News

ACI Signs MOU, Hosts Workshop with AMIB

ACI in conjunction with the Moroccan Association of Concrete Industry (AMIB) hosted a workshop, "ACI Resources for Enhancing Quality Infrastructure," in Casablanca, Morocco, in May 2023. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was also signed that will lead to sustainable developments and new avenues for the local concrete industry.

This workshop provided an introduction on ACI and focused on key products and services developed and maintained by ACI volunteers and supported by ACI staff. Speakers shared their thoughts on how ACI products and services are recognized and used globally to help ensure safe, durable, and sustainable concrete projects.

To learn more about ACI's efforts in the Middle East, visit **www.concrete.org/middleeast**.

Registration for the ACI Concrete Convention – Fall 2023 is now Open

The ACI Concrete Convention – Fall 2023 will be held October 29 to November 2, 2023, in Boston, MA, USA. Engineers, contractors, educators, manufacturers, and material representatives will convene to collaborate on concrete codes, specifications, and practices. Technical and educational sessions will provide attendees with the latest research, case studies, best practices, and the opportunity to earn professional development hours (PDHs).

The convention schedule will include over 300 committee meetings, more than 60 technical sessions, an industry trade exhibition, and networking events. The committee meetings are open to all attendees. Select programming will also be available on-demand to attendees who choose to participate remotely.

Convention highlights include the Opening Session, ACI Excellence in Concrete Construction Awards Gala, ACI FRP Composites Student Competition, PRO: Advancing Productivity Day, Concrete Mixer, Student and Young Professional Networking Event, and President's Reception.

Registration is open online, and discounted rates are offered until October 27, 2023. To learn more about the ACI Concrete Convention and to register, visit **aciconvention.org**.

ACI Receives Continued Naming Support for Walter P. Moore, Jr. Faculty Achievement Award

ACI announced it received continued naming financial support for the Walter P. Moore, Jr. Faculty Achievement Award. This award recognizes new faculty members for excellence and innovation in the teaching of concrete design, materials, or construction. The award honors the late Walter P. Moore, Jr., ACI Fellow, former ACI Board of Direction member, and a structural engineer and educator in Texas. This award received continued naming financial support from Walter P Moore in 2023.

Continuing the naming financial support of this award strengthens ACI's Honors and Awards program, maintaining an important category of recognition to individuals in the industry who strive to provide expert knowledge and encouragement to a new generation of engineers, designers, and contractors.

For more information about the ACI Awards Program, visit **www.concrete.org/aboutaci/honorsandawards/awards**.

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo Named National ASCE Concrete Canoe Winner for Record Seventh Time

A team of students from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly SLO), CA, USA, won the 36th annual Concrete Canoe competition, which took place at the annual American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) Civil Engineering Student Championships. The school's team of engineering students and their canoe "Oceana" came out on top to win "America's Cup of Civil Engineering" for the second consecutive year after 3 days of competitions at University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Platteville, WI, USA. This is an ASCE-record seventh Concrete Canoe championship for the Cal Poly SLO team. The team also won the competition in 2022, 2018, 2017, 2012, 2011, and 2010.

This year's competition was the culmination of 20 regional events across the country that took place this spring and included three Society-wide competitions to showcase a wide array of civil engineering disciplines: the ASCE Concrete Canoe Competition, the ASCE Utility Engineering and Surveying Institute Surveying Competition, and the Sustainable Solutions Competition — Envisioning a New Downtown.

For ASCE's flagship competition, Concrete Canoe, teams are assessed in four areas of competition: a paper detailing the design and construction of the canoe, oral presentations about the planning and creation, the final product, and canoe races.

This year's winner of the Sustainable Solutions Competition – "Envisioning a New Downtown" is the Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, USA. This competition challenges students to develop a stronger understanding of sustainability and learn to incorporate sustainable solutions into everyday problems that engineers incur, such as homelessness. In this year's competition, the fictional "City of ASCE" wants to revitalize one downtown block of Engineer Street. Students were tasked with turning

the underused area into a gathering place for the community and reimagine the surrounding spaces to create a cohesive and walkable corridor.

This year's winner of the ASCE/UESI Surveying Competition is Purdue University Northwest, Hammond, IN, USA. The surveying competition was designed in recognition of the importance of basic surveying principles to all civil engineering projects. For the competition, students are required to use standard field and office equipment and procedures to solve common problems encountered in the industry and demonstrate a clear understanding of and ability to apply basic surveying principles on the jobsite and during the design process. The competition also includes a topographic mapping project and presentation.

For more information on the ASCE Civil Engineering Student Championships, including a list of all winners, visit **www.asce.org/communities/student-members/conferences/asce-civil-engineering-student-championships**.

22nd Annual Paul Zia Distinguished Lecture

The 22nd Annual Paul Zia Distinguished Lecture on the Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, NV, USA, will be presented on September 25, 2023, at 3 p.m. at the Stewart Theatre located in the Talley Student Union on North Carolina State University's (NC State) campus in Raleigh, NC, USA. An online interactive livestream will also be available. This annual lecture honors Professor Emeritus Paul Zia, former professor and department head for NC State's Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering and a structural engineer who is eminent in research, professional society leadership, and practice. Zia is also a Past President of ACI.

Presenters include Ellen Spangler, Senior Project Manager, Mortenson Construction, and Frank Freudenberger, Associate Principal – Structural, Arup. The speakers will present on various design and construction aspects of the 1.75 million ft^2 (163,000 m^2), 65,000-seat domed Allegiant Stadium—home to the National Football League's Las Vegas Raiders. The

stadium features one of the largest cable net roofing structures in North America, the first to be constructed in the United States.

For more information and to register, visit **https://zialecture.com**.

Proposed ASTM Standard Will Support Fiber-Reinforced Concrete

ASTM Committee C09, Concrete and Concrete Aggregates, is developing a proposed standard (WK73384) that will evaluate the tensile performance of fiber-reinforced concrete (FRC) using cylindrical specimens with double-punch loading.

The proposed standard contains "pre- and post-peak tensile properties (that) hold great significance in FRC and ultra-high-performance concrete (UHPC). These properties serve as the fundamental characteristics of FRC and UHPC, playing a vital role in determining the capacities and failure modes of structural members constructed from these materials," said ASTM International member Shih-Ho (Simon) Chao. He adds that FRC and UHPC provide an enhanced durability over conventional concrete, which "has the potential to encourage the adoption of these durable materials, thereby promoting sustainable development within society, particularly in terms of sustainable infrastructure."

This method is primarily based on the double-punch test (DPT). "The double-punch test, outlined in the proposed standard, uses a simple apparatus and procedure, providing a convenient method for obtaining these tensile properties. This test method is well-suited for routine testing purposes and exhibits low variability in its results," said Chao, a Professor of civil engineering at The University of Texas at Arlington.

All interested parties (specifically departments of transportation, government agencies, FRC suppliers, fiber manufacturers, and researchers) are invited to contribute to the development of the proposed standard.

This effort directly relates to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal #12 on responsible consumption and production.

ASTM International welcomes participation in the development of its standards. Become a member at **www.astm.org/JOIN**.

Early-Bird Registration Opens for the ICC's 2023 Annual Conference and Expo

Registration is now open for the International Code Council's (ICC's) Annual Conference and Expo to be held October 8-11, 2023, in St. Louis, MO, USA. The event offers educational sessions, networking events, speakers, and opportunities to volunteer in the local community.

The conference will provide attendees with the opportunity to expand their knowledge and expertise with events such as building tours and insight sessions where they can earn CEUs. This year's keynote speaker is Tamara Robertson, an accomplished engineer, Emmy-nominated producer, and star of the TV show "MythBusters."

Participants can take advantage of early-bird discounts by registering before August 31, 2023. Those who register early for the full conference will receive a complimentary conference polo shirt.

For more information, visit **www.iccsafe.org/conference**.

UN General Secretary Backs Cement and Concrete Leaders in United Rallying Call for Action on Net Zero

A call for "sustained and immediate" action on net zero came as 200 cement and concrete industry leaders gathered for a major international conference in Zurich, Switzerland. Cement and concrete are seen as vital to achieving United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals. Global Cement and Concrete Association (GCCA) is leading industry worldwide efforts to reach net zero through its 2050 Net Zero Roadmap.

The Secretary General of the UN, António Guterres, has issued a call to action, alongside the CEOs of major cement and concrete manufacturers, for the industry to redouble its efforts, and to work in partnership with governments, to reach net zero. The united rallying call has been made by the Chief Executive of the GCCA, Thomas Guillot, together with the leaders of GCCA member companies.

Addressing around 200 industry leaders from across the globe who gathered in Zurich, Guillot said: "We applaud all the action our members are taking to implement carbon-

cutting measures and the latest data shows emissions are coming down. But many challenges remain, which we must overcome, if we are to achieve net zero, including enabling polices and regulations from governments across the world, which often don't yet exist."

"So today, I urge every manufacturer across the world, who has not yet done so, to join our pledge to eliminate emissions by 2050. But I also implore all governments to work with our essential industry, to deliver the policy framework that can create the favorable conditions to unlock the transition."

And speaking via video to the conference, UN Secretary General Guterres supported the call for maximum action toward net zero, saying he wanted to see "concrete pledges from the concrete industry." He told the conference that concrete is "fundamental to building a better world…and we have no time to lose, if we are to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees centigrade [2.7°F]."

The UN Secretary General set out three goals for the industry, including ending the use of coal-fired power in cement production, working more closely with governments, especially G20 countries, to speed up decarbonization, and setting ambitious emission targets and transition plans, in line with UN guidelines.

In Remembrance

Ben E. Edwards III passed away on May 30, 2023, at the age of 87. He served in the concrete chemistry industry more than 50 years. Edwards worked in research labs in New York, NY, USA; San Antonio, TX, USA; and Chicago, IL, USA. He also served as faculty at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC, USA, and Appalachian State University, Boone, NC. Edwards was a member of ACI Committee 308, Curing Concrete. He received his degree in chemistry from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA, and his PhD in biochemistry from the University of Indiana Bloomington, Bloomington, IN, USA.