

# editor's note



**SO WHO'S THE GUY ON THE COVER OF THIS MONTH'S MAGAZINE?** I'm guessing that a lot of you have heard of Larry Griffis, and if not, you know his firm, Walter P Moore (widely considered one of the top five structural engineering firms for which to work).

Larry is one of the giants of the structural engineering profession and the go-to guy for anyone with questions about composite design. In short, he's someone to know—and I hope his commentary piece on page 31 of this issue helps you learn a little more about him.

But beyond being a great engineer, he's also a wonderful person. And he's always willing to go beyond the call of duty to help out. For example, he's involved with not one or two but *three* different presentations at the upcoming NASCC: The Steel Conference in New Orleans (April 18–21). His programs range from a look at design requirements in hurricane-prone areas to stability design of steel buildings to a presentation on the stability of structures during erection.

(Larry's a wonderful speaker and a great storyteller. After listening to him speak, try catching up with him later in the day and get him to talk about some of the wonderful projects with which he's been involved. It's a great way to learn about design and construction.)

One of the complaints I've heard over the years is about the lack of "giants" in the industry. I've heard people wonder aloud where are

today's Fazlur Khans. The answer is that we're so close to them that we don't always recognize the leaders of today. Over the past year, MSC has asked a few of them to write commentary pieces, and we've already run articles by Shankar Nair, Henry Petroski, and Walter Gatti. And we don't plan on stopping there. We have our list—but if there are individuals who you'd like to hear from, drop me a note and we'll give them a call. (Or, if you're looking for a whole book on the topic, check out my friend Richard Weingardt's fabulous book *Engineering Legends: Great American Civil Engineers – 32 Profiles of Inspiration and Achievement*.)

And let me know what you think of this month's cover. Do you want to occasionally see the leaders of the industry? Do you prefer innovative structures? Or maybe a few pictures of my kids? We always welcome feedback.

Thanks for reading—and happy holidays!

**SCOTT MELNICK**  
EDITOR

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MODERN STEEL CONSTRUCTION

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