

editor's note



AS I WATCHED MY DAUGHTER RECEIVE HER HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA LAST WEEK, A LOT OF THOUGHTS WENT THROUGH MY MIND. I was so proud of her accomplishments and the person she is becoming, but I also felt a bit melancholy at the thought of her heading off to college.

The first time I mentioned Julia in an editorial was in January 1997: "But last night, as I sat at home bouncing my new baby daughter on my knee...." And while I continued mentioning her casually over the years (in 1998 I reported "While the swings are clearly her favorite..." and a year later noted the quality of schools for her was the determining factor in where we moved) it wasn't until 2006 that I mentioned her by name (and noted that she had mastered cursive).

Through the years I regularly used her as fodder for my writing. I talked about her growing vocabulary, fabulous writing skills, her sleepovers with her friends, her clarinet, her snow globe collection and much more (by my count, I wrote about her roughly twice a year).

While most students aren't heading to college until August, my daughter will be getting her first taste of higher education in mid-June. She plans on becoming a middle school teacher and was fortunate enough to earn an Illinois Golden Apple Scholarship, which, among other things, entails additional study (to learn more about this program, visit www.goldenapple.org). But even with this impressive scholarship and the other scholarships she earned from Bradley University, I still had sticker shock at the cost of higher education. Frankly, college is ridiculously expensive.

For those of you with children going into structural engineering, one source of money you might not know about is the AISC Education Foundation, which administers more than \$65,000 in awards annually. For the 2014-2015 academic

year, AISC provided scholarships to 38 juniors, seniors and graduate students at universities including Kansas State, University of Arkansas, University of Illinois, Virginia Tech, Stanford, University of California, Brigham Young, Penn State, Northeastern, Georgia Tech, SUNY, University of Southern Indiana, Iowa State, Northwestern, University of Wyoming, Purdue, University of Kentucky, University of Cincinnati, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Notre Dame, Valparaiso and Oklahoma State.

And for those of you who have (or will have) high school seniors, AISC also awards \$40,000 in scholarships to the children of full members of the Institute through the AISC David B. Ratterman Fast Start Scholarship.

You can read more about AISC's scholarships at www.aisc.org/scholarships. While it's too late to apply for a scholarship for the upcoming year, it's not too late to help future students. I would love for the Foundation to be able to give more scholarships. Whether you're interested in donating \$5 or \$5,000, please don't wait (and yes, the AISC Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization so your donation can be deducted as a charitable contribution). Mail your check to Angie Lopez, AISC Education Foundation, One East Wacker Dr., Suite 700, Chicago, IL 60601. If you have any questions, please contact lopez@aisc.org.


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