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The ALUMNI MAGAZINE of MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY





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#### MARINER STAFF

#### Director of College Relations

Jennifer DeJoy / jennifer.dejoy@mma.edu

#### **Fditor**

Laurie Stone / laurie.stone@mma.edu

#### Designer & Production Editor

Deanna Yocom / deanna.yocom@mma.edu

#### Ad Representative

Deanna Yocom / deanna.yocom@mma.edu

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### President

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#### Provost & V. P. for Academic Affairs

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Dr. Darrell W. Donahue

#### Chief Financial Officer

James Soucie

#### Director of Alumni Affairs

Paul Mercer '73

#### Associate of Alumni Affairs

Alyssa Allen / alyssa.allen@mma.edu

Postmaster: Please send change of address notice to Alumni Office, Maine Maritime Academy, Castine, ME 04420.

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US ...

MMA President DR. WILLIAM J. BRENNAN

e received news in August that Money Magazine ranked Maine Maritime Academy the number one public college in the U.S. We were #12 on their overall list of colleges and #4 on a list of Colleges That Add the Most Value (please see page 8 for more information). The magazine's data were based on a review of 665 qualifying institutions nationwide that were scored on 17 factors in three categories: quality of education, affordability, and outcomes. Our ranking within this data is news of which our entire community can be extremely proud.

This one success is a reflection of many successes—both past and present. It represents the dedication of our faculty and staff who instruct, assist, and advise our students as they navigate coursework, practical training, and daily life in college. It represents the dedication of our alumni and staff who support students' cooperative education experiences, research endeavors, cadet shipping, and early career moves. It illustrates that all of the ways we collectively support our students' growth and development are important and play a part in our overall success.

Every year at Convocation I make it a point to convey this message: we are one community, one family, and we must help each other however we can. It's a great feeling to support others, and it can also make a tremendous difference to someone else, particularly if they are struggling. When one of us overcomes a struggle, we all succeed. Over time, person by person, Maine Maritime Academy alumni have successfully built a worldwide reputation for the college. For some, our Money magazine scores may have come as a surprise, but we are well aware of the benefits of an MMA education, and of the accomplishments of our alumni.

Some of our alumni have achieved success in surprising ways, taking career paths that have diverged greatly from their original plan. In this issue of the Mariner, we focus on a number of alumni who have gone above and beyond their original career goals to become experts in fields they never imagined going into. It is remarkable that many alumni have not only a multitude of interests, but also the capacity to succeed in a wide range of professional pursuits.

I hope you will enjoy reading about some of your fellow alumni in this issue. I also hope that you will take a moment to acknowledge what you do, and have done, to contribute to the prosperity of Maine Maritime Academy. Every person in the MMA family has a role in its success.

#### A Rich Experience

#### By HALEY HUNT GRIFFIN '15

In the 2014 spring semester, Maine Maritime Academy partnered with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and, through the partnership, sponsored one student to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), June 5th – 7th. For the 'trial-run', I was the lucky student sent to the NCCWSL at the University of Maryland.

At the conference, there were five pre-conference sessions to choose from: So You Want to Work in Politics?, Art or Muse, There is A Reason It Is the First Amendment, Brush Up on Your Military Herstory, and Do Your Part to End Poverty. I chose the third option. We visited the Newseaum in Washington, DC and learned about challenges and opportunities faced by photo-journalists, viewed powerful Pulitzer Prize winning photographs, and explored the new 9/11 Gallery. I left this pre-conference activity feeling humbled, touched, and inspired to create more positive news stories for the world.

Once the conference started, nine hundred women attendees discovered how to find their voices at the opening session titled *Finding Your Voice*, a presentation led by the 2011 Woman of Distinction, Marsha Guenzler-Stevens. This presentation encouraged women to identify their passions, speak up for their beliefs, and find the confidence to pursue their dreams in a

competitive economy. The afternoon was filled with an activity called "Sharing Your Voice" at which the attendees were challenged to assess their personal values and share their reasons with the group, heard an empowering presentation by featured speaker Chelsea Clinton, and attended the Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony and Reception.

The second day was filled with workshop sessions (we could only pick 4 out of 56!), a graduate school fair, and a career fair and exhibits. The night was capped with an exploration of Union Station or Dupont Circle.

The third and final day opened with a presentation by Deanna Zandt, who encouraged the use of social media to target social issues. She was followed by an energizing a capella performance by Capital Blend.

Through leadership and involvement in various clubs and organizations at MMA, I have learned leadership skills. However, at the conference, there were over nine hundred women with whom to network, share ideas, and learn. Listening to what others were studying, passionately involved in, and planning to do after graduation was really humbling, thought-provoking, eye-opening, and comforting. I saw many options to pursue, and gained confidence in who I am. It was awesome!

Seeing others' confidence and bravery to pursue their dreams in the presentations was refresh-



Photo by Haley Hunt-Griffin '15

ing and inspirational. Additionally, the sessions I attended: Creating Change and Sustaining Sanity: Essential Project and Personal Management Skills in Sustainability, How to Talk Your Way Out of Any Sticky Situation, Yoga, Body Image, and Eating Disorders, and Serving as a Change Agent on Your Campus got my creative juices flowing. I brought back to MMA ideas about sustainability and school-spirit. These ideas are percolating through my classwork and involvement with the Student Mariner Society.

MMA through NCCWSL provided me with tools to grow holistically. I am grateful for such a rich experience!

Jillian Perron '15 with one of her research subjects - a red octopus. Photo by A Verde.

#### **New Connections**

#### By JILLIAN PERRON '15

SCUBA diving in the cold waters of the Puget Sound was a common occurrence for me over the course of my summer. I was very fortunate to dedicate 12 weeks of my summer to the Rosario Beach Marine Laboratory in Anacortes, Wash., conducting my senior research project (under the guidance of Professor Alan Verde) on the feeding mechanisms and learning behavior of red octopuses, Octopus Rubescens. My experiments investigated the difference in feeding behavior of the octopus when it is provided a thin-shelled or a thick-shelled clam to feed on. With the aid of a flowing seawater facility, multiple underwater cameras, and a highly sensitive hydrophone, I was able to record each octopus pulling the bivalve shells apart over time. The hydrophone allowed me to determine when the octopuses used their radula (a rasping tooth-like structure) to drill a hole in the shell of the clam to inject

venom and weaken the adductor muscles of the clams, which make pulling the shells apart significantly easier.

Along with conducting my research project, I dove throughout Puget Sound and observed the spectacular biota beneath the water's surface including giant pacific octopuses, Puget Sound king crab, anemones, sea pens, purple sea urchins, and a variety of sea star, fish, and nudibranch species. Weekly hiking and boating adventures exposed me to first hand experiences with pods of feeding orcas, seals sunbathing on the warm rocks, multiple bald eagle sightings, and many more encounters with the wildlife of the North Pacific. Living on the rocky beaches of the Puget Sound was the most incredible and humbling experience of my life and it allowed me to make connections and new friendships that I am ever so thankful for. I am especially grateful to the MMA Ocean Studies Department which underwrote my internship through the Sawyer Fund.



Alumni President JAMES PROULX'85

#### Dear Fellow MMA Alumni,

The breadth and depth of the talents of the alumni of MMA are truly remarkable on several levels and from several perspectives. Many of our alumni entered MMA with an idea about where their training and experience would take them only to find that their paths turned in different directions. As an example, in my class alone, we produced two MDs that I am aware of: **Dr. Jeff** 

Jordan '85 and Dr. Gary Bennett '85. I don't know that a career in medicine was what either gentleman thought was in his future when he entered MMA in the fall of 1981. What prompts any of us to choose a career either in the maritime industry or other related or unrelated fields generally is a result of some opportunity that we didn't perceive as freshmen. The experience of successfully completing our studies at MMA in some way shaped where we have ended up and the success we have found in our varied careers.

Those diversions in our professional careers provide an appropriate analogy to the challenge facing the Alumni Association of MMA as well. Board members of our Alumni Association are taking the challenge head on. We will dedicate our energies over the next year to developing a new and updated strategic plan that will dovetail with the Academy's recently adopted strategic plan. This is of the highest priority in order to ensure that your Alumni Association best

In the coming months, we will be reaching out to each of you, asking for your input on how your Alumni Association can represent you best. We value the input from all alumni and we urge each of you to take the time to provide crucial feed-

back to us so that we can confidently represent your interests. We plan to send surveys asking for your input, and will also ask for your participation in helping to develop a new strategic plan for our Alumni Association. Board member **Bill Full '76** will be heading up that important task and I ask that you give Bill and his committee your full support.

Whether you have pursued a career in the maritime field or you are doing something completely different from what you envisioned when you enrolled at MMA, your input is powerful and needed and wanted. We look forward to hearing your perspective and suggestions as we tackle the new strategic plan together.

Fair Winds and Following Seas,



Jim Proulx '85

#### ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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#### James Proulx '85

5 Coach Road Stratham, NH 03885 B: 603-659-7011 H: 603-772-6576

jimproulx@proulxoilandpropane.com

#### Vice President

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32 Locksley Lane Brewer, ME 04412 jcote@cianbro.com

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6 Sweet Haven Lane Harpswell, ME 04079 H: 207-729-6644 callechman@comcast.net

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#### Michael X. Savasuk, Esq. '74

Troubh Heisler, PA
511 Congress Street, Suite 700
Portland, ME 04101-5011
B: 207-780-6789
msavasuk@troubhheisler.com

#### Capt. Michael Ball '65

23 Hunting Ridge Farms Rd Branford, CT 06405 Seapilot4@comcast.net

#### Capt. Thomas F. Brown '64

3 Bayside Ln Falmouth, ME 04105 capttfb@maine.rr.com

#### Bruce Carter '52

PO Box 115 Franklin, ME 04634 abcarter@gwi.net

#### Capt. Donald R Fiske '62

33 Webber Rd Georgetown, ME 04548 drufiske@gmail.com

#### Capt. Leroy Fournier '72

280 Randall Rd Lewiston, ME 04240 lfournier@alionscience.com

#### Capt. William S Full '76

3 Balsam Dr Cumberland Center, ME 04021 bill@ecys.com

#### John Gillis '72

15813 NE 164th St Woodinville, WA 98072 jdgglobalenergy@comcast.net

#### Chet T. Manuel '67

51 Crescent St Skowhegan, ME 04976 cxcmanuel@gmail. Com

#### Meghan Marshall '06

38 Edgewood Avenue Portland, ME 04103 meghan.marshall@target.com

#### Stephen E Spratt '93

577 Castine Rd Castine, ME 04421 sespratt@aol.com

#### Capt. Ralph Staples '71

7312 Arroyo Grande Rd San Diego, CA 92129 rstaples@epsilonsystems.com

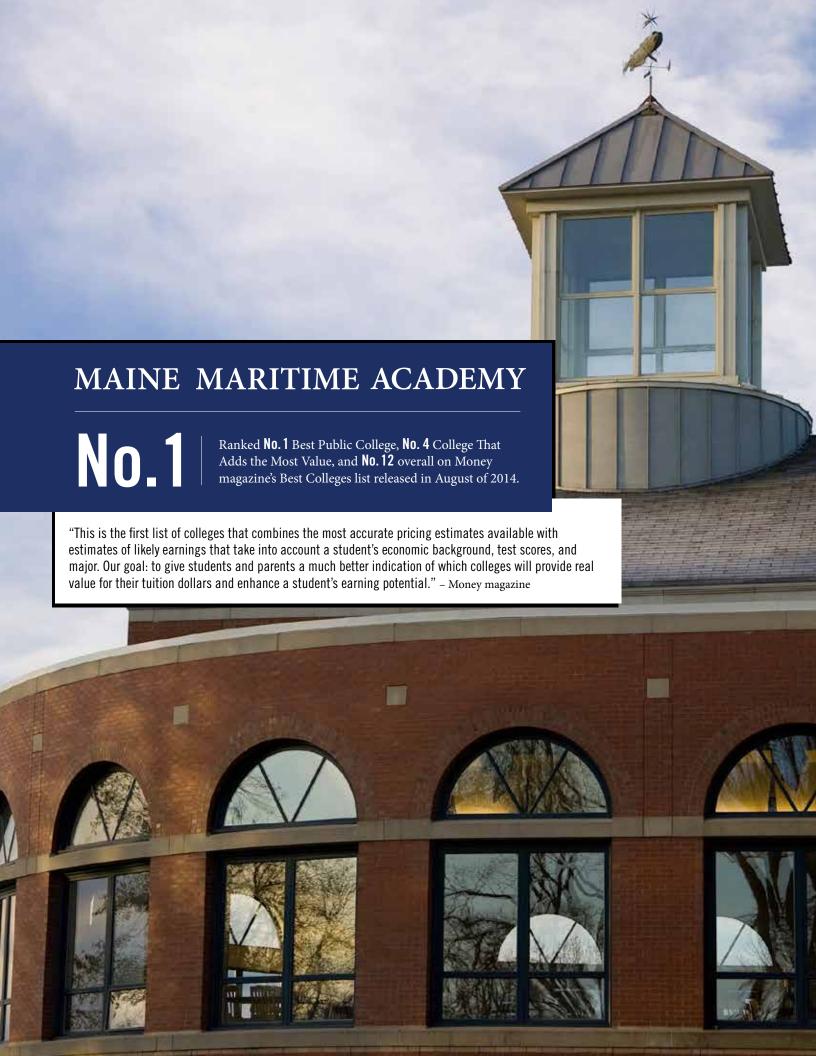
#### Timothy C. Winters '86

29 Fieldstone Dr Dover, NH 03820 tcwints@comcast.net

#### Past President

#### Earle Cianchette '77

33 Scrimshaw Lane Saco, Maine 04072 ecianch@cianbro.com



### No.1 25

## THE BEST PUBLIC COLLEGE LIST

#### # SCHOOL

#### 1 Maine Maritime Academy

- 2 University of California-Berkeley
- 3 University of Virginia
- 4 Virginia Military Institute
- 5 University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
- 6 Texas A & M University
- 7 University of Florida
- 8 University of California-Los Angeles
- 9 University of California-Irvine
- 0 University of Washington at Bothell



## THE COLLEGES THAT ADD THE MOST VALUE LIST

#### # SCHOOL

- 1 Mount St. Mary's College
- 2 University of California-Irvine
- 3 Art Center College of Design

#### 4 Maine Maritime Academy

- 4 Holy Family University
- 6 Manhattan College
- 7 University of Washington-Bothell
- 8 La Salle University
- 9 Rutgers University-Newark
- 9 California State University-Northridge
- 11 Gwynedd Mercy University



## THE OVERALL BEST COLLEGES LIST

#### # SCHOOL

- 1 Babson College
- 2 Webb Institute
- 3 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 4 Princeton University
- 5 Stanford University
- 6 Harvard University
- 7 Harvey Mudd College
- 8 Cooper Union
- 9 Brigham Young University
- 10 California Institute of Technology
- 11 University of Pennsylvania

#### 12 Maine Maritime Academy

- 13 University of California-Berkeley
- 14 Williams College
- 15 Yale University
- 16 University of Virginia
- 17 Amherst College
- 18 Virginia Military Institute
- 19 Brown University
- 20 Rice University
- 20 University of Notre Dame

## on top of the rankings

#### VALIDATION OF WHAT WE KNOW MAKES MMA UNIQUE

by Jennifer DeJoy

In a first-ever data project to rank U.S. colleges and universities according to "the best value for your money," Money magazine brought recognition to Maine Maritime Academy on three "best" lists, published in August of 2014. The Academy was ranked #1 Best Public College, #4 College That Adds The Most Value, and #12 overall.

The ranking data was collected and analyzed by Money staff and independent consultants who initially reviewed nearly 1500 public and private colleges to qualify their set of 665 institutions they would put to the value test.

The 665 schools were then compared over three focused areas, which were considered equally: quality of education, affordability, and career outcomes. Maine Maritime Academy outshone some very familiar names in the public and private college arena when measured on 17 different factors, including graduation rate, instructor quality, net price of a degree, student loan default risk, early career earnings, and mid-career earnings.

The Academy has also been counted among the top regional colleges and engineering schools in the country by U.S. News & World Report. We were ranked the number eight Regional College North this year and we have sported their badge on our website for several years. Data for the U.S. News & World Report rankings is mostly submitted directly from the schools via a comprehensive questionnaire, the answers to which are double-checked through other information sources. "Measures of graduation and retention are the most heavily weighted factors in the Best Colleges rankings," according to the usnews.com/education website.

Money magazine's rankings—perhaps because we landed a number-one spot, perhaps because of differences in methodology—brought about conversations and feedback from all corners of the Academy family.

"It's further confirmation that the value of a Maine Maritime Academy education cannot be understated; MMA provides hands-on programming, experiences, placement and networking which consistently define tangible success," said Dr. Marc Gousse '82, Superintendent of Westbrook Schools. Jordan Dehlinger '16, an International Business and Logistics major, said of the rankings, "They make me very proud to be a student getting my education here, especially knowing that I'll be reinforcing the school's reputation in the future."

Top rankings do make us proud. There is a certain validation that comes with the acknowledgement that our institution measures up, that we belong on a list with other highly esteemed colleges, and that our graduates are not only surviving, but thriving when they go out into the real world. But, what does this new notoriety mean for our future?

It's too early to say whether we are seeing the early signs of a trend, or whether it's a spike in interest. Last year, when we received greater numbers of inquiries early in the admissions season, Director of Admissions Jeff Wright dubbed it 'The Capt. Phillips effect.' This fall, we've seen unusually early interest in open house events and applications, so we are encouraging students to apply early. We are managing greater numbers of inquiries from guidance counselors, prospective students, and parents. On the admissions front, this is a successful time.

As we take up the challenge to manage greater admissions numbers, we must also stay true to the immeasurable ways that we are unique. The importance of our alumni network, the significance of our close-knit community, and the worldwide reputation of our graduates—these are singular to Maine Maritime and critical to our success. In many ways, they embody our success as *we* define it.

For all of the 'best' lists and more on methodology, visit Money magazine online at money.com/colleges

#### **TSSOM RECOGNIZED**



College Relations photo.

ear Admiral L Fagan of the US Coast Guard sent a letter to Dr. William Brennan, President of Maine Maritime Academy, acknowledging the assistance TS State of Maine provided in the rescue of three mariners whose sailboat was "disabled, adrift and taking on water in 15-foot seas about 1200 nautical miles east of Nantucket." President Brennan contacted the ship directly and Capt. Eadie promptly altered course toward the distressed sailboat. Although the training ship was ordered to stand down when the three men were rescued by others, RADM Fagan "commended the crew for their willingness to render assistance" and said further, "...your ship's outstanding efforts during this case and willingness to support this challenging rescue have furthered the outstanding reputation of Maine Maritime Academy."

## CERTIFIED SMALL ARMS COURSE

n a cooperative effort with International Maritime Security Network LLC (IMSN), Maine Maritime Academy students can now graduate with Military Sealift Command (MSC) small arms training and advanced security watch training certification. IMSN has a long history of providing certified security training to our graduates and undergraduates as well as our alumni through the Continuing Education department.

Students receive their training plus one physical education credit at a nearly 50% savings. For qualified seniors, this certification is expected to enhance their careers and prepare them to work on any MSC or MSC-contracted vessel.

For information on upcoming courses, contact Continuing Education at 207-326-2211.

## MAINE MARITIME HOSTS MARITIME EDUCATION SUMMIT

by HALEY HUNT GRIFFIN '15

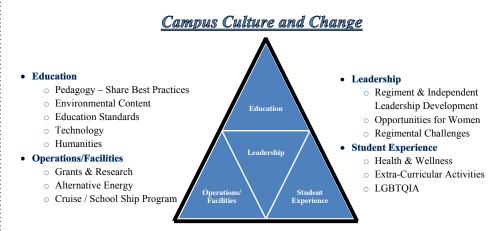


Table by H H Griffin.

n Friday October 17th – Sunday October 19th, 2014 Maine Maritime Academy hosted this year's Maritime Education Summit. The theme of the summit was "Campus Culture and Change: Navigating the Challenges Facing Maritime Education." Major topics addressed were: Education, Operations/Facilities, Leadership, and Student Experience.

Connected to the maritime theme, summit attendees staying in Belfast were offered a water taxi on the navigation training vessel, Capt. Susan J. Clark from Belfast to Castine. Attendees were greeted by a welcome reception and dinner with music by MMA Professor Stephen SanFilippo. Professor Emeritus and former provost John Barlow spoke on "Maritime Education Over the Last 40 Years." Following the dinner, Capt. Susan J. Clark motored attendees back to Belfast.

Journal of Commerce's Brendan Neary kicked off the Saturday morning program with his presentation on the 2013 Port Productivity Report. The morning sessions covered many aspects of change on campuses: Safe Zones and Bystander Intervention Training, Pythagoras Theorem in Curved Space, and Turnabout and Fair Play: Xenophobic Roots of the Jones Act. John Patterson,

the President and CEO of United Vision Logistics linked the maritime industry with MMA's growing international business and logistics program.

Other sessions covered the opportunities of an honors program, how the regiment is an educational environment for self-determination, and improving outcome assessments. The day was enhanced by special afternoon events and in the evening many conference participants went on a harbor tour.

Sunday morning, keynote speaker Ira Douglas, the director of Marine Personnel at Crowley Maritime, discussed industry expectations for maritime education and training. Sessions encompassed ways to change culture, designing a co-curricular leadership program, and recruiting and retaining women in the maritime industry. Dr. David Gardner, the new Vice President of Academics and Provost at Maine Maritime Academy, closed the summit with a discussion of the future of maritime education.

Of the 62 presenters at the summit, 30 were connected to the Academy as faculty or staff, and some students participated by writing papers connected to campus culture and change.



Ice navigation simulation and training is anticipated to begin in the Summer of 2015. Picture courtesy of Transas.

#### MMA AWARDED \$316K FOR ARCTIC NAVIGATION

aine Maritime Academy, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science & Technology Directorate awarded \$316,000 to Maine Maritime Academy for the development and delivery of maritime ice navigation and first responder courses to complement the U.S. Coast Guard's Arctic Strategy.

Maine Maritime will be a partner institution to a new Center of Excellence (COE) in Maritime Research at the University of Alaska at Anchorage (UAA). Selected UAA research involving disaster response modeling, navigation sensors and satellite technologies will be incorporated into the Maine-developed courses.

The \$316,000 grant, secured by Maine Maritime Academy's Department of Continuing Education, will be used over a two-year period to support the creation of an ice navigation course designed to meet 2016 ice navigation training

requirements of the IMO Polar Code. Maine Maritime faculty member Capt. Ralph Pundt will author the course for U.S. Coast Guard approval.

The grant also supports the conversion of selected Maine Maritime DHS/FEMA-approved Maritime First Responder courses for application in the arctic domain. First responder training partner organizations include International Maritime Security Network, Tri-State Maritime Safety Association, Ocean Rescue Systems, World Safe International, IMQ Quebec, and McMillan Offshore. A key partner throughout the grant period, North American Marine Environmental Protection Association (NAMEPA), will assist Maine Maritime with environmental oversight.

"This is an exciting project for Maine Maritime which will benefit from many of our strengths: faculty expertise, industry networks, use of leading navigation technology, and maritime innovation," said Vice President for Academic Affairs and USCG Reserve Captain, Dr. David Gardner, "It's an ideal match."

The grant will support the addition of Transas ice navigation software, including customized simulation modeling of key U.S. Arctic ports and waterways, to Maine Maritime Academy's navigation simulators, as well as training for instructors. Maine Maritime will be the first ice navigation simulation training suite at a public college in the U.S. The technology will complement MMA's existing Transas Electronic Chart Display Information System (ECDIS) training suite, a Transas Liquid Gas simulator training room, and the Overseas Shipholding Group (OSG)-sponsored student-built floating liquid cargo simulator, all located on the Maine Maritime campus.



Photo by Julianna Diehl '17.

#### **BOWDOIN GETS A NEW MAST**

hile on the summer training cruise on Schooner Bowdoin, along the coasts of New Hampshire and Maine, Capt. Eric Jergenson, '00 discovered that the 30-year-old mainmast had rot in its interior. He brought the schooner back to Castine in late June and had the

mast unstepped. By the second week of August, the new seven-layer laminated mast was shaped, fitted, and varnished by shipwright Andros Kypragoras so it could be stepped and Bowdoin could get underway for her scheduled training cruise from August 16th to 29th.

#### PARENTS ASSOCIATION REINVIGORATED



L to R: President William Brennan, Denise Perkins-Fields, Sue MacLeod, Lisa Gray, Earle Cianchette, and Amanda Nguyen. Photo courtesy of D Davis.

or the past few years, the MMA Parents
Association (MMAPA) has been relatively
quiet; however, a whole new team of parents
took the lead in the Fall of 2013 and, in their
short tenure so far, have had a tremendous impact on life at the Academy. Although the Parents
Association had a few quiet years, it didn't let the
students down and continued to make major gifts
in the form of graduation awards and supporting
the Student Life Awards Banquet.

Under the new leaders, the MMAPA earned over \$5000 in their first effort – the Spring Raffle. Prizes for the raffle were donated by families, friends, and businesses. At the Fall 2014 Orientation, the Parents Association gave away a very creative and thoughtful gift to each family. They also set up the traditional table at the annual Ship Jump on August 31, 2014 and provided every jumper with a candy bar. For onlookers and participants, parents served coffee, tea, cocoa, and water.

Deidra Davis, Dean of Student Services, enthusiastically noted, "The Residential Life Team had been working hard to make Curtis Hall a residence hall (a place where students can live, learn, and grow) instead of a dorm (a place to lay one's head). One of the ways they did this was by ramping up the social spaces in Curtis Hall. Res Life added four new gaming systems and two big

screen TVs, and was hoping to purchase a new pool table for the Bilge. We asked the Parents Association if they would underwrite one half of the cost of the purchase. Much to our surprise and delight, they wanted to donate enough to cover the entire purchase of the pool table!" The splendid new table was delivered in mid-September.

Another innovative activity undertaken by the MMAPA is the recently announced "Tuition Raffle" which will occur in mid-December. Raffle tickets will sell at \$10 apiece and will go toward the goal of \$5000 to be paid toward the winning student's tuition. The student who wins the raffle will see his or her tuition reduced by \$5000 paid toward their bill in January, 2015.

Goals of the Parents Association include:

- To improve the quality of life for all students at MMA. To provide a support network for parents
- To serve as a liaison between parents and the Academy
- To be a focal point for dissemination of information
- To support Academy programs and activities The present Parents' Association Executive Board consists of these dedicated women:
- Sue MacLeod of Bucksport. She is the postmaster for Bucksport and is the mother of Brady MacLeod, a sophomore in the Marine Systems 5-year program and a mentor serving on the

student staff of Regimental Preparatory Training.

- Lisa Gray of Verona. She is the owner of the "Silkweeds" gift shop and is the mother of Cody Gray, a sophomore in the International Business and Logistics and an orientation leader on the Resident Life student staff
- Denise Perkins-Field of Bucksport. She works in a small, local bookstore called Bookstacks and owns her own business All Dressed Up Couture making children's dress-up clothes. She is the mother of Nate Perkins-Field, a sophomore in the Vessel Operations program. He worked as an intern on the MMA Waterfront the summer before beginning his studies at MMA.
- Lorrinda Connolly of Bucksport. She is the property manager for the Maine Department of Transportation and the mother of Sam Stearns, a sophomore in the Marine Engineering Operations program.

For information about the Parents Association's activities, see their Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Maine-Maritime-Academy-Parents-Association.

#### **CONTINUING ED OFFERS 2015 IMO MODEL COURSE**



L to R: Matthew Hight '94, Kenneth Jones, Susan Belford, Sean McDermott, Mary Lee Tuen, Ralph Pundt '77, Nsikak Ekham. Photo by L Stone.

n July 2014, the MMA Continuing Education Department offered a dynamic International Maritime Organzation/International Safety Management (IMO/ISM) Quality Systems Auditor course. MMA was one of the few providers using the latest ISO standards to be ratified in 2015. The main thrust of the new course was training in internal, supplier, and external auditing practices. The instructor covered the international safety management systems for mandatory certification according to the ISM code and voluntary ISO 9001 Quality Management System implementation and audits. The course was spe-

cially designed by MMA 's Continuing Education Department for marine safety professionals, ship owners, ship management specialists, and marine consultants. An optional add-on course offered ISM certification in Designated Person Ashore.

The instructor was Mary Lee Tuen, a native of Hong Kong, living in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. She has an extensive background in ship safety management, ship safety auditing, and the marine industry. As both a Ferriby International Group (UK) consultant and an independent consultant, she has offered certification courses worldwide. Her extensive credentials and the

high standards of the course attracted some top players in the maritime world including the quality assurance manager for Royal Caribbean Cruise Line and the safety coordinator, marine and shore base, Support Operations for Exxon Mobil – Nigeria.

Continuing Education at MMA strives to provide high-level courses for mariners to keep their certifications current or to upgrade certifications. Go to conted.mainemaritime.edu or call 207-326-2211 for their full course schedule.



#### THE RIGHT THING: RE-POWERING TUG PENTAGOET



Pentagoet on her way out to meet Training Ship State of Maine upon return from the summer cruise July 7, 2014. Photo by College Relations.

nyone who has been aboard Captain Harry Stevens' beloved 80-foot tugboat—MMA's Pentagoet—knows what a valuable teaching platform the immaculate workhorse is. Stevens has dedicated himself to providing a quality hands-on education for every student who takes tug and barge operations, workboat operations

and ship handling courses. During the fall 2014 semester, the Pentagoet logged 38 hours per week of classroom use, training over 100 students.

Under the United States Department of Environmental Protection Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) grant program, two Maine projects chosen for funding will bring marine



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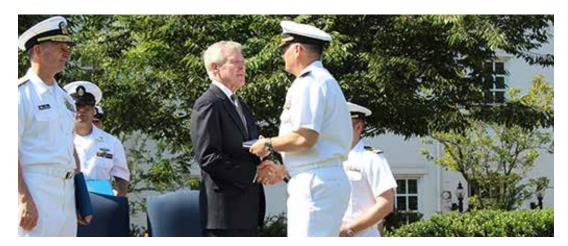


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propulsion engines into compliance with the Tier 3 Emissions regulations designed to reduce NOx emissions by 80%, sulfur emissions by 99%, and particulate matter by 90%. The Pentagoet is one of those projects and is a Clean Emissions Repower Project funded by the Maine Clean Diesel Grant Program under the Diesel Emission Reduction Act. As a grant recipient project, 50% of repowering cost—which entails replacing two 25-to-30-year-old Detroit 16V-92 engines— will be covered by the grant. Not only will the re-powering extend the life of Pentagoet, it will also bring the tug into emissions compliance ahead of schedule.

Captain Harry Stevens, Waterfront Director Dana Willis and Tim Leach will lead the re-powering project and ask that you help MMA raise the other 50% of the total cost. You will be a part of making the Pentagoet a leader in emissions reduction and a role model for others who own and operate large marine diesel engines. Ultimately, contributions will enhance student learning on one of our most unique and much-used floating labs at MMA.

#### CAPT. CHRISTOPHER P. MERCER '88 HONORED BY NAVY



Courtesy of A Therrien & US Navy.

he routine at the Headquarters of the Naval Sea Systems Command located in the Navy Yard, Washington, DC (WNY), was shattered September 16, 2013, by a lone gunman who killed 12 people and wounded three others. Law enforcers, first responders, and service people scrambled to stop the shooter and render aid. Among those who "sacrificed and put their own lives at risk for the safety and well-being of others," according to U.S. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, was Capt. Christopher P. Mercer '88. Capt. Mercer received a Navy and Marine

Corps Medal for "heroism not involving actual conflict with an enemy of the United States." (U.S. Navy). The medal was presented at the WNY "In Honor of Heroes Award Ceremony" on June 23, 2014 by Navsec Mabus who said, "Some heroes don't wear capes." Four officers and four enlisted sailors received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, the highest award for valor.

The gunman entered Building 197 searching for people in the hallways and offices. Capt. Mercer worked on the 3rd floor. When Mercer saw the gunman approaching, he shut, locked,

and barricaded his office door but the wooden door didn't stop bullets from piercing it. The shooter left but returned shortly and Mercer could "see his shadow through the glass pane" (P. Lewis, The Guardian, 20 Sept. 2013, online). Mercer and others in his office sought shelter under their desks while Mercer kept everyone calm and used his cell phone to communicate precisely the shooter's location and behavior to commanders.

Among other awards he has received during his years of service are: Meritorious Service Award (3), Navy Commendation Medal (3), Navy Achievement Award (2), National Defense Medal (2), Southwest

Asia Service Medal (2 bronze stars), and Global War on Terrorism Medal.

Presently, Capt. Mercer is in the U.S. Navy Ships Program Executive Office as Program Manager for the Amphibious Warfare Program (PMS 377). His office is in charge of building the USS Tripoli (LHA7), a gas turbine amphibious assault vessel that carries Lightning II joint-strike fighter planes and various types of helicopters. [Editor's Note: Alfred "Fred" Therrien '71 submitted information and the photo for this story].

#### DR. CLEVELAND SELECTED FOR BIOLOGY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

he American Society for Microbiology (ASM) announced in September 2014 that Maine Maritime Academy professor and marine biologist, Dr. Ann Cleveland, had been chosen to be a resident scholar in their prestigious Biology Scholars Program in Washington, DC. Twenty biologists from around the world were chosen to participate in this national leadership initiative to improve undergraduate biology based on evidence of student learning.

The yearlong Assessment Residency (one of three subsections of the Biology Scholars Program) guides Scholars in developing and refining assessment tools and measurable learning outcomes. "Assessment Residency Scholars use evidence-based research in student learning to develop and revise strategies they use to assess student learning," says residency leader Carol

Hurney, chair of the Assessment Residency Steering Committee. "The Scholars explore both summative and formative assessment strategies that align with specific learning goals they develop for their courses." The Scholars will receive close mentoring from Hurney and other facilitators while living in Washington, DC.

The Biology Scholars Program was developed with the support of the National Science Foundation through a major grant. Other foundations and organizations further support and sponsor the program.

Professor Cleveland is on sabbatical for the 2014-2015 academic year so that she may fulfill all the requirements of her award from the ASM, the world's largest scientific society of individuals interested in the microbiological sciences.



Photo courtesy of A Cleveland.

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Photo courtesy of D Gardner.

Maine Maritime Academy is a unique school, which has demonstrated ability as an institution that effectively combines academics with practical training." That observation was one of USCG Captain David Gardner's first impressions of MMA after being at the academy for a month as its new Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Capt. Gardner, PhD, comes to Castine from Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass. where he was Dean of Pre-Medical Programs and adjunct professor of biology. He continues to serve in the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve as Reserve Chief of Staff for the First Coast Guard District out of Boston, Mass.

Dr. Gardner brings abundant resources and experience to the MMA position. A bachelor's degree in biology from Trinity College, a doctorate in developmental, cell and molecular biology from Duke University, and a National Science Foundation fellowship at MIT give him a strong background for interaction with faculty. In addition, his continuing responsibilities for the U.S. Coast Guard as Reserve Chief of Staff position him well to guide required Coast Guard academic programs for students in the Regiment of Midshipmen. A lifetime learner, he rounded out his education over the years at the National Defense University, the U.S. Joint Forces Staff College, and the U.S. Naval War College.

As Dean of Pre-medical Programs at Mount Holyoke College, he prepared college graduates

## CAPTAIN DAVID M. GARDNER, PHD JOINS MMA AS PROVOST

for professional studies in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, and physical therapy. Simultaneously, he taught as an adjunct professor of biology (graduate and undergraduate programs), which helped him understand better what students face day-to-day. In particular, one of his areas of responsibilities as Dean at Mount Holyoke was to oversee advising, academic and career counseling, workshops, and seminar speakers for over 400 undergraduates and alumni preparing for post-graduate education. Understanding professional requirements for MMA students, teaching, and advising are all key components of Capt. Gardner's position at the academy.

Capt. Gardner began his military career in the US Navy in 1977 and served aboard the USS Dwight D Eisenhower as bridge watch supervisor. He qualified as master helmsman, conning officer, and Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist. After completing his naval service in 1982, he enlisted in the United States Coast Guard Reserve during which time he has served as quartermaster for the USCG Cutter Vigorous and then deck officer aboard the cutters Tamaroa, Block Island, and Tampa. He rose through the various ranks of Search and Rescue Coordinator for the Coast Guard Atlantic Area/Fifth District (Portsmouth, Va.), Senior Reserve Officer, Chief of Coast Guard Atlantic Area International Operations, Interagency Maritime Security Exercise Planner, and Deputy Chief of the Seventh Coast Guard Contingency Preparedness Branch (Miami, Fla.), to his present position as Reserve Chief of Staff. As a captain and chief of staff, he is responsible for the leadership, training, administration, budgets, and operational readiness of approximately 950 reservists throughout the northeastern U.S. His on-going work as a Reserve leader benefits MMA students and administration as the Academy navigates the new U.S. Coast Guard and International Maritime Organization licensing requirements.

In an interview with the editor, Capt. Gardner highlighted a portion of his educational philosophy. He stated, "It is very important to combine a sense of history and perspective on how disciplines fit together with expertise in one's chosen technical field. One can be an excellent technician but, without a broad perspective, he could encounter a time when the need for a well-rounded viewpoint is crucial to applying that technology in the most effective way. The application of new

technologies without understanding the complex interrelationships can lead to difficulties." He notes that his Coast Guard experience and contacts enable him to "capitalize on those connections so MMA and its students can be exposed to the many opportunities available through the Coast Guard, particularly its humanitarian and environmental missions throughout the world."

As one of his goals, Capt. Gardner hopes "to foster among the faculty a sense of connectedness between the practical and the cultural sides of what they teach." He said he once had a poster that was a timeline of eight to ten centuries that illustrated human history on an X-axis and the life spans of musicians, artists, scientists, etc. on the Y-axis. "The poster," according to Capt. Gardner, "captured the connectedness of many different disciplines and revealed such things as the fact that Charles Darwin (scientist) and Abraham Lincoln (politician and President) were contemporaries." He would like "that cross-talk between the technical material taught at MMA and world experience to be a natural part of teaching to set students up to make an important difference in the world."

Cross-disciplinary conversations and collaborations, strong support for experiential education, leadership training, attention to detail, confidence in students, and high personal standards inform Capt. Gardner's ethos. His awards affirm his success: Meritorious Service Medal, Coast Guard Commendation Medal (3), Coast Guard Achievement Medal (2), Navy Achievement Medal, National Science Foundation, Faculty for the 21st Century, Duke University's Department of Zoology Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the award of over 25 academic and research grants.

Dr. Gardner and his wife, veterinarian Dr. Bridget Gardner, make their home in Castine. Their older son, Nathan, is a U.S. Air Force airman stationed at Kadina AFB in Okinawa, Japan; and their younger son, Ben, who graduated from high school in June 2014, plans to enlist in the U.S. Coast Guard.

Gardner said, "We are delighted to be here where we have found everyone welcoming, friendly, and enthusiastic."



Photo by Lisa Burton.

ance Burton '90, assistant professor of engineering at MMA, was happily surprised when it was announced at Convocation that he had been chosen by alumni and students to receive the 2014 Excellence in Teaching Award. The award is given annually to the faculty member who "best exemplifies proficiency in her/his field of expertise and passion for teaching and student learning."

Burton completed his BS in marine engineer-

## BURTON '90 RECEIVES EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

ing technology at MMA in 1990 and his MS in maritime management at the MMA Loeb-Sullivan Graduate School of International Business and Logistics in 2013. Upon graduation in 1990, he worked as a Reactor Services Project engineer at Newport News Shipbuilding primarily installing and servicing the nuclear reactors on multiple Nimitz Class aircraft carriers and Los Angeles Class attack submarines. In 2001 he left his position as a senior project engineer at NNS and co-founded and became co-owner of Downeast Marine Resources, Inc. in Castine, owner/operator of research vessel Argo Maine. In 2008, he left DMR and began his teaching career at MMA. He continues to operate his two other businesses - Mainely Rentals, Inc. where he provides off-campus housing for MMA students and Mainely Marine Services, LLC where he specializes in SCUBA diving underwater inspections and services. While at MMA, he has served three times as a Cruise Training Officer aboard TS State of Maine and, most recently, he has been a marine consultant and contractor for the University of Maine's innovative VolturnUS Wind Turbine Project off Dyce Head in Castine.

He holds 12 certifications and licenses including his "Third Assistant Engineer – Steam, Motor, or Gas Turbine Vessels; Unlimited Horsepower" along with his "100 Ton Master – Steam or Motor Vessels; Near Coastal Waters" USCG licenses. In addition, he is very active with the Castine Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department and was honored with the department's "Firefighter of the Year" award in 2012 and promoted to Lieutenant in 2014. He is a previous member of the Society

of Accredited Marine Surveyors and is currently a member of SNAME.

When asked about his teaching philosophy, he said, "I enjoy teaching and the interaction with students a lot. A successful day includes a sense of accomplishment when I provide a lesson and the students not only grasp the material I have provided, but also, through feedback, incorporate their own thoughts, interpretations, and/or related experiences." To encourage students, he keeps a low-key classroom management style and welcomes "off topic" deviations if the discussion is pertinent or can segue into related topic areas. Burton keeps up with his field as well as related fields by attending conferences, reading widely, and working with fellow alumni in the industry. He learns from students who have gone on coops or cadet-shipping and he asks alumni to keep him abreast of the advances in their careers and industry and to make a classroom visit whenever possible.

An added dimension he offers is community spirit. Because he and his family live "on-neck" in Castine, he often sees students outside the classroom. This provides the opportunity for him to assist with both MMA and non-MMA related issues and often leads to building strong connections that continue after the students graduate and become fellow alumni. He says, "It is with a sense of great pride that I have had students make an extra effort to stay in touch or introduce me to their parents when they are on campus... It is definitely the students that allow me to say 'I enjoy what I do!' "

#### "PROVE YOU ARE IMPROVING" PAPER

rofessor Susan Loomis, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, gave a paper in May 2014 entitled "Prove You Are Improving" at a national conference at the University of Texas, Austin. The presentation promoted an organizational system to be used in higher education to assure that colleges are accountable for their promises to students. This ongoing assessment is a key factor to successful student performance and significant program improvements.

To assure a process of continuous improvement, Maine Maritime Academy regularly assesses its institutional effectiveness in fulfilling its overall teaching, research, and public service mission. This commitment to consistent improvement has led to the development of a campus-wide system of establishing institutional objectives, program outcomes, and goals that are measured and assessed at the institutional and departmental levels. The results are then used to inform decisions for actions to improve programs that enhance student learning: in the classroom, lab, residential hall, or during a training cruse, co-op, or internship.

A successful assessment process is more likely to achieve its purpose of improving student

learning when it is embedded in an educational culture that values reflection and supports continuous improvement efforts across campus. When assessment processes are integrated with other reporting procedures, and when the data-driven results are used to inform decision at all levels, improvement is hard to avoid.

Professor Loomis has served as Chair of the Outcomes Assessment Team since 2004. Under her leadership, the team has developed a clear, user-friendly, digital system for establishing and assessing goals to measure effectiveness. This system helps to "prove we are improving".

# ABOVE SID

Compiled by LAURIE STONE, Editor

During its 73 years, the Academy has remained true to its mission to educate and develop leaders who embody integrity, attention to detail, and academic excellence. It has honored many of its outstanding alumni by selecting them for the Wall of Honor, the Alumnus of the Year Award, or the Athletics Hall of fame.

One day in the spring of 2014, the Mariner team discussed the fact that many of MMA's graduates had left the careers they had prepared for to undertake new ventures. Therefore, this year, as we all begin the countdown to MMA's 75th anniversary, we have profiled some of the many alumni who have gone "far above and far beyond" their career expectations. We spent 3 months generating a long list of alumni who had careers not directly related to their majors. Although we could not write about all the wonderful and highly motivated alumni in one article, we asked many to be part of the new website developed concurrently with this story. Their stories can be viewed at mainemaritime.edu- "Alumni at Work."

So many of Maine Maritime Academy's alumni provide support for future mariners, engineers, scientists, and international business leaders that it is a pleasure to present these profiles of fellow alumni to you. We hope you enjoy reading them and are proud to count yourself a graduate of this prestigious institution - Maine Maritime Academy.



ALAINA HANLON ADAMS '03 studied in the MMA marine systems engineering program. Within five years, she had completed her MS and PhD in mechanical engineering at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Alaina also added a minor in entrepreneurship to her studies.

While in graduate school, she co-founded her first company, Condition Engineering, which developed self-diagnostic structural health monitoring systems for the healthcare industry. Most recently, she founded a new company called NuPlanit, a health IT company that provides nutrition behavior intervention solutions for the prevention and management of chronic illnesses. Along the way, she has filed two patents successfully.

Although she did not pursue a career in marine engineering, she says, "I have applied engineering skills to some non-engineering fields, like healthcare." The prompt for the trajectory shift in her career plans came when she faced an illness in graduate school. She said, "While at MMA, I found my passion in engineering, remote sensing, and preventive technologies. In graduate school, my research focused on developing self-diagnostic and structural health monitoring systems for spacecraft, a traditional engineering application." She realized that she could apply her training in engineering "to solve some of the most challenging issues in healthcare."

Alaina added entrepreneurship, business management, and software product design and management to her resume as she developed her two successful companies. For her, the biggest challenges she faced involved "learning the entire business side to convert a great technical solution into a commercially viable product." She added that she had to learn "how to communicate technical concepts in terms of benefits to the customer, how to structure business models and distribution strategies, how to pitch to investors, and how to grow and manage teams of individuals with very diverse backgrounds.

Three major awards round out her resumé: NASA Graduate Student Researchers Program Fellowship (a 5-year award), national winner of Healthy People 2020 Leading Health Indicators App Challenge, and the UMASS 2010 College of Engineering Outstanding Junior Alumni Award.

Despite her high-paced career, Alaina finds time to serve on the MMA Industrial Advisory Board, the UMASS Alumni Association Board of Directors, and the International Fellowship House Board of Directors in Boston as well as mentoring in the greater Boston area.



MARK ARMSTRONG '85 feels that he has achieved all of his professional goals so far and lately has been concentrating on what he refers to as his "three F's: faith, family, and friends." It began when Mark finished his degree in marine engineering at MMA and entered General Dynamic's career development program designed to prepare qualified employees for upper-level management positions. While there, he created several tools and jigs, which saved the company thousands of dollars. One of his innovations was singled out for an award. He completed the program and worked for two and a half years in the Electric Boat division. Then, Mark did a turn-about and went to sea so he could fulfill his long-term goal of sailing under his US Coast Guard license and becoming a chief engineer.

All went well at sea until his wife, Stephanie, announced that they were to have their first child. Mark did some soul-searching and returned from the sea to become an engineer for a boiler and facility maintenance company in Massachusetts. In 1995, he returned to Maine to run the Industrial Assessment Center to analyze energy, waste, and productivity of manufacturers.

Presently, Mark co-owns with his brother, Richard, the Snowman Group Companies in Hermon, Maine. He functions as executive vice president and CFO but occasionally finds himself wearing other hats as needed.

Although he no longer works for General Dynamics, which encouraged him to innovate, the attitudes instilled by both General Dynamics and MMA helped him develop the "Universal Storage System for Office Tools" and receive a U.S. patent. For him, "MMA's primary goal to push a cadet's comfort zone by making him try new things, go to far-away places, meet new people, and learn challenging skills was helpful. Although cadets might stumble and fall (even fail!), they should never, ever give up!"



The shoreside position where RICHARD ARMSTRONG '86 had all the responsibility but no authority drove him to go to sea in a time of few marine jobs. Like many of the graduates in the 1980s, he found himself with a US Coast Guard license and virtually no jobs awaiting him at sea so he took a job at General Dynamics in Groton, CT building nuclear submarines. Both he and his older brother Mark (see above) entered the Electric Boat career development program. After two years, he let the pull of the sea guide him to a job as a 3rd assistant engineer aboard an oil tanker but before he could meet the challenges he would encounter on his first job at sea, he had to cope with catching the ship on the other side of the world! He said that challenge was "fun."

Rich counts his 24 years of marriage to Linda, his 4 healthy and respectful children, and his family business with his brother among his accomplishments. His oldest son, **Ryan Armstrong '14**, graduated from MMA in May. Rich and his brother Mark have expanded their printing business into a group of companies called the Snowman Group, growing from six to 35 employees.

He volunteered and served on several boards including the Bangor Y Board of Directors as president, the Goodwill Riders Snowmobile Club as acting president, the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and past president of the Bangor-Brewer Shriner Club. He is also active with youth sports, the Boys Scouts, and St Paul the Apostle Parish Finance Council.



JOSEPH M. CONNORS '86 really has two careers at present: he is an attorney working as the director of planned giving at Eastern Maine Health Services foundation (EMHS) and he and his wife, Marsha, own a farm in Aroostook County where they grow mostly potatoes and broccoli.

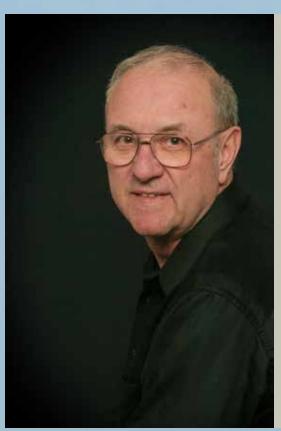
He followed the traditional MMA pattern of going to sea immediately after graduation. In his case, Joe became a 3rd mate on a tug and tow that ran from Eastern Canada through the Panama Canal to San Diego. He worked his way up the ranks to captain and then came ashore to attend Loyola University School of Law and devote himself to family life. He remained engaged in the US Merchant Marine Reserves during this time.

By 1997, he had his JD degree and embarked on his law career – first in the banking industry and then in private practice in Naples, Fla. Changing careers was relatively smooth because he had savings and no debt after sailing steadily for eight years.

Joe takes pride in the fact that his "farm provides food for the community" and also that he is "able to contribute in a positive manner to society through work at EMHS." He derives pleasure from being a Bangor YMCA Board member and doing volunteer work for St John's Episcopal Church in Bangor, and for the Volunteer Lawyers Project in Maine.

The academic and leadership foundation he gained at MMA allowed him the flexibility to change careers and help others. He stated, "MMA is unique in the amount of responsibility given to students. For instance, the school gave us 18-year-olds 45-foot boats to sail up and down the Maine and Canadian coasts during the summer ocean racing season." Further, Joe said, "The strong grounding in science, maritime history, basic math (celestial navigation, too), physics, writing, and foreign language have certainly been helpful. State bar exams were a piece of cake after having Mr. McKinley for celestial navigation! He taught me what a thorough understanding of subject matter really means."





EDWARD D CORMIER '59 declared that the three words, "No excuse, Sir," were the most important words he learned at MMA. His class began with 94 students and ended with 59. While at MMA, Ed filled what little free time he had by becoming the first official photographer and public relations cadet. He left MMA with the Alumni Gold Watch Award and "you-done-good" letters from the Governor of Maine and the head of Maine Economic Development.

In his first job search, he hitchhiked to New York City on a Saturday and by Monday afternoon he had a job with American Trading Company. Ed nursed 'falling-apart-T-2 tankers' as an engineer. He saved enough money to marry his high school sweetheart and continue his education.

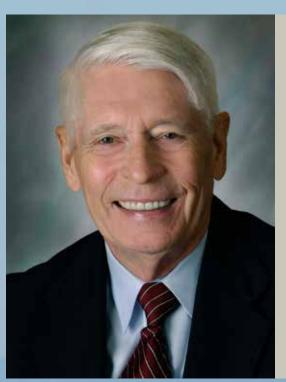
He attended Washburn University for a BA in history and English, Central Connecticut State University for his MBA, and Nova SE for further studies. His higher degrees gave him greater career flexibility so that he found himself teaching full-time over the years at 3 different colleges and at a prison.

According to Ed, he never really changed from one career to another because his engineering knowledge underpinned everything. For instance, he worked in the advertising promotion section of UTech on fuel cells for jet engines. In the 1970s, he started his own successful company and in the 1980s, developed software programs for manufacturers. He worked as advertising manager for Pratt and Whitney Machine Tool and also Uniroyal Industrial Products. MMA and industry experience qualified Ed to become a Navy PIO (1655) and work with the very top USN CHINFO personnel.

Presently, he is in charge of the International Education Institute, LLC, which designs avatar-enhanced multi-lingual online courses for adults in business and industry. He also writes online courses, including the latest developed with his 2 partners called, "The Third Act of Life." He is particularly interested in what people do with their lives as they wind down.

Ed's major awards have been the PRSA Silver Anvil, the Red Cross Community Services Award, and the National Association of Temporary Services as well as a dozen more awards.

The American Legion, one of his churches, and the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army have all benefitted from his compassion and concern for others. One day, he says, he would like to do something with the Wounded Warrior Project.



KENNETH M. CURTIS '54 knew before he entered MMA that eventually he would go into law. Nevertheless, he worked as a third mate for Military Sealift Command and completed active duty in the US Navy before entering the Portland University School of Law (now University of Maine School of Law).

By 1956, he gained experience in politics by working on two of Congressman James Oliver's campaigns. From 1959 to 1961, he acted as an assistant to Congressman Oliver. His dedication to public service deepened in his work for the Library of Congress, by President John F. Kennedy's appointment of him as State Coordinator for the Area Redevelopment Administration, and by his efforts to become Maine's 1st Congressional District Democratic US Representative. Losing the election opened another door and he became Maine's Secretary of State in 1965. By 1966, he became the youngest governor in the U.S. at the time, and won a second term. He also served as Chair of the Democratic National Committee, Chair of the New England Governors' Conference, Chair of the Environmental Task Force of the National Governors' Conference, and as U.S. Ambassador to Canada.

Ken was actively engaged in improving state agencies and education. He led the commission that established the University of Maine System. He led Maine Maritime Academy from 1986 to 1994 where he worked consistently to improve the quality of education. He remains committed to his long-term goal of making higher education free for everyone who desires it.

The biggest challenge of his life came when he and his wife Polly (Pauline) lost one of their two daughters, Susan, at a young age. They established a foundation to fund and operate Camp Susan Curtis in Stoneham, Maine in honor of their daughter. Ken noted, "We got the idea that we could use our visibility – our tragedy – to make life better for other kids, not to memorialize our daughter, but to make her tragedy more meaningful. I was governor, but our (loss) wasn't any different from a lot of other families." Sadly, the Curtis family also lost their other beloved daughter, Angel, when she was a young adult.

Not fully retired yet, Ken is 'Of Counsel' for Curtis Thaxter law firm in Portland.

"LAW SCHOOL WAS A VACATION AFTER WORKING AS A SHIP'S OFFICER AND CAPTAIN."



From an MMA degree in marine systems engineering to two master's degrees in civil environmental engineering and environmental law and policy, LAURIE MARKS FLOOD '93, has excelled at seeing the connections among the three fields. She began her career as watch standing engineer on the 1993 MMA training cruise.

Once ashore, she turned to a career requiring the skills she'd gained from MMA in systems engineering. Laurie worked for ABB Combustion Engineering Company generating training materials for plant operators whose plants had undergone renovation or updating due to regulatory changes. Her travels to redesigned power plants piqued her interest in environmental engineering as it related to the power industry.

Laurie's career change necessitated more schooling so she went to the University of Maine and then worked for Newport News Shipyard in Virginia. Her department prepared design possibilities for a new class of aircraft carriers.

A year later, she shifted gears again and became a marine design engineer for David B Wyman PE & Associates. Most of her assignments involved hydrostatic modeling and marine engineering on behalf of Wyman's client, Stidd Systems. In particular, she helped develop two very different S.E.A.L. delivery vehicle designs.

In 2001, she made her final turn toward education and joined the faculty of MMA full time. She is full professor of engineering and was appointed chair of the Engineering Department in June 2014. She credits the Academy with giving her the opportunity to continue her education in areas of high interest to her while teaching full time. Students at MMA have benefitted from Laurie's curiosity and persistence.

She has received two major grants: 1) EPSCOR Workforce Development Project Grant for science and engineering curriculum development and 2) National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant for environmental regulations and compliance issues.

In the past, Laurie was a member of the MMA Alumni Board of Directors and was the president of the Castine Community Child Development Board. Most recently, she has volunteered for the Maine Girl Scouts' "Sail Away Weekend" at MMA. The girls learn about ships and stability and make aluminum foil "boats" with their newly acquired knowledge. They load the boats with cargo to see how much each can hold before it sinks or capsizes. Laurie says, "The girls are typically full of creative ideas about how to build their boats and enjoy the project immensely."



DAVID A HOLMES '51 studied to be a marine engineer, earned his degree and US Coast Guard license, and began his career in the US Merchant Marine as a third engineer aboard a vessel hauling ammunition to South Korea. He then was chief engineer aboard the USS POWER DD839 followed by several years as an engineer in industry.

By 1961, he had earned a BS from Eastern Michigan University and an MS from the same university. Wanting to "live a more useful life and to become a responsible part of a stable community," David switched careers, becoming a math and science teacher. To ensure that he met all the needs of his students and his new career, he attended Clarkson University for a second MS, this time in Physics. For 30 years, he taught high school. The last 22 of those years, he also functioned as a teaching principal at Carrabassett Academy and Mount Abram High School.

Over the years that he has resided in Kingfield, Maine, David has volunteered for a wide variety of positions. Among the responsibilities he has undertaken are: three terms as a selectman, director of Webster Public Library, secretary for 15 years of Mt Abram Masonic Lodge No 204, and director of MSAD #58 (school district). Not content to sit still, he is presently serving as treasurer of the Kingfield Historical Society, treasurer of Kingfield Senior Citizens, and as an active member of Post No 61 of the American Legion.

In 1952, David married Ruth, his partner for 62 years. She passed away in August, leaving David and their daughter, Faith. David commented, "My wife ... was as much responsible as I for the productive life we have lived."

## ".... I LEARNED HOW TO BE COMPLETELY RESPONSIBLE FOR MYSELF AND FOR THOSE AROUND ME."



SHASHI KUMAR '87 of the first graduating class of the master's degree in maritime management program was happily employed by Neptune Orient Lines in Singapore when he decided to do a "completely unplanned switch from a career in Singapore to the rigors of academe in Castine." He started his studies at the Indian Maritime Academy and sailed as an unlimited Master Mariner (UK) before he came ashore to work.

Once ashore, Shashi moved quickly and smoothly from the maritime world to the academic world. His "genuine interest in higher education and aptitude for facing the unknown" prompted him to make the leap to higher education where he succeeded as a student (he received MS and PhD degrees in maritime economics from the University of Wales at Cardiff).

After receiving his MS from MMA, he worked full-time at the Academy as a professor of marine transportation and management "for a delightful 20 years during its most critical years." He particularly enjoyed "being part of the team that laid the foundation for its strategic diversification that began in the late 1980s, including the planning, establishing, and leading of the Loeb-Sullivan School of International Business & Logistics." Before leaving MMA, he was the founding dean of the Loeb-Sullivan School.

Now, Shashi is the academic dean at the US Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, NY. He provides leadership and oversight for the graduate and undergraduate academic programs and departments at the federal academy. During his tenure at USMMA, he has been tapped to serve as interim superintendent for three terms.

Because Shashi applies himself wholeheartedly to everything he does, he has received innumerable awards. For instance, he was a Fulbright Senior Specialist in 2012 assisting the National Maritime College of Ireland, Cork Institute of Technology, the Irish Naval Service; and the Irish Maritime Energy Resources Cluster in building and researching strategies. His awards often have the words "distinguished," "leadership," "excellence," "outstanding achievement," and "exceptional service" in their wording.

For the future, Shashi plans to continue his role as an institution builder and provide leadership for what he considers "the finest maritime-oriented education in the world."



"I have never stopped changing careers – Great Lakes mate, ocean mate and master, ship pilot, sardine plant manager, frozen food company director, food service consultant, LNG proponent, and computer techie." Curiosity has motivated CAPTAIN ROBERT J PEACOCK '71 to try many different careers. Those who know him say that he has succeeded at every job he has undertaken.

His first job was as a pilot observer on the Great Lakes for Cleveland Cliffs Iron Co. Since then, he has been unstoppable as a Quoddy Pilots Association member, Director of Operations at TRUFRESH, LLC, and the Chair of the Maine Maritime Academy Board of Trustees (the first-ever alumnus to serve in that capacity). To succeed, Bob has attended several courses at different schools such as the Naval Correspondence School, University of Maine at Machias, Washington County Community College, a few flight schools, and a food science training school.

Just as he has had several careers, he also serves on or has served on many boards and commissions. He is on the MMA Board of Trustees, works for the Downeast Correctional Facility Board of Visitors, the Downeast Community Hospital Board of Corporators, and the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board.

Since 2010, he has been an Eastport City Councilor and President of the Council. He has managed Lubec Municipal Airport for 20 years; and has been an Eastport Port Authority Commissioner for 12 years. Overall, he has been in public service on over 13 boards or commissions. Nevertheless, he still found time to be in the U.S. Naval Reserves for 20 years, the Lubec Fire Department and Rescue Squad, the Whiting Fire Department; and serve as an EMT for the Lubec Ambulance Squad.

Although he has received many awards, he demurs with, "The joy of working with people who really care about what they do is the greatest reward." However, two awards are special to him: MMA's prestigious Wall of Honor recognition and the Boy Scout Golden Eagle Award.





LINDSEY PINKHAM '04 sailed as third mate on a bulk carrier and augmented her salary in her off time as a mate on oil clean-up vessels for several years under her marine transportation operations degree and US Coast Guard license. When she received notice that her father was very ill, she returned home to help care for him. Then, a semester of teaching at Maine Maritime Academy helped her realize that other options awaited her. Now she owns and operates Midcoast First Aid LLC, a company she started in 2007.

Fortunately, while at MMA, she earned her EMT certification and continued part-time work as an EMT whenever she was ashore. This skill set combined with her teaching semester at MMA prompted her to establish a company. She said, "MMA gave me the leadership skills and confidence in myself to take chances and explore all the opportunities put in front of me."

Her Rockland-based company offers a wide variety of safety courses in maritime and emergency settings. She partners with Downeast Maritime, Inc and Midcoast School of Technology to present high-quality, fully-certified and accredited courses from CPR for the community to advanced firefighting. Lindsey stretched her business to cover pet first aid and wilderness first aid so that she is now able to offer a comprehensive list of specialized training courses.

For her, the biggest challenge was working in the traditional 9-to-5 setting after several years at sea. However, she has adjusted and now finds time to serve other organizations such as Midcoast School of Technology on its Fire and EMS advisory boards. She is also the secretary for the PenBay MMA Alumni Chapter, a service that brings her pleasure.



**EUGENE SILVA** '64 recalled working for American Export Isbrandtsen Lines on 5 different ships for two years before volunteering for active duty naval service aboard USS Sylvania. While at sea as the senior watch officer, he met a junior officer who had a law degree from University of Pennsylvania and who said, "You ought to go to law school." That off-hand statement stimulated Gene to enter the University of Notre Dame Law School, 5 years after beginning his career at sea.

He married Nancy and joined a San Diego law firm where he practiced tax law. He then moved away from tax law to corporate law. When a large Houston firm was looking for a maritime attorney with maritime experience, he found himself practicing admiralty law. He became a partner in Vinson & Elkins in Houston, Texas, building their admiralty law department. For 23 years, he practiced admiralty and maritime law expanding his scope to include complex transnational litigation and international arbitration. In the last seven years at the firm, Gene was chair of the global maritime practice engaging primarily in corporate financial transactions and commercial disputes. An established international litigator, he appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court and the British House of Lords.

Gene said his first challenge "was to adapt to university life in the highly competitive and intellectually stimulating environment of law school. I knew virtually nothing of law and was five years older than most of my peers. The breadth of my undergraduate experience was limited and my savings were exhausted within one year. For all that, I was cautiously optimistic, disciplined, and determined, qualities that were forged as a member of the regiment at MMA."

Gene has received numerous awards. In particular, he has been recognized for 25 consecutive years as one of the "Best Lawyers (First Tier Ranking)." He was the Maritime Advocate's Top Attorney in 2000; was invested as a Papal Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem; and awarded Outstanding Alumnus by Maine Maritime Academy in 1990.

Nine nonprofit organizations benefited from Gene's volunteerism including hospitals, universities, alumni clubs, and organizations like the Portuguese American Leadership Council of the US and the Houston Red Mass Committee, which he founded. He has principally been interested in providing health care for the poor through free clinics and making quality education available to all children. In addition to serving on boards and committees, he does pro bono work for nonprofit entities.





JOSHUA M SMITH '92 grew up on Cape Cod and coastal Maine, so after completing his undergraduate degree in history from the University of St Andrews in Scotland, it made sense to attend MMA for an AS in what was called "Yacht Operations." He used his US Coast Guard license and MMA degree to work on a variety of vessels, beginning as a deckhand and relief captain on a small island ferry.

"Having seen enough of the world for a while and becoming a little bored with running boats which, frankly, I wasn't very good at, I headed to graduate school. I had my nose in a book most of the time anyway. In part, living in Castine while I studied at MMA, reading local histories of the town, and walking around the old forts raised many questions that wouldn't go away, so going on for a PhD in history seemed like my destiny."

Ten years later, often on the edge of poverty, Josh earned his degree. During those 10 years, he discovered that his undergraduate degree in history and his seafaring experience melded. Furthermore, he continued to operate ferries under his license during breaks so that he never lost touch with the sea.

In 2003, he received his PhD at University of Maine and was hired by the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy as an assistant professor. Since his beginnings at USMMA, he has risen to become full professor of humanities and head of the Department of Humanities at Kings Point. His book, *Borderland Smuggling: Patriots, Loyalists, and Illicit Trade in the Northeast*, 1783-1820 won the John Lyman Award in American Maritime History in 2007. Furthermore, he has published 9 articles and several brochures.

As with other outstanding alumni, Josh has received many awards. His three most important awards are the Fulbright Award to Canada, the Andrew W Mellon Fellowship, and the Canadian Embassy Graduate Student Fellowship.



Thank you to all the alumni who submitted responses to the editor's questionnaire. We value each and every graduate of Maine Maritime Academy. The thumbnail profiles in this feature article are a small tribute to our talented, successful, and dedicated alumni who, through their daily work, honor MMA.

More alumni profiles can be seen at mainemaritime.edu under the category "Alumni at Work." If you would like to submit a photo and profile answers for this section of the website, please email alyssa.allen@mma.edu.

Photos by/courtesy of J Connors, L Pinkham, E Silva, F Webster, Fine Prints, Hanlon Adams, Rosemary's Point of View, Snowman Group, MMA, and USMMA.

"I HAVE NEVER STOPPED CHANGING CAREERS. CURIOSITY DRIVES ME" CAPTAIN ROBERT J. PEACOCK '71

## MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

## ANNUAL GIVING REPORT July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014



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The generosity of our alumni keeps MMA strong. Every gift of every size is a voice of support. Thank You.

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We apologize if we have left your name off this list or if you have been listed incorrectly. Please notify the Development Office at 207-326-2223 of any errors. Corrections will be listed in the next issue of the MARINER. Please note, Class Year is determined by the graduation date on official MMA transcripts.



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#### **HUSTLE AND GRIND**

By STEVE PEED, Director of Athletics



Photo by D Sinclair.

n 2011, BUSINESS INSIDER dubbed Hebron Academy the nation's 18th most expensive boarding school. That doesn't exactly sound like the place you would go shopping for a blue collar soccer player, but that is precisely where Travers Evans was looking in the fall of 2012. Playing injured, the Jacks' 5'8" senior striker made an impression at the Stonehill Showcase.

"She was technically sound, athletic, and playing through pain," said Evans. "It was obvious that she could help us out."

Evans worked the phone to secure the in-person visits required to get a top-caliber recruit onto a college campus. When the dust settled on the recruiting process it was clear Maine Maritime was a fit for both sides. He had his player. His player had her college.

## Meet Emily Wyman of Maine Maritime's class of 2017.

Wyman may have been enrolled at a prestigious boarding school, but she comes from

humble beginnings. Growing up in Brockton, Massachusetts, south of Boston, Wyman is working class and wicked smart. After finding the college that was right for her, her dream was deferred when she found out she could not afford to be where she felt she needed to be. With an expected family contribution nearing \$0, there simply was not enough financial aid left in the pot to close the gap.

"Obviously I was disappointed," concedes Wyman, "but I was stuck at that point. My family and I were all in agreement that Maine Maritime was the best place for me to be both academically and personally."

# Meet Emily Wyman, determined, aspiring Mariner -- again.

After the initial devastation of seeing something so close slip away, Wyman doubled down on her determination to attend Maine Maritime, but having been handed an unexpected gap year, she was faced with the issue of how to maximize her time. So she did what comes natural to her, she got to work. Dirt under your nails and sore feet work, and she worked with purpose. At Hebron, Wyman had befriended a student from Brazil, and she determined that she needed to be among friends. The student who bussed from Brockton to Bangor to visit Maine Maritime as a recruit began bussing her way to Brazil, one table at a time.

"My mom taught me from early on that I had to be responsible for my own success," says Wyman. "I watched my mom hustle and grind to make ends meet for my benefit."

You can probably imagine the kind of hours it would take for a busser to afford a plane ticket, a visa and living expenses to pick up and put down in Brazil. Wyman doesn't have to. After securing the funds and the permission of two governments, Wyman still faced one more obstacle: the same mom that had taught her about working hard. The independent kid with the wicked smarts reminded her mother that she dropped her off alone at a boarding school and that she survived. It's hard to argue against that logic.

#### Meet Emily Wyman, world traveler.

Curitaba, Brazil is about four hours south of Sao Paolo. Wyman arrived with no expectations, a determination to learn Portuguese, and a desire to immerse herself in a foreign culture. She had been there before. Four years earlier, the daughter of a bus driver and a contractor found herself in a foreign culture at Hebron Academy.

"Boarding school taught me to be independent," says Wyman. "The adjustment wasn't easy, but I got through it by staying positive."

Armed with confidence, she was seeking out the sink or swim opportunity. Her open-minded approach helped her maximize her experiences. And that's where Maine Maritime fits in. The aspiring International Business and Logistics major possesses a broad desire to work and live abroad. It was why she needed what Maine Maritime had to offer, and why she was crushed when it wasn't there.

And when she returned from Brazil, it looked as if it just wasn't meant to be.

"We more or less had to start the recruiting process over," said Seth Brown'98, who had taken over the program while Wyman was abroad. "Division II Barry College {Fla.} was suddenly in the mix, I was new, and we had to bring both Emily and her mom back to campus to reinforce what we could offer academically, socially and athletically."

There was still the issue of financial aid. An earlier application yielded a better package, but not one that was comparable to Barry's ability to make college more affordable. Brown had to sell the long view. Lucky for him and Maine Maritime, the worldly Wyman is always thinking long term.

44

I watched my mom hustle and grind to make ends meet for my benefit.

77

# Meet Emily Wyman, Maine Maritime Class of 2018.

Curitaba, Brazil is about 4,985 miles south of Castine, Maine. Of the three major adjustments Wyman has made thus far in her life. This is the

first after living abroad.

"It's a little difficult to listen to people complaining about food in the dining hall when you were just living in a place where nearly every meal consists of rice and beans," says Wyman. "But you can't know that until you have experienced it."

The sound, global perspective will only aid her development as a student. The maturity and work ethic will aid the growth of Brown's program. Her arrival paid immediate dividends from a soccer perspective. Trailing 1-0 in the season opener, Wyman potted the equalizer in an eventual 2-1 win.

She is part of Brown's markedly blue collar first recruiting class, and what he hopes is the model for the future of his program.

"They all know how to work to get a result," says Brown. "They are the daughters of Maine and Massachusetts Maritime graduates, lobster fisherman, millworkers and police officers." And the one who almost wasn't here is a perfect fit.

"I think my teammates think I am mute," jokes Wyman. "But they know I am going to work hard and that I am committed to our success."

"Emily's volume is in her actions," notes Brown. "She is a tough player in a tough class that we are going to continue to build around."

It is clear that Emily would prefer to do what she is going to do rather than tell you what she wants to do. If she were a poker player, you might not even notice her at the table until she lays down the winning hand and takes your money. Once you do notice her, it is impossible not to recognize what a force she is to be reckoned with.

For Wyman, Maine Maritime is a means to an end. She is savvy enough to truly understand the value of the education, the alumni network, and the world of possibilities that combination has to offer. With much prodding and probing, she will reveal that her dream is to one day own and operate night clubs in Ibiza. While that is the dream, the reality is that she wants to experience all that she can in this life, and she is driven by a relatively simple goal: She wants to work hard so her mom won't have to. She was raised to take care of herself, but she only wants to take care of the woman who had to "hustle and grind" to raise her. Job well done.

Meet Emily Wyman, Mariner strong.

#### THREE INDUCTED INTO HALL

By STEVE PEED, Director of Athletics



Anna Herbert, Bob MacLeod, and Amy Asselin. Photo by T Koster.

my Asselin '06, Tom Herbert '50, and Robert "Bob" MacLeod '69, were inducted into the William J. Mottola Athletics Hall of Fame as part of Homecoming festivities.

As the first representative of women's soccer, the 2002 NAC Rookie of the Year and team captain, Asselin was a four-year standout for the Mariners, and the only women's soccer player to ever be named to the North Atlantic Conference First Team All-Conference all four years.

Asselin currently ranks first all-time with 129 career points, 49 career goals, and 31 assists, as well as the all-time leader in points per game, goals per game, assists per game, shot attempts per game and shots on goal per game, just to name a few.

Herbert was a three-sport standout athlete for football, basketball, and baseball. Herbert was a two-way end leading the football team in receptions in 1947 and 1949. Herbert was the shooting guard for Maine Maritime, playing the '47-'48 season but missing the next two years due to injury.

On the diamond Herbert won 16 games as a pitcher, and compiled a three-year batting average of .304. While on cruise Herbert pitched against Santo Domingo University (Dominican Republic) and a team of all-stars led by Carlton Willey.

MacLeod was a four-year standout for football, as well as competing three years in wrestling and rowing. In his junior year McLeod was named Outstanding Defensive Lineman, and as a senior captain was named to the All-Conference team. McLeod went undefeated as a wrestler, and served as the team's captain, all while being applauded for his toughness, work ethic and academic prowess.





# NEFC HONORS MOTTOLA WITH CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY



Former MMA Athletic Director, William Mottola receives trophy from NEFC Commissioner John Harper. Photo courtesy of W Mottola.

he New England Football Conference has named its new traveling trophy for former Commissioner and retired Maine Maritime Academy Director of Athletics Bill Mottola.

The trophy, commissioned by Endicott College President Richard Wiley, was unveiled at halftime of Maine Maritime Academy's 34-9, season opening win over Holland College. The faceplate on the trophy showcases the New England Football Conference logo along with the inscription, "The Bill Mottola Championship Trophy". The names of the NEFC champions for the previous 49 years of the conference are engraved on individual

plates. The trophy is a traveling trophy with each conference champion holding it for one year.

Maine Maritime president Bill Brennan and NEFC Commissioner John Harper presented the trophy.

"Bill was sincerely honored by the actions of the NEFC in naming the conference championship trophy in recognition of his 40+years of service to Maine Maritime Academy and to the NEFC," Harper said. "The NEFC was very import-

ant to him and he was deeply moved by the honor."

Mottola was active in the NEFC for parts of four decades. He began as a coach at Maine Maritime two years after the formation of the Conference and served as NEFC Commissioner for eight years, presiding over the expansion of the conference that made it the largest Division III football conference in the country.

Maine Maritime Academy purchased a pair of replica trophies. One will be presented to the Mottola family, while the other will remain in the Class of '86 Hall of Fame Room, which houses the William J. Mottola Athletics Hall of Fame.



Pictured with the Mariners, Board Chair Adin Tooker, Maine Coast Memorial Hospital, Board Member Karen Stanley, Maine Coast Memorial Hospital, Board Member Doug Endicott, Maine Coast Healthcare Foundation and Jack Frost, Director of Development, Maine Coast Memorial Hospital. Photo by R Sidelinger.

ary Dow Center for Cancer Care: The Maine Maritime Academy Football Team collected donations throughout their respective local communities, to benefit the Mary Dow Center for Cancer Care in Ellsworth, Maine. The Mary Dow Center is at the forefront of Cancer research, attempting to find a safer more reliable cure at a convenient Maine location.

The Mariners concluded their fundraising efforts for the Mary Dow Center for Cancer Care with their "Crush Cancer" game against Endicott on October 4th.

With the sale of special edition "Crush Cancer" t-shirts, the auction of two pink replica helmets, and donations raised over the last few months the Mariners raised a grand total of \$9,000.38

# SIDELINGER NAMED ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

iana Sidelinger joined the Academy staff as the Athletic Communications Coordinator in late August. A 2011 graduate of the New England School of Communications, the Richmond, Maine native spent the past two years as the Assistant Sports Information Director at Husson University, and previously interned in the Sports Marketing Office at the University of Maine. Sidelinger's position was created during the summer as part of a larger departmental reorganization tied to recent programmatic changes, and will place a greater emphasis on strategic communication in conjunction with college relations. As part of the reorganization, Tricia Carver-Watson who had simultaneously served as the head volleyball coach and head softball coach, was elevated to Associate Director of Athletics. In that capacity, she is the department's Senior Woman Administrator and oversees the department's NCAA compliance efforts. The Assistant Athletic Director position, which housed Sports Information, was eliminated.

# BYRON NAMED DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR

ndy Byron joins the staff as the Defensive Coordinator having spent the last three seasons at Springfield College. The Pride posted a 21-10 mark and made two ECAC Bowl appearances with Byron coaching the secondary and outside linebackers during his tenure. He coached four all league selections and one ECAC North All-Star at Springfield. Byron recruited throughout New England and was instrumental in reshaping the team's defensive system. Byron graduated from Springfield in 2009 with a degree in Criminal Justice. He earned his Master of Education in Student Personnel Administration while coaching for the Pride. A four-year letterman at Springfield, Byron was a 2008 Maroon Award Recipient and was member of the team's 2006 Empire 8 Championship. The Pride advanced to the second round of the NCAA playoffs that year. He will also serve as the department's strength and conditioning coach.

#### 1949 & 1966

Russ Kniehl '66D, RADM, Warren Hamm '49E, and Rick Judd '66D attended the 150th anniversary commemoration of the St. Albans Raid. Warren was co-chair of this 4 day event commemorating the Oct. 19, 1864 raid on ST. Albans, Vermont. by confederate forces who entered from Canada, robbed three banks, and attempted to set fire to the town before fleeing back across the border.

#### 1951

Richard Anzelc '51 ran into Coleman Lapointe '11 in an unexpected place. Dick took a friend, Jack DiPretoro, to former President George H W Bush's Walker's Point house to meet the president. He discovered happily that Coleman Lapointe, an International Business and Logistics major, was Mr. Bush's personal aid. Lapointe, who chose to be in the MMA Regiment, became what is known as a "Summer Lad" for the Bush family when he was still in high school. Later, he did an internship under the wing of the former personal aid to the president. After working in Philadelphia and Atlanta for nine months, Coleman became Mr. Bush's personal aid. He says that the job is very pleasant and inspiring. Meanwhile, Dick and his friend had a wonderful time with Mr. Bush, particularly since Jack DiPretoro and Mr. Bush were the same age and both had flown torpedo bombers during WWII.

#### 1952

Frank Williams '52 ran into former MMA president Leonard Tyler in Niantic, Conn. when Len and Bonnie were visiting his brotherin-law's family who live near Frank and his wife, Nobuko. The two men and wives had dinner together and enjoyed reminiscing about MMA.

#### 1954

Ken Curtis '54 was in the news in March 2014 when he and members of the Founder's Circle of the Camp Susan L. Curtis Foundation held an event to raise money to sponsor 200 disadvantaged Maine children who attended the camp in the 2014 summer. Former Maine governor (1967-1975) and former Maine Maritime Academy president (1986-1994) Curtis ad his wife, along with family and friends, began the Founder's Circle as a way to raise funds for a foundation to honor their daughter, Susan, who passed away when Curtis was governor. The camp builds character, self-esteem, and self-confidence in disadvantaged Maine children who might otherwise not get the chance to develop all facets of their personalities. According to the camp's literature, "Every child matters." U.S. Rep. Mike Michaud, and former congressman, Tom Allen, both attended the event to lend support.

#### 1956

David Fenderson '56 attended a memorial service for Douglas Green '56 in Rockland, Maine on June 28, 2014. There he joined Charlie Hall '56, Bill Mahoney '56, Dick Whittier '56, Charlie Harriman '56, and Bill Lowell '56. Parker Laite '54 spoke of his memories of Doug.

David and his wife, Maragaret,

traveled to London with the express purpose of seeing the Chelsea Garden Show and Dave said, "It was terrific! ...35,000 people attended each day." After seeing the Chelsea Garden Show, the Fendersons visited several other gardens in and around London.

#### 1964

Perry Mattson '64 of Surry, Maine won the championship flight at the Woodlawn Invitational Croquet Tournament in June 2014. He "squeaked past Larry Stettner, croquet master, 13-12 in a game that was not decided until the final turn." (Ellsworth American, July 3, 2014).

At the Class of '64's Fall Mini-Muster at DeMillo's Restaurant in Portland on September 26, 2014, Charlie Briggs '60 was the guest of honor. Along with spouses, 25 people attended including **Capt** Benson Bowditch, David Campbell, Malcolm Campbell, Lou Dumont, Ernie Girard, John Harrigan, Al Laney, George Luddy, Perry Mattson, Joe Moran, Robert Munchbach, Chuck Sherman, Capt Larry Wade, and Capt Charlie Weeks. All who went agreed that DeMillo's "treated them well." The group discussed topics such as NOLA commissioning USS Ancon, their training cruises, and each other. News covered John Metcalfe's automobile accident while crossing the country. Both he and his wife walked away from their totaled vehicle although John got an infected arm and had to have surgery. Al Laney reported that Steve Levine '64 said he was recuperating from "the big one..." but Al wasn't sure what that really meant.

September 27, 2014, Perry
"Butch" Mattson '64 went to
Homecoming 2014 and marched
on the football field with Nate
Whitaker '64 and Tommy O'Donnell '64 holding the Class of 1964
banner. He emailed his classmates,
"We were proud to represent you on
a very hot day in Castine. Nate even
wore his dress blue jacket which fit
him to a tee." Some class members
believe Nate had his jacket purposely made larger when he was a cadet
so he could wear it all his life!

The Class of 1964 plans its next Mini-Muster for sometime in December. Contact Larry Wade '64 at lvwade@roadrunner.com for details. It will be in Portland again and he recommends that people build in some Christmas shopping time.

#### 1968

Raymond Champine '68 sailed in the Merchant Marine with Texaco for 13 years. He holds a chief engineer steam license, a third assistant engineer diesel license, and a stationary engineer license (Providence, R.I.). He also worked for General Electric in Lynn, Mass. as a test supervisor testing main propulsion units for 688 and Trident submarines. His last position before retiring on June 30, 2013, was for General Dynamics Electric Boat where he worked as an engineering specialist for 26 years.

**Bill Donnini '68** and a group of MMA alumni in the Portland Marine Society served as judges for the tugboat races at the 2014 Portland



L to R: Leonard Tyler & Frank Williams '52 Photo courtesy of L Tyler.



Courtesy of B Donnini.

MS Harborfest. L-to-R above: **Dave Fenderson** '56, Jim McLaughlin, Mass Maritime Academy, **Charlie Hall** '56, **Ben Bowditch** '64, and **Bill Donnini** '68.

#### 1970

Robert E Martel '70 wrote a wellphrased letter to the editor of the Portland Press Herald on August 29, 2014. His topic was the article written by Kim Clark in the August, 2014 Money Magazine. After discussing the rankings by Ms. Clark, Martel wrote, "As a graduate of MMA and uncle of a recent Bowdoin College student-athlete, I can say that Maine should be very proud of its affordable colleges, and Money Magazine spells this out. With all the discussion of the University of Maine System, we still have quality education in Maine that can lead to good-paying jobs anywhere in the world."

#### 1974

Avery Jade Altvater, granddaughter of **William Altvater** '**74**, daughter of Nicklas Altvater '15 and Caitlin Thompson; future mariner.



Photo courtesy of S Kuseybi.

#### 1987

Paul Gallagher '87 returned to Foss Maritime in September to work in the commercial services group on major transportation project opportunities. He has 25 years experience in the industry and has been involved in all aspects of maritime and cargo transportation. He began at Foss in 1991 serving in various management roles. He then worked for TOTE Logistics on a variety of collaborative projects throughout the world before returning to Foss. He resides in Seattle, Wash. with his wife and three children. [Information from Foss Maritime Press release, 09/16/2014]

#### 2002

Darin Huggins '02, a Navy Reservist in the Strategic Sealift Program on 32-day orders in Sasebo, Japan, ran into fellow alumni - Chief Engineer Cedric Hayes '88 of the Maersk Peary, Chief Mate Brian Rowe '02 of the USNS Loyal, and third mate Alex Farrell '10 of the USNS Howard O. Lorenzen (a missile range instrumentation ship). Farrell is also a lieutenant JG in the Strategic Sealift Officer Program.

Huggins said, "Japan is great. The rough terrain is beautiful, the people very honorable, and the prices very affordable." He also said he "would like to encourage all current and future Strategic Sealift Officers (SSOs) to stay compliant in the program. He recommended that

students join and take advantage of the career opportunities available. The Navy Reserve Program benefits are impressive by any standard. They include paid training, worldwide travel, networking, retirement, and the GI bill for educational expenses. Military Sealift Command Far East has opportunities for SSOs in Singapore, Japan, Korea, Australia, Thailand,

Philippines, and Guam. If you're looking for an ADT, please email mscfe.sso@fe.navy.mil. My recent Active Duty Trainings have included 21 days in Singapore, 135 days in Singapore again, and then 32 days in Sasebo, Japan. The opportunities are endless."



LCDR Darin Huggins '02 & Chief Mate Brian Rowe '02 on USNS Loyal in Japan, 2014. Photo by D Huggins.

#### 2004

Zander Parker '04, owner/operator of Guldive Cruises in Castine, ME, hosted a July 2014 viewing of sailboats designed by William Hand Jr and R O Davis. The vessels were available to the public for 3 hours on a Saturday afternoon and included the MMA's Schooner Bowdoin, Guldive, Burma, and Tracker. Parker held the free-to-the public event to celebrate Guldive's 80 years of sailing.

#### 2014

Amanda Bello '14 and Will Ziadeh '13 announced their engagement in early summer. They are planning a September



Alex Farrell '10 — Third Mate aboard USNS Howard O. Lorenzen (T-AGM-25). Photo by D Huggins.



On the MAERSK PEARY: Capt. David Perron, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, LCDR Darin Huggins '02, Chief Engineer Cedric Hayes '88, & LT. Chris Petty, Kings Point. Photo by D Huggins.

2015 wedding in Portland, Maine. Presently, both live in San Diego, Calif. where Amanda is an ensign aboard the USS Decatur (DDG 73) and Will is sailing under his USCG license. Amanda's ship went into dry dock in July so she was sent for further training to become the strike officer of Decatur. She will be in charge of Tomahawk missile missions and launches. She says that "The flip side to the yard period is that I don't get to learn a lot of skills that I need to learn as a new officer so I may be transferred to a ship that is underway to 'ride along' and learn what I need to learn."

Adam Johnston '14 thrived at Maine Maritime Academy but it took extra effort on his part. When he was a toddler, he was run over by a lawnmower and had to have the lower half of his leg amputated. With good care from the doctors and staff at the Shriner's Hospital for Children and his family, he

adjusted to wearing a prosthetic leg and chased dreams the same as any other child.

It was not until he visited MMA while in high school that he realized what he wanted to do. Despite the blisters and chafing of his prosthetic leg from running up and down the hills of Castine during RPT (Regimental Preparation Training), he stuck out Mug Month and asked for no special treatment. Not one to dwell on himself, he became part of the mentoring program for freshmen when he was a sophomore and did that right through his last year at MMA. By the time he was a fourth year student, he had risen to the position of Senior Mentor, a position in the Wedge of undergraduate regimental officers. He matured and gained confidence by helping others.

Two months after graduation, he set sail as a third assistant engineer with his first shipping company.

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#### MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

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The Casco Bay Chapter

reeting from the Casco Bay Chapter! The Casco Bay Chapter meets on the third Thursday of each month. Four of these meetings are set up specifically as social gatherings where we conduct no chapter business and alumni have an opportunity catch up with one another, tell sea stories and do some networking.

Our regular monthly gatherings are where we conduct chapter business; however, we always make sure to allocate plenty of time to having fun and catching up with fellow alumni. We also want everyone to know that spouses and significant others are always welcome to attend. Our most recent gathering was held at Pat's Pizza on Market Street in the Old Port on September 18th. It was very well attended and was a great time. Our next meeting was also held at the Market Street Pat's on October 16th.

We're currently organizing our 2014 Holiday Gathering which will be held on December 12th from 6:00pm to 10:00pm at the Rusty Scupper. The Rusty Scupper is located on the Coast Guard base in South Portland. We've held many gatherings there in past years and they do a great terrific job for us. An auction will be held with all proceeds going to our scholarship fund. Invitations with all the details are forthcoming so please keep an eye on your email.

The chapter has selected our 2014 Homecoming scholarship recipient and presented it during Homecoming weekend. A special thanks to those students who responded to our scholarship application request. The Casco Bay Chapter awards one scholarship at each of the following events: Homecoming, Senior Banquet, Awards Banquet, and Graduation.

The Casco Bay Chapter operates a marine flea market each year at the Maine Boat Builders Show with all proceeds going to scholarships for MMA students. The show is held in March, but there's work to be done in preparation for the event and so we're always looking for volunteers to help out. If you're interested in helping out or if you have any other questions regarding the Casco Bay Chapter please contact Chapter President **Troy Malbon** by phone; 207-791-5511 or by email; troy.malbon@ubs.com

If you have questions regarding the Holiday gathering please feel free to contact Ernie Goodwin by email; egoodwin@maine.rr.com.

Finally, feel free to "like" us on Facebook. The Casco Bay Facebook page is a great place to get the latest chapter news and information on upcoming events. You can find us by searching: "Maine Maritime Academy Casco Bay Alumni."

Delaware Valley Chapter

e had an impromptu gathering of Mainiacs onboard our Keystone-managed SS ANTARES (a MARAD former SL-7) here at NE Shipyard in Philadelphia on September 24, 2014. SS Antares is in Philly as part of her 5 -year dry docking cycle for a 50-day repair period. She returns to her homeport of Baltimore shortly. Contact **Tim O'Connor '78** at toconnor@keyship.com for chapter information.



Capt. John Gazzola '82, Director of Marine Sales, NE Ship Repair; Capt Andy Johnson '98, Master , SS Antares - Keystone Ship Management; Chief Mate Dan Shorty '75, SS Antares; and Captain Tim O'Connor '78 Fleet Safety & Quality Assurance Manager - Keystone Shipping Co. The Tidewater Chapter

obsters on the Chesapeake Bay MMA Tidewater alumni recently gathered for a lobster cook-out and social hosted at the home of Col. Bob & Nori Curtis onboard Fort Story along the Chesapeake Bay. Over 25 alumni and guests enjoyed a beautiful afternoon catching up with one another and recalling their time in Castine. The afternoon included an appearance of the "MMA Brace" which caused many to try to recite formerly remembered passages often requiring bits and pieces from others to get through a paragraph. It also included engineers pontificating to the deckies on the fine art of combustion and the proper operation of a lobster boiler as they tried valiantly to keep the boilers burning. Rod Nelson '43-2 was not able to make this outing; however, that didn't preclude the group from sharing stories at his expense.

The Tidewater area alumni is growing and meeting many times throughout the year. Past events have included hockey games, quarterly "no-hosts", a Christmas gathering and summer "All American" picnics. Contact **Chip Callan** '88, chapter president, at jcallan.invictus@gmail. com or 757-644-7220 to ensure you are on chapter correspondences.





Alumni in photo: Troy & Debbie Ammons '88, Dave Bolster '86, Tom & Donna Bourgelas '81, Chip & Michelle Callan '88, Col. Bob & Nori Curtis '90, Chris Devlin '80, Jeff and Kim Fitzpatrick '83, Kevin Morrison '90, Dan & Dianne Pollen '83, Dan Schroppe '62, George & Kathy Wade '65, Matt & Darylumie Zardeskas '94, and Jonathan Glatz & Aurora Grave '12

#### **REUNION PHOTOS**







#### **MMA Alumni Association Chapters**

#### **Bangor Sea Dogs**

Joe Connors '86 223 Essex Street Bangor, ME 04401 207-990-8969 jmconnorslaw@netzero.com

#### **Bay State**

Samuel Rowe '65 195 Glen Eagle Drive Mashpee, MA 02649 508-539-2395 skidrowe42@verizon.net

#### Casco Bay

Troy Malbon '89 69 Anthony Avenue Topsham, ME 04086 207-522-9257 troy.malbon@ubs.com

#### Connecticut

Ion Carr '87 51 Roselund Hill Road Uncasville, CT 06382 860-848-8190 jcarr@ebmail.gdeb.com

#### **Delaware Valley**

Tim O'Connor '78 60 Greensward Court Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 856-779-2678 toconnor@keyship.com

#### Florida

David Knapp, '86 5008 Longfellow Avenue Tampa, FL 33629 813-228-4554 drknapp@tecoenergy.com

#### **Kennebec Valley**

Ion Fortier '86 5 West Baker Street Winslow, ME 04901 207-649-2724 jon.fortier@gmail.com

#### **Ned Andrews**

Alton Leeman III '92 12 Steamboat Road Bailey Island, ME 04003 al.leeman@biw.com

#### **Northern California**

David Lipsky '79 34 Madera del Presidio Drive Corte Madera, CA 94925 415-927-3534 idlipsky@yahoo.com

#### **Penobscot Bay**

John Metcalfe '64 405 Town Hill Road Appleton, ME 04862 207-785-4531 metcalfe@tidewater.net

#### **Puget Sound**

Peter Vander Hoek '04 1503A Lake Washington Blvd Seattle, WA 98122 pvhoek04@yahoo.com

#### Seacoast

Mike Grigware '87 30 Ridgeview Drive Biddeford, ME 04005 207-284-8630 mikegrigware@gmail.com

#### Southeast

Norman Laskay '62 402 Mariners Island Mandeville, LA 70448 504-674-7530 nlaskay@portlite.com

#### Southern California

Capt. Ralph Staples '71 7312 Arroyo Grande Road San Diego, CA 92129 619-733-1942 rstaples@epsilonsystems.com

#### **Texas**

Capt. Scott Futcher '87 22136 Westheimer Road, Box 407 Katy, TX 77450-8296 281-394-7080 henlopen87@gmail.com

#### **Tidewater**

John M. "Chip" Callan '88 1600 River Rock Reach Chesapeake, VA 23321 757-673-6157 john.callan.ctr@navy.mil

#### Washington, DC

Todd LaPointe '87 2002 E Baltimore Street Baltimore, MD 21231 tnlapointe@gmail.com

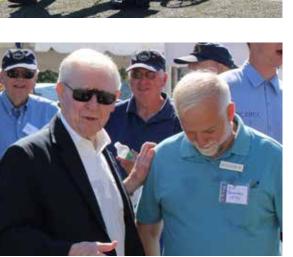
# M M A HOMECOMING'14

## **IN PICTURES**





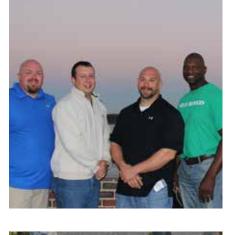






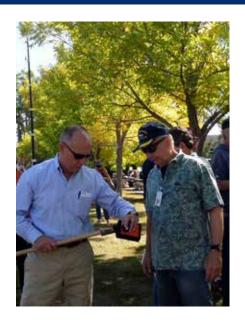








# Friday, September 26 - Sunday, September 28



















#### September, 2014

raining Cruise 2014 is in the record books and I am extremely grateful to the alumni who provided such fantastic services to the ship and the Midshipmen. As always, the Penobscot Bay Pilots got us in and out of Castine. Moran Towing provided tug services in and out

of Portsmouth N.H., with our alumni pilots guiding us up the river. The Seacoast Alumni Chapter coordinated with the N.H. Port Authority and took care of our line handlers and dockage while even arranging for bus service to get the Midshipmen around on liberty. Demonstrating the span of influence our alumni have, Chris Scanzillo '03, an executive at MAK, arranged for guided tours of the facility in Kiel, Germany. He provided buses and personnel to lead three tours and ensured that everyone had an opportunity to see how main propulsion engines are produced.

After a very successful training cruise we are plunging headlong into an exciting academic year for the Regiment of Midshipmen. We started the year with an unprecedented 722 Midshipmen and MUGs. As a result, we have had to take a hard look at the training cruise format and have begun planning for a 90-day training cruise this year. The 4/C will be split into two groups and will either sail for the first or second 45-day training period. The 2/C will be sailing for the full 90 days. The rationale is two-fold. First, with the number of 2/C that we have sailing, they need the

extra time to get them all the key watch standing roles for their education and for the STCW 2010 requirements. Second, our training ship is limited to 244 students and this model will allow for us to accommodate all of our students without increasing that capacity (see point number one for the reason we don't want to increase capacity).

This will be a challenging change to the way we have sailed in recent history and it is my sincere hope that we will continue to have the fantastic support from the alumni that we have had in the past. This year, more than ever, we will need licensed watch officers to fill added requirements that stem from the longer training program.

Take Care Shipmates,

9100

Captain Nate Gandy '92



Senator Susan Collins and MMA President William J. Brennan stop for a photo with students on their way to celebrate the deployment of VolturnUS, the first grid-connected offshore wind turbine in the US; September 5, 2014. L to R: 1/C Patrick Duffy-Miller, 1/C Dillon Davidson, 2/C Joseph Tochia, MMA President William Brennan, U.S. Senator Susan Collins, 2/C Christopher Gilman, 1/C Eliza Pingree. Photo courtesy of Senator Collins' office.



# MICHAEL X. SAVASUK, ESQ., '74D

# Troubh Heisler, PA Attorneys-at-Law

Commerical, Civil, and Personal Injury\* Litigation in all Federal & State Courts

Bankruptcy • Business • Civil Rights • Corporate • Commercial Creditors' Rights & Collections • Labor & Employment • Litigation Maritime • Personal Injury • Probate • Real Estate • Tax • Trusts Wills • Worker's Compensation • Veterans' Rights

2012 Best Lawyers in America, Admiralty & Maritime Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rating AV (highest)

1986-PRESENT Private Practice, Portland, Maine

1979–1985 Hill, Betts & Nash, New York City

1979 Franklin Pierce Law Center, J. D.

1974–1979 Exxon Co., Deck Officer

1974 Maine Maritime Academy, B.S.

511 Congress Street, Suite 700

Portland, Maine 04101 Phone: 207-780-6789

Fax: 207-774-2339

E-Mail: msavasuk@troubhheisler.com

#### Richard P Boothby '45

died August 28, 2014 in Maine. He was an officer in the US Navy during World War II, serving aboard Liberty Ship James C Cameron in the South Pacific Theatre. The ship had no medical officer so Richard was tapped to fill in the slot as a layman. His shipmates affectionately referred to him as "Doc."

After the war, he received a degree from Bates College, the alma mater of his father and mother. From college, he joined his father as an executive in the shoe industry, working for the Holmes Stickney Co (Portland, Maine) and later for the Gould & Scammon Co. (Carlisle, Pa.). When he retired, he devoted more time to hiking and skiing in the New England mountains. He also pursued his other passions: tennis and golf, remaining active to the very end of his life.

#### Ernest C Collar Jr '49

died at his summer home in Brittany, France on July 19, 2014. In the early part of his career, he was a chief engineer for Jefferson City Lines Shipping Co. Then he became vice president of the Western Gear Co. and moved to Paris, France where he acted as the European liaison. His ashes were scattered in the Bay of Morlaix off the Brittany coast. Ernie's wife, Mia, sent a very special note to all his classmates which is republished here: Après des annees de lutte contre des maladies respiratoires chroniques, j'ai le regret de vous informer que finalement Ernie a perdu ce combat, en Bretagne, à 4 heures 20 du matin le 19 juillet 2014. Il m'a demandé de contacter chacun de vous pour dire "au revoir" et vous remercier pour le soutien que vous avez ete si nombreaux à lui exprimer au cours de ces dernieres annees. (Translation: After years of struggle against chronic respiratory disease, I regret to inform you that Ernie finally lost his battle...He asked me to contact each of you to say "goodbye" and to thank you for the support that many of you gave him during these last years...).

#### Frederick J Grondin '47

died September 25, 2014 in Maine. After completing his degree at MMA, he received his BS in industrial technology from the University of Southern Maine. He did an apprenticeship at Saco Lowell from 1949 to 1953 at which time he was hired by Saco Lowell/Saco Defense. He retired in 1989 after over 40 years at the company.



He was a family man whose kindness, honesty, and genuine nature always made people feel welcome. In addition to taking care of his close-knit family, he helped others through his membership in the Elks Lodge and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

Donations may be made to: The Frederick J Grondin Scholarship at Maine Maritime Academy, Advancement Office, 1 Pleasant St, Castine, ME 04420.

#### Tim H Hutchins '74

died in Maine on September 6, 2014. His engineering degree took him to GE where he loyally spent his entire career, retiring in 2010. His specialty was steam turbines – troubleshooting GE steam turbine controls and reduction gears on ships, submarines, aircraft carriers, and land propulsion turbines in over 40 countries. One of his favorite experiences was his cross-country motorcycle trip. Known for his stories, he paid sharp attention to the details using his excellent memory to keep the stories alive and exciting.

#### Richard S Libby '46

died September 13, 2014 in Maine. He grew up sailing on Frenchman's Bay, which stimulated his abiding love of the sea. By 1957 he had a BS in economics from the University of Maine. For sev-

eral years, he sailed for American Export Lines and then in the US Navy on active duty aboard USS Daly. After active service, he continued in the US Naval Reserve until 1970, retiring at the rank of captain. While in the military, he received 4 major medals. Between stints at sea, he skippered private yachts and crewed in ocean races.

He tried Boston University Law School for two years but decided he did not have a passion for law. Banking at First National Bank of Bar Harbor became his career. He began as a loan officer and retired as vice president of trust services in 1990.

Many local organizations benefitted from Dick's service, including the Bar Harbor town council and planning board. As president of the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce, he successfully led the initiative to bring large cruise ships to the town. He also worked tirelessly to get bike lanes on the state roads on Mount Desert Island. For 13 years, he was a member of the MMA Board of Trustees; and he headed up the MMA Alumni Association for two years.

#### George G Martin, Jr '50

died in Florida on March 14, 2014. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as an ensign in the US Navy. During the Korean Conflict, he was made LTjg and served aboard several minesweepers. After leaving the Navy, he became a mortgage banker and real estate broker in Atlanta, GA and started his company, Guardian Mortgage



Corp. In 1985, he retired to Martha's Vineyard Island, Mass. where he enjoyed sailing. In 2001, he and his wife, Shirley, moved to Fl. He volunteered for numerous civic organizations, often holding positions of leadership. While living on Martha's Vineyard, he was elected a member of the Board of Selectmen for the town of Oak Bluffs. One of his yearbook entries said he was "the personality plus boy, the typical real good Joe, a kid you like to meet. We cannot say too much about Georgie as he has given the pat on the back, the smile, the needed lift to everyone."

#### Richard R Paton '66

died October 7, 2014 in Connecticut. His spent his career in risk management and retired from the Phoenix Insurance Company. He was in the US Coast Guard for 27 years, retiring as a commander. He served on the boards of the Workman's Compensation Trust and the Steamship Historical Society Association.

His love for MMA and its students showed in his award in memory of his father – the Lester R Paton Navy Leadership Sword – given yearly.

Several alumni sent the editor their reminiscences of Dick and all spoke of his courage, dedication, and loyalty to MMA and his classmates. **Dick Jagger '66** wrote a poignant tribute to his friend **Dick Paton '66**:

#### Classmates,

I am very sorry to report that Dick Paton died Tuesday (October 7, 2014) following a long period of hospitalization.

His passing occurred while Russ Kniehl
'66, Ned Bulmer '66 and I were on campus in Castine for a meeting. There is never a good time to receive bad news like this, but, somehow the timing seemed to fit. We were at MMA as a committee to meet with the sculptor of our class gift. Dick Paton '66 was the chairman of that committee, but was unable to attend. It was uncanny that the three of us were together at MMA at this moment for this reason. It's like Dick passed us the ball and said, "You've got it, Guys – now run with it into the end zone."

The MMA administration, very graciously, put together an Eight Bells ceremony: the American flag, the Maine flag, and the MMA flag were all dipped in unison while Russ sounded the bell. President Brennan spoke briefly about Dick's history as a US Coast Guard officer and his Academy service to a gathered group of midshipmen and officers. Russ Kniehl '66 also spoke of his long friendship with Dick and the events and activities they shared post-graduation.

After concluding the business we'd come to do, we hung out in the Wyman Alumni House (the old 'Admiral's House') and raised a toast (more than one, actually!) to Dick and all the other classmates who've rung up few before us. Russ, again, showed us how to sound Eight Bells.

Our thanks go to **Paul Mercer '73** and his staff at the Alumni Office for making this tribute to Dick Paton possible.

Regards, Ichabod 1966E. Old School





Eight Bells ceremony held on October 7 at MMA in honor of Dick Paton, '66. Photos courtesy of D Jagger '66.

#### Michael J Riley '76

died in Maine on October 2, 2014. He devoted his life to his family and the sea. His degree in marine engineering from MMA provided the foundation he wanted to work at several shipyards in the Boston metropolitan area including General Ship, Boston Ship Repair, and recently, General Dynamics. He loved to do home projects, cheer on the Patriots, and travel worldwide. As a youth, he was active in the St Mary's Drum and Bugle Corps and continued to enjoy supporting the drum corps throughout his life. A comment offered by the management and staff at Parsh Marine Singapore paid tribute to Mike: "He was an excellent gentleman to work with. It is a sad day for all - a big loss to the maritime industry."

#### Kenneth M Thoens '62

died in New Jersey on January 19, 2014. He served in the US Merchant Marines and the US Naval Reserves. He was a volunteer in many civic and service organizations and was particularly proud of his membership in the MMA Alumni Association.

# THE COMFORT AND THE ANCON

By JOHN "JACK" HARRIGAN '64

he Class of 1964 lived, ate, slept, trained, and cruised aboard USS Comfort and USS Ancon for a total of two years logging 52,000 nautical miles together, first as MUGS and later as mates and engineers. The two ships were simply known as TS State of Maine during our time at the Academy. However, before being turned over to the Academy as training ships, both participated in meritorious action and rendered service in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, and the Mediterranean Sea during World War II.

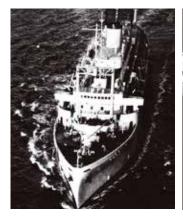
USS Comfort was built in 1943 by Consolidated Steel Corp., in Wilmington, CA. She operated throughout WWII with a navy crew and army medical personnel serving primarily in the South Pacific evacuating and treating wounded soldiers.

When Comfort was on duty off Okinawa on April 6, 1945, a Japanese kamikaze plane crashed through three of her decks and exploded in the surgical department filled with medical personnel and patients. The ship suffered considerable damage. In total 28 sailors and six nurses lost their lives; and 48 sustained wounds. For her work in WWII, USS Comfort received two battle stars.

The Navy decommissioned the ship in 1946 and turned her over to the Army. By 1953, she had been seconded to Maine Maritime Academy for a training vessel and renamed TS State of Maine. The Comfort remained the Academy training ship until June 28,1962, when the Class of '64 brought the ship to her final resting place on the Sabine River in Beaumont, Texas to become part of the US Reserve Fleet. Her demise occurred when Southern Scrap Materials Co. purchased the Comfort for \$20,279.29 in 1967.

On July 7, 1962, the Class of '64 left Beaumont aboard USS Ancon now under the name TS State of Maine. The ship went to New Orleans for some retrofitting in preparation for her voyage to her new home berth in Castine. At the time, we thought the ship was a newer vessel, however, we were wrong. Ancon was built in 1938 by Bethlehem Steel Co. in Quincy, Mass. for the Panama Railroad Co. as a cargo-passenger vessel. The big difference for us was in the quality of the living quarters. On the Comfort, we lodged in compartments with 20 of our closest friends but on the Ancon, we slept in staterooms with two fold-down bunks and a head.

In 1942, Ancon was taken over by the US Army Transport Service to carry troops from





USS Comfort. Photos courtesy of J Harrigan.

San Francisco to Australia. Shortly after that, she was transferred to the Navy to become part of the Atlantic fleet and participate in the invasion of North Africa as a troop transport ship. On November 8, 1942, Ancon underwent conversion in the Norfolk Navy Yard into a combined head-quarters and communications command ship and was designated an amphibious force flagship.

After her arrival in Oran, Algeria, General George S Patten inspected her before she sailed in 1943 to participate in the invasion of Sicily. She carried Rear Admiral Alan Kirk and General Omar Bradley aboard her. Once her work in Sicily was completed, she sailed for Salerno, carrying General Mark Wayne Clark, commander of the 5th Army.

Her tour of duty in the Mediterranean ended in late November 1943 and she sailed for Devonport, England where she was designated the flagship of the 11th Amphibious Force. While there, King George IV and Field Marshal Montgomery of Great Britain were guests aboard her.

On June 5, 1944, Ancon sailed for France and was designated the flagship for the assault forces that landed on Omaha Beach in Normandy. Her orders were to provide instructions for forces, both afloat and ashore; and to carry personnel and supplies to the beachhead.

Ancon remained in British waters through late September 1944 when she was ordered back to the United States for repairs at Charleston, S.C.

After repairs and sea trials, she departed for San Diego, Calif. where she became part of Amphibious Group 5. Over the next seven months, Ancon sailed the Pacific and saw combat during the Battle of Okinawa. Shortly after the Japanese surrendered in 1945, she sailed into Tokyo Bay and assumed duties as a press ship in coordination with the battleship USS Missouri. Because she was anchored next to Missouri, her crew witnessed the official surrender by the Japanese on September 2, 1945. For her service, USS Ancon received 5 battle stars.

Once again Ancon became a part of the Panama Railroad Company as a passenger-cargo ship and remained so until 1961. On July 14, 1962, the operation of USS Ancon was taken over by the Class of 1964 under training. Rechristened as TS State of Maine, she continued as the Academy training vessel until May 9, 1973. Two weeks later, a decommissioned Ancon-TS State of Maine was sold to North American Smelting Co. for scrap.

Both ships, just like the cadets they trained, proved themselves flexible, honorable and worthy.





# MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

CASTINE, MAINE 04420

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

