Mr. Woody Wilson, SWF ASHRAE President:

I wanted to start this year off by saying “thank you” for choosing me as your chapter President. I’m looking forward to yet another successful year here in Southwest Florida, which should be easy to achieve when considering our awesome line-up of chapter officers and committee chairs.

Our first meeting is right around the corner (September 10th) and we’re starting the year off with a “home run” of a guest speaker, Robert J. Bitterli, AIA, LEED AP, NCARB. Bitterli will be discussing why buildings fail and the role of the building envelopes in building performance.

How about some fun? Our annual golf tournament, Golfsgiving, is going to be November 1st this year at River Hall. Look for more info coming out shortly. I hope everyone can make it.

Finally, I want to encourage everyone reading this to get involved in ASHRAE. Remember, ASHRAE is one of the most influential organizations in the world within our industry and, undoubtedly, it’s research and standards in some way affect your job. As a member of our chapter, you have an open invite to participate and influence what ASHRAE is doing within our industry. So please don’t hesitate to contact me or any other board member if you want to find out what role you can play.
Research Promotion is looking forward to a successful year!

Hello SWFL ASHRAE:  
I am excited to be your Research Promotion chair this year and look forward to having a successful campaign. As I begin my RP experience, I would like to share and refresh everyone on the “Facts and Stats” of Research Promotions:

“ASHRAE research program, established in 1912, supports 140 research projects with a combined value of more than $15 million. Research focus includes energy and resource efficiency, indoor environmental quality, design operation and management tools, alternative technologies materials and equipment. Through scholarships, grants and awards, the Society supports engineering education for undergraduate students and research projects for graduate engineering students and new post-doctoral scholars.”

As we know, ASHRAE’s mission is to advance HVAC&R to serve humanity and promote a sustainable world through research, standards writing, publishing and continuing education. That being said, without our members and volunteers, it would not be possible to achieve our mission and have a successful research program. We ask for everyone to attend the monthly meetings and events, along with helping to bring new faces to our chapter. We have a great schedule of events planned for this year and I look forward to experiencing these events with each of you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or recommendations regarding RP.

Thanks,
Ashley Fernandez
Research Promotion Chair

GGAC Regional and Chapter Activities

NCEES Removes “Masters or Equivalent” from Model State Law

Excerpts taken from ASHRAE web article “NCEES Removes “Masters or Equivalent” from Model State Law”

The National Council for Examiners of Engineering and Surveying held their 2014 annual meeting in Seattle, Washington on August 20-23. At this meeting, delegates voted to modify the approach to requiring additional education for initial engineering licensure by removing specific language in the NCEES Model Law and Model Rules, originally intended to be effective in 2020. As part of the vote, annual meeting delegates decided to instead develop an official NCEES position statement that supports additional engineering education beyond a bachelor’s degree. Among other actions taken at the annual meeting, NCEES member boards voted to remove its Model Law prerequisite that four years of progressive engineering experience be earned before a licensure candidate can take the final licensing exam, the Principles and Practice of Engineering exam.

This Month’s Student Activities

We are looking forward to an exciting year for Student Activities. In addition to the normal STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Math) events, we are trying to start an ASHRAE student branch.

Florida Gulf Coast University is the best and most appropriate candidate for a student branch at this point. If any ASHRAE member knows anyone at FGCU that can assist in this endeavor, please notify me at 239.691.9172. We are looking for faculty members and students that have an interest in ASHRAE.

Invitations have been extended to several students at FGCU to attend our local chapter meetings. Please make it a point to introduce yourselves to the students and make them feel welcome. I will also be putting together a calendar for Student Activities for this year. Please check this calendar frequently so you can “hold-the-date” to our Student Activity events. The more members that can participate in the Student Activity events, the better. More to come on this topic.

Thanks,
Ashley Fernandez
Research Promotion Chair

Richard Brooks