

History

ASHRAE 2016-2017 Past President's Interview



Brian Simkins
2012-2013
Past Chapter
President

1. What do you like to do in your free time? *I am an avid sailor and travel a good amount racing one design sailboats in places like Charleston, Tampa, Annapolis, Newport, and race locally here on Long Island Sound.*
2. Where have you worked in the past? *Currently I work at Accuspec Inc for the past 10 years. Prior to this I work for an equipment manufacturer Munters. I attended Northeastern University and my final Co Op was with Munters and was lucky enough to get an offer working in applications engineering.*
3. When and why did you decide to pursue a career in HVAC&R? *Northeastern University gave me the opportunity to experience different types of Engineering through the CoOP program. I worked as a tech, machinist, and draftsman. My last job was with Munters and I really enjoyed the work and opportunity I saw in the HVAC manufacturing business.*
4. When did you join ASHRAE? *I was fortunate enough to join ASHRAE while working at Munters in 1997. I was more involved on a National level and got involved in technical committees. It was a lot of fun traveling to the national events and working with some great people developing the material that is in the handbooks we have today. Got to see and review some interesting research projects that have added real value to the information and data that is in the handbooks.*
5. What was the year you held the president position in ASHRAE LI? *2012-2013*
6. When/Why did you decide to join the board? *Joined the board as soon as I started working at Accuspec. Craig Marshal who I work with at Accuspec was also a past president. He saw the value the local chapter brought to our business in respect to professional contacts and educational growth.*
7. What do you feel was the greatest contribution you made in ASHRAE? *I think my greatest contribution was more on the National Level when I was involved in the Technical Committees. We did a lot of work to develop chapters that are used by engineers every day. It was a very rewarding experience.*
8. How has ASHRAE played a significant role in your career? *I would say education. The presentations and technical tours help develop skills and experience you don't always get on the job. Of course the professional contacts you meet at ASHRAE are significant as well. It's not always what you know, it's who you know and ASHRAE exposes you to a lot of great people.*
9. What recommendation would you make towards students showing interest in HVAC&R? *You have to love what you do. Try to get different internships with different challenges while you are in school. This will allow you to experience and hopefully find what you really would like to do.*

Thank you for your time Brian!

Michael Nigro
History Chair