

2012 APPA Fellow

Encourages Colleagues to

Say Yes

to Opportunities to Serve

BY RUTH E. THALER-CARTER

IT should be no surprise that the 2012 APPA Fellow is William (Bill) Elvey, P.E., FMP. He has served the association from the grassroots level up through its highest ranks and created a still-continuing legacy of excellence and engagement—his theme when serving as APPA President—that has led to new services, programs, and partnerships for the association. Elvey’s modest response to this prestigious honor: “One big reason this happened is that I’ve always had a problem saying no.”

PHOTOS BY RHONDA HOLE



STRINGENT REQUIREMENTS

To be anointed with APPA's most prestigious individual honor, which recognizes past achievements and expected future service, a member must be an active member of APPA for ten years, graduate from APPA's Institute for Facilities Management and the Leadership Academy, complete an approved research project under APPA's Center for Facilities Research (CFaR), and formally apply for the Fellow designation. Applications include letters of recommendations from colleagues, are reviewed and approved by APPA's Professional Affairs Committee, and must receive endorsement by the APPA Board of Directors.

The required CFaR project usually involves being a research investigator on an individual project. Elvey took a different approach: his qualifying project is based on his role as APPA's representative to NACUBO's national Campus Safety and Security Project Survey. "We undertook research, a survey, did site visits, held a conference; published a book of case studies, and more," he says of the project. The project held special resonance for Elvey; he was working for Virginia Tech at the time of

the horrific campus shooting there in 2007.

According to APPA Immediate Past President David Gray, during his award presentation remarks at the APPA 2012 Conference & Exposition in July, "A long-time colleague of Bill said, 'Bill was always engaged and on point' as he described Bill's work in the Southeastern Region and later as he volunteered for leadership roles at the International APPA level ... Bill can always be depended on to listen, support, encourage, and guide other individuals as they, too, volunteer for related duties." Another colleague wrote, "Both in words and in deeds, Bill personifies integrity, quality, service, and dedication both to facilities management and to APPA. Bill is always there when you need him, giving tirelessly of his time, willing to volunteer whenever he is called upon to do so."

Elvey shares his belief in APPA not only within the membership but with his staff as well, Gray added, quoting one of his staff members as saying, "Bill has been and continues to be a mentor for me and others in facilities management, emphasizing APPA as a resource for professional development."

As Gray concluded, "Given Bill's individual successes and his steadfast dedication to our association, it is only appropriate that he receive the APPA Fellow Award designation."

STARTING IN THE SERVICE

Elvey, a native Texan, earned bachelor's and master's degrees

in environmental engineering at Rice University in 1976 and 1977 and a master's in business administration from George Mason University in 1996. He came to higher education physical plant administration, and to APPA, after a 20-year first career in the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps Officer, where he worked in facilities and developed solid leadership skills through experience in public works, Seabees, construction contract administration, personnel management, planning, programming, budget, and finance.

Elvey worked briefly in the private sector before finding his niche in higher education facilities management. He served for ten years as director of physical plant and associate vice president for facilities at Virginia Tech University, served seven years as director for engineering, construction, and planning at the University of Texas at Dallas, and has just started a new position as associate vice chancellor for facilities planning and management at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

DISTINCTION IN APPA

In reflecting on his APPA career, Elvey makes the path to APPA Fellow look easy. "I joined APPA in 1997," he says. "A couple of years later, I was asked if our institution could host a state meeting, and I said yes. The year after, I was asked the same question, and I said yes. Then I was asked if we could host the Southeast Regional Conference (for SRAPPA), and I said yes. When I was asked if I would consider running for president in 2007, I said

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yes. In 2008, I was asked if I would be APPA's representative to the NACUBO-sponsored campus security project, and I said yes. Over the years, I said yes to APPA training resources."

As noted at this year's APPA conference, the latest of Elvey's many contributions to APPA at regional, national, and international levels was "admirably chairing" one of the two subgroups for the APPA/Regional Relationship Task Force.

As president of SRAPPA, Elvey hosted a memorable regional 50th anniversary event. He also was active in APPA's Central Region (CAPP).

As APPA president, Elvey created the "Unsung Heroes" award in 2009 to recognize worthy individuals who work tirelessly for their regions, chapters, and/or the profession. He was also a member of a four-person Facilities Strategy Team for an Education & Institutional Cooperative Purchasing co-venture with



E&I, aimed at increasing the time and cost savings for members.

That habit of saying yes to a path in APPA leadership, he says, led naturally to this honor. "I had all the blocks in place and checked off," Elvey says, simply because of his ongoing involvement in APPA.

In addition to his deep involvement with APPA, Elvey is also a member of the Academic Facilities Council of the International Facilities Management Association, American Society of Civil Engineers, Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter of IFMA, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Navy Civil Engineer Corps, Society of American Military Engineers, and U.S. Navy Seabee Veterans.

OTHERS CAN FOLLOW THIS PATH

Elvey intends to continue to be a guiding force behind his colleagues' professional growth and development within APPA, not least by encouraging other APPA members to aim for the association's highest honor. "I never intended to become

PAST APPA FELLOW RECIPIENTS

(some years saw no award)

2011

Jack K. Colby

2010

Maggie Kinnaman
Mohammad H. Qayoumi

2009

Alan S. Bigger

2006

Christopher K. Ahoy
Donald J. Guckert
Gary L. Reynolds

2005

Edward D. Rice

2004 *(inaugural recipients)*

Douglas K. Christensen
William A. Daigneau
Jack Hug

a Fellow," he says. "It was a journey on which I just said yes. I had a lot of help along the way – it was a team effort, with the support of APPA staff and colleagues. If anyone else is interested in this achievement, you can start your journey tomorrow just by saying yes." He believes that getting involved and giving back "makes you a better member of an association."

And members can expect Elvey to serve as an example by continuing to say yes. "I still have a long way to go," he says. "I plan to keep working another 10 to 15 years. I'll continue serving APPA and the facilities profession. I enjoy giving back to my profession – it's very gratifying."

For Elvey, and APPA colleagues like him, APPA may have to create an award beyond the Fellow level! 💰

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