

# It's not the heat Bassett's HVAC expertise puts humidity in its place



Above, dry coolers, chillers and interconnecting piping flow into Albany International's Kaukauna facility. Right, a duct drop descends from a large roof-mounted air-handling unit. Far right, boilers and pumps are part of a high-efficiency boiler system installed by Bassett.



Humidity can be a tricky thing for a manufacturer. For example, too little of it can negatively impact production. Varying levels can play a role in a machine's ability to run properly. Employees tend to feel more comfortable in an environment with higher humidity levels.

An example of the important role humidity plays in manufacturing processes can be seen at Albany International, a global leader in the supply of paper machine clothing and related products.

"We make engineered fabrics, including textile fabrics made out of monofilament, which are used in different applications, like making Sheetrock or asphalt shingles, for example," explains Eric Bauer, plant engineer at Albany International. "When you pull plastic monofilaments over and around machine components, it creates static electricity. Humidity at an acceptable range tends to mitigate that problem.

"We like to keep the humidity during the winter at an acceptably high level, and lower in summer so we don't take such drastic swings," Bauer continues. "It's better for the raw material and equipment, and it's better for our

people. When the humidity is higher, people feel more comfortable."

## More space needed

Because the engineered fabrics portion of Albany International's business is growing, in 2006 the decision was made to build a new facility. That facility, located in an industrial park in Kaukauna, would include 180,000 square feet of manufacturing space and 10,000 additional square feet of office space. Bassett Mechanical was charged with designing and installing the facility's HVAC system.

Bassett's engineering team was familiar with Albany's particular needs and product processes due to a longstanding relationship the two companies have shared.

## Consistency is critical

A steady atmosphere is a requirement for Albany's manufacturing process.

Fluctuations between too much or too little moisture make it difficult to work with the materials. The new HVAC design called for the installation of a large rooftop heating and air conditioning unit, makeup air unit and exhaust equipment.

---

*"I can see that down the road we'll be able to take advantage of i-Vu for energy savings. It's really a building management system."*

— Eric Bauer,  
plant engineer, Albany International

---



# Is your water mistreating your company's bottom line?

By Steve Dercks, water technology specialist



You'd be surprised at the powerful impact untreated or improperly treated water can have on your company's bottom line. A poorly operating system can result in costly outcomes. Consider all the risks: equipment failure, shortened equipment life, scaling and corrosion, reduced heat transfer, increased energy costs, increased water consumption and sewer costs, not to mention the

potential negative impact on the environment.

Conversely, a properly operating system eliminates scale and corrosion and extends equipment life. Water treatment programs maintain heating and cooling systems in peak operating efficiencies. A sound water treatment program is a critical part of an effective water and energy management program. It keeps precious profits from going down the drain.

Proper water treatment requires a systematic approach by an experienced professional. Here are some key considerations:

- Employ a reputable water treatment company as a supplier and consultant.

- Thoroughly clean new or untreated systems using state-of-the-art metal passivation technology. Once cleaned, initiate a proper water treatment program, including chemistry, test equipment, feed systems or monitoring controls.
- Regularly monitoring, along with equipment inspections, is required.
- Periodically review your program to ensure the latest available technology and methods are being used.

Bassett provides water treatment services/programs for heating, cooling, wastewater and dust collection systems. With 25 years of experience in the industry, and in conjunction with GE Water and Processes Technologies, we can offer top-tier water technology and treatment programs. We can audit your systems to assure you are using the proper strategies for equipment protection and water/energy management.

For more information, call Steve Dercks, water technology specialist at Bassett Mechanical, at (920) 759-2500, Ext. 622. Or e-mail him at [steve.dercks@bassettmechanical.com](mailto:steve.dercks@bassettmechanical.com). 

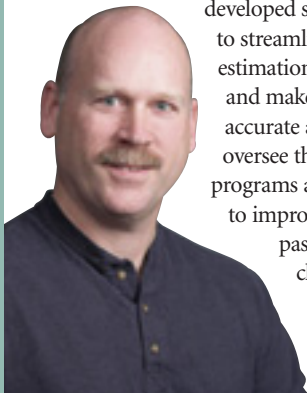
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Dave Nussbaum

Title: Estimator/Project Manager • Department: Sheet Metal • Years with Bassett: 12

### *What responsibilities does your position entail?*

Providing pricing to clients that need custom metal fabrication, communicating closely with them to fully understand their needs, and offering suggestions on how to accomplish their goals in a more efficient manner. As the result of a Lean event, I have



developed several tools to streamline the estimation process, and make it as accurate as possible. I oversee these programs and continue to improve them, passing on the changes to sheet metal team members.

Project management involves computer skills and people skills. Questions from shop personnel need to be answered, and managing the work to ensure it is on budget and delivered on time is key. Project management is especially rewarding because there is extensive personal interaction with fellow employees and customers.

### *How did you arrive at your current position?*

I've always had an interest in hand-built creations, and the creative juices that are triggered to "make it better." I began my sheet metal career by serving as an apprentice. After becoming a journeyman in 1996, I was hired by Bassett. Shortly thereafter, I had the opportunity to be a computer programmer for the CNC cutting tables, which led to my current position.

### *Congratulations on being a recent WATY winner. What kind of impact do you hope to make?*

I was surprised to be a winner in the first place. I always felt that others were working just as hard to fulfill our company's slogan, "We Answer To You." If what I do is worthy of the award, then my hope is that others will make it their goal too.

### *What do you find most satisfying about working at Bassett?*

The most satisfying part is the interaction with a great bunch of people here at Bassett. We all get along well, and there is a huge pool of knowledge to draw from. Equally satisfying is the sense of accomplishment when helping customers solve their problems.

# Save time and improve annual medical gas recertification

Health care safety regulations continue to get more rigorous every year. Unfortunately, the medical gas systems of many facilities go virtually unchecked, except for the annual recertification process.

Too often, many surgery centers and hospitals invest a lot of resources to get into compliance with medical gas regulations just before their recertification. This last-minute approach can often be hurried and is more disruptive and time-consuming than a regular schedule of maintenance and checks.

By periodically checking equipment throughout the year, hospitals can save time and streamline the annual recertification process. It just doesn't make sense to check such a critical system only once a year.



## RESPONSE MEDICAL GAS SPECIALISTS, LLC

To avoid the commotion for annual recertification, here are some maintenance steps to stay on top of the upkeep process.

Do the following on a daily basis:

- Verify the pressure on the cryogenic and high-pressure manifolds system.

- Monitor and inspect the readouts for the dew point monitor and co-monitor on medical air compressors.
- Check supply gas and order as needed.
- Verify the line pressure or vacuum of each system.
- Check that condensation has not built up in the manual receiver drain on the medical air compressor system.

On a quarterly basis:

- Have your supplier check the source equipment gauges.
- Test your area alarm signals.
- Check station outlets for leakage and proper flow.
- Check shutoff valves for external leakage with a test solution or other means safe for use with oxygen.

This is just a brief overview; there are other medical gas systems and components that should be checked on a daily, quarterly or annual basis. By doing daily and quarterly checking and monitoring, the annual certification will be less of a hassle and will likely result in fewer items to remediate.

For more information, inspections, verifications and service, please contact Dan Huth at Response Medical Gas Specialists LLC, 1215 Hyland Ave., Kaukauna, (866) 846-2511 or (920) 759-2511, [dhuth@responsemedgas.com](mailto:dhuth@responsemedgas.com).

## HVAC expertise – continued from cover

“We spent a lot of time in coordination meetings with all the trades, working with the AutoCAD system, and laying out the building support structure to get our ductwork and piping inside the joists above the level of the crane,” says Bassett Senior Project Manager Jeff Beyersdorf.

### Coordination a challenge

After load factors were determined, the HVAC equipment was ordered. Coordinating delivery dates with three different equipment providers from three states for the units, at varying times due to the phased nature of the process, was one of the challenges of the installation.

In addition, the site was wet and muddy. “We used steel plating and wooden cribbing laid on the soil to get a better support platform for

the 375-ton crane,” Beyersdorf adds. “We split the building into four quarters to address the work, vs. using one huge crane from one spot.”

Despite the challenges, the HVAC system was completed on time. Bassett made sure the facility managers at Albany understood how the systems worked and was ready to come back if needed.

“Bassett’s been very helpful in teaching us how to use the system, as well as advanced portions of the (Internet-based) i-Vu controls system,” Bauer adds. “I can see that down the road we’ll be able to take advantage of i-Vu for energy savings. It’s really a building management system.”

Other members of the Bassett project team are Jeff Zeuske, lead sheet metal foreman, and Roy Immel, lead fitter foreman. ■

# Bassett named Manufacturer of the Year

At a Feb. 28 ceremony in Milwaukee, Bassett Mechanical accepted the 2007 Wisconsin Manufacturer of the Year (MOTY) award in the category of large manufacturers, those with 300 to 999 employees.



advancement, product development, environmental solutions, operational excellence, continuous improvement, commitment to employees, profitable growth, effective research and development, and investment in employee training and growth.

“Our culture is driven by a commitment to continuous improvement. Through Lean, ISO and other process improvement tools, we are able to keep delivering superior long-term value to our clients,” says Kim Bassett-Heitzmann, president and COO. She says this award reflects the company’s commitment to excellence, to its customers,

An independent panel of judges determined the MOTY winners based on criteria such as financial growth or consistency, technological

employees, suppliers and community.

“Throughout our 72 years in business, our reputation has been built on the quality and integrity of our employees. We have a strong reputation in our industry and in our community for having an exceptional work force of dedicated, hardworking, talented individuals, and this



Accepting the Manufacturer of the Year award for Bassett are, from left to right, Kim Bassett-Heitzmann, president and COO; Chris Linn, vice president—marketing and business development; Mark Grassman, general manager—fabrication; and Bill Bassett, CEO.



award is truly a reflection of them. My father and I were very proud to accept this award on their behalf,” says Bassett-Heitzmann.

The annual MOTY program is celebrating its 20th year, and is co-sponsored by Michael Best & Friedrich LLP; Virchow, Krause & Company, LLP; and Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce. ■

®Registered trademark of Bassett Mechanical. © 2008 Bassett Mechanical.

## Contact us

1215 Hyland Avenue  
P.O. Box 7000  
Kaukauna, WI 54130-7000  
920-759-2500  
800-236-2500  
FAX 920-759-2525

4017 Owl Creek Drive  
Madison, WI 53718-4405  
608-838-6362  
800-236-2550  
FAX 608-838-6253

3720 N. 124th Street, Suite M  
Wauwatosa, WI 53222-2100  
414-536-3500  
800-236-4311  
FAX 414-536-3506

www.bassettmechanical.com



A LINC Servitor Contractor  
*We answer together*

Bassett Mechanical  
1215 Hyland Avenue  
P.O. Box 7000  
Kaukauna, WI 54130-7000