in 1980, Tracy has served at the chapter, region, and Institute for 26 consecutive years, many times serving at multiple levels simultaneously.

Working at Trott & Bean Architects under the mentorship of George Van Niel, Tracy learned the basics of specification writing and went from being an intern specifier to a full-time specifier in the eight years she was there. Tracy has been at DesignGroup since 1991. Promoted to Specifications Manager in 1999, she became an Associate in 2000.

In her spare time, Tracy is involved in the sport of dogs (Border Terriers). She was a co-chair for the 2006 National Specialty, serves on a Border Terrier Club of America national committee (and will soon be a Board Member), and is President of the Border Terrier Club of Central Ohio. She has shown two of her dogs to championships and they have accumulated numerous performance titles as well.

In addition to her dog activities, Tracy is also a quilter, and an award winning cake decorator, and she has recently taken up beadwork. She has been a Featured Artist at several Gallery Hops, her beadwork is featured on several artist websites, and she has been teaching bead weaving classes since 2006.

Tracy, along with her father, George, are CSI's second two generation Fellows, and are the only two generation Fellows who are both still CSI members.

CSI Membership

Columbus, Ohio Chapter, 1980

Institute Offices, Committees

Nominating Committee FY 1999, 2000

Jury of Fellows, FY 1995-1997

Education Committee Member and Chair, FY 1991-1994

Programs Committee, FY 1993, 1994

Region Offices, Committees

Education Co-Chair and Chair, FY 1988-1999

Technical Committee Chair, FY 1998

Long Range Planning Committee, FY 1985-1989

Finance Committee Chair, FY 1985, 1986

Chapter Offices, Committees

Technical Committee, FY 1981, 1983

Membership Committee Chair, FY 1983

Secretary, FY 1984

Programs Committee Chair, FY 1985, 1986

Education Committee Chair, FY 1985

Budget Committee Chair, FY 1986

Newsletter Editor, FY 1985, 1996, 1997

Vice President FY 1985, 1986

President, FY 1987

Trade Fair Committee, FY 1987-1989

Publications Committee, FY 1998-2000

Student Affiliate Committee, FY 2004, 2005

Strategic Planning Committee Chair, FY 2005, 2006

Awards

Institute

Specifications Competition Award, 1985

Certificate of Merit, 1987, 1994, 1997, 2000

Education Commendation, 1990

Region

Superior Journalism, 1996

Certificate of Appreciation, 1985, 1986, 1988-1990

Education Commendation, 1989

Chapter

Certificate of Appreciation, 1981-1989, 1992-1994, 1996-2000, 2004-2006

Member of the Year, 1985

Specifications Proficiency Award, 2000

20 Year Service Award, 2005