



## **Specifications Consultants in Independent Practice**

11 DuPont Circle NW, Suite 601

Washington, DC 20036

[www.scip.com](http://www.scip.com)

---

# **SCIPping Along**

**January 2008**

Sheryl Dodd-Hansen, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, SCIP

Editor

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Dennis J. Hall, FAIA, FCSI, CCS, CCCA, LEED-AP, SCIP**

On behalf of the SCIP Board of Directors, and myself I want to personally wish all our members and affiliate members a "Happy New Year". With 2008 comes the last six months of my presidency and it has been an honor to serve in this high position representing this great organization. During the last year and a half we have had some successes and some learning experiences. Much work is still left to be accomplished during the final months of this administration, as we head toward the 41<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the formation of SCIP in June.

### **2008 SCIP ANNUAL MEETING**

This year, our SCIP Annual Meeting will return to its usual format and will take place on Saturday, June 7 in Las Vegas following the CSI Convention. The change in date is mostly due to the CSI educational sessions, which are scheduled to begin on Tuesday afternoon, prior to the actual start of the Convention on Wednesday, and the fact that the Convention will conclude on Friday evening with the CSI Gala. SCIP will again be co-hosting with CSI an afternoon education session on Tuesday that we believe will be of interest to most of our members. This session will be free to all SCIP members and below is a synopsis of the program. Those members not interested in this session will have the option of attending two regular CSI educational sessions as part of their CSI registration. The SCIP Dinner sponsored by Arkema will be held on Tuesday evening following the educational sessions.

Structured Information: XML & Construction Documentation  
Tuesday, June 3, 2:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Many of the documents used to communicate during design, construction and operation of facilities contain information that is structured. As with building information models, the structure of a document may be expressed through a schema that can be readily identified. By defining a schema and expressing it openly, interoperability between model and document based applications can be achieved while still allowing for information to change as the project evolves. This hands-on workshop presented jointly by CSI and SCIP will explore the potential for and demonstrate methods of achieving interoperability

between BIM and construction documentation using specifying applications, CSI Formats, XML and other open standards.

Learning Objectives:

1. Review the technology behind XML, IFC and other data exchange languages relevant to the AEC industry to establish a clear understanding of these technologies for practitioners.
2. Update on the latest standards for structuring information that are in various stages of development and evaluate promised benefits to the industry. A comprehensive review of development of NBIMS, IFD, OmniClass, CSI SpecXML, Specifiers Property Sets and other current development work will be presented and discussed.
3. Learn how specifications authoring applications are using structured information to achieve interoperability. If you use a specification authoring system, bring your laptop and follow along.

### **ECOBUILD**

Ecobuild Fall and FEDspec were held in Washington DC in cooperation with SCIP in December and we will have a similar role at Ecobuild America and the National Specifiers Conference, to be held on May 19-22, 2008 at the Anaheim Convention Center. Anyone interested in attending please check out the Ecobuild America website for more information.

### **AIA NATIONAL CONVENTION**

Many of our members will be attending the AIA Convention in Boston on May 14-17, 2008. The SCIP Board would like to have a gathering of SCIP members and affiliate members attending the convention. Former SCIP President Mark Kalin will be coordinating this event. Please contact Mark if you plan to be in Boston and he will ensure that you are provided with more information on this event as plans are finalized. SCIP is also planning to be a participant in the 2009 AIA Convention in San Francisco. I look forward to seeing many of you in Boston this May.

### **THE CSI/SCIP INNOVATION IN CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS AWARDS**

The CSI Awards Committee is proposing a new award to replace the old CSI Specifications Competition Program that will promote innovation in Construction Documents, and SCIP is a co-sponsor of the awards. The CSI Board of Directors will vote in February to establish a six-person task team of three CSI representatives and three SCIP representatives to establish the criteria for the award. This task team will meet via conference calls with one face-to-face meeting at the CSI Convention. Any SCIP member or affiliate member wishing to serve on this task team, please contact me.

### **THANKS, MARK!**

I want to thank Former SCIP President, Mark Kalin for all his work on the Know How, SCIP Membership Survey, and the "Big Kahuna" this year. The information from the membership survey is very important to SCIP as we assess the strengths and weaknesses of the organization.

### **2008-2010 SCIP BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Immediate Past President John Regener is chairing the Nominating Committee this year and if you are interested in serving or if you would like to recommend someone for office, please do not hesitate to contact John. The Nominating Committee will be presenting a slate of officers to the SCIP Board and the membership later this spring.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Nina M. Giglio, CSI, CCS, Associate AIA, SCIP**

### **MEETING AND CONVENTIONS COMMITTEE**

The Meetings and Conventions Committee showcased the SCIP community at Ecobuild Fall in Washington DC in December. Thanks to Ron Beard for storing, transporting, and assembling the booth. Thanks also to the members who volunteered to host the booth during the show. We talked to many design professionals that were interested in finding specifications specialists and learning about the unique services that our members can provide.

One of the goals of the Board over the last 18 months has been to bring more visibility to our membership and the services we provide to the industry. The statistics provided in the December 2007 Know How - 2007 Member Survey are staggering. As opportunities arise to showcase the Members, the Meetings and Conventions Committee, in conjunction with the Board, will be updating the booth display and producing a brochure. Volunteers are needed to assist in these endeavors that will showcase our members; if you have ideas, suggestions or just a free hour to volunteer, contact Nina Giglio at [nmgiglio@buildinginformationgroup.com](mailto:nmgiglio@buildinginformationgroup.com).

As indicated in the President's message, planning is underway for SCIP activities at CONSTRUCT 2008. Make arrangements to attend the SCIP events and watch the website for upcoming information and opportunities to participate.

SCIP members in the CSI Mid-Atlantic, Southeast, and West Regions have been hosting round table discussions in conjunction with their CSI Region conferences; other regions have expressed interest in providing similar opportunities at their CSI conferences. SCIP Immediate Past President Regener and SCIP Vice-President David Lorenzini have been approached to provide some written suggestions and guidelines for hosting such a round table. These round tables are typically an open forum that welcomes members and non-members to discuss issues and share information that are driving the construction industry and specifically specifications.

### **SCIP ROUND TABLE AT THE CSI MID-ATLANTIC/SOUTHEAST REGION CONFERENCE**

For the second year, the CSI Mid-Atlantic and Southeast Regions held a joint conference, this year hosted by the Charlotte Chapter in the Southeast Region. Due to its continued success at previous Mid-Atlantic Region Conferences, the conference committee provided an opportunity for SCIP to host a round-table discussion, open to all attendees. The round-table was held Sunday morning (9/30/07) following the awards banquet the previous evening. The 22 attendees, a combination of Members, Affiliate Members and other interested guests, provided lively discussion on numerous issues. The round-table discussion, lead by SCIP President Dennis Hall, touched on emerging technology topics, changes in the industry and effects of those changes on specifiers. Potential members inquired about benefits and drawbacks of working as an independent specifier. Other topics discussed included the AGC ConsensusDocs that had been released within the week leading up to the conference.

### **SCIP FORUM AT ECOBUILD FALL**

In conjunction with the ECOBuild Fall Conference, SCIP was able to provide the opportunity for members and non-members to come together and discuss what they had seen and learned over the previous few days. Though there were a number of competing events at the same time the Forum had a number of "just curious" attendees, along with some of the SCIP membership. Walt Marlowe, CSI Executive Director, stopped by and visited with the group discussing future opportunity for collaboration between SCIP and CSI.

One of the most noted themes for the concurrent conferences was the importance of collaboration and project integration for the team. Sustainability was also an obvious theme throughout.

Though the combined attendance was not as large as we would have hoped for, the quality of the discussion was high and we easily used the allotted two hours. Thanks to all who attended and we look forward to seeing many of you in Boston at AIA and then for the SCIP/CSI pre-convention education session on Tuesday June 3rd, and the SCIP Annual meeting and Forum on Saturday June 7th.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT & MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

**David Metzger, FAIA, FCSI, CDT, SCIP**

SCIP's current membership is 214, consisting of 163 members and 51 affiliates. This is an increase of 4 members and 2 affiliates from that reported in the September 2007 SCIPping Along.

In addition to SCIPping Along, an updated roster is attached. This incorporates changes sent me from the roster dated December 10. Dave Lorenzini (keeper of the online roster) and I appreciate your keeping us informed of address and other contact changes.

\* \* \*