Kent K. Sasaki was appointed to the California State Building Standards Commission in 2003. He is Consultant and Unit Manager of the San Francisco, CA, office of Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. Sasaki is a member of ACI, ACI-FTI, Structural Engineers of California, and the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute. He received bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.

Mac Ismail is the Chief Operating Officer for The Urbtran Group, New York, NY. In this newly created position, he will be responsible for day-to-day operations across all business units and functional areas. A licensed civil engineer in New York and Washington states, Ismail joins Urbtran from STV Corp., where he was Vice President and Director of Mid-Atlantic Operations and Executive-in-Charge of the JFK Airport ArmTrain Project.

Camilo Alvarez is the Office Manager and Lead Engineer for the new Los Angeles, CA, office of GRL Engineers, Inc. Formerly with the firm’s Florida office, Alvarez will oversee their efforts to meet the foundation testing needs of the West Coast market. The 30-year-old Ohio-based company also has offices in Colorado, Illinois, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania.

Marketing from Walsh College, Troy, MI, and a bachelor's degree in construction management from Kansas State University.

J. Christopher Ball rejoined Vector Corrosion Technologies as Director of Sales and Marketing, based in the Medina, OH office. He previously served as the company's Business Development Manager. Ball received his BA and MBA from Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY.

Grace Construction Products promoted Charles Cormman to the position of Research Manager. Cormman, who joined Grace in November 2001, will be responsible for all product development projects focused on cement additives, admixtures for self-consolidating concrete, and high-range water reducers. Previously, he served as Senior Scientist for the Georgia-Pacific Corp. and was Assistant Professor of Chemistry at North Carolina State University. He has a PhD in chemistry from the University of California-Davis and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan.

Honors and Awards

The Portland Cement Association (PCA) Education Foundation awarded four graduate students with educational fellowships at the association’s 2003

Infrared Thermal Imaging

Burden, University of (Michael D. A. Thomas, research title: "The Use of Composite Materials to Reduce skateboarder impact forces, 2003)

Narayanan Sethi, Ohio State University (Jan Oel, professor, research title: "The Effect of Temperature on the Rate of Reaction of a Gas, 2003"

The PCA provided the funding for the study and awarded the students up to $10,000 each for their research. The award is made to honor the legacy of Walter E. Rohrs, a former PCA chairman and a longtime advocate for education in the construction industry.

The award is made to honor the legacy of Walter E. Rohrs, a former PCA chairman and a longtime advocate for education in the construction industry. The recipients were selected based on their academic achievements, research potential, and contributions to the construction industry.