The end of 2019 slipped away without PCI Gulf South having an opportunity to share highlights from the year. Since many people are now “social distancing” and have an extra minute or two at their computers, we thought you might enjoy some highlights from the 2019 activities of PCI Gulf South. We are hopeful that we will all be together again soon and enjoy the fellowship that we have as members of an association all working diligently to promote the use of precast concrete products, not just along the Gulf Coast, but across the nation. As always, PCI Gulf South stands eager and ready to talk to you about your project and share the many ways precast concrete can save you time and money, as well as provide an extremely safe and aesthetically pleasing option to traditional building materials. Enjoy the highlights!

Daniel Eckenrode
PCI Gulf South Executive Director
The members of PCI Gulf South are a “family” of like-minded precast producers proudly serving the Gulf South region with the manufacturing of quality PCI-certified products and excellent customer satisfaction.
2019 Board of Directors

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On April 16th-17th, PCI Gulf South held the annual Spring Meeting at the Grand Natchez in Natchez, MS. This year, we were honored to have Donn Thompson, Director, Architectural Precast Systems as a guest speaker. Being relatively new to PCI on the national stage, Donn gave an overview of his background and duties at PCI. Also, as the PCI liaison to the Architectural Committee, Donn gave a review of PCI’s initiative to change the A certification category and the timeline to have all changes in place.

There was also a brief discussion on a 2018 report from the DBIA relative to the current state of project delivery preference in the US. (hint: design build is growing!) We were also very fortunate to have Daniel Lund III, Partner at Phelps Dunbar as our other guest speaker. Dan gave a general overview of construction law Do’s & Don’ts on contract language. Dan concluded his presentation with a brief description on dispute resolution relative to negotiation, mediation and arbitration. This is one area of business a subcontractor cannot get enough information about. Thank you Donn and Dan for being a part of our meeting. The membership found your presentations to be exceptionally worthwhile.
PCI Gulf South held the annual Summer Convention at the beautiful Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort in Miramar Beach, FL. The event kicked off with a fun-filled outdoor welcome reception and culminated with an amazing sunset dinner cruise aboard the Solaris.

Morning meetings were highlighted by keynote speakers such as Bob Risser, President of PCI, Marty McIntyre from the PCI Foundation, Zhengzheng “Jenny” Fu -LaDOTD Bridge Design Administrator, Justin Walker MDOT Director of Structures State Bridge Engineer and Tim Colquett ALDOT Bridge Bureau Chief Engineer.

PCI Gulf South members celebrated the accomplishments of their fellow precasters with the awarding of Regional Design Awards. Bringing home the hardware this year was Gate Precast with 1st and 2nd Place and Forterra with Honorable Mention.

Lastly, our platinum level sponsors JVI, Sika, BASF, LafargeHolcim & GCP Applied Technology were awarded with plaques for their continued generosity toward the summer event.
The 3rd Annual Golf Classic to benefit the PCI Foundation was held at the Windance Country Club in Gulfport, MS on November 11th. The PCI Foundation provides funding to universities striving to establish precast studios to teach future engineers about the benefits of precast.

We would like to thank all those who graciously donated to the Golf Classic and those who braved the elements to actually golf in the 39 degree weather!

PCI Gulf South was able to donate $5000 to the PCI Foundation this year.
PCI Gulf South hosted the annual Winter Meeting at the Beau Rivage in Biloxi, MS on November 11th and 12th. Along with standard association business, the meeting included two presentations. Robert Taylor, P.E. from Taylor Consultant Group gave the attendees a look into the use and development of UHPC. Quickly becoming a material of interest in our industry, UHPC has many promising characteristics that will eventually shape how we design future projects, even to the point of making wall panels thinner and bridge girders in excess of 230 feet in length. Also presenting this year was Brian Miller from GCP Applied Technologies. Brian shared construction forecast research and past regional market numbers. It was great to see our numbers are headed in a positive direction.
PCI Gulf South is pleased to announce two PCI Foundation studio grants have been awarded in our region. University of Alabama and MS State University were both recently selected. We are proud to partner with both schools as they begin the process of putting their proposals into action. Studios are not possible without the long term commitment of producer members and associate members. We would like to thank Gate Precast, Forterra, Tindall Corp and Jackson Precast for their producer sponsorship, as well as PTAC, US Formliner and M2 Solutions for their Associate member sponsorship. We would also like to thank the Mississippi AIA for taking a role in the Mississippi State program. A studio is an intense four year program geared toward educating the university student on the design and use of precast prestressed concrete. Congratulations again to all involved!
Throughout the year, PCI Gulf South makes it a priority to visit various universities and clients in the Gulf South Region. We were happy to have visited the following organizations and share the benefits of precast.