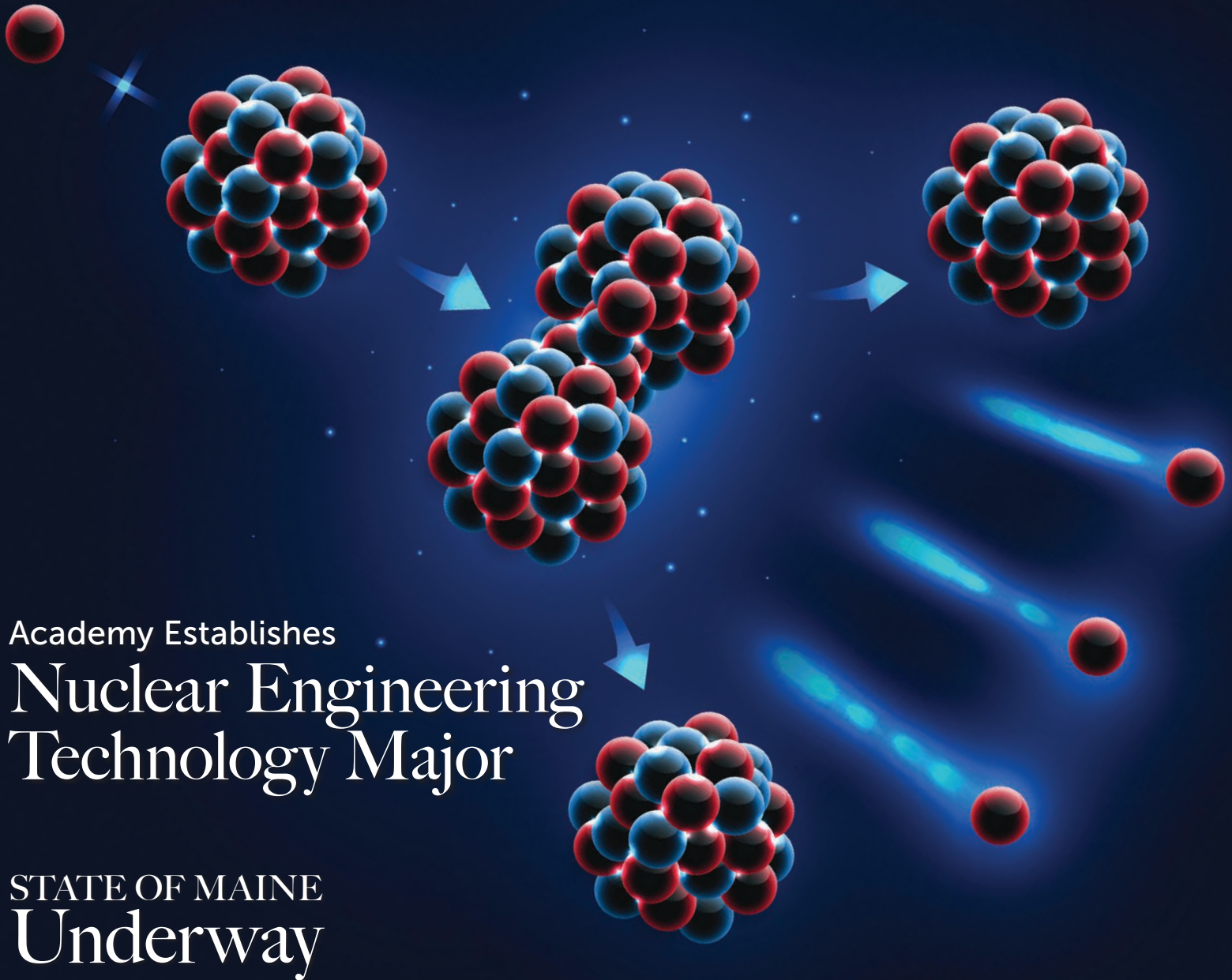


MARINER

The ALUMNI MAGAZINE of MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

— SUMMER 2026 —



Academy Establishes
**Nuclear Engineering
Technology Major**

STATE OF MAINE
Underway

The Growing Opportunity for
International Collaboration

The image above depicts the start of a nuclear fission chain reaction. It portrays a neutron colliding with a heavy nucleus (e.g. Uranium-235), splitting it into two lighter nuclei and, in so doing, releasing more neutrons that then collide with other heavy nuclei in succession, thereby releasing large amounts of energy.

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State of Maine moors in the state of Maine for the first time on March 21, 2026.





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MMA PRESIDENT
Craig Johnson '91

Dear members of the Maine Maritime Academy community,

I AM PLEASED TO SHARE what I genuinely believe is the most exciting issue of *Mariner* since I've been reading it as a student. In it, you will find stories about the historic delivery of *State of Maine*, generational improvements to the waterfront campus, landmark levels of support from individuals, industry, and the federal government, the critical appointment of a chief of staff, emerging areas of international cooperation in maritime training, and, of course, the establishment of the transformative nuclear engineering technology major.

My sincere congratulations go out to Captain Mac, Chief Coy, and their teams whose remarkable efforts have made the inaugural *State of Maine* summer sea term possible in 2026. *State of Maine* is the first purpose-built training vessel the Academy has operated in its history. It will be a great day in Castine when the vessel arrives from cruise on July 12. I look forward to hosting members of the community to celebrate the occasion on the waterfront campus.

I am pleased to report that construction of the pier remains on schedule for *State of Maine's* arrival. Phase one, the construction of the pier extension, is wrapping up now. Our construction partners Reed & Reed, Colliers Engineering, and GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. continue to do impressive work while maintaining high safety standards and respect for the community. I also appreciate the contribution of our CFO Janet Waldron, who is leading the management of the project along with her many other important responsibilities.

In addition to the largest construction project in the school's history, the pier, we are also in the process of a \$40M renovation of Curtis Hall, our main residential hall, which will drastically improve our students' living experience on campus. That project is on track to be finished next summer.

On May 1, the Board voted to approve the nuclear engineering technology major, the cover story of this issue of *Mariner*. The innovative program is the first-of-its-kind at any maritime academy in the United States and one of few at any institution in the country. We are very

excited about the potential of this program, led by Chair of Nuclear Engineering Technology Paul Wlodkowski.

I would like to congratulate Professor Wlodkowski for the recent award of an impressive \$1M grant from the Department of Energy, in collaboration with ABS, to further develop the nuclear program. Paul is working to establish some dynamic industry partnerships, as well, that I look forward to announcing soon.

In June, the Academy was awarded a \$10M grant for workforce development to expand our programs at the Brunswick facility. I look forward to providing further details as our plans to use the funding continue to take shape.

The award of the grant coincides with the appointment of Dr. Shane Moeykins '87 as the Academy's Chief of Staff, who has extensive prior experience administering complex federal grants. Shane is an alumnus, has a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Iowa State, and has held both corporate and academic leadership roles, most recently at the University of Maine. He will be a valuable member of my core leadership team.

With so many extraordinary things happening on campus, we are sincerely grateful for the continued support of the Maine Maritime Academy community in so many crucial ways. We take pride in providing a world-class education for our students, and you are helping to make that possible for generations to come.

Fair winds,

Craig Johnson '91 RADM
President

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



OPEN THIS ISSUE OF MARINER and a clear course comes into view: Maine Maritime Academy is underway and making way.

From the arrival of a new training vessel to expanding academic programs, from industry partnerships to workforce investments, the Academy continues to evolve in ways that position today's students—and tomorrow's graduates—for success in a rapidly changing maritime landscape.

But as much as things change, one constant remains: the strength of our alumni.

Every advancement highlighted in these pages—whether it's new opportunities for students, recognition from industry partners, or investment in the future workforce—builds on a foundation that generations of Mariners have helped create. That foundation is not just financial or institutional; it is personal. It's the network, the mentorship, the shared identity, and the willingness of our alumni to stay engaged.

As President of the Alumni Association, I see that connection in action all the time. Our alumni show up at career fairs, support cadet shipping and internships, advocate for the Academy, and lend their time and judgment when it matters. Just as important are the quieter ties—staying in touch, keeping the lines open, and remaining part of the MMA community.

This summer, we have a unique opportunity to strengthen those connections.

As the Academy's new training ship makes inaugural calls in ports including Galveston, Charleston, Port Everglades, and Boston, a series of onboard receptions are bringing Mariners together. These aren't just events—they're opportunities to reconnect in a setting that reflects both where we've been and where we're headed.

Whether you're stepping aboard to see the new vessel for the first time or reconnecting with classmates you haven't seen in years, these moments matter. They reinforce what makes MMA unique: a community that endures long after graduation.

At a time when the Academy is growing, adapting, and strengthening its ties to industry and the global maritime community, alumni engagement is more important than ever. It ensures that the values, traditions, and professional standards that define Maine Maritime Academy continue to thrive.

So as you read about the programs, partnerships, and milestones in this issue, consider where you fit in the voyage ahead.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the months to come—on deck, in port, and wherever Mariners cross paths.

Fair winds,

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

Andrew Strosahl '05

President, Maine Maritime Academy Alumni Association

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A CORE STRENGTH: MMA INAUGURATES THE Nuclear Engineering Technology Major

Paul A. Wlodkowski, Ph.D.



On May 1, 2026, the MMA Board of Trustees made a historic decision. They voted unanimously to approve a

new academic program – Nuclear Engineering Technology (NET). In doing so, the Board established the Academy as the first maritime university in the United States with a major in this critical discipline. Complementing the minor that was introduced two years ago, this action also reaffirmed MMA's longstanding leadership in the workforce development for the nuclear industry. In 1959, the Academy answered the nation's call to provide licensed crew on the world's first nuclear powered merchant ship, the *N.S. Savannah*. Today, our graduates will be prepared to advance the technology of the Generation IV small modular reactors (SMRs) for shoreside nuclear power plants, as well as their near-term application in commercial shipping.

WHY NUCLEAR?

Rising demand for electricity, particularly in the Global South, along with the rapid growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) are the primary economic drivers for nuclear energy. So is the increasing geopolitical vulnerability associated with price fluctuations and supply of fossil fuels,

as evidenced by the recent blockage in the Strait of Hormuz.

Environmental considerations also feature prominently. In December 2023, at the Climate Change Conference in Dubai (COP28), the United Nations pledged to work toward tripling global nuclear power capacity to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

In the high case scenario of the new International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) outlook, nuclear electrical generating capacity is projected to increase to 950 gigawatts by 2050. Here, global capacity in 2050 would be slightly more than 2.5 times what it was in 2023. In the low case projection, capacity rises 40 per cent to 514 gigawatts.

With such a ramp up in power production, the nation will require a well-trained workforce, and that is precisely what MMA's NET will provide. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that 375,000 new jobs will be added to the nuclear industry by 2050. Anticipating these trends, in May 2025, the White House issued a number of executive orders on nuclear energy that will essentially add 300 gigawatts of new U.S. nuclear capacity by 2050 and bolster the American nuclear workforce.

When viewing through the prism of energy policy based on the highest reliability and lowest impact to the environment, the world is gradually recognizing that nuclear power has no equal. This fact is rooted in physics.

When compared to fossil fuels, nuclear has 3 million times the energy density of coal, and 1.5 million times that of natural gas.

In contrast, renewables - such as offshore wind farms and solar - are not fuels, and therefore one typically calculates how much power is generated per square meter of space (footprint). On average, an offshore wind farm has an output of between 2-3 watts per square meter. A nuclear power plant's ratio is 1,000 to 2,000 watts per square meter.

Moreover, it is well known that wind is highly variable, and for that reason its capacity factor is about 50%, while that for nuclear is above 90%. For solar power, the density is 20-100 watts per square meter, but the intermittent nature of sunlight lowers the capacity factor in the range of 20%.

In summary, nuclear energy integrates well with all renewables on the power grid while simultaneously ensuring a highly reliable baseload.

WHAT DISTINGUISHES MMA'S NET?

The timing of the MMA's foray into the nuclear engineering space is superb for several key reasons. First, we have seized the initiative and will become the nation's first maritime university to offer a nuclear engineering technology major. Second, the burgeoning and resurgent nuclear industry - now driven by high demand from the AI industry - needs technologists and operators more than designers. This immediately differentiates MMA from the legacy nuclear engineering programs, e.g. Texas A&M University, the University of Tennessee Knoxville, the University of Michigan, MIT, North Carolina State, etc.

In the Nuclear Engineering Technology (NET) market, there are two Bachelor of Science programs: Excelsior University and Thomas Edison State University. Both are online. There are also several community colleges in the U.S. that offer an associate's degree in NET. MMA's NET will distinguish itself from this competition by building upon our



renowned steam curriculum, as well as the trademark "hands-on" education that is highly valued by industry.

WHAT ARE NET'S EXPECTED OUTCOMES?

The NET major will establish a gold standard for MMA's engineering technology programs. It will foster differentiation and will become an

be the first to develop a United States Coast Guard (USCG) licensed track for both deck and engine students.

In its current form, NET will be a non-Regimental program whose objective will be to address the high demand emerging for a qualified nuclear workforce. MMA's NET program will focus on the practical education and training of technologists with strong operational skills demanded by the nuclear industry.

NET graduates will be able to operate and manage these highly specialized facilities and electrical power generating stations. NET will provide a focused program to prospective students interested in nuclear energy and will not conflict with USCG-licensed programs or general shoreside programs like Power Engineering Technology with their emphasis on

renewables and traditional fossil-fuel power plants.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION AND MOMENTUM

The Atlantic Council, the prestigious international think tank, recently named MMA a "leading institution" in the development of a nuclear engineering technology curriculum. The Board's approval of the major also coincides with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Maritime Administration (MARAD)'s May 7, 2026 announcement

"The burgeoning and resurgent nuclear industry - now driven by high demand from the AI industry - needs technologists and operators more than designers."

— Paul Włodkowski, Ph.D.

ETAC of ABET accredited program. Consistent with that objective, we are seeking students who have demonstrated solid preparation in high school that includes mathematics through pre-calculus and three years of laboratory-based science courses, including chemistry and physics.

Demographically, MMA's NET program will attract students from across the United States as MMA becomes the first U.S. maritime university with a nuclear engineering technology program. In short time, NET will be poised to

launching an initiative to develop SMRs for commercial shipping.

"To successfully introduce SMRs, we must view this through a system-transition lens rather than just as a technology demonstration," said MARAD Administrator Stephen M. Carmel. "We are seeking critical insights on how the government can help reduce systemic uncertainty, align regulatory structures, and enable the market conditions necessary for private capital and operators to scale these groundbreaking technologies."

The announcement of the intent to develop nuclear reactors for marine propulsion follows the U.S. Coast Guard's establishment of the Maritime Nuclear Policy Division in December. Beyond propulsion, floating nuclear power plants using SMRs are gaining traction globally as a way to meet growing onshore power demand.

In furtherance of these initiatives, MMA aspires to become the premier maritime university to train United States Coast Guard (USCG) licensed cadets, both deck and engine, for the civil maritime nuclear industry.

Our leadership in this sphere was recently acknowledged by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). MMA was one of ten colleges and universities to receive funding from DOE to enhance nuclear safety training and workforce development. The \$1M grant was awarded to MMA to establish its Center for Education and Training of the Nuclear Merchant Mariner.

CONCLUSION

Few academic degree programs have the potential of nuclear to "change the world" in a positive way by providing clean, reliable, carbon-free energy.

Recent advances in SMRs – notably passive safety systems that require no human intervention or external power - have expanded nuclear energy's potential to reduce carbon emissions across power generation, marine propulsion, water desalination, and the production of alternative fuels such as hydrogen and ammonia. Because of these advances, nuclear energy is also garnering significant bipartisan support.

On March 31, 2026, Maine Governor Janet Mills joined her chief executive

colleagues from all the other New England states in issuing the following Joint Statement: "Adequate electricity supply is critical to growing our economies, preserving public health and safety, powering our homes and businesses, and stabilizing consumer prices as demand for electricity rises across the region. New England has a long tradition of collaborating on regional energy matters. As governors, we are committed to safeguarding our collective energy future through advancement of a diverse energy strategy that includes nuclear power, a pillar of New England's electric system." ■



Begin Your Path to Nuclear Engineering Technology Now

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

STUDENTS INTERESTED in the Nuclear Engineering Technology (NET) program beginning in Fall 2027 can start at MMA in Fall 2026 without losing time or credits.

Students may enroll in the Power Engineering Technology (PET) program for the 2026–2027 academic year and complete the first-year curriculum, which aligns with the first year of the NET program. In Spring 2027, students can submit a change of major to NET, and successfully completed courses will transfer directly into the program for Fall 2027 entry.

STEPS TO BEGIN YOUR NET PATHWAY

- Apply and enroll in the Power Engineering Technology (PET) program for Fall 2026
- Successfully complete the first-year PET course requirements during the 2026–2027 academic year
- Submit a change of major form to NET during Spring 2027
- Begin your second year in the Nuclear Engineering Technology (NET) program in Fall 2027

STATE OF MAINE: Underway

Michael Dickerson, Ph.D.



With two full-sized navigation bridges and two separate engine rooms, all fully functional, STATE OF MAINE is the first purpose-built training vessel operated by the Academy.

On Friday, May 8, on a crisp morning under cloudless blue skies, *State of Maine* cast lines from the Maine State Pier in Portland for the vessel's inaugural summer sea term. It was a historic day for the Academy and the culmination of the effort of thousands of people over more than 10 years.

State of Maine is a world-class, purpose-built training vessel, the construction of which was funded by the federal government. The vessel will serve as the Academy's training ship as well as respond to humanitarian crises associated with environmental disasters. The ship will revolutionize the Academy's hands-on, at-sea training capabilities both in terms of quality and quantity.

With two full-sized navigation bridges and two separate engine rooms, all fully functional, *State of Maine* is the first purpose-built training vessel operated by the Academy. The vessel has four Wabtec V250MDC Tier 4 engines driving Hyundai 3P-6.6KV-660 Hz alternators that supply 26,000 horsepower [verify] in a diesel electric

configuration that is widespread throughout the industry today.

State of Maine will increase the Academy's training capacity from 240 to 600 students, a significant expansion with great potential for international cooperation, as I argue in the article "The Growing Opportunity for International Collaboration," in this issue of *Mariner*.

State of Maine was built at Hanwha Philly Shipyard, on the site of the historic Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, the origins of which extend to 1776. During World War II, Philadelphia Naval Shipyard employed more than 40,000 workers to build and repair ships.

Today, Hanwha Philly Shipyard has under 2,000 workers with a goal to increase its staff to 10,000. Hanwha Group, a South Korean conglomerate, acquired Philly Shipyard in December 2024 for \$100M. Hanwha Group has stated plans to invest \$5B in the shipyard, as announced by South Korean President Lee Jae Myung at the *State of Maine* naming ceremony on August 26, 2025.





After the naming ceremony, the ship incurred mechanical malfunctions associated with the stern tube bearings and propulsions shaft during propulsion testing. These issues were subsequently repaired during a drydocking in January and February 2026 and the vessel successfully completed sea trials later that month.

After taking delivery of the vessel in February, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) transferred operational control of *State of Maine* to Maine Maritime Academy during a formal signing ceremony on March 30, 2026 at Portland Ocean Gateway.



“We are incredibly proud to partner with Maine Maritime Academy to deliver the State of Maine. Together, MARAD and MMA are transforming maritime education and ensuring our nation remains ready and resilient.”

MARAD Administrator Stephen Carmel



Speakers at the event included Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy, the 18th Secretary of Transportation and 24th Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, Senator Susan Collins, Hanwha Philly Shipyard CEO David Kim, Deputy Maritime Administrator Sang H. Yi, and President Craig Johnson, while current Regimental Commander Claire McDonald '27 and former Regimental

Top: Trustee Miles Theeman, Maine Maritime Academy Board Chair Wayne Norton '86, Trustee John Webb '83, and President Craig Johnson.

Middle: President Craig Johnson, the Honorable Elaine Chao, and Senator Susan Collins arrive at the signing ceremony.

Bottom: State of Maine Master, Captain Gordon “Mac” MacArthur and his wife, Maine Maritime Academy Commercial Shipping Coordinator Kathryn MacArthur.



Commander Odegaard Fields '26 delivered introductions.

"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 President Craig Johnson. "As our first purpose-built training ship, *State of Maine* will provide world-class learning experiences for our students and is a powerful reflection of what is possible through strong partnerships and shared vision."

MARAD Administrator Stephen Carmel stated that "We are incredibly proud to partner with Maine Maritime Academy to deliver the *State of Maine*. Together, MARAD and MMA are transforming maritime education and ensuring our nation remains ready and resilient."

Former Maine Maritime Academy President William Brennan was an early champion of the NSMV program, serving as Chairman of the Consortium of State Maritime Academies. During her remarks at the transfer ceremony, Senator Collins recounted that it was a visit aboard *State of Maine* (USNS *Tanner*) with President Brennan where



Top left: The Honorable Elaine Chao and the Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy.

Top right: Trustee Miles Theeman greets the Honorable Elaine Chao.

Middle left: 1/C Odegaard Fields '26 introduces the Honorable Elaine Chao.

Middle right: Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao delivers remarks.

Bottom: Maine Maritime Academy President Craig Johnson and Deputy Maritime Administrator Sang H. Yi shake hands after signing the documents.



she was shown cracks in the engine room walls that struck her as “kind of dangerous” and convinced her that a new ship was needed.

Senator Collins has been a crucial advocate for the NSMV program. Secretary Chao credited Senator Collins in her “very powerful” role as Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee for Transportation for her “vital leadership” making the NSMV program possible.

More recently, as Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Collins secured \$2.8M in Congressionally Directed Spending in the FY2026 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. The funds will be used to outfit the ship’s simulation laboratory.

The NSMV program will eventually provide purpose-built training ships of the same design to five of the six State Maritime Academies. Maine Maritime Academy is the third institution to receive its vessel after SUNY Maritime College and Massachusetts Maritime Academy. The fourth and fifth will go to Texas A&M Maritime Academy and Cal Poly Maritime Academy, respectively.

That *State of Maine* would be ready to sail on schedule for the summer 2026 cruise was uncertain right up to the time of delivery. Navigating the logistical challenges associated with the last couple of years of construction grew increasingly complicated. However, President Johnson’s nimble and steadfast leadership proved to be adaptive and effective. While

President Johnson led from Leavitt Hall, Captain Gordon “Mac” MacArthur ’00, Aaron “Tuggie” Coy ’98, and their crew led the effort on the ground in Philadelphia. Their work and that of their staff was essential to be able to have a successful summer sea term aboard *State of Maine* this year.

On July 12, when the ship returns from cruise, *State of Maine* is expected to tie lines to the new pier in Castine for the first time. Building in toward the shore in three phases of construction, the first phase of the \$105M pier is expected to be completed shortly before the vessel arrives. The second and third phases of construction will be completed in the spring of 2027. The new pier will more than double linear dock space from 500 to 1,100 feet. ■



Left to right: 4/C Troy Piltch, 3/C Austin Dorner, 2/C Aiden Clark, 1/C Hailey Fardon, 4/C Patrick Clements-Dolan, 2/C Bethany Ives, 2/C Alexander Powers, 2/C Claire MacDonald, 4/C Matthew Tita, 1/C Margaret Archibald, 1/C Odegaard Fields, the Honorable Elaine Chao, Senator Susan Collins, Maine Maritime Academy President Craig Johnson, Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy, Maritime Administration Deputy Administrator Sang H. Yi, Senator Angus King, 1/C William Sherrill, 1/C Padric McGrath, 1/C Jacob Lalumandier, 4/C Ethan Matthews, 4/C Matilda Gerring, 4/C Skye Johnson, 1/C Alexander Banning, 3/C Caleb Boyle, and President William Brennan.

THE GROWING OPPORTUNITY FOR International Collaboration

Michael Dickerson, Ph.D.

On March 9, delegates from Mokpo National Maritime University, a leading maritime institution in South Korea, visited Castine to meet with President Johnson to discuss the possibility of sending students from their school for specialized training at Maine Maritime Academy.

Cooperation between Mokpo University and the Academy began formally in 1990 when the two institutions signed the first of three agreements for the intent to exchange students and faculty.

During the March 2026 meeting, proposed that Mokpo University send approximately 25 students to the Academy for two years of training in

both the deck and engine programs beginning in the fall semester.

The partnership between Mokpo University and the Academy predates the establishment of the International Association of Maritime Universities (IAMU), which has become the premier body for establishing international ties in the field of maritime education.

Maine Maritime Academy is one of seven founding members of IAMU, established in 1999, and is currently serving the end of a two-year term on the International Executive Board (IEB), the governing body of the institution, representing North and South America. The IEB is the In March, the Academy was reelected to the IEB for another two-year term, which it will hold in 2027-28.

In April, I attended the 23rd session of the IAMU IEB meeting at the University of Split Maritime Faculty in Croatia. The event was hosted on the Campus of the University of Split on the outskirts of the third century ruins of the Roman Emperor Diocletian's palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

At the meeting, IAMU Executive Director Takeshi Nakazawa, Ph.D. indicated that former Maine Maritime Academy President Len Tyler's leadership played a fundamental role in the establishing the organization.

President Tyler's eyes still light up talking about IAMU. While attending the 2026 Academy commencement ceremony on May 2, President Tyler asked if students were still involved with the IAMU annual conference.

Delegates from Mokpo University meet with President Johnson, Chief of Staff Shane Moykens, and Professor of Transportation Ender Asyali.





Indeed, maritime students from over 80 countries around the world present every year in October at the IAMU Annual General Assembly. Tyler added that he thought, “it was important to get the students involved.”

At the IEB meeting, I made the case to Dr. Nakazawa that I believed it was in the mutual self-interest of Maine Maritime Academy and member IAMU institutions to collaborate, particularly in the context of at-sea training aboard *State of Maine*, the nuclear program, and cooperation involving the Arctic.

The Academy’s capacity for at-sea training is increasing from 240 to 600 with the delivery of *State of Maine*, currently on its inaugural training cruise. This year, the entire cohort of nearly 250 University of Texas A&M Maritime Academy students is training aboard *State of Maine* while the institution awaits the expected delivery of their new vessel, *Lone Star State*, next year.

IEB delegates, many of whom represent institutions that do not have their own training ships, expressed a great deal of interest in *State of Maine* at the meeting. Those schools often rely on industry partners for at-sea training rather than operating their own vessels.

MARAD has indicated their initial support of the potential to train international students aboard *State of Maine*. Maine Maritime Academy would be well-served to pursue international partnerships before other state maritime academies attempt to attract the highest quality students from abroad to train on their own vessels.



Other opportunities for collaboration include partnerships involving the Arctic. In December 2025, Maine Maritime Academy hosted Minna Keinänen-Toivola, Ph.D. from Satakunta University of Applied Sciences (SAMK) in Finland. SAMK does not have their training vessel either. Dr. Keinänen-Toivola indicated the desire of the university’s president to sign an agreement for student exchange, which has been drafted but not ratified.

During the April IEB meeting, Professor Rino Bošnjak and Professor Merica Slišković indicated interest on behalf of the University of Split Maritime Faculty to formally pursue opportunities for cooperation with the Academy as well. The University of Split also relies on industry for the at-sea training of their cadets.

In August, IAMU Deputy Executive Director Yusuke Mori, Ph.D. will visit Castine to discuss the IAMU-funded Organizational Development Project to meet with principal investigator,

Top: The IAMU International Executive Board, representatives of the IAMU Secretariat, and meeting hosts from the University of Split Faculty of Maritime Studies in April.

Below: Professor Minna Keinänen-Toivola, Ph.D. gives a lecture on the Arctic at Maine Maritime Academy in December.

Professor of Transportation Ender Asyali, Ph.D., and his co-authors which include Associate Professor of Arts and Sciences Aaron Kingsbury, Ph.D. and Professor Ozcan Arslan and Assistant Prof. Esma Uflaz, both from Istanbul Technical University, Maritime Faculty.

The project has resulted in the formation of a working group within IAMU’s organizational structure to move the creation of an external advisory panel forward. Professor Asyali will present his team’s findings at the IAMU Annual General Assembly in October in Split.

The Academy is a premier maritime institution in the United States but poised to lead globally. ■

At the Academy

Waterfront Improvements Update

MAY 2026

THE MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY Waterfront Improvements Project continues to move forward according to schedule as the final push is on to complete Phase 1 in advance of the arrival of State of Maine on 12 July.

As of mid-May, general contractor Reed & Reed has completed installation, drilling, and anchoring of all 256 structural piles for the main pier extension and mooring dolphins.

Concrete placement for the two west mooring dolphins is complete, forms removed, and bollards are being fit. The east mooring dolphin forms and rebar are being installed and placement of concrete will be complete before the end of May.

The main pier cast-in-place perimeter beam lower concrete placements are complete and the temporary support structure has been removed. The west

end of the main pier has all precast beams and deck panels installed, conduit installed and is ready for the cast-in-place topping slab.

The coming weeks will see precast beams and deck panels continue to be placed from the center of the pier toward the east end, followed by conduits, mooring fitting installation, and the completion of the topping slab. The stem of the pier from the end of the existing pier to the new main pier is structurally complete with all precast beams, utility trenches, deck panels, and topping slab complete.

In addition to the completion of the main pier and stem construction and outfitting items, June will see the installation of pile guides for the new floating outer docks on the east side, the installation of the docks, ramps to the docks, and catwalks to the dolphins.

Overall, Phase 1, which includes the new pier and mooring dolphins extending 137 feet beyond the existing pier and 325 feet wide at the berthing face, is scheduled for completion in June of 2026 prior to the arrival of State of Maine. Phases 2 and 3, covering demolition and replacement of the existing pier, installation of a floating breakwater, reestablishment of the small-boat basin, and final testing and commissioning, are on track for completion in the spring 2027.

Maine Maritime Academy, together with Reed & Reed, Colliers Engineering, and GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc., continue to coordinate closely with the Maine BGS and the Town of Castine to ensure a safe, efficient, and timely completion of this transformative waterfront project.



ABS Visits Castine, Discusses Simulators and Nuclear, Donates \$100k

MICHAEL DICKERSON, PH.D.

THE AMERICAN BUREAU OF SHIPPING (ABS), founded during Abraham Lincoln's first term in 1862, has been inextricably linked to the Academy since its own establishment 85 years ago. The relationship, however, has never been stronger.

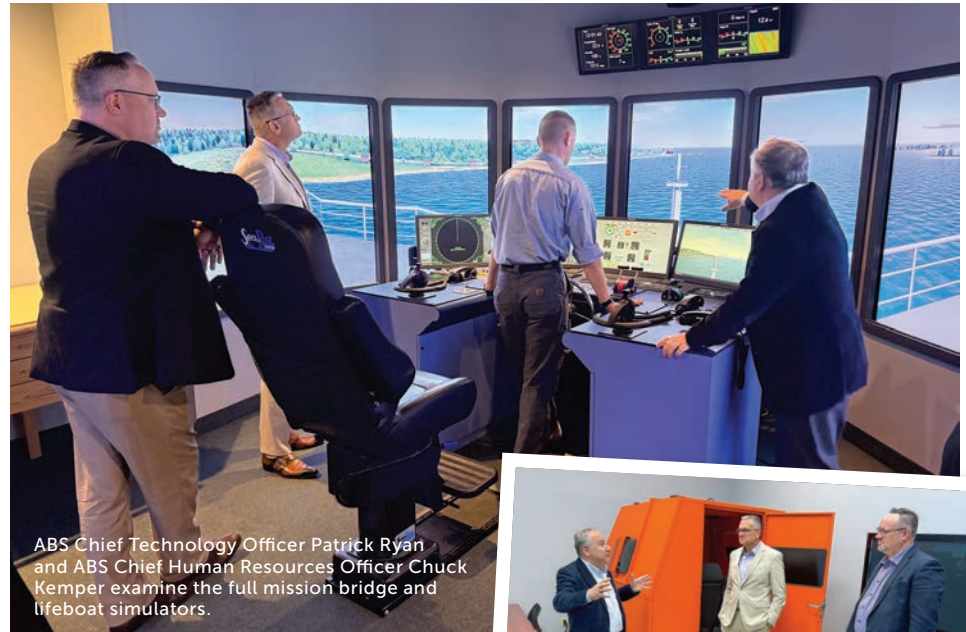
Maine Maritime Academy alumnus John McDonald '93 was recently appointed Chairman and CEO of ABS. McDonald has indicated the intent to prioritize continued support of the Academy and to explore ways in which the two institutions might work together further. To learn more about how ABS and the Academy might collaborate more effectively, McDonald dispatched ABS Chief Technology Officer Patrick Ryan and ABS Chief Human Resources Officer Chuck Kemper to Castine in April.

Ryan and Kemper's campus visit focused on understanding the Academy's current training capabilities, strategic aspirations, and possible ways to strengthen the collaborative relationship between the two institutions.

On a tour led by Professor of Transportation Ender Asyali, Ph.D., Ryan and Kemper observed simulators throughout campus including the full mission bridge, lifeboat, and virtual reality simulators. Using the full mission bridge simulator, Asyali showcased the Castine Harbor simulation that he developed in-house. Asyali noted the need for considerable resources to remain at the cutting edge of technological advances in simulation.

Later that morning, Ryan gave a presentation on the outlook of nuclear energy in the context of the shipping industry to an engaged audience at the ABS Center for Engineering, Science, and Research, the construction of which was partially funded under the leadership of Robert Somerville '65 during his tenure as CEO.

Ryan attributed technological advances for reinvigorating interest in



ABS Chief Technology Officer Patrick Ryan and ABS Chief Human Resources Officer Chuck Kemper examine the full mission bridge and lifeboat simulators.

nuclear energy. He indicated that commercial economic factors are driving the use of nuclear energy as a result of the effort to decarbonize, noting the "mass consumption of energy" associated with artificial intelligence increasing demand for energy.

Ryan anticipates floating nuclear power plants using fourth generation reactors to become popular sources of energy generation before the technology is deployed on vessels for propulsion.

In the shipping industry, Ryan suggested that while hydrogen and ammonia are clean fuels when used for propulsion, there are significant carbon emissions associated with their production. He argued that nuclear energy has the potential to make the production of hydrogen and ammonia much cleaner, even before nuclear reactors are used for marine propulsion.

Ryan praised the Academy for being the first maritime college to establish a nuclear program. Noting we all anticipate and expect American leadership for nuclear vessels, he claimed that "regardless, things are advancing in Europe and the Pacific



shipbuilding nations whether we are at the forefront or not... The whole world is interested in nuclear energy and will need qualified nuclear mariners."

In May, ABS pledged \$100,000 to the Academy in support of academic scholarships. ABS is also partnering with Mossman Nuclear Chair Professor Paul Wlodkowski on a Department of Energy grant, currently in contract negotiations. Continued collaboration between ABS and the Academy offers exciting possibilities in areas of mutually aligned interests.

"This is not a time of calm seas. It is a time of unprecedented change driven by innovation in AI, robotics, digital technologies, and nuclear. It demands men and women of character - people who will lead with integrity, who will act with courage, and who will serve something greater than themselves," said McDonald. "Exactly the kind of graduates produced by Maine Maritime Academy."

General Randall Reed Visits Campus

USTRANSCOM Commander seeks to champion both military and commercial maritime transportation in Washington

MICHAEL DICKERSON, PH.D.

President Johnson, General Reed, Provost Waters, and Chief Master Sargeant Kruzelnick discuss challenges and opportunities associated with training mariners for both the commercial shipping industry and the military.



WITH SNOW BLANKETING the ground beneath a cloudless blue sky and temperatures in the single digits, General Randall Reed, commander of United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), arrived at the Maine Maritime Academy campus at 0745 on February 9. It marked the first visit by a four-star general in living memory.

USTRANSCOM is a “combatant command which provides support to the ten other U.S. combatant commands, the military services, defense agencies, and other government organizations.” The command coordinates global logistics for the Department of Defense using both military, including the Military Sealift Command, and commercial resources.

In United States Senate Armed Services Committee testimony on March 12, General Reed highlighted the importance of the commercial shipping industry to USTRANSCOM’s strategic sealift capability during crises. According to General Reed, USTRANSCOM “delivers the mass of our combat power through the decisive strength of sealift sustainment.” The commercial fleet, the General estimates, provides “more than 90% of

sustainment [transporting materiel] to deliver power and presence at the time and place of our choosing.”

During testimony, General Reed indicated that in conflict “competitors train to turn logistics into a primary battlespace” and emphasized that the “priority remains keeping power projection as the Joint Forces’ decisive

“Competitors train to turn logistics in a primary battlespace and the priority remains keeping power projection as the Joint Forces’ decisive strategic advantage.”

— General Randall Reed

strategic advantage.” Senator Mark Kelly agreed, adding that the federal government “need[s] to do more to support the commercial industry we rely on.”

Commandant of Midshipmen Captain Justin Cooper welcomed the General and his delegation to campus upon their arrival. The group, visiting from Scott Airforce Base outside Belleville,

Illinois, entered Leavitt Hall through two rows of saluting cadets as the blue four-star flag was raised behind them.

The USTRANSCOM delegation met with President Johnson and senior representatives from the office of Senator Susan Collins. Affable and engaging, General Reed made a point of introducing himself to students, staff, faculty, parents, and political delegates alike, enthusiastically asking how he might help tell their stories in Washington.

Those in attendance emphasized the importance of collaboration with the federal government to ensure the Academy can continue to efficiently supply a strong pipeline of mariners to both the military and private sector, an objective recognized as a strategic national priority.

The discussion continued in a larger meeting chaired by President Johnson in the Holmes Heritage Room. On multiple occasions, General Reed asked about the Academy’s ability to quickly increase training capacity during times of conflict, “What would a surge look like... and what would you need?”

President Johnson affirmed the Academy’s ability to respond to a sudden increase in demand for mariners,

noting that the new training vessel will be a “gamechanger” for instructional capabilities and highlighting the potential to expand capacity at the Brunswick facility for workforce development. While Identifying opportunities for growth, he also underscored tuition costs as a critical barrier to training more mariners.

General Reed acknowledged the impressive outcomes achieved by the Academy and asked about the “secret sauce... What’s your magic?”

Trustee Bill Eisenhart, former Cal Maritime Academy president, emphasized the strength of the campus community and the close relationships formed there. “What makes this place special is the people,” President Johnson echoed, “We care about each other here.” Regimental Commander Odegaard Fields ’26 added that the

Academy cultivates not only great leaders, but exceptional citizens.

General Reed acknowledged a key challenge in maritime recruiting: while many individuals express a desire to serve, awareness of maritime career pathways remains limited. Commandant Cooper suggested that USTRANSCOM consider leveraging the STATE OF MAINE and other National Security Multi-Mission Vessels to raise the visibility of State Maritime Academies and the career opportunities they offer.

Marine Transportation Chair Ender Asyali, Ph.D. noted that the Academy’s hands-on, experiential learning model is both a strength and challenge. Cutting edge training tools, including advanced simulators, enable world-class instruction but require substantial, sustained financial investment to remain state-of-the-art.

Engineering Chair Don McCann raised concerns with General Reed regarding recent modifications to the U.S. Coast Guard licensing examination. He argued that flawed testing procedures prevent otherwise qualified candidates from earning their credentials.

When General Reed asked cadets why they chose to attend Maine Maritime Academy, many cited a call to public service both to the state and country.

Before leaving, General Reed described the specialized nature of USTRANSCOM’s mission, emphasizing its role in “championing all aspects of transportation, not just military.” He underscored the strategic importance of maritime professionals and the urgency of investing in the next generation, stating, “Our time is now... how can I help?”



General Reed visits the NROTC building.



General Reed visits the waterfront improvement project with President Johnson and Carol Woodcock from the office of Senator Susan Collins.



General Reed meets with NROTC Commanding Officer Captain Gary Chase and NROTC midshipmen.

GESA and the Academy: A Strategic Alliance

MICHAEL DICKERSON, PH.D. AND ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGINEERING RONALD BOIDI

ON MAY 2, three representatives from the Global Energy Services Alliance (GESA) attended commencement to watch their first Maine Maritime Academy hire, Elliott Misiura '26, graduate. GESA CEO Richard Lowrance, CFO Diane Lowrance, and HR Manager and Head Recruiter Parker Staley made the trip to Castine from the company's headquarters in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Assistant Professor of Engineering Ronald Boidi first met the GESA team at the Academy's fall 2025 career fair, where he approached them to discuss the future of workforce development in the energy sector. That conversation resulted in GESA's commitment to support the Academy's electrical lab and gas turbine courses.

Since then, GESA has provided funding to upgrade the lab's original plywood motor controller lab into an industrial-grade enclosure system designed to teach students analog motor control circuits in a more realistic environment. These upgrades not only give students hands-on experience with equipment that reflects modern industry standards but

also improve safety while working with 208-volt three-phase electrical systems.

The partnership has already produced impressive results. In addition to GESA's first full-time hire of an MMA alumnus, they have hired three interns supporting both field service operations and business administration.

According to Staley, "The interns signed on to be Field Service Technicians. They will spend time in our shop in Corpus Christi, Texas as well as out in the field all over the country, possibly outside of the country as well, to service, maintain, and repair turbines and generators that run power plants and refineries."

Staley added that the interns will be "installing units, building power plants, exchanging parts on these units, troubleshooting, figuring out how to fix it, refurbishing and overhauling units, doing both minor and major scheduled maintenance work, as well as pop out to emergency jobs when they arise. Also, they will be helping the winding division of the company by re-winding rotors and being part of the whole process of getting a rotor in,

troubleshooting, repairing, and getting it back to the site."

As a result of rising demand for power, GESA is experiencing significant growth of its business as well as increased competition to attract skilled labor. By supporting the Academy, GESA seeks to build a long-term pipeline of potential employees. "Human Resources are the bottleneck of our business," says Staley. "GE, Siemens, Field Core, Baker Hugh's all say the same thing. We need more people!"

Part of their strategy to train workers for employment at GESA has

"What I like about GESA is that they are a family company treating the students like they are joining the GESA family."

— Professor Ronald Boidi

been to establish their own online education platform called Power University, available to both current and potential employees. The aim is to "teach power generation to the masses," Staley says. He is interested in partnering with the Academy around these training efforts to leverage the school's expertise in education.

In addition to supporting the electrical lab and gas turbine courses at the Academy, GESA was a title sponsor of the 2026 fundraising event, A Night by the Bay, where they also matched the American Bureau of Shipping's \$5,000 donation for scholarships.

"What I like about GESA," says professor Boidi, "is that they are a family company treating the students like they are joining the GESA family. Parker and I will have the next 30 years to develop this program to support the combustion turbine energy market."



GESA representative Parker Staley with Professor Ronald Boidi and students Ryan Gamble, Elliott Misiura, Ava Cure, and Mya Engberg.



GLOBAL ENERGY SERVICES ALLIANCE

MARINER MAGAZINE

MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

POWER THE WORLD.

Launch your career servicing turbines & generators
across the energy sector — field-ready from day one.

FIELD ENGINEER ROLES

Hands-on work with industrial power systems

COMPETITIVE COMPENSATION

Pay + benefits from your first day on-site

IMMEDIATE PLACEMENT

We hire MMA graduates directly into the field

NATIONAL FOOTPRINT

Projects across the U.S. — travel-ready careers

15+

O&M PROJECTS
UNDER MANAGEMENT

2 GW+

GENERATION CAPACITY
TOUCHED

20+

YEARS COMBINED
EXECUTION EXPERIENCE

100+

MILLION PEOPLE WE
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New Elective Courses: Small Business and Personal Finance

THE LOEB-SULLIVAN SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND LOGISTICS DEPARTMENT CHAIR DAVID SORICH, DBA

A DESIRE TO OFFER ELECTIVE courses that would benefit all MMA students, not only of interest to International Business and Logistics (IBL) students has led to the creation of two new courses: Small Business and Personal Finance. Both courses are focused on upper-class students to aid in their preparation for graduation.

The Personal Finance course focuses on investment, debt and spending decisions students will face as they earn their first paychecks and beyond. Offered in fall 2025 and spring 2026, both sections exceeded expectations. The fall course drew mostly IBL students, but by spring, interest had spread and non-IBL students filled the roster. The course has since been made a permanent elective offered each semester, with additional sections possible if enrollment continues to grow.

The success of the small business course was easily measured by the

‘Shark Tank’ type event that was co-hosted by IBL and The Rising Tide, with financial support provided by The Rising Tide, Machias Savings Bank, Castine Community Partners, and a few anonymous donors. Seven student

accessories as the winner of the grand prize. The small business course will continue to be taught each semester, with ‘Shark Tank’ style business pitch competition being held each spring for any students who enrolled.

Maine Maritime Academy was recently honored as Service Provider of the Year by the Maine International Trade Center

business ideas fostered during the course competed for a Grand Prize of \$3,000, with two ‘People’s Choice’ awards of \$500 being presented. Judges selected “That’s a Wrap”, a business that focused on spring set-up and fall winterizing of outdoor furniture and

TRADE COMPLIANCE CURRICULUM

As the International Business & Logistics program looks ahead, it is clear that one of the most pressing challenges facing today’s global enterprises is navigating the increasingly complex landscape of trade compliance, both in importing and exporting. The recent tariff disruptions and heightened regulatory scrutiny have underscored just how essential this often-overlooked component of the supply chain has become. At the same time, governments worldwide continue to expand enforcement efforts and raise penalties for non-compliance with the growing body of complex international trade laws and regulations.

Leveraging Professor Jeff Simpson '94 & '00's decades of professional experience, advanced certifications, and professional licenses in international trade, compliance, and operations, MMA is introducing dedicated trade compliance coursework within our undergraduate offerings. Few institutions are as uniquely positioned as Maine Maritime Academy to launch this specialized area of study quickly and effectively. By pioneering this curriculum, MMA can establish a distinct competitive advantage, expand its reputation as an innovator in maritime and global logistics education, and drive increased enrollment within the IBL Department at a moment when student and industry demand for this expertise has never been higher.

MAINE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CENTER 2026 SERVICE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Maine Maritime Academy was recently honored as Service Provider of the Year by the Maine International Trade

Center (MITC), a recognition that reflects the Academy's strong and sustained commitment to supporting MITC's core mission and Maine's global business community. A key part of this achievement is the exceptional outreach, expertise, and partnership demonstrated by the IBL Department, whose faculty consistently collaborate with MITC on programs and industry engagement through workshops, webinars, online trainings, and direct support to Maine companies navigating international trade. The IBL Department has become a valued resource and a trusted partner with MITC. This award not only highlights the Academy's impact on the State's economic development in international trade but also reinforces the vital role the IBL Department plays in advancing trade readiness and strengthening Maine's position in the global marketplace.

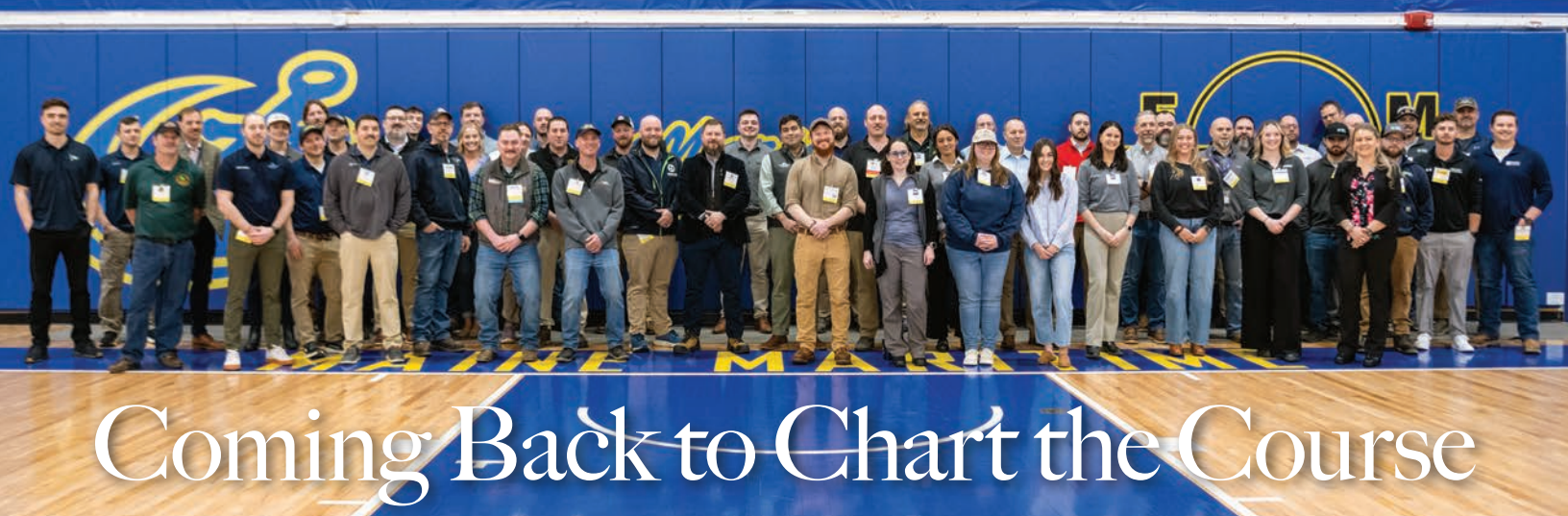


IBL INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

As COVID impacted so many parts of our lives, the Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) went dormant and basically disbanded. As MMA and the IBL Department began preparations for the upcoming 10-year NECHE accreditation renewal and the re-institution of the International Accreditation Council for Business Education (IACBE) for the IBL Department, it was time to re-institute the IAC. Initial Discussions started with Oscar Adams'13 to take the lead as the President of the Committee and led to our inaugural meeting in October 2025. The follow-on meeting is scheduled for summer of 2026. Currently we have 11 members from the US, Ireland, Kuwait, and Turkey. The IAC will be a large part of the accreditation process and enhance the future development of the IBL Department.



Craig Johnson accepts the Service Provider of the Year award from the Maine International Trade Center.



Coming Back to Chart the Course

How MMA's Career Fair — and the People Behind It — Are Shaping the Next Generation of Maritime Professionals

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS JAMIE COFFEY

AT MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY, a career isn't just something students graduate into — it's something they begin building the moment they arrive on the hill in Castine. And few places on campus make that more tangible than the Alexander Field House on Career Fair day.

Twice a year, something remarkable happens in Castine, Maine. A small coastal town of fewer than 1,500 people becomes a destination for over 100 of the nation's leading maritime, energy, defense, and industrial companies — all making the journey to meet with the students of Maine Maritime Academy. The Field House transforms into a sea of tables draped in company colors, stacked with branded literature and swag, and lined with professionals eager to talk, recruit, and connect.

Maine Maritime Academy has been hosting Career Fairs on campus for over two decades. What began as a practical effort to connect graduates with employers has grown into one of the Academy's most powerful expressions of community — a living testament to what MMA stands for and what its graduates go on to achieve.

The most recent spring Career Fair took place on March 26, drawing a full

slate of companies to campus. Among them: defense contractors like General Dynamics Electric Boat and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard; energy giants including NextEra Energy, GE Vernova, Mitsubishi Power Americas, and Siemens Energy; marine operators such as Vane Brothers and Kirby Inland Marine; and companies spanning everything from Great Lakes dredging to food service to waste innovation. The range is a reflection of something important: an MMA education opens more doors than most students initially imagine.

THE TEAM BEHIND THE MAGIC

None of it happens by accident.

The MMA Career Services and Cooperative Education department is a small but mighty team whose work touches virtually every student who passes through Castine. Director Deborah Harman has been with the department for 13 years, serving twice as interim director before stepping into the role permanently four years ago. Alongside her are Kathy MacArthur, Field Experience Shipping Coordinator, now in her fourth year; Jan Leach, Career Services Coordinator, in her fifth year; and Jeffrey Wheeler, the newest member of the team, who

recently joined as Field Experience Shoreside Coordinator.

Harman came to MMA from the medical field — nuclear medicine, radiology, and ultrasound — and found her way to Career Services after a year in the Academy's safety department. The path was unexpected, but the fit

"Students have transferable skills that open more opportunities than they ever thought possible. The fact that they realize 'I can do that' is one of my favorite things to hear."

— Deborah Harman, Director of Career Services & Cooperative Education

was undeniable. "I enjoy watching the students grow and discover how networking can work for them personally," she says.

One Career Fair memory stands out above the rest: "I had a student one year who walked away with five job offers in one day. He was thrilled and didn't know what to do. A good problem to have."

Kathy MacArthur brings a unique perspective to her role. Married to an MMA alumnus, and a recent graduate

herself with a Master of Science degree, she came to Career Services after managing the Academy's Bookstore, seeing it as a chance to give back to the community that had shaped her family's life.

"I love watching students go from wide-eyed freshmen walking through their first Career Fair — that deer-in-the-headlights look — to the confident senior with far more knowledge beginning their final year. We tell the students that they only have one opportunity to make a first impression, and that the reps will remember them. It's true."

— Kathy MacArthur, Field Experience Shipping Coordinator

For Jan Leach, the Career Fair is the culmination of months of preparation — and pure joy when the day finally arrives. "It matters that we are here, available, and not ever too busy to talk with a student who comes in," she says. "It matters that we listen, then help them act."

Even as the newest member of the team, Jeffrey Wheeler has quickly come to understand what makes the Career Fair special.

"What stands out most is the respect and enthusiasm employers consistently show for the depth and quality of an MMA education. Seeing those conversations turn into cooperative internships and career opportunities is a great reminder of why this work matters so much."

— Jeffrey Wheeler, Field Experience Shoreside Coordinator

WHY THEY KEEP COMING BACK

Of the companies represented at this spring's Career Fair, nearly 70 were MMA alumni — graduates who have built careers in industry and now return to Castine year after year to recruit the next generation. It is, in its purest form, the Academy's mission made visible: students become professionals, professionals become mentors, and the cycle continues.

Jon Carr '87, Principal Engineer at General Dynamics Electric Boat, is one of those alumni. He has made the return trip to Castine more times than he can count, and his reasons are clear.

"Maine Maritime graduates offer a leg up over candidates from other institutions through their familiarity with propulsion plant equipment and operation. This additional knowledge benefits construction engineering support groups where the individual is able to step into a productive role at a faster pace. Made me wish I had a Maine Maritimer doing the work."

— Jon Carr '87, Principal Engineer, General Dynamics Electric Boat

PATHS AS VARIED AS THE SEA

Yes, graduates sail as deck officers and chief engineers aboard vessels crossing the globe. But they also work at nuclear and gas-fired power plants, offshore platforms, naval shipyards, dredging operations, inland waterways, marine survey firms, logistics companies, and beyond. Alumni in Marine Science and International Business and Logistics join the traditional maritime degrees, expanding the horizon even further. MMA boasts a 90% graduate placement rate, with a median starting salary of

\$80,000–\$90,000 — figures that reflect the quality of an MMA education and the robust demand for its graduates.

"The career fair is an opportunity for employers to see us in the context of what makes our education at a maritime academy so valuable. Not only do we get to see familiar faces from companies we are interested in working for semester after semester to build that introductory relationship, but they get to see the environment on campus that builds us into professionals."

— Margaret Archibald '26

FULL CIRCLE

There is something deeply meaningful about watching an alumnus stand across a table from a current student in the Alexander Field House — each a reflection of the other, separated only by time. The alumnus remembers the nerves, the ambition, the uncertainty, and the way MMA shaped them into someone who could walk into a room and belong there. Now they return. Not because they have to, but because they want to.

"I want all of our students to succeed in whatever they do," says Jan Leach. "I also want them to know that even after they graduate, we are still here for them. My door is always open. I want them to know that they have so many opportunities when they leave here and that they should not give up on their dreams."

That sentiment — generous, steadfast, forward-looking — is the spirit of the MMA Career Fair, and the spirit of the institution as a whole.

Come fall. Come spring. The Field House doors open, the tables are set, and the future begins again.

2026 Commencement Ceremony



Secretary Chao enters the Alexander Field House.



2025-26 Regimental Operations Officer Margaret Archibald '26 and Regimental Senior Striker Connor Parker '26.



2026 graduates.



Secretary Chao delivers the keynote address.



L to R: Trustee Webb, Trustee Johnson, Trustee Morrison, Chairman Norton, Secretary Chao, Trustee Gardner, Trustee Loomis, Trustee Eisenhart, and President Johnson.



2026 U.S. Navy Officer Commissioning Ceremony.



The Class of 2026 celebrates graduation.

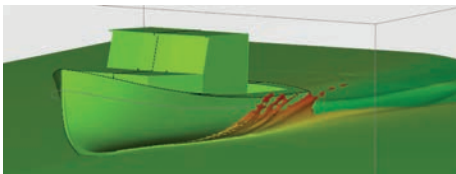
F/V Entropy: An Ambitious Capstone Project

MICHAEL DICKERSON, PH.D. WITH ALDEN SAWYER

AMONG THE OPPORTUNITIES that differentiate Maine Maritime Academy from other institutions are the hands-on, experiential learning and the access to the Academy's waterfront campus. This semester, a group of students took what they learned over several years at the Academy, leveraged waterfront resources, and garnered support from sponsors to undertake one of the more ambitious capstone projects in recent memory.

The project is being led by Alden Sawyer, a five-year marines systems engineering student expecting to graduate in December. He is joined by classmates Devin Grant, Rory Carlson, and Griffin Stolp, all of whom are in the same program.

The team completely stripped and gutted the 1979 Holland 30' boat and replaced and rebuilt everything including a new engine, new engine hangers, engine beds, hydraulics, electrical wiring, fuel lines, and Racor filter. They converted the 4-inch dry exhaust stack to a 6-inch underdeck wet exhaust, went from 1.5-inch to 2-inch propeller shaft, replaced the fiberglass rudder with a custom stainless steel rudder, upgraded the reduction gear, and did a complete refit of hydraulic system.



The team took the lines of the boat and made a 3D CAD model in Rhino, which they uploaded to ORCA3D, a marine design and analysis software. The analysis helped the team determine theoretical hydrostatic properties of the boat at various speeds and displacements such as heave, pitch, and hull resistance. With the goal of maximizing speed, the most important of the results was the speed power curve the software produces.

"CAD told us what was possible and what we needed to do to make

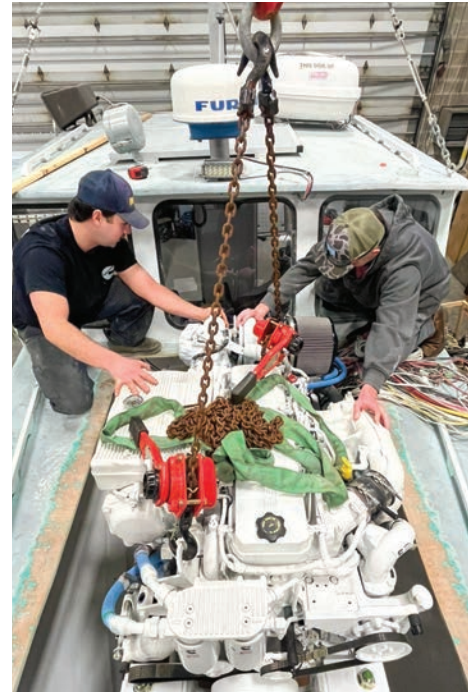
it possible," Sawyer said. "We spent countless hours doing computational fluid dynamics (CFD) runs that took days for a single file or modifications to the hull." Sawyer contacted various boat builders including Matt Sledge of Samoset Boatworks and Glen Holland of Holland's Boat Shop to compare computational fluid dynamics (CFD) data to real experimental data to make sure they were on the right track.

Professor of Engineering Douglas Read is the faculty advisor for the project. "This project was ambitious to say the least," Read said. "But by doing both the engineering analysis and the actual modifications, they were able to connect the more abstract calculations to the behavior of the actual boat. Hydrostatic properties, weight, and trim mean a lot more when you're trying to figure out how your boat will float on launch day.

To fund the project, Sawyer solicited sponsors and secured support from Maine Maritime Academy, the MMA welding and machine shop, Samoset Boatworks, Freeport Diesel & Marine, Billings Diesel & Marine, Hamilton Marine, R.E. Thomas Marine Hardware Inc., Lonnie's Hydraulics, Marine Hardware, Nautilus Marine Fabrication and Propellor Service, Downeast Yacht Services, and Eaton's Boatyard.

"This project is another example of how MMA supports experiential learning," said Waterfront Director Dana Willis. "The student group negotiated needs for shop time and equipment from the Waterfront and learned why scheduling is important. They've done a great job with the repower, and I'm eager to see the finished project in the water."

"Having Alden and the other students working on the Lobster boat repower project has been a great inspiration" said sailing master Will McLean '12. "Watching Alden and his team working to solve problems and figure out all the details it takes to repower a boat has been great. There is



not another school around that gives students this type of opportunity for hands-on problem solving, so it's fun to see the excitement the students have for the knowledge that they are gaining."

Being systems engineers, the team found the new name "Entropy" fitting, as it had been a of their engineering curriculum and is defined as a measure of disorder, randomness, or how spread-out energy is within a closed system.

"I am so grateful to be at a school where I can take what I have learned over my time here and really apply it to something I am so passionate about. I have learned how to organize a team of people to make a project like this happen and learned how to reach out and make connections with people and companies. This project has taught me so much more than I could have imagined and made me much more confident as a mariner"

Alden and his classmates plan to race the boat this summer in the Maine 2026 Lobster Boat Race Series starting with the first race in Boothbay on June 20th. Follow along with the build @fv.entropy on Instagram.

Faculty Profile: Assistant Professor of Ocean Studies Karen Merritt

KAREN MERRITT, PH.D. joined the Ocean Studies Department in Fall 2023, after 15 years working in environmental engineering consulting. At the Academy, she teaches the geology courses in Ocean Studies, including Physical Geology and Geological Oceanography, as well as Introduction to Ocean Science for deck, engine, and business students.

What attracted her to the Academy was the Coastal and Marine Environmental Science (CMES) program. Describing the CMES program, Merritt said, "This is a gem of a program here at MMA. The combination of our location, MMA's waterfront resources, the availability of field sites in all different kinds of coastal habitats and the strong community connections that OS faculty have built into this major is really unique."

In March 2026, Merritt presented a work-in-progress at the Maine Sustainability and Water Conference in Augusta, Maine. Since joining the Academy, her research has been focusing on developing field methods for use in community-based salt marsh restoration.

For marshes to be healthy, she says, there needs to be a balance between how frequently and extensively a marsh floods and how long that tidal floodwater remains standing or pooling on the marsh platform. The technique she is developing provides an index for monitoring how long is 'too long' for supporting the health of the grasses that hold a marsh together.

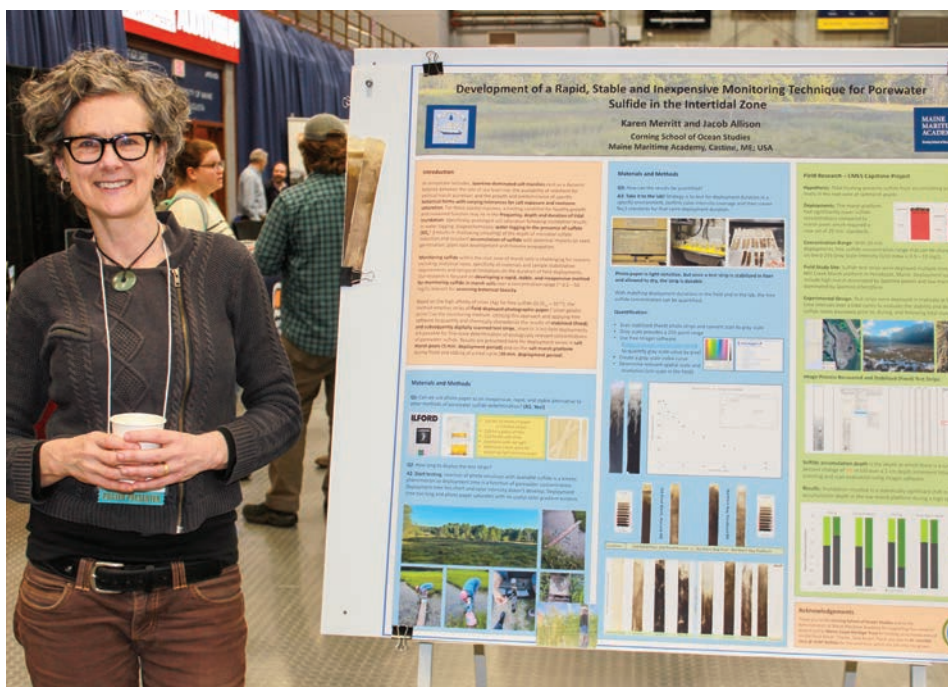
In terms of supporting biological communities and helping to protect land use and structures built shoreward of a marsh, marshes provide a huge number of benefits, Merritt says. Giving communities tools for monitoring their local coastal ecosystems is a great way to encourage engagement with and protection of those ecosystems.

Her co-author in Augusta is current CMES/SVO senior, Jake Allison, who used Merritt's method in his senior research. Merritt explains: "All Ocean Studies seniors conduct an independent research project. This Spring, two seniors (Jake Allison in CMES and Landen Parks in Marine Biology) were selected to share their research results at the Augusta Conference.

Additionally, Jake Allison and fellow CMES major Hannah Mellor presented on summer 2025 internship work they conducted with CMES faculty Kerry Whittaker, Ph.D. and Sarah O'Malley in partnership with Maine Coast Heritage Trust. That work has focused on an ongoing habitat monitoring and restoration project to restore tidal flow and sea-run fish passage in a local estuary. Faculty in Ocean Studies plan to continue bringing students to Augusta in future years to build this professional networking opportunity for our majors.

"For CMES," Merritt indicated, "projects and opportunities like these are what attract the students we're looking for: loving to work outside, passionate about the environment and sustainability, and wanting to learn skills in monitoring, preservation, restoration and management of coastal resources and ecosystems."

Current department plans to grow CMES include exploring accreditation for the major under ABET (which already accredits MMA programs in Engineering) and deepening engagement with high school STEM faculty across Maine and wider New England to boost awareness of what this unique major offers. "It's such a treat to be getting to spend this part of my career at MMA," Merritt said. "There is so much we can do to help students with a desire to work in the coastal and marine environment find their way forward into a range of interesting, valuable and meaningful jobs."



Professor Merritt presenting the results of a CMES salt marsh restoration research project at the Maine Sustainability and Water Conference, held annually in March in Augusta, ME.

Vane Brothers Leadership Visits Campus

IN MARCH, VANE BROTHERS PRESIDENT AND CEO C. Duff Hughes and Vice President of Operations Captain Rick Iuliucci came to Castine to meet the first cohort of Vane Brothers Fellows: Lance Kennedy, Jonah Densmore, and William Spaulding, along with Captain Tim Leach '05 and '10 aboard the tug *Pentagoet*.

The Vane Brothers Fellowship Program supports students pursuing degrees in Vessel Operations and Technology with \$10,000 of funding per year for three years and no employment commitment after graduation.

The Vane Brothers leadership believes it is in their interest to cultivate a pipeline of talent by providing financial assistance to the next generation of tug operators.

To watch a video about the visit go here:



1000 POINTS

IN JANUARY, Evelyn Dagan, became the 12th player in program history to score 1,000 points, finishing her career with 1,070. Dagan also holds the NAC Conference record with 269 three pointers. She was recognized with a game ball presented by her father, Coach Craig Dagan. Dagan was also named Mariner Athletics Female Leader of the Year.



Alumni Regatta

August 22, 2026

Report Time - 12 pm

No Start After - 4 pm

Meet at the MMA Waterfront, find your crew and join us for an afternoon of racing aboard the Colgates.

Join us for the inaugural
Mariners Sailing Alumni Regatta!

Email delaney.conlogue@mma.edu to register

CQCQCQ calling all amateur radio operator alumni of Maine Maritime Academy!



Please email w1mma@mma.edu to learn more about how alumni can share the airwaves with our Maine Maritime Academy students through the Maine Maritime Academy Amateur Radio Club.

Whether you are an active operator, retired ham, maritime communicator, or simply interested in supporting the next generation of radio operators, we would love to hear from you.

73 from W1MMA,

Trustee and alumni membership coordinator: Tracy Burke '88 K4EIX

Faculty advisor Ronald Boidi KC1NZV

The Academy Appoints Chief of Staff



THE ACADEMY is pleased to announce the appointment of Shane Moeykens '87, Ph.D. to the newly created and highly influential role of Chief of Staff, which he started in March. As Chief of Staff, Dr. Moeykens will provide senior leadership for the Academy's operational activities, serve as the *State of Maine* designated person ashore, and function as President Craig Johnson's executive officer.

Dr. Moeykens brings decades of leadership experience spanning higher education, industry, and federally sponsored research. Most recently, he served as the Director of the Maine Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) and the Director of Advanced Research Computing, Security, and Information Management (ARCSIM) at the University of Maine. In these roles,

he provided strategic leadership for statewide research infrastructure, high-performance computing, and federal research competitiveness, supporting Maine's growth in STEM innovation, workforce development, and interdisciplinary scholarship.

"I look forward to working alongside President Johnson, faculty, staff, and students," Said Dr. Moeykens, "to strengthen the Academy's operations and advance an institution whose distinctive educational and training programs have made enduring contributions to the nation's maritime workforce, economic vitality, and tradition of public service through its distinctive educational and training programs."

Prior to his work in higher education, Dr. Moeykens held senior leadership positions in the engineering simulation software sector at Fluent Inc. and ANSYS, Inc., where he led strategic partnerships, technology licensing and acquisition efforts, and business development programs supporting global growth. Earlier in his career, he served in engineering and technology management roles at The Trane Company in Wisconsin and began his professional career as a nuclear plant engineer at Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in New York.

Dr. Moeykens holds a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Iowa State University, an M.B.A. in Technology Management from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, an M.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maine, and a B.S. in Marine Systems Engineering, with a minor in Nuclear Engineering, from Maine Maritime Academy.



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The Academy in the Rankings



State of Maine and *USS Texas* exchange passing honors in Galveston. *Texas* is the last surviving dreadnought battleship, having served in both World War I and World War II. *Texas* was the flagship of the United States Fleet from 1928 to 1931. During World War II, the vessel provided gunfire support at the battles of Normandy, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa, earning five battle stars. *Texas* was decommissioned in 1948 and is now a museum ship.

Class Notes

1946

At age 99, Dr. Barclay Shepard of Boothbay Harbor, ME, fulfilled a lifelong dream of publishing his memoir.



Born in Boothbay Harbor, Maine in 1926, he and his family moved back to Turkey where his father worked as a doctor and served as the founder and medical director at the American Hospital in Gaziantep. Through the pages of his book, meet a Hollywood actor, a World War II spy, and world dignitaries.

This memoir invites the reader to experience the world through the author's transcontinental adventures and by all means of transportation possible (even pack mules). It is a fascinating glimpse into a life well lived. "A Surgeon's Slice of Life" culminates service to country and community with a keen sense of family and self.

1962

James Barr writes, "I returned to the hi-seas at the age of 49, sailing for union M.E.B.A. District 1. I completed twenty years of service retiring at the age of

70 years with a nice retirement. It was during this period I raised my license to Chief Engineer, however, was never able to sail on that license because the merchant marines had been reduced in capacity of U.S. registered ships. In addition, U.S. registered ships were outsourced to foreign shipyards for their annual overhauls and maintenance. This I can attest to because I obtained a job thru the union flying to Singapore to crew a ship returning from the foreign overhauls. So, upon retiring I resolved myself to write about the plight of the merchant marine, and to do this task I returned to MMA and obtained a Masters Degree in Logistics and a doctoral degree (PhD) from the University of Phoenix in Business Administration. My dissertation "Globalization and the U.S. Maritime divergence; an Explanatory Case Study" is available on Google Scholar. You should read it, you might learn something."

1964



Class of 64 representation presenting classmate Gene Silva award at the Regimental Awards Ceremony this April! (l-r) Paul Manning, Deanna Wade, and Larry Wade.



Classes of 1978 and 2013 leave MMA mark

Pictured are (l-r) Alan Joseph '78, John Joseph '13 and Capt. Mike Marzolf '78, leaving their MMA mark (see second photo) at Sundowners at Green Turtle Cay in the Bahamas.

1971



A Memorable MMA Day at Black Mountain in western Maine for the Class of 1971 plus one from 1972! Left to right; Peter Longley, Maynard Russell, Doug Schweers, Ed Rosenberg '72, Dana Grant and Roger Arsenault.

1972



Mike Taylor '72E and Jim Michaud '86E, seen "crushing it like Quint" at camp in Acton, Maine.

1978



A few members of the Class of 1978 got together in Portland to catch up. (l-r) Scott Porter, Steve Stilphen, Steve Berry, Erik Elliott, Brad Goulet, Dave Baker and Michael Gagnon.

1979

Captain John W. Murray has been named as a Maritime Association of the Port of New York and New Jersey (MAPONY/NJ) 32nd



International Maritime Hall of Fame (IMHOF) honoree. Captain John W. Murray is the Chief Executive Officer of the Canaveral Port Authority. With nearly five decades of

experience, Cpt. Murray has held senior leadership roles at Hapag-Lloyd USA, CP Ships, and Lykes Bros. Steamship Company. Since taking the helm at Port Canaveral in 2016, he has overseen nearly \$1 billion in capital improvements, tripling revenues to a record \$218 million in 2025. An MMA graduate and U.S. Coast Guard licensed captain, Cpt. Murray is a prominent advocate for the Jones Act and the Maritime Security Program, and has testified before the U.S. Congress on cargo preference and maritime security.

1981



Casco Bay Chapter President Earl Bergeron '81 presents a check to Andrew Ochsner of Living to L.A.S.T., a non-profit group that repairs home for needy people in Maine and New Hampshire. This check was the result of the donations made at the Christmas Party in December.



Leo Hill has written a book, "Why: Earth 2278", a futuristic compelling Sci-Fi thriller that weaves in a story of love, friendship, and the human will to survive a world war of apocalyptic scale. It's available online.

1984

Daniel Thompson announces that he has retired after 41 years of maritime employment.

1985

Jonathan Streett has been appointed to the Harford (MD) County Board of Education. County Executive Cassilly expressed confidence in his appointment of Mr. Streett, citing both his deep roots in the community and his extensive leadership experience. "I am honored by the opportunity to serve the students, families, and educators of Harford County," Streett said. "Public education is the foundation of our community, and I look forward to working collaboratively to ensure our schools continue to provide high-quality opportunities for every student."

1986



Mike "Tank" Taylor '86 (second from left) recently toured the New England Renewable Power (NERP), Tamworth NH Biomass power plant. Fellow alumni working at the plant are (l-r) Shawn Holt '19, Control Room Operator, Kyle Michael '86, the Director of Biomass Plants at NERP, and Brian McArthur '01, Tamworth Plant Manager. Taylor is retired from the Seabrook Nuclear Plant.

1988

Eric Smith shared a photo of 43 years of friendship. The group had one of the most memorable weekends in a very long time

and it was the first time all five of them had been together since 1987.



(l-r) Erick Smith, Pat Duffy, Tim Reid, Steve Moglia, Tom Lord.



Tom Lord, Captain John Murray, CEO Port Canaveral, and Eric Smith had the distinct pleasure of connecting with FMC Chairman, Laura DiBella at the SEATRADE Convention April 14th. Laura's appointment by President Trump underscores the importance of domestic maritime policy and the critical need for top quality mariners. She is leading the FMC to unprecedented heights.

Six past and current leaders of the American Merchant Marine Veterans, Inc. (AMMV) received the prestigious Merchant Marine Medal for Outstanding Achievement, including two MMA alums. This medal is the third highest award for U.S. Merchant Mariners. These volunteer AMMV leaders, all post-WWII era merchant mariners who served in AMMV's national officer positions between 2015-2025, include Capt. Dru DiMattia '88 and Capt. Darin Huggins '02. Both have spent decades serving in the maritime industry, and are connected with various

prominent maritime institutions. The most notable outstanding accomplishment of this distinguished group of AMMV leaders was the grassroots efforts behind passage of the Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal (CGM) Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-125), which was signed into law in 2020.

1989

Capt. Kurt Kastner retired as a USN Captain after 31 years active duty, two afloat commands (USS WASP LHD 1 and USS SAN ANTONIO LPD 17), and one shore command (Engineering Assessments, ATLANTIC). Kastner is currently working for Chip Callan (MMA 88) at he and his wife's business, Invictus Assoc, LLC as a VP and Senior Program Manager for the PSS Support Contract for Commander Navy Regional Maintenance Centers (CNRMC) in Norfolk, VA. Kastner resides with his new bride of two years in Moyock, NC.

Ron Droop is Moran Towing's senior vice president, managing the US company's vessel manoeuvring and docking operations in ports along the US East and Gulf Coasts. He joined the Connecticut-headquartered owner after graduating from Maine Maritime Academy with a degree in marine transport in 1989 and has risen up the ranks to become one of the most senior and experienced people in the company. In November 2025, Droop discussed his experiences and lessons learned from managing fleets of towboats, tank barges, offshore towage and harbour tugs through his long career to International Tug & Salvage with Riviera. <https://www.rivieramm.com/news-content-hub/lessons-from-a-life-in-towage-morans-ron-droop-87225>

1992



Hank Stewart '92 and Navneet Jain '06 try out their retirement gifts from MMA in December 2025.

1993

It's been a heck of a ride from Castine to the Caribbean! After graduating from MMA, Matthew Peterson spent over 20 years in Non-Destructive Testing and weld inspection in New England; inspecting boilers, climbing cell towers, inspecting bridges, and earning my AWS CWI and ASNT Level III credentials along the way. Turns out "finding things that are broken before they break catastrophically" is a marketable skill.

Then in 2020, he traded Connecticut winters for the Caribbean sun and hasn't looked back. Peterson is now the Health & Safety Officer for one of the Islands major development companies.

Outside of work, Peterson is a CERT Team volunteer with the Cayman Islands' Hazard Management unit, and enjoys spending my time in, on, or under the water.

If any fellow Mariners are passing through, he'd love to catch up and swap some tales over a few sundowners!

The class society American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) has appointed a new chairman and chief executive officer.

The ABS board of directors has elected John McDonald as the new chairman and CEO of ABS.



In the culmination of a well-planned succession process, McDonald, the serving ABS president and chief operating officer, took over on January 1, 2026, when present ABS chairman and CEO Christopher J. Wiernicki retires. McDonald said: "I am honored to lead this remarkable organization. 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." McDonald joined ABS in 1996 as a surveyor, serving in various frontline roles around the world. He led the former ABS divisions in Europe and the Pacific, held operational leadership roles including senior vice president of the Western Hemisphere Survey Operations and senior vice president of Global Business Development, prior to becoming chief operating officer and president. McDonald has a bachelor's degree in marine engineering from Maine Maritime Academy and an MBA from Texas A&M University.

1996

Mikhail Albuseiri been a licensed Michigan attorney since 1997, specializing in appellate law. In February 2026, he was reappointed to the Michigan Unemployment Insurance Appeals Commission where he

currently serves. Albuseiri holds a law degree cum laude from the Michigan State University College of Law.

1998



Joshua Collamer, 98E recently returned to the states after three years of active duty with the Navy in the United Kingdom, where he served as the U.S. Sixth Fleet Liaison Officer to NATO's Allied Maritime Command. His recall to active duty was a rewarding experience, and his family embraced the opportunity to live overseas. Now happily settled in Southlake, Texas, Collamer has resumed his civilian role with the U.S. Air Force on the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Program, which has brought the family to the Fort Worth area.

2000

Erik Blomqvist graduated with a Masters in Logistics under Dr. Donna Fricke in 2000. He went to sea at age 18 and had mainly worked on heavy RoRo's in European trade and on more specialized PCTC RoRo's in international trade. In 2006 he went ashore and has been in various shipping related positions. Since 2025, Blomqvist has been stationed in Singapore as head of Wallenius Marine Singapore, a Swedish and Singapore based ship manager of PCTS's in global trade. Blomqvist misses Castine, where he also met his wife, and hope to visit again one day.

Benjamin Robertson has been named as General Manager, Gas Engine Business at Siemens



Energy. Robertson joined the company in 2016 and has worked in roles such as business development, service operations, and long-term program sales. Prior to joining Siemens Energy, he held leadership positions in operations, corporate counsel, supply chain management, and applications engineering at various OEMs.

2002



The Maine Crew north bound Mississippi River, on the ATB Brownsville. (l-r) Captain Sean Eager '02, Deck Cadet Ava Snyder '27, C/M Winston Pfothenauer '14, 1 A/E Dylan Hahn '14, 2/M Thomas Davis '19, 2 A/E Anthony Bonin (Hawsepiper who lives in Maine), C/E Matt McLaughlin '95.

2005

Andrew Strosahl has joined Farrell Smith O'Connell Of Counsel.



Farrell Smith O'Connell is a full-service law firm with a focus on maritime, admiralty, and general civil litigation and represents individuals, small to large businesses, national and international corporations, governmental entities, as well as not-for-profits.

2006

Cmdr. Patrick Earls was relieved as USS Cooperstown (LCS 23) Commanding Officer during a change of command ceremony at Naval Station Mayport, November 21st. Cmdr. Earls is a plankowner who has been a part of USS Cooperstown since the beginning. During this time, he participated in the ship's first landmark occasions including Sail-around through the Great Lakes, Commissioning in New York City, and the rescue at sea of a civilian mariner in the Atlantic Ocean. Cmdr. Earls has held the title of Commanding Officer since February of 2024 and is heading off to Allied Maritime Command Head Quarters in London, United Kingdom.

2013



Oscar Adams '13 married Kaitlyn Anne Badlato March 21st, 2026 in a ceremony at the University of Virginia Chapel in Charlottesville, VA. The couple met in 2022 and live in Arlington, VA. They were engaged at Dyce's Head Lighthouse in March 2024. Standing behind Oscar on his wedding day was his best friend Thomas Houle IBL '13. Oscar is currently a Senior Consultant in Deloitte's Enterprise Performance practice and his wife is a Medical Architect with HKS, based out of Washington, D.C.

2014

Greg Baribault has been appointed as President of Enstructure Northeast. This division provides dry bulk, liquid bulk, and breakbulk services to major markets in the Northeast and Canada. Baribault will oversee operations and commercial activities at the New Haven, New London, and Montville terminals. "I'm honored by this opportunity and proud to advance my career at Enstructure," said Baribault. "I look forward to serving the Northeast region and supporting Enstructure's mission to deliver essential materials and goods to the nation's economy, while focusing on innovative supply chain solutions for our customers."



2016



Tim Grant, MEO 2016 promoted to Lieutenant Commander, USN. LCDR Grant is serving as the Combat Systems Officer onboard the USS Nantucket (LCS-27).



2020

Nicholas DePatsy has been working as a basketball referee in Maine while also working at Strategic Maintenance Solutions, a company comprised of industrial solutions advisers.



Connecticut/Rhode Island Chapter

The Connecticut/Rhode Island Chapter met at Artec Machine Systems in North Branford, Conn. John Amendola '86E is the owner and hosted us for a tour and then we went to Roses Winery for an awesome dinner. Big thanks to Todd Theil '92D for setting it all up and organizing it!

(l-r) John Gasper 02E, John Amendola IV 15E, Peter St. John 83E (please double check me), Todd Theil 92D, Glenn Robinson 79E, John Amendola III 86E, Chris Howard 86E.

Joshua Reeds shared on LinkedIn that he has a new role as a Facilities Engineer II at Abzena. He states that his early career was full of demanding environments, strong teams, and significant responsibility. Owning critical systems and supporting high-reliability operations shaped how he approaches engineering, accountability, and leadership. Reeks is looking forward to growing and applying the above mindset in a GMP manufacturing environment as I step into the biotech/biopharma space, supporting operations that ultimately impact patients' lives.

"As much as I enjoyed the fishing, I quickly found driving the boat was much more fun," he said. "That's when I got hooked. I knew I wanted to find a way to make a living on the water, driving boats. "At 15, Brown joined the Sea Scouts aboard the Propeller, a 65-foot former Army "T" boat commanded by Captain Al Bruce, a former Foss Maritime employee. Today, Brown is a Foss mariner himself — the program gave him something invaluable: direction.

Read more: <https://www.saltchuk.com/from-sea-scout-to-third-mate-how-owen-brown-found-his-calling-on-puget-sound-tugs/>

2025



Owen Brown was recently featured in a Saltchuk publication about how he came to learn about a career in shipping.

Every summer, Brown's family spent long days chasing salmon on the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

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NUCLEAR PROPULSION OFFICER CANDIDATE (NUPOC) PROGRAM

Earn \$60K+/yr while in school

Career fields

Nuclear Submarine Warfare Officer
Nuclear Surface Warfare Officer
Nuclear Power School Instructor

Nuclear Power Unit Instructor
Naval Reactor Engineer

Program Details

Benefits

- Annual salary of \$60,000+ per year while completing degree
- Full healthcare benefits
- No uniforms, drills, or grooming requirements
- Counts toward time-in-service for retirement and G.I. benefits
- \$30,000 accession bonus

NUPOC Eligibility

- Enrolled full-time as a Nuclear Engineering Technology student
- U.S. citizen able to get a Secret/Top Secret security clearance
- Completed one year of both calculus and calculus-based physics

Obligations

- Five years of active duty upon commissioning
- Physical fitness
- Good academic standing

\$30K accession bonus



Eight Bells

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

KENNETH A GROVER '47

passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on March 25, 2026. Grover grew up on his family's dairy farm in Augusta, and attended Cony High School, where he met the love of his life, Pauline Stewart. While at MMA he was a founding member of the football team, and the chief engineer on the *Pentagoet*. After graduation, Grover started his brief career at sea and ultimately ended up shoreside as a pressure vessel and boiler inspector for Factory Mutual. In the late 1970s Grover undertook the project of constructing a round, stone and timber framed house on a hill overlooking the Green Mountains in southern Vermont. That house was the site of countless family gatherings over the years, and an integral part of the education on engineering and construction for children and grandchildren alike. The crown jewel of the construction (at least from the viewpoint of a ships engineer) was the lump wood boiler that was designed and constructed by Grover with the help of his electrical engineer brother Bob. Retirement brought adventures in South America, Europe, and all across the United States, as well as a return to Castine in 2004 to see their oldest grandson graduate from MMA, 57 years after Grover.

LEROY EVRARD '55

Commander USN (Retired), of Topsham, Bowdoinham, and Harpswell, Maine, passed away November 12, 2025. Evrard graduated from Brunswick High School in 1952 and from MMA in 1955 at the top of his class in marine engineering. Upon graduation, Evrard shipped out with the merchant marine before receiving his commission in the U.S. Navy where he completed flight school and became a Naval aviator. He excelled as a pilot and became a flight instructor and carrier pilot among his many assignments in the service. Evrard served on more than 6 different aircraft carriers during the 1950s and

1960s, ultimately being elevated to the Admiral's Staff of the Sixth Fleet based in Mayport, FL, where he ended his active-duty career after 12 years of service. He moved back to Maine to work as an engineer with Bath Iron Works (BIW), retiring after 25 years. During this second career he worked as a guarantee engineer and was recognized for his contribution to several critical shipbuilding programs, including the FFG, DDG and Aegis programs. He was instrumental in helping to integrate computer assisted design into the engineering department at "the yard". While working at BIW, Evrard complimented his years of active-duty military service with nine additional years in the Navy Reserve from which he retired as a Commander. He continued to fly out one weekend a month and was a leader in the Portland chapter of the Navy's Sea Cadet program.

WILLIAM D. CRAWFORD '56

passed away December 23, 2025. He was a resident of Huntington Beach, California.

CHARLES P. HARRIMAN '56

died February 19, 2026, in Scarborough, Maine. Harriman spent most of his childhood in Auburn, Maine, and graduated from Edward Little High School, where he was an active member of the nordic, alpine, and jumping ski teams. Harriman earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering from MMA in 1956 and honorably served as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy from 1956 to 1959. Following his military service, he earned a BA in Business Administration from Boston University. He began his fifty-five-year career as a stockbroker at Putnam Coffin and Burr in Portland, Maine, and continued as an investment advisor at Advest Inc, retiring as Senior Investment Advisor from UBS in Portland in 2015. He contributed his time and leadership to many charities. Harriman was avid outdoorsman and a

passionate salmon fisherman, arranging trips that yielded over 400 catches from the Florida Keys to the St. Paul River in Canada. He was an avid contributor to the Downeast Salmon Foundation, working to help restore salmon populations in Maine. Harriman cherished his camp on Moshier Island, where he enjoyed camping and boating, and teaching his children and grandchildren to appreciate the beauty of Casco Bay. Harriman was widely known for his sense of humor, his generosity, and his congenial spirit.

RICHARD B. MUNSEY, SR. '57

passed away on February 7, 2026. He was born in Brunswick, Maine, and graduated from Brunswick High School in 1954 and from MMA in 1957. Munsey worked for Travelers Insurance for over 25 years as an engineer, moving frequently. Despite the many relocations, Munsey always made sure wherever they lived truly felt like home. Munsey loved to travel and go camping, especially returning to Maine to enjoy their famous lobster rolls. They went on several cruises, and Munsey especially loved his Airstream and camping at Gulf State Park in Gulf Shores. His yard was always immaculate, earning Yard of the Month several times in Millcreek. He could fix almost anything and loved dogs, especially his last dog, Cookie. His favorite trip each year was traveling back to Maine to visit friends and classmates from MMA.

JOSEPH M. DARLING '59

died peacefully on March 3, 2026, in Tucson, Ariz. He graduated from Morse High School and MMA. He worked at Fairchild Semiconductor Industries in Portland and kept busy operating a small farm. In 1971 he moved to Tucson, working in many positions promoting Tucson. He missed his Maine roots and moved back to try his hand at operating a general store. In 1983, he was offered the position of General Manager of Tucson National Golf

Resort. Eager to live in other places, he traveled restoring resorts, all the while honing his golf skills, often playing 18 holes of golf as a part of his workday. Darling didn't really understand the concept of no. He wanted to try it all; from rural Maine farming raising cattle, pigs, and chickens, growing alfalfa, and tapping maple trees, to learning to fly his own plane and then living for a year on a boat in Miami. He had a never-ending positive outlook, and the glass was always half full. He loved his family, golfing, the history channel, pistachio ice cream, and believed that aliens existed. He had the gift of gab, and always wanted to know your story and he didn't forget it. He rarely missed a Morse High School reunion and loved being part of the Maine Maritime Academy alumni.

MICHAEL R. FULTON '59

passed away on February 12, 2026, in Portland, Ore., the result of a fall. After graduation from MMA, Fulton moved to San Diego to work for National Steel and Shipbuilding as a draftsman, then estimator. In 1967 he moved with his family to Idaho Falls, Idaho, to attend Westinghouse Electric Nuclear Power School. After graduation, Fulton moved back to San Diego to join his brother, Patrick (MMA '59) at Owen's Corning, working as subcontractors for insulation of ships under construction at NASSCO. After OC's takeover by Performance Contracting Incorporated, Fulton was Manager of Repair. He was a member of Propeller Club and Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers. MMA always had a special place in his heart.

DONALD A. MCALLISTER '61

of St. Augustine, Fla., and formerly of Bath, Maine, passed away February 6, 2026. A Maine Maritime Academy graduate, McAllister served in the Merchant Marines and as Chief Senior Surveyor for the American Bureau of Shipping.

CAPT. ROSS E. POLLOCK '62

of Guttenberg, Iowa, passed away peacefully on December 7, 2025. Pollock graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1958 and MMA in 1962. Pollock proudly served as a U.S. Merchant Marine, beginning a lifelong career at sea. Pollock worked on many different ships and

made his way up to captain. One of the defining chapters of Pollock's maritime career occurred during the Vietnam War, when he served as 3rd Mate on the SS Pioneer Contender. As thousands of South Vietnamese civilians fled the advancing North Vietnamese forces, Pollock and his U.S. Merchant Marine crew responded without hesitation. The ship's crew rescued approximately 17,000 refugees, far exceeding the ship's intended capacity, but the crew made room for every soul in need. For his bravery and service during this humanitarian mission, Pollock was personally recognized by the president of the U.S. Lines. Pollock later worked ashore for U.S. Lines as a Safety Superintendent and as General Manager of Worldwide Electronic Corporation. Pollock was an enthusiastic member of the National Model Railroad Association for 54 years. He found joy in watching trains pass through Guttenberg and observing the barges, tugboats, tows, and cruise ships traveling the Mississippi River. Pollock was a devoted Freemason and held several leadership roles within the Grand Lodge F.&A.M. of Wisconsin, including District Lecturer, Area Administrator, and Grand Officer of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Wisconsin. His lifelong dedication reflected his commitment to service, education, and brotherhood.

KENNETH G. FAHRBACH '64

of Scio, NY, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 4, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. A 1960 graduate of Admiral Farragut Academy, he continued his education at MMA, graduating in 1964. He proudly served in the U.S. Navy for over eight years, rising to the rank of Lt. Cmdr. His time in service included active duty during the Vietnam War. He was a Vietnam River Rat on the LST515, his first operation being Operation Steel Pike. After his tour of duty in Vietnam, he continued his commitment by serving in the Naval Reserves. His military career was marked by dedication, courage, and honor. Fahrbach built a long career with Terry Corporation in Windsor, Conn. He continued his career in Wellsville, serving as head of the Naval Department at Dresser Rand. Fahrbach spent many years racing his H Production Bugeye Sprite with the SCCA, winning multiple trophies and

making friendships that lasted a lifetime. He was also part of the Austin Healey Club of America, where he was well known for his primrose yellow Austin Healey 3000. Known for his wacky sense of humor, he loved to jitterbug and embark on fun-filled cruises with friends.

THOMAS W. OUGHTON '64

died after a long illness on November 20th, 2025. Born in Guatemala City, Guatemala, Oughton graduated from Cumberland High School in Cumberland, R.I. He graduated from MMA and served as Second Mate and navigator for U.S. Lines, delivering supplies to Vietnam. He received his master's degree in physics & chemistry from Union College and taught Physics at Gloversville High School for 27 years. Over four summers, he built a log cabin home in Ephratah, N.Y. Upon retirement, Oughton purchased a 31 ft. Southern Cross sailboat and sailed off the coast of North Carolina. Oughton had a great interest in the history of the Mohawk Valley. He belonged to the Mabee Farm and Herkimer Home historical societies and did demonstrations of hand hewing logs and cooking beef jerky during their open house days.

THOMAS F. SMITH '64

of Rockwall, Texas, passed away on March 19, 2026. Smith will be remembered as a kind, generous, and precious soul—the kind of man who never met a dog that didn't like him and never found a subject he wasn't curious about. He had a lifelong love of learning and found joy in space, animals, comedy, Native American culture, photography, coins, antiques, books, and more. Smith was born in Andover, New York and spent his childhood trapping and hunting around local ponds and playing baseball, soccer, and wrestling. He attended MMA, graduating in 1964. He spent 10 years sailing around the world as a steam engineer in the Merchant Marines. He was honorably discharged from the Navy in 1982 and from the Coast Guard in 1986. After returning home, Smith settled back in Andover, where he started his real estate business, opened Tom's 'Tique Shop, and ran a Christmas tree farm. All that while beginning a 28-year career with Dresser-Rand, retiring in 1996. He was the first president of the Andover Lions Club

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and helped start the annual Maple Festival. Smith stayed active hunting, camping in his RV, making real estate deals, and being deeply involved in his children's lives. In 2003, Smith and his wife made a bold move—selling nearly everything to relocate to Fairbanks, Alaska, where they spent six years exploring what he loved to call “the Final Frontier.” They later moved to Rockwall, Texas, to be closer to family.

CAPT. RUSSELL G. WUESTEFELD '64

passed away on November 9, 2025. He was born in Brooklyn, NY. A 1964 graduate of MMA, 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. Wuestefeld 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.

CAPT. JOSEPH A. SHEPARD '65

of Myrtle Beach, S.C., passed away on March 11, 2026, at his residence. He was born in Providence, R.I. Shepard was a graduate of Hope High School in Providence, Rhode Island and MMA. He became a Master of Steam and Motor Vessels of any gross tons upon oceans. He also became a First-Class Pilot with Northeast Marine Pilots in Rhode Island, covering New York through the Cape Cod Canal and many ports between. He enjoyed his retirement traveling all over the United States with his wife in their RV. They made two passes through the United States together seeing many different places in each state.

RICHARD C. SOMERVILLE '66

passed away on May 9, 2026, leaving behind a family who loved him deeply, countless stories, and a legacy built on hard work, humor, stubbornness, and a life fully lived. He graduated from Old Orchard Beach High School and went on to MMA, an accomplishment he was especially

proud of, following in the footsteps of his uncle Peter Scontras and cousin Robert Somerville. Somerville served in the Merchant Marines during part of the Vietnam War and later worked aboard cruise ships, manning the engines. He got his MBA at Northeastern University. In 1979, he joined Thermo Electron, where he became Director of Risk Management and made a lasting impact over a 35-year career. He helped establish Thermo Fisher's captive insurance companies in Bermuda, served on the Board of Directors of Medmarc Insurance Company, and later consulted for Aon.

Somerville was hardworking, stubborn, funny, and never too polished to swear about the small things. He was proud to say he started working at 14, shoveling asphalt back in the days when you could be hired for your work ethic before anyone worried too much about your age. He was the kind of person you wanted nearby when something difficult was happening: dependable, steady, able to find something funny in almost any situation, and unlikely to take things too seriously. He played in racquetball tournaments in his 40s, always golfing, fishing, poker, a good meal, traveling and spending time in Maine.

FREDERICK J. HARRIS '67

of Mystic Conn., passed peacefully on October 24, 2025, with his family by his side. Harris received his BS 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. In the Merchant Marine, Harris sailed on various U.S. flag vessels, most notably aboard the SS Transglobe - the most decorated American merchant ship of the Vietnam War. Following his sailing career, which he completed as Chief Engineer, he entered Babson College, where he received his MBA in 1972, graduating with distinction. Soon after graduation, Harris began his shipbuilding career as a senior systems engineer for Electric Boat in the TRIDENT Nuclear Submarine Project. On January 1, 2006, Harris was appointed President of General Dynamics NASSCO and Vice President of the General Dynamics Corporation. In

2013 Harris was additionally given the responsibility as President of Bath Iron Works, while also serving as President of General Dynamics NASSCO. 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. Harris was extremely active in charity work, donating extensive time, money, and other resources to scouting, the United Way, the American Red Cross and the American Heart association, the American Lupus foundation, and many other worthy causes.

John F. McCormack, Jr. '71 passed away on February 10, 2026. Born in Portland, Maine, McCormack was a graduate of Deering High School in 1966 and MMA in 1971. McCormack built a distinguished career as a merchant marine, earning the respect of all who worked alongside him. He served as Chief Engineer on many ships for Maritrans, including the tugboat Constitution out of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was known for his mechanical expertise, steady leadership, and unwavering confidence. McCormack did things his way - guided by experience, instinct, and a deep belief in self-reliance - and that independence defined both his career and his character. After retiring from American Maritime Officers as Chief Engineer, he continued working as an independent contractor, traveling across the U.S. to lead dry dock projects and engine repairs. Retirement, for McCormack, simply meant finding new ways to stay busy. He trusted his hands, his knowledge, and his judgment, and he never hesitated to follow his own path. McCormack had a lifelong love for anything with a motor. Corvettes, boats, Harley-Davidsons, snowmobiles, cars and trucks - if it had an engine, it had his attention. Some of his greatest joys were cross-country motorcycle and snowmobile trips with friends, hunting, tractor pulls, camping and a cold beer. He embraced freedom in all its forms. Above all, McCormack will be remembered as a man who charted his own course, both at sea and in life. His skill, determination, and fiercely independent spirit will live on in the family who loved him. He will be deeply missed.

PRESTON SEEKINS, JR. '73

passed away peacefully after a brave battle with cancer on January 11, 2026. Seekins graduated from Searsport District High School in 1969 and from MMA in 1973. He dedicated 35 years to teaching Building Construction at Waldo County Technical Center, shaping the lives and skills of countless students. In addition to teaching, he was a skilled carpenter who worked as a subcontractor, often building homes alongside his brother. Seekins loved the ocean and working on boats. He especially cherished kayaking and sailing. Many happy days were also spent boating around Penobscot Bay. Seekins will live on through the knowledge, kindness, and love he shared with his students, family, and friends.

RICHARD P. WRIGGLESWORTH '74

passed away unexpectedly on October 22, 2025, while doing what he loved most - boating on a cloudless, sunny day. Though his passing was sudden, his family finds comfort knowing he left this world surrounded by the peace of the open water and the nature he so deeply cherished. Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, 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 in the Merchant Marines with Sun Oil Company, a Lt. Commander in the Navy Reserve, and a member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Wrigglesworth's career was marked by adventure and exploration, both on the water and in life. Wrigglesworth's zest for life was contagious. He found joy in the simple things: the stillness of the water, the warmth of the sun, and the sound of laughter shared with loved ones, especially his grandchildren. 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 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. Whether he was fixing something, telling a story, or planning his next outing, he did it all with energy, enthusiasm, and a smile.

KENNETH E. BOSCHERT '76

passed away on January 31, 2026. Boschert graduated from MMA with a degree in Marine Engineering. Always fond of the sea, he worked in the US Merchant Marine his entire career. Serving our country in the United States Navy Reserve from 1972-81, Boschert's patriotism and pride in American ideals was inspiring. Firefighting ran in his blood. Boschert served in both the Ridgefield and Westwood, N.J. volunteer fire departments for 35 years. He earned both commendations and heroic stories. Boschert's passion for firefighting carried into his professional career as a N.J. state fire inspector. He was a softball coach for many years and was a swim official for both the Highland Lakes swim team and the Bergen Barracudas. An avid Giants fan, he enjoyed going to Giants games even if he knew the likely outcome of a game for the last ten seasons. Boschert had a love for his tools, gadgets, and any excuse to tinker, always putting his marine engineer talents on display. If you ever sat in his Jeep, you would be amazed at how many things he could power on an auxiliary outlet. He loved to cook and eat as much as he loved being at his cabin in Highland Lakes where he found great joy in fishing with his grandkids and sailing on the Big Lake. He was renowned for his love of singing and conversation.

JAMES M. EARLEY '77

beloved father, legendary captain, and lifelong waterman, passed away surrounded by family. A proud graduate of MMA, Earley built his life around the sea he loved so deeply. Early in his career he served with distinction as Chief Engineer aboard the USNS Denebola, a role that reflected both his technical mastery and his steady, dependable nature. Known to many along the Jersey Shore, Earley made his home at Manasquan Inlet, where he owned and captained the "EarleyBird," one of the area's most recognizable and well-respected sport-fishing boats. Whether chasing tuna offshore, navigating the inlet before sunrise, or swapping stories at the dock, Earley embodied the spirit of a true captain-unflinching, skilled, generous, and utterly at home on the water. Earley's passion for fishing was matched only by his desire to share it.

Over the years he taught countless people how to fish - family, friends, and strangers - all of whom quickly became part of his extended crew. His patience, humor, and deep knowledge of the ocean left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to spend time at his helm. He was always generous with providing his catches to those who loved fish, and those who needed it. Earley will be remembered for his adventurous spirit, his unwavering love for the ocean, and the countless sunrises, stories, and memories shared aboard the "EarleyBird." His legacy lives on in all the lives he touched, and every line ever cast toward the horizon.

TERRY L. WHITE '79

passed away unexpectedly at his home in West Gardiner, Maine, on January 19, 2026. White was born in Skowhegan, Maine, and graduated from Skowhegan High School in 1974 and MMA in 1979. After shipping for a few years, White went to work at Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant until it closed. White then traveled to several power plants as a procedure writer. White was a man of few words, but his expressions said it all. White loved to travel and enjoy life.

MICHAEL C. COLLINSWORTH '80

passed away January 4, 2026, surrounded by his family. Collinsworth's generosity and kindness knew no bounds. He was known around the world by many for his big heart and willingness to give the shirt off his back to anyone in need. Through his many acts of selfless love, he would go on to become the man his family and friends admired and adored, hoping and aspiring to follow in his footsteps. Collinsworth grew up in East Millinocket, Maine, graduating from Schenck High School in 1976. He graduated from MMA in 1980 and began what would become an incredibly successful career as a merchant mariner. Collinsworth adored his family and was very proud of all their accomplishments. After graduation, Collinsworth began his career on the Virgo vessel which rescued Vietnamese boat refugees near death at sea, saving over 60 lives. His later career would include becoming a Lieutenant Commander in the Naval Reserves, working for Horizon Lines in numerous supervisory positions,

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and attaining the rank of Chief Engineer. In retirement, he spent his "spare time" subbing at Maritime Controls and overseeing projects for the MMA training vessel. While marine engineering was Collinsworth's vocation, his passion was making music as an accomplished lead guitarist in several rock bands, performing all around the state of Maine, and continuing throughout a prolific career that culminated in the "Amethyst Reunion Concert." Of the many musicians with whom he performed, most became lifelong and cherished friends.

ALBERT E. MCPHERSON '81

passed away February 10, 2026, at his home. McPherson was a 1977 graduate of Greenville High School and a 1981 graduate of MMA. He worked all his life as a Merchant Marine until his retirement in 2024.

CAPT. TERRY A. RYCENGA '81

a highly respected Master Mariner and Commanding Officer in the United States Navy's Military Sealift Command, passed away March 13, 2026, at his home in Palm City, Florida. Rycenga was born and raised in Grand Haven, Michigan. He attended Spring Lake High School and graduated from East Lansing High School, where he was a standout basketball player who competed against future NBA legend Magic Johnson. He graduated from MMA in 1981 with a BS in Marine Transportation and began his three-decade service to the Nation with Military Sealift Command, ultimately rising to the rank of Master in 1997. Over his career, he commanded several of the Navy's combat logistics vessels, including fleet oilers and ammunition ships, and commanded USS SUPPLY during its deployment following the September 11, 2001 attacks, and later commanded USNS LEWIS AND CLARK, the first of the Navy's most advanced combat logistics force vessels. He received two Merchant Marine Expeditionary Medals (Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom), the Global War on Terrorism Civilian Service Medal, and Cold War service recognition. Rycenga was known as a calm and steady Commanding Officer who led by example and mentored many officers who later rose to command.

CHARLES H. ULRICH

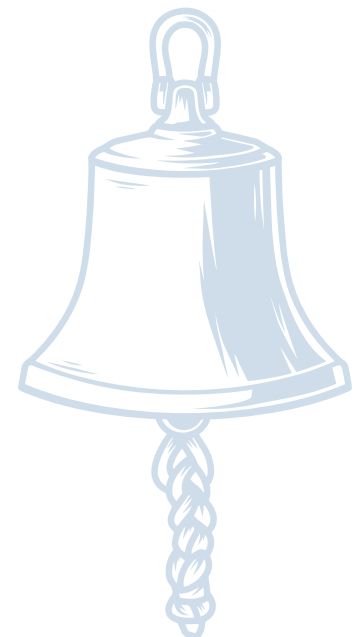
died March 29, 2026, in Minnesota. Ulrich was raised near Biscay, Minn., and was an honor graduate of the 1948 class of Hutchinson High School. He earned an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. He graduated with credit and was commissioned an Ensign, USN. He attended Ohio State University, earning an MS in Geodetic Science. He also completed nuclear power training and was assigned to the USS Enterprise testing and training facility for extended duty prior to nuclear ship service. Ulrich served on active duty as a Surface Warfare Officer for over 27 years, retiring as a Captain, USN in 1981. After Ulrich retired from Naval service, he was employed as a field engineer by General Electric Company. He then accepted a position on the faculty of MMA where he taught for fourteen years. He was recalled to active Naval duty in 1985 to serve as Convoy Commodore during a readiness training exercise for the ready reserve force deployed to their base at Diego Garcia. Ulrich was a life member and past master of Temple Lodge #59 AF&AM of Hutchinson. He was also a life member of Rising Star Lodge #4 of Penobscot, Maine and the San Diego, California Scottish Rite, as well as life membership in the Hutchinson DAV, Hutchinson American Legion Post #96 and VFW Post 106. He was a member of the Meeker County Navy Club, the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association, the Castine Town Band, and the Castine Brass Quintet.

ZACHARY B. MCKECHNIE '24

passed away on March 21, 2026. McKechnie was raised in Hampden and graduated from Hampden Academy in 2008. McKechnie proudly served in the United States Army from 2012 to 2016. While there, McKechnie achieved one of the most demanding accomplishments of his military career -- earning the Expert Field Medical Badge (EFMB). The EFMB is one of the Army's most rigorous and selective medical qualifications, requiring soldiers to pass an intensive, multi-day evaluation of both physical endurance and advanced medical proficiency, with fewer than 12 percent of candidates passing. McKechnie earned this distinction on his first attempt—an achievement that speaks to both his skill and determination, and one that only a small number of soldiers accomplish. After beginning stationed in Korea, McKechnie continued his service at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland. There, he supported high-level medical operations, including the Pope's visit in 2015 and the State of the Union in 2016. Following his graduation from MMA, McKechnie began his career at the MMA waterfront as a Small Craft Master. He primarily served as Captain of the Friendship, and also as relief Captain of the MV Captain Susan Clark and the tug

Pentagoet. He was licensed as a 100-ton master. On the water, McKechnie was in his element—calm at the helm, wind in his face, a huge smile, moving with an ease and confidence that made it clear this was where he belonged.

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





The Castine Harbor bell buoy, the removal of which has been suspended by the USCG.

Looking to sail in Castine?

If you are looking to sail in Castine, Captain Will MacLean '12, Academy Sailing Master, offers charters aboard his 46-foot yawl Blue Angel.

Contact Captain Will at info@sailblueocean.com.

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The Admissions and Alumni Relations departments co-hosted events on the vessel while *State of Maine* was tied up in Galveston, Texas in May.



A morel mushroom growing near campus in May.

Upcoming Events

JULY 6-8

Class of 1965 Reunion
Castine, ME

JULY 7

State of Maine Alumni Gathering
Boston, MA

JULY 12

State of Maine Arrival Celebration
Castine, ME

JULY 23

Seadogs Chapter Golf Tournament
Hermon, ME

JULY 23-25

Class of 1986 Reunion
Castine, ME

JULY 24

Class of 1971 Reunion
Falmouth, ME

JULY 27-29

Class of 1966 Reunion
Castine, ME

JULY 30-AUGUST 1

Class of 1991 Reunion
Castine, ME

AUGUST 8

Hearts of Pine Soccer Alumni Event
Portland, ME

AUGUST 13

Sea Dogs Baseball Alumni Event
Portland, ME

SEPTEMBER 25-27

Homecoming and Family Weekend
Castine, ME

SEPTEMBER 26

Annual Meeting of the MMAAA
Castine, ME

SEPTEMBER 26

Class of 1976 Reunion Dinner
Castine, ME

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State of Maine departs Galveston
on May 23, 2026.