

# The Mississippi Engineer

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## Altobelli Installed as President of MES



Nick J. Altobelli, P.E.

Nick J. Altobelli P.E., of Brandon, was installed as President of the Mississippi Engineering Society at the 2016 MS/AL Engineering Society Meeting in Biloxi, MS, which was held in June.

Altobelli is a graduate of Mississippi State University with a B.S. in Civil Engineering, 1989.

Altobelli, has been a Senior Project Engineer/Bridge Team Leader with Garver Engineers since 2014. He retired from MDOT in 2014 as the Director of Structures/State Bridge Engineer after 25 years of service. He is married to Jeannette, and has two sons, Nick, Jr. and Wade. He has been an active member of the Mississippi Engineering Society for several years.

## From the MES President

As an engineering society, it is important to remember that our organization encompasses all disciplines, and as such, MES should cover all engineering news instead of focusing solely on one area. However, it is also prudent to cover headlines that affect us not only as a profession, but also as citizens of Mississippi. In this case, recent news centers on the transportation sector.

My history with transportation goes back to when I was a civil engineering student at Mississippi State University, and one of the first topics that sparked my interest was the passage of the 1987 Four Lane Highway Program. I thought, "Wow! I hope they are still working on that when I graduate in a couple of years so I can find a job." Well, here I am, 52 years old, retired from MDOT, where I worked on projects related to that program for 25 years. Now, the entire program, including all other roads, highways, and bridges will move into a maintenance phase.

Maximizing the service life and long term durability of these assets will require an effective maintenance program. There are many challenges involved with this task, such as developing creative repairs that can be performed with minimal impact to the traveling public, but one of the greatest challenges will be funding. *Continued on page 2*

2017 MES Winter Meeting  
February 22-24  
Jackson Convention Complex, Jackson, MS

## 2016-17 MES OFFICERS

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- *To place service before profit, the honor and standing of the profession before personal advantage, and the public welfare above all other considerations*

*In humility and with need for Divine Guidance, I make this pledge.*

*Adopted by NSPE, June 1954*

*Continued "From the MES President"*

As all of you are aware, the 1987 Four Lane Highway Program launched Mississippi ahead economically and each of us are experiencing these benefits today. However, funding for that program did not take inflation into account, which of course impacts construction materials and fuel taxes. So essentially, our current funding mechanism simply can't keep up and is losing ground quickly.

Currently, the Mississippi legislature is considering additional funding for MDOT to maintain the State's highway system. I am calling upon each of you to contact your representative to explain how important this is to you, your families, and the entire state of Mississippi, not only for us, but also for our grandchildren and future generations to come. The Mississippi Economic Counsel gained momentum in the last session, but it wasn't enough to convince our governing body to pass legislation for an increase in funding. The longer we wait, the harder it will be to catch up. As one friend told me the other day, "We are currently watching the demise of the State's most prized asset. If we wait too long to do something we may never be able to bring it back to its current condition in our lifetime".

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### TAX PANELS –

#### SPECIAL STUDY COMMITTEES

House Speaker, Philip Gunn and Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves have appointed special study committees to see how "your tax dollars" are being spent.

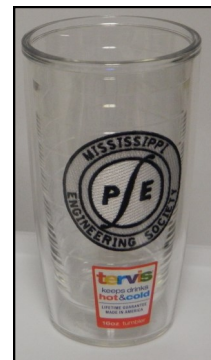
There have been several hearings and more on the way. Speaker Gunn wants comprehensive reform of tax policy. Lawmakers need to figure out how much money is needed to build and maintain roads, and set the state's gasoline tax to cover it.

Reeves and Gunn said they want Mississippian's input on tax reform and are seeking comments via email at [mstaxpolicy@ls.ms.gov](mailto:mstaxpolicy@ls.ms.gov).

## Important Dates to Remember

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
September 16, 2016	MES Executive Committee Meeting	Conference Call
October 21, 2016	MES Board of Directors Meeting	Conference Call
January 6, 2017	MES Executive Committee Meeting	Conference Call
February 22-24, 2017	MES Winter Meeting	Jackson Convention Complex
March 18, 2017	MATHCOUNTS State Competition	TBD
April 21, 2017	MES Board of Directors Meeting	Conference Call
May 5, 2017	MES Executive Committee Meeting	Conference Call
May 14, 2017	National MATHCOUNTS Competition	Orlando, FL
May 26-29, 2017	MS-AL Engineering Society Meeting	Orange Beach, AL
June 15, 2017	Deadline for Chapters to Notify Headquarters of New Officers/Chapter Dues	
July 18-23, 2017	NSPE Annual Meeting	Atlanta, GA

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## **2016 MS/AL Engineering Society Meeting Beau Rivage in Biloxi, MS**



One of many highlights at the meeting was recognition of Dr. Dennis Truax, P.E., of Mississippi State University (left), as a new NSPE Fellow by Tom Roberts, P.E., Vice President Elect of NSPE.

Please visit our Facebook page to view many photos from this annual event.

## MES Scholarships

Applications and directions on how to apply are available on the MES website at [www.msengsoc.org](http://www.msengsoc.org).



Let us say farewell to our friends who have left us during the year. They were an inspiration to the Society, to the Engineering Profession, and will be greatly missed.

We extend our deepest sympathies to their families and friends.

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