

# MARINER

The ALUMNI MAGAZINE of MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

— ISSUE 2 · 2021 —

## The Promise of Wind Power

Discover how MMA grads and students are working hard to harness the power of wind

### Groundbreaking Discoveries

How one MMA grad is developing life-saving peptide therapeutics for serious illnesses



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**On the Cover:** *Photo courtesy of GustoMSC.*

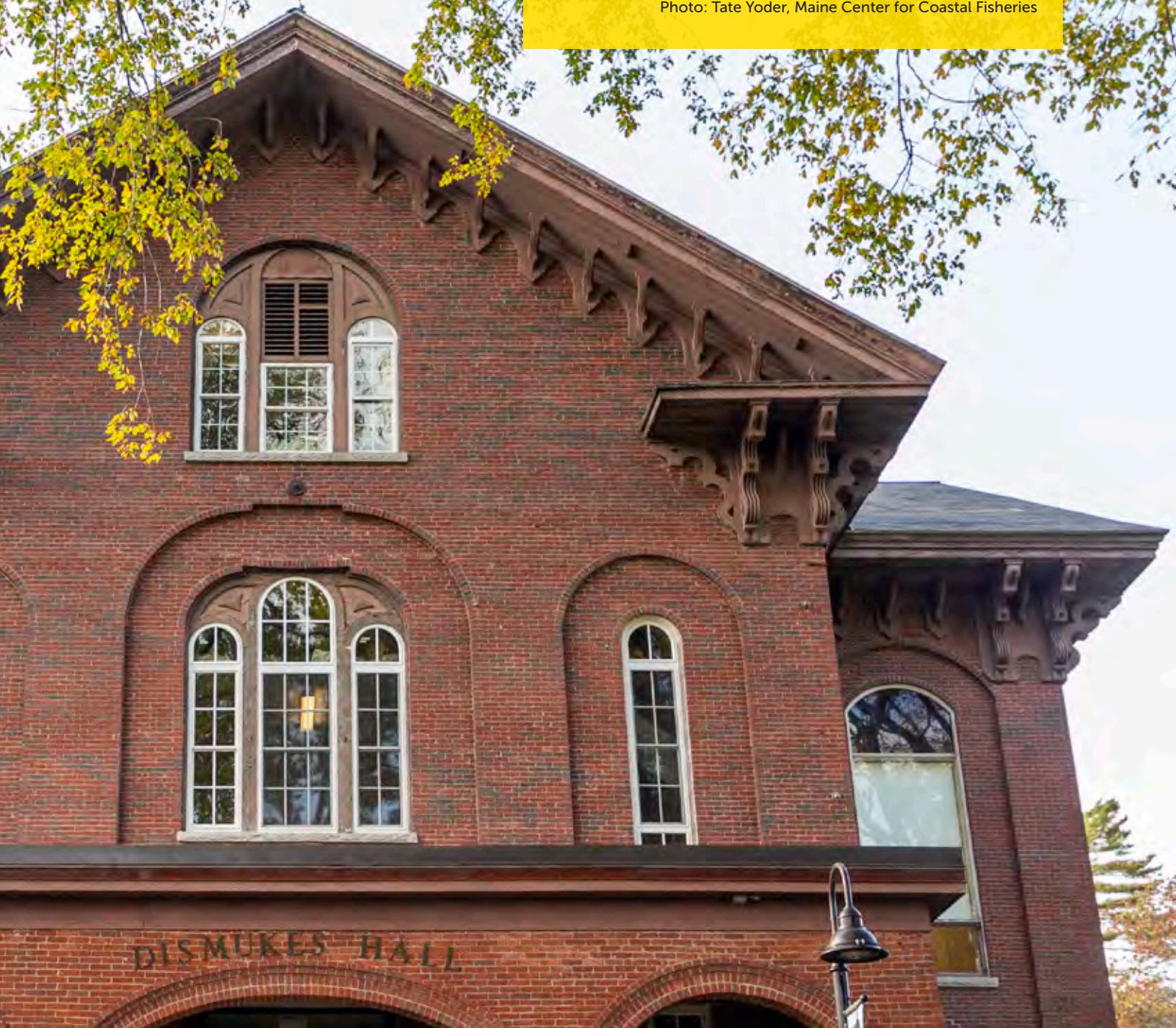


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## UNDER THE ELMS

Castine is one of the few towns in the country where a large number of elm trees survive, many of which are over 150 years old. Together with MMA, the community is working hard to preserve and maintain this impressive canopy of historic elm trees as a truly unique feature of the town and the campus in the face of growing threats to the health of these trees.

Photo: Tate Yoder, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries



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MMA PRESIDENT  
Dr. William J. Brennan

# Charting Our Course

## Reflections on MMA's past, present, and future from President Dr. William J. Brennan

I RECENTLY TOOK A BRIEF TRIP back in time, looking through the issues of the Mariner we've published over the past 11 years and re-reading what it is that I have said to you in the President's Watch. In those 28 issues that have been crafted, there are stories of amazing success achieved by MMA alumni and inspiring stories about our students. I am truly fortunate to have been able to get to know so many wonderful people associated with this little gem of a college. It struck me as I re-read these articles from my vantage point today that, first and foremost, it has been about people, about communication, and a conversation of sorts about the Academy – about matters both profound and sublime, and of course a host of other matters of business or of general interest. I stumbled briefly when I came to the issue reflecting upon the difficult emotions we all felt over the loss of the *El Faro* and her crew, which included five of our shipmates. I also felt the poignancy about the fragility of life in the story about a lone sailor rescued by the crew and cadets aboard the TSSOM. We talked about the reputation of our alumni and the underlying value in the diploma and licenses our graduates obtain because of that reputation – a reputation that continues to be enhanced because of our ability to adapt to changing circumstances and to evolve as necessary. The strength of character and the dedication to superior performance of our alumni, spanning many generations, have brought distinction to MMA over the past 80 years.

We have talked about how we continuously strive to improve and provide our students with the greatest opportunity to succeed while they are here so they can be successful in their career and hopefully in their lives. We work hard to operate in a fiscally sound manner to keep costs under control while, at the same time, engaging with very generous alumni whose spirit of philanthropy has reached incredible heights, enabling any young woman or man who wants an MMA education the opportunity regardless of their financial circumstance. We are one community, one family, and we have helped each other overcome many obstacles, committed as we are to positive career outcomes for our students and enriching the lives of so many young people.

I owe a debt of gratitude to all of you who are part of this community for letting me be part of the

honor and tradition that is the foundation of Maine Maritime Academy. As I prepare to turn over the helm, I'll pass along two small words spoken by Admiral Dismukes back in the early days of MMA: "Carry on." Carry on to honor and respect our history and keep traditions alive for new students, our community, and friends, but strike a balance while looking ahead, planning for the future and taking advantage of new opportunities. We are all the richer for the connections that MMA has helped us create and we have a sense of pride and a genuine affinity for a place that has helped shape so many people, including both my wife Heather and me.

As I bring this President's Watch to a close, I

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I am truly fortunate to have been able to get to know so many wonderful people associated with this little gem of a college.

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am reminded that the past two years have been among the most challenging the Academy has confronted in its history, an existential threat brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. I recognize that in a pluralistic society such as ours, the opportunity for unanimity of opinion is remote and I value diversity of opinions. But I am gratified that so many of our students and employees have accepted their responsibility to their shipmates and have taken meaningful steps to protect themselves and others against the threat of infection. We Mariners are a resourceful and resilient bunch, with an unwavering resolve to keep focused, to stay safe, and to do what needs to be done to carry out our mission. We are on the right course and we will emerge from this challenge strengthened and more resilient. With each year that passes, as more graduates become members of the Alumni Association, the keepers of our heritage continue to grow and I have no doubt that the future for this college, of Maine Maritime Academy, will be bright. ■

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "WJ Brennan", written in a cursive style.

## Join the Volunteer Ranks



### Become an MMA volunteer!

Recently, Andrew and I have been reaching out to other maritime academy Alumni Associations to measure interest in conducting cooperative activities. What immediately impressed us was the level of engagement and volunteerism of our Maine Maritime Academy Alumni with our alma mater. As a group, we are far more involved with our school than any other maritime academy's alumni population. Thank you to all who have given your time and effort.

It is this engagement that helps us stand taller in the marine-related industries in which we work. Those efforts alone help create more and better opportunities for current and future alumni. But there is more we can do as a group.

Each of the four standing committees (Communications, Financial Support, Alumni Engagement, and Working with Outside Entities) of the Alumni Board has non-board volunteers assisting, and there are a number of other efforts that can use a fresh eye and helping hand.

Some classes are in need of Class Agents or Class Advancement Volunteers, and an effort we have been working on to reconstitute a consortium of Maritime Academy Alumni Associations will need volunteers as well.

Have any ideas for an area alumni event? Chapter/Group events are focusing on gathering in fun, enjoyable, and safe settings for alumni and families alike. Themed activities such as minor league hockey, basketball, and baseball games, snow skiing, car shows, and ax throwing are just a few of the examples we encourage alumni to initiate. Whether there's a chapter/group near you or not, contact the Alumni Relations Office to suggest your idea and see what we can do to support your event.

Become an MMA volunteer! These efforts are not onerous or burdensome and I am encouraging more of you to reach out to Jeff Wright and Karen Cukierski in the Alumni Office (alumni@mma.edu) if you would like to be part of one of these efforts.

It is what has helped Maine Maritime Academy stand out from its peers and what will help MMA lead in the future!

Sincerely yours,

Bill Full '76

FOR THOSE OF YOU who were not aware, Frank Tepedino '58 has stepped down as Vice President of the Alumni Association. The Board wishes to sincerely thank Frank for his enthusiasm and passion for MMA.

Per the Alumni Association bylaws, I appointed, and the Board confirmed, Andrew Strosahl '05 to Vice President. Myles Block '06 was subsequently appointed, and confirmed, as the Registered Agent (Clerk) vacated by Andrew.

I ask the membership to welcome Ed Gagnon '78 as the newest member of the Alumni Association board. Ed, from Francestown, NH, who retired from BAE Systems in 2017, was appointed and confirmed as a new member to the board.

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# Campus Currents



## ATHLETICS

### Kicking Off a New School Year Meet the new faces in the Mariners Athletic Department

THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR BROUGHT A SLEW of new faces to the Athletic Department.

Megan McLean '19 was appointed as the Academy's Athletics Communications Coordinator. A four-year starter for the Mariners Women's Basketball team, McLean was named the 2018-2019 Maine Maritime Female Leader of the Year after an impressive career on the hardwood. McLean is the program's all-time leader in free-throw percentage (75.9) and capped off her career with the Mariners ranking fourth all-time in assists (254). McLean helped

lead the Mariners to back-to-back North Atlantic Conference (NAC) Championship appearances and carried that success to the classroom, earning a spot on the NAC All-Academic Team for three straight years. After graduating with a degree in International Business & Logistics from Maine Maritime in May 2019, McLean earned a Master's in Sport Management from Southern New Hampshire University in November 2020. In 2021, McLean was selected to attend the prestigious NCAA Emerging Leaders Seminar.

Continued on page 8

Ritchie Field has been the home of the Mariners since intercollegiate play began at the Academy back in the 1940s. With glimpses of Oakum Bay from the grandstands and sweeping views of the Penobscot Bay from atop of the press box, Ritchie Field is one of the most beautiful settings in Division III athletics.

# CAMPUS CURRENTS



Continued from page 7

O.J. Logue was appointed the Head Men's and Women's Cross Country Coach. Logue holds a Doctorate in Higher Education Leadership from Vanderbilt University, and is currently the Interim Executive Director of the Bar Harbor Food Pantry, as well as the Long-Distance Running Coach for the USA Deaf Track and Field Team, which will compete in Brazil in May 2022. Logue previously served as the Executive Director of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing/Governor Baxter School for the Deaf in Falmouth, Maine.

Logue coached both cross country and indoor track at the University of Maine for seven years and outdoor track at Bangor High School for two years. He competed as a Deaf Olympian representing the United States in Track and Field in 1981 and 1985. In 1981 Logue was Maine's top finisher in the Boston Marathon with a time of 2:26. In 2012, he founded the Acadian Running Camp, was inducted into the Maine Running Hall of Fame in 2006, and the Deaf Long Distance Runner's Hall of Fame in 2012.

Keenan Schaeffer brings a wealth of experience to the Head Women's Soccer coaching role, having guided both men and women at the youth, high school, collegiate, and semiprofessional levels. He served as the Head Coach and General Manager of Hershey FC of the Women's Premier Soccer League since 2017, while also serving as the First Assistant for Penn State-Harrisburg's men's program since 2018. In his five full seasons on the college sidelines, Schaeffer's programs have consistently won a dozen or more matches each year. At PSU-Harrisburg,

Schaeffer helped guide the men's team to its first North Eastern Athletic Conference (NEAC) championship and NCAA Division III tournament appearance in 2019. He coached the program's starting keeper to the top of the NCAA statistical heap in shutouts, producing 12 clean sheets.

Nicholas Steenberg was named the Assistant Sailing Coach at Maine Maritime Academy. As a year-round resident of Penobscot, Steenberg grew up sailing on the coast of Maine at Kollegewidgwok Yacht Club in Blue Hill. He began in Optimists when he was seven years old, continuing on to racing 420s at KYC, and in high school at George Stevens Academy. Steenberg's worked over six summers as the Race Coach, Adult Sailing Instructor, and Head Instructor at KYC. After instructing in the summers, Steenberg attended college in Europe, majoring in Engineering at the University of Southern Denmark. After finishing his studies, Steenberg worked in sales at Tesla Motors in Manhasset, N.Y. Steenberg is a Level 3 certified US Sailing Instructor and US Powerboating Instructor, with experience sailing and instructing on vessels of all types and sizes, including his own 33-foot Pearson "Vandre" onboard which he has logged over 5000 nautical miles. ■

The women's soccer team warms up on Ritchie Field during Coach Schaeffer's first season. Mariners Athletics enjoyed a standout season as they competed safely this fall. See [marinersports.org](http://marinersports.org) for all the details.





PRESERVATION

# UNDER THE ELMS AND BY THE SEA

THE MAIN CAMPUS OF MMA lies within the historic seafaring town of Castine, with many stately old buildings, a beautiful and bustling harbor, and, impressively, hundreds of magnificent American elm trees lining its streets and waterfront. Castine is one of the few towns in the country where a large number of elm trees survive, many of which are over 150 years old.

Together with the town of Castine, MMA is working hard to preserve and maintain this impressive canopy of historic elm trees as a truly unique feature of the town and the campus, and as a living reminder of the maritime past, in the face of growing threats to the health of these trees.

Prized for their towering height and graceful, upswept shape, the American elm became a symbol of liberty in the aftermath of the Revolutionary War. When Castine became a thriving global seaport in the mid-1800's, its sea captains, ship builders, and others in the maritime trades planted many of the elms that we see throughout the village today.

Sadly, in recent decades, Dutch Elm Disease has swept the country, killing an estimated 77 million elm trees nationwide. Castine has not been immune. But Castine benefited from early research at the University of Maine in Orono, which developed a protective serum injected into some of our local trees early on. And the town responded to this threat by establishing, in 2009, a town Tree Committee, which works with the town's Tree Warden and the town's Arborist to manage the historic tree canopy.

From the start, MMA has actively participated on the town's Tree Committee. With expert help from the town's Arborist, the Committee has overseen a detailed inventory of the elms both in town and on campus, instituted regular inoculation of approximately 75 significant elms with fungicide to prevent

disease, and supervised the pruning and, where necessary, the removal of diseased trees.

While Castine is distinguished nationwide for the number of historic elms that it has preserved, the town and the MMA campus, like nearby communities, are experiencing a resurgence of Dutch Elm Disease. Several magnificent elms have been lost, including some on MMA's campus and others near the athletic field. Additional threats to these historic trees include new forms of pestilence invading the state, construction impacts, and losses due to drought or storms.

Given inevitable losses, these collaborative town-MMA efforts have involved the re-planting of new species of disease resistant elm trees. Recently, the MMA campus has seen re-planting of hybrid elm species near Dismukes Hall, the founding building of the MMA (formerly the Eastern State Normal School, built in 1873).

This work is supported by annual appropriations from the town's budget, private donations to the town's tree fund, preservation efforts by property owners, and significant work by MMA to maintain the tree canopy on its own campus. It is truly a team effort.

Today, MMA has approximately 50 thriving elm trees providing shade and majestic beauty to its campus, among 250 American elms within the town as a whole. Castine is beloved as a historic seafaring town "under the elms and by the sea."

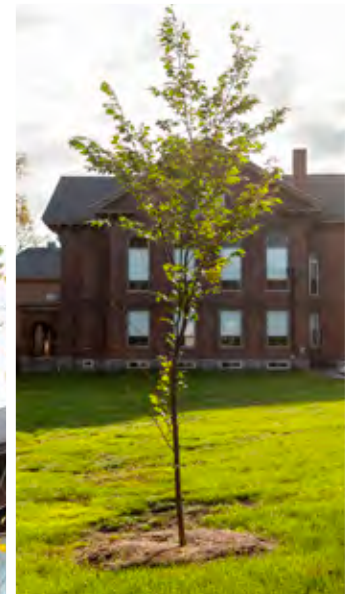
The elms are living and powerful symbols of resiliency and strength for the next generation of Mariners at the MMA. ■

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Together with the town of Castine, MMA is working hard to preserve and maintain this impressive canopy of historic elm trees.

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PHOTOS BY: TATE YODER, MAINE CENTER FOR COASTAL FISHERIES



Just a few of MMA's historic, and newly planted, elms that tower over the campus near Dismukes Hall.

## CAMPUS CURRENTS

### ANNUAL FUND 2022

# HELP SET THE COURSE FOR MMA'S FUTURE

CONTRIBUTIONS TO Maine Maritime Academy's Annual Fund are used to support annual operations and maintenance and provide financial aid to students in need. Unrestricted gifts keep student costs down by bridging the gap between tuition and annual expenses.

Tuition covered just 42% of MMA's operating expenses last year; the balance came from state and federal funding, foundation grants, and gifts from alumni, staff,

students, and the Academy's many friends.

The 2021 Annual Campaign raised a record-setting \$1,080,200 – the first year our Annual Fund exceeded a million dollars. That equates to \$1,256 per student enrolled this year. Where did that money go?

Annual Fund gifts helped re-power and upgrade the Academy's welding lab. The Annual Fund also helped to pay for a new roof for Leavitt Hall and energy-efficient



Leavitt Hall recently got a new roof and windows thanks to last year's annual fund.

replacement windows – exponentially important gifts as these will save the Academy money every year.

Additionally, \$335,400 in scholarships were awarded in FY2021 thanks to annual pass-through scholarships and augmenting earnings

from endowed funds designated for financial aid.

This year's cash goal is \$1,135,000. A gift of any size will be greatly appreciated – even small gifts make a big difference. Will you help set the course for MMA's future? ■

PHOTO BY: TATE YODER, MAINE CENTER FOR COASTAL FISHERIES

# A Night by the Bay

MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

NEW DATE!

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2022 | 5:30 PM | SHERATON SABLE OAKS, SO. PORTLAND

MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

Join us for a night of fun to benefit scholarships for students in financial need. Enjoy bidding on live and silent auction items and mingling with sponsors, alumni and friends.

### Special thanks to our sponsors:

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## What's the difference?

<b>ENDOWMENT</b> "Savings Account"	<b>ANNUAL FUND</b> "Checking Account"	
Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted
Does not count toward alumni participation	Counts toward alumni participation	Counts toward alumni participation
Only the earnings are expended	Spending flexibility	Expended in full each year
Long term	New initiatives	Immediately available
172 endowed scholarships	Immediately available	Annual pass-through scholarships
<i>Bowdoin</i> Future Fund	Urgent needs	Small boats and waterfront
Lasting security and stability	Bridges the gap not covered by tuition	Extra departmental support
Foundation for the future	Campus facilities and operations	Team sports
Memorials and legacies	Benefits all students	Supports enrollment
Investment	Small gifts make large impacts	Small gifts make large impacts

*Alumni participation in annual giving supports MMA – and its graduates.*

Potential funders, prospective students, and industry employers pay attention to alumni giving as an indicator of success. Your Annual Fund gift of any size will count toward our participation goal of 25%.

*That means 1,905 alumni donors in FY2022.*

### What counts towards the annual participation goal?

Donations made to the Annual Fund: all unrestricted contributions; gifts restricted to annual pass-through scholarships; contributions to annual operations.

### What does *not* count toward the annual participation goal?

Donations made to any of MMA's Endowment Funds or Capital Improvements.

*Help MMA reach our goal of 1,905 alumni donors before June 30, 2022*

A contribution of any size will count. See if your class is at 25%.

**Give now!** [mainemaritime.edu/giving](http://mainemaritime.edu/giving) or send your check to:

Maine Maritime Academy Advancement Office  
1 Pleasant Street, Castine, Maine 04420



# THE PROMISE OF *Wind Power*

MMA grads and students are harnessing  
the power of wind.

*by Billy R. Sims*

Photo: Courtesy of  
GustoMSC.



**A**S AN INTERN for Crowley Shipping's New Energy division last spring, Luke Healy got a look at a forecast for the future and it is windy. Healy, a class of 2022 Marine Engineering Technology major and president of the Environmental Action Club, researched possible companies and locations for offshore wind power in New England and Latin America, met with corporate team members and renewable energy experts from around the country and internationally via video conferences, and made a presentation highlighting how Crowley can track its energy consumption and carbon emissions. He also copy-edited RFPs for a \$300 million vessel for Crowley to service wind farms in the North East.

"Luke has been a great, proactive asset for our team," said Jeff Andreini, who leads the New Energy division and is a 42-year veteran with Crowley. "The great thing is Luke will return to campus as a knowledgeable and passionate advocate for wind and share this with his fellow students."

Andreini predicts the future of energy production for the U.S. and globally will include huge investments in wind power, particularly offshore turbines. Crowley established the New Energy division early this year to leverage its expertise and assets, well established in the offshore oil business, to serve the global renewables market.

"Crowley plans to be a full-service turnkey operator to the industry, including providing our vessels (tugs and barges) for the transportation and installation of the foundations, secondary steel, and wind turbine generator components," said Andreini. "We're also focusing on our experience in terminal management, logistics, and heavy lift in conjunction with transportation and installation, and providing long-term operation and maintenance capacity with crew transfer and service offshore vessels, and ancillary activities to support the wind farm activity."

### **GAINING VELOCITY**

The potential U.S. offshore wind market has grown quickly. Some experts predict that 2,000 to 4,000 towers will be built in the next 10 to 20 years. The United States has the potential to harness more than 2,000 GW of energy from offshore wind, according to the Global



Photo: Courtesy of GustoMSC.

Offshore Wind Report. The Department of Energy estimates that East Coast offshore has the potential to provide about 35 percent of power needs for the entire country by 2050.

The Biden administration recently announced a concerted effort between the Environmental Protection Agency and the departments of the Interior, Energy, Commerce, and Transportation to deploy 30 GW of offshore wind in the U.S. by 2030, equivalent to a 1,000-fold expansion of current commercial capacity. According to a report in the *New Republic*, there is presently 9,000 MW in an advanced stage of preparation. States such as New York and New Jersey are aggressively pushing wind power options.

Most of the U.S. East Coast, including Maine, is gearing up for a near-coastal offshore wind boom, and like Crowley, several companies in the oil and gas sector are moving resources in preparation for this boom. For example, Dominion Energy is building a 472-foot offshore wind turbine installation vessel to be launched in 2023 that will be the first such vessel that is Jones Act-qualified. The State of Maine is preparing an overall strategy to develop offshore wind capacity, including the port infrastructure needs to support that development.

MMA is well-positioned to provide graduates and professional training for the offshore wind sector. And a growing number of alumni are working in key renewable energy-related jobs.

## ALUMNI IN THE FIELD

EJ Martin '03 started in the “early days” of wind power in 2007. “Most of my friends thought I had made a bad career move at the time,” he said.

Now, as Vice President of Operations and Maintenance for Longroad Energy Partners in Portland, ME, he oversees a

portfolio of wind and solar generating facilities from a 50kW system atop a Kohl’s department store to a more than 300 MW wind project totaling more than 3.5 GW of installed capacity across the U.S.

“In the short term, I am most excited about building a team here in Maine to run solar projects,” said Martin. “Over the next few years, we will see a lot of 5MW plants built in the state.

“Longer term, I am excited about the pairing of battery energy storage with renewable projects,” he said. “Critics of renewables have long pointed out that the power source is intermittent or not available 24/7. With the maturing of utility-scale battery technology, not only do I see that complaint negated, but grid operators welcoming more and more renewable projects because such batteries will offer stability to the grids in which they are connected.”

Martin sees three trends in wind power: the development of larger capacity turbines that generate more power with less wind, investments not only by the government but also European companies such as Orsted in U.S. operations, and the re-powering of older projects, which typically have an operational lifespan of 30 years, with newer technology that allows for better monitoring of equipment condition and stresses in real-time, allowing operators to make adjustments and schedule preventative maintenance in advance of failures. Paul Mercer '73, the former Commissioner of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, currently serving as the Governor’s Advisor on Offshore Wind Power Development, agrees that the potential is significant and that governments, including Maine’s, will be making investments in technology development, in shoreside infrastructure, and in workforce development. “This bodes well for MMA, in logistics, operations, supply chain

management, engineering, and environmental affairs — all of which are core career tracks at Maine Maritime.”

Jay Piercy '96, Senior Technical Leader for GE's offshore wind services, climbed his first turbine in 2002 and “became passionate about the technology and the effort to move away from fossil fuels as an energy source.

“Offshore permitting is coming through in large scales,” he said. “There is a lot of support for renewables in government and the power industry.

“It'll be exciting to see how many GWs are developed over the next 10 years. The federal government's 30 GW by 2030 is a huge endeavor, and several big developers are stepping up to take on the challenge.”

Piercy anticipates direct-drive turbines up to 14MW with 220-meter rotor diameters being constructed.

“Turbine OEMs will need to streamline the supply chain,” he said, “develop services to meet the needs of offshore wind projects, and ensure projects are operational to meet deadlines.”

For alumni interested in moving into the renewable energy field, Martin said, “I offer the same advice I would give to any MMA alumni in any industry — use your network. There are quite a few of us working in wind these days and Maine Maritime is the biggest fraternity in the world. I've yet to meet an MMA grad who wasn't willing to meet up for a coffee or cocktail and talk shop.”

Piercy advises, “Get your foot in the door regardless of the opportunity, work hard and hopefully you develop the same passion about the industry that a lot of people develop. There are land-based opportunities in the South, Texas, and Midwest where development is booming.”

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATES

MMA is making forays into curriculum development and other training to prepare students for opportunities associated with wind power, both at the undergraduate level and in career enhancement for graduates through the Academy's new Center for Professional Mariner Development in Bucksport, which is preparing training modules for offshore wind workforce training and development.

“There are possibilities for all of our grads,” said MMA Assistant Professor of Engineering Nick Starbird '08. “Marine Systems Engineering graduates are suited well for research, design, and development.

“Marine license programs, both deck and engine, will find more and more opportunity in the wind patch as the numerous vessels required to support this industry get put to work. The maintenance and operation of these turbines fall well within the expertise of Power Engineering graduates. There is an unprecedented amount of logistics required to build and maintain a wind turbine array — plenty of opportunity for International Business and Logistic (IBL) graduates.

“Impact analyses of offshore power plants are required for siting and permitting, an avenue for Marine Science/Biology graduates to get involved.”

## CURRICULUM

The first MMA engineering course specifically related to wind power is being developed by Assistant Professor Sadie Alley Ferreira '03 with input from Starbird and Professor Barbara Fleck and targeted for Spring 2022. The course will be open to engineering students and eventually required for Power Engineering Technology students.

“The scope of the Wind Energy class is to dive into wind energy: from site evaluation, permitting and environmental review, design, construction, operations, maintenance, data collection, grid balancing, and decommissioning,” said Ferreira. “The course will address both shoreside and offshore wind as it develops. We are engaging leaders in wind industry who have agreed to guest lecture and help keep us current.”

The course is being developed in response to the changing energy landscape, as well as student interest in renewable energy and technology. “We already produce the talent, which is

demonstrated by the number of MMA graduates currently in the wind energy sector,” said Ferreira. “To do even better, we need to connect the dots. We need to show students they have the skills and foster the interest and passion that is already there.”

MMA offers a minor in Environmental Sustainability, and the first to graduate with

the minor was the class of 2019. The minor was developed by an interdisciplinary team with members from each of MMA's academic departments, led by Fleck and Ocean Studies Professor Sarah O'Malley and was designed to prepare students for environmental challenges they will face in their careers, and brings science, regulatory issues, economics, health and safety, and social impacts together for a comprehensive approach to sustainability.

## POTENTIAL

Avery Nelson, a class of 2022 IBL major, developed an interest in renewable energy as a result of her experience in Environmental Sustainability courses, which led her to seek and obtain an internship at Crowley, as did Healy. One of her projects was to research Maine's offshore wind plans for a presentation for Andreini.

“Wind power looks promising to me,” she said. “The industry is starting to take off, allowing many new avenues for both business students and shippers.

“I wasn't sure there would be opportunities for me in this field but there certainly are, and now's the time to become involved.”

Andreini is also optimistic, especially regarding the long-term potential of floating wind turbines. “Unfortunately, as a nation, we are very far behind,” he said. “Assets, terminals, and training need to be built out and very soon to meet the goal of 30 by 30. Investments need to be made quickly to build up this infrastructure.

“I believe we will get there,” he said, “but it is going to be a very wild ride.” ■

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The course is being developed in response to the changing energy landscape, as well as student interest in renewable energy and technology.

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# KEEPING UP WITH A Turning Tide

MMA Career Services makes adjustments to keep students on track, despite the challenges of Covid-19.

*by Staff*



*Note: The numbers quoted in this report are from the Preliminary Co-op and Cadet Shipping Report published by the Career Services office on 24 June 2021. Final numbers will vary slightly but will be close to what is reported here.*

**M**MA'S CAREER SERVICES OFFICE focuses on the external and output portions of students' time at the Academy. The focus is on helping students gain experience in their chosen industry while they are enrolled, and on helping them find high-quality work after they graduate. Co-ops and cadet shipping are particularly reliant on partnerships with companies. As Covid-19 gained ground in the spring of 2020, most of MMA's industry partners were forced to restrict employees to the minimum essential for operation, and students watched their summer opportunities largely evaporate.

Despite the pandemic-induced restrictions, a shortage of staff, and MMA's campus shutdown, tireless work from home enabled the half-strength Career Services Office to safely shepherd more

than 100 students through summer co-ops and cadet shipping during the summer of 2020. Under the unprecedented and extremely challenging conditions this was a wild success.

In August of 2020 the department returned to campus, joined in the office for the first time by new director Bryce Potter '07. Plans were made for the fall and quickly changed as conditions fluctuated. There were moments of elation, such as realizing that the Class of 2020 had done extremely well finding work in very challenging conditions with little support. With 71% of graduates responding, the job placement rate was 97%. This demonstrated the resilience of MMA's graduates, the strength of the connections made by students during their cadet shipping and co-op experiences, and the efforts of faculty and staff to help graduates make connections in this most challenging of graduation years. There were also moments of disappointment, most poignantly the cancellation of MMA's on-campus Fall



Left: After last year's on-campus Fall Career Fair was canceled, the event was back this year — with masks to keep students and visitors safe.

This photo: The Career Services Office continues to make adjustments and find opportunities as students return to campus and look for cadet shipping and co-op experiences.



Career Fair, an annual highlight. An extensive schedule of virtual company visits replaced the Fair but did not make up for the loss of one of the most anticipated annual events of the past 20 years. The fair was re-scheduled as a virtual event in January, with mixed results.

As the 2021 Spring Term arrived, the Career Services team found themselves back on their phones trying to set up co-ops and cadet shipping opportunities, but there was very little interest from industry. Everyone was waiting to see what would happen as the year progressed. Many of MMA's usual industry partners declined to take students at all, which forced the Academy to seek out new companies and make new connections. In a normal year, most, if not all, students would know where they were headed well before the end of the spring term. When the term drew to a close, only a tiny fraction of students had summer destinations.

The Career Services Office set an ambitious goal for the summer of 2021: help every student who needed it complete their co-op or cadet shipping. Additionally, the summer training cruises



**Above & Right:** More photos from Career Services' most recent career fair.

**Below:** An aerial shot of the T/S *State of Maine*. Last summer's training cruises aboard TSSOM were planned to permit cadets who were behind schedule due to the pandemic to both cadet ship and cruise in the same summer.







aboard *T/S State of Maine* were planned to permit cadets who were behind schedule due to Covid-19 to both cadet ship and cruise in the same summer, which had never been attempted before. Thanks to everyone's efforts, 30 juniors and 54 sophomores were able to both cadet ship and complete a training cruise during the summer of 2021. The herculean effort required from everyone involved makes it unlikely that this will be attempted again, but for those 84 cadets, it was a huge success.

The fog surrounding summer plans was hard on students. They did an amazing job of rolling with the circumstances and making the best of difficult, demanding, and uncertain schedules. The summer of 2021 stretched the limits of students, faculty, and staff alike.

Chief among many considerations was ensuring that no student's graduation would be excessively delayed. It was unavoidable that many students across all classes would walk across the graduation stage with one co-op or training cruise left to complete, but some juniors and seniors risked delaying their graduation by an entire year if they were unable to co-op or cadet ship for a second summer in a row. One of the greatest successes of Summer 2021 semester was that every eligible junior and senior was able to complete their needed industry experience.

The Career Services team worked hard to help as many students as possible complete their requirements. At the end of the Summer 2021 semester, 270 of 314 eligible students, across all majors, were able to successfully co-op or cadet ship. In a normal year, Career Services nearly always succeeds in finding a place in industry for every eligible student. In this year of recovery from the mostly-lost summer of 2020, while still dealing with all of the hardships and complications of Covid-19, sending 270 of 314 eligible students out to work in industry was better than anyone had dared to hope.

There is much more work still to be done to get all students back on track. Summer of 2021 saw the most deck cadets ever sent out cadet shipping in one year (48) and the total number of students completing cadet shipping or co-ops across all majors (270) was the 10th highest in MMA history. With nearly 400 students expected to need summer industry experiences, summer of 2022 is poised to see the largest contingent of co-op and cadet shipping students in the history of the Academy.

If you own or work for a company who might be interested in offering a co-op or cadet shipping billet, hiring graduates, or attending MMA's Career Fair, please contact the Career Services Office at 207-326-2276 or at [career@mma.edu](mailto:career@mma.edu). ■

**With nearly 400 students expected to need summer industry experiences, Summer of 2022 is poised to see the largest contingent of co-op and cadet shipping students in the history of the Academy.**

# By the Numbers

Summer 2021

## 100% Success Rate:

Of students who were the top priority to put out (junior and senior cadets, CO423, LO400, CO400, CO 300, and CO 301), 138 of 138 eligible students went out.

## Where They Went:

- 270 of 314 eligible students **went out in industry** this summer (86%)
- 182 of 217 eligible students **went to sea** (84%)
- 88 of 97 eligible students **obtained co-ops** in industry ashore (91%)
- 375 total students had been expected but 61 did not participate for various reasons

## Commercial Shipping:

### Cadet Shipping Placement

- 68 of 68 juniors and seniors who were eligible to ship (100%), of whom 30 also completed Junior Cruise
- 54 of 84 sophomores who were eligible to ship (64%), who all also completed Freshman Cruise
- 48 deck cadets, a new school record
- 74 engine cadets
- 122 of 145 total eligible cadets (84%)
- An additional 54 expected cadets declined to register, dropped the course during summer, or did not have the required documents

## VOT & SVO Co-ops:

- CO 423: 24 of 24 (100%)
- CO 323: 14 of 18 (78%)
- CO 223: 22 of 30 (73%)
- Overall: 60 of 72 (83%)

## Shoreside Co-ops:

### IBL Co-ops

LO 400 – 23 of 25 students, with two assigned alternate equivalent projects by IBL faculty (100%)

### MSE Co-ops

CO 203 – 3 of 5 (60%)  
CO 400 – 11 of 11 (100%)  
Overall – 14 of 16 (88%)

### PEO Co-ops

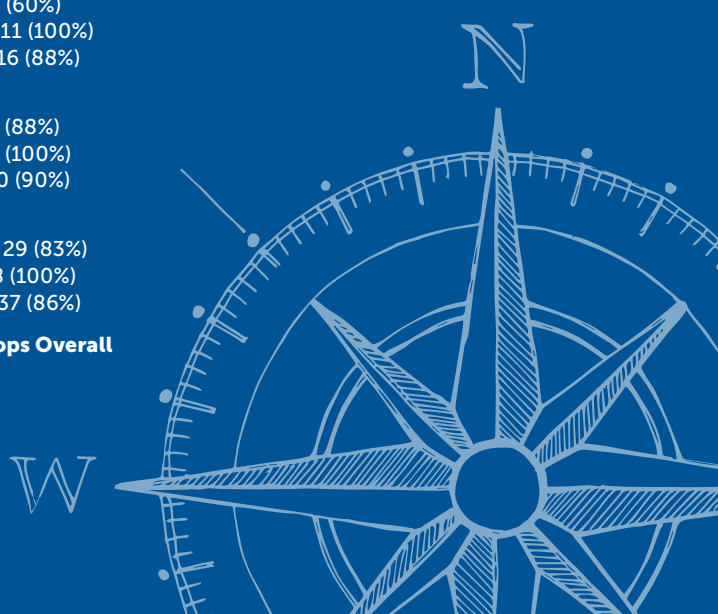
CO 201 – 7 of 8 (88%)  
CO 301 – 2 of 2 (100%)  
Overall – 9 of 10 (90%)

### PET Co-ops

CO 200 – 24 of 29 (83%)  
CO 300 – 8 of 8 (100%)  
Overall – 32 of 37 (86%)

### Shoreside Co-ops Overall

88 of 97 (91%)



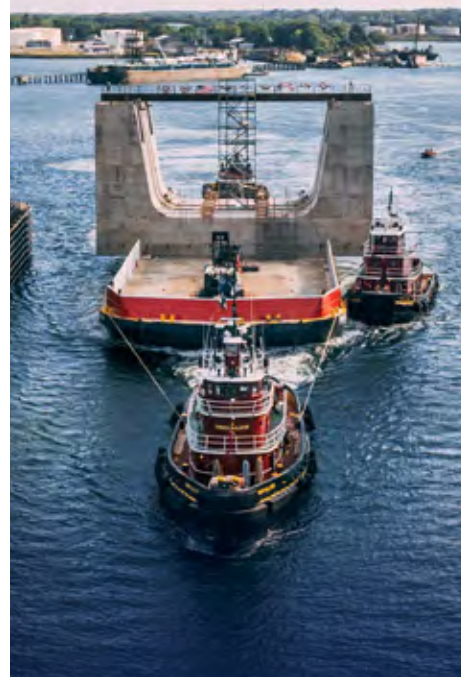
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# GROUNDBREAKING Discoveries

2013 graduate using artificial intelligence and automation to accelerate the discovery and development of life-saving peptide therapeutics for serious illnesses, including cancer.

*By Sally James*

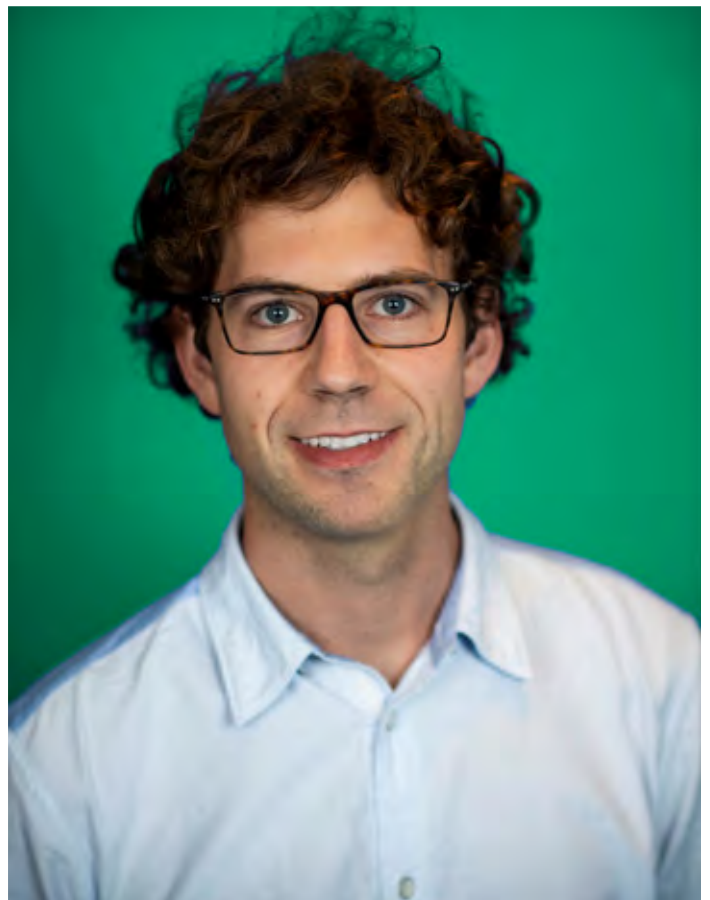
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Aliquam ac facilisis justo. Pellentesque  
maximus leo lorem, sed semper dolor  
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sollicitudin pellentesque. Aenean a imper  
tortor. Etiam sed sem eros.

Aenean



**W**HEN HE WAS 10-YEARS-OLD, Dale Thomas had maps hanging in his bedroom. What fascinated him was how maps were made based on what was known at the time, and how later discoveries altered those maps. If he had a map predicting his own future, it would show a journey from his hometown of Hampden, Maine, to bridges of ships, to the scientific exploration of the deep chemical contours of human biology and the study of peptides.

Thomas '13 cofounded Mytide Therapeutics, a company that uses artificial intelligence and automation to shorten the time required to make peptides, which have become valued in medical research and treatment. One of the promises of Mytide's platform is that a researcher may be able to "order" a peptide for a specific single patient that will be part of his or her cancer therapy. According to Thomas, the company is working to enable peptides to be a low cost personalized therapeutic in the not too distant future.





Peptides are building blocks that carry signals in cells and throughout the body. They have traditionally been expensive and time-consuming to produce, requiring six weeks to create by traditional methods in a laboratory. Thomas and a team of co-workers set a goal to be able to produce peptides in closer to 23 hours.

When humans develop cancer or other diseases, certain critical failures can happen inside of individual cells. A peptide is the right size to enter a cell and can carry other material with it, such as a therapy. Advances in design and molecular engineering have made these therapeutics a practical solution for curing complex diseases. Indeed, some vaccines against COVID-19 were designed to allow a tiny container of fat to carry a messenger RNA to help spur the immune response.

In the biotechnology world, the market for peptides was estimated at \$28.4 billion in the United States in 2020 when excluding insulin, by one analysis at Yahoo Finance. Biological building blocks, like peptides, are seeing a resurgence in the biotechnology industry as companies look to cure increasingly difficult to treat illnesses faster while taking a more personalized approach.

### UNCONVENTIONAL THINKER

As an only child, Thomas was raised in a family where education was valued, and he recalls his ambitions eventually included studying science and engineering in graduate school. He attended Hampden Academy where he enjoyed academics, and he recognized Maine Maritime Academy (MMA) would be a great place to study engineering.

At MMA, he learned to be a leader. One of Thomas' engineering professors described him as having "diligent preparation, unconventional thinking, and sheer fortitude." Thomas distinguished himself by completing the 5-year systems engineering degree in four years and was named the Class of 2013 valedictorian as well as a Scheel Scholar.

"I was thinking of going into the shipping industry or working

for Georgia Pacific at a paper plant, and then in my senior year, I applied to Stanford, Columbia, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)," he recalled. He was accepted and landed at MIT, choosing a graduate program in manufacturing engineering, continuing on to earn a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering where he obtained a perfect grade point average.

For him, MIT would provide a fertile place for a wide range of sciences, engineering, and entrepreneurship.

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**"I am always looking for opportunity to positively impact peoples' lives. I believe whether you are moving a ship or you are creating medicines, they present a similar set of problems."**

---

"I was able to refine my unique systems level approach, and really saw how the confluence of my experiences could solve decades old problems within the manufacture molecules (such as peptides)," he said. He called this a "serendipitous loop."

Some of his interest in leadership may have come from early summers with his grandfather in Brooks, Maine.

"I got to work alongside him and watch him think like an owner ... from that inspiration I did want to start my own company at some point. Given that background, I took advantage of studying entrepreneurship at MIT," he said.

In hindsight, as Thomas looks back on the map drawn by his actual steps along his career, he is satisfied with his choices.

"I am always looking for opportunity to positively impact peoples' lives. I believe whether you are moving a ship or you are creating medicines, they present a similar set of problems. I have been fortunate throughout my career to be enabled to explore my full intellectual curiosity and work towards driving impact across industries.

"A ship is a floating city. That city has electricity, it has propulsion, and it has refrigeration. Maine Maritime really helped me focus on complex systems," said Thomas.

Today, he lives and works in Boston. He says steering a city-sized ship with complex systems and a team of experts is not that different from steering a company making complex molecules.

When asked if he has any hobbies, Thomas chuckles and says that his company is his hobby.

"I'm still working on a work-life balance formula." ■





Thanks to an ABS Fellowship, Thomas was able to finish his graduate work at MIT. MMA's ABS Center for Engineering, Science, and Research provides state-of-the-art teaching and research laboratories, classrooms, study spaces, and more at the center of the campus to inspire future engineers and scientists.

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# Alumni News

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## SPOTLIGHT

# Rescue at Sea

CAPT. ERVIN CURTIS '80 (right) and other MMA alumni assisted in a recent rescue at sea.

At approximately 0652 on August 14, 2021 the Crowley tanker *Golden State* was transiting the Gulf of Mexico bound for Cape Henlopen, DE with a full load of crude oil. Mate on watch Jessica Faltings '17 received a MAYDAY call from a small craft called "Three Musketeers." Captain Curtis instructed 2nd Mate Kenneth Estes '15 to contact the USCG on the emergency line for Sector Key West. Also assisting in the rescue effort was 3rd Mate Liam Griffith '21.

The 26-foot sport fishing boat was approximately 85 miles west of Dry Tortugas and 145 nautical miles west of Key West, FL. Weather conditions were rough and the fishermen were difficult to locate. The fishermen reported some ships had passed by them without stopping, and the *Golden State* crew

didn't see them until they were about a mile away. With tropical storm Fred expected to pass by the vessel's position in less than 24 hours, it is likely the situation could have been much worse. At 0832, the small craft was secured alongside.

Survivors Luis M. Sanchez-Hechavria (L) and Torres C. Osvaldo, adrift four days with food and water running very low, were offered medical attention, hot food, and spare crew cabins to rest and clean up.

"Thank you for answering the call for these distressed mariners," USCG Sector Key West Command Center sent this message to the *Golden State* crew. "The sea state and impending storm made for a difficult operation, but your crew's exceptional abilities proved for a successful rescue. We are happy to see everyone in good spirits and safely aboard your vessel." ■



**ALUMNI NEWS**

**ALUMS ASSIST MARINERS**

Since the coronavirus pandemic began, many of the merchant mariners who move 90 percent of the world's goods from port to port have essentially been stuck at sea, unable to go ashore.

With ports closed to sailors, many couldn't go home. Some spent 20 months at sea, according to the International Maritime Organization, an organization that described the issue as an unprecedented humanitarian crisis.

**It was a good opportunity to help people who likely couldn't get vaccinated...**

The mariners' plight is often overlooked by people on the mainland. But it hasn't been overlooked by two Mainers, who began volunteering to give COVID-19 vaccinations to the crew members of cargo ships docked at Mack Point in Searsport, ME. "They're really super excited and grateful," Annie Dundon '84, a physician assistant in Southwest Harbor, and former mariner herself, said this week of the sailors she vaccinated.

"It's been tough on them," said Penobscot Bay harbor pilot Skip Strong '84, Dundon's husband. "Stop and think about living on a 400- to 1,000-foot-long steel box with roughly 20 other guys, and that's it. That's your world. We want to do as much as we can for them."

Many of the sailors hail from countries with very low vaccine availability. With a surplus of shots here in Maine, Strong figured it was a good opportunity to help people who likely couldn't get vaccinated for a long time otherwise. Not all the sailors have wanted the vaccine. But 65 sailors from Thailand, the Philippines, Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, and the Netherlands have been glad to say yes. ■

— Courtesy of BDN 5/30/2021

The mariners' plight hasn't been overlooked by two Mainers, who began volunteering to give COVID-19 vaccinations to the crew members of cargo ships docked in Searsport.

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Jason Grabelle '98  
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jason.grabelle@gmail.com

## ALUMNI NEWS

### 41ST ANNUAL LOBSTERFEST PICNIC

On Saturday, July 24, nearly 50 MMA alumni, other area maritime academy graduates, and family members gathered at the ZLAC Rowing Club for the 41st Annual Lobsterfest Picnic. With perfect weather, lots of lobsters, and plenty of traditional goodies including coleslaw, potato salad, corn on the cob, assorted chips, and hot dogs, the event continued the SoCal Chapter's great tradition. The annual event was highly welcomed following a hiatus in 2020 due to the pandemic. The picnic celebrates the tremendous maritime camaraderie while enjoying Maine's favorite seafood, giving native Mainers in the Southern California area a chance to get a little piece of home.

Lobster picnic "Chefs" (L to R) Peter Betti '10, Jeff Pollock '15 and Alex Waller '15.

A "tip of the hat" to the planning committee and the volunteers who helped make this year's event a success – Mike Curtin '04, Peter Betti, Danna Staples, Joanne Westover, Jeff Pollock, Alex Waller, and Ralph Staples '71. Special thanks to Joan Fulton for arranging for the use of the private, member

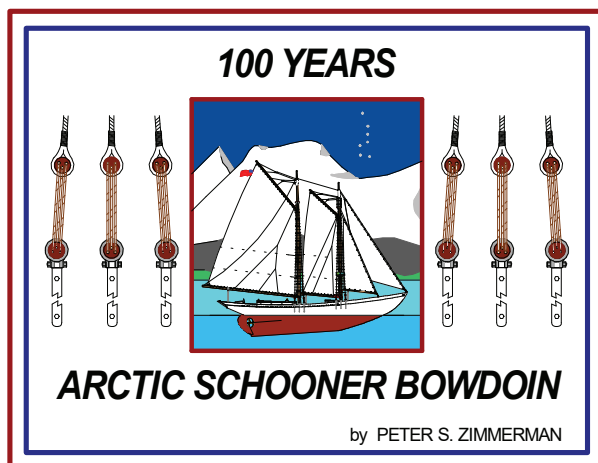


only ZLAC Rowing Club for our picnic.

Mariners attending came from MMA, California Maritime Academy, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

## ***DID YOU SAIL ON BOWDOIN ?*** OR JUST ALWAYS WANTED TO ?

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PO Box 165  
Surry, Maine 04684  
e-mail: [psz9739@gmail.com](mailto:psz9739@gmail.com)

Send a check for \$36 to cover book, tax and shipping handling  
Be sure to include your name, address & telephone number & email  
and your MMA year of graduation (If applicable)

ALUMNI NEWS

## DEL VALLEY/DC GOLF

Tom Lord '87 of the Delaware Valley (PA/NJ) Chapter and Josh Collamer '98 (DC) joined forces to host the inaugural Mid-Atlantic Golf Tournament at the Union League Liberty Hill Golf Course in Lafayette Hill, PA on Monday, October 18, 2021. Limited to 12 teams (48 golfers), the group raised money for scholarships for deserving MMA students. Plans are to rotate the event between the PA and DC areas in the future. Special thanks to host Larry Burrill '77 and organizer Craig Dagan.



ALUMNI NEWS

## SUMMER REUNIONS

The MMA campus was busy this summer with six class reunions and a mini-muster. The classes of '56, '58, '65, '66, '70 and '80 were well represented at their reunions and treated to good food, an update on MMA, a harbor tour, and the opportunity to gather and reminisce. Each class conducted a solemn Eight Bells ceremony, remembering their classmates who have passed before them.

The Class of '64 (top) hosted a mini-muster at the Waypoint in July.

The Class of '71 (bottom) hosted an evening of sea stories, laughter and reflection at their 50th reunion. This well attended event was held at the Woodland County Club in Falmouth. David Dodge declared victory as the Class of 1971 topped the \$100,000 mark for their class scholarship fund. "Onward to \$150,000."



ALUMNI NEWS

## CASCO BAY CHAPTER

With a new venue (Portland Yacht Services' new location) and a different time of year (July 23-25, 2021), the Casco Bay Alumni Chapter Marine Flea Market at the Maine Boat Builder's Show raised \$9,629 for its scholarship fund. President Pat Zrioka '87 stated, "None of this would have been possible without all the hard work of the alumni and friends of the MMA Casco Bay Chapter, who were instrumental in sourcing marine items, setting up the tables, selling, collecting/counting the cash, and doing the final cleanup on Sunday afternoon. Everyone took the initiative to help with every task no matter the size to make the 2021 MBBS Marine Flea Market a success."

Jay Sawyer '83 had a booth at the event and gave his presentation "El Faro Salute!" each day of the market. He made numerous contacts with people who knew some of the crew lost or were hearing about the tragedy for the first time. He is still actively fundraising for the memorial to be dedicated in Rockland next year. Visit [www.elfarosalute.com/the-sculpture](http://www.elfarosalute.com/the-sculpture).

The chapter also hosted a social at the new Throttle Car Club in Scarborough on September 23, 2021. Kevin Davis '85 (left), with Dan Hobart '94 and John King '79, is a member of the club and hosted about 40 alumni and friends at this beautiful venue. Attendees were treated to classic car static displays, a tour of the facility, a slideshow of the vehicles immortalized in the Trick's End yearbook through the years, tasty Portland Pie Co. catering, and great company.

The Class of 1971 has topped the \$100,000 mark for their class scholarship fund.



**ALUMNI NEWS**

**DC METRO CHAPTER**

Josh Collamer '98 and the DC Metro group welcomed MMA Alumni Association President Bill Full '76 to a small gathering at Gordon Biersch in Annapolis, MD on July 12. Collamer reports that, "We enjoyed the update on the current search for the Academy's next President, the discussion on the importance of fundraising, and the MMA comradery!" Attending were (L to R) Andy Covert '89, Capt. Phil Johnson '77, Full, Ben Strickland '95, Chris Owsianiecki '98, and Collamer.



**ALUMNI NEWS**

**CT/RI CHAPTER**

The dedicated group of alumni in CT and RI gathered at the first annual "Bank Street BreakOut" car show in New London, CT on July 22, 2021. The car show featured pre-1973 hot rods, customs, muscle cars, and stockers.

Those attending were Rich Slack '93, Charlene Hipsky '11, Capt. Lou Normand '72, John Gasper '02, Bob Sundman '65, Jon Carr '87, Todd Thiel '92, and Doug Vines '81. The group is standing in front of Gasper's 1954 Hudson Hornet. Rumor has it that Bob Sundman has a beautiful 1948 Ford Woody Wagon.

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**JANUARY 28** – MAINE MARINERS HOCKEY, PORTLAND

**FEBRUARY 9** – SENIOR BANQUET, CROSS CENTER, BANGOR

**FEBRUARY 26** – SKIING, BLACK MOUNTAIN, RUMFORD

**MARCH 5** – TIDEWATER CHAPTER, NORFOLK ADMIRALS HOCKEY

**MARCH 26** – NIGHT BY THE BAY, SABLE OAKS, PORTLAND

**APRIL 23** – COMMENCEMENT

**MAY 1-4** – TSSOM IN CHARLESTON, SC

**MAY 3** – SOUTH ATLANTIC GROUP, CHARLESTON RIVERDOGS BASEBALL ALUMNI/MMA STUDENTS

**JUNE 19-21** – TSSOM IN PORTLAND, ME

**JUNE 20** – ALUMNI RECEPTION, OCEAN GATEWAY

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# Class Notes

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## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Finding Your Passion

Alumni's work will help train the next generation of mariners

Growing up in Portland's East End neighborhood, Richard 'Dickie' Balzano didn't know exactly what he wanted to do with his life, but he knew service to his community would be central to it. His parents encouraged him to take an active role in helping others and military service had long been a part of their family history. "They were proud Americans," he remembers. "They would always ask what I was going to do for my country."

A cousin recommended pursuing a degree at Maine Maritime Academy and Balzano quickly realized that it would be a good fit, providing him with ample opportunity to explore various career opportunities. "I wanted a challenge," he says. "I wanted to try as many things as I could to find out what I might really like."

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"[These vessels] will change how we train the next generation of mariners and how we respond to natural and humanitarian crises."

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Balzano excelled at MMA, finding both professional opportunities and personal fulfillment through friendships with his new peers. As he got to know his classmates and their families, he was exposed to the possibilities of what a career in the military offered. "I found folks that were really focused on joining the military. When I arrived as a MUG it was exactly what I wanted to do, but the more I got exposed to its culture – especially the Special Operations community – the more I felt it would fit very well."

After graduation, Balzano embarked upon what would become a 30 year career, serving the maritime industry in both private and U.S. government sector jobs. After retiring from the U.S. Navy as Captain, he served for three years as the presidentially appointed Deputy Administrator for the U.S. Maritime Administration.

During his time at MARAD, Balzano worked with state and federal partners to help secure approval and funding for new emergency response vessels for each of the state



maritime academies (SMAs). As a result of this work, MMA is scheduled to receive a new National Security Multi-Mission Vessel (NSMV) in 2024. "It is a historic accomplishment," he says. "[These vessels] will change how we train the next generation of mariners and how we respond to natural and humanitarian crises."

Throughout that process, and indeed throughout his career, Balzano relied on teamwork, collaboration, honesty, and trust to complete his mission. "I've learned many things the hard way," he notes. "But these principles have guided me throughout my career."

He encourages others, particularly current MMA students, to adopt the same approach. "Find what inspires you and follow it," he says. "Take the good from every experience and use whatever you learn in future opportunities."

In 2020, Balzano was named as the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director for Dredging Contractors of America (DCA), a national trade association whose members provide dredging services for navigation, coastal protection, environmental restoration, and shoreline resilience throughout the United States. ■

# CLASS NOTES

## 1943



The *Captain Richard G. Spear* was launched from Washburn & Doughty, East Boothbay, Maine on April 9. The newest vessel of the Maine State Ferry Service fleet is named after MMA graduate Capt. Richard G. Spear '43-1, the first employee of the State Ferry Service.

## 1956



Photo: Marie Pavini

Under the watchful eye of tug captain Finn Welch '13, Gordon Brailsford of Bridgewater, Mass. backs the *Pentagoet* into its waterfront berth after he and his reunion classmates and friends returned from an afternoon cruise of Penobscot Bay August 10. While underway, they spotted the *TS State of Maine* at anchor in Searsport, making preparations to return to Castine the next day.

## 1956



Photo: Marie Pavini

Richard Merrifield found the historic schooner *Bowdoin* at the Castine waterfront during

one of her rare summer rests from a busy training summer. Merrifield was in town attending his class reunion.

## 1957

Wayne Wardwell has moved to Vero Beach, Florida.

## 1960

George Leonard would like to share with his classmates, "Jane and I spent a wonderful day with classmate Captain George William ("Bill") MacKay USN (Ret.) recently in Newport, Rhode Island. We had been planning to get together for some time, but, of course, the pandemic canceled those plans. Bill is living in an elegant assisted-living facility in Middletown, RI, where he has been in residence since the fall of 2018. Bill is battling a bad case of Parkinson's Disease; his spirits are great, he is his usual witty self and still full of sea stories. We ventured forth and lunched very nicely at Bill's favorite near-by restaurant. Saying good-bye was rough. Bill doesn't do well with a cell phone; he likes to get snail mail for those who might like to drop him a line: Blenheim-Newport, 303 Valley Road Middletown, Rhode Island 02842. Best to all hands, Cap."

## 1961

Alfred LaBonte reports, "Sandy and I are luckily doing fine. Both retired and enjoying life as much as we can in spite of COVID restrictions. We have our health (80 years old version), all my hair, most of my teeth and 11 wonderful grandchildren. Life is good!"

## 1962

Gary Whitney and wife Susan are summering in Gray, Maine and live in Ormond Beach, Florida.

## 1966

MMA wishes to recognize and thank the members of the Class of 1966 for their generous contribution of over \$6,200, made during the Eight Bells ceremony of their 55th summer reunion on campus in August. David O'Connor (class agent) and the Class of 1966 presented the donation to Chris Haley, VP for Advancement, in honor of their deceased classmates.

## 1966



Captain Mark Robinson (left) was presented with a Quilts of Valor quilt at the June meeting of the South Baldwin Republican Women to honor his military service to our country. The quilt was presented by the South Baldwin Republican Women and Joyce Reed (right) of Mobile, a representative of the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

Captain Robinson was hired by Lykes Brothers Steamship Company and made many perilous voyages to and from Vietnam during wartime. Each voyage typically lasted 90 days or longer, after which a 90-day "vacation" was mandatory. On each of the vacations, Captain Robinson returned to a school for Merchant Marines in "Mitag" in Lithecum Heights, Maryland.

Over the years, Captain Robinson received his Captain license and continued sailing for 30 years. He sailed all over the world with Lykes Brothers Steamship Company. He encountered rough waters, storms and pirates but also

made many smooth journeys. (GulfCoast News Today, 7/13/2021)

## 1967

Robert Ahaesy is retired and lives with wife Alexandra in La Quinta, CA.

## 1968



Thanks to Ron Ieva who sent a couple of class notes: "A Celebration of Life" was recently held for Bucky Vaughn in Hancock, Maine. As with all such events, it was a bitter-sweet affair as five classmates reminisced about our experiences at MMA with Bucky. Sail on, Bucky. Sail on!" Also, Ieva and Ray Lessard stopped into Ron Berthiaume's home in Dayton, ME for lunch. Top photo: L to R is David Theriault, Herb Michaud, Bob Blackmore, Ron Ieva, and Bob Lindvall. Bottom Ron Berthiaume, Ron Ieva, and Ray Lessard.

## 1968

Carl Woodman was inducted into the Midcoast Sports Hall of Fame during the 14th Annual Induction Banquet. Woodman was a 1964 graduate of Rockland District High School. He was a three sport athlete in high school, participating in basketball,



baseball and track. Woodman was most noted for his basketball skills, being an outstanding shooter. His high school team competed in the Eastern Maine Class AA league, making it to the Eastern Maine Final his senior year. Woodman was voted to the Eastern AA All Tourney team and 2nd team All State his senior year. At Maine Maritime Academy Woodman was a varsity basketball team member all four years. He was voted All Conference and team MVP his sophomore, junior and senior years. After graduation from MMA, he coached at various levels. He was an assistant to varsity coach Chris Elkington at RDHS during the 1990s. (Wiscasset Newspaper, 7/19/2021)

## 1969



Dr. John Gaddis was recently inducted into the first cohort of the Maine Wild Blueberry Hall of Fame. Gaddis, best known as a family doctor in his native East Machias, ME, is the remaining owner of the sixth-generation Gaddis Brothers business, which was established in 1892. Gaddis has been a decades-long board member of the Wild Blueberry Association of North America, which he continues today. "It's tradition and it's in my blood. It's kind of automatic. And I have a keen interest in how wild blueberries sell." (Machias Valley Observer 7/14/2021)

## 1971



Benny Pratt sailed on ocean-going tug boats for 10 years after graduation, then spent 25 years as a college facilities manager. When Pratt learned that his godfather, 88-year-old Benny Beal, had permanently hauled his lobster boat *Stella Ann* out of the water, Pratt was inspired to find a good home for the vessel. Beal was barely out of his teenage years when he set about building a small working lobster boat that would become a racing legend. The *Stella Ann* was used for inshore fishing: lobstering, seining, and, as many fishermen did in those days, racing at the Moosabec World's Fastest Lobster Boat Races on the 4th of July. Beal "took on all comers who, for many years, saw only his stern." Recently, Pratt assisted Beal in moving the *Stella Ann* to its final berth at the Beals Historical Society. Pratt is retired and lives with wife Lorraine in Morrill, ME. (Machias Valley Observer 5/11/2021)

## 1971

Roger Arsenault was inducted into the Maine Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame at the 19th Annual Maine Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame banquet in October at Sugarloaf. Arsenault is the Director of Alpine Racing Operations and Nordic programs at Black Mt., chairman of Chisholm Ski Club, and former alpine ski racer. This incoming class will bring the

number of those honored to 160, whose biographies can be found on the Museum's website: [maineskiandsnowboardmuseum.org](http://maineskiandsnowboardmuseum.org).

## 1972

Glenn Gould wrote in that he "retired from Texaco and Naval Reserve. Great School!"

## 1972

Lawrence (Russ) Morrison retired in 2016 as Senior Manager of Construction Change Orders for the MBTA in Boston. "50 years ago I never dreamed that I would be finishing my career working on a railroad. My wife Ruth and I have raised and educated four kids and in the last five years they have blessed us with five grandchildren. Currently we are all healthy and happy living in Plymouth, Massachusetts, America's hometown. Closest I get to the water is the pool in my backyard. Classmates are welcome to join me for a dip if they are in the neighborhood."

## 1979

Leo Hill has retired as Director of Facilities from a local housing authority. He shipped out for 23 years and retired from American Airlines after flying for 35 years. He summers at Small Point, ME.

## 1979

Leslie Crane is retired and lives in Portland, ME.

## 1979

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis appointed Michael Jaccoma, of Davie, to the Board of Pilot Commissioners. Jaccoma is a harbor pilot for Biscayne Bay Pilots. He currently serves as vice-chair on the Board of Pilot Commissioners and has been actively engaged in the piloting profession in Florida

since 1988. Jaccoma is a United States Coast Guard Licensed Unlimited Master with a First Class Pilot Endorsement for the Port of Miami.

## 1979

Port Canaveral CEO Capt. John Murray welcomed TS *State of Maine* Capt. Gordon 'Mac' MacArthur '00, and presented him with a traditional plaque to commemorate the vessel's inaugural visit. The vessel is carrying 177 cadets on the second of three training cruises for 2021, which began July 7 from its homeport in Castine, Maine. "The future of the maritime industry depends on the education and learning experiences of these cadets," Murray said. "We are proud to host this training ship at our port and wish all aboard great success with their sea term." (Seatrade Cruise News 6/22/2021)

## 1980



Terence Gilvey sent a picture of him and 1977 freshmen cruise roommate Gary Henry, taken in St. George, Bermuda NAS. "We were short of funds with a couple of days still left in Bermuda. Capt. Brennan recommended the Officers' Club at Bermuda NAS to everyone as a reasonably-priced place to go ashore. The catch: you had to wear your Summer Whites. As near as we can tell, we were the only ones who went. We wound up hanging out with a P-3 squadron from Brunswick who took great care of us. As they

# CLASS NOTES

were leaving, they introduced us to the flight officers of a Canadian Forces Argus. They not only treated us well, we were invited to fly with them. Capt. Brennan approved and the next day we flew an 18-hour mission with the Canadian Forces. Here we are showing off our flight suits. When we turned them in, the Brunswick guys wanted us to fly with them, too. Unfortunately, it was our last day in Bermuda. We did get a tour of a P-3, though. We should have gone to the O Club a day earlier."

## 1980

Steven Sellers reports he is retired and living in Manheim, PA.

## 1982



Capt. John Gazzola was working a ship job this spring and came across a classmate and fellow MMA graduate on the vessel *OSG Vision*. Pictured are (L to R) Captain John Gazzola '82, Excel Hydraulics; Chief Engineer Bob Elwell '82, OSG; and Chief Mate Jim Geaumont '11, OSG.

## 1982

Marc Gousse, superintendent of the Mount Desert Island Regional School System since July 2016, plans to retire effective Jan. 1, 2022. He was superintendent of schools in Westbrook prior to going to MDI, and before that he was principal of Westbrook High School. Gousse has a doctorate in educational leadership from California Coast University and served 23 years in the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserve.

## 1982

Deborah (Lieberman) Moore retired in 2019 and says she is "about to take delivery of a Palm Beach 70 to resume 'messaging around in boats.'"

## 1982



Mick Burke (right) met up with Fred Amicangioli on Memorial Day weekend at a WarBird Fly In air show near Atlanta. Burke explains, "Fred came down from Alaska to take part in the show. He is a member of the organization that put on the show. We got caught up on what we have been doing for the last 39 years. I attached a picture, Fred looks the same as the last time I saw him at our graduation."

## 1983

Kenneth O'Brien just returned from Italy after 16 years where he was an active duty commander and also worked as a GS civilian for Commander, Naval Forces Europe/Commander, Sixth Fleet. He now works for SAIC and lives in Norfolk with wife Deborah.

## 1984



Skip Strong sent an image of '84 alumni on the bridge wing of the *State of Maine* after return of Cruise A this spring.

Pictured are (L to R) Chris Brown, cruise watch officer; Dave Gelinas, PenBay Pilot; and Sandy Cameron, Chief Engineer, TSSOM.

## 1984

After nearly three decades at sea, Capt. Scott Lund recently published a book, "Sea State," that describes a harrowing voyage at sea in a time less refined and regulated, truly a world away in all respects. All profits from this book are contributed to animal welfare organizations.

## 1984

John Balano writes, "Greetings shipmates! I'm entering my third year at the Hydromechanics Lab at the Naval Academy, and can look back and credit Maine Maritime Academy with having provided me with all the professional tools to make this career move exciting. Whether we are testing a new hull design or sending waves down the tank to test a Wave Energy Converter, each day I reflect on the amazing set of life skills that all began on matriculating at MMA. In what is perhaps no coincidence, I've had the good fortune to have daughters and nieces of my MMA classmates in the various Ocean Engineering Labs that I facilitate. Outside of work, my wife Sharon and I sail our Irwin 28 around the Chesapeake Bay. Also, recently I was able to meet up with Doug Griggs '84 and assist him in judging the high school "Cargo Ship Challenge" sponsored by the Baltimore Museum of Industry. Enjoying the occasional yacht delivery or sailboat race down the bay, staying at sea remains a large part of life." The Balanos live in Chesapeake Beach, MD.

## 1985



"Reaching out because I know these two outstanding men won't, and I am so proud of them. Captain Kevin Farrin '02 and Chief Engineer David Perkins '85 had an exciting day christening the USNS *John Lewis*. Above is a picture of them with actress/advocate Alfre Woodard, who was a Sponsor. Making MMA proud!" Submitted by Kate Otto.

## 1985

John Curtis is program manager for Clean Harbors Environmental Services of So. Portland, ME. He and wife Mary live in Casco.

## 1986



MMA is well represented onboard the *Noble Globetrotter 2* as we support Shell's oil and gas exploration in the Gulf of Mexico and around the world. Pictured L to R, Tanner Littlefield '17, Cliff Jackson '08, Garth Pulkkinen '95 and Richard Lawrence '86.

## 1986

Bill O'Reilly is reaching out to any MMA alumni living or passing near Yokosuka Navy Base, Japan. He is the regional operations manager for Noresco, LLC. He and his wife will be there for the next few years. Contact alumni@mma.edu and we will pass along O'Reilly's contact information.

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## LEADER

# A Leap of Faith Leads to Rewarding Career

CAPT. HOLLY NAJARIAN '91 took a leap of faith during her freshman cruise and switched from deck to engine, and that leap made a huge impact on the direction of her career. For example, when she first entered the Coast Guard, she was in a marine inspector training billet. Learning ship systems and numerous regulations and procedures was much easier due to her engineering background.

While at MMA, Najarian was involved with the regimental preparatory training, was the Academy's first female Regimental Operations Officer as well as the first female Navy ROTC battalion commander, played on the men's lacrosse team, and ran cross country. She remembers that even though she didn't feel like a "real" runner, Coach Dennis Weeks and his wife Carol inspired her, so much so that she would be running in the dark on the streets of Castine well after everyone else had finished.

Najarian's MMA experience allowed her to tackle challenging assignments from Portsmouth, NH to DC, Boston to Jax. In St. Petersburg, FL, she led all Coast Guard missions throughout Florida's western coast (600 nautical mile coastline and 3 major seaports), and exercised authorities as Captain of the Port, Officer in Charge Marine Inspection, Federal Maritime Security Coordinator, SAR Mission Coordinator and Activity Suspension Authority. She chaired the Area Maritime Security Committee, Harbor Safety & Security Committee, and Area Committee, and led an active duty, reserve, and civilian workforce with over 700 members. Having direct oversight of 6 Coast Guard cutters, 5 search and rescue stations, an Aids to Navigation Team, a medical clinic, a galley, a \$4.7 million budget, and 7 CG properties, she also provided direct logistical support to 7 tenant commands.

St. Petersburg was a challenging tour, but she had the knowledge and Coast Guard staff to make it successful.



Working with the Coast Guard personnel and members of the maritime communities was the most rewarding part of her USCG career. "It was an amazing process to be part of a team, work together to solve problems, resolve issues, and ensure the safety of the maritime community and commerce," she says.

It's not all work with Najarian. While stationed in Connecticut, she earned her black belt in Tae Kwon Do. She currently lives in Florida and is able to enjoy the great weather along with great restaurants. She also runs, bikes, kayaks, cooks and spends time with her dogs. She also looks forward to getting back to Tae Kwon Do.

Since her retirement from the Coast Guard in 2019, she has done some consulting as well as expert witness work on maritime cases. ■

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## 1988



MMA alumni gathered for some refreshments in Ft. Lauderdale, FL in March while at the Florida Marine Center. Pictured are: Jim

Mundth '89, Tim Reid '88, Kevin Arruda '88, Steve Moglia '87 and Eric Smith '88.

## 1989

Bruce Leonard is Marketing Engineer, Modifications and Upgrades for Siemens Demag Delaval Turbomachinery, Inc. out of New Jersey. He and wife Emily live in Lowell, ME and have two adult sons, Steven and Patrick.

## 1990

Eric King reported that the Propeller Club of Seattle held an outdoor networking event in June at Golden Gardens Park in Ballard. While catching up with maritime industry friends, the organization donated all proceeds from the event to support the *El Faro Salute!* memorial being created by Jay Sawyer '83.

## 1991

Capt. Sam Pearson is an assistant professor at Cal Maritime and was recently published in the April 2021 edition of *Professional Mariner*. The title of Pearson's article is "E-learning can boost understanding of nav rules, reduce accidents."

# CLASS NOTES

## 1993

Longtime ABS executive John McDonald became the company's Executive Vice President and COO at the end of July. McDonald took on the head operations role on July 26. He has extensive experience at ABS: he joined the class society in 1996 as a surveyor and served in frontline operational roles in Korea, the Northern Europe and Africa Region, and the former Americas Division. He held the position of Vice President of Occupational Health and Safety for both ABS and ABS Group, and he led the former ABS Divisions in Europe and in the Pacific. McDonald also held operational leadership roles, including SVP of Western Hemisphere Survey Operations and (most recently) SVP of Global Business Development and the Global Marine market sector. He holds an MBA from Texas A&M University. (The Maritime Executive, 7/6/2021)

## 1993



Jimmy L'Italien posted this picture on LinkedIn stating, "After 26+ years of shift work and power plants, I had the opportunity to take on this new adventure! JIMMY'S General Store, Turner, ME (formerly Angello's). You can't become successful if you never take the chance." Good luck, Jim.

## 1993



Capt. John Amaro, Marty (Baker) Page and Capt. Dan Page '94 enjoyed dinner together this summer on Saint Thomas. The Pages were in town to drop off their daughter at UVI. Their son, Robert, is a member of the Class of 2021.

## 1996

Allan K. Cameron is a retired police chief and is now an over the road truck driver for Freightworks Transportation. Cameron and wife Cheryl married in March and live in Sparks, NV.

## 1996

William Kelley is Operations and Maintenance Supervisor for Duke Energy and lives in Debarry, FL.

## 1998

Michael Furrow is Regional Sales Director for Siemens Energy, Inc. and lives with wife Abbie in Plano, TX.

## 1998

Seth Brown is the Director of Finance and Operations at George Stevens Academy, Blue Hill, ME. Most recently, Brown was director of business development for Gateway Title of Maine. Brown resides in Frankfort with wife Mariko, and children Wade, Mayako, and Sachiko.

## 1999

Brent Cole works for Chevron as a Power Generation Consultant and notes his employment address as Tenzig, Kazakhstan.

## 1999



Old friends from the Class of 1999, Wes Pooler, Capt. Jennifer Brokaw, and Capt. Clarence Young, connected for a short visit in Virginia Beach over the Memorial Day weekend.

## 2000

David Wilson, Director of Facilities for Avanir Pharmaceuticals in Aliso Viego, CA, was recently featured in *Blueprint*, a magazine that puts a spotlight on the facilities professionals who are imagining, creating, and maintaining better spaces.

## 2000



Jay Stewart '00D, Jered Norton '00E and Tom Norton '71E met up in Charleston (SC) while the Nortons were in town for a wedding. They haven't seen each other in almost 20 years. "It was great to catch up!"

## 2000



Capt. Gordon MacArthur shared an image from the bridge wing of the TSSOM during its recent visit to Port Canaveral, FL.

(L to R) Capt. John Cashman, Commandant, MMA; Capt. Nate Cerato '04, apprentice Pilot; Capt. "Mac" MacArthur '00, Master – TSSOM; and Capt. Sean Morrissey '03, Pilot.

## 2001



Ronald Perry lives in Stewartsville, NJ with wife Leigh and two children Mitchell and June. He works as a Sandy Hook Pilot, although he tries to go fishing as much as he can. Capt. Perry says, "Hello classmates! I took this year to complete a lifelong goal of building my own boat. This boat is for drifting rivers and fishing. I wish you all health and happiness."

## 2002

John Gaspar (CT), Carl Rhodes (WA) and Keith Turcotte (ME) have stepped in to be the Class Agents for 2002. They will keep you current as to what is happening on campus and ready to pass along any Class Notes and photos you wish to contribute.

## 2002

Corey Streams works as a Project Management Specialist with Siemens Energy, Inc. and lives in Veazie, ME.

## 2002

Jarred (Rodrigues) Hartford is the utilities plant project coordinator for Molson Coors Beverage Company of Golden, CO. Hartford and wife Valerie live in Evergreen, CO with their four children Daxton (12), Kellan (10), Keely (9), and McCall (6).

## 2002



Peter Nicholson has been promoted to executive vice president, chief fiduciary officer at First National Bank. Nicholson joined the bank in 2015 and most recently served as senior vice president, senior portfolio manager. Prior to joining First National Wealth Management, Nicholson worked at Bar Harbor Bank and Trust as well as Fidelity Investments and Charles Schwab. Nicholson lives in Bar Harbor with his wife, Christina, and daughters, Piper and Peyton. He is active in his community, currently serving on the Abbe Museum Finance Committee and coaching youth sports. (Mount Desert Islander, 6/29/21)

## 2003

Kimberly Glomb penned her self-revelatory book "Jews, Muslims, and Christians: Let's Talk About God." Glomb firmly believes that all Jews, Christians, and Muslims worship the same God. This book is simply understanding God, people, prophets, concepts, and beings shared by other believers. Published on May 26, 2020, the book presents the core thesis that the same name is used to depict a person or a prophet in the Bible and other Arabic sources. (Digital Journal, 7/14/2021)

## 2004

Janna O'Leary completed her MBA in Healthcare Management in October 2020 from New England College and currently works as a Clinical Systems Coordinator and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for a Federally Qualified Health Center in Nashua, NH. She lives in Manchester, NH with daughter Emma — whose best friend is the son of fellow alum Belinda Cooke, also class of 2004.

## 2005



Phil Lessard, wife Juliane, and daughters Renee and Caitlyn visited campus in August. Living in Silver Springs, MD, Lessard is Senior Reliability Engineer for American Sugar Refining, Inc. in Baltimore. While camping in Maine, the Lessards visited campus August 25. Lessard wanted to share memories as well as the model of the current *TS State of Maine* that he and his dad Eugene made during his enrollment. They donated the model to the school shortly after his graduation. Thanks for the gift Phil!

## 2005



Adam Tart was recognized during a New York Yankees broadcast this summer for his

efforts at his RWJBarnabas Health hospital during the COVID outbreak (Mariner, Issue 1, 2021, Victory Chimes). RWJBH's partnership with WFAN New York Yankees radio network does a segment where they honor an RWJBH employee for their dedication to making their communities healthier. They featured him for a Civic Leader Salute.

## 2005

Don McBride is the new owner of the Blue Water Grill Restaurant in San Pedro, Belize.

## 2005

Eric Brown is a safety analyst for Fairfax County. He and wife Trinity live in Annandale, VA with their children Kasper (7) and Dagny (5).

## 2007



Sarah Kaplan and Kelsey Anair '21 were featured in an online article in *Professional Mariner* (August 1, 2021). Kaplan is the captain of the *Andrew McAllister* of McAllister Towing in Portland, ME. Anair is a deckhand for the company and preparing for her 1,600-ton Mate license. The two work different schedules, but once or twice a month they align for a week at a time. Also in the article was an image of the *Roderick McAllister*, captained by Jake Forgit '08. (Professional Mariner 8/1/2021)

## 2007



Aaron Simard (right) is currently Chief Engineer on the *Cape Vincent*, an ROS boat down in Orange, TX. Adam Casilla '20 was assigned as 3A/E on the *SS Regulas*, an ROS boat also in Orange. "(Adam) was one of the students on two of the (TSSOM) cruises I worked as a watch officer. He remembered me, came up and said 'hi' at a local bar when we were both out with fellow crewmembers from our respective ships. It's been fun catching up and seeing the next generation from the school in the fleet. He is getting ready to head out on sea trials so we took the picture."

## 2008

Ned O'Connor works for Oceanering International, Inc. and lives in Freeport, ME with wife Melissa and their children Nola, Oliver, and Zoey.

## 2008



Rob Canning's children Tegan and Levi showed off their MMA pride during Spirit Week at their grade school. They live in Troutman, NC.

# CLASS NOTES

## 2008

Blake Hynes recently started an ROV ship hull inspection business in southern CA. Remote Underwater Services does underwater inspections of hulls, remote ballast tanks, sustainable energy systems, as well as provide marina/pilings/mooring assessments, systems engineering services, and more.

## 2009

Amanda Kennedy is sales manager for Platypus Marine and lives in Port Angeles, WA.

## 2009

Asa (Solomon) Harned, a cake designer, is now bringing her creations to downtown Bangor. After spending some time out of state, Harned moved back to Maine and started Asa's Cakes out of her certified home kitchen. A few years ago, she rebranded to Wildflour Cake Design. With the help of her fiancé and her mom, Harned is getting settled into her new location on State Street in Bangor.

## 2009

Thomas Byrne is captain for Stevens Towing. He and spouse Taylor live in Savannah, GA.

## 2009

Aaron Coulombe is working at Maine Medical Center and lives in Cumberland.

## 2009



When Nick Martinez was a child growing up in Pleasant Point, Maine, a speech

language pathologist worked with him to manage his stuttering disorder. The experience inspired him to pursue a master's degree in communication sciences and disorders at the University of Maine. He graduated in August, prepared to provide life-changing services for others. Martinez, who now lives in Bangor with his wife, Erin, and daughter, Arabella, shipped as a merchant mariner for nine years. (UMaine News, 7/8/2021)

## 2009



Derek Difrederico, BJ Dunlap '06, and Neal Stewart teamed up at the Mariners Golf Classic held at the Brunswick (ME) Golf Club in June.

## 2012



Capt. Josh Shaw sent us a picture from the rainy Texas Mariner Golf Classic in May. Pictured (L to R, front) Coronado Hickman '16, Craig Dagan, Sherri Hickman '85, Len Tyler, and Shaw, (back) Marie Rappa '07 and Steve Peed.

## 2013



Eric von Hohenleiten and Katie Ann Dever were married in September 2021 in Camden, Maine.

## 2014

Emily Fanning just started her seventh year serving as a logistics officer in the Marine Corps and recently moved to the DC area. She spends her free time visiting family and friends in the New England area and hiking with her new dog, Tally.

## 2014

Ian Champeon is a project manager for Wunderlich-Malec Engineering and live in Dover-Foxcroft, ME.

## 2015

Bradley Reed is supervisor of Systems Operations for Versant Power and lives in Bangor, ME.

## 2016



MMA alumni recently sailed in command positions on NOAA Ship *Fairweather*. (L to R) First Engineer Sean Battles '16, Relief Chief Engineer Christopher Clayton '06, and Acting Commanding Officer LCDR Carl Rhodes '04. Not pictured but also assigned

to the ship is 3rd Engineer Kristen Gier '20. NOAA Ship *Fairweather* conducts hydrographic surveys mostly in Alaska making NOAA nautical charts and the seas safer for all mariners. Most recently the vessel was surveying the southern end of Kodiak Island, Alaska.

## 2016

Dan Mather and Tim Grant visited the Alumni Relations Office in August, unbeknownst to each others' presence. Mather is working for a dredging company out of Seattle, currently on the Mississippi River. Grant is a US Navy Surface Warfare Officer currently stationed at the MMA ROTC unit.

## 2017

Logan Poirier is now Project Engineer for Cianbro Corporation.

## 2018

Zack Littlefield has joined AESSEAL Inc., a specialist in the design and manufacture of mechanical seal and support systems, as a Technical Sales Representative in Maine. Littlefield joins AESSEAL with experience as an engineer with Crowley Maritime Corporation and Andrie Inc.

## 2019

Emine Mutlu is one of 75 Americans selected to study and work in Germany as part of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) for Young Professionals program – now in its 38th year. This year about 450 young professionals from all over the United States vied for a spot in this prestigious program. While in Germany, Mutlu will attend a two-month

intensive language course and after that study at a German university and complete an internship in the career field of international logistics/ supply chain management. Participants are placed with host families throughout Germany, where they act as citizen ambassadors of the United States, promoting a positive image abroad and creating lifelong friendships and professional connections to keep German-American relations strong. Mutlu departed for Germany in July and returns in June 2022.

## 2021



Nathanael Lee Poff (Doylestown, PA) earned a marine engineering degree, his USCG license and a commission as a U.S. Naval officer. But what he needed before he could get his maritime career on track was a "first salute" from an important mentor. He received that salute on Memorial Day from his grandfather, U.S. Naval veteran Jack Poff. Poff is a retired Navy veteran. He served as a Petty Officer 2nd Class boiler technician on the U.S.S. *Fiske* and served from 1954 to 1958 during the Korean War era. (LehighValleyLive.com, 6/3/2021)



### ENTREPRENEUR

# The Entrepreneurial Spirit

FOLLOWING GRADUATION in 2012, Luke Nielson landed a position with a fast growing tech company. Being a quick study with a strong work ethic, the IBL graduate was given extensive responsibility and was instrumental in building the brand into a highly reputable player in the industry.

Having 'side hustles' helped scratch his entrepreneurial itch. In 2015, he started Seasonal Maine, selling Maine-made items. It grew rapidly, shipping over 25,000 products from his basement to customers around the world in four short years. Prior to selling the business, Seasonal Maine was buying whoopie pies by the pallet!

Nielson's entrepreneurial spirit has become his primary focus and he is fully self-employed. He founded Big Funnel B2B, working as a technical consultant for business-to-business software companies. "The freedom is nice, but prioritizing correctly can be difficult. You know approximately where you want to end up but the distance between there and where you stand today is wide open."

As if he isn't busy enough, he founded Best of Maine, a digital media company. Best of Maine boasts the largest digital audience in the Maine niche, with almost 500,000 subscribers. He notes that Best of Maine is "different because we're a marketing agency with a built-in audience. We've created content and run great ad campaigns for clients like MaineHealth, Reny's, and many others."

So how did MMA prepare him for these enterprises? "Above all, MMA taught me to quickly adapt and push through obstacles to get the job done. I'm not sure I would have the same appreciation for determination and grit today if I didn't spend my college years in a community of such hardworking and humble people."

Truly an entrepreneur, Nielson will continue buying multifamily rentals in Southern Maine and envisions a long life building, buying, and selling all kinds of different businesses. "Perhaps sneak in a family there one day, too!" ■

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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.*

## **COMMANDER GERARD L. NELSON USN(RET.) '43-2**

died on July 6, 2021. Nelson attended Morse High School and Fryeburg Academy. He graduated from MMA in the wartime class of 1943-2. Too young to serve, his father had to grant permission for Nelson to join the USCG-Merchant Marine as an engineer. During the war, he served on four ships providing ammunition, food, and other essentials to U.S. troops and allied countries. He loved the work but he disliked "being on a ship that couldn't fire back at the enemy." In 1946, Nelson accepted his commission to the U.S. Navy as an Ensign. Over the next 25 years, he served on several ships including destroyers, amphibious assault ships, LSDs, and guided missile cruisers. Nelson was awarded many decorations, medals, badges, commendations, citations and campaign ribbons, and retired in 1971. Following his distinguished service in the Navy, Nelson was employed by QED Systems, Inc., as well as Old Dominion University, where he was assistant director of ODU's physical plant. Nelson proudly dedicated his life to the service of his country. Nelson was also a Mason and a member of Solar Star Lodge #14 A.F. & A.M, Bath, Maine. To those who knew him well, he was a rascal and raconteur, and a jack-of-all-trades.

## **CMDR. LEONARD T. DALEY USN(RET.) '44**

passed away on July 3, 2021. Daley was in the 3rd MMA class, graduating in 1944 prior to entering the U.S. Merchant Marines where he served until 1947. He participated in the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Pacific Theaters during WWII. Daley retired from the U.S. Navy Reserves achieving the rank of Commander. He was recalled to active duty from 1968-70 as Chief Administrative Officer for the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, which gave him the distinction of serving in both WWII and during the Vietnam War. He earned a Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of California

Berkeley, 1954 and retired after 40 years with General Electric. Throughout his life, Daley maintained his chief engineer license which enabled him, at the age of 75, to become the engineer on the H.M.S. *Rose* sailing vessel. He held the position of President for the following: American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, Reserve Officers Association California Chapter, Navy League New York, Naval Reserve Association, and the Portland Marine Society. In addition to sharing his adventures and experiences of his fascinating and full life with all who met him, he thoroughly enjoyed painting, was an avid reader, travelled the world, and danced with his lovely wife every opportunity he had. His pride and joy was that he designed and constructed his home on Sabbathday Lake.

## **ROBERT W. GASCOIGNE '46**

passed away on May 10, 2021. Gascoigne was a graduate of the Kent School, CT., the University of Maine in Orono, and MMA. Upon graduation, he served with the United States Merchant Marines, traveling extensively as a Seaman. During his professional life he was a decorated salesman, first for New York Life and later, for the bulk of his career, for Hayden Publishing based in Rochelle Park, NJ. One of Hayden's publications was the technical magazine "Electronic Design," for which Gascoigne's sold advertising space to many - including major, well-known public companies. Away from the sales world, Gascoigne loved Classical and Baroque music and was a long-time member of the Masterworks Chorus performing for several years during the Christmas season at both Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. He was an avid skier and golfer, shooting three holes-in-one during his life. One was at the Rockaway River Country Club in Denville, NJ, and two at his beloved Wawenock Golf Club in Walpole, ME. Including some early caddying days, Gascoigne played golf at Wawenock for over eight decades. When he wasn't on the golf

course, his ideal day was one spent at the farm, watching his garden birds, or sketching wildlife from his window while he listened to the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. He would never turn down a game of checkers with family or a day at the beach.

## **LAWRENCE E. INGRAHAM '46**

passed away April 8, 2016 in Benicia, Calif. He was a 1944 graduate of Sherman High School, and a 1946 graduate of MMA, where he became a Merchant Marine. He sought employment with General Motors company in Ohio in 1952, before returning to the sea. Soon after, he settled in California. He became a Captain of the Seas, sailing to numerous ports, both foreign and domestic, over his 33-year tenure. He navigated for the American President Lines the last 10 years of his career, retiring in 1987. He was a life member of Molunkus Valley Lodge 165 AF and AM in Sherman, and a member of the Benicia Yacht Club.

## **MONTELLE L. SMALL '46**

died on February 24, 2021. Born in Stonington, Maine, Small graduated from MMA then went to sea as an engineer. He had a great experience seeing the world and appreciating the people of other countries. Small came ashore to accept an offer from Travelers Ins. Co. as a safety engineer manager of their Portland office.

## **JAMES G. CYR '47**

passed away on June 14, 2021. He resided in Presque Isle in the house his father built on Barton Street most of his life. While in high school he was class president for 3 years, including his senior year, served on student council and played trombone in the school band. He and 3 buddies played in a dance band called the "Top Hatters" for school dances. After high school, he attended MMA, graduating as a marine engineer in 1947. He sailed on the *S.S. Washington* and *Southwestern Victory* to locations all over the world. During this time, he attained the rank of Lieu-



tenant J.G. in the Naval Reserve. (This later was humorous to his kids as his mail came to Lt. J.G. J. G. Cyr). He left the sea and began work at Maine Public Service Company in 1952. From Steam Plant Operator he worked his way up to Shift Chief to Shift Supervisor to Superintendent of Plants to Manager of Production. He retired after forty years to enjoy fishing and hunting and summers at Portage Lake. Cyr was a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus and a faithful Catholic all his life. He was also a member of the Toastmaster's Club and a volunteer for S.A.D. 1 after retirement. His easy-going nature and often humorous quips made him one of a kind. He will be greatly missed by his family.

### **LLOYD H. WENTWORTH '50**

passed peacefully on March 1, 2021. Wentworth was born and brought up on a farm in Knox, Maine. He often shared cherished memories of his farm upbringing with his family. After leaving the farm, a boyhood dream came true. He proudly attended and graduated from MMA as an engineer. He continued his affiliation with MMA through the Maritime Reserves. Being faithful to and proud of his Alma Mater, Wentworth returned in the summers to enjoy MMA Homecoming. Wentworth started his electrical business in Searsport, then moved to Belfast and opened Wentworth Hardware Store on Waldo Avenue now known as the Wentworth Professional Building. His businesses grew to include WenBelle Apartment Complex and The Wentworth Event Center. Wentworth became very involved and invested in Belfast. He spent many years committed to the growth of the city as part of the Chamber. He maintained strong physical and mental health for his 91 years.

### **CAPT. FREDERICK KIMBOROWICZ '54**

passed away on October 29, 2019.

### **CARL R. MORRIS '54**

passed away on May 2, 2021. Morris graduated from Presque Isle High School and MMA with a degree in engineering. Upon graduation, Morris became a marine engineer with Atlantic Refining Company, then accepted an engineering position with Stone and Webster building a steam generation plant for Maine Public Service in Caribou, Maine. His next career change was at Birds Eye Division of General Foods

in Caribou, where he progressed from assistant plant engineer to plant engineer to production manager. In 1963 he became the first plant manager at McCain Foods, advancing to manager of manufacturing, vice president and eventually senior vice president of manufacturing for the international company. In 1988, he became president of McCain Foods Japan/Korea. Morris was active in the Canadian Food Processors Association, where he served on the Executive Committee, then as president. He received the first McCain Star Award in 2007 for distinguished service to McCain Foods and was inducted into the Potato World Hall of Recognition in appreciation for his work in the industry. Morris patented many of the cutting knives and heads used in the manufacturing process for French fries. Morris refined an idea from his youth to develop McCain "Superfries" which became the most popular oven reconstituted French fry in the world. He instituted the Agricultural Bargaining Council whose goal was to ensure a stable supply of product with improved quality. This was the forerunner of the popular "McCain Champion Grower" program. He also developed the "McCain Quality Performance" criteria and was an early supporter of the McCain Potato Processing Technology Centre.

### **RICHARD D. O'LEARY '54**

passed away on April 17, 2021. O'Leary was born in Lewiston, raised in Auburn, and attended MMA. He also completed the Alexander Hamilton Institute's course in modern business. He went on to receive a graduate tuition scholarship from Adelphi University where he earned a master's in business degree and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science Degree from MMA, as well as being one of the first 12 inductees into that institution's Wall of Fame. After service in the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Merchant Marine, where at the age of 25, was the second officer and navigator of the *SS United States*, making 254 transatlantic crossings from New York to Europe, he then became Commander of Midshipman at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, N.Y. O'Leary then moved to Norfolk, Va., and became the assistant general manager of the Norfolk Port and Industrial Authority. In 1972 he founded Cruise International/ CI Travel which grew to become a national company with 2,500 employees and 55 offices in 12 states. He

built, owned and operated a fleet of 14 600-passenger, harbor cruise vessels in the major port cities throughout the United States, including *The Spirit of Norfolk*.

### **DONALD L. MERCHANT '55**

died Monday, Sept. 6, 2021, at Knox (Maine) Center for Long Term Care. Merchant shipped for 21 years, and worked for the Maine State Ferry Service for ten years.

### **RONALD W. REIFF '55**

passed away March 20, 2020. He settled in Connecticut, where he became a manager for the A&P grocery store and later owned Ron's Market. Following his stint in the grocery business, he enjoyed a successful career as a real estate broker. Reiff played the accordion and the organ and joined a successful musical group, performing in various venues in the area. He was philanthropic and social throughout his life, joining the Rotary Club and the Masons. He was also active in his church, serving for many years as an usher in the United Methodist Church in Zephyrhills. He was an amateur sailor for a number of years and enjoyed short trips in his monohull off the coast of New England. Reiff will live on in the memories of all who knew him as a kind man who was devoted to family and friends and one who gave generously of his time.

### **CAPT. EVERETT F. ROLLINS USN (RET.) '55**

passed away on August 22, 2021. After graduation, Rollins was commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy. He received his wings of gold as a Naval Aviator in 1957. He attended Post Graduate School at George Washington University and was an instructor in the Engineering Department at the U.S. Naval Academy. During the Vietnam War he flew over 500 combat missions and was the Commanding Officer of VAQ-132 where he piloted the first combat mission for the EA-6B. He graduated from the U.S. Naval War College. He was the Commanding Officer of the aircraft carrier *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CV-42). He was the Commanding Officer of the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center in Phoenix, AZ. After spending a year in Arabic language school, his final active-duty assignment was as the U.S. Naval Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, Egypt. Rollins retired from the Navy as a Captain (O-6) with 33 years of military service. His second career was with TCOM, L.P. as a project

## EIGHT BELLS

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manager, site manager, flight director and trainer for the Aerostat surveillance system for almost 20 years. During this time, he spent two years as flight director aboard an Aerostat vessel in the Caribbean. Rollins was a volunteer and member of the Advisory Board for the Salvation Army in Glendale, AZ and a member of the First United Methodist Church of Glendale, AZ for 40 years. He is the recipient of the BSA Order of the Arrow Founders award for personifying the spirit of selfless service.

### **DONIS R. WHEATON '58**

died after battling a long illness on April 12, 2021, in Novato, Calif. A 50-year resident of Bridgton, Maine, Wheaton graduated from Camden High School in 1955 and MMA in 1958 with a degree in Marine Engineering. Wheaton went to sea in the Merchant Marines after graduation and was routed through the Orient. In 1960, he completed the Maine State Game Warden Training and was stationed to Twenty Mile as a deputy warden. In 1961, he was transferred to Clayton Lake in the new Warden Camp Division I for four years, where he was then promoted to inspector warden and transferred to Division B then onto Division A. A few years later, he worked up to the rank of sergeant. Wheaton worked for and loved the Warden Service for more than 25 years. He was the true epitome of the north woods law. Wheaton retired from the warden service in 1985. Wheaton also was an accomplished certified PSIA ski instructor, earning his 30-year pin. Wheaton sold real estate in the Lake Region area and was a Shriner. He was an avid fisherman, small and large game hunter, and all-around outdoorsman. Wheaton was always looking forward to his next trip to the "Old House" and outdoor adventures in Patten. He loved baseball, which he played throughout high school and at MMA, and helped coach the local baseball teams.

### **BARRY H. CLARK '59**

died on March 17, 2021. He passed peacefully after a long battle with Spinocerebellar Ataxia. Clark graduated from Bar Harbor High School in 1956 and MMA in 1959. At MMA, dubbed "Fearless Clark", he served as a multi-year captain for both the basketball and football teams, where he set several scoring records and was later inducted into the MMA Hall of Fame in 2015. Clark spent three years at sea as an Engineer in the Merchant

Marines, then worked as a Test Engineer with Electric Boat. Following this, he worked at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH. In 1974, he joined Aramco, moving his family to Saudi Arabia to work for the Marine Department in Ras Tanura. He spent the next 15 years developing the largest offshore oilfield in the world. In addition to his working career, Clark was very active in the Aramco community, founding the Aramco youth basketball league, being involved in the Ras Tanura Sandy Hook Yacht Club, and was a founding member of the RT Horseshoe Club. After leaving Aramco, Clark stayed in Saudi for another 15 years, founding Hadi Hammam Marine Services and taking his final role as advisor at Zamil Marine. After his retirement Clark returned to Maine and bought Sonny's Tavern in Ellsworth. Clark spent each summer gardening, eating clams and lobster, drinking beer and teaching his grandchildren the Maine way of life.

### **DONALD J. MAIN '59**

passed away on May 21, 2021. A retired Navy Captain with 32 years of service and a graduate of MMA, Main worked for Disney and Viking cruise line as a Marine Engineer. He enjoyed watching or going to sports games.

### **RAYMOND J. DIONNE '60**

died on May 6, 2021. Dionne graduated from Waterville High School and from MMA with a Marine Engineering degree. The day after graduation, Dionne traveled to New York City and was immediately hired by American Export Isbrandtson Lines and sailed aboard the USS *Independence* and the USS *Exiria*. He obtained his Senior Nuclear Operators license and sailed aboard the USS *Savannah*. The ship was greeted at many ports with fanfare and visited by royalty and dignitaries, many of whom Dionne educated on the peaceful use of nuclear power. American Export Lines contracted with Bath Iron Works to build container ships in 1966 and hired Dionne to be Resident Inspector of New Construction, overseeing the building of the *Seawitch*, *Staghound*, and *Lightning*. Dionne moved to Italy to oversee construction of the Taeping at Italcantieri Shipyard. Returning to Bath, Dionne continued to work on new construction at BIW, working for Farrell Lines container ships and State Lines roll-on-roll-off ships. In 1980, Dionne joined Philips Petroleum Company where he was Fleet Superintendent of oil tankers

and oversaw new construction of tankers and liquid natural gas ships in China. Dionne worked as Production Manager to oversee design conversion of a tanker to a floating production and storage vessel. The tanker project took Dionne to Singapore for the ship conversion. Dionne transferred to Norway where he continued working with the tanker fleet and associated oil platform work until his retirement in 1995. He rejoined the workforce to work for Tycom Reliance as Deputy Director of New Construction on cable laying ships in Singapore.

### **CAPT. RICHARD E. GRAHAM '61**

died on April 23, 2021, from complications following treatment for lung cancer. Born in Newburgh, New York, he moved to Kennebunkport, Maine in 1947 where Graham enjoyed an idyllic childhood. His home was within walking distance of Cape Arundel Golf Club where Graham got a summer job as a caddy at the age of ten, rising to the level of caddy master. He was an athletic and gifted golfer, eventually becoming a decades-long member of Cape Arundel Golf Club. In recent years he belonged to Old Marsh Golf Club and enjoyed traveling to courses in Maine as a member of the Maine State Golf Association. Graham graduated from Kennebunk High School class of 1958. After graduating from MMA in 1961, he began his 45-year career at sea. He crossed the Atlantic several times, visiting ports from Germany to Italy, to the Caribbean, Argentina, through the Panama and Suez Canals, along the west coast and across the International Dateline to Hong Kong. He finished his career in 2003 retiring from Hvide Shipping as Captain of the Seabulk *Magnachem*. As his family grew, Graham stopped shipping internationally and settled into a more family-friendly routine of coastal shipping, between Searsport, Maine and Houston, Texas. Graham was a strong dignified man, a gentleman, a loving husband and supportive parent and grandparent. He enjoyed close friendships from golf, his time at sea, and MMA.

### **STEPHEN A. HERRING '61**

died December 31, 2020.

### **WILLIAM J. O'REILLY '62**

passed away. O'Reilly spent nearly 30 years at sea rising to Chief Engineer and sailing with Ogden Marine. He came ashore for an

encore career as a Port Engineer for Ogden Marine (now OMI Corp). In retirement he split his time between a home in Canada and one in Florida. He is survived by his sons Bill O'Reilly '86E and Christopher O'Reilly.

### **STANLEY A. FRASER '64**

passed away on August 19, 2021. Fraser graduated from Lincoln Academy and MMA. He relocated to Ledyard, where he raised his family. Fraser was employed by General Dynamic, Electric Boat as a director and retired after 37 years in 2002. After retirement he lived in New Harbor, Maine enjoying family and friends. He had a great love for his children and grandchildren, they were the light of his life. Fraser was an avid Red Sox, Celtics, and Giants fan.

### **ALLAN W. LANEY '64**

passed away April 1, 2021 at his home. He graduated from Skowhegan High School in 1960 and from MMA in 1964. Laney retired from Scott Paper in 1995. During his retirement Laney traveled to Hawaii, Scotland, Italy, and throughout Canada. Laney enjoyed hunting, flying, fishing, and making wine and furniture.

### **ALLEN E. RUCKER '65**

died May 15, 2021. Rucker grew up in East Haddam, CT before receiving his formal education in Maine. He graduated from Berwick Academy in 1961 and MMA in 1965, where he was a member of the football team and the yacht club. He would go on to serve as an US Merchant Marine mate and officer in various capacities for several oil companies and supplying ammunition during the Vietnam War. Rucker had returned to East Haddam to work for Dun & Bradstreet. He rose to the top of his field in credit and finance. In 1983, Rucker received his Master's Degree in Business Administration from New Hampshire College. He also worked at Frye Shoe Co, Mr. Christmas, and United Solutions which required his unique skills within the credit department, specifically dealing with collections and delinquent leases. Rucker enjoyed buying, repairing and selling properties long before it became popular. Other hobbies included camping with the family, swimming, woodworking, and coin collecting. Most of all, Rucker enjoyed any time spent at the shore. He loved the water. In his MMA yearbook, it was said

that "he could go into town with fifty cents and come back looking like he spent five dollars." It was this rare blend of abilities that made him so successful in life.

### **RONALD B. TUCKER '66**

passed away on January 29, 2021. After graduating from MMA, he spent several years employed by American Export Isbrandtsen Lines in various capacities. In later years, Tucker was employed as a manager/supervisor at the Stop & Shop warehouse in North Haven, and later became a realtor with William Raveis. Tucker was a modern day homesteader who enjoyed keeping a large vegetable garden, raising chickens and sheep, and heating his home with wood or coal. His love of the ocean never waned and he could be found boating and bird watching at Hammonasset State Park. Tucker made sure his children each had their boating license at a young age so they could share his love of the water. He loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren, who have precious memories of him playing board games and croquet in the backyard.

### **RICHARD S. KNIGHT, JR. '67**

died June 27, 2021. He graduated from York (Maine) High School, where he played football, in 1963. After MMA, he served as a marine engineer in the Merchant Marine, traveling the world nine times. This period, as well as his time at MMA, provided ample material for many interesting stories, which he loved to tell to his friends and family. Fishing out of Perkins Cove in Ogunquit for over 40 years, Knight first had a dragger and later a lobster boat. Knight loved being on the water and deeply treasured his friendships with the other fishermen in the cove. A natural-born inventor, Knight was always thinking of ways to make something work better and was awarded three United States patents and a Canadian patent. Knight enjoyed cutting firewood and maintaining the fields with his tractor. He loved his family dearly, and enjoyed nothing more than spending time with them. Always ready for a good conversation or story, Knight had an incredible wealth of historical knowledge of the area in which he grew up and that he loved, and the people and events that shaped it. His genuine and kind nature made him a delight to talk to and to know.

### **LT. ROBERT E. VAUGHN '68**

passed away March 18, 2021. Vaughn served in the United States Air Force while in high school, then upon his acceptance to MMA, he augmented into the United States Navy and graduated as a Lieutenant. He served in Vietnam with the Merchant Marines from 1968-1971. Vaughn retired as the Director of Worldwide Nuclear Power Operations for Worley-Parsons Corporation in Reading, Pennsylvania. He enjoyed sailing with his family on the Chesapeake Bay, hunting, fishing, working on trucks, wood-working, home improvements, family vacations in Maine, cooking, telling stories, teaching his kids everything he knew, coaching sports for his kids, and spending time with his family.

### **JOHN S. WOODWARD '70**

died unexpectedly on Sept. 20, 2021. Woodward graduated from Maine Maritime Academy in 1970 and served in the Merchant Marines from 1970 to 1987. He then sold real estate for a number of years. He enjoyed traveling around the world and would bring home keepsakes for his family. He also enjoyed riding motorcycles and unique cars, music, and lobster.

### **DENNIS "RYAN" KING II** died peacefully at home on July 24, 2021.

A lifelong athlete and scholar, King swam at Orono High School, then ran cross country and studied history at Saint Anselm College. A dedicated runner, King both ran and timed road races all over eastern and central Maine for two decades, completed many marathons, coached the men's and women's cross country teams at Maine Maritime Academy, maintained a section of the Appalachian Trail in Maine, and was section hiking the A.T., southbound. His trail name was "Shortcut." He worked as a financial analyst and institutional researcher at Maine Maritime Academy, where he was also a beloved mentor for student athletes. King loved his career and sought excellence in all he did.

# EIGHT BELLS

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## **DONALD G. GLEASON, JR. '71**

passed away May 17, 2021. Gleason was a graduate of Bishop Fenwick High School, MMA, and he earned his MBA from Babson College, where he graduated Summa Cum Laude and was awarded the Douglass Prize. After graduating from MMA, Gleason was employed at Bath Iron Works, Sylvania, and subsequently as a First Engineer for MEBA. He was also a yacht broker for several years and later purchased Fels Company. He concluded his professional career working at O&G Industries. His love for sailing started as a boy in Marblehead Harbor. From that point on, Gleason was recruited to be the skipper of any sailboat he ever raced on. While at MMA, he skippered the sloop, "Good News," in races up and down the East Coast and was Commodore of the yacht club. He was also a member of the Portland Yacht Club.

## **ARTHUR S. YOUNG '73**

passed away May 4, 2021. Young graduated from Sumner Memorial High School in 1969 and MMA in 1973. After graduation, Young worked at International Paper for the next 19 years. In 1993, he moved to Corea and traded in his "white hat" for a lobster boat. Most recently he was making and delivering heads for Friendship Trap. He was an active member of United Baptist and Eden Baptist Churches, as he was a man with a giving spirit who would go out of his way to help anyone in need before himself.

## **WILLIAM L. BENSON, JR. '78**

died June 26, 2021. Benson grew up in Bedford, N.H., and South Portland, Maine where he graduated in 1974 from South Portland High School. Athletics came naturally to Benson, and he participated in track and field, tennis, and baseball. A lover of all things nautical, Benson attended MMA, graduating in 1978 as a merchant marine. Benson relocated to Dover and continued sailing until his retirement in 2020. Over 40+ years, Benson worked his way up the ladder, ultimately achieving the high rank of Chief Engineer on a supertanker. In this role, he managed the ship's engineering department and was responsible for the engine room's safe, efficient operation as well as that of all shipboard mechanical equipment. Benson's career took him to foreign ports of call around the globe, through the Panama and Suez Canals, and - as a part of his military contracts - into war zones. While docked in Africa he went on safari twice, sleeping under a starlit sky. At family holiday gatherings, he shared colorful tales of his seafaring adventures.

## **TEDD R. ST. PIERRE '80**

passed away unexpectedly on March 2, 2021. He graduated from Machias Memorial High School and MMA, earning a degree in engineering. His career allowed him to travel the world and make friends near and far. He worked internationally as well as throughout the country before retiring in 2020.

## **JOHN D. MCKEOWN '82**

passed peacefully in his sleep on July 20, 2021. He was born in New Haven and grew up in Northford, Conn. as a very active youth, playing baseball, midget football and the fife in the Minute Men Dife and Drum Corp. He attended Xavier High School and participated in track and football. College life was spent at MMA, where he enjoyed another four years of playing football and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Marine Engineering. He had a number of exciting jobs that took him all over the world, as he would say, "he has sailed every sea." He was the marine engineer aboard the *Saga 9*, Charles Payson's yacht - owner of the Mets MLB and Louisiana Tug Boat Co. He served as a reserve officer Lieutenant (JG) United States Navy and shipped with O.R.I and TECO Ocean Shipping Inc. McKeown loved all sports and attended as many Tampa Buccaneers, Rays, and Lightning games as possible. He had many interests including the Patriots, Boston Red Sox, and cooking.

## **ROBERT T. NEWTON '04**

passed away on April 8, 2021. After graduating from high school in Avon, Conn., he served in the Navy from 1968-1969. Newton attended Central Connecticut State College, MMA, and the University of Southern Maine, earning degrees in civil engineering and postsecondary education. His working careers consisted of civil engineering, contractor, and electrician. Newton devoted 17 years coaching the YMCA swim team and he happily drove the bus to all the out-of-town meets.

## **RYAN L. GILLEY '17**

passed away on April 3, 2021. Gilley graduated from Mt. Ararat High School in 2005 and enlisted in the Air Force, where he served for six years, including three tours in the Iraqi war. After his time in the Air Force, Gilley went on to get his bachelor's degree at Southern New Hampshire University. He worked at BIW after completing their apprenticeship with MMA and then moved to Scarborough to start his life and career at Texas Instruments. He was always looking for the next adventure, unless it involved heights, roller coasters, or clowns. Truly a man of his word, Gilley would give the shirt off his back, the food off his plate, or money from his wallet if it meant someone could be helped. He lived with passion and an intense sense of empathy, but also was subject to depression, often finding things overwhelming to carry.

**SARAH F. HUDSON** passed away peacefully on September 10, 2021 in Hermon. She graduated from Rosemary Hall, where she was a strong athlete and smart as a whip. She went to Colby College and discovered her love of Maine. While working at Castine Community Hospital, Hudson was instrumental in starting the Bagaduce Ambulance Service in 1977, training its volunteers and overseeing its services until 2012. After leaving Castine Community Hospital, she became a faculty member at Maine Maritime Academy where she taught Ship's Medicine and Emergency Medicine. She also taught Emergency Medical Technician courses around Hancock County, and CPR and first aid to local elementary students, fire departments, and EMS response teams. Hudson earned multiple awards for all she did, including MMA's "Unsung Mariner" which is given to a staff or faculty member who demonstrates outstanding community service and support of student life. She received the "Volunteer of the Year" from the town of Castine, the "EMS Special Merit Award," and the "Maine State Citizen of the Year" for her contributions in Emergency Medical Services. She was also recognized by members of the Maine State Senate and House of Representatives on her retirement for her years of service to the citizens of Maine. Hudson was well respected and a mentor to many.

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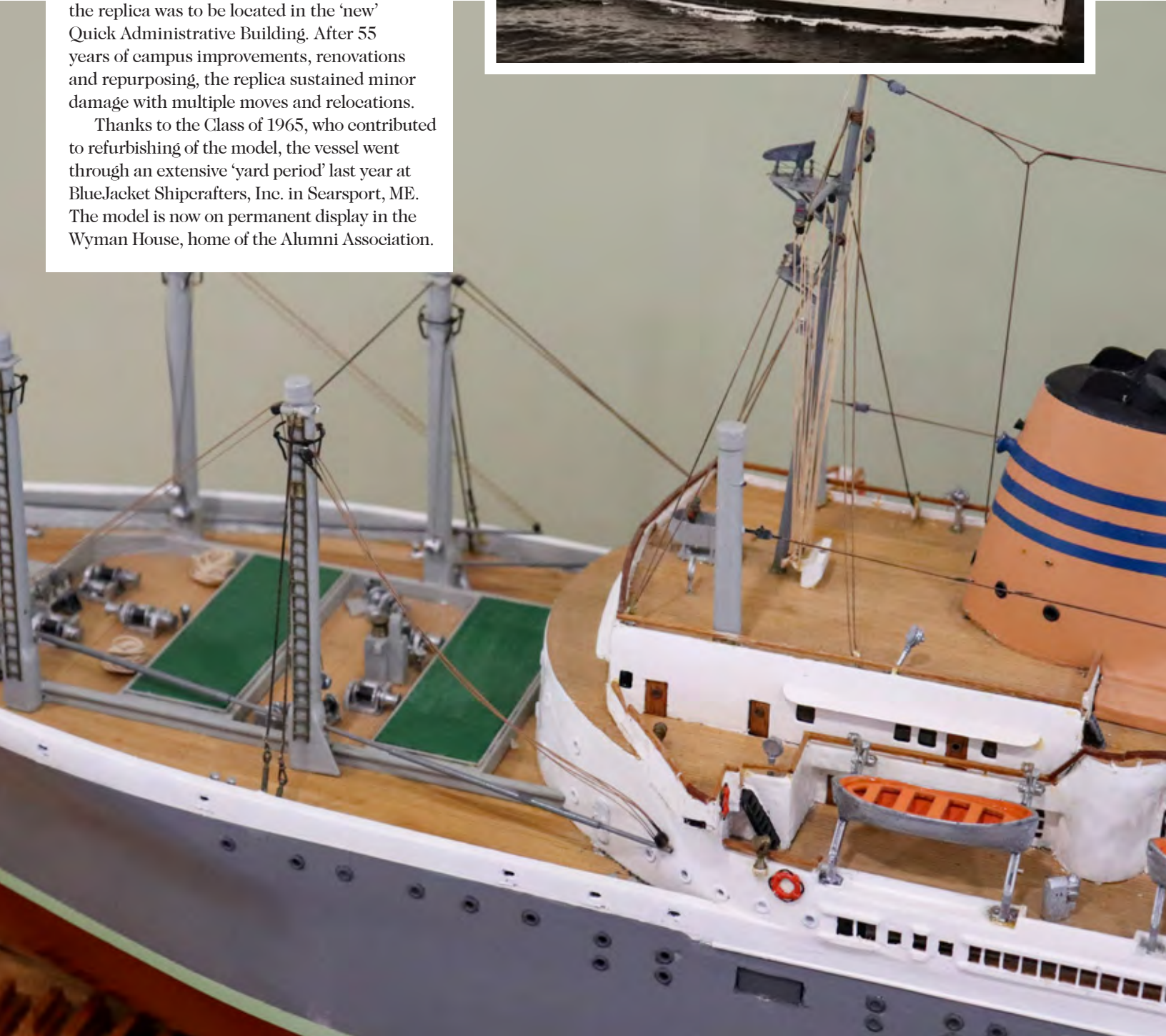
### Back on Display

A highlight of the 1964 Homecoming festivities was the donation of a scale model TS *State of Maine*, the former *Ancon*, to the MMA Alumni Association. Thomas Linsky '65, a senior midshipman at the time, spent over a year constructing the beautifully detailed replica.

Dave Fenderson '56, Vice President of the MMA Alumni Association, accepted the ship model on behalf of the Association.

As stated in the 1965 newspaper article, the replica was to be located in the 'new' Quick Administrative Building. After 55 years of campus improvements, renovations and repurposing, the replica sustained minor damage with multiple moves and relocations.

Thanks to the Class of 1965, who contributed to refurbishing of the model, the vessel went through an extensive 'yard period' last year at BlueJacket Shipcrafters, Inc. in Searsport, ME. The model is now on permanent display in the Wyman House, home of the Alumni Association.



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