



**From Fort Schuyler & Beyond: YOUR Alumni Newsletter**  
**May 12, 2026**

**From the President**

Fellow Alumni and Friends of Maritime,

Spring at Fort Schuyler always reminds me why our Association matters. As another class walks across the stage at Commencement and the Empire State VII readies for sea, the work of the Maritime College Alumni Association — together with the SUNY Maritime Foundation and the College leadership team under RADM John Okon '91 — is, very visibly, paying off. Three voices, one heading: New York Maritime, first and foremost.

**SST Scholarships — A Record Year.** Thanks to your generosity, we are on track for the largest Summer Sea Term Scholarship class in our history. Of the 489 applications received by the February deadline — including 245 MUGs — nearly 65% will receive an award from a fund expected to exceed **\$618,000**. That is real money, going directly to deserving cadets so they can get up the gangway this summer. We were on campus on **Thursday, May 7** for the “Big Check” SST Scholarship presentation. A heartfelt thank-you to Scholarship Committee Chair John Valvo '83, his committee, and every donor who made this possible. Bravo Zulu!

**Giving Day — A Resounding Success.** On April 21–22, the second annual Maritime College Giving Day raised **over \$350,000** — including **\$25,000 for MCAA Summer Sea Term scholarships** — surpassing last year’s inaugural total in both dollars and donors — a fitting tribute on the eve of our alma mater’s 153rd birthday. This is exactly the kind of result that happens when the Association, the Foundation, and the College pull on the same line. Whether you gave \$10 or \$10,000, you helped power scholarships, the student experience, and the programs that keep Maritime at the leading edge of our industry. **Thank you.**

Don’t miss our **Spring Networking Event THIS Thursday, May 14**, at **Pennsylvania 6 NYC**. We’ll gather for an evening of camaraderie, food, and drink just half a block from Penn Station in midtown Manhattan. You’ll find all info and registration [HERE](#). First 50 arriving get free drinks; cash bar thereafter. A small donation to help cover the food is appreciated. We hope to see you there.

**37th Annual Golf Classic.** Less than four weeks away! Join us **Monday, June 8** at the historic **Plainfield Country Club in Edison, NJ** for our flagship spring event. Registration is capped at 120 players and is filling fast — **reserve your spot now [right HERE](#)**. Cocktail and dinner only tickets and sponsorship opportunities are still available, and there is no better day on the calendar to network, reconnect, and support the Association’s mission.

None of this happens without you. To every PROP volunteer, every chapter host, every donor, and every alum who picks up the phone for a cadet — thank you. The College is more vibrant than ever, and the credit belongs to all of us pulling together on the oars.

Fair winds and following seas,

## Association News

### Spring Networking 2026: Join Us for Seasonal Camaraderie and Fellowship

Meet, greet, and network with alumni and colleagues old and new **THIS Thursday, May 14, 6:00-9:00PM** at the **MCAA Spring Networking Event** at Pennsylvania 6 NYC. Don't miss this evening of camaraderie, light food, and drink just a short walk from Penn Station in the heart of midtown Manhattan. You'll find all info and registration [HERE](#). **Free drink tickets to the first 50 arriving**; cash bar thereafter. A small \$20 donation to help cover the food is appreciated. We hope to see you there!

### Golf Classic Countdown: Don't be Left Out!

Reserve your place NOW for the **37th MCAA Golf Classic** taking place **Monday, June 8** at the historic Plainfield Country Club in Edison, NJ. **Registration is capped at 120 players**, and we PROJECT SELLING OUT before Memorial Day weekend! So, don't miss the opportunity to meet, network, and enjoy golf with colleagues old and new, with cocktails, fine dining, auctions, and raffles at this premier industry and Association event! 10:30am Registration & lunch, 12pm Shotgun. Cocktail and dinner only tickets are also available. **Sponsorship opportunities are available.** See all event details [HERE](#). All tickets, team and sponsorship registrations available [HERE](#).

### Join the PROP Team: Training July 15, Ride the Training Ship Home July 16!

**The Privateer Recruiting Officer Program, PROP**, jointly driven by Maritime College and the MCAA, is now 53 alumni strong! We're not finished yet: with College recruitment increasing and the need for qualified engineers and mariners growing, we need your help! By combining your dedication to your field and your love of Maritime College with relevant, up-to-date campus training on College outreach, YOU can be an influence in helping college-bound high school students learn the value of a Maritime degree and the career paths it offers.

**The next PROP training takes place Wednesday, July 15**; those participating will be invited to **ride the Empire State VII home from NY Harbor on its return to campus the next day, July 16**. Submit the application form [HERE](#) if you are interested in participating!



### SST Scholarships Awarded: Another Record Year!

After \$578,040 was awarded to 155 Maritime cadets for SST in 2025, Scholarship Committee Chair John Valvo '83 has announced that our total **Summer Sea Term Scholarships awards**

tally reached \$618,320 for SST 2026! A total of 162 scholarships, also a record, were awarded. The awards are summarized as follows:

- 1st Class Engine: 30 – including one full tuition Chief Pfleging Award
- 1st Class Deck: 43 – including one full tuition Prof. Sembler Award
- 2nd Class Engine: 12
- 2nd Class Deck: 16
- 3rd Class Engine: 18
- 3rd Class Deck: 43

To each of you who help these deserving cadets meet their licensing objectives and attain their maritime education goals – THANK YOU! We can't do what we do without your help. Know that your generosity as an alumnus along with our stewardship together in the Association is further testimony to our strong relationship with the College as they have diligently striven in like fashion to keep SST costs level with last year's.

### One “Big Check”: Many Fulfilled Wishes

Our SST Scholarship Awards “Big Check” photo presentation on campus took place last Thursday, May 7, at 1:00PM on Olivet Pier alongside the TS Empire State VII which was being readied for her 75-day training cruise to start TODAY Tuesday, May 12 with her complement of over 600 Maritime cadets.

**Don't stop “paying it forward”:** help us ensure that future cadets climb aboard that training ship! Your SST Scholarship Fund donation is gratefully accepted [HERE](#).



Recipients of Class of '65 Scholarships for SST 2026 are pictured above with class representatives, Gerhardt Muller '65 and Harold Stumme '65.



### TSES VII will be in Charleston this May!

The newly established Charleston Chapter will be gathering for an evening of networking and celebration with cadets while the ship is in port.

**Sunday, May 24**

1800- 2100 Hours

**Union Pier – Passenger Terminal**

Charleston, SC

FREE Parking

## Charleston Details & Registration

Your support will ensure that current Maritime Cadets receive the opportunity to meet and mingle with alumni and industry professionals. Capacity is limited so please register ASAP to secure your spot!

*Keep your eyes open for an exciting opportunity to board a McAllister tugboat for a sunset cruise!! - Exclusive package for 8 guests.*

### Chapters and Events Thrive and Grow This Spring

*MANY events are happening among the Chapters – be sure to check the schedule below and on our [Events page!](#)*

Alumni and guests will gather for lunch **TODAY, Tuesday, May 12**, from 11:30AM-1:00PM at **Redsauce in The Villages**, Florida. This is a follow-up to The Villages' inaugural gathering last February 19. Get all the details and register [HERE!](#)

**Space Coast Chapter meets tomorrow on Wednesday, May 13**, 6:00-8:00PM at **George & Dragon English Tavern in Cocoa, Florida** – grab all the details and register [HERE!](#)

Since their inaugural kickoff event last December 10, the Space Coast have gathered again on March 18 and April 15, all at the George & Dragon, for relaxed evenings of fun, food & drinks with alumni and friends. The Space Coast Chapter has been gaining traction, committing to monthly meetings with alumni Sabrina Marcus Taraboletti '82, Russ DeGraw '92, and Joe Muniz '92 taking charge of building awareness and interest!

The **New Jersey Chapter** hosted nearly three dozen alumni at their Chapter Social at The Dublin House in Red Bank, NJ on Thursday, April 16. Many thanks to Paulina Trzepacz '05 and Chapter President Capt. Jamie McNamara '94 for bringing this event to fruition!



The **South Florida Chapter** held a networking event at the Bradford Marine yacht yard and marina in Fort Lauderdale, FL on Tuesday, April 21. In addition to golf cart tours of the yard, the event offered a sunset boat tour of the marina, cornhole games, delicious catered food and drinks, and plenty of camaraderie and conviviality. Thanks to Tom Krigger '87 at Bradford Marine for hosting this event!



Above: group shot of attendees at the South Florida Chapter Event at Bradford Marine. Right: Tom Krigger '87 and chapter president Rich Merhige '83.



On Friday, April 24, 2026, members of the **Tampa Bay Chapter** joined area golf enthusiasts in supporting the **12th Annual Port Tampa Bay & Partners Golf Tournament** at the Eagles Golf Club in Odessa, FL. In addition to uniting Domers in and around the Tampa / St. Petersburg area, the Tampa Bay Chapter continues to support other marine industry trade, professional, and recreational events in the area, engaging mariners of many different professions and backgrounds.

Tuesday, May 5, marked the inaugural gathering of a brand-new MCAA chapter in Albany, NY. Formally the Tri-Cities Chapter, the group is rebranding to the **NY Capital Region Chapter**. Their first event kicked off with a relaxed evening of fun, food, and drinks at Fidens Brewing Company in Albany. The Chapter is also planning to host a visit by the TSES VII as she travels up the Hudson to Albany in July. Save the date for July 9 and stay tuned for more details!



Pictured Left to Right at Fidens Brewing: Dan Fitzgerald '96, Kristen Johnston '07, Joe Weiglhofer '96 (nephew of John Weiglhofer '72), Greg Lachanski '96, Richard Burke '72, Mark Keenan '96, Travis Stevens '96, Chris Whalen '16, Dan Lehane '83, Randy Demler '71, Maureen Demler, Bob Liddell '67, John Tomich '71, and Joe Colella '79

On Thursday, May 7, The **MCAA Hudson Valley Chapter** gathered at Daddy O's in Hopewell Junction, NY. This was the Chapter's second event since its inaugural gathering last December at the Sloop Brewing Company in Hopewell Junction.

## College News

### **End of Watch: Captain Hugh Stephens**

Captain Hugh Stephens, a former faculty member and a legend at Maritime College and across the United States Merchant Marine, crossed the bar Sunday, April 26 at the age of 102. He was a most seasoned Merchant Mariner sailing through insurmountable conditions in World War II and accomplishing other historic maritime feats. A beloved instructor and mentor of thousands of cadets and Professional Mariners, his enthusiasm, charisma, and dedication were contagious. As a Senior Lecturer at Maritime until he retired at age 98, he conveyed his wisdom, rooted in experience, through the most unbelievable – yet true – sea stories. He will be missed but forever remembered. *Fair winds and following seas, Captain Stephens.*

### **2nd Annual College Giving Day a Success!**

College President RADM John Okon '91 reports that the Second Annual Maritime College Giving Day, held from noon to noon April 21-22, was an outstanding success! With **over \$350,000 raised**, the event surpassed last year's inaugural Giving Day both in donors and contributions. This success was all the more fitting in celebrating our alma mater's 153rd birthday on April 24! Moreover, **65 generous donors sweetened our MCAA SST Scholarship Awards fund with \$25,000** in donations! Thanks to all who donated to support the College's and our outreach endeavors!

### **Accepted Students Day Reflects Rising Enrollment**

Saturday, April 18, saw more than 900 future Maritime College students and their families on campus for Accepted Students Day. With the 2026 entering freshman class enrollment up another 15% over last year, enrollment for 2026-27 is expected to top 1,500 students across Maritime's Regiment of Cadets and the traditional student communities.

### **140 Graduates at Commencement**

A total of 140 students, including 66 cadets of the Regiment, 74 students of the traditional curriculum, and 22 graduate students, graduated Maritime College at Commencement Friday, May 8, 2026. A Commencement Address was delivered by John McDonald, Chairman and CEO of the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS).

### **Industry Leaders Recognized with Honorary Doctorate Degrees**

On May 8, following the Commencement ceremony for the Maritime College Class of 2026, the College honored two distinguished leaders in the maritime industry. **John McDonald**, Chair and CEO of American Bureau of Shipping, and **Dr. James Si-Cheng Chao** were each awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree, honoris causa, in recognition of their exceptional contributions to the global maritime industry and their leadership in shaping its future. Dr. Chao co-founded The Foremost Group with his wife in 1964, building one of the industry's most respected shipping enterprises.

### **A Grand Send-off for TSES VII**

On Tuesday, May 12, more than 600 cadets will set sail from Olivet Pier for their 75-day training cruise aboard the training ship Empire State VII. Empire State is scheduled to return to campus Thursday, July 16. Sail aboard Empire State VII in spirit! Her entire SST 2026 itinerary can be found [HERE](#).

### **Open Positions Available at the College**

Maritime College is hiring talent for a variety of positions. Click [HERE](#) for all posted vacancies. Search on Indeed [HERE](#).

## Upcoming Events

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

Tuesday, May 12, 11:30AM-1:00PM – **The Villages Lunch Gathering**, Redsauce (1000 Canal Street, The Villages, FL 32162). Information and registration [HERE](#).

Wednesday, May 13, 6:00-8:00PM – **Space Coast Chapter May Social**, George & Dragon English Tavern (502 Brevard Ave, Cocoa, FL). Information and registration [HERE](#).

Thursday, May 14, 6:00-9:00PM – **MCAA Spring Networking Event**, Pennsylvania 6 (132 West 31st St., Manhattan, New York, NY 10001). Information and registration [HERE](#).

Saturday, May 23, 5:30-9:30PM – **Baltimore Chapter Maritime Day Celebration with the Chesapeake Baysox**, Prince George's Stadium (4101 Crain Highway, Bowie, MD 20716). Event information [HERE](#); game tickets available [HERE](#).

Sunday, May 24 - **TSESVII will be in Charleston!** Join us on May 24th at Union Pier Passenger Terminal. Ship tours, reception, and sponsorships available. Click [HERE](#) for details & registration. *Keep your eyes open for an exciting opportunity to board a McAllister tugboat for a sunset cruise!! - Exclusive package for 8 guests.*

Monday, June 8 – **37th Annual MCAA Golf Classic** at Plainfield Country Club, Edison, NJ. Complete information available [HERE](#). All tickets, team, and sponsorship registrations [HERE](#).

Friday, June 12, 9:00AM-2:00PM – **Houston Chapter Sporting Clay Shoot**, American Shooting Centers (16500 Westheimer Parkway, Houston, TX 77082). For event information and registration, open until June 5th, click [HERE](#).

Wednesday, July 15 – **Privateer Recruiting Officer (PROP) Training**. Contact MCAA President Steve Carbery '80, [President@maritimecollegeaa.org](mailto:President@maritimecollegeaa.org), for details

Thursday, July 16 – **TS Empire State VII returns to campus** – Olivet Pier, SUNY Maritime College.

Wednesday, August 12-Saturday, August 22 – **INDOC**, SUNY Maritime College

Thursday, September 10 – **Fall Commencement**, SUNY Maritime College

Monday, September 28, 7:00AM-4:00PM – **Houston Chapter 3rd Annual Golf Classic**, The Club at Falcon Point (24503 Falcon Point Drive, Katy, TX 77494). Event information [HERE](#); registration pending.

Monday, October 5, 8:30AM-4:00PM – **2nd Annual MCAA Sporting Clays Tournament**, Orvis Sandanona (3047 Sharon Turnpike, Millbrook, NY 12545). Email Joseph Colella '79, [jcs.colella@gmail.com](mailto:jcs.colella@gmail.com) with any questions. Event information [HERE](#); registration opens this June!

Friday, October 23 – **MCAA Ancient Mariner Golf Outing**, Pelham Bay & Split Rock Golf Courses, The Bronx, NY USA. Save the Date!

Saturday, October 24 – **Homecoming**, SUNY Maritime Campus, The Bronx, NY USA – Save the Date! Year '1 and '6 Class Reunions, All-Day Tailgate, Pass-in-Review, MCAA Annual Meeting '26, Privateers Football, Alumni Sporting Events, Paddy's-On-The-Bay. [Keep watching this page.](#)

### **EBB TIDE**

*Fair winds & following seas*

*to fellow Alumni who have most recently crossed the bar.*

Fred Moson '53  
CAPT George Zirps USN '54  
Richard Tegtmeier '55  
Walter Dooley '59  
Carl Merz '61  
Charles Hoetzi '66  
Charles "Skip" Shattuck '66  
Paul Rowe '70  
Thomas Capone III '71  
Daniel "Danny" Greenberg '71  
Lawrence "Larry" or "Chooch" Calame '80  
Robert Binder '81  
John Brown '86

## Signal Flags

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

**President, Steve Carbery '80**

[president@maritimecollegeaa.org](mailto:president@maritimecollegeaa.org)

**Exec. Director, Maggy Williams Giunco**

[director@maritimecollegeaa.org](mailto:director@maritimecollegeaa.org)

**Dir. Operations, Saira Yoo**

[syoo@maritimecollegeaa.org](mailto:syoo@maritimecollegeaa.org)

**Dir. Communications, Taylor Netchert**

[communications@maritimecollegeaa.org](mailto:communications@maritimecollegeaa.org)

**Editor, Don Gale**

[editor@maritimecollegeaa.org](mailto:editor@maritimecollegeaa.org)

**Alumni Relations Associate, Denise Tiernan**

[Denise@maritimecollegeaa.org](mailto:Denise@maritimecollegeaa.org)

**Board Members' and Chapter Presidents' contact info available at:**

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

From Your Friends at the Maritime College Alumni Association



Maritime College Alumni Association | 6 Pennyfield Avenue | Bronx, NY 10465 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!