

## FROM PCI HEADQUARTERS

### Gleich 2024 recipient of PCI Medal of Honor

Harry A. Gleich, president of Gleich Engineering and Associates, a firm he formed following his retirement from Metromont Corp., and a PCI and ACI Fellow was presented with the PCI Medal of Honor in February at the 2024 PCI Convention at the Precast Show in Denver, Colo.



Harry Gleich

Gleich earned a bachelor of science in engineering from the University of South Florida and began his career while an undergraduate as a student assistant helping lower-level engineering students. He started in the industry as a plant design engineer for Florida Mining & Materials in 1976, where he worked for six years before becoming a chief

engineer at Dura-Stress. He eventually moved to Metromont Corp. in 1986, where he advanced to the position of vice president of engineering. When he retired from Metromont Corporation in 2023, Gleich was senior vice president of engineering. At Metromont, he was lauded for his dedication to research and development, creative problem-solving of design challenges, and mentorship. In addition to his other work responsibilities, Gleich taught engineering seminars for Metromont engineers and others.

Gleich is widely recognized for his precast concrete design work across various precast concrete constructed projects. He has been involved in the design of seven National Football League stadiums (most recently, Atlanta Falcons) and four Major League Baseball stadiums (most recently, Atlanta Braves). Two of his projects, The Bookends and Spring Street Parking Garage, are PCI Design Award Winners.

Gleich has a long and distinguished record of service to PCI. He is a past chair of the Technical Activities Council

## 2025 PCI DESIGN AWARDS CALL FOR ENTRIES

The PCI Design Awards program recognizes design excellence and construction quality using precast concrete. Be a part of the search for excellence and submit your precast concrete projects today.

The 2025 PCI Design Awards submission site is currently open. Visit <https://www.pci.org/designawards> for complete information, including this year's categories and submission guidelines, or to make a submission.

Entries are accepted in two primary categories: buildings and transportation structures. In addition to buildings and transportation, there are spe-

cial awards categories: the All-Precast Concrete Solution Award, the Building Information Modeling (BIM) Award, the Harry H. Edwards Industry Advancement Award, and the Sustainable Design Award.

July 16, 2024, is the submission deadline, and winners will be notified in fall 2024. All winning projects will be showcased February 3-7, 2025, at the 2025 PCI Convention at the Precast Show in Indianapolis, Ind., and will be included in a supplement to *PCI Journal* and *Aspire* and the spring issue of *Ascent*. For more information, contact [PCIDesignAwards@pci.org](mailto:PCIDesignAwards@pci.org).

## 2025 MARIO J. BERTOLINI LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

To honor the legacy of Mario J. Bertolini, an icon of the precast concrete industry, PCI established the Mario J. Bertolini Leadership and Innovation Award. Bertolini was president of a major precast concrete manufacturer for many years and chairman of PCI in 1989. The award will be presented February 3-7, 2025, at the 2025 PCI Convention at the Precast Show in Indianapolis,

Ind. Nominations are being accepted through August 9, 2024.

The criteria for this award and the nomination form are available at [https://www.pci.org/PCI/About/Awards/Mario\\_J\\_Bertolini\\_Award](https://www.pci.org/PCI/About/Awards/Mario_J_Bertolini_Award). For more information, contact Philip McConnell, PCI's membership and administrative services coordinator, at [pmcconnell@pci.org](mailto:pmcconnell@pci.org).

and the Research and Development Council, as well as the Seismic, Sandwich Wall Panels, Codes, and Parking Structures Committees. He has served on the Industry Handbook Committee since the fourth edition.

Gleich was named a PCI fellow in 1999, a PCI life member in 2013, and a PCI Titan in 2014. He received the Norman L. Scott Professional Engineer Award in 2018.

Gleich is also a fellow of the American Concrete Institute. Gleich has served on numerous ACI technical committees, including ACI 318, ACI 533 (past chair), and ACI 550 (past chair). He was a member of the ACI Technical Activities Council from 2016 to 2019, and he is the vice chair of ACI-PCI 319.

## PCI Fellows recognized at 2024 convention

The PCI Board of Directors recently named eleven members PCI Fellows, honoring them for outstanding contributions to PCI and to the precast concrete structures industry. The new PCI Fellows are Matthew Cooper, Adel ElSafty, Jim Fabinski, Dennis Fink, Edith Gallandorm, Cathy Higgins, Matthew Huslig, Jane Martin, Barry McKinley, Andrzej Nowak, and Perry Schram. They were recognized in February at the PCI Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon during the 2024 PCI Convention at The Precast Show in Denver, Colo.

Cooper is director of engineering and drafting for Shockey Precast, where he has worked for two decades. His peers indicate that Cooper's innovation at Shockey has increased the use of precast concrete in new markets and advanced other markets for the industry. In his professional career, Cooper has also made important contributions to precast concrete research. For example, he has helped produce test specimens for a PCI-funded study on dapped ends and contributed to the design and production of large double-tees for experimental testing. Cooper is a member of the Architectural Precast Concrete and Blast Resistance and Structural Integrity Committees, as well as several Industry Handbook chapter subcommittees. He is also a member of the Leadership PCI Committee and a consulting member of the BIM Committee.



Matthew Cooper



Adel ElSafty



Jim Fabinski



Dennis Fink



Edith Gallandorm



Cathy Higgins



Matthew Huslig



Jane Martin



Barry McKinley



Andrzej Nowak



Perry Schram

He was chair of the publication committee for MNL 122, *Design of Architectural Precast Concrete*.

Adel ElSafty is a distinguished professor and the coordinator of the Civil Engineering Program in the College of Computing, Engineering, and Construction at the University of North Florida (UNF) in Jacksonville. Since joining the UNF faculty in 2005, he has developed and taught undergraduate and graduate engineering courses, including one of the first PCI Design Studios. His previous research and academic appointments included Fulbright U.S. Scholar in the United

## 2024 RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

>> The PCI Research and Development Council is soliciting applications for the Daniel P. Jenny Research Fellowships and the Dennis R. Mertz Bridge Research Fellowship. The PCI fellowship programs serve to advance the precast concrete industry through the financial support of graduate students in engineering and construction related degree programs with research grants of up to \$50,000. In addition to advancing the design,

fabrication, and construction of precast concrete, ancillary award benefits include engaging faculty in the precast concrete industry, introducing students to the benefits of precast concrete, and connecting students, faculty, and PCI members for future networking opportunities.

Applications for the 2024 fellowship awards are due August 9, 2024. Complete information is available at <https://www.pci.org/Fellowships>.

Arab Emirates, Fulbright Specialist at Sherbrooke University in Sherbrooke, QC, Canada, and founding faculty member of the Civil Engineering Department at the Panama City campus of Florida State University. ElSafty has a BS in civil engineering and an MS in structural engineering from Cairo University in Cairo, Egypt, a PhD in civil engineering from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, N.C., and an MBA from UNF. His research interests include bridge engineering, prestressed concrete, fiber-reinforced polymers, and structural rehabilitation/strengthening, and he is the author or coauthor of more than 100 publications and peer-reviewed presentations. He has served on the PCI Education Committee, is chair of the PCI Foundation Academic Council, is a member of the Journal Editorial Advisory Committee, and has been a member of the PCI Foundation Board of Trustees since 2018. He is also an active member of the Florida Prestressed Concrete Association (FPCA), and he has led several initiatives to promote industry participation by students locally, nationally, and worldwide. ElSafty has been widely recognized for his contributions as an educator. In addition to being named a distinguished professor by UNF (2018), he has received the UNF Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award (2010), the PCI Educator of the Year Award (2015) and Distinguished Educator Award (2023), and multiple FPCA Education Foundation Awards.

Fabinski is vice president/general manager for EnCon United in Denver, Colo. Among other professional accomplishments, Fabinski helped develop methods to fabricate straight and curved tub girders, a technology that has been adopted as a standard by multiple state departments of trans-

portation, opening up a substantial new market area for the precast concrete industry. Fabinski is president of the PCI Board of Directors. He first joined the PCI Board of Directors in 2008, when he was program member director for Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico. He was the board's institute program director, transportation activities, from 2018 to 2022, secretary-treasurer in 2022–2023, and vice chair in 2023. Fabinski's service to PCI also includes extensive committee work. He is a member of the Research and Development Council and a past member and chair of the Transportation Activities Council. He has been a member of the Bridge Producers Committee since 2004, and he was the committee's vice chair from 2011 to 2014 and chair from 2014 to 2018. He is also a member of the Bridge Committee and a consulting member for the Hollow Core and Leadership PCI committees and the Precast Concrete Pavement Subcommittee. He previously served on the Personnel Training and Certification, Hollow Core, Investment, and Spliced Girder Technology committees, as well as the Precast Concrete Pavement Subcommittee.

Fink is president of Northeast Prestressed Products LLC, a PCI-certified producer in Cressona, Pa. He joined Northeast Prestressed as a forming crew member in 1987 and advanced through production, quality control, sales, and management before becoming president in 2020. Fink has been a PCI member since 2010 and served on the PCI Board of Directors from 2016 to 2023. He was chair of the PCI Board in 2021–2022, the first graduate of the Leadership PCI Program to be elected to that position. In addition to his service on the PCI Board, Fink has been a member of the Bridge Producers Committee, Business Performance Council, Leadership PCI, Productivity

## 2025 PCI MEDAL OF HONOR CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

>> The PCI Medal of Honor award was established to honor a person who has made extraordinary contributions to PCI and the precast concrete industry. The nominees for the Medal of Honor shall have made a highly significant contribution to the precast concrete structures industry and shall have demonstrated a sincere continuing interest in the institute. The award will be presented to be award-

ed February 3–7, 2025, at the PCI Convention at The Precast Show in Indianapolis, Ind. Visit [https://www.pci.org/PCI/About/Awards/PCI\\_Medal\\_of\\_Honor](https://www.pci.org/PCI/About/Awards/PCI_Medal_of_Honor) for more information and nomination criteria. Nominations are being accepted through August 9, 2024, and should be sent to Philip McConnell, PCI's membership and administrative services coordinator, at [pmcconnell@pci.org](mailto:pmcconnell@pci.org).

## 2025 PCI FELLOWS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

>> The PCI Fellows recognition is awarded to individuals who embrace the values of the institute, who have provided continuous outstanding contributions to the U.S. precast concrete industry, and who have demonstrated exceptional service to PCI. Service to the industry may be considered in the areas of education, research, design, and/or production. PCI is accepting nominations for PCI Fellows, to be awarded February 3–7, 2025, at the

PCI Convention at The Precast Show in Indianapolis, Ind.

Nominations are being accepted through August 9, 2023. The criteria for this award and the nomination form are available online at [https://www.pci.org/PCI/About/Awards/PCI\\_Fellows](https://www.pci.org/PCI/About/Awards/PCI_Fellows). For more information, contact Philip McConnell, PCI's membership and administrative services coordinator, at [pmcconnell@pci.org](mailto:pmcconnell@pci.org).



Committee, Quality Enhancement Committee, and Workforce Development Committee. He was the recipient of the 2022 T. Henry Clark Award. Fink is equally committed to PCI Mid-Atlantic, where he is currently serving as chair of the Board of Directors.

Gallandorm is the director of codes and standards for PCI, where she acts as staff liaison for many technical committees under the Technical Activities Council. Gallandorm previously held engineering positions at Sirko Associates, Metromont Corporation, and Gage Brothers. She was a part of the inaugural LPCI class. Before becoming a PCI staff member in 2018, Gallandorm served as a PCI volunteer for 13 years. She was chair of the Industry Diversity Committee in 2018, and she was a member of the Leadership PCI, Membership, Parking Structures, Joint and Connection Design, Membership, Seismic, and Sustainability Committees.

Higgins has been vice president of sales and marketing for Dynamic Color Solutions Inc. for more than 30 years, and she has been sharing her expertise in architectural precast concrete and the coloring of concrete with PCI for most of that time. Higgins is a member of the Plant Certification Committee and a consulting member of the Architectural Precast Concrete Committee and the Architectural Certification Subcommittee. She previously served on the Architectural Precast Concrete Services and Manual Committee and was a consulting member of the Supplier Associate Members Committee. Higgins was instrumental in the writing of the *Manual for Quality Control for Plants and Production of Architectural Precast Concrete Products* (MNL 117), *Architectural Precast Concrete* (MNL 122), and the *Architectural Precast Concrete Color and Texture Selection Guide*. She also helped develop PCI's new Architectural Certification Program. In addition to her PCI service, Higgins has been active in shaping ASTM International's standards for color in concrete.

Huslig is chief engineer at Coreslab Structures Inc. (MIAMI). He has experience in a variety of complicated precast concrete projects, including stadiums, parking garages, prisons, and others. Huslig has served on PCI committees since 2005, when he joined the Blast Resistance and Structural Integrity Committee. One year later, he joined the Fire Committee, serving as the committee's vice chair from 2010 to 2012 and as chair from 2012 to 2020. In addition to his ongoing membership on the Fire Committee,

Huslig is a member of the Leadership PCI Committee and the PCI Academy Advisory Board. He previously served on the Member Engagement and Tolerances committees. As Fire Committee chair, Huslig led the creation of PCI 124-18, *Specification for Fire Resistance of Precast/Prestressed Concrete*, which is the first PCI standard developed through an ANSI-accredited consensus process. He was instrumental in writing the first drafts of the document and leading the other members of the task group through the many drafts, reviews, and comments. The standard is now referenced in the *International Building Code*. Huslig has also been active in efforts to educate stakeholders in the precast concrete industry about PCI 124. He presented a session on the standard at the PCI Convention in 2022, and he helped develop a slide presentation explaining how to apply the standard. That slide presentation has been used for in-person training sessions and online webinars.

Martin is director of marketing for Gate Precast Co., where she has been responsible for the submission of numerous projects to the PCI Design Awards, including many award winners. Martin has served on the Marketing Council since 2014 and has been the council chair since 2021. Since 2021, she has also been institute program director, marketing for the PCI Board of Directors. She is currently a member of the Marketing Communications Committee and *Ascent* Advisory Committee. She served as chair of the committee from 2014 to 2021. Martin previously was a member of Industry Marketing/Communications Team and the Communications, Branding, and Digital Marketing Committees, and she helped found the PCI Sustainability Task Group. Martin has been instrumental in developing and improving the PCI Design Awards and *Ascent*, and she has been a leader in the How Precast Builds and Precast Protects Life campaigns. She also helped PCI reestablish the Marketing and Sales School, and she played a key role in facilitating PCI's market research study to better understand market trends, value drivers, and the perceptions of the various stakeholders involved with the decision to use a particular material or system, such as precast concrete.

McKinley is president and chief technical officer at PTAC Consulting Engineers Inc., where he is currently responsible for stability and component design as well as three-dimensional modeling of precast and prestressed concrete structures. He has a bachelor of science from the University of South Alabama.

## 2024 PCI EDUCATOR AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

>> PCI's educator awards program recognizes the work of academic professionals who exhibit a commitment to precast concrete in their graduate and undergraduate classrooms. Nominations must include recommendation letters, an updated curriculum vitae or resume, and additional information. PCI Distinguished Educator and PCI Educator Awards are available. The awards will be

presented in September at the 2024 PCI Committee Days in Nashville, Tenn., and nomination forms must be submitted by July 19, 2024. Nomination forms are available online at <https://www.pci.org/EducatorAward>. For more information about the educator awards program, contact Bekki Missaggia, PCI's education manager, at [bmissaggia@pci.org](mailto:bmissaggia@pci.org).

Before joining PTAC Consulting in 1996 as a senior project engineer, he spent a decade working for Gate Precast Co. as project engineer. McKinley's colleagues recognize his leadership in the development and implementation of cutting-edge modeling technologies and design techniques that improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of precast concrete projects. Colleagues also praise McKinley for his training and mentorship of younger engineers, many of whom have joined PCI because of his encouragement. McKinley's own involvement with PCI began in the 1990s and continues to this day. He was a member of the Connection Detail Committee from 1999 to 2006 and the Joint and Connection Design Committee from 2005 to 2019. He was a member of the Industry Handbook Committee from 2010 to 2018 and has been a consulting member to that committee since 2018. He has been a member of the Technical Activities Council since 2019 and serves as the BIM Committee TAC liaison. McKinley also gives back to the industry by supporting civil engineering programs at multiple universities. He has judged competitions, given presentations in engineering classes, and helps provide scholarships to students pursuing structural engineering.

Nowak is a professor and chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Elton & Lois G. Huff Eminent Scholar Chair at Auburn University. Before joining the Auburn faculty in 2013, he held academic positions at the University of Waterloo, the State University of New York at Buffalo, the University of Michigan, and the University of Nebraska, where he was the Robert W. Brightfelt Professor of Engineering. Nowak is an internationally renowned researcher. He has published more than 150 peer-reviewed papers, and his research on calibration and statistically based information to develop rational load and resistance factors has significantly advanced the design of precast and prestressed concrete structures. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications*, the American Concrete Institute's *Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete (ACI 318) and Commentary (ACI 318R)*, the *Canadian Highway Bridge Design Code*, multiple PCI publications, and numerous other standards and guidelines have incorporated statistical parameters that he derived. Nowak has been affiliated with PCI for a quarter century. He has served on many PCI committees and subcommittees, including the Building Code Committee and the Committee on Bridges. He has been chair of the Calibration Subcommittee since 2008. Nowak has also volunteered with the Transportation Research Board, ACI, AASHTO, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and the Polish Academy of Sciences. For his service, he has been named a fellow of ASCE, ACI, and the International Association for Bridge and Structural Engineering. He was named to the Officer's Order of Polonia Restituta by President of Poland in 2014.

Schram is associate vice president and office director for the consulting firm Pennoni. He previously worked as an engineer at Powers Engineering and as vice president at Powers and Schram Inc. Schram has been involved with PCI for about two decades. He joined the Continuing Education Committee in

2005 and was a member until 2011. He also previously served on the Tolerances and Joint and Connection Design committees. Presently, he is a member of the Design Specification Committee and the Design Standard Seismic Task Group, as well as a consulting member of the Financial/Risk Management and Joint and Connection Design Committees. To date, Schram's greatest contribution to PCI and the precast concrete industry has been his service with the Industry Handbook Committee. He was a consulting member from 2018 until 2020, when he was selected as the committee chair. Under his stewardship, the committee has been producing the ninth edition of the *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete*, an essential publication for designers, engineers, precast concrete producers, educators, researchers, and engineering students. In addition to serving as committee chair, Schram is also chair or co-chair of 14 handbook chapter subcommittees. The revision process involves many moving parts and takes years, so it requires a leader with outstanding communication and organizational skills, subject matter expertise, and a collaborative spirit.

## Team Gate wins Project Precast in its first competition

The PCI Convention at The Precast Show in February in Denver, Colo., was the site of the sixth annual Project Precast Design Competition. The number of teams, students, precast concrete industry coaches, sponsors, and attendance at the final reveal of the student designs surpassed all prior years by more than 25%. Sika and Hamilton Form Co. repeated as overall sponsors.

Students from 17 universities were brought together to form eight teams hosted by CEG, Clark Pacific, Coreslab, Finfrock, Gate, Metromont, Tindall and Wells. Each team had 48 hours to design a structure that was revealed to them on Wednesday at noon and culminated in a presentation before more than 225 attendees on Friday afternoon.

**Team Gate was led by head coach Russ Vines and included four students (left to right): Jared Fasshauer, Parker Welsh, and Anna Durfee of Clemson University and Yoshun Zou of Lehigh University. Each student took home \$1000. Courtesy of PCI Foundation.**



Each year, a structure that is indicative of the host city is chosen. This year, Matt Shea, a professor from the University of Colorado Denver, challenged the students to create a Museum of Mountain Sports. The students and coaches were then put on a bus and taken to a site that Shea chose in Boulder as the hypothetical location that would suit such a project.

The winning team was Team Gate, a new team sponsor in 2024. Each member of the student team won \$1000. The People’s Choice Award went to Team Coreslab, with prize money of \$500 per student, and the Wow Award went to Team CEG. Hamilton Form Co. added \$500 to the Wow Award to ensure that each student took home \$250.

## Research fellowships announced for 2024/25

The PCI Research and Development Council has awarded four Daniel P. Jenny Research Fellowships for the 2024/25 academic year. The students awarded fellowships are Tao Sun, Khaled Al-Sakajai, Anupama Kamani, and Lauran Liantero.

The program connects professors and students with industry experts to advance research in precast concrete. It is a unique experience where both industry and academics benefit from the interaction.

### Automatic Assembly of Rebar Cages: Computer-Vision-Based Manipulation Techniques

**Student:** Tao Sun

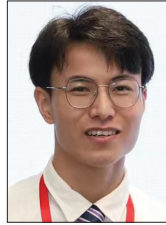
**University:** McGill University

**Faculty advisor:** Yi Shao

**Supporting producer:** Metromont Corp. and Tindall Corp.

**Additional support:** Facca Inc., Lafarge Canada Inc., and BPDFL

Sun wrote, “Currently, reinforcement cages are assembled manually in the precast concrete industry, which is a highly repetitive, time-consuming, and labor-intensive task. I am fascinated with developing novel automated manufacturing techniques for reinforcement cages to overcome these limitations. This pioneering exploration is



Tao Sun



Yi Shao



Khaled Al-Sakajai



Greg Lucier



Anupama Kamani



Sriram Aaleti



Lauren Liantero



Spencer Quiel



Clay Naito

expected to increase the efficiency of precast concrete industry and thus promote the usage of precast concrete products.”

### Composite Ultra-High Performance Concrete Decked Beams Subjected to Heavy Podium Loading

**Student:** Khaled Al-Sakajai

**University:** North Carolina State University

**Faculty advisor:** Greg Lucier

**Producer support:** Gage Brothers Concrete Products and Gate Construction Materials Group

**Additional support:** e.Construct USA LLC

Al-Sakajai wrote, “My background in structural engineering at an international multi-discipline company led me to develop the passion to think outside of the box to find better design solutions

## 2024 T. HENRY CLARK AWARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the T. Henry Clark Award, to be presented in September at the 2024 PCI Committee Days in Nashville, Tenn., should be submitted to [qualityprograms@pci.org](mailto:qualityprograms@pci.org) by June 1, 2024. The T. Henry Clark Award nomination form is available at <https://www.pci.org/PCI/About/Awards/Clark>.

The T. Henry Clark Award was established to recognize an individual, group of individuals, or firm that has delivered a resource that improves or

enhances the quality of precast concrete products or processes.

T. Henry Clark believed in quality and quality processes, and this award is to recognize those who create or promote quality in a way that would have made him proud.

For more information, contact Mike Wolff, the Quality Activities Council chair, at [m.wolff@msprecast.com](mailto:m.wolff@msprecast.com).



using different systems, materials, and elements. What fills me with enthusiasm about our planned research on UHPC podium structures is combining new precast sections with a revolutionary material (UHPC) to replace a conventional system in a way that will surpass the old system in all aspects. The use of game-changing construction materials such as Ultra-High Performance Concrete (UHPC) to increase the robustness, flexibility, efficiency, and constructability of structures is a subject that the whole world is sprinting to discover. It is a great honor to be a part of this PCI Daniel P. Jenny Fellowship.”

### Analytical and Experimental Investigation of Use of UHPC to Simplify Structural Detailing of Precast Shear Walls in Seismic Regions

**Student:** Anupama Kamani

**University:** University of Alabama

**Faculty advisors:** Sriram Aaleti

**Producer support:** Clark Pacific, Contech Engineered Solutions, and Metromont Corp.

Kamani wrote, “Having worked in the industry for nearly three years, my professional journey has exposed me to the complexities of projects dealing with high seismic loads. What particularly captivates my interest in this project is the exploration of Ultra-High Performance Concrete (UHPC) for boundary elements. The prospect of overcoming challenges related to rebar cage fabrication in confined areas through UHPC not only intrigues me but also aligns with my passion for innovative

and efficient solutions in structural engineering. The potential to reduce costs, enhance production friendliness, and optimize performance in critical regions like boundary elements makes this project a compelling and exciting opportunity for me.”

### Simplified Tools for Structural-Fire Design of Hollow-Core Slabs Based on Critical Temperatures

**Student:** Lauran Liantero

**University:** Lehigh University

**Faculty advisors:** Spencer Quiel and Clay Naito

**Additional support:** PCI Fire Committee

In her application, Liantero wrote, “Precast hollow core slabs are becoming increasingly utilized in present-day construction. Their reduced self-weight, rapid assembly, and versatile spanning capabilities make them a very attractive option when designing residential, commercial, and industrial buildings. This project piques my interest because as engineers, it is important that we continually improve the design processes that we implement and develop deeper understanding about their fundamental purpose. This project will enhance the fire-related design guidance for precast prestressed hollow core elements, thus enabling engineers to make better decisions about both their collapse resistance during a fire event and the loss of functionality following the fire. I am very excited to start this project and thank PCI for this wonderful opportunity!”

## 2024 SIDNEY FREEDMAN CRAFTSMANSHIP AWARD CALL FOR ENTRIES



PCI is accepting entries for the 2024 Sidney Freedman Craftsmanship Award. Launched in 2012, the award recognizes PCI-certified plants for excellence in manufacturing and craftsmanship of architectural precast or glass-fiber-reinforced concrete structures and individual components. Any kind, size, or type of structure and/or element may be entered. Judging is based on success in overcoming

obstacles to production, solutions to formwork or finishing challenges, and quality of individual units. Therefore, entries should include source documents, shop drawings, production photos as well as finished project photos to fully demonstrate the complex solutions implemented for the project. For more information, visit <http://www.pci.org/SFCA>. The deadline for all entries is June 1, 2024.

## 2023/24 BIG BEAM CONTEST CALL FOR ENTRIES



The PCI Student Education Committee is inviting entries from students to participate in the Engineering Student Design (Big Beam) Contest for the 2023/24 academic year.

All teams are required to submit an online application to establish their participation in the competition. Applications must identify all members of the student team and supply per-

manent email and mailing addresses for each team member. Please visit [pci.org/bigbeam](http://pci.org/bigbeam) to complete the application by June 1, 2024, no later than two weeks prior to the deadline. Completed entries must be submitted digitally to PCI by June 14, 2024. The winning team will be recognized February 3-7, 2025, at the PCI Convention at The Precast Show in Indianapolis, Ind.

## 2024/25 Mertz fellowship awarded to Luong

The PCI Research and Development Council has awarded the 2024/25 Dennis R. Mertz Bridge Research Fellowship to Tu Luong for his proposal, “Improving Splicing of Prestressed UHPC H-Piles and Long-term Loss Calculations.”

Luong, who attends the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, will be advised by Sriram Aaleti, an associate professor in the Department of Civil, Construction and Environmental Engineering at the University of Alabama. The



Sriram Aaleti



Tu Luong

project is supported by Contech Engineered Solutions, Facca Inc, and Standard Concrete Products.

In his application, Luong wrote, “What interests me most about this project is the opportunity to delve deeper into the relatively uncharted territory of UHPC, contributing to the ongoing research on UHPC piles. The prospect of understanding its behavior, unraveling its untapped potential, and being at the forefront of advancing practical applications aligns perfectly with my passion for pushing the boundaries of innovative construction materials. I am eager to be part of a project that not only addresses current challenges but also contributes to the evolving landscape of UHPC pile technology.”

The Mertz fellowship was established in 2017 in memory of Dennis R. Mertz, a professor of civil engineering at the University of Delaware and one of the principal investigators who developed the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications*, to connect students and faculty with precast concrete producers and industry experts to advance research in bridge and transportation-related precast concrete applications.

### PCI’s CALENDAR

#### Events

PCI event details are subject to change. For the most current information, visit <https://www.pci.org/events>.

#### PCI West 2024 Summer Board Meeting

Woodland, Calif.

May 22, 2024

#### 2024 PCI Board of Directors Meeting

Jackson Hole, Wyo.

June 4-7, 2024

#### 2024 Georgia/C Carolinas PCI Annual Meeting

Sea Pines Resort, Hilton Head Island, SC..

June 12-14, 2024

#### 2024 PCI Marketing and Sales School

Chicago, Ill.

June 27-28, 2024

## PCI personnel training and certification schools

Quality Control School event details are subject to change. If you have any questions about the Quality Control School schedule or need help completing a registration form, please contact PCI’s continuing education coordinator, [education@pci.org](mailto:education@pci.org). Registration forms are available at [https://www.pci.org/qc\\_schools](https://www.pci.org/qc_schools).

Levels I and II	May 15-17, 2024	Chicago, Ill.
	June 17-20, 2024	online
	August 19-22, 2024	online
	October 23-25, 2024	Nashville, Tenn.
	November 11-14, 2024	online
Level III	May 14-17, 2024	Chicago, Ill.
	July 15-18, 2024	online
	October 22-25, 2024 December 9-12, 2024	Nashville, Tenn. online
CFA	September 9-12, 2024	online
CCA	September 13, 2024	online

Compiled by K. Michelle Burgess ([mburgess@pci.org](mailto:mburgess@pci.org))