



MCAA Bulletin - July 12, 2024

## From the President

Half way through 2024, I reflect proudly on our Association's accomplishments. We've augmented the success of our January Distinguished Alumni Honors Dinner with a robust 35th Annual Golf Classic this June. We've connected with graduating seniors at Commencement in May, New Alumni Night in April, and with each other at our Spring Networking Night in May. Through your generosity, we've awarded a record-setting \$532,990 in scholarships to deserving students. We celebrate over six years of the MCAA's reunification with Maritime College through the work of Admiral Mike Alfultis to whom we've bade farewell at many College and Chapter events.

We now greet our own Admiral John Okon, Class of '91 in whose selection I'm honored to have participated, together with his wife, Valerie '92, as First Lady. I have also been favored with a 1:1 meeting with Admiral Okon during his first week "Sitting in Hoss Miller's chair" and he has hit the ground running on several issues related to college finances, regimental affairs, and enrollment, to name a few. We have the right person on the helm in my humble opinion.

Our work is not over as we face challenges and endeavors dead ahead and beyond the horizon. We look forward to crowning our alma mater's sesquicentennial at Homecoming 2024 and with our 2025 Sesquicentennial Dinner. We also strive to help the College meet the ongoing recruitment and retention challenges for new students.

We cannot do this without your support. Please join me on this brave voyage.

Please also send your comments and thoughts on how the Bulletin can better serve you by contacting our Editor, Don Gale, at [Editor@MaritimeCollegeAA.org](mailto:Editor@MaritimeCollegeAA.org).

Stephen J. Carbery '80  
President MCAA

## Association News

### Spring Networking Event

Greg Tuthill '86, 1st VP and Events Committee Chair, reports the MCAA Spring Networking Event, held May 14th at Pennsylvania 6 NYC in Manhattan was very well attended and successful. We're considering a Mid-Summer MCAA Networking Event; please email [Director@MaritimeCollegeAA.org](mailto:Director@MaritimeCollegeAA.org) if you are interested!!

### Annual Golf Classic

The 35th Annual Golf Classic, held June 10th at Plainfield Country Club in Edison, NJ, received accolades for course challenge and attentiveness of the staff, including caddies. Whether or not you participated, please respond to our survey [HERE](#). Please Save the Date for next year's event on June 9th, 2025. Sponsorships are available and help ensure the success of the event!



### **William Austen MSEC Opening**

Named for William J. Austen '80, whose \$1 million donation is one of the largest single donations in College history, the new Marine Seamanship Education Center was dedicated May 20th with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

### **Maritime College Commencement**

On May 24th, Past President John Valvo '83 delivered a Commencement speech to the Class of 2024! After receiving their diploma, each new graduate was greeted with a pin and an MCAA contact card to encourage their joining the Association.

### **SST Scholarship Disbursement Ceremony**

On May 30th, MCAA President Steve Carbery '80 and Audit and Scholarship Committees Chair John Valvo '83 presented a "Big Check" at Olivet Pier for the MCAA's record-setting \$532,990 disbursed for SST scholarships, plus Big Checks for Prof. Sembler, Prof. Pfleging, Det. Diller '14, Baeszler '14, Class of '65, and '65-'83 Awards. Twenty-eight 3/C scholarships awarded! Stoke the fires for SST 2025 by donating [HERE](#) .



### **OBMG TSES Bahamas Port Call Gathering**

On June 20th, Members of the Organization of Black Maritime Graduates (OBMG) met TSES VII during her June 18-22 Bahamas port call to help build support for recruiting young Bahamians to consider a Maritime College education. The event was supported by an anonymous Maritime College Alumni Association \$5,000 donor. Sources indicate the potential creation of a Bahamas chapter based on the number of interested local alumni. Stay tuned!

## President of his Alma Mater: RADM Okon '91 Takes the Helm!

On Tuesday, June 4th, nine months following RADM Alfultis' retirement announcement, SUNY Board of Trustees and Chancellor John B. King Jr. announced the appointment of RADM John Okon '91 (USN Ret.) as the twelfth SUNY Maritime College President. Adopting his new role Monday, July 1st, Okon is the first Maritime graduate to serve as College President since the 1982-95 tenure of RADM Floyd "Hoss" Miller (USN Ret., dec'd 2017) the third Maritime graduate since the College's union with SUNY, and the tenth through the 150-year history of Maritime and its precedents.

Hailing from Camillus, NY, Okon did not at first envision a maritime or naval career. But pursuing oceanography and meteorology study at Maritime, he became enthralled with the ocean. Through Naval service after graduation, "I found a community that blended the things I'm most passionate about – meteorology, oceanography, and going to sea – along with a community of strong, highly competent, character-based leaders," he related in a feature article in the Fall 2022 issue of The Fort Schuyler magazine. Thus followed his 33 years' naval service that saw him earning Master's degrees at Naval Postgraduate School and Naval War College, with multiple leadership roles culminating as Vice Commander, U.S Fleet Cyber Command, Tenth Fleet, U.S. Navy Space, Joint Force Headquarters, USN, before his appointment as President of Maritime College.

To view Rear Admiral Okon's first message as SUNYMC President, please click [HERE](#).

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## Around the Ports: MCAA Chapters

RADM Mike Alfultis wrapped up his Farewell Tour among the Chapters through April and May:

- New Orleans, LA – Monday, April 29th
- Houston Chapter – Tuesday, April 30th
- North Florida Chapter – Thursday, May 2nd in Jacksonville, FL

**Niagara Frontier:** Doug Buell '00/'21 is connecting with Tom Hurley '86 and others to generate a Niagara Frontier Chapter Event this summer. Doug will also connect with SUNY MC Commandant of Cadets Capt. Adam Grohman to continue the Gerson-Rasmus Career Exploration Speaker Series this fall.

**Hampton Roads Chapter** held their National Maritime Day event on Wednesday, May 22nd at Grain Rooftop Beer Garden in Norfolk, VA.

**Newly-initiated Tampa Chapter** held their inaugural event Tuesday, June 18th at Shuffle in Tampa, FL. Ashley O'Brien, chapter President, reports 30 Domers across generations attended. They are hosting another event sponsored by OSG on Tuesday, August 20th. For more information about the event, click [HERE](#). Gary Mueller, who believes he is the last surviving '52 Class Member, will be in attendance in August.



**Houston Chapter** is hosting their First Annual Golf Classic on Monday, September 30th at The Club at Falcon Pointe in Katy, TX. Register [HERE](#). Gregory Wagner '01 follows Michael Flood '11 as the new Chapter President as Mike relocates to Alaska!

**MCAA Bylaws Update on Chapters:** Chapter Presidents and representatives met Wednesday, May 8th to discuss MCAA Bylaws changes to facilitate growth and participation among Chapters and solidify their relation to, communication with, and assistance from the MCAA. Key recommendations focused on simplifying definition and obligations of a Chapter and of new Chapter formation.

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## Upcoming Events

Detailed Information for all events will be distributed via email and social media in the coming months.

**Tampa Summer Social:** Tuesday, August 20th at Coppertail Brewing Company. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

**Admiral's Dinner:** Tuesday, September 17th at Marina Del Rey, Bronx, NY

**2nd Annual Patrick Baeszler '14 Memorial Golf Outing:** September 27th at Silver Lake Golf Course in Staten Island, NY. Event proceeds go to Summer Sea Term scholarships. For more information, click [HERE](#).

**Houston Golf Classic:** Monday, September 30th at The Club at Falcon Pointe in Katy, TX. For more information and to register, click [HERE](#).

**Homecoming & Reunion Weekend 2024:** Friday October 18th & Saturday, October 19th. All alumni are invited to celebrate, with special recognition for those from classes ending in 4 and 9, including the 50th Reunion for the Class of 1974. More details coming soon.

Friday, October 18th

- Ancient Mariner Golf Outing at Pelham Bay & Split Rock Golf Courses

Saturday, October 19th

- Tailgate, Football game, Annual Meeting, and Post Game Celebration at Paddy's!



## SAVE THE DATE

**HOMECOMING 2024  
OCTOBER 18 - 19**

### Lucky Bag

Gerard Thornton '90 has beautifully restored the motor yacht "Nellie Bly" operated by the Coney Island Steamboat Company and is ready to give nautical tours. To read more and book a tour, please click [HERE](#).



We would love to hear what you are up to! To share noteworthy accomplishments about yourself or one of your classmates, please email [communications@maritimecollegeaa.org](mailto:communications@maritimecollegeaa.org) with a photo and brief description to be featured in an upcoming "Where Are They Now" post.

### 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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