

Nordic Chapter Newsletter

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Member Spotlight: Monika Ignatowicz, Associate ASHRAE

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee,
August 2026

This month, we are launching a new newsletter series from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee! In this series, we will highlight a different ASHRAE Nordic member each month and learn about their journey within ASHRAE Nordic!



Monika Ignatowicz, Treasurer ASHRAE Nordic, KTH

A Career Defined by Scientific Rigor, Environmental Purpose, and Inclusive Advancement

Monika Ignatowicz has built a career shaped by scientific curiosity, disciplined research, and a sustained commitment to advancing refrigeration and heat-pump technologies. Her professional journey began in Poland, where she completed her Bachelor's and Master's studies in Environmental Engineering and Environmental Technology.

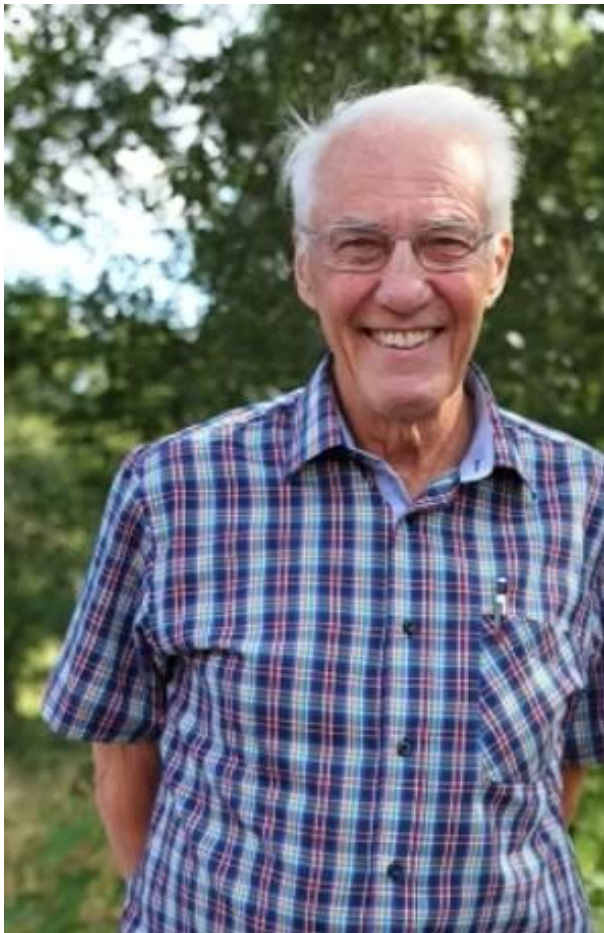
These formative years marked another shift in her understanding of how engineered systems influence environmental protection, energy efficiency, and societal well-being. Seeking deeper energy specialisation, Monika pursued a Master of Science in Sustainable Energy Engineering. This academic transition represented another shift, strengthening her interest in secondary fluids, indirect refrigeration systems, oils, and high-temperature heat pumps. Her work reflects a clear purpose: improving the environmental performance of thermal systems through rigorous scientific inquiry.

Monika's long-standing role—first as a Research Engineer, then as a PhD Candidate, and now as a Specialist—illustrates her dedication to research excellence. Over more than fourteen years, she has contributed to experimental studies, system evaluations, and theoretical advancements that support modern refrigeration and heat-pump applications. Each stage of her career represents another shift toward deeper expertise and broader impact within the HVAC&R community.

As a female specialist in a highly technical field, Monika embodies ASHRAE's values of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Her achievements demonstrate how diverse perspectives strengthen scientific progress and inspire emerging engineers to pursue meaningful careers in sustainable energy technologies. Her work highlights the importance of environmental responsibility, professional involvement, and continuous learning in shaping the future of HVAC&R.

Historical Article: Professor Emeritus Eric G. Granryd

Historical Committee, August 2026



***Celebrating the Legacy of Professor
Emeritus Eric G. Granryd***

A Trailblazer in Thermodynamics

Professor Eric G. Granryd's career spanned over four decades at the intersection of academia and industry. Born in 1934, he completed his civil engineering studies at KTH Royal Institute of Technology before

embarking on a path that would redefine heat pump and refrigeration technology. He served as Professor in the Department of Energy Technology at KTH from 1984 until his retirement in 1999, continuing as Professor Emeritus until his passing on March 30, 2022, at the age of 88.

Foundations in Industry

Granryd's journey into thermodynamics began almost by chance in 1958, when a Saab scholarship for pilot training led him to test a novel cockpit heat exchanger. His exam project applied Bo Pierre's boiling heat transfer correlations to thin stainless-steel tubes, setting the stage for his lifelong focus on heat exchangers and phase-change phenomena.

After graduation, he joined Svenska Rotormaskiner (SRM) as a calculation engineer. There, he helped develop two-stage ammonia screw compressors—a breakthrough for large-scale cooling and freezing applications that found early adoption in Stockholm's Slakthusområdet freeze houses in the early 1960s.

Expanding Horizons in the United States

A grant from the Swedish American Foundation enabled Granryd's 18-month tenure at the Institute of Gas Technology in Chicago. Tasked with exploring gas-fired air-conditioning, he designed a Stirling-like gas-driven compressor operating with carbon dioxide as the refrigerant. This inventive work earned him seven patents, including one advocating an expander in lieu of a traditional expansion valve, and deepened his expertise in compressor and cycle design.

Pioneering Heat Pump Innovations

The oil crisis of the 1970s steered Granryd towards heat pump research. As a lecturer at KTH, he evaluated villa heat pump solutions



for the Swedish Building Research Council. In 1978, he joined AGA Heating's Thermia division, enhancing reliability and efficiency by developing mini-tube evaporators and condensers. His team's success with compact, high-pressure heat exchangers underpinned Thermia's early market leadership—preceding the era when plate heat exchangers became dominant.

Architect of Research Infrastructure

Upon his 1983 appointment as Professor and Bo Pierre's successor, Granryd built KTH's Division of Applied Thermodynamics and Refrigeration into a world-class center. His vision culminated in the 2025 inauguration of the Granryd Laboratory, a state-of-the-art facility for building and city energy systems research. Housing advanced experimental platforms as well as modeling and simulation tools, the lab now hosts over 20 industry-partnered projects and startup incubators—a testament to his enduring impact on research infrastructure.

Global Leadership and Recognition

Granryd's influence extended far beyond Sweden. A dedicated leader within the International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR), he served as IIR Delegate for Sweden, President of both the IIR Executive Committee and the General Conference, and was named Honorary President in 2007. He received the IIR Medal of Merit at the 2011 International Congress of Refrigeration. His prolific output included more than 55 publications archived in FRIDOC, cementing his reputation as a revered educator and researcher.

Honors and Awards

In May 2008, Granryd was honored with the Peter Ritter von Rittinger International Heat Pump Award by the International Energy

Agency, recognizing his invaluable contributions to heat pump research and development. This triennial award highlights individuals whose work advances efficient heat pump technology—an accolade befitting Granryd's lifelong dedication to sustainable energy solutions.

Enduring Impact on ASHRAE and Beyond

Granryd's legacy resonates within the ASHRAE community. His laboratory hosted two ASHRAE tours, fostering collaboration between academia and practitioners across the Nordic region. Under his influence, the bridge between industry and research continues to strengthen, inspiring the next generation of HVAC&R professionals to pursue innovation with the same rigor and kindness that defined his career.

Membership Benefits

New Full and Associate Members get automatic benefits from the start, including:



Free Conference

One free conference registration to a Winter or Annual Conference, to be used within 24 months of your new membership. *(For full dues paying members only).*



Free Handbook Online

12-month subscription to ASHRAE Handbook Online which provides access to all four of the most recent Handbooks, plus supplemental online features.



Annual Benefit Selection

One selection from the following products as your annual membership benefit:

- ▶ Upcoming ASHRAE Handbook PDF published annually in June
- ▶ ASHRAE Standard or Guideline PDF
- ▶ ASHRAE eLearning Course (Individual)
- ▶ ASHRAE Certification Study Guide PDF



Optional Print Handbook

Include the upcoming ASHRAE Handbook in print for a discounted rate of \$70 (U.S.) and \$89 (International). Handbooks are published, printed, and shipped annually in June.

Upcoming Events

Date	Type of Event	Location	Event
November 2026	Chapter Meeting	On-line	Hear more about what the Membership Promotion Committee work on!
December 2026	Chapter Meeting	On-line	Hear more about what the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee work on!
January 2027	Chapter Meeting	On-line	Hear more from the Student Activities Committee!
Prel. May 4, 2027	Presidential Visit	TBD, Sweden	ASHRAE President Sarah Maston will visit the Nordic Chapter in Sweden! A great opportunity to mingle with other ASHRAE Nordic members and students! Activities: Social Event (Dinner), Chapter Meeting, Technical Seminars
April 2027	Members night out	Oslo	Join ASHRAE Nordic members for an evening out in Oslo! More information later!



ASHRAE Nordic Chapter Summary

ASHRAE Nordic Chapter is a local branch of ASHRAE, a global society founded in 1894. ASHRAE's mission is to advance human well-being through sustainable technology for the built environment. With more than 50,000 members from over 132 nations, ASHRAE is an engineering organisation dedicated to advancing the arts and sciences of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration to serve humanity and promote a sustainable world. The organisation contributes to shaping tomorrow's built environment through research, standards writing, publishing, certification, and continuing education. The geographic area covered by ASHRAE Nordic Chapter is Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland), Iceland, Norway, Finland (Åland), and Sweden.

Thank you to our Gold and Silver Sponsors!





Information from ASHRAE

Approaching Deadlines

- YEA Leadership International
Registration Deadline September 2
 - Communications Virtual Central Training Part I
Registration Deadline September 15
 - 2027 Leadership U
Registration Deadline September 16
 - New Chapter Treasurer Training
Registration Deadline September 17
 - Member Promotion Virtual Centralized Training
Registration Deadline September 18
 - Fall 2026 YEA Leadership Weekend 1.0
Application Deadline September 23
 - Communications Virtual Central Training Part II
Registration Deadline September 23
 - 2026 Decarb Conference
Registration Deadline September 23
 - BCxP Application Discount
Application Deadline September 30
 - Student Activities Travel Grants
Application Deadline September 30
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