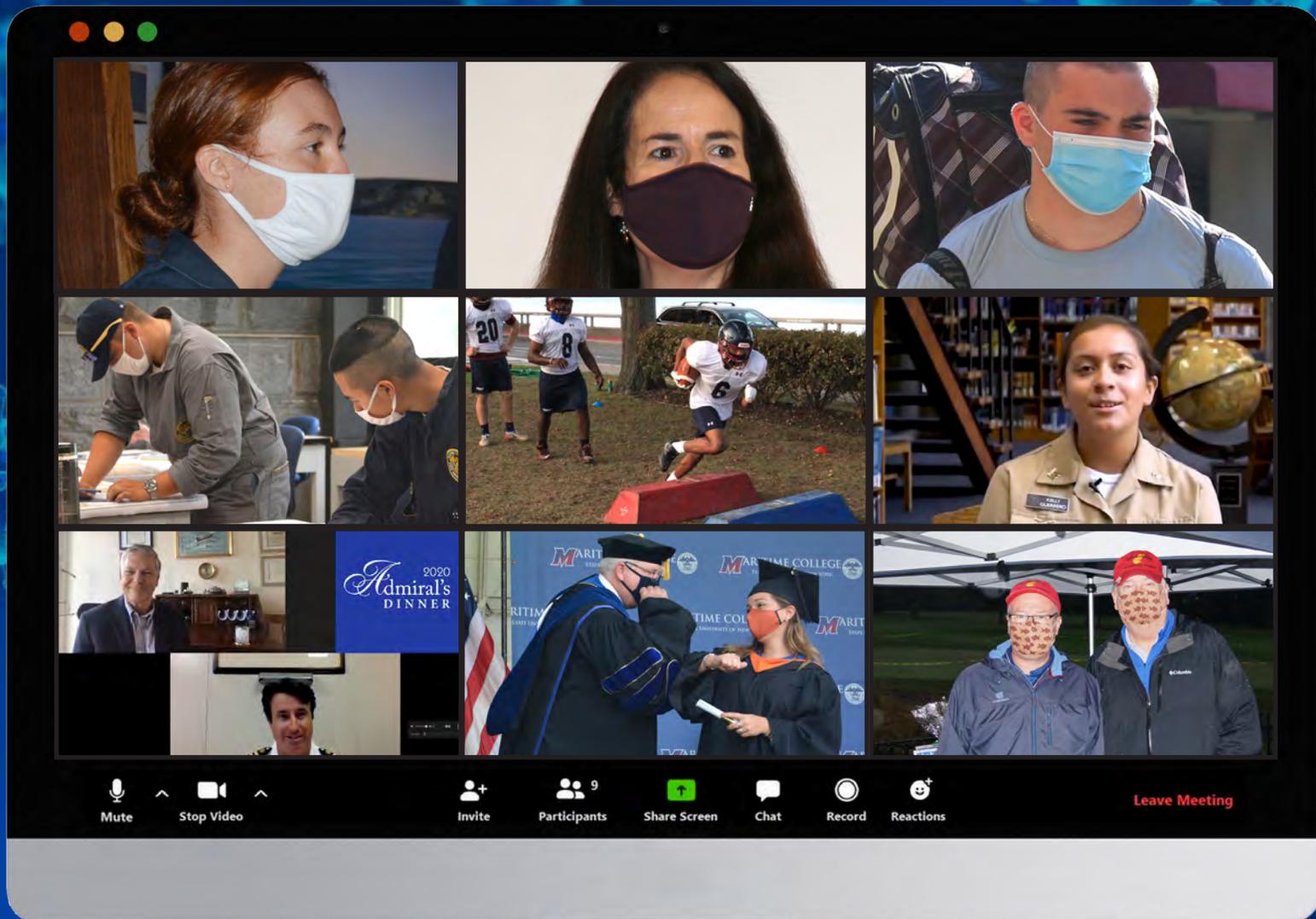


# FORT SCHUYLER

THE MAGAZINE FOR MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

FALL 2020



# PERSEVERING IN A PANDEMIC

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FALL 2020

# FORT SCHUYLER

THE MAGAZINE FOR MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

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### ON THE COVER:

In the midst of a pandemic, Maritime College and its alumni applied creative approaches to learning, working and living in a COVID-19 environment.

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**Fort Schuyler** is the official magazine of  
SUNY Maritime College (est. 1874) and its  
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 Alumni Family,

We started the year with our Annual Awards Dinner where we come together to honor our own. Out of an abundance of caution, as well as government mandates, we unfortunately had to cancel all of our social events.

A re-configured website was rolled out with more user-friendly features and dedicated pages for Chapters to post. Board of Director Meetings went Virtual, along with the issuance of video recap summaries. Board members have been posting videos on our Social Media pages to bring insight into Board activities. Virtual Mentorship Sessions were initiated to fill the gap of New Alumni night, bringing Alumni and graduating students together (2 graduates with jobs!)

The cancellation of Summer Sea Term presented its challenges and the College did some "Thinking Outside the Box" and adapted to a 30 day Pier-side Training program. Your Alumni Association stepped up to the plate and awarded \$120,000 in Scholarships to participants!

We continue to support the students with other scholarships such as the Charles Balancia '56 award and the Inaugural Class of '67 Academic and Sallyport awards.

We saw the change of watch with outgoing magazine editor Bridget Bendo and incoming editor Matthew Bonvento. We thank Bridget for her years of service to the association and we are excited to see what new ideas Matt will bring. Increased efforts were made and are on-going for improving communications and transparency to you, our members.

We, too, have been experiencing calls for social change and equality through our participation with the Organization of Black Maritime Graduates, Student Coalition for Change and the College to address inclusion and diversity. Looking within, your Alumni Association created a New Committee – "All Hands on Deck" - to address diversity and inclusion within our own Association.

We were fortunate to host our Annual Ancient Mariner Golf Outing the day before "Virtual" Homecoming. The event was a sell-out and all in attendance were able to enjoy each other's company while maintaining the proper safety protocols.

Virtual Homecoming – even though we were unable to physically come together, we were able to host a series of pre-recorded videos prior to conducting our LIVE Annual Meeting. During prior years, the Alumni Association conducted its Annual Meeting in conjunction with our Annual Awards Dinner. Last year, the Annual Meeting was moved to Homecoming weekend to allow greater member participation and a more comprehensive presentation of Association reporting. We found that approximately 120 members participated in last year's Annual Meeting, solidifying the need to maintain the meeting date change. This was one of several by-laws changes that was voted in by the membership recently. For the full meeting go to our Facebook page.

To the reunion classes that had plans for the full pomp and circumstance of marching into St. Mary's Pentagon, we're working on plans to get you an opportunity at next year's Homecoming allowing you to share the day with the 2021 Reunion classes.

We concluded the Homecoming events with fun Maritime College Trivia and the replaying of past years Maritime KP Football. Feedback we received for this event was very positive, even though we hope to never have to do this again!

I would like to take a moment and offer our thoughts of remembrance and prayers for our fellow Alumni who have crossed the bar this year. I hope you will keep their memories in your hearts as well as shared in your Sea Stories, as we look forward to future gatherings.

On behalf of the Maritime College Alumni Association, I thank you for your continued support.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Valvo', written over a light blue rectangular background.

John Valvo – Class of 1983  
President, Maritime College Alumni  
Association

## LETTER FROM MICHAEL ALFULTIS

*President,  
SUNY Maritime College*



Dear Maritime College Alumni and Friends,

I hope you have been staying safe and healthy as COVID-19 continues to affect our nation, state, city and campus.

Needless to say, the challenges we have encountered as a College community during the pandemic have been unique. In light of COVID-19, we quickly shifted to remote instruction, reimagined Summer Sea Term with a Pier Side Training program, held our first-ever virtual Commencement, and hosted our very first live, virtual Admiral's Dinner in the fall. While COVID-19, the subsequent "New York Pause" and other mandates caused us to change our approach to teaching, learning and organizing campus activities and events, it underscored our community's resolve to persevere.

This edition of Fort Schuyler is dedicated to the perseverance of our faculty, staff, students and alumni during an unprecedented time in history. Together, we have navigated through challenging waters to continue on-campus operations. We developed creative ways of highlighting student success virtually and offered opportunities for students to gain the experiential learning they have come to expect.

Through careful planning and frequent testing, we were highly successful in maintaining a low infection rate during the summer and fall sessions. When the fall semester began, our campus infection rate was 1.9% (out of 263 tests conducted). By November 20, over 4,500 tests were administered to students, faculty and staff with a positivity rate of 0.42%. Even as cases rose throughout New York City and the Bronx, Maritime College maintained an exceptionally low number of cases. This not only reflected an outstanding effort on the part of our staff and faculty to minimize risk and exposure and act quickly to

contain the cases, but revealed a level of commitment on the part of students to complete in-class coursework. Together, we have been on a journey of perseverance in a pandemic.

In this issue, you will find stories of how offices and divisions such as Admissions, Athletics and the Regiment of Cadets planned and prepared for recruitment, new student orientation, competitive sports and executing Indoctrination. You will also read about two very different Commencement celebrations that were held during the pandemic. Finally, you will learn that despite COVID-19, programs such as Pier Side Training were made possible through the generosity of donors, friends and alumni.

As we forge ahead and focus on a new year and spring semester, we recognize and appreciate the many contributions of those within and outside of the Maritime College community who have been essential in supporting our students, campus operations and safety, in-class and online instruction, and many other aspects of the college experience.

Please enjoy this issue of Fort Schuyler.

Be well.

All the best,

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

## FEATURE

## CAMPUS LIFE CONTINUES

# DURING PANDEMIC

The impact of COVID-19 reverberated throughout all divisions of Maritime College, affecting every aspect of the College including Admissions, Athletics, the Regiment of Cadets and instruction. The sudden onset of the pandemic required a dramatic shift in how students were recruited, oriented to college life, indoctrinated into the Regiment and instructed when the fall semester began. It became evident that new, creative approaches would be required to maintain a semblance of normalcy and provide students with a fulfilling college experience.

## ADMISSIONS

Rohan Howell, Dean of Admissions, described how it was necessary to quickly change the landscape since the onset of the pandemic. He noted that Admissions, well known for its face-to-face interaction with potential students and their families, dramatically shifted its practices to virtual recruitment. "Since March, we had to create a series of recorded online, virtual events for accepted students," he stated. "We found those events to be the most authentic way of connecting with students." The Admissions team, which had regularly utilized social media for recruiting purposes, conducted a variety of sessions for the spring, summer and fall semesters through Instagram Live and Zoom with significant participation.

The chat feature on the Admissions web page allowed the submission of and response to questions in real time. Additionally, the feature served to benefit prospective students and families by offering them the flexibility of scheduling one-on-one Zoom meetings with each Admissions staff member, or engaging in a live chat.

Despite COVID-19, Admissions successfully surpassed its enrollment goal for the fall semester by 10% for incoming students. "This achievement is due to the exceptional staff at Admissions, our campus partners, faculty and students."

Looking ahead to recruitment for the fall 2021 semester, Howell and his team





recognize the challenges that will come with recruiting solely online. "This form of recruitment is new for many of us. In the past, we were accustomed to some form of recruitment online, but students will now have to fully complete the recruitment

process online." Online recruitment presents its own share of challenges. For example, students are presently unable to sit for standardized exams in the same testing environment as in past years. Howell indicated that as these exams are required in the decision-making process, many colleges and universities schools may need to adopt new policies of acceptance due to the lack of standardized test options.

The amount of information now available to students and families online is far greater than in previous years, a direct outcome of COVID-19. Student engagement has also increased exponentially and

families have expressed appreciation for the level of availability on the part of Admissions staff during the COVID-19 crisis. Events are well attended and held at various times of the day rather than only during business hours. In-person campus tours, a highlight for many students considering attending Maritime College, have become virtual. Information sessions are hosted by Admissions counselors and student ambassadors conduct the tours. A campus tour app has allowed students to take a self-tour. "Admissions has always taken a traditionally social approach to recruitment and digital marketing. We never held live virtual sessions. COVID-19 has forced us to step outside of the box and hold smaller, more frequent online events."

Howell is extremely proud of how his team managed to effectively meet the challenges head on and work together to find the solutions that allowed operations to continue. "We took a deep breath, developed a plan, executed that plan, adapted and kept our students safe in the process." ■





Basketball Coach, Mike Berkun, was equally disappointed with having to break the news to various teams that sports would not be played in the fall. "Athletics has been negatively affected by the pandemic, but since classes began in the fall, we hold practices, workouts, weightlifting, strength and conditioning, and schedule meetings. As always, there is a lot of activity. We're working differently to stay engaged with the students," stated Berkun.

Although the fall sports season took place without a competitive component, athletes remain hard at work practicing with their teammates and coaches. "The goal is for all of our athletes to get better, regardless of the sport. To be ready to compete." It is with that goal in mind that Berkun considers the Athletics department to be fortunate. He recognizes that not all colleges have the same opportunity for their athletic teams to gather and practice in a socially distant manner.

The blow of a canceled season was difficult for Berkun and the athletic teams to process when they learned their season would not take place due to COVID-19 concerns. As the teams began to gather, plan and practice, they adjusted to a new normal. "They are putting their best foot forward, working out and getting better for the next season. Our athletes also recognize they are fortunate

to regularly practice, become stronger and work closely with their coaches and teammates."

Indoor sports such as volleyball and basketball have required more stringent rules in terms of capacity and contact. Berkun acknowledges that students who participated in these types of sports were dedicated to adhering to the rules to maintain consistency of practicing the sport. He also understands how difficult it is for athletes to undergo an entire season with no competition. "It's been tough for them to know that one of those seasons they've waited and trained for has been taken away. My perspective, though, is: Let's get better. Let's focus on how we can improve when we get back to playing."

Athletic recruitment over the summer proved to be somewhat challenging. Rather than in-person visitations, many meetings were held virtually. "Recruitment activities did not stop," stated Berkun, "they were simply conducted differently." A strong believer that the pandemic has not marred athletics in any way, Berkun is convinced the Athletics department has improved year after year and will only continue to get better. "Things may have changed, but we've done everything we can to give our athletes a good experience." ■

## ATHLETICS

Students on athletics teams were determined to make the most of the semester under COVID-19 circumstances. Having had the spring athletic activities end abruptly due to the pandemic and subsequent move to remote instruction, Interim Director of Athletics and Head Men's





## REGIMENT OF CADETS

**K**assidy Gay '21, who studies Marine Engineering and is pursuing a Third Assistant U.S. Coast Guard Engineer's License, also serves as Regimental Commander of the Regiment of Cadets. After witnessing the importance of leadership in the Regiment during her first year, Gay sought to become a leader and help her fellow cadets. She took on the role of Indoctrination Officer and became Chief Cadet Engineer during the Pier Side Maintenance and Watch program in summer 2020. When applications were being accepted for 1/c cadets, she applied and was accepted to the position of Regimental Commander, and now oversees the Regiment of Cadets and works with Regiment leadership.

In planning for a new semester of Indoctrination for mariners under guidance (MUGs), much consideration was given to the ways in which INDOC 2020 would need to be implemented. This was no ordinary year and required a non-traditional approach. "There were many changes this year and one of those changes began with INDOC," stated Gay. Rather than having MUGs participate in the traditional 10-day period, INDOC took place over three separate phases over a period of three weekends. "We in leadership understood that this was not the typical INDOC, but we wanted to model the INDOC and team building experience as close as possible."

Adjustments continually needed to be made to the INDOC experience by leadership to ensure each activity was safe for MUGs. "It was important to alternate times, coordinate activities and evolutions and consider how to best execute the plan to train MUGs." Incoming MUGs were also required to adjust to a schedule that combined INDOC with their regular course learning, making it was necessary for MUGs to have time allocated to focus on semester coursework. "Every MUG class faces its own set of challenges. This class had to adhere to the mask wearing policy and other rules, and these are not the same challenges my MUG class faced." ■



## INSTRUCTION

Teaching during a pandemic was once unheard of to Maritime College faculty. Many course such as labs are more effective when taught in person. It is this experiential learning that has set the College apart from other institutions of higher education. When COVID-19 interrupted in-class learning, Maritime College faculty began to creatively plan for teaching in the fall semester.

Kathy Olszewski, Professor of Chemistry and Chair of the Science Department worked with her department to determine how teaching would be implemented in the fall. She was aware of the importance of keeping students safe while maintaining the quality of the courses. "I advised faculty in the department to incorporate as much synchronous learning as possible," she stated. "Learning can take many different forms. In my classes, I have half of the class in front of me and half of the class on Zoom simultaneously." This method allowed any students who needed to quarantine, to participate remotely. Other faculty took on different approaches, all of which have been approved by Olszewski. Some may have a portion of the class in person, and another portion of the class online (asynchronous).

Science labs have been more challenging as the essence of labs are the hands-on component and the maximum number of students allowed in a class is nine. Olszewski has instituted virtual labs in her class. Utilizing a combination of a chemistry platform and in-person experiments, which she believes has been beneficial to students.

In the spring semester, faculty varied in their level of technological expertise and use of the College's online teaching platform Blackboard. Over the summer, faculty took time to become familiarized with the online learning technology in preparation for the fall semester. "My knowledge is immensely greater than it was at the end of the spring semester. It's something I won't lose even when COVID is no longer a health issue. We now know ways to incorporate these types of platforms in learning."



# Congratulations to the Class of 2020! The Future is Now!



Tom Keenan, 1971  
Bob Wellner, 1980  
Mike Gehrling, 1982  
Daniel Leon, 1989  
Daniel Bollacke, 1989  
David Minetti, 1991  
Patrick Noone, 1996  
Eric Jaworski, 1997  
Alex Korotkiy, 1998  
Efthimios Vassilas, 2000  
Kalliopi Michalopoulou, 2001

Dennis Ryan, 2003  
Robert Greco, 2007  
Rich Gisonda, 2007  
Meghan Horn, 2009  
Regina Fox, 2012  
Frank Marchese, 2015  
Grace Suhovsky, 2016  
Steven Schaeffner, 2017  
Jillian Raimo, 2017  
George Varnava, 2018  
Saadman Alam, 2019



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Among the challenges faculty faced in the new semester was student interaction and engagement. The lack of face-to-face interaction, ability to view their notes while passing their desks, and seeing facial expressions has made it difficult to determine who is not understanding. "It is part of the teacher's responsibility to get students involved to determine whether the teacher is instructing at right level for all students. This is easier to measure in person."

One of the benefits Olszewski identified of hybrid learning is how students quickly adapted to the accessibility of information including grades and assignments. Rather than instructors distributing test grades and assignments on paper, posting test grades online allows students to access the information for an unlimited period of time.

Olszewski regularly met with students in person during her office hours throughout the fall semester. Her office allowed for social distancing and students were willing to meet with her when they needed assistance or advisement. Other students took advantage of meeting with her by Zoom. "While I prefer personal meetings, virtual meetings have been an advantage with students and department faculty." As Science Department Chair, Olszewski admits they have reached a level of success in managing the transition to a new way of student instruction during the pandemic. "I have always enjoyed in-class teaching, but I am ready to continue to teach in these various formats for as long as the pandemic is with us." ■

# CAMPUS NEWS



## INDOC 2020 Phase I: Different Delivery, Same Experience

In past years, Indoctrination (INDOC) was implemented in mid-August as a consecutive 10-day experience for students in license programs. During INDOC, Mariners under guidance (MUGs) are exposed to the rules, regulations, history and traditions of the Regiment of Cadets. Through INDOC, MUGs participate in a regimental schedule and evolutions that include shipboard training, classroom learning, marching and other competitive activities. It is a unique experience where strong bonds are formed among the MUGs as they become acclimated to the Regiment and learn the importance of working together.

A total of 282 MUGs participated in 2020 INDOC and experienced the delivery of the program differently from years past. In response to the coronavirus and the need to provide a safe environment, reduce density and adhere to new protocols (social distancing and face coverings), the program took place in three phases over three weekends. The phases focus on learning about the Regiment, ship familiarization and watch-standing. Phase I of INDOC took place from September 4-7. Reinforcement of ship familiarization through hands-on and classroom learning on the ship will take place later in the academic semester.

MUGs were divided into 2 companies of 4 sections each. This allowed for a smoother movement of MUGs from location to location during their first 4 days of INDOC. A new leadership model integrated first and second class cadets to deliver INDOC to MUGs. "We needed the first class to participate in the development of MUGs this year," stated Commandant of Cadets, Captain Catie Hanft '92. The second class leadership served as peer mentors, academic training officers, and company training officers to ensure MUGs would be trained by someone who had experienced INDOC. "The outcome of this first phase was fantastic," said Capt. Hanft. "The delivery might be different, but the outcome is the same." ■

# CAMPUS NEWS



## INDOC 2020 Phases II & III: MUG Class Joins Regiment of Cadets

INDOC Phase II (October 16-18) and Phase III (October 23-25) allowed MUGs to become familiarized with the traditions and rules of the Regiment of Cadets. They were provided with numerous training modules in the final two phases, including regimental drill, search and rescue, seamanship, fire hose training, lifeboat operation, and various waterfront based training. Striving towards a common goal of gaining practical experience, academic knowledge, and leadership skills, MUGs and the Cadet Leadership demonstrated remarkable resiliency.

Cadet Randy Duong 4/C stated that the

“transition back to the INDOC mindset has been very difficult,” but also noted he “could not have asked for a better group of people to go through INDOC with,” emphasizing that his leadership and peers have been very supportive in these trying times.

Those cadets in positions of leadership took the task to heart, determined to educate and discipline their charges, and help MUGs integrate into the Regiment of Cadets. For Cadet Kieran McLaughlin 2/C, who served in INDOC last year, 2020 was a learning

experience for him and his MUGs. “I have definitely grown as a person. I’ve improved not only as a leader, but as a member of the Maritime Community.”

After completing all three phases of INDOC, the MUG class of 2024 was welcome into the Regiment of Cadets. ■



## Capt. Hugh Stephens Awarded the Medal of Ushakov from Russian President Vladimir Putin on Veteran's Day

Captain Hugh M. Stephens, Professor of Marine Transportation, was awarded the Medal of Ushakov on November 6, by decree of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin. The honor was bestowed upon Stephens for his "personal courage and valor during World War II while participating in the Arctic convoys."

In a letter written to Stephens by Russian Ambassador to the United States, Anatoly Antonov, he notes, "In Russia, we pay special attention and respect to all those who contributed to the fight against Nazism. Your heroic feat is an inspiring convincing example for the next generation and should never be forgotten."

During World War II, merchant mariners carried essential supplies over every ocean. None was more dangerous than the Arctic convoys to Murmansk, a port city in Russia. The convoys demonstrated an allied response and commitment to helping the Soviet Union after Germany's invasion in 1941. Many of the convoys were attacked by German submarines, aircraft and war ships.

Stephens entered the maritime industry in 1943 as a 19-year-old seaman on board Liberty Ships, including the S.S. John W. Brown during World War II, and took part in the dangerous Arctic convoys of that time. By the war's end, Stephens had earned his third mate's license, sailing as third mate aboard an army transport hospital ship. A beloved professor in the Marine Transportation department, Stephens holds a USCG Unlimited Tonnage Ocean Master's License with many endorsements including Ordinary Seaman, Able Bodied Seaman, and First Class Pilot, Any Tonnage, for the Upper Bay of N.Y. Harbor, 16 issues, now in Continuity. ■

## Commencement Ceremonies and Celebrations Continue in 2020 Despite COVID-19

### A Virtual Celebration and Diploma Delivery for May Graduates

While COVID-19 caused the interruption of many activities on campus, graduating seniors of the Class of May 2020 were distinctly recognized in the first-ever virtual Commencement ceremony. The non-traditional celebration encompassed all of the traditional elements of an in-person event including a congratulatory message from RADM Michael Alfultis, and greetings from U.S. Maritime Administrator RADM Mark Buzby and Maritime College Alumni Association President John Valvo '83. NASA Astronaut and Fort Schuyler alum, Scott Kelly '87 made a special appearance, offering a message of encouragement to the graduates related to his unique experience with isolation in space.

Degrees were conferred to 168 undergraduate and 22 graduate

students and a full listing of the Class of 2020 graduates concluded the virtual program.

The circumstances and social distancing protocols surrounding COVID-19 in May did not give leave for a customary degree presentation. However, College officials traveled throughout the tri-state area to hand deliver diplomas and licenses to students personally in their homes.

A total of 37 degrees and licenses were delivered to graduates who hailed from various areas within New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. RADM Alfultis delivered the first degrees to graduates in New York and received cheerful greetings from the graduates and their families. "I was honored to take part in recognizing and celebrating the accomplishments these outstanding graduates who have overcome incredible obstacles to reach this milestone," he said.





Approximately 30 faculty members, staff and College officials participated in the week-long in-person delivery of diplomas.

## 62 Students, 3 Ceremonies and One Highly Successful Fall Commencement

On Friday, September 25, 2020, faculty were ready in their regalia, students lined up, and parents could not be more elated to attend the first in-person Commencement since the pandemic halted on-campus activities.

Three ceremonies, one for each of the new schools (Engineering, Maritime Education and Training, and Business, Science, and Humanities), allowed the 62 graduates and their guests to gather more intimately and celebrate safely.

RADM Michael Alfultis awarded Captain Ronald C. Rasmus, Maritime College Class of 1960, with the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa. With a maritime industry career spanning six decades, culminating as President and CEO of the Great Lakes Towing Company. He addressed

the Class of 2020 virtually aboard the Great Lakes Towing Company's Tug Wisconsin in Cleveland, Ohio, and acknowledged the challenges graduates will face in the future, "I believe that your college education will enable you to face these challenges and prevail. If you could make it here, and you did, you'll make it anywhere. Class of 2020 make us proud!" he exclaimed.

RADM Alfultis also offered advice to the graduates: "Your time and accomplishments at Fort Schuyler are just the beginning of what's to become a voyage with many stops at many ports along the way. There will be storms, troubled waters, and hazards along the way, but you must not allow these to steer you off course. Dream big, and don't let anything get in the way of those dreams."

After being awarded their degrees by Provost Waters, each of the 62 graduates from May, July and September walked the stage to the cheers of their proud family members, friends, and professors. ■





## Constitution Day Goes Virtual

On September 17, Maritime College students participated in a virtual Constitution Day celebration. The widely attended educational event was held over Zoom and focused on Voting Rights and Voting Inclusion in American History: It's My Turn. Virtual guest speaker, Kim Wehle, Professor at University of Baltimore Law School and CBS legal analyst discussed her book, "What You Need to Know about Voting—and Why." On the first day of the two-day event, students participated in a poster contest. They were tasked with designing the most memorable poster based on the history of voting rights and voting inclusion. First place was awarded to Keri Campbell for her design featuring day 5 of the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Aaron Guterrez received second place for his vibrant design on recognizing the importance of voting. Additional activities throughout the multi-day event included a film event featuring "The Vote," trivia and twitter contests, and a dialogue on an array of topics related to voting and the Constitution. ■

## NY Maritime Innovation Center Received \$50,000 Gift to Honor 1969 Alum, Andrew Wowczuk

In support of the New York Maritime Innovation Center (NYMIC), Maritime College received a \$50,000 gift in honor of Andrew Wowczuk, Class of 1969. The Center, a Maritime College program, is dedicated to connecting maritime industries to the tech sector, and encouraging faculty, students and start-ups to focus on creating technological solutions to address the challenges encountered by present day mariners.



Wowczuk is considered a world expert/thought leader in implementing Lean/Six Sigma and continuous improvement methodologies for the manufacturing and military services industries. His career has included leading roles at Fortune 500 companies including General Electric, where he led continuous improvement efforts in the freight

locomotive division, and Westinghouse as lead engineer for the Commercial and Navy Nuclear Division. "Fort Schuyler has had a major influence on my professional career and personal life, and the institution will always be a part of me," stated Wowczuk.

In honor of Wowczuk's generosity and dedication to his alma mater, SUNY Maritime College will name a faculty office after him within the Maritime Academic Center, the College's newest and most advanced academic building. Wowczuk was a founder of the Civil-Military Innovation Institute (CMI2) – a nonprofit focused on bridging the gap between academia and commercial/military technology development. Since his graduation from Maritime College, Wowczuk was issued seven U.S. patents in the areas of automation, nuclear process repair and novel law enforcement safety equipment. His experience in transitioning each of them into products or integrating them into functioning systems helped create the vision for CMI2.

As a neutral ground with the entrepreneurial focus of the maritime industry ecosystem, the New York Maritime Innovation Center (NYMIC) at Maritime College works to spur development and serves as a bridge between the Tech, Maritime, Logistics, and Finance communities to convene industry experts and forward thinking developers, to connect problem solvers, corporate leaders and investors, and to catalyze ideas and business concepts to maritime interests globally. "This investment in NYMIC is an affirmation of our role in spurring industry innovation and the useful events and activities we have held over the last two years to benefit the maritime technology sector. It also further elevates the profile of SUNY Maritime College," said NYMIC Director Dr. Christopher Clott. ■



During the summer, Maritime College launched LEADing Change, an initiative and the mechanism by which the College seeks to make meaningful, long-lasting transformation. The framework, Listen, Educate, Act and Discuss is intended to bring about the systemic changes needed to make Maritime College a safe and inclusive campus. Directly aligned with the goals of the College Strategic Plan, the College will LEAD Change through listening, educating, acting, and discussing. ■



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## LETTER FROM ROBERT JOHNSTON '69

Chairman, SUNY Maritime Foundation



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Michael A. Alfultis

Aimee Bernstein

Scott Dieterich

Dear SUNY Maritime Alumni and Friends,

The Board of the SUNY Maritime Foundation joins Admiral Alfultis in saluting the hard work, camaraderie and flexibility displayed among the faculty, staff and students during the pandemic. Alumni and all supporters of Fort Schuyler have much to be proud of as demonstrated in the pages of this magazine.

While many of us were very happy to say goodbye to 2020, there is still great trepidation about what 2021 will bring. We all hope the COVID vaccine will bring great relief, but also understand that there will be lasting economic impacts from the virus. With efforts like the Admiral's Dinner and the One Hand Student Relief Fund, the SUNY Maritime Foundation will continue to be out front assisting students in need and coming to the aid of the College.

Although we could not meet in person for the Admiral's Dinner, and many of the usual supporters were significantly impacted by the virus, the Admiral's Dinner was still a great success. Thanks to the many alumni, industry partners and friends who maintained their support, and to those who became new supporters, the Admiral's Dinner raised significant scholarship funds, which will go a long way to attract dozens of outstanding students to Maritime who would not have chosen to attend. I hope you will enjoy the piece focusing on the dinner and the outstanding honorees who

so perfectly represent the best of the maritime industry and its supporters.

For those students currently enrolled, and whose financial hardships were exacerbated by the virus, the One Hand Student Relief Fund came to their assistance. The following piece focusing the One Hand campaign exhibits the coming together and the generosity of Fort Schuyler alumni. In times of need, as we have at this moment in time, many of you extended one hand to struggling students and demonstrated the outstanding generosity of the Maritime College community.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Fort Schuyler. The Foundation board of directors appreciates your efforts to help the students, faculty and staff accomplish all that is possible. We look forward to staying engaged with the College and with you so that we can all do our part to the support our students and our alma mater.

Stay safe and healthy.

Best Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Johnston', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Capt. Robert Johnston '69

Chairman, SUNY Maritime Foundation

FEATURE

# PIER-SIDE TRAINING

## Over 200 Cadets Participate in 30-Day Pier-Side Maintenance and Watchkeeping Program

**F**rom July 13 through August 15, over 200 cadets returned to Maritime College to participate in the first-ever 30-day Pier-Side Maintenance and Watchkeeping (PSM&W) program. The program was developed to help cadets make up for lost sea-time as a result of the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent cancellation of the 2020 Summer Sea Term. "It was very important to take advantage of the opportunity I was being given. I have all of my academics completed; all I need are my sea days. Any sea days I can get in wherever I can, is crucial to me," explained Cadet Maura Neely 1/C on why she chose to participate in the program.

Students came from near and far to participate in PSM&W. International student, Cadet Joshua Brooks 1/C was quarantining in the Bahamas prior to learning of the opportunity to earn 30 sea-days. Taking advantage of the chance, he came to New York to quarantine.

Before arriving on campus, students were required to self-quarantine at home for 14 days, maintain a temperature log, and complete a questionnaire

concerning potential COVID-19 symptoms and travel history. Adapting to the new normal, students adhered to wearing a mask, remaining on campus and following other preventative safety measures.

Throughout the program, students conducted maintenance and repair work aboard the Training Ship Empire State VI, stood watch, operated deck and engine simulators, worked in labs and attended lectures. Describing his experience, Cadet Trevor Webb said, "It's been really cool! The Marine Transportation department took us out on the small boats, we spent a lot of time in the simulators, and we've done cargo operations with the Mary Fau system. This was an opportunity for the school to explore new ideas, and I think we'll benefit from that."

Professors developed cross-training between the deck and engine departments, which allowed engine cadets to complete exercises on the deck department simulator and deck cadets to take welding classes and learn how to use an engine lathe and other machining skills. Cadets were also allowed to







complete assessments they were unable to take during the spring semester.

When they were not involved in coursework or experiential learning, cadets took time off to sail on the waterfront, watched movies at night on the quad, enjoyed the food trucks that came to campus and took part in a Corn Hole Tournament accompanied by music on the quad.

Many cadets, whose families endured financial hardship or income loss during the pandemic, were hesitant to participate in PST. Through the generosity of the Maritime College Alumni Association and the SUNY Maritime Foundation,

scholarships were made available to PST participants. On August 13, cadets gathered at their 13:00 formation to offer recognition to those who helped make the program a success. Representatives from the Maritime College Alumni Association including President John Valvo '83, Scholarship Committee Chair Michael Brown, Treasurer Kevin Comerford, and Executive Director Saira Yoo, were present to congratulate the cadets on their hard work. The program – part of the College's plan to re-start campus operations – allowed 208 cadets to gain a valuable and unique pier-side experience. ■



L-R: President John Valvo '83, Admiral Michael Alfulitis, Scholarship Committee Chair Michael Brown, Treasurer Kevin Comerford, and Executive Director Saira Yoo.

## Maritime College Launches One Hand Student Relief Fund Campaign

On May 19, Maritime College put out a call for alumni and friends to lend One Hand and address the growing education crisis faced by students at Fort Schuyler.

For many Maritime College students and their families, the economic devastation of COVID-19 resulted in lost wages and the postponement or loss of their education. In light of the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, Maritime College established the One Hand Student Relief Fund to aid students who experienced financial hardship as a result of COVID-19.

The fund's purpose is to provide a financial lifeline to any student who needs support with tuition, room, board, or

Summer Sea Term costs. Gifts are managed by the SUNY Maritime Foundation, an independent non-profit entity, and awarded through the College's financial aid programs.

# ONE HAND STUDENT RELIEF FUND

**MARITIME'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19**

additional student aid.

Extraordinary times must be met with an extraordinary response. Each donation helps to retain students and further strengthens Fort Schuyler's financial foundation. Please join this important endeavor. ■

By matching the \$750K that Maritime College received in Federal CARES Act funding for student emergency grants, the goal is to provide \$1.5 million in

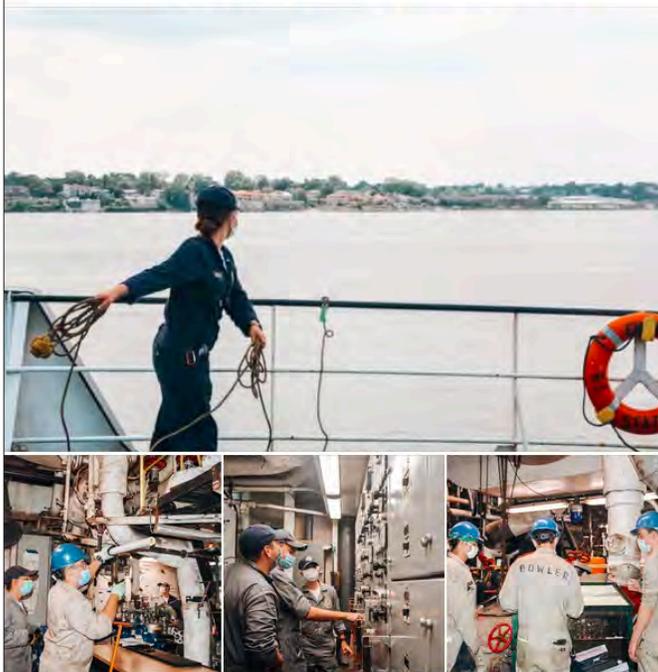




**SUNY Maritime College**  
August 20, 2020 · 🌐

...

From July 13 through August 15, over 200 cadets returned to Maritime College to participate in the first-ever 30-day Pier-Side Maintenance and Watchkeeping (PSM&W) program. View the link to read more about the program. <https://www.sunymaritime.edu/.../pier-side-maintenance...>  
[#MaritimeCollege](#) [#PierSideMaintenanceandWatchkeeping](#)  
<https://youtu.be/aJvYXprDiSg> BronxNet Community Television



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# CHARITY BEGINS AT THE OFFICE



PHILLIPS 66 is spreading cheer all the way to the high seas and help is needed this holiday season. Phillips 66 Marine participates in Shoe Boxes for Mariners, in memory of their colleague Chris Fogarty, Class of 1979 and former Phillips 66 Marine Operations Coordinator. Fogarty was always active in causes supporting mariners and collected shoe boxes for mariners until he passed away in 2015.

In 2019, the Houston-based group teamed up with several Phillips 66 Employee Networks to assemble and donate a company record 178 holiday-wrapped care packages as part of its Shoeboxes for Mariners effort. The leadership team for this effort was comprised of Commercial Marine employees from multiple academies (top picture on right), Jessica Keller (KP '95), Walter Hall (KP '05), Ann Marie (Barry) Poninski '94 and Kelly Barwick (TX A&M '96).

"Mariners facilitate the trade that we depend upon for practically everything in our daily lives. They work long hours away from family and loved ones for extended periods and sometimes endure difficult conditions," said Kevin Mulholland, Phillips 66's general manager for Global Marine and KP

alumni '87. "These shoeboxes are a small act of appreciation, recognition and kindness that can brighten their day."

Volunteers filled the packages with small but useful gift items and handmade cards, wrapped each one and delivered them to the Houston international Seafarers' Center's Tellepsen location at the Port of Houston in time for the holidays.

Each year, the center, a nonprofit that operates two "home away from home" locations for traveling mariners, distributes more than 10,000 boxes around the holidays. This year's effort received a boost from the Asian, Hispanic and Veterans networks, which donated time, money and resources. Marketing also generously donated filler items for the boxes. "It was a strong Phillips 66 team effort," Mulholland said, "and a great way to bring holiday cheer to mariners who are away from home."

Each year, help is needed to ensure mariners receive something special during the Holiday Season. To donate, contact Ann Marie Poninski [Ann.M.Poninski@p66.com](mailto:Ann.M.Poninski@p66.com) ■



Chris Forgarty '79 former Phillips 66 Marine Operations Coordinator, was always active in causes supporting mariners. He participated in the Shoe Boxes for Mariners effort until he passed away in 2015.

**“ MARINERS WORK LONG HOURS AWAY FROM FAMILY AND LOVED ONES FOR EXTENDED PERIODS AND SOMETIMES ENDURE DIFFICULT CONDITIONS...THESE SHOEBOXES ARE A SMALL ACT OF APPRECIATION, RECOGNITION AND KINDNESS THAT CAN BRIGHTEN THEIR DAY.**

*Kevin Mulholland, Phillips 66's general manager for Global Marine*

# ALUMNI

MEET NEW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBER

## MARISSA DANZY, MBA '10



In conjunction with the new Maritime College Alumni Association (MCAA) website and board of directors' video, each issue will offer an opportunity to read and learn about its various board members. Marissa Danzy is a courageous thought leader who motivates and inspires teams. As an engineer, she ensures business success through her commitment to develop and grow her team members and organization through positive performance and exceptional quality service delivery. Since graduation in 2010, Marissa has served in the facilities and operations industry in both residential and healthcare roles.

She currently has two roles as Assistant Director of Facilities Management at St. Barnabas Health System overseeing over 1M sq. ft. of real estate, and works at Enhanced Building Solutions to help transform the training culture in the building operations industry. Marissa admits that being the first female engineer at all but one of her roles after graduation, leading scores of men, overseeing large and diverse real estate portfolios provides its challenges, but it was Maritime's

midshipman under guidance (MUG) program that prepared her for the job.

Long before joining the board Marissa consistently and frequently attended and volunteered at MCAA events as an alum. In 2020 she served as chair of the Magazine committee. On this committee she reached out to alumni for them to share their stories and worked with the editor and the college to pull alumni into the fold of what's happening in the Maritime College community. She also served on the Membership committee synthesizing new ways to engage and bring value to alumni. Last, she was a member of the Chapters committee, focused on promoting connectedness among chapters and liaison to the three chapters. In her words, "We chose an industry where being out at sea and traveling to distant places is the norm. Our call to membership and trials of engagement should have a similar reach." As MCAA shapes the future of engaging alumni and providing scholarships, Marissa embodies MCAA's core values and is confident she will ensure MCAA provides an outstanding alumni experience. ■

**M**ARITIME COLLEGE  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



# CHAPTER GATHERINGS



There were limited Chapter Gatherings due to various state restrictions related to COVID-19.



## CAROLINAS CHAPTER | October 17, 2020, Locust Grove, GA

The "homecoming bash" was held at Lovin Oven Pizza in Locust Grove, GA. A small group of four enjoyed pizza, beer, and soda. They watched the train pass and the bluegrass concert under the depot in the background.

L-R: Ken Sanderson (spouse of Chapter President), Jim O'Reilly '83, Bob Langstine '83 and Marianne Sanderson '95 (Chapter President).



## NEW JERSEY CHAPTER | October 24, 2020, Ringwood, NJ

The NJ Chapter hosted a trap and skeet shooting event at Thunder Mountain, in Ringwood NJ. The event was a success for beginners and more frequent shooters. During COVID, being outdoors and trap shooting was a great way to keep networks alive and enjoy the beautiful fall foliage.

L-R: Richard Piaia '06, Kyle Grant '05, Jamie McNamara '94, Steve Bendo '94, Jamie Rock '98, Nick Colucci '06, Tim Forsyth '81, Chris Muscarella '96, Nick Makar '96; kneeling Paulina Czernek '05, Gabe Castellanos '06. Not pictured but also in attendance Rob Rose '85, Jennifer Barnes Hayes '80, Sharon and Dan Rosaschi '85.



## NEW JERSEY CHAPTER | November 29, 2020

### Sandy Hook, NJ

The NJ Chapter met near Fort Hancock and biked around the north end of Sandy Hook, the Mortar Battery with Sandy Hook Lighthouse in the background.

L-R: Michael McNamara, Erik Barton '01, Jamie McNamara '94, Kyle Grant '05 with family, (wife Maggie and kids August and Adelaide).

BY MATTHEW BONVENTO



A L U M N I I N T E R V I E W

# SHELDON MEREL '44

**WHAT YEAR DID YOU GRADUATE AND WHAT WAS YOUR MAJOR?**

Back in those days I didn't have many role models. My brother went to City College and studied accounting, which was not that I wanted to do. I started in City College and joined the ROTC. In City College I studied engineering, where in physics I failed twice. I switched majors to business, until one day I ran into a friend from my neighborhood who helped me decide to go to the New York State Maritime Academy, NYSMA. I graduated in 1944 with my engineering license. Back then the school was accelerated, and the

program lasted only 18 months before we were out to sea supporting the war effort.

**WHAT WERE YOUR EXPERIENCES AFTER GRADUATION?**

During the war I sailed on two Liberty Ships and a tanker. Back then, there was a lot that was not public knowledge about sailing in the merchant marine. Since the coastline was not under blackout at night, the German U-boats were sinking merchant ships right off the coast, and this was kept from the news. I learned quickly that I didn't want to make my life at sea. In school, we were never

told that if we were separated from our ship for any reason, our pay would stop unlike our navy and coast guard counterparts. I was left in Tunis for an appendix operation during the war, and my pay stopped. This was one of the reasons that I did not pursue a career at sea.

**WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION TO GO INTO SINGING?**

When I realized that I had a talent for singing I wanted to pursue it. Many cantors aspire to be an opera singer. I aspired to sing like the great virtuoso cantors of Eastern Europe

# CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

## “Scary Moments at Sea”

### GUIDELINES:

- Each submission must include minimum donation of \$50 made out to the **Surfaceblow Endowed Engineering Fund** in lieu of editorial fees
- Stories must be TRUE
- Maximum of 350 words\*
- Submissions must be typed, not handwritten
- Exclude names of people, vessels, or companies

*\*Submissions may be edited for clarity, subject to final approval by the entrant. Email questions to [surfaceblow@robsonforensic.com](mailto:surfaceblow@robsonforensic.com).*

### SEND SUBMISSIONS TO:

ATTN: Bartley J. Eckhardt, P.E.  
Robson Forensic  
354 N Prince St, Lancaster PA 17603  
Or Email: [surfaceblow@robsonforensic.com](mailto:surfaceblow@robsonforensic.com)

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Submissions should be interesting, useful, and educational for mariners and should focus on issues of vessel operations, machinery, and ships systems. Both Engine and Deck Department submissions are welcomed and encouraged.

The entries we receive will be compiled into an annual anthology and made available for purchase, with all proceeds benefitting the Surfaceblow Endowment. Each entrant will receive a free copy of the anthology. **Robson Forensic, Inc. will match all submission donations up to the first \$5,000.**

**THE EXPERTS**  
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We are grateful for all Fort Schuyler graduates who have been or will be part of our crew. Please visit the **Careers** tab at [www.robsonforensic.com](http://www.robsonforensic.com)

## “ Advice for new graduate: Have younger friends. As you get older they will help keep you young and active.”

as well as opera. In my first job as a cantor in South Bend, Indiana I studied Voice Opera at the Roosevelt College. I began singing in the Opera Workshop. During the workshops I had the privilege of working with Boris Goldovsky, the Great Maestro of the Boston Opera Company. This was the most unique experience of my signing career.

### WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO SING IN A SYNAGOGUE?

I was Bar Mitzvah'd at 13, but I was never close to God. I am not sure that I ever did find him. But I think that my singing has helped others find him. I still see people today who I Bar Mitzvah'd and Bat

Mitzvah'd that are now 70. I would have members of the congregation tell me how I reminded them of their favorite cantors from home, whether that be Europe or New York. That inspired me to continue my work.

### WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY WORKING ON?

I am writing my autobiography. Stories from my marriage, my days entertaining in the Catskill mountains, experiences in the merchant marine during World War II, discovering my voice and starting a whole new career. It is interesting how memories keep rushing back as I write this. As I write, I remember things and have to go back, write some more. That there is so often a story within a story.

### WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR NEW GRADUATES?

Have younger friends. As you get older they will help keep you young and active. ■

For the full interview, visit [www.maritimecollegeaa.org](http://www.maritimecollegeaa.org)



A L U M N I I N T E R V I E W

# OWEN PALMIOTTI '07

## WHAT YEAR DID YOU GRADUATE AND WHAT WAS YOUR MAJOR?

In 2007 I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation with minors in Naval Science and International Business and graduated in 2014 with a Master of Science in International Trade Management.

## WHAT DID YOU DO AFTER GRADUATION?

After my undergraduate studies at the Dome, I did as most people would do having a brand-new 3rd Mate USCG License and Naval commission as an ensign in the Strategic Sealift Officer Program: I sailed Military Sealift Command. While sitting on the hook at the Rota Naval Base, my father, Anthony Palmiotti '79, called me asking if I had any interest in filling in a last-minute teaching spot.

## WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION TO GET INTO FILMS?

Circling back regarding my novels, I had self-published the first novel in my Young Adult Fiction series titled The Adventures of Benjamin Manry, and then made friends with a filmmaker doing her senior thesis at film school. She knew I was a writer and asked if I would be interested in learning screenwriting and offered a co-writing opportunity, which I obviously jumped at (I am a geek and like learning things). So, we co-write Icebox, which did well at several festivals and set me into the path of writing screenplays and producing films.

## HOW DID MARITIME PREPARE YOU?

I always refer to my education at Maritime as having taught me how to problem solve

and juggle/multi-task. Whether you are on the bridge or in the engine control room, we get A LOT thrown our way in our normal day to day jobs, and we must consistently triage everything. This is a skillset that has truly transferred well into the film world. I've been on several sets and have overseen all the moving parts, and even though I'm not film school graduate, I've adapted as best I can. There are always certain things a school cannot teach you, so it is up to the individual to ask questions, fail and learn from their mistake, and just grow as a person.

## WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY WORKING ON?

Right before COVID-19, I was working on four projects. "Everything You Are", which is a truly neat film about a woman who is in love with a man with split personality. It's told in a non-linear story and would best match up with Fight Club from a comparable perspective.

My next big project is a script I wrote entitled, "Back on the Water", which won Third Place at the Beverly Hills



Film Festival in 2019. The project is now at the end of development as we find the right puzzle pieces to get the project financed. The story starts in the early 1920's with Bill Havens, Sr. and his younger brother, Charles "Bud" Havens, who were members of the Washington Canoe Club on the banks of the Potomac River.

For the full interview and links, visit [www.maritimecollegeaa.org](http://www.maritimecollegeaa.org)

# CONGRATULATIONS

SUNY Maritime  
College Graduates



**“ SAY YES TO OPPORTUNITIES. MAKE MEMORIES...DON'T BE AFRAID TO EVER ASK FOR HELP, WE WILL ALWAYS DROP WHAT WE ARE DOING TO HELP ONE OF OUR OWN. ONE HAND.**

My third project is another historical biopic which I joined as a producer, titled, “The Man Who Stole Himself”, and follows the exciting and inspiring adventures of Robert Smalls, who was a slave during the Civil War and commandeered the Confederate troopship CSS Planter, and then surrendered the stolen property to the Union.



Lastly, I had co-founded the Loudoun Arts Film Festival and act as the Business Development Director. Our mission is to entertain and engage audiences by curating innovative and compelling films that reflect Loudoun County's diverse populace.

#### **WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR NEW GRADUATES?**

Say yes to opportunities. Make memories. Give everything your all. Fall and get back up. Push through the pain. Support your friends, family, and shipmates. Buy my books and movies and rate/review them. Sorry, had to plug that one last time. Last piece of advice, don't be afraid to ever ask for help, we will ALWAYS drop what we are doing to help one of our own. ONE HAND. ■

# ANCIENT MARINER GOLF OUTING

## Takes Place Despite the Rain

BY MATTHEW BONVENTO

Regardless of the misty morning and chill in the air, the maritime experience continued on October 15 at the Ancient Mariner Golf Outing held in the Clearview Golf Course. The golf course, a stone's throw from Fort Schuyler, brought familiar faces together – some alumni, others friends – across the sound for a day of fun in support of the Maritime College Alumni Association. Following the mask rules and social distancing requirements, the dedicated golfers faced the cold and wetness. As the rain grew progressively worse, some left early while the brave successfully completed all 18 holes. After enjoying several rounds, a hearty luncheon was provided by Maritime College Alumni Association President John Valvo '83.

This year, over \$7,400 was raised – only \$300 less than last year – proving that regardless of the weather conditions, alumni always come out in force to support a good cause. Funds raised go towards supporting the mission of the alumni association, assisting cadets in need. ■





1 Andrew Werner '80, Bill Krepplein '80, Jennifer Barnes-Hayes '80, Tom Breglia '80, Doug McKay '80

2 Bill Kreipein '80 and Steve Carberry '80

3 Kevin Comerford '83 (lite blue cap), John Maguire '83, Mike Trotta '99

4 Jeff Klausner (Kings Point) on the left, Vince Califano (MSKCC), and friend.

5 Doug McKay '80, Tom Breglia '80, and Andy Werner '80

The day could not have been a success without the participants or our sponsors.

**LUNCHEON**

- Fresh Meadow Power, LLC  
- FMP - John Valvo '83

**FEATHER FLAGS**

- CLASS OF 1980 - Jean Marien '80
- GIL-BAR HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES  
- Jack Conway '90
- KLIMA NY, LLC - John Moore '90
- LG - John Moore '90

**LONGEST DRIVE**

- KEENAN COACHING & CONSULTING LLC  
- John Keenan '79

**CLOSEST TO THE PIN**

- Organization of Black Maritime Graduates  
- Howard Wyche '79

**T-SHIRTS**

- KLIMA NY, LLC - John Moore '90
- LG - John Moore '90
- NALCO WATER - Kevin Danko '95
- MARITIME FOOTBALL BOOSTER CLUB  
- Thomas Merrell '76

**TEE SIGN**

- CLASS OF 1988 - Jerry McNerney '88
- Organization of Black Maritime Graduates  
- Howard Wyche '79
- STAT SUPPLY - Edward Fitzpatrick

Additional photos are available on the Alumni Association Facebook and Instagram.

## CLASS NOTES

**'83** John Valvo '83 encounters his nephew Jack Clougher '24 during a visit to Fort Schuyler in September.



**'90** Richard Ohlsen '90 has been appointed as the Nuclear Material Management Group Manager for the Radiological Control Division at Brookhaven National Lab.



**'87** George R. Gacser '87 retired in April 2020 from Pepco Holdings Inc. after 30 years in leadership positions within Operations, Emergency Management and Corporate Security. After graduating and moving to Washington, D.C. for his first job with JJMA, he will be relocating to Bucks Co., PA where he hopes to connect with fellow alumni in the area.

**'94** 1994 Congratulations to Kevin Carroll '94, '07 MS, USCG Ret. on his new post retirement private sector appointment with Dominion Energy.

### CAPTAIN ERNEST J. FINK '75 Received Award for Notable Service to U.S. Coast Guard

Captain Ernest J. Fink '75, Dean of the School of Maritime Education and Training, was awarded a Public Service Commendation from the United States Coast Guard on September 15, 2020. The prestigious award, which may be issued to any member of the public, was awarded to Capt. Fink, a member of the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC) in recognition of his service. Capt. Fink, a MERPAC member since 2016, provided expertise and offered recommendations related to the training qualifications, certification, documentation and fitness standards of merchant marine personnel. "I am honored to receive this award, and fortunate for the opportunity to provide a service and perspective that benefits the Coast Guard and the state maritime academies," stated Capt. Fink.

MERPAC was originally formed in 1992, consists of 19 members and acts solely in an advisory capacity to the Secretary of Homeland Security through the Commandant of the Coast Guard on matters relating to personnel in the U.S. Merchant Marine. Capt. Fink, one of six marine educators on the Committee, represents the state maritime academies.



**'99** Gregory Callaghan '99 was promoted to Captain in the U.S. Coast Guard. Pictured with him is his family (L-R) Brian, Jessica Callaghan (Barrett '00), Sara and Gregory.



**'02** On August 30, Jimmy Zatwarnicki '02 was promoted to Assistant Dean of Academic Support Services at the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

**'00** Don Moore '00, Commanding Officer, NR Military Sealift Command Expeditionary Port Unit 115, was promoted to Capt., USN on August 1, at a small ceremony attended by his wife Helen, and children Tyler, Olivia and Dylan. His parents Joan and Don Moore '75 were also in attendance.



**'03** June 2020 was a month for Brian Abbott '03 to celebrate. On June 5, Brian and his wife Jill welcomed their second daughter, Sadie Grace, 7 lbs. 13 oz. Three days later, Brian learned he was selected for promotion to Commander in the Navy Reserve and will be promoted in spring 2021.



The SLSDC was privileged to have Nate Jarvis '00, its Marine Services Chief Engineer, receive the Department's highest award, the Gold Medal. Nate received the prestigious award for his outstanding efforts to ensure the completion and delivery of the SLSDC's new tug, the Seaway Guardian, in spite of the challenges posed by the ongoing public health emergency.



**'10** The Sandy Hook Pilot Association welcomes Daniel Sullivan '10 into their ranks. (L-R) Executive Director Andrew Garger, Commission President James Mercante, New York Sandy Hook Pilot President John DeCruz (SUNY Maritime), Dan Sullivan (SUNY Maritime), and Commissioner Joe Ahlstrom '82.

# FIRST VIRTUAL ADMIRAL'S DINNER RAISES OVER \$460K FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

## 2020 Admiral's DINNER



Jennifer Carpenter



Lindsay Price '07



Michael Roberts



Mark Ruge

On Tuesday, September 22, the Admiral's Dinner was a virtual celebration of the Next 100 Years of the Jones Act.

It was also a special recognition of four distinguished honorees: Jennifer Carpenter, President & CEO, the American Waterways Operators; Lindsay Price '07, Senior Master, G&H Towing Company; Michael Roberts, President of American Maritime Partnership and Senior Vice President at Crowley Maritime; and Mark Ruge, Partner, K&L Gates. "Each of our honorees holds an impressive background professionally and we are proud to acknowledge their stellar contributions to the U.S. maritime industry at this virtual event," said Maritime College President and Master of Ceremonies for the evening, RADM Michael Alfultis.

Thanks to the generosity of the event sponsors, industry partners, alumni and friends, this important event raised \$465,000 toward student scholarships. "I am humbled by the level of support of all those who engaged with us at the Dinner. Your donations are greatly appreciated, very much needed, and will be directly applied toward

advancing our mission of educating and training the next generation of dynamic maritime leaders," stated RADM Alfultis.

The Admiral's Dinner is held annually for the purpose of raising funds for student scholarships. This year's event celebrated the Next 100 Years of the Jones Act and each of the honorees received an award as a token of their support and advocacy of the Jones Act, as well as their notable achievements as maritime industry leaders. Over 300 registrants participated in the free event, taking part in the College's first-ever virtual dinner.

The evening concluded with the Captains' Afterglow, a conversation between Captain Jim DeSimone, former Master of the T/S Empire State VI, and Captain Morgan McManus, current Master of the T/S Empire State VI. ■





**Best wishes to  
all of the students  
from our region's  
Maritime Colleges  
and Academies.**



Many of the team members from A/Z and Cianbro are Maritime College and Academy graduates. Our graduate list includes the following team members:

- Robert Rose - NY Maritime 1985
- Rick Bartucca - Mass Maritime Academy 2008
- Robert Bradley - Mass Maritime Academy 1984
- Jeff Briggs - Maine Maritime Academy 2001
- Joe Cote - Maine Maritime Academy 1982
- Charles Hall - Maine Maritime Academy 1985
- Dann Hayden - Maine Maritime Academy 1985
- John Novak - West Point 1995
- Jin Chen - NY Maritime 2005
- James McLeod - Maine Maritime Academy 2008
- Kevin Morrow - Mass Maritime Academy 1990
- Gary Smith - Maine Maritime Academy 1985
- Rich Toothaker - Maine Maritime Academy 1993
- Peter Vigue - Maine Maritime Academy 1969
- Chris Wilbur - Maine Maritime Academy 2009
- Donald Ross - U.S. Coast Guard Academy 1977

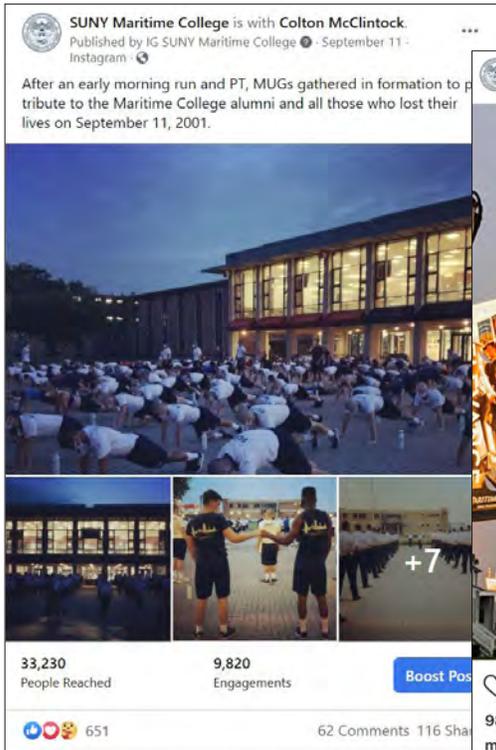
Today, our Maritime graduates are managing critical projects across a diverse range of industries; Power & Utility, Healthcare, Science & Technology, Manufacturing, Mission Critical, and Education.

**See why graduates choose us for their careers. Visit [www.cianbro.com](http://www.cianbro.com) or [www.a-zcorp.com](http://www.a-zcorp.com)**



# STAY CONNECTED

SUNY Maritime College and Maritime College Alumni Association social media platforms offer students, faculty, staff, alumni and other followers an opportunity to stay connected and be engaged in the social conversation. View our stories, learn about our students, programs and events and follow us on social.



**SUNY Maritime College**

Website: [www.sunymaritime.edu](http://www.sunymaritime.edu)

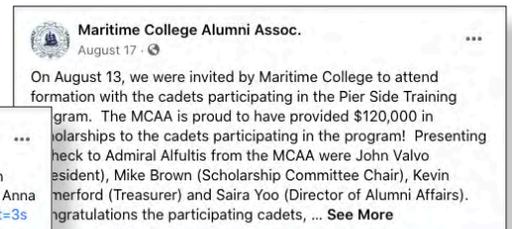
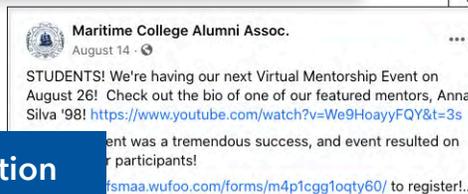
Instagram: @maritimecollege

Facebook: sunymaritimecollege

Twitter: @MaritimeCollege

LinkedIn: State University of New York

Flickr: SUNY Maritime College



**Maritime College Alumni Association**

Website: [www.maritimecollegeaa.org](http://www.maritimecollegeaa.org)

Instagram: @maritimecollegeaa

Facebook: maritimecollegeaa

Twitter: @maritimealumni

YouTube: Maritime College Alumni Association



**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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For additional information visit our website:

[www.usmma.edu/academics/graduate-program](http://www.usmma.edu/academics/graduate-program)



**Congratulations,  
Class of 2020,  
on a powerful  
achievement.**



We believe in preserving our environment for future generations while providing for today's needs. Wheelabrator is focused on meeting the waste disposal needs of our communities and customers while delivering clean, renewable power to local communities.

**OUR VISION:** To develop, deliver and realize the potential of clean energy

## WHERE IN THE WORLD



### HONG KONG!

Eu Tung Wu '90 making sure that Benjamin Wong '06 enjoys his first visit to Hong Kong.



### NEW JERSEY!

No Zoom homecoming for these alumni Chris Katz '99, Nick Makar '96, Jason Galioto '00, and Jeff Logarzo '99 at a secret location in NJ.



### NORTH CAROLINA!

Ed Ratigan '67 and Bill Lindman '73 together at the North Carolina Chapter gathering for lunch and good cheer.

## INDUSTRY ENCOUNTERS



Brian Fritschi '02 and Christopher Zimmerman '02, shipmates and classmates signed off from the container ship SAFMARINE MAFADI heading home for a well deserved vacation.



When the bolt won't come out! Shipmates Kyle Morrissey '19 3/AE and AJ Libby '18 3/M onboard the North Star running between Tacoma, WA and Anchorage, AK.

# SAVE THE DATE

2021

## *Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner*

Thursday, April 22, 2021  
Tribeca 360°, New York City



*The Maritime College Alumni Association Celebrates  
Three Outstanding Alumni*

### Alumnus of the Year



**GRIFF LYNCH '88**

*Executive Director of the  
Georgia Ports Authority (GPA)*

### Lifetime Achievement



**JAMES STARACE '81**

*Chief Engineer of the Port Authority  
of New York and New Jersey*

### Special Recognition



**MICHAEL W. TONER '65**

*Executive Vice President of  
General Dynamics*

Keep up with the latest scuttlebutt on this event by visiting  
[www.maritimecollegeaa.org](http://www.maritimecollegeaa.org)  
or on Facebook, [Maritime College Alumni Association](#).

# EBB TIDE

Eric R. Rude '44

Fred Weber '47

Gilbert Katz '47

Dr. Joseph G. McNeill '48

Henry R. "Dick" Kropp '50

Donald Lyon '52

Chester "Chet" Ehrman '53

George Brown '54

Robert Guthorn '56

Kenneth C. Morisseau '56

George T. Redfern '57

Michael Vito Claps '59

Janis Schulmeisters '59

Joseph. J. Ambrose '62

John Joseph Bernardo '63

Charles G. Halsted Jr. '63

James Hraba '63

Don Wiilliam Johnson '63

Brian Ennis '64

Timothy Andrew Chichester '66

Jerzy "George" Glowacki, '70

Robert Henderson '70

Gary Shiflett '71

Peter Schwalbenberg '72

Vincent Papadopoli '74

Anthony Murray '75

James F. Nordmann '75

Guy P. Angione '81

Charles T. Cook '81

Gregory P. Nadolny '81

Victor Simms '92

Timothy Murray '02

Edward Andrew Cord '06

Michael Vincent Claps '08

Archie Edward Williams III '14

Andrew McHugh '19



## SALVADOR SCHEPENS

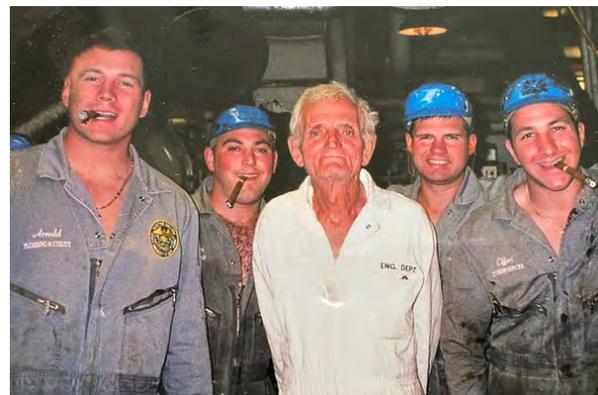
2/27/1929 – 8/6/2020

A message shared by Sal's son, Wayne Schepens '91, about his dad:

Sal has completed many SSTs aboard the training ship Empire State as an engineer, including one as recent as a partial trip last year. He loved working with the cadets. The cadets and alumni have made a great impact on my dad and I believe he has made a lasting impression upon many of them as well.

I was on campus in October while my son visited Maritime College and I ran into several cadets on campus that knew Sal. They joked that he loved to perform his "Sal-istentics" - his exercise - before watch. My son, Nick Schepens is an incoming MUG.

I still remember in 1986, my dad took me to Maritime to interview for acceptance. After some smooth talking, I became a cadet and graduated with a BE in EE in 1991. Maritime is in our blood...my oldest brother, Roy Schepens, is a graduate of Maine Maritime, my uncle Bob Guthorn - who passed away last month - was a 1956 graduate of SUNY Maritime as his son and my cousin Kevin Guthorn was SUNY Maritime class of 1980, and I also have a nephew, Brian Schepens who graduated from SUNY Maritime in 2005.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

FOR MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

## Virtual Employer Presentations

**January 19 to April 1**

Virtual Employer Presentations will be taking place from In lieu of Spring Career Fair. Contact career services at CareerServices@sunymaritime.edu to schedule a presentation.

## January Commencement (Virtual)

**January 29, 2019**

Help us welcome the Class of 2020 to the ranks of proud Maritime College alumni.

## Maritime College Alumni Association - New Alumni Night

**March 2021 - Bronx, NY**

A chance for alumni to meet and mingle with upcoming graduates, and pass on insight and inspiration on the various career paths available with their Maritime College education.

## Spring Graduation Awards Reception

**April 21, 2021 (Tentative)**

The College recognizes many of its outstanding seniors of the Class of 2021.

## Maritime College Alumni Association - Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner

**April 22, 2021 - Manhattan**

Join us to congratulate the 2021 Distinguished Alumni Awards Honorees!

## Spring Commencement

**April 23, 2021**

Recognize members of the Class of 2021 and welcome them to the ranks of Maritime alumni.

## Maritime College Alumni Association - Spring Networking

**May 2021 - Manhattan**

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

## Maritime College Alumni Association - 32nd Annual Golf Classic

**June 14, 2021 - Old Westbury Golf and Country Club**

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.

## Admiral's Dinner

**September, 2021**

The annual Admiral's 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.

## HOMECOMING WEEKEND

### Maritime College Alumni Association - Ancient Mariner Golf Outing

**October 15, 2021**

Maritime College Alumni Association Ancient Mariner Golf Outing at Pelham Bay & Split Rock Golf Courses, Bronx, NY

**October 16, 2021**

- Maritime College Alumni Association Annual Membership Meeting
- Class Reunion events, Pass-in-Review
- Heritage Hall Induction
- Tailgate and Football Game with Reunion Class Parade/Regimental March On
- Alumni Post-Game Celebration at Paddy's on the Bay

### Maritime College Alumni Association - Fall Networking and Nominations Meeting

**November 2021 - Manhattan**

Cast your nominations for open Board Trustee and Officer seats while networking with fellow alumni and industry professionals.

For more information, visit

[www.sunymaritime.edu/events-alumni-friends](http://www.sunymaritime.edu/events-alumni-friends) | [www.maritimecollegeaa.org](http://www.maritimecollegeaa.org)



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## BE PART OF THE MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI FAMILY

Your membership in the Alumni Association is a valuable asset to your personal and professional life. It will keep you in the loop with our events, and keep you in touch with your classmates and industry professionals. Most importantly, you will be helping to maintain our goals to provide support to alumni and the College, and to raise funds for scholarships to cadets and students.

**JOIN**

<https://www.maritimecollegeaa.org/membership/>



Website: <https://www.maritimecollegeaa.org> | Email: [director@maritimecollegeaa.org](mailto:director@maritimecollegeaa.org)