ACI Foundation Announces Fellowship Award Honoring JoAnne K. and Cecil L. Jones

The ACI Carolinas Chapter has recently committed funding to create a second honorary student fellowship award to honor one of its esteemed and active chapter members. Chad B. Hensley, William K. (Kenny) Johnson Jr., and Stephen R. Hahn pledged $75,000 on behalf of their chapter to establish the JoAnne K. and Cecil L. Jones Carolinas Fellowship. “The ACI Carolinas Chapter is thrilled to support the ACI Foundation with a fellowship in honor of Cecil and JoAnne Jones,” stated Hensley, ACI Carolinas Chapter President. “Cecil has been a mentor to many industry professionals over the years and contributed tirelessly to the Carolinas Chapter with a kind smile and a warm heart. We congratulate him and JoAnne on this honor and thank them for their support of ACI and the ACI Carolinas Chapter.”

Cecil L. Jones, FACI, President of Diversified Engineering Services, Inc., Raleigh, NC, USA, which he founded in 2009, provides consulting services to a wide range of clients. He performs transportation materials-related research, product evaluation and implementation of new technologies and materials, specification development, materials quality management, and training. Jones has been active in ACI for more than 25 years and has served as Chair for several ACI committees. He was named the 2010 ACI Educational Activities Committee Member of the Year and received the 2015 ACI Henry L. Kennedy Award.

Anthony E. Fiorato Donates $25,000 to the ACI Foundation

The ACI Foundation extends its gratitude to ACI Honorary Member Anthony E. Fiorato, who recently donated $25,000 to the ACI Foundation scholarship fund. Fiorato requested that the ACI Foundation use this gift to establish a new student award honoring ACI Honorary Member Kenneth C. Hover and his many contributions to educating and mentoring students. We are appreciative of his generosity and dedication to the industry and now to the ACI Foundation.

Fiorato has contributed to the industry through activities in technical societies and standards development organizations, lecturing and publishing, and serving in leadership roles. He has previously served as the Executive Director of the Slag Cement Association (SCA), President and CEO of CTLGroup, and Vice President of Research and Technical Services for the Portland Cement Association (PCA). Fiorato is a Fellow, Honorary Member, and Past President of ACI, and an Honorary Member and past Chair of the Board of ASTM International. In 2008, he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering.

The ACI Foundation scholarship program serves the industry by establishing and distributing fellowships and scholarships to high-potential students in concrete-related graduate and undergraduate degree programs. To learn more about the benefits to students and view the descriptions of the ACI Foundation awards, visit www.acifoundation.org/scholarships.

Vilas S. Mujumdar Pledges $75,000 for Research

Vilas S. Mujumdar, FACI, recently approached the ACI Foundation with the desire to support meaningful concrete research that will enable the concrete industry as a whole system—not parts—to be resilient and face current societal issues, such as climate change. A retiree from the National Science Foundation, Mujumdar currently serves the concrete industry as an independent consulting engineer. His education encompasses advanced degrees in both technical and business while his work experience combines more than 40 years of engineering in the private sector, state regulatory work, and federal research management. Mujumdar has given back to the industry through many aspects of his career, such as civil and structural design, project management, research, and teaching. He has provided his knowledge and expertise internationally, in places such as Asia, Europe, Canada, and the United States.

Mujumdar explained that his “focus for this and future funding is to really think beyond just design and construction, and materials as a component, and to think about the entire [concrete] system and how to benefit society on a long-term basis.” The ACI Foundation is grateful for his generous pledge of $75,000 reserved for research that will help the concrete industry meet the needs of the future. We look forward to collaborating with him and others to leverage his donation in the best way possible.

Mentor a Fellowship Awardee

One way to contribute to the ACI Foundation and strengthen the concrete industry is to mentor a student. Through the ACI Foundation fellowship program, graduate
Building the Future: ACI Foundation

and undergraduate students whose studies relate to concrete receive assistance in finding a mentor for 1 year. Students and mentors are paired by their top areas of interest. By becoming a mentor to a fellowship awardee, you can help guide student engagement within ACI and help contribute to their effectiveness in entering and interacting with the concrete industry. With your help, students can build a network of support in their journey to becoming concrete professionals that contribute to the advancement of the industry.

Many mentors report gaining as much from the relationship as the students being mentored. Even individuals who are not outgoing can be great mentors. The key is to find common ground with the student and to remember the value being delivered. Right now is a great time to help people as workers around the world begin to re-engage with each other. “Making a positive impact on another person generates amazing energy. It’s a good thing,” says Eric Kaled, President of Genfare and TCI International, Inc.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, email Chandice Moore at chandice.moore@acifoundation.org.

ACI Foundation Establishes Burg-Coleman Iowa State ’77 Fellowship

The ACI Foundation has established the Burg-Coleman Iowa State ’77 Fellowship. This new fellowship is funded through a generous $75,000 donation from Ronald G. Burg, ACI Executive Vice President, and Jeffrey W. Coleman, ACI President, 2020-2021.

Burg and Coleman are both 1977 graduates of Iowa State University College of Engineering: Coleman received his degree in civil engineering in ’76 and his master’s in structural engineering in ’77, and Burg received his degree in civil engineering in ’77.

“I’m so pleased that this fellowship supports several of my passions—Iowa State, the ACI Foundation, and preparing our future engineering industry leaders,” stated Burg. The fellowship will be administered by the ACI Foundation and awarded annually to students who are studying an advanced degree in civil engineering with a focus on concrete structures or materials. Preference will go to candidates who study at Iowa State, and subsequently to students who are full-time residents of Iowa at the time of application for the Fellowship. This new fellowship will award its first student in the ACI Foundation’s 2022-2023 awards cycle.