

## editor's note



**I'M SO PROUD OF MY DAUGHTER.** Rather than sit at home watching TV this summer, she went to summer school. Ostensibly, she wanted to get one of her required electives out of the way so she could take an additional course during the school year. But she also took a creative writing class (the apple doesn't fall far) and topped it off with three hours of dance classes every afternoon.

While it's easy for a student to find classes to take, I'm intrigued by how easy it is for everyone with an interest in just about any subject to find amazing educational opportunities today (and many of them are free). But just as amazing is how few people take advantage of them.

If you're interested in traditional academic subjects, a good place to start is the Khan Academy ([www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org)), which includes more than 3,000 videos covering everything from arithmetic to physics, finance and history. Less well-known, but perhaps of greater quality, are the 116 seminars offered by Coursera ([www.coursera.org](http://www.coursera.org)) on topics ranging from "Introduction to Finance" to "Listening to World Music." Other intriguing opportunities are offered by Stanford University, by Udacity ([www.udacity.com](http://www.udacity.com)), University of California, MIT, Harvard University's Open Courses program and the University of Michigan.

Of course, most adults probably aren't that interested in either Khan Academy or Coursera (unless they're brushing up on a subject to help their kids with their homework). So perhaps more interesting are the online lectures offered by TED ([www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com)). I particularly like TED talks because you can download them for

later viewing—a feature I find particularly attractive for long plane rides. I've learned about why traffic circles are better than traffic signals and how easily my senses can be fooled. If you get tired of the 1,100+ TED programs, you can also check out [www.the99percent.com](http://www.the99percent.com), [www.bigthink.com](http://www.bigthink.com), Google Talks, [www.ideasproject.com](http://www.ideasproject.com), [www.captureyourflag.com](http://www.captureyourflag.com) and [www.thedolectures.com](http://www.thedolectures.com).

And for those of you most interested in structural engineering and steel, you need to visit [www.aisc.org](http://www.aisc.org) and click on "earn CEUs/PDHs." While there is a fee associated with AISC online programs with CEU/PDH certificates attached, all of the programs are free to view if you're just looking for knowledge. The nearly 100 seminars range from hour-long programs, ideal for lunchtime viewing, to eight-hour, in-depth seminars on topics such as "Field Fixes" and "Bolting and Welding Primer."

Take the time to learn. I'm proud of you too!

MSC

**SCOTT MELNICK**  
EDITOR

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