Notes From The Director

I had the pleasure of exhibiting on behalf of PCANY at the Capital District Engineer’s Week celebration in Albany on February 25-26. With over 800 engineers in attendance, it was a great opportunity to meet many new people and talk about the accomplishments of our members. Perhaps the most impressive aspect of E-Week is the support it provides to local school programs such as Future City, MathCounts, Model Bridge Competition, and others. Three teams of 7th and 8th grade participants in the Future City competition proudly displayed their concepts for handling solid waste in an urban environment. These kids were talking about anaerobic digestion and the recycling of methane gasses with amazing competency and their visions for the future were completely unencumbered by the paradigms of fossils like me. Needless to say, it left me with a renewed sense of optimism for today’s youth.

The PCANY 2016 Buyer’s Guide is now available and can be viewed and downloaded from our website (PCANY Buyer Guide). Hard copies are also available and we will begin mailing them out soon. As always, please contact me with questions, comments, or suggestions.

Warmest Regards,

Ronald E. Thornton, P.E.
New Residence Hall—Central Connecticut State University

Submitted by David Wan, PE of Oldcastle Precast.

Construction of this new $82.3 million, 8-story, 220,000sf residence hall at CCSU in New Briton, CT was completed on schedule in 2015 due in large part to the use of precast building elements, including:

- 208,000sf—8” x 4’-0” Precast/Prestressed Hollow-Core Plank
- 2,000sf—10” x 4’-0” Precast/Prestressed Hollow-Core Plank
- 90pcs—Precast Stairs & Landings
- 8 pcs—Precast “L” Beams

Hollow-core plank (also known as hollow-core slabs or voided slabs) can be provided for clear spans of up to 60’ and are particularly suitable for both floor and roof deck systems. Hollow-core provides superior fire resistance, sound attenuation, and durability and also reduces overall building dead load compared to equivalent cast-in-place slabs.

Project Credits:
Developer: Central Connecticut State University
Contractor: Dimeo Construction
Architect/Engineer: The Slam Collaborative
Precast Manufacturer: Oldcastle Precast, Selkirk, NY
Macro Fibers Add Strength and Durability to Precast Products

Contributed by: Ed Pennypacker, Jepco Sales representative for Forta Corporation.

Synthetic fibers have long been used to control cracking, add toughness, and reduce the number of joints in concrete flatwork. However, macro fibers, such as Forta Ferro® by Forta Corporation of Grove City, PA are increasingly being used in lieu of conventional reinforcing in a number of precast products including septic tanks, manholes, catch basins, and sound walls.

Reinforcement is primarily used to resist tensile stresses induced from both external forces and those produced internally such as from temperature and shrinkage. Steel reinforcement must be placed accurately in order to be effective, which can be particularly challenging in thin wall products such as septic tanks. Fibers, on the other hand, are added to fresh concrete and fully disbursed throughout the mix, which means that the entire product is reinforced, not just where the steel is placed.

While current design codes such as ACI 318 have not yet developed a rational design methodology for the use of synthetic fibers as flexural reinforcing, ASTM standards for precast products do allow for designs based on proof-of-load testing. The products listed above, and others, have undergone extensive testing which has been the basis for approval on many projects.

Jepco Sales and Forta Corporation are Associate Members of PCANY (See Buyer’s Guide)
WNY Stormwater Conference & Trade Show.
PCANY will have a table-top display at this event at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center in Buffalo on April 5. Attendees will include contractors, engineers, municipal officials, and environmental & regulatory professionals. (Information)

ABCD Eastern New York Dinner Meeting
A presentation titled “Suspension Bridge Main Cable Investigations” will be the topic at the ABCD-ENY dinner meeting on Thursday March 24th at the Barnsider Restaurant in Albany. (Information)

FHWA Innovator Magazine
The latest issue from FHWA Center for Accelerating Innovation is available on-line and features an article on GRS-IBS technology. (www fhwa dot gov/hfl/innovator/e-version/issue_53/3dIssue/)

PCANY Spring 2016 Meetings Scheduled
The PCANY Membership Meeting and joint meeting with NYSDOT will be held Wednesday April 20. The morning membership session will be begin at 9AM at AGC Headquarters 10 Airline Dr. Albany. The joint DOT meeting will begin at 1:30PM at NYSDOT 50 Wolf Rd. Albany.

Precast Concrete Association of New York, Inc.
31 Riverview Ave.
Binghamton, New York 13904