

Chapter Reports

ACI Establishes First Interest Group

The ACI Chapter Activities Department welcomed its first “Interest Group,” the Cuba Interest Group. It is led by ACI member Hugo Rivas.

“Our aim is to be knowledgeable on the latest standards for steel- and fiber-reinforced polymer concrete structures,” said Rivas. “ACI publishes information of great technical importance, and this will provide us a variety of benefits; one of which is to provide the exchange of experience and publications with professionals within ACI Chapters in Latin America and the United States. Cuban professionals within the concrete industry will be able to seek self-improvement education and scholarships. We also look forward to participating in the numerous courses, conferences, and technical events offered by ACI throughout the year and hope to one day hold similar offerings in Cuba.”

An interest group is a new classification without the formal requirements of a chapter. It is an informal association of concrete professionals who want to periodically gather to discuss and learn more about concrete technology but cannot obtain the minimum threshold to be a chapter.

“We realize that not all geographical areas are represented by a chapter presence,” said John Conn, ACI Director of Chapter Activities. “Yet, in those areas, groups of individuals wish to engage with ACI but are unable to fulfill the requirements of a chapter. In response to this, an ACI task group determined ‘Interest Groups’ to be a solution. This is a great option for a group of individuals who wish to maintain affiliation with ACI but aren’t currently able to meet chapter requirements.”

To be eligible for an ACI Interest Group, one of the two requirements must be met:

- Option 1—the Interest Group shall supply the name of one ACI member in the local area and three individuals in the area who can demonstrate an interest in concrete design, construction, production, and testing. All three individuals must be from different companies and shall represent at least two different concrete industries from the selection of academia, engineering, construction, testing, concrete production, concrete management, architecture, or any other distinct category.
- Option 2—the Interest Group shall supply the name of five individuals in the area who can demonstrate an interest in concrete design, construction, production, and testing. All five individuals must be from a different company and shall represent at least three different concrete industries from the selection of academia, engineering, construction, testing, concrete production, concrete management, architecture, or any other distinct category.

To learn more about interest groups or receive an

application, contact Denesha Price, ACI Chapter Activities Coordinator, at denesha.price@concrete.org.

NCAWNV Chapter Welcomes ACI President Charles Nmai

The ACI Northern California and Western Nevada (NCAWNV) Chapter hosted Charles K. Nmai, ACI President (2022-2023), aboard the historic Delta King paddle wheeler moored in Old Town Sacramento, CA, USA, on January 10, 2023. The event was the annual joint meeting of the Structural Engineers Association of Central California (SEAOCC) and the ACI NCAWNV Chapter.

The Delta King provided a “destination” location for the event, which was attended in person by ACI NCAWNV Chapter and SEAOCC members, as well as virtual attendees that SEAOCC hosted via Zoom. The Delta King is located amid varied lodging and parking and is a convenient meeting location for the large geographic region that the ACI NCAWNV Chapter represents.

Following a dinner, Nmai presented, “The Quest for Low-Carbon Concrete: It’s a Collaborative Effort!” His unique background in academic research and his experience at Master Builders Solutions gives him an understanding of both sides of the challenges of carbon-neutral concrete. His presentation focused on the roles and options available to design professionals and concrete producers in the quest for sustainable concrete construction and carbon neutrality in the concrete industry by the target date of 2050. Initiatives being undertaken by ACI were also discussed.

After the presentation, Nmai addressed questions and engaged the audience to be forward-thinking in what our industry would be able to do in reducing carbon and increasing sustainability throughout the construction process.



Delta King docked in Sacramento, CA, USA

Mortar Competition

An ACI student chapter success story

The ACI Peru Chapter organized a self-consolidating mortar competition to be held in December 2022. After the announcement, the ACI Universidad Nacional de San Antonio Abad del Cusco (UNSAAC) Student Chapter immediately began work to participate in the competition, regardless of



ACI UNSAAC Student Chapter participants of the ACI Peru Chapter's Self-Consolidating Mortar Competition

which team members could travel to the competition.

The ACI UNSAAC Student Chapter spent numerous days in the soil laboratory “Geotest Peru,” with support from an engineer, Abelardo Abarca Ancori. Although the team had limited resources, the participants were determined to put forth their best efforts. The participants made their own mixer with kitchen utensils. However, in the end, they mixed by hand because the machine was not specialized to work with mortar.

Once the experimentation phase was complete, it was decided which participants would travel to the competition: Alex Renato Duran Cusi, Zait Erik Huamanñahui Sequeiros, Jean Deyvis Sallo Ttito, Luis Fernando Garces Vargas, and Danitza Fiorela Morales Sallo. The group prepared in advance, including purchasing plane tickets months before the event. However, due to local conflict, strikes, and protests, all flights were cancelled. Due to the situation, the ACI Peru Chapter rescheduled the competition to January 2023.

The UNSAAC students were still determined to compete in the competition. They were able to reschedule their flights for the new dates of the competition. The students overcame many barriers to be able to travel. For example, one participant couldn't find transportation on the day of his flight, resulting in him walking to the airport to arrive just in time.

The participants arrived in Lima the afternoon prior to the competition. The next day they participated in the self-consolidating mortar competition and won first place. A team member reflected, “this, without a doubt, was one of our best experiences we have had as a team. It made us remember, once again, that nothing is impossible if you want it and work for it.”

Wisconsin Ready Mixed Concrete Association Recognizes Excellence in Concrete Design

The Wisconsin Ready Mixed Concrete Association (WRMCA) has recognized the winners for the 41st Annual Concrete Design Awards. The awards are part of a program that highlights the best uses of ready mixed concrete in Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula (UP). WRMCA, Acuity Insurance, Carew Concrete & Supply, County Materials, The Euclid Chemical Company, Oshkosh Corporation, Premiere Concrete Admixtures, Schmitz Ready Mix, Sika Corporation, and the ACI Wisconsin Chapter cosponsored the annual award program. Award winners were determined by a distinguished panel of Wisconsin/UP construction professionals.

The Concrete Design Award ceremony took place on March 2, 2023, at the Hilton Appleton Paper Valley, Appleton, WI, USA.

For the 41st Annual Concrete Design Awards, highlighted projects represented winners that included owners, architects, engineers, contractors, and ready mixed concrete producers. To view the full list of awardees, visit <https://wirmca.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/2022-Concrete-Design-Award-Winners-final.pdf>.

ACI Merchandise

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