

## ProMat 2001

An important industry event is about to take place that will be of great interest to readers interested in material handling and logistics. ProMat 2001 is coming to Chicago's McCormick Place North from February 12-15, 2001. ProMat 2001 will be the largest and most comprehensive material handling and logistics trade event held in the United States in 2001.

Up-to-the-minute news and information on the ProMat 2001 Show and Conference, ProMat exhibitors, and show sponsor Material Handling Industry of America (MHIA) can also be accessed at [www.promat2001.org](http://www.promat2001.org).

Over 600 exhibitors from the United States and over 80 countries around the world are expected to attend the four-day event. ProMat will showcase over 290,000-sq. ft. of the latest and greatest productivity solutions provided through material handling and logistics in manufacturing, distribution, and warehousing operations.

In addition, an educational conference comprised of over 60 sessions will accompany the show. To keynote this five-day conference, ProMat has partnered with AMR Research of Boston, Massachusetts to deliver an exclusive, full day, single-track executive symposium entitled e-fulfillment: The Logistics Behind E-Commerce on Monday, February 12. Information on the ProMat Conference can be found on-line at

[www.promat2001.org/edconferences/ed\\_conference.cfm](http://www.promat2001.org/edconferences/ed_conference.cfm)

Material handling is the movement, storage, control, and protection of materials and products throughout the process of their manufacture, distribution, consumption and disposal. Material handling is the process at the heart of productivity, no matter

what the industry. As a result, material handling is one of America's largest and fastest growing industries with consumption exceeding over \$62 billion in the U.S. alone.

## 2001 Annual Convention and Trade Show for Steel Erectors

2001 Annual Convention and Trade Show for the Steel Erectors Association of America is being held in Nashville, TN, at the Opryland Hotel beginning March 15 through March 17, 2001. The convention begins on Thursday with a golf tournament, Friday is the Trade show and Saturday with a variety of speakers from our industry. For further details or information, please contact the SEAA office (phone 336/294-8880; fax 336/294-8828) or visit our website at

[www.seaa.net](http://www.seaa.net)

## Engineers Target "Girl Power"

In an effort to bring the world of engineering to young women, the National Engineers Week Committee has announced the first Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day—Thursday, Feb. 22, 2001.

According to National Engineers Week 2001 co-chairs IBM and the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), the engineering profession is facing a critical lack of diversification. Women currently fill only 9% of engineering positions, and the numbers of women graduating from college with engineering degrees has plateaued within the last few years.

The program kicked off on October 25 at NSPE headquarters in Alexandria, VA, when representa-

tives from 30 societies, corporations and organizations laid plans to ask 100 engineering organizations for as many volunteers (preferably female) as possible to help in the effort. In turn, the volunteering engineers are asked to reach out to girls on Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day or at some time during National Engineers Week (February 18-24).

For more information on Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day and many other National Engineers Week activities please visit

[www.eweek.org](http://www.eweek.org)

## March 8 Lecture in Chicago: "Success and Failure in Engineering"

Henry Petroski, A.S. Vesic Professor of Civil Engineering and Professor of History, Duke University, and P.E., TX, will lecture at the Union League Club, Chicago, IL, March 8, 2001, presenting a historical perspective on the interrelationship between success and failure in engineering design and construction. Case studies drawn from the series of record-setting bridges built in the half-century between the completion of the Brooklyn Bridge and the collapse of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge will be used to trace the evolution of long-span bridge design during that period. Lessons learned will be generalized to other areas of engineering. The relevance of history to the practice of engineering today will be emphasized.

The Union League Club is located at 65 West Jackson Blvd. in Chicago. Coat and tie are required for men; similar appropriate dress is required for women. Call

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312/372-4198 or visit the SEAIOI website for additional details:

[www.seaoi.org](http://www.seaoi.org)

## Nevada Medal for Distinguished Graduate Student Paper in Bridge Engineering

**International Competition Sponsored by Simon Wong Engineering**

The Civil Engineering Program at the University of Nevada, Reno, plans to recognize outstanding graduate student contributions to the state-of-the-art in bridge engineering through this medal. The recipient will receive \$1000 cash, a medal and an award certificate. The award winner will be announced in internationally distributed newsletters, the UNR Civil Engineering Department home page on the World Wide Web, and the UNR College of Engineering Alumni Newsletter.

Original papers are sought that describe research conducted by Ph.D. or Masters students in Civil Engineering addressing innovative approaches or concepts applied to bridge engineering. Interested students should visit the announcement section of the Bridge Research and Information Center web site at

<http://bric.ce.unr.edu> to obtain the guidelines for paper preparation and submission. The deadline for receiving the entries is January 15, 2001. For additional information contact Prof. Saiidi at [saiidi@unr.edu](mailto:saiidi@unr.edu).

## 6th World Congress of Tall Buildings & Urban Habitat

The Council's Sixth World Congress is being scheduled in Mel-

bourne, Australia between February 26 and March 2, 2001. This is the first time CTBUH Congress will be held in the Southern Hemisphere.

The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat, an international organization of architectural, engineering and planning professionals, was established to study and report on all aspects of the planning, design, construction, and operation of tall buildings. Such structures find application primarily as commercial and residential facilities in both industrial and developing countries. A major focus of the Council is the publications of Monographs on tall buildings and urban habitat for use by those responsible for their planning and design.

The Council also has a major concern with the role of tall buildings in the urban environment and their impact thereon. This involves a systematic study of the whole problem of providing adequate space for life and work, considering not only technological factors, but social and cultural aspects as well.

The Council is not an advocate for tall buildings, per se; but in those situations in which they are viable, it seeks to encourage the use of the latest knowledge in their implementation.

## SEAIOI Trade Show 2001

The SEAIOI Year 2001 Trade Show will be held on Thursday, January 25 at the

Palmer House in Chicago, IL. The Trade Show provides an excellent opportunity for practicing Structural Engineers to learn about the latest product developments in our industry.

This year's format will feature six speakers. Additionally, ten to fifteen other vendor representa-

tives will be available for discussion about their products after breakfast.

Watch the SEAIOI Bulletin and website ([www.seaoi.org](http://www.seaoi.org)) for further details.

**Date:** Thursday, Jan. 25, 2001  
**Time:** 8:00 am Breakfast  
8:30 Vendor presentations  
9:30 Vendor exhibits  
**Cost:** \$5.00 (includes breakfast)  
**Location:** Palmer House, Chicago, IL

Contact: SEAIOI Office or Roger Reckers, 312/372-4198 or 312/341-0055 x17. E-mail [office@seaoi.org](mailto:office@seaoi.org).

## 18th Annual International Bridge Conference

**June 4-6, 2001  
Hilton Pittsburgh and Towers  
Pittsburgh, PA**

The International Bridge Conference brings together leading representatives of the bridge industry, including owners, researchers, practicing engineers, educators, suppliers and contractors. The IBC encourages and promotes the interchange of information, procedures and techniques related to bridge design, inspection and construction through its technical program and exhibits.

## International Conference on High Performance Materials in Bridges and Buildings

**July 29-August 3, 2001  
Kona, HI**

This conference is for designers, researchers, contractors, fabricators and government officials involved in the use of High Performance Materials as applied

to bridge and building structures. The focus of the conference will focus on the latest advances and issues related to High Performance Steel, High Performance Concrete, Fiber Reinforced Polymers and Advanced Wood Composites as applied to bridge and building structures. The conference will include presentations by keynote speakers summarizing major activities around the world.

ASCE will publish papers from the Conference. They will be reviewed according to the standards established for the ASCE Journal of Structural Engineering.

The Conference will be held at the Keauhou Beach Resort and Conference Center on the big island of Hawaii.

Additional information about this Conference - and a registration form - can be found at the Conference's web site:

[www.engfnd.org/engfnd/1ab.html](http://www.engfnd.org/engfnd/1ab.html).

## 7th Historic Bridges Conference

Throughout the United States, aging bridges increase the challenge of maintaining highways. Typically, agencies have demanded massive infusions of public funds for a wholesale replacement of these structures. Next fall in Cleveland, OH, a group of civil engineers and historians will meet to discuss a different approach to the problem.

Under the sponsorship of the Wilbur J. and Sara Ruth Watson Bridge Book Collection at Cleveland State University Library, a historic bridges conference will convene on September 19-22, 2001, at the Sheraton City Centre Hotel. Coinciding with the one-hundredth anniversary of the Center Street Swing Bridge in Cleveland, it will be the seventh in an ongoing series begun in 1985 that have

brought together the sometimes-divergent views of highway engineers and historic preservationists.

The three-and-one-half day program will begin with a half-day workshop on Wednesday on the special techniques for repairing metal truss bridges. Held at the Lincoln Electric Company World Headquarters in Euclid, the sessions will begin with an overview of welding fundamentals on historic bridges and discussions of the metal bridge preservation techniques utilized in Calhoun County, MI. Following these will be actual demonstrations and hands-on learning of riveting, heat straightening, brazing, welding and cutting processes for the restoration of historic metals.

Reconvening at the conference hotel on Thursday will begin two days of formal paper presentations by engineers and historians that highlight the history, maintenance and preservation of movable bridges, unusual truss bridges, and French and ancient Chinese structures. Keynote speaker Friday evening will be renowned technological historian Henry Petroski of Duke University, author of *Engineers of Dreams: Great Bridge Builders and the Spanning of America* and *To Engineer is Human*. Saturday will feature tours of important historic bridges in Cleveland and the surrounding area.

For more information, contact William Barrow at the Cleveland State University Library, 1860 E. 22nd St., Cleveland, OH 44114, 216/687-6998 or visit the conference website at

<http://web.ulib.csuohio.edu/7hbc/>

## AISI Joins with PDHonline.org to Promote Steel through Online Education

American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) has formed a new partnership with [www.PDHonline.org](http://www.PDHonline.org) to promote the use of steel through online education.

According to this new partnership, PDHonline.org will develop, host and promote the online courses for AISI in the areas of transportation and infrastructures. Some of the traditional marketing and training materials will be converted into online course format, which will become available to engineers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from anywhere in the world.

"This move enables AISI stay at the forefront of educating design engineers about the application of steel," said Dr. John Huang, President of PDHonline.org based in Herndon, VA. "Web-based marketing and training through online education is more efficient and cost-effective compared to the traditional methods."

PDHonline.org is a web site dedicated to the online professional development for engineers and architects. The web site is designed as a fully automated virtual classroom, where the server is programmed to conduct quizzes, issue Certificates of Completion, and maintain the records of PDH activities. Since it has been launched in May 2000, thousands of engineers have visited PDHonline.org.

For more information, please visit the web site at [www.PDHonline.org](http://www.PDHonline.org) or contact Dr. John Huang at [jchchc@msn.com](mailto:jchchc@msn.com) or 703/478-6833.

# Steel News & Events

## 2001 Event Calendar

Dates	Event	Location	Web
1/21—1/24	NCSEA Structural Engineering Winter Institute	Phoenix, AZ	www.ncsea.com
2/12—2/15	ProMat 2001	Chicago, IL	www.promat2001.org
2/15—2/16	Construction Crane Safety Seminar	Madison, WI	www.epdweb.engr.wisc.edu
2/18—2/24	National Engineers Week	—	www.nspe.org
2/26—3/2	Sixth World Congress Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat	Melbourne, Australia	www.icms.com.au/tbuh
5/9—5/12	North American Steel Construction Conference	Ft. Lauderdale, FL	www.aisc.org/nascc.html
5/21-5/23	2001 Structures Congress & Exposition	Washington, D.C.	www.asce.org/conferences/structures2001
6/4—6/6	International Bridge Conference	Pittsburgh, PA	www.eswp.com/bridge.html
7/29—8/3	International Conference on High Performance Materials in Bridges and Buildings	Kona, HI	www.engfnd.org
10/2—10/5	World Steel Bridge Symposium	Chicago, IL	www.nsbaweb.org

## Correspondence

### Dear Editor:

The November 2000 *Editorial* was excellent. If only more fabricators would view marketing as a constantly ongoing activity—in good times and in bad times—by allocating a percentage of resources just like they do for everything else in the office.

Roger Wildt, P.E.  
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Bethlehem, PA

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