

Steel News & Events

Focus on Wind and Low-Seismic Design

AISC's latest lecture series, "Streamlining Your Steel Design Process: Lateral Framing Systems East of the Rockies," is aimed at engineers designing framing systems in wind and low-seismic applications. The course focuses on the 2000 International Building Code, which incorporates ASCE 7, the 1997 NEHRP Provisions and the 1997 AISC Seismic Provisions. These documents form a consistent design basis for the building codes that are being implemented nationally.

"In using current building codes, you will need to become much more familiar with seismic design," explained Steve Ashton, Senior Engineer-Continuing Education at AISC. "In many situations, special seismic detailing is required or desirable, even when the design is controlled by wind effects."

The five-hour course provides information on two distinct groups of framing systems: normal ductility and high ductility. Framing systems of normal ductility are designed to meet the requirements of the AISC Specification for Structural Steel Buildings, while framing systems of high ductility are designed to meet the requirements of both the AISC Specification for Structural Steel Buildings and the AISC Seismic Provisions for Structural Steel Buildings.

The seminar is designed to provide a wide-range of useful information. For normal ductility

Schedule-at-a-Glance	
April 5Atlanta, GA	Sept. 6Chicago, IL
April 6Birmingham, AL	Sept. 7Grand Rapids, MI
April 11Jacksonville, FL	Sept. 13.....St. Louis, MO
April 12New Orleans, LA	Sept. 14Kansas City, MO
May 3.....Greenville, SC	Sept. 27Pittsburgh, PA
May 4Charlotte, NC	Sept. 28.....Columbus, OH
May 10Richmond, VA	Oct. 4.....Rochester, NY
May 11.....Raleigh, NC	Oct. 5Albany, NY
May 24Minneapolis, MN	Oct. 18Meriden, CT
May 25Omaha, NE	Oct. 19Boston, MA
June 7Cleveland, OH	Oct. 24Washington, DC
June 8Detroit, MI	Oct. 25Philadelphia, PA
June 21Cincinnati, OH	Nov. 1Edison, NJ
June 22Indianapolis, IN	Nov. 2.....New York, NY
June 28Stillwater, OK	Nov. 15Houston, TX
June 29Denver, CO	Nov. 16.....Dallas, TX

designs, attendees will learn:

- A streamlined design sequence for moment-frame systems and braced-frame systems;
- What seismic and code information applies to the various lateral-load resisting systems;
- Typical connection details that are used in the various lateral-load resisting systems;
- Useful and cost-effective moment connection details;
- Useful and cost-effective bracing configurations and bracing connection details; and
- How to identify special considerations for unusual structures.

Those interested in high ductility will learn:

- Advantages and implications of selecting higher levels of ductility for your designs;
- How to apply the AISC Seismic

- Provisions, including testing requirements for moment connections;
- Connection details that have already been qualified by testing;
- Differences between ordinary (OMF), intermediate (IMF) and special (SMF) moment frames; and
- Differences between special (SCBF) and ordinary (OCBF) concentrically braced frames.

Registration for the course, which offers 0.5 CEUs (5 PDH), is \$200 (\$150 for AISC members) with discounts for multiple attendees from one firm.

For more information, see AISC's website at www.aisc.org or fax 312/670-5403.

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2000 NASCC Sets Attendance Records

Attendance soared to 2,970 at this year's North American Steel Construction Conference (NASCC), held Feb. 23 to Feb. 26 among the bright lights of Las Vegas.

The tone for AISC's most successful conference was set by the packed 10-hour LRFD tutorial. Designed to provide practitioners with the tools they need to convert from ASD to LRFD, the sessions overflowed with more than 300 attendees. Since LRFD's introduction in 1986, less than a quarter of the industry has adopted it, despite its near complete penetration on the university level. The LRFD tutorial at the conference proved that more interest existed in LRFD than realized.

Dave Holbert, P.E., vice president of Cagley & Associates in Rockville, MD commented on how the LRFD tutorial changed his thinking: "We as an office have not adopted LRFD because we were never schooled in it or studied it. LRFD isn't all that complicated; it's basically just a matter of rearranging my mindset. Universities will school young engineers only in LRFD—maybe the older ones are the ones that need to change! We know we have to change, but we've kept putting it off. Within the next year, we'll change to LRFD."



An audience of more than 240 fabricators filled the room for the short course on project management.

Many were also very impressed with the presentation style and speaking ability of the LRFD speakers, Louis F. Geschwindner, Ph.D., P.E., professor of architectural engineering at Penn State University and Kurt Swennson, Ph.D., P.E., president of KSi Structural Engineers in Atlanta. John Cox, P.E., S.E., senior structural engineer of Merrick & Company in Colorado Springs remarked that "Professor Geschwindner's knowledge and skill at presentation made all the difference. Such professionals should give AISC seminars and tutorials. Professors are the best qualified since these are teaching affairs. Professor Geschwindner set the standard." AISC plans to offer the tutorial at several locations during the coming year. In addition, the tutorial will be repeated at next year's NASCC, which is scheduled for May 9th through May 12th, 2001 in Ft. Lauderdale.

The praise for Geschwindner did not stop at the LRFD tutorial. This year, AISC presented him with the T.R. Higgins Award for his work on frame analysis, stability, and leaning columns. The Higgins Award is presented annually to an outstanding lecturer and author whose technical paper or papers are considered an outstanding contribution to the engineering literature on fabricated structural steel. Robert O. Disque, P.E., of Gible Nordan Champion Consulting Engineers in Old Saybrook, CT served on the jury and offered some insights on what earned Geschwindner the award. "Awarding the T.R. Higgins award



Louis F. Geschwindner (right), Ph.D., P.E., Professor of Architectural Engineering at Penn State, is presented with the T.R. Higgins Award by Robert F. Lorenz, P.E., AISC's Director of Education.

to Lou was unique. His quality as a teacher is what won him the award." Charles J. Carter, P.E., S.E., director of engineering and continuing education at AISC and a former student of Geschwindner's, commended him by saying "Lou is excellent at taking complex ideas and making them understandable."

The Short Courses and General Session also pulled in large crowds. A Short Course on Project Management for Fabricators and Contractors explored the latest methods and tools for project management. The course attracted more than 240 attendees. While the course offered a good overview of the problems facing the fabrication industry, many attendees believed it to be short on solutions. "The course showed the value of the topic," said Jim Stori, P.E., president of STS Steel, Inc. and conference chairman. "Next year we're planning a more advanced seminar tightly focused on the needs of the fabrication industry."

The conference concluded with a Saturday morning Short Course, "Streamlining Your Steel Design Process: Lateral Framing Systems East of the Rockies.". AISC will be offering this program at nearly 50 cities in the coming year. For more information, see page 17 of this issue, or visit AISC's website at www.aisc.org.

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Attendees had the opportunity to see the latest in products ranging from fabrication equipment to structural software.

The General Session, which attracted an audience of more than 1,200, focused on structural design in Las Vegas. Mark Holland, Chief Engineer with Paxton & Vierling Steel Company in Omaha, NE remarked that "Usually the general session is heady, but this time the subject was entertaining and light. I thought the Eiffel Tower was especially interesting on the contrasting of the two designs (Las Vegas and Paris)." In addition to the T.R. Higgins Lecture, LRFD Tutorial and Short Courses, the conference offered more than 30 technical sessions on engineering, fabrication, erection and detailing.

More than 180 booths covered the exhibit hall—the largest trade show to date. The booths offered the attendees the opportunity to gather the latest in information and technology from various companies across the country and world. The exhibitors were made up of engineering and fabrication/detailing software vendors, bolt manufacturers, welding suppliers, fabrication equipment manufacturers, paint and galvanizing vendors, and safety product suppliers. Chris Bell of Macrosoft/Amar Engineering and Design in Highland, CA said that "I think that most of the people who came by our booth were much more informed and better prepared to discuss their detailing and software needs than I have seen before."

AISC also handed out several prestigious awards to various individ-

uals. William McGuire, professor with the Department of Civil Engineering at Cornell University, received the Geerhard Haaijer award. Nationally he is best known as the author of "Steel Structures." He also was long-time member of the AISC Specification Committee and a regular contributor to a variety of structural journals. Lynn S. Beedle, James M. Fisher,

and Srinivasa (Hal) Iyengar all received Lifetime Achievement Awards. Beedle serves as a professor at Lehigh University and former chairman of the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat. Together with Ted Higgins, Beedle was in the forefront of much of the innovative research on steel that emerged in the 1950s and 1960s. Fisher is vice president at Computerized Structural Design and is considered the leading expert nationally on industrial building design. Many regard him as an "engineer's engineer," a professional from whom practitioners seek advice and knowledge. Iyengar has served as Skidmore Owings & Merrill's chief structural engineer for almost 20 years. In addition to his involvement in many of the most significant structural projects in the U.S. and around the world, he is also recognized for his work in the organization of steel systems methodology.

Geoffrey L. Kulak, Dennis R. Mertz, James O. Malley, Ronald O. Hamburger, and Joseph Spears all received special achievement awards from AISC. Kulak teaches at the University of Alberta and is recognized as one of the foremost contributors to the improvements in structural connections. Mertz teaches at the University of Delaware and has done significant work in developing LRFD for bridges to supplant the older LFD methods. Malley, a senior principal at Degenkolb Engineers, and Hamburger, senior vice president at EQE International, lead the new develop-

ments in seismic design developed through FEMA/SAC initiatives. Finally, Spears, a designer at HOK, developed the look and feel of a new baseball stadium for a minor league team in Buffalo, ushering in a new era in stadia design.

Overall, the conference began and ended very successfully. Many considered it to be the best conference they ever attended. Robert Disque noted, "It was the best conference in history. I attended the first conference in 1960, and I'm more qualified than anyone when it comes to conferences," adding, "I don't say that because I'm egotistical; I say that because I'm old."

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New AISC Staff Engineer

Keith M. Mueller, Ph.D., has joined AISC as a Staff Engineer in the Chicago Engineering and Research Department. Mueller earned a doctoral degree at the University of Illinois at Cham-



paign-Urbana with a thesis on fully-stressed design of frame structures. Mueller's initial AISC assignments will include technical assistance for telephone and other incoming communications, along with support of other regular Department responsibilities in development of our technical publications, specifications, and continuing education.

Dietrich graduated from Purdue University in 1974 and joined Baxter Healthcare in 1977 in their Information Systems department, where he managed several engineering design system projects. After completing his MBA in Finance, Dietrich assumed responsibility for financial operations for a division of Baxter focused on pharmaceuticals. He has also served as CFO for a small dialysis provider business, and Corporate Controller for two healthcare supply companies in the Chicago area.

AISC Names New VP-Finance & Administration

Joe Dietrich has been named Vice President of Finance and Adminis-



tration for AISC, succeeding Morris Caminer who is retiring from active service in March. Dietrich's responsibilities include

general accounting, budgeting, financial reporting, treasury operations and investments. He is also responsible for Membership and Administration functions, as well as selected Information Technology projects and strategies.