



SOUTHWEST BREEZES

A PUBLICATION OF THE SOUTHWEST REGION
CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS INSTITUTE



DECEMBER 2008

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Check out the Region Conference flyer from the Las Vegas Chapter - keep the date!

CSI SOUTHWEST



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Robert Mallory, CSI, CCS, CCCA, CCPR, LEED AP
Institute Director, Industry

First and foremost, Neil and I would like to wish all CSI members and their families a safe, healthy and fun holiday season. The holidays are always special at CSI. We are all busy wrapping last minute details on Institute and Region awards, Fellowship nominations and certification registrations.

If you are busy with any of the above activities, please take a few minutes of personal time on December 25th to enjoy the season and then hit it hard again on the 26th. Every Chapter in our Region has a potential Fellow who deserves to be nominated and each Chapter has activities for award nomination. Please look for these opportunities in your Chapter so we can dominate the awards ceremony at the Indianapolis Institute Convention.

Since you will be spending quality time with family, friends and loved ones, what a great opportunity to get them to help you study for a CSI certification exam. Simply assign each family member a chapter in the Project Resource Manual (PRM), have them prepare flash cards and instead of sitting around watching football games all holiday season you can study for your certification exam with your family and buddies. What could be better?

Neil and I are looking forward to a great 2009 for the Southwest Region. The Las Vegas Chapter is busy at Santa's Workshop building a great Region Conference. They have a great schedule lined out. Rudolph and the gang have found a great hotel in downtown Las Vegas, just south of the North Pole, so there will be no excuses for lack of attendance. They won't even check to see if you've been naughty or nice, we just want you to attend to make the conference great. Frosty the Snowman and Blitzen have teamed up with Dasher and Dancer for a great tour, while the rest of the elves are busy working on informative and constructive CSI related breakout sessions. We hope that each Chapter will send its leadership team to the Conference for team building and Chapter building activities. The elves get very grumpy when there is light attendance at the Region Conference and believe me, there is nothing worse than a group of grumpy elves.

Please consider CSI certification over the holidays as it will be one of the best things you can do for your career. Family and friends will also enjoy helping you study. What a better way to keep warm over the holidays?

Be careful and kind to all, and think great thoughts about CSI. Happy Holidays from the Southwest Region to one and all. The best gift you can give is one of friendship, kind words, a hug and love of community and our industry.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS - WORKING WITH THE FUTURE

By Ron Geren, CSI, CCS, CCCA, AIA, SCIP

Review your life and think back to the time when you entered the construction industry. Was it right out of college either as a wet-behind-the-ear twenty-something or as a seasoned veteran of the employment world?

If you answered "yes," then what would your response be to this question: Did you feel you were completely ready for this new career field you were about to enter?

If you are like me, then you probably answered "no."

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IMPORTANT DATES

- **December 13, 2008**
CDT Exam offered at Univ. of New Mexico, Albuquerque (sorry, registration date is past)
- **January 2, 2009**
Institute deadline to submit for Distinguished/Honorary Member recognition
- **January 15, 2009**
Institute deadline to submit for Chapter Awards and Member Recognition at June convention
- **January 30, 2009**
Early registration for spring 2009 CDT exam
- **February 28, 2009**
Final registration for spring 2009 CDT exam
- **March 30-April 4, 2009**
Spring CDT exams - nationwide testing dates
- **April 2-4, 2009**
SW Region Conference, Las Vegas
- **June 16-19, 2009**
Construct2009 & CSI Convention, Indianapolis

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Do you wish someone had required you to learn how to read and write a specification? Wouldn't it have been great if someone had explained the contractual relationship between owner, contractor, and architect? How about knowing the difference between a change directive and change order?

During our education, we were provided theories, book knowledge, and some hands-on experiments and projects, but we received little in the way of how the construction industry really works; why construction documents, standards, and procedures are important in constructing the various types of projects that members of our industry are involved in on a daily basis.

The Academic Affairs Program helps bring that reality into the classroom. The purpose of the program, as stated in Institute Policy, is to:

Increase recognition of CSI's value at academic institutions, provide curricular and extracurricular resources essential to the educational foundation of academic institutions, and to foster the relationship with academic institutions for the advancement of new knowledge in the construction industry.

It is very difficult for CSI at the Institute level to approach and interact with the thousands of academic institutions across the country; it is even a huge task at the region level. The best way to approach the academic institutions is at the chapter level--where the chapter members are either graduates or employees of the schools, or they know people who are.



So how does a chapter get involved?

First, find the schools, colleges, or universities in your area that provide programs in the construction industry, such as architecture, construction management, engineering, interior design, building technology, computer-aided drafting, etc. Students of these programs are most likely to find jobs in fields related to their education.

Next, approach the decision-maker on the faculty, either through connections or the direct approach, and request to meet them about how CSI can help students in their program. But that is the tricky part--you need to have something to offer before you make contact.

So what can the chapter offer?

There are several things you can offer that range from the simple to the complex.

The simplest form of involvement is to offer students reduced fees for chapter membership, educational seminars, and chapter meetings. You can also provide or donate materials for the library such as copies of the Project Resource Manual, MasterFormat, National CAD Standard, and/or other construction-related resources.

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Of moderate effort is to request some time to present to the students what CSI is, the standards it has developed, and the programs and events it provides to its members, students, and the construction industry. This could be during class, at a student event, or another opportunity where students are gathered.

Increasing in complexity (and involvement) is to have chapter members offer to teach, either as volunteers or as paid adjunct faculty, courses having topics such as construction documents, specifications writing, or contract administration.

A complex approach is to initiate a scholarship program to benefit students in construction-related programs. This is considered complex because it needs to be organized and money needs to be raised--enough money to make it worthwhile for students to pursue. So a structure for marketing and selecting scholarship candidates needs to be developed, and fundraising events need to be scheduled and coordinated.

Probably the most complex of all is doing two or more of the above. So, as the saying goes, "don't bite off more than you can chew." Do what you can afford (time- and money-wise) and work your way up.

The best way you can look at this is no matter what you do, no matter how big or how small, students will benefit from what you can offer, and, hopefully, so will CSI. When you are working with students, you are also working with the future of the construction industry.

About the Author: Ronald L. Geren, CSI, CCS, CCCA, AIA, SCIP, is the Southwest Region Academic Affairs Chair and Past-President of the Phoenix Chapter. He is principal of RLGA Technical Services located in Scottsdale, Arizona, which provides specifications and code consulting services to architects, engineers, owners, and product manufacturers. A 1984 graduate of the University of Arizona, Ron has over 24 years of experience with military, public, and private agencies.

GREETINGS FROM THE EL PASO CHAPTER

Javier Roque, CSI, CDT
El Paso Chapter President

CSI El Paso and the Eco-El Paso Symposium

CSI El Paso was a part of a first time ever event held in El Paso on October 16th, "Eco El Paso Symposium on Sustainable Design in the Hot Arid Climate". On behalf of our Chapter, I sent a big "Congratulations" to the AIA - El Paso Chapter for initiating and putting together a very successful symposium that featured many excellent speakers to boot. It was even greater to see different local organizations come together in co-sponsoring this eco-conscious event that was unique to our region. This was a distinctive type of learning experience put together to better understand what will and not work in our Chihuahuan desert. I am especially grateful of the fact that CSI was instrumental in assisting the El Paso Chapter in becoming a major contributing partner in this eco-informative event.

The one-day event explored environmentally responsible, energy efficient and "eco" buildings in our Chihuahuan desert region. It brought together local construction industry leaders with a common interest to learn from the numerous topics presented. Speakers included commercial and residential architects, engineers, designers, contractors, and



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manufacturers who are interested in becoming better involved in sustainable building planning, design, and construction.

The speaker I proudly recognize is Mr. Paul Bertram, Jr. FCSI, CDT, LEED AP, the Director of Environment and Sustainability for the North American Insulation Manufacturers Association (NAIMA) located in Arlington, Virginia. Mr. Bertram is a fellow of the Construction Specifications Institute, a past Institute Vice-President, and serves on the USGBC – LEED Materials and Resources Technical Advisory Group. He also participates in the ASHRAE Technical Committee on Sustainability, GreenGlobes ANSI committee, NAHB - National Green Building Standard ANSI committee, Sustainable Buildings Industry Council Technical committee, National Institute of Building Science – High Performance Building Committee, and the NBIM committee.

With these credentials, Mr. Bertram was given a fitting title of “CSI Technical Guru” on the event program featuring his “CSI’s GreenFormat and Relevance to Project Specifications” presentation.

Mr. Dan Mireles, CSI, CCCA, Chapter Past President, was instrumental in bringing this presentation to Eco El Paso. Mr. Mireles was fortunate to have met with Mr. Walter Marlowe, P.E., CSI Executive Director and CEO and Ms. Sarah Meyers, while on his visit to the nation’s capital. Mr. Mireles expressed our interest and hopes of a presentation on CSI’s latest format to El Paso’s eco-event. Mr. Marlowe’s support gave life to a thought of having an educational presentation of the format by a key CSI member. While there, Mr.

Mireles was given a grand tour of CSI headquarters and was greeted by the hospitable and hardworking staff.

Ms. Meyers also gave Mr. Mireles an informative website tour of the format’s functions, and an inside look to the enormous potential of the CSI GreenFormat concept. **Check it**

out on www.greenformat.com.

Mr. Bertram’s presentation was an overview of climate change performance challenges, influences from local, state, regional, and federal global warming abatement strategies, and their impacts on project specifications. The interactive discussion reviewed complexities in evaluation and specification of sustainable projects that require the targeted

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CHAPTER WEBSITES

Albuquerque:
Denver:
El Paso:
Las Vegas:
Phoenix:
Pikes Peak:
Salt Lake City:
Tucson:

www.csialbuquerque.org
www.denvercsi.com
www.csiepaso.org
www.csilv.org
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energy efficiency/GHG/carbon reductions of Architecture 2030. An update was also presented on current sustainability and green product ASTM and ISO standards.

CSI's GreenFormat is a web-based format that provides a standardization framework for identifying the sustainable properties of building products. GreenFormat is used to find basic information about products to help meet "green" product requirements.

Other notable speakers were Mr. Javier Ruiz, whose topic was on using and achieving an Energy Star rating for residential and commercial buildings, Mr. Steve Schwartz, who spoke on Applied Sustainability: Case Studies in Organic Workspace Design, and Mr. Rick Lepore CDT, LEED AP, with his presentation on Daylighting Principles & Strategies.

There were other topics that included material from the Texas Collaborative for High Performance Schools (TXCHPS). A topic that I found to be very interesting dealt with the new changes for LEED 2009 (V3.0). This leads to my conclusion that LEED is not the only rating system to use. There were related presentations on Green Globes, Energy Star, and CHPS for schools. I guess it is primarily all about what we find to be most useful.

My final thoughts of this first for El Paso is that it was a great success, not just for the organization who with its sponsors put it together, but also for the city of El Paso and the surrounding area. The design community has stepped up to make our city and environment a much better place to live, work, and play.

Javier Roque RA AIA CSI
CSI El Paso Chapter President

AND FINALLY, HAPPY HOLIDAYS WITH AN UPDATED CSI LOGO!



WELCOME TO LAS VEGAS

Pssst...your Vegas is showing...

2009 CSI Southwest Region Conference

mark your calendar...

April 2-4, 2009



Conference Activities

CSI Chapter Related Programs

Educational Seminars with CEU's available

Conference and Hotel at The Historic Golden Nugget

Spouse / Guest Activities

Guided walking Tour of "Old" Las Vegas

Make plans to attend this exciting and informative conference

Hosted by the Las Vegas Chapter of CSI



For future information and updates please visit www.csilv.org or contact Joe Morales at jmorales@abbae.com