PS Asks  
M.E. “Eddie” Greer, CSP, OHST, STS

PS: Between your responsibilities with ASSE, BCSP and the Texas Safety Foundation, how do you stay motivated?  
Eddie: The fact that what I and other safety professionals do on a daily basis with our profession and the Foundation continues to make a difference in the lives of workers, families, students, companies and fellow professionals.

PS: You’ve been involved in many areas of leadership with ASSE. How does your work with its Foundation differ from your prior roles with the Society?  
Eddie: I get to see the true charitable side of our great Society. You know you are doing the right thing when you get letters from scholarship winners telling us that they will be the first in their family to graduate college or that our Foundation is the reason they were able to complete their degree or obtain a certification.

PS: Has your ASSEF leadership benefited you professionally?  
Eddie: I know for a fact that I am a much better leader and professional because of my involvement with ASSE, both from the Foundation and the Society in general. With my consulting company, I have not had to advertise at all. The majority of my work comes from my network of fellow safety professionals. Many of the opportunities that I have had as a professional and consultant is in direct relationship to my ASSE voluntary involvement.

PS: What is one of the greatest challenges you have experienced while representing the ASSE Foundation?  
Eddie: Getting more member involvement in giving back to the profession. If we could just get each of our members to “pay it forward” and donate a small amount it would make a huge difference in what we could do.

PS: With tighter budgets, has sustaining corporate giving been difficult?  
Eddie: Yes, I think we are seeing some. However, our faithful donors continue to come forward knowing the positive impact that they have.

PS: What have you learned as Foundation Chair that has surprised you?  
Eddie: Seeing and hearing firsthand how much our work benefits our upcoming and even practicing professionals. I think what really surprised me was the number of heartfelt letters that we get each year from not only our scholarship winners but also from our professional development grant winners.

PS: How has the Foundation changed since you’ve been on board?  
Eddie: I hope for the better! One thing is that we have sponsored our first Ph.D. program that is going great. Our student is finishing up the first of 3 years of study and we have funds in place to offer this to a second person. Just another way we continue to make a difference.

PS: Do you participate in ASSE’s annual Foundation Golf Outing? If so, who is ASSE’s best golfer?  
Eddie: I have played when I can and was fortunate to actually be on the winning team a couple of years ago. I had to sit out last year because of my duties at the House of Delegates but I have a stand-in this year and will be out on the course with my fellow golfers come June. ASSE’s best golfer . . . well there are just too many to name.

PS: How have your responsibilities with ASSEF changed your PDC experience?  
Eddie: It makes it go by very fast. I am unusually busy the entire time, but it is still a great time.

PS: Being so busy at PDC, how do you stay focused and get the most out of each experience?  
Eddie: I have to carefully pick and choose the sessions that are really important to my professional growth. Even then there are some conflicts, schedule wise, that I just have to deal with.

PS: Do you have advice for those who are preparing to attend the PDC in June?  
Eddie: My goal when I attend the PDC is to come away with at least one new idea that I can use in my professional career. If I can accomplish this then I feel my time and money has been well spent. The very nice thing about our PDC is that it is so diversified and so well done that there is something for every level of professional development.

PS: If you could ask one question to a potential professional mentor, what would it be?  
Eddie: How do we get in the heads and hearts of company leadership to make them fully understand the role of safety and how to actively care for employees?

PS: If you were mentoring someone, what would be your first piece of advice?  
Eddie: Do your homework on the companies where you apply. Your growth and success as a professional will strongly depend on the company culture, your work environment and opportunities.
**PS:** In addition to your many involvements, you are also an ASSEF Legacy Trust member. Can you discuss a bit about why you are involved or any thoughts on the program?

**Eddie:** I am involved because it is just another way to continue paying back to the great profession which I have been lucky enough to be involved.

**PS:** If you had one message for every ASSE member, what would it be?

**Eddie:** Get involved and stay involved with every aspect of your profession and Society.

Eddie Greer, CSP, OHST, STS, is director of business development for BCSP, and the president and owner of Eddie Greer & Associates LP, Horseshoe Bay, TX. In his role with BCSP, Eddie is responsible for developing strategies to help companies and safety professionals understand the overall benefits of certification. Eddie retired after 31 years of service with Brown & Root/KBR, was the 2001-02 ASSE president and was named an ASSE Fellow in 2007. He is Chair of the ASSE Foundation and is a trustee for the Texas Safety Foundation.