

editor's note



ON MY L RIDE HOME THE OTHER NIGHT, I STARTED TALKING WITH A MOM WHO WAS TRAVELING WITH HER DAUGHTER TO VISIT NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY. The future Wildcat was decked out in a purple sweatshirt that said "Northwestern Engineering."

She mentioned she wanted to study bio-engineering, and I thought that sounded fascinating. And then I realized that regardless of their importance and achievements, I couldn't name a single bioengineer.

And for the general public, the same probably holds true for structural engineers.

Coincidentally, later that evening I read a LinkedIn post from Kim Robinson. For those who don't know Kim, she's the former chief engineer at Star Seismic and CoreBrace and is currently the director of design services at AISC member SunSteel. She's also the current president of the Structural Engineers Association of Utah and a former AISC regional engineer and was SEAU's Engineer of the Year in 2013. And I loved her post:

"My heroes are all engineers," she wrote. "They have contributed to society in ways that the people at large will never understand. I have watched them and idolized them over the span of my career to date, usually in silence. There is David Ruby, whose birthday is today, and who has contributed greatly to the engineering of steel. Happy birthday, Dave! And Thomas Murray. When someone walks past your desk and the floor vibrations don't drive you nuts, you can send your thanks to him. He prefers train tickets. I love welding, too, and Duane Miller is the one and only, the big cheese of welding.

But my first and greatest hero is Jim Malley, the guru of all things seismic and steel. If people only knew how much they owe this gentleman... It is my hope that this next generation of engineers is also looking for their own heroes and finding them in the realm of engineering. You can start with Rafael Sabelli and Ashraf Habibullah. What have they done? Well, that is for you to find out on your own quest. Happy hunting!"

Of course, there are dozens and dozens of other structural engineers who should be famous but instead toil in anonymity (if you want to make your own list, a good place to start would be AISC's past award winners, which you can find at www.aisc.org/awards).

Who's your hero? Drop me a note and I'll add them to my list!

SCOTT MELNICK

EDITOR

P.S. If you want to meet any of these luminaries, think about attending NASCC: The Steel Conference next year in Baltimore (April 11–13). Last month at the San Antonio conference, I saw five of the six heroes on Kim's list (and Kim, too) and I can't think of the last time any of them missed a Steel Conference!

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