

MARINER

The ALUMNI MAGAZINE of MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

— ISSUE 2 · 2023 —

A Call from **THE BRIDGE**

Mariner shortage worsening

Power and **Purpose**

Engineering Department
evolves to meet
the future

40 YEARS OF **Tug and Barge** Training

Tug and Barge
program
still running
strong
with the
Pentagoet



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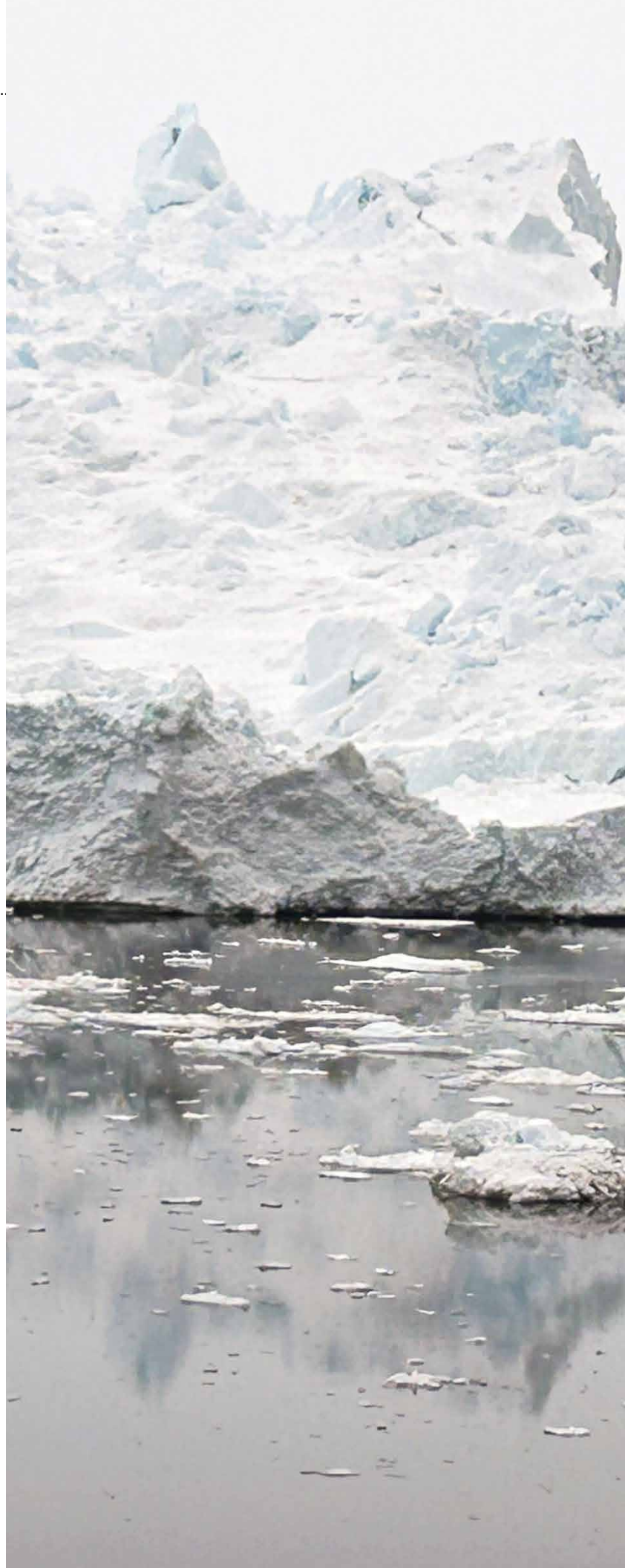
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BARGE *OYSTER BAY*. PHOTO BY THOMAS THOMPSON



Iceberg Ahead

Iceberg in Ilulissat Icefjord located 150 miles north of the Arctic Circle on the west coast of Greenland, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

PHOTO BY CAPT. ANDY CHASE



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MMA PRESIDENT
Jerald "JP" Paul '89

On the Rise

We're setting our sights on the future of MMA

AT THE START OF MY SECOND YEAR as President of Maine Maritime Academy, welcoming our students back to campus for the 2023–2024 school year held a special meaning to me. In August nearly 260 students from thirty-three states and six countries began their MMA experience as the Class of 2027.

In September we announced the \$30 million, two-year improvement plan for renovations to Curtis Hall, Maine's largest residential hall. This undertaking will vastly improve the student living experience through updated utility systems, windows, and individual room temperature control. This project has been wholly funded by the State of Maine.

Equally important as the Curtis Hall portion of our campus development is the imminent renovation of our pier in anticipation of the 2024 arrival of the new National Security Multi-mission Vessel III, TS *State of Maine V*. We are preparing adequate berthing that also meets industry and MARAD standards. This \$60 million renovation will enable Maine Maritime Academy to offer access to, and training aboard, one of the most revolutionary vessels produced today. The technology and capabilities of TS *State of Maine V* will prepare this generation of mariners for the next generation of global challenges and opportunities at sea.

As you will see in this edition of *Mariner*, we are focused on delivering the most competitive academic experience for industry and workforce placement. Our Power Engineering Technology (PET) curriculum profiled within, showcases how Maine Maritime Academy is approaching the changing industry landscape. The Academy's PET program is accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET which directly demonstrates the rigor and worth of our program. A PET degree launches students into the work-

force of renewable energy, preparing them for a future in industry-leading organizations.

Just as important as MMA's leadership on new technologies and leading industries is our continued leadership in our core maritime offerings including our Tug and Barge training. This program, conceived by Admiral Edward Anthony "Ted" Rodgers, Superintendent of MMA from 1964 to 1984, was groundbreaking in the maritime industry. It was a direct answer to the leaders of corporations, large and small, who were calling for more specialized licensing and training. I hope you'll enjoy reading more about the inception and the modern success of this program.

The entire maritime community is focused on the global "mariner shortage" that every aspect of the U.S. Merchant Marines is experiencing today. The importance of our work in the classrooms and at sea to introduce the greatest number of unlimited tonnage licensed mariners is paramount to the success of MMA. You can feel this theme through

As we continue with our vision to become the #1 Maritime Academy in the world, our trajectory towards it is *On the Rise* as outlined in the State of the Academy report this past spring.

all that we do. Additionally, our programs in International Business & Logistics and Ocean Studies continue to provide students with opportunities to meet the growing demands of the maritime industry throughout sectors that go beyond shipboard service.

As we continue with our vision to become the #1 Maritime Academy in the world, our trajectory towards it is *On the Rise* as outlined in the State of the Academy report this past spring. Please join me in applauding the larger Maine Maritime Community for the incredible work happening in and around our campus.

Regards,

A Sea of Fulfillment

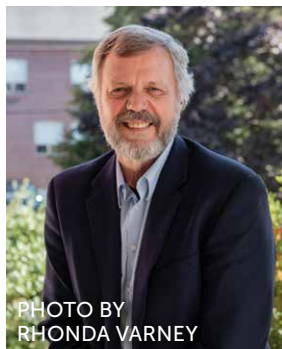


PHOTO BY
RHONDA VARNEY

Editor's Note: Alumni President Bill Full '76 generously yielded his space in this issue for Director of Alumni Relations Jeff Wright to sign off after thirty-seven years of service at Maine Maritime Academy. He will be missed by everyone on campus and his shoes will be tough to fill.

Dear Maine Maritime Academy,

Sitting high above the eastern shores of the Penobscot River, you are the beacon of promise for goal-oriented, hands-on learners. Your graduates are well trained: they know the theoretical foundations of their disciplines but remain pragmatic in their approach with can-do attitudes. They are recognized around the world and highly sought by the traditional professions for which you were founded. They are also in demand by fields of study unimagined in the early years of your development. What a great testament this is to you.

Since arriving in July 1986, it has been a pleasure to have your beautiful hillside campus, your hallowed halls, and non-skid decks as my place of work (actually, more fun than work). As this year ends, I leave you with genuine respect, cherished memories, and sincere appreciation. I am forever grateful for the opportunities you presented me.

Being a native Downeaster (Milbridge), I am blessed to have been able to raise my family in this safe, friendly, and nurturing environment. I loved sharing my heritage with them.

I grew up working on the unforgiving sea, followed by my proud service in the US Navy as a surface warfare officer. Arriving at MMA, I immediately embraced your devotion to perpetuating Maine's maritime heritage. Under your tutelage, I eagerly made your worthwhile mission my own.

You are an institution of higher learning that attracts an active, disciplined, and diverse group of faculty, staffers, and students. Every one of them is motivated to teach, learn, and support your most treasured commodity: knowledge. It has been so rewarding to be involved with your vibrant and robust campus atmosphere each day.

With over a million miles behind me, via land, sea, and air, working tirelessly to advance your respected name, I proudly shared your tale to all who were interested, extolling your virtues and acclaim, while cautioning of your demands and foibles. These collective experiences gifted me extraordinary friends and acquaintances, representing every decade of MMA's existence, spanning the Seven Seas, and filling my heart with joy and fondness.

Although I am not one of your alumni, you have conferred upon me a most remarkable and memorable career. I will not leave MMA and Castine in my rearview mirror. (It's a sentiment some alums still practice, but one I do not understand.) You, and all associated with you, have made such a profound and positive impact on my life. I will be around, because the road to Castine brought me to you, and your promise and purpose led me to a sea of fulfillment. Thank you, Maine Maritime Academy.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Wright". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "J" and "W".

Jeff Wright

Company Officer, 1986–1988 / Assistant Admissions Director, 1988–1996 /
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Campus Currents

LEADERSHIP

Change of Command

FOR ONLY THE THIRD TIME in the school's history, an MMA alum has been named Commandant of Midshipman. Captain Mark Winter '88 returned to campus in August. Winter brings more than thirty years of service in the U.S. Navy, U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Merchant Marine, and on the staff of Senator Susan Collins. Winter holds a Third Mate Unlimited Tonnage Coast Guard license.

"Captain Winter is well positioned to carry out a vision for regimental excellence while leading a seasoned commandant's staff," said President Paul in his announcement of Winter's appointment.

Winter grew up in Newbury, a small town in New Hampshire, and admits he came to MMA for all the wrong reasons. "My dad was a Navy pilot. My uncle had been a Navy pilot. I was going to be a pilot," said Winter, "and Maine Maritime had a good reputation for getting people into flight school." But he suffered a kidney stone his senior year, ending his dream of being a Navy pilot. He was commissioned with his classmates and told he would be a service warfare officer.

"I told the ROTC commanding officer I didn't want to be a service warfare officer," recalled Winter. "His reply was 'Welcome to the Navy.'"

Following his active duty, he worked for American President Lines before deciding to go to law school



PHOTO BY RHONDA VARNEY

to become an admiralty attorney. "I'd gone to a maritime academy, I had a license, I'd worked for a shipping company, and I had a law degree. I was able to use that to get a job working at a maritime law firm in New York City."

Continued on page 11

LEADERSHIP

New VP of Student Affairs & College Relations

KATE NOEL HAS BEEN APPOINTED Vice President of Student Affairs & College Relations. Noel earlier served MMA as a communications consultant. This newly configured position will oversee Dean of Students, Deidra Davis, and Athletic Director, Steve Peed, while bringing college relations to the VP level.

Noel brings communications experience in corporate, academic, and governmental environments. She has worked in federal governmental affairs, merger and acquisitions

communications at a Fortune 50 company, and overseen communications, alumni relations, and development for an independent school in greater Philadelphia.

President Paul noted Noel has "budget management experience and deep knowledge in building multi-level organizational strength through communications." He called her broad experience "a great asset as we navigate the next chapter for Maine Maritime Academy to move us forward globally, domestically, and locally."

TRAVEL

Planning a Return Trip

In preparation for the *Bowdoin's* 2024 venture to Greenland, the first since 2008, Captain Andy Chase '79 visited the country to reconnect

NEXT SUMMER Master Alex Peacock and a crew of MMA students will sail the *Bowdoin* to Greenland with stops at several towns. It will be the *Bowdoin's* first return to Greenland since Capt. Rick Miller's trip with students in 2008. Elliot Rappaport sailed with students to Greenland in 1994 as did Captain Andy Chase in 1991.

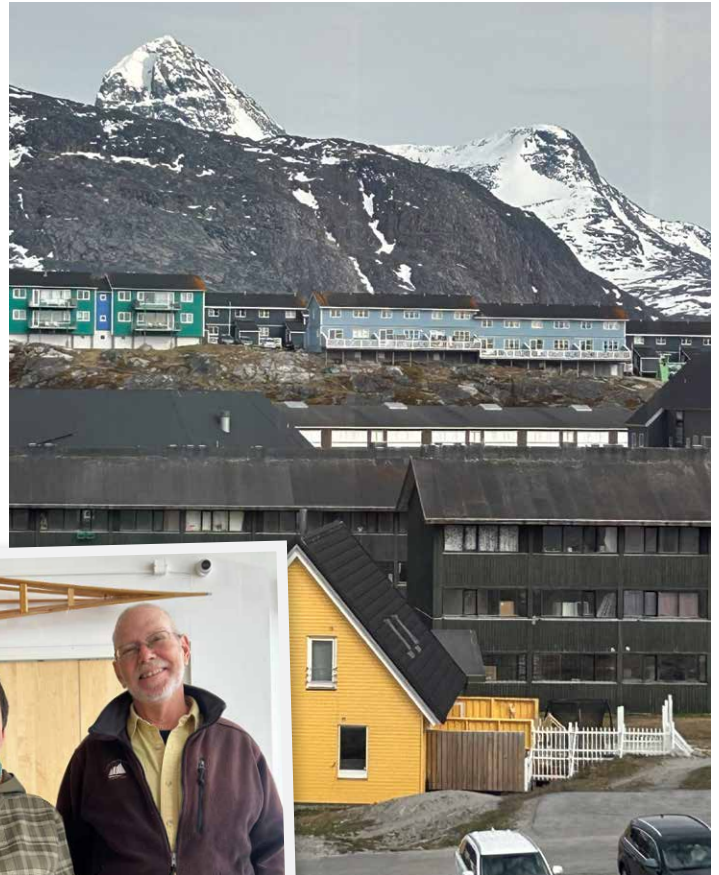
In preparation for next summer's trip, Chase began reaching out to Greenland towns, museums, and other places *Bowdoin* had visited on its earlier trips. Despite repeated emails, he heard little back. It was decided that Chase should go to Greenland and start knocking on doors.

Arriving in Nuuk, Greenland's largest town, Chase started with the Greenland Maritime School. It trains students primarily for working aboard fishing and coastal cargo vessels. He met Director Bent Oleson who was immediately enthusiastic about the *Bowdoin* trip. "For the next two days," said Chase, "Oleson was my personal guide, introducing me to everybody I needed to find. Everywhere I went, I emphasized that MMA was not coming as a bunch of tourists—we wanted cultural exchange."

Nuuk is also where the offices of the U.S. Consul and the Public Diplomacy Office from the U.S. Consulate are located. Since Greenland is a part of the Kingdom of Denmark, it's no surprise there are strong ties between them. But the U.S. Consulate staff works to build ties between Greenland and the U.S. Chase met with them and they, too, are eager to help MMA build connections in Greenland.

After several days in Nuuk, Chase flew to Sisimiut, just above the Arctic Circle, and one of Donald Baxter MacMillan's regular stops with the *Bowdoin* on his trips in the 1920s. There, Chase met Dorthe Katrine Olsen, director of the Sisimiut Museum, and the only female and only Inuit museum director in Greenland. She did not know about MMA's past trips to Greenland with the *Bowdoin* and was excited to learn about its return in 2024. Chase had brought *National Geographic* magazines with stories about MacMillan's early trips to the Arctic. He showed the photographs to her and a high school student working as a museum summer intern. The intern immediately pulled out her phone, and in a moment said, "Hey, look, here's a picture of the *Bowdoin* in 1925 in Sisimiut."

Chase also met an old acquaintance. In 1991 Inger Eriksen, then at the Tourist Bureau, had been the *Bowdoin* crew's host. She is now the director of the Taseralik Culture Center in Sisimiut, as well as the chairman of the board of the largest



(Above) Nuuk, capital of Greenland. With 17,000 residents, it is Greenland's most populous city.

PHOTO BY ANDY CHASE



(Left) Capt. Andy Chase with Inger Eriksen, his host when he was in Greenland in 1991.

retailer in Greenland, KNI (also called Greenland Trade). "She was tickled to death," said Chase. "She was friendly and welcoming. We had a really wonderful day. She had been super helpful to us in '91 but had forgotten about it over the years. She was pleased that I remembered her."

Chase flew next to Ilulissat where he met Andreas Hoffmann, director of the art and history museums. He was the most enthusiastic and helpful person Chase encountered. After their meeting, Chase walked down to the Icefjord and was awestruck. "The view of the freshly calved icebergs, some the size of a city block, defies description," said Chase. "No member of next summer's voyage should be allowed to miss this. It is a

Continued on page 10

LEADERSHIP

New Dean of Faculty

MMA alum and long-time professor Laurie Flood '93 takes on new leadership role

"DEAN FLOOD IS a true mariner and scholar," said Provost Keith Williamson expressing his enthusiasm for MMA's new dean of faculty. "She is an excellent leader who brings a tremendous amount of experience to the job."

Laurie Flood '93 was born and raised in Castine until junior high when her family moved to Florida. While she was considering colleges, a friend told her about his sisters who had gone to MMA. That helped her decide to return to Castine and attend Maine Maritime Academy. She received a BS in Marine Systems Engineering in 1993, followed by an MS in Civil Engineering (Environmental) from the University of Maine, Orono, in 1997. She joined the MMA faculty as a Professor of Engineering in 2001, and in 2012, added a Master's of Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School. She holds Third Assistant Engineer, Steam, Motor, or Gas Turbine Vessels, Unlimited licenses, and a State of Maine Third Class Stationary Steam Engineer's license.

Williamson appreciates Flood's ability to listen and understand concerns that are shared with her. "I've been impressed by her ability to see the different sides of an issue. That makes Laurie a vital part of Academy leadership. She is very approachable. She understands the professional development and career advancement needs of our faculty who are at the top of their fields. Some have

top Coast Guard licenses while others have PhDs and are Fulbright Scholars.

Laurie understands

"Laurie is very calm with a steady hand at the wheel."

both groups because she belongs to both groups. Laurie is very calm with a steady hand at the wheel."

Flood is enthusiastic about her new role, but knows it requires change. "It feels odd that my teaching role has been so reduced," she admits. "I am adjusting to the idea that I am still working, even if I am not prepping a lecture, writing, grading exams, or in the classroom."

Talking about her new position, Flood acknowledges that after twenty-two years in the engineering department, she will need fresh perspectives. "I have asked



Laurie Flood, Dean of Faculty
PHOTO BY ROSEMARY WYMAN

department chairs if they would invite me to their department meetings, so I can gain a better understanding of their challenges and goals," she said. "Every department has been very welcoming to this idea, and I'm looking forward to it."

Asked what she was looking forward to in her new position, Flood said, "There are a lot of moving parts in this role, but I will enjoy helping smooth the way for other faculty and staff that will allow them to continue the great work they do here."

LEADERSHIP

New VP for Enrollment Management, Admissions, and Financial Aid

DAVID MARKOW HAS joined MMA as Vice President for Enrollment Management, Admissions & Financial Aid. He brings twenty-three years of experience in higher education. In addition to his work in enrollment, he has experience as an academic dean, chief operating officer, and vice president.

Markow has been recognized for his leadership and ability to achieve strategic and operational goals. He increased

enrollment and retention at community colleges in York and Washington counties in Maine, and at Vermont College of Fine Arts in Montpelier.

In announcing Markow's appointment, President Paul expressed confidence that "Markow's leadership will play a pivotal role as we work toward achieving our goal of a thriving and sustainable student body."

GLOBAL CHANGE

Focus on Global Change

Professor Sadie Alley Ferreira '03 speaks at International Green Energy Conference in Scotland

"IT WAS MAGICAL," said Professor Sadie Alley Ferreira '03. "Being asked to present my work at an international conference in Scotland was fantastic."

Ferreira attended the 15th International Green Energy Conference at the University of Glasgow in July to discuss the innovative way she has students research global climate change. Ferreira is an Associate Professor of Engineering, coordinator of the Power Engineering Technology (PET) program, and holds a third-class stationary steam license. She focuses on shoreside power generation using both renewable and traditional energy sources.

"I'm passionate about the environment," said Ferreira, "and came to MMA as an undergraduate to study oceanography."

It turned out not to be what she expected, and she wasn't sure what to do.

"My dad is a third-generation mill worker and suggested I give power engineering a try," she said. "He thought maybe I could find a good fit." Ferreira worried that being in the power industry did not align with her love for the environment, but discovered it was exactly the opposite.

"I get to be at the forefront of where change has to happen, since proper maintenance and operation ensure plants operate as cleanly as possible," she said. "I'm a realist. We need to have electricity. I'm not washing my clothes in the lake, thank you very much."

Working as an engineer, Ferreira was surprised how much informal education took place in a plant. "I had never thought it through," she recalled, "but it makes perfect sense. Because processes and procedures are always changing, ongoing training is essential. I found it satisfying to teach people new information and new ways of doing things." Ferreira enjoyed it so much she got her master's in education at Husson University.

In 2018 Ferreira joined the MMA faculty full-time as an assistant professor and has found it a good balance of her interests and skills. Among her teaching responsibilities are the PET Capstone I and II courses for seniors. Power engineering focuses on shoreside electrical power generation, and prior to 2021, the Capstone I curriculum focused on coal-fired power plants. Ferreira switched the curriculum's focus to the importance of transitioning to green energy worldwide. The method she developed for students to study this issue was the subject of her presentation at the Glasgow Conference.

Ferreira has students identify and describe the changes countries are making (or should be making) in the power industry to fight climate change. The path to this understanding is for each student to research one country, its risk for climate change, and how it plans to combat the threats. Students use data from the Intercontinental Panel on Climate Change Interactive Atlas



Prof. Sadie Alley Ferreira at University of Glasgow
PHOTO BY JON FERREIRA

to generate maps, tables, and graphs showing observed and projected climate change for various time periods. They determine how their assigned country may be affected by climate change and how it plans to lower carbon emissions. Students synthesize their findings into a poster that presents their country's risks from climate change and the country's plans to manage those risks. In addition to presenting their own findings, students also critique two posters of classmates.

"I wanted to show conference participants how the interactive atlas is an effective classroom tool," said Ferreira. "With the built-in scenarios, students can predict how the planet may be affected in the future. Having students use the same data as the scientists who wrote the report is incredibly powerful!"

Greenland, continued from page 7

UNESCO World Heritage Site, but even that doesn't begin to capture its magnitude and majesty."

Chase received warm and enthusiastic welcomes everywhere he went. He collected the names of businesses, people, schools, and cultural organizations. He collected practical information Capt. Peacock will need about berthing, fuel, food, supplies, laundries, and all the things ships need

from ports. Hoffmann confirmed what Chase had learned the hard way: in Greenland communication is face to face. "You didn't succeed by email because that's just not the way it works here," he said.

After two busy weeks, Chase headed back to Maine with pages of notes about people and places that will help the *Boxedoin's* captain and crew plan next summer's trip.

Strengthening the MMA Campus

LIKE MANY COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, MMA has the unfortunate duty of dealing with sexual assault on campus. Elizabeth True, former MMA VP of Student Affairs (now at Eastern Maine Community College) and currently an MMA board member, saw a need to improve how assaults and their aftermath were handled, and knew that MMA needed a broad organizational and cultural change.

At her urging, MMA joined Culture of Respect, a program of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA). MMA is the only maritime academy among the 140 colleges and universities that have joined this program. Culture of Respect helps schools support survivors of sexual assault, prevent sexual violence, and communicate that violence is unacceptable. It provides an assessment of each school and helps implement ways to assist them in dealing with the issue. Its key focus is on prevention and response.

MMA realized that as a maritime college, its women students could be especially vulnerable as they were sometimes the only women on board a ship or working in power plants. Academy officials are determined to build a culture on campus that teaches students how to act with respect toward one another. If that respect is learned on campus, it can be transferred to ships, power plants, and other places in the real world.

Beginning the journey was a huge undertaking and was met with some resistance at the start. But people realized that building a respectful, inclusive, and equitable culture is a sexual assault prevention strategy and the opposite of dealing with it after the fact. Students can identify resources on campus for help and feel more comfortable reporting any incidents.

MMA marked Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October and is training advocates in survivor support. Students have been surveyed about the climate on campus and the campus is undergoing an assessment of how it deals with sexual assault and harassment. Building a strong culture of respect will take time, as does all institutional and cultural change. Alumni are encouraged to become involved, to help, and to promote a culture of respect in their own workplaces.

Change of Command, continued from page 7

Winter was in the Navy Reserve when he received the chance to work with the Civil Maritime Industry Group, part of the Office of Naval Intelligence. “To be honest,” said Winter, “I thought about it as a networking opportunity. Then 9/11 happened, and I was recalled to active duty.”

Returning to civilian life, Winter moved to Maine, working with a law firm in Portland before returning to Washington, DC. “I was lucky to get a job with Senator Susan Collins,” said Winter. “I was in the right place at the right time with the right background. I had the port security experience her staff was seeking for a bill they were drafting.” Winter worked in both Washington and in local offices in Maine. He considers this time the highlight of his career.

“Captain Winter brings a great deal of expertise and experience,” said Provost Keith Williamson. “His background as a senior naval officer, attorney, and unlimited license mariner gives him unique insights to his role. Under Mark’s leadership, the regiment will grow to even greater heights.”

Winter sees the job of the regimental staff as teaching cadets how to think and operate aboard merchant ships with structured chains of command. As Winter explains, “Cadets learn to follow instructions and orders. They have to understand where they fit in the team . . . that it’s not just about them anymore. A part of learning to lead is learning to be led.”

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FORTY YEARS OF Tug and Barge Training

Tug and Barge program still running strong

By Captain Tim Leach '05 & '10

Since 1983 Maine Maritime Academy has trained mariners for tug and barge operations. Admiral Edward Anthony “Ted” Rodgers, Superintendent of Maine Maritime Academy from 1964 through 1984, led the effort to develop the course. Tug and barge operating companies urged Rodgers to develop the course because Jones Act cargoes were moving to barge companies and away from smaller coastal vessels. Rodgers understood and supported changing the nautical program to include tug and barge operations. His actions to provide tug and barge training would be the first ever offered at a maritime academy. A search was then organized to find the right vessel and instructor for the historic addition of brown water training to blue water training.

The first challenge was to find a tug that could pass Coast Guard vessel inspection rules and meet the requirements for a training vessel. Multiple tugs were available, but none could pass inspection. After an extensive search, a Coast Guard-inspected tug was found and purchased. It was the *Jekyll Isle*, a tug built in 1980 by Gladding and Hearn in Summerset, Massachusetts, owned and operated by Captain Charles Dana Gibson. The *Jekyll Isle*’s home port was Tampa Bay, Florida. In 1983, arrangements were made for captains Jerry Cummings and Tim Leach to bring the vessel to its new home at MMA. The twin screw, kort nozzle, 1,200 hp tug, was nearly new with only



Admiral Edward
Anthony “Ted” Rodgers





PENTAGOET
CASTINE, ME.

Students aboard the
Pentagoet in 2008.
PHOTO BY SNAVELY



1,700 hours on the main engines. MMA renamed the tug *Pentagoet* after the original fort and settlement in Castine. Forty years later, the *Pentagoet* is still in service as an MMA training vessel for a variety of courses, including ship handling, workboat operations, and tug and barge operations. The *Pentagoet* has proven to be the absolute perfect size and power for this training.

The first developer and instructor of the tug and barge course was Captain Herbert Walling '71 & '87. Walling worked at Getty Oil Tankers, Interstate Ocean Transport, SONAT Marine Company, and Maritrans Transportation, Inc. He returned to MMA to start the fledgling course and to acquire his master's degree in maritime management. He was instrumental in accomplishing Rodgers's goal to develop training for the tug and barge industry. Walling took Rodgers's fresh approach to training and matched it with his own expertise, experience, and willingness to mentor students. With his gentle spirit and steady demeanor, Walling was the perfect

person to develop the nation's first tug and barge class.

In the early days of the tug and barge class, practical skills in managing a tug underway were taught in four-hour labs aboard the *Pentagoet*. The tug was running and ready to go when students stepped aboard. Labs focused on basic deck and vessel handling skills.

In the early days of the tug and barge class, practical skills in managing a tug underway were taught in four-hour labs aboard the *Pentagoet*.

Forty years later, the class work and ten-hour underway lab cover more material and focuses on workforce training. Students now lead the effort to bring the tug to life, lead the daily safety briefs, and oversee the safety management system. Students practice vessel-handling skills for three modes of towing: astern, alongside, and pushing ahead. They practice piloting exercises on the Penobscot River

and operating an assist tug to dock and undock the tug and barge unit. While training aboard the *Pentagoet*, students rotate through positions: student engineer, deckhand, mate, and captain.

Assignments align with the Tug Operator's Assessment Record (TOAR). The TOAR is a mandatory Coast Guard endorsement requiring completion of

over ninety competencies.

MMA students begin working through the TOAR competencies with the goal of completing the TOAR during the fall semester of their senior year.

Since the first tug and barge operations course was offered, tug and barge companies have had waves of consolidation

and new companies have formed. The towing industry has gone through continual change, including in their hiring practices. It used to be that a graduate of a maritime academy was rarely hired straight out of school as a mate for a tug and barge position. Most often they were hired to go aboard as deckhands or able-bodied sailors. The goal was for the new hire to gain experience on deck and



Student Brennan Hughes-Shiverick prepares the main engines for start-up.



Zachary McCarthy tests the phones between the engine room and pilot house.

acquire the local knowledge needed to move into the wheelhouse.

Today, MMA graduates are routinely hired directly into mate positions. Companies have adapted the workplace with mate training programs, improved technology, and better tug design. A unified desire to make the industry safer for its mariners, including the implementation of safety management systems, the Tug Operators Assessment Record and Subchapter M Inspection requirements, have forced steady change and improvement in company operations and hiring practices.

Maine Maritime Academy has adapted to industry changes by adding additional vessel operating courses into its curriculum. Courses in ship handling, marine systems, workboat operations, and tug and barge operations improve students' leadership qualities, communication skills, operational skills, safety management, and risk assessment skills. The Marine Transportation program has increased opportunities for industry experience and broader mariner skills through these specialty courses. Partnerships with tug companies provide cadet shipping and cooperative education positions.

Classroom instruction has also evolved. In the early years of the tug and barge class, lectures covered tug and barge designs, different modes of towing, soft hawser vs. wire tows, coastal vs. ocean tows, and nomenclature. These traditional topics are still covered, but now students participate in research and lead discussions. In maritime studies, students discuss the influence of the International Marine Organization on domestic regulations, as well as the Towing Safety Advisory Committee and its purpose. They analyze incidents and accidents covered by the National Transportation Safety Board and assess how a good safety management system may have prevented the occurrence. Business topics include vetting (the process a company may use to see if your vessel is suitable for their cargo), internal vs. external audits, marine insurance, and inspections. Students learn about trade organizations, especially the American Waterways Operators (AWO), and their role in the towing industry. The instructor asks questions that require critical thinking during classroom sessions, and every student is expected to participate. This method broadens students' view of the towing industry and provides

them the opportunity to experience the towing industry as more than just the operation of the tug.

Students in the tug and barge program have great appreciation for the faculty and the curriculum. "I like being a jack-of-all-trades," said Zach McKechnie '23. "You get so much experience aboard the *Pentagoet*. You're in the engine room, you're doing your rounds while underway, you're working with your other classmates. It's really fun. And I like that our classes are small. We get a lot of one-on-one time with the instructors. It is really crazy the amount of stuff they've taught us in four years."

Russell Marinari '23 agrees. "My goal is to get on a vessel where I have ship-handling responsibilities. Maybe I'll be on a tug, or maybe on an Offshore Supply Vessel in the Gulf. But what I love about the program is that it's not just about boats. Captain Leach does a really good job covering the maritime profession as a whole and covering maritime law and regulations. I like that aspect of it."

Natasha Oleareek '23 and Brigitte Oleareek '23 aspire to maritime careers in the tugboat and barge operations sector. They were quick to praise Capt. Leach as a teacher. "He set us up for suc-



Barge under tow as seen from Pentagoet stern.

cess not only in our classroom studies, but also in the real world application of the nautical knowledge he shared.”

The program’s faculty are always seeking ways to improve and grow both the Workboat Operations and Tug and Barge Operations programs. Classes and labs are regularly reviewed to better meet the workforce training needs of the tug companies hiring MMA graduates. The faculty solicits input through an Industrial Advisory Committee and a strong relationship with the American Waterways Operators. AWO is the tugboat, towboat, and barge industry’s advocate, resource, and united voice for safe, sustainable, and efficient transportation on America’s waterways, oceans, and coasts. AWO members operate on the rivers, coasts, Great Lakes, and harbors of the United States.

Rodgers was a visionary leader who provided the necessary tools to set Maine Maritime Academy apart from the other maritime academies with its tug and barge workforce training. What he began forty years ago has grown, kept current with the industry, and sends out graduates fully capable of working on tugs and similar vessels with knowledge and care. ■

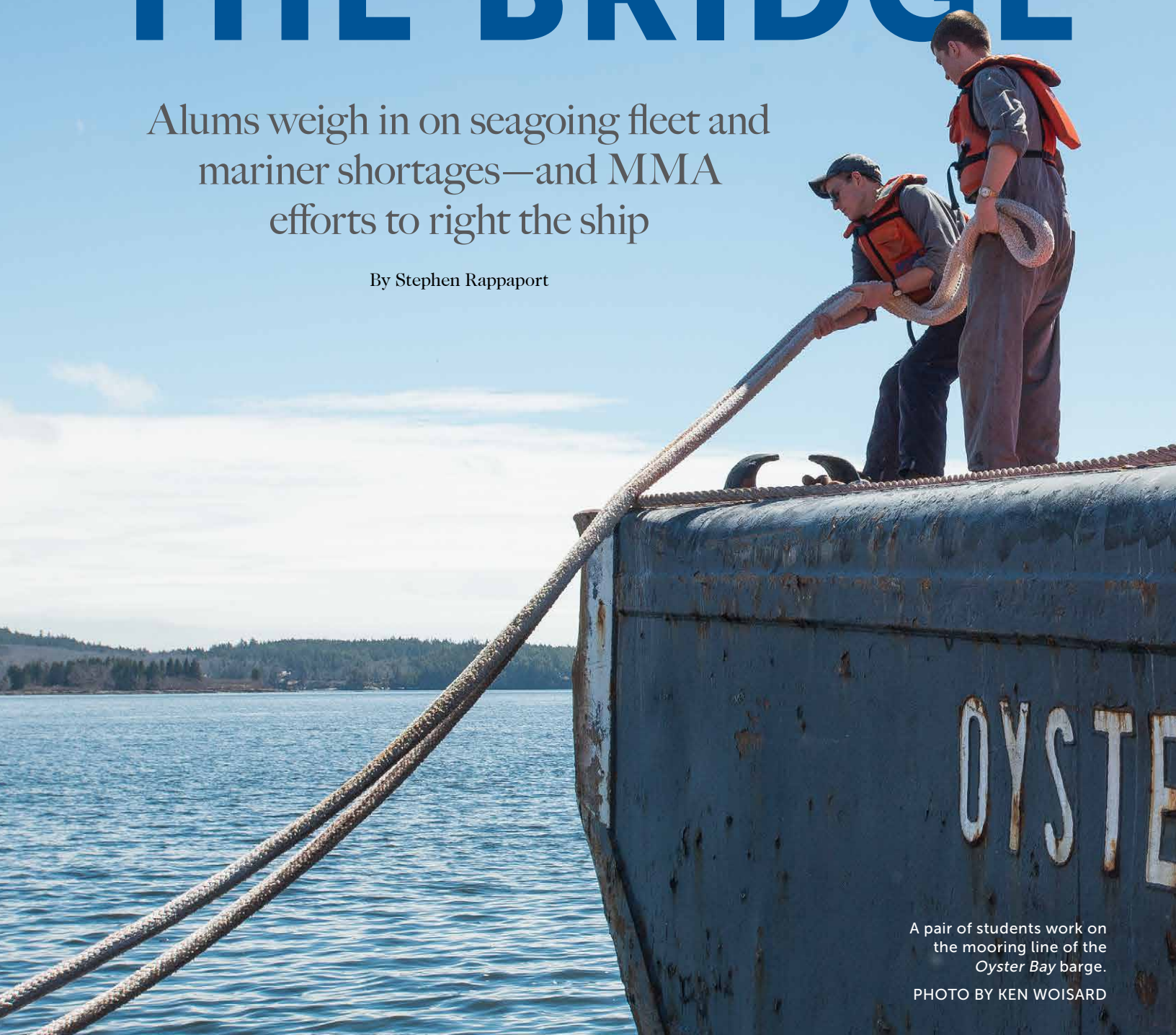


Zachary McKechnie prepares to take in the tug’s bow line.

A Call From **THE BRIDGE**

Alums weigh in on seagoing fleet and
mariner shortages—and MMA
efforts to right the ship

By Stephen Rappaport



A pair of students work on
the mooring line of the
Oyster Bay barge.

PHOTO BY KEN WOISARD



Jeff Richards '85



Richard Balzano '89



Thomas Lord '87

THE STORY IS IN THE NUMBERS, AND THE NUMBERS DON'T LOOK GOOD.

At the turn of the century, the nation's seagoing fleet of privately owned merchant vessels comprised 282 vessels: 81 containerships, 11 dry bulk carriers, 22 general cargo ships, 39 ro-ro vessels, 12 integrated tug/barge combinations, and 117 tankers.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, today's fleet is drastically smaller. As of January 2022, the nation's seagoing fleet of privately owned merchant vessels comprised just 178 ships, 104 fewer than two decades earlier. That's a decline in fleet size of 37 percent.

The decline in the Jones Act-eligible fleet—vessels built in the United States, owned by U.S. citizens and crewed by U.S. mariners—is even more severe. In 2000, there were 193 oceangoing, self-propelled, cargo-carrying vessels qualified for the Jones Act trade. Twenty years later, the size of the Jones Act-eligible fleet had fallen to just 99 vessels, a shocking drop of 49 percent.

A recent report on the results of the latest manpower survey by the Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO) and the International Chamber of Shipping reflects a current shortage of some 26,240

According to Jeff Richards '85, "Perhaps the most urgent question facing the U.S. maritime industry today . . . is where the men and women can be found to fill the increasing number of vacant positions for licensed officers needed to keep that fleet at sea."

STCW-certified ships' officers worldwide. Worse, BIMCO predicts that the present shortfall in the number of qualified officers will more than triple by 2026.

Although it's difficult to come by hard numbers, the news doesn't sound much better for the domestic fleet, especially that segment of the fleet comprising Jones Act-eligible ships. Unlicensed crew on these vessels may be U.S. citizens or foreign nationals with permanent resident status or enrolled at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point. Only citizens of the U.S., though, may serve as "master, chief engineer, radio officer, or (other) officer in charge of deck watch or engineering watch"—licensed officers—aboard U.S. built, owned, and documented Jones Act-eligible vessels.

Where are shippers to find all the licensed officers, U.S. citizens or otherwise, required to sail America's ocean-going fleet? That question isn't hypothetical.

According to Jeff Richards '85, "Perhaps the most urgent question facing the U.S. maritime industry today, as more and more mariners age and retire or move away from seagoing careers, is where the men and women can be found to fill the increasing number of vacant positions for licensed officers needed to keep that fleet at sea."

As the National Vice President, Deep Sea, for the American Maritime Officers (AMO), Richards sees the problem firsthand, tracking postings with the union for available seagoing jobs.

"I have never seen the job board (where employment opportunities are posted) more than 10 or 15 deep," he said this past summer. "Right now, there are 125. It's mind-blowing."

"We have approximately 150 seagoing vessels and around 3,000 officers. The shortage is by far the most pervasive I have seen in my career."

Richard Balzano '89, a deputy administrator of the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD) from 2017 to 2020 and currently CEO and Executive Director of the Dredging Contractors of America, agrees with that assessment.

Balzano arrived at MARAD just about the time the agency's Maritime Workforce Working Group reported that the U.S. had an available pool of 11,768 qualified mariners with the unlimited credentials required to sail the vessels in the nation's deep sea Ready Reserve Force, a subset of vessels within MARAD's National Defense Reserve Fleet ready to support the rapid worldwide deployment of U.S. military forces. The number of mariners required to staff this fleet fully, the report found, was 13,607, "leaving us about 2,000 mariners short," Balzano said.

Nearly six years later, the shortage remains and the chances that will change anytime soon are scant. The pool of mariners holding appropriate licenses is shrinking.

Graying license holders are retiring, and younger license holders are leaving their seagoing careers for shoreside jobs. With fewer young people entering the maritime profession, the mariner shortage continues to grow.

Perhaps the most urgent question facing the U.S. maritime industry today is where the men and women can be found to fill the increasing number of vacant positions for licensed officers needed to keep that fleet at sea.

"The forecast is not looking pretty," Thomas Lord '87 said recently. Lord is the Executive Vice President of Seiden Krieger Associates, an executive search firm. He specializes in the marine transportation, logistics, oil and gas, and supply chain sectors. He began his career with Moran Towing Corporation and later worked with such international

transportation and logistics companies as Hapag-Lloyd, US Shipping, Amerada Hess, Sea-Land Service, and Puerto Rico Marine Management.

Although "a lot of people have postponed retirement," he said, "we haven't seen the worst of it yet."

Maybe, maybe not.

In an article appearing in the January-April 2017 edition of "The Coast Guard Journal of Safety & Security at Sea Proceedings of the Marine Safety & Security Council" AMO Vice President for Government Relations, Captain Christian Spain, wrote that the

new and experienced officers. Younger mariners used to full-time "connectivity," said Balzano, don't want to be isolated from family and the outside world for months at a time.

"Going to sea is a much greater commitment than working shoreside," Lord said.

Changing attitudes and a tight job market are forcing employers to improve job conditions with shorter tours at sea and fulltime shipboard internet, among other perks, and "ever more lucrative pay."

Even that may not be enough to fill some billets. Lord said he knew of a job posting for a 3rd Assistant Engineer that paid \$20,000 per month that couldn't be filled.

Graduating cadets, and young officers who may be dissatisfied with life at sea, can now "pick and choose the jobs they want," Lord said. Many of those jobs are shore-based, and there seem to be plenty of them around.

Last fall, some 120 potential employers filled up the MMA's field house to recruit students graduating in 2023. At some of the early recruiting events in Castine, Lord

recalled, there were no more than 30 employers on hand.

What can be done to address this shortage of marine officers? The industry has recognized the need to promote a seagoing career to students at the high school level and has begun to develop programs that encourage young men and women to attend maritime academies. At the other end of the scale, unions and employers are working to persuade older seafarers to defer retirement. How those efforts succeed will have an enormous impact on the future of the nation's merchant marine.

"It's an exciting time," Lord said. ■

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

A recent report on the results of the latest manpower survey by the Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO) and the International Chamber of Shipping reflects a current shortage of some 26,240 STCW-certified ships' officers worldwide. Worse, BIMCO predicts that the present shortfall in the number of qualified officers will more than triple by 2026.

U.S. merchant marine "doesn't have a recruitment issue, but it does have a retention issue." Maybe it has both.

All three Academy alumni mentioned the current difficulties in persuading young men and women—even those who graduate from MMA or other maritime academies—to go to the sea, and then to keep them there. The reasons are complicated.

First, the excellent training the maritime academies provide, especially for engineering majors, opens the door for graduates to pursue shoreside jobs that pay well and don't make the rigorous social demands that come with shipboard life.

Since the Covid pandemic, Lord said, he has seen "a different mindset" among job seekers. Work/life balance has become a serious consideration for both

A group of students aboard the Training Ship *State of Maine* talk to the Tug *Pentagoet*.





POWER AND Purpose

MMA's Engineering Department Evolves to Meet the Future

By Emily Baer

For over eighty years, Maine Maritime Academy has been supplying the nation with skilled workers to meet our country's engineering, management, science, and transportation needs. In an increasingly interconnected world, MMA students and alumni touch nearly every aspect of our modern global economy.

Over the decades, the Harold Alfond School of Engineering has gained a reputation for producing engineers of the highest caliber. Whether working at sea or ashore, MMA alumni are recognized as leaders, experts, and pioneers in their fields.

In 2018, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated a shortfall of at least six million engineers between 2016 and 2026. In the years since, geopolitical shifts, dynamic economic forces, and the Covid pandemic have converged to exacerbate workforce needs. Demand for skilled professionals has only increased.

In this ever-changing landscape, challenges and opportunities abound.

ATTRACTING AMERICA'S ENGINEERING WORKFORCE

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the United States boasts approximately four hundred accredited engineering programs. Spread across





ABS CENTER FOR
ENGINEERING,
SCIENCE, AND
RESEARCH

all fifty states, these programs offer a variety of specializations and areas of focus. They all compete for the attention and interest of prospective students.

"You can find an engineering program anywhere," says Kate Kana, MMA Director of Admissions. "What still sets the Academy apart is the experience that we can provide to students: our location, our small class sizes, and our hands-on learning opportunities."

With five degree programs in engineering, including two that are accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), students at MMA are afforded the unique opportunity to pursue a U.S. Coast Guard license and additional professional licensing opportunities for both maritime and shoreside careers. In a crowded educational landscape, this gives the Academy a unique edge and appeal.

"Students come here knowing that they're learning more than a trade," Kana emphasizes. "They're developing a set of skills that will allow them to focus on what they want to do, and to be successful in whatever area of work that is."

In addition, MMA's engineering faculty offer diverse perspectives, blending academic backgrounds with industry experience. This allows students to approach their studies with a dual learning lens. "We often say, adds Kana, "that as a graduate you leave the Academy with classroom foundations, but also with muscle memory from having actually done the work."

FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

To maintain a competitive edge, the Engineering Department leverages the advice and expertise of the Harold Alfond School of Engineering Advisory Committee (AIC). The committee comprises alumni and stakeholders from a variety of industries, including the traditional energy sector and from shipbuilding industries. The committee monitors industry trends to help guide the direction of MMA's curriculum.

"The IAC plays a vital role," says Dr. Paul Wlodkowski. "Not only does the committee help ensure our curriculum

is relevant, the committee is essential to our accreditation.

"Reliability engineering received an inordinate amount of support from the IAC," continues Wlodkowski. "Thanks in part to the IAC's enthusiasm, MMA now offers reliability engineering as part of its curriculum."

Reliability engineering aligns with one of MMA's core competencies: operations and maintenance. "Reliability engineering is a very specialized technical discipline that spans many industries," Wlodkowski explains. "It's associated with everything from quality control, quality assurance, safety, risk, and all forms of critical decision making."

Many of these skills are transferable, preparing students to work in manufactur-

"Students come here knowing that they're learning more than a trade," Kana emphasizes. "They're developing a set of skills that will allow them to focus on what they want to do, and to be successful in whatever area of work that is."

ing or facilities management, and increasingly with artificial intelligence, embedded sensors (the internet of things, or IoT), and increased quantification processes. "We need our students to be prepared so they are able to take their skills to the next level," continues Wlodkowski. "These recent developments also coincide with the expected arrival of MMA's new training ship. We're still learning about what types of systems and sensors are already integrated in the vessel, but it is going to fundamentally change the way we teach. We have to be prepared for that."

Last year, President Jerry Paul convened the MMA Nuclear Working Group with the goal of re-establishing the nuclear engineering minor. MMA is now offering the first in a number of nuclear engineering courses that will enable students to complete the minor, something that has not been possible since the 1990s. "This is a very prominent part of our curricular

innovation," Wlodkowski notes. "And we have had many times more interested students wanting to take the inaugural course than we had room for."

Wlodkowski sees this evolution as a natural extension of MMA's steam curriculum. "It's precisely the steam, the result of the nuclear energy that is going into creating a carbon-free environment and helping solve the decarbonization of the oceans. This is a natural fit for the Academy, and few schools in the country have the infrastructure in place to impact the field like we do."

SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITY

Growing up in southern Maine, Michael Perrault '23, knew he wanted to enroll at MMA early on. Friends and family

encouraged that goal, noting the quality of education, excellent career opportunities, and strength of the alumni body.

A member of the Maine Army National Guard, Perrault arrived on campus in the spring of 2019 and found his footing in the Power Engineering Technology program. He took to his coursework quickly and found a particular interest in renewable energy. "I was always interested in that field, and I took several courses with Associate Professor Sadie Alley

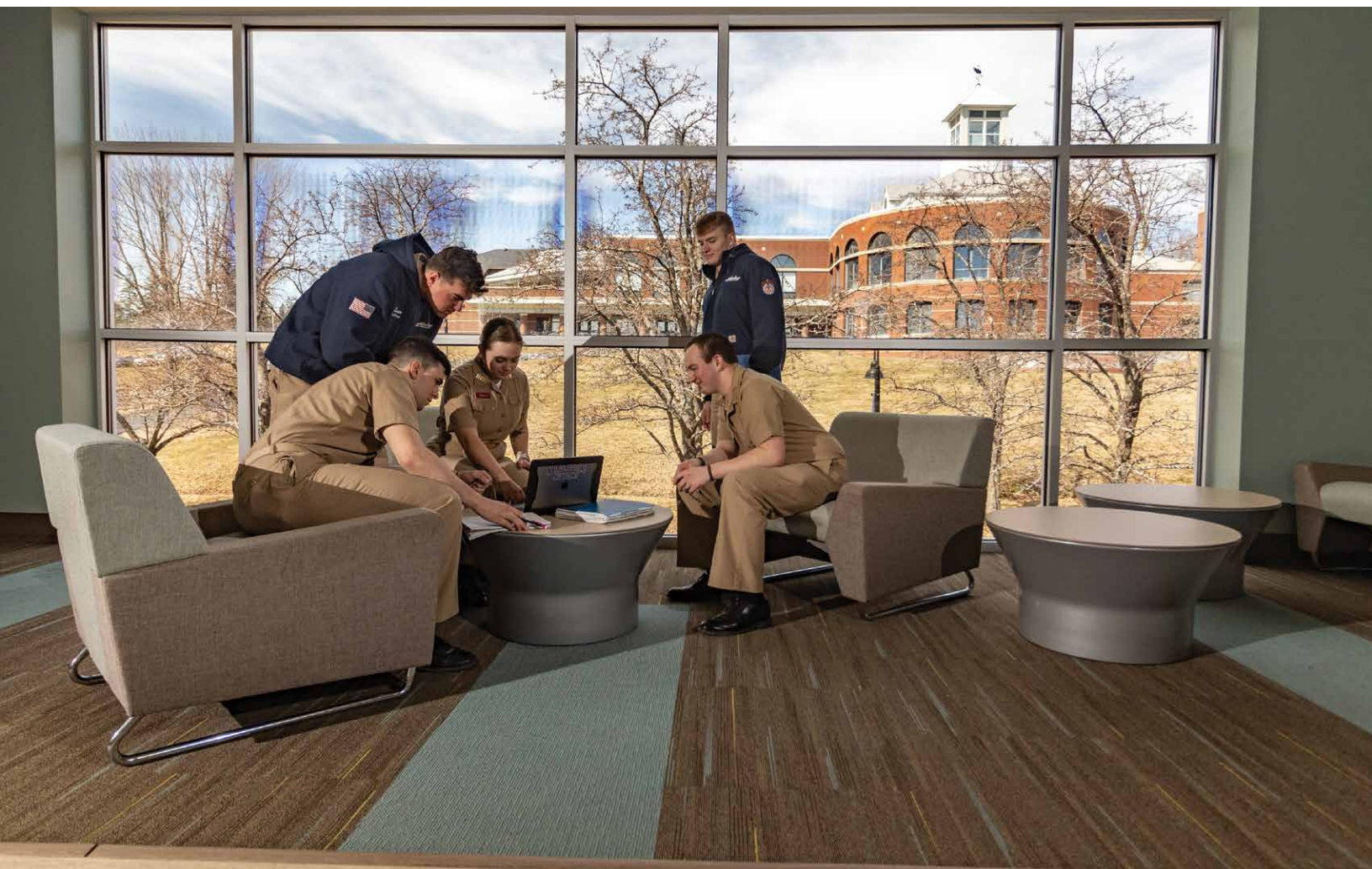
Ferreira '03 that solidified what I wanted to do," he explains.

"Professor Ferreira's classes were tailored to current events and current industry practices," Perrault continues. "I was excited about what I was learning. We talked about wind, solar, and storage; we covered nuclear; we learned about anaerobic digestion. We learned about all different kinds of renewable energy."

In the end, the focus on nuclear engineering was transformative for Perrault. During his senior year, he met with representatives from NextEra Energy Resources at MMA's annual Career Fair. Upon graduation, he moved to Wisconsin to become an Auxiliary Operator at the Point Beach Nuclear Plant.

Perrault soon understood the value of his education at the Academy. "It was immediately apparent to me just how much more prepared I was compared to my peers," he says. "I have the tools I need to





succeed, and I credit MMA's curriculum, and the excellence of my professors, for giving me that."

Perrault is quick to admit that he still has a lot to learn, but he is taking advantage of every opportunity he can to do so. This includes leaning on the expertise of fellow alumni, including Patrick Dunphy '97, whom Perrault met upon his arrival at Point Beach. "What was drilled into me at MMA was to always be curious, to always be questioning," says Perrault. "It was never about memorizing formulas or figures. You have to understand what you're doing and why. That's what sets you up to be a great teammate and problem solver."

ENDURING INVESTMENTS

For Ferreira, who joined the Academy's faculty in 2016, Perrault's attitude exemplifies the goals of MMA's engineering programs. "We pride ourselves on producing the type of engineers who can work well as a team and who can communicate their ideas clearly," she says.

"We want them to look at problems from many angles, to consider many elements, and to solve problems safely and creatively. We want them to be conscientious."

To ensure students leave with a sense of confidence and preparedness, Ferreira and her colleagues work diligently to maintain a mindset of continual improvement. "Our outcomes assessment is designed to make sure we are looking at our courses, our programs, the department, and the institution in a way that ensures we'll keep getting better."

Part of their process involves adapting MMA's program offerings to include state-of-the-art learning opportunities. This summer, a new SimGenries simulator was installed. The simulator has a gas turbine generator and steam turbine generator set. It is modeled after the GE Mark VI software and has options for both water-cooled and air-cooled condensers. Courses leveraging the updated software will be launched this spring.

Ferreira considers all of this an investment in the Academy's capacity

and infrastructure, in today's students, and in the future of the engineering program's growth. "One of the things I'm really looking forward to," Ferreira says, "is having students I've taught come back to the Academy and share their expertise and experience by serving on the IAC. We need their perspective to keep our perspective. We need them to stay current. To have them give back in that way is so important."

SIGHTS SET ON TOMORROW

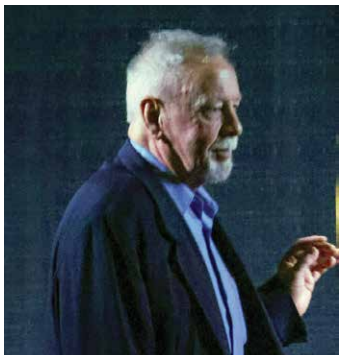
While honoring a legacy of excellence that is generations in the making, MMA continues to grow in response to our changing times. The Academy is uniquely situated to equip students with skills that will allow them to excel in career opportunities that exist today, and well into the future. "We need to help them prepare for jobs that are yet to be created," says Wlodkowski. ■

Emily Baer lives with her family in Bucksport, Maine.

Alumni News

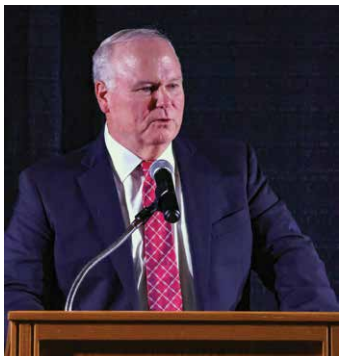
SPOTLIGHT

Honoring MMA Alumni and Inspiring Students



THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION RECEIVES NOMINATIONS FOR WALL OF HONOR, OUTSTANDING ALUMNI, AND THE HUMANITARIAN AWARD. THESE AWARDS ARE ESTABLISHED TO RECOGNIZE ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO SERVE AS INSPIRATION TO STUDENTS AND ALUMNI—CURRENT AND FUTURE—TO STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE.

ED HARMES, MMA class of 1964, 23-year U.S. Coast Guard career, was awarded the Humanitarian Award for dedicated affiliation with Habitat for Humanity, having participated on the construction of over one hundred homes in the Williamson County, Texas, area and twelve international builds.



For his commitment to his alma mater, **TOM LORD**, MMA class of 1987, was awarded Outstanding Alumnus. In his service to MMA, Tom's contributions are significant and numerous. He initiated the highly successful MMA Career Fair in 2002, which continues today, now twice a year. He is an active participant of the Admissions Department's Blue and Gold Ambassador Program and represents MMA at student recruitment events in the Philadelphia area. After being named its president in 2020, he rejuvenated the Delaware Valley Alumni Chapter (covering the Pennsylvania and New Jersey alumni) and initiated the annual Mid-Atlantic Golf Tournament (partnering with the D.C. Chapter) to strengthen MMA's connection in various industry sectors in the area. Tom was also a strong promoter and supporter of the "Mariner Football Challenge" to bring football back to MMA.



Wall of Honor recipient **GERALD W. "JAY" HARRIS**, MMA class of 1973, is the president of Komar Distribution Services and chief operating officer of Komar Brands, a global leader in the design, sourcing, manufacturing, and distribution of apparel. Komar Brands manages a diverse portfolio consisting of owned, licensed, and private label brands. His professional journey encompasses pivotal roles at North Sails and Komar Brands, where he drove both companies to a commanding 60 pct. market share. Over the past 40 years, Jay has propelled Komar from a \$20 million company to a \$1.2 billion dollar powerhouse.



Wall of Honor recipient **RICHARD "DICKIE" BALZANO**, MMA class of 1989, served 29 years of dedicated service in the U.S. Navy, retiring as a captain. In 2017, he was appointed by President Donald Trump as Deputy Administrator, Maritime Administration, of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Soon after Balzano's arrival at MARAD, the Department of Transportation received funding for the National Security Multi-Mission Vessel (NSMV) program, a class of five ships to train mariners and respond to natural and other disasters for the nation. Creating and chairing an Executive Steering Group (ESG) to find savings, Balzano and the ESG worked with Congress, directing MARAD to procure the ships using commercial processes, resulting in a firm, fixed-price, fixed-delivery contract of \$323 million per ship, nearly two-thirds less than original government estimates, making the initiative feasible.

Congratulations to all!



ALUMNI NEWS

PANAMA CHAPTER

Juan Molino '89 reports that the Panama Canal Alumni Chapter's annual luncheon was held at Maagoos Fish and Tacos in Panama City, Panama, July 26. Molino states, "We are a small, but tight, group of thirteen members, most of us working in the Panama Canal as pilots and tug masters. We try to get together at least once a year. The missing members were either working or traveling abroad that day." In the picture from left to right: Eusebio Stewart '90, Gary Watson '90, Jor-El Vega '92, Jairo Bryant '90, Alejandro Fernández '08, Cesar Achurra '90, Juan, and Ricardo Cuellar '17.

SPOTLIGHT

A MESSAGE FROM CAPT. MARK J. WINTER '88, COMMANDANT OF MIDSHIPMEN

WE ARE ALL STILL stubbing our toes on supply chain problems and there's no end in sight. One shortage we're battling in the Regiment is getting the proper uniforms for our Midshipmen. We are unable to purchase the shoulder boards and collar devices we need.

If you are like me, you probably have few sitting in the backs of closets or the bottoms of drawers. If so, I am asking you to send them back to school so that we can reissue them to students. Please take a look around and mail any you can find to:

Maine Maritime Academy
Attn: CWO4 Anne Kowalski
1 Pleasant St.
Castine, ME 04420

Thank you for helping to continue the legacy of MMA by paying it forward to the next generation of Mariners.

Best regards,
Capt. Mark J. Winter '88



SPOTLIGHT

Your Gift to MMA Can Have Lasting Importance and Recognition

HAVE YOU EVER wanted to honor a favorite faculty member, a mentor, or a loved one? Have you ever thought about having a favorite spot on campus carry your name?

Now it's easy to do just that. The Advancement Office has put together a list of naming opportunities throughout our Castine and Bucksport facilities. Donors who have done this will tell you it's rewarding to give a lasting tribute to a person who means so much, while also helping fund campus improvements. Your visible generosity will inspire other alumni to consider their own named gift. These giving

opportunities range from \$750 to \$5 million and be made outright or as a pledge payable over five years.

Another opportunity is to name a position around campus. These can

Your visible generosity will inspire other alumni to consider their own named gift.

include coaches, faculty, regimental staff, ship's crew, and others. For these endowed positions, donors make either a one-time gift or a pledge not to exceed five years and name the position. The gift is placed in MMA's endowment and

the Academy uses the earned interest to fund that position's salary and benefits in perpetuity. Naming rights for endowed positions range from \$1 million to \$4 million. An endowed position is the highest academic award that MMA can confer, and lives on as long as the Academy endures. It is both an honor to be the named holder of the appointment and an enduring tribute to the donor who establishes it.

For more information on naming opportunities in Castine and Bucksport or endowing a position, please contact Christopher Haley, VP for Advancement, at 207-326-2232 or c.haley@mma.edu.

ALUMNI NEWS

ALUMNI NEWS

DELAWARE VALLEY

Chapter President Tom Lord '87 and the DelValley folks were very busy this spring and fall. On May 1, they played host to MMA President Jerry Paul and dignitaries at the actual keel laying of the new NSMV *State of Maine* being constructed at Philly Shipyard. On May 17, while the current training ship was in Philly on its first port visit of Summer Cruise 2023, a ceremonial keel laying was witnessed by students, ship's crew, and alumni. They also planned shipyard and NSMV tours and hosted a reception. On October 18, the chapter, in partnership with the D.C. Chapter, hosted a golf tournament at the Navy League course to raise money for the DelValley Chapter Scholarship.

ALUMNI NEWS

CASCO BAY

The Casco Bay Chapter hosted its maritime flea market at a one-day open house at Portland Yacht Services. A big scholarship fundraiser in the past, the chapter is considering additional fundraising options.

Thank you to over one hundred alumni and friends who braved the wet elements at Hadlock Field July 21 to attend the pre-game barbeque and baseball game. The game was suspended in the ninth and fireworks were canceled. The Sea Dogs did win the next day.



SPOTLIGHT

It's a Small World

YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN or where you'll run into an MMA alum. For Dr. Paul Wlodkowski, MMA Professor of Engineering, it was Commencement Day in the emergency room at Maine General Medical Center in Augusta.

Wlodkowski was on his way to campus when he got a text from his sister reporting that their father, John, had been hospitalized. She assured him things were okay. She told Wlodkowski to stay at commencement since he was part of the awards ceremony and to head to Augusta afterward.

"My thoughts were all over the place," recalled Wlodkowski. "I was worried about my dad but tried to stay in the moment."

As faculty were lining up in their regalia, Wlodkowski saw Dr. Alaina (Hanlon) Adams '03, a student from twenty years ago who is now an MMA trustee. "Seeing her reminded me how time has flown by. Her classmate, Stephen Clark '04, came to mind, and I wished I knew where he ended up, though I recalled he went into medicine."

As soon as commencement concluded, Wlodkowski headed to the hospital. Soon after he arrived in his father's room, a surgeon walked in. He checked John over, asking a lot of questions. As Wlodkowski watched the doctor, he kept thinking he

looked familiar. Then he saw his nametag: Stephen Clark, MD.

"Could it be," he wondered, "my engineering student from twenty years ago?"

Wlodkowski asked, "Excuse me, Dr. Clark. Would you by chance have graduated from Maine Maritime Academy?" Dr. Clark looked at Wlodkowski and gave him a big bear hug. "Professor Wlodkowski!" he exclaimed. "When I saw 'Wlodkowski,' on the chart, I wondered if it could be the same family." It was a happy reunion, made better by John not needing surgery.

For Wlodkowski, the serendipity of meeting his former engineering student on the same day he wondered about his whereabouts leaves him shaking his head. But he sees this engineer-turned-surgeon story as an example of what is special about MMA.

"We talk about our campus, our laboratories, the ship, not just as



classrooms," said Wlodkowski, "but as platforms that prepare students for absolutely anything. Dr. Clark is a perfect example. Students come here and they can go and do absolutely anything. This is a specialized place, but that doesn't mean a graduate can't become an orthopedic surgeon, or a professor of engineering, or an admiralty attorney, or anything else. That's truly what makes this a wonderful institution place."

Class of '72 Gives Back

CLASS OF '72 ANNUAL ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

IN AUGUST OF 2020 we started the endowed scholarship effort. We contacted Chris Haley, MMA VP of Advancement, to start on the endowed scholarship agreement. To better understand the process, we looked at how other colleges and universities were structuring their agreements and how they were raising funds for their scholarships. We found an easy, tax-efficient way of making donations called Qualified Charitable Distributions. QCDs allow you to make direct transfers from your IRA to a charitable organization without taxes, as long as you are at least 70-1/2 years old. Since most of our classmates were over 70, or would be turning 70, this looked perfect. We discussed this donation method at a Zoom meeting, along with a draft of the endowed scholarship agreement, information on what a QCD is, and instructions on how to make a QCD. Our agreement was approved by eight of our classmates and we submitted that to the MMA Board for approval. We received our first donation in December 2020. The agreement allowed us five years to reach the endowed fund level of \$25,000, but our goal was to reach that level by our reunion on Sept 17, 2022. By the time the reunion was held we had donations of over \$41,000. We currently have over \$48,000. We have had great support from our classmates with most classmates making multiple donations.

—Ed Rosenberg and Larry Brown



HOW TO MAKE A GIFT USING A QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION

- You do not receive a tax deduction for a QCD from a regular IRA. However, the transfer is not recognized as taxable income. Because a QCD reduces income and is not an itemized deduction, the gift benefits even those donors who do not itemize.
- The withdrawal may not exceed \$100,000 annually per individual for all such gifts. A married couple with separate IRAs may each transfer as much as \$100,000 annually.
- Contact your IRA administrator to request a QCD or call the MMA Advancement Office at 207-326-2232.

Then and now, Ed Rosenberg (above) and Larry Brown (below).

CLASS OF '72 ANNUAL HONOR SCHOLARSHIPS

AT THE FIRST ZOOM MEETING after our reunion, we started to discuss what we could do to help students currently attending MMA. Our classmates remembered the challenges that they faced when we were at MMA. Many were quick to say that, without the scholarship support they received, they would not have been able to graduate.

We started looking at establishing an annual scholarship fund. We presented some options to our classmates at our quarterly Zoom meeting. By December 2022 we had a draft to submit to Chris Haley for approval.

At our April 2023 Zoom reunion meeting we had our eight bells ceremony recognizing classmates that had passed. One was Mike Findlan, who had attended our 50th reunion but passed away the following March. A classmate asked if we could honor Mike with one of our annual scholarships. Everyone agreed it was a great idea. We revised our annual scholarship name to the "Class of '72 Annual Honor Scholarship." Going forward, scholarships will be awarded in honor of classmates who have passed during each calendar year.

The Class of '72 Annual Honor Scholarship will collect donations from classmates during the calendar year, and award it in the first quarter of the next year. The MMA office



(Above) The Class of 1972 gather for their MMA 50th reunion.

of Financial Aid will attend the first quarter Zoom meeting and announce the students awarded Class of '72 Honor Scholarships. The class will assemble an honor scholarship package for each student. This will include a message from the class, a profile or obituary of the honored classmate, remembrances of the honored classmate, and our scholarship award certificate.

The Annual Honor Scholarship fund was over \$6,800 at the end of July 2023. That amount will support five scholarships. We expect this amount to increase by the end of this tax year. Our classmates' support with ideas and donations has made this program a success.

—The Class of '72

Cheryl Maloney with a tray of pecan rolls. REPUBLISHED WITH PERMISSION C. 2021 THE GAZETTE, CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA.

SPOTLIGHT

The “B” in IBL Means Bakery

CHERYL (SOKOL) MALONEY '02 grew up in Chicago and came to MMA to become an oceanographer. After her first semester, she switched to International Business and Logistics. “I decided quickly that I liked oceanography better as a hobby than a profession,” she explained. “I joked with my friends that I didn’t think it would buy me the shoes I wanted.”

Almost immediately, Maloney knew IBL was the place for her. “It was a very good, very well-rounded business program,” Maloney said. “I loved every minute of it.”

After graduation she worked nights in Louisville, Kentucky, dispatching barges before returning to Chicago to join the Canadian National Railroad. She found herself the only person under forty, and one of the few women who wasn’t a secretary. “My parents were thrilled,” she recalled. “They said railroads are for life and a pension. But I knew there was no way I could commit my whole life to it.”

Her boss had a friend in the transportation department at Constellation Brands, one of the world’s largest premium beer and wine suppliers. He told her she needed to interview for a transportation analyst job open at Constellation. “I think they would love to have you,” he said. “You’ll be so much happier there.”

Maloney got the Constellation Brands job, and it was a much better fit. She started as a transportation analyst but hit her stride in category strategy and sales data analytics. She switched to wine sales and had an epic year, becoming responsible for wine sales at Whole Foods and Target for the entire country.

She and her husband, Shawn, welcomed their son in 2016 and she stayed home for five years. Just as she was thinking about returning to work, everything was shutting down for Covid. They started to reevaluate where they wanted to be. Her actuary husband received permission to work remotely,

and Maloney suggested they move to Iowa where her sister and her mother’s side of the family were. In fall 2020 they bought a house in Solon, between Cedar Rapids and Iowa City.

Eighty-five years ago, Maloney’s great aunt opened Mary Ann’s Eat Shop in Cedar Rapids and ran it with her five sisters for fourteen years.

“People in my family love to bake,” said Maloney, “myself included.”

Once settled in their new place, Maloney began baking more and sharing with friends. Word of mouth about her delicious rolls created demand, and soon she was selling her baked goods from her home. She quickly developed a following, and as she watched her sales grow, she knew she would hit the \$35,000 limit of what could legally be sold from a home kitchen.

“My aunt in Cedar Rapids told me Solon needed a bakery,” said Maloney, “but I wasn’t convinced.” She knew her high-quality ingredients and handwork would require a high price. Her aunt remained confident that people would pay for good food, and Maloney took the plunge, opening The Eat Shop as a high-end, boutique bakery. In some instances, price points were double those of other bakeries. But Maloney’s aunt was right. “We sold over 20,000 cinnamon and pecan rolls the first year, and our second-year sales are up over 20 percent.”

When an opportunity arose recently to bid on a food retail spot on the University of Iowa campus, Maloney was ready.

“It’s a huge opportunity,” she said. “Solon has 3,000 people and there are that many students just in the dorm next door to our location.”

Maloney credits MMA and her corporate experience in Chicago for the skills she’s needed to build a successful business. “I never even knew I wanted to be a business owner,” she said with a laugh. “Now I can’t imagine life any other way.”



ALUMNI NEWS

CONN. AND R.I.

John Gasper '02 and the alumni of southern New England have met a few times over the course of the summer. "Thanks to everyone that came to the beer palooza (May) in Norwich! We had a couple new faces from the class of '84 and '20, too." On August 19, alumni had executive suite seats to see the Hartford Yard Goats (Yankees AA) defeat the New Hampshire Fisher Cats. The game was followed by a fireworks display.

ALUMNI NEWS

EASTERN MAINE SUMMER SOLSTICE

Seventy-five alumni and friends were in Bar Harbor for a beautiful Summer Solstice Sunset Cruise. Special thanks to the Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company and Capt. Matt Ketchen '01 for helping arrange the event.

ON-CAMPUS SUMMER REUNIONS

The classes of 1958, 1965, 1968, and 1973 visited the MMA campus this summer for their class reunions. Each class wandered campus, reminisced, cruised the waters of Penobscot Bay, learned of campus programs, facility upgrades, and future plans, while conducting Eight Bells in remembrance of their classmates who have passed. Class of '64 is scheduled for July 17–20, 2024, Class of '65 for July 8–10, 2024, and Class of '84 for July 15–17, 2024. Contact Alumni Relations if your class desires an on-campus summer reunion.

PENBAY (MAINE)

In June, the PenBay Chapter hosted a potluck dinner at the Sail, Power, and Steam Museum in Rockland. Lindsey Pinkham '04 was delighted with the turnout, reporting a much larger attendance than usual. Chris Haley, MMA's VP for Advancement, was on hand to give updates about campus activities, program changes, facility upgrades, new ship news, and also took questions.

ALUMNI NEWS

TIDEWATER (VA.)

A small number of MMA alumni took advantage of prime reserved seating at the world's largest naval airshow at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, Va. There were acres of planes and vendors to roam, and many thousands of people were on hand to watch the U.S. Navy Blue Angels, among other performers.

ALUMNI NEWS

SEACOAST (N.H.)

The Seacoast Chapter hosted a highly successful golf tournament in September that drew a maximum number of players and raised funds for their scholarships and sustained their fundraising activities. They will be hosting a holiday event in December and collect donations of toys for area disadvantaged youth.



Homecoming '23



SCENES FROM MMA HOMECOMING 2023

(Left) Members of the Class of '88 gather at the homecoming picnic.

(Below) The Class of 1978 pose for a photo. Left to right: Steve Garland, Steven Beaulieu, Glen Brewer, Scott Porter, Randy Powers, Mike Marzolf, Steve Stilphen, Emilio Andoniades, George Lay, Doug Gilbert, Ed Gagnon, Tom Burrill, John Robinson, Steve Foster, Russ Hall, Mike Gagnon, Dick Eaton, Hunter Friend, Tim Higgins, Brian Bickford.



ALUMNI NEWS

HOMECOMING AWARD RECIPIENTS

MMA honored distinguished alumni athletes at ceremonies this Homecoming 2023 by welcoming them into the William J. Mottola Athletics Hall of Fame. Created in 2004, the Hall of Fame honors exceptional athletes, coaches, administrators, and friends in Mariner athletic history. The Hall of Fame '23 inductees are: **Ed Lynch '71** (football), **Ryan Reed '96** (men's soccer), **Rosita Rivera '02** (women's cross country), **Amy Young '10** (volleyball), and the **2004–2005 women's basketball team**.

MMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS

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BAY STATE

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FLORIDA (TAMPA)

David Knapp '86
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FLORIDA (JACKSONVILLE)

TBD

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SOUTHEAST ATLANTIC

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TEXAS

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Eric Dankewicz '05
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ALUMNI NEWS

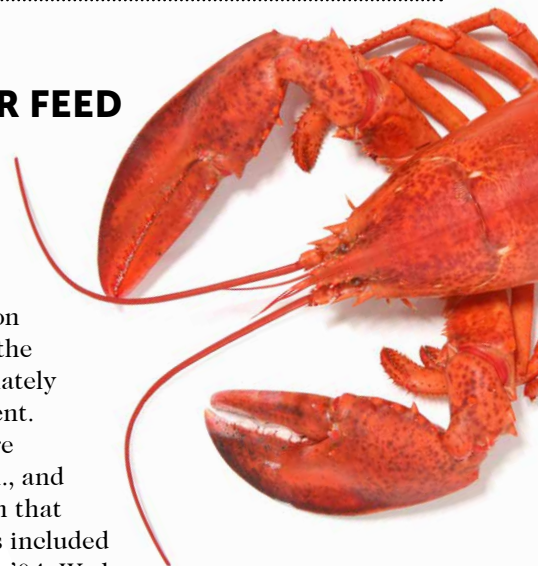
SO. CALIF. LOBSTER FEED

Ralph Staples '71 and MMA played host on July 22, along with family and friends of the Southern California Chapter as they celebrated their 43rd annual "Lobster Fest" picnic on Pacific Beach in San Diego at the ZLAC Rowing Club. Approximately fifty attendees enjoyed the event. In addition to MMA, there were alumni from Mass., SUNY, Cal., and King's Point. The chapter team that made the picnic a real success included Peter Betti '10, Michael Curtin '04, Wade Mondoux '11, Jeff Pollock '15, Alex Waller '15, Fred Jackson, Jason Johnson '08 and Staples.

Special guest was Jeff Hutchins, son of the late Carlton Hutchins, MMA class of '43-2, who was a founding member of the SoCal Alumni Chapter. Jeff provided a birthday cake for all to enjoy in memory of his dad, who would have celebrated his 100th birthday.

The chapter also conducted a raffle for a ship model of the USS *Susquehanna* that was hand-crafted by MMA alumnus Frank Tepedino '58. Besides being a talented model maker, Frank is an accomplished lawyer, businessman, engineer, U.S. Navy officer, and member of the MMA Wall of Honor.

"And yes, the live Maine lobsters flown in for the 'Lobster Fest' were delicious."



UPCOMING EVENTS

DEC. 29

MAINE MARINERS HOCKEY,
CROSS ARENA, PORTLAND

FEB. 3

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT
THE WOODLANDS,
FALMOUTH, ME

MARCH 15

MAINE MARINERS HOCKEY,
CROSS ARENA, PORTLAND

MARCH 20

SENIOR BANQUET, CROSS
CENTER, BANGOR, ME

APRIL 27

NIGHT BY THE BAY,
SHERATON SABLE OAKS,
SO. PORTLAND, ME

JULY 8–10

CLASS OF '65
SUMMER REUNION, MMA

JULY 15–17

CLASS OF 1984
SUMMER REUNION, MMA

JULY 17–20

CLASS OF 1964
SUMMER REUNION, MMA

JULY 26

MMA ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION GOLF
CLASSIC, ROCKY KNOLL
GOLF COURSE,
ORRINGTON, ME

FOR MORE EVENT
INFORMATION, EMAIL
ALUMNI@MMA.EDU

Class Notes

1946



Dr. Barclay Shepard tends the helm on the *Bowdoin* cruise during Homecoming 2023 festivities. Dr. Barclay's chief mate is Tom Lord '87.

1956



Stuart Kilbride proudly poses with his U.S. Navy uniform he donated for display at Our Heroes Military Museum of Lincoln, Maine. Thank you, Stuart.

1958



A small, but dedicated, group returned for their 65th reunion this past July. Pictured are Frank Tepedino, Everett Cooper and George Richardson.

1960



Charlie Briggs (2nd from left) renewed acquaintance with Dick Borges '65 after 55 years. The two reunited at a Theatre Organ concert at the Auditorium Theater in Rochester, N.Y., last November. Briggs reports they had a wonderful brunch and concert.

1962



Norman Laskey writes, "Since our 2022 reunion I've continued to be involved in education. We learned so much at MMA and in our careers, we should pass on as much as we can. I continue to write a monthly blog. Over the last three years I've often written on the technological changes in the industry, mostly involving alternate fuels and means of reducing greenhouse gas, and thought on how these changes will affect vessel values. After returning from Castine I did a 1.5-hour webinar on ship valuation to an international audience reported to be over 200 people. Continuing with virtual presentations at the end

of this September, I gave a two-day class on the same subject. MMA taught us a lot, but not about wrestling with Zoom. As a fictional character has said, 'It is good to exercise the little gray cells.'"

1964



Class Agent Larry Wade sent the following: "Paul Manning '64, Bob Chiarello '62, and Perry Mattson '64 enjoyed a Dennett's Wharf evening in Castine!"

1964



Classmates met for lunch in April 2023 at Sea Dog Brewery in Bangor. Getting together were Nancy and Gene Silva, Houston, Tex., Lois and Charlie Weeks, Hampden, Maine, and Deanna and Larry Wade, Bradley, Maine.

1965

Clyde Ricker wrote, "My friend Donna and I visited the MMA campus on July 10-13. We, the class of 65, have a mini muster each year. This was the second year and we had 19 grads show up. I got a personal tour . . . and

was most impressed with the facilities and various programs that are now available. I was very proud to be an alumnus and was wishing I was 19 again so I could attend one more time. The changes that have been made and the growth that has happened is remarkable in a very good way. I encourage all alumni to visit and experience the MMA of today."

1966



From the left, classmates Russ Kniehl, Dan Mari, and Sky Woods recently dined at Robinson's Wharf in Southpoint, Maine. They were joined on the phone by Dave Clifford, Rick Judd, and Bob Gaffney.

1966

John R. Demaree writes: I just read your latest email update on Academy affairs. I grew up in Berwick, Pa., and graduated from MMA in June of 1966. After over six years on Grace line ships, I successfully completed the exam for a USCG Chief Engineer's license. I subsequently retired from Grace line to pursue a career ashore. Along with Pete Boyce, a fellow '66 engineering grad, we bought a few acres of waterfront land in Lubec.

Life in Lubec was great, but a little quiet for us. My family moved to Fulton, N.Y., and I became an engineer for Miller

Brewing's new Fulton brewery. It was a lot of fun but after six years I accepted the position of Manager of Corporate Utilities at Campbell Soup company with 65 facilities around the world.

Twenty years later I retired to Brackney, Pa., a mile south of the N.Y. border at Binghamton. My ancestor bought a 50-acre plot of land here in 1850 and the Demarees have been here ever since.

I do not think that there is any better education available than one obtained at the Academy! I do not get to visit the Academy as much as I used to, but certainly enjoy all the emails like yours as they come along! Thank you!

1971



Capt. Curt Nehring '71 writes: Greetings from the "Shaky Side." In 2005 I joined the Columbia River Bar Pilots and am piloting ships up and down the Columbia River. This photo shows the *Katie* passing under the Astoria-Megler Bridge between Oregon and Washington. Bridge clearance is 205 feet at the center span. The *Katie* (1250 ft LOA, 159 ft beam, 140,000 dwt, and capable of

carrying 14,000 TEUs) became the largest cargo vessel to transit the Columbia River. I was the lead pilot for this operation. We usually have two pilots working a vessel, but for this ship we actually had three. It's not uncommon to have another pilot observing when you have a vessel out of the ordinary.

I was active-duty Navy from 1971 to 1973, then went to sea with MSCPAC, 76-2005 with American Maritime Officers-MEBA 2 (AMO) where I sailed Master for 25 years, first with Point Shipping, then Ocean Ships out of Houston. In '85-'86 I was Delivery Master for the T-5 project, delivering five \$85 million clean prod-

uct tankers for the US Navy/ MSC. The ships replaced the old T-5 USNS Shoshone class. Upon completion, at age 37, I became the youngest delivery master to deliver an entire three or more vessel class since WWI (according to a U.S. Navy press release). From 1986 to 2005 I served as Senior Master for Ocean Ships.

Good Lord willing and the creek don't rise, I plan to continue for another three or so years before I hang up the spurs.

1974

Gary Walker informed us he is semi-retired and "still vertical," living in Albion, ME.

SAVE THE DATE

A Night by the Bay

MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Sheraton at Sable Oaks, South Portland Information: 207-326-2177 | anbtb.mainemaritime.edu

CLASS NOTES

1976



Class Agent David Witherill passes along the following: "Happy to report that we had 18 classmates gather at the Harraseeket Yacht Club in South Freeport, Maine, on Thursday, June 22. The weather cooperated, which is not to be taken for granted this June, and 15 of us enjoyed a sail on Casco Bay aboard Bill Full's J-105, Jeff Wadman's (class of '74) Beneteau, and my Sabre 34."

1979



Ron Richards and Tom Quartuccio get together at a Myrtle Beach, S.C., travel park.

1980

Russell Johansen let us know that he is retired and lives in Gettysburg, Pa.

1980



Members from the class of 1980 gathered to attend a memorial service for shipmate Robert 'Eli' Whitney '80. Pictured (l to r) are Franz "FJ" Ritt '83, Pat Kilty '82, John

Lord '80, Lynden "Elfman" Kibler '85, Dana "Tuna" Petersen '80, Bob Tarrant '81, Jim Shirley '87 and Chris Von Hohenleiten '79. Missing from the photo, Ken Zeghibe '80.

1982



Capt. John Gazzola emailed, "Here's a great photo that was recently taken in Portland during a sales trip of mine. Pictured l to r, Danny Profenno, Dan Legere, Captain John Gazzola, and Captain Steve Russell, all class of 1982." Thanks, Captain!

1983



JT Hall and Dan Rideout (senior year roommates) continue to have an almost annual reunion. This year, it was at Hall's family home on Morse Island near Friendship, Maine. Hall took the cribbage trophy, Rideout the horseshoe crown. Hall, recently retired, lives in New Hampshire with his wife, Noreen. Rideout is still teaching middle school students with special needs, and lives in Oregon with his wife, Heather.

1984



T/S *State of Maine* arrived in Castine after a 74-day international voyage, marking the final voyage for Chief Engineer Clifford "Sandy" Cameron. This comment from a Maine Maritime Academy student demonstrates the impact he has made at the Academy: "I was part of a group when I was on watch one day . . . and was able to work with Chief Cameron. It was one of the turning points that made me want to become an engineer. Thanks, Chief. Enjoy the next chapter."

1984



Dave Melin and wife, Kathryn, hosted incoming MMA freshmen from the state of Wash. (there are six) for a casual backyard BBQ over the summer. Classmate Dave Hopkins (left) attended and "helped a ton!"

1985



Captain Sherri Hickman (back) reported in August, "I just returned from England where I attended a ship-handling course in Warsash. The gal in the photo with me has been a pilot for 9 years in Houston. (I've been there 29 years now.)"

1987



Hugh Tillman recently came out of retirement, joining Hawaiian Airlines to fly the Airbus 330 on their international routes to Korea, Samoa, Japan, Australia, New York, and Boston. He and his wife, Lainie, reside in Kailua, Hawaii.

1987

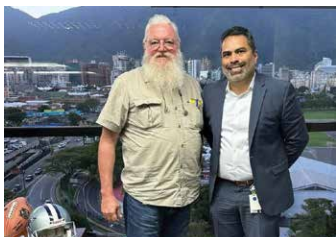
Shashi N. Kumar reports he is still MARAD's first Deputy Associate Administrator and National Coordinator of Maritime Education and Training. Kumar earned his BS from the Indian Maritime Academy and his MS at MMA where he stayed on as an asst. prof. He was founding dean of the Loeb Sullivan School of International Business and Logistics and a professor emeritus. Kumar earned a PhD from the University of Wales, UK, and has held visiting professorships at several universities. Kumar was chief academic officer at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy where he also served as Interim Superintendent. He was a Fulbright Senior Specialist assigned to the Republic of Ireland in 2012.

1988

Bill Follett reports, "I am excited for my new role within Ocean Winds as the Technical Director for the Bluepoint Wind. I appreciate the oppor-

tunity to work with yet another great team of talented professionals as we continue to work to deliver offshore wind to the U.S. east coast."

1989



Mario Pantoja (r), general manager of Venezuelan Marketing for Chevron Exploration and Production, stands with John Morris, MMA '82, who is joining the Chevron Venezuela marketing team responsible for trading and exports of heavy crude oil to U.S. refineries and managing a fleet of 12 Aframax tankers.

1990



Shortly after graduation, David Petrocelli was a volunteer in water rescue which led to a career in the fire service. Hired as a firefighter by the Portland Fire Department in May 1995, he had the opportunity to cover shifts on the city's fire boat for many years when one of the assigned crew was on vacation. Also at that time he worked as a launch operator, a yacht club manager, a marina dockmaster, and now a boatyard/shipyards safety coordinator. In 2014, he was promoted to captain and assigned to the department's Fire Prevention Bureau. He spent time as the company captain at Ladder Co. 4 in

INVEST IN THE FUTURE



MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY
ANNUAL FUND

Your gift to the Annual Fund makes an impact on every aspect of the student experience.

But most importantly, it gives every student a chance to realize their future.

**Make a difference!
Help today's students
become tomorrow's
leaders.**



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CLASS NOTES

North Deering, and then Ladder Co. 6 at Bramhall, before a promotion in December 2020 and assignment to the fire department's Air Rescue Division.

1990

Akio Utsumi is a civilian human resource officer for the U.S. Marine Corps Combined Arms Training Center, Camp Fuji, Japan.

1992

William Scott is the managing director, Africa for Tidewater Marine International, Inc., and lives in Danforth, Maine.

1993



John McDonald has been elected president of ABS. McDonald has served as Exec. VP and COO of the company since July 2021. As president he will remain the COO of the company and join the ABS Board of Directors. McDonald joined ABS in 1996, and in addition to his MMA BS in engineering has an MBA from Texas A&M Univ.

1994



The team of Nathan Chubet '94 and Adam Doncet '98

completed a two-person relay in the Swim Across the Sound, representing Wallingford Energy. In the process, they set a new course record for the corporate division. The Swim Across the Sound is a 15.5 mile swim from Port Jefferson, N.Y. to Bridgeport, Conn. that raises funds for St Vincent Hospital Cancer patients. Well done, gentlemen.

1994



Matthew Zardeskas started a new position as the senior program analyst on the Joint Staff J35 Global Force Management and is still living in Chesapeake, Va.

1995



Entering his 17th year as a full-time member of the San Antonio Fire Department, Brian Deschenes was promoted to the rank of lieutenant. He spent the last 14+ years as a member of the department's Technical Rescue Team. He currently serves as a company officer on one of the city's 85 fire apparatus and is the commander of the San Antonio Fire Fighters Honor Guard.

1996

Alexander Wood was engineer aboard the Staten Island Ferry as the crew sprang into action when the ferry *Sandy Ground* caught fire during an evening commute in late December 2022. In April 2023, the Marine Engineers Beneficial Association (MEBA), which represents many of the Staten Island Ferry's crew members, formally recognized them for their heroic, live-saving actions with an award ceremony to honor the 16 brave people who successfully evacuated nearly 900 passengers from the *Sandy Ground* after the fire broke out in the engine room. Great job, Alex and crew!

1998

MMA welcomes Seth Brown back to campus as a new Major Gifts Officer within the Advancement Division.

1998

Aaron Coy has been named the chief engineer of the T/S *State of Maine*, succeeding Sandy Cameron '84, who retired recently. Coy will be in main control to welcome the new National Security Multi-mission Ship *State of Maine V* that is due to arrive in Castine in fall of 2024.

1999

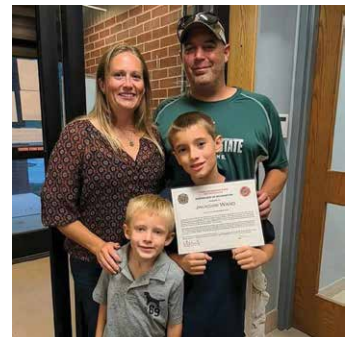
In July, Rob Cody started a new job as project manager for Versant Power.

2000



Captain Gordon "Mac" MacArthur '00, Master of T/S *State of Maine*, conferred the degree to his daughter Elisabeth MacArthur, left, at May 2023 commencement ceremonies. Elisabeth graduated *magna cum laude* with a degree in international business and logistics.

2005



Jessica Rowe Ward sailed for 4-1/2 years, then worked for ABS for 11 years. She went to the U.S. Coast Guard in 2019 as marine inspector and accepted the position as the senior investigating officer with the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Detroit in 2022. She lives with her husband of nearly 14 years, 2 sons and dog. Writes Ward, "Picture is of my oldest son, Jackson, receiving an award from the Lyon Township Fire Department for getting his brother safely out of the house and alerting his dad to the house filling with smoke. He saved his life, his brother's life, and our house that day."

2007

Captain Molly Eddy, who has served as assistant harbormaster for Rockland for the past year, has been appointed the harbormaster. She worked as dockmaster for Journey's End Marina in Rockland. She owns her own business, Saltwater Maritime/ Eddy Maritime Services. She has earned her master license for 1,600-ton vessels.

2011

Shaun Michaud is a supply chain accounts manager for Schneider Trucking and resides in Gloucester, Maine.

2012

Josh Shaw sends a note: "Living in League City, Tex. In 2022, I took over as Texas Chapter Alumni President. I'm also still serving as the 2012 Class Agent. Any 2012 alumni who would like to get involved as a class agent, please feel free to reach out to me. I'd be happy to have the help, as we can have more than one class agent. I now work on a vessel contracted to the DoD requiring me to obtain and maintain a high-level clearance. Lastly, I married Chelsea R. Salisbury in Rockport, Maine, on 9/2/23."

2013

Since graduation in 2013, Paul Campbell has worked for ConocoPhillips and their Polar Tankers fleet. Sailing as 3rd A/E for four years, he met his now-wife, Samantha, at sea and soon after settled in Hermon, Maine. As their family grew, he accepted a shoreside position providing electrical and control systems support for Polar Tankers. The family relocated to Bellingham, Wash., in 2018 to be closer to the ships. They enjoy camping, mountain biking, and exploring the Pacific Northwest while homeschooling their three children. Though he misses Maine, he is especially grateful to work with many talented MMA alumni, who make the Polar Tankers fleet feel a bit like home.

2013

Ethan Dublin started a new position as senior principal product engineer, controller and I/O for the global technology, software and engineering powerhouse Emerson Automation Solutions in Round Rock, Tex.

2015

Juergen Pilot is construction manager for Avangrid Renewables, LLC, building America's clean and connected energy future.

2016

Eric Cressey is facilities manager for Maine-Health in Biddeford. He and wife, Emma, live in Saco.

2017

Lauren McKenna Radcliffe is working for Muscongus Bay Aquaculture, Inc. She and husband, Zachary '16, live in Durham, Maine.

2018

Austin Cressey is a senior field service engineer for MAN Energy Solutions. Cressey lives in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

2018

Caleb Tipton enters his 11th season coaching basketball and joins the Fort Scott (Kans.) Community College Greyhounds for his first season as an assistant coach. At MMA, Tipton served as a student assistant basketball coach from 2014 to 2018. Upon graduation, Coach Tipton received the prestigious Phyllis Tenney Award for his outstanding leadership and community service contributions. After leaving MMA, Coach Tipton served three years as a boys varsity basketball assistant coach and head boys freshman basketball coach for the Rams of Bangor, Maine. While in Bangor, Coach Tipton also served as the school's varsity assistant golf coach.

In January 2023, Coach Tipton received his Masters of Science degree in Sports Management from Southern New Hampshire University and graduated with *magna cum laude* honors.

2021

Mackenzie Philbrick is a logistics and operations associate for Arrow Electronics and lives in Phoenix, Ariz.

2021

Samantha Mason is a project manager at Bath Iron Works and lives in Portland. She recently became the class agent for 2021.



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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.

RICHARD A. FOLEY '49

passed away July 5, 2023, surrounded by his loving family. Born Dec. 14, 1927, Foley grew up in Philadelphia. After the death of his father in 1943, Foley relocated with his family to Bath, Maine, and attended Morse High School. His senior class yearbook credited him as a "good natured fellow who has proven his leadership by becoming the president of his class," along with "most likely to succeed." Foley graduated from MMA, Bowdoin College, and Boston College Law School. He served his country in the JAG Corps in the U.S. Navy and was profoundly shaped by that experience. Foley passed the bar in 1955, served as the State Assistant Attorney General in Maine in the 1960s, and partnered with Augusta attorney Ralph Farris in the 1970s. He never retired; he went into the office every week until shortly before his death. Foley loved working and serving his community in Maine. He loved life. Foley was socially and intellectually active until his passing. He loved golf, playing cribbage, seeing friends at the Augusta Country Club and Glades Country Club in Naples, Fla., spending time with his family, watching old movies, being by the ocean, and sharing stories from his 95-1/2 years. He lived the adage "don't sweat the small stuff," and was rarely frazzled by the inconveniences and hardships of life. Foley's passing leaves a void that cannot be filled, but those closest to him find comfort in the loving memories of laughter, meals shared, and advice sagely given.

HAROLD HUGO '50

passed away on April 1, 2023, at the age of 94. He was born in Portland, Maine, on September 5, 1928. He was a 1945 graduate of Portland High School, a 1950 graduate of MMA, and a 1957 graduate of the University of Maine with a degree in mechanical engineering. He proudly

served as an engineer, Lieutenant JG, in the U.S. Navy from 1952 to 1954. Hugo's career spanned thirty-plus years and included everything from developing rocket nozzles in the 60s to designing and installing HVAC systems for complex buildings such as apartment complexes, grocery stores, and hospitals in his later years. He also spent several years teaching engineering classes in HVAC at Northeastern University. He was a member of the Masons for over 50 years and spent time as a Lion in Sebago. In 2018, he was awarded an Honor Flight by Honor Flight Maine where he built special memories with his guardian son. In his free time, he loved fishing and building model airplanes and boats. He and his wife enjoyed traveling together to many places all over the world. Most of all, Hugo loved spending time with his family, especially on his beloved Sebago Lake, where he lived for many years. His one-of-a-kind sense of humor and passion for life, friends, and family will be greatly missed by all.

BRUCE D. MICHELSEN '54

died peacefully at home in Chapel Hill, N.C., on June 2, 2023. Born July 12, 1933, in Stamford, Conn., he graduated from Stamford High School in 1951 where he played basketball and baseball. He sang in the school choir, and danced with a group of young ballroom dancers who twice performed on the Ed Sullivan show. In 1954 he graduated from MMA where he played football, basketball, and baseball and earned the rank of ensign in the Navy in which he then served for two years. In 1960 Michelsen graduated from the University of Virginia where he played varsity basketball and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. While at the University of Virginia, he met and married Tracy Walden. They ended up in Durham, N.C., where they raised their

family and Michelsen bought the Alarms and Protective Systems company which he ran for 45 years.

WILLIAM R. FLEMING '56

passed on July 27, 2023, after complications from a fall. He graduated from Bangor High School and continued his education at Maine Maritime Academy before enlisting in the Navy as an officer stationed in Hawaii. He taught history at Bangor High where he was an inspiration to many students and encouraged some to attend Maine Maritime. He later taught for a year at Texas Maritime Academy. But the sea life kept calling him back, so he continued his career as a first mate in the Merchant Marines retiring as Captain. Fleming always had interesting stories of his trips all over the world and enjoyed sharing them with his family.

ROGER L. POULIN '57

passed away June 23, 2023. He was born January 26, 1932, in Winslow, Maine, son of the late Joseph and Marie Poulin. Poulin was a member of Precious Blood of Christ, in Pawleys Island, S.C., and the Elks Club. He proudly served in the Merchant Marines and the U.S. Coast Guard. Poulin retired from International Paper Co. after more than 30 years of dedicated work.

JOSEPH KOSTIUK, JR. '60

passed away on June 28, 2023. Kostiuk graduated from Deerfield Academy in Deerfield, Mass., MMA, and later went on to get his MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Kostiuk worked for Isbrandtsen Shipping Lines aboard the *Flying Spray* and *American Enka*, and for United Technologies. He also worked at Electric Boat as a cost engineer and then a nuclear engineer, spending much time at sea trials testing submarines before they were turned over to the U.S. Navy. In 1985, he found a position at Millitech

as a cost engineer. After retirement, he continued working as the Deerfield Fire District Water Superintendent for several years while also running his own car business called Country Roads, focusing on Corvettes but dealing in all makes of cars for his customers. Kostiuk served on the Zoning Board of Appeals and as a selectman. He also volunteered as a Little League coach. During his retirement, he traveled extensively to China, Russia, Egypt, Europe, and the Middle East. As a member of the National Corvette Restorers Society, Kostiuk traveled across and around the U.S. on road tours. Through these travels he made many lasting friends from the U.S. and Canada. All had the same interest: Corvettes.

PAUL D. ROONEY '61

died in Florida on June 29, 2023. He sailed on tankers, break-bulk cargo, and containerships throughout his long career. Prior to attending MMA, he served four years in the U.S. Coast Guard; three and a half years aboard the CG cutter *Acushnet* out of Portland, Maine. On the *Acushnet*, he was involved in numerous rescue attempts including the passenger liner *Andrea Doria*, and in the spring of 1957 made the International Ice Patrol based in Newfoundland and the Grand Banks. Upon graduating from MMA, he started his career sailing on tankers for American Trading & Production Company. He then started sailing on dry cargo ships with Master, Mates and Pilots. For the next five years he sailed "off the board" through the New York union hall on numerous ships to all parts of the globe with various companies. He sailed with Farrell Lines for seventeen years as a second mate, chief mate, and Master. Rooney also worked for U.S. Lines and Sea Land.

FRANK M. HALE '62

passed away July 25, 2023. Hale graduated from Salem High School in 1958, graduated as an Ensign from MMA in 1962, and served in the U.S. Navy Reserves from 1963 to 1967. Hale's ease with people and conversation led him on a varied career path: he sailed for Grace Lines, he owned and managed a Pittsburgh Paint store, sold insulation at Homans Associates, crewed escort tugs for the Portland Pilots, and managed a fleet of fuel delivery trucks at Bickford Transportation. Hale was a longtime member of Portland Yacht Club.

He loved the camaraderie of the monthly dinner meetings of the Portland Marine Society. Hale made many trips to help collect the railcars that would form the basis for the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad and assisted with the establishment of the Bickford Collection. Hale was a tireless volunteer for the MMA Alumni Association and received their Outstanding Alumnus award in 1987. He spent many hours at the tag sale at the Portland Boat Show raising money for scholarships and was on the committee that established the Alumni House at the Castine campus. He was integral in establishing the Council of Maritime Schools, a coalition of the seven naval academies in the U.S. He was thrilled to attend his 60th reunion in 2022 and reconnect with his classmates. Hale proudly owned and restored a 1962 Mack B68 Series truck, and a 1939 Ford Tudor sedan.

JOHN R. HILTON '62

passed away on June 17, 2023, at home surrounded by his loving family. Born in Damariscotta, Maine, Hilton grew up in Newcastle. He graduated from Wiscasset High School before attending MMA where he received his degree in marine engineering. He traveled the world's oceans as a ship's engineer, working for Exxon and on the passenger liner *S.S. Constitution* on its run between New York City and Italy. He retired from shipping after his first two children arrived. He then operated Cheney Insurance, worked as a realtor, and served on many boards. Hilton was a devoted member of the Lions Club International and served in several leadership roles. Hilton was devoted to his family and reveled in the presence of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Some of his best times later in life were spent on the water with his son along the Maine coast and beyond, and they also enjoyed several RV trips when he became semi-famous in social media posts as "Pointy John." He was an avid pilot who flew family and friends around New England and on several trips to Florida. He enjoyed sharing stories from his shipping days with family and friends and was happy to attend his 60th MMA class reunion last year.

GEORGE H. DUNCAN '67

passed away on July 1, 2023. He graduated from MMA and obtained a

master's degree from Suny Maritime College at Fort Schuyler. He sailed as a Mate on U.S. flagships until entering the private sector, working as a broker of dry bulk cargo until his retirement. Duncan was an avid reader of history, loved the beach, boating, and surfcasting. He was happiest when spending time with his wife surrounded by his family. He was loved, his smile and sense of humor will be missed by everyone who came to know him.

HARRY R. FULLERTON '71

died September 22, 2023, surrounded by family. He was a proud graduate of MMA with a degree in marine engineering. In recent years, he loved catching up with alumni friends who shared similar memorable experiences with him. Fullerton was a devoted member of the community, coaching youth sports in Deering Center, serving as director of the Portland Babe Ruth League, and a member of both the Deering High School Booster Club and the DHS football chains group. He enjoyed Coffee Club with his close friends at Pompeo's and was a long-time member of the Riverside Golf Course. He deeply enjoyed his annual Cape trips with the Construction League and golf league on Thursday nights. Fullerton worked in various positions until finding his career at Bracket Machine. He worked there for thirty years and thought of the whole crew as family. His uncanny "gift of gab" made amazing connections with so many who he loved and cherished.

CAPT. LARRY C. WONSON '74

passed away on May 4, 2023, after a lengthy illness. He grew up in Rockport, graduating from MMA with a BS degree and a Third Mates License. He worked for Exxon Shipping Company for 16 years serving as the Captain on the *Exxon Wilmington*. He was also licensed as a first-class pilot for the Port of New York. In 1990 he came ashore, switched careers, and obtained a Massachusetts Wastewater Operator License. He then went to work for the Town of Rockport, retiring in 2017. Wonson loved the town of Rockport and spent many happy years on the water.

STEPHEN W. PERHAM '79

passed on March 5, 2023. Perham graduated from York High School in 1973, and from MMA with a BS in engineering. He worked most of his life as

EIGHT BELLS

a nuclear engineer for the United States government. He retired in 2005 and he and his wife started Shepherd's Gate Farm, rescuing and rehoming agricultural animals to non-working lives. His wife continues the mission of the farm.

CHARLES P. SIMPSON III '79

died September 4th, 2022. Simpson's heart of gold and genuine character was present in all that he did. He was a devoted husband, a present father, and an involved grandfather. Simpson was undoubtedly committed to his career, to his faith, and to his creative endeavors. Without hesitation, Simpson brought this world light and love with the ease of his very being. Ultimately, love was present in all of his interactions.

CAPT. KEVIN P. ELEY '80

passed away on September 4, 2023. After graduation, he embarked on a 42-year seafaring career, circling the globe, earning his Master of Ocean Steam and Motor Vessels of Any Gross Tons licenses. Eley joined McAllister Towing as a tug captain in 1991 and in 1992 began his career as a docking pilot where he served as President of Independent Docking Pilots, Inc. Eley loved life, his family, his colleagues, and being on the water with his many dear friends. One of Eley's proudest achievements was his participation in the founding and running of Youth Sailing Virginia (YSV), a community sailing center in historic Fort Monroe. He will live on through his sons

who embody his passion for the water, love of the mountains, and kindness to all.

ROBERT "ELI" WHITNEY '80

died January 26, 2023. He was born in New Rochelle, N.Y., on May 14, 1957. He graduated from Fayetteville-Manlius High School in 1975 and from MMA 1980 with a BS in Marine Engineering and a third assistant engineer's license. He went to sea making trips to South America, then settled down in the oil fields in the Gulf of Mexico. After 2 years working in Mexico, he came ashore and worked as a technical representative for EG&G Sealol installing the stern tube seal on the Navy's submarine fleet. He then found a career in hydraulics from 1986 until retirement in 2023.

STEVEN M. WILSON '81

passed away suddenly surrounded by his loving family on July 30, 2023. Wilson was a graduate of Sharon High School and MMA, earning a BS in marine engineering. He later managed Charles B. Wilson Associates. He was very active in his community coaching sports, leading Girl Scouts, helping build the Ames Street playground, and serving as an EMT and volunteer firefighter.

JOHN S. ROSA '85

passed away peacefully at his home on May 10, 2023, after a lengthy illness. A 1981 graduate of Portsmouth High School, and of MMA, where he dominated on the football field and was beloved by his teammates and his classmates. After

graduating from MMA, he served as a ship captain until his retirement, but continued his life-long pleasure in fishing. He was an avid gardener, enjoyed raising many types of animals, and enjoyed traveling to many parts of the world.

ELI J. OLSON '19

died April 29th, 2023, in a tragic hiking accident on El Capitan in Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Texas. Olson was a graduate of Foxcroft Academy where he was a captain on the wrestling, baseball, and soccer teams, then carried his love of soccer to MMA. In addition to playing soccer, he was involved in leadership positions in the Regiment and aboard the T/S *State of Maine*. He graduated *summa cum laude* with a BS in Marine Transportation and was commissioned as a naval officer in the Strategic Sealift Program. After graduation, he worked as a deck officer on oil tankers for Crowley Maritime and served as a LTJG in the U.S. Navy Reserves. He loved anything outdoors and adventurous. His physical ability and mental toughness made it hard for anyone to keep up, but he was always patient and encouraged others to join him on his adventures. Olson made the most of every day.

PEYTON BREWER-ROSS '22

passed away on Oct. 25, 2023, in Lewiston, Maine. Brewer-Ross graduated from Westbrook High School in 2001 where he was a member of the wrestling team. For the last five years, he was a valued member of the BIW family where he worked as a pipefitter. Brewer-Ross enrolled in their apprenticeship program, graduating with an associate degree from MMA. He was also a valued member of the Local S6 Education Committee. You couldn't meet Brewer-Ross and not be his friend. He had a wonderful smile and he loved to make other people laugh. If you needed help, Brewer-Ross would drop everything to help you out. He enjoyed life to the fullest.

TYLAR C. MICHAUD drowned while lobstering July 21, 2023, just a month after his graduation from Charles M. Sumner Learning Campus. Michaud lit up a room when he entered and was never shy to engage, pull a prank, crack a joke, or tease those he cared most for. He was a skilled outdoorsman and excellent hunter. Michaud took to lobster fishing and spent as much time as he could on the water. He was never satisfied with what he knew and could be found in the fishing community grilling other lobstermen for tips to improve. Michaud was wicked smart with an amazing sense of humor. He was curious, loved learning, and made education entertaining for all involved. Michaud was also an athlete who enjoyed both soccer and baseball and he spent the winters learning the craft of boat building. All extracurricular time was spent working, talking about work, or making more work for himself to avoid real work. He was thrilled with his plans to attend MMA in the fall to study marine engineering.

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

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Join the MMA Blue and Gold Ambassador Program

MMA's Blue and Gold Officer Program has a new name, but the mission remains the same. MMA's Blue and Gold Ambassador Program continues the effort to engage alumni and other volunteers to promote the mission of MMA and help recruit the next generation of Mariners. Who better to speak to the near-limitless opportunities that lie ahead than our community of supporters? The registration form lists several ways a volunteer can help. We are especially eager to recruit recently graduated alumni and build our roster of graduates in non-regimental majors (45% of our student body is non-regimental). Contact Jeff Cockburn ('84) in the Admissions Office with any questions – Jeffrey.cockburn@mma.edu or 207-326-2348. Expand the brand! To register:

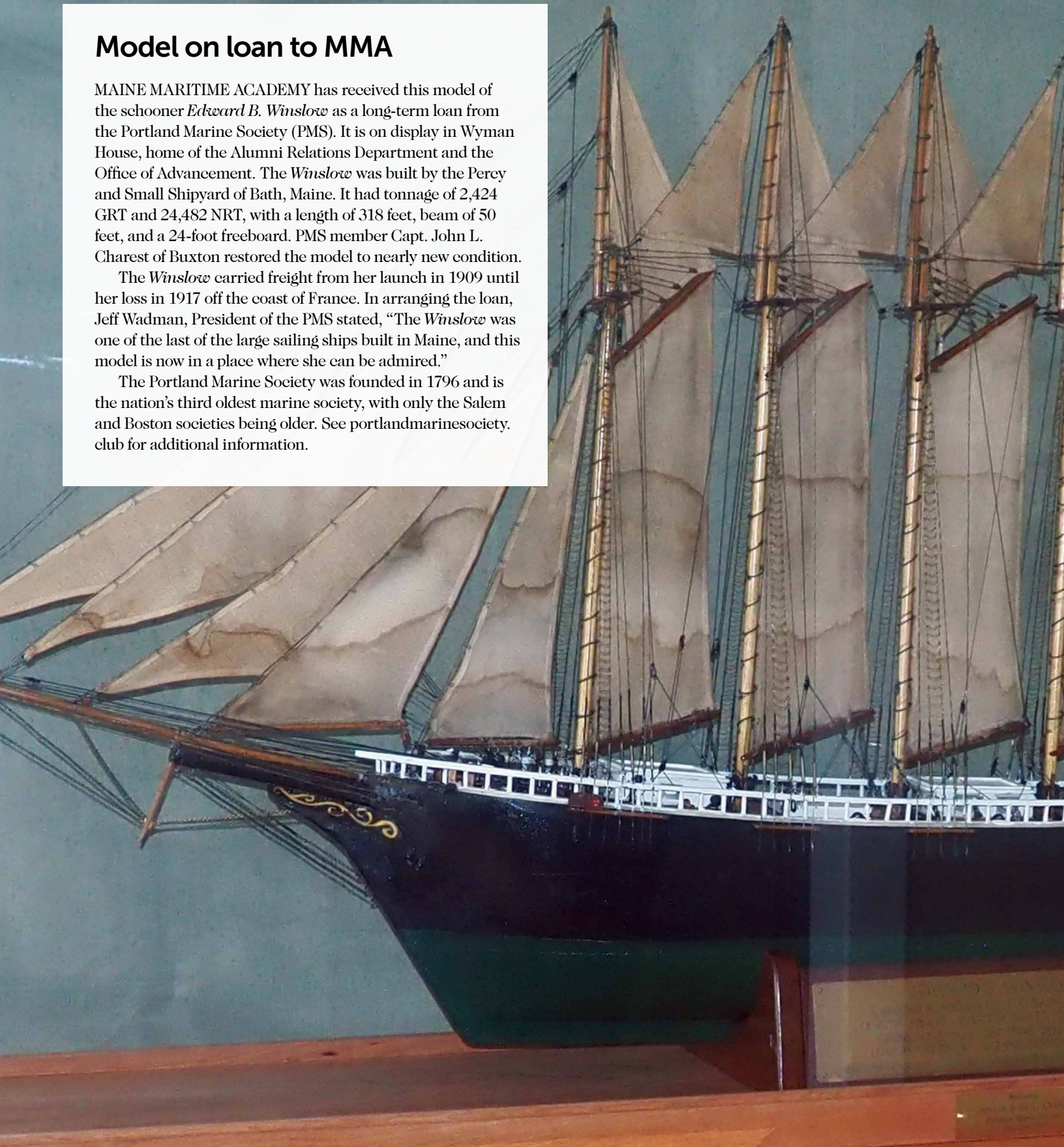
<https://mainemaritime.edu/admissions/blue-and-gold-ambassador-program/>

Model on loan to MMA

MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY has received this model of the schooner *Eckward B. Winslow* as a long-term loan from the Portland Marine Society (PMS). It is on display in Wyman House, home of the Alumni Relations Department and the Office of Advancement. The *Winslow* was built by the Percy and Small Shipyard of Bath, Maine. It had tonnage of 2,424 GRT and 24,482 NRT, with a length of 318 feet, beam of 50 feet, and a 24-foot freeboard. PMS member Capt. John L. Charest of Buxton restored the model to nearly new condition.

The *Winslow* carried freight from her launch in 1909 until her loss in 1917 off the coast of France. In arranging the loan, Jeff Wadman, President of the PMS stated, “The *Winslow* was one of the last of the large sailing ships built in Maine, and this model is now in a place where she can be admired.”

The Portland Marine Society was founded in 1796 and is the nation’s third oldest marine society, with only the Salem and Boston societies being older. See portlandmarinesociety.club for additional information.





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