

# MARINER

The ALUMNI MAGAZINE of MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

— ISSUE 2 · 2022 —

## Return to Homeport

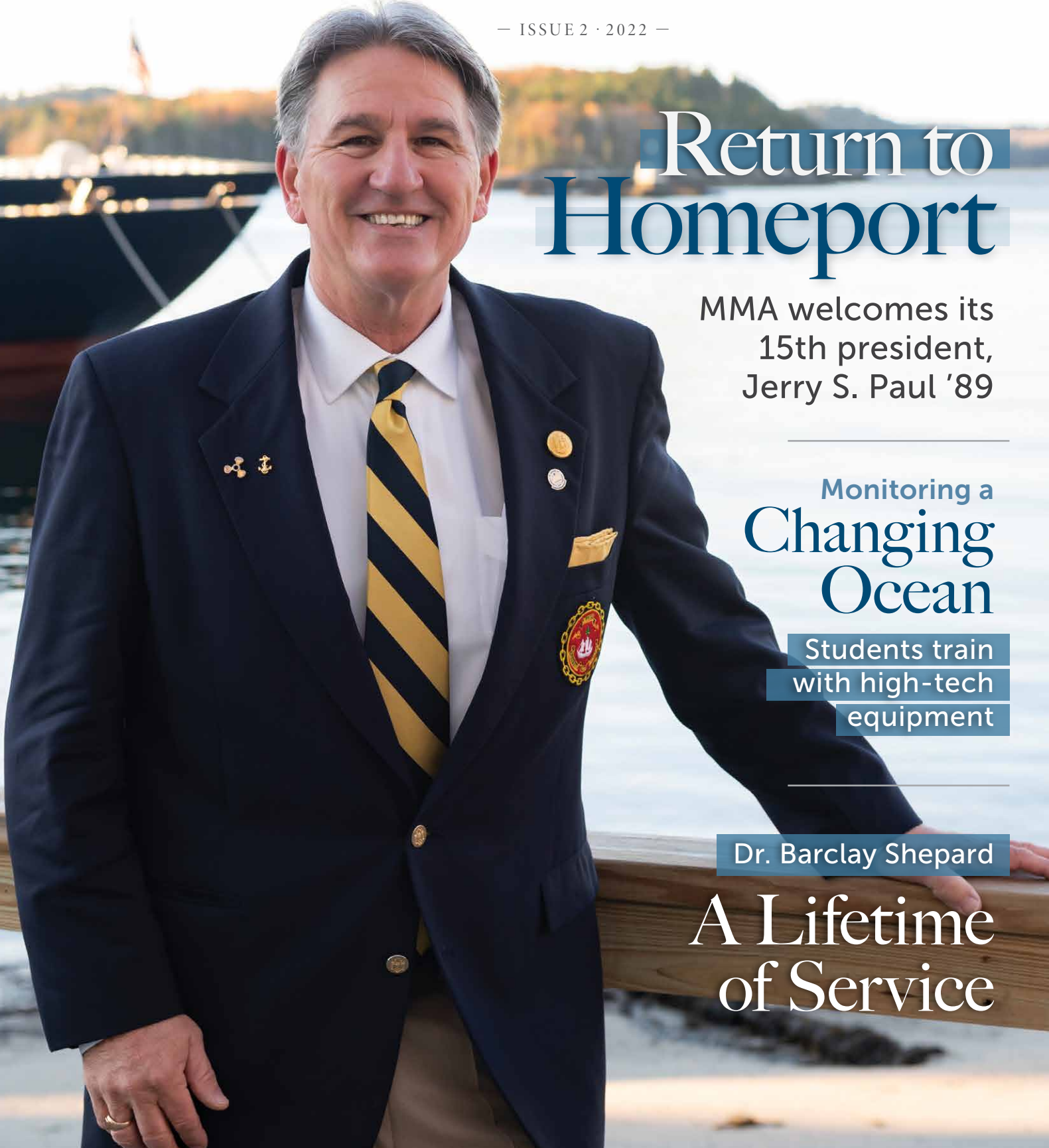
MMA welcomes its  
15th president,  
Jerry S. Paul '89

## Monitoring a Changing Ocean

Students train  
with high-tech  
equipment

Dr. Barclay Shepard

## A Lifetime of Service



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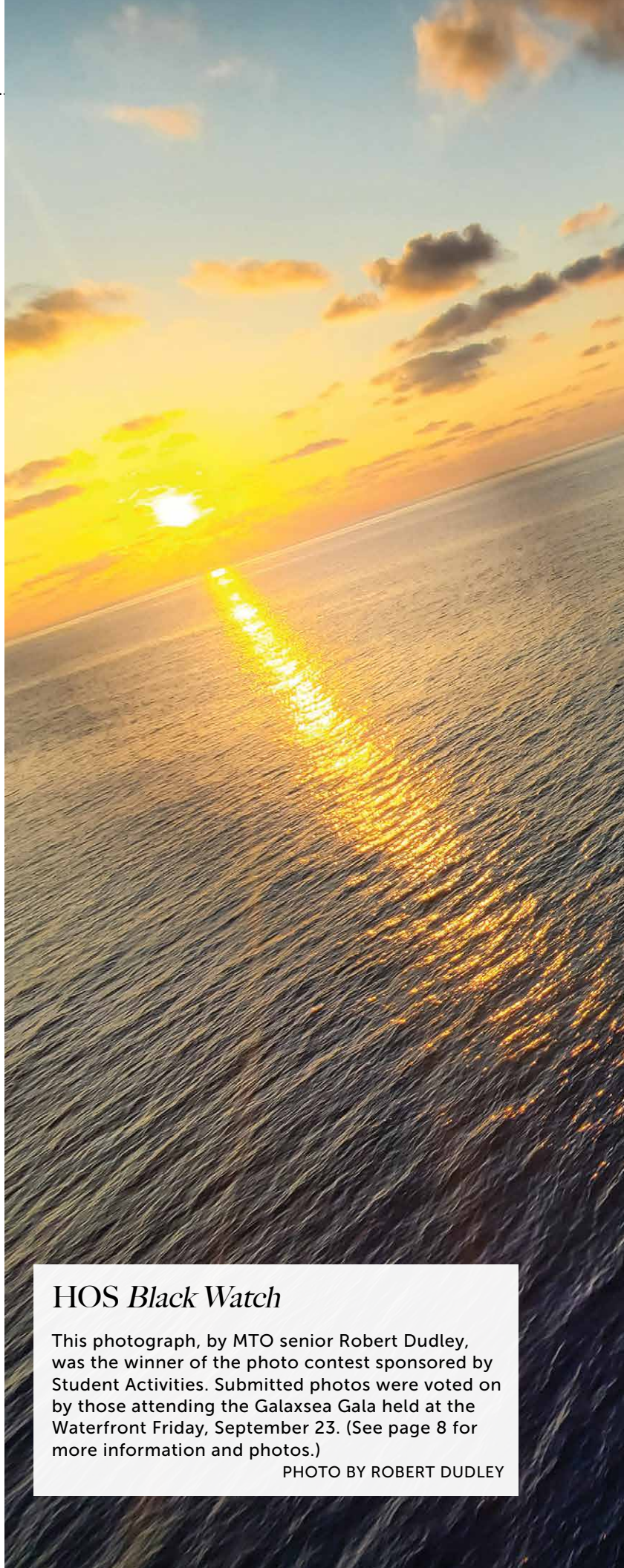
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COVER PHOTO BY RHONDA VARNEY



### *HOS Black Watch*

This photograph, by MTO senior Robert Dudley, was the winner of the photo contest sponsored by Student Activities. Submitted photos were voted on by those attending the Galaxsea Gala held at the Waterfront Friday, September 23. (See page 8 for more information and photos.)

PHOTO BY ROBERT DUDLEY





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MMA PRESIDENT  
Jerald "JP" Paul '89

# Back to School

## Returning and learning at MMA

IN THIS FIRST President's Watch since being entrusted with the leadership of Maine Maritime Academy, it is an honor to share some early thoughts.

I arrived in Castine as a MUG 37 years ago. Upon return, I see continuity coupled with change. I value both as I learn from our faculty, staff, students, and town residents. In 2022 we also have major challenges . . . but they are equally met with enormous opportunity.

Like 8,000 other alumni, Maine Maritime Academy provided me with a structure for learning, growing, and developing. Walking up and down the hill, standing watches at all hours on the ship, managing rigorous course loads, and jobs from work-study to town jobs combined for a challenge that pressed my limits. It was not easy. But it made the rest of life easier.

That *MMA Experience* makes a lasting impact. It builds character. It reinforces discipline, reliability, dependability, and a "get-it-done" spirit that is central to the Maine culture. Higher standards—what I now call "*The Mariner Standard*"—came both from responsibilities that were required and from the values demonstrated around me by mentors such as then-President Ken Curtis '52. A combination of self-help and shipboard team effort taught me to focus less on excuses and more on personal responsibility marshalled toward achieving big goals. As I tell students and parents now, "MMA did not get the most out of me . . . it got *me* to get the most out of me."

MMA also helped me learn how to learn. When I wanted to pursue paths that would require preparation in math and science not yet available through our curriculum, faculty members (namely, Dr. Groves Herrick and others he assembled) built one-on-one self-study courses for me such as differential equations and advanced engineering mathematics. They also guided me through preparation for the EIT Engineering exam which, at that time, was not often taken by MMA students. They showed me how to seek and assemble a team of experts whose knowledge and expertise could guide me. That lesson has served me well through decades of service.

At MMA, I learned to look past limitations of status quo and instead map a course to greater heights. I learned that there are MMA faculty and staff with that same spirit. It exists to this day. As stated by Claire Felix, MMA Class of 2022 Senior

Scholar Athlete, "Finding a way to do it is what being a Mariner is all about." We need only to identify and elevate these people and this spirit within our organization.

That *MMA Experience* works. The quality of life enjoyed by most MMA graduates proves it. Like many, I arrived at MMA a blue-collar kid, but my MMA years gave me the foundation for future success.

MMA also instilled motivation to help others through service-over-self as shipmates do, working together as *One Ship*. It prompted me to create a scholarship for MMA students two decades ago. Similarly, along with my wife, Kristy, we returned to MMA this year to join a team committed to service for future generations of Mariners.

The return has been everything we imagined and more. We've found opportunity to serve in ways that we predicted. In greater measure, however, we have been blessed with additional opportunities to serve as we synchronize with our current MMA and town, which has been a great learning experience. Coming back to school, back to this school, has been a wonderful learning experience. Former President Brennan stated it well in his farewell letter: "Learning is not what you do only in your school years. It's what you do every day of your life in order to seek new understandings and new appreciations."

In this role as leader of an institution within higher education, I am thoroughly enjoying learning the unique dynamics of MMA collaboration and shared governance that are the foundation of decision making in academia. We have much talent here from which to draw. And we have diverse perspectives that make for rich contributions and new ideas.

Compared with the 80s, we also have more opportunities that can be leveraged for MMA to become *The #1 Maritime College in the World* (a topic ripe for more detailed discussion in an upcoming President's Watch).

Kristy and I are grateful to everyone who has welcomed us home. I personally thank each of you within the MMA Community and Castine who, once again, have rallied around me in "self-study courses" as our community maps a course for our *MMA of the Future*.

*Jerry Paul*

# Looking to the Future



## Volunteer to help us recruit and engage the next generation of future MMA alumni

additional voices allows those committees to do a few extra things that help both alumni and the school. Volunteers serving as Class Agents and Class Annual Fund Volunteers are always welcome too!

Recent important activity by the Board has been to work with the Vice President of Enrollment Kim Reilly and Jeff Cockburn '82 of Admissions as they develop an alumni-centric enrollment campaign that will fundamentally change the approach to developing interest in MMA by young men and women. This long-term approach to engaging the high school population earlier in their decision-making process will be key in continuing to build a vibrant pool of potential students and future alumni! The key board committee on this is Alumni Engagement, chaired by Mary Hutchins '11. If engaging the youth and their parents in your area and developing interest in MMA is something that interests you, like all the other volunteer opportunities please reach out to the alumni office at [jeff.wright@mma.edu](mailto:jeff.wright@mma.edu).

It is our level of engagement with MMA that keeps the institution strong!

Sincerely yours,

Bill Full '76

Fellow Alumni,

Both you and the Academy have been fortunate to have had the services of former Alumni Association Board members Troy Malbon '89, Steve Rendall '96, Stephen (Jack) Spratt '93, and Ben Strickland '95. Each of them has put forth a tremendous amount of energy and enthusiasm in supporting the cause of MMA and the alumni body. I know I was speaking for all of us when I passed along my personal thanks after the recent election. It means big shoes to fill for incoming board members Tom Daley '71, Molly Eddy '07, Chris Mercer '88, and Larry Wade '64. Welcome aboard, all, and we look forward to working with you.

Volunteerism on the board is not confined to elected board members. All alumni are encouraged to volunteer on any of the four standing board committees (Working with Outside Entities, Financial Support, Alumni Engagement, Communications). Having

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# Campus Currents



## HONORS & RECOGNITION

### Shipping Leader Somerville Honored ABS Center for Engineering wing named for MMA alum

IN APRIL, Maine Maritime Academy named a part of the ABS Center for Engineering, Science, and Research the **Robert D. Somerville '65 Wing** in honor of Somerville's tremendous contributions to the world of shipping.

Bob Somerville arrived at the Maine Maritime Academy campus in 1961 from the County. He was raised on maritime tales of his great-grandfather, a ship captain lost at sea, and those tales gave Somerville his own love for the sea. He graduated with a degree in Marine Engineering in 1965 and began his career at Texaco, eventually rising to 1st Engineer. Three years later, he took a position with Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock in the Atomic Power Division, working on the construction of nuclear-powered submarines and aircraft carriers. He joined American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) in 1970 as a field surveyor, and after a 43-year career, retired from ABS and the ABS Group of Companies in 2013.

Somerville's great contributions to maritime industries and their workers have won him numerous awards. He was inducted into the prestigious International Maritime Hall of Fame at the United Nations in 2006. In 2007, the U.S. Chamber of Shipping of America awarded him the

Admiral Halert C. Shepherd Award for his outstanding contributions to merchant marine safety. In 2009, he received the Vice Admiral Land Medal for outstanding accomplishments in the marine field from the Society of Naval Architect and Marine Engineers (SNAME). He also received the Massachusetts Maritime Academy Foundation's Captain Emery Rice Medal in recognition of his support of maritime education. In 2011, he received the United Seamen's Service Admiral of the Ocean Seas Award, and in 2012, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from Seatrade.

Somerville is a graduate of the Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program and a Fellow of SNAME. He holds an honorary Doctor of Science from Maine Maritime Academy and an honorary Doctor of Commercial Science from the Webb Institute. Somerville has served on MMA's Board of Trustees since 2008 and was board chair in 2016.

At the unveiling of Somerville wing, President Brennan described him as "a leader, visionary, and mentor."

"Bob," concluded Brennan, "I cannot think of a more deserving recognition for all you have done."



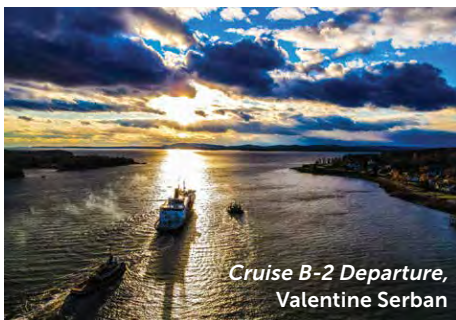


*Storm Is Brewing,*  
Cole Zydel

### COMMUNITY EVENT

# Where the Sea Meets the Stars

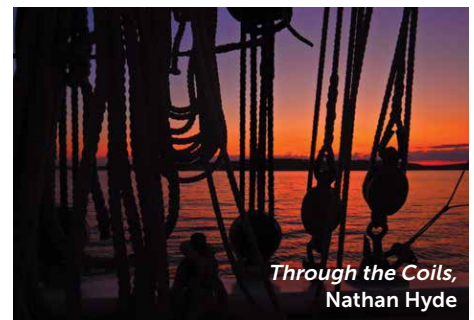
Galaxsea Gala attendees enjoy short film and student photography



*Cruise B-2 Departure,*  
Valentine Serban



*Great Land,*  
Mackenzie Morin



*Through the Coils,*  
Nathan Hyde

IT WAS A GUSTY but gorgeous evening Friday, September 23, when hundreds of students, faculty, and staff, along with Castine residents congregated on the roof of Payson Hall. It was the Galaxsea Gala, and they gathered where the sea meets the stars to celebrate the beauty of the ocean and sky at night and to watch the premiere of the short film *Galaxsea: A Voyage into the Bioluminescent Night*. The film, directed by local Itzel-Marine Gourmelon, explores themes of beauty in darkness and overcoming fear of the unknown. Students and community residents were encouraged to dress up for a night out, to mingle with food and drink, and to listen to musical performances by the MMA Jazz Band and Boston-based indie band Hush Club.

The event included a meet and greet where attendees mingled with local groups to discuss their mission. Community tables were hosted by the International Dark Sky Association, Castine Kayak Adventures, and the Bagaduce Watershed. The crew of the Arctic schooner *Bowdoin* also hosted a table to raise funds for their planned trip to the Arctic. The schooner crew were also on call that day to raise the sail of the *Bowdoin* as the film's movie screen. Unfortunately, wind conditions did not allow the sail to be raised, and the film was projected on the bay door at the MMA Waterfront. The Galaxsea film crew ran a silent auction and MMA Student Activities operated a raffle.

Assistant Director of Student Activities, Jessica Shively, orchestrated an exhibit of student photographs submitted to



*Ballast Tank,*  
Shail Leszkowicz



*Bird on the Bayou,*  
Jack Routhier

the fall 2022 photo contest. The photos, taken by students while on vacation, on co-ops, or on cruise, were printed on metal and displayed at the Gala. The art will hang in Curtis Hall to help liven the space and continue to showcase the amazing and diverse work of the MMA student body. (See page 3 for the winning photo.) Despite the brisk weather, the lively event brought together over 250 students and community residents for a memorable evening.





LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

## CAREER FAIR DEEMED GREAT SUCCESS

WITH ALUMS REPRESENTING over 115 companies offering a wide range of employment opportunities, this year's Career Fair was a tremendous success! The résumé writing workshops and company presentations were of great value, creating the opportunity for Maine Maritime Academy to proudly showcase its incredible students.

### BLUE AND GOLD ALUMNI PROGRAM

Blue and Gold Alumni assist MMA in recruiting exceptional students to attend our great college. Your participation and assistance recruiting talented students from your city, state, or region helps Maine Maritime Academy maintain its tradition of excellence.

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# RETURN TO Homeport

## MMA produces its own leader

By Kate Noel

ON A BRISK SEPTEMBER MORNING the newly planted grasses are still wet on Leavitt Lawn as students assemble for muster in the Logan Oakley fieldhouse. There's one figure who's been up and hammering away at his computer since before dawn and is now making his rounds, shaking hands with cadets as they take formation. Maine Maritime Academy's 15th President Jerry S. Paul ("JP" to all who know him) has just begun his first academic year in the top post at the Academy. To be found among the students and supporting them is not a rarity for JP. If asked, it would likely be one of the first goals of his day and it doesn't go unnoticed. "He is highly respected among the campus as someone we know to be incredibly candid and authentic. He loves to hear from the students about what is going on in their lives," said Natalie Samuels, Regimental Commander, Marine Transportation Operations, class of '23.

While the incoming freshmen are new to MMA, JP is not. A 1989 alumnus, he arrived in April 2022 to assume his new role. Between selection and investiture, he spent months meeting with everyone from students to alumni to staff—nearly 400 meetings in all. His goal? A listening campaign that would give him a quick start on his newest challenge. His approach drew praise from Bobby Vagt, former president of Davidson University in North Carolina. "One of the things that impressed me right off the bat, having been in his shoes, is that he got two things right from the beginning. He expressed absolute positivity about the institution's future, and he had no pretense that he had all the answers." Vagt and his wife, Ruth Anne, are Castine residents and were some of the first to welcome the Pauls to town.

Marrying in 1988, JP and Kristy spent their first year as newlyweds in Castine while he finished his fourth year at MMA. In the time spanning their departure from MMA and return more than three decades later, Paul has had posts all over the world in both the public and private sectors. One thing has remained consistent—his work in the maritime and energy fields.

After graduating from MMA, he studied nuclear engineering at the University of Florida and practiced as a reactor engineer at commercial nuclear plants. He then graduated from

New MMA President  
Jerry S. Paul shaking  
hands with a cadet.



President Paul  
with wife Kristy.

law school and started practicing law in 1995, during which time he also served as an elected member of the Florida legislature where he chaired subcommittees on appropriations and environmental regulation.

Appointed by the President of the United States in 2004 to run the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) as its COO and Principal Deputy Administrator, Paul oversaw the agency's nuclear nonproliferation programs, defense nuclear facilities, and the U.S. Naval reactors program. His principle responsibilities were preventing the illicit spread of nuclear materials, technology, and expertise, managing the agency's \$10 billion budget, and overseeing both national laboratories and field offices worldwide. NNSA's sense of mission—not to mention the responsibilities that came with it—have shaped the lens through which Paul sees much of what happens at MMA.

When first approached regarding the search for a new president, Paul couldn't help but wonder what it would feel like to visit MMA with the perspective gained through his career. He saw intersections of his past and MMA's future everywhere. "During my time at NNSA, the driving force was being a part of something that really mattered, not only on a large geographic scale, but in diplomatic relations with countries worldwide. This was a post-9/11 world with technological and resource threats to America. That challenge provided extraordinary motivation for a role that was far greater than just a job," reflected Paul.

When Paul and his wife began discussing a return to Castine, he reflected on the importance of state maritime academies and their role supporting America's strategic interests. He is quick to relate the importance of teamwork to the regimental leadership program at Maine Maritime Academy. "The core mission that makes MMA different from other colleges is that we're producing licensed mariners that America needs for its maritime interests, including its national security. It's worth doing. It matters." His oft-repeated refrain is "We *ARE* Mariners. We *MAKE* Mariners. We are *THE* Mariners." Creating mariners is a hot



topic among the maritime industry. MMA is answering the increasing demands from Congress and the U.S. Maritime Administration to produce more licensed mariners.

When asked how these new offerings will help students prepare for a future beyond their time in Castine, Paul is bullish on the shipping industry. “We’re on the precipice of what may be the greatest era in U.S. maritime history. I’d also argue that we can be on the precipice of what could be the greatest era for Maine Maritime Academy,” he said. When asked to state his vision, he does not hesitate in stating that MMA can become “The #1 Maritime College in the World.”

That enthusiasm appeals to Alumni Association President Bill Full. “The alumni are certainly excited to have fellow alumnus Jerry Paul leading the Academy,” said Full. “With his experience, enthusiasm, and energy, we know that, working together, we can face the challenges and capture the opportunities to make the future for MMA a bright one.”

The thoughtful vision for what current students will need to enter a future maritime workforce was important to Maine Maritime’s Board Chair Jason Oney ’96. “It is critically important for any leader to understand what their operational needs are. Jerry went above and beyond—even before he arrived on campus—to familiarize himself with Maine Maritime’s strengths, challenges, and opportunities—internally and externally.”

As the global maritime industry focuses on reducing the environmental footprint of nearly 50,000 ships active on the seas, the International Maritime Organization is beyond mere suggestions of best practices and good ideas. There are mandated rules with aggressive targets to reduce the carbon footprint significantly within short periods of time. As Paul explains, “These rules are now driving a tremendous amount of investment in the private sector to figure out what technologies can help us do that. Concepts range from low-sulphur diesel fuel to ammonia to fuel

cells. Liquefied natural gas will probably transition to methanol. All require a technology development to which MMA can contribute and the type of hands-on training that is the MMA brand.”

In reference to MMA’s Ocean Studies program, Paul poses a question. “If we are going to use two-thirds of the world’s surface—oceans—to transport goods and services, can we be better stewards of the oceans themselves? For example, our ocean studies programs have a unique role researching and developing methods for decarbonization.”

“International business and logistics is a field for which MMA’s curriculum prepares our students,” continues Paul.

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**“It is critically important for any leader to understand what their operational needs are. Jerry went above and beyond—even before he arrived on campus—to familiarize himself with Maine Maritime’s strengths, challenges, and opportunities—internally and externally.”**

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**—MMA Board Chair Jason Oney ’96**

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“Throughout the pandemic many people discovered the impact that supply chain backlogs had on daily life. But MMA students are at the forefront of these challenges. The impact of logistics and how we move products from factory to the doorstep went from being an insider’s game to an everyday concern that everybody now values.”

Diving into the academic offerings with an eye toward preparing the next generation of Mariners hasn’t been JP’s only goal. He’s paying attention to MMA’s culture. He refers to “The Mariner Standard” as a high regard for honor, respect, integrity, and leadership. It’s the belief that working towards a common goal with mutual respect creates better outcomes. He applies this concept of respect to ensuring that

the campus culture has equal access, equal opportunity, and respect for the diversity of all persons regardless of gender, race, religion, or national origin. This effort matches the increased awareness of these topics in the industry overall and he hopes that MMA students will be leaders on these topics.

Paul’s examples in leadership cascade into his relations with student leaders as well. RC MTO Samuels offered, “I have been immensely grateful for President Paul’s commitment to his student leaders. He often checks in, gives advice, and has made it clear he cares about what I’m doing by constantly offering his help. I know I can talk to him about

what I’m working on and what my long-term goals are. We touch base on what the two of us can do together to make MMA the best college experience possible for those who attend here. It means a lot to me knowing he has my back and is interested in helping me become the best leader I can be.”

As active as Paul is on campus, he remains aware of MMA’s important relationship with Castine. “As an alum I am certainly proud of MMA’s 80-year history. But the town of Castine has been here for 400 years and it has lived through many cycles. Castine always finds a way to rise to a new level and I feel personally that we

are entering one of the best phases for Castine. Kristy and I feel fortunate to be here and play a role.” He also says that it is a source of pride to see Castine leverage its history by once again producing a new ship, the National Security Multi-Mission Vessel, on its waterfront.

Paul states that MMA truly is different. He becomes animated as he explains a “get it done” attitude that is intrinsic to the Maine culture and to the core of the Academy. During his recent convocation address, he quoted MMA’s 2022 MMA Scholar Athlete Claire Felix, who said, “We’ve all found a way to do it. That’s what being a Mariner is all about.”

He’s passionate about direct interactions with students, and as a former MMA student, feels a deep connection with them. He draws

energy from immersion within their ranks. “My favorite part of the job is the students themselves. I experienced some of that with Ken Curtis [11th MMA President, former Governor of Maine, and MMA alumnus]. He was a joy to watch

in action throughout campus. I sensed that he wasn’t just doing it as part of the job, but that he thoroughly enjoyed being with students.” The same will likely be said for JP, who is often found

among the undergraduates, learning about their work, their challenges and their joys, their student experience, or just the kind of day they’re having. During the recent “ship jump,” after

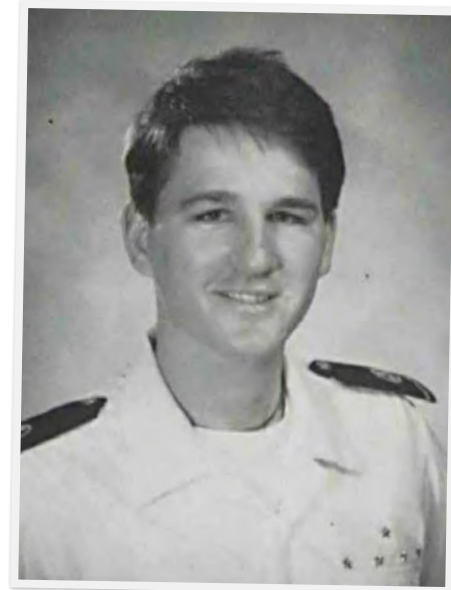
going first into the water, he stayed at the water’s edge and personally greeted each student until the last had finished. “We spoke about the importance of engagement and being a part of what happens on campus. It is something

“Greeting students as I walk the path between Leavitt and the waterfront or from the mess hall to a classroom, having a quick breakfast or lunch with a student, or joining students on a sail out to Holbrook Island—that’s the good stuff. That’s the best part.”

frankly, more than any other,” says JP, who regularly visits classrooms to see students and faculty firsthand. “Greeting students as I walk the path between Leavitt and the

I know Jerry has been passionate about and is actively doing, both in town and at the school, and it shows,” reflected Vagt.

“Well, I have thoroughly enjoyed that aspect here, quite



A young Jerry Paul in uniform from his MMA yearbook.

waterfront or from the mess hall to a classroom, having a quick breakfast or lunch with a student, or joining students on a sail out to Holbrook Island—that’s the good stuff. That’s the best part.” ■

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# HIGH-TECH EQUIPMENT AIDS Ocean Research



(Left to right) Doctors Kerry Whittaker, LeAnn Whitney, and Steven Baer, professors in the Corning School of Ocean Studies.

Students trained in new tools to better monitor changing environment

**T**HE ECONOMY OF MAINE is diversifying and creating opportunities in offshore renewable energy, expansion of fisheries, and growth in aquaculture. In addition, coastal communities and businesses will need to assess and adapt to environmental change. A deeper understanding of coastal and ocean ecology is critical to the success of these economic opportunities. To sustain Maine's marine industries, we need to know more about how these systems are driven by marine species at the bottom of the food chain, the ecological and economic vulnerability created by introduced and non-native species, and potential shifts in biological diversity. Biological monitoring is a basic tool to understanding system change. Maine's workforce needs people capable of monitoring the environment to safeguard the natural resources essential to Maine's economy.

MMA's Corning School of Ocean Studies newest program, Coastal and Marine Environmental Science, is using two important new technologies to monitor aquatic ecosystems, thanks to funds from the Maine Economic Improvement Fund (see story

page 17). Students in the program are being trained as marine environmental scientists who can work across academia, conservation, resource management, business, and public policy.

Doctors Steven Baer, LeAnn Whitney, and Kerry Whittaker are professors in the Corning School of Ocean Studies. Together, they wrote the grant request to integrate two new technologies into MMA's ocean studies curriculum that make it possible to collect more and better information about the ocean.

One of these tools, the Yokogawa FlowCam, uses imaging technology combined with software to quickly capture and analyze large amounts of data about phytoplankton. Phytoplankton are single-celled organisms that float in the light-lit surface ocean. They contain chlorophyll, take up carbon dioxide, use sunlight to make carbohydrates, and release oxygen, just like land plants. The FlowCam was invented in Maine and is manufactured and serviced here as well. It uses laser detection and a powerful lens to capture images of plankton (0.01 to 1 millimeter in size). The FlowCam can analyze up to 10,000 plankton cells (or particles) per minute from a sample of seawater. This radically improves monitoring and analyzing phytoplankton communities in the marine environment. The software identifies species and estimates the population of phytoplankton, along with a host of other characteristics.

The three professors have all worked with this technology in labs and in oceans from the Arctic to the Antarctic. "The FlowCam is just objectively cool,"

says Dr. Whittaker. "To see what is in a sample of water is just amazing. There is a ton of data and opportunities for analysis." Freshman Lily Verrill is in "Introduction to Oceanography and Environmental Science," taught by Drs. Whitney and Whittaker, and agrees. Talking about the FlowCam, Lily said, "The FlowCam is astounding, and it's really cool how it can group pictures by similarity to a known dataset or even to

comes from cellular material that was shed by organisms (via skin, secretions, etc.). A sample of sea water can be analyzed with qPCR to learn what organisms have been in the area. PCR uses short synthetic DNA fragments called primers to select a segment of the genome to be amplified, and then multiple rounds of DNA synthesis to amplify that segment. (You may have read about PCR in descriptions of

how vaccines are produced quickly and in large volume.) For the qPCR instrument to work, it needs to be prepared with species-specific (or gene-specific) "primers" that will then seek out the DNA scientists are interested in finding in an environmental sample. Once the primers find the complementary DNA in the sample, that DNA is amplified, and the instrument can quantify the abundance of the gene. For instance, it might show that a particular species of salmon swam through the area recently. This is important for the early detection of invasive species as well as for detecting rare species.

MMA graduates trained in these technologies will contribute to Maine in important ways. They will bolster Maine's environmental science workforce with skills needed for Maine's economy to grow. Their work will foster coastal Maine research collaborations and improve the technological capacity for important biological monitoring that will support coastal and marine economies.

"This is workforce development," Dr. Whitney emphasizes. "We are getting students trained on how to use

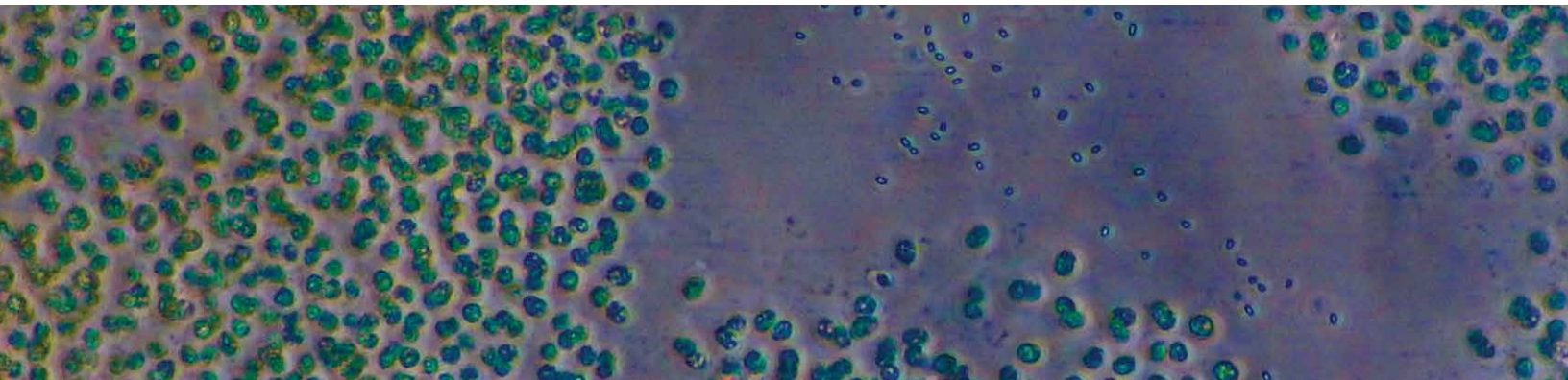
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**"Maine Maritime Academy is all about active learning. The equipment we have in the lab is not for us—it's for the students. This equipment is out on the lab bench; it's available for students to use. This makes MMA unique. We are providing students opportunities that make them valuable in the wider world."**

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another picture in the sample! It makes counting and identifying phytoplankton much faster and can capture far better images of microscopic particles and organisms than I can. And it's not incomprehensible to operate."

The other tool new to MMA is a quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (qPCR) instrument manufactured by BioRad. It can be used to detect and measure the abundance of organisms by analyzing DNA in the environment. This DNA



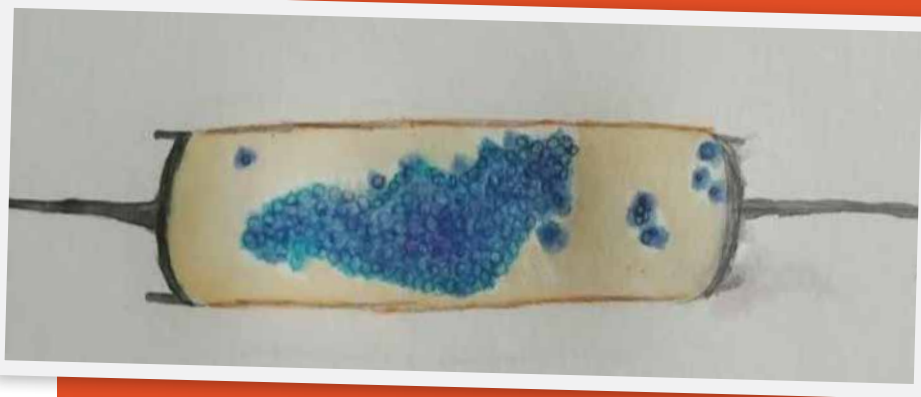


this technology and how to apply the knowledge they gain. They are ready to do this work when they graduate. We worked with stakeholders as we were developing the grant request. We asked them how they'd like to see this equipment used. What could be helpful to them? We got support from at least half a dozen agencies confirming that students with these skills would be beneficial to their work. This project is unique because we aren't just focusing on a research project or idea. We acquired the equipment and are training our students for jobs that our stakeholders have available."

"I enjoy learning by doing," Dr. Whitney continues. "And I love giving students that same opportunity I enjoy. Maine Maritime Academy is all about active learning. The equipment we have in the lab is not for us—it's for the students. This equipment is out on the lab bench; it's available for students to use. This makes MMA unique. We are providing students opportunities that make them valuable in the wider world. It's not about some professor's research. It's about students learning and applying that learning."

Dr. Whittaker agrees. "We are training MMA students in this technology of environmental DNA. They monitor how the oceans are changing. They are learning how primary producers (phytoplankton) are changing. For instance, this can alert us to algal blooms. These can be harmful to humans, to shellfish, to other food sources. They can close a fishery for months."

This monitoring and reporting are not just for scientific interest. They link directly to coastal resilience and the ability of Maine coastal economies to continue thriving. These new techniques produce more data than was previously possible. "It profoundly enhances our ability to monitor the marine environment," says Dr. Whittaker. "Students are excited about what they are seeing and learning. They are learning genetics, but not just learning genetics as a stand-alone topic. They are using genetics as a tool to answer important ecological questions." ■



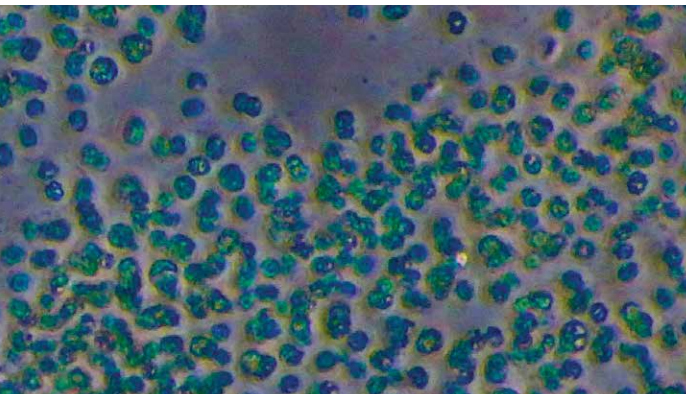
(Above) Student watercolor of *Ditylum brightwelli*, a species of phytoplankton. Students draw and paint organisms seen through the FlowCam to sharpen their observation and identification skills.

## UMAINE SMALL CAMPUS INITIATIVE FUNDS HIGH-TECH EQUIPMENT

IN 1997, MAINE CREATED the Maine Economic Improvement Fund (MEIF). Its purpose was to advance research at Maine's public universities that would, in turn, improve the civic and economic life of Maine. Twelve years later, the University of Maine created the Small Campus Initiative (SCI) to provide MEIF to the five smaller University of Maine campuses (University of Maine at Machias, University of Maine at Farmington, University of Maine at Augusta, University of Maine at Fort Kent, and University of Maine at Presque Isle) and Maine Maritime Academy. The decision to include Maine Maritime Academy with the UMaine small campuses was important recognition of MMA's value to Maine. MMA has a strong history of providing an excellent education combined with a practical focus on workforce training. It is recognized for producing graduates trained and ready to join Maine's workforce as scientific and engineering professionals.

The SCI added the energy and talents of faculty at the smaller UMaine campuses and Maine Maritime Academy to Maine's research sector. The emphasis was on applying new technology for economic growth and training students in those technologies. It was expected that the results would create technology jobs and build stronger relationships among Maine's research and business sectors. The result would be increased research efforts, new technologies with licensing and commercialization potential, and creation of jobs that would be filled by a high-tech workforce developed at the participating schools.

"This program is really about building capacity for research and development in the state with a focus on primarily undergraduate institutions like MMA where field-based and experiential learning are key parts of the funded grant projects," says Jason Charland, who serves as the program officer for the MEIF SCI program. "MMA faculty can receive grant writing training and consult with research development staff at UMaine. Inclusion of MMA faculty in the grant writing workshops has been a great new initiative of the program and also helps facilitate relationships and collaborations with colleagues at University of Maine System campuses."







Dr. Barclay Shepard '46 at this year's Homecoming celebration where he served as the grand marshal of March On. Later, Shepard presented a gift to MMA at the Alumni Banquet: an 1802 first edition of Nathaniel Bowditch's *The American Practical Navigator*.





# Dr. Barclay Shepard

A lifetime of service to Naval medicine

DR. BARCLAY SHEPARD '46 drove to MMA from his home in Boothbay Harbor to attend Homecoming. He had two special reasons for making the trip. First, he was invited to be the grand marshal of this year's March On, and, second, he had a gift for MMA. Shepard presented President Paul with an 1802 first edition of Bowditch's *The American Practical Navigator*. President Paul accepted the gift on behalf of the Academy. See p. 21 for additional information on this rare volume.

A lively storyteller, Shepard sat down with the *Mariner* for a conversation before the Alumni Banquet. Here are some highlights of his eventful life in service to our country.

**S**HEPARD was born in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, in 1926, the fourth child of Virginia and Lorrin Shepard. Lorrin, the son of American medical missionaries, was born and raised in Turkey. Eventually, he was sent to New Jersey to live with a pair of aunts and attend high school. He then worked his way through Yale and Columbia Medical School. When Barclay was a year old, his parents decided to return to Istanbul. There his father founded the American Hospital and served as its director for 30 years.

Shepard was sent back to America when he was 12 to attend Deerfield Academy. From there he went to MMA, graduating in 1946. "I went to sea for a year as 3rd mate on an American Export Lines victory ship," he recalled. "I dreamed of a commission in the Navy, but the war was over, and the Navy was downsizing. I decided to go to Bowdoin College and graduated in 1950."

"What do I do now?" he wondered upon graduation. He had met Martha Loughman at Bowdoin and they had fallen in love, so they married, sailed to Turkey, and Shepard began teaching English at Robert College in Istanbul. His father was still the director of the American Hospital and Shepard found himself increasingly drawn to medicine. After three years of teaching English, his mind was made up: he wanted to become a doctor, following the path of his father and grandfather.

Barclay, Martha, and their baby Douglas sailed back to America. “I’d had a biology course at Bowdoin,” recalled Shepard, “but I needed organic and inorganic chemistry to get into medical school. I learned that Harvard offered an intensive six-week course in inorganic chemistry, and I enrolled. It just about killed me, but I made it through. I then went to Boston University for courses in organic chemistry, physics, anatomy, and histology. I applied to several medical schools and was accepted by Tufts. By then, Martha and I had three children, so I joined the Navy to help pay the bills. They paid me as an ensign until I graduated in 1958. During my senior year I was on active duty in the Navy in the Medical Corps.



After graduation on June 1958, I was promoted to lieutenant and received orders to start my one-year rotating internship at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. After that I started a four-year residency in general surgery, the last year of which was in the thoracic surgery service where I assisted on the first open-heart operation at Bethesda.”

Following his residency, Shepard was assigned to the Naval Hospital in Beaufort, South Carolina. He was certified by the American Board of Surgery and became a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. After two years at Beaufort, he applied for a residency in thoracic surgery and received orders to the Naval Hospital Long Island (St. Albans) in New York.

It was at this time that U.S. forces were heavily engaged in the Vietnam

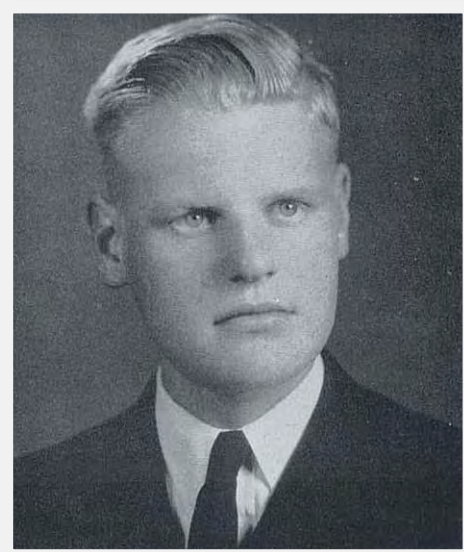
War. “I decided to volunteer for duty in that arena,” recalled Shepard. “I received orders to report to the USS *Repose*, one of two hospital ships operating off the coast of Vietnam. I was one of the two Navy thoracic surgeons in Vietnam. It was a long year of treating many kinds of serious battle wounds. I also successfully performed an open-heart operation on a Vietnamese soldier.”

After his one-year tour in Vietnam (1967–68), he returned to St. Albans for two years as the chief of thoracic surgery, followed by two at Bethesda. He was then assigned to the office of the Navy Surgeon General where, for nearly four years, he was the director of the Medical Facilities Planning Division. This job included working on the design and construction of several hospitals and clinics.

In 1979, Shepard retired from active duty after 22 years and moved to the Veterans Administration where his duties included monitoring the surgical departments at all VA hospitals. Shepard recalled, “It was about this time that the controversy about the defoliant Agent Orange was becoming an urgent issue. The VA was being taken to task for not connecting the dots between various health problems of Vietnam veterans and their exposure to Agent Orange. I was assigned to organize a research program to shed more light on this issue. I told them I was not familiar with this type of research, but agreed to do my best.”

Shepard hired an epidemiologist and a statistician who began designing studies to help answer these questions. The first challenge was to find a way to compare groups of soldiers who had been exposed to Agent Orange and those who had not. He quickly found that the Department of Defense personnel records were not very detailed about where and when troops served. Eventually, Shepard and his team were able to identify soldiers who had served in the northern part of South Vietnam who had been on the ground where Agent Orange was sprayed. They also identified the Air Force pilots who had flown the planes doing the spraying. These two groups were the most heavily exposed. At least initially, that study did not show any ill effects of Agent Orange.

Shepard’s team also designed a very large mortality study which revealed that



(Above and at left) Dr. Barclay Shepard’s photos in the 1946 *Trick’s End*.

troops who were exposed to Agent Orange had an increased risk of developing two types of cancer: non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma and soft tissue sarcoma. At the request of the VA, Congress finally passed the necessary legislation to classify these diagnoses as related to veterans’ military service. Later, additional diseases were added to the list of illnesses caused by Agent Orange.

Back on campus for Homecoming, Shepard reflected on his time at MMA in the 1940s. “It was a wonderful part of my teen years. The midshipmen came from all walks of life, but we were united by our desire to serve our country during a time of war.

“The learning was enjoyable. It was learning by doing, and that was new to me. Lt. Cmdr. Tumey took me under his wing. He taught navigation, and I loved it.”

The 1946 MMA *Trick’s End* suggests he was not alone in his admiration for Cmdr. Tumey. The class of ’46 dedicated the yearbook to him with “respect and affection.” In the dedication, they wrote, “Mr. Tumey did not fail to infect future deck officers with his love of navigation. [With] hat turned backwards, with sextant in hand and squinting skyward; by these things may we, and countless others, remember him as our preacher with Bowditch as our bible.”

With Tumey remembered holding Bowditch in his hand like a bible, Shepard’s gift of a first edition Bowditch seems to bring the story around full circle. ■



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**L A T I T U D E,**  
AND THE  
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AND  
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## SHEPARD GIVES RARE BOWDITCH VOLUME TO MMA

MMA RECENTLY RECEIVED a first edition (1802) of Nathaniel Bowditch's *The American Practical Navigator*, a generous gift from Dr. Barclay Shepard '46. It is a remarkable piece of history that connects to the thousands of MMA alums who have relied on their "Bowditch" to learn navigation. (See p. 19 for a profile of Dr. Shepard and his fascinating life.)

In 1950, Shepard and his wife, Martha, were living in Istanbul where Shepard was teaching at Robert College, and his father was director of American Hospital. One day, Shepard and his parents were browsing at a book sale at the University of Istanbul. "Shep," called his father, "I think there's a book here you'd be interested in." Shepard wandered over and his father handed him the Bowditch first edition. Shepard took it to the book dealer asking, "How much do want for this old book?" "Twenty-five piastre [10 cents]," the book dealer replied, and the book was purchased. A couple years later, Shepard brought it with him when he and his wife returned to the United States for Shepard to enter medical school. Like many another Bowditch, it has traveled on uncounted voyages. But now it is home from sea and at rest at Maine Maritime Academy.



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# Alumni News

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## SPOTLIGHT

### Why I give to Maine Maritime Academy

**TIMOTHY S. JACKSON '97**

I HAVE LONG KNOWN I owe much of my success in life to my experience at Maine Maritime Academy. I give gladly to the Academy, both to thank the institution for the life it helped me create, and to help the Academy offer that opportunity to others. Here's my story.

I graduated from Maine Maritime Academy in 1997 with a degree in nautical science. I also volunteered for a commission in the United States Naval Reserve. For two years following graduation, I followed the same path as many of my classmates: I went to sea for shipping companies. But I quickly realized that

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**Maine Maritime Academy gave me the skills and habits to succeed, and I remain grateful to this day.**

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such a career, while adventurous, exciting, and well-paying, was not the career for me. Beyond often getting seasick in bad storms (something I should have investigated before going to a maritime academy), I knew I wanted to go home to a family every night.

It was hard to think about what else I could do with my specialized degree. Fortunately, I had developed an interest in investing while at sea. I did not have much else to spend my wages on at the time, so figured I should do something vaguely responsible with them. I decided to see if I could parlay my interest in investing into an actual career and began sending résumés to investment banks and asset management firms.

To be honest, my expectations were low. Reading through the résumés of the junior staff members at the firms I was applying to, I saw that nearly all had attended well-known business schools and studied finance and economics. It was hard to believe I had much of a chance. To my surprise, I started receiving invitations for interviews. In no time, I had three job offers from well-respected firms. It seemed incredible that I was having to choose among offers. I selected an analyst position with Northern Trust—a prestigious private bank based in Chicago.

Shortly after starting, I asked my boss why I was chosen. I did not have a business degree or internship. The most I



could claim was having read a few books on investing while at sea. My boss replied with two points. The first was maturity. Apparently, I did not carry myself as the typical 23- or 24-year-old. The second was his assertion that anyone who could do the calculations to sail by celestial navigation had all the quantitative skills finance required (a field that had become mathematically driven by the 1990s).

Maine Maritime Academy gave me the skills and habits to succeed, and I remain grateful to this day. The example (and occasional fair reprimand) of the Commandant of Midshipmen, Gunny, and outstanding professors such as Captain William McKinley, taught me the discipline and bearing that would one day land me that job at Northern Trust. From there, the rest seemed easy. I studied for my MBA at night after long days at the bank, but for someone used to standing watch in the middle of the night or getting up early every day for colors, it did not seem all that hard.

I was promoted quickly through Northern Trust and later became a partner at a leading investment consulting firm before I was thirty. I became a principal at a global investment bank, and then co-founded a private equity firm before I was thirty-five. Best of all, I have the wonderful family I dreamed of when I was out to sea as a 22-year-old. I have never forgotten how much of my success I owe to Maine Maritime Academy and the lessons I learned there. They are lessons I still draw upon to this day. ■



## ALUMNI NEWS

### ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

Alumni and campus officials were recognized with the Alumni Banquet during Homecoming 2022.

Larry Burrill, class of 1977, was named to MMA's Wall of Honor. After graduating from MMA, Burrill spent 24 years of dedicated service in the United States Navy, retiring in 2001 at the rank of captain. In 1995, he was recognized by the Navy League as the Military Shore Officer of the Year.

He also received two Meritorious Service Medals, two Navy Commendation Medals, a Navy Achievement Medal, and other service awards.

In 2006, Burrill co-founded McKean Defense Group, LLC, serving as president until 2021. Burrill provided leadership and focus to meet the formidable challenges the Navy faces. The company had over 650 employees with offices in six U.S. cities when it was purchased by Noblis in May 2021. Noblis is a leading provider of science, technology, and strategic services to the federal government. Since 2010, Burrill has served on the board of Bringing Hope Home, a nonprofit focusing on keeping individuals in their homes following surgery and during their chemo treatments for cancer. Burrill was chair of the Alumni Advancement Committee when MMA secured a \$750,000 challenge grant from the Harold Alfond Foundation. He also co-chaired Opening Doors, Changing Lives: The Scholarship Campaign for MMA. This \$20 million scholarship campaign surpassed its goal ahead of schedule.

Joe Cote, class of 1982, was awarded Outstanding Alumnus. An original founding member of the Bangor Seadogs Alumni Chapter, Cote later served as its president for eight years and among many achievements, raised over \$30,000 to endow a scholarship. In 2010, Cote



Continued on page 25

## ALUMNI NEWS

### DELAWARE VALLEY AND WASHINGTON, D.C. HOST PRESIDENT RECEPTION AND GOLF FUNDRAISER

Over 25 MMA alumni and guests gathered at Crystal Gateway Marriott in Alexandria, Va., Sept. 28, for an MMA president's reception. President Paul '89 previewed his purpose for his Washington visit and his vision for MMA. President Paul addressed the golfers prior to the second annual Delaware Valley/D.C. Golf Classic held the next day at the neighboring Army Navy Country Club. He thanked Larry Burrill '77, Seiden-Krieger, Atlantic Technical Management, Foss Maritime, R & P Technologies, and Baltimore Pilots for their sponsorship and helping the chapters raise over \$12,500 for MMA.



## ALUMNI NEWS

### CASCO AND SEADOG CHAPTER EVENT BIGGEST EVER Take Me Out to a Sea Dog Baseball Game

About 150 MMA alumni, family, and friends gathered at Hadlock Field in Portland under the Coca-Cola picnic tent on July 15. It was a beautiful evening for a pre-game barbecue followed by a great baseball game between the Portland Sea Dogs (Red Sox AA affiliate) and Somerset Patriots (AA Yankees affiliate). Postgame fireworks provided a perfect end to a great evening. Sponsored by the MMA Alumni Association, Casco Bay (Portland) and Sea Dog (Bangor) alumni chapters, the event was very well received, with discussions to schedule this as an annual event. The Sea Dogs won 5-0.

The Alumni Association will host an event at a Maine Mariners ice hockey game, at the Ice Level Lounge, Cross Arena, Portland, on Friday, Dec. 9. Stay tuned for details. If chapters wish to gather at a similar event or activity in your area, contact the Alumni Relations Office at [alumni@mma.edu](mailto:alumni@mma.edu).

# ALUMNI NEWS

## ALUMNI NEWS

### SOUTHERN CALIF. LOBSTER FEED

When it comes to live Maine lobster, it seems that the SoCal Chapter can't resist! Over 50 alumni, family, friends, and guests gathered on Saturday, July 23, to enjoy the chapter's 42nd annual lobster picnic in San Diego's ZLAC Rowing Club in the Pacific Beach neighborhood. It was a quintessential sunny San Diego day with near-perfect temperatures and a light breeze off the bay. Many stories—including infamous sea stories of unimaginable feats—were shared about their time at MMA. In addition to MMA alums, they had attendees from King's Point USMMA and California Maritime.

The picnic serves to bond chapter members by forging community through shared experiences, networking with other alumni, and developing pride in our MMA heritage.

Thanks to those on the planning committee and the many helpers who did setup, food prep, and serving: Alex Waller '15 (lobster chef), Michael Curtin '04, Wade Mondoux '11, Joan Fulton, Chris Rodríguez '12, Jason Johnson '08, Danna Staples, and Ralph Staples '71. Special thanks to Chris Devlin '80 for donating the SS United States model, handcrafted by Frank Tepedino '58, for the raffle to help defray picnic expenses.



## ALUMNI NEWS

### 2022 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ELECTION RESULTS

Following a great response to the 2022 Alumni Association Board elections, here are the results.

#### OFFICERS

- Bill Full '76, President
- Andrew Strosahl '05, Vice President
- Cal Lechman '65, Treasurer
- Myles Block '06, Agent

#### BOARD MEMBERS

*Term expires 2026 (top vote getters for six positions)*

- Tom Daley '70
- Mary "Molly" Eddy '09
- Chris Mercer '88
- Curt Nehring '71
- Jeff Riedel '86
- Larry Wade '64

There are many ways *all* alumni can contribute to the Alumni Association and MMA:

- 1) Association committee participation
  - a) Communications
  - b) Alumni Engagement
  - c) Financial Support
  - d) Working with Other Entities
  - e) Ad hoc committees
- 2) Initiate chapter functions, start a chapter, or host a regional event
- 3) Admissions Blue and Gold recruiting
- 4) Tell us of Co-ops, cadet shipping billets, and jobs
- 5) Alum Speaker group . . . what's your message . . . and much more . . .

## ALUMNI NEWS

### CLASS AGENT PROGRAM

The MMA Alumni Association Class Agent Program turned five years old this past summer. The Class Agent program was created to expand alumni involvement and empower its volunteers to:

- Improve communication among alumni
- Build synergy between alumni and MMA to support the missions of the Alumni Association and the Academy
- Obtain more accurate alumni contact information, with emphasis on reconnecting with 'lost' alumni

In July 2017, Shawn Longfellow '86, Alumni Association Board member and chair of the Alumni Engagement Committee, sent every alumnus a letter explaining the Class Agent concept and a charge for volunteers. Within the first two months, the Alumni Relations Office received 76 volunteer requests representing 59 of the existing 74 (at that time) classes. Now, 85 volunteer class agents cover 78 classes.

Including *Mariner* magazine, Facebook, *Shipmate* e-newsletter, and periodic email blasts, alumni receive a lot of information. However, these cannot replace the personal touch of a class member's message about MMA affairs, a function, or submitting a class note, or a reminiscence. The agents have as much fun delivering the news as receiving it.

*"I truly think the Class Agent program has reunited many class year alumni. I know the Class of 1964 enjoys the digital notices and mailings, and individuals often comment on Academy outreach! KUDOS."*

—LARRY WADE '64

*"Personally, I like the idea of Class Agents whether or not I get any feedback from my classmates. The info the Alumni Office sends provides an insight to what's going at the Academy which I'm sure is appreciated by those that read it. I enjoy it. Keep it up."*

—DOUG WARD '68

*"...the Class of 1970 has never been more connected thanks to [the] Class Agent Program."*

—BOB MARTEL '70

Continued on page 26



## GALLANT SHIP AWARD

Capt. Charles Sheahan, SUNY alumnus, visited the MMA campus this summer on a mission: to get contact information for his former shipmate Capt. Thomas Ring '73. Capt. Sheahan also wanted to make the Academy aware of Ring's critical role in the events that led to the Tug *Stamford* receiving the Gallant Ship Award for its actions of June 23, 1986.



The Gallant Ship Award is presented by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation to any U.S. flag or foreign ship "participating in outstanding or gallant action in a marine disaster or other emergency to save life or property at sea." The award originates from an executive order issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during World War II. The award recognizes excellence and bravery in merchant mariners. Since 1942, just 43 ships have received the Gallant Ship Award.

According to Capt. Sheahan, "Capt. Ring was serving as chief mate aboard the Tug *Stamford* and displayed extreme heroism which saved the lives of two dozen New York City firemen along with a crew aboard another tugboat."

For Tug *Stamford*, the Gallant Ship Award citation reads:

On June 23, 1986, fire broke out at the Hess Oil Terminal, Brooklyn, New York. The fire ignited combustibles on the decks of two tank barges, S.T. 65 and S.T. 85, light with gasoline bottoms, moored at Pier 5. Several Coast Guard vessels, New York City fireboats and commercial tugboats responded to a distress call. At 1920 hours, Tug STAMFORD steamed towards the burning pier. Enroute, the STAMFORD [captained by Sheahan—Ed.] was called by the Tug DAVID MCALLISTER at the scene for assistance. DAVID MCALLISTER main engines were disabled, and she drifted under the bow rake of the burning barge S.T. 65. STAMFORD maneuvered alongside the DAVID MCALLISTER, had lines attached and pulled the disabled vessel clear, averting a collision with the burning barge. Aware of the Coast Guard's danger warning but also aware that several New York City firemen were in jeopardy, STAMFORD maneuvered toward the burning barge S.T. 65. The barge, known to have explosive gasoline bottoms, was now engulfed in flames. In high winds, dense black smoke and fire, the STAMFORD maneuvered under the bow of the barge and successfully shackled its hawser into the barge's tow chains [performed by Ring—Ed.] and pulled the barge from the burning pier into New York Harbor where the STAMFORD's crew, along with New York City firefighters, extinguished the barge fires. The expert seamanship and the skilled teamwork of the crew successfully averted a major disaster and loss of life and earned the name of the STAMFORD to be perpetuated as a Gallant Ship.

The *Stamford* crew comprised Sheahan; Ring; Walter Anderson, chief engineer; John Destefanis, AB; Tomas Brody, AB; and Leo Blair, steward.

Capt. Ring's actions are a great addition to MMA's nautical history. Briefly mentioned in the Winter 1989 edition of Alumni News (precursor to the *Mariner*), this event and those involved epitomize the maritime profession at the highest level and deserves its proper recognition and respect. The Gallant Ship Award is one of the rarest awards bestowed by the U.S. government.

Are there other alumni involved in an event that led to the Gallant Ship Award? If you are aware of any, please share with [alumni@mma.edu](mailto:alumni@mma.edu).

### Alumni Awards, continued from page 23

was elected a member of the MMA Alumni Board of Directors, selected vice president in 2012, and elected its president for two terms in 2016 and 2018. During Cote's tenure, many beneficial changes and improvements to the operation and support of the Alumni Association were accomplished, including: updating the Association's bylaws and investment policy, increasing volunteerism, creating the class agent program, developing the Shipmate alumni e-newsletter, pushing alumni giving over \$25 million, creating the Deck for All Hands gift for new students, and establishing the Honor Alley for honor classes at Homecoming.

The Humanitarian Award was created in 2018 to recognize MMA alumni who have distinguished themselves by meritorious participation in an act, operation, or for prolonged service of a humanitarian nature directed toward an individual or groups of individuals. Four alumni have received this award.

Brian Enos '04 was recognized for his role as chief mate aboard the American Pride in the at-sea rescue of three people 50 miles off the coast of Tampa, Fla.

Peter Johnson '64 was recognized for 17 years of voluntary work as a relief chief engineer aboard Mercy Ships and other humanitarian vessels.

Maureen Jones-Higgins '87 was recognized for volunteer service with the World Food Programme following retirement from a 25-year career at sea. Since then, her travels and efforts have spanned the globe, delivering and distributing lifesaving food and essential products to areas devastated by famine, conflict, or natural disaster. In 2020, World Food Programme won the Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts to combat hunger and foster peace in areas of conflict.

Larry Wade '64 is a dedicated volunteer and involved in numerous local, regional, and national organizations and causes.

Dr. William J. Brennan, past MMA president, was conferred an honorary membership in the Maine Maritime Academy Alumni Association. Appointed in 2010, Dr. Brennan led MMA during a time of academic enhancement, record enrollment, highly successful fundraising campaigns, and facility growth.

Professor Emerita Susan Loomis was conferred an Associate membership in the Maine Maritime Academy Alumni Association. Appointed in 1985, Professor Loomis served MMA as professor, department chair, and served on numerous academic and student service committees. She retired in 2021 as Dean of Faculty after 36 years of service.

## MMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS

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**WASHINGTON, DC**  
Eric Dankewicz '05  
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Class Agent Program, continued from page 24

*"I believe that the class agent program was a great idea which has enabled classmates to reunite in a smaller format than the alumni association entity. It brings forth a more personal avenue for classmates to share experiences, ideas, and personal thoughts. Classmates become more involved with each other."*

—CAPT. RAY MANN '75

*"I have found the Class Agent program to be helpful in getting information on MMA to my class. I also post the materials on our class Facebook page."*

—MIKE CHAMBERS '80

*"It's been a pleasure . . . keeping all of us updated on what's happening at the MMA. Thank you to those who continue to keep in touch and have helped me keep your contact information up to date in the alumni database. It's been a pleasure to help and give back."*

—JOSH SHAW '14

Thank you, Class Agents, for the personal touch you provide. The memories of shared MMA experiences lend greater meaning and purpose to our efforts.

### NOT RECEIVING ANYTHING FROM YOUR CLASS AGENT?

Contact your Class Agent ([mainemaritime.edu/alumni/](http://mainemaritime.edu/alumni/) stay-connected) or [alumni@mma.edu](mailto:alumni@mma.edu) with your updated contact address to receive this informative email correspondence.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV. 30–DEC. 2 – INT'L.  
WORKBOAT SHOW,  
NEW ORLEANS, LA

JAN. 28 – HOLLANDSTRONG  
ICE FISHING DERBY, WILSON  
LAKE, WILTON, ME

DEC. 8 – TEXAS CHAPTER  
EVENT, BUFFALO BAYOU  
BREWING COMPANY,  
HOUSTON, TX

MARCH 4 – ALUMNI SKIING  
AND SOCIAL, BLACK  
MOUNTAIN, RUMFORD, ME

DEC. 9 – MAINE MARINERS  
HOCKEY, CROSS ARENA,  
PORTLAND

MARCH 15 – SENIOR  
BANQUET, CROSS CENTER,  
BANGOR, ME

JAN. 11 – EVENT AT  
LAUDERDALE YACHT CLUB,  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL

MARCH 17 – MAINE  
MARINERS HOCKEY, CROSS  
ARENA, PORTLAND

JAN. 13 – JAX ICEMEN  
HOCKEY, VYSTAR VETERANS  
MEMORIAL ARENA, JAX, FL

MARCH 24 – CT/RI CHAPTER,  
HARTFORD WOLFPACK  
HOCKEY, XL CENTER

JAN. 19 – BAY STATE CHAPTER  
EVENT, THE BARKER TAVERN,  
SCITUATE, MA

JULY 10–13 –  
CLASS OF 1965 REUNION

JULY 19–21 –  
CLASS OF 1973 REUNION





# Class Notes

CONNECTING

## Built with Intention



### Alum shares his passion for the outdoors and canoe building with an online audience

Dave Cloutier '95 has lived a life built with intention. Following in his brother John Cloutier's '94 footsteps, he decided to pursue an education at MMA, knowing that a bright future would await him if he did. "I was amazed at the value placed on our graduates," he says. "They roll into their fields armed with knowledge and skill, but they maintain a humble approach and strong work ethic."

Upon graduation, Cloutier was fully prepared for a career at sea. "I thought I would sail into retirement," he recalls. "But that plan changed when I met my wife, Anna."

Together, he and Anna decided that family would be priority, and Cloutier soon began looking for opportunities to work closer to home. In 1999, he took a position at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. He is now a Group Leader in their Test Planning and Engineering division and considers himself "fortunate to have had a long career at such a historic and proud establishment."

In addition to professional stability, the decision to stay shoreside has allowed Cloutier to focus on other areas of his life, including raising the family he and Anna dreamed of and spending time in New England's great outdoors. "Growing up, my dad would take my brother and me to the North Maine Woods for camping trips. They were so full of adventure," he explains. "I was taught at an early age to appreciate the wilderness and I have ever since."

Cloutier began sharing that appreciation with his three kids as soon as they were old enough to enjoy it. "When the time presented itself, I brought them to canoe the Allagash and the West Branch of the Penobscot," he says. Over the years, his love of paddling has only grown. "I really got back into canoeing within the last six or seven years. I really appreciate the peace and quiet of a canoe trip," he says. After buying a fixer-upper a few years ago, Cloutier began to gain a new set of skills:

woodworking. "The house needed a ton of work," he remembers. "I learned by trial and error as I went about it."

Over time, Cloutier's skills developed a new way for him to engage with the outdoor world. He connected with like-minded friends on social media and decided to build a canoe by hand. He credits Gil Gilpatrick's book *Building a Cedar Strip Canoe* and engaging with other canoe builders for keeping him inspired. "Now I'm restoring a 1930's Chestnut Chum Wood Canvas canoe which I hope to take on a late fall trip this year," he says.

In the meantime, Cloutier shares his progress on social media through his YouTube channel ([youtube.com/channel/UCzQ6-QhZPMF9vXFmyy-b2Ig](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQ6-QhZPMF9vXFmyy-b2Ig)) and Instagram presence. His followers are fellow adventurers and fans who appreciate his care, patience, and sense of purpose.

"I've learned over the years that if you take care of yourself, your family, and your friends, everything else will take care of itself." ■

## CLASS NOTES

### 1955

Leroy Evrard is retired and resides in Harpswell, Maine, with his wife, Jean.

### 1964

Thomas Oughton writes, "I miss sailing and the sea, but I'm still plugging along maintaining our small farm of asparagus and blueberries."

### 1965



Jay Kerney, pictured here in Morocco, has been nominated for the Maritime Administration's Merchant Marine Medal for Outstanding Achievement for a heroic incident that occurred while he was a student in 1961. The nomination, supported by Peter Wurschy, classmate and Regimental Commander in 1965, was resubmitted March 2022 and awaits final disposition.

An upperclassman received third degree burns over 35 percent of his body as he accidentally vaulted hip-deep into an open pit of boiling water in the school's steam lab. The water had been drained from a boiler just minutes before. The victim's scream attracted Jay's attention, a freshman assistant watchman. Jay yanked the victim to the lab floor. Further injury was averted as he immediately started removing portions of the victim's clothing. Jay sustained injuries as well, recalling "the injuries that I sustained were painful but superficial burns on my hands and forearms. The

paramedics on the scene treated the burns with some type of ointment and bandaged me up. I remember being asked if I wanted to be relieved or return to my duty station. I elected to return to my duty station in the steam lab as it was about 2300 hours and it was only a short time before I was to be relieved by the midnight to 0400 watch." Good luck, Jay.

### 1965



Sam Rowe wrote this spring that he was "visiting some friends from the Sonatrach LNG plant near Oran and a power plant that I worked at near Algiers. Side trip to Istanbul planned for July." Rowe lives in Mashpee, Mass.

### 1965



The Class of 1965 has been staying in contact by conducting monthly Zoom gatherings and have decided to hold a summer reunion on campus each year. Glad to oblige, '65ers!

### 1965



Dennis Driscoll visited his classmates during their class

gathering this summer, while his family visited the Academy Bookstore! Thank you, Driscoll family, for proudly wearing your MMA swag.

### 1966

Russ Kniehl and wife, Sue, from Connecticut recently vacationed in Boothbay Harbor, Maine. They were able to get together for dinner with classmate Henry "Sky" Woods and wife, Kitty, who were vacationing from New Mexico.

### 1966

Peter Newton retired from Westinghouse as General Manager in 2013. He's still performing consulting work in the nuclear industry and reaping the benefits of his MMA experience.

### 1967



Following their summer reunion, classmates from '67 attended the 2022 Homecoming as well. Pictured are John Hess, Ron Cochran, Fred Atkins, Dan Dayton, and Bob Tasker.

### 1968



Catching up on Sea Stories in August 2022 in Scarborough: Jack Cornforth '68, Mitch Walker '71, and Marty Macisso '73. Thanks to Capt. Wade for sharing.

### 1969

Robert Chester writes, "I retired after 42 years as the Director of Engineering for a hospital on Long Island. My wife, Sue, and I are enjoying retirement in Florida. It was great to see so many of my 1969 class for our 50th reunion."

### 1970

Ron Cramer has reported that he has retired to Hancock, Maine.

### 1972

Capt. Steven Palmer, past president and board member of the Boston Marine Society, reported to President Paul '89 that the BMS voted to disburse \$35,000 to MMA for scholarships and \$20,000 for upgrades to the T/V *Susan Clark*. Capt. Palmer is a member of the board of directors for Moran Shipping Agencies, Inc.

### 1973



The board of directors of the Sail, Power, and Steam Museum recently added Tom Norton to their ranks. Currently a resident of Islesboro, Maine, Norton grew up in the maritime influences of Hampton Roads, Virginia, where small boats gave way to tugs, and tugs gave way to commercial ships. An MMA graduate convinced him to enroll at MMA. Following graduation, Norton pursued a marine engineering career which saw him circumnavigate the globe in ships as an engineer, repair ships in shipyards worldwide as a superintendent engineer, and construct new ships as a project manager during his 50-plus year career.



# Paying it Forward

Clarence Snyder '71 took time out from Homecoming festivities to talk about the class of '71's scholarship it offers to support students wanting to attend MMA. Snyder is one of three brothers who graduated from MMA: Ron '73 became a ship's captain, Lew '75 is a chief engineer, and Clarence retired as a product manager.

"We succeeded beyond our parents' wildest dreams because of both the financial support and guidance of others," said Snyder. "Time to pay it back."

The Class of '71 scholarship is one of 25 class scholarship funds and has been in existence for almost 20 years. Their current scholarship recipient is Avia Hathorn. Hathorn grew up in Clinton, Miss. "I chose MMA because of its reputation with the maritime industry," she said. "Coming here, I knew my education would be top tier and provide me with a successful career.



This past summer, I had the opportunity to work in a shipyard with the engineer and project manager. I absolutely loved it and can see myself working there or in a similar place. I definitely enjoy the shipyard more than the office!" ■

Left to right: Bernie Madden, Fred Terrien, Avia Hathorn (scholarship recipient), Pete Longley, Bruce Woodman, and Clarence Snyder. Missing: Steve Dick, Dave Dodge, Curt Nehring, and Steve Washington.

## 1974

John Fronce is retired and lives with his wife, Pamela, in Grove City, Ohio.

## 1975

Kurt Passon states, "Looking back no remorse. What an insane adventure a maritime life was. I'm still telling show-stopping sea stories."

## 1976



From a thread of a class agent email sent to classmates, we saved this picture (among

many) shared from Jeff Potter's wedding (circa 1978). In attendance are Galen Howes, Paul Lenfest, Potter, Les Eadie, and Dave Witherill (class agent).

## 1977

James Earley retired as chief engineer of SL-7 in 2006, and from the Arthur Kill Generating Station in 2015. His hobbies include tuna fishing and vacationing in Marathon, Fla. in February and March.

## 1978



The *General Rudder*, the 224-foot training vessel of Texas A&M, Galveston, visited Castine for a few days this summer. MMA students were aboard accumulating required seetime. Also onboard were alumni Mark Nickerson, sailing as chief engineer, and Bill Gamage '88, first engineer.

## 1978



Class agent Ed Gagnon passed along that Tom Cromwell retired last July after 43 years with ConocoPhilips Polar

Tankers and lives in Carrabasset Valley, Maine. He also included a picture of Cromwell and eight of his classmates on an excursion boat out of Portsmouth, N.H. Pictured (l. to r.) are Cromwell, Larry James, Tim Higgins, Glenn Brewer, Larry Whittaker, George Lay, Tom Burrill, Dave Cornell, and Paul Ducheny.

## 1979

In July 2022, Governor Ron DeSantis announced the reappointment of Michael Jaccoma to the Board of Pilot Commissioners. Jaccoma is a harbor pilot for Biscayne Bay Pilots. He currently serves as vice chairman on the Board of Pilot Commissioners and has been actively engaged in the piloting profession in the state of Florida since 1988.

## 1979

Mark Pulkkinen retired on September 30, 2021, with 39 years of (civil service) working for the U.S. Navy as a port engineer.

## 1979

David Sapone writes from the Washington Navy Yard, "After 28 years in the Navy building, operating, and decommissioning ships, I've spent the last 15 years with the Naval Sea Systems command and Program Executive Office ships. Over the last eleven years I've had the pleasure of administering the post delivery schedule for thirteen new ships provided to Military Sealift Command and have another seven ships under construction. Life is good."

## 1979

Upon graduation, Charles "Chuck" Shuster sailed the Great Lakes before enlisting in the U.S. Coast Guard as a marine inspector. After six years, he left the Coast Guard and worked as a naval architect for Supervisor of Shipbuilding, making modifications to U.S. Naval ships. From there, he moved on to Brookhaven National Laboratory (BLN) where he held a variety of positions in the medical, nuclear, and mechanical fields. While employed by BNL, Shuster earned his MBA from Dowling College as well as an associate degree in nursing. He retired from BNL as a facility manager in 2012 and immediately began working as a registered nurse at St. Charles Hospital. He and Betty, his wife of 33 years, have seven grandchildren. They split their time between their homes on Long Island and Ormond Beach, Fla. Shuster is planning his next, and final, retirement within the next year. He thanks MMA for the education and training that assisted him throughout his varied careers.

## 1979



Class of 1979 had a get together at Small Point, Maine, in May at Leo and Lisa Hill's cottage. From left to right: Hill, John Ingram, Michael Donovan, Steve Colfer, Chris Sweetser, and Kyp Johnson. Hill reports, "Fun time had by all!"

## 1982

Ian Craven is retired and living in Bucksport, Maine.

## 1982

Dr. Marc Gousse has joined the MMA team as the assistant admissions director. Retiring as the superintendent of the Mount Desert Island school system, Gousse will be responsible for recruiting strategies and conducting prospective student information programming in Maine.

## 1983



The *El Faro Salute!* memorial, conceived and created by Jay Sawyer, was dedicated on Sept. 24, 2022, on the shores of Rockland, Maine, overlooking the harbor. An estimated 700 people, including family members of those lost in the 2015 maritime tragedy, were in attendance. Of the 33 crew members lost, five were MMA alumni.

## 1983

Timothy Mitchell works for DTE Energy Services and lives in Saline, Michigan.

## 1984

Jeff Cockburn has joined the MMA Admissions staff as assistant admissions director.

## 1984

Ann Dundon retired after 21 years at Mount Desert Island Hospital's Community Health Center as a physician assistant. During her time at MDI Hospital, Dundon specialized in family practice medicine.

## 1984

Brian Moore, PhD PE, writes to us that "after 10 years in California on a hiatus away from academia, managing major construction projects for the California Department of Water Resources, I have returned to Georgia with my wife of 19 years, Yin. On July 1, I begin at Kennesaw State University as department chair and tenured full Professor of Construction Management, a title I held at a previous Georgia university 10 years ago." The Moores live in Marietta, Ga.

## 1984

Class Agent Jamie Hutton reports to his classmates, "Dear Class of '84, I can proudly say that we have two classmates, Sandy Cameron (chief engineer) and Frank Porcellini (mate) who are sailing on the T/V *State of Maine* on the training cruise (currently in the Azores). Also, Dave Gelinas piloted the ship to sea from Castine Harbor, as he does every year. I believe that these are the most meaningful ways that a grad can give back to our alma mater and I think it's so cool that three are from our class. Bravo Zulu!"

## 1984



On July 6, at the Camden Yacht Club, Penobscot Bay & River Pilots Association President David Gelinas gave a presentation on how pilots guide large vessels through the bay. The free public presentation, part of the Camden Yacht Club's Sunset Seminars series, also described the workings of Maine's State Pilotage System and told how recreational boaters can interact safely with piloted vessels. In addition, Captain Gelinas shared personal stories from his longtime experience as a pilot and welcomed questions from the audience.

## 1987



On June 9, 2022, Tom Lord joined MMA President Jerry Paul '89 at the 44th Annual Silver Bell Awards Dinner of the Seamen's Church Institute of New York & New Jersey in New York City. This year, the event honored all of America's maritime academies with the Silver Bell Award.

## 1989

Richard Balzano, CEO of Dredging Contractors of America, was interviewed by Eric Hahn, editor of *Marine News* for an article that appeared in the May 9, 2022 online edition of MarineLink.com.



## 1989



James Gompper reports, "I accepted a position as Commandant of Cadets at Texas A&M Maritime Academy in May of 2022, just in time to embark on TS *Kennedy* for the TAMMA summer sea term."

## 1991

Craig Johnson stepped away from Flagship Management, LLC, and returned to his alma mater, taking on the responsibilities of chief operating officer. "Maine Maritime is where I started my career. This is a great opportunity to contribute to the Academy and the industry and allows my family to return to our Maine roots," says Johnson.

## 1992

Earl White and wife, Heidi Latvala White, are residing in Turku, Finland, a city and former capital on the southwest coast of Finland at the mouth of the Aura River.

## 1992

John Flowers is a senior software developer for Backblaze. He and wife, Caroline, live in Erie, Colorado.

## 1993

In September 2021, Peter Mento was appointed the global head of products and procurement for Wayfair.com's global supply chain. In this role, he is responsible for the strategy of their international supply chain supporting their e-commerce platform that serves their global suppliers. This challenge

includes sourcing the transportation solutions to fulfill them. Also, Mento recently accepted a three-year appointment to the Federal Maritime Commission's National Shipper Advisory Committee. The committee advises the Commission on policies relating to the competitiveness, reliability, integrity, and fairness of the international ocean freight delivery system.

## 1994

Brian Jones has been appointed to serve a second term on the U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Transportation System National Advisory Committee (MTSNAC). The purpose of the Committee is to provide information and recommendations to MARAD and USDOT on matters relating to the maritime transportation system and its seamless integration into the broader transportation system. Jones is employed by Nucor Corporation as International Logistics Manager and resides in Charlotte, N.C., with his wife, Ellen, and their daughter, Teagan.

## 1994

Frank Pecor, a graduate of the Bath Iron Works apprenticeship program, is a systems engineer for the Naval Information Warfare Center Atlantic and lives in Farmingdale, Maine.

## 1994

Stephen Riedel is a trade compliance officer for Saab, Inc. He stated there is "nothing significant to report or publish . . . just moving and updating my address." Riedel now lives in Battle Ground, Ind.

## 1995

Brian Grenham is a field engineer for General Electric and lives in Winthrop, Maine.

## 1995

David Wesner is an operator for Hammett Boat, Inc., of Newport, R.I., and lives in Little Compton, R.I., with wife, Johanna.

## 1996

Capt. Greg E. Baker turned over command of Amphibious Squadron 11 to Capt. Kelly T. Fletcher in a ceremony aboard USS *New Orleans* (LPD 18), June 10. A prior Navy cryptologic technician, Baker joined the Navy in 1983 and commissioned after graduating from the Maine Maritime Academy in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in Ocean Studies. He served aboard USS *Anchorage* (LSD 36), USS *Enterprise* (CVN 65), and USS *Harpers Ferry* (LSD 49), in addition to commanding the Amphibious Squadron 11 staff. He was the executive officer of USS *San Antonio* (LPD 17), the commanding officer of USS *Arlington* (LPD 24), and both XO and CO of USS *Wasp* (LHD 1). Baker's tour as the commodore of Amphibious Squadron 11 included major exercises and operations for seven ships and embarked elements of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, including Talisman Sabre (TS) 21, Large Scale Global Exercise (LSGE) 21, Cobra Gold 22 and Balikatan 22, as well as bilateral cooperative deployments with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), the Royal Australian Navy, the Royal Netherlands Navy, and the British Royal Navy's UK Carrier Strike Group (CSG-21) led by HMS *Queen Elizabeth* (R08). "This team, despite everything it had stacked against it, COVID or otherwise, did tremendous things across Seventh Fleet," said Baker. "I sincerely believe that we were able to demonstrate to the region, specifically, and the world writ large, that the Forward Deployed Naval Forces Japan Amphibious Ready Group

(ARG) and the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit are a ready force, truly able to bring decisive combat power to our enemy at the time and place of our choosing. This team, combined with our partner nations, stands ready to defeat any aggressor or provide assistance anywhere in the region to those in need."

Baker cultivated a strong relationship with the JMSDF's Amphibious and Mine Warfare Force, Landing Division 1, building a foundation for an enduring partnership and reassuring bilateral presence, operating interchangeably on a regular basis aboard each other's platforms. Fletcher previously served as the commanding officer of USS *Essex* (LHD 2).

Upon command of Amphibious Squadron 11, Capt. Fletcher said, "My goal is to lead this great staff, this team, the entire ARG and all their leaders, with that gut, guile, and imagination we need to succeed. To everyone here, I absolutely look forward to working with you." A prior Navy electronics technician, Fletcher enlisted in the Navy in 1986 and later graduated from the University of Arizona and received her commission through the Enlisted Commissioning Program in 1997. She served at sea aboard USS *Paul F. Foster* (DD 964), USS *Milius* (DDG 69), USS *Tortuga* (LSD 46), USS *Fort McHenry* (LSD 43) and USS *Vella Gulf* (CG 72). She was the executive officer and commanding officer of USS *Harpers Ferry* (LSD 49) and served on the staff of Carrier Strike Group 10.

## 1996

Chad Friend reports that he is currently working as a senior dynamic positioning officer at Noble Corp., an offshore drilling company, and continuing to build a ranch and meat processing business in eastern Tennessee.

## 1996



Capt. Jason Smith, Commander, Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston was grateful to be part of three events in recognition of this year's Coast Guard Day: Coast Guard proclamation presentation from Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, reading of a Coast Guard resolution by Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, and official cutting of the cake with other commanding officers and USO-Houston during Coast Guard Day celebrations. Smith said, "Thank you, City of Houston, Harris County, and USO-Houston for not only welcoming the 1,700 Coast Guard women and men in the area, but honoring them!" Happy 232nd Birthday, Coast Guard.

## 1999

Rob Cody was recently promoted to senior capital project manager at ND Paper in Old Town, Maine. Cody lives in Milford.

## 2000



After a career in service to the Navy, and most recently to the Department of Justice as a trial lawyer, Thomas Brown has entered private practice. He is a law partner with Simms Showers, LLP, Baltimore, Md., where he will continue practicing in the areas of

admiralty and maritime law, aviation and space law, defense contracting, construction, and government investigations.

## 2004

Sean Varney and family have moved back to Maine. Varney is an engineering consultant for Strategic Maintenance Solutions, Inc., in Gorham, and has assumed the duties of Class Agent. His wife, Rhonda, has resumed her position as executive assistant to the MMA President. They live in Bucksport with sons Dylan (15) and Tyler (12).

## 2004

Matt Burns was named executive director of the Maine Port Authority in May 2022. Burns spent 13 years as a deck officer in the maritime industry and joined the Maine Department of Transportation in 2017 as the director of ports and marine transportation. The Maine Port Authority plans, develops, maintains, and promotes port and intermodal facilities across the state to stimulate commerce and enhance the global competitiveness for the future wealth and prosperity of Maine.

## 2004

Marcus von Spiegelfeld recently left his position at Transocean as captain and offshore installation manager to take a position with Crowley Offshore Wind Services as the vessel operations manager. In his new position, he will be working with offshore wind developers to provide marine solutions for the development of offshore wind farms.

## 2005

Amy Puleo Sison recently earned her Doctor of Education degree from the University of New England. She is the Associate Dean of Graduate Enrollment at Wentworth Institute of

Technology in Boston and lives with her husband, Pete, on Plum Island, Mass.

## 2005

Matthew Talbot, a 21-year veteran with the Maine Marine Patrol, has been promoted to Colonel. Col. Talbot joined the Marine Patrol in 2001 after completing the Maine Criminal Justice Academy's Basic Law Enforcement Training Program.

## 2006

Jenna Giguere '08 and Vernon Giguere '06 have two sons, Grayson and Jasper. Jenna is working as deputy legal counsel to the Rhode Island Senate President and Vernon as Sr. Manager of Supply Chain Innovation at CVS.

## 2007

Christopher Gregoricus has "taken a break from shipping which I have done for the last 15 years, sailing as captain for four of those years. I took a land job to be home more with my family and to see my kids grow up." Gregoricus and family live in Saco, Maine.

## 2008

Ben Hart is a commercial technical director for General Electric. Hart and wife, Carole '08, live in Arlington, Mass. with children, Beecher (12) and Coralie (10).

## 2008

Ned O'Connor started a new position as senior mechanical facilities scheduler at General Dynamics-Bath Iron Works in September 2022.

## 2010

Kurt Pullman was the subject of an employee profile by Seattle City Light (SCL) in the June 2022 e-newsletter "Powerlines." Pullman provides leadership

to SCL System Operations Center, which includes a group of professionals and support staff who monitor, control, and direct real-time operations of SCL electric transmission and distribution systems, as well as its hydro projects. Kurt, his wife, Katie, and their son, Grant, live in Queen Anne, Wash.

## 2010



Capt. Gabriel LaRoche and Chief Mate Tyler Leith '11 are working together on the Tug *Copper Mountain*, hauling diesel between Tampa and New Orleans. The tug was in drydock for repairs in June 2022. Both live in Maine, LaRoche in Greene and Leith in Waterford. LaRoche has been captain of the *Copper Mountain* for three and a half years, Leith started with the company in May.

## 2010

Clint Marcus is a physical scientist for NOAA and lives in Portsmouth, Va.

## 2011

Capt. Mary Hutchins of Moran Towing Corp. has announced her engagement to James Stasinis, principal owner of Stasinis Marine, LLC.

## 2012

Adam Tanguay reports that he "just finished a 15-year career as a marine electrician with Bath Iron Works, and is now starting a new career with the Boeing Company's Defense branch as a field service representative to BIW." Tanguay lives in Hebron, Maine.



## HONORS & ACCOLADES

# NOAA Employee of the Year

The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) chose Morgan Miller '09 as its Worldwide Employee of the Year for 2020. NOAA recognized Morgan for her "leadership, perseverance, and hard work in the observer program and on the employee council in challenging times during the global pandemic."

Morgan is from Freeport, Maine, and has been with NOAA since 2010. She is currently a fisheries biologist for Fisheries under the Sustainable Fisheries Division (SFD). She is stationed in Hawaii and lives in Honolulu. She trains observers on data collection, safety measures, species identification, and compliance issues. She analyzes data collected by observers aboard commercial longline fishing vessels and debriefs observers when they return from sea to ensure the quality of data and samples. She uses data validation programs to identify database anomalies and data entry errors to ensure data quality. She verifies the accuracy of catch, fishing effort, and fishing gear data.

Earlier in her NOAA career Morgan was a fisheries observer and received training and collected data for:

- North Pacific GroundFish Observer Program
- At-sea Hake Program
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game Shellfish Program
- Alaska Marine Mammal Observer Program
- West Coast Catch Shares Observer Program
- International Halibut Commission
- Pacific Island Regions Observer Program

In 2021, Morgan enlisted in the United States Navy. Her rate is Information Technology Specialist, and she is currently a reservist at the Navy Reserve Center at Pearl Harbor.

Recalling her days at MMA, Morgan said her favorite classes were botany and ecology, adding that Dr. Jessica Muhlin and Dr. Jim McKenna were very influential in her career path. Dr. Muhlin remembers Morgan as one of her first students when she arrived at MMA. "One of the characteristics I admire most about Morgan," says Dr. Muhlin, "is that she has always been willing to reach out and ask for feedback, even after she graduated. A number of times she has left a message on my phone (Hawaii time!) checking in, letting me know what is happening with her, and asking me to be a sounding board for career ideas. I also remember Morgan was a member of the now-defunct Maritones, MMA's a cappella group. She often had a solo in the group's 'Castine Roads' rendition of 'Country Roads.'"

Morgan remains a proud MMA alum. "MMA exposed me to vessel and biology training which led me to where I am today. I was lucky to come to MMA for my education." ■



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## CLASS NOTES

### 2013



Eric von Hohenleiten and Katie Anne Dever held their wedding aboard the windjammer *Angelique* homeported in Camden, Maine. The best man and matron of honor were Ben Labbe '14 and Samantha Bridger, and the ceremony was officiated by Captain Dennis Gallant. Both graduates of MMA, von Hohenleiten is a second assistant engineer for the *Arc Integrity* and Dever is a maritime analyst for the federal government.

### 2013

James Michie is a chief mate for Transocean and lives in Millersville, Md.

### 2014

Chanwoo Choe is a senior dynamic positioning officer for Seadrill. He, wife, April, and newborn, Bennet, (April 2022) live in Scarborough, Maine.

### 2014

Tucker Doane shared that he has taken a position as a marine fuel advisor for FUELTRAX, a smart, self-contained fuel management solution to meet the challenges facing today's commercial marine operators. Doane lives in Galveston, Texas.

### 2015

Alexandra Slotkin and Jacob Merk married in 2018. Both work for ConocoPhillips; Slotkin is shoreside and Merk sails as second mate for Polar Tankers. The couple lives in Houston, Texas.

### 2015



Alexandria Martin Hagan sent in a beautiful photo, noting, "After seven years on the water, my husband and I decided it was time to take a break and start a family. Elliott Wendell Hagan was born May 6, 2022." Congratulations!

### 2015



Kurt C. Borkman reports, "Over the past seven years I've been sailing with Military Sealift Command, and I had a folding bicycle with me that I used to bike around a lot of ports around the world. I just left Military Sealift Command to work on

my chief mate's license and start a new chapter. I decided to come back to MMA for Homecoming to get back in touch and see everyone again."

### 2016



Molly Marcotte has taken her passion for fitness and turned it into a full-time career as owner of Bulwark Fitness, LLC. Marcotte is a personal trainer certified by the National Academy of Sports Medicine and offers personal training, weight loss coaching, and nutritional and weight loss specialist services. Marcotte lives in East Boothbay, Maine.

### 2016

Charles Salerno has started a new position as chief mate at Overseas Shipholding Group.

### 2016

Walter Bailey is the manager of sales for Solenis, LLC. He and wife, Nicole, live in West Gardiner, Maine.

### 2016

Brian Goda writes, "Happy to share that after many months of reading and studying, I obtained my CLTD (Certified in

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Logistics, Transportation and Distribution) through American Production and Inventory Control Society (APICS) and the Association of Supply Chain Management (ASCM).” Goda works at Abbott and resides in Westbrook, Maine.

## 2017



College sweethearts, Morgan Maxwell and Tyler Gilson, got married June 18, 2022, in Oxford, Maine, surrounded by many of their MMA friends!

## 2017

Cory Eastup is sailing as an engineer for Moran Towing and lives in Blacksburg, S.C.

## 2018

Peyton (Ward) Penney reports that she has been promoted to assistant vice president, Commercial Real Estate Valuation Analyst at Bangor Savings Bank. She lives in Hermon, Maine, with husband, Dylan '15.

## 2019

U.S. Senator Susan Collins met with Emine Mutlu, a recent fellow with the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Youth Professionals that is held



in Germany. Emine—a Hancock native—previously served as an intern the Washington, D.C. and Bangor offices of Senator Collins. “It was wonderful to welcome Emine back to my D.C. office and discuss her experience participating in the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program,” said Senator Collins.

## 2020

Nikia Levesque has been promoted to vice president for marketing for Day’s Jewelers.



Starting as a service specialist for the eight-store chain at age 16, Levesque’s new position will provide leadership, guidance, and career development training for Day’s Jewelers’ entire marketing team. She will also oversee the Day’s website and e-commerce division, as well as serve on the company’s executive board.

## 2021

Lila Eldridge, sailing as third mate, was featured in the September 2022 Crowley Corp. announcement of their membership and sponsorship of the Women Offshore Foundation.

## 2021

Colby Clarke was named Waterville Panther’s boys’ soccer coach. While at MMA, Clarke was captain of the soccer team during his senior year. He graduated with a B.S. in international business and logistics and is pursuing his master’s degree in investment management and financial analysis from Creighton University.

## 2021

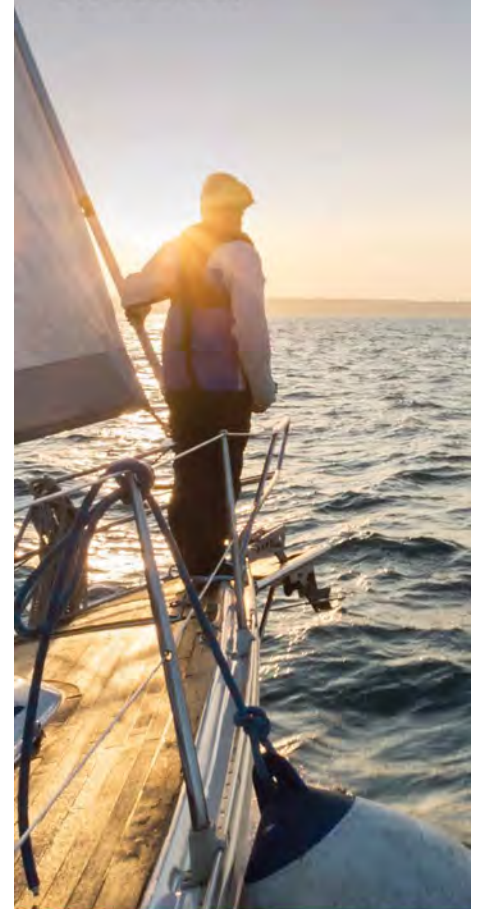
Keith Jordan is a commissioning engineer for Black and Veatch, an employee-owned, global leader in building critical human infrastructure in energy, water, telecommunications and government services. Jordan lives in Waltham, Maine.

## 2022

Lucas Healy of Lakewood, Ohio, was president of the campus sustainability club at MMA and advocated for renewable energy curriculum to be taught on campus to prepare students for clean energy careers. Healy and his team built an operational wind turbine and testing facility for faculty to integrate into their classes. ■

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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.*

## **CAPT. ROBERT M. CALDER '43-1**

died December 29, 2021. Calder was executive director of the Boston Shipping Association, a former president of the Port of Boston, former first vice president of the Port of New Orleans, and a former president of the Port of Baltimore. He had been employed by United Fruit Co. for twenty-six years. Calder was a past president of the Maritime Club of Baltimore and the Boston Harbor Association and was a past vice president of the National Propeller Club. He was also a director of the Maritime Association of Greater Boston and was a member of the National Association of Maritime Exchanges, the North Atlantic Ports Association, and the Navy League of the United States.

## **CAPT. WILLIAM F. BRENNAN, CDR, USN (RET) '43-2**

passed away on September 28, 2022. Known by many as Captain "B," Brennan was born in Brockton, Mass. Upon finishing high school, his parents drove him to the Kents Hill School to burnish his academic record so he could attend Boston College. World War II got in the way of those plans and set him on a course that would eventually make Maine his home. Brennan enrolled as a midshipman in the just-established MMA. Upon graduation, he took a commission as an ensign in the U.S. Navy. His first Navy assignment also became his first command as the captain of a 110-foot sub chaser, and he spent the war sailing in both Pacific and Atlantic waters. Following the war, he went to Pensacola, Fla., for flight training and the beginning of the next part of his career as a Naval aviator. In 1966, Brennan retired from the Navy and returned to his alma mater, as the Academy's first Commandant of Midshipmen. For twenty years, he helped develop the college, its facilities, programs, and most importantly, the regiment of young men and women entrusted to his care. Brennan retired from the Academy in 1982 and he and

his wife moved to Falmouth, where he began his third career—giving back in service to others. For more than twenty years, he volunteered his time to several organizations in southern Maine. Over his life, he demonstrated to the world that he was very much a humanist. He understood human frailties and encouraged others with strength, compassion, and affection.

## **ARNOLD C. SANDERS, SR. '43-2**

died peacefully on April 5, 2017. In 1940, he attended Dartmouth College majoring in economics. In 1942, he left Dartmouth to attend MMA and subsequently joined the U.S. Navy and served until 1946. In 1955, he was transferred to Elmhurst, Ill., working for US Gypsum. He took a position as marketing manager with Kaiser Aluminum which brought the family to California in 1959. After he received his brokerage license, he finished his working career as a stockbroker with Morgan Stanley. He loved his life on the lake with his old wooden boat, cruising the lake and chasing sunsets with family and friends. He had a dry sense of humor and was a man of few words, but led by example in his kindness, honesty, integrity, and loyalty.

## **LYNWOOD C. HARIVEL '44**

passed away April 26, 2022. He lived in Jupiter, Fla.

## **JEREMIAH J. MCCARTHY '47**

died April 13, 2022. He graduated from Cheverus High School, Portland, Maine, and MMA. McCarthy served with the U.S. Merchant Marines. He was employed in the engineering department with Commercial Union Insurance Company for thirty years. He was longtime communicant of Saint Pius X Church, where he served as a Eucharistic minister and altar server. Deeply devoted to his faith, he held membership in the Legion of One Thousand Men of the Monastery of the Precious Blood as well as the Knights of Columbus. He will be remembered for his kind, gentlemanly ways.

## **CAPT. LLOYD D. LOWELL '50**

passed away May 17, 2022. He graduated from Morse High School (Bath, Maine) and MMA. Following service with the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, he moved to New Jersey. He was employed for 32 years by United States Lines, Inc., achieving the rank of captain. Lowell was a member of the Masons, Shrine, and the Scottish Rite. For many years, he volunteered at the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath.

## **RENE G. GAGNE '51**

died Sept. 24, 2022. Upon graduation from MMA, Gagne sailed with Farrell Lines for seven years and then worked for the Hartford Steam Boiler Insurance Co. for thirty-three years until his retirement. Gagne was an avid Biddeford Tiger fan and volunteered for more than twenty-two years with the Biddeford Athletic Association in various roles, including maintaining Waterhouse Field and earning the moniker "Mr. Fix-It." He enjoyed cheering on his grandchildren at sporting events, Special Olympics, and other school events. He shared his love of nature with fishing trips to frozen lakes, isolated northern locations, and to the "secret hole."

## **MYRON R. SAWYER '51**

passed away on September 26, 2022. Sawyer graduated from Deering High School in Portland, Maine, and MMA. In the 1950s he moved to Boston to attend MIT, graduating with degrees in naval architecture & marine engineering and shipping & ship building management. These degrees led to a career in tanker construction, shipping analysis, and finance. Retirement afforded Sawyer and his wife the opportunity to return to Maine, and they settled in Damariscotta. In retirement, Sawyer became an active member of the Portland Marine Society, apprenticed at the Carpenter's Boat Shop in Pemaquid, and volunteered for the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath. He returned to MMA as a guest lecturer, Alumni Board Director, and mentor.



He worked to research and restore the Highland Cemetery in Nobleboro. He also continued his father's work in genealogy, tracking his family back through the 1600s.

### **THEODORE TRUMAN '51**

died peacefully May 12, 2022. Truman graduated from Biddeford High (president of his senior class) and MMA. Truman spent several years at sea as an engineering officer on cargo and passenger ships sailing around the world. He had a two-year tour of duty in the U.S. Navy on the USS *Wacamaw* and then partnered in many businesses with his brothers. Truman served in the 103rd Maine legislature. He was inducted into the MMA Wall of Honor and served on their board of directors for ten years. He served on boards for St. Andre Hospital, Pepperell Trust Bank, and the Royal Palm Yacht and Country Club. Truman valued helping others and giving back to the community. He and his wife were active in tennis, golf, and croquet tournaments and competed in some of the finest facilities around the country. One highlight was when they were two of only two hundred people in the world that chased Haley's Comet from Miami to South America on a British Airlines' Concorde, literally traveling to the edge of space in 1986.

### **CAPT. SULLIVAN W. REED, USN (RET.) '54**

passed away July 28, 2020. He was a Rockland High School graduate and later attended MMA, graduating fifth in his class. Reed served his country proudly and with honor in the U.S. Navy for thirty-one years. He began on his first ship, the USS *Vancouver*, as an engineering officer. He earned the rank of Commanding Officer/Captain of the USS *Compton* out of Boston. His last assignment was the Military Sealift Command Atlantic which took him to Greenland. A highlight of Reed's career was when he and his father, Carl S. Reed, stood side by side on the bridge of the USS *Compton*, when he had the honor of bringing it to his hometown of Owls Head for the town's fiftieth anniversary. Reed was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy in 1985 and returned to Owls Head to be with his family. During retirement, Reed enjoyed over twenty years of annual trips to Hyder, Alaska, and enjoyed many stops along the way, including casinos to try his luck, and to his favorite "all-you-can-eat" buffets where Reed crafted the skill of timing and

attention to detail to ensure the freshest servings. Reed was extremely proud of his twenty years of sobriety, during which he sponsored and helped support numerous individuals through the AA organization. He had a quiet strength and no-nonsense attitude which made him an invaluable support to anyone needing help.

### **BERNARD W. SEILE '54**

passed peacefully August 3, 2022. Seile was a graduate of MMA and served in the U.S. Navy from 1956 to 1958, followed by several years in ship building, including as chief engineer at Sun Ship and VP at Bull & Roberts. He and his wife were the owners and operators of several print shops for many years until his retirement. Seile was a communicant of St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church and was a member of Abnaki Council #334 Third Degree Knights of Columbus and Abnaki Assembly #346 Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus. He was a devoted husband and father who cherished time with his family and capturing the special moments in their lives through photography.

### **CMDR. JOHN E. OLIVER, USN (RET.) '55**

died on July 9, 2022. He was educated in Bath, Maine, and at MMA where he received a BS in engineering. After serving one year in the Merchant Marine, he entered the U.S. Navy in July 1956. He served aboard the USS *Muliphen* (AKA-61). Her mission was carrying Marine Force personnel and equipment to invasion beaches. His next assignment was aboard the USS *Antares* (AKS-33), a support ship for Fleet of Ballistic Missiles (FBM). He was working as Damage Control Officer on the USS *Forrestal* (CVA-59) during a disaster where 134 brave men died. He was Commanding Officer of the Reserve Training Center at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, where he also gave assistance to dependents of POWs in Vietnam. In retirement he helped with the restoration of a golf course and trained and showed Labrador Retrievers.

### **KENNETH W. BARSTOW '57**

passed away on May 5, 2022. Upon graduating from MMA in 1957, Barstow entered the U.S. Navy. He served as a Surface Warfare Officer for over twenty-two years with diplomatic and staff assignments in Quito, Ecuador and Yokosuka, Japan. A burgeoning artist, expert cook, and shameless punster, Barstow was above all

a consummate family man with a list of friends that both filled Clinton, Conn., and circled the globe.

### **CAPT. STANLEY P. QUINN, JR. '57**

passed away on January 9, 2022. Born in Boston and raised in Spring Lake, N.J., he spent summers on Sebago Lake in Maine. He graduated from Admiral Farragut Academy in 1954 and MMA in 1957. His classmates recognized him as the infamous receiver of sugar sheets (love letters), after inventing the world-renowned "Quinn Letter Recorder" and was nicknamed the "Romeo of the Class of '57." Quinn was a U.S. Merchant Marine and sailed around the world with Maersk, Sealand, and the United States Lines, including on one of the largest container ships afloat. He also served in the U.S. Coast Guard and Naval Reserves. He was a member of the Raymond (Maine) Fire Department, building one of the first fire stations on Main Street in Raymond, and served as deputy fire chief. When not at sea, he owned and operated Lakeland Sand & Gravel. Quinn enjoyed windsurfing, sailing, fishing, and boating on Sebago Lake, as well as surfing on the N.J. and Fla. shores. After receiving the rank of captain, he continued to sail until retiring to Florida where he played a lot of golf and enjoyed exploring the botanical gardens and other natural habitats of Florida. He began flipping houses as a hobby before settling in the Daytona Beach area. He was a member of the St. Augustine Jazz Society, Jacksonville and Daytona Beach Boppers, and Daytona Beach Moose Lodge.

### **WAYNE F. WARDWELL '57**

passed away on July 24, 2022. Wardwell graduated from MMA in 1957. For the next two years, Wardwell traveled the world with the Merchant Marines, later in life enthusiastically sharing the stories of his adventures with his children and grandchildren. Upon his return, he attended the Nuclear Power School in Goose Creek, South Carolina, and then served as a lieutenant junior grade, in the United States Navy Reserve from 1959 to 1968. While serving his country, Wardwell went on to positions at Bethlehem Steel and Texas Instruments. At Texas Instruments, he began working on components for both the Apollo 11 and 13 NASA missions, ultimately serving in several management positions at Texas Instruments, Attleboro, Mass., and Mexico. After retirement, Wardwell moved

## EIGHT BELLS

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to Vero Beach, Fla., where he served as president of the Vero Beach Alzheimer's Association, was a member of the Orchid Island Rotary Club of Vero Beach, and enjoyed time with friends from the Sea Oaks Beach and Tennis Club and Indian Trails Tennis Club. In addition, Wardwell had a wonderful, booming voice and enjoyed singing in the choirs at Trinity Episcopal Church, Christ by the Sea Church, and with the Sea Oaks chorus.

### FRANK J. CATENA '58

died on June 29, 2022. Catena graduated from Union High School in New Jersey in 1949. Catena attended MMA and then enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1951, serving during the Korean War on the USS *Wasp* (CVA-18), which made two world cruises, and operated off the coast of South Korea in 1954 and 1955. Catena received a promotion to gunners mate 3rd class in January 1955. Catena received an honorable discharge in April of 1955. Catena returned to MMA and graduated in 1958, receiving the Academy award for the cadet with the most perseverance to succeed. Catena went to work for the Military Sea Transportation Service in 1958 as a 3rd engineer watch officer. Catena was employed in the shipping transportation and construction fields for 25 years. He worked for Sea-Land service, where he managed the largest maintenance facility in the world. He held positions, including director and vice president of corporate maintenance, with several container companies, including PRIMMI from where he retired in 1988. Later in his career, Catena was self-employed as a consultant for equipment and container manufacturers throughout Asia, Europe, South America, and the U.S., before retiring in 1993. Catena was a member of the Young Republicans Club and the Republican Club of Union County. Catena served as a trustee on the board of directors for the Epilepsy Foundation for the State of New Jersey.

### ROBERT E. BEATHAM '59

passed away December 28, 2021, at his home in Golfito, Costa Rica. After graduation, he sailed as an engineer on the ships of the Great White Fleet of United Fruit Company on their banana runs from Central America to the U.S. A few years later, he moved ashore with the company in Costa

Rica to work in the shops supporting the vast banana enterprise including railroads, port facilities, and farm operations. He remained with United Fruit until its demise in 1985. From the outset of his visits to Costa Rica, he was taken by its beauty, people, and culture. He purchased properties in Golfito including a small farm that produced palm oil and various exotic plants. Over time the farm became PARADISE TROPICAL GARDEN, a well-known tour attraction in Golfito, where Beatham was the main attraction. He also gave talks on indigenous tropical plants and their healing powers to passengers aboard cruise ships calling at Golfito. He became a local legend and was well respected and adored by all who came to know him.

### JOHN W. LEVECQUE '61

passed away on January 13, 2018.

### JON M. GILBERT '62

died January 27, 2022. Gilbert attended Waterville Senior High School and graduated from MMA in 1962. He sailed with the Merchant Marine for a few years, many times aboard the U.S.-registered container ship SS *Transglobe*. Gilbert left shipping to begin a career that included testing nuclear submarines for General Dynamics and work at the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Station for Stone & Webster Engineering. But an interview in 1974 brought him to his 25-plus year career with Bechtel. As a quality assurance engineer and manager, he developed monitoring programs for radioactive waste, site decontamination, and decommissioning for sites across the U.S. An avid sailor, Gilbert loved messing about in boats. He owned and cruised powerboats and sailboats and raced sailboats in San Francisco Bay and down the coast of California to Mexico. Gilbert reconnected with the MMA Alumni Association and volunteered with the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Paleontology Society in Borrego Springs, Calif., where he took up photogrammetry and 3D printing of fossils, even obtaining an FAA Remote Pilot Certificate so that he could fly drones to photograph fossil sites from the air.

### JOSEPH R. MORAN '64

died on July 14, 2022, in Yarmouth. Moran grew up in Portland, Maine, attended Cathedral Grammar School, and graduated from Cheverus High School in 1960, where

he was a captain of the football team. At MMA, he played football and served as class president, graduating in 1964. Upon graduation, Moran went to sea as a Merchant Marine and then went to work for Central Maine Power in 1971, where he retired as a vice president in 1995. After retiring from CMP, Moran worked for USAID in Ukraine from 1995 to 1999 and then returned to Maine to serve as a consultant for Efficiency Maine until 2017. After graduating from MMA, he served two terms as MMA Alumni Association president and was also inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame for his outstanding performance on the field. An avid sports fan, Moran was a longtime member of Waterville Country Club and the Purpoodock Club. Moran was also a football referee for many years, continuing to enjoy the sport he had played for so long. Moran was a founding member and first president of the Portland branch of the Irish American Club in 1973 and served on many boards around the area, including the Boys and Girls Club, the Iris Network, Mid-Maine Medical Center, various energy boards both in Maine and beyond, Junior Achievement, the Elks Club, and the Knights of Columbus.

### CAPT. JOHN A. BERNICH '65

died on June 30, 2022. He was a proud lieutenant (JG) in the U.S. Merchant Marines and Navy Reserves and member of the Knights of Columbus Council 6526.

### GEORGE A. WADE '65

died September 8, 2022. Wade graduated from Tenney High School in Methuen, Mass., as well as MMA. After graduating, Wade sailed as an engineering officer with Hudson Waterways. At Newport News Shipbuilding he progressed from a staff designer to director of engineering construction and sea trials. He spent many years as the civilian member of Admiral Rickover's Joint Test Group. Wade spent a few years on assignment at Mare Island Naval Shipyard and Pearl Harbor Naval shipyard at the special request of the Admiral. He managed the installation of nuclear propulsion plants in the U.S. Navy's aircraft carriers, *Lincoln* and *Roosevelt*. In 1990, MMA honored Wade as an outstanding alumnus. In retirement he spent time with his wife, family, and grandkids at many events and hosted friends and family at their camp in Maine.



### JEFFREY M. BROWN '68

died July 15, 2022, in Portland. He graduated from Laconia (N.H.) High School in 1964 and from MMA in 1968. Brown worked as a fisherman at the University of Maine Darling Center from 1973 to 1976, and retired from Bath Iron Works. He was a member of the Waldoboro Lions Club, helped as a founding family of the Broad Bay Congregational Church, UCC, and helped lead and organize the Waldoboro Food Pantry. Brown was well known as a respected and respectful person who was caring and generous to anyone in need. He had a subtle, dry sense of humor, and was a jolly giggler. Brown was also a very talented craftsman. He could build anything and was well known for his beautiful half-hull models.

### CLAYTON E. NOWELL '69

died March 28, 2022. Nowell attended Brewer High School and later graduated from MMA with a BS in marine engineering. His early career was spent on the sea in the Merchant Marines working as an engineer on sister ships *Walter Rice* and *Inger* for Reynolds Aluminum/Alcoa. Nowell eventually retired from shipping and started a plumbing and heating business in Hancock, providing residential services to the surrounding communities for nearly 30 years. He was an avid boater and could be seen all around Frenchman Bay during the summers, entertaining family and friends on his classic wooden lobster boat. Nowell served on several committees, including the Hancock School Board and the Hancock Point Village Improvement Society. He was very involved with the Union Congregational Church in Hancock, singing in the choir and volunteering his time for the church fair and countless other initiatives. Upon his retirement, Nowell volunteered his time at the Downeast Scenic Railroad, where he enjoyed many weekends working on train engines and repairing railways.

### ROBERT D. HIGGINS, JR. '71

died on May 31, 2022. Higgins bought his first lobster boat at age nine with money saved up from raking leaves and shoveling snow. It was just a small rowboat, but that didn't dissuade him from plying the waters of Casco Bay and surrounding coves, points, and islands. Higgins graduated

from South Portland (Maine) High School in 1966. The call of the sea took him to MMA, and he graduated in 1971 with a BS in engineering. Experiencing the societal tumult of the late 1960s, feeling strongly anti-war, and having a devil-may-care attitude, Higgins moved to south Florida. He built a commercial charter fishing business. He also learned to fly airplanes. He started small, with the purchase of a Cessna Cherokee, but trained and applied himself until he could purchase and pilot multi-engine Beechcraft, Douglas DC-3s, Lockheed Constellations, and Learjets. He was incredibly talented and fearless in his endeavors. Being an expert sailor, pilot, navigator, logistician, and businessman, he owned and operated many different types of aircraft and seagoing vessels. When Higgins wasn't working, he was racing his cigarette boat or Porsche or flying to Aspen. Higgins had a brilliant mind and a sterling reputation in the business community for honesty and dependability. He never considered himself a people person, yet he had a certain charisma and humility that could instantly make strangers into friends.

### EDWARD J. LYNCH, JR. '71

died July 29, 2022. He was educated at St. Thomas the Apostle and Bishop Fenwick High School in Peabody, Mass., where he and his twelve siblings were quite well known for their antics. He graduated from MMA in 1971. He shipped out on tankers before serving as a U.S. Merchant Marine.

Following his time in the Merchant Marines, Lynch followed in his father's footsteps and began his construction career with Franki Foundation. With a work ethic that was second to none and his knack for the industry, it did not take long for him to turn a job into a lifelong career. He co-founded Terra Drilling in 1984, where he introduced new drilling systems to the Northeast and built the trust and admiration of his crews over many decades. After a fleeting attempt at retirement, he could not stay away from his natural ability to lead and started Titan Drilling Specialists in 2012. He opened Atlas Drilling in 2015 for his family and longtime colleagues to operate. As a talented athlete, he trained for the 1976 Olympics in the men's single sculls rowing event. He was an oarsman for several years, rowing in a variety of races, including the Head of the Charles Regatta, and he ran both the Boston and New York City marathons.

### JONATHAN L. BLACKWELL '72

died peacefully on October 1, 2021, in Portland, Maine. Blackwell attended Sanford High School and MMA, earning a bachelor's degree in marine engineering. Blackwell was employed as an engineering officer aboard oil tankers for Mobil (later ExxonMobil) Corporation for 43 years. He was also a lieutenant in the U.S. Naval Reserve, receiving an honorable discharge in 1983. He loved the sea, and his work for ExxonMobil took him to many different places on the globe. He also loved hosting and attending large family gatherings.

**JULIA WHITE BOWDEN** passed away peacefully on August 27, 2022. Bowden was a graduate of Bucksport High School and was secretary for the Navy ROTC Unit at Maine Maritime Academy for 31 years. Bowden had both a strong and gentle spirit. She was soft-spoken, kind, thoughtful, and was quick to share her smile and her laugh. With a sense of adventure and fun, she embraced life fully with Edgar, her loving husband, while raising their children in Castine. She wholeheartedly shared her love of outdoors, gardening, and crafts with her children and grandchildren, who fondly remember summer days spent at the Backshore, fun-filled camping trips, and the tradition of making Christmas wreaths. Bowden embarked on many hiking and kayaking excursions with close friends, doing portions of the Appalachian Trail from Katahdin. She crossed the infamous Knife Edge Trail and on into New Hampshire. She and Edgar made a formidable team in bowling leagues and were always up for a game of cards. In past years, she was an active member of the Trinitarian Congregational Parish where she looked forward to Sunday services and the comradery of others while helping with church suppers and annual fairs. Bowden's warm embrace will forever be felt by her beloved family and friends.

## **NICHOLAS C. LAMPARELLI '73**

passed away on September 11, 2020. He was a proud graduate of MMA. Lamparelli loved his job as a marine engineer and worked at many shipyards up and down the East Coast. He was most recently employed at Excel Hydraulics in Clarksboro, N.J. Lamparelli was a loving man devoted to his family. Lamparelli believed it was the simple things in life that made the treasured memories . . . trips to Ocean City for pizza and fries, doodling, a round of golf, and sharing laughs at dinners with family and friends. Born in Boston, Lamparelli was a resident of West Deptford, N.J., for thirty-two years, but never lost his New England accent.

## **RICHARD W. COFFIN '74**

died on April 6, 2022. Coffin attended Brunswick schools and graduated from MMA in 1974. He was a mooring engineer, who stabilized oil rig platforms in Trinidad-Tobago, Granada, and Louisiana. He piloted oil tankers as part of the Military Sealift Command. He attained the rank of lieutenant (JG) from the U.S. Naval Reserves. Upon return to Maine, he worked as a mason. He lobstered in summer and drove oil trucks in winter. He found joy in his many friends, in fishing, in traveling to Virginia to play guitar with friends, in his cat, and in smoking fish, cheese, and jerky, which he gave away to many.

## **PETER R. SEDERQUIST '74**

died September 13, 2022, at his home in Plantation, Fla. Sederquist was born in Laconia, N.H., and maintained residence in Alton Bay, N.H., his entire life. Sederquist graduated from MMA and went on to have a thirty-three-year career as chief engineer in the Merchant Marines. In his spare time, he enjoyed the outdoors, especially skiing and riding his motorcycle, watching the Red Sox for a "good game," and spending time with his children and grandchildren in Florida. He loved the foods of New England and a good celebration with cake and ice cream. He was a dedicated member of his family and stood as a stalwart pillar of support for all who loved him. When picking up the phone to speak with Sederquist, you could guarantee to be greeted with "What's the good word?" He always had an open ear, a relevant anecdote, and a wealth of wisdom. Whether it be a night on the town, time spent

outdoors, or a seat on the couch together, better and more pleasant company than Sederquist could not be found.

## **STEWART G. GILLETTE, JR. '75**

passed away on April 20, 2022. Stewart was a graduate of Lynnfield (Mass.) High School and MMA. Following graduation, he began his life as a Merchant Marine. He worked his entire life aboard tugboats, ships, and dredges. He was an avid motorcyclist, and an active supporter of his daughter's activities, especially sports.

## **CHRISTOPHER E. NIELSEN '75**

died July 16, 2022. Nielsen graduated from Deering High School in 1971. After graduating from MMA, he was a senior ship's officer in the U.S. Merchant Marine. Nielsen's first and lifelong passion was his art. Showing talent from a very young age, Nielsen was the youngest exhibitor at the Sidewalk Art Show in Portland at the age of 16. Delighting in and inspired by the abundance and beauty of the natural world, especially its floral and marine splendor, Nielsen never ceased to work tirelessly to capture nature's essence in his paintings of landscapes and seascapes. Nielsen's other passions included history, especially WWII, baseball, and the New York Yankees.

## **MICHAEL F. DIONNE '81**

passed away on February 8, 2022. Dionne was educated at St. Mary's Catholic School and John Bapst Memorial High School (Bangor, Maine), where he played on the 1976 State Champion football team. Dionne furthered his education at MMA, where he graduated with a degree in engineering. He shipped out to many ports around the world and would tell stories of his adventures. Dionne enjoyed many great times at the family camp and watching the high school basketball tournaments. Dionne was an avid New England Patriots fan. Dionne was a very jovial person who brought a smile to everyone around him.

## **TERRY N. EDWARDS '81**

passed away on April 9, 2022. Edwards graduated from Oxford Hills (Maine) High School in 1976, from Bridgton Academy with the Class of 1977, and from MMA. Edwards worked in the private sector aboard multiple tug and barge units. The bulk of his shipping experience as chief

engineer was in the Gulf of Mexico and on the Mississippi River. His ports of call were also on the St. Lawrence Seaway, Great Lakes, the Caribbean Islands, as well as various ports along the Atlantic coast. Edwards retired in 2013 after thirty-two years in the maritime industry.

## **MR. ALY Y. BASSIOUNI '93**

passed away in March 2022.

## **CHRISTOPHER C. WHEELER '97**

passed away February 17, 2015, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. Wheeler grew up in the Boothbay, Maine, area and was a graduate of the Boothbay Region High School. After high school, Wheeler proudly served his country in the Air Force for nearly four years. After his service in the military, he started working at Bath Iron Works as an electrician. While there, he earned his associates degree at MMA in a work-provided education program. Wheeler was always known for his contagious smile and vibrant personality, his love for the Boston Bruins, his fascination with helicopters, kayaking, fishing, and hiking, not to mention attending high school basketball games.

## **CHAD T. ESLIN '00**

died unexpectedly April 16, 2022. Eslin graduated from Bangor High School in 1991 and joined the U.S. Navy. While serving in the Navy, he sailed on the USS *Cape St. George* and was a gas turbine engine (GTE) technician. He earned the rank of petty officer 2nd class. After serving in the Navy, he graduated from MMA. From there, he traveled the world doing his work, committing his time to various power plants and start-up missions. He traveled to places most Americans never see, including Nigeria, Thailand, and India. After settling down and having children in his 30s, he worked as a recruiter for such companies as PIC and 36 Energy.

## **MR. NEAL L. BOWIE '13**

died July 26, 2021.

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*Most Eight Bells entries are obtained from online news sources and edited for length. To access the Eight Bells archive visit [mainemaritime.edu/alumni](http://mainemaritime.edu/alumni).*



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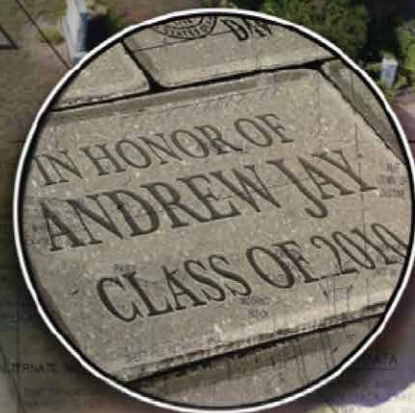
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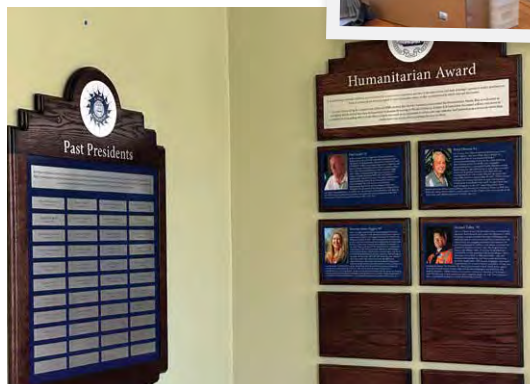
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### Plaques and Awards on Display

AWARD PLAQUES were recently installed in the Dave Fenderson '56 Conference Room on the first floor of Wyman House. The award room is nearly complete, thanks to the great crew from Welch Signs in Scarborough. A highlight is the Wall of Honor, which has been recreated digitally on a giant touch screen. There are also plaques naming Outstanding Alumni, Honorary Alumni, Associate Alumni, Humanitarian Award, and Past Presidents.





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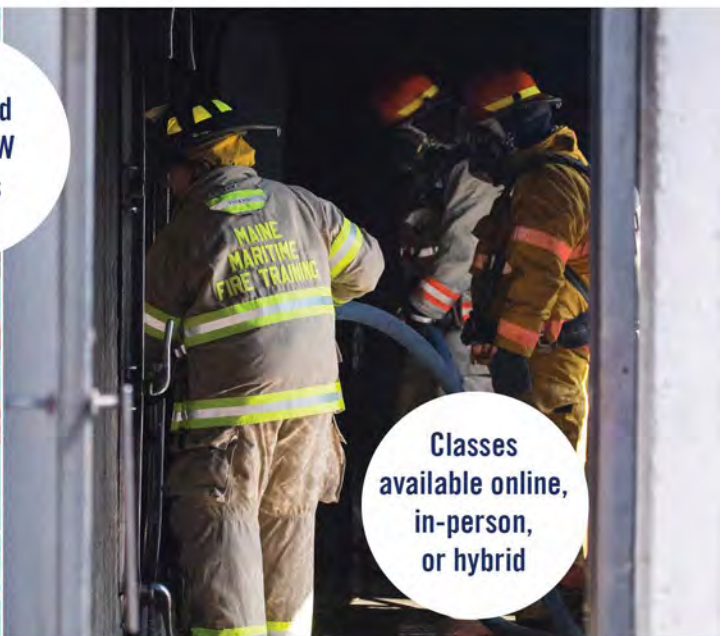
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