# KTA COFFEE BREAK

# ADAM EMSHWILLER, PE

PARTNER, VICE PRESIDENT
DIRECTOR, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

*"whether it's the architect or the construction side, the best part is the people involved in the projects"*

**INTERVIEW BY AMY TALTON**

AN OBVIOUS CHOICE FOR A COFFEE BREAK INTERVIEW IS KTA GROUP'S NEWEST AND YOUNGEST PARTNER ADAM EMSHWILLER. HIS ENTHUSIAM FOR KTA IS CONTAGIOUS. A DEPARTURE FROM THE TYPICAL QUIET ENGINEER-TYPE, HE'S A NATURAL PEOPLE PERSON. I KNEW IT WOULD BE FUN TO DIG A LITTLE DEEPER INTO WHO HE IS. IT'S EASY TO SEE HOW THIS HOME-GROWN KTA PARTNER HAS RISEN TO THE TOP.

**Q: When did you decide you wanted to be an Engineer? Why?**
Adam: I knew early on in my teenage years. I got into cars and building things. When I got my first car, I ripped it apart to see what was inside of it. I just love the mechanics of how things work.

**Q: Where did you go to school?**
Adam: I went to ODU (Old Dominion University). I shouldn't say this, but we were near the beach, so we could skip school and go to the beach.

**Q: What was your first engineering Job?**
Adam: KTA Group was my first engineering job. My mom knew Kim Dize through charity work, and Kim got me the opportunity to intern at KTA.

**Q: If you weren't an engineer, what would you be?**
Adam: I used to produce Music, so I would say Music Producer/ DJ..... or something related to Aerodynamics, but that's still engineering.

**Q: Greatest achievement so far?**
Adam: Without a doubt, my family is my greatest achievement. My wife and girls are my entire world. Getting my PE license was my greatest professional achievement. A lot of the people I came up with didn't take that path, so that's a big thing to me.

**Q: Favorite place you've travelled?**
Adam: We went to the city of Petra, Jordan. That was sweet.

**Q: Favorite type of Music?**
Adam: That's easy. Electronic Dance Music-Trance.

**Q: Name one thing people wouldn't guess about you.**
Adam: I'm a Dallas Cowboys Fan in the DC area. When your dad is a Cowboys fan, you become a Cowboys fan.

**Q: Favorite project you've ever worked on? Why?**
Adam: I most enjoyed my work on the West Rosslyn Buildings, also known as The Highlands now. The reason is the scale of the project (26 -story building) and the VRF technology we used. I found it really engaging to tackle a large project with coordination and design challenges.

**Q: Goals for the future?**
Adam: I actually keep my goals for the future written down. The current goal is to run a 10-mile race.

**Q: What part of your job do you enjoy the most?**
Adam: I like the people part. I like working with others to collaborate on projects. Whether it's the architect or the construction side, the best part is the people involved with the projects.

**Q: Best thing you've ever eaten?**
Adam: I'm either going with a dessert, or some kind of burger....my wife Emily's cinnamon rolls.

**Q: Do you have any children or pets?**
Adam: I have a 6-year-old named Palmer (we kind of named her after Arnold Palmer), a 4-year-old named Campbell, and a 2-year-old named Ellie (which is a little homage to my wife Emily's name). We also have a Bernice Mountain Dog named Lola.

**Q: Name a book you've read recently.**
Adam: One book is *The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F#*%*, which is about prioritizing what really matters and putting the focus on that. But I can also say *Good to Great,* which Mark Koblos recommended to me. It's about getting the right people on the bus in order to grow a business.

**Q: Name a person you look up to?**
Adam: Right now, I get inspiration from Elon Musk. He's constantly innovating. He's a hard worker that questions the norm and pushes boundaries.

**Q: Biggest Pet Peeve?**
Adam: Neighbors that don' t take care of their lawn.

**Q: Any special/unique talents?**
Adam: I can do a kick flip on a skateboard.