



From the Fort: YOUR Alumni Newsletter
December 30, 2024

From the President

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from MCAA!

As we close out another remarkable year, I extend my heartfelt wishes for a joyous holiday season and a prosperous New Year. This is a time of reflection and celebration, and I am proud of all we have accomplished together as a community.

Election Update

Our MCAA nominations are completed and our elections are open! Your participation is vital to shaping the future of our alumni association, so don't miss your chance to vote. As a reminder, only dues paying Sustaining Members can vote so renew your membership now.

Annual Dues Renewal

Your decision to pay your annual dues as a Sustaining Member helps defray our operating costs, keeps you connected to us by providing access to our alumni database, entitles you to vote in elections and on Association affairs, allows you to hold an elected Officer or Board position, and, as an added bonus, entitles you to a hardcopy of the bi-annual magazine, "Fort Schuyler." Click [HERE](#) to Renew.

Mark Your Calendar – A Historic Sesquicentennial Celebration!

We are thrilled to invite you to join us for the College's Sesquicentennial Dinner on Thursday, January 30, 2025, at Tribeca Rooftop. This once-in-a-lifetime event celebrates 150 years of Maritime excellence and promises to be an unforgettable evening. Additional details and sponsorship opportunities to follow in this edition.

Support the SST Scholarship Fund

As we honor the College's storied past, let us also look toward its bright future. Your contributions to the SST Scholarship Fund play a crucial role in supporting our cadets and ensuring their continued success. Please consider making a gift to sustain this essential program.

Stay Connected

We love hearing from you! Keep in touch with the MCAA, and don't hesitate to share your thoughts and suggestions with us at Editor@MaritimeCollegeAA.org.

As we prepare to embrace 2025, I leave you with a motivational thought:

"We are the stewards of our College's proud legacy, and together, we chart the course for its future. Let's make history—again."

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to Maritime College, its mission, its future alumni, and its outstanding graduates. I look forward to celebrating this momentous year with you.

Stephen J. Carbery '80
President, Maritime College Alumni Association

Association News

Vote NOW for MCAA Officers and Board of Directors!

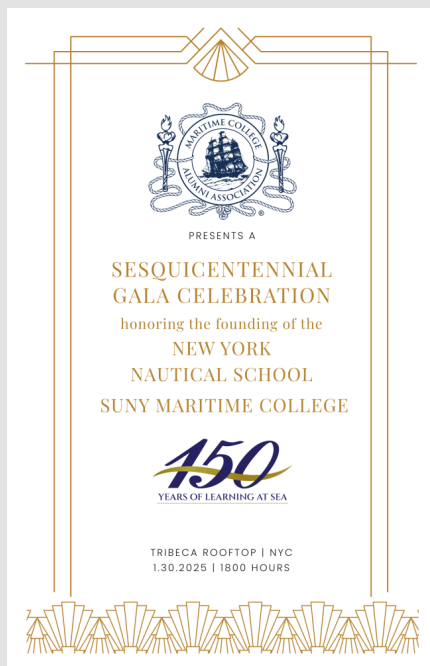
All Sustaining (dues-paying) Association Members should have received a Survey Monkey email containing a link to cast their vote for 2025 MCAA Officers and Board of Directors. The ballot lists Officer and Board vacancies, names and bios of nominees, and space for you to nominate another alumnus for each position. Space is also available for your comments and suggestions as to how we can better serve you as a Member. **Please cast your ballot BEFORE VOTING CLOSSES at 11:59PM on Wednesday, January 8, 2025.** If you have NOT received a ballot and believe your membership is active, please email Taylor Netchert at Communications@MaritimeCollegeAA.org. To renew your membership, please click [HERE](#).



Interactive Alumni Database Software is Demo' ed

At the November MCAA Board Meeting, representatives from Blackbaud showcased the Almbase software, a cutting-edge platform being considered to enhance alumni connections. This powerful tool aims to provide members with easy access to information for networking, events, and staying in touch with fellow alumni.

While some adjustments are still needed before the system is officially adopted, the board is enthusiastic about its potential. Once implemented, access to Almbase will be an exclusive benefit for Sustaining Members. Stay tuned for updates—and don't forget to keep your membership dues and contact details up to date to enjoy this exciting new resource!



Don't Miss the 150th Anniversary Gala Celebration! *Registration and Sponsorships Available*

On Thursday, January 30th the MCAA will honor Maritime College's 150th anniversary with a **Sesquicentennial Celebration at Tribeca Rooftop at 2 Desbrosses Street in downtown Manhattan.** Recalling the Alumni Association's Centennial Ball held for the College in 1974, this event promises to honor our alma mater's rich history and legacy with keynote addresses by Rear Admiral Philip E. Sobeck of the Military Sealift Command and maritime historian Dr. Salvatore R. Mercogliano '89.

Click the link below for all event information including registration, sponsorship, and travel details. You may also contact Maggy Williams Giunco at Director@MaritimeCollegeAA.org. In the words of President Steve Carbery '80, "Let's make history – again!"

[Sesquicentennial Gala Information](#)

SST Scholarship Drive! Encourage Applicants, Help Us to \$550k.

Applications are open for the MCAA Summer Sea Term Scholarship Awards for 2025! Please encourage cadets with whom you are connected to apply before the February 14 deadline!

Following a record award of \$532,990 in 2024, we ask your help in reaching our 2025 goal of \$550,000. Please click [HERE](#) to donate – your generous contribution to the success of tomorrow’s Mariners is greatly appreciated!

Summer Sea Term 2025 Positions Available May 12 – August 1

SST 2025 alumni job opportunities for the above cruise time window will be announced this January. Plan now so you can accommodate your usual home and employment obligations. If you need help acquiring a TWIC, MMC, or medical certificate, please contact Catherine Strez at the College, cstrez@sunymaritime.edu, for assistance.

College News

Maritime is Grounded in the Present, Looking to the Future

RADM Okon reports a strong ‘24/’25 academic year is underway! Admissions for the ‘25/’26 cycle are up 18% year-on-year through November for both the Regiment and traditional curriculum, with interest in the Regiment and the License Program up 40%. Discretion and strict discipline keep the College economically on track without grants, with alumni donations strongly encouraged at all levels. Our next iteration of the Privateer Recruiting Officer Program will undergo refinement, expansion, and additional training going into spring college fairs and admissions season. An on-campus training session is scheduled for Thursday, January 23, 2025 for our next class of PROP officers.

Maritime College hosts STEAM Day for Middle and High Schoolers

On Saturday, November 2, Maritime College welcomed students in grades 6 through 11 for an engaging STEAM Day. Through hands-on activities, participants explored potential careers in science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. This free event was led by dedicated College staff, faculty, and students, providing an inspiring and educational experience for all involved.

Inaugural Fusion Bowl Closes Out Successful Privateers Football Season

Double honors were served at Maritime College on Saturday, November 23, when the Privateers’ seven regular season wins earned the selection of Reinhart Field to host the first-ever Fusion Bowl. This was born from the alliance of the New England Women’s and Men’s Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) and the Conference of New England (CNE). Our Privateers capped it off with their 21-14 victory over the Husson University Eagles to end their season with an 8-3 record. Go Maritime!

150th Anniversary of Commissioning of St. Mary’s Training Ship

On December 10, Maritime College celebrated the 150th anniversary of the U.S. Navy sloop-of-war St. Mary’s being commissioned as the training ship for the New York Nautical School, the earliest predecessor of Maritime College. The St. Mary’s first arrived in New York Harbor on this date in 1874. President RADM John Okon ’91 eloquently read the historic proclamation that established the school to an enthusiastic and reverent group of attending students and alumni.



Alumni Spotlight: President RADM John Okon '91

Learn about alumnus and current Maritime College President RADM John Okon '91 by reading his story [HERE](#).

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 7 at 10:00 AM-12:00 PM – **Tampa Bay Chapter Port Boat Tour** . Free to attend; limited space! Details & Registration [HERE](#).

Thursday, January 16 - **South Florida Chapter Event** at Fassmer. More details to follow.

Thursday, January 30 at 6:00 PM - **150th Anniversary Gala** at Tribeca Rooftop in Manhattan. Details & Registration [HERE](#).

Friday, January 31 at 10:00 AM - **SUNY Maritime College Winter Commencement** – Reisenberg Gymnasium.

Tuesday, March 11 and Wednesday, March 12 - **SUNY Maritime College Career Fair** – from 12:00 - 4:00PM at the Maritime Academic Center (MAC). Contact Michelle Reina, Director of Career Planning and Development, Careerservices@sunymaritime.edu, for registration.

Tuesday, February 4 from 5:30 - 7:30 PM – **Tampa Bay Chapter Meet Up on the SS American Victory**. Sponsored by Seascour Marine Descaler. Suggested donation of \$20. Details & Registration [HERE](#).

Signal Flags

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

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

From Your Friends at the Maritime College Alumni Association



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