President's Message
Beth Stroshane, CSI, CCS

An Industry Separated By a Common Language
Thank you to everyone who joined us for the January meeting. We had a very successful joint meeting with the American Society of Professional Estimators (ASPE). It is times like this that it strikes me that we are an industry divided by a common language.

One of the ASPE presenters said simply that a system was $55/square foot, and said it like everyone knew what that meant. I know what $55 dollars is, and I know what a square foot is, but that combination of words is not meaningful to me because I have no frame of reference. I don’t know if that is good cladding or bad cladding, or if I could trade that for a flooring upgrade or an upgrade from modified grout to epoxy grout. I've seen the look that must have been on my face on the face of contractors and estimators when I talk about U-values, elongation properties of waterproofing, and NFPA 285.

We are all smart people, who are using words we all understand the general meaning of, but we are not communicating because we don’t all have the same frame of reference and experience.

This is why CSI and joint meetings like this one are so important to the future of our industry. In the good old days of design-bid-build we didn’t really have to communicate to as many people with such varied expertise.

In this new world of delivery methods where the team is working side by side we need to brush up on, or learn from scratch, how to communicate with our partners and consultants. CSI provides the conversation opportunity to ask the questions you don’t want to ask at a project...
For instance, what is the cost difference between 45 mil and 60 mil roofing and when are the material budget numbers set?

With the contacts I have from our joint meeting I can now brush up on my estimator vocabulary.

Next month we will be learning the dialect of whole building testing. Come and test your current vocabulary and share your knowledge, learn something, and leave with new information.

See you soon.

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**February 12th Programs**

**Chapter Dinner Meeting: Meeting Building Air Pressurization Specifications**

Social Hour: 5:00-6:00pm, Dinner 6:00-7:00pm, Program 7:00-8:00pm
$35 members/$40 non-members/$25 students/$0 sponsored students (after 2/9/15, prices will be additional $10)

How is the construction industry doing in meeting building air pressurization requirements that are now required by owners and building codes? To find out, Phil Emory, Senior Project Manager for Neudorfer Engineers, will present his findings addressing elevator shaft pressurization testing, raised access floor plenum testing, and health care/pharmaceutical facilities pressure separation gradient testing necessary for infection control.

Photo courtesy of Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.
Phil is a graduate of Montana State University in mechanical engineering. He has been involved in the engineering and construction industry since 1985 with experience in mechanical design, mechanical construction, test & balance, air barrier testing and is a Level II Thermographer. He is currently serving on the Air Barrier Association of America Whole Building Tightness Committee and is the committee chair for the National Environmental Balancing Bureau Building Enclosure Testing Committee and Instructor for NEBB’s BET Certification Program. Photo courtesy of Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

This is your chance to get actual field feedback on performance of buildings that are being constructed today, so plan on attending and bring a guest, so that more can share in the benefits of CSI. See you then.

**Tech Talk 1: Hidden Underperformers - The Real Impact of Thermal Bridging Through Interface Details**
3:00-4:00 pm
$10 members/$15 non-members/free for students & unemployed
Presenter: Medgar Marceau, PE, ASHRAE, Principal, Senior Building Science Engineer, Morrison Hershfield

This Tech Talk will provide an overview of the Building Envelope Thermal Bridging Guide, with specific attention on how thermal bridging at interface details impacts building envelope performance. Typical and best practice examples for building envelope assemblies will be examined, and their impact will be assessed in the context of effective R-values and whole building energy performance.

**Tech Talk 2: Roofing and Waterproofing Design (with the Best of Intentions)**
4:05-5:05 pm
$10 members/$15 non-members/free for students & unemployed
Presenter: Ray Wetherholt, Roofing and Waterproofing Consultant, President of Wetherholt and Associates

Where does design meet common sense? What works and what does not? Ray will present design and constructability concerns that apply to waterproofing. Some of the design and concepts are basic but must be implemented properly. As Ray says, "Don't always listen to the manufacturer!" Be sure to attend the Tech Talk to hear him elaborate. Ray has acted as a waterproofing consultant on numerous commercial and institutional buildings primarily located in the Pacific Northwest, Alaska and Hawaii.

**REGISTER NOW!**
Quick Pitches

There are openings for 10-minute Quick Pitches at our Chapter meetings in February, March, April, and May 2015 at a cost of $180.00. Contact Dick Owen to sign up.

Affiliate Events

CSI Tri-Region Conference

When: May 13-16, 2015
Where: Hilton San Diego Resort & Spa
Registration: http://www.sandiegocsi.org/tri-region-conference.html
The 2015 TRI REGION CONFERENCE information and forms are now up to date. The conference will be held in San Diego May 13-16. Vendors and attendees wanted! For more information, visit [http://www.sandiegocsi.org/tri-region-conference.html](http://www.sandiegocsi.org/tri-region-conference.html).

**ASPE Monthly Program: WinEst Estimating Software**

**When:** Tuesday February 17th. Social/Networking at 5:30 PM and Meeting/Dinner at 6:00 PM  
**Where:** Hales Ales - 4301 Leary Way NW, Seattle, WA  
**Registration:** Will open on February 2nd. Go to [aspepugetsound.com](http://aspepugetsound.com) and click the reservations tab which will take you to PayPal.

WinEst estimating is considered one of the most powerful database-driven solutions on the market. The key to its popularity is that it looks and feels like Excel with familiar Windows navigation, including drop-down menus and ribbon bars. Behind the covers of the Excel-like interface is a powerful database, flexibly presented with multiple work-breakdown structures (WBS) and filters. WinEst estimates can be standardized for multiple project types. Many WinEst users also use On Center’s *On-Screen Takeoff* for drawings. Each line item and assembly in WinEst can be assigned to a task/activity ID. This means we can see a preview of the costs for each in our Task Table. Also find out about Modelogix, the software that is essential to quickly building “cost models” of client-driven requests for anticipating a project construction cost.

Presenter Steve Watt has been involved in providing software business solutions for the AEC Industry for over 25 years. Steve is currently the Market Segment Manager for Estimating/Cost Planning at Trimble Buildings, GC/CM Division. Prior to his current position, Steve was the President and CEO of WinEstimator, Inc., a cost estimating and cost modeling software company that provides a suite of software solutions for the commercial, industrial, residential, public works, and specialty markets.

**Future ASPE Programs:**

- Jobsite tour at Seattle seawall construction site
- Port of Seattle
- The ins and outs of Design-Build
- BIM for Contractors: building an estimate with the “Federated BIM Model”
- Meet the Chiefs your chance to get the answers and insight into how bids are organized and assembled – ask a panel of local chief estimators!
- Annual ASPE/ACI Golf Tournament
Rules of Thumb
Sheldon Wolfe, RA, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, CSC

A huge problem that continues to grow is that we have too much information. When American architects formed AIA, 150 years ago, construction was much simpler; mechanical systems hadn't changed much since the Romans used them 2,000 years ago. Since then, countless new materials and processes have been introduced.

Life was simple for architects of those early years, much of their time being spent detailing ornamentation. In 1905, a local university building of 112,000 square feet was built using a steel frame, with brick, marble, granite, and terra cotta. The construction documents comprised 58 drawing sheets and a 51 page project manual. By today's standard practice, hundreds of pages of drawings and a project manual of at least two volumes...

Read More>>

January Programs Recap

Dinner Meeting: Joint Meeting with ASPE
By Kelly Laleman, CSI, CCS
January's dinner meeting was a joint meeting with the American Society of Professional Estimators. The discussion was moderated by Marc Chavez of CSI, Don Shanholtzer of ASPE, and Tom Cole of ASPE. The discussion focused on what can be done to align the project goals of cost, quality, and schedule. Early in the discussion, it was pointed out that specifiers and estimators are similar, both being detail-oriented tech geeks. A primary issue discussed is that the price contractors provide early during project design does not align with what the architect ends up designing. Ideas to address this issue included a “basis-of-cost” rather than “basis-of-design” to establish a reliable early estimate, contractors being astute enough to know what questions to ask early on, encouraging estimators to contact specifiers (since they may have more knowledge of the item in question than the drawings indicate), and using outline specs that include performance requirements and pictures to convey intent.

**Tech Talk: Design and Product Options that Destroy Your Healthcare Budget**

*By Melissa Balestri, CSI, CCS*

The Healthcare Panel was full of diverse experiences and suggestions by panelists Dick Dow (District Manager of Access Technologies at Stanley Black & Decker, Inc.), Grace Kradin (Specifications Manager at Panolam Industries International), Jim McGinnis (Account Executive at Nora Systems, Inc.), Loretta Johnson (Workplace Strategist/Senior A+D Market Manager at Teknion LLC), and Marc Everson (Account Executive at J.R. Abbott Construction). My favorite question asked by moderator Marc Chavez (AIA, FCSI, Associate Partner at ZGF Architects LLP) was, "What are your biggest pet peeves in our contract documents?" Common answers from the panelists included generic specs, lack of critical measurements, and waiting until the last minute. Other answers included:

- Working with a product rep to come up with a solution, then receiving a VE product from their competitor and not closing the loop to see if the original manufacturer has an equivalent product.
- Not understanding the product and its limitations and/or use. Set realistic expectations.
- Not designing with sound issues in mind, such as placing outlets next to each other.
- Sight issues, such as seeing a vending machine or fast food restaurant from a patient room door.
- Allowing disconnect between what's designed and what's allowed to happen on site.

We hope to see you at next month's Tech Talks, which promises to be just as informative.
About CSI

CSI is a national association of specifiers, architects, engineers, contractors, facility managers, product representatives, manufacturers, owners and others who are experts in building construction.
and the materials used therein. They are dedicated to improving the communication of construction information through:

- A diversified membership base of allied professionals involved in the creation and management of the built environment. Join us.
- Continuous development and transformation of standards and formats.
- Education and certification of professionals to improve project delivery processes.
- Creation of practice tools to assist users throughout the facility life-cycle. Join a CSI Practice Group.

CSI is governed by a Board of Directors, a nationally elected body that provides long-range strategic leadership. The Board is composed of nationally elected CSI officers, including the president, president-elect, two vice presidents, the secretary, and the treasurer; elected representatives (directors) from each of CSI's 10 regions; and a director at large. CSI's executive director/CEO is a corporate officer.

For more information about or to join CSI, visit www.csinet.org/joincsi, or call 800-689-2900.