

▲ Pittsburgh, the Steel City, offers those coming to the 2011 NASCC: The Steel Conference a wide variety of historical and cultural opportunities in addition to a full slate of educational and networking events.

NASCC Opportunity

BY THOMAS L. KLEMENS, P.E.

From education to socialization, this year's Steel Conference offers something for everyone in the structural steel industry.

IT MAY SEEM early to be thinking in detail about the upcoming 2011 NASCC: The Steel Conference, but May is just around the corner and the offerings this spring are abundant. Two fledgling programs are poised to soar at the conference: This year's sustainability track has a full complement of informative sessions, and students and educators are being encouraged to take advantage of the Students Connecting with Industry Sessions (SCIS), slated for Thursday May 12, and the annual educator session on Wednesday May 11. Of course, the meat of each year's conference is in the technical sessions, and this year is no exception.

One early registrant, Matt Trammell, structural engineering manager at Brentwood, Tenn.-based TRC Worldwide, said he comes to NASCC: The Steel Conference each year for a variety of reasons. "I just go to see as much as I can," said Trammell. "Plus, you can get all the PDHs you need for the year at a minimal cost per hour. Then you add the networking and other activities and making the decision to go is easy."

Sean Smith, division vice president of Gresham, Smith and Partners, Nashville, is one of two people from his firm planning to attend NASCC: The Steel Conference. "The thing we are looking forward to is the technical program," Smith said. "Those sessions are always important to us. Secondly, the networking opportunities this conference offers are tremendous. I have enjoyed very much getting to meet colleagues at the conference through the years. We often find ourselves as competitors; this conference is a great place for us to be

engineers striving for a common goal." Smith says he also is looking forward to the student sessions in the SCIS program and to being involved with the Technology Integration committee.

Sessions at NASCC

The 2011 NASCC: The Steel Conference offers more than 90 technical sessions, complete with professional development hour (PDH) credit availability. A complete list of sessions is offered in the 2011 Advance Program available online at <http://bit.ly/fqtyyt>.

The two keynote sessions are certainly worth making plans to attend, beginning with a midday Wednesday presentation by David Vater of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. Vater will review the city's establishment in the mid-18th century on what was then the nation's western frontier, its development as the Steel City, and its transformation into the vibrant and thriving center of technology that it is today.

The second keynote session begins Friday at 12:30 p.m. and features this year's T.R. Higgins Award Lecture by Charles W. Roeder, P.E., Ph.D. A professor of civil engineering at the University of Washington, Seattle, since 1977, Roeder's research over the years has focused on bridges and the seismic performance of steel and composite buildings. Present research studies include development of design methods for improved seismic performance of concentrically braced frames and their gusset plate connections, evaluation of riveted bridge gusset plate connections, evaluation

of pile to wharf connections for port facilities, and development of economical and efficient concrete filled tube applications. Following Roeder's initial T.R. Higgins lecture in Pittsburgh, he will present the material at various locations throughout 2011.

Technical sessions begin on Wednesday afternoon, with six one-hour sessions beginning at 3 p.m. and another 13 from 4:15 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Many, but not all also are offered a second time. For example, session N12, "Quality Control and Assurance: Are You Ready for Chapter N?," is offered both Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning. A day-by-day grid showing the times for each session begins on page 19 of the 2011 Advance Program. For a stand-alone version of this schedule, go to <http://bit.ly/hynqLw>.

For an early preview of one of this year's technical sessions, see Cliff Schwinger's article "Tips for Constructable Steel-Framed Buildings" on page 48 of this issue of *MSC*.

Other educational opportunities include short courses, offered on Wednesday and Saturday, and the Structural Stability Research Council (SSRC) sessions. The six Wednesday morning short courses each include either 3 or 4 PDHs and cover both technical and professional development topics. An additional fee is required, with a substantial discount for AISC members.

An eight-hour short course is available on Saturday May 14. Louis F. Geschwindner will present "An Introduction to the 2010 *Specification for Structural Steel Buildings* and the 14th Edition *Steel Construction Manual*." Those attending this course earn 8.0 PDHs.

The SSRC's Annual Stability Conference runs concurrently with NASCC: The Steel Conference. Task groups meet Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Eleven SSRC technical sessions occur throughout the conference. See the Advance Program for details.

Opportunities for Students and Educators

With sessions focusing on their very specific informational needs, the 2011 NASCC: The Steel Conference is an excellent place for engineering and architectural students as well as their instructors.

"NASCC offers students an opportunity to see aspects of the steel industry they wouldn't ordinarily be exposed to," said Nancy Gavlin, AISC's director of education. "And it's fun."

As always, students who are AISC members (membership is available for free to qualified students) receive free admission to NASCC including the SCIS program. Students who attend the full SCIS program will receive free admission to the conference

dinner Thursday evening at Heinz Field. Additionally, they are eligible for a \$100 stipend to use toward travel expenses.

Initiated by AISC in 2010 to boost student attendance, the precursor of the SCIS program attracted about 150 students to the conference in Orlando. Given this year's location—Pittsburgh is within 500 miles of half the U.S. population, as well as many colleges and universities with engineering and architectural programs—the anticipation is high for a significant increase in student attendance.

"From the student's perspective there are some really interesting things going on at NASCC this year," said Brian Quinn, who

with Lisa Willard is organizing the Students Connecting with Industry Sessions program. It begins with two seminars Thursday morning covering tips related to career advice and leadership.

"The afternoon session is a really unique opportunity for students to connect with industry leaders and various people from different companies," Quinn said. "Unlike the traditional career fairs that universities tend to have, our goal is to offer more of a mentoring session. For the companies that are there, it's not about whether they are hiring people right now. Rather, it's going to be about helping give mentoring advice on anything the students want to know about, such as the best things they can do to further their careers, or where they might look for good opportunities."

In addition, students are encouraged to explore the exhibition hall and to attend other sessions. "We will have available printed tip sheets that highlight areas of partic-

ular interest to engineering students," Quinn said. "We'll also help guide them in their selection of conference sessions they would find beneficial or interesting."

See You Again Next Year?

In May, Ray Tide will continue an annual tradition that started more than 40 years ago in Cleveland where in 1971 Tide attended his first Steel Conference. Then a newly hired AISC regional engineer, he later became the chief structural engineer for a major steel fabricator and today is a principal with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates Inc. (WJE)

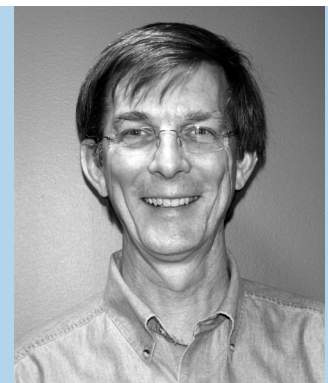
"I only missed one Steel Conference since then," Tide said. "That was the year I had an opportunity to go to Amsterdam at the same time as the conference and couldn't say 'no'."

Over the years he remembers hearing Lynn Beedle give the first T.R. Higgins lecture, as well as many other presentations by others. "If you hear a presentation one year, then an update on the same topic a year or two later, that's not bad," he said. "It gives you a better understanding of the subject."

Tide says the technical sessions are only part of what brings him back every year. His other primary reason for attending is for the networking opportunities.

"I'm on a number of committees, with AWS, AISC, and RCSC, and the Steel Conference is a great chance to get together with others in the industry, to sit down and talk things over," Tide said. "That's where things really get accomplished. Then you take what you've come up with into the committee meeting and present it."

Thomas L. Klemens, P.E., is senior editor of Modern Steel Construction. He first attended NASCC: The Steel Conference in 2010 and is looking forward to the 2011 conference in his home town of Pittsburgh.



More information on the student sessions is available at <http://bit.ly/hxzOHD>. To learn more about becoming a student member, go to www.aisc.org/join.

The annual educator session, scheduled for Wednesday morning, will include an update on AISC research by AISC's director of research Tom Schlafly and a P.E. licensing update by Gavlin. Thomas M. Murray, Virginia Tech, will moderate a panel of leading design engineers discussing what today's employers are expecting in new hires.

CEU certificates and a travel stipend of up to \$300 are available to faculty who

attend this session. More information is available at <http://bit.ly/f0DcKj>.

Sustainable Steel at NASCC

The future continues to be bright for the sustainable green buildings market. According to McGraw-Hill Construction's "Green Outlook 2011: Green Trends Driving Growth," green buildings accounted for one-quarter of all construction in 2010. The green portion of the construction market has seen its value increase from \$42 billion in 2008 to \$71 billion last year and is expected to increase to \$135 billion by 2015.

AISC has long acknowledged this trend and structural steel's role in it, and this year's NASCC will feature a Sustainable Steel "conference within a conference," consisting of eight sessions.

Jim D'Aloisio will address the issue of steel and thermal bridging in a Wednesday afternoon session, including examples of practical solutions and how to compare the energy-loss potential of various steel details.

Five sessions on Thursday will address various aspects of sustainability as it relates to steel structures. The 8 a.m. session features three well-known experts describing how new approaches to seismic design go beyond keeping buildings from collapsing in an earthquake, allowing them to remain operational and safe. Following that, Tom Faraone of Banker Steel and AISC's Geoff Weisenberger will review the LEED rating system as it relates to the steel fabricator.

The afternoon opens with a candid look at the legal ramifications of being involved in green design and construction, presented by Angela Stephens of the legal firm Stites and Harbison. A preview of her session is in this issue's sustainability column on page 56.

Next, Atlas Steel Tube's Jelani Rucker and Tom Muth will talk about the company's installation of the largest rooftop solar array in North America at one of its Canadian production facilities. They also will share how using steel HSS for the rooftop supports made it a win-win project.

Closing out the day's sustainability sessions, AISC's Weisenberger and Luke Faulkner will look at the areas where steel and sustainability interact, and how current and evolving technologies increase opportunities for building team members, such as fabricators, to become involved earlier in the project design process.

The two sustainability sessions Friday morning deal with two outstanding success stories of projects demonstrating steel's fundamentally sustainable nature. Kirk Kestner (Walter P Moore), Shaun Franklin (KL&A Engineers), and Erika Winters-Downey (AISC) will describe how reclaimed steel can be used in new construction projects, including a case study on the National Renewable Energy Laboratory Research Support Facilities in Golden, Colo. Larry Kruth (Douglas Steel) and Jeff Gasparott (Ruby and Associates) will share insights on the "building a ship in a bottle" project described in their article "An Inside Job," which appears in the December 2010 issue of *MSC*. It can be accessed online at www.modernsteel.com/backissues.

For more information about the 2011 NASCC, visit www.aisc.org/nascc. **MSC**