

Scenes from Las Vegas

The ICRI 2007 Fall Convention

Each year, the fall convention is our opportunity to bring members up to date on committee activities, provide technical presentations that inspire and educate, and introduce the winners of our coveted annual awards. The ICRI 2007 Fall Convention, held November 7-9, 2007, at Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, once again provided a chance for the best and brightest to gather—and it set another record.

High above the Las Vegas Strip, on the 27th floor of Bally's, we began our convention in the traditional manner with the Welcome Reception on Wednesday evening. Throughout the day, attendees gathered to meet up with friends and browse through the offerings of the exhibitors.

Exhibitor support is crucial for the success of any ICRI convention, and we were thrilled with the participation at this event. Many industry professionals from all over the country thought so as well and dropped by many booths to see what was new and innovative in our industry.

Thursday morning we hit the floor running with our "Visit the Exhibits" Continental Breakfast. Almost immediately, the attendees were off to discover what the members of the Technical Activities Committee brought to the convention with our first set of technical sessions. Our theme this fall, "Architectural Repair & Repair in New Construction," allowed for a variety of interesting presentations from waterproofing and expansion joints to post-tensioning and seismic strengthening. With all the construction within view of the hotel,



Las Vegas was the perfect place to focus on the experiences, case studies, and demonstrations provided by the brightest repair minds in the industry.

Our administrative and technical committees met throughout the convention—much of what ICRI does as an industry association can be attributed to our committee efforts. These committees work hard to ensure that ICRI fulfills its mission to be the leading resource for education and information to improve the quality of repair, restoration, and protection of concrete and other structures. We continue to encourage all attendees to drop in on any committee meeting that suits their area of expertise; and many attendees took advantage of our hospitality, as our committees continue to grow in number and strength.

On Thursday, the Opening Luncheon and General Session was the perfect place to update everyone on ICRI activities. ICRI President Marty Sobelman and Executive Director Kelly Page both took to the dais and presented the membership with information on where the association is heading and how much progress we have made to date in many areas of concern to the membership. We also heard from special guest Tanya Komar from California State University-Chico, who gave members an update on the successful Construction Industry Management (CIM) program taking place at several universities throughout the country.

The Annual ICRI Awards Banquet is the most exciting element of our fall events. The occasion of our 15th banquet was particularly exciting as we hit yet another record! It was our most highly attended Awards Banquet to date, and we presented the largest number of awards to winners selected from the biggest pool of entries ever received in the history of our awards program. Before we honored the project winners, our emcee Mark Nelson, from Nelson Testing Laboratories, handed out the Chapter Awards for activities during the previous



The Exhibitor area showcased the products and services of 36 companies at the fall convention



Attendees gathered for the Opening Luncheon and General Session



Tanya Komars, from California State University-Chico, presented at the Opening Luncheon and General Session

year. The Georgia Chapter was honored with the prestigious Chapter of the Year Award.

Of course, the main event of the evening was the ICRI Project Awards. This banquet gave everyone in attendance the opportunity to honor the recipients and hear about their challenging work and exceptional achievements. We honored not only our 2007 Project of the Year winner but also presented nine Awards of Excellence and 15 Awards of Merit. Winners came from throughout the United States, Canada, South America, the Virgin Islands, and the UK for this special presentation. Special thanks and congratulations to the ICRI Project Award winners, and to all participants for their hard work and the high quality of entries we received.



At the Awards Banquet Reception (left to right), Fred Goodwin, Paul Abrahamson, and Randy Beard take a moment to catch up



Project of the Year honorees (left to right): Ralph Godfrey, R. Godfrey Consulting; Chris Ball, Vector Corrosion Technologies; Tore Arnensen, Vector Corrosion Technologies; Joe Carvolth, Mowat Construction; and David Whitmore, Vector Corrosion Technologies



Award of Excellence winners joining us from Ecuador were (left to right): Walter Mera, Carlos Burbano, and Fernando Fernandez



(Left to right) Ralph Jones, Richard McGuire, and Kirk Matchell accepting an Award of Excellence for Structural Engineering Associates, Kansas City, MO



Accepting their Chapter Award patch for the Florida West Coast Chapter are (from left to right) David Karins, Kevin Kisz, and Bud Earley

After the usual Friday morning committee meetings and technical sessions, those who chose to participate were whisked off to take a unique look at one of the area's most talked about structures: the Hoover Dam. In sharp contrast to the dazzling lights of the Strip, this is one attraction not to be missed.

Las Vegas provided a unique backdrop for another successful ICRI convention. We hope to see all of you at the ICRI 2008 Spring Convention in Daytona Beach Shores, FL, April 16-18, 2008. ICRI is set to mark its 20th Anniversary with a fantastic celebration and an expanded 3-day convention. Mark your calendars and plan to join us in April. If you've never been to an ICRI convention, the Spring 2008 event offers an exceptional opportunity to see what we are doing and to become a part of our unlimited future.



Fall convention attendees pause while enjoying the Hoover Dam Tour

Hoover Dam is impressive from any angle

