

"Efficiency is doing the thing right. Effectiveness is doing the right thing."

– Peter F. Drucker

From the Executive Director

Thomas W. Smith III
ENV SP, CAE, F.ASCE



Dear ASCE Member,

ASCE has been a frequent, committed collaborator with engineering agencies and societies with which we share common interests. Our standing globally as the preeminent professional society for civil engineers means we are sought out frequently, and I've been part of many such meetings over the last few months.

Traditionally, we have enjoyed strong ties with the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**. On the heels of a new agreement of cooperation reached with the [Corps](#) over the summer, we held a pair of substantive meetings in recent weeks with their leadership at the highest levels, and I'm looking forward to broader engagement in many areas.

We were invited to a meeting with the Corps' new commanding general, Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, who impressed 2017 President Norma Jean Mattei, Senior Managing Director Casey Dinges and me with his desire for the Corps to engage more with ASCE and Society activities. We discussed future

collaboration in areas such as sustainability and our ASCE Grand Challenge with its life-cycle cost reduction goal. President-elect Kristina Swallow joined Norma Jean, Managing Director of Government Relations Brian Pallasch, Director of Industry Relations Carol Vargas and me for a separate meeting to discuss collaboration and our new agreement of cooperation with Director of Civil Works James Dalton, P.E., M.ASCE, Chief of the Civil Works Branch, Engineering & Construction Robert Bank, P.E., F. ASCE, and Director of the Mississippi

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Dates to know

December

- 15** Section federal tax filing due to ASCE

January

- 13-14** Regions 8 and 9 Multi-Region Leadership Conference
- 20-21** Regions 1, 2, 4, and 5 Multi-Region Leadership Conference

February

- 3-4** Regions 3, 6 and 7 Multi-Region Leadership Conference
- 17** *Dream Big: Engineering Our World* IMAX film premiere
- 19-25** Engineers Week 2017



Bank and Holden joined Mattei, Lt. Gen. Semonite, me, and Dinges for a photo following our meeting with the Corps commander.

Leaders of the five societies with common interests in civil engineering education and licensure convened at ASCE headquarters for a Leadership Summit to discuss current issues, progress made by each society, and potential ways to move forward. In addition to Mattei and me, we were joined by the presidents and executive directors of **ABET**, the **American Society for Engineering Education**, the **National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying**, and the **National Society of Professional Engineers**.

As you know ASCE is one of the **American Association of Engineering Societies'** 17 member societies and has served as AAES secretariat for the past several years. Those societies' leaders are enthusiastic about the giant-screen movie *Dream Big: Engineering Our World* after seeing a trailer at the AAES fall General Assembly meeting. Mattei and I introduced the film and ASCE Director of Communications Jane Howell briefed attendees on accompanying educational outreach opportunities. Assembly attendees also explored ways to enhance the engineering [profession globally](#), looking at programs that reach out to international engineers and others that encourage U.S. engineers to develop a global perspective.

ASCE continues to enjoy high esteem within [AAES](#) with the inauguration of 2014 ASCE President Randy Over as AAES vice chair during its board meeting. Over joins treasurer Mark Woodson, our 2017 Past President, among AAES officers.

Our Structural Engineering Institute has begun exploring international expansion with the launch of a Global Activities Division and has taken another step toward partnering with sister societies by meeting leaders from Britain's **Institute of Structural Engineers**. Taking part in the discussions were [IStructE](#) Executive Director Martin Powell and Council Member Glenn Bell, current SEI President and 2012 ASCE President Andy Herrmann, Managing Director of Engineering Programs Jim Rossberg, and SEI Director Laura Champion, plus Mattei, Swallow, and me. We laid out plans for a spring meeting that will work on new and increased

ways for IStructE and SEI to collaborate.



Photo courtesy Kishore Jha

When you think of Nepal, its mountainous terrain with its engineering challenges comes to mind. The civil engineers of the **Nepal Engineers' Association** are keen to expand their skills through ASCE's continuing education offerings, as Director of Global Programs Meggan Maughan-Brown and I learned in a meeting with Kishore K. Jha, [NEA](#)'s immediate past general secretary. We enjoyed a good discussion about the possibilities at ASCE's northern Virginia headquarters, including the potential to stage webinars in Nepal with local instructors.

International media curious about U.S. infrastructure also turn to ASCE. For example, I was interviewed by an Australian-based trade magazine, [Construction in Focus](#), for a forthcoming article exploring American infrastructure conditions, investment needs, and governmental challenges at all levels. After the article appears, I'll provide a direct link to it here.

Our **Industry Leaders Council** conducted a well-received forum in Baltimore, MD, on risk in civil engineering with a focus on how the ASCE Grand Challenge could help. A panel of top executives sharing insights included Michael Burns, director of global risk programs for AECOM, James Dalton, director of civil works for the Army Corps of Engineers, and Adm. Bret J. Muilenburg, commander of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

Former ILC chair Michael Loose, a Parsons Corporation senior vice president, noted that "the United States has significant infrastructure issues. The [ASCE] Grand Challenge changes our focus to life-cycle costs and delivery impacts. And it was very encouraging to see the great steps the Navy, Army, and AECOM are taking to help ASCE achieve our Grand Challenge."

On a related note, congratulations to our new ILC Chair Terry Neimeyer, CEO of KCI Technologies, Inc., who succeeded Mike Loose in a leadership succession ceremony following the forum.

The **ASCE Foundation** is pressing its efforts to promote its programs and reach civil engineers at a more grassroots level through its Council of Trustees. The new members named by the Foundation's Board will serve as ambassadors to ASCE Sections, Branches,

and overall Regions, with a goal of promoting local philanthropy. The Foundation seeks four representatives for Regions 5, 7, and 10; [contact Foundation staff](#) if you live in those Regions and are interested.

I was pleased to learn about the Foundation's great fundraising progress during the ASCE Convention. Thanks to a matching gift challenge issued jointly by Foundation President Jon Magnusson and 2016 President Mark Woodson, a combined \$22,000 was raised to support vital ASCE programs.

Not only is *Dream Big* gearing up for a premiere during Engineers Week 2017, Dream Big will be the **theme of Engineers Week** next year. With ASCE and Bechtel as co-chairs of DiscoverE's February celebration of engineering, we helped stage a live webcast from the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore, MD, to get Engineers Week activists pumped up. ASCE member Menzer Pehlivan, who is featured in the film, took part. *ASCE News* has the [archived event to watch](#) and links to the variety of Dream Big-related outreach materials shared in the webcast. This week, leaders of Sections and Branches, Younger Member Groups and Student Chapters will be mailed Engineers Week activity packets including display posters and other material around the Dream Big theme.

We're awaiting word on the outcome of an **International Code Council** vote among its governmental members on whether to adopt the updated ASCE 7-16, *Minimum Design Loads and Associated Criteria for Buildings and Other Structures*, as a reference standard. Thanks to those of you who contacted building officials to urge their vote for ASCE 7-16. See [what's new in ASCE 7-16](#).

I never fail to be impressed by the commitment shown by members who give of their own time to serve in Society leadership roles, such as those I met at **T&DI's** biennial leadership training. I had the chance to provide an update on ASCE's activities to the Institute's Board of Governors, council chairs, committee chairs, and chapter chairs, in a session led by Randy Over.

Reinforcing core values among ASCE staff helps us work together more smartly and efficiently, thereby enhancing member service. Building upon our values campaign this year, we recently held special full-day **values training sessions**, one for our senior leadership team and one for all staff. The training included role-playing of difficult scenarios to consider what the best approaches would be.

I close by noting that I was pleased to accept an invitation to join the U.S. Chamber of Commerce **Association Committee of 100**, also known as [C100](#). The group of association executives discusses common interests and represents associations before the Chamber's Board, providing further opportunity to enhance ASCE's standing in the association community while advancing our strategic initiatives. Thank you to the Chamber for including me among such company.

Until next time,



Mattei takes on hot topics in new ‘Ask the President’ webinar

ASCE 2017 President Norma Jean Mattei answered questions on issues facing Sections and Branches in a new “Ask the President” webinar last month. Leadership training, facilitating the connection between international and domestic ASCE groups, and ASCE’s strategic initiatives were among the topics local ASCE leaders brought up with Mattei during the hour-long session. [Watch the recorded webinar now.](#)

Have you and your members seen the new print *ASCE News*?

ASCE News is back in print! The new *ASCE News* was mailed with November's *Civil Engineering* magazine. Catch up on major Society activities, what members are doing at the local level, and where to find details online, all in a lively, quick read. If you don't receive the magazine or want a preview, view it online. See the [November-December ASCE News](#).

The new *ASCE News* “Local News” section wants to play up the activities of your Section, Branch, Younger Member Group or Student Chapter – [use this simple form](#). Successful events and activities of any scope are welcome, from school outreach events, networking fund-raisers and infrastructure site tours to a Toys for Tots drive. Content can be copied from what you’ve already posted to social media, created for a newsletter or offered on your website.

Your news also may appear in the Region news roundups appearing monthly in the *ASCE News Weekly* newsletter. If you haven't seen them, click below for a recent edition of yours:

[Region 1](#) | [Region 2](#) | [Region 3](#) | [Region 4](#) | [Region 5](#)
[Region 6](#) | [Region 7](#) | [Region 8](#) | [Region 9](#) | [Region 10 -- Global Link](#)

Guided Online Courses encourage group learning

Consider exploring whether any of your local members would like to get together to take ASCE’s Guided Online Courses. The state of the art learning experience includes reinforcing what you’ve learned through weekly discussion board topics with peers. Each instructor-led multimedia module of video lectures, interactive exercises, and case studies can be worked on at the learners’ convenience. The 6 and 12 week courses begin Monday, Jan. 23. They include:

- Drinking Water Treatment Technology
- Earthquake Engineering for Structures
- Quantity Take-Off: Structures
- Seismic Evaluation and Retrofit of Existing Buildings
- The Foundation for Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for Infrastructure Asset Management

[Learn more](#) about how Guided Online Courses work and the details on each.

Last chance to help shape Congressional action at the 2017 Fly-In

Take this last chance to sign up for ASCE’s 2017 Legislative Fly-In in Washington, DC, sure to be a special year with a new president and a new *ASCE Report Card for America’s Infrastructure*. Take your voice to Capitol Hill to encourage funding for the nation’s challenged infrastructure. Attendees will be briefed on current issues, including the 2017 Report Card, get tips on making your point, then meet members of Congress and/or their staffs. Get more

details and express your interest by contacting ASCE's [Government Relations](#) department.

Free eLearning Webinar on engineers' role in UN sustainability goals

Civil engineers have a vital role to play in helping to achieve the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals. As codified in Policy Statement 517, ASCE “supports implementation of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as they apply to improving the quality of people's lives around the world through science and engineering.” Learn about the goals and what professionals can do to advance them in a free eLearning Webinar for ASCE members coming Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. ET/11 a.m. PT. The live webinar will be hosted by William E. Kelly, Ph.D., P.E., F.ASCE, chair of the Committee on Sustainability's Formal Engineering Education Committee. [Register now](#).

Renew for 2017 and get in on a \$1,000 gift card raffle

Ensure your ASCE membership and its benefits will continue uninterrupted through 2017 and you could win a \$1,000 Amazon gift card. [Renew and enter](#) into the raffle. While renewing, you can make additional donations to support specific activities including diversity, sustainability, disaster response, and outreach activities specifically for ASCE members. Learn about the [voluntary contributions](#).

ASCE WORLD HEADQUARTERS | 1801 Alexander Bell Drive, Reston, VA 20191-4382

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