It’s a Christmas Party
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It’s the most wonderful time of the year! Let’s celebrate! We celebrate life and making it to this point this year. We celebrate our triumphs and adversities; we celebrate our friendships and loved ones lost; and we celebrate the constant grind and moments of complete balance.

We have nearly made it through 2020 and I can’t believe how fast this year has passed. This year started off on an extraordinary trajectory with increases in membership, proven programs and education opportunities, and motivated members ready to blow the L.I.D. off. While we have not reached the lofty milestones that I desired, we continue to make strides and keep CSI relevant.

I want to thank all our members and the Board for your continued support. You guys continue to work diligently in all you do. I am looking forward to a great Christmas Party.

Inevitably, I must note the Institute’s newest Distinguished Member, Mr. Phil McDade. A special congratulations to you and all you have done. You are truly one of a kind as noted throughout this Speculator. We all truly understand the monumental importance of someone from our Chapter receiving the award and rare distinction.

Now, as each of you prepare for the holiday season, I want to encourage you to make the most of the time you have in all you do. Do not allow work to make you miss the precious moments with your family. This time of year can create undo stress and anxiety to meet unrealistic expectations and preconceived notions of a perfect holiday experience. Just know that nothing in life is perfect. We have to create good and quality moments but have intense focus in the moment when we are creating the experiences.

This year it is my goal to close my office doors, turn my cell phone off and just become engulfed in being a great dad and husband. I encourage you to take time and dedicate moments to serving others. My family will volunteer and serve the homeless and sponsor a family for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We have found that it provides great perspective to our daughters and gives them insight of our upbringing. Volunteering provides renewed energy and helps revitalize you; this positive synergy is priceless.

In closing, Socrates, noted that “the secret of happiness, you see, is not found in seeking more, but in developing the capacity to enjoy less.”

So, remember to celebrate the little things this holiday season. From a Facetime call and social media shout out, to a rare in-person event and log-awaited hug of a loved one. These little things matter. Don’t focus on the things you don’t have; instead set your mind on all the blessings you have at your fingertips. Life is precious and so are the moments.

Enjoy it!

We are MSCSI! Blessings and Onward!

Greg Durrell, CSI, AIA

The Mississippi Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute
Phil McDade elevated to Distinguished Membership in CSI

Phillip L. McDade FCSI, CCS, FASLA, DTM was recognized as the 54th Distinguished Member of the Institute this year. CSI’s highest honor, the Distinguished Member, was awarded on November 5th to Phil for his accomplishments within the CSI community. Phil became the 54th Distinguished Member inducted into this elite group with the first inductee dating back to 1954.

Phil is also a member of Toastmasters where he has developed his unique speaking style. He uses this prowess as a speaker to train and inspire other CSI members.

Phil has more than 38 years of involvement with CSI, with a reputation of encouraging others to get involved, working smarter, and always stressing the importance of mentoring others. He earns this prestigious award by demonstrating tremendous support for CSI and the principles of the organization through his leadership, written and oral communications, and personal interaction with other CSI members of all ages.

He continually inspires the members to participate at the Chapter, Region, and Institute level and encourages them to use their skills and talents to work toward the betterment of CSI. Phil truly believes the construction industry is built on relationships. Phil continues to encourage members to communicate beyond personal preferences and to work with people from every facet of the design and construction industry.

Phil is pictured above with some of his Mississippi CSI friends. Phil’s encouragement and mentoring helped John Dunaway and Keith West, at left, achieve Fellowship in CSI.

Distinguished services shall be “over and above” that expected of a similar member performing those duties within the organization, and the nominee’s entire body of work, including this distinguished work, is considered when reviewing the nomination.

Click here to read Phil’s thoughts on what it means to become a Distinguished Member.

Phil was publically recognized during the CSI virtual Awards Ceremony. Missed it? You can still see the presentations and learn more about this prestigious award by visiting csiresources.org.

If you would like to personally congratulate Phil then join other members at the Mississippi CSI Christmas Party. This will be a festive affair and an opportunity for us to get together and celebrate the season as well as relish in our accomplishments this year.

Let’s all let Phil know how much we appreciate the work he’s done for CSI and congratulate him for this award. Phil has achieved yet another first. He was the first Chapter member to serve as President of the Institute and now is the first Chapter member and Gulf States Region member to have received the prestigious honor of Distinguished Membership in CSI.

Phil and Corinne will celebrate 43 years of marriage on December 3, 2020.

So we have one more reason to congratulate Phil (and Corinne) on December 3.

We Love you Phil! Thanks for all you do for CSI.
Date: November 2, 2020
Call to Order: Greg Durrell called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Board members and chairs unable to attend participated via Zoom meeting.
Keith West, Secretary, was unable to attend so Dennis Walters took minutes for the meeting.
Greg Durrell, President
John Murray, President-Elect
Lacie Gibson, Vice President
Keith West, Secretary
Randall Lewis, Treasurer
John Dunaway, Past President
Dennis Walters, Director
Jose Arellano, Director / Zoom
Adam Haver, Director
Paul Tauchar, Director / Zoom
Phil McDade, Director
Leland Hinton, Director / Zoom
Betina Latiker, Committee Chair / Zoom
October meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the Board.
Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer’s report for October was emailed prior to the meeting by Randall Lewis. Chapter funds available Funding for the Christmas party was discussed by the Board and expenses were reviewed. The report was approved by board.
Committee Reports:
Product Show: John Murray reported that at the present we have 11 booths committed and three new exhibitors that he is sending applications to. December 15 is the early bird registration cutoff date and it is approaching. John asked committee members to please remain after the board meeting for a five minute update meeting. John will update the board at the December board meeting. Everyone continue to promote the show.
Programs Committee: Lacie Gibson reported that the December meeting will be the Christmas Party. The Christmas Party be on December 3rd at the Rickhouse. She is working with Keith West, John Murray, and John Dunaway in planning the party.
House Committee: Keith reported that 12 people have registered for the upcoming meeting. Randall sent an email reminder out. Keith cannot attend the meeting so asked John Dunaway to handle registration.
Membership Committee: Keith reported that the current roster number is still showing 63. Monthly reports are still being posted in each Speculator. Keith also has contacted Institute to get registered for the new Leaders Toolbox as they have disabled the previous version.
Certifications: Cassie Parker was not present but had sent an email sharing the fall testing dates.
Education Committee: Betina Latiker reported that the program that John Murray and John Dunaway presented for our Chapter meeting had been approved for continuing education units by AIA. She also asked for suggestions or ideas for the upcoming product show seminars.
Publications: John Dunaway reported that the deadline for Speculator content is November 20th. Earlier would be extremely helpful since it falls during Thanksgiving and John wants to advertise the Christmas Party to allow everyone to register and attend.
Golf Committee: Leland Hinton reported that he will be scheduling the first committee meeting soon, so please participate.
Cocktails, Construction & Camaraderie: Phil McDade reported that they had an eclectic crowd of 10 at the October meeting. Three guests were present and they are considering joining our group. The fourth Thursday of this month is Thanksgiving Day. Phil offered moving the meeting up a week or forgoing the meeting in November due to the holiday. The general consensus was to move the meeting to the third Thursday of the month, November 19th, at Scrooge’s. Please plan on attending.
Marketing/Social Media: Greg Durrell shared that the group has posted something weekly on one form of social media and he wants to continue with that amount of chapter promotion. Paul Tauchar has been keeping up with the posts and they are certainly gaining some interest. One of the posting in each of the past two months has been a member focus and we will continue with those in January.
Old Business: None to discuss
New Business: Discussed previously in meeting.
Remarks for the Good of the Chapter: Paul Tauchar shared that if you had not seen the current issue of The Construction Specifier, please take a look at it as it contains an outstanding article about our own Phil McDade receiving Distinguished Member in CSI.
Meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM CST
Prepared by Chapter Secretary:
M. Keith West, FCSI, CCPR
Next Board meeting: November 30, 2020
**Membership Reminder**

The Mississippi Chapter CSI values you as a member and the experience and skills that you bring to CSI. Please renew your membership and participate in the Chapter. This information is based on the Institute roster so please check with them to verify that their records are up to date.

If you know someone on this list, please call them and encourage them to renew their membership.

Thank you  
Membership Chair  
Keith West, FCSI, CCPR

**Membership expired in September**  
Jeff Brunner  Russel Perkins

**Membership expires in October**  
Leland Hinton  David Mockbee  
Kimberly Matthews

**Membership expires in November**  
John Dunaway  Thomy Schultz  
Sean Dunaway  Cindy Tauchar  
Buddy Grantier

**Membership expires in December**  
Walter Cooper  Dana Little  
Betina Latiker  Rodney Reeves

**Membership expires in January**  
Jose Arellano  Kenneth McGrath  
Kathy Dier  John Murray  
Shane Germany  Woody Nance

**Members who recently renewed. Thank You!**  
Nick Gibson  Randall Lewis  
Gerard Hansen  Annette Vise

**Fiscal Year 2021 Calendar**

The CSI fiscal year begins on July 1, 2020 and ends on June 30, 2021. The following is our calendar of events for this fiscal year.

**Board Meetings** are held from 5:30 PM until 6:30 PM at the AGC Building on Lakeland Drive (Monday before the first Wednesday of the month, unless noted otherwise).  
November 30, 2020 (December Board Meeting)  
January 4, 2021  
February 1, 2021  
March 1, 2021  
April 5, 2021  
May 3, 2021  
June 7, 2021  
July 12, 2021

**Monthly Meetings** take place from 11:30 AM until 1:00 PM at Manship Wood Fired Kitchen, Jackson, MS. Temporary location is The Rickhouse until further notice.  
Thursday, December 3, 2020 (Christmas Party)  
Evening meeting 6:00 - 9:00. The location will be at the Rickhouse. Social distancing will be in effect and face masks are encouraged. Be looking for more information in this issue.  
January 6, 2021  
February 3, 2021  
March 3, 2021  
April 7, 2021  
May 5, 2021  
Thursday, June 10, 2021 (Awards banquet)  
Evening Meeting 6:00 - 9:00  
July 14, 2021 (first meeting of next fiscal year)

**Other events**

Mississippi Chapter Product Show and Seminar  
February 24, 2021

Gulf States Region Conference 2021  
Date to be determined

Transfer of Power for fiscal year 2021: June 2021. Exact date/Location to be determined.

**Mississippi CSI Christmas Party**

Our meeting spot at the Rickhouse will be the location for the Christmas Party. The Rickhouse is at 717 Poplar Boulevard, which is located in historic Belhaven just around the corner from the Manship.

Meal choices for this month are posted on the Chapter website. Click [here](#) to visit the site to register for the meeting and make your entrée selection and payment.

Come join fellow CSI members to ring in the holiday season and enjoy some Christmas cheer.

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**The Mississippi Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute**

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### GSR Institute Director

William Sundquist, CSI  
Tel: 423-385-4598  
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### Gulf States Region Leaders

#### Gulf States Region President
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#### Immediate Past President
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#### Past President     John Dunaway, FCSI, CCS, AIA

#### Director                       Dennis Walters, CSI, CCCA
#### Director                             Leland Hinton, CSI, CDT
#### Director                                     Jose Arellano, CSI
#### Director                                       Adam Haver, CSI
#### Director  Emeritus        Phil McDade, FCSI, CCS, FASLA
#### Director                    John Dunaway, FCSI, CCS, AIA
#### Director              Paul Tauchar, CSI, CDT
#### Director                Leland Hinton, CSI, CDT
#### Director                  Dennis Walters, CSI, CCCA
#### Past President     John Dunaway, FCSI, CCS, AIA

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Institute Website: csiresources.org  
Institute Email: csi@csinet.org

Gulf States Region Website: gulfstates.csinet.org

The Mississippi Chapter of  
The Construction Specifications institute  
PO Box 321327  
Flowood, MS 39232  
Chapter Website: mississippi.csinet.org

### Fiscal Year 2021  7/1/2020 - 6/30/2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
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</table>
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                   | Tel: 601-708-4788  
                   | Email: gdurrell@durrelldesigngroup.com |
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| Vice President    | Lacie Gibson, CSI  
                   | Tel: 601-948-4601  
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| Secretary         | Keith West, FCSI, CCPR  
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| Treasurer         | Randall Lewis, CSI, AIA  
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### F/Y 2021 Committee Chairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
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</tr>
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