

editor's note



AT MY 10-YEAR-OLD SON'S HOCKEY GAME LAST WEEK, I HAD WHAT ONE OF MY GOOD FRIENDS DESCRIBES AS A "KODAK MOMENT."

It was toward the end of the game. The center was driving the puck forward with Jason on his right wing when suddenly, one of the opposing players slid right in front of Jason. I tensed for the pile up—but he simply leaped over the prone player without missing a step. After I picked my jaw up off the ground, all I could think was, "Where did he learn that?"

Each year after NASCC: The Steel Conference, I like to ask AISC staff what they learned at the conference. While not as dramatic as a leap over a recumbent opponent, it still offers fascinating insight into what's new in steel design and construction. Here's a sampling of "What I Learned at the Steel Conference":

- ▶ Several AISC engineers were excited by the new Girder Slab design guide (www.girder-slab.com) as well as the announcement of an additional specification for hollow structural sections (A1085). Both announcements share a common theme: Making steel design easier for structural engineers. In the case of Girder Slab, they've introduced a new calculator tool to simplify member selection. For HSS, the new material offers tighter tolerances so engineers no longer need to reduce the nominal wall thickness by 0.93 for both member selection and connection design. (Find out more in this month's News section.)
- ▶ One of our engineers cited the interesting research being undertaken at the University of Washington and the University of Illinois to test a gusset plate and beam web bolted to the column flange for seismic applications. The potential benefit is the option to mix bolted edges and welded edges in gussets in seismic construction.
- ▶ Sometimes sessions reinforce items staff is working on. Duane Miller in his session on "Welding Questions

Answered" reminded us all that in 2010 (for the first time) AISC 360-10 prescribed minimum levels of non-destructive testing of welds. And who decides how much? The engineer—with suggestions offered by Chapter N.

- ▶ Yet another staff member appreciated the preview of the upcoming revisions to CASE 962D: *A Guideline Addressing Coordination and Completeness of Structural Construction Documents*. This important publication offers advice on one of the most contentious design and construction issues and is a must-have reference for every engineer, fabricator and contractor.
- ▶ Some of our staff were surprised to learn about the many value-added services provided by service centers. It's not unusual for them to cut to length, finish edges and occasionally even put in some bolt holes.

My favorite response came from one of our newest non-technical staff members: "Seeing the exhibit hall and speaking to the exhibitors, students, attendees and award winners made the steel industry tangible to me, since I was able to step out from behind my computer and witness it in person. I'm really happy I was able to attend my first Steel Conference."

Of course the heart of the conference is the more than 100 technical sessions. Because of the value AISC places on disseminating information, we've made almost all of the sessions available for viewing online. Simply visit www.aisc.org/2013nascconline for a look at these fabulous sessions.

And I hope to see you at next year's Steel Conference, scheduled for March 26–29 in Toronto, Canada.

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