Hello Fellow AEI Members and Happy 20th Anniversary to AEI!

What a great community of people we have here working to be the worldwide resource for the advancement of the design and construction of integrated buildings. I am excited and honored to be embarking on my year as President of the Architectural Engineering Institute. There are many exciting things going on in the AEI world right now. But before I share some of the excitement with you, I would like to start by taking the opportunity to give a special thank you to Bob Grottenthaler who spent the past year at the helm of AEI. In addition to Bob, I would like to thank all of our current and past Board of Governor members who give tirelessly of their time to help make AEI great. I am thankful for everyone’s enthusiasm, passion, and leadership that they put into AEI. In addition to a wonderful Board, we are blessed to have two outstanding staff members who assist us in all we do. A huge shout out to Catherine Tehan and Verna Jameson for all of the help they provide AEI.

As I mentioned, I am very excited to be taking the reigns as the AEI President this year. The Board of Governors has been hard at work the past few years laying a solid foundation for the continued success of our organization. I truly believe that we are on an upward trajectory and will only continue to grow and expand our reach in the coming years.

Here are just a few highlights from the past year:

- AEI hosted our bi-annual conference in Oklahoma City in April. The theme of the conference was “Resilience of the Integrated Building: A Community Focus” and it was well attended. The conference keynote presentations included presentations on “Designing Community Networks to Support Resilient, Sustainable Buildings in Regions of Risk” and “Tails of Successful Architect-Engineer Collaborations”. There was a also very fun and interactive networking luncheon where participants engaged in the type of team brainstorming required to understand resilience issues required for building cities on other planets – “Mars City: The Ultimate Resilient Facility”.
- The 2017 conference also featured the annual Student Design Competition (SDC). This year the competition building was the Texas Tech University Sports Performance Center in Lubbock, Texas. The students were challenged to address the design, integration, and construction issues of this building while constantly maintaining resilience as a primary factor in the project. The competition had a record number of teams register and 5 teams were selected
as finalists to present in OKC. Their creativity and presentation skills never cease to amaze me. Check them out for yourself at:
http://www.aeisdc.org/about/history
Congratulations to all of the winners and a huge thank you to Jonathan Dougherty who chaired the 2017 SDC committee and to all of the jury members, sponsors, and industry partners who make this competition so great year after year.

- The 2017 AEI Professional Practice Awards (PPA) brought another round of excellent and exciting projects to review. Amy Hackney (chair of the PPA committee) and the PPA jury had a difficult job choosing the winners of these prestigious awards. The PPA program aims to publicly recognize outstanding achievement in design and construction while also educating students and professions on the art and science of an integrated approach to buildings. The winning projects were outstanding. Check them out at:
  http://www.asce.org/architectural-engineering/news/20170424-aei-professional-project-award-winners/
  Please consider submitting a project for the 2018 PPA and remember that the entry fee goes to support our awesome SDC.

- AEI publications are also going strong. The Journal of Architectural Engineering including special sections on Housing and Residential Building Construction is a great technical resource. The AEI PE Exam Committee had an active summer working on new exam questions as well as releasing the Architectural Engineering Practice Exam and Solutions which serves as a study guide for the AE PE Exam. The most popular webinar released by AEI this past year was “Glass and Glazing: Design and Detailing”. Please reach out to aei@asce.org to share your technical information through AEI webinars.

With so much success in the past year it is hard to believe there is still so much excitement for the upcoming year and beyond. See below for some upcoming highlights:

- November 2nd, 2017 – join the AEI Board of Governors at The Peter Kiewit Institute in Omaha on Thursday evening to network with fellow AE community members. There will be a networking reception and a short presentation on the upcoming AEI Forum.

- April 4-6, 2018 – Join AEI at the 2nd bi-annual AEI Forum hosted by The University of Nebraska. The theme for the Forum this year is “The Health of the Integrated Building”. The forum will again host the SDC – with the project this year being a multi-story addition to Children’s Hospital located in Omaha, NE. Registration will go live later in October with the program to include presentations on Integrated Project Delivery, Virtual Reality in Healthcare Planning, and how technology is integrated into healthcare design in today’s world.
• Ongoing in 2017-2018 – continued development of the AEI Build initiative and AEI Collaborate. Visit the website and join the conversation at: http://www.asce.org/aei

• April 3-6, 2019 – Join AEI at the bi-annual AEI Conference hosted by The Pennsylvania State University to be held in Washington, D.C.

I hope you will agree that AEI is on the move. This year I am most looking forward to:

• Continuing to engage more and more members.
• Encouraging the organization of new local chapters to help boost membership.
• Promoting and co-chairing the largest AEI Forum to date in Omaha.
• Growing the Student Chapter Leadership Workshop for our student members.
• Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Architectural Engineering Institute.
• Establishing the AEI Build Communities.

I would like to invite all students, faculty, and professionals with interests in integrating buildings to join me and the Board of Governors in continuing to move the Institute forward. I encourage you to find a place in AEI and to become engaged in our activities. Thank you for your support over the year and I truly look forward to meeting many of you at our upcoming events and also to serving the entire AE community in 2017-2018. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me or the AEI Staff with any questions or comments.

Best wishes to all,

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