News

ACI Opens Mid-Atlantic Resource Center

ACI opened a third Resource Center in Columbia, MD, USA, to serve Mid-Atlantic-based communities in the concrete industry. This new ACI Resource Center will help meet the increased demand for ACI knowledge through hands-on training, educational offerings, and on-demand access to ACI Certification Programs.

ACI Resource Centers offer a diverse array of custom training programs designed to communicate required skills and demonstrate test methods to achieve certification. The Mid-Atlantic Resource Center offers education programs on industry topics such as design, fundamentals, repair, and slabs, as well as custom training programs.

For the Mid-Atlantic Resource Center's upcoming events, visit **www.concrete.org/certification/resourcecenters/midatlanticresourcecenter/upcomingcertificationevents.aspx**.

ACI Mid-Atlantic Resource Center in Columbia, MD, USA

2023 Professors' Workshop

The 2023 Professors' Workshop was held in two parts in July; the first was a 2-day synchronous online event and the second was in-person at ACI World Headquarters in Farmington Hills, MI, USA. Faculty and industry representatives presented information and resources during the virtual session. At Headquarters, the participants were divided into groups and were assigned class activities such as the "mini-slump test for workability," "calculation worksheets in the classroom," and "full-scale detailing in the classroom." The focus was on inexpensive, yet accessible, activities that not only demonstrate basic principles but also go beyond demonstration by requiring the students to actively engage in problem solving, data analysis, and reporting during the activities.

The 2024 Professors' Workshop will be structured similarly to the 2023 workshop and will be held in late July of next year. Registration for the 2024 Professors' Workshop will open in early 2024.

Professors' Workshop attendees at ACI World Headquarters in Farmington Hills, MI, USA

The Masonry Society Seeks Executive Director

The Masonry Society (TMS) is seeking a new Executive Director to replace its current Director, who will retire in May 2024. Founded in 1977, TMS has grown and is seeking a leader to build upon that growth and continue to elevate the prominence of the Society. The Executive Director executes the organization's strategic plan and facilitates advancement of knowledge on masonry by working with TMS members and partners.

For a position description and information on how to apply, visit **https://masonrysociety.org/exec-dir**.

ACPA Workshop on Concrete for Airport Applications

The American Concrete Pavement Association (ACPA) will present a 3-day national event, "Best Practices in Airfield Paving Workshop" on October 24-26, 2023, to provide training for industry professionals involved in the design, construction, and maintenance of concrete pavements.

Held in Denver, CO, USA, the workshop will feature technical presentations by subject matter experts. Leading the discussions will be experts from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Transportation System Center, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Headquarters Office of Airport Safety and Standards, Air Force Civil Engineering Center, ACPA, and companies with direct involvement in the design and construction of FAA and Tri-Services projects.

Day one of the event will focus on pavement design guidance and preconstruction activities; day two will focus on

construction techniques, quality control, and specifications; and day three will focus on construction planning and sustainability.

ACPA's airport pavement training program features discussions about interpreting and applying airport concrete pavement specifications used by the FAA P-501 and Unified Facilities Guide Specification (UFGS) 32 13 14.13. This group discussion serves as a guide for interpreting, gaining a better understanding, and learning practical insights about the specifications. The workshop is intended for owners' representatives, design engineers, contractor personnel, and others with an interest in concrete pavement design, construction, and rehabilitation for airport applications.

Participants may earn up to 20 professional development hours for this training and technology transfer event. ACPA offers professional development hours with the assumption of their use in self-reporting states and provinces.

The cost of the 3-day workshop is 900 USD for members and government employees, and 1200 USD for nonmembers.

To register and for more information, visit **https://airportworkshop.acpa.org/#!event-register/2023/10/24/registration-acpa-airport-workshop**.

CIM Program Seeks Donations for 2024 Auction at WOC

The Concrete Industry Management (CIM) program—a business-intensive program that awards students with a 4-year BS in concrete industry management—is seeking donations for its 2024 CIM Auction to be held at World of Concrete. The auction is scheduled for January 24, 2024, at the Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas, NV, USA. The silent auction will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the live auction begins at 1 p.m.

Those interested in donating to the auction should contact CIM Auction Committee Chairman Ben Robuck at ben.robuck@cemex.com or +1.404.456.6867.

PTI Announces Staff Changes

The Post-Tensioning Institute (PTI) announced key staff changes that went into effect recently, reinforcing its commitment to excellence and growth within the organization.

ACI member **Tim Christle** has been appointed as PTI's Executive Vice President, and **Miguel Zuniga** assumed the role of Certification Program Manager.

Christle

Previously, Christle served as the PTI Director of Technical, Education and Promotion Programs. As Executive Vice President, he will lead the strategic growth of the institute's technical, certification, education, and promotion programs. He will represent PTI with an external focus on advancing the post-tensioning industry and reinforcing PTI as the leading post-tensioning resource.

Christle's 33-year career has always involved post-tensioning, with roles in structural engineering and management of national architectural/engineering firms, as well as extensive experience in business development and marketing. He is involved with several industry organizations. He holds NCEES certification and is a licensed professional engineer in five states. He received his BS in civil engineering (structural) from Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, USA, and remains supportive of the Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honor Society, where he once served as the Purdue Chapter President.

Zuniga

Joining PTI in 2021 as a Certification Engineer, Zuniga will transition into the position of Certification Program Manager. In this new role, he will manage and lead the PTI plant certification and field personnel certification programs with a focus on improving existing program elements and strategically expanding each program in response to post-tensioning industry needs.

Zuniga's career includes roles in project management and consulting, as well as extensive experience in detailing, estimating, and consulting within the post-tensioning industry. He has participated in the translation of PTI's published documents as well as their online e-courses. Zuniga received his BS in civil engineering, with an emphasis in structural design from California State University, Long Beach, CA, USA.

For more information about PTI services and programs, visit **www.post-tensioning.org**.

PCA Sustainability Summit

The Portland Cement Association (PCA) hosted a virtual Concrete Sustainability Summit from August 22-24, 2023, with updates on the Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality. The Summit featured presentations, panels, and case studies that focused on carbon reduction at the cement plant, lower-carbon cements, sustainable construction, and policy initiatives. The first day was a general session followed by presentations related to the topic of clinker. The second day featured sessions about concrete and cement. The final day was dedicated to construction, carbon uptake, and closing statements.

For more information, visit **www.cement.org/events/sustainability-summit**.

UIUC Center to Develop Autonomous Construction Systems, Ecosystem

The University of Illinois' Grainger College of Engineering will be the site of a new research and development center dedicated to autonomous construction technologies, with funding from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

With a fleet of self-driving vehicles, the center will focus on some of the most pressing questions related to autonomous construction technologies, including ones related to control systems, expert systems, artificial intelligence, gap crossing, and demolition; system architecture; and manufacturing technologies, such as additive manufacturing. Numerous vehicle types will be tested and developed, including traditional wheeled vehicles, skid-steers, and tracked vehicles.

The mission of the new Center for Autonomous Construction in Manufacturing at Scale (CACMS) will focus on translational research—turning emerging technologies and basic research efforts into real-world solutions that will be of value to the U.S. Army and the State of Illinois. CACMS will serve as a partnership resource for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineer Research and Development Center (USACE ERDC), enabling targeted interdisciplinary research using congressionally directed funding through Senator Dick Durbin's office.

Efforts to establish CACMS were supported at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) by the Department of Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering (ISE), Grainger Engineering, a Strategic Research Initiative grant, and the Discovery Partners Institute. The center will align its work with new research directions; provide training, conferences, and workshops; and promote partnerships among academia, industry, and government.

Celebrate the 11th Annual Careers in Construction Month with NCCER and Build Your Future

The 11th annual Careers in Construction Month (CICM) will be celebrated this October. Led by the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) and Build

Your Future (BYF), this month-long campaign aims to increase public awareness of construction careers and inspire the next generation of craft professionals.

There are numerous ways that construction companies and associations, secondary and postsecondary educational organizations, and other groups can participate in the celebrations and spread the word about careers in construction.

Residents of each state, including students, can submit a proclamation request to officially proclaim October as Careers in Construction Month. In 2022, 25 states and territories issued formal proclamations. Individuals or groups who help to get CICM proclaimed in their state will be entered into a prize drawing. To find out if your state has proclaimed and how to file a proclamation request, visit **https://byf.org/careers-in-construction-month/#article**.

Industry and education groups are encouraged to take the CICM Pledge, a commitment to create meaningful connections through classroom engagements. More than 130 organizations took the Pledge last year. All Pledge participants will be entered into a drawing for one of five 1000 USD scholarships to support secondary craft training programs.

The ninth annual I BUILT THIS! (IBT) video contest, sponsored by DEWALT and Pearson, offers construction students and trainees the chance to present their building projects. Three contestants—one each from the Secondary, Postsecondary, and People's Choice categories—will receive a prize package valued at more than 5000 USD. Video entries must be uploaded to YouTube, and entrants can also share their videos on Instagram and TikTok to be eligible for a bonus prize.

To participate in Careers in Construction Month, visit **https://byf.org/get-involved/careers-in-construction-month/**.

In Remembrance

Zia

ACI Honorary Member and Past President **Paul Zia** passed away on August 16, 2023, at the age of 97.

Zia was a Distinguished University Professor Emeritus at North Carolina State University (NCSU), Raleigh, NC, USA. He joined the NCSU civil engineering faculty as an Associate Professor in 1961 and was promoted to Professor in 1965. Zia served as Associate Department Head from 1967 to 1978 and as Department Head from 1979 to 1988. He was then appointed as Distinguished University Professor of Civil Engineering and returned to full-time teaching and research until his retirement in 1996. Since his retirement, he had been actively engaged in research with his colleagues on several major projects. For over 50 years, Zia was engaged in teaching, research, and consulting in many areas of concrete materials, reinforced and prestressed concrete structures, and construction. He advised more than 60 master's and doctoral students. He conducted sponsored research on many aspects of prestressed and reinforced concrete, including torsion and shear, bond and development length, loss of prestress, applications of high-performance and high-strength concrete, self-consolidating concrete, jointless bridge decks, and cracking in large prestressed concrete girders. His studies also included fatigue strength of cracked prestressed concrete girders, assessment of high-performance concrete bridges, development of a nondestructive test method for measuring air permeability of concrete, the use of self-consolidating concrete in highway structures, application of corrosion-resistant high-strength MMFX steel for concrete structures, and structural applications of new proprietary materials.

He served as Chair and/or member of many ACI Board of Direction committees and task groups. Zia was Chair of the ACI International Advisory Committee, Membership Committee, and Strategic Planning Committee; and a member of the Technical Activities Committee, Convention Committee, and Educational Activities Committee. He was also a member of ACI Committee 363, High-Strength Concrete; Joint ACI-ASCE Committees 423, Prestressed Concrete, and 445, Shear and Torsion; ACI Subcommittee 440-J, FRP Stay-in-Place Forms; and the ACI Foundation Concrete Research Council and Technology Transfer Advisory Group.

Zia served as ACI President in 1989-1990 and was named an Honorary Member in 1998. He was a recipient of the 1984 ACI Joe W. Kelly Award, 1992 Arthur J. Boase Award, 2014 Chester Paul Seiss Award for Excellence in Structural Research, and 2016 Charles S. Whitney Medal. In 1983, he was elected as a member of the National Academy of Engineering. He was a Distinguished Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and a Fellow, Titan, and Medal of Honor recipient of the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI).

His research interests included behavior and design of reinforced and prestressed concrete structures; and high-performance concrete, high-strength steel reinforcement, other innovative materials, and their application to structural concrete. A native of China, Zia received his BSCE from National Chiao-Tung University, Shanghai, China, in 1949; his MSCE from the University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA, in 1952; and his PhD from the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA, in 1960.