



ISSUE 1 | 1 JUNE 2026

UNDER WAY

A NEWSLETTER FOR INCOMING MARINERS

INTRODUCTION

Welcome Class of 2030 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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CAMPUS HIGHLIGHT

The OFFICE OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE is dedicated to supporting the residential students in a variety of ways, with our primary focus on fostering a community within the residence halls where students feel safe, supported, respected, and are encouraged to actively engage with the residential life experience. Our team is composed of Dan Gardner, Director of Residential Life & Student Activities, Josh Stanhope, Assistant Director of Residential Life, and a dedicated group of 14 Resident Assistants (RAs), who are integral to our department.

For many, moving into a residence hall this fall will be the first time you'll be sharing a bedroom and communal spaces with peers. Some of you will adjust quickly, while others may experience challenges. It's completely normal to feel homesick or need guidance on navigating roommate dynamics or conflict resolution. Rest assured, you won't be alone, and these experiences are common. In these moments, your RA is a valuable resource and can offer support and advice to help you navigate any difficulties.

As you embark on your journey at MMA, we offer three key pieces of advice to keep in the back of your mind:

- 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 and make lifelong memories.

As you are probably already aware, Curtis Hall is undergoing a two-year-long renovation project - we're halfway through! 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 renovation and its impacts on the residential experience.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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**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!**

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.

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

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

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

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

On Neck ~ The area of Castine between the British Canal & Dyce Head - the peninsula part of town.

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 - Castine

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

There are two seasonal lodging options in town:

[**Castine Inn**](#)

[**Pentagöet Inn**](#)

Lodging - Bucksport

In Bucksport, there are two year-round lodging options:

[**Bucksport Inn***](#)

[**Fort Knox Inn**](#)

*Offer a discount when you call and mention MMA

UPCOMING DATES

New Student Orientation (NSO): In person NSO sessions will be held on Saturday, June 27 & Saturday, July 11. A virtual NSO will be held on Tuesday, July 14. 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.

Off & On-Campus Housing Applications Due: Wednesday, July 15

Off-Campus Appeals Due: Wednesday, 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 Wednesday, 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 with a roommate.

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

You can complete all of the above by navigating to mystudentlife.mma.edu, and then clicking on Housing Applications 2026-2027.

Register For Classes: Complete the pre-registration training course and then register for your classes. Need to complete by June 14.

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 85YEARS-OLD.

THAT'S A LOT OF BIRTHDAY CANDLES!



Coming Up In The Next Issue:

- CAMPUS HIGHLIGHT:
OFFICE OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES
- CURTIS & LEAVITT HALLS & BREAK CLOSINGS
- CURTIS HALL RENOVATION
- JUNE 14 NSO HIGHLIGHTS

