

PITTSBURGH  
AREA  
CHAPTER



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**American Concrete Institute  
Pittsburgh Area Chapter**

P.O. Box 86  
Zelienople, PA 16063

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**February 2016**

## **“Progress Through Knowledge”**

### **ACI – PITTSBURGH AREA CHAPTER SPRING 2016 CERTIFICATION SCHEDULE**

<b>Concrete Strength &amp; Aggregate Testing Technician</b>	<b>Location</b>
March 18-19 2016	Bryan's Research Lab - Pittsburgh, PA
<b>Concrete Flatwork Finisher/Technician</b>	<b>Location</b>
April 2016	Ligonier Stone and Lime - Latrobe, PA
<b>To download a registration form or to register on-line log onto: <a href="http://www.acipgh.com">www.acipgh.com</a></b>	
<b>Remember: Credit Card payments are now accepted with our on-line registration feature (<a href="http://www.acipgh.com">www.acipgh.com</a>)</b>	

### **Pittsburgh Area Chapter Upcoming Events**

**AWARDS BANQUET**

**April 9, 2016**

Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens

**SOCIAL EVENT**

**May 14, 2016**

The Meadows Race Track

**ACI GOLF OUTING**

**July 2016**

Quicksilver Golf Club

Be sure to check the website, as our meeting minutes are posted there for review. In addition, members are welcome to observe board meetings, to obtain a better understanding of Chapter activities.

Visit our website for a list of upcoming events at [www.acipgh.com/calendar.shtml](http://www.acipgh.com/calendar.shtml).



# Chapter News

## Student Chapters Add Value to Local Chapters

Reprinted with permission from *Concrete International*, October 2015 Edition.

ACI recognizes the achievements of its student members and their chapters in a variety of ways, including scholarships, fellowships, competitions, and university awards. The ACI Award for University Student Activities is presented to universities that support student chapters actively involved in promoting the mission of ACI and its chapters.

So what does it take to become an ACI Excellent or Outstanding University? For starters, a student chapter needs:

- A strong student leader;
- An involved faculty advisor;
- A mentor from a local ACI chapter;
- A proactive approach to recruiting new members;
- Consistent plans for meetings and special events with interesting topics; and
- Fundraising to support chapter efforts.

The following student chapters are a few that have been recognized as part of an Excellent University in recent years. ACI and its chapters have reaped the rewards of a mutual exchange of sharing knowledge and resources with the younger generation of concrete professionals.

### **Penn State University Student Chapter – ACI**

ACI member Farshad Rajabipour, a civil engineering Professor at the Pennsylvania State University (PSU), State College, PA, was impressed when sophomore Matt Gombeda approached him and Andrew Scanlon about revitalizing the ACI student chapter in 2011. The previous student chapter went dormant, but Gombeda's involvement with the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Concrete Canoe competition motivated him to pursue the chapter's renewal.

Scanlon and Rajabipour were very supportive of Gombeda's mission and after contacting the Pittsburgh Chapter – ACI and completing the paperwork, the PSU Student Chapter – ACI was reinstated.

"ACI was a great learning experience when I was a student," said Rajabipour, who serves as the Faculty Advisor for the student chapter. As a former ACI student member, he encourages all of his students to

take advantage of the free student e-membership.

"I teach junior-level courses in concrete construction material to about 280 students. At the beginning of the semester, I invite the current ACI Student Chapter President to give a brief 5-minute introduction of what they do. Once they are in the chapter, they seek my advice on event planning and the Concrete Canoe competition. I'm very involved in helping the students with mixing, design, and casting.

"It's my belief, and the students agree—the initiative needs to be taken by the student while the professor gives advice instead of micromanaging," he added.

Tom Pochatko, Gombeda's successor as Student Chapter President, has continued to foster growth within the PSU Student Chapter – ACI. Pochatko, a senior civil engineering major, became involved with the Pittsburgh Chapter – ACI last year and has been with the PSU Student Chapter – ACI since his sophomore year. He learned about ACI after joining the Concrete Canoe team.

"This is a great group to join for networking and learning the practical side of civil engineering in a fun learning environment. It's also a good organization to include on a résumé and join for life," Pochatko said.

As the student chapter President, Pochatko organizes and runs most of the meetings for approximately 45 members. He also coordinates the ACI Field Testing training for 20 members per semester.

"The greatest challenge so far is coordinating a time for meetings that can accommodate most people's schedules. We've been able to resolve this problem with the use of Google Docs and polls," he said.

Event planning, management, and leadership are just a few of the skills Pochatko has acquired as a result of his role in the PSU Student Chapter – ACI. "It helped me obtain a job with Walsh Construction group. They liked the fact that I had experience in the concrete industry outside of school and the fact that I could lead a group," he said.



## Student Chapters... Continued from page 1

After graduation, Pochatko aspires to start a construction/engineering firm that specializes in bridges, but in the meantime he will continue to reap the academic and social rewards of an ACI membership.

"I enjoy the end-of-the-year gathering we host downtown at State College with the Pittsburgh Chapter – ACI. We go to dinner downtown as a group and usually have a presentation from someone in the industry."

The Pittsburgh Chapter – ACI has assigned two representatives to oversee the student chapter. Bill Tate, a Chapter Board Director, and Andrew Lawrence, Chapter Vice President, both hold the title of Co-Coordinator for the PSU Student Chapter – ACI.

"I originally became involved with the Pittsburgh Chapter almost 20 years ago," explains Lawrence. "My father, Robert Lawrence, has been an active member for 30 years or more. I became more heavily involved in the chapter in 2007 when I moved back to Pennsylvania from Ohio. I've really been aware of the chapter since adolescence when I can remember my dad going to the chapter's monthly meetings."

Lawrence lives in western Pennsylvania and works as a Project Manager/Engineer for a heavy-highway construction company. In his role as Co-Coordinator, he helps administer certification programs to the student chapter members.

"I enjoyed giving the students some real-world, hands-on training regarding concrete to supplement their classroom studies. Although I was a student 15-plus years ago, I remember how fortunate I was compared to other students to have role models such as my dad to provide me with hands-on training that is difficult to get in a university setting. This is especially true for undergrads who are not heavily involved in research. Furthermore, as a professional engineer in the concrete construction industry, I know how important quality control of concrete is," Lawrence said.

Lawrence said that one of the goals of the Pittsburgh Chapter – ACI is to try to fill the gap between young engineers and education in concrete quality control. According to Lawrence, the three main benefits of joining the Pittsburgh Chapter – ACI are the opportunity to give back to the concrete industry, networking with professionals from all parts of the industry, and sharing educational resources.

"I think forging relationships with the young and upcoming professionals will help sustain our chapter the next 30 years or more. Any chapter looking to find ways to

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chapter News is published by the American Concrete Institute, Pittsburgh Area Chapter for the purpose of informing members and others about issues of concern to the concrete industry. If you have information to include in this publication or any comments, contact ACI Pittsburgh Chapter at 724-452-1468

## TINK BRYAN AWARD TRIBUTE TO: THOMAS "TINK" BRYAN

The Tink Bryan Award was created in honor of an outstanding individual who dedicated himself to his family, business and the concrete industry. For several years now, the Chapter has honored one individual each year with this award. The Pittsburgh Chapter Board of Directors is requesting nominations for the 2016 recipient. If a candidate is selected, they will be announced at the Awards Banquet in April. The candidate should demonstrate an exceptional commitment and achievement of service to the concrete industry.

Please forward a letter with your candidate(s) name and reasons for nomination to:

ACI, Pittsburgh Area Chapter | PO Box 86, Zelienople, PA 16063 | or email to: [bethaci@verizon.net](mailto:bethaci@verizon.net)



## JOB OPENINGS

### ■ CDL CLASS B WITH TANKER ENDORSEMENT TO JOIN OUR TEAM

Requirements include ability to work flexible schedule. Previous commercial truck driving is preferred. Must meet insurability for driving requirements of the company, meet DOT physical requirements, and carry a physical exam card. Pre-employment drug screen required. High school diploma or GED required. We offer a comprehensive benefits package. **Please send resume to:**  
[pittsburghmobileconcrete@hotmail.com](mailto:pittsburghmobileconcrete@hotmail.com)

### ■ PRECAST PLANT QUALITY CONTROL TECHNICIAN

Bryan Materials Group is currently seeking an ACI-Certified Concrete Technician in our Precast Operation.

Competitive salary, overtime, and a good benefits package. Responsibilities include:

Ensure and maintain product compliance with governmental agencies: PENNDOT, PATPC, Local Municipalities, as well as compliance with National Precast Concrete Association Specifications.

Qualifications:

- Certified as ACI Grade Level One Concrete Technician
- Minimum 1-Year Field Experience
- Certification as "NPCA PQS 1" a plus, but not required.
- Successful candidate must pass pre-employment physical and drug screen.

**Please go to [www.bryanmaterialsgroup.com](http://www.bryanmaterialsgroup.com) and complete the on-line job application, and/or e-mail your resume to: [joshbryan@bryanmaterialsgroup.com](mailto:joshbryan@bryanmaterialsgroup.com)**

ARDEX Americas & the W.W. Henry Company, ([www.ArdexAmericas.com](http://www.ArdexAmericas.com)) is the leader in the manufacturing, development, marketing and distribution of high-performance tile installation systems & cements, specialty adhesives, flooring adhesives, and building products, for commercial and residential applications. We are immediately hiring for the following positions:

### ■ MARKETING SPECIALIST, TILE & STONE INSTALLATION SYSTEMS

To be responsible for operational marketing functions related to the Tile & Stone Business Segment including communications, advertising, PR, digital marketing, trade shows, collateral materials, promotions, packaging, merchandising, case study development, etc., while ensuring the branding and messaging strategy is implemented. Candidates should have a passion for products and will help drive new product introduction processes, working closely with internal departments including Technical, Financial, Logistics, Production, Customer Service and Sales. You will interact with ARDEX Tile & Stone Distributor and Installer Partners on cross promotional efforts, including developing and coordinating customized distributor and installer promotions, national promotions, distributor point of sale items and product demo day / training event support.



## PENN STATE STUDENT CHAPTER NEWS

On Tuesday February 9th the Penn State Student Chapter had their first meeting of the semester. At the meeting it was discussed that the Pittsburgh Chapter and PSU will join together once again to host an ACI Grade I Class for a select number of PSU students to help broaden their technical skills in the field. The PSU Chapter has also been working to obtain funding from Penn State to attend the ACI International Spring Convention in April. Also, the Chapter would like to have a guest speaker for their April meeting in the concrete design field. If anyone is interested in presenting a topic, please contact Tom Pochatko at [pennstateaci@gmail.com](mailto:pennstateaci@gmail.com).

### Student Chapters... Continued from page 2

expand membership should consider sponsoring a student chapter. Even if the students don't stay in the chapter's geographical area, hopefully their experience with the Pittsburgh Chapter will lead them to join another local chapter, wherever that may be," he said.

To learn more about the Pittsburgh Chapter – ACI, visit [www.acipgh.com](http://www.acipgh.com). More information about ACI Student Chapters can be found in the October 2015 issue of Concrete International.

### Job Openings... Continued

#### ■ FLOORING FORMULATION CHEMIST (ADHESIVES)

To perform formulation and testing of Construction Products in the laboratory. Reporting directly to the Director of R&D, the Formulation Chemist will use their existing industry experience of adhesives and construction products, to lead new development or product improvement projects. Adhesive product experience is essential. Project lead or team leading experience is highly desirable.

*Located at ARDEX Corporate offices in Aliquippa, near Center Township, PA (approximately 20 minutes from the Pittsburgh International Airport). Please send resume to [Carla.Pratt@ArdexAmericas.com](mailto:Carla.Pratt@ArdexAmericas.com).*