

CRSI / NRMCA / PCA / PCI / PTI to Host the 2008 Structural Professors' Seminars

The 17th annual Buildings seminar is scheduled for August 4-6, 2008, and the 10th annual Bridges seminar for August 7-8, 2008. Both events will be held at the Portland Cement Association's headquarter in Skokie, Illinois. These seminars provide a forum in which the latest concrete industry developments are presented to university professors in civil, structural and architectural engineering. As in past years, there is no seminar registration fee.

National sponsors include: Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute (CRSI), the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA), the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute (PCI), the Post-Tensioning Institute (PTI), and the Portland Cement Association (PCA.) These sponsors provide speakers, teaching materials, and complimentary publications. They also sponsor receptions, dinners, and daily luncheons during this event.

Participating professors are sponsored by local concrete industry groups from the US and Canada. Such groups include: Regional Cement Promotion Groups, State Ready Mixed Concrete Associations, CRSI Chapters, ACPA State Associations, and PCI Regional and State Associations. These groups cover the professors' travel, lodging, and meal expenses. Professors are usually reimbursed for all of their travel expenses by the local concrete promotion groups. Sometimes budget may allow only partial reimbursement of expenses. That is why professors interested in one or both seminars should consider applying ASAP.

In order to maintain a proper educational setting and to provide for meaningful interchange of ideas, attendance is limited to 32 professors per seminar, on a first come, first served basis.

1. Engineering and Economics of Concrete Buildings (August 4-6, 2008)

Up-to-date information on the design and construction of concrete buildings is provided so that participants can significantly enhance their concrete design courses. Economic aspects of design and construction are pointed out. Other topics include teaching the fundamentals of structural concrete design, unified design provisions for flexure and axial loads in structural concrete members, seismic details for concrete buildings, strut-and-tie, and an overview of codes and standards. Changes introduced in ACI 318-05 will be discussed.

Participant's forums and open discussions enable those in attendance to discuss points of interest in teaching design of concrete buildings. Each attendee receives handout materials provided by the speakers and numerous publications related to the seminar topics.

2. Design of Concrete Bridges by the AASHTO LRFD (August 7-8, 2008)

Structural concrete design courses at universities focus on proportioning and detailing of building components by the ACI 318 Building Code. The concrete bridge design seminar focuses on the AASHTO Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD) specifications. These are reliability-based specifications and have introduced new concepts for proportioning of concrete

bridge members. The AASHTO LRFD concrete design provisions are significantly different than those of the ACI 318 Building Code.

The purpose of the seminar is to provide professors with background information and tools to facilitate teaching new concepts introduced in the LRFD bridge design specifications. They include, but are not limited to, the modified compression field theory for shear design, and the strut-and-tie model for proportioning and detailing of reinforcement in different bridge components.

Each professor receives a facsimile of all slides, design examples, and a CD-ROM containing PowerPoint files of most presentations and design examples. These materials are provided to the participants to facilitate starting a new concrete bridge design course, or improving on an existing one. Professors are also encouraged to contact their state Department of Transportation and offer to bring them up to speed with the LRFD provisions.

For information on either of these annual seminars, please contact Caron Johnsen at PCA, 5420 Old Orchard Road, Skokie, IL 60077, (847) 972-9058, E-mail: cjohnsen@cement.org or Basile Rabbat at (847) 972-9062, e-mail: brabbat@cement.org.