

A Change of Guard


It is now a little over seven years since I took over as chair of the editorial board of the *Civil Engineering Practice*. Serving as chair has been a great opportunity for me to work with a group of enthusiastic people who are dedicated to our journal and its objectives — *i.e.*, publishing relevant and practice-oriented articles covering civil engineering issues in general and significant civil engineering projects in and around the Boston area in particular. It is now time for a change in leadership mainly because I believe that such a change every few years will inject new perspective and new energy into this position in order to keep the journal vibrant, evolving and forward-looking.

I have been fortunate that during these years I had the support of many entities and individuals within the engineering community in Boston. BSCES leadership has been extremely supportive of *Civil Engineering Practice* and our mission. This support is especially significant because it requires a significant outlay of resources to publish the journal, even taking into account all the volunteer work that goes into it. I feel that one of the major accomplishments of my tenure as editorial board chair has been to keep the costs of the journal as low as possible and still maintain a high-quality publication. To this end we have embarked on two projects (in different stages of completion) in order to keep a lid on costs, to maintain our standard for high-quality content and to adapt to changing technologies: First, we have created a digital archive of all of the articles published by *Civil Engineering Practice* since its reincarnation in 1986, and we are now studying the best ways to present this digital archive for the benefit of our members and the engineering community as a whole. The other project is to research how to move *Civil Engineering Practice* more fully into the digital age and how we can offer the journal electronically to membership and the world.

Several members of the editorial board have been instrumental in soliciting articles, reviewing these articles and providing guidance for the future of the journal. While I am grateful to all the journal editorial board members for their contributions I would like to especially thank Brian Brenner, chair of our Editorial Subcommittee; Eduardo Gamez, chair of our Advertising Subcommittee; and Anni Autio and John Gaythwaite, members of the editorial board. Last but not least, we would not have *Civil Engineering Practice* in its present form if not for the efforts of Gian Lombardo, the journal's editor. I cannot thank Gian enough for his dedication and hard work.

Based on my recommendation and the support of the editorial board, James Lambrecht is taking over as the chair of the editorial board effective the fall of 2008. Jim is a geotechnical engineer with many years of experience working on large projects, formerly with the firm of Haley and Aldrich and now as a full-time faculty member with the Wentworth Institute of Technology.

He combines industrial experience with academic rigor and this combination makes him ideal for leading *Civil Engineering Practice* in the upcoming years. We are fortunate that Jim has accepted our invitation and we all look forward to working with him.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ali Touran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ali Touran
Chair, *Civil Engineering Practice* Editorial Board