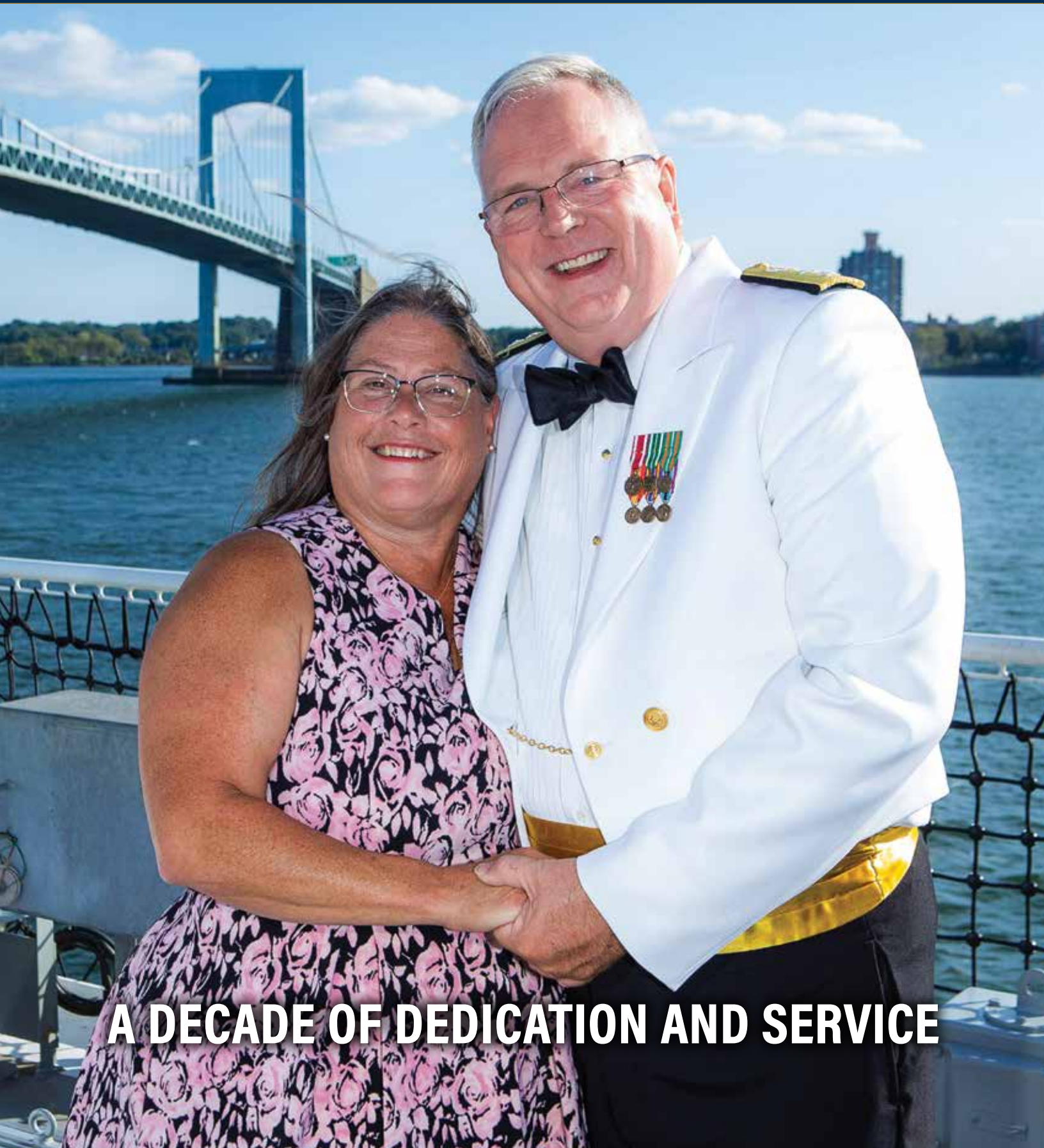


# FORT SCHUYLER

THE MAGAZINE FOR MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

SPRING 2024



**A DECADE OF DEDICATION AND SERVICE**

# Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association

Set Your Course with the M.E.B.A!

## M.E.B.A. Headquarters

444 North Capitol St., NW #800  
Washington D.C. 20001  
Phone: (202) 638-5355  
mebahq@mebaunion.org

## NY/NJ Union Hall

37 Edward Hart Drive  
Jersey City, NJ 07305  
Phone: (201) 433-7700  
newyork@mebaunion.org

## Adam Vokac '00

M.E.B.A. President

## Claudia Cimini '90

Executive V.P.

## Jason Callahan '99

Atlantic Coast V.P.

## Roland "Rex" Rexha '04

Secretary-Treasurer

## Adam Smith '09

Gulf Coast V.P.

The M.E.B.A. Advantage: Highest paying jobs, most protective work rules, best benefits! Work hard & retire with full pension as early as age 41. Opportunities for Deep Sea, Shore-side and Inland jobs for both Engine and Deck.

Fulfill your commitment with the M.E.B.A.!

On Watch In Peace And War Since 1875

# SPRING 2024 FORT SCHUYLER

THE MAGAZINE FOR MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

## CONTENTS



5

FROM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT  
Steve Carbery '80

2

FROM MARITIME COLLEGE PRESIDENT  
RADM Michael Alfultis

3

Campus News

4

### FEATURE

A Decade of Dedication and Service  
An interview with Kim & Mike Alfultis

20

### FEATURE

A Retirement Celebration with  
with Family, Friends and Colleagues

22

### FEATURE

Assistance Towing Gave Them Pull:  
Three Alumni Reveal an Empowering  
Educational and Business Opportunity

24

### FEATURE

Favorite Stories, Memories and Photos  
From Our Alumni

28

MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
2024 MCAA Distinguished Alumni Honors  
Dinner

30

FROM MARITIME FOUNDATION CHAIR  
Robert Johnston '69

32

### ADVANCEMENT NEWS

Why I Give?

33

Endowed Gifts

35

### ALUMNI

Class Notes

36

Where in the World

39

Chapter Gatherings

40

Ebb Tide

44

Upcoming Events

44



18



24



31



### ON THE COVER:

Bidding Farewell to RADM Michael A. Alfultis and Kim Alfultis as President and First Lady of the College.

### EDITORS

Pamela Jones  
Director of Communications  
SUNY Maritime College

Don Gale  
Editor, Maritime College Alumni  
Association

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Riley Damerell  
Don Gale  
Ed Kelly  
Mo Kariya  
Pam Trowbridge  
Virna Wong

### DESIGN

Virna Wong

### CORRESPONDENCE IS WELCOME

Send your class notes to:  
**Fort Schuyler Magazine**  
Office of Communications  
SUNY Maritime College  
6 Pennyfield Avenue  
Throggs Neck, NY 10465

or email:

- communications@sunymaritime.edu
- editor@maritimecollegeaa.org

Fort Schuyler is the official magazine of SUNY Maritime College (est. 1874) and its Alumni Association (est. 1903).

## LETTER FROM STEVE CARBERY '80

President,  
Maritime College Alumni Association



### MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Officers

**Stephen J. Carbery '80**  
President

**Gregory Tuthill '86**  
1st Vice President

**Leonard Imperial '01**  
2nd Vice President

**Samuel Reilly '95**  
Treasurer

**George Gacser '87**  
Assistant Treasurer

**Justin Dela Cruz '20**  
Secretary

#### Board of Directors:

Kevin Albertson '10  
Earl Baim '80  
Seth Lucas '01  
Ted Mason '57  
Richard (Rick) McClain '13  
Jim McEnteggart '91  
Vinod Melwani '02  
Michael Paturas '13  
Mike Trotta '99

Dear fellow Alumni and College Community friends,

This is the last edition of the *Fort Schuyler* of which our friend and colleague RADM Michael Alfultis will be a part. Mike and his wife, Kim, have been with the Maritime family since July 2014. I probably would not be writing to you as Alumni Association President were it not for the hard work of Mike Alfultis and Past MCAA President Dan Gillette '97 to get the Alumni Association back on campus. For these efforts we are forever grateful. Looking upon Empire State VII, we all know that she would not be at Olivet Pier save for Mike's steadfast commitment. Mike, we all wish you and Kim a long and happy retirement, Sir!

Coming off a very successful Honors Dinner in January we continue driving forward, keeping our Association relevant through changing generational priorities, and evolving with increased demands. Our two most pressing objectives are improving our website and restoring our alumni database. To accomplish both, our board approved a plan for added staffing to allow us to carry on day-to-day operations while also procuring and customizing a new membership interface software package.

I am pleased that Maggy Williams-Giunco has taken the role of MCAA Executive Director. With Maggy's computer-savvy skills, she will lead us through the software adoption. Meanwhile, Saira Yoo will serve as Director of Operations, overseeing our daily finances. Taylor Netchert has also come aboard as our Manager of Communications. Taylor has already demonstrated her skills in helping us launch the MCAA Bulletin, which will be delivered periodically throughout the year as the news cycle warrants. Another familiar face, Denise Tiernan will work at the Fort handling mail and information inquiries. With the right staff in place, I look forward to advancing our organization into the future.

I am also happy to report that on Monday, May 20th, the William J. Austen Center for Maritime Studies was dedicated. I am extremely proud of my classmate, who made this project possible with a donation of \$1,000,000, one of the largest in the College's history. Bill shows that we can all dig deep to support the college in any way, with any amount you see fit.

On May 30th we celebrated the awarding of 107 Summer Sea Term Scholarships totaling \$532,990 this year. We also awarded the first NYPD Detective Jonathan E. Diller Class of 2014 Memorial Scholarship Award this year in memory of our fallen shipmate who was killed in the line of duty on March 25, 2024.

With Admiral Mike's retirement, I am proud to have been part of the group of twenty Maritime College community representatives, led by College Council Chair Tom Higgins '81 and following prescribed SUNY search protocol, to find our next College president. I am even more gratified to join our Maritime College community in welcoming RADM John Okon, USN (Ret), Class of '91, named June 4 by SUNY Chancellor John King, Jr., as the next president of our alma mater. Sir, we salute you!

As you read this, we will have completed our 35th Annual Golf Classic, held at the beautiful Plainfield Country Club in Edison, NJ on June 10th. I thank our golf committee led by AJ McAllister '80, all our participants, and especially our sponsors who make this event possible.

As you can see, it has been a busy spring. We look forward to keeping you engaged in support of one another, our new graduates, and the entire Maritime College community.

Once again, I close with the words of my friend Joe Gerson '47:

*"Steaming ahead smartly and checking compasses frequently."*

Fraternally,

*Stephen J. Carbery*

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

## LETTER FROM MICHAEL ALFULTIS

President,  
SUNY Maritime College



Dear Maritime College Community,

After a decade of serving as President of SUNY Maritime College, I will be retiring this summer. Kim and I will miss being part of the Maritime College community, and we want to thank all of you who have supported us throughout my tenure as President.

When I was appointed Maritime College President by then Chancellor Nancy Zimpher in 2014, she indicated her two top priorities for the College were replacing the 60-year-old training ship Empire State VI and to have a formal reconciliation with the Fort Schuyler Maritime Alumni Association Inc.

Within three years, a formal SUNY-approved Memorandum of Agreement was signed between Maritime College and the Maritime College Alumni Association in December 2017, resulting in increased alumni engagement and support for our students. In conjunction with this effort to re-establish the College's relationship with its Alumni Association, the Maritime College Foundation was formally established, resulting in significant increases in both the number of donors supporting the College and the size of gifts from individual donors.

Last September, the Empire State VII was delivered to the College after years of conceptualizing, discussing, planning, letter writing, advocacy, and testifying before the US Congress. There were many partners on this journey with me to obtain federal support and funding for a \$350 million new state-of-the-art training ship intended to train merchant mariners: alumni, students, parents, maritime industry partners, state maritime academies, the Maritime Administration, elected officials, and other stakeholders. This combined effort contributed to realizing the first purpose-built training ship in U.S. history that will impact generations of students to come. I am thrilled for our students who will enjoy a new learning experience aboard this modern, technologically advanced training vessel.

It has been a great honor to work with the faculty and staff members to develop a Strategic Plan that complemented the mission, vision, and core values of Maritime College and was instrumental in the College's highly successful accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Our collective success has also transformed the campus through improved academic programs and services, \$100 million in capital improvement projects, significantly increased philanthropic contributions, and enabled the development of offshore wind and sustainability initiatives.

We have worked together to improve campus climate, diversity, equity, and inclusion. I want to thank the members of the Campus Climate Task Force. Their recommendations led to establishing the President's Council on Campus Climate and Culture to help achieve the vision: "Maritime College is a healthy, safe, and inclusive environment, on campus and at sea, where everyone is respected and valued."

In retrospect, my time as President of SUNY Maritime College has been extremely fulfilling. There are no words to express how humbled I am to have been granted the most unique opportunity to learn, teach, and grow with you. Kim and I are honored to be a part of the legacy of this maritime community, and we will always treasure the memories we have made at SUNY Maritime College.

All the Best,

*Michael Alfultis*

RADM Michael A. Alfultis, USMS, Ph.D.

## CAMPUS NEWS



Jan 5 - Cadets moving aboard



Jan 8 - Pre-cruise: sea survival inspection



Jan 10 - TSES VII Departure from NYC

### Cadets Completed Winter Sea Term onboard New Training Ship Empire State VII

During SUNY Maritime's winter term this past January, cadets completed the first training cruise onboard the new training ship Empire State – referred to as Empire State VII by cadets and alumni. This exciting three-week cruise was the maiden voyage for the ship.

Nearly 230 cadets and 100 crew, faculty and staff participated in the winter sea term, which commenced on January 5th with a five-day pre-cruise that enabled the cadets time to become familiar with the ship, complete onboarding requirements, and participate in drills.

The ship arrived in San Juan on January 15th, where cadets enjoyed a few days of extended liberty due to a mechanical problem with one of the two propulsion drives as well as inclement weather in the Atlantic. Getting underway on Monday, January 22nd, the ship's return to Fort Schuyler was delayed until Saturday, January 27th, once again arriving on an overcast day to the cheers of families and friends.

Captain Morgan McManus reported that the cruise was a great success despite engineering challenges related to being the first of a class of new ships. "This winter term provided us with great opportunities. First, it provided a full shake-down to test all of the systems and equipment on a cruise before a longer summer sea term. Second, it allowed the crew and faculty to become familiar with the ship's operation. And finally, it provided the opportunity for faculty to adjust their curriculums and configure the shipboard labs. ■



Jan 11 - First Day at sea



Jan 25 - Group picture on deck



Jan 15 - Arriving Puerto Rico



Jan 15 - Arriving Puerto Rico



Jan 15 - Arriving Puerto Rico



Jan 17 - Debriefing before departure to San Juan



Jan 22 - Departure from San Juan, PR



Jan 23- On the way back to NYC



Jan 23 - On the way back to NYC



Jan 27 - Arrival SUNY

Photos Courtesy of Ed Kelly

### Family, Friends and Colleagues Attended Dr. Dick Burke's Retirement Celebration

Richard Burke, ABS Professor of Naval Architecture & Marine Engineering at Maritime College retired this year after his 22 years of dedication and commitment to the school. Dick could always be counted on to step up and provide leadership whenever and wherever it was needed. Over a span of 12 years, Dick served twice as the Chair of the Engineering Department. In that role, he was a key contributor to the current strategic plan, the Planning Budget and Assessment Committee, the principal committee for resourcing and assessing the progress of our

strategic plan, and a member of the self-study committee for our highly successful Middle States Accreditation.

Previously, he served as the Executive Director of the Maritime College Global Maritime Center for Research, Development, Education, and Training. Most recently, he served as Chair of the newly established Department of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering.

The term "renaissance man" can be overused, but Dick is a true renaissance man. ■



### Student Engagement and Advising Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

On April 18, 2024, the College held a ribbon cutting ceremony for its inaugural Student Engagement and Advising Center (SEA Center) in Marvin-Tode Hall, attended by dozens of faculty and staff. The SEA Center oversees student academic support services, including the Education Opportunity Program, international education, tutoring, accessibility services, and test proctoring. Headed by its Director, Dr. Elissa De Falco, the SEA Center also coordinates with all academic departments, the Office of Admissions, and the Office of the Registrar to assist with transcript evaluation and course scheduling, general advising, and intervention for students on Academic Probation or at risk of Academic Disenrollment.

As part of efforts to improve the overall student experience, the new SEA Center space includes Dr. De Falco's office as well as a flexible learning space which can be used for group advising, office hours, workshops, and more. ■

Dr. Elissa De Falco, Director of the SEA Center at the ribbon cutting ceremony

### Another Successful Cultural Club Dinner!

The SUNY Maritime College Cultural Club presented the 37th Annual Black History Month Dinner on Thursday, February 29 in the Maritime Academic Center. It was a well attended event with over 200 guests. Featured as its Keynote Speaker & Honoree: Captain Kevin L. Barrow '95 River Pilot - Pilots Association for the Bay & River Delaware.

Captain Barrow graduated in 1995 with a BS degree in Marine Transportation with a Minor in International Business and attained his Third Mate License, of Self-Propelled Vessels of Unlimited Tonnage Upon Oceans. Captain Barrow has been a proud member of the Organization of Black Maritime Graduates since his graduation and served on its Board for over a decade. Captain Barrow is a member of the Ports of Philadelphia Marine Society as well as the Marine Society of New York. Captain Barrow also started and became the Father's Auxiliary Chairman for the New Castle County Chapter, Jack and Jill of America, Inc. for eight years. Captain Barrows' goal is to utilize his leadership and interpersonal skills to continue to build on the diversification in the Maritime Industry.

During the dinner, the Organization of Black Maritime Graduates awarded a scholarship in honor of Patricia Norman's mother, Mary Ella Goodman Cooper who passed in December. The award was presented by Constansa Torrejon '17 and awarded to Barnabas Ali.

Twenty-nine Scholarships were awarded by the Organization of Black Maritime Graduates (OBMG)! ■



The Organization of Black Maritime Graduates awarded 29 students scholarships at the dinner.



Captain Robert Cook '80 presenting Award to Captain Kevin Barrow '95.



Rev. Yolanda Lewi, Director of Nahyah Food Pantry was honored for her dedication in helping stock our campus Food Pantry.



Mrs. Captain Robert Cook '80 (Heidi Katherine Cook 1956-2024) was remembered during the Dinner. A framed picture and poem "As I Sit in Heaven" was presented to Captain Cook and family. (Pictured is Captain Robert Cook '80 and son Nyall Cook). Maritime Jazz Band performed "Total Praise" in Heidi's memory. Heidi was a dedicated supporter of the Cultural Club and all of its events. Presented by Imani Santos.



RADM Alfultis and Kim Alfultis were recognized for their steadfast support and dedication to the Cultural Club over the past decade. Throughout the years, they have generously shared their time, and passion, enriching the club's activities and fostering an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and heard. Presented by Pat Norman, Club Advisor.

SUNY Maritime Commencement 2024

Commencement activities began on May 23, as graduating seniors enjoyed a champagne toast and senior picture. Later that evening, seniors receiving awards were invited to a special Awards Dinner in which students were recognized for their academic excellence by School Deans, the Provost, and President Alfultis. Awards were then presented to each student as family members looked on with pride and support.

On the morning of Commencement day, Friday, May 24, 17 ensigns were commissioned as Officers during the NROTC Commissioning Ceremony.

Ceremony. These newly commissioned Officers will proudly serve the country.

The Commencement Ceremony recognized the graduates of January, May, July and September 2024. Sage J. Trautz served as Class Valedictorian while Mark Barker '94, Honorary Degree recipient, offered the Keynote Speech to the graduates. A graduate of SUNY Maritime College with a degree in Marine Engineering and an Unlimited Third Assistant Engineer License, Mark also has an MBA from the Case Western Reserve University's Weatherhead School of Management. Mark is

the President of Interlake Maritime Services, a family of companies with more than 300 years of collective service on the Great Lakes. As the second-generation leader of Interlake, Mark maintains a strong and clear voice on industry issues at the state and national level. He is the Chairman of the Board for the National Museum of the Great Lakes and he serves on the board of Moran Towing Corporation. Thank you for your service and commitment to SUNY Maritime College and the maritime industry. In his congratulatory remarks, Mark said, "Congratulations to the Class of 2024! Stay involved and give back as you are able." ■



May Commencement 2024 Valedictorian Sage J. Trautz '24.



Honorary Degree Recipient and Keynote Speaker Mr. Mark Barker '94 with President Alfultis.



17 Maritime College students were Commissioned as Ensigns during the Bronx NROTC commissioning ceremony.



Seniors enjoyed a picnic and champagne toast in front of Quarters One.



STUDENTS EXCELLENCE AWARDS DINNER



### SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. Visits SUNY Maritime



SUNY Maritime College received a special visit in February from SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. who announced that SUNY Maritime College, in partnership with RelyOn Nutec, now offers five modules of the internationally-recognized offshore wind Basic Safety Training (BST). The BST and Basic Technical Training (BTT) course development, GWO



certification, and training facilities were funded through a US Department of Labor Community Program grant sponsored by Representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Tom Suozzi, as well as a New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) grant. The grants, totaling \$1.5 million, are also being utilized to establish the Maritime College Center of Excellence for Offshore Wind, which will be focused on research and scholarship, academic programs, workforce development programs, and outreach and education. This training is certified by the Global Wind Organization (GWO) and is needed before offshore wind workers embark on their technical training.

“As New York State progresses towards a more sustainable future powered by clean energy, it is essential that offshore wind workers are equipped with the basic safety techniques needed in critical moments if and when an emergency arises,” said SUNY Chancellor King. “SUNY is poised to be the leading educator that develops the offshore wind workforce with programs across the system. SUNY Maritime College, with its waterfront location



and cutting-edge training facilities, is the perfect place to train the highly skilled workforce of offshore wind workers before they prepare for their technical trainings.” ■

### RADM Alfultis Honored by The Marine Society of the City of New York

The Marine Society of the City of New York celebrated its 254th Annual Dinner, honoring Rear Admiral Michael Alfultis and Mr. Steinar Nerbovik, President and CEO of Philly Shipyard. RADM Alfultis, the 11th President of SUNY Maritime College since June 2014, brings a wealth of experience from his 28 years of service in the US Coast Guard, coupled with extensive teaching and academic administrative background. Admiral Alfultis received the Merchant Marine Medal for Outstanding Service from the Maritime Administration. Mr.



Jack Kammerer, Executive Director of the Maritime Administration, presented the award on behalf of the Administrator, RADM Ann Phillips. The Marine Society of the City of New York was established in 1770 as a charitable and educational organization focusing on maritime knowledge and was instrumental in founding the Sailors’ Snug Harbor in 1801, later contributing to the establishment of SUNY Maritime College. Today, the Society remains dedicated to serving seafarers and advancing American Merchant Shipping. ■

### Maritime College’s Adelle Leger has been chosen as the 2023-24 State University of New York (SUNY) Scholar Athlete of the Year for women’s cross country

Open only to student-athletes at institutions in the SUNY system, the SUNY Scholar Athlete Award recognizes those who combine academic achievement with athletic success. Leger earned First Team All-Skyline honors in 2023 after leading the Privateers to their first-ever Skyline Conference title.

A Facilities Engineering major, Leger was Maritime’s top finisher in every race this season, including a third-place effort at the Skyline Championships. The Privateers ended up putting four runners in the top 12 on that historic day to win the team title by more than 30 points. It wasn’t just the first conference championship in program history, it was Maritime’s first-ever in any women’s sport.

During the regular season, Leger was named Skyline Runner of the Week on Oct. 3 after placing fourth individually at the Penn State Abington Invitational. In addition, she was selected to the Skyline All-Sportsmanship Team for the second consecutive time.

“I’m truly blessed to receive this award and be able to represent Maritime College,” Leger said. “The women’s cross country team has been an outlet where I’ve built friendships



and memories with my teammates and coaches. Between rigorous classes, a good run and some laughs are what make the sport such a great gift. Thank you to everyone involved in my journey thus far.”

“Adelle exemplifies what it means to be a scholar-athlete through her dedication and leadership in academics, athletics and the Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) program,” Head Coach Ridge Robinson added. “Her involvement and influence on campus have set a positive example for our students and raised the standard for athletic/academic excellence here at Maritime. We wish her the best as she pursues her goal of becoming a pilot at the Naval Aviation Schools Command (NASC) in Pensacola, FL, upon her graduation this Spring.”

To be nominated, student-athletes must possess a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.30 or higher. A winner is chosen in each sport at the Division I, Division III and junior college levels following the competitive season. There are 20 schools eligible for the Division III award. Two overall SUNYAC Scholar Athletes of the Year (one male, one female) at each level are then selected among those sport-specific honorees at the conclusion of the academic year. ■

### Jamel Ramsay Tabbed Lead Maritime Football Program



**Former Maritime College Director of Athletics Mike Berkun announced that Jamel Ramsay will be the new head coach of the Privateers’ football program in 2024. A graduate of Long Island University—C.W. Post Campus, Ramsay comes to Maritime from Nassau Community College, where he led the Lions to three postseason appearances in seven seasons as head coach.**

Jamel Ramsay expressed his enthusiasm for the role and commitment to building on past successes. With a strong coaching record at Nassau, including never experiencing a losing season, Ramsay brings proven leadership. His ability to develop players is evident in over 300 players moving on to NCAA programs, along with mentoring coaches now at the Division I level. Ramsay’s journey from player to coach showcases his deep involvement in the sport. The Maritime Privateers, coming off a 5-5 record in 2023, look forward to Ramsay leading them to new heights, starting with the Chowder Bowl against Mass Maritime. ■

Winter/Spring 2023-24 Athletic Highlights

- The men’s basketball team played a Skyline Conference Tournament home game for the second consecutive season and made its first postseason appearance in 15 years, hosting the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference (ECAC) Tournament at Riesenberg Gymnasium.
- Rowan Hayes set multiple school records and became the first Maritime men’s swimmer ever to win a gold medal at the Metropolitan Championships after finishing first in the 200 yard breaststroke.
- Led by Skyline Player of the Year Freddy Forgione, who broke the single-season program record for home runs, the baseball team crushed 79 home runs as a team. The Privateers ranked among the national leaders in both home runs and runs scored.
- Kieran Hendry was named Skyline Defensive Player of the Year, as the men’s lacrosse squad reached the Championship Game of the Skyline Tournament for the fifth straight time.
- The women’s lacrosse team upset top-seeded Merchant Marine in the semifinals to advance to the Skyline Championship Game for the second year in a row.
- The sailing team once again qualified for the Open Dinghy National Championships.
- Freddy Forgione (Baseball) & Jenna Lesiewicz (Lacrosse/Soccer) were chosen as Maritime’s 2023-24 Male & Female Athletes of the Year.



Congratulations to all the Privateer athletic teams, coaches and assistant coaches for accomplishing a memorable sports season! ■



Maritime College’s Adelle Leger has been chosen as the 2023-24 State University of New York (SUNY) Scholar Athlete of the Year for women’s cross country

Open only to student-athletes at institutions in the SUNY system, the SUNY Scholar Athlete Award recognizes those who combine academic achievement with athletic success. Leger earned First Team All-Skyline honors in 2023 after leading the Privateers to their first-ever Skyline Conference title.

A Facilities Engineering major, Leger was Maritime’s top finisher in every race this season, including a third-place effort at the Skyline Championships. The Privateers ended up putting four runners in the top 12 on that historic day to win the team title by more than 30 points. It wasn’t just the first conference championship in program history, it was Maritime’s first-ever in any women’s sport.

During the regular season, Leger was named Skyline Runner of the Week on Oct. 3 after placing fourth individually at the Penn State Abington Invitational. In addition, she was selected to the Skyline All-Sportsmanship Team for the second consecutive time.

“I’m truly blessed to receive this award and be able to represent Maritime College,” Leger said. “The women’s cross country team has been an outlet where I’ve built friendships

“Adelle exemplifies what it means to be a scholar-athlete through her dedication and leadership in academics, athletics and the Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps

(NROTC) program,” Head Coach Ridge Robinson added. “Her involvement and influence on campus have set a positive example for our students and raised the standard for athletic/academic excellence here at Maritime. We wish her the best as she pursues her goal of becoming a pilot at the Naval Aviation Schools Command (NASC) in Pensacola, FL, upon her graduation this Spring.”

To be nominated, student-athletes must possess a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.30 or higher. A winner is chosen in each sport at the Division I, Division III and junior college levels following the competitive season. There are 20 schools eligible for the Division III award. Two overall SUNYAC

Scholar Athletes of the Year (one male, one female) at each level are then selected among those sport-specific honorees at the conclusion of the academic year. ■



and memories with my teammates and coaches. Between rigorous classes, a good run and some laughs are what make the sport such a great gift. Thank you to everyone involved in my journey thus far.”

Jamel Ramsay Tabbed Lead Maritime Football Program



Former Maritime College Director of Athletics Mike Berkun announced that Jamel Ramsay will be the new head coach of the Privateers’ football program in 2024. A graduate of Long Island University—C.W. Post Campus, Ramsay comes to Maritime from Nassau Community College, where he led the Lions to three postseason appearances in seven seasons as head coach.

Jamel Ramsay expressed his enthusiasm for the role and commitment to building on past successes. With a strong coaching record at Nassau, including never experiencing a losing season, Ramsay brings proven leadership. His ability to develop players is evident in over 300 players moving on to NCAA programs, along with mentoring coaches now at the Division I level. Ramsay’s journey from player to coach showcases his deep involvement in the sport. The Maritime Privateers, coming off a 5-5 record in 2023, look forward to Ramsay leading them to new heights, starting with the Chowder Bowl against Mass Maritime. ■



### The Annual Facilities Engineering Design II CAPSTONE Presentations

The event was held on May 9, 2024. This year's projects focused on Decarbonization and Emissions Reductions. Sponsors for these projects included Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC); Northwell Health, and Wildlife Conservatory Association (Bronx Zoo).

Students were tasked with suggesting and evaluating alternatives intending to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and thereby reduce Green House Gas (GHG) - notably CO2 - emissions at these facilities.

The project alternatives discussed included Photo Voltaic (solar panels) carports to

support Green Hydrogen production; displacing data center cooling chillers with plate heat exchangers or heat pumps; electrification of heating systems, conversion of steam turbine drive chillers with equivalent electric motor drives, and upgrading of emergency generator plants to meet facility expansion.

The event was juried by an esteemed group of industry professionals that included representatives from Genesys Engineering; Hunter Roberts Construction; Turner Construction; OLA Engineering; NY Presbyterian Hospital; Yale New Haven Health;

Miller Proctor & Nichols; Covanta; Klima NY; Lizardos Engineering; Harris Energy Solutions; Energy Spectrum, and Enhanced Building Solutions.

This program is designed to be a culminating experience that draws from the students' academic careers and provides an opportunity to apply this knowledge to solve real-life problems. Many of the students' ideas and analyses have become the bases for discussion and action at their sponsors' facilities.

Congratulations to the Class of 2024 for a very successful event! ■



### Reinhart Field Was Used in Super Bowl LVIII Commercial

Millions of fans saw Maritime College's Reinhart Field during the CBS broadcast of Super Bowl LVIII. The home of the Privateers' men's and women's lacrosse, men's and women's soccer, and football teams was used for a Homes.com commercial that aired during the fourth quarter of the Kansas City Chiefs' 25-22 overtime victory against the San Francisco 49ers.

The 30-second spot starring Emmy winner Dan Levy and Saturday Night Live's Heidi Gardner was filmed in mid-December. It was one of four Super Bowl ads for the CoStar Group (which also owns Apartments.com) and was shown immediately after Kansas City tied the game at 16-16 midway through the fourth quarter.

In the commercial, Levy crashes a football team's huddle while dressed as the mascot before being chased by security and flying away in a helicopter with Gardner. Reinhart Field's press box, bleachers, and scoreboard, as well as the Maritime Academic Center, are all visible in multiple shots. ■

### STEM DAY

On March 2, 2024, SUNY Maritime College hosted a STEM Day event with the Bronx Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., with involvement from the School of Engineering. The Bronx Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc. is hosting the Northeastern Province Kappa League Leadership Conference at the College. Attendees included sixth to twelfth-grade students, their parents, and professionals from across the country. The goal for this event was to engage students in a variety of STEM workshops, seminars, and activities designed for the personal development of attendees. It was a great day for all that attended! ■





**SNAME**  
MAKING WAVES IN THE MARITIME INDUSTRY

ADVANCING THE ART, SCIENCE, AND PRACTICE OF NAVAL ARCHITECTURE AND MARINE ENGINEERING.




Join today to take advantage of our exclusive benefits!

[www.sname.org](http://www.sname.org)

99 Canal Center Plaza, Suite 500, Alexandria, VA 22314

**Invest in Yourself**  
Increase Your Knowledge Base  
*United States Merchant Marine Academy*  
**Master of Science Degree in Marine Engineering**



**Online Based, Distance-Learning Engineering Education**

A blend of application and theory at the graduate level focused on advanced concepts in marine engineering. This 36-credit program is designed for working professionals and can be completed without the need to take a leave of absence from a job or relocate. It consists of seven required courses and five electives. A suitable thesis or design project may be substituted for one or two electives.

For additional information visit our website:  
[www.usmma.edu/academics/graduate-program](http://www.usmma.edu/academics/graduate-program)

### The William Austen Marine Education and Seamanship Center Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



It was a great day on campus on Monday, May 20. SUNY Maritime College got to host the ribbon cutting for the new William Austen Marine Education & Seamanship Center! This is an amazing new academic building for students, and thanks to a generous gift from William Austen '80, it became a reality.

**WILLIAM AUSTEN Marine Education and Seamanship Center**

- Architect: Landow and Landow Architects LLC
- General Contractor (builder): AWL Industries Inc.
- Square Footage: 5,300 ( gross)

**Unique Characteristics about the Center:**

- First mass timber building in the SUNY system.
- All building systems are electric, with no fossil fuels.
- All finishes are low VOC.
- All interior wall board is mold and impact resistant.
- Exterior is composed of a natural wood rain screen facade with insulated curtain wall glazing.
- First floor is elevated 1/2 story above the FEMA flood plain.
- Foundation straddles an underground steam tunnel and cantilevers over a 200 year old seawall.
- The science laboratory on the first floor is designed to contain a flow-through tank system where water will be pumped from the East River via a pipe into the building and then distributed into holding tanks for experiments, then drained back into the river. ■



L-r: Joe Breglia '80, Jennifer Barnes Hayes '80, William Austen '80, Steve Gulotta '80, and Tom Breglia '80.



# American Maritime Officers

**The Leading Source for U.S. Coast Guard Licensed Merchant Marine Officers – All Departments, All Trades**

601 South Federal Highway ★ Dania Beach, FL 33004 ★ [www.amo-union.org](http://www.amo-union.org) ★ (800) 362-0513  
 ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System, Certificate No. 33975

## STAR Center

Simulation, Training, Assessment & Research  
 A Division of the AMO Safety & Education Plan  
[www.star-center.com](http://www.star-center.com)



- ★ STCW License Upgrading and Professional Development: Deck and Engine
- ★ Full Mission Simulation: Bridge, Engine, ECDIS, Liquid Cargo
- ★ Comprehensive Dynamic Positioning Training Programs
- ★ Watchstanding Skills Standardization and Assessment Program: Deck and Engine



THANK YOU KIM AND MIKE  
FOR A DECADE OF  
DEDICATED SERVICE TO  
MARITIME COLLEGE



# A DECADE OF DEDICATION AND SERVICE

*An Interview with*

## KIM & MIKE

*RADM Michael Alfultis and his wife Kim were kind enough to sit down with Pamela Jones, Director of Communications and reflect on the last ten years at SUNY Maritime and the impact that they have made on the community.*

### Let's start at the beginning. When did you know you wanted to be a college president?

**M** I was with the Coast Guard for 21 years and then had transitioned to the Coast Guard Academy. I liked what I was doing, being a department chair, leading the academy in accreditation. I knew I wanted to stay in higher education and I wanted to stay in a leadership position. I was given the opportunity to work for the University of Connecticut at their Avery Point campus as the Chief Administrative Officer. I was responsible for the campus but in a lot of ways the campus was managed by the main campus. When the opportunity came for the SUNY Maritime position I realized I could be in a situation that I would be able to make bigger decisions and have more responsibility for the students. I was also highly motivated by my wife. It also came at a time that our sons were out of the house so we had flexibility we hadn't had previously. The timing was right because the relocation from Connecticut to New York would not impact them.

**K** Well one of Mike's friends had been approached by the search committee about the position at Maritime. Mike kept saying he didn't have a snowball's chance in hell but I kept telling him that the job would be perfect for him! I said give it a shot and it might be where you were always meant to be! It was very exciting for us because

it was a place he could go that would combine all of his talents into one position. He also definitely wasn't looking. We both lived in Connecticut and worked for the state and had jobs we enjoyed in a town we really liked; we had friends, family and church all in one place.

**M** I always tell students to have a plan for your career, however you must be ready, willing and able to look at other opportunities and keep your mind open about them.

### So ten years for a college president is actually a long time. What is it that you are both most proud of that has happened in your time at Maritime?

**K** At the Marine Society Dinner, a couple of our alumni said that we created a culture change here, where the students started to feel like they were valued and that they matter. That meant a lot.

**M** Yes. People have said they could not believe how fast the culture and climate changed when we came on board. Also, I hope people see my accomplishments over the last ten years as broader than just the fact that I got the training ship. Don't get me wrong, we are thrilled to have the new ship, but we did a lot of great things over the last ten years. I have a lot of other contributions besides the ship.

### What is something you wish you had more time to accomplish?

**M** The one thing to me that is regrettable is the downturn in enrollment and the difficult budget situation that we are in. I know objectively that was due to circumstances out of my control, but I would have liked to have had more time to turn that around in a more positive direction so that part of my legacy could have been, yes he got the training ship and he moved the college in a better direction. I also wish I had more time to work on the climate and culture. We have a long way to go. For example we are just starting our work on the women's and cultural center. I would have liked to have been here to see that completed. I would like to be able to continue to see us building on that respectful and inclusive climate that I think is essential for our time at Maritime College.

**K** I wish we had time to address the gender inequality issue so that we could see more women coming to the school and then eventually transition into the maritime industry. I think the women we have here are amazing. It has grown a bit since we have been here but I would have liked it to have grown more.

### In both of your roles you have to communicate with several different stakeholders, i.e. staff, faculty, students, parents and alumni.

### How do you approach communicating with all of these important groups when there is information that needs to be shared? What is your approach?

**M** I would say first and foremost you have to have a willingness to listen. Also, you need to do everything you can to make sure that the interaction and communication is respectful, even if you disagree with the person's position. As president I believe I need to be respectful and make everyone feel like their voice matters and their voice is valued. When I was at UCONN one of my accomplishments was that I was able to get funding for a lot of capitol projects on the Avery campus. Legislators would contact me directly and ask what we needed and I would be very honest about that. When the Provost would then attend the budget meetings with the legislators she would be asked, "well what about all these projects that are needed on the Avery campus?" I eventually got called up to the main campus and asked why I was sharing that information. I explained that I was asked a direct question, and I was going to give a direct answer. I was told when asked a question like this moving forward, I needed to be positive, upbeat but vague. I have come to realize that is not bad advice! Often in your communication you need to be positive. Back to our budgeting situation as an example, I could put out all these messages that are doom and gloom, but instead we have chosen to put out messages that say "we are in this difficult budget situation but here is what we are doing in order to ensure we can move forward." I am optimistic about our budget and enrollment situation. As a leader it is important to share that we are in a tough spot, but I believe we can get out of it.

**K** And for me I've never been accused of being shy, I grew up in a military family and we moved all the time. I was in 10 different schools by the time I was in 12th grade. I was always the new kid and I didn't have time to be shy or be the wallflower so I jump right in.

**M** This is where we complement each other as a team. I am a little more introverted, I don't have as easy a time as Kim does reaching out to people. She complements me in this way because she is better at it than I am. I'm going to tell you a quick story. Early in my career at SUNY Maritime (I think it was my first year here) We became friendly with Chao family. We were at an event and Elaine Chao was there with her husband Mitch McConnell who had just been named Senate Minority Leader. Mitch was tied up most of the night talking to people but at one point Kim said – "You need to go speak to him." I knew she was right so I went over and introduced

myself and gave the elevator speech about the potential for a new ship. I was hesitant to do it but I knew it was the right thing to do.

### What's the most memorable conversation you've had with a student?

**M** I would say in general, the conversations I value the most with students is the off-the-cuff ones. Maybe I'm sitting on the training ship and a cadet approaches me and asks, "Admiral do you have a minute?" When I am able to have a good heart-to-heart with students that means a lot. I ended up having a conversation with a student in which I ended up tutoring her in meteorology and she eventually brought her friends to our sessions as well and this particular student ended up getting the award for the highest GPA in marine science. It's those personal interactions that mean the most. Getting to know a few students really really well I will always treasure.

**K** I always like when a student comes knocking on the door. "Hey, could we walk Rosie?" or "I'm having a hard day can we chat for a bit?" We may sit and have a cup of tea.

**M** I think one of my strongest memories is when the student knocked on our door with her roommate and said she was struggling terribly and needed to talk. The roommate didn't know what to do so she said, "let's go see the admiral and Kim." That is something that will always stick with me. It was very impactful.

### If you could snap your fingers right now and make one thing happen for SUNY Maritime right what would it be?

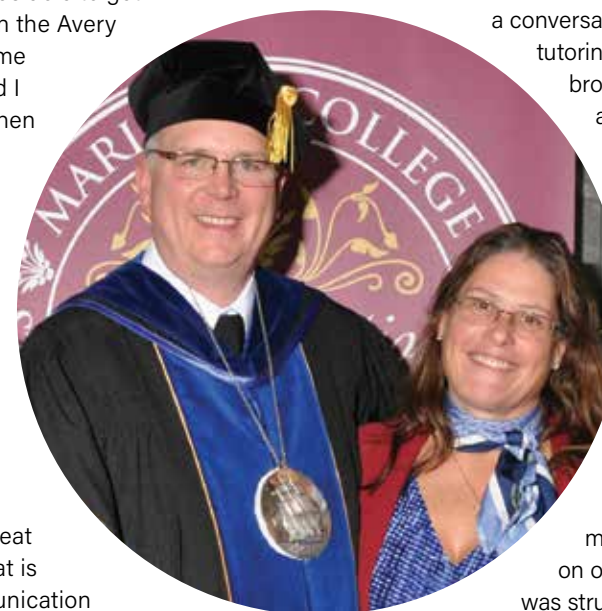
**M** I would say if we could enroll about 500 more students here and a good chunk of them are women. We know the Maritime Industry provides incredible opportunities, so it would be great if we could get more students from the inner city who are women to give them this opportunity.

**K** I would like to see more state aid for summer sea term. In order to keep that cost down it would help. In order to attend the SST it ends up adding two additional years of tuition onto the student's bill. This can discourage kids from going into the license program.

### Is there anything else the two of you would like to share?

**M** This has been our biggest honor over the last ten years to serve. We have both tried our best to serve Maritime College. It's been our true honor.

*Thank you Mike and Kim for everything!*



# A Retirement Celebration

WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND COLLEAGUES



On Tuesday, May 21, over 250 friends, family, alumni, and members of the Maritime College campus community gathered at the riverside Maritime Academic Center to recognize and celebrate Admiral and Kim Alfultis on their decade of service as President and First Lady of the College.

What began as a humble ceremony happily evolved to an extended presentation of

proclamations and well wishes, led by Master of Ceremonies Captain Morgan McManus '92. Honored guests and speakers included Elaine Chao, former US Secretary of Transportation, who worked tirelessly alongside Admiral Alfultis to commission the first National Security Multi-Mission Vessel to Maritime College, the Empire State VII. Also in attendance were Vanessa Gibson, Bronx Borough President, John Valvo '83, representing the

Alumni Association, Captain Tim Ferrie '78 of Sandy Hook Pilots and RADM Wulf, Deputy Superintendent of the US Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point.

Thanks to generous sponsors, the event continued with a rooftop 'afterglow' as guests enjoyed a steel-drum performance and breathtaking views of the sunset over the New York City skyline. Congratulations again to Admiral and Kim Alfultis on their well-deserved retirement! ■

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

**Mr. Clay Maitland**



**Rhonda Gerson-Hurwitz**



**Brennan Family Foundation**



# ASSISTANCE TOWING GAVE THEM PULL:

Three Alumni Reveal an Empowering Educational and Business Opportunity

BY DON GALE

While recreational boating motivates some Maritime College students' education, it seldom drives their career path. Yet, three alumni – Bryan Dietz '09, Frank Roseto '15, and Lucas Cavaluzzi '16 – have all leveraged a flexible and scalable business opportunity with TowBoatUS in the recreational assistance towing field, with their degrees and their USCG licenses, to build lucrative and satisfying careers. Additionally, Roseto and Cavaluzzi became licensed 100-ton captains even before setting foot on campus!

**Bryan Dietz '09** grew up boating, fishing, swimming, and surfing at Fire Island and Long Island's Great South Bay. "I was virtually conceived on a boat, so that put salt water in my veins," he says. As for his Maritime College enrollment: "My childhood friend, Brian Thomas '08, attended Maritime and wouldn't leave me alone about it. He convinced me that it was the perfect gig; waterfront living and study, and building a career on the water."

Starting with New York towers K-Sea and Bouchard Transportation after graduation, Dietz relocated to Port Canaveral, FL, in 2012 to work in subsea construction with Edison Chouest Offshore (ECO) in the Gulf of Mexico. Working 28 days on, 28 off, Dietz discovered TowBoatUS in Port Canaveral as an exciting occupation and off-time income opportunity. "It's one of the best side hustles I could imagine," says Dietz. "We handle sailboats, catamarans, big yachts, and commercial vessels. The owner, Steve Holm, is my friend, and he runs a very family-oriented business."



Bryan Dietz '09 began working with TowBoatUS in Port Canaveral, FL in 2012 during time off from Gulf of Mexico work with Edison Chouest Offshore. He continues part-time with TowBoatUS working with Space Perspective in Titusville.



Capt. Dietz is overseeing the conversion of Marine Spaceport MS Voyager from an offshore service vessel at Conrad Shipyard in Morgan City, LA and will serve as the ship's Master for Space Perspective. In the right photo, Dietz, foreground, is accompanied in Voyager's below-deck centerline passageway by Space Perspective's Project Foreman Ruben Vazquez Aleman (left), and Space Perspective Launch and Retrieval IPT Lead Ryan Nascimento.

Working with TowBoatUS Port Canaveral has virtually helped Captain Dietz drive his career to a new frontier. In 2023, he moved from ECO to Space Perspective, based close to his home, in Titusville, FL. This space tourism startup, which will launch passengers aboard a balloon-tethered capsule into the stratosphere, is converting an ECO offshore service vessel for use as a Marine Spaceport for launch and recovery of Space Perspective's operations. In addition to construction oversight of the refitted MS Voyager, Captain Dietz will serve as Voyager's Master, whilst continuing part-time on call with TowBoatUS in Port Canaveral.

While TowBoatUS has complemented Captain Dietz's career, Captains **Lucas Cavaluzzi '16** and **Frank Roseto '15**, began their maritime careers with TowBoatUS, launching them further through SUNY Maritime.

**Lucas Cavaluzzi '16**, a City Island, Bronx, NY, native who, developed working maritime knowledge through the tutelage of his father, Dan, at TowBoatUS licensee Pro Marine, Inc., the family business they operate together. "I had my 100-ton limited license before I had my driver's license," says Cavaluzzi. As a dock hand at age 14, he dove into basics of customer relations, boat handling, and marina management, earning his six-passenger marine license and his 100-ton license at ages 17 and 18, respectively. "That helped with classes at Maritime, like TNAV (terminal navigation aids) and Rules of the Road. It was a great preamble to Fort Schuyler," says Cavaluzzi.

Choosing Maritime College took thought. "I wasn't yet sure of my lifestyle decision. But they were the first college that replied to my applications during high school senior year," Cavaluzzi says. "A quick Google search told their story, and I went ahead and sent my commitment letter and deposit. It was a wrap." Leveraging his marine business experience, he assisted Waterfront Director Bob Crafa with boat handling tasks at Olivet Pier. Working up to the mate's chair with towing company Vane Brothers after graduation, he brought that experience back home with him to the family marina and assistance towing business.

His Maritime degree, Third Mate's Unlimited license, and close-in large vessel maneuvering experience with Vane Brothers has enabled Cavaluzzi to grow Pro Marine, Inc. He says, "Being an



Lucas Cavaluzzi '16, as a cadet. Lucas began working in the family business Pro Marine, Inc. at City Island, at age 14.



Combining his TowBoatUS experience with his SUNY Maritime degree and unlimited license, Lucas has helped grow Pro Marine with services like marine construction and heavy salvage.



Serving a variety of clients and their craft, student and professional mariners alike can sharpen their marine maneuvering and problem-solving skills through assistance towing.

Continued on next page



Top: On the foredeck of Carver Towing's tug Mister Jim are, left to right, deckhands Mike Scotti and Danny Nazario, engineer Eric Wiley, Master Capt. Frank Roseto '15, and Mate Jack DeSantis.

Bottom Left: Capt. Frank Roseto '15 has worked for TowBoatUS licensee Reynolds' Towing in Bay Shore, NY since age 14, helping pay his way through Maritime as well as during off-periods working with heavy marine towing companies.

Bottom Right: Capt. Roseto conducted Atlantic Ocean crossings and towing work in the Mediterranean Sea working with Sea Wolf.

assistance towing provider has opened doors for us. We bring environmental scientists out to New York Harbor Superfund sites. We've developed a partnership in marine construction. And we have a crane barge for heavier-duty salvage work to accompany our TowBoatUS business, which, combined with Maritime College, has grown me into the maritime professional that I am today."

**Frank Roseto '15**, worked as a youth with TowBoatUS while, like Captain Dietz, he continues assistance towing as a component of his maritime career. Born and raised at Bay Shore, NY, he learned maritime affairs with his father's employer and TowBoatUS licensee Reynolds' Towing. "I was my dad's deckhand until age 14," says Roseto. "Then, owner Jimmy Reynolds threw me in the office and said, 'Now you get to learn the whole business!' I did dispatch until I was 16 and got my captain's license at 17." Cavaluzzi and Roseto earned their first licenses through The Nautical School at Lindenhurst, NY, which was recently acquired by Michael Vanadia '13.

"I worked TowBoatUS throughout college to help pay expenses," explains Roseto. "After graduation, I worked with McAllister Towing in the city, two weeks on, two off, for a year, with TowBoatUS during the off periods. Afterward, working with Sea Wolf overseas six weeks on and six off, I stayed with TowBoatUS on the off time. Assistance towing put me a step ahead of my peers coming out of Maritime for the boat-handling skills and rapid-fire thinking that it's given me for tug operations." Roseto continues working part-time for Reynolds' Towing since switching to Carver Marine Towing in New York.

All three captains share memories of Summer Sea Term and campus life. "Visiting places like the Azores, Turkey, Ireland, Croatia, Greece, Romania," recounts Dietz. "The time we rented scooters in Croatia, ran out of gas in the mountains and had to beg for rides to a gas station. And the lifelong friends with whom I still stay in touch." Cavaluzzi cherishes his cruise memory of sailing a regatta at the Royal Cork Yacht Club in Ireland. "I never thought that would happen. Getting the cadets involved among the classes off the ship before liberty cards were called was a challenge, but it worked out." Says Roseto, "Sailing on the training ship is the fondest memory because I'd never been out of the country before. But going through Maritime with a cool bunch of shipmates set on a common goal also got me through the tough times when I wanted to quit."

Dietz's advice to students: "Study, study, study. The USCG test will be extremely challenging. Take it seriously, be prepared, and you should have no problem." To alumni, Dietz says, "Reach out and be supportive of today's students. Guide them on that straight and narrow path. Cadets I speak to think that I'm doing the coolest thing ever. And while I tell them honestly that it'll never be easy, it will always be rewarding."

Attending Maritime during RADM Michael Alfultis' presidency, Captains Roseto and Cavaluzzi raise mutual acclaim to the

Admiral. "He came in my last year at Maritime," says Roseto, "and brought a level of organization and fairness to the Regiment that had been lacking. By the way he's built the school up, you can tell he really cares about the students." Cavaluzzi says, "He's a real class act, a very nice individual, and a pioneer in getting us that new training ship. I commend him on retirement."

"Keep an open mind," Cavaluzzi advises cadets. "I never thought I'd be doing what I'm doing now with Pro Marine after graduation. Being head-bent on one path can be a downfall if that path proves non-lucrative. Life is a fluid plan," he says. Like Dietz, Roseto and Cavaluzzi encourage alumni mentorship and outreach among students. Cavaluzzi says, "Be available to a student. Lend an ear. My friend in Maritime switched from the Regiment to the civilian program, and we just talk. When campus life gets overwhelming, it's good for a student to have someone to talk to, and to be that person they talk to."

Captains Roseto, Cavaluzzi, and Dietz all suggest that cadets and Maritime graduates consider work in assistance towing. "It plants you in the industry and gives valuable, relevant experience to complement your license on graduation," says Roseto. "If you need an internship, or a job between cruise and school, assistance towers are all along the coasts." Cavaluzzi agrees: "We discuss

workforce development and talent availability on our conference calls with TowBoatUS Vice President Scott Croft," he says. "And Maritime students are uniquely qualified for roles in assistance towing, as are we alumni." While perhaps it's not top-of-mind among mariners, these three alumni provide living testimony to assistance towing as a rewarding maritime career endeavor. ■

“Reach out and be supportive of today's students. Guide them on that straight and narrow path. Cadets I speak to think that I'm doing the coolest thing ever. And while I tell them honestly that it'll never be easy, it will always be rewarding.”

Bryan Dietz '09

# FAVORITE STORIES, MEMORIES AND PHOTOS FROM OUR ALUMNI

## Learning at Sea – a Rigorous Survival Lesson!

BY SETH LUCAS '01

1/C classmate Todd Rovner and I saw a sailboat that had come adrift on the East River banging against the rocks just outside the S&E building. We decided that it was imperative to investigate instead of going to class to make sure some poor soul hadn't perished at the helm. Climbing the guardrail and scrambling down the rocky breakwater, we discovered the boat to be unmanned. So, we had the bright idea to commandeer it as the laws of the sea dictated new ownership to those who salvaged this craft. Or so we thought. The sails were gone but that mattered none as neither Todd nor I knew how to sail. Unbelievably, the engine ran – though not for long. It crapped out about a hundred yards off the shore. Then, it caught fire.

Here we were: two uniformed cadets adrift on a sailboat in the early March chill with no propulsion. No cell phones, either, so forget about calling the sailing center. As luck would have it, a curious campus police officer noticed us waving frantically as we drifted past Throggs Point just within shouting distance for him to understand our plight. Best he could do was radio for help to any law enforcement or private craft in the area. Meanwhile, we frantically paddled to shore with whatever we could find aboard, even a beach chair at one point. Ultimately, we were able to step off and wade ashore. Pants and shoes soaked, Todd and I made the last ten minutes of class – just in time for the quiz on ... survival at sea. ■



Todd Rovner '01, left, and Seth Lucas '01, shown here relatively safe and dry aboard TSES VI during their Summer Sea Term in 2001.

## Three Weeks of Catch-up!

BY DANIEL LEVIN '75

Daniel Levin '75, who began three years' study at Maritime College in the fall of 1972 after a transfer, shares his memories as a day student: "I commuted from my home in Queens, and I was not required to wear a uniform or suffer through INDOC. At graduation, since day students did not wear a cap, I supplied all the day students with streamers to throw at the end!"

Daniel took two classes with Professor José Femenia '64 his first year at Maritime. "My first experience with Professor Femenia was Engineering Orientation class," he says. "The professor walked in on the first day of class and announced to all of us, 'OK, gentlemen, we are three weeks behind!' Absolutely, we spent the rest of the semester making up those 'three weeks.' This was the first of many challenging and fulfilling experiences at Maritime that enriched my life and enabled my success." ■



Daniel Levin '75 enjoys a rather more leisurely "maritime" experience at the helm of his Rhodes 19 one-design daysailer.

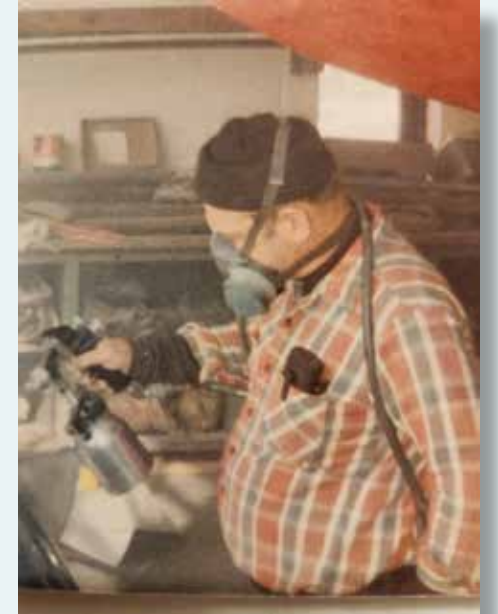
## Remembering Waterfront Director Al Rohr

BY KEVIN FITZPATRICK '85

If you're an '80s Domer and participated in waterfront activities, you surely knew Waterfront Director Al Rohr. Al was a coach, teacher, mentor, and safety officer. He always offered a patient ear and guiding hand. No one had a bigger heart or was more involved with students – movie nights in the boat house, dinners, trips to his "yacht club" at Pelbamar Marina (now a condominium community), Manhattan cruises, radio control model shows, and fishing trips aboard his boat, Codfather. Al was a Korean war combat vet, one of the last soldiers out during the battle of Chosin Reservoir. He was totally hands-on – a mechanic, heavy equipment operator, fiberglass expert, and painter. He even helped build the Delaware Memorial Bridge.

Al supported the sailing team and was instrumental in establishing a sailing club for students wishing to learn how to sail. One cold day in March, Al saved my life! Sailing under the Throggs Neck Bridge, the boat suddenly jibed under the spinnaker – and into the frigid waters I plunged! As the crew struggled to regain control of the boat, Al, who was fishing the Sound with students, noticed our boat, its spinnaker wrapped around the mast. On approaching to see what was the matter, he saw me in the water. He immediately plucked me aboard Codfather and brought me ashore for a shower to warm up.

Al passed away in 2006, but the great memories he created among us as students are his legacy. ■

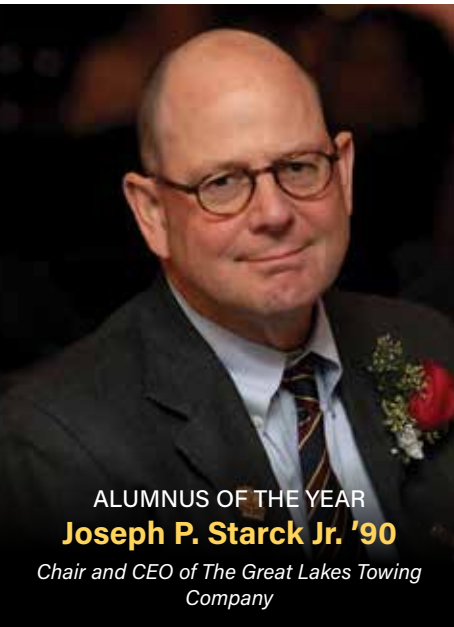


Waterfront Director Al Rohr was a versatile practitioner of many crafts as well as a sailing coach and safety officer.

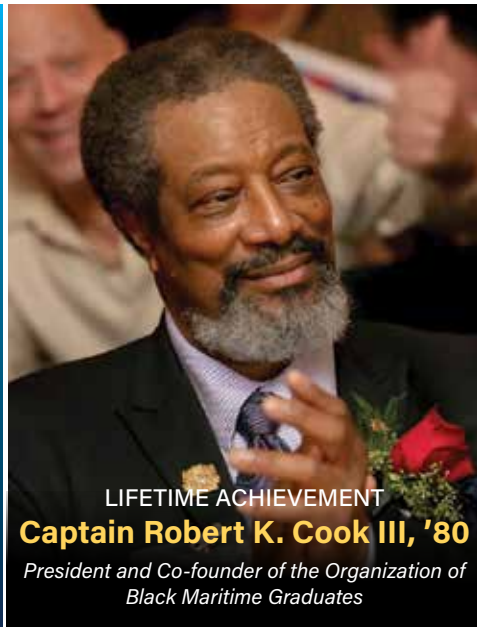


Al Rohr, wearing knit cap at lower right, engages with students at the Student Activity Center at McMurray Hall during the '80s.





# 2024 MCAA Distinguished Alumni Honors Dinner



**ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR**  
**Joseph P. Starck Jr. '90**  
Chair and CEO of The Great Lakes Towing Company

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**  
**Captain Robert K. Cook III, '80**  
President and Co-founder of the Organization of Black Maritime Graduates

Leadership and achievement were celebrated at Tribeca 360° in Manhattan last January 25 when honors were bestowed upon two distinguished alumni. Joseph P. Starck, Jr. '90, Chair and CEO of The Great Lakes Towing Company (GLT), was named Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. Recognized for Lifetime Achievement was Captain Robert K. Cook III '80, President and Co-founder of the Organization of Black Maritime Graduates (OBMG).

Following the pre-Dinner Alumni Meeting and Captain's Cocktail Hour, Capt. Bob Fay '80 opened the dinner to alumni, guests, and cadets, accompanied by the Maritime College Color Guard and the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey Honor Guard. After Chaplain Bill Allport of The Seamen's Church Institute offered invocation, Steve Gulotta '80 tolled Eight Bells, remembering 77 alumni passing since last year. MCAA President Steve Carbery '80 delivered Association news, an appeal for SST Scholarship donations, and thanks to his accompanying MCAA Honors Committee members Leo Imperial '01, Ted Mason '57, Greg Tuthill '86, and Annmarie Bhola '98 for their work. President Carbery



recognized John Sharko as an Honorary Member of the Association for his continuing support of our graduates in South Florida.

Lifetime Achievement honors were bestowed on Capt. Bob Cook III '80 for his work since 1994 with the OBMG in providing recognition and advocacy for minority and marginalized mariners. "I approach every day driven, every person without

prejudice," Cook said. He also sits on the Boards of Directors of the Maritime Academy Charter School in Philadelphia, the Ports of Philadelphia Maritime Societies, and the Transportation Board of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Cook shared this wisdom: "If you want to travel fast, you go alone. If you want to travel far, we go together."



Distinguished Alumnus of the Year Joe Starck '90 acknowledged former GLT President Ronald Rasmus '60 who hired Joe in 1991: "I needed someone to give me a chance, and he did! Ron also told me to join the Alumni Association, saying, 'It's not a choice to give back. You have to do it!'" Working from the shipyard floor to the President's desk by 2011, Joe has practiced that credo. "I always seek out the Domers wherever I've gone. 'How can I help them? How can I get them to help me?' are my guiding principles," he says. Bringing these to bear, he issued a challenge at dinner to immediately raise \$25,000 for Summer Sea Term Scholarships, pledging \$10,000 himself. By evening's end, \$30,000 was raised – given back by alumni to give up-and-coming cadets a chance.

The MCAA Events and Honors Committees have begun working on a most memorable dinner to close out the Maritime College's Sesquicentennial 150th Anniversary in January of 2025. Stay tuned to our social media channels, email alerts, our website, and the MCAA Bulletin for updates! ■



L-r: Capt. Bob Fay '80 opened the dinner proceedings; Steve Gulotta '80 tolled Eight Bells for 77 deceased alumni; MCAA President Steve Carbery '80 updated alumni and guests on Association news.

Networking, reconnecting, and camaraderie are key to the Honors Dinner experience. Right, l-r: Tim Ireland '13, Rick McClain '14, Joe Brown '13, Anthony Patti '13, Mike Paturas '13. Bottom left, '80 classmates l-r: Jay Webster, Former MCAA President Jennifer Barnes Hayes, and Josh Hazelwood. Bottom center, l-r: Former MCAA President Dan Gillette '97, Matthew Devins '97. Bottom right, l-r: Gino Trevellini '17, Nick Mellusi '08, and Kevin Brosnan '12.



Cadets accompany honorees Joe Starck '90 and Bob Cook '80 at the MCAA Distinguished Alumni Honors Dinner, January 25, 2024.

# WHY I GIVE

SUNY Maritime College has a long and inspired history, one rooted in consistent growth and adaptation, to stay ahead of the curve. This sense of pride radiates through our alumni community. Overheard at every alumni chapter event, celebration, tailgate or fundraiser is the warm confession that SUNY Maritime is ‘a great place to be from’.

*“My contribution allows the dedicated faculty and staff at Maritime to impact the lives of under-represented groups, providing them with a high-quality education.”*

– Bryan Zapf ’85

In fact, a recent Giving USA survey found that the second highest supported charitable sector, just behind religious groups, is education. Additionally, the overwhelming sentiment regarding why individuals give is ‘belief in the cause’, according to both Charities Aid Foundation and YouGov.

Consider the musings of Richard Plant ’67, “I learned to be who I am as an individual, merchant mariner, and later as an instructor, having been taught by the best instructors at Maritime College. The teachings at SUNY Maritime have provided me with the knowledge of progression and the benefits of accepting all lifetime opportunities and challenges that arise. I am grateful and thus feel inclined to give towards the training of future mariners as it is offered by SUNY Maritime College.”

And what about the science? Evidence gathered by Network for Good shows that an act of generosity actually stimulates the brain activity responsible for happiness and reward – resulting in the release of dopamine and that ‘warm glow’ we feel from giving. Bottom line here: giving back feels good! ■

## TOP 10 REASONS WHY ALUMNI GIVE

- 10 I give “In Honor” of someone
- 9 I want to make a difference in the maritime community
- 8 To honor the life-long connections I made
- 7 Because education is expensive but vital
- 6 To “pay it forward” for the help I received as a student
- 5 It feels good to give back
- 4 To support the next generation of mariners
- 3 SUNY Maritime helped shape who I am as a person
- 2 I know the value of a SUNY Maritime degree
- and #1** Fort Schuyler helped shape my career

### LETTER FROM ROBERT JOHNSTON ’69

Chairman, SUNY Maritime Foundation



Dear friends,

This is the last edition of the *Fort Schuyler Magazine* during Admiral Alfultis's tenure, and it is an especially appropriate time to reflect upon the tremendous impact the Admiral has had on Maritime and thank him for a decade of exceptional service to our alma mater. Not only has he given generously of himself, but he has raised the bar for what we should expect of ourselves and our role in keeping Fort Schuyler First and Foremost.

The Admiral's devotion to the school's success has been unwavering. His honest and forthright manner won the trust of alumni and forged a long-awaited union between the College and its Alumni Association. He tirelessly walked the halls of Congress impressing upon legislators and their staff members the importance of investing in maritime education, which led to our receiving the Empire State VII, the first purpose-built training ship in the nation's history.

Mike and his wife Kim have been a strong team with a remarkable focus on building campus relationships. Kim not only prepared countless meals in her kitchen for sports teams and student organizations but also spearheaded recruiting efforts for female students. The couple have hosted dozens of small dinners for alumni, attended regional events all over the nation, and established strong bonds with leaders of companies across the range of industries that employ Fort Schuyler alumni.

In addition to forging strong ties with the Alumni Association, Mike established the “SUNY Maritime Foundation, Inc.,” a charitable entity that is legally separate from the school and SUNY. The Foundation has an independent Board of Directors that manages donations to support the College separate from the SUNY system and carefully stewards these funds to ensure they benefit both today's students and programs as well as those in the future.

On behalf of the Foundation's Board, and the College as a whole, I raise a glass to Mike and Kim as I wish them *fair winds and following seas*. Bravo Zulu!

Best regards,

Capt. Robert Johnston '69  
Chairman, SUNY Maritime Foundation

*PS – I would be remiss if I didn't point out that gifts in honor of the Alfultis's contributions to our alma mater can be made anytime. Visit <https://www.sunymaritime.edu/donate-now>*

#### SUNY MARITIME FOUNDATION

##### Board of Directors

Robert Johnston '69, Chair

John Bree '78, Vice Chair

Alexandra Anagnostis-Irons

William F. Austen '80

Michael Chalos '70

William C. Gallo '70

John Krousouloudis '76

Joe Maurelli '63

A.J. McAllister '80

Bruce S. Rosenblatt

##### Ex-Officio

Michael A. Alfultis

Douglas Hasbrouck

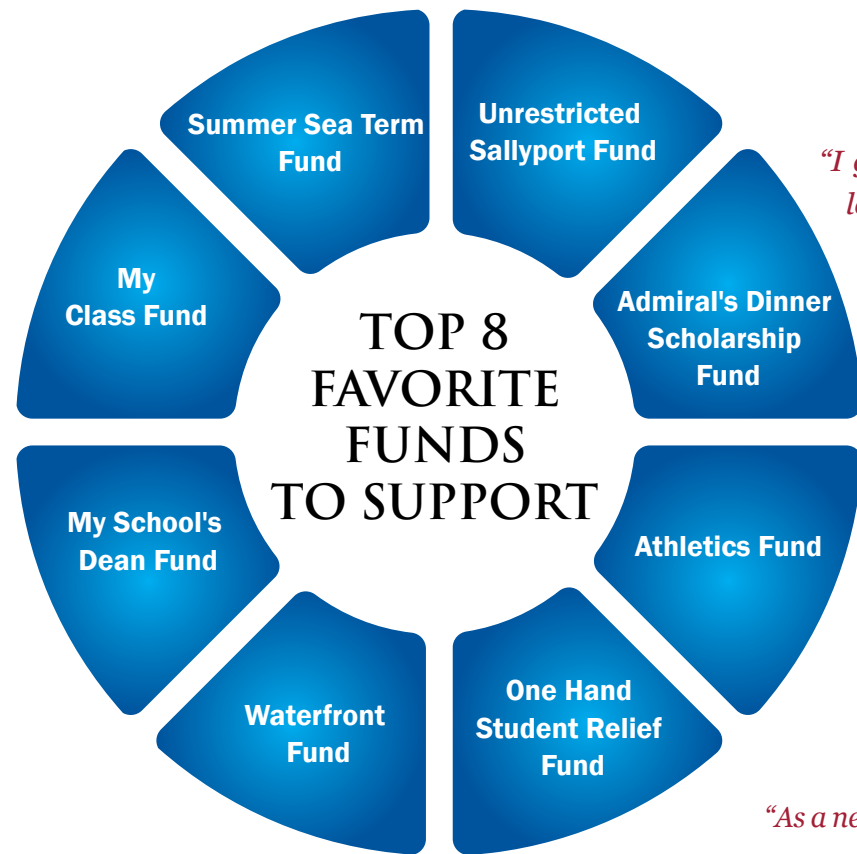
Roxanne Thompson

*"I support SUNY Maritime because they offer a degree in Marine Operations and work with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, as well. These opportunities are necessary in education surrounding climate change."*

– Paul Duernberger '68

*"Attending SUNY Maritime was a life-changing decision that has given me an exciting and interesting career with the US Coast Guard. I want to ensure that the same opportunity remains available to all. SUNY Maritime College provides a joyous and disciplined education. And has remained a hands-on public college that provides opportunity for students from all backgrounds. The unique curriculum and culture provided by the College are unparalleled."*

– John Hannon '77



*"I give back to Maritime because without the leadership training and life experiences the school provided me, I would not be where I am today. I received an excellent education and Summer Sea Terms cemented my love of the sea. After graduation, I returned and worked on the 1989 and 1991 cruises and served as the 2nd Officer of the Training Ship. I have received two degrees and met life-long mentors from being a student and former employee of SUNY Maritime."*

– Captain Beth Christman '87

*"As a new retiree, and alumnus grateful for a rewarding career, I feel an obligation to help strengthen the school and its prosperity in the future. I feel as though one of the best ways to do that is by helping the school build its endowment. SUNY Maritime College's endowment is smaller than those at other state maritime academies. Especially in the current period with schools competing for a decreased pool of college-age prospective students, those schools that are able to both (a) best prepare their students for future careers and (b) make themselves the most affordable, through financial assistance, would seem to be best positioned to survive and succeed."*

– Michael Morris '81

*"I have been given so much over the years. These opportunities from SUNY Maritime have provided me with a desire to give back to the College's community. I want to help ensure that students in need have the resources available to pursue a career that better their life, like the education that I was assisted with."*

– Michael Holmes '78

## Leave a Lasting Legacy at Maritime College

# ENDOWED GIFTS

Since its founding in 2015, the SUNY Maritime Foundation has seen significant growth in its portfolio of Endowed Funds. The Foundation holds close to \$11M in endowed gifts, which generate roughly \$440,000 in annual revenue. Our goal is to at least double that amount in the next five years.

Making an endowed gift to SUNY Maritime College is one of the most powerful ways to have a lasting impact. The principal of these funds remains invested and generates sustainable revenue in support of scholarships, Dean's Funds, or other programs of the donor's choosing. We also appreciate unrestricted endowed gifts that the Foundation may use to address the College's greatest need or to pursue unanticipated opportunities.

The minimum gift amount required to establish an endowed fund varies based on the type of fund a donor wishes to create. The Foundation recently increased the minimum amount to establish an endowed scholarship fund from \$25,000 to \$50,000. This increase is intended to keep pace with the rising tuition rates today's students face as the State continues a downward trend in funding the College.

Class Funds account for much of the endowment portfolio growth. To date, there are 13 classes that have committed to raising a minimum of \$100,000 over a three- to five-year period. These classes include '56, '57, '58, '59, '61, '66, '70, '73, '74, '79, '81, '91 and '92. Classes that successfully raise \$100,000 or more are recognized with a bronze plaque mounted on the College's seawall. Seawall plaques celebrate the class's generosity while also memorializing classmates who have crossed the bar, ensuring that their Maritime legacy continues.

The Classes of 1981 and 1991 have distinguished themselves by establishing Sesquicentennial Funds, each raising more than \$150,000. This achievement made the Class of 1991 the youngest class to date to earn a plaque on the Seawall. The Class of 1973, who celebrated their 50th Reunion last year, holds the title for the class with the greatest number of endowed funds. They collectively raised more than \$140,000 for their class scholarship fund and four members of the class have individually established named endowed funds.

Among the stories of generosity that emerge, one stands out as particularly meaningful. Brett Ashley '81, known to many for his recent struggle to secure a



The Class of 1981 present their Class Gift to RADM Alfultis and Bob Johnston '69, President of the SUNY Maritime Foundation. L-r: Matt Doherty, Mike Morris, Brett Ashley, Admiral Alfultis, Bob Johnston, and David Diehl.

kidney donation, made the contribution that propelled the Class of 1981 past their \$150,000 fundraising goal. Ashley shared his thoughts on the donation, stating, "I'm thrilled to be able to contribute and keep the class of 1981 in the minds of future cadets. It's a legacy that I am proud of and I am grateful to be here to do it."

Ashley embodies the spirit of SUNY Maritime College – one of resilience, camaraderie, and a shared commitment to supporting the next generation of Fort Schuyler graduates. His contribution, alongside those of countless other alumni and friends, ensures that the College continues to thrive and evolve, remaining a cornerstone of maritime education for years to come.

To make an endowed gift or launch a Sesquicentennial Class Scholarship Fund, please contact Jeanne Murphy: [jmurphy@sunymaritime.edu](mailto:jmurphy@sunymaritime.edu), (347) 842-1691. ■



## CLASS NOTES

### Alumni Annual Hockey Game – Maritime College vs. U.S. Merchant Marine Academy

On Saturday, February 3, 2024, alumni from Maritime College and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point took to the ice at Andrew Stergiopoulous Ice Rink in Great Neck, NY in a fourth annual rivalry matchup. Team Maritime emerged victorious with a score of 8 to 6, bringing the four-year record to a 2-2 tie between the academies. Prior to the intercollegiate alumni matchup, Maritime hockey alumni

met up every year, split up to form teams, and played a game among themselves. Surely, the rivalry has added some spice to the ice! Alumni hockey enthusiasts not playing were invited to come and watch, and refreshments were served afterward. Following the game, Josh Renta '07 posted on Facebook, "Another great turnout and win against KP Alumni. Looking forward to next year. Go Maritime Ice Hockey!"



Back row, l-r: Rick Dominique '93 (civilian clothes), Stephen Buchheit '23, Taylor Carsch '13, Matt Frietas '22, Josh Renta '07, Jeff Dolan '14, Brian Wegenaar '80, Brendan Blitz '12, Tom Mehmet '12, Greg Dolan '12, Ray Donnelly '06 (goalie). Kneeling front row, l-r: Bob Callaghan '82, Chuck Smith '91, Tom Kirby '15, Joe Temperini '08, Tom McCandless '07, Joe Loesing '21, and Kevin Bennet '08.



L-r: Bob Callaghan '82, John Bowie '82, Professor of Marine Transportation and Head Hockey Coach Bill Ducey '82, Brian Wegenaar '80.

**'69 Peter Baci and his '69 classmates** have for seven years enjoyed the benefits of time on the links for strengthening the links of their friendship. On March 25, Peter hooked up with six classmates at the Celebration Golf Club in Celebration, FL, to enjoy a day of sunshine, camaraderie, and challenging play. Just outside Orlando, Celebration serves as a central gathering location for Class of '69 snowbirds as well as Domers who call Florida their home. From left to right: Barry Cooke, Don Wilbur, Pat Phillips, Dave Esdale, Bill Leidy, John Darcy, and Peter Baci.



## CLASS NOTES

### Planning Class of '64 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion

Joy Kisling, Honorary Member of the Class of 1964, reports that the Class of '64 looks forward to celebrating their 60th reunion on Homecoming Weekend this year October 18-20. This class is also known as the "Hurricane Class" because when they reported to school in September of 1960, CAT 3 Hurricane Donna did so as well!

Due to construction of new dormitories, the Class of '64 resided on campus for three years aboard TSES IV, formerly the troop transport USNS Henry Gibbins. As one classmate recalls their arrival on campus, "there we were trying to climb the gangplank at high tide in the midst of 135-mile-per-

hour hurricane winds with our 'fart sacks' (mattress covers filled with College-issued belongings) on our shoulders". Such was the Class of '64's "welcome" to SUNY Maritime College in September 1960!

The Class has remained close-knit through the past sixty years, and classmates have enjoyed many reunions, most recently the 50th and 55th, photo below, in 2014 and '19, respectively. As always, everyone looks forward to reconnecting and retelling the stories and revisiting the memories of the professors, the classes, the good and bad accomplishments, and escapades of their fellow cadets as well as past reunions.



The "Reunion Crew", which planned the last two reunions and are together again planning this one, includes Ed Ryznar, Steve Richter, Jack O'Neill, José Femenia, Rick Kisling, and 'honorary classmates' Mary O'Neill, Eileen Femenia, and Joy Kisling. All '64 classmates are encouraged to reach out to the Reunion Crew for information on plans for gatherings and activities. Please contact Maggy Williams-Giunco at the MCAA, at (718) 319-8801, or Director@maritimecollegeaa.org to be put in touch.

Joy enthusiastically says, "We all work well together and are having fun already. The best is yet to come!"

The Class of '64 at their 55th Reunion at Homecoming, October 19, 2019. Classmates attending the reunion were: Eric Aanestad, Peter E. Baci, Vincent Barra, Joseph Barsin, John Brennan, Robert Carty, Walter Dabberdt, Robert DiNapoli, Fred Eisele, Richard Eicoff, Nicholas Esposito, Jose Femenia, William Fleming, Francis Gallo, Vito Gualtieri, Robert House, Father Jim Huvane, John Ingram, Henrik Kisling, George Koch, James Levey, Frederick Lobbin, Eugene McDonald, John McMurray, James J. McNamara, John O'Neill, Alan Paris, Steve Richter, Eugene Sweeney, Christian Sweeny, Stephen Tommony, Alan Trachtman, Robert Varanko, Randolph Weber, John Wilson. Rosemary Thompson and her grandson, Duke, also attended representing Robert Thompson, deceased, who was Captain of the TSES V in 1978.

### '80 Classmates Meet a Class Act at 100

April 2, 2024 was a very big day indeed for Capt. Hugh Stephens, pictured here at center – and a commemorative one for the Maritime College community as well. Entering the Merchant Marine as a 19-year-old AB in 1943, attaining rank of Third Mate by the end of World War II, Stephens' tours of duty included the notorious Murmansk Run supplying the Soviet Union – deadly not only for its weather conditions but for being continually targeted by German forces occupying Norway. Stephens' experiences



undoubtedly informed his twelve years' work through 2022 as SUNY Maritime College faculty, leading classes in marine safety and survival. Stephens holds an active Unlimited Master's license with the most U.S. Coast Guard renewals and is the most senior license holder to have actively instructed cadets at a maritime academy. Here, 1980 classmates Jim Maloney, left, and Jennifer

Hayes, right, accompany Capt. Stephens for his 100th birthday celebration at Glen Cove Senior Center in Glen Cove, NY.

## CLASS NOTES

**'80** For the past three years in a row, members of the Class of '80 have gathered for a skiing getaway. Following an excursion to Montana's Big Sky Resort in 2022, the past two years have found the group at Steamboat Resort in Steamboat Springs, CO. Enjoying the crisp high Rocky Mountain air this past March, and preparing to tackle the cruisers and moguls are three **Class of '80 MCAA Past Presidents**, left to right: Steve Carbery – current President since 2023, also Past Pres. 1999-2001, Jennifer Barnes Hayes – Past Pres. 2019, and Steve Gulotta – Past Pres. 2006-07. "We hope to ski Canada next year, and we invite our classmates to join us!" says Jennifer.



**'15** Meet **Captain Bridget Cooney '15**, Master of Ro-Ro vehicle carrier Liberty Promise, on watch at the port bridge wing on an inbound passage through the Golden Gate to San Francisco. Starting with Lake Success, NY-based Liberty Maritime at graduation as a member of MEBA, Bridget worked her way through the ranks of Third Mate, Second Mate, and Chief Mate, attaining rank of Captain by May 2022 at the age of 29. In September 2023, Capt. Cooney earned an Environment Protection Award from the North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA). All hands aboard the 656-foot long, 106-foot wide, 21,359 deadweight ton Promise have their work cut out for them, but her Maritime College trained Master is truly up to the challenge.



**'16** Congratulations to **Sean O'Connor '16**, who celebrated a milestone in his career Tuesday, February 27, when he was sworn in as an Apprentice to the Sandy Hook Pilots Association by the Board of Commissioners of Pilots of the State of New York (BCPNY). Port maritime operations, safety, and professionalism have lately been prominent in news media, so we can be grateful for professional mariners like Sean, and for Maritime College alumni like him, to help ensure safe and timely ship operations in port to bolster our economy and global trade.



At Sean's swearing-in, l-r: Andrew J. Garger (USMMA), Exec. Director BCPNY, Sean O'Connor's father, Sean O'Connor '16, and James E. Mercante (USMMA), President BCPNY.



L-r: Richard J. Hendrick, Sr., Comr. BCPNY, Andrew J. Garger, Exec. Director BCPNY, William M. Rowland (USMMA), Comr. BCPNY, James E. Mercante, President BCPNY, Pilot Apprentice Sean O'Connor '16, Jeffrey C. Loechner (USMMA), Comr. BCPNY, Lucienne C. Bulow, Comr. BCPNY, and Joseph F. Ahlstrom '82 (SUNY Maritime), Comr. BCPNY.

## WHERE IN THE WORLD

### GREEK ALUMNI GET-TOGETHER

Capt. Dimitrios Kokkinis, a Class of '03 Deck licensed undergraduate, has been assembling a robust compliment of Greek Maritime alumni, most of whom are from the graduate program. Capt. Kokkinis had occasion to attend Homecoming 2023 last October 28 and to meet MCAA President Steve Carbery '80 face to face. "I estimate that we have at least 30 more alumni from the undergraduate/registry and graduate program, with most working in the shipping industry," he says. In addition to uniting in-country alumni, Kokkinis wishes to help support the TSES VII on future visits to Greece.

On January 25, 2024, complementary with the MCAA's Distinguished Alumni Honors Dinner in New York, Capt. Kokkinis got together with seven cohorts at a bar in Greece to establish ties and to discuss the potential to form a Greek MCAA chapter.



### MARK VACCARO '74 AND JOHN ANTWEILER '68 MEET IN GEORGIA

Visiting John's Creek, GA to watch his granddaughters perform in a ballet last February, Mark Vaccaro '74, left, chanced to meet fellow Domer John Antweiler '68, right. Turns out that John's granddaughters were performing at the same event. Mark had met John's son last Halloween 2023 at a party Mark's son had been holding. That was when John's son informed him of his dad's being a Maritime alumnus. Well, John's son again ran into Mark at the ballet and brought him together with John for this photo during the intermission.

"Small world," recounted Mark. "John reminded me about Edward Villella '57, who went on to become a highly distinguished ballet performer and choreographer after graduation."



L-r: Capt. Dimitrios Kokkinis '03 (Undergraduate), Evaggelos Kefalas '12 (Undergrad. non-reg. and Graduate), Sofia Athanasatos '03 (Grad.), Neofytos Kourtesis '09 (Grad.), Achilles Harokopos '13 (Grad.), George Spyridonos '09 (Grad.), Apostolis Laiakis '09 (Grad.), and Capt. George Kyrkorianos '09 (Grad.)



### ISLAMORADA INVASION 2024

For eleven years, a tight group of '80s Domers have gathered for some pleasurable sea time and pelagic pursuit in the crystal blue waters of Islamorada, midway along Florida's Keys between Miami and Key West. Islamorada Invasion No. 11 on February 3 and 4 did not disappoint, bringing together alumni from the Classes of '79 through '84 plus a 2011 graduate.

L-r: Pete Brock '80, Brian Kreppin '11, Randy Johnson '80, Victor Corso '83, Mike Brown '83, Cliff Johnson '80, Kevin Comerford '83, Mark SanAntonio '80, Geb Kohles '84, Tom Breglia '80, Brian Kirk '83, Joe Colella '79, Andy Werner '80, Tanya Werner, Joe Breglia '80, Don Berdan '80, Jennifer Barnes Hayes '80, George McCarthy '80, Dan Hawley '80, Mike Stark '80, Tom Higgins '81, Jay Webster '80, John Sharko '80 (Honorary), Gary Sanders '80, Jeff Hirsch '84, and Steve Carbery '80.

## CHAPTER GATHERINGS

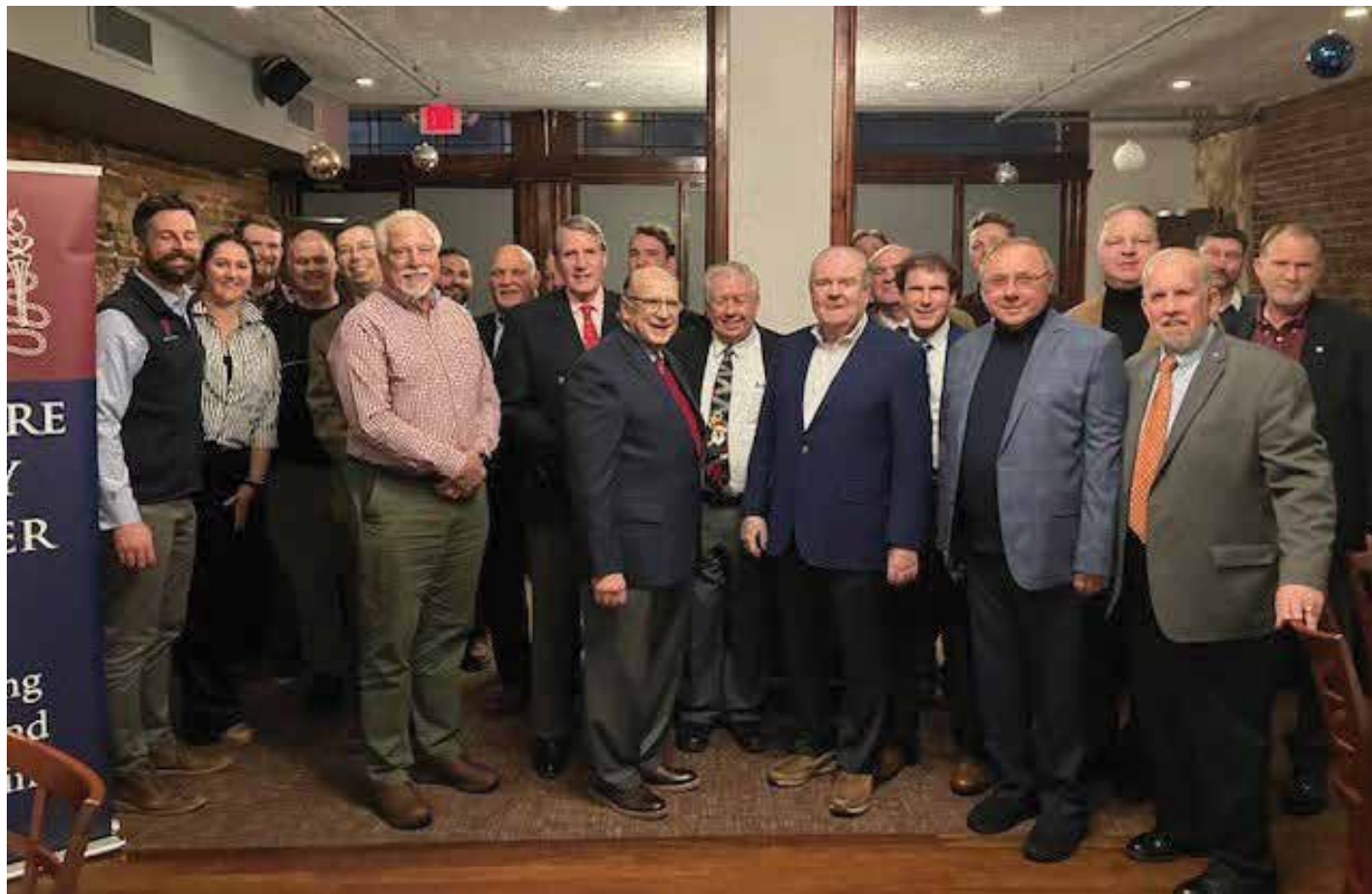
### DELAWARE VALLEY / PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER

#### DEL-VAL PHILADELPHIA AND LOCAL MCAA ALUMNI CHAPTERS ARE MAKING CONNECTIONS FOR THE COLLEGE

More than a college, Maritime is a family whose members include alumni, faculty, cadets, parents, employers, and strong connections among the Federal and all six State maritime academies. MCAA Chapters strengthen this bond by connecting this family year-round at off-campus locations. Founded by

Class of '62 alumni John Reynolds and Art Bjorkner and led today by Chapter President Dr. Art Sulzer '74, the Del-Val Philadelphia Chapter has been doing this since 1985. Chapter members participate in the Port of Philadelphia's social and business organizations, sit on the Board of Directors of Philadelphia's Maritime

Academy Charter School (MACS), and support the Ports of Philadelphia Maritime Societies' scholarship and internship programs. The Chapter's Annual "All Academy Holiday Party" marks the culmination of this fellowship, logging its fifteenth year in December 2023, photo below.



L-r, Chris Grupp '08, Kyle Grupp '10, John Burke '13, Paul Ginnane '95, Jamie McNamara '94, Bill Skahan '75, Ethan Riske '18, Michael O'Connor '83, Robert Degan '69, 1/C cadet James O'Connell '24, Carl Mattia '67, Art Bjorkner '62, John Reynolds '64, Ed Johnson '82, John Diamond '81, Matt Sherman '13, 2/C cadet William Eden '25, Zenon Hack '74, Keith Hermann '96, DelVal Chapter President Dr. Art Sulzer '74, MCAA Board member Seth Lucas '01, and Jim McGee '89. NOTE: This was Zenon Hack's and Art Sulzer's first reunion since their graduation in May 1974.

## CHAPTER GATHERINGS

### DEL-VAL PHILADELPHIA HOSTED FAREWELL DINNER HONORING KIM AND MICHAEL ALFULTIS

On Thursday, April 4, 2024, the Del-Val Chapter hosted a visit from College President RADM Mike Alfultis and his wife, Kim, on his pre-retirement Farewell Tour of MCAA Chapters. Admiral Mike began his visit meeting with sea cadets, interested students, and teachers at the MACS, America's first K-12 maritime-oriented charter school, with whom the College has had relations since the Admiral's first year as president. Three of MACS' graduates have attended or are attending Maritime College.

The dinner which followed brought together Maritime cadets and faculty; MACS students, faculty, and administrators; MCAA staff, alumni, and spouses as well as prospective class of '28 students and their parents. In all, more than fifty of the Maritime family united to salute the Admiral on his upcoming retirement at this unprecedented event.



Alumni, parents, and faculty in left photo, left to right: Melanie Lopez '15, Antonio Froio '15, Steven Hudson '16, Tyler Vanchiere '16, Michael Burney '16, Ryan Flaherty '15, Herman Woolfrey parent of Herman Woolfrey '15, and Maritime faculty member James Spear '13.



Alumni, future Class of '28 cadets and their parents in right photo, left to right: Howard Wyche '79, Keith Hermann '96, mother Kristen McBride, Liam McBride '28, Kyle Thomas '28, and father Ryan McBride. Captain Wyche is a Founding Member of the Organization of Black Maritime Graduates (OBMG) and a retired Pilot's Association for the Bay and River Delaware member

### MCAA DEL-VAL PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER OUTREACH TO LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS

The Del-Val Chapter is working closely with SUNY Maritime College Admissions in outreach to local high school students, and to connect them with current Maritime cadets. Going forward, the Del-Val Chapter plans to include the Parents' Association and the College in future events to help spread the word about the educational and career opportunities attainable with America's "First and Foremost" maritime academy.



L-r, Dr. Art Sulzer '74, and Chapter member USN LTJG Derrick Kennedy '22, present a framed Admiral's Flag to RADM Alfultis, during dinner on his April 4 visit to the Chapter.



L-r: Prospective '28 Class cadets Olmo, Thomas, and McBride received Maritime College caps in a "commissioning" ceremony held by the Admiral at the April 4 dinner.

## CHAPTER GATHERINGS



Shown left to right, standing: Brian Rau '99 – Vane Bros., Brandon Horn '14 – Vane Bros., Michael Vinik '03 – Vinik Marine, Peter Paulson '14 – Bayonne Drydock, Fr. John Corbett – Stella Maris Chapel, Samantha Brow '21, RADM Michael Alfultis – President, SUNY Maritime College, Bethann Rooney '91, Chris Begley '82, Capt. Steve Werse '79, and Jamie McNamara '94. On floor are Sebastian Heredia '24 (1/C) (left), and Capt. Jim Zatawarnicki '02.

### NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

#### DINNER AT LIBERTY NAUTICAL EDUCATION CENTER (LiNE) | OCTOBER 12, 2023

On Thursday, October 12, 2023, members of the MCAA New Jersey Chapter joined the First Annual Dinner of the Liberty Nautical Education Center (LiNE) at Sailors' Snug Harbor on Staten Island, to support LiNE's educational outreach to teens involved in Sea Scouting and other Boy Scouts of America (BSA) programs. LiNE is sponsored by Sea Dart II Inc., owners of the 65-foot training vessel Sea Dart II and is a non-profit organization supporting maritime-oriented programs at their homeport on the Rahway River in Linden, NJ. Captain James Zatawarnicki, Jr. '02, holding a Master Unlimited Tonnage Upon Oceans and Master of Towing license, serves as President of LiNE and is affiliated with the Sea Dart II and Sea Scouts Ship 228. He also serves as Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs at the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point.

### NIAGARA FRONTIER CHAPTER

#### GERSON-RASMUS CAREER EXPLORATION SPEAKER SERIES

Named for alumni Joe Gerson '47 and Ronald Rasmus '60, Maritime's Gerson-Rasmus Career Exploration Speaker Series brings cadets into contact with alumni who share their career paths and success pointers. This is a collaborative effort between Niagara Frontier MCAA Chapter President Doug Buell '01 and Maritime College Commandant of Cadets Capt. Adam Grohman.

On November 16, 2023, Buell co-chaired a presentation with LT Alex Fitzsimmons '22 featuring Dr. Joseph C. Hoffman '75, Faculty Coordinator of the Center for Advancing Faculty Excellence (CAFE), and Amie Carter '00 (top photo), mechanical engineer with New York Power Authority's Hydropower Mechanical Team.

On December 14, Buell and LT Fitzsimmons hosted Maritime College Prof. Jeffrey Weiss '78 (bottom photo). Weiss teaches graduate level courses in charter parties, maritime law, the business of shipping, international business law, marine insurance, and other topics.



## CHAPTER GATHERINGS

### LONG ISLAND CHAPTER

#### GATHERING WITH ADMIRAL ALFULTIS | FEBRUARY 27, 2024

February 27, 2024 at the Tap Room in Massapequa, NY saw a festive gathering of Maritime alumni and friends for camaraderie, catching up, and a visit with Maritime College President RADM Michael Alfultis as he kicked off his pre-retirement tour among MCAA Chapters. Admiral Mike shared about his ten-year presidency, his endeavors to provide a strong foundation for his successor, and challenges that lie ahead for Maritime in securing top-notch faculty. He spoke about TS Empire State VII's inaugural Sea Term to San Juan, Puerto Rico this past January and the upcoming Summer Sea Term plans including a Bergen, Norway port call. Accolades for engine and deck cadets from SUNY Chancellor John King Jr. at his recent Maritime visit plus a new Dean's Fund donation program in support of faculty hiring rounded out the Admiral's address to the hearty group.



Righthand photo, l-r, RADM Alfultis, Victor Corso '83, Mike Driscoll '82, Kevin Quigley '82, Brian Bernhardt '82, Pat Crilley '82, and Kim Alfultis.

Bottom left photo, l-r, Harry Stumme '65, Jim Yahner '86, Bob DeMarinis '81, Walter Burke '81, and Victor Corso '83.

Bottom right photo: l-r, Capt. Hugh Stephens, Merchant Mariner since 1943 and SUNY Maritime Faculty 2010-2022, shares tales and wisdom of the sea with his partner, Maryann Zappulla, and Katherine Mattikow '23, Maritime graduate student in Marine Transportation, weeks ahead of his 100th birthday.



## EBB TIDE

Leo Spano '44

Thomas "Tom" Orr '46

Christos Zirps '52

Capt. John Gonzales '55

John Kling '55

Arthur Kober '55

Jerome Smith '55

Raymond Comerford '56

Richard "Dick" Ennis '61

Lawrence "Larry" Colyer '63

Paul Lombardi, Jr. '63

Thomas Ferrese '64

Charles Fessler '64

Thomas Sweatt '64

John Mangels '67

James "Jim" Gilligan '68

Capt. Howard Merkel '68

Gary Maddox '69

Thomas Rice '73

William Roden, Jr. '73

Richard "Rick" Cardarelli '75

Mark Hesselbacher '80

Gerard "Gerry" Holland '86

Kevin Humphrey '97

Capt. Eric Miller '00

Det. Jonathan Diller (NYPD) '14

## UPCOMING EVENTS

FOR MARITIME COLLEGE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

### Admiral's Dinner

September 17, 2024 - Marina Del Rey

The annual Admiral's Dinner, the College's premier event to raise support for our students. The event builds vital support for individual student scholarships and campus-wide initiatives while promotes professional networking among alumni and industry partners.

### MCAA Rising Alumni Meet, Greet, and Mentor Event

Date and location TBA. Sept/Oct 2024

(further information via MCAA website and social)

### HOMECOMING WEEKEND

#### Maritime College Alumni Association - Ancient Mariner Golf Outing

October 18, 2024

Maritime College Alumni Association Ancient Mariner Golf Outing at Pelham Bay & Split Rock Golf Courses, Bronx, NY

October 19, 2024

- Maritime College Alumni Association Annual Membership Meeting
- Class Reunion events, Pass-in-Review
- Heritage Hall Induction
- Tailgate and Football Game with Reunion Class Parade/Regimental March On
- Alumni Post-Game Celebration at Paddy's on the Bay

#### Maritime College Alumni Association - Fall Networking and Nominations Meeting

November 26, 2024, location TBA (further information via MCAA website and social)

Cast nominations for open Board Trustee and Officer seats while networking with fellow alumni and industry professionals.

#### Maritime College Alumni Association - Distinguished Alumni Honors Dinner and 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala for Maritime College

End of January 2025 - Date and Location TBA (further information via MCAA website and social)

Join us to congratulate our MCAA Distinguished Alumni and to close out the Maritime College Sesquicentennial!

#### Maritime College Alumni Association - Spring Networking TBA - Spring 2025 (further information via MCAA website and social)

#### Maritime College Alumni Association - 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic June 9, 2025, location TBA (further information via MCAA website and social)

For more information, visit  
[www.sunymaritime.edu/events-alumni-friends](http://www.sunymaritime.edu/events-alumni-friends)  
[www.maritimecollegeaa.org](http://www.maritimecollegeaa.org)

# utiliVisor

Where accuracy delivers efficiency



## submetering & energy plant monitoring

Our comprehensive metering and plant services enable cost savings and improve utility cost allocation. All utiliVisor clients get professional tenant billing packages and access to meter, systems & energy experts.

### SERVICES INCLUDE

- Central plant monitoring with dedicated engineering support
- Actionable analytics in plain language from energy analysts and engineers
- Remote & onsite meter reading
- Implementation of scalable, non-proprietary remote metering & monitoring systems
- Monthly tenant energy billing packages
- Foolproof online platform & mobile applications
- Meter accuracy testing and more!





# SAVE THE DATE

2024  
*Admiral's*  
DINNER

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

Marina Del Rey  
Throggs Neck, New York

**TO SUPPORT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS**



Please plan on joining Rear Admiral John Okon '91, as he embarks on his tenure as President of SUNY Maritime College and launches the 2024 Admiral's Dinner Scholarship Fund. Honorees and sponsorship details will be forthcoming.