



SNAME Texas Section



2012 OTC SNAME TX 'Mentor-for-a-Day' Program



2500 companies from 46 countries exhibiting on 641,000 ft²; 300 technical papers presented; 89,000 attendees from around the world; the numbers are staggering. And standing in the midst of it with people, booths and equipment at every turn, the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) can be overwhelming.

Each year in Houston, the OTC showcases state-of-the-art technology for offshore drilling, exploration, production, environmental protection and emerging technologies. It is the world's foremost event for the development of offshore resources. OTC attendees have an unparalleled opportunity to hear about the latest and greatest happenings in the industry – and network with the companies and individuals that are driving it.

Upon Peter Noble's initiative, with a goal of fostering learning and education of young naval architects, marine and ocean engineers, SNAME Texas Section took the chance to introduce students to opportunities in the offshore industry. The 'Mentor-for-a-Day' program, organized by the SNAME Texas Section, is in its 3rd year of operation offering the students unique access to this event. Students from SNAME Student Sections are paired with experienced industry professionals from the Texas Section who guide them around OTC, explaining different aspects of the industry and introducing key individuals and companies.

Initially the program focused on students local to Texas, as well as students from the Webb Institute who were attending the conference; however, this year the program committee members reached out to out of state and international student sections (32) achieving a resounding success with over 51 students from 11 schools in 4 countries. 24 mentors volunteered their time and expertise to guide the students. Additionally, through Rod Allan's (SNAME) involvement with OTC, interested student attendees were able to attend to the topical breakfast presentations.

Thalia Kruger, Texas Section Vice-Chair, Chair-Elect and Mentor-for-a-Day Program Chair states, "The mentors were impressed with the student's preparation and interest, and students were grateful for the mentors sharing their passion and life experiences with them. This is what it is all about; sharing experiences to keep Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering thriving with young people."

Thanks to the committee members Jason Petten and Amy Hickey and to all of our mentors and students for attending and making this years program a success. We started planning for 2013 program already, looking to expand and improve upon this year's success. We hope to have more mentors and students, involve members from other sections, and provide tangible contribution to the growth of our profession within the offshore industry.