

The

READY-MIXER



Virginia Ready-Mixed Concrete Association

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newsletter

April 2006

COMING SOON!

VRMCA Spring Convention

The Spring Convention to be held on May 21-23 at The Homestead, in Hot Springs, Virginia promises to deliver informative presentations and entertainment that you don't want to miss.

We will start off on Sunday night, with a dinner for everyone at the Gun Club. This will be a "pig-pickin," complete with a pig suckling, corn in the shuck, chicken, barbeque spare ribs, homemade apple pie, hot biscuits and all of the fixins'. You may get your hands a little sticky, so dress casually!

Monday's meeting is full, with speakers looking at pervious concrete from all aspects. We will welcome **Robb Jolly**, Managing Director of the ACPA Concrete Pavement Education Foundation, **Dr. Mike Leming**, Associate Professor in the Department of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at North Carolina State University and **Dale Fisher**, President & CEO of PCI Systems, LLC.

We will also honor the VRMCA's 2005 Rodeo winner, **Steve Hobgood** from Cardinal-Virginia Concrete. He will receive a die-cast model trophy of a concrete truck.

On Monday afternoon, we will have the golf tournament and shooting. The Homestead will also offer many activities for the non-golfers and shooters, ranging from horseback riding to carriage rides, to paintball and falconry. Of course, there is always the very popular spa.

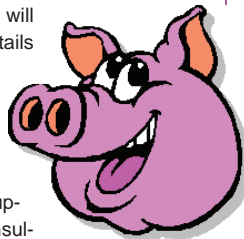
On Monday night, there will be a reception with cocktails on the Mt. Vernon Lawn, followed by dinner on your own.

Tuesday brings another exciting learning opportunity. Besides an update from the industry consultants on the councils, **Wayland Patterson** from the Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency, will relay information on the rebuilding efforts in Southwest Asia. Additionally, **John Buteyn**, of Colorado Hardscapes will conduct his "Decorative Concrete and the Ready-Mixed Concrete Producer" presentation.

The ever-popular industry forum will close the speaker presentations portion of the convention.

A short business meeting will be held, where we will present the 2005 Safety Awards, elect the new officers and directors, and say goodbye to **VRMCA President, Gus Lorber**. We will adjourn at 12:15 p.m.

Please make every effort to attend the convention. If you have any questions, please contact Vicki Stec at 434.977.3716. ❖



Sunday, May 21

Noon-3:00 p.m.
3:30 p.m.
6:00-7:00 p.m.
7:00-9:00 p.m.

Combined Board and Advisory Council Board Meeting & Luncheon
Registration Desk Open
VRMCA Reception
VRMCA Cookout

Monday, May 22

7:00 a.m.
7:30 a.m.
8:00-8:15 a.m.
8:15-9:00 a.m.

9:00-9:45 a.m.

9:45-10:00 a.m.
10:00-10:45 a.m.

10:45-11:30 a.m.

Breakfast on your own
Registration Desk Open
Introduction
An Overview of Hydrologic Design Methodology for Pervious Concrete Pavement Systems
Dr. Michael Leming, North Carolina State University
Paving Green with Pervious Concrete: Why, How and Where...
Dale Fisher, PCI Systems, LLC
Refreshment Break
Pervious Concrete Pavement-A Best Management Strategy for Cool, Safe and Quiet Communities
Robb Jolly, American Concrete Pavement Association
Pervious Concrete Panel Question and Answer
Dr. Michael Leming, Dale Fisher & Robb Jolly
Adjourn for Golf, Sporting Clays, Tennis, Sightseeing, Shopping, and Relaxation
Golf, Shotgun Start
Sporting Clays
Tennis
VRMCA Reception
Dinner on Your Own

11:30 a.m.

12:30 p.m.
1:30 p.m.
1:30 p.m.
6:30-7:30 p.m.
7:30-9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 23

7:00 a.m.
7:30 a.m.
8:00-9:00 a.m.

9:00-10:15 a.m.

10:15-10:30 a.m.
10:30-11:15 a.m.

11:15-11:45 a.m.
11:45-12:15 p.m.

Breakfast on Your Own
Registration Desk Open
VRMCA Advisory Council Update
Diggs Bishop, VRMCAC Chairman
Bob Nablo, Southwest Virginia Industry Consultant
Keith Beazley, Central Virginia/Hampton Roads Industry Consultant
Hessam Nabavi, Northern Virginia Industry Consultant
AFCESA Contract Support in Southwest Asia
Wayland Patterson, Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency
Refreshment Break
Decorative Concrete and The Ready-Mixed Concrete Producer
John Buteyn, Colorado Hardscapes
INDUSTRY FORUM
Annual Business Meeting
Presentation of Safety Awards
Election of Officers and Directors
Adjourn

12:15 p.m.

VRMCA Board Member Profile: Kari Saragusa

Name?

Kari Saragusa

Company?

Lehigh Cement Company

Title?

Vice President of Sales and Marketing

Where is your company located?

Our headquarters are located in Allentown, Pennsylvania. However, I work out of the Union Bridge, Maryland office.

Where is your place of birth/hometown?

I grew up in Phoenix, Arizona.

What college or university did you attend?

I received a B.S. in Finance at Arizona State University and an MBA at the University of Phoenix.

How many years have you been in the industry?

I have been in the industry for eighteen years. I have worked in Arizona, Georgia and the Mid-Atlantic.

What current project or activity are you working on?

I am focusing on the integration of a cement company that Lehigh purchased in Glen Falls, New York. This project should take approximately twelve months.

Describe some of your other major duties.

I am in charge of cement sales for five plants located throughout the Northeastern United States. I am also in charge of a sand and gravel operation in Dorchester, New Jersey, and a lightweight aggregate facility in Woodsboro, Maryland.

What is the accomplishment you are most proud of?

Successfully integrating five separate business units into one over the past six years.

What is the best thing about living in Finksburg, Maryland?

Finksburg is rural, yet not far from major metropolitan areas, such as Washington and Baltimore.

What is the best part of the job?

Successfully accomplishing a sales budget with a team I helped to assemble.

What did you do before this job?

I worked for a small chemical company in Arizona.

Hobbies?

Golf and woodworking are my two favorites. As far as the woodworking goes, I focus on making clocks.

Favorite Vacation Spot?

Stone Harbor, New Jersey. My family and I have been going there for thirteen summers now. It is a beautiful beach area and the most relaxing week of the year.

Family?

My wife Daphne, my daughter Natalie who is seventeen and my son Benjamin who is fourteen.

UVa or Tech?

If I had to root for one, I would pick UVa. I have a lot of friends who are fans and I really like Charlottesville.

Last Book?

I have just read Michael Crichton's *State of Fear*. It is a novel about environmental terrorism.

What is the perfect day off?

A day in Stone Harbor spending the morning on the beach, playing a round of golf with my family in the afternoon and barbecuing on the deck with friends in the evening. ❖



VRMCA Board of Directors Retreat Update

by Doug Easter, Executive Director

On April 23rd and 24th, the Virginia Ready-Mixed Concrete Association Board of Directors met for a retreat in Charlottesville, Virginia to form a three-year plan for the Association. Many issues were discussed during the two-day meeting and I wanted to highlight a few of these points prior to the Spring meeting on May 21-23 at The Homestead, in Hot Springs, Virginia.

The Board and staff will be concentrating on benchmarking our success as an industry. We will take our first step at the Homestead when the Board and Council meet together with a facilitator to discuss the tools and resources we have as producers and suppliers to track cement and ready-mixed consumption, as well as human resource concerns.

The Board also wanted to make sure that our committees knew how important they are to the industry and to make sure that their hard work is recognized and shared with the membership.

The Board voted to have the VRMCA Secretary Treasurer attend all Technical Committee meetings and Charlie Fairchild, one of our VRMCA directors will help chair the VRMCA Safety Committee. These changes will take place after our Spring Convention.

The topic of education was also discussed and the Board will continue to partner with community colleges and our large universities throughout the Commonwealth. During our meetings, Dr. Yvan Beliveau with Virginia Tech came to speak about the new Myers-Lawson School of Construction. A follow-up meeting with Beliveau has already been scheduled for May 12, 2006.

Partnerships and delivering our products to the end user was also discussed and the staff will be working with NRMCA and VRMCA members to identify classes, training programs and unique partnerships that have been helpful to the industry and individual members.

Finally, a lengthy discussion took place on government relations. The Board of Directors identified this matter as being one of the top priorities of the Association. Because federal legislation has become so important to our industry, the Board decided to sponsor at least two luncheons per year with two of our congressional leaders, so that we might get to know them better and discuss our industry issues with them.

The Board also recognizes how important State legislation is to our members and they voted to form a voluntary State VRMCA PAC. The Board asked staff to prepare the necessary paperwork and to discuss the logistics at the Spring Convention. ❖

Mark Your Calendar!

2006 Fall Convention

September 10-12, 2006

Wintergreen Resort

Wintergreen, Virginia

2006 Truck Rodeo

November 1, 2006

Richmond International Raceway

Richmond, Virginia



The VRMCA Technical Committee is developing a series of Technical Bulletins in order to address various issues of interest to the ready mixed concrete industry.

Technical Bulletin #3 is now posted on the website. The first two bulletins are also available. Please visit the VRMCA website at: www.vrmca.com to download electronic versions. You may also contact the Association Headquarters at 434.977.3716 for printed copies.

Please make every effort to distribute these to contractors, engineers, and testing labs in your area.

The Virginia Ready-Mixed Human Resource Consortium

Employee Appraisals: The Ongoing Process

by **Becky Meade**

As a manager, an important part of your job is to motivate and encourage your employees to be productive contributors to your workforce. By approaching the appraisal process as an ongoing and positive part of the relationship, you can increase communication and foster a spirit of cooperation and teamwork.

Acknowledge good performance immediately and address problems as soon as they arise before they become bigger issues. Record specific examples of performance as they occur so you can provide specific feedback to your employees. Instead of limiting yourself to formal appraisals once or twice a year, keep communications open to your employees and actively listen and respond to their input.

When it is time for you to meet formally with the employee, gather input from various sources. If you have recorded specific examples of performance, you have a good place to start. Also get input from other employees, customers, and consider having the employee prepare a self-review. Always review prior performance reviews and concentrate on the objectives that were set and how well the employee has performed in achieving those goals.

Always give the meeting the preparation and priority it deserves, similar to what you expect for your appraisal with your manager. Arrange your schedule so you won't be interrupted during the meeting. Begin the meeting by providing positive feedback for a specific accomplishment or a special effort to assist a customer on a jobsite.

Preview, rather than review, by spending the majority of the review time on the future verses rehashing the last review period. What do you expect in the coming year? What are your goals, and what are the employee's goals? Keep personality out of it unless it relates to work performance.

Listen to the employee and encourage reactions and suggestions. If there are areas that need improvement, encourage the employee to come up with potential solutions. If the employee disagrees with you, allow them to state their feelings and listen without defending your point of view. Arrive at a mutual agreement. If the employee has a satisfactory or better rating, set objectives for the next period.

If the employee has unsatisfactory performance, work together to create a plan for improvement that has specific actions and set specific checkpoint dates. If the problems are severe, or improvement has not been made in the past, the plan might also contain a written warning about the consequences to the employee if the goals are not met.

Our next scheduled meeting is May 16, 2006. Please contact Becky Meade at (804) 364-0500 or bmeade@coxreadymix.com if you would like information about our group. ❖

Southwest Virginia Council Attends AIA Lecture at Virginia Tech

by **Bob Nablo, Director of Industry Services, Western Region**

On March 29, the Blue Ridge AIA Chapter sponsored a lecture by internationally-known architect Jeanne Gang. Ms. Gang is principal and founder of The Studio Gang in Chicago, having formed the practice in 1997 after extensive experience in Chicago, Rotterdam and Zurich. Members of the Southwest Virginia Concrete Promotion Council attended the lecture and the subsequent reception, and also attended a short election of officers for the Blue Ridge AIA.

Ms. Gang's work focuses on materials, technology and sustainability, and is supported through a mode of working that combines practice, teaching and research. She is a friend of concrete, and is especially interested in aerated autoclaved concrete as a building material. Several of her slides showed a building that she originally intended to be a lightweight concrete skeleton covered with brick, but during construction she determined that the structure looked better with the brick removed and the concrete exposed.

For another project, Ms. Gang was asked to design a museum display using a natural material. She asked to use concrete, but was told to work with stone. She selected marble, and created a very thin, curtain-like sculpture extending from ceiling to floor that could be lighted from the rear. Working with master stonemasons, each individual piece of marble was carved into a jigsaw puzzle shape so that the "head" and "arms" of each piece connected to, and supported, the adjoining sections.

The Southwest Virginia Council continues to be interested in working with this local AIA Chapter and has developed a strong relationship. Members will attend future events and are pursuing opportunities to host seminars for these architects. ❖

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Company Dress Codes: Are They Discriminatory?

By: John G. Kruchko, Esq. and Kathleen Talty, Esq. *

As the winter gives way to the warmer weather of spring and summer, “casual” Fridays usually stretch out to the entire workweek because employees are more inclined to want to dress less formally during the warmer months. While employees endeavor to stay cool during the muggy summer months, employers struggle to maintain a professional appearance in the workplace and typically use a dress code policy as the means to maintain certain standards.

These dress code policies are designed to insure that the image that the employees present to the public is consistent with the corporate mission and purpose. In general, employer dress code policies that impose certain clothing and grooming standards are not subject to successful challenges as employment discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or comparable state fair employment practice laws. That is not to say that employees have not sued employers, alleging that the dress code or grooming standard constitutes employment discrimination.

In reviewing early challenges to employer dress code policies, the courts took the position that certain grooming standards, like requiring different hair lengths for male and female employees, do not come within the scope of Title VII because Title VII only applies to “immutable” characteristics, e.g., race, national origin, color, gender, etc., whereas a characteristic such as hair length is mutable or easily altered. Nevertheless, the courts will still consider whether a certain grooming standard imposes a greater burden on one sex than on the other.

For example, in one case, a company required its female employees, and prohibited its male employees, from wearing makeup when employed in certain positions. A female employee challenged the rule, claiming sex discrimination because she felt she should not be required to wear makeup and when she refused, she was terminated. The court first found that the distinction between males and females with regard to wearing of the makeup did not, of itself, violate Title VII. The court then considered whether the requirement imposed a greater burden on females than males and found that the evidence did not show any greater burden.

As a consequence, the court ruled that the employee’s termination did not violate Title VII.

“No beard” or “clean shaven” grooming policies have also been challenged by employees on the grounds of religion, disability and race discrimination. In considering these lawsuits, some courts have found that a “clean-shaven” requirement that does not allow for an exception for African-American males who suffer from the pseudofolliculitis barbae medical condition, a skin condition that is aggravated by shaving, will likely be found to have a disparate impact on the basis of race and/or disability. It should be noted, however, that some courts have found that when the no-beard requirement was adopted because of safety reasons associated with the employee’s ability to effectively wear a respirator device, as in the case of a firefighter, the requirement is not a violation of the employment discrimination laws. Likewise, a “no beard” policy may also constitute religious discrimination if the policy does not allow for an exemption in cases where an employee’s sincere religious beliefs require him to wear a beard.

More recently, dress code policies have been challenged by employees who favor the wearing of facial and tongue piercings. In one case, a retail employer revised its dress code policy to prohibit employees from the wearing of any facial jewelry, other than earrings. One employee who had eleven piercings adorning her face, as well as four tattoos on her upper arms, objected to the revised dress code policy and refused to remove the facial jewelry. While management attempted to work with the employee, suggesting that she wear clear plastic retainers or a flesh-colored band-aid, the employee was adamant and refused to remove the facial jewelry. The employee then announced that she had joined the Church of Body Modification (“CBM”), that eyebrow piercing was part of her religion and that the piercings must remain visible at all times. After the employee was absent for fifteen days, she was terminated by the employer for unexcused absences.

The employee filed a discrimination charge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (“EEOC”), alleging religious discrimination. During mediation, the employer offered again, as an accommodation, to allow the employee to wear a clear plastic retainer or a band-aid. The employee,

however, took the position that the only acceptable accommodation was a complete exemption from the rule. Mediation failed. The EEOC ruled in favor of the employee and sued the employer in federal court, demanding \$2,000,000.00 in damages.

The employer was more successful in federal court. The trial court held that the employer’s accommodation was reasonable and found in favor of the employer. Rather than accept that ruling, the employee appealed to the appellate level. There, the appellate court found the only accommodation that the employee would accept, i.e., a complete exemption from the rule, would impose an undue hardship on the employer.¹ Therefore, the appellate ruled in favor of the employer.

While the facial piercing case may present an extreme example of the lengths some employees may go to challenge a dress code or grooming policy, it is nevertheless advisable for employers to review their dress code policy to ensure that the policy is based on business-related reasons that conform to current practices and that the policy is communicated to all employees.

Employers should also be sure that the policy is uniformly applied to all employees, but that exceptions are permitted when necessary to comply with federal and state laws. Finally, the employer should monitor the policy to verify that the disciplinary measures that are taken for violations of the policy are done in a consistent manner.

1. In religious discrimination cases, the issue of reasonable accommodation is viewed under a different standard than the one utilized in disability cases. In religious discrimination cases, an accommodation can be found to be unreasonable if it is shown that the accommodation would impose more than a *de minimis* cost on the employer.

82006 Kruchko & Fries

John G. Kruchko is a partner with the Management Labor & Employment Law Firm of Kruchko & Fries in McLean, Virginia, Kathleen Talty is an attorney in the Baltimore, Maryland office. For more information, please contact Mr. Kruchko at (703) 734-0554 or jkruchko@kruchkoandfries.com, or Ms. Talty at (410) 321-7310 or ktalty@kruchkoandfries.com. This article is published for general information purposes, and does not constitute legal advice. ❖



“Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing” (PATH)

by Hessam Nabavi, R.A., Director of Industry Services, Northern Virginia

The Rayburn Building on Capital Hill hosted the PATH Showcase on Tuesday, March 7, 2006. Jim Niehoff, Residential Program Manager with PCA, Northern Virginia Custom Home Builders and ICF installers, Mark Quinn and Daniel O’Reilly of Project Services Management, Tom Evans of MRMCA and Hessam Nabavi of VRMCA represented Portland Cement Association. PCA was one of the major sponsors of this event. The exhibit was designed to educate the officials about technology in housing.

The event was started by Bill Asdal, Vice-Chair, PATH Industry Committee. He talked about “The Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing” (PATH) working to change the way Americans live, not only by increasing the quality and affordability of America’s housing, but also by helping to ensure that the housing industry is an economic dynamic far in to the 21st century.

Asdal mentioned that PATH is a voluntary partnership between the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and members of the housing industry, established in 1998.

These partners are dedicated to accelerating the development and use of technologies that dramatically enhance and improve the quality, durability, energy efficiency and environmental performance of homes. Following Mr. Asdal were Mark Bombaugh of Torti Galas Partners and Alex

Grinnell of Steven Winter Associates, Inc. These two architects presented two different floor plans designed for the PATH Concept Homes—one as a single family detached home and the other as a townhouse.

Both sets of plans include flexible spaces that can be easily changed, the ability to add accessible features such as an elevator, and wireless technologies like self-powering light switches.

Each plan also features specific technologies and layouts that meet the needs of families that might live in them. PATH’s “home of the future” combines design features and building systems that make optimal use of labor, material, time and money.

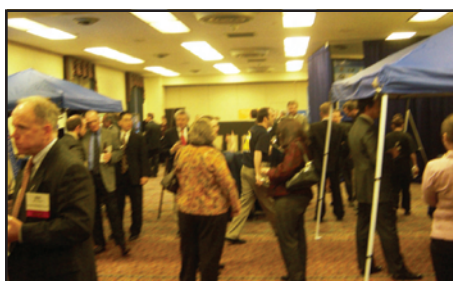
Innovations will include flexible floor plans that accommodate family changes, ‘customizable’ designs that give the home the quality and curb appeal of a custom

built house without the high cost, and improved production methods that speed construction and enhance long-term durability. Darlene Williams, Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research and Mike Chapman, Chair, Path Industry Committee spoke briefly about PATH’s future and then recognized two builders as the most innovative builders.

This event offered a great opportunity for networking and talking to the attendees about ICF and concrete homes. ❖



Front: Jim Niehoff, Residential Program Manager of PCA. From left to right: Tom Evans of MRMCA, Mark Quinn and Daniel O’Reilly of Project Services Management and Hessam Nabavi of VRMCA.



Attendance at PATH Exhibition.



Bill Asdal, Vice-Chair of PATH Industry Committee.

VRMCA 2005-2006 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Easter Associates, Inc.

Fredericksburg ACI Examination Successful Because of Dedicated Individuals to Program

by J. Keith Beazley
 Director of Industry Services,
 Central Virginia and Hampton Roads

The ACI Concrete Field Testing Technician Certification held on March 31st in Fredericksburg was a successful part of this year's program because of individuals dedicating their time and expertise to evaluate the performance of a very large class.

The class was held in the Northern Region to serve the firms and individuals without long travel time and expense to become certified as a technician. It was held at the Shockey Pre-Cast facility in Spotsylvania County on a large concrete casting bed and was a very good area for the large class.

The classes for certification have been increasing with each test as a result of the VDOT requirement for the department to have ACI certified personnel.

Supplemental examiners for the class were: Jim Morris of Rowe Concrete, Tom Manning of Titan America, Doug Shaffer of Shockey Concrete, Kerry Jorgerson of VDOT, Ronnie Smith of VDOT, David Routt of VDOT and Bob Nablo and Keith Beazley of VRMCA.

Duane Laughlin, Shockey, was very helpful in the location of the testing site to hold the exam. Without the dedication of these individuals and their companies we would not have been able to complete this testing session. Member companies are encouraged to participate in the certification program when testing in your area for the benefit of the proper testing of your concrete. ♦

SW Virginia Council Participates in Pervious Concrete Test

by Bob Nablo, Director of Industry Services, Western Region

Marshall Concrete Products of Christiansburg and the Southwest Virginia Concrete Promotion Council participated in a test of pervious concrete earlier this month with the Virginia Tech Building Construction Department.

George Kuhn and Bob Nablo met in March with Dr. Annie Pearce, the new instructor of sustainable construction in the Building Construction Department. Dr. Pearce came to Virginia Tech from Georgia Tech and has a strong interest in the durability and sustainability of ready-mixed concrete.

Pearce would like to include pervious concrete in her class instruction, and asked about performing a small test using local materials and student labor. Kuhn noted that Marshall Concrete also has interest in pervious concrete, and has made small test batches in the past. He offered to make, and deliver, a test mix based on current recommendations.

While Virginia Tech students prepared the site, Kuhn checked with several sources about mix designs—finally selecting an appropriate design. On April 7, a slab of approximately 7' X 20' was placed on an aggregate base of 6 inches. It is fair to say that all parties gained valuable information from this test: Virginia Tech students learned quite a bit about site preparation and concrete placement, and Southwest Virginia members learned about practical pervious mix designs and the problems of workability.

George Kuhn, Buck Hamil, Corrie Brice and Bob Nablo participated in the project. Thanks also to Dr. Annie Pearce, Virginia Tech Building Construction students, and to Marshall Concrete Products for donating the materials. ♦



Mixer truck delivers to a difficult site.



Virginia Tech students 'screed' pervious sample.

Richmond Area Testing Labs Participate in Round Robin

Steven C. Kerr, P.E., Grace, and CVCAC Technical Committee Chairman

The Central Virginia Concrete Advisory Council conducted a round robin cylinder compression test program for the Richmond area testing laboratories in February. The thirteen participants included eight independent laboratories, four ready-mix producers and VDOT's Elko lab.

The cylinders were cast by members of the CVCAC technical committee at the Titan plant in Richmond. Participants picked up the cylinders the following day for curing at their laboratory. Two cylinders were tested at seven days and two cylinders were tested at 28 days. Results were submitted and reported blind—i.e. laboratories were not identified on the final report.

Laboratories were able to compare their results with those of their peers. The report of results included several critical items from the ASTM standards that may warrant review by the laboratories that reported results deviating substantially from the average.

Five of the laboratories reported results outside one standard deviation at seven days (three low, two high). Five of the laboratories reported results outside one standard deviation at 28 days (two low, three high). See the table of results.

Participation was excellent this year. CVCAC plans to continue the program annually. ♦

	7 Day Result, psi	7 Day Average, psi	28 Day Result, psi	28 Day Average, psi
Laboratory A	4,850	4,770	4,810	5,970
Laboratory B	4,780	5,240	5,010	6,520
Laboratory C	4,710	4,690	4,700	5,890
Laboratory D	5,130	5,000	5,065	5,850
Laboratory E	4,700	4,760	4,730	6,290
Laboratory F	5,060	4,980	5,020	6,170
Laboratory G	4,260	4,440	4,350	6,010
Laboratory H	4,920	5,040	4,980	5,800
Laboratory I	5,270	5,240	5,255	6,150
Laboratory J	5,210	5,210	5,210	6,130
Laboratory K	4,490	4,610	4,550	5,380
Laboratory L	4,920	5,050	4,985	5,850
Laboratory M	4,450	4,590	4,520	5,670
AVERAGE	4860		5985	
STANDARD DEVIATION	276		277	

Notes: Results of this program are double blind
 Cylinders were cast January 31, 2006
 Cylinders were cast by four operators from one truck

Upcoming NRMCA Training Programs and Courses

MAY 17 – 18

Transportation Construction Coalition Fly-In
 Washington, DC
 Contact: Kevin Voelte
 kvoelte@nrmca.org, 240-485-1152

MAY 24 - 25

NRMCA Concrete Technology Forum:
 Focus on Pervious Concrete
 Nashville, TN
 Contact: Lionel Lemay
 llemay@nrmca.org, 847-918-7101

Television Coverage Begins in Hampton Roads for Insulated Concrete Forms

by J. Keith Beazley
 Director of Industry Services,
 Central Virginia and Hampton Roads

Media coverage and promotion of Insulated Concrete Forms have started in Hampton Roads as a result of the Insulated Concrete Form Association convention being held in Norfolk on Monday, April 24th through Wednesday, April 26th. The press coverage is a coordinated effort of the South Hampton Roads Habitat for Humanity, ICFA, PCA and the Hampton Roads Concrete Advisory Council.

On Tuesday, April 18, the first publicity was a television program on local television channel 4, WSKY. The name of the show was Michael Holigan's "Your New Hose" and aired at 12:30 p.m. at prime lunchtime coverage. The program featured a home being built of ICF forms and concrete and featured the positive aspects of noise reduction (a major concern to residents of Hampton Roads) and insulating values of ICF homes (a contributor to about the 6% increase in cost and cost payback base upon energy saving). Pictures of hurricane destruction and a home still standing were displayed as well.

Press releases are being provided to television stations with information and films capable of inserting into the programming for the station. Jim Niehoff, of PCA, and Keith Beazley, of VRMCA, are coordinating the effort with the Concrete Forms Association and Logix manufacturer to promote the ICFA convention and the usage of ICF forms in the building of a Habitat home. The Virginia coastline is a very attractive market for the benefits of insulating concrete forms. ❖

For safety related links,

please visit the safety committee section of the VRMCA website:

www.vrmca.com/about/safety.aspx



The Insulated Concrete Form Association and the Hampton Roads Concrete Advisory Council Joining Forces to Build Habitat Home

by J. Keith Beazley
 Director of Industry Services, Central Virginia and Hampton Roads

Portland Cement Association is reporting that ICF's were used to construct the exterior walls of nearly 5% of all single-family homes in the United States in 2004, which equates to more than 50,000 ICF homes in that year alone. Although most ICF homes have been built in the upper and middle income price ranges, an increasing number of Habitat affiliates and other low-income housing providers are finding that the energy efficiency and durability benefits of ICF construction translate well for affordable housing.

The South Hampton Roads chapter of Habitat for Humanity, the Insulating Concrete Form Association (ICFA) and the Hampton Roads Concrete Advisory Council are joining forces to build the next Habitat house in Portsmouth with the insulated concrete form method of construction. For the South Hampton Roads house, ICFA and VRMCAC members will provide the ICF forms and concrete necessary to construct the exterior walls of the house which become a new residence of a qualifying family.

The project is a part of the national ICFA convention to be held in Norfolk on April 24th through Wednesday, April 26th. The tradition for the convention is to build a Habitat for Humanity home at the site of the convention in each year's host city. The Spring Meeting and Expo will be held at the

Marriott Waterside in Norfolk and will feature the latest information and products of the ICF industry. Marketing and promotional information will also be provided to individuals attending.

The Habitat home will be started on Wednesday, May 3rd with the stacking of the ICF forms by Habitat volunteers, Concrete Council volunteers, and ICF members. Logix is the form manufacturer to provide the forms for this project; the ICFA rotates this service from each of the member companies. The manufacturer provides supervision the building and provides all of the forms for the project. The exterior walls will be pumped full of concrete beginning at noon on Friday, May 5th, which will provide the best photo opportunity for media outlets. The home is located at 1719 LaSalle Avenue in Portsmouth.

A training class for building with ICF forms is planned for Tuesday, May 2nd by the manufacturer Logix. Contractors interested in learning how to build with this method will be trained at no charge and the ICFA Convention will allow contractors to attend the three day session at no charge as well. This convention is a great venue for the Hampton Roads area to emphasize the benefits of building with concrete with press and television coverage. Jim Niehoff, Residential Promotion Manager, of the Portland Cement Association is working with the local Advisory Council to coordinate the promotional effort. ❖

Blue Ridge Council Hosts Its First ACI Class of 2006

by Bob Nablo, Director of Industry Services, Western Region

Members of the Blue Ridge Council took their turn hosting the VRMCA-sponsored ACI Field Testing Technician Grade 1 class and exam in early April. The Blue Ridge Council normally hosts three events each calendar year, and by April, the weather usually cooperates and allows the practical exam to be held outside.

As everyone is aware, the number of students for these classes continues to increase, putting a strain on our resources. In some cases, the class size has outgrown the facilities previously used, and certainly has made it difficult to obtain volunteer supplemental examiners. Fortunately for the Blue Ridge Council, Massanutten Technical Center lets us use their Continuing Education facilities for the practical exam, and local volunteers are willing to work through the normal lunch period in order to get the students tested in a reasonable time.

This month, 30 students attempted the exam. With only six examiners available (plus instructor Richard Steele), it was decided to try a different approach. Since the longest lines always form waiting for the ASTM C 173 test, it was decided to open three Volumetric Method stations at the very beginning, and temporarily not offer the Slump and Sampling tests. The plan was to test at least half of the students on the Volumetric Meter quickly, and then move one examiner to the Slump station as the waiting lines thinned. This plan was successful, and was aided by **Bill Crummett** and **Will Adams**, the ASTM C 231 examiners. These proctors agreed to perform the Density (unit weight) tests simultaneously with the Pressure Meter test by using the Pressure Meter bucket as a density measure. Their extra work moved the students quickly, and with **Richard Steele** taking over the Slump station, all students were successfully completed by mid-afternoon.

Thanks once again to the volunteers! **Buddy Murtaugh** of Rockingham Redi-Mix, **Ronnie Smith** of VDOT-Culpeper, **Bill Crummett** of Superior Concrete, **Will Adams** of Superior Concrete, **Keith Beazley** of VRMCA and **Bob Nablo** of VRMCA helped get another group of knowledgeable and trained technicians onto the jobsites! ❖



Buddy Murtaugh watches a student.



Bill Crummett examines the pressure meter test.



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The Smart Road bridge, at 175 feet tall, is Virginia's tallest bridge. Approximately 9,647 cubic yards of high-strength concrete were used to construct the 2,000-foot long bridge.

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