



## OUR MEMBERS



**Jerry Duncan**

### Duncan joins Gate Precast Southwest division

Jerry Duncan, a 23-year veteran in precast concrete construction, joins Gate Precast's Southwest division. Duncan will cover markets in Dallas, Fort Worth, and North Texas. He will work with designers and contractors in the earliest conceptual stages of design through completion.

—Source: Gate Precast



**Vijay Chandra**

### Chandra wins lifetime achievement award

Parson Brinkerhoff has selected Vijay Chandra as the first recipient of its new Lifetime Achievement Award. Chandra was honored with the award April 26 at the awards ceremony held at the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md.

The recognition is given for outstanding contributions in delivering professional services within Parsons Brinckerhoff as well as to its clients. These contributions shall include innovations, knowledge, and/or ways to improve professional practice. Contributions should be above and beyond the everyday and have had a lasting effect on the delivery of professional services.

—Source: Vijay Chandra

## JAMES K. IVERSON



James K. Iverson, former chair of the PCI Seismic Committee and PCI board member, died March 14, 2014, in Napa, Calif. He was 78.

Iverson served in the U.S. Air Force before receiving his PhD and pursuing a career as a civil engineer. He last worked for Chaudhary & Associates Inc. prior to retirement.

Iverson was an active member of PCI, serving on the Seismic Committee from 1987 to 1996 and as chair from 1991 to 1992. He also served on the PCI Bridges and Bridge Producers Committees from 1982 to 1996 and on the PCI Board of Directors from 1994 to 1995.

## Stresscon project earns ACI award

The U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory's Energy Systems Integration Facility (ESIF) has earned an Award of Excellence for Precast Concrete. The project was submitted to the 46th ACI Awards Program to highlight the use of high-performance insulated wall panel systems to accommodate high energy efficiency requirements. The ACI Awards Program is designed to recognize creative, innovative, aesthetic, and imaginative uses of precast concrete.

Located in Golden, Colo., the ESIF includes sustainable design features and materials and is dedicated to the research, development, and megawatt-scale testing of critical transmission and distribution components of future electrical supply and demand systems. The facility includes experimental laboratories, outdoor test beds, and a high-performance data center designed to be one of the world's most efficient. The ESIF is the first in the country with these capabilities and houses 200 scientists and engineers working together to transform energy infrastructures in 14 sophisticated high-bay laboratories, a high-performance computing data center, and an ultra-green workplace.

A collaborative design-build team, including Martin/Martin Inc., JE Dunn Construction, and SmithGroup JJR, participated in the creation of the 182,500 ft<sup>2</sup> (17,000 m<sup>2</sup>) facility. The team incorporated sustainable design practices throughout the project using recycled materials, skylights, operable windows enabling natural cooling and ventilation, and solar-powered fans.

Stresscon provided 876 precast concrete elements, including the high-performance thermally efficient precast concrete wall panels, for the project. The high-performance insulated wall panel systems were composed of a 14 in. (360 mm) thick Thermomass panel system consisting of a 3 in. (75 mm) exterior wythe of gray concrete, 3 in. of polyisocyanurate Thermomass insulation, and an 8 in. (200 mm) interior structural concrete wythe. With edge-to-edge insulation, the wall panels achieve an *R*-value of 20.55. This *R*-value helps provide the ESIF with a 40% greater performance efficiency than the ASHRAE 90.1 building standards baseline building performance rating.

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory is the U.S. Department of Energy's primary national laboratory for renewable energy and energy efficiency research and development. It is operated for the Department of Energy by The Alliance for Sustainable Energy LLC.

—Source: EnCon United

## Elliott new Spancrete sales rep for Southeast

Spancrete has named Daniel Elliott regional sales representative to assist in sales growth for Spancrete's Southeast territory.

Elliott brings to the organization more than a decade of precast, prestressed concrete experience. He also has an associate's degree in drafting from Southern Crescent Technical College in Griffin, Ga.

Elliott will be based out of the Spancrete's Georgia office.

—Source: Spancrete



Daniel Elliott



**Darren Lucas**

## Lucas joins Finley as senior bridge engineer

Finley Engineering Group welcomes new staff member D. Darren K. Lucas, P.E., as senior bridge engineer to its growing bridge design and construction engineering firm.

Lucas has 15 years of bridge design and construction engineering experience with an expertise in managing a variety of heavy and marine construction projects for public and private organizations. His experience as a bridge designer includes the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge, Boston Central Artery, Ringling Causeway, and Palm Beach International Airport Interchanges.

Lucas will be assigned to the Bayonne Bridge Replacement project, where Finley is providing bridge design and construction engineering on the approaches.

Lucas earned a BS degree in civil engineering from the University of Florida. He also completed graduate-level coursework in advanced steel design and prestressed concrete design from Florida Atlantic University.

## MARIO GONZALO SUÁREZ Y DE CÁRDENAS



Mario Gonzalo Suárez y de Cárdenas, PCI's fifth Professional Member, died February 18, 2014. He was 87.

Suárez was born in Havana, Cuba, where he received his civil engineering degree in 1948 from the University of Havana. He earned a master of science in civil engineering from the University of Illinois in 1950. He was a professor and head of the Structural Department in the School of Science and Technology at the Universidad Católica de Santo Tomás de Villanueva in Cuba from 1954 until 1958.

Suárez emigrated from Cuba after the Cuban Revolution.

In the United States, Suárez was a senior structural engineer at Ammann & Whitney in New York, N.Y.; chief engineer and vice president at Stresssteel Corp. in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; and principal at Schupack Suárez Engineers of Norwalk, Conn.

He was a pioneer of the prestressed concrete industry. His work included design, construction, and evaluation of bridges, buildings, dams, retaining walls, tanks, and many other structures; investigation of and remedial measures for performance problems in existing structures and structures under construction; research and development on prestressing materials, equipment and methods, and corrosion and performance of reinforcing and prestressing steels; posttensioning and concrete materials technology, fabrication, construction, testing, and quality control procedures; and appearing in court as an expert witness.

Among his most notable projects in Cuba was the Canas River Bridge, a 250 ft (76 m) span cast-in-place box girder prestressed concrete highway bridge completed in 1952. At the time, it was the largest prestressed concrete bridge in the Western Hemisphere. The Zaza River Bridge, completed in 1959, was a 300 ft (91 m) segmental posttensioned concrete truss.

Robert Cox, his son-in-law, described Suárez's work on the reactor vessel and containment building at the nuclear power plant at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania as among his most significant. "When systems were failing all around, the concrete structures held and prevented radiological contamination from escaping the power plant."

At the inaugural PCI Convention in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., in 1955, Suárez became a member of the first panel on prestressed concrete bridges. He served on the Board of Directors from 1991 to 1992 and was chairman of the Committee on Segmental Construction from 1969 to 1972. In 1985 Schupack Suárez Engineers Inc. received PCI's inaugural Harry H. Edwards Industry Advancement Award for their project "Precast Prestressed Concrete Horizontally Curved Bridge Beams." Suárez was elected a PCI Fellow in 1995.

—Source: *Talk of the Sound*, New Rochelle, N.Y.

## WILLIAM E. WHITCHER



William “Bill” Eugene Whitcher, former PCI chairman, died March 13, 2014. He was 70.

Whitcher attended Loyola University in Los Angeles, Calif., and earned a master’s degree in marketing from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. He was a prominent salesman and leader in the field of precast/prestressed concrete.

Whitcher joined Coreslab Structures (Arizona) Inc. in 1988 when Coreslab Structures purchased the Stanley Structures plant in Phoenix, Ariz. This was the first plant that Coreslab Structures purchased in the United States. Whitcher served as vice president and sales manager of the Phoenix plant and supported the owners in acquiring numerous plants throughout his career.

In 1992, when Coreslab Structures acquired the Stresscon plant in Medley, Fla., Whitcher was appointed vice president general manager of Coreslab Structures (Miami) Inc. He was instrumental in marketing the first use of pretopped double tees for parking structures in Florida. He was a pioneer in the testing and full-scale use of self-consolidating concrete in Florida.

From 2005 until his retirement in 2013, Whitcher served as vice president and regional manager for Coreslab Structures and supervised several plants in the Southeastern United States. Whitcher was an active member of PCI and participated on numerous PCI committees. He was PCI chairman in 2000 and was also a PCI Fellow.

—Source: Mike Quinlan, Coreslab Structures (Tampa) Inc.

## WILLIAM O. BOLES



William “Bill” Oscar Boles, founder of Mixer Systems, died March 25, 2014. He was 86.

After graduating from high school in 1946, Boles was drafted into the Army and served with the Signal Corps in occupied Japan after World War II. After graduating from the University of Kentucky, Boles began his sales career selling products for Reynolds Aluminum Co. His business career took him to Columbus, Ohio, where he worked for T. L. Smith in its marketing division.

Boles moved to South Carolina in 1977 while working for ATO. In 1979, after 16 years in the concrete mixing business, he moved to Brookfield, Wis., and started his own company, Mixer Systems Inc. The company became a leader in its industry because of the hard work of Boles and his employees. His children David Boles and Lesley Hill continue

in their father’s footsteps.

—Source: Becker Ritter Funeral Home, Brookfield, Wis. Photo courtesy of Lesley Hill.


## Walker gets contract for Saudi Arabia parking structure

Walker Parking Consultants has been awarded a contract by Aramco Overseas Co. to prepare a parking master plan and conceptual design for a major parking facility for the King Abdulaziz Center for World Culture in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. The facility will provide public parking for the center's educational, performance, and research venues. Walker's Boston, Mass., and Abu Dhabi, UAE, offices will collaborate and manage the project team, which includes Cambridge Seven Associates of Cambridge, Mass., as design architect and Transpo Group of Seattle, Wash., and Abu Dhabi as traffic engineer.

—Source: Walker Parking Consultants

## Gate Precast names Baker plant manager

Gate Precast has named Lee Baker plant manager at its Winchester, Ky., architectural precast concrete manufacturing facility. His experience encompasses an extensive 12-year background in the precast concrete industry with quality control, scheduling, research and development, and supervision experience. Baker succeeds Terry Cracraft, who served as plant manager for 34 years.

—Source: Gate Precast 

Compiled by K. Michelle Burgess (mburgess@pci.org)



The advertisement is presented as a computer monitor. The top of the monitor features a blue banner with the PCI logo (a stylized arch) on the left, followed by the text "Buildings Industry SmartBrief" in white. Below the banner, the PCI logo and the text "Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute" are visible. The main content area of the monitor has a background image of a modern building. Overlaid on this is the text "Buildings Industry News" in a large, dark font, and below it, "Delivered Straight to Your Inbox" in a large, bold, red font. A paragraph of text follows, stating that PCI has teamed with SmartBrief to provide a free e-newsletter for architects and other A/E/C professionals, and that the SmartBrief provides a weekly overview of key information and news in the buildings industry, along with summaries and direct links to articles targeting buildings industry professionals. At the bottom of the text area, a red call-to-action says "Sign up today at [www.smartbrief.com/pcibi](http://www.smartbrief.com/pcibi)". The PCI logo is also visible in the bottom right corner of the monitor's frame.

**Buildings Industry SmartBrief**

PCI Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute

**Buildings Industry News**

***Delivered Straight to Your Inbox***

PCI has teamed with **SmartBrief** e-news service to provide a free e-newsletter for architects and other A/E/C professionals. **PCI Buildings Industry SmartBrief** provides a weekly overview of key information and news in the buildings industry, and shares summaries and direct links to articles that target the needs of buildings industry professionals.

**Sign up today at [www.smartbrief.com/pcibi](http://www.smartbrief.com/pcibi)**

## Welcome to PCI!

### Producer member



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