

## **Acceptance Speech on Election as President of SNAME.**

November 18, 2011

by  
Peter Noble

President Comstock, Nomination Committee Chair, Tom Mackey and seconders, Randal, Ronning and Roden and fellow SNAME members,

I humbly accept the honor you have accorded me by voting me to be your next president.

I recognize that this is a job as well as an honor, and I commit to working hard in that role.

Just a quick word following on the remarks made last night by our 2011 Land Medalist, Steven Payne, naval architect of Queen Mary II fame.

Like Stephen Payne I grew up in the UK and had early inspiration which led me to seek a career as a naval architect – but mine did not come from Blue Peter (the BBC program I also fondly recall) but from our local library.

I was fascinated by a set of extremely large, old books written in 1865 and titled *The Modern System of Naval Architecture*, by Scott Russell (who you students of ship building history will recall, built the Great Eastern for Brunel)

In that book he has a definition of a Naval Architect

*“A naval architect should be able to design, draw, calculate, lay down, cut out, set up, fasten, fit, finish, equip, launch and send to sea a ship out of his own head.*

*He should be able to tell beforehand at what speed she will go, what freight she will carry, what qualities she will show in a sea, - before it, athwart it, against it, - on a wind, close hauled, going free, - what she will stow, and carry, and earn and expend.*

*On his word you should be able to rely, that what he says, that his ship will infallibly do.”*

Well, 50 plus years later I am still striving to become a naval architect as defined by Scott Russell

While I am not the first graduate of the University of Glasgow to hold this office (as several of our Presidents from the early days of our Society have similar education backgrounds, having been sent there for training by the US Navy), I do believe that I am the first to be elected to this position, who is a Scottish born and educated, Canadian citizen, who is a Texan by choice, has 4

Norwegian grandsons and who just returned from Singapore on Wednesday evening to attend this meeting,

I think this shows a continuing recognition about the importance to SNAME of the international arena on which our banquet speaker, Stephen Carmel, expounded last night. We truly live in the global village - a village where Naval Architects are important

Since the planet on which we live on is largely covered by water and since humankind thrives because of our capability to successfully harness the resources which the world provides, those who are trained to create technological solutions associated with the ocean, Naval Architects, Marine and Ocean Engineers, must, a priori, be amongst the most important class of persons on our little globe.

I hope I can try to emulate John Quincy Adams' definition of a leader when he said

*"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."*

Thank you again for your confidence in electing me as your next president. I look forward to leading our Society forward into our shared future.