

Join Us for Free Online Webinar: Using TPAS - Tablet PC Annotation System

tpas_logo

Vertical Access and TPAS LLC have developed increasingly

sophisticated methods of collecting digital survey data directly in the field during building investigations. This [Tablet PC Annotation System - TPAS](#) allows for direct digital annotation of building conditions into AutoCAD drawings. We've seen a leap of growth in the software updates in the last 6 months leading up to a new release this month and are excited to share the new features with you.

Mike Gilbert, TPAS technical manager, will lead a step-by-step live demonstration online, on your desktop.

❖ **WHEN: Monday, April 11 12:00 noon EST**

See TPAS in action and find out where it is headed next! This TPAS University webinar is free and open to all!

❖ **[REGISTER HERE to reserve your seat!](#)**

Upcoming Presentations

[Boston Society of Architects / AIA, Historic Resources Committee](#) *Information Technology for Building Documentation*
April 14 Boston, MA. Kelly Streeter

[ASTM Workshop on Conducting Periodic Facade Inspections: A Discussion of the How To - Industrial Rope Access and Debris Netting](#)
April 29 West Conshohocken, PA. Kent Diebolt

[USI International - Facade Ordinance Seminar](#)
April 29 Philadelphia, PA. Kelly Streeter

Contact Us

Vertical Access provides specialized building inspections, testing services, and condition reports for architects, engineers, and conservators utilizing efficient, lightweight rigging systems and industrial rope access techniques. Our staff includes preservationists with backgrounds in construction, structural engineering,

Project + Technology Highlight: Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge Inspection Showcases New Video Technology



From March 14 to 18, 2011 Vertical Access technicians Keith Luscinski, Evan Kopelson, Dave Dayan and Donn Hewes were on site at the Arthur Ravenel, Jr. Bridge in Charleston, SC to perform a hands-on inspection of designated areas of the bridge. The Arthur Ravenel, Jr. Bridge, designed by Parsons Brinckerhoff and built by Skanska and Palmetto Bridge Constructors, was completed in 2005 to replace two steel truss bridges spanning the Cooper River. It is the longest cable stayed bridge in North America with a main span length of 1,546 feet. The two diamond-shaped concrete pylons stand 575 feet above the water, supporting a total of 128 stay cables.

To perform the inspection of the bridges high density polyethylene (HDPE) cable ducts, damper seals, formwork tubes and expansion sleeves, VA used a two-rope roller system designed by SPRAT Level 3 Supervisor Keith Luscinski. VAs 2011 inspection was the second round of examinations of designated cables. The first inspection was performed in October 2007 and the next inspection is planned for October 2012.

VAs new high-definition video camera mounted on a helmet, was used to document parts of the project. This technology is capable of wireless transmission to a monitor on the ground on-site for clients and other team members can interact in real-time with the inspector.

❖ **[Visit our YouTube channel](#)** and watch a video clip of this 2011 bridge inspection from the helmet-cam.

International Preservation Activities

Since our last newsletter was published, Kent Diebolt has had to opportunity to travel to Cuba with the APT and to attend the final lecture series at the Guastavino Biennial in Barcelona Spain. You'll find a link to the full story of each trip included in the introductory paragraphs below.



❖ On the morning of February 4th, 29 APTI members met at Miami International Airport and soon departed for Havana, Cuba, for a 10-day professional study trip. We represented a cross-section of the APTI membership; architects, engineers, decorative arts specialists, and conservators, both young and old, from across the United States. This was

my second trip to Havana, the first taking place in 2001, with the New York Landmarks Conservancy, and I was looking forward to seeing what progress had been made in the last decade. [Read full article](#)

architectural conservation and nondestructive evaluation of structures. [Learn more](#)

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Newsletter Archives

View earlier *Vertical Access* *Quarterlies* [here](#).



❖ In the middle of February, I was in Barcelona, to attend the final lecture in the Guastavino Biennial lecture series at La Massa Theater in Vilassar de Dalt. The lecture was given by the Guastavino Prize winner, Megan Reese, an engineer working with Wiss Janney Elstner Associates, in New York City. Megan's lecture was a report on her graduate work with Professor John

Ochsendorf, at MIT. Megan was one of seven submissions for the prize, which included a trip to Vilassar de Dalt, an opportunity to present the final lecture in the inaugural series, a cash prize and publication of her work, in English, Spanish and Catalan. [Read full article](#)

Staff News

❖ VA Welcomes Intern from Spain

Vertical Access is very pleased to be hosting Berta de Miguel Alcalá as an intern in our New York City office from April to October 2011. Berta is an upper level student in the [School of Architecture of the Polytechnic University of Valencia](#), with an interest in heritage conservation. The Bancaja-Blasco Ibáñez Training program of the Polytechnic University of Valencia supports Spanish architecture students to gain international experience as part of their professional development. Vertical Access previously hosted Vicente Galvañ from the same program. As part of his internship, Vicente documented and researched the works of the Guastavino Company in New York City. Berta will continue this research, as well as participate in Vertical Access field projects and preservation conferences. Welcome Berta!

❖ SPRAT Certifications for Vertical Access Technicians

Keith Luscinski tested to and was certified as a Level III Supervisor, responsible for the overall rope access operations on site. Keith joins Kelly Streeter and Mike Gilbert as Level III Supervisors for Vertical Access. According to SPRATs Safe Practices for Rope Access Work, all site work must be performed under the supervision of a Level III Supervisor. Donn Hewes and Kevin Dalton tested to and were certified as Level I Technicians, rope access workers with the appropriate training, skills and qualifications to perform work under the direct supervision of a Level II Lead Technician or Level III Supervisor. [Read more](#)

❖ Kent Diebolt elected to APT Northeast Chapter Board

Vertical Access founder Kent Diebolt was elected to the [Association for Preservation Technology Northeast Chapter \(APTNE\)](#) Board of Directors at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the chapter. Kent has had a long involvement with the Association for Preservation Technology International (APTI), serving as a Director, Vice President and as Past President of the APTI board. Kent is also the new Chairman of the Membership Committee and invites input and ideas for activities and attracting new members. [Read more](#)

❖ VA Partners Provide Testimony to OSHA at the Department of Labor

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) held a week long public hearing on OSHA's Proposed Rule on Walking-Working Surfaces and Personal Protective Equipment (Fall Protection Systems), [Docket No. OSHA-2007-0072](#) this past January. VA Partners Kent Diebolt and Kelly Streeter both provided testimony to the panel. Kents presentation concentrated on the incredible safety record of Industrial Rope Access, as recorded by IRATA, the International Rope Access Trade Association. Kelly testified on behalf of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z359 committee in her role as the chairperson for the Z359.7 committee on the safety requirements of descending devices. [Read more and download testimony](#)