



# Legacy

The Newsletter of the RMC Research & Education Foundation

Volume 6 Issue 3

3rd Quarter 2010

## Did you know:

- That the Foundation is bringing back its popular golf tournament at NRMCA's ConcreteWorks in October?
- That Foundation staff is available to update your association or company on our many deliverables and current projects?

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## From the Chairman

When the RMC Research & Education Foundation teamed up with the Portland Cement Association one year ago to establish the Concrete Sustainability Hub (CSH) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), some people were skeptical. Well, after attending the recent Concrete Industry Day at MIT, which included researcher briefings on the current Life Cycle Assessment and Concrete Science projects and breakouts to discuss future projects, one would be hard-pressed to find any non-believers among the sell out group of participants. The industry executives who attended were not only engaged in the program but were downright awe-struck by what they heard and saw. I heard comments from numerous executives with many years in this industry that said they have never seen anything close to this in potential impact for our industry. A summary of the program is featured on pages two and three.

The meeting in Cambridge was also the venue for the Foundation's second Board of Trustees meeting of the year, where the Board elected Board members and officers for 2011 and conducted other business, which is summarized in the article below.

The MIT meeting was just the first in a series of fall meetings where the Foundation will have the opportunity to showcase its many projects and programs. Next up is NRMCA's ConcreteWorks, where the Foundation is bringing back its popular golf tournament fundraiser. Please read more about those functions on pages two and three, respectively. Participation in the golf tournament as a sponsor, golfer or both, is an excellent way to support the industry and the Foundation. In fact, why not have your company sponsor a foursome? You couldn't go wrong treating some customers or colleagues to a round of golf in as lovely a venue as Charlotte and, by purchasing a foursome, you can select who will be playing in your group. Please see page three for more information, including a list of current sponsors.

Although the MIT-CSH work is getting a lot of attention, and rightly so, we are also excited about another recent release - the final report of the self-consolidating concrete formwork pressure study. The project was sponsored by the Foundation and the American Concrete Institute's Strategic Development Council and is an excellent example of strong partnerships benefitting the industry.

You may read more about it on page four.

As always, thank you for your continued support. I hope you enjoy this edition of Legacy.

Regards,  
Jim Repman  
Chairman



## Foundation Board Meeting Held in August

The Foundation's Board of Trustees held this year's second meeting in conjunction with Concrete Industry Day at MIT. At their meeting, the Trustees elected Board members and officers for 2011, passed the 2011 budget and reviewed the Foundation's Strategic Plan for 2010-2012.

Current Trustees Bill Childs (Chaney Enterprises), Kevin Flaherty (Mack Trucks), Michael Harlan (U.S. Concrete), Richard Olsen (Votorantim Cement),

Scott Parson (Oldcastle Materials Company), Phil Ramsey (Command Alkon), and Ray Seipp (Buzzi Unicem) were all re-elected to three-year terms. Matt Wood (Ash Grove) was elected to fill an unexpired term vacated by the retirement of long-time Trustee Norm Nelson.

Current Vice Chairman Scott Parson was elected Chairman for 2011; current Secretary/Treasurer Michael Harlan was elected Vice Chairman; and current Advisory Council Chairman

Bill Childs was elected as Secretary/Treasurer.

The Trustees also updated the Foundation's Strategic Plan, adding emphasis to its sustainability work and the need to continue fundraising in light of the significant investment in the MIT Concrete Sustainability Hub and the desire to fund other urgent projects to benefit the industry and the communities it serves.

The Board also reviewed several pending projects and tentatively planned the spring meeting.

### Foundation to Have Major Presence at NRMCA's ConcreteWorks

The Foundation will have an opportunity to highlight its work at the upcoming NRMCA ConcreteWorks Conference and Expo scheduled in October in Charlotte, NC.

The ConcreteWorks Opening General Session will be a presentation on the MIT Concrete Sustainability Hub and the progress made in its inaugural year. At the Foundation's booth, we will showcase those projects of most interest to personnel in the areas of Operations, Safety, and Environmental; Business Administration; and Promotion.

Foundation personnel will also give updates at committee meetings and will highlight the variety of program deliverables that will be available by year's end.

This year, the Foundation is also bringing back its popular Golf Tournament (please see box on page three). We strongly encourage you to register for ConcreteWorks. Complete information including program schedule, hotel and speakers may be found by visiting [www.nrmca.org/Conferences\\_Events/ConcreteWorks/2010/index.asp](http://www.nrmca.org/Conferences_Events/ConcreteWorks/2010/index.asp). We hope to see you there!



## MIT Concrete Sustainability Hub Year One Report

Research work is progressing quickly at the Concrete Sustainability Hub (CSH) at MIT. The CSH was established in late 2009 to better understand the sustainable attributes of concrete and the areas where they can be improved, and to develop scientific breakthroughs at the atomistic level to make cement and concrete even more sustainable into the future.

MIT has assembled a "dream team" of researchers to work through the CSH, including those from a variety of disciplines such as engineering, architecture, life-cycle assessment, economics, physics, nuclear science, computational modeling and others. There are three major platforms to the CSH – Building Technology, Concrete Science, and Econometrics. The two initial work plans, "The Edge of Concrete: A Life-Cycle Investigation of Concrete and Concrete Structures" and "From Liquid to Stone: The Genesis of Concrete", are well underway and researchers are identifying areas where concrete excels and where its intrinsic sustainable benefits



Concrete Industry Day participants attentively listen to presentations by Concrete Sustainability Hub (CSH) Researchers regarding the first two projects taking place at MIT.

can be maximized. They are also moving ahead on a "bottom up" approach to understanding the DNA of concrete at the atomistic level so that, for example, performance requirements can be met using less material and we can truly understand the chemical reactions that take place so that they can be manipulated for maximum environmental benefit.

The two initial work plans under the Building Technology and Concrete Science platforms are very synergistic, and the Econometrics platform overlays the two. The industry is extremely fortunate and excited to be working with MIT researchers under the leadership of Dr.

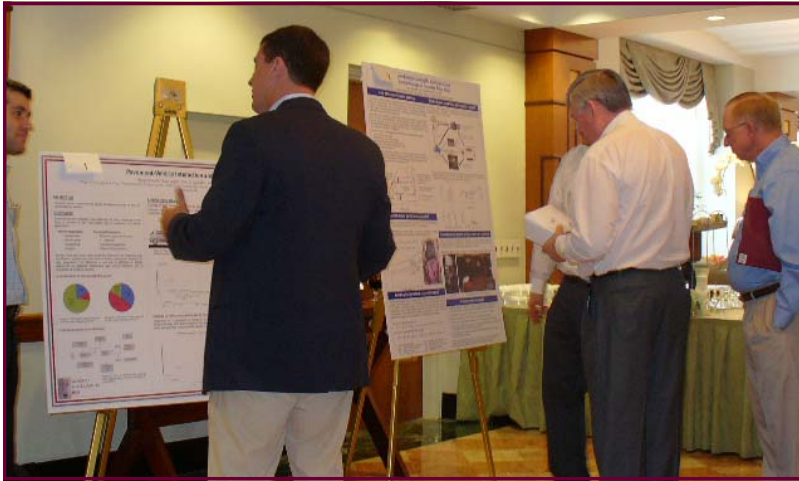
Hamlin Jennings, CSH Executive Director, and the two principal investigators Drs. Franz-Josef Ulm and John Ochsendorf. Tremendous progress has already been made in a very short time, and although the research body will in many ways build on itself over the next few years, MIT expects to officially release some of its early findings later this fall.

The Concrete Sustainability Hub is a research center at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that is being co-funded by the Portland Cement Association (PCA) and RMC Research & Education Foundation (RMCREF). Each organization is committing \$1 million a year for the next five years, for a total of \$10 million, with the goal of accelerating emerging breakthroughs in concrete science and engineering and transferring that science into practice. As the call for an increased emphasis on environmental issues grows louder, this is a chance for the concrete and cement industries to be proactive in establishing a CSH that will focus on quantifying and enhancing the sustainable nature of concrete.



Dr. Roland Pellenq details aspects of the Genesis of Concrete Project that he is working on at MIT.

## MIT Concrete Sustainability Hub “Concrete Industry Day”



One aspect of Concrete Industry Day at the MIT Concrete Sustainability Hub included a session with displays of large poster boards depicting segments of the research taking place with researchers and students answering participant questions.

On August 31, 2010, MIT hosted concrete and cement industry executives on the MIT campus in Cambridge, MA to learn more about the Concrete Sustainability Hub, meet the researchers, and hear preliminary results from the work performed in year one. The event was sold out with approximately 240 attendees who enthusiastically listened to the reports given by the Concrete Science and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) research teams of professors and graduate students.

The Concrete Science platform has four major research thrusts - dissolution of clinker phases; precipitation of cement hydrate; microtexture formation including setting and cohesion of the final products;

and validation, in which researchers will design experimental tools essential to transferring the technology to industry. All this is aimed at understanding the chemical reactions that take place at the atomistic level so that we can reduce the carbon footprint of cement and concrete production.

The Building Technology platform is focusing on a material flow analysis of cement and concrete production and a full life cycle assessment of concrete pavements and structures, which includes the critical operating phase. Many of the inherent sustainable benefits of concrete come from the end-use or “operating phase”, which is largely ignored in most life

cycle assessment tools. Therefore, MIT’s work is the most comprehensive approach we’ve seen related to life cycle assessment and it more fully takes into account the important role concrete plays in reducing the carbon footprint of operating residences, commercial buildings, and in the use of pavements.

MIT is in the process of fine-tuning the LCA models they’ve developed and refining the data on which they are based. We look forward to receiving official reports this fall which will detail initial results.

Work will continue on both platforms in the coming year, as well as additional work on the Econometrics platform. The research will build on itself, but even with these initial reports we will have the most comprehensive and credible look at our industry’s current status and future opportunities that has ever been developed. Look for more information later this fall. You can also visit the MIT Concrete Sustainability Hub website at <http://web.mit.edu/cshub/index.html>.

### Popular Golf Tournament Returns

The Foundation is bringing back its popular golf tournament fundraising event, taking place on Sunday, October 10, 2010 in conjunction with NRMCA’s Concrete-Works conference. The tournament is scheduled to begin immediately following the Truck Mixer Driver Championships at 12:30 at the Rocky River Golf Course in Charlotte.

Four levels of sponsorships of the event are available for every size budget. Sponsorship of the event is a terrific way to demonstrate support for the Foundation and the industry.

Participation in the event provides an opportunity to enjoy a round of golf with colleagues while supporting the Foundation at the same time. Companies are encouraged to purchase four-somes.

Please visit [http://www.rmc-foundation.org/Golf\\_Tournament.htm](http://www.rmc-foundation.org/Golf_Tournament.htm).

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## SCC Report Now Available

In July, the RMC Research & Education Foundation and the American Concrete Institute's Strategic Development Council (ACI-SDC) released the study *State-of-the-Art Review of Form Pressure Exerted by Self-Consolidating Concrete*, prepared by the Université de Sherbrooke in cooperation with Purdue University, Northwestern University and the CTL Group. The 500+ page report includes information and guidance on how to predict and decrease formwork pressure, including test methods and tools. The comprehensive report examined a variety of areas that could have an impact on formwork pressure such as materials constituents, mix designs, concrete placement factors, geometry of formwork and temperature.

This project is an excellent example of how partnerships between organizations such as the Foundation and ACI-SDC and collaboration among universities can provide the industry with useful tools and information that will help both producers and contractors to learn more about self-consolidating

concrete (SCC) and its use with formwork. While SCC provides many advantages, previously unanswered questions about its impact on lateral pressure hampered growth in its use and this final report will provide many of those answers.

However, a report is only as useful as the understanding of its target audience. In an effort to ensure wide use and distribution of this material, the Foundation and ACI-SDC will develop a webinar on how producers can use the findings including understanding mix proportions, test methods and the results. Another webinar will also be developed for contractors that will focus on cast rates, form design, test methods and results. Dates for these webinars will be an-



nounced later this year.

The full report is too large to make available for download on-line but electronic copies are available on CD by contacting Jennifer LeFevre at jlefevre@rmc-foundation.org or at 240-485-1151. An Executive Summary is available on the Foundation's website at www.rmc-foundation.org.

### Coming Down the Pike – A Calendar of Upcoming Programs and Releases

- \* The Effective RMC Supervisor – September 28-30, 2010, Silver Spring, MD – visit [www.nrmca.org](http://www.nrmca.org) for more information
- \* Foundation Fundraising Golf Tournament – October 10, 2010, Charlotte, NC, in conjunction with NRMCA's ConcreteWorks
- \* NRMCA's ConcreteWorks – October 10-12, 2010, Charlotte, NC – Foundation to present and have booth display
- \* Heat Island Mitigation Through Use of Pervious Concrete – Fall
- \* Release of MIT CSH Initial Research Reports – Fall
- \* Release of the Final Sustainable Concrete Plant Guidelines – Winter
- \* Release of Performance of Pervious Concrete Pavement in Cold Weather Climate Report – Winter
- \* Plant Manager Certification – December 14-17, 2010, Indianapolis, IN – visit [www.nrmca.org](http://www.nrmca.org) for more information

Thanks to all of our contributors. New and increased contributions since the last newsletter have been **bolded**.

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