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2012 Productivity Tour and Workshop set for Florida

The 2012 PCI Productivity Tour and Workshop will take place November 6–9. The tour is centered in Orlando, Fla., where attendees will visit five innovative, PCI-certified precasting plants that produce both structural and architectural precast concrete.

Attendees will visit Metromont's new state-of-the-art plant in Bartow, see the use of laser projection at Finrock Industries in Orlando, visit Gate Precast's lean architectural precasting plant in Kissimmee, and see innovative production techniques at Coreslab Structures and Standard Concrete Products in Tampa.

The event also serves as a forum for sharing ideas and experiences. The Ideas that Pay Off contest and dinner are planned for Thursday evening. The contest awards cash prizes for attendees who present the best process improvement or money-saving idea that they have implemented at their facility.

For more information and to register for the tour, visit www.pci.org/productivitytour.

New Precast Studio set for spring semester at USC

The PCI Foundation trustees recently approved funding for a new Precast Studio at the University of Southern California (USC) in Los Angeles. The studio will include a 16-week architectural design studio, where advanced students will design a building using precast/prestressed concrete. Students will explore a full range of topics related to the design, manufacture, engineering, transport, and assembly/construction of concrete structures and skins. The course will include field trips to manufacturing facilities and example buildings. The course will be supported by guest lectures and critics from the precast concrete industry.

A unique aspect of this program is a conference that the team will present in February 2013 to support the studio. This conference will be incorporated into the USC Facade Tectonics regular conference series. Each year, Facade Tectonics hosts two conferences and two workshops. There will be about five to eight speakers in this half-day workshop.

For more information on this studio, contact Doug Mooradian at (818) 247-6177.

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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., will include cash prizes that take into account efficient design, load capacity, and other factors defined by the program. 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>.

Management Activities Council reorganized as Business Performance Council

The former Management Activities Council has been reorganized under the leadership of new chair David Dieter of Mid-State Precast. A one-day strategic planning meeting was held in June at PCI headquarters in Chicago, Ill., to formulate the direction and first initiatives of the council. The purpose of the council is to improve member business performance.

Initially, the Productivity Committee, the Financial Performance/Contracts Committee, and the Plant Safety and Environmental Committee will report to the Business Performance Council. Instead of forming additional committees to address other areas of business concern, a different direction will be explored. A tool to allow online discussion of important issues will be developed and organized according to specific interests. This approach will promote interaction of people from various companies who have similar responsibilities. Results of significant discussions can then be disseminated to the PCI membership.

Another important new initiative is to explore the interests in benchmarking for the industry. A preliminary survey will be conducted to determine the benchmarking topics of greatest interest and value to the members. Possibilities include financial, operational, and quality benchmarks. The survey results will be used to develop a detailed survey on the benchmarking topics of highest priority.

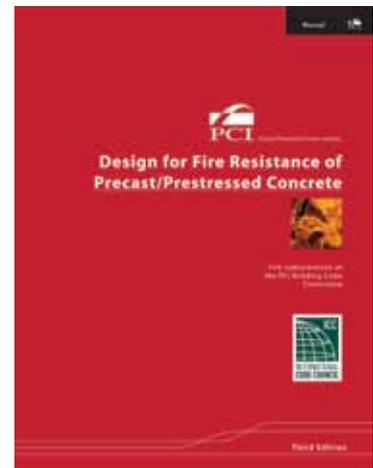
The intent of this council is to move beyond the technical and operational focus of PCI activities and provide value to members through identification of best business practices. Executive-level leadership in the industry is asked to consider participation in the council and to support the projects undertaken by the council.

Updated fire resistance publication now available on PCI's ePubs site

PCI/ICC's third edition of *Design for Fire Resistance of Precast Prestressed Concrete*, MNL 124-11, is available as an ePub at <http://www.pci.org/epubs>. This manual has been used by designers for almost 30 years, and much of it has been reproduced or referenced in model building codes and the *International Building Code*.

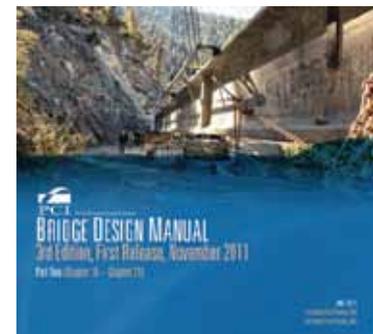
Since the second edition in 1989, much has been experienced and learned, resulting in the need for updating the manual. Several parts have been rewritten to clarify the text and some new material has been added, but nothing has been changed that would affect the character of the manual.

This manual is the first PCI publication to be cobranded with the International Code Council (ICC). In addition, it has been issued an evaluation report (ESR-1997) through the ICC Evaluation Service.



New PCI Bridge Design Manual errata now on website

New errata for the third edition of the *PCI Bridge Design Manual* are available on PCI's website. Visit <http://www.pci.org/cms/index.cfm/publications/errata/errata> for more information.





Rachel Detwiler, *PCI Journal* editor-in-chief, discusses high-performance concrete during a PCI of Illinois & Wisconsin Technology Tuesday in Chicago, Ill. Courtesy of Marty McIntyre.

PCI-IW Technology Tuesday focuses on materials

PCI Journal editor-in-chief Rachel Detwiler spoke to more than 40 architects and engineers August 14, 2012, about specifying high-performance concrete as part of the PCI of Illinois & Wisconsin's (PCI-IW) Technology Tuesday programs in Chicago, Ill. Detwiler used her extensive experience in testing and specifying concrete materials to cover the types of tests available, ways to create measurable and meaningful performance criteria in specifications, and lessons she has learned from her years in the construction industry.

The Technology Tuesday series is part of PCI-IW's education effort. It pulls content experts from various precast concrete-related fields in to educate decision makers on using precast materials in their designs.

PCI Journal promotes gift subscriptions

PCI Journal gift subscriptions are being marketed to producer members as a way to keep their customers informed and aware of the uses of precast concrete. *PCI Journal* helps engineers and architects understand how precast concrete works and how to use it with confidence.

"We are seen ... as the go-to source for information about precast/prestressed concrete," says Chuck Prussack, general manager of Central Pre-Mix in Spokane, Wash. "As such, we view it as an opportunity to educate them, more than purely marketing to them. Of all the ways to educate them, we think the *PCI Journal* provides an excellent venue to fulfill this."

Producer members have the opportunity to provide gift subscriptions for \$15 per year each, and they often provide them to state bridge engineers; municipal, county, and port-authority engineers; consultants; and professors.

Data are available on the affiliations and geographical locations of current subscribers to help members decide where to send gift subscriptions.

To begin providing gift subscriptions to your clients, or to add to your list of recipients, send an Excel spreadsheet that includes the name, company name, and mailing address of each recipient to subscriptions@pci.org by November 15, 2012. PCI staff will set up the subscriptions and invoice you. If any of your intended recipients already subscribe, you will not be billed for them.

Gift subscription recipients get a postcard informing them of your gift. All subscriptions will begin with the Winter 2013 issue. Each fall, *PCI Journal* staff will send members lists of their gift recipients so that they can make any additions or changes.

2012 *PCI Journal* Awards announced

Each year, PCI bestows four awards on authors of outstanding papers published in the *PCI Journal* during the previous 12 months. The award-winning papers are selected by the Journal Awards Committee, which is chaired by Paul C. Breeze.

The awards will be presented during the upcoming 2012 PCI Annual Convention and National Bridge Conference in Nashville, Tenn.

The Martin P. Korn Award (named in honor of PCI's first executive director) recognizes the paper that offers the greatest contribution to the advancement of precast and prestressed concrete in the area of design and research. "Experimental Investigation of the Web-Shear Strength of Deep Hollow-Core Units" by Keith D. Palmer and Arturo E. Schultz received this award. The paper appeared in the Fall 2011 issue.

The Robert J. Lyman Award, named in honor of PCI's third president, recognizes the paper that offers the greatest contribution in the area of plant production, site erection, or general construction using precast and prestressed concrete. "Doubling the Width of the Platform of the San Pedro Bridge in Spain" by José A. Torroja, José M. Simón-Talero, and Alejandro Hernández received this award. This paper appeared in the Summer 2011 issue.

Established in 1981 as the State-of-the-Art Award, the Charles C. Zollman Award was renamed in honor of PCI's first Technical Activities Committee chair. It recognizes meritorious papers that advance the general understanding and knowledge of precast, prestressed concrete by bringing together all available knowledge of a specific topic into a single report. "Development of a Rational Design Methodology for Precast Concrete Slender Spandrel Beams" by Gregory Lucier, Catrina Walter, Sami Rizkalla, Paul Zia, and Gary Klein received this award. Part 1 of this paper appeared in the Spring 2011 issue and part 2 in the Fall 2011 issue.

The George D. Nasser award, named for a former editor-in-chief of *PCI Journal*, recognizes a paper published in the journal that is "most worthy of special commendation for its merit on the design, research, production, or construction of precast/prestressed concrete structures" by authors who are 40 years of age or younger.

Clay Naito and Jason Zimpfer receive the George D. Nasser Award for their paper, "Effect of Environmental Conditions on Field Welding of Precast Concrete Connections," which appeared in the Spring 2012 issue of *PCI Journal*. Richard Sause and Eric Kaufmann were co-authors of this paper.

All of the papers are available at <http://www.pci.org/publications/journal/>.



Keith D. Palmer



Arturo E. Schultz



José A. Torroja



José M. Simón-Talero



Alejandro Hernández



Gregory Lucier



Catrina Walter



Sami Rizkalla



Paul Zia



Gary Klein



Clay Naito



Jason Zimpfer



John J. Roller



Henry G. Russell



Robert N. Bruce Jr.



Walid R. Alaywan

PCI Journal paper receives 2012 T. Y. Lin Award

The authors of “Evaluation of Prestress Losses in High-Strength Concrete Bulb-Tee Girders for the Rigolets Pass Bridge,” which appeared in the Winter 2011 issue of *PCI Journal*, have been selected for the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 2012 T. Y. Lin Award. Established in 1968, this annual award honors outstanding engineers and their contributions in the field of prestressed concrete and is bestowed on authors of meaningful papers that advance the field.

The authors of the winning paper are John J. Roller, principal structural engineer with CTLGroup in Skokie, Ill.; Henry G. Russell, an engineering consultant with Henry G. Russell Inc. in Glenview, Ill.; Robert N. Bruce Jr., the Boh Chair Emeritus in Civil Engineering at Tulane University in New Orleans, La.; and Walid R. Alaywan, senior structures research engineer at the Louisiana Transportation Research Center in Baton Rouge, La.

The paper established actual prestress losses measured on high-strength bulb-tee girders on the newly constructed Rigolets Pass Bridge in Louisiana. This research led to proposed revisions to the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications* that would allow more accurate predictions of prestress losses.

Professor T. Y. Lin, an eminent prestressed concrete pioneer, endowed the award to ASCE in 1968 to recognize outstanding engineers and their contributions to the field of prestressed concrete. The award is presented each year to the best paper written or coauthored by members of ASCE in the various publications of ASCE, PCI, and the American Concrete Institute (ACI) during a 12-month period.

The award will be presented at the 2012 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference in Nashville, Tenn.

The paper is available online at <http://www.pci.org/publications/journal>.

Sennour gives talk on connections, modular construction in Singapore

In February, Larbi Sennour, chair of the PCI Technical Activities Council, gave a two-hour seminar titled “Precast Dry Connections and Modular Construction” in Singapore.

Sennour spoke to the Institute of Engineers in Singapore at an event sponsored by Splice Sleeve. Raymond Chong, general manager at Splice Sleeve, invited Sennour so that Singapore’s booming precast concrete industry could learn from the U.S. experience in connections and modular construction. More than 100 engineers attended the presentation.



Lee Chee Weye, left, from the Singapore Institute of Engineers, presents PCI Technical Activities Council chair Larbi Sennour with a plaque. Sennour spoke about precast concrete connections and modular construction at the Singapore Institute of Engineers. Courtesy of Larbi Sennour.

PCI announces winners of 2012 Big Beam competition

The Student Education Judging Committee recently selected the winners of the Engineering Student Design Award, also known as the Big Beam competition. First-place winners from each of the six PCI zones, along with the international entries considered as zone 7, competed for the overall championship.

PCI's Student Education Committee (Richard Miller, chair) organizes the Big Beam Contest, sponsored by Sika Corp. The objective is for teams of students to fabricate and test a precast, prestressed concrete beam with the help of local PCI Producer Members. Prizes are awarded in consideration of efficient design, highest load capacity, and other categories.

The first-place winner in each zone enters the national competition. The national competition winners are listed. Visit www.pci.org/bigbeam for a full list of winners, including those from each zone.

Applications for the 2013 Big Beam Contest are available from PCI. For information on this program, contact Alex Morales at (312) 360-3219 or amorales@pci.org.

National Competition

First place	University of Texas–Austin (Team 3), Austin, Tex. (Zone 2)
Faculty advisor	Michael Brown
PCI producer	Coreslab Structures Inc. (TEXAS), Cedar Park, Tex. (Nick Faerber)
Student team	Scott McCord, Vasilis Samaras, Hemal V. Patel, Kostas Belivanis, Federico Aguayo, Candice Kou, James Felan, and Trey Dondrea
Second place	University of Kansas/CEAE (Team 1), Lawrence, Kans. (Zone 3)
Faculty advisor	Bob Lyon
PCI producer	Coreslab Structures (KANSAS) Inc., Kansas City, Kans. (Mark Simpson)
Student team	Eric Bonat, Tyrone Poller, Kimberly Hannon, and Michael Whitson
Third place	University of Notre Dame (Team 1), Notre Dame, Ind. (Zone 4)
Faculty advisor	Yahya Kurama
PCI producer	Strescore Inc., Notre Dame, Ind. (John Reihl)

Student team	Eric Herbert, Allison Madden, Matthew Sushinsky, Michael Wilbur, Jenna Falsone, Ian Graham, Brad Geyer, and Kelsey Haddad
Fourth place	University of North Florida/Civil Engineering, Jacksonville, Fla. (Zone 6)
Faculty advisor	Adel El Safty
PCI producer	Gate Precast Co., Jacksonville, Fla. (Tom Newton)
Student team	Andrew Isildar, Matthew Graeff, Adam Dooley, Fernando Paredes, Hugo Lerma, and Gregory Spelios
Fifth place	California State University, Chico/Civil Engineering Department (Zone 1)
Faculty advisor	Charles Roberts
PCI producer	Coreslab Structures Inc. (Texas), Cedar Park, Tex. (Bill Doughty)
Student team	Nick David, Ashley Dumais, Karla Kruse, Joshua Ramirez, Nickie Ramm, Katie Schmidt, Zack Stutts, David Wald, and Jordan Woodson
Sixth place	Lehigh University/Civil and Environmental Engineering (Team 1), Lehigh, Pa. (Zone 5)
Faculty advisor	Clay Naito
PCI producer	Northeast Prestressed Products LLC, Cressona, Pa. (Michael Ridge)
Student team	Dan Foiles, Matt Fustine, and Jeremy Corrigan
Seventh place	University of Western Ontario/Civil and Environmental Engineering; London, ON, Canada (Zone 7)
Faculty advisor	Maged Youssef
PCI producer	PSI Prestressed Systems Inc., Windsor, London, ON, Canada (Nebojsa Mladenovic)
Student team	Aiham Adawi, Muhammad Diab, Zixiao Wang, Zach McNeil, Ahmed Elansary, Yamen Elbahy, Ahmed Musa, Mohamed Monir, and Eric Gerald

Hawkins-Brown promoted to PCI bookstore manager



Kim Hawkins-Brown

Kim Hawkins-Brown has been promoted to manager of the PCI Bookstore. Hawkins-Brown's duties will include processing registrations for personnel training and certification programs, managing PCI's proctored exam program, and maintaining records of all individuals certified by PCI's quality programs.

Hawkins-Brown was hired in October 2011 as PCI's shipping and receiving associate. Brown previously worked at PCI from 2005 to 2008. She has an associate's degree in applied science from Robert Morris University in Chicago, Ill.

PCMAC changes name to PCI West

On June 6, 2012, the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Manufacturers Association of California (PCMAC) Board approved changing its name to PCI West. **■**

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

GENEROSITY DOESN'T HAVE TO HURT



Jim Voss

Considering a gift to the PCI Foundation? Great! Now what? Many people ponder the best way to maximize a charitable gift. The good news is that being generous can have its rewards. Consider this: if you are required to send a big check to Washington this year to pay your taxes, why not divert a portion of those funds to the PCI Foundation? If you are an individual in, for example, the 30% tax bracket, you could give \$10,000 and save \$3000 in taxes. Corporations that give \$50,000 could effect a tax savings of up to \$20,000.

There are even more easy ways to be generous. Many people accumulate large retirement accounts that are never utilized in their lifetime. Consider setting up these accounts with a stretch provision that allows the funds to be passed to beneficiaries over their lifetime. While you are still here, consider donating the annual earnings to the PCI Foundation. This should be nontaxable to you and will help strengthen the PCI Foundation to ensure the ongoing success of bringing the "precast gospel" to young people. Including the PCI Foundation in your estate plan can be easy and relatively painless, and if it means the difference between giving your money to the government or the PCI Foundation, the choice should be an easy one. I urge you to consult your financial planner and determine the best way for you to express your thanks and generosity to the industry that has provided your livelihood.

Giving a little back is its own reward.

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>.

PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference	September 29– October 2, 2012
Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, Nashville, Tenn.	
2012 PCI Productivity Tour	November 6–9, 2012
Orlando, Fla.	
PCI-IW Member Meeting and Social	December 5, 2012
Location TBA	
Architectural Precast Concrete Surface Finishing Workshop	December 5–7, 2012
Dallas, Tex.	
PCI Winter Conference	January 24–27, 2013
Hilton Clearwater Beach, Clearwater, Fla.	
PCI Zone 1 and Zone 2 Meeting	February 5–6, 2013
Paris Hotel, Las Vegas, Nev.	
PCI Committee Days and Membership Conference	April 25–28, 2013
Hyatt Magnificent Mile, Chicago, Ill.	
PCI Summer Conference	June 27–30, 2013
The James Hotel, Chicago, Ill.	

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 or (312) 360-3219. Registration forms are available at <http://www.pci.org/schools>.

Level I/II	
December 10–12, 2012	Nashville, Tenn.
Level III	
December 12–15, 2012	Nashville, Tenn.
CFA/IES	
December 10–12, 2012	Nashville, Tenn.
CCA	
May 2013	Nashville, Tenn.

Survey on high-priority topics for research at PCI

To: PCI Producer, Associate, and Professional Members

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

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

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

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

Harry Gleich
Chair, PCI Research & Development Committee

Research & Development Survey

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

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

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

Additional comments. Attach additional sheets as required.

Please mail/email/fax this sheet to

Roger Becker
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Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute
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Email: rbecker@pci.org

Name (please print)

Position

Company

Telephone

Fax

Email