

# MARINER

The ALUMNI MAGAZINE of MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

— ISSUE 1 · 2024 —

## Five Decades of Outstanding Women

Celebrating the  
50th anniversary of  
female students at MMA

## Working Toward Sustainability

Two alums are helping tackle  
global environmental goals

## Leading the Way

Kyle Webber '03 is  
pioneering research  
and inspiring future  
generations in glass &  
ceramics innovation

Zayna Dickson,  
Class of '25



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COVER: ZAYNA DICKSON, CLASS OF 2025, AT THE MMA WATERFRONT. PHOTO BY BRYAN WOLF

## A Picture Says a Thousand Words

This year's annual campus-wide photo contest was a resounding success, with 44 submissions pouring in from students, faculty, and staff members alike. The diverse array of submissions truly showcased the talent and creativity present within our campus community.

View all winning photos at [mariner.mainemaritime.edu](http://mariner.mainemaritime.edu).

TIME IN EXTENSION: THIS WINNING STUDENT PHOTO, CAPTURED BY JOSEPH VALLIERE, DEPICTS PORTLAND HEAD LIGHTHOUSE USING A CANON EOS 4000D CAMERA AND EMPLOYING THE "LONG EXPOSURE" PHOTOGRAPHIC TECHNIQUE.



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MMA PRESIDENT  
Jerald "Jerry" Paul '89

# An International Leader

## How MMA contributes to the global maritime field

AS WE CONTINUE toward our goal to become the *#1 Maritime College in the World*, MMA has made significant progress on the international stage. I'm pleased to announce that MMA has been selected to become the next Region 3 Representative of the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU).

Almost three decades ago Maine Maritime Academy led in the international space as one of 9 maritime colleges worldwide—and the only in the U.S.—to form the IAMU, led by MMA President Len Tyler. Now among its more than 75-member maritime colleges and universities worldwide, Region 3 includes all U.S. State Maritime Academies, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (Kings Point), Newfoundland, Central America and South America.

MMA's international engagement is vital for our leadership in, and contribution to, the global maritime field. It creates opportunities that benefit all corners of our institution including student exchanges, research and co-ops—both undergraduate and graduate—and the inclusion of MMA students

on international flag LNG vessels. For our faculty and staff, these relationships contribute to faculty exchanges and increased professional development. Additionally, we see opportunities in enrollment growth and sea-time training.

Our international engagement also facilitates MMA's contributions to emerging trends throughout the global maritime industry. It is a pathway for establishing new corporate collaborations including financial support. These relationships are being cultivated for financial contributions to help support our academic program development.

The honor of this selection to represent our entire IAMU region throughout the Americas demonstrates MMA leadership and the concept of the Maine state motto, *Dirigo* ("I Lead"). It demonstrates the opportunity for the State

of Maine to be recognized as having the top maritime college worldwide. Pursuit of this goal is a commitment we have made to policy makers in the State Capitol as we have sought an update to our state funding.

While many have contributed to this honor and presence for MMA, our selection is a reflection specifically of the efforts and coordination by MMA Chair of Marine Transportation Department Professor Ender Asyali who has been a steady guide for me over the past 2 years. Together with Professor Steve Tarrant and Professor Adam Slazas he presented a well-received paper at the Annual

Conference of the IAMU titled "*A Comparative Analysis of Workload for Navigation Tasks Performed onboard and at Simulated Remote Control Centers for MASS Using NASA-TLX.*"

Under Dr. Asyali's leadership, student Jillian A. Dow was selected to participate in the IAMU Student Forum in London where she served on the Gender Equality and Diversity Working

Group, contributing to the global emphasis on workplace culture. Similarly, IAMU has recently approved an abstract by MMA titled "*The Nuclear Merchant Mariner (NMM): Designing a Framework for Education and Training*" which will be a paper presented at the Annual Conference of IAMU by its MMA authors Professor Dr. Paul Wlodkowski, Dean of Faculty Laurie Flood '93, and myself. This effort is also supported by a host of industry partners, including ABS, who are leading this emerging trend toward decarbonization and zero-emission energy within the global maritime industry.

Please join me in congratulating MMA on this milestone.

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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.

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*Jerry Paul*

## Capitalizing on Momentum



THIS PAST FALL, over two dozen active alumni volunteers, including Association Board members, Chapter Officers, Annual Giving Ambassadors, and Class Agents, along with the VP of Advancement, gathered for the Alumni/ Advancement Summit. The concept of the summit was sparked by Larry Burrill '77, who helped recognize the significant progress made by outgoing Director of Alumni Relations, Jeff Wright, the Association Board, as well as the Agents and Ambassadors. This progress has positioned us to make substantial

advancements in alumni engagement over the next 1-2 years, as opposed to the incremental improvements we had previously aimed for.

Among the action items identified, the key takeaways emphasized the importance of sharing intelligence among Chapters, Ambassadors, and Agents. To address this need, a set of Chapter Guidelines has been developed under the leadership of Tom Lord, Tom Daley, Josh Shaw, and others. Similarly, Larry Brown, Ed Rosenberg, and Tom Hall are finalizing best practices for the Agent/ Ambassador group.

By the time you read this, we aim to have widely shared these guidelines with our volunteers, thanks to the efforts of Association Board member and Alumni Engagement Committee Chair, Ben Strickland. While these efforts are expected to positively impact advancement, the primary goal is to enhance Alumni Engagement by increasing attendance at both in-person and online gatherings.

In pursuit of this goal, the Alumni Association and college administration leadership are exploring online apps tailored for alumni associations. We will be assessing their suitability for our needs and budgeting for their cost, considering they are subscription-based services. Additionally, as part of our modernization efforts, we are transitioning to voting by email in the upcoming Board of Directors elections. This shift is expected to save both costs and volunteer hours associated with counting paper ballots.

We recognize the importance of electronic communication and urge all alumni to ensure their email addresses are up to date with the alumni office. While we will continue to mail ballots to those without email addresses for this election, updating your email address can significantly reduce our largest fixed cost in the discretionary budget.

These initiatives represent just a fraction of the efforts to modernize and better serve our alumni community. We welcome suggestions and constructive criticism from our alumni, as we strive to continuously improve our engagement efforts.

Submit email updates using the QR code or send an email to [alumni@mma.edu](mailto:alumni@mma.edu).

Sincerely yours,

Bill Full '76



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# Campus Currents

## SPORTS

### Underdogs No More The Comeback of MMA Sailing

BY DELANEY BROWN

NOBODY WILL CALL the Maine Maritime Academy Sailing Team an underdog for much longer.

Over the past two years, the Mariner's sailing team has begun its resurgence in the world of college sailing. New England is home to the most competitive district of college sailing, where schools like Yale, Harvard, and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy consistently win national championships in one or more of the six college sailing disciplines every year. Within this stacked district, MMA is carving its path toward national titles and a dominant presence within the district and the sport at large.

Maine Maritime Academy is uniquely positioned in that, alongside a full fleet of collegiate dinghies, it maintains a fleet of Colgate 26's, as well as two offshore-equipped race boats. Many colleges hope to be great in one sailing discipline. MMA's sailors and coaches are working toward excellence in all.

The commitment to growth was evident to everyone in attendance at the 2024 Port of Los Angeles Harbor Cup, as the Mariner team built on two days of consistent improvement to clinch the win in the tenth and final race of the event. Under Head Coach Patrick DiLalla, the Mariners broke a 15-year hiatus.

Continued on page 11



## CUTTING-EDGE EDUCATION

### Navigating Safety: MMA's New Survival Craft Simulator

BY CHRISTOPHER BRINN

THERE'S A REASON for the adage, "Worse things happen at sea." Maritime history is littered with anecdotes of disasters that have claimed the lives of entire ship's crews. Unfortunately, Maine Maritime Academy is no stranger to this kind of loss, but with the purchase of a new Survival Craft Simulator, MMA will be training students in the evacuation of a vessel, and hopefully mitigate the chances of tragedy.

With the upgrades to maritime survival craft, including those on the Training Ship *State of Maine* (TSSOM), which have increased both their size and capacity, it has become impractical, or even dangerous, to practice the launch and retrieval of physical lifeboats. As with all operations fraught with the possibility of significant injury to personnel or

damage to equipment, a simulator can be employed to actively learn without jeopardy. MMA already uses various simulators on campus and will add to the "fleet" this summer with a Wärtsilä Full Mission Survival Craft Simulator (SCS) to be located in the Bath Iron Works Building (BIW).

The SCS will consist of an instructor station, several desktop student stations, and a physical mockup of the cockpit of the lifeboat and hook release apparatus.

This equipment is used with the same version of Wärtsilä's Navi-Trainer Pro 6000 software that is already part of both the Full Mission Bridge and Electronic Navigation simulators that MMA currently utilizes to great success. It will be utilized by all license majors, both deck and engineering.



### CUTTING-EDGE EDUCATION

# Advancing Maritime Education

## MobileOps and Maine Maritime Academy Partner to Propel Maritime Education into the Digital Age

THE PARTNERSHIP between MMA and MobileOps is a testament to our collective dedication to advancing maritime education through innovative technology. The collaboration was initiated with the support and vision of James Stasinis, Principal Owner of Stasinis Marine, who recognized the value that MobileOps brings to the training of future mariners. As a member of the academy's Industrial Advisory Committee, Stasinis played a pivotal role in fostering this strategic alliance. Stasinis states, "When we heard of Maine Maritime's need for a software solution for their vessels, we immediately hoped that it would be MobileOps. We were thrilled when MobileOps was eventually selected. It is a huge benefit for our fleet and other fleets to have future mariners training on a real-life program which they will eventually see when they enter the workforce."

MobileOps is a cloud-based asset management system that is generously

being donated to MMA, a system that would otherwise be cost-prohibitive.

"We are excited to partner with Maine Maritime Academy to supplement maritime education with cutting-edge technology," says Michael Armfield, CEO and Co-Founder of MobileOps. "Our commitment to supporting the next generation of mariners aligns with Maine Maritime Academy's mission and we are honored to contribute our software as a donation to facilitate hands-on learning."

MMA is already leveraging MobileOps' software as a teaching tool, providing students with invaluable experience in digital processes integral to modern maritime operations. This winter, MMA began training its students in the use of the system through the submission of vessel logs, JSAs, drills, and voyage plans. The academy envisions using the system to train students in all aspects of vessel management, whether aboard or shoreside. This partnership underscores the importance of equipping future mariners with the latest tools and technologies to

enhance their skills and readiness for the evolving digital landscape.

MMA is employing the system to track and manage vessel compliance, maintenance, voyage planning, safety management, and personnel. As a result, the system provides long-term analytical data traditionally tracked on paper.

Captain Derek Chase at Maine Maritime Academy expressed enthusiasm for the collaboration: "We feel fortunate and excited to be able to provide our students with direct, relevant and impactful training with the latest software. Our partnership with MobileOps will ensure we prepare our students to enter the maritime industry with the skills and knowledge necessary for modern fleet operations."

MobileOps proudly supports Maine Maritime Academy's commitment to fostering a technology-driven environment for students. Their donation is more than a contribution; it's an investment in the education and preparation of future mariners who will navigate and shape the industry's future.



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LEADERSHIP

## New Vice President for Financial & Institutional Services and Chief Financial Officer

JANET WALDRON HAS been named Vice President for Financial & Institutional Services and Chief Financial Officer at MMA. Waldron is a well-respected professional in academic, operational, and financial services sectors within both public and private institutions of higher education. Waldron's decades of experience in strategic financial and operational management, budgeting, and financial forecasting are robust. Her recent roles as Interim Vice President for Finance and CFO at Franklin Pierce University in New Hampshire and Vice President for Finance and Administration at Paul Smith's College in New York saw her advise and structure all elements of complex budgeting, new areas of revenue generation, and creating operational efficiencies. In addition to these posts, Waldron is well-known to the higher education community in Maine, having served as Vice President and Sr. Vice President for

Administration and Finance for more than a decade at the University of Maine, Orono.

Before her career in higher education, Waldron held many positions at the highest state levels, most notably serving as the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services for the State of Maine appointed by the Governor. While in that office, her responsibilities included overseeing a more than \$10 billion biennial budget, the State's Buildings and Grounds and Capital Budget including facilities management, Human Resources, Information Technology, construction, repair, and maintenance and leasing.

Waldron brings to Maine Maritime Academy a deep understanding of capital project funding and state and municipal financial agreements. She is a proven leader of diverse teams of professionals and has the respect of elected officials and academic and financial professionals alike throughout Maine and New England. As



MMA engages in complex projects such as the Curtis Hall Renovation, the waterfront renovation, and the pier construction, she will lead her new MMA teams with great competency and direction.

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LEADERSHIP

## Maine Maritime Academy Welcomes Aaron Coy as New Chief Engineer on Training Ship State of Maine

AARON COY, a 1998 graduate of MMA with a degree in Marine Engineering Operations, became the new Chief Engineer aboard the Training Ship *State of Maine* last fall. Coy brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his new role.

Since his graduation, Coy has harbored aspirations of advancing his license to eventually assume the position of a Chief Engineer. Returning to Maine Maritime Academy has also been on his radar, driven by his desire for a shoreside job that offers opportunities to go to sea. Coy's appointment as MMA's Chief Engineer has provided him the opportunity to realize both dreams while making use of his many years of maritime experience.

"When I heard about MARAD building the new ships, I was intrigued by the concept drawing and layout," Coy shares.

"Seeing that the ships would utilize Diesel Electric propulsion was a pleasant surprise for me. With 23 years of experience working on Deepwater drill ships with similar engines, I knew I could make a positive contribution to the crew."

Captain Gordon MacArthur, a fellow MMA alum and Master of the TSSOM, attests to Coy's sterling reputation: "Aaron has long been known as a hardworking, competent, and skilled marine engineer. His leadership style and affable personality make him an ideal mentor for our students."

During his tenure of 18 months at MMA, Chief Coy has swiftly earned the trust and admiration of his colleagues and

Continued on page 11

## BEYOND THE CURRICULUM

# Exploring Literary Horizons

The Faculty Recommends Series at Nutting Memorial Library



PHOTO BY MYAH JONES '24

MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY'S Nutting Memorial Library has embarked on an enriching literary journey with its innovative "Faculty Recommends" reading series.

The series was born following the publication of Associate Professor Elliot Rappaport's book "Reading the Glass: A Captain's View of Weather, Water, and Life on Ships" in the spring of 2023. The library staff, in support of Rappaport, were inspired to host an event inviting students and faculty to celebrate and discuss his work. This blossomed into the larger series which invites faculty to share their favorite works of literature with students, community members, and fellow staff. Each academic department-focused event, while tailored to specific disciplines, shares a common spirit of intellectual curiosity and engagement. Students gather to hear faculty recommendations, engage in lively discussions, and foster meaningful connections beyond the classroom. Faculty members and attendees are encouraged to mingle post-event to further delve into the world of literature.

The series aims to reinvigorate the library as the hub of intellectual life on campus. With a warm and welcoming atmosphere, it seeks to inspire a love for reading, emphasizing its role not only as an academic obligation but as a source of pleasure and connection.

"We want to send the message that reading is not just something we are obligated to do in our roles as teachers and students, but something we do for pleasure, and which can connect people," said Jane McCamant, Research & Instruction Librarian.

As the "Faculty Recommends" series continues to flourish, it reaffirms the enduring power of literature to inspire, enlighten, and unite us all. In the vibrant tapestry of campus life, Nutting Memorial Library stands as a beacon of literary exploration, inviting all to embark on a journey of intellectual discovery and camaraderie.

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS

"THE RIDDLE OF THE SANDS" BY ERSKINE CHILDERS  
(RECOMMENDED BY ROB CARTER '00, MTO)

"DRIVE: THE SURPRISING TRUTH ABOUT WHAT MOTIVATES US" BY DANIEL H. PINK  
(RECOMMENDED BY CHRIS MONROE, MTO)

"READING THE GLASS: A CAPTAIN'S VIEW OF WEATHER, WATER, AND LIFE ON SHIPS" BY ELLIOT RAPPAPORT (RECOMMENDED BY ELLIOT RAPPAPORT, MTO)

"THE ORIGINAL BIOGRAPHY OF ABBIE BURGESS, LIGHTHOUSE HEROINE" BY RUTH SEXTON SARGENT AND DOROTHY HOLDER JONES  
(RECOMMENDED BY JEN HADDOCK, MTO)

"20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA" BY JULES VERNE (RECOMMENDED BY MATT HOFER '09, MTO)

"OUR MAINE: EXPLORING ITS RICH NATURAL HERITAGE" BY ARAM CALHOUN, MALCOLM HUNTER JR, AND KENT REDFORD (RECOMMENDED BY JESSIE MUHLIN, OS)

"THE URBAN BESTIARY" BY LYANDA LYNN HAUP  
(RECOMMENDED BY SARAH O'MALLEY, OS)

"THE KING'S COAT" BY DEWEY LAMBDIN  
(RECOMMENDED BY ANN CLEVELAND, OS)

"A WIZARD OF EARTHSEA" BY URSULA K. LE GUIN  
(RECOMMENDED BY KAREN MERRITT, OS)

"BIRDS OF PREY" BY WILBUR SMITH  
(RECOMMENDED BY ALAN VERDE, OS)

"ANXIOUS PEOPLE" BY FREDRIK BACKMAN  
(RECOMMENDED BY LAUREN ALBON, AS)

"LET THERE BE NIGHT: TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF THE DARK" BY PAUL BOGARD (RECOMMENDED BY ANDREW KINGSTON, AS)

"A CRACK IN CREATION: GENE EDITING AND THE UNTHINKABLE POWER TO CONTROL EVOLUTION" BY JENNIFER DOUDNA AND SAMUEL H. STERNBERG  
(RECOMMENDED BY JOSEPH MOSER, AS)

"A VISIT FROM THE GOON SQUAD" BY JENNIFER EGAN (RECOMMENDED BY AMY NYBERG, AS)

"DUNE" BY FRANK HERBERT (RECOMMENDED BY DANA POLOJÄRVI, AS)

"ENDER'S GAME" BY ORSON SCOTT CARD  
(RECOMMENDED BY KRISTEN PRATT, AS)



BEYOND THE CURRICULUM

# Building a Supportive Community Through Open Dialogue

MMA'S CULTURE OF RESPECT Collective (CoR) is working to foster healthy spaces and relationships for students, staff, and faculty by hosting events and bringing professional guest speakers to facilitate open conversations about difficult topics.

During the first event on February 1, 2024, influential authors Jennifer S. Hirsch and Shamus Khan presented 'You Belong Here! Cultivating Healthy Communities on Campus and Beyond' and conducted a campus-wide discussion about their book, 'Sexual Citizens: A Landmark Study of Sex, Power, and Assault on Campus.' This fireside chat was moderated by Captain Gordon MacArthur '00, Master of the TSSOM, and Jennifer Haddock, Professor of Marine Transportation. Important topics such as sexual citizenship, healthy relationships, and the prevention of sexual assault and sexual harassment (SASH) on campus were discussed.

Hirsch and Khan are changing the national conversation on SASH. Before coming to MMA, they keynoted the 2023 National Discussion, "Empowering Student Communities to Cultivate Healthy Climates," hosted by the U.S. Army at West Point.

This event is part of CoR's ongoing initiative to offer enriching learning experiences beyond the classroom.

Coy, continued from page 9

students alike. His skill, expertise, and flexibility are evident in his willingness to embrace new challenges, including the upcoming deployment of the National Security Multi-Mission Vessels (NSMV) across State Maritime Academies. Renowned for his commitment to hands-on learning, Coy tirelessly works to ensure an enriching educational experience aboard the *TS State of Maine*. His dedication extends beyond the classroom as he collaborates with MARAD, Maine Maritime Academy, and the crew to maintain the ship's readiness.

Coy's passion for education and mentorship is evident in his aspiration to leave a lasting impact on the students who cross his path. "Every time a student leaves the ship," Coy remarks, "I hope they take away something meaningful that will guide them in making informed decisions in their future endeavors."

The Academy looks forward to Coy's continued contributions to maritime education and excellence in his role as Chief Engineer.

Sailing, continued from page 7

They returned to the winner's circle beating out the most elite keelboat teams in the country including rivals Cal Maritime, Navy, Kings Point, and the Coast Guard Academy.

The team's triumphant return to the Harbor Cup this March is preceded by a fall of consistency and growth at college sailing's most prestigious keelboat events, including the service academy championship, the Shields Trophy, and the fall keelboat championship, the Kennedy Cup.

The team has put the time in to win. While preparing for the 2024 Harbor Cup, the keelboat team also qualified for the NEISA Match Race Championship, becoming one of eight New England schools to compete for a shot at a national championship. In a tough field, the Mariners team made it to the quarterfinals, besting Bowdoin College and Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

Maine Maritime's dinghy program is

also on the long path to excellence. Under coach Delaney Brown, the team posted its highest results in the past ten years at prestigious district championships and earned their way into the conference top 15 over the fall season. And for the first time in more than 15 years, MMA fielded an all-women's team for one of college sailing's most competitive regattas.

But the true strength of the Mariner Sailing Teams shows in the commitment of its sailors to sharing their skills with their fellow students. Each fall semester, a handful of team members sign up as teaching assistants for the Introduction to Sailing course. These members help provide individualized instruction to their fellow classmates, many of whom have never sailed before. The sailors meet students where they are, often helping them overcome fears and frustrations, and teaching them the necessary skills to become lifelong sailors. The students in these classes often go on to take

additional sailing electives and pursue their auxiliary sailing endorsement or join the MMA Yacht Club to take advantage of the dozens of day-sailers and overnight-equipped sailboats for adventures around Castine and the greater Penobscot Bay.

The recent success of the MMA Sailing Team isn't something that happened overnight. It's the culmination of years of development and support throughout Maine Maritime Academy. The growth of this program wouldn't be possible without the diligent care the Waterfront Department gives to the MMA fleet, the access to top-tier equipment thanks to the Yacht Donation Program, and the generous support of alumni that has allowed them to travel across the country to compete at an elite level. As the team continues striving to become a dominant opponent in college sailing, each win along the way belongs to the entire MMA community.

**KYLE WEBBER '03:**

Leading the Way in  
Glass and Ceramics  
Innovation



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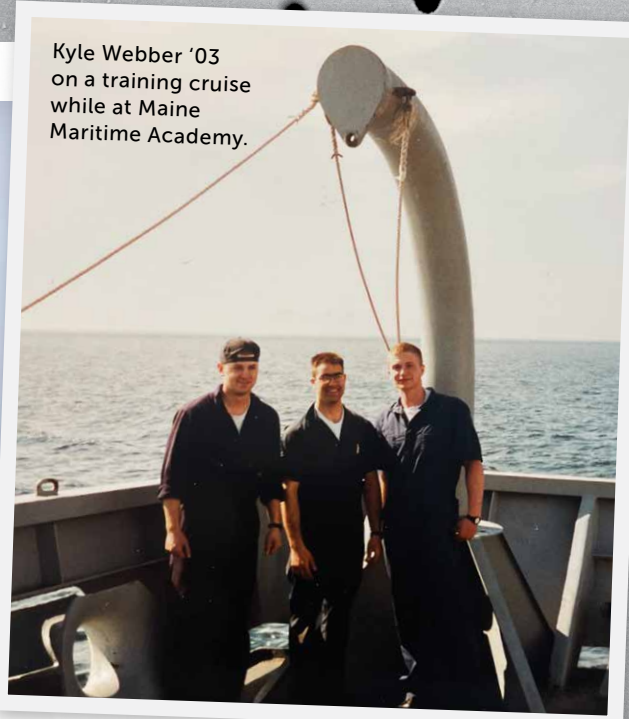
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Kyle Webber '03 on a training cruise while at Maine Maritime Academy.

## As director of the Institute of Glass and Ceramics in Erlangen, Germany, Webber is undertaking pioneering research and inspiring future generations

By Carl Little

While taking Professor Richard Reed's CAD (computer-aided design) graphics class at Maine Maritime Academy in the fall of 2000, Kyle Webber and several fellow students, including future MMA board trustee Dr. Alaina Adams, decided to reverse-engineer an old Honda children's scooter. Drawing on "all the components in CAD," recounts Professor Reed, the project "demonstrated Webber's and his team's capabilities to take on a very difficult task and see it through to completion."

Impressed by Webber's leadership skills, Reed hired him to be TA for the class. "His peers appreciated his

knowledge and ability to mentor them through challenges they faced learning CAD," he recalls. When Webber asked him about his prospects for graduate school, Reed told him he would be successful at any engineering school in the country—and they would be lucky to have him.

Another MMA professor, Dr. Paul Wlodkowski, recalls meeting Webber during the spring 2003 semester in his Engineering Materials class. In his first year of teaching at MMA, fresh from industry, Dr. Wlodkowski brought in a number of examples of so-called "smart materials," i.e., substances that could generate an electric signal during a mechanical excitation or, conversely, produce a force or displacement when activated with an electrical input.

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This particular phenomenon, known as the piezoelectric effect, had served as a basis for Dr. Wlodkowski's developing various technologies for the U.S. Navy, particularly hydrophones and accelerometers. Webber found this topic of great interest, and by the end of that semester, he had applied to graduate school at the Georgia Institute of Technology to pursue further studies. By that point, Dr. Wlodkowski says, he had a good sense that his student would go far in the field of materials science and engineering.

Lo and behold, Webber followed through, earning degrees at Georgia Tech, after which he moved to Germany, married, started a family, and became a world-renowned authority in electroceramics and ferroelectric materials. His story is as astonishing as it is inspiring. Let's go back to the beginning....

Webber was born in Bangor, Maine, and raised in Scarborough. In high school he was interested in engineering—and in seeing the world. At the same time his father convinced him that having a license was a good thing. Learning that Maine Maritime Academy offered all three, he applied and got in.

Among Webber's earliest memories of his time at MMA is MUG (Midshipmen Under-Guidance) month when, as a freshman, he suddenly found himself getting an earful from his superiors and spending two weeks aboard the *State of Maine*. "That was my introduction to the regiment," he recalls.

For someone who had had a travel bug since he was a kid—he had spent five weeks in Russia on a student exchange while in high school—Webber welcomed the opportunity to ship off to the Mediterranean, the Gulf of Mexico, and Brazil. He remembers watching dolphins leap through the waves, brilliant sunsets, and "all the stars you could never really see from cities."

Reflecting on how his MMA education has helped him succeed in life, Webber starts with the work ethic. Stripping wax off floors at 3:00 in the morning because you're going to be in port the next day, "you start to realize what real hard work looks like"—a vital thing to learn, he feels, especially for young people. "How

to deal with adversity," Webber avers, "is a really big thing" as was acquiring a sense of responsibility.

When he arrived at MMA, Webber knew nothing about mechanics. By the time he graduated, he had gained a broad education in engineering that enabled him to fix his car, including the exhaust pipe "because in Maine it rusts off every six months."

Webber flourished in MMA's five-year Marine Systems Engineering (MSE) program—what Professor Wlodkowski likes to refer to as the school's "crown jewel"—that is part of the Harold Alfond School of Engineering. Webber numbers Wlodkowski and Reed among the most motivating of his teachers.

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Webber notes that the hands-on training at the Maine Maritime Academy continues to help him in research, as designing and making his own measurement equipment has always been an important part of his research.

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Webber's vision of a future career took further shape at Georgia Tech. Knowing from his experience at MMA that he didn't want to be on a ship the rest of his life, he figured he'd be an "engineer on land." He signed up for various mechanics-based classes. For his doctorate he worked on the mechanics of piezoelectric materials, which involved computer programming and modeling as well as experiments and theoretical work.

On a research stay in Darmstadt, Germany, Webber met his future wife. They stayed in touch after he returned to Georgia and she ended up joining him in Atlanta for the final two years of his studies at Georgia Tech. As he completed his Ph.D., they decided to start out in Germany.

Webber had studied a little German before moving, but shifted to intensive German courses and full language immersion after moving to Europe. He

studied four to five hours a day for several months before starting his postdoctoral position at the Technische Universität Darmstadt in 2008.

During his time in Darmstadt, Webber was inspired by the innovative and multifaceted research as well as the numerous international collaborations, which convinced him to continue doing research in Germany. Eventually, he was appointed Professor for Functional Ceramics at the Institute of Glass and Ceramics at the Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg in 2015.

The Institute of Glass and Ceramics is very international, with around 60% of the students hailing from foreign countries and nearly every continent.

"Science is a good way to communicate and helps break down barriers and create bridges between different people," notes Webber, adding, "it's not about politics or people's feelings: You communicate on a scientific level."

As Professor of Functional Ceramics in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, Webber seeks to teach his students critical thinking. He wants them to digest the information he has given them, not simply memorize and "regurgitate" it. He also hopes they'll make connections with other classes in the institute, which are interwoven so as to

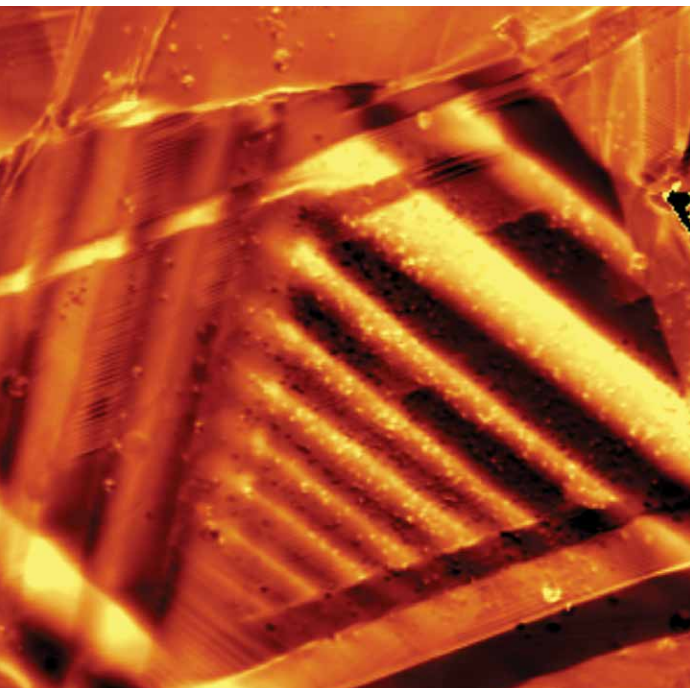
build upon and reinforce each other. "I think that's really important, that the courses are not insulated."

Asked what functional materials are, Webber ventures that if you asked five people that question, you'd get six different answers. For him, a functional material, such as ceramics, is one that can provide a coupling between fields—mechanical, electrical, thermal, magnetic, optical, etc.—that is not normally there. At the institute, he works on functional ceramics that can convert mechanical input energy into an electrical output signal, or, conversely, an electrical input into a mechanical displacement. These materials, called piezoelectrics, are very useful for actuators and sensors, such as ultrasound transducers.

The institute undertakes fundamental research with a goal of developing new materials and understanding their properties. Webber and his team are working



Webber in front of the Materials Science Building in Germany



(Far left) This image, captured with Raman spectroscopy, shows the microscopic regions within a single grain inside of a polycrystalline ceramic material. The differently colored regions are areas of varying crystal orientation and structure, which are affected by electrical, mechanical, and optical fields. How these regions change under load largely determines the functional properties observed in piezoelectric materials.

(Left) This experimental arrangement is designed for the mechanical testing of ceramic materials as a function of temperature. The sample, shown in the middle (yellowish color), undergoes compression within a heating chamber. Additionally, electrical contacts allow for simultaneous mechanical and electrical measurements during testing.

FAR LEFT IMAGE COURTESY OF DR. MARIA RITA CICCONI



Webber working on a project measuring the fracture toughness of Antarctic glacial ice. Ice, being a polycrystalline material, made this research relatable to the work Webber was involved with in Darmstadt on the fracture mechanics of ceramics due to similar concepts.

PHOTO COURTESY OF  
KYLE WEBBER

on ways to apply their research to a host of applications, including high energy density ceramic capacitors, vibrational energy harvesting systems for unattended wireless sensors, high temperature piezoelectric transducers, and ceramic films. They have also been working to develop lead-free ferroelectric materials.

Over time, Webber rose to director of the Institute of Glass and Ceramics—what his former professor Dr. Wlodkowski calls “the Mount Olympus of academia.” In addition to teaching, he manages research projects that reach around the world and has authored or co-authored more than 140 peer-reviewed publications in the field of electroceramics.

In addition to this, Webber is the director of an International Research and Training Group, called Energy Conversion Systems: From Materials to Devices, which collaborates with the Nagoya Institute of Technology in Japan. The 24

doctoral researchers, 12 in each country, along with 24 principal investigators are working on 12 different projects in the area of vibrational energy harvesters and photovoltaics using so-called photo-electro-mechanical materials that are simultaneously sensitive to light as well as electrical and mechanical stimuli.

They want to be able to use one type of material class, called a perovskite material, to generate and control different types of energy, such as simultaneously harvesting light and vibrational energy in one material. Developing these conversion systems, Webber notes, is one of the areas they are working in that seems very applicable to modern life, as “multimodal energy harvesting can increase the energy generation capabilities.”

On the topic AI—artificial intelligence—Webber notes that the institute is using the technology in the development of ceramic materials with a high throughput ceramics synthesis system, which

features a robot to dispense ceramic powders and another that automates characterization of the crystal structure. They have also tried to accelerate “every single step” of the process so that the lab can produce up to a 100 samples a day, using commercially available solutions where possible and developing their own where necessary. Webber notes that the hands-on training at Maine Maritime Academy continues to help him in research, as designing and making his own measurement equipment has always been an important part of his research.

While recognizing some of the dangers of AI, Webber also envisions “incredible advances” using it in materials research. That said, there currently aren’t enough experimental data points available to rely on or use AI for most of his materials development. The only way to get this data is to create it, which is why he is developing a high throughput synthesis platform. Working on ways to





collect large amounts of controlled data points is part of the focus—which could then be used through AI technologies.

“Research is not just theoretical,” Webber notes, pointing to a lot of practical, hands-on, application-oriented R & D. Harking back to his days at MMA, he wants his students and fellow researchers to know how to take apart the equipment they use and put it back together. To that end, he created a little corner of the lab where he has a drill press and all the tools necessary for DIY—a way to challenge the “white tower” image of research. “There are different research fields,” Webber notes, “and many of them are not purely theoretical, but require the practical experience that MMA offers.”

If Webber had a magic wand, he would have an autonomous laboratory where you could push a few buttons and a machine would then perform the synthesis and characterization, which would free up researchers to do more analysis.

One of the big issues, Webber notes, is energy, specifically its generation, storage and transmission. “If you could create a ceramic material that could provide energy densities similar to a lithium-ion battery,” he believes, “you would solve many problems.” To achieve this, his team has been working on developing high-energy-density ceramic capacitors, including developing a new class of two-dimensional halide perovskite anti-ferroelectric materials using data-driven machine-learning methods.

Before signing off from the Zoom interview, Webber turns his camera to show his office. On the wall next to his desk, alongside some of his kids’ artwork, hang his framed (and now expired) Coast Guard license and the shellback certificate marking his crossing of the equator. Far from his home state and his alma mater, Webber is reminded every day of his Castine days and the education that set him on his way. ■



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FIVE DECADES OF  
**Outstanding  
Women**

Celebrating the  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
Female Students  
at Maine Maritime  
Academy

By Alyssa and Bryan Wolf



**M**aine Maritime Academy was founded in 1941 with its first class of 29 students graduating in 1943. It wasn't until 1974 that MMA welcomed its first female student, Deborah Doane Dempsey. As we reflect on the celebration of 50 years of women at MMA, we might ask ourselves what we are truly celebrating. Surely it is not that women have become stronger, more capable, more driven, or wiser — women have been all these things since the beginning. Perhaps the celebration is that we as a nation and as an MMA community have moved a step closer to recognizing what has been true all along, that gender should not limit what we dream of, whether it be a life at sea, in the lab, in the boardroom or the home.

**LET US TODAY CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF WOMEN FREE TO DREAM BIG DREAMS. LET US RECOGNIZE THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS NOT AS WOMEN RISING IN MALE DOMINATED PROFESSIONS BUT AS INDIVIDUALS WHO THROUGH EDUCATION AND HARD WORK HAVE ACHIEVED THEIR AMBITIONS.**

In commemoration of our 50-year milestone, we had conversations with six MMA graduates to talk about their time at the academy and beyond. The women highlighted below are just a sampling of the skilled, accomplished, and varied individuals who have built their academic and professional foundations at Maine Maritime Academy.

**CDR. KIMBERLY A. CROKE (HOON) '87 (MSE) USCG RETIRED**

It was her love of the ocean and a desire to make a living on the water that drew Kimberly Croke to Castine. At first, she considered attending the Coast Guard Academy, but looking back, she is thankful she was able to benefit from the broader, less restrictive opportunities that MMA offered.

When Croke graduated, she found shipping jobs hard to find and decided to join the US Coast Guard for three years as a stepping stone to other opportunities and a way in which she could network and learn firsthand how the companies she was interested in conducted their businesses. This decision turned into a rewarding career in the Coast Guard which allowed her to travel extensively in the US and abroad and retire in 2010 having earned the distinguished rank of Commander.

Croke states that among her proudest accomplishments, both professionally and personally, is her time spent helping during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Stationed at Sector New Orleans as the Logistics Officer, she was responsible for coordinating the delivery of everything from fuel, food, water, and all essential supplies to the areas affected by the storm.

Croke says, "My life would have taken a completely different direction had I not attended



MMA. The hands-on education and real-life experiences made a world of difference. I wasn't just another student number at a big school, which gave me the confidence to do things I might not have otherwise done. My success in the Coast Guard was built on the foundations laid during my time at MMA. I am very proud to be an MMA grad!"





**LINDSAY SMITH '00**  
**(MET) NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE**

Starting her career on an offshore drilling ship, Smith eventually joined Norwegian Cruise Lines, where she rose through the ranks to become Chief Engineer. Her promotion in 2014 marked a significant milestone as the first female Chief Engineer in a major cruise line.

Reflecting on her MMA experience, Smith credits the academy for instilling crucial skills such as adaptability and informed decision-making. Mentorship from individuals like Professor Mike Young '77 further shaped her career path.

Beyond academics, Smith highlights the impact of playing basketball at MMA, emphasizing the importance of teamwork in both personal and professional life.

Smith's journey exemplifies MMA's commitment to preparing students for successful careers, showcasing the blend of academic excellence, practical skills, and teamwork fostered at the academy.



**CRYSTAL PARKER MAASS '06**  
**(MTO) INHABIT REAL ESTATE**

Crystal Parker Maass always knew that she wanted to make a career working on the water. She also had a love of basketball, so it didn't take her too much time to realize that MMA and the women's basketball team were the right fit for her.

As a student at MMA, Parker Maass showed herself to be a leader. She became not only the women's basketball team captain but the first female regimental commander.

"Leadership does not necessarily mean that you are the most skilled," explains Parker Maass. "You need to be willing to work hard, have the right attitude, and build a good team."

Parker Maass' position as Regimental Commander was earned through hard work, commitment, and dedication. Parker Maass worked her way up through the ranks and proved herself to be the best candidate. "I always took the Regiment very seriously as a training ground for the jobs it prepares us for. We are doing these activities to prepare for life on a ship."

After graduation from MMA, Parker Maass spent over a decade at sea, obtaining her unlimited master's license before transitioning her career to shoreside. Through her many years of experience, Parker Maass says one of the biggest lessons she has learned is the importance of transforming competition into collaboration. "The more we support each other, the greater success we will all achieve."

MMA set Parker Maass on a course for success and gave her the tools and confidence to accomplish her goals. In each phase of life, she believes it's necessary to redefine what success means, and currently, she defines that as 'having a rich and full family life.'



**ANDI ST. PIERRE (FLANNERY) '14**  
**(IBL) EMD ELECTRONICS**

St. Pierre's original plans for her education did not include Maine Maritime Academy. A chance event led her to check out the school and within two weeks St. Pierre had fallen in love with the campus and the community and enrolled in the logistics program. "I didn't even know what Logistics meant," states St. Pierre. "When I tried to google it, I came up short." Fortunately, St. Pierre was soon to cross paths with Don Maier, her first logistics professor, who sparked in her a lifelong interest in the subject. "He possessed a true passion for the industry."

St. Pierre has carried this passion forward into her career with EMD Electronics. "Our company started small, but we have grown significantly year over year. Handling that growth and the demand for parts has been challenging, but also very exciting. I have always aspired to be a leader, and now that I lead a team, I love it."

Additionally, St. Pierre is sharing her knowledge and expertise with students as an adjunct faculty member at the University of New Hampshire, teaching Sustainable Sourcing. Leading and giving back to her students is where she finds the greatest sense of accomplishment—sharing the passion she experienced from her past professors and coaches at MMA to help her students grow and gain confidence in their field.





**ABBY L'ABBE '20**  
**(MS) US NAVY**

When applying to colleges, L'Abbe was interested in a school that would incorporate hands-on learning while providing her with real world skills. Once she learned more about the Maine Maritime Academy Ocean Studies department and found that she could pair a Marine Science Degree with a limited tonnage license through the Small Vessels Operations (SVO) major, she was hooked.

Upon graduation, L'Abbe was commissioned into the United States Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer and completed a three-year sea tour onboard USS *Kearsarge* (LHD-3) and a seven-month 6th fleet deployment which took her to Europe and the Arctic Circle.

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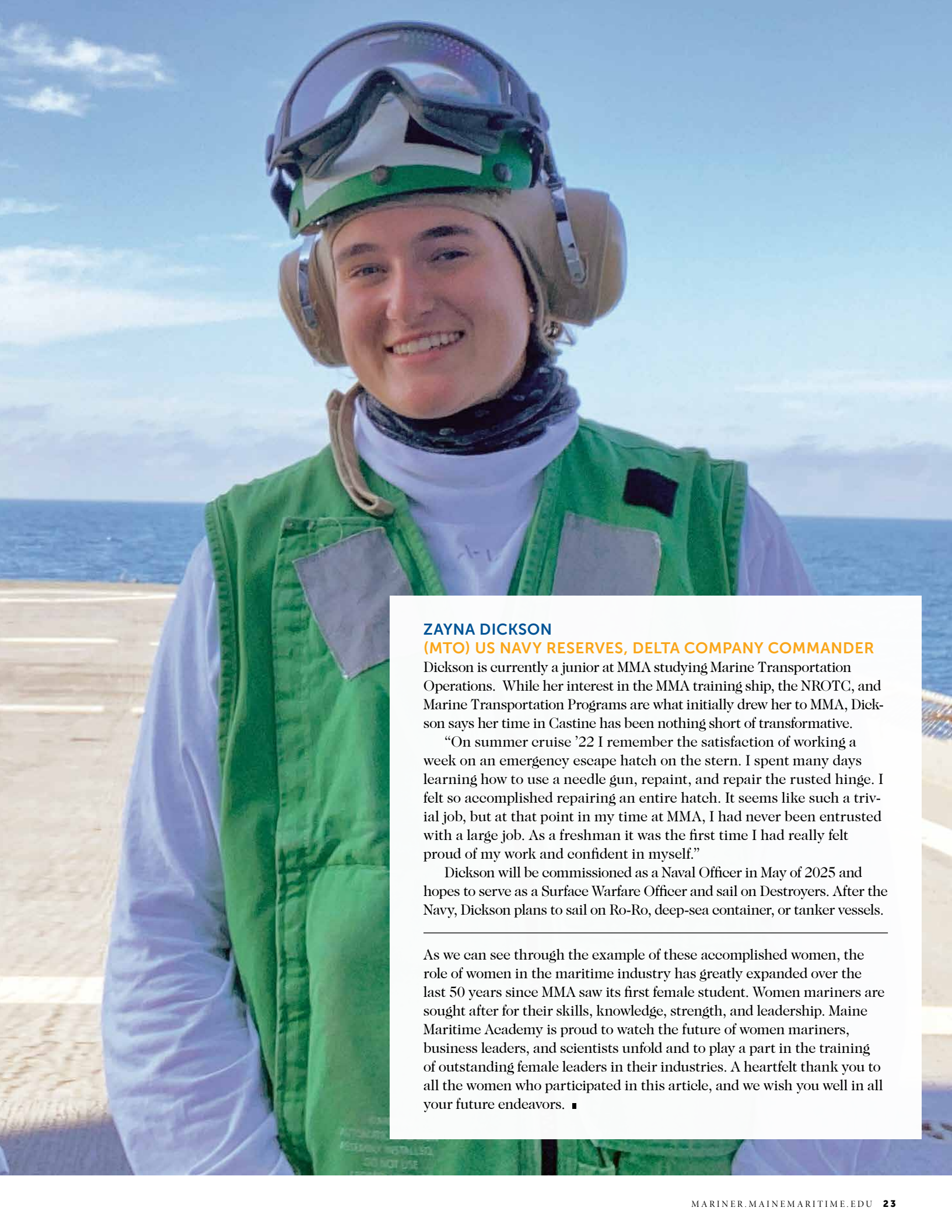
**“Most importantly, MMA taught me that you are never alone and always have resources and people to lean on.”**

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To end her time at sea, in early 2023 L'Abbe transitioned into the Meteorology and Oceanography (METOC) Community in the Navy, dusted off her Marine Science knowledge and started a new job at the Fleet Weather Center in Norfolk, VA, providing support to the Navy's air, surface and subsurface assets operating across numerous fleets.

“I can say without a doubt MMA prepared me for post-MMA endeavors. I excelled far above my naval peers in basic shipboard skills such as the ones I learned in my Terrestrial Navigation course which aided my speedy accession to become an Officer of the Deck. I was taught to think critically, oftentimes start from scratch and dig deep into my resources to gain knowledge to find solutions — a scientific research skill that I have now applied to my everyday life, personally and professionally. The principles instilled in me have allowed me to form deep professional connections based on mutual understanding of the importance of respect and timeliness. Most importantly, MMA taught me that you are never alone and always have resources and people to lean on.”



**ZAYNA DICKSON**

**(MTO) US NAVY RESERVES, DELTA COMPANY COMMANDER**

Dickson is currently a junior at MMA studying Marine Transportation Operations. While her interest in the MMA training ship, the NROTC, and Marine Transportation Programs are what initially drew her to MMA, Dickson says her time in Castine has been nothing short of transformative.

“On summer cruise ’22 I remember the satisfaction of working a week on an emergency escape hatch on the stern. I spent many days learning how to use a needle gun, repaint, and repair the rusted hinge. I felt so accomplished repairing an entire hatch. It seems like such a trivial job, but at that point in my time at MMA, I had never been entrusted with a large job. As a freshman it was the first time I had really felt proud of my work and confident in myself.”

Dickson will be commissioned as a Naval Officer in May of 2025 and hopes to serve as a Surface Warfare Officer and sail on Destroyers. After the Navy, Dickson plans to sail on Ro-Ro, deep-sea container, or tanker vessels.

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As we can see through the example of these accomplished women, the role of women in the maritime industry has greatly expanded over the last 50 years since MMA saw its first female student. Women mariners are sought after for their skills, knowledge, strength, and leadership. Maine Maritime Academy is proud to watch the future of women mariners, business leaders, and scientists unfold and to play a part in the training of outstanding female leaders in their industries. A heartfelt thank you to all the women who participated in this article, and we wish you well in all your future endeavors. ■



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# TRAILBLAZERS OF THE Energy Transition

How two MMA alums are leading the way in marine decarbonization

By Janet Ofano

**D**ecarbonizing the maritime sector will be crucial in driving a successful energy transition and keeping climate change in check. MMA alums Linette Casey '99 and Stewart Allen '95 know this all too well.

After graduating from MMA, Casey and Allen embarked on very different career paths. Today, however, they both reside within Siemens Energy's Electrification, Automation, and Digitalization (EAD) business unit, co-leading an organization of 400 employees dedicated to improving the sustainability of the marine sector and other industrial verticals across the Americas region.



## REUNITING AFTER TWO DECADES TO CO-LEAD A GLOBAL TEAM

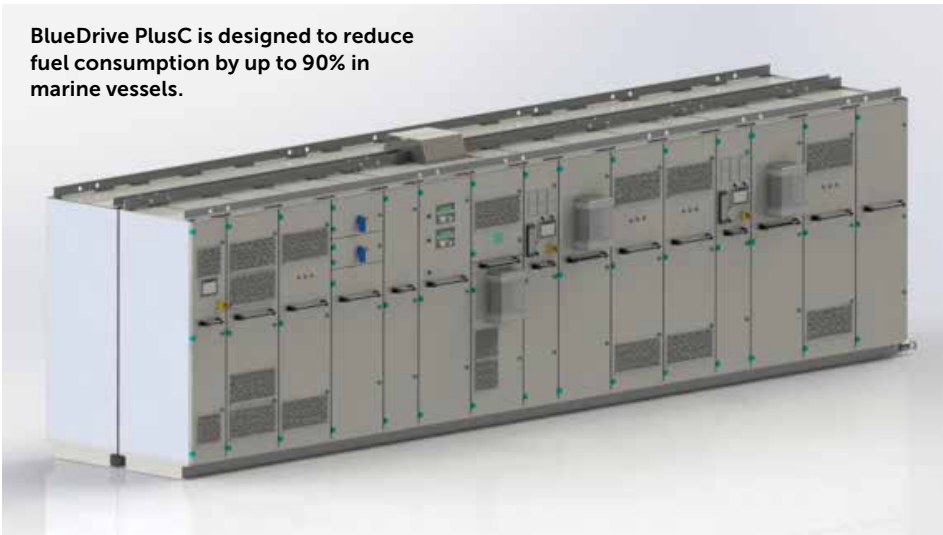
Casey was the first female to graduate from MMA's International Business & Logistics program. She continued her education, receiving an M.S. in management from Troy University in 2001. She also received a graduate certificate from Harvard University in Corporate Sustainability and Innovation in 2023.

Casey leveraged her education early on, holding various logistics-related roles. This included a stint from 1999 to 2001 where she worked alongside Navy SEALs in developing the SEAL Delivery Vehicle (SDV), a type of crewed submersible used to deliver personnel and equipment for special operations missions.

In 2001, Casey joined Siemens Energy as a material logistics and purchasing specialist. With an aptitude for working with customers and building relationships, she eventually transitioned out of logistics and excelled in different sales and business development roles. In 2022, Casey was appointed Head of



BlueDrive PlusC is designed to reduce fuel consumption by up to 90% in marine vessels.



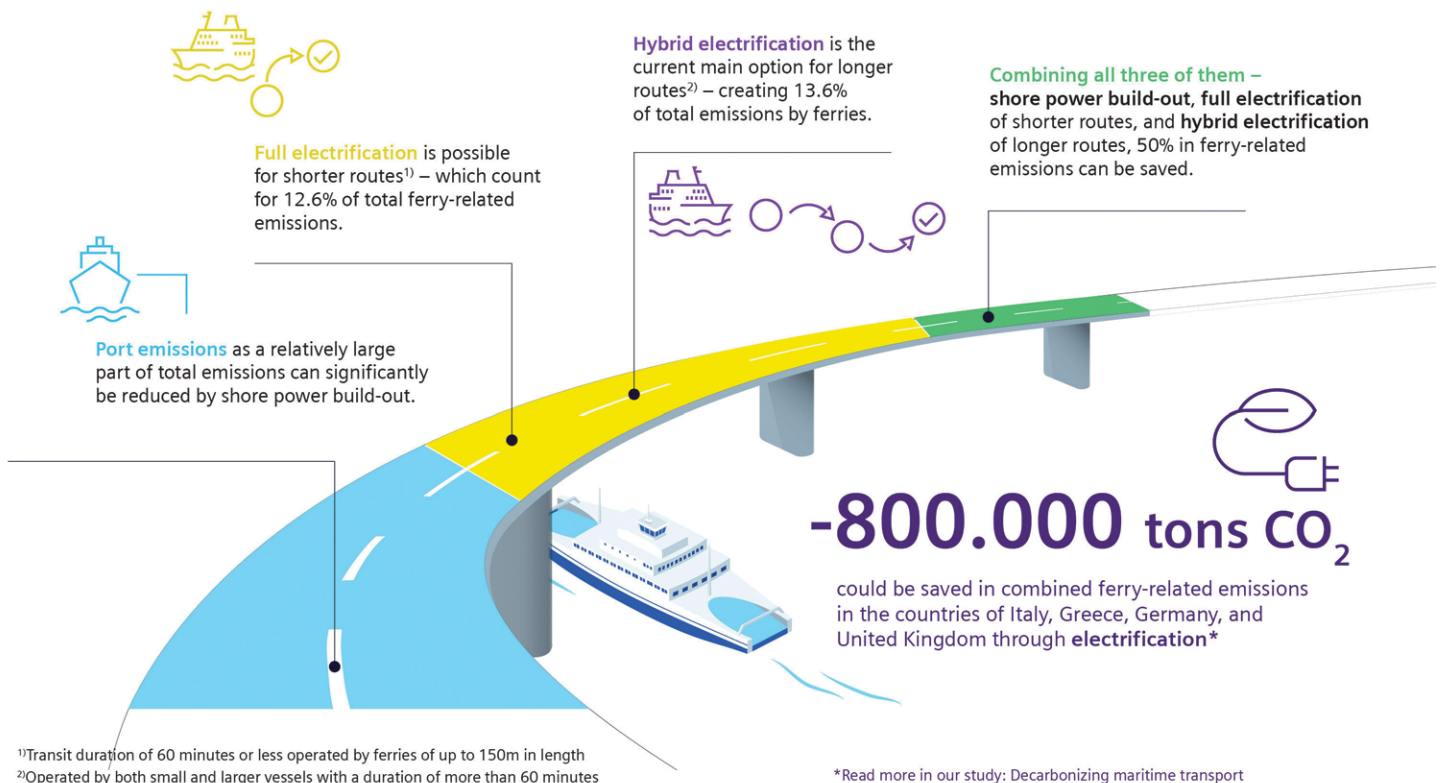
Americas Sales for the EAD business. She is now responsible for an international team of technical sales managers and proposal professionals from Argentina to Canada.

Allen obtained his B.S. in Marine Engineering Technology from MMA. He has spent most of his career with Siemens Energy (and previously Siemens), where he has held various positions in project management, engineering, and management positions. Before joining the company in 2005, Allen spent ten years at Rockwell Automation.

In 2011, he was appointed Director for Siemens Operation & Engineering Center for Drive Technologies and oversaw the execution of projects in the mobile mining, minerals, marine, fiber, and oil & gas industries. Allen's remarkable contributions to the energy industry have earned him several accolades, including the Siemens Industry U.S. Team of the Year Award in 2013.

Today, he serves as the Head of EAD projects for the Americas, where he collaborates with major industrial clients to implement complex technology solutions across various industrial markets across the Americas.

Like Casey, he has continued his education, completing a Project Management Certification program at Penn State University in 2004.



## LEADING THE GREEN REVOLUTION

Casey and Allen's roles allow them to work at the cutting edge of innovation in the marine space, particularly in decarbonization.

Siemens Energy has provided solutions to the marine market for nearly 150 years. The company's portfolio comprises technologies for power and propulsion, energy management, and automation across all vessel types, including passenger ferries, cruise ships, research vessels, platform supply vessels, submarines, and cargo ships. Siemens Energy also has a significant presence in the offshore oil & gas market and provides solutions for decarbonizing facilities like drilling rigs and production installations.

"One of the reasons I love working at Siemens Energy is the exposure I get to all these different types of technologies and market segments," said Casey. "We are pushing the envelope in terms of innovation when it comes to things like marine propulsion and power. As someone who strongly believes in improving the environment, it is gratifying to see the progress we are making to help our customers reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

"Marine is a critical and important market for Siemens Energy, but it is just one of many industries where we are applying our solutions," added Allen. "We are also heavily involved in both onshore and offshore oil & gas, fiber industries, and across multiple process industries. It truly is a unique opportunity to work with customers across all these different verticals and see how they are innovating in the name of decarbonization."

One specific area where Siemens Energy has a significant market share is battery-powered passenger ferries and research vessels. The company's BlueDrive PlusC propulsion technology and BlueVault battery-based energy storage solution have been installed in more than 60+ vessels worldwide, including the world's largest all-electric car ferry, Bastø Electric. The vessel transports passengers and cars across the Oslo Fjord in Norway. The batteries are charged almost entirely with zero-emissions hydropower.

Several ferries in the U.S. also utilize these technologies. The Texas Department of Transportation's Esperanza "Hope" Andrade passenger ferry is the latest vessel to join the fleet. The ferry carries passengers between Galveston Island and the Bolivar Peninsula.

BlueDrive PlusC is designed to reduce fuel consumption by up to 90% in marine vessels by regulating speed, shifting control from port to starboard as necessary, and operating diesel engines as minimally as possible. The BlueVault batteries play an essential role in storing surplus power while the vessel is in operation and dispatching it on demand. This efficiency boost improves fuel economy, reduces operational costs, and increases sustainability.

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**"As the energy transition progresses, the need for people with the skills and expertise that MMA can provide will only grow," added Allen. "Despite graduating around the same time, Linette and I did not know each other until recently. Our respective career paths are evidence of the diverse range of career opportunities that MMA affords..."**

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Siemens Energy is also developing low-emissions propulsion systems based on hydrogen fuel cells. Like battery-powered systems, the fuel cells can operate as part of a diesel-electric power plant. Although the application of hydrogen fuel cells on marine vessels is relatively novel, Siemens Energy has been implementing the technology on German submarines for nearly three decades.

Siemens Energy is also applying its expertise in power generation to decarbonize long-haul shipping. In 2022, the company collaborated with several other industry leaders to develop the Ocean Green concept, a novel low-emission power and propulsion system for deep-sea shipping, particularly LNG carriers. Ocean Green is a hybrid combined cycle power and propulsion plant that utilizes a

gas turbine as the main engine, in combination with a steam turbine and battery energy storage.

Another area where Siemens Energy provides solutions and technologies is for producing alternative fuels based on green hydrogen, like eMethanol and eAmmonia, which are increasingly being considered as a replacement for heavy fuel oil.

## EMPOWERING FUTURE GENERATIONS

Decarbonizing the marine sector will be a challenging task that will occur over several decades and require a range of technologies to cover the diverse types of vessels in operation. With a comprehensive portfolio that includes integrated solutions for electrification, automation, and digitalization, along with supporting technologies for e-fuel production, Siemens Energy is uniquely positioned to help drive the industry's transformation on multiple fronts.

Technology, however, is only one piece of the decarbonization puzzle. The human element is equally as important. After all, people are the true drivers of change. To this end, MMA is playing a crucial role in facilitating the industry's transition to a low-carbon future by providing students with a foundation of knowledge and skills to thrive in a world where sustainability is paramount.

"As a woman working in an industry traditionally dominated by men, I would not be where I am today without MMA," said Casey. "Last year, my team had the opportunity to host three talented young ladies from the IBL program as interns with our marine and offshore team. I am happy to see these women and others follow a similar path as I did and am immensely proud to call myself an alumna."

"As the energy transition progresses, the need for people with the skills and expertise that MMA can provide will only grow," added Allen. "Despite graduating around the same time, Linette and I did not know each other until recently. Our respective career paths are evidence of the diverse range of career opportunities that MMA affords and is evidence of how well it prepares students for leadership roles within the industry." ■

# Alumni News

## SPOTLIGHT

### Innovation and Inspiration: Captain Larry Wade's Influence on Maritime Training

AMONG THE NUMEROUS INDIVIDUALS who have left their mark on Maine Maritime Academy, Captain Laurence "Larry" Wade stands out as one of the finest. From his beginnings as an MMA student to his pivotal role in shaping the future of maritime education, Wade's contributions have been nothing short of transformative.

#### CAPTAIN AND MENTOR

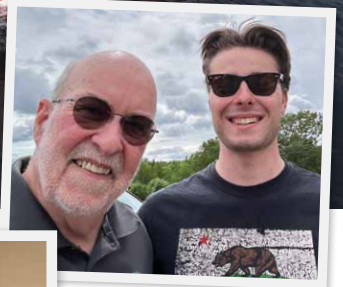
Wade's journey at MMA began as a student in the inaugural four-year class of 1964. His education at MMA prepared him for what would be a fulfilling 30-year career in the maritime industry. After retiring from shipping, Wade was invited to return to his alma mater, this time as Master of the Training Vessel *State of Maine* (TSSOM), a post he held from 1996 to 2011.

As his first order of business in his new position, Wade took on the daunting task of overseeing the renovations of the USNS *Tanner* as the next MMA training vessel. The *Tanner*, Wade recounts, was not the original ship slated to replace the USNS *Upshur*. Initially, it was the research vessel USNS *Harkness* that quickly took on the unfortunate but humorous nickname "USNS *Darkness*" due to the numerous troubling issues that were uncovered. Ultimately the "*Darkness*" was rejected and the *Tanner* was chosen as a replacement.

The United States Maritime Administration (MARAD) assigned Wade the role of project manager for the renovations which was a tremendous task that allowed him to utilize his ingenuity and expertise. "Larry was able to convert that ship (*Tanner*) so that it was the most technically modern training ship in the United States, if not the world," said Leonard Tyler, former president of MMA.

Under his stewardship, the newly renovated TSSOM embarked on over 15 training cruises, navigating more than 3,000 student mariners safely across the globe. His influence was not confined to the maritime realm; he was known to have taught valuable life lessons too, creating confident and well-rounded mariners and community members. Jesse McIntire '03 writes, "Captain Wade had that special ability to make us all feel like we were in good hands...whether at sea or ashore. We were all shaped by his example as a husband and family man." Wade's students were well-equipped for work and life. Wade has had the pleasure of seeing countless students progress through MMA and on to successful careers in their chosen fields.

"Many of my former students have successfully sailed and raised their licenses and I now can address them as Captains and Chief Engineers, Managers, Bar Pilots. There is a degree of pride in that, for sure!"



(Top) Rendering of National Security Multi-Mission Vessel.

(Above) Wade with his "adopted grandson" Kevin Cokgormusler '22.

(Left) Deanna Wade (1st Mate) and Wade – Christmas 2024.



#### HURRICANE KATRINA

Wade's leadership skills shone brightly during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005 when MARAD, the owner of the maritime academy ships, emergency-activated the TSSOM. Captain Wade and his crew demonstrated exceptional resilience and resourcefulness, providing critical support and assistance to those in need. His role in coordinating relief efforts and his unwavering commitment to service exemplify the values of Maine Maritime Academy.

While in port in Louisiana, the ship and crew assisted wherever needed, which included providing much-needed housing and food. The MARAD's mess deck quickly became the

## ALUMNI NEWS

### BLACK MOUNTAIN SKIING

Ed Rosenberg '72 reports that they all had a great day skiing at the Black Mountain winter gathering. "Everyone at Black Mountain was great to work with, and they expressed their love for MMA. We had 14 people, with 10 alumni, 3 spouses, and 1 current student. Interestingly, the current student is a freshman who also attended our event three years ago when he was in high school.

"The alumni who attended had a wonderful time, with 4 of them still going to sea. The camaraderie was amazing, as usual. These individuals are too far away from an alumni chapter and Castine, so they have never returned to Castine. Nevertheless, this event serves as their only official connection to MMA, even though there are currently 12 MMA students from the area."



go-to lunch stop for other relief workers, attracting a parking lot full of tanker trucks, helicopters, and even trains. "When they would come in to eat, they would leave their keys on the counter in case we needed to move their vehicle," chuckled Wade. "They even gave us the locomotive keys — which, if you do not know, are a large, heavy bar."

During the time spent in Louisiana, Wade's vision for the future of maritime education led to the conceptualization of the National Security Multi-Mission Vessel—a fleet of multi-mission training vessels designed to revolutionize maritime training while offering enhanced services during crisis situations. Together with his colleagues, Wade envisioned ships equipped with modern facilities and advanced technology, providing unparalleled training opportunities for students and professionals alike.

#### A PROPOSAL IS WRITTEN

Wade and his crew created a proposal for the U.S. Government following Katrina based on the concept they had developed for the NSMVs.

The presentation outlined how a fleet of well-equipped vessels could provide wide-spectrum support when needed, services such as waste management, medical facilities, housing, electrical gen-

eration, waterborne local infrastructure support, a disaster operations center, and a multi-agency training platform. These ships would feature redesigned propulsion plants, increased berthing and messing areas, and expanded interior spaces. Furthermore, having multiple identical ships would enable unified training for everyone and facilitate the efficient transportation of vessels and students.

But what do the NSMVs mean for students of MMA? These ships serve as large, state-of-the-art classroom labs complete with two bridges, two engine rooms, and increased classroom spaces. The new NSMVs will prepare cadets to step aboard highly integrated ships and operate them successfully. The NSMVs represent a paradigm shift in maritime education, offering students immersive learning experiences and hands-on training in a simulated maritime environment. Wade's vision for these vessels as versatile platforms for training and disaster response has been realized, with many of his recommendations incorporated into the NSMV's design and specifications.

"There is a great opportunity for training professionals outside of the traditional MMA students as well," Wade notes. "A variety of industries could benefit from exposure to this resource, including doctors, nurses, firefighters, engineers, and communications

specialists. Training can be offered in Castine or at other ports around the world."

#### LOOKING AHEAD

As the dream of a fleet of NSMVs becomes reality and the five ships prepare to set sail, Wade's legacy of innovation and excellence continues to shape the future of maritime education. The additional support capacity of the NSMVs could result in MARAD increasingly putting them in service and the challenge will be finding a way to continue a student's educational path towards graduation during activation. The ability for us to provide real-world experience on location is a win-win situation.

Wade's vision for the NSMVs as a catalyst for interdisciplinary training and collaboration underscores the academy's commitment to preparing the next generation of maritime leaders.

With the launch of the NSMVs on the horizon, a vision of an enhanced maritime training program is set to become a reality. Wade's tireless dedication to his students and his unwavering commitment to excellence have left an indelible mark on Maine Maritime Academy, ensuring that his legacy will endure for generations to come.

*View Wade's NSMV Proposal at [mariner.mainemaritime.edu](http://mariner.mainemaritime.edu).*

## TRAINING SHIP STATE OF MAINE HISTORY:

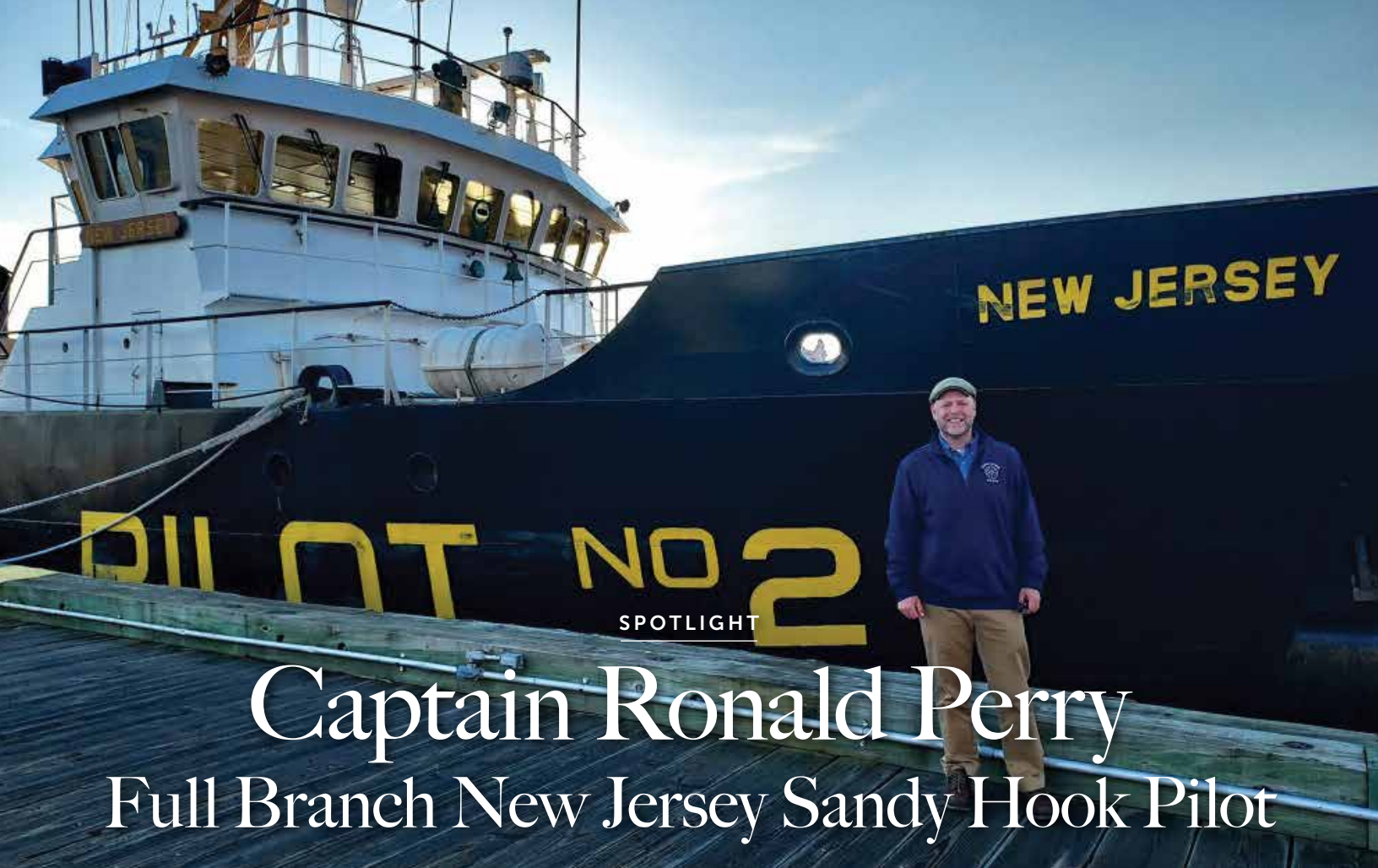
USS COMFORT (AH-6)(TSSOM I) | 1953 -1963 | LENGTH: 416' | BEAM: 60' | SPEED: 15 KNOTS

USS ANCON (AGC-4)(TSSOM II) | 1963-1973 | LENGTH: 492' | BEAM: 64' | SPEED: 18 KNOTS

USNS UPSHUR (T-AP-198)(TSSOM III) | 1973 - 1995 | LENGTH: 534' | BEAM: 73' | SPEED: 19 KNOTS

USNS TANNER (T-AGS-40) (TSSOM IV) | 1997 - PRESENT | LENGTH: 499' | BEAM: 72' | SPEED: 16 KNOTS

NSMV III (TSSOM V) | LENGTH: 525' 1" | BEAM: 88' 7" | SPEED: 18 KNOTS



# Captain Ronald Perry

## Full Branch New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilot

BY RHONDA LEACH

CAPTAIN RONALD PERRY '01 has completed his seventh year as a Full Branch New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilot.

As a young man, growing up with a father who graduated from Maine Maritime Academy, an uncle who worked for Grace Lines, and a dear family friend who was a revered Portland Pilot, Perry set his sights early on a maritime career.

Spending part of his childhood living and playing in the Castine area, he eventually chose to attend MMA and has become the only MMA alum to be licensed by New Jersey as a Sandy Hook Pilot.

In the 1980s, Captain Perry's father brought Ron's mother to visit his alma mater, which resulted in the purchase of land in Penobscot, where they built a home. His family later moved to the town of Topsham, Maine, where he attended Cheverus High School in Portland. He returned to his Castine roots and graduated from Maine Maritime Academy in 2001 with a BS degree from the Marine Transportation Program and his Third Mate's Unlimited License.

Perry started his seagoing career with Maersk Line Limited aboard the LMSR UNSN *Bob Hope* as a third mate, and the *Maersk Alaska*, sailing as a second mate in the Persian Gulf during the Iraq war. Spending long rotations with little time at home, Perry began thinking about starting a family and being closer to home. Taking the advice of a wise family friend, Captain Granville "Pete" Smith '47, a Portland Pilot, Perry applied to the mid-Atlantic pilot groups, including the United New York and New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilot Associations, via satellite from Kuwait.

While waiting 18 months for his acceptance, he served on harbor tugs and stern-wheeler riverboats on the Mississippi River. Although these opportunities didn't necessarily help him become a pilot, he gained valuable experience.

Captain Perry began the Sandy Hook Apprentice Program in 2006 and has been a Pilot (seven years limited deputy) since 2011. He remains the only Maine Maritime Academy Full Branch New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilot to date. His friend and colleague, Josh Pieterse '03, is licensed by the State of New York.

The following are questions about Perry's journey as a Pilot.

### WHAT DO SANDY HOOK PILOTS DO?

*Perry:* Sandy Hook Pilots are licensed by the states of New York and New Jersey and work in a rotational system offering pilot services for the Ports of New York and New Jersey, Hudson River, Long Island Sound, and Atlantic City. They are the compulsory State Pilot system for these waters. They are required by foreign vessels or U.S. vessels in registry entering or leaving the port via Sandy Hook or Sands Point/Execution Rocks in Long Island Sound.

### THE DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SANDY HOOK PILOT STARTS...

*Perry:* ...When the phone rings. Pilots work a "turn." A turn begins when a ship leaving the port requests a pilot. The pilot boards at the dock or the anchorage via the pilot launch. This could be in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Jersey City, or Perth Amboy. The pilot either undocks the ship or relieves the docking pilot after the tug services and takes the ship to sea. I await my turn on the pilot vessel

offshore until a ship arrives needing a pilot for the inbound trip.

The pilot then takes the ship to a berth or anchorage. At this point, I find my way to my car by taxi, train, or Uber and return home. My name goes to the bottom of the turn board, and the process begins again. I traded my life at sea for a life on call.

### **HOW LONG WAS THE APPRENTICE AND JUNIOR PILOT TRAINING?**

*Perry:* Currently, apprentices train for five years and work in a three-week rotation. They spend time aboard the pilot vessels, starting as a boat operator, then a mate, then captain of the station vessels. Apprentices ride ships for one week. Then they have a week off. Apprentices draw upwards of 26 nautical charts for their federal licenses and ride 1000 ships before the State License Examination.

**Deputyship (or Limited Pilots):** Pilot ships with limited draft and tonnage, gradually increasing in tonnage and draft over the five-year process. My Deputyship lasted seven years before I was licensed as a Full Branch Pilot of any size and draft.

### **WHAT WAS YOUR EMPLOYMENT HISTORY BEFORE BECOMING A PILOT?**

*Perry:* From 2001-2004 I was with Maersk Line Limited aboard the USNS Bob Hope, MV 1st Lt. Alex Bonnyman, and the Maersk Alaska. I applied to the Pilots in 2004. In 2005, I worked for McAllister Towing and then the Delta Queen Steamboat Company. In 2006, I began my career with the New Jersey Sandy Hook Pilots.

### **WHAT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF BEING A PILOT?**

*Perry:* Besides being on call, the most challenging part of piloting is making difficult decisions. Pilots must act independently of monetary pressures, such as saying “no” to a job because of visibility, weather, or ship-specific restraints. The difference between education and wisdom is experience. If something isn’t right, we don’t move.

### **HAVE YOU SEEN TECHNOLOGY CHANGE IN YOUR CAREER?**

*Perry:* Yes, with the introduction of the Portable Pilot Unit. This unit allows pilots to have a familiar electronic chart independent of the ship’s equipment.

### **WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR CHALLENGES IN BOARDING A FOREIGN VESSEL WHERE ENGLISH IS NOT THE CREW’S FIRST LANGUAGE?**

*Perry:* When something goes wrong, most crew members revert to their native tongue. This can cut you out of the conversation if not remedied. Also, orders may be misunderstood. Sticking to nautical language can avoid confusion, such as removing slang, filler words, and nonessential chit-chat. Much can be assessed during the Master/Pilot exchange. I must build rapport with the bridge team.

### **WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU OFFER FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS BEGINNING AT MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY?**

*Perry:* Take advantage of the resources available even if they are not mandatory for your degree. MMA has incredible resources, and you are only there for four years. For example, spend time on the waterfront. The more invested you are, the more you will get out of your education. The waterfront crew provides so many incredible assets and instruction supporting academic training through the deck program.

### **WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU OFFER A GRADUATING SENIOR?**

*Perry:* Take advantage of opportunities. Find something you don’t mind doing that you are good at. Then, you won’t mind doing it for a long time. Be careful what advice you solicit from others... and from whom. If you don’t like your job, it’s a tough road, especially if you are far from home.

### **WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADD TO PROMOTE NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY SANDY HOOK PILOTS TO MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY STUDENTS AND ALUMNI?**

*Perry:* The Sandy Hook Pilots are looking for the best candidates we can find. This opportunity opens every two years, and we are looking for candidates who are 21-30 years of age and hold a four-year college degree. There is undoubtedly stiff competition, but this worked out well for me and could work out well for other Maine Maritime Academy graduates.



#### **ALUMNI NEWS**

### **PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT**

The Alumni Association hosted its first-ever pickleball tournament on February 3rd as a fundraiser for its ongoing efforts. Bill Full ’76 noted that the response was quite enthusiastic, although attendance was lower than anticipated. Nevertheless, many are already inquiring about next year’s event, or any upcoming activities planned in the interim.



#### **ALUMNI NEWS**

### **TEXAS CHAPTER**

Holiday gathering included Joshua Shaw ’12, Gabrielle Wells ’16, Stephen ’88 & Samantha Schott, Sumeet Sahnun ’08, Charles Cutter ’91, Bill Kenefiek ’79, Tucker Doane ’15, David Kendall ’75, Craig Sarnecki ’11, Jered Norton ’00, and Donald Lebreux ’90

# ALUMNI NEWS

## ALUMNI NEWS

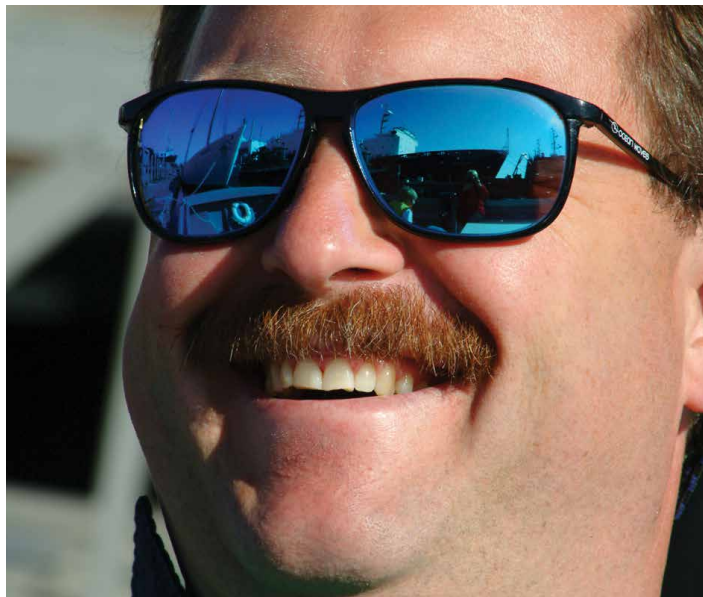
### REMEMBERING LANCE BURTON

On March 11, 2024, the campus community hosted a remembrance in honor of Lance Burton, a two-time graduate ('90 & '13) of the academy and long-time faculty member, in Delano Auditorium and virtually. Lance had a profound influence at MMA, as a student and professor and will be deeply missed.

“We are thankful for Lance’s impact on our lives, for the ways in which he used his gifts and talents to help us, mentor us, and bring blessings to us.” — *Professor Richard Reed*

“I think Lance believed in every one of his students and their ability to succeed. I think Lance Burton also deeply believed in Maine Maritime Academy.” — *President Jerry Paul '89*

“In the classroom, he took every one of his students under his wing and wanted nothing but for each of us to be successful.” — *MIDN 1/C Scott T. McCloughan*



## ALUMNI NEWS

### ADMIRAL'S DINNER

Maine Maritime Academy's Inaugural Admirals Dinner in Houston, TX at The Houston Club honoring Karrie Trauth, SVP Shipping & Maritime at Shell, was a tremendous success. Attended by more than 140 people and 40 maritime corporations, the evening raised over \$100,000 for scholarships at MMA. Thanks to all the sponsors, especially Shell Corporation and Seabulk, and the many people who made this event possible.



## ALUMNI NEWS

### CASCO BAY CHAPTER

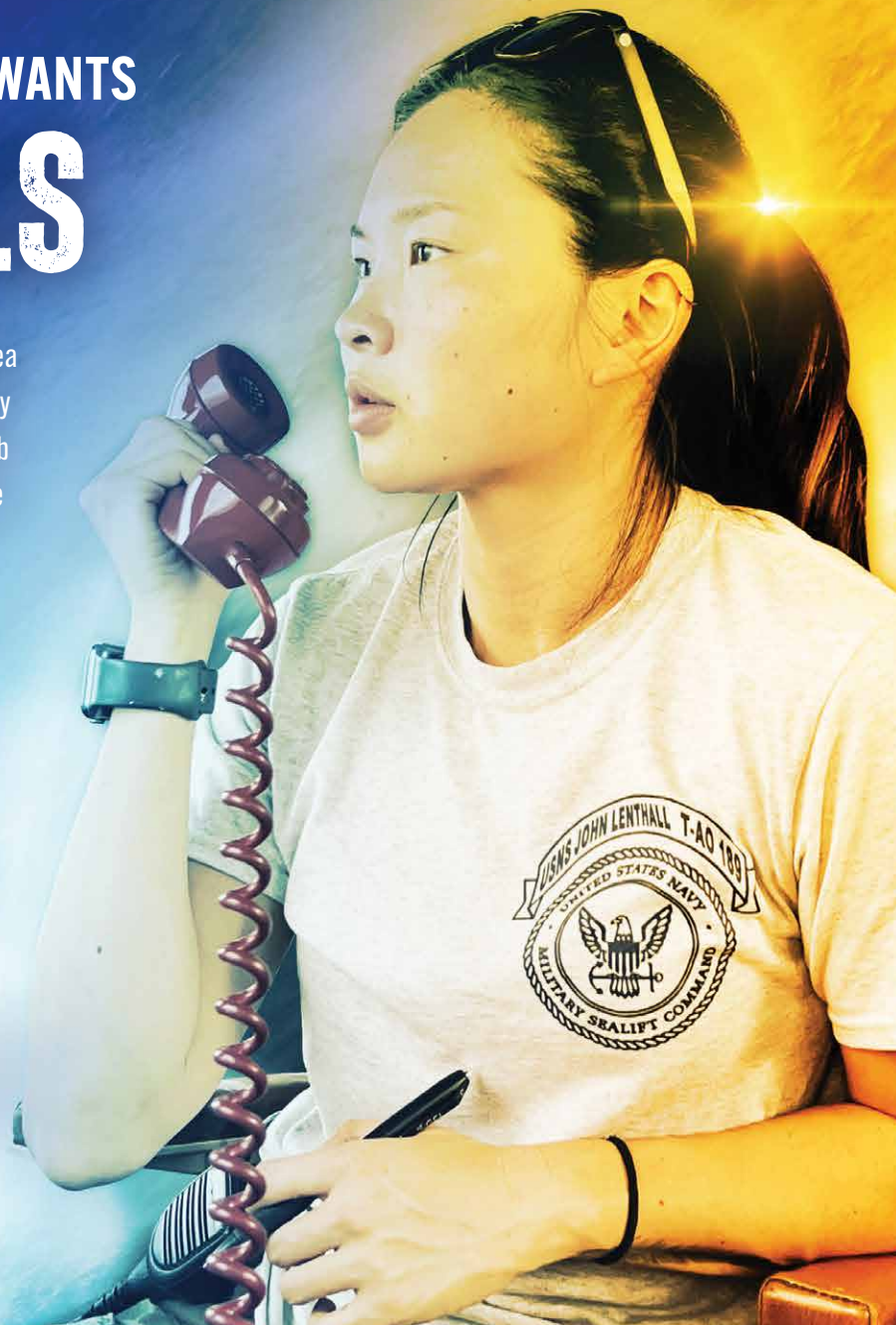
On December 4, the Casco Bay Chapter held a holiday social at The Falmouth Sea Grill, with approximately 35 members in attendance (about half in the photo). During the event, the chapter collected new stuffed animals for children undergoing chemotherapy at the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital in Portland.





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## ALUMNI NEWS

### MMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ELECTION INFORMATION

The MMA Alumni Association has announced a Call for Nominations for the Board of Directors' biennial election. The Alumni Association's Bylaws allow for the opportunity to have eighteen voting Directors on the Board. This year, all four Officer positions (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Clerk) and six (6) Directors will be elected to the Board.

All MMA alumni are eligible to submit nominations and vote for the Alumni Association Board of Directors. To nominate alumni, including yourself, to serve on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, submit a nomination online (visit [mainemaritime.edu/alumni](http://mainemaritime.edu/alumni) or use

the QR code below), via email ([alumni@mma.edu](mailto:alumni@mma.edu)), or mail (MMA Alumni Relations, 1 Pleasant St., Castine, ME 04420).

Each nomination must include the name of the nominee, their graduation year, email, and the position for which they are being nominated (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Clerk, Director). If not using the online form, please also include the name, graduation year, and email of the nominator.

*Nominations must be received no later than 11:59 PM EDST on Sunday, July 7, 2024.*



## ALUMNI NEWS

### FLORIDA (TAMPA) CHAPTER

The Florida Chapter and the Alumni Association hosted an event on February 29 at Top Golf in Tampa, Florida. MMA's President Jerry Paul and Men's Soccer Coach Billy Shannon joined the event to discuss the current initiatives and challenges facing the Academy. Afterward, they enjoyed the facility while swinging a few golf clubs.

The following alumni were in attendance:

- David Knapp '86
- Mike Donovan '79
- John DeRose '87 & '91
- Josh McMann '09
- Josh Elwell '11
- James Aboumitri '17
- Jake Doolan '18
- Christyna Doege '24

The Florida Chapter has a new Facebook group — Maine Maritime Academy (MMA) Tampa Bay Area / South Florida Chapter — to assist in communicating with local alumni on news and events.



## MMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS

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

**BAY STATE**  
Samuel Rowe '65  
skidrowe42@verizon.net

**CASCO BAY**  
Earl Bergeron '81  
earlcm@hotmail.com

**CONNECTICUT**  
John Gasper '02  
gaspersautomotive@gmail.com

**DELAWARE VALLEY**  
Dan Weamer  
daniel.weamer@gmail.com

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

**FLORIDA (JACKSONVILLE)**  
TBD

**KENNEBEC VALLEY**  
Steve Roy '78  
roysteve55@gmail.com

**NED ANDREWS**  
Ben Cameron '93  
ben@harbor  
digitalsystems.com

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
Michael Chambers '80  
mcham31153@aol.com

**PANAMA CANAL**  
Juan Molino '89  
jemolino@gmail.com

**PENOBSCOT BAY**  
Lindsey Pinkham '04  
lindsey@midcoast  
firststaid.com

**PUGET SOUND**  
Mark Keene '12  
m.keene92@gmail.com

**SEACOAST**  
DK Horne '80  
dkhorne1@aol.com

**SOUTH FLORIDA**  
Jessica Stahl '11  
jess.stahl24@gmail.com

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

**SOUTHEAST ATLANTIC**  
Capt. Jay Stewart '00  
capt.jtws@gmail.com

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

**TEXAS**  
Josh Shaw '12  
joshua.shaw1985@gmail.com

**TIDEWATER**  
Michael Ward '10  
michael.t.ward2010@gmail.com

**WASHINGTON, DC**  
Eric Dankewicz '05  
edankewicz@mdpilots.com

**INTERNATIONAL**  
Mason Hall '13  
masonhall33@gmail.com

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**Boston Marine Society**  
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Boston, MA 02129  
617-242-0522  
[info@bostonmarinesociety.org](mailto:info@bostonmarinesociety.org)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**JUNE 17-20**  
CLASS OF '64  
SUMMER REUNION, MMA

**JUNE 24**  
MAINE MARINER GOLF  
CLASSIC, BRUNSWICK  
COUNTRY CLUB

**JULY 8-10**  
CLASS OF '65  
SUMMER REUNION, MMA

**JULY 15-17**  
CLASS OF '84  
SUMMER REUNION, MMA

**AUGUST 12-14**  
CLASS OF '66  
SUMMER REUNION, MMA

**SEPT. 25**  
SEACOAST ALUMNI CHAPTER  
GOLF TOURNAMENT, SANFORD  
COUNTRY CLUB, SANFORD, ME

**SEPT. 27-29**  
HOMECOMING WEEKEND,  
MMA

**OCT. 3**  
MID-ATLANTIC GOLF  
TOURNAMENT HOSTED BY  
DC CHAPTER, THE ARMY NAVY  
COUNTRY CLUB,  
ARLINGTON, VA

SAVE  
THE  
DATE!  
→

# Class Notes

## 1958

In July of 2023 Joan and Gerry Astorino '58 celebrated their 63rd year of married life.

## 1958

Francis (Frank) Tepedino writes, "Just celebrated my birthday. Still active and very much involved. I am, and have been, a Board Member at the University of San Diego School of Law for some 26 years. I am retired from my consulting company, however I am now teaching Ethics at the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego, CA. Health, so far, is good. I swim 500 yards and work out on 4 weight machines five days a week. I am still driven by "the clock" and still hang my shirts and suits all facing "Right" in my closets from the training at MMA."

## 1959

The Brewer City Council filed a resolution and public announcement on February 29, 2024, recognizing the positive influence of Thomas Kelly III to the well-being and development of his community and to the high esteem held for Thomas Kelly III by the citizens and officials of the City of Brewer, Maine.

## 1961



Jim Zedalis '62 writes, "Norm 'Toad' Meissner 61E and Jim 'Zeke' Zedalis 62E testing an electric powered launch in Venice, Florida, 2013. I would go on to buy a similar electric powered launch in 2023 and am still driving it on the waters near New Burn, NC. Zeke had more sense and continues to bask in the Florida sun. Be well, Toad and Zeke."

## 1964

Capt. John Chapman states, "Retired from Houston Pilots after 16 years. Going to MMA was the The Best Thing!"

## 1965

Cal Lechman encourages all 1965 classmates to join them for their monthly Zoom call on the 1st of every month! Hope to see you there! Class Reunion is July 8-10, 2024.

## 1965



Sam Rowe '65 recently performed a major overhaul on a 55-year-old Fitchburg General Electric Steam Turbine at Engro Fertilizers Limited, Daharki, Pakistan. In appreciation, the customer maintenance manager presented Rowe with a kufi and scarf typical of those worn by the local population.

## 1966

Lincoln Nye retired from ANL Shipping Co. as Chief Engineer for over 25 years.

## 1968

Tom R. Littlefield is retired. For the last 13 years, he has been the chaplain for American Legion Post 87 in Berwick, Maine, where he has resided all his life.

## 1970

Jim Braiser writes, "55 years in a nutshell. I sailed for 34 years before taking a job ashore as VP of Operations for an international ocean carrier in Tampa. After 10 years I retired (again) and moved to the North Georgia mountains. I have two children, a son in Maine and a daughter in Oregon."

## 1971

Kevin Gildart says, "I was an executive at Bath Iron Works for 38 years. I have been retired for 13 years, enjoying life with

family, kids, grandkids, golf, cooking, and regular exercise. MMA set the foundation for all of the above. Thank you!"

## 1972



Steve Palmer writes, "Four members of the class of 1972 connected at a meeting of the Boston Marine Society in November 2023. Left to right are Capt. Dave Ward, Capt. Steve Palmer, Capt. Don Spring & Capt. Andy Triandafilou. The BMS continues to support scholarship efforts at Maine Maritime on an annual basis."

## 1972

Louis Normand writes, "After retiring a decade ago, my wife Patty and I relocated to Rhode Island to be closer to family and grandchildren. Now residing in Warwick, RI, I keep busy with activities such as church choir, community theatre, golfing, cycling, and kayaking. Recently, I participated in a century (100-mile) bike race, placing in the top 3 for the over 65 age group. Additionally, I stay active in the CT/RI MMA Alumni Chapter and the newly formed MMA Blue and Gold, representing MMA at recruiting events. On pleasant days, Patty and I enjoy taking rides in our Pontiac Solstice sports car and exploring different parts of our charming state of Rhode Island."

## 1973

John Webster writes, "Spent the week in Florida with Tom and Janice Davis, Buddy and Joan Bryce, Dick and Beth Annis, and Brad Cahill. All class of 73."

## 1975

Raymond Mann writes, "My roommate for all 4 years at MMA and I continue to get together as often as possible. Capt. Mike Mahoney and I traveled to France with our wives and chartered two canal boats and explored the French waterways (while sipping a Merlot or two, or three). We also spent a week in the Normandy area and paid tribute to the brave American military who sacrificed it all for all of us. In a more recent gathering, we met in Annapolis for another mini-reunion; and

are planning our next trip! I am looking forward to 2025 for our 50th reunion and to see everyone. Stay well and be safe."

## 1976



Mohammad Jalal Mirza sent in a couple of pictures and writes, "MMA is my second home where I spent the best time of my life."

## 1977

David Sullivan states, "I retired after 5 years as Chief Boiler Inspector of Arkansas, 18 years total. I remain active on NBIC of ASME code committees. I also retired in 2005 from MEBA after 25 years. I live in Little Rock with my wife of 11 years."

## 1978



From Mariner to Monk — The Rev. Prior Kevin LaMarre, O.S.B. celebrated the 30th anniversary of his Solemn Profession of monastic vows to the Order of

St. Benedict, on October 16th, 2023. Fr. Kevin sends his sincerest greetings and best wishes to all fellow-classmates and friends of the Class of 1978.

## 1980

Stephen Joseph is retired and living in St. George, Maine.

## 1980

John "Skip" Stanley recently retired after 40 years with the US Coast Guard.

## 1986

"David Cross, Co-Founder and Vice President of Sales and Business Development for Safe and Green Holdings Corp., has been selected to serve on the Modular Building Institute's Government Affairs Committee. Among his accomplishments,



## Join the Blue and Gold Ambassador Program

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://bit.ly/4cybm7l>



# CLASS NOTES

Cross leveraged his expertise in container technology to pioneer the PACE (Portable Applications and Containerized Engineering) concept. This innovative approach utilizes shipping containers as foundational elements for construction projects. Furthering his vision, together with fellow founders of the company, he developed a unique design and fabrication methodology centered around transforming standard cargo shipping containers into code-compliant, engineered structures. These modular structures are widely recognized for their safety, strength, and environmental sustainability, marking a significant advancement in the field of construction and engineering. Additionally, he has testified before the 111th Congress on containerized applications for use in emergency response initiatives at the request of FEMA.

Cross commented, "I am deeply honored to have been selected by the Modular Building Institute to serve on their Government Affairs Committee. This appointment not only acknowledges our efforts at Safe & Green, but also represents a significant opportunity to contribute to the broader landscape of modular construction. I look forward to collaborating with industry leaders and policymakers to drive innovation, sustainability, and regulatory advancements that will shape the future of modular construction."

## 1987 & 1991

John DeRose writes, "I have moved to Tampa (Snead Island) and I am working as a Commercial Fleet Director at Keystone Shipping with the Tanker fleet. I am also helping Dave Knapp/ local alumni chapter to connect with more alumni in the area. Jim Carnes '87, along with some friends, are also occasionally getting out fishing."

## 1993



Paul MacGillivray writes, "I gave a presentation on Mercy Ships to the scheduled meeting of the Company of Master Mariners of Australia, Western Australia Branch at Fremantle on Wednesday, February 28, 2024. It is interesting to note that it was 10 years ago, following my service on the Africa Mercy, that I gave a similar presentation to the COMMA, WA Branch. It was as well received this time as it was then. Although for most members attending the meeting the time for serving aboard Mercy Ships has past, many of them have sons, daughters, grandsons and granddaughters following in their seagoing footsteps who are looking for alternatives in their marine training and experience."

## 1994

Michael Neal is a Marine Coordinator and is well-known for all aspects of water safety in the film industry. Neal was born in Sanford, Maine, but lived worldwide before moving to Savannah over 25 years ago. His love of the water led him to become a PADI Dive Instructor, USCG 100 Ton Master Captain, and US Power Boating Instructor. He achieved a degree from Maine Maritime Academy in Marina Management. Neal's background and vast skills have made him uniquely qualified for his position as a Marine and Water Safety Coordinator in film and television productions in the Savannah area and nationwide. Given his ability to

scout water locations, prepare budgets, assemble a marine crew, find picture boats, camera boats, and support vessels, make safety plans, and permit the work, Neal has rapidly become one of the industry's most sought-after Marine and Water Safety Coordinators. Neal lives with his wife, Cathy, and their four dogs on the marsh, where they enjoy being part of the Savannah community. Just a few of Neal's film and television credits include Fear the Walking Dead, Panhandle, The Color Purple, The Menu, The Girl from Plainville, Black Panther 2, Devotion, Underground Railroad, The Falcon and the Winter Soldier, Gemini Man, Peanut Butter Falcon, and Ozark.

## 1994



Andrea Allen (McClintic) writes, "After a few years of volunteer work with the IRS Voluntary Income Tax Assistance program, I went back to school for accounting. Now in my 6th year with VITA, I have gone to work seasonally for Intuit. It enables John Allen (class of 95) and I to spend the summers in Surry, Maine and winters in Vero Beach, FL. With over 20 years sailing as Captain, John has recently moved to Diamond Offshore's drillship-Ocean Blackhawk, drilling in the GOM. We manage to avoid the snow pretty well except when visiting our son in Utah."

## 1995



Kevin Walker visited the Israeli Authority for Marine Training and Education in Akko, Israel to review their lifeboat and firefighting training courses. "They gave me a full tour of the academy and discussed marine education and shipping in Israel. I currently work as the Training and Competency Advisor for Chevron's Eastern Mediterranean Business Unit located in Herzliya, Israel." (l-r: Walker, Alexei Kolesnicov, his Israeli co-worker at Chevron)

## 1995

William Burney reports that he is working for Allnorth as VP of Energy & Renewables.

## 1995, 1997, 2002, 2014



Sean Eager submitted this picture working aboard the ATB Brownsville: Left to right - C/E Matt McLaughlin 1995, 1A/E Ethan Stubbs 2014, C/M Peter Desmond 1997, Captain Sean Eager 2002

## 1996

Allan Cameron has retired from driving trucks after nearly losing his life in a horrible accident. He moved to Mississippi after being certified as a Master Gunsmith and opened Battle Born Gunsmithing where he now enjoys

his passion for guns with his wife by his side. His wife, Sherri, has battled throat cancer and kicked its butt. They both are enjoying life together in the country setting closer to two of their children. Cameron has taken on one of his son-in-laws as an apprentice in the shop.

**1998**

Jim Shibley writes, "I have resided in the greater Houston, TX area for the past 17 years. Been with Entergy, The Woodlands, TX office, for the past 6+ years as a lead mechanical/project engineer supporting combined cycle, simple cycle, RICE & BESS power plant projects across the gulf states (TX, LA, AR & MS). Outside of work, hobbies include enjoying Corvettes acquired, volunteering at local charities, visiting the Texas hill country and beaches on the Gulf of Mexico."

**2004**



Marcus von Spiegel reports, "In February, Crowley Wind Services completed the transportation and delivery of WTG (wind turbine generators) for the first commercial scale offshore wind site, South Fork Wind Farm. Due

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# CLASS NOTES

to Jones Act Rules, a foreign flag WTIV (Wind Turbine Installation Vessel) can't load turbines in US ports and take them offshore for installation. Crowley Wind Services developed a feeding system which would load WTG's onto our 400x105' barges, tow them offshore and land the barge alongside the WTIV using an Ocean Class DP2 tug and a PRT 150 ton bollard pull assist tug. There was a year and a half of operational planning a collaboration that went into this project which included simulated exercises for the captains and R.O.C. (Rehearsal of Concept) Drills to identify any risk issues. In the end, if it wasn't for the amazing boat handling of our captains in the most inhospitable weather conditions, we'd still be working on this project."

## 2011



Craig Sarnecki writes, "Started a beautiful family in Porter, Texas, and working for Seacor Marine since August 2012. Free time is Paintball with my son, fixing old v-twins, and South American Ground Karate (Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu)."

## 2012

Josh Shaw reported that classmate, Chelsea Petten-gill, accepted the position of Port Project Manager in South Portland in February 2023. Later

that year, she was promoted to Assistant Director and then Deputy Director of the Maine Port Authority.



Shaw states, "I'd like to personally congratulate her for her outstanding achievements and for representing MMA so effectively. If you happen to come across her on social media or in town, please extend your congratulations. Let's give Chelsea a round of applause!"

## 2013



Capt. Matthew Berry completed his first year as a marine harbor pilot in the U.S. Virgin Islands for the Virgin Islands Port Authority. Berry expressed that becoming a St. Thomas harbor pilot has been a dream come true, "It is truly everything I have ever wanted in my career. I hope others who have this type of passion will follow their goals and never stop striving to fulfill them."

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## 2015



Andy Pulk married Laurie Stewart at the Tops'l Farm in Waldoboro on May 18, 2024. Laurie teaches technology in the Turner school district and Pulk works as a consultant for Strategic Maintenance Solutions of Gorham.

## 2016

On January 4, 2024, LT Patricia (Trish) Dunford took the Oath of Office at the NOAA Aircraft Operations Center in Lakeland, FL. Prior to this, LT Dunford

served for eight years in the United States Navy, where she worked as a P-3 Orion Navigator and a P-8 Poseidon Tactical Coordinator. During her time ashore, she was stationed at Commander Task Force 69/169 in Naples, Italy, where she held roles as the Deputy of Foreign Plans and Policy and as the Department Head of Theater Undersea Warfare Future Operations.

## 2017

Erin Donlon was ordained as a deacon in the Catholic Church at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Portland, Maine, on May 25, 2024.

## 2018

Jackson Larrabee got married to his wife Jasmine in June

2023 at St Anne's-by-the-Sea in Kennebunkport. They relocated from Eastport, Maine and now live in Kennebunk, Maine. Larrabee also started a new position in May 2023 as Operations Manager for the Maine Port Authority.

## 2021



Joe Marriner joined Lynch Logistics, a division of The Lynch Group, as their new Business

Development Executive. Marriner said the following about his new position, "My role in business development allows me to be constantly getting to know new customers and help find creative solutions to their needs. It's perfect for me because at the end of the day, my success is directly tied to our customers' success. I can go home at the end of the day feeling like I won because everyone around me won. We get to support our families and the families of the local companies that we help succeed every day." He is married to his wife, Bari, and they are parents to three children: Elaina, Ezra, and Alexi, aged 7, 4, and 1, respectively.

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# Eight Bells

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

## **DEANE E. DESHON '53**

died unexpectedly on December 2, 2023, at Christiana Hospital in Newark, Del. Born in Damariscotta, Deshon was active in athletics at Rockland (Maine) High School, where he graduated in the class of 1950 and graduated from MMA with a Nautical Science degree in 1953. At the end of 1953, he took his commission as an ensign in the U.S. Navy on the destroyer USS *Benham* (DD 796). After two years in the Navy, Deshon returned to Rockland, where he took a position as city recreation director and coach of the town's Pony League baseball team. Deshon then earned a B.S. degree in physical education. In 1962, Deshon worked as an instructor of health and physical education and coach of baseball and basketball at Salisbury State Teacher's College. He retired from coaching in 1997 as the 13th most-winning baseball coach in NCAA Division III history. Deshon's career honors include being the 1967 Maryland Intercollegiate Basketball Coach of the Year, 1971 N.A.I.A. District 19 Baseball Coach of the Year, 1979 N.A.I.A. District 3 Baseball Coach of the Year, 1998 inductee to the Salisbury (Md.) University Athletics Hall of Fame, 2012 inductee to the Eastern Shore (Md.) Baseball Hall of Fame and 2013 inductee to the Midcoast (Maine) Sports Hall of Fame.

## **CAPT. JOHN H. WIBBY '54**

passed away on February 14, 2024, at the Gosnell House. He grew up and attended school in Bangor, Maine. After graduating from MMA, he volunteered for active Naval service. After completing his service on the destroyer USS *Benham*, he returned to Maine to earn his teaching credentials at the University of Maine at Orono. Wibby taught physics at Yarmouth High School, Scarborough High School, and Mount Ararat High School. He was also an officer in the U.S. Naval Reserve and retired at the rank of Captain. He was a lifelong learner and educator. After his career in teaching,

Wibby turned his attention to politics and was especially active with Maine Taxpayers United. He worked diligently to educate politicians about government spending and the consequences for his grandchildren. Eventually he started working for the Gray Republicans and other conservative initiatives. Throughout Wibby's life, he took on many hobbies. He was an active umpire for Yarmouth Little League. He became a small plane pilot and enjoyed seeing Maine from the air. Golf, reading history books, and listening to music were vital parts of his life. He enjoyed ballroom dancing and became an enthusiast and instructor. He loved time with his children and grandchildren.

## **CAPT. HEINRICH W. BRACKER '55**

died September 22, 2023. He was born in Hamburg, Germany. His military career spanned over forty years as an Officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve and U.S. Army Reserve. Bracker worked as a teacher for twenty years in Connecticut. In Florida, he became a realtor and later published vignettes of history for posterity. Bracker was a member of the Tarpon Springs Masonic Lodge #112.

## **WILLIS F. MORSE '56**

passed away on February 15, 2024. Morse graduated from Morse High School in Bath, Maine, and received an engineering degree from MMA. He served in the U.S. Navy on the USS *Philippine Sea* CVS 47 as an engineering officer for two years, after which he shipped for American Trading and Production Co. until 1967. He then came ashore and joined The Babcock and Wilcox Co. in New York City as a service engineer until 1979. Returning to Maine, he worked as a senior test engineer at Bath Iron Works and retired in 1995. Morse had a long and happy retirement spending winter months golfing in Florida and Mississippi and enjoying life in Maine with his wife, his two children, and his two grandchildren.

## **CAPT. WILLIAM K. BANKS USN(RET.) '56**

passed away on January 13, 2024. Banks attended Bangor High School and MMA. He served in the United States Navy.

## **PAUL E. PENLEY '56**

passed away on October 5, 2023. Penley graduated from Edward Little High School in Auburn, Maine and from MMA with a Bachelor of Marine Science degree, a U.S. Coast Guard Third Engineer license and a commission in the U.S. Naval Reserve. Penley served on various ships and shore duty during his Naval career including a one-year tour of duty in Vietnam. After leaving the Navy in 1967, with the rank of Lieutenant, Penley commenced his civilian career at Electric Boat until his retirement in 1996. Penley enjoyed many hobbies including needlecraft projects, rug making, woodworking, and yard work. He was a self-proclaimed do-it-yourself handyman. His greatest achievement, with the help from his family, was the construction of a three-bedroom home in the 1980's. Penley was a dedicated member of the Preston City Congregational Church and a member of the North Stonington Community Grange, P. of H. No. 1338.

## **RODNEY L. SCRIBNER '56**

died on January 22, 2023. Scribner was educated in Norway, Maine, schools and graduated from MMA. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the United States Navy before working as a Merchant Marine. He was the State of Maine Treasurer for many years and held many jobs within state government. Scribner also was an instructor in Governmental Finance at the University of Maine and the author of "Raising State and Local Revenues: Emerging Patterns in Revenue Systems". Scribner was a member of 103rd Legislature (Appropriations Committee), Campaign Director and Treasurer for Governor Curtis in 1966, and he was active in voter registration drives

for 12 years. Scribner was a member of the Maine Society of Public Accountants, American Institute of C.P.A., past president of Maine Chapter, American Society for Public Administration, National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers. He had a passion for HAM Radio for many years, taught students how to operate HAM Radio, and enjoyed summers at the ocean with family and friends.

### **GERARD F. FERNALD '58**

of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, passed away on February 16, 2023.

### **CAPT. THOMAS W. KELLY III '59**

passed away on October 23, 2023. Kelly graduated from Brewer High School in 1955, where he excelled in football and captained the baseball team for three years. He then graduated from MCI in Pittsfield in 1956 and MMA in 1959, receiving his Bachelor's degree in Nautical Science. Following graduation, Kelly began his 30 year active-duty Naval career, where he commanded several ships and shore commands. During his career, Kelly was awarded several decorations, including the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars with Combat Valor, and two Meritorious Service Awards. Following his distinguished Naval career, Kelly established Kelstar International Company, an international trading company specializing in European business. He relocated to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where he set up a multi-million-dollar juice company. He returned to the U.S., settling in Blue Hill, Maine, where he was an active member of many organizations. At age 67, he volunteered to support the American troops during the Iraq War by living and working in Baghdad for eight months providing technical and organizational support to U.S. forces. His achievements were recognized in Don Colson's book, "Quiet Courage", published in 2007. Kelly also was a member of the Brewer Kiwanis Club and an active member of the Brewer American Legion Post 98. Kelly especially loved fishing in Maine, football, baseball, collecting antiques, participating in local politics, and loved cars. Kelly was a loyal and generous friend to many people and could always be counted upon to lend a hand and provide sound guidance to our youth.

### **THOMAS RUSH III '64**

died February 10, 2024. Rush attended schools in Quincy and Haverhill, Mass.,

where he graduated high school in 1959. Rush then attended Huntington Prep School, Boston, Mass., followed by MMA, graduating in 1964, the first four-year class. Rush immediately began a sailing career, initially as 3rd Engineer aboard the SS *Manhattan*. Within eleven years, Rush upgraded his license to Chief Engineer. He was also a member of the Naval Reserves, retiring in 1971, having received the rank of Lieutenant. The lure of his family convinced Rush it was time to retire from sailing life on the high seas and in 1979 he began an entirely different career, becoming General Manager of A.L. Stewart & Sons/Oxford Frozen Foods, LTD., in Cherryfield, Maine, and retiring after 33 years. Rush was a longtime deacon of Eden Baptist Church. Rush hadn't completely ended his sailing and became captain of his 18-foot wooden lap streak, and through acquiring other small crafts through the years, eventually received his residential lobster license and enjoyed harvesting his catch with his son in Frenchman Bay. Rush also enjoyed gardening, golf, and other landlocked interests.

### **NEAL P. MCPHEE '65**

passed away December 25, 2023. Born in Boothbay, Maine, McPhee was part of a long legacy of Boothbay families. McPhee graduated college in 1965 as part of the second student body class to complete a full 4-year program at MMA. After graduating, McPhee began his career as a merchant mariner for Texaco which after many years culminated as Commodore Chief Engineer. He retired in 1994. McPhee shipped all over the world, including through the Panama Canal. During his time at sea, he invented the McPhee Crossover, a new approach to fuel management that was far more efficient and was implemented throughout the Texaco fleet. A life at sea suited McPhee as it requires a unique self-discipline to honor the responsibility for the lives of those who sail with you. McPhee exemplified the high ideals and qualifications of an officer and a gentleman of the United States Merchant Marine. When not at sea, he loved cooking big breakfasts, woodworking, and spending days out in the harbor on his boat, *Trick's End*.

### **JAMES V. WEAST '67**

passed away on February 22, 2024. After he graduated high school, Weast attended MMA. He spent over 30 years working at

Maine Yankee in Wiscasset, Maine. After the plant decommissioning, Weast worked for Duke Power. His new co-workers quickly learned that this "Maine Yankee" came to them missing the ability to pronounce the letter "R". Although they teased, he loved it and formed friendships that he treasured. Weast led by example and taught his children the importance of treating others the way you want to be treated, living with integrity, and standing for what was right even if it wasn't easy. He learned his sense of giving back to the community from his father and followed in his footsteps by being a member of the Dresden Masonic Lodge No. 103 and the Kora Shriners Temple, both for over 50 years. Weast was an avid golfer; he could often be found traveling the state chasing the elusive perfect score. He spent most of his retirement visiting various Civil War Battle sites. Weast loved to putter around the house working on his yard and always had some project he was working on. If he wasn't puttering or traveling you could find him reading one of his many Tom Clancy books, which he loved. Weast was known for his great love of family, animals, and his ability to never meet a stranger. If he was your friend, he was your friend through thick and thin.

### **WILLIAM G. MURPHY '68**

passed away on March 6, 2024. Murphy was born in Portland and was a graduate of Cheverus High School, Class of 1964, and MMA's Class of 1968.

### **BRUCE R. BOND '68**

died on February 23, 2024. Born in Cambridge, Mass., Bond graduated from Arlington High School and MMA. Upon graduation, he worked for Texaco Inc., delivering marine products between Port Arthur, Texas, and the northeast. He also worked in Marine Sales. Upon retirement, Bond moved to Center Harbor, New Hampshire, where he could enjoy lakes, forests, and boats. He enjoyed a wide range of boats throughout his life, from rowboats and canoes to outboard motorboats, including small outboards, jet boats, and higher-powered crafts before graduating to *Thunderchief*, a very fast and loud 29' outboard – all the while also having a trusted pontoon boat at the dock on Lake Waukegan. Bond was an active board member of the Bay Shore Yacht Club for many years. Bond volunteered his skills to the Town of Meredith for various projects,

## EIGHT BELLS

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such as Lake Waukegan Water Testing Project. Bond was always there whenever something needed to be done, and when personally involved, he was meticulous.

### **CAPT. DANIEL F. MACKINNON '68**

passed away on November 14, 2023. Raised in Berlin, New Hampshire, MacKinnon graduated from Berlin High School in 1963. He graduated from MMA in 1968. After graduation, MacKinnon went to work for Lykes Brother Steamship Company out of New Orleans and he remained a resident of South Louisiana for the next 55 years. He sailed for Lykes for 25 years and saw every major port in nearly every country that was not locked behind the Iron Curtain. He held a commission as a reserve officer in the United States Navy Reserve during the Vietnam War, carrying munitions and supplies into Saigon and other ports in the conflict area, and was discharged as a Lieutenant in 1973. He sailed for most of his career as Chief Mate until sitting for his Masters License in 1987 and sailing his final years as master. He retired from Lykes Brothers in 1993. MacKinnon then began a second career as a marine surveyor, working 24 years for Technical Maritime Associates and Dufour, Laskey, and Strauss. MacKinnon grew up playing hockey, football, and baseball and loved sports throughout his life. As an adult, he enjoyed softball and sailing. He was an avid hunter and fisherman as a child and continued to fish throughout his life. MacKinnon loved to be on the water and continued to boat and sail long after he retired from going to sea. MacKinnon loved to cook and learned many of his recipes from the stewards on his ships.

### **G. EDWARD WALSH '69**

passed away on November 28, 2023. After attending MMA, Walsh shipped for twelve years, closing his sea life as a Chief Engineer. Later, he worked in multiple industries as an engineer and in business development. Nearing retirement, Walsh opened his business consulting firm, The Lamson Group, named after the ship his father served on during WWII. Walsh was also a Maine Guide and enjoyed fly fishing.

### **GLENN A. GOULD '72**

passed away on December 18, 2023. Born in Boston, Mass., Gould was known for his athleticism. He was an outstanding

baseball and football player at Holliston High School Mass., where he graduated in 1968. Gould excelled playing football at MMA and was the team's co-captain his senior year. He was highly respected by his teammates and his classmates. Upon graduation in 1972, Gould sailed with United Fruit and Army Corp of Engineers for a few years before coming ashore to work as an executive directing Global Operations at Texaco's world-wide headquarters in White Plains, New York, where he traveled and worked internationally, making friends wherever he was. Gould achieved the rank of Commander as a Select Reservist in the U.S. Navy in the Merchant Marine Reserves. He was an honorary member of the Boston Marine Society, Association of Military Officers, and MMA Alumni Association.

### **JOSEPH E. VAIL '80**

passed away on February 15, 2024. Vail graduated from Bonny Eagle High School in 1976 and MMA in 1980, where he was a member of the soccer team. He graduated in the top 10 of his class with a BS in Marine Engineering and a minor in Engineering Science. He was a Senior Field Engineer for General Electric from 1980 until his retirement in June of 2022. Vail was a member of the Naval Architects and Marine Engineers. He spent some years living in Virginia before returning to Maine to be closer to his family. He was a respected leader in his field and was sought out for advice often, even in retirement. When Vail wasn't working, he enjoyed spending time with his family, boating, fishing with his dad and grandkids, and hunting with his brother and friends. He enjoyed watching sports, especially the Patriots, listening to the Beatles, and traveling. Vail had quite a sense of humor, at times inappropriate, and a highly contagious laugh.

### **CAPT. GREGORY D. HALL '81**

passed on December 20, 2023. Hall graduated from Searsport High School in 1977 and as a deck officer from MMA in 1981. After a successful three-decade career as a maritime officer, Hall retired to enjoy a life of family, friends, and relaxation at his farm in Monroe and his camp on Ambajejus Lake. He was known for living life to its fullest; enjoying sports, making good food, watching his theatrical and musical family perform, exploring the

locations and histories of the Maine north woods, riding his motorcycle, listening to his favorite music, and loving his family with an indescribable passion. His greatest solace was watching the sunset at camp with a cigar and whiskey in hand and his faithful companion dog, Abol, at his side.

### **JAMES R. FERNALD '84**

passed away on March 9, 2024. Fernald graduated from MMA, where he earned a degree in marine engineering, and participated in the sailing team. After graduation, he worked in major cities across the country, where he found himself in the chief engineer role for high-rise buildings and mega hotels. After a few years away, he found himself longing to return home to Maine, where he worked as a fifth-generation funeral director. He gave back to his profession by developing and mentoring many practitioners, championing the skills learned growing up in a small business, and helping the profession continue to meet the changing needs of the community. Fernald never missed a chance to reconnect with the places and people he loved. He enjoyed boating, sailing with his racing team, cycling, hiking, convertible rides, UMaine hockey and Celtics games, and skiing.

### **JOHN R. ANDERSON, JR. '84**

passed away unexpectedly on February 14, 2024. Born in Portland, Anderson grew up in South Portland, attended Willard Elementary School, Mahoney Middle School, and graduated from South Portland High School in 1980. After high school, he graduated from MMA, following in the footsteps of his cousin Mark Hellen. Anderson would go on to spend the next 25+ years moving up from Third Engineer (Crest Oil Tankers) to Second Engineer (Kingston, Jamaica, Barahona, Dominican Republic Independent Power Consultant) to First Engineer (Keystone Shipping Company) and quickly to Chief Engineer for Alaska Tanker Company. As most mariners will tell you, a career of 75 days on and 75 days off takes its own toll. However, there was something about the open seas that lured and captivated Anderson. Sailing gifted him with a clarity, a self-knowledge that his one value in life was family. Wherever Anderson was, it soon became a celebration because he and you were together.

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## STEPHEN A. ROWLAND '86

passed away December 17, 2023. He graduated from Jay High School, after which he would go on to play football at MMA while earning his bachelor's in Marine Engineering Technology. Upon graduation, Rowland began his career in the Navy where he would fly P-3 Orions. Upon retiring from the Navy as a Lieutenant in 1990, he began a career in manufacturing. In 2017 Rowland started his business Creative Creations Woodworking. As a talented woodworker, this was his ideal job and he excelled at it. Rowland was a loving and caring father to his three sons, attending every sporting function he could, and coaching at any opportunity. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, fly fishing, and was an active member in the NAVHDA and NADKC hunting dog communities.

## JON J. FORTIER '86

passed away on September 30, 2023. Fortier graduated from Winslow High School in 1982. He went on to graduate from MMA with a BS in engineering, and then embarked on his prolific engineering career. After several years with General Dynamics - Electric Boat Division as a Submarine Construction Foreman, Fortier began his long career with Westinghouse/Northrup Grumman as a field engineer, supervising the construction and installation of turbines and turbo generators in many U.S. Navy vessels. Fortier retired from Northrup Grumman in 2010 and began a career as an independent contractor, where his expertise was in constant demand. One memorable assignment for the Navy had him flying to the Middle East and landing on an aircraft carrier to oversee a turbine repair. Once done, he was catapulted off the carrier. In 2011, the City of Boston hired him to oversee the construction of its new fire boat. When completed, Fortier's fee was officially noted to be the best money they'd spent thanks to his attention to detail. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and loved snowmobiling. At MMA, Fortier became part of a large "band of brothers" that became lifetime friends. Many of those midshipmen were the very ones, amongst his many other great friends, who kept him laughing and reminiscing in the last weeks of his wonderful life. Fortier made a generous donation to the MMA Class of 1986 Endowed Scholarship Fund and will forever be associated with that great institution.

## TIMOTHY T. KORDA '87

sailed over the horizon on March 14, 2024. Korda loved animals, nature, and being at the shore and sea at Camp Ellis with his beloved dog, Nestle. Korda grew up in Falmouth, Maine, attended Falmouth schools, and graduated from Hebron Academy. He graduated with a Nautical Science degree from MMA. A highly skilled seaman, Korda shipped out to destinations around the world on naval, research, and training vessels including to the Persian Gulf and the Arctic Circle. In Maine, he enjoyed lobster fishing and urchin diving in Casco Bay and Midcoast. He was especially proud of his restoration of a Herreshoff sailboat, *Thunder Rose*, to her original specifications. On land, he enjoyed working with residents and crew at Ocean View.

## JOSEPH M. POLTRACK, JR. '88

passed away on February 17, 2024. Poltrack was born in Stamford, Conn. He went to grammar school in Stamford and graduated from Stamford Catholic High School in 1961. Poltrack joined the U.S. Naval Reserve to serve his country after high school and served on active duty in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War on the USS *Constellation* aircraft carrier and numerous other ships and locations. He became enchanted with the state of Maine after being stationed there for a period with the U.S. Navy and made Maine his permanent home. After retiring from the Navy in 1994, Poltrack went on to work at MMA, a job that he thoroughly enjoyed.

## LANCE A. BURTON '90 & '13

passed away February 23, 2024. Burton grew up on Monhegan Island Plantation, enjoying life with his friends, before attending MMA as a member of the Class of '90E. After graduation, Burton worked at Newport News Shipbuilding for ten years in the nuclear fueling program, supporting both submarine & aircraft carrier work. Burton moved home to Maine in 2001 when he and his partners started Downeast Marine Resources. Burton then began his career at MMA, where he loved instructing his students and was celebrated with an Excellence in Teaching Award in 2014. Burton was a genial soul, always ready to greet you with a smile and a laugh. He was often seen zipping around town on his blue scooter, wearing his signature color: day-glow orange. Burton enjoyed working on projects, whether working in his shop, tinkering on engines, or lending a hand to neighbors. In

nice weather, he would often be found in the yard gardening & tending to his fruit trees, but he always had time to stop and speak with friends when they stopped in to say hello. In rainy weather, he might be found inside, piled on by cats. Burton also enjoyed spending time with his family, either at home, or on special trips to Boston, MA or Sanibel, FL. An avid New England Patriots fan, Burton was beginning to appreciate both the Boston Celtics & Maine Black Bears Hockey.

## LT. JONATHAN SETH BARROWS '94

passed away December 8th, 2023. Barrows graduated from Burr and Burton Academy in Manchester, Vermont, and later received his bachelor's degree in Marine Engineering Operations from MMA. Upon graduation, he became a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy. He later served in the U.S. Air Force and had a combined total of 25 years of service to his country. Towards the end of his military career, Barrows became interested in brewing his own beer. After much research and practice, he decided to attend the American Brewers Guild "Brew School" in Middlebury. Post-retirement, he decided to establish his own brewery where he would be his own boss. On February 12th, 2021, he opened Farm Road Brewing, offering food to accompany a rotating roster of beers. The beers carried locally and personally inspired names such as "Bronson", "767", "Black Pearl", "Equinox," and "I Don't Know, Margo" to name a few. Besides his passion for the Brewery and the world of brewing, Barrows enjoyed listening to the Grateful Dead and Phish. Above all, he enjoyed spending time with friends and family.

## CHARLES T. JADAMEC '05

died on February 25, 2024. Jadamec will be deeply missed by his family and his co-workers at Electric Boat. His work ethic and advisement, both at home and professionally, will be sorely missed. Jadamec loved working outside more than anything else and was happiest driving around the yard on his John Deere tractor, hiking through the woods tapping maple trees, or tending to his gardens.


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

### ***Bowdoin* Returns to the Arctic in 2024**

IN LATE MAY, Schooner *Bowdoin* and a very fortunate crew led by Captain Alexander Peacock will make the first trip back into the Arctic Circle since 2008. Originally commissioned by explorer Donald B. MacMillan to facilitate his work in the high northern latitudes, *Bowdoin* has made 29 trips above the Arctic Circle, 26 of those from 1921-54 under the command of MacMillan. Maine Maritime Academy is planning three educational voyages back to the Arctic, including this summer's passage, that trace the historic expeditions of Captain MacMillan. The embarked students will conduct science experiments, practice celestial navigation, collect marine and terrestrial data, and demonstrate seamanship – much like Captain MacMillan and his crew.

*Bowdoin* holds the distinction of both being the only American schooner built specifically for Arctic exploration and as being the official sailing vessel of the state of Maine.



This picture is of Battle Harbour, Labrador, which lies at the southeast corner of the Labrador coast and was always a favorite stop of Macmillan's for provisioning and R&R. The location is also where Admiral Robert Peary broadcasted to the world that he was the first to reach the geographic North Pole in 1909 (with Mac by his side).

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