

The

# READY-MIXER

Virginia Ready-Mixed Concrete Association

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## newsletter

August 2005

### VRMCA 2005 Fall Convention: Speaker Lineup

The Fall Convention on September 11-13 at Wintergreen Resort is sure to provide lively entertainment and in particular, outstanding presentations and learning opportunities from notable authorities in the concrete industry. Each speaker brings to the convention valuable experience and will offer pertinent information and suggestions for concrete professionals. Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear from so many experts in the field!

**Tom Hethmon** has more than 18 years experience in the management of safety and occupational health. He is currently Vice President of Safety and Occupational Health for Rinker Materials Corporation, one of the ten largest producers of building materials in the world. Previously, he was Director of Occupational Health & Safety for Phelps Dodge Corporation, a Fortune 500 mining and manufacturing company and has held a variety of positions in the petrochemical and pharmaceutical industries as well as in consulting.

Hethmon has authored or co-authored four textbooks on safety, industrial hygiene and toxicology, numerous journal articles, and has been an invited speaker at safety and health conferences worldwide. He was the 1999 recipient of

the American Industrial Hygiene Association's Kusnetz Award and co-recipient of the 1995 Champions of Safety award from Occupational Hazards magazine. Hethmon will present "Driver Safety Solutions" at the convention.

**Bruce Ferguson** is Professor of Landscape Architecture and Director of the School of Environmental Design at the University of Georgia. He is a landscape architect who has specialized in environmental management of urban watersheds for 25 years.

Ferguson is currently serving on the editorial advisory boards of Stormwater magazine, Landscape Architectural Graphic Standards, and the Journal of the Korean Institute of Landscape Architects. Using the results of his stormwater and porous pavement research, he conducts continuing education courses for design practitioners at Georgia and Harvard.

Ferguson recently completed the first comprehensive guide to porous pavements, a new technology, which he says, is "potentially the biggest development in urban watersheds since the invention of the automobile." The 577-page, Porous Pavements, was released by CRC Press in early 2005 after eight years of research, during which Ferguson surveyed firsthand 280 installa-

tions of all kinds of porous pavements, in all parts of North America. Ferguson will present "Progress in Porous Concrete" at the convention.

**Andrew Mergenmeier** is the Virginia DOT State Materials Engineer and is responsible for overseeing the Materials Division which includes preliminary engineering and construction functions, such as, pavement design, assessment of ground stability, testing and approval of asphalt, aggregate, concrete, and pavement markings, and inspection and repair of structural steel and precast and pre-stressed concrete. He came to this position in December 2000 after 15 years of service with the Federal Highway Administration. Mergenmeier is a Civil Engineering graduate from the University of Kansas, and a registered Professional Engineer. He will provide an "Update From VDOT Materials Division" at the convention.

**Tim Cunnane** is a partner with Palmer & Cay, Inc. in Detroit, MI and serves as the Practice Leader for Group Captives. His experience includes program management for a variety of national and regional industry group programs, and his duties include the development and

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### Magician Robert Strong to Provide Convention Entertainment

It all started when young **Robert Strong** visited Baltimore. A magician in the Amphitheater mesmerized him. At that moment, Strong vowed to be the best magician ever. His parents considered therapy, but magic lessons were cheaper.

After attending Tannen's Magic School in New York, Strong graduated from Towson University in Maryland at the top of his class—well, the top of the middle section of his class (better than anyone else who had the same last name).

His education included acting, mime, speech, voice, comedy, improvisation, and business. Dedicated to never getting a normal job, Strong continued to study with Ringling clowns, world-class jugglers, Broadway actors, and Cirque Du Soliel choreographers.

Strong now tours internationally, not only as a successful entertainer, but also as a director. He coaches variety artists and corporate executives on how to improve their "performance skills." Since 1985, he has performed in 17 countries, on national television and twice at the White House.

**"This world-class entertainer will be back for his fifth smash year. Robert's show is laugh out loud entertainment that is great for the entire family. He is simply captivating!"**

-The Smithsonian

**"Is he a magician who does comedy or a comedian who does magic? You be the judge. Either way, Robert Strong's a riot. Check him out."**

-The Las Vegas Sun



# Mark Your Calendar!

**\*\*Special Speaking/Presentation Event\*\***

*at:*

**Northern Virginia Concrete Advisory Council**

**Monthly Meeting**

**Thursday, September 8, 2005**

**7:30 A.M.**

**Holiday Inn Hotel, Manassas, Virginia**

**Speaker: Mr. Don Smith,  
President of Conewago Enterprises Inc.**

**Topic: Pervious Concrete Pavement**

***Please make every effort to attend this  
special program.***

## Convention

*Continued from page 1*

oversight of new group captives. Cunnane is also responsible for overall program service and marketing.

Prior to joining Palmer & Cay, Cunnane spent eight years at Marsh USA, Inc., where he served in a similar capacity within in the Middle Market Practice. His client activity with group programs included design, development and implementation of traditional and captive property and casualty programs, self-insurance funds, and alternative risk solutions. Cunnane will present "The Group Captive Insurance Model" at the convention.

**Roy Pearson's** specialty is forecasting, which he has been teaching in the MBA program at the College of William and Mary since 1974. From 1984 to 1998 as Director of the College's Bureau of Business Research, he regularly published his quarterly two-year-ahead forecasts for Virginia and six of its metropolitan areas, and he continues to prepare national, state, and sub-state forecasts for businesses and government agencies.

Pearson has served on the Governor's Advisory Board of Economists under five Virginia governors. He is an active member and has been on the Board of Directors of the International Institute of Forecasters. He will present "The Goldilocks Economy, Now and 2006 Too" at the convention.

**Dave Frentress** is Director of Marketing for Glacier Northwest, Inc., a vertically integrated company with cement, ready-mixed concrete, concrete pumping, building materials, and aggregates, supplying markets in Washington and Oregon. In that capacity, Frentress promotes Insulating Concrete Forms, pervious concrete, waterproof concrete, decorative concrete, concrete intersections, etc. He consults with owners, architects, engineers and contractors on the optimal ways to utilize concrete as a preferred building material.

Frentress has over 25 years of experience in the concrete industry, working for a concrete contractor for seven years through university. He holds a Bachelors Degree from Moorhead State University in Minnesota and a Masters Degree from Sir Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. He is a Sustainable Building Advisor and is working on attaining LEED Accreditation. He will present "Selling More Concrete with Sustainability" at the convention.

For safety related links,  
please visit the safety committee section  
of the VRMCA website:  
[www.vrmca.com/about/safety.aspx](http://www.vrmca.com/about/safety.aspx)



## Chesterfield County Economic Development: Feature of Advisory Council

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

**E**conomic Development was the topic of discussion at the Central Virginia Advisory Council meeting in August.

Liz Kashurba, Project Manager, for the Chesterfield County Economic Development Department was the guest speaker at the membership luncheon meeting.

The program featured an economic development overview, recent announcements and future areas for development. The mission of the economic department is to enhance the economic vitality of Chesterfield County, by attracting business capital investment and new jobs.

The department also assists existing and new businesses in site selection, information and research, public relations, relocation services, business issues, and the regulatory processes.

Liz Kashurba presented the investment activity and announcements of firms locating in Chesterfield County and the planning that is part of the new Meadowville Technology Park being developed by the county itself.

The major areas of development are in the Route 295 and Route 288 areas of the county.

New investment in health care, biotech and pharmaceutical, business and corporate, and plastics and chemicals are in the process of locating in the county.

The housing sector will also increase in volume as a result of the increased business opportunities for employment.

The advisory council meeting was well attended and members enjoyed this second of a series of presentations by the area economic departments.

Plans are to have Henrico County and the Commonwealth of Virginia to present plans underway in their areas of marketing and development.

Knowledge of the business activity in the area helps the member companies to formulate plans for their future and growth in our market place from information not generally available.

## Special Note

### VRMCA Technical Bulletins Available

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.

The first two bulletins are now available and can be downloaded directly from the VRMCA website at: [www.vrmca.com](http://www.vrmca.com). 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.

## Corporate News

### VRMCA Scholarship Recipient Begins Career at Master Builders, Degussa Admixtures Inc.

**M**y name is Brian De Chirico, I am a graduate of the Concrete Industry Management program at Middle Tennessee State University. I was introduced to the concrete program my second semester attending MTSU.

A friend of mine worked at Ready Mix Concrete Company that his father owned, and this is where I had my first internship.

The plant was located in Addison, MI. The following summer, I was in Chicago, IL working for an admixture company, and during the summer after that, I worked for another Ready Mix plant in Nashville, TN.

These opportunities for me were priceless and to anyone attending any school, I highly recommend doing an internship.

I feel that all of my experiences have better prepared me for the "real world" and the transition from a college student to career driven adult was much easier having done these internships.

During my studies at MTSU, I was fortunate enough to receive a scholarship from the VRMCA based on academics.

This was a tremendous help to me, in that it enabled me to focus more on my studies. Between the excellent staff at MTSU and my priceless opportunities to see the industry in the field, I feel that I could not have been better prepared for a job in this industry.

Upon graduating, I took a job with Master Builders, now Degussa Admixtures Inc. in Richmond, Virginia, where I look forward to starting an exciting career in the concrete industry.

## Coming Soon!



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mixer Truck Roadeo

November 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Richmond Raceway

Check for details coming soon!

## Southwest Virginia Council Participates in Blue Ridge AIA Annual Conference

by Bob Nablo  
 Director of Industry Services, Western Region

**M**embers of the Southwest Virginia Promotion Council recently participated in the annual Blue Ridge AIA Chapter annual meeting held in Abingdon.

This is a particularly eventful and enjoyable conference, as it is held each year during the Highland Festival—a two week long exhibition of crafts and products staged on the main streets of historic Abingdon.

Attendees also went to a picnic at the home of a local artist, enjoyed the play “Singing In The Rain” at the Barter Theater and mingled with member architects from as far away as Lynchburg, Roanoke and Bluefield.

Council Chairman George Kuhn and VRM-CAC representative Bob Nablo attended the business meeting and heard from regional architects, as well as Virginia Society AIA officials about current local projects and statewide efforts. The Southwest Virginia Council co-spon-

sored a cocktail reception before the banquet and received particular recognition during the business meeting.

Additionally, local Southwest Virginia Council member Lakeside Ready Mix supplied 150 tons of sand, which was used to cover the city streets for a “beach party” on Saturday night.



**Southwest Virginia Council Chairman George Kuhn with architects Bill Thompson and Ebo Fauber.**

They also donated 500 beach balls for kids, and arranged for a band to play beach music during the event. Lakeside co-owner Debbie Vandyke described the event as a “fun time for kids and adults, and always a highlight of the Festival.”

The Southwest Virginia Council has made a firm commitment to the

Blue Ridge AIA Chapter and expects to be fully involved in future projects.

Blue Ridge AIA has responded by adding a website link to the VRMCA home page, and inviting us to provide seminars and presentations of interest to the ready mixed industry.

## Hampton Roads ACI Class Successful Despite Record Heat

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

**T**he August ACI Certification for Concrete Field Testing Technician was held in the fourth week in August during a period of record heat for the area.

The examination was held at the Titan America plant in Hampton and with the help of dedicated individuals serving as proctors, the class was completed successfully.

The summer session is one that is always difficult, as the work load is at a peak for companies and individuals serving as proctors are taking vacations.

The VRMCA wishes to thank those individuals and companies who volunteered their time for the test.

Serving as proctors were: Steve Kerr, of W.R. Grace, Timothy Bonds, of Capital Concrete, Frank MacConochie of Schnabel, Jim Holland, of Titan America and Bob Nablo and Keith Beazley, of VRMCA. Richard Steele served as the instructor for the course and examination.

The VRMCA also wishes to thank Titan for the use of their facilities and the faux concrete utilized during the testing.

# VRMCA 2005-2006 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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## Hampton Roads Council Beats Summer Doldrums with Fishing Trip

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

The Hampton Roads Advisory Council held a Chesapeake Bay Fishing Trip in August aboard the vessel 'First Chance,' with Captain Brian Noel. This trip served as a business meeting and social event for members and guests.

August is typically a difficult month for the Council due to heavy work schedules, business obligations and vacations for members and this event offered the opportunity for members to invite customers and enjoy a time of fellowship on the water. Members were encouraged to invite customers, company management and office support members to attend the function.

Chairman Jim Simons conducted the business items aboard the boat in the cabin while the boat was traveling to the fishing grounds.

Awards for fishing were given to Phil Sabo, of Branscome Concrete, for the "First Fish" and to Brad Meyers, of Swope, for the "Largest Fish."

A good time was experienced from all who attended the event and this substitute for the August meeting was a very successful diversion from the usual meeting. A special thanks goes out to Charles Malbon, of Tank Lines, who made arrangements for the charter and food.



Members returning from the fishing trip.

## VRMCA Board Member Profile: Diggs Bishop

### Name?

Diggs Bishop

### Title?

I am President of Cardinal-Virginia Concrete Company and Vice President of the Virginia Ready-Mixed Concrete Association.

### Where is your company located?

Cardinal-Virginia Concrete Company's main office is in Springfield, Virginia. Our operations are in Northern Virginia and the District of Columbia.

### Where is your place of birth/hometown?

I was born and raised in Charlottesville, Virginia.

### What college or university did you attend?

I attended Davidson College, which is located in North Carolina. I majored in biology.

### How many years have you been in the industry?

I have been in the industry for 19 years.

### What current project or activity are you working on?

Currently, we are developing an intelligent software program with our dispatch system, which utilizes historical travel data to provide dispatch-

ers with real time decision making to improve efficiencies and customer service.

### What is the accomplishment you are most proud of?

Professionally, it is the fact that through our management team, we built a trust with our employees, such that they decided they no longer needed a union that had been established for 50 years.

### What is the best thing about living in your area (Great Falls, Virginia)?

Great Falls is the closest thing in Northern Virginia to Charlottesville in terms of scenery. Also, Northern Virginia is a vibrant diverse place to live with great educational choices for our children, and access to so many resources.

### The best part of the job?

The wide range of people I work and interact with on a daily basis.

### What did you do before this job?

I worked in pharmaceutical sales.

### Mentor?

My father. He taught me how to treat other people with respect and dignity.

### Hobbies?

I enjoy playing golf, running and spending time with my kids.

### Favorite Vacation Spot?

Rodanthe, North Carolina, which is on the Outer Banks.

### Family?

I have my wife McNair, my twelve-year-old son Bill, my nine-year-old daughter Mary and my six-year-old son Coleman.

### UVa or Tech?

I would have to say UVa. Having grown up in Charlottesville and attended all of the sporting events, I'm still a fan.

### Last Book?

Ernest Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms*. The novel is set during World War I and is told through the eyes of an American who joined the Italian Army as a medic.

### The perfect day off?

An early morning run, a round of golf and a quite dinner with my wife would be ideal.



# Think Solution, Think Pervious Concrete

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

Pervious Concrete is being used successfully all across the country for parking lots, sidewalks, low volume streets and various other paving applications. This open cell structure allows runoff water to filter through the underlying soil.

It can eliminate stormwater piping. It can also maximize site usage by reducing the need for detention pounds. Flow rates in pervious concrete exceed 100 year rainfall event.

Ultimately, pervious concrete offers solutions—environmentally and economically. However, there is one question that always comes up, and that is one regarding “Freeze-Thaw Condition.”

I certainly have been asking that question and I have been told that we should not use pervious concrete in the areas with multiple freeze-thaw cycles.

At the last VRMCA spring convention, I had an opportunity to spend some time with Pat Reardon, Executive Director of Northeast Cement Shippers Association. I asked him if he has any information about an existing pervious concrete project in the areas with high freeze-thaw cycles.

Some time later I received an email from Mr. Reardon about a pervious project in Westminster, Maryland that was built in 2004 and has already gone through one winter.

This project was done for Shelter System Limited—a family owned and operated facility and a leading manufacturer of roof and open web trusses.

I had an opportunity to visit this facility (see photo) and meet with one of the owners and vice president of the company, Joe Hikel. Hikel mentioned that this project came about as

a result of two years of research to determine the most efficient production practices and plant layout. He said that as they developed the program, they also teamed up with Conewago Enterprises, Inc.

The suggestion was made by Conewago to use pervious concrete to allow storm water to flow through the pavement and recharge into the ground water. Storm water from the building was also piped to this infiltration system.



Close-up view of pervious concrete.

This eliminated the need for a two and one half acre storm water management pond, and this area was transformed into a usable storage area. Shelter System utilizes this area for staging their finished products before the product is loaded for delivery.

The result is eight acres of pervious pavement

that accommodates 80” of rain per hour, which is ten times intensity of 100 year rainfall event. Using pervious pavement also saved the owner \$400,000 in underground drainage cost. Interestingly enough, the building exterior was also constructed using full height insulated natural gray precast concrete sandwich panels.

Shelter System is one of the many pervious pavement projects that are in place in the areas with multiple freeze-thaw cycles. Please see the

examples below:

- Kozeliski Law Office, located in Gallup, NM. Placed in 1991. 210 cycles per year.
- Finley Stadium, Chattanooga, TN. Placed in 1997. 50 cycles per year.
- Center County Welcome Center, State College, PA. Placed in 1999. 120 cycles per year.
- F.A. Rohrbach, Inc., Allentown, PA. Placed in 1999. 100 cycles per year.
- Athens Regional Park, Athens, TN. Placed in 2003. 90 cycles per year.
- Shelter System, Inc., Westminster, MD. Placed 2004. 90 cycles per year.

As an organization, we should become more educated about pervious concrete, because there is a tremendous market opportunity for this material in Virginia.

To educate our members in Northern Virginia about pervious concrete, I have invited the President of Conewago Enterprises, Don Smith, to speak to NVCAC at our monthly council meeting on Thursday, September 8, 2005.

To learn more about pervious pavement and freeze-thaw application, check [www.concreteparking.org](http://www.concreteparking.org).





## Tilt-Up Demonstration Held at River Run Business Center

by J. Keith Beazley

Director of Industry Services, Central Virginia and Hampton Roads

River Run Business Center was the site of a tilt-up demonstration of walls being erected and where building system information was provided on a new major building in the business park.

The River Run Business Center, a Luck Stone Property, has a total of 156 acres and is located in Spotsylvania County halfway between Richmond and Fredericksburg.

The business park offers a grand entrance with stone walls and signage, tree-lined medians and landscaping, protective covenants, architectural guidelines and a Property Owners Association. Sites range in size from two to five acres.

Emerald Construction is the General Contractor for the project and the second large tilt-up building was started this summer in August.

A special day of demonstrations of lifting tilt-up walls and special tours was planned for the



Crane in position to lift panels.

project building.

A large rain storm caused the cancellation of the tilt-up wall demonstration, but the marketing efforts were still very successful. Architects from Fredericksburg and Richmond attended and the Planning District Economic Development Director attended with potential clients for the building.

The County of Spotsylvania has leased the first building for the School Administration and the group attended the function for an opportunity to see a tilt-up building being constructed. The Spotsylvania School

Board meets in a tilt-up building.

Franci Lucas, Marketing Director of Emerald Construction, was pleased of the marketing success even with the major rain. Follow-up has been made after the event and interest in the new building is already coming in place.

The Central Virginia Advisory Council and the VRMCA has worked with Emerald on a number of marketing projects in the Richmond area and a Tilt-up Symposium is in the planning stages for February of next year in Richmond.

This seminar will host architects, planners, and business developers in the Central Virginia area.



The Tilt-up process of a north section being erected, with panels waiting for lift up.

### STAFF PROFILE: AMY PAYNE-WHITEHEAD, COMMUNICATIONS

**Name:** Amy Payne-Whitehead

**Title:** Communications coordinator.

**Birthplace:** I was born in Asheville, North Carolina. That is where I grew up.

**How long have you been with the company?** I have been with the company for almost a year.

**What are your job responsibilities?** I design and work on various print publications for the Association.

**What brought you to Charlottesville?** My husband got a job at GE Fanuc here in Charlottesville, right before we were married.

**Family?** My husband Brian, our three cats Patty, Lucy and Marcie, and our dog Linus. The rest of my family is in North Carolina and Tennessee.



**The best thing about living here?** The cultural diversity and beautiful scenery.

**The best part of the job?** The variety of publications. There's never a dull moment.

**What did you do before this job?** I worked as an editor at a law publishing company and internet advertising company.

**Hobbies?** I enjoy yoga, reading, writing horror and science fiction short stories, and cooking international cuisine.

**UVa or Tech?** Neither. I'm not much of a sports fan.

**The perfect day off?** Sitting on the front porch at my

parents' house in western North Carolina, on a warm summer day with the grill fired up.

## 2005 VRMCA ADVISORY COUNCIL REGIONALS

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