

editor's note



MAY OFTEN SEEMS LIKE THE BUSIEST MONTH. Between my daughter's dance recitals (yes, she did a great job—and I have it on tape if anyone wants to watch!), my boys' skating show, soccer and the myriad and miscellaneous classes my kids take, we're always running around somewhere. And, of course, in May it's critical to find time for planting. Even in my ridiculously small yard, there are perennials to divide, annuals to plant, and grass to cut. On top of that, there are professional obligations. For some reason, May seems like the most popular month for seminars and conferences (I was in Pittsburgh last week and I'm off to the Structures Congress later this week; then it's Indianapolis and finally back to Pittsburgh). I'm convinced that with very little effort I could find a meeting or conference to attend every day during May!

Maybe it's our hectic schedules, maybe it's the cost. Or maybe it's advances in technology. But for whatever reason, we're starting to see a greater and greater emphasis on online continuing education. There are, certainly, pros and cons to online seminars versus attending one in person.

Online programs tend to be less expensive (especially in terms of travel costs and out-of-office time), can usually be taken at your own convenience, and usually allow users to replay information to gain a better understanding.

Live programs allow for interaction between the speaker and the audience. Often, attendees in a live situation also are more focused. And finally, many state registration bodies mandate that only a limited number of PDH credits can come from online programs.

In the past, AISC has played a bit with online offerings (you can currently take a couple of classes at www.aisc.org/seminars) but in the near future the offerings will be ramped up with

four additional offerings, each of which will offer 6 PDHs (0.6 CEUs):

- Field Fixes: Common Problems in Design, Fabrication and Erection—Solutions and Prevention
- Steel Design after College
- Seismic Braced Frames
- Bolting & Welding

These new offerings will provide you with two great opportunities.

You could, of course, wait until late summer and take the courses online (or order them on a CD). Or, you can come to Chicago the week of July 24 and take the courses in person at a sharply discounted price from even AISC's usual low seminar registration fees. Since AISC needs to bring the speakers to Chicago and have them present the programs for taping, the decision was made to open up the sessions to a limited number of attendees.

AISC members can take just one of the six hour programs for \$100 (\$200 for non-members), two of the courses for \$180, three for \$240, or all four for just \$280. The programs each start at 8:00 a.m. and take a lunch break at 11:30 a.m. before resuming at 1:00 p.m. and concluding at 4:30 p.m. (lunch is not provided).

For complete descriptions of the seminars and the great line-up of speakers, turn to p. 18, and to register, visit www.aisc.org/bestofseminars.

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