

Chapter Reports

ACI FIC-UANL Student Chapter Launches “Concretando y PLATICANDO” Series

Submitted by Rosa M. Soto Anzures, ACI FIC-UANL Student Chapter President

A challenge for ACI student chapters around the world is the recruitment and retention of student members. As a student chapter, one of the biggest tasks is to communicate with new members to expand concrete knowledge, in addition to developing the students’ skills and expertise.

For this reason, the ACI Facultad de Ingeniería Civil – Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León (FIC-UANL) Student Chapter decided to innovate its activities with “Concretando y PLATICANDO”—“Concreting and TALKING” in English—so experts can discuss new inventions and technologies for concrete, and student members can share their experiences.

The first 2-hour program on May 23, 2023, featured the student delegation that participated in the ACI Concrete Convention – Spring 2023 in San Francisco, CA, USA, and

Jesús González Pequeño, Research Engineer with Fortera Corporation. The students discussed their experiences about their journey to San Francisco and what they learned from their preparations and involvement in the ACI Student FRC Bowling Ball Competition, achieving the second-place award in prediction design. Pequeño spoke about Fortera, which is working with its customers to design a zero-carbon-dioxide (CO₂) cement production by upcycling carbon emissions directly from the kiln.

Approximately 30 students attended the event. After the talk ended, a trivia contest was held, and the winner who correctly answered four questions about Fortera received a Grade I Certification kit that included a bag, notebook, pen, and a water bottle.

Based on the success of the first edition, the student members requested a second edition, which was held on August 23, 2023. It was a remote learning event with Jennifer Canul Polanco of the Danish Technological Institute, who spoke about design alternatives and applied investigations in new materials for concrete.

This new learning model gives the Student Chapter an opportunity to explore an alternative way of transmitting and communicating topics related to concrete to inspire future engineers.

ACI IUBAT Student Chapter Seminar on Building Codes

The ACI International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) Student Chapter, in association with the IUBAT Department of Civil Engineering, Dhaka, Bangladesh, organized a seminar on “ACI and Bangladesh National Building Code (BNBC): A Guide to Safe and Sustainable Construction,” held on June 14, 2023. The goal of the program was to introduce the audience to both the ACI and the Bangladesh National Building Code, their objectives, and their significance in the construction industry. Md.



Trivia contest winner Alejandra Villarreal (center), with Rosa M. Soto Anzures, ACI FIC-UANL Student Chapter President, and Jesús González Pequeño, Fortera



Jesús González Pequeño, Research Engineer, Fortera, addressing the ACI FIC-UANL Student Chapter



Attendees at ACI IUBAT Student Chapter seminar

Monirul Islam, Dean of the College of Engineering and Technology and Professor and Chair of the Department of Civil Engineering, IUBAT, was the seminar speaker.

Islam discussed the specific code requirements outlined by ACI and the BNBC, highlighting provisions for materials, design, construction, quality control, and safety standards, including how to ensure the safety of workers and occupants of buildings. He elaborated on the fundamental principles of structural design, such as load calculations and foundation design, as well as how ACI and the BNBC incorporate sustainability into construction guidelines through energy efficiency, green building materials, and waste reduction. He discussed the importance of designing concrete mixtures that meet ACI and BNBC standards for strength requirements and durability.

Islam also explained seismic design principles and retrofitting techniques to make structures more earthquake-resistant. He concluded with case studies and examples to provide practical insights into how ACI and BNBC codes are applied in actual construction projects. At the end of the seminar, there was an interactive Q&A session for the participants.

The seminar was moderated by Ahosun Habib Santo, President of the Second Executive Committee, ACI IUBAT Student Chapter. About 300 students, along with Department of Civil Engineering faculty, attended.

Ecole Hassania des Travaux Publics Hosts Interest Meeting for Students

An informational meeting to invite students to become members of ACI was held at Ecole Hassania des Travaux Publics in Casablanca, Morocco. The event was sponsored by the ACI Morocco Interest Group led by Idrissi Hassani



Information meeting at Ecole Hassania des Travaux Publics in Casablanca, Morocco

Mohamed, who is also President of the ACI Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware Chapter. Approximately 75 students attended the meeting to learn about the benefits of free ACI membership, including access to 200-plus guides, reports, and TechNotes; ACI 318 PLUS; student competitions; and scholarships and fellowships. ACI currently has six student chapters in northern Africa, including four in Egypt, one in Ghana, and one in Morocco.

Events at Université de Sherbrooke

The ACI Université de Sherbrooke Student Chapter recently held a social gathering that welcomed new members and also showcased the Chapter's upcoming, engaging events. To foster a sense of community, undergraduates, master's and doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, and faculty members participated in activities such as soccer, pétanque, and frisbee.

Another initiative of the ACI Université de Sherbrooke Student Chapter is the "Your Project in Just 3 Minutes" competition. Master's and doctoral students participated, showcasing their research projects. Winners were evaluated by expert judges in the field of concrete technology, taking into account criteria such as the project's relevance to concrete needs, integration of sustainable development, quality, originality, and the overall scope of the project.



ACI Université de Sherbrooke Student Chapter held a fun-filled event that included a soccer game



Showcasing academic excellence in the "Your Project in Just 3 Minutes" competition