

# FORT SCHUYLER

THE MAGAZINE FOR MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

SPRING 2020



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# SPRING 2020

# FORT SCHUYLER

THE MAGAZINE FOR MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

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**Fort Schuyler** is the official magazine of  
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Alumni Association (est. 1903).



## LETTER FROM JOHN VALVO '83

*President, Maritime College Alumni Association*

### MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dear Fellow Alumni,

The impact of the novel coronavirus on our lives will be significant and yet unknown at this time. The world is different; there is no doubt about that. The draft column that I had written only a few weeks ago seems naively irrelevant. In time, we will rebound. On behalf of all alumni, I salute our alumni working on the front lines of the virus – those who are deemed essential to keep us safe and keep our society moving ahead to recovery. I appreciate all who reach out to fellow alumni and check on them. Positive social media networking also makes a difference in reminding us of our connection, and I am grateful for your participation in it.

Due to the work of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, Past-President, Dan Gillette '97, and the Admiral of the College, Mike Alfultis and his staff, MCAA signed a memorandum of understanding with the college in January 2018 that sets out our new roles and responsibilities to our respective organizations. My predecessor, Jennifer Barnes-Hayes '80, took the helm last year and guided us through a time of transition to establish our presence back on campus. Thank you, Jennifer.

The Alumni Association and the College work together with trust, mutual respect and common courtesy. We are excited about the future for the College and the Association and are doing everything to ensure we maintain a healthy and professional relationship. We are also working with the SUNY Maritime Foundation, which is made up of fellow alumni; their vision for the future of the college is to be commended and supported.

We have several goals for our Association. Of paramount importance is improved communication with you; be on the lookout for a revamped website at [www.fsmaa.org](http://www.fsmaa.org) as well as our independent Annual Report. We continue our goal of \$250,000 in SST scholarships to the cadets. When feasible, we will resume our annual programming where we enjoy each other's company and share sea stories.

We have already made several changes this past year that will continue into the new decade:

- Our General Meeting is now during Homecoming weekend (as opposed to the Awards Dinner).
- Establishment of new chapters are in the works.
- Participation in a committee of the MCAA Board no longer requires being a Board Member. Please consider adding your talent and time to one of our committees!

Our Board of Directors is made up of professional and successful graduates from all disciplines. The Board works diligently to ensure we leave a strong and healthy legacy for the next generations of graduates. With an endowment of approximately \$9 Million, we cannot - and will not - operate at anything less than the highest standards of diligence and integrity. We take our responsibility seriously and are committed to making sure the Alumni Association is financially sound and providing value-added services to graduates.

I thank you for the continued support – of your membership, commitment, valuable time, AmazonSmile contributions, mentorship of future alumni, and most importantly, your friendship. On behalf of the Maritime College Alumni Association, we extend our best wishes for you to endure and quickly recover from the disruptions that may confront you personally and professionally.

Fraternally,

John Valvo – Class of 1983  
[www.FSMAA.org](http://www.FSMAA.org)

*P.S. - The SUNY Maritime Foundation has established a 'One Hand Student Relief Fund' to aid students who experienced financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. Refer to page 22 for more from Foundation Chairman Bob Johnston '69.*



## LETTER FROM RADM MICHAEL ALFULTIS

*President, SUNY Maritime College*

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Dear Maritime College Alumni and Friends,

I hope you have all been staying safe and healthy throughout the novel coronavirus crisis. We began the new decade with great enthusiasm for our students, our academic programs and the establishment of three new schools, as well as the many plans slated for capital improvement throughout the campus. We welcomed, for the first time on Maritime College campus, United States Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao, who served as Keynote Speaker for the Winter 2020 Commencement ceremony.

While the onset of the virus temporarily brought the College to a pause mid-semester, it did not deter the exceptional efforts of our faculty who continued to extend learning to remote platforms. In this issue of *Fort Schuyler*, we share how the College responded to global pandemic and the transition from traditional classroom instruction to remote learning. Our next issue will incorporate stories of the ways in which alumni responded to and overcame the local and global challenges presented by the COVID-19 crisis. We welcome these stories and are proud of our alumni whose efforts have continued to bring a sense of optimism during challenges times.

Academic excellence continues to be the cornerstone of the Maritime College experience and in early 2020, three new schools were established to form a new academic structure: The School of Engineering; The School of Maritime Education and Training; and the School of Business, Science and Humanities. These important changes are part of the strategic priorities undertaken by Dr. Joseph Hoffman '75, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, when he conducted an evaluation of programs, departments and the overall structure of academics. His contribution to establishing the three new schools has resulted in a modernized academic structure.

As Dr. Hoffman steps away from the post of Provost and returns to the classroom as Dean of Graduate Studies, I would like to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to him for his extraordinary leadership, guidance and stewardship during his tenure as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. I am also very pleased to welcome Dr. Jennifer Waters, who will serve as the newly appointed Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs beginning July 1.

While these are uncertain times, and the pandemic has temporarily changed the momentum of activities at Maritime College, I am confident we will get back on track. There is much that awaits us on the horizon. Our students will continue to excel through strong curriculum, and structural projects and improvements will transform the College. Now more than ever before, we look to you, our alumni and friends, for your continued support.

Please enjoy this issue of *Fort Schuyler* and we welcome you to follow us on social media.

Be well and stay safe.

All the best,

RADM Michael A. Alfultis, Ph.D.

## U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao Visits Maritime College and Offers Winter Commencement Keynote Address



RADM Michael Alfultis, Secretary Elaine Chao, Captain Hugh Stephens, and MARAD Administrator RADM Mark Buzby.

The excitement on campus was evident on January 31, as 104 graduates awaited to receive their diplomas at Winter Commencement. This was the first Maritime College graduation of the year and the new decade. Adding to the day's anticipation was The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, U.S. Secretary of Transportation, who visited the College for the first time, and served as Keynote Speaker for the event.

Secretary Chao is widely recognized for her longstanding commitment to the country's maritime industry and has received numerous awards throughout her career including the Admiral of the Ocean Sea award, the most prestigious honor presented by the maritime community. Joined onstage by U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administrator RADM Buzby,

Secretary Chao enthusiastically shared her experience of touring the campus prior to the commencement ceremony. "I have long wanted to come visit SUNY Maritime College," said Secretary Chao.

"Since 1874, this Institution has provided generations with a great education and foundation in life. The two words on the seal of SUNY Maritime are Loyalty and Valor, powerful guiding words."



Emphasizing the importance of marine transportation to the nation's economy, Secretary Chao highlighted the improved job growth for all graduates. "Whether you are part of the 70 percent of SUNY Maritime graduates who earn a license, or the 30 percent who do not, you are entering the job market with the wind at your back," stated Secretary Chao.

During her tour of Maritime College, Secretary Chao met and spoke

with many students including the student group Women on the Water and recently commissioned U.S. Navy Strategic Sealift Officers and Midshipmen. The Secretary also met with Captain Hugh Stephens, an instructor in the Marine Transportation department and the only WWII merchant mariner who still sails on his U.S. Coast Guard license. "Captain Stephens is an example of the

importance of life-long learning in one's life and career," she said.

In her closing remarks to graduates, Secretary Chao stated, "We hope you will always appreciate life's most important treasures – family, friends, the respect of your peers and a life well lived." ■



## Student Success Through Scholarship

Five Maritime College students were presented with scholarships at the annual Connie Awards scholarship reception on December 9. Hosted by the Containerization and Intermodal Institute (CII), which was established in 1992, the CII scholarship program strives to promote and support education for the trade and transportation industry. The event also allows students to network, opening the door to new opportunities. Proceeds from the gala benefit the academic scholarships awarded to those who embody the next generation of promising industry leaders.

To pursue a Connie Award scholarship, students must be working towards a degree in International Transportation Management and maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Students Brendan Mallon MS '20 (Institute of International Container Lessors), Habtamu Eshete MS '20 (CII), Marcus Mallon '21 (Metropolitan Marine Maintenance Association Inc.), Breann Rahming '21 (Sandy Hook Pilots) and Maxwell Mandina MS '20 (New York Shipping Association) were awarded gifts for their academic success and accomplishments. ■



Habtamu Eshete MS '20, RADM Michael Alfulitis, and Marcus Mallon '21.

## Learning from Industry Leaders and Alumni

Industry experts participated as panelists in an afternoon of information and career advice at the Career Success Beyond Maritime Industry Panel on November 5. Shoreside Business, Shoreside Engineering and Shipping Out (Deck & Engine) industry panels showcased a wealth of information from experts within those industries.

The event, organized by the Maritime College Foundation, included panelists Capt. Jim C. DeSimone '73; Capt. Morgan McManus '92; Greg Stuart; James B. Hogle III '88; Phil A. Kretzmer '94; John Valvo '83; Capt. Joseph Gross '91; and Daniel Leon '89. Moderators included Capt. Joseph F. Ahlstrom '82; Sean Carswell '99; and RADM Stash Pelkowski '84. "It is important to use the networking resources that are available to you through the Alumni Association," stated John Valvo '83, Shoreside Engineering industry panelist and President of the Maritime College Alumni Association. ■



## Spring 2020 Community Read and the Arctic Voyage



On February 11, William Geroux, author of "The Ghost Ships of Archangel: The Arctic Voyage that Defied the Nazis," came to Maritime College to discuss his book as part of the Spring 2020 Community Read. Geroux, a native of Richmond, VA and former newspaper writer, shared the story of the PQ 17 Arctic convoy during WW II. The convoy consisted of four ships responsible for bringing guns, ammunition, medical supplies and food to Archangel, Soviet Union as a gesture of good will. The American merchant mariners who sailed the ships were dedicated, capable and patriotic, and faced incredible challenges to deliver the supplies.



They encountered 30° below zero temperatures that caused ice to build up quickly on the ship, and the 24 hours of daylight in the arctic region offered no shelter from potential bombing by the Germans. The band of four ships continued deep into the Arctic ice where their chances of evading an attack were greater. Geroux's book tells the story of how the American mariners fought against the elements while steering clear from the enemy. ■





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Jose Femenia, PE '64  
David B. Cooke, PE '72  
Captain Nicholas Lewis '73  
Marjorie Murtagh Cooke '74  
Captain Jeffrey J. Fischer '75  
Michael D. Klein, PE, CHMM '79  
Edward A. Gray '79  
Brian M. Kelly, PE '80  
Mark J. Woessner '79  
Steve Noonan, PE '79  
Christopher C. Fogarty '79

## Men's Soccer Skyline Conference Champions

The Maritime College men's soccer team successfully clinched the Skyline Conference Championship. As the Privateers entered into their third double overtime period of the playoffs, freshman Frank Schmidt delivered the championship-winning goal.

The Privateers netted the first goal in the game against the Mount Saint Mary Knights and tied the game 1-1 at the 20th minute. Maritime controlled possession in the second half, and while they out-shot the Knights in the second period, neither team could score sending the Privateers to their third straight overtime



game of the playoffs. Freshmen Jack Kilmeade magnificently intercepted an errant pass and found Schmidt, who cut towards the goal, beating the opposition's goalie and scoring the game-winning 3-2 goal. ■

## Women's Soccer Earns Team Ethics and Sportsmanship Award

The Maritime College women's soccer team earned the 2019 Team Ethics and Sportsmanship award, announced by the United Soccer Coaches in January, marking the second straight season the Privateers have earned the award.

The Team Ethics and Sportsmanship Award is given to United Soccer Coaches members at four levels. Teams Platinum level went an entire season without a player or coach receiving a yellow card or red card, gold (1-10%), silver (11-30%) and bronze



(31-50%) levels are based on a percentage calculated by the total number of cards received by players/coaches divided by the team's total number of games played.

Maritime received four yellow cards the entire season to earn the silver distinction. The Privateers finished the 2019 season with five wins. ■

## McGovern Records 1,000th Career Point

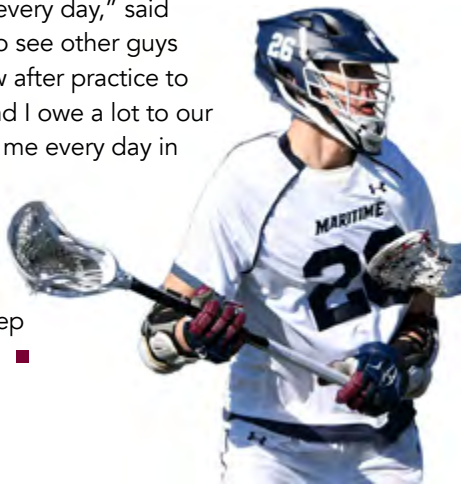
The men's basketball team ended a four-game skid with a big 94-80 win over non-conference foe SUNY New Paltz. Brendan McGovern entered the game with 977 points, and dropped an impressive 31-point performance to record over 1,000 career points, just five games into his senior campaign. "We had a lot of contributions with five players in

double-digits. It's also a great accomplishment for Brendan to score 1,000 points. I'm really proud of him for working hard and reaching this point," said head coach Mike Berkun. ■



## DeMeo Breaks Program Record for Goals

The men's lacrosse team rolled to a 20-8 win over Drew University in late February and set a record on the way. Junior attacker Matt DeMeo broke set the program record for career goals by scoring seven goals for the second consecutive game. His career total is now at 131 goals. "Breaking the record means a lot to me because I've been working really hard on and off the field just trying to get better every day," said DeMeo. "It's great to see other guys coming with me now after practice to get more shots in and I owe a lot to our defense for pushing me every day in practice. Everything has been coming together for this team so far and hopefully we can keep this success going." ■



## Women's Lacrosse Streaks to Four Straight

The women's lacrosse team played their third game and didn't skip a beat as they earned their fourth straight victory in late March. The Privateers came off a pair of victories in the Maritime Cup and kept up the momentum with a 14-7 win over the Colonels. Privateers wasted no time controlling the game as they scored the first five goals. While the Colonels managed to tighten the score to 8-4 with under three minutes remaining in the first half, Sara Wright made the last goal. In the second half, Wilkes did not have the offensive to keep up as goals from Mackenzie Fabiani, Krista Deleva, and Sara Wright sealed the 14-7 win. Esmeralda Hernandez played all 60 minutes in goal once again and earned her fourth win of the year with seven saves. ■

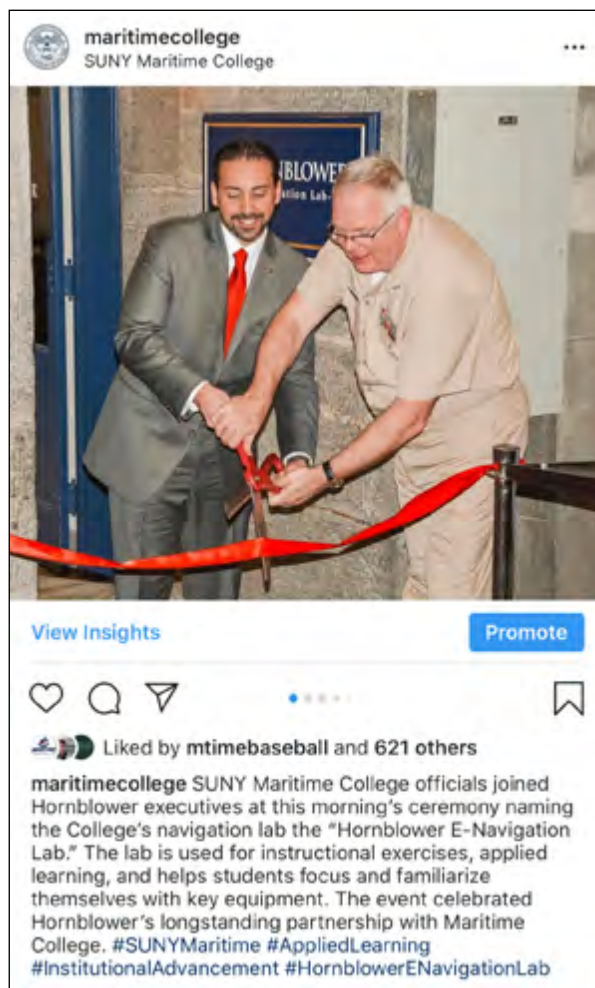


## Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Celebrates Renamed e-Navigation Lab

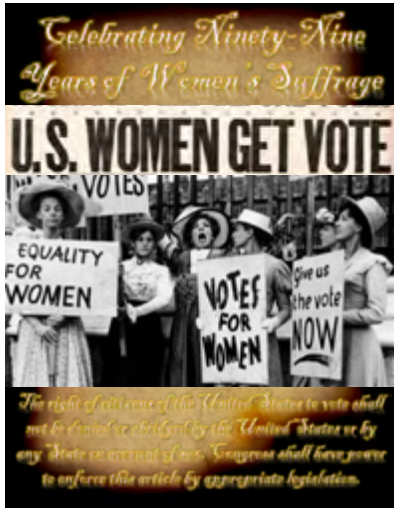
Known for many years as the Navigation Lab, the official naming of the Electronic Chart Display and Information lab took place during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on February 24. The newly minted Hornblower e-Navigation Lab, named after the national dining cruise, tourism and ferry service company, Hornblower, was celebrated during the ceremony. "We are extremely grateful to have Hornblower as a valued industry partner," said RADM Michael Alfultis. "Their generous donation demonstrates a commitment to supporting the maintenance and modernization of these sophisticated navigation simulators, and helps ensure that our students graduate with the training and skill set they need to operate vessels safely."



Maritime College alumnus Richard Paine '04, regional director of Hornblower stated, "We are honored by this truly special naming recognition by Maritime College, and we look forward to continuing our commitment to the school, its programs and its students." ■



## Celebrating Constitution Day and Reflecting on the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment

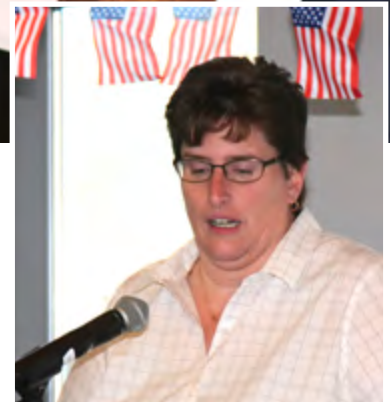


On September 17, Constitution Day at Maritime College commemorated the signing of the U.S. Constitution in 1787 and highlighted the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote.

New York State Senator Alessandra Biaggi of the Bronx 34th Senate District

(top right) offered opening remarks: "The 19th Amendment was only the beginning. What we are seeing today, finally, is the incredible effort to see an equal number of women run for office, become elected and be in the room where the decisions are being made."

Bethann Rooney '91 (bottom right), General Manager, Port Security at The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, shared her experience as one of few women in her graduating class. "The mantra 'See something, Say something' by some is overused. It's not only see something say something about security, it's see something say something about security, about equal rights, about equal pay, about the abuses that go on in our society, in our homes, and in our families." ■



## Cultural Club Hosts 33rd Annual Black History Month Dinner



The Organization of Black Maritime Graduates (OBMG), awarded scholarships to students at the Cultural Club's 33rd Annual Black History Month Dinner on February 27 at the Maritime Academic Center.

Marissa Danzy '10, honoree and keynote speaker accepted a plaque from Capt. Robert Cook '80, OBMG President. The plaque, in the shape of a rain drop, represents the organization's signature motto: "Many drops make mighty oceans." Marissa is also an active new Board Member of the Maritime College Alumni Association. ■



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## Maritime College and Maritime Industry Museum Host Ocean Wind Energy Conference

On September 26, over 200 industry leaders attended the full-day conference to learn from presenters such as Keynote Speaker Dr. Alana Duerr, Director of DNV GL, who offered insight to opportunities for maritime industry support of Ocean Wind Energy development and sustainment. The conference provided an overview of Ocean Wind Power Generation technology while focusing on the development of support infrastructure and skilled manpower needed to install and sustain the wind power generation projects in the region. Other experts included Lars Thaaning Pedersen, CEO Vinyard Wind and leaders from Equinor, EDFRenewables and Ørsted. The New York Economic Development Corporation sponsored the event.



"We were pleased to host this conference focusing on the development of clean energy, and the creation of maritime jobs in our region," said Capt. Eric Johansson, Distinguished Service Professor and Executive Director of the Maritime Industry Museum. "It is estimated that Wind Power Energy support industries will bring over \$1.2 billion in new economic activity to New York's waterfront and beyond." ■

## Industry Leaders Gather at 10th Annual Maritime Risk Symposium

From November 13-15, the 10th annual Maritime Risk Symposium (MRS), held at Maritime College, brought together hundreds of representatives from various entities to discuss the threats, challenges, and risks encountered by the Marine Transportation System. Key industry leaders included First Coast Guard District Commander Rear Admiral Andrew Tiongson, MARAD Administrator Mark Buzby, and New York State Supreme Court Judge John Ingram '64.

"A resilient Marine Transportation System is imperative to our nation's economic prosperity and national security," said Rear Admiral Andrew Tiongson. "Maritime commerce accounts for \$5.4 trillion in annual economic activity across our nation, and



the complexity and congestion of our nation's waterways continues to rise. Our partnerships fostered by this forum enables us to maintain the safety, security and stewardship of our Marine Transportation System."

The symposium provided the opportunity and education to establish strategic goals and collaborative lines of effort that progress at the same rate as the increased usage of waterways. The U.S. Coast Guard Evergreen Program concluded the symposium. ■



## Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Center for Excellence Hosts First Conference

The LNG Center for Excellence at Maritime College hosted its first conference, LNG for 2020: Fueling Tomorrow's Shipping, on February 20. The full-day informative program delved into a variety of LNG aspects and issues ranging from establishing bunkering and transfer systems to LNG risk assessment and safety.



Held during LNG Industry Week, the conference was organized by Ayman Alakkawi, Assistant Professor at the School of Maritime College and Training. "LNG is becoming an important fuel solution for seagoing vessels. This conference examined the viability of using LNG as a marine fuel for a long-term solution in compliance with the IMO Sulfur Cap," stated Alakkawi.

Over 100 leaders from companies such as Shell, American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), Chevron, Exxon Mobil, Marshall Islands Registry, Port Authority of NY & NJ and NYC Ferry attended. Ship owners, leaders in finance and insurance, as well as academicians were interested in learning about the challenges in the LNG industry and relevant solutions.

An all-star lineup of industry experts served as presenters and panelists. In their opening remarks, TOTE Services LLC President Captain Jeff Dixon and Vice President JP Marcantonio noted that TOTE vessels are among the most advanced, environmentally responsible vessels of their kind. "LNG was the best solution for us and we are very proud that TOTE is able to do its part for the environment," said Marcantonio. ■

## STAY CONNECTED

Maritime College social media platforms Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn offer students, faculty, staff, alumni and other followers an opportunity to stay connected and be engaged in the social conversation. The Maritime College Flickr social site showcases photos of campus events and activities. View our stories, learn about our students, programs and events and follow us on social.

 **Instagram:** @maritimecollege

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 **Twitter:** @MaritimeCollege

 **LinkedIn:** State University of New York

 **Flickr:** SUNY Maritime College



BY ODALIS MINO

# MODERNIZING ACADEMICS: Enhanced Structure Feat

Implementation of the College's strategic plan has been underway for over one year, which prompted Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Joseph C. Hoffman '75 to conduct a thorough evaluation of programs, departments and the overall structure of academics. "When we examined our strategic goals for the 2019-2020 academic year, it became evident that the current academic structure was not correct and we were simply not poised to meet those goals," stated Dr. Hoffman, who has participated in six strategic plan processes throughout his decades in academia.

By analyzing the ways in which to best execute the strategic priorities of the College, it became increasingly clear that a classic academic structure was needed in which schools would be established to house their respective departments. At the core of establishing the new schools was the training of future mariners. It was key, therefore, to establish a School of Maritime Education and Training. From an academic perspective, the School would house the department of Marine Transportation, the newly named department of Maritime Technology & Operations, the Professional Mariner

Training program, and the licensing and Cadet Shipping programs.

In an effort to accommodate the largest group of students at the College – the Bachelor of Engineering students – the School of Engineering was formed to oversee all engine licensing programs.

Establishing the third school proved to be a process that required a bit more thought in that the remaining departments would require an amalgamation of the three largest service departments of the College: Global Business & Transportation, Humanities and Science, which generate the most full-time equivalents in the workforce. As there were commonalities in these programs such as general education, the School of Business, Science and Humanities was formed. This School also houses both Masters Degree programs.

In the past, each department reported to the Provost. Under the new model, a classic school structure successfully followed by other maritime universities, each school will have its own respective dean to lead the school and focus on its





# ures Three New Schools



## School of Engineering

specific programs of study. Deans of the three schools will partner with the Provost.

Students may not immediately notice the impact of the new structure, but the effects of the change will become more evident through the academic portfolio review process. In this process, departments from each school review their academic course offerings and determine whether courses are meeting the needs of students and the industry in which students will enter as professionals. The deck and engine license programs, and the general



## School of Business, Science and Humanities

education courses will also undergo their separate review. "Maritime College has never had this type of program review, and students will greatly benefit from these program changes," said Dr. Hoffman.

Faculty can expect to take part in continual improvement of their schools through assessment planning. Rather than relying on a campus-wide assessment plan, each school will develop its own school-wide assessment plan. "This type of school-wide model will go a long way in making assessment much more



## School of Maritime Education and Training

manageable for faculty," stated Dr. Hoffman. "Their focus will be on assessing the courses and programs pertaining to their individual schools and not the college as a whole."

Technological advancement is the impetus behind establishing the three schools, each of which will aim to serve and support the mission and vision of the College. The 2019-2020 academic year will act as the transition year and Dr. Hoffman has been instrumental in ensuring a smooth transition for the College and faculty. ■

# Passing the Provost Torch

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

## JOSEPH C. HOFFMAN '75



A Maritime College alum, Dr. Hoffman graduated in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science in mathematics-computer science. Armed with his deck license, he planned to sail on his license upon graduation for a few years and then attend graduate school. But due to the unions in the industry closing their books at that time, Dr. Hoffman instead went on to attend graduate school at Adelphi University. While in the master's program, his advisor suggested that he continue on to the doctoral degree program. Dr. Hoffman was determined to finish graduate school and sail. "I knew that when the industry turned around, my salary as a mariner would be much higher than my professor's, and I wanted to sail right after graduate school," he said. As fate would have it, one of the professors fell ill and could not teach a class. That's when Dr. Hoffman was asked to step in and substitute. "That was the end of my sailing career. I was hooked on teaching and loved being in the classroom," he said.

Dr. Hoffman began teaching mathematics and computer science at Maritime College in 1977, continued his graduate education, married, started a family and completed his Doctor of Education Degree in 1998. He was also commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve (known as the Merchant Marine Reserve at the time) after graduating Maritime College and retired from the reserve in 1992.

Through his work with Maritime College, Dr. Hoffman became increasingly involved with curriculum development and faculty governance. He was appointed Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs in 2006, served through 2012, and then again from 2016 to 2020. His tenure as Provost has been among the longest held at the College, and within

his four-decade career Dr. Hoffman has worked with six Maritime College presidents. He was awarded the title of Distinguished Teaching Professor by the SUNY Board of Trustees in 2001 and served as acting president of SUNY Canton in 2013. His countless list of accomplishments includes the establishment of the civilian program; formalizing the internship programs; streamlining the curriculum of many programs and creating new minors; offering an additional Master's Degree; and forming a degree certificate program. Having served in almost every capacity in higher education, he considers his work in the classroom to be his greatest accomplishment. "What I have valued the most in all my years at Maritime College is the 15 weeks I spent with each one of my math classes as a teacher and the impact that particular time had on students," noted Dr. Hoffman.

With the arrival of a newly appointed Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs expected in July 2020, Dr. Hoffman will serve as Dean of Graduate Studies and once again work with students in the classroom. As he prepares to hand the reins to a new Provost, his advice is: "One of the core values of Maritime College is Student Centeredness. It's important for the Provost to constantly question whether the College is meeting the needs of students and to determine whether students are being set up for success when they graduate. If that core value is met, all the other core values fit in easily." ■

“

One of the core values of Maritime College is Student Centeredness. It's important for the Provost to constantly question whether the College is meeting the needs of students and to determine whether students are being set up for success when they graduate. If that core value is met, all the other core values fit in easily.

**Joseph Hoffman '75**

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

”

Welcome New Provost

**DR. JENNIFER K. WATERS**



Dr. Jennifer K. Waters is the recently appointed Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. She is a native New Yorker who grew up in a sailing family on Long Island. After receiving her bachelor's degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from the Webb Institute, she attended Stevens Institute of Technology earning a master's and doctoral degree in Ocean Engineering. For more than 25 years, Dr. Waters has served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the United States Naval Academy.

Dr. Waters is a highly accomplished and widely recognized professional engineer with broad experience in

both naval architecture and ocean engineering. Distinguishing herself as the Academy's senior female civilian leader, she managed all curricular matters for 25 academic majors across 15 academic departments, ensuring 4,400 students satisfactorily met academic and graduation requirements.

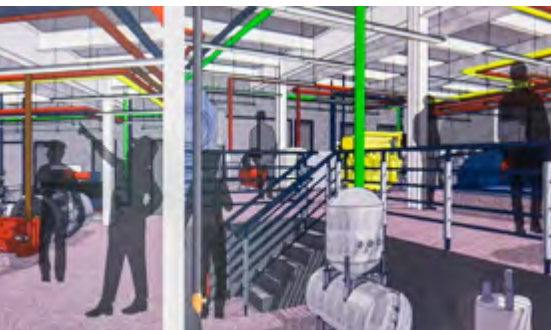
"I am thrilled and honored to be joining the SUNY Maritime Community. Not only am I looking forward to working with the wonderful team of faculty, staff and students at the school, I also cannot wait to return to my home state and again be in the heart of the world's greatest maritime region," she stated. ■

BY ODALIS MINO

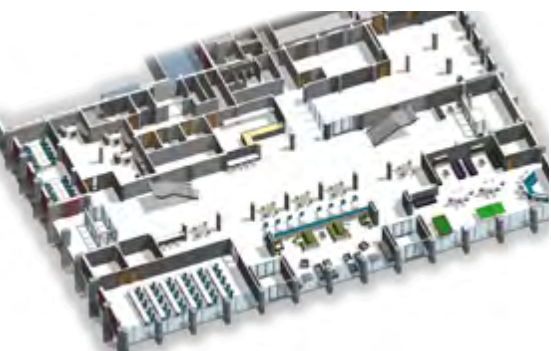
# MODERNIZING MARITIME: Enhancing the Student Experience Ashore and Afloat



Academic Seamanship Training Center,  
Northeast Perspective



Marine Engineering Boiler Lab



Student Union layout at Vander Clute Hall

Essential modernization projects taking place throughout Maritime College in 2020 will significantly impact campus life and enhance experiential education. A complete renovation of the Marine Engineering Lab will showcase a state-of-the-art high- and low-pressure training facility, a valuable learning platform for engineering students studying facilities operations and management.

Construction of a Student Union will also begin in 2020. Designed with student input, the Student Union will feature a 24/7 café, game room, lounges, and a large gathering space. This project includes renovation of the Ship's Store (Campus Bookstore) and Veteran's Center. The Learning Center will be moved and expanded, and when complete in late 2022, the new Student Union will offer a central hub for students to study, socialize and relax.

As athletics is a vibrant component of student life, an upgrade of Reisenberg Gym is among the construction projects on the list. Modernization of the strength and conditioning spaces in the gym began in December 2019 and completion is expected by summer 2021. Refurbishment of the baseball field will allow for subsurface drainage, and upgrades to the field's LED lighting and other safety improvements will take place.

An Academic Seamanship Training Center is the highlight of new construction ashore. This cutting-edge center, set on the beautiful waterfront, will reveal a Marine Environmental Science wet lab on the first floor consisting of aquaria and touch tanks for teaching and research. The second floor will support seamanship training for students and professional mariners. Sustainability design directives for this two-story structure include environmentally-friendly green technologies such as net-zero energy building (NZEB) and mass timber construction. The living, learning laboratory for Facilities Engineering students will be completed in late 2021.

Afloat, Olivet Pier will boast the very first National Security Multi-Mission Vessel (NSMV) in the country. The ship's construction was officially announced and the agencies involved in the year's-long planning process – MARAD, TOTE, LLC., Herbert Engineers, and Philly Shipyard – could not be more hyped. The first new NSMV will replace the Training Ship Empire State VI in 2023.

Over five years ago, initial discussions between MARAD, naval architects and the state maritime academies helped define and incorporate the preferred attributes into the NSMV design. The vessel will also serve as a national asset and its disaster relief capability will allow the ship to respond to

# xperience



humanitarian crises and national emergencies. Each NSMV will be designed as a state-of-the-art training and educational platform to effectively train the next generation of merchant mariners.

MARAD Administrator RADM Mark Buzby shared his enthusiasm of the projected construction saying, "I am extremely proud to be a part of this endeavor. Working with Congress, my team and the state maritime academies culminates a wonderful experience of building ships for training future mariners while also building capabilities for our fellow countrymen when disaster strikes."

TOTE Services, LLC has a long history of supporting maritime academy training programs and disaster

relief missions in conjunction with MARAD. It was selected by MARAD to be the Vessel Construction Manager for this new class of ships to ensure the utilization of best practices in commercial ship construction. "We are confident in our ability to again work with MARAD on this important initiative," stated TOTE Services.

Herbert Engineering Corp., the naval engineering company responsible for preparing the ship's design over five years ago, will provide technical oversight during construction and ensure the application of design

specifications. Eugene Van Rynbach, a Maritime College graduate degree student from the Class of 1991 with decades of commercial ship design experience, is Senior Principal at Herbert Engineering. Involved in the design concept and development process since the onset, he will continue to offer design guidance throughout construction. "Taking part in this experience has been a historical achievement for me, Herbert Engineering and the nation," he stated.

Philly Shipyard, Inc. has been commissioned by TOTE to build the first two of a fleet of five ships. Philly Shipyard possesses a state-of-the-art shipbuilding facility and has delivered approximately 50% of all large ocean-going Jones Act commercial ships since 2000. Philly Shipyard President and CEO Steinar Nerbovik remarked, "Philly Shipyard is honored to be selected by TOTE to build these sophisticated vessels. Securing this award is a major milestone in our strategy to reposition the yard for government and commercial projects. We look forward to delivering on our promises." ■



This new world-class vessel, constructed at an American shipyard, is part of our much-needed program to replace the aging training vessels currently operated by state maritime academies.

**U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao**



# FOUNDATION NEWS



*Chair, SUNY Maritime Foundation*  
**CAPTAIN**  
**ROBERT JOHNSTON '69**

## **SUNY MARITIME FOUNDATION**

### **Board of Directors**

Robert Johnston '69, Chair

John Bree '78, Vice Chair

Richard Angerame '73

William F. Austen '80

Michael Chalos '70

Ioannis (John) Frangos '85, G'87

William C. Gallo '70

Joseph Maurelli '63

A. J. McAllister, III '80

### **Ex-Officio**

Michael A. Alfultis

Aimee Bernstein

Scott Dieterich

Dear Maritime Community,

As we make our way through this unprecedented time, my colleagues and I on the SUNY Maritime Foundation are extremely worried about the financial hardship many of today's Fort Schuyler students are facing.

For many students, the economic devastation of COVID-19 has resulted in lost wages for themselves, lost employment for their parents, and ultimately the end of their Maritime education. When families have to choose between basic needs such as food, housing and healthcare, the cost of tuition, Sea Term, and books quickly become unattainable luxuries. I am deeply concerned a great number of our students will see their dream of a Maritime College education postponed or lost completely.

In light of these uncertain times, a 'One Hand Student Relief Fund' has been established to aid students who experience financial hardship as a result of COVID-19. I ask you to join in extending "one hand" to today's students. You can help by supporting in one or more of the following ways:

- Make a single or monthly gift online (some employers match gifts, doubling your impact!)
- Share our link/posts with friends and family and publicize your own giving
- Join the Admiral's Council with your gift or pledge of \$1,000 or more

Fort Schuyler students need your help now, more than ever before. Join us by donating today to ensure our students can complete their education. These are extraordinary times and must be met with an extraordinary response – One Hand.

Send in your donation by using the envelope included in this magazine or by visiting the SUNY Maritime College website and clicking on the "Giving" link at the top of the page. For assistance, please feel free to contact Lexy Rivera at [arivera@sunymaritime.edu](mailto:arivera@sunymaritime.edu) or calling her at 646.627.6233.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Capt. Robert Johnston '69  
Chairman, SUNY Maritime Foundation

Dear Maritime College Alumni,

On behalf of the Maritime College Alumni Association, it is my great pleasure to support the Foundation's One Hand Student Relief Fund.

At a time when many individuals and families find themselves seriously impacted by the coronavirus, the Admiral has come to the MCAA and asked for our help in raising support for students struggling with the cost of tuition, Sea Term, and other necessary items needed to graduate.

Fort Schuyler alumni embody the concept of one-hand, and now is the time to come together to lend a hand to current students in need. Donate today to the One Hand Student Relief Fund.



Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Valvo".

John Valvo '83

President, Maritime College Alumni Association

## *Celebrating the Contributions of the Admiral's Council*

The annual Admiral's Council Recognition Reception on January 14 celebrated the most dedicated Maritime College donors. The Admiral's Council recognizes alumni, corporations and friends who donate \$1,000+ yearly to the College. Members of this leadership gift society have demonstrated their commitment to the mission, vision and future direction of Maritime College in a very tangible way. Gifts made by members of the Admiral's Council without restrictions to the Sallyport Fund provide a margin of excellence for investments above and beyond what is

possible through state support alone. These gifts allow the College to take advantage of unplanned opportunities such as procurement of vessels that will provide students with important vessel operations experience.

Admiral Alfultis acknowledged the donors for their outstanding support and recognized their generosity. "Your dedicated support helps to enhance student life, build scholarship funding, develop waterfront programs, improve campus infrastructure, champion student athletes and much more." ■



Cadet Kayla Luongo '20 with Stephen Kretzmer '93, Joan and Richard Kretzmer.



Cadet Josiah Forbes Hart '22, Captain Robert Cook '80 and Cadet Joshua Burriss '20.



Liam Hughes '22, Mrs. Kimberly Alfultis, RADM Michael Alfultis and Cadet Kelly Guerrero '21.



Cadet Jeremy St. Louis '22 and RADM Bob North '66.



Founder/Senior Partner,  
Horizon Engineering Associates, LLC

## MICHAEL C. ENGLISH '90

Michael C. English graduated from Maritime College in 1990, earning a degree in marine engineering with a nuclear power option. The son of a merchant mariner, English knew since high school that he would pursue a career as an engineer.

"When I look back now, going to Maritime College was the best decision I ever made," said English.

Upon graduation, the native New Yorker with family roots in Long Island, took a position with a NYC company that represented steam control manufacturer Leslie Controls, Inc. There, English immersed himself in sales engineering and focused on the business aspect of a popular marine control valve that was used on many ships. The young engineer knew that the streets of Manhattan were lined with a steam distribution system that utilized the most popular Leslie Controls steam pressure reducing valve. His work with the system, which affected over 25% of all buildings in Manhattan, provided great exposure, and an opportunity to closely collaborate with system design engineers and building managers throughout the city.

In 1995, English founded his own engineering firm, Horizon Engineering Associates, LLP (HEA), which specializes in building commissioning, consulting, and energy and sustainability services. He continued to work in engineering sales full-time while taking on performance testing projects after work and on the weekends. After becoming a NYS

licensed Professional Engineer (PE) in 1998, English and his firm began undertaking building commissioning projects around the country. His firm, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, boasts a staff of 100 and a lengthy list of exciting and prominent projects throughout the United States. His success in business is firmly tied to his business philosophy: People deserve the right to work and live in buildings that are energy-efficient and operate correctly.

English undertook a variety of major high-rise projects throughout NYC including providing building commissioning to the nation's first green residential high-

rise building, which is now a model of sustainable design and construction principles. Upon learning of the World Trade Center Memorial project, English strongly pursued and was awarded the building

commissioning project for the Memorial. "I'm proud of the work we've accomplished because of its impact on the infrastructure of NYC. The World Trade Center Memorial is one of many projects that I am most proud to have completed," stated English.

Philanthropically, English seeks to impact Maritime College engineering students through his endowed scholarship. "Everyone has their own unique story and reasons for giving. Those who have utilized Maritime College and its resources should give to ensure the pipeline of future engineers remains full," said English. His advice to current engineering students is: "You have a six-month lead [through Summer Sea Term] ahead of all the engineering students in other colleges. They will catch up to you. It's up to you to maintain that lead, lose that lead or extend that lead." The scholarship English provides to Maritime College students demonstrates his commitment to the College, the industry, and ensures students are fully prepared to excel in careers in engineering. ■

### ALUMNUS SUPPORTS STUDENT SUCCESS THROUGH ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS



# ONE HAND STUDENT RELIEF FUND

Maritime's Response to COVID-19

## Extend One-Hand Today To Help Fort Schuyler Graduates of Tomorrow

COVID-19 has sent the world economy into turmoil, and with it, the hopes and dreams of today's students.

- Students and families suddenly find themselves unemployed
- Unexpected financial shortfalls threaten students' ability to complete their education
- Back-to-back semesters and Sea Terms will eliminate the opportunity for summer and part time employment

### #ONEHAND

The SUNY Maritime Foundation launched the **One Hand Student Relief Fund** to cover expenses that threaten students' ability to stay in school. These include:

- Tuition, room and board
- Sea Term expenses
- Books, labs, and others fees
- Emergency funding to respond to family crises

### EXTEND YOUR HAND TODAY

- The recovery will be slow - consider a monthly pledge over the next 24 months.
- Be generous - know that your pledge can be adjusted if your situation changes.
- Demonstrate leadership - your gift demonstrates the value you place on your own Fort Schuyler education and strengthens the bond that has held alumni together close to 150 years.

**GIVE TODAY – Tomorrow's alumni are in need today.  
Extend the hand they need.**

Online: [www.sunymaritime.edu/makeagift](http://www.sunymaritime.edu/makeagift)

**Aimee Bernstein**

Executive Director, SUNY Maritime Foundation  
718-409-5475  
[abernstein@sunymaritime.edu](mailto:abernstein@sunymaritime.edu)

Mail: use the enclosed envelope or call:

**Doug Hasbrouck**

Interim VP, Institutional Advancement  
718-409-3938  
[dhasbrouck@sunymaritime.edu](mailto:dhasbrouck@sunymaritime.edu)

# ALUMNI BRING COMFORT IN A TIME OF GREAT NEED

BY BRIDGET BENDO '96

On the morning of Monday, March 30, 2020, the USNS Comfort (T-AH 20), an 894-foot hospital ship operated by approximately 70 merchant mariners of Military Sealift Command (MSC), sailed into New York Harbor to provide much-needed support and increased medical capacity to the overwhelmed NYC hospitals in the wake of our nation's COVID-19 pandemic. Over 1,100 medical professionals serving active duty and Naval Reserve were on board to provide quality care to patients. Alumni serving as MSC officers onboard included Megan Maron '13, Caroline (Blaise) Hickey '12, Nathan Grant '13, Victor Deveso '14, John Lovell '15, Brian Murray '18, Jonathan Low '18, Peter Rose '11.

Prior to this mission, USNS Comfort had just completed a major maintenance period after returning in November from a 154-day mission that had included 14 different country mission stops. In the spirit of the vessel's humanitarian service, treatments onboard come free-of-charge. The last time this hospital

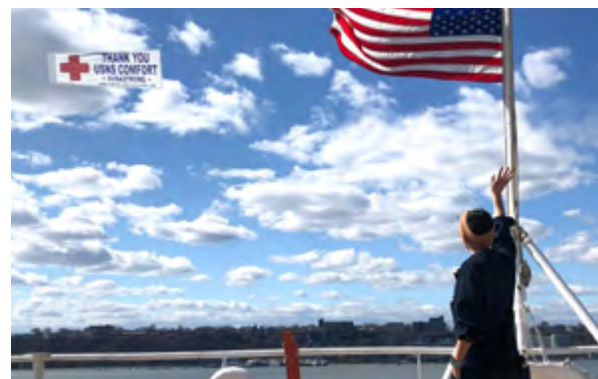
ship was docked in NYC was during 9/11 when she was on standby as a trauma hospital but wound up serving as berthing and first aid care for first responders. Since then, she and her sistership USNS Mercy have treated more than 550,000 patients, according to the Navy.

Although USNS Comfort's initial purpose during this mission had been to relieve hospitals by caring for non-COVID-19 patients, it was quickly determined that she would be better utilized for the treatment of the overflow of COVID-19 patients. USNS Comfort served her mission throughout the peak of the epidemic experienced by New York. She departed on April 30, 2020 returning to her homeport at Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia.

On March 27, the sistership of the USNS Comfort, the USNS Mercy (T-AH 19), arrived in Long Beach, California from her Naval Base San Diego. She is a contemporary of the USS Mercy (AH-8) which served as the College's Training Ship Empire State III from 1956-1959. ■



As Captain of the Port of Norfolk, Kevin Carroll '94, (right) USCG Commander for Coast Guard Sector Virginia, led the inspection of USNS Comfort to ensure the safety of the vessel before she departed Naval Station Norfolk on March 28, 2020 headed for New York City.



First Assistant Engineer Caroline (Blaise) Hickey '12 returns the warm greeting to the plane welcoming the vessel as she arrives in New York. The banner reads, "Thank you, USNS Comfort! USA-Strong."



Megan Maron '13 deftly navigates the approach of the USNS Comfort into New York Harbor.

### Alumni Serving on board:

- Navigator Megan Maron '13
- 1/A Engineer Caroline (Blaise) Hickey '12
- 3rd Officer Nathan Grant '13
- 3rd Officer Victor Deveso '14
- 3/A Engineer John Lovell '15
- 3/A Engineer Brian Murray '18
- 3/A Engineer Jonathan Low '18
- 3/A Engineer Peter Rose '11



It's Finished With Engines at Pier 90 for Peter Rose '11, Caroline (Blaise) Hickey '12 and John Lovell '15.



Capt. Steve Kress '80, Vice President of Operations of McAllister Towing, shared, "In these turbulent times, it is important for McAllister Towing to support our nation in every way possible. Whether it is a job like docking USNS Comfort or bringing in containerships

daily to secure our nation's supply chain, we answered the call - as we have done for more than 150 years."

Four McAllister tugboats - Ava McAllister, Alex McAllister, Ellen McAllister and Capt. Brian A. McAllister - met the USNS Comfort just north of the Verrazano Bridge and escorted her until she was safely docked at Pier 90 on Manhattan's West Side.

McAllister Towing Chairman Capt. Brian McAllister '56 (fourth-generation) and Senior Vice President Capt. AJ McAllister III '80 (fifth generation) expressed their gratitude to have their company play its part on this historic day in New York harbor.



Capt. Timothy Ferrie '78, fourth-generation Sandy Hook pilot, proudly greets the USNS Comfort at the sea buoy to welcome her and masterfully guide her into New York Harbor. Along with his customary coat and tie, he wore a respirator mask as he climbed the pilot ladder to the bridge. Capt. Ferrie's experience was featured in an article in the New Yorker (April 13, 2020 issue) entitled Bringing In The Comfort, in which he expressed, "Piloting the Comfort, and being part of her work here, has been the proudest day of my life."

Spring 2020 was well underway as students, faculty and staff planned, prepared and eagerly awaited the activities yet to take place at the end of the semester. No one expected a virus would interrupt learning, campus life and socialization. But as February's end drew near, it became evident that the respiratory illness, novel coronavirus 19 (COVID-19), was slowly extending its reach throughout NYC.

# Life Interrupted: COVID-19

BY ODALIS MINO

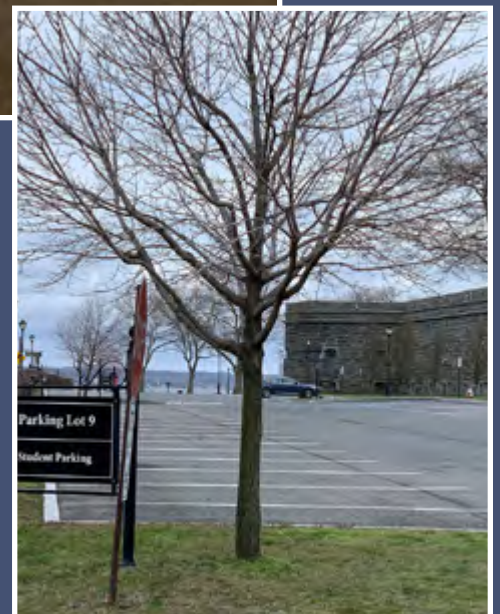
As March arrived, daily messages were sent to the campus community and information, resources and the College response to the outbreak was posted on its COVID-19 Update web page. College leaders, working closely with SUNY leadership and the NYS Department of Health, navigated the highly fluid situation with only a few weeks remaining in the spring semester. The term "social distancing," the deliberate increasing of physical space between people to avoid spreading illness, became a common phrase.

When a NYS mandate required transition to distance learning, in-person classes were cancelled and students safely departed the campus. In an unprecedented response, faculty were fully prepared to offer instruction through remote platforms when classes resumed the following week. Although essential academic support services continued online, the virus had taken



its ultimate toll on Maritime College leaving the usually bustling streets, classrooms and hallways completely barren.

In the wake of COVID-19, Maritime College students, faculty and staff have demonstrated an unparalleled level of cooperation, determination and dedication. COVID-19 may have temporarily interrupted life at Maritime, but the Fort Schuyler community will forge ahead ever stronger. ■





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# NEW YORK CLOSES THE CHAPTER ON NUCLEAR ENERGY

Maritime College alumni are on hand to manage the operation and the decommissioning.

Entergy Corp. is a Louisiana-based company that owns and operates power plants with approximately 30,000 MWe of electric generating capacity including 7 Nuclear Power Plants. In addition, it serves as the utility for 2.9 million customers in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. Entergy sold Indian Point to a New Jersey subsidiary of Holtec International that has promised to cut decades off the decommissioning of the nuclear power plant.

INTERVIEW WITH SEAN SCOLLINS '07 - BY BRIDGET BENDO '96

After forty years of Indian Point supplying nuclear energy to the equivalent of two million homes – that is, 25% of the power for New York City and the Hudson Valley - Indian Point will be shutting down operations. The nuclear reactor Unit 2 is scheduled to cease operations by April 30, 2020, with Unit 3 following suit a year later. (Unit 1 had been decommissioned years ago, when Unit 3 came online).

Nuclear Energy is a topic that is hotly debated. Is it an ignored solution that could expedite achieving green energy goals? Or is it a major disaster too

risky to allow in our backyards or within our states at all? To learn more about the process, we took the opportunity to interview an alumnus who is Shift Manager, Operations, at Indian Point, Sean Scollins '07.



Sean Scollins '07

### Why is the plant being decommissioned?

Sustained low current and projected wholesale energy prices reduced revenues resulting in Entergy seeking to exit the merchant nuclear market. Record low gas prices, due primarily to supply from the Marcellus Shale formation, have driven down power prices by about 45 percent. That, coupled with increased cost

of regulation and a tough political climate, resulted in the decision to prematurely retire both Units. New York chose to subsidize the three upstate nuclear facilities with the Clean Energy Standard of 2016. Indian Point wasn't included in the subsidy because it was deemed not to have the same economic need. It is a reality at many nuclear generating facilities operating in deregulated energy markets.

**How will the absence of this plant impact the NYC load-sharing, and could it increase the frequency/severity of blackouts/brownouts during peak demand? What's a solution to this?**

The NYISO performed a feasibility study in 2017 regarding the eventual shutdown of Indian Point Units 2 and 3 and concluded that various power generating projects in the Hudson Valley would make up for the loss of 2000 MWe. The CPV gas plant in Wawayanda, NY recently completed adding 685 MWe to the grid and the Cricket Valley Plant in Dover, NY is currently being built and will provide 1100 MWe. The problem is the replacement is fossil, which contradicts New York States mandates to reduce emissions by 40% by 2030.

**Is there a plan to utilize the current grid connection, but with an alternative energy or conventional plant?**

No; we output to the Con Ed 345kV Buchanan Switchyard. I don't know of any changes to this facility.

**What does the media not fully understand about nuke power, in your opinion?**

The facilities have been designed to be intrinsically safe.

Even more so, the people who operate these facilities are extremely well-trained. Every licensed operator has to go through two years of training and rigorous examinations prior to being able to assume the watch. Every five weeks, we are placed into accident scenarios in the Control Room Simulator and our performance is evaluated, critiqued, and gaps are immediately acted upon. Beyond the training and evaluation, nuclear operators are extremely conservative when it comes to nuclear safety and it is expected and praised at all levels of the company. About a year ago, due to a steam leak on a Feed Water Heater that we could not isolate, I made the decision to trip to the Unit. The next day, I received a personal thanks from the Chief Nuclear Officer of Entergy for taking a conservative action and taking the plant offline.

**From an engineer's perspective: What are the major differences between constructing/decommissioning/deconstructing a nuke plant, compared to other plants?**

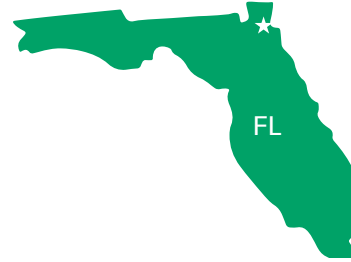
Spent fuel. Both Units have Spent Fuel Pools that are at capacity and the process for removing the fuel and placing it into Canisters for final resting on the Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation (ISFSI) pad is time-consuming. The fuel needs to have time to decay prior to even placing it into the Canisters. Unit 3 doesn't currently have the ability to dry-cask our own fuel and our current method is to transfer it to Unit 2 using industry unique Wet Transfer Process. To efficiently remove of the fuel from Unit 3, the entire system has to be built to permit dry-casking at Unit 3 following the plant closure. In addition, systems must be maintained to support both

spent fuel pools while fuel remains in the pools. This includes emergency diesel generators, 480V equipment, and the presence of an Emergency Plan organization. The facility can't simply be turned off and walked away from. ■



March 6, 2020 on site: Ryan Caffery '07 (Control Room Supervisor), Bill Martino '04 (Reactor Operator), Christopher Scott '12 (Control Room Supervisor), Sean Scollins '07 (Operations Shift Manager), Steve Radomski '04 (Control Room Supervisor) and Mike Kempski '88 (Maintenance Manager).

## CHAPTER GATHERINGS



### LONG ISLAND CHAPTER | November 13, 2019, Long Island, NY

Twenty-five alumni from over six decades came to The Main Event in Farmingdale. It was a great night!

**Front row:** Justin Gathard '06, Harry Stumme '65, Tom Hall '65, Diamantis Petkanas '16, Mike Vanadia '13, Jason Arnold '18; **Back row:** Joe Maddalena '04, Roger Bing '03, Steve Opkins '71, Bill Farrell '79, Carmine Pizzariello '70, Stephen Kohos '11, Panos Petranas '19, Jay Mulhall '84, Richard O'Brien, Bill Chaloupka '68, Victor Corso '83, Robert Dunlop '70, Jim Yahner '86, Rich Ohlsen '90; **Not pictured:** Amie Carter '00, Alyssa Billi '17, Walter Burke '81, Kevin Reilly '08.



### DELAWARE VALLEY CHAPTER | December 18, 2019, Philadelphia, PA

The Port of Philadelphia's eleventh annual all-maritime-academy holiday party, hosted by the MCAA Delaware Valley Chapter at Spasso's Italian Grill in Philadelphia was fun and rowdy, as always.





Michael Niemes '18, Thomas Power '89, William Kelly '94, Phil Porteus '11, Tom Grey '12, Mrs. Stephanie Arnold, Rob Gorgy '12.



Rob Gorgy '12, Matthew Arnold '10

**NORTHEAST FLORIDA | January 31, 2020, Jacksonville, Florida**

This Chapter is one to watch. It held its Change-of-Command ceremony to thank Nick Orfandis '73 for his five years as president and welcomed Matt Arnold '10 to relieve the watch. The active Chapter has a Facebook page and membership is reinvigorated. Gatherings include raffles for rare beer and Maritime hats created by Bill Kelly '94.



**NEW JERSEY CHAPTER | March 4, 2020, Metuchen, NJ**

NJ Chapter held its networking meeting at Hailey's in Metuchen. Capt. Morgan McManus '92, Master of the Empire State VI, was guest speaker and led a lively discussion on SST 2020, the new training ship and other topics bringing the evening to an after-hours close.

Lloyd Luke Reinhold '94, John Maguire '83, Phil Porteus '11, Mike Mustillo '95, Joe Breglia '80, Jamie McNamara '94, Carl Hausheer '79, Jim McEnteggart '91, Matthew Snedden '13, TSES Captain Morgan McManus '92, Kevin Comerford '83, Paulina Czernek '05, Chris Begley '82, Steve Werse '79, Kyle Grant '05 (Wife Maggy, son August and daughter Adelaide), Steve Bendo '94.



SAIRA YOO, MCAA DIRECTOR

# 2020 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS DINNER

Three hundred of us returned to Tribeca 360° in lower Manhattan for this year's Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner on January 30, 2020 to honor three very deserving candidates during a grand evening of celebration:



Distinguished Alumnus of the Year

**Bart B. Kelleher '96**

The MCAA Silver Medallion awarded to Bart is engraved with his attributes of: **DILIGENCE & INTEGRITY**



Dedicated Service

**Bill Trenkle '80**

The MCAA Silver Medallion awarded to Bill is engraved with his attributes of: **PERSEVERANCE & COMMITMENT**



Lifetime Achievement

**Gary Alan Jobson '73**

The Silver Medallion awarded to Gary is engraved with his attributes of: **RESILIENCE & LEADERSHIP**



Event Photo Credit: Laura Keenan Verdino



- 1 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year, Bart Kelleher '96 (third from left) celebrating with his brother Brendan (fourth from right) along with David Starck '90, Tommy Starck '96, Jim Starck '96, Thomas Wynne '90, Joe Starck '90 and Admiral Michael Alftutis. Not only are these seven Buffalonians fellow alumni from Fort Schuyler, but they are also fellow alumni from the same high school - St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute in Buffalo.
- 2 Bill Trenkle '80 celebrating with his wife Crystal and son Justin.
- 3 Gary Jobson '73 celebrating with his wife and children.
- 4 A cadet rings Eight Bells as attendees honor alumni who have crossed the bar in 2019.
- 5 The McAllister table included Mike Reagoso '96, Jesmond Spiteri '96, AJ McAllister '80, Saira Yoo (MCAA Director).
- 6 The MSC Table included Taylor Walker '13, John Pearson '81, Leo Imperial '01, Gavin Ray '18, Timothy Orwin '05.
- 7 Pete Cesarski '96, Robert Hanft '88, Kerry Grubb '79, James McCabe '08, and Liam Grubb.
- 8 Prior to the start of cocktail hour, John Valvo '83, the new MCAA President, addresses alumni with updates and plans for the Association.

# Rekindling Friendships and Strengthening Bonds at HOMECOMING 2019



Reunions and celebrations abounded as hundreds of alumni returned home to Maritime College on October 19. The sun could not shine brighter over Fort Schuyler where the class of 1969 celebrated their 50th milestone anniversary.

Taking place at the Maritime Industry Museum was the unveiling of a 6-foot model of the USS St. Marys, which recognized the partnership of two alumni, Richard Brown '47 and Ronald Parent '68. Begun by Brown in 1994, the model was completed by Parent in 2019!

Pass in Review began with the beat of the drums as the class of 2023 marched into St. Marys Pentagon along with the classes of 1959, 1964 and 1969. Inducted into the 2019 Heritage Hall of Fame were Bethann Rooney '91 and Captain Steven E. Werse '79, both of whom were recognized for their awe-inspiring achievements and contributions to the maritime industry.

Pausing for a moment of silence, alumni, their families, friends and guests commemorated Hall of Honor inductee Elizabeth Bonn, '04, who lost her life

during a U.S. Navy training flight crash in 2006. Bonn's life was memorialized in a heartfelt service at the Maritime Industry Museum.

Among the highlights was the annual homecoming parade where the reunion groups proceeded onto Reinhart Field proudly displaying their class banners before cheering on the football team. The school spirit of the Maritime Privateers was no match for the Castleton Spartans who were defeated 21-3. It was a spectacular ending to a most memorable weekend. ■



Cadets marched into St. Marys Pentagon for Pass in Review.



2019 Heritage Hall of Fame inductees Captain Steven E. Werse '79 (l) and Bethann Rooney '91 (r) with RADM Michael Alfultis.

Facing page: Edward Altemos, Peter Baci, Captain Michael Bozzone, Arthur Castelli, Captain Gary Chiljean, Barry Cooke, Jon Darcy , James Daub, Donald Dreves, David Esdale, Richard Feinson, Willim Fornuff, Spencer Goroff, Robert Groh, Gerard Hasselbach, Russell Henderling, Lindsay Hoyt Jr., Howard Huth, Captain Bob Johnston, Donald Kritzer, William Liedy, Gary Maddox, Christopher Malzone, Captain Jeffrey Miller, Captain Richard Muller, Captain Irwin Nathanson, Richard Palak, Captain Patrick Phillips, John Piotrowski, Charles Smiraldo Jr., Joseph Smith, Gerald Staats Jr., Hugh Straub, Thomas Thoens, Bob Ufer, Captain Daniel Warman, Captain Robert Weaver, Newell Whitford, Donald Willbur, Paul Wilson, Captain Wesley Winters, William Woodroffe, Richard Yerian



Families, friends and guests commemorated Hall of Honor inductee Elizabeth Bonn, '04, who lost her life during a U.S. Navy training flight crash in 2006.



The annual Will It Float Race as students worked in teams to build cardboard vessels and race on the waterfront.



Christina Brown (Richard C. Brown '47's daughter) and Roland Parent '68 unveiled the USS St. Marys at the Maritime Industry Museum.



Classmates from the Class of 1994 celebrate their 25th reunion and reminisce with their former Captain and Commandant of Cadets: Vincent Gazzo, Wayne Nelson, William Kelly, Capt. James DeSimone '73, Jason Wuss, James Toolan, Thor Feher.



RADM Alfultis and Privateer Pete led the crowd cheering for the Maritime Privateers football team.

## CLASS NOTES



On January 18, 2020, before the Maritime College team played their favorite rival - Kings Point - at Parkwood Sports Complex in Great Neck, NY, the alumni teams played each other. The rivalry felt as heated as ever during the both games, but it was all one maritime team in the post-game party.

In attendance (players or cheer section) were: Paul Grubb '15, Chip Corbin '84, Jeff Hirsch '84, Bob Callaghan '82, Thomas Kirby '15, James McManus '13, Rick Dominique '93, Stephen Schork '13, Jeff Dolan '14, Timmy Dolan '18, Tom McCandless '07, William Ducey '81, Taylor Carsch '13, Lou Eiler '16?, Vincent Pedulla '14, Christopher Hughes '92, Peter Mastandrea '91, Chuck Smith '91, Francis Foley '90, Christopher Holmes, Raymond Donnelly '06, Dylan O'Malley-Joyce '12, Matt Tatarian, John Carroll '90, Andrew Rosina '83, Ira Breskin, Harris Burger, Nick Galli, Jesse Wynn, Brian Wegenaar '80, Tim McGill '89, Nick Panor '18, Sean Dougherty '13, KJ Paseka '16, Vincent Monfredo '14.



This crew of lacrosse-playing fishermen enjoyed a day of fishing out of Montauk on July 1, 2019. Standing: Justin Manjares (Head Coach, Men's Lacrosse), a non-alum friend, Brian Houst '02, a non-alum friend, Steve Tonn '12, Kevin May '08, DJ Toby '08, Pete Rettaliata '07, Andrew Marklin '11, Gerry Demao (Assistant Coach, Men's Lacrosse), Scott Parry '08. Seated: Jim Rogin '06, Sean Kennedy '08.

**'70** Bill Reinhardt '70 and his wife, Susan live in Hayesville, NC. and Bruce Christiansen '70 and his wife, Anita live in Fruitland Park, Fla. Since kindergarten, Bill and Bruce have been friends (65 years). They attended the same Seaford, LI high school and Bill served as best man and Susan was the maid of honor at Bruce's wedding. Bill advanced his license to Master. Bruce remained 3'd Assistant Engineer and worked for the utility industry. Above: Bruce Christiansen '70, Susan Reinhardt, Anita Christiansen and Bill Reinhardt '70.



# BLUE WATER SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Jaime Cleveland '95 never expected to have heart problems, especially after rowing for the Maritime Crew Team from 1991–1995. Since then he tried to keep up his fitness with regular runs and weights. When he found himself undergoing heart surgery in 2017, he reflected on his life, finding it very fulfilling. He was grateful for his wife Jenny

and their three girls Layla, Eloise and Haley. His career as Chartering Manager for Vitol was rewarding and he had come to love Houston. He maintained close contact with his family and friends, but the one regret he acknowledged was having not “given back” enough. Jaime attributed his career success to the experiences from Maritime College and the mentoring he received in the early years of his career. While he supported the College and Alumni Association fundraising campaigns, he wanted to do more. The day before his surgery, Jaime called his roommate, Jim Hoy '95 and their long-time mentor John Curtin, and by the end of their conversation, they agreed to create a scholarship/mentorship program for future shipping industry professionals.

On May 15, 2017, they established the non-profit Blue Water Shipping, and in the current 2019-2020 academic year, 12 scholarships totaling \$47,000 were awarded. Criteria for the 2020-2021 school year is available at:

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



At the 2019 Homecoming, Jaime Cleveland '95 (left) and Jim Hoy '95 (right) had the opportunity to meet with a cadet recipient of Blue Water scholarship-and-mentorship program and the cadet's Mom.



## 62nd CLASS REUNION

The Class of 1957 were pleased with the turnout in celebration of their 62nd reunion and they really enjoyed the Francis Maron Hotel and all that Charleston has to offer. *Standing:* George Maffey, Bill Hefner (Chairman), John Turnbull, Jack Burns, Ed DeGaetano, Ralph Sirico, Ted Mason, Ed Shepherd, Frank Meyler and Harry Polus. *Seated:* Al Ward, Gil Williamson, Joe Saltzer, Tony Criso, Steve Hertz and Frank Gallo.

## CLASS NOTES



**'58** Alumni from the Class of '58 gathered for a 61st mini reunion lunch at Danfort's of Port Jefferson in early October. Richie Blatus, Bill Caldwell, Harry Rausch, Tom Hancock and Jim Kane.



## '90 & '96

Starck Family Alumni Chapter visited New York City to attend the MCAA Annual Awards Dinner on January 30, 2020. Here are David '90, Karen (TSES VI Yeoman '90-'93), Jim '96, Tommy '96 and Joe '90.

### TRIATHLON FOLLOWED BY FISHING



During the annual Montauk Triathlon and Fishing rendezvous in July 2019, Hank Ayers '86 and Captain McGowan '86 proudly show off Hank's catch: a 38 lb striped bass.



Greg Tuthill '86 racing across the Montauk Lighthouse Triathlon finish line in July 2019.



### GOLF CREW

A Class of 1986 tradition that has been in place for over 30 years, the annual Class Golf outing pictures the "1986 Nevelle 12" in Myrtle Beach in September 2019.

Ed Gaffney, John Ansboro, Greg Tuthill, Bob Blochlinger, Chris Schulken, Rich Mayhew, Hank Ayers, Sean Rajkumar, Tim Cockerill, Ed Crean, Mike Burke, and Rob Archambault (team Captain).



## Marine Society of the City of New York's 250th Annual Dinner

On March 9, 2020, at the New York Marriott Downtown Hotel, the Marine Society of the City of New York presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to Capt. Steven E. Werse '79 in recognition of a career of service and support to the maritime industry, both afloat and ashore.

While sailing for three decades, Capt. Werse rose from Third Officer to Master, spending twenty years with Central Gulf Lines / Waterman Steamship Corporation as Master of M/V Green Bay, Green Lake and Green Point. He is the recipient of two "Citation of Merit" awards for rescues at sea in 2006 and 2007 and was also awarded the Chamber of Shipping of America's Jones-



Devlin Award recognizing four consecutive years with no shipboard downtime injuries on ships under his command.

Steve Werse '79 (center) accepts his award from Steve Bendo '94 on behalf of the Marine Society, as Tim Ferrie '78, President of the Marine Society, delivers the introduction.

In addition to his maritime career, Capt. Werse has pursued labor studies under the auspices of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, the Labor Arbitration Institute and the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations National Labor College.

Capt. Werse served as the Atlantic Coast VP for the MM&P from 2010–2012 and the International Secretary-Treasurer of the MM&P from 2013–2019. He is a Board Member of the Capt. Richard Phillips and Lane Kirkland Maritime Trust, and is a Trustee of the Officers' Union International Seafarers based in Switzerland.

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**'67** Kevin McCarey '67, The Emmy and Peabody Award-winning filmmaker and author, has been invited into the legendary Explorers Club as a Fellow. Fellowship is reserved for those who have distinguished themselves by directly contributing to scientific knowledge in the field of geographical exploration or allied sciences.



**'96** Michael D'Aquila '96 accepted a new job as North America Project Management Account Lead at Sodexo in January 2020. He recently won a three-year term in the Berkeley Heights, NJ Board of Ed.

He was a member of the Berkeley Heights Town Council from 2016-2018. He, his wife Cathy and three children live in Berkeley Heights.



John G. Lehane '96 was promoted to Colonel, USMC from Lt. Colonel serving as C-5 Plans Officer for the U.S. Combined Forces Command. He moved from Korea to Japan with his wife Michele and children Kate & Jack in June 2019. He serves as Colonel aboard the USS Blue Ridge with the 7th Fleet in Yokosuka, Japan. The Fleet is responsible for the waters of the Western Pacific.



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**'89** Mike Borchers '89, Assistant Director of the Water Resources Department in Greensboro, NC was promoted to director in February. Borchers is a licensed professional engineer and has been working for the city since 2005 as stormwater engineering and planning supervisor as well as engineering manager.

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## CLASS NOTES/WEDDINGS

Joseph Cocco '11 married Nicole on August 24, 2019



The reception took place at the Three Village Inn in Stony Brook, NY. Joe is a Marine Ocean Cargo Underwriter for Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty.

Serena Webber-Bey '04, married Andy Martin on June 8, 2019 in Far Rockaway, Queens



Bridesmaids included Marine Engineering classmates Kristine (Schultz) Smyth '04, Adriane (Pinto) Marchi '04 as well as Marissa (Webber-Bey) Danzy '10 (featured on page 12). Serena is Chief Engineer for MEBA working as a Port Engineer for Matson in Long Beach, CA. Her husband (KP grad) is First-Assistant Engineer for MEBA. They recently moved from Hawaii to California.

## INDUSTRY ENCOUNTERS

Photo credit: Eileen Monreale, AIMU



AIMU, American Institute of Marine Cargo Underwriters, found six alumni in attendance on February 26-27, 2020 at a cargo class in their downtown office: James Rayve '18, Scott Parry '09, Juan Ocasio '09, Cheyne Meseroll '15, Vladislav Love '17 as students, as well as Rich Roenbeck '86 (MS in Transportation / Mobility Management) as the instructor.



Brandon Candia '94 of Willis Towers Watson hosts "Coffee with Candia" downtown New York as he conducts business with Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty's Taylor Walker '13, Brian McClintock '94, Joseph Cocco '11.

**'78** Frank Keane '78, outgoing Executive Director, Board of Commissioners of Pilots, was presented a commendation of outstanding service by MARAD Administrator RADM Mark Buzby on March 6. Frank served as Commissioner and Executive Director for 31 years.



Commissioner Rich Hendick, outgoing Executive Director Frank Keane '78, Commissioner Joe Ahlstrom '82, Commission President James Mercante, Commissioner Lucienne Bulow, and the new Executive Director Andrew Garger.

# Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

## The Future is Now!



- |                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Tom Keenan, 1971             | Dennis Ryan, 2003       |
| Bob Wellner, 1980            | Robert Greco, 2007      |
| Mike Gehrling, 1982          | Rich Gisonda, 2007      |
| Daniel Leon, 1989            | Meghan Horn, 2009       |
| Daniel Bollacke, 1989        | Regina Fox, 2012        |
| David Minetti, 1991          | Frank Marchese, 2015    |
| Patrick Noone, 1996          | Grace Suhovsky, 2016    |
| Eric Jaworski, 1997          | Steven Schaeffner, 2017 |
| Alex Korotkiy, 1998          | Jillian Raimo, 2017     |
| Efthimios Vassilas, 2000     | George Varnava, 2018    |
| Kalliopi Michalopoulou, 2001 | Saadman Alam, 2019      |



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## WHERE IN THE WORLD

### Alaska



Edward Pollard '09 (right) is working as a CONMAR (Contract Mariner for MSC with AMO) and presently sailing as Second Mate on the USNS Bob Hope. In March 2020, the USNS Bob Hope sailed to Homer and Anchorage, Alaska to redeploy equipment and supplies including trucks and helicopters. While in Alaska, Edward met up with his good friend and classmate Jordan Gould '09 who recently made Deputy Pilot with Southwest Alaska Pilot Association.

### Thailand



Domers ran into each other at the port of Chuk Sa Met, Thailand during the Joint/Multi-National Military Exercise COBRA GOLD '19.

CDR Don Moore '00, USN, CO (MSC EXP PORT UNIT 115), Conor Sullivan '06, Chief Mate (M/V Cape Hudson (T-AKR-5066)), and Captain John Woods '85, MSC Far East.

### Hong Kong



In September 2019, when Schuyler alumni expats Blaine Wu '88, Jon Zinke '75, and Matt Fenton, TSES VI Watch Officer, heard that Art Sulzer '74 would be in Hong Kong for a few days, they made sure to arrange an alumni gathering. They and their wives enjoyed catching up in downtown Hong Kong as well as their ferry ride to Po Toi Island for the day.

### Bahamas



Look who met up at the Grand Bahama Shipyard Ltd in February. It's Tom Spina '94 (right), SVP – Operations at Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line, who worked alongside Gerard Douglas '11, senior Project Manager at the Yard.

*Editor's note: We are pleased to highlight Schuyler graduates meeting around the globe. As you take your selfies and share them with your friends on Facebook and Instagram, please send them to the Fort Schuyler at [director@fsmma.org](mailto:director@fsmma.org) or [communications@sunymaritime.edu](mailto:communications@sunymaritime.edu)*



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<b>Matthew Ciruzzi</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Nick Moore</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Shea Fumagalli</b>	<b>2014</b>

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William J. Yuengling '46  
Stanley L. Bartels '47  
Salvatore Cordaro '48  
John Daniel Barrett '49  
Richard C. Gardner '50  
Anthony Tocco '50  
James D. McGlynn '52  
George Van Valkenburg '53  
John Peter McGough '54  
Daniel A. DeRienzi '55  
Edward Garside '55

William G Bullock '57  
Joseph A. Saltzer '57  
Hugh Robinson '59  
Edwin Stelzer '63  
Eugene P. McDonald '64  
Peter J. Wroblewski '64  
Alan L. Rowen '65  
Henry Propst '67  
Paul Fuda '68  
Barry Gustafson '68  
Peter P. Cote '69  
Thomas P. Darcy, Jr. '79

John LaGrassa '83  
Paul Bode '86  
Sean Byrne '88  
  
Larry Sciaccteano  
*Hall of Fame Wrestling Coach*  
  
Clive Cussler  
*Best-Selling Author,  
Honorary Doctoral Degree  
Recipient in 1997*  
  
Dr. Oganeg Bogaryan  
*Professor of Mathematics*



## Our Fort Schuyler graduates:

Ronald Rasmus, Chairman Emeritus '60  
Joseph P. Starck, Jr., President '90  
Graham Gajewski, Director, Fleet Engineering '14  
Nicholas Wallinder, HSSE Coordinator '16



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