Greetings Mississippi CSI,

During my morning walk, I began to meditate on what was on my heart and what things I would like to highlight in this President's Report. Overwhelmingly, the simple phrase of LIFE IS IMPORTANT, stayed in my spirit. Very often, we focus so much on the tasks, obstacles and trials that we are encountering and miss the monumental fact that our life is important.

I want to provide encouragement to those who struggle with understanding that we all play a pivotal role in this world succeeding and the things you do, no matter how small or insignificant, are important.

As the father of two beautiful, black girls that are 6 and 7 years old, I routinely encourage and affirm them each morning and night to highlight their gifts, their power, and the importance of them being the best version of themselves. Now, I must admit that I didn’t grow up this way with open praise and affection, but I understood that if I wanted to produce a better world, then I needed to change what was my normal. I needed to maximize my impact in this life.

Do not and I repeat do not let people undervalue what you bring to the table. I remember the fear that I had in 2012 when I wanted to start my own firm but the inner fear was that the world would not accept me as a young and black professional with no relationships and connections in the industry. Somehow I was comforted when a pastor exclaimed that I should go where I was celebrated and not tolerated. This stuck to me as if I were caught in a giant spider web. Since that time, I have dedicated my life and career to celebrating the gifting and talent of the ones who have not been given ample opportunity and fostering an environment where they understand their importance to the world.

Please know that YOU are important! Your visioning, ideas, talents and participation is what the world needs right now. Do not sit idly by and watch the world pass and not value the life you have. It is your season to be who you were created to be and do the things you were created to do. No matter your age or season in life, you have a place and your life is important.

Our Chapter has always thrived because we celebrated the diversity of thought, networking, and the participation created by a grouping of diverse construction industry professionals. Special thanks and appreciation goes to the very important members of this Chapters Board of Directors for pushing ahead and trying to create a normalcy that our members can count on. We have continued to offer in-person monthly programs over the last three months and will continue to provide access to continuing education opportunities.

I would also like to recognize this month’s spotlight member, Gene Crager. Gene has always been a tremendous supporter of the Chapter and routinely attends monthly meetings. Thank you Gene for all you do.

In closing, I want to remind you that each of you are valuable; not just to this Chapter but to this world. Fred Rogers, aka Mr. Rogers once said, “If only you could sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet; how important you can be to people you may never even dream of. There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person.”

YOUR LIFE IS IMPORTANT! Be a blessing to someone, but don’t forget that you are the blessing first.

We are MSCSI! Blessings and Onward!

Greg Durrell, CSI, AIA

Mark your calendar now to join fellow members of Mississippi CSI for the annual Christmas party on December 3, 2020 at the Rickhouse. We will, of course, follow safety protocols but would love to be around fellow Chapter members. Masks are not discouraged nor is physical distancing. There's plenty of room to spread out at the Rickhouse. We want to keep you safe as possible while still enjoying some holiday cheer. Look for your invitation soon.

There are great things to celebrate such as our Chapter again receiving the Institute's Outstanding Chapter Commendation. Our own, Phil McDade, was elevated to Distinguished Membership in CSI. See article on page 3 for more information.

Celebrate the Season with us on Thursday, December 3rd from 6:00 – 9:00 at the Rickhouse. Sharing Christmas cheer and fellowship with friends will be a great way to reflect on our blessings as 2020 draws to a close. We can expect a fine menu with great service for this special occasion. There is no set agenda for this evening meeting, but it is a time set aside for camaraderie and friendship. We look forward to visiting with you there.

Lacie Gibson, CSI - Programs Chair
Phil McDade elevated to Distinguished Membership in CSI

Phillip L. McDade FCSI, CCS, FASLA, DTM is to be recognized as the 54th Distinguished Member of the Institute.

CSI’s highest honor, the Distinguished Member, is being awarded on November 5th to Phillip L. McDade FCSI, CCS, FASLA, DTM for his accomplishments within the CSI community. Phil will become 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 will be publically recognized in the CSI virtual Awards Ceremony at 4:00 PM EST on November 5.

Join in celebrating Phil’s accomplishment at csiresources.org.

Monthly Member Focus

Gene Crager AIA, CSI, Principal
25 years with CDFL
Position - President
Gene’s areas of expertise include military design, quality control, industrial and corporate design.

He is committed to design excellence. The success of the design team in serving the project’s goals is based on combining construction knowledge with design expertise. Gene brings the team together by maximizing the inherent talent of the integrated team. Years ago as Bill Cooke, as one of the CDFL founders was preparing to retire, he expressed his desire for CDFL to always have someone involved in Mississippi CSI.

“That’s when I joined CSI. My involvement in our Chapter of CSI has been one of support, professional relationship with our local design and construction community and professional development. I’ve gained tremendous industry knowledge and benefited greatly through CSI.

I have had great opportunities to work on wonderful projects over the years that have a lasting impact on our city, state and the southeastern United States. Working with so many extraordinary team members over the years has been and continues to be very satisfying both personally and professionally.”

Gene definitely has a servant heart and spends time serving his local church (Restoration Church in Florence). He enjoys being a part of the Rankin County Rotary Club. Time spent with family and fishing are among the many activities Gene enjoys outside of the office.
The Mississippi Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute

Sponsor

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Ameristar is the largest ornamental security fence manufacturer in the world. In addition to security fences, Ameristar also offers a full line of perimeter security products. These products include gate systems, anti-ram fences, active vehicle barriers, and security bollards.

Ameristar continually sets the industry standard for manufacturing high quality and innovative products.

Ameristar’s demonstrated commitment to upholding higher values translates into superior products that go far beyond merely meeting minimum industry standards.

Ameristar’s reputation for superior customer service starts with its team of architectural specialists and market developers who work closely with design firms to ensure each project meets the customer’s expectation for security, safety and success.

Bret Villars

Bret is the Market Developer for Ameristar Perimeter Security covering the states of Louisiana and Mississippi. Serving the architectural firms, general contractors, distributors and fence contractors within these 2 states, Bret and his team supply support, solutions, specifications, knowledge, and communications for ornamental fencing to high security products like bollards, anti-ram, anti-climb and wedges. With projects in residential, commercial and industrial, they provide perimeter security solutions to businesses, manufacturers, utilities, transportation, government, military, police, schools and universities.

Serving the region as a DC Power Consultant for the previous 8 years, Bret has knowledge about the security issues that have arisen in the world today for the utility, petrochemical, and manufacturing industries.

Crash ratings are typically determined by three factors. How heavy the vehicle is; how fast the vehicle is travelling; and how far past the barrier the vehicle travels. A crash test certified product means that it passed the test and achieved the rating.

BULWARK Security Bollards combine simplistic installation with ultimate anti-ram functionality. Utilizing the latest manufacturing design technologies, BULWARK brings the strongest protection available while meeting the standards architects expect.

This program qualifies for 1 AIA accredited HSW Learning Unit.

Bollards

Perimeter Security and Traffic Management Design and Practices

Events such as the Oklahoma City bombing, the World Trade Center bombing and the attempted bombing in Times Square in New York show the continued threat of vehicle laden bombs. Modern challenges have created a higher demand for very specific performing fence and perimeter control systems. We take a close look at those requirements and review product solutions for an effective approach to physical site security and access control.

Learning objectives:

- Learn the key bollard/barrier market drivers and the external factors within the marketplace that are driving architects, consultants, security managers designers, facilities managers and contractors to fitting vehicle barriers.
- Learn about the industry standards and certifications used and both internationally recognized standards for high security/anti-terrorist equipment.
- Learn the different types of bollard/barrier technology that are available. This will include types of bollards, security level, and aesthetics.
- Learn how to write the correct specification to ensure you get what you want when specifying a vehicle barrier solution.

Program
October Board Meeting Highlights

Date: October 5, 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
Randall Lewis, Treasurer
John Dunaway, Past President
Dennis Walters, Director
Adam Haver, Director
Phil McDade, Director
Cassie Parker, Committee Chair / Zoom

September 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. The report approved by board.

Committee Reports:

Programs Committee: Lacie Gibson reported that she has September program in place, but no sponsor payment has been made. There is no program set for November at this time. The December Christmas Party location is to be determined.

Certifications: Cassie Parker reported that Tom Clarke announced that he was retiring from MSCSI Certification Committee. The deadline is approaching for registering for certification tests. Cassie was concerned for the future of the certification study classes.

Phil McDade and others expressed their thoughts that there are several members with CDT or higher certifications that could assist in the study sessions if offered.

Publications: John Dunaway noted the deadline for Speculator content is October 23. John will update the article about Phil McDade receiving Distinguished Membership from CSI.

Academic Affairs: John Dunaway reported limited activity by the student chapter due to the Covid pandemic.

Cocktails, Construction & Camaraderie: Phil McDade reported ten attendees at last month’s meeting.

Awards: Lacie Gibson reported that even though Institute has not made the official announcement, Phil McDade will be presented the Distinguished Member Award at the virtual meeting. Institute will make the announcement and make it official soon. The Mississippi Chapter will celebrate his award at the Christmas Party.

Marketing/Social Media: Greg Durrell shared that he wants to promote a “Got Certification?” campaign on the website to the Chapter and area. In addition, he has asked that members provide a short description or testimony for “Why CSI?” for the website. He also shared that Gene Crager has been selected for our next Member Focus.

Old Business:
- Member spotlight application.
- Product Show application is to be revised.

New Business: Discussed previously in meeting.

Remarks for the Good of the Chapter: Everybody was reminded to send their two lines for “Why CSI”

Meeting adjourned at 6:07 PM CST

Prepared by: Dennis Walters, CSI, CCCA

Next Board Meeting: November 1, 2020

Has COVID-19 canceled your plans?

Why not use that extra downtime to pick up a new certification with CSI? When you have CSI certification initials like CDT after your name, others immediately see that you have an extensive knowledge in the processes involved in delivering a construction project and you have the ability to wade through complex construction documents. Having confidence in your ability to interpret construction contracts and effectively communicate information through the correct channels makes you an asset to the construction and design team.

If you are considering going after a CSI certification, please let us know so that our MS CSI chapter can help you succeed. Our chapter members love to jump in and help support our candidates. We can connect you with a mentor who can help steer you in the right direction for study materials and sessions. This is your Mississippi CSI chapter, let us work for you!

Enrollment is open now for the November-December testing cycle.

Cassie Parker, CSI, CDT, CCCA
Certifications Chair
cparker@foilwyatt.com

The Mississippi Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute
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

Your Membership has lapsed! Please rejoin.
Ronnie Taylor

Membership expired in September
Jeff Brunner Russel Perkins

Membership expires in October
Leland Hinton David Mockbee
Kimberly Matthews

Membership expires in November
John Dunaway Thommy 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 2, 2020
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.

November 4, 2020
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 coming soon.
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 Monthly Meeting

Our meeting spot, will temporarily be the Rickhouse, 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 lunch choice and payment.

Come join fellow CSI members to learn and grow in our professions.
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