

## **View from the Helm**

January 2008 *Marine Technology*

### **“Ft. Lauderdale’s Finishing Flourish”**

(Impressions of the SMTC&E/SPS November 14-16, 2006)

The Society’s 2007 SNAME **Maritime Technology Conference & Exposition and Ship Production Symposium** (SMTC&E/SPS) was held again for the second year in Ft. Lauderdale convenient to all types and sizes of recreational water craft, power and sailing yachts, cruise ships and ocean-going commercial vessels. Our host hotel, the Hyatt Regency Pier 66, was just over the bridge and on the other side of the Intracoastal Waterway, but still very near the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center, where the technical program, the Cruise Ship and Shipbuilding Panels, numerous committee meetings and the Exposition were located.

#### ***The President’s Reception***

The Annual Meeting’s pre-events began with the Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday night. The following day there were numerous standing committee meetings, three accredited technical courses and the Council meeting, all conducted prior to the opening gala, the President’s Reception, located this year in the Expo Hall. Members roamed the exhibit hall to the delight of exhibitors while affording expanded socializing and networking opportunities with friends and colleagues. President Kramek both thanked Lloyd’s Register for sponsoring the reception and announced that Lloyd’s Educational Trust will be funding a new SNAME Student-of-the-Year Award for the 2008-09 academic years. In fact, it was hard not to run into a student this year, as they attended in record numbers (201) from colleges and universities located all over the Americas and Europe.

#### ***The President’s Address and General Business Meeting***

The first plenary session, which started promptly on Thursday morning, was opened by President Kramek with the delivery of his President’s Address which emphasized the diversity of our profession and the significant opportunities for naval architects and marine engineers at this particular time. He then introduced the Cruise Ship Panel session and its moderator, VADM James C. Card, USCG (Ret.). Distinguished panelists included RDML James A. Watson, USCG, Director of Prevention Policy, who at the last minute replaced RADM Brian M. Salerno, USCG, Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety, Security and Stewardship; Harris Kulovaara, Executive Vice President, Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines; Captain Thomas E. (Ted) Thompson, USCG (Ret.); Alan Gavin, Marine Director, Lloyd’s Register and Thomas Weigand, Director, Sales and Design Department, Meyer Werft Shipyard. Clearly, this industry has grown rapidly in the last three decades including the tonnage of its ships, with RCCL about to deliver its 232,000 ton, mega cruise ship, GENESIS OF THE SEAS. Technical advances in materials, operational safety, environmental conservation and energy efficiency were documented by the panelists and validated by over 200 members in attendance.

The 50-year Golden Membership Certificates were awarded to those members in attendance, Donald L. Caldera, Joseph J. Cuneo, John H. Klose, Raymond Pearlson and James G. Price. President Kramek then introduced the Chairman of the Papers Committee, Dr. Xiaozhi (Christina) Wang, who presented the American Bureau of Shipping – Captain Joseph H. Linnard Prize for the best paper presented at the previous annual meeting to Hans G. Payer and Raul Brostella for their paper entitled, “The Panama Canal Expansion and the Panamax Vessels of the Future.”

President Kramek then called on Dr. Edward M. Lewandowski to present the Vice Admiral E.L. Cochrane awards to Daniel Savitsky, Michael F. DeLorme and Raju Datla for their paper entitled, “Inclusion of Whisker Spray Drag in Performance Prediction Method for High-Speed Planing Hulls,” published in the January 2007 issue of *Marine Technology*, Volume 44, Number 1.

President Kramek announced that the recipients of the Distinguished Service Awards, Barbara L. Lamb, Southwest Section, and Dawson Miller, Canadian Atlantic Section, were receiving the SNAME Distinguished Service Awards for their dedicated personal service and technical contribution to the Society.

Executive Director Kimball called on recipients of Certificates of Appreciation, Thomas P. Mackey, Matthew L. Unger and John H. Higginbotham, to approach the podium whereupon President Kramek presented the award to each in turn, and certificates (in absentia) to Thomas Lamb and Frank G. Bercha.

President Kramek called upon Jose Femenia, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, to present the Honorary Member Certificates to Thomas P. Mackey and to Michael G. Parsons. The Chairs of the ten T&R Technical Committees were then recognized for their individual contributions to the program over the past year.

The Society’s Business Session was then called to order by President Kramek who asked Prof. Jose Femenia, Chair of the Nominating Committee, to announce the nomination of R. Keith Michel for President. Following seconding speeches by Joseph J. Cuneo, Peter G. Noble and Bruce S. Rosenblatt, and a vote by the membership, newly elected President-Elect Michel addressed the membership. The Business Session concluded with the passage of numerous Bylaw changes, a report on elections naming William DuBarry Thomas an Honorary Vice President, and the naming of Roderick A. Barr, Norman D. Birrell, Dietmar R. Fales, Carlos Guedes Soares, Richard W. Thorpe and Johannes E. Wichers as Fellows of the Society.

### ***The SNAME Expo***

The SNAME Expo numbered 107 booths and afforded event-goers an opportunity to network, meet potential business partners or clients, and to examine new products and emerging technologies in the ship and boat design, construction, technology and production and operations segments of the industry. For the third consecutive year, the schedule for the Innovation Sessions, short informative presentations on emerging technologies in the marine industry, have

been filled and well attended. These have proven to be popular for members, students and visitors and the exhibitors have found a way to reach an even larger targeted audience.

### ***The Technical Program***

The technical program included 13 papers on hydrodynamics, ship design, structure, propulsion and operations, and the ever-popular Ship Production Symposium with 13, production-oriented papers. Also included were a Cruise Ship panel and a Shipbuilding panel held as plenary sessions, two T&R presentations, three student papers and a student technical poster session. All technical papers and courses were accredited for those desirous of earning continuing education credits.

Three, day-long accredited technical courses were delivered simultaneously on Wednesday and presented in the hotel including “Seakeeping” by Dr. Edward M. Lewandowski, “Ship Arrangements” by H. David Kaysen, and “Sailing Yacht Performance Analysis” by Dr. Robert F. Beck and Dr. Kevin Maki.

Friday morning’s Shipbuilding Panel and second plenary session, moderated by Bruce Rosenblatt, President, ROH Inc., was comprised of Sean Connaughton, Maritime Administrator, US Maritime Administration; Fred Harris, President, General Dynamics/NASSCO; Ron McAlear, President and COO, Alabama Shipyards and Spencer Schilling, President, Herbert Engineering. Although all agreed that commercial shipbuilding in the US may never approach the affordability of ships currently being built in South Korean shipyards, the US yards can significantly close the gap by completing the design definition prior to detail design and by following the design/build concept. We can further close the gap through proven designs, design for production, modular construction, standardized parts, economies of scale, building in series as an “assembler,” and with US government assistance and the strategic deployment of capital.

### ***The SNAME Annual Banquet***

Following a lively pre-Banquet Reception on Thursday evening, the Crystal Ballroom was the venue for the 2007 SNAME Banquet. This year, in a departure from tradition, Susan Giver, SNAME’s Director of Outreach and Strategic Development, joined past president, Dr. Roger Compton and his wife, Jill, along with 9 of 28 members of the Webb Family Singers, the WOOFs, in the singing of the American and Canadian National Anthems much to the delight of an overflow audience. President Kramek followed by thanking the Banquet’s sponsor, ABS, and acknowledging the Southeast Section Chairman, Lee Dana, for his support of the 2007 SMTCE&E/SPS. Rick Spaulding, Chair of the Ship Production Committee, was called upon to present the 2007 Elmer L. Hann Award to Tyau-da Huang, William Patrick Keene (in absentia), Lee G. Kvidahl, Christopher Conrardy, Pingsha Dong and Lawrence Decan. He continued with the presentation of the 2007 William M. Kennedy Award to Jay P. Carson.

Following dinner President Kramek called upon Ronald K. Kiss to present the William H. Webb Medal to Dr. Roger H. Compton, F. Tim Pease to present the Blakeley Smith Medal to Howard L. Shatto, R. Keith Michel to present the “Vice Admiral ‘Jerry’ Land Medal to Bruce S. Rosenblatt. President Kramek then presented the David W. Taylor Medal to Hans G. Payer.

President Kramek then introduced our principal speaker for the evening, Vice Admiral Paul E. Sullivan, USN, Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command, who delivered the Annual Banquet address. VADM Sullivan described the current capabilities of the Navy’s 278-vessel fleet, and his challenge to build our country’s fighting naval capability to 313 in the next decade. He specifically addressed the students in the audience, and made it very clear to them that ample opportunities abound today for naval architects and marine engineers interested in a career in naval ship design and construction.

### *The Student Program*

On Thursday morning over 120 students assembled to participate in the design/build portion of the Student Congress, and to attend the Student Steering Committee meeting and elections for 2008/2009. Immediately following the SSC was the award ceremony to announce the prizewinners of the various SNAME-sponsored student design competitions with President Kramek and Executive Director Kimball presiding.

Matthew Werner, Chair of the SNAME Education Committee, awarded the 2007 Graduate Paper Honor Prize to James P. Morash (in absentia) for his paper, “A Modular High Voltage Lithium-Ion Battery for Unmanned Marine Vehicles” presented to the New England Section, February 8, 2007. Gregory R. Mitchell was awarded the Graduate Paper Award (in absentia) for his paper, “A Concept Design Tool for Small Planing Craft” presented to the New England Section, February 8, 2007.

The 2007 Undergraduate Paper Honor Prize was presented to Peter Bryn for his paper, “A Systematic Approach for Modifying the Stern of the 0.65 Block Series 60 Hull,” presented to the New York Metropolitan Section, June 2007. And lastly, the 2007 Undergraduate Paper Award was presented to James Sannino, Evan Karlik, Christina Gomez, Seth E. Clark, Nina Young and Nathaniel Chan for their paper, “RoBoat: Design and Field Testing of an Autonomous Surface Vessel and Acoustic Tracking System” presented to the New England Section, Fall 2006.

President Kramek and David Stephenson, Technical Director for ASNE, made the presentation of the First Place prize for the 2006 Dr. James A. Lisnyk Ship Design Competition to the student team from The Norwegian University of Science and Technology for its winning entry, “Rapid Response Vessel.” A team from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University received the Second Prize for its winning design, “Large Ocean Interface Submarine SSLOI.” Third Prize was awarded to the team from University of Newcastle upon Tyne for its winning entry, “Double Acting Container Carrier.”

The 2007 International Student Offshore Design Competition (ISODC), First Place prize was awarded by Dr. Jon Mikkelsen, Senior Instructor/Capstone Design Coordinator, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of British Columbia, to a student team from Texas A&M for its winning design, “Conceptual Design of a Semi-Submersible Floating Oil and Gas Production

System for Offshore Malaysia.” Dr. Mikkelsen announced the awards for Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Place winning designs to Texas A&M Team 1 for its winning entry, “Design of a Semi-Submersible Production and Drilling Facility for the Gulf of Mexico,” to the Federal University for its winning entry, “Preliminary Design of a Dry Completion System for a Mono-Column Platform,” to Texas A&M Team 2 for its winning entry, “Design of a Semi-Submersible Floating production System for the Brazil Offshore Environment,” and to Texas A&M Team 4 for its winning entry, ”Design of a Semi-Submersible Floating Production System for Offshore West Africa,” respectively.

Dr. Alan Brown, NAVSEA Professor of Ship Design at Virginia Tech, presented the 2007 International Student Workboat/Small Craft/Yacht Design Competition Awards. First Prize was awarded to Webb Institute for its winning design, “Modular Express Cruiser.” Second Prize was awarded to a team from Webb Institute for its winning entry, “Hybrid Solar Electric Sailboat,” and Third Prize was awarded to a team from the University of British Columbia for its winning design, “Fast Oil Spill Response Vessel.”

### *The Student Congress Competition*

A highlight for the registrants and visitors in attendance was the continuing focus on SNAME Students who participated again in their own “icebreaker” social, the popular Job Fair, and the Student Steering Committee meeting to elect new officers for 2008. On Thursday, over 120 students took part in the Student Congress, the Awards presentations, and the “design and build” competition created by members of the Student Steering Committee. This year’s competition, again held in the Expo Hall, called for the construction of a hull made from basic materials such as aluminum foil, wire coat hangers, Popsicle sticks and packaging tape. The finished designs were put to the test in a pool of water by being filled with soda cans. Each hull design was strategically loaded by students to maintain its stability until it submerged and sank from the weight. The winning design held an incredible 185 soda cans, about 100 pounds, much to the surprise and delight of the large and attentive audience.

Overall the SMTC&E/SPS was a huge success and our members voiced their confidence that next year in Houston will be more so when they heard that our plans include far reaching modifications and improvements to the technical program designed to appeal to a wider segment of the membership. Over the coming months we will be revealing our plans for this meeting, which is planned for October 15-17, 2008, so look for updates in the **SNAME***NewsLetter*, and mark your calendars now!