

CEG

Special Features

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GERALD GOETTSCHÉ BECOMES PCI FELLOW

To honor members for outstanding contributions to the precast, prestressed concrete industry and to PCI.



Gerald (Jerry) Goettsche was bestowed the honor of PCI Fellow at the 2007 PCI Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. Jerry became the fifth member of the CEG family to be bestowed this prestigious honor. He joins Norm Scott, Les Martin, Armand Gustafarro, and Tom D'Arcy as recipients of this award.

Jerry received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering in 1959 and his Master of Science in Civil Engineering in 1960, both from the University of Illinois. Jerry was an Evans Scholar while at the U of I which is a caddy scholarship program administered by the Western Golf Association. While there, he took a course in prestressed concrete – one of the few universities to offer it at the time.

After three years in the U.S. Army, stationed in Paris, France, Jerry accepted his first job with Chicago Bridge and Iron Company (CBI). After a short stint with CBI, he joined the Chicago architectural firm of Shaw Metz and Associates. There, he renewed his acquaintance with precast concrete by designing a couple of projects using architectural precast concrete. But, back then, precast was only one method of construction, not the preferred method we know today.

In 1969, Jerry caught the eye of Norm Scott, who was the first executive director of the Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute and a legend in the industry. Scott, who moved the PCI offices from Boca Raton, Florida to Chicago, Illinois, had spent a couple of years at Wiss Janney Elstner and then started his own firm. Jerry says, "When I started at CEG we were in a two

PCI Chairman Bob Konoske bestows Jerry's Fellowship



room office above a Chinese restaurant in Glenview, Illinois.”

Jerry became Norm’s first full-time hire for his new firm, The Consulting Engineers Group, Inc. (CEG). Jerry served the firm for 32 years, where he rose to become the president of the Illinois office. Jerry says, “At CEG, I was fortunate to learn from and work with Norm Scott and several other precast industry pioneers, including Les Martin, Armand (Gus) Gustaferrero, and Tom D’Arcy.”

Over the years, CEG has designed precast plants; produced market studies for precasters as well as devised structural design solutions for their products; designed more than 60 sports stadiums and hundreds of parking structures; and produced a multitude of shop drawings for producers. Today, CEG has grown to 80 employees; the majority are located in the Chicago and San Antonio offices, with a small but growing group in the Lake Mary, Florida office.

Among the projects Jerry has been deeply involved with are: the Union Camp Paper Plant, South Carolina; 123 Mission Office Build-

ing in San Francisco, California; and the Porter Street Outfall Sewer, Central Artery Project in Boston, Massachusetts.

Stadiums have been a big part of CEG’s legacy. “One of our biggest jobs was the design of the Florida Suncoast Dome in St. Petersburg, Florida, where the Tampa Bay Devil Rays baseball team plays,” Jerry proudly relates. “That stadium was one of the first stadium jobs to utilize precast concrete throughout the structure from the ground up.”

Another memorable accomplishment was the Olympic Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia, designed for the 1996 Olympic Games. The stadium was built to house 85,000 fans for the opening and closing ceremonies and the track and field events. It was also designed to convert into a cozy baseball stadium after the completion of the Olympic Games. The smaller stadium is now Turner Field, home of the Atlanta Braves baseball team. The design incorporated more than 200 components of structural precast concrete that were disassembled from one end of the Olympic facility and reused in the baseball configuration.

Jerry muses, “The precast industry has changed a lot in the past 35 years. We’ve gone from slide rules and hand drafting to computers and CAD, to the betterment of the industry.”

Shortly after joining CEG in 1969, Jerry became an active Professional Member of PCI. He has served on the Board of Directors, the Technical Activities Committee, the TMRD Executive Committee, the Professional Member Committee, the Precast Sandwich Wall Committee, and the Justice Facilities Committee.

In 1990, Jerry received PCI’s Robert J. Lyman Award for co-authoring the *PCI JOURNAL* paper, “The Florida Suncoast Dome.” He was also awarded two PCI Certificates of Merit for committee work on “State-of-the-Art of Precast/Prestressed Wall Panels,” and the “PCI Standard Design Practice.”

Jerry continues his association with CEG on a limited consulting basis, while spending more time with his wife Karen and their three children and their families, including two daughters who are both veterinarians, one in Wisconsin and one in Minnesota, and their son who is a high school math teacher and tennis coach and lives in the Chicago area. They also have three grandchildren who add great richness to their lives.

Jerry and Karen enjoy traveling and have been fortunate to tour Africa, Asia, Europe, and Australia. In November 2007, they traveled to Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, and Hong Kong over a three week period.

In addition, Jerry continues his association with PCI. “The members of PCI are more than clients and associates – they are also good friends.” Likewise, Karen has enjoyed participating on the Spouses Program Advisory Committee for 18 years. “Karen and I have been going to PCI conventions for 37 years,” says Jerry. “In fact, they have become an integral part of our lives!”

Congratulations Jerry from all of us at CEG on this most prestigious award!