

A Little Help from My Friends

Just as the Beatles so memorably sang in their 1960's hit, "I get by with a little help from my friends", so ACMA reaches out from time to time for assistance in the complex world of naval architecture and marine engineering. And that "little" help (and some times a lot of help) comes from friends and colleagues who bring their considerable talents to the firm as associates on a number of projects.

As associate Bruce Johnson recently noted, "When the needs of a client require a specialized skill set of knowledge and abilities, associates can bring that extra level of assistance to the ACMA team."

ACMA Vice President Darrel Harvey agrees. "When we need the in-depth experience of a seasoned industry veteran on a project, we naturally turn to people with whom we've

developed long-term business relationships as well as friendships. These are the folks we can trust to make important decisions and provide sound

advice on highly-technical and sophisticated projects, and we've had the good fortune of working with some of our industry's very best performers."

Of course, ACMA has always been proud of its tradition of teamwork and the team that has contributed to the company's success has and always will include our extended family of industry associates.



Q4000 SWATH: One of the many projects where ACMA has utilized the specialized talents of its associates.

SNAME Presentations at OTC 2008 and Beyond

In 2008, the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) continued setting new attendance records at a level not seen since the late 70s with over 70,000 participants from more than 100 countries. And, just as he has done for the past four years, ACMA's VP Darrel Harvey continued to develop the program agenda for the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME) as its OTC Sub-Committee Chairman.

One of the eleven founding societies that cooperate in putting together the technical sessions for OTC, SNAME assisted the Society of Mining Engineers this year in producing technical sessions that discussed hydrates – their composition, formation, production and harnessing as an alternative form of fuel.

As for OTC 2009, Darrel is already in the process of organizing Special Sessions that will cover the following topics: API RP-2SK Station-Keeping & Mooring Recommended Practices, Composite Materials and Their Uses Offshore, Cryogenic Pipeline Technologies, and Arctic Exploration and Production Challenges. And, while these subjects certainly have important applications in the offshore industry, they will also contribute to advances in a broad range of associated industries. As Darrel is fond of saying, "I've always thought of the offshore industry as the 'plankton' of the marine world. The innovative technologies that are developed for offshore applications help 'feed' the future growth of products and services for a variety of allied marine industries."



From the Top

The available personnel pool in our industry seems very shallow these days. We either have very senior experienced executives or very young, new recruits. Not much in between. It's the results of an industry that, with the exception of the past few years, has been treading water for the last twenty years.

Hopefully, our reservoir of experienced personnel will begin to fill up again as our industry experiences the surge of growth we're all enjoying as we respond to the world's rapidly increasing need to find, secure and transport new energy supplies.

In the interim, we'll continue to fill the gap with experienced consultants, as noted in this issue's lead article. But, in the long run, it's imperative that we pass on to the next generation of naval architects and marine engineers not only our expertise, but also our passion for our craft.

If we're successful, we'll create that critical continuity of talented professionals who will be needed to find new, innovative solutions to today's most challenging problems and advance our industry over the next several decades.



Scott C. McClure, President



Project Update

Major projects that have been keeping the ACMA team busy include:

TXDOT's Galveston-Port Bolivar Ferry: As the owner's representative, ACMA is overseeing the construction of this vessel at the Conrad Industries yard in Morgan City, Louisiana. Fit-up and weld-out has been progressing well and Conrad's very cooperative effort is making quick work of the hull. The launch date has been moved forward from October to early September.

Q4000 SWATH: ACMA has finished the inclining for this multi-task semisubmersible and the results are currently in ABS for review and acceptance.

Helix PRODUCER 1: This fast track project is currently being engineered and ACMA has provided a number of FEA analysis as well as class interactions that will help keep things moving forward. This vessel will be the first ship-shaped FPU to be used in the US Gulf of Mexico.

Bisso Marine: ACMA is currently finishing up the engineering package for the BISSO DIVER 1 and is putting the package together for USCG approval. As this project wraps up, we're in the process of finalizing the beginning of a new project.

There are also several small jobs that include FiFi 1 installations, retro-fitted barge accommodations and various stability verifications for a large drilling company.

Dusty Hardin: Always a Good First Impression

Whether you walk through ACMA's double doors or call on the phone, your first impression of ACMA is going to be a good one, especially when 6-year veteran receptionist and administrative assistant Dusty Hardin is there to greet you with a smile or efficiently direct your call. But don't let her shy smile or soft voice fool you. She's the ultimate gatekeeper and she's perfected the art of keeping unwanted solicitors out.

Dusty began her career in 1998, immediately following her graduation from high school in Dayton, Texas. Her first move was to Austin, Texas where she worked with the Gallop Poll for two years and then transferred with the company to Houston to be closer to her family.

When Dusty's best friend began working for the Houston District Attorney's office, she suggested Dusty apply. She did and was hired a week later. For the first year, she worked in intake – the 3pm to 11pm shift.

"As officers filed charges, they would come in with their reports," said Dusty. We'd type them up and send them to the appropriate Assistant D.A. This involved reading a lot of gruesome things which took an emotional toll on everyone. After the first year, I was offered an 8-5 position in the felony courts."

Right before she was about to accept, a friend told her ACMA was looking for a secretary. She applied and was hired in April of 2002. The D.A.'s office tried to counter the offer, but ACMA was too close to her home and she didn't have to pay daily, downtown parking fees. Fortunately for everyone at AMCA, she chose to leave the D.A.'s office. She's worked at ACMA ever since.

According to Office Manager, Michelle Hargrove, "Dusty is very resourceful – if it's on the Internet, she can find it. "But as good as her 'net surfing abilities are, VP Darrel Harvey claims her proof-reading skills are legend. "Dusty is exceptional," says Darrel. "As a matter of fact, she's probably already found the two typos in this article."



Dusty Hardin

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Founded in 1975, Alan C. McClure Associates, Inc. (ACMA) is one of the industry's premier naval architecture and engineering firms. Headquartered in Houston, Texas, we've provided advanced design and engineering services to our international clientele in offshore exploration, production and marine transportation for over 30 years.



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