

# editor's note



**A FUN FACEBOOK FEATURE IS "ON THIS DAY," WHICH SHOWS YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS SOME OF YOUR MEMORIES (SUCH AS PICTURES AND POSTS) FROM THE PAST.** Most of the memories are just a year or two old, but occasionally one will pop up from five or even seven years ago.

Not surprisingly, many of my memories are pictures of my children. And I'm often surprised when I see these old pictures by how little my kids were and how grown up they are now. For me, the changes have been so gradual that I don't always notice them until I see these old pictures.

I was reminded recently that it's not just people who change over time. Renae Gurthet, who has been in charge of the exhibit hall at NASCC: The Steel Conference for the past decade, recently sent me a note about how much the conference had grown in that time frame. While to me the change was a gradual evolution, the numbers tell a different story. In the past decade attendance and exhibitors have more than doubled. Last year we had more than 4,500 visitors (mostly structural engineers and steel fabricators but also erectors, detailers, educators, students, exhibitors and contractors).

The Steel Conference has also changed in tone. If you go back a quarter-century or more, it was a sleepy event with a strong academic tilt. Now, it's a vibrant three days where you can hear about "Elasto-Plastic Stress States and Reduced Flexural Stiffness of Steel Beam Columns" but also learn about "Proposals that Win," "Advances in Welding Automation" and "Advances in Steel Connection Analysis."

You can participate in seminars with up-and-coming professors at leading universities and with some of the best-known structural engineers in the world.

The conference is all about learning and networking. It's a great place to meet your colleagues, your customers, your clients and future friends (amazingly, I even know one since-married couple who first met at a Steel Conference).

You'll learn about the latest design information and you'll see the latest advances in both fabrication equipment and structural design software.

The Steel Conference, which will be held in Orlando, April 13-15, offers more than 120 fabulous sessions, including the World Steel Bridge Symposium. And there are more than 200 amazing exhibitors. You can see steel plate cut as fast as butter or try your hand at a welding simulator. Whether you're looking for software or bolts, if it's related to structural steel design and construction, it's at the Steel Conference.

If you've never attended a Steel Conference, ask around. It's a stimulating three days that will teach you and invigorate you. Our goal is for every attendee to come away with ideas they can put into practice immediately.

Visit [www.aisc.org/nascc](http://www.aisc.org/nascc) to see the full program. And make sure you register early. When registration opens on January 4, AISC members can register for just \$340; the fee increases \$10 every week.

I hope to see you in Orlando!

  
**SCOTT MELNICK**  
EDITOR

# Modern STEEL CONSTRUCTION

## Editorial Offices

One E. Wacker Dr., Suite 700  
Chicago, IL 60601  
312.670.2400 tel

## Editorial Contacts

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Scott L. Melnick  
312.670.8314  
melnick@modernsteel.com

SENIOR EDITOR

Geoff Weisenberger  
312.670.8316  
weisenberger@modernsteel.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Tasha Weiss  
312.670.5439  
weiss@modernsteel.com

DIRECTOR OF PUBLICATIONS

Keith A. Grubb, S.E., P.E.  
312.670.8318  
grubb@modernsteel.com

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Megan Johnston-Spencer  
312.670.5427  
johnstonspencer@modernsteel.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN MANAGER

Kristin Hall  
312.670.8313  
hall@modernsteel.com

## AISC Officers

CHAIR

James G. Thompson

VICE CHAIR

David Zalesne

SECRETARY &

GENERAL COUNSEL

David B. Ratterman

PRESIDENT

Roger E. Ferch, P.E.

VICE PRESIDENT AND

CHIEF STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Charles J. Carter, S.E., P.E., Ph.D.

VICE PRESIDENT

Jacques Cattan

VICE PRESIDENT

John P. Cross, P.E.

VICE PRESIDENT

Scott L. Melnick

## Advertising Contact

Account Manager

Louis Gurthet

231.228.2274 tel

231.228.7759 fax

gurthet@modernsteel.com

For advertising information,

contact Louis Gurthet or visit

[www.modernsteel.com](http://www.modernsteel.com)

## Address Changes and Subscription Concerns

312.670.5444 tel

312.893.2253 fax

admin@modernsteel.com

## Reprints

Betsy White

The Reprint Outsource, Inc.

717.394.7350

bwhite@reprintoutsource.com