

editor's note



FOR ANYONE OLD ENOUGH TO REMEMBER, AISC WAS A DIFFERENT PLACE IN THE 1980S.

Our staff was older, mostly men working a second career after spending most of their working life at either a steel fabricator or steel mill. When I started at the end of 1989, there were only a handful of people in their twenties, thirties and forties, and we only had one female structural engineer.

But the 1990s ushered in a new era. We began hiring bright young engineers, including Charlie Carter and Jacques Cattan. The three of us formed a radical nucleus for the association, with at least one of the old-school vice presidents frequently reminding us that in his day, we would never have made it out of the mailroom.

My, how everything has changed.

Our staff today is vibrant and active, constantly pushing for improvement and change. More than a dozen of our fantastic engineers are women.

While Jacques left AISC for a decade to work as a senior associate at Teng and Associates, he returned in 2010 as the vice president in charge of AISC Certification. I'm still the editor of *Modern Steel Construction*, but I'm also the vice president in charge of publishing, membership and IT. Charlie, who went back to school at night a few years ago to get his PhD, was promoted in 2008 to vice

president of Engineering and Research and chief structural engineer. And now, Charlie has been named the new president of AISC, effective December of this year (see the news story on page 62).

Charlie is certainly well known within the steel design community and construction industry. Between his frequent lectures, informative articles and attendance at meetings on everything from bolting to HSS, it's almost a rarity to speak with someone who doesn't know, like and admire him. (Even my two boys are big Charlie fans—but I think that has more to do with his having helped them with their Cub Scout pinewood derby cars than his steel acumen.)

In the coming days, you'll be hearing a lot more about Charlie's plans for the future of AISC, but if you want a preview of his thoughts on steel, visit www.aisc.org/charlie to listen to his 2011 podcast. Please join me in congratulating him on this well-deserved achievement. (And if you want to drop him a personal note, he can be reached at carter@aisc.org.)


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