

## AWARDS

### T.R. Higgins Lectureship Nominations Due August 1

Each year the T.R. Higgins Lectureship Award recognizes an outstanding lecturer and author whose technical paper or papers, published during the eligibility period, are considered an outstanding contribution to the engineering literature on fabricated structural steel.

AISC encourages everyone involved with steel construction to submit nominations by August 1. Nominations should include the following information:

- Name and affiliation of person nominated for Lectureship
- Title of paper or papers to be named in nomination with publication citation
- In case of multiple authors, identify the principal author
- Reasons for nomination

A copy of the paper, as well as any published discussion, must accompany the nomination. The author must be a permanent resident of the United States and available to fulfill the commitments of the award. The paper or papers must have

been published in a professional journal within the five-year period from January 1, 2004 to January 1, 2009. The 2010 award winner will give a minimum of six presentations of the lecture on selected occasions during the year.

The award will be made to a nominated individual on the basis of two criteria: (1) his/her reputation as a lecturer and (2) the jury's evaluation of the paper or papers named in the nomination. The papers will be judged for originality, clarity of presentation, contribution to engineering knowledge, future significance, and value to the fabricated structural steel industry.

A framed certificate will be presented to the lecturer at the 2010 NASCC: The Steel Conference in Orlando, Fla. Co-authors of the paper or papers named in the successful nomination will also be recognized at the award presentation. In addition, the winner will receive a \$10,000 cash award.

Send your nominations for the T.R. Higgins Lectureship Award to:

T.R. Higgins Award Nomination  
c/o Janet T. Cummins  
Engineering and Research Coordinator  
AISC  
One East Wacker Drive, Suite 700  
Chicago, Ill. 60601



*Donald W. White (right), this year's T.R. Higgins Award winner, with AISC vice president and chief structural engineer, Charlie Carter.*

## ASSOCIATIONS

### Galvanizing Essay Contest Winners

The American Galvanizers Association (AGA) has announced the winners of its 2009 *Galvanize the Future: An Edgar K. Schutz Scholarship* essay contest. Three students were selected from more than 40 applicants based in architecture, civil engineering, or other engineering programs in North America. The winners are:

- First Place: Anna Bruce, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, for her essay "The Galvanized Community"
- Second Place: Stephanie Grannetino, Philadelphia University, Philadelphia, for her essay "What has the Steel Construction Industry Seeing Green?"
- Third Place: Jenny Joe, Columbia University, New York, N.Y. (beginning this fall) for creating a course outline to teach students about corrosion management and the role of hot-dip galvanized steel

For more information on next year's program, visit the AGA's scholarship page at [www.galvanizeit.org/scholar](http://www.galvanizeit.org/scholar).

### NASSPA Expands its Membership

The North American Steel Sheet Piling Association (NASSPA) has expanded its membership to companies and individuals that are involved with accessories, equipment, design, and specification of steel sheet piling (SSP) systems.

In keeping with the mission of NASSPA to provide a forum where the users of steel sheet piling technology can interact and discuss best practices, the Board of Trustees approved two new membership categories into NASSPA. Associate membership is offered to firms engaged in the manufacture, distribution, and/or supply of equipment, material, accessories, or services to the hot-rolled steel sheet piling industry in North America. Technical affiliate membership is offered to firms engaged with the design or in teaching the art and science of design and installation of hot-rolled steel sheet piling in North America.

## STANDARDS

### Revision Results in Requirement Reversion

AISC distributes *Selected ASTM Standards for Structural Steel Fabrication*, which includes verbatim copies of ASTM material standards. The most recent AISC document, dated 2008, contains the ASTM standards available at the time, generally dated 2007.

The 2007 version of ASTM A709 revised the Charpy V notch requirements for Grade HPS50WT, increasing the minimum energy value and decreasing the test temperature to be the same as for Grade HPS70WT—i.e., 25 ft-lbs at -10 °F. It was subsequently determined that this change was unnecessary, and the requirement was revised in the 2008 version of ASTM A709, reverting back to 20 ft-lbs at +10 °F for Grade HPS50WT.

If a bridge has been designed using A709-07 HPS50WT, it is recommended that the engineer and DOT consider and permit the use of A709-09 for the production of this material.

## People and Firms

- Minneapolis-based law firm **Fredrikson and Byron** recently launched a Construction Group to help clients navigate the current challenges of the construction industry.
- Plate technology manufacturer **W.A. Whitney** has unveiled its redesigned website at [www.wawhitney.com](http://www.wawhitney.com).
- **Dennis Jang, P.E., S.E.**, senior vice president and district director with **T.Y. Lin International's** San Francisco office, was recently selected as the 2009 recipient of the National Taiwan University Alumni of the Class of '78 Award.
- **Robert W. Santillo** was elected president of The Association of Union Constructors, and **James Mirgliotta** was awarded the Spirit of Union Construction Award, both at the **TAUC Leadership Conference** in May.
- **Peddinghaus Corporation** recently named **James Magnuson** as vice president of research and development. Also at Peddinghaus, **Jim Sutcliffe** will assume full departmental responsibilities as vice president of engineering.
- Engineered connector manufacturer **MiTek, Inc.** has acquired **SidePlate Systems Inc.**, a provider of proprietary high-performance steel-frame connection technologies.

## SEMINARS

### Jack Miller to Retire after Farewell Tour

Construction industry speaker Jack Miller has announced that he is retiring from his popular construction seminar series. Miller, who has lectured for 42 years, will conduct a final tour, offering his three seminars—Marketing/Sales, Design/Build/Lease/Financing, and TQM: Total Quality Management—in Denver, Nashville, Chicago, and Orlando before hanging up his lectern.

A civil engineer by training, Miller has worked in the industry for more than half a century—as a construction laborer, foreman, field engineer, sales engineer, sales manager, director of marketing, subcontractor, erector, fabricator, GC, and owner of commercial and industrial real estate.

For additional information on the Jack Miller Seminars, visit [www.jackmill-er.com](http://www.jackmill-er.com). Below is the final tour schedule:

Denver	TQM	Aug. 17-18
	Marketing/Sales	Aug. 20-21
	Design/Build/Lease/Financing	Aug. 24-25
Nashville	Marketing/Sales	Oct. 5-6
	Design/Build/Lease/Financing	Oct. 8-9
	TQM	Oct. 12-13
Chicago	Marketing/Sales	Nov. 9-10
	Design/Build/Lease/Financing	Nov. 12-13
	TQM	Nov. 16-17
Orlando	Marketing/Sales	Jan. 25-26
	Design/Build/Lease/Financing	Jan. 28-29
	TQM	Feb. 1-2

# letters

## The Debate Clearly Continues

With reference to Charlie Carter's article "Connection Design Responsibility: Is the Debate Over?" (5/09, available at [www.modernsteel.com](http://www.modernsteel.com)), any changes to the code of standard practice are welcome, especially in the grey area of connection design. However, this doesn't seem to go far enough. As a fabricator, we have to bid projects from the plans and specifications. If the design is com-

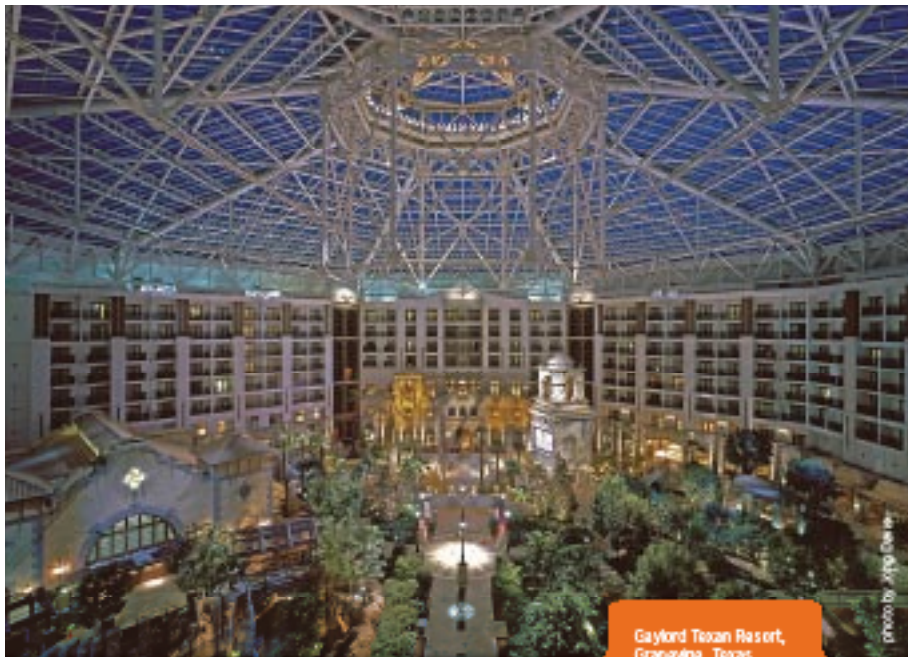
plete and all connections are shown, our estimates are accurate and we can price competitively. If the connections are not shown (options 2 and 3 in the article), we have no way of knowing what they may be unless we have an engineer run test calculations before we bid. Very few fabricators have the staff, time, or money to do this.

This is something I discussed last year with Mr. Carter, who said AISC

was aware of the problem but had no real solution. The connection types on a particular project we discussed were shown on the drawings with notes such as "web doublers and stiffener plates (if required)." At the bid stage, we added something to the price but could not have anticipated the extent. Almost every column required doubler plates (usually 1 in. thick on both sides) and stiffeners plates and every connection. The amount of additional material required was of little significance compared to the huge amount of welding and shop time. Every connection had to be engineered (no "one-size-fits-all"), which added to the costs and delays. Very few general contractors understand these issues and often view them as excuses for delays. So because the engineer couldn't be bothered to do his job properly, the fabricator loses money, delays are caused, and relationships are strained. It is my opinion that some engineers show vague information, so the job is under-bid.

The problem with methods 2 and 3 is that the fabricator can't accurately bid the project without connections, but also can't afford to engineer them at the bid stage. As usual in this business, the lowest bidder gets the job. He probably missed something, which is why he's the lowest bidder.

**Peter Officer**  
Tamburri Associates, Inc.



Gaylord Texan Resort,  
Grapeland, Texas

Photo by Andy Cofer

# SMARTBEAM®

**"SMARTBEAM® provided the perfect balance between the light transmission and load/deflection characteristics we were looking for. It was a perfect fit for our project."**

—Mark Gaudin, Assistant of General, Habitat Home Group

Ideal for long span projects, the SMARTBEAM® from CMSC Steel Products is lighter than traditional steel framing making it an innovative alternative to other systems. There is no added cost to incorporate services with SMARTBEAM's® unique column free design. SMARTBEAM® is the right choice for long span roof structures—don't take our word for it...



Take it from the people who count—the professionals using it.



750 East Interstate 30, Suite 120, Rockwell, TX 75087 | 1-800-308-8025  
[www.cmsteelproducts.com](http://www.cmsteelproducts.com) | 100% recycled materials

## Stepping Back in Steel Time

I appreciated Scott Melnick's May editorial [on factory tours]. I just returned from visiting my sister in Birmingham, Ala., where I had the opportunity to visit Sloss Furnaces, one of the last "old" blast furnaces to operate (it shut down in the early 70s). It has been preserved and interpreted as a museum by the city. Talk about whirring devices (all silent now)! Fabulous equipment dating from the mid-1920s with some from 1900. The site consists of two 400-ton blast furnaces and some 40 other buildings.

Sloss Furnaces is now a National Historic Landmark, and admission is free. The best part is that there are very few areas you can't go into; most of it is open to the public (watch your step). I spent two hours walking around and could have spent another four. More info can be found at [www.slossfurnaces.com](http://www.slossfurnaces.com).

**Warren Stewart, S.E.**  
Seal Beach, Calif.