

Project Update

It's been another busy year! Some of the projects we've had in-house have been completed, some are nearing completion and others are just getting started.

TXDOT's Galveston-Port Bolivar Ferry: We are winding down with the detailed engineering and, as is usually the case, 'the devil is in the details' as we proceed with the vessel construction. Conrad Industries in Morgan City, Louisiana, is putting the boat together and they've done such a good job, it's made our involvement as owner's representative very easy. Conrad Industries recently completed the launch and roll-over of the hull. To view videos of this milestone, please click on the images.



[CLICK HERE](#)
to view the "launch" video.



[CLICK HERE](#)
to view the "roll-over" video.

Helix PRODUCER 1: This project is starting to wind down and our involvement is slowly tapering off.

When she's finally outfitted, tested and ready for service, the Helix PRODUCER 1 will be the first dynamically-positioned floating production/offloading vessel (FPO) in the US Gulf of Mexico. An interesting note – this will be ACMA's 36th floating production project in about as many years.

K-Sea Transportation: We're beginning ATB barge modifications that include in-house Finite Element Analysis for the modified barge structure. This project is similar to one we managed a few years ago for their barge DBL134.

Bisso Marine: ACMA has submitted the engineering package for the conversion of the BISSO DIVER 1 to the USCG for approval and we are proceeding with vessel modifications.

These are the major projects currently in-house. We've also been blessed with a number of repeat-customer jobs that are smaller in nature and provide opportunities to help fill in the quiet spots. This work covers areas of detailed engineering, lightship adjustment monitoring, stability, speed/powering, vessel motions and mooring analysis, as well as construction specification development.

2009 SNAME OTC Presentations Nearing Completion

As 2008 comes to a close, so do the preparations for the technical sessions that will be offered by the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME) at 2009's Offshore Technology Conference (OTC). According to ACMA's VP Darrel Harvey, who serves as SNAME's OTC Sub-Committee Program

Chairperson, "All of our programs are now locked in and we're in the process of following up on the completion of the papers and PowerPoints that are in their final stages of development."

"Our 2009 presentations will represent the broad range of issues that impact the eleven founding



From the Top

Who would have guessed as we sailed into 2008 that we'd see the economy change so quickly from a strong breeze of growing prosperity to a raging storm that's threatening a worldwide financial meltdown?



After all, ACMA launched the year with a full slate of diversified projects. And, as expected, when the price of a barrel of oil continued to increase, so did the industry's interest in expanding exploration and production... always a good sign for our business.

But then, the unexpected happened. Financial institutions sprung a leak. The economy began to sink worldwide and so did the price of oil.

However, in spite of the drastic downturn in the world's economy, the workload at ACMA hasn't diminished appreciably. I believe that's because over the years we've built a solid foundation by offering a broad range of services to a diversified base of clients and strategic partners.

So, my special thanks to you all for your ongoing confidence and support. Remember, together we can weather this passing storm. In the meantime, batten down the hatches, because there are undoubtedly several more unexpected swells on the horizon.

Scott C. McClure, President

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societies that cooperate in putting together the technical sessions for OTC," said Darrel. Two of the most anticipated topics for the 2009 sessions include discussions on alternative fuels, and arctic exploration and production.

Darrel went on to note that, with the wrap-up of OTC 2009 going so smoothly, planning for OTC 2010 will begin in February.



Miles Williams: Texas Born, Bred and Based

Even though Miles recently launched his career in an industry that spans the globe, it becomes quickly apparent that Texas has and will continue to play a significant role in his life.

Born in Houston, Texas, 25 years ago, Miles spent the majority of his early years growing up in Garland, Texas. That is, until he moved to Bryan/College Station to attend Texas A&M University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Ocean Engineering in 2007.

"When I first entered college, I thought computer programming would be a good field to pursue," said Miles. "Unfortunately, there was too much programming!" Fortunately, that led Miles to Ocean Engineering, a specialized area that attracts a surprisingly small number of students.

"There were only about 30 people in my graduating class," said Miles. "But we all had the advantage of working very closely with our advisor, Bob Randall, who had lots of contacts in the industry and a great track record of getting students placed with some of the better firms."

"Even though I interviewed with several firms," said Miles, "Scott was one of the first to make me an offer. But more importantly, I really liked the people, the small office environment and the Houston location."

Since joining ACMA in January of this year, Miles has handled a variety of assignments on a number of different projects.

"My first several months have been very busy

and I've experienced a huge learning curve," said Miles. "One of the best aspects of working at ACMA has been the wide range of projects. I also like the hands-on experience of going onsite to the ship, taking the actual measurements and then comparing them to the numbers we crunched back at the office to verify how close our expectations were when we went from drawings to actual applications."

On the home front, Miles is married to Rachel, a Biology major whom he met at Texas A&M and married shortly after graduation. Like Miles, Rachel is a native Texan from the Corpus Christi area. In their leisure time, they enjoy camping, fishing and hunting. However, it appears they're about to add biking to their list of activities, since they've both been recruited to ride with the world-renowned ACMA Knots in the MS 150 charity bike ride...another Texas tradition.



Miles Williams