TOP TEN CHSA / AUSTIN!

1. Spend dusk on the Congress Avenue Bridge while a mass exodus of bats emerge from their hang-out spot beneath the infrastructure.
2. Visit a local music spot and pretend you are at SXSW standing next to Judd Apatow.
3. Bike Lady Bird Lake, then stop for $3 tacos from a food truck.
4. Enjoy drinks at the Driskill Hotel, local farm-to-table cuisine and finish the evening off with a red velvet shake from Cow Tipping Creamery.
5. Eat breakfast tacos every day, because, hey, its Austin!
6. Connect with our community of construction historians in sessions that will improve your knowledge, challenge and inspire you.
7. Explore building technology transfer in ways you hadn’t thought of before.
8. Meet our keynote speakers and presenters in a small-group environment that makes it easy to exchange ideas and make meaningful connections.
9. Spend time walking the city, peering under bridges, gazing upwards at a beautifully painted church ceiling, or strolling through adobe brick mission buildings on a Saturday afternoon tour.
10. Meet faculty and students of the University of Texas at Austin, and see what they are working on; then visit the largest collection of drawings and photographs in Texas at the Alexander Architectural Archives.

SEE YOU IN AUSTIN!

Melanie Feerst - Executive Director
BRIAN BOWEN, Chairman Emeritus
Brian Bowen is a Professor of Practice in the School of Building Construction at Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta. Prior to this appointment in 2005 he was president of Hanscomb Inc., international construction consultants. He teaches a course on Construction Industry – Its Past, Present & Future which led to his interest in Construction History. Tech supported the creation of the Construction History Society of America which came to life in 2008, and Brian guided its development and growth until 2015 when he stepped down as Chairman of the Management Committee.

Please join us at the Members’ Meeting on Thursday, May 26th at 5:30pm in Room GOL 2.110 as we recognize Brian for his commitment and unending efforts on behalf of the Construction History Society of America.

Dr. Richard Cleary:  Austin’s Growing City Limits
Founded in 1839 on the banks of the Colorado River as the capital of the Republic of Texas, Austin has spread broadly but unevenly beyond the limits of its original grid across grasslands and against the uplift of the Edwards Plateau. It is now the hub of a metropolitan area with over two million residents. Loblolly pine from nearby Bastrop, river clays suitable for brickmaking, and easily accessible limestone sustained the city’s early building industry. The arrival of railroad service in 1871 integrated Austin within broader regional and national networks of building materials and products. This presentation will examine episodes of Austin’s growth with particular attention to examples of building practices including brick producers, lumber suppliers, the system of Moonlight Towers illuminating the city’s streets, and the embrace of air conditioning.

Tom F. Peters:  Eiffel of Paris, Jenney of Chicago, and their French Engineering Education
Peters discusses the influence of construction culture and personal development on Gustave Eiffel and William Jenney, and how engineering education in mid-19th century France at the Ecole Centrale in Paris led to very different careers in iron construction in Europe and the United States.

Roberto Meli:  Building Transference Knowledge in Colonial Mexico
The transfer and adaptation of architectural patterns and building techniques brought from Spain to colonial Mexico will be illustrated, using the monastic temples and the Tembleque aqueduct as case studies.
MIXTEX STONECUTTING ARTISTRY / Exhibition
Benjamin Ibarra Sevilla

Mixtec Stonecutting Artistry is an innovative exhibition that allows us to understand, from a unique perspective, a bright moment in Mexican architecture history. The work presented in this exhibition identifies and analyzes three sixteenth-century buildings constructed in the Oaxacan Mixteca which exhibit complex ribbed vaults. The exhibition shows that the vaults built in Mexico were built with the same rigor and precision of their European counterparts in the great Gothic cathedrals.

Using digital technologies, Prof. Benjamin Ibarra addresses the challenge of representing and explaining the details and intricacies applied in the design, development, and construction of the lush vaults and the stone pieces that shape them. The exhibition responds to a rising global interest emerging from the need to understand these buildings through the eyes of construction history, focusing on information relevant to the architects and engineers interested in technical aspects.

This exhibition and research have been awarded The University of Texas / Coop. Excellence Creative Research Award 2014 and the medal for best publication in Mexico City’s Architecture Biennale in 2015.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Session 1 - Prefabrication in North America

Session 2 - Shells & Spatial Structures I
“The Key to the Problem is the Section:” Nervi’s Architectura Navale by Thomas Leslie, Kyle Vansice and Benjamin Kruse

Session 3 - Code, Theory and Management
Arbitrating the Arbitrary: Architects, Contractors and Their Contractual Relations in the Early 20th Century by George Johnston

Session 4 - The 19th Century
Constructing the New York Tribune Building 1873 - 1875 by Lee Gray

Session 5 - Colonial Latin America (16-18th Centuries)
The Eighteenth-Century San Antonio Missions: Metrology and Proportions in Spanish Colonial Land Survey and Building Construction by Shelley Roff

Session 6 - Mid-Century Modern Architecture
Judith Chafee: Building Culture by Christopher Domin

Session 7 - Pre-colonial Latin America
Engineering the Inka Road in the High Andean Mountains by Cliff Schexnayder

Session 8 - Community Based Projects
Do-It-Ourselves: Ikea Hackers and Participatory Building Communities by Samuel Dodd
NEW FEATURE: CORPORATE / INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

LOCATION: McLean, Virginia
YEAR ESTABLISHED: 1982

CORPORATE NEWS

For the first time, there is a clear industry consensus on the education required to become a professional construction manager, i.e., it is now possible for undergraduate CM programs to be accredited by ABET, the pre-eminent accrediting organization in engineering and related fields. CMAA led the creation of this opportunity by becoming a member society of ABET in 2013 and organizing the effort that led to the program-specific CM criteria that were adopted by ABET in the fall of 2015. This was a response to an initiative by several universities that felt an urgent need to differentiate their CM programs from a large number of more general educational offerings.

Additional information about ABET accreditation is at http://cmaanet.org/cmaa-and-abet.

HISTORY OF CMAA

Defining the CM profession and identifying its most effective practitioners has been a key goal of CMAA since its founding. Efforts toward this goal have included the first Construction Management Standards of Practice published in the 1980s, along with numerous updates leading to the most recent edition, released in 2015. The SOP became the basis for the Certified Construction Manager (CCM) program, which is accredited by the American National Standards Institute under an international norm. There are now more than 3,000 CCMs nationwide. CMAA also offers the Construction Manager In Training (CMIT) program to support the school-to-workplace transition, and a broad range of continuing professional education options for its members.

SUBMITTED BY: John J. McKeon, Senior Vice President
ANNIVERSARIES - 1716 James Brindley

British canal engineer James Brindley was born in 1716 and trained as a millwright. He migrated into his role as England’s first major canal engineer in collaboration with the Duke of Bridgewater in 1759 and his canal that carried coal from his estate in Worsley to Manchester. From there he went on to engineer and construct many of the major British canals. A little known segway of this story is that his nephew, also James Brindley, who worked with his uncle, emigrated to America in 1774. At first he was considered to be an imposter – many immigrants adopted a fantasy persona at the time. But he was the real thing, a canal engineer, and went on to work on most of the major canals constructed in the eighteenth century – the Susquehanna, Conewago, Potomac, Santee, Harper’s Ferry (pictured) and others. George Washington, a great fan of canals, knew Brindley and spoke well of him.

To read more about the American James, see “James Brindley, American Canal Engineer” by Robert J. Kapsch and Yvonne E. Long, published in the History of Engineering & Technology, volume 81, number 1, 2011 – the Journal of the Newcomen Society. Ms Long is a descendent of Brindley.

ANNIVERSARIES - 1866 - Transatlantic Cable

Even though Cyrus Field had completed the first cable in 1858, it operated only for three weeks. Several other attempts followed and in 1866 the S.S.Great Eastern (pictured & designed by I.K.Brunel the famous British civil engineer) laid a successful cable and started full operations 150 years ago.

1816 Montgomery Meigs Anniversary - Coming in your July Newsletter!

Montgomery Meigs projects included the longest masonry arch bridge (at the time), the Washington Aqueduct, Dalecarlia Reservoir, a new Washington Capitol dome framed with iron for which he developed a new tower crane, and was the architect of the Pension Building in Washington DC (which you might remember from last newsletter Travelogue). Meigs was also entrusted with a secret mission from then-President Abraham Lincoln!
CALL FOR PAPERS - Construction History Society Magazine

The editor of CHS Magazine invites articles, communications and suggestions for book reviews on all subjects related to construction history from CHS members and others. Articles should be max. 2,000 words long, and should include a short list of relevant references, but no footnotes. If possible, articles should be accompanied by 3-4 high-resolution images in jpg or tif format with complete captions and photography credits. In cases where copyrighted photographs or illustrations are being used, the author must seek permission to publish these from the relevant copyright holder. Email submissions in Word format to magazine@constructionhistory.co.uk.

CONSTRUCTION HISTORY BOOKS

Francesca Russello Ammon, PhD recently published *Bulldozer: Demolition and Clearance of the Postwar Landscape* (New Haven: Yale University Press, April 2016).

ISBN-10: 0300200684

fammon@design.upenn.edu

BOOKS FOR YOUNG CONSTRUCTION HISTORIANS IN TRAINING

CHSA congratulates our webmaster Jenn Cappeto on the birth of her son Benjamin Thomas Wright and recommend these favorites:

**GOODNIGHT, GOODNIGHT CONSTRUCTION SITE**
by Sherri Duskey Rinker and Tom Lichtenheld

**MACHINES AT WORK** by Byron Barton

**WHOSE TOOLS?** by Toni Buzzeo and Jim Datz

by Elizabeth Mann and Laura Turco

CALL FOR SYLLABI

To all faculty who teach a construction history class or incorporate a construction history learning module in your history, design, architectural or engineering class, you are invited to submit a .pdf of your teaching syllabi to the new CHSA archive to help further our collective knowledge.

Please email: melaniefeerst@gmail.com
RECREATING THE ROTUNDA
Originally published in UVA Today, the University of Virginia’s School Newspaper

Thomas Jefferson’s meeting with artist Maria Cosway in France in 1768 led to his inspiration for the University of Virginia’s signature Rotunda. After she took him to see a wooden dome in the style of 16th century architect Philibert Delorme at Halle aux Blés, Jefferson bought Delorme’s handbook and set about bringing the Frenchman’s technique home. He installed America’s first Delorme dome at Monticello and repeated the technique when designing UVA’s Rotunda.

CHSA Member Benjamin Hays from the University of Virginia, CHSA Member Benjamin Ibarra Sevilla from the University of Texas at Austin, and architect Douglas Harnsberger led students in recreating the Rotunda’s original dome, which was destroyed in 1895 by fire. This project was part of Hay’s course “The History of American Building Technology” at the University of Virginia School of Architecture. They also built a second model of the Rotunda dome, as it was redesigned after the fire by Spanish-American architect Rafael Guastavino, who used a 14th-century vaulting technique in the reconstructed Rotunda.

See more at: https://news.virginia.edu/content/architecture-students-recreate-rotundas-construction-scale-models#sthash.TjQGk75j.dpuf
SATURDAY AFTERNOON TOURS

BRIDGES - TRANSPORTATION, AUSTIN AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDINGS
Visit three innovative wire-supported bridges which are Central Texas transportation landmarks: a multi-level Post-Modernist interchange, a suspended-deck arch bridge, and a fin-back bridge. Co-lead by a retired TxDOT senior bridge engineer and TxDOT bridge historian Mark Brown.

HILL COUNTY TOUR (SUNDAY)
Interested? please email melaniefeerst@gmail.com
This day-long tour visits several notable bridges including an extremely rare concrete truss, a rehabilitated suspension bridge constructed by an important Texas builder, and a fin-back. Along the way we will see a sweeping landscape made legendary by Chester Nimitz, Lyndon Johnson, and Robert E Lee. Please note that there is a separate Tour fee which includes Texas-style BBQ for lunch and dinner at a microbrewery specializing in German food.

SAN ANTONIO FRANCISCAN MISSIONS
This afternoon tour will offer a visit to the National Park of the Franciscan Missions at San Antonio Texas. These historic landmarks built during the 18th Century have been designated as World Heritage Site within UNESCO’s list. The outstanding craft and elaborate stone carving makes this historic buildings unique in NorthAmerica. The tour will be guided by specialists involved in the restoration and preparation of the nomination dossier submitted to UNESCO.

PAINTED CHURCHES OF TEXAS
This afternoon tour, guided by local historians, will offer a visit to Central Texas countryside visiting the historic churches also known as The Painted Churches. These buildings near Schulenburg TX reveal the delicate artistry of Czech and German immigrants to this Texan region. Exuberant decorations characterize these historic structures as an example of the cultural transference that took place during the 19th-century.

WALKING TOUR OF AUSTIN
Join Dr. Richard Cleary on a walking tour exploring Austin’s history through the architecture of The University of Texas at Austin, the Texas State Capitol, and an introduction to the city’s main street, Congress Avenue.
ABOUT AUSTIN


RECOMMENDED APPS

Go Austin - By BarZ Adventures
Go Austin contains interactive GPS mapping that will guide users turn-by-turn to the front door of each location.

AUSTIN360
The free Austin360 app simplifies life for busy, social consumers, while serving up a uniquely Austin experience – exemplified by the “Get Weird!” button for Austin’s more adventurous crowd of food and fun-finders.

UT Eats
View when and where to eat on and near the UT Austin campus

CapMetro
Austin Bus and Metro Ride maps and directions

Texas Historical Landmarks
Get to know your Texas history with this easy-to-use app. The app gives you access to detailed historical information from over 14,000 state monuments and attractions.

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Please send current research articles, books, opportunities, or travelogue pieces for future Newsletters