

editor's note



AT MY SON'S HOCKEY GAME LAST WEEKEND, we happened to be sitting near one of his coaches from last year. After a particularly impressive shift, he turned to us and exclaimed: "Wow! Jason's really improved since last year."

As a parent, that's what we really want to hear. We don't have grand illusions of a future pro career. But we appreciate how much effort he puts in and the resultant improvement.

It's that same continuous improvement that we strive for with NASCC: The Steel Conference. Unfortunately, while the 2012 conference was a good event, it was rare to hear anyone say, "Wow! That was the best conference yet!" I think this year's conference will be different.

Scheduled for April 17–19 in St. Louis, everything from the technical program to the networking events will be a step above what we've done in the past. The engineering program continues its tradition of excellence while the fabrication sessions have been substantially upgraded.

In addition, there's a separate conference focusing on technology in steel construction plus a new track focusing on bridges. And, as always, SSRC offers its Annual Stability Conference. There are more than 100 sessions to choose from, so it's almost impossible for me to list a favorite—but there are definitely some that I find particularly intriguing:

- ▶ Lessons I Wish I had known Starting Out! Two fabricators, two engineers and an erector share the lessons they've learned from their long career.
- ▶ 50 tips for Designing Constructable and Economical Steel Buildings
- ▶ Load Paths! The Most Common Source of Engineering Errors
- ▶ Friction Stir Welding: An Emerging Alternative to Fusion Welding for Steel

- ▶ Working with Difficult People
- ▶ Welding Questions Answered: Duane Miller Responds to Solution Center Inquiries
- ▶ Laser Scanning and Steel Construction
- ▶ Future Fabrication for Bridges—And All Structures!

There's also the always-fascinating T.R. Higgins Lecture, this year featuring SOM's Bill Baker, who'll be discussing structural innovation.

Even the pre-conference events are exciting. In addition to three short courses, we're offering two fabulous free tours: Attendees have their choice of visiting a steel fabricator (Hammert's Iron Works/Stupp Bros.) and a bolt manufacturer (St. Louis Screw & Bolt) or visiting a galvanizer (AZZ Galvanizing).

And finally, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the growing exhibit hall, which will feature more than 200 companies showcasing products ranging from the latest structural design software to the most modern equipment for steel fabrication.

You can view the entire program and register for the show at www.aisc.org/nascc.

I look forward to seeing you in St. Louis and hearing from you that 2013 was "the best Steel Conference yet!"

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EDITOR

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