

# Fort Schuyler Maritime Alumni Assoc., Inc. MARINER



FIRST AND FOREMOST, SINCE 1903

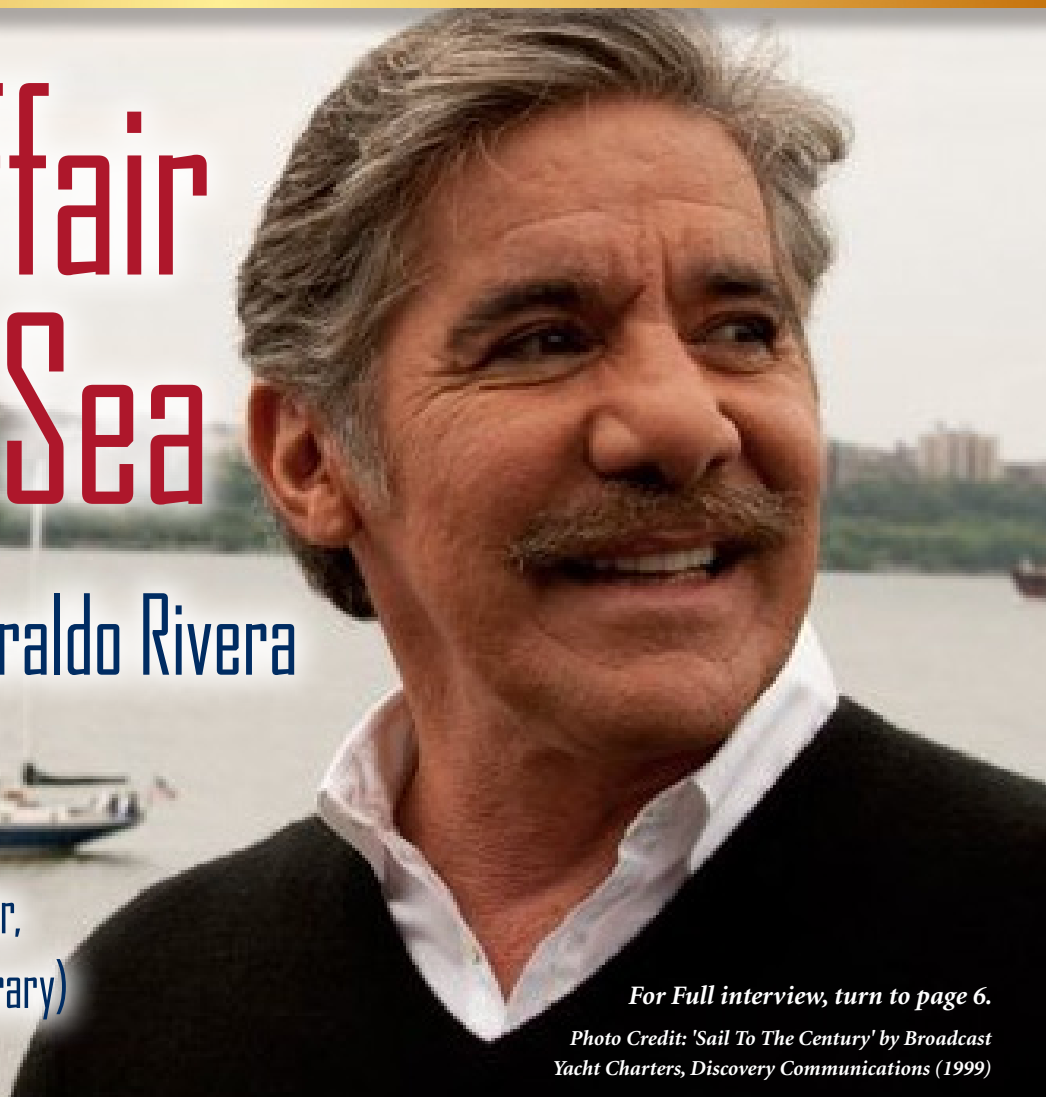


## *In Tribute To the 'El Faro' 33*

# A Love Affair With The Sea

## An Interview With Geraldo Rivera

Seafarer, FSMAA Associate Member,  
Fort Schuyler Class of 1965 (Honorary)



*For Full interview, turn to page 6.*

*Photo Credit: 'Sail To The Century' by Broadcast  
Yacht Charters, Discovery Communications (1999)*

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT



## *Greetings, fellow alumni and friends.*

Like all of you, my heart breaks for the unthinkable tragedy of the sinking of the *El Faro*. On behalf of the Fort Schuyler Maritime Alumni Association and all alumni, I extend my sympathy to the families of the 33 aboard. As many of you know, #OneOfOurOwn was aboard at the time of the sinking - ***El Faro* Chief Engineer Richard Pusatere, Class of 2003**. The outpouring of support for Rich's family has been tremendous. There is a GoFundMe page started which can be found at: [www.GoFundMe.com/RichPusatere](http://www.GoFundMe.com/RichPusatere)

On Thursday, October 15th, classmates of Rich (nickname "Pooch" for Pusatere) organized a fundraiser "Pints For Pooch" at the Brooklyn Barge Bar. Thanks to those who thought up and worked the event: **Matt Perricone '03, Sam Zapandinsky '03, Erik Barton '01, Amie Carter '00**. Rich's father Frank, mother Lillian, wife Emily and two-year-old daughter Josie joined the Fort Schuyler alumni family in sharing their grief - and their stories.



We on the Board decided that for the FSMAA Membership Drive this year, in lieu of the regular letter that is mailed out, we are sending this issue of the *Mariner* publication to all alumni - both dues-paying and non. For the alumni not current on their dues, perhaps, you will enjoy reading this issue and decide to join our ranks. Annual membership dues of \$60 can be paid via mailing a check to the Parlin office using the envelope in this issue, or online at: [www.FSMAA.org/Membership.JoinRenew-Online/](http://www.FSMAA.org/Membership.JoinRenew-Online/)

Membership entitles you to receipt of the printed *Mariner* publication (currently quarterly, although we will likely revise to longer issues three times a year), **current access to the eDirectory that just went live October 12th**, discounts to events, opportunities to give back - including giving guidance to students in their senior year at Fort Schuyler during our New Alumni Night in the Spring and contributing to cadets by way of the FSMAA SST Scholarship campaign. Membership also allows you to remain a strong link in your class and in our alumni chain, generally strengthening our network and yours. You play a vital role in the record-breaking alumni employment statistics and in the vibrant fraternity offered by our association. ***Become a link in the FSMAA chain, and join our membership today.***





Dan Gillette '97, Geraldo Rivera, Bridget Bendo '96 at 21 Club on October 6, 2015.

The cover story features a dues-paying Associate Member we are proud to hold amidst our ranks, **Mr. Geraldo Rivera**. Here is a picture from the interview at 21 Club on October 6, 2015. Mr. Rivera treated *Mariner* Editor **Bridget Bendo '96** & me to lunch following his radio show which airs Monday through Friday, 10am to noon at 770AM or online at [www.ABCradio.com](http://www.ABCradio.com) or as a podcast. After the three-hour lunch and interview, Mr. Rivera tucked his suit pant legs into his socks, and hopped onto his bicycle and headed over to Fox News offices for his participation in *Hannity* that evening.



## Events

The Nominating Meeting will be held in conjunction with a Holiday Gathering at Reichenbach Hall in midtown

on the Tuesday of Thanksgiving week - November 24th.

The event, named Hofbrau Holiday For Mariners, is open to alumni of all Maritime Colleges, so please bring along a colleague from another Maritime College or Service Academy.

We are looking for people who want to devote a portion of their free time for a few years to **serve on the Board and "pay it forward"**. Are you this person? If so, I encourage you to reach out to **Mike Trotta '99**, Election Committee Chairman at: [MTrotta@westernmanCM.com](mailto:MTrotta@westernmanCM.com) Either way, let's kick off the holiday season together, German style.

I congratulate four outstanding alumni who have been selected as honorees for the biennial **FSMAA Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner which will be held at Tribeca 360 on Thursday, January 28, 2016.**

Congratulations to **Steve Carbery '80, Don Frost '62, John Konrad '00 and Earl Baim '80**. You may read more about them on pages 11 - 13. In-depth interviews are currently underway and will be featured in the next *Mariner* as well as posted on our website. Tickets to the Awards Dinner will be available on the website starting November 1st. You may also reserve your tickets by calling **Denise Tiernan** at (718) 931-6887.

The first-ever **Maritime and Service Academy Regatta** held on August 27th at the stunning Manhattan Yacht Club was a perfect day celebrating the New York skyline and is sure to become an annual tradition.

**Homecoming**, as always, was a great time where classmates rekindled their friendships and reminisced about their Schuyler days. The **fiftieth reunion dinner for the Class of 1965** went off without a hitch and is featured on pages 22-24.

Chapters are thriving and holding well-attended regular events as can be seen on pages 16 & 17. I was proud to see alumni participation at various chapter events I attended, including **Northeast Florida Chapter, South Florida Chapter and New Jersey Chapter**.

## I will see you on:

 [www.facebook.com/fort.schuyler](http://www.facebook.com/fort.schuyler)

 [www.twitter.com/fsmaa](http://www.twitter.com/fsmaa)

 [www.fsmaa.org](http://www.fsmaa.org)

 & at our events!

Fraternally,

*Daniel M. Gillette, Class of 1997, President*  
[president@fsmaa.org](mailto:president@fsmaa.org)

## Captions for photos on prior page:

- 1- FSMAA Board Member **Matt Herrington '94** shares with Rich's wife Emily his experience of sailing with **Rich Pusatere '03**.
- 2- The group aboard the Brooklyn Barge Bar at Pints For Pooch Fundraiser, 10/15/15.
- 3- **Matt Perricone '03**, main organizer and spark that created the fundraiser, talks with **Peter Mandi '98, Esq.**
- 4- **Alumni camaraderie** lifts the spirits of the family of Rich Pusatere '03: Father Frank, with Rich's wife Emily holding their daughter Josie, Rich's Mother Lillian.
- 5- **Pete Jessnik '00** steered the NYPD Marine Unit 452 to attend the barge bar.
- 6- The boat was in the spotlight from above. *Photos in 1 through 5 above: courtesy of Amie Carter '00.*
- 6- Maine Maritime Vigil, 10/6/15, Photo Credit: Ted Nichols
- 7- SUNY Maritime Gathering Of Hope, 10/7/15, Photo Credit: Richard Corson
- 8- USMMA at Kings Point Ceremony 10/9/15, Photo Credit: Alexander Groen on Facebook



*In honor of the 33 lives  
aboard the 'El Faro'*

Including Fort Schuyler Alumnus  
**Richard Pusatere, Class of 2003,**  
Chief Engineer



*From Audrey Gerson & Rhonda Gerson-Hurwitz,  
Family of Joe R. Gerson, Class of 1947*

*Photo captures 'Fireboat Three Forty Three' giving a proper water salute right off Brooklyn Barge Bar on the evening of 10/15/15 in honor of Rich Pusatere '03. Photo courtesy of Amie Carter '00.*



In 1974, I worked at the Sun Shipbuilding and Drydock Corporation in Chester, Pennsylvania, where the keel was laid for a vessel that would be christened the *Puerto Rico* for work plying the East Coast trade which continued for fifteen years. In 1991, the vessel was renamed *Northern Lights* and sailed between Tacoma, Washington and Anchorage, Alaska. In 1993, the vessel was lengthened by 90 feet at the Alabama Shipyard and later chartered by Military Sealift Command as part of Operation Enduring Freedom ferrying marines and supplies from San Diego, California to Kuwait. In 2006, the ship was transferred by TOTE to its subsidiary company Sea Star Lines and finally renamed the *El Faro*, which translates to *The Lighthouse*.

Fast forward forty years to October 2014. When the **Hurricane Class of Maritime College** celebrated our fiftieth reunion, the **Maritime Industry Museum at Fort Schuyler** auctioned off a trip on the Sea Star's ro-ro ships from Jacksonville, Florida to Puerto Rico and back. I won the prize! My wife, Lynn, was excited to experience going to sea aboard a cargo ship and getting a taste of the quiet days and starry nights, the bridge and the engine room. Plus, we were both looking forward to visit friends in the beautiful Culebra, Puerto Rico. We had often talked about how special it would be if we could take a trip together aboard a merchant ship. Finally, our course was set.

In April 2015, we climbed the accommodation ladder of the *El Yunque* in Jacksonville. Destination San Juan. Two weeks later, after visiting and touring, we boarded the sister-ship *El Faro* to head home. My sea legs were still in good shape. However, I was surprised at the advances on the bridge. To find a position, we old timers used a sextant and computations; now an instantaneous GPS fix is used. To plot another ship's closest point of approach and time by radar, we used a grease pencil and triangle on the screen; now the solution solves electronically on the radar screen. To ask another ship her name, we used a Morse code blinker light; now its name and course show on the radar screen. For Lynn, she watched cranes lifting containers onto the deck and a tugboat approaching, and best of all, she saw the deep blue of the ocean and the 360° horizon for the first time. She now senses more of my personal attachment to the sea and her ships and their sailors.

The men and women on the crews of the *El Yunque* and *El Faro* welcomed us to their home at sea. They made us very comfortable answering questions and inquiring about my old timer's marine life at sea and ashore. They were good to us. Lynn and I spent much of our time on the bridge with the watch officers and Able-bodied seamen. We met others in the mess deck and down below. Some senior officers took time out of their schedules to show us all around, explain the latest equipment, and re-teach some navigation theory. The crew extended interest in us and exuded pride in their professions. Wonderful people! When the *El Faro* set sail on September 30, 2015 from Jacksonville, destination San Juan, for what became her final voyage, most of the crew with whom we sailed happened to be on vacation. With four notable and heartbreaking exceptions.

**Howard Schoenly of Cape Coral, FL.** Howie, an engineer, always kept the officer's mess entertained with his light-hearted joking manner.

**Jack Jackson of Jacksonville, FL.** Jack, an AB, freely shared his life as a sailor.

**Jeremie Riehm of Camden, DE.** Jeremie, the third mate, proudly related his story of 'coming up through the hawsepip' and taught me some newer navigation practices.

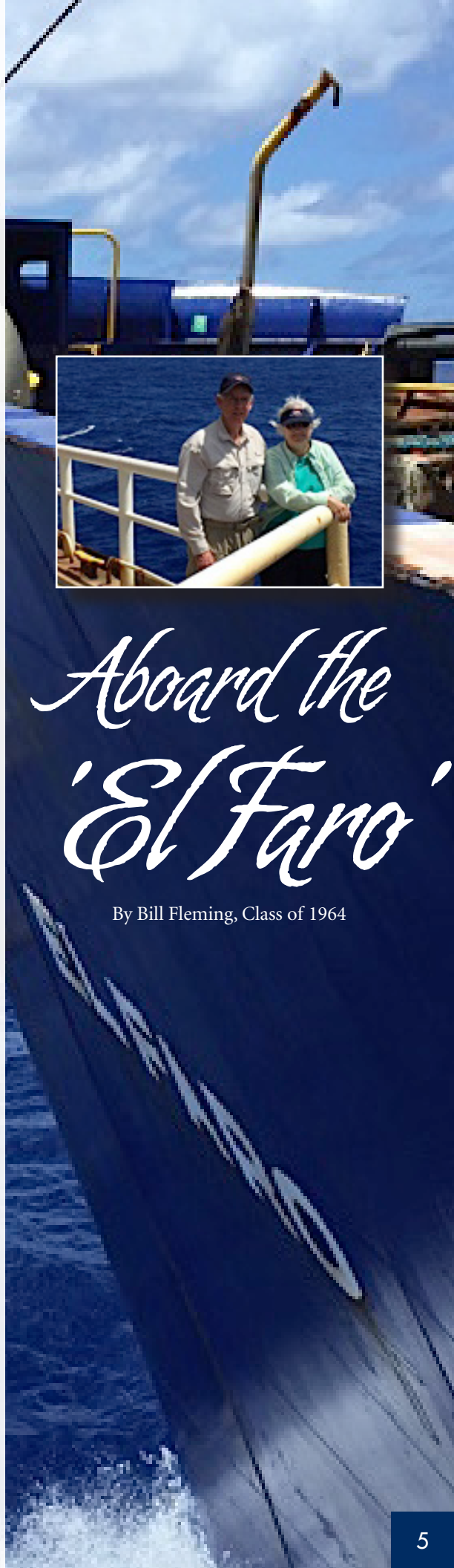
**Jeffrey Mathias of Kingston, MA.** Jeff, a consulting engineer, showed us all around the ship explaining wake and prop wash, cargo securing fixtures, and ballast regulations. He couldn't wait until his next trip home.

While we were on the *El Faro* for only three days, we are richer for the life those seafarers shared with us. So, today we grieve. We pray for the crew's families and the investigation of this marine disaster. We hope it leads to more assurances for the safety of those who go out to sea.

As a member of the **Hurricane Class of 1964**, I deeply experience the irony of my brush with *El Faro* at the beginning and end of her long life - a life ended abruptly by **Hurricane Joaquin**.

In honor of the 33 lives of the *El Faro*, *The Lighthouse*, I'll quote from Longfellow's poem of the same name:

*"Steadfast, serene, immovable, the same, Year after year, through all the silent night Burns on forevermore that quenchless flame, Shines on that inextinguishable light!"*



# Aboard the 'El Faro'

By Bill Fleming, Class of 1964

# A LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE SEA

*The Mariner Editor and FSMAA President sat down with the charming **Geraldo Rivera** on Tuesday, October 6, 2015, for a delightful lunch interview at 21 Club in Manhattan. We'll share our conversation here.*



Geraldo is most at peace at the helm.

*How did you decide to attend Fort Schuyler?*

Before I went to Junior High, my family moved from Williamsburg, Brooklyn to West Babylon, Long Island, which was landlocked. The Principal of my high school, West Babylon High, was a man by the name of **Russel Van Brunt**, a graduate of Fort Schuyler who had served as a naval officer in Puerto Rico. He came away from his service there with a special affection for the Puerto Rican people and that extended to me and my family in West Babylon those two decades later. He took me under his wing and encouraged me to find a direction and suggested that I attend his alma mater Fort Schuyler, New York State Maritime College. With no other plan formulated myself, I agreed.

*You attended two years and one summer - 1961 to 1962, Summer Sea Term of 1962, and 1962 to 1963. What are your most vivid memories from Indoctrination and from your time on campus?*

I remember how stunning it was to be addressed as “you men”. **Commandant Olivet** would address the cadet corps as “you men”, and, having just turned eighteen years old, I was stunned - and pleased - that a decorated officer was referring to us with such an unearned term. I wanted to live up to it. I enjoyed the sports and they were important to me - playing varsity soccer, lacrosse and rowing crew for the College. I met my first Egyptian and Muslim

friend and classmate, **Abdul Al Diwani**, and my first Ukranian friend, one of my roommates second-class year **Pete Piaseckyj**. West Babylon didn't offer much diversity at the time, and these friendships represented ‘firsts’ for me and expanded my thinking.

I liked the uniforms, I actually enjoyed the discipline. Of course, I remember having to be aboard the ship by a certain time on Sunday nights, and cut it as close as can possibly be, sprinting from the gate to the ship, just in time, all sweaty, every Sunday night. The last asthma attack I ever suffered was after one of those sprints. We lived aboard the ship, remember, full-time for both school years. During our fourth-class year, about fifty of us shared a hold and lived together. For our third-class year, we were moved to staterooms where we had three cadets per room.

My Maritime training and memories helped me associate with the soldiers during my war reporting experiences. It gave me just enough of a quasi-military experience and understanding, and such an affinity for our military, that I have drawn upon the experience and beliefs during the many war assignments of my journalism career.

The most vivid memory about my years on campus is actually sensory in nature. I never lived on the water until Fort Schuyler. The smell of the salt in the air in the morning became part of my personal identity and from then on, my need.

*From the day I entered Fort Schuyler onwards, I never again lived in a landlocked place; I no longer could. For me, the water - be it a river, bay, estuary, or ocean - gives me something that a landlocked location cannot.*



At the Formal in 1962 with high school girlfriend Mary Pachla

*What did you take away from Summer Sea Term 1962?*

The most important part of my Fort Schuyler experience was the cruise.

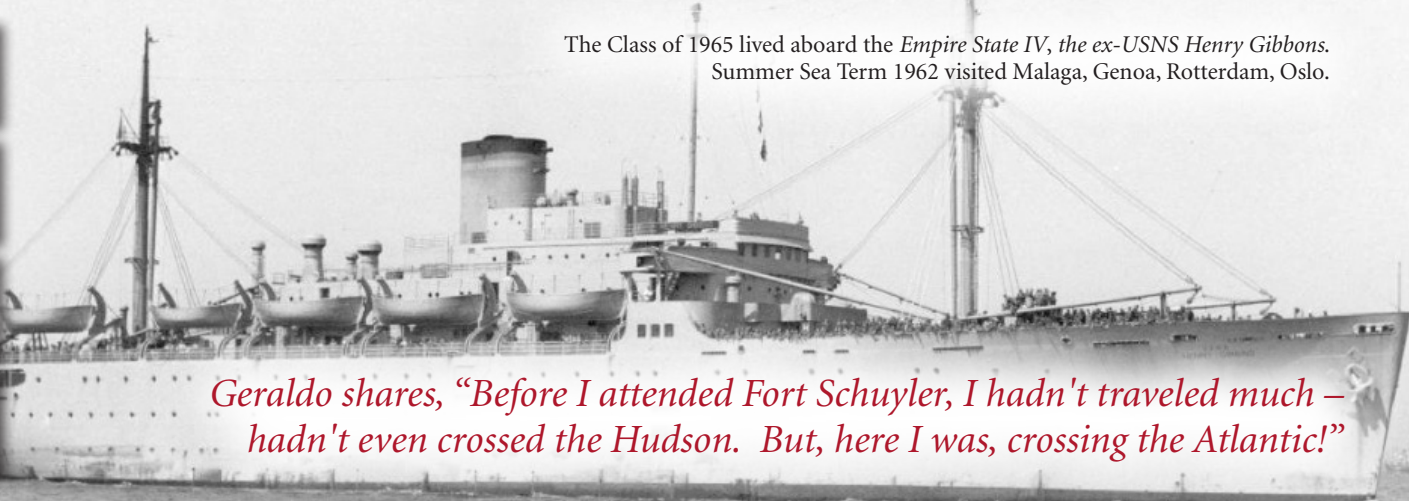
On cruise, we visited Malaga (Spain), Genoa (Italy), Rotterdam (the Netherlands), Oslo (Norway).

I can remember falling in love with a Norwegian Matilda, and shouting promises at her from the stern as she waved from the pier as the training ship set sail from Oslo. I digress.





The Class of 1965 lived aboard the *Empire State IV*, the ex-USNS *Henry Gibbons*. Summer Sea Term 1962 visited Malaga, Genoa, Rotterdam, Oslo.



*Geraldo shares, "Before I attended Fort Schuyler, I hadn't traveled much – hadn't even crossed the Hudson. But, here I was, crossing the Atlantic!"*

Schuyler steered me in a direction that affected my whole life. It affected my understanding of geography, how I saw the world, people. It sparked my wanderlust, my strong desire to see the world.

Before I attended Fort Schuyler, I hadn't traveled much - hadn't even crossed the Hudson. But, here I was, crossing the Atlantic! And, with 300 of my fellow 18-year-old classmates, to boot, aboard the *Empire State IV* - the 489-foot ex-USNS *Henry Gibbons*, a troop transport naval vessel - and exploring foreign countries. Being at sea, holding watch in those days, learning to plot our course by electronic navigation, by celestial navigation, using LORAN, seeing how it felt to steer a vessel - those are all things that I never put down after that summer.

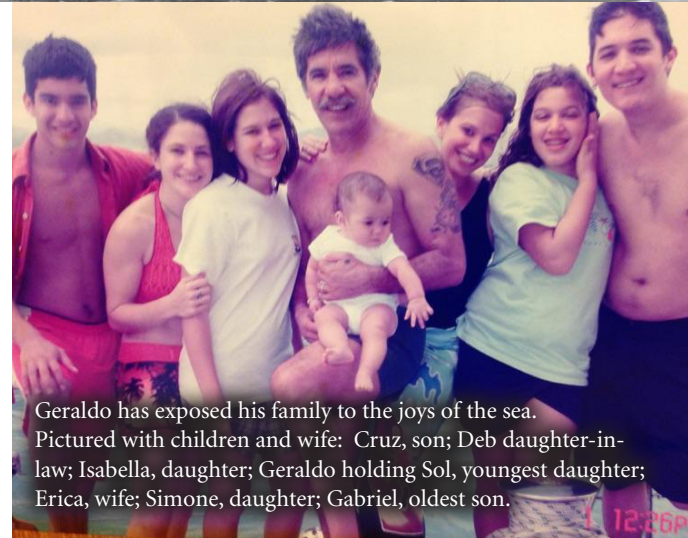
*In other words, from that summer on, I was a seafarer. As soon as I could afford to buy a boat and go over the horizon, that's what I did. That's why I treasure being part of the FSMAA. I think my experience at Fort Schuyler really did make me a seafarer. And, considering that the earth is mostly water, it gave me a vast horizon. For people I knew growing up in Brooklyn or West Babylon, their world ended at the horizon. For me, that's where it began.*

*How was your fiftieth class reunion this past Saturday at the Marriott Renaissance Westchester in West Harrison?*

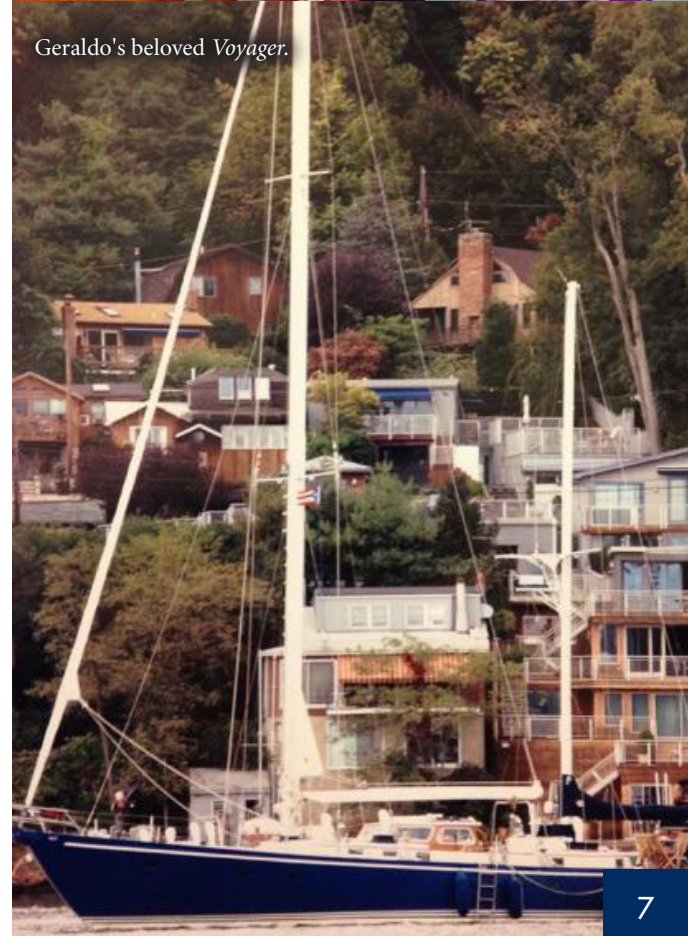
Having only each other to rely on at sea and during the school years, it feels very important to me to stay in touch with my classmates. At the reunion dinner Saturday, as my classmate **Phil Kantz** so aptly put: "For the first few minutes, everyone is quietly thinking how everyone *else* has gotten so old." But then, somehow, we see the 18-year-old versions of ourselves. It's a good group of guys. It's still a spry group and an accomplished one. My rule for reunions like that one is everyone is only allowed to talk about what hurts for the first two minutes of conversation.

I talked with some of the guys I remembered from the soccer team. My college roommate **Pete Piaseckyj** was reminiscing about how when we were in Malaga, I'd stop for every beggar and give them what little money cadets had in those days; he remembers my compassion — and naiveté.

*Continued on next page*



Geraldo has exposed his family to the joys of the sea. Pictured with children and wife: Cruz, son; Deb daughter-in-law; Isabella, daughter; Geraldo holding Sol, youngest daughter; Erica, wife; Simone, daughter; Gabriel, oldest son.



Geraldo's beloved *Voyager*.

# A LOVE AFFAIR WITH THE SEA

## *What are the most rewarding aspects of your career?*

The most rewarding aspects of my career is when someone says, “I got into social work because of you.” “My sibling with developmental disability had a better life because of you.” Hearing positive statements like that arising from my Willowbrook exposé in 1972 is life-affirming for me. I’m most proud of that. My friend-for-life Bernard Carabello, who was a resident at Willowbrook back then is now 62-years-old and retiring from a fulfilling career with New York State. He’s led a happy life these forty three years and counting.

Also, working as a war correspondent after 911 has been a privilege. 911 changed my life. I lost friends - including six Dads from my kids’ school in Monmouth County, NJ who worked for Cantor Fitzgerald. Our country engaged in a war on terror and I have been a warrior journalist ever since. In fact, we just applied for visas to Syria.

Not having served in Vietnam - and knowing of friends and classmates who died there - comes with a tremendous feeling of guilt for me to this day. The guilt instilled in me battlefield courage that has had a positive impact on my journalism from the fields of war.

## *As you talk about in your book 'Exposing Myself', in 1985, you were publicly let go from ABC at the height of your career, fame and popularity and when you were making \$1million per year. How did that affect your identity, and how did you move on?*

I was 42-years-old, which happened to be the same age my father was when he was fired. My father’s firing ended his life as a confident man. I was determined at the time not to let that happen to me. Plus, people in my family, including my parents, depended on me; I had to figure out something. Amongst other things, I created the talk show that continued for twelve years, and it made me a wealthy man. Yes, the firing was a traumatic and embarrassing event in my life. But, I moved on in a new and positive direction.

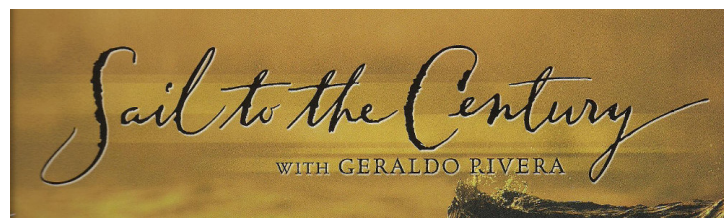
## *We have many avid sailors within our readership. Would you like to share highlights of your yachting career?*

Here’s a story. I had just started dating Erica, my wife, in the winter of 2000 - 2001. After a black tie event in New York, I dragged her to come with me to see me off in my boat *Voyager* at Liberty Marina which I was taking to Puerto Rico, as I do every year at that time. She walked me to my boat, her high heels and all, and I convinced her to join me on the trip right then. Erica had never sailed before. We hit a Category 1 Hurricane during the trip and she was below decks the entire trip, suffering. She never forgave me for shanghaiing her for that trip.

The *Francina*, a 20-foot gaff-rigged wooden sloop, was my first boat; I was 33. With her, I explored the waters between the north and south

forks of eastern Long Island Sound. Those waters are a taste of real ocean waters that gives a sailor the experience of every condition likely to be encountered on the vast expanse of open ocean, only smaller and closer to safe harbor and refuge from a storm.

The *New Wave*, a 44’ Gulfstar sloop, was a big part of my life for fifteen years. I’m convinced she went further out than any similar Gulfstream and in all weather, and mostly I took her out by myself. *New Wave*, was never docked for long. I alternated between wild joy and heart-stopping fear on that boat. **In 1994, as Geraldo outgrew *New Wave*, he donated her to SUNY Maritime.**



The stunning *Voyager*, a 70’ aluminum ketch, became another member of the Rivera family for almost twenty years. Twenty years of adventure. On July 30, 1997, my family and I set sail on *Voyager* for an epic voyage around the world which was a dream of mine since Fort Schuyler. We filmed a four-hour special for the Travel Channel called *Sail To The Century*, and that’s exactly what we did. In 1997, we spent the winter in Palma de Majorca. In 1998, we sailed the Mediterranean, through the Suez Canal, to the Seychelles. In 1999, we sailed across the Indian Ocean. As planned, on December 31, 1999, we reached the International Dateline, pulled into Tonga, to be amongst the first people in the world to celebrate the millennium. We partied with the Prince of Tonga. We had accomplished our goal. Then, we sailed her home. Not too long afterwards, we sailed *Voyager* up the Amazon River from Manaus, Brazil to Iquitos, Peru. **In an April 2007 article in Soundings, there’s a quote from Kevin Overmeyer, a professional captain who also crewed aboard *Voyager*, “(Rivera) may sometimes steer you into the path of a storm in his quest for adventure, but he’s the guy you want next to you when it hits.” In Autumn of 2013, as Geraldo downsized, he donated his beloved *Voyager* to Maine Maritime.**

These days, my yacht, *Belle*, is a gorgeous, teak 36’ Hinkley picnic boat with a Kevlar hull. I sail her up and down the New England Coast to Maine, to the Vineyard, to Montauk. I’m the first one out on the River in April, and the last one out on the River in November. We take her to West Point for football games in the fall. I handle a nine-hour run myself usually and refuel on the River, sometimes passing by Fort Schuyler, and visiting my cousin Lily or son Cruz in the Country Club section of the Bronx. I give tours of the River at times; my Fort Schuyler Terrestrial Navigation teacher should be aware that I know every marker there is.



# GERALDO RIVERA

Since 9/11, Geraldo has dedicated 14 years to being with the troops as often as possible and sharing their sacrifices, telling their story.



*In 'Exposing Myself', you recommend that every Jewish visitor to Israel spend a night with a Palestinian family...*

I have been covering Israel and Palestine for three generations now and have three generations of family friends in both places. Some American Jews intellectualize the issue, but what is the humanity of it? Let's look for what joins us, not separates us. Israeli-American politics can't be devoid of the humanity of the Palestinians, and bonding with a Palestinian family for one night would highlight that.

*If you had finished Schuyler with your class, what do you think your future would have held?*

I assume that had I finished with my class, I would have become a Naval officer and served in Vietnam. As it was, my work as a war correspondent fills that "would-have-been" for me.

*I'm sure that you've heard of the missing 'El Faro' in the news...*

*The tragic loss of El Faro shows that the sea - for all our technology and all our centuries of experience - can be your best friend or your most formidable enemy. It's a stark reminder that there is a huge difference between living and working in a controlled environment and working out past the horizon.*

*What's next for Geraldo? How about a run for Mayor?*

Two more years at Fox and then we'll see. At that point, I'll be 45 years in the industry, and may go to 50 years in, maybe. Of course, I'd still love to fulfill a childhood dream of being Mayor of the City of New York. If I get the Jews and Puerto Ricans onboard, we'll be half way there; how can I lose? Then again, I may just want to sit around, tell sea stories and drink rum.



One of media's most enduring broadcasters, Geraldo Rivera is a seafarer, attorney, social rights crusader, journalist, war correspondent, television personality, producer, radio host, author. During his fifteen-year career at ABC, he worked as a special correspondent for *Eyewitness News*, *20/20*, *World News Tonight*, and *Good Morning America*. He was host of his own late-night talk show, *Good Night America*, as well as had his own talk show *Geraldo* for twelve years. He was anchor of the syndicated news program *Now It Can Be Told*. He hosted *Rivera Live*, nightly discussions of the news on CNBC. After 9/11, Geraldo dedicated himself to being a war correspondent for Fox News.

Geraldo has received more than 170 awards for journalism, including the prestigious George Foster Peabody Award, ten Emmys, two Columbia-Dupont and two additional Scripps Howard Journalism Awards. He is a veteran foreign correspondent who has been on the front lines in virtually every international conflict since 1973. He has expertise in the Afghanistan region, covering the international drug wards of tribal territories in both Pakistan and Afghanistan. His vast war experience has spanned the violent coup in Chile and the Yom Kippur War to the civil wars in Guatemala, the Philippines and Nicaragua as well as the ethnic conflicts in Lebanon and Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo. In 2000, he went to Colombia to cover the country's civil war.

In the fourteenth season of *The Celebrity Apprentice*, Geraldo made it to the final two celebrity contestants and raised \$726,000 for his charity.



*To catch Geraldo these days, please tune in:*



77 WABC Radio, 770AM -  
Where New York Comes To Talk  
Monday - Friday, 10am to 12 noon.



Fox Channel's *Geraldo Rivera Reports*  
Check [www.geraldo.com](http://www.geraldo.com) to see the next special.

**Fox News Senior Correspondent**, rotating Co-Host on Fox's *The Five* weekdays 5pm - 6pm and provides regular reports and commentary on *FNC's Fox & Friends*, *Hannity*, *The Kelly File* and *The O'Reilly Factor*.

*And, a new book is in the works on Geraldo's time in Iraq & Afghanistan as a war correspondent: Stay tuned!*



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**FSMAA**

*Distinguished  
Alumni Awards  
Dinner*

**January 28, 2016**  
**Tribeca 360**

**Steve  
Carbery**

CLASS OF 1980

*Distinguished  
Alumnus of the  
Year Award*

**Don  
Frost**

CLASS OF 1962

*Lifetime  
Achievement  
Award*

**John  
Konrad**

CLASS OF 2000

*Special  
Recognition  
Award*

**Earl  
Baim**

CLASS OF 1980

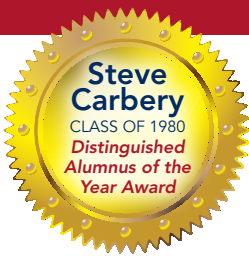
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**Stephen J. Carbery, BE, MBA, CHFM, CHC**

Class of 1980, BE Marine Engineering, Third Assistant Engineer  
Vice President, Facilities Design Construction & Real Estate  
Yale New Haven Health System, New Haven, CT



As a senior system administrator in the Yale New Haven Health System Corporate Facilities Division, Steve is responsible for the safe and efficient operation, design and construction of 7 million square feet of hospital and off-site real estate space, including directing and overseeing all design, renovation and construction projects, real estate lease management and all property transactions. His direct reports include Facilities Engineering, Facilities Planning and Real Estate departments. Steve leads his team of over 200 employees over four campuses and is responsible for an annual system capital improvement budget of \$200 million and an operating budget of \$110 million.



A degreed Marine (Mechanical) engineer from SUNY Maritime College, Steve started working as a licensed engineering officer on container ships. He came ashore to work in the marine insurance and casualty business as a marine surveyor inspecting ships, tugs, barges and high-valued cargo for marine insurance underwriters during which time he honed his repair and negotiating skills in shipyards around the country.

Steve is an American Society of Healthcare Engineering Certified Healthcare Facilities Manager and a Certified Healthcare Constructor. He is a member of the Built Environment Network, a national advisory group of the Center for Healthcare Design. Steve is also an advisor to the national VHA/Novation Capital Facilities and Construction purchasing group, a member of New England Healthcare Engineers Society, the CT Construction Institute, the American College of Healthcare Executives and the National Fire Protection Association. He is also a Past President of the FSMAA (then called the SUNY Maritime College Alumni Association).

Steve resides in Milford, Connecticut with his wife Wendy. They have two children Shannon and Dan. Steve is part of a Fort Schuyler family; his father Joseph is Class of 1956.



**Donald B. Frost**

Class of 1962, BS Marine Transportation, Second Mate’s License  
MBA International Business, City University of New York  
Editor, CMA Monthly Newsletter



Don’s vast commercial experience spans the gamut of the transportation industry as he has worked with shipowners, operators, mining companies, merchants and traders. Don has used his expertise as a freight market analyst and forecaster, logistics consultant and planner, maritime arbitrator and expert witness, lecturer on marine transportation systems, industry analyst and commentator, as well as maritime industry journalist.



Don is an active maritime arbitrator and former Board member of Society of Marine Arbitrators, as well as a founding member and twice President and current industry liaison of the ever-growing Connecticut Maritime Association (CMA). He is a member of the Publishing and Maritime Economic panels of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers (SNAME), Board member of the Connecticut Maritime Coalition representing deepwater commercial maritime issues, Member of the National Association of Maritime Organizations (NAMO), Commercial advisor and past Co-Chair for Research for Columbia University’s Center for Energy, Marine Transportation and Public Policy focusing on scenarios involving public policy and global maritime governance. Don was a lecturer (2010 & 2011) at the US-China Business Center at Central Connecticut State University, topic “The Blue Economy”, and (1992-2005) at the US Merchant Marine Academy Global Maritime

and Transportation School (GMATS) program, topics of economic geography, shipping markets and shipping contracts, as well as an occasional lecturer and commercial advisor (2006-present) at SUNY Maritime, topic of economic geography, Global Business and Transportation (GBAT) program.

Don has been instrumental in the near explosive growth of the CMA and takes great professional pride in being the current Editor of the CMA monthly newsletter which can be found at: [www.CMAconnect.com](http://www.CMAconnect.com). Don is a Naval Reserve officer (retired), married for over fifty years, and has three grown children Donna, Michael and Stephen and six grandchildren.





## John A. Konrad V

Class of 2000

BS Marine Transportation, Master of Vessels of any Gross Tons  
Founder of gCaptain



As the youngest alumnus ever to be honored by the FSMAA on our biennial Awards Night, John Konrad must have contributed something special to the maritime industry. He sure has. John is the founder, editor and CEO of the most visited website in the entire maritime and offshore industry - a website with 3 million monthly page views, 1 million monthly social media impressions, 225,000 facebook fans. We're talking, of course, about gCaptain. In 2008, John realized a lack of a platform for maritime industry professionals to discuss issues relevant to us. He understood the benefit of immediate communication and interactive sharing of knowledge within an industry - especially our industry - and, given his technology knowledge, decided to fill that void and become that source. gCaptain has revolutionized the communication and information-sharing for maritime and offshore professionals and has brought us all closer.

Did we mention it's Captain John? Prior to coming ashore to co-found Unofficial Networks, the umbrella company that owns gCaptain, John sailed for a decade with Marine Transport Line, Alaska Tanker Company, Transocean and BP aboard tankers and drillships, earning his Master's license.

John also co-authored *Fire On The Horizon: The Untold Story of the Gulf Oil Disaster*, a book about the 2010 explosion off the Louisiana coast aboard the Transocean Deepwater Horizon. Sebastian Junger, author of *The Perfect Storm* calls it "one of the best disaster books I've ever read... A phenomenal feat of journalism".

John has written articles for *Forbes*, *Huffington Post*, *The Daily Beast*, *Wall Street Journal*, and has featured articles in top maritime industry publications including *NOAA Weather Log*, *Council of American Master Mariners' Sidelights*, *Lloyd's List*, *Fairplay*, *The Maritime Executive*. John's interviews and consulting include features on *NPR*, *BBC*, *CBC*, *NBC*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Pop-Up Magazine*, *Vanity Fair* and *The US House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources*.

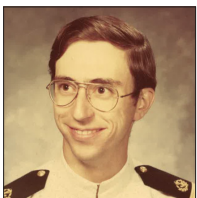
John lives in Morro Bay, California with his wife Cindy (Miller) Konrad, Class of 2001, and their two children Jack and Eleanor.



## Earl Baim

Class of 1980

BE, Marine Engineering  
FSMAA Board of Directors, Secretary



Immediately upon graduation from Fort Schuyler, Earl started a career as a Surveyor – and later Engineer – with ABS' Ship Engineering Division. His work there was detailed design of machinery for ships and offshore oil rigs. Within six years, Earl obtained his PE License; years of analytical work at ABS was excellent preparation.

While Earl then worked for Gibbs & Cox in their machinery division, he attended NYU-Polytechnic at night and earned a degree in Management, and later, yet another degree in Civil Engineering. In 1988, Earl joined NYC DOT's Staten Island Ferry as a mechanical engineer. He has been involved with construction project management. In 1993, he was promoted to Acting Deputy Director for the Ferry's capital program. As 911 saw the historic, unprecedented evacuation of half a million people by NY maritime industry, Earl was proud of the part the Staten Island Ferry played in this historic rescue, as well as grateful for his Fort Schuyler training that caused him to react without hesitation and in a useful way.

After 911, Earl joined NYC DOT's bus division, wherein he worked on the maintenance of garages and their equipment, and of the maintenance, repair and design of CNG bus fueling stations; much of the latter involved troubleshooting of machinery, and again, Earl attributes his skill in this field to his training at Fort Schuyler.

For the last decade, Earl has been back at the Staten Island Ferry's engineering unit, busy developing marine and civil projects.

As far as Earl's sixteen plus years of service on the Board of Directors of the FSMAA, be it rain, sleet or snow, Earl is always there, always prepared, and always showing his care for the future of our College and our Association. When Earl speaks on an issue, it is only after he has studied the issue, given careful and fair consideration to both sides, and thus, only thoughtful, wise insight follows. Earl lives on Long Island and spends his spare time sailing.



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- Jose Femenia, P.E. '64
- David B. Cooke, P.E. '72
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- Captain Jeffrey J. Fischer '75
- Michael D. Klein, P.E., CHMM '79
- Lee Ann Tyler-Traut, MBA, MSHRD '79
- Edward A. Gray '79
- J. Brendan Saburn '83
- David Caggiano, P.E., C.F.E.I. '89

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# CHAPTER GATHERINGS

## New Jersey Chapter • September 17, 2015



The NJ chapter Fall meeting was held at the historic Iberia Peninsula Restaurant with authentic Portuguese food in Newark. Here we see *The Rose Amongst The Thorns*, i.e., Kimberly Alfultis in the center standing in front of College Admiral Michael Alfultis. The attendees also included (not in picture order): Chapter President Jamie McNamara '94, FSMAA President Dan Gillette '97, James Zatwarnicki '02, Connie DesRochers '59, Ross Lory '10, Carl Hausheer '79, Mike O'Brien '89, Sam Zapadinsky '03, Christopher Begley '82, Jim McNamara '64, Harry Rogers '77, David Dawson '64, Joseph Kasny '95, Morgan McManus '92, Timothy Forsyth '81, Steve Bendo, 94, Chris Muscarella '96, John Marriott '84, Raymond Marquardt '77, Vincent Giaime '07, Leonard Weinberg '63, Christopher Carcich '97, Raj Panda '01, Tom Sheridan '78, Bill Kreppin '80, Steven Werse '79, Jacob Shisha '81, Howard Wyche '79.

## Houston Chapter at JBlacks • October 1, 2015



The Houston Chapter is being revitalized by Seth Collins, Class of 2011. About twenty alumni turned up for a last-minute happy hour in downtown Houston, the first in a long time.

## Baltimore Family Fun Day • July 12, 2015



A tight-knit group of alumni enjoyed a summer afternoon watching the Nationals play the Orioles. The alumni and their families included people rooting for both teams, the trash talk rampant. (Standing): Patrick Brockert '01, Chris Ruggeri '02, Rachel Ruggeri '06, Matt Foote '07, Jennifer Foote '08, S. Foote, Future Class of 2036, Geoffrey Boals '06, Barry Marsh '86. (Kneeling): Chapter President John Knauss '91, Edward Billie '89.



## Northeast Florida Chapter • September 25, 2015



The Northeast Florida Chapter gave a hearty and well-attended welcome to FSMAA President Dan Gillette '97 on a beautiful hot Friday night in September. They met at their usual Seven Bridges Grille in Jacksonville for drinks, dinner and conversation. The chapter feedback to Dan's speech was that it was "good and from the heart". Chapter President Peter Baci '69 awarded a leather FSMAA duffle bag to Brigitte Hoey '82 in honor of her being the only female alumna present; chivalry lives! Pictured are (Seated); Tom Orr '46, (Standing): Left to Right: Nick Orfanidis '73, FSMAA President Dan Gillette '97, Mike Sheklin '67, Tom Powers '89, Brigitte Hoey '82, Annette and Barry Barsch '75, Chapter President Peter Baci '69, Amanda and Tom Grey '85, Dominic LaSenna '78, George Van Valkenburg '53, Bob DeGennaro '78, Pete Clinton '81, Dave Cebulski '75, Joe Cotter '77.

## Carolinas Chapter • Dinner Cruise • October 17, 2015



Gary Raffaele '60, PhD, shook up the usual routine for this chapter by organizing the Carolinas Chapter Fall Meeting as a dinner cruise aboard the beautiful 'Southern Belle' out of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Considering that this Chapter incorporates alumni from four states (NC, SC, GA & TN), many alumni drove significant distances to attend, for a total attendance of 24. Pictured here are: (Front Row): Bob Anderson '64, Chapter President Marianne Sanderson '95, John O'Neill '64, George Hooks '64, (Back Row): Patrick Hennessy '81, Bob Langstine '81, Jim O'Reilly '83, Gene McDonald '64, Gary Raffaele '60, Bob Carty '64, Norm Carathanasis '60. Not shown: Gopi Omraju '95.

## South Florida Chapter • September 27, 2015



The South Florida Chapter held a small gathering on Saturday afternoon at the Grand Palms Hotel in Pembroke Pines. Pictured here are: Ken Cohen '97, Esq., Pete Buemi '67, Victor Bericochea '56, Chapter President Paul Kalapodas '00, Anna Silva '98, FSMAA President Dan Gillette '97.



# A FORT SCHUYLER FAMILY: THE WEAVERS

The Weaver legacy at Fort Schuyler began in 1969 with the graduation of the family patriarch and resumed a few decades later with the graduation of both sons: the elder in 1992, the younger in 1995. Upon graduation, each alumnus received a commission into the Armed Forces, but no two in the same service. The chosen path for the first was in the Coast Guard, the next was the Marine Corps and the last, finally, the Navy. Each continued on their chosen path of service for well over twenty years. While the article below highlights some specific career milestones, each would offer that the family - twenty-three children altogether - has been their greatest accomplishment, and a very likely bet that another generation of Weavers will find their way marching through the Sallyport of the Fort Schuyler Pentagon.



Colonel Paul '92, Captain Robert '69, Commander Michael '95



## **CAPTAIN ROBERT J. WEAVER, CLASS OF 1969 B.S. IN MARINE NUCLEAR SCIENCE, THIRD ASSISTANT ENGINEER LICENSE, USCG**

Captain Robert Weaver's decision to pursue his higher education at the Maritime College would not only lead to a career as an officer in the United States Coast Guard, but also largely shape his value system, which his family affectionately refers to as "Weaver's Rules". The Rules are a collection of lessons learned while at the college and during his career in the Coast Guard. The lessons and stories he shared with his family contributed greatly to the decision of his sons to follow in their father's path and pursue an education at The Dome.



A 1969 Fort Schuyler graduate, Captain Weaver received a degree in Marine Nuclear Science, along with a U.S. Coast Guard License as a Third Assistant Engineer. Upon graduation, he received a direct Commission in the U.S. Coast Guard, where he went on to serve aboard the Coast Guard Cutter *Rockaway* as an Engineering Watch Officer, followed by graduate school where he earned Bachelor of Science and Master's of Science in Engineering degrees from the University of Michigan. From there, his 27-year career encompassed numerous leadership positions supporting Radionavigation and Communications systems throughout the U.S., Europe, and Asia, culminating in assignments as Chief of the Command, Control, and Communications for the Maintenance and Logistics Command, Atlantic; and Command of Coast Guard Base Portsmouth, Virginia.

After retiring from the Coast Guard, Captain Weaver returned to the Maritime College in 1997 as Vice President for Vessel Operations and Student Affairs, as well as Commandant of Cadets. He participated in four Summer Sea Training periods, and focused his efforts on updating the leadership-training program and facilities-related improvements.

In 2001, Captain Weaver left the college for private industry, where he joined telecommunications company, ARTEL, Inc., in Reston, Virginia, serving as the Director of the Solutions Integration and Information Assurance Business Group. Through this role, he managed operations in the U.S. and the company's overseas offices in Germany, Romania, Bosnia and Egypt.

Now serving as a volunteer Court Appointed Special Advocate for Children (CASA) in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey, Captain Weaver and his wife, Barbara, enjoy visiting their children and grandchildren, and sharing his stories of travel, Maritime, and the lessons of the sea.

*"Life is not fair, and nobody ever promised you it would be."*

— "Weaver's Rule Number One" by Captain Robert J. Weaver, Class of 1969

Front Row: Lauren, Ellie, Olivia, Joseph, Andrew and Charlotte.  
Second row: Abbie, Paul and Gracie.  
Back row: John, Christine, Mike, Denise, Bob, Barbara, Julie, Paul and Max.







**COLONEL PAUL R. WEAVER, CLASS OF 1992  
B.S. IN MARINE TRANSPORTATION, THIRD MATE LICENSE, US MARINE CORPS**



Colonel Weaver continues to follow in his father’s footsteps, choosing not just a life of service, but also one that allows him to lead. After all, Weaver Rule Number 3 states “It doesn’t matter what you choose to do in life; just try to be the best at it.” After graduating from the Maritime College, Col. Weaver was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in May of 1992. Since his career began, he has led multiple detachments while assigned to Marine Expeditionary Units, has commanded a Squadron while deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and is now a Marine Air Control Group Commander of 1200 active and reserve Marines.

Colonel Weaver’s 23-year career has taken his family of six around the globe - beginning in Okinawa, Japan, and extending to Yuma, Arizona; Cherry Point, North Carolina; Monterrey, California; and Stuttgart, Germany, among others.

Like his father, Colonel Weaver understood the value of education, and in July of 2002, then Major Weaver transferred to the Naval Postgraduate School as a candidate for a Master’s Degree in Operations Research, and later his Command experience earned him a selection to the Naval War College and a second Master’s degree.

In July of 2007, then Lieutenant Colonel Weaver transferred to Marine Air Control Group 28 and deployed in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM as the Assistant Operations Officer and subsequently the Operations Officer for the Group. In January 2009, Lieutenant Colonel Weaver again deployed to Operation IRAQI FREEDOM as the Group Executive Officer. While deployed, he assumed command of Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 28. Upon completion of his schooling at the Naval War College, Colonel Weaver transferred to USEUCOM as the Plans Division Deputy where he helped oversee all contingency planning throughout the crises in Syria and Ukraine.

Colonel Weaver’s personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star, the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal with Gold Star.

Now in Command of Marine Air Control Group 48, Colonel Weaver credits his success to his father for inspiration, his family for purpose, and Fort Schuyler for reinforcing all the tenets that Captain Weaver tried to instill in his family. With his wife, Julianne, Col. Weaver looks to extend those values to his children: Abigail, Andrew, Charlotte, and his oldest son, Paul, who is currently applying to Fort Schuyler Class of 2020.

*“Dad tried to teach us that bad things happen to good people, no matter how hard you work, but to remember it’s what you do next that matters. This was one of the many leadership values he gleaned from his time at Maritime, and afterwards.”*

— Colonel Paul R. Weaver, Class of 1992



**COMMANDER MICHAEL J. WEAVER, CLASS OF 1995,  
B.S. IN METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY, THIRD MATE LICENSE, US NAVY**



Having served as the Regimental Commander and Chief Cadet Officer for the class of 1995, Commander Michael J. Weaver earned a Bachelor of Science in Meteorology and Oceanography and a United States Coast Guard License as a Third Mate. Upon graduation, Commander Weaver was commissioned in the United States Navy, where he was designated a Naval Aviator, piloting the MH-60R Seahawk helicopter. Since then, he has deployed numerous times on U.S. Navy Frigates, Cruisers, and Destroyers in support of America’s fight against terrorism, spanning more than twenty years.

His career goal of commanding an operational aviation squadron was realized in May of 2013 when he took command of the world famous GRANDMASTERS of HSM-46.

Mike, like his brother and father, continued to pursue opportunities for personal and professional growth after Fort Schuyler. This shared drive led to his selection for the U.S Washington DC Intern Program and a Master of Science Degree in Organizational Sciences from George Washington University.

In May of 2014, Commander Weaver reported to the world-famous Grandmasters (HSM-46) as Commanding Officer. In Command, the Grandmasters won the coveted Battle E for warfighting effectiveness and he was again awarded the Commander, Naval Air Forces Award for Leadership. Mike has since been selected for promotion to Captain and currently serves as the Deputy Division Chief for Combating Transnational Organized Crime, U.S. Southern Command. Knowing how quickly the worm turns, Mike anxiously awaits his next and, quite possibly final, set of orders in the Navy. (*Weaver Rule Number 5: Sometimes, you’re on top and sometimes, you’re on the bottom. Never get too comfortable in either position; it’s bound to change.*)

CDR Weaver’s personal decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medal (4 awards), Joint Achievement medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medal (2 awards) among numerous other campaign awards/decorations.

CDR Weaver is married to the former Denise Lackie of Red Lion, Pennsylvania. In true “Brady Bunch” fashion, Mike and Denise have six children: Danielle, Gabrielle, Lauren, Max, Grace and Ellie. This third of the Weaver family has settled into sunny Jacksonville, Florida, and is not sure they could handle a return to the Northeast. Mike remembers well the wicked bite of the periodic Nor’easter made only worse by the wind tunnel under the Throgg’s Neck Bridge.



# MARITIME & SERVICE ACADEMY REGATTA 2015

Presented by the NY Council of the Navy League and the FSMAA

## A new tradition has begun.

On Thursday, August 27, 2015, as the warm sun hit its peak, a fortunate group of thirty-three was able to escape their respective offices and routines to participate in the first-ever **Maritime & Service Academy Regatta** which was held at **Manhattan Yacht Club**. Driving into this section of Jersey City, many wondered aloud, "What European city was I magically transported to, and how have I not been here before?" The water was flat, the boats protected from wind and boat traffic, the yacht club bookended by colorful condos shining in the sun. Where were the cars screeching, horns honking, noise of the city? Not in this peaceful spot.



After a muffin and fruit-filled breakfast, the sailors of the day were divided amongst nine sailboats, and off they sailed. As the sailboats exited the bay, there was no longer any question about the location. The magnificent Manhattan skyline opened up before their eyes. The Freedom Tower glimmered like a diamond in front of them, as Lady Liberty waved from the South. The short course was set, the wind accommodated by picking up, the flag was raised, the horn sounded; the races had begun!

Despite the friendly banter during breakfast, the starts proved quite intense, as each boat jockeyed to be in the best position to cross the starting line. The wind became significant at times, the current and waves noticeable. The crew of the boats varied in experience, age, origin - and, admittedly, total weight - aboard. The spectacular view was lost on no one, however. In between intense moments, the sailors drank in the city. There was one boat who seemed not to notice they were in a race; their day was the most stress-free. After the boats pulled in and swapped their strategies, **Michael Trotta '99** presented the awards for the top three boats, and the group increased by a few members and walked across the parking lot to **Surf City**, possibly the best location and size of a bar in the state of New Jersey.

It was a grand start to a new tradition, and we look forward to the participation of more sailors next summer. First-timers welcome! Next year, we hope to include a Spectator Reception on the *Honorable William Wall*, the floating clubhouse of the Manhattan Yacht Club.



## MANHATTAN YACHT CLUB



Dave Coughlin '88 with wife Maureen (Slevin) Coughlin '88. Dave won first place!

Steve Bendo '94, Chris Muscarella '96, friends.

Steve Bendo '94, Leo Imperial '01, Annmarie Bhola '98.





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### DECEMBER 1ST - JANUARY 15TH MEMBERSHIP DRIVE. RENEW!

### SAVE-THE-DATES!

- March 2016:** SST Scholarship Appeal
- March 2016:** New Alumni Night, Bronx, NY
- April 2016:** Spring Networking
- Monday, June 13, 2016:** Golf Classic
- Friday, September 30, 2016:** Ancient Mariner Golf Outing
- Saturday, October 1, 2016:** Homecoming Reception, afternoon at Paddy's

### *Remain in control of your supporting donations.*

Support the cadets and/or students, College and/or Fort Schuyler Maritime Alumni Association by donating and bequeathing to the FSMAA. Making a planned gift is a wonderful way to show your support and appreciation for the FSMAA and its mission, while accommodating your goals. With smart planning, you may actually increase the size of your estate and/or reduce the tax burden on your heirs. Just as important, you will know that you have made a meaningful contribution to the FSMAA and have set up a legacy of your own in our community.



## NETWORKING EVENT FOR ALUMNI OF ALL MARITIME COLLEGES

**Tuesday, November 24, 2015**

Reichenbach Hall • 5 W 37th St, NYC



**5:30 - 6:00:**  
FSMAA Nominations

**6pm - 9pm:**  
Networking for all

Free drink ticket to first 50 to arrive. Free appetizers.

*Kick off the holiday season with us, German style!*



# THE CLASS OF 1965



First Row: George Hooks, Mike Walter, Hugh Newman, Gerhardt Muller, Alan Rowen, Abdul Al Diwani, Andy Fosina, Mike Jacobs, and Jim Ewing. Second Row: Brian O'Donnell, Charles Garris, Jim Parks, John Callahan, Brian Berger, Bill Martin, Roger Nejes, Tim Lawless, Gerry Cullen, and John Reynolds. Third Row: Lou Mazzucco, John McLean, Dick Bernardi, Bob Getty, Bill Dooley, Bill Erb, Bob Schicchi, Phil Kantz, Harry Thranhardt, Tony Labela, Uwe Schulz, and Rich May. Fourth Row: Bob Sticht, Ron Auel, Tom Hall, Mike Toner, Bob Berner, Bob Behr, Bill Baran, and Dennis McIntyre. Fifth Row: Gerard Libero, Jack Lane, Peter Piaseckyj, Phil Rynn, Verne Tomlins, Harry Stumme, Hughie Toner, Joey Pinsker, and Cary Byron. (Missing: Joe Gustafson). Photo Courtesy of SUNY Maritime.

## Seekers of True North

by Capt. Philip C. Kantz, Class of 1965



Even before Maritime College Homecoming 2015 was in the planning stage, the Class of 1965 had assembled a team of volunteers to celebrate the class' Golden Jubilee Graduation Reunion. Led by **Chairman, Joe Gustafson**, it was decided at an early stage that we

would attempt to obtain the participation of as many of the class as possible. That meant an intense effort to identify all members of the class and to create a Class Gift to the College that would be unique and relevant.

We learned quickly that the members of the Class of 1965 are enthusiastic volunteers who remain inspired by our four years together! To add to the inclusiveness of the group, the Class decided that once a member of the class, always a member of the class, regardless of graduating status. With the help of an Investigative Team to find and communicate with class members and a Class Gift Committee to develop a significant instrument of commemoration, the preparation of our Golden Jubilee began in earnest.

For the weekend of October 2-4 and coinciding with the Maritime College Homecoming, the Class of 1965 events were held at the Westchester Marriott Renaissance Hotel, a fine venue for our 55 classmates and their guests. On Friday, the first event was a casual Meet-and-Greet opportunity to reacquaint ourselves and reminisce about our four years. High on the list of discussion topics were the training ship's dual role as dormitories during the school year ashore as well as our real-time home for the annual summer training cruises.

In keeping with the technological advances over those fifty years, a Class of '65 50th Reunion Biographical CD was prepared by **Verne Tomlins** and distributed to each attendee. Also, a print of the training ship, *TSES IV*, at sea surrounded by graphical memories of each of the ports visited on those cruises was presented to each classmate by **Peter Hsu**, a non-graduating member of the class and now a marine artist who renders the official artwork for the launching of vessels of the U.S. Navy.

On Saturday, the class and guests were transported to the college for an early breakfast. Hurricane Joaquin and a northeast'r conspired to alter the previous plans for the day, but everyone had a wonderful opportunity to experience the many changes to campus life since our simpler days at the Fort and the *Training Ship Empire State IV*. It was truly an eye-opener. Before lunch, the class donned new blue caps embroidered with the college logo and inscribed with "Class of 1965" and marched into the auditorium of the new academic building as the honor class. **College President, Adm. Michael Alfultis**, welcomed the class and commented on the many changes since our graduation.



The Steering Committee for the 1965 Reunion Weekend Event: Charles Garris, Phil Kantz, Andy Fosina, Gerhardt Muller, Alan Rowen. (Missing: Joe Gustafson, Chairman).



# 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The podium then was turned over to our classmate **John Callahan**, the Chairman of the Class Gift Committee. Acknowledging the many and varied successes of his classmates over the years, he recognized that they were in no small part attributable to the foundation that was laid during our education and experiences at Fort Schuyler. He continued that, "Through shared hardships we bonded as classmates and realized the values of friendship and the necessity of the support of our classmates if we were to successfully navigate these experiences. This was - and is - the *'extra ingredient'* that set our education apart and made it such a valuable asset in our lives." Then, on behalf of the Class of 1965, he announced the establishment of a scholarship fund, which will provide a minimum of four scholarships per year evenly divided between Engineering and Marine Transportation students to defray the costs of the summer sea term. The commencement of the fund totals more than \$100,000 and it is planned to grow and continue for the next 20 years.

With winds gusting to 35 knots and occasional showers, the class returned to its hotel venue for the Saturday evening dinner and reception joined by **Adm. and Mrs. Alfultis and Ms. Maggy Williams Giunco of the FSMAA**. **Charles Garris** had created a CD slide show of class photos that was displayed throughout the evening. **Phil Kantz** addressed the group acknowledging the many changes among the classmates and that the long intervening absence among the class was somehow reversed by the presence of so many who were so important during our formative years. He also acknowledged the fifteen members of the graduating class who had crossed the final bar.

A final highlight was the arrival of class member, **Gerry Riviera (a.k.a. Geraldo Rivera)** and his wife, Erica and daughter, Sol. A member of the class for two years, Gerry was well-liked and attributes his penchant for sailing to his days at Maritime. He greeted everyone and showed genuine delight at being remembered as a member of the class.

*The Class of 1965 was born into disruptive technologies, those that provide for new ways of doing things that disrupt or overturn the traditional methods and practices. The class has witnessed the Container Age, the Space Age, the Nuclear Age, the Computer Age, the Internet Age, and the Social Media Age. Those events highlight the values and traditions, which were inculcated in our lives because of the **Fort Schuyler Experience**. The values of discipline, camaraderie, interdependence, and leadership set each one of us apart from those with whom we would compete. The reunion gave the class an opportunity to reminisce and re-engage with those who had become so important to us at a time when those values were forming who we would become. The success of our fiftieth reunion weekend would not have been possible without the cooperation and support of the college staff and administration.*



Classmates Gerhardt Muller, Bob Schicchi, Mike Jacobs, Pat Schicchi and Geraldo Rivera (or as he was called during his time at the Fort: "Gerry") at the Saturday evening reunion dinner-dance in West Harrison, 10/3/15.



Recalling their brass-polishing skills, here we see: Jack Lane, Mike Jacobs, Bill Dooley, Phil Rynn and Gerhardt Muller. Saturday of Homecoming, 10/3/15.



The Class of 1965 on campus enjoying the speech of the gift presentation made by their classmate Capt. John K. Callahan, Jr. The generous class gift established a scholarship fund, with donations already exceeding \$100,000, being managed by the FSMAA for distribution to the College and its cadets for the Summer Sea Terms over the next twenty years. Photo Courtesy of SUNY Maritime College.



# FIFTIETH JUBILEE GIFT PRESENTATION SPEECH BY CAPT JOHN. K. CALLAHAN, JR., NOAA (RET.), CHAIRMAN, GIFT COMMITTEE, CLASS OF 1965 OCTOBER 3, 2015



Adm. Alfultis, distinguished members of the faculty and student body of the State University of New York Maritime College, distinguished visitors, ladies and gentlemen and members of the Class of 1965. Fifty years ago, our class graduated and each of us began our careers. Many sailed in the Merchant Marine, a number served in the various uniformed Services of the United States and others found employment in the shoreside Marine industry as well as a wide variety of other related professions. Most of us are now retired and can look back fondly over our successes in our chosen careers. These successes were in no small part attributable to the foundation that was laid during our education and experiences at Fort Schuyler.

In discussing how we as a class could show our appreciation for this education, it became readily apparent that we all felt that the Fort Schuyler experience was unique. Specifically, we participated in an outstanding academic curriculum which provided not only theoretical but also practical knowledge. This was a significant advantage when compared to graduating students of other universities. However, what set our education apart were the other lessons we learned from being members of the Cadet Regiment and taking part in the Summer Sea Term experience.

As many of you know, the *Morro Castle* ship disaster (1934) showed the need for a professional and disciplined cadre of officers to ensure the safety of vessels, crew and passengers in the United States Merchant Marine. The regimental lifestyle provides the structure necessary to attain this goal. As Cadets of the Regiment, we learned discipline, honor, accountability, leadership, loyalty and the necessity of working with and being supported by others in order to be successful. These lessons were amplified during the Summer Sea Term where we learned the practical skills and teamwork necessary to ensure safe and productive voyages. Through shared hardships we bonded as classmates and realized the values of friendship and the necessity of the support of our classmates if we were to successfully navigate these experiences. This was - and is - the "extra ingredient" that set our education apart and made it such a valuable asset in our lives.

Things have changed dramatically since we graduated. When we started at Fort Schuyler, there was no tuition, and the expenses we incurred were largely offset by stipends earned through our participation in the Naval Science Program. We paid little to nothing for the Summer Sea Term. Those days are gone. Today, the summer sea term can cost a cadet between \$6,000 and \$10,000 a year. This is not only a considerable expense, but we must keep in mind that the cruise does not allow cadets the same opportunities for summer employment that other college students have.

It would be nice if we could turn back the clock and provide the Summer Sea Term experience at no cost to the cadets. Unfortunately, that is impossible. What we can do, however, is make it a little bit easier financially for cadets to enjoy and benefit from the experiences we so fondly remember. To that end, I am honored, on behalf of the Class of 1965, to announce the establishment of a scholarship fund that will provide a minimum of four scholarships per year evenly divided between Engineering and Marine Transportation students to defray the costs of the Summer Sea Term. **So far, over \$100,000 has been donated by the members of the Class of 1965 to seed this fund.** The fund will exist for twenty years. Scholarships will begin at approximately \$1,200 per year and increase over the life of the fund to over \$5,000 per scholarship by 'Year 20'. The fund will be managed by the Fort Schuyler Maritime Alumni Association who, working cooperatively with the Maritime College, seeks to reduce the financial burden of the Summer Sea Term on participating members of the Cadet Regiment.

*(Roaring Applause)*

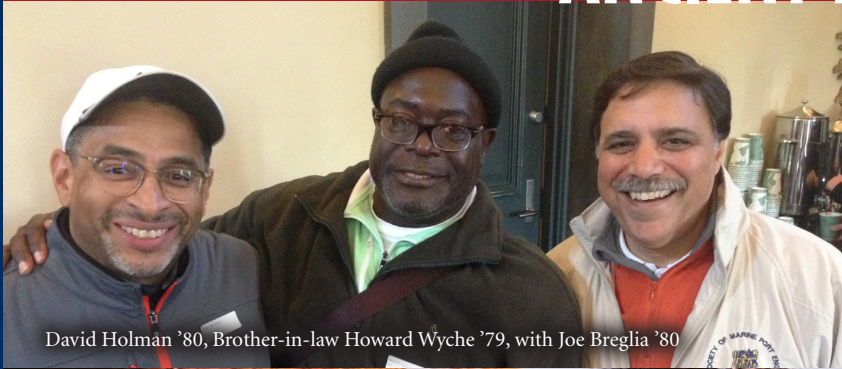
Additionally, it is my pleasure to present a small token of our appreciation to the college on behalf of our class. Adm. Alfultis, I graduated as an engineer. In those days, engineers never visited the bridge of the training ship and therefore had little to no knowledge as to the instruments being used on the bridge. Recently, we learned that the training ship could use a "chrono-meter" (*misprounced with heart!*) for use on the bridge. Until today, as an engineer I had no idea what that instrument was. Now I see that it must be a beautiful brass pressure gauge which apparently measures pressure from one to twelve psi.

Please accept this chronometer presented for use aboard the current training vessel and future training vessels in hopes that those who gaze upon it will be reminded of the Class of 1965, and our best wishes for continued smooth sailing for both the college and the training ship. If, for any reason, this instrument ceases to function, please call upon the engineering department; I'm sure *they'll* be able to fix it.





# ANCIENT MARINER GOLF OUTING



David Holman '80, Brother-in-law Howard Wyche '79, with Joe Breglia '80



Class of 1980 representing on the green: Joe Breglia, Bill Kreppin, Andy Werner, Doug McKay, David Holman, John Marien.



The rain date of Friday, October 16th proved unseasonably warm at 64 and sunny at Pelham Bay and Split Rock Golf Courses!



First place for net lowest score! Pictured are the charismatic dinner emcee George Bonkowski '98, Director Maggy Williams Giunco, Kevin Garvey '88, Claudio Crivici '85, Chris Cooke '85, and John Marien '80 standing in for Stephen Clark '85.



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"Smart Catch" phone accessory  
Margo Brock '95 & Rob Bransfield '92  
Waterline by Design Bracelets  
Greg Donofrio '78  
THANK YOU!

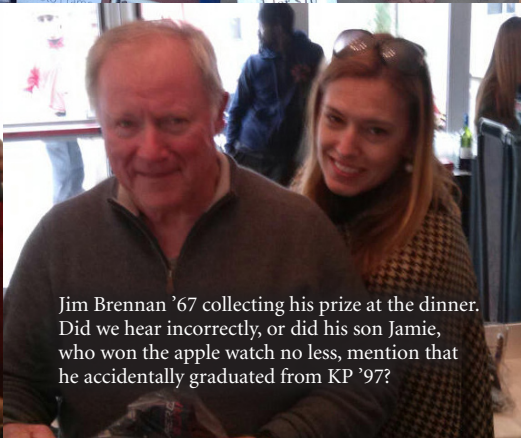
Alumni-donated prizes included Waterline By Design nautical bracelets from Greg D'Onofrio '78 and Smart Catch smartphone accessory from Margo Brock '95 and Rob Bransfield '92.



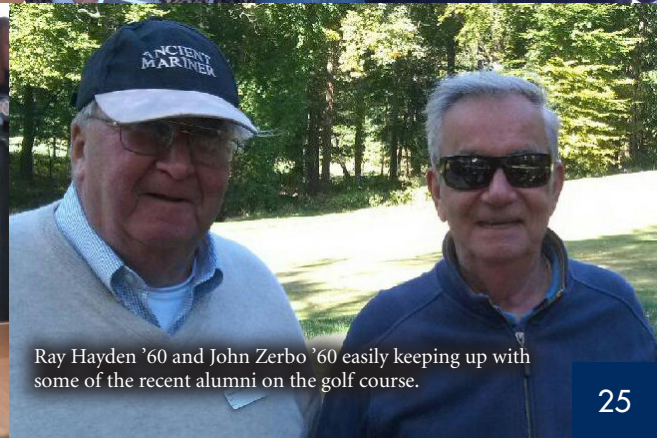
Register here! 1/C Eric Isaksen, FSMAA Denise Tiernan, 2/C John Pfundstein, 1/C Bryan Hinton, FSMAA Maggy Williams Giunco, Ted Mason '57, Bill Kreppin '80.



Maggy presents Sponsor JCI's Joe Menta '93 with a commemorative etched bottle of wine.



Jim Brennan '67 collecting his prize at the dinner. Did we hear incorrectly, or did his son Jamie, who won the apple watch no less, mention that he accidentally graduated from KP '97?



Ray Hayden '60 and John Zerbo '60 easily keeping up with some of the recent alumni on the golf course.



# CLASS REUNIONS



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## The Class of 1946:

### "The Incurrigibles" Seventieth Anniversary Next Fall

As this memorable class gears up to celebrate seventy years in the fall of 2016, the *Mariner* Editor will be interviewing them and bringing their story to you. What's the class' involvement in the Library of Congress? At The Navy Memorial Wall? Why do the following want to know more from this class: the FDR Presidential Library, WWII Memorial Library in New Orleans, State of NY Department of Education, the US Merchant Marine Library, the FSMAA Library? **Stay tuned to find out!**



Otto Liepin and Phil Dilloway outside in Chesapeake City, MD. Plans for the Seventieth Reunion are in the works! Ten to fifteen enthusiastic classmates, ninety years old - walking history books - will be attending the Homecoming festivities of 2016.



The Class of 1946 annual Mini-Reunion at end-2014 in Dunedin, Florida. Pictured from left: Everett Rosenblum, Lenny Weiss, Tony Scolaro, Jack Dibo, Tom Orr, Otto Liepin, Don Hendrick.



# CLASS REUNIONS

## Class of 1955 • 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion



Celebrating their 60th reunion on campus, then at Paddy's On The Bay are 1955 Classmates: Dave Birdsall, Dick Tegtmeir, Robert Heil, Ed Dohring, Dick Verona, George Zahn.

## Class of 1960 • 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion



1960 Classmates proudly presenting their banner. Brian Murtaugh, Ray Hayden, Terry Daniels.

## Class of 1995 • 20<sup>th</sup> Reunion



1995 Classmates enjoy catching up near the S&E building: Hans Hess, Ben Graeff, Ed McDonald, Paul Ginnane, Louis Perez, Kevin Lessing



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# CLASS OF 1980 • 35<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

Perhaps this invitation is the reason for the huge turnout of classmates to their weekend festivities:

*To All of the Class of 1980,*

*That is, Polymogs, shellbacks, water buffalos, scoffers, four-flushers, sea-lawyers, gutter-rats, beachcombers, park bench warmers, chicken chasers, jamoke guzzlers and otherwise masqueraders of master mariners, seamen and seamomen, it's time once again to put down all those dreary responsibilities, take a deep breath and step back down memory lane to those once glorious days when your status was not much better than whale dung!*

Wording taken from the Navy's Equator Crossing certificate - with some Waterbuffalo embellishment.



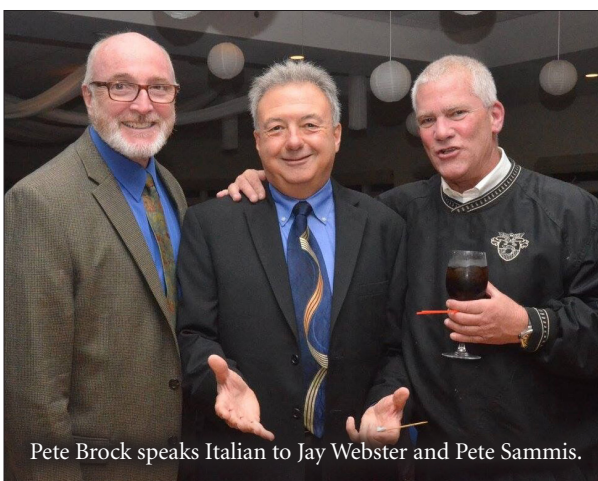
The Class of 1980 proudly marching onto the field on Homecoming afternoon, 10/3/15.



Tom Breglia '80 & Jennifer Hayes '80 (in red), each with their own family meal tickets! Vincent '17 and Meredith '19. **TO NOTE:** A Fort Schuyler Family: The Breglias article is in the works for an upcoming Mariner issue. And, A Fort Schuyler Family: The Hayes article is also in the works detailing the unprecedented, history-making, mother-daughter alumni team to emerge from Fort Schuyler.



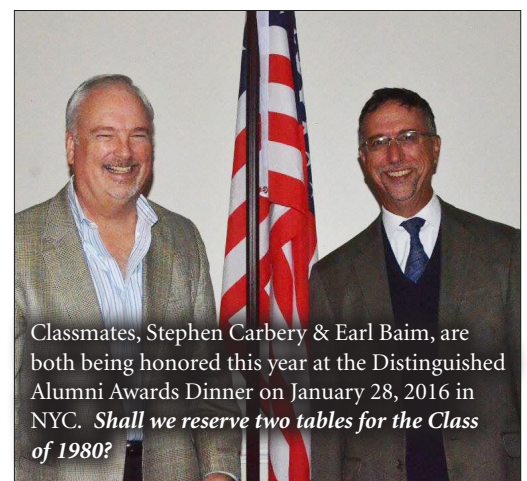
GQ casting call for male models, with Jenny Hayes judging. Or the Class Reunion Dinner at the Morris Yacht Club Saturday evening, 10/3/15.



Pete Brock speaks Italian to Jay Webster and Pete Sammis.



New York's Bravest, Dan Garvey on the pipes!



Classmates, Stephen Carbery & Earl Baim, are both being honored this year at the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner on January 28, 2016 in NYC. *Shall we reserve two tables for the Class of 1980?*

Photo Credit for all photos on this page: Bill Kreppin '80



# CLASS OF 1985 • 30<sup>TH</sup> REUNION

Over 120 alumni from the Class of 1985 plus spouses/friends participated throughout the events of Homecoming weekend! Friday night, October 2nd, found the class mingling at the cocktail party on campus, hosted by **Cate Hanft**. Saturday, October 3rd, started at 10am at Lot #3 with a tail-gating session, followed by a 4pm pop-in to the FSMAA Afternoon Reception at Paddy's On The Bay, topped off with a well-put-together, extravagant 7pm dinner at Tosca Marquee on Tremont. On behalf of the class, we thank: Cate Hanft, for hosting, as well as the **30th Anniversary Committee** who worked tirelessly for a year prior to the event: **Dan McGuire, Heidi Benedikt, Ron Dreher**.



The gang! Saturday night at Tosca on Tremont.



Roberto Calderon still looks like a cadet! The class appreciates him for flying in from Costa Rica to participate in the weekend events.



Remi Grossi, Jim McDermet, Dan McGuire, Brian Gaskin



Matt Orticille, Dan Rosachi, Adam Scott Freedner



Rolf Peterson with Cate Hanft, a gracious hostess.



The 30th Anniversary Committee: Heidi Benedikt, Dan Maguire and Ron Dreher



Matt Hanak, John 'Jack' Guiheen, Tom Grey



Mike Lynch flew in from Seattle for the festivities. Seen here with friend Heidi Benedikt.

Photo Credit for all photos on this page: Ron Dreher '85



# CLASS REUNIONS

## THE FORT SCHUYLER MARINER

Official Newsletter of the Fort Schuyler  
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## Class of 1990 • 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion



Joe Angilella, George Molyneau, Lesly Napoleon, Richard Ohlsen, Thomas Wynn, Frank Burkhardt hanging out at the football game tailgate party on campus.



Classmates posing on the fantail of the ferry during their ride to the tip of Manhattan; SPECIAL THANKS TO TOM WYNN who arranged the trip. Jean Marie LaChendro Gold, Owen Kenny, Roby Abraham, Joe Grant, Frank Shanny, Greg Dohert, Eric Sloan, Peter Jensen, Ted Muller, and John Tran.



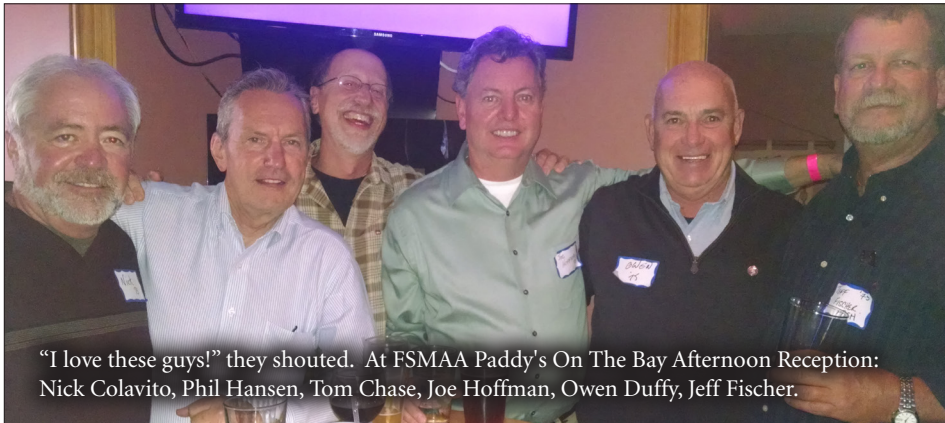
The Lovely Ladies of the Class of 1990 at Fraunces Tavern: Jasmine Alvarado, Barbara Glover, Louisa Plotnick, Jean Marie LaChendro Gold, Cate Barber Moran.



"Look up!" What a great time had by all. All photos on this page: Courtesy of the Members of the Class of 1990.



## Class of 1975 • 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion



"I love these guys!" they shouted. At FSMAA Paddy's On The Bay Afternoon Reception: Nick Colavito, Phil Hansen, Tom Chase, Joe Hoffman, Owen Duffy, Jeff Fischer.



On campus: Phil Hansen, Joe Hoffman, Jeff Havlicek, Jeff Fischer

## Class of 2000 • 15<sup>th</sup> Reunion



Amie Carter, Deidre (O'Connell) Breen, Rich Vohnout, Kevin Breen, Chris Procker, Carron (Gifford) Procker, James O'Leary, Boris Belfer, Nick Belfer - with a plethora of the next generation of Schuyler alumni!



Don Moore '00, the Privateer & his pretty little lady



**Kurt M. Axelsson, Sr.**  
Class of 1961  
May 20, 2015

**Elwood (Elmo) C. Baumgart**  
Class of 1976  
August 17, 2015

**George Arthur Chadwick**  
Class of 1973  
July 10, 2015

**Daniel Joseph Connors**  
Class of 1949  
August 22, 2015

**William Hanff, Jr.**  
Class of 1962  
August 25, 2015

**Thomas J. Juliano**  
Class of 1955  
August 9, 2015

**Louis Kesselman**  
Class of 1965  
August 4, 2014

**Stanley Lloyd**  
Class of 1944  
March 1, 2015

**Phillip Ohl**  
Class of 1956  
July 9, 2015

**Richard Pusatere**  
Class of 2003  
October 7, 2015

**Hugh Rawlins**  
Class of 1942  
September 14, 2014

**Vincent W. Ridley**  
Class of 1947  
April 3, 2015

**George E. Rieber**  
Class of 1949  
May 29, 2015

**Arnold (Neil) Scala**  
Class of 1958  
June 12, 2015





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