

# Louis C. Medcalf, FCSI

*“For your pioneering and innovative contributions in developing and sharing electronic communication tools; for outstanding service to the Institute while a member of the Specifications Subcommittee, the Practice Subcommittee, the UniFormat Task Team, and as president of the Cincinnati and Memphis Chapters; for extraordinary educational contributions as Editor of the Memphis Perspective, and as mentor to students, you are advanced to Fellowship in the Institute on the 22nd day of June 2007.”*  
Baltimore, Maryland



LOUIS C. MEDCALF was born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1946. He studied architecture at the University of Cincinnati.

In October of 1982, immediately after starting a new job as a full-time specifier for a prominent architectural firm in Cincinnati, he joined the Cincinnati Chapter of CSI. Although he had prepared specifications for a small office where he was previously employed, Louis soon realized the need for assistance in becoming a full-time specifier. He acquired a copy of the *Manual of Practice* and studied and consulted it regularly. He also learned the need for the networking available through CSI with fellow specifiers and product representatives, gaining a new appreciation for the contribution of product representatives in the process of designing and documenting construction projects.

In 1984 Louis attended the 2-week course on specifications and contracts at the University of Wisconsin, where he studied under Tom Heinemann and Hans Meier. He sat for and passed the CDT and CCS examinations that year. Louis became convinced of the importance of the *Manual of Practice* as a source of information that people in the construction industry need to know that is not taught elsewhere, and in the mid 1980s began a life-long commitment to teaching CSI

principles. He has since participated every year in training sessions organized by the Cincinnati and Memphis chapters, as well as commuting to Lexington, Kentucky on weekends for several years as sole instructor for the Bluegrass Chapter. He has been a guest lecturer on specifications and contract documents at the University of Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky University, the University of Memphis, and for the National Association of Women in Construction.

Louis held several committee chairs and chapter offices in Cincinnati, eventually becoming Chapter President. In 1995 Louis accepted a position in Memphis, Tennessee and transferred his membership to the Memphis Chapter. He has been active in that chapter, serving multiple positions, including Chapter President. As newsletter editor for 3 years, Louis won national and regional awards each year for the *Memphis Perspective*, transforming it into a prominent technical magazine as well as a timely source of chapter information.

In 2001 Louis started a bluegrass band in Memphis with two other architects, both CSI members, called “Critical Path.” In addition to writing specifications, Louis writes some of the songs performed by the band. They have performed at regional and local CSI events, as well as other venues.

## **CSI Membership**

Memphis Chapter: 1995–present.  
Cincinnati Chapter: 1982–1995.

## **Institute Offices, Committees**

Preliminary Project Description Task Team, FY2008  
*UniFormat* Task Team, FY1997, 1998  
Practice Subcommittee; FY1995, 1996  
Specifications Subcommittee, FY1991 - 1993

## **Region Offices, Committees**

Gulf States Region Education Committee Chair, FY2001, 2002  
Gulf States Region Education Committee Vice Chair, FY1999

## **Awards**

Institute Certificate of Merit and Appreciation; 2002  
Institute Publications Commendations; 1998, 1999, 2000  
Institute Technical Commendation; 1994  
Institute Certificate of Merit and Appreciation; 1995  
Institute Certificate of Appreciation; 1993  
Gulf States Region Certificate of Appreciation; 2002  
Gulf States Region Technical Commendation; 2000  
Gulf States Region – Region Publication Commendations; 1999, 1998  
Great Lakes Region Certificate of Appreciation; 1995, 1991  
Memphis Chapter Presidential Commendation; 2007 and multiple Commendations.  
Cincinnati Chapter CSI special award; 1995  
Cincinnati Chapter CSI Certificate of Merit and Appreciation; 1992, 1993