# From PCI Headquarters

## PCI seeks papers, student posters for 2013 convention

PCI is now accepting abstracts for paper and poster sessions for the 2013 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference, September 21–24, in Grapevine, Tex. Abstracts are due by January 31, 2013; final papers are due by May 12, 2013.

All abstracts, papers, and student posters should relate to the design, analysis, materials, production, erection, sustainability, or maintenance and/or repair of precast concrete. Case studies, research, and project profiles are all welcome. Abstracts and papers will be peer reviewed, and final papers will be published in the convention proceedings.

Abstracts of 200 words or fewer must be submitted electronically at https://www.softconf.com/d/PCI2013/. Visit http://www.pci.org/cms/index.cfm/callforpapers for suggested topics and full submission details.

For general inquiries, contact Jennifer Peters at jpeters@pci.org; for buildings-specific paper questions, contact Brian Miller at bmiller@pci.org; for transportation-specific paper questions, contact William Nickas at wnickas@pci.org; and for student poster inquiries, contact Alex Morales at amorales@pci.org.

## PCI concrete sustainability conference cosponsor

PCI is a cosponsor of the 2013 International Concrete Sustainability Conference May 6–8 in San Francisco, Calif., at the Hotel Sofitel San Francisco Bay.

The eighth annual conference will provide professional development and networking opportunities on the latest advances, technical knowledge, continuing research, tools, and solutions for sustainable concrete manufacture and construction.

Visit http://www.ConcreteSustainabilityConference.org for more information.

### Engineering Student Design Competition: Big Beam Contest Call for Entries

The PCI Student Education Committee invites entries from engineering students to participate in PCI's 2012–2013 Engineering Design Competition. With the help of local PCI Producer Members, students will construct and test precast, prestressed concrete beams. The awards program, sponsored by Sika Corp., takes into account efficient design, load capacity, and other factors. Applications are due by March 15, 2013, and results are due by June 15, 2013. PCI Producer Members are urged to encourage their local engineering schools to participate in this program. For information, visit http://www.pci.org/bigbeam.

## John Lishamer

John Lishamer, former PCI production programs manager, died November 16, 2012. He was 91. Lishamer spent 45 years in the precast/prestressed concrete industry, retiring from PCI in 2004.

After service in World War II, Lishamer attended St. Norberts College in DePere, Wisc.

Lishamer worked in construction, technical sales, and as a manager for several companies in the precast concrete industry. In the 1970s, he was manager of the Prestress Division of Jackson Ready-Mix Co. in Jackson, Miss. He had also been division manager of prestressed concrete operations at Nelsen Concrete Products in Centralia, Ill., and sales engineer for FMC Corp. in Lakeland, Fla., where he worked to develop steel forms for specific job requirements.

Lishamer first joined PCI in August 1975 as production programs manager. His primary responsibilities were administering and marketing the PCI Plant Certification and safety programs. He was active in Washington, D.C., promoting inclusion of the certification program in the specifications of the Corps of Engineers, the Pentagon, the American Institute of Architects, and other agencies. In addition, he was active with the U.S. Department of Labor, where he worked on safety standards for the precast concrete industry. He left this position in the early 1980s to join Exposaic Wire Co. in Mt. Airy, N.C., as territory sales manager covering the greater Midwest region. He also served as vice president of National Filigree in Countryside, Ill., where his responsibilities included administration, production, quality control, purchasing, safety, traffic, and field erection.

In 1995, Lishamer returned to PCI to again administer the PCI Plant Certification and Technician/Inspector Certification Programs as well as oversee the PCI Plant Safety Program and work with several PCI technical committees. Lishamer was also appointed information officer in 1999.

# PCI members, customers get free admission to exhibits at 2013 World of Concrete

Registration for the 2013 World of Concrete, February 5–8 in Las Vegas, Nev., is open. Use PCI's registration code, A34, for complimentary exhibit hall–only registration and discounted seminar fees.

Visit http://www.pci.org for more information or to register.

Additional PCI member opportunities at World of Concrete include the PCI zones 1 and 2 meeting on February 5 and 6 and PCI Quality Schools Level I/II.

First-time exhibitors who are members of PCI receive 25% savings on the current published exhibit space rates. Contact Kirstin Osgood at kosgood@pci.org for more information.

# PCI partners with Design-Build Institute

PCI joined eight member companies in exhibiting at the Design-Build Institute of America's Design-Build Conference and Expo, November 6–9, 2012, in New Orleans, La. The theme was Discover High Performance Precast.

Bekaert, Bentley Systems, Carolina Stalite, Tekla, Thermomass, Gate Precast, Oldcastle, Shockey Precast, and Tindall participated in the event.

## 7th edition *PCI Design Handbook* discounted to $99 for students

PCI's Educational Activities Council is offering a new student member benefit. Student members of PCI can purchase the seventh edition of *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete* at the discounted price of $99.

Student membership is free. Students can apply online by going to http://www.pci.org and clicking on the Join Now button. If you have any questions about this offer or about student membership, contact Alex Morales at amorales@pci.org or (312) 360-3219.

CD versions of the handbook are also available to students for $20.

## New transportation reports avaiable as ePubs

The *State-of-the-Art Report on Precast Concrete Pavements* and *Curved Precast Concrete Bridges State-of-the-Art Report* are now available electronically through PCI's ePubs site.

The *State-of-the-Art Report on Precast Concrete Pavements* is a combination of four documents on the use of precast concrete pavement systems. The documents were developed through a cooperative agreement between PCI and the Federal Highway Administration. The documents that compose the report—"Applications for Precast Concrete Pavements," "Design and Maintenance of Precast Concrete Pavements," "Manufacture of Precast Concrete Pavement Panels," and "Construction of Precast Concrete Pavement"—can also be downloaded separately.

The *Curved Precast Concrete Bridges State-of-the-Art Report* details the application of curved precast concrete bridge design, fabrication, and construction techniques through the study of 12 related projects. The document is an up-to-date reference for bridge owners, designers, fabricators, and engineers developing precast concrete bridge solutions for curved geometric situations. The topics include "Straight Girders Chorded from Pier to Pier," "Straight Girder Segments with Splices within the Spans," and "Curved Precast Girders." Each case study reviews project-specific information, the structural system selected, construction techniques used, and the lessons learned.

For purchasing information, visit http://www.pci.org/epubs.

## Freedman named 2012 CPCI Fellow

**Sidney Freedman**

Sidney Freedman, PCI's director of architectural systems, has been named a fellow of the Canadian Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute. This award honors current or former CPCI members for outstanding contributions to the industry and to CPCI. Service to the industry is considered in areas of education, research, design, production, quality, erection, marketing, and management.

# PCI names 2012 Safety Award recipients

The recipients of PCI's 2012 Safety Awards had zero days away and restricted time (DART), total case incidents, and lost workdays incidents throughout 2011.

Following are the winners in the 10- to 49-employee category:

- David Kucera Inc. of Gardiner, N.Y.
- Gate Precast Co. of Pearland, Tex.
- GFRC Cladding Systems LLC of Garland, Tex.
- Illini Precast LLC of Marseilles, Ill.
- KSA of Sciotoville, Ohio
- Missoula Concrete Construction of Missoula, Mont.
- Oldcastle Precast Inc. of Avon, Conn.
- R. B. Johnson Co. of McMinnville, Ore.
- Stonecast Products Inc. of Germantown, Wis.
- Tindall Corp. Texas Division of San Antonio, Tex.
- Utility Precast Inc. of Concord, N.C.

Following are the winners in the 50- to 99-employee category:

- Prestress of the Carolinas of Charlotte, N.C.
- LB Foster/CXT Concrete Ties of Tucson, Ariz.

# First T. Henry Clark Award goes to StructureCast

StructureCast in Bakersfield, Calif., was awarded the inaugural T. Henry Clark Award. Northeast Prestressed Products LLC in Cressona, Pa., received honorable mention. The 2012 award was given to the Producer Member with the highest confirmed score from the QA 2020 Vision Program, a voluntary method of tracking and improving plant practices in safety, productivity, personnel training, and erection practices.

T. Henry Clark, a PCI Titan, died in December 2010. He was president of Ross Bryan Associates Inc. in Nashville, Tenn., where he worked for 43 years. Clark was responsible for managing Ross Bryan's audits of plants participating in the PCI Plant Certification Program. Ross Bryan has been the sole audit agency for PCI's Plant Certification Program since its inception. As a member of the Plant Certification Committee, Clark played a major role in the evolution and development of PCI's certification programs and their respective manuals.

# Sustainability Council becomes permanent committee

The Sustainability Council has successfully transitioned to a permanent committee under the Technical Activities Council.

The committee will continue to focus on technical matters such as completing the life cycle assessment project, actively participating in and monitoring major sustainability-related codes and standards, and reviewing ways to improve the sustainable attributes of precast concrete structures.

PCI officially launched the pilot Sustainable Plant Program at last year's convention, and the program will undergo a full launch in 2013. The goal of this optional program is to reduce the environmental impact of precast concrete manufacture while creating a culture of sustainability within the industry. PCI is providing this program as a resource for its member plants to measure and implement changes that will have a measurable improvement in their environmental and economic performance.

A separate Marketing Sustainability Committee is focusing on marketing and promoting the sustainable benefits of precast concrete structures, such as functional resilience and high performance.

For information on PCI's sustainability efforts, contact Dean Frank at dfrank@pci.org.

# Quality Assurance Council and committees meet during convention in Nashville

The Quality Assurance Council and its four committees met during the 2012 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference in Nashville, Tenn.

The Plant Certification Committee discussed the approval of the technical contents of the revised fourth edition of the *Manual for Quality Control for Architectural Precast Concrete* (MNL-117) by the PCI Technical Activities Council. The committee will continue to offer a bonus point on plant certification audit grades in 2013 as an incentive for plants to perform strand bond–quality testing, such as the Peterman beam test.

The QA 2020 Vision Program launched in early 2012 as a voluntary method of tracking and improving plant practices in safety, productivity, personnel training, and erection practices. The purpose of the program will be to recognize best practices that go beyond the established minimum requirements of the PCI certification programs. An additional module on Sustainable Plant Practices will be added in 2013.

The Erector Certification Committee will begin recognizing certified erectors' continuous participation in the PCI Certified Erector's Program, starting with those that have been certified for five years.

With Keith Wallis Jr. completing the last year of his term as the Quality Assurance Council chair, Edwin McDougle is the incoming chair. His term will commence on January 1, 2013.

For information about PCI Quality Programs, contact Dean Frank at dfrank@pci.org.

# TAC oversees code, fire initiatives

The Technical Activities Council discussed initiatives in fire and codes at the 2012 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference in Nashville, Tenn.

PCI has hired a fire code consultant, Steve Skalko, on a limited basis. Skalko was instrumental in getting PCI's *International Building Code* (IBC) change proposal passed. The change relates to exempting parking structure floor and ramp elements from a heat transmission requirement within the IBC. In addition, PCI received an ICC-ES Evaluation Report (ESR-1997) on the new *Design for Fire Resistance of Precast/Prestressed Concrete*.

PCI is also applying to the American National Standards Institute to become a Standard Developing Organization.

# JVI receives associate member award

JVI of Lincolnwood, Ill., received the 2012 PCI Associate Member Award. This is JVI's third Associate Member Award.

Jim Voss founded JVI Inc. in 1980. JVI is a provider of structural bearing pads that are used to cushion and support structural precast, prestressed concrete elements. The company has been an active member of PCI for decades, with Voss and JVI employees serving on boards, joining committees, supporting events, being one of the first PCI Premier Partners, and cooking gourmet meals for thousands of PCI members over the years at Concrete Chefs.

JVI's commitment to the industry also extends to the PCI Foundation, for which it provides generous support and leadership. The PCI Foundation provides a vehicle for educating university students in precast concrete. There are six active studios around the country and more on the way.

# Convention fundraisers bring in more than $30,000 for PCI Foundation

The PCI Foundation held three major fundraisers during the PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference in Nashville, Tenn., bringing in about $35,000 to fund foundation activities such as the Precast Studios at universities across the United States.

Tom Koons of Northeast Prestressed Products LLC won the 100th Anniversary Edition Harley-Davidson motorcycle in the PCI Foundation Raffle. JVI Inc. donated the motorcycle.

Other winners were Judy Breen of Dayton Superior and Carl Clary of Tindall Corp., who won an iPad and an iPod Touch plus Bose Sound system, which were donated by High Concrete Accessories and BASF, respectively.

The PCI Foundation Rev it Up raffle brought in more than $18,000 with more than 1000 tickets sold by the raffle team members at regional meetings and by the current Leadership PCI class during the silent auction. Leadership PCI held a sales contest, and Mark McKenny of Coreslab Structures (TAMPA) Inc. won the competition by selling his allotment of tickets first. McKenney received a Starbucks gift card and a bag of PCI swag.

The silent auction took place during the convention open house and brought in $16,750 in sales. Many donors contributed one or more of the 57 auction packages that ranged from a VIP seat at the Indy 500 to dinner and flowers for a loved one.

The chair of the 2012 PCI Foundation Silent Auction and Raffle was Pat Hynes of Knife River. Auction team members included Todd Adams, Steve Brock, Al Ericson, Deanna Mansell, Marty McIntyre, Marianne Methven, Nancy Peterson, Glen Switzer, Stacey Toscas, and Jim Voss.

The foundation also sponsored a golf tournament, which raised more than $3500 for the PCI Foundation.

"We had 40 golfers participate in this year's tournament," says Peter Finsen, executive director of the Georgia/Carolinas PCI and chair of the tournament. "It was a great way to spend an afternoon with some PCI friends and colleagues while raising some money for a good cause."
—Source: Marty McIntyre

**Linda Voss and Jim Voss congratulate Tom Koons of Northeast Prestressed Products LLC on winning the 100th Anniversary Edition Harley-Davidson motorcycle, donated by JVI, in the PCI Foundation Raffle. The PCI Foundation raised about $35,000 at the 2012 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference.** Courtesy of Paul Grigonis.

# 2012 convention proceedings available

The peer-reviewed technical papers from the 2012 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference are available in the proceedings. The proceedings disk in the PCI bookstore costs $75.

**The finalists for the PCI Design Awards trophy competition are on display at the 2012 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference.** Courtesy of Paul Grigonis.

# Macomber takes home prize for Design Awards trophy

The winner of PCI's Design Awards trophy design competition to commemorate the event's 50th anniversary is Duncan Macomber. Four finalists were selected to create prototypes of their trophy ideas to be displayed at the convention. Convention attendees voted for a winning design.

Dirk McClure, Steve Smith, and Brandon Mintz were the other finalists. Macomber's prize is $1000.

# Toscas elected to CIM Program board

**Jim Toscas**

The National Steering Committee for the Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program has elected new officers and board members.

The newly elected officers are chairman, Frank Craddock, executive vice president of U.S. Operations at Cemex Inc.; vice chairman, Alan Nedza, director of sales of Admixture Systems North America; and treasurer, Danny Rodgers, president and CEO of Dunn Investment Co.

Newly elected board members are Jim Toscas, president of PCI; Rex Cottle, senior vice president of development at Trinity Industries Inc.; Steve Cox, North American director of sales at Grace Construction Products; Wally Johnson, vice president of marketing and sales at U.S. Concrete Inc.; Kari Saragusa, president of Lehigh Hanson Region West; Julie Garbini, executive director of RMC Research and Education Foundation; Beverly Garnant, executive director of the American Society of Concrete Contractors; Matt Childs, president of the American Concrete Pavement Association; Douglas Guerrero, chairman of the CIM Patrons of California State University, Chico; Rick Yelton, editor-in-chief of *The Concrete Producer* and *World of Concrete*; Brian Gallagher, director of marketing at O'Neal Inc.; Randy Beard, director of operations at Walker Restoration Consultants; Michael Schneider, vice president of operations Baker Concrete Construction Inc. and immediate past chairman of the CIM National Steering Committee; and Eugene Martineau, executive director of the CIM National Steering Committee.

—Source: CIM

# PCI continues success with code changes at ICC

On October 26, 2012, the International Code Council (ICC) governmental membership voted to accept the following modification to the 2015 *International Building Code* (IBC) during the ICC final action hearings. This approved modification to FS186-12 was the result of a public comment submitted jointly by PCI and the National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA) on behalf of the Masonry Alliance for Codes and Standards. Jason Thompson and Stephen Skalko prepared this public comment and worked with opponents of the original code change proposal to bring forward a public comment that would be acceptable to most interested parties.

This public comment and resulting code change will benefit PCI Producer Members who manufacture insulated sandwich wall panels. As the result of this modification, PCI Producer Members will save money by not being required to run an NFPA 285 test on their precast concrete insulated wall assemblies as long as they meet the stated criteria. The addition is listed in the number 2 bullet.

---

2603.5 Exterior walls of buildings of any height. Exterior walls of buildings of Type I, II, III or IV construction of any height shall comply with Sections 2603.5.1 through 2603.5.7. Exterior walls of cold storage buildings required to be constructed of noncombustible materials, where the building is more than one story in height, shall also comply with the provisions of Sections 2603.5.1 through 2603.5.7. Exterior walls of buildings of Type V construction shall comply with Sections 2603.2, 2603.3 and 2603.4.

2603.5.5 Vertical and lateral fire propagation. The exterior wall assembly shall be tested in accordance with and comply with the acceptance criteria of NFPA 285.

Exceptions:

1. One-story buildings complying with Section 2603.4.1.4.
2. Wall assemblies where the foam plastic insulation is covered on each face by a minimum of 1-inch (25 mm) thickness of masonry or concrete and meeting one of the following:
   a. there is no air space between the insulation and the concrete or masonry; or
   b. the insulation has a flame spread index of not more than 25 as determined in accordance with ASTM E 84 or UL 723 and the maximum air space between the insulation and the concrete or masonry is not more than 1 inch (25 mm).

---

# Erector audit reports now go to PCI

PCI now directly processes erector audit reports. All erector audit reports and correspondence go to Jessica Burnett, PCI's manager of quality programs, at jburnett@pci.org.

## Chile earthquake reconnaissance team publishes paper in *Earthquake Spectra*

In April 2010, PCI sent a reconnaissance team to Chile to visit areas affected by the February 2010 earthquake. "Performance of Precast Concrete Building Structures" by S. K. Ghosh and Ned M. Cleland was published in the 2010 Maule, Chile, Earthquake Special Issue of *Earthquake Spectra* in June 2012. The paper reports on the team's observations on the performance of precast/prestressed concrete structures during the earthquake. A version of this paper, "Observations from the February 27, 2012, Earthquake in Chile," was published in the Winter 2012 *PCI Journal*.

The precast concrete building systems observed by the PCI team generally performed well. In some cases, the lateral force–resisting system performed satisfactorily, but the absence or weakness of diaphragm framing resulted in local failures. Overall, the PCI team found a mature and sophisticated precast concrete industry that has successfully considered and solved problems related to earthquake resistance without some of the constraints imposed on U.S. practice by building code provisions.

## Marketing Council creates Energy Task Group

The Marketing Council has formed the Energy Task Group. The mission of this task group is to identify opportunities for precast concrete in wind power, power plants, and oil and natural gas as specifically as possible and to determine what it will take to become competitive. This focus will be on the decision-maker groups, projects, and products.

Energy sector construction is expected to be $127 billion in 2014 per the task group's "Energy Sector Market Review."

Although nuclear and wind energy are getting a lot of press and present significant opportunities for precast concrete, most of the construction is in conventional power plants, natural gas exploration and transmission, and petrochemical plants. Some of these sectors are projected to have 20% or more growth. If 1% of this market went to precast concrete, it would become the largest PCI market segment, at $1.25 billion.

The Marketing Council sees this as a major new market for precast concrete. Potential projects include industrial building frames, cooling towers, blast walls, pipe racks, pumping stations, liquefied natural gas terminals, wharves, and electrical transmission. These will need to be fire resistant, resilient, quick to erect with few people, modular, and economical. Many of these will use off-the-shelf products and systems, in some cases adapted to the needs of the industry.

For more information about joining the task group, contact Jim Schroder at (864) 553-1344 or jimschroder@bellsouth.net, Bill Ray at (404) 414-4649 or billray@precastconsulting.com, or Ken Kruse at (216) 839-7054 or kenneth.kruse@basf.com.

# Zia receives 2012 PCI Medal of Honor

**Paul Zia**

Paul Zia, PhD, PE, distinguished university professor emeritus of civil engineering and alumni distinguished graduate professor emeritus at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C., and independent consulting structural engineer, was awarded the PCI Medal of Honor at the 2012 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference in Nashville, Tenn. The Medal of Honor is PCI's highest award, recognizing a member's outstanding service to the institute or long-standing contributions to the industry.

A native of China, Zia was a cofounder of Lakeland Engineering Associates Prestressing (LEAP), which specialized in consulting and developing precast, prestressed concrete. By the mid-1950s, five clients of LEAP composed the new prestressed concrete industry in Florida. LEAP also assisted these five industry pioneers in the formation of PCI.

In 1953, Zia designed and supervised the construction of the first industrial building with 60 ft (18 m) span prestressed I-beams using on-site fabrication. He also designed the first county bridge in Sarasota, Fla., for West Coast Shell Corp., using 50 ft (15 m) span prestressed single T-beams with composite decking.

In 1955, Zia switched to an academic and research career, joining the University of Florida as an instructor in civil engineering. Encouraged by PCI, he assisted Alan Ozall in the development of *PCI Journal* in 1956. For his doctoral research, he conducted the first study of torsion in prestressed concrete ever sponsored by the National Science Foundation, which provided the foundation for his subsequent torsion research projects and led to the development of Zia-McGee-Hsu torsion design provisions for prestressed concrete, which have been widely used by the industry.

In 1961, he joined the civil engineering faculty at North Carolina State University as an associate professor, becoming a full professor in 1965, and also served on the faculty of the University of California at Berkeley as a visiting associate professor. Zia was department head at NCSU from 1979 to 1988 and served as research advisor to more than 60 masters and doctoral students. He is an author or coauthor of nearly 200 refereed publications. Since his retirement from active teaching in 1996, he has remained active as a research professor.

For his achievements in teaching, research, and professional activities, Zia has received a multitude of honors and awards from various organizations. In 1993, he received the Alexander Quarles Holladay Medal of Excellence, the highest honor bestowed on a faculty member by the NCSU Board of Trustees. In 1999, the National Park Service presented him its Citizen's Award for Exceptional Service in recognition of his role as an advisor and consultant for the relocation of Cape Hatteras Lighthouse.

In 2002, The Constructed Facilities Laboratory in the Department of Civil Engineering at NCSU established the Paul Zia Distinguished Lecture Series to honor Zia's contributions to the civil engineering profession, particularly in the concrete and structural engineering fields.

PCI has previously honored Zia by naming him a Fellow and giving him the Distinguished Educator of the Year Award and Martin P. Korn Award. He has participated in 14 different PCI technical committees.

David S. Jablonsky

Robert H. Konoske

Carin Roberts-Wollmann

James M. Sirko

# PCI names four Fellows in 2012

Four new PCI Fellows were honored at the Celebration of Excellence dinner during the 2012 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference on October 2. David S. Jablonsky, Robert H. Konoske, Carin Roberts-Wollmann, and James M. Sirko were all named Fellows.

The PCI Board of Directors elects Fellows of the institute each year, honoring current or former members for their dedication to PCI and the industry. Those given the distinction of PCI Fellow have made outstanding contributions to the precast concrete structures industry and to PCI in the areas of education, research, design, production, quality, erection, marketing, or management.

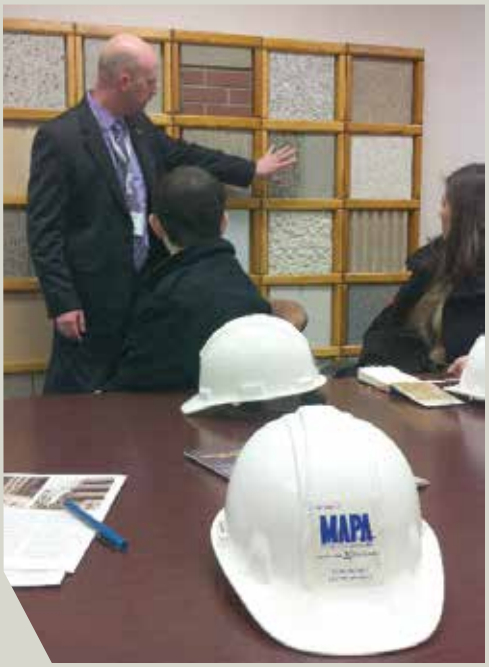
David S. Jablonsky, PE, is vice president of operations and product development for JVI Inc. in Northbrook, Ill. He received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Clemson University. Jablonsky is a graduate of Leadership PCI and has been active in PCI for many years. He has served as chair of several PCI committees, including the Plant Certification Committee, and was on the PCI Board of Directors from 2008 to 2009. He is a member of numerous PCI committees and councils, including the Technical Activities Council and Quality Activities Council. Among his many accomplishments, Jablonsky helped develop the PCI Erector Qualification and Certification Programs, PCI's QA2020 Vision program, and the new T. Henry Clark Quality Award.

Robert H. Konoske is vice president and general manager of Coreslab Structures (LA) Inc. in Perris, Calif. He received his bachelor's degree from California State University at Long Beach. Konoske was a member of the PCI Board of Directors from 2003 to 2008 and served as PCI chairman in 2007. He has also served on several committees, including the Erectors and GFRC committees, as well as the Education Activities Council. Konoske is a trustee of the PCI Foundation and was a lead on the first West Coast Precast Studio at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. He has also served as chair of the Precast Concrete Manufacturers Association of California, now PCI West.

Carin Roberts-Wollmann, PhD, PE, is a professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Va. Roberts-Wollmann received her bachelor's degree in engineering from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln and her master's degree and PhD in civil engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. She has been active in the transportation industry and served on several PCI committees, including Adjacent Members, Curved Precast Bridges, and AASHTO LRFD Specifications Review and Implementation. She is also chair of the Transportation Research Board Committee AFF 30 on Prestressed Concrete, secretary of ACI 423–Prestressed Concrete, and director of the Virginia Tech Tom Murray Structural Engineering Laboratory. In 2008, Roberts-Wollmann received PCI's Young Educator Achievement Award.

James M. Sirko, PE, is president and founder of Sirko Associates Inc. in Denver, Colo. Sirko received his bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Colorado State University in 1973. He spent the next 12 years gaining experience working for several precast concrete producers before launching Sirko Associates. Sirko has served on numerous committees, including Total Precast Systems and Professional Members, and was chair of the Quality Control Committee. He also served on the PCI Board of Directors from 2007 to 2008. He was on the Blue Ribbon review panel for the sixth edition of the *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete*. Sirko was instrumental in developing CAD-1, which helped advance the precast/prestressed concrete industry from paper line drafting to computer-aided drafting.

## Survey shows positive experiences in Precast Studios




**Rob Del Vento of Coreslab (CONN) gives a tour of the plant to New Jersey Institute of Technology students in the Precast Studio.** Courtesy of Greg Winkler.

Since its founding in 2001, the PCI Foundation has sponsored 18 Precast Studios at five universities and worked with seven professors. These programs have helped our industry not only familiarize more than 275 students with precast concrete design but given them a solid background and industry contacts that further their careers.

Over the summer, the PCI Foundation surveyed the students to learn more about their experiences and to improve future programs. About 10% of the students who have been through the programs responded.

Most of the students come away from the experience as advocates for using precast/prestressed concrete and have the resources and tools they need to continue designing in precast concrete after they leave school. Overall, the studios are very well received, and the students say they are more likely to design with precast concrete in the future because of the program.

Students tracked by the PCI Foundation have landed jobs at a variety of companies and agencies. They range from a state department of transportation employee to a city architect and architects at firms from Springfield, Ill., to Denver, Colo., and many places in between.

Once the Precast Studio students are in their new jobs or at school, they say that they are more likely to design using precast concrete. One student commented that learning about a material makes designing with it easier. In a recent survey, a full 91% agreed or strongly agreed that participating in the Precast Studio made it more likely that they will design precast concrete structures in the future.

The survey showed that students overwhelmingly appreciated activities that took them out of the classroom and into the real world, such as plant tours and site visits, but that they also valued the engineering assistance and classroom time from industry professionals that were offered.

The availability of local industry was often cited by students as a favorite part of the program. Each studio must have a local region or producer as its champion. The local partner may provide financial support, tours, lectures, materials, or engineering support; each studio is structured slightly differently depending on the needs of the studio and availability of local industry.

If there is a university near you that is a good candidate for a Precast Studio, you can learn more about starting one by visiting the PCI Foundation website at http://www.pci-foundation.org.

—Marty McIntyre

**PCI Productivity Tour attendees visit Gate Precast Co. in Kissimmee, Fla., on November 7, 2012.** Courtesy of Jim Toscas.

## 2012 PCI Productivity Tour a huge success

The 2012 PCI Productivity Tour and Workshop November 6–9, 2012, in and around Orlando, Fla., had 150 attendees who visited five plants. The tour went to Metromont in Bartow, Finfrock in Orlando, Gate Precast in Kissimmee, and Coreslab Structures and Standard Concrete Products in Tampa.

Tim Audet from Unistress won the Ideas That Pay Off contest this year with the idea of using a thermal spray gun, available from Sulzer, to spray on a zinc coating rather than send plates out for galvanizing. A zinc coating is applied to plates on a downdraft table for ventilation. It dries quickly and provides the flexbility to make just-in-time adjustments.

## Allen joins shipping and receiving department

**Victor Allen**

Victor Allen has joined the PCI staff as shipping and receiving associate, reporting to Kim Brown. He will also be coordinating with Brown on bookstore sales and serving as administrative assistant to *PCI Journal*. Members may contact Allen directly with any questions on pricing, availability of inventory, and shipping quotes at vallen@pci.org.

Allen has a BA in English literature from Texas A&M and is a conservatory graduate of The Second City. When he isn't working at PCI, he performs around Chicago, Ill. He has served PCI as a part-time contract employee for nearly two years.

**Compiled by K. Michelle Burgess (mburgess@pci.org) and Whitney Stephens (wstephens@pci.org)**