

## VIRGINIA TECH

By Justin Stepanchick

The Virginia Tech Student SNAME section had a particularly productive and busy year. With the convenience of having the annual conference held only a few hours away this past fall, all members who wanted to attend were able to. Northrop Grumman Newport News was also kind enough to show a large handful of students a very informative tour of the shipyard. New for this year was a small boat trip to Sea Ray in Knoxville, Tennessee. A dozen Hokies made it down for this tour to see how impressive and efficient the assembly lines at the Sea Ray plants work. From military shipyard and small boat tours to even independent consults, the 54 Hokies who are registered SNAME student members have been receiving a diverse experience in Naval Architecture.

To highlight this past month, the Virginia Tech SNAME section welcomed back one of our own graduates to talk about his unique experience in the shipbuilding industry. Darron Roop, a 1995 graduate of the Ocean Engineering department, explained another approach to entering the shipbuilding industry. Starting out as a grunt worker, fairing hulls by hand out of college, Darron learned the essentials for developing a quality hull. Working his way up through the ranks and various companies, Darron recently felt he was ready to start his own Marine Development and Design Company based out of Virginia Beach. His purpose for visiting Tech was to look for some young enthusiastic engineers for future employment and share his great accomplishments.

Another highlight of this past month for the SNAME group at Tech was a very worthwhile trip to ASNE day on the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> of April. Much like the SNAME annual conference, ASNE day comprises of two days filled with interesting lectures and vendors. The SNAME Hokies were particularly impressed with Northrop Grumman Newport News's working scale model of NEMO. The students who attended also enjoyed the presentation by Mr. Don Burg on the concept of Ship with Wave Energy Engulfing Propulsors (SWEEP). The Tech SNAME students were eager to talk to various companies, in hopes they would assist with senior design projects and visit the college for recruitment and educational purposes. The Hokies appreciate the many companies who were just as interested and have hopes of working with them in the fall.

The Virginia Tech Student section appreciates SNAME for making this section available in the journal and looks forward to seeing everyone in Houston!