

## **WATCH OUT!.....HERE THEY COME!**

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Watch out, but rest easy, I have seen the future and it is not at all that bad!!

We grouse and moan about the future of our profession—specifications writing—and where its future lies. Sure, we know a little of BIM and all the whiz-bang stuff with "doing" specs, but we wonder of the human elements--those, like us, we will do the doing!

I assure you, they are there!!!--and they are coming.

Don't take that as a threat, but rather as the joyful news that there is an increasing "core" of future spec writers out there--I've seen them!!

I was privileged to judge the Student Events at Convention 07 Student Event Competition (SEC) at the CSI Show last week. Wow! There were 6 teams of college students from seven colleges and universities from across the USA including Puerto Rico, guided by mentors, who performed in magnificent fashion. Their project was to evaluate and upgrade a proposed house for Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans.

They were great! The student teams were, creative, innovative, dedicated, enthusiastic, and thoroughly energized by SCIP member Margaret Chewing and the SEC 07 Committee. They produced thoughtful and well conceived solutions in the short period they had. They also contacted and received commitments from many companies who offered material and financial support for the projects. I was impressed with their effort, drive and insight--in their interest.

Remember, these kids came to a CSI Show, voluntarily!!! To the CSI Show??? Yep, with eyes wide open, due to their student chapter work and their personal interest in our profession. In that very scenario there is a calling, to us and to CSI to heartily endorse and support their efforts--AND to provide for a massive increase in their numbers through more and more student chapters, increased financing, increased opportunities, and in strong moral and professional support to undergird their basic interest!!!

These fertile young minds, glowing faces, and tenacious grasp on every word we speak are out there and they DO represent the future of specifications writing and our profession--we NEED to nurture and increase their numbers. They need just a word of encouragement (like Margaret gives along with several others), a mere chance to participate, a buck here and there, and a strong, continual and visible/vocal advocacy for them individually and for their cause.

We may see cloudy and uncertain futures, but none of us see the total demise of specifications—the need for them in some form, and their impact on construction via the writers and their inherent knowledge.

If I drank, I'd raise a glass to Margaret, the mentors, and to those magnificent 24 who came, saw, and DID at the 2007 CSI Show Student Competition.

A hearty cheer for all—and Thanks for the opportunity to see you in action--God speed to you all!