



Editor's Message

You Gotta Have Faith!

by Ben Hershey

**"When things get tough,
always remember...faith doesn't
get you around trouble,
it gets you through it!"**

I am not sure where I saw that quote sometime in the last two months, but I wrote it down and have kept it on the visor of my truck as a reminder every day. As I write this, the newest stimulus package has passed through Congress, and I am thankful to those of you who joined myself, Rick Parrino's Legislative Committee and the National Association of Home Builders to write our Congressional Representatives in support of the housing piece of this legislation. Today, President Obama was in Phoenix and touted his bailout of mortgages; it seems to me that the Obama Administration needs to address how to get banks lending again. Certainly we live in unprecedented times that even those who founded this industry said they have never seen. A lot of government money is being thrown around, and I am sure we are all hopeful that some of it starts flowing back into construction.

When things get tough, always remember...faith doesn't get you around trouble, it gets you through it!

This issue is framed around Research & Testing and its profound effects on our industry. Go back in time and reflect on the things that have been developed in our industry and changed the products we manufacture, how we manufacture them, how we deliver them, and how we market them. Quite a few come to mind very quickly for me, including the automation of various production equipment and the use of wall panels. This past month (February), the Structural Building Components Research Institute (which is wholly owned by SBCA) received its ACLASS certification from the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (see page 9 for more details). SBCRI is one of the few facilities that tests structural assemblies as they are actually built and installed properly in the field. SBCRI offers an extensive list of testing options for accurate and, if necessary, confidential, full-scale testing and analysis of a wide variety of construction products in an in situ environment. Since its grand opening in June 2007, SBCRI has been working hard on tests that increase our understanding of the behavior of building components within our testing joint venture program with the Truss Plate Institute (TPI).

Our industry continues to evolve based on the ideas that come from our customers, vendors and from our component manufacturing peers. We need to continue to find faster and safer ways to install our products in the field, and we also need to research new ways of using our products both from a structural engineering as well as a cost-efficient use of materials standpoint. This comes from continued research of how our products perform in "real-world" applications, not just looking at a piece of paper that says the truss will work. If you remember the Balloon Frame Wall Systems article in the January/February issue, that idea was born from one of our industry entrepreneurs. With additional research and testing that may be one of the next waves of products we manufacture.

Our new state of the art research facility in Madison, WI affords us the opportunity to work with our partner, TPI, and others to push the boundaries of what we know and how we use our products. If you have not had the chance to see the facility, I encourage you to take a trip and see what our industry has developed. Even in hard times like we are experiencing now, there are people in our industry who are using

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at a glance

- ☐ Finding faster, safer ways to install our products and discovering new applications is a benefit of component testing.
- ☐ SBCRI in Madison, WI affords us the opportunity to work with TPI and others to push the boundaries of component knowledge.
- ☐ Everyone is welcome to visit SBCRI and see what our industry has developed!

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this facility or their own workshop to find that next unique product niche for their company.

I have a fairly large collection of CDs and recently went to the electronics store to buy a multi-CD player. Imagine my surprise when the sales representative looked at me with a question mark on his face; you would have thought I was looking for an 8-track player. R&D has advanced and I need to start using the technology that powers our music today. Think of how some of you use MP3 players or iPods now; it all started with one man back in the 1800s, Thomas Edison. Edison once said, "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration." It is that 99 percent perspiration that we see in the products, ideas and methodologies that are brought to market.

Finally, I will start putting that "bug in your ear" about the upcoming 2009 BCMC show in Phoenix, AZ. You hear it many times, but BCMC is the one place where our industry can come together, learn from each other and plan for our future. And now more than any other time, you need to make this a priority for your business. The exhibitors and the BCMC Committee are doing a wonderful job of putting together a great lineup of educational sessions and a dynamic show floor with our exhibitors. The companies that take advantage of the value of BCMC will be well positioned to align themselves with these opportunities. Make plans now to attend; I am sure that Phoenix will provide you with some great weather (it is a dry heat ☺). Have a great month! **SBC**

SBC encourages the participation of its readers in developing content for future issues. Do you have an article idea for a future issue or a topic that you would like to see covered? Email your thoughts and ideas to editor@sbcmag.info.

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The mission of *Structural Building Components Magazine* (SBC) is to increase the knowledge of and to promote the common interests of those engaged in manufacturing and distributing structural building components. Further, SBC strives to ensure growth, continuity and increased professionalism in our industry, and to be the information conduit by staying abreast of leading-edge issues. SBC's editorial focus is geared toward the entire structural building component industry, which includes the membership of the Structural Building Components Association (SBCA). The opinions expressed in SBC are those of the authors and those quoted, and are not necessarily the opinions of Truss Publications or SBCA.

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SBCRI Receives ACLASS Accreditation

The Structural Building Components Research Institute (SBCRI), wholly owned by SBCA, received its ACLASS accreditation certificate on February 6. ACLASS, an ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board company, is an international accreditation body based in Washington, DC.

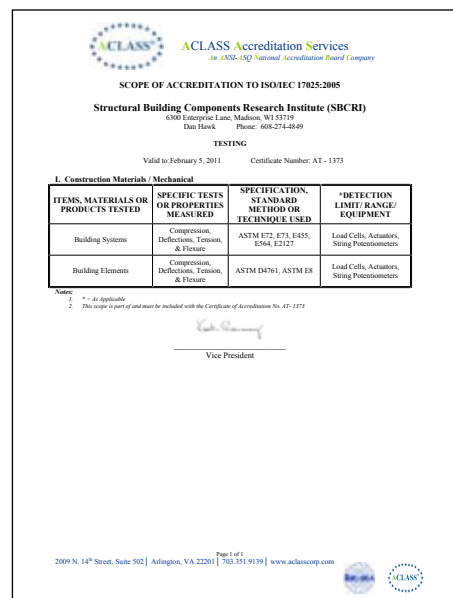
SBCRI is a state-of-the-art testing and research facility in Madison, WI, that is one of the few facilities that tests structural assemblies as they are actually built and installed in the field. SBCRI offers an extensive list of testing options for accurate and confidential full-scale testing and analysis of a wide variety of construction products in an in situ environment. SBCRI specializes in product development, forensic and industry fundamentals testing.

The type of ACLASS certification SBCRI has received is ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation, which is a very rigorous standard for general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories. In order to comply, SBCRI had to develop and implement a quality manual and related quality policies for the structural testing it is undertaking. In December 2008, an assessor from ACLASS spent two days in SBCRI evaluating its structural testing quality assurance processes.

"The scope of our certification is very broad, which is unique for a testing lab," said Kirk Grundahl, SBCA Executive Director. "SBCRI is ACLASS certified for gravity, uplift, lateral and cyclical loading techniques where we are able to use the traditional ASTM standards for individual component testing and as a guideline for creating testing procedures for full scale assembly testing. The certification allows us the flexibility to define testing techniques for each type of testing set-up: component segment, single structural elements, and in situ element assemblies with associated connections."

The ACLASS certifier was very impressed with SBCRI's quality control process, which is centered on measuring the applied loads from the actuators, watching the load as it moves through the assembly and then measuring all the reaction loads at the foundation. "That's a very powerful testing technique; by definition, loads in must equal loads out, so you find out instantly if the test results are accurate," Grundahl said.

Visit www.sbcinfo to view the ACLASS certificate or the SBCRI Talking Brochure™. **SBC**



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