

## SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

**RICHARD B. (RICK) CASALT, P.E., CDT** is the president of Casault Engineering, founded in 1994 to provide building commissioning services. Rick specializes in building commissioning master planning, new facilities building commissioning from pre-design through occupancy, and retro-commissioning services for existing systems. He has more than 18 years of experience in the commissioning, operation, design and management of laboratory, medical, institutional, industrial and commercial facilities. His commissioning projects include offices, greenhouses, libraries, corrections facilities, performing arts centers, teaching and research lab facilities, boiler plants, and schools. Rick is a licensed professional mechanical engineer and a CSI Construction Documents Technologist.

Rick received the 2002 Benner Award for outstanding achievement in making building commissioning "business as usual." He is a member of ASHRAE Guideline Committee GPC-1R, Guideline 1-1996, "The HVAC Commissioning Process;" a member of ASHRAE Technical Committee 9.9 "Building Commissioning," and a member of the NIBS Steering Committee for the Total Building Commissioning Guideline. He was the founding president and a director of the Building Commissioning Association. Rick is an author and teacher of the ASHRAE Professional Development Seminar on Building Commissioning, the APPA workshop on Building Commissioning, an author of APPA's "The Building Commissioning Handbook" and other publications.

**Rebecca T. Ellis, P.E.**, is founding principal of Sebesta Blomberg, leader of the Minneapolis Office Commissioning Division, and principal-in-charge of all corporate commissioning services. She has designed and developed Sebesta Blomberg's commissioning services business and personally trained Sebesta Blomberg personnel in the process and its execution.

Rebecca Ellis has sixteen years of experience in managing a variety of HVAC system projects. She is a specialist in the design, analysis, and commissioning of intricate temperature and humidity control systems with a particular strength in direct digital controls. Rebecca has extensive experience in the design and analysis of museum, laboratory, and animal research facility HVAC systems. She has also been active in performing energy conservation studies, proposals, and designs, and applies that expertise to all new and renovation HVAC design projects. The majority of Ms. Ellis' HVAC engineering has been for renovations, often in occupied buildings, where the confines of existing and often unknown conditions constrain the design and installation of new systems.

Rebecca has Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in mechanical engineering from the University of Minnesota and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, respectively. She writes a monthly commissioning column, *Back to Basic*, for *Engineered Systems* magazine.

**Thomas R. Hodges, R.A.**, is a registered architect currently serving as chief of the Technical Support Branch within the Construction & Commissioning Division of the Office of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) at the Department of State (DOS). He is involved in design and construction support services including commissioning activities for new embassy construction and facility rehab projects as part of the DOS overseas diplomatic facility inventory valued at over \$12 Billion (55 million square feet).

Tom previously served as the design quality assurance manager within OBO that included responsibilities for selection of architect/engineer contracts for embassy projects worldwide. Tom has been with OBO since 1988 where he initially served as a project architect requiring extensive travel to diplomatic project sites worldwide.

From 1977 through 1988, Tom worked as a civilian architect with the Army Corps of Engineers at Ft. Huachuca, AZ; Huntsville, AL; and at the Corps (OCE) Headquarters in Washington D.C. While at OCE, Tom was involved in the development of design criteria and initiation of Corps pilot projects involving design-build delivery methods.

Before his experience with the public sector, Tom worked as a project manager with a Virginia A/E firm. Tom also served three years active duty with the Army in West Germany after receiving his Bachelor of Architecture degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

**Veijo T.H. Panu, P.E.**, graduated from Akron University, Ohio, as an electrical engineer. Mr. Panu began his engineering professional career as a distribution and substation designer and then a maintenance engineer for American Electric Power. For the last 20 years he has worked for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, first as an action engineer in solving construction field problems and then as a project engineer in charge of in-house designs. He is currently responsible for directing, monitoring and coordinating the efforts of team members for the design of a \$98 million trainee barracks complex for the soldiers at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina, and a \$50 million dollar trainee barracks replacement project at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

Mr. Panu is also the program engineer for a special pilot project for the Army branch of the services to improve the quality of their real property or building assets by having the construction contractor maintain the buildings for five years after construction. The name of the program authorized by Congress is "Demonstration program on reduction in long-term facility maintenance costs".

**Beth Shearer** is the director of the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy (DOE). FEMP works with Federal agencies across the country, helping them to reduce energy and water consumption, improve utility management decisions, and increase the use of renewable and distributed energy.

Prior to coming to FEMP, Ms. Shearer was the director of the General Services Administration's Energy Center of Expertise. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Maryland and a Master's Degree in public administration from American University. She received the Association of Energy Engineers 2001 Award for Energy Management Executive of the Year.

**Robin F. Smith** is the commissioning manager of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. He has more than 30 years experience in construction, project and facilities management. Robin has a Masters in business from Georgia State University in Atlanta. His hobby is making concert violins.

**Dan Turner, P.E. Ph.D.**, is director of the Energy Systems Laboratory and a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Texas A&M University. The Energy Systems Laboratory is an applied technology lab specializing in energy management, building energy management, industrial energy conservation, and electric utility deregulation. Professor Turner has 33 years of experience in teaching, research, and administration, including Mechanical Engineering Department Head and Undergraduate Dean of Engineering at Texas A&M. He recently led the technical team who successfully negotiated an aggregated (consolidated) electricity contract for seven universities in the TAMU System. Dan is a licensed Professional Engineer in both Arkansas and Texas.

**Calvin Williams** is a senior program manager in the Facilities Engineering Division at the NASA Headquarters, where his responsibilities include managing the construction of facilities projects at NASA's centers and serving as the sustainable design champion.

Before joining NASA, Mr. Williams worked for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for 12 years. He held several positions including program manager, business manager and management representative for ISO 9001 in the Design, Construction, and Alterations Branch. Mr. Williams was responsible for managing both technical and administrative staff in support of design and construction activities. As the design project director of the Infrastructure Modernization Program, Mr. Williams managed the \$200M upgrade of the campus' major utility systems.

Prior to joining NIH, Mr. Williams worked for the Department of Navy in facilities engineering positions for both shore activities and on nuclear submarines and for the Procter and Gamble Company in Cincinnati, Ohio. Calvin Williams graduated from Howard University with a degree in mechanical engineering and he obtained a Master's Degree in engineering from the Johns Hopkins University.