A lot of forward momentum has occurred in the past few months. Of particular note, Tulane University will be the first PCI Studio in our region, Auburn hosted the 61st Transportation meeting in Montgomery and PCI had the annual Convention in Denver in conjunction with the Precast Show. Of equal importance, Louisiana held the semi-annual DOTD conference in Baton Rouge and PCI’s Marketing Council met in Orlando to discuss.direct the marketing efforts as we move forward. With regard to “our own” marketing campaign in the region, I would like to share a few stats. Since mid-January, we have almost tripled our contacts list, our presence on Facebook has grown by over 200%, a LinkedIn account has been established and Twitter has become another tool for us. “Followers” are beginning to find us. Modest as it may seem, this is the start of expanding our presence in the construction and design world. Raising awareness that PCI Gulf South is here and ready to do business is the foundation of our strategy.

We would like to welcome 2 new associate members to the PCI Gulf South family. The Consulting Engineers Group, Inc. was established in 1966 to provide structural engineering and management services to the construction industry. CEG currently specializes in precast/prestressed designs. SKAKO specializes in plant mixers, batch plants, casting machines, and turn key design-supply-concrete plants. Welcome Aboard Skako & CEG.

61st Annual Transportation Conference: If you were in attendance at the Annual Transportation Conference in Montgomery, you saw some exciting topics related to precast concrete. While the conference is always filled with great information and presentations, this year’s conference included three topics geared towards precast. Dave Tomley, our Transportation Committee Chair, gave an introductory presentation on the product and use of the NEXT Beam. Applicable for spans less than 90 feet, the Next beam is a product that has many uses for local and municipality bridges. Dr. Ben Graybeal from the FHWA presented UHPC and its use relative to Accelerated Bridge Construction. As always Dr. Graybeal gave an informative and concise presentation on the uses of Ultra-High Performance Concrete and its importance for sustainable and resilient bridge design. Of particular interest, was the combined presentation from ALDOT’s Lyndi Blackburn and Fort Miller’s Mike Quaid on the Mobile slab replacement project. This up and coming technology has many in the transportation sector excited about the possibilities of quick roadway replacement with minimal traffic disturbance and a resilient material.

PCI Gulf South Learn@Lunch: PCI Gulf South offers a variety of ways to reach the existing design community. The Learn@Lunch program was developed to allow professionals the opportunity to learn about precast products and systems without leaving the office. The program also offers CEU’s and PDH’s to design professionals to further career requirements. Owners and contractors can also benefit from this program by furthering their knowledge about uses of precast products. Call or email today to schedule your Learn@Lunch and “add another tool to your toolbox”.

Dave Tomley gives a presentation on the NEXT beam.
2018 PCI Convention and The Precast Show: The annual PCI Convention in Denver, CO drew over 1,000 attendees at the committee sessions, luncheon and educational seminars. The PCI Committees are the steering arm of PCI and were well attended. Hot topics this year were Precast slab replacement projects and the ongoing talk of establishing a precast/prestress code. The educational seminars focused on new technology and how it does/will influence our industry. As always, the precast show involved over 300 vendors that filled the convention center with everything from forms to mixers. The Annual Membership Meeting and Luncheon is always a special event with various awards given to members who help shape and direct our industry, as well as the annual “passing of the gavel” from outgoing Chairman to the incoming Chairman.

Signature events, such as Women in Precast and the PCI Foundation After Dark, make for a well-rounded event with literally something for everyone. Of one special note, our own Tindall Precast from Moss Point was the single plant winner of the annual PCI Foundation BBQ competition. Congratulations to Tindall! Your continued support is greatly appreciated! See ya'll next year in Louisville, KY!

See everyone at next years event in Louisville KY.

PCI Gulf South, in partnership with the PCI Foundation, is pleased to announce Tulane University, New Orleans as the recipient of a four-year PCI Foundation Instructional Project (Studio) commencing in Fall 2018. Under the direction of Charles Jones, RA Tulane School of Architecture, future designers enrolled in the university will use the studio to tackle environmental issues using precast concrete products. One of only 9 studios nationwide, Tulane University joins an elite group of forward thinking programs geared to create and implement viable solutions to real world issues. PCI Gulf South precast producers and associates will be working hand in hand with the Tulane students as they embark on bringing their proposal to fruition. We are all excited about the collaboration and opportunities that lie ahead. Congratulations Tulane!

2018 LaDOTD Transportation Conference: The LaDOTD conference is held every two years in Baton Rouge, LA at the Raising Cane River Center. This year, the attendance included over 1,600 designers, DOTD personnel, professors and industry professionals. With over 80 technical sessions ranging from governmental affairs to bridge design to environmental issues, the scope of discussion was wide ranging.

In addition to a vast array of speakers, there were over 87 vendors within the exhibitors hall. Vendors from Michael Baker Worldwide to Vulcan Materials took advantage of the opportunity to make new acquaintances and catch up with old colleagues. PCI Gulf South had a booth at the conference and was visited by many attendees who were interested in bridge products and transportation issues. Of particular interest, was the precast concrete slab replacement pilot project in north LA. This new technology has exciting possibility of minimizing the impact on the traveling public.
Product Highlight: Bridge Components-Beams

Precast concrete’s structural and aesthetic versatility, resiliency, accelerated construction and high quality make it an excellent choice for bridges and other transportation structures including noise barriers, median barriers and pavement systems. There are a variety of shapes and components:

**AASHTO Beams**

Box Shapes

**Deck Bulb-Tees**

**Double Tee Bridge Beams**

Precast/prestressed concrete beams have been widely used for highway bridges throughout the United States and the world. The simplest and most economical application for precast concrete beam bridges is when full-span beams are used in the bridge. Most often, the full-span beams have been used as simple spans, although continuity has also been established between spans using a continuity diaphragm at interior piers employing various methods to counter negative moments.

**Did You Know?**

Pozzolans are a broad class of siliceous or siliceous and aluminous materials which, in themselves, possess little or no cementitious value but which will, in finely divided form and in the presence of water, react chemically with calcium hydroxide at ordinary temperature to form compounds possessing cementitious properties.

Upcoming Events:

- **New Orleans Visitors Bureau Luncheon**
  March 14, 2018
  New Orleans, LA

- **Mississippi State**
  March 20, 2018
  Starkville, MS

- **Ole Miss**
  March 21, 2018
  Oxford, MS

- **PCI Gulf South Transportation Committee Meeting w/DOTD**
  March 27, 2018
  Baton Rouge, LA

- **Design Form Inc. Learn@Lunch**
  March 29, 2018
  Vestavia Hills, AL

- **USM IAC Board Meeting**
  April 13, 2018
  Jackson, MS

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