

Fall Update from The University of British Columbia

By Michael Burgess, Chair, UBC Student Section

The fall was a very busy semester for the students at UBC; we were proud to host the October SNAME PNW Technical Meeting, travel to the 2006 SMTC&E and present cutting edge naval architecture/ocean energy research to the engineering community on campus. In addition, UBC is also proud to be the home of the champion Sailboat from the inaugural competition at Queen's University.

In October of 2006, twelve students from UBC Engineering traveled to Fort Lauderdale, FL to attend SNAME's annual meeting. We were proud to present six posters in the Student Poster Session on various topics, including renewable energy and our student teams. The technical papers presented were helpful to the students who are currently designing vessels in their senior design course during this term, providing up-to-date research findings about different hull forms and various types of engines in use. The United States Coast Guard presented a paper regarding the testing of a 47-foot motor lifeboat which was of particular interest to the students designing an oil spill response craft this year. SNAME PNW, Robert Allan Ltd. and Aker Yards Marine Inc., generously sponsored our students and assisted them with travel expenses for the long trek.

On November 1, 2006, three UBC graduate students presented some of their research findings to the engineering community at UBC in the effort to raise awareness of naval architecture at UBC. Bill Rawlings discussed the development of a vertical axis tidal turbine; Kevin Gould updated students about the ongoing resistance reduction program at UBC and Ye Li discussed maneuverability findings for ships traversing Vancouver harbour. SNAME PNW provided free pizza and pop for all in attendance.

The UBC Student Section and the BC Research Ocean Engineering Centre (OEC) hosted the October 2006 technical meeting for the Pacific Northwest Section. This meeting included an open house at the OEC tow tank as well as a full buffet dinner. We were proud to have several guest speakers discuss the future of the tow tank at UBC and the OEC. Unfortunately, the future is uncertain for our tank, as the university is actively pursuing the development of condominiums on the land where the tank resides. Our student members are working hard to raise the profile of the tank and demonstrate to the administration of the university that it is a very important part of our education. We hope that our message will be heard!

In closing, I would like to once again thank Robert Allan Ltd, SNAME PNW and Aker Yards Marine Inc. for all of their support over the term. None of the events we hosted this semester would have been possible without their dedication!