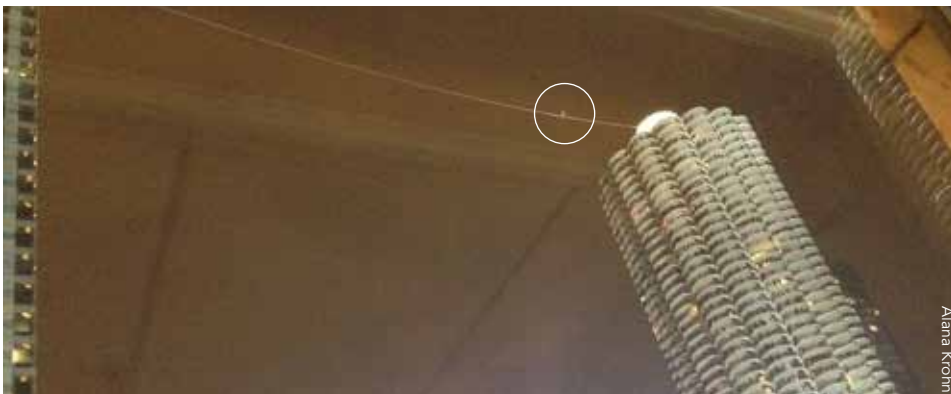


editor's note



THE VIEW COULDN'T BE BETTER. Last month Nik Wallenda (the seventh-generation progeny of the famed Flying Wallendas circus family) walked across a steel cable strung over the Chicago river. Right outside AISC's offices.



As thrilling as the walk was, stringing the steel cable was, for some of us, even more fascinating. The 750-ft.-long wire was three-quarters of an inch thick—about the size of a nickel—and stretched from the Leo Burnett Building to the west Marina City tower. A second, shorter cable (about 100 ft. long) was also stretched between the two Marina City towers.

Anyone watching the Discovery Channel broadcast (or online at skyscraperlive.com, where you can still see highlights) was treated to a detailed look at how they strung the cables (despite terrible weather with mixed snow and hail and wind gusts up to 40 mph). And it detailed the use of guy wires to prevent sway and dynamometers to make sure the exact amount of tension was reached. If you missed the walk, check out the videos; it's a great structural engineering story.

Of course, if you enjoy a great technical story, the best ones are told by the recipients of the T.R. Higgins Lectureship Award. Unlike other AISC awards, which are given in recognition of an individual or project, the Higgins Award also includes a lecture (or as I prefer to call it, a story).

The 2015 recipient is Chia-Ming Uang, a professor in the Department of Structural

Engineering at the University of San Diego (UCSD). According to Charlie Carter, AISC's vice president of engineering and research, "His model for determining forces in stiffeners in columns at moment connections will allow us to stop using arbitrary methods with prescriptive sizing requirements for plates and welds, making the plates and their welds far more economical." His lecture will be based partially on his third-quarter 2013 *Engineering Journal* paper "A Flexibility-Based Formulation for the Design of Continuity Plates in Steel Special Moment Frames."

Uang will deliver his Higgins Lecture at various locales during 2015, starting with the 2015 NASCC: The Steel Conference (March 25–27 in Nashville). If you want to be one of the first to hear this great structural story, you can register at www.aisc.org/nascc.

I hope you enjoy this steel story as much as I'm sure I will. See you in Nashville!

SCOTT MELNICK
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