

New ACMA President Brings Energy and Vision

Lori Luchak, ACMA's new president, has a strong connection with the association's history and a vision of its future.



As president of Miles Fiberglass & Composites in Portland, Ore., she leads the second generation of a family business owned by her father, Lowell Miles, a two-term ACMA president and 2000 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient. "I learned a lot from watching my father lead ACMA through difficult times," she says.

Luchak has given time and ideas to ACMA for many years, speaking at various training programs, taking part in strategic planning and serving as contributing editor of ACMA's *CM Magazine*. She earned her Certified Composites Technician (CCT) status in 1999.

While acknowledging the composites industry and ACMA have faced many tough challenges in recent years, Luchak believes exciting opportunities await forward-thinking firms. "The focus

on energy efficiency and the increase in demand for lighter, more durable products has opened the door for composites."

ACMA's first female president succeeds Monty Felix, CEO of Alaglas Pools in St. Matthews, S.C. She shares her key plans for improving the association during her two-year term:

- **Enhance ACMA's academic outreach** by engaging community colleges and technical schools by expanding CCT programs and adding hands-on curricula. "We can do this by further including academic institutes in our trade shows, *CM Magazine*, the ACMA website and blog, and adding them as a Composite Growth Committee," Luchak says.
- **Increase partnerships with similar associations** by networking and representing ACMA. "We should combine our strengths and join forces to accomplish similar goals," she says.
- **Be the industry spokesperson to enhance the profile of composites on Capitol Hill.** "It is my objective to testify before Congress and relevant agencies when needed, make Congressional visits and recruit member companies to participate in ACMA Lobby Day," Luchak says. "I challenge you to get to know your Congressional representative and join us on Capitol Hill."

Styrene Issue: It's Time to Come Together

Now that styrene has been approved for classification by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as a "reasonably anticipated" carcinogen, it's time for the industry to speak with a unified voice through ACMA. Your association is focused on protecting its members and providing them with the tools and education they need in this interim period before ACMA and its allies overturn the ruling.

WHAT IT MEANS: OSHA's Hazard Communications Standard will require suppliers and employers to put cancer warning labels on drums and other "containers" of styrene and styrene-containing materials, including resin and gelcoat.

WHAT WE'RE DOING: With plans to overturn the ruling, ACMA is continuing to **educate decision makers** on Capitol Hill and in the White House about the solid science supporting a conclusion that styrene does not pose a cancer threat for humans, says John Schweitzer, ACMA's senior director of government affairs. Also, ACMA has been providing members with comprehensive information and support, including a series of members-only **briefing webinars** and a **Styrene Communications Kit (see next page)** that supports and guides you in communication with employees and plant neighbors.

TOGETHER... WE PROTECT THE INDUSTRY'S FUTURE

A New Tool for Tough Questions

With the classification of styrene as a “reasonably anticipated” carcinogen, the key is to plan, not panic. Employees and plant neighbors want to know what styrene is, how it’s used and if it’s safe. It’s not easy to know what to say about styrene, or when to say it — until now. By working together, ACMA has created an **extremely valuable — and free — members-only benefit** (non-members pay \$1,000).

Instead of spending weeks creating a multifaceted communication plan on the styrene issue, you can simply download the blueprints. **ACMA’s Styrene Communication Kit** supports and guides users as they communicate with employees and plant neighbors. It includes the following components (in English and Spanish):

- **Q+A About Styrene:** Educate people about styrene’s presence in the environment, present the uses and benefits of composite products made from styrene (it helps strengthen armor and helmets for U.S. military troops, etc.) and more.
- **Customizable PowerPoint Presentation:** You don’t have to write the content. Instead, you can present 17 professionally developed slides immediately.
- **Key Messages About Styrene:** This document outlines key talking points about the issue, including that styrene has been used safely in composites manufacturing for half a century and that hundreds of thousands of people have worked safely in styrene-related industries.
- **Worker Handout:** Employees can be concerned, and this document helps you communicate to them openly about styrene.

To learn more, contact Erin Lauria at elauria@acmanet.org or 703-525-0511.



Insightful Conferences for Numerous Markets

When industry pros gather to trade ideas and strategies at ACMA events, the meetings literally mean business:

OUR HISTORY...

At the **ACMA Green Composites Workshop**, held in June, composites industry pros learned how green trends and sustainable materials can help them compete with materials such as steel, aluminum and concrete. Experts discussed ways to expand the market for composites with life cycle assessments (LCAs), which can help firms present clear and concise information on the significantly lower impact on the environment, of their products compared to other materials.

The **ACMA 2011 Construction, Corrosion and Infrastructure Conference** drew more than 160 industry members and 19 exhibitors. Held in May, the three-day conference was packed with education sessions, including “Composite Opportunities in Sustainable Building” and a track on composites in mineral processing. Attendees took advantage of breaks between sessions to exchange views on hot topics, trade solutions and ask questions.

YOUR FUTURE...

Expanding the use of cast polymers is the focus of the **International Cast Polymer Alliance (ICPA) Fall 2011 Multi-Regional Workshop**, to be held Sept. 29-30 at the Argosy Casino and Hotel and the Cook Composites and Polymers (CCP) Technical Center in Kansas City, Mo. The event will bring together key manufacturers, suppliers, fabricators and installers of cast polymer products from around the country. It will kick off with a four-hour seminar presented by Phil Kabza on how ICPA members can use the new architectural guide specifications to increase business in the commercial building market. The event will also include an update on federal and state regulatory issues, a session on incorporating building trends into business plans, interviews with leading manufacturers and more. Register at www.icpa-hq.com/meetings.

And, of course, you can’t afford to miss **COMPOSITES 2012, THE Premier Exhibition and Convention**, to be held Feb. 21-23, 2012 in Las Vegas. At the most diverse composites event in North America, learn new ways to grow and remain competitive in traditional and emerging markets. See page 3 for more.

Plus, be on the lookout for a **Chemical Processing Workshop** and a **Green Composites Workshop** next spring.

TOGETHER... WE SHARE TOOLS AND EXPERTISE

ACMA Action on ANSI Standard Expands Opportunities...

Composites are renowned for their flexibility — manufacturers can customize products to meet a customer's unique goals and requirements. While flexibility remains important, *specificity* is a critical factor to commercial architects and specifiers. They rely on published guides to make decisions about which materials to include in design proposals.

To that end, **ACMA's Pultrusion Industry Council (PIC)** has taken a key step toward creation of a national standard for the use of pultruded fiber reinforced polymer (FRP) composites materials by developing the first-ever Code of Standard Practice for Fabrication and Installation of Pultruded FRP Structures.

This new Code creates guidelines for the manufacturing of structures and provides direction on their installation. It also provides recommendations for construction contract documents.

In addition, the Load & Resistance Factor Design (LRFD) Relevant Committee formed by **ACMA's Composites Growth Initiative (CGI)** will convert PIC's industry guidelines into an American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard. This will provide an important validation of the new Code, which will speed up adoption by architects and engineers.

"The establishment of an ANSI standard for performance criteria will allow structural engineers to incorporate FRP composite materials into their work with more confidence than ever," says John Busel, director of CGI. "It will mean stronger, safer and better buildings."

For information on the PINS submission by ACMA or the ANSI process, contact Larry Cox, CCM, CCT-I, at lcox225@gmail.com or 740-928-3286.

... and Exemplifies Value of CGI Committees

"CGIs are essential to helping further the goals of our members by focusing on areas that are important to them," says Mike Dunn, manager of Composites Growth Initiatives for ACMA. "CGI committees enable leaders in specific segments to come together, talk about key issues regularly, and move forward with practical strategies and actions to grow business."

ACMA is a vehicle to enhance and grow your business, and you have numerous opportunities to participate in the association's many committees. Think about how you can benefit your company and the industry by serving on or creating an ACMA committee. For more information, contact Mike Dunn at mdunn@acmanet.org or 703-525-0511 or visit www.acmanet.org.

It's About Tomorrow's Business at COMPOSITES 2012

Are you ready for the industry's premier opportunity to gain ideas that generate proven results? Then mark your calendar for COMPOSITES 2012, to be held Feb. 21-23 in Las Vegas.

On the COMPOSITES 2012 exhibit floor, attendees will find specific solutions that match applications and solve problems. In conference education sessions, they'll gain insight about markets, trends and technologies that can help their businesses grow.

The event connects the entire composites industry value chain with networking, vendors and education — the most diverse gathering of its kind in North America. Plus, net revenues are reinvested back into ACMA to support the association's members and the composites industry at-large.



The Event You Can't Afford to Miss

- WHAT:** COMPOSITES: THE Premier Exhibition and Convention
- WHEN:** February 21-23, 2012
- WHERE:** Mandalay Bay, Las Vegas, NV
- WHY:** The true mark of a trade show's success is take-away value — the amount of practical tips, informative news and insightful perspective attendees can apply when they return to their offices. For more than two decades, COMPOSITES has delivered the best forum for business, learning and networking. COMPOSITES 2012 attendees will find everything from basic materials to cutting-edge, high-tech products and equipment to help them grow and remain competitive in traditional and emerging markets.
- HOW:** Purchase your exhibit booth space, register online and get more details at www.acmashow.org.

TOGETHER... WE EDUCATE, GROW AND ADVANCE

Calendar of Events

September 29-30

Fall 2011 ICPA Multi-Regional Workshop

Kansas City, MO

Gain valuable insights by attending the ICPA Multi-Regional Workshop exploring the latest cast polymer issues. Network with colleagues, stay up-to-date with best practices, participate in valuable demonstrations, and attend education sessions to better your business.

February 21-23, 2012

COMPOSITES: THE Premier Exhibition and Convention

Las Vegas, NV (Mandalay Bay)



It's all about tomorrow's business at COMPOSITES 2012. As the industry's premier event, with decades of proven results for attendees and exhibitors, COMPOSITES is the most diverse gathering of its kind in North America. Net revenues are reinvested back into the composites trade association to support efforts on behalf of you, your company and the industry.

Why should you attend, or why should you become an exhibitor or sponsor? Find out at www.acmashow.org.

Coming Next Spring

- Chemical Processing Workshop
- Green Composites Workshop

Keep an eye out for details at www.acmanet.org/meetings.



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We Value Our Connection With You!

Whenever you have comments, questions or concerns, please contact ACMA's Membership Department at **703.525.0511 or membership@acmanet.org**.