

ICRI 2014 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

ICRI established a scholarship program to assist qualified applicants who plan to pursue post-secondary education in undergraduate college, university, and vocational programs directly related to a curriculum of study in concrete, concrete repair, architecture, or engineering studies (structural and civil).

For 2014, ICRI awarded a total of \$5000 to six qualified and deserving applicants. The following is an introduction to these six outstanding students—a little bit about who they are and their plans for the future.



SJAAK SMEELE

Sjaak Smeele was born in North Yorkshire, England, and lived there for 8 years before moving to the United States. He currently lives in Copake, NY, a small town in Columbia County, and attended high school at Hawthorne Valley Waldorf School in Ghent, NY. Smeele began studying civil engineering at Syracuse University (SU), and will graduate in May 2015. At SU, he is currently serving as the President of the Chi Epsilon Civil Engineering Honor Society. Smeele also participates in a number of organizations, including the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and Engineers Without Borders (EWB). Once he graduates, Smeele plans to pursue a career in civil engineering in either the structural or transportation field.

This past summer, Smeele had the opportunity to intern at the Dubai Contracting Company (DCC) in the United Arab Emirates. He worked directly with several different project managers and a team of professional engineers. Each interaction brought new insights and experiences as they all shared their responsibilities and contributions for constructing of some of the amazing-looking buildings that can be found in Dubai. Each job site was unique, and each came with its own set of challenges that had to be overcome. The unique opportunity to be in an international setting added greatly to the working and learning experience of this amazing internship.



AARON VOGEL

Aaron Vogel is a senior at California State University, Chico—affectionately known to its students as Chico State. He lived in the coastal town of Lincoln City, OR, until he was 12 years old, and then moved to Corning, CA, after his dad received a job offer. That eventually led the family to Chico, where Vogel has been ever since, discovering his passion for the concrete industry. Vogel's goal is to receive a bachelor's degree in Concrete Industry Management, turning his education and experience into a position as a project manager in the concrete industry. While working on his undergrad in concrete management, Vogel is also acquiring a minor in business administration.

During both the summers of 2013 and 2014, Vogel worked as an intern at STRUCTURAL, one of the world's leading companies in the concrete repair industry. From this internship

he realized that the repair side of the concrete industry interests him the most. The fortunate result is that he was then able to make concrete repairs a focus in some of his continuing studies. In addition, the internship provided him with a great deal of experience in the field. After graduation, Vogel would like to go to work for STRUCTURAL, as he feels he has learned a lot about the company and that the company is a good fit for him and his skills.

Vogel belongs to both the ICRI and the American Concrete Institute (ACI) student chapters and he has been elected Vice President of the ICRI California State University, Chico Student Chapter, for his senior year. He feels that his work in this role will help him get some more experience in the concrete repair industry, as well as further develop his leadership skills.



JAYMI HILL

Originally from Yuba City, CA, **Jaymi Hill** will be starting her senior year at California State University, Chico, this fall, where she is studying Concrete Industry Management with a business administration minor. Just this past summer, she completed an internship with BASF in their Construction Systems division. Hill feels working at BASF was an irreplaceable experience in the concrete repair industry, as she enjoyed the work and was able to attend a few of the ICRI Minnesota Chapter events while in the area. The previous summer, she enjoyed her first concrete experience while working on a school project at Alcatraz. Hill and her team completed various concrete restoration projects, further fueling her interest in the repair industry.

Hill is the current President of the ICRI California State University, Chico Student Chapter. This active group has worked on multiple concrete repair projects at several local elementary schools. These projects were very successful and even received attention from a California state senator, culminating in a letter thanking the club for its service to the local community. Next year, while continuing the success of these projects, Hill will also be the Vice President for the ACI Student Chapter at Chico State. She made the Dean's list in both the past two semesters and plans to do the same during her senior year.

With support from the Concrete Industry Management program, Hill was able to attend two national ICRI conventions, getting herself more and more entrenched by meeting new people, seeing new businesses, and finding new ways to get involved with concrete repair. After graduation this spring, she wants to pursue a career in the concrete repair industry that challenges her on a daily basis. One of her most challenging career goals is to help grow the industry and the education that goes along with it. Eventually, she would like to find herself in a position that allows her to give back to the students, just as she feels many have already done for her. The generosity of ICRI and this industry has allowed her the time needed to focus more on education, which she feels will help further her success.

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SEAN MICHEAL

Sean Micheal is a senior at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He is set to graduate in 2015 with a degree in civil engineering and a minor in Spanish. Originally from California, Micheal has made Kansas City his home for the past 8 years. On campus, he is heavily involved in the student chapters of ASCE and EWB. He works part-time during the school year and recently completed a summer internship with a large engineering firm based in Kansas City. Micheal aspires to work in the engineering field abroad so he will have the opportunity to see different parts of the work in a unique way.



MICHELLE AHOLA

Michelle Ahola is a very determined 21-year-old who comes from the small northern farming town of Colusa, CA. She grew up there with her parents and younger sister. She has always been fascinated by how things are built or put together and that lead her to discover the intricacies of the concrete industry. Ahola is now a senior at California State University, Chico, and will graduate with honors in May 2015 with a bachelor's degree in Concrete Industry Management. At Chico State, she is a member of the ICRI student chapter, President of the ACI student chapter, and is working in the dean's office for the College of Engineering. She has made the Dean's list at Chico State and was on the Honor Roll at Butte Community College, Oroville, CA, before transferring.

Through the Concrete Industry Management program, she has had the chance to do, in her opinion, some amazing things. She had the opportunity to work on Alcatraz Island for a time and has been able to attend several industry conferences, including World of Concrete. Then, this past summer, she interned with Oldcastle Precast in Pleasanton, CA, where she learned more about sales and the precast part of the industry. Ahola is looking forward to what the future has in store for her and the opportunities that lie ahead. She is very thankful to be a recipient of this scholarship; it is appreciated and a great help to her.



FREDERIC KASSAB

Frederic Kassab grew up in Granby, QC, Canada, and is studying civil engineering at the Université de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, QC, Canada. The Université de Sherbrooke offers a co-op program that allows students to participate in up to five apprenticeships in the course of their studies. Kassab has completed two internships in the concrete group at Université de Sherbrooke with Professor

Arezki Tagnit-Hamou, where his designs for the local ACI concrete canoe competition encouraged in him a strong interest for concrete design and study. For 2 years, he participated as one of the captains for the concrete canoe team. Working from the previous years of his team's research, he was able to design a synthetic fiber-reinforced self-consolidating and ultra-light latex-modified concrete. The team then won the Canadian National Competition in 2013 and finished third overall in the 2014 Concrete Canoe Competition sponsored by ACI.

Kassab is now in the third year of his studies in civil engineering and has chosen a structural engineering specialization. He will now need to take courses in structural element design, steel design, steel reinforced concrete, and other concrete courses. Kassab would like to pursue a career in structural engineering, gain a profound knowledge of concrete, and join organizations such as ACI and ICRI.