

FROM PCI HEADQUARTERS

PCI cosponsors September ICCX Asia event in Shanghai

PCI is partnering with *fib* (International Federation for Structural Concrete) for the premier of the International Concrete Conference and Exhibition (ICCX) Asia. ICCX Asia will be September 22 and 23, 2017, at the Marriott Shanghai Parkview Hotel in Shanghai, China.

The conference will begin with a presentation on the current status of the building industry and precast concrete construction methods in China and a lecture about building with precast concrete elements in Europe by the secretary general of *fib*, David Fernández-Ordóñez. Topics for the two-day event include tall buildings, seismic resistance, sustainability, energy efficiency, codes, design, and connections.

The trade exhibition will also take place as part of ICCX Asia. More information is available at iccx.org.

PCI seeking member volunteers for Consensus Standards Committee

PCI is seeking to broaden the membership base of its American National Standards Institute 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. In particular, PCI is interested in adding members from the producer, user, and general interest communities. More information is available at http://www.pci.org/About_PCI/Standards_Development/ or by email at standards@pci.org.

Architectural Certification Committee formed

PCI recently formed the Architectural Certification Committee. Scott Robinson is the chair for the new committee, which will operate under the Plant Certification Committee and Quality Activities Council. Anyone interested in applying for the committee should contact Jim Lewis, PCI's architectural services manager, at jlewis@pci.org.

RISD wraps up PCI Foundation grant, Precast Studio



Students from the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, R.I., visit Coreslab Structures (CONN) Inc. in Thomaston, Conn., as part of the Precast Studio there. Courtesy PCI Northeast.

Over the past four years, students from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) have had the opportunity to cast full-scale precast concrete panels and make connections with local industry partners. Although the formal Precast Studio program is finished, the school has planned to include precast concrete design into its curriculum and host a Precast Studio again in two years.

Students in the RISD program concentrated on making precast concrete elements and better understanding precast concrete design and construction. They worked closely with Rita Seraderian, executive director of PCI Northeast; Blakeslee Prestress in Branford, Conn.; and Coreslab Structures (CONN) Inc. in Thomaston, Conn.

"It's been wonderful to see the student make full-scale elements," says Brett Schneider, the assistant professor of architecture who led the Precast Studio. "That has been our goal from the very beginning: to get the student to cast things full size. They aren't just making drawings of things; they are making the things themselves."

Beyond what happened in the classroom, the relationships nurtured through the Precast Studio have benefited the students and professor alike. "We have made really good contacts, which has been valuable both in the education of our students but also connections for them knowing the industry," Schneider says. "The same thing is true professionally for me. Coreslab in particular really crosses over with some of the professional engineering work that I do, which on a fairly regular cycle is precast. Leon (Grant) and his team there are some of the best when it comes to architectural precast."

—Source: Marty McIntyre

Lorenz appointed to *Structure* magazine editorial board



Emily Lorenz

PCI's director of sustainability and publications, Emily Lorenz, was recently appointed to the editorial board of *Structure* magazine. As a member of the editorial board, Lorenz will solicit articles that fulfill the publication's mission to "engage, enlighten, and empower structural engineers by publishing interesting, informative, and inspirational content in

Structure magazine that is professionally relevant, technically reliable, and intellectually refreshing."

Supporting organizations of *Structure* include the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations, the American Society of Civil Engineers' Structural Engineering Institute, and the Council of American Structural Engineers. PCI members with potential articles for *Structure* should contact Lorenz at elorenz@pci.org.

PCI Journal launches online paper submission site

Authors and reviewers of *PCI Journal* papers will now use the submission site <https://mc04.manuscriptcentral.com/pcijournal> to streamline the publication process. PCI contracted with Clarivate, formerly Thompson-Reuters, to implement its ScholarOne Manuscripts online submission tool. *PCI Journal*'s unique site allows authors to upload papers and supporting materials to a central location. Reviewers receive assignments via email directly from the site and perform their reviews on the site as well.

The Clarivate system allows authors and reviewers to save one login for multiple associations that use the same online submission tool, such as the American Concrete Institute and ASTM International. Reminders can be automated, which will speed the peer-review process. All papers submitted to *PCI Journal* beginning August 1, 2017, will be through the online submission portal. Potential authors or reviewers should direct any questions to *PCI Journal* editor-in-chief Emily Lorenz at elorenz@pci.org.

Furlan named senior manager, membership and development



Jean Furlan

Jean Furlan has been promoted to senior manager of membership and development at PCI. Furlan started as sales and member development manager in February. In this new position, she will oversee all member services and member development activities and will handle oversight of the membership renewal process, membership inquiries, and

member services in general, as well as handling sales, sponsorships, and advertising.

Furlan will be tasked with increasing membership, especially in the associate member category; increasing opportunities for member engagement with PCI; and enhancing the benefits of PCI's Premier Partner program. She will also take on a liaison role with PCI's newly created Membership Council and its various committees.

Turner shifts to sales specialist

Trice Turner has been promoted from sales administrative assistant to sales specialist. In her new role, Turner will handle event sponsorships, ad sales, and identifying new and innovative ways to improve the benefits of the PCI Premier Partner program. She will work with staff liaisons to fulfill sponsorship requests of various committees and will work with all member categories to maximize their sponsorship/advertisement investments. Turner will be meeting new members and getting to know the needs of current members more fully.

Turner started at PCI in January 2016. "Her promotion is well deserved, as any associate member who has interacted with her will tell you," says Alex Morales, PCI's membership and education managing director.

PCI announces new standard

On June 16, 2017, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) announced an ANSI/PCI standard within its publication *Standards Action*. PCI has notified ANSI of the initiation and scope of activities expected to result in a new American National Standard (ANS). This new ANS will be PCI MNL-128, *Standard for Glass Fiber Reinforced Concrete Panels and Decorative Units*, fifth edition. For more information on the development of this new standard, contact Jim Lewis, PCI's architectural services manager, at jlewis@pci.org.

Georgia Tech gets four-year grant from PCI Foundation

In June, the PCI Foundation approved a four-year grant to the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta to run a new Precast Studio in the School of Architecture and the School of Engineering.

“Our mission is to provide students with the ability to mediate the design space between complexity and constraints in order to produce exciting buildings that can be built with an economy of means and positive societal impacts,” says Professor Tristan Al-Haddad, who will lead the program. “In order to achieve this, we focus on computational tools and machines in our teaching and research such that mature material systems, such as precast concrete, can continue to evolve, thus advancing our broader mission of excellence and stewardship in the AEC [architecture, engineering, and construction] industry.”

The program will run for two consecutive semesters each year starting in the fall of 2017. The first semester will be the Parametric Precast Architectural Design Studio, a jointly taught architectural design studio in the third year of the graduate program, with additional student participation from the master of science program in digital design and fabrication, which is a one-year postprofessional program.

Parametric Precast Concrete will be held in the spring semester and will be structured as a technical development, engineering, and prototyping workshop that advances and develops the best design from the fall studio. The spring semester workshop will be a collaboration with the civil engineering capstone course in which the engineering students partner directly with the architecture students to produce a full set of design calculations and details.

Peter Finsen, executive director and CEO of Georgia/Carolinas PCI, will be the lead industry partner working with the professors and students.

The goal of this proposal is to bring key organizations within the concrete industry together to collaboratively support a precast concrete research and development teaching lab at Georgia Tech to advance knowledge and practice in precast concrete design and construction.

—Source: Marty McIntyre

PCI announces new Mertz Bridge Research Fellowship

The PCI Research and Development Council, in collaboration with the PCI Transportation Activities Council, has established the Dennis R. Mertz Bridge Research Fellowship. This program will be similar to PCI's Daniel P. Jenny fellowship program, except that it will specifically focus on bridge research.

The Dennis R. Mertz Bridge Research Fellowship program is offering a \$35,000 award for the 2017–2018 academic year and is intended primarily to support master's degree-level research related to precast/prestressed concrete in bridge applications.

In particular, the fellowship is intended for research that improves the state of the art of precast/prestressed concrete bridge design, materials, and/or construction and has potential for market impact as a result of the research. The fellowship opportunity will be offered annually, and the first call for applications was issued in July 2017. Proposals will be evaluated at the fall PCI Committee Days and Membership Conference.

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 education manager, Sherrie Nauden, at snauden@pci.org or (312) 360-3215. Registration forms are available at <http://www.pci.org/schools>.

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| Level I | October 10–November 7, 2017 | Online |
| Level I/II | December 5–7, 2017 | Nashville, Tenn. |
| | January 22–24, 2018 | Las Vegas, Nev. |
| Level III | December 7–10, 2017 | Nashville, Tenn. |
| CFA | December 5–7, 2017 | Nashville, Tenn. |
| | January 22–24, 2018 | Las Vegas, Nev. |
| CCA | December 8, 2017 | Nashville, Tenn. |

USC looks toward the future of its PCI Foundation program

The PCI Foundation has been supporting research and education in the School of Architecture at the University of Southern California (USC) for several years. A goal of the PCI Foundation sponsorship program is to provide the initial resources to grow a lasting and long-term program. As the formal part of the program comes to an end, the question becomes, What happens next? What was the impact of the PCI Foundation program, what is its current impact, and what will its impact be in the future?

In the past, USC has run annual precast concrete architectural design studios for fourth-year students in the bachelor of architecture program. The studios emphasized the strengths of precast concrete as part of high-thermal-mass architecture for the extreme climate of Joshua Tree National Park in California. Students learned how to use the large daily temperature swings with high-mass precast concrete to create comfortable interior conditions without the use of mechanical systems. Students also learned about the advantages of off-site fabrication to reduce the construction site impact inside the park.

The past program included many other activities and developments. USC hosted precast concrete conferences, inviting architects to learn about precast concrete building envelopes. From these conferences, USC created publications about precast concrete case studies. USC also integrated precast concrete into its second-year Materials and Methods course. Some PCI Foundation funds were used to support prizes for jury-selected projects at the end of each year. This year, the studio students participated in a hands-on precast



PCI West partners with University of Southern California (USC) professors to provide students with feedback on their precast concrete projects. Courtesy Doug Noble of USC.

concrete day at Clark Pacific and physically constructed two facade panels. One of the panels will become part of a research program this fall semester at USC.

As part of the studio, USC students also received educational seminars from Doug Mooradian, who recently retired as executive director of PCI West. The program is looking forward to the same kind of engagement with Ruth Lehmann as she embarks on her new role at the helm of PCI West.

The studio will continue indefinitely and includes plans to work with Clark Pacific on a full-scale building envelope as a demonstration project at Joshua Tree National Park. In fact, this summer USC will complete the construction of the USC University Village, a collection of seven mixed-use residential colleges constructed with precast concrete envelopes.

Doug Noble and Karen Kensek will attend the PCI Convention in 2018 to report on our work, and hope to continue to report annually.

—Source: Doug Noble

55TH ANNUAL 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 project today.

PCI's 2018 Design Awards submission site is open. Visit http://www.pci.org/About_PCI/Awards/PCI_Design_Awards/ 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 special awards categories: the Harry H. Edwards Industry Advancement Award, the All-Precast Concrete Solution Award, the Sustainable Design Award, and the Building Information Modeling (BIM) Award.

September 18, 2017, is the submission deadline, and winners will be announced in December.

All winning projects will be showcased in February 2018 at the PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference at The Precast Show in Denver, Colo., and will be included in a supplement to *PCI Journal* and *Aspire* and in articles in *Ascent*.

For more information, contact Becky King, PCI's marketing assistant, at (312) 360-3201 or bking@pci.org or Brenda Banks, PCI's communications manager, at (312) 428-4945 or bbanks@pci.org.

THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL PARTNER: CONTENT, MATERIALS, AND INVESTMENT



Marty McIntyre
PCI Foundation
Executive Director

The real success of PCI Foundation proposals comes from the partnership forged between the school and the local producers. The local partner—usually a PCI producer or group of producers—not only provides in-kind support, such as plant or project tours; personnel to give engineering support; and various materials, but also helps ensure that the program meets local needs.

Gate Precast Co. has provided this investment for several programs at various schools, and it has been worthwhile for the foundation. When looking at proposals, in addition to ensuring that a program has great content and a supportive partner for the school, foundation trustees also consider investments made to the PCI Foundation from partners and associates in the geographic location. As a young organization still working to expand its nest egg while running and growing exciting industry programs, having a funding source for at least a portion of each grant that the PCI Foundation provides is vital to its long-term success.

Why do we need funding from local industry sources? The money has to come from somewhere. The PCI Foundation is funded solely through contributions from the precast/prestressed concrete industry. It does not receive funding from PCI, except some in-kind donations. While the PCI Foundation grows its savings to create an endowment, it does not have the ability to use interest from those savings for more than part of program costs. The foundation relies on donors to provide the funds for new programs.

A program's benefits to the industry are mainly local. Although not all architecture and engineering students stay in the area where they went to school after graduation, a majority do. That means former students will most likely be specifying projects close to the school they attended,

giving the greatest benefit to the local partners. In addition, Wells Concrete has had so much success that it has hired two graduates. After the start of the program at South Dakota State University, the new School of Architecture building was designed using precast concrete.

The grant is only a portion of the program. Although the bulk of the PCI Foundation's support for a school that it funds is the grant itself, the work that the PCI Foundation does go beyond simply sending a check to the school. The PCI Foundation provides education for the professors both as part of the PCI Foundation Professors Seminar and at the PCI Convention and National Bridge Conference every year. The foundation also works to create a collegial relationship among the professors, who often lend expertise to each other and support multiple programs. Students who attend the PCI Convention have a remarkable opportunity to see the world beyond their university campus and catch a glimpse of the precast concrete industry.

The PCI Foundation tracks students who finish the program and keeps contact through social media, continuing to reinforce what students learned in school and promote precast concrete design. The foundation is also working on creating an internship to complement the studios. By making the investment in your local school programs, you will watch graduates go on to design with precast concrete. These programs and their administration take dollars beyond to what is paid out in the grants.

The foundation has to take a long view to ensure that its programs will continue to grow. Each year, the PCI Foundation works to ensure that it does not have more money going out for programs than it has coming in. The goal of the PCI Foundation is to grow and eventually ensure that every architecture, engineering, and construction management student receives a thoughtful and useful education in designing and building with precast concrete.