

2025-2026: Year in Review

A Message from the President

As I reflect on the start of the 2025–2026 ASHRAE year, I am proud of the strong momentum and engagement across our FWC chapter. We invite you to explore this newsletter and revisit the highlights from the months behind us.

ASHRAE Florida West Coast (FWC) kicked off our 2025 - 2026 year with our September CTTC Dinner, featuring Dominick Cacolici, PE who presented information on the Tampa International Airport Central Utility Plant (CUP) and their energy conservation measures.

Our CTTC dinner speaker for October, Kirk Phipps, featured a presentation on Hydronic Balancing and focused on balancing methods that contribute to operating efficiencies.

On November 5, our YEA, Student Activities, and Membership Promotion Committees hosted a collaborative social hour and networking at Birdie Club Indoor Golf in South Tampa. Later in November, Nick Agopian was our dinner speaker who correlated Advances in Air Quality with ASHRAE Standards.

Our annual Holiday Party in December was made brighter with an Ugly Sweater Happy Hour at the World of Beer Bar & Kitchen in Tampa's Avion Park, where our members brought toys for our Toys for Tots charitable toy drive.



2025-2026 FWC President Reynaldo Miller, EI, CPD



September CTTC Dinner featuring Dominick Cacolici, PE



Best Dressed: FWC Holiday Party Ugly Sweater Winners

FWC 16th Annual Clay Shoot

FWC kicked off a new year in January 2026 with a "bang" at the FWC 16th Annual Clay Shoot.

Thank you to our sponsors and the participation of our shooters and volunteers who helped us raise funds toward our 2025 - 2026 Research Promotion (RP) goal.



FWC Clay Shoot Team with Event Sponsors



Joseph Barbieri - FWC 16th Annual Clay Shoot Champion



January CTTC Dinner Meeting and Roundtable Discussion

Our CTTC dinner speaker in January was the ASHRAE Miami Chapter President and Energy Efficiency Engineer, Ruben Abreu, PE, CEM, GBE. He discussed tax incentives that encourage utilization of efficient energy equipment and Green Buildings.

Preceding the dinner, FWC hosted a Roundtable Discussion that included guests from the Bay Area Manufacturers Association (BAMA) and our Region XII DRC Jason Alphonso, PE, PMP who facilitated the discussion.



Steve (left) with Amer Khalil | FWC Awards Presentation

Celebrating FWC Achievements

Another great start to the new year was the publication of **Engineering Florida**, the Florida Engineering Society magazine that featured our FWC YEA Chair Amer Khalil who won the ASHRAE Region XII 2024 - 2025 award for YEA Inspirational Leader.

FWC Honors & Awards Chair Steve Odryzwolski presented all FWC 2024 - 2025 Committee Chairs with awards for their service to the Chapter at the January 13 CTTC Dinner.

February CTTC Dinner Meeting

From the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, District 1, Commissioner Harry Cohen, presented policy updates to include insight on the 2026 State of Florida Legislative Session in Tallahassee.

Facilitated by FWC Government Affairs Chair Matt Walters, a Q & A segment focused on key legislative issues affecting engineers, HVAC, and resilient buildings in Florida.



February CTTC Dinner featuring Harry Cohen

Women in ASHRAE Hosts Valentine's Day 5K

Coordinated by our Women in ASHRAE Committee, FWC had a "heart healthy" Valentines Day 5k at Al Lopez Park where many members and their families (fur babies too) enjoyed a fun run/walk.



FWC Members and Families at the Valentine's Day 5K



Alan Awad reviews the 5K course with FWC members and families



Top Finishers at the FWC Valentine's Day 5K

VALENTINE'S DAY 5K PHOTOS

Daniel R. Rogers Memorial Golf Scramble

On March 13th, we held our 2nd Annual FWC Daniel R. Rogers Memorial Golf Scramble.

Thank you to all who sponsored, participated, and volunteered. It was a beautiful Florida day at The Eagles Golf Club, where many members and their guests enjoyed a fun round of golf, networking, and great prizes.



FWC President-Elect Raaj Murugesan, PE, presenting raffle prizes at the Golf Scramble



Golfers Preparing to Scramble

GOLF SCRAMBLE PHOTOS



FWC Members Touring Amalie Arena CEP/Facility

FWC Networking Night at Par Bar

On March 25th, our YEA, DEI, Student Activities, and Membership Promotion Committees hosted a collaborative networking and social hour at Par Bar in St. Petersburg.

Featuring food, drinks, and outdoor putt-putt; it was a great member-to-member social that included our ASHRAE USF Student Branch members.

PAR BAR PHOTOS

Refrigeration Night

Benchmark International Arena Tour

Later in March, our members enjoyed REFRIGERATION NIGHT with a technical tour of Benchmark International Arena CEP and Tampa Bay Lightning vs. Seattle Kraken game with Biergarten networking.

REFRIGERATION NIGHT PHOTOS



Student Activities Chair Gilmer Rojas with USF Student Section Members

FWC Annual Shrimp Boil 2026

The Annual Shrimp Boil at Davis Islands Garden Club featured delicious food (shrimp of course), musical entertainment, a beautiful setting, networking, and games. Friday, April 3rd was another beautiful Tampa evening. Thank you to our generous sponsors who supported a great event for our members and their guests.



FWC Members and Families at FWC Annual Shrimp Boil



Serving up shrimp at the FWC Annual Shrimp Boil



FWC Members and Guests Socializing at the Shrimp Boil

SHRIMP BOIL PHOTOS

April CTTC Dinner Meeting

After leading a successful "Day on the Hill" with Florida's Government Affairs (GA) volunteers, Ian Lahiff, PE, LEED AP, US Green Building Council was our CTTC presenter on April 14, 2026.

Ian spoke at length about our coordinated ASHRAE advocacy to support resilient buildings in Florida and the LEED rating system, implementations and priorities.



ASHRAE Day on the Hill in Tallahassee | Ian Lahiff (center)



April Dinner Meeting featuring Ian Lahiff



Ian Lahiff discussing ASHRAE advocacy and resilient buildings

APRIL DINNER PHOTOS



FWC 6th Annual Fishing Derby

On "Derby Day," more than 25 captained fishing boats competed to win great prizes at the 6th Annual FWC Fishing Derby at Tampa's Hula Bay. Fundraising for ASHRAE Research Promotion (RP), FWC landed a huge success with our final fundraiser of the year, thanks to the work of Derby "Captain Tim" Theriault, our generous sponsors, and volunteers.

Your gift will help FWC reach its RP goal for the 2025 - 2026 Chapter year. Help us **REEL IT IN!**
<https://www.ashrae.org/about/invest-in-the-rp-campaign>

FISHING DERBY PHOTOS



May CTTC Dinner Meeting

I.C.E. Storage, (In Case of Emergency) was presented by our May 12th CTTC dinner speaker and ASHRAE Region XII Refrigeration Chair Bruce Lindsay, MS, CDP.



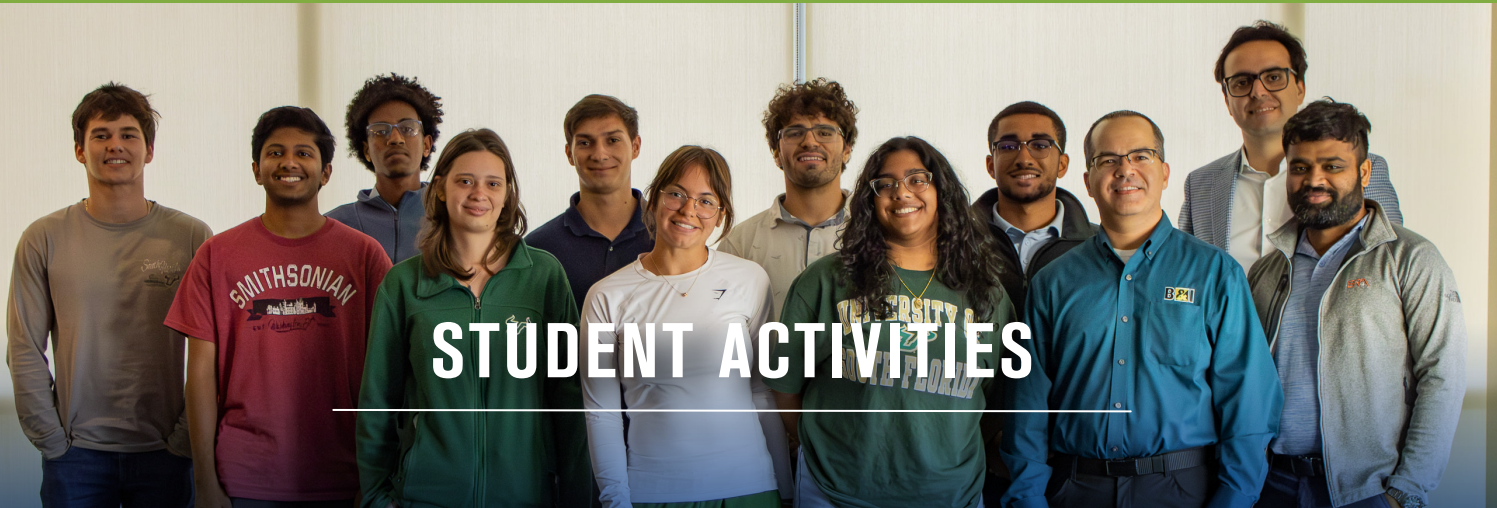
Past Presidents Night

Our last CTTC Dinner of the Chapter Year was "Presidents Night," and it was a wonderful opportunity to recognize and thank many of our FWC Chapter Presidents who continue to serve our Chapter and our HVAC community.



Honoring FWC Past Presidents at Presidents Night

MAY DINNER PHOTOS



ASHRAE FWC Student Activities 2025-2026

During the 2025–2026 year, the ASHRAE Florida West Coast Student Activities Committee had a highly successful year supporting the USF Student Section through technical programming, networking events, and strong industry engagement.

Empowering the Next Generation of HVAC&R Leaders

A key highlight was the awarding of the Stan Weaver Scholarship to outstanding students, including **Kirtina Latchman (\$1,500)**, **Carlos Garcia (\$750)**, and **Lanni Selinsky (\$750)**, recognizing their academic achievement and commitment to the HVAC&R profession. In addition, **Dr. Ahmad Vasselbehagh was awarded \$4,896** through the ASHRAE Undergraduate Equipment Grant, enhancing the academic resources available to students.

Student Activities also extended its impact beyond the university by engaging high school students through participation in the ACE Mentorship Program, helping introduce future engineers to the HVAC&R industry early in their academic careers. Students participated in ASHRAE Society programs, including the Student Design Competition and mentorship opportunities with local industry professionals. These efforts strengthened student involvement, expanded outreach, and helped prepare the next generation of engineers while advancing ASHRAE's mission within the region.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES PHOTOS



Scholarship Recipients Recognized at May Dinner Meeting



USF Student Chapter Meeting – Mechanical Industry Presentation

President's Closing Message

To our 2025 – 2026 Board of Governors, Committee Chairs, volunteers, and our fantastic members: THANK YOU for your contributions to a great ASHRAE FWC year, when I proudly served as your 2025 – 2026 President.

We look forward to another great year when Raaj Murugesan serves as our 2026-2027 President. Please give to Raaj and his Board what you have given me: an opportunity to preside over the largest chapter in ASHRAE Region XII. With over 400 members, FWC continues to lead our diverse region and our community.



2025-2026 FWC President Reynaldo Miller, EI, CPD



Looking Ahead to 2026–2027

Please join us in welcoming **Raaj Murugesan, PE,** as our **2026–2027 Chapter President.**

Stay tuned for another year of strong leadership, engaging programs, and continued success for FWC.