

From Fort Schuyler & Beyond: YOUR Alumni Newsletter
July 1, 2025

From the President

Dear Shipmates,

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones well as we sail into the heart of summer. On behalf of the Maritime College Alumni Association (MCAA), I want to thank all of you for your continued engagement, generosity, and support of Fort Schuyler and our proud community. Your participation in recent events reflects the enduring strength of our alumni network and our shared commitment to the College's mission.

Since our last newsletter, we've had a busy and rewarding few months. Highlights include:

- **Spring Networking Night** (May 8) — A fantastic evening of connections and conversations, with alumni from across the decades coming together in fellowship and support.
- **SST Scholarship Awards** (May 20) — We presented this year's SST scholarships with our signature "big checks," helping deserving cadets set sail on their professional journeys.
- **Commencement 2025** (May 23) — We proudly celebrated the graduation of the Class of 2025, where honorary doctorates were awarded to distinguished alumni Capt. Wyche '79 and Capt. Cook '80.
- **MCAA Golf Classic** (June 9) — Another successful outing that combined fun, competition, and fundraising to benefit our scholarship programs.
- **Chapter Gatherings** — Chapters from around the country have hosted gatherings, strengthening our bonds and welcoming recent graduates into the fold. Our first Chapter meeting in New Orleans held on June 11 while the training ship was visiting there was a huge hit. The event was hosted by Andrew Kuryluk '08 at the National World War II Museum's Pritikin Pavilion.
- **New Commandant of Cadets:** a hearty welcome back to "The Fort" for LtCol. Robert Tart '00, USMC (Ret) as Commandant of Cadets, together with his wife, Kathy Tart '02 as of June 5.
- **PROP** — Our next PROP training class will be at the Fort on **Monday July 28**. Those interested in joining should reach out to me at president@maritimecollegeaa.org by **Friday July 18**.

These events would not be possible without the tireless efforts of our volunteers, chapter leaders, and generous donors. Thank you all for making these moments so meaningful.

As we look ahead, I encourage you to stay connected, get involved, and continue to support the future of SUNY Maritime College. Together, we honor our past and chart the

course for generations of Privateers to come.

Wishing you fair winds and following seas,

Steve Carbery '80
President, MCAA

Association News

Spring Networking Social a Big Hit!

On May 8, we gathered once again at Pennsylvania 6 in NYC for a twice-yearly evening of meet and greet among alumni young and young-at-heart. Many thanks to John Valvo '83 and to Fresh Meadow Power LLC for sponsoring this event!

SST Scholarship Awards Hit Record Level – Again!

After last year's record-setting award of \$532,990 to cadets for Summer Sea Term, a culmination of monies from Scholarship Funds sponsored by numerous Alumni and Friends and administered by the MCAA and **YOUR GENEROSITY** drove our SST Scholarship Fund to another banner year. Scholarship Committee Chair John Valvo '83 reports that **155 cadets received a total of \$578,040 to set sail this summer**. Here's the run-down:

- \$6,000 awarded to 71% of 1st Class Deck applicants and 59% of 1st Class Engine applicants
- \$3,000 awarded to 50% of 2nd Class Deck applicants and 50% of 2nd Class Engine applicants
- \$2,000 awarded to 54% of 3rd Class Deck applicants and 55% of 3rd Class Engine applicants
- "Full Ride" Sembler award: **Jack Pavelka**, top 1st Class Deck candidate
- "Full Ride" Pfleging award: **Tyler Rubinfeld**, top 1st Class Engineer
- One \$6,000 Det. Jonathan Diller '14 award to **Christopher Paulino-Simms**, a 1st Class candidate from a police/first responder family
- One \$5,000 Patrick Warren Baeszler '14 award to **Thomas Giuzio**, a 3rd Class cadet from Staten Island
- \$6,000 each to two 2nd Class Deck and two 2nd Class Engine candidates from the Class of '65: Recipients were **Matthew Murray**, **Eily Kochon**, **Augusto Lebron**, and **Devon Rose Etienne**
- One \$6,000 scholarship from the Class of '83 to 3rd Class cadet **Logan Teer**

MCAA President Steve Carbery '80 and Scholarship Committee Chair John Valvo '83 were on campus Tuesday, May 20, to present ceremonial Big Checks to the proud and happy scholarship recipients as seen below!



SST Scholarship Recipients Express Their Gratitude!

It's both an honor and a pleasure for all of us at the Fort to receive thank-you letters from SST Scholarship recipients. Their words of gratitude are heartfelt—and a testament to the impact you've made. We'd love to share a few of these notes with you, the supporters who are helping make these cadets' journeys possible.

"Being a recipient of this scholarship goes beyond needed financial support; it will forever stand as a reminder that maritime is more than just an industry, but a family bound by salt and sea." – *Cadet Jack Pavelka, 1st Class - Professor Sembler Award Recipient*

"This scholarship not only lightens the financial burden but also strengthens my commitment to upholding the high standards and proud heritage of our institution. I am truly grateful for the support and encouragement this award represents." – *Cadet Anthony Sylvester, 2nd Class*

"Knowing that Maritime College alumni continue to support cadets like me is incredibly motivating and humbling. ... One day, I hope to give back in the same way and help future cadets navigate their own journeys." – *Cadet Stephanie DeMan, 1st Class Engine*

"Thank you sincerely for your contribution to my education towards membership in the United States Merchant Marine. It means the world to receive the support of those who have come before me, especially for my first sea term, so that I may go on to support those who will come after me." – *Cadet Maximillian Gurnett, Third Class*

"I was fortunate enough to spend a couple of days on the ship between the school and Montauk, and I had the pleasure of speaking with some students, and some of their stories were extremely touching, and some of them said 'I wouldn't be here without my summer sea trim scholarship.'" *Jennifer Mahoney, Maritime College Chief of Staff*

DeVal Chapter PROP Outreach Empowers Admissions and Student Futures

Following a PROP training session at Maritime College on March 31, volunteers from the Delaware Valley (DeVal) Philadelphia Chapter—joined by a native 4/C cadet—connected with high school students across the region to promote Maritime College and its opportunities.

Their outreach began at Springfield High School on February 25, continued at Maritime Academy Charter School (MACS) on March 12, and concluded with a visit to MaST Community Charter School on March 18. At MaST, chapter members shared insights into the value of a Maritime College education and the career pathways it opens.



From left to right, DelVal Chapter President Art Sulzer '74, Ryan McBride, his son Liam McBride 4/C, and Derrick Kennedy '21.



Engaging MaST students with details on academics, life at sea, and professional prospects.

Next PROP Training July 28: RIDE ABOARD TSES VII!

The next on-campus Privateer Recruiting Officer Program (PROP) training will be held on Monday, July 28. Participants will also have a unique opportunity to ride aboard TS Empire State VII the following day, Tuesday, July 29, as she returns to campus from SST 2025! To join the training and reserve your spot aboard, contact MCAA President Steve Carbery '80 at President@maritimecollegeaa.org by Friday, July 18.

Alumni Receive Honorary Doctorates

At Commencement Friday, May 23, **Captain Howard Wyche '79** and **Captain Robert Cook '80** received Honorary Doctor of Science degrees recognizing their significant contributions to the history of Maritime College and as founding members of the Organization of Black Maritime Graduates (OBMG) in 1994. Dr. Cook was recognized for Lifetime Achievement at our Distinguished Alumni Honors Dinner in 2024.



A Memorable Golf Classic for the Books!

On Monday, June 9, the 36th Annual MCAA Golf Classic returned to the historic Donald Ross-designed links at Plainfield Country Club in New Jersey for a second year. While the skies weren't sunny, spirits certainly were—thanks to a day full of camaraderie, competition, and Maritime pride.



A special highlight of the day was a presentation by **Capt. Mike Vinik '03**, who shared firsthand insights from his recent tow of the legendary SS United States from Philadelphia to Mobile, where she will be prepared for deployment as an artificial reef in the Gulf of Mexico.



We partnered with **John Enwright '01**, founder of [Purely Pomme](https://www.purelypomme.com), whose award-winning Sparkling Honeycrisp Rosé from the south shore of Lake Ontario was featured in our event awards.

Thank you to all of our generous sponsors, alumni, and supporters who made the day a success and helped advance the MCAA's mission to support cadets and each other.

Chapters on a Roll!

Chapters are the face-to-face connection between you—our Members—and the Association, and we're excited to share that our Chapter network is growing and thriving!

The **New Orleans** Chapter held its inaugural event on June 11, timed with the TSES VII port call. Just a few days later, Joshua Burton '14 and Kyle Demonterey '15 organized a gathering in **Charleston** on June 14, taking steps to reinvigorate this region of the Carolinas Chapter. Meanwhile, the **Tampa Bay Chapter** marked a major milestone, celebrating its first anniversary on June 18.

A big shoutout to Membership and Chapters Committee Chair **Seth Lucas '01** for his tireless work in unifying and energizing our Chapters. Bravo Zulu to all the Chapter Presidents and everyone working behind the scenes to make these events a success!

Maritime College at Marine Log's Ship Repair USA Conference

During the TSES VII Summer Sea Term port call in New Orleans, 27 Maritime cadets and 48 professional alumni attended Marine Log's Ship Repair USA 2025 conference on June 11. The event offered cadets a unique opportunity to engage with leaders in the maritime industry and gain exposure to the ship repair sector.

Greg Wagner '01, CEO of Alabama Shipyard and President of the MCAA Houston Chapter, led a panel discussion featuring three cadets, highlighting their perspectives and experiences at sea.

That evening, the MCAA hosted a special reception at the National WWII Museum, bringing together alumni, cadets, and industry professionals for an evening of networking and camaraderie. Thank you to the generous sponsors and to all the alumni who showed their support and helped make this event a success!

Captain Sponsor

Ports America, Andrea Mitchell '18

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Alabama Shipyard, Greg Wagner '01
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Maritime Engineering LLC, William Hayden PE '82
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Ensign Sponsors

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Jay Webster Marine Compliance and Consulting, LLC, John Webster '80
Schuyler Systems, John Cappabianca '06

TSES VII Returns July 29 – Volunteer at the Dockside Welcome Tent!

The Empire State VII is scheduled to return to campus from Summer Sea Term 2025 on **Tuesday, July 29 at 3:30 PM**. Join us as we welcome the ship, her crew, and cadets back home! Refreshments, snacks, and Maritime swag will be available—it's the perfect opportunity to reconnect with fellow alumni and meet friends old and new.

The MCAA will host a Dockside Welcome Tent and is looking for volunteers to assist with setup, staffing, and breakdown. Whether you can lend a hand or just want to greet cadets and families as they return, we'd love to have you involved. To volunteer, please contact Maggy Williams Giunco at Director@maritimecollegeaa.org.

Our Swag Shop is Open – until July 6th!

LADIES' POLOS

"MARITIME NATION" EMBROIDERED ON BACK

THE SWAG STORE IS NOW OPEN!

CLOSES JULY 6TH

PERSONALIZATION AVAILABLE!
LONG SLEEVE OPTIONS

Celebrate YOUR alma mater and YOUR heritage as an alumnus with our great MCAA swag!

Shop exclusive Maritime gear now: pro polos (including Ladies Fit), sleek long sleeves, our brand-new "Maritime Nation" hat, and the fan-favorite Sesquicentennial Blanket featuring all seven training ships.

Use the link below to order your merch **NOW** before the shop closes on July 6th!

Click here to Shop!



Inaugural Sporting Clays - October 6

Join us on Monday, October 6, 2025 at Hudson Farm in Andover, NJ for the first annual MCAA Sporting Clays tournament. Space is limited to 20 squads of four (4) shooters. **Registration is now OPEN.** For more information and to view the event brochure, click below.

Sporting Clay Info & Registration

College News

Dr. Todd Lidh Named Provost of SUNY Maritime

Dr. Todd Lidh was officially appointed Provost & VP for Academic Affairs in May, after serving in the interim role since last fall. He's been part of Maritime's leadership since 2021. Read more on the College's [LinkedIn page](#).

Welcome Back, LtCol. Robert Tart '00 and Kathy Tart '02!

LtCol. Robert Tart '00, USMC (Ret) returned to campus June 5 as Commandant of Cadets, joined by his wife, Kathy Tart '02. President RADM John Okon '91 called him "perfectly suited to take the Regiment to new heights." Read more on the College's [LinkedIn page](#).

Open Academic Position at Maritime College

The engineering department at Maritime College has openings in marine engineering for full time

faculty to teach USCG license courses. Alumni considering a career change, retiring, or transitioning shoreside are ideal candidates! More information can be found [HERE](#).

Adjunct opportunities will also be considered if full-time work is not practical, including for marine engineering labs and instruction in USCG license courses for Fall 2025 or Spring 2026. For more information, please contact Daniel Fridline, Ph.D., P.E., Interim Dean of Engineering, dfridline@sunymaritime.edu.

Upcoming Events

Click [HERE](#) to view all events on the MCAA Calendar.

Tuesday, July 29 – **TSES VII Returns to Olivet Pier**, SUNY Maritime College. Scheduled arrival 3:30PM subject to weather, wind, and tide – Arrive early for best view!

Thursday, July 31, 4:30-7:30PM CDT – **Houston Happy Hour** – Kirby Ice House. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Monday, August 11 - **Maritime Athletics Annual Golf Outing** at Crab Meadow Golf Course in Northport, NY. Information and Registration [HERE](#).

Wednesday, August 13 – Saturday, August 23 – **Class of '29 INDOC**; MUG Recognition second Saturday

Monday, August 25 – **Fall Semester** classes begin.

Tuesday, September 16 - **Admiral's Dinner** at Marina Del Ray, Throggs Neck NY at 1730 hours.

Monday, September 29, 7:00AM-4:00PM CDT – **Houston Chapter's 2nd Annual Golf Classic** – The Club at Falcon Point in Katy, TX USA. Information [HERE](#).

Monday, October 6, 12:00-8:00PM – **MCAA First Annual Sporting Clays** at Hudson Farm in Andover, NJ USA. Registration is now open. Click [HERE](#).

Friday, October 10, 7:00AM-3:30PM – **Third Annual Patrick Baeszler Memorial Golf Outing**, Silver Lake Golf Course in Staten Island, NY USA. Registration is open [HERE](#).

Friday, October 17 – **Ancient Mariner Golf Outing**, Pelham Bay and Split Rock Golf Courses, 870 Shore Road, Bronx, NY USA.

Saturday, October 18 - **Homecoming 2025** at Maritime College! All alumni are invited to celebrate, with special recognition for those from classes ending in 0 and 5. MCAA Annual Meeting, Privateers Homecoming football game, gathering at Paddy's On the Bay. Further details coming soon!

Signal Flags

In case you need to get ahold of us, please reach out to the following individuals:

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From Your Friends at the Maritime College Alumni Association



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