

MARINER

The ALUMNI MAGAZINE of MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

— ISSUE 1 · 2023 —

John McDonald '93 and Innovation

at the American
Bureau of
Shipping

Drones Assist Rockweed Research

Monitoring
the Health of
Coastal Waters

Ocean Adventures of Eric King '90

From USCG to
marine salvage to
design & operation of
ocean research vessel



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COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF ABS

Early Spring Sail

MMA Offshore Sailing team aboard *Temptress*, a 1993 Taylor 41-foot custom racing sloop. *Temptress* was donated through MMA's yacht donation program by John "Jay" Gowall of Jamestown, Rhode Island. The boat is new to MMA's sailing program but is a well-known fixture in the New England racing scene. Gowall acquired *Temptress* in 2014 and had constantly upgraded, equipped, and successfully campaigned the boat. Prior to arrival in Castine, *Temptress* competed in eight Newport-to-Bermuda races with many podium finishes.





Temptress
JAMESTOWN, RI

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MARINER Magazine

STAFF

MANAGING EDITOR

Thomas C. Thompson | mariner.editor@mma.edu

DESIGN & PRODUCTION

Amy Allen, Designer
Pulse Marketing Agency | pulsemarketingagency.com

COPY EDITORS

Karen Cukierski & Jeff Wright

WEB PRODUCTION

Bryan Wolf | bryan.wolf@mma.edu

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES

mariner@mma.edu

ADMINISTRATION

PRESIDENT

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V.P. FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS & PROVOST

Dr. Keith M. Williamson

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Richard Rosen

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Jeff Wright | jeff.wright@mma.edu | 207-326-2337

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MMA PRESIDENT
Jerald "JP" Paul '89

Charting a Course

Forecasting the resources we'll need for MMA's future

AT THE CULMINATION of my first year as Maine Maritime president, I am heartened by the growth I see across our campus and throughout the professional industries of which we are an important component. Together, we have spent considerable time strengthening our Academy community and focusing on what it means to be a Mariner and become a Mariner at MMA.

We began this academic year by announcing a relationship to create, test, and study vessel-to-grid electrification technologies and what those capabilities could mean for the maritime industry. This evolution of workplace and curriculum is only one example of the modernization of our academic offerings so we can meet the needs of a new generation of mariners and the future of the maritime industry.

We've focused heavily on forecasting the resources we'll need for the MMA of the future. We're working closely with our U.S. congressional delegation, our governor, state senators, and representatives. I am proud to say they share our vision for MMA, and they have supported our requests for additional funding. This support will transform delivery of our curriculum in classrooms and at sea.

One of my initial focuses has been to strengthen and promote the Center for Professional Mariner Development campus in Bucksport to complement workforce academic needs and simultaneously elevate our graduate programs. We have taken a commercial approach to addressing the maritime industry's needs. We are listening to our alumni and hiring partners to develop continuing education programs that are current and complement industry desires.

Our growth this year was not confined to the classroom. We are reimagining and evolving what we offer our students outside of the classroom just as acutely. Last fall we issued an alumni challenge to help fundraise for the reinstatement of a varsity football team. Our alumni heard that call and answered it. We are proud to also have announced the elevation of wrestling to a varsity sport for

men and women. Our women's program will be the first in the state. (See p. 7)

We have also been engaging aggressively in the international maritime industry, both through elevated involvement in the International Association of Maritime Universities and through partnerships with global maritime industry stakeholders. MMA is growing its profile worldwide.

On the water, our sailing team continues to evolve and grow with the addition of new vessels that enable offshore experiences that MMA students had not been offered in recent times. We are committed to a future for our schooner, *Bowdoin*, the State of Maine's flagship vessel. She will embark this summer on her first cruise

in several years. Next summer, she is planned to return to her roots with an Arctic voyage—a tentpole for our small vessels program.

In just over a year, we will welcome the National Security Multi-Mission Vessel Training Ship, *State of Maine V*, currently being built at Philly Shipyard. This new ship will complement the evolution of our

This evolution of workplace and curriculum is only one example of the modernization of our academic offerings so we can meet the needs of a new generation of mariners and the future of the maritime industry.

curriculum to ensure our mariners are trained on the most cutting-edge technologies. It is my belief that she will signify a new chapter for both the Academy and Castine as a landmark in which we will all take pride.

I especially value the time I have been able to spend with our students. In the classroom, on the training ship, and throughout campus, it has helped me do my job by watching them do theirs. Finally, no mention of this year would be complete without a salute to the faculty and staff who have emerged from the pandemic poised to tackle a new frontier of educating mariners. As we look to the '23-'24 school year, we will be opening our doors to the largest incoming class in many years.

This is just the beginning for Maine Maritime. We are well on our way to our goal of becoming *The #1 Maritime College in the World*.

Moving to the Next Level



The dedicated support of our board members and alumni is essential to our success.

from the strategic plan is how your board works to serve alumni and the Academy. We are looking at other opportunities to expand your input and engagement—stay tuned.

During my time on the board and as an officer, I have been excited by the long-term trend in alumni engagement and volunteerism kicked off by the strategic plan first developed during Jim Proulx's term as president and carried out by past President Joe Cote and yours truly. The dedicated support of our board members and alumni has been essential to our success. Accomplishments include creation of the Shipmate e-newsletter, the Class Agent program, the Annual Fund Ambassador Program, increased event scheduling, and continued support of MMA.

As we look for broader engagement with the alumni body on the strategic plan, we want to be thinking about how this organization will look and function in the next decade. We can do better than continuing our current path of year-over-year incremental improvements. Given where we have been and where we are, Wall of Honor recipient Larry Burrill '77, a few other alums, and I believe we are ready to springboard our organization to another level. I hope you will take these steps with us. We can't do it without you!

I hope to see you all at Homecoming September 29 and 30!

Sincerely yours,

Bill Full '76

IT WAS GREAT to see over ninety seniors from the class of 2023 at the March 15 Alumni Senior Banquet mixing with the dozens of alumni that were there. After a brief hiatus due to the pandemic, the Alumni Office has done a wonderful job rebuilding this important event. I urge all alumni to look further for opportunities to connect with students than we have in the past. I encourage chapters to think about events or activities in which they can incorporate students and perhaps their parents. It is a great way for alumni to learn what is happening on campus. For students, it is a way to connect with those who might provide a lead on a job when they graduate or be a mentor or advisor.

The Alumni Board is wrapping up a review of our strategic plan and we will post a draft on the website as soon as it is completed. Please take time to review and reflect on it and send comments or questions to the Alumni Office. Developing periodic action plans

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Campus Currents

SPORTS

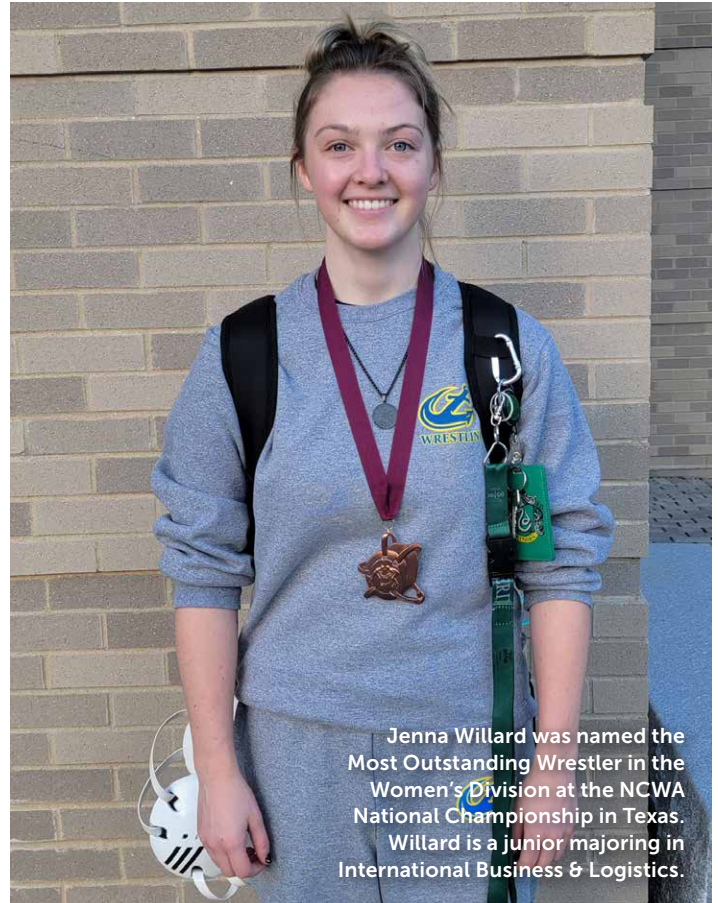
MMA Hits the Mat Club Wrestling Elevated to Varsity Status in Both Men's and Women's Programs

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S WRESTLING are moving to the roster of varsity sport offerings. Both teams are currently club sports at the Academy, competing in the National Club Wrestling Association (NCWA). The program will continue in the NCWA for one more year before moving to NCAA competition for the 2024–2025 season.

Last season, the club fielded eighteen wrestlers, including the Academy's first female wrestler, Jenna Willard. In the 2021–2022 campaign, the team competed in five regular season invitationals before qualifying for the NCWA Northeast Conference Championship. At the tournament, six wrestlers qualified for the NCWA National Championship held in Texas, and Willard was named the Most Outstanding Wrestler in the Women's Division.

President Jerry Paul is enthusiastic about this change. "As a former wrestler, I know the unique aspects of this sport and the special athletes who call it their own," he said. "We are particularly proud to restore this varsity tradition for young

Continued on page 11



Jenna Willard was named the Most Outstanding Wrestler in the Women's Division at the NCWA National Championship in Texas. Willard is a junior majoring in International Business & Logistics.

ACCOLADES

MMA Receives High College Ranking

THE U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT rankings are closely followed by high school students and their families as they research colleges and make decisions. Their most recent rankings place Maine Maritime Academy third among the best regional colleges in the North region.*

President Paul called this "A great achievement made possible by the dedication and hard work of faculty,

staff, and students," while thanking them for their effort and dedication. "I hope you share my feelings of pride in seeing your hard work reflected in this high rank," he concluded.

The rankings also report the percentage of alumni who support their alma mater. Maine Maritime Academy excelled in this measure as well, topping the list of forty-five schools in the North region. The continuing connection so

many of our alumni feel toward MMA is a strong measure of their appreciation for the education they received.

**The regional college rankings of U.S. News & World Report divide the country into four regions: North, South, Midwest, and West. The North region comprises the six New England states plus New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware.*

IN PRINT

Talk About the Weather

MMA's own Captain Rappaport shares stories of life on the open sea in new book

CAPTAIN ELLIOT RAPPAPORT, MMA assistant professor of marine transportation, has had a long career on vessels. He trained students to handle sails and sailing ships while scientists taught them oceanographic research. Like many mariners, his time at sea has led to an abiding passion for the science of weather—highlighted recently by the release of his fascinating book, *Reading the Glass*, published in February by Dutton. The book has quickly attracted praise from a variety of readers: maritime historian Lincoln Paine, author of *The Sea and Civilization: A Maritime History of the World*, called it “immensely rewarding and entertaining.” Daniel Stone, author of *Sinkable: Obsession, the Deep Sea, and the Shipwreck of the Titanic*, described it as “full of history, wisdom, and hilarious stories from life on the open seas.”

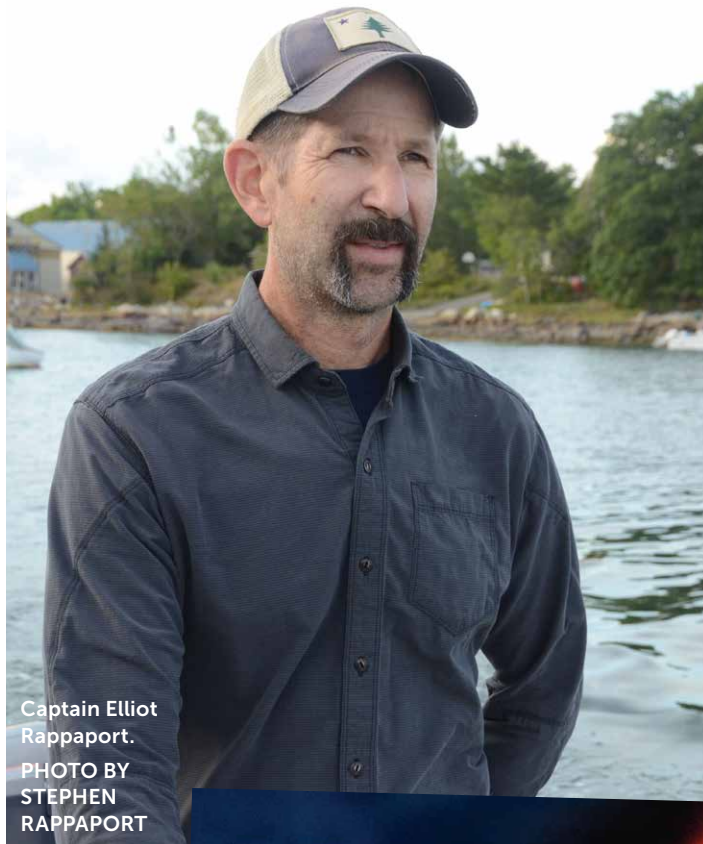
“Regardless of what part of the maritime world you are in, the sea is a teaching environment.”

Rappaport grew up around boats and boatyards on Cape Cod and came to Maine in 1985 to work in Camden's windjammer fleet. From there he joined the Sea Education Association (SEA), a nonprofit educational organization based in the scientific community of Woods Hole, Massachusetts that operates undergraduate programs aboard two tall ships outfitted for oceanographic research. When MMA acquired the schooner *Bowdoin* in 1988, Rappaport joined Captain Andy Chase '79 to develop a training program aboard the historic vessel. Appointed master in 1992, Rappaport's career aboard *Bowdoin* continued until 2002 and included multiple trips to Greenland, Labrador, and the Canadian Maritimes.

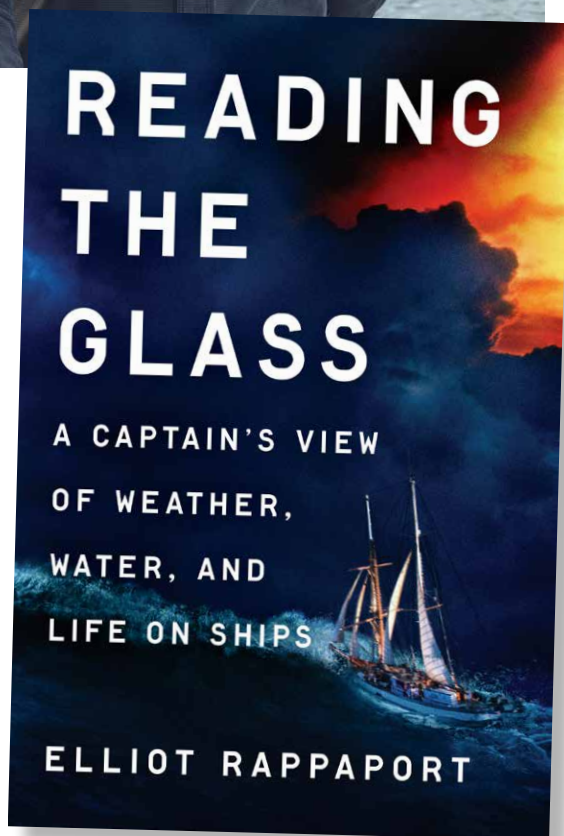
“I have always been drawn toward sailing ships and research vessels for the variety of experiences that they offer,” explained Rappaport when talking about how his book came about. “There are a surprising number of MMA faculty who have sailing ships in their backgrounds. Because most of these ships are also training vessels, I think they attract a group of mariners who are already interested in teaching.”

“Regardless of what part of the maritime world you are in, the sea is a teaching environment,” continued Rappaport, “You spend a tremendous amount of time learning things and then sharing them with others. I have always been a reader who appreciates good writing. I got into the habit of writing notes—sort of mini-chapters—to share with my students on the topics I was teaching. I never had much interest in straight technical writing, but explaining something interesting, something people might be curious about—that intrigued me.”

Writer and book reviewer Maureen Stanton praises Rappaport's ability to help “readers visualize and vicariously experience” life on aboard a sailing ship midocean. As an example, she quotes from Rappaport's book, “Above us a loose skein of clouds is boiling away to leeward, a shaft of sun panning the sea



Captain Elliot Rappaport.
PHOTO BY
STEPHEN
RAPPAPORT



Continued on page 11



PHOTO BY ROSEMARY WYMAN

IN MEMORY OF

REMEMBERING THOSE WE LOST

IN THE AFTERMATH of the December 10, 2022, automobile accident that resulted in the deaths of four MMA students, the MMA community grappled with feelings of shock, sadness, and uncertainty. Many felt the need to gather together and support each other during this time of sorrow. A candlelit vigil was organized on the Leavitt lawn for students, faculty, staff, and the Castine community. There were words of hope, shared grief, and remembrances of love and friendship. It was the best first step to honor the lives lost and to help the community grieve and move forward. A period of silence amid glowing candles let those assembled pay their respects at a small memorial.

Obituaries for the four students may be found in this issue's Eight Bells section.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

MMA AWARDED FOR SAFETY MEASURES

NOAA AWARDED a certificate to the Maine Maritime Academy *TS State of Maine* for restricting its speed in the Stellwagen Bank Marine Sanctuary to help protect the endangered North Atlantic right whale.

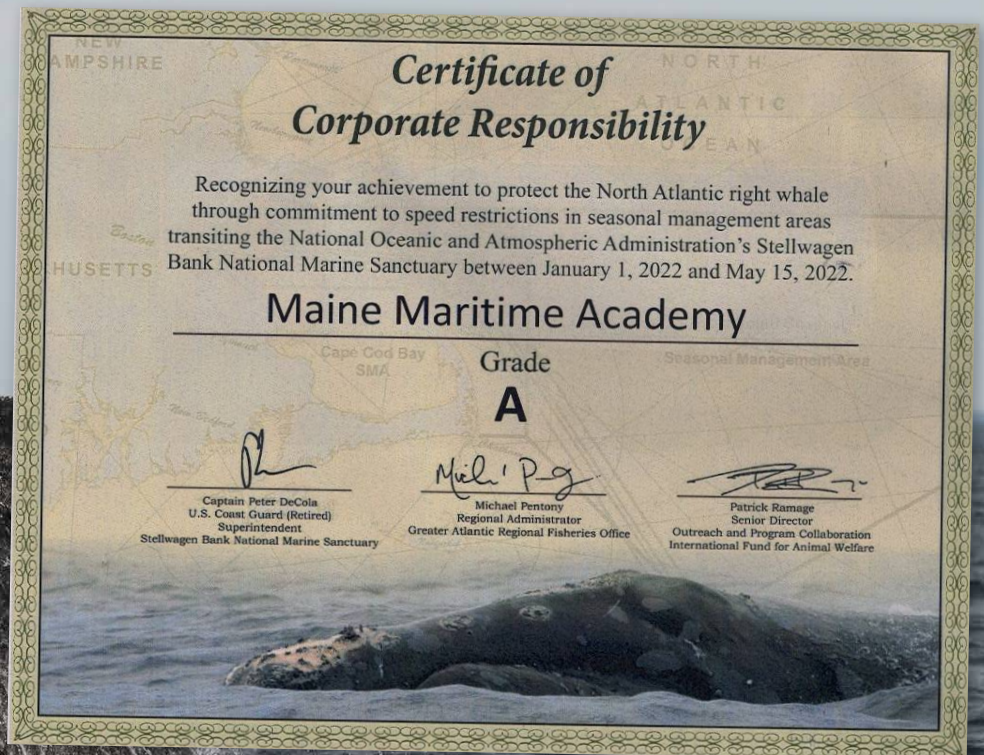
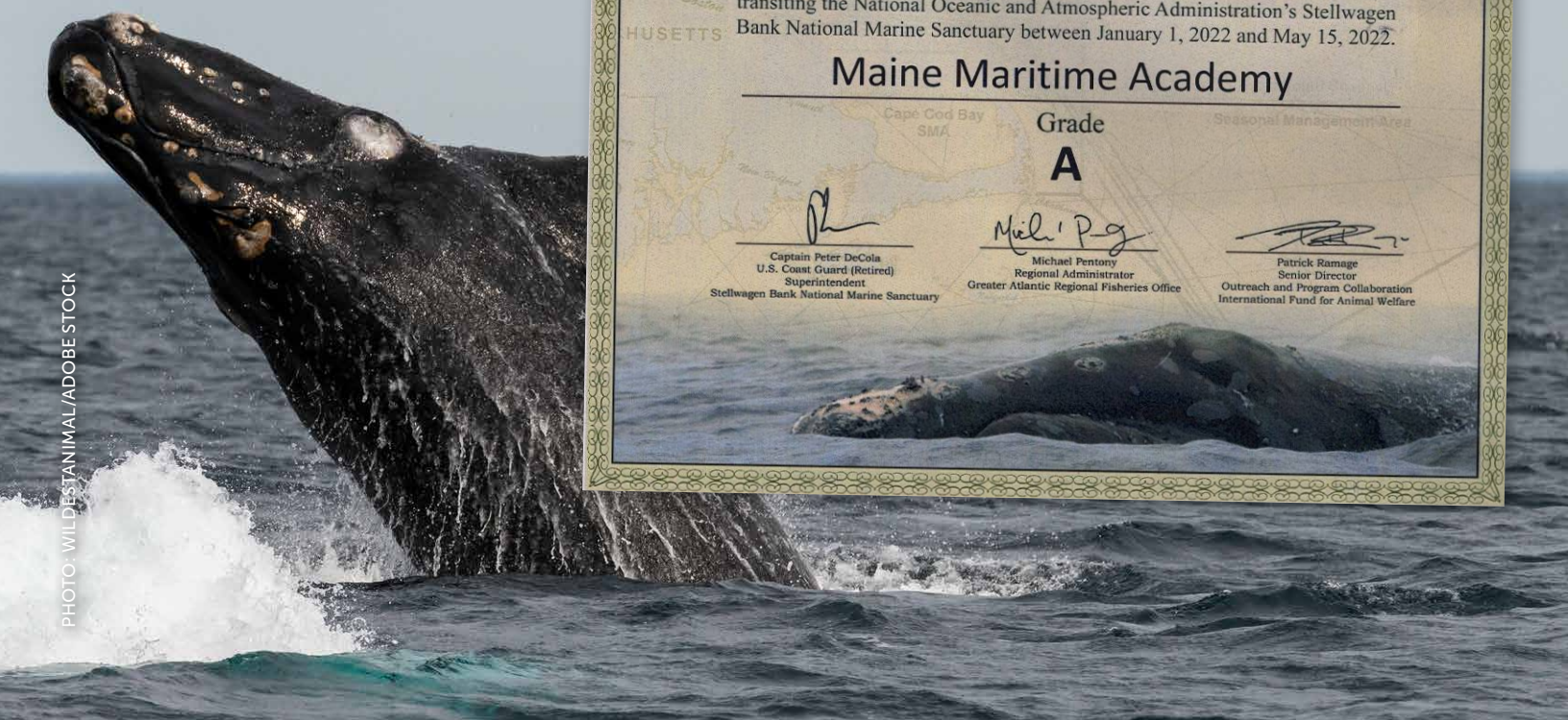


PHOTO: WILDESTANIMAL/ADOBE STOCK



EXCELLENCE

Fulbright Scholars on the Academy's Faculty



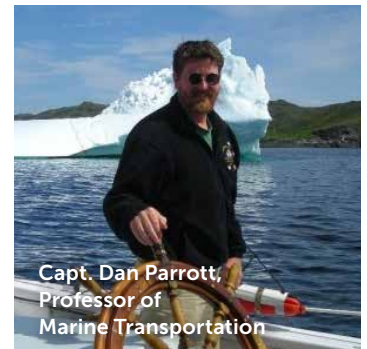
Dr. Aaron Kingsbury,
Professor in the Arts and
Sciences Department



Dr. Elaine Potoker, Professor
Emerita, Loeb Sullivan
School of International
Business and Logistics



Dr. Paul Wlodkowski,
Professor, Harold Alfond
School of Engineering



Capt. Dan Parrott,
Professor of
Marine Transportation

MMA TAKES GREAT PRIDE in its exceptional faculty, which boasts three current professors who are Fulbright Scholars as well as one professor emerita and two former faculty members. MMA Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Dr. Keith Williamson notes, “We have a phenomenal faculty and the fact that five percent of them are Fulbright Scholars is a big deal. They are committed to their work and set a high bar for the rest of us. Because of the Fellows, MMA is able to attract others with the same characteristics.”

The Fulbright Program is a prestigious international educational exchange program, bestowing awards on over 900 college and university faculty and staff annually. Recipients are selected based on professional achievements and leadership potential. These Fulbright alumni work in all walks of life . . . lawyers, environmental specialists, educators, artists, landscape architects, maritime transportation specialists, to name a few. Maine is home to around 230 Fulbright alumni.

Dr. Elaine Potoker, Professor Emerita, Loeb Sullivan School of International Business and Logistics, was awarded her first Fulbright Scholarship in 2007 for work on challenges to trade and workforce development in Central America and the Caribbean at the University of Costa Rica and received a second

award as a Senior Specialist in 2012 to continue her earlier work. Potoker has mentored and encouraged current MMA faculty who have applied for a Scholarship. She has also served in leadership positions for the Maine Chapter of the Fulbright Association, serving most recently as chapter president.

“Having a Fulbright Award is a life-changing event,” said Potoker. “What you’re doing is beneficial to your home

in northern Vietnam. He serves as a research advisor for the Agriculture and Forestry Research & Development Center for Mountainous Regions in Vietnam and has been involved in research across the Asia-Pacific.

“I teach a lot of human geography and culture here. Being a Fulbright Scholar has given me lots of context I can add to my classes. My experience has given me lots of flexibility. I can

slowly integrate new thoughts and ideas into my teaching.”

Capt. Daniel Parrott is the Department Chair of Marine Transportation. He came to MMA in 2003 after a 20-year

career sailing worldwide. He has a BA from Colby College and an MA from the University of Rhode Island. Parrott teaches navigation, seamanship and Bridge Resource Management, and sails aboard the *State of Maine* and *Boxdoin*.

“I started thinking about the Fulbright almost from the moment I got here,” said Parrott. “Dr. Potoker encouraged me to apply, and in 2017 I was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Costa Rica. I taught navigation, did some program development, and helped the University of Costa Rica establish their new School of Nautical Science.”

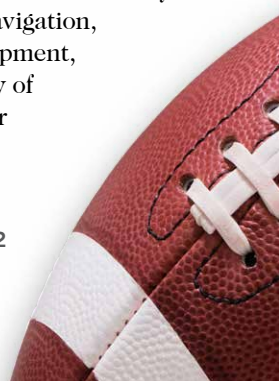
Like other Fellows, MMA faculty study, teach, and conduct research that helps find solutions to shared international concerns.

country, your home institution, and also the host. The nature of the award is such that you can really appreciate the expertise and the diversity of who gets the award. MMA is pleased to have so many Fulbright Scholars among the faculty who bring their rich experiences to the students.”

CURRENT MMA FULBRIGHT FELLOWS

Dr. Aaron Kingsbury is an Associate Professor of Arts and Sciences, and holds an MA in geography from Simon Fraser University in Canada, an MS degree in international ecological agriculture from the University of Kassel in Germany, and a PhD in geography from the University of Hawaii. His Fulbright Scholarship was awarded in 2021 and focused on strengthening research capacities

Continued on page 12



SPORTS

Football is Back

FOOTBALL IS RETURNING to Maine Maritime Academy with varsity competition to begin in 2025. The Mariners will be in the NCAA Division III Football Program and compete in the Commonwealth Coast Conference. The Mariners will begin competition as a sub-varsity program in 2023 and continue to replenish the roster through a sub-varsity 2024 season.

In announcing the return of football, President Paul said, “We are proud to welcome students from across Maine and America to join in the rich tradition of Mariner football. This is an exciting time. As we restart the program there will be once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to participate at the college level and be part of the Academy’s next chapter of success while earning a world-class degree leading to a high-paying career in a growing market.”

Leading the Mariners back on the field will be Head Football Coach Calvin Powell. Over his fifteen-year coaching career Powell has built the experience MMA needs. He was part of a start-up program at Texas Wesleyan and coached for a season at SUNY Maritime. Most recently, Powell served as the Assistant Head Coach with oversight of the offensive line and run game in his second stint at Langston University in Oklahoma. The 2022 Langston Lions ranked fifth in the nation in rushing and twelfth in the nation in points per game with Powell coaching five all-conference players.

“I am excited Coach Powell has joined Team MMA to lead the return of Mariner Football,” said Paul. “His past success as a coach, his personality, and the commitment he has pledged to our students seem like a perfect fit for continuing his trajectory of success here.”

Powell is excited, too. “The first thing that attracted me to this job was the opportunity to bring football back. I’ll put my imprint on the foundation of the program and that’s exciting,” said Powell. “I like recruiting a lot,” he continued. “I think it’s really neat to meet kids seventeen, eighteen years old. You learn about their goals, learn about their plans for their future. Then it’s great to see their development, and I get to shake their hand at graduation.”

Powell’s thoughts are not just about the gridiron. “We all know what college athletics can do for young people. Giving them this experience and using the game to teach those life lessons is an important part of athletics.”

Continued on page 12

Wrestling, continued from page 7

men at the Academy while becoming the first institution in the state to offer a women’s wrestling program, creating opportunities for the athletes competing in America’s fastest growing sport.”

Steve Peed, Director of Athletics, agreed. “This is a great day for Maine Maritime Athletics as we not only restore, but expand, one of the Academy’s athletic traditions with the world’s oldest sport,” said Peed. “Wrestling has always been a natural fit with our student body and the sport celebrates the no-excuses, get-it-done mentality that has defined Maine Maritime graduates for more than eight decades. I am incredibly grateful to Prof. Don McCann and Peter Stewart, Director of Campus Safety and Facilities, for growing and maintaining the club and interest in the sport over the past several years.

Tricia Carver, Associate Director of Athletics and Senior Woman Administrator, sees this addition of women’s wrestling as particularly timely. Carver said, “I couldn’t be more excited to add another opportunity for women to compete in collegiate athletics. To announce the addition of wrestling—women’s AND men’s—in 2023 as we celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Title IX is perhaps the greatest honor we can give the legislation that changed everything for women in sports.”

Book, continued from page 8

surface behind it like a slow spotlight.”

Rappaport wrote the book for a lay audience interested in maritime life as well as the basic science of meteorology. “I like the stories that stand behind the day-to-day forces that most people don’t give much thought to. Meteorology is a good example of that concept—weather is easy to ignore until it interrupts your plan or threatens you. Aboard a ship, your safety depends on understanding and respecting weather. It’s why we study it, map it, and record it. It’s why people invented instruments to measure it. It is simply impossible to separate sailing from weather, and that means mariners are surrounded by great stories waiting to be told.”

Reading the Glass has an abundance of stories that readers will enjoy.

CAMPUS CURRENTS

Football, continued from page 11

It was a big job to bring football back. “Restarting the football program required funding from many sources,” said Paul, “and a corresponding fundraising effort under the leadership of Len Tyler, past president of MMA, and Ed Scott ’89. The fundraising team also included Stephen Dick ’71, David Dodge ’71, Bill Full ’76, Larry Burrill ’77, Wayne Norton ’86, and Jeff Riedel ’86. On behalf of Maine Maritime Academy, I extend the sincerest appreciation for this service.

“I am proud of the alumni support and the Alfond Foundation who made this program possible. We are grateful that they share our vision for the future of athletics at Maine Maritime Academy. The Academy received \$566,778 in gifts from a total of 155 donors.”

Gregory Powell, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Harold Alfond Foundation said, “The Board of the Harold Alfond Foundation is pleased to support Maine Maritime Academy’s efforts to bring football back to its campus. More importantly, the reinstatement of football at the Academy will enhance the number of Maine students who wish to earn a degree from Maine Maritime Academy while continuing to play football in college.”

Scholars, continued from page 10

Dr. Paul Wlodkowski is a professor in the Harold Alfond School of Engineering. He was awarded the Fulbright Scholarship in 2014 and spent six months in St. Petersburg, Russia, teaching at the Admiral Makarov State University of Maritime and Inland Shipping. Wlodkowski graduated from Dartmouth College, holds an MS from the University of Virginia and a PhD from the University of Maryland. He has over thirty years of both academic and industrial experience in materials and reliability engineering, research & development, and teaching.

Wlodkowski was first in Russia in 1988 as an exchange student at Moscow University. He returned in the summer of 2008 as a visiting professor at the Makarov Maritime Academy. “I had discovered my love of teaching at MMA, and the Fulbright gave me the opportunity to return to Russia and teach engineering. When you venture out, you see that the rest of the world is full of tremendous expertise. Fulbright Scholars help bring people and countries together.”

Additional Fulbright Scholars include two former faculty members:

- MR. ROBERT GIFFIN, THE NETHERLANDS, 1989–1990
- DR. NEAL RAISMAN, FRANCE, 1981



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MMA GRAD

at the Helm

John McDonald '93 and innovation at the American Bureau of Shipping

By Stephen Rappaport



ABS Exec. VP and COO
John McDonald

In the first months of the Civil War, representatives of the nation's leading maritime insurance companies gathered in New York City with many prominent American shipowners, shipmasters, shipbuilders, and merchants and, in October 1861, formed the American Shipmasters Association, forerunner of the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS).

The principal mission of the Association was "to promote the security of life and property on the seas." To further that mission, the Association would "encourage worthy and well qualified commanders and other ship's officers," keep records of their "accomplishments," and provide "shipowners, shipbuilders, underwriters, shippers and all those interested in maritime commerce" with "a faithful and accurate classification

and registry of mercantile shipping."

Now, in the 21st century, "The mission of ABS is," according to the organization's Annual Review, "to serve the public interest as well as the needs of our clients by promoting the security of life and property and protecting the natural environment."

ABS currently has more than 4,000 employees located around the world. The company is one of the leading providers of classification and technical advisory services to the maritime and offshore industries throughout the world, establishing and advising on safety standards for design, construction and operation of vessels and structures. Through 2022, its classed fleet totaled some 280 million gross tons. ABS works closely with industry, adhering to its mission and safety-centric strategy and using its expertise to create opportunities and value for the company's clients. ABS continues to grow and perform at world-class levels as the safety conscience of the industry.

The shipping and offshore industries are in the midst of dynamic change marked by the clean energy transition, digitalization, post-COVID recovery, and geopolitics.



Decarbonization, the quest to meet the International Maritime Organization's goal to reduce the shipping industry's carbon emissions is infinitely more complex than anything that has come before. ABS considers its joint development projects with other leaders in the marine and offshore industries as vital building blocks that will ultimately deliver sustainable operations at sea. By working with other companies, ABS aims to safely and sustainably advance everything from vessel design to alternative fuel adoption, carbon capture, green hydrogen production, and fuel cells to autonomous and remote-control operations. Likewise, ABS has witnessed the industry move decisively toward comprehensive digital transformation. ABS is supporting and facilitating this daunting process with practical and smart ways to develop tangible results from data analysis. ABS's advanced analytics and digital technologies for clients' fleets help reduce fuel consumption, lower carbon emissions, navigate routes more safely, better predict equipment health, and make smarter decisions.

Responsible for the day-to-day operations of this global organization is John McDonald, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the American Bureau of Shipping and an alumnus of Maine Maritime Academy, Class of 1993, with a bachelor's degree in marine engineering. He also holds an MBA from Texas A&M University.

McDonald isn't the only Academy alumnus employed by ABS. In addition to the COO, at least twenty-five Maine Maritime graduates currently work for ABS in a variety of roles. (See sidebar.) ABS's current Chairman, President and CEO, Christopher J. Wiernicki, has an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Maine Maritime Academy, and ABS's previous Chairman, Robert D. Somerville '65, is also a Maine Maritime Academy alumnus, served at the helm of ABS for nearly a decade, and is a trustee on the MMA Board.

"Maine Maritime Academy has supported ABS through the years," McDonald said. "Actually, quite a bit of our leadership today are Maine Maritime Academy graduates.

"It was a very simple choice for me to go to Maine Maritime Academy, knowing the reputation that it has, not only nationally but globally, as one of the top tier maritime institutions in the world, and specifically its engineering programs when I was at school," McDonald said. The choice was even more obvious because, while he grew up moving around New England following his father's Coast Guard assignments, McDonald said, "Maine has always been home," and Penobscot Bay in particular where his family has owned a home on Spruce Head Island for decades.

McDonald has now worked at ABS for more than twenty-five years, though he didn't start his career there immediately after graduation.

"As soon as I got out of school," McDonald said, "about a week after graduation, I started sailing as an engineer. My first ship was called the *Indian Ocean*," run by Sealift Inc. He shipped through 1996, finishing his seagoing career on an American Hawaii Cruise Line ship.

"I went out to Hawaii to go onto the cruise ship as Second Engineer. I was signed on board the ship by a woman, Kelly. We hit it off and it went on from there," he said.

Eventually, marriage and the start of a family—McDonald and his wife have three adult children, his elder daughter lives in Dubai, his son works as an engineer in the maritime industry and his younger daughter works in project management—persuaded McDonald that it was time to look for "landside employment" where he could utilize his maritime expertise.

"ABS was perfect for me because it really tied in very closely to my values growing up in the Coast Guard which, in turn, is very much aligned with the ABS mission and the protection of maritime assets and the environment."

McDonald took a circuitous route to his leadership role and the ABS headquarters in Houston. He spent four years in Korea, home to some of the world's major shipyards. After that, he lived nearly three years in London working as the ABS Vice President for Northern Europe, then as President for

the company's Europe, Middle East, and Africa region, and then, spent a year in Singapore as President of the company's Pacific region.

"It was such a great transition coming from a sea job into ABS," McDonald said. "I'd come up through the surveyor ranks, which put me at shipyards around the world on existing ships and really learning the business, learning the clients, and moving up through the organization over the years."

McDonald credits Maine Maritime Academy for providing many of the tools necessary for his success at ABS.

"There were just so many foundational pieces of Maine Maritime Academy that I took away from there when I graduated," he said.

The Academy "gave me the foundation of what the maritime industry expects as far as the seafarers out there today and what the challenges are of maintaining a vessel from both the engineering side as well as navigating it around the world," McDonald said. "It prepared me for that launch into an industry that is global."

The Academy also "prepared you with the work ethic that you need to continuously work for months at a time and do what's needed to run the ship of today." It also prepared McDonald for the "leadership challenges" inherent in operating a vessel which has carried on with him in running the operations of ABS.

While still deeply involved in the worldwide inspection and classification of all sorts of vessels and maritime

structures, today's ABS is also at the forefront developing technologies crucial to operators of a modern fleet. Two key areas for ABS are "digitalization" and "decarbonization."

Just a few months ago, ABS announced the launch of ABS Wavesight™, a new maritime software as a service company and the new brand for ABS Digital Solutions, LLC. The new ABS affiliate is dedicated to helping shipowners and operators utilize the vast amount of digital data once stored aboard ships that is now "streaming off vessels, to provide insights into operations."

"[MMA] prepared me for that launch into an industry that is global."

—John McDonald, Exec. VP and COO, ABS

The information collected is analyzed through proprietary algorithms to help clients "optimize their operations and identify areas for improvement," McDonald said.

The insights provided by the ABS Wavesight programs help vessels achieve greater operational efficiency resulting in a reduction of costs and a reduction in a vessel's carbon footprint, a "major driver" in the modern shipping industry, by reducing fuel consumption during operations.

According to McDonald, operational efficiency measures and incorporation of onboard technology improvements can reduce the carbon footprint by

"a small percentage"—perhaps ten to thirty percent. The real gain in carbon reduction will come from the use of alternate fuels such as methanol, LNG, or ammonia.

"Those are the fuels we're starting to see today at the shipyards," he said. "As a matter of fact, over fifty percent of the new orders coming out of the shipyards today" will consume some form of alternate fuel.

"One of the major challenges when you bring in new technology, digitalization and the decarbonization factors is the competencies of the crew

and the knowledge that seafarers need to run those systems," McDonald said. The burden of training those future seafarers will rest on "organizations like Maine Maritime Academy and ABS."

After nearly 30 years at ABS, those ongoing developments, technological and otherwise, pose a continuing challenge for the Academy alumnus responsible for making sure everything in the vast enterprise works the way it should. And it seems McDonald wouldn't have it any other way.

"For me, it's been a wonderful career," he said shortly before heading out of Houston for a visit to the company's operations in Asia. ■

Stephen Rappaport is a Maine-based journalist and sailor who has written about maritime topics for more than thirty years.

MMA Alumni employed at ABS as of March 1, 2023

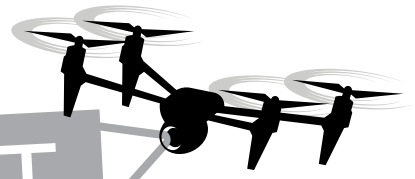
Nathan Allen '07
Bander Al-Reshidi '05
Jasim Ateeq '03
David Brown '91
Mark Caron '97
Richard Cote '86
Ezekiel Davis '00
Andrew Dion '07
Mark Dittmann '06

Michael Gorman '92
Mar Grasa '07
Jason Hoffmeister '99
Edison Ma '18
Benjamin Mantey '02
Mohamad Razali Mokhtar '87
George Morris '98
Kevin Morrison '90
Brendon Murphy '96

Louis O'Donnell '91
Chance Phelps '08
Arijit Roy '02
Sumeet Sahnar '08
Dinesh K. Thareja '99
Josiah True '03
Boima C. Voyou '96
David Weston '78



Jessica Muhlin cutting a sample at low tide. The sample will be weighed and parsed out to learn how much of it is rockweed and how much is bladderwrack.



DRONES ASSIST

Rockweed Research

MMA researchers explore sustainable harvesting options to protect an important resource

By Emily Baer

With over three thousand miles of coastline, Maine's shores range from wide sandy beaches, quiet bays and hidden inlets to marshlands and rocky outcroppings. The sights and sounds of these coastal environments are familiar to anyone who has ever spent time nearby: the exuberant hush of waves crashing, the call of gulls, and the sweet, briny smell of the shore.

For as long as humans have inhabited this land, the sea has provided for the wealth and health of its communities. In many ways, this place has become synonymous with the riches of its seas, and people around the world recognize Maine for its famous fisheries. However, as our environment changes and the Gulf of Maine continues to warm, researchers are beginning to take a closer look at our marine ecosystems and many people who make their livelihoods on the water are beginning to explore sustainable options for their future.

ENTER SEaweEDS.

Maine's most recognizable seaweeds are rockweed, officially known as *Ascophyllum nodosum*, or bladderwrack, *Fucus vesiculosus*. These are the seaweeds that you might see swaying gracefully in the water during high tide or fanning out across slippery, wet rocks when the water is out. With long fronds and mustard colored air bladders, they hold fast to rocks in the littoral zone; during storms, large quantities of rockweed break off

their base and move where the current takes them. These float-away pieces can survive on their own in the water but frequently wash up on beaches, breakwaters, or jetties. When dried, their color darkens to a deep greenish-brown and the fronds become brittle and flaky. Both are nearly ubiquitous in Maine but there is no definitive data about how much of each exists along our coast.

For Dr. Jessica Muhlin, Professor of Marine Biology and Chair of Maine Maritime Academy's Corning School of Ocean Studies, rockweed presents a kaleidoscope of opportunity. As a marine botanist, and specifically a phycologist (someone who studies algae), she has studied the plant closely. "I have always thought seaweeds were beautiful," she explains. "But they are also really important to the overall health of the ecosystem and people often don't give them much thought."

Muhlin's interest in rockweed is multidimensional, but her curiosity is broadly motivated by three main categories of inquiry: the ecological health of Maine's intertidal environments, commercial potential, and the ability to measure change over time in the Gulf of Maine.

"Rockweed is what we call a foundational species," says Muhlin. "If you think of [the ecosystem] as a building, rockweed is the foundation. It provides a buffer in terms of the physical environment, and the chemical environment provides opportunities for organisms to live on it, within it, and among it."

Over the years, rockweed has become increasingly recognized for its commercial value and it is now harvested for many reasons. Today

it is used in agriculture, cosmetics, food products, and medicine, where it is prized for its biochemical properties. Nutrient-dense and consumable, rockweed is also gradually gaining a foothold in the culinary world and specialty products are available to curious consumers around the globe.

The continued market growth of this resource will require management, and Muhlin recognizes the need to establish a baseline in order to monitor crop viability and the overall health of the species. “To make sure that we can sustainably harvest [rockweed], we need to know how much is available,” Muhlin continues. “Everything in the Gulf of Maine is changing so quickly so understanding how much is in the ecosystem, and how much might be available for economic and ecological sustainability is really, really important.”

In 2018, Muhlin joined a group of researchers from the University of Maine and the Schoodic Institute on a project designed to survey rockweed habitats throughout the state and to collect data on the biomass, plant coverage,

environmental conditions, and animal life present there. The project relied on meticulous field work and deep collaboration among project partners, and was funded by Maine Sea Grant, a federal-state partnership based at the University of Maine, sponsored by NOAA.

Buoyed by the success of that project, Muhlin continued the work to expand that initial survey and evolve the data collection process. While the on-the-ground survey-

“My motivation is to help sound resource management,” Muhlin says. “But there are practical business applications and a lot of possibilities.”

ing provided excellent information, it was time-intensive and inefficient. So, Muhlin and her team turned their eyes to the sky.

ENTER DRONES.

For decades, environmental resource managers have been exploring ways in which evolving technologies can positively impact the efficacy and precision of their work. Forest managers have become increasingly reliant on drones to survey canopy cover health and monitor soil conditions. With specialized cameras and long-range capabilities, they have fine-tuned the ability to survey large swaths of land from above and compile data sets on a scale that would previously have been unimaginable.

In 2020, Muhlin teamed up with Schoodic Institute Marine Ecology Director Hannah Webber, pilot Stefan Claesson, principal scientist of Nearview, LLC, and partners from Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences and the University of Maine to test a radical new technique for measuring seaweed growth along Maine’s shores: utilizing high-resolution imagery of Maine’s coast taken by an “Unoccupied Aerial System” (UAS). In other words,

Muhlin and Webber are testing the viability of using drone imagery, taken from roughly 400 feet above the shoreline, to gather information about the health and density of the biomass below.

“The conditions we need in the field are pretty specific,” Muhlin notes. “First, we need a low tide. Then, for doing the aerial work, we also need calm weather, clear skies, and a solar noon. Really, it’s glorious work because you are usually out on very beautiful days!”

When the conditions align, Muhlin and her team arrive at a field site as early in the day as possible. In addition to Webber and Claesson, there’s a ground crew of six to eight members who support shoreside data collection. Once the drone is in the air, Claesson takes a series of images, tagging each with GPS so that the team can track the precise location of each shot and cross reference it with analog data collected throughout the day.

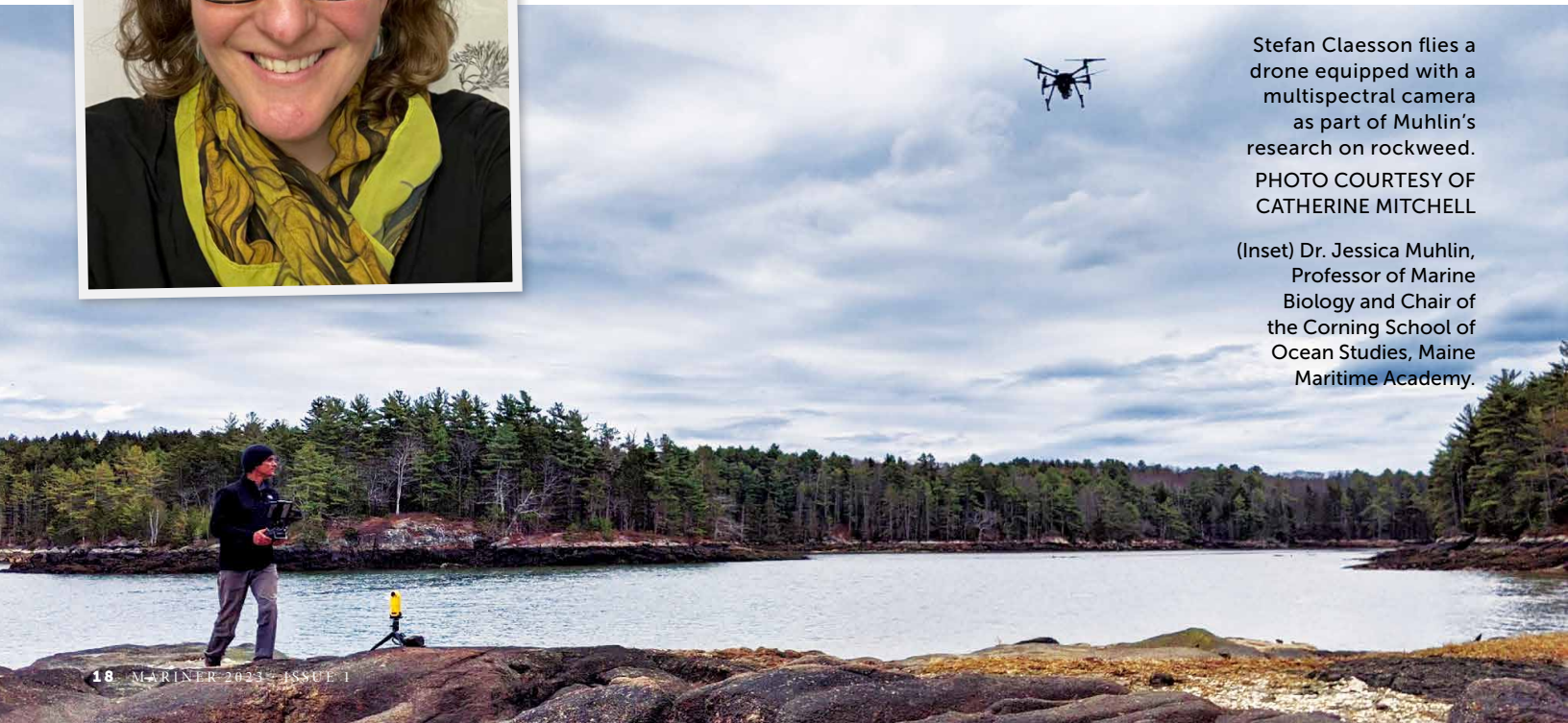
On the intertidal plane below, the ground crew places small square frames



Stefan Claesson flies a drone equipped with a multispectral camera as part of Muhlin’s research on rockweed.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CATHERINE MITCHELL

(Inset) Dr. Jessica Muhlin, Professor of Marine Biology and Chair of the Corning School of Ocean Studies, Maine Maritime Academy.



made of plastic piping in a grid formation on gnarled masses of seaweed. Using this transect method, each member of the team moves methodically across the mud and rocks. Carefully, they collect information about the type of seaweeds present in the frame, the depth and density of vegetation, and observations about the overall organic health of each quadrant. The work is slow and deliberate.

The drone on the other hand, moves quickly, usually completing two thirty-minute flights first thing in the morning. The drone is equipped with a spectrometer that provides researchers the spectral signature or a reflectance number of the biomatter that spreads out beneath clear skies. As a result, the images collected by the UAS are “multispectral,” meaning that they capture a spectrum of colors that are not visible to the human eye. This unprecedented degree of precision helps researchers determine the exact quantities of each seaweed in different areas.

In addition to hand measurements and aerial photos, the researchers take physical samples from each field site. Muhlin explains, “We chunk out the

ten-by-ten centimeter quadrant and literally cut samples out with scissors so we can weigh it and parse out how much of it was rockweed or how much it was bladderwrack so we’d have a biomass associated with each sample area.”

In the future, Muhlin and her colleagues hope that citizen scientists might be able to complete much of this groundwork, supporting the build-out of an open access library of drone images and field samples that are gathered through grassroots efforts and community building. Already, Muhlin notes, creative collaboration has been at the root of this project’s success. “What I really love is that we’re in this process of discovery and learning together. No one is bigger than the sum of our parts.”

Initial funding for this project came from the Maine Economic Improvement Fund – Small Campus Initiative,* with matching funds from the Bigelow Center for Seafood Solutions and Maine

**The same funding source that supported the high-tech lab equipment profiled in previous Mariner issue (Issue 2, 2022).*

Community Foundation, but the work has only just begun. “My motivation is to help sound resource management,” Muhlin says. “But there are practical business applications and a lot of possibilities.”

In the meantime, Muhlin is focused on what aspects of this project she can bring into the classroom. “We have had two ocean studies interns join us on field campaigns,” she notes, smiling. “But I think the practical application of it is really the ability to conduct authentic research and then to tell students about it in a way that’s accessible and that they can connect to.”

“I don’t think it’s widely known that MMA has scientists conducting original research. When we meet landowners in the field or collaborate with other organizations, I am proud to show how our expertise and scholarship contributes to Maine’s future.” ■

Emily Baer lives with her family in Bucksport, Maine. She is proud to help share Maine Maritime Academy’s incredible stories and to support its faculty and students.

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Eric King (right) with Chief Engineer Dan Bühler in the shipyard office.
PHOTO BY ALEX INGLE

Falkor (too) departing Vigo, Spain to continue sea trials off Puerto Rico.
PHOTO BY ALEX INGLE

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF SCHMIDT OCEAN INSTITUTE



OCEAN ADVENTURES OF Eric King '90

For the past nineteen years the MMA graduate has been at the forefront of global ocean research

By Carl Little

When Eric King '90 explained the workings of the 363-foot ocean research vessel *Falkor (too)* during a Zoom call this past January, his hands came alive.

He made circular motions to accompany a description of the amazing propulsion system run by Voith Schneider Propellers, whose vertical blades spin in the same direction. In describing the hangar that holds the ship's remotely operated vehicles, or ROVs, his hands and arms attempted to articulate a large protective space in the belly of the vessel.

King became even more animated when talking about the ship's 2023 expeditions. The crew complement is 28 but the ship has 70 additional berths for scientists, ROV pilots, artists, media personnel, and students. In June they will be on an "octopus odyssey" to investigate the biodiversity of unprotected seamounts off Costa Rica. Later in the year they will be exploring hydrothermal vents and vertical reefs in the Galápagos. The team will also be testing the capabilities of a new technology that provides high-resolution 3-D mapping of the seafloor: Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Sonar.

King oversees the operation of the ship, where it is going, and everything related to its operations. He also administers the science work and organizes the various expeditions while working within an international research vessel community "to find synergies between us and other institutions" so that they all can work on a much larger scale of ocean research and exploration.

How did King end up Senior Director of Operations for a state-of-the-art ocean research vessel? His remarkable journey, like many others, began at MMA.

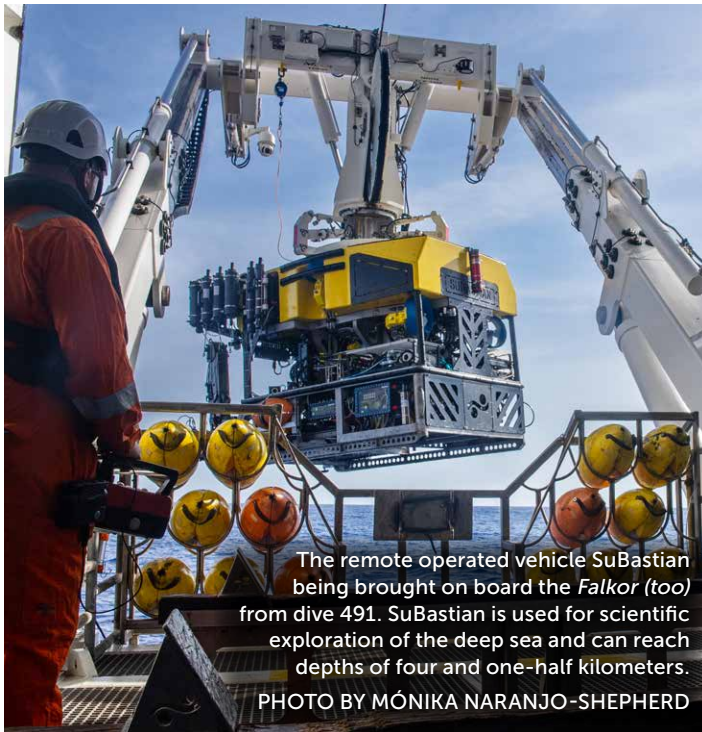
WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

When King graduated from Maine Maritime Academy with a BS in Maritime Transportation and Nautical Science, he set his sights waterward, taking a commission with the U.S. Coast Guard. He was posted to New York and then spent a few years in Cleveland. The Great Lakes were an "eye opener," in particular the maritime side. He loved it.

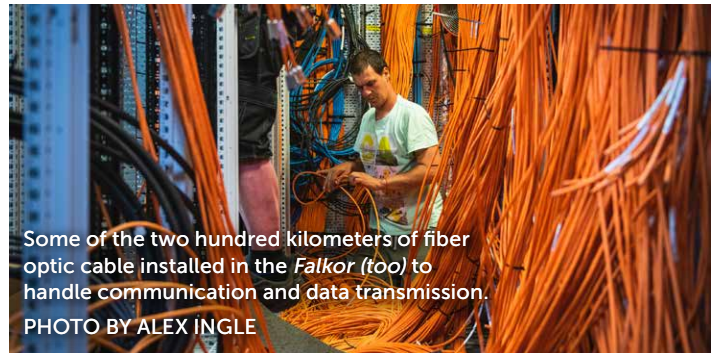
While stationed on Lake Erie, King entered the marine salvage world, working with a New Jersey-based company. He resigned from the Coast Guard but kept a reserve commission. The next seven or so years he worked with offshore derricks and salvage tugs up and down the East Coast and in the Gulf of Mexico. From there, he went into general offshore and coastal harbor towing and some light marine construction and dredging. Each assignment brought new knowledge and adventures.

At a marine salvage conference in Seattle one year, King fell in love with the Pacific Northwest. Yes, it was pouring rain, but in the nearby mountains there was more snow than he had ever seen. Reporting on his trip to his wife, Amanda, he vowed if there was ever a chance to relocate to Seattle, they would "throw the line off, pull chocks" and head west.

Sure enough, an opportunity to be port captain for the University of Washington's oceanographic research ship opened up and King answered the call. He soon found himself at the helm of the R/V *Thomas G. Thompson*. The 274-foot vessel was named for Dr. Thomas Thompson (1888–1961), founder of University of Washington's oceanographic laboratories and the first American chemist to focus on investigating the chemistry of seawater.



The remote operated vehicle SuBastian being brought on board the *Falkor (too)* from dive 491. SuBastian is used for scientific exploration of the deep sea and can reach depths of four and one-half kilometers.
PHOTO BY MÓNICA NARANJO-SHEPHERD



Some of the two hundred kilometers of fiber optic cable installed in the *Falkor (too)* to handle communication and data transmission.
PHOTO BY ALEX INGLE



Scientists David Caress and Jeff Beeson look at a bathymetry rendering of an expedition's destination.
PHOTO BY MÓNICA NARANJO-SHEPHERD

Once more, King entered a new field, ocean science, about which he knew little. Undaunted, he jumped feet first into his new role: supporting the ship with its cohort of mariners and working with scientists from all over the U.S. while crisscrossing the greater Pacific doing general ocean science work. He found it fascinating. He was hooked.

THE WORLD OF OCEAN STUDIES

King doesn't recall discussing ocean research vessels while at Maine Maritime Academy aside from some mention of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's ships. While MMA's Massachusetts counterpart has Woods Hole Oceanographic "right around the corner," he notes, Maine Maritime was then somewhat removed from the world of ocean studies.

While commanding the *Thompson*, King gained experience working with various funders, including the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Navy Office of Naval Research. Making these connections would help in his next appointment.

Meanwhile, King attended the University of Washington graduate school at night. He remembers not seeing his family, his wife and two kids, a whole lot for three years while he pursued a master's in public administration.

Shortly after earning the degree, King heard about a foundation in California that was converting a ship into an

oceanographic research vessel. After a few interviews, he was brought on in 2010 as marine operations manager to help complete the conversion of a German fishery protection vessel into an ultramodern ocean research ship.

Part of the conversion was the vessel's name, which changed from *Seefalke* (Sea Falcon) to *Falkor*, the name of the luck dragon in the fantasy novel *The Never-Ending Story*. That was the easy part: major retrofitting was required to transform the ship into a world-class ocean research platform.

King spent the better part of two years at the Peters Schiffbau shipyard, a small operation in Wewelsfleth, Germany. At the same time, he visited other oceanographic institutions around the world lining up possible projects for the ship to undertake once it was fully outfitted. On these trips, he represented the Schmidt Family Foundation, launched in 2006 by Wendy and Eric Schmidt to address issues of sustainability and the responsible use of natural resources. More specifically, he was an ambassador for the Schmidt Ocean Institute, a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to discoveries that benefit the health of the world's oceans.

Fully operational in 2013, the 272-foot R/V *Falkor* began its cross-oceans explorations, mainly in the greater Pacific. In the South China Sea, they worked out of Vietnam and Indonesia. During the pandemic, they spent a year and a half circumnavigat-

ing Australia, mapping the Great Barrier Reef and sampling corals and sediments. For nearly a decade this repurposed ship with its corps of international sailors and scientists explored and discovered.

CAMARADERIE IS KEY

In March 2022 the Schmidt Ocean Institute announced the donation of the *Falkor* to the Italian National Research Council. Renamed *Gaia Blu*, the ship is now conducting science research in the Mediterranean.

The Schmidts wanted a vessel that would provide a larger base for research operations and be more capable of handling deep sea exploration. Rather than build something new, they once again acquired a vessel on the market, the Norwegian-designed MS *Polar Queen* built by the Freire Shipyard in Vigo, Spain, one of the busiest ports on the western coast of Europe.

King recalls the speed in which the transition was made. They finished up science research in the Pacific, traversed the Panama Canal and the Atlantic to deliver the *Falkor* to Italy, and then retrieved the *Polar Queen* from Norway and brought it to Vigo for refitting.

In April 2020 King assembled the shipyard owners and a team from the Schmidt Ocean Institute to figure out how they were going to convert what had been an offshore support vessel into an oceanographic research ship, which had been rechristened R/V *Falkor (too)*. Between August 2020 and January 2022, they cre-

ated, in King's estimation, "one of the most capable research vessels in the world."

King noted that much of the conversion was done in-house, without outside project management. "We oversaw what the shipyard was doing," he notes, "but it was a design-build: design, construct, design, construct, design, construct." Flexibility in contracts and funding allowed them to make steady progress in the rebuild. "The Schmidts wanted us out working with scientists, collecting data, doing exploration work," King recalls.

Falkor (too) is specially equipped for deep sea exploration. It features one of the most comprehensive suites of sea floor and water column sensors. This equipment allows scientists to map the sea floor from just a few meters underneath the keel to the full ocean depth—nearly 11,000 meters of water.

Aside from pushing through ice in the Arctic, there is, says King, "pretty much nowhere we can't go and do ocean studies." You can hear the pride in his voice as he describes the ship's capabilities, from its remotely operated vehicle launch and recovery system and its helicopter pad to its 150-ton offshore crane (the largest on any ocean science research vessel), its eight laboratories, six diesel generators, and two hundred kilometers of fiber optic cable coursing through the vessel to carry data and communications. The ship can be at sea for four months without refueling. With no home port, it's underway 24/7, 365 days a year.

As for the crew, King smiles as he lists the countries from which hail the ship's "international community of mariners." Canada, Australia, South Africa, Bulgaria, Finland, Nigeria, the Philippines, Scotland, Hungary, Ireland—the range is global by design. The same goes for the cohort of scientists.

"Everybody is together," King says, "and that's huge." Shared spaces and a shared mission create a "great bond" where scientists and crew members help each other. "The ship's crew sits next to the scientists in the mess," he relates, "and they're able to talk about and ask questions and get some insight into why they're doing the science so that the crew has a vested interest." That camaraderie is key to the ship's success.

THE FOUNDATION OF A CAREER

Born in North Conway and brought up in Chatham, New Hampshire, at the edge of the White Mountains, King attended high school at Fryeburg Academy. He first became aware of MMA at a college fair in his high school's gymnasium where he

He has taken on these tasks "with MMA pride" and perseverance with the hope that future generations will benefit from his and his colleagues' efforts

picked up a glossy tri-fold color brochure that featured photos of the T/S *State of Maine*. Those photos captured his imagination since his exposure to the ocean had "pretty much been limited to one offshore sailing adventure with family friends" and kayaking with his parents.

A tour with his grandparents of the MMA campus, the town of Castine, and the training ship "sealed the deal," King relates. At the same time, he felt that being required to wear a uniform, get his head shaved, and do some cadence marching "would probably be the discipline and distraction" he was looking for at that time in his life. He remembers being awestruck by the sheer size and complexity of the ship "all the while

being fascinated at how vessels of this magnitude could open up the world in ways unimaginable to me."

Looking back, King considers his four years at MMA as "the foundation, the building blocks," of a career that led him from the U.S. Coast Guard to commercial marine salvage and eventually ocean science. "What probably has remained with me most since the Field House graduation ceremony," King writes, "has been the concept of 'devotion to duty' which was instilled in us MUGs from the moment we first walked up the ship's gangway on day one of INDOC."

King considers himself extraordinarily fortunate over the past nineteen years to be able to collaborate and partner with brilliant people from around the globe who are interested in applying the most advanced ocean-related technologies "to better understand the role the ocean can, and does, play in planetary and human health."

Looking for new and innovative ways to help better understand the ocean and communicate its value "for the purpose of bringing about more than just awareness," King admits, can be "a difficult and often uphill task." He has taken on these tasks "with MMA pride" and perseverance with the hope that future generations will benefit from his and his colleagues' efforts—and those of fellow MMA alumni "who are also pushing hard within the ocean sciences to bring teams of scientists, researchers, and ocean engineers to the far corners of our open ocean." ■

Carl Little lives and writes on Mount Desert Island. He curated the exhibit "Clark Fitz-Gerald: Castine's Celebrated Sculptor-in-Residence," now in its second summer at the Castine Historical Society.

Several other Maine Maritime Academy graduates have been part of the crew of the *Falkor* and *Falkor (too)*. They include:

- COLLEEN PETERS '05 who sailed aboard *Falkor* as a marine technician in the ship's Science Department before being promoted to lead technician and department head.
- DEBORAH SMITH '02, also a marine technician in the *Falkor*'s science department and among the initial crew aboard *Falkor (too)*.
- JULIANA DIEHL '17, who joined *Falkor (too)* in the summer of 2022 while the ship was still undergoing conversion in Vigo, Spain. In 2015, Diehl, who was an MMA undergrad in marine science, sailed on the *Falkor* as one of the Institute's first Students-of-Opportunity, and she was also an NOAA Hollings Scholar. She is currently a member of the ship's Science Department.

Alumni News

SPOTLIGHT

Supporting MMA through Planned Giving

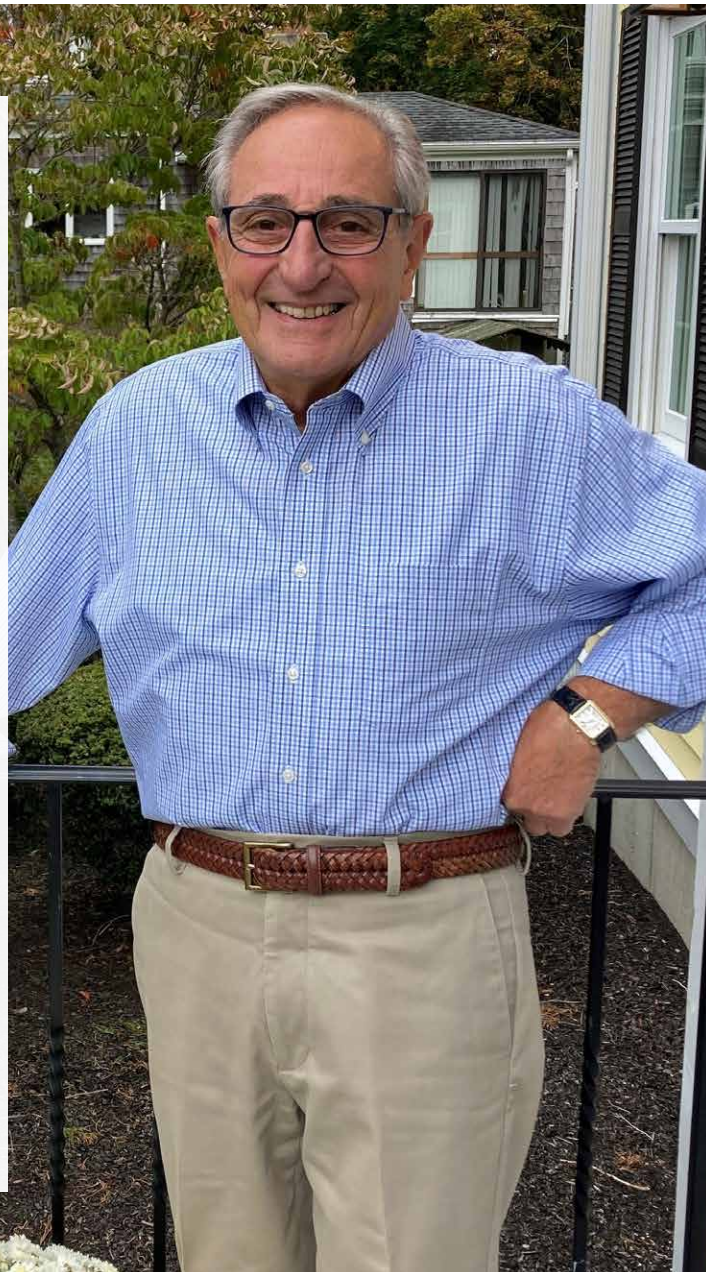
BY FRANK N. FAMULARI '67

ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO Angela and I decided to include Maine Maritime Academy in our trust and will to ensure that at our passing our intentions would be clear to our administrator. The concept of including MMA in our estate came from a classmate. Some years ago, he was featured in the Alumni News explaining why he and his wife decided to include MMA in their estate plans. At that time, I didn't give it too much thought, but as the years went by and our portfolio increased, we became more aware of the need to specify how our portfolio was to be distributed at the time of our passing.

During our discussions, I realized that, had it not been for graduating from MMA, I doubted we would be in the financial position we are. We determined that the bulk of our estate would be directed to MMA.

As with many of the MMA alumni, I have routinely contributed to the yearly and specific fundraising requests. Through our planned giving, we will ensure our continuing support for MMA long after our passing.

This is a positive way to help sustain Maine Maritime Academy in the future long after we are gone.



CREATING YOUR LEGACY

When you include Maine Maritime Academy in your estate plans, you make a permanent and lasting difference to MMA, its students, faculty, and staff. By making a planned gift, you ensure MMA will be producing top-notch graduates long into the future.

CONTACT CHRISTOPHER HALEY, VP FOR ADVANCEMENT FOR MORE INFORMATION: EMAIL CHRISTOPHER.HALEY@MMA.EDU OR CALL 207-326-2232.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOU CAN PROVIDE FOR MMA, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE:

- Include a bequest to Maine Maritime Academy in your will, either a specific bequest or a percentage.
- Name MMA as a beneficiary of your retirement account.
- Name MMA as a beneficiary of your life insurance.
- Leave your house or property to MMA.



CASCO BAY (PORTLAND)

The Casco Bay Chapter announced that Mark Winter '88 will take the reins as president of the largest MMA alumni chapter. Welcome Mark. Special thanks to Pat Zrioka '87 for his six years of dedicated service to the chapter, which saw a significant boost in activities and events during his term.

The chapter hosted two Maine Mariner hockey games this winter, a pre-holiday outing December 9, 2022, and a

St. Patrick's Day gala March 17, 2023 (see photo). President Jerry Paul and wife, Kristy, were in attendance, their first hockey game ever!

Save the date . . . Friday, July 21. The Casco Bay Chapter and Alumni Association will host a barbeque at Hadlock Field, followed by a Sea Dogs baseball game and fireworks. Details to follow.



ALUMNI NEWS

CONN. & R.I.

John Gasper '02 thanks everyone who came to Battleship Cove, Fall River, Massachusetts, in October 2022. He reports, "Everyone had a great time and really enjoyed the tour we got from Mike Williams, USMC retired, who splits his time between the battleship *Massachusetts* in the summers and the aircraft carrier *Midway* in San Diego in the winters. The ship's history was really interesting, too, including the fact that the *Massachusetts* fired the first and the last 16-inch round in WWII."

In addition to a pizza social at the Pizza Barn in Groton in January 2023 with Steve Morris '78, Pete St. John '83, Bob Sundman '65, Joseph "Jodi" Samuell '83, John Gasper, Todd Theil '92, Jon Carr '87, Steve Mitchell '02, and Doug Vines '81, this active group also rooted for the Hartford Wolfpack hockey team from the Director's Suite on March 24th. From left to right, Todd Thiel, Dave Bergeron '88, John Lancaster '67, Scott Hendrickson '05, Doug Vines, Kevin Green '84, John Gasper and Troy Nevells '99.

ALUMNI NEWS

PENBAY

Lindsay Pinkham reports a small but dedicated group of alumni met over dinner October 18, 2022. The chapter is discussing plans to host a cookout for MMA students who live in Maine's midcoast region.

NED ANDREWS

Ben Cameron '93 and the Ned Andrews chapter hosted an event at the Sea Dog Brewing Company, located on the Androscoggin River in Topsham on November 3, 2022. Prior to the gathering, the MMA Alumni Association used the venue for their quarterly board meeting. President Bill Full '76 was on hand to meet and greet visiting alumni, including Dr. Barkley Shepard '46.

SEACOAST (N.H.)

The Seacoast Chapter and DK Horne '80 hosted an annual holiday gathering at the Axel Johnson Conference Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on December 8, 2022. Along with a potluck feeding, alumni and guests donated stuffed animals to be given to the area's less fortunate during the Christmas season.

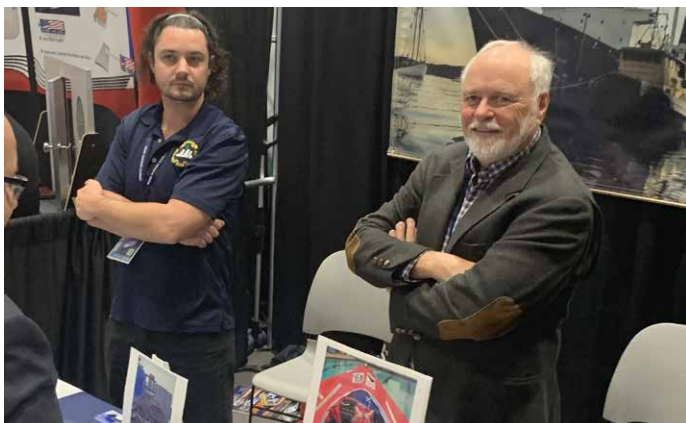
ALUMNI NEWS



ALUMNI NEWS

BANGOR SEA DOGS

The Maine Savings Amphitheater played host to a Sea Dogs Chapter social gathering on November 17, 2022, at their site on the Bangor waterfront. Following a brief history and tour of the beautiful concert venue, which is currently being renovated, alumni gathered for eats, beverages, and an update on the new training ship from Captain Gordon MacArthur '00. Special thanks to Ryan Armstrong '14 for organizing the event.



ALUMNI NEWS

SOUTHEAST (GULF)

MMA returned to the International WorkBoat Show in New Orleans this year, after a brief hiatus due to the pandemic, offering a booth to provide attendees information about MMA's educational opportunities and professional development courses. Highlights of the three-day conference include Professor Sadie Alley Ferreira '03 participating on the ABS offshore wind panel November 29th, John MacDonald '93, chief operating officer of ABS, announcing the launch of Wavesight™ which is a new maritime software company that combines two of the industry's most powerful software products, on the floor of the convention center November 30th, and introducing Ben Van Der Like '16 from Pensacola, Florida, as the new contact for the Southeast alumni group at a reception at the Embassy Suites on December 1st. About thirty-five alumni and friends attended to meet Van Der Like and hear COO Craig Johnson '91 give an MMA update. Pictured manning the booth are Van Der Like '16 and Capt. Tim Leach '05, '10.

ALUMNI NEWS

FLORIDA

Many thanks to David Knapp '86 who has hosted a couple of alumni gatherings in the Tampa area. Dave recently retired from Florida Power and Light, took a relaxing trip “down under,” and is assisting the MMA Alumni Association in planning a golf tournament in Florida—stay tuned.

President Jerry Paul and COO Craig Johnson hosted a very successful event at the Lauderdale Yacht Club, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, in January 2023. Over eighty alumni and maritime professionals attended to hear President Paul outline the opportunities and challenges on campus and his vision for MMA.



The Jacksonville group gathered to attend a Jax Icemen ECHL hockey game January 2023, viewing the activity from the comfort of the suite seats. Enjoying the camaraderie and activities are (left to right) Bill Doherty '83, John Salvador '86, Tom McCarthy '81, Dan Schroppe '62, Barry Joy '75, Richard Walther '92 (front) and Jeff Eldred '73.



ALUMNI NEWS

PUGET SOUND

Puget Sound and new chapter contact Mark Keene '12 welcomed Jeff Wright for a holiday gathering on December 17, 2022, at the Skip Rock Distillers in Snohomish, Washington. In attendance were: (left to right) Eric King '90, Wright, Keene, Minh Harriman '90 (front), Chris Baril '87, John Settles '89, John Jacoby '76, David Hopkins '84, and Bill Bartlett '83. After pleasantries and sea stories, Wright shared an MMA update with the group, assisted by Settles, a Seattle area resident, who served as MMA sailing coach for fall 2022.

Chuck Heath '72

“My Whole Personality Changed Because of MMA”

CHUCK HEATH '72 GREW UP in Laurel, Delaware, as part of a sailing family. His great-grandfather was a shipbuilder of Chesapeake Bay Ram ships. These three-masted ships were about 120 feet long with flat bottoms and a centerboard. His grandfather was owner and captain of the last commercial, three-masted schooner on the East Coast.

At his uncle's recommendation, Heath applied to Maine Maritime Academy and received a letter stating he was on an alternate list. “At the time,” said Heath, “my dad worked for Delaware Governor Charles Terry who was golf partners with Maine's Governor Ken Curtis '52. My dad talked to Governor Terry, who called Governor Curtis, and a week later I had an interview with Captain Irv, MMA's academic dean at the time. After a fifteen-minute interview, he told me I was accepted, and I started that August.”

After graduation, Heath worked for a series of companies, including Seatrain and Farrell Lines, building experience while looking for an opportunity to be directly involved with shipping. He worked as the New England regional manager for Cruise International in Norfolk, Virginia, a company owned by MMA graduate Richard O'Leary '54. Heath was hired as the New England sales rep for Greek Line and Carnival Cruise Line. Ferrell Lines hired him to shut down part of their European service. They said that if he closed it within a year, they would find him another job in shipping.

He met this goal and the president of Ferrell introduced him to people at Sealand who were looking for a director of commercial trade development for the brand new port of Jebel Ali in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Heath, his wife, and children moved to Dubai in 1981. In 1985, the port decided to open the Jebel Ali Free Zone on land surrounding the port. Heath became one of the directors, and it is now home to 9,500 companies. In 1986, the family moved back to the U.S. and Heath opened up the first American office for Jebel Ali Port and Free Zone.

In 1998, the Director General of Dubai Commerce and Tourism brought Heath back to Dubai to develop an international cruise hub. When it opened, it was the only cruise terminal between the Mediterranean and Southeast Asia. It was also the first international cruise terminal to receive ISO certification.

“We had all our policies and procedures in place during construction, so Lloyd's of London certified us before we opened the doors,” said Heath.

The chairman of Jebel Ali Port gave Heath the responsibility to develop free-trade zones on a global basis in countries where they had ports operating, using the same model that was such a success at Jebel Ali. After about ten years, Heath retired in 2011, except for some consulting he did for the World Bank in Africa.

In 2016, the Jebel Ali Port chairman asked him to go to London where they had built the largest logistics port in Europe. But they were having difficulties. Heath assessed the problems, made recommendations, and spent about six

months implementing them. In 2017, Heath moved to Dubai as Chief Operating Officer for the International Economic Zone division.

Heath is quick to credit MMA for the success he has achieved. “My whole personality changed because of MMA,”

Maine Maritime gave me the self-confidence that I could do anything I put my mind to.

Heath said. “I was extremely introverted growing up. I was very, very shy. I would actually cross the street to avoid having to talk to other students. Maine Maritime Academy gave me the self-confidence that I could do anything I put my mind to.

“Did I enjoy my time at Maine Maritime Academy? Probably not as much as I respect it today. It was a challenge. I was in the first graduating class receiving a certified Bachelor of Science degree. Even if you're on the midnight to four watch and the noon to four watch in the afternoon, that didn't get you out of your coursework responsibility. You still had to keep up your academics. You had to learn to manage your time. And time management is directly linked to self-discipline.”

But he is quick to point out the importance of people skills. “If you were to ask any of the people, not only that work for me, but within the organization itself, I'd like to think I have a pretty good reputation. I don't care if you're the office boy or if you're the chairman of the company, I'll give the same courtesy, attention, and respect.

“I tell it the way it is. If I see a decision is being made that I think is wrong, I have no problem playing devil's advocate. I can do that because of the self-confidence Maine Maritime gave me. I like pointing out risks because the last thing I want is for the company to make a decision that I know is wrong.”

ALUMNI NEWS

ALUMNI NEWS

INTERNATIONAL

Mason Hall '13 is a Coast Guard officer attached to CG Activities Europe, currently living in Maastricht, the Netherlands, as an international liaison officer. He works primarily with U.S. embassies and governments in Africa and the Middle East to improve port security governance and implementation. Directly prior to this assignment, he received instruction in French and regional studies at the State Department's Foreign Service Institute. He will be there for about another three years. He contacted the MMA Alumni Association to ascertain the existence of an overseas alumni chapter but found there isn't one. If there's interest amongst alumni living in Europe, he'd be happy to host a gathering somewhere in the Netherlands, whether in Maastricht or in a somewhat more central location like Amsterdam or The Hague. Contact alumni@mma.edu.



ALUMNI NEWS

SENIOR BANQUET

Our alumni welcomed its newest members to MMA Alumni Association at the fifty-fourth annual Alumni Senior Banquet, held March 15th at the Cross Center in Bangor. The Class of 2023 members were treated to a delicious meal, cold beverages, and an overview of the Alumni Association. Bill Full '76, president of the Association, was the master of ceremonies and Craig Johnson '91, COO of MMA, provided welcoming remarks. The seniors were very appreciative of the event and felt sincerely welcomed into the Association. Thank you to all alumni who sponsored student meals—we couldn't do it without you!

THANK YOU SPONSORS

MMA ALUMNI SENIOR BANQUET

MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

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**MMA Alumni Association
Seacoast Chapter**

*Thank you to our corporate
sponsors and 100+ individual
donors who made the 2023
Alumni Senior Banquet
possible!*



ALUMNI NEWS

TEXAS

Training ship *State of Maine* chief engineer Clifford “Sandy” Cameron ’84 was guest speaker at the holiday gathering of the Texas Alumni Chapter at the Buffalo Bayou Brewing Company in Houston on December 8, 2022 (above). A great crowd heard Cameron give an update on the new training ship and preparations to receive it. Following the meeting, chapter president Josh Shaw ’12 announced Gabrielle Wells ’16, a chemical marine advisor for ExxonMobil, as vice president of the group, who is anxious to build on area alumni programming.

**MMA ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS**

BANGOR SEA DOGS
John Burns III ’85
john.burnsiii@vistraenergy.com

BAY STATE
Sam Rowe ’65
skidrowe42@verizon.net

CASCO BAY
Mark Winter ’88
winter.mark.j@gmail.com

CONNECTICUT
John Gasper ’02
gaspersautomotive@gmail.com

DELAWARE VALLEY
Tom Lord ’87
tlord@comcast.net

FLORIDA (TAMPA)
David Knapp ’86
drknapp@tecoenergy.com

FLORIDA (JACKSONVILLE)
TBD

KENNEBEC VALLEY
Steve Roy ’78
roysteve55@gmail.com

NED ANDREWS
Ben Cameron ’93
ben@harbor
digitalsystems.com

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
Michael Chambers ’80
mcham31153@aol.com

PANAMA CANAL
Juan Molino ’89
jemolino@gmail.com

PENOBSCOT BAY
Lindsey Pinkham ’04
lindsey@midcoast
firststaid.com

PUGET SOUND
Mark Keene ’12
m.keene92@gmail.com

SEACOAST
DK Horne ’80
dkhorne1@aol.com

SOUTHEAST (GULF)
Ben Van Der Like ’16
benjamin.vanderlike@gmail.com

SOUTHEAST ATLANTIC
Capt. Jay Stewart ’00
sandbarunner@knology.net

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Michael Curtin ’03
michael.p.curtin@gmail.com

TEXAS
Josh Shaw ’12
joshua.shaw1985@gmail.com

TIDEWATER
Michael Ward ’10
michael.t.ward2010@gmail.com

WASHINGTON, DC
Eric Dankewicz ’05
edankewicz@mdpilots.com

INTERNATIONAL
Mason Hall ’13
masonhall33@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 21
SUMMER SOLSTICE CRUISE,
BAR HARBOR

JUNE 22
CLASS OF 1976 REUNION,
HARRASEEKET YACHT
CLUB, SOUTH FREEPORT

JUNE 26
MAINE MARINER GOLF
CLASSIC, BRUNSWICK
COUNTRY CLUB

JULY 10–12
CLASS OF 1965 REUNION,
MMA

JULY 19–21
CLASS OF 1973 REUNION,
MMA

JULY 21
SEA DOGS BASEBALL, PICNIC
& FIREWORKS, PORTLAND

JULY 24–26
CLASS OF 1958 REUNION,
MMA

AUGUST 7–9
CLASS OF 1968 REUNION,
MMA

SEPTEMBER 30
HOMECOMING WEEKEND,
MMA

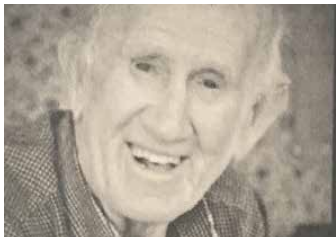
OCTOBER 12
ADMIRAL’S DINNER,
HOUSTON, TEX.

OCTOBER 16
DELAWARE VALLEY
CHAPTER GOLF CLASSIC,
PHILADELPHIA

**FOR MORE EVENT
INFORMATION, EMAIL
ALUMNI@MMA.EDU**

Class Notes

1949



Don MacVane, now 95, retired from lobstering at 90 and immediately began writing. His first published book, *Memoirs that Linger, an anecdotal history of Long Island* is available on Amazon. What was life like during the Great Depression and World War II? Was the Greatest Generation really that different from people today? What is it like living on an island in Maine? MacVane lived through much and has lots to say about it all. "They were very trying times, but with the abundance of clams and kindness, Long Islanders seldom went hungry." Having written a well-loved column called "I Remember" in the Long Island, Maine, newspaper for many, many years, MacVane has taken these snippets of the past and compiled an anecdotal history with a splash of Maine humor.

1953



Four Iowa-class ships, *Iowa*, *New Jersey*, *Missouri*, and *Wisconsin*, were reactivated and modernized at the direction of the U.S. Congress in 1981, and armed with missiles during the 1980s, as part of the 600-ship Navy initiative. Four scale models of each modernized battleship were also

commissioned to be crafted.

Nathaniel Choate had a substantial leadership role in this evolution, responsible for the retrofits and installations during this modernization. Last summer, Choate visited campus and generously donated his USS *Iowa* (BB-61) model to MMA, along with two beautiful pieces of art depicting the *New Jersey* (BB-62) in action and her internal framework. The model is proudly displayed in the Wyman House.

Ed. Note: These four battleships were the last battleships commissioned in the U.S. Navy. All older U.S. battleships were decommissioned by 1947. Between the mid-1940s and the early 1990s, the *Iowa*-class battleships fought in four major U.S. wars. In the Pacific Theater of World War II, they served primarily as fast escorts for *Essex*-class aircraft carriers and also shelled Japanese positions. During the Korean War, the battleships provided naval gunfire support for United Nations forces, and in 1968, *New Jersey* shelled Viet Cong and Vietnam People's Army forces in the Vietnam War. During Operation Desert Storm in 1991, *Missouri* and *Wisconsin* fired missiles and 16-inch (406 mm) guns at Iraqi targets.

1959

Daniel Colon reports, "Went to sea on the *S/S African Glade* and became a second A/E. [I] got married in 1962, came ashore to work as chief engineer on tugboats, and [raised] four sons: a lawyer, a school teacher, and two marine engineers. In 1972, I became a patrolman for District No. 1 M.E.B.A. and retired twenty-eight years later, with thirty-eight years of pension credit. I love retirement."

1964



Through class agent Larry Wade, the class of 1964 stays in touch regularly via Zoom and emails. Chuck Sherman reminded the group that, "... sixty-one years ago on Groundhog Day, Feb 02, 1962, we all crossed the equator together." Ken Fahrback then responded to classmates via email with the above image of the occasion.

1965

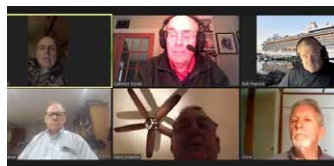
Robert Bickford is retired and living in Presque Isle, Maine.

1969



Mike Curran, Jerry Markley, John Gaddis, Hector Heath, and Stephen Smith gathered for this picture at the memorial of classmate Clayton Nowell.

1971



Clarence Snyder put out an update to classmates: "On March 10th the group pictured joined a Zoom call to 'tell lies' and other sea stories."

"Tim Plummer, pictured in the upper-left, was visiting Greg Peacock and shared some of his Alaskan experiences. I'm in the center of the top row attempting to take the screen shot. Bob Peacock is in the upper-right, and you might see the cruise liner in his background. He is preparing for another one to stop by Downeast. Bruce Woodman is pictured in the lower-left. Harry Fullerton is pictured in the bottom row center, joining for the first time. Lower-right is Vince Bonsaint joining from Mansfield, Mass."

"We were together for about an hour. Had more than one laugh. More Father Harvey stories. Stories of the subterranean environment of Portland. Heard about an adventurous weekend in Philadelphia. And an old girlfriend reunion. Learned how to catch fish in Alaska... and creative ways to bring the catch aboard. And sometimes there were times it was hard to stand up straight."

"I proposed the next get together via Zoom for June 9th, at 6 PM. If someone wants another date or time let me know. If you're wondering about why Zoom, since the beginning of Covid time I've had a Zoom account. For the last few years of my GE career, I worked remotely using Webex and in retirement I chair a church council where we meet monthly now both in person and remotely. While I think all of us would like to be face-to-face, Zoom can be a next-best thing. While a little frustrating at times, as Vin found out this time, it is a worthwhile tool."

Ed. note: The class of 1971 and other classes have used Zoom gatherings as a great way to keep in touch. If a class is interested

in conducting this type of event, contact alumni@mma.edu.

1972

Steve Goulet sailed for forty-one years with Exxon Mobil and is currently co-founder, managing director, and lead mentor at Father's House Kids (www.fathershousekids.org), a life-changing resource for underserved boys ages 6–18. The majority of the boys are fatherless and nearly all of them benefit from some type of government assistance. Through Father's House Kids, these boys are taught the value of hard work and are introduced to critical thinking and the importance of building on subjects taught in school. In addition, students visit local companies, engineering firms, construction sites, and industrial companies where training is conducted by professionals. Apprenticeships in the trades are available to those who meet the criteria. The organization is 100% run by volunteers.

1973

In November 2022, Cal Bancroft reports, "After almost fifty years in our industry, it's time to retire from full-time work. Currently, I am COO/EVP at Excelerate Energy in Texas. We manage/operate ten floating storage regasification units in eight countries, with over 720 seafarers. In 2020, we transitioned all ten vessels from an external 3P service provider to in-house management and, in 2021, we completed our IPO transitioning from a private enterprise to a public company on the NYSE using the symbol EE."

1974

Richard Card reports, "[I] did a lot of different things in my career. Now enjoying retirement, spending time with my wife, our dog, and gardening." He and wife Heidi live in Belgrade, Maine.

1976

In the March 27 online edition of *The Maritime Executive*, the International Association of Maritime and Port Executives (IAMPE) announced its latest class of Maritime Port Executives (MPE) who completed certifications. Captain Jeffrey Monroe taught the course MM, AMPE, which covered in-depth maritime industry and port management topics. MPE graduates also received graduate-level academic and continuing education credits by the IAMPE's Academic partners that includes Maine Maritime Academy.

1976

Massoud Sarikhani sends, "I have been always thankful to the great MMA with all honorable staff and instructors for what I gained and learned from there which has been much useful in my whole career, being a naval officer. Of course, I will never forget all the good times in MMA. I bow and salute all my greatest classmates from the Bicentennial Class." Sarikhani and wife, Esmat, live in Irvine, California.

1978

Frank Pride is retired and lives in Redmond, Oregon with his wife, Victoria.

1982

Capt. John Gazzola is working in sales at Laborde Products, Inc., a leading distributor for Mitsubishi marine diesel engines along the U.S. East Coast.

1982



Kirk Plender sent this image taken at the Mt. Washington Hotel after a great day of skiing. Pictured are classmates Plender, Scott Saunders, Curtis Cote, Guy Mossman '79, and Brian Mossman.

1983

Ken O'Brien has thrown his hat into the election for the 94th district of the Virginia House of Delegates, a newly districted area. Election is November 2023. Check out his webpage at obrienfordelegate.com

1983

Studio JBONE, owned by Jay Sawyer, was recipient of the Penobscot Bay Regional Chamber of Commerce Beacon Award, awarded to a person, business, or organization that has attracted significant positive regional or national attention to the Penobscot Bay region. The award was given during the annual Year in Review Awards Gala at the Samoset Resort on February 10, 2023. Studio JBONE was presented the award for its dedicated work on the *El Faro* Salute! memorial, which is situated along the Rockland Harbor Trail in the South End of the Arts Capital of Maine. More than 250 Chamber member businesses, elected officials, and local community representatives were in attendance.

1985

John "Jake" Jacobs is the Director of Facilities at the Bigelow Laboratory in East Booth-

bay, Maine. Jacobs attended the Senior Banquet, proud to be with his son Robert, MMA class of 2023. Jacobs lives in Pittston, Maine.

1986



Bill O'Reilly reports, "Classmate connections always come through no matter where you are in the world!"

"I am currently in Japan as the regional operations manager-far east for Noresco, LLC, on the Yokosuka Navy Base. Recently, we had some trouble with water chemistry and couldn't find the appropriate help in Japan. I reached out to my classmates and Todd "Egga" Anderson '86 helped me out immediately from the U.S.!"

"This summer I received a call from Doug Lord '86D (right in photo), saying he was in Yokohama, Japan for ship repairs. Doug is sailing Chief Mate on the SLNC Pax. I went to see Doug with Deb O'Reilly, honorary '86 grad. Great time had by all . . . sushi and beer might have been included. "The next morning (Saturday) Doug phoned. His ship needed parts in a hurry and couldn't get them through normal channels. We found the parts and drove them up to Yokohama four hours after Doug called."

"Deb and I have two children and two new grandchildren and counting (on the grandchildren that is)."

CLASS NOTES

1987

After almost 32 years with Foss Maritime Company, Capt. Paul Gallagher switched coasts to become the director of ship operations for Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

1987

John Sewall retired from Exxon Mobil in February 2023. He and wife Leslie live in Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

1988



Jay Hackett (right) and girlfriend, Helene, were spending some time in the Bahamas on their forty-two-foot Sabre *No Rush* when they ran into Phil Doller '91 (left), director of the Bimini Bay Marina.

1989

Jim Michalski started a new position as vice president, regional logistics at Zim American Integrated Shipping Services Co.

1992

Matt Evans is the northeast sales representative for Patagonia. Evans lives in Chatham, Massachusetts.

1992



Mark Higgins, former director of the Maine State Ferry Service, joined the Woods Hole, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Steamship Authority as the organiza-

tion's first chief operating officer. He assumed his duties in April.

1993



Joshua M. Smith researches American maritime history, and his first published book, *Borderland Smuggling: Patriots, Loyalists, and Illicit Trade in the Northeast, 1783–1820*, won the John Lyman Award in American Maritime History in 2007. His book, *Making Maine: Statehood and the War of 1812*, was published by the University of Massachusetts Press in 2022. He lives with his family on Long Island, where he is the Director of the American Merchant Marine Museum in Kings Point, New York.

1993



Brett Witham (front, 3th from the left), deputy general counsel, JAX Mice, clinical and research services, was in Japan last fall and celebrated JAX's one-year anniversary in Japan. Their role is supporting the global biomedical community.

1994



Captain William "Bill" Perkins retired from the U.S. Navy after

an illustrious twenty-eight-year career. Perkins' last duty station was as Commanding Officer, Naval Air Facility, El Centro. He returned to his former command as a spectator and posts, "2023's NAFEC Airshow also marked the occasion of the first-ever Blue Angels female jet demonstration pilot, Lt. Amanda Lee, flying left wing in the Diamond in her first airshow as a Blue Angel. She did everyone proud and it was great to meet up with her in the O-club later on for a quick chat about her journey so far." Perkins lives in the Phoenix area and works as Operations Manager for Amazon.

1994

BJ Cloutier shipped for five years in merchant marines immediately following graduation. He currently is employed by NAVSEA at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine, as a non-nuclear chief test engineer. July 2023 will mark his twenty-fourth year of federal service. Cloutier says, "Awesome place to work. Looking forward to having many MMA grads join our team!" He and wife, April, live in South Portland and have two sons, Jack (21) and Seth (18).

1995

Brian Coxson was promoted to Captain for PSA Airlines in December 2022. Coxson, a retired naval aviator, and wife, Susan, live in Hermon, Maine.

1996



Capt. Jason Smith posted, "It was a true honor to represent the U.S. Coast Guard at this year's

ESPN Armed Forces Bowl, the Bowl for the Brave, where I had the opportunity to engage with those of all ages who serve our country. At this event, I, and other service representatives, gave the oath of enlistment to almost 200 new recruits, heard inspiring "never quit" remarks from Army Staff Sergeant Travis Mills, an Iraq and Afghanistan wounded warrior, and met with WWII veterans who fought in both Pacific and Atlantic theaters." After an outstanding thirty-year "mission" in the United States Coast Guard, Capt. Smith, Sector Commander, Houston-Galveston, will be retiring later this summer.

1999

Linette Buzza Casey is the head of Americas Sales, Electrification, Automation and Digitalization, for Siemens Energy, Inc. She attended the Alumni Association gathering during the International WorkBoat Show in New Orleans in December 2022 and was an alumni panelist during Commandant's Time in February 2023.

2000

David Wilson is the senior director of facilities and workplace planning at QSC, a globally recognized leader in the design, engineering, and manufacturing of award-winning solutions and services.

2001

Joshua Fields assumed the duties of executive officer of supervisor of shipbuilding at Bath Iron Works in December 2022.

2001

Joshua Atwood has accepted the role of CCP platform manager at GE Power Gas Power, covering 7F/GTx 60 Hz, effective in March 2023. Atwood's most recent role was technical leader – CCP Engineering Services. Atwood has been with GE since 2005. Before

that, he worked at Calpine Corporation commissioning industrial gas turbines. He was raised in an area of Maine as far east as you can go before entering Nova Scotia, Canada. In his spare time, Atwood enjoys backpacking, boating, and hands-on projects around the house. He is located in Greenville, South Carolina, along with his wife, Christy, and children Rhyen, Gray, and Peyton.

2002

Nathan LaChance started a new position in February 2023 as supply chain manager for Aroma Joe's.

2004



Unable to attend ceremonies during Homecoming 2022 because of his shipping schedule, Chief Mate Brian Enos was presented the MMA Alumni Association Humanitarian Award at morning formation in November 2022. He was recognized for his role as chief mate aboard the *American Pride* in an at-sea rescue of three people fifty miles west of Tampa, Florida. Enos addressed the Regiment of Midshipmen following the presentation.

2005

Since graduating from MMA, Austin Leackfeldt has spent most of his professional career working offshore on everything from offshore supply vessels and research boats to semi-submersible drilling rigs and, eventually, advanced sixth generation drill ships. He recently came ashore as the Engineering and Maintenance Manager for Rand-Whitney Containerboard in Montville, Connecticut.

2005

Colleen Peters is the product manager of EM Medium & Deep Multibeam Systems and Seafloor Information Systems at Kongsberg Maritime out of Warwick, Rhode Island.

2008

Casey Clark is the general manager at Jenkins Restorations. She lives in Midlothian, Virginia, with her husband, James, and daughter, Grace.

2008

Max Brogli has been promoted to director, project management office at Mitsubishi Power Americas.

2010

Ken Brown, a twelve-year Navy nuclear veteran, started a new position as a consultant with Boston Consulting Group, a company focused on major maintenance cycles and change management.

2011

Curtis Libby is an instrumentation engineer for Beta Technologies in South Burlington, Vermont. He, wife, Fiona, and daughter, Sophie, live in Stowe, Vermont.

2012

Heather Santana was a member of the Women of Distinction panel on March 22. She served in the Marine Corps for six years in California, Afghanistan, and Virginia. Santana left the Marine Corps in 2018 at the rank of Captain and joined a consulting firm that assisted clients such as the Department of Veterans Affairs. In 2021 she earned an MA in Non-Governmental Organization Management from Johns Hopkins University and has worked in operations for nonprofits ever since. Santana lives in Massachusetts with her husband of eleven years, Edwin '12, and their four children.

2012



Josh Shaw (left) was in Seward, Alaska in the shipyard on our five-year dry docking. "Lo and behold, Chris Moore '18 saw a sunset photo I posted on Facebook, immediately recognized the shipyard, . . . and reached out to make the connection. We visited for a little bit and shared what we've been up to over the years. That's what I love the most about being an MMA alum . . . there are connections to be made all around

the world." Shaw is still with Chouest in their U.S. government division. "The scenery will be different, as I'll now be traveling all around the world."

2013

Kari Jones was a participant in the recent Women of Distinction panel held March 22. She works for Sappi North America in South Portland as a logistics engineer. As a supply chain lead, her main responsibilities include managing a team that oversees the U.S. exports and European imports. Outside of work, Jones continues to play basketball and spend time with her friends and family in Portland, Maine, all while spoiling her dog, Tilly.

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CLASS NOTES

2013



Caissie (Nevala) Roberts and husband, Isaiah '10, welcomed Parker Eliza Roberts on January 5, 2023. The Roberts are also parents to Lincoln, six, and Archer, two, and live in Marshfield, Maine. As owner of the Sew Fetch Dog Company, started seven years ago, Roberts now employs four people year-round. Sew Fetch dog collars, harnesses and more are sold in over 150 U.S. locations, as well as in Canada, Spain, Italy, France, and the UK, with customers from as far away as Australia, Japan, South Korea. Roberts took time from her busy parenting and business schedule to participate in the MMA Women of Distinction panel held on campus in March. Isaiah worked for Diamond Offshore and is the owner-operator of the Picket Hill Land Services, a growing construction company.

2014

Genevieve Black was on campus as a panelist in the recent Women of Distinction program. She received her MS in Sustainable Natural Resource Management from Unity College in 2018 and has been teaching in Maine for six years, currently at Belfast Area High School.

Black holds a passion for fisheries science, the lobster industry, and most things under the waves. She is very excited to be included in the mission on marine-themed, cross-disciplinary education.

2014

Andi (Flannery) St. Pierre was promoted to director, North American/European Union

head of procurement delivery systems and services at Merck KGaA, a vibrant science and technology company of Darmstadt, Germany. She lives in Savannah, Georgia.

2014



In November 2022, Adam Weymouth started as assistant engineer at Kirby Offshore Marine

2016



Gabby Wells reports, "After completion of a Master's program from MMA (2017), I joined SeaRiver Maritime (ExxonMobil Subsidiary) as a Third Mate, Unlimited, until sale of the SeaRiver fleet. After the sale, I moved to Houston to work for SeaRiver in the office as a Marine Coordinator, handling operations for our Chemical and Basestocks chartered fleet. Fast forward to now, I am currently the Americas bulk liquid marine advisor at ExxonMobil serving the chemicals business. I reside in Spring, Texas with my fiancé and our two dogs! I look forward to meeting all the alumni in the Texas area, hoping to build a strong alumni network halfway across the country."

2016

Elliott Casey was promoted to plant manager at Win-Waste Innovations at the Saugus, Massachusetts facility.

2017



Greg Duff is an operational excellence manager at Wanzek Construction, Inc., a leading general construction contractor and clean energy services company located in Pisgah Forest, North Carolina.

2017

Andrew Richardson started a new position as distributed generation project manager at Versant Power. Richardson lives in Bradley, Maine.

2017

Morgan (Maxwell) Gilson was recently on campus as a member of the Women of Distinction panel. Gilson works at Idexx as a QC analyst. Outside of her professional life, she married her college sweetheart, adopted her sassy husky, and enjoys being on the water, reading, and woodworking. She and husband, Tyler '17, live in Windham, Maine.

2018

Kati Burdet was a participant on the Women of Distinction panel on March 22. She began her career with FieldCore in July of 2018 as a generator specialist cross trained as a mechanical gas turbine field engineer. Though she loved that job, she decided to pursue opportunities with less travel and entered the renewable industry. During her time in the renewable industry, she gained experience as a solar technician, project manager, and eventually execution segment leader. In November of 2022 she chose to take some time away from industry to enjoy family, friends, and life

and is now currently exploring the many opportunities that an MMA degree can offer her.

2018

Zach Littlefield is working as an engineer for Boston Towing and Transportation.

2018

Upon graduating from MMA, Chris Moore sailed as AB tanker man and second mate for Crowley. In 2020, Moore moved shore side and is working for Crowley Fuels LLC as the petroleum cargo supervisor for Marine Operations in the Western Alaska Division.

2019

Lila Eldridge was recently on campus participating in the Women of Distinction Panel. She started with Crowley Petroleum Services in December 2021 where she was placed on the ATB *Liberty 750-3* to fulfill a permanent third mate billet. She gained a lot of knowledge, moving multiple clean-grade petroleum products in the Gulf of Mexico and was promoted to second mate in November 2022. When not at sea, she can be found at home with her dog, Schaefer, and her fiancé, Sam. She enjoys hiking, ice fishing, and riding her horses.

2019



Seamus Meyer is sailing as a second assistant engineer with Transocean.

2019

Kyla Desmarais is associate proposal manager at TRC Companies, Inc., a global firm providing environmentally focused and

digitally powered solutions, guiding projects from concept to completion.

2019

Amanda Holewiak received her MBA from University of Southern New Hampshire in 2021 and is the manager of Commodity Management & Sourcing at Raytheon Intelligence & Space, one of four businesses that form Raytheon Technologies.

2020

Lilah Chaar is now a customer onboarding specialist for SailPlan, marine emissions optimization platform. SailPlan monitors, reports, and reduces maritime emissions using real-time data. Chaar lives in Ellsworth, Maine.

2020

Kristen Gier participated in the on-campus Women of Distinction panel on March 22. She currently holds a 2 A/E motors licenses and sails with NOAA. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling to Europe, hiking, and trying new foods.

2020

Mary (Martin) PfiEFF is working as a third mate for Hornbeck Offshore. She and husband, Robert '21, live in Ravenel, South Carolina.

2020

Avae Trainer participated in the on-campus Women of Distinction panel on March 22. She currently works on the Energy Team of Siemens Industry, Inc., as a sales executive in Total Energy Management Performance Contracting. Trainer bought a house in Scarborough in May of '21 and has enjoyed DIY renovation projects.

2021

Sawyer Watson is sailing as a mate with Northstar Marine and lives in Lisbon, Maine.

2022

Jack Frazier is third officer aboard the *Thomas G. Thompson*, a 274-foot research vessel owned by the and operated by the School of Oceanography at the University of Washington. [See the article "Eric King's Ocean Adventures" earlier in this issue for another mention of this vessel and alumnus Eric King '90. —Ed.]

2022

Andrew Haining is an asset management professional at Cianbro.

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Eight Bells

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

These four MMA students lost their lives as the result of an automobile accident Saturday, December 10, 2022, in Castine.

CHASE H. FOSSETT, MMA JUNIOR

The son of Scott and Laura, Fossett grew up in Gardiner, Maine, and graduated from Gardiner Area High School in 2020. While in high school he was an excellent student, played varsity soccer and lacrosse, and was extremely proud to be a team captain his senior year. Fossett was quiet and humble and had many friends who love and miss him. He was studying International Business and Logistics at MMA. He found his entrepreneurial spirit at age seven by creating his own lemonade and pastry stand called "Chase's Snack Shack." Upon graduation, he intended to pursue his MBA with the hopes of owning his own business. His time at MMA had an incredible impact on him. He often mentioned how much of an influence both his peers and professors had been to him. A very caring young man with a contagious smile, Fossett loved the outdoors, fly fishing at Pierce Pond and Grand Lake Stream, skiing at Sugarloaf, and hunting at his family cabin.

RILEY A. IGNACIO-CAMERON, MMA FIRST YEAR

He was the son of Ona Ignacio and Benjamin Cameron. Ignacio-Cameron was a 2020 graduate of Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. Ignacio-Cameron loved being on the water in any capacity, so it was no surprise he was successful in his studies at Maine Maritime Academy.

BRIAN D. KENEALY, MMA SOPHOMORE

The son of Beth Jimmo and Daniel Kenealy, Kenealy was raised in York, Maine. He graduated from York High School in 2021, where he was a three-

season varsity athlete in soccer, winter track, and baseball. He was majoring in Marine Transportation Operations and was a member of the Regiment of Midshipmen. Soccer was a passion of his from the time he was three years old on the town's rec soccer team, to four seasons at YHS, and the past two seasons with MMA's varsity team. He was a solid defender and teammate on and off the field. He was always a dedicated, hard-working, and cheerful player whether it be on the field, the track, or the diamond. Kenealy lived life to the fullest and made friends everywhere he went. He had a large close-knit pack of friends throughout his school-aged years and into university. Together they enjoyed so many sports as well as cliff jumping, rafting, and camping.

LUKE R. SIMPSON, MMA JUNIOR

A lifelong resident of Rockport and Gloucester, Mass., Simpson loved to play and explore the terrain of Cape Ann. Quarry swimming, biking through the woods, fishing off the rocks, and cross country skiing through Dogtown were just a few of his beloved outdoor escapades. Simpson graduated from Rockport High School in 2020 and kept his childhood friends close when he left Rockport to attend MMA. While there he developed additional friendships that were deeply meaningful. Simpson is remembered as a thoughtful person who loved being with his friends. He listened more than he talked and was a reliably hard worker. A lover of animals, he had several pets over the years—from dogs and cats to bunnies and a ferret.

FRANK T. HIGGINS, JR. '43-2

crossed the bar on August 24, 2020, in Lansdale, Penn. Higgins was born in his grandmother's home in Milbridge, Maine, and raised in Jonesport and Machias by loving parents and family closely tied to the sea. After graduating from high school in 1942, he attended MMA as a midshipman. After graduation, he was commissioned as a deck officer-navigator with the rank of ensign in the Naval Reserve. He received his Second Mate's License and a promotion to Lieutenant Junior Grade. Within a few days of graduation, Higgins was onboard the bridge of U.S. Merchant ship SS *Sahale*. Higgins sailed as the second and third mate on the T2 tankers carrying aviation fuel to the fronts in both the European and the Pacific theaters of war. After the war, Higgins stayed in service for six more months to bring troops home and deliver supplies to rebuild devastated areas. Higgins went on to earn a degree in civil engineering from University of Maine in 1950. He utilized his engineering skills consulting in the geotechnical field while working for state highway departments that helped build the New Jersey and Michigan interstates. He and his wife adopted three children from the Lutheran Charities in Detroit and Cleveland. He had a knack for carpentry, gardening, and making blueberry pancakes. He loved watching birds and providing a home to lonely dogs and cats, and in return, they loved to be around him.

KERMIT P. ALLEN '49

died on September 24, 2022. Born in Blue Hill, Maine, he graduated from Gould Academy in 1945 and MMA. He served in the Navy during the Korean War from 1950 to 1952, then returned home to help his father in the wild blueberry cannery business. Allen and his brother, Wayne, founded Allen Brothers, a wooding/blueberry business. In 1973 they built the G M Allen & Son Freezer/Processing Plant in Orland, with Allen serving as treasurer. Allen was a

devoted athlete. Although baseball was his favorite sport, he also played football and basketball at MMA, and later formed town baseball teams. He was in the Ellsworth bowling league for many years. He enjoyed attending the sporting events and recitals of his children and grandchildren. Allen loved harness racing, purchasing his first trotter (Spencer Win) in his 20s. Because of his competitiveness he taught his children they should always play to win. He could total a long list of numbers faster than a computer. He had the ability to take complex subjects and reduce them to three or four words. He also was an avid farmer, providing his family with fresh vegetables for years.

CAPT. DAVID V. HARDING '49

passed away on July 6, 2022, in Naples, Fla. Being the son of a sea captain, Harding developed a true appreciation for the sea. After graduating from Philips Andover Academy, Harding attended MMA and spent years in the Merchant Marines. He received his master's degree from Boston University before working for several shipping and trading companies. He established The Harding Company, a wire rope and rigging company, which exists today as a subsidiary of ALP Industries. Although he was a strong business leader, Harding balanced his life with local school committee work, church volunteerism, and participating in several trade association advisory roles. He was a tennis player, a skier, and an angler. He traveled the country in search of the perfect 'catch,' often accompanied by family and friends. After his official retirement, Harding continued to work as a fishing guide in the backwaters of the Ten Thousand Islands in Florida.

DWIGHT R. BLODGETT '50

passed away on December 14, 2022. He was born in West Brooksville, Maine, and sailed for 37 years, traveling the world over.

CAPT. JOHN W. FAIRBANKS '52

peacefully passed away on October 30, 2022. Fairbanks was raised in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. He graduated from MMA and volunteered for service in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. After three years of service, Fairbanks attended Stanford University and obtained a degree in mechanical engineering. Fairbanks's life was one of service to his country and his family. Fairbanks served for 32 years in the Navy and the Naval Reserves and retired

with the rank of Captain. He worked as an engineer for the NASA-Goddard Spaceflight Center and the Department of Energy for 52 years before finally retiring at the age of 82. Fairbanks was awarded the Apollo Achievement Award from the NASA-Goddard Spaceflight Center and authored or co-authored 78 technical papers. At MMA, he starred in football and baseball and is a member of the MMA Athletic Hall of Fame. Fairbanks was the prototypical fullback/middle linebacker in the days of two-way players, leather helmets and no facemasks. Fairbanks had a tremendous passion for travel and relished family vacations to the Maine beaches, considering the chilly ocean water refreshing. He was a dedicated supporter of his alma mater, MMA, where he was the recipient of the 1975 Outstanding Alumni Award and was a proud member of its Wall of Honor.

ROBERT E. MALANEY '52

passed away on January 13, 2023. He grew up on a small dairy farm in North Whitefield, Maine, and graduated from Gardiner High School in 1949 and MMA. He was first employed by Isthmian Steamship Corp. as a junior third assistant operating engineer on the SS *Steel Traveler* sailing to the Far East from New York City in 1953. He transferred to the U.S. Navy, serving on seven ships and at four shore commands. While assigned to COMNAVAIRLANT [Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic], in Norfolk, Va. as a marine project engineer, he converted nine black-oil-fueled attack aircraft carriers to distillate fuel. This conversion initiated the age-old requirement to clean boiler-fire sides every 600 hours. For this work he was recommended for the "Legion of Merit" medal. Cooler heads prevailed in Washington, D.C., and he was awarded another "Meritorious Commendation Medal." After completing naval service, Malaney was employed by the Bureau of Maine Emergency Management Agency for 17 years. He completed the educational requirements for an undergraduate degree and a master's degree in public administration at the University of Maine.

BERTRAM A. MAGNUS '53

passed away on December 29, 2022. After graduation, he spent many years serving in the Merchant Marine as well as proudly serving in the U.S. Navy, reaching the rank of Lieutenant. He finished his working career with the U.S. Customs Service, reaching

the rank of area port director before his retirement. He was an active member of the Houlton Rotary Club, Monument Lodge, and Anah Shrine Club.

CAPT. CHARLES W. O'REILLY USN (RET.) '53

died peacefully at home on October 22, 2022. He spent his boyhood years growing up on Cushing's and Cliff Islands, Maine, graduating from South Portland High School in 1950. He enlisted in the Naval Reserve in 1949, graduated from MMA, and accepted a commission in the Naval Reserve. Called to active duty during the Korean War, he received his regular commission in 1957, promotion to captain in 1974, and retired in 1984 after 32 years of service. Upon retirement, he served as vice president with IMECO Services Inc., of Iron Mountain, Mich. He returned home to Maine for his retirement years.

CARL F. CHAVAREE '53

passed away on August 4, 2015, after courageously enduring bladder cancer. Chavaree was born in Lewiston, Maine, the third of nine children. Chavaree graduated from MMA. He joined the Navy and then went to work for Exide Battery Co. The family eventually moved to California and Chavaree went back to sea, sailing with Military SeaLift Command, retiring in 1996.

HERBERT O. HODGKINS '56

passed away on January 13, 2023. Hodgkins graduated from Ellsworth High School in 1953 and MMA. Following graduation, he sailed on the SS *Independence* for three years, then joined the family business at Tidal Falls Lobster Pound. He later co-owned Seal Point Seafoods and founded Lobster Products Inc. Hodgkins was involved with many organizations over his life. He worked with the University of Maine to develop an alternative feed for lobsters and medicated feed to prevent Red Tail Disease in lobsters. He was a member of the Hancock Volunteer Fire Department and served as fire chief for several years. He was a member of the Hancock Historical Society and a member and past president of the Maine Lobster Pound Owners Association. He was an "honorary member" of the Hancock Women's Club and involved with their Santa Fund and Annual Chicken Barbeque. He also served on the Planning Board for the town of Hancock for several years. Hodgkins was active in sports, and had a special passion

EIGHT BELLS

for baseball, playing catcher for EHS, MMA, and Husson College, and loved watching the Boston Red Sox. He especially enjoyed fishing and hunting with family and friends, going to camp, and skiing at Sugarloaf USA.

GLENN O. HORNBERGER '56

passed on January 12, 2023. Hornberger graduated from high school in Houlton, Maine, and from MMA, after which he began his career in shipping in Virginia. He came ashore to work at the Newberry Co. and later W.T. Grant Co. He became the VP of the RPM subsidiary Floquil Polly S Color Corp in 1976 and then VP of Mohawk Finishing. In 1980 he became the President of Mohawk, H Behlen & Bro., Westfield Coatings, Chemical Coatings and Star Finishing and was an advisor for Label Systems. Community service was important to him, and he served on the boards of several organizations including Rotary International, Montgomery United Way, St. Mary's Foundation, Amsterdam Chamber of Commerce, Montgomery Economic Development Corp., and Industries for Amsterdam. He passed this desire to give back on to his children and grandchildren. Hornberger retired in 2000 and was able to enjoy his family, traveling, golfing, and spending time on his hobbies.

RODNEY L. SCRIBNER '56

died at his home on January 22, 2023. Scribner was educated in Norway, Maine, schools, graduated from MMA, enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and then worked as a Merchant Mariner. He was the State of Maine Treasurer for many years and held various jobs within state government. Scribner also was an instructor in governmental finance at University of Maine and author of *Raising State and Local Revenues: Emerging Patterns in Revenue Systems*. He was active in Maine politics. He had a passion for ham radio and enjoyed summers at the ocean with family and friends.

CAPT. JOHN MACLEAN '58

passed away March 12, 2023. He graduated from Hamburg High School in 1953 and from MMA. Maclean served in the U.S. Merchant Marines during Vietnam. He was a Master Mariner, and his profession took him many places in the world. More than 50 years of his career were spent as a pilot on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River for

the St. Lawrence Seaway Pilots Association, based in Cape Vincent, New York. His son, Michael, a fourth-generation captain, followed in his father's footsteps and works as a seaway pilot to this day. Maclean enjoyed old trucks and was a member of the Central New York Antique Car Association.

STANLEY D. SEWALL '60

passed away July 3, 2022, after a prolonged illness. Sewall graduated from York High School in 1957 having lettered in baseball, basketball, cross country, and football. He attended MMA and this led to him accepting a job on cargo ships and sailing all around the world. After his time at sea, he began his career in gypsum, manufacturing wallboard for National Gypsum, Georgia Pacific, and LaFarge over the years. He also built up a respectable business in antiques and collectibles and traveled the states going to glass and antique shows. Sewall was loved by all who knew him. People loved him for his kindness, fairness, and wonderful sense of humor. He loved a good laugh and was always quick to tell a joke.

GARY K. WHEATON '62

passed away on January 29, 2023. Wheaton graduated from Stearns High School in 1959. After graduating, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in Vietnam. After serving in the military, Wheaton spent 25 years in the Merchant Marines, spending several months a year living at sea. He then worked in Fort Belvoir, Virginia, before fully retiring. In his later years he enjoyed picnics on Skyline Drive, Washington Nationals games, and phone calls with his lifelong best friend Stewart "Butch" Farquhar of Millinocket. His greatest joy was visits from his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

WILLIAM E. BROWN '64

passed away on December 3, 2022, in Englewood, Florida. He spent his career with Marine Engineers' Beneficial Assn. and retired as a Chief Engineer from Maersk.

CMDR. THOMAS J. FREDERICK '66

passed away February 26, 2023, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Frederick grew up in Pittsfield, Maine and graduated from Maine Central Institute in 1962. During his time at MCI he participated in football, skiing, and baseball. After high school, he earned his BS in Marine Engineering at

MMA. He spent his career working around the world as a Merchant Mariner. He served in the Naval Reserve for many years and in an active-duty capacity during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, retiring with the rank of Commander. When not at sea, he was usually working on projects around home and spending time with his family at camp. Frederick had a welcoming demeanor and greeted people with a comforting smile.

ALBERT P. LEVESQUE '67

passed away on October 18, 2022. Born and raised in Waterville, Maine, Levesque was a retired marine engineer who enjoyed golf with his friends and family, loved traveling and just enjoyed life at his camp in Maine.

NORMAN A. LEWIS '67

passed away on November 30, 2022, at his home. Lewis was born in Portland, Maine, and graduated from Old Orchard Beach in 1963. Following graduation from MMA, he was quickly hired by the Texaco Oil Company and was commissioned in the U.S. Navy, being honorably discharged in 1971. Lewis spent 29 years as a Merchant Marine working for Texaco. He worked during the Gulf War readying the engines of ships that would carry troops and supplies to the Persian Gulf. Lewis retired as Chief Engineer. Lewis sailed all over the world and shared stories from places like Singapore, India, Alaska, and the Panama Canal. He was well respected by his peers as a top-notch engineer. He loved the Boston Red Sox and attending local high school sporting events. Lewis especially enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren play baseball, basketball, and football. Lewis was a very generous person who was always willing to help others.

THOMAS G. SPEARIN, JR. '67

died January 6, 2023, after a period of declining health. Born in Rockland, Maine, Spearin was a graduate of Thomaston High School and MMA. During his time at sea, he sailed most of the world and was an officer at the time of his retirement from the Merchant Marine. From the 70s to mid-80s, he lived intermittently in Spain and became fluent in Spanish. Spearin later lived on Matinicus Island, Maine where he lobstered for over a decade. Spearin's many interests included hunting, fishing, cooking, Westerns, and sci-fi books and films.

AARNE M. CUMMINGS '68

died on January 20, 2023, at his home in Canaan, Maine. He graduated from Hartland Academy with the class of 1963. He received his degree from MMA and was a Merchant Mariner for 21 years. Cummings was a brilliant engineer and could fix anything. He enjoyed restoring older automobiles and attending car shows. He liked hunting, fishing, and boating. He could tell tall tales and sell snow to an Eskimo.

CAPT. ARTHUR S. MELANSON '68

died January 20, 2023, of congestive heart failure. Melanson grew up in Wellesley Hills, Mass., graduating from Wellesley High in 1963. After graduating from MMA, he served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam Era. Melanson shipped out with Exxon/Esso/Humble and served on the second Northwest Passage voyage of the prototype tanker *Manhattan*, eventually becoming the youngest Master in the Exxon fleet at the time. He became captain of the Exxon *Huntington* and was documenting his career at the time of his passing. He came ashore in 1988 to become a lobsterman out of Waldoboro, and later was a Port Captain doing pollution control work overseeing the unloading of oil tankers until he changed course headings in 1995, moving to the slopes of Oak Hill Farm in South Hiram, Maine, to breed, raise, and race sled dogs. He owned High Acres Maple Syrup, belonged to Southern Maine Maple Sugarmakers, and built the Cottages at Oak Hill Farm from the ground up. He had a passion for bridge, Scrabble, cribbage, genealogy, collecting stamps, deer hunting, cooking, and was a Star Trek aficionado. But above all, he loved the ocean.

MICHAEL A. CURRAN '69

passed away on October 7, 2022, in Bangor, Maine, after a brief battle with cancer. The eldest of eight children, Curran grew up in Bangor, graduating from Bangor High School in 1965. After graduating from MMA, Curran entered the Merchant Marines before working for Texaco, eventually as a chief engineer for many years. This allowed him to travel and experience many unique locations of the world including India, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Caracas, Venezuela. He moved to New Hampshire in 1974 where he started his family. In 2007 he returned to Brewer, Maine. Curran loved to connect with old and new

friends, enjoyed being involved in the alumni committee for class reunions, and always looked forward to attending Bangor High School and MMA reunions. In his later years, Curran spent much of his time restoring his antique car. He enjoyed gardening and yard work, small and large home improvement projects, and traveling to see national parks across the country.

WILBUR S. LANGDON III '69

passed away on March 12, 2023. Born in New London, Conn., he graduated from Robert E. Fitch Sr. High School and MMA. For many years he was employed by the Bechtel Company working on the construction of nuclear power plants in California, Florida, and New Jersey. Langdon settled in Mystic while working for North East Utilities and then for the Kraft Group's Robertson Paper Box Company in Uncasville, Conn. Langdon was happiest when he was sailing or driving his Boston Whaler in the Mystic River. He was known for his kindness and his willingness to help others. Even when he was bedridden, he was doing research for the Mystic Historical Society. While at NE Utilities, he arranged for the company to fund and erect the Osprey nest platforms in the upper Mystic River which are still there today.

FREDERICK V. GLIDDEN '70

passed away peacefully on March 8, 2023, at his home in South China, Maine. Glidden was born in Gardiner, graduated from

Erskine Academy in 1966, and from MMA. Glidden filled the room with his presence, always telling stories and jokes. He enjoyed snowmobiling, ice fishing, camping, boating, water skiing, and playing billiards. His many extraordinary adventures, both at home and abroad, including visiting all 15 Presidential Libraries and flying in a Concorde. He joined the South China Volunteer Fire Department in 1973 and became their Treasurer in 2012. He enjoyed hosting gatherings at the multi-generational family camp.

JULIAN E. ALLEY '71

passed away on March 14, 2023, at his home in Addison, Maine. Better known as "Dusty," Alley was born in Jonesport, Maine and attended Jonesport schools. He was active in all sports. A couple of his greatest moments were playing on the state basketball championship team of 1966 and being crowned as the state foul shooting champion in 1967, making 47 of 50 shots. Alley graduated from MMA with a degree in marine engineering, a Third Engineer Unlimited Steam and Diesel License, and a commission in the U.S. Naval Reserves. He started working for Interstate Oil and Transportation Company as an assistant engineer aboard tugboat *Venturer*, towing oil barges along the East Coast. Once sea time and training requirements were met, he obtained his chief engineer license and sailed until his retirement, with over forty years as a merchant mariner. He was highly respected within the company and

RADM JOHN DUGAN SHIPWAY passed away peacefully February 18, 2023. Dugan was born and raised in Cherry Valley, N.Y. and most recently lived in Bath, Maine, and Fernandina Beach, Fla. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering and a master's degree in engineering from the University of Louisville. Shipway lived a life of service to his country and the communities in which he lived. He was a career Navy officer, retiring as Rear Admiral after 35 years of service. His last assignment on active duty was as Director of Strategic Systems Programs. He was a member of the Strategic Advisory Group of the U.S. Strategic Command. After his retirement from the Navy, Shipway joined General Dynamics' Electric Boat in 2000. In 2003, he was promoted to president of Bath Iron Works, one of the State of Maine's largest employers, where he remained until he retired six years later. In 2009, he was awarded the Navy League of the United States' highest honor—the Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Award for exemplary leadership in the maritime defense industry. Shipway served on several boards, including most recently as chair of the board of global shipbuilder Austal U.S.A., the MMA Board of Trustees, and the Board of Mid Coast Health Services in Maine.

EIGHT BELLS

considered to be one of the top engineers. Alley adored his beagles and spent many hours walking them on his property. He enjoyed gardening and spending time on his tractor, making improvements, and caring for his homestead. Alley was a quiet person, but his memory bank was full of lifelong friends, sports, politics—you name it. He could recall details at the drop of a hat.

BERNARD E. PRATT '71

died November 24, 2022, in Morrill, Maine. Friendships were important to Pratt, and many true friends stayed in contact with him throughout his entire life. "There are friends in life... and there are friends for life."

J. MICHAEL L. FINDLAN '72

died on February 24, 2023. He graduated from MMA and started his career at Mobil Oil Company, later transitioning into the steam/boiler industry. He retired in 2015. He was the president of the Ohio Morgan Association, treasurer for New Richmond, Ohio, Area Ministries and served on the New Richmond Zoning Board and Planning Commission for many years. He was also a docent for Grant's Birthplace Museum in Pt. Pleasant, Ohio. He enjoyed visiting with family and friends, sailing, working on cars, specifically Morgans and other antique sports cars, and reading.

STEPHEN B. ERICSON '73

passed away on December 9, 2022, in Augusta, Georgia. Ericson was raised in Bangor, Maine and spent his childhood hunting, fishing, and skiing on Beech Hill Pond. He graduated from MMA with a degree in marine engineering. After years of international maritime shipping, he went on to work for General Electric, DuPont, Anheuser-Busch, Westinghouse, and Bechtel at Savannah River Site. He restored two Chris Craft wooden boats and built and designed his beloved A-frame home in Bar Harbor, Maine. There was not a wood he couldn't identify by scent or grain. Ericson was an avid coffee drinker, Sunday Show watcher, and Patriots and Red Sox fan.

BARRY J. SULLIVAN '73

died in 2021.

ARTHUR G. LILIENTHAL, JR. '74

died January 6, 2023, after a 23-year long battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and

chronic lymphocytic leukemia. Lilienthal spent his youth in Bayshore, Long Island, and Thomaston, Maine. Upon graduating from Georges Valley High School, he attended MMA and started his career as a Merchant Marine officer, then worked as an engineer in the nuclear power generation industry, helping to commission several nuclear power plants in Connecticut, Tennessee, Texas, and finally Oswego, New York. To know Lilienthal was to know true courage and compassion, even when faced with some of life's most difficult challenges. He never lost his positive outlook on life, his passion for creating masterpiece stained-glass lampshades, or his dry, witty sense of humor. Lilienthal was always ready with a quick joke, great advice, or a reminder to stay positive, even against all odds.

JAMES G. KUS '76

died January 29, 2023. Kus graduated from Winthrop High School and MMA. Just a year later, he was a third mate on the *ARCO Juneau*. That was the first ship to carry Alaskan pipeline oil from Valdez, Alaska. Tankers were scheduled to deliver Alaskan crude to refineries in Washington, California, and Texas—the last via the Panama Canal. Kus was a "Jack of all trades" and was always ready to tackle any project.

CAPT. JAMES E. PILLSBURY '78

died on January 15, 2023. After graduating from Marshfield (Mass.) High School in 1974, he entered the U.S. Navy ROTC program at MMA. He graduated with a BS in marine engineering. He was then accepted into the Navy nuclear submarine program. After excelling in the Navy Nuclear Power Training course, his first assignment was to the USS *Tullibee* (SSN-597), where he served as damage control assistant (1979–1982). This was followed by assignments to the USS *Daniel Webster* (SSBN-626, BLUE, 1984–1987), where he served as chief engineer; Submarine Squadron 10 in New London, where he served as squadron engineer (1987–1989); and the USS *Greenling* (SSN-614, 1989–1991), where he served as executive officer. In 1994, he was selected to take his first command, the USS *James K Polk* (SSN-645). After his change of command in 1997, he received orders to COMSUBGRU 8 in Naples, Italy, where he served as the operations officer. In 2000,

he reported to the senior class at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I., where after completion, he remained on the faculty teaching officers from all branches of the U.S. military and senior officers from over fifty international militaries. His final active-duty tour was as the commanding officer, Officer Training Command. After his retirement in 2007, he worked as a Department of Defense civilian for the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, designing and testing new submarine sonar systems for the Navy. He was deeply respected for his seamanship as well as his engineering and mechanical knowledge.

WAYNE M. SOUCY '78

passed away on October 25, 2022. Soucy graduated from Noble High School in 1974, playing football throughout his time there. He went on to attend MMA, where he played football and received a bachelor's degree in engineering. He worked most of his life as a chief engineer for the Merchant Marine. He liked to joke that he was the UPS of the high seas, and he took pride in a job well done. Soucy loved football, music, and riding around on his Harley. He spent his summers in New England and his winters in Deland, Florida. He used those warm winters to enjoy motorcycle riding, attending Bike Week at Daytona Beach, as well as an occasional round of golf. Soucy will be most remembered for his great sense of humor, his ability to find good in others, and a desire to find common ground with anyone and become friends.

ROBERT M. WHITNEY '80

passed on January 26, 2023. Raised in upstate New York, he graduated from Fayetteville-Manlius High School in 1975 and graduated from MMA with a bachelor's degree in marine engineering and a third assistant engineer's license. He went to sea for a few years, making several trips to South America, and then to the oil fields in the Gulf of Mexico. Later he "came ashore" and worked as a technical representative for E.G. & G. Sealol, installing the stern tube seal on the Navy's submarine fleet. He then worked in the hydraulic field until his retirement in 2023. One of his favorite recreational pastimes was sailing. He was a member of the Newport Yacht Club and owned the same boat for over 40 years, *Swizzle Stick*.

He spent countless hours on the *Swizzle*, racing around the beer cans and generally having a great time. He volunteered as the president of the Newport Yacht Club Endowment Fund. He will be remembered for the parties he threw, the laughs he was part of, the tricks he played, and the friends he made.

LT. CDR. BRIAN P. HALL USCG '87

passed away at his home in Holiday, Florida on December 1, 2022. He was born and raised in Biddeford, Maine and was a graduate of Biddeford High School, class of 1982, where he played football. He graduated from MMA with a bachelor's degree in marine engineering, and shortly after was commissioned in the U.S. Coast Guard where he served for just short of 21 years. After leaving the USCG, he went on to become the marine superintendent at Golden Pass LNG Terminal in Texas. He eventually settled in Florida. It was during retirement that he decided to go back to school and pursue an MBA, as he always enjoyed learning.

THOMAS S. WRANOSKY '88

passed away October 7, 2022. Wranosky graduated from Winslow High School in 1984 before MMA. He worked for International Paper in Ticonderoga, New York, for over 25 years until his retirement in 2021. Wranosky was an avid

outdoorsman and enjoyed being on Lake Champlain, snowmobiling, ice fishing, skiing, gardening, and sitting by campfires. Most importantly, he enjoyed watching his children grow up into the young adults that they have become.

CHARLES E. JERRIER '90

passed on November 6, 2022, at his childhood home. Born in Quincy, Mass., and raised in Milton, he was a proud graduate of Archbishop Williams in 1986 and of MMA. He was a dedicated maritime engineer and a member of MEBA (Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association). His long career as a sailor in the Merchant Marine Service took him around the world several times and further educated him in geopolitical, geoeconomic, and geosocial systems. He was never shy to voice his opinions of the world, making every conversation enlightening, insightful, passionate, and entertaining. Jerrier could navigate using the stars, and his language was often filled with maritime idioms and descriptions. Jerrier was a member of the online "Belong" cancer support group. The warriors whom he met there described him as an inspiration. He was a positive influence upon them by encouraging them to continue the battle, and to use all of their weapons to fight cancer. He, himself, fought cancer every step of the way, never giving up.

DANIEL E. DAVIS '94

died in Cumberland, Maine, on February 20, 2023. Born in Portland, he graduated from Windham High School in 1983, and then enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving four years before graduating from MMA with a degree in power engineering technology. Davis later went to Massachusetts Maritime Academy, receiving a master's in emergency management. Davis worked at the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in the division handling hazardous materials emergencies, an ideal place for a perfectionist focused on critical details. Davis served on the board of the Hallowell Water District and as Harbormaster for more than a decade. Not surprisingly, his commitment to the community had a distinctly fun and slightly irreverent side as well. In 2018 he and his friends formed MOGA, the Maine Orange Growers Association (motto: "Global warming/climate change is happening! Let's embrace it! Grow oranges!"). The bright orange MOGA marchers won awards at several Old Hallowell Day Parades with Davis's creative ideas and artistic style. He was also a founding member of the Hallowell Bourbon Council. In recent years, his entrepreneurial spirit, love of science, and appreciation for adult beverages came together at his Sebago Lake Distillery in Gardiner, so named to celebrate a special place in his heart since he was a child. Every summer, he returned to his family camp at big Sebago Lake to enjoy amazing sunrises, and raucous swims off his custom-built float.

DONALD A. DINSMORE '01

passed away July 12, 2022. Dinsmore graduated from Calais Memorial High School in 1972. He immediately enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps where he served until 1976. In 1977, he enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving as a Combat Engineer until 1985 when he decided to be transferred to the Army Reserves. In 1988, he moved to Bath where he worked as a marine electrician for Bath Iron Works. Dinsmore loved sports and enjoyed watching games on TV as well as the local high school games. He was a member of Ephriam Johnson Post #9 American Legion in Machias.

RICHARD ARMSTRONG passed away January 12, 2023. Armstrong grew up in North Attleboro, Mass. and spent his summers on Cape Cod. He was a member of the North Attleboro High School class of 1961. Armstrong earned a BS in naval architecture and marine engineering at M.I.T. in 1965, an MS in civil engineering at M.I.T. in 1966, and a BD from the Episcopal Theological School in 1969. Armstrong's life and career had many facets. At the young age of nine, he began working at the local dairy farm where he developed his life-long love of animals, tractors, and other machinery. He was a business owner (a marina and hardware store in North Falmouth, Mass.), an ordained priest of the Episcopal Church, a local politician and spent five years as a research associate at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. He also served for two years as the Assistant Secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and for several years as Commonwealth Director of Port Development/Executive Secretary of the Massachusetts Governor's Seaport Advisory Council. During his career, he spent time in higher education as well, working as an admissions officer at M.I.T. and in the Dean's Office at Harvard College. Most recently, he taught electrical engineering at MMA. He and his wife loved the community of Castine, where they established their home and were active throughout town life. His life was filled with friends, family, happy dogs, joy, humor, and community service.

Most Eight Bells entries are obtained from online news sources and edited for length. To access the Eight Bells archive visit mainemaritime.edu/alumni.

Chain of Command

CASTINE BEACH SEAWEED in spring includes a healthy flush of rockweed (*Ascophyllum nodosum*) growing on the *State of Maine's* stern mooring chain.





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