

# ICRI 2009 SPRING CONVENTION: HARD-WORKING COMMITTEES, A GREAT CONSTRUCTION TOUR, AND MORE!



INTERNATIONAL  
CONCRETE REPAIR  
INSTITUTE

SPRING CONVENTION

BY KELLY M. PAGE

## EXTREME CONCRETE REPAIRS

**B**eautiful, unseasonably warm Minnesota weather, a tour and dinner at an unusual museum, and a forum on sustainability were just some of the highlights of ICRI's 2009 Spring Convention, held April 23 and 24 at the Minneapolis Hilton Hotel, Minneapolis, MN. Over 200 ICRI members showed their support—even in this troublesome economy—for the organization and the concrete repair industry by participating in the convention.

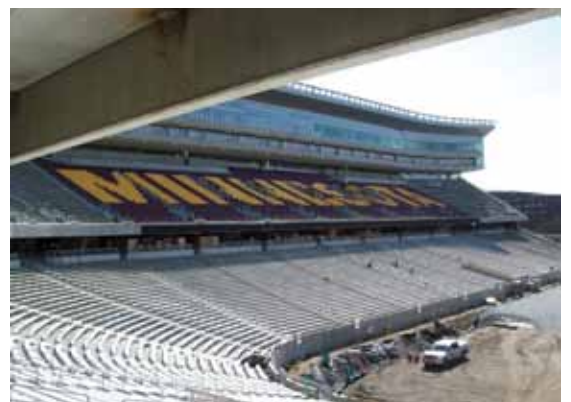
The events began on Wednesday, April 22, with a special tour—sponsored by the ICRI Minneapolis Chapter—of the brand-new Minnesota Gophers Stadium. Tour attendees got a chance to see great details of the new TCF Bank Stadium, the future football stadium for the Golden Gophers college football team at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. The 50,300 seat on-campus horseshoe-style stadium is under construction and is planned to be built in time for the 2009 football season. It was a great opportunity for ICRI convention attendees to see local Minneapolis construction up close.

Thursday morning at the convention was busy as usual, beginning with the “Visit the Exhibits”

Continental Breakfast held in ICRI's exhibit area. Attendees had a chance to learn about many new products and services offered by our exhibitors, while enjoying a delicious breakfast. ICRI's committee schedule, which seems to grow with new committees and subcommittees every convention, also kicked off Thursday morning.

The theme for this Spring Convention was “Extreme Repair,” which made for some very interesting presentations at the Technical Sessions, including talks ranging from repairing dams under strenuous conditions to repairing the Pentagon. All of the technical sessions drew high praise for the quality and content of the presentations.

A highlight of the Spring Convention is the Annual Recognition Luncheon. In addition to recognizing ICRI's Supporting Members and Past Presidents, ICRI honored its newest Fellow, Fred Goodwin. Dale Regnier got the crowd fired up while handing out the Chapter Awards for activities in 2008, including the prestigious Chapter of the Year award to the Carolinas Chapter. Past President Monica Rourke introduced the 2009 Board of Directors, and then turned the gavel over to the 2009 ICRI President Randy Beard.



*ICRI members had a chance to tour the new Minnesota Gophers TCF Bank Stadium*

On Friday afternoon, ICRI held a special Forum, "You Call It Sustainability, We Call It Concrete Repair." Sustainability is discussed everywhere these days, and in the construction industry, it is usually in the context of new construction. By helping make existing structures more useful, durable, and efficient, however, ICRI can take a leadership role in promoting restoration as "the ultimate act of sustainability." The following panelists gave short presentations in their areas of expertise concerning sustainability:

- Fred Goodwin, FICRI and Fellow Scientist, BASF Construction Chemicals, Moderator;
- Paul Tourney, President of Tourney Consulting Group, discusser of the Evaluation of Structures, Life Cycle, and Service Life;
- Andrew Vidor of Walker Restoration Consultants, 2008/2009 ICRI Michigan Chapter President dealing with Specifications, VOC's, Tax Credits/ Owner Benefits, Waste Management, and Recycled Materials;



*Congratulating ICRI's newest Fellow, Fred Goodwin (left), are two very active ICRI Fellows, Kevin Michols (center) and Doc Watson (right)*



*Pierre Hebert (left) and Michel Jalbert (right), both from Quebec Province, take some time to relax in the exhibit area*



*"You Call It Sustainability, We Call It Concrete Repair" was the theme for a lively panel discussion. The panel consisted of (from left to right); Sheri Brezinka, Executive Director, USGBC; Tanya Komar, Concrete Industry Management Coordinator, California State University, Chico; David Whitmore, President of Vector Group; moderator Fred Goodwin, BASF Construction Chemicals; Andrew Vidor of Walker Restoration Consultants; and Paul Tourney, President of Tourney Consulting Group*



*At the Spring Convention, ICRI honored its Chapters and had a record number receive the coveted Chapter Patches for Outstanding and Excellent Chapters*

- Tanya Komar, Concrete Industry Management Coordinator, California State University, Chico, CA, presenting information on Educational Resources, Ongoing Research, and Historic Preservation;
- Sheri Brezinka, Executive Director, USGBC-Mississippi Headwaters Chapter, describing the role of USGBC in Concrete Repair for Existing Buildings and Major Renovation; and
- David Whitmore, President of Vector Group, addressing Environmental Planning and Case Studies.

After the presentations, the floor was opened up for audience participation and questions for the panelists. With great audience participation, this was a highly interactive and thought-provoking event!

The convention ended on a high note with an event sponsored by the ICRI Minnesota Chapter, the Mill City Museum Tour and Dinner. Attendees got a chance to tour through the museum, which was built within the ruins of a National Historic Landmark, the Washburn A Mill. The museum provided a multi-sensory, interactive journey through the story of flour milling and its impact on Minneapolis, the nation, and the world. The tour was followed by a fabulous dinner and relaxing

conversation among ICRI members and guests. It was a great way to end the convention!

As you can see, ICRI Conventions are full of interesting activities, and many lively (and fun!) networking opportunities. We hope to see you all at the 2009 Fall Convention, to be held in Tempe, AZ, October 21-23, 2009. The theme of the convention is "Flooring Issues." In addition to the regular convention activities, we will be also be honoring the winners of the 17th Annual ICRI Project Awards at a special dinner. If you have never attended a convention, this fall would be a great time to start!



Joining ICRI in Minneapolis were two Metro New York Chapter officers, Mike Pein (left) and Connie Mugno (right)



Two ICRI Fellows and Past Presidents, Jim McDonald (left) and Joe Solomon (right), take a moment to catch up



Usually taking the photos, Dale Regnier (left), ICRI's Manager, Marketing and Chapters, takes time to sit with ICRI Past President Peter Emmons (right) from Structural Preservation Systems



Working hard at socializing are (left to right) Caren Giles, ICRI's Membership Services Coordinator; Charlene Johnson of the Delaware Valley Chapter; Carole Berrelez, ICRI's Event Services Planner; and Nick Adams from The Euclid Chemical Company



Representatives from the host Chapter (Minnesota) for this convention included (from left to right) Matt Drew, Jessi Meyer, Ryan Riley, and Andy LeBarron