

Conference Welcome:

Claire McCullough, ASEE SE Section President

Welcome to the 2011 ASEE Southeastern Section Annual Conference: **"Creating the Academic Culture to Educate Engineering Leaders."** With the increasingly rapid growth of technology and its impact on everyday life, it is essential that we produce engineering graduates who not only have the technical knowledge we expect of engineering professionals, but also the qualities of judgment, critical thinking, and high ethical standards necessary for leaders to take engineering into the twenty-first century. The Southeastern Section of ASEE dates back to 1934, and currently has approximately 1500 members from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. This conference brings together an extremely talented and dedicated group of engineering educators, and gives us all the opportunity to learn from each other, and share our experiences, goals, and best practices in this very special learning community.

It takes many dedicated people to put together an event like this. The Site Committee at the Citadel has put in a tremendous amount of work to make this conference happen, and I would like to express my appreciation for all that they have done in preparation for our visit. I hope you will take this opportunity to explore both the Citadel and Charleston, one of the most interesting and historic cities in the southeast, and take advantage of all of the events that the Site Committee has prepared for us. We also owe thanks to all who have worked to make this conference a success: those of you who contributed and will present papers, the Section officers who coordinated the peer review of those papers, and those who have agreed to chair technical sessions. Those who coordinated the technical program, the review of award nominations, workshops, and student poster sessions have all made a tremendous contribution to the success of this conference—thank you! The preparation of the Conference Proceedings and the Book of Abstracts are also very labor-intensive, and we are in the debt of those who have generated these for our use. Thanks to all of you who have worked in these, and many other capacities to make this conference successful—you have made an invaluable contribution to engineering education.

I have no doubt that the conference here at the Citadel will be absolutely excellent. The first ASEE conference I ever attended was the Section conference at the Citadel ten years ago, and I still recall that conference as a high point of my experience as an engineering educator. It was that conference that led to my involvement in the Section, and I hope that those of you who are new to the Section will take advantage of this opportunity to make connections and to become involved in the workings of the Section in the areas of engineering education dearest to your heart. Whether you are currently an engineering educator, are a graduate or undergraduate student, or are a professional in another aspect of engineering, we give you our warmest welcome, and hope that you will continue to be a part of engineering education. Remember the words of Confucius: "If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; if in terms of ten years, plant trees; if in terms of 100 years, teach...."

Our ASEE-SE Conference in 2012 will be at Mississippi State University, and the preparations are already well underway for our visit. I look forward to the opportunity to explore this excellent university, and hope that you will plan to join us there.

It has been my privilege to serve as the President of the Section for the past year. I very much appreciate all the support I have received and I know that the same support will be given to the next President. Thank you for your generosity in giving your time, your creativity, your work, and your dedication to this Section—I hope that you will find it as rewarding as I have.

Claire McCullough
President ASEE-SE