

ISSUE 1 | 31 MAY 2024

# UNDER WAY

A NEWSLETTER FOR INCOMING MARINERS

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome Class of 2028 to the first issue of UNDER WAY, a summer newsletter for incoming students at Maine Maritime Academy. This biweekly newsletter aims to be an additional tool in MMA's onboarding of new Mariners to the MMA community.

In each issue of UNDER WAY, we will highlight different aspects of MMA and the Town of Castine; provide you with relevant and timely information on topics and answers to questions you may have in the lead-up to your arrival on campus in August; give you a small glimpse into what life is like at MMA; and highlight some of the many ways you can enrich your overall experience while attending MMA.

We know transitioning to college can be overwhelming with all the information being tossed your way, trying to remember which office or department to talk to for this or that, and all that's before even thinking about what to pack to bring with you to campus. Rest assured, all of us at Maine Maritime Academy are here to help. If you have any questions at all this summer, please reach out. And if you reach out to the wrong person/department, no worries, we'll get you connected with the person best suited to assist you.

## MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY:

# WHERE A SMALL COMMUNITY FEELS LIKE A LARGE FAMILY

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# ACRONYMS & LINGO

Companies, industries, and higher education alike love acronyms and oftentimes have their own lingo. Below are some of the common acronyms & lingo you'll hear on campus:

The Bilge ~ Located within Curtis Hall, this recreational space has a pool & ping-pong table, TVs, board games, couches, a video game lounge, and a kitchen.

CAB (Campus Activities Board) ~ A student group, which plans and sponsors a variety of on and off-campus events for students to take advantage of.

Mess Deck ~ Located in the Alford Student Center, this is the main dining room/location on campus.

MUGs (Midshipmen Under Guidance) ~ New members of the Regiment of Midshipmen are known as MUGs during RPT and MUG Month.

Non-Reg ~ Students who are not a part of the Regiment of Midshipmen. You may also hear these students referred to as Independent Students.

OLs (Orientation Leaders) ~ OLs are returning students who assist incoming students in their transition to MMA during New Student Orientations during the summer and during Fall Orientation after your arrival to campus and before the first day of classes.

On Neck ~ Refers to the area of Castine between the British Canal & Dyce Head.

RAs (Resident Assistants) ~ RAs are students who are charged with being leaders, resources, and community builders to the residents of Curtis Hall.

Reg ~ Refers to The Regiment of Midshipmen, or Regimental Students (those students in The Regiment of Midshipmen).

RPT (Regimental Preparatory Training) ~ The time during which MUGs are prepared for regimental life.

SGA (Student Government Association) ~ Student leaders elected by their peers to represent the MMA student body as a whole.

The Wedge ~ Student leaders within the Reg who are responsible for the Regiment and its organization.

Waypoint ~ A snack bar offering grab-and-go foods, a limited menu to order from, and Starbucks drinks to get you going in the mornings. Also a place where students gather and hang out or study.

## CASTINE HIGHLIGHTS

### Outdoor Recreation

Are you a fan of the outdoors? Here are some outdoor adventures to check out and take advantage of in Castine:

[\*\*Backshore Beach\*\*](#)

[\*\*Castine Golf Club\*\*](#)

[\*\*Castine Kayak\*\*](#)

[\*\*Dyce Head Lighthouse\*\*](#)

[\*\*Fort George\*\*](#)

[\*\*Fort Madison\*\*](#)

[\*\*Hatch Cove Preserve\*\*](#)

[\*\*Witherle Woods\*\*](#)

The Town of Castine is rich in history. If you're a history buff, or simply interested in learning more about the town, download the self-guided walking tour app, 'Castine History Highlights', found in app stores.

### Lodging

While Castine is a small town, it does see a decent number of visitors, mostly from June - August.

The following are lodging options in town:

[\*\*Castine Cottages\*\*](#)

[\*\*Castine Inn\*\*](#)

[\*\*MMA's Leavitt Hall\*\*](#)

[\*\*Pentagöet Inn\*\*](#)



## CAMPUS HIGHLIGHT

THE OFFICE OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE works to assist Maine Maritime's residential students in various capacities, with our largest focus on creating a community within the residence halls where students feel safe, supported, respected, and can become engaged members of the residential community. The Res Life team is comprised of Blossom Thao, Director of Residential Life & Student Activities; Dan Gardner, Assistant Director of Residential Life; and 13 Resident Assistants (RAs) who are the true heroes of the team. Blossom will be leaving MMA in early June when she begins a new career path, and while the entire MMA community will be sad to see her go, we all wish her the best!

For some, when you first move into Curtis Hall, it will be your first time sharing a bedroom, and other common spaces with peers. Some of you will easily adapt, while others will struggle a little. Some of you may initially be a bit homesick; or need pointers on communicating with your roommate(s); or on conflict mediation. All of this is completely normal and to be expected, and you won't be the only one in this boat. In each of these instances, the RA for your section is a great resource to seek out and will be able to assist you.

We have three pieces of advice we'd like you to keep in the back of your mind during your time at MMA:

- 1** You've heard it before, but this is applicable throughout all of life: when you need help, reach out and ask for it. Remember, it's best to ask for help when an issue or concern is a small ripple in the water, rather than a tsunami. We all need assistance occasionally, so don't be afraid, embarrassed, or shy in reaching out and asking for it. Everyone at MMA is always willing to assist you.
- 2** Think about how your decisions and actions, for the good or the bad, will impact your peers. Part of being a contributing member of any community - whether within a residence hall or aboard a ship - is being mindful and respectful of others.
- 3** Take advantage of as many opportunities provided to you while at MMA as you can. Ahead of you lies an opportunity to forge lifelong friendships, as well as lifelong memories.

In case you haven't heard, starting at the end of the Fall 2024 semester, Curtis Hall will undergo a two-year-long renovation project. While the renovation will bring needed improvements to the building, it will unfortunately also bring disruptions. In the next issue of UNDER WAY, we will discuss the upcoming renovation and its impacts on your residential experience.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

**Dan Gardner**

**daniel.gardner@mma.edu**

**207.326.2264**

**General Email**

**housing@mma.edu**

**The Residential Life Offices Are Located On The First Floor Of Curtis Hall  
In The Trophy Lobby. We Love It When Students Stop By And Say Hi!**

## RA HIGHLIGHT: Rayelle Brewer



HOMETOWN:  
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

YEAR:  
JUNIOR

MAJOR/MINOR:  
MARINE BIOLOGY & SMALL VESSEL OPERATIONS WITH  
A MINOR IN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY &  
PHYSICAL SCIENCE

WHAT INSTANTLY MAKES YOUR DAY BETTER?  
SEEING FRIENDS & SWIMMING

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR FREETIME?  
GO BEACH COMBING

IF YOU COULD HAVE LUNCH WITH ANY  
FAMOUS PERSON, WHO WOULD IT BE?  
MISSY FRANKLIN

## RA HIGHLIGHT: Orion Tevanian



HOMETOWN:  
LIMINGTON, MAINE

YEAR:  
SOPHOMORE

MAJOR/MINOR:  
OCEANOGRAPHY & SMALL VESSEL OPERATIONS

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING  
FORWARD TO THIS UPCOMING YEAR?  
MMA'S NEW FENCING CLUB

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES?  
VOLLEYBALL, READING, BEACH WALKS

IF YOU COULD HAVE A TALKING PET,  
WHAT TYPE OF ANIMAL WOULD IT BE?  
A HAWK

# UPCOMING DATES

On-Campus Housing Applications Due: July 15

Off-Campus Appeals Due: July 15

Roommate Selection (Optional):

**Independent Students:** If you find someone you want to room with this year, you can make a roommate group in the on-campus housing application. Roommate groups need to be created by July 15. If you don't have someone in mind, no worries, the answers to the personality questions you provide on your housing app will help us pair you up with a roommate.

**Regimental Students:** The Regiment does not allow you to choose your roommate during your first year.

**New Student Orientation (NSO):** NSO sessions will be held on: Saturday, June 1; Saturday, June 15; and Saturday, July 13. While not required, MMA encourages students, and families, to attend one of the sessions if able. Registration for an NSO is required, and sign-up is embedded in your housing application.

You can complete all of the above by navigating to [mystudentlife.mma.edu](http://mystudentlife.mma.edu), and then clicking on Housing Applications 2024-2025.

## Did You Know:

SENATOR RALPH LEAVITT OF PORTLAND LED THE WORK FOR THE CREATION OF MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY.

ON MARCH 21, 1941, WITH THE PASSING OF AN ACT BY THE 90TH MAINE LEGISLATURE, MMA WAS BORN, MAKING THE ACADEMY 83 YEARS-OLD.

THAT'S A LOT OF BIRTHDAY CANDLES!



## Coming Up In The Next Issue:

- CAMPUS HIGHLIGHT:  
OFFICE OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES
- CURTIS HALL & BREAK PERIODS
- CURTIS HALL RENOVATION
- JUNE 1 NSO HIGHLIGHTS

