Notes From The Director

Last year about this time I wrote about Congress’ inability to come up with a long term solution to our nation’s infrastructure. They put a $10.9 billion Band-Aid on the problem to keep the trust fund afloat until May 2015. A short term extension of that bill was approved in order to give lawmakers a little more time to craft a real solution. Well, it appears to be Déjà vu all over again as the August 2015 recess is fast approaching with no agreement in sight. Meanwhile our roads and bridges will continue to crumble and DOT’s will continue to deal with uncertainty.

The good news is that our members appear to be having a robust 2015 thanks to improvements in private sector development and institutional projects. We also benefit from an increasing emphasis on Accelerated Bridge Construction or what I believe will soon be called “Bridge Construction”.

Please call or visit our website if you are interested in becoming a Producer, Associate or Professional member of PCANY. All members are listed on our website directory and in our 2015 PCANY Buyer’s Guide.

Warmest Regards,

Ronald E. Thornton, P.E.
University of New Haven—Westside Hall

Submitted by David Wan, P.E., LEED AP of Oldcastle Precast, Inc.

When the University of New Haven unveiled its new 144,000 sq-ft residence facility in time for the Fall 2014 semester, little thought was given to the 1100 or so precast plank elements, 41 precast columns, 37 beams, 106 interior walls, and 284 insulated exterior walls that were used to construct this beautiful four-story building. Fortunately, an impressive team of architects, engineers, contractors, and fabricators put a great deal of thought into these components which resulted in the erection being completed in just five months.

As part of a growing trend in the precast industry, Oldcastle Precast created a partnership with J & R Slaw Precast of Lehighton, PA to cast the insulated wall panels. These panels were 11” thick including 5” interior wythe, 3” EPS insulation, and 3” exterior wythe with thin brick masonry finish.

The project was awarded in May of 2013 followed by shop drawing submission. Fabrication began in September with erection commencing in December. Despite the brutal winter of 2013-2014, erection was completed in April 2014.

Project Credits:
Owner: University of New Haven, CT
Architect: Design Collective, Inc. Baltimore, MD
Structural Engineer: Structural Design Group
Contractor: Consigli Construction, Pleasant Valley, NY
Precast Manufacturer: Oldcastle Precast, Selkirk, NY
Precast Consultant: DeVita & Associates, Inc.
NYSDOT D262260 I-190 over Buffalo Ave, Niagara Falls, NY

Submitted by Michael Kistner of Kistner Concrete Products.

This project included replacement of both the northbound and southbound bridges utilizing Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) technology in order to limit the shutdown of I-190 to just 72 hours per span. In order to accomplish this feat, 100’ steel beams with integral lightweight precast concrete deck were fabricated at a temporary “Precast Farm” set up approximately one quarter mile west of the project site.

In addition to the eleven 60 ton integral beams used to construct both bridges, the project also consisted of 16 precast approach slabs weighing approximately 20 tons each. Exterior slabs were cast with single-slope barrier attached as an additional time-saving feature.

This project illustrates a unique and successful coordination effort that brought the precast manufacturer closer to the job site in order to utilize their expertise while alleviating the burden of shipping very large beams to the precast plant then back to the jobsite with decks attached. Complete demolition of the existing bridges and erection of the new structures occurred within the 72 hour shutdown periods over two consecutive weekends with much of the work occurring at night.

Project Credits:
Owner/Engineer: NYSDOT
Contractor: Catco Construction, Alden, NY
Precast Manufacturer: Kistner Concrete Products, Lockport, NY
ACI-CNY to offer certification exams
ACI of Central New York will offer Field Testing Technician Grade 1 Course and Exam on 7/29-30 and Concrete Construction Special Inspector Exam on 7/30. For more information contact ACI (Flyer)

ACI-318-14 On-Line Course Available
“The American Concrete Institute has recently published the newest version of ACI 318 “Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete. This edition represents the first major change in the code in over 40 years and has been completely reorganized from a designers perspective”. (Registration)

ABCD-WNY Announces Fall Bridge Conference.
ABCD is currently seeking presenters for its 27th Annual Bridge Conference to be held at the Millennium Airport Hotel in Buffalo on Friday, November 13. (Information)

NPCA Annual Convention.
The National Precast Concrete Association‘s 50th Annual Convention will be held October 21-24, 2015 at the Marriott City Center in Minneapolis, MN. (Information)