The summer of 2010 was hot and dry, and the construction of three new 7-story residence halls crackled. Erection of over 110,000 sq. ft. of 8" Elematic hollow core plank was completed in only 3 months, July through September. Preston Richardson, Principal with PRA Architects PC, Cambridge, MA said that speed of construction with this system is only one of many benefits they depend on; minimum floor-to-floor heights, sound deadening, and fire ratings are equally important. Paul Becker of Becker Structural Engineers said the same, that speed, fire rating, and durability make the hollow core system a great option for dormitory/residence construction.

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Framingham State College  *(continued from page 1)*

Project credits: Architects – Pfeuffer Richardson Architects PC (PRA), Cambridge, MA and Einhorn Yaffee Prescott, Boston, MA; Structural Engineer – Becker Structural Engineers, Portland, ME; General Contractor – Consigli Construction, Milford, MA; Pre-caster – Oldcastle Building Systems, Selkirk, NY. Thanks to David Wan, P.E., LEED AP, Oldcastle Building Systems, Selkirk, NY for contributing this article.

Hollow Core Plank Load Transfer Deck Offers Fire Rating, Sound Deadening, Simplicity, and Speed

Ellsworth Commons in Malta, NY is a new apartment complex to serve the fast growing Saratoga County area benefitting from the Luther Forest Technology Park development. Built above the first level parking area, 12” precast hollow core plank with 2” composite concrete topping provides the long span structural support for the 4 story wood structure above. This has long been a popular use of precast, as it is less expensive than a CIP post-tensioned deck.

Erection and grouting of both buildings, done in August 2010, took about 3 1/2 weeks. There were about 55,700 sf of 12” plank involved, and 2,400 sf of 8” plank on miscellaneous areas. Thanks to David Wan, P.E., LEED AP, Oldcastle Building Systems, Selkirk, NY for contributing this article.

PCANY Meetings

**February 9, 2011** – morning: Septic Tank Producers Group; afternoon: PCANY Annual Meeting; at AGC Headquarters, 10 Airline Drive, Suite 203, Albany NY 12205 (if lost, call 518-456-1134, or get a new GPS).
Prestressed Hollowcore Floors are highly engineered structural products manufactured under factory controlled conditions.

**The top-15 advantages of the product are:**

- Reduced self-weight
- Provides versatility for designers
- Wide range of applications — suitable for the residential, healthcare, education, industrial and commercial markets
- Long spans without intermediate supports
- High-load capacity
- Efficient span/depth-ratio leading to reduced story heights
- Provision of a safe working platform
- Excellent fire resistance
- Excellent acoustic insulation and thermal properties
- Green product – reduced use of raw material
- Economical solution
- Reduction in number of site personnel
- High speed of erection
- Easily modified to enable heating and cooling of a building even without burning fossil fuels
- Easily modified to be highly efficient in distributing fresh and warm air, electrical wiring, plumbing and sprinkler services throughout a building

(the above taken from the website of the International Prestressed Hollowcore Association, IPHA)
Concrete vs. Cement: An Engineer’s Lament

“In every single day, the sloppy use of the terms ‘cement’ and ‘concrete’ aggravates the members of the construction industry, the largest in the nation,” writes civil engineer Robert Byrne. The best way for lay people to remember the difference between the two terms may be in the words of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, which pointed out in a ruling 50 years ago, “Cement is to concrete as flour is to fruitcake.”

{The Telegraph Herald, Dubuque, Iowa 12/13/2010}

In cold-weather regions, removal of excess snow and ice from parking structures is essential for functional performance, public safety, and long-term durability. PCI would like to remind_precast producers with parking-structure customers of the snow-removal guidelines found in PCI’s Maintenance Manual for Precast Parking Structures, section 2.2, which gives explicit details on snow and ice removal, including planning, proper equipment, chemical deicers, written procedures, and how-to instruction for snow-removal personnel. Producers looking to share this valuable information with their customers can find the section online as a free download at www pci.org/publications/parking, or contact PCANY for a copy.