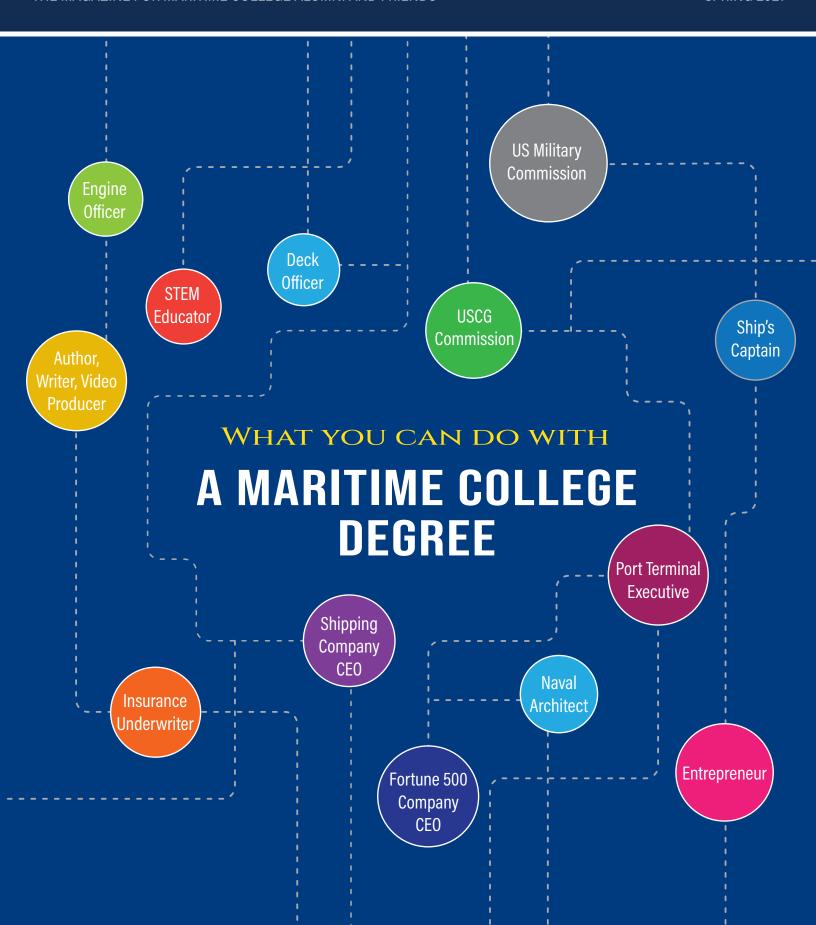
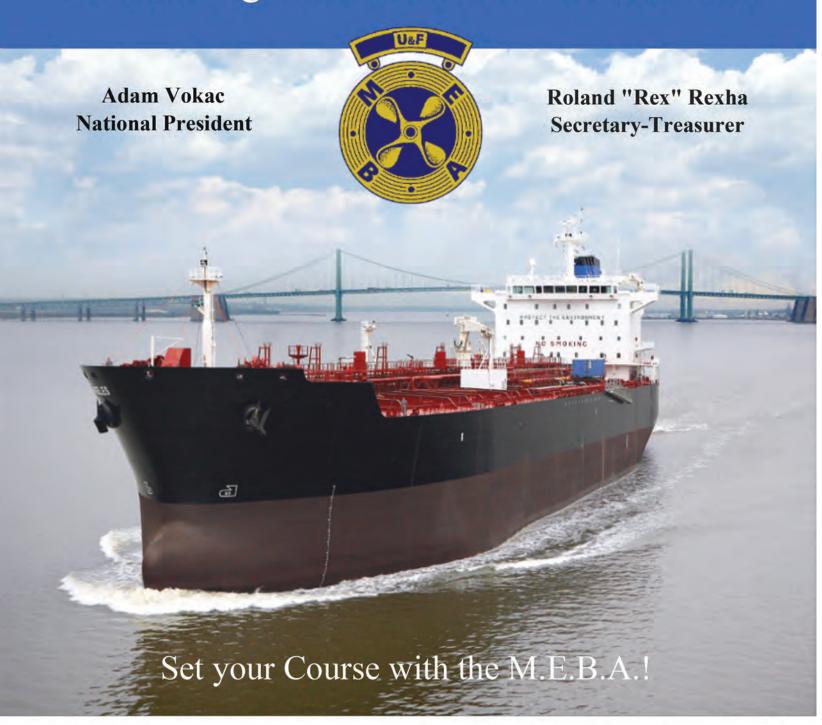
# FORT SCHUYLER

THE MAGAZINE FOR MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

**SPRING 2021** 



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# FORT SCHUYLER

THE MAGAZINE FOR MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

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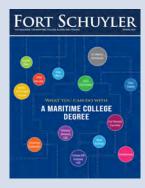
Celebrates Three Outstanding Alumni

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#### ON THE COVER:

Employment opportunities abound ashore and afloat for Maritime College graduates. Their impact on the maritime and countless industries reverberates throughout the globe.

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Fort Schuyler is the official magazine of SUNY Maritime College (est. 1874) and its Alumni Association (est. 1903).

#### **LETTER FROM KEVIN DANKO '95**

President,

Maritime College Alumni Association



# MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Bridget Cooney '15 Victor Corso '83 Carl Hausheer '79 Phil Kantz '65 Ted Mason '57 Rick McClain '14 Ryan Modruson '02

Chris Nystrom '92 Mike Trotta '99 Dear Fellow Alumni,

I am excited for the opportunity to lead the Maritime College Alumni Association (MCAA) as we pull out of the pandemic-restricted world and look towards what the new normal has in store for us. This year has given us much to think about and challenged how we have done business in the past. While we all agree the missed opportunities for in-person connections were sorely missed, we learned that we can incorporate various electronic means to connect and draw us all together as we span the globe!

I'd like to welcome a few new Shipmates to the MCAA board this year. Mike Paturas '13 will be stepping in as our new secretary. Ryan Modruson '02 is joining us as board member and will be chairing the Membership Committee. Bridget Cooney '15 joins us as a board member and has already engaged in several of our committees. Rick McClain '14 also joins us as board member and will be chairing the Public Relations Committee.

As a board, we are focused this year on increasing engagement with our membership and what better way to accomplish that than welcoming non-board members to join a committee. Our committees are not limited to board members and your voice matters. If you are interested in helping to shape MCAA activities, please reach out to us so we can find the committee for you.

By now you are already aware that our annual dinner was ultimately rescheduled to January of 2022. We just did not see a viable option for paying tribute to our honorees within the pandemic guidelines. Our honorees agreed that pushing the event to 2022 was the best option and we are looking forward to making our 2022 dinner a huge success!

I am pleased to announce that we have created a new Executive Director position in addition to our current Director position. This is an investment the board felt strongly about to drive the association's strategic vision as we continue to grow in our relationship with the College and we strive to find new ways to engage with you, our members. Jeanne Murphy joined the MCAA as Executive Director on March 1. She is on campus full time in our Alumni Association office in the administrative wing of the Fort. You may reach Jeanne at (718) 319-8801 or via email: jmurphy@maritimecollegeAA.org

I hope you are all looking forward to our Annual Golf Classic taking place on June 19<sup>th</sup> at Old Westbury Golf & Country Club. This is always a great event and a way for us to supplement funds for the day-to-day operations of the association. We would love to see you in person and if that doesn't work logistically, please give serious consideration to one of our many sponsorship opportunities.

We remain hopeful that our communities are coming out of restrictions, which means that we are already planning for a fantastic Homecoming! There are plans to make this a "redo" for anniversary classes in 2020 who weren't afforded the opportunity for a "traditional" celebration of important milestones. We are really expecting to flood the campus and celebrate together! Don't forget our sesquicentennial is less than three years away.

In closing, we are asking each of you to continue in your support of the association through your membership. Please encourage your classmates to become active members as well. We have some exciting new member benefits, so don't miss out, join us now!

Kevin Danko, Class of 1995 President MCAA LETTER FROM MICHAEL ALFULTIS

President, SUNY Maritime College



Dear Maritime College Alumni and Friends,

The warmer weather is finally upon us and I hope you and your families are staying safe and healthy.

When I look back to where Maritime College was at the onset of a global pandemic last spring, I am filled with immense gratitude towards those whose tireless efforts have ensured the completion of another successful academic year. Our resolve to bring students back to campus for in-person instruction during the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters was undeterred. We provided weekly testing for students, faculty and staff; adhered to all state and federal COVID-19 mandates and requirements; and collaborated with various state and community partners to offer vaccinations to students at Yankee Stadium and on campus. This year-long endeavor culminated in the actualization of two in-person Spring Commencement ceremonies and the sendoff of over 500 fully vaccinated cadets on the first Summer Sea Term since 2019. A brief overview of these accomplishments and the statistics related to testing and positivity rates is included in within the pages of this Fort Schuyler magazine.

After commencement, it is natural for some graduates to question the viability of their academic degree and employment potential, especially after being awarded a degree amid a global pandemic. In this issue, we delve into the theme of what graduates can achieve with a Maritime College degree. The stories featured in this publication demonstrate the vast industry possibilities that exist for our graduates. One story showcases an alumna who began her career along the traditional seafaring path, only to be led down an unexpected, untraditional yet fulfilling career path in academia. Our alumni are dedicated to their craft and demonstrate the highest levels of proficiency in their fields. In March, the Master of the Training Ship Empire State VI was sought after by various media outlets to offer his professional opinion on the obstruction of the Suez Canal by the Ever Given container ship. These are only a few of the many ways in which Maritime College alumni have utilized their degrees to achieve professional success.

This issue of Fort Schuyler magazine also highlights the conceptualization and fabrication process of the new National Security Multi-mission Vessel (NSMV) in the form of a timeline. The steel has been cut and Maritime College is slated to receive the first NSMV in 2023. As we await the completion and arrival of our new state-of-the-art training ship, which will benefit students for generations to come, we will document the construction progress and share updates on this historic national maritime achievement.

Finally, I would like to extend my deepest thanks to those donors, friends and alumni whose generosity has provided numerous scholarship and financial support opportunities for our students, including participation in Summer Sea Term 2021. These contributions have been vital in propelling students towards successful, rewarding careers.

Please enjoy this issue of Fort Schuyler.

Be well.

All the best.

RADM Michael A. Alfultis, USMS, Ph.D.

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CAMPUS NEWS CAMPUS NEWS



# Maritime College Earns Top Rank in the 2021-2022 Military Friendly School Designation

Maritime College has been designated the #1 Military Friendly School for 2021-2022. Military Friendly® is the standard that measures an organization's commitment, effort and success in creating sustainable and meaningful benefit for the military community. The Military Friendly® designation creates better outcomes for veterans. By setting a standard then promoting it, the designation provides positive reinforcement for American organizations to invest in programs that improve the lives of veterans.

The Military Friendly® Schools survey is the longest-running, most comprehensive review of college and university investments in serving military and veteran students. Over 1,200 schools participated in the 2021-2022 survey with 747 earning the designation. Methodology, criteria, and weightings were determined by Viqtory with input from the Military Friendly® Advisory Council of independent leaders in the higher education and military recruitment community. They measured the institution's ability to meet thresholds for Student Retention, Graduation, Job Placement, Loan Repayment, Persistence (Degree Advancement or Transfer) and Loan Default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans.

#### Distinguished Alumni/Industry leaders Forum

In the aftermath of the stranded container ship on the Suez Canal that wreaked havoc and cost billions, a timely panel discussion took place on March 30, to examine how COVID-19 has impacted the global supply chain. Panelists included distinguished alumni and maritime industry leaders Lambros Klauodatos, Vice President of Business Partnerships and Project at BP; Dave Minetti, President of Liberty Global Logistics; and Bob Stewart, Corporate Vice President of Strategic Sourcing Food Digitalization, Global Supply Chain at McDonalds.



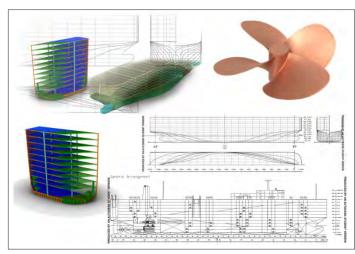
The panel addressed issues on:

- What have been the challenges?
- How has the shipping industry been coping?
- How soon will things get back to normal or will there be a "new normal?"
- What are the prospects going forward?

#### Naval Architecture Students Garner First Place Ship Design Competition

Each year, students in the Maritime College Naval Architecture program are challenged with designing theoretical yet practical cutting-edge vessels. Upon completing their projects, the designs are entered into the Dr. James A. Lisnyk Student Ship Design Competition of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers. The competition is open to the world's colleges and universities supporting maritime careers.

Awarded the first place prize were five Maritime College students: Brandon Hyner, Tyler James, Elizabeth Millicker, Samuel Perez and Arina Suprunova. The group's first place win was also a first for the College.



Working collaboratively, they designed an energy-efficient Roll-on, Roll-off, Pure Car Carrier (PCC or RORO). Although this type of vessel is challenging to design due to its poor stability, each member presented their unique perspective throughout the design process and offered diverse skills and experience to the team. "We decided to design a RORO because we wanted to stand out. We had to balance innovation and maintain industry standards. We also had to make sure the vessel was practical, abided by the rules and regulations set forth by different maritime organizations, and stood out due to its ingenuity," noted Arina Suprunova. The design was created through trial and error, extensive research, and a collective team effort.

The aspiring naval architects shared their excitement as first place winners of the competition. "It felt surreal to win first place. It was amazing to see that the countless hours of work, stress, and effort did not go unnoticed in this competition," stated Elizabeth Millicker. Suprunova added, "We could not have achieved this success without the help of the engineering department, especially Professor Charlie Munsch, Dr. Richard Burke, Professor George Petrie and Professor David Gerr." The team hopes their historical win inspires future naval architecture students at Maritime to earn multiple podium spots.



# Men's Lacrosse Team Win Skyline Championship Title Undefeated Throughout the Season

The Maritime College men's lacrosse team completed their defense of the 2019 Skyline Conference Championship in dramatic fashion early May, defeating Farmingdale State 13-12 in the championship game. The Privateers trailed by five goals in the first half, but ultimately completed their undefeated season with a one-goal victory. Maritime dominated the third quarter with Senior captain Bryan Keegan netting the first three goals of the quarter to tie the game, and Patrick Schnell gave the Privateers their first lead at 9-8 with just over five minutes left to play in the third quarter. Maritime altered the course of the game and kept the offense rolling into the fourth quarter with four more goals. The Most Outstanding Player of the tournament, Jack Louer, scored three of the last four goals, including the eventual gamewinner. Bryan Rimmer stepped in at goal for Maritime midway through the second quarter and earned the win in goal with eight saves.

Congratulations to the men's lacrosse 2021 Skyline Conference champions! ■

#### **HUSANE CAMARA RECEIVES**

chancellor's award

for Student Excellence

Husene Camara is the 2021 recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. The men's basketball team member, graduating senior who studied International Transportation and Trade, Education Opportunity Program participant, and Bronx native was recognized in an April 14 virtual event. The award honors SUNY students who demonstrate the integration of academic excellence with leadership, campus involvement, athletics, career achievement, community service or creative and performing arts. "It's an honor to be one of the many great recipients of

DISCOR

this award," said Camara. "I would like to acknowledge all the professors, coaches, faculty, and staff members who helped me get to this point. I am forever appreciative of my time as an athlete and a student at Maritime College."

#### Women's Lacrosse Defeats USMMA for First Time Since 2015 with 11-10 Victory

The Maritime College women's lacrosse team earned one of their biggest wins in program history by defeating the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy on April 3, by a score of 11-10. The Mariners won the last two Skyline Conference Championships and five consecutive match ups against the Privateers dating back to the 2015 season when Maritime pulled off an 11-9 win at home. Although the Privateers had not played a lacrosse game since March 8, 2020, and their



first four games of this season were postponed, they came out firing against USMMA. Maritime's defense held strong and the team worked to limit USMMA's opportunities, allowing two shots in the final minutes of play.

"I'm so incredibly proud of this team," said Interim Head Coach Kerri Handras. "After last season was cut short for them and our first four games were postponed, we were all excited to finally be playing. We knew it was going to be a tough challenge to play USMMA first, but everybody worked extremely hard all pre-season and that hard work paid off in a great game."

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**CAMPUS NEWS CAMPUS NEWS** 

#### **Commencement Celebrations of 2021**

Winter Commencement 2021 was held virtually on January 29, due to pandemic-related restrictions to host large social gatherings on campus. Daniel Michael Venditto '21 offered a virtual Valedictorian Address to the graduates and Joshua Shapiro, Chief Operating Officer at Liberty Maritime Corporation, served as Commencement Keynote Address Speaker.

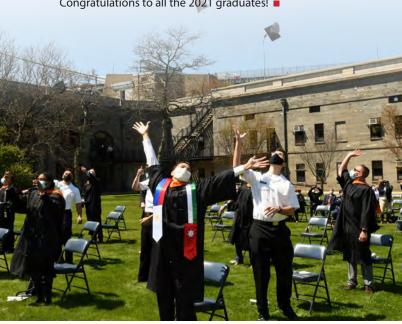
Spring Commencement ceremonies for the School of Engineering, School of Maritime Education and Training, and the School of Business, Science and Humanities took place in person on April 23, at St. Marys Pentagon.

Festivities began with the presentation of Veteran Military Commencement Medals to four graduates, Christopher Anstett, Jonattan Diaz, Luis Jimenez, and Patrick Shaughnessy. Two separate commencement ceremonies were held for the three Schools, which allowed each graduate to have two family members/guests attend the ceremony in person.

Keynote Speaker and alumna Bethann Rooney '91 encouraged the graduates to focus on becoming the most effective leaders they can become saying, "We all develop new skills throughout life, sometimes from difficult situations or painful experiences. Focus on being a flexible and agile leader who knows how to treat uncertainty and ambiguity as the new normal. Remain calm under pressure, especially in a crisis. Continue to grow and develop. Learn and better yourselves. Build trust and earn the respect of others."

RADM Alfultis read a congratulatory letter from MARAD to the graduates and expressed the pride he felt in knowing that students continued with and completed their degree programs despite the pandemic. "Thank you for choosing to work in this important vocation and serve your country," he said.

Congratulations to all the 2021 graduates!





Winter Commencement 2021 Valedictorian Daniel Michael Venditto '21



Winter Commencement 2021 Keynote Speaker Joshua Shapiro



Veteran Military Commencement Medals recipients, Christopher Anstett, Jonattan Diaz, Luis Jimenez, and Patrick Shauahnessy.





May Commencement 2021 Valedictorian Katherine Schillat '21



May Commencement 2021 Keynote Speaker and alumna Bethann Rooney '91

#### **Stephanie Rota Receives Largest CMAEF Scholarship**

In the release of its 2020 Annual Report, the Connecticut Maritime Association **Education Foundation featured Maritime** College sophomore Stephanie Rota as the recipient of the largest scholarship awarded - a \$10,000 grant. Among the 20 winners nationwide who were selected after a stringent process, Stephanie was one of seven Maritime College students to receive a prestigious CMAEF Scholarship.

Rota is very honored to have received the award and recognition as she continues to pursue an undergraduate degree in Naval Architecture. The Greenwich, CT native has always possessed a creative spark, spending her summers as a child with her father on worksites, discussing the intricacies of how the smallest and largest things were designed



and built. In high school, her favorite class was shop, and she spent much time engaged in

discussion with her instructor. It was, in fact, her shop teacher who recommended she attend Maritime College. Rota was initially surprised when she received word of the scholarship. "It's something you see other people getting, but when it's you, it feels surreal." When she was announced the winner at the ceremony, she met prominent members of the maritime industry who shared their enthusiasm in seeing a young scholar pursue a career in the field. The overall experience, as well as her entry into the maritime industry, filled her with a great sense of pride.

After completing her degree, Rota intends to work in ship design with a special interest in luxury vessels and/or submarines. She is also considering advancing her education in Naval Architecture.

#### **Maritime College Celebrates Black History Month Through Video Stories**

In celebration of Black History Month, Maritime College spoke with several students, faculty and staff, and developed video stories on Black history. Regimental student Joshua Forbes Hart, ITT student Sheanna Gaspar, Professor Sean Carswell, Professor Alison Romain, Dean of Admissions Rohan Howell, and Student Affairs Coordinator Patricia Norman shared their perspectives on Black History in these video features available on Maritime College YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=008Z4f6my-M. The Cultural Club organized its annual Cultural Club Black History Month Dinner as a virtual event, which was held on February 25. The virtual celebration brought together students, alumni and friends and featured student awarding recipients of the Organization of Black Maritime Graduates scholarships and the Carl F. Burnett and the Michael B. Gould Awards. ■







Joshua Forbes Hart, Sheanna Gaspar, Sean Carswell





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#### **TSES VI Sails Away for First Summer Sea Term Since 2019**



Tuesday, April 27, marked the day students from the Regiment of Cadets departed Olivet Pier for the first Summer Sea Term since 2019. All cadets on board the Training Ship Empire State VI were fully vaccinated, many having received their vaccine at Yankee Stadium through a partnership with SOMOS Community Care. Key members of SOMOS Community Care were at Olivet Pier to proudly send off cadets on their long-awaited training at sea. SOMOS Community Care Founder Dr. Ramon Tallaj was pleased with the turnout of Maritime College cadets who were vaccinated at Yankee Stadium stating, "We are community doctors who serve the community and we have worked nonstop since March vaccinating throughout New York City."

Due to the pandemic and subsequent federal restrictions, the Empire State VI was unable to sail for its annual Summer Sea Term in 2020. The administering of vaccinations for cadets and the ship's crew enabled Maritime College to safely conduct two 67-day terms at sea this summer.

Over 500 students were on board the training ship from April 27 – June 25 for the first half of the sea term. A second 67-day term will depart on July 1. "We appreciate and thank the NYS Governor's Office, SUNY Chancellor Jim Malatras and SOMOS Community Care for the role they played in helping to protect and vaccinate our cadets and crew while on Summer Sea Term," stated RADM Michael Alfultis.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and cancellation of the 2020 Summer Sea Term had an enormous impact on cadets who needed to participate in the summer program. Administration of vaccinations will allow over 800 cadets to successfully complete their training at sea requirement and obtain U.S. Coast Guard licensure this July. Through Summer Sea Term, cadets travel around the world gaining vital hands-on experience in operating a ship and dealing with port traffic. Cadets sail aboard the Training Ship Empire State VI, a 565-foot, steam-powered vessel that serves as a floating lab during the school year.









(L-R) Sara Valenzuela, SVP Government Affairs, SOMOS, Dr. Jacqueline Delmont, SOMOS Chief Medical Officer, Ramon Tallaj, Jr., SOMOS Leadership, RADM Michael Alfultis, SUNY Maritime College President, Pamela Vittini, SOMOS Director of Operations, and Lenin Campos of SOMOS send off the TSES VI at Olivet Pier.

State Maritime Academies Receive Designation as

#### AMERICAN MARITIME CENTER OF EXCELLENCE













**CALIFORNIA** 

MAINE

MASSACHUSETTS

MICHIGAN

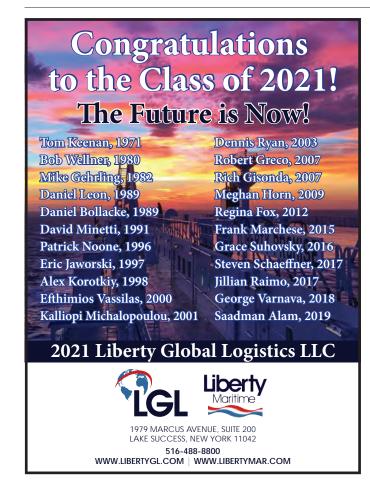
**NEW YORK** 

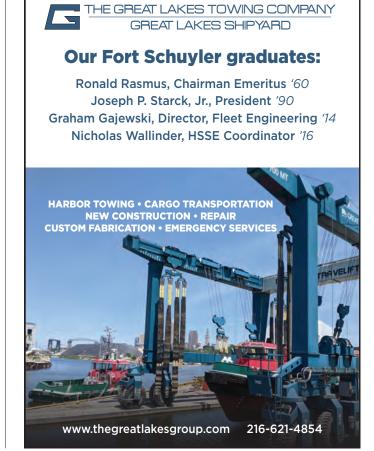
In January 2021, the United States Secretary of Transportation and the Maritime Administration issued the designation of American Maritime Center of Excellence upon the six state maritime academies: California State University Maritime Academy, Maine Maritime Academy, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Great Lakes Maritime Academy, the State University of New York Maritime College, and Texas A&M Maritime Academy. In a congratulatory correspondence sent to each state university president, former U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao stated, "This

achievement speaks well of the academic and professional AFRICAN MAP educa education provided by your great institution."

Established by Congress under Title 46 of the U.S. Code, the federal designation supports maritime workforce education and training at Centers of Excellence. The legislation allows Centers of Excellence to develop and prepare students for careers on board U.S. vessels, or ashore supporting the maritime industry. This includes efforts to admit additional students, recruit and train faculty, expand facilities, create new maritime career pathways, and award students credit for

prior experience including military service.





#### LOOKING BACK ONE YEAR AGO

It has been over one year since the COVID-19 pandemic began affecting all aspects of campus life and learning. Spring semester '20 ended with remote final exams, a virtual commencement, and Maritime College faculty and staff hand-delivering diplomas to graduates in the local area. As Summer Sea Term was no longer an option due to continued COVID concerns, more than 200 cadets returned to campus to complete a 30-day Pier Side Training program.

Students returned to campus on Labor Day weekend facing a new "normal" of COVID health and safety protocols. A total of 11 weeks of in-person, hybrid, and remote instruction were successfully completed, with a deliberate transition to remote instruction after the Thanksgiving holiday.

In the Spring '21 semester, remote instruction resumed on January 8, and in-

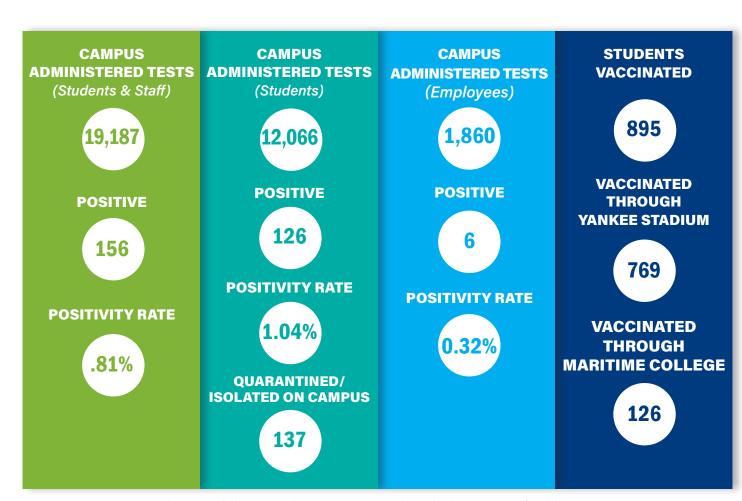
person instruction commenced on January 25. A full 12 weeks of in-person instruction was completed, and by the end of semester, over 19,000 students, faculty and staff tests were administered. By remaining focused, Maritime College achieved the goal of sending off approximately 500 Cadets in April 2021 for the first Summer Sea Term since 2019.

While the journey of the past year has been difficult, it has also strengthened the College's resolve to overcome challenge. It is in that spirit that Maritime College continues to move ahead.

#### **Local Media Covers Campus Testing**

As part of a SUNY university-wide effort to prevent the spread of the coronavirus in the spring semester, all students, staff and faculty are required to undergo COVID-19 testing once a week. As an additional safety protocol for the college community, students were also required to provide a negative COVID-19 prior to their arrival on campus. In-person instruction began Monday, January 25, and weekly COVID-19 testing will help reduce delays in completing the spring semester.

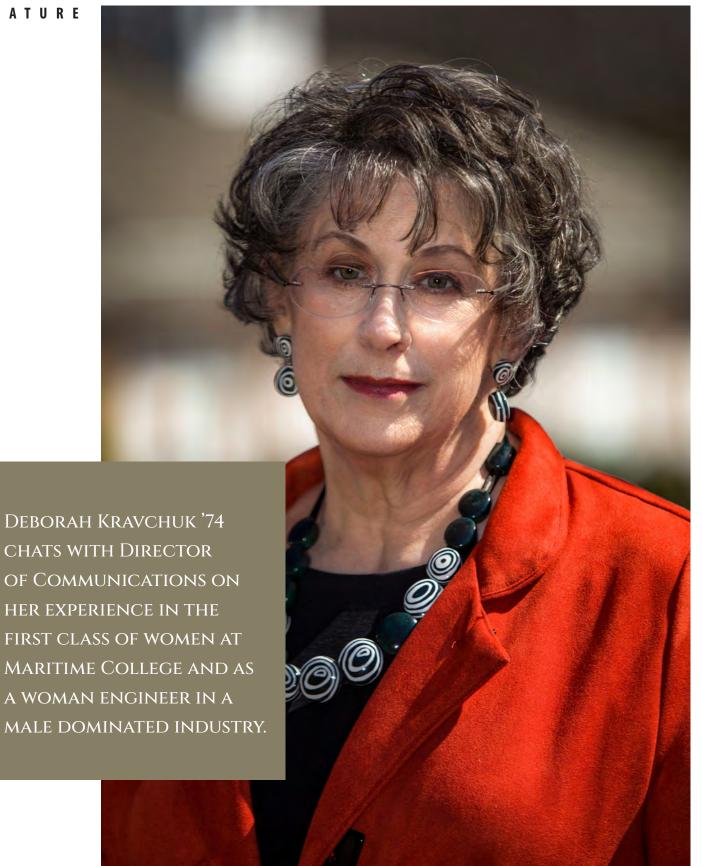




(Stats 1/2021 – 5/52021) Data does not include tests conducted by private providers or local Department of Health

# **Congratulations to the Maritime College Alumni Association Distinguished Award recipients:** 2021 Alumnus of the Year Griff Lynch '88 Executive Director | Georgia Ports Authority Lifetime Achievement **James Starace '81** Chief Engineer of the Port Authority of NY/NJ **Special Recognition** Michael W. Toner '65 **Executive Vice President of** General Dynamics **GEORGIA**

FEATURE



# TURNING OCEANOGRAPHY INTO A TREASURED **TEACHING CAREER**

#### **BY ODALIS MINO**

eborah Kravchuk was one of six women in the first class of women at Maritime College in 1974. Like all students in the College at the time, she participated in the Regiment of Cadets and underwent the required training. "I was always very determined and believed I could do those things people thought I couldn't do," she said. Kravchuk - whose maiden name is Gallagher was in the license program and quickly became close friends with her fellow women MUGs. By the time graduation arrived in 1978, five of the six women remained and completed their degree program. Kravchuk received a Bachelor of Science in Oceanography and Meteorology.

During her final year at Fort Schuyler, Kravchuk attended a job fair in November and was interviewed by Sperry Corporation (a manufacturer of advanced submarine navigation equipment located in Great Neck, NY, which was later absorbed by

UNISYS). She was hired as a full-time field engineer by Thanksgiving, one semester prior to her spring graduation.

As the only woman Systems Field Engineer at Sperry Corp., Kravchuk was initially mistaken for a secretarial assistant at an engineer's meeting. She participated in the meeting and shared her knowledge of ships and navigation using maritime terminology, which shocked her male counterparts and supervisory engineers. When asked how she "knew so much" about these terms and concepts, Kravchuk showed them her graduation ring, stated she was a graduate of Maritime College, and was well-versed in navigation and engineering. The head of the field engineering department immediately requested her to be assigned to the USS Compass Island, Sperry Corp's seagoing subsystem navigation test platform. "I had to receive permission from one of the commanders to go on the ship," stated Kravchuk.



Systems Field Engineer for Sperry Corporation on board the USS Compass Island, 1979



Deborah A. Gallagher- Graduation, 1978

12 | Fort Schuyler Spring 2021 Fort Schuyler Spring 2021 | 13 The six-month assignment took her throughout all of South America, Japan and Puerto Rico, and upon her return to the States, the head field engineer offered her an opportunity to work for him on a ship in Charleston, SC. After one year, the ship to which she was assigned was replaced by the USNS Vanguard and she was then sent to Alameda, CA due to her thorough understanding of the various systems in ships. Oftentimes, Kravchuk was tested by Captains, Chief Mates and Chief Engineers on her expertise in ship familiarization. Each time she demonstrated her knowledge and experience that came from her Maritime College degree.

Much of her work on ships required Kraychuk to communicate with shipyard workers and the ship's crew, and she was often told she had a knack for explaining concepts and instructions to ship workers. After several years of working in the industry, and as her family started to grow, Kravchuk began to consider teaching as an offshoot to her career path.

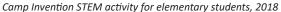
Ultimately, Kravchuk and her family moved to Amenia, NY and she took on a teaching position at Kildonan School, a private school for children with dyslexia (a learning disorder involving difficulty reading due to problems identifying speech sounds and learning how they relate to letters and words). "Being dyslexic myself, I underwent the necessary training and found I loved teaching kids. I loved teaching science and taking kids outside of the classroom for a science-based lesson," she stated. Throughout her time at Kildonan, she combined classroom and experiential learning to reinforce science education across all the subjects she taught, including Geology, Chemistry, Physics, Geometry, and Mechanical Drawing. She enjoyed teaching while she expanded her own family.

After conducting a family science night demonstration on fossils at Amenia's local public high school, Kravchuk was asked by the school's district superintendent to teach Earth Science at the school. She left her private school position after ten years of teaching and accepted the offer to teach science at Webutuck High School. There, she taught students (including all three of her children) and after five years, went on to teach at Franklin Delano Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park, NY where she remained for 16 years. It was during this time that Kravchuk pursued and completed



With students from FDR High School (Hyde Park, NY) on the Vatnajokull Glacier in Iceland, 2017







a Doctor of Education degree. She has since served as a teacher mentor for the Mid-Hudson Young Environmental Scientist Program at the Cary Institute, visiting professor at Bard College, adjunct professor of Clinical Supervision at SUNY Empire State College, and adjunct professor in the Master of Arts program at Marist College.

Kravchuk attributes her work ethic to all she learned at Maritime College saying, "I have always been a hardworking individual and much of that came from being at Maritime and carrying a large course load." While she enjoys mentoring students and watching the process of students becoming teachers, she also recognizes the challenges of the teaching profession. "Teaching is an underrated profession that many know exist, but don't always celebrate. When I instruct future teachers, I try to make the teaching experience as authentic as possible to better prepare them to enter into and remain in the profession."

Seeking to further strengthen her teaching skills and contribute in a unique way to the field of education, Kravchuk applied and was accepted into the NYS Master Teacher Program. The program attracts the best and brightest teachers to the classroom to strengthen the nation's K-12 Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

(STEM) education. She is recognized as one of the first Master Teachers in New York State and the only one to have attended Maritime College. "Due to vision issues, I was not able to receive a Third's Mate License, but I found a different way to go to sea as a civilian technical representative. If someone had not told me that I was good at teaching things to others, I may have never considered teaching. Students who come to Maritime College for an excellent education, study engineering or chemistry and then decide that the industry is not for them have the option of becoming teachers and making a difference," stated Kravchuk. "STEM field teaching jobs are available and sorely needed."

Throughout her highly accomplished career, Kravchuk overcame the challenge of being a woman and having her voice heard. "I learned the importance of using data and science to get my point across and that's something I learned at Maritime," she said. Now as she nears retirement and is close to the end of her teaching career, Kravchuk appreciates her experiences at Fort Schuyler and other life experience that contributed to her professional success. "I have been able to have a life where I can give back. I would love to see people follow a career path where they take their life experiences and apply that towards education."

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# SEMPER PARATUS:

# CADETS IN THE AUXILIARY UNIVERSITY PROGRAM AT SUNY MARITIME ARE TRAINING TO BECOME FUTURE OFFICERS IN THE U.S. COAST GUARD



hile most cadets at Maritime College seek to sail on their U.S. Coast Guard Unlimited License after they graduate, there are a select few who seek to commission into the Coast Guard as an officer. In addition to their bachelor's degree and unlimited license, those cadets who

degree and unlimited license, those cadets who seek a commission take on extra academics, extracurriculars and internships to strengthen themselves as candidates for Direct Commission programs when they graduate.

Unlike other military branches, the Coast Guard has no R.O.T.C. Program. The Auxiliary University Program (AUP) is the closest thing the USCG has to offer to college students. It offers a similar program: students take extra classes, wear a uniform and have inspections, participate in physical training, take on leadership roles within their units, and may apply for internships with active-duty Coast Guard stations and cutters. However, there are two main differences. First, there are no scholarships offered to participating students and participation in the program

is voluntary. Second, students do not earn a commission through the AUP program and there is no service requirement afterwards. Although there is no guarantee of earning a commission after

participating in the program, it is meant to strengthen applicants in leadership skills, experience, and

Coast Guard knowledge, and to prepare them as applicants for the Direct Commission Programs.

Participation in AUP also requires students to join a local Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla.

The Coast Guard program at Maritime College began in the Fall of 2016. Cadets Anthony Baker '18, Linda Li '18, and Justin Hattersly '20, along with Captain Ernest J. Fink, USCG Ret., Dean of the School of Maritime Education and Training, started a Coast Guard Club on campus with the goal of learning more about the Coast Guard, researching the different

commissioning programs, and taking trips to visit local Coast Guard stations and sectors. Cadets Mark Kesich '19 and Frank Horne '19 remained active in the AUP through the Remote Collaborative Unit. The two groups came together and combined forces.

Maritime College received official authorization on May 3, 2018 to start their own AUP Unit and since the creation of the club. Maritime cadets have traveled all over the U.S. for visits, tours, and internships. Cadets have made multiple trips to visit Sector New York in Staten Island, NY and toured VTS, the Command Center, and Station New York. An agreement between Maritime College and Sector NY opened a pathway for cadets to participate in internships at the Sector. Since then, multiple cadets have interned with Coast Guard inspectors in the prevention department where they shadowed inspectors as they conducted vessel inspections and port state exams on foreign-flagged vessels.

In the Summer of 2018, when the Training Ship Empire State VI was on its Summer Sea Term making port in San Juan, Puerto Rico, students toured Sector San Juan and some of the fast-response cutters homeported there. In Fall 2018, cadets traveled to Sector Long Island Sound, where they toured the base and the command center, and toured the cutters and fast boats stationed there including icebreakers. In Spring 2019, a few cadets rode the CGC Reliance down the East River as it was being transported from a shipyard in Brooklyn, NY, to Earle, NJ.

Although no commission is guaranteed after graduation, the AUP reports that over 70% of its "graduates" are selected for commissions through OCS or one of the various Direct Commission programs. The majority of the cadets earn their commission through the MARGRAD program, which is structured to bring in officers who graduate from one of the 6 maritime academies throughout the country who hold their USCG Unlimited License. Most who commission through this program will work in the Prevention field, but they have the option to work in any of the Coast Guard's 11 official missions. Maritime cadets are also eligible to apply to Officer Candidate School (OCS) and Direct Commissions Selected Service (DCSS). Additionally, students going to school for an engineering degree and/or engine license, may apply to Direct Commission Engineer (DCE).

Since the start of the Coast Guard Club and AUP at Maritime College, 12 cadet members of the Coast Guard Club and the AUP have been selected for commissions and are now spread out across almost every mission the Coast Guard undertakes. Maritime College cadets have been commissioning into the Coast Guard after graduating since the College was founded in 1874. Captain Ernest J. Fink, graduated from Maritime College and commissioned in 1976, and would go on to serve over 31



Cadets tour CGC Bollard at Sector Long Island Sound, Fall 2018

years active duty before returning to the College in 2007.

Although not the typical path for cadets at SUNY Maritime College, those who commission as Coast Guard officers serve a critical role in the operation, regulation, and security of the maritime industry, both in the U.S. and all over the world. The leadership skills cadets learn at Maritime, in combination with the education and experience they receive in the classroom and at sea, and the extensive knowledge and opportunity they gain through the AUP, creates cadets who are the perfect candidates to carry out the mission of the U.S. Coast Guard: **Semper Paratus.** 







Initial AUP Interest Meeting, Fall 2017

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# FABRICATING THE FIRST

## National Security Multi-Mission Vessel

fter years of conceptualizing, discussing, collaborating, planning, letter writing, meeting, advocating and testifying before Congress in Washington, D.C., December 15, 2020 marked a historic day for Maritime College. The long-awaited steel cutting ceremony finally arrived and fabrication of the very first National Security Multimission Vessel (NSMV) is underway heralding a new class of training ships designed to serve a dual purpose: supporting merchant mariner education and assisting with humanitarian/disaster relief.

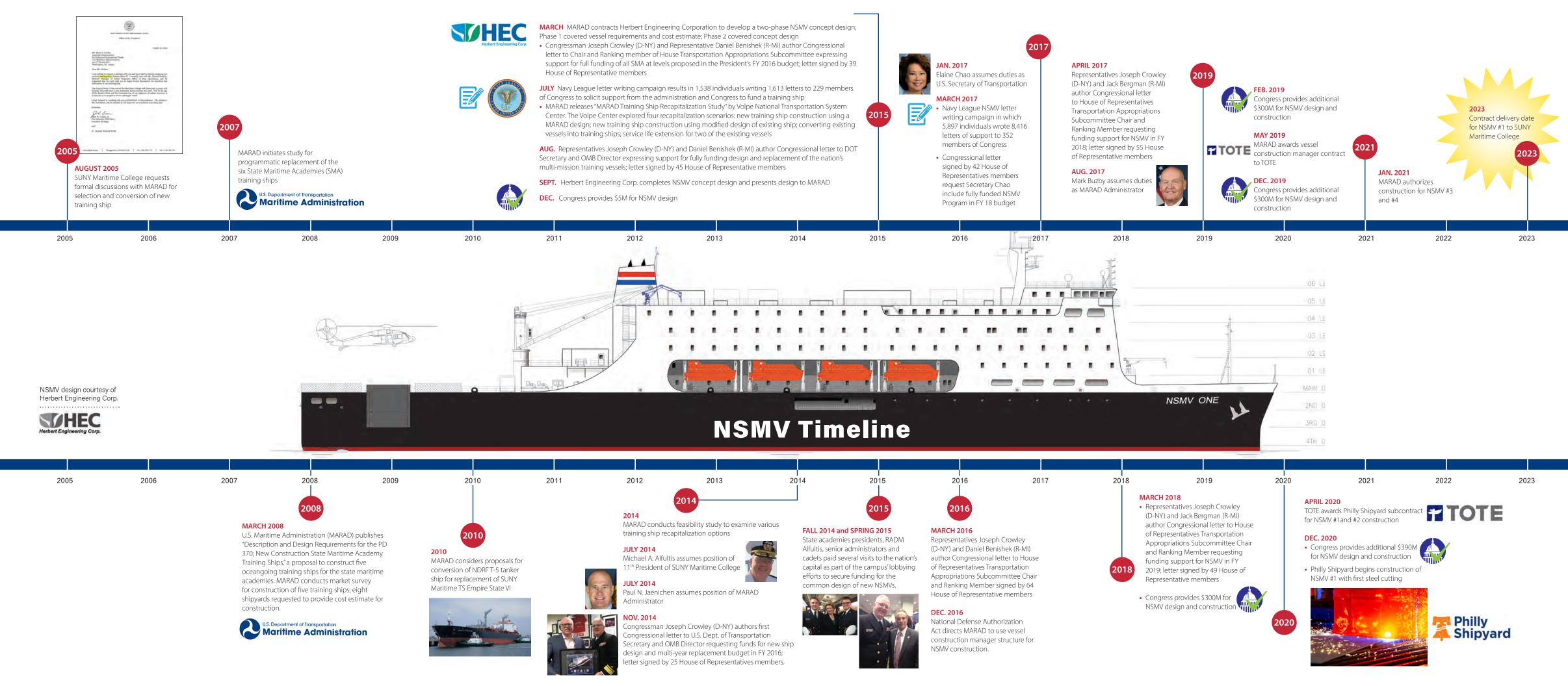
Fifteen years earlier, Maritime College had only begun requesting formal discussions with MARAD to replace its aging Training Ship Empire State VI. Now, for the first time in history, the first of a fleet of six purpose-built training ships, is officially under construction at Philly Shipyard in Philadelphia, PA. Maritime College will acquire the first vessel and the other NSMVs will be designated to each of the State Maritime Academies (SMA) over time. The steel-cutting milestone represents another step towards making the vision of replacing the Empire State VI a reality.

The historic achievement was made possible with the help of alumni, maritime industry partners, elected officials and other stakeholders who supported the efforts of RADM Michael Alfultis as he traveled to Washington, D.C. on multiple occasions to speak with members of Congress. At Capitol Hill, RADM Alfultis met with congressional members from Alabama, Arkansas, California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and Washington. On occasion, students from the Regiment of Cadets accompanied him on these visits.

As construction of the first NSMV continues, Maritime College awaits the laying of the ship's keel in 2022 and delivery of the vessel in 2023. Arrival of the much-anticipated state-of-art ship will greatly impact the College and future generations of mariners.

The following pages feature a historical perspective of the NSMV through a comprehensive timeline that highlights key dates, partnerships and other pertinent information, all of which led to the fabrication of the nation's first NSMV, the new training ship assigned to Maritime College.

A video commemorating the NSMV fabrication is available on: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xs95cbQE3yQ



U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime

Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

May 4, 2021

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo Governor of New York State NYS State Capitol Building Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of the Maritime Administration, I thank you for your continued support of our National Security Multi-mission Vessel (NSMV) Program.

The purpose-built NSMVs will replace the aging fleet of training ships currently in use by providing a new state-of-the-art training platform for our Nation's State Maritime Academy (SMA) cadets. The NSMVs represent a significant investment in our future mariners, and their construction will strengthen our shipbuilding industry and manufacturing base.

To support educational missions, the vessels will be equipped with numerous training spaces including eight classrooms, a full training bridge, lab spaces, and an auditorium that can support up to 600 cadets at sea. The vessels' multi-mission design will also assist in achieving national security objectives, including providing unique capabilities to respond to national disasters. Each vessel will have medical capabilities, a helicopter landing pad, the ability to berth up to 1,000 people in port, and space for roll-on/roll-off and container storage.

The NSMVs are designated as the State-class, and each vessel will be named for a state of the United States that operates an SMA. We anticipate taking delivery of the very first vessel— EMPIRE STATE—in early 2023 and look forward to the State University of New York Maritime College utilizing this extraordinary platform to train the next generation of merchant mariners and foster the growth of the maritime transportation workforce.

I am pleased to have you and your State organization as a partner in promoting a strong and sustainable course for the future for the U.S. Merchant Marine and our maritime industry.

Sincerely,

Lucinda Lessley Acting Maritime Administrator















NEW YORK COUNCIL

NAVY LEAGUE of the US tizens in Support of the Sea Services







#### STATE MARITIME ACADEMIES











August 11, 2005

Mr. Bruce J. Carlton for Policy and International Trade Washington, DC 20590

I am writing to request a meeting with you and your staff to discuss replacing on and writing to request a meeting with you and your stan to discuss replacing our current training ship, Empire State VI. I recently met with Mr. Erhard Koehler, MARAD Manager of Direct Programs, Office of Ship Operations, and he suggested that we meet with you to begin formal discussions for selection and

The Empire State VI has served the Maritime College well these past 15 years and The Empire State VI has served the Maritime College well these past 15 years and recently returned from a very successful 2005 summer sea term. Due to the age of the Empire State and the increased size of our regiment of cadets, however, i is time for us to acquire a newer and larger vessel.

John Creem John W. Craine, Jr. Vice Admiral, USN (Ret.) President (Acting)

#### With Strong Alumni Support, TSES VI Embarks on 134-day SST

The Training Ship Empire State VI has embarked on an unprecedented 134-day Summer Sea Term, thanks to some equally impressive scholarship support by alumni and friends.

• The Maritime College Alumni Association distributed over \$511.000 in SST Scholarship awards.



- The SUNY Maritime Foundation made an additional \$200,000 available to the College.
- On March 1, 2021, in conjunction with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the keel-laying of the T/S Empire State VI, the College launched a week-long fundraising effort to grow the Summer Sea Term Scholarship Fund. During the event, the community engaged in Empire State trivia, read alumni memories and enjoyed first-hand accounts of cruise from Captain Morgan McManus '92, 1/C cadets Kassidy Gay '21 and Colin Young '21. That effort raised over \$50,000 in new support.

The impact the pandemic has had on the academic progress of today's students will take a few semesters to calm, but once again, Fort Schuyler graduates have illustrated the importance of extending "One Hand" to those in need.

#### MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION **Awards Historic Level of Scholarships**

he Maritime College Alumni Association (MCAA) awarded a historic level of scholarships to students at Maritime College for ie 2021 scholarship cycle. This year, MCAA ore than doubled their annual scholarship ith a total of \$511,436 awarded to 102 cipients. Just over 50%

all applicants received a cholarship ranging from 3,000 to \$9,7000.

ne Class of 1965, which wards scholarships nnually, also doubled their ving by increasing the umber of awards from ur to eight and raising the ollar amount awarded from 3,500 to \$5,000 each.

n response to the nallenges this pandemic as brought to our adets, the MCAA set an mbitious goal to double

our scholarship awards this year. Our alumni community's response to the 2021 Scholarship Appeal was outstanding. We are so grateful to everyone who donated. The alumni community of Maritime College should feel a collective pride in being able to provide the cadets with increased financial

of need," said Kevin Danko '95, MCAA President. The MCAA scholarships support students'

participation in the summer sea term (SST) SST is one of the requirements to earning a

support during this unprecedented time

U.S. Coast Guard license. As part of the program, cadets - either deck or engine license candidates - must accrue at least 180 days at sea before they

Through SST, cadets travel around the world gaining vital hands-on experience in operating a ship and dealing with port traffic. Cadets sail aboard the Training Ship Empire State VI, a 565-foot, steampowered vessel that serves as a floating lab during the



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## THE MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## CELEBRATES THREE OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

Each year the Honors Committee has the rewarding task of finding those among us who stand out for their professional achievements. This task is made all the more difficult due to the growing number of graduates out in the world doing amazing things.

BY MATTHEW BONVENTO '01

TO ABSORB ALL THAT
MARITIME HAS TO
OFFER, AND KNOW
WITHOUT A DOUBT, AS
YOUR LIFE UNFOLDS
YOU WILL DRAW ON
THESE EXPERIENCES.

- Griff Lynch '88

Ithough COVID-19 restrictions within New York City and New York State limited our ability to gather together this year to honor our distinguished alumni, we are determined to recognize them for their outstanding achievements. The annual Distinguished Alumni Dinner will be held on January 27, 2022 at Tribeca 360° in NYC. We are pleased to honor Griff Lynch '88 as Distinguished Alumnus of the Year, James Starace '81 with the Lifetime Achievement Honor, and Michael Toner '65 is being awarded the Special Recognition Honor. I had the opportunity to speak with each of this years' honorees and learn about each of their unique experiences since graduation. Their educational tracks could not have been more diverse. Griff Lynch was a Computer Science major (who knew that was a major at one point?), Michael Toner was a Nuclear Science Engineering major, and James Starace majored in Naval Architecture.

Griff Lynch '88 is the Executive Director of the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA), a 1,400-person strong gateway for American commerce. As Executive Director, Griff oversees the nation's third-busiest

container port and second-busiest auto port complex in Savannah and Brunswick, respectively. In addition, Griff oversees GPA's two inland terminal operations in South and Northwest Georgia. Together, these facilities comprise one of the largest economic engines in the U.S. Southeast.

Jim Starace '81 is the Chief Engineer of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. In this capacity, Mr. Starace is responsible for the Agency's Engineering services that include design, construction, structural integrity, quality assurance and asset management to support the Port Authority's Capital and Operating programs. These programs include projects at the Port Authority airports; tunnels, bridges and terminals; ports; the PATH rail system and the World Trade Center.

Michael W. Toner '65 became an executive vice president of General Dynamics in March 2003. He was responsible for the Marine Systems group, which includes Bath Iron Works, Electric Boat and NASSCO. He had been vice president of General Dynamics since January 2000 and president of Electric Boat from January 2000 to October 2003.

This year's honorees each took different career tracks. While Griff specialized in port operations, Michael Toner, who had an illustrious career building submarines, went on to become a senior executive at General Dynamics. James Starace, worked for the Port Authority of NY/NJ maintaining the infrastructure for which we all depend.

While interviewing our honorees, I was regaled with great stories from their amazing careers. Michael Toner recalled a time of taking a submarine out on sea



**GRIFF LYNCH' 88**Distinguished Alumnus of the Year



JAMES STARACE '81 Lifetime Achievement Honor



MICHAEL TONER '65
Special Recognition Honor

trials. During this particular sea trial, the weather was so rough, alarms went off, indicating flooding as water poured over the conning tower. Several minutes passed as the command team was unsure whether the

AS FAR AS I DID IN MY
CAREER WITHOUT THE
EXCELLENT EDUCATION
I RECEIVED AT MARITIME
COLLEGE IN BOTH
TECHNICAL SUBJECTS
AND THE BEGINNINGS OF
LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE.

#### - James Starace '81

skipper was still up on the conning tower. Thankfully, he was, but days like this did not seem to faze the distinguished graduate. To Mike Toner, this was just another day at the office.

Each of the honorees possess the common love that we all have for our education and shared experiences at Maritime. When queried about how a Maritime education helped them to achieve their level of professional success, without fail each answered in similar fashion. Our ability to get things done, work through obstacles,

and solve problems. These attributes were directly tied to their regimental experience and seagoing experience on the training ship, both of which remain highly valued aspects of the SUNY Maritime education. "Our time at sea really groomed us to be able to do whatever we needed to do to get the job done." That statement, by Michael Toner, is what distinguishes our honorees. They get the job done, no matter what. "You are never as good as you think you are, or as bad as they say." When asked about being honored this year, Michael said,

"Receipt of this award, provides me with an opportunity to thank SUNY Maritime College, the professors, administrators, my classmates and the alumni, for providing a platform of knowledge, experience and confidence to succeed in my chosen field."

What seems to be shared as a key to success among this years' honorees was captured perfectly by Griff Lynch, "We know how to work hard and get things done. We also know how to have fun." The balance between work and life plays such an integral role in our everyday lives. When asked what significance this honor meant to him, he stated: "It means that Maritime is not the end of things, it's just the beginning. As a "super trooper" I did not fully take advantage of all the opportunities available while at school. Yet those seeds were planted. When maturity and experience finally kicked in, I was able to leverage many of the life lessons I learned at Fort Schuyler."

To today's "super troopers," I encourage you to absorb all that Maritime has to offer, and know without a doubt, as your life unfolds you will draw on these experiences.

As far as receiving this honor, James Starace said it best, "This award means a great deal to me. It brings my career full circle to where I began 40 years ago. I could not have gone as far as I did in my career without the excellent education I received at Maritime College in both technical subjects and the

"OUR TIME AT SEA REALLY
GROOMED US TO BE ABLE TO
DO WHATEVER WE NEEDED
TO DO TO GET THE JOB DONE."

#### Michael Toner '65

beginnings of leadership experience. I am very grateful for this honor."

The Maritime community is the tie that binds this year's honorees with past honorees, recent graduates, current students, faculty, and staff. None of us can succeed in a vacuum, and that message came across clear from Griff, Michael, and James. We rely on each other to study, help us along the way with advice and moral support, and when we reach our pinnacle, the community raises us up to be honored.

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# KEEPING IT ALL IN THE FAMILY

BY MATTHEW BONVENTO '01

hat happens when two brothers, both Maritime graduates, go into business together? Inevitably success. John and Bill DiMartino are the brains behind Tandemloc, a company that provides engineering and manufacturing solutions for unique applications pertaining to the lifting, securing and mobilizing of containers and other items.

John DiMartino graduated from Maritime College in 1980 with a BS in Marine Transportation Management and a third mate's license. Soon after graduation, he sailed as third mate on a hopper dredge for North American Trailing Company, a division of Great Lakes Dredge and Dock. After a year and a half, he decided to go to work as a salesman for his father (John "Mike" DiMartino Sr.) whose firm designed and manufactured container securing and lifting devices. A few years later, in late 1983, his father's company went out of business and they opened Tandemloc in the basement of their Bayport, NY home. John was the salesman, assembler, painter, and order packer while his father ran things. In the mid-1990s John took the reins as

John had this to say about his time at the Dome, "I still remember my first day of

Indoctrination, what a surprise that was! I was totally not expecting the boot camp approach! It was very rigorous, but in time, I settled in. The education I received at Maritime prepared me guite well for industry. Of course, with my initial job on the dredge, the license was necessary, and I was fairly well prepared with all the basics as a third mate. The dredge was brand new, and the electronics were spaceaged compared to the training ship, but the training was very good from Maritime. Later, when I went ashore to work for my father's company selling container lashing equipment, I was very comfortable with the terminology and ship operations, making it real plus when talking with maritime people. Although with Tandemloc we are not as active in the maritime industry as in my former job, we offer some products to the maritime industry and I'm still rather comfortable in that because of my maritime education.

The regimental life at Maritime, though miserable at times, was very good for getting used to answering to superiors and staying disciplined. The very aggressive curriculum (especially license seminar!) prepared me for the hard work that was ahead. Both of these aspects helped me in starting a new business with my father and

eventually running it. It gave me that gumption to stick with it, work hard and be disciplined."

Bill DiMartino, Exec VP, and John's brother joined the firm in 1991 and added to the horsepower in engineering. Bill graduated from Maritime College in 1982 with a degree in Naval Architecture and an engineering license. After a brief stint with ABS, he decided to go to the University of Michigan to obtain his Mechanical Engineering degree. From there he worked with at Grumman Aerospace (now Northrop Grumman and then Fairchild Weston, and now Loral Fairchild). He also was an instructor for ALGOR finite element analysis software, traveling around the country providing training. Bill's skill set allowed him to step in and begin modernizing the company by incorporating CAD software and finite element analysis to product development.

When asked about his experience at Maritime Bill said, "SUNY Maritime was a great education for me. It was a tough school; many people didn't make it through without a hiccup. The engineering classes were led by incredibly smart professors. I still remember standing at attention next to my desk as Dr. Degani (who worked



John DiMartino and his wife of 40 years, Sue

on the Manhattan project) drilled me with physics questions (something everyone had to survive at least once to get through his class successfully). You had to work hard and there was no escaping that if you wanted to graduate. I felt tremendous pride in graduating from Maritime. Anything worthwhile is difficult. Maritime taught me how to think, how to rise to challenges and how to finish. The cruises were incredible experiences as well. Very tough, but very rewarding."

Tandemloc was created in the ashes of their father's company. When asked about their father, John said, "Our father was simply the foundation of Tandemloc. He got his start in the 50's at Peck & Hale as a draftsman. His boss recognized his natural creativity and



Tandemloc facility in North Carolina

gave him the opportunity to try his hand at designing products. It began with general tiedowns, but that led to designing container securing fittings for the new intermodal industry. He eventually broke away and started his own company in 1973. When we started Tandemloc in 1984 we had virtually nothing but his knowledge in designing and producing a product, and experience of running a business set the tone for us. He passed in September 2008. Our family and the employees still miss him. "

They had no facility, but with the engineering experience they gained with their father, and their exposure to the container lashing business since its inception, they subcontracted the manufacturing to area shops. Not being able to compete with the general container lashings, they re-focused on niche products for intermodal containers including container lifting devices. Container lifting devices gave way to inquiries from general industry for similar goods and in years to come, this developed into an entire product line of below the Hook lifters for the industrial and construction markets, as well as maritime. They continue to offer container related products for unique applications, such as the Tandemloc connector, which was the company's namesake.

They now have 50 employees, many of whom have been with them for 15 or more years, and some with over 25 years of service to the company. "We have been blessed with fantastic people who are very dedicated to giving their best effort every day and are just plain nice to work with," said John. This is truly a family company; it employs three of John's daughters and one of his sons-in-law.

Outside of heavy lifting, they are very active in specialty container products, such as VI-SO Connectors, Container Casters and Hydraulic Lift Caster Systems. VI-SO clamping connectors, which unlike the standard twistlocks that provide a sloppy connection, offer a rigid connection that is necessary in certain applications, such as container living modules.

They take proof testing, shop safety, and the safety of their customers very seriously. From time to time, they have fellow Domer Sean Corcoran '82 come in to witness a proof test as an added layer of safety for their customers. "We have been fortunate to be recognized by OSHA as a recipient of the Sharp award 11 years running now," stated John DiMartino.

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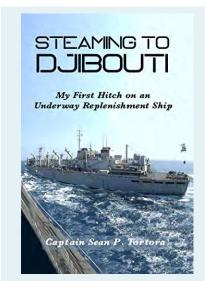
# GRADUATES SHARE THEIR TALENTS

One of the most amazing aspects about being a graduate of SUNY Maritime College is the breadth of talent that graduates possess, share with each other and the world. The worldwide pandemic has allowed some alumni to focus their energies on developing these gifts and finding creative ways of sharing them, oftentimes promoting the College and the maritime industry in the process. Some of our graduates have shared their talents in YouTube and Linkedin videos, others publish their work in print. What follows is only a few of many talented grads.



#### Dr. Salvatore Mercogliano '89

After a disappointing experience during an interview for The Federalist, in which his defense of the Merchant Marine Act of 1920 was edited in favor of anti-Jones Act verbiage, Dr. Salvatore Mercogliano '89, Associate Professor at Campbell University started his own podcast, "The American Merchant Marine." He then created his own YouTube channel, Sal Mercogliano. His informative videos lay the foundation in understanding the important role played by the merchant marines in the U.S., world trade, and international politics. Casting a wide net to reach those outside of the maritime industry, Dr. Salvatore hopes to reach the same demographic as the Cato Institute and others seeking to dismantle the Jones Act, and counter that effort through his knowledge and experience. Most recently, Dr. Salvatore shared his knowledge about the merchant marines by providing updates during the Suez Canal crisis involving the Ever Given.



#### Sean Tortora '91

Captain Sean Tortora '91 recently published his first novel. "Steaming to Djibouti: My First Hitch on an Underway Replenishment Ship". The story is of a young man getting his sea legs as he experiences life as a third mate. His stories of working for MSC in the 1980s and coming into his own as a merchant mariner reflect how much the industry has changed. This is Tortora's second book. The first, "Study Guide for Marine Fire Prevention, Firefighting & Safety" is currently in use in his classes.

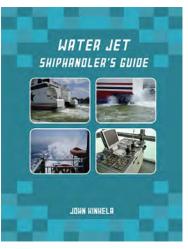


#### Annmarie Bhola '96

Sharing her passion for helping others while developing the leaders of tomorrow, Annmarie Bhola '96 created an online series on leadership development. She shares her experiences while providing valuable lessons titled, "Communicating as a Team and Uncovering Personal Triggers." Her 12-part series of short videos are a helpful guide to many. Annmarie recently shared her knowledge of LinkedIn and her outstanding networking capabilities with alumni in an MCAA virtual event.

#### John Kinkela '01

Leveraging his knowledge and experience, Kinkela has published what will be the seminal book on water jet propelled vessels for civilians and the military alike. "Water Jet Shiphandler's Guide" takes the reader through the theories and practices of handling and maneuvering a water jet propelled vessel. The book is a culmination of Kinkela's 14-year career sailing on these types of vessels. He also shares his knowledge of these vessels at the U.S. Navy's Surface Warfare Officer School in Newport, RI.



#### Diana Wright '01

Dedication, hard work, and a sense of adventure prompted Diana Wright '01 to start her own company, Sanibu Consulting. After spending several years establishing lower operations and energy costs in the Caribbean and the United States, Wright made the choice to go into business on her own. Specializing in Energy Management, Facilities Management, and Project Management Wright's skill set guides her customers in streamlining operations, reducing energy costs and consumption by increasing efficiency.



#### **Captain Brian Brown '06**

Captain Brian Brown '06, who spent the bulk of his career in the Gulf, ICW, and Western rivers has created a thriving YouTube channel, Brian Brown. Each episode features a different rule or set of rules often with accompanying stories. These lessons, many times filmed while Captain Brown was on his tugboat, are great lessons for students, as well as refreshers for more seasoned mariners. Captain Brown hosted Captain Lindsay Price '13 and other graduates in his series to share underway and industry experiences.



These alumni applied their knowledge, skill and talent towards various passion projects. Their work in the form of audio, video or print are mere examples of what Maritime College alumni are capable of achieving.

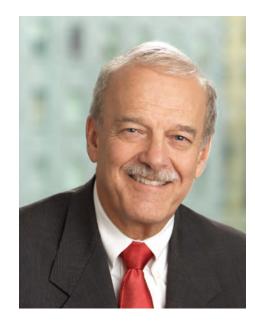
Starting a new career? Collaborating with fellow alumni? Writing a book? Starring in a movie? We would like to hear from you. Send your news to

editor@maritimecollegeaa.org

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#### **LETTER FROM ROBERT JOHNSTON '69**

Chairman, SUNY Maritime Foundation



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Ex-Officio
Michael A. Alfultis
Aimee Bernstein
Scott Dieterich

Dear Fort Schuyler Community,

Welcome to sunnier days ahead. There are clear signs that things are looking up. I am encouraged that the academic year concluded with in-person commencement ceremonies, and that the Empire State VI departed for Summer Sea Term on April 27, 2021 continuing the tradition that many of us remember so well.

The SUNY Maritime Foundation is committed to helping Fort Schuyler move beyond the COVID-related challenges of the past year and a half and move full speed ahead. At the Board of Directors meeting, held on May 2021, the Board approved two grants in the amount of \$850,000. Most of the funds will support the renovation and modification of our newly acquired US Coast Guard UTB 41 boat. Once modified, the boat will be a great training platform for our students. Furthermore, to enhance Maritime's athletic program, funds will also be used to support our new woman's basketball program.

Both grants were identified as significant priorities by Rear Admiral Michael Alfultis because of their great impact on student recruitment, learning, and living experiences.

The USCG UTB 41 boat was acquired via government surplus in 2019. The generous support of the Foundation will enable the boat to be repowered with two new US EPA Tier 3 diesel engines and safety upgrades necessary to receive a USCG Certificate of Inspection to carry 20 passengers plus crew. The academic upgrades include electronics and a towing bitt for (license) students to practice small boat handling, navigation, and seamanship. An a-frame, davits and sorting table will support Marine Environmental Science student and faculty field work and research. In preparation for wind farm training, the vessel will be retrofitted to enable bow loading of equipment and passengers for pulling up to offshore platforms. In addition to supporting current students, the vessel will help attract new students during admissions events, high school field trips, STEM programs and summer camps.

These are just a few examples of how the SUNY Maritime Foundation is helping Maritime College fulfill its vision to be the leading maritime educational institution in the nation. I am proud to report that the SUNY Maritime Foundation, since it was established in 2017, has made grants in support of the College totaling close to \$4.5 million.

Whether helping Maritime provide scholarships for the academic year or Summer Sea Term (see the story on page 34 regarding the level of student scholarship awarded this past year), supporting faculty awards for research and outstanding teaching, funding upgrades to the varsity weight room and supporting other athletic needs, or assisting with library resources, the Foundation has positively impacted Fort Schuyler in countless ways.

By accepting and managing private donations from alumni, friends of the College and corporations, the SUNY Maritime Foundation supports and promotes Maritime College's activities and programs and make an array of services available for the college community.

Thank you for your trust and support!! Stay well and enjoy the summer.

Sincerely,

Capt. Robert Johnston '69
Chairman, SUNY Maritime Foundation



With a proliferation of Fort Schuyler related organizations and entities, confusion often abounds for those who want to support today's students.

Maritime College and the Maritime College Alumni Association are working more closely today than ever before, but many alumni remain unsure of where to direct their support for various programs and needs. To ensure donors' intentions are carefully protected, the SUNY Maritime Foundation, Inc. was established by the College as its independent fiduciary, but it is not the only avenue to support students.

Regardless of the avenue you choose to support today's Fort Schuyler students, your generosity is deeply appreciated.

#### THE SUNY MARITIME FOUNDATION

The SUNY Maritime Foundation, Inc. was established expressly to serve as the legal custodian for all donations to the College. It is an IRS-registered, 501(c)3, non-profit organization, and its sole legal purpose is to support SUNY Maritime College. While the Foundation is staffed by the College's development and finance teams, it has a volunteer Board of Directors who set policy and provide independent oversight of all gift expenditures. The Foundation can arrange for life-income gifts, endowments, and administer current gifts in support of students and programs.

The focus of the Foundation's fundraising efforts is to provide Maritime College a "margin of excellence" to support strategic initiatives, and provide support to faculty and students, above and beyond what is possible through the College's annual budget. Some of the most common areas of support include:

- Scholarships for Fall, Spring and Summer Sea
   Terms (both endowments and general donations)
- Maritime Athletes and Teams;
- Academic Departments, Library Resources, and Faculty Research;
- The Waterfront and Boating Resources;
- The One Hand Student Relief Fund providing emergency grants; and
- Unrestricted Support supporting strategic initiatives that advance the College

## THE MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Maritime College Alumni Association, is an IRS-registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization with its own staff and independent Board of Directors. The Association recently moved their headquarters to Fort Schuyler where they coordinate closely with the College.

Their fundraising priorities are typically focused on:

- The Summer Sea Term Scholarship Fund(s), which directly aids students studying for a USCG license
- The Underway Fund, which funds the Association's operating expenses
- Other existing Class and Scholarship Funds

#### **FORT SCHUYLER SHIPMATES**

Fort Schuyler Shipmates, an unincorporated Facebook group, is not an IRS-recognized charity, but organizes impromptu fundraising drives using GoFundMe and similar platforms independently of the College. Its informality allows it to respond quickly to perceived needs and giving opportunities. Gifts are organized, collected, and submitted in lump sums or expended independently and are therefore, not tax-deductible for the individual donors nor acknowledged in the College's Annual Report.

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"AFTER FORMATION,
I CHECKED MY EMAIL
ON THE WAY TO REPORT
TO SHIP WORK. I SAW
THAT I HAD RECEIVED A
SCHOLARSHIP AND SAT
DOWN AND CRIED. I WAS
SO GRATEFUL! DONATIONS
HAVE CHANGED MY LIFE,
SO THAT I CAN BE HERE AT
MARITIME COLLEGE."

Cadet Luis Palacios 2/C

# SCHOLARSHIPS DRIVE COMMUNITY SUCCESS

cholarship remains a major focus for Maritime's post-COVID future as a steadfast institution boasting an impressive fleet of industry alumni. Graduates continue to earn competitive salaries in the top 7% compared to the national average, as well as remarkable ROI for tuition (5%) according to PayScale.com. However, for some students, acceptance into Maritime College is bittersweet. The thrill of a college acceptance letter in the 2020s is often subject to the stature of the financial award package. Students, especially those from low-income families who hope to become first generation graduates and break the cycle of generational poverty, a scholarship to Maritime is the key.

The advantages of scholarship have the power to stretch beyond academia. ReUp Education reports that those with a bachelor's degree, "…earn a premium of roughly \$30,000 each year relative to those with just a high school diploma. Over a lifetime of work, a college graduate with a bachelor's degree would earn more than \$1 million more than an individual with just a high school diploma." Combine these statistics with Maritime College's impressive ROI and the stars are all aligned.

Scholarship opportunities at Maritime College abound. The One Hand Student Relief Fund offers current use financial aid to students experiencing severe hardship to due COVID fallout or extenuating family circumstances. The Admiral's Dinner Scholarship Fund supports students with 4-year awards to encourage continuity and on-time graduation, which continues to trend upward at Maritime College. Endowed scholarships, established by a family or collective classmates, ensure sustainable support for future cadet, civilian and graduate students.

One thing is certain – the warm and fuzzy feelings associated with giving are not reserved solely for scholarship recipients such as Cadet Palacios. The National Institutes of Health found that "participants who chose to donate a portion of \$100 they were provided enjoyed activated pleasure centers in the brain." In other words, investing in scholarship for deserving students makes us feel good.

Wondering how and where to give? Visit our breakdown on page 33 for simple instructions and best practices. •

lass of  ${}^{2}$ 

#### Reunion Announcement

Ted Mason, Gil Williamson and Ralph Sirico, all Class of 1957, are in the advanced stages of planning a reunion on the waterfront in Baltimore from September 21 through 23, 2021. Any Class members having "missed the word" should contact Ralph at 610-948-7424 or sirico57@comcast.net. Ralph is "Taking Muster", or Ted Mason, Reunion Chair at 914-310-1228 or, tedtmason@gmail.com.



Alumni gathered to celebrate the first day of Spring 2021 at Manatee Island Grill in Stuart, FL. The group, who last met over a year ago and were all vaccinated, enjoyed their long-awaited gathering.

(L-R): Jack Craft '70, Walter Rekito '70, Jim DeSimone '73 (seated), Bob Gaunt '70 and Greg Gutchigian '70 (standing).

Bravo Zulu to David Marshall for graduating with his MBA from Capella University. David, who graduated from Maritime with his BE in Marine Engineering is currently a port engineer for the US Navy.





'01 Welcome home to the second child of Danielle and Matthew Bonvento. Arianna Lucia was born in March.

Congratulations to Dom Licari and his wife Lauren on the birth of their daughter, Morgan Rose Licari in March.



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**CLASS NOTES CLASS NOTES** 

'16 Michael Pino being sworn in as a Sandy Hook Pilot Apprentice

(L-R): Executive Director, Andrew Garger; Apprentice, Michael V. Pino '16; Commission President, James Mercante; New York Sandy Hook Pilot President, John DeCruz '92



Kelsey Ireland '17 rubbing elbows with Captain Hugo Polanco '87 after her promotion to Lieutenant in Souda Bay, Greece. What a birthday present.



Cory Nixon becomes the first ever Bahamian 2nd Engineer (Unlimited Tonnage), a major milestone for Cory's shipping career.



Great news! I'm officially the first ever Bahamian 2nd Engineer (Unlimited Tonnage) registered under the Bahamas Maritime Authority. Gaining this credential is a major milestone for my shipping career and I'm thankful and excited for added opportunities.

This journey becoming an internationally recognized sailor has taken me to many different countries. Now, I'm a proud State University of New York Maritime College alumnus. There, I gained my Bachelors Degree and USCG 3rd Engineer License (LOA). Then recently, I attended Solent University, UK, Warsash Maritime School to complete their 2nd/Chief Engineer management program. Having successfully passed the Scottish Qualification Authority's assessments along with the BMA oral assessments, I'm certified as a 1st Engineer.

When I started working in yachting 11 years ago, the Bahamas had no maritime academy. So my path has been unconventional, uncertain and financially taxing. However, traveling to complete STCWs and operational trainings has only added perspective. Many thanks to Carnival Cruise Line for its great training program.

I'm thankful to be able to continue along this road to becoming a Chief Engineer! 

May 2021 bring everyone new triumphs! #shipping #maritime #training #2ndEngineer #marineengineering #bahamas



♦ ♦ ♦ 4,738 • 659 comments

#### Capt. Morgan McManus '92 Discusses Suez Canal **Container Ship Crisis on**



On March 26, during the CNBC show, "The News with Shepard Smith," Captain Morgan McManus, Master of the Training Ship Empire State VI, offered his expert opinion on the container ship blockage at the Suez

Having navigated various ships through the waters of the Suez Canal six times both north and south throughout his career at sea, Captain McManus discussed the challenges associated with passing the canal in this segment on "The News with Shepard Smith."

He was also interviewed by and featured in a news article by **Popular Mechanics**.

#### **Class of 2021 Celebrate Ring Ceremony & Senior Toast**

On the evening of April 6, the graduating seniors of the Class of 2021 gathered in the Fort for their Ring Corporation the Fort for their Ring Ceremony, an event that is usually celebrated outside of the College campus. This year, almost 100 seniors gathered to mark the occasion of receiving their graduation rings and the opportunity to have their ring dipped in the waters of the seven seas.

Traditionally, Maritime College alumni collect waters of the seven seas as they travel throughout the world to donate to the College for this occasion. For the Ring Ceremony, the waters of the seven seas were placed in a binnacle. Students dipped their rings in the water as Admiral Alfultis offered a "blessing" of their rings.

Kevin Danko '95, President of the Maritime College Alumni Association offered congratulatory remarks to the graduating seniors and shared the origins of a ring ceremony. Admiral Alfultis expressed his pride of the efforts and accomplishments of the soon-to-be graduating class.

The evening ended with a toast wishing the Class of 2021 "Fair Winds and Following Seas."







#### **FLORIDA**



Ed Ratigan '67 and Michael S. Helkin '67 at Atlantic Beach, FL



Cmdr. Neil Brennan '92, Brendan Roberts '92, and Bobby Kennedy '92 in Jacksonville, FL



Bill Kelly '94 and Stephen Grose '94 enjoying the Florida sunshine.

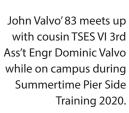


Jose Femenia and Michael Toner enjoying a meal and swapping stories at Sailor's Return in Stuart, Fl



Paul Theofan, Brian Kelly, and Bill Baumann in Gainesville for a Water Buffalo lunch.

#### **NEW YORK**





Enjoying the reopening of indoor dining in NYC are Eric Lorenzen '99, Jeff Logarzo '99, Chris Katz '99, Karl Skuggevi '99, Rob Dishman '00, and Rich Vonhout '00.







Ted Mason '57 hosted lunch for Edward Villella '57 and his wife Linda at Larchmont Yacht Club to thank them for assisting Christina von Albertini Mason's (Ted's granddaughter) admission at a prestigious Summer Ballet Camp. Class of 57 will remember "Eddie" as a Golden Gloves boxer, a world renowned dancer, and Founder/ Artistic Director of The Miami Ballet. In 2014 he was recipient of the Alumni Association's Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Honor.

#### CHAPTER GATHERINGS

#### LONG ISLAND CHAPTER | June 4, 2020, Long Island, NY

The Long Island Alumni Chapter held a virtual Zoom get together when NY State was still closed due to the pandemic. As a guest speaker, Dr. Joe Hoffman '75 spoke to the group about his tenure as Maritime College's

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. Dr. Hoffman related how happy he is that he will now resume his job as a professor at the College. After Dr. Hoffman gave a summary of his experiences, there was an opportunity to ask questions. The chapter members were able to spend time talking to one another and catching up. This was especially enjoyed back in June, when the guarantine lockdown had been in place since March and no one had seen each other. The Zoom format allowed members from Long Island to participate, as well as colleagues and classmates from around the country.





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#### INDUSTRY ENCOUNTERS







FEMA project, United States
Army Corp of Engineers Alternate
Care Facilitates
(L to R): Joseph Collela (Turner
Construction), Annmarie
Bhola '98 (Enhanced Building
Solutions), Jeffrey Sabatini '00
(Stony Brook University)





#### EBB TIDE

Henry C. Halboth Jr. '44	John Ottavio Evans '71
Ronald Bohn Oct '46	John W. Goss '71
Mario Polizzotti '54	Daniel Heintze '71
Donald Afieri '55	Brian McCaffrey '75
Peter Povilaukas '55	Peter Peers '79
Edward DeGaetano '57	Christopher Stehn '79
George Hallinan '57	Ernie Lang '85
Otto Paul Reitz '57	Arthur Crowley '86
John Dorozynski '59	Patrick Thebaud '89
Walter Nelson '61	Joseph Gallagher '04
Jay Lewis Brownstein '71	



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For additional information visit our website: www.usmma.edu/academics/graduate-program

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

FOR MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

#### 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.

#### **July Commencement** July 9, 2021

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

#### **Athletics Golf Outing**

August 2, 2021

Join the Athletics Department for their inaugural golf outing at The Golf Club at Middle Bay (Oceanside on Long Island) to benefit Privateer athletics. Details at MaritimeAthletics.com

#### The Marine Society of the City of New York All **Academy Monomoy Race**

Saturday, September 18th - McMurray Hall, **Maritime College** 

Come cheer on Maritime Privateers as they compete against USMMA Kings Point, USCG Academy and state maritime academies.

#### Admiral's Dinner

#### September 21, 2021 - MAC, Maritime College

The annual Admiral's Dinner, the College's premier event to raise support for our students, returns to campus for the first time in years. A new format will allow for added networking and socializing as we shift to a buffet style cocktail/dinner party. A wide range of sponsorship opportunities provides support to students while promoting professional networking among alumni and industry partners.

#### **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
- 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 nominations for open Board Trustee and Officer seats while networking with fellow alumni and industry professionals.

#### Maritime College Alumni Association - Distinguished **Alumni Awards Dinner**

January 27, 2022 - Manhattan

Join us to congratulate the Distinguished Alumni Awards Honorees - Griff Lynch '88, James Starace '81, and Michael W. Toner '65.

For more information, visit

www.sunymaritime.edu/events-alumni-friends | www.maritimecollegeaa.org





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# TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 AT 5:30 P.M.

SUNY MARITIME COLLEGE, BRONX, NY Maritime Academic Center (MAC)

For ticket information, sponsorship opportunities, and additional details visit

www.sunymaritime.edu/admiralsdinner

or email

admiralsdinner@sunymaritime.edu

