



## FROM PCI HEADQUARTERS

### New, enhanced PCI website launched

The new PCI website was launched on September 24, 2013, during the Celebration of Excellence awards banquet at the 2013 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference. The new website provides many new resources, features, and functionalities, such as an expanded architectural and engineering section, new transportation resource sections, a new bookstore, and a much improved user interface.

With so many new features on the website, *PCI Update* has focused on one section per issue to help members learn about the website's functionalities. There will also be a members-only webinar that will provide an overview of the site and its new features.

Committee Central is still a separate site and remains unchanged. You can access Committee Central from the Councils and Committees page under About PCI or go to <http://committees.pci.org>. Your Committee Central login name and password remain the same. An upgrade of Committee Central will be included in a future update.

The new website is designed to allow you to manage your information and communication preferences and customize your user experience. In order to access your profile, view members-only content, and make purchases, please note the following:

- Your login name will be your email address that is on file with PCI.
- If you have a membership record with PCI that contains an email address, you have an account. Visit <http://www.pci.org/account/login.aspx> and click on Forgot Your Password? to establish a password and access your dashboard. If the website does not recognize your email address but you are sure you have a membership record with PCI, there may be a misspelling in the system or we may have an old email for you. Please contact us so that we may correct the error and get you ready to create your online access. Do not establish a new account with a new email address if you should already be in our records. Anyone who is new to PCI and does not have a record in our database can simply type in their email address and establish a new account.

If you have login trouble with the new website, contact [membership@pci.org](mailto:membership@pci.org) or call (312) 786-0300.

With this launch PCI has also provided an improved online shopping experience. Access the new store at <http://www.pci.org/bookstore/storefront.aspx>.

Contact Alex Morales at [amorales@pci.org](mailto:amorales@pci.org) if you have any questions or experience difficulties related to the plant or erector certification searches or the bookstore.

For all other questions and comments about the website, email Brian Miller at [bmiller@pci.org](mailto:bmiller@pci.org). Include the URL of the page in question so that PCI can best address your concern.

#### 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 2013–2014 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, 2014, and results are due by June 15, 2014. PCI Producer Members are urged to encourage their local engineering schools to participate in this program. For information, visit [http://www.pci.org/Education/Student\\_Education/](http://www.pci.org/Education/Student_Education/).

## Simmons named trustee for PCI Foundation

The PCI Foundation Board of Trustees voted to name William Simmons of Winchester, Va., a PCI Foundation trustee during its September 19, 2013, meeting. Simmons will take on the job of Development Council chair, overseeing the completion of the Foundation's "A Better Way to Build" capital campaign. Simmons is the retired CEO of the Shockey Cos. and a past chairman of PCI.

Simmons was instrumental in the launch of the campaign in 2007 before it was suspended due to the economy. It will pick up again during 2014 with a goal to complete the \$5 million endowment.

"We want to build not only on the great start of the initial development campaign but also on the exciting work that the foundation has accomplished since we started sponsoring educational programs in 2007," Simmons says. "We now have more than 400 architects and engineers who have completed a PCI Foundation program and understand precast design in ways they would not have without the work of the Foundation, but there is so much more we could be doing."

The purpose of the campaign is to build an endowment that will allow the PCI Foundation to meet all of its core objectives in ways that will benefit the prestressed concrete industry, not only fiscally, but also in the products created and the abilities of those designing for the industry.

"The programs we have under way today are a fraction of what we can do," Simmons says. "When the whole industry pulls together for the sake of our future, we will be able to change our industry in ways that were unimaginable at the start of the Foundation—speaker programs, research, endowed professorships at universities—the possibilities are endless."

### 2014 PCI TITANS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



PCI is continuing its Titans of the Industry program in 2014. Up to 10 more Titans will be honored at the 2014 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference as PCI celebrates its 60th anniversary. Nominations for the 2014 Titan award are now open and will be accepted until April 18, 2014. If you would like to nominate a deserving person who qualifies, send your nomination to PCI President's Office, 200 West Adams St., Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60606-5230 or email it to [presidentsoffice@pci.org](mailto:presidentsoffice@pci.org). For more information, visit [http://www.pci.org/About\\_PCI/PCI\\_Awards\\_Programs/](http://www.pci.org/About_PCI/PCI_Awards_Programs/) or contact Rebecca Coleman at [bcoleman@pci.org](mailto:bcoleman@pci.org).

### 2014 PCI CONVENTION AND NATIONAL BRIDGE CONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS

PCI is accepting abstracts for the 2014 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference September 6–9 in Washington, D.C. Because this will be PCI's 60th anniversary, the event will focus on celebrating 60 years of success and innovation in the precast concrete structures industry. Although abstracts may be submitted on any topic relevant to the precast concrete industry, abstracts that support the event theme will be given preference. Abstracts and papers will be peer reviewed, and accepted papers will be published in the convention proceedings. Abstracts are due January 24, 2014. Notifications of accepted/rejected abstracts will be sent in mid-February. Papers of accepted abstracts are due April 28, 2014. Presentations are due July 28, 2014. To submit an abstract, visit <https://www.softconf.com/f/PCI2014/>. For questions regarding buildings, materials, the convention, or the paper submission process, contact Brian Miller at [bmiller@pci.org](mailto:bmiller@pci.org). For questions regarding bridges, transportation, or the National Bridge Conference, contact William Nickas at [wnickas@pci.org](mailto:wnickas@pci.org).

## PCI Foundation adds education program at ninth school



During the 2013 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference, members of Precast Concrete Manufacturers' Association of Texas toured the University of Texas at Arlington facilities and learned about precast/prestressed concrete research being conducted there. From left are Gil Heldenfels of Heldenfels Enterprises in San Marcos, Tex.; Bradley Bell of the University of Texas at Arlington; Monty Oehrlein of Coreslab Structures (TEXAS) in Cedar Park, Tex.; William Daily of Hamilton Forms in Fort Worth, Tex.; Chris Lechner of the Precast Concrete Manufacturers' Association of Texas in New Braunfels, Tex.; Carolyn L. Cason, vice president for Research at University of Texas at Arlington; Ben Carson of Flexicore of Texas in Sugar Land, Tex.; Anand J. Puppala, interim associate dean of Research and Distinguished Teaching Professor at University of Texas at Arlington; and Shih-Ho (Simon) Chao, assistant professor in the Department of Engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington. Courtesy of Marty McIntyre.

The PCI Foundation voted to accept a proposal for a new educational project during its September 19, 2013, Board of Trustees meeting in Grapevine, Texas.

Starting in the spring semester of 2014, a new program in the architecture school at the University of Texas at Arlington will be added to a growing list of universities that have undertaken new precast/prestressed concrete programs. The school will work in conjunction with the PCI regional group, Precast Concrete Manufacturers' Association of Texas.

The architecture school has more than 800 students and offers accredited undergraduate and professional education degrees in architecture. The proposed course, Performative Precast, will be a three-year program of integrated design and seminar courses for graduate students.

"These courses will concentrate on a specific area of precast application (facade, structure, infrastructure) and together will provide a unique opportunity to conduct in-depth design and research into digitally fabricated precast concrete components," says Professor Brad Bell, who will oversee the program.

A unique aspect of this program is the emphasis on the effect of new digital design tools on methods and types of formwork used in precast concrete manufacturing.

"Performative, as we use it, suggests how the application of new technology such as green building practices, parametrically derived geometries, composite materials, and advanced sensor integration might advance precast into a design and construction paradigm," Bell says.

For more information about these and other programs done in conjunction with the PCI Foundation, visit the website at <http://pci-foundation.org>.

### SIDNEY FREEDMAN CRAFTSMANSHIP AWARD CALL FOR ENTRIES



PCI is accepting entries for the third Sidney Freedman Craftsmanship Award. Launched in 2012, the program recognizes PCI-certified plants for excellence in manufacturing and craftsmanship of architectural precast (A1 or CA) and glass-fiber-reinforced concrete (GFRC) structures and individual components. Any kind, size, or type of structure and/or element may be entered.

The Craftsmanship Awards program focuses on challenges such as forming, overcoming obstacles to production, finishing, and quality of individual architectural precast/prestressed concrete units and GFRC rather than architectural design.

For more information, visit [http://www.pci.org/about\\_pci/pqi\\_awards\\_programs/](http://www.pci.org/about_pci/pqi_awards_programs/). The deadline for all entries is March 28, 2014.

Contact Sid Freedman at [sfreedman@pci.org](mailto:sfreedman@pci.org) with any questions.



**Bill Simmons**  
**PCI Foundation**  
**development**  
**chairman**

We have the power to change our future.

Will that future continue on our path of keeping precast concrete plants supplying only 2% to 3% of the entire construction market, or will precast/prestressed concrete become a product that makes designers sit up and take notice, unleashes architects' creativity, is the system architects choose first, and expands building possibilities beyond what they are today?

That future rests in the hands of all of us in the industry.

Together, we can change the perspective and ultimately the use of precast/prestressed concrete products. We can help shape the way our products are viewed and specified. Together with the PCI Foundation, we have the ability to educate today's students and tomorrow's design professionals about the benefits of precast/prestressed concrete.

In 2007, the PCI Foundation began a major capital campaign to raise \$5 million to support its efforts to increase acceptance of precast/prestressed concrete. PCI Foundation trustees had only a vision of what the future could be. To achieve that vision, our first goal was to begin to educate architectural students as to all of our industry's benefits.

Nine universities, 14 professors (both architecture and engineering), 26 semesters, and more than 400 students later, we can say that this effort has changed the thinking not only in universities but in the workplace. However, we have only touched a small number with our efforts to date. We need to increase this effort tenfold. The demand is there. We only need the funds to support this effort.

This is our opportunity!

With the support of many companies and individuals, the initial campaign was able to raise more than \$3 million in contributions and pledges, but with the economic recession not all of that has been realized. With an improved construction outlook and demand for our programs increasing, it is time for those who have pledged to fulfill that obligation and for those who were hesitant to make a commitment to step up and support the PCI Foundation's efforts.

Many of us will still ask "why?" What are the statistics that would verify increased business opportunity? What is the return on investment?

PCI Marketing Metrics Committee chairman Ken Kruse of BASF says that at this stage of the PCI Foundation, return on investment is difficult to calculate. The PCI Foundation is a long-term investment that aims to create a pipeline of young, talented students who will enter the construction industry with a much stronger sense of the benefits of designing with precast/prestressed concrete. Right now, that number is 400 . . . and counting!

Your investment demonstrates precast concrete industry support, enhances our professional image, and creates a forum to engage young, talented students who will be entering the workplace with a better understanding of precast concrete. These students will one day be in a position to make decisions on products, technologies, and building systems.

So when someone from the PCI Foundation calls about your present pledge or future commitment, give them time to answer your questions and learn how we can improve our industry.

*Because of you*, we can reach our goal to raise \$5 million, and *that* is just the beginning.



The Business Performance Council, under its reorganized format, has been in place for almost two years. This column will be a regular feature to report on the activities of the council and to solicit feedback for future work. This council is focused on best business practices, which is a bit out of the mainstream of PCI activities. However, it is in the interest of our members to have a forum where fine tuning business practices can make a difference in successful operations. The following summarizes accomplishments and challenges experienced to date.

### **Discussion forum seeks member involvement**

As an alternative to committee participation, an online discussion forum was developed to provide an opportunity for member-company employees to interact with their peers. It is a tool that can be used to ask questions or share valuable information. The Productivity Committee spent a lot of time developing the concepts for how it should work and testing the site. General topic areas currently include productivity, safety, and human resources. The tool is in place, and the site was demonstrated at 2013 Committee Days. PCI encourages you to visit <http://forums.pci.org> and interact with your peers in the industry.

### **First financial survey conducted in eight years**

Over the summer, a survey of financial measures and salaries and benefits was conducted. This had not been done since 2005. Compared with previous financial surveys, this one was simplified to facilitate data collection. Some feedback indicated the simplification goal was achieved. The results were distributed to the respondents in October and presented at a 2013 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference session on financial benchmarking. Twenty-eight companies responded to the survey; therefore only those 28 companies received the benefit of the information collected. The Business Performance Council intends to conduct this survey annually, with plans to move the survey date to spring when dues declarations are being prepared. We hope this will make respondent data collection easier. Participation will be encouraged so greater benefit can be achieved from the data.

### **Executive track sessions garner valuable feedback**

The Business Performance Council sponsored four business-related sessions at the 2013 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference. Financial Benchmarking, the Business Implications of BIM, Hiring for High Performance, and Field Safety were the session topics. Evaluations rated the sessions overall at 3.57 out of 4.0, and the speakers at 3.75 out of 4.0. This indicated that the attendees rated the sessions quite highly in value. The council would like feedback on business-related topics to continue to plan high-quality executive track sessions for conventions.

Going forward, the Business Performance Council could use your help. What are the issues that significantly affect your business activities? How can this council most effectively communicate with senior management of PCI member companies? What must be done to attract more participation in council-sponsored initiatives? Send your feedback to David Dieter, Business Performance Council chair, at [ddieter@midstateprecast.com](mailto:ddieter@midstateprecast.com) or Roger Becker, staff liaison, at [rbecker@pci.org](mailto:rbecker@pci.org).

## UNC Charlotte brings home two awards from Solar Decathlon 2013

As part of the PCI Foundation Studio taught by Thomas Gentry and Brett Tempest, the University of North Carolina–Charlotte team, Team North Carolina, brought home two awards from its participation in the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2013, which concluded Sunday, October 13, in Irvine, Calif. UNC Charlotte tied for third place in the juried engineering contest and won the People’s Choice Award.

UNC Charlotte/Team North Carolina tied with Team Austria and the University of Nevada Las Vegas for third place in Engineering. The team’s house, UrbanEden, was recognized for the high thermal mass of its geopolymer concrete walls, which were provided by Metromont; the capillary tube cooling system; and the moveable racks of photovoltaic panels. For more about UrbanEden’s design and features, visit <http://urbaneden.uncc.edu>.

In addition to the point-based awards, the Solar Decathlon includes a People’s Choice Award, which was based on popular voting conducted October 3–11. UNC Charlotte was recognized at the Solar Decathlon Victory Celebration on October 12 as the 2013 People’s Choice Award winner.

UNC Charlotte was one of 19 academic teams that participated in the competition. In a series of 10 contests, the Solar Decathlon challenges academic teams from around the world to build completely solar-powered houses that feature energy-efficient construction and appliances and renewable energy systems. Teams receive up to 100 points in each of the contests, with special awards given for four juried contests: architecture, market appeal, communications, and engineering. The team with the highest overall score wins the competition.

## Technical writing webinars scheduled for January, February

This winter PCI is offering two webinars on technical writing. Whether you’re interested in writing a research paper for *PCI Journal*, a PCI committee report, or a report to your client, these webinars will help you understand what information to include, how to organize it, and how to communicate it effectively to your readers. The purpose of technical writing is to convey scientific information clearly and accurately. These webinars will help you do that better.

Technical Writing I, to be held on January 30, 2014, gives an overview of technical writing principles. It explains what technical writing is and how it differs from other types of writing. It then explores some initial questions that the writer should consider, such as what you are trying to accomplish by writing your report, who your intended readers are, and what they want from the report. Methods of organizing a report are covered next. There are many other, and sometimes better, ways to organize a report than just the chronological method. In keeping with the purpose of technical writing, the writing style should be clear and accurate. We’ll give you some useful pointers on how to do that. Last, we’ll discuss some ethical and legal considerations that pertain to technical writing and publishing. These include separating science from advocacy, understanding who is and who is not an author, giving credit where credit is due, and avoiding plagiarism. This webinar will take approximately one hour, including a question-and-answer period at the end. Sign up at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/159786762>.

Technical Writing II, to be held February 13, is about the nuts and bolts of the report, covering each element of a technical report in turn. The core sections—the introduction, description of experimental program, results, discussion, and conclusion—parallel the steps followed in the scientific method. Additional sections that are required or useful in some types of reports include the abstract, the executive summary, the recommendations, and the notation. We’ll discuss the purpose of each section, what kind of information you may want (or need) to include in it, and how and when to write it. We’ll cover some common errors that writers make and how to avoid them. Finally, we’ll walk you through some “don’t let this happen to you” examples culled from manuscripts submitted to *PCI Journal*. This webinar will take approximately an hour and a half, including a question-and-answer period at the end. Sign up at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/542544642>. You do not need to attend Part I to participate in Part II.



New members were elected to serve on the 2014 PCI Board of Directors at the 2013 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference in September in Grapevine, Tex. Courtesy of Paul Grigonis.

## Board of Directors election results announced

The following members have been elected to serve on the PCI Board of Directors, beginning January 1, 2014:

- **Vice-chairman (chairman-elect): Chris Pastorius** of Metromont Corporation
- **Secretary-treasurer: Chuck Prussack** of Central Pre-Mix Prestress, an Oldcastle company
- **Producer member Zone 1 director: Millard J. Barney** of Concrete Technology Corp.
- **Producer member Zone 2 director: Patrick S. Carlin** of Rocky Mountain Prestress
- **Producer member Zone 3 director: Daniel A. Juntunen** of Wells Concrete
- **Producer member Zone 4 director: Daniel Willems** of Spancrete
- **Producer member Zone 5 director: Charles E. Wynings** of Tindall Corp., Virginia Division
- **Producer member Zone 6 director: Mason H. Lampton** of Standard Concrete Products Inc.
- **Director, business performance: David B. Dieter** of Mid-State Precast LP
- **Director, educational activities: Patrick W. Hynes** of Knife River Prestress
- **Director, research & development: Richard Alan Miller** of University of Cincinnati
- **Supplier associate member director: Todd J. Adams** of JVI, Inc.
- **Erector associate member director: Daniel Bible** of Molin Concrete Products Co.
- **Professional member director: David J. Larsen** of Losch Engineering Company

Also elected by their own constituents and joining the Board of Directors are **Michael Johnsrud**, PCI Midwest, who is the **regional council representative**, and **Bill LeBlanc**, Armtec, who is the **Canadian PCI representative**.

### 2012 PCI JOURNAL BY THE NUMBERS

**Manuscripts received** 46  
**Manuscripts accepted** 23  
**Acceptance rate** 50%  
**Average time to print\*** 10 months  
**Impact factor\*\*** 0.26

\* Time from submission to publication for manuscripts not requiring revision and second review.

\*\* Impact factor is calculated as the number of citations of papers published in the previous two years divided by the total number of papers published in the same two-year period.

## *PCI Design Handbook* Appendix A published for public comment

A draft of Appendix A of the forthcoming eighth edition of *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete* starts on page 137 of this issue of *PCI Journal*. The appendix covers blast resistance, and it is being published to solicit public comment. Comments on the appendix are due March 31, 2014, and may be submitted to [journal@pci.org](mailto:journal@pci.org).

## PCI to transition all Qualified Erectors to Certified Erector Program in 2014

On September 20, 2013, the PCI Erector Certification Committee voted unanimously to recommend that PCI phase out the Qualified Erector category during 2014 and transition all Qualified Erectors to the Certified Erector Program. The PCI Board of Directors voted on September 22 to affirm this action.

The Erector Certification Committee is now finalizing the transition process and will revise PCI policy section 29 to address the changes to the program. The revisions are expected to be approved at the PCI Board of Directors meeting in February 2014.

This action is in conformance with the original intentions of the Erector Certification Program almost 15 years ago. The Qualified Erector status was intended to be in place for a limited time to get the program up and running.

The proposed schedule will allow erector companies to continue to apply for the Qualified Erector Program until July 1, 2014. After that date, all new applications will be permitted to apply for the Certified Erector Program only.

All existing Qualified Erectors will be allowed the entire year of 2014 to apply for and achieve Certified Erector status. The final deadline for all Qualified Erectors to apply to become a Certified Erector will be December 31, 2014. Any Qualified Erector who does not apply by that date will no longer be listed as a participant in the Qualified Erector Program.

Certified Erector requirements include the same biannual field audits performed by Certified Field Auditors plus an annual audit of the erector's office records by a Certified Company Auditor arranged by PCI. The certified company auditors are experienced erectors.

For more information contact [QualityPrograms@pci.org](mailto:QualityPrograms@pci.org).



## PCI Productivity Tour sets attendance record

The attendance at the Productivity Tour was at an all-time high of 158 attendees, representing 87 producer and supplier companies. The plants visited were Rocky Mountain Prestress (structural and architectural plants) and EnCon Colorado on the first day and Rocla Concrete Tie, Stresscon Corp. (structural and architectural operations), Plum Creek Structures, and Innovative Brick Systems on the second day. There was considerable interest in the curved U beam forms at both EnCon and Plum Creek.

The Ideas That Pay Off contest winner was the use of a remote control concrete bucket.

## Parker named new PCI-IW executive director



**Dawn Parker**

Dawn Parker joined PCI of Illinois & Wisconsin in November 2013 as the executive director.

Parker previously served as the vice president of economic development for the city of Topeka, Kans., and County of Shawnee, Kans., and previously served for several years as the president/CEO of Topeka Home Builders Association. Parker has also served as the executive director for Topeka City of Character and was the office manager and director of sales for Campbell Enterprises in Rossville, Kans.

During her 20-year career, Parker has been actively engaged in marketing, customer service, sales, association management, nonprofit management, advocacy, legislative affairs, administration, and event management.

Parker is a graduate of Friends University in Wichita, Kans., with a master of business administration and bachelor of science in organizational management and leadership. She takes over from Marty McIntyre, who is now the executive director of the PCI Foundation.

## PCI members receive free exhibits-only registration to the World of Concrete

Registration for the 2014 World of Concrete (WOC) January 20–24 in Las Vegas, Nev., is now open. Use PCI's registration code, A34, for complimentary exhibit hall-only registration and discounted seminar fees. To register, go to [http://www.pci.org/Industry\\_Events/World\\_of\\_Concrete/](http://www.pci.org/Industry_Events/World_of_Concrete/).

World of Concrete is an annual international event dedicated to the commercial concrete and masonry construction industries.

If you are interested in exhibiting at WOC for the first time and are a member of PCI, there is a 25% savings on the current published exhibit space rates. Contact Kirstin Osgood at [kosgood@pci.org](mailto:kosgood@pci.org) for more information.

## CIM announces donation by Mack, McNeilus for WOC auction



**Mack and McNeilus donated a concrete transit mixer for the Concrete Industry Management program's silent auction at World of Concrete in January in Las Vegas, Nev. Courtesy of CIM.**

The Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program will have a signature item for its ninth annual auction at the 2014 World of Concrete: a Mack concrete transit mixer donated by Mack Trucks Inc. and McNeilus Co., a division of Oshkosh Truck.

The ninth annual auction will be January 22 in the North Hall Room N262 of the Las Vegas Convention Center. The silent auction will be held from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., and the live auction begins at 1 p.m. Once again this year, internet bidding will be available on the Ritchie Bros. website, [www.rbauction.com](http://www.rbauction.com). To participate in electronic auction bidding, bidders must register a week in advance. Those participating in the auction at World of Concrete can register on-site. For a full list of items, please visit <http://www.concretedegree.com/auction>.

Those interested in making a donation should contact CIM Auction Committee chairman Michael Philipps at [michaelf.philipps@cemex.com](mailto:michaelf.philipps@cemex.com) or (713) 722-2969.

## 2013 PCI Fellows honored at convention



**From left are the 2013 PCI Fellows at the PCI National Convention and Bridge Exhibition Awards Dinner in September in Grapevine, Tex.: Craig Barrett, Vijay Chandra, Leon H. Grant, Karen Laptas, Robert J. Peterman, Courtney B. Phillips III, Mary Lou Ralls, and Charles E. Wynings. Courtesy of Paul Grigonis.**

The PCI Board of Directors elected Craig Barrett, Vijay Chandra, Leon H. Grant, Karen Laptas, Mary Lou Ralls, Robert J. Peterman, Courtney B. Phillips III, and Charles E. Wynings as Fellows to honor them for outstanding contributions to the precast, prestressed concrete industry and to PCI.

Craig Barrett, PE, is vice president of engineering for LEAP Associates International in Tampa, Fla. Barrett received his bachelor of science in civil engineering from Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Mich. He has been active in PCI and the precast concrete industry for 28 years, working on many prominent structures, including professional sports facilities, and served on the PCI Board of Directors from 2006 to 2007 as a professional member director. He is a member of the PCI Technical Activities Council, as well as several other PCI committees, and was vice chairman of the Educational Activities Council from 2007 to 2008. He also participated on the Industry Handbook Committee for the sixth edition of the *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete*. Barrett is a licensed professional engineer in nine states.

Vijay Chandra, PEng, SE, is senior vice president and national director of complex bridges for Parsons Brinckerhoff, based in Virginia. He received his bachelor of engineering from the University of Mysore in India and his master of science in advanced structures from the University of London. Chandra has been a PCI member since 1976. He is a member of the Transportation Activities Council and the Committee on Bridges as well as several other bridge-related committees, and served as the chair of the Committee on Bridges from 2003 to 2006. He has contributed to several PCI publications as author and editor and serves as a moderator for bridge activities. Over the years, Chandra has been active in the transportation arena. He is an active member of several engineering and bridge organizations and is a licensed structural engineer in Hawaii and Massachusetts, as well as a licensed civil engineer in nine other states.

Leon H. Grant, PE, PEng, SECB, is vice president and general manager of Coreslab Structures (CONN) Inc. in Thomaston, Conn. Grant received his bachelor of science in civil engineering from the University of New Brunswick and his master of science in structural engineering from the University of Alberta. He has been a member of PCI for 37 years and served on the PCI Board of Directors from 2009 to 2012 as a Zone 5 producer member director. He is a strong proponent of regional marketing and has served on the PCI Northeast Steering Committee for more than eight years. Grant is serving as the chair of PCI Northeast and is a past president of the American Concrete Institute Alberta Chapter. He was a chapter editor for the third edition of the *Canadian PCI Design Manual* and is

a trustee of the PCI Education Foundation. He is a licensed engineer in Maine and three Canadian provinces.


Karen Laptas, PE, is an engineer for Alfred Miller Contracting in Lake Charles, La. Laptas received her bachelor of science in environmental design and civil engineering from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She has been a PCI member for 20 years. Laptas is serving on the Technical Activities Council and the Hollow-core, BIM, Industry Handbook, and Connection Details committees. She was a chapter chair for the Industry Handbook Committee's Blue Ribbon team that worked on the sixth edition of the *PCI Design Handbook* and *Connection Details Manual*. In addition, she served on the Precast Concrete Software Consortium Committee from 2000 to its completion.

Mary Lou Ralls, PE, is a principal for Ralls Newman LLC in Austin, Tex. Ralls received her bachelor of science in civil engineering and MSE from the University of Texas at Austin. She has been a PCI Professional Member since 1985. She was vice chair of the PCI Committee on Bridges and chair of the Curved Precast Concrete Bridges subcommittee. Ralls has also been a member of the PCI Prestressing Steel, High Performance Concrete, and Durability committees. She was a member of the PCI Transportation Activities Council and the PCI Blue Ribbon Panel for the third edition of the *PCI Bridge Design Manual*. Serving the national transportation sector, Ralls chairs the Transportation Research Board Activities for Intelligent Construction Systems and Technologies: Program Review and is a member of a number of transportation and engineering associations. She has served as chair and member of numerous committees for these organizations and has authored many publications. Ralls is a registered professional engineer in Texas.

Robert J. Peterman, PhD, is a professor in the Department of Civil Engineering at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kans. Peterman received his PhD from Purdue University. He was a structural design engineer for American Precast Concrete in Indianapolis, Ind. He has been a member of PCI for 17 years and has contributed to the precast concrete industry in a number of research and educational endeavors, individually and with his students. He has authored more than 50 research publications that are related to precast concrete construction, including two PCI-award-winning papers in *PCI Journal*. Peterman serves as vice chair of the Prestressing Steel Committee and is a member of the Committee on Bridges, the Strand Bond Task Force, and the Student Education Committee.

Courtney B. Phillips III, PE, is engineer manager for Salmons PC in Phoenix, Ariz. Phillips received his bachelor of science in civil engineering and his master of science in civil engineering (structures) from Purdue University. He has been involved in the precast concrete construction industry for more than 30 years and served on the PCI Board of Directors as a professional member director from 2008 to 2009. He has served on the Industry Handbook Committee since 1999 and was a member of the Hollow-Core Committee. In addition to his support of PCI, Phillips chairs committees for other concrete organizations and is a licensed professional engineer in five states.

Charles E. Wynings, PE, is vice president and general manager of Tindall Corp., Virginia division, in Petersburg, Va. Wynings received his bachelor of science in civil engineering from Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pa. He has been a PCI member for 28 years and is serving on the PCI Board of Directors as a Zone 5 producer member director. He is also chair of the PCI Building Code Committee and Special Inspector Training Program Task Group and serves as a member of the Precast Joints Task Force. Previously, Wynings served on the PCI Industry Handbook Committees for the sixth and seventh editions of the *PCI Design Handbook*, and the Sandwich Wall Panel, Connections, Building Code, and Erectors committees. He has encouraged his coworkers to become involved in PCI, and many of them are now playing key roles in PCI committee work. Wynings is a member of the American Concrete Institute and the Virginia Structural Engineers Council and is a licensed professional engineer in four states.

These distinguished PCI members were honored in September at the 2013 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference in Grapevine, Tex. 

## PCI Calendar

### Events

For the most current information on PCI events, visit <http://www.pci.org/events>. For industry events, visit <http://www.pci.org/news/events>.

<b>Zones 1 and 2 meeting</b>	<b>January 22, 2014</b>
Rio Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, Nev.	
<b>PCI Technical Activities Council Meeting</b>	<b>January 25–27, 2014</b>
Sheraton Old San Juan Hotel and Casino, San Juan, Puerto Rico	
<b>PCI Winter Conference at The Precast Show</b>	<b>February 12–15, 2014</b>
Hilton Americas, Houston, Tex.	
<b>PCI Committee Days and Membership Conference</b>	<b>April 24–27, 2014</b>
Hyatt Magnificent Mile, Chicago, Ill.	
<b>PCI Summer Conference</b>	<b>June 19–22, 2014</b>
The Lodge at Whitefish, Whitefish, Mont.	
<b>PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference</b>	<b>September 6–9, 2014</b>
Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, National Harbor, Md.	

## PCI Personnel Training and Certification Schools

If you have any questions about the Quality Control School schedule or need help completing a registration form, please contact PCI's educational activities director, Alex Morales, at [amorales@pci.org](mailto:amorales@pci.org) or (312) 360-3219. Registration forms are available at <http://www.pci.org/schools>.