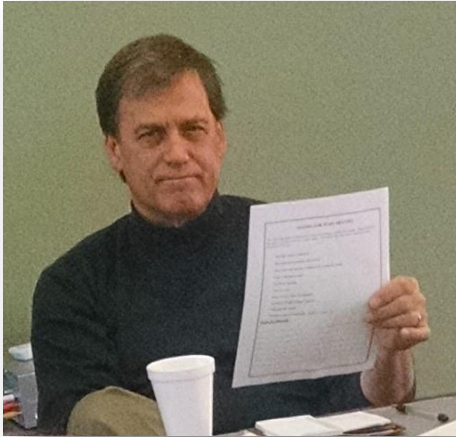


A Conversation with Jim Frazell, P.E., President of Triad Associates



“What was it like for you growing up and in high school?”

“I was born and raised in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, until about middle school. At that time our family moved to Indianapolis. I built models as a kid; my parents would say I enjoyed taking things apart to see how they operated. In high school I played football and ran track.

“In college, what led you to become interested in the water and wastewater side of engineering?”

“Really, it was timing. With the founding of the US EPA in the late 1960s, as well as the advent of the Clean Water Act, it was a natural step and I got in on the ground floor.”

“Upon graduation you worked for Clyde Williams Associates for a couple of years designing treatment facilities and water distribution systems, and then you worked for Bowen Engineering as a project engineer and estimator. What was the impetus to go out on your own?”

“During my time with Bowen I met an engineer working at another firm, Tom Schubert. We would get together for lunch and talk about projects. Along the way we discovered we both had an entrepreneurial spirit. My father had established Triad Associates in 1975, and when I left Bowen in 1977 I joined Triad full-time. We also invited Tom to join as a principal.

“What are some of the highlights you have experienced over the years at Triad?”

“The highlights have been mostly the experiences of meeting and working with the people of Indiana. Throughout economic ups and downs, we have been fortunate to experience large growth and very lean times right alongside these communities, many leaders of which we now consider to be personal friends because of our long-term relationships.”

“Purdue University was just named the “Best School in Indiana” by Time magazine. Do you have any words of wisdom for new engineering graduates?”

“Not to be afraid. Anyone who works or lives in fear is unable to make decisions and move forward.”

“In the 1970s you drove Formula race cars and you have had your pilot’s license for years. Do you have any interesting stories?”

“I guess the most interesting event was flying the little plane to San Diego in the 1990s. The experiences along the way were life changing.”

“Triad recently had its 40 year anniversary at the end of 2015, and Tom Schubert retired. Did you ever dream you would be in business this long?”

(smiling)“Nope.”