

Virginia Tech SNAME Chapter

Ronda Yon, Justin Stepanchick

After a full fall semester of SNAME activities, the students at Virginia Tech look forward to the spring semester. This semester will be filled with various speakers and a shipyard tour. VT is currently planning a trip for the end of March to visit Northrop Grumman Ships Systems Shipyard, Ingalls Division, in Pascagoula, Mississippi. These tours will allow our students to climb on board some of the vessels they work with throughout their educational experience. The seniors, who are deeply involved in their design project now, will also get some great hands on advice from members of industry. The Hokies will also be prepared for interviews for internships and full time employment.



Above: President Roger Compton and ASNE Dennis Kruse with VT students at Chesapeake December 2005 meeting

In December some students made the trip up to the Washington Navy Yard to attend a meeting with our parent, the Chesapeake Section, President Compton came down to meet with the students and Dennis Kruse with ASNE was present as well. Both societies asked questions regarding membership retention among recent graduates and how to keep students involved. Afterwards everyone sat down to dinner, followed by a great presentation.

In January, Rik van Hemmen was the key speaker for our first meeting of the semester. He spoke about problems with the industry among the crew and operation of shipboard machinery, as well as classification societies and other environmental and economic issues surrounding the shipping industry. A few days later Rick Hepburn, President of ASNE, talked about membership in the society and how there is a high demand of people in the maritime engineering fields.

Virginia Tech appreciates all the speakers that have attended meetings thus far and we are thankful for the interest from so many!