

SCENES FROM PITTSBURGH— THE ICRI 2010 FALL CONVENTION

BY DALE REGNIER

Each year, the ICRI Fall Convention provides attendees with a unique focus on important committee work, our industry's finest educational opportunities, excellent face-to-face networking, and an opportunity to celebrate the winners of our coveted annual project awards. The ICRI 2010 Fall Convention, held October 20-22, 2010, at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh, PA, once again proved that participation in ICRI is more important than ever.

The official start of any convention is the Welcome Reception. Attendees gathered on Wednesday evening, surrounded by a fine array of local and national exhibitors and meeting up with industry professionals from all over the world. Our local hosts, the Pittsburgh Chapter, managed to slip in a golf outing that morning for those who could not do without a tee time before face time with old friends and new contacts alike.



The weather could have been better, but ICRI golfers rarely miss an opportunity to get together out on the links



Hitting the Welcome Reception with open arms are (left to right) Mark DeStefano, Todd Allen, Jeff Lurges, Mark LeMay, and Mike Vennix



The theme of this convention, “Transportation Structures,” was appropriate in the “city of bridges” and allowed members of the Technical Activities Committee to recruit a wide variety of the finest concrete repair professionals the industry has to offer. They gave attendees a unique glimpse into what is going on in our industry. The nondestructive evaluation (NDE) of bridges, the unique problems presented by parking decks, and some common-sense advice about electrochemical corrosion mitigation are just a small sampling of the more than 16 presentations that provided some fascinating information and provoked remarkable discussions.



Getting ready for his presidency in 2011 is Don Ford (left) with Florida West Coast Chapter Leader David Karins (right)



Andrew Fulkerson (left) with Michele Nobel, Ingrid Magnani, and Bud Earley bring more smiles to the fall convention



Pittsburgh skyline

Much of what ICRI does as an industry association comes from the work of its technical and administrative committees. We broaden our reach and expand the industry by working together in these committees. Committee meeting attendance was exceptional at this convention, with many first-time attendees getting involved. Visit the Technical Committees page of the ICRI Web site to see a full list of committees, including a description of what they are working on right now. You do not have to wait for a convention to get involved.

The convention's General Session during lunch on Thursday included the official welcome by ICRI Executive Director Kelly Page, who greeted the crowd with a rundown of all the exciting things happening at ICRI. The keynote speaker at the luncheon was Lisa Cooper, Vice Chair of the American Coal Ash Association (ACAA), who updated our members on the implications of the new fly-ash regulations for the concrete repair industry and what ICRI members can do to make their voices heard on this very important issue.



Networking at the Sika Corporation booth are (left to right) Todd Spindler, Jim Baker, and John Kennedy



Lisa Cooper from ACAA discussed fly ash as the guest speaker at the Thursday Opening Luncheon



The banquet room at the Omni added a historical ambiance to the Thursday Opening Luncheon



Charlene Johnson (left) with Chuck Knight (right). Charlene was honored at the Thursday Opening Luncheon by the Delaware Valley Chapter for her vast contributions to the Chapter's success during her years as a liaison

The annual Project Awards Banquet is the highlight of any ICRI Fall Convention, and our 18th banquet was an exceptional example of the importance of these awards. Our emcee for the evening, Mark Nelson, Chair of the Awards Committee, began by thanking the panel of judges for their efforts. Each year, the number of entries grows, and the Pittsburgh-based panel did a great job reviewing all the submissions.

The Project Awards Banquet provides the opportunity for everyone to hear about the challenging work and exceptional achievements necessary to be an award winner. Not only did we



Representing Award of Excellence winner Walter P Moore are Gabriel Jimenez (left) and Mark Holland (right)



Members of the BASF delegation from Mexico proudly display their Award of Merit



Kathleen Strnad of award-winning Klein and Hoffman after the Project Awards Banquet

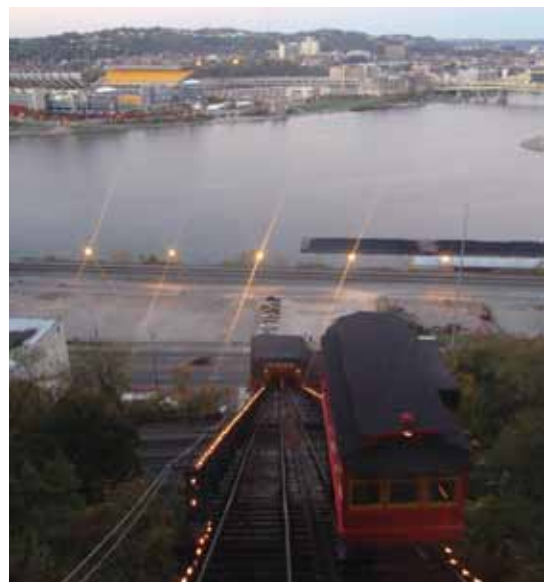


Representing Award of Merit winner QuakeWrap is Professor Mo Ehsani

honor our 2010 Project of the Year, but we also presented six 2010 Awards of Excellence and 18 2010 Awards of Merit. In true international fashion, winners came from all over the world, including the U.S., Peru, the United Kingdom, Canada, the United Arab Emirates, Italy, and Mexico. A special thanks and congratulations goes out to those award winners for their hard work, not only on the projects themselves but also on the high quality of all the entries we received.

The week was capped off with an exciting and unique trip up the Duquesne Incline for a social outing hosted by the Pittsburgh Chapter. The views were fantastic, the food quite good, and the jovial atmosphere properly supported by a unique cast of characters.

Pittsburgh proved to be an affable host and the Chapter added immeasurably to another successful fall convention. ICRI wishes to thank all the attendees, exhibitors, sponsors, presenters, and award winners for joining us. We hope to see everyone at the expanded 3-day ICRI 2011 Spring Convention in Houston, TX, March 16-18, 2011. We are getting things done at ICRI and would like to extend an invitation for you to get involved. Make the most of your membership and come to a convention.



On the way up the Duquesne Incline for dinner with the Pittsburgh Chapter



The Georgetown Inn offered great food and fantastic views of the Pittsburgh skyline