

# MARINER

The ALUMNI MAGAZINE of MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

— ISSUE 3 · 2018 —



## Rowing With Heart

Determined MUGs win  
inter-academy competition.

## Homecoming: It's Personal

We reconnect. We celebrate.  
One alumnus shares hopes  
for the future.

## CAT on the Run

Fast is the operative word for  
alumni who crew HSV *Alakai*.



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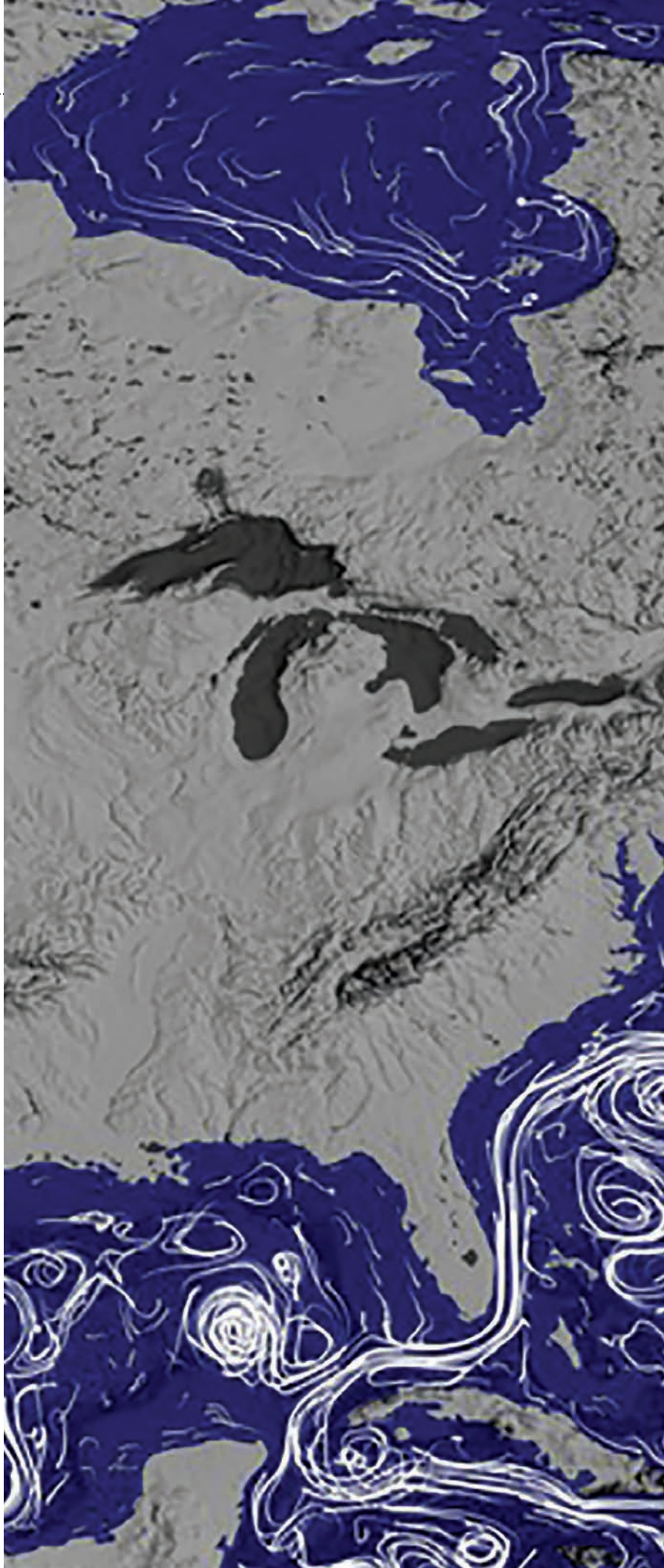
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**On the Cover:** Commanded to "toss the oars," cadets pause during training. Photo by Billy R. Sims







# Current Affairs

When *Shipmate*, the MMA alumni e-newsletter, recently put out a call for articles of interest to professionals, one of several suggestions had us hooked.

*Into the Gulfstream* by Pulitzer Prize-nominated writer Tony Bartelme chronicles how one of the mightiest currents on Earth is changing with potential devastating effects for the Atlantic Coast. "The race to understand the Gulf Stream is a deep dive into history, technology and recent aha moments in science."

Whether your favorite reads come from *gCaptain*, *ASME*, or *Marine Science Today*, send us the message—preferably not in a bottle—and a url link to [alumni@mma.edu](mailto:alumni@mma.edu), and we'll share it. ■

■ Watch the time-lapse movement of global ocean currents at [mariner.mainemaritime.edu](http://mariner.mainemaritime.edu). Read *Into the Gulfstream* by Tony Bartelme at [postandcourier.com/gulfstream](http://postandcourier.com/gulfstream).



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MMA PRESIDENT  
Dr. William J. Brennan

# We Are One Community

IN MY REMARKS AT CONVOCATION each year, I welcome our new students to campus, and wish them much success in their education at Maine Maritime Academy. This year, I explained why I, as president of the college, would begin the academic year by jumping off the TS *State of Maine* with them. (It's not because I like swimming in sub-arctic water at eight o'clock on a Sunday morning.) I join the students for Ship Jump for two reasons. First, I want to demonstrate that one leads by example. And, second, to demonstrate that we are in this together. We are one community. As mariners, we help each other and support one another.

One student wrote in a reflection following the event, "The most important lesson from his jump was that all of Maine Maritime Academy is a family."

I embrace that idea. It is personal for me, since I grew up on the academy campus, but I see it manifest among faculty, among students, among our alumni classes, at Homecoming, between academy people and Castine folks, and the many transactions in which I engage.

The sense of pride they brought back extended in a unique way.

That idea—we are one community and we support one another—is an invaluable part of the MMA experience. It is something we cultivate and work toward. We bring in a new class of students and guide them through New Student Orientation, Regimental Preparatory Training, and Convocation; or, we plan for Homecoming for months to organize activities that will bring new energy to the event each year.

Other times, that feeling of community just happens.

This fall, during a special event that we hope will become an annual tradition, a group of students

represented Maine Maritime Academy at an inter-academy Monomoy (rescue boat) challenge at SUNY Maritime, and won. They practiced for a few short weeks, committed, and then gave it all they had (see pg. 14). The spirited sense of pride they brought back to the academy extended to their classmates and colleagues in a way that was unique to my experience here as president. It was a proud moment, and a great start for our youngest members of the community who were involved.

In this issue, we celebrate the community spirit that enlivens Maine Maritime Academy. Our tight-knit campus and town are intertwined in many ways (see pg. 20 for a story about Castine families who sponsor out-of-state MMA students).

As we plan for this year's Holiday Open House to welcome neighbors and colleagues and share good cheer, I look forward to seeing everyone together. We are all the better for the close relationships we have—even the tough ones—and I am proud to be part of the community that is Maine Maritime Academy. ■



Victorious MMA team inspires spirit and camaraderie.



## Join In



### Alumni involvement is a measure of a school's worth.

IT WAS GREAT TO SEE SO MANY of you at Homecoming 2018. The weather and camaraderie were spectacular. Every year the tailgate reception festivities get better and the barbecues get kicked up a notch!

As you know the bi-annual election of the MMA Alumni Association officers and board members was conducted this past summer with more than 600 ballots cast by alumni. Board Members elected to a four-year term include

incumbents Troy Malbon '89, Stephen "Jack" Spratt '93, Steve Rendall '96, and Andrew Strosahl '05. Newly elected members include Dr. Jeff Riedel '86, COO for R&P Technologies, an engineering services firm supporting NAVSEA; Ben Strickland '95, who manages domestic and international business development opportunities for Lockheed Martin and is the corporation's principal connection to the U.S. and Allied navies for fleet training and readiness; and 3rd class Patrick Cloud, a Marine Transportation Operations student as a student representative for a two-year term. Congratulations!

Re-elected as officers for two-year terms include yours truly, Joe Cote '82, President; Bill Full '76, Vice President; Cal Lechman '65, Treasurer; and Mike Savasuk '74, Clerk.

Thank you for your continued support.

Getting involved with our school is so important as we move forward. Many organizations, including *U.S. News and World Report*, rank the quality of U.S. colleges on their alumni involvement, in part, as a measure of a school's worth. In addition to the Alumni Board, the Alumni Association strives to accomplish its work and contribution to the academy through several committees. These committees are open to all MMA alumni, and I highly encourage anyone interested to become involved. Contact us at [alumni@mma.edu](mailto:alumni@mma.edu) or 207-326-2337.

As always, I look forward to seeing you at upcoming 2019 events, including the Alumni Senior Banquet on February 6.

Best regards,

Joe Cote '82

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# Campus Currents



McCoy stands before solid waste from Maine municipalities that is processed and burned to generate electricity. Her job has taken her from handling a shovel to the facility's control room operations.

## Lessons that Work

Kayleigh McCoy's field experience is key to opening doors to the working world.

A MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY EDUCATION combines knowledge and skills learned in classrooms and labs with field experiences in real-world job settings.

It's a formula soon to pay off for Kayleigh McCoy, a power engineering technology major, Class of 2019, who completed an internship with Penobscot Energy Recovery Company (PERC) in Orrington, Maine, and then continued working into the academic year.

The facility, which uses processed solid waste for fuel to generate electricity for thousands of Maine homes, has received awards from the

EPA and others for its resource stewardship and efficiency.

More than 85 students have participated in MMA's stationary plant field experience program at PERC since 1993, working on operations and maintenance crews, rotating 12-hour shifts during the summer under the watchful eyes of PERC's supervisors and operators.

Although McCoy completed the summer program as required, she has continued to work at the plant on weekends during the school year.

"I perform most of the duties of a normal boiler operator," says McCoy, "including

PHOTO: EMILY BAER



helping manage feeders, boiler startup and shutdown, general maintenance and troubleshooting.”

”The work ethic is something I’ll take with me to the Navy.”

“The technical aspects of the job will definitely be helpful in the professional world, as well as the troubleshooting,” says McCoy, “but it’s also physically demanding, sometimes requiring shoveling ash for hours at a time.”

Students who’ve completed field experiences at PERC have gone on to become field service engineers, project engineers, and start-up and commissioning engineers with Siemens, General Electric, Babcock & Wilcox and SNC Lavalin, as well others, says Chuck Easley, Cooperative Education Coordinator.

Currently, about 70 students are qualified to participate in the 2019 stationary plant program, which is overseen by Mark Cote, Professor of Engineering.

McCoy’s first field experience was with Kapstone Paper in Longview, Washington.

She is enrolled in the MMA NROTC program and plans to work in the area of nuclear propulsion in the Navy’s submarine force upon graduation.

“The work ethic at PERC is something I’ll take with me to the Navy,” says McCoy, “Everyone works very hard, and I hope to emulate that.” ■



### MARINE TRANSPORTATION / CONTINUING EDUCATION

## Polar Ops Up

New courses fill growing training needs for mariners.

BASIC AND ADVANCED POLAR operations courses are gaining interest among MMA students and professional mariners due to potential job opportunities and escalating regulatory requirements.

“The courses are quickly being recognized as valuable training and requests for the classes are increasing,” says Capt. Ralph Pundt, Professor of Marine Transportation & Operations who developed the courses with aid in part from a U.S. Department of Homeland Security partner grant with the University of Alaska’s Arctic Domain Awareness Center.

“Having had many opportunities to deliver fuel to McMurdo Station and Terra Nova Bay in Antarctica, as well as to the U.S. Air Force base in Thule, Greenland, I am well aware of the dangers encountered when ships, ice and foul weather meet in very remote areas,” says Pundt.

“We have graduated 36 students with USCG/STCW Basic Polar Operations endorsements,” he says, “and are on track to fill the class with 24 students next spring.”

The basic course has also been completed by six professional mariners as part of MMA’s

Continuing Education curriculum. Students learn about vessel operations and crew safety limitations in extreme polar conditions, as well as how to interpret ice charts and data that affect polar passage planning. Understanding the Polar Code, the role of the Polar Council, operating in environmentally sensitive and diverse ecosystems, are other topics covered.

Maine Maritime is the only academy to offer the course, which meets USCG and STCW requirements.

The advanced course is mandated through the Polar Code and was created by Pundt for masters and chief mates in charge of operations aboard vessels transiting the polar regions as of January 2018, and includes 2-3 days of classroom / simulation training. The knowledge-based portions of both the basic and advanced courses are completed online.

The United States Coast Guard ice breaker operations group is currently reviewing the courses and simulator to determine if the training would benefit their fleet operations training needs.

“We expect to gain valuable feedback from their experience,” says Pundt. ■



## CAREER SERVICES

### CAREER FAIR GROWS

MMA HOSTED ITS 18TH Annual Career Fair on October 18. There were 93 companies with more than 200 recruiters in attendance. Companies were diverse

and offered opportunities to each of the school's majors.

More than 20 companies were recruiting on campus for the first

time, including Evergreen Packaging, Noble Supply and Logistics, Seaward Services, and Weeks Marine. You can view a complete list of companies on the Career Services web page at [mainemaritime.edu](http://mainemaritime.edu).

Student and alumni attendance numbered more

than 650 people. Students prepared resumes before the event and developed their networking skills to obtain field experiences and jobs. Many interviewed following the event.

**93  
companies,  
200  
recruiters**

The windy weather kept representatives from sailing on the schooner *Bowdoin*, which we had offered, but many stayed to go on campus tours after the event. We received great feedback from the companies and students. Many thanks to the companies, students, faculty, and staff who helped make this year's event a great success. ■

—By CAPT. JOE CURTIS, DIRECTOR  
OF CAREER SERVICES



## FACILITIES

### DINING HALL RENOVATION

A MAJOR DINING HALL RENOVATION in the Alford Student Center was completed in mid-September. The dining hall has more square footage, new food stations and additional food options. New features include a new deli counter, pizza oven, grill area with cook-to-order options, double-sided salad bar, a new generator in case of power interruption, and more. ■

## ATHLETICS

### 2018 Hall of Fame Inductees

Four alumni recognized at Homecoming.

THIS YEAR'S WILLIAM J. MOTTOLA Athletics Hall of Fame Class include, shown below (from left): Joe Crowe '06 (Football), Rebecca Allen '08 (Volleyball), John Fairbanks '52 (Baseball & Football) and Jed Johnson '10 (Basketball).

Fairbanks had an outstanding football career with the Mariners, playing on both sides of the ball and serving as the team's kicker at times. He was inducted into the Maine Maritime Academy Wall of Honor in 2014.

Crowe, an All-New England Selection and two-time First Team All NEFC selection, helped lead the Mariners to an ECAC Bowl Game as a player and was part of a team that won two Admiral's Cups. Crowe also served as assistant football coach.

Allen, a two-time NAC All-Academic team selection and 2007 ESPN/CoSIDA Academic All-America, was named to the NAC All-Conference team three times, and ranked first in the nation in service aces per game in 2007. Allen is the all-time leader in service aces with 329, ranks second in assists with 2,191 and 0.97 service aces per set. She holds the singles-season record for attack percentage (63.0) and service aces per set (1.30).

Johnson, the all-time scoring leader for Men's Basketball with 1,618 points, averaged a career double-double of 18.2 points and 13 rebounds per game while shooting a career average of 54.6 percent from the floor. Johnson ranks first in program history in field goals made (632), free throws made (331), free throws attempted (474), rebounds (1,155), rebounding average (13.0), defensive rebounds (782), defensive rebounds average (8.8), offensive rebounds (373), and offensive rebounds average (4.2). He helped lead the men's basketball team to 1999-2000 North Atlantic Conference (NAC) Championship and 2001-2002 & 2002-2003 NAC Finals. Johnson was a four-year NAC All-Tournament team selection and a three-time NAC First Team All-Conference selection. ■







The team achieved a top 20 rating in fall season sailing, and its summer sailing program brought students, alumni and staff together for regatta action up and down the Maine coast.

### WATERFRONT

## On a Broad Reach

Sailing team enters new year with great forecast.

BOATS ARE HAULED, SAILS FOLDED AND stored. The days are short and sometimes dreary in Maine now. But members of the MMA Sailing team have ample reason to feel optimistic as they look to the spring racing season.

With the guidance of new head coach Taylor Martin, the sailing team completed its fall season with a climb in collegiate standings, and individuals from the team enjoyed successful summer sailing in Gulf of Maine Ocean Racing Association (GMORA) events.

"We traveled to and competed against teams from across New England in dinghies and keelboats and had a very successful season," says Martin. "The team ended up qualifying for the fall New England Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association championship

for the first time since 2008. Overall, the team now ranks 17th out of 48 teams."

The GMORA summer races included students racing on *Tasman*, a Sydney 38, in various pursuit and fleet competitions across the Gulf from June to October, including the MS Harborfest and Around Islesboro regattas, led by MMA Sailing Master J.M. Payne.

"Almost half of the team is freshmen," says Martin, "and we have a great incoming class. That bodes well for the future.

"The biggest challenge is to change the team mindset to believe we are not a second-tier program, that we are capable of competing against Harvard, Yale, MIT and the other teams ranked top five in the district, which is the upper echelon in the country, really," says Martin. "That is our goal and an important next step." ■





## SPECIAL EVENTS

# Choose Your Heading

Women on the Water conference connects cadets with professionals.

MMA hosted the 10th Annual Women on the Water Conference in partnership with the Maritime Administration (MARAD) on November 1-3.

The three-day event provided attendees the opportunity to meet with and learn from industry leaders, maritime professionals, and fellow students and academy representatives.

“The conference was a great networking opportunity for mariners at all stages of their careers,” says event director Elizabeth True, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. This year’s theme was “Choose Your Heading” to encourage female maritime students to consider the many options available to them for careers in the industry.

Some 190 participants from across the country, Canada and Norway attended the conference. The 95 student participants came from the seven U.S. maritime academies and six Canadian institutions.

Maritime academy cadets from the seven U.S. maritime academies and six Canadian institutions gathered to meet with industry leaders and maritime professionals.

This year’s program workshops highlighted the many options open for female maritime students to consider.

“This conference adds so much value in that it bridges the gap between women in the industry with the female cadets of the maritime academies,” says panelist and USMMA alumna Ally Ceden, founder of WomenOffshore.org and Senior Dynamic Positioning Operator with Transocean Company. “It’s also an opportunity to meet [professional] women who are making waves and for those women to network, as well.”

Workshops included: 1) Bringing Your Career Ashore; 2) Knowing Your Options – Union/Non-Union, Government; 3) Achieving Work/Life Balance with a Maritime Career; 4) Offshore Oil and Gas Careers; 5) Panel discussions on career options for maritime engineers, being a harbor pilot, and options for limited license captains; and 6) Change versus Transition – Ship to Shore to Ship. Thirteen panelists were MMA alumni at various stages of their careers. There were also exhibits by sponsoring companies, mock interview sessions for cadets with industry professionals and two networking receptions.







"I've attended at least eight of these conferences," says Capt. Deborah Dempsey '76, the first female maritime academy graduate in an unlimited license program. "It's a wonderful opportunity for cadets to get to know and form mentorships with successful women in the industry."

Dempsey recently retired as the first female Columbia River Bar Pilot, in a long career that included many notable "firsts." She was a keynote speaker at the conference in addition to Rear Admiral Mark H. Buzby, USN (Ret.), Maritime Administrator for MARAD.

"I left the conference with newfound confidence in pursuing a career in the maritime industry," says Mary Shea, a marine systems engineering major and president of MMA's Women on the Water club. "I've since been in contact with many mariners I met at the conference, and this network provides backbone for that confidence." ■

▶ Enjoy a video of presenters and participants from the conference: [mariner.mainemaritime.edu](http://mariner.mainemaritime.edu).

## STUDENT LIFE

# Cut to the Chase

Woodsmen Club hones competitive skills, helps community.

Accidentally brush your finger against one of the Woodsmen Club's cross-cut saw's teeth and you may learn the definition of "scary sharp."

The largest club on campus, with some 50 members, uses the saw and other traditional forestry tools in competitive intercollegiate co-ed lumberjack events held across New England. Events include sawing, chopping, axe throwing, log rolling, pulp tossing, fire starting and more.

38 seconds... that's how long it takes Seth Hathaway, president of the club and power engineering technology major, to chop through an 18-inch log with an ax.

Members of the club can also make quick work of timber-related efforts that serve the community.

Every year the club takes initiative to put up a Christmas tree on Leavitt lawn for the holidays. This year's tree was provided

by the Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust in recognition of service from the Woodsmen Club. "The club put in close to 36 hours cutting trees in the Wildlands in accordance with the trust's forestry plan and re-purposed the tops of many into

suitable Christmas trees that were donated to a charity to help local families," says the club's faculty advisor, Zanny Stwertka, instructor of physics and engineering.

"The physical nature of the competition, the skills required, and the fact that it's a unique endeavor are some of

the reasons the club is in line with the type of person who comes to MMA," he says.

"It's a great escape from school work," adds Hathaway. "You get to be out in the middle of beautiful places working in the woods with a great group of people, learning how to master the tools, and just chop on some wood.

"It's very satisfying." ■

## MMA's largest club teaches forestry skills competition.

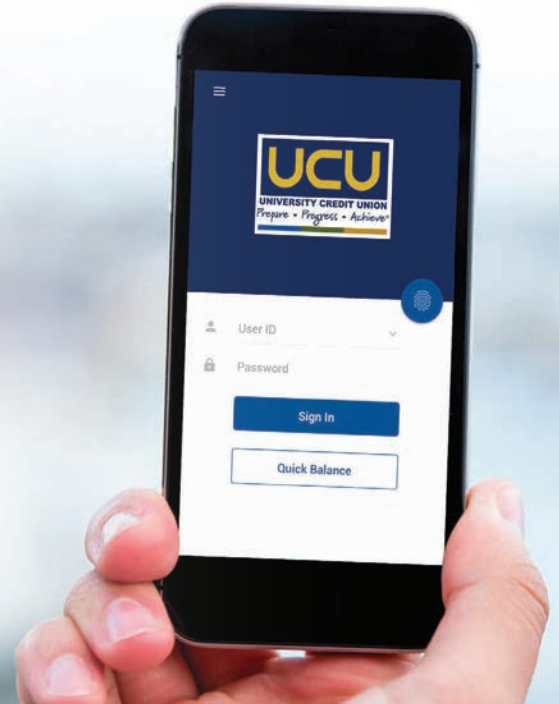


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The MMA team dominated the George C. Previll Memorial Inaugural Inter-Academy Monomoy Challenge.





# Rowing with Heart

Determined MUGs win inter-academy competition.

*by Billy R. Sims · photographs by Billy R. Sims and Kyle Willette*

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

As crew members of the MMA rowing teams stood facing the waterfront of SUNY Maritime College, the scene couldn't have been more different from the one they left behind in Castine.

To the west, the towering skyline of New York City. In the water, teams from SUNY, Massachusetts Maritime, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Merchant Marine academies, practicing for races about to commence, coxswains shouting to their crews to quicken the pace.

The two MMA teams were all MUGs (Midshipmen Under Guidance), some of whom had never rowed before, volunteering just two weeks earlier to train for the rowing and seamanship George C. Prevall Memorial Inaugural Inter-Academy Monomoy Challenge, hosted by SUNY Maritime.

There was one unspoken question in each of their minds.

## **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29**

Lifeboat races between maritime academies were common in the 1950s and '60s. But in recent years, none had been held, with the exception of an annual competition between Kings Point and SUNY Maritime, sponsored by the Marine Society of the City of New York.

Members of the Society resolved to bring back the inter-academy races this year. "When they contacted us," says Dean of Maritime Training and Commandant Nathan Gandy '92, "I looked at it as an opportunity for engagement with the other schools and said, 'We'll absolutely do it.' Although I really didn't know what 'it' was in the very beginning."

The task of organizing and training MMA teams was given to Lieutenants Lonnie Christian and Kyle Willette, company officers for the regiment who put out the call for "motivated MUGs" to volunteer on Day 5 of RPT (regimental preparatory training).

Among them was Ethan Belesca, marine engineering technology major. "Initially, there were 40 MUGs who volunteered and were chosen to head down to the waterfront to see what we could do," he says. "For the first few practices, there were four boats until we eventually narrowed it down to two."

Lifeboat handling is a normal part of preparatory training: learning how to row and work as a team and following commands, which are described in *The Maine Brace*. "For many, it's their first exposure to being on the water and on a boat with other crew members," says Willette.

Different courses were charted along the waterfront, and as the teams solidified, so did the intensity of the effort. The strongest rowers and coxswains were identified "as we tried out what worked through trial and error," says Willette. "We saw what worked for one boat, then we'd apply it to the others."





**Six members of the crew  
stood side by side in the  
knot-tying relay and  
1-2-3-4-5-6, they won.**



Everyone was encouraged to make suggestions, and those with more experience, such as Kailyn Russell, a marine transportation operations major who had worked as a deck hand on the schooner *Margaret Todd* in Bar Harbor, had ideas.

"People were really receptive, and we'd try different things and if it worked, we would use them," she says. "So that was cool."

Forming relationships, learning from one another, problem-solving, developing communication skills, and watching leadership emerge were just some of the benefits that came from the two weeks of practice on the waterfront.

"And we did the physical work," says Willette, "from rowing for stamina, control and sprints to using the full body for maximum power, stroke coordination, and technique."

"As race day at SUNY approached, there were definitely a lot of things we needed to work on," says Russell. "There was the excitement of racing against one another here at MMA, but we really had no idea how we were going to match up against the other teams, some of whom had been doing this for years."

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

On the nine-hour bus ride from Castine to New York, the 28-member crew, of which 15 would compete as two boat crews and seamanship team, went over their strategy. The seamanship part of the competition would involve a timed rescue that required rowing to and retrieving a five-gallon bucket, which represented a man overboard; heaving one line for distance and another for accuracy; and a knot-tying relay.

The relay would demand each person in a six-member team tie a specified knot in turn for speed and correctness. This had not been thoroughly practiced in the run-up to the race, so as the bus rumbled south, the relay team worked on perfecting their bowlines, half-hitches, figure-eights and others with determination, challenged by occasional bumps in the road.

## RACE DAY

Saturday morning's events commenced with open practice with Monomoy boats and oars provided by SUNY Maritime. As soon as they were on the water, the two MMA crews discovered the boats were lighter than those in Castine, and the oars were solid Shaw & Tenney ash that seemed to provide more direct transfer of power versus the carbon fiber ones they had been using.

"We noticed some of the other teams rowing, and they weren't in sync the way we were," says coxswain George Stamatopoulos, a marine transportation and operations major.

"In fact," says Willette, "we saw many of them were struggling a little bit."

It quickly became apparent that MMA might do



Company officers, Lieutenants Lonnie Christian and Kyle Willette led—and inspired—the teams.

**"What these freshmen did was huge for us as a small school and small regiment..."**

well. "It buoyed confidence, and we could see it on the boat crews' faces," he says. "They were excited and knew they had a chance at this thing."

After the annual rowing race of USMMA versus SUNY Maritime, won by SUNY, the main event began with a series of round-robin elimination races that had one boat from each academy running against another along parallel courses.

MMA's 10-member crew rowed to the start against Massachusetts Maritime and paused.

"As soon as the buzzer sounded we began to pull ahead," says Stamatopoulos. "At that moment we knew we were going to do well. We finished several boat lengths ahead, and it really drove home that we were a team, we could make this work and come out on top."

The next two boats facing MMA from the Coast Guard and Merchant Marine academies were also handily defeated, but in the heat against SUNY Maritime, the Mariners were defeated by a half-boat length.

"Still, we had enough wins to make the final," says Christian. "There was this great feeling among the crew of excitement and confidence."

For the last round against SUNY, which crewed its boat with upperclassmen, MMA won the coin toss and chose the outside lane, where they had performed best earlier. The course was one-third of a mile straight to and around a buoy and back, adjacent to the SUNY training ship, with vessels of all makes and sizes traversing the channel just beyond the course.

When the start sounded, coxswain Stamatopoulos' commands, "Stroke...stroke...stroke..." increased in tempo, and the boat pulled slightly ahead.

"If you were at the oars, it was time to just put your head down and simply row the boat," says Belesca. "No matter what the hell happens, you just keep rowing with all you've got."

Approaching the buoy for the turn back to the finish, Stamatopoulos leaned all of his body into the steering oar and initiated the turn. The starboard side rowers held their blades steady in the water, acting as a brake, while those on the port side applied all the torque they could muster, spinning the boat around the buoy and gaining yet more advantage on their opponents.

Perhaps sensing defeat or suffering fatigue, SUNY continued to fall behind as the MMA crew became focused on the finish and pulled away by more than a dozen boat lengths.

"Even as we went ahead," says Russell, "there was no 'We got this now.' We leaned into it and tried absolutely as hard as we could until we crossed the finish line."

Ashore, exuberant shouts and high-fives were exchanged by Willette, Christian, alternate crew, alumni and supporters (hosted by Alumni Relations.)

"I think Lieutenant Christian and I were more nervous than anyone in that boat," says Willette. "We







were so proud of them, and they realized they had pulled off something remarkable.”

## SATURDAY AFTERNOON

The win gave MMA a morale boost in the ensuing seamanship competition. First came the line heave for accuracy, where MMA missed out on gaining points. But then came the line heave for distance, where MMA took second place.

Next, six members of the crew stood side by side in the knot-tying relay, and 1-2-3-4-5-6, they won.

Finally, the crew rowed some 200 meters to retrieve the “man overboard” bucket in the fastest time, which they won in spite of sizable wakes rolling in from the nearby ship channel.

The combined rowing and seamanship wins gave MMA a stunning victory, the George C. Preville Memorial Challenge plaque and \$4,000 to be used for the regimental scholarship fund.

The competition and victory created their own rolling wake.

“The net effect is that it brought all of the East Coast academies together,” says Gandy. “We’re different schools, but we’re entering the same industry and it’s small. We ought to be working across the board. This is a step in the right direction.”

In an email to MMA President Bill Brennan, MARAD Administrator, Rear Admiral Mark H. Buzby, USN, (Ret.) said, “Whenever your boat was in competition, there was a bone in her teeth and a frothy wake astern. Most impressive.”

Gandy notes, “While Lieutenants Willette and Christian were instrumental in overseeing the effort, the important thing is to recognize what this group of freshmen did, and that’s huge for us as a small school and small regiment to have that...call it bravado.

“The students did a lot of problem-solving, determining how to be effective, and took initiative.

“As has been noted, at Maine Maritime Academy you get a degree in ‘figuring it out.’ This win is a perfect example. Coming in the door, these students got a chance to figure it out and be successful,” says Gandy. “It’s such an intangible thing, but it’s so much of who we are as a school and a regiment.”

## THE ANSWER

The unspoken question everyone had before the competition: Can we compete and do ourselves and the academy proud?

“Yes!” says Russell. “The biggest lesson I learned from the experience was shared by Lt. Christian. He told us, ‘The only way to row faster is to row faster. The only way to do better is to believe in yourself.’” ■

▶ Video of the story behind the victory available at [mariner.mainemaritime.edu](http://mariner.mainemaritime.edu).



## MONOMOY MEMORIES

The Monomoy boat’s roots date back to boats used in the whaling industry and surfboats used by the U.S. Lifesaving Service, one of which was known as the Monomoy, designed for use in the high surf off Monomoy Island and Chatham, Massachusetts, according to this year’s race program brochure.

In 1934, the U.S. Coast Guard standardized the design for contract purposes, and thousands were built for use as lifeboats and gigs aboard naval and military ships, commercial freighters, and ocean liners. The standard Monomoy was 26 feet long, with a seven-foot beam.

In the 1950s and ’60s, Monomoy races between maritime academies were common. But subsequently, the races became fewer, and in recent years, none have been held.

“I remember the ’63 races in New York,” says Laurence Wade ’64, Commodore, USMS (Ret.). “Many of my MMA classmates were on the team, including John Chapman, Bob Pouch and Alan ‘Scotty’ Scott, as well as my brother, George.”

Says Wade, “I am happy to say I voted for the Portland Marine Society to be a sponsor for this year’s race,” which was presented by The Marine Society of the City of New York, whose partner sponsors included the Boston Marine Society and Portland Marine Society.

Among the shoreside supporters of the race was Capt. Robert “Bob” Pouch ’62, NYNM/USNR (Ret.), who entertained the MMA cadets with tales of when he and classmates were MUGs. They sometimes rowed to Smith Cove across from the Castine waterfront, where they were out of sight of their strykers and relaxed and played touch football. “Not a single day passes by without special memories of my days at MMA,” says Pouch, who has been an integral part of the New York Harbor administration and activities for many years.

Left: Getting it right on the water with intense practice yielded high-fives and a “most impressive” victory.



# More Than a Home Away from Home

Families who host students as part of the Castine Sponsor program touch lives in many ways.

*by Laurie Schreiber · photographs by Rhonda Varney*

**A**T THE HOME OF Carol Adams and Rick Armstrong, as many as 20-25 Maine Maritime Academy students may show up for a special open house dinner.

“Every time I ask the kids, ‘What do you want to eat?’ they say, ‘Really good steak,’” Adams says with a laugh. “That’s our most well-attended event.”

A good home-cooked meal is just one of the benefits available to students through MMA’s Castine Sponsor program. Armstrong and Adams are long-time participants of the program, which pairs local families with one to two incoming students from out of state each fall.

The program provides new students, many far from home for the first time in their lives, with a substitute family, so to speak.

Sponsors are happy to introduce students to the area, invite them into their homes for meals, provide

transportation to the airport at vacation time, bring students along on grocery runs, invite them for family activities such as sailing, fishing, or attending local events, or just allow them to hang out.

The relationships are available to the students throughout their time at MMA, so long-time sponsors might have 8 to 10 students on their roster.

“One thing about Maine Maritime—they have incredible resources to help students who are struggling in any kind of way, academic or otherwise,” says Armstrong. “We’re a little cog in that wheel, and we’re pleased to do it.”

Started by Jeff and Susie Loustaunau in 2001, about 20 families are involved in the program today. The Loustaunaus got the idea when their daughter and son attended the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, which has its own sponsor program.

“We saw real benefit in that









and thought it could work here,” says Jeff. “These are kids far from home and in a very different environment, especially the students who are in the regiment. The idea is to give them something similar to a home where they can go and relax, maybe have a home-cooked meal.”

In addition, says Susie, “We thought it would be good for people in the community to have contact with students so they would get to know more about the school.”

Armstrong and Adams moved to Castine in 2008 for retirement. Armstrong connected with MMA through its tidal energy program, then became an adjunct professor of engineering. (Adams formerly worked in finance for a global company. Armstrong’s former positions include marine engineer, boatyard and marina owner/operator, and head of port security for the State of Massachusetts.) They learned of the program from the Loustaunus and decided to give it a try in 2010.

“It was another dimension of getting involved with the students,” says Armstrong. “It’s one thing to see them in the classroom but another to get to know them in a more residential environment.”

Since then, they’ve become enthusiastic participants, “officially” hosting 16 to 20 students. “At any given time, officially, we have two students for each year for the five years,” says Adams. “But unofficially, we have quite a few more.”

“They always have friends, and we encourage that,” says Armstrong. “We have a good-sized boat shed, and there’s lots of stuff in there that I brought from the boatyard and from my hobbies. They really get engaged in that.”

Plus, they love to entertain. Fall weekends

**“They kind of adopted me and my friends. I’ll never forget the big party they threw for me, with a big, old-fashioned lobster bake, the day I graduated.”**

see students swarming the couple’s apple trees, plucking fruit and pressing it for cider. Sundays are pretty much open house with evening supper. Planned events include that steak dinner, plus a big cookout during Homecoming weekend and a lobster bake for graduation.

“By then, we know the students and their families pretty well,” says Adams. Generally, we have parents staying with us by that time.”

Matthew Breuer had Adams and Armstrong as his sponsor. “It felt like I was home every time I was over there,” he says.

Breuer, who is from Alton, New Hampshire, enrolled at MMA in 2013. Majoring in marine engineering technology, he graduated in 2017 and is now a U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps officer.

Breuer recalled receiving an email from MMA before the start of his freshman year. “It says, ‘If anyone is interested in having a host family, please respond to this email,’” Breuer says. “It sounded interesting. Why not?”

A couple of weeks after arriving at school, he met Armstrong and Adams during a meet and greet. “After that, they started inviting me over for dinner,” he says.

Breuer found the couple was available for anything he might need.

“Rick would let me use his tools,” he says. “They would let me bring my friends over to hang out or watch football. They kind of adopted me and my friends. I’ll never forget the big party they threw for me, with a big, old-fashioned lobster bake, the day I graduated and was commissioned into the Navy.”

Some students look at the program in strictly practical terms—a ride to the airport or an overnight stay. But for most, the relationship becomes a form of support.

“It was really helpful,” says Edison Ma, a 2018 graduate in Marine Systems Engineering and now an engineer for the American Bureau of Shipping. Adams and Armstrong became Ma’s sponsor in his junior year. “It was a personal experience, to get to know them well, to have a place to get away from campus on weekends, and to have someone who lived close by and could help out just in case anything happened.”

Ma says it’s also a great way to connect with upperclassmen in a casual setting.

“Because there were two students per host family each year, we could get to know upperclassmen face-to-face and learn the nitty-gritty about how they got through cadet shipping and the training cruise and so on, and then turn around when new students came in and tell them how we got through it,” he says.





“It makes them feel they’re not alone, and there are people in the community who are looking for them to succeed, so they don’t feel like they’re the only ones in this,” says Rachael Iannoli.

Iannoli and her husband, Phil Cotoni, became sponsors after moving to the area five years ago, when Cotoni was offered the position of General Manager of Dining Services at MMA. Iannoli subsequently became MMA’s Conferences and Events Director. They became involved in the program right away because they figured it would be a great way to get to know students. Like Adams and Armstrong, they’ve had a dozen or so official students. “But, I’ve had a lot of step-sponsor kids, too,” Iannoli says. “I’ve probably had 10 to 15 kids at the house at a time.”

“Italian night” feasts are big at their house. And it’s just fun to be there.

“We have dirt bikes and four-wheelers and lots of animals,” says Iannoli. “They come for dinner, or we take them to the doctor or pick them up from the airport or communicate with their families.”

For parents, the program can be reassuring and useful. Iannoli and Adams speak to occasional roles as touchstones for nervous parents.

Another strong sponsor has been Bev Bishop whose experiences with students sometimes has them attending symphony performances to broaden their cultural repertoire. “It’s a requirement,” she says. “I love my kids.”

The program fosters town-gown interaction, too. “Rick and Carol would always let me know when the locals needed help,” Breuer says.

“This host program gives many Castine residents the only way to connect with Maine Maritime,” says Armstrong. “We encourage people—they really ought to try it, at least for a year, to get an understanding of the program and the academy.”

Most poignant are the lasting friendships.

“They’re in touch all the time and invite us to changes of command and getting their wings and being part of their lives,” says Armstrong.

For more information about the program, visit [mainemaritime.edu/student-life/campus-resources/castine-student-sponsor-program](http://mainemaritime.edu/student-life/campus-resources/castine-student-sponsor-program) or contact Rhonda Varney at [rhonda.varney@mma.edu](mailto:rhonda.varney@mma.edu). ■

## Past & Present Castine Sponsors:

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- Wallace and Alice Alston
- Terri Biggie
- Bev Bishop
- Pat Bishop
- Victoria and Temple Blackwood
- Bill and Heather Brennan
- Bill and Sylvia Carter
- Jean Cass
- Renee and Denny Colson
- Annegret Cukierski
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- Jack and Christine Spratt
- Joanna Sweet
- Jeff and Valerie Taub
- Don and Marty Tenney
- Rhonda and Sean Varney
- Scott Vogell
- Dana and Cyndi Willis

Left: Adams and Armstrong sometimes host not only their sponsored students, but also other students for special meals. Above: Tynan O’Brien, Huxley Conner, Erik Brocken, Ahmed Al Shuwaili, Miles Schoenberg, Nate Arena, Will Scarlet, Caroline Foy, Shea Donnelly, Kealoha Higgins, Avery Leclerc, Will Guerette.



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“

In their own way, many  
took the opportunity to give  
something back to MMA.

”



The highlight of  
festivities is the parade of  
the regiment and march  
on of the honor classes.



# Homecoming: It's Personal

As the MMA community celebrated the opportunity to reunite, one alumnus shared lessons learned and hopes for the future.

*story and photos by Billy R. Sims*

**F**RANK TEPEDINO HAS SEEN A LOT SINCE GRADUATING from MMA in 1958 as an engineer.

He served as an engineering officer in the U.S. Navy; third assistant engineer in the Merchant Marine; came ashore to earn a degree in industrial management and study finance in graduate school; worked for Lockheed Shipbuilding, Electric Boat, and Pacific Power & Light; and, following graduation from the University of San Diego Law School, worked as House Counsel for FMC Corp. Later he founded and was CEO of The Condor Group, a consulting and executive training firm from which he retired a few years ago.

But on Thursday, September 27, the beginning of Homecoming 2018, he looked about, walking across the early fall-green lawn behind Dismukes Hall, MUGs hurrying by, and was summarily impressed by all that has changed at MMA.





"It was a different school then than it is now," he said. "The student makeup is different. The facilities, instructors' roles and qualifications, and the academy's purpose are also different."

"We shoveled coal at 1:00 A.M. into the academy's furnaces," he said as he pointed to Dismukes. "We drove the garbage to the landfill, cleaned and polished the decks in the buildings, painted bulkheads..."

As he crossed the street with his wife, Carmen, he looked to Leavitt Hall and noted his dorm room was in a space now occupied by President Brennan's

office. A few minutes later, he entered the lunch line at the recently renovated dining hall and topped a new porcelain plate with fresh salad.

"We had metal plates, and you might get a dollop of ice cream atop your mashed potatoes," he quipped.

## COMING BACK, GIVING BACK

Tepedino is among some 200-plus alumni who returned to MMA for this year's Homecoming activities, ranging from a panel discussion with students to sports events, receptions, reunions, waterfront activities, tours and classes, memorial and honor services.

Events included three days that brought alumni together to reminisce, celebrate life and career, and explore the changes that have taken place at the college. And in their own special way, many took the opportunity to give back something to MMA.

## LISTENING & LEARNING

The first event Thursday afternoon was an alumni panel discussion, "Reeling in the Years," offered to students in Delano Auditorium. Five alumni representing 60 years of perspective, from the class of '58 (with Tepedino as panelist) to the class of 2003, shared their academic and professional experiences, offering insight on career planning and pursuits.

Among the questions the panel addressed: What was the one thing you wished you had done or participated in while a student at MMA?

"It was a mad rush from day one here at MMA until the last bell rang," said Tepedino. "Perhaps I should have concentrated harder on some of the subjects offered. So I would admonish students to squeeze out all of the juice with your time here.

"I don't have any regrets from my time at MMA. It set me on my course for life."

There were discussions regarding job

interviews, work/life balance, lessons learned from accomplishment and failure, and more.

## PERSONAL MISSION

The following morning, alumni were invited to the 7:00 A.M. regiment formation. They attended their choice of classes throughout the day, teed

up for golf at the Alumni & Friends Golf Classic, and some made sure they got first dibs on items at the campus bookstore.

Tepedino had his own mission. At 9:00 A.M., along with classmate Everett Cooper, who retired as a senior executive for Sea Land,

a Maersk company, he met at the Waypoint with John Angelberger, a junior in Marine Engineering Operations and recipient of the Francis J. Tepedino Regimental Scholarship Fund, started in 2000.

The discussion began with questions about Angelberger's coursework, and Tepedino suggested that in addition to his focus on engineering, he should study business and finance whenever there is an opportunity. "Even if you're an engineer on a ship you'll be dealing with contractors, and you will be ahead of the game if you have an understanding of contracts and law," said Tepedino.

More advice. Several sea stories. Four students sitting nearby and listening were invited to pull up a chair and join the discussion.

As the session came to an end, Tepedino said, "I have one requirement, John. When you're out of here and successful, you have to start a scholarship for students who are struggling, as I was.

"There was no way I would have attended MMA if a father of a friend of mine hadn't written a check to help pay for my first year of college. My dad was a shoeshine boy from Italy. The check from that guy opened the door for me and my life."

## HONORS

Friday evening's events began with an alumni reception at the ABS Center for Engineering and Science. Within a half hour, the reception area was shoulder-to-shoulder with alumni and guests. There were shout-outs when classmates recognized one another, firm handshakes, and hugs. Revelry.

The alumni dinner followed at the Alexander Field House. The highlight was the presentation of alumni awards.

This year's awards included a new category,

“

It was incredible. Here's to all our shipmates, near and far. We hope you make your way back to the academy for the next one.

”

Top right: Tepedino with the recipient, John Angelberger, of a regimental scholarship he created in 2000. Other students pull up a chair to listen while Tepedino's classmate, Everett Cooper, holds court.

Second right: Tepedino offers advice to students during an alumni panel.

Third right: Gerald Rod Nelson '43-2, the most senior alumnus to attend, has a smile for the crowd.

Fourth right: The connections endure and they are personal.



the Humanitarian Award, presented to Capt. Paul Jacobs '58 for his epic humanitarian achievement during the fall of Saigon in 1975 that resulted in the rescue of more than 30,000 lives. (View a brief video profile of Jacobs at [youtu.be/CUiLjY53nH4](https://youtu.be/CUiLjY53nH4)). The 2018 Wall of Honor inductees were Rear Adm. Thomas K. Shannon '82 and Rear Adm. Bryan P. Cutchen '83, and the Outstanding Alumnus recipient was Eugene H. "Gene" Spinazola '61 (posthumously).

## REMEMBRANCE

Saturday morning, before the big crowd assembled for tailgating, tall tales, and the football game, there was a pause.

A small group quietly gathered to dedicate a new memorial plaza behind the Alford Student Center that pays tribute to MMA alumni who have perished in the line of duty and those lost at sea. The memorial consists of a new granite monument funded by the class of 1962 with the list of those who have passed over the bar, a bronze plaque donated by the class of 1949, as well as a 3-inch, 50-caliber gun with which early academy classes trained before shipping out to war.

Up the hill, soon thereafter, members of the class of 1958, including Tepedino, family, and MMA community members, gathered before the flagpole for an Eight Bells ceremony to mark the passing of their own.

## THE GAME

With a blue sky and the deep green of the new turf at Ritchie Field providing the setting late in the morning, Mariners new and old gathered for the culmination of Homecoming festivities.

First came the recognition of newly inducted MMA Athletics Hall of Fame members, (see pg. 9 for details.) Then members of the Honor Classes from 1943 to 2013 conducted a march onto the field. Representing the class of '43-2, Gerard Rod Nelson waved from his chauffeured golf cart to the applause of the crowd.

The game began, accompanied by family photo-taking sessions around the stadium and groups gathering under the awnings designating Honor Classes along Pleasant Street. The crowd noted highlights of the game with applause and cheers.

But all too soon the game was over, along with Homecoming until next year.

"It was incredible," said Pete Mento '93, who offered this salute: "Here's to all our shipmates near and far. We hope you make your way back to the academy for our next one. I am intensely proud to have graduated from this amazing academy and so blessed to have sailed with the men and women who were there with me." ■



# CAT on the Run

*by Chief Engineer Jacob Turgeon '02 · photographs courtesy of Alakai crew*







Illustration provided by Jacob Turgeon '02:  
HSV *Alakai*, (The CAT) underway from Detyens  
Shipyards in Charleston, South Carolina to  
Portland, Maine as she embarks on her first  
season of the renewed international ferry service  
operated by Bay Ferries Limited.

## MMA alumni make up more than half of the crew aboard a unique ferry where “fast” is the operative word.

**I**F YOU'VE VISITED PORTLAND, Maine, lately, or glanced out to sea from many points along Maine's midcoast, you may have seen the sleek catamaran passenger ferry recently acquired for the revived service between Nova Scotia and Maine.

Since the spring of 2016, the HSV *Alakai*, commonly known and branded as the CAT, has carried nearly 135,000 passengers between Portland and Yarmouth, offering approximately 120 daily, round-trip voyages per season from early June to mid-October.

The CAT has many unique attributes, most notably her top speed of 45 knots, classifying her as one of the fastest passenger vessels operating in North America. Another, which may not be so commonly known, is that she is home to nine Maine Maritime Academy alumni, serving in a range of crew billets and collectively accounting for more than half of her marine department. Each MMA alum has his or her own story of the path that led to *Alakai*, and though all are different, they are equally interesting, much like the story of *Alakai* herself.

### STOP & GO

*Alakai* was launched from Austal, USA (Mobile, Alabama) in April 2007. She was purpose-built to serve as an inter-island roll-on/roll-off passenger ferry between Oahu and Maui, deploying on her maiden Hawaiian voyage in August of the same year. The Hawaiian service, however, was short-lived, and operations were discontinued in 2009 due to various challenges, and both *Alakai* and her sister ship, *Huakai*, came under the ownership of the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD).

Both were assigned a deployment to Haiti as part of the earthquake relief effort in 2010. In 2012, they were transferred from MARAD to the U.S. Navy. *Alakai* would then be known as the USNS *Puerto Rico*.

For the next several years, the *Puerto Rico* remained in lay-up status in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Navy kept the vessel manned with a reduced crew, sourcing personnel through Seaward Services, Inc., based in New Albany, Indiana.



## SET TO SERVE AGAIN

In early 2016, Bay Ferries Limited (BFL), a Canadian-based company and original operators of the former CAT ferry service from Portland and Bar Harbor, was in search of a vessel that would satisfy a new contract with the Province of Nova Scotia, providing passenger service between Yarmouth and Maine. BFL had successfully operated multiple high-speed ferries from Nova Scotia to Maine from 1997 to 2009, eventually discontinuing the seasonal route due to high fuel costs and the economic downturn.

After extensive processes and discussions, the U.S. Navy and BFL entered into a lease agreement that would utilize *Alakai* to offer the ferry service. The vessel, capable of carrying some 750 passengers and 200 cars, would operate between the ports of Portland and Yarmouth at a service speed of 35 knots.

Reviving the ferry service had the support of the Province of Nova Scotia along with businesses and individuals in Maine, including Sen. Angus King and Rep. Chellie Pingree, who were instrumental in its renewal. BFL was optimistic it could once again provide reliable ferry service. This left the company in search of a vessel fit for the task.

The *Alakai* was towed to Detyens Shipyard in North Charleston, South Carolina, in April 2016, where it was refitted, recertified, and reclassified, undergoing extensive repair and overhaul over eight short weeks in preparation for its service charter in the Gulf of Maine.



**Above: Chief Engineer Jacob Turgeon and a Rolls Royce field rep inspecting one of four of *Alakai*'s impeller shafts.**

**Below: The CAT enters Yarmouth harbor during the first days of her inaugural season in 2016.**



Since *Alakai* remained under U.S. flag, the officers and crew were required to be American citizens holding U.S. Coast Guard credentials. Seaward Services continued to provide crewing requirements to BFL, but there were fewer than a half dozen employees inherited with the ship. This left Seaward Services facing the challenge of sourcing officers and crew with a tight deadline.

As all of the newly hired crew members would be strangers to the vessel, and most to the fast-ferry industry, there was a push to get the billets filled quickly to allow for a few weeks of ship familiarization and to complete the type-rating process. To become type-rated, every officer or prospective officer must complete a series of exams that evaluate safety, high-speed code, vessel particulars, damage control procedures, mechanical systems, and crowd and crisis management. The exams, along with proof of the required day and night trips into each specified port of the route, are submitted to the U.S. Coast Guard for a supplemental qualification to each officer's STCW and Merchant Mariner's Credential.

At the start of her inaugural season in June of 2016, the *Alakai*'s marine crew of 14 included four Maine Maritime alumni.

Andrew Parker '04, who was originally hired as the Chief Mate, was promoted to Captain midway through the first season and has been at the helm through each season since.

"It's amazing to maneuver a vessel with such a large power-to-weight ratio," he says. "These are the sports cars of the maritime industry."

Parker joined *Alakai* after several years on drill ships and, previously, tankers. "Working with so many of my fellow alumni has been a pleasure, and it gives me a great sense of pride to see the caliber of mariners MMA produces."

## INAUGURAL SEASON

*Alakai*'s first season was a success due to perseverance. Many believed getting the ship ready in time was not possible given her distressed condition, while others were skeptical there was time for a marketing campaign that would yield adequate ticket sales. But as the company and crew faced challenge after challenge, they continually worked together to overcome obstacles, and met financial goals without any mechanical downtime.

Casey Hawkins '11 is First Assistant on the CAT. He joined the vessel just after she was towed to South Carolina before the first season, returning to a seafaring career after several years working in a biomass power plant in Jonesboro, Maine.

"Working aboard the CAT is the most stressful and the most rewarding job of my career," he said. "The great crew and the changing dynamics each day bring an experience like no other."



## CAT IS A SNOWBIRD

Due to Maine's winter weather and decrease in tourism traffic, *Alakai* returns to Detyens Shipyard each winter for maintenance, repair, and improvement. Staff is reduced to six marine department crew members, typically working a 28-day-on/28-day-off schedule.

*Alakai*'s first full off-season period included a comprehensive replacement of every cylinder head on her four MTU 20V8000 series engines due to an improved design implemented by the manufacturer. Eighty cylinders total, it required nearly two months to complete.

There was a great deal of anticipation entering 2017, but then an engine failure early in the season presented a major challenge. With repairs not possible during operations, the decision was made to finish the season with the remaining three engines and alter the schedule to accommodate accordingly.

Although some perceived this as a heavy blow to the service, the majority of passengers, employees, and the public who witnessed the resiliency of BFL and the crew overcome this enormous challenge gave them confidence the CAT would prevail. And it did.

## MORE MMA ABOARD

After a six-month rebuild to the damaged engine, which included a total crankshaft replacement, *Alakai* underwent an intensive sea trial at full power capacity and was ready to embark on her third season in the Gulf of Maine.

This year's operation brought aboard two Maine Maritime cadets, as well as three alumni from the class of 2018, less than two weeks after graduation.

"My experience onboard *Alakai* provided great experience," says Madison Barry, class of 2020, who completed her 90-day cadet shipping program on *Alakai*. "I was able to grow as a prospective professional because of the teaching and leadership skills I learned from the crew and officers." Some of her daily routine included navigational watch, line handling, loading and off-loading vehicles, and assisting in creating an inviting passenger experience.

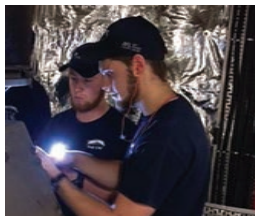
Trenton Bouchard, also class of '20, joined *Alakai* as an engine cadet. Bouchard was exposed to an array of operations and troubleshooting scenarios and was able to work closely with the vessels' electronics technician, as well as the engineering officers. "During my cadet shipping experience, I was warmly welcomed by the crew, many of whom are Maine Maritime alumni.

"While onboard, I had the opportunity to apply the skills learned in the classroom to real-world situations. And I was provided freedom to



**Above: All nine of the CAT's MMA alumni. From L to R, AB Mark Harper '18, QMED/Asst. Eng Matt Violette '18, AB Truman Slocum '18, AB John O'Keefe '09, 2/M Malcolm Faux '15, C/M Will Cunningham '12, Capt. Andrew Parker '04, C/E Jacob Turgeon '02, 1A/E Casey Hawkins '11.**

**Below: Engine cadet Trenton Bouchard '20 assists QMED Matt Violette '18 on a main engine turbo charger.**



demonstrate my abilities, as well as given guidance from the crew to expand my skill set."

Matthew Violette and Truman Slocum, both 2018 MMA grads, also joined *Alakai*. "It's hard to believe I was able to get a job so quickly after finishing school," says Violette, "and so close to home (Portland) doing what my license allows me to do. It feels like a good start to my career."

Other MMA alumni include AB Mark Harper '18, AB John O'Keefe '09, Second Mate Malcolm Faux '15, and Chief Mate Will Cunningham '12, who served during the 2018 season, in which *Alakai* carried more than 50,000 passengers.

## BAR HARBOR POTENTIAL

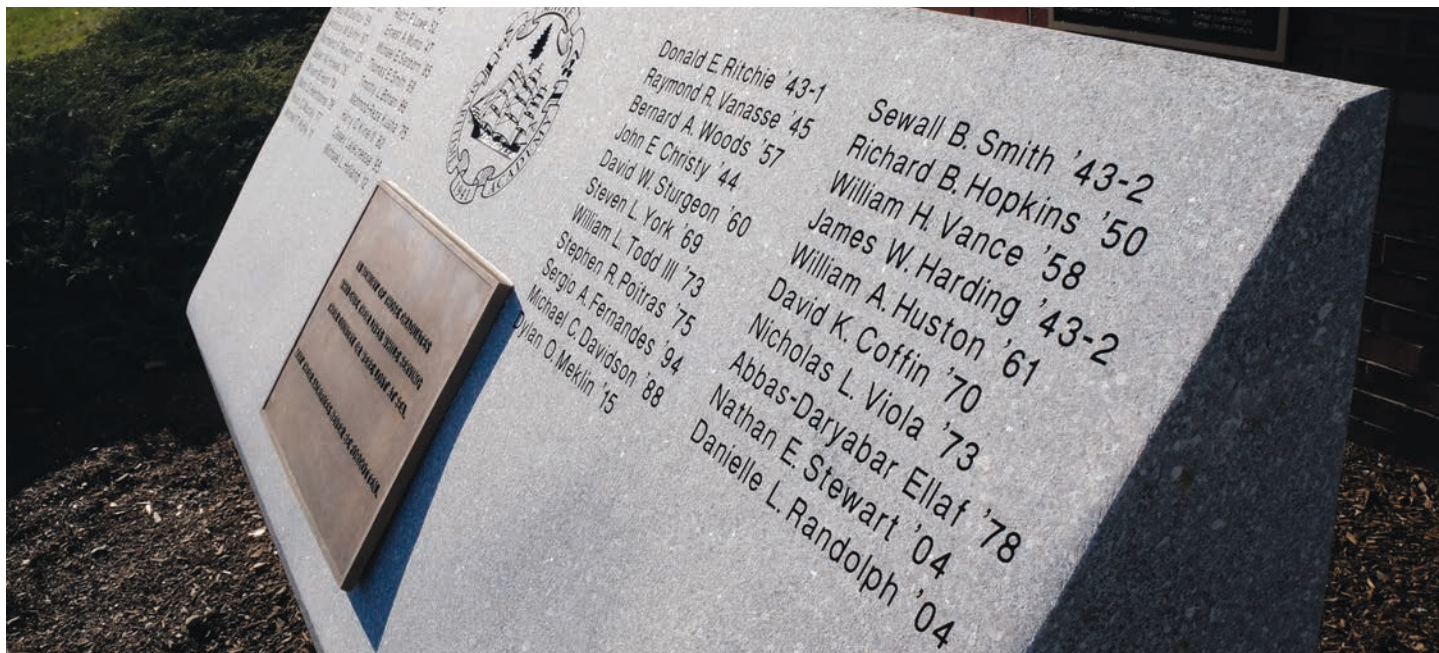
In recent months, BFL has made significant progress in the potential reintroduction of the fast-ferry route between Yarmouth and Bar Harbor. *Alakai* would fulfill this service, reducing the duration of a round trip to about 3.5 hours in comparison to its current route to Portland (5.5-6 hours).

Transiting from Bar Harbor would allow the ferry to take advantage of a large volume of tourism traffic flowing between Downeast Maine and Southwest Nova Scotia, as well as reduce fuel consumption, a key concern to BFL, which has enrolled in Green Marine, an aggressive certification program that evaluates a company's action to reduce its environmental impact. If the shift to Bar Harbor takes place, it is hoped to be in time for the 2019 season. ■

▶ See more photos of *Alakai* and crew: [mariner.mainemaritime.edu](http://mariner.mainemaritime.edu).



# Alumni News



## Memorial Plaza Dedicated

IT WAS A BRIGHT, EARLY MORNING event, a small gathering of alumni, families and friends, a pause that quietly punctuated the Homecoming weekend.

A memorial sponsored by the Class of 1962, commemorating MMA alumni who gave their lives serving their country or were lost at sea, was dedicated on September 28.

The eight-foot-wide granite monument is engraved with the names of 43 alumni and overlooks a new plaza behind the Alford Student Center that also features a 3"/50 caliber gun, donated by the class of 1949, upon which early academy classes trained before shipping out to war.

President Bill Brennan noted "this memorial space is significant as an accessible place where we can come together and remember.

"We feel it fitting to honor our alumni who served as officers and crew aboard the *El Faro* as they are, sadly, those we lost most recently," said Brennan. "I am

personally thankful to have some of their families here with us today."

The MMA Honor Guard provided a 21-gun salute, and there was a moment of silence. Positioned down the hill from the memorial, regimental company officer, Lt. Kyle Willette played *Amazing Grace* on the bagpipes.

Class of '62 representative Doug Scott then thanked the academy "for allowing us to take on this project as a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of our graduation. I know my classmates join with me in a solemn pledge to live our lives and do our duty in ways that would make those we honor today proud.

"I am pleased to say we had 100 percent participation," added Scott, "with many classmates making additional donations in memory of classmates no longer with us." ■

▶ See a brief video of the ceremony at [mariner.mainemaritime.edu](http://mariner.mainemaritime.edu).

### SAVE THE DATE

#### 51st Annual Senior Banquet

February 6, 2019  
Cross Center, Bangor

#### State Maritime Academies Leadership Conference

March 15-17, 2019  
MMA

#### Regimental Awards Banquet

March 25, 2019  
MMA

#### Student Life Awards Banquet

April 3, 2019  
MMA

#### Texas Golf Classic

April 15, 2019  
Woodlands Country Club / Palmer Course  
Woodland, Texas

#### MMA Commencement

May 4, 2019  
MMA

#### Class of 1964 55th Reunion

June 17-19, 2019  
MMA

#### Class of 1959 60th Reunion

June 24-26, 2019  
MMA

#### Homecoming 2019

September 19-22, 2019  
MMA





#### WASHINGTON DC

### IN THE GAME

The motivated and energetic alumni base around our nation's capital gathered for a tailgate party at the Maine Maritime Academy vs. Catholic University Cardinals football game on Saturday, November 10. Josh Collamer and Jason Grabelle, both class of 1998, hosted some 30 alumni, family, friends and academy officials, welcoming our football team on its initial visit to DC. Larry Burrill '77 was honorary team captain during pregame coin flip, along with his business partner Joe Carlini (Catholic University alumnus). The previous evening, Burrill hosted a reception for area alumni at the Army Navy Club, a private, Five-Star Platinum Club on Washington, DC's historic Farragut Square. It was a great event.

#### TIDEWATER CHAPTER

### LEADERSHIP CHANGE

Message from John "Chip" Callan, '88: "Dear Tidewater Area MMA Alumni and Friends of MMA, With the change in seasons comes the change in the leadership for the Tidewater Area MMA Alumni Chapter. Mike Ward '10 has cordially assumed the leadership position for our Alumni Chapter. I am fully confident Mike will enhance and improve the camaraderie of the chapter by bringing renewed energy to take us in the right direction. I hope you will continue to look for opportunities to volunteer and support Mike and the chapter. As I step down, I want to thank each of you for your participation and support of the chapter and future graduates of Maine Maritime Academy..."

#### NED ANDREWS CHAPTER

### HYDROGEN TECH TALK

The Bath, Maine area chapter met November 15, 2018 at the China Rose Restaurant in Brunswick. The guest speaker was Craig Cunningham, Founder of Maine Manufacturing LLC in Sanford, Maine, who is now working on research and development on high efficiency hydrogen technology. It was an interesting discussion about hydrogen development and how it will change future energy needs on a global scale. Engineering professor Rich Kimball was in attendance, accepting an invitation extended to MMA faculty by Al Leeman '92 and Leo Hill '79.



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## BANGOR SEA DOGS CHAPTER

### MMA LICENSE PLATE

Representatives from the chapter, in collaboration with the Alumni Relations Office, are working to create an MMA license plate. Initial steps are to design a series of plate mockups that would gain approval of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, create a robust marketing plan, and collect 2,000 pre-registrations (Maine vehicles only) at \$25 per registration, within a 2-year period.

Once approved by the Maine Legislature, the initiative is estimated to add a minimum of \$28,000 to the MMA Alumni Association Scholarship Fund.

Further details will be shared in upcoming editions of Shipmate, with an initiative launch announcement targeted for August 2019.



## PUGET SOUND CHAPTER

### INFORMAL GATHERINGS

A group from the Puget Sound area gathered on Saturday, October 20 at the home of Minh '90 and Emily Harriman in Mukilteo, Washington.

In attendance was (shown above, front) Everett Cooper '58, Sharyn Pohlman, MMA Major Gift Officer, Lauren Sakahara '11, Minh Harriman '90, Andrew Carr '84, Eric King '90, and David Hopkins '84.

Joe Curtis '97, MMA Director of Career Services, attended the Pacific Marine Expo on November 18-20. Along with securing great field experience and employment leads, Curtis met with MMA alumni Chris Fay '76 and Eric King '90 at an informal gathering at the Elysian. This may become an annual event to incorporate a more formal reception, similar to the International WorkBoat Show.

"Many thanks to Minh and Emily for the warm welcome for the alumni get together," says Polman. "The conversation flowed from what's new at MMA to what's new with everyone."

“

If approved by the Maine Legislature the initiative is estimated to add \$28,000 to the Alumni Association scholarship fund.

”

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

### ANNUAL LOBSTERFEST

Offering an opportunity to eat Maine lobster (a.k.a. "lobsta") and connect with other local alumni is just too good to pass up. That was the case again on July 28 at ZLAC Rowing Club in Pacific Beach overlooking Sail Bay and Crown Point peninsula in San Diego, California. Approximately 50 MMA alumni, family and friends representing classes from 1943-2 to 2015 and other maritime colleges participated in the 39th Annual Lobsterfest sponsored by the Southern California Chapter.

In addition to MMA alumni, the chapter hosted guests from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, California Maritime Academy, Massachusetts Maritime Academy and SUNY Maritime College.

The event was a special opportunity to celebrate Carlton Hutchins' 95th birthday (MMA '43-2) and the 18th birthday of Carlton's granddaughter, Jasmine. Carlton was one of the founding members of the chapter. Frank Tepedino '58 provided another of his handsomely crafted ship models for a raffle in support of the event. This year's model of the *Mayflower* was won by Alex Waller '15.



## SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

### WORKBOAT SHOW

Maine Maritime and Massachusetts Maritime co-hosted an annual alumni reception at the Westin Hotel, New Orleans on November 29 during the 2018 International WorkBoat Show. Jeff Wright, Alumni Relations Director, gave a briefing on the state maritime academy National Security Multi-Mission Vessel (NSMV) program, a MARAD initiative to replace our aging training ships. Special thanks to Richard "Dicky" Balzano '89, Deputy Director of MARAD, for providing Jeff the key talking points regarding NSMV specifications, funding status and proposed timeline.



## BAY STATE CHAPTER

### ADMIRAL'S CUP TAILGATING

Some 40 MMA alumni, family and friends attended the Admiral's Cup football game tailgate event at Massachusetts Maritime Academy during their Homecoming on Saturday, September 15. Beautiful weather welcomed us to the Buzzard's Bay campus for our special Maine clam chowder and a great spread of catered foods and favorite beverages by Red's Pizza of Harwich, Massachusetts. The Buccaneers maintained the Admiral's Cup with a 22-7 victory over our Mariners. Thanks to Sam Rowe '65 and Al Lay '75 for helping to get the word out.



## SEACOAST CHAPTER

### SCHOLARSHIP SCRAMBLE

The southern Maine and New Hampshire area chapter held its annual Alumni Scholarship Scramble on September 27. More than 100 golfers raised almost \$20,000 to support deserving students attending MMA.

The Seacoast Chapter has two endowed awards. The first is the Capt. Thomas Smith Award, given annually to the Cadet Captain of the *TS State of Maine*. Smith graduated in 1967 and sailed the world for Lykes Lines. He was a founding member of the Seacoast Chapter and served for many years as its treasurer.

The second is the Paul Mercer Award, which goes each year to the Cadet Chief Engineer. Paul Mercer '73 served as Director of Alumni Relations for many years, and just recently retired as the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Mercer has been a good friend to the chapter and a mentor and teacher to many alumni.

The winning team was comprised of alumni from the class of 1986 (shown above): John "JP" Paulsen, Mark Eisenhaur, Shawn Longfellow, and Craig Burpee. The Seacoast Scholarship Scramble is held the Thursday before Homecoming in the Southern Maine/New Hampshire area.

Each year the chapter also awards four additional scholarships to deserving students. This year's recipients were: Chloe Smedley, junior, International Business & Logistics student, Wells, Maine; Nicholas Parker, senior, Marine Transportation Operations student, Newmarket, New Hampshire; Sheldon Parent, sophomore, Marine Engineering Technology student, Dayton, Maine; and Christopher Brassard, senior, International Business & Logistics student, Wells, Maine.

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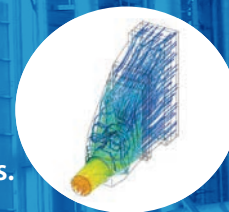


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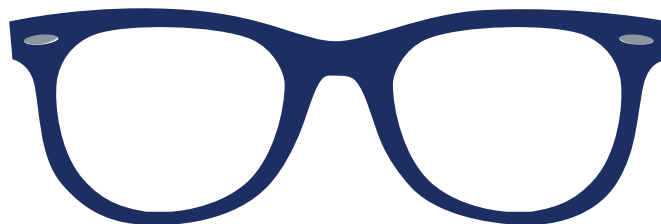
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# VISION 20|20

## MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

Maine Maritime Academy's vision is to provide the best marine-related education of any small college. To achieve our vision and to assure that the MMA of tomorrow is economically sound and sustainable, we've set a goal to raise a cumulative total of \$2.25 million and increase our alumni participation rate to 20% by 2020. When we meet that goal, we will receive \$750,000 from the Harold Alfond Foundation toward scholarships for MMA students. Your gift of any amount will help us reach the Annual Fund Vision 20 | 20 goal.

[mainemaritime.edu/support-mma](http://mainemaritime.edu/support-mma)



# Class Notes



ENTREPRENEUR

## Sense of Direction

JOHN WEBB '83 was a dogged competitor on the MMA wrestling team while attending the school as a marine engineering major.

"I was never a great athlete, but I was certainly a determined athlete," he says.

Webb's perseverance has defined his success and approach to adversity, and he gives substantial credit to his experience at MMA.

"It was a great fit for me academically and socially," says Webb, "and it gave me the butt kick I needed at that stage of life."

Webb is a successful trial lawyer with his own practice in Southern Maine, held in high regard by his peers, "and the kind of guy you want in your corner," says one classmate.

Although he aspired to be a lawyer from the age of 12, Webb calculated that his best chance was to attend MMA for not only self-discipline, but also leadership and learning ability he would

later leverage to succeed at the University of Vermont Law School.

"When I graduated I had a ready-made set of skills, and quickly found a job as a mechanical engineer at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard," he says.

His work initially focused on steam line piping, but he was drawn by the complexity and capability of the Nimitz class aircraft carriers produced by the yard and worked his way into a multi-disciplined field engineering position that allowed him to travel the world and troubleshoot onboard problems.

"I loved, loved, loved every minute I spent on those carriers," he says. "They're a fascinating city that floats on water. And I marvel at how great they operate and are still being built."

But he was eventually inspired to pursue his law degree, followed by a three-year internship with the York County, Maine District Attorney's Office

that introduced him to the specialty of criminal law.

He was soon faced, though, with a life-changing decision. Because of congenital problems with his legs, he was forced to choose between a life dependent on a wheel chair for mobility or amputation and the use of prostheses that would challenge him to learn to walk anew. He chose the latter.

"And not surprisingly," he says, "the same kind of hard work, self-discipline and mindset to succeed no matter what, that I learned at MMA, got me back on my feet and walking into the courtroom instead of rolling into the courtroom."

As his law practice continues to progress, "nothing has changed," he says. "The same focus and attention to detail I learned in 1983 still applies. It's the thread that weaves its way through the last 30 years and, hopefully, the years to come." ■

### SEA STORIES

# Rescue & Research

MY MAJOR WAS MARINE SCIENCE, and having the opportunity to be on the water during college and learn more about boats was exactly the reason I came to MMA.

I founded Marine Mammals of Maine (MMoME) in 2011, a non-profit organization dedicated to marine mammal and sea turtle response, rescue, care, research and education that covers the waters from Kittery to Rockland.

The combination of skills I acquired at MMA has helped me to be more diversified when working with other collaborators on marine mammals research projects. Not only can I do the hands-on animal sampling, for example, but I also know how to drive the boat.

With this work you always have to be both ready to go and up for almost anything. Animals don't strand when it is convenient for us. Working with live and deceased marine mammals, sometimes scenarios can be unpredictable. We deal with many situations, both on land and at sea.

NOAA declared an Unusual Mortality Event (UME) for a few large whale species that are on the east coast within the last few years. This includes Minke, Humpback and Right whales. Part of our role at Marine Mammals of Maine is to further investigate these mortalities.

This past summer a deceased whale about three miles offshore from Old Orchard was reported to our hotline. We received photos and determined it was a recently deceased Minke whale, so we set about to recover the animal for necropsy and testing since its tissues were still in viable condition for sampling.

We took a small barge out of Portland to its last known coordinates. The marine forecast was in our favor. Our goal was to document the carcass and tow it to a set landing location. From there we put the animal on a flatbed and trucked it to a designated compost site for necropsy.

As we approached, we noticed white sharks feeding on the animal. I didn't want to interrupt the sharks' meal, but I needed to get the whale for necropsy, which involved placing a tow rope by hand around its tail.

Leaning out the side door onto the whale as white sharks were lingering around was a bit unnerving. This wasn't the time to accidentally fall in.

It was a little tricky, but the tow rope placement was made, and we started the long tow in. As we approached shore, we received many odd looks as we neared heavier boat traffic areas.

This past year has been a challenge with the phocine distemper virus (PDV) that reared itself through the seal population. Our team responded to four times the amount of distressed and injured marine mammals than normal years.

I would love to think my work makes a difference in understanding more about marine mammals. ■

—By LYND A

DOUGHTY '08,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
MARINE MAMMALS OF  
MAINE





## MARINERS: Stay in Touch with Your Classmates

Share what you're doing with your fellow alumni. Tell us about career changes, latest achievements, hobbies and adventures. Photos welcome. Include your class year and contact information and send to [billy.sims@mma.edu](mailto:billy.sims@mma.edu).

### 1954

Mark Crowley and his wife Flo have taken up new residency in Dunnellon, Florida.

### 1958

The hearty Class of 1958 celebrated their 60th reunion at Homecoming 2018. Making it to campus were John Bitoff, San Francisco; Dick Holt, Greenland, New Hampshire; Russ Myers, Delray Beach, Florida; Frank Tepedino, San Diego, California; Everett Cooper, Lakewood, Washington; and George Richardson, from Westport Island, Maine. Classmate Paul Jacobs was honored with the inaugural Humanitarian Award. His classmates graciously accepted the award in his absence. Frank Tepedino, class agent, reached out and caught up with Walt Seman, who lives with his wife in a retirement community in Venice, Florida. He plays bocce with many of his friends and is enjoying retirement. He is a great grandfather.

### 1959

The Class of 1959 has a summer reunion scheduled at MMA in Castine June 24-26, 2019. Contact Capt. Tom Kelly, [capttwkelly@gmail.com](mailto:capttwkelly@gmail.com), to discuss details.

### 1961



Jerry Gotlieb, Class Agent,

wrote: "Classmates, fourteen shipmates from the Class of 1961, and George Sullivan from the Class of 1962, showed up at the Muddy Rudder Restaurant in Yarmouth at 1300 Hours on the 28th of July, 2018, some 57 years after graduation. Our shipmates were accompanied by our wives and Earleen Williams, widow of Dave Williams. We had a head count of about 30 people. We spent the first hour or so reintroducing ourselves, telling sea stories, and had lunch. The next hour we honored our classmates with the reading of each name and then Eight Bells to signify their passing over the bar. Jeff Wright, MMA Alumni Relations Director, then provided an update on the academy. We had a group picture taken."

Attendees were Tom Condon, Everett Hall, Brian Hathaway, Ernie Goodwin, Earl Wotton, Carl Akin (all partially hidden), Jerry Gotlieb, Bill Gribbin (mostly hidden), George Sullivan (somewhat hidden), Bob Sullivan, Dick Forrest (partially hidden), Ken Smith (partially hidden), Dick Graham, and Bruce Dougherty.

### 1964



Commodore Larry Wade sent a photo of the Class of 1964 Mini Muster held on September 28 at DeMillo's Floating Restaurant in Portland, Maine. There were 40 in attendance, from as far away as Vancouver, Washington, and Nevada! Classes attending: '60, '61, '64, '65 and '66. The Class of 1964 has a summer reunion scheduled at MMA in Castine June 17-19, 2019. Contact Larry Wade, [lvwade@roadrunner.com](mailto:lvwade@roadrunner.com), to discuss details.

### 1967



Thanks to classmates and their generous donation of more than \$41,000 to the Class of 1967 Regimental Scholarship. Pictured handing the ceremonial check to President Bill Brennan is Frank Famulari '67.

### 1968



A Maine heat wave greeted the Class of 1968, but the class was not deterred from celebrating 50 years during a Summer Reunion on campus in August. Also, many alumni joined festivities during Homecoming 2018.

### 1968



Bob Damrell and his First Mate, grandson Aiden, 3½, were preparing to put to sea in Bob's Dyer 29 to catch some mackerel, and "to work on his bowline and clove hitches, and, in true MMA spirit, get his hands dirty." Grandfather cleans the head!

### 1969

Ken Bryant is retired. He and his wife, Norma, moved to Center Barnstead, New Hampshire.

### 1970

Tim Edwards wrote to let us know he is enjoying semi-re-

tirement in the White Mountain Valley of New Hampshire.

### 1973

Paul Mercer, who was the commissioner of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection since January 2016, retired on November 9. Mercer is an engineer who specialized in energy and waste issues in the private sector and was a former professor and administrator at Maine Maritime Academy for many years.

### 1974



Jon Wing visited the MMA booth at this year's International WorkBoat Show in New Orleans. He and classmate Steve Walker and many other alumni also attended the annual MMA reception held at the Westin Canal Place, and heard an update on the MARAD training ship initiative.

### 1974



Pete Kopf retired on September 30 with 44.5 years of U.S. Marine Corps service. He completed 30 years active duty as an infantry and joint staff officer, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. Kopf experienced world-wide deployments, ranging from Arctic climates in Alaska, Iceland and Norway, to jungle/tropic settings in the Philippines, Okinawa, Guam and Thailand, along with the deserts of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, UAE, and many more.

He accumulated more than 13 years in overseas assign-

## CLASS NOTES

ments and deployments. During Desert Storm he served a year-long tour as Senior Advisor to the 1st Brigade, Royal Saudi Marines. He served two combat tours, one in Iraq ('06) with 7th Marine Regiment in Al Anbar province, and in Afghanistan ('10) with 82d/101st Airborne, and Regional Command East, with operations extending to the Pakistan border. On active duty, he was fortunate to attend six schools to include the Naval War College where he gained a master's degree in Strategic Studies.

Following military retirement, Kopf was immediately hired as a government service employee (GS-14), serving as Branch Head for Regional Operations, Plans and Policy in the G3/5/7 of Headquarters, Marine Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia. He lives in Virginia Beach with four of his 6 children living in the local area.

### 1976

Letter to President Brennan from Russ Koehler: "Aloha Billy, I hope this email finds you, Heather and the rest of your ohana doing well! I now live in Hawaii on the Island of Oahu on Kaneohe Bay, one of two barrier reefs in the Hawaii chain. I work at the Marine Corps Base Hawaii as a Regional Site Energy Advisor for Booz Allan Hamilton ... I am very proud and honored to let you know I have been selected to join an elite group of International Energy Managers who belong to the Association of Energy Engineers (AEE), which is the most highly recognized energy association in the world, as a member of the Energy Managers Hall of Fame. This is a career achievement for me, and I'm sending this to you because I want to recognize the value of the engineering education that I received from MMA."

### 1977



Dave Lieberman (left) and Larry Burrill (right) caught up at the tailgate party at Catholic University in November. Burrill is stepping in to assume Class Agent duties while Earle Cianchette assumes the role of chairman of the MMA Board of Trustees.

### 1978

Larry James and his wife Mary have retired and made St. Petersburg, Florida, their new home.

### 1982



Capt. John Gazzola sent a photo of MMA alumni attending a Flagship Management social during the recent International WorkBoat Show. Pictured are: Doug Frongillo '01, Brian Orme '00, Keith Higginbotham '00, Nathan Gandy '92, Eric Smith '88, Sherri Hickman '85, Craig Johnson '91 (Flagship partner), Ryan Smith '00, Russell Hariman '95, Capt. Gazzola and John McDonald '93.

### 1987

Dan Demers, an operations control center manager for Virginia International Terminals, Inc., in Norfolk, Virginia, wishes to pass along to his friends, "I am forever grateful for my four years at MMA. Lots of great memories that seem like yesterday, far too many to recount. Although we may have parted down different forks in the road, one thing we will

always have is our friendship, which is the greatest gift in life! Stay strong my friends." Dan and his wife, Jennifer, are the parents of Colin, 20 and Kyle, 17, and live in Virginia Beach.

### 1988



Eric Smith thrives on high adrenalin adventure and activities. He took a piece of MMA to base camp of Mt. Hood during a summer expedition up the mountain. On November 9, Smith joined Misty Wells on WTAN 1340 in Clearwater, Florida to promote the Tampa Bay Frogman Swim to benefit the Navy SEAL Foundation on January 13, 2019. He has participated in the event the last three years. Smith is president & CEO of Plimsoll Tankers, and the Chief Commercial Officer for Hendry Marine Industries.

### 1989

David Thoenen is a master with Holwerda Shipcrew and lives with his wife, Lorette Dorreboom, in Friesland, Netherlands.

### 1990

Peter Michaud is a senior manager for Deloitte Consulting and is living in Madbury, New Hampshire.

### 1991



A Maine family's sea-going legacy gathered recently at Homecoming 2018. Three generations at Maine Maritime Academy: Kristian Kibler '22

(actively learning), Chris Haines '91, Chief Engineer (actively sailing), Roger Haines '66, Master Mariner/Senior Panama Canal Pilot (retired).

### 1993



Class of 1993 was well represented at Homecoming 2018. They celebrated their 25th reunion at campus events and a number gathered at an AirBnb in Castine. Pictured left to right: Eric "EJ" James, Steve Pelleggrino, Brett Witham, Richard Slack, Richard Toothaker, Stephen "Jack" Spratt, Mike Tolley and Chad Shimunek. Kneeling, left to right: Kevin Plourde, Chris Riel Daley, Fred Berry.

### 1994

Chris Caiazzo won his race for the Maine House of Representatives for District 28, which includes West Scarborough and part of Scarborough proper.

### 1995

Jeff Patry is the station manager at Granite Shore Power. Jeff lives in York, Maine.

### 1996

Shawn Snedden is senior director of plant operations at the Milwaukee Brewery of MillerCoors. Shawn and wife Jeannette have three children, TJ, age 18, Avery, 16, and Sydney, 14.

### 1998



Classmates and class agents for the Class of 1998 are, left



to right: Josh Collamer who lives in Silver Spring, Maryland; Jeff Linton of Montclair, Virginia; and Jason Grabelle of Elliott City, Maryland. Great to see them at Homecoming and thanks for hosting the tailgate event at the MMA vs. Catholic University football game in Washington, DC, on November 10.

## 1998

Christopher Jordan is the New England engineering and sale representative for Sulzer. Jordan is residing in Dartmouth, Massachusetts.

## 2000

Tom Brown attended the DC tailgate event at Catholic University on November 10. He is a trial attorney with the Department of Justice, Civil Division, Aviation and Admiralty Litigation section. He and his wife Jessica live in Silver Spring, Maryland, with their seven children.

## 2003

When Ej Martin transitioned from ship to shore, he joined the team at Longroad Energy, a Boston-headquartered renewable energy developer focused on the development and operation of wind and solar energy projects throughout North America, and he assisted in establishing a 24/7 Remote Operations Center in Portland, Maine to take advantage of being able to recruit a strong labor force of MMA alumni. Operations started over a year ago, and the center monitors more than 1.2 GW of solar and wind projects across the country. Joining Martin are MMA alumni Dana Merrill '83, Bill Nichols '03, Clyde Smith '10, and Matt Bailey '12.

## 2006



On July 14, Crystal (Parker) Maass '06 and Emily Maass were married in Portland, Oregon. The wedding was at Mount Tabor Park and the reception at Coopers Hall urban winery. In attendance were Amanda Johnson '06 and Katherine Clapham '06. Crystal is a Chief Mate with Polar Tankers of ConocoPhillips and Emily is an attorney with Lane Powell PC. The couple lives in Portland, Oregon, with two spirited little girls, Ruby, age 5, and Chloë, 3.

## 2006

Raymond Wiggin is an under-sea warfare operations analyst at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. He and his wife, Rebecca, live in Eldersburg, Maryland, with their two boys Byron, age 7, and Henry, 5.

## 2008



Luke and Valerie (White) '10 Velho welcomed the arrival of Wren Luke Velho on July 14. The Velhos live in Newcastle, Maine. Luke is an engineer for Polar Tankers, Inc.

## 2008

Rebecca (Allen) Labonte, her husband Zachary, and their two boys Dylan, age 3-1/2, and Gavin, 1-1/2, moved from Florida to Woodstock, Connecticut. Rebecca also received her master's degree from MMA in 2009 and was recently inducted into

the MMA Athletics Hall of Fame.

## 2008

Tom Carey was back on campus representing his employer at the recent career fair. Carey is a program manager for General Dynamics NASSCO and lives in San Diego, California.

## 2010

Nicholas Bishop is a chief engineer with Noble Drilling. He and his wife, Sash, live in Windham, Maine.

## 2011

Curtis Libby is an Instrumentation Manager/Research Engineer at the University of Maine Advanced Structures and Composites Center in Orono. He and his wife, Fiona, live in Bangor.

## 2014



Travis Norwood and Hannah (Chisholm) Norwood '16 were married this summer. They make their home in Norton, Massachusetts. The Norwoods joined the Bay State alumni tailgate gathering at the Admiral's Cup football game at Mass Maritime in September.

## 2014

Sarah Grindle and Henri Levesque (both Class of '14) have announced their engagement. They will be married August 3, 2019 in Castine. Grindle is enrolled at Kapi'olani Community College, finishing up her final year in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program and Levesque is a marine surveyor for the American Bureau of Shipping. They reside in Kailua, Hawaii.

## 2016

Bradley DeLawler is an assistant engineer with Bordelon Marine and lives in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania.

## 2016



Johnny Weymouth took to the stage with the band Whoopy Kat during his wedding reception at the Sealight in Sullivan, Maine on September 22. Weymouth married Heather Holt of Ellsworth, Maine. John works for Emera Maine and they reside in Ellsworth.

## 2016

Molly Marcotte and Rachel Jondle '17 will be moving to Naval Support Activity Bahrain, home of U.S. 5th Fleet, as project support engineers for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Maintenance Center, working with U.S. Fleet Forces Command and NAVSEA.

Marcotte was a naval architect with the Department of the Navy, Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard and IMF, Honolulu. Jondle was a Project Support Engineer in Norfolk, Virginia. Both alumnae are employed by Invictus Associates, an engineering firm owned and operated by John "Chip" Callan '88.

## 2017

Megan Perkins is a software tester for Code Refinery of Apex, North Carolina, a company delivering custom software used in healthcare, clinical diagnostics and medical devices.

## 2017

Guy Keenum is an engineer for G & H Towing, working in the port of Houston. He and his new bride, Tiffany, live in Houston.

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# Eight Bells

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The tradition of Eight Bells pays respect to deceased mariners and signifies that a sailor's "watch" is over.

## **RICHARD M. BURSTON '43-2**

died on July 17, 2018. Burston graduated from Boston High School with the goal of attending prep school. He lived for sports, excelling in football, ice hockey and baseball and wanted an opportunity to play some more. When his dad gave him a flat out "no", Burston decided to go for it anyway. In 1941, Burston was granted a sports scholarship to Kents Hill Prep School. He graduated from Kents Hill at age 17, and as the U.S. was on the brink of entering into WWII, Burston enrolled in MMA earning the title of Naval Reserve Officer and serving in the South Pacific aboard the USS *Alhena* during the war, for which he will be honored at Arlington. After the war, Burston attended Bowdoin College and graduated after only two and a half years. He was then accepted at Harvard Business School but was diagnosed with polio during his first semester and although the doctors told him he'd never walk again, Burston made up his mind to walk, spending countless hours training his muscles. Undeclared, Burston returned to Harvard and graduated with the class of '52. His recovery from polio is a metaphor for his whole life. He approached all challenges with a winning mindset, never accepting the word "can't." He had a way of making people feel good about themselves with his humble manner, quiet intellect and engaging spirit. He believed strongly in giving back as a civic volunteer, including several years as Little League president and as a trustee for two of his alma maters.

## **CAPT. CECIL M.S. BENSON JR. '46**

died August 11, 2018. In 1944, Benson graduated from Kennebunkport High School and in 1946 was part of the fifth class to graduate from MMA, earning his third mate's license in the Merchant Marine and a commission in the U.S. Naval Reserve. After sailing ships with American Export Lines and United Fruit Company, he was called to active duty in 1954 and served as navigator and operations officer on Sixth

Fleet oilers operating in the Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea, rising to the rank of full lieutenant. In 1958, after his service with the Navy, Benson returned to the sea, making the shipping industry his career for the next 25 years. He rose in rank from third mate to master, with extensive experience on break bulk cargo vessels, fishing/factory/freezer ships, tankers, container ships, gas turbine powered carriers, and nuclear-propelled ships. In 1984, Benson retired to his home in Cape Porpoise, dedicating his time to projects that combined his love of history, the sea, and his community. Benson's volunteer efforts led to improvements to the Atlantic Hall and the Arundel Cemetery, and the Benson Blacksmith Shop for the Kennebunkport Historical Society. He was active in the MMA Alumni Association, Boston and Portland Marine Societies, Kennebunkport Conservation Trust, Arundel Lodge #76, Arundel Yacht Club, and Old Goats Club. Benson was especially pleased when the Trust restored the Clement Clark Boathouse, where he had spent so much time as a boy. Throughout retirement, he was an avid sailor, competing in the Boon Island Race well into his 80s.

## **JOHN R. SPEAR '54**

died August 10, 2018. He graduated from Bar Harbor High School in 1950, received a bachelor's degree from MMA, and a Master of Education from The Citadel. After graduation, he entered the U.S. Navy and served 23 years on active duty, 21 of which were in the Submarine Service. He served on the USS *Medregal* (SS 480), USS *Wahoo* (SS 565), USS *Casimir Pulaski* (SSBN 633), USS *Clamagore* (SS 343) as Executive Officer, and the USS *Thornback* (SS 480) as Commanding Officer. He also served on the Staff of Submarine Officers School New London, Connecticut, Staff of Commander Submarine Forces Pacific Pearl Harbor, and Staff of Commander Submarine Flotilla Six in Charleston. He retired from the military in 1977 as executive officer of the Polaris Missile

Facility Atlantic. While in the service, Cdr. Spear was awarded many commendations including the Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Medal with Gold Star and Navy Unit Commendation. After retirement from the Navy he was employed as a field engineer by General Electric Company. Cdr. Spear was active in many societies such as the Major General William Moultrie Chapter Sons of the America Revolution, South Carolina Society War of 1812, Dames and Barons of the Magna Charta, Washington Light Infantry, Palmetto Guards, and Charleston Chapter South Carolina Genealogy Society. He held a distinguished Southern Citizen Award by the South Carolina Sons of Confederate Veterans for his work in Magnolia Cemetery Soldiers Burial Ground and the Hunley Crew burials.

## **HUGH E. ELLIS, JR. '57**

died in South Carolina on July 19, 2018, surrounded by loving family. He graduated from Bangor High School in 1954, MMA in 1957, and the University of Maine at Orono in 1963. He worked for Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company for over 20 years. He enjoyed fishing, snowmobiling, dining out, working on his beloved camp at Little Rocky Pond, Ellsworth, and gathering with friends and family.

## **PAUL P. BORDÉ '59**

died on October 15, 2018. After completing a four-year engineering degree at MMA, where he played a number of sports and joined the Merchant Marine, working on a number of ships. A short time later he answered the call and enlisted in the U.S. Navy, spending the next 23 years aboard several ships, seeing action in Vietnam aboard USS *Preston* and as Naval Attaché at the U.S. Embassy, Mexico City, ending his excellent career as executive officer, Naval Support Activity, Los Angeles - Long Beach. After retirement, he joined Crowley Maritime Corporation as marketing manager west coast operations until his



retirement in 2015. Bordé lived life to the max never asking for more than he gave. As his young nephew who is in the Navy said, "Lord, you are receiving one hell of an angel."

### **BERNARD A. BARTLETT '65**

died peacefully at his home in Nantucket on October 17, 2018. Bartlett graduated from Peacham Academy and received a Bachelor's degree from Maine Maritime Academy. After serving as a merchant mariner, he returned to Nantucket to manage and operate Bartlett Plumbing and Heating alongside his father. After many years in the plumbing business, he became the building inspector for the Town of Nantucket.

Bartlett had a love for this special place, spending time on the ocean and tinkering in his garage. He also greatly enjoyed building and renovating with his family and friends, no matter how big or small the job.

### **STEPHEN L. HARRIMAN '67**

died November 12, 2018. He attended Crosby High School in Belfast, and graduated from Maine Maritime Academy with a bachelor's degree in marine engineering. His career was varied but culminated in 30 years working for the Maine State Ferry Service on the Swan's Island ferry, where he met the love of his life, Helen Wheaton; they married in 1971. Harriman served the town of Swan's Island in many capacities, including chief of the fire department, founder and director of the ambulance service, code enforcement officer, and plumbing inspector. Retirement in 2000 didn't slow him down. He worked several part-time jobs, including harvesting blueberries and delivering home heating oil. He was a member of Eastbrook Baptist Church, where he served as trustee. His love for camper travel, the outdoors, and helping people were well known in the area, where he leaves behind the memory of a booming voice, fun loving personality and the many people helped along the way. He is survived by his beloved wife, Helen, of 47 years.

### **PAUL R. DAY '70**

died on August 23, 2018. Day graduated from Deering High School in 1966, and after MMA was in the Merchant Marine at American Officers Association until retiring in 2014. Day lived an adventurous life, living in Portland, Duluth, Minnesota, Kingfield, Honolulu, Hawaii and The Netherlands before retiring to Gray. "Little Ricky Day"

made friends wherever he went. He loved to be surrounded in a crowd where he most always was the center. Day loved engineering, auto repair, wood carving and gardening. He will be sadly missed by his immediate and extended family.

### **PAUL E. HANEY '70**

died March 25, 2017 in Tavares, Florida. He graduated from MMA with a degree in Nautical Science and his Third Mate's Unlimited License. Haney began his long career in the Merchant Marine with Exxon. However, when his children were very young he chose to stay ashore, and he worked for Volkswagen of America for eight years. In 1981 he returned to the maritime industry with Hvide Marine, Inc., which later became Seabulk Tankers. When Haney retired in 2011 he had been working for several years through the American Maritime Officers union. At the news of Haney's death, J. Erik Hvide commented that Haney was a professional mariner, one of many who helped create the success of Seabulk Tankers. Haney always said his favorite ships were the Magnachem and the America; he referred to the 'Seabulkers' as his work family. At his memorial service his co-workers remembered Haney as a dedicated and ethical mariner. He held his Chief Mate's license, but liked sailing Second Mate best. An avid hunter, Haney enjoyed being in the woods just as much as he loved sailing on his sailboat. Haney was a native of Bangor, Maine, and though he had lived in Florida for 32 years, he never lost his dry Maine humor, nor his Downeast accent!

### **JOHN F. FEDERICO '72**

died in Crossville, Tennessee on October 3, 2018. Federico graduated from South Portland High School in 1968. He was first captivated by the sea taking daily excursions on the Casco Bay Lines ferry. Federico became a navigator on offshore vessels serving in the U.S. Merchant Marine as an officer for more than 30 years. He set foot on every continent. Federico was also chief medical officer, helping to save the life of a fellow seaman while far off the coast of the Cape of Good Hope. In the 1970s, Federico was Audubon Society's boatman on Hog Island assisting biologists with introducing Puffins to Eastern Egg Rock, on Muscongus Bay, in the Gulf of Maine.

### **THOMAS G. QUEEN '80**

died November 6, 2018 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. For the past 11 years, Green lived and worked in Danielsville, Pennsylvania. Prior to that, he lived in Casco, Maine on Thomas Pond with his wife of 33 years, Robyn, and sons, Ryan and Kerry. He was a 1976 graduate of Cheverus High School. After graduation from MMA, he spent many years as a merchant mariner. He was a member of St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Berlinsville, Pennsylvania. Green loved the outdoors, spending time fishing, boating and snowmobiling. He also had a passion for NASCAR racing. Most recently, he spent summers with his wife, son, and grandsons enjoying swimming, camping, fishing and other activities Maine has to offer.

### **DENNIS J. RING '81**

died on August 19, 2018. Ring was a retired lieutenant with the Edgewater Police Department, serving the department for 29 years. After graduation from MMA, he joined the Military Sealift Command as second officer where he was able to see the world.

### **KELSEY E. NALETTE '16**

died on August 5, 2018 due to injuries sustained in an automobile accident. Nalette grew up in a household of love and laughter. She had a zest for life and put herself wholeheartedly into everything she did. As an avid softball player in high school and college, a 2012 Trinity High School graduate and a MMA IBL graduate, Nalette pursued her dreams with insurmountable support from her family. Nalette was fiercely independent from a young age and moved to Florida to complete the Disney College Internship Program where she earned her ears and succeeded in every aspect. Nalette was admired by her colleagues and coworkers for her incredible work ethic and determination. She was employed as a maritime logistics coordinator for Signet Maritime Corporation where she made fast friends who quickly turned to family as she built a life in Jacksonville. She loved spending weekends with family and friends at Disney, on the boat, at the beach, or at concerts. She loved the Red Sox and Patriots and her family and friends were her true passions in life. She held strong, unique relationships with each and every one of her loved ones.



### To the Arctic—and Beyond

VESSEL OPERATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY MAJOR Austin Foster worked for Western Towboat Company of Seattle, Washington, as his required field experience this past summer.

"While on the job," says Foster, "I jumped at the chance to be part of a crew that towed the first barge loaded with freight, explosives and everything needed for winter to the Red Dog Mine, 2,880 miles north of Seattle."

Austin's photo of the tug *Alaska Mariner* rafted to her barge off Angoon, Alaska, while the crew conducts a barge check, was one of a series he entered into the Annual MMA Photo Contest.

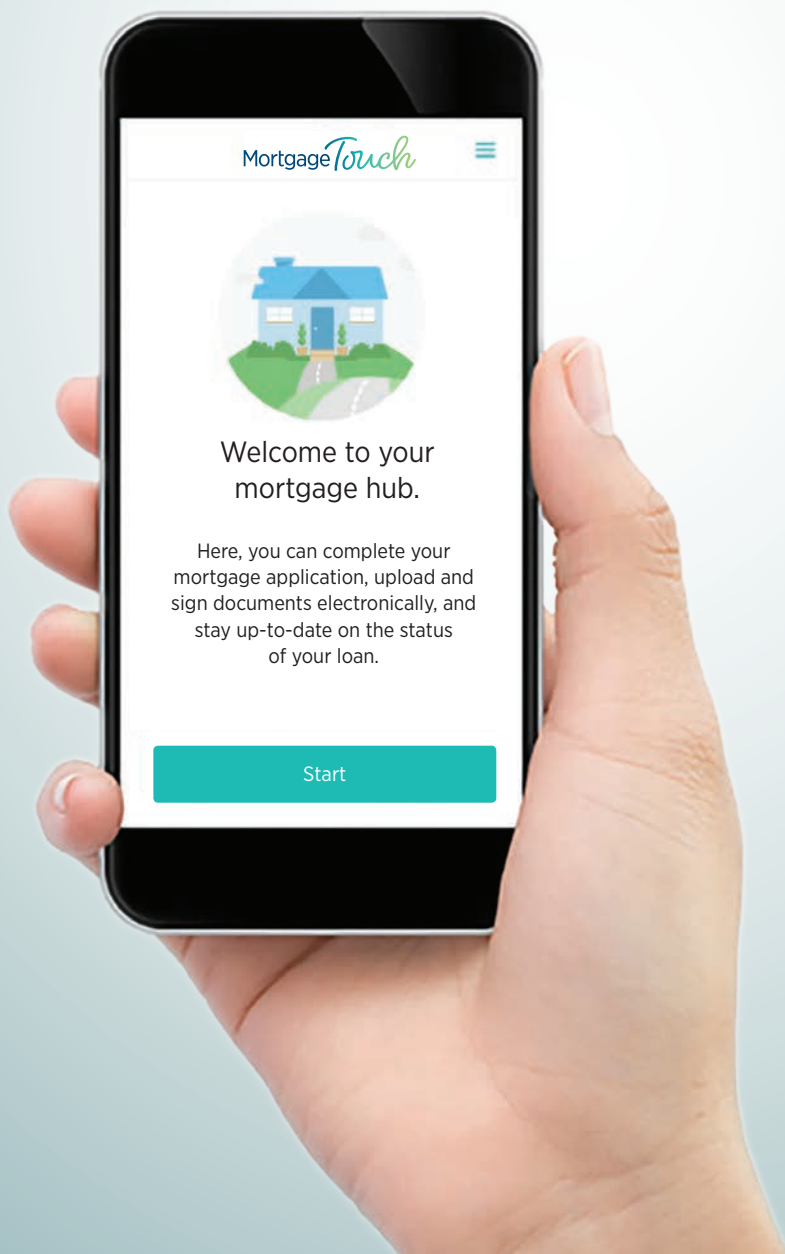
It's only one of many images never to be forgotten by Foster—on an adventure that is likely to be just the beginning of a career that takes him to all points of the compass. ■



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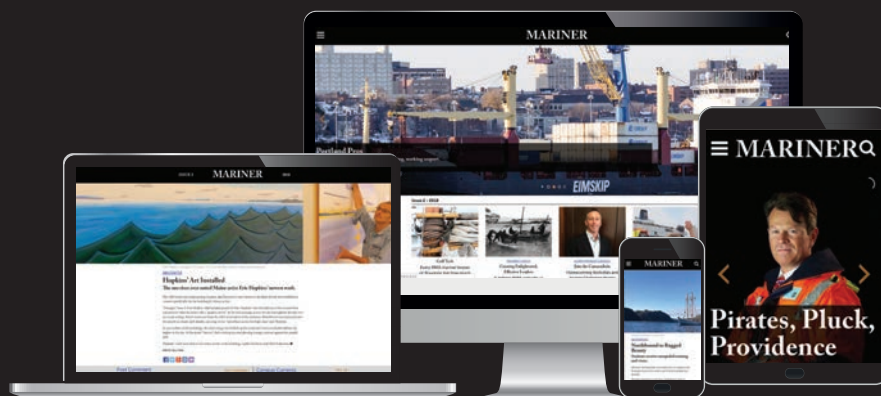
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