



SAN ANTONIO

CONSTRUCTIONTM

NEWS

The Industry's Newspaper

www.constructionnews.net

P.O. Box 791290 San Antonio TX 78279 * 11931 Warfield San Antonio TX 78216 * (210) 308-5800 * March 2004 * Vol. 7 No. 3

Page 8

San Antonio Construction News • Mar 2004

Women in Construction

The **National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC)** designates one week in March as "Women in Construction Week." To honor the exceptional women of the San Antonio architectural, engineering, and construction communities, *San Antonio Construction News* invites its readers to meet six women who contribute to our built environment.

Catherine Jaquez
Assistant Project Manager
Zachry Construction Corporation

A graduate of McCollum High School, Class of '95, **Catherine Arnold Jaquez** knew from the time she was a child that she wanted to be a builder or an engineer. Focused on that goal, she attended Texas Tech University, receiving a B.S. in Construction Engineering Technology, Class of '99.

"I entered Texas Tech declaring an Electrical Engineering Technology major, based on my love of the aerospace program. Upon completing two years, my interests shifted back to building. In the industry for four years, I've been employed with **Zachry Construction Corp.** for two years and prior to that, as a project engineer for **Vaughn Construction.**"

Currently working on a \$13 million construction project for the UT Health Science Center, Catherine participates in pre-construction activities, including hosting interviews with potential subcontractors and establishing project budgets.

"When the Pre-Construction Phase is complete I continue to play an important role by reviewing submittals for completeness to the scope of work, responding to and processing request for information (RFI's) documentation, reviewing and processing change proposals and change orders, and keeping a balance of the project budget."

Asked to define one of the greatest challenges she faces, Catherine admitted having to go the extra mile to prove her place on the jobsite.



"Not to offend anyone, but most people who walk through the door assume that I am in a typical 'female position.' I have to work a little harder to overcome those first impressions."

When she's not traveling on spontaneous road trips with her husband, or researching her family tree, Catherine volunteers her time and attention in support of the **National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC)**, **Associated General Contractors (AGC)**, and the North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.

"I would tell young women who choose a career in construction to never give up on your dreams," Catherine emphasized in conclusion. "I think Mary Kay Ash put it best when she said, 'When your passion and your purpose are greater than your fear and excuses, then you will find a way to do anything.' After working in the industry for four years, I remain thankful for the lessons I've learned going through both positive and negative experiences."

Maryanna S. Christensen
Vice President
Harding-Conley-Drawert-Tinch Insurance Agency, Inc.

Vice president **Maryanna S. Christensen, CPCU, CIT, Harding-Conley-Drawert-Tinch Insurance Agency, Inc.**, received a B.A. and M.A.T. from Purdue University. She also studied at the University of Hamburg, Germany, prior to beginning her insurance career with the Travelers Insurance Companies.

"I joined Harding-Conley-Drawert-Tinch Insurance Agency, Inc. in 1980," Maryanna began. "I am involved with agency management along with underwriting and marketing of commercial insurance accounts."

The insurance professional, who routinely attends educational seminars, earned the CPCU (Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter) designation in 1995 and the CIT (Construction Industry Technician) designation in 1998.

"I work not only with the insurance companies," she continued, "but with all of the agency's accounts about their insurance programs. I also review construction contracts and specifications for insurance requirements, indemnification clauses and other 'insurance-ese' for our clients. As an independent insurance agency, finding the right fit between our customers and the various insurance carriers is a large part of my job."

While Maryanna finds the insurance industry to be a challenging, demanding and rewarding business, the profes-

sion satisfies her penchant for working with people and with numbers.

"The current insurance market is still very tight for certain types of contractors due to fewer insurers, more restrictive coverage, and higher premiums. Finding insurance carriers willing to provide coverage at reasonable prices has been very challenging over the past few years. It is taking more time than in the past for the underwriting review process."

Maryanna is a Director on the Board of **Associated Builders and Contractors - South Texas Chapter**; President of Independent Insurance Agents of San Antonio; and National Governor, CPCU Society, the most widely recognized, valued and respected designations in the property and casualty insurance industry.

"Chief among my goals is to continue to improve the image of insurance agents and the insurance industry," Maryanna said. "My advice to young women who are interested in this career field is to go for it with enthusiasm! The insurance business is an exciting and varied business, where no two days are alike. There are so many avenues, including production, customer service, claims, risk management, marketing, and others. There are also plenty of opportunities for advancement."

