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STUART LANGE AND JOHN HEAP COMPLETE SIX YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE PGI AND FGI!!!

By: Timothy D. Stark

The Fabricated Geomembrane Institute (FGI) inducted new Officers and Board of Directors during their annual membership meeting in Dallas on March 14, 2011. The meeting was held in conjunction with the GeoFrontiers-2011 Conference sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers. Before introducing the new Officers and Directors, Tim Stark, FGI Technical Director and Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, paid special tribute to Stuart Lange and John Heap. Stuart Lange, President of Lange Containment, served as President of the PVC Geomembrane Institute (PGI) for four years and as President of the Fabricated Geomembrane Institute (FGI) for its first two years. Tim Stark stated that "Stuart Lange's great humor and commonsense leadership has been instrumental in guiding the transition from the PGI to the FGI." Stuart's leadership has contributed significantly to the rapid success of the FGI and its current membership of 44 companies. Stuart agreed to continue serving the FGI by serving on the Board of Directors for a two-year term to help guide the new FGI Officers.



Stuart Lange (center) sharing his wisdom with short course attendees

Tim Stark also acknowledged the extraordinary efforts and insight of John Heap, President of Colorado Lining International. John served as Vice President of the PVC Geomembrane Institute (PGI) for four years and as Vice President of the Fabricated Geomembrane Institute (FGI) for its first two years. John, like Stuart Lange, has generously traveled to most of the short courses and attended the various membership meetings and teleconferences. Tim Stark noted that the idea for using fabricated instead of flexible in the name of the Fabricated Geomembrane Institute came from John Heap. John stated in a meeting that the difference between our members and other group's membranes is "we factory fabricate our geomembranes to increase quality and decrease field installation time, seaming, and destructive testing". The members agreed and the new Institute was called the Fabricated Geomembrane Institute and not the Flexible Geomembrane Institute. John's common sense and industry savvy leadership has been instrumental in guiding the transition from the PGI to the FGI. John also agreed to continue serving the FGI by serving on the Board of Directors for a two-year term to help guide the new FGI Officers.



John Heap (center) discussing current events with FGI Members Gary Kolbasuk of Raven Industries (left) and Paul Oliveira of Firestone Specialty Products (right) during a recent short course

Together Stuart Lange and John Heap have voluntarily given an incredible amount of time and effort to the PGI and FGI over the last six years. The FGI is grateful to this Dynamic Duo for facilitating the transition to the FGI and the rapid success of the FGI.



The Dynamic Duo of John Heap and Stuart Lange after their successful presentation on fabrication and installation of fabricated geomembranes during a recent short course

The FGI is dedicated to advancing the use of fabricated geomembranes through education, research, and technology transfer. The FGI is a consortium of manufacturers, fabricators/installers, designers, regulators, and material suppliers of fabricated geomembranes. For more information on the FGI, please visit www.fabricatedgeomembrane.com