

# Fast!!!

We're fast. Not quite as fast as the current world record holder Usain Bolt of Jamaica. Bolt set new world records for the 100M (9.58 sec.) and 200M (19.19 sec.) at the Berlin Invitational in August, 2009. Yes, that is Bill Eberhard to Bolt's left and our branding consultant, Jennifer Nemec of Ideation Studio in Chicago, partying with Bolt to celebrate the dedication of a new Regupol track for Bolt in Jamaica, identical to that on which he set his records in Berlin. The next day, Bolt ran the fourth fastest 200m time ever at the Jamaica Invitational, easing up at the last 15 meters.

But we can be pretty quick in what we do. Most colleges and universities have a three-month summer season to renovate instructional and student housing facilities each year while students are away on summer break. This means that all planning, budgeting, design, engineering, documentation, permitting and bidding (and materials ordering!) must be done so that the Contractors are poised to blast out of the blocks as soon as the students leave.

As the continuation of the Oliver Design Group firm, we were created by a commercial real estate company that was not satisfied with how independent architectural and interior design firms managed schedules, budgets and design. After years of disappointments, they finally started their own firm in-house. So we understand how important time is. We also know that nothing we do can create more of it. But we do know how to communicate and work efficiently.

When Oberlin College was attempting to abate asbestos in a student housing facility last summer, they encountered electrical, life safety and structural issues. They suddenly needed comprehensive contract documents for the expanded scope of work - which included demolition and reconstruction of part of the facility - and they needed them fast!

"Bill Eberhard came down to meet with us the morning after we called him in a panic. They submitted CD's for permit five days later! We were all very impressed and grateful for their commitment and speed. And the students all moved in on schedule after all!"

**Keith Watkins**, Project Manager  
Oberlin College

The renovation of the Higbee Building for the Greater Cleveland Partnership and Positively Cleveland not only had lease expiration issues to address, but significant base building infrastructure complications and historic tax credit application issues as well. Additionally, the project had two clients - GCP and PC - and a turnkey landlord which made approvals complex and uber-important.

"We presented Bill and his team with a daunting task: Restore The Higbee building to its original historic beauty, while maintaining historic tax credits for the landlord, and living within a tight construction budget and an unreasonable schedule. Through their leadership, creativity, and design expertise, we were able to achieve our functional, aesthetic, financial and occupancy goals."

**Darin R. Haines**, former Vice President  
Greater Cleveland Partnership/ Positively Cleveland

Usain Bolt/ Eberhard photo copyright by Hugh Wright

