People and Firms

The Steel Erectors Association of America (SEAA) has announced the winners of its annual Project of the Year awards for steel erection projects that topped out in 2016. The winning projects demonstrate the range and complexity of steel construction in the U.S., and companies are awarded for overcoming challenges while maintaining safe work standards.

The winners are: the Elgin Air Force Base, Variable Height Tower in Okaloosa County, Fla.; the 609 Main crown in Houston; the Kubota North American Headquarters in Grapevine, Texas; an IKEA retail store in Burbank, Calif.; and NASA’s Vehicle Assembly Building, high bay No. 3 in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

AISC member and certified erector Peterson Beckner Industries was awarded the Class II prize (for contracts valued between $500,000 and $1 million) for their work at 609 Main. The 48-story office tower is the 10th tallest building in Texas. One of the challenges posed was the limited work space as the building footprint took up an entire city block with no room for material laydown. In addition, the structural steel “crown” placed on top of the tower features a complex, angular geometry.

Steel erectors are invited to submit projects topped out in 2017 for next year’s award. The deadline is March 1, 2018. For more information, visit www.seaa.net.

MILEK FELLOWSHIP

Milek Fellowship Call for Proposals

University faculty are invited to apply for the 2018 AISC Milek Fellowship, a four-year fellowship given to a promising university faculty member to conduct structural steel research. The awarded faculty member will receive $50,000 per year (for a total of $200,000) as well as free registration to NASCC: The Steel Conference for the four years following their selection as an AISC Milek Fellow.

The Milek Fellowship program is designed to contribute to the research careers of young faculty who teach and conduct research investigations related to structural steel, while producing research results beneficial to designers, fabricators and erectors of structural steel.

The program is also intended to support students with high potential to be valuable contributors to the U.S. structural steel industry, and the selected faculty member is required to fund a doctoral candidate with at least half of the fellowship money. The chosen students will be named AISC Graduate Fellows and featured in Modern Steel.

Proposals will be accepted until September 15, 2017. For the full application requirements, visit www.aisc.org/milek.

BOARD NEWS

AISC Appoints Two New Members to Board of Directors

Two AISC members have been appointed to the AISC Board of Directors: Leon Topalian, executive vice president of Nucor Corporation; and Glenn R. Tabolt, PE, president of STS Steel, Inc., Schenectady, N.Y.

“The nominations of Leon and Glenn continue to build on the talent and leadership of the AISC Board, and I look forward to working with both of them on the issues that are important to maintaining a strong structural steel industry,” said David Zalesne, president of Owen Steel Company, Inc., Columbia, S.C., and chair of the AISC committee on director nominations.

Topalian joined Nucor 20 years ago as a project engineer at Nucor Steel Berkeley in Huger, S.C., and was quickly promoted to cold mill production supervisor. Most recently, he served as vice president and general manager of Nucor Yamato Steel Company and was appointed executive vice president of Nucor Corporation last month.

Tabolt started his career at Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Corporation (PDM) in 1978. Four years later he joined General Steel Fabricators in Latham, N.Y., where he managed various structural steel building projects. In 1984, he co-founded STS Steel with Jim Stori and is involved in all aspects of managing the company. He served on the AISC / SSPC Joint Task Committee to create a joint certification standard for shop application of complex protective coating systems and currently serves on the NASCC: The Steel Conference Planning Committee.

View the full list of AISC’s Board of Directors at www.aisc.org/membership/board-members.
AISC Announces Three Senior Leadership Promotions

Three AISC staff have been promoted to senior leadership positions: Danielle Kleinhans, PE, PhD, to vice president of bridges and managing director of the National Steel Bridge Alliance (NSBA); John Cross, PE, to vice president of special projects; and Tabitha Stine, SE, PE, to vice president of market development.

Kleinhans joined AISC this past January as managing director of NSBA, responsible for maintaining and building on the technical and market development activities, strategies and culture that have positioned the alliance as a respected leader in the bridge community. She has 15 years of experience in structural engineering and management. Prior to joining AISC, she worked for the Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute (CRSI), rising from the position of structural/transportation engineer to managing director of CRSI's Epoxy Interest Group (EIG). Before that she worked for CTLGroup in the positions of senior engineer and group manager for structural engineering and mechanics. She began her career at Modjeski and Masters, Inc. as a structural design engineer. She serves on numerous industry committees and has received several awards including the Young Member Award for Professional Achievement from the American Concrete Institute (ACI). She earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla.

Charlie Carter, SE, PE, PhD, president of AISC, said, “Danielle's new title reflects that the NSBA division of AISC is now fully integrated as a department of AISC. We already are enjoying the benefits of this unification, with sharing of expertise, market information, economic statistics, and technical solutions to decision makers about the inherent benefits and technical solutions to designers and builders.”

Prior to joining AISC in 2001, Cross served as executive vice president of STS Consultants and regional vice president for Beling Consultants. He holds a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and an MBA from the Keller Graduate School of Management. He has been actively involved in the engineering community for more than four decades. He also has authored more than 50 publications on various industry topics. Prior to joining AISC in 2001, Cross has served as AISC’s vice president of market development and related activities for the AISC Steel Solutions Center and that of the AISC regional engineers around the U.S. to help educate decision makers about the inherent benefits and technical solutions to designing and building in structural steel. Previously she was AISC’s Great Plains region engineer for four years, and before that she spent nearly a year as an advisor in the Steel Solutions Center.

Cross, who will be retiring next July, has served as AISC’s vice president of market development for nearly 15 years, and also led its finance department for eight years. He is a well-respected expert in the structural steel industry and has been actively involved in the engineering community for more than four decades. He also has authored more than 50 publications on various industry topics. Prior to joining AISC in 2001, he served as executive vice president of STS Consultants and regional vice president for Beling Consultants. He holds a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, a master of divinity degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and an MBA from the Keller Graduate School of Management. He has served as a member of the National Board of Advisors and the Commission on the Future at Rose-Hulman and on the Board of Directors of People International USA.

“In his new role, John will focus on creating the significant and varied information we need at our disposal and in the hands of our industry—winning messages that will allow us all to succeed in our market development and related activities,” said Carter. “He also will continue to fulfill his expert role in sustainability, market information, economic statistics and SteelDay (scheduled for September 15; visit www.steelday.org).”

Tabitha Stine succeeds Cross and assumes direct responsibility for all staff and activities of the AISC market development department. For the past 10 years, Stine has served as AISC’s director of technical marketing and later as the director of market development, responsible for supervising and coordinating all of the activities for the AISC Steel Solutions Center and that of the AISC regional engineers around the U.S. to help educate decision makers about the inherent benefits and technical solutions to designing and building in structural steel.

Previously she was AISC’s Great Plains region engineer for four years, and before that she spent nearly a year as an advisor in the Steel Solutions Center.

Prior to joining AISC, she worked for Sargent & Lundy, LLC, in Chicago as a structural engineer in their fossil power division. She earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIUC) and a master's degree in structural engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology. In 2009, she received the Distinguished Alumni Award by the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department of SIUC. She currently serves as a member of the professional advisory board of the Civil Engineering Department at SIUC.

“Tabitha has a demonstrated a history of success in leading the market development activities of the AISC regional staff and the Steel Solutions Center,” commented Carter. “More recently, she has championed our transition to a new, city-based market development plan, building excitement and progressing faster than expected in our initial plans.”