

## PB Helps Team Paddle Up the Creek to Victory

aking a concrete boat float—not to mention win a race—is a heavy task. Just ask the members of the ASCE student chapter of the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), the winners of the 1994 National Concrete Canoe Competition. The PB-sponsored UAH team designed and built an 80 lb. vessel which broke several records en route to winning

this year's contest.

Co-sponsored by the ASCE (American Society of Civil Engineers) and Master Builders Inc., a construction chemicals manufacturer, the National Concrete Canoe Competition for ASCE college teams took place in a New Orleans lagoon in June. UAH (which also won last year's event, in Sacramento, California) bested 19 other regional winning teams this year,

including those from some of the nation's top engineering schools, for \$9,000 in scholarship money.

The competition, considered the America's Cup of civil engineering, promotes engineering and gives college students a chance to showcase their skills as they develop innovative ways to turn concrete into lighter, faster and stronger canoes. Teams are judged primarily on their

engineering design, use of construction principles, report preparation and presentation—as well as their athletic ability and paddling prowess in the race.

Ed Palmer, a PB construction engineer and UAH alumnus, participated in this concrete canoe contest as a college student, when the national competition was

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launched in 1988. This year, Ed, who is working on the Old Town LRT project in San Diego, proposed sponsoring

his alma mater to Chris Reseigh, president of Parsons Brinckerhoff Construction Services. Chris agreed. So PB funded the transportation of the canoe and support staff to New Orleans. PB also supplied the team with PB caps and T-shirts, which the team sported when CNN captured the victory on nationwide television.



## **Built for Speed!**

Clad in PB T-shirts and caps, the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) team is shown with the 80 lb. concrete canoe it designed and built. This PB-sponsored team took first place at the National Concrete Canoe Competition in New Orleans.