



## Sustainability: Is it really for bridge engineers?

John S. Dick, *Executive Editor*

Photo: Ted Lacey Photography.

**W**ith this issue, *ASPIRE*<sup>TM</sup> launches a year-long exploration of sustainable design as it applies to highway bridges. These presentations will highlight the unique ways in which modern concrete bridges can contribute to a better legacy for our children and generations to come.

To start off, the feature article on page 16 presents a perspective by Dr. Tess Alhborn of Michigan Technological University. Its intent is to define sustainability issues that relate to the transportation infrastructure.

The three subsequent issues this year will look deeper into how we balance the impacts of our choices on society, economics, and ecology (or people, profit, and planet). Each will feature a guest author, who will address specific sustainable concepts applicable to concrete bridges. These articles will help provide a better understanding of our role in creating sustainable designs.

### **ASPIRE celebrates First Birthday**

We chart another accomplishment with this issue: *ASPIRE* begins its second year of publication. The magazine now contains more pages and a wider array of features. For example, in light of recent bridge accidents, we begin a series titled, "Safety and Serviceability," which will feature a different guest author each issue. The series will discuss such topics as the National

Bridge Inventory (see the article by Stan Woods, Wisconsin Bridge Engineer, retired, on page 47). Other topics under consideration include maintenance, redundancy, repair, and the like. If there is a topic you'd like to see addressed, please let us know.

Another new feature, "Concrete Connections," (page 46) collects Web addresses that offer useful research reports, studies, and other resources.

### **Your opinion is important! Please, communicate your ideas to us!**

We invite you to share your impressions about *ASPIRE* magazine with the editors and staff. A simple survey is available by selecting the "Survey" button at [www.aspirebridge.org](http://www.aspirebridge.org). It offers multiple-choice and fill-in-the-blank questions. It'll take less than 5 minutes to complete.

Why participate? This is your magazine, by and about bridge practitioners. To be valuable to you, it must be relevant to you. Your opinion is crucial to keeping the magazine on target for your needs.

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