

editor's note



I'M IN FLORIDA, IT'S 94 DEGREES OUTSIDE, AND I'M SITTING IN A MEETING ROOM WEARING A SPORTS COAT AND HUDDLING AROUND MY RAPIDLY COOLING CUP OF COFFEE IN A VAIN ATTEMPT TO STAY WARM.

I'm amazed, given all the daily talk about climate change and the green movement, that we spend so much on over-air conditioning rooms. And lest you think I'm exaggerating, let me quote from the welcome letter I received from a conference I'm attending in mid-August: "Attire for the 2009 Annual Meeting & Exposition is business casual, don't forget a light sweater for air-conditioned meeting rooms!" Why don't they just turn down the air-conditioning? (Ironically, this particular convention center bills itself as: "An environmentally responsible, 'green' convention center." Its website notes: "Long recognized as an outstanding example of a 'green' facility, our goal is to serve as a global leader within our industry in this area and to provide opportunities for our client and their events to aspire to do the same." Adding insult to injury, they particularly note their attention to energy conservation.)

A growing number of organizations, AISC included, are now offering alternatives to shivering in meeting rooms: Webinars that you can take from the comfort and convenience of your office or home. Webinars differ from online continuing education in an important manner—with a webinar you can interact with the presenter.

AISC's first webinar is scheduled for September 18, which as many of you know is SteelDay. (What's SteelDay? It's a nationwide networking and educational event for members of the design, construction, and structural steel industry. More than 150 live events—such as fabricator shop tours—are scheduled in almost every state in the U.S. Visit www.steelday.org to find the closest event.) And in celebration of SteelDay, AISC is offering free registration to this

webinar. The 1.5-hour program, kicking off at 10:30 a.m. CST, focuses on Stability and Analysis. The speaker, Professor Louis F. Geschwindner, will emphasize the requirements for stability design and analysis under the 2005 AISC *Specification* (including how it differs from the 1999 LRFD and 1989 ASD *Specifications*). According to Geschwindner: "This live webinar is an introduction to the methods for incorporating the 2005 AISC *Specification* requirements into your design. Examples will be given." For more information on the webinar, visit www.aisc.org/webinar.

In the hierarchy of continuing education, there really is no substitution for in-person events. I find I often learn as much by interacting with the other attendees as I do from the formal presentation. But when budgets or time constraints interfere with attending an event in person, a webinar seems like a good compromise. If you attend this webinar, let me know what you think!

And since we started with talk of the green movement, please join me in congratulating Geoff Weisenberger who was recently promoted from MSC Senior Editor to AISC's Director of Sustainability. Please also join me in welcoming Tom Klemens as MSC's new Senior Editor. Tom started his career as an engineer but for the past two decades has worked at a variety of trade magazines.

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