

SUSTAINING A VITAL PROGRAM

Dear Friends and Supporters of the ASME Federal Fellows Program:

I am writing you today as both an engineer and as one who has been involved in public office to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the ASME Federal Fellows Program.

It has long been my view that if we want good public policy, it has to be made by those who understand the issues. We need to apply the problem-solving approach used by engineers to understand the realm of solutions, as well as the law of unintended consequences, in the public policy arena.

Sadly, few elected officials have technical or scientific backgrounds. We often find ourselves in the position of having to rely on others to provide independent, non-partisan review and analysis of the scientific and technological implications of legislation.

ASME's Federal Fellows Program has filled that knowledge gap since its inception in 1973. As technology advances at an increasingly rapid pace, the need to incorporate non-partisan, unbiased technical expertise into public policy is all the more crucial. Public policy makers realize this need and are routinely requesting the assistance of ASME Federal Fellows at a level exceeding ASME's current capacity and available resources. In order to continue its leadership role in applying a problem-solving approach to public policy development, the ASME Federal Fellows Program requires a means of sustaining itself into the future.

The ASME Foundation invites you to join with others in industry, academia and government who are committed to sound public policy by supporting the ASME Federal Fellows Program. Your gift will enable the Program to continue to provide public policy makers with the technical and scientific knowledge they need in order to make sound decisions affecting our future. Please join us in filling the knowledge gap in Washington, DC through support of the ASME Federal Fellows Program and the Engineering the Greater Good Campaign.

Sincerely,

John H. Sununu

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Honorary Chair

Engineering the Greater Good Campaign

George A. Borlase, Ph.D, P.E.

2007- 8 ASME Federal Government Fellow

George Borlase has always been on a very nonlinear career path. After graduating from the US Coast Guard Academy with a BS in Mechanical Engineering, he served on a ship not as an engineer, but as a deck officer. Upon completion of his Master's degree in engineering at the University of Michigan, he worked at the Coast Guard Marine Safety Center, evaluating ship stability and investigating fishing vessel accidents. More recently, he joined the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab, working with physicists and mathematicians on national security and nuclear weapon security issues.

It was the experience of conducting his dissertation research on low Reynolds number fluid flow with the Food and Drug Administration and undertaking forensic investigations and performing regulatory reviews on ship construction, that made George realize he wasn't interested in focusing on only one area. "I was working on many different topics at different depths and enjoying the different experiences, especially in working in federal government and serving the public."

George jumped at the opportunity to be an ASME Federal Fellow and was selected to work at the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). "I was humbled and honored to start working here," he says. "There is a strong legacy of superb ASME fellows here, each of whom has made significant contributions to manufacturing and infrastructure protection policy."

George's various experiences served him well on a range of topics. He was assigned to lead the development of OSTP's National Science and Technology Summit, required by law to evaluate the health and direction of science and technology enterprises as they relate to American competitiveness. "Every day was something new and required me to reach into the proverbial tool bag to look at a problem a different way. Critical thinking skills and engineering approaches were invaluable in tackling every assignment. In addition, I was developing new skills and learning about the prioriti-

George characterizes his experiences this way: "The ASME Federal Fellows program is a wonderful chance to expand your horizons through public service. It's a challenging, yet rewarding, experience that positively changes how you see engineering, government, and public policy."

zation and decision-making processes at the highest levels

of government."

ADVANCE YOUR CAREER BY ENGINEERING THE GREATER GOOD . . . BECOME AN ASME FEDERAL FELLOW

The seven graduates of the ASME Federal Fellows program about whom you have just read are among the many program alumni who enthusiastically share their experiences as unbiased, non-partisan, problem-solving public policy advisors to legislators and regulators in the Nation's Capital. Each of them has contributed to engineering the greater good and, in the process, gained valuable experience and expertise outside of the traditional engineering curricula.

Did one or more of their stories inspire you? If so, give serious consideration to applying for an ASME Federal Fellowship. You, too, can become the "wizard" of the team, the "lab rat" transformed into an expert, or the catalyst for the next generation of engineers and scientists.

