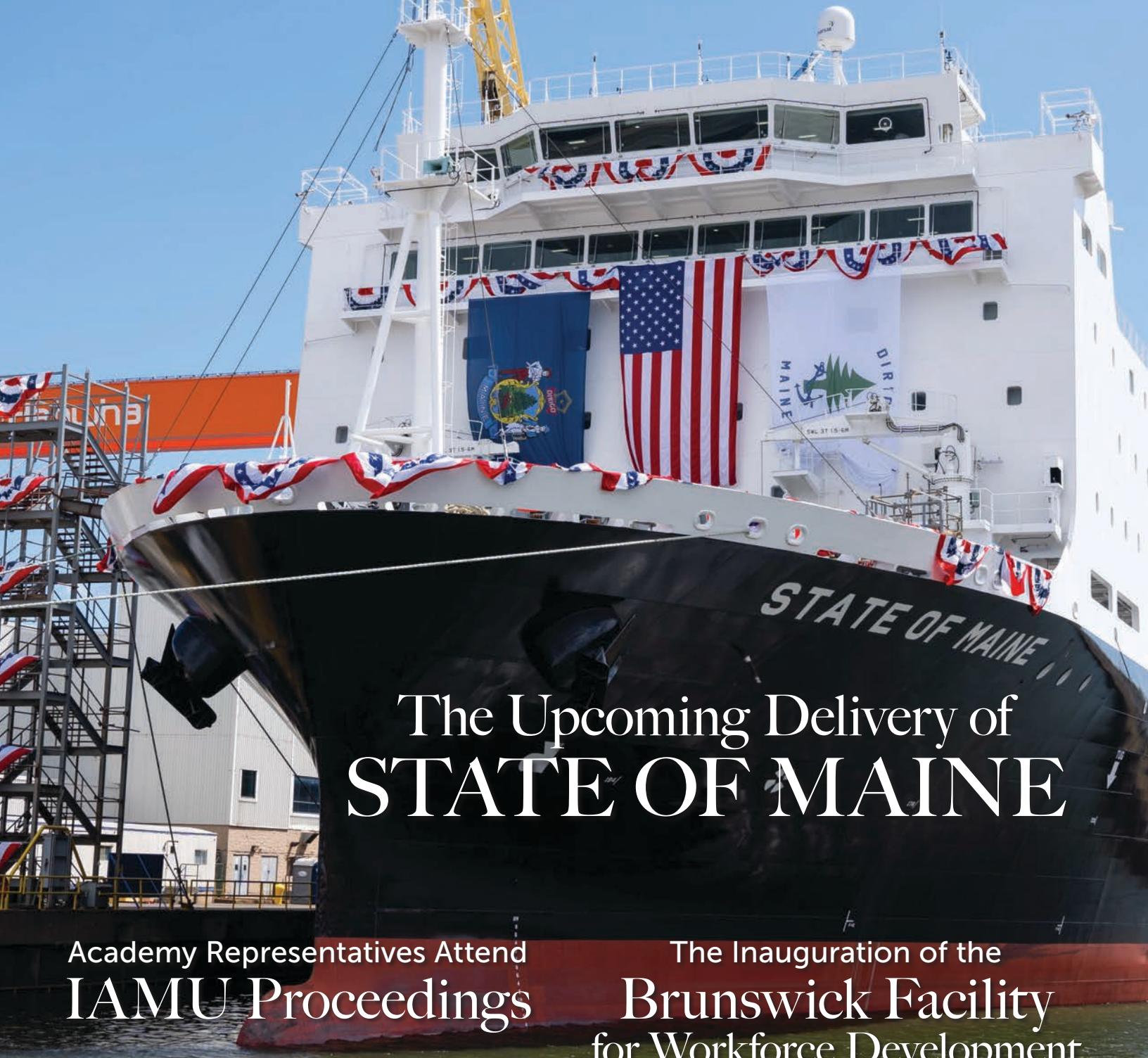


MARINER

The ALUMNI MAGAZINE of MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

— JANUARY 2026 —



The Upcoming Delivery of **STATE OF MAINE**

Academy Representatives Attend
IAMU Proceedings

The Inauguration of the
Brunswick Facility
for Workforce Development

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This image was taken by Joey Valliere '27 while cadet shipping aboard the USNS *Supply*, a military sealift vessel providing support to the U.S. Navy. Describing the situation, Valliere said, "I was on watch from 2000-0000, and had seen that we would be on the outskirts of a significant thunderstorm. I grabbed my camera and tripod and set up my gear to take pictures repeatedly on long exposure mode. This allows the camera to collect light for up to five seconds, and once the timer is up, it starts again, allowing me to have the highest chance of capturing a lightning bolt. I got several photos that night, and decided it was time to go inside after the aft part of the vessel was struck and I didn't want to be next."



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MMA PRESIDENT
Craig Johnson '91

A generational transformation

Dear members of the Maine Maritime Academy community,

2026 PROMISES to be a landmark year in the Academy's storied history, particularly with the arrival of *State of Maine*, our first purpose-built training vessel. This new ship will ensure that the Academy is able to continue to provide the highest quality maritime training in the nation, at a time when the demand for well-trained mariners has never been greater.

The revitalization of the waterfront campus remains on schedule, with the first phase of pier construction set for completion this summer. The new pier will more than double our available dock space to over 1,100 linear feet and is designed to serve the Academy for the next 50 years. The pier upgrade is essential not only to accommodate the new training vessel, but also for the safety of our staff and students who operate and train aboard our fleet of more than 70 vessels.

We are deeply grateful for the continued generosity of the William M. Wood Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., which recently awarded the Academy a grant of \$1 million to support the construction of the pier. For more than a decade, the Foundation has played a vital role in advancing our mission by establishing the William M. Wood Foundation, Bank of America, N.A. Endowed and Annual Scholarships, contributing to the construction of the ABS Center for Engineering and Applied Research, and providing operating support for the schooner *Bowdoin*.

The much-needed renovation of Curtis Hall is also well underway, progressing on schedule and within budget. The upgrades to the residence hall will dramatically improve the quality of life for students. Project completion is expected in the summer of 2027.

These important capital projects taking place on campus, totaling nearly \$150M, not only benefit the Academy, but also the state economy. They have a significant multiplier effect conservatively totaling more than \$400M, with the creation of nearly 400 jobs.

In October, we proudly opened our Brunswick campus, the Maritime Industrial Workforce Training Center, positioning the Academy to meet the increasing demand for skilled industrial labor, particularly within the maritime sector.

I encourage you to read more about this exciting milestone in this issue of *Mariner*.

In November, the Board of Trustees approved the Academy's new strategic plan, which identifies financial stability, enrollment, and retention as critical institutional priorities. This plan provides a framework for strengthening the Academy's long-term fiscal health while enhancing student experience. The transformational infrastructure projects underway across campus are essential to achieving these goals, ensuring that Maine Maritime Academy continues to attract and retain exceptional students while building a sustainable financial foundation.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Senator Nicole Grohoski, who is presenting LD 681, a bill with bipartisan support that would bring funding for the Academy in line with other state institutions. Senator Grohoski has been a tireless advocate for Maine Maritime Academy, and I am deeply appreciative of her leadership. I would also like to thank Representative Steven Foster '78, one of our distinguished alumni, for co-sponsoring the bill and his dedicated efforts on our behalf.

As we look ahead, we are preparing to launch the most ambitious capital campaign in the Academy's history in support of our strategic priorities. We are grateful for your continued support and commitment to Maine Maritime Academy. Together, we are ensuring that the Academy remains a national leader in maritime education for decades to come.

Fondly,

Craig Johnson '91 RADM
President

Introducing Jamie Coffey



Dear Mariners,

It is my great pleasure to welcome Jamie Coffey as our new Director of Alumni Relations! The Alumni Association is delighted to have someone of her experience and caliber joining Maine Maritime Academy. Jamie brings an impressive background in higher education and the nonprofit sector, with leadership roles at institutions including Barnard College/Columbia University,

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, and Ringling College of Art and Design. Her thoughtful approach to engagement and strategy will be invaluable as we continue strengthening connections across our global network of graduates.

Jamie has already hit the ground running. Not only did she have the opportunity to join us at our most recent Alumni Association meeting and holiday social, but she has also joined a few other chapter meetings throughout the region, and I know many of you will have the chance to meet her at various events in the months ahead.

I am impressed by Jamie's genuine enthusiasm for becoming part of the MMA family. In her own words, "I am honored to join the incredible team at Maine Maritime Academy and to serve our esteemed alumni community. The passion and dedication of MMA graduates is truly inspiring, and I look forward to connecting with Mariners near and far as we strengthen the bonds that make this maritime family so special."

A native of Florida and longtime New Yorker, she and her husband are thrilled to call beautiful Castine home. Her lighthearted spirit and dedication to building meaningful connections align perfectly with our mission to engage and support our alumni community.

I look forward to collaborating with Jamie as we work to enhance engagement between the Alumni Association and all of you as we remain committed to supporting the Academy and fostering the connections that make our maritime family strong.

I encourage you to reach out and introduce yourself to Jamie when you see her at an event or connect with her through the Alumni Relations office. Your continued involvement and support are what make our Association thrive.

Fair winds,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "AS".

Andrew Strosahl '05

President, Maine Maritime Academy Alumni Association

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Mariners Women's Volleyball Wins Eighth NAC Championship in 10 Years

In November, the Maine Maritime Academy women's volleyball team won its second consecutive NAC Championship and eighth in the last 10 years, beating SUNY Delhi 3-0. Junior Sydney Williams was named the NAC Tournament Most Valuable Player. Six players were recognized with all-conference selections, while the team was awarded Coaching Staff of the Year.



The Upcoming Delivery of STATE OF MAINE

The waterfront campus defines and distinguishes the training capabilities and student experience at Maine Maritime Academy.

With the arrival of *State of Maine* and the construction of the new pier, the waterfront campus is in the process of a generational transformation that will reshape the world-class, hands-on education the institution is able to provide its students.

State of Maine, the third of five cutting-edge National Security Multi-Mission Vessels, will serve as the next generation training ship at the Academy, supporting both the academic development of cadets and federal humanitarian relief efforts in response to natural disasters. The ship is the Academy's first purpose-built training vessel with a full-sized, dedicated training bridge and two full-sized, fully functional engine rooms.

On August 26, Maine Maritime Academy, the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD), Hanwha Philly Shipyard, and TOTE Services celebrated the *State of Maine* naming ceremony at Hanwha Philly Shipyard in Philadelphia.

Speakers at the naming ceremony included President Lee Jae Myung of the Republic of Korea, Governor of Pennsylvania, Josh Shapiro, U.S. Senator Todd Young of Indiana, U.S. Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon of Pennsylvania, Acting U.S. Maritime Administrator Sang Yi, Maine Maritime Academy President Craig Johnson, and Maine Maritime Academy Regimental Commander Odegaard Fields. Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao served as the ship's co-sponsor with Senator Susan Collins, also the ship's Godmother; both played a crucial role in securing federal funding for the vessel.

"Maine Maritime Academy is internationally recognized as a leader

in maritime education, and this vessel represents a major step forward in our mission to train the world's finest mariners," said Maine Maritime Academy President Craig Johnson. "As our first purpose-built training ship, *State of Maine* will provide world-class learning experiences for cadets pursuing unlimited tonnage licenses. It's a game-changer for our mission and a powerful reflection of what's possible through strong partnerships and shared vision."

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy had been scheduled to speak at the naming ceremony but was delayed by a cabinet meeting. In his absence, he issued the following statement, "State of Maine is more than a ship — it's a strategic investment in the people and infrastructure that keep America's maritime economy strong. Our cadets deserve cutting-edge tools and training to become the industry leaders who will keep our nation strong and ready when it matters most."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF HANWHA PHILLY SHIPYARD



Acting Maritime Administrator Sang Yi delivered an address at the event saying, "This vessel marks a new era for American maritime power. MARAD's mission to modernize sealift and empower the Merchant Marine hinges on relentless innovation and partnership. Together, we can build the fleet America needs to secure our future and dominate the seas."

President Lee of Korea emphasized the importance of the strategic relationship between South Korea and the United States and the bilateral commitment to strengthening domestic shipbuilding capabilities. President Lee announced a \$5 billion investment by Hanwha in Hanwha Philly Shipyard. In October, President Trump announced that the United States would build nuclear-powered submarines at Hanwha Philly Shipyard in coordination with the South Korean government.

Regimental Operations Officer Margaret Archibald '26 attended the naming ceremony along with other members of regimental leadership. Describing the experience, Archibald said, "Touring the ship after the naming ceremony was the first time I saw *State of Maine* in person. Seeing the training rooms and engine spaces, I started imagining all of the possibilities for the expansion of the summer sea term learning curriculum. As an engineer, the opportunity to work with brand new automation and electrical systems means that I will enter the industry next spring prepared to work on any type of vessel."

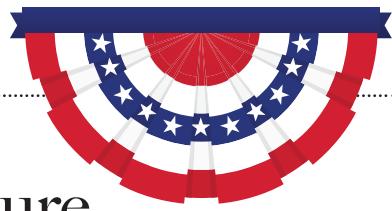
Archibald added that, "Maine Maritime Academy is a special place that, for many reasons, develops good people and good sailors, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have represented the student body at the *State of Maine* naming ceremony."

Clockwise from top:
Cadets with the President of TOTE Services Jeff Dixon, Maine Maritime Academy President Craig Johnson '91 delivers an address at the *State of Maine* naming ceremony, and the Honorable Elaine Chao, the ship's co-sponsor, arrives with *State of Maine* Chief Engineer Aaron Coy.

Immediately following the naming ceremony, *State of Maine* encountered propulsion shaft and stern tube bearing issues during dockside trials. The ship was subsequently drydocked in September.

During drydocking, the tail shaft, stern tube bearing, bearing carriers, and other associated components were removed for analysis and replacement or repair. At the time of printing, *State of Maine* is pier side at Rhoades Industries Pier 6 in Philadelphia with temporary plates over the stern-tube.

An additional drydocking will be necessary to facilitate the installation of a reconditioned tail shaft, stern tube bearings, and associated propulsion components. Expected delivery to MARAD/TOTE Services is now the first quarter of 2026, following repairs, root cause analysis, and additional dock trials to prove the efficacy of the repairs. ■



All Hands for a Bright Future

MEAGAN DOUCETTE '21, THIRD MATE, STATE OF MAINE

THIS PAST AUGUST, I had the opportunity to attend the naming ceremony for NSMV III, *State of Maine* at Hanwha Philly Shipyard in Philadelphia. It was an extraordinary day for the Maine Maritime Academy community as it marked a new chapter in the school's storied history. During the ceremony, American and South Korean dignitaries spoke of the importance of shipbuilding in America and the positive impact of the NSMV program on future seafarers. There was a sense of camaraderie among attendees as we celebrated this exciting milestone.

The group of Midshipmen who attended played a significant role in the events of the day. Unsurprisingly, they operated with great professionalism and poise as they mingled with respected politicians and industry leaders. The afternoon ended with a speech from Midshipman Odegaard Fields in which he described the history of the NSMV program and leaders who have played vital roles in its success. He described the mission of Maine Maritime Academy and the impact of the institution on current and former students. MMA was well represented that day; our presence

was impactful and impressive. Perhaps the most impressive were our students. The ship's crew was very proud of them on this day.

As a Maine Maritime Academy graduate and current crew member, I feel a deep sense of responsibility in ensuring that MMA maintains the level of excellence it has displayed for generations. A state-of-the-art training ship will enhance our ability to train our deck and engine cadets in modern systems. It will provide ample classroom space and resources which will serve various other academic programs at MMA. We are excited to collaborate with staff, faculty, and students as we utilize this incredible asset.

I, along with my fellow crew members, have invested our time and energy into this project. Collectively, we have spent hundreds of days away from home, training and readying ourselves for the future. During the past year, we have worked with our counterparts at SUNY Maritime College and Massachusetts Maritime Academy in an effort to prepare for the delivery of *State of Maine*. Having access to NSMV sister ships *Empire State* and *Patriot State* has

been crucial to our preparation. Most recently, we have been in Philadelphia at Hanwha Philly Shipyard observing as the ship nears completion. We have a shared vision, full of possibilities for our students, and we have remained committed to capitalizing on this moment to take MMA's shipboard training to the next level.

This program has provided a unique professional opportunity for me, and I have been fortunate to work alongside intelligent, steadfast colleagues during this period of flux. Our routines were upended as we worked remotely. We were no longer interacting with students during weekly maintenance. We lived in apartments in Philadelphia while MMA cadets completed summer sea term, something we look forward to yearly. Although this stage in delivery was expected, we felt a loss of connection with the MMA community. As we enter the next stage, we are excited to reconnect and help usher in a new era for the school we love. This ship belongs to everyone, and we should be very proud of what it represents.





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ACADEMY REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND IAMU Conference

Hosted by AMET University in India, the event brought together educators, mariners, policymakers, and students from more than 40 countries

Michael Dickerson, Ph.D.

In October, Maine Maritime Academy Chief Financial Officer Janet Waldron, Director of Communications Michael Dickerson, Associate Professor Aaron Kingsbury, and Associate Professor Steven Baer attended the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU) Annual General Assembly (AGA25). The event was hosted by the Academy of Maritime Education and Training outside Chennai, India.

Maine Maritime Academy is one of seven founding members of IAMU, a global consortium of maritime education institutions that has grown to more than 80 members worldwide. The Academy is currently serving a two-year term representing North and South America on the IAMU International Executive Board (IEB) as head of the Finance Committee.

The IEB serves as IAMU's primary decision-making body, deliberating on topics such as global maritime

curricula, institutional policies and priorities, and the implications of emerging technologies in the maritime sector including artificial intelligence, autonomous vessels, and alternative fuels in the context of decarbonization.

During the IEB meeting, Associate Professor of Arts and Sciences Aaron Kingsbury presented an interim report on an Organizational Development Project for which he and project coordinator, Chair and Professor of Maritime Transportation Ender Asyali, have received an IAMU grant. Asyali and Kingsbury, along with their collaborators from Istanbul Technical University Faculty of Maritime, propose integrating representatives from maritime industry associations as an advisory committee within the IEB framework. The team will present their final report at the next IEB meeting in Split, Croatia in April 2026.

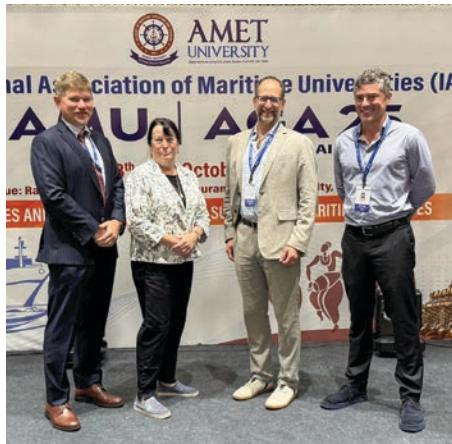
Reflecting on the conference, Kingsbury said, "As one of MMA's representatives at the IAMU Conference

in Chennai, I had the opportunity to engage with colleagues from numerous maritime universities. Many expressed strong interest in developing collaborative initiatives with MMA, our faculty, and our students. The potential for partnership is exciting!"

Following the two-day IEB meeting, the 25th IAMU Annual General Assembly was held from October 14 to 18. Nearly 150 participants from more than 40 countries, including academic and government leadership, professors, researchers, industry representatives, and students, presented analysis on a wide range of topics related to maritime education and the global maritime sector.

Associate Professor of Marine Science Steven Baer presented on the rapidly changing environmental conditions in the Arctic, with particular focus on sea ice decline. Baer discussed the implications for shipping routes, geopolitics, and environmental risks, offering recommendations for how





maritime curricula might evolve to more effectively prepare students.

Describing the event, Waldron noted, "The Annual General Assembly offered a tremendous opportunity for collaboration, sharing of academic learning, and discussions regarding issues and opportunities across member institutions, with the potential for multiple international partnerships. The Academy's faculty presentations were applauded and recognized by the IAMU International Executive Board and praised by conference attendees. AMET was a very gracious host with the Nippon Foundation's strategic support to enable a dialogue and deep exchange on critical maritime issues confronted by all members."

As a result of the IAMU event, the Academy's administration is holding multiple discussions with several domestic and international institutions including Satakunta University of Applied Sciences, Finland, what is now Cal Poly Maritime Academy, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Caribbean Maritime University, Jamaica, AMET University, India, and several others regarding opportunities for enhanced collaboration.

In early December, Satakunta University of Applied Sciences Professor Minna Keinänen-Toivola visited the Academy to share her expertise on icebreakers, the Icebreaker Collaboration Effort between the United States, Canada,

and Finland, and the possibility of student and faculty exchange between our two colleges. During her visit, she gave a guest lecture in Professor Steven Baer's ocean studies class, attended senior research poster sessions, and met with leadership to discuss future opportunities for cooperation.

She indicated, "Collaboration between Maine Maritime Academy and Satakunta University of Applied Sciences offers an exceptional opportunity to advance education, research, and innovation in the

Dinesh Pinisetti said, "As a first-time attendee of the IAMU meeting, I was inspired by the immense potential of global collaboration to address critical maritime challenges. It also reinforced how vital it is for all U.S. State Maritime Academies to unite as one team—revitalizing our industry, driving innovation, and shaping the next generation of the maritime workforce."

Massachusetts Maritime Academy Professor of International Maritime

Business Paul Szwed echoed this sentiment, saying, "While sometimes it takes traveling halfway around the world to find an opportunity to talk to your neighbors, it should not have to be that way. Our US maritime academies share common missions, opportunities, and challenges. I think the last time we had a combined academic conference was prior to the pandemic. Let's figure out

ways to collaborate and collectively benefit from each other's perspectives and experience."

During the closing ceremony, AGA25 program editor Deepa Rajesh praised the "extraordinary exchange of ideas, knowledge, and global perspectives that truly embodies the spirit of the International Association of Maritime Universities." She concluded by sharing a Sanskrit proverb: "Knowledge is a treasure neither stolen by thieves nor taken by kings and does not diminish but grows forever." ■

"The Annual General Assembly offered a tremendous opportunity for collaboration, sharing of academic learning, and discussions regarding issues and opportunities across member institutions, with the potential for multiple international partnerships."

— CFO Janet Waldron

maritime sector. We share a strong interest in the Arctic regions, where sustainability, safety, and skills development are critical for the future."

"Maine Maritime Academy and Satakunta University of Applied Sciences expect to sign an MOU this spring to formally recognize our cooperation."

While international engagement is a hallmark of IAMU, AGA25 also provided an opportunity for the U.S. State Maritime Academies to connect. Cal Poly Maritime Associate Vice President and Academics Lead

Forging the Fleet

Maine Maritime Academy Expands to Build the Nation's Defense Workforce

When Maine Maritime Academy opened the doors to the public in late October for the unveiling of its newest campus in Brunswick — the Maritime Industrial Workforce Training Center (MIWTC) — one message rang loud and clear: the future of America's shipbuilding workforce starts here.

The Academy boldly secured the nearly 50,000-square-foot facility on the redeveloped Brunswick Landing, once home to Naval Air Station Brunswick. During its operational years, that base launched generations of service members into missions that protected our coasts and supported U.S. naval power across the globe. Today, the site's purpose endures — still in service of national defense — but its

front line has changed. Now, it's powered by the hands, skill, and determination of the men and women who build and sustain the U.S. Navy's fleet.

Shipbuilding has long been woven into Maine's DNA. From the wooden schooners of the 1700s to the destroyers launched at Bath Iron Works during World War II, this region has always answered the nation's call. What was once a bustling hub of naval aviation is now transforming again — this time into a strategic training ground for America's next generation of defense tradespeople.

The MIWTC's mission is ambitious: to create a campus that mirrors a working shipyard, training up to ten core trades and offering multiple pipelines — from new entry-level skills training responding to the industry's demand signal, to incumbent workers seeking to sharpen their craft, to accelerated boot camps and leadership

programs addressing emerging needs across the Maritime Industrial Base.

Without waiting for federal grants or a perfect moment, MMA acted. With limited resources but unwavering determination, the Academy forged ahead, putting its neck out for the mission. As Matt Sermon of the Navy's Program Executive Office for the Maritime Industrial Base has said, "You can't wait for the conditions to be ideal — you fight for the mission with what you have."

Phase 1 is already in full swing. In partnership with General Dynamics Bath Iron Works (BIW), MMA co-leads an apprentice program that's been producing world-class shipbuilders for nearly four decades. It's one of the nation's only programs that combines paid, full-time shipyard employment with college-level instruction. Apprentices log thousands of on-the-job hours in welding, shipfitting, pipefitting,



and marine production design while completing 60 academic credits through MMA. Graduates earn an Associate of Science in Shipbuilding Production or Ship Design, a State of Maine apprenticeship certificate, and a BIW diploma — credentials that launch lifelong careers and strengthen the Navy's supply chain.

When asked about the benefits of running a joint program, BIW's Director of Training Tom Stevens said, "It's partnerships like this that will enable BIW to have a solid pipeline of skilled workers to feed the growing need of shipbuilders and help to meet the need of 500+ new shipbuilders a year."

The MIWTC also reaches younger generations through collaboration with Maine Career and Technical Education (CTE) centers and regions that offer hands-on, career-focused education to high school students, opening doors for high-school juniors and seniors who were previously wait-listed due to limited space. Students from Brunswick's Region 10 CTE are learning skills at MIWTC that can provide access to hands-on, high-wage career paths, building a foundation for a workforce that could add up to 1,000 new skilled tradespeople each year once the center reaches full capacity.

This initiative couldn't come at a more critical time. The U.S. Navy's battle-force fleet stands at roughly 296 active ships as of 2025, but its long-range shipbuilding plan calls for more than 300 ships by 2032 and 381 manned vessels by the early 2040s to sustain global readiness. Yet America's shipyards face a shortage of tens of thousands of skilled workers and attrition rates exceeding 20 percent in key trades — a bottleneck threatening the Navy's ability to deliver ships on time and maintain those already at sea.

Craig Johnson, President of MMA, emphasized the importance of moving beyond isolated efforts to achieve the Navy's mission. Johnson stated that MMA, BIW, and Region 10 have already initiated effective collaboration, and future partnerships will further strengthen workforce development at the shipyards. These joint initiatives are designed to create sustainable talent pipelines, ensuring a steady supply of skilled tradespeople for years to come. Johnson concluded by affirming that success requires both decisive action and shared belief—principles central to MMA's approach. ■



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At the Academy

Newly Created Vane Brothers Fellowship Program

CAPTAIN TIM LEACH '05 & '10 AND MICHAEL DICKERSON, PH.D.

MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY is pleased to announce the creation of the Vane Brothers Fellowship Program, which will offer three years of financial support to students pursuing degrees in Vessel Operations and Technology.

President Craig Johnson '91 said, "We're grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this mutually beneficial relationship for all involved: Vane Brothers, the Academy, and our students. Facilitating relationships with employers is a fundamental aspect of an education at the Academy and that benefits both students and employers. We have one of the premier limited license programs, Vessel Operations and Technology, and Vane Brothers is a leader in the industry, so the connection is natural."

The Vane Brothers Fellowship Program agreement covers a term of five years beginning with the first cohort to be announced during the 2025-26 academic year. Vane Brothers fellows will receive \$10,000 of funding per year with a total financial commitment to the Academy of \$360,000.

Vane Brothers will also provide co-op billets for at least six students per year as a part of the agreement. Additionally, although an employment commitment is not expected of those who receive a

fellowship, Vane Brothers will offer "direct employment opportunities" to graduates.

Vane Brothers and Maine Maritime Academy see the partnership as mutually beneficial for several reasons, including deepening the connection between the Vessel Operations and Technology program and one of the industry leaders in maritime transportation on the East Coast.

"During our frequent visits to Castine, we have seen the quality and caliber of the students attending Maine Maritime Academy," said Vane Brothers Vice President of Operations Rick Iuliucci. "The strong work ethic, confidence, leadership, and discipline exhibited by these future officers align with what we desire to be, the very best in our industry."

Vane Brothers seeks to establish "early and meaningful connections" with Academy students to both financially support their education and expose them to the possibilities of a career with the company.

Vane Brothers believes it is in the company's interest to start investing in its future employees at the undergraduate level. Iuliucci indicated that, "At Vane, our most important asset is our people. The opportunity to support the growth of the leaders of tomorrow in our industry is critical to the future needs

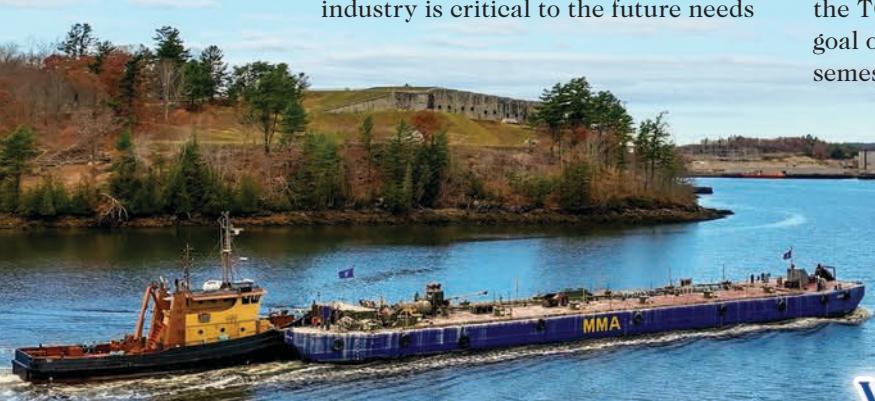
of our company. The investment made today will pay dividends for years to come and help Vane achieve our goal of being the industry leader in the U.S. Jones Act fleet."

Vane Brothers has been in operation since 1898 and, in addition to bunkering, lightering and launch services, operates a division of marine safety equipment service and inspection.

Maine Maritime Academy has been training mariners for tug and barge operations since 1983. Admiral Edward Anthony "Ted" Rodgers, Superintendent of the Academy from 1964 through 1984, led the effort to develop the tug and barge operations program, the first offered at a maritime academy.

For over 40 years, the *Pentagoet*, a twin screw, kort nozzle, 1,200 hp tug, has served as the Academy's training vessel for tug and barge operations. Students practice vessel-handling skills for three modes of towing: astern, alongside, and pushing ahead. They practice piloting exercises on the Penobscot River and operating an assist tug to dock and undock the tug and barge unit.

Coursework aligns with the Tug Operator's Assessment Record (TOAR), a U.S. Coast Guard endorsement requiring completion of over ninety competencies. MMA students begin working through the TOAR competencies with the goal of completing training in the fall semester of senior year.





Wizard Wins the Eggemoggin Reach Regatta

ON AUGUST 2, Maine Maritime Academy participated in the Eggemoggin Reach Regatta aboard *Wizard*, a 1930 Herreshoff Fisher Island 31. *Wizard* won the coveted Joel White Trophy for the first place "plank on frame" boat, among a field of nearly 100 traditionally built yachts, finishing at the top of the competitive Vintage B Class.

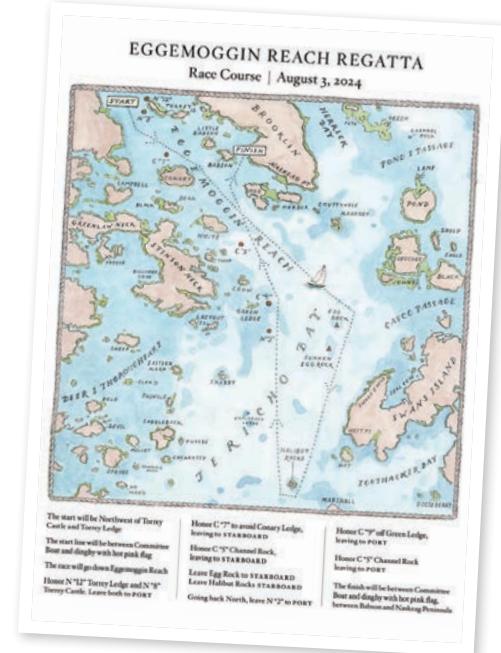
According to Head Sailing Coach Pat DiLalla, "The Egg Reach Regatta is considered the crown jewel of wooden yacht racing in the United States and attracts over 100 classic and vintage yachts annually."

The team was led by sailing coach Delaney Brown at the helm and guided to victory by the tactics of President Craig Johnson '91. The sails were trimmed by sailing coach Sharon Seymour-Johnson and the bow was run by sophomore Henry Strawbridge. The crew was rounded out by alumnus Tom Conlogue '25 and local community members Peter and Jillian Galloway.

Describing the race, coach DiLalla said, "The start was downwind and the magnificent fleet of meticulously maintained boats set their spinnakers in a fading northerly. *Wizard* fell behind initially as the competition went high and found more breeze to the north. But as the fleet prospered from the last of the morning breeze, *Wizard* was positioned to capitalize on the incoming afternoon sea breeze. The crew waited anxiously for the wind to fill as the competition looked to be slipping away."

Coach DiLalla added, "Eventually, the first southerly zephyrs appeared on the water and made their way toward *Wizard*. The wind reached her first and the nearly 100-year-old boat came to life and started to regain what was lost in the first part of the race. Then that magical thing happened that every sailor hopes for in a race: *Wizard* had her own breeze all to herself. The crew capitalized on the conditions and

merrily romped past the entire fleet into first place. By the time the rest of the fleet got to the wind, *Wizard* was long gone."





Cultivating Leaders Through Tradition

ODEGAARD FIELDS '26 AND ALEXANDER POWERS '26

THE FOUNDING PRINCIPLE of the Regimental Monomoy Team was best verbalized by CDR Lonnie Christian: "We're a maritime academy, so everyone should row." The training staff who build the Regimental Preparatory Training schedule ensure that each Midshipman Under Guidance (MUG) company rows twice during their first week at MMA. For many midshipmen, it's their first time on the ocean.

As the open lifeboats known as Monomoys cast off their mooring pennants and clumsily row out into Castine Harbor, another evolution quietly begins. The midshipman coaches, drawing on the experience of past leadership roles and previous competitions, start scouting for strong, determined, and motivated MUGs to represent Maine Maritime Academy on the East River for the George C. Previll Memorial Inter-Academy Monomoy Challenge.

The Inter-Academy Monomoy Challenge is an annual rowing event between Maine Maritime Academy, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, SUNY Maritime College, the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Each college competes in heavy wooden or fiberglass boats once used by the Coast Guard and as merchant-

lifeboats. Rowers rely on seamanship, communication, and grit.

Established by the Marine Society of the City of New York, the Challenge takes place annually at SUNY Maritime in New York City. Teams compete in a round-robin race and a seamanship skills event designed to highlight the reward of teamwork and unity over individual strength. Afterward, everyone gathers for a celebratory BBQ and awards ceremony—a moment of camaraderie that reminds us that although we compete fiercely on the water, we're united by the same purpose: upholding the traditions and values of the maritime profession.

This year, Maine Maritime Academy took first place in both the Monomoy head-to-head race and the Seamanship Skills Competition, reclaiming the trophy from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and bringing it home to Castine. The victory was hard-earned—built on pre-dawn practices, late-night seamanship exercises, and countless hours spent perfecting the rhythm that turns a group of individuals into a single, cohesive crew.

The 2025 training staff were members of last year's competition team—many of whom returned to row alongside this year's MUGs. That blend of experience and fresh determination created

something special: a collaboration beyond class rank, where mentorship flowed naturally, and lessons were passed down inside the boat. Returning to campus now as training staff, these midshipmen remember the uncertainty and steep learning curve that comes with your first morning on the water. Unlike the structured shoreside schedule, leadership in a Monomoy isn't about command, it's about example, patience, pride, and teaching through shared effort.

That exchange of knowledge, tradition, and grit is what makes the Monomoy program so meaningful. It bridges the gap between classes, builds confidence in future leaders, and creates a sense of Academy pride that cannot be forced.

As the team fine tunes their techniques and race day approaches, the coxswain will eventually stop calling cadence, calling the rowers' attention to the sound of the oars dipping in and out of the water. The midshipmen tune in to the boat's natural rhythm and learn the value of focusing outward. It soon becomes clear that the fastest boats are the ones that move in sync. This lesson, one that goes far beyond their time at MMA, inspired the team motto: *"The only way to row faster is to row faster together."*

Witherle Woods Fire Fuel Cleanup Effort

IN RESPONSE to growing concerns about wildfire risks in Maine, Maine Maritime Academy partnered with Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) in September to organize a fire fuel cleanup event in Witherle Woods.

Nearly 200 members of the incoming Regimental class took part in the half-day wildfire risk mitigation effort, which focused on reducing fuel loads and improving the firebreak in the southeastern section of the preserve. The event promoted public safety and environmental stewardship while also serving as a leadership and team-building opportunity for the students who worked in crews led by cadet captains.

"We are pleased to be partnering with Maine Coast Heritage Trust, an institution that does so much important conservation work in our region, on this worthwhile initiative," said Academy President Craig Johnson.

"The Witherle Woods fire fuel reduction effort is valuable not only to protect the Castine community, but also as an education and awareness exercise for our students. We are proud of the prominent role our students play as volunteers for the Castine Fire Rescue Department and happy to get more students involved in safeguarding the community from wildfire."

Witherle Woods, a 193-acre preserve owned and managed by MCHT, abuts the town of Castine and the Academy's campus. The preserve features a coastal forest ecosystem, historic landmarks, and over four miles of trails. The cleanup effort offered first-year students a meaningful opportunity to support natural resource stewardship in Castine by practicing fire-resilient forest management that benefits both the land and the broader community.

"With the increasing threat of wildfires in Maine, especially in beloved

community preserves like Witherle Woods, this collaboration comes at a crucial time," said Mike Kersula, MCHT's regional stewardship manager. "The risk from a potential wildfire in Witherle Woods has been top of mind for many folks in the Castine community as we have witnessed changes in the forest and increasingly long and deep droughts."

Kersula added, "This is an exciting model of proactive stewardship, education, and service, and we are very grateful for the chance to collaborate with MMA, the Castine Fire Department, and Maine Forest Service."

The Witherle Woods fire fuel cleanup event received extensive media coverage. Listen to Maine Public's story by scanning the following QR code.



Toward Sustainable Enrollment

DAVID MARKOW, VICE PRESIDENT OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT, ADMISSIONS, AND FINANCIAL AID

MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY is navigating an exciting moment of renewal and forward movement. Thanks to focused efforts across campus, new student interest is rising, enrollment is increasing, and retention initiatives are strengthening. On the immediate horizon, opportunities like the arrival of the new *State of Maine* training ship and a new Nuclear Engineering Technology program are going to further boost MMA's visibility and appeal.

This fall, MMA enrolls 907 undergraduates in Castine, and the Academy is charting a steady path toward a healthy, sustainable enrollment of 1,100 students over the next several years, a level that supports academic vitality, athletic competitiveness, and the distinctive hands-on experience that defines an MMA education.

PROMISING NEW STUDENT TRENDS

The incoming fall classes are continuing to grow year over year, with a pandemic low point of 230 first-year student enrollment in 2020, rising each year to a 285 first-year student enrollment in 2025.

Early outreach to Maine high schools is expanding. Out-of-state recruiting is also strengthening in key regions like Florida, Texas, Washington, the Mid-Atlantic, and New England. Digital marketing, stronger communication tools, and more personalized admissions engagement are helping convert more inquiries into enrolled Mariners.

MMA is also leaning into opportunities in an outstanding athletics program, STEM pathways, JROTC, maritime high schools, high school military academies, and other partnerships. The new training ship, a once-in-a-generation asset, will serve as a powerful recruitment magnet for future classes drawn to maritime experiential learning.

RETENTION AND STUDENT SUCCESS: A COMMUNITY EFFORT

Enrollment growth is not just about bringing students in—it is about helping them thrive. MMA is strengthening first-year support systems, academic advising, and early-alert tools, with a goal of raising first-year retention from 80% to 85% by 2029.

Enhanced student engagement through coordinated outreach through Academic Support Services, Student Early Assessment Team, medical and counseling services, student clubs and activities, and a renewed focus on the student experience are all designed to keep students on track and connected to the Academy's tight-knit community.

Enrollment growth is not just about bringing students in—it is about helping them thrive.

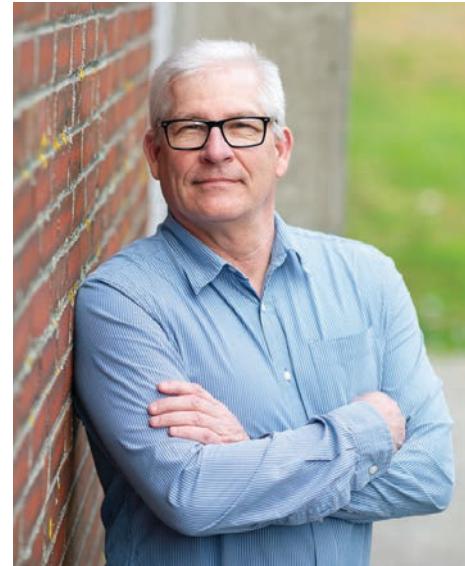
AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS

A major area of focus is improving affordability. MMA is increasing endowed scholarships, sharpening aid strategies, and creating industry relationships to support direct-to-student scholarship opportunities so that more students can access an Academy education without undue financial burden.

As these investments grow, supported by MMA alumni, the Office of Advancement, and the Foundation's efforts, MMA aims to remain competitive and to support students in realizing the value of an MMA education.

A FUTURE BUILT ON STRENGTHS

With nationally recognized hands-on learning, industry-aligned programs, championship athletics, unmatched



waterfront facilities, and consistently strong post-graduate outcomes, MMA continues to offer one of the country's best returns on investment as identified in national publications and college websites.

Alumni can take pride in knowing that today's students are joining a community with a clear trajectory: steady growth, strengthened student success, and a vibrant future shaped by the Academy's deeply rooted maritime heritage.

As MMA approaches its enrollment goals, the Academy remains committed to the values that generations of alumni know well; grit, professionalism, camaraderie, and an education built on real-world experience. The future is bright in Castine, and the Academy is moving toward it with purpose.



The Academy Appoints a New Provost

THIS FALL, Maine Maritime Academy welcomed Dr. Jennifer Waters as the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. With over 30 years of experience in academia and academic leadership, Dr. Waters has had a distinguished career, recently serving as the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at SUNY Maritime. Prior to that, Dr. Waters was the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the U.S. Naval Academy, where she worked for over 25 years.

Speaking about the appointment, Maine Maritime Academy President Craig Johnson said, "We are delighted to welcome Dr. Jennifer Waters to the Academy's administration as the provost. Dr. Waters's impressive career as a teacher, scholar, administrator, and leader is a clear indication of her commitment to higher education. She has demonstrated a significant and measurable impact on outcomes, including academic and programmatic success, student achievement, and retention as well as graduation rates, faculty development, and fiscal sustainability."

Dr. Waters has a Bachelor of Science in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from the Webb Institute of Naval Architecture and a Master of Engineering and Ph.D. in Ocean Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology. Dr. Waters served as the department chair of the Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering programs at the Naval Academy and taught applied naval architecture while serving as provost at SUNY Maritime.

Upon accepting the offer, Dr. Waters said, "I am thrilled and honored to join Maine Maritime Academy as its new Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. I look forward to contributing to the Academy's continued success as a premier institution of higher learning and professional development while ensuring the intellectual and holistic well-being of students, staff, and faculty."

In 2009, Dr. Waters was the recipient of the Navy Meritorious Civilian Award for "service or contributions that were of high value and benefit to the Navy and Marine Corps."



Kate Noel Assumes New Role with the MMA Foundation

KATE NOEL has transitioned to a new role as a consultant to the Maine Maritime Academy Foundation. She will serve as the connective tissue between the Academy and the Foundation as the institution prepares to launch a Capital Campaign.

In her role as vice president at the Academy, Noel managed the departments of advancement, alumni relations, and college relations, which includes strategic communications and public affairs. Noel had an enormous impact not only on the work within the departments she supervised, but across the institution.

Noel put processes in place that will continue to benefit the Academy for years to come, particularly with regard to advancement operations. Last fiscal year, the Academy raised 30% more year over year under her leadership. Her team has reached new heights in grant funding and forged new and dynamic corporate relationships.

Given the fiscal challenges facing the Academy, the foundation will play a crucial role in the long-term financial stability of the institution.

Noel will undoubtedly serve a vital role at the Foundation; indeed, she has already played a fundamental role in its creation. Moreover, she has and will continue to be an important resource for the Academy's leadership.



Homecoming '25



John McDonald Named CEO of ABS



IN NOVEMBER, the ABS Board of Directors elected Maine Maritime Academy alumnus John McDonald as the new Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of ABS. "I am honored to lead this remarkable organization," McDonald said. "I do so with deep respect for the legacy of technical excellence and steadfast commitment to safety

that has guided ABS for more than 160 years. Building on this foundation and supported by a world-class team of professionals across the globe, I look forward to advancing our mission and continuing our journey of growth, innovation, and impact into the future. I am excited to begin." Maine Maritime Academy congratulates him as he assumes this new role.



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IMPACT: MMA Giving Report 2025



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2025 WAS A STRONG YEAR for Maine Maritime Academy.

On March 19, alumnus Craig Johnson was confirmed as the 16th President of Maine Maritime Academy. In May, Mariner graduates departed campus to begin the next step in their journeys. In August, we welcomed talented new students from Maine and around the world. These remarkable and ambitious Mariners are already doing incredible things on campus, on the water, and throughout the broader community and I look forward to watching their stories unfold.

It was also a strong year for fundraising. We are proud to present the latest edition of IMPACT, our annual giving report. At Maine Maritime Academy, your generosity makes a meaningful difference for our students—on campus and around the world. Your support strengthens and enriches our diverse learning environments. Our expanding undergraduate, graduate, and professional academic programs and certifications, competitive athletic teams, and exceptional waterfront all benefit from your thoughtfulness.

Our alumni, parents, and friends are indispensable partners in our success. This publication honors and thanks you for the many ways you lift Maine Maritime Academy to new and exciting heights. Within these pages, you will find our giving clubs, which illustrate the impact you and others have made in the lives of our students, faculty, staff, and the broader community.

We are excited to see what the future holds. Thank you for being an essential part of our extraordinary community.

Wishing you fair winds and following seas in 2026,
Brock Muir

Interim Director of Development

IMPACT 2025: DONOR HONOR ROLL

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Mr. Isaiah R. McGann '25	Mr. Taylor R. Ploch '17		
Mr. Jack Clark	Mr. Thomas M. Raymond '54		
Mr. Jacob D. Olson '22			

Class Notes

1953

William Rausch reports that he "still rides a bicycle, but no tall ladders."

1954



Tom Raymond was recently featured in The Lincoln County (Maine) News for his wood turning. At 92 years old, Raymond is producing some of the best work of his wood turning career. Almost every day, the retired engineer descends into his basement workshop in Damariscotta where he spends hours turning blocks of wood into bowls, wine stoppers, and anything else that strikes his fancy. Today, Raymond is a highly regarded artist and craftsman, but even after working at his art for more than a quarter century, he says he still thinks like an engineer. "I don't think like an artist," he said. "They're the furthest thing from my life. Most of the artists I've seen and dealt with don't have much common sense."

1958

Manny Hallier states that he's moved to Spring, Texas and resides at the Village of Woodlands.

George Eric Miller lets us know that he and Nancy and first time great-grandparents! "MMA is my favorite of the colleges that I have attended, and I am most proud of being an MMA graduate."

1962

Terry McKenney announces that he will be visiting Spain for three months this fall on his journey to learn the Spanish language in a full immersion program and on his return, he will be living in Sanford, N.C. McKenney is moving from Greenville, S.C.

1964



The Class of 1964 held a mini-muster this summer. Featured (l-r) are Perry Mattson, Charlie Weeks, Larry Wade, and Gene Silva.

1966



Surface Warfare Schools Command headquarters hosted a momentous occasion on July 18, 2025, as colleagues, family, and a host of distinguished guests

gathered to celebrate the remarkable career of Capt. (Ret.) Floyston "Bud" Weeks. After dedicating over half a century to the United States Navy, both as a Surface Warfare Officer and as a civilian employee, Capt. Weeks embarked on a well-deserved retirement, leaving behind a legacy of exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment.

1975

George Millett sailed for 25 years on coastal tugs and for 15 years with Wheelabrator, Inc. He's retired in New Hampshire and would love to hear from his classmates. (603) 359-6947

1978



Mark Nickerson shares a photo of the first American Flag LNG Tanker trading in America going from Texas to Puerto Rico. Going left to right: Chief Mate Jack Tragert '15, 3rd Engineer Brody Hawthorne '25, Chief Engineer (superintendent) Timothy Leclair '02, Chief Engineer Mark Nickerson '78, Cargo Engineer Ben Richards '16 and 3rd Engineer Jace Chouinard '24. Alumni crew not pictured: Chief Engineer Evan Park '04, First Engineer Robert Mullarky '92 and Cargo Engineer Andy McDermott '10. Next trip to is Puerto Rico; CEO and owner of Crowley, Tom Crowley along with Governor of Puerto Rico and CEO of charterers Naturgy will be visiting the vessel. This will likely

be the start of American Flag LNG shipping great opportunities for maritime graduates to say the least. Hats off to Tom Crowley to put faith in American seafarers allowing a unique and first-time opportunity such as this.

1980

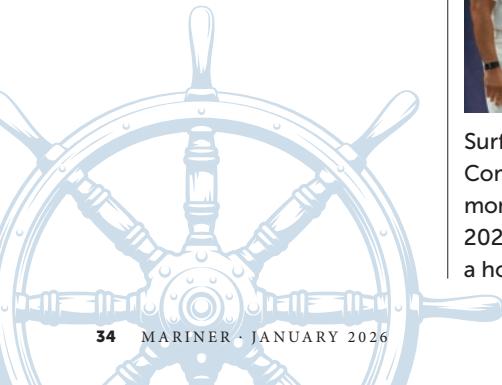
Stephen Steinberg expresses his gratitude as he prepares for his retirement after 45 years in the industry, with 38 of those years served with the legacy companies and National Grid. "I reflect on the many times we have come together as a team. Our collaboration, particularly in reference to the Alliance of National Grid contractors, has been vital in supporting our community and ensuring the reliability of the energy needs of our customers. Remember that the true scope of our service in the Energy Industry encompasses not just our customers, but also our families, friends, and the community that supports us. The education and safety of our families depend on the work we do."

1983

JT Hall and Dan Rideout continue holding annual



Roomie-versaries. We met with our spouses and JT brought his adult children to Greece and Istanbul this summer. They are planning a mini MMA gathering with Craig Moffett in October in the Norfolk, Va. area.



1984



Peter Russell was recently honored for more than 40 years of "distinguished service in human resources, leadership development, and organizational strategy," by Coastal Counties Workforce, Inc. Over his career, Russell has worked for several companies in organizational development, human resources, leadership development, talent acquisition, performance management and other jobs. Russell was a member of the board of directors of Coastal Counties Workforce Inc. (CCWI) and vice chair for nearly 20 years. CCWI is one of three Local Workforce Development Boards in Maine, with its region consisting of the coastal counties of Waldo, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Cumberland and York. In a CCWI report, it is written, "We are proud to honor Peter as a recipient of this year's Outstanding Service Award ... Peter has dedicated his career to helping individuals and organizations grow....becoming a trusted HR leader across major industries – including energy, healthcare and technology. Peter has always brought integrity, compassion and excellence to his work ... empowering others truly embodies the spirit of public service." On Sept. 19, Russell received a personal letter from Senator Susan M. Collins congratulating him on his CCWI award. The letter, in part, reads "Your outstanding leadership

and dedication to workforce development have earned you this recognition. I applaud your commitment to compassion and ethics in the workplace."



Dave Melin shares that classmate Mike Brown and his wife Robin from Maryland stopped to visit while on an RV tour of the country.



Anthony Fraser and his son Connor design and build teardrop style campers together. After graduating from MMA, then being at sea, Anthony is happy to be working at home with his son. Fraser grew up in Stockton Springs and wanted to build campers because of happy childhood memories camping with his family on Sears Island. Connor is the perfect partner. He graduated from Universal Technical Institute in Massachusetts and works as a mechanic and crew chief on UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters for the National Guard. "Teardrop style campers," says Anthony, "are smaller and more flexible than full-sized campers. They are easier to tow and they are easier to maneuver into a camping spot. Our campers are the square-drop shape, making the space inside more usable."

1987



Greenville native and ardent angler Eric Ward recently iced a whopper of a Moosehead Lake brook trout that would turn out to be a 66-year lake record. The big brookie was 25 inches and tipped the scales at 7 lbs. 10 oz.! The previous lake record was a 7 lb. 8 oz. brook trout that was caught in 1959. Born and raised in Greenville, Ward is about as devoted to his hunting and fishing avocation as a man can be. A merchant mariner for 30 years and a married man with daughters, the outdoors has been in his blood since childhood.

Although much of his retirement time is tied up by his outdoor pursuits, Ward, a Maine Guide, still has found time to serve as a County Commission and serve on the MDIF&W Advisory Council. With the help of a state legislator, he has also gotten behind legislation this winter that will increase the penalties for illegal bucket stocking of invasive fish into Maine's sport fishery waters. An adventurer by nature, Ward will soon be on his way to the Arctic Circle to get in one last ice fishing trip before the spring melts way up North. Oh, and by the way, Ward's record brookie will be mounted and hung in his home for all to see. And he had already given his perfect piscatorial prize a name: Neo.



Classes '81, '83, '87, '07, '08

This past August 5 MMA Alumni crossed paths with one another at the 2025 DirtDaze Adventure Motorcycle Rally in North Haverhill, NH. From left to right: Jacob Bartol '08, Ryan Michaud '07, Pat Zrioka '87, Peter Geissler '83, & Ray Geissler '81.

1989

CORE POWER is very pleased to announce that Jerald S Paul, RADM (Ret), USMS, has joined the company's advisory board. Paul is an engineer, attorney, former college president and former governmental official serving at the federal, state and local levels. He served as a senior official at the US Department of Energy and at the National Nuclear Security Administration, serving as chief operating officer. Paul is a former US Coast Guard licensed marine engineer and served in the US Merchant Marine and Navy Reserve. He recently retired as President of Maine Maritime Academy and has been an active proponent and leader on global maritime decarbonization including deployment of mobile nuclear energy technology.

1990

Kevin Cameron shares that he's started a new position as Superintendent Double Eagle Tankers at Fairwater.

CLASS NOTES

1994



Randy Lessard is Naples, Maine's new town manager.

Phoenix International Holdings, Inc. announced that Scott Hansen has joined the company as Project Manager (PM) for the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) Division. Hansen brings to Phoenix 20 years of experience in Marine Engineering and Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs), working in the research, scientific, biological, and oceanographic industries across the globe. Additionally, he holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marine Engineering Technology from Maine Maritime Academy and spent six years in the merchant marine industry holding positions from Assistant Engineer to Superintendent Engineer.



1996



Jason Smith announced the grand reopening of the Houston Maritime Center and Museum. The nation's largest and busiest port now has a museum that truly reflects the significance of the region's maritime past,

present, and future. He invites anyone in the area to come explore Houston's maritime story, from the age of sail to modern shipping, and discover why Houston is "the town that built the port that built the city."

1997

Captain Joe Curtis has been appointed *Maid of the Mist* Vice President of Operations. He will be overseeing a crew of maritime engineers, captains and mates, deckhands, guest services, and retail associates who operate one of North America's longest continuously operating tourist attractions.

1999



Ben Dinsmore to lead Portland's Casco Bay Lines island ferry as general manager and CEO. The Casco Bay Island Transit District provides passenger, vehicle and freight service seven days a week, year-round. The ferries transport more than 1 million passengers, 35,000 vehicles and over 500,000 pieces of freight annually. Dinsmore will guide the transit district through key initiatives, including fleet modernization, capital planning and continued service reliability.

2000



Captain Carrie Stewart and Captain Jay Stewart recently marked a significant career

milestone with the arrival of Captain Carrie Stewart's latest command into Charleston Harbor on October 18th, 2025 – piloted by none other than her husband. For over 23 years, Captain Carrie Stewart has served with Ocean Shipholdings, Inc., operating vessels under charter to the U.S. Military Sealift Command. In her most recent assignment, she has taken command of a newly built strategic sea lift vessel on its maiden voyage from the shipyard in San Diego around South America to Norfolk, Va. and finally Charleston. Upon arrival, the ship was piloted into port by her husband, Captain Jay Stewart – a moment that symbolized the culmination of two distinguished careers built side by side.

Captain Jay Stewart, a Charleston native, grew up on James Island and developed a lifelong passion for the water through sailing and fishing. After meeting Carrie at MMA in 1996, he went on to sail deep sea aboard clean product tankers and earned his Unlimited Master's license in 2006. In 2007, he began his apprenticeship with the Charleston Branch Pilots Association, becoming a full branch pilot in 2013.

2002

Evan Hafford is the Vice President - Project Management and Estimating at Strategic PowerGen Solutions.

2003

Greg Lundy has been announced as the Vice President of Technology at V2X, Inc. In this role, Lundy will lead the company's innovation and technology strategy, with a focus on advancing Independent Research and Development initiatives. Lundy brings more than 20 years

of leadership experience at the intersection of artificial intelligence, machine learning, cybersecurity, and advanced network architectures. He joins V2X from Collins Aerospace and has also held senior roles with Sony, Booz Allen Hamilton, and the U.S. Navy.

2004

Captain Nicholas T. Walker was promoted to Captain May 1, 2025. He also completed Navy Postgrad program in Monterrey, Calif.

2010



Nick Pucello has joined Allen Insurance and Financial as a commercial lines producer, specializing in marine insurance. Pucello holds a bachelor's degree in small vessel operations and a master's degree in international logistics management, both from Maine Maritime Academy. Additionally, he holds a 1,600-ton USCG masters license and a property & casualty insurance license in the state of Maine. Pucello's extensive experience in the marine industry includes work as a marine supply chain and logistics manager and as a yacht and tugboat captain.

2016

Sean Battles is the youngest Chief Engineer in NOAA history. He is the Chief on the NOAA ship FairWeather, home port: Ketchikan, Alaska. Also, Kristen Gier'20 is his IAE.

2017



Fr. Erin Donlon and Cmdr. Larry Wade '64 & '15

2021

Korey DeBoth has started a new position as Dynamic Positioning Operator at Transocean.



Emily Conway and Sam Sewall married May 2025!

2023

Lily Cook was recently featured in the MDI Islander, a newspaper based in Bar Harbor, Maine. Cook currently works as a 2nd mate onboard the HOS WOODLAND. Her work on the multiple purpose supply vessel includes a wide scope of tasks. "Different companies charter our boat for different jobs," she explained. "One job could be taking thrusters off of a drill ship with our crane, another job could be a "FLOTEL" job (floating hotel), which is when we house contractors and send them up the oil and wind assets with our heave compensated gangway." She shared her great appreciation for the maritime work that surrounded her upbringing. "I don't think people realize how large the maritime industry is. It surrounds MDI," Cook said. "The cruise ships, the private charter boats, the harbor pilots, the whale watch boats

and the ferries — all of those people had to sit through some pretty extensive testing."

Andrew Haining is paving the way as the first participant in Cianbro's Asset Management Leadership Development Program (AMLDP), which provides hands-on learning, mentorship, and real-world experience for participants, who gain essential knowledge in asset evaluation, maintenance, and optimization.



William LaBrecque of Southport just received his Second Assistant Engineer Certificate from the United States Coast Guard Merchant Mariner Credential. He is currently working at sea for a company called Stabbert Maritime. His job is 2nd Assistant Engineer on the vessel, Ocean Lee.



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Eight Bells

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

HAROLD F. GLENROSS '43-2

died peacefully surrounded by his family on March 31, 2025, in Pittsfield, Maine. He was born in Bangor, the son of the late Ernest and Marion (Emerson) Glencross. He graduated from Bangor High and furthered his education at MMA. He proudly served our country in the United States Coast Guard aboard the USS *Jefferson* during WWII. He was a merchant marine, dairy farmer, and a jack of all trades. There was nothing that he couldn't fix. He was a hard worker, supplementing his income with driving a school bus, working at the Ice Capades, and cutting wood. Glencross loved a great debate, served two or three terms as the mayor of Pittsfield, and had a passion for chasing white tails. He passed on his hunting skills to his kids and grandkids. While living in Carmel, he assisted the local sheriff, helped to start a Boy Scouts troop, served on the fire department, and aided in building their local Grange Hall. He was a long-time member of the Meridian Lodge #125, holding several positions including Past Master. He was a member of the Scottish Rite Valleys of Bangor and Portland, member of the York Rite Bodies, Illustrious Grand Sovereign of the Grand Imperial Council, Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine, Knights of the York Cross of Honor, Grand Council Distinguished Service Medal, and Knight of the Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests.

JOSEPH J. BURGARELLA, JR. '45

of Marlborough, Mass., passed away peacefully on February 17, 2024, after a long, happy, and productive life. After Burgarella graduated from Gloucester High School in 1943, he went on to attend MMA from November 1943 to June 1945. He then served as a 3rd mate on the SS *Donald W Bain* liberty ship. Burgarella was very proud of his work and enjoyed telling stories of his travels which included a visit to Hiroshima after the atomic bomb

was dropped. He attended Worcester Polytechnic Institute and graduated with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1950. After graduation, he began his career at Vulcan Electric, also working at Honeywell and Avco/Textron, where he spent most of his career designing guidance systems for a variety of missiles and reentry vehicles. In 1987, Burgarella retired and spent his time enjoying his favorite activities and hobbies including woodworking, gardening, golf, and spending time with his family. Burgarella was also the consummate family man. He instilled lifelong skills in his children that enabled them to have successful careers and become self-reliant.

RICHARD L. MACLEAN '50

passed away on May 22, 2025, after a brief illness, in Forestdale, Mass. MacLean graduated from MMA and was an officer in the merchant marines. He then embarked on a 44-year career as an Operations Manager and Consultant for American Airlines. A deeply religious man and devout Catholic, he offered his time as a Church Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Sacristan and Parish Administrator at Saint Philip Neri Parish in Linthicum, Maryland, where he resided for 40 years. He loved reading, especially historic works, novels and biographies. He could be seen frequently strolling the neighborhood on long, early morning walks, rain or shine. He had a lifelong love of harness horse racing. He was known as kind, generous and loving to all who knew him. More importantly, he leaves the legacy of a far-reaching extended family that he cared for and nurtured his entire life.

DAVID A. HOLMES '51

passed away on April 10, 2025. Holmes graduated from Vilas High School, Alstead, N.H., in 1948, and MMA in 1951. He joined the merchant service and then the U.S. Navy during the Korean Conflict. Holmes

qualified and served as Chief Engineer on the USS *Power* DD839. He later became an instructor in the Naval Reserve, which led to an interest in teaching. He graduated from Eastern Michigan University in 1960, with a major in Physics and Geography, and a master's degree in Secondary Education. In 1970, he earned a master's degree in Physical Science from Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY. Holmes served 38 years in public and private education. He bought property on Vose Mountain in Kingfield, Maine, in 1964 and began building a log cabin on an old, abandoned cellar hole, without the benefit of electricity, using siding and lumber milled from trees harvested on the property. Holmes volunteered at the Norlands Living History Center for 25 years and was a longtime member of Kingfield Historical Society (KHS) and served many years as trustee and treasurer of that organization. Other interests included serving 16 years as secretary for Mount Abraham Masonic Lodge #204 and assisting with bingo and flag burning ceremonies as a member of American Legion Post #61. Holmes served as a Kingfield selectman, a past director and trustee of Webster Memorial Library, longtime treasurer of Kingfield Senior Citizens, and chief enthusiast of the Monday Cribbage Club.

RICHARD B. CRATTY '53

passed away on January 16, 2025, in Santa Rosa, Calif. Cratty attended grammar school in Bangor, Maine, Admiral Farragut Naval Academy Prep School, and MMA. In the Korean War, Cratty was a Navy lieutenant and a navigator on a hospital ship. Cratty returned to Bangor after his tour of duty and opened a bowling alley in Bangor, Bowlmor Lanes, to cater to the local service members since he was a Navy vet. In 1961, a job offer from American Export Lines set Cratty's course for a long and successful career in the shipping industry. In 1967 he was offered a significant position with Kaiser Shipping.

For the next three decades, Cratty formed and was part of many successful shipping industry ventures. He also received his certification as a maritime arbitrator.

FENTON R. MCAVOY '53

of East Hartford, Conn., and formerly of East Millinocket, Maine, died peacefully on July 23, 2025. McAvoy was a graduate of MMA, where he starred in basketball, and was a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. Prior to his retirement in 1988, McAvoy was employed for over 37 years by the Great Northern Paper Company in both Millinocket and East Millinocket plants as a Power Systems Engineer. McAvoy wintered in Dunedin, Fla., where many wonderful years were spent just ten minutes from the clear warm waters and beaches of the Gulf of Mexico. He also enjoyed the many summers spent at their summer home on Ambejeus Lake in Maine, where he cherished the time with his family. He owned several boats and received great joy taking his grandchildren out for a ride on the lake. McAvoy was a former member of the Knights of Columbus in East Millinocket and looked forward to gathering with his friends at Hamlet Pub in East Millinocket. He was an avid reader and golfer who also liked playing cards with his wife and solving crossword puzzles and jumbles. He would travel and gave back to the East Millinocket community as a youth basketball coach.

CAPT. DONALD V. CHURCH '55

passed away in his Bristol home on June 1, 2025. Born in Portsmouth, R.I., his early years were spent on the water helping his father fish and run the fishing boat, and his love of boats and fishing would continue throughout his life. He hitchhiked to MMA where he received his degree and then paid his tuition with two years in the Navy. Church became a State Pilot, eventually founding Block Island Pilots (which later merged with Northeast Pilots). As a hobby, he built boats – a catamaran, two fishing boats, and a pilot boat. He started Seaboats Inc, a tug and barge company, building and launching many tugboats at the Fall River shipyard along with his son Scott, while still working as a pilot. A bit later, in his limited free time, Church could be found on one of his fishing boats that he

was constantly modifying and working on. He taught the grandkids how to dig quahogs in front of his house, and he then made buckets of quahog chowder and fritters for everyone – all were invited. A lifetime Mason, he was a member of the Propeller Club of Narragansett Bay, an appointee by the Governor to many maritime committees, a financial supporter of MMA, and a mentor to many people in the maritime field. He gave freely of his time and expertise to all.

DONALD E. WRIGHT '55

passed away January 11, 2025. Wright was an officer in the U.S. Navy, serving aboard the USS *Lafayette County* (LST-859).

CAPT. ROBERT F. BARIL USN(RET.) '56

passed away passed away at home on May 5, 2023. Baril graduated from Edward Little High School in Auburn, Maine. He received his degree in marine engineering and spent 30 years on active duty in the Navy and retired as a captain in 1983. After retirement he moved to Washington State. He then worked for the city of Everett on the Navy home port effort. He spent many summers cruising on his boat *Potato Blossom* on Puget Sound the San Juan Islands, and the Broughtons in Canada, and with the Navy Yacht Club Everett.

CHARLES L. HOOPER '56

passed away peacefully September 21, 2025, at his residence. After graduating from MMA, he went on to serve in the U.S. Navy. He traveled the world in both the U.S. Navy and as a Merchant Marine, before settling in Connecticut. Hooper went on to work for General Dynamics. He was the chief fueling engineer for the nuclear submarines at Electric Boat until his retirement in 1995. Hooper loved the ocean and was a long-time sailor, he enjoyed fixing things around the house, and taking cruises with his wife, friends and family. He will be missed by all who knew him.

WILLIAM MAHONEY '56

responded to the Naval last bell "FWE" on October 1, 2025. Mahoney grew up in Stoughton, Mass., graduated from Stoughton High School, and then MMA with a USCG License as a Third Engineer, a BS Degree, and a commission as an Ensign

in the U.S. Navy. Mahoney served as an officer on the USS *Windham County* (LST-1170), then was accepted to Pensacola Flight Training until assignment to the USS *Wasp* (CVS-18). He was given an honorable discharge in 1973 with the rank of lieutenant. He was accepted in General Electric's Technical Marketing Program to become a District Sales Engineer/Manager for the Power Generation Division with assignments in many major cities selling nuclear products and steam and gas turbine generators. Mahoney was a member of AL Post 25, Bar Harbor, a ASME lifetime member, and retired from GE and American Maritime Officers. Skiing, golf and sailing kept Mahoney busy when he was ashore and travel to Norway, Iceland and Ireland were an annual activity.

MICHELL W. KALLOCH '57

passed away on November 18, 2020 in Leonardtown, Md. Upon high school graduation, Kalloch enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1948, where he served our country throughout the Pacific and finally in the Korean War arriving in the third wave on Inchon Landing, and fighting in the battles of Heartbreak Ridge, Chosin Reservoir, and Imjin River. After eighteen months of fighting on the front lines, Kalloch returned home to New York with the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his service to his country. Kalloch graduated from MMA with his bachelor's degree in Nautical Science. Kalloch served as a navigating officer with the United States Merchant Marines, making frequent transatlantic crossings with United States Lines on the S.S. *America* and the S.S. *United States*. Dignitaries looking for the quiet escape from social duties, including then President Dwight D. Eisenhower, knew they could find night watchman, Third Officer Kalloch, for a quiet cup of coffee and easy conversation on the bridge. Resigning from United States Lines in 1962, Kalloch accepted an offer from the United States Naval Oceanographic Office as a Navigation Specialist. Kalloch raised and showed Bullmastiffs locally and along the mid-Atlantic coast. Kalloch was an avid reader and enjoyed tracing his family genealogy during his early retirement years. Anyone who knew Kalloch embraced his gift of an easy demeanor and casual conversation that made all feel at home with him.

EIGHT BELLS

LEROY W. PHILBROOK '57

passed away in Rockport, Maine, on April 10, 2025. A 1954 graduate of Rockland High School, Philbrook went on to explore his passion for the sea at MMA, graduating with a degree in Nautical Science. He also attended the University of Southern Maine where he took teaching courses and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree. A proud veteran, Philbrook served in the Navy from 1957 to 1961, rising to the rank of 2nd officer on tankers for Mobil Oil. His life's work was deeply tied to the sea, where he lobstered alongside his father from a young age before establishing his own career. However, his most fulfilling role came as a teacher of math, science, and the industrial arts in St. George, Maine, from 1968 to 1994. He found immense joy in nurturing young minds, leaving a lasting impression on countless students. Beyond teaching, he also worked as a ranger at Camden Hills State Park and truly enjoyed his time there. Philbrook enjoyed boatbuilding, even having his own boatyard, Philbrook Boatyard. He was an active member of the Thomaston Baptist Church, where he participated in various activities that strengthened the community. Philbrook dedicated over 20 years to the Boy Scouts, earning the Silver Beaver Award in recognition of his commitment to youth and leadership training in the Pine Tree Council.

CAPT. RICHARD C. HOLT '58

of Greenland, NH, formerly a 50-year resident of Rye, passed away on May 23, 2025, at his home following a period of declining health. Holt was raised in Kittery, Maine. After graduating from Maine Maritime Academy, he served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy Submarine Service aboard the USS *Sailfish*, SSR 572. Holt was a 4th generation river pilot and worked on the Piscataqua River for 47 years. He was President of Portsmouth Pilots, Inc, and General Manager for Portsmouth Navigation and Moran Towing from 1964-1988. He was instrumental in chartering the Propeller Club of Portsmouth, NH and served as its first president. He was recently honored at the 50th anniversary of its founding and received a commendation from the U.S. Coast Guard for his service to the maritime community. He also served as a past chairman of the Piscataqua Bank Board of Trustees. He was an avid mariner

and loved being on the ocean. He was an extraordinary patriarch to his 4 children, 9 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren. He also enjoyed golfing and was a long-time member of The Red House on Goat Island in New Castle.

CAPT. ARTHUR FRANCIS WARDWELL, JR. '58

of San Diego, California and Castine, Maine, passed away on July 10, 2025, keeping his last watch over San Diego Harbor. Wardwell was born in Bangor, Maine, and attended Bangor High School, graduating in 1955. He attended MMA and was recognized as a gifted Battalion Executive Officer. After graduating from MMA, he was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy where he went on to have a remarkable career. He rose through the ranks with his strong work ethic and people skills, becoming a Captain at a young age. After spending his first few years serving in Maine and in Seattle, he moved to the west coast, where he worked for the San Diego Shipyard, Long Beach Naval Shipyard, and Hunter Point Shipyard where he ran the repair operations over the rebuild of the President Ronald Reagan's 300 ship Navy under Admiral Zumwalt. He finished his Naval career as the Commanding Officer of Mare Island Engineering Duty Officer School. After he retired, he went to work in Commercial Ship Repair as an executive at San Diego Iron and Steel. Wardwell had extensive family roots in Castine, Maine, where his ancestors had been for over 300 years. He was an avid hunter and enjoyed spending his weekends shooting clays and making his own ammo. He was a gentleman farmer, off neck, where he rebuilt a 120 year old family farm house where Sawyers, Wardwells, friends and neighbors have gathered for four generations.

ROBERT N. LANEY '59

passed away in Augusta, Maine, on July 9, 2025. Laney graduated from Skowhegan High School, class of 1956, where he played football, basketball and baseball for four years, and was also very involved in the band, playing the saxophone for the school as well as in local jazz bands. After graduation, Laney attended MMA where he earned his degree in Marine Engineering. Over the years, Laney

enjoyed attending MMA class reunions with his fellow Mariners and most recently attended his 60th reunion. During this time, Laney enjoyed camping with his family and coaching in the Augusta North Little League and Babe Ruth baseball programs. Throughout his life, Laney was best known as a devoted father and grandfather. In his free time, he enjoyed playing golf and took great pride in having taught his children and grandchildren how to play golf and enjoyed supporting their sports activities over the years. Laney worked for over 25 years as a control room operator for S.D. Warren Paper Company in Skowhegan. He was highly respected for his work and maintained many close friendships from his time at the mill. After Laney retired from SAPPI in 2000, he spent countless hours happily engaged in projects in his workshop. Laney could also be found helping any friend or family member who needed a favor or a helping hand.

GORDON M. WARD '59

passed away on June 14, 2025. He graduated from Deering High School in 1956. He continued his education at MMA, graduating third in the class of 1959, launching a long and successful career in the merchant marines. Ward worked for Mobil Oil Corporation and taught marine engineering at the Calhoon MEBA Engineering School to U.S. Coast Guard cadets working to obtain their marine engineering licenses. He was a popular teacher for his knowledge, excellent communication skills, and his fairness. Ward returned to sailing as a marine engineer in 1976 and rose to the position of chief engineer on the SS *Puerto Rico*, sailing between the east coast of the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Ward enjoyed boating, Sebago Lake, taking long scenic Maine drives, sight-seeing, and the Red Sox. In 1989, the MEBA Union merged with the NMU (National Maritime Union), jeopardizing the MEBA pension plan and creating unrest among union members. Ward led dissatisfied members, organizing a committee, Members Advocating Democracy (MAD), to oppose the incumbent leadership. The MAD slate overwhelmingly won the union election and Ward became the Union President in 1992. He relocated to Maryland to serve his post in Baltimore and Washington D.C.

During his tenure he preserved the pension plan and expanded members' job opportunities. He retired in 1994 and returned to Maine.

RICHARD C. FORREST '61

passed away on March 26, 2025. His life was a testament to hard work, dedication, and a deep commitment to his family, friends, and the community projects he believed in. 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 later worked as an engineer at Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant, where his expertise and dedication earned him the respect of all who worked alongside him. Throughout his career, Forrest contributed to numerous engineering and community projects, always giving his best to both his work and the people around him. In his later years, Forrest found great fulfillment in two particular endeavors: his dedication to 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.

NORMAN F. LASKAY '62

passed away on October 13, 2025. Laskay graduated from MMA and served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He worked in the maritime industry for more than 60 years. After serving at sea and beginning his career as a marine surveyor, he joined Dufour, Laskay & Strouse in 1988, becoming a partner and helping shape the firm into one of the most respected names in marine appraisal and surveying. Over his decades with DLS, he combined deep technical knowledge with a calm, steady leadership style that inspired confidence

among clients and colleagues alike. Beyond his work within the firm, Laskay was widely recognized as a leader in the marine appraisal industry. He served for many years with the American Society of Appraisers, where he helped establish national standards for marine valuation and taught courses to surveyors around the world. He loved sharing stories from his early seafaring days and took great pride in seeing younger surveyors grow in their craft. His thoughtful mentorship, sharp wit, and unwavering professionalism left a lasting mark on both his colleagues and the entire maritime community. He loved sailing, reading and music. He was an active member of St Andrews Episcopal Church where he loved to volunteer his time and knowledge. Laskay will be remembered for his kindness, integrity, and humor - a generous spirit whose legacy continues to guide those who had the privilege of knowing him.

GARY E. WHITNEY '62

of Ormond Beach, Fla, passed away on March 20, 2025.

JAMES E. THIBODEAU '64

passed away on March 27, 2025, at Woodlands Senior Living in Waterville, Maine. Thibodeau was a graduate of Waterville High School, class of 1960 and MMA, class of 1964. Thibodeau spent several years shipping all over the world with the Merchant Marines. He spent his free time hunting, skiing, and attending local sporting events. Many hours were spent fishing, which was his true passion along with tying flies. He helped establish the Kennebec Valley Trout Unlimited. After retiring, he became a flyfishing guide in Maine and Montana.

RUSSELL G. WUESTEFELD '64

passed away on November 9, 2025. Wuestefeld was a ship's captain for the Army Corps of Engineers and retired after 35 years of service. He was active with the volunteer rescue squad, a CERT member, and a Coast Guard Auxiliary leader and instructor. An avid train hobbyist, Wuestefeld enjoyed his time as a member of the Colonial Heritage Train Club. He was also a member of the Colonial Heritage Infrastructure Committee, and a past member of the woodworking club.

He loved spending time with his family, working in his garden, and spending time on the water. He also loved to travel, especially to historical places.

ROCK A. LEVASSEUR '65

passed away on July 17, 2025. An Eagle Scout, Levasseur graduated from Waterville High School in 1961. Levasseur attended MMA, graduating in 1965 as a Merchant Marine / Licensed Engineer. He travelled the world working on ships, then left the Merchant Marines for a brief stint as an engineer on a tugboat on the Delaware River near Philadelphia. He also worked at the Wyman Power Station in Yarmouth, Maine (CMP), Brown Paper Company, the Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH), Schiller Station Power Plant, and also worked as a home inspector. In retirement, Levasseur focused on researching family history, wine making, and award-winning landscape painting. Levasseur loved taking walks (preferably with his wife and their dog), hiking, and camping. Interested in American and Native American history, he enjoyed travelling all over the United States and Canada and visiting national parks and historical sites. He was dedicated to making the world a better place by small acts of kindness which touched everyone who knew him. He worked to keep his extended family in touch by organizing and participating in many family reunions, where his story-telling skills and sense of humor made him fun to talk and listen to. He was always ready to give a bit of advice about home improvement and maintenance or to lend a helping hand to anyone who asked.

DIETER H. SIEVERS '65

passed away on May 24, 2025, at the age of 84, leaving behind cherished memories.

FREDERICK J. HARRIS '67

passed on October 24, 2025, with his family by his side. Harris was a proud patriot who loved his country. Harris received his bachelor's degree in marine engineering from MMA (with Honors) in 1967. Upon graduation, Harris was commissioned in the U.S. Naval Reserve with the obligation of sailing in the U.S. Merchant Marine. Following his sailing career, which he completed as Chief

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Engineer, he entered Babson College, where he received his MBA. Harris then began his shipbuilding career as a senior systems engineer for Electric Boat in the TRIDENT Nuclear Submarine Project and ultimately was appointed President of General Dynamics NASSCO, President of Bath Iron Works, and Vice President of the General Dynamics Corporation. Harris was a devoted Roman Catholic who upheld a lifelong devotion to the rosary and was an active member of multiple parishes as his travels took him. Harris was a high-school and university football standout, as well as an avid shooter, card player, amateur historian, scouting leader, craftsman, and unrepentant trickster. Serving as Assistant Scoutmaster to Boy Scout Troop 42, Harris led numerous fundraising drives to ensure every boy in the troop that wanted to attend summer camp would be able to regardless of ability to pay. Harris was also extremely active in charity work, donating extensive time, money, and other resources to many other worthy causes. He was a truly larger than life persona who will be dearly missed by all who had the great good fortune to cross his path.

CAPT. DAVID J. WADE '67

passed away on August 25, 2025. Wade was brought up in Lynnfield, Mass. and lived most of his life in Andover, Mass., No. Andover, Mass., and Wolfeboro, N.H. Wade was never hesitant to try something new. After spending 20 years sailing for Lykes Bros. Steamship Co. out of New Orleans, LA, he co-founded and ran a small distribution company, employing family and friends. In 1992, he became President and CEO of Pharm-Eco Laboratories, a drug research and development company, moving it from Simi Valley, Calif. to Lexington, Mass., developing drugs for HIV, Alzheimer's and more for NIH and various drug companies. Wade spent some of his youth and most of his retirement years on the shores of Lake Winnipesaukee. Buying a home there in Wolfeboro, N.H., in 1995 brought many years of joy as family, friends and fellow MMA graduates came to visit.

ALLEN E. HUNTLEY '68

passed away on May 3, 2025, at Pen Bay Hospital, Rockport, Maine. Huntley graduated from Rockland District

Highschool in 1964 where he was active in basketball, track, and football. After graduating from MMA he served as a Merchant Marine for five years, carrying cargo to Vietnam. He later worked at Marine Colloids in Rockland, was a Deputy Sheriff for Knox County, and lobstered for a few years out of Owl's Head. He was an able-bodied seaman for over 21 years with the Maine Ferry Service, and after retirement he drove for Coastal Trans. Huntley was an affable and friendly fellow who was known for his outgoing personality and wicked sense of humor, as well as his entertaining stories. He coached at local schools, enjoyed summers at the Huntley cottage and family gatherings in other areas of Maine, along with trips to Nova Scotia and Florida. He provided a loving home life and prided himself on keeping his home and yard well-maintained. He was a devoted husband, father and stepfather.

CAPT. NICHOLAS E. SALATA '68

passed away on August 6, 2025. He attended Cornwall Academy in Great Barrington, Mass., in 1961. In 1964, he began his merchant marine officer training at MMA where he was a top player on the golf team, editor of the school newspaper, bearer of the Stars and Stripes in color guard and received his stars for making the superintendents list all four years. He graduated with a degree in Nautical Science. With his training at MMA, Salata joined the U.S. Naval Reserves Officer program in 1967 as lieutenant, junior grade. He completed the Naval Reserve Officer Advanced Education Program with a certificate in Maritime Management. He served in the U.S. Naval Reserves for 20 years. By the end of 1971, life at sea had run its course for Salata, and he sought a new career that would allow him to spend more time at home in West Southport. He began a 30-year career with the Saybolt Corporation as a petroleum cargo inspector. He was responsible for verifying the quantity and quality of petroleum products aboard tankers and onshore terminals. It was a rigorous job, climbing oil tanks, being on call, hauling samples, but it suited his talents for meticulous record keeping and computing.

GERALD D. HEATH '69

passed away December 28, 2024, in Edgewater, Fla. He graduated from Bucksport High School in 1965 and MMA in 1969. He sailed for five years with Mobile Oil in California, then returned to Bucksport and worked at the local paper mill, in the power plant for 26 years, until he retired.

ELWOOD C. WILBUR, JR. '69

passed on November 14, 2024. Born in Portland, Maine, Wilbur spent most of his childhood in New Hampshire. He played football for MMA where he received his commission as an ensign in the Naval Reserve, his merchant marine license, and Bachelor of Science degree. He worked for Mobile Oil in New York and the marine industry in St. Louis before moving to Houston, Texas. Everywhere he went he made lifelong friends and happy memories, from Singapore to Argentina. A lover of the sea and all things nautical, Wilbur's other great passions were running, golf, and his lake camp in Maine. In 2017, after being diagnosed with Stage 4 lymphoma, Wilbur responded with his typical strength and boundless good humor.

DAVID J. FORTIN '70

died August 11, 2017. Fortin grew up in Brunswick, Maine. He was a member of MMA Class of 1970. He dedicated his career to engineering and retired from Dominion Power after 31 years. He enjoyed playing golf, working on muscle cars, following Virginia Tech football, and all things train-related. Above all, he enjoyed being "Papa" to his four grandchildren.

ERIC F. FOURNIER '70

passed away April 5, 2025, in Raleigh, N.C. He was a man whose warmth, humor, and generous spirit touched the lives of all who knew him. Fournier grew up in North Vassalboro, Maine, was a 1966 graduate of Winslow High School in Winslow, and a 1970 graduate of MMA with a degree in marine engineering and a commission as an ensign in the U.S. Navy Reserves.

CAPT. WAYNE E. NASON '70

died on April 18, 2025, in Scarborough, Maine. He was born in Biddeford, Maine, grew up in Saco, and graduated from Thornton Academy. He graduated from

MMA in 1970. He spent over 29 years sailing around the world, primarily on oil tankers, ultimately attaining the rank of captain. He continued sailing until his retirement in 1999. After coming ashore, Nason began a second career as a curriculum developer at the STAR Center in Dania Beach, Fla. There, he designed and taught training courses for the American Maritime Officers union - the largest union of U.S. merchant marine officers - and played a key role in developing and maintaining certification standards with the National Maritime Center.

PETER F. THOMPSON '70

passed away March 26, 2025. Thompson was born in Skowhegan, Maine, and grew up in Machias, graduating from Machias Memorial High School and MMA with a B.S. in Marine Engineering. He lived in Kingfield, Maine, for over 40 years, situated on the Carrabassett. Thompson achieved the position of Chief Engineer at the early age of 36, no doubt a great achievement, and when on leave he dabbled in real estate. Upon retirement he got into the business full-time and loved to "get out there and work hands-on" where he helped a lot of people. He always had great respect for Sugarloaf Mountain, although he never skied. He also was a huge fan of Bob Dylan and an avid reader.

JAMES F. LALLY, JR. '72

passed away on September 26, 2025. Educated in the local schools, Lally went on to attend MMA, playing football. Lally went on to spend his working years as an underwriter, first for N.H. Insurance Group for over 20 years and later for Hartford Steam Boiler until his retirement. He enjoyed working as a football official in Mass. and N.H. for over 35 years, officiating college games, high school, JV, and even peewee games - it brought him great joy. He also enjoyed golf, cooking and entertaining, he welcomed everyone in. He will always be remembered by his wife as a great husband, friend and soulmate.

CAPT. RONALD W. SNYDER '73

passed away April 2, 2025. But like any good sea story, you must start at the beginning. Snyder was one of three

brothers to attend MMA. He went on to become a licensed Master Mariner. His career was long and varied. He sailed all over the world, taught for a few years at MMA, and eventually became a lightering captain - transferring crude oil from supertankers to smaller ships just offshore. It was risky work, precise and delicate, and it required a steady hand and an unshakable sense of calm. He had both. His crew respected him not because he demanded it, but because he earned it. He loved to tell sea stories, and they weren't just tales to pass the time. They were lessons, parables, bits of wisdom wrapped in salt and sea spray. He loved ice fishing, golf, Red Sox games in his recliner in front of the biggest TV, and growing crops in a small plot in the back field. He loved looking at the stars and always wanted to know where he was headed. That's what made him a good captain. In his later years, he slowed down, but he never stopped. He approached life the way he approached the sea - with reverence, resilience, and, like all sea captains made in rough water and deep seas, his eyes intently focused on the horizon.

IMMANUEL ALTMANN '74

passed away on December 18, 2024, in Beaumont, Texas. An esteemed member of his community, Altmann was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend, who cherished the bonds he cultivated throughout his life. Having embarked on a noble journey of service to his country, Altmann proudly served in the Merchant Marines and the U.S. Navy. His commitment to his nation exemplified his strong character and sense of duty. After his military service, he enjoyed a rewarding career with Texaco, from which he later retired, leaving behind a legacy of hard work and integrity. Beyond his professional endeavors, Altmann found joy in diverse pursuits. He was passionate about making model ships, a hobby that allowed him to express his creativity and attention to detail, as well as indulging in the fine art of coin collecting. These interests provided him with fulfillment and joy, and he often shared his passions with family and friends, weaving lasting memories around shared activities and experiences.

JON P. WING '74

of Bel Air, Md., formerly of Scarborough, Maine, died on July 19, 2025. He graduated from Scarborough High School in 1970 and earned a B.S. and Marine Engineering License from MMA in 1974. He also did graduate work at Johns Hopkins University. He began his career at the Bethlehem Steel Corporation Key Highway Baltimore Shipyard, managing major ship overhauls and repairs. Joining Lockheed Martin in 1984, Wing held multiple career positions of increased responsibilities in contracts, finances, and program management. He managed government and commercial programs worldwide for the integration of multiple complex Lockheed Martin systems and products. Wing was a member of the Society of Marine Arbitrators (SMA), a non-profit organization, internationally recognized as a leading forum for the arbitration of maritime commercial disputes. In 2010, Wing retired and founded JBW Services, offering contract preparation, strategy, dispute resolution, and shipbuilding. Wing fought an aggressive form of prostate cancer for ten years, refusing to allow it to get in the way of living his life. He loved his home state of Maine and enjoyed a yearly reunion with good friends. He organized many fishing trips to Cape Hatteras, bringing together a group who were friends at the end of the trip.

RICHARD P. WRIGGLESWORTH '74

passed away on October 22, 2025, while doing what he loved most - boating on a cloudless, sunny day. He graduated from MMA in 1974, where he developed a lifelong passion for the sea. He spent 13 years traveling the world as a Chief Engineer with Sun Oil Company, a Lt. Commander in the Navy Reserve, and a member of the U.S.C.G. Auxiliary. Wrigglesworth's career was marked by adventure and exploration, both on the water and in life. Wrigglesworth's zest for life was contagious. Known as the "teacher," Wrigglesworth spent hours teaching his children and grandchildren everything he knew. His sense of humor was legendary, and his ability to make those around him feel welcome and valued was a hallmark of his character. Whether telling stories, cracking jokes, or simply enjoying a peaceful

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moment on the water, Wrigglesworth's presence brought light and warmth to everyone he encountered. Those who knew Wrigglesworth will remember his generous heart, quick wit, and easy-going spirit. He had a gift for making people feel at ease and never missed an opportunity to lend a helping hand. Whether he was fixing something, telling a story, or planning his next outing, he did it all with energy, enthusiasm, and a smile. Wrigglesworth's legacy will live on through the memories of his laughter, his love of the sea, and his unwavering spirit of adventure. Though he is gone, his influence will continue to inspire all.

WILLIAM J. KINANE, JR. '75

passed away peacefully on July 1, 2025. Born in Poughkeepsie, NY, he attended F.D. Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park, N.Y., where he was a star athlete. He attended MMA, where he played football, graduating with his Bachelor of Science in 1975. Many fond memories of his college days and traveling abroad were shared over the years and he remained a proud and supportive MMA alum until the end. His first major career as a merchant marine would bring him to Coos Bay, Ore. to work for Sause Bros Ocean Towing, where he would begin to build his roots on the Oregon coast. There were two things he wanted to be in life, either a tugboat operator or a firefighter, and his dreams of becoming a firefighter came to life, as he spent 26 years dedicated to serving his community as a firefighter. Beginning his career as a volunteer in 1979, he went on to become a paid engineer/EMT in 1984. Over his next 21 years he would go on to build some of his closest friendships within the department. As a good friend would share, "through it all, he was more than competent and levelheaded, he kept cool under stress, worked hard and took pride in his job...and was always available to help others". In 2005, he hung up his turnouts and eagerly began the life of retirement.

CAPT. JEFFREY W. MONROE '76

passed away May 13, 2025.

DAVID P. ACETO '78

passed away July 1, 2024. Born in Portland, Maine, into a large Italian/Irish Catholic family, he graduated from MMA in 1978.

Two of his cousins are also graduates of MMA. Aceto worked for MEBA until he got a permanent position with Sealand as Chief Engineer and then with Maersk. Aceto hated helicopters, so much so that after falling three decks and having a compound fracture in his leg, he refused to be airlifted and stayed on ship with fracture until they got to port. He later moved shoreside and worked as port engineer and as an instructor at the MEBA school. He was an incredibly generous person, often giving to folks anonymously.

MATTHEW H. GROSE '82

of Mornington, Australia, passed away on June 27, 2025. Grose graduated from Morse High School in Bath, Maine, in 1978. He played varsity football, wrestling, and track, was selected to the Dirigo's Boys State, and was involved in many other school activities. He graduated from MMA in Marine Engineering on April 17, 1982, and immediately went to work for Crowley Maritime Corp. Grose spent the next 42 years in the maritime industry, traveling the world. He spent 24 years in service with the American Maritime Officers (AMO) where he obtained Chief Engineer. He was awarded the American Marine Officers Medal. Later in his career he was hired by Tidewater as a project manager and took a job in Pingtan Island, China. He was there to oversee a failing \$500 million ship build (four ships). During his time there he shut the entire project down because the ships were not being built to maritime standards and Grose was adamant his name wasn't going to be part of any shipping vessel coming out of that shipyard. Grose took great pride in that move. His last project before being diagnosed with cancer was at Fincantieri Shipyard. Grose was extremely motivated to succeed in everything he did. Grose had the grit and determination to live the best life possible. He loved to cook, barbecue, and smoke foods, he was a die-hard golfer and loved scuba diving.

CAPT. MARK P. SCHEYDER '82

passed away on July 17, 2025, in Piedmont, S.C. Scheyder's academic achievements were a testament to his dedication and intellect. He graduated from MMA, became a proud Merchant Seaman and earned a Master's in Business from California Lutheran University. His career as a

Merchant Seaman was filled with many contributions to significant maritime projects, as either Ship Captain or First Mate, including seafloor mapping, oil spill recovery, and recovery efforts for the Space Shuttle Challenger. The sea was Scheyder's sanctuary, a place where he felt most at peace. His love for grilling brought moments of joy and togetherness. Scheyder was a loyal Boston Red Sox and Patriots fan, he was known for his Red Sox hat which he always wore. Scheyder was the embodiment of love, passion, and selflessness. He was known for his intentionality, honesty, and kind-hearted nature. His legacy is not only in the lives he touched but also in the way he lived his life, with an open heart and a helping hand. His peaceful demeanor endured even after his diagnosis of ALS in the Fall of 2024; Scheyder lived with intentionality in all circumstances. He will be profoundly missed, yet his spirit will continue to guide and inspire those fortunate enough to have been part of his remarkable journey. Scheyder's memory will forever be a beacon of light for his family, friends, and all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

CAPT. CHARLES E. ZENTER '96

of Castine, Maine, and Key West, Fla., died October 13, 2025. He charted his journey with bile duct cancer with a commitment to embody peace, grace, and dignity in this most challenging of life's events. Zenter was a native of Ellicott City, Maryland. Following high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard, and served during Operation Desert Storm and as a responder to the Valdez Oil Spill. He later served as a USCG Reserve marine safety officer following the completion of his degree from MMA. He sailed as a navigational deck officer on commercial ships for more than 18 years, achieving the rank of Master Mariner, unlimited. He sailed with Maritime Overseas Corporation, Overseas Shipholding Group, and Liberty Maritime. Zenter earned the Merchant Mariner Expeditionary Award for his service delivering equipment during Operation Iraqi Freedom. In 2014, Zenter achieved his lifelong career goal when he was selected as a Harbor Pilot for the Port of Key West, a position he held until his death. Following the Covid Pandemic, he brought the first cruise ship

back to Key West in response to a medical emergency, earning a USCG Certificate of Merit for his lifesaving contribution. Zenter held professional membership with the American Pilots' Association and the Florida Harbor Pilots Association. Zenter also served as a part time instructor for the Maritime Pilot Institute. He was a member of the Rising Star Lodge #4 AF&AM, and a volunteer at the Key West Garden Club and the Castine Volunteer Fire Department.

GREGORY L. SMITH '11

of Portland, passed away on August 24, 2025. Smith was a champion skier and racer, winning state titles in giant slalom in 2007. Throughout his high school career, Smith had one college in mind: Maine Maritime Academy. His goal was to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather, Capt. Granville Isaac Smith '47, and become a sea captain. Not only did he fulfill this dream, he succeeded academically while also proving himself a strong leader among his peers. He rose to the role of Charlie Company Commander, served as captain of the MMA soccer team his senior year, and coached youth soccer in Castine. Smith joined the Naval Reserves and served as an officer for six years. Upon graduation, he ranked among the top of his class and received the prestigious Commandant's Award, presented each year to one student for outstanding leadership and performance. His career began with Hornbeck Offshore Drilling, followed by Exxon and Crowley. In 2025, his years of dedication came full circle when he became a full-time pilot for the Penobscot Bay Pilots, once again following in the footsteps of his grandfather. The loss of Smith is profound and felt deeply throughout the Maine community. He was a lover of the sea, the mountains, his friends, his family, his partner, and his dog. His absence will be felt for years to come, and his legacy will never be forgotten.

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

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2026 MMAAA EVENTS

JANUARY 31

Pickleball Tournament and Social,
The Woodlands, Falmouth, ME

FEBRUARY 28

Black Mountain Winter Ski Gathering,
Rumford, ME

MARCH 11

Annual Senior Banquet, Castine, ME

MARCH 26

Spring Career Fair, Castine, ME

MARCH 27

Alumni Summit, Brunswick, ME

MARCH 27

A Night By the Bay, Brunswick, ME

MARCH 28

Maine Mariners Hockey Gathering,
Portland, ME

MAY 5-17

Alumni Travel to Greece, Athens/
Mykonos/Santorini

MAY 11

2nd Annual Florida Classic Golf
Tournament, Plantation, FL

MAY 18

16th Annual Texas Mariner Classic Golf
Tournament, The Woodlands, TX

JUNE 22

32nd Maine Mariner Classic Golf
Tournament, Brunswick, ME

SEPTEMBER 26

Annual Meeting of the MMA Alumni
Association, Castine, ME

SEPTEMBER 25-27

Homecoming Weekend, Castine, ME



Admiral's Dinner

ON OCTOBER 30, 2025, the Academy welcomed more than 180 attendees to its third annual Admiral's Dinner at the Lauderdale Yacht Club. The event recognizes those within the maritime industry whose vision, effort, and commitment have distinguished them and their organization as among the very best in the world. This year's honoree was Daniel J. Thorogood, CEO of Fairwater, who spoke brilliantly about the need for fortitude and growth throughout the maritime industry. The night raised more than \$130,000 for the Academy and featured more than 30 industry leaders as sponsors.



Nuclear News

THE RESURGENCE OF THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM, led by Mossman Chair of Nuclear and Reliability Engineering Paul Wlodkowski, Ph.D., continues to garner great interest from academia, industry, students, and the media.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO READ PROFESSOR WLODKOWSKI'S LATEST ARTICLE PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN NUCLEAR SOCIETY.



SCAN HERE TO WATCH THE RECENT NEWS CENTER MAINE COVERAGE OF THE NUCLEAR PROGRAM.

Email Rhonda Varney (rhonda.varney@mma.edu) about a New Year's special on
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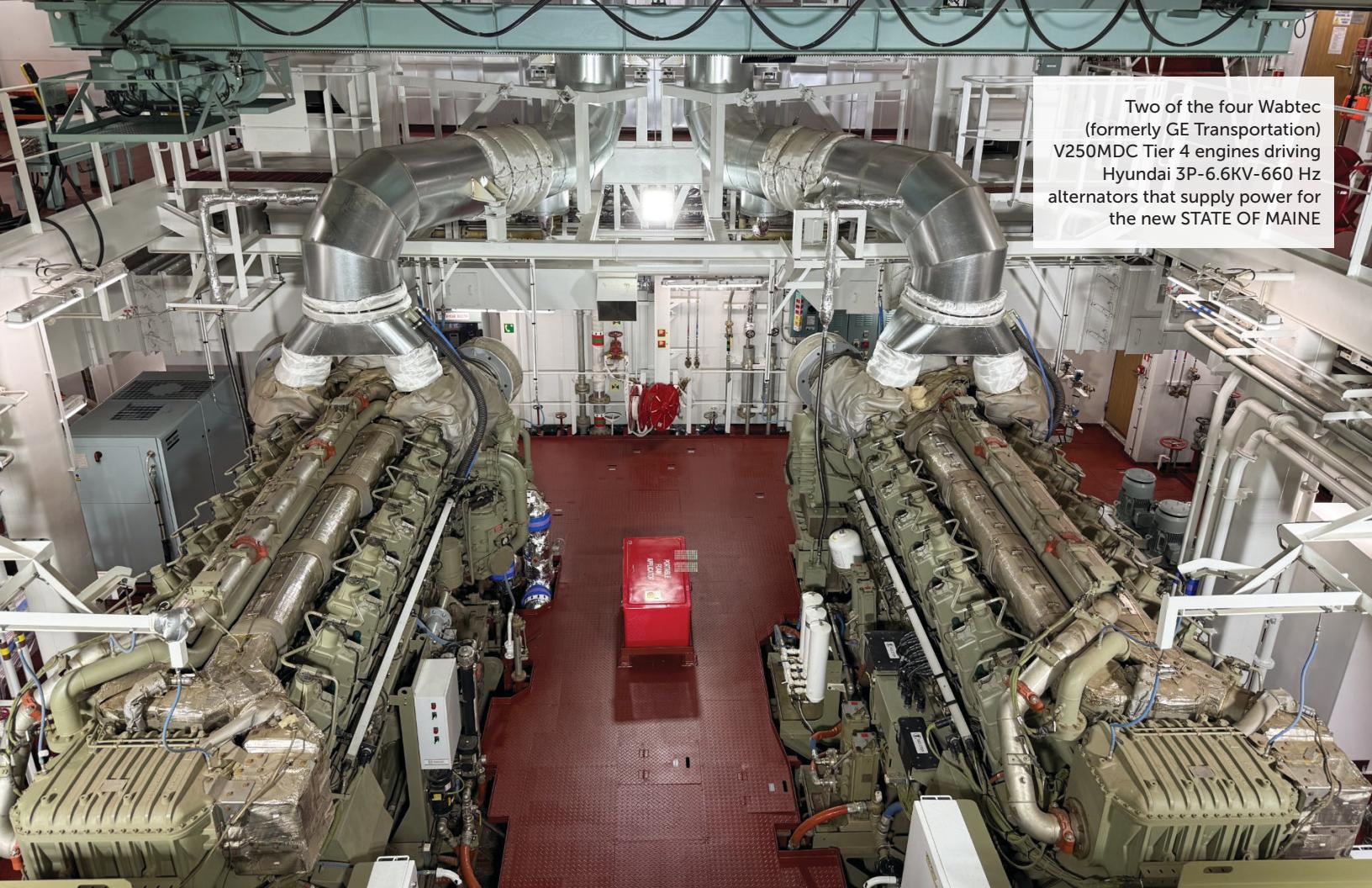
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