As the Ocean Energy Safety Institute (OESI) Principal Investigator, I am pleased to announce that former Navy Captain James Pettigrew has been selected to be the Director of Operations. OESI provides a forum for dialogue, shared learning and cooperative research among academia, government, industry and other non-government organizations in offshore-related technologies and activities that help ensure environmentally safe and responsible offshore operations. Jim is retired from the Navy and assumed his new position on May 12.

Jim has extensive experience, including three decades of worldwide maritime operations, risk assessment, and program management. I believe Jim has the drive and leadership abilities to develop and mature OESI and strive toward environmentally safe and responsible offshore operations. He will be a great asset to the OESI team and our partners.

In the Navy, Jim worked predominantly in operational oceanography, surface warfare, and information systems management. He served most recently as Chief of Staff for the Commander of Naval Meteorology and Oceanography. There he was responsible for the direction and leadership of a team of 150 people, executing a $300 million annual budget, the operations of 4,000 personnel worldwide, the nation's Master Clock, two world-class supercomputing facilities, and six military Oceanographic Survey Ships.

Jim received his Master’s of Science from the Naval Postgraduate School and received his Bachelor’s of Science from Texas A&M University. He is the recipient of numerous military awards.

We look forward to collaborating and developing OESI with Jim.
This year also saw several other changes with regard to the Mary Kay O’Connor Process Safety Center personnel. Both Donna Startz (after a 17-year career with the Center) and Tricia Hasan (after a 3-year stint) left for new opportunities elsewhere. We also recently had the opportunity to have Alanna Scheinerman join the Center. Please join me in wishing Donna and Tricia well in their new careers and welcoming Alanna to the Center.

M. Sam Mannan

Spring, 2014