

FACES OF ASHRAE: *Kelley Cramm*

Kelley Cramm, P.E., Fellow ASHRAE, joined ASHRAE as a student in 1980 and has been a frequent contributor to ASHRAE Journal. She is currently a mechanical technical manager at Henderson Engineers in Lenexa, Kansas.

► **Current Job:**

My job involves participating in conceptual work for projects, helping with technical questions/issues, helping solve field problems and quality assurance and quality control. I also help teach our mechanical fundamental training series, which all new mechanical hires are required to attend. We have an active Technical Manager group here and we are responsible for all things technical, including developing tools and calculators to improve our process.

► **Education:**

I graduated from Wichita State University in December of 1982 with a degree in mechanical engineering.

► **Years of Industry Experience:**

I started my first engineering position at a consulting firm in 1980, when I was still in school, so I have been in the industry 44 years.

► **ASHRAE Chapter:**

I am a member of the Kansas City ASHRAE chapter and I try to attend most chapter meetings.

► **How long have you been an ASHRAE member?**

I joined ASHRAE as a student in 1980. I think my membership lapsed for a year after I graduated but I re-joined in 1984 and have been a member ever since.

► **What technical committees or other parts of ASHRAE are you involved with?**

I am active on TC 9.1 *Large Building Air Conditioning Systems* and am a past chair. I am also active on TC 9.10 *Laboratory Systems* and am currently serving as the chair. I have been on many

standing committees over the years and served as a Director-at-Large on the Board of Directors from 2019 to 2022. I am currently on the Standards Committee. I have enjoyed serving on many standing committees but find doing technical work on TCs particularly rewarding.

► **What got you into the industry?**

I was waiting tables working my way through school when one of my customers asked me why I wasn't working as an engineering intern. He contacted a friend of his who was a senior engineer at a consulting engineering firm and that's how I got my part time job at the firm. When I graduated, the U.S. economy was in bad shape due to a number of global factors and many engineers had lost their jobs. I was fortunate in that the firm I was working for kept me on and I began working in the industry full time. My boss was the president of the Wichita ASHRAE chapter and he encouraged me to be involved. When I moved to Kansas City in 1983, I became involved in my local chapter, served on several chapter committees and was chapter president in 1993/94.

► **What is your favorite part of your job?**

My favorite part of my job is working with a lot of talented, smart young people. The young people I work with are hungry to learn and soak up information. I interact with them daily across our offices. I also enjoy working out creative solutions to thorny technical issues.

► **What advice do you have to young people starting out**



in ASHRAE?

Get involved in your chapter! Attend chapter meetings and volunteer to serve on a committee. Participate in YEA activities. It will do wonders for your career and your standing in the industry and you will make lifelong friends.

► **What are your career goals?**

I am still very active in ASHRAE and in working with young people in my company to help them become thoughtful, technical designers. My goals are to build a staff of technical people at Henderson who can step into my role when it's time for a new adventure.

► **What are the biggest challenges you see that the industry is facing?**

Climate change is a big challenge for our industry, but I believe we will do what's needed to slow the consequences and be better stewards of planet earth. ASHRAE has a major role to play and has stepped up to work on solutions.

► **What do you enjoy doing when you are away from work?**

I am a ceramics artist. I don't throw on the wheel, but I do hand-built work. I make both functional pieces and sculptural pieces. I take classes and volunteer at a local non-profit studio called the Kansas City Clay Guild. ●