

ASHRAE - Historical leadership recall interview of John W Wells

Past President and Ashrae Member

By David Henry, Chapter Historian – 2007.

Governor, and Historical Committee, Florida West Coast Chapter, ASHRAE

John W. Wells, III



John W. Wells, III was born in Troy, New York. He is the son of Jean and Jack Wells, the younger of two children. He attended Blue Creek Elementary School and Shaker Junior High School while living in Latham, New York. John's family moved to Tampa, Florida in 1980.

After his relocation to Tampa he attended Webb Middle School and then Leto High School. John graduated from the University of South Florida (USF) in 1990, with a Bachelors Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He is married to Kimberley and they have two children, a son, Jake age 15; and a daughter, Shelby age 13.

Mr. John Wells' career started while attending USF and working as a co-op student with the Tom Barrow Company in Tampa, Florida for two years. Soon after Tom Barrow Company opened the branch in Tampa, John became responsible for completing take-offs and estimating projects in the Tampa Bay area. During his time with the Tom Barrow Company, John began to know the local engineering firms very well. During John's last two semesters at the University of South Florida, he started working part-time for AJ Sanchez Consulting Engineers, where he stayed for eight years until starting his own mechanical engineering firm, Consulting Engineering Associates, Inc., in 1998.

While John was still a student at the University of South Florida he was introduced to ASHRAE by Dr. William Smith. Upon his graduation he was asked to take a position as the Governmental Affairs Committee (TEGA) chair with the Florida West Coast Chapter in 1990. This would mark the beginning of John's involvement with ASHRAE. John would subsequently serve the chapter as member and officer and spend longer than ten years with the Florida West Coast filling the positions of the committee chairs of the chapter where he would eventually take on the role as Chapter President in 2000-2001.

After completing his term as Chapter President, John went on to serve ASHRAE, after he was nominated to the Handbook Committee by the Society President, William J. Coad. *He* completed a four year term with the publication of the 2005 Fundamentals Volume, and was later nominated for another four year cycle to work on the planning and publication of the 2009 Fundamentals Volume.

John recalls many important things that have taken place since his initial start within the HVAC industry. ASHRAE had just published ASHRAE Standard 62-1989, effectively increasing the outside air rates introduced into buildings by threefold. This made the proper selection and application of HVAC equipment challenging. This continues to be challenging, and currently ASHRAE has opened the debate regarding ASHRAE Standard 62.1 again.

The Florida West Coast chapter has had many dedicated and long-serving ASHRAE members who have been a great influence on John. Their dedication, both at the Society and local levels impressed upon him the importance of service to the industry. A few of these very influential people to John have been: Tom Williams, Ross Montgomery, and Al Sanchez. All three of these individuals have been serving ASHRAE for many years, and have all served as Florida West Coast Chapter Presidents.