



From Fort Schuyler & Beyond: YOUR Alumni Newsletter
February 21, 2025

From the President

Good day, shipmates!

I hope this message finds you well. As we navigate the early months of 2025, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on where we've been and where we're headed.

Welcome Aboard!

First, please join me in welcoming **Jennifer Mahoney**, our college's new **Vice President of Institutional Advancement**. Jennifer joined the school in December 2024, bringing a wealth of experience in institutional development from her tenure at the College of New Rochelle. We're thrilled to have her on board!

Election Results & New Leadership

Our most recent elections, held in December and January, brought in a new slate of officers and board members. You'll find the full results later in this issue—please take a moment to congratulate them!

A Night to Remember: 150th Sesquicentennial Gala

On January 30th, we celebrated a major milestone at Tribeca Rooftop—our 150th Sesquicentennial Gala! It was an unforgettable evening, highlighted by inspiring speeches from:

- Rear Admiral John Okon '91 The 12th President of the SUNY Maritime College
- Professor Salvatore Mercogliano '89 Professor of History & noted Maritime Historian
- Rear Admiral Philip E. Sobeck, Commander, U.S. Military Sealift Command

A special thanks to **Annmarie Bhola '98** for creating an [informative video](#) focused on the history of the college. And, of course, this event wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of **Maggy Williams Giunco**, **Saira Yoo**, and our incredible volunteer staff. Thank you all!

Exciting Digital Upgrades Coming Soon

We're partnering with **AlmaBase**, a national website development company, to enhance our online presence. Working alongside **Blackbaud** and our partner at the college, **Elisha Brewster**, we will be creating a more user-friendly web experience that will provide tremendous value to our members. Stay tuned for more updates!

Get Involved This Spring!

There are plenty of opportunities to **engage with our students** and help them prepare for life after graduation. Check out our calendar for upcoming campus events—**your mentorship and support can make a real difference**.

Ways to Support

- [Renew Your Membership](#) – It's never too late to become a sustaining member!
- [Contribute to Summer Sea Term Scholarships](#) – Help students afford their training aboard TSES VII and help everyone who wants to "get up that gangway" do so.

I hope you enjoy this issue of News from Fort Schuyler and Beyond. Please don't hesitate to contact our Editor, Don Gale, Editor@MaritimeCollegeaa.org, to let us know how we are doing at serving you. Thank you for being a part of our community, and I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming events!

With utmost respect,

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

Association News

Welcome to Our MCAA 2025 Officers and Board!

Thanks to all who have served in MCAA Officer and Board roles since our founding in 1903 – and particularly to those who have stepped up to serve in 2025! Many thanks to all of our Members who voted and made your voice heard.

2025 MCAA Officers

President - Stephen Carbery '80
1st Vice President – Seth Lucas '01
2nd Vice President – Rick McClain '14
Treasurer – Samuel Reilly '95
Assistant Treasurer – George Gacser '87
Secretary – Justin Dela Cruz '20

Board of Directors

2023-2026 – Ted Mason '57, Vinod Melwani '02, Mike Trotta '99
2024-2027 – Kevin Albertson '10, Kyron Cooper '15*, Jim McEnteggart '91
2025-2028 – Duke Alvora '14, Kit Mattikow '23, Vicky Hulick '05
** Board elections runner-up Kyron Cooper '15 was appointed to fill an unexpired Board term vacated by Earl Baim '80.*

Get involved in YOUR MCAA! Learn more about what we do! Our Committees – SST Scholarship, Membership, Events, Chapters, Finance, Honors, and many more – value YOUR input & participation.

Contact Executive Director Maggy Williams Giunco, Director@MaritimeCollegeAA.org or President Steve Carbery '80, President@MaritimeCollegeAA.org if you are interested in serving on a committee.

A BIG Night for a GRAND Celebration: The Sesquicentennial Gala!

On Thursday, January 30th, over 225 souls united at Tribeca Rooftop in lower Manhattan for a dazzling celebration of Maritime College's 150th anniversary. The Sesquicentennial Gala, hosted by the MCAA, featured inspiration from College President Admiral John Okon '91, maritime expert and marine historian Dr Salvatore Mercogliano '89, and keynote speaker Rear Admiral Philip Sobeck, Commander, Military Sealift Command (MSC).

Admiral Okon discussed campus developments since he and his wife, Valerie Okon '92, returned to campus last July with a focus on addressing the headwinds impacting Maritime College today. Prof. Mercogliano touched on points of American maritime history and the parts played by Maritime College and its alumni. Admiral Sobeck, global commander of nearly 140 MSC ships, commemorated a century and a half of “can-do, get-it-done” leadership among Maritime College grads, proclaiming such leadership necessary today more than ever across the world's contested oceans. All present agreed it to be a night appropriately honoring our alma mater and her place in maritime history.

Looking Back, Looking Ahead

Special thanks to Annmarie Bhola '98 of Enhanced Building Solutions, with the help of MCAA President Steve Carbery '80, for creating and sponsoring the commemorative video, "Celebrating 150 Years". This photographic journey through the College's history, shown at the Sesquicentennial Gala, is presented through the Association's social media channels and can be viewed [HERE](#).

Thank you to our Gala Sponsors



Vice Admiral



Rear Admiral



Commanders



Captain's Cocktail Hour



Historical Video

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The Family of Joe R. Gerson '47
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Joseph Breglia '80
Stephen J. Carbery '80
Dan Gillette '97
William Humphreys '74
Joe Lorino '87
Kyle Townsend

PROP Update: Your Time, and Your Presence, Matters

PROP, the Privateer Recruiting Officer Program jointly launched by the MCAA and Maritime College, is expanding to meet the challenge cited by RADM Okon in demonstrating the relevancy of a Maritime College education to today's high school students. If you are interested and can commit to a campus visit for training, please reach out to President Steve Carbery '80 at President@MaritimeCollegeAA.org.

On-campus, face-to-face PROP training is essential and highly valuable. Since you graduated, Maritime College has evolved in many ways:

- The college culture has shifted.
- Program, departmental, and course offerings have changed.
- The campus has undergone continuous physical transformations.
- Effective communication with a high school audience (ages 16-18) benefits from in-person training.
- Younger alumni input is especially valuable, as PROP outreach focuses on helping prospective students choose the College rather than emphasizing career paths after graduation.

Pay it Forward to our Future Mariners – Fund our SST Scholarships for 2025!

February 14th marked the closing for SST Scholarship applications among this upcoming cruise season's cadets. To reach our goal of \$550,000 in scholarships, we need, and thank you for, your generous help. Let's make sure every kid who want to get up that gangway gets up that gangway! Should you wish to donate, please click [HERE](#).

Summer Sea Term 2025 Positions Available May 12th – August 1st

SST is quickly approaching! Maritime College has announced the following positions available for the upcoming Summer Sea Term period May 12 – August 1, 2025. Click the link to view the jobs available: [SST Crew 2025 - Engine Training, Instruction, Operations & Watchstanding](#)

If you're an alumnus interested in these positions, please consider enough lead time to prepare your schedule and acquire any needed paperwork. The College seeks folks with active USCG engine licenses for watch standing or training. If your engine license is inactive, you can serve as an instructor in the training department. For more information or for help acquiring a TWIC, MMC, or medical certificate, please contact Catherine Strez, cstrez@sunymaritime.edu, for assistance.

Summer Internship Opportunities are Needed!

If you are an employer able to accommodate a Maritime College student this summer who needs to complete an internship to graduate, please reach out to Michelle Reina, Director of Career Planning & Development, at the College, at (718) 409-6079, or Mreina@sunymaritime.edu. Note also the Spring College Career Fair, March 11th-12th, listed below in Upcoming Events!

College News

Welcome Jennifer Mahoney, Vice President, Institutional Advancement

On Tuesday, January 21st, Jennifer Mahoney stepped into her new role as Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Maritime College. Following Doug Hasbrouck's years of faithful service, Jennifer brings to Maritime nearly 12 years' experience in benefactor outreach and fundraising to institutions such as the College of New Rochelle and Yeshiva University in New York, and Sacred Heart University in Connecticut. MCAA President Steve Carbery '80 is gratified to have been involved in the search committee for Ms. Mahoney whose talent will undoubtedly be valued by Maritime College going forward.

Congratulations, Newly Licensed Mariners!

January 13th-17th was a busy week for 132 cadets who sat for their U.S. Coast Guard license exams. Of 91 Deck candidates, 64 new Third Mate licenses were issued, for a pass rate of 70% after retakes. Among 41 Engine cadets, 32 Third Assistant Engineer licenses were granted, a

78% pass rate. RADM John Okon cited the new licenses in his speech at the Sesquicentennial Gala Celebration. As with all graduates, we look forward to welcoming these young mariners into the Association, and to helping them find their first job, and their second job, ... and any position they seek in their futures.

Maritime Admissions on a Roll in '25!

College President RADM John Okon '91 is pleased to share that applications, admissions, and deposits for Maritime College continue to outpace last year's numbers. Following last November's update, enrollment remains on an upward trajectory. We in the MCAA are proud to support the College's growth through PROP and our Chapter outreach efforts, strengthening our partnership in recruiting the next generation of Mariners.

SST Visit to Ship Repair USA Conference

Thanks to Houston Chapter President Greg Wagner '01, TSES VII Master Capt. Morgan McManus '92, and staff at Marine Log magazine, a visit has been arranged for the training ship to rendezvous with Marine Log's Ship Repair USA conference in New Orleans on June 10th and 11th. A conference topic being *Training the Next Generation*, cadets will have an opportunity to network and make connections in shipbuilding, repair, and yard operations. Arrangements are also underway for a guided tour to be provided to attendees on June 11th.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 27th - **Black History Month Dinner hosted by the Maritime College Cultural Club** at 6:30PM at The Maritime Academic Center (MAC). RSVP by emailing Pat Norman at PNorman@sunymaritime.edu

Thursday, February 27th at Hugh O'Connor's Irish Pub from 5:00 - 9:00 PM – **Houston Chapter Happy Hour**. Free to attend. Click [HERE](#) for details.

Tuesday, March 11th and Wednesday, March 12th - **SUNY Maritime College Career Fair** – from 12:00 - 4:00PM at the Maritime Academic Center (MAC). Due to limited space, employers are only requested to register for one day of the fair. Contact Michelle Reina, Director of Career Planning and Development, Careerservices@sunymaritime.edu, for registration.

Date TBD - **New Alumni Night** - we will have a date & location solidified in the coming days and notify you via email & social media with the details.

March 27th - **The New England Chapter** is coming back together! Stay tuned for more details about an event on March 27th in Mystic, CT.

Friday, April 4th from 9:00AM - 1:30PM – **Houston Clay Shooting** at American Shooting Centers. Click [HERE](#) for details, registration, and sponsorship opportunities.

Friday April 11th - The Tampa Bay Chapter is supporting the **Tug Valour Memorial Golf Outing** at The Eagles Golf Club in Odessa, FL, Information [HERE](#).

Wednesday, April 16th from 6:00 - 9:00 PM at Bar Anticipation in Lake Como, NJ– **New Jersey Chapter Meet Up**. It is Country Night at Bar A! We have a private room reserved. Cash Bar. Registration coming soon.

Thursday, April 24th at Hugh O'Connor's Irish Pub from 5:00 - 9:00 PM – **Houston Chapter Happy Hour**. Free to attend. Click [HERE](#) for details.

Friday April 25th - The Tampa Bay Chapter is supporting the **Port of Tampa Golf Outing** at The Eagles Golf Club in Odessa, FL, Information [HERE](#).

Thursday, May 8th at 5:00 PM– **Tampa Bay Chapter No Host Social** at Four Green Fields.

Details [HERE](#), No formal registration required.

Sunday, May 18 - **Baltimore Maritime Day Celebration** at the Chesapeake Baysox. Networking & Social before the baseball game. Tickets will be available soon for \$10. Information [HERE](#).

Monday, June 9th – **MCAA 36th Annual Golf Classic** at Plainfield Country Club in Edison, NJ. Registration coming soon!

Tuesday, June 10th – **TSES VII at Marine Log Ship Repair USA Conference**, Royal Sonesta Hotel, New Orleans, LA USA. Conference information [HERE](#). Stay tuned for more info from YOUR Alumni Association!

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

Exec. Director, Maggy Williams Giunco

director@maritimecollegeaa.org

Dir. Operations, Saira Yoo

syoo@maritimecollegeaa.org

Dir. Communications, Taylor Netchert

communications@maritimecollegeaa.org

Editor, Don Gale

editor@maritimecollegeaa.org

Alumni Relations Associate, Denise Tiernan

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

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