

editor's note



FOR MOST PEOPLE, THE DIMINUTIVE OF THEIR NAME IS SHORTER (JOSHUA BECOMES JOSH) AND SOMETIMES INCLUDES A FRIENDLY "Y" AT THE END (JUDITH BECOMES JUDY). But what happens when a name is monosyllabic, like "Scott"?

For the past decade-and-a-half, Jim Fisher has solved that problem by greeting me with "Hey Scooter!" (a remarkable coincidence, since growing up my family often called me "Scooter Pie"—a tradition only my eldest brother continues). It's very typical of Jim, a man known for his practical and folksy ways. And this month, AISC is presenting him with its highest honor: The J. Lloyd Kimbrough Award. The award honors engineers and architects who are universally recognized as the pre-eminent steel designers of their era and is presented to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the structural steel industry through their design work. It's only been given eight times previously since the award was originated in 1941—most recently to Leslie Robertson in 2001 and William LeMessurier in 1999.

While Les and Bill are more along the lines of what people typically think of when discussing pre-eminent designers (that is, engineers who have made their reputations on projects that every one recognizes, such as CitiCorp Center and the Bank of China), Jim made his reputation as the pre-eminent designer of industrial buildings. He's the one who teaches others how to do it right, and the one that people go to when they have problems. Jim is also well known for his many papers, publications (including several AISC design guides), and numerous presentations (including this year's Wednesday keynote address at the Steel Conference). And, of course, he's very popular for holding late-night court in hotel lobbies to a willing and receptive group of younger designers.

Of course, Jim isn't the only notable receiving an award this year. Coincidentally, the industries "other" Fisher—John W.—is receiving the Geerhard Haaijer Award for Excellence in Education, which is given to individuals who have had a profound and lasting impact in developing a unique application for engi-

neering practice or in the mentoring of future technical leaders. An expert on fatigue and fracture, the list of students he worked with at Lehigh University is too long to even begin to mention.

Another one of my design favorites—Shankar Nair—also is scheduled to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award. Shankar is unique among engineers not just because he has worked extensively in both buildings and bridges, but that he is incredibly erudite, as evidenced by his many articles not just in technical publications, but also on the commentary pages of newspapers such as the *Chicago Tribune*. I first met Shankar in the early 1980s and I've rarely encountered a more knowledgeable—and genuinely helpful—individual.

I'd be completely remiss if I also didn't mention that Duane Miller is receiving a lifetime achievement award. Duane is a protégé of Omer Blodgett at The Lincoln Electric Co. and, for the past decade, the go-to-guy for anything concerning structural welding. I've had the privilege of serving with Duane on various committees in the past and have personally benefited from his advice and counsel. In addition to his technical expertise and brilliance as a speaker, I discovered another quality a few years ago. Duane is a phenomenal moderator. He can listen to a presentation, summarize it, and help to advance a difficult topic to another level.

Finally, two other individuals are being honored this year. Bruce Ellingwood from Georgia Tech is receiving a lifetime achievement award and Ron Ziemian from Bucknell is receiving a special achievement award (for more on these awards, visit www.aisc.org).

Please join me in congratulating these worthy individuals. And if you're not among the more than 2,300 professionals at the Steel Conference where these awards are being presented, remember to congratulate them the next time you see them!

SCOTT MELNICK
EDITOR

P.S.—So who decides who gets an award anyway? AISC has three separate awards committees: one for designers, one for educators, and one for industry members. Current committee members include: Bill Baker from SOM, Gus Bergsma from Bentley Systems, Scott Blackburn from S.N. Blackburn, Reidar Bjorhovde from the Bjorhovde Group, Pete Carrato from Bechtel, Vijay Chandra from Parsons Brinckerhoff, Pete Cheever from LeMessurier Consultants, Dan Cuoco from Thornton-Tomasetti, Bill Dowd from HDR, Duane Ellifrit from the University of Florida, Roger Ferch from AISC, Lou Geschwindner from AISC and Penn State, Ron Hamburger from Simpson Gumpertz & Heger, Jon Magnusson from MKA, Robert McNamara from McNamara/Salvia, Ray Messer from Walter P. Moore, Bob Owen from Paxton & Vierling Steel, Terry Pesbia from Garbe Iron Works, Stanley Rolfe from the University of Kansas, Fromy Rosenberg from AISC, Jim Stori from STS Steel, Eric Waterman from I.M.P.A.C.T., Richard Weingardt from Richard Weingardt Consultants, and me.

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