

# MARINER

The ALUMNI MAGAZINE of MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

— ISSUE 1 • 2025 —

A photograph of two construction workers at a construction site. On the left, a man wearing a white hard hat with a 'MA' logo and a yellow safety vest over a light blue shirt is pointing towards the right. On the right, a woman wearing a white hard hat with an American flag and 'EMPLOYEE OWNED' logo and a yellow safety vest is looking towards the man. In the background, there are red shipping containers, metal structures, and a red crane under a clear blue sky.

**Craig Johnson '91E**  
The Academy's 16th President

A Nuclear  
**Renaissance**

Wlodkowski Named Mossman  
Endowed Chair of Nuclear  
Engineering Technology

**MMA**  
on the IEB

The Academy returns to a  
prominent role within IAMU

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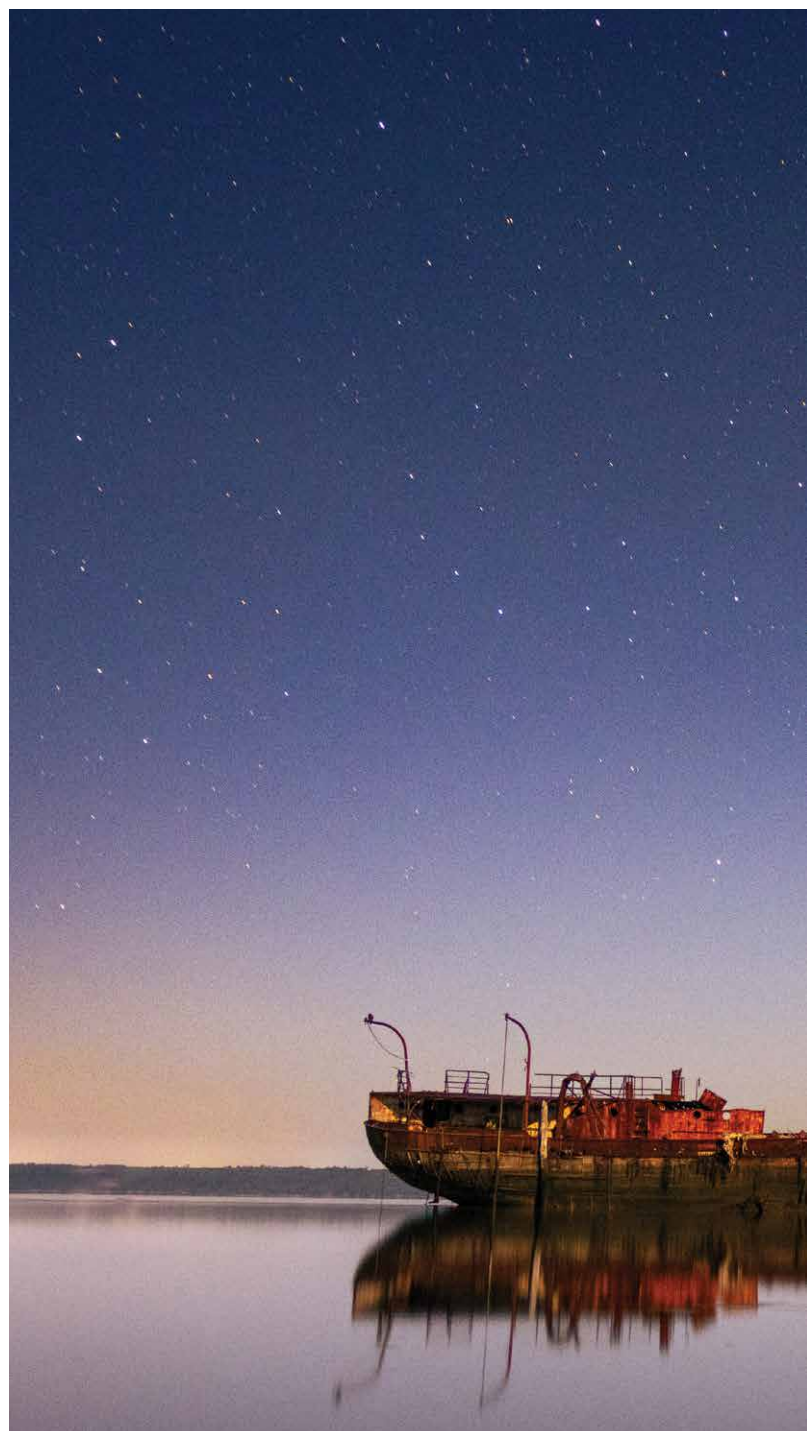
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## Gradient of Time

Photographer: 3/C Joey Valliere

**ON THE COVER:** PRESIDENT CRAIG JOHNSON '91 DISCUSSES THE WATERFRONT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT THE PIER CONSTRUCTION SITE WITH VP OF ADVANCEMENT AND COLLEGE RELATIONS KATE NOEL



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# A Year of Transition

Dear Maine Maritime Academy Community — This has been an incredible year of transition for MMA and I am pleased to be writing you as the 16th President of the Academy. There are many people to whom I am grateful for their support of me and my family through my term as Interim President. The Board of Trustees, Alumni Association and leaders in the industry have shared their support for my vision for the future of MMA and expressed their backing for how I plan to execute that shared vision.

We have challenges ahead to meet the growing demand for mariners across the globe, and to maintain our reputation as a leading educator for all sides of the maritime industry. MMA was the pioneer in brown water programs; we are proud of this mantle and will continue to lean into our limited and unlimited licensing programs. Our marine sciences and logistics fields of study continue to offer industry leading curriculum evolutions and partnerships that will enhance how we deliver that curriculum.

On campus, I have been overwhelmed by the cooperation and camaraderie shown by our faculty, staff and specifically our students. These young men and women are the reason we do what we do every day, and it brings me the most pride to share in their trials and their successes. It is my sincere hope that one day they too will look fondly on their Maine Maritime Academy experience, and that we, the alumni and community surrounding them, will have helped shape that.

Please join me in congratulating the class of 2025, and looking to a future for Maine Maritime Academy that is bold and bright.

Fondly,

Craig Johnson '91 RADM  
President

# Stay Connected with Our MMA Network Around the Globe



Mariners,  
First, I want to congratulate Craig Johnson '91 on his selection as the President of Maine Maritime Academy. He is a great alumnus, actively connected with the Alumni Association, and a great leader for MMA!

As we get underway on another leg of the voyage of MMA, I'm thrilled to share a few initiatives and events with our Maine Maritime Academy Alumni community.

The Alumni Association remains focused on fostering meaningful connections among our global network of

graduates. The Director of Alumni Relations, Seth Brown, along with Officers and Directors of the Alumni Association have been actively meeting with Chapter and Group leaders across the country, ensuring that our regional chapters continue to thrive and are set up to succeed. These chapters are the backbone of our Association, hosting events that build our community and provide a local connection among our alumni.

I'm particularly excited to announce the establishment of a new Castine Chapter! This addition will provide a vital link between MMA students, faculty, local alumni and Academy. We look forward to engaging with students while they are on campus and welcoming them into the Alumni Association through the newly established Castine Chapter.

The Alumni Association has also established an awards committee to ensure that our deserving alumni are recognized for their accomplishments.

In closing, I encourage all of you to stay engaged with your local chapters, attend events, and continue to build the network of Maine Maritime Academy. Your involvement is crucial and invaluable to the Alumni Association.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'AS'.

Andrew C. Strosahl '05

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# Craig Johnson '91E

# The Academy's

# 16th President

Growing up on Bailey Island in mid-coast Maine, Craig Johnson '91E was never far from the water. With generational relationships to fishing and sailing, it was not only a pastime but the foundational connection to a livelihood unlike any other. His immediate and extended family shared this love of the sea and sailboat racing. As a college student, Johnson brought members of the Academy to the islands to show them how fond he was of the Harpswell area, visiting the Bailey Island General Store and Cook's Lobster House, built by his uncle.

A career on the water outside of fishing was not something Johnson initially imagined. His interest in Maine Maritime Academy arose as a result of the success of neighbors and friends who were alumni. As his high school career wound down, his enthusiasm for the challenge that lay up the coast grew; for a tenacious teenager who loved nothing more than being on the water, he was sold.

Following his graduation from MMA, his work in the industry both for large public companies like Hess and as a co-founder of Flagship Management, a maritime-focused executive recruiting firm, helped him build an unparalleled labyrinth of maritime connections. Although he has spent most of his adult life in places other than Maine, those early relationships continue to resurface. Many of these friendships are rooted in ship-

ping and the maritime industry, while others are childhood or family connections established in Maine.

Johnson's affability, quiet confidence, and leadership have made him a consensus builder within the Academy and among other state maritime academies, government, and industry leaders. In the winter of 2024, he was appointed for a second term on the Maritime Transportation System National Advisory by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation; he is the only State Maritime Academy President to hold this honor.

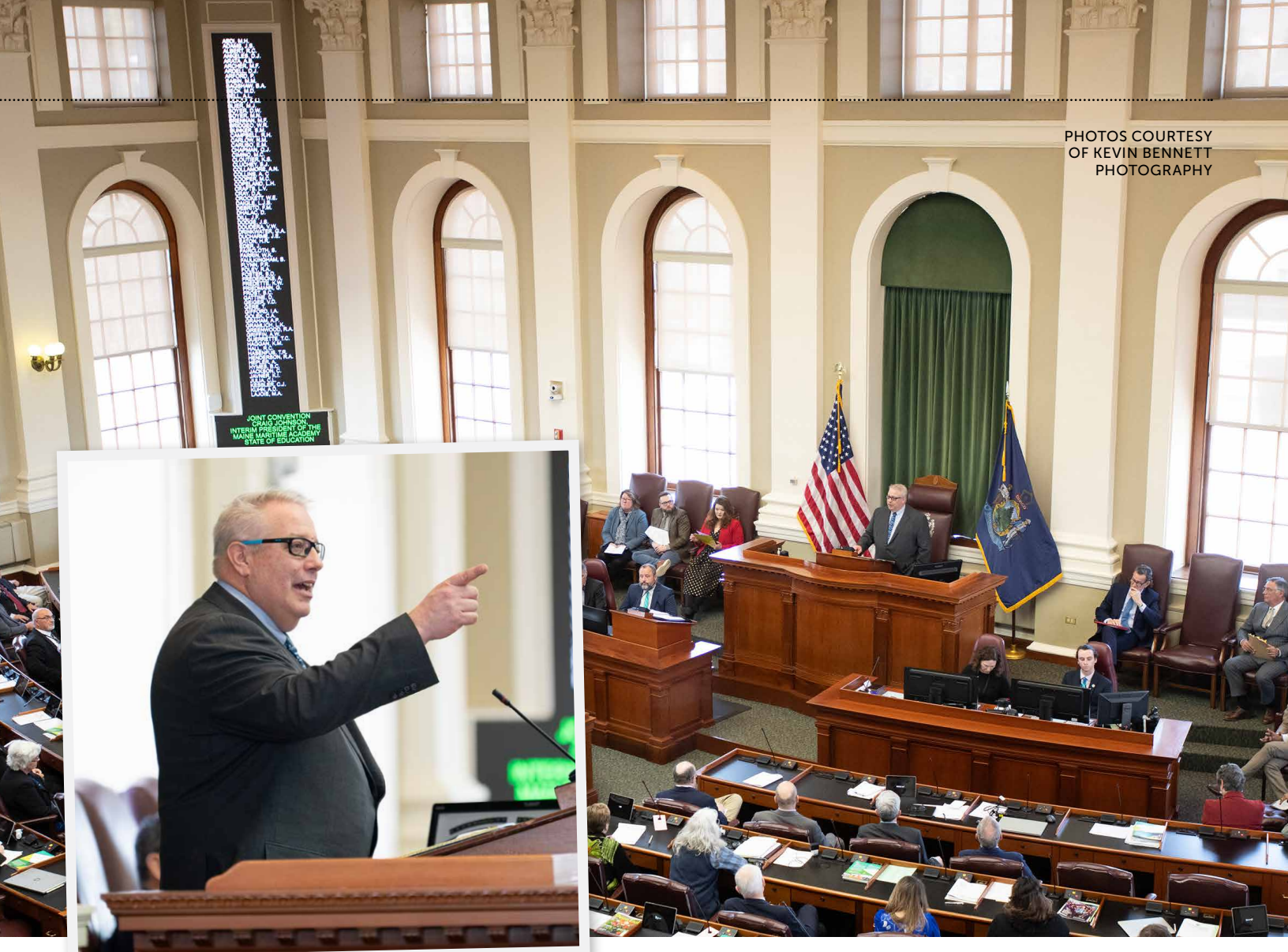
Further developing these relationships – one of his most notable and well-known strengths – will be key to MMA moving forward as he continues to oversee the largest capital infrastructure projects in the history of the Academy: the pier construction project that will berth the National Security Multi-Mission Vessel as well as the renovation of the Curtis Hall dormitory. As the school's Chief Operating Officer since August 2022 and Interim President since May 2024, Johnson's role as a consensus builder and connector in the school's state, federal, and industry relationships are paramount to MMA's future success.

Jack Parker, Chairman and CEO of Maine-based firm Reed & Reed, contractor for the pier project, said, "He understands the complex nature of the project, the multiple parties of interest, and the challenges of the work itself. Johnson is committed to a collaborative approach which entails open communication and transparency, all keys to success."

Named the Academy's 16th President on March 19, 2025, this May marked the first commencement he presided over as President. During his remarks, he imparted on students that, "their future knows no bounds, and three decades from now, [one of them] may also find themselves serving the Academy in a capacity they couldn't have dreamed."

This was certainly the case for Johnson, who after graduating from MMA sailed on tankers prior to working ashore with Hess Corporation, then Seacor Holdings, and Carnival Cruise Lines before co-founding Flagship Management. Even ashore, he never lost his affinity for being on the water, filling that love for the water as a sailing coach for nearly two decades at the US Coast Guard Academy, Boston College, and the University of Miami. It was here, teaching young people and sharing his love of the maritime world, that Johnson began to angle for a move back north. Close friend, alumnus, and Associate Professor of Engineering John Settles commented, "He's the embodiment of what MMA stands for - discipline, innovation, and leadership. His journey from cadet to captain of industry makes him the ideal leader for the Academy's next era. What sets him apart isn't just what he's achieved, but how grounded he's remained. He brings a set of 'old pro tricks' to every challenge."

Perhaps one of the things Johnson is most well-known for after his two years in Castine is his ability to survey an economic or academic need for the



Academy, and problem-solve to fill the void. He has gained recognition throughout the state for his work to bring maritime workforce development and training to life with programs in Castine and Brunswick, Maine, at the Academy's new Maritime Industrial Workforce Training Center. These programs directly impact both the school's reach and the urgent need for a skilled workforce in Maine to serve the robust defense and maritime industry throughout the state. Johnson's relationships with industry and state leaders have made these programs possible. "It's clear that a path forward for the Academy and for Maine is to focus on how we develop a skilled workforce and how we grow interest in and knowledge of the critical role maritime plays in the global economy," he says.

Johnson's relationships with the

town have grown organically through his time in Castine. This solid working partnership has been mutually beneficial for the town and institution as the Academy renovates its waterfront to accept the National Security Multi-Mis-

**"His understated style and unpretentious yet thorough engagement provide the type of thoughtful leadership that builds success for all parties on the project."**

*— Jack Parker, Reed & Reed Chairman and CEO*

sion Vessel, TS State of Maine. The more than \$100 million project is on track for completion in 2027, although the new training ship will tie up there in 2026. The project marks the largest capital infrastructure investment in the

town. His presence on the waterfront is felt often.

Johnson and his wife Sharon, an accomplished and competitive sailor in her own right who currently serves as a sailing coach at the Academy, have embraced their year-round life in Castine. Their two children, Skye and Flynn, share their parents' love of the water and engineering. Skye will enter MMA as a 4/C this September and Flynn may not be far behind.

It is fair to say that as Craig Johnson makes his way through campus each day, his mind is not often at rest. He is focused on what's next for the Academy's students, MMA on the national stage, and the opportunities and challenges that the maritime industry and higher education bring. And of course, there is always hope for a little time left over to hop on a vessel for what he truly loves. ■

# THE ACADEMY'S Nuclear RENAISSANCE

By Paul A. Wlodkowski, Ph.D.

Professor of Engineering

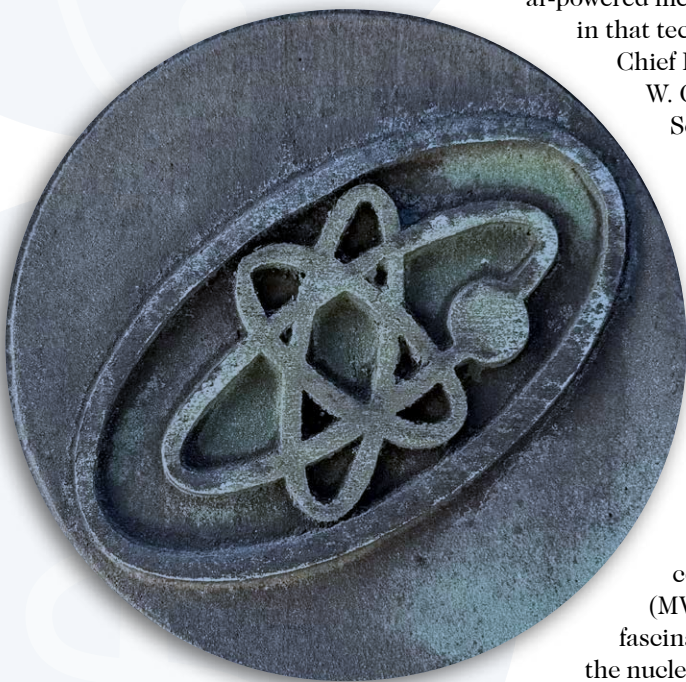
Edward Mossman Endowed Chair of Nuclear Engineering Technology

**T**he Town of Castine is renowned for its historical sites and artifacts, many of which date to the Revolutionary War. Yet one curiosity, located on the MMA Waterfront, is largely forgotten and underappreciated: the Andrews Marine Engineering Laboratory, the birthplace of nuclear engineering at the Academy. What remains is a bronze plaque depicting a propeller, an anchor, and the atom icon, which is featured prominently in the top center.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy was in the White House, but the commercial nuclear industry was launched earlier under the Eisenhower administration as part of the Atoms for Peace program. A major highlight of that era was the world's first nuclear-powered merchant ship, the *NS Savannah*. MMA alumni were integral in that technological showcase, as the *NS Savannah's* crew included Chief Engineer Herbert C. Phelps '57, First Engineer Lawrence W. Gribbin '56, Second Engineer Richard L. Renner '56, and Second Mate Charles B. Weeks, Jr. '64. Renner returned to MMA in the 1960s and taught nuclear engineering coursework while Captain Weeks retired as Professor Emeritus of Marine Transportation and Nautical Science.

Reflecting on the significance of this monument, one is left with a deep sense of appreciation for the contributions and foresight of these alumni, as well as the faculty and administration at that time. Essentially, only twenty years after the founding of the Academy, the Andrews Marine Engineering Laboratory took the lead, ushering in the atomic age in Maine.

Arriving in Castine in 2002 to start an academic career, I was captivated when I first saw the nuclear plaque. In graduate school at the University of Virginia, I conducted materials engineering research at a 2 megawatt (MW) reactor fueled by the Cobalt-60 radioisotope. It was a fascinating experience, but I knew then, in the late 1980s, that the nuclear industry was facing strong headwinds, largely regulatory





ANDREWS  
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LABORATORY

COMPLETED IN 1961

NAMED IN HONOR OF  
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TRUSTEE AND TREASURER  
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The Andrews Marine Engineering Laboratory was the birthplace of nuclear engineering at MMA, and still bears a bronze plaque depicting a propeller, an anchor, and the atom icon.

in nature, coupled with the extensive use of domestic coal, oil, and gas for power generation. While pivoting my academic and industrial interests to electro ceramics for naval applications, I nevertheless hoped that someday the nuclear renaissance would still occur.

Historically, Maine Maritime Academy had been distinct even among maritime academies by offering a highly valued nuclear engineering minor. In fact, through the early 1980s, all marine engineers at the Academy completed two introductory courses in nuclear engineering. The Academy became an early leader within the maritime academic community in

In 2010, Mark A. Coté '83, now an Emeritus Professor of Engineering, developed a special topics course on the nuclear power industry. Yet it was not until the end of 2022 when my chance encounter outside of Dismukes Hall with then MMA President Jerald S. Paul '89 evolved into a serious discussion. We outlined current technological trends in the arena of decarbonization and the development of maritime nuclear propulsion applications, coupled with requests by industry stakeholders. It was evident that a renewal was underway, and for us a clarion call to reconstitute the nuclear engineering minor program.

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### The Academy became an early leader within the maritime academic community in providing marine engineering undergraduate students with an understanding of nuclear power technologies.

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providing marine engineering undergraduate students with an understanding of nuclear power technologies. Those specialized skills augmented the traditional hands-on marine engineering and power engineering curricula that gave students plant operations experience and field-level operational understanding of mechanics, naval architecture, reliability, risk analysis, thermodynamics, materials, repair and maintenance. These nuclear-trained graduates were actively recruited by employers in both the maritime and shoreside power industries and particularly sought by the U.S. Nuclear Navy.

Throughout the 1960s and into the 1970s, the nuclear program was active and in demand, but in the early 1990s when the nuclear industry reached its economic nadir, the nuclear engineering minor was suspended.

By the early 2000s, when I started teaching at the Academy, engineering faculty members were restarting conversations about reintroducing nuclear as awareness of climate issues and the need for finding sources of clean energy grew.

Paul is an alumnus with a minor in nuclear engineering himself and then worked for the U.S. National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA). He recognized the opportunity for the Academy, and by January 2023, he appointed me the Chair of the MMA Nuclear Working Group to begin designing the course plan. I assembled a team of faculty colleagues, including Professors Marsden S. Davis, Lance A. Burton † '90 and '13, Jerald P. Markley '69, Joseph P. Harman '86, and Rory T. Hersom '88. Supplementing that core group was Christopher J. Oelschlegel '05, Senior Submarine Project Manager at Orbis, Inc., William G. Wabberson, a former colleague of President Paul at NNSA, and Michael W. Cukierski, a retired MMA professor who taught nuclear engineering at MMA in the 1980s. Valuable insights were revealed from the past, and current and relevant industrial practices were applied in our work to develop the first course, Ne-201, Introduction to Nuclear Engineering Operations.

In August of 2023, at the start of the Fall semester, our first class enrolled. Shortly thereafter, other related courses





The NS *Savannah*, shown here in 1962, was the world's first nuclear-powered merchant ship.

Wlodkowski receives an award in recognition of his over 20 years of service to the Academy in February.



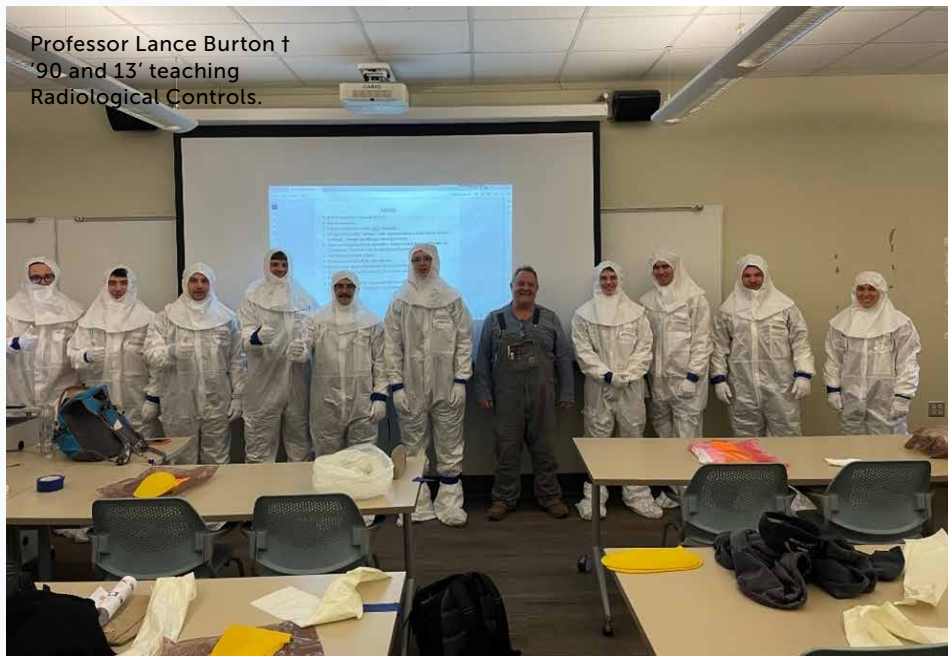
followed: Nuclear Materials & Applications, as well as Risk Assessment and Reliability Engineering. Those, in turn, were supplemented by a revamped steam curriculum and coursework in Sustainable Energy & Society and Environmental Regulations & Compliance. In March 2025, by a vote of the Faculty Senate, Maine Maritime Academy officially reconstituted its Nuclear Engineering minor, after a hiatus of three decades. We are now poised to contribute a major role in the application of small modular reactor (SMR) technology for the commercial maritime industry. That first cohort of students with this credential graduated in May 2025!

The feasibility of going beyond the nuclear minor is a natural and logical extension. A vibrant, stand-alone major — Nuclear Engineering Technology (NET) — will be a tremendous asset for the Academy. Attaining that goal would immediately distinguish MMA from all other U.S. maritime academies. In fact, within the entire International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU) of eighty-one (81) academic institutions from forty-four (44) countries, only the Admiral Makarov State University of Maritime and Inland Shipping (St. Petersburg, Russia) has a degree-granting nuclear program in their Department of Nuclear Ship Power Plants. Outside the scope of the IAMU, China, South Korea, and Japan all have active programs developing nuclear technology for the merchant marine — propulsion as well as floating power plants.

The need is great. The engineering and industrial workforce base for nuclear propulsion and shoreside power generation continues to be increasingly constrained. Escalation in development of infrastructure and advanced technologies in these fields is paramount to efforts toward decarbonization throughout global maritime networks, military platforms and shoreside zero-emission power plants. It is also important to America's national security and energy independence.

In this time of critical need to address climate and environmental issues, nuclear energy offers many promising solutions: propulsion, desalination, power generation to isolated regions, and production of hydrogen for fuel

Professor Lance Burton t '90 and 13' teaching Radiological Controls.



cells, etc. With zero carbon emissions, and a power density orders of magnitude greater than any other source (renewable or fossil), nuclear builds upon many existing strengths within the Harold Alfond School of Engineering, notably our steam curriculum. With advances now made in modular microreactors, as well as molten salt reactors, the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), one of our corporate partners, is critically evaluating nuclear as a viable solution to decarbonization and zero-emissions of the world's commercial fleet. Here, MMA needs to be the educational and training leader.

In December 2023, the United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference (COP28) was held in Dubai; it saw 198 signatory countries to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change call for accelerating the deployment of low-emission energy technologies including nuclear power for deep and rapid decarbonization, particularly in hard-to-abate sectors such as industry. In addition, 25 countries at COP28 pledged to work towards tripling global nuclear power capacity to reach net-zero by 2050.

On November 18, 2024, Rafael Mariano Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) addressed the Opening Plenary of the American Nuclear Society's (ANS) Winter Conference and Expo in Orlando, Florida. What surprised many at this convention — brimming with excitement at the recent technological developments associated with small modular reactors and microreactors — was his targeted emphasis on the maritime industry. Because a significant 2-3% of global carbon emissions are attributed to this sector, Grossi signaled that in 2025 the IAEA was launching the Atomic Technology Licensed for Applications at Sea (ATLAS), which is an initiative and framework for enabling the safe and secure deployment of peaceful, maritime nuclear energy.

Later in the conference, I would represent MMA as part of an executive panel discussing commercial maritime

decarbonization through nuclear energy. The momentum gained from this recent activity serves as the basis for establishing a Center for Education and Training of the Nuclear Merchant Mariner (NMM).

This initiative is transformational. Pipeline graduates of the MMA's NET program will help fill the needs of the engineering and workforce shortage, including positions in the nuclear and reliability industries spanning research, development, testing, and evaluation (RDTE) of new technologies. It would constitute an historic innovation to MMA's curriculum and contemporary industry responsiveness.

In the State of Maine, the premier nuclear facility is the Portsmouth Naval

to legacy technology. The concept of interchangeable “nuclear batteries” for powering ships and barges and/or floating power on mobile marine assets is a game changer for the industry. Equally important, the maritime industry is striving to achieve the highly aggressive decarbonization goal of a 50% carbon reduction by the end of 2030 (and a more aggressive goal of an 70% reduction by 2050). This initiative is pushing the industry to go far beyond energy efficient use of lower carbon fuels/scrubbers to dramatically different options like hydrogen, ammonia, and nuclear-powered operations. There has never been a better time for nuclear technology to gain traction with the commercial maritime industry.

According to Christopher J. Wiernicki, Chairman and CEO of ABS, “The opportunity is even more important than good economics for maritime companies — it affects national and economic security for the U.S. The ability to introduce and control U.S.-based nuclear technology options for the maritime industry can expand multiple elements of the U.S. economy. The distinct advantages of advanced reactor

technology for maritime applications can (1) revitalize U.S. shipping companies and shipbuilders that have suffered without a competitive differentiator from foreign competitors, (2) create a potential market of thousands of ships and offshore assets for U.S. nuclear reactor designers, builders, and operators, and (3) develop a supply and logistics support chain for fueling these reactors in the U.S. This technology would be transformative for the U.S. economy and job growth.”

MMA's foray into the nuclear sphere is timely because numerous early-stage development projects are underway across the industry, covering mobile floating power assets as well as the development of various types of vessel propulsion concepts. Small modular reactors will be operating onshore before the end of 2030, and deployment of maritime applications will soon follow. Now is the time to build the pipeline of jointly qualified maritime and nuclear workers needed to have the highly skilled workforce that will be required. ■

## In this time of critical need to address climate and environmental issues, nuclear energy offers many promising solutions.

Shipyard (PNS). Historically it is also the oldest shipyard in the United States, having been established in 1800. Today, its mission is the safe overhaul, repair and modernization of the U.S. Navy's nuclear-powered attack submarine fleet, specifically Los Angeles and Virginia-class submarines. PNS employs a civilian workforce of top-tier professionals that provide a full spectrum of in-house support — from engineering services and production shops, to unique capabilities and facilities, to off-site support — all of which serves the multifaceted assortment of fleet requirements. Among the ranks of its employees are many MMA alumni.

Today, a combination of (1) advances in reactor technology and (2) strong regulatory-driven decarbonization drivers in the maritime industry are creating renewed interest in nuclear reactors. The variety of emerging small modular reactor and microreactor technologies offer drastically different value propositions and operating envelopes compared

# SERVING ON THE International Executive Board

## The Academy Returns to a Prominent Role within IAMU

By Michael Dickerson, Ph.D.

**M**aine Maritime Academy has returned to a prominent role within the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU), serving a two-year term on its International Executive Board (IEB) in 2025 and 2026. The Academy is representing the regions of North and South America on the IEB as the head of the Financial Committee.

Maine Maritime Academy was among seven institutions of higher education that founded IAMU in 1999, which now has 75 members from countries throughout the world. However, until recently, the Academy had largely disengaged with the international body.

The Academy is one of nine members currently serving on the executive board, which held its first bi-annual meeting of 2025 in Chennai, India in April. MMA Chief Financial Officer Janet Waldron represented the Academy on the IEB as chair of the Financial Committee, a role in line with her expertise, and represented the Academy admirably during board discussions while in session.

Waldron earned the respect, praise, and gratitude of other delegates on the board, which was chaired by Dr. Shan

Hongjun, President of Dalian Maritime University, China. The remaining members of the board included Dr. Takeshi Nakazawa, IAMU Executive Director, and delegates from meeting host AMET University, India, World Maritime University, Sweden, Liverpool John Moores University, England, Constanta Maritime University, Romania, University of Dubrovnik, Croatia, and University of Split, Croatia, which will host the IEB meetings in 2026.

The formal session of the IEB meeting took place throughout the day on April 9 and 10. The board debated grant proposals, member applicants, 2024 IAMU key events, the IAMU budget, and, importantly, the future objectives of the organization.

Executive Director Nakazawa sought counsel from board delegates, who made arguments regarding potential institutional priorities for the organization moving forward. Nakazawa expressed appreciation for the Academy's renewed engagement with IAMU in recent years.

Maine Maritime Academy Professor and Marine Transportation Chair Ender Asyali's proposal to formally incorporate industry representation within the institutional framework of IAMU was considered, recommended by the IAMU Secretariat, and approved by the board during the meeting.

In October 2025, AMET University will host the IAMU Annual General As-

sembly (AGA) and second IEB meeting. The AGA is an opportunity for faculty, administrators, and students of maritime colleges to present research, debate policy, gather in various working groups, share best practices, discuss emerging technology and its impact on the maritime sector, and a host of other topics affecting the maritime industry and maritime education.

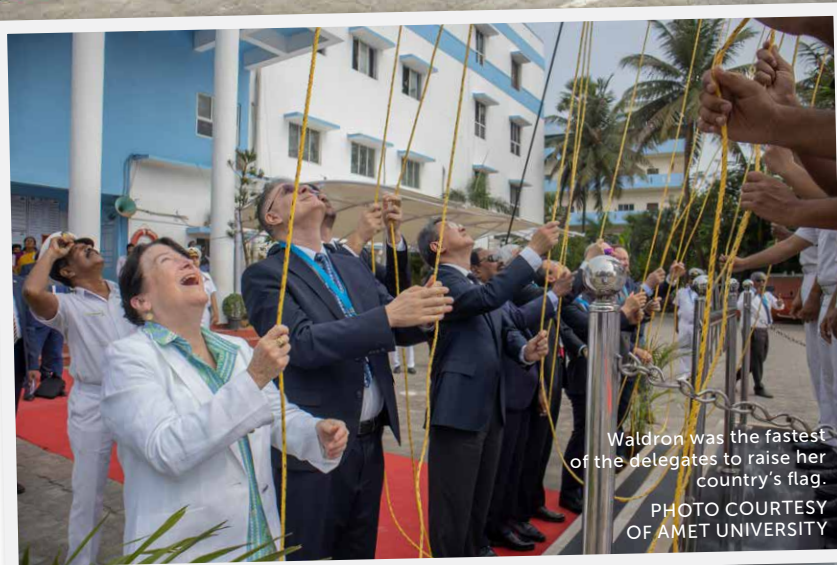
Engaging with the IAMU Secretariat and member institutions has been recognized as a priority for the Academy; participating in IAMU events is an unparalleled opportunity to engage with a global cross section of leadership in maritime education to mutual benefit.

IAMU Secretariat Executive Director Nakazawa encourages the increased involvement of the Academy as an institution as well as the administration, members of the faculty, and its students.

Speaking about Maine Maritime Academy's participation in IAMU activities, Maine Maritime Academy Chief Financial Officer Janet Waldron stated, "It is clear that IAMU is positioned to increase its important leadership work internationally in meeting the growing demands of the maritime base to ensure a highly trained and adaptable workforce. The opportunities for MMA students, faculty, and staff through this alliance are significant." ■



AMET Cadets marching in a ceremonial procession.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF AMET UNIVERSITY



Waldron was the fastest of the delegates to raise her country's flag.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF AMET UNIVERSITY



President Craig Johnson with Nippon Foundation Chairman Yōhei Sasakawa in Tokyo at an extraordinary meeting of the IEB.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF IAMU SECRETARIAT



Delegates at the IAMU International Executive Meeting in Chennai.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF AMET UNIVERSITY

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# Mariner News

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## SPOTLIGHT

### The Edward Mossman Endowed Chair of Nuclear Engineering Technology

THROUGH A GENEROUS GIFT of \$1.5 million from Guy Mossman '79E, Maine Maritime Academy has established the Edward Mossman '50E Endowed Chair of Nuclear Engineering Technology. On May 2, the Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Professor Paul Wlodkowski to the role.

Maine Maritime Academy President Craig Johnson '91 acknowledged the gift with appreciation saying, "The Mossman Endowed Chair of Nuclear Engineering Technology will play a pivotal role in providing academic training and

programming in the field. We are honored that the Mossman endowment will allow the opportunity to expand our offerings to include coursework in the quickly evolving field of nuclear engineering. We are grateful for their generosity and foresight."

Speaking about the gift, Guy Mossman said, "I am pleased to support the internationally recognized strength of Maine Maritime Academy's engineering program and dedication to workforce development by underwriting an endowed chair position in the rapidly developing field of nuclear energy. I am proud to establish the endowment in memory of my father, Maine Maritime Academy alumnus, Edward Mossman '50E."

Wayne Norton, Chair of the Maine Maritime Academy Board of Trustees said, "This amazing gift from Guy Mossman and the reinstated nuclear program will help pave the way for the students of Maine Maritime Academy to continue to support the US commercial nuclear industry whose 94 operating plants provide approximately 20% of US energy. Having worked in the US commercial nuclear industry for almost 35 years, I believe that this program can help support the growing need for the next generation of plant operators and leaders as well as the nuclear renaissance that we all have been reading about and appears to be in front of us."



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## LEADERSHIP

# Commandant of Midshipmen

ON MAY 2, retired United States Navy Captain Justin D. Cooper II assumed the role of Commandant of Midshipmen at the Academy. Captain Cooper had a distinguished career in the Navy with operational assignments ashore including serving with VS-41 as a flight instructor and Landing Signal Officer, and with Carrier Group One as Flag Lieutenant deploying aboard USS KITTY HAWK, USS INDEPENDENCE, and USS MIDWAY.

Captain Cooper's personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various campaign medals. He also received the Order of the Rising Sun from the Emperor of Japan.

President Craig Johnson said, "We are thrilled to welcome Captain Justin Cooper to Maine Maritime Academy. His career history is exceptional, and he is a proven, thoughtful leader. The feedback from his visits to campus with both faculty, staff and students made it clear that out of a national field of applicants, he is the right leader for our regimental efforts. As we welcome the National Security Multi-Mission Vessel this fall, Captain Cooper will be an integral part of the MMA team."



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## EXPERIENCE

# Summer Sea Term 2025

THE COMMANDANT'S STAFF at Maine Maritime Academy is looking forward to this summer's joint sea term (SST25) with Texas A&M Maritime aboard their ship, the TS *Kennedy*. The Texas team has great energy and has been tremendously helpful in the preparation process, beginning with hosting our Cadet Master, Cadet Chief Engineer, Cadet Chief Mate, and Cadet First Assistant Engineer aboard the *Kennedy* over winter break to jump-start ship familiarization.

Maine Maritime Academy cadets and faculty traveled to Texas on two chartered aircraft the morning of Monday, May 5, and boarded the *Kennedy* that afternoon. Prior to departure, cadets trained on lifeboats, familiarized themselves with the vessel, cleaned the ship, stood watch, and began their classes aboard. Settling into a routine required leadership with our upper-class 2/C midshipmen with the regimental wedge and shiprate student leaders showing our 4/C midshipmen how to operate and live safely while at sea and in port.

The *Kennedy* departed Galveston, Texas on May 18 for a port call in New York, NY, from May 28 - June 1. From there, the ship departed for Belfast, Northern Ireland (United Kingdom), arriving on June 11. The *Kennedy* will depart for Halifax, Nova Scotia (Canada) on June 15, for a port call from June 28 - July 2 before stopping in Portland, Maine, where cruise will end for Maine students on July 15.

While we eagerly await delivery of our new training vessel, we are excited to tap into the Texan 'can-do' spirit and provide a great cruise experience in return next year on our NSMV, the TS *State of Maine*.



## JROTC

# MMA Admissions Hosts Leadership Challenge Weekend

THE MAINE MARITIME Academy Admissions hosted JROTC units from Maine and New Hampshire for Leadership Challenge Weekend, which took place March 21 to 23. Five high schools and approximately 80 JROTC cadets participated in the event.

The Regiment of Midshipmen provided a leadership team that introduced the JROTC cadets to the Academy's campus, managed activities, and conducted training exercises. According to Assistant Director of Admissions Ross Cottrell, the weekend is an "opportunity for MMA cadets to work together to gain a solid practical foundation for running their RPT experience in the fall."

As a part of the event, the Maine Army National Guard landed a UH60 Blackhawk helicopter at Ft. George, just above campus. The Guard also ran an obstacle course called the Chamberlan Challenge, which challenges cadets' leadership, comradery, perseverance, and ingenuity.



## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

# 2025 Regimental Awards Ceremony

MIDSHIPMAN 1/C ZAYNA DICKSON receives the Lester R. Paton Naval Leadership Sword, awarded to a “Midshipman who continuously looks to further the goals and mission of the Regiment,” at the Regimental Awards Ceremony on April 21.



PHOTOS COURTESY  
OF BETH SIMS

## THE NEXT GENERATION

# MMA & Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Host Model Boat Competition

ON JANUARY 27, Maine Maritime Academy, in collaboration with Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, hosted a race of model vessels built by groups of 7th and 8th graders from Adams School and Penobscot Community School. The remote-controlled boats, based on the original design of the Arleigh Burke Class Destroyers and named for MMA alumnus David Philbrook '82, are constructed of 3D printed components

and propelled by a motor with electrical circuits assembled by the students.

Maine Maritime Academy partnered with Portsmouth Naval Shipyard's STEM Outreach Program to engage area students to learn fundamentals associated with boat design and construction. Students were taught basic boat terminology, the introductory physics of flotation, methods of fabrication, and other boatbuilding

concepts. After completing the coursework, students built their own model ships in stages echoing that of a real-world naval shipyard.

The Adams School and Penobscot Community School students successfully built six model boats during the program and tested them under the rigors of competition in the Bok Pool, which included a race, maneuverability tasks, and a game of capture the flag.

## MMA CADET EXPERIENCE

# Cadet Shipping at Maine Maritime Academy

BY KATHY MACARTHUR, COMMERCIAL SHIPPING COORDINATOR

CADET SHIPPING at Maine Maritime Academy is a hands-on, required experience offered as a part of the unlimited license USCG program for students majoring in Marine Engineering Operations, Marine Engineering Technology, Marine Systems Engineering (5-year program), and Marine Transportation Operations. This course is typically completed during the summer between the end of the sophomore year and the beginning of the junior year.

For many students, Cadet Shipping is their first opportunity to experience working within the maritime industry. It is a completely immersive experience where the cadet boards a vessel and is expected to perform tasks as assigned by the officers of the ship, in addition to completing a substantial “sea project” as assigned by their deck or engine professor. This course is designed to prepare students for real-life experiences at sea while providing them with opportunities to learn more about their chosen profession.

The students’ course of study dictates how many days they must complete for their requirements to be fulfilled. Deck students (Marine Transportation Operations) must complete 90 days aboard their vessel per Maine Maritime Academy’s program approval with the USCG. Engine students (Marine Engineering Operations, Marine Engineering Technology, and Marine Systems Engineering (5-year program)) must complete 60 days aboard their vessel to satisfy their requirements.

MMA has been fortunate enough over the years to create partnerships with companies in the maritime industry to offer our students challenging, commercial

experiences. Companies we are currently partnered with for the summer of 2025 are: Alaska Tanker Company, American Seafoods, American Steamship Company, ARC, Cabras Tugs, Crosby Tugs, Crowley Maritime, Edison Chouest, Fairwater, Glacier Fish, Grand River Navigation, Great Lakes Dredge & Dock, Hornbeck Offshore, Interlake Steamship, Kirby Offshore, Laborde, Matson Navigation, Moran Towing, Military Sealift Command, Norwegian Cruise Line, O’Hara Corporation, OSG, Otto Candies, Pasha Hawaii, Polar Tankers, Reinauer, Seaward Services, Stabbert Maritime, Transocean, Trident Seafood, University of Hawaii, US Ocean, USMMI, Valaris, and Weeks Marine.

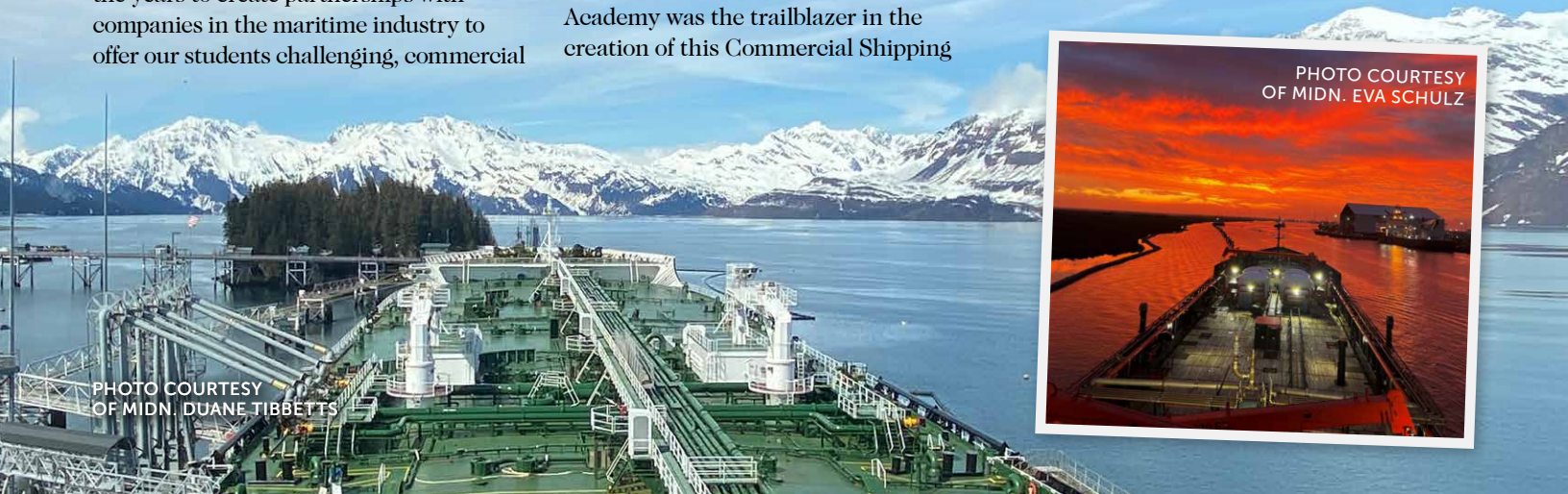
For many companies, participating in the Cadet Shipping program is an opportunity to help shape and train the next generation of mariners. Offering Cadet Shipping billets is the chance for the company to interview students for future employment by way of field experience, gauging a student’s aptitude for life at sea, and watching the growth of the student from day one through day 60 or 90. Additionally, while this is an opportunity for companies to “interview” students for future employment, this is an opportunity for students to “interview” the company, determining if it may be somewhere they want to apply for a job upon graduation. After successfully completing their time at Maine Maritime Academy, jobs are waiting for many students from the company with whom they Cadet Shipped. Maine Maritime Academy was the trailblazer in the creation of this Commercial Shipping

experience, as the first Academy to incorporate this invaluable experience into its curriculum. The program was created in the 1960s to prepare students for the challenges of life at sea, giving students a taste of the profession before launching into the industry. Because of the program’s value, success, and popularity, other maritime academies have adopted the program into their curricula, resulting in increased competition for available opportunities. Our Cadet Shipping program has stringent requirements and processes in place which are expected to be followed by our students. It is vitally important that students are aware of their requirements, so they don’t fall behind in their academic programming.

Industry partnerships and participation in our Cadet Shipping program continues to impress me. Companies are not required to provide Maine Maritime Academy with Cadet Shipping opportunities. In fact, it is quite an expense that companies undertake when they agree to take students onto their vessels. Many companies not only pay the students’ wages, but they pay for their travel to and from the vessels, no matter where they are in the world, and they provide our students with room and board. Though it can’t be put into a monetary formula, the time, energy and expertise our industry partners share with our students is the most valuable part of the equation. We wouldn’t be able to put out the exceptional mariners that we do without our partnerships.

PHOTO COURTESY  
OF MIDN. DUANE TIBBETTS

PHOTO COURTESY  
OF MIDN. EVA SCHULZ





## MMA CADET EXPERIENCE

# The Cadet Experience: More Than Just Sea Days

BY 2/C MIDN ODEGAARD FIELDS, MARINE TRANSPORTATION OPERATIONS '26

THIS PAST SUMMER I sailed as a cadet aboard the M/T *American Pride*, a Jones Act petroleum product tanker operating in the waters once known as the Gulf of Mexico. I was fortunate to join the vessel with a fellow MMA cadet, stepping into the maritime industry with the foundation of our education and training thus far. Even more fortunate was the opportunity to sail with officers who prioritized mentoring and saw value in investing time in the next generation of mariners.

We spent the summer sailing between ports in Florida, Texas, and along the Mississippi River, participating in every operation expected of a tanker mate. One of the most valuable aspects of the experience was the crew's practical advice on how to manage our responsibilities on board while maintaining a balance as people.

The *American Pride* ran a demanding schedule, often completing cargo in Florida within twenty-four hours only to embark on another fifteen-hour transit upriver. As cadets, we were constantly on call for pilotage, anchoring, pre-cargo operations, mooring, cargo transfers, deck

maintenance, inspections, loading stores, or wherever an extra set of hands was needed. As cadets, we weren't assigned cargo or navigational watches, meaning we technically had no designated job, which made us available for every job.

Once the crew recognized that we understood the gravity of tanker operations, we were welcomed as part of the team. We matured quickly from the training grounds of Castine and the *State of Maine* to the professional arena of commercial shipping. In this rapid development of trust between crew and cadets, my friend and I had to find the balance between diligently working the task at hand and positioning to effectively contribute to the next one.

Eager to contribute meaningfully and gain the crew's trust, we proposed a structured work schedule to the Chief Mate. With his approval, we built space into our routine for healthy activities like talking with crew, playing cards, or going to the gym.

We'd complete a full day of work—securing hoses, conducting inspections,

and more—then cool off or tackle academic projects. I initially worried this might come across as lazy or soft, especially compared to the saltier sea stories often told in the industry. But instead, the crew respected our initiative. They knew that we would show up safe, rested, and ready to go when needed.

When I returned to Castine, I discovered that effectively advocating for oneself while maintaining professionalism was a skill many of my peers had also developed during their cadet shipping experiences.

Having recently completed my junior year, I've had the chance to step into leadership roles within my curriculum and the Regiment of Midshipmen. The application process created the opportunity to appreciate the strong personal growth of my peers and I during our time here.

My friends and I have come a long way in this program, and we are honored to help create that same transformative experience for our underclassmen and those yet to join us.

## SPORTS

# Fall/Winter 2024-25 Mariner Athletic Achievements

MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY led the NAC with ten special awards, a testament to the athletic prowess of its student-athletes.

### Senior Scholar Athlete Award:

- Brody Hathorne, men's golf
- Kirra Magana, women's soccer
- Elijah Yeaton, men's soccer

### Player of the Year:

- Kirra Magana, women's soccer
- Sydney Williams, women's volleyball

### Rookie of the Year:

- William Spaulding, men's cross country
- Hannah Tate, women's volleyball

### Defensive Player of the Year:

- Ronnie Morgan, men's soccer
- Erianna Moore, women's basketball
- Curt Heinz, men's basketball

### Notable Team and Individual Milestones

- Women's volleyball won their 11th NAC Championship, defeating SUNY Cobleskill and earning a bid to the NCAA tournament, where they faced a tough matchup against MIT (31-1).
- Ronnie Morgan became the first student-athlete in school history to be named to the first team of the 2024 Academic All-America® Men's Soccer NCAA Division III Team.
- Curt Heinz set many school records, becoming the all-time leader in assists, rebounds, blocked shots, and points in men's basketball history. He is the first Mariners' player to be named National Player of the Week by the United States Basketball Writers' Association and D3hoops.com and was named the ECAC Player of the Year. He was nominated for the prestigious Jostens Trophy, which is awarded annually to one men's

and one women's NCAA Division III basketball player based on their athletic performance, academic achievements, and community service.

- Erianna Moore reached the 1,000-point milestone in women's basketball in a victory over Husson University on December 4th.
- Head Coach Craig Dagan earned his 400th career win with a victory over the University of Maine-Farmington on December 7th.
- Women's basketball was 23-5 on the season and played for the NAC Championship, the outcome of which was decided in the final possession.
- Men's basketball had their best season in 21 years, finishing 13-11 under first-year coach, Cedric Gillette.
- Both men's and women's wrestling qualified for their regional matches
- Carson Trout set six pool records at three venues over ten days in January.

## SPORTS

# NAC Tournament Champions

AFTER BEING DOWN 5-0 to SUNY Delhi after the first quarter, the MMA Men's Lacrosse Team came back to win the North Atlantic Conference Tournament Championship 14-12. Bryce Crowell was named most valuable player and Brendan Reddington scored a game-high five goals. Crowell, Reddington, Sam Nichol, and Matthew Villeneuve were named to the NAC All-Tournament Team.





Maine Maritime Academy Director of Waterfront Operations Captain Dana Willis, Captain Elliot Rappaport, Captain Jen Haddock, and students join Captain Alexander Peacock in Baltimore at the Tall Ships America Conference where he received the Sail Trainer of the Year Award.

## AWARDS & RECOGNITION

# Captain Alexander Peacock Receives Sail Trainer of the Year Award

## GIVES SOLD-OUT TALK HOSTED BY GUNDALOW COMPANY

IN JANUARY, schooner *Bowdoin* Master Captain Alexander Peacock accepted the 2024 Sail Trainer of the Year Award from Tall Ships America in recognition of his “contribution to sail training through the demonstration of leadership by means of empowerment and inspiration.”

MMA President Craig Johnson '91 said, “We are thrilled that Captain Peacock has received this well-deserved national recognition for his impressive accomplishments as an instructor at the Maine Maritime Academy. Captain Peacock is a great asset to the Academy’s faculty and its students.”

Johnson added that, “The schooner *Bowdoin*’s 2024 Arctic voyage, commanded by Captain Peacock, culminating in the crossing of the 70th Parallel, is an illustration of the multidisciplinary, practical and academic pursuits of the students, staff, and faculty at Maine Maritime Academy. Their journey adds to the *Bowdoin*’s historical legacy so important and unique to the State of Maine and the Academy.”

After receiving the award, Captain Peacock said, “This recognition is truly a reflection of the crew, both students and professionals, that I’ve had the privilege of sailing with as well as the mariners

I have sailed under in my career. The award also speaks to the crew’s collective efforts as we logged miles and grew stronger with each challenge the Arctic voyage presented. The extreme conditions tested us, but together we faced them and only grew tighter, stronger, and more resilient.”

In March, the Gundalow Company hosted Captain Peacock and crew members David Stolz and Tyler Jupp to discuss the *Bowdoin*’s 2024 Arctic voyage at the STAR Theatre in Kittery, Maine.

Discussing the speaking engagement, Captain Peacock said, “Over the years, I’ve had the privilege of coming into Portsmouth under sail in command of several iconic vessels: the square topsail schooner *Lynx*, the *Spirit of Bermuda*, and, of course, the Arctic schooner *Bowdoin*. However, I have not had the opportunity to speak in front of my peers, family, neighbors, and friends where I grew up and am honored to be invited by the prominent and impactful Gundalow Company. The sense of community and connection makes it all the more special.”

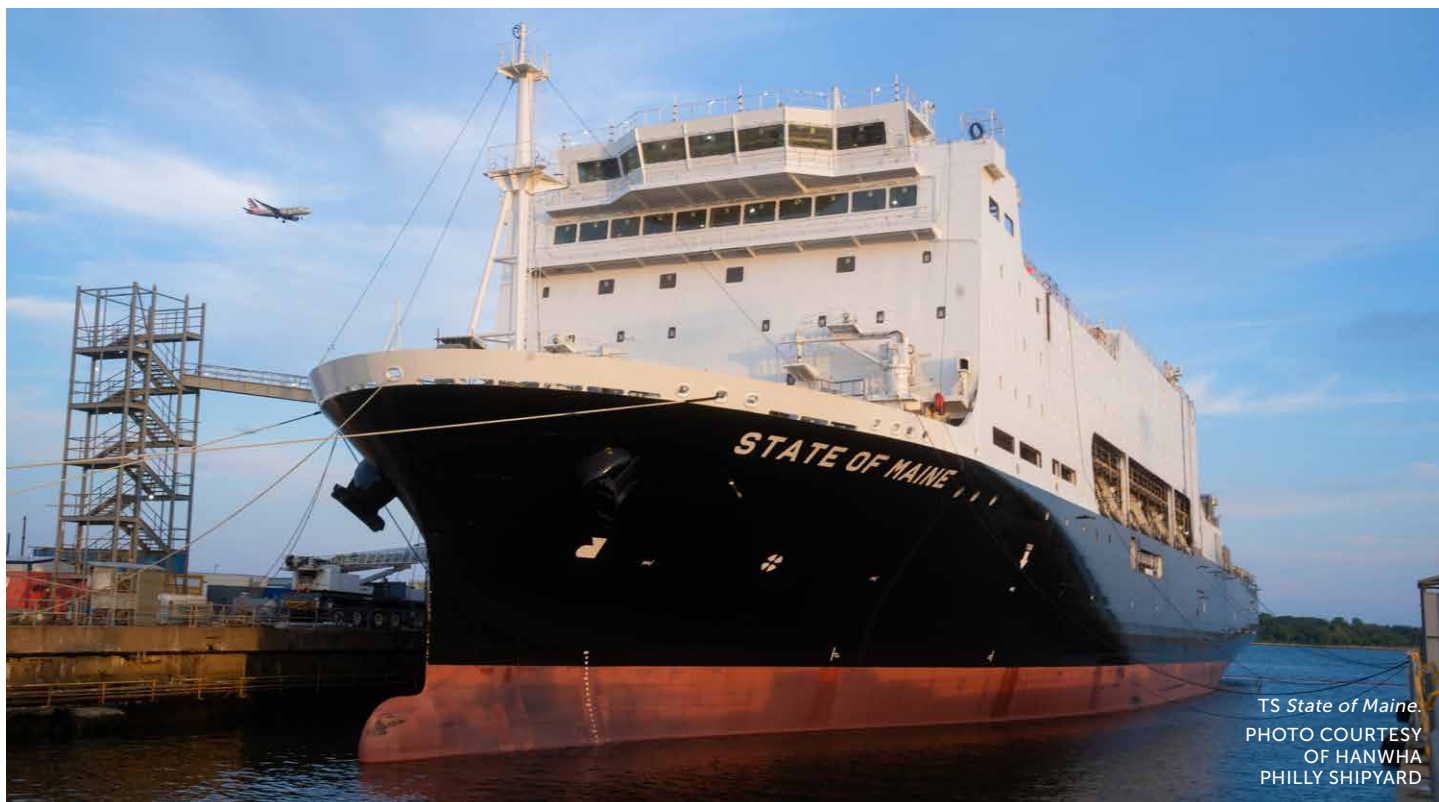
Captain Peacock discussed the *Bowdoin*’s recent voyage of more than 4,500 miles during which the vessel crossed north of the 70th Parallel off the

west coast of Greenland. The journey was the first time in 16 years that the 103-year-old schooner *Bowdoin*, a National Historic Landmark, sailed to the Arctic.

Training on the *Bowdoin*, students learn skills including terrestrial and celestial navigation, watchkeeping, vessel handling, emergency operations, passage planning and the entering and clearing of foreign ports.

Describing the experience on the Arctic voyage aboard the *Bowdoin*, Maine Maritime Academy student Mackenzie Morin said, “We developed seamanship under challenging conditions, posed scientific questions in these remote environments, honed engineering competency while maintaining the vessel’s integrity, and gained business insight in coordinating logistics.”

The schooner *Bowdoin*’s student crew also conducted scientific research under the supervision of Maine Maritime Academy Professor Kerry Whittaker involving the collection of environmental DNA to measure and monitor biodiversity. They are investigating the relationship between observed biodiversity and the physical parameters of the marine environment including conductivity, temperature, and depth.



TS *State of Maine*.  
PHOTO COURTESY  
OF HANWHA  
PHILLY SHIPYARD



U.S. Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy and U.S. Senator Dave McCormick tour the bridge of the NSMV, TS *State of Maine*.

PHOTO COURTESY  
OF HANWHA PHILLY SHIPYARD



U.S. Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy emphasizes the strategic importance of increasing domestic shipbuilding capacity in a visit to the NSMV, TS *State of Maine*, at Hanwha Philly Shipyard.

## PROJECT UPDATE

### National Security Multi-Mission Vessel (NSMV): *TS State of Maine* Update

THE OUTFITTING and testing of the NSMV, TS *State of Maine*, the third of five contracted by MARAD, is well underway at Hanwha Philly Shipyard. Captain Gordon MacArthur '00, C/E Aaron Coy '99 and other members of the ship's crew are on-site at the shipyard participating in system testing, training, and vessel familiarity efforts. Key activities and milestones as of printing are as follows:

- On March 27, both engines in engine room 1 were run for the first time.
- Stateroom installation and outfitting continues on the 01 through 04 decks
- The Bridge navigation equipment installation is largely complete, and many systems have had initial commissioning tests performed.
- Tanks and voids are being inspected for final completion and closure.
- On April 28, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy visited the vessel and gave an address, calling for more shipbuilding to take place in the United States.

The estimated delivery of the *State of Maine* remains September 2025.

## PROJECT UPDATE

# Waterfront Improvements Project: Pier Update

COLLIERS, OWNER'S REPRESENTATIVE

THE MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY Waterfront Improvements Project is proceeding in accordance with the construction plan. Through April, Maine Maritime's marine contractor, Reed & Reed, has set over 130 of a total of 354 twenty-four inch diameter steel pilings for the new pier. Maine Drilling & Blasting, the production pile driving subcontractor, is on site drilling the installed pilings into their final position with more than 120 piles drilled to depth.

The second barge shipment of 106 pilings arrived in Castine in late-March, raising the delivered total to 168 piles. These piles are fabricated by Trinity Products in O'Fallon, Missouri, transported by rail to Niklyn Corp in North Haven, Connecticut, where they are sandblasted, coated, and loaded on seagoing barges for delivery to the project site in Castine. Once pile installation is complete, work installing pre-cast concrete caps, beams, and decking will commence. As concrete work progresses, the installation of power, piping, and mooring systems will begin.

The project is currently in Phase 1, which will conclude in the spring of 2026 and encompasses the new pier and mooring dolphins extending 137 feet from the end of the old pier and measuring 325 feet wide at the berthing face. Phase 2 includes the demolition and replacement of the existing pier, installation of the new floating breakwater on the western side of the new pier, completion of the small boat basin, and final equipment installation, testing and commissioning of the completed pier. Phase 2 is expected to be completed in the spring of 2027.

MMA and its contractors, Reed & Reed, Colliers Engineering, and GZA Architects, continue to work closely together and with the Town of Castine to coordinate these efforts to insure a safe, efficient, and timely completion of the project in the constrained the MMA Waterfront Campus. We are pleased to report that workers have logged more than 30,000 safe hours on-site.





ROV *Digger*, named after Betsy Cushman's dog Digger, retrieves object from the bottom of the Academy's 15-foot Bok Pool.

(Below) Betsy Cushman and her dog Digger, front left, with President Craig Johnson, Professor Nicholas Rigas, and students at Digger's launch into the bay.

# NASA Grant and Cushman Funding Support Robotics Class and Equipment

BY NICHOLAS RIGAS, PH.D.

ROBOTICS IS INCREASINGLY becoming an integral part of ocean studies and the marine industry, revolutionizing the way we explore, understand, and manage our oceans. Oceans cover over 70% of the Earth's surface, yet many of their mysteries remain hidden beneath the waves.

The introduction of robotics, including autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs), remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), and other advanced tools, has significantly improved the ability to study and navigate these vast and often treacherous environments. In the context of both scientific research and industrial operations, robotics offers solutions to longstanding challenges, providing enhanced capabilities for exploration, resource extraction, environmental monitoring, and safety.

It is important for students entering the ocean studies and marine industry to have a basic understanding of robotics systems and how they can be used safely.

Through funding from a NASA grant, a new technical elective course, Introduction to Marine Robotic Systems has been developed and was launched in the spring of 2025 here at Maine Maritime Academy. This course is offered to engineering and ocean studies students, providing an introduction to robotic systems utilized in marine environments, covering topics such as design, control, data collection, data transfer, and system integration of autonomous and remotely operated marine vehicles.

As part of understanding the use of robotics in a marine environment, it was important for students to be able to study and operate a commercially available ROV. Through a generous donation from Betsy Cushman, the Academy was able to purchase a Deep Trekker Pivot ROV. The Pivot, named *Digger*, serves not only as a teaching platform but also provides students and faculty with state-of-the-art underwater robotic equipment to incorporate into their studies or research.

*Digger* can operate up to a depth of 1000 ft and in water temperatures ranging from 14 F to 122 F. Its carbon fiber and stainless-steel body makes it light weight and easily transportable aboard large and small vessels. It is equipped with a pivoting enhanced 4K camera and lighting allowing for a clear view of the ocean depths. 'Digger' is powered by two rechargeable lithium-ion batteries allowing it to be submerged up to 3 hours at a time.

There are a variety of attachments that can be added to 'Digger' allowing students to gather samples from the ocean floor, measure the thickness of hulls, collect water samples, or monitor dissolved oxygen levels in the water. In the future, 'Digger' can be equipped with a Blueprint SeaTrac USBL positioning system allowing it to function autonomously. 'Digger' is a flexible and robust ROV that will allow Maine Maritime students to enhance their studies and prepare them for a changing world.



# Ocean Studies Faculty Receive Funding to Monitor Plankton in Penobscot Bay

THIS SPRING, MMA Ocean Studies students and faculty launched a new project to monitor plankton, the base of the marine food web, in Penobscot Bay. Their work is funded by the Maine Coastal and Marine Climate Fund, which supports projects that advance Maine's Climate Action Plan in marine systems and coastal communities.

The project is led by a team from the Corning School of Ocean Studies at MMA: Dr. Kerry Whittaker, Dr. LeAnn Whitney, and Dr. Steven Baer. The project will develop a baseline understanding of plankton diversity in

Penobscot Bay. This work will deepen our understanding of microscopic marine organisms that play a crucial role in ocean health, sustainable aquaculture, and how ecosystems respond to climate change.

Over the next two years, plankton monitoring will align with two new ocean monitoring buoys being deployed by collaborators at the Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership (HISCL). An additional monitoring station will also be established by MMA to support this collaborative research.

Plankton will be analyzed using an

instrument known as the FlowCam that Ocean Studies owns and operates with the purpose of research, education, and community science. As part of this funded project, Whittaker, Whitney, and Baer will hire MMA students as technicians who will spend the summer collecting plankton, becoming FlowCam experts, analyzing the data, and spending time sharing their knowledge with HICSL educational programs.

The team plans to share the Penobscot Bay plankton diversity data freely on MMA's website.

# National Fish and Wildlife Foundation-funded Bagaduce Restoration Project

MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY Ocean Studies faculty and students have a role to play in big things happening for ecological restoration and conservation in the Bagaduce River Estuary, the home watershed of MMA.

In December 2024, local community members and organizations were awarded over two million dollars to enhance habitat and improve infrastructure at the marsh and waterway known as Mill Creek in Penobscot, ME. The funds come from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), who have recently supported 94 projects across the country focused on community resilience, nature-based solutions, and improving fish and wildlife habitat.

In the Bagaduce, and at Mill Creek, the project will replace a tidal barrier in a roadway, restore an area of marsh, and enhance fish passage on Mill Creek by extending a nature-like fishway. One of the more impressive elements of

this project is the extent of community involvement and collaboration; the project will involve partners including Maine Coast Heritage Trust, multiple town committees, the Penobscot town Selectboard, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries, Blue Hill Heritage Trust and landowners on Mill Creek, engineering firms Acadia Civil Works and VHB (Vanasse Hangen Brustlin), the Maine Department of Transportation, and Maine Maritime Academy's Corning School of Ocean Studies.

The project is expected to take three years to complete and will provide significant improvements in waterflow and quality to support the rich sea-run fish populations of the Bagaduce while also supporting climate-resilient infrastructure for the town of Penobscot.

MMA's Dr. Kerry Whittaker, Associate Professor of Coastal and Marine Environmental Science, and Sarah O'Malley, Assistant Professor

of Ocean Studies, will play a role in leading the biological monitoring of marsh vegetation, water level, and salinity before, during, and after project construction. They will also involve MMA Ocean Studies students in their work, extending the educational and training benefits of the project.

Over the next three years, during summer monitoring, six students will have an opportunity to learn about continuous data collection and vegetation identification needed to track the marsh restoration progress. The data that Whittaker, O'Malley, and students collect will contribute to a NFWF database and offer critical insight into the restoration process and impact of the project. More importantly, this project represents MMA's role in a community effort to build climate and ecological resilience in a project that benefits both the species and humans who make the Bagaduce River Estuary their home.



On February 24, Maine Maritime Academy President Craig Johnson, along with Interim Commandant of Midshipmen, Commander Lonnie Christian, presided over the Academy's Change of Command Ceremony, welcoming a new group of students into critical leadership roles.

### CEREMONIES & CELEBRATIONS

# Regimental Change of Command Ceremony

ON FEBRUARY 24, Maine Maritime Academy President Craig Johnson, along with Interim Commandant of Midshipmen, Commander Lonnie Christian, presided over the Academy's Change of Command Ceremony, welcoming a new group of students into critical leadership roles within the Regiment.

The Regimental Staff, or Wedge as they are known throughout the Academy, is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operation of the Regiment of Midshipmen. The annual Change of Command Ceremony honors the symbolic and physical transfer of authority and responsibilities between two classes of student leaders. Graduating First Class Midshipmen pass their leadership positions to Second Class Midshipmen, who will guide the Regiment until next year.

At the ceremony, Interim President Johnson said, "As you all are aware, the Regiment of Midshipmen is extremely

important not only to this institution but to our nation. At the Academy, it is our fundamental mission to train officers for the 'safe and efficient operation of the United States Merchant Marine at all times...' Since our founding in 1941, our program has certainly expanded and broadened beyond the training of merchant mariners, but our Regimental program of study continues to provide our students, even those not seeking a Coast Guard license, with the leadership skills that enable them to be successful in their careers."

In addition to performing traditional responsibilities as designated by their roles, the leadership of the outgoing class of 2025 was instrumental in overseeing pre-cruise familiarization of the Academy's TS State of Maine for members of the freshman class, orchestrating a safe Regimental Preparatory Training evolution for incoming freshmen, and maintaining

Regimental standards throughout the year. Additionally, they serve as mentors and role models for the Regimental student body.

As they settle into their roles, the new student leaders are preparing for a rigorous at-sea training schedule, including this summer's sea term with Texas A&M Maritime Academy aboard TS *Kennedy*. They will also continue planning for the arrival of incoming Regimental students in mid-August, overseeing Regimental Preparatory Training, and handling the daily operations of the Regiment of Midshipmen.

Outgoing class of 2024-25 Regimental Commander, Midshipman 1/C Christian Cabrera, a Marine Engineering Technology major from Madison, Maine has turned over his duties as the 2025-26 Regimental Commander to Midshipman 2/C Odegaard Fields, a Marine Transportation Operations major from Mill River, Massachusetts.



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CEREMONIES & CELEBRATIONS

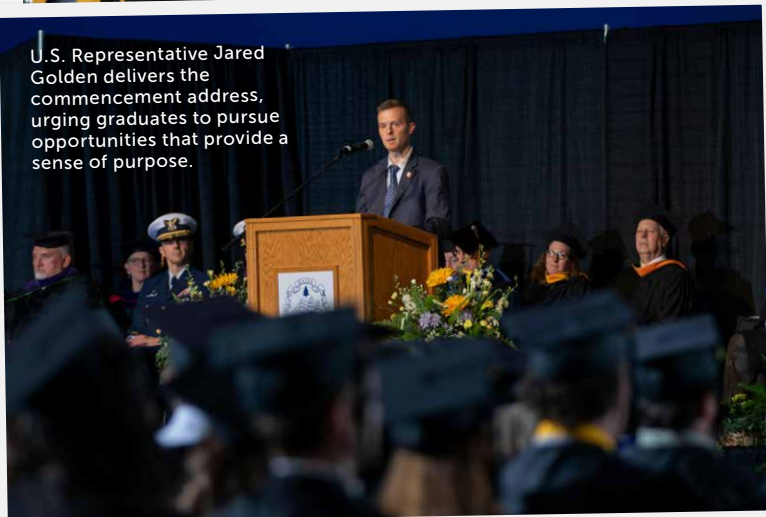
# Graduation Day, 2025



Rear Admiral Philip E. Sobeck, Commander, U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command, delivers the NROTC Commissioning Ceremony address.



The first graduates from the reinstated nuclear engineering technology minor.



U.S. Representative Jared Golden delivers the commencement address, urging graduates to pursue opportunities that provide a sense of purpose.





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# Alumni News

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## ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT

### Lt. Kylie Voss: MMA Graduate, Blackhawk Pilot, President of the Jacksonville Chapter of the Alumni Association

BY SETH BROWN '98 AND KAREN CUKIERSKI

LT. KYLIE (NÉE BRADLEY) VOSS '18, Navy Blackhawk pilot, knew that she wanted to be a Navy pilot early on. In fact, that was her answer to the question, “what do you want to be?” when she was being recruited for the MMA Women’s Soccer team back in 2013. Coach Seth Brown’s first recruitment success, Voss attended MMA, participated in the Regiment of Midshipmen and NROTC, played on the soccer team, and graduated with a degree in Marine Engineering Technology.

She attended Naval Postgrad School, studying Under Sea Warfare Engineer Acoustics in the Undersea warfare program, and flight school, and is now a Navy Seahawk pilot as well as the new president of the Jacksonville chapter of the Maine Maritime Academy Alumni Association.

Currently, Voss is flying the MH 60R, which is a Black Hawk that’s tricked out for maritime surface subsurface warfare. Her daily routine starts with checking in with the ATs (Aviation Electronics Technician) and AEs (Aviation Electrician’s Mate) in preparation for flight, discusses the flight plan and emergency plans, conducting a pre-flight safety check. Then it’s up in the air, flying for three hours, practicing maneuvers and teaching younger pilots how to handle emergencies.

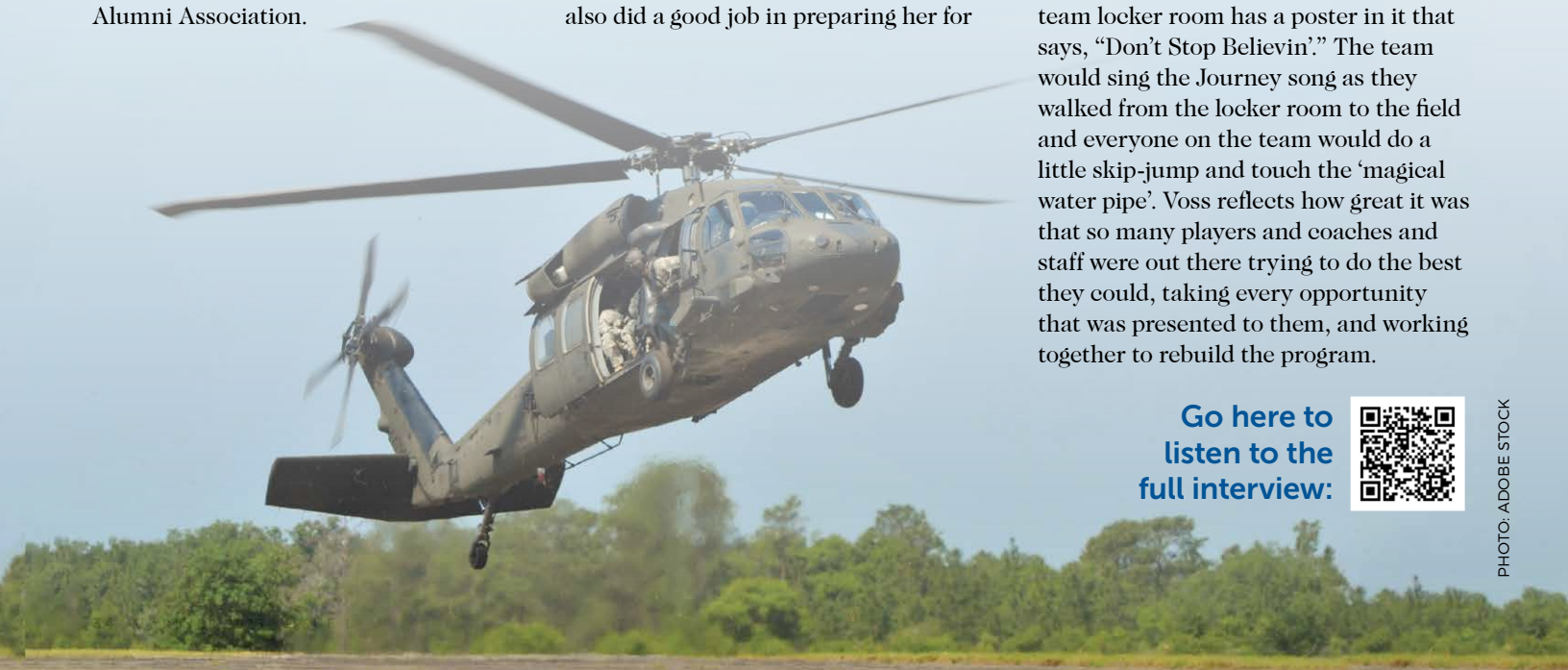
Voss credits the Academy with helping her to achieve her goals by teaching her that she could handle a lot, the importance of time management, the ability and importance of being flexible, and that if you don’t know, figure out where to look for the answer. MMA also did a good job in preparing her for

the extremely high-level math she was tasked with in post-graduate school as well as helping her learn how to focus, another skill that came in handy in graduate school.

Being an MMA athlete impacted her career as well. Flying is definitely a taxing physical challenge at times, and the physical training she did as a soccer player showed her the importance of a daily routine to keep yourself in good shape. Teamwork is another important takeaway from her years on the pitch: learning how to deal with people that maybe aren’t your favorite, but it’s important to respect them and their importance to the team, which translates directly to flight crew mentality.

Perseverance might be the biggest thing Voss learned at MMA. The soccer team locker room has a poster in it that says, “Don’t Stop Believin’.” The team would sing the Journey song as they walked from the locker room to the field and everyone on the team would do a little skip-jump and touch the ‘magical water pipe’. Voss reflects how great it was that so many players and coaches and staff were out there trying to do the best they could, taking every opportunity that was presented to them, and working together to rebuild the program.

Go here to  
listen to the  
full interview:





## ALUMNI NEWS

### 15TH ANNUAL TEXAS MARINER GOLF TOURNEY

From left to right: Maine Maritime Academy Foundation President Larry Burrill '77, Foundation Board Member Tom Lord '87, The Academy's Vice President of Advancement and College Relations Kate Noel, and Foundation Board Member Dale Thomas '13 at the 15th Annual Texas Mariner Classic Golf Tournament on April 7. Flagship Management was the title sponsor of the event, played by more than 120 golfers, held at the Woodlands Country Club Tournament Course.

# MMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CHAPTERS

#### BANGOR SEA DOGS

John Burns III '85  
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#### BAY STATE

Samuel Rowe '65  
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#### CONNECTICUT

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#### FLORIDA (JACKSONVILLE)

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#### SOUTHEAST ATLANTIC

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#### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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#### TIDEWATER

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#### INTERNATIONAL

Mason Hall '13  
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**FOR MORE EVENT  
INFORMATION, EMAIL  
ALUMNI@MMA.EDU**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**JULY 6**

MMA ALUMNI AT HEARTS OF PINE,  
PORTLAND, MAINE

**JULY 7-9**

CLASS OF 1970 REUNION,  
CASTINE

**JULY 14-16**

CLASS OF 1965 REUNION, CASTINE

**JULY 17-19**

CLASS OF 1980 REUNION, CASTINE

**JULY 26-26**

CLASS OF 1985 REUNION, CASTINE

**AUGUST 15**

MMA ALUMNI AT THE PORTLAND  
SEA DOGS, PORTLAND, MAINE

**OCTOBER 3-5**

HOMECOMING WEEKEND, CASTINE

**OCTOBER 4**

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MMA  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, CASTINE

# Class Notes

## 1950

Joseph Leclair spent his entire life in the marine industry. After sailing with Farrel Line, NY, leaving as chief mate, he moved his family to California where he found employment with Matson Navigation Co., eventually rising to Senior VP and President of its subsidiary Matson Terminal.

## 1955



John Thureau pictured in his California home garage with his BMW Z8.

## 1956

Hugh Brunson survived two hurricanes with Milton's eye passing overhead. His American and MMA flags were raised the next day, but clean-up and repairs took three months.

## 1958

On July 4th, 2024, Gerhard Hoppe and wife Joanne celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

## 1958

Everett Cooper lives in Lakewood, WA with his wife Alicia. His son Eric is a law student

at Hofstra University and his daughter Laura is a professor in the California University System.

## 1960

Norman Marchant is living in NE Florida and loving it!

## 1960

George Leonard visited with Capt. Bill McKay '60D at the Rhode Island Veteran's Home on the 29th of November 2024. Leonard found McKay in good spirits and interested in the comings and goings of members of the class of 1960. McKay would love to hear from classmates and alumni in the area.

## 1962

Norman Laskay continues to write a monthly blog sent out individually to subscribers, through Linked-In or on DLS-Marine.com at Insights. Two years before the IMO regulations on Green House Gas emissions, he began covering the many variations that the industry is using to comply as the emission limits get more difficult to meet. Since appraisal of marine assets is important in the shipping business, a part of his audience is those in domestic and foreign lending. The constant research that Laskay conducts for the monthly blog takes him to many interesting sources. This item may be of interest to the alumni and possibly to students. You can check it out while it is still in its youth. [splash247.com/shipping-gets-its-own-social-media-platform](https://splash247.com/shipping-gets-its-own-social-media-platform)

## 1964

Louis Dunlay says, "hi to all - still kicking!"

## 1964



Chuck Sherman states, "17.5 more years of 'Seasoning' to reach 100 years old." He recently met Travis Mills and heard him speak about his foundation for recalibrated veterans."

## 1968



Capt. Almer Dinsmore was recently honored for his 35 years of service with the Maine State Ferry Service by having a new ferry named after him.

## 1972

Steven Goulet is keeping busy every day. The Lord has kept him very healthy working for Him.

## 1976

Christopher Fay had his first opportunity to attend the International Workboat Show in New Orleans this past November. He states it was great to see MMA's booth and talk with fellow Mariners. He also talked with Texas and Great Lakes Academy representatives and was impressed by their programs as well. Stiff competition for applicants for MMA. He spoke to the CEO of The Glosten Associates, a nationally renowned naval architecture and marine engineering firm after a presentation on the Baltimore bridge incident. The CEO noted that our classmate Rick Schuster worked at Glosten for many years, and that Schuster was the best engineering mentor he ever had. Always nice to hear how leaders in industry respect MMA graduates.

## 1979

Michael Donovan retired February 1, 2024, and is living the good life in sunny Florida.

## 1981



Mark Amundsen has been named the new chief operating officer of Steamship Authority. As the COO, Amundsen will be responsible for planning, directing, and overseeing all activities of the Marine Operations and Shoreside Operations departments, the Engineer-

ing Department, and the Operations and Communications Center. Amundsen joined the Authority in 2019 and has served as the director of marine operations and director of engineering and maintenance.

## 1982

Pat Moriarty worked in the power generation business specializing in operation and maintenance of large hydro-electric machinery for thirty years. Although an avid amateur woodworker throughout his adult life, it was not until retirement that he became interested in the challenges of sculpted furniture (conwaychair.com). Moriarty's pursuit for perfection stems from his lifelong practice in traditional Okinawan Karate. He holds a 5th degree black belt in Matsubayashi Ryu. When not woodworking or refurbishing vintage machinery, Moriarty enjoys spending outdoor time with his wife Donna and their Belgian Malinois puppy Ajinsan.



## 1983

John Janowicz retired from shipping after 30+ years of sailing on MEBA contracted vessels. His last assignment, starting in 2015, was Permanent Master on the Maersk line managed Car Carrier Alliance Norfolk. Janowicz is looking forward to finally staying at home with his wife and family.

## 1985

Scott Cooledge spent 30 years as a US Navy pilot, retired as a Navy Captain and Commodore in 2016. Since then, he has lived quietly in the beautiful mountains of North Georgia enjoying retirement. Fly Navy!

## 1985

Classmates Jeff Richards and John Burns visited with Head Women's Basketball Coach Craig Dagan at the Spring Career Fair.



## 1990

John R. Turner, Ph.D. is now an Associate Professor at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas (Human Resource Development). Texas A&M University is the dream job for John, and he and his family are enjoying College Station!

## 1992

Mark Higgins has been named General Manager of Camden Operations at Lyman-Morse. Higgins brings more than 30 years of experience in the marine industry. Higgins has held leadership roles at General Dynamics, American Overseas Marine, Edison Chouest Offshore, Tidewater Marine International, and the Maine State Ferry Service. Most recently, he served as Chief Operating Officer of the Steamship Authority, overseeing marine and shoreside departments, engineering, and facilities. This expertise will be instrumental in enhancing operations at the Camden facility.



## 1994

William H. Childs is the Senior Maintenance Supervisor/Chief Engineer Working for TransOcean on the Deepwater Titan in the Gulf of Mexico. He currently lives in Norway, Maine, with his wife Terry and their dog Omra.

## 1999

Linette Casey received a 2024 Clean Energy Education & Empowerment Award for her outstanding leadership and accomplishments in clean energy. The C3E Awards gives recognition to mid-career women in clean energy fields by celebrating their achievements and contributions. Casey has established herself as an expert in driving the renewable energy transition and finding



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## CLASS NOTES

sustainable solutions for energy-intensive industries. She collaborates with customers across the energy industry—including industrial, utility, and renewable sectors—on both local and global scales. In her current role as a Sales Account Manager, Casey works across the renewable energy field—from onshore and offshore wind to solar and storage—supporting a range of clients that include engineering, procurement and construction companies; developers; startups; utilities; and regulating bodies.

### 1999

John Holmes recently relocated from Georgia to Boston, Mass. He's living downtown and loving being back up north amongst his people and having a Dunkin' at every corner!

### 2001



Captain Josh Fields, a native of both Muskogee, Oklahoma and Jay, Maine, is currently serving as the Executive Officer at SUPSHIP Bath. Captain Fields' personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Navy Commendation Medal (four awards), Navy Achievement Medal, and various service and unit awards.

### 2002

Lucas Henderson currently resides in Halifax, Virginia, with wife Laura, and has completed five years with Consolidated Asset Management Services as VP of Operations.

### 2002



On April 2, 2025, Commander Carl Rhodes '02 took command of NOAA Ship Oscar Dyson in Kodiak AK. In his crew is another MMA alum John Markillie '25. Rhodes also is happy to announce his nuptials to Letica Corona.

### 2006



Andrew Ropp and Heather Wheaton welcomed baby Nelle in March 2025.

### 2006



Joe Crowe and Dana Howell welcomed baby Sadie during the summer of 2024.

### 2006

Michael Stutevoss has been a Harbor Pilot with Tampa Bay for the last two years and loves that his office has an ocean view. He currently lives with his wife Ashley and 7-year-old twins in sunny Palm Beach County. Stutevoss is so appreciative of

the education he was able to receive at MMA and thanks the school for much of his success.

### 2009

Matt Hofer started a new position as Chief Mate on the TV *State of Maine*.

### 2010

Kat Stori started a new position with BETA TECHNOLOGIES as the Machine and Composite Shop Integrated Product Team Leader.

### 2011



Luke Rancourt has built an impressive and unique career shaped by the discipline, resilience, and leadership principles instilled during his time at Maine Maritime Academy. His experience at MMA provided him with the foundational tools, structure, and work ethic needed to excel in high-pressure environments and navigate complex challenges. He attributes much of his success to these formative experiences and remains deeply grateful for the lessons MMA imparted. Most recently, as the Global Product Strategy and Marketing Leader, he has leveraged cross-functional collaboration to assess and enhance new product and service opportunities within the power generation sector. Beyond his professional accomplishments, He is a proud father of two: Porter, age 9, and Iris, age 7, where 100% of his free time is happily spent. He is also set to graduate from the Executive MBA program at the University of Central Florida's School of Business.

### 2012

Chelsea Pettengill has been selected to serve as the Maine Port Authority's interim Executive Director. Pettengill has served as the Deputy Director of the MPA since 2023. In that role, she worked with port facilities along the Maine coast to develop projects, maintain infrastructure, and promote Maine's position in North Atlantic trade and the greater New England region.

### 2012



Joshua Shaw VOT '12, Master, Raener Flowers MEO '15 Assistant Engineer. The vessel, MV Harvey Stone, is contracted through Blue Origin and is responsible for towing their Landing Platform Vessel #1 (barge Jacklyn). The MV Harvey Stone is responsible for towing the autonomous barge to a designated location to retrieve rockets. It involves breaking tow at sea and standing by at a safe distance. Once the rocket has been recovered and it's safe to approach, the tug will reconnect their tow line and return to port with it. Shaw and Flowers ran into each other on board the Harvey Stone during the infant stages of this new sector of the marine industry. Company: Harvey Gulf International Marine; Vessel: Harvey Stone; Class: Multi Certificated freight, offshore supply and industrial towing vessel. 220'L x 59'W x 25.7'D; Total BHP: 10,000

### 2013

Wilson Briggs has worked in many fields since graduation from shipping and oil spill

response, power plant operations, facility maintenance, chemical plant maintenance. He currently works at a large saltwater wave tank as a Mechanical Engineer with a Testing and Research company.

## 2014



Zachary Lawrence has been named the Director of Engineering and Maintenance for the Steamship Authority. As director of engineering and maintenance, Lawrence will report directly to the chief operating officer. He is responsible for managing the day-to-day and long-term operations and maintenance of vessels, terminals, and other shoreside facilities, and for maintaining the Steamship's long-range maintenance and operational requirements.

## 2016

Derek Roberts is a United States Army Ranger - 1st Ranger Battalion and received his MBA in 2024 from Babson College F.W. Olin Graduate School.

## 2018

Erin Donlon is scheduled to be ordained to the Sacred Order of Priesthood on May 31, 2025, in Lewiston, Maine.

## 2021



Samantha Mason was recently featured in MaineBiz's 40

Under 40. She is a test planning supervisor at BIW with a desire to mentor.

## 2023

Rebecca Rankin has started a new job as a tattoo artist at Keepsake Tattoo in Oregon.

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# Making Waves?

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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.*

## **HUNTLEY RICHARD ROBERTS '46**

passed peacefully with his family at his side. Roberts was born in Lawrence, New York, and graduated from Lawrence High School, MMA, and New York University. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy during World War II as a Lieutenant JG. After leaving the Navy, he joined a family business, Brooks Fashion Stores, eventually becoming the Company's Vice Chairman. He led the Company's transformation from a credit store to a nationwide chain focusing on women's fashion. The cornerstone of his strategy was to develop a new concept of opening stores in enclosed malls, which were opening across the United States during the 1960s and 1970s, and which he saw as the future of retailing. During his tenure, the Company grew from having 16 stores in 1963 to over 900 upon the Company's sale in 1984. He later became a senior advisor and consultant at Prudential Bache Securities before finally retiring. Roberts was a strong supporter of his community and contributed to causes that he believed in. He was a member of the board of trustees of North Shore Hospital in Great Neck, New York, and remained a trustee emeritus of Northwell Health. He was a trustee of Nassau County Museum of Art and Vice President of Temple Beth-El in Great Neck. He was a warm and caring person who had a joy of living. His optimism, sense of humor and positive outlook will be remembered by all who knew him.

## **HAROLD A. ARMES '47**

passed away on July 5, 2024.

## **DONALD A. MACVANE '49**

of Long Island, Maine, passed away on September 15, 2024.

## **CHESTER F. FOSSETT '50**

died on Jan. 26, 2025, at St. Andrews Village in Boothbay Harbor, Maine. A lifelong resident of Boothbay Harbor, Fossett grew up at Spruce Point. He attended Eastside

Grammar School and graduated from Boothbay Harbor High School in 1947 and MMA in 1950. He shipped out for many years as a first assistant engineer for Farrell Lines traveling as far as South Africa and Korea. In 1962, Fossett left the sea, "swallowed the anchor," and worked for John Hancock Insurance Company for 20 years. He also was a realtor for many years. He ran for Lincoln County Treasurer and served from 1970-1986 until he ran for Lincoln County Registrar of Probate in 1986 and served for a total of 44 years, retiring in 2014. Fossett was civic minded and volunteered at the First Methodist Church, Maine Republican Party, Maine Red Cross, Rotary, and the Boothbay Harbor Memorial Library Board, served on the Boothbay Harbor School Board for many years, was a lifelong member of the Masons, and was president of the Boothbay Harbor YMCA. Fossett played the saxophone in the high school band and orchestra as well as in the MMA dance band. He taught racquetball at the YMCA, jogged, played tennis, golf, and volleyball. He loved the Boston sports teams, attending many Red Sox games with the whole family of three generations. A lifelong voracious reader, he may have been the best 94-year-old patron the Boothbay Harbor Memorial Library had.

## **CHESTER R. TWEEDIE '53**

passed away December 24, 2024, at home. Tweedie graduated from Bucksport High School and went on to graduate from MMA before joining the Navy. Tweedie and his family moved across Maine and New Hampshire during his engineering career within paper mills. Tweedie enjoyed life to the fullest; flying planes, camping, fishing, boating, scuba diving, spending time with family, and he had a way with animals, both pets and those in the wild. Tweedie was always busy working outside or putting on motors, boats, etc. Although Tweedie spent many winters in Florida, he was always with family in Maine for the summer, including

many birthdays poolside or at the lake.

Tweedie was a highly respected, caring and wonderful person, who will be missed by his family and friends.

## **DONALD H. SILKE '55**

died on March 6, 2025, after an extended illness. After graduating from MMA, Silke served in the Merchant Marines before enlisting in the Navy. At the completion of active duty, he relocated to the Washington D.C. area to pursue a career in civil service for the Department of the Navy. He retired in 1994 as the Director of the Shipboard Systems Division with the Military Sealift Command.

## **CAPT. HARLAN R. CUST USN(RET.) '56**

passed away peacefully December 14, 2024, with his loving family by his side. Cust graduated from Old Town High School and then went on to MMA, where he graduated as an Officer for the U.S. Navy. He completed numerous tours all over the world and was the recipient of many medals, including the Bronze Star, during his 30 years of service. Upon retiring from the Navy, Cust went to work for a fleet waste management company in Florida for 12 years. Cust always enjoyed spending time with his children, their spouses, his six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Cust also enjoyed playing tennis and golf with his family and friends. He sat on the City Council of Glenburn for many years and was a member of the Knights of Columbus in Old Town. He was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and person in general. Cust was a very loving person and was always willing to offer advice and words of encouragement to all.

## **JOSEPH H. VACHON JR. '56**

died peacefully on February 19, 2025. He was born in Biddeford, Maine, and raised in Saco. He was a graduate of Thornton Academy, Maine Central Institute, and

Maine Maritime Academy. His athleticism and his love for football supported winning teams at all three schools. Upon graduation from MMA with a degree in engineering, he was commissioned in the US Navy, where he served honorably, ultimately retiring with the rank of commander. He also worked as an executive for Texaco for 20 years. His entrepreneurial spirit supported later careers, owning and operating vacation rental cottages and lobster fishing. For many years, he operated a lobster boat out of Camp Ellis, Maine, and served as vice president of the Maine Lobsterman's Association. He retired to Stetson in 1990. His passion for the outdoors reflected itself in continuous hunting and fishing trips, gardening, and cultivating an extensive fruit orchard. He selflessly shared his love of the outdoors with his four children who cherish the memories of many outdoor adventures.

### **CHARLES E. BRIGGS '60**

died on October 5, 2024. He graduated from Tabor Academy and MMA. After graduation, Briggs returned and sailed as a watch officer on the school training ship. Briggs was a dedicated Freemason of 65 years, having joined Hancock Lodge #4 as a midshipman at MMA, and later joined Orient Lodge in his hometown of Norwood, Mass. A self-taught organist, he enjoyed traveling to serve as the organist for many Masonic ceremonies. He rose to the level of 33rd degree, an honor bestowed on few Masons. He had an interest in trains and enjoyed taking cross-country trips. A lover of music, Briggs was drawn to the theatre organ. He was an active member of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS), Eastern Massachusetts Chapter of ATOS, and the Pine Tree Chapter of ATOS. He traveled to organ conventions and concerts and was well known in the theatre organ community for his ardent support of the instrument; in particular, fostering new talent. As a member, then later President, of the Eastern Massachusetts Chapter, he sponsored an annual "Young Organist Concert" at Babson College on the Chapter's Wurlitzer Organ. In recognition of his support, Briggs was awarded the 2023 "Member of the Year" by the ATOS. Briggs was the owner/operator of C.A. Briggs, Company, a candy manufacturing firm started by his father. He moved out of the candy business and worked in the trucking and transport industry for C&D Warehouse Cartage, a company he started and operated with his friend and partner David Mullin.

### **RICHARD C. FORREST '61**

passed away on March 26, 2025. Born in Fitchburg, Mass., Forrest was a proud graduate of MMA. His career as a merchant marine and engineer was distinguished by his service aboard the SS *Savannah*, the world's first nuclear-powered merchant ship, as part of the Atoms for Peace program. He also worked at Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant, where his expertise and dedication earned him the respect of all who worked alongside him. Throughout his career, he contributed to numerous engineering and community projects, always giving his best to both his work and the people around him. A resident of Wiscasset, Maine, for many years, his life was shaped by his love for the sea and his devotion to his family. In his later years, Forrest found great fulfillment in working with the Virginia Project Maine's First Ship, a community-driven initiative, and his work as an engineer at the Boothbay Railway Village. He took great pride in these projects, knowing that his contributions would leave a lasting impact on his community and future generations. Beyond his professional achievements, he was a generous and thoughtful man who believed in giving back. His contributions to local causes, including over 20 years of service on the local shellfish and waterfront committees, as well as his love of the outdoors and vintage cars, made him a well-respected figure in Wiscasset. Whether volunteering his time or helping friends and family, his sense of humor and kindness touched all who knew him.

### **FRANK H. PEIRCE '61**

passed away October 17, 2024, in Pensacola, Fla. Peirce graduated from MMA in 1962 and after a couple of years joined the US Navy to learn to fly. He got his wings in 1966 at Pensacola NAS and was active duty for 20 years; after he retired from the United States Military, he continued to work an additional 20 years at (PHI) Petroleum Helicopter Industry. After retirement, he worked in the tax industry to help families all around Pensacola. He also was a faithful member at the Pensacola Beach Community Church and as a Senior Trustee was an integral part in helping rebuild after Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

### **RICHARD E. WYMAN '61**

passed away on November 1, 2024, at his Kittery Point home. Wyman attended Traip Academy where he was a football standout, graduating in the class of 1957. Wyman

graduated from MMA and joined the US Navy as a pilot. This provided him with a distinguished 22-year career, punctuated by awards, medals, and promotions. After retiring to Kittery Point, he hauled his own lobster traps, spent some time with his brothers building homes locally, and took a job at the Pease Golf Course repairing golf carts and later as a starter. With an old salt beard, Wyman was perfectly happy being a hometown guy within reach of the ocean. His retirement years gave him the chance to spend time with his parents and siblings. There was nothing that Wyman enjoyed more than a good game of golf or a competitive game of cribbage. If he wasn't out in his boat wetting a line, he might be found sitting on the deck of his home taking in the salt air that has been so much a part of his life. He loved watching the tide come and go, the wildlife that it brought and the fishermen reeling in their catch.

### **ROBERT S. BARTEK '62**

passed on September 6, 2024, surrounded by his family. Bartek was a graduate of Admiral Farragut Academy and a proud graduate of MMA. He sailed with American Export Line for 10 years after traveling around the world. He began his new career as a self-employed NAMS certified Marine Surveyor. East Coast Maritime Services was launched with Bartek covering the southeast, representing major insurance companies and several shipping lines over the next 47 years. Bartek found the beaches of the Gulf Coast to be his "happy place," visiting several times per year. His primary hobby was woodworking, and he spent many hours in the workshop creating furniture and gifts of wood for his family and friends. Bartek will always be remembered for his wit and unique sense of humor. There was always a joke or sea story to be told. His love for the sea was abundant as was his passion for life. Over the years, he was dedicated to his work and to his family. "Poppy Bob" is missed every day.

### **ROLAND E. GRODER '62**

passed away peacefully on February 18, 2025. After graduating from MMA, his early career was in domestic and international maritime engineering. Later, he became an Owner/Broker of ReMax Real Estate on St. Croix, USVI. He and his wife spent 22 years building a life together on the island they loved so dearly. The happy memories the children and grandchildren created while

# EIGHT BELLS

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visiting will always be one of his greatest gifts. After moving to Rocky Mount, Groder continued his passion for real estate as an agent for Coldwell Banker. He was a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, served his parish as an Eucharistic Minister, and was an active member of the Knights of Columbus. Groder was a kind, gentle man and a friend to all.

## **JAMES E. ZEDALIS '62**

died peacefully at his home in Ozona, Fla., on February 18, 2025. A 1962 graduate of MMA, he was a ship engineer in the merchant marines with Moore-McCormack Lines sailing out of Boston. In 1966, he married and settled in Ozona in 1967. Zedalis had a long professional career with GTE in facilities management in Tampa. During his retirement years, Zedalis refurbished a 30 ft. sailboat that he enjoyed sailing with his young grandchildren.

## **DANIEL N. FLEMING JR. '64**

peacefully passed away in Peabody, Mass. on December 10, 2024. A proud graduate of The Rivers School, Fleming continued his education at MMA, where he honed his skills and passion for engineering. He dedicated his service to the nation as a member of the Navy Reserve, achieving the rank of Lieutenant through his commitment and dedication. Fleming's career as a Chief Engineer for the Merchant Marines was marked by excellence and expertise, leaving a lasting impact on all who had the privilege of working with him. Beyond his professional achievements, he was a cherished member of the Cottage Park Yacht Club, where he shared his love for the sea with friends and family. Fleming will be remembered for his unwavering dedication, his remarkable achievements, and the warmth and kindness he extended to all who knew him. He leaves behind a legacy of honor, hard work, and a genuine love for the sea and sailing that will continue to inspire those he touched.

## **JOEL M. FULLER '64**

passed away peacefully, surrounded by his loving family, on November 18, 2024. He was schooled in East Walpole, Mass.; Bridgeton Academy; and MMA, where he received his BS in Marine Engineering. After graduation, he shipped for two years with Lykes Bros. out of Galveston

and Houston, Texas; taking supplies to Vietnam for the US military during the Vietnam War. After the two-year stint in world shipping, he relocated to Groton when he took a position in engineering at General Dynamics/Electric Boat where he stayed for 36 years, often being sent to the Prototype in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.; working on restorations on the Nautilus, trouble-shooting trips to Charleston, S.C., and riding "boats" on their sea trials. Fuller also was heavily involved with planning and supporting the now defunct Rhode Island Scottish Highland Festival. Fuller was an active member of the Free Masons; first by joining the Masonic Lodge in Castine, Maine, while a midshipman at the academy. He later joined Coastal 57 in Pawcatuck; as well as, taking the Scottish Rite at Somerset St. James in Norwich.

## **CAPT. EDWARD P. SHEPHERD '64**

passed away peacefully on February 24, 2025. Shepherd graduated from Swampscott High School in 1960, before earning his BS in Nautical Science. As a member of MMA's "First Four" Class of 1964, he graduated with Third Mate status and soon after became an Ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve. Shepherd developed a lifelong love of the ocean from a young age. He became an Eagle Scout and achieved the prestigious Quartermaster Award, the highest rank in Sea Scouts. Shepherd's distinguished maritime career spanned 40 years, and he navigated the globe aboard over 40 ships visiting over 1,000 ports. He spent nearly half of his career transporting ammunition to the U.S. Armed Forces worldwide and was decorated 15 times. Early in his career at sea, he served on the unique S.S. *American Racer* and was famously photographed at the helm in a 1964 AP news wire story that was circulated across the country. Shepherd's final voyage and command was upon the S.S. *Green Harbor*, which at the time was the largest ammunition cargo ship in the world (893 ft), an immense responsibility as it was the most explosive force on earth in motion. After retiring, Shepherd settled by the sea and found great pleasure in model ship building and harbored a deep affection for dogs. The greatest treasure that Shepherd shared with others was his endless collection of sea stories of his travels from around the globe.

## **SAMUEL D. SOULE '64**

passed away peacefully on December 21, 2024, at his home on Westport Island, Maine. He graduated from Wiscasset High School and earned engineering honors from MMA in the class of 1964. After several years of working at sea, Soule joined Central Maine Power (CMP), where he worked for many years. While at CMP, he served as the superintendent at Mason Station in Wiscasset and then at the William F. Wyman Station on Cousins Island in Yarmouth. For the next 17 years, he worked at Cianbro as a project manager, department manager, and general manager. He was the lead on all Cianbro projects at the Maine Yankee site in Wiscasset. In retirement, Soule spent his days lobstering. An avid hunter, Soule was deeply involved in his community. He served on the Grover Cemetery Committee, was a Cub Master in Wiscasset, and was president of the Wiscasset Alumni Association. He also served as a trustee of the Edgecomb Community Church, where he was a member, and was a member of the Wiscasset Fire Society.

## **BARRY G. UNNOLD SR. '66**

passed away peacefully at his home in South Portland, Maine, on March 31, 2025. Born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Unnold moved to Maine at a young age and was raised in South Portland. A graduate of South Portland High School in 1962, Unnold went on to earn his degree from MMA in 1966. Unnold began his professional life as a Marine Engineer with Texaco, drawn to the sea and the challenges of maritime work. Later, he transitioned to a career as an insurance underwriter, retiring from Unum in 2004. A dedicated Freemason, he began with the South Portland chapter of DeMolay and was raised at Hancock Lodge No. 4 while at MMA. He later completed the 32nd Degree of Freemasonry at Maine Consistory and became a Shriner of Kora Temple, proudly sharing these milestones with his father. A loving father and grandfather, he found great joy in caring for his grandchildren after retirement, transforming his backyard into a small amusement park and sharing in the fun and laughter. He was known for his love of dogs, good food, a smooth glass of bourbon, and captivating storytelling.

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### **ROBERT J. LINDVALL '68**

passed December 2, 2024. Lindvall lived a life full of adventure, laughter and a genuine connection with all those he met. A proud graduate of MMA, Lindvall was captain of both the football and rowing teams. After graduation, he served aboard merchant ships, transporting war supplies to Vietnam and commercial goods across the globe. His years at sea were followed by a fulfilling career as a builder and contractor on Nantucket Island. Known for his sharp wit and biting sense of humor, Lindvall had a rare gift for connecting with the people around him and making them laugh. He was an avid traveler and loved discovering new people, places, and cuisine. He was at his happiest in a foreign land connecting with a stranger. He was a talented poet, filling binders with an abundance of sonnets, haikus and wordplay. His larger-than-life personality will be remembered by all who knew him. Lindvall's legacy of kindness, humor and love will live on in the hearts of those who were lucky enough to know him.

### **DR. JOHN F. GADDIS '69**

died at his home in the Jacksonville District of East Machias on September 23, 2024. Born in East Machias, Gaddis was a proud alumnus of Washington Academy, MMA, and the Kansas City College of Osteopathic Medicine. Gaddis was the last of his breed, an old-school country doctor who cared for generations of Washington County residents while delivering more than two-thousand babies in his forty-three-year career. He was equally proud of his more than ten years "shipping out" as a Merchant Mariner. He sailed around the world on the biggest vessels of the time, including delivering supplies to Vietnam to support the war effort. Gaddis served his community in many ways. He served on the Board of Trustees at Washington Academy for thirty-six years, he also was active for many years in the Maine Osteopathic Association, including serving a term as president. Gaddis was a proud Master Mason of Warren Lodge #2. He also was a longtime member of the 32 Special Hunting Club of Berry Township. He was a sixth generation East Machias blueberry farmer and served as a board member for the Wild Blueberry Association of North America.

### **CMDR. RICHARD B. HARDEN, JR. '69**

passed away on January 9, 2025, after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was a much-loved athlete, artist, veteran, friend, son, brother, husband, father, and grandfather. A resident of Fremont, N.H., for the last 8 years, Harden grew up in the seaside town of Rockland, Maine, where he forged many strong friendships that lasted his whole life. He attended Rockland High School where he loved being part of the Rockland Tigers football team and graduated in 1965. After graduation from MMA in 1969, he entered the Merchant Marines whose ships were sent to Vietnam. After one year he joined the U.S. Navy and served for 4 years until he joined the U.S. Coast Guard where he would serve for over 20 years before retiring as a Commander in 1992. Harden was employed for many years by Marine Safety Consultants where he assisted with the "Big Dig" tunnel project in Boston, Mass. He was an avid golfer and was a member of the Pease Retired Military Golf League. He also volunteered as a Pease Greeter. In addition to golf, Harden enjoyed many outdoor activities including boating and skiing. Several years ago, he purchased his beloved Corvette, which had been a long-time dream of his. He loved to cruise around with his wife, listening to Golden Oldies, and soaking in the sights.

### **GERALD D. HEATH '69**

passed away unexpectedly in December of 2024.

### **DANIEL L. THURBER '70**

died March 23, 2025. Born in Portland, Maine, he was an MMA graduate, spent six years in the naval reserves, had a 20-year career in the merchant marine, working to the rank of chief engineer, followed by careers at L.L. Bean and General Dynamics. He loved his ships, crews, boats, marine engineering and safety, ship building, economizing and streamlining systems, and most recently, his jeep Clarabell. He loved all things mechanical, but most of all his family, grandchildren, and relationships. He was a kind, warm, gentle, generous, humorous man who, while serious, enjoyed jokes and sayings. He treasured sharing Bible and sea stories, advice, and guidance, as well as spending special time with his grandchildren. He loved passing on his wisdom to his grandchildren as well as to his adult children and beyond.

### **DAVID P. ACETO '78**

passed away July 1, 2024.

### **DANIEL M. AUBE '78**

lost his battle with pancreatic cancer on Aug. 27, 2024, at home in Old Orchard Beach, Maine, surrounded by his family. Aube was born in Biddeford, Maine, grew up in Old Orchard Beach, and was a 1974 graduate of OOB High School and a 1978 graduate of MMA, where he was D Company Commander. At graduation, he was appointed Reserve Officer in the U.S. Navy, receiving an honorable discharge as lieutenant. He served in the Merchant Marine as an engineer, sailing on cargo, container and passenger ships. Once shoreside, Aube worked for Stone & Webster, and later accepted a position with a client, Dominion Resources, where he was a supervising control systems engineer, often traveling with a team whose work included the redesign of control systems and instrumentation at various nuclear facilities across the country. Throughout his career, Aube never forgot that he was an Old Orchard Beach Seagull. Even at meetings with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in Rockville, Md., while others around the table jokingly boasted of school mascots like the Hawks, the Eagles, the Tigers or the Cougars...Aube was a Seagull and never met another! Those who knew Aube well know that music was a big part of his life, and he was a gifted musician. He played guitar and keyboard and was often described as having "perfect pitch". At MMA, he was a member of The Singing Mariners, a select group touring the Atlantic Seaboard each fall.

### **RICHARD B. LEVASSEUR '80**

passed away on September 15th, 2024. LeVasseur was born in Lincoln, Maine, and spent his childhood in East Millinocket where his love for the outdoors began and where he developed the hard work ethic he would be known for throughout his life. LeVasseur was an Eagle Scout, he graduated as the salutatorian of the Class of 1976 at Schenck High School and proudly attended MMA graduating with a degree in Marine Engineering in 1980, making the Superintendent's List all 4 years. After shipping out of the MEBA Union Hall until 1982, LeVasseur was hired by LNG Corporation and worked as a 3rd Engineer

on the LNG *Capricorn* Natural Gas Carrier in the South China Seas, working on this vessel until 1990. Upon returning to the Katahdin region, LeVasseur began his long career as an entrepreneur, establishing Katahdin Shadows Campground, Katahdin Shadows Motel, Penobscot River Outfitters, and the Jo-Mary Riders Snowmobile Club, of which he was President. LeVasseur created 5 Lakes Lodge on South Twin Lake. LeVasseur loved the many ski trips with his buddies "The Wolfpack". In the summers, gathering the grandchildren and friends aboard the pontoon boat to feed the eagles was the highlight of many evenings.

## **MICHAEL J. ROBINSON '81**

passed away surrounded by his loved ones on November 14, 2024, after a fierce six-year battle with glioblastoma. He fought with incredible faith, courage, and bravery. He loved music, Rocky movies, golf, history, and most of all, spending time with family and friends both near and far. His annual Christmas party was a highlight of every holiday season. A graduate from MMA, Robinson was later employed as a banker. He was also the President of Dakin Pool, Past President of Bangor Breakfast Kiwanis, Former Pack Master for Cub Scouts Pack 10, very involved with his church, Saint Paul the Apostle, and active in both city and county Democratic parties. As the community would attest, he "never met a stranger."

## **PETER A. KURTIN '83**

passed away on February 18, 2025, at his home in Oakdale, Conn., after losing his battle with pancreatic cancer. Kurtin grew up in the seaside towns of Connecticut where he formed interests that led to an acceptance at MMA. At MMA, he took a leadership role in the regiment and entered the NROTC program, graduating with an officer's position in the Navy. He was also involved in forming an Academy band which played at various MMA events. Being far from home, he was a member of the "weekend warriors," where he formed many friendships with both fellow students and Castine locals. After graduating, he became an officer in the Navy, gaining valuable maritime and leadership experience. After completing his naval commitment, he applied his skills at engineering companies, including Pratt & Whitney Testing Facility and various power

generation plants in Connecticut. He was extremely talented with the unique ability to conquer any mechanical task. He built his own home, including zoning, design and all aspects of construction. In his spare time, he would restore antique vehicles and old engine blocks, turning them into "works of art." The special memories he formed at MMA, time spent with family and friends, and vacations on Lake Arrowhead in Maine will not be forgotten.

## **DAVID R. CROSS '86**

passed away on September 27, 2024. Cross' adventurous spirit shone through his remarkable life as a surfer, Merchant Mariner, and innovative professional in the modular container industry. His motto, "What can I do to make your day better?" guided him until his last day, when he was helping family and brightening their lives.

## **LT. COL. HUGH V. TILLMAN USMC '87**

passed away on June 8, 2024 in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he was born almost 60 years earlier. He hoped the shadows on his scans were the pink bubble gum he swallowed as a 6-year old. Unfortunately, the big C had taken hold of his pancreas. As a child, Tillman's dream was to become a pilot. After graduating from MMA, he fulfilled that dream as a Marine, a flight instructor, a government contractor, and a commercial airline pilot. If you're interested in the nitty-gritty of his career, he'd tell you to Google it. However, the internet won't mention how he influenced a fellow Marine to quit smoking by offering him \$100 if he stayed away from cigarettes for the duration of their deployment; how he kept his promise to Marines and their families of anytime/anywhere by picking up a spouse and child in the middle of the night when she couldn't drive home after having one too many at a beach picnic; or how his favorite flights were those he showed wide eyed children the cockpit of an A330 and handed them one of the pilots wings he always carried in his flight bag. Tillman was a people person. He enjoyed and lived life to its fullest. In his own words, "I lived the equivalent of ten lives in the things I accomplished, places I was able to see, and the goals I had for myself. I have no regrets."

## **GREGORY L. LOGUE '92**

of Windham, Maine, died in a car accident on October 30, 2024. He was a proud U.S. Merchant Marine; a loving husband, father, son, brother, and friend; and a lifelong Mainer. Logue grew up in Scarborough, near Pine Point Beach, where he spent countless days playing in the sand. He graduated from Mt. Desert Island High School and MMA, fulfilling his father's lifelong dream of becoming a merchant mariner. He enjoyed a long career as a marine engineer and union member of MEBA. He sailed all over the world, working with his union brothers on oil tankers, cargo ships, car carriers, bulkers, and research vessels. Logue will be remembered as smart and resourceful, a hard worker with a brilliant mechanical mind. From welding to plumbing to electrical to engine work, Logue did it all. He was always willing to lend a hand to family and friends and was always the one people called when they needed help moving. Logue was also warm, loyal, gregarious and funny. Above all, Logue loved his family, his friends, and the great state of Maine. He and his wife were trying to visit every Maine State Park: jumping in the car whenever they could, gawking at the fall foliage and posing in front of lighthouses like tourists.

## **ROBERT G. MCGUIRE '92**

passed on February 13, 2025, after a brief, but extraordinarily brave battle with cancer. McGuire graduated from Deer Isle High School in 1988 and MMA in 1992 with a BS in Marine Engineering. He continued his education at the Calhoun MEBA Engineering school in Maryland. Shortly after graduating, McGuire began his 25+ year career, rising to Chief Engineer on various container ships all over the world. His travels took him to places most can only imagine and the stories of his adventures were eagerly anticipated upon his return. McGuire could spin many a good tale, with wit and humor, about different countries, situations he found himself in and the people he'd met; and likewise, his shipmates looked forward to his stories of family, friends and, by now, the infamous island of Deer Isle. McGuire was known for his unwavering determination to fix things, anything. He was a thinker, problem solver, builder of tree houses, chicken coops and gazebos. He was an electrician, plumber, drywall

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hanger, painter, stone mason, mechanic and cabinet maker. He could do anything. McGuire was a dedicated, hardworking husband and father who always put the needs of others before his own. He was a shining light to his family and friends, and his passing will be mourned by so many who had the privilege of knowing and loving him. His life may not have been long, but it was tremendously full.

### **PATRICK D. WELCH '92**

passed on February 12, 2025, from complications of heart and kidney transplants brought on by giant cell myocarditis. Welch attended Caribou High School, graduating in 1988. Growing up he enjoyed playing basketball, baseball, skiing, golfing, and refereeing Little League. The one class he focused on was Home Economics, which he took for three years. Welch was the only boy in the class and was spoiled with cookies and brownies. Welch attended MMA, where his parents learned he could get straight A's without the distraction of girls in his classes, graduating with a B.S. in marine engineering. Welch was the Regimental Executive Officer and sailed on the TS *State of Maine*. Throughout his schooling and career, he traveled throughout the world to many places including the Soviet Union, Egypt, and Europe. After his career in shipping, he transitioned to managing power plants in Fort Fairfield and Rumford, then working for GE Power, GE Power Digital, and GE Vernova, receiving numerous awards for excellence. Welch earned his MBA in international business management at Northeastern University in 2009. He loved coaching his son's baseball team, traveling to see his children's sporting and school events, riding his bike next to his wife as she competed in 5Ks and marathons, taking his family on epic vacation adventures, camping, skiing, and just being together. Welch was always the first person willing to help his friends and he collected the very best. His friends were family, with whom he enjoyed annual adventures and cherished traditions.

### **CHAD J. MORIN '96**

passed away unexpectedly on February 25, 2025, at his home in Old Orchard Beach, Maine. Morin was born in Biddeford, Maine, graduated Biddeford High School in 1991,

and MMA with a BS in Marine Engineering. Morin began his engineering career as a 3rd engineer on a tugboat. He quickly moved through the ranks and accepted a position as the Chief Engineer on the oil tanker, MV Florida, built in 2013. Between sailing on the MMA training ship TV *State of Maine*, and sailing on other ships, he was able to see a lot of the world, from Europe to Africa and the Caribbean. Morin had a love for history and enjoyed learning about the places he visited and continuing to gain more knowledge about U.S. history. He brought his boxed set of the PBS Civil War documentary on every ship rotation. Morin loved music. If he wasn't blasting Metallica or Foster the People's "Pumped Up Kicks" from the shower, in his workshop, or out the windows of his truck on West Grand Avenue, he was playing his guitar, getting his family to sing along with him or making up his own songs. Besides being a talented engineer, Morin was a skilled builder. Soaking in everything he could from his first job at Spang Builders in high school, he used that knowledge to help customize the dream house.

### **REBECCA A. RISER MILLER '06**

died November 24, 2024, at her home in Boothbay. Riser Miller was born in Boston, Mass. She graduated from Wiscasset High School in 2004 with honors, having also been on the 2003 winning girls track team. She graduated from MMA with an associate degree in Small Vessel Operations in 2006, and from the University of Maine at Orono cum laude, with a bachelor's degree in nutrition in 2009. From the age of 13 she was crew on the Windjammer fleet out of Rockland, first crewing on the *Isaac H. Evans*, eventually becoming first mate. She also crewed on the *Victory Chimes*. Riser Miller had an impeccable work ethic. She worked in the food industry for many years and began working at The First National Bank in 2016, eventually becoming a senior banking consultant. A group of loyal customers considered her their go-to person to solve any out-of-the-ordinary issues they were having. Riser Miller participated in many charitable initiatives throughout the community. Riser Miller enjoyed drawing, writing, reading, sailing, animals, hiking, and gardening. She dearly loved her children and would often take them to explore Ocean Point

and the various land trust trails. She was known as an independent go-getter and curious thinker who pushed herself to continue to learn. Her attention to detail was unsurpassed, especially when it came to watching over her loved ones. She was sentimental, sensitive, and caring.

### **JEREMY W. BEANE '08**

passed away on August 23, 2024. In 1997, he graduated from Morse High School with honors. Beane graduated from University of Maine with honors, receiving his Mechanical Engineering degree. He went on to earn a degree, as Valedictorian of the Bath Iron Works Apprenticeship/MMA program. He worked as a stern man on a lobster boat out of Five Islands and for the American Bureau of Shipbuilding (ABS). He was most recently employed at Bath Iron Works as an Engineer in Quality Control management. He was a longtime member of the Bath Lodge of Elks. Beane's passion was working in his garage building engines. A remarkable engineer, he built and modified numerous engines for family and friends. He enjoyed powerboats, ice fishing, hunting, camping, and snowmobiling. An experienced boatman, he especially loved boating along the waterways of the Kennebec River, and along the waters around Seguin Island. The voice of reason, Beane was the rudder of the ship, always on a steady course. He especially loved the annual boating and ice fishing camping trips to Moosehead Lake, where he loved catching fish and cooking for his friends. A born naturalist, Beane could grow anything from seed. He was interested in plants, trees, and wildlife.

### **CHRISTOPHER J. RODRIGUEZ '12**

passed away on December 14, 2024. Rodriguez graduated with honors from Skowhegan High School in 2008 and from MMA in 2012. Rodriguez was employed in the shipping industry and received his 2nd class engineering license. After residing in Florida for a few years, Rodriguez relocated in the San Diego area to work a landside position for a contracting company as an Estimator for navy ship repairs. In Rodriguez's younger years, he played soccer in high school, loved skateboarding, and enjoyed learning guitar. He worked hard in receiving a Brown Belt in Jiu-Jitsu. Later he took up boxing. He loved doing

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card tricks and would enjoy showing them to family and friends. Rodriguez enjoyed snowmobiling with his family, taking trips up North and spending time with extended family. Rodriguez loved hiking, fishing, and snowboarding. He had taken an interest in the business world by investing in others as they started up their own businesses. When Rodriguez had time off, he looked forward to spending time back in Maine visiting family and friends as well as spending time at the family camp at Cold Stream Pond. Rodriguez's family could not wait for his visits and see his big smile coming through the door. Rodriguez recently relocated to Maine to be with family and continued to explore career opportunities. He had recently completed a program for marine design at BIW.

### OLIVER COLE '23

passed away on February 17, 2025. A dedicated and passionate individual, Cole lived a life rich in adventure, always seeking new challenges and experiences. He led an active lifestyle, practicing archery and exploring the depths of the ocean while scuba diving. His deep curiosity made him a fascinating person to be around. Cole had an incredible ability to learn anything he set his mind to, always succeeding through hard work and perseverance, even when the odds were against him. Cole's pursuit of a career in the Navy began at MMA, where he graduated from the Engineering Technology program. He dreamed of continuing his education and growing in his career, always striving to improve himself and serve his country with honor. He had a gentle soul and a profound respect for others. He was a patient listener,

often speaking little but always offering words that carried weight when he did. Those who knew him treasured his dry, dark sense of humor that brought both laughter and insight in equal measure. Cole's love of reading, watching movies, and diving into intellectual pursuits made him an enriching presence in any conversation. Though he never sought attention, his quiet but strong presence was felt by all who had the privilege of knowing him. They will deeply miss his wisdom, compassion, and unassuming strength. His legacy of quiet resilience, deep intelligence, and generosity will live on in all who were fortunate enough to know him.

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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).*

### WILLIAM E. HAGGETT, TRUSTEE EMERITUS

William Haggett passed away peacefully on March 1, 2025. He graduated from Morse High School and from Colby College. Haggett worked for Brown Wales Steel Co. of Cambridge, Mass. calling on their Maine customers, including BIW. Three years later he was recruited by BIW to be an assistant buyer in their purchasing department. This began a remarkable 28-year career with BIW where he held many titles before he was chosen to lead the company as president and chairman of the board. Haggett was proud of the BIW motto: "Ahead of Schedule and Under Budget". At the national level he was awarded the Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz Award for exemplary leadership in the maritime defense industry. He also served on a Presidential Commission on Merchant Marine and Defense under Presidents Reagan and George H. W. Bush. A phenomenal fundraiser and supporter of MMA, Haggett was instrumental in many MMA campaigns. Len Tyler, former president of MMA, states, "When Bill was the Chair of our Board of Trustees, he became a sounding board for me, always providing well thought out and sound advice. During many capital fund drives, we worked as a team in soliciting major gifts. When it was time to make an "ask", I only needed to call Bill, who would respond, "just let me know when and where and tell me a little about who we were meeting with." He was a true gentleman and will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

**ROBERT B. CARTER SR.** passed away after a brief illness on October 18, 2024. Carter was born on April 5, 1938, in Blue Hill, Maine. Carter grew up in Castine and worked at Maine Maritime Academy for over 40 years.

**FRED OTTO** passed away March 29, 2025, Otto graduated from Orono High School in 1952, and the University of Maine in 1956 with a BS in engineering physics. He earned a master's and a Ph.D. in physics from the University of Connecticut. Otto's career started in Massachusetts, where he received a patent while working as an electrical engineer for Sylvania Electric in the semiconductor and lighting division. After finishing his Ph.D., he served as a professor at Colby College, the University of Maine, Maine Maritime Academy for 15 years, and Husson College. Otto co-authored a college physics laboratory manual and edited several physics textbooks. Otto always loved teaching, whether he was being paid for it or not.

**EUGENE "GENE" CARL FETTEROLL, JR.** died unexpectedly on Nov. 11, 2024. Born in Hartford, Conn., he graduated from Newington, Conn. High School in 1953, the University of Connecticut with a B.A. in Economics in 1957, and Suffolk University with an MEd in 1973. He was employed by the Boston Gas Co., Eastern Gas and Fuel Associates, and the Associated Industries of Mass. In 1989, he started Fetteroll Associates and remained self-employed until his retirement in 2012. He collected powder flasks and loved to travel with his wife Barbara. Over his career he worked as a United Way volunteer and was an active member of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and St. Peter Parish in Portland. Upon moving to Maine, the Fetterolls became very involved with Maine Maritime Academy and established The Fetteroll Scholarship Fund which has provided scholarship assistance to many deserving students.

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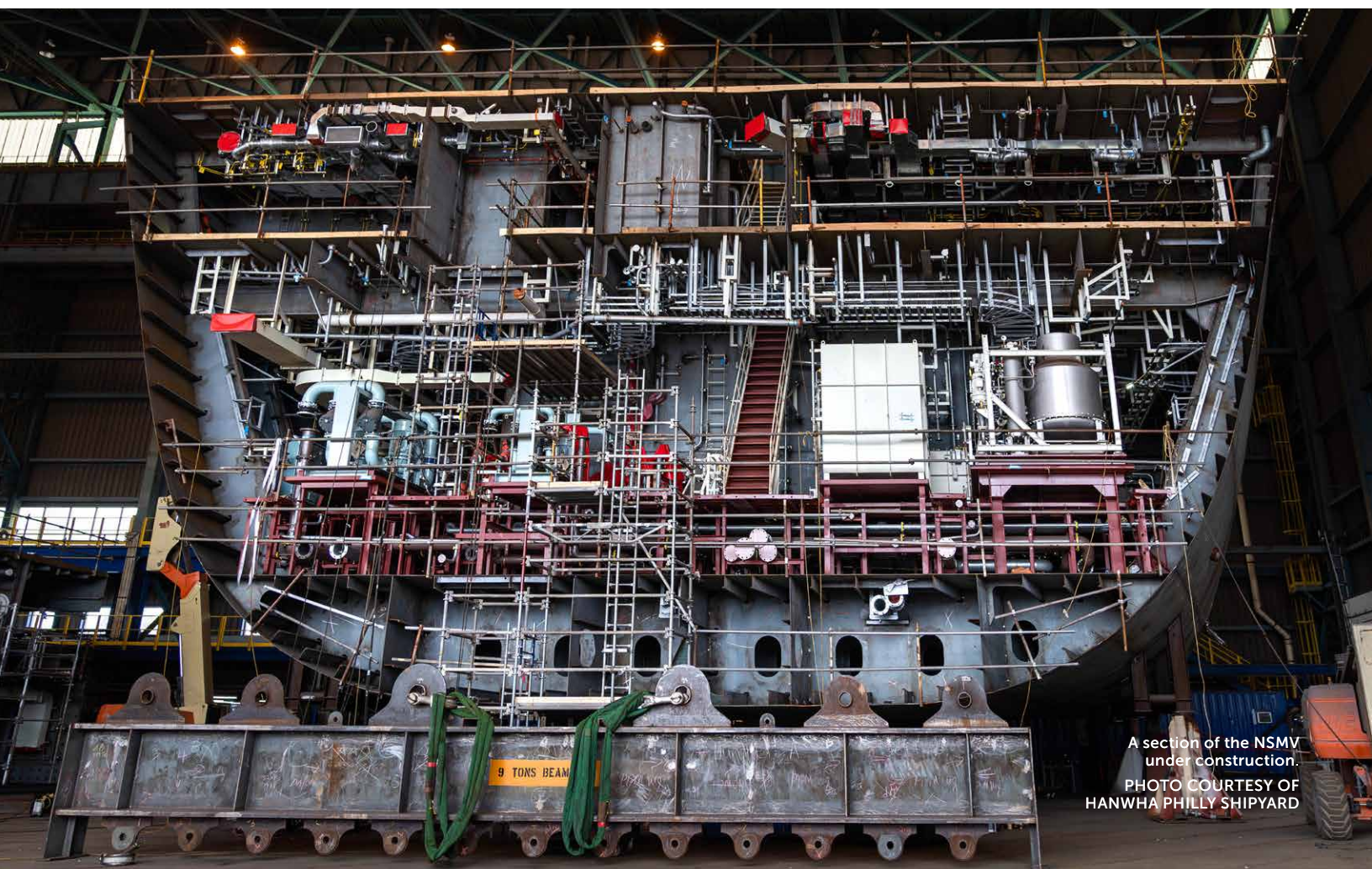
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