

MEET A SEAMASS MEMBER:

Eric Johnson, PE

Eric is an Associate with LeMessurier in Boston. His professional experience includes projects involving commercial lab buildings, K-12 and higher education buildings, renovations, and government buildings with protective design. As a new director on the SEAMASS Board, his goals include advancing the mission of the Structural Engineering Engagement and Equity (SE3) initiative in MA and working toward increased mass timber construction and production in New England.



Eric earned his M.S. in Structural Engineering from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Tufts University. He is a Licensed Professional Engineer in MA. He has answered the questions below, so we may get to know him better. Thank you, Eric, for your contributions to SEAMASS and the Structural Engineering profession!

Why did you join SEAMASS?

I joined SEAMASS at the beginning of my career for the construction site tours and social events organized by the Young Members Group. But I've stuck around for all the informative seminars and networking opportunities, too! Most of my time so far has been spent with the YMG, and the great group of young engineers who regularly participate in events. Being a member of SEAMASS and the YMG gives me a sense of camaraderie in the profession beyond my company. It's a great way to meet other engineers and it shows students and entry level engineers that our profession is thriving here in Massachusetts.

As an engineer, what accomplishments are you most proud of?

I'm proud that I can show off my work to my coworkers, friends, and relatives. Buildings are very visible and last many decades. I like that I can point out my projects while walking down the street or driving down the highway. Even better is when the building is publicly accessible. When I worked at Thornton Tomasetti, I did the structural design of the renovation and addition for the Woburn Public Library. I love the fact that I can take my family there whenever I want to admire the structure and architecture, and to also enjoy the wonderful children's room and the classic H. H. Richardson reading room.

Describe a project that you're involved with.

One of my current projects is the Josiah Quincy Upper School in Boston's Chinatown with HMFH Architects. Talk about a visible building! Take a look at it next time you're walking in Chinatown or driving on the Pike through downtown Boston. It will serve grades 6-12 in a rare high-rise public school building. The site is so compact that all the architectural programming is stacked. The cafeteria and library are on the ground floor, the gym and auditorium on the second floor, and the four academic levels span over the auditorium and gym. The roof will be landscaped for an outdoor classroom and recreation space. There are large transfer trusses in the gym and auditorium ceilings to support the academic floors. But the gym and auditorium also cantilever out from the building, so those spaces (along with the transfer trusses) are hung from four-story deep trusses built into the exterior walls of the academic floors. Stunning architecture is supported by a stunning structural system.

How do you spend your free time?

Most of my free time these days is spent with my wife and five-year-old son. Lots of time in playgrounds and biking around Cambridge, and frequent visits to the Museum of Science. We also love to travel. The three of us enjoyed an amazing two-week trip to Taiwan in April as well as our regular family vacation in Wellfleet in July with my parents and my brother's family.