

ASHRAE



Insights

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Geneviève Lussier

Montreal Chapter Puts Graduate on Path to Success

MONTREAL—Attending a Montreal Chapter career fair as a recent graduate set Geneviève Lussier on her personal and professional path to success.

Nine years after landing her job, Lussier is serving as the chapter president. She is only the second woman to do so in the chapter's history.

"I have really enjoyed all these years of involvement in ASHRAE, and I am very proud of our chapter's success," she said. "We have an extraordinary team of volunteers and it is very rewarding to work with them."

In 2001, as a university graduate, Lussier got her job through an annual career fair organized by the Montreal Chapter and a local student branch. Her HVAC&R teacher often spoke to the class about ASHRAE, encouraging their participation. A few months after starting her job, she attended a chapter monthly supper.

"There weren't a lot of young graduates who attended the suppers back then, so I kind of stood out in the crowd," Lussier said. "I met the student activities chair, Nicolas Lemire, and he spoke to me about what they did for students and what challenges they faced to get them to join ASHRAE after graduation. Since ASHRAE had helped me to find a job, I decided to return the favor by getting involved in the Student Activities Committee."

She started as the student activities co-chair in 2002 for a year and then became chair, a position she occupied for two years. She was then promoted to the Board as the chapter's secretary. From then, Lussier became treasurer, vice president, president-elect and finally president in 2009.

"Volunteering with ASHRAE has helped me to get to know the people related to the HVAC industry," she said. "As a design engineer, I often speak to manufacturers and contractors for quotes and equipment selection. ASHRAE allowed me to put a face on the many names I encountered. Since the HVAC field is a relatively small one in Montreal, I get to see and speak to the major actors, engineers and project managers involved in our industry."