

## MEET A SEAMASS MEMBER:

### Nikki Byl, PE

*Nikki is a Senior Associate with Wiss, Janney Elstner, and a SEAMASS Director. With over 16 years' experience, she applies her diverse background in construction and engineering to new and existing structure inspection, evaluation, and problem solving. She also serves as WJE's Specification Coordinator.*

*Nikki earned her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from University of Massachusetts Amherst, and her Master of Science in Structural Engineering from the University of Washington. She has answered the questions below, so we may get to know her better. Thank you, Nikki, for your contributions to SEAMASS and the Structural Engineering profession!*



#### **Q: Why did you join SEAMASS?**

**A:** I was already a member of SEAW when I was a student at UW in Seattle and it had been a great experience. I joined SEAMASS after moving to Boston when Ellen and Sofia and others first started the YMG. Being new to the area, it was a great way to network and to meet other young engineers. Even at it's start the YMG was such a wonderful resource and made SEAMASS events feel more approachable.

#### **Q: As an engineer, what accomplishments are you most proud of?**

**A:** I'm proud that I have had the opportunity to work on fascinating buildings around the country designed by amazing architects like Renzo Piano, Frank Gehry, and Tadao Ando. Like many others, as a young structural engineer, it was my dream to design notable, complex projects designed by exciting architects like these. I am beyond grateful to have found a different career path with WJE that allows me the opportunity to work on all of these remarkable existing buildings, it is better than I could ever have imagined when I started my career.

#### **Q: Describe a project that you're involved with.**

**A:** An interesting project I'm involved with is consulting for design of a new academic building at Amherst College. It's been a fascinating design process because Amherst College aims to achieve climate neutrality by 2030 which greatly affects material selection, envelope design, and construction practices for the project. It's an interesting challenge to meet and one I think we all will see more of as more companies, colleges, towns, and other clients move to address climate change.

#### **Q: How do you spend your free time?**

**A:** In my free time I enjoy outdoor adventures with my husband, 18 month son, and our dog. After being isolated at home pretty much since Camden was born, we are really excited to explore a little further from home this summer and are planning a camping trip up to the white mountains in New Hampshire.