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President's Message



The last month has been a bit of a whirlwind for me! I've spent the majority of it traveling - for ASCE's Presidents and Governors Forum in Reston, VA, an internal Community of Practice Summit in Raleigh, NC, as well as personal events with friends and family. When not traveling, I was attending our local ASCE events, sharing meals with neighbors, and catching up with friends. This time on (and off) the road has served as a profound reminder for me of the power of community and the deep support systems that underpin our success and resilience. Whether it's expanding your network of like-minded ASCE members, reconnecting with colleagues at a conference, celebrating a good friend's engagement, or sharing in the warmth of family traditions, these experiences underscore the importance of the relationships that surround us.

As we look ahead to the annual Geo-Institute meeting tonight and the VT/NH Joint Meeting next month, I'm reminded of the enduring traditions that bring us together in both celebration and professional camaraderie. It is fitting that we'll gather again at the Hotel Coolidge for our Joint Meeting, a venue opened to us by our most recent Engineer of the Year, David Briggs, PE. David's story (highlighted in this newsletter) is a testament to the strength of community, as he attributes much of his success to the unwavering support from those around him - his professors and classmates at Norwich University, his mentors, his parents, his wife Peggy Adams, and so many others.

I relay all of this to you all today with the hopes that you will take away the following: as we continue to build and strengthen our professional and personal networks, let's remember the impact of support and collaboration. Together, we honor tradition, celebrate achievements, and look forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Best,
Zelda Dively, PE

2025 Presidents and Governors Forum and Leader Orientation



On September 14th and 15th, 110 Section and Branch Presidents, Region Governors, incoming Society Directors, Technical Region Leaders, and Presidential Officers from around the world participated in the 2025 Presidents and Governors Forum and Leader Orientation at ASCE Headquarters. This event, hosted by the Leader Training Committee, provided opportunities for attendees to learn about ASCE resources and initiatives, network with ASCE leaders, discuss best practices, and enhance their leadership skills.

The program began with a presentation on “What’s Happening at ASCE” by President-Elect Marsha Anderson Bomar and COO Edward Stafford. Next up was a discussion facilitated by President-Elect Anderson Bomar on the “Relationship of the Technical Region with the Geographic Regions.” Afterwards, incoming Society Director Aaron Frits presented a thought-provoking interactive exercise on “Delegation and Its Payoff.” After lunch, we received an informative presentation from Kevin Longley, ASCE’s Director of Media Relations and Public Affairs on “Communicating with Confidence.” Our CFO Lisa Green provided the attendees with valuable information on “ASCE Financial Guidelines” for our local entities, and

ASCE's General Counsel Tara Hoke capped off the day with an enthusiastic presentation on "Legal Issues for Volunteer Leaders."

The second day began with our Section, Branch, and Region leaders participating in a working session on "Section/Branch Challenges and Presidential Plans" followed by an "Introduction to your Presidency and How to Effectively Utilize Your Governors." All attendees participated in a Society Q&A session with current President-Elect Marsha Anderson Bomar, incoming President-Elect Carol Haddock, and Executive Director Tom Smith. The day continued with attendees recapping their feedback on "Sharing Measurable Goals and Lessons Learned." We ended this highly successful event with closing remarks by our 2026 ASCE President-Elect, Carol Haddock.

The overall program was invigorating, energizing, and motivational.

David Briggs, PE - Engineer of the Year

David Briggs, PE, recently honored as the Engineer of the Year 2025 by the ASCE Vermont Chapter, has had an outstanding and unconventional career that showcases the diverse possibilities within the engineering profession. Departing from a typical engineering trajectory, Briggs ventured into the hospitality industry, where he skillfully merged his technical expertise with entrepreneurial spirit by becoming the owner of a historic hotel, Hotel Coolidge. His career narrative is a testament to the rich and varied paths one's engineering skills can contribute to beyond traditional roles.

Early in his career, Briggs drew inspiration from notable individuals such as Ralph Lehman (Town Manager of Harford) and Al Schaal (civil engineer who left his dairy farm to run an early Urban Renewal agency in support of White River Junction), which led him to pursue civil engineering at Norwich University. His professional journey spans numerous significant roles, starting at Metcalf and Eddy in Boston, famous for their work in sewage treatment, and extending to his service with the US Army Corps of Engineers, where he contributed to essential projects on the Mississippi River.

His return to Vermont marked a new chapter in real estate development, where he had a pivotal role in the first-ever Act 250 hearings for the Quechee Lakes Corporation's 5,000-acre second home development. This experience set the stage for him to establish his own practice, aiding Vermonters in navigating the complexities of land use regulations.

Briggs's most profound impact has been through his commitment to historic preservation and community revitalization, notably in White River Junction. His efforts in restoring the Coolidge Block have been instrumental in transitioning the area from an industrial hub to a vibrant creative economy, proving that engineering principles are vital to community development and business management.

David's story is one of innovation and dedication, supported tirelessly by his family and colleagues. He remains deeply connected to his roots at Norwich University and the mentors who guided his early steps. His ongoing projects, including the Coolidge Block redevelopment, reflect David's dedicated approach to engineering and community development, and are poised to leave a lasting mark on the White River Junction area and the civil engineering community in Vermont.



Pictured with David Briggs, PE are his wife Peggy Adams, his mainstay facilities maintenance manager Colin Palmer, and Colin's wife Claudia.

Recapping our September Events



BETA Technologies and Assembly Facility Site Tour

Earlier this year, VT-ASCE named BETA Technologies Manufacturing and Assembly Facility our Project of the Year. Last month, ASCE members got to explore the site on a tour led by BETA's Alex Gagnon and Stantec's Chris Gendron, PE. Alex took us inside to see the assembly hanger and provided us with a behind-the-scenes look at the facility plans and future expansions. Chris then continued the tour outside to showcase the site civil aspects of the project including, but not limited to, the loading dock drainage system, geothermal wells, bioretention stormwater treatment practice, and the permitting process.

VT-ASCE would like to thank Alex and Chris for sharing their experiences with this project!

Apple Picking Networking Event



On September 23rd, student members from UVM joined a few of our Board members for an apple picking networking event at Yates Family Orchard in Hinesburg. After a very long stretch of sunny days, we managed to hit the first rainy one. Apples were picked, Dreamies were enjoyed, and the rain held off just long enough for us to enjoy it all!

The UVM Student Chapter consistently shows up in numbers to this event, eager to meet and engage with professionals. Help us make this event more impactful by joining us next year and sharing your experiences with them!

Join Us at our Upcoming Events!

VT/NH Joint Meeting

November 19th, 5:30-8:30pm

Please join the Vermont and New Hampshire ASCE Sections for our annual November Joint Meeting on November 19th at Hotel Coolidge in White River Junction!

Our speaker for this year's technical presentation is Jeffery Potter, P.E., Civil Engineer IV from the NHDOT Construction Bureau, who will be discussing the Lyme-Thetford Bridge Rehabilitation Project. This presentation reviews the challenges and construction processes for the rehabilitation of the bridge that carries East Thetford Road over the Connecticut River between the Towns of Lyme, NH and Thetford, VT. With over 30 years of experience in civil engineering and construction, including significant projects like the Dartmouth College campus developments and major bridge replacements, Jeffery brings a wealth of expertise to his topic. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from his extensive

background in both contractor and consulting roles, highlighted by his leadership in complex infrastructure projects!

Registration includes appetizers, a buffet-style dinner, and 1 PDH for the technical presentation. A cash bar will be available.

Early bird registration is \$30 for members and ends November 1st. After that, registration will be \$50 for members so act fast and register early!

Register Now

Toys for Tots Donation Drive and Holiday Social Save the Date

VT-ASCE and VSE are joining forces once again this year for our annual Toys for Tots Donation Drive, culminating in a joint holiday social to network and celebrate together. Cost of attendance is one unwrapped toy, and event logistics will be shared soon!

Future Events

We are in the process of solidifying the date for our annual ASCE Ski Day, which will likely be the beginning of February. Additionally, we have some fascinating technical presentations we're looking forward to sharing with our members. Keep an eye out for further communication and registration links!

10th Annual Web Conference - PDH Opportunity

Join the Geo-Institute Technical Committees for the 10th Annual Web Conference, streaming live December 8th through 12th, 2025. Choose from 10 different 2-hour sessions covering a diverse range of geotechnical case histories.

Each session provides live interaction with industry-leading presenters, and offers 2 PDH credits.

Featured Technical Committees include:

- Engineering Geology and Site Characterization
- Embankments, Dams & Slopes
- Rock Mechanics & Engineering
- Deep Foundations
- Soil Improvements
- Geoenvironmental Engineering
- Sustainability in Geotechnical Engineering
- Geotechnics of Soil Erosion

[Learn More!](#)

Check out these Younger Member Award Opportunities!



ASCE YOUNGER MEMBERS

Younger Member Council Awards

Award applications for 2026 ASCE Younger Member Council Awards are now OPEN! Browse all awards, nomination requirements, and deadlines to be prepared for open submissions.

The annual awards are an opportunity for society-level recognition of dedicated service by those early in their career. Awards are given to individual engineers as well as Younger Member Groups/Forums.

Do you know a Younger Member or a local group that deserves recognition?

Nominate them today!

Reach out to our Secretary, Erin Robinson, with any questions (Erin.Robinson@arcadis.com).

[Learn More!](#)

2026 New Faces of Civil Engineering

Applications for the 2026 New Faces of Civil Engineering program are NOW OPEN!

This recognition program highlights the next generation of civil engineering leaders. There are 10 honorees for Professional and 10 honorees for Collegiate. Don't wait to apply - applications close on October 31 at 11:45 PM EST.

Reach out to our Secretary, Erin Robinson, with any questions (Erin.Robinson@arcadis.com).

Meet a 2025 New Face of Civil Engineering (and VT-ASCE Member!)



Trips to Florida state parks as a child inspired Erin Robinson's engineering journey and love of the environment, ultimately culminating in a career as a water engineer for Arcadis. Erin has been an incredible asset to the Vermont Section since she relocated from Georgia last year. Learn more about Erin and her career path so far!

[Learn More!](#)

ASCE Region 1 LinkedIn Spotlight

ASCE Region 1 is comprised of all the Sections and Branches within the states of New Jersey, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York and Maine; and individual members in the provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec in Canada. Keep up with the latest updates throughout the Region by following ASCE Region 1 on LinkedIn!



Job Advertisements

Is your company looking for new talent? Our job advertisement form has been revamped to better serve our members! Postings cost \$100 per month, and will be shared in our monthly newsletters and on our website.

[Learn More!](#)

We Want to Hear From You!

Use the button below to provide feedback on past events, upcoming events, or just anything you'd like to see moving forward!

[Share Your Thoughts](#)



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