

**For Immediate Release  
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**The Detroit Chapter of ASHRAE presents its fourth annual  
*Seminars on Sustainability: SOS for the Environment Conference and Expo***

**Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2008**

**Time: 12 PM – 8 PM with onsite registration opening at 11 AM**

**Location: Lawrence Technological University, 21000 W. Ten Mile Rd., Southfield, MI**

The annual conference, presented by the Detroit Chapter of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) in conjunction with the Center for Sustainability at Lawrence Technological University, will take place Tuesday, March 11, 2008 from 12PM to 8 PM in the university's Architecture Building and will feature speakers from academia and industry on various topics related to sustainability of the built environment.

Sustainability, a relatively new concept in design, essentially means long-term survival. It entails designing for the current generation in such a way that necessary resources remain available for future generations. As the primary standards writing organization for heating, ventilating, air-conditioning and refrigeration (HVAC&R) industry, ASHRAE has taken a leadership role in promoting sustainable design practices.

The March 11<sup>th</sup> conference will open with a presentation on climate change by luncheon keynote speaker Dr. Kathryn Savoie. Dr. Savoie, an ecologist with over 20 years experience, is one of fifty people across the country to have been personally trained under the Climate Project of former U.S. Vice President Al Gore. Dr. Savoie is a founding member of Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice and serves on the Wayne County Global Warming Task Force. Currently, she is the Environmental Program Director at the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services in Dearborn, Michigan where she manages community-based programs in environmental education, environmental health research and advocacy for environmental justice.

Following Dr. Savoie's climate change presentation, conference attendees can select any four of the twelve hour-long seminars on such topics as the latest green technologies for high performance buildings; federal and state policies and initiatives for green design; ASHRAE energy standards for green and LEED<sup>®</sup> certified buildings; and legal concerns in sustainable building design.

Among the conference presenters will be ASHRAE Distinguished Lecturer E. Mitchell Swann, P.E. Mr. Swann has over 20 years of experience in the areas of management, engineering and construction for a wide array of clients in the USA and abroad. Currently with MDC Systems, LLC of Berwyn, PA, Swann is experienced in system design from concept development through construction, operations troubleshooting, master planning and expert witness consulting. He is well versed in the various types of project execution approaches from traditional bid/spec to design/build. Swann, who co-authored the "ASHRAE Survival Guide to Design/Build," will be speaking on the subject of design-build for green buildings. A key component of green design is the merging of the architectural and engineering design effort to yield a more holistic design. Design/build seeks to gain time and cost efficiencies by merging the lines between design and construction. Swann's lecture will highlight some of the key ideas, elements and issues that are inherent in both approaches and where and how they interface on a project.

Also lecturing will be Carl N. Lawson, a Commissioning Authority for Hanson Professional Services. Mr. Lawson has been involved in the commissioning process since 1962 when it was called "Total Quality Management." He has commissioned hospitals, medical clinics, prison laboratories, high tech facilities, medical office buildings, and office buildings projects in the U.S. and abroad. He has been responsible for developing a large number of the protocols that used today in the commissioning industry. Mr. Lawson has been a contributor to three books: *Indoor Air Quality* published by AEE, *The HVAC Design Process* published by ASHRAE, and his latest, *The Hospital and Clinic Design Guide*, published by ASHRAE. He has also published numerous articles in the *ASHRAE Journal* and presented numerous papers and seminars at the ASHRAE Annual and winter meetings. In 2000, Lawson was awarded the Benner Award for his dedication to the commissioning process. He has also received the ASHRAE

Distinguished Service Award. From 1984 to 2000, he taught the Commissioning Course at the University of Wisconsin and is currently an instructor for the Commissioning Course taught by the Building Commissioning Association.

For more details or a complete list of conference speakers and topics visit [www.detroitashrae.org](http://www.detroitashrae.org).

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