

### PCI Northeast redesigns website

PCI Northeast has redesigned its website. The revamped website offers added value through better site navigation and quick links; videos; webinars; expanded project gallery, resources, and sustainability sections; and other tools. Go to [www.pcline.org](http://www.pcline.org) to view the new site.



**The PCI team of (from left) Ned Cleland, Ray McCann, local ICH (Instituto del Cemento y del Hormigón) contact Augusto Holmberg, Dante Sanguinetti, S. K. Ghosh, and Susan Dowty examined precast concrete in Chile in April 2010 following a massive earthquake two months earlier. Courtesy of Susan Dowty.**

### PCI team views structures after Chile earthquakes

PCI sent a five-person team to Chile from April 25 to April 30, 2010, in an effort to learn from the performance of the area's various precast concrete structural systems following a February 27, 2010, magnitude 8.8 earthquake that struck portions of Chile, centered about 60 mi (100 km) north of Concepcion.

Chilean building codes and construction practices, at least in the urban areas, are similar to those in the United States and in some cases are more advanced. The PCI team consisted of Ned Cleland, Ray McCann, local ICH (Instituto del Cemento y del Hormigón) contact Augusto Holmberg, Dante Sanguinetti, S. K. Ghosh, and Susan Dowty. The PCI team returned with informative data to share with PCI's membership.

Cleland and Ghosh presented the team's findings during a special hot-topic session on May 31, 2010, at the *fib* Congress and PCI Convention in Washington, D.C. A special

assessment report will be finalized and available to all PCI members later this year. This report will cover the code situation and state of practice in Chile. It will also include the performance of precast concrete bridges, buildings, and cladding as well as the performance of structures of other material. For more information, please contact Jason Krohn at [jkrohn@pci.org](mailto:jkrohn@pci.org).



## New QA e-newsletter available

The PCI Quality Assurance Council has launched a new quarterly quality assurance e-newsletter to enhance communications with PCI-member quality-assurance personnel.

To receive future issues, subscribe to the mailing list at the PCI bookstore at [www.pci.org](http://www.pci.org). For more information, contact Dean Frank at [dfrank@pci.org](mailto:dfrank@pci.org) or (312) 583-6770.

## Draft summary available on partial collapse of parking structure in Mexico earthquake

On April 4, 2010, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck near the border of California and Mexico. In the town of Mexicali, Mexico, the seismic event caused one precast concrete parking structure to partially collapse while it was under construction.

The cast-in-place floor diaphragms of this precast concrete structure were not completed when the earthquake struck. José I. Restrepo of the University of California at San Diego has prepared a draft summary report. For more information, contact Jason Krohn at [jkrohn@pci.org](mailto:jkrohn@pci.org).



## Free, monthly webinars launched

PCI has launched a new webinar program to raise general awareness of precast concrete. The goal of the program is to help PCI members get in front of their customers by easily being able to offer them continuing education credits at boxed-lunch programs.

Webinars target PCI members' customers, such as architects, engineers, and owners. Topics vary from month to month and include parking, life-cycle assessment, and certification, among other topics.

The webinars are scheduled for once a month and are repeated live at noon in each time zone, with Eastern and Mountain zones on Tuesdays and Central and Pacific zones on Thursdays. The live presentation allows for interaction between the presenter and attendees.

Registration is required via PCI's website at [www.pcipublications.org/webinar.site/webinar.html](http://www.pcipublications.org/webinar.site/webinar.html), where you can find course titles, descriptions, dates, times, and registration links.

## Krohn promoted to managing director



Jason Krohn

Jason Krohn was recently promoted to managing director of technical activities.

Krohn is secretary of ACI 318-G, Precast and Prestressed Concrete and a voting member of ACI's Simplified Design of Concrete Buildings Committee (ACI 314) and Specifications for Concrete sub-committee on Precast Concrete Panels (ACI 301-F).

Krohn received his MS in structural engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1996. He has been at PCI for

more than nine years.



**Marty McIntyre, regional director of PCI of Illinois & Wisconsin, demonstrates to Forest Park, Ill., middle schooler Kevin how prestressing works in an industrial arts class. McIntyre discussed cement and concrete materials and careers in the concrete industry with the students.**  
*Courtesy of Marty McIntyre.*

## McIntyre talks concrete to young students

Marty McIntyre, regional director of PCI of Illinois & Wisconsin, shared information about concrete materials and careers with seventh-grade students at the Forest Park Middle School in Forest Park, Ill. Industrial arts teacher Kevin Case has speakers to come in to talk about education, opportunities, and future jobs in various industries.



**From left are Forest Park, Ill., seventh graders Justin, Reynaldo, and Taylor; regional director of PCI of Illinois & Wisconsin Marty McIntyre; and seventh graders Josiah, Isaiah, Cristina, and Vilynda. The students learned about cement and concrete materials and careers in the concrete industry from McIntyre.**  
*Courtesy of Marty McIntyre.*



## Becker added as PCI R&D director



Roger Becker

Roger J. Becker assumed the duties of PCI's managing director of research and development on May 3, 2010. His appointment culminates an extensive search process that began in November 2009.

Becker comes to PCI from Spancrete Industries Inc., a longtime PCI Producer Member, where he most recently served as vice president of Business Development. He has served on several PCI committees and councils, including the Technical Activities Council and Building Code Committee, both of which he chaired; and the Research and Development Council, Hollow Core Slab Producers Committee, Fire Committee, Industry Handbook Committee, and Journal Advisory Committee. He also serves on American Concrete Institute (ACI) Committee 318 (Building Code), the 318 Subcommittee G (Precast and Prestressed Concrete), and the 318 Subcommittee C (Safety, Serviceability, and Analysis).

In his new position, Becker will oversee the planning and management of all PCI research and development activities and support the PCI Research and Development Council. As a member of the PCI staff technical team, he will work closely with other staff members and volunteer leaders in the institute to strategically coordinate research, technical, educational, and code-development activities to maximize the effectiveness and delivered benefit of the PCI research and development program.

"Roger will oversee an integrated project management system to plan and coordinate projects past the point of completion of the research, all the way to the goal line, realization of the ultimate benefits sought," says James G. Toscas, PCI president. "Besides research, this will involve codification, publication, communication, and education."

Becker's goals as incoming managing director support this objective. "My number one goal," he says, "is to maintain all of the positive things that made the PCI R&D program successful. After that, my goals are to explore new things that we ought to be doing, develop new applications of the research that is being done, and find new ways to get the information generated by research into the hands of those who can benefit the most from that research."

Becker says he has seen the industry from a number of different perspectives. Earlier in his career, he performed research on specific precast concrete products and worked as a consulting engineer to various members of the industry. Over the past 10 years, he worked for a precast concrete producer, where he learned how the plants, projects, and business operate.

"I believe I can be sensitive to the needs of producers while understanding the technical demands of conducting research and development to satisfy those needs," Becker says.

Becker has a BS and an ME from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is a Fellow of both PCI and ACI, and coauthor of both the first and second editions of the *PCI Manual for the Design of Hollow Core Slabs*.

## Morales expands role in education



Alex Morales

Alex Morales was recently named PCI's director of learning and performance management.

In this new position, Morales ensures that PCI is providing quality continuing education programs. He will determine the best medium for dissemination of educational programs and will oversee PCI's publication production team. Morales will also be PCI's point of contact for industry education.

Morales has a BS in civil engineering from Clarkston University and an MS in adult education from Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis. He joined PCI two years ago as a member of the quality assurance team.

## Ahlborn named Distinguished Educator



**Tess Ahlborn**

Tess Ahlborn, associate professor of civil engineering at Michigan Technological University, was named PCI's Distinguished Educator for 2010.

Ahlborn's contributions to PCI and the precast concrete structures industry as a whole are extensive, as seen in her teaching, research, and outreach activities. Ahlborn has been educating the future engineering workforce through her concrete design courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. She encourages PCI student membership; consistently references and discusses articles from *PCI Journal*, *Ascent*, and *Aspire* magazines; and has contributed to substantial improvements to the concrete design courses at Michigan Tech.

As the director of the Center for Structural Durability with the Michigan Tech Transportation Institute, Ahlborn focuses her research on structural concrete materials and applications related to prestressed concrete bridges. She has conducted experimental and analytical research on full-sized bridge girders, statistical evaluation of prestress losses and differential camber, and many other topics. She has revitalized the prestressed concrete research program with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and worked extensively with MDOT to seek solutions for durable highway structures, emphasizing prestressed concrete applications. She has been a member of the PCI Research and Development Council for nearly a decade.

Ahlborn has been active as a PCI Convention session moderator, a reviewer for conference proceedings, and initiator of the Women in PCI events. More than 70 professional women have used this networking opportunity, establishing lifelong personal and professional relationships to the benefit of the precast concrete structures industry.

The Distinguished Educator Award was developed by the Student Education Committee and recognizes educators in engineering, architecture, or construction technology and sciences who have made significant contributions to the educational mission of the precast concrete structures industry. PCI presented Ahlborn with the award in May during the Third International *fib* Congress and 2010 PCI Convention in Washington, D.C.

## Brock receives young educator award



**Thomas E. Brock**

Thomas E. Brock, assistant professor of architecture at Illinois Institute of Technology, was chosen as the 2010 PCI Young Educator Achievement Award recipient.

Brock is an assistant professor of architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) in Chicago, Ill. He was recommended for the award by students, fellow professors, precasters, and regional representatives for his work on creating and establishing the PCI Design Studio at IIT. He has worked closely with the precast concrete structures industry and pioneered a new way of thinking about architectural education on precast concrete subjects, exhibiting unflagging energy and enthusiasm for running a successful program.

Brock's reach has extended far beyond his classroom and institution, into the local precast concrete community. He created and presented a regional seminar on the history of the parking structure, has worked with his local PCI region to speak about architecture and the education of future architects, and invited the local precasting community to join his midterm and final studio presentations to put precasters and architecture students face to face to discuss a myriad of design possibilities.

The Young Educator Achievement Award recognizes engineering, architecture, and construction technology educators who have made significant contributions to precast, prestressed concrete education early in their careers. PCI presented Brock with the award in May during the Third International *fib* Congress and 2010 PCI Convention in Washington, D.C.

## PCI to release blast research video

PCI has been working with the U.S. Air Force in conducting blast research on insulated precast concrete wall panels. The research has been completed, and the panels performed better than expected. A complete report on this joint effort is forthcoming.

PCI is in the process of editing a video summarizing this project and capturing some of the amazing footage. A draft of this video has been approved for distribution by the Air Force and can be viewed at [www.viddler.com/explore/PCIeducation/videos/97/](http://www.viddler.com/explore/PCIeducation/videos/97/).

The PCI Marketing Council has also formed a Military Task Group that is focused on developing strategies and resources to help PCI members gain market share in the military and government sector. If you are interested in assisting with this initiative or would like a copy of the draft blast research video, contact Brian Miller at [bmiller@pci.org](mailto:bmiller@pci.org).

## CIM students create memorial to honor fallen firefighters

At the 2010 World of Concrete event in Las Vegas, Nev., students from the Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program honored the fallen firefighters of three New York, N.Y., firehouses located around Times Square.

The memorial was constructed by the CIM students of California State University, Chico, and Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) in the form of two nearly 10-ft-tall (3 m) concrete replicas of the World Trade Center towers. On September 11, 2001, these firehouses lost two companies, including men and women on duty for Ladder 4, Engine 54, and Battalion 9.

The design reflects light on a faceted surface etched with the names of the fallen firefighters. The CIM students at each university learned about the technique for the special glass-fiber-reinforced concrete process that was used on the project prior to arriving in Las Vegas for World of Concrete. At the show, the students performed all of the concrete work, including forming, mixing, and placing the concrete; erecting the completed panels; and dismantling the memorial at the end of the event. Retired New York firefighter Ed Gruetzner, now an accomplished decorative concrete installer, and Mike Eastergard, a supporter of the CIM program, were on hand to advise the students and provide their expertise during the course of the project.

The memorial was presented to the captain of the New York firehouse in a ceremony on February 4, 2010, at World of Concrete. The towers will eventually be placed in a memorial park across from the New York firehouse and will be rededicated in September 2011 on the 10th anniversary of the attacks.



**Students from the Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program constructed this memorial to the fallen firefighters of three New York, N.Y., firehouses.**

*Courtesy of the Concrete Industry Management program.*

## Nickas writes pavement article



William Nickas

The March 2010 issue of *Rebuilding America's Infrastructure* magazine includes the article "Precast/Prestressed Concrete Pavement Continues to Evolve: East-Coast Projects Demonstrate Overnight Installations of Durable Pavement," which was written by William Nickas, PCI's managing director of transportation systems. You can view the article at [www.rebuildingamericainfrastructure.com](http://www.rebuildingamericainfrastructure.com).


## Web sessions to feature Lorenz

ACI recorded select presentations from the ACI Spring 2010 Convention in Chicago, Ill., and is making them available online and on demand through a new program called ACI Web Sessions. These presentations can be viewed free of charge.

*PCI Journal* editor-in-chief Emily Lorenz was one of the first speakers featured. ACI has posted her presentations from the ACI Concrete Sustainability Forum. The forum was held on November 7, 2009, in New Orleans, La., and included 13 presentations about sustainability as it relates to the concrete industry. To view these presentations, go to [www.concrete.org/education/webcasts/webcasts.asp](http://www.concrete.org/education/webcasts/webcasts.asp).

## 7th *PCI Design Handbook* released

The seventh edition of the *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete*, is now available for purchase at the PCI bookstore at [www.pci.org](http://www.pci.org).

The new edition is available for \$195 to PCI members and \$390 to nonmembers. The included CD-ROM contains a searchable version of the entire handbook and many of the PCI publications referenced. 





## PCI Calendar

### Events

For the most current information on PCI events, visit [www.pci.org/events](http://www.pci.org/events). For industry events, visit [www.pci.org/news/events](http://www.pci.org/news/events).

<b>PCI-IW Meeting</b>	<b>July 28, 2010</b>
Lake Geneva, Ill.	
<b>PCI-IW Meeting</b>	<b>September 21, 2010</b>
Prairie Isle Golf Club, Prairie Grove, Ill.	
<b>2010 PCI Committee Days</b>	<b>September 22–25, 2010</b>
Westin Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill.	
<b>PCI-IW Meeting</b>	<b>December 8, 2010</b>
Prairie Isle Golf Club, Prairie Grove, Ill.	
<b>PCI Annual Convention and Exhibition and National Bridge Conference</b>	<b>October 22–25, 2011</b>
Salt Lake City Marriott Downtown and Salt Lake Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, Utah	
<b>PCI Annual Convention and Exhibition and National Bridge Conference</b>	<b>September 29–October 2, 2012</b>
Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, Nashville, Tenn.	

### PCI Personnel Training and Certification Schools

If you have any questions about the Quality Control School schedule, would like information on any of our Spanish-language exams, or need help completing a registration form, please contact PCI's director of learning and performance management, Alex Morales, at [amorales@pci.org](mailto:amorales@pci.org) or (312) 360-3219. Registration forms are available at [www.pci.org/markets/certifications/schools.cfm](http://www.pci.org/markets/certifications/schools.cfm).

#### Level I/II

September 8–10, 2010  
Chicago, Ill.

#### Level III

September 7–10, 2010  
Chicago, Ill.

## Survey on high-priority topics for research at PCI

### To: PCI Producer, Associate, and Professional Members

Do you know that each year PCI allocates 7% of Producer Member and Associate Member dues for projects conducted under the auspices of the PCI Research and Development Committee? Despite this commitment by PCI, total industry expenditures for research conducted on topics of specific interest to the precast concrete industry are still relatively low compared with those for competitor industries. It is especially important that we spend PCI's research dollars wisely. Accordingly, we are asking for your help.

Periodically, we solicit input from the entire PCI community regarding your opinions on technical research activities that could produce knowledge that would benefit your organization and the industry's market share. We then summarize these data in the form of a prioritized listing titled "Top 10 PCI Research Topics." This list is shared with prospective researchers to assist them as they develop research proposals to be funded as regular PCI (major) projects and/or PCI (Daniel P. Jenny) Research Fellowships, as well as those to be funded entirely or in part by other research agencies, such as the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards & Technology, and the Federal Highway Administration.

We have designed a survey form to facilitate your providing us with your opinions regarding current technical research needs. In addition, we are requesting that you tell us about your company's current and recent (nonproprietary) research and development activities.

Please send your response to Roger Becker at PCI as indicated on the survey form.

Harry Gleich  
Chair, PCI Research &  
Development Committee

## Research & Development Survey

Please list below the four most pressing technical problems that, in your opinion, confront the precast/prestressed concrete industry today. Provide a brief statement of scope and objective(s) of research that would address each proposed topic. Attach additional sheets as required.

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2. \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please describe your company's current and recent (past 5 years) nonproprietary research and/or testing. Attach additional sheets as required.

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Additional comments. Attach additional sheets as required.

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### Please mail/email/fax this sheet to

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Name (please print)

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Position

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