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Managing or Just Hanging on through Change?

William Nickas, *Editor-in-Chief*

In my editorial in the Fall 2014 issue, I wrote of inevitable change—how we need to support and manage it. Our work here with *ASPIRE*™ magazine illustrates the challenge. Our readers have a unique set of expectations. As a result, in the Fall issue, we launched a new series, Concrete Bridge Technology, which will cut across design, detailing, and construction questions that are often on practitioners' minds. We also concluded a regular feature on accelerated bridge construction.

With that issue, we said goodbye to Dr. Henry G. Russell, our managing technical editor. He has been a significant contributor since the very first issue of *ASPIRE* in 2007. Henry was instrumental in creating the magazine, and establishing its look, editorial standards, and credibility. We wish Henry all the best as he moves into partial retirement following a nearly 50-year career in concrete. He will remain part of the *ASPIRE* team as a contributing editor.

This issue has Dr. Reid W. Castrodale assuming the role of managing technical editor. Reid brings a rich background of 30 years experience in various facets of concrete research and design. He has written numerous papers and reports and is the author of this issue's Perspective, "Concrete Bridges: 100 Years of Advancements."

We are also very excited about the launch of another new, recurring series titled "A Professor's Perspective." Most of the stakeholders and readers of this magazine have a college experience in common. Today's engineering students face pressures and challenges unique to these times and the professional environment. Many of these pressures and challenges then become pressures and challenges for their

teachers and professors. Professor Dr. Oguzhan Bayrak at the University of Texas at Austin will author the feature and explore relevant topics facing today's students and professors. We expect students to be interested in the perspective and we hope you will be too. Let us know your impressions.

When I think of my 30-year-long career, the best experiences and outcomes occurred when I was surrounded by people smarter than me. My dad always advised me of two important things while I was at The Citadel studying engineering: first, you are learning how to think and where to find answers, and second, your bachelor's degree is a learner's permit. It allows you to drive, but not by yourself. College makes available the technical knowledge and problem-solving skills that are a prerequisite to practice engineering. Our apprenticeship (engineer-in-training) develops maturity and hones the skills.

ASPIRE showcases interesting and powerful concrete projects. The story of a successful project begins with design and progresses through project management that makes the entirety of planning a reality. As the engineer matures in experience, people management and communications become necessary skills in the total picture of a career. Without these nontechnical skills, engineers may have a self-limiting career, although one may certainly find a technical focus to be very rewarding!

Alternatively, this industry often recognizes and rewards a generalist more than a specialized technical person. Skillfully managing change, whether it is simply those occurring in a magazine, or the growth and development that occurs throughout a career, will always result in accomplishment. 



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Cover

A launching gantry moved the 240-ft-long, 2400-ton beams into place on the Manhattan West project located in Manhattan in New York, N.Y.. Photo: RdE USA.

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