



Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

# DISTINGUISHED SEMINAR

Hosted by the Northeastern SEI Graduate Student Chapter

## Thoughts on Our Future Vision for Structural Engineering From the Structural Engineering Institute's New President



**Glenn Bell**

President, SEI  
Senior Principal,  
Simpson Gumpertz &  
Heger

**Tuesday  
October 22,  
2019**

Northeastern  
University Alumni  
Center, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor.  
5PM - 7PM

*This seminar is free and open to the public. A Reception will open the event at 5pm. Speaking portion begins at 6pm.*

**ABSTRACT:** A future world where society is increasingly affected by massive population growth, changing demographics, scarce resources, and a planet damaged by human activity presents great opportunities for structural engineers. Simultaneously massive advances in technology promise to completely disrupt structural engineering as we know it today. In response to this, in 2013 the Structural Engineering Institute (SEI) created and published A Vision for Structural Engineers and Structural Engineering: A Case for Change, and has embarked on programs to achieve ambitious goals to bring about exciting change in our profession. Since 2013 we have made gratifying advances in areas like promotion of performance-based design, globalization, and the engagement of the next generation of structural engineers. In 2019 SEI updated its Vision and worked with the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations and the Council of American Structural Engineers to create and collaborate on a joint Vision. New or enhanced future goals include developing future structural engineers as leaders, resilience/sustainability, and achieving greater diversity in our profession. At the same time ASCE has embarked on an inspiring and thought-provoking Future World Vision to advance all of Civil Engineering. Glenn will report on SEI's and ASCE's ambitious plans and offer his own thoughts on initiatives he will stress as SEI's President. These include engaging and empowering the next generation of structural engineers, strengthening the interaction between practice, research, and academia, and reform in structural engineering education.

**Bio:** Glenn Bell's term as SEI President commenced on 1 October 2019.

Glenn is a Senior Principal of Simpson Gumpertz & Heger. He has worked his entire 45-year career at SGH, in creative structural design and in leading major investigations of structural distress and failure. He was SGH's CEO from 1995 through 2016. Glenn is also Galletly-Dickson Visiting Scholar at the University of Bath in the UK.

Glenn is a Board Trustee of the Institution of Structural Engineers (IStructE) in the UK, a Director of The Charles Pankow Foundation, and a Director of the newly formed Confidential Reporting on Structural Safety in the US (CROSS-US). For his professional leadership Glenn received the 2018 SEI President's Award and the 2019 SEI Tewksbury Award.