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Editor’s Comments

Stay Safe!

By Cathee Johnson Phillips

In March, many of us thought that COVID-19 would disappear within a month or so. Now we are almost to the end of 2020, and the pandemic persists in many countries. If you’ve read my comments over the past few issues, you’ve probably noticed that I include the latest information about the pandemic at the time the issue goes to press. Doing so is my attempt to provide a history of sorts for the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) within the pages of this magazine.

So here it goes. Let’s start with the good news. At the time this issue went to press, the BBC reported that Australia recorded zero cases for the first time in five months. USA Today, however, reported that there were more than 46.8 million cases and 1.2 million deaths worldwide. The U.S., with more than 9.2 million cases and more than 231,000 deaths, saw 18 states set records for the number of new cases in one week. Texas surpassed California in recording the highest number of positive coronavirus tests in the U.S. (All the USA Today numbers were based on data from Johns Hopkins University.) Expectations were that the pandemic would continue into 2021, and many of us were living by “hoping for the best while preparing for the worst.”

This philosophy was evident at the SAIA 2020 Virtual Convention, in particular, the panel discussion on COVID-19. I found it encouraging to listen to the panelists as they shared openly about the challenges they faced and how they met them. At the end of that session and others – and indeed at the end of the convention – I minimized my browser window feeling lighter than I had for a while.

That is no small thing – to feel more hopeful. And so, I hope that something in this issue lifts your spirit. Nine volunteers – yes, nine! – provided excellent articles for this issue, and we at the SA Magazine are grateful to them. The contributions of volunteers during this difficult time continues to reveal the resilience of SAIA members and friends. I also want to thank the SAIA staff for their help in making sure this magazine reflects the voice of the SAIA.

Please be sure to read Michael Paladino’s message on page 8 – and get to know him better by reading the Five Minutes column on page 36. His words will encourage you!

As we move into 2021, may we all find the hope we need to stay the course. Please take care of you – and stay safe.

At the end of that session – and indeed at the end of the convention – I minimized my browser window feeling lighter than I had for a while. That is no small thing – to feel more hopeful. And so, I hope that something in this issue lifts your spirit.
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PRESIDENT’S DESK

MENTORING THE NEXT GENERATION

By Michael Paladino

I am honored to have the privilege of being your seated SAIA president for 2020-2022, and I am grateful to my incoming Executive Committee for their commitment to the SAIA. To paraphrase three great leaders, Steve Jobs, General Patton, and Andrew Carnegie: A true leader is someone who surrounds themselves with people who are better than they are. I agonized over my slate for quite a while – there is an incredible amount of talented people in this association. But in the end, I feel that I picked the people who will work together effectively to increase the global presence of the SAIA through the next two years.

Right now, we are in unprecedented times, both with the ongoing pandemic wreaking havoc not only with our economy but with humanity itself. This, coupled with struggling companies and mergers in our industry happening all over the globe, are a few of the issues the SAIA needs to address going forward.

Our concern is keeping our membership strong. But our main objectives are to build on our commitment to the SAIA mission statement of keeping our workforce safe and to maintain a focus on the SAIA vision by building up our education program. I believe, along with the others on the Executive Committee, the SAIA Board of Directors, and our management team, that we will navigate smoothly through these difficult times while building a better and stronger organization.

As an association, we must give of our time and energy to mentor the next generation. Having grown up in the industry, the importance of mentors is something I know about firsthand. We must provide the training they need – and then go beyond that to extend the hand of friendship, a listening ear, and thoughtful advice.

We must welcome their input and be open to new ways of sharing information. We have established the APEX Council and are bringing our training into the digital world for this very reason. For these efforts to succeed, we must connect on a personal level with the next generation. I invite you to join me in this effort and look forward to your participation.

In closing, I would like to thank all the volunteers helping in the SAIA. We ALL are the voice of the scaffold and access industry and are committed to the core values of excellence, education, knowledge, integrity, and safety. Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

Michael

As an association, we must give of our time and energy to mentor the next generation. Having grown up in the industry, the importance of mentors is something I know about firsthand.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

City Wide Building Services
Michael Henry
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Every business has brand ambassadors, inside and out. They are already in your business, in your ecosystem. You have people who speak highly of you. There are people who have been on your side since the beginning. You have new employees who are really engaged and people who have been with you forever that are just as loyal as when they joined your team. You have clients who refer you to the people they know. You already have brand ambassadors, and it is important to (1) recognize them and (2) take care of them. Here are some lessons that may help you to do so.

Lesson #1
In marketing roles, it’s okay to hire outside of your industry. It encourages the “thinking outside the box” mentality.

Lesson #2
To distinguish yourself from other brands, you have to be willing to do things differently, and that takes patience and trust. You will not get results over night, but if you trust the creative process, you’ll be surprised at all the benefits it brings for your brand.

Lesson #3
It’s human to human – not business to business. When creating social media content, make sure you are engaging with humans, with their emotions. You can allow yourself to get out of the technical lingo and instead venture into the more emotional questions and subjects in your company’s videos. Remember what Maya Angelou, an American author who won the National Medal of Arts, said: “People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did,
but people will never forget how you made them feel.” Maya Angelou was right about this, and you can use her wisdom to create more loyalty to your brands.

**Lesson #4**
On social media, connect authentically, or not at all. Be yourself. It’s so important, because people’s bull#$@ meter has never been better!

**Lesson #5**
With creative marketing, the goal can’t be direct sales. It must be to connect with others. By doing that, you allow yourself the space to create, and the results will come, in the form of notoriety and indirect sales.

**Lesson #6**
You already have brand ambassadors. You don’t need to hire or designate them. You need to identify them within your different ecosystems and take care of them. But if you want to hire one, it’s an amazing asset.

**Lesson #7**
Speaking of assets, your most important ones are not your products – they are your teams. Treat everyone in your company, your team, as if they are your brand ambassadors. And using social media and marketing to give them the recognition they deserve will increase employee loyalty and retention. Saying “thank you” by making them shine is always worth it.

**Lesson #8**
Brand ambassadors don’t only help with notoriety and outer marketing. Inner brand ambassadors, members of your team, help you to build your brand as an employer and member of your community.

**Lesson #9**
Outer brand ambassadors can be your clients, your suppliers, members of your association, even customers of competitors. They can be anyone who speaks well of your brands whether they buy your product or not. Your goal is to put that person in the spotlight, at a business lunch, in a video, or on social media – not to get them to talk about your business. Instead, encourage them to talk about themselves.

**Lesson #10**
Your brand ambassadors are the guardians of your reputation. Take good care of them.

**Lesson #11**
Last but not least, you are your brand’s proudest ambassador. Leading by example is the best way.

**About the Author**
Corinne Dutil is Sales Director at Fraco. Contact her at corinne.dutil@fraco.com.
Providing scaffolding and access is easily one of the more high-risk areas of the construction industry. Risks such as falls and collapses are some of the most common and talked about dangers to those working within this trade, but there are other common risks that may not be addressed as often as they should.

Ascinsure Specialty Risk and Allied Insurance Brokers (Gallagher’s wholesale underwriting managers and retail brokers, respectively) regularly review and analyze the risks, claims, and losses that occur within its Scaffold & Construction Access practice. After a thorough analysis, one of the most frequent claims drivers found was scaffold planking and wind risks, otherwise known as wind uplift.

Over the past five years, nearly 13% of the Scaffold & Construction Access practice claims were directly related to scaffold planking uplift caused by the wind. These claims account for nearly 10% of all incurred losses within this practice and average about $17,000 per claim.

With such an impact on frequency and severity, customer education on wind uplift was necessary.

“During a recent claims review, we identified that over the past five years a significant number of claims have been caused by wind dislodging planking and causing it to strike a third party’s property or person,” explained Tres Whitlock, Gallagher’s national director, Crane & Scaffold Practice. “We are now working with our Risk Engineering team to help increase awareness of this claims driver and develop mitigating strategies for our clients.”

At an average of $17,000 per claim, these incidents can seriously hinder a scaffold and access organization by making it difficult to afford future coverage, secure future jobs, or incur additional costs through lawsuits.

“In a world where nuclear verdicts on claims have become less of a surprise and more of an expectation, planking that causes damage to someone else’s property is ammunition to be used against your company,” said Cameron Boots, Gallagher’s director of Risk Engineering, Scaffold & Crane Practice.

An Insured’s Perspective: Wood vs. Metal

Wood planking has been a tried and true scaffold board option for decades. However, in today’s innovative and technological-driven world, aluminum decking has found its way into the industry and proven to be very reliable and increasingly popular. So, what is the best option, especially when it comes to wind risks and reducing any instances of flying or falling planks?

James McNamara, third-generation owner of Safety Scaffolds based in New Jersey and co-chair of the SAIA-Supported Scaffold Council, talked about his experience with wind risks and how he secures his scaffold planking.

He said, “The decision to utilize wood plank versus metal decking in terms of preventing uplift almost invariably comes down to the specific needs of the project. As wood planking has historically been used when providing access solutions, the industry has developed a myriad of ways to install and secure such a platform. One could wire a plank running perpendicular across the top of the deck or use wire alone. You could also cleat them or secure the deck with plywood nailed fast to the face.
“Metal decking on the other hand is newer to the industry and can be less forgiving. While the engineering behind such products gives the erector and the end-user peace of mind when it comes to both structural integrity and uplift prevention, there are often fewer options in terms of design and layout. That said, the benefits of metal decking, such as strength, rigidity, wind latches, lifespan, and the fact that the access industry revolves around our ability to create solutions, makes them a very worthwhile addition to any inventory.”

Whether utilizing metal or wood planking, one thing’s for certain: The structure and its components must be able to withstand certain wind conditions no matter what, especially in an area where extreme weather can appear from seemingly out of nowhere.

Rick Haynes, president of Haynes Scaffolding & Supply Inc., located in West Palm Beach, Florida, said, “Tropical storms or a quick microburst will pop up at the drop of a hat, so we are constantly addressing wind risks and how to be proactive in assuring everything stays in place when we leave a jobsite and weather happens. You can’t just go to all your jobs and take [the scaffold] down until the weather is better. That’s an impossibility. We learned a long time ago to make it stay put. You must prepare it for the worst conditions.”

A Culture of Safety
Haynes Scaffolding reaches this level of risk management and safety before any-one even steps foot on the jobsite by conducting regular safety meetings about such topics as what risks to look for, how to address them, proper securement methods, and many other safety habits designed to keep the structure up in adverse wind conditions, including hurricanes.

“The structure and its parts just have to stay, especially on sites like high rises,” Haynes explains. They accomplish this through practices like cleating the edges of wood planking and stringing it down, utilizing extra counterweights, adding anchors on the ground and into the side of the building, and using metal wire to help secure every deck to the scaffold structure. They also designed their own steel plate assembly that uses special clamps and latches to ensure a secure hold even in a Category 2 hurricane.

But Florida isn’t the only area where wind challenges exist. Every part of the country presents its own set of challenges, many of which include wind risks.. Managing those risks comes down to experience, knowledge, and the requirements of the project to help determine the best approach.

Risk Mitigation Takeaways
Risk management and safety culture play a big role in keeping an organization from becoming just another statistic within the program’s claim numbers. Ask yourself: What measures are you taking before, during, and after the structure is erected to ensure everything is properly in place, secured, checked, and then double-checked? Having training tools and programs in place educates employees on correct procedure and sets standards of what is expected of them before they leave a project site.

According to Boots, “Training and safety culture are key. They are the foundation of any risk management program. Having capable employees who are diligent about safety and know what a truly safe worksite and structure looks like could determine the success and security of jobs before they even come across your desk.”

Bill Hiller, a claims consultant with over 30 years of experience, advises, “Confirm and document when finished, with photographs if possible, that the scaffolding and/or planking is in place and properly secured. Don’t hesitate to trouble the general contractor or your sub-contractor to document and agree in writing that the scaffolding and planking is to contract and/or code.”

There are also many ways to mitigate this risk within your insurance coverage via various risk transfer options. Things such as ensuring there are no wind exclusions on your general liability policy or utilizing the often-overlooked contractor’s equipment policy to cover your scaffolding are two insurance strategies that should be addressed with your broker. An additional risk transfer option could be for the scaffold contractor to transfer responsibility of monitoring wind and weather conditions to the site-controlling entity, such as the general contractor, project owner, etc.

Finally, the days of speaking with an insurance broker only around renewal time or when an incident occurs are gone. The industry has evolved over the past 20 years, especially around the role that brokers are expected to play. Brokers should be trusted advisors and familiar voices educating customers about pertinent risk management strategies, safety training, industry news, and insurance coversages that impact business. So, here’s the last, and arguably most important, tip: make a change. Choose a broker who will educate you on how to best protect your business, not the other way around.

About the Author
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Recently, during a TV drama show, two actors talked about their successful efforts in avoiding World War III. One observed that they had done the best they could, while the other responded that, in spite of that, people still died. “They did the best they could, but people still died.” That statement could easily apply to the temporary structure industry.

“They did the best they could, but people still died.” There are two issues addressed in that statement; first is an effort and second, an outcome. Effort and outcome are not mutually exclusive. In fact, they are directly related. The outcome is dictated by the effort, and the effort is defined by the outcome.

As it applies to scaffolding, has the industry and the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA), you and me, done the best we can to improve the safe use of temporary structures such as scaffolds, aerial platforms and hoists? And what is meant by “the best”? According to the Webster dictionary, best means “of the highest quality or standing.” A Google definition describes best to be “of the most excellent, effective, or desirable type or quality.” As an adverb, it means “to the highest degree.” While it’s reasonable to assume that best is better than better and that better is better than good, the best effort can only be described by setting standards of care.

For example, if it is determined that existing regulations are inadequate, then doing your best would be to establish regulations that reflect the state of the industry and achieve the described goal; presumably, the goal in this example would be safety and the elimination of worker injury and death. Thus, the outcome would reflect the effort. Considering the state of the industry and its injury and death rate, it would appear then that the best has yet to be achieved since scaffold users and to a certain extent scaffold erectors continue to get injured and killed in accidents involving scaffolds.

When measuring effort, one must be careful though, to use accurate data. Is it really true that scaffolds are that dangerous, as perceived by way too many people? If one were to comply with the regulations, would it not be true then that properly erected and used scaffolds by definition are safe? Since the perception is wrong, for the most part, then our efforts are only best if the perception is changed. It seems, however, that the standard for best is a malleable concept, changed as the need arises. Of course, there is nothing wrong with change, provided it improves the standard for best.

YouTube presents an excellent example of the failure of the industry to promote safe use and erection of scaffolds. If you haven’t perused it, do so soon; you’ll most likely be shocked at the crazy stuff that’s out there. One video has the star of the show claiming that as a homeowner, you don’t have to follow a myriad of safety practices – you just have to use common sense. That would not be a best effort, by any definition of best. Another video declares that the subject scaffold is Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)-approved, which is flat out a myth, since OSHA doesn’t approve anything.

Another video shows the actor proudly proclaiming that he purchased a scaffold from a big box store and then proceeded to explain how it allowed him access to the building. He made it sound like he discovered scaffolding. A final example is a manufacturer showing off his product while also illustrating numerous OSHA violations and poor erection practices. The manufacturer is not a member of the SAIA but should be.

As for outcomes, it’s time to upgrade the methodology for determining scaffold injury and death causes. How can

While there are 25 distinct scaffolds addressed in the OSHA regulations, there are more. Have the available training programs and codes of safe practice addressed all scaffolds? Would this not be a best effort?
the best effort be determined if it cannot be accurately measured? Tracking OSHA citations doesn’t work because the citations are frequently incorrect or don’t accurately describe the circumstances leading to the accident. It has been suggested that the industry self-report accidents so a data bank can be established to scientifically determine effective efforts and outcomes. Unfortunately, this idea historically has met with stiff resistance and derision. Focusing on statistical accuracy is a fool’s errand, however; no one has established the best outcome, never mind how to measure it or achieve it.

But wait. There’s more to think about. While there are 25 distinct scaffolds addressed in the OSHA regulations, there are more. Have the available training programs and codes of safe practice addressed all scaffolds? Would this not be a best effort? Best efforts, I think, would include a review of standards and regulations for clarity and effectiveness. Maybe the regulations are inadequate, or alternatively, it may be discovered that some regulations are useless.

If the information on YouTube is a measure of the best efforts of the industry, there is plenty of room for improvement. Is the present effort even in the good category? I’m not sure the present effort is even in the good category. And if the effort isn’t the best it can be, the outcome will continue to result in injury and death even if it doesn’t start World War III.

About the Author
David H. Glabe, P.E., is President of Glabe Consulting Services Inc. and Founder of DH Glabe and Associates. Contact him at dhg@glabeconsulting.com.

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Mdm Scaffolding Services and Century Elevators teamed up to deliver a successful access plan for a project loaded with building problems and constrained by city center location restrictions. Sundance West is a luxury, high-rise apartment building located in the Sundance Square district that spans a 35-square-block area of downtown Fort Worth, Texas, and is home to residential, entertainment, and retail establishments.

The Sundance West building, built in 1991, had an integrated vapor barrier and weep system, designed to prevent and dissipate condensation. This system had developed deficiencies, leading to significant water leakage that required repair, prompting the major renovation. In 2018, general contractor Whiting-Turner Contracting Co. took on the project that is expected to continue into 2021.

The project involved a full interior and exterior renovation, where the entire façade of the 17-story structure had to be dismantled, stored, and ultimately reinstalled later utilizing the original materials. The building would also have new cast stone architectural elements, mortar, windows, and roofing installed before its completion. To accommodate the massive amount of material handling and multiple trades working concurrently at various locations on the structure, Whiting-Turner called on Mdm Scaffolding to offer an extensive access solution.

Mdm Scaffolding Services and Century Elevators teamed up with other SAIA members on this project, including: AT-PAC, CHUTES International, Eagle Industries, and Mastclimbers LLC.
Challenges
In a project of this size, in an active city downtown area with heavy foot traffic, the requirements to keep personnel and pedestrians safe, eliminate disruption of business, and allow for access to the building were significant. Some of these requirements included overhead protection at the ground level, multi-level access platforms on all four sides of the building, roof edge protection, access to eight chimneys, debris netting, trash chutes, material handing for all supplies, and vertical transportation for multi-trade personnel.

The initial exterior-access plan to meet these requirements was to provide the typical 6-foot-7-inch multiple deck scaffold system that would wrap the entire structure and to use a fully enclosed scaffold to maximum height. This plan, however, had some major constraints.

Masonry personnel found that a ring-lock system would be problematic in providing an effective load-delivery path for the masonry materials while loading large pieces of stone weighing as much as 3,000 pounds. The demolition contractor was concerned that there was not an efficient way to get material off the high-rise building and down to the ground. They also felt the demolition operations would be much quicker than the scaffold installation and could potentially cause a work stoppage.

The building was surrounded on three sides at street level by active sidewalks and parking lanes, restricting areas available for staging and loading. Furthermore, a significant portion of the work would be based from the balconies on Levels 6 through 12. The eight chimneys, 10 to 15 feet high, were installed on a very weak roof structure. Plus, the owner of Sundance West had very high expectations for limited disruption during the project.

In addition to the limited space, the amount of time it would take to utilize traditional scaffolding and install the exterior access equipment presented a problem. The scheduled construction phases were based on the building face elevations, and, as the scaffolding was completed, the general contractor would release elevations for the demolition contractor. The goal was that by the time scaffolding installation was completing the total building wrap, the demolition and build-back would be right behind them. The Mdm Scaffolding team determined that there was not enough room on the site to be able to handle the required amount of scaffolding and other materials for the trades on the proposed schedule.

Texas was at a peak in the construction boom at the time, with pressure on labor and materials widespread within the industry. Once the subcontractors started arriving on site, the delivery of equipment and materials would likely slow the whole process. Although wrapping the building with scaffolding was feasible, it was not the safest or most efficient way to execute the work.

The Access Plan
An alternative, more effective plan for resolving these major access issues was devised and implemented to allow the workers the safest, most productive access to all sides of the building.

Mdm Scaffolding provided 3D computer-aided designs (CAD) for a full scaffolding wrap with overhead protection, as well as a new plan utilizing a mixture of mast climbing work platforms, ring-lock scaffolding, overhead protection, trash chutes, and transport platforms.

The team designed the exterior scaffolding utilizing 11 Fraco ACT-8 mast climbing work platforms, three Böcker Superlift 4400 transport platforms by Century Elevators, three transport platform...
scaffold transition towers, eight chimney scaffolds, masonry-style scaffolding for all the large balconies from Levels 6 to Level 8, and ring-lock systems scaffolding for the small balconies from Level 10 to Level 12. This equipment was supported on the overhead protection systems that set on the sidewalks, providing large protected walkways from building to curb, which allowed businesses to remain open and provided visibility for the store fronts.

Mdm Scaffolding chose to use all these different access pieces in an effort to reduce the amount of labor it would take to make their way around the building, including adjusting for the balconies – cutting the total install time by more than half. One advantage to installing all the solutions on the overhead protection was that the construction would be relatively obscured from view for pedestrians and retail customers. Also, the overhead protection could be utilized to add more staging areas around the building to help with demolition and reinstallation. The mast climbing work platforms required very minimal labor, which allowed the demolition contractors to work more quickly while allowing productive masonry and heavy stone installation without a crane.

The equipment allowed all subcontractors to load and unload their materials at ground level and safely and quickly access multiple levels throughout the day and feed all four sides of the building from the three main building faces. Demolition contractors could transfer the materials to the scaffolding from the mast climbing platforms without having to bring the units down each time to remove their materials. Masons were able to load their materials in the morning onto the mast climbing work platforms and continue to feed the platforms from the transition towers as they went up the structure, without bringing the units down.

Additionally, this access solution allowed for more storage around the site and was compliant with current American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements. By utilizing such a vast array of access equipment, Mdm Scaffolding was able to bring the project safely in on time and on budget.

About the Authors
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DAVITS AREN'T
DAVITS

This article submitted by the Permanent Installation Council provides information about davits and related suspended access equipment.

By Brian Andrews
ver the years, numerous types of suspended access equipment, such as anchors, pedestals, sockets, and outrigger beams, etc., have been referred to as davits. They are not davits, however, and this article will clarify what makes a davit, a davit. (see Figures 1-3).

A davit is a crane-like device used for supporting, raising, and lowering temporarily or permanently suspended access equipment or material. To become more familiar with the terminology, portable davits can be broken down into two categories, ground-rigged and roof-rigged. A ground-rigged davit is used when the suspended platform is launched from the ground and does not go above the building face or parapet. A roof-rigged davit is used when the platform is launched from the roof, goes above the parapet, and rotates out to descend along the outside face of the building. Ground and roof-rigged davits have two types of subcategories, bottom or top-rotating. This is easily identified by where they rotate. (See Figure 4.)

Unlike outrigger beam setups, a davit has a single attachment point into the structure which supports its operating moment load. This attachment point is called the pedestal. The pedestal is a component which is attached to the building/structure and supports the davit loads.

**Pedestals**

There are several different types of pedestals, including flush, flat plate, channel, side plate, and pipe:

- A flush pedestal consists of a flat plate with a custom geometry (Figure 5). This allows the pedestal to be flush with the building grade so it is not exposed when not in use. When using flush pedestals, a pedestal adapter must be used to secure the davit or socket to the pedestal.
A flat plate pedestal is a pedestal with a flat plate at the top (Figure 6). When using flat plate pedestals, a pedestal adapter must slide onto the plate and lock into position with pins, bolts, etc. Once locked into position, the davit or socket can be secured to the pedestal. Some manufacturers combine the adapter and socket into one assembly.

A channel pedestal consists of two channels vertically located on a flat plate. When using channel pedestals, a top rotating davit can be secured directly to the pedestal or a pipe socket can be secured to the pedestal for a bottom rotating davit.

A side plate pedestal consists of two plates vertically located on a flat plate (Figure 7). When using side plate pedestals, a top rotating davit can be secured directly to the pedestal or a pipe socket can be secured to the pedestal for a bottom rotating davit.

A pipe pedestal consists of a pipe vertically located on a flat plate or embedded into the building (Figure 8). When using this style pedestal, a top or bottom rotating davit slides into the pipe.

Pedestals may be connected to the building structure numerous ways (Figures 9 and 10):

- Expansion or adhesive concrete anchors
- Weld to steel or structure
- Embedded or cast in place
- Thru bolt or bolt to structure.

Sockets
When used, a socket, which also supports the davit, is either permanent (fixed) or portable and is a receiver for the bottom rotating davit mast. (See Figures 11-13.) A socket usually allows a davit to be tilted into position by being raised or lowered via a winch assembly. The socket must be secured to the pedestal before use.

Depending on the pedestal type and manufacturer, there are numerous ways of securing a socket to the pedestal. Some manufacturers design the socket to pin directly to the pedestal, while others use an adapter to secure the socket to the pedestal. Other manufacturers combine the adapter with the socket into one assembly that secures to the pedestal.

Mast, Boom, and Brace
Davits can be broken into three components, mast, boom, and brace (Figure 14). Davit masts are the vertical component of a davit and are usually made from round pipe, a special extrusion, or square or rectangular tubing. Depending on the application, the davit mast may have any of the following items: turning bracket; davit lifting collar;
A flat plate pedestal is a pedestal with a flat plate at the top (Figure 6). When using flat plate pedestals, a pedestal adapter must slide onto the plate and lock into position with pins, bolts, etc. Once locked into position, the davit or socket can be secured to the pedestal. Some manufacturers combine the adapter and socket into one assembly.

A channel pedestal consists of two channels vertically located on a flat plate. When using channel pedestals, a top rotating davit can be secured directly to the pedestal or a pipe socket can be secured to the pedestal for a bottom rotating davit.

A side plate pedestal consists of two plates vertically located on a flat plate (Figure 7). When using side plate pedestals, a top rotating davit can be secured directly to the pedestal or a pipe socket can be secured to the pedestal for a bottom rotating davit.

A pipe pedestal consists of a pipe vertically located on a flat plate or embedded into the building (Figure 8). When using this style pedestal, a top or bottom rotating davit slides into the pipe.

Pedestals may be connected to the building structure numerous ways (Figures 9 and 10):

- Expansion or adhesive concrete anchors
- Weld to steel or structure
- Embedded or cast in place
- Thru bolt or bolt to structure.

Sockets
When used, a socket, which also supports the davit, is either permanent (fixed) or portable and is a receiver for the bottom-rotating davit mast. (See Figures 11-13.) A socket usually allows a davit to be tilted into position by being raised or lowered via a winch assembly. The socket must be secured to the pedestal before use. Depending on the pedestal type and manufacturer, there are numerous ways of securing a socket to the pedestal. Some manufacturers design the socket to pin directly to the pedestal, while others use an adapter to secure the socket to the pedestal. Other manufacturers combine the adapter with the socket into one assembly that secures to the pedestal.

Davit, Boom, and Brace
Davits can be broken into three components, mast, boom, and brace (Figure 14). Davit masts are the vertical component of a davit and are usually made from round pipe, a special extrusion, or square or rectangular tubing. Depending on the application, the davit mast may have any of the following items: turning bracket; davit lifting collar; davit lifting winch; davit lifting bracket; or davit transport wheel (Figure 15).

Davit booms are the horizontal component of a davit. Booms are generally made from the same material as the mast or from other extruded shapes, such as I-beams, channels, or special profiles. Some of these profiles allow a suspension trolley (Figure 15) or suspension collar/plate to move along the length of the boom.

Davit braces connect the mast to the boom and support the davit boom. Each brace is usually made from channel, plates, or square/rectangular tubing. For top rotating davits, the brace connects to a roller assembly (Figure 15) that allows the boom to rotate. For bottom rotating davits, the brace connects directly to the davit mast.

Now You Know
What a Davit Is
In summary, davit assemblies are made up of two or three items; pedestal, socket or adapter, depending on manufacturer, and the ground or roof-rigged davit. Davits are a wonderful asset to any building where they can be used with temporary or permanently suspended access equipment. When properly maintained and inspected, the pedestal and davit will provide safe and dependable access to the building facade.

Please note that even though this article covers a lot about davits, it is not all encompassing, and each building has different requirements. Therefore, please contact a suspended access equipment provider or a davit manufacturer for more information – and be sure to call davits, davits!

About the Author
MID-RISE ACCESS SOLUTION

TRANSPORT PLATFORMS ARE KEY TO EFFICIENT AND SAFE MID-RISE ACCESS ON FLORIDA’S SPACE COAST.

BY TROY PALMER
Located on the Indian River with dolphins swimming by only 20 feet away and rocket launches from Kennedy Space Center occasionally visible in the distance, the Paramount Riverfront Condominiums are under construction on Florida’s Space Coast.

The prospect of looking at a large-scale construction project and planning for access to the various levels of the building with swing stages, cranes, booms, lulls, and hoists can be daunting. Sometimes it must feel like the scene from the movie Apollo 13 where the boss dumps a pile of miscellaneous items on the engineers’ desks and tells them they need to create an air filter out of everything on the desk. What fits where? When do we need it? How do we make it work?

The Paramount is one of Tricon Development’s ongoing projects and consists of twin buildings that will offer a total of 68 direct riverfront luxury residences. Unlike the towering high-rise condos of Miami Beach, the Paramount buildings are relatively modest at 100 feet in height.

Richard Bandini is the certified general contractor (CGC) with Tricon Development, based out of Melbourne, Florida. He has worked all over Florida on large scale developments. The 10-story Paramount buildings are not as tall as many of Bandini’s previous projects, and he decided to look for different hoist options for access to the upper floors of the building.

Bandini said, “We knew where we would be using swing stages, boom lifts, a crane, and other equipment, and I have always used hoists on taller projects. I was mostly familiar with larger, traditional buck hoists [construction elevators], which seemed like overkill and somewhat impractical for a job this size with little space available due to being on the water.”

Larger construction elevators or personnel hoists are often able to carry 15 to 20-plus people at a time and can travel at speeds of up to 300 feet per minute. They are designed for access to high-rise buildings but may not be the best fit for smaller projects that have different requirements and challenges.

Bandini explained that he drove by a job site in Jacksonville last year and noticed a smaller rack and pinion hoist that looked like an interesting option. This prompted him to research smaller hoists, and he discovered that transport platforms are a good match for mid-rise construction.

Transport Platforms
Transport platforms are addressed in the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) A92.10 standard. They are typically smaller hoists with lower capacities and are limited by the standard to a travel speed of 40 feet per minute. Due to the smaller capacity and slower speed, transport platforms are not well suited for extremely tall projects, but there are several aspects that make these hoists an attractive option for projects in the 60-to-200-foot range.
Bandini decided to rent the Beta Max MC4000/3000 Transport Platform from Trekker Group, which also handles the installation of the hoist, scheduled maintenance, service, and more.

He said, “We would have had a tough time fitting a larger hoist on this site, so the smaller footprint really helped us, and the installation was surprisingly simple with a lot less cost compared to larger hoists.”

The project began in October 2018 and is expected to be completed by June 2021. Kevin Matthews and Bill Vandell, members of the Tricon team, both spend a lot of time on the hoist, as they are responsible for its day-to-day operation and maintenance on site. Vandell said, “In addition to moving the 40 to 50 workers up and down each day, the contractors have been using the hoist to move everything from tools and debris to materials like drywall, tile, and granite countertops.

“Once we start installing appliances, I’m sure we will be using the hoist for those too. The hoist works great because we can’t get material up past the fifth floor with the boom lifts. Space is limited, and it would be almost impossible to use the crane to get everything up to the top floors.”

Matthews recalled a couple days in a row of moving the drywall crews up and down almost nonstop. “We were making 30 or so trips a day. They moved pretty much all the drywall with the hoist because they were able to roll the drywall carts right on and ride up to whatever floor they needed with 13-foot sheets in bulk.”

The Right Mix
The transport platform was the right choice to complete the “access toolbox” to move workers and materials to the higher floors of this Space Coast building in a cost-effective and efficient manner. Bandini said that since they have seen how well the transport platform has worked on the first building, they are getting another unit to place on the second building.

About the Author
Troy Palmer is Director of Sales and Marketing at Beta Max, Inc. Contact him at tpalmer@betamaxhoist.com.
One of the many goals of the Scaffold and Access Industry Association (SAIA) is to help scaffold and access industry entities ensure that scaffold and access equipment are designed and manufactured correctly, operated safely and maintained properly.

Applying our available resources can prevent worker injuries and eliminate incidents that can cause job site injuries, property damage, disrupt operations and cause project delays.

Visit our store to review all of our available products including the new ANSI/SAIA A92 Standards and ANSI/SAIA A11 Standards.
A SAFE COLLABORATION AT PDX

The 2020 Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA) Commercial Collaborative Project of the Year Award was presented to Brandsafway in collaboration with Universal Manufacturing Corp. and HAKI, LTD. For the safe access they provided for the expansion of Terminal C at the Portland International Airport.

BY JERRY DOLLY

Temporary IBC-compliant stairs and a custom-designed access ramp, which met ADA regulations, provided safe public access during the renovation.
Portland International Airport (PDX) is undergoing an ambitious five-year terminal expansion and renovation project called PDXNext, at an estimated cost of $2 billion. According to Airport Technology Review, the project includes redevelopment of the core terminal infrastructure, increasing close-in parking, and adding a consolidated rental car facility and a quick turnaround facility. The project is expected to generate some 1,250 jobs and to make the airport 50% more energy efficient.

The expansion and renovation of the terminal infrastructure should increase the airport’s passenger handling capacity from 6 million to 34 million upon completion. The first portion of the work centered around expanding Terminal C, an effort that required demolishing one end of the building without inhibiting the flow of up to 10,000 daily passengers.

The general contractor, Hoffman Skanska, had to ensure a safe and unimpeded flow of passenger traffic in every kind of weather.

To deliver safe access for customers without hindering construction, BrandSafway provided temporary public-access stairs, the only ones available in North America that meet International Building Code (IBC) requirements, paired with a custom accessibility
ramp that meets Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. The stairs, engineered in collaboration with Universal Manufacturing, saved significant time and cost by not requiring permanent stairs to be built while still satisfying all safety and legal requirements.

Not the Typical Solution
Troy Brown, BrandSafway project manager, said, “The typical industry solution would have involved either installing a construction-grade stair tower, which would not comply with IBC regulations, or bringing in a crew to fabricate ‘permanent’ stairs for the duration of the project, which would add both cost and time. Our engineers had been working with Universal Manufacturing on improve-
ments to this IBC-compliant stair tower, and this project presented the right opportunity to put this new combination of solutions to use.”

Both the ADA-compliant ramp and IBC-compliant stairs were coated in two layers of marine-grade epoxy, a coating traditionally used in shipbuilding. This coating made them water-resistant, increased durability, and locked in slip-resistant broadcast grit – all important factors for surfaces that would need to withstand high traffic volume and wetness from the region’s heavy precipitation.

The ramp design used replaceable surface panels, and spare panels were prepared, provided, and stored on site at the airport. If a panel becomes

A temporary HAKI weather enclosure offered protection from the elements for travelers.
worn, it can be swapped out with a new section quickly and easily during the terminal’s inactive hours. This eliminates the need to wait for coatings to cure on site and maintains a consistently slip-resistant, safe surface for the public.

To provide protection from the elements for travelers, BrandSafway constructed a temporary HAKI weather enclosure around the area. More flexible than traditional sprung structures, the system also allowed for the installation of sprinkler systems and fire alarms.

BrandSafway also coordinated crews for optimal project efficiency, taking into consideration the multiple trades needed and sequencing of installations. In the end, the access and protective solutions required only four months from initial demonstration to inspection and turnover. Design and installation of the stairs and enclosure began in September 2019 and was completed early in November. BrandSafway is providing ongoing safety inspections and adjustments as needed.

“Keeping the public safe was our primary concern,” said Derrick Beneville, project manager at Hoffman Skanska. “We needed the right solution to keep this billion-dollar project moving forward. We’ve known and trusted BrandSafway for years. So, it was no surprise they came up with the winning solution, which surpassed our expectations.”

About the Author
Jerry Dolly is Manager of the Infrastructure Services Group at BrandSafway. His group is in charge of airport construction and renovation. Contact him at jdolly@brandsafway.com.
STAY THE COURSE

THE 2020 SCAFFOLD & ACCESS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (SAIA) ANNUAL CONVENTION & EXPOSITION WAS HELD VIRTUALLY DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

BY CATHEE JOHNSON PHILLIPS
The 2020 Scaffold & Access Association (SAIA) Virtual Convention & Exposition was held in September with 167 members and friends attending via Zoom. A common thread ran throughout the week; the SAIA leadership, presenters, and volunteers expressed the need for the association to stay the course in promoting safe practices during the global pandemic, even as they work to bring their companies safely through this time.

The week opened with virtual product demonstrations by CRM Evangelist, Bee Access Products, and Metaltech Omega and closed with the Membership Meeting and the presentation of the President’s Project and Association Awards.

The Sessions

SAIA President Jim Holcomb, Associated Scaffolding, welcomed attendees to the convention and recognized the sponsors and exhibitors that made the convention possible. Ali Hajighafouri, Avontus Software Corp., chair of the SAIA Program Planning Committee, served as master of ceremonies.

The opening session Who Are Your Ambassadors? by Corinne Dutil, Fraco, focused on the importance of human connections in building a company’s brand. (Editor’s note: Read her article on page 10 to learn more.)

The remaining sessions included:
- Are There Lessons to Learn in Scaffold Safety from Afar? Robert Candy, the Scaffolding Association, discussed possible drivers of safety in the U.K., which first introduced work-at-height regulations in 2005, and the need to increase fall prevention efforts.
- Business in the Time of COVID. Ryan McGovern, UBS Financial Services, Inc., provided the latest information about the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) and recommended steps business could take to survive the pandemic. He was then joined by Jeb Hensarling, UBS executive vice president and a former U.S. Congressman from Texas as they discussed possible outcomes of the presidential election.
- COVID-19 Panel Discussion. This discussion on the impact of the pandemic on company operations was moderated by Hajighafouri and featured panelists David Johnson, Skyline Scaffold, Inc.; James McNamara, Safety Scaffolds; Shawn McDonald, Superior Scaffold Services, Inc.; and Carol Morgan, Mdm Scaffolding Services, Inc.
- The State of the Scaffold Insurance Market. Tres Whitlock and Cameron Boots, Allied Insurance Brokers, shared information about how rates and coverage structures are developed, looked at the largest driver of claims, and discussed how soft and hard markets impact insurance costs and strategies to mitigate risks.
- Managing Liability Exposures in the Scaffold Industry – Before, During, and After a Project. Michael Rubin, Esq., CSP, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Worksite Safety, Manhattan, presented a variety of ways to limit liability exposure, including annual risk assessments, appropriate indemnity provisions in contracts, effective communication of work rules, creating an informed OSHA-response team, and much more.
- 3 Engineers Walk into a Zoom Meeting: Tracy Dutting-Kane, P.E., StepUp Scaffold; Dave Glabe, P.E., Glabe Consulting Services, Inc.; and Dale Lindemar, P.E., retired, came together to answer questions submitted by convention attendees. Topics ranged from vertical bracing on single towers and determining wind load to cantilever issues and safe use of mud sills. On a lighter note, the audience also learned that Lindemar may possibly be adding more letters to his name, that a self-erecting stair tower has not yet been invented, and that, indeed, three engineers often agree on the safe use of scaffolding.

Recordings of the virtual sessions are available online to members by logging into the SAIA website and going to “Meetings and Events.”

Membership Meeting

The Membership Meeting began with the introduction of the 2020-2022 SAIA Executive Committee by Holcomb. He officially passed the SAIA presidential baton to Michael Paladin, president of Eagle Scaffolding Services, Inc.

The new officers include: President Paladin; President-Elect Tracy Dutting-Kane, P.E., StepUp Scaffold; Vice-President François Villeneuve, Fraco Products, Ltd.; Secretary Matt Morgan, Mdm Scaffolding Services; Treasurer Frank Frietsch, Layher; Member-at-Large Jay Gordon, Klimer Platforms; Board Appointee Chris Moody, Direct Scaffold Supply (DSS); Board Appointee Michael Bredl, Universal Manufacturing Corp.; and Immediate Past President Holcomb.

Morgan reported that the election of Board members for the even regions would be completed in September and announced in October.

Fiscal Update

Rick McKinlay, Tractel, reported that the SAIA has moved the fiscal year from beginning on October 1 to a calendar-year based fiscal year. He explained that this change will result in less complicated accounting for the association, especially since the convention now takes place in September.

Treasurer Colby Hubler, Power Climber Wind, reported on the FY 2020 and FY 2021 budgets. The pandemic impacted the budget, with a reduction in income from the sale of printed products and training fees; however, expenses were also reduced, resulting in a positive bottom line.

Due to the change in fiscal year, the Board has approved a budget for the short three-month window from October through December, as well as a budget for the 2021 calendar year. The good news for members is that current SAIA members will receive 15 months of membership for the price of 12, through the end of December, at no additional cost.
SAIA Update

SAIA Executive Director DeAnna Martin noted that the SAIA staff has been extraordinary in handling things during the pandemic. The SAIA Outreach Training Manager Daphne Reitz will also be serving as the SAIA American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A11 Liaison. Martin further noted that the:

- The ANSI/SAIA A92.20-2020, 22-2020, and 24-2018 suite of standards for mobile elevating work platforms (MEWPs) were approved on May 7, 2020, and became effective on June 1, 2020.
- The ANSI/SAIA A92.2-2015 for Vehicle-Mounted Rotating and Elevating Work Platforms is currently going through approval for a revision.
- The ANSI/SAIA A11.2 (SH300) Standards for Testing & Rating Shoring Equipment, the A11.5 (F400) Standards for Testing and Rating Vertical Concrete Formwork, Ties, and Accessories, and the A11.6 (P500) Standards for Testing and Rating Manufactured Scaffold Planks and Decks will be sent out for approval soon.

Membership and Training Updates

SAIA Membership Manager Brandi Fox reported that the SAIA gained 45 new members over the past year and now has 457 members. In spite of the pandemic, the membership retention rate is steady at 91%. She reiterated that current SAIA members would receive an additional three months of membership at no charge, due to the change in the fiscal year.

The Advantage Membership Program (AMP) was rolled out and is now on the website. Through the AMP, the SAIA has partnered with vendors to bring cost savings to its members. Reitz shared that, due to the pandemic, training numbers have been significantly down. Training has been picking back up, however, as people are allowed to have small groups for training. Work to update the Competent Person Training (CPT), Hazard Awareness Training, and Journeyman Scaffold Training programs continued throughout the year, and some of the updated training should be available by the end of the year. Making continuing education available online continues to be a priority, and online webinars are now offered on a regular basis.

SAIAEF Update

The SAIA Education Foundation (SAIAEF) Vice-President Harold Gidish, Sky Climber Access Solutions, asked that convention attendees donate the money they saved by not buying plane tickets or paying for lodging. The contributions will help to support the Spanish translations of the training materials.

OSHA/SAIA Liaison Update

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) SAIA Liaison Kevin O’Shea, Hydro Mobile, Inc., shared the good news that the SAIA has been promoted to the Ambassador status, which recognizes the level of success the OSHA/SAIA alliance has achieved. The SAIA assisted OSHA on a reworking of some regulations and the incorporation by reference of ANSI standards for which SAIA is the secretariat.

President’s Awards Presentation

The closing session of the convention was the presentation of the project and association awards by outgoing SAIA President Holcomb and former SAIA President Paula Manning. Holcomb thanked the awards presentation sponsor, STVA Scaffold Manufacturing & Sales.

SAIA Project Awards

The SAIA Project Awards recognize member companies that have gone above and beyond in contributing to the overall success of a project. The SAIA bestowed six project awards recognizing challenging and successful projects.

SAIA Membership and Training Awards

The William T. Ayres Founders Award, given to an SAIA member who has excelled in the recruitment of new members, was presented to Chris Moody, Direct Scaffold Supply (DSS).

The Accredited Training Institute (ATI) of the Year Award recognizes the ATI that has education the most students over the course of a year. The recipient for 2020, who trained 327 students in 2019, is David Johnson, Skyline Scaffold, Inc.

SAIA Association Awards

The SAIA Association Awards recognize members who have contributed their time, devotion, passion, and expertise to the overall growth, mission, and initiatives of the SAIA. They are nominated by their fellow members and voted on by the entire membership.

The D. Victor Saleehy Award was bestowed on Kevin O’Shea, AGF Access Group, Inc. This award recognizes an SAIA member who has achieved at least 15 years of outstanding and exceptional service to the association and has received the Coupling Pin Award in the past.

SAIA 2020 Project Awards

The award-winning projects will be featured in upcoming issue of the SA Magazine: the Commercial Collaborative Project of the Year is featured in this issue on page 28.

Commercial Collaborative Project of the Year

BrandSafway, Portland International Airport Terminal Expansion/Renovation Collaborating Companies: Universal Manufacturing Corp. and HAKI, Ltd.

Innovation Award & Supported Scaffold Project of the Year

Trekker Group, SeaWorld Wild Artic Dome Repair

Mast Driven Hoists and Platforms Project of the Year

Klimer Platforms, The Wells Condo Contract

Shoring Project of the Year

D.H. Charles Engineering, Inc., Seattle Center Arena

Suspended Access Project of the Year

PCI Scaffold, T-Mobile Terrace/4 Newport Connector Collaborating Firms: D.H. Charles Engineering and Andersen Construction
A common thread ran throughout the week; the SAIA leadership, presenters, and volunteers expressed the need for the association to stay the course in promoting safe practices during the global pandemic, even as they work to bring their companies safely through this time.

In honor of other outstanding performances this year, the following members were also recognized with association awards:
- Coupling Pin Award – Shawn McDonald, Superior Scaffold Services, Inc.
- Hall of Fame Award – Paula Manning, Century Elevators
- Outstanding Service Award – Amy Johnson, Skyline Scaffold, Inc.
- Outstanding Council Chairperson Award – Bob Gibson, Sunbelt Rentals, Inc.
- Outstanding Company Contribution Award – Bee Access Products
- Spirit Award – Harold Gidish, Sky Climber Access Solutions, LLC in California
- Unsung Hero Award – Ali Hajighafouri, Avontus Software Corp.

The session closed with a presentation of a special award, the Horseshoe Championship Trophy, to Holcomb by Manning. She thanked him for his leadership and said, “I’d like to take a moment to recognize and honor our friend and your outgoing president – and reigning horseshoe champion, Mr. Jim Holcomb.”

Manning said, “Jim had a bit of a tough year, considering that the second half of his presidency was disrupted by the global COVID-19 pandemic… and yet, he persevered, personally checking in on many of us weekly, monthly, and sometimes daily. I would like to thank Jim for his guiding care and leadership during this ever-evolving time.”

Stay the Course

The SAIA’s next meeting is the 2021 Committee Week, scheduled to take place April 26-29 in Coral Gables, Florida. The SAIA 2021 Annual Convention & Exposition is slated for August 29 - September 6 in Cleveland, Ohio. Visit www.saiaonline.org to learn more the SAIA meetings, training, and membership benefits.
Michael Paladino, President of Eagle Scaffolding Services, serves as President of the Scaffold & Access Industry Association (SAIA). Paladino has been an SAIA Board member for Region 2 since 2010 and was appointed to the Executive Committee in 2018. He has served on three committees and currently is a member of the Regulatory and Review Committee. He was a recipient of the 2017 SAIA Unsung Hero Award for his tireless effort and dedication to the association and the 2011 and 2018 SAIA William T. Ayres Founder Award for membership growth.

A TIME TO BUILD

SA Magazine: Please tell our readers how you became involved in the industry.

Michael Paladino (MP): My father had been in scaffolding for 25 years and established the family-owned business, Eagle Scaffolding Co., in 1978. When I graduated from high school, he gave me a bolt bag and sent me out to work. I fell in love with the industry – at a time when not a lot of people knew about it – and began working full-time as an erector in 1979.

In the early 1990s, I transitioned to project management. When my father retired in 1996, we moved the company out of his house, and I began serving as president. We focused on growth and went from seven employees to 50-plus employees and sometimes as many as 120 depending on how many workers we had in the field. We also moved from a services-only company to a full-service company that included rentals and sales and providing equipment and materials. Today, we specialize in system and other supported scaffold, but we offer everything from swings to hoists and mast climbers.

SA: In the 40-plus years that you have been involved with the industry, what do you feel have been the most significant changes?

MP: The development and implementation of scaffolding standards has driven significant change in our industry in as far as safety procedures and training. I would say that training has increased at least tenfold since I've started. In terms of fall protection, workers are quite a bit safer, but we still have a long way to go in promoting safe practices in the field.

SA: What are some of the most challenging projects with which you have been involved?

MP: I put this question to my brother, my manager, and my wife, who has been my support and a big part of my being in this industry. We all came to the same answer: TWA Flight 800 and working on the World Trade Center after 9/11. These events not only touched me but touched all humanity.

During the investigation of the TWA Flight 800 crash that took place on July 17, 1996, we built a scaffold so they could rebuild the fuselage from the wreckage. While we were building it, they had TV screens set up so that we could watch the divers and the crash at the same time. That hit home.

We had worked on the World Trade Center for 15 years, and the day before 9/11 was the one day that we did not have a project on site. But I was there the morning after 9/11; my brother and I helped with search and rescue. At the request of a friend, who had one of the largest demolition companies in New York City, I helped to supervise crews. We ended up working there for quite a while to help with demolition and erecting scaffolding. It was surreal to say the least.

SA: How did you become involved with the SAIA? How has that involvement benefited you?

MP: In the early 90s, I first attended Committee Week in Baltimore, when I was still in the field, and the annual convention in St. Louis, when I was in transition from the field to management. Around 2010, I was invited by Steve Smith, who was then the SAIA president, to serve on the Board. That's when I became heavily involved. It was perfect timing – and a perfect fit.

The knowledge I've gained through the meetings and the SAIA network has helped me out tremendously, not only personally but also in running my company. I have met so many people who have made a huge impact on my life. Among them, I am especially grateful to have known Jay Kinder from Strong Man Safety Products, who has left a lasting impression on me and my family.

SA: As SAIA president, what future challenges/opportunities do you think the association will have?

MP: We need to keep the membership thriving and involved. We are a strong association but small enough so that everyone cares for each other and the industry itself. These are trying times, and we must continue to foster this camaraderie with our colleagues.

During this time, we must not let up in our pursuit of a higher standard of safety. Being the ASC 92 Secretariat and an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Ambassador, gives us the opportunity to have our voices heard and to increase our training efforts. We must make sure that our trainers remain well informed and have access to the latest information and educational tools.

SA: Is there anything else you would like to share with our readers?

MP: I am thankful for the opportunity to lead such a great organization for the next two years, and I am humbled by the overwhelming support of my colleagues after being sworn in as president. I look forward to working with our members and friends to forge strong relations with those who are new to the industry and the association.
SUNSHINE ENTERPRISES BUYS TURNER ACCESS OCTO SYSTEM SCAFFOLDING PRODUCTION

Sunshine Enterprises, the parent company of StepUp Scaffold, has successfully purchased the production and sales arm of OCTO System Scaffolding from leading system scaffolding supplier, Turner Access – and is now trading OCTO in the UK via StepUp Scaffolding UK, Ltd.

StepUp Scaffolding UK will continue to serve its existing UK and European customer base, via a newly formed brand, Sunshine Enterprises Group Europe – now with the addition of the highly regarded OCTO System Scaffolding range to its expanding portfolio.

Meanwhile, Turner Access is now 100% focused on its rapidly expanding contract scaffolding business activities in the construction, infrastructure, and other industry sectors, from its recently expanded main operational hub and head office in Glasgow.

New Sunshine Enterprises Group Europe Managing Director, Knud Højland Pedersen said: “This deal is fantastic news for the UK scaffolding sector – allowing existing StepUp Scaffolding UK and new British and European customers to slickly and efficiently benefit from the safety and productivity boosting gains of the fantastic OCTO System Scaffolding, at a time where safety and speed in scaffolding has never been more critical.”

Turner Access new Managing Director, Simon Russell said: “This is great news for Turner Access as a brand and our Scottish and UK-wide construction customer base. The shift of emphasis here from production of scaffolding to contract activity and the huge investment and growth this deal will help to support will help us in our vision to be the leading scaffold contractor in Scotland. We are offering clients a first class scaffolding service in accordance with our #WorkSafeHomeSafe culture – ideally suited to the current situation.”
IN MEMORY OF ROBERT (BOB) VISCOMI

Robert (Bob) Viscomi, an incredibly valued, long-term BrandSafway team member, shareholder, respected industry veteran, and dedicated husband and father, passed away in September 2020.

Viscomi began his scaffolding career “on the tools” in the early 1980s at Safway Steel Products in Chicago. After a few years, he moved over to Biscraft Industrial Scaffold, which soon changed its name to Brand Scaffold Services. From there, he worked his way out to Brand on the West Coast, where he was integral to the company’s rapid growth in the refinery market and was influential in forever changing how this type of work was viewed and performed.

Eventually, he moved into sales and was part of the team that solidified Brand’s name as a leading industrial scaffold provider, before moving back to the Midwest with Safway as a distributor manager. From there, he moved into a business development role and helped launch the Safway Industrial Services Department, where he played a leading role in Safway’s successful growth into the industrial scaffolding market. In the mid-1990s, he led national accounts for Safway, eventually becoming vice president of strategic accounts.

His contributions to BrandSafway over the past 40-plus years cannot be overstated. “He was and remains part of the fabric of our company and the industry,” said Steve Wilson, BrandSafway’s vice president of Environmental Health and Safety. “He cared deeply about his family, colleagues and customers.”

He is survived by his wife, Georgia Viscomi, and his son, Gino Viscomi, a senior in high school at Marmion Academy. Donations can be made to: The Robert Viscomi Guardian Angel Fund at Marmion Academy, ATTN: Kathleen Hausmann, 1000 Butterfield Road, Aurora, IL 60502.

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