



A Newsletter written by Fellows of CSI for Fellows of CSI

Publisher: Gilman Hu, FCSI

Editor: Richard A. Eustis, FCSI

Editorial:

By: Your Editor

The Publisher and Editor would like to thank the Fellows who took the time to send either an e-mail or a snail mail in response to the February Issue of this newsletter. As we indicated in the previous edition, the intent of this newsletter is to provide a forum for the sharing of information among the Fellows as well as to encourage Fellows to remain active in CSI. I think that Ken Guthrie, FCSI stated it very well in his article when he mentioned that in an introduction, Walt Geisinger explained that "FCSI" actually meant "Future Continued Service to the Institute".

There are many ways to be of "continued service" and we all do not need to do the same things. Some may wish to be more active than others are but we all have something to contribute. We can be active as "mentors", participating in various ways at Chapter, Region or Institute level, or in sharing our knowledge of the history of our organization. The main issue is to continue our contributions.

We are always looking for contributions to this newsletter. If you have a message that you would like to share, information that would be of interest to other Fellows or would like to comment on something that has been printed in a previous newsletter, please let us know.

What Problem? Am I a Problem?

By: Phillip L. McDade FCSI, CCS, ASLA
Institute President Elect (*Phil received his Fellowship in 1999 at the Los Angeles Convention. Since receiving his Fellowship, he has served the Institute as Secretary and is currently the President-elect.*)

An old Justin Wilson joke told about a Cajun pulp wood cutter (pup-wooder) that bought a chainsaw because the salesman told him he could cut 7 chords of wood a day. Well, Herbert (that's A'-bear in Cajun talk) went for days getting up earlier and earlier each

morning and staying out later each day, and he could never get 7 chords of wood cut in a day. So, he took the chain saw back to the salesman, and told him he wanted his money back because the chainsaw wouldn't do what he said it would. The salesman said, "OK, let's check it out." He primed it, pulled the chord, the chainsaw cranked right up with a lot of smoke and the typical BRRRRRRRR noise. Herbert looked at the salesman and asked, "What's dat noise?"

I'm afraid many of us try to address perceived problems in the Institute without having all of the information. Translation: We're trying to cut wood with a chainsaw that isn't even turned on. The problem is that when you begin to tackle these perceived problems and you don't have the facts, your words and actions can mislead (and mis-inform) those folks who look up to and respect you. To them, you're having that "F" before CSI tells them that you know your stuff, at least when it comes to CSI.

Coming into the office of President, my greatest concern this year is what I perceive to be divisiveness in the ranks. We're critical, and even at times mean spirited. We just want to shoot people for making what appears to us as mistakes! My hopes for this year include having a Board that communicates AND listens. This does not mean staff speaking for elected persons on issues critical to the membership. This means elected people not only defending, but "championing" positions taken by the Board. This means making sure you have the information. Note: this does not mean that an elected person needs to grab each of the 18,000 members by the ears, look into their eyes, and speak with their lips! It does mean that the correct information will be provided, by any or all of the means available to communicate to the membership, therefore, failure for someone to read does not mean a failure to communicate by the Board. I believe that CSI is and has been a "bottom up" organization. In my 6 years on the Board, I can honestly say that decisions made have been based upon what was thought to be the best for the members. To do that requires listening. I think we have listened, but

we're making a stronger effort to listen and give the membership opportunity to feedback.

Now, does your having the correct information mean that you'll always agree with the Board's decisions? Well, we do grow turnips in Mississippi, but I didn't fall off of the truck! Of course not! But, knowing the facts, we can be on a level playing field. If you disagree, you can offer constructive criticism rather than aiming sniper shots, based on half (or no) truth. If you can't get the facts, call a Board member. If they can't answer your question(s), ask an Officer. Hopefully, one will tell you that if they don't know, they'll find someone that does, and you'll eventually get the facts.

Having double bypass surgery 1-1/2 years ago taught me several things. The Good Lord showed me that life is too short, and you should have more positive memories of family, friends, and experiences. CSI has provided me, and I'm sure many of you with some great personal and business relationships, and has helped you in your chosen profession. We all love this organization – even if we argue with one another. Just remember, when you write or speak to the membership, get the facts – not hearsay – before you immediately fire off a couple of cannon rounds. Remember who you are, and then ask questions or comment in a way that benefits the organization. Ask yourself, as I have to often do, “Am I the problem or a solution?”

If you'll do this for us, I will assure you that the Board will do what I said above. Thanks!

Jury of Fellows Responds to Changes

By: J. Gregg Borchelt, FCSI (*Greg received his Fellowship in 1990 at the Chicago Convention. His citation recognized his technical excellence in the field of masonry technology and his willingness to share this expertise through education programs and publications. Since receiving his Fellowship, he has served the Institute as Treasurer.*)

Well, I was selected to chair the Jury of Fellows and now I get to steer it through a series of changes. Is anything as easy as you thought it would be? As most of you know, is a change with respect when the investiture of fellows takes place. There are also changes underway on the process of selecting those new fellows. These latter changes are budget-driven. They are not too dramatic. Some of the methods have been used before. Of most significance to the Jury is the loss of the face-to-face meeting in Alexandria to vote on the nominees.

The Board and Executive Committee decided that the 2003 fellows will be invested at Build America in April 2003. This meeting replaces the Institute Convention and Exhibit previously held in June. Thus, the nomination process must also start earlier. Nomination packages will have to be completed sooner. The 2002 Jury selected November 1 as the receipt date. Those of you who prepare nominations and write letters of endorsement will have to submit them to the Institute by that date.

In addition to the nomination packages the Jury will receive ballot forms and envelopes for submitting the vote on each nominee. The Jury members will do their review and make their decisions as before. Rather than a face-to-face meeting there will be a telephone conference call on the second weekend of January. Marked ballots will have been sent to the Institute. One Jury member will be with staff to open and count the ballots during a conference call. The distributed ballot forms and preaddressed envelopes will maintain the anonymity that has been the hallmark of fellow selection. A similar process has been used when Jury members were not able to attend the meeting. The writing and refining of the citation wording will take place with email and telephone conference calls. This has worked well in the past two years.

The function that will include the investiture ceremony has not yet been finalized. For 2003 it will take place at the Construct America education seminar. The Jury certainly wants to maintain the dignity, decorum, and significance that it has always had. This matter is still under discussion; more on that in a later edition.

Our Publisher has provided some information that we report with deep sorrow.

In Memorial

**James C. Bort, FCSI
Fellows Class of 1963
Chicago Chapter, CSI
Died: January 30, 2002**

**Alice E. Shelly, FCSI, CCS
Fellows Class of 1978
Honolulu Chapter, CSI
Died: March 10, 2002**

College of Fellows

The February 2002 Edition of *The FELLOWS* contained an article by R. Stanley Bair, FCSI explaining the work being done to develop a possible College of Fellows including the drafting of bylaws for the College. If you would like to review this article or any other material in previous editions of the Fellows Newsletter, all previous editions are now available on the web site: www.mecci.org/fellows.htm.

The following is the result of the work of the group that volunteered to work on this project following the Convention in Dallas and this will be a part of the discussions at the Fellows Workshop in Las Vegas.

PROPOSED BYLAWS OF THE COLLEGE OF FELLOWS THE CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATIONS INSTITUTE (Final Draft 1/18/02)

1. THE COLLEGE OF FELLOWS

1.1 The College of Fellows of The Construction Specifications Institute is composed of those individuals who have been advanced to Fellowship, have the right to use the initials FCSI and to use the title Fellow of the Construction Specifications Institute, all in accordance with the Bylaws of CSI.

2. PURPOSE

2.1 The purpose of the College of Fellows is to stimulate a sharing of interest among Fellows; to promote the purposes of the Institute; to advance the construction industry; to be of service to society; and to perform services for the Institute as agreed upon with the Institute President.

3. OFFICERS

3.1 The Officers of the College of Fellows and their terms of office shall be as follows:

3.2 THE CHANCELLOR shall serve a single one-year term which shall immediately follow a term as Vice Chancellor.

3.3 THE VICE CHANCELLOR shall serve a single one-year term as Vice Chancellor and shall succeed to the office of Chancellor.

3.4 THE SECRETARY shall serve a single two-year term of office.

3.5 THE BURSAR shall serve a single two-year term of office.

3.6 DIRECTOR: The Chairman of the CSI Jury of Fellows shall serve a one year term as an advisory, non-voting member of the Executive Committee of the College of Fellows. However, in the event of a tie vote by the Executive Committee, the Director may cast a tie-breaking vote if requested to do so by the Chancellor.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

4.1 The officers shall be elected by those present at the annual business meeting and shall take office on July 1 following their election.

4.2 The Fellows present at the annual business meeting shall elect two new officers to the Executive Committee each year, including a new Vice Chancellor. In odd numbered years, they shall elect a member to serve as Secretary and in even numbered years, they shall elect a member to serve as Bursar.

5. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

5.1 The Chancellor shall act as presiding officer at the annual business meeting and at any meetings of the Executive Committee of the College of Fellows. The Chancellor shall perform all the duties incidental to the office, those required by law and these Bylaws, and those properly delegated to the office by the Executive Committee of the College of Fellows.

5.2 The Vice Chancellor shall assume all the powers and the duties of the Chancellor in the event of absence or disability of the Chancellor and shall perform other duties assigned by the Executive Committee of the College of Fellows or by the Chancellor.

5.3 The Secretary shall record all actions taken at the annual business meeting and meetings of the Executive Committee of the College of Fellows, shall furnish a copy thereof to all members of the

College of Fellows, and shall perform other duties assigned by the Executive Committee or by the Chancellor.

- 5.4** The Bursar shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the College of Fellows and shall serve without bond. The Bursar shall undertake such related responsibilities as are assigned by the Executive Committee of the College of Fellows. The Bursar shall authorize disbursements from the College of Fellows Endowment Fund with the approval of the Executive Committee of the College of Fellows.

6. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COLLEGE OF FELLOWS

- 6.1** The Officers of the College of Fellows shall constitute the Executive Committee, of which the Chancellor shall be Chairman and the Vice Chancellor shall be Vice Chairman. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the conduct of the affairs of the College of Fellows, and, as the Advisory Committee of the College of Fellows Endowment Fund, shall be responsible for soliciting contributions from the members of the College of Fellows and others for the Fund and for approving disbursements from the Fund. The Executive Committee of the College of Fellows shall report to the membership of the College of Fellows at each annual business meeting and shall submit a written "informational report" to the CSI Board of Directors at its annual meeting.

7. VACANCIES IN OFFICE

- 7.1** In the event an officer cannot or does not fulfill the duties of the office, the remaining members of the Executive Committee of the College of Fellows shall appoint a member of the College of Fellows to serve out the original elected officer's term, with full rights and title to the office. If the Chancellorship becomes vacant, the Vice Chancellor shall immediately succeed to the unexpired term of the Chancellor, and on completion of that term, shall continue to serve as Chancellor for a full one-year term. The Executive Committee of the College of Fellows shall appoint a new

Vice Chancellor who shall complete the term of the original Vice Chancellor but who, unless duly elected as Vice Chancellor, shall not succeed to Chancellorship. All officers shall remain in office until their successors are duly elected and installed.

8. ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

- 8.1** A business meeting shall be held annually at the time and place of the CSI meeting at which the Investiture of Fellows occurs. Notice of the business meeting shall be sent to all Fellows at least 30 days prior to the meeting.
- 8.2** A quorum at the annual business meeting shall consist of not less than fifty (50) Fellows representing not less than eight (8) CSI Regions.
- 8.3** Any motions, resolutions or proposed amendments to these Bylaws must be presented in writing to the Secretary not fewer than six (6) weeks in advance of the annual business meeting in order that the Secretary may properly notify the membership of the College of Fellows at least 30 days prior to the meeting. No actions taken at the Annual Meeting shall be in conflict with the Bylaws of CSI.

9. COMMITTEES

- 9.1** The Executive Committee of the College of Fellows shall appoint a Nominating Committee to propose a slate of officers for election by those members present at the annual business meeting.
- 9.2** Other committees as may be needed may be appointed by the Chancellor or the Executive Committee of the College of Fellows.

10. AMENDMENTS

- 10.1** These Bylaws may be amended: (1) at the annual business meeting by a vote of not less than two-thirds of those present, or (2) by letter ballot by a majority of those voting, provided at least 100 ballots are returned, subject to the limitations set forth in Article XII of the CSI Bylaws.

**11. THE COLLEGE OF FELLOWS
ENDOWMENT FUND**

11.1 A College of Fellows Endowment Fund may be established. The fund would be administered by CSI as a separately identified Fund, managed by the Executive Committee of the College of Fellows acting as the Advisory Committee of the College of Fellows Endowment Fund.

11.2 The College of Fellows may solicit contributions from its members, and others as may be approved by the Advisory Committee, for the fund. Contributions shall be made payable to the College of Fellows Endowment Fund.

11.3 The proceeds of the Fund shall be used for matters related to the Purpose of the College of Fellows.

12. OPERATING PROCEDURES

12.1 The Executive Committee of the College of Fellows may establish such operating procedures as may be necessary to administer the activities of the College of Fellows, which shall not be in conflict with the Bylaws or operating procedures of CSI.

End of bylaws

Editors Note: *The full list of CSI Members who participated in the development of this draft set of bylaws for a College of Fellows are: R. Stanley Bair, FCSI, CCS, Chair; Jo Drummond, FCSI, CCS; Richard Eustis, FCSI, CCCA; Alana Griffith, FCSI, CCPR; Dennis Hall, FCSI, CCS, CCCA; Diana Hamilton, FCSI, CCS; Gilman Hu, FCSI; Joseph Kasimer, FCSI; Robert Molseed, FCSI, CCS; William Pegues, FCSI, CCS; William Riesberg, FCSI, CCS; Carole Schafmeisster, FCSI; Tom Tarkowski, FCSI, CCS; Gene Valentine, CCS, (Chair of Jury of Fellows).*

Fellows Workshop

This will be the second year in which a “Fellows Workshop” has been scheduled in addition to the “Fellows Meeting” as a part of the Convention Program. This Workshop provides an opportunity to discuss issues of concern to the Fellows. This year the major topic of discussion is intended to cover the formation of a College of Fellows and the proposed draft bylaws. Please bring your copy of the draft bylaws to the meeting.

Fellows Workshop
June 27, 2002
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Room N-233
Las Vegas Convention Center
Discussion and feedback on forming a
College of Fellows – Please bring your
comments and your copy of the draft
bylaws

Ambassadors for the Institute

By: Gregory Markling, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, AIA (*Greg received his Fellowship at the 1999 Convention in Los Angeles and is currently completing his term as Institute Director for the Southwest Region.*)

As part of my current duties as Institute Director from the Southwest Region, my co-Director and I were in attendance at one of our Region’s Chapter meetings this past March, for the purpose of presenting the CSI Awareness program to the Chapter. We had spent a significant amount of time preparing what we were sure would be an interesting program, particularly for several guests and new members that we knew would be in attendance. In fact, I had invited an old college classmate and professional colleague who would get her first real introduction to CSI at that meeting.

This particular Chapter typically provides an open forum for member or guest comment prior to introduction of the program, and this night would be no exception, though it would prove to be truly exceptional indeed! A elderly member of the Institute, and Fellow of CSI, got up to speak as the entire room of members noticeably held their collective breath in anticipation of what was likely to come (based on much past experience, I learned later). Little did I know that what was to come would be the most disappointing and embarrassing experience of my 20 year CSI life.

Our “Fellow” began to speak calmly about the inadequacies of our current Strategic Plan with regard to its apparent lack of regard for professional specifiers, and quickly began to passionately and rather loudly decry the Institute for turning its back on this particular group of professionals within our membership. Without going into the brutal details, suffice it to say that every Industry member in the room that night was left feeling more that a bit outcast and not wanted, though our “Fellow” eventually made a valiant though unsuccessful attempt at recovery. I was personally challenged (as a current Board member and surely a co-conspirator in the development of the Strategic Plan) by our “Fellow” before the entire

assembly, much to my great surprise and deep embarrassment as my guest sat next to me. I can only imagine how the other guests and new members must have felt. Our CSI Awareness presentation that followed was understandably uninspired, and was received with mixed emotions by many confused- and bewildered-looking faces.

As Fellows of the Institute, I feel very strongly that we must present ourselves at ALL times as ambassadors of the Institute. We may not always agree with each and every policy or growth program that the Institute initiates, nor are we expected to agree. Many of us have served on the Board of Directors, and also served as Institute Officers and Past Institute Presidents, and we know how the process of consensus works. Nevertheless, if we choose to continue to wear the title of “Fellow”, we must be continually reminded that this title is an honor, not an entitlement. As Fellows, we must embrace the mission and goals of CSI as broadly as we can, and advance that mission and those goals on behalf of the Institute to the best of our ability. Our alternative, if we cannot agree in a meaningful way, is simply to find another organization that better suits our individual self-image or personal goals and aspirations. Let us all be reminded that this is a great organization; the only one of its kind in the construction industry. Our diversity is our strength. As ambassadors of CSI, let’s focus not on self-centered interests or on our own sense of self-importance, but on “Fellowship”.

New Member Orientation – One Fellows Contribution

By: David E. Thomas, FCSI (*Dave received his Fellowship in 1988 at the Washington D.C. Convention. His citation recognized his service to the Institute in implementing and promoting numerous membership, educational and awards programs.*)

It has been my privilege, for the past few years, to do new member orientation before our chapter meetings. I have found that the new members can be effectively encouraged to enter into the entire program rather than just being joiners. This orientation includes many college students that are sponsored and supported by our membership.

While doing my thirty-minute presentation the other night, I was struck by the comments of a gentleman who has held memberships in three other chapters. He was quite complimentary in stating that this was the first time he had received a real explanation of the Institute and what it has to offer to its members. He stated that this time he intends to become “active” and gain the real benefit of membership by getting involved.

I like to focus on three key benefits that I have counted to be the core value of CSI. Maybe it is time that we all get back to the real basics of what the Institute was established for to offer real benefits right at the chapter level rather than depending on the Institute for too much.

The first benefit offered is **education** through our programs, seminars and, most importantly, rubbing elbows with members and guests, each of which is a fountain of information from which we may all learn. I stress the educational value of the certification program and the huge amount of benefit at the convention through the seminars and through visiting the exhibits. I also stress the opportunity to meet some great people from around the country and to develop lifetime friendships.

Secondly, I stress the opportunity to develop, define and refine **leadership skills** which may be used in many venues of their lives. We talk about members who had “mike fright” when they began and who are now polished speakers. We talk about members who have transferred these learned skills to their workplace and community as well. Usually I will refer to one or two members who have “blossomed” through the opportunities that they have been given.

Third, I talk about the chance for viable and long lasting **recognition** through our awards programs at the chapter, region and institute awards programs and how some of these awards have had a real impact on a member’s life in many, many ways.

The final push is to get these people involved right now and to offer them mentorship from some of the old guard (like me) who will be pleased to share information, answer questions and give guidance when appropriate.

As it look back just a couple of years, I now see some of those new members have really grown and blossomed through their involvement in CSI. When I look back a really long way (34 years) I see someone giving back to CSI what it so generously gave to me.

Getting back to basics and offering our members a solid beginning is a great service that we all could, and should, provide.

New Institute Award

In response to a “Call” for articles for this edition of the Fellows newsletter, Michael Glass, FCSI, CDT, a former Awards Committee Chair, former member of the National Awards Task Team and currently a member of the Awards Program Evaluation Task Team, submitted an article on a new Award being presented by the Institute. The article was a little long

for this newsletter but the following is information extracted from Mike's article.

This new award is entitled "The Master" in honor of one of the world's greatest artist and architect, Michelangelo Buonarroti. It will be "Awarded to a member or non-member who has rendered innovative service for creating and sustaining the built environment. This prestigious award is the highest award given by the Institute to an individual of national stature."

Written nominations for the Award must be made by an Institute Officer or Director and all nominations will require supporting background data and letters of endorsement. The Institute Awards Committee will form a "Blue Ribbon" panel of judges for the Award consisting of the Immediate Past-president of CSI, who will serve as Chair, and past presidents of three other industry associations. This Award will be presented for the first time at the President's Gala in June 2003 and in subsequent years will be presented at Construct America.

More information on "The Master" Award is expected to be available in August 2002.

Newsletter Distribution

Beginning with this issue of *The Fellows*, this newsletter will have a slightly expanded distribution. The non-Fellow members of the Institute Board and the non-Fellow members of the Jury of Fellows will be sent "courtesy copies" at the time of the regular distribution. The members will all be receiving their copy of the newsletter by electronic distribution.

The normal distribution of the newsletter is to all living Fellows even if they are no longer CSI Members. The CSI Staff has been able to provide a mailing list for the entire group. The large majority of Fellows are receiving their newsletter through electronic distribution and we hope to increase the portion receiving the electronic version as an aid to reducing the cost of this newsletter. If you are receiving a hardcopy of this newsletter and have the ability to receive it electronically, please contact our publisher Gilman Hu, FCSI and give him your e-mail address. His address is:

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We do want to extend our thanks to our sponsors who have made this newsletter a financial possibility. These sponsors had faith in an idea and offered to help cover this newsletter's cost without seeing the final product. Both Gilman and I appreciate this faith.

SPONSORS

We want to acknowledge and thank our financial sponsors.

James A. Chaney, FCSI
Joseph H. Kasimer, FCSI
Knox H. Tumlin, FCSI

We welcome other sponsors. For details, contact our publisher, Gilman Hu, FCSI

As a service to the Fellows, the past issues of the Fellows Newsletters, including the *Coconut Wireless* are now available on a web site. If you would like to read one of the past issues, you may now do so by going to www.mecsi.org/fellows.htm.

Newsletter Articles

Your newsletter editor is always looking for Fellows who are willing to write a brief article for this newsletter. Most of the material in this and the previous edition were the result of some specific requests. We know there are many Fellows who are willing to write something for this newsletter so don't wait to be asked.

The purpose of this newsletter is to share information, share ideas and to encourage Fellows to remain active in CSI. As you have seen from this and the previous issue, some Fellows are still active at the Institute level and Dave Thomas's article covered his activity in his Chapter. Are you performing some CSI activity that you would like to share? Would you like to share your memories of some earlier CSI activities with other Fellows?

Remember, the audience for this newsletter is the people who have been honored by the Institute by the elevation to Fellowship. This is a special group of people who have made notable contributions to the advancement of construction technology, the improvement of construction specifications, or of education, or by service to the Institute. We expect these people have continued to be active since receiving their Fellowship. Fellows have a lot to offer CSI, what would you like to share?

All articles, "Letters to the Editor" or other items for publication in this newsletter should be sent to:

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E-mail: eustis@infi.net

It is preferred that material be submitted in Word or RTF format but hardcopy is acceptable.

TO:

The FELLOWS
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Reminders

We would like to offer a few reminders to the Fellows:

1. Have you taken the time to respond to the questionnaire that Gene Valentine, CSI, CCS Chairman of Jury of Fellows relative to the preference of time and place for the Fellows Investiture? If not, please send Gene your comments.
2. Do you want to receive a hardcopy Institute Directory? If you do, please return to card that was distributed or place your order through the on-line CSI Bookstore.
3. Have you changed your address? If so, please notify both the Institute and our publisher Gilman Hu, FCSI so the addresses he uses are correct.
4. The Fellows Workshop will be held in N-233 Las Vegas Convention Center at 3:30 to 5:00 pm on June 27, 2002. If you plan on attending, please bring your copy of the draft "College of Fellows Bylaws".
5. Past issues of the Fellows newsletters are now available on the web at:
www.mecci.org/fellows.htm .
6. If you are interested in writing an article for the next edition of "The FELLOWS", please contact Dick Eustis. This is your newsletter and it will contain the items you want.
7. Finally, remember that you have a lot to offer CSI at any level of involvement that you desire, be a mentor or take a more active role. Much of our history is only recorded in the minds of those that were there. We need to share this history with our newer members. If each of us only contributes a small amount of time each year to our favorite CSI activity, everyone will benefit.

All Opinions expressed in the articles in this newsletter are those of the author and the opinions do not represent the Construction Specifications Institute, the Editor or the Publisher.