



The Construction Specifications Institute

**CSI KNOXVILLE CHAPTER MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH**

# **GEOCONSTRUCTION PROBLEMS – WHAT WENT WRONG?**

**Presented By: Gennaro G. Marino, Ph.D., P.E., D.GE, Marino Engineering Associates, Inc.**



## **CSI Knoxville Virtual Meeting!**

**Presented By: Gennaro G. Marino, Ph.D., P.E., D.GE,  
Marino Engineering Associates, Inc.**

**Tuesday, February 9th  
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (EST)**

Please join from your computer, tablet or smartphone.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85000088780>

*AIA CREDITS PENDING*



ORGANIZED SEPTEMBER 1958 - CHARTERED MAY 1959

**THE KNOXVILLE CHAPTER MEETS ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH. GUESTS ARE WELCOME!**



**CSI KNOXVILLE IS A  
MEMBER OF THE CSI  
GULF STATES REGION**

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THE SPECK is published monthly by the Knoxville Chapter of the Construction Specifications Institute. Readers are encouraged to submit articles and images of the construction industry interest for our membership. All submittals should be sent via e-mail in a typical file format, such as .pdf, .docx, or .jpg. Please verify the accuracy of the information such as correct dates, spelling, and grammar. Deadlines are the 25th of each month.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FEBRUARY 2021

**02** **CSI Board Meeting** - Tuesday, February 2nd,  
Meeting from 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm (EST)  
**Location: RSVP to  
receive link to ZOOM MEETING**

**09** **CSI Chapter Meeting** - Tuesday, February 9th,  
**CSI Knoxville Virtual Meeting!**  
**Time: 11:30 AM EST - 1:00 PM (EST)**

Presented By: Gennaro G. Marino, Ph.D., P.E.,  
D.G.E, Marino Engineering Associates, Inc. He will  
share with us on

11:30am - Networking  
12:00pm - Presentation

Please join from your computer, tablet or  
smartphone.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85000088780>

Meeting ID: 850 0008 8780

One tap mobile

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***AIA CREDITS PENDING***

### KNOXVILLE CHAPTER: FEBRUARY 2021

**45 PROFESSIONAL**

**1 EMERGING PROFESSIONAL**

**2 STUDENT**

**2 EMERITUS**

**2 RETIRED**

**52 TOTAL**



zoom



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### PRESIDENT REPORT FEBRUARY

Mr. Geoffrey Cavalier, CSI,  
Assoc. AIA, NCARB  
CSI Knoxville Chapter President  
[cavaliergeoffrey@gmail.com](mailto:cavaliergeoffrey@gmail.com)



This past January for our normal monthly meeting we had Wayne Norman from ASSA ABLOY Ameristar Perimeter Fencing share with us how codes and standards affect perimeter fencing. This was something very useful to anyone who will ever need to put up a fence or barrier in any application, even for personal use. It was not just about making sure a design meets code, but thinking about common sense situations that you would want to avoid. Wayne did an exceptional job explaining everything in a down-to-earth way that made it easy to follow. I personally have a better understanding of what to look out for when designing and specifying any type of perimeter fencing. This meeting was enlightening and fun. The networking beforehand was nice as always, especially getting to see friends that I have not been able to see in a long time.

Last month we also had a virtual game night. We all got to relax, catch up, and enjoyed playing a Pictionary-type game using our computers and phones. The plan is to keep having these activities every month and we have access to countless games to play depending on attendance. Look out for the next one and plan to set aside two hours to hang out with us.

I am very proud of our chapter for being resilient during this pandemic. This virus continues to spread, and the death-toll continues to increase in our county. I dread having anyone in our chapter having to go through the ordeal of catching this virus, and I do not want to think about losing any one of you. It is my priority to keep my fellow members safe. We are fortunate that we have the technology in place so we may continue to meet and communicate regularly. Not all organizations are continuing like ours. Our members continue to show up so they can build relationships and further their education. Even with these challenges we continue to work towards our chapter's mission. Thank you to all of those that continue to show up to our meetings!

Mr. Geoffrey Cavalier, CSI, Assoc.  
AIA, NCARB  
CSI Knoxville Chapter President  
[cavaliergeoffrey@gmail.com](mailto:cavaliergeoffrey@gmail.com)



## CSI HIGHLIGHTS

Summary from Tuesday, January 5th Board Meeting

The board met in a Zoom Meeting to discuss the following CSI events:  
Certification study group, CSI scholarship, and CSI Product Show in the Spring.

## FEBRUARY PRESENTATION SUMMARY

### GEOCONSTRUCTION PROBLEMS – WHAT WENT WRONG?

*Dr. Gennaro G. Marino* will provide an overview of what constitutes a geoforensics investigation of a geo-construction problem. In addition to providing basic to detailed definitions of geoforensics, the presentation will summarize all the key components of a forensic investigation, and the varied causation components to the failure or problem. Each component will be discussed in detail with salient examples of actual case histories the presenter has investigated. MEA has been involved in cases which involved claims of up to about \$1 billion dollars. Also discussed will be how one should proceed once a potential geo-construction problem is identified, including do's and don'ts of how to approach geoforensics investigations. The presentation will conclude with a summary of key points when encountering geo-construction difficulties.

#### *Learning Objectives:*

- Participants will be able to utilize their knowledge of the components of geo-construction failures and problems to recognize when the potential for issues is present, and to decide what further steps should be taken.
- Participants will be able to carry out investigative procedures to identify geo-construction problems, using steps outlined in the presentation, and will be able to determine whether or not a problem exists that needs to be dealt with.
- Using lessons learned from previous case histories, participants will be able to evaluate alternative means to successfully complete a project once failures or problems have been identified.
- Using cost-saving measures discussed in the presentation, participants will be able to examine areas of their projects where they can select lower-cost alternatives to typical construction problem mitigation that has the same or better results.



## Presentation:

# GeoConstruction Problems – What Went Wrong?

**Gennaro G. Marino, Ph.D., P.E., D.GE**  
**Marino Engineering Associates, Inc.**  
**1370 McCausland Avenue**  
**Saint Louis, MO 63117**  
**[gmarino@meacorporation.com](mailto:gmarino@meacorporation.com)**  
**(314) 833-3189**

This presentation will provide an overview on various ways that a geoconstruction project can go wrong. This overview will be illustrated with salient case history examples which the presenter has been involved in over his almost 40 years of conducting geoforensic investigations. MEA has been involved in cases which involved claims of up to about \$1 billion dollars. Also discussed will be the objectives in performing a forensic investigation, and the key factors in performing such an investigation. The presentation will conclude with a summary of key points when encountering geo-construction difficulties. Although this presentation concerns geoconstruction, principles discussed would apply to other areas of engineering.

## Biography:



Dr. Gennaro G. Marino received his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering in 1985, from the University of Illinois. Dr. Marino has been doing geoforensic work for over 40 years and has worked on cases with claimed damages of up to about a billion dollars. He presently has a P.E. license in 28 states and is a member of ASCE, SME, and ASTM. As a committee member of ASTM, Dr. Marino reviews soil and rock testing procedures. Dr. Marino is also the chairman of the American Bar Association's Expert Witness Civil Engineering subcommittee, and is a member of the ASCE Forensic Engineering Division's Committee on Practices to Reduce Failures.

Over the course of his career, Dr. Marino has authored over 100 articles and publications on advanced engineering topics and has written a textbook on Earthquake Damage. In 2015, Dr. Marino received Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Civil and Environmental Engineering Alumni Association of the University of Illinois. In 2013, The Academy of Geo-Professionals (AGP) of ASCE recognized Dr. Marino as a Diplomate Geotechnical Engineer (D.GE) for his superior expertise and experience, strong ethics, commitment to life-long learning and continued professional development in the field of Geotechnical Engineering. In 2011, Dr. Marino was selected as the Central Illinois, ASCE Civil Engineer of the Year. Marino Engineering Associates, Inc. was chosen as 1st runner-up for the Central Illinois, ASCE Civil Engineering Project of the Year for 2010.



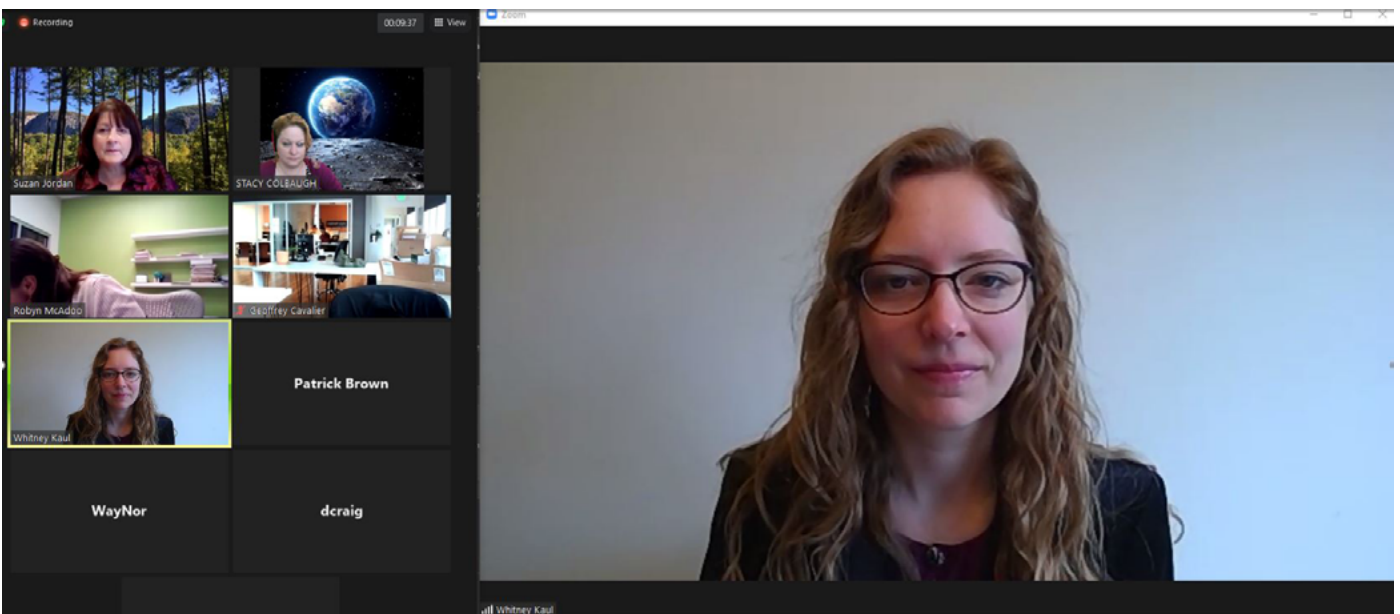
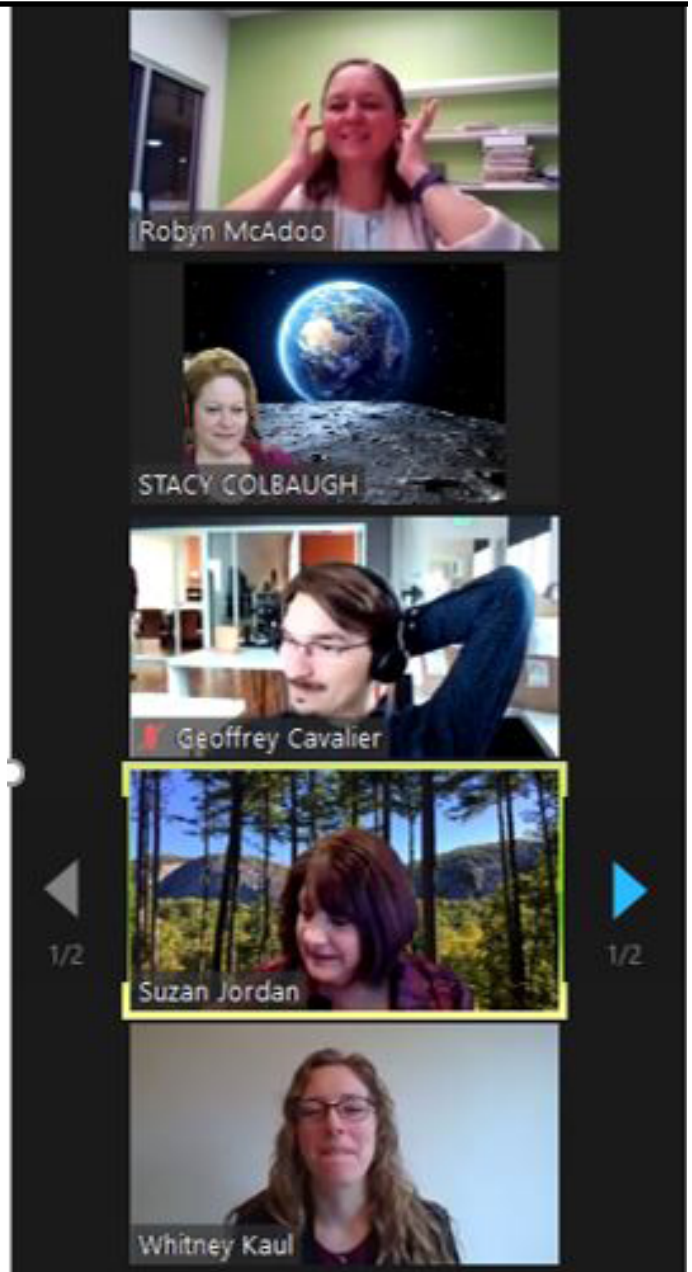
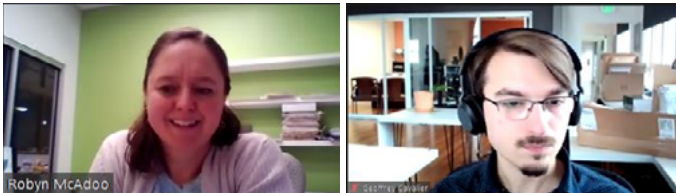
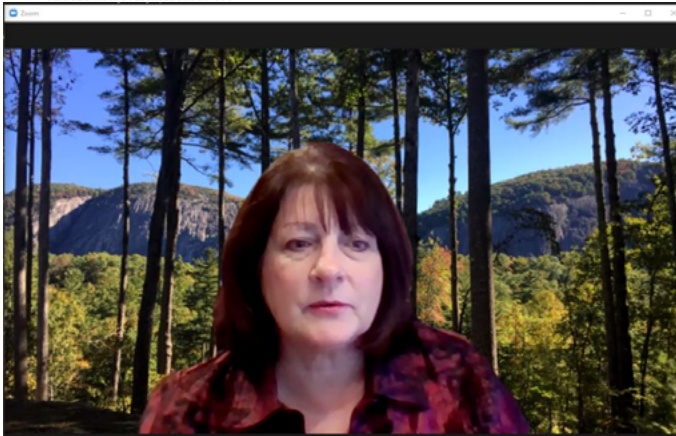
# HINDSIGHT

## PHOTOS FROM CSI CHAPTER MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 12TH

Photos By Stacy Colbaugh, CSI, CDT, AIA



AIA CEU HSW Presentation AFPOF7





## CSI News

### **CSI TENNESSEE STATEWIDE MEETING - NEW STATE LIBRARY BY STATE LIBRARIAN**

William Sundquist, CSI  
Whitacre Greer, Chattanooga TN



SAVE THE DATE for our first ever statewide CSI virtual meeting. Also, CSI Memphis already did a nice social media post so here it is with attached photo if you would like to use. The Zoom link is below. Thanks for your help promoting this first ever event!

Join us for our first ever statewide CSI virtual meeting on February 16, 2021 from 11:00am to 12:00pm (EST).

The presenter, Chuck Sherrill, was named State Librarian and Archivist of TN in 2010. He will walk and talk us through a virtual presentation. Joining him will be members of the architectural team, a joint venture between Tuck Hinton Architects and Thomas Miller & Partners.

### **CHUCK SHERRILL STATE LIBRARIAN AND ARCHIVIST OF TENNESSEE**

William Sundquist, CSI  
Whitacre Greer, Chattanooga TN



Chuck Sherrill was named State Librarian and Archivist of Tennessee by Secretary of State Tre Hargett in 2010. This appointment followed ten years of service to the City of Brentwood, where he was the director of one of Tennessee's premier public libraries. Prior to that he was head of the research section of the Tennessee State Library and Archives. Before moving to the Nashville area he was the Director of the Cleveland (Tenn.) Public Library for nine years, and, before that, Head Reference Librarian at the Western Reserve Historical Society.

He is a native of Cleveland Ohio and a summa cum laude graduate of Case Western Reserve University, with master's degrees in history and library science. His undergraduate work was done at Ohio University in Athens, where he earned a B.S. in Journalism. He is currently an adjunct faculty member at Jackson State

Community College (TN) in the distance learning program.

Chuck is an avid genealogist and author of more than 20 books of Tennessee history and genealogy. Since 2002 he has been the editor of the "Middle Tennessee Journal of History and Genealogy."

He is the father of three sons and lives with his family in Brentwood.



[Tennessee State Library and Archives](#)



[Tennessee State Library and Archives](#)



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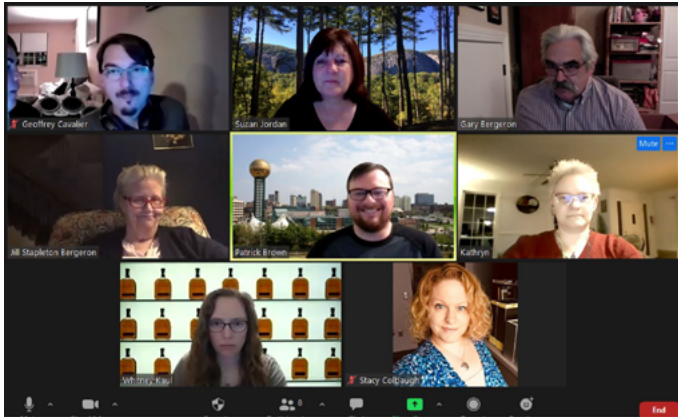
Register in advance for this meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZMlc-6oqTkpHN0OMTUBQ1wNX2HI9fu8aWz7>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

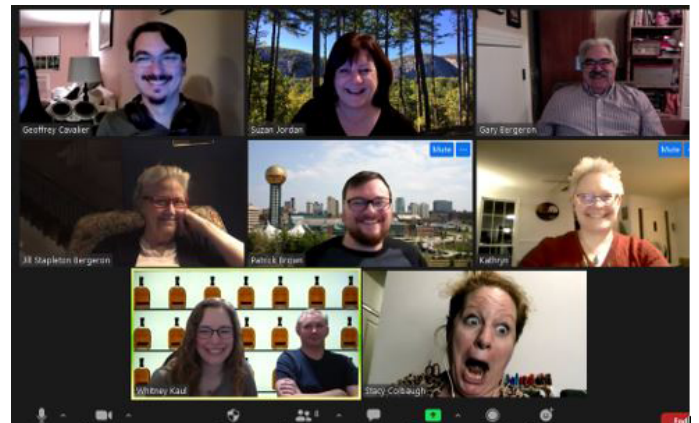
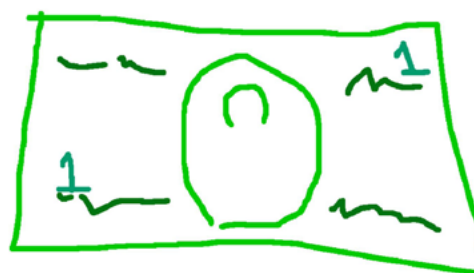
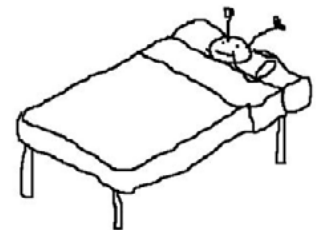
## HINDSIGHT

### PHOTOS FROM CSI VIRTUAL GAME NIGHT, JANUARY 21ST, 2021

Photos By Suzan Jordan, CSI, CCPR, CDT



Fun and Games!



# CSI GULF STATES REGION LEADERS – 2020-2021

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