



Doug Daniels

Profile Data: Doug Daniels has been a Fluid Power Instructor at Mohawk College in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, for ten years. He is a member of the IFPS Executive Board.

Q: When and where did your career in the fluid power industry start?

A: My career started in 1973 in the engineering department at Stelco (Steel Company of Canada) as a junior designer for hydraulic, pneumatic, and lubrication systems. After 13 years at Stelco, I then went on to a fluid power technical sales rep position for three different companies over the years before I started teaching full time in 1999 at the college. I have also taught night school for the various companies and part time at the college through the years using my day-to-day experiences as I taught the various courses in fluid power. In the mid 90's, I took the time to obtain my electrical journeymen's interprovincial license as I found my career becoming more and more tied to the electrical control of fluid power systems.

Q: What is the most memorable moment in your fluid power career? What did it teach you?

A: When I designed and commissioned my very first hydraulic system on my own, it didn't work when we started it up. There could have been a lot of good excuses, but it boiled down to the fact that I was not thorough enough with my calculations. Thankfully it was an easy fix, and we were able to get it operating easily. It taught me to be thorough in all that I do in any situation.

Q: What do you feel is the most important achievement in the fluid power industry?

A: There have been a large number of changes in the industry, but I feel one of the most important changes in technology that I have seen is the control of the fluid power systems as proportional and servo control technology has grown, allowing incredible control of systems that in the past were only able to be controlled through manual means.

Q: How and why did you get involved in the IFPS?

A: I began with the IFPS in 2002 when I went through the certification course to become a Hydraulic Specialist and then in 2003 when I completed my certification as an Accredited

Instructor. The reasoning behind getting my certification was that I was already involved in fluid power education, so I wanted to expand the program capacity of the college by teaching the courses offered by the IFPS. Also, the networking with the wide variety of members from many industries has helped me to keep up on technology and the changes in the fluid power industry.

Q: Why do you feel the IFPS is important? Why would you encourage industry professionals to join the IFPS?

A: IFPS is definitely important to the fluid power industry as it keeps the technology growing through networking of new ideas, problems arising, and solutions, plus the interfacing of members from all areas of industry. The education portion of IFPS is also important to keep all members up on technology and the changes that are rapidly happening in fluid power, and how they affect all the various industries of involvement of our members.

Q: What have you personally gained by being a part of IFPS, and how has it helped your career?

A: My largest gain from being a member of IFPS has been the networking with the other members from all the various industries. The expertise that I have encountered from the contacts that I have made over the years has been incredible. It has helped me as I educate students joining the industry so that they are better prepared to enter that industry. It has also been a great help in the consulting work that I do in that it has increased my own skill set.

Q: Where do you see the fluid power industry heading in the next 10 years?

A: I see the industry growing more towards a mix of the physics of fluid power remaining as the base with a huge trend towards the control of the fluid power elements. Those involved with the industry will require training, not only of the fluid power basics but also the control, so it will be a mix of mechanical and electrical training.

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