



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

Dear Tony,

ASCE will have a new chief operating officer to start the new year.

Martin “Marty” J. Fertal, P.E., M.ASCE, will serve as ASCE’s internal leader, coordinating the annual operations plan and budget and providing a strong day-to-day leadership presence. Marty comes to us most recently from the Logistics Management Institute where, as principal for program and implementation management, he was responsible for reshaping corporate program review structures, achieving improved operational performance, and implementing successful management strategies for LMI’s programs and business pursuits. I look forward to adding his exceptional leadership skills to our staff team in 2021. [Read more about him.](#)

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The Greater China Section recently hosted its Inauguration Ceremony and ASCE International Student Group 2020 Conference. Universities from across the region virtually joined in the event – a significant accomplishment, considering the new Greater China Section was created just last year.



The Greater China Inauguration Ceremony and ASCE-ISG 2020 Conference included ASCE student members from more than 10 universities in China, Macau, and Hong Kong.

I was honored to present an opening plenary at the inauguration ceremony, along with Elias Boutros Sayah, ASCE Region 10 director, and several region, section, and university representatives from China, Macau, and Hong Kong.

It's important to note that the [Greater China Section](#) was established on Nov. 5, 2019, the Society's 167th anniversary. With three years of preparation, it was built on the strong foundation of the ASCE Hong Kong Section. Since its creation, the section has displayed tremendous commitment to ASCE with a variety of efforts to bring the global civil engineering community together, including through engagement of a number of impressive student chapters.

Speaking of student chapters, the ASCE Executive Committee has confirmed that all [2021 ASCE Student Conferences](#) will be held virtually. The decision affirms that no hybrid conferences, partially virtual or partially in-person, will be allowed, enabling hosts to focus their planning efforts on developing an engaging virtual conference and canceling any contracts associated with in-person events.

Last month, the Society hosted its annual Leadership Summit in conjunction with the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying, the National Society of Professional Engineers, the American Society of Engineering Education, and the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).

Each of the groups' leaders, including ASCE President Jean-Louis Briaud and me, met to review the recent activities of each group. We discussed Future World Vision, the revised Code of Ethics, certification, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and how each organization is adapting and planning for 2021. Additionally, NSPE, NCEES, and ASCE are participants in the [Alliance for Responsible Professional Licensing](#), heavily focusing on licensure and potential threats.

Lastly, ASCE last month launched the new [Civil Engineering Source](#) news and information hub and daily newsletter. These two new resources provide essential news and perspectives exclusively to civil engineers. Civil Engineering Source is a one-stop destination for industry news, career and management articles, Society news, job postings, and competition-focused

management articles, Society news, job postings, and practitioner-focused technical updates. It also includes a completely redesigned Civil Engineering magazine digital edition and will soon bring in content from Geo-Strata magazine as well as additional practitioner-focused technical content.

The new daily Civil Engineering Source newsletter uses an AI-driven publishing platform, so with each edition it becomes tailored to a reader's specific interests. The new newsletter replaced the weekly ASCE News newsletter and we are phasing out the daily ASCE SmartBrief. Be sure to check out the Civil Engineering Source hub and encourage members to [sign up](#) to receive their free newsletter..

Highlights of other activities

- Undergraduate engineering programs can provide students with a primer on scenario planning and the Future World Vision project through a new ASCE on-demand collection of course modules. The course leverages Future World Vision to help students think about potential future realities and how to adapt. Future World Vision postulates five possible city worlds and communities, 50 years from now. The project displays these forecasts using immersive, experiential 3-D models that engineers can explore to visualize resilient and sustainable infrastructure. Many members of ASCE's Industry Leaders Council have already purchased the course to donate to their alma maters. For more details and how to order the course at a deeply discounted member price through Jan. 15, visit [ASCE's myLearning website](#).
- Earlier this month, I gave a virtual lecture to a graduate class of environmental management students at Yale University – future land use and environmental engineers, planners, lawyers, landscape architects and public officials. I spoke about land use, urban infrastructure, ASCE's resilience and sustainability initiatives and the Future World Vision project. I was thoroughly impressed and optimistic for the future of the planet following the insightful questions and dialogue with the students.
- Last month, I met with Pat Jones, executive director and CEO of the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association, to discuss ASCE's Future World Vision and the Infrastructure Report Card. The new 2021 report card is particularly important to the federal government as a new administration takes office. You can [watch the full interview online](#).
- On a similar note, we recently wrote an [article for American Infrastructure magazine](#), sharing ASCE's thoughts on 2020 infrastructure legislation. In it, we discussed the importance of investing in our nation's infrastructure systems. We also touched on the CARES Act that passed in March, President Trump's revisions to the National Environmental Policy Act in July, and President elect Biden's proposed \$1.2 trillion infrastructure plan.

President-elect Biden's proposed \$1.5 trillion infrastructure plan.

- I spoke on a webinar on “Thriving internationally in times of COVID-19 and beyond,” discussing the challenges and opportunities ASCE and other associations have faced this year, as well as opportunities on the horizon. [Here's a summary article](#) on the webinar.
- As I mentioned last month, the ASCE headquarters parking lot has a fresh look and purpose thanks to the hard work of the ASCE Foundation. Through the generous contributions of several firms and suppliers, the lot has been transformed into a living classroom showcasing our commitment to sustainable practices. The finished product features educational signage describing the project's low-impact development features, such as reducing stormwater runoff, enhancing the quality of stormwater discharge, and including rubberized asphalt repaving. [Read more about the project.](#)
- Speaking for the ASCE Foundation, thank you to everyone who gave during this year's #GivingTuesday campaign. You can still [show your support for the Foundation](#) with a year-end donation, tax deductible if you qualify.

In memoriam

Robert D. “Bob” Bay, Ph.D., P.E., Pres.86.ASCE, former principal of Black and Veatch and ASCE president in 1986, has died at 94. A decorated World War II U.S. Army veteran and consummate engineer, Bay was an icon beyond the boundaries of his home state of Missouri. In his service he rose to major general of the Corps of Engineers in the Army Reserve and received the Distinguished Service Medal, the second highest military honor. As Society president in 1986, he championed a program of “Commitment to Excellence” for his presidency.

Horst G. Brandes, P.E., F.ASCE, has died at 60 after being diagnosed with cancer in August. For the past 23 years, he was a dedicated professor of geotechnical engineering at the University of Hawaii. In 2004, he founded Applied Geosciences LLC. Brandes has also been active with ASCE for many years, serving as president of the Hawaii Section and as a Region 8 governor, with a lasting impact on education and the profession. In addition, he has been involved with several ASCE committees, such as the Committee on Accreditation and the Raise the Bar Committee.

We mourn the passing of Bob and Horst and extend our sincerest condolences to their family and friends.

Congratulations to ...

... the five recipients of ASCE's 2021 Outstanding Projects and Leaders awards. They are Jesus de la Garza, Ph.D., Dist.M.ASCE, NAC, for construction; James L. Barnard, Ph.D., C.Eng., Dist.M.ASCE, for design; Vijay P. Singh, D.Sc., P.E., Hon.D.AWRE, F.EWRI, Dist.M.ASCE for education; Sreenivas Alampalli, Ph.D., P.E., F.EWRI, F.ASCE, for government;

education, Greenivas Alampain, Ph.D., P.E., F.OEI, F.ASCE, for government, and Terry F. Neimeyer, P.E., ENV SP, BCEE, F.ASCE for management. We will celebrate their achievements at our OPAL Gala in Chicago on Oct. 8, 2021.

... **William F. Marcuson**, Ph.D., P.E., NAE, D.GE, Pres.07.ASCE for his induction into the NC State Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering Hall of Fame.

... **Danilo “Dan” Santiago**, who is retiring from ASCE this month after 34 years. As ASCE’s information technology director for business solutions, Santiago managed a team of application developers and technology solution and business intelligence architects. He was first hired in December 1986 as a programmer analyst. Over the years, he’s shown great passion and dedication in his work as a system architect and project leader. He notably led a team of programmers to develop and build an in-house application system that supported the various business aspects of ASCE for 18 years.

Looking back on 2020, we are reminded of things to be grateful for. We are especially fortunate to have committed members like you. On behalf of all of us at ASCE, I wish you and your loved ones happy holidays and all the best in the year to come.



SECTION INFORMANT

BEST PRACTICE OF THE MONTH

Leveraging efforts to include students and younger members

To increase participation in ASCE, the Lehigh Valley Section in Pennsylvania reached out to students and presented information regarding the broader ASCE community, membership benefits, and how ASCE can help students advance their future careers. Students became increasingly engaged in the Section and were more interested in leadership within ASCE.

Among the best methods to engage students and younger members are designating them as representatives on your Section or Branch board, hosting a webinar about the ASCE community and benefits to membership, and providing awards for retaining student and younger members. We encourage you to solicit articles from students for your Section and Branch newsletters and websites, and to include spotlights on students. The more that students and younger members become aware of ASCE resources and the broader ASCE community, the greater the chances for ASCE to retain these potential future leaders.

Read more about this best practice in the communication category of the Section and Branches [Best Practices Guide](#) (Section 5.9).

Briaud focuses on leaders in next ‘Ask the President’

Jean-Louis Briaud’s “Ask the President” monthly virtual town hall with members is taking off. For January, the focus will be on the concerns of section, branch, region and institute leaders, and Briaud will be welcoming your questions. The next town hall will take place on Monday, Jan. 4, 2021, at 1 p.m. EST / 10 a.m. PST. [Sign up to attend](#).

Get ready for next month’s ASCE Younger Member Week

Join ASCE for a week full of virtual connection, sharing, and fun, all celebrating younger members. Daily activities will explore the unique aspects of ASCE and civil engineering, then take part in an evening of games and networking with your ASCE friends across the country, plus social media contests, prizes, and more! It’s all coming Jan. 25-29. [Here’s the link to register](#).

Career by Design shares job resources for today’s market

The employment situation has changed drastically this year. ASCE Career by Design has gathered a collection of guidance and other resources that will help your members advance in their careers. Visit the [Navigating Your Career Path](#) page and considering posting a link on your Section or Branch home page.

Salary Calculator helps your members make comparisons

Civil engineering salaries continue to trend in the right direction, the 2020 ASCE Salary Survey has found. As a dues-paying member, you can use the ASCE Salary Calculator to learn how your income compares. The calculator lets you customize reports based on your location, discipline and job specifications. Direct your members to the [Salary Calculator](#) so they can find out how much they're worth.

Nominate your section for the History & Heritage Citation

Does your section participate in history and heritage events at the local level? Have you celebrated any local civil engineering landmarks? If so, your group may qualify to receive the History & Heritage Section Citation. The award recognizes sections for outstanding local activities. The deadline for nominations is Nov. 30. For more information, contact Jennifer Lawrence at jlawrence@asce.org.

Free ASCE ad materials available for your digital media

ASCE ad resources are now available online for local Society groups to use on websites and in newsletters. Topics cover the new Civil Engineering Source news hub and daily newsletter, the 10 free PDHs offer, and more. [Click here and bookmark the link.](#)

Get inspired by other local ASCE groups

School is in session though far from what "normal," but that hasn't stopped ASCE student members from getting involved with various activities from socially distanced community service to virtual career fairs and meetings. Inspire your section to join in. Follow [ASCE on Instagram](#) and check out [local news highlights](#) to see what sections, branches, younger member groups, and student chapters have been doing.

ASK COUNSELOR TARA

When does ASCE's conflict of interest disclosure form need to be submitted?

ASCE General Counsel Tara Hoke responds to legal questions posed by Sections and Branches here each month. [Send Tara an email](#) with your question.

Question: A conflict of interest shall be defined as any activity, transaction, relationship, service, or consideration which is, or appears to be, contrary to the best interests of the Society, or in which the interests of an individual or another organization has the potential to be placed above those of the Society. *When does ASCE's conflict of interest disclosure form need to be submitted?* [Read Tara's reply](#).

DATES TO KNOW

January 2021

15 Board of Direction Nominating Committee meeting

16-17 Board of Direction meeting

TALKING POINTS

Exclusive to the Board: Strategic topics, initiatives at ASCE

ASCE Government Engineers Council begins next month

At its October meeting, the Board of Direction formally approved creating a 12-member Government Engineers Council that will begin serving in January as a standing board committee for a three-year term. The move finalizes a process begun last January when the Board approved a steering committee to develop the charge of the GEC, define its operational model and establish goals that would drive GEC projects.

Council's charge, purpose, and goals

Charge: Create a community within ASCE for government engineers to come together and collaborate and advocate for government engineers within the Society.

Purpose: Engage public agency civil engineers in ASCE initiatives and equip them to be ready for today's and tomorrow's challenges. Facilitate the collaboration of government engineers to enhance the operation of their agencies and improve the services they render to the public. Define the role of an engineer in public service and recognize the critical role government engineers plays in society at home and across the world.

Goals:

1. Increase membership in ASCE by government engineers.
2. Raise the profile within ASCE of members who are leaders in the government sector.
3. Develop and promote ASCE products and services that support and enhance efforts of public agency leaders to improve the management and quality of their engineering services to better protect and improve public health, safety, and welfare.

Council's membership profile

The GEC shall consist of no more than 12 Society members who are current employees of a public agency at the time of their appointment and have at least 10 years of management or leadership experience in a public agency and are in a leadership position within the agency with the ability to influence policy within the industry. Preference will be given to candidates that maintain the GEC as a diverse group, including men and women with expertise in different engineering disciplines and representing geographically diverse local, regional, state, and Department of Defense and non-DOD federal agencies.