## Roger Ferch of Herrick Corporation Named New AISC President

Roger E. Ferch, P.E., has been named the new president of the American Institute of Steel Construction, Inc., effective January 1, 2006. Ferch is currently vice president of Herrick Corporation, the largest structural steel fabricator and erector on the West Coast. He replaces H. Louis Gurthet, P.E., who is retiring after serving as president since 1996.

"AISC is a very strong association and I'm excited for the opportunity to lead it," Ferch stated. "AISC has evolved from an organization solely representing the fabrication community to one representing the entire structural steel community—including steel mills, service centers, and more than 10,000 professional engineers, each of whom serve as ambassadors to communicate our technical and marketing message of economy, efficiency, and beauty when you construct with structural steel."

He stressed that AISC needs to continue to serve the marketplace, especially through such programs as continuing education and quality certification. "We need to maintain close liaison within the fabrication industry through the regional fabricator associations and with important groups such as code officials, inspectors, contractors, and owners," he added. "The challenge for the future of AISC is to promote further growth and stature of our Institute by bringing together the people and programs responsible for our past achievements, to further grow market share, and to gain greater international recognition of our Institute."

Roger E. Ferch

Ferch is currently a member of the AISC Board of Directors and previously has served as a board member for a steel detailer and for a steel service center. His experience with Herrick encompasses a wide range of activities within the steel fabrication industry, including design, procurement, contract management, marketing, estimating, detailing, erection, and project management.

Prior to joining Herrick, Ferch was the Assistant Resident Officer in Charge of Construction for the U.S. Navy Civil Engineering Corps in Alaska and California. He also worked as an estimator and project manager for the Leckenby Company in Seattle.

A licensed civil engineer in California, he has an undergraduate civil engineering degree from the University of Washington and an MBA from the University of California-Berkeley. ★

## UC Davis Takes Student Steel Bridge Competition

A team of civil engineering students from the University of California, Davis took first place at the 14th Annual National Student Steel Bridge Competition. The competition was held May 27 and 28 at the University of Central Florida, Orlando and drew teams from 44 universities from the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

The competing teams were winners of Regional Student Steel Bridge Competitions held in 18 regions of the United States over the past year. Beyond the overall competition, teams were judged in individual categories for economy, efficiency, aesthetics, construction speed, lightness, and stiffness. Winners in those categories are summarized below.

The event was sponsored by AISC and co-sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI), the National Steel Bridge Alliance (NSBA), the James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation, and Nucor Corporation. For more details about the competition, visit **www.nssbc2005.org.** ★

### Overall Winners
First Place – University of California, Davis
Second Place – University of Florida
Third Place – Louisiana State University

### Economy
First Place – California State University, Long Beach
Second Place – University of California, Davis
Third Place – University of Tennessee, Knoxville

### Efficiency
First Place – California State University, Davis
Second Place – University of Florida
Third Place – Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

### Aesthetics
First Place – University of California, San Diego
Second Place – Ecole de Technologie Superieure University
Third Place – Texas A&M University, Kingsville

### Construction Speed
First Place – California State University, Long Beach
Second Place – University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Third Place – University of California, Davis

### Lightness
First Place – University of Michigan
Second Place – Lakehead University
Third Place – University of Alaska, Fairbanks

### Stiffness
First Place – Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
Second Place – University of California, Davis
Third Place – Western Kentucky University

## 2005 AISC *Specification* Available Online

The final approved version of the 2005 AISC *Specification for Structural Steel Buildings* is now available on the AISC web site at **www.aisc.org/2005spec** for free downloading. This new standard is approved by the AISC Committee on Specifications, and as an ANSI-accredited document it underwent several public review periods.

The new *Specification* supersedes the following AISC specifications:

- 1989 *Specification for Structural Steel Buildings – Allowable Stress Design and Plastic Design* (Including Supplement No. 1 to that standard)
- 1989 *Specification for Allowable Stress Design of Single-Angle Members*
- 1999 *Load and Resistance Factor Design Specification for Structural Steel Buildings*
- 2000 *Load and Resistance Factor Design Specification for Single-Angle Members*
- 2000 *Load and Resistance Factor Design Specification for the Design of Steel Hollow Structural Sections*

*Modern Steel Construction* has published articles in recent months highlighting various new features of the new *Specification*, including this month's SpecWise on page 49, which discusses its expanded scope to include "other structures." Look for articles in upcoming issues on composite columns, stability provisions, design for fire, and the concept of strength versus stress. This fall, there will also be discussion of the new *Manual of Steel Construction* and what to expect from that new AISC publication. ★

## 2005 *Code of Standard Practice* Now Available as Free Download

The updated 2005 AISC *Code of Standard Practice for Steel Buildings and Bridges* is now available to download free from AISC's web site. This edition includes Appendix A, which lays out guidelines for projects based on the sharing of electronic models rather than paper drawings.

Fabricators, erectors, owners, architects, engineers and contractors have developed certain standard practices relating to the design, fabrication, and erection of structural steel. Since 1924, AISC has published these standards, updating them as new standards have been established, to make them available for ready reference by all concerned with the use of sructural steel.

Visit **www.aisc.org/code** to download your free copy. ★

## Draft Standard Now Available for Public Review: *AISC Specification for the Qualification of Steel Structures Inspectors*

The draft inspection personnel standard *AISC Specification for the Qualification of Steel Structures Inspectors* (AISC 202) is now available for public review by visiting **www.aisc.org/ssidraft05-1** (a hard copy is available for a nominal fee of $12 by calling 312.670.7520 or by e-mailing lopez@aisc.org). This is the first public review of this document.

This standard describes the tasks and knowledge necessary for inspectors of structural steel projects. The qualification described is intended to offer assistance to building design and construction professionals and owners in qualifying individuals for independent third-party inspection of steel construction workmanship. The scope of this specification does not include the inspection of safety issues, inspection of means and methods of erection, or addressing the substance and/or adequacy of the underlying project design.

Qualification to this specification indicates that an inspector has demonstrated the fundamental level of knowledge of steel construction inspection defined within the specification. The scope of the qualification contains the following components:

- Contract Review
- Structural Steel
- Bolting
- Welding
- Field Welding of Reinforcing Steel
- Erection of Structural Steel
- Field Inspection of Open Web Steel Joists and Joist Girders
- Field Inspection of Metal Deck
- Shear Connectors
- Field Inspection of Floor Grating
- Inspection of Protective Coatings
- Communication and reporting

A review comment form may be downloaded by visiting **www.aisc.org/ssireviewpdf** (PDF format) or by visiting **www.aisc.org/ssireviewdoc** (Microsoft Word format). Please submit your comments electronically to marstellar@aisc.org using the review comment form, or mail to Roberta Marstellar, AISC, Suite 700, One East Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601 by August 1, 2005. ★

## Steel Prices Fall Sharply

Structural steel prices have dropped more than $100 per ton since the beginning of 2005, reflecting a 20% decrease in the cost of material, according to the American Institute of Steel Construction. The current decrease in price, from a typical price of $618 to $510 per ton of wide flange, is primarily the result of lower scrap costs.

Major U.S. producers of structural steel significantly reduced mill prices of structural steel effective June 8. Inventory of structural material remains high and availability of structural steel is excellent from mills, warehouses and at local fabricators. The current inventory of structural steel exceeds one million tons and delivery to fabricators from warehouses can be accomplished in a matter of days.

At the same time cement supplies are becoming extremely tight with shortages reported in 10 states— ranging from Florida to Oregon. The Associated General Contractors of America has sounded an alarm regarding the shortage of cement stating "these reports are especially alarming because they come at the beginning of the demand season for cement, meaning more severe problems are almost certain in the near future (AGC News & Views, Volume 2, Issue 10, June 9, 2005)."

In addition, reports from across the country indicate long lead times (often exceeding 12 months) for precast concrete products, particularly double tees.

"Unlike the concrete industry, where costs are increasing, cement is in short supply, and lead times are growing, the structural steel industry is experiencing a period of reduced costs and readily available product," explained John Cross, AISC's Vice President of Marketing. "Projects utilizing structural steel are gaining the benefits of reduced cost and achievable schedules." ★

## AISC Fall Seminars

This fall, AISC will continue to offer the popular seminars, "Field Fixes" and "Steel Design After College," along with one new seminar, "Seismic Braced Frames—Design Concepts and Connections." As always, leading industry experts will serve as featured speakers for each of the seminars.

AISC will continue to offer the successful "Bring a Buddy" program—each paid registrant can bring one colleague for only $100 more. Register online and save $5 off the registration fee. Seminar dates for the fall are outlined below:

### Field Fixes

| | |
|---|---|
| Sept. 8 | Albany, NY |

### Steel Design After College

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|---|---|
| Sept. 13 | Albuquerque, NM |
| Sept. 13 | Washington, DC |
| Sept. 14 | Denver, CO |
| Sept. 14 | Cleveland, OH |
| Sept. 14 | Baltimore, MD |
| Sept. 15 | Detroit, MI |
| Sept. 21 | Oklahoma City, OK |
| Sept. 22 | Dallas, TX |
| Sept. 28 | Boston, MA |
| Sept. 29 | New York City |
| Oct. 6 | Minneapolis, MN |
| Oct. 19 | Cincinnati, OH |
| Oct. 19 | Batavia, NY |
| Oct. 20 | Syracuse, NY |
| Oct. 26 | Pittsburgh, PA |
| Nov. 2 | Houston, TX |
| Nov. 2 | Edison, NJ |
| Nov. 3 | St. Louis, MO |
| Nov. 3 | Philadelphia, PA |
| Nov. 30 | Omaha, NE |
| Nov. 30 | Atlanta, GA |
| Dec. 1 | Charlotte, NC |

### Seismic Braced Frames— Design Concepts and Connections

| | |
|---|---|
| Aug. 4 | Anchorage, AK |
| Sept. 7 | Los Angeles, CA |
| Sept. 8 | San Francisco, CA |
| Sept. 21 | Portland, OR |
| Sept. 22 | Seattle, WA |
| Oct. 6 | Salt Lake City, UT |
| Oct. 19 | Las Vegas, NV |
| Oct. 20 | Chicago, IL |
| Nov. 9 | Sacramento, CA |
| Nov. 10 | Santa Clara, CA |
| Nov. 30 | Pasadena, CA |
| Dec. 1 | San Diego, CA |
| Dec. 1 | Kansas City, MO |

Visit the Continuing Education area of AISC's web site at **www.aisc.org/seminars** for detailed information on each of the seminars. ★

## ACSA/AISC Student Design Competition

A total of $14,000 in cash prizes was awarded to winning teams of the 2004-2005 Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA)/AISC Student Design Competition, held May 14 in Washington D.C.

Open to architecture students in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, the winners were chosen from more than 400 submissions from nearly 40 universities.

For the first time, the competition offered students the opportunity to compete in two separate categories. Category I challenged students to design a Student Union Building for their campus or a neighboring campus. Category II was an open competition with restrictions: The design had to be a multi-story structure, could not be for residential use, and had to feature at least one place of assembly that would require long span structural steel. Both categories required to students to use steel as the primary structural material, with special emphasis placed on innovation in steel design.

Submissions were judged based on the strength of the overall design in response to the program, including creative use of structural steel in the design solution, successful response of the design to its surrounding context, and successful response to basic architectural concepts.

The prize-winning submissions will be published in a competition summary book and exhibited at the 2006 ACSA Annual Meeting, the 2006 North American Steel Construction Conference, and the 2006 American Institute of Architects (AIA) National Convention.

First, second, and third prizes and three honorable mentions were awarded in each category:

### Category I— Student Union Building

**First Prize:** Eduardo Soto, University of Maryland, School of Architecture
**Second Prize:** Richard Y C Lam, Harvard University, Graduate School of Design
**Third Prize:** Colleen Gove, University of Maryland, School of Architecture

#### Honorable Mentions

Daekwon Park, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, School of Architecture
Todd Costain, University of Minnesota
Robert Tait, University of Tennessee

### Category II— Open Competition

**First Prize:** Nathan Charris, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, School of Architecture
**Second Prize:** Matt Grover, Nate Hudson, and John Sardari, New School of Architecture and Design
**Third Prize:** Ha Thanh Pham, New Jersey Institute of Technology, School of Architecture

#### Honorable Mentions

Kathryn Henderson, University of Southern California
Kathy Siebieda and Donny Kim, Georgia Institute of Technology
Brian Jaramillo and Brandon Komoda, Woodbury University ★

## Maverick Announces Expected Sale of HSS Line

Maverick Tube Corporation (NYSE: MVK) announced May 11 that it executed a letter of intent regarding the sale of specific assets associated with its hollow structural sections (HSS) product line to Atlas Tube, Inc., the leading HSS producer in North America.

According to Maverick, the letter of intent anticipated the purchase by Atlas of Maverick's HSS inventory and customer lists in the United States and Canada for a cash payment payable at closing. Based on book value of inventories and receivables as of March 31, 2005, and the premium on the sale of the business, Maverick was expected to generate between $50-55 million of additional liquidity at the time of close.

Maverick reported that the parties also anticipated entering into a conversion agreement whereby Maverick would continue to produce HSS products for Atlas at its Hickman, AR HSS mill for a period of time after closing. In addition, the two companies would be bound by mutual non-competition agreements for a period of time. ★

## 2005 SC&RA Crane & Rigging Workshop

The Specialized Carriers and Rigging Association (SC&RA) has assembled a roster of leading industry professionals as presenters for the 2005 Crane and Rigging Workshop, September 22-24 at the Hilton Americas in Houston.

Speakers from the Construction Safety Council, Total Security U.S., Wire Rope Corporation of America, and more will deliver presentations on topics such as electrical safety in construction, how to create world-class safety programs, and basic lift planning as a tool for risk management. The workshop also will feature a tour of Liebherr Cranes' Houston facility, an exhibit center, a golf outing, and more.

Visit **www.scranet.org** and click on "Event/Registration" or call SC&RA at 703.698.0291 for more information. ★

Got news? Send your news items for *Modern Steel Construction* to Keith Grubb (grubb@modernsteel.com) or Lena Singer (singer@modernsteel.com).