

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR



Scott L. Melnick

Whenever I travel, I try to bring a snow globe from whatever city I'm visiting home to my daughter. And although Julia's only seven, she already has two shelves covered with these glass globes (though I admit at least a few are from colleagues who know of my daughter's collection).

Many of my trips are for meetings, but an awful lot are for conferences and conventions. In fact, if my wife didn't threaten to divorce me, it would be pretty easy to go to a conference nearly every week. While my job actually involves attending conferences, for most people it's a more difficult task to justify the time out of the office, and the costs of registering, traveling and hotels.

But for those of you considering coming to the North American Steel Construction Conference, let me make that task a little easier.

Quite frankly, the Steel Conference is hands-down *the* best event for designers, fabricators, and detailers (and it's pretty good for erectors as well). It's a carefully blended mixture of technical continuing education, business improvement tools, and networking opportunities. And it includes the industry's most extensive trade show.

Don't just take my word. The Steel Conference attracts more than 2,200 professionals each year—and odds are you know someone who has attended in the past. Ask them. One of the pleasures of my job is the feedback I get from first-time attendees. Almost universally they're amazed with how good the conference is. One of the major "criticisms"—and one I'm happy to get—is that there's so much going on at the Conference that you can't get to everything you want to see.

The Steel Conference is specifically designed to provide practical information that you can take back and put into use—on a project you're working on now. It's a chance to

talk with both your peers and your business partners. And it's your opportunity to speak directly with leading product vendors—including machinery suppliers and software developers.

I'd love to list here all of the Conference events—but I just don't have enough room. There are more than 50 technical sessions, ranging from a presentation on whether engineers should directly hire detailers to tackling vibration issues to designing steel joists. We also offer three short courses and three long tutorials. But to save space, please visit www.aisc.org/nascc to download a complete program.

Finally, since I always believe people should put their money where their mouth is, I'll make this offer: *If you come to the conference and it's not everything I've promised, send me an email and I'll refund your registration fee* (conference registration only! I'm not taking responsibility for your dining tastes!).

MISSING LYNN

The design community and construction industry lost a true friend recently when Lynn Beedle passed away. Dr. Beedle was not just a giant in the industry; he also was one of the most beloved individuals in the profession. The last time I saw him was at the Steel Conference in 2003, when he received AISC's highest academic honor, the Geerhard Haaijer Educator Award, which he received not just for his impact on design specifications, but also for his extensive mentoring efforts. I learned a lot from watching the way he conducted himself in public and the way he treated others. I just wish I had time to learn more.

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