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## FALL 2018 FORT SCHUYLER THE MAGAZINE FOR MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

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#### FORT SCHUYLER



ON THE COVER: Enthusiastic alumni cheering

alumni cheering for the Privateers during the 2017 Homecoming football game.

This is the inaugural issue of Fort *Schuyler*, the joint magazine of Maritime College and the Maritime College Alumni Association. Fort Schuyler's name, content and design result from many meetings, conversations, emails and text messages about the best ways to capture and share news and stories about the dynamic lives of our alumni and the college for an audience of more than 11,000 graduates and other friends. A joint magazine committee, designated by the alumni association and the college, reached out for input about this first issue from alumni, the college's library archivist, the alumni association board, the president's cabinet, and from Rear Adm. Michael Alfultis and alumni association President Dan Gillette '97. We proudly present this first issue of Fort Schuyler and hope you enjoy it.

#### EDITORS: Lori Kie Director of Communications, SUNY Maritime College Bridget Bendo '96 Editor, Maritime College Alumni Association CORRESPONDENCE IS WELCOME. Send your class notes to: Fort Schuyler Office of Communications SUNY Maritime College 6 Pennyfield Avenue Throggs Neck, NY 10465 or email: • communications@sunymaritime.edu director@fsmaa.org Fort Schuyler is the official magazine of SUNY Maritime College (est. 1874) and its Alumni Association (est. 1903).



#### LETTER FROM DAN GILLETTE '97

President, Maritime College Alumni Association Fellow Alumni and Friends,

Getting here was a long and winding road. I am proud to be writing to you from a joint publication between Maritime College and the Maritime College Alumni Association, which is the new name of the Fort Schuyler Maritime Alumni Association.

In case you feel that the name *Fort Schuyler* magazine is somewhat anti-climactic, considering all the many clever names that our readership proposed, I can assure you that it was a fair and thorough process. In working together with the college, staff educated us about the trend for naming college alumni publications after the college. With that in mind, the names *Maritime College* and *Fort Schuyler* moved to the top of the list for the new name for the joint publication. I received many phone calls and emails with passionate pleas to retain *Fort Schuyler* in our branding. After all, this is how we are known in the industry worldwide, and the reference is a factor that distinguishes us from the other nautical institutions. After following the various steps of the naming process, we reached agreement on *Fort Schuyler*.

More changes are afoot. Maggy Williams Giunco has stepped down as director of our organization, and we have promoted Saira Yoo to the role of director. I have great confidence in Saira's leadership abilities and am happy to report that the transition is running smoothly. Our 30th annual Golf Classic went off without a hitch on June 11, 2018, at Old Westbury Golf and Country Club. Organizing that event is quite the baptism by fire, so we were thankful for Maggy's assistance. At that event, we also introduced our new assistant director: Suzette DiCecco, who had been hired only days before. She lives in the Silver Beach community right off campus and will be working with Saira in our alumni association office on campus a few days per week throughout the year.

At the college graduation ceremony this year, I was invited to represent the alumni association with a prominent seat on the podium. After students received their diplomas/licenses and shook the hand of Admiral Alfultis, I got to shake their hands and give them a packet from us as an official welcome to the alumni association. This was a big step. We will now have access to all of these new alumni, and we look forward to their participation in our growing association. Thank you, Admiral Alfultis, for allowing me to be a part of this momentous occasion.

Yet again, we met our goal of gifting the cadets embarking on summer sea term a total of \$250,000. I thank you for your continued generosity and for paying it forward. The board has decided that we will create an annual report this year for printed distribution to all members. Our Treasurer John Valvo '83 will be leading that charge. In an effort to make lives easier, we can now offer our members an automatic renewal option for payment of the \$60 annual dues on December 15th of every year. Membership allows instant access to the online directory, which is continually updated and keeps our network strong.

Check out our joint calendar of events located on the inside back cover. If your reunion year is approaching, I hope you make the time to attend the college's homecoming events; the campus has never looked better!

Fraternally,

Dand M. Hillette

Daniel M. Gillette, Class of 1997, President of Maritime College Alumni Association <u>President@FSMAA.org</u>



#### LETTER FROM REAR ADM. MICHAEL ALFULTIS

President, SUNY Maritime College

Dear Maritime Alumni and Friends,

I am proud and honored to share with you the first issue of *Fort Schuyler*, the new joint magazine of SUNY Maritime College and the Maritime College Alumni Association.

This magazine was created through a collaborative effort between the alumni association and the college. Our magazine committee was composed of six members from the alumni association and the college who worked together beginning in December to launch the new magazine. This inaugural issue represents a next exciting chapter of growth for all of us.

Every year at commencement, I tell graduates that wherever they go, they have a home here at Fort Schuyler. Now that the Maritime College Alumni Association has returned to campus, I am proud to say that promise is truer than ever.

Alumni belong in their alumni association in the same way that an alumni association belongs at its alma mater. The association adds a great deal to the college, its aspirations and its ongoing activities. It helps strengthen the experience of current students through internships, professional mentoring and summer sea term scholarships. The association's insights and partnerships have already proven fruitful as the college continues to move toward the goals of our strategic plan, "Charting a New Course."

Wherever you live in the United States, you will find Fort Schuyler graduates near you. Connect with your local alumni association chapter, and if not yet established, consider creating one. Association events help classmates stay connected with each other and with your college, whether it's over a drink, on the links or on a boat. By joining the alumni association, you demonstrate pride in your education and what it has helped you achieve, and, at the same time, you help us navigate the future.

As we seek to improve the magazine continually, I welcome your comments about *Fort Schuyler*, the magazine for SUNY Maritime College alumni and friends.

Warm Regards,

albutis

Rear Adm. Michael A. Alfultis, Ph.D.

### CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

#### FULL-MISSION BRIDGE SIMULATORS UPDATED FOR LATEST INSTRUCTION

Over the summer, the college's two oldest full-mission bridge simulators were redesigned to become fully immersive, state-of-the-art simulation centers. The renovation included additional high-definition video screens and an upgraded layout to better replicate a modern bridge.

As the world's waterways become more congested with traffic and subject to increasingly strict regulations, simulators serve a vital role in educating and training mariners. Students are able to test their knowledge, practice maneuvers and make mistakes in the risk-free environment of a Maritime classroom.

The two simulators are used almost every hour of every day while classes are in session. In each unit, a marine transportation faculty member runs



various simulations for four students at a time. The simulators also provide course instruction that prepare MUGs for their first summer sea term. In breaks between semesters, maritime companies use the simulators to provide additional training for their professional mariners.

Maintaining the college's fleet of six simulators requires continuous

updating and upgrading, and the college ensures all the simulators are cared for, upgraded and remain in state-of-the-art condition.

Maintenance donations and naming opportunities are available for the annual upgrades required by the full-mission bridge simulators, the engine simulator, the liquid cargo handling lab and the two electronic navigation classrooms.



#### **MEET THE INCOMING CLASS**

On August 27, nearly 550 new students began their educational journey at SUNY Maritime College.

More than 350 freshmen, nearly 100 transfer students and a greater number of graduate students than last year all started classes on a hot summer day that heralded the opening of the fall semester. Maritime's high quality and affordable programs; top national ranking in PayScale's annual salary ranking; longstanding focus on hands-on learning; and strong maritime industry connections contributed to the new students' decision to enroll.

This year, enrollment by women increased by more than 15 percent. Membership in the regiment of cadets remains strong, and approximately 350 MUGs arrived for indoctrination this year. An additional 200 students in the incoming class will participate in the internship program.









#### STUDENTS PROVIDE RELIEF TO HURRICANE VICTIMS

During the summer, hundreds of Maritime students sailed to the Caribbean to help areas devastated more than a year ago by Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

Thousands of people had homes without roofs or power and were contending with black mold on their walls. Hurricane wreckage clogged roads and waterways, complicating relief efforts.

Over three days on the first stop of summer sea term, hundreds of cadets worked at six sites across Puerto Rico. Another 30 students spent six weeks on the island of St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands: clearing rubble, removing mold-infested materials and demolishing condemned homes.

"One woman's house slid down a hill and collapsed with her in it. She had cracked ribs and all kinds of injuries," said Madison Burbol, a junior who volunteered in the Virgin Islands. "We were working through five layers of debris, and we had to watch every step because the debris wasn't stable to clear away the original house."

On St. John, 10 students at a time worked in teams for two weeks each

with international organization All Hands and Hearts. Humanities professor Chris McMillan and sophomore Austin Ford organized the trip in the spring. McMillan worked with the students for four weeks on the island.

In Puerto Rico, approximately 240 students removed debris, sorted produce for farmers, restored a community center, rebuilt a footbridge and repaired a resort that was a major employer before the storm. On one site, residents credited the Maritime students for doing work that would have taken the local community two weeks.

"We cut down large trees that threatened telephone and electric wires and chopped up fallen logs and branches that threatened to spill into the road," said senior Daniel Knowles, who volunteered in Puerto Rico. "We shared chainsaws, machetes and used our hands to remove the debris. In one day, we cleared about a mile and a half of a drainage culvert."

After the stop in Puerto Rico, cadets continued their journey to Palma, Mallorca; Glasgow, Scotland; Gaeta, Italy; and Ponta Delgada, Azores. ■

### Foundation Profile: CAPTAIN ROBERT JOHNSTON '69



In December 2017, the SUNY Maritime Foundation was established and former president and CEO of Overseas Shipholding Group, Inc., Capt. Robert Johnston '69, was appointed chair. The foundation's goal is to serve as the primary organization to raise and manage private financial support for the college. Funds raised will help the college educate students who graduate with the necessary skills to meet the challenges of an evolving maritime industry that requires greater technical and adaptable abilities.

The distinguished, eight-member foundation board will work closely with Rear Adm. Michael Alfultis to further strengthen SUNY Maritime. "I am grateful to have Bob and this strong group in our corner to offer the advice and substantial financial support that will help Maritime chart its course into the future," Alfultis said.

In recognition of his longstanding support, Johnston was awarded an honorary doctorate at the May 2018 commencement ceremony. He served as the commencement speaker, during which he told graduates that, wherever their careers take them, they will be prepared for new challenges and opportunities because of their education and training at Maritime.

In this interview, Johnston shares his perspective on the college and its future.

## Why take on the role of foundation chairperson?

SUNY Maritime College prepared me for my career. I've been involved with the school for many years, but as I was working, I couldn't do as much as I would have liked. Now that I'm retired, I have the time. I was looking for something that was worthy, rewarding and challenging. Since I have a passion for the school, it all fit in nicely.

## What aspects of the new strategic plan are of particular interest to you?

One of the things that impressed me was the process. The plan was not written by the school; it was not done in a back room. The planning committee went to the industry, to many different people and sources and asked for input about what was needed to bring the school into the 22nd, 23rd and 24th centuries. This was a long process. The result that emerged is a clear, concise, measurable plan – which is what we need.

Another aspect that impressed me was the inclusion of the six key challenges and opportunities.

They are right on the money. All six are important, and we need all six for the successful Maritime College of the future. Is one more important than another? I don't think so. They're all interrelated. They also fit with Maritime's seven core values. I think it's a comprehensive plan that will keep Maritime going into the future.

## How are the foundation and the college going to work together?

The SUNY Maritime Foundation was established to raise money from private sources – alumni, friends and corporations - to support the college's programs and mission. My colleagues on the foundation board and I were pleased to work within the admiral's strategic planning process and will fully support the direction that the plan articulates. Going forward, the foundation members will do what we can to advocate, support and bring much needed resources to Maritime. We want to help make sure that the college educates future generations of leaders within the maritime and many other industries.

To learn more about the Maritime College strategic plan, visit http://www.sunymaritime.edu/about/strategic-planning.



MARITIME GRADS AT ROBSON FORENSIC

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 '79 David Caggiano, PE, CFEI '89

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### FACULTY PROFILE

# From Cardb<u>oard to Tr</u>

**BY PAULINE BARTEL** 

Since downloading the Google Cardboard app and using it to create a simple 360-degree image, Tamera Gilmartin has been intrigued by virtual reality and its training potential. The app allows a person to take a 360-degree image on their cellphone. When inserted into a cardboard holder, the phone becomes a virtual-reality headset, capable of transporting someone anywhere in the world.

"I realized this new technology could replicate any experience at a very low cost. I was amazed by the new opportunities for training it provided," said Gilmartin, an assistant professor of marine transportation. "The app was free. The cardboard phone holder was \$10. I spent 30 seconds creating a 360-degree image, and I was blown away by how immersive it was."

Gilmartin is using the technology to create 360-degree videos onboard vessels to help students see and understand certain deck-side operations. Using the videos, Gilmartin can more tangibly demonstrate the potential dangers of these operations and provide students with important hands-on learning experiences with virtual reality. Now Gilmartin is creating full training videos that share the experience of evolutions conducted onboard a vessel.

Gilmartin has been teaching at SUNY Maritime College since 2012. Before that she sailed on research vessels for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Oregon State University, as well as on container ships and military support vessels. She has a bachelor's degree in Marine Operations and Technology from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and a master's in Learning and Emerging Technologies from SUNY Empire State. She holds a chief mate's unlimited license.



For her virtual reality project, Gilmartin received a \$25,000 grant from the college's Faculty Student Association and another from the SUNY Innovative Instruction Technology Grant program. After purchasing 360-degree camera equipment and headsets for 30 students, she joined the Empire State VI during the 2018 summer sea term to record the operation of lowering and raising the anchor. From this footage Gilmartin will create a 360-degree training video that will be integrated into a standard classroom. She will also research this training format next semester to determine its effectiveness.

> "When the 360-degree videos are played through a virtual-reality headset, students' visual, auditory and tactile senses are engaged," Gilmartin said. "They experience it as if they were standing in the location."

> > Gilmartin has also undertaken a pilot study to explore integrating 360-degree training videos into the experiential learning process. She recorded the operation of a small boat coming alongside a larger vessel and tested the video



Look Down





with two groups of students. The first group viewed the training video after attending a related lecture. The second group viewed the training video before attending the lecture. According to Gilmartin, students who viewed the video first "were extremely excited and had many questions. That was the biggest result I've seen so far – a much higher level of engagement."

Gilmartin believes that virtual reality will be an integral part of the classroom of the future. "Many educators are talking about virtual reality, and everybody's trying to take that next step," Gilmartin said. "It's exciting that at SUNY Maritime we have already taken that next step toward integrating this new technology alongside our well-established experiential learning-based curriculum." "It's exciting that at SUNY Maritime we have already taken that next step toward integrating this new technology alongside our well-established experiential learningbased curriculum."

### FEATURE

# A MARITIME CENTER FOR THE FUTURE

"We are involving interested students and faculty to assist startups with talent and ideas to help address and get ahead of the curve on industry changes." Thought leaders behind SUNY Maritime's Maritime Global Technologies Innovation Center are certain that the maritime industry is in the process of a technological transformation – for which they are ready.

Founded at the end of 2017, the Innovation Center was established to build connections and establish mutual understanding between maritimeindustry professionals, technology experts, entrepreneurs and financial experts.

"We will create a place to try experimental ideas that help develop a maritime-tech ecosystem. We want to respond to the real world

and its growth rather than to perceived industry needs," said Dr. Chris Clott, ABS Chair of Marine Transportation and Logistics at Maritime.

Technological revolutions have rocked finance, health care, agriculture, manufacturing, retail and

media – and the maritime industry is next, according to center co-founders

Clott and Dr. Richard Burke '72, ABS Chair of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering.

Since inception, the center has hosted several events. One gave maritime professionals the opportunity to explain a problem faced by their companies or sector that could be solved by technology. Another, held in conjunction with New York City's Marine Money, connected maritime professionals with technology experts and individuals from the finance industry. And a Startup Showcase at Grand Central Tech consisted of pitches by a series of innovative startups.

"Having SUNY Maritime host this center creates a neutral platform," said Jess Hurwitz, director of technology and risk advisory consulting at Citrin Cooperman and a member of the Innovation Center's advisory council. "They've given us the ability to have competitors sitting at the same table and, instead of seeing each other as competitors, coming together to work toward the group's goals."

Access to the college's students and faculty are additional benefits. These



groups will contribute their ideas and expertise, as well as assist in building the connections and implementing the forward-thinking ideas developed through the center.

"At Maritime College, we are merging tradition with evolution," Clott said. "We are involving interested students and faculty to assist startups with talent and ideas to help address and get ahead of the curve on industry changes."

The center's goals are to initiate and foster innovation and technology and to address critical needs in digital and tangible aspects of the maritime industry, including increasing efficiencies in port and terminal operations; better tracking containers and other cargo; and ensuring

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lobal Technologies Innovation Center

SUNY MARITIME COLLEG

compliance with environmental and other regulations. To address these and other challenges, the center will promote exploration of the uses of blockchain technology, automation, artificial intelligence, and ways to gather, track and use data.

In time, Clott and Burke believe, the center will act as an incubator and accelerator, combining resources from Maritime College, the State University of New York and other maritime, finance, logistics and technology groups.

The maritime industry is responsible for 90 percent of the world's commerce, with a global economic impact worth trillions of dollars. The industry is also one of the last major sectors to be transformed by the technological revolution, billed as the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

"Everyone is talking about Big Data. Maritime is Big Data – it's ports, vessels, crimes at sea. It's ripe for tech to try to solve some of these issues," said Mitchell Goldsteen, founder and partner of Oroco Capital, and one of the speakers at the center's Marine Money session. "Maritime is a huge part of our economy, but right now these conversations involve just a few people talking."

The faculty, professionals and thought leaders connected to the Maritime Global Technologies Innovation Center will help bring that conversation into the mainstream.

For more information or to get involved, visit maritimeglobaltechnologies.org.

What if the reveas a system a to encourage drivers to take naps during allotted break eriods

Or take brisk wa bintle waiting for trailers to be loaded

> MGTIC co-founders Dr. Chris Clott and Dr. Dick Burke '72 led a series of successful events discussing change and innovation that will strengthen the maritime industry. Math professor Dr. Dan An (above) gave a presentation at one of the events.

### ALUMNUS PROFILE

# McNeill's Legacy

BY BRIDGET BENDO '96

"Professor Joseph McNeill '48 went above and beyond the call of duty to inspire lifelong curiosity in his students by implementing innovative teaching methods, and by continually analyzing, adapting and improving those methods." At the heart of great teaching lies the inspiration of curiosity.

Professor Joseph McNeill '48 went above and beyond the call of duty to inspire lifelong curiosity in his students by implementing innovative teaching methods, and by continually analyzing, adapting and improving those methods. A beloved and legendary professor, he taught engineering for 35 years at SUNY Maritime College.

During one period of time, Professor McNeill observed that foreign students attending the college weren't grasping the engineering material as readily as their American counterparts. After analyzing the experiences of those particular foreign students, he drew two crucial conclusions: those foreign students lacked the knowledge of English technical terms and basic theoretical understanding of an engine's operation knowledge their peers had from tinkering with their old car engines. Those realizations spurred Professor McNeill to design a pre-college preparation program for foreign students, one in which he clearly defined basic technical terms while teaching hands-on automotive repair. The live laboratory he used was the campus parking lot; the materials dissected were two old cars that he acquired on his own specifically for the course. After taking Professor McNeill's auto repair course over the summer before indoctrination, foreign students better understood engineering theory and excelled at a rate comparable to that of American students.

Over the years, Professor McNeill received many notes from former students, who thanked him for the experiences that benefited their careers. In the classroom he used overhead projectors, which was not yet the norm, and he used them in innovative ways. He trained his students to use the projector to explain solutions to the homework problems. He also helped his students

Continued on page 16

# spiration

#### Who is Dr. Joseph McNeill '48, PE?

Raised in Brooklyn, Joe McNeill attended New York Maritime Academy for its free tuition, room and board, and the monthly \$50 stipend. When he enrolled in 1946, Maritime offered a 2.5-year program with an associate engineering degree, a third assistant engineer's license and a Naval Reserve commission. McNeill learned to love the sea and cruises remain his favorite vacations.

After graduation, McNeill spent five years moving U.S. steel with Isthmian Lines. He returned to Maritime for a bachelor's in Marine Engineering in 1953 and was a proud member of Maritime College's first graduating class. He later earned a master's in engineering from MIT's Sloan School and a doctorate in engineering from Rutgers University.

When McNeill was 36, he worked as the general manager of Continental Copper Company and started teaching at Maritime because of his interest in working with undergraduate students. At Maritime, he became a faculty leader, holding many key campus positions and becoming Presiding Officer in 1979. He earned the Distinguished Professor Award in 1980.

While teaching, McNeill conducted design failure analyses of residential and commercial properties. He started the AMC Home Inspection Company, pioneering the American home inspection business. He was a founding member of American Society of Home Inspectors and the lead technical writer of their training material.

McNeill used forensic engineering to analyze a wide variety of problems: why more accidents occur at particular properties, the likely extent of an item's product liability and causes of home structure failures. succeed academically by videotaping lectures so students could review topics more than once.

Other times, he invited professional industry engineers into the classroom to offer supplemental lectures. When an engineer described a first-hand structural failure encountered in the field, Professor McNeill recognized the incident as an opportunity for analysis. He never viewed failure as something to avoid or hide, but instead as a learning opportunity. This methodology was a reinvention of teaching at that time and likely the genesis of the idea for the new speaker series in Professor McNeill's name.

In early 2018, Professor McNeill's children approached the college about making a gift to honor their father and recognize his 90th birthday, celebrated in March. Professor McNeill's former students, now Maritime engineering faculty, proposed creating an annual distinguished engineering lecture series to bring speakers to campus who would continue their former professor's focus on engineering excellence and student-centered learning. Thanks to a significant gift from the McNeill family, generations of engineering students, faculty and the Maritime College community at large will benefit from the Dr. Joseph G. McNeill '48 Endowed Distinguished Engineering Speaker Series.



Here we see the blended McNeill-Tanella family of Dad, Mom and the eleven children.

Bottom row: Jude, Angela, Mom Angela, Dad Joe, Eileen, Maureen. Top row: Greg, Kathy, Brian, Paul, Joseph, Jane, Peter.



#### The official announcement reads:

In commemoration of Dr. Joseph G. McNeill's 90th birthday, his 70th reunion anniversary from SUNY Maritime College and his lifelong commitment to teaching excellence, which laid the foundation for outstanding development and career enrichment of his students over a 35-year period, the family of Dr. Joseph G. McNeill '48 has established an endowed fund at SUNY Maritime College to support The Dr. Joseph G. McNeill '48 Distinguished Engineering Speaker Series. The fund is being created to establish a distinguished speaker series within the engineering department. Chosen speakers will be asked to focus on wide-ranging and consequential topics in engineering and its role in society with the intention of stimulating the imagination of students and faculty and leading to favorable impacts on teaching, program development, career choices and research. The Dr. Joseph G. McNeill '48 Distinguished Engineering Speaker Series will benefit the engineering department and the students, faculty and staff present and future at SUNY Maritime College.

Contributions to the Dr. Joseph G. McNeill '48 Distinguished Engineering Speaker Series can be made by check or online at https://www.sunymaritime.edu/donate-now/.

For more information about the speaker series, please call Aimee Bernstein, VP for University Relations, at 718.409.5475.





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# **ADMIRAL'S DINNER** sets record for 8th year in a row

More than 700 college alumni and other friends packed the Admiral's Scholarship Dinner on May 1 to help raise more than \$830,000 in support of Maritime College's scholarship programs.

The generosity was displayed throughout the evening by maritime companies and associations, along with alumni, who sponsored the evening and bid to raise additional funds during the lively paddle auction.

As a result of this record-breaking support, more than 70 incoming students will each receive a four-year scholarship to study at Maritime. Nearly 50 students attended the dinner through donations established for that purpose, enabling them to interact with top executives in the maritime, infrastructure and engineering industries during the event.

Award recipients Dr. James S.C. Chao and Angela A. Chao of Foremost Group, and Joseph Byrne '89, of Turner Construction, captured the excitement in the room when they stepped to the podium to accept awards for their significant contributions to the industries they serve, to the college and to their lifelong commitment to education.











- 1 L-R: Kevin Comerford '83 of Memorial Sloan Kettering ; Tom Higgins '80, chief administrative officer of First Data; Victor Corso '83; Roury Higgins '21; Dean Lynch '19; Tom Breglia '80, corporate director of engineering, NY Presbyterian; Thom Merrell '77, former president of American Overseas Marine
- 2 Logan Memoli '18, Marissa Danzy '10, Paige Frankel '18
- 3 L-R: Christian Lam '14, Hornblower special projects; Matthew Gill, port captain with Statue Cruises; Richard J. Paine Jr. '04, regional director of Hornblower; Dennis Robesch '06, safety and training manager of NYC Ferry; Corey Penney '19; Bill Buckley, director of marine operations for NYC Ferry; Erica Davis '19
- 4 L-R: Turner executives Joe Colella '79, MEP manager; Bobby Gullickson, vice president MEP precon manager; Walter Murray '80, project executive; Rear Adm. Michael Alfultis; Michael Morrissey '12, procurement agent; Joe Byrne '89, vice president and senior operations manager; Pat Di Filippo, executive vice president
- 5 L-R: Joe Byrne '89, vice president and senior operations manager of Turner Construction; Rear Adm. Michael Alfultis, Dr. James S.C. Chao, founder and honorary chairman of Foremost Group; Ms. Angela Chao, chairman and CEO of Foremost Group; and Rich DuMoulin, chairman of the Seamans Church Institute and president of Intrepid Shipping
- 6 L-R: Craig Olson '82, Beverly Olson, John Bradley '83, Victor Corso '83
- 7 L-R: Kent Napoliello, Capt. Brian McAllister '56, chairman of McAllister Towing; Rear Adm. Robert North '66; Donald Frost '62
- 8 Generous support from maritime companies, associations, and alumni during the lively paddle auction.
- 9 L-R: Caroline Gibbons '20; Mackenzie Fabiani '21; Kevin Poissvant '19; James Merchante, president of the Board of Commissioners of Pilots of the State of N.Y.; Shannon McSweeney '21; and Rear Adm. Mark Buzby, Administrator of MARAD



#### Byrne celebrates Turner-Maritime connection

Joseph Byrne '89, vice president and senior operations manager of Turner Construction, was honored at the Admiral's Scholarship Dinner for distinguished contributions to the field of international construction services and for his devotion to SUNY Maritime College. In recognizing Byrne and Turner Construction, the college noted the nearly 50 Maritime College alumni working at the firm and their involvement in essential Turner projects such as powering the tugboats that delivered a three-story expansion over the FDR Drive to Rockefeller University's Upper East Side campus.

Introducing Byrne, Joseph Collela '79, mechanical, electrical and plumbing superintendent at Turner, noted the strength of the Turner/SUNY Maritime College relationship and Byrne's dedication to hiring his fellow alumni. Byrne highlighted the close relationship between the college and Turner: "Turner is building major facilities that are essentially ships that don't float or move. Then you throw the Maritime experience on top - the leadership training and the engineering programs - and you understand why we want them at Turner. These Maritime graduates walk onto our sites

Byrne has worked on some of the city's iconic landmarks, including the new Yankee Stadium, the Whitney Museum of Art, Madison Square Garden and the Hearst Tower. He also leads part of Turner's recruiting team and attends Maritime

with little or no oversight, and they excel."

career fairs. Over the past five years he has offered 60 internship or full-time positions to Privateers.

A military veteran, Byrne is extremely active in the community. He leads Turner's Veteran GiveBack Network and other volunteer programs at the James J. Peters V.A. Hospital in the Bronx. He also works with at-risk third graders in the South Bronx each month and introduces them to the fields of science, technology, engineering and math as a way of encouraging them to study and stay in school.

> At the dinner, Byrne congratulated the college for a "banner year," highlighting the renewed partnership with the alumni association and the funding in the federal budget for construction of a national security multi-mission vessel to serve as the college's next training ship.

Byrne's remarks were a reminder of the closeness between the college and its alumni, which only grows over time.

"You can't appreciate where you are going to unless you remember where you came from. I came from Throggs Neck, and I came from SUNY Maritime!"



### Two generations of Chao family celebrate Maritime's future

"My parents raised us with a deep conviction in the importance of education as a foundational building block to cultivating one's self to make a positive difference in the world," said Angela A. Chao, chairman and CEO of Foremost Group, as she was honored at the Admiral's Dinner. "May the best and brightest continue to be recognized and given an opportunity for education and may this make our industry ever more innovative and inclusive, and thus stronger."

Dr. James S.C. Chao, co-honoree at the Admiral's Dinner, founded Foremost Group, Inc., in 1964, after receiving a scholarship to continue his studies in the United States. Foremost Group has become an industry leader recognized for its superior management and performance. An American of Chinese descent, Dr. Chao has received numerous awards for his professional accomplishments and philanthropy, including induction into the International Maritime Hall of Fame.

The Chaos were recognized at the Admiral's Dinner for their strong history of support for the maritime industry and for education, both of which are lifelong, intertwined threads for the family. Two uncles of Dr. Chao achieved the rank of sea captain in the 1930's, a rare occurrence in one family during that time in China. Dr. Chao's wife, the late Mrs. Ruth Mulan Chu Chao, was educated as a young girl at a private school, which was also uncommon at the time.

The Chao family and Foremost Group were instrumental in

establishing Maritime's undergraduate student-exchange program with National Taiwan Ocean University. They also offer scholarships to NTOU graduates to allow them to pursue a Master of Science in International Transportation Management at Maritime and established the Ruth Mulan Chu Chao and James Si-Cheng Chao Endowed Scholarship Fund for students with demonstrated financial need to pursue a maritime career, as Dr. Chao did.

> Ms. Chao, before succeeding her father at the helm of Foremost Group, served as its assistant vice president, then vice president, senior vice president and deputy chairman. She has concentrated on increasingly broad sectors of the company, including safety management, ship operations, chartering, sales and purchasing. She is one of a handful of female executives in the maritime industry.

World renowned for its forward thinking, Foremost Group owns and operates a fleet of ships constructed to meet and exceed the most rigorous environmental standards. The company's fleet is replaced continuously, and the fleet's average age is less five years.

"We're at a pivotal time in the industry with regards to the environmental technologies that are coming to the markets and all of these other different technologies," Ms. Chao said. "There are so many facets of preparing the next generation of maritime leaders and I think this new, younger generation is going to be much better trained and capable to deal with these changes."

#### FEATURE

# *from* SHIPMATES BUSINESS PART

An interview with Thornton Towing founders and Fort Schuyler classmates Gerard Thornton '90 and Ed Carr '90

BY JOSEPH SHERIDAN '93

#### 1 Tell us when you decided to start a tug and towing business in New York Harbor and up the East Coast?

I had planned to establish a towing business while attending Maritime College, but upon graduation, everyone had gone their separate ways and it wasn't until 2006 when the idea returned and the timing seemed as good as any. I proposed a business venture with my brother Rick, who is also a mariner, as well as Ed Carr, my former classmate and friend from Fort Schuyler. The business was launched in February 2007. Back then, the company consisted of the 1,600-horsepower canal tug, Thornton Bros., which had started her life in 1958 as the John E. Matton.

### 2 What are some challenges you faced and how did you overcome them?

In 2008, after a fairly prosperous period, we purchased a second tugboat from a firm in Brownsville, Texas, and named her Edith Thornton after Gerard's mother. No sooner was she delivered to New York Harbor than the maritime industry came to an abrupt halt.

This was the time of the real estate market meltdown, and no companies were venturing any capital on new construction, which relies on tugs and barges and is a

Continued on page 24





# *to* NERS

Thornton Towing provides tug and barge services along the northeastern seaboard between New York and Maine. They provide general harbor towing and marine salvage and also charter their fleet of hopper barges for the safe, efficient and economical transportation of bulk cargo. Gerard Thornton '90 is the general manager and dispatcher, while Ed Carr '90 is port engineer and vice president.

ERIC R. THOR

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significant source of income for us. To make matters worse, fuel prices spiked to \$4 per gallon, resulting in many scheduled projects never materializing. The entire maritime industry remained static for over a year. Several firms that had been long-established closed shop and sold out to other large organizations. Luckily, we stuck it out and took advantage of some contacts we had in the business that brought us enough work to steer us out of the lean times.

The latest challenge to beset the industry not only affects our company but all firms industry-wide. The federal Subchapter M regulations reclassify all tugboats over 25' in

length as inspected vessels. Under Sub M, the boats are required to pass stringent criteria both aboard the vessels and within the office administration. Boats will need to be drydocked regularly, with certain safety and engineering systems installed. Companies like ours that are operating older boats will have to make substantial financial investments to accommodate the new regulations. To this end, we have been working with a towing industry consultant to help us attain certification for our tug. It won't happen overnight, but it is an integral part of the future of the towing industry.

## 3 What is something you learned at Schuyler that sticks with you today?

I think the importance of one element of cadet life at Fort Schuyler cannot be overstated - that is, the need to coexist with different personalities under less-than-ideal conditions. When you work at sea, and especially aboard smaller vessels such as tugboats, a crewmember may share a tiny cabin with someone they don't see eye-to-eye with for weeks at a time. You have to learn how to accept the others aboard ship, and how to work together to accomplish certain goals. Setting aside differences to get the job done is paramount, and it's what turns a bunch of relative strangers into an efficient crew.

#### 4 What's your favorite spot in NY Harbor?

Interesting question. I'm drawn to the narrow creeks and rivers of the harbor. It's places like Gowanus Canal and Newtown Creek that, for me, represent the true essence of the industrial maritime industry of the harbor. For



Gerard Thornton, Rick Thornton, Ed Carr aboard M/V Edith Thornton.

aesthetics, I really enjoy Sailor's Snug Harbor in Staten Island. Erin Urban and her staff have done an amazing job of maintaining the old dorm areas and also exhibiting the John A. Noble art collection. I visit there every chance I get.

### 5 What advice would you give another entrepreneur today?

To succeed at anything, you have to believe in what you are doing and enjoy your work. When I first mentioned my plan to run a tugboat in New York, a former employer told me, "Hey, guy, there's no money in this business, I wouldn't do it." Unfortunately or fortunately, I'm one of those people who have to find things out on my own, so of course as much as I respected his advice, I chose not to follow it. However, when I started up, we didn't have these new regulations with their far-reaching implications for smaller outfits, so if I were looking into starting a new towing line today, I may have thought otherwise.

#### 6 What is your favorite part of your job?

I like when young children look at the boats and get inspired by what we do. I hope that maybe some of them will want to go to sea, and maybe they will make a career of it. I remember the feeling I got when I was 9 years old and my brother and I stood at the Battery when the old Catherine McAllister pulled up to take some people aboard. As the tug steamed off, I promised myself I would one day be part of that world.

Author Joe Sheridan is the marine insurance broker for Thornton Towing. He works at Frenkel in New York City.





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\*Reported by SNL Financial



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# Alfultis strengthens Maritime connections

While students and faculty were away from campus for the summer, Rear Adm. Alfultis left Fort Schuyler on a mission. First he headed east to Glasgow, Scotland, and traveled with the cadets onboard the Empire State VI to Gaeta, Italy. Then he headed to Chattanooga, Tennessee, for a visit with the Carolinas alumni chapter and was back on the road to the Midwest to visit with alumni and companies to fortify Maritime's ongoing relationship with alumni and industry.

In Cleveland, Ohio, the admiral and his wife, Kim, visited Interlake Steamship Company to meet with Mark W. Barker '94, president, and Thomas M. Wynne, Esq. '90, vice president, general counsel and secretary.

While in Cleveland, he also visited Great Lakes Towing, where he met with president Joseph P. Starck Jr.
'90 and chairman emeritus Ronald C. Rasmus
'60. Great Lakes Towing also employs three other Maritime graduates: Graham Gajewski '14, Emery Eiber '15 and Nick Wallinder '16. Rear Adm. Alfultis also visited with Raymond Palmieri '73, senior vice president and treasurer of Reliability First Corp.

He then headed to Chicago, where the visit began with Bob Stewart '81, corporate vice president of global strategic sourcing services at McDonald's, and P. Brendan Dunican '91, regional vice president of ocean marine at Travelers Insurance. Rear Adm. Alfultis also spent time at Rickover Naval Academy High School, where he talked with school administrators about the experiences and opportunities at Maritime College.

The trip across Tennessee and the upper Midwest was part of Rear Adm. Alfultis's ongoing mission to connect with alumni, share news about the college's latest achievements and discuss the college's strategic plan to meet the challenges of the maritime industry and to advance the school's education programs and resources to meet the ever-changing and complex needs of today's transportation and engineering sectors.

If we missed you this trip, there will be a return visit at which time an alumni gathering will be held. Interested in establishing an alumni chapter in your area? Please contact Saira Yoo, director of the Maritime College Alumni Association, at director@fsmaa.org.

#### **STUDENT PROFILE**

# Giving Back to THE BRONX

RITIME

Senior Marine Operations major Malachi Harewood knows the meaning of struggle.

While he was a sophomore, his mother spent almost a year in the hospital. That sent Harewood into a downward spiral as he worked to simultaneously pay family bills and tuition while battling depression. His GPA took a nosedive.

"I would be the first male in my immediate family to graduate from college," the Bronx native said. "I have six nephews, all under the age of seven. I have to show them they can do this."

College wasn't part of Harewood's original plan. After he graduated from the New York Harbor School, he planned to get his 100-ton license and work. Instead, a teacher convinced him to pursue a degree. Harewood earned a scholarship from the Marine Society of the City of New York and acceptance into Maritime's Educational Opportunity Program, which brings promising at-risk students to college early.

"My whole life, I've had people helping me," Harewood said. "When I was in high school, we had one black teacher. If he hadn't been there, I probably would not have been in school. Having him as an example made it real for me. I have to give back to my community."

Harewood makes helping others a priority. Last year, he started bringing Maritime students to Rocking the Boat, a youth outreach program in the Bronx. Every week, they tutor students in Spanish, science and math.

Before he left for first-class cruise, Harewood was already planning to focus more on tutoring students for the New York State Regents exams. He completed a firstaid mental-health course, sponsored by the college, so he could help others if they needed it. And his GPA was back up above a 3.0.

"After graduation, I'm going to try to ship out," he said. "Long-term, I want to focus on introducing inner-city kids to new fields, especially in the maritime world. It's not about knowing how to work on a boat. It's about the skills and responsibility that come with it that help propel you in life."

### **CHAPTER GATHERINGS**



#### LONG ISLAND CHAPTER | April 12, 2018, Long Island, NY

This chapter's tradition continued with a night out at Bertucci's Italian restaurant in Melville.

Attendees were: Tom Hall '65, Chris Gowrie '75, Chris Brennan '74, Rob Dunlop '70, Harry Stumme '65, Ron Hamski '98, Michael DiMaggio '04, Steve Opkins '71, Dan Garvey '81, Ryan Modruson '02, Chris Nystrom '92, Robert DeMarinis '81, Gerhardt Muller '65, Dave Nieri '72, Rob Strebel '86, Al Guardino '71, Mario Fristachi '66, Anthony Nigro '91, Kevin Albertson '10, Patrick Brandow '18, Bob Homestead '68, James Knutson '07, CL '70, Richard Stewert '86, Christopher Stewert '18, Peter Mandi '98, Ryan O'Toole '05, A Scott Broderick '85, Alyssa Billi '17. Annmarie Bhola '98, Jim Yahner '86.



#### **CAROLINAS CHAPTER** | July 21, 2018, Chattanooga, TN

This chapter's summer meeting included a sit-down dinner and alumni greeted special guests Rear Adm. and Mrs. Alfultis.

Attendees were: Ken Sanderson, June Hooks, George Hooks '65, Marianne Michaelsen Sanderson '95, Kim Alfultis, Rear Adm. Alfultis, and John O'Neill '64.



#### NEW JERSEY CHAPTER | June 23, 2018, Lake Como, NJ

What better way to kick off the summer season than spend a few Saturday afternoon hours with buddies at Bar A at the Jersey Shore?

Standing from the left: Brad and Susan Winfree, Kings Point graduates; Beth and Morgan McManus '92; Saira Yoo, alumni association director; Steve Richter '81; Erik Barton '01; Ryan McKeon '14; Raymond Donnelly '06; Lisa '93 and Charlie Hudson '90; Dawn and Chris Begley '82; Jamie McNamara '94; Kneeling left to right: Raj Panda '01; Charlie Hoffman '60; Ed Johnston '80.

#### TEHRAN (UNOFFICIAL) CHAPTER | April 18, 2018, Tehran, Iran

When long-time Chicago resident Fereydoon Shirzadi '77 visited his homeland, Tehran classmates welcomed him. The gathering also included London resident Reza Rahiminia '77. Some of the classmates hadn't seen each other in about 40 years.

Standing from the left: Reza Rahiminia '77, Farhad Miriany '77, Mehdi Dehghan '78, Amir Hossein Aghayan '77, Fereydoon Shirzadi '77, Ali Ghaffari '77, Mehrdad Sohrabi '77, Parviz Kahali '77.





Attendees were: Jackie Graham '08, Allan Demmelmaier '97, Ernie Lang '85, Peter Brucato '11, Vinod Melwani '02, Ellen Cava '07, Leon Garber '88, Gerin Choiniere '08 (Charleston), Bob Landman '83, Mark Nermergut '79, Vince Franzik '68, Maggie Frarey '10, Chris Frarey '10, George Hairston '01, Dave Gommo '89, Carl Fisher '65, Mike Ziropollo '85, Stu Schechter '14, Michael Cignarale '14, Thomas Callahan '15, Kevin Hudson '94, Zachary Azria '17, Ryan Cook '16, Nathanael Wilhelm '18, Phelicia Hilcken '14, Marissa Nihill '06, Laura Cignarale '14, Daniel O'Brien '15.

#### HAMPTON ROADS CHAPTER | June 15, 2018, Norfolk, VA

This thriving new chapter welcomed new leadership: chapter president Jackie Graham '08, vice president Leon Garber '88, secretary Allan Demmelmaier '97 and treasurer Ellen Cava '07.

The chapter's summer meeting took place at the Bold Mariner Brewery in Norfolk, owned by fellow alumnus Jared Tuxill '93.

## Profile of LICENSE LEGEND HUGH STEPHENS



Hugh Stephens (with white bump cover) is an instructor of modern seamanship at the college. Having renewed his license 16 times to stay current, we challenge our readership to find someone who has renewed his or her license more.

"...he turns information into stories. If you're learning to tie a knot, he'll tell you how that knot saved his life."

Sara Gambel '21 International Transportation Management major Capt. Hugh Stephens teaches modern seamanship at Maritime College, and he brings vast subject-matter knowledge to his classroom. After all, 94-year-old Stephens has renewed his license 16 times to stay current, which may be a record.

Stephens entered the maritime industry in 1943 as a 19-year-old ordinary seaman on board Liberty Ships, including the S/S John Brown during World War II. (Stephens was both student and teacher aboard the John Brown, with some 50 years in between.) When the war ended, Stephens had earned his third mate's license and sailed as a third mate in peacetime aboard an army transport hospital ship, a period of time he describes as "five years of unadulterated fun."

Despite a 75-year age difference, Stephens connects easily with his students, and says he doesn't notice the age difference much. On day one of class, he begins sharing his stories of life aboard ship and in foreign ports. Students seem to feel comfortable as they recognize the same zest for adventure and freedom that perhaps plays a part in drawing them to a nautical education.

"What I love about Capt. Stephens' teaching style is he turns information into stories," said International Transportation Management major Sara Gambel, of Louisiana. "If you're learning to tie a knot, he'll tell you how that knot saved his life. If he's teaching safety precautions, he'll tell you about shipmates he lost due to carelessness. His stories and life experiences stick with students in a way that facts and figures alone can't. Capt. Stephens fills an important teaching role at Maritime; he shares lessons he learned the hard way that make us better students and mariners."

The one aspect of academic life today that challenges Stephens is teaching while students are distracted by cellphones. He gives fair warning at the start of the semester: the first time he catches someone using a phone in class, Stephens marks them absent. For a second offense, he confiscates the phone and delivers the device to the marine transportation department chairman. After that, Stephens usually has the student's attention.

Since Stephens teaches seamanship, the real learning doesn't take place in a classroom.

"Our job is not one you can learn out of book," he says. "It's hands on. It's learning how things that float work, learning what to do when things go wrong."

He is a fierce proponent of teaching small-boat handling, which he considers the most essential part of a nautical education.

"After all, a big ship handles in the same manner, only more slowly," he said. "I'm happy to be a part of that educational process at Maritime College for the next generation of mariners. We give practical experience and it's my goal to have every student who takes my class picture him or herself on the wing of a bridge of a ship. I want them to see themselves standing there alone in the middle of the night, asking: 'Am I prepared? Can I handle that?' My hope is that all my students will say that they're prepared."

A life-long learner, Hugh Stephens is about 15 credits away from completing his Bachelor of Science in Professional Studies. Full speed ahead, Professor!

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# **ALUMNI MEET ON THE LINKS**

#### BY SAIRA YOO

The Alumni Association's 30th annual Golf Classic was held on Monday, June 11, under picture-perfect skies at the Old Westbury Golf and Country Club in Old Westbury, NY. The welcoming committee members working the registration tables handed out smiles, participant gifts and mimosas for the golfers to start their day on the links. A big thank you to those welcoming committee members: alumni association staff, as well as volunteers from the alumni board, Parents Association and students.

Golf was followed by a repast in the banquet room, featuring a cocktail hour, dinner and dessert. Alumni Association President Dan Gillette '97 and Maritime College President Rear Adm. Michael Alfultis shared greetings with the crowd and provided updates on the increasing cooperation, joint events and future of the alumni association and the college. After dinner, raffle prize drawings were held and the game winners were announced, including the much anticipated winner of the 50/50 raffle. That lucky person was Joe Breglia '80, who won \$4,300.

This successful, fun event was made possible by our participants and all of our sponsors. We offer a special thanks to our key sponsors:

- Admiral McAllister Towing and Transportation Company, Inc. Capt. Brian McAllister '56 and Capt. AJ McAllister '80
- Master Willis Towers Watson Peter Austen '87
- Cocktail Hour Bouchard Transportation Corp.
- Golf Balls Wilmington Tug Dave Walters '71
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- 1 The welcoming committee included Pat Crilley '82, alumni association director Saira Yoo, Jamie McNamara '94, Dave Walters '71, Lawrence DeSimone, Denis O'Sullivan '78, Anthony DeSimone '06, alumni association assistant director Suzette DiCecco, alumni association administrative assistant Denise Tiernan, Maritime College director of annual giving Ashley Scotti and Jim Yahner '86
- 2 Alumni association board secretary Anthony DeSimone '06 welcomes guests
- 3 L-R: Marissa Danzy '10, Peter Mandi '98, Annmarie Bhola '98, Kris Schnatz '98, Jim
   Yahner '86 enjoying cocktail hour
- 4 L-R: Brandon Candia '94, Robert Zeuner '02, master sponsor Willis Peter Austen '87, TJ Stubler '98 and Capt. Charlie Brown '92
- 5 L-R: Noel Capellini '88, Eric Hough '88, KC Caldwell '98, friend Jeff Orth
- 6 Incoming alumni association director Saira Yoo (left) worked with outgoing director Maggy Williams Guinco
- 7 L-R: Jamie McNamara '94, Victor Corso '83, Jim Yahner '86, David Bell
- 8 L-R: David Choe, Jack Conway '04, Ben Ciferri '72, and Christian Ciferri '10
- 9 A few members of the class of 1983 had an impromptu mini-reunion: L-R: John LaGrassa, John Valvo,
  Victor Corso, Kevin Comerford and Mike Hinchcliffe

### **CLASS NOTES**

Cantor emeritus Sheldon Merel presented an autobiographical performance at Congregation Beth Israel, where he was cantor for many years. His performance included live singing and video and is now available for viewing on the Beth Israel YouTube channel.

In May, Joe Maurelli received an honorary doctorate from Marymount University. Both of his

children are graduates of Marymount.

Maurelli has been active with the university, serving as chairman of the School of Business Board of Visitors and as a member and then chairman of the university's



Photo courtesy of Marymount University.

Board of Trustees. Maurelli is also an inaugural member of the board of the SUNY Maritime Foundation.

Four members of the class - Bill Hall, John McCann, Steve Sabo and Joe Trainor - and their wives recently held a mini-reunion in Wilmington,



North Carolina. Over two days, the group shared meals, told sea stories and took tours of the city's downtown, the Navy battleship North Carolina and the Latimore House. The Sabos and McCanns co-hosted an Italian dinner for the group at the Sabo's home.

In April, Gary Jobson served as master of ceremonies at the annual National Maritime Awards Dinner, hosted by the National Maritime Historical Society and National Coast Guard Museum Association. The dinner honored three prominent members of the maritime industry.

Robert Bremm became a member of Spectrum Generation's volunteer board of directors earlier this year. The organization serves older and disabled adults in several counties in Maine.

Bremm is founder of Orion Maine, Inc., a project-management company for large design and construction projects. Previously, he was a director of facilities at Central Maine Medical Center, Maine Medical Center and Bates College.

Raymond Marquardt was promoted to senior vice president and chief operating officer of U.S. Shipping Corp. Previously, he was the company's director of safety and compliance.

Michael J. Driscoll was named the dean of the Richard J. Bolte Sr. School of Business at Mount St. Mary's University. Previously, he worked with several leading Wall Street firms and was a Fulbright scholar at The National University of Ireland, Galway. His appointment at Mount St. Mary's began in July and resulted after a national search.



Nine members of the class of 1958 gathered to included, pictured above and left to right: Bill Along with seven of their wives, the classmates on board the Norwegian Escape. Organized by

Members of the class have faithfully hosted a

# Class of '58 60тн REUNION

A former Maritime Privateers lacrosse player, Capt. Noah Myrus was recently part of a rescue operation to save four men from the sinking sailing vessel Moflete. In February, Capt. Myrus and his crew on the M/V Norfolk responded to a distress call from the vessel, which had damaged rigging. They supplied diesel fuel to the vessel and antibiotics to the sailors. Capt. Myrus



and his crew responded to a second distress call from the S/V Moflete, reporting that the rough conditions had caused the vessel to take on water. The Norfolk rushed to the scene, and all four men were brought safely onboard. For his work, Capt. Myrus received the Safety Achievement Award Citation of Merit from the Chamber of Shipping of America on behalf of the Norfolk, which is owned by Schuyler Lines Navigation, co-founded and operated by three Maritime alumni: Chris Hughes '92, Russel Paret '92 and Keith Zelinsky '92.

**293** Salvador L. Menoyo was promoted to vice president of vessel operations for international services at Crowley Maritime Corp. Menoyo is responsible for developing vessel service strategies, chartering and operations, terminal coordination and safety programs for involved vessels, and for stevedoring operations across Crowley's international shipping markets. He previously served as the company's vice president of operations for Caribbean services.

**P94** Robert Cannizzaro, vice president of Marine and Terminal Operations for North America, Hamburg Sud, was appointed to the board of directors of the Containerization and Intermodal Institute. CII is a non-profit organization focused on supporting maritime industry education efforts, primarily by awarding scholarships to students studying maritime and logistics.

#### Capt. Morris '88 retires after 30 years

Capt. Kurush Morris '88 recently retired from the Navy and a career that took him around the world. After training as a surface warfare officer, Morris deployed first on the USS Manitowoc and then on the USS Stark. He rose through the ranks and successfully completed two command tours: one on the USS Taylor, homeported in Florida; and the second on the USS Shiloh, homeported in Japan. While under his command, the Shiloh earned the Battle E, an award showcasing the ship's battle effectiveness, and the 2015 Missile Defender of the Year award. During his career, Capt. Morris earned the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (3 awards), Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards), Joint Commendation Medal (5 awards) and the Navy Achievement Medal (3 awards). His retirement plans include remaining in the Washington, D.C. area and joining the defense industry.

Cdr. Scott Muller retired in May with more than 22 years of active duty service as a marine safety officer in the Coast Guard. Most recently, Cdr. Muller chaired a Commandant Marine Board of Investigation regarding the sinking of the F/V Destination in the Bering Sea on February 11, 2017 and the loss of six crewmembers. Cdr. Muller's flag was flown on campus as its first stop around the country in honor of his retirement.



Cdr. Scott Muller '96 with his parents Gerhardt '65 and Gisela

# Maritime Alumni See CHALLENGE

One Hand! Maritime College alumni rallied to support the college during a giving challenge between four of the state maritime academies.



## PARTICIPATION RATE

Winner was determined by the highest percentage of alumni who made a gift of any amount from May 7 to May 21, 2018



Annual participation percentages are used as a gauge of alumni satisfaction by U.S. News & World Report and other national surveys. Every graduate who makes a gift helps push the percentage higher, which provides much needed support and can be crucial when the college competes for corporate and foundation grants.

Thanks to those who participated in this year's Maritime Alumni Challenge! Be on the lookout in Spring 2019 for the next Challenge when the Privateers can proudly assume 1st place!

\* Solicitable alumni are those with updated contact information on the college's database.
# **CLASS NOTES**

**\*055** K.A. Stacie Alexiou was named "One to Watch" by the New Jersey Real Estate Journal. Alexiou is the CEO and managing director of Watt and Flux, which helps companies and other large facilities reduce their energy consumption and carbon footprint.

Capt. Michael G. McGee '09 was one of two captains awarded the International Maritime Organization's Award for Exceptional Bravery. He received the honor during the organization's award ceremony last fall. McGee and Capt. Michael Phillips were helping to pilot a tanker through the Houston Ship Channel when the ship collided with mooring dolphins and burst into flame. The two stayed on the bridge and maneuvered the ship away from other vessels and facilities. The fire was extinguished after 90 minutes.

Allison Baley, staff captain with HMS Global Maritime, was named one of Waterways Journal's "40 Under 40." The awardees were nominated by industry executives and peers for their contributions to the inland marine industry. They were featured during the fifth annual Inland Marine Expo. Baley previously worked as the safety inspections coordinator at the Marshall Island's registry and the charter party coordinator at Cargill.

114 Lt. John Dunne married Katie Anthony during Veterans Day weekend 2017. The pair won Peconic Landing's 7th annual Veterans Day Wedding Giveback, which awards a wedding to a couple connected to the armed forces. While at Maritime, Dunne was commander of the NROTC unit and is serving a 10-year commitment to the Navy.



NYC Ferry Capt. Constansa Torrejon introduced Mayor Bill de Blasio at a special event this spring announcing that the city will invest \$300 million in the next few years to expand its ferry service. This funding results from the overwhelming success of the current ferry service, which serves 4.5 million



riders yearly and is projected to double to serve 9 million riders next year. The mayor called Torrejon a "genuine New York City success story" and delivered a message of support to trailblazing women in male-dominated fields.

# Two 2016 grads return for Fleet Week



Taylor Major '16

Taylor Major and Zack Jonsson returned to SUNY Maritime College over Memorial Day weekend as part of the Navy's Fleet Week. Both work as third mates on the USNS City of Bismarck, the Navy's newest expeditionary fast transport vessel. During Fleet Week, the ship and campus hosted more than 3,500 visitors for tours of the campus, various STEM activities that were taking place and tours of the City of Bismarck and the tall research ship Corwith Cramer.



Zack Jonsson '10

## SPRING NETWORKING NIGHT



The alumni association welcomed spring with a networking night.

As the last of the snow melted, the Maritime College Alumni Association coaxed alumni and friends out of hibernation and back to socializing, networking and collaborating at a spring networking event in Manhattan.

The May 17 event was fully sponsored by WSP - Chris Nystrom '92 and held at the Pennsylvania 6 near Penn Station. (Thank you, Chris!) This year's event had a record attendance of approximately 60 alumni plus friends, who mixed and mingled amid an electric atmosphere of Maritime camaraderie.



### **NEW ALUMNI NIGHT**

The Special Events Room in Vander Clute Hall was the scene on March 15 for the alumni association New Alumni Night. As this was their first campus event since reuniting with the



college, there was a great turnout of alumni and soon-tobe graduates. This speed-networking-style event featured alumni mentors scattered around the room and upcoming

> graduates moving from table to table. The graduates gained insights on various career opportunities available, while the alumni shared their experiences and spotted possible job candidates for future interviews.

> The mentors included John Valvo '83, alumni association treasurer and alumni association board members: Chris Nystrom '92, Anthony DeSimone '06, Annmarie Bhola '98 and Ted Mason '57. Other alumni included Paul Jennings '83, Ray Saleeby '67, Peter DiCapua '67, Joe Breglia '80 and Joe Lorino '87.

### NATIONAL MARITIME DAY



### **The Long Island alumni chapter** celebrated National Maritime Day, May 22, 2018, at the Small Craft Brewery in Amityville, N.Y.

Attendees were (not in order): Ed Moore '85, Alphonse Guardino '71, Annmarie Bhola '98, Jim Yahner '86, Rich Ohlsen '90, Jose Femenia '64, John Dejewski '06, Rob Dunlop '70, Ron Hamski '97, Amie Carter '00, Victor Corso '83, Jay Mulhall '84, Michael Mutch '07, Derek Tonne '10, Taylor Carsch '13, Nicole Megale '18, Bill Kreppein '80, Earl Baum '80, John Gallagher '87, Tommy Dorr '82, Bill Ducey '81, Peter Combs '98, Michael Fiorenza '05, Harold Stumme '65, Kevin Albertson '10 and Christopher Baransky '18.

### **The Port of Norfolk, Virginia, Propeller Club** hosted National Maritime Day on Tuesday May 22 at the Decker Half Moon Center at Nauticus in Norfolk.

The following Maritime College alumni attended: David Pryor '83, Mark Nemergut '79, George Hairston '01, Matt Matson '05, Jacquelyn Graham '08, Dave Gommo '89, Don Josberger '89, and Alex Conrad '16.





The Downtown Ringknocker Chapter of the USMMA Alumni Association hosted a National Maritime Day Memorial service and luncheon on May 18, 2018 at the American Merchant Mariners' Memorial in Battery Park, NYC, and at Pier A. The guest speaker was Capt. James DeSimone '73, chief operations officer of the Staten Island Ferry.

Schuyler alumni were happy to support the USMMA alumni association. Attendees included: seated: John Kirchhofer '96, Kimun Chiu '85, Daniel Rosachi '85. Standing: Paulina Czernek '05, Earl Baim '80, David Ahrens '85, Bridget Bendo '96, superintendent of the US Merchant Marine Academy Rear Adm. James Helis, Danielle Centeno '07, Brandon Candia '94, Don Moore '00, Capt. James DeSimone '73, John Bowie '82.



# **CATCHING DREAMS** with Taylor Walker '13

Taylor Walker '13, a senior marine underwriter with Markel Corporation, and his team captured a

first-place finish in the 2018 Newport Bermuda Race, the 635-nautical-mile classic ocean sailing race.

Walker was the captain of *Dreamcatcher* (blue hull in above picture), a 1972 Swan 48 owned by the MudRatz, a 501(c)3 youth sailing organization based in Mystic, Connecticut. Coached by Walker, the crew of the MudRatz comprises youth sailors ages 15 to 23. The team also took home the Stephens Brothers Youth Division Prize.

Challenges are all part of the journey, according to Walker. "Getting to the starting line is always the hardest challenge," he said. "On the morning of the race, our refrigeration-system compressor broke down, and then we snapped a wire for our external satellite phone antenna. These last-minute scrambles always happen. Another challenge we faced after the start was that this year's race saw very light air for two full days, as we were swallowed by a massive high pressure system. Keeping a group of teenagers focused on safety and racing in the baking sun with no wind isn't easy! But this group excelled – and accomplished a very difficult victory!"

Several alumni compete in and do well in the Newport Bermuda Race. Winning his class this year was Scott Adler '07, who navigated *Apollo*, a newly constructed J 121.

# WHERE IN THE WORLD

• Ho Chi Minh City



Singapore

40

# MALAYSIA!

Four alumni recently ran into each other in the unlikely port of Kuantan, Malaysia, while conducting operations in support of the U.S. Army Pacificsponsored Theater Security Cooperation Program Exercise Keris Strike '18.

Eric Pomeroy '13, chief mate of the Ocean Giant; Capt. John Woods '85, operations/plans of Military Sealift Command Far East; Cmdr. Don Moore '00, commanding officer of NR Military Sealift Command Expeditionary Port Unit 102; and Cmdr. Will Delao '00, of NR Strategic Sealift Unit 102.

# SINGAPORE!

Richard Feliciano '96, senior surveyor for American Bureau of Shipping, met up with chief mate Jean Marien '80 and second mate Nichols Beihl '15 on board the USNS Salvor on May 5, 2018, in Sembcorp Marine Admiralty Yard.

Editor's note: Starting with this issue, we will highlight Schuyler grads 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 communications@sunymaritime.edu.

Singkawang

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Nicholas Wallinder, Class of 2016 Health, Safety, Security and Environmental Manager & Tug Captain

THE GREAT LAKES TOWING COMPANY & GREAT LAKES SHIPYARD

# ANNUAL ALUMNI PARTY AT CLUB CORSO '83

What started as one summer class reunion for the class of 1983 at the Long Island home of Victor Corso '83 has turned into an annual alumni party. The crowd shows up with or without invitations, and 45 alumni joined the fun at this year's July 20 party at Club Corso. In honor of the original classmates who are the core of the party, pictured here are the 1983 classmates.



Standing from left: Andy Biederman, Harold Guidotti, Dan Wickstrom, John Maguire, Richard Hayes, Mike Hinchcliffe, Brian Kirk, Mike Rohan, Tom Keating, Martin McCluney, Rich Ferris, Rich Picinich. Kneeling: Chuck Anderson, Tom Munster, Tim Bunt, Vic Corso, Kevin Comerford, Bill Bartsch, Vin Horan, Bob Langstine. Missing from picture: John Bradley, Garry Russo.

# Owen Palmiotti '07 MADHOUSE MECCA

"Madhouse Mecca," a movie written and produced by Owen Palmiotti '07, premiered at the Beverly Hills Film Festival on April 5, 2018 and at the Richmond International Film Festival on April 26, 2018. Palmiotti attributes his ability to translate his stories into scripts to a two-month period in his third-class year when he was restricted to campus and had a lot of time on his hands.

His next project is "Back on the Water," a true story of the sacrifice and persistence of the Havens family in the Olympic Games spanning 1924 to 1952.

During the week, Palmiotti works for International Registries, Inc., in Reston, Virginia.



film festival.

Greg Marti

# **CLASS NOTES**

## Dan Covelli '94 promoted to XO and CO

In November 2018, Dan Covelli '94 will become executive officer and commanding officer of the U.S. Naval Air Warfare Center Training Systems Division/Naval Support Activity Orlando. The division's assets form a center of excellence that produces leading-



edge advances in training systems and human performance. According to Covelli: "If not for the training I received at Maritime College, I would not be where I am today. The instructors, upper-class cadets and my peers helped me hone my leadership skills. The NROTC unit staff was top notch, and I owe a special thanks to Pete Vecchio '92."

### Alumni attend Gala

The Association of Energy Engineers held its annual gala on June 19, 2018, at Club 101 on Park Avenue. The elegant event was well attended by alumni who paused momentarily from discussing energy efficiency tips to smile for the camera.



L to R: Paul Jennings '83, Robert Berninger '86, David Ahrens '85, Vinny Ward '01, Chris Katz '99, Annmarie Bhola '98, Jeffrey Logarzo '99, Deng Lin '09, Bruce Schadler '97.

### Class of '93 hosts mini reunion

Navy Cmdr. Tom Murphy '93, classmates and friends took a bite of the Big Apple on April 3, 2018. This Manhattan meet-up and mini-reunion welcomed Murphy home for a visit during his leave.



L to R: Brian McClintock '93, Michael Murphy '95, Michael Conroy '93, Steve Kretzmer '93, John Ventrudo '93, Tom Murphy '93, Mark Hannah '93, Chris Schierloh '93, Sam Reilly '95.





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# Two alumni found Mercury Resources

With overwhelming support from clients and service partners in the commodity trade, Anton Posner '92 and Margo Brock (nee Bransfield) '95 formed their own supply-chain management and logistics firm, Mercury Resources, LLC. Posner is the company's chief executive officer; Brock is the president.

Mercury Resources focuses on commodity supply chain and collateral management for producers, trading companies, banks and funds involved in dry commodity trade, with an emphasis on industrial commodities like steel, base metals and raw materials. According to Posner, the current climate of trade action and volatile freight rates creates opportunities for intermediaries. Mercury's expertise lies in integrated door-to-door supply chain services for dry bulk and breakbulk commodities, including global ocean and inland freight management. Previously, Posner was

chief executive officer of CWT Commodities USA, the North American unit of the Singapore-based global logistics and financial services company CWT Limited. Over his career, Posner has held positions at supply chain management companies and steamship lines, including sales and marine operations.

Brock was previously vice president and a managing member of CWT Commodities USA. Brock has worked on the exchange commodity trading coffee and at a logistics firm focused on the import and export of bulk and breakbulk cargoes. Brock and Posner have worked well together for over a decade.

Pictured above: Anton Posner and Margo Brock at Quebec City Port.

## The watch stands relieved

Capt. Tim Gaughan '77 retired from Shell Oil Company after a nearly three-decade career with the Houston-based firm. His career path there included technical, operations and commercial positions, stateside and abroad. In his last position as general manager talent, Gaughan oversaw the development of world-class shipping and maritime



1977 classmates at their 40th mini-reunion: Bill Hoeler, Tom Merrill, Steve Ederle, Tim Gaughan, Eric Glaser.

staff. Prior to joining Shell, he completed a 13-year seagoing career aboard American-flag crude, product and chemical carriers, including sailing master for three years. He brought to those positions a bachelor's degree in Meteorology and Oceanography from Maritime College and an MBA in Executive Management from St. John's University.

## Global Business and Transportation's Pelkowski retires from Coast Guard



Rear Adm. Francis "Stash" Pelkowski '84 retired this summer after 38 years in the U.S. Coast Guard. During his Coast Guard career, Pelkowski was responsible for overseeing more than 7,000 reservists. He assisted with Coast Guard

# **CLASS NOTES**

mobilization efforts after Sept. 11, 2001 and also coordinated the search, rescue and recovery efforts after TWA Flight 800 crashed in 1996, killing 230 people. Pelkowski has been a professor in Maritime's Department of Global Business and Transportation since 2009. This fall, he took the helm as the department's chairperson.

# Maritime alumni work on Kings Pointer in dry dock

When the Kings Pointer, the training vessel for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, pulled into dry dock at International Ship Repair and Marine Services in Tampa, Florida, five Maritime College alumni served as part of the work crew.

Pictured here from left to right: Bill Ingram '82, MARAD supervisory marine surveyor; Dana Ryan M'10, mate of the Kings Pointer; Mark Sorochynskyj '01, chief engineer of the Kings Pointer and Ian Mullins '08, American Bureau of Shipping Surveyor, Tampa. Not pictured but also part of the crew was Gerry McNamara '71, assigned vessel MARAD marine surveyor.









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William G. Agne '60

Herbert Aguero '40

Arthur O. Birkenstock Jr. '49

James A. Carnell '52

Thomas J. Donohue '64

Tom J. Donovan '69

William C. Gibney '44

Doug R. Graham '53

Ed M. Gregory '44

Charles B. "Charlie" Hiep '60

Stanley Katz '44

James "Jim" McKoy

Thomas Miller '52

Don L. Murray '55

Walter J. Romanowski '84

Anthony J. Scolaro '46

Ara A. Shimshidian '56

Robert Stickle '59

Johan P. Turna '54

Keith M. Utley '98

Fred C. Wegener '52



# **UPCOMING EVENTS** FOR MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

### **National Philanthropy Day**

#### November 15, 2018

Wherever you are, we hope you will consider supporting Maritime College on this day. Even a small gift can make a big difference!

### Maritime Academies Reception at WorkBoat December 2018

Maritime College will join with Maine and Massachusetts Maritime to host this reception for alumni and friends from all three state maritime academies.

# Maritime College Alumni Gathering in Connecticut January 2019

Rear Adm. Michael Alfultis will visit with alumni in the Connecticut area.

### January Commencement January 25, 2019

Help us welcome the Class of 2019 to the ranks of proud Maritime College alumni.

### Maritime College Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner

### January 31, 2019

The annual awards dinner will honor three individuals:

- Alumnus of the Year: Dan Gillette '97, Maritime College Alumni Association president
- Special Recognition: Rear Adm. Michael Alfultis, Maritime College president
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Dick Bracken '56, former Maritime College Alumni Association president

### Maritime College Alumni Association Annual Membership Meeting

### January 31, 2019

The meeting is held during cocktail hour of the awards dinner. It is a time to discuss alumni association happenings and to present newly elected officers and board members. The meeting is independent of the awards dinner, and attendance at the awards dinner is not mandatory to participate in the meeting.

#### Admiral's Council Reception February 2019

The college will host an exclusive event for Admiral's Council members.

#### Maritime College Alumni Association New Alumni Night March 2019

A chance for alumni to meet and mingle with upcoming graduates and offer advice on career possibilities open to them with a Maritime College degree.

### Spring Career Fair March 19, 2019

Visit your alma mater to recruit current students and graduating seniors to internships and employment at your company.

### Connecticut Maritime Association April 2-4, 2019

Visit SUNY Maritime College at our CMA booth.

### Admiral's Scholarship Dinner April 30, 2019

The annual Admiral's Scholarship Dinner is the college's premier event to raise support for our students. The event builds vital support for individual student scholarships and campus-wide initiatives, including establishing lecture series, renovating and updating labs and other facilities, and achieving the goals of the college strategic plan.

### May Commencement May 3, 2019

Recognize members of the Class of 2019 and welcome them to the ranks of Maritime alumni.

### Maritime College Alumni Association Spring Networking May 2019

Meet and mingle with fellow alumni, industry professionals and friends at this premier networking event.

### Maritime College Alumni Association 31st annual Golf Classic

#### June 10, 2019

We will return to Old Westbury Golf and Country Club for the annual Golf Classic. Don't miss the chance to catch up with old friends or make new ones on the links.

For more information, visit www.sunymaritime.edu/events-alumni-friends



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