

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR PCI STANDARDS COMMITTEE

PCI is the primary organization for the creation and maintenance of standards for the precast concrete industry. The scope of PCI's standards activity is to develop and maintain standards for the design, detailing, fabrication, transportation, and erection of precast, prestressed concrete products. PCI is seeking to broaden the membership base of its American National Standards consensus body and is interested in new members in all membership categories to participate in new standards in quality control, fire resistance design, tolerances, glass-fiber-reinforced concrete, and other important topics. Of particular interest are producer, user, and general interest members.

Individuals seeking membership on the PCI Standards Committee must submit a written request to PCI indicating his or her interest in the work of this consensus committee and his or her qualifications, willingness to participate, and affiliations that might affect his or her classification. Each applicant must identify an interest category. Membership on the PCI Standards Committee is open to all directly and indirectly affected parties subject to the selection procedure set forth in PCI's operating procedures. More information is available at www.pci.org or by emailing standards@pci.org.

# National Bridge Conference Call for Papers

Each year PCI conducts a call for papers for the annual PCI Conventionand National Bridge Conference. Abstracts and papers are peer reviewed, and approved papers are presented at that year's event and included in the event proceedings. PCI is accepting abstracts for the 2017 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference to be held from February 28 to March 4, 2017, in Cleveland, Ohio. To submit your abstract, go to https://www.softconf.com/pci/PCI2017/. Although abstracts may be submitted on any topic relevant to the precast concrete industry, abstracts that support the benefits of high-performance precast concrete will be given preference. Abstracts and papers will be peer reviewed, and accepted papers will be published in the proceedings.

Abstracts are due no later than February 8, 2016; papers of accepted abstracts are due no later than June 13, 2016; notices of final acceptance will be communicated by September 26, 2016; and presentations are due no later than January 7, 2017.

All presenters of peer-reviewed papers will be required to register for the 2017 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference and present their papers in person. Registration will open in late 2016. For questions regarding buildings, materials, the PCI Convention, or paper submission process, contact Alex Morales at amorales@pci.org.

For questions regarding bridges, transportation, or the National Bridge Conference, contact William Nickas at wnickas@pci.org.

### Board approves updated policy 20 on road to IAS accreditation

At the PCI Board of Directors (BOD) meeting on October 18, 2015, the BOD approved an updated version of PCI policy 20 on plant certification. The massive overhaul of policy 20 included numerous changes to comply with the requirements for International Accreditation Service accreditation. With this policy update completed, PCI plant certification enters the final stages of receiving accreditation.

#### BECOMING A PCI FOUNDATION STUDIO



Marty McIntyre
PCI Foundation
Executive Director

Now that the PCI Foundation has some experience starting new programs at different schools, we have seen a process emerge for making the programs happen. A PCI Foundation program requires three important components.

#### The school champion

At least one champion from the school needs to see the process through. Often this is the professor who will teach the course, though sometimes it is the dean of one of the schools. Most often this champion will see the program from beginning to end.

#### **PCI Foundation support**

The PCI Foundation not only offers support in terms of funding but also works to communicate with the schools to help improve their programs, connect the professors and students to the industry as a whole, and connect the professors to each other. When sponsoring a Precast Studio or education program at a university, the PCI Foundation typically makes

a significant contribution that spans three to five years. This allows the foundation to plan for the future and also allows the students and professors at the school to get to know the local industry and understand how the school and its industry partner might work together.

#### The local partner

That local relationship has been key in making PCI Foundation programs successful. In some cases, it has been a regional organization and members from several producers, and in other cases, a single producer will take on the role of local partner. What this means is different for each studio and should be mapped out in advance for the studio. In addition to in-kind support, the PCI Foundation requires financial support from local industry supporters.

How these three come together varies from school to school. Sometimes the local partner has a relationship with a school it wishes to strengthen, and other times the school will seek out the local partner.

Once all three of these components are in place, the school submits a preliminary proposal along with supplemental material from the local partner. Information on these proposals can be found on the PCI Foundation website at pci-foundation.org.

If the PCI Foundation Board of Trustees decides that the proposal is good, it sets up an advisory committee made up of a PCI Foundation trustee, a local partner representative, the PCI Foundation executive director, and the school champion. The advisory committee provides guidance as the school puts together its final proposal, including information about the school, the degree program, the faculty taking part in the studio, and the expected syllabus of the course or courses.

The process is never exactly the same because each school and each local partner bring a variety of skills and experience to the table. This variety is part of what makes the programs funded by the PCI Foundation exciting and new.

If you have questions about how to launch a program at your favorite school, contact me at martymci@pci-foundation.org.

#### McCormack joins PCI Foundation Board of Trustees



Bob McCormack

Bob McCormack, executive vice president at EnCon United Co. in Denver, Colo., recently rejoined the PCI Foundation Board of Trustees and will take on the position of treasurer of the group. McCormack is a past chairman of PCI and a PCI Fellow. He has worked in the precast concrete industry for more than 20 years, including as executive vice president and chief operating officer of Spancrete in Waukesha, Wisc. In addition, McCormack was president and chief operating officer of VideoPropulsion Interactive Television in Milwaukee, Wis. McCormack graduated from the University of Wisconsin—Madison with degrees in accounting and finance, investment, and banking.

McCormack was instrumental in launching the Spancrete Studio at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. Working with professors from the School of Architecture, the team crafted a new and inno-

vative approach to incorporating product-specific education working in partnership with a local supplier. That studio subsequently became the model for the approach used by the PCI Foundation in creating precast/prestressed concrete–focused educational programs at 11 schools and universities around the United States.

The PCI Foundation provides grants for educational and research initiatives focused on state-of-the-art and innovative approaches to the integrated use of precast concrete design, fabrication, and construction.

#### Apply now for Jenny Research Fellowship

Several \$35,000 awards for the 2016–2017 academic year will be offered under the Daniel P. Jenny Fellowship program. These fellowships are intended primarily to support candidates in their master's degree—level research related to precast/prestressed concrete. Doctoral candidates will also be considered. Details of the program and the application requirements can be found at http://www.pci.org/design\_resources/research\_and\_development/daniel p jenny research fellowship program/

There are two changes in the fellowship program for 2016. The first is that at least one fellowship will be awarded to a student with an untenured advising professor if such an application is submitted on a relevant topic and is of good quality. Guidance for submittal ideas can be obtained from Richard Miller at richard.miller@uc.edu.

The second change is that the PCI Foundation will award one \$4000 graduate scholarship in memory of Alan Mattock. The student will be selected from the group of fellowship awardees to enhance the benefit provided with the fellowship. Students interested in this award must provide additional information in the fellowship application solicitation.

Candidates are invited to submit one or more applications for these fellowships. If part of a larger research program, the work to be covered by the PCI fellowship must be clearly delineated. The PCI fellowship cannot be contingent upon the subsequent approval of funding for related research.

The proposal submittal should include the following information:

- 1. Title page with the names of the university and the research team, including all contact information and signatures of the advising professor and department chair.
- 2. Description of the proposed research program (three pages maximum).
- 3. Time and cost schedule, including any additional support.
- 4. Brief resume of the faculty advisor (two pages maximum).
- 5. A minimum of a brief statement by student candidate describing personal objectives and interest in the subject of the proposed research (one page maximum). Additional submittal requirements are described in the fellowship application solicitation if the student is interested in competing for the Alan Mattock Graduate Scholarship.
- 6. Evidence of precast concrete industry support.

Please note the weighting of the five evaluation criteria. Of significance is the relevancy of the proposed research to improving the state of the art of precast/prestressed concrete design and/or construction. In parallel is the potential for market impact as a result of the research. Innovative ideas are viewed especially positively.

Please note the supplemental support criterion. The intent is that the proposer will solicit support from one or more PCI precast concrete producer members. Although this consideration is not weighted the highest, final award deliberations will be significantly influenced by it.

If any assistance is required in locating a potential industry partner, please contact Roger Becker at rbecker@pci.org.

A list of research topics of interest to the industry are found under List of Research Needs on the PCI website. This list is provided only for guidance on topics, and proposals need not be limited to these topics.

Proposals are due at PCI headquarters no later than February 1, 2016. The PCI Research and Development Council will meet in early March 2016 to decide on the awards. Results will be available by March 31, 2016. Please submit proposals electronically to Roger Becker, managing director of research and development, at rbecker@pci.org.

### Lorenz rejoins PCI staff



**Emily Lorenz** 

Emily Lorenz rejoined PCI on November 1, 2015, as a part-time employee. In this role, Lorenz will serve as editor-in-chief of PCI Journal; associate editor of Aspire, the concrete bridge magazine; and as the manager of PCI's sustainability activities. Lorenz previously served in

these capacities at PCI from 2005 to 2010.

In the interim, Lorenz was an engineer at CTLGroup in Skokie, Ill., and managed a successful sustainability consulting firm. She is a graduate of Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Mich., with a BS and MS in structural engineering and is a registered professional engineer in Illinois and Michigan.

## Harris donates raffle win back to PCI Foundation



Carl Harris, left, president and general manager of Carl Harris Co. Inc., and Jim Voss, past PCI Foundation treasurer and president of JVI Inc., give a thumbs up at the PCI Fall Committee Days and Membership Conference in Louisville, Ky. Harris won the PCI Foundation split-the-pot raffle, which raised \$2680. He donated his winnings back to the foundation. Courtesy of Marty McIntyre, PCI Foundation.

During the PCI Fall Committee Days and Membership Conference in Louisville, Ky., the PCI Foundation conducted a split-the-pot raffle. The program raised \$2680, which was to be split between the winner and the PCI Foundation. When Carl Harris's winning ticket was called during the luncheon, he came on stage only long enough to give back the winnings as a donation to the PCI Foundation. Harris is the president and general manager of Carl Harris Co. Inc. in Wichita, Kan. He has been chairman of the Erectors Certification Committee since 2011 and the cochair of the Erectors Committee.

# Site-specific stability plan information being enhanced

The PCI Erectors Committee is working to augment and enhance the site-specific stability plan information in PCI's *Erector's Manual: Standards and Guidelines for the Erection of Precast Concrete Products.* The more-detailed information will provide erectors better direction on the collaborative effort necessary among the precaster, specialty engineer, precast concrete erector, and general contractor to put together a comprehensive project stability plan to avoid collapses and unstable project conditions.

## Basic mixture design training program in the works

The QA 2020 Vision Committee is developing a training program to inform employees who have only a very basic understanding of concrete to create a concrete mixture design that meets their company's needs. It is important for PCI member plants to have personnel who understanding basic concrete mixture proportioning and materials science. The general consensus is that the need to develop this skill set among the personnel of member plants is growing.

This course is specific to the needs of the precast/prestressed concrete industry, and the learning objectives include the following:

- selecting raw materials suitable for a specific application
- completing the mathematics to proportion a basic mixture design
- designing both structural and architectural mixtures
- evaluating a mixture using statistical analysis
- troubleshooting self-consolidating concrete (SCC) mixtures

Plans are to divide the program into Materials 1, Proportioning, Durability, Materials 2, SCC, Architectural, Troubleshooting, and Statistics. The training program is going through the steps to meet PCI standards. *PCI Update* will provide more details as the program is developed.

### PCI commissions architect market research

PCI recently commissioned two new customer research projects to help the precast/prestressed concrete industry better understand architects and their decision drivers, needs, wants, and methods of obtaining information. The research includes an architect and specifier preferences for advertising and promotional media study, which is being conducted by the Architectural Research Associates. The other research is in the form of architect focus groups to learn more about their material selection process, necessary resources, challenges, and attitudes toward various materials, including wood construction. Both studies will be completed by the end of the year.

### 2015 Educator Awards go to El-Safty, Naito



Adel El-Safty



Clay Naito

Clay Naito, associate professor of structural engineering at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa., was named PCI's Distinguished Educator for 2015. Adel El-Safty, professor of civil and environmental engineering at University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Fla., was chosen PCI's Educator of the Year. The awards were presented during the Fall 2015 PCI Committee Days and Membership Conference in October.

The Distinguished Educator Award was developed by PCI's Student Education Committee and recognizes distinguished engineering,

architecture, and/or construction technology educators who have made significant and sustained educational contributions to the precast/prestressed concrete industry. Naito has been teaching at Lehigh University for more than 13 years. He received his PhD and master of science degrees in civil engineering from the University of California, Berkeley after completing his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Naito is the associate chair of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Lehigh University.

Naito has been a strong contributor to PCI since joining in 2003, serving on PCI's Technical Activities Council and holding officer positions on PCI's Blast Resistance and Structural Integrity Committee and a special Strand Bond Task Force. He served on the Blue Ribbon review committee for the seventh edition of the *PCI Design Handbook: Precast and Prestressed Concrete* and is a member of the eighth edition Industry Handbook Committee.

Naito has made a profound industry impact in the area of blast and progressive collapse. His work on blast research, in conjunction with the Air Force Research Laboratory, was cited by numerous supporters of his nomination for the Distinguished Educator Award as work that "will advance the use of precast/prestressed concrete." The research looked at concrete wall construction in the United States and tested precast concrete panels under both static and dynamic loads. This research is summarized in https://vimeo.com/90544718.

In the classroom, Naito has taught the design of precast/prestressed concrete structures at Lehigh University since 2007 and has advised student teams participating in the PCI Big Beam Competition since 2008. His commitment to his students, which he teaches and mentors in precast/prestressed concrete studies, to PCI, and to the precast concrete structures industry make Naito the ideal recipient of PCI's 2015 Distinguished Educator Award.

The Educator of the Year Award recognizes engineering, architecture, and/or construction technology educators who have made significant contributions to the precast/prestressed concrete industry in their early careers in academia. El-Safty has been a member of PCI since 2011. He received his PhD in 1994 from North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

During his tenure at University of North Florida, El-Safty was instrumental in developing courses focused on precast/prestressed concrete for the first time. He included prestressed topics in courses on reinforced concrete design, bridge engineering, and advanced mechanics of materials. In addition, he developed a course titled CES6715-Prestressed Concrete, which is specifically focused on prestressed concrete.

The PCI Foundation has also recognized the efforts of El-Safty by supporting his development of a precast/prestressed engineering design studio at the University of North Florida. He advises students participating in the PCI Big Beam Competition and mentors many more, working with graduate and undergraduate students on various concrete research projects. The local PCI region in Florida wholeheartedly supported El-Safty's nomination, listing "his classroom teaching style, his interactions with his students, [and] his motivation to expand precast engineering" as clear examples of his being deserving of the award this year.

# Erection Accident Task Group formed

An Erection Accident Task Group has been formed as part of the PCI Business Performance Committee. The group is reviewing accidents on precast concrete projects to uncover their causes. The goal is to ensure that common problem areas are adequately addressed in the Erection Safety for Precast and Prestressed Concrete and the Erector's Manual: Standards and Guidelines for the Erection of Precast Concrete Products. The task group intends to provide erectors with advisory notices based on accident findings.

Greg Gibbons is chair of the task group, and Roger Becker is the PCI staff liaison. The task group wishes to allow the industry access to lessons learned by having erectors submit accident information and note the cause of the incidents, when possible. The goal is also to show the general community of erectors what to look out for, what can cause an accident, and how to identify additional training that could help to prevent similar accidents. Information collected will be kept confidential.

## CPCI announces recipient of John Fowler Award of Distinction



JVI president Jim Voss, right, holds his 2014 John Fowler Award of Distinction from the Canadian Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute next to Don Little of PSI. The award was presented at the CPCI Fall Annual General Meeting. Courtesy of CPCI.

The Canadian Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (CPCI) gave Jim Voss, president of JVI Inc., the 2014 CPCI John Fowler Award of Distinction.

The John Fowler Award of Distinction was created to recognize, honor, and celebrate any individual or company that has made a significant contribution or has accomplished an outstanding achievement benefiting CPCI and its industry. The award is in honor of the significant contribution and achievement made by John Fowler during his career as president of CPCI.

Voss established JVI in 1981 to develop, design, fabricate, and sell various connection hardware used in the precast/prestressed concrete industry. Under his leadership, JVI has grown and become a respected and integral part of the construction industry. Voss became deeply involved in PCI activities from the inception of JVI, volunteering for many committees, including the Connections, Marketing, and Membership Committees and the board of directors. Voss was named a Fellow of PCI in 1995 and a Titan in 2004. In 2001, he created the PCI Foundation.

The CPCI John Fowler Award of Distinction is bestowed annually at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the year following the nomination of the award winner. This year, the awards were presented during the CPCI Fall AGM held October 6–8, 2015, in Windsor, ON, Canada.

-Source: CPCI

### PCI GETS NEW AUTOMATED ATTENDANT FOR PHONES

PCI is getting an automated attendant for its phone system.

Soon, an automated system will allow callers to immediately dial any employee's direct extension. One touch of a button will take the caller to a dial-by-name directory.

This change, approved by the PCI Executive Committee at the meeting held in conjunction with the PCI Fall Committee Days and Membership Conference, is intended to make communication easier. At any time, callers may simply press "0" to reach a live receptionist.

Please contact Alex Morales at amorales@pci.org with any comments, questions, or concerns.

# PCI Foundation holds first BBQ competition



Mark Ledkins, right, vice president of Operations at Gate Precast, Ala., presented the Wing Sauce Competition trophies for judges' favorite and most unique sauce to Otis Williams during the company's first PCI Foundation Barbecue fundraiser on September 2, 2015. Courtesy of Gate Precast.

This year, the PCI Foundation kicked off its first barbecue competition. All told, more than 2800 people took part in 13 events sponsored by 8 companies. About 2473 lb (1125 kg) of meat were grilled—sometimes at great personal sacrifice from the cooks who stayed up all night to ensure a well-smoked treat or from those who braved torrential rains to ensure that guests at the barbecue attendees would be well fed and satisfied

"Everyone at the PCI Foundation was pleased to see plants in our industry really put forth a great effort at all the events," says event chairman Dean Gwin. "I hope that the fun that was had this year inspires more companies to participate next year. It is a great way to celebrate your employees and customers while supporting the future of our industry."

The first-ever program of its kind was sponsored by Endicott Thin Brick. Many companies sponsoring a barbecue paired it with another special event. For Molin Concrete, it was the opening of its new wall panel plant in Ramsey, Minn. They broke the celebration into two events.

"On Friday, September 11, we held our first open house for all employees to come and tour the plant," says John Saccoman of Molin. "Door prizes and a barbecue lunch were enjoyed by 265 employees and family members on this day. On September 24th, we opened our doors to 436 attendees, including architects, engineers, owners, city officials, developers, and vendors. Plant tours ran every 7 minutes, where participants were guided on a 30-minute walk through the fully operation wall panel plant." Every Molin employee took part in the event.

Gage Brothers in Sioux Falls, S.Dak., celebrated the company's 100th anniversary cowboy style by inviting workers, suppliers, customers, and local VIPs to join in the celebration, raising \$20,000 for the PCI Foundation. To reflect the company's work, Gage Brothers had a cake made in the shape of the Minneapolis Convention Center, an iconic project for the company. Activities included a photo booth, rope toss, carnival games, and a silent auction.

Gate Precast used the PCI Foundation barbecue as an opportunity to celebrate camaraderic throughout its plants. Each of Gate's plants hosted a barbecue that helped raise more than \$24,000 for the PCI Foundation. The events were as varied as the cities that hosted them. In Monroeville, Ala., the guests could guess the mystery meat or vote on the best meat rub. In Pearland, Tex., the employees had a chance to compete for most dunks in a company-sponsored dunk tank. And in Winchester, Ky., the guests participated in a 50/50 raffle and a bow-shooting contest. At the Kissimmee, Fla., plant an extra day of vacation was raffled off.

For other participants, the day was about celebrating the employees' accomplishments as well as the PCI Foundation. Kerkstra Precast dedicated the day to safety and its employee safety records. Three teams of five took part in a safety equipment relay race, each employee putting on and taking off all of the safety equipment as quickly as possible.

In Nebraska, Enterprise Precast organized a tailgate at a Cornhuskers game attended by all three precasters in the state, Enterprise, Coreslab (Omaha), and Concrete Industries, along with architects, engineers, and family members.

All companies sponsoring a barbecue and completing all components were eligible to take part in a drawing for a stainless-steel grill provided by Endicott. The recipient of the grand prize was Gate Precast's plant in Hillsboro, Tex.

Even the event with the most rain was deemed a success. "Under torrential rain conditions, Gate Precast's Oxford, N.C., pit masters were not deterred and began smoking 24 Boston butt roasts at midnight on September 25," says coordinator Chris Galde. "For the next 10 hours, the pork cooked slowly under low heat and was finished cooking at 10 am." "The barbecue was a success despite the monsoon rains that continued for another 11 days after our barbecue event. We hope to make this an annual event."

Following are the winners of the various categories:

 Most meat grilled: 475 lb (216 kg) by Molin Concrete Products in Ramsey, Minn.



As part of the PCI Foundation 2015 Barbeque Competition and Gage Brothers' 100th Anniversary, Tom Kelley, left, presented a check to Jim Voss for the PCI Foundation. Courtesy of Rina Reynolds, SDSU Foundation.



Enterprise Precast organized a tailgate at a University of Nebraska Cornhuskers game attended by all three precasters in the state, Enterprise, Coreslab (Omaha), and Concrete Industries. Courtesy of Shawn Wentworth, Enterprise Precast.

- Best team-building event: the safety equipment race at Kerkstra Precast in Grandville, Mich.
- Most unique menu item: the Minneapolis Convention Center-shaped cake at Gage Brothers in Sioux Falls, S.Dak.
- Best employee attendance: 100% from all Molin Concrete Products plants
- Most attendees: 701 at Molin Concrete Products in Ramsey, Minn.
- Most money raised for PCI Foundation from single company's events: \$24,491 by Gate Precast Co.
- Most money raised for a single event: \$20,000 by Gage Brothers in Sioux Falls, S.Dak.
- Most unusual extra fundraiser: guess the mystery meat at Gate Precast in Monroeville, Ala.
- Best event photo: collage photo by Gate Precast in Winchester, Ky.
- Highest family and friends attendance: 75% of all employees included family at Gage Brothers

Plants taking part in the event included Gate Precast, Enterprise, Coreslab (Omaha), Concrete Industries, Molin Concrete Products, Gage Brothers, Kerkstra Precast, and Knife River Prestress.

Altogether, the program raised \$52,374 for the PCI Foundation to sponsor precast concrete education programs in schools of architecture, engineering and construction management. A photo gallery is on the PCI Foundation website at http://pci-foundation.org/index.cfm/BBQ.

Compiled by K. Michelle Burgess (mburgess@pci.org) and Jennifer Peters (jpeters@pci.org)

#### 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 Technical Activities Council Meeting San Diego, Calif.	January 29–31, 2016
2016 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference at the Precast Show Nashville, Tenn.	March 1–5, 2016
PCI Summer Conference Spokane, Wash.	June 9–12, 2016
2016 PCI Committee Days and Membership Conference Rosemont, III.	October 6–9, 2016
2017 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference at the Precast Show Cleveland, Ohio	February 28–March 4, 2017
2018 PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference at the Precast Show Denver, Colo.	February 22–24, 2018

### 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 director of Education and Information Systems, Alex Morales, at amorales@pci.org or (312) 360-3219. Registration forms are available at http://www.pci.org/schools.

Level I/II	December 7–9, 2015	Nashville, Tenn.
	February 1–3, 2016	Las Vegas, Nev.
Level III	December 9–12, 2015	Nashville, Tenn.
Certified Field Auditor	December 7–9, 2015	Nashville, Tenn.
	February 1–3, 2016	Las Vegas, Nev.
Certified Company Auditor	December 10, 2015	Nashville, Tenn.
	February 4, 2016	Las Vegas, Nev.