

Cal Maritime

THE MAGAZINE OF CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY MARITIME ACADEMY

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

A Year Like No Other



*Golden Bear
Underway*

*Suddenly
Supply Chain
is Sexy*

Cal Maritime

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

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ON THE COVER

COMMENCEMENT 2021 WAS IN PERSON, SOCIALLY DISTANCED, MASKED, AND GUEST LIMITED. BUT AFTER THE CEREMONY, CADETS UNMASKED BRIEFLY FOR A FEW PHOTO OPS.



From the **Archives**



COVERS GO SKYWARD AS
THE CLASS OF '57 CELEBRATES
COMMENCEMENT IN MAYO HALL.

From the President



I'm pleased to say that I've witnessed a great many commencements.

I've watched covers tossed skyward at a number of academies, heard families joyfully cheering their “kids” as they proudly crossed the stage for their diploma, shaken the hands of every one of our cadets on that incredibly important day in their life journey, and exchanged high-fives and hugs to celebrate the many facets of commissioning and commencement ceremonies with family and friends. Every ceremony is laden with meaning and immensely joyful. The commencement activities we just experienced were especially so.

Just as it marked a turning point in the lives of our graduates — after an especially challenging year—it does mark an important turning point for all of us. Gathering in person, distanced and masked, with a limited guest list seemed like a triumph after what we'd all experienced recently. Although it's typically hard to complete one's academy degree in normal conditions, and it's been a particular trial for Cal Maritime cadets, faculty, and staff this past year.

And as we reflect upon our academy's achievements in this pandemic, so many are due a great measure of congratulations. For they have soldiered on, worked hard to stay safe and healthy, and kept looking ahead. They've rapidly vaccinated our community, boldly persisted in teaching and focused intently on learning, and thoughtfully developed plans for fully repopulating our campus in the late summer. Our academy team has been creative in delivering educational content and resolutely stayed on course while modeling resiliency.

I'll note that we had a small moment in the sun this spring, when the eyes of the world focused for a few days on what many of us think about year 'round. When the container ship *Ever Given* grounded in the Suez Canal, preventing all maritime traffic from proceeding, the world noticed. And suddenly, many who took the maritime profession for granted were talking about ships, mariners, navigation, and supply chain. Our quiet, competent

maritime professionals were there all along, doing great work across the globe... and continue to do so even as you read this. And the relevance of a high-quality maritime education proves, again and again, to be both necessary and timeless.

The ship got “unstuck” through international teamwork, our cadets happily graduated despite a pandemic that still rages in South Asia, the *Golden Bear* is headed out on a summer training cruise (two, actually) and we're gearing up for a return to a full face-to-face fall semester on our campus. Thanks to every single one of you for hanging on, holding fast, and digging deep. It speaks volumes about you dedicated souls who all made it happen. And it is why this sailor feels awfully lucky to be called a Keelhauler.

On Morrow Cove

BON VOYAGE, *GOLDEN BEAR*

After 15 months of planning, the Training Ship *Golden Bear* steamed out of the Carquinez Strait the morning of June 4th, bound for Hawaii, the first of two summer training cruises. Many of the 318 aboard were on deck and waved vigorously as the ship's horn blew. Family members, faculty, and staff stood on shore and cheered, some bearing balloons and signs.

"It's a mix of emotions, for sure," said **Amy Morganstein** of Discovery Bay CA, and mother of **Matthew Morganstein**, who graduated in May with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. "I'm super proud and excited for him, but I'm going to miss him." She watched the ship depart along with Matthew's sisters and girlfriend. Morganstein would have normally completed his training cruise last year but due to the pandemic many seniors are completing their requirements after getting their diplomas. "He's calling the training cruise his victory lap," said his mom.

Even under normal circumstances cruise preparation is a feat. This year, with plans occurring as the COVID-19 pandemic evolved, has been particularly challenging since two cruises are now scheduled to make up for last summer's cancellation.

"Everyone has been working as hard as they can to make this a reality," said **Sam Pecota**, TSGB Captain. "The main mission here is to get the cadets their sea time and get them the training they need. That's our focus." Meeting almost weekly since the fall, the cruise committee held seemingly endless discussions about how to keep shipmates safe and disease-free. Early topics centered on whether masks would be needed and disinfecting the ship. The big break came in the spring, as everyone realized how critical vaccinations would be to the process.

"Once we realized that nearly everyone could be vaccinated, the conversation changed. We got pretty confident that we could pull this off," said Pecota. The few that weren't vaccinated were required to quarantine for 14 days prior to departure and get tested before boarding.



One major limitation as the *Golden Bear* charts a course toward Honolulu on the 45-day trip — so far, no port calls. The Hawaiian authorities treat the ship as any other cruise ship, and for now, ports are off limits. "As of now, most of our sightseeing will be from the ship," said Pecota.

Harbor pilot and alumnus **Ed Enos** '87, a longtime Hawaii resident, along with others, has been working behind the scenes to help make getting onto land a possibility. "In Hawaii, we need our cruise industry back. The idea we're pitching to the authorities is: 'Let's use the *Golden Bear* as a guinea pig' if you will, a test case to show that we can do this safely." There have been near constant conversations with Hawaiian health authorities about a possible exemption for the training ship, but as of press time, access to the Port of Honolulu has not yet been secured.

In Vallejo preparations were underway for months. **Lindsay Long**, a specialist for the Office of Marine Programs who worked on many of the details around cruise planning and logistics, said recent developments make her optimistic. "It's starting to feel almost like a normal cruise right now. We're getting all the boxes checked which makes me feel really good."

The ship's captain points out that the extensive planning and the evolution of the two cruises in trying times has been a learning experience for everyone.

"We've been dealing with lots of different opinions throughout all this and things change fast in the COVID world," said Pecota. "We've tried to roll with it as best we can. Staying flexible has been key. ↓



CLICK HERE
to check out
TSGB's Follow
the Voyage blog
and keep up with
Golden Bear's
cruise!

Hundreds of Cal Maritime cadets, faculty, and staff turned up to receive a vaccine to protect them against COVID-19 in early March. More than 700 injections of the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine were administered in timed appointments at the Physical Education and Athletic Center (PEAC). Both events were staffed primarily by campus volunteers who helped check people in, move them to vaccine stations, and then to an observation period.

“This is a great day,” said Cal Maritime Police Chief **Donny Gordon** on the first of the two-day event. Gordon was instrumental in working to bring the vaccine supply to campus. “After all the tedious work by the entire team it’s exhilarating to finally see this thing come to fruition. I’m happy that the people who need this shot are actually getting access to it.”

Since starting the academic year in late August of 2020, the Cal Maritime campus has remained open for some face-to-face instruction and administrative work. On campus cases of COVID -19 have been minimal to date, numbering fewer than ten. For months, a vaccination subcommittee of the Health and Safety Task Force worked with Solano County to secure an adequate supply of the vaccine for the entire community.

Campus physician **Dr. Grace Chou**, part of the vaccination subcommittee, was jubilant after the first day of vaccine administration. “It was a huge team effort and we made it happen. I think we should all feel really proud. It was so heartwarming to see it all,” she shared.

Cadets lined up stoically in their uniforms. **Lance Roche**, a sophomore and Marine Transportation major seemed relieved to get his shot. “I’m looking forward to getting back to life normalcy,” he said, “and for everyone else too.”

President Tom Cropper called the vaccination day “historic” at Cal Maritime. “We are,” he said, “beginning to see some light ahead.” ⚓

OVER TWO DAYS MORE THAN 900 CADETS, FACULTY AND STAFF WERE VACCINATED AT PEAC.



New Federal Designation to Support Maritime Education

The United States Secretary of Transportation and the Maritime Administration have designated Cal Maritime, along with the five state maritime academies, as an American Maritime Center of Excellence. Cal Maritime joins Maine Maritime Academy, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Great Lakes Maritime Academy, the State University of New York Maritime College, and Texas A&M Maritime Academy in the designation.

Established by Congress under Title 46 of the U.S. Code, the federal designation supports maritime workforce education and training at Centers of Excellence. The legislation allows Centers of Excellence to develop and prepare students for careers on board U.S. vessels, or ashore supporting the maritime industry. This includes efforts to admit additional students, recruit and train faculty, expand facilities, create new maritime career pathways, and award students credit for prior experience including military service.





Commencement 2021

LIVE AND IN-PERSON

Under partly sunny skies and following a challenging year amidst a pandemic, **President Tom Cropper** lauded new graduates for their achievements at an in-person commencement ceremony Saturday, May 15 on Bodnar Field.

The Class of 2021, said Cropper, is comprised of “cadets who, alongside the dedicated faculty and staff of our Academy, confronted the impossible ... and created the possible. These awesome graduates arrived at this very moment having met the moment, enduring struggle after struggle to ultimately succeed. Along the way, they have demonstrated dedication, honor, integrity, respect, responsibility, and trust.”

Cropper conferred diplomas upon 172 undergraduates and 11 graduate students, each of whom was able to invite two guests to the socially distanced ceremony. An additional 26 cadets and 17 graduate students were not in attendance but received degrees. In addition, 11 members of the Class of 2020, who graduated virtually last year, were on hand to receive their diplomas.



Undergraduate commencement speaker **Marina Bartels** compared the highs and lows of her classmates’ years together to a long journey at sea, touching on the wildfire that temporarily closed the campus in 2019 and the global pandemic that followed.

“While some of these things seemed like heavy weather and rough seas along our voyage, what we didn’t know would come was the largest storm that no one had seen before, COVID-19,” said Bartels. “I mentioned earlier the resiliency of the Class of 2021 — and if us gathering here today isn’t proof of that then I don’t know what is.”

Nicole Light Densberger, who received her MSTEM degree at the ceremony, spoke on behalf of the graduate students.

“When I started in this program, I was concerned that my lack of a maritime connection might leave me a fish out of water, so to speak, but it didn’t,” she offered. “As I discovered, many of the people in this program come from very different walks of life, but everyone treats each other’s different viewpoints with respect.”

Guest speaker **Mario Cordero**, Executive Director of the Port of Long Beach, delivered the commencement address.



CADETS FROM THE CLASS OF 2021 AND A FEW FROM 2020 CELEBRATED COMMISSIONING AND COMMENCEMENT WITH CLASSMATES, FAMILY, FACULTY, AND STAFF. GUEST SPEAKER MARIO CORDERO PICTURED MIDDLE, RIGHT.

VISIT WWW.FLICKR.COM/PHOTOS/CALMARITIME/ALBUMS FOR MORE 2021 COMMENCEMENT PICS.

“Doors will open for you,” he said as he welcomed graduates to the burgeoning maritime sector, advising them that they find “unity of purpose” and to “love what you do.”

In addition, the California State University Chancellor’s office, on behalf of the Academy, granted four honorary degrees to: Leadership program exemplar **Thomas C. Edwards**, Doctor of Humane Letters; *San Francisco Chronicle* journalist **Carl Nolte**, Doctor of Letters; Maritime industry Leader **Paul E. Stevens**, Doctor of Humane Letters; Maritime operations and management expert **James Callahan**, Doctor of Humane Letters.

Two honorary alumnae were also named. **Elizabeth “Libby” Edwards** was recognized for her steadfast support and belief in the power of leadership in maritime education. **Anne Heather Cropper**, who passed away in 2019, was recognized posthumously for her years of support to the Academy community as “The First Lady of Cal Maritime.”

Earlier that morning, seven cadets were commissioned as ensigns in various branches of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. **Vice Admiral Linda Fagan**, Commander of the U.S.

Coast Guard Pacific Area administered the oath to the commissioned officers during the commencement ceremony.

Both ceremonies were livestreamed. Alumni, friends, and family of the graduates watched from around the world, sending congratulations and cheers from afar on a live chat. ↴



CLICK HERE
to watch the 2021
Commencement
on **YOUTUBE**



FROM LEFT, THE NEWLY COMMISSIONED OFFICERS: ENS ANTOINE POWELL, ENS WILLIAM HARRELSON, ENS THOMAS CHRISTOFK, ENS NELSON PARADIS, ENS LEONARDO JEFFERSON, ENS MICAH STICKWAN, 2ND LT SKYLER ULRICH.

In addition to earning their Cal Maritime diplomas on May 15, seven seniors were commissioned into the Armed Forces, capping off their careers as leaders in the Strategic Sealift Midshipman Program (SSMP) — Unit 71, the Corps of Cadets.

“These exceptional graduates went above and beyond during their time here,” said **LT Kevin Sandifer**, Asst. Officer In Charge of Unit 71.

“Not only are they deeply involved in a demanding academic curriculum, the SSMP requires additional commitment. We’re extremely proud of their accomplishments and look forward to following their careers and service.”

Each midshipman also earned financial assistance through the Maritime Administration (MARAD) Student Incentive Program (SIP),

which awarded them each \$32,000 during their academic journey.

Wil Brickham, SSMP Special Assignment, points out that Cal Maritime’s SSM Unit 71 commissioned more officers in the Armed Forces this year than the nearby University of California ROTC unit.

“These Cal Maritime graduates have earned commissions from their hard work, and earned the right, the privilege, and the responsibility of officers in the United States Armed Forces. Very few women and men answer the call to become leaders to serve our country, and fewer still earn the distinction,” said **Don Maier**, Dean of the School of Maritime Transportation, Logistics, and Management. “We’re justly proud of their service.”

The new officers are:

Ensign Thomas Christofk
United States Navy
Naval Aviator
Grass Valley, CA

Ensign William Harrelson
United States Navy Reserve
Strategic Sealift Officer
Wichita, KS

Ensign Leonardo Jefferson
United States Navy
Submarine Officer
Salinas, CA

Ensign Nelson Paradis
United States Navy
Surface Warfare Officer
Alta, WY

Ensign Antoine Powell
United States Navy
Surface Warfare Officer
Tiburon, CA

Ensign Micah Stickwan
United States Navy Reserve
Strategic Sealift Officer
Ketchikan, AK

2nd Lieutenant Skyler Ulrich
United States Marine Corps
Tracy, CA



ENSIGN WILLIAM HARRELSON (FOREGROUND) AS HE AND HIS FELLOW CADETS TAKE THEIR OATH.

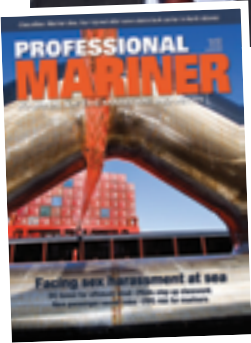


ENSIGN LEONARDO JEFFERSON FLANKED BY HIS BROTHER, LEVI AND AUNT CHANDRA FOR HIS OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPH.

Virtual Learning Helps Mariners Avoid Accidents



Safer Seas Digest, a compendium of lessons learned from marine accident reports issued or adopted by the National Transportation Safety Board, shows some form of human error was the probable cause in 81 percent of 141 marine accidents investigated between 2013 and 2017. Marine accident reports from investigative agencies around the world reveal similar percentages,” **Professor Sam Pearson** writes in an article in the April 2021 Issue of *Professional Mariner*. Pearson says the virtual courses he’s developed can help.



Pearson created *Navigation Rules of the Road Demystified* based on the science of successful learning, a student survey on navigation rules topics, and teaching experience. The e-learning solution is threefold:

- 1 **KEEP IT SUPER SIMPLE (KISS)** / Use elaborations, references from nautical publications, illustrations and animations to simplify the rules.

- 2 **KEEP LEARNERS ENGAGED** / Use practice questions with interactions such as “drag-and-drop” and swipe.

- 3 **MOTIVATE LEARNERS TO APPLY LESSONS LEARNED** / Use case studies from official marine accident investigations to reinforce navigation rules and serve as a reminder that accidents can happen anytime, anywhere and to anyone if measures to prevent them are ignored. [↓](#)



CLICK HERE
to watch one of
Pearson's courses
on **YOUTUBE**

Fast Rescue Enhanced

Fast rescue capabilities and training from aboard the Training Ship *Golden Bear* got a boost this spring with the installation of a new Palfinger, USCG compliant, Fast-Rescue Boat (FRB) davit, installed in late March. The davit, essentially a crane or hoist, is controlled through the ship's generator which supplies power to the unit's hydraulic system. The FRB sits on a cradle attached to the davit on the TSGB's mid-ship starboard side. When in use, the cadets will climb into the FRB, the davit will extend over the side of the ship, and quickly lower the FRB to the sea. Davits are purposely built for fast operation.

This is a terrific upgrade for us, says Marine Transportation faculty member **Britt Elliott**. “By having the FRB davit and training incorporated in our sea-training curriculum, our cadets will continue to receive the most relevant, practical, and necessary maritime training. Although all the state maritime academies are required to conduct life-boat training, they aren't required to conduct Fast-Rescue Boat training, so we're exceeding the requirements.” More importantly, Elliott notes, MT cadets will earn a Fast-Rescue Boat Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) endorsement on their USCG license upon graduation.

By April, the new davit was already being tested in the Carquinez Strait. It will get a full workout this summer during the annual sea-training as part of two summer cruises. [↓](#)



Conference Celebrates Ten Years



If attendees to the 10th Annual Women in Maritime Leadership Conference felt any sense of disappointment that the sessions were being held virtually this year,

it disappeared at once during the keynote address. **Captain Kate McCue**, a 2000 graduate, joined the conference remotely and told a riveting story of the early days of the pandemic from a ship captain's point of view, casting it in the conference theme of "Building Resiliency."

McCue was commanding the *Celebrity Edge*, a 129,500-ton, 1004-foot cruise ship, and worked feverishly to get a few hundred crew members home as travel corridors closed. Those who remained weathered the pandemic for months together aboard the ship moored, 15 nautical miles off the coast of the Bahamas in Coco Cay. Together they built resiliency by celebrating joys — like the wedding of two crew members and the birth of another crew member's child — and loss, like the death of a crew member's father to COVID-19. Building resiliency requires three ingredients McCue shared: "someone to love, something to do, and hope."

The first woman to command a megaton cruise ship when she took the helm of the *Celebrity Summit* in 2015, McCue speaks often on leadership and encourages women to pursue their dreams in the maritime industry, a profession in which opportunities for leadership are only expanding.

Many other alumnae shared the virtual stage with McCue. **Sheila La Fleur '02**, **Rachel Neuharth '14**, **Madeleine Wolczko '15** and **Spencer Young '17** formed a panel on the changing maritime landscape due to the pandemic. **Konner Edmiston '15** was on a panel with long-standing sponsor, Matson, to discuss the various facets of maritime transportation from ship-to-store. Alumna **Jasmin Brown '20** joined a panel on the Edwards Leadership Development Program for Cal Maritime cadets, Alumna **Gladys Diva Brown '01** closed out the first day of the conference with tips on personal empowerment. Alumna **Shireen Shipman '10** opened the second day with **Cristina Zenato** to speak on the nexus between leadership and resiliency in the maritime environment.

Organizer **Vineeta Dhillon** called the conference a "great success" with the highest registration ever, including maritime professionals and students from around the globe.

The conference was sponsored by Matson, Pasha Group and Port of Oakland. Find recordings at www.csum.edu/wml which include questions and answers from the Zoom chat. ↴

CAPTAIN KATE MCCUE
YOU CAN FOLLOW MCCUE,
INCLUDING HER DIARY OF
THE LOCKDOWN ABOARD
THE *CELEBRITY EDGE*,
ON INSTAGRAM AT
@CAPTAINKATEMCCUE.



READING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ARMCHAIR MARINERS



As the world watched the drama of the *Even Given*, the container ship stuck in the Suez Canal this spring, Cal Maritime's Chair of Culture and Communication Department Colin Dewey turned his thoughts to books. With interest in a mariner's life at an all time high, he assembled a personal selection of titles that he felt offered realistic glimpses of the global maritime industry and the life at sea — along with some that are just great fun — and offered the list on social media.

The Keelhauler community responded with some suggestions of its own. The *Even Given* was freed, of course, but summer is nearly here, so read on!

The Sound of RESILIENCE

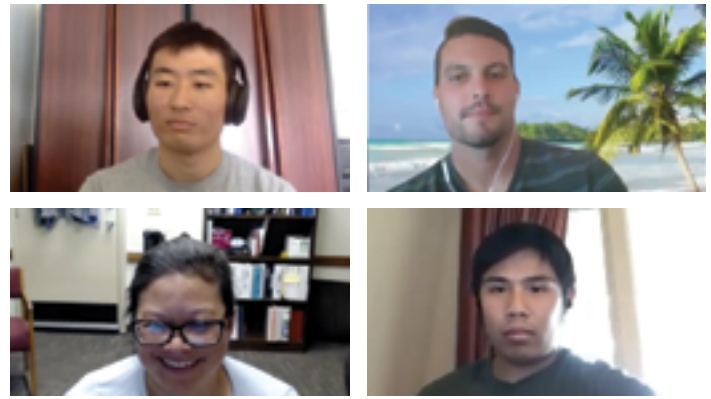
Cal Maritime Health Educator **Angeli Acosta** was already a fan of podcasts — which she enjoys while commuting

or working out — when she realized she could do more than just listen to them. She could create them.

Tasked with helping to develop Cal Maritime’s Resiliency Project website last fall, Acosta stumbled upon another CSU website’s podcasts and began to think about how they could be used as a tool for teaching resiliency. When she shared the idea with colleagues **Ryan Rodriguez** and **Vineeta Dhillon**, they teamed up to help produce and record podcasts. Cal Maritime’s Resiliency Project podcasts were born.

“We realized podcasting would foster connection in a time of disconnection,” says Acosta, “and that we could use the podcasts to share stories around resiliency.” They also saw the platform could be used to share ideas about Cal Maritime and encourage students to reach out to different departments, professors, clubs, or programs, especially during the pandemic.

Though Acosta, Rodriguez, and Dhillon got the resiliency podcasts started, they wanted students to own the project.



“It’s the cadets who run the show – or at least do the interviews,” Acosta says. “I encourage them to just have fun. The more fun you make the conversation, the more engaging it is for your audience.”

CADETS HAVE RECORDED 13 PODCASTS THAT FEATURE A WIDE RANGE OF THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY-ALUMNI, STAFF, FACULTY AND STUDENTS.

The stars of the show are peer health educators: Matt Vanegas, Angelica Matos, Nathan Bond and the resiliency peer advocates Justin Agbayani, Kent Suzuki, and Andre Jang.

So far, the cadets have recorded about 13 podcasts that feature a wide range of community members — from alumni, to faculty and staff, and students. The wide-ranging interviews cover everything from careers, to personal obstacles and growth. A few of the podcasts have reached over 100 views and Acosta says its rewarding to see the growing audience.

Kent Suzuki '23, a mechanical engineering major and a Resiliency Peer has taken an active role. With no experience in podcasting, he hesitated briefly and then jumped right in — recording his first podcast with **Professor Frank Yip**. Since then, he’s gained confidence in his skills as an interviewer and overcome one of his own pain points — the sound of his voice.

“I was self-conscious about my voice since the recording sounded a lot different than how I hear it in my head. My Japanese accent also made it worse. But after hearing it when listening to the podcasts, I got used to my voice and I’m no longer self-conscious about it.”

Nate Bond, an IBL major who will graduate in the spring of ‘22 is a peer health educator and podcaster who is proud of what they’ve accomplished in a few short months.

“I’m confident that what we’re doing is making a very positive difference in the mindset of students regarding faculty, and even the mindset of faculty in regard to students,” he shares. “Speaking for all the peer health educators, we’re grateful to be in the position to make even the smallest of differences in these difficult times.”

MOSTLY FICTION

The Ordinary Seaman
by Francisco Goldman (1997)

The Shipping News
by E. Annie Proulx (1993)

The Call of the Sea
by Jan de Hartog (1966)

Ultramarine
by Malcolm Lowry (1929)

Mardi, and a Voyage Thither
by Herman Melville (1849)

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner by Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1798)

MOSTLY NON-FICTION

Capitalism and the Sea
by Liam Campling and Alejandro Colás (2021)

The Deadly Life of Logistics
by Deborah Cowen (2014)

Fish Story
by Allan Sekula (1995)

The Mirror of the Sea and A Personal Record
by Joseph Conrad, ed. Zdzislaw Najder (1988)

Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea
by Marcus Rediker (1987)

CROWD-SOURCED KEELHAULER ADDITIONS

Two Years Before the Mast
by Richard Henry Dana (1840)

Tankers Full of Trouble
by Eric Nalder (1994)

Looking for a Ship
by John McPhee (1990)

The Sand Pebbles
by Richard McKenna (1962)

The Influence of Sea Power on History
by Alfred Thayer Mahan (1890)

Check out the Resiliency Project at WWW.CSUM.EDU/RESILIENCY to get updates on new podcasts and campus news!



CAL MARITIME OCEANOGRAPHERS COLLECT WATER SAMPLES FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO ESTUARY DELTA IN 2017 TO CAPTURE BASELINE ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS PRIOR TO SACRAMENTO'S ECHOWATER SEWAGE UPGRADE.

This spring **Dr. Alex Parker**, associate professor of oceanography at Cal Maritime, has teamed up with researchers from San Francisco State University and the University of Maryland on a two-year study to investigate how the San Francisco Bay Delta ecosystem will respond to large decreases in nutrient pollution resulting from changes in municipal wastewater. Wastewater treatment plants typically discharge into estuary and coastal waters, resulting in problems including unsightly or noxious algal blooms or the depletion of dissolved oxygen that can kill fish and invertebrates.

The Sacramento Regional Sanitation District, the major discharger to the San Francisco Estuary Delta, is poised to implement a decade long, \$2 billion upgrade, called the EchoWater Project. The project will reduce the amount of nitrogen discharged to the Delta by more than half of present levels, including a nearly complete elimination of one form of nitrogen, ammonium. Nitrogen fuels the growth of algae and bacteria that act as the base of aquatic food webs.

“The San Francisco Estuary Delta is the heart of California’s water infrastructure. Roughly half of Californian’s receive their drinking water from the estuary and much of the water used for agriculture in the Central Valley originates here,” Parker explains. “We have seen declines in water quality, including increases in toxic cyanobacterial blooms in the Delta over the past several decades. It is critical that California is proactive in order to maintain our healthy freshwater resources.”

Examples of the negative effects of nutrient pollution include the “dead zone” in the Gulf of Mexico, fueled by agricultural nitrogen and phosphorus pollution from Mississippi River and toxic algal blooms that plague the Great Lakes and contaminate and shut down municipal drinking water systems. The Sacramento upgrade represents a rare ecosystem-scale “experiment” that will allow scientists to measure the effect of nutrient reductions over large geographic and time scales.

Parker and colleagues just completed an initial project to capture the “baseline” conditions in the Delta prior to the upgrade. Project findings will not only help inform water regulations in California but will be relevant across the US and the



Executive Training for Crisis

Budget Director **Andrew Som** benefitted recently from a very timely

15-month experiential leadership training opportunity held through the CSU Chancellor’s Office. The program, which spanned late 2019 into 2020, was focused on crisis management, examining practical challenges ranging from natural disasters to the impact of campus culture and values on crisis management. Led by CSU presidents and vice chancellors, participants engaged in executive coaching, peer advising, experiential learning and action inquiry. Since the COVID-19 crisis unfolded during the training, sessions went virtual about halfway through.

“This program helped me understand the strategic and operational issues that arise when preparing for, responding to and recovering from crisis events,” said Som.

“Learning from people involved with direct experience, not theory was an invaluable lesson.”

world. Part of the funding will support Cal Maritime students in completing summer research co-ops under Parker’s supervision. Oceanography students will join the team of researchers and will take part in boat surveys of the Delta as well as conduct experiments in the laboratory.

“Our students will apply what they have learned in our classes to a real-world problem, hone workforce-ready skills, and build professional networks necessary in preparing to enter the workforce,” Parker says. ↓



CAL MARITIME'S IMPACT ON CALIFORNIA'S ECONOMY IS SIGNIFICANT. FOR EVERY DOLLAR INVESTED IN THE ACADEMY, \$4.23 OF POSITIVE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IS GENERATED.

Cal Maritime is Economic Contributor

Cal Maritime, the most unique of the 23-campus California State University (CSU) system, is an important contributor to the local economy as well as outside its direct geographic area, according to a new report. Released in mid-March by the CSU Chancellor's office, the report outlines the ways in which each of the campuses contribute to economic activity. Because of a multiplier effect, each dollar that California invests in CSU generates \$6.97 of positive economic activity, it says. Cal Maritime's share in the economic output was \$4.23 for each dollar invested. The report relies on data from 2018-19, prior to the impact of the pandemic.

"Investing in education makes sense," said **President Tom Cropper**. "The payoff is clear. Not only are we preparing our

graduates to be economic contributors throughout their lives, our Academy has a very strong financial impact locally and across California. Through employment, direct and visitor spending, purchasing, research spending, and construction activity, Cal Maritime makes a difference to the bottom line."

In the 2018-19 academic year, the Cal Maritime campus spent a total of \$83 million made up of \$73.2 million and operational expenditures, \$2.2 million in capital expenditures, \$1.5 million in auxiliary costs, and \$6.1 million in student spending. Additionally, Cal Maritime alumni who remained in the Bay Area region after graduation earned an additional \$28.8 million in earnings attributable to their CSU degree and alumni who remained in the state earned an additional \$65.4 million in 2019.

Within the Bay Area region, according to the report, Cal Maritime related activity supported more than 1000 jobs, \$58 million in labor income, \$134.3 million in industry activity, and \$6.7 million in state and local tax revenue.

In addition, Cal Maritime alumni in the region supported an additional 133 jobs, \$10 million in labor income, \$27.9 million in industry activity, and \$1.8 million in state and local tax revenue.

"I have full confidence that once we emerge from the pandemic Cal Maritime's economic impact will exceed that of previous years," said Cropper. "We are ready to continue our bold investment in the Academy and those around us will benefit along with us." [↴](#)

Not masks nor wind nor darkening skies could keep these mariners from singing out on a chilly Monday evening in March. **Evan Frame** '23 joined cadet **Joey Simone** '24, members of the Sea Shanty Club, who have been lending their voices to rousing mariner music long before it was trending on TikTok. "I love the feeling of connection when I sing shanties — not just with the other people I sing with, but with the of tradition with centuries of shantymen before me," says Simone. "Sea shanties are meant for a ship's crew, not a choir," adds Frame. "Participating has been such a blast for me, and already my voice has improved so much. To anyone who has even remotely considered joining, just do it!"



Tuesday, March 2 marked the grand opening of Cal Maritime's newest dining addition, the Marketplace. Though cadets and campus employees had been using it since the spring semester, the Academy held an official ribbon cutting and opening for a new campus eatery, the Marketplace. Transforming the traditional Dining Center beyond a dine-in offering, the Marketplace offers a wide selection of pre-made hot meals for "grab-n-go" as well as selling a variety of individually-packaged food and grocery items. Another new feature, a 1650-square foot patio was also unveiled, expanding outdoor dining space.

"We set out to do something — an idea — and it's been turned into reality," said **President Tom Cropper**. "It's a beautiful day to celebrate that reality."

"The COVID-19 environment has propelled us to take a hard look at our dining options," shared Mark Goodrich, associate vice president for Enterprise Services. "We think our solution — the Marketplace — offers great dining flexibility within a safe environment. Our cadets are now able to get either full meals or ingredients they can prepare for themselves."

Throughout the Fall 2020 semester, a Food and Menu Advisory Committee worked in collaboration with various groups — both on and off campus — to develop a COVID-acceptable, affordable, and flexible dining program for cadets for the spring 2021 semester. The new program was developed in consultation with ASCMA, the Cal Maritime Alumni Association, and Keelhauler Families. It was endorsed by the Academic Senate Executive Committee and the Triad and approved by the Cabinet.

As part of the new food service contract with Sodexo which began in December 2019, the company worked with Cal Maritime on the new dining offerings. Sodexo also committed to fully funding a new exterior 1600-square-foot patio facing the waterfront that can be used for campus events, meals, or other



SODEXO CONTRIBUTED ALL THE FUNDS TO BUILD AN OUTDOOR PATIO.



THE INTERIOR OF THE MARKETPLACE PROVIDES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CAMPUS COMMUNITY TO PURCHASE "GRAB N GO" FOOD OR INGREDIENTS FOR MEALS AND SNACKS.



PICTURED AT THE RIBBON CUTTING: FROM LEFT TO RIGHT SHANNON STEL '22 (GSMA); WILL REVILOCK, ARCHITECT; JACOB SCHOLLENBERG '22 (MT); EMILY SILVA '22 (GSMA); RICARDO CASILLO '22 (BA); PRESIDENT CROPPER; BRETT LADD, SODEXO CEO; VALLEJO DISTRICT COUNCILWOMAN CHRISTINA ARRIOLA.

reserved activities. Constructed over the past four months, the patio also provides ample outdoor seating during the pandemic.

Ultimately, said Goodrich, the Marketplace will be open to the public and serve as an added grocery shopping resource for the City of Vallejo. "Once the pandemic is behind us," said Goodrich "we're hopeful that members of the greater Vallejo community will be able to enjoy our dining offerings as well as our view."

Vallejo City Council District 6 representative Cristina Arriola joined the festivities and shared her appreciation for Cal Maritime and what the new Marketplace will bring to the area. "I love this campus," she said. "It's a diamond in this part of town." [↓](#)

A Day at Cal Maritime



“Cal Maritime is a special place,” said CSU Chancellor **Joseph I. Castro** in a virtual open forum with cadets, faculty, and staff during his daylong visit. “The wonderful value of a small, specialized education really resonated with me today.”

The smallest and most unique member of the 23-campus California State University system, Cal Maritime hosted the recently-appointed Chancellor for a virtual visit on April 29th, introducing him and his wife Mary Castro to cadets, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, as well as members of the Vallejo community. In a day packed with meetings with constituents, Chancellor Castro listened and learned about the institution, while community members shared points of pride as well as concerns. The visits are designed for the

Chancellor to get to know each campus and raise the visibility of the nation’s largest public four-year university system.

Castro had been on campus for President Cropper’s investiture in 2013 and shared that he recognized then Cal Maritime’s unusual offerings and unique setting, but that he understood the institution even better because of the visit.

“Today I’ve learned even more. I’ve learned about where students come from and what kinds of great jobs that you get after you leave here, but most importantly — just the quality of education here...You have a powerful story to tell.”

Chancellor Castro fielded questions on equity, the budget, on-campus housing, vaccination requirements and praised the Academy’s ability to stay open and maintain its educational mission during the pandemic.

He also shared his optimism about Cal Maritime’s transition from “resilience to renaissance” as it emerges from the pandemic, noting that he’s seen incredible resilience among the 23 CSU campuses. Better days are ahead, he predicted, with some important lessons learned.

“When I think about the future there’s going to be this period of healing...and I personally don’t think we should go back to where we were — that would be a waste of this incredible opportunity. We can reset in some important ways. I know I have personally — the way I look at life is different than I did last year, the way I look at leadership is different. One of my core lessons from the pandemic is that the themes of reasonableness, flexibility, and compassion need to be at the forefront.”

Chancellor Castro said he is anxious to return to Cal Maritime in person and especially looks forward to a visit to the Training Ship *Golden Bear*. [↓](#)



IN PERSON TOURS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS STARTED AGAIN IN MARCH. ALL CURRENT STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO CAMPUS FOR A FULLY FACE TO FACE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE IN THE FALL.

IMPORT AND EXPORT CONTAINERS AWAIT LOADING TO SHIPS, TRAINS, OR TRUCKS AT FENIX MARINE SERVICES ON TREASURE ISLAND CA., WHICH HANDLES OVER 2 MILLION TEUS EACH YEAR.



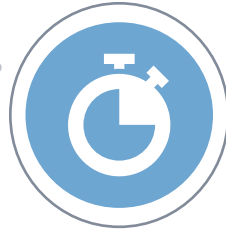
Suddenly Supply Chain is SEXY

In the wake of COVID-19 and the *Ever Given* incident, millions of Americans have supply chain on the mind.

Until the end of March of this year, Dr. Donald Maier was just a hard-working university leader trying to navigate the pandemic as best he could. The inaugural dean of Cal Maritime's School of Maritime Transportation, Logistics, & Management (MTLM) who arrived at Cal Maritime three years ago, Maier had more than enough on his plate. His teams were gearing up to submit a revamped curriculum for approval in each MTLM program, managing his department under the fog of COVID-19, and — more positively — working for the full and safe return of students in the fall 2021.

Then the *Ever Given* ran aground. On March 23, the colossal 200,000-ton container ship got stuck in the Suez Canal, halting traffic on one of the world's most vital shipping channels for six days. Analysts estimated the delays cost \$10 billion a day in lost business, which puts the total price tag of the mishap at approximately \$60 billion — or \$115,741 per second. The number of memes and late-night talk show jokes about the incident was nearly incalculable.

Not having an international shipping expert on speed dial, many media outlets around the world and North America scrambled to find someone who could explain what was happening and why it mattered. Maier was there to answer the call (or rather, calls). Days into this new Suez crisis, he had been interviewed by CNN International, *Popular Mechanics*, a Canadian news network, and several local news channels in the Bay Area as well as *The San Francisco Chronicle*.



Yet again, scarcely a year since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization, a seemingly freak incident that began in a single faraway location reverberated across the globe. And yet again, all manner of Americans—from CEOs to shoppers comparing prices

of electric toothbrushes—found themselves paying rapt attention to supply chain. “The *Ever Given* may not impact the US consumer for quite some time, if at all, since the ship was destined for [the] EU. But as the media discusses the impact to food, clothing, shoes, consumables,

then the US consumer begins to get a bit antsy,” says Maier.

Had the unthinkable happened? Had the world finally awoken to the ecstasy and agony of supply chain?

The pandemic made the abstract personal for people, says Yossi Sheffi, director of MIT’s Center for Transportation and Logistics and author of *The New (Ab) Normal: Reshaping Business and Supply Chain Strategy Beyond COVID-19*.

Supermarket panics, runs on two-ply, and personal protective equipment shortages provided visceral evidence that goods don’t just magically appear.

“Because of the pandemic, people first of all, were exposed to [supply chain]. And they saw the impact of problems in supply chain,” says Sheffi. Then the *Ever Given* incident happened, captivating and concerning millions, the vast majority of whom had little interest in the vagaries of global shipping.

“The average Joe Schmo in the street doesn’t know what the Suez Canal is, doesn’t know there is a Suez Canal. So suddenly a big ship is stuck, there pictures all over the world. And 369 ships behind it. And people are starting to think about clothing factories, and not going to have the TVs or whatever,” explains Sheffi.



The astounding costs of the *Ever Given* incident not only revealed the critical role of modern shipping, but the profound interconnectedness of the global economy and the finely tuned supply chain that has made it a reliable, well-oiled machine. (Until it isn't—like when a 200,000-ton ship runs aground.)

The truth, of course, is that supply chain has long had an enormous impact on millions—perhaps billions—of peoples' lives. "Look around your room," says Maier. "Everything you see, supply chain logistics touched." For many, however, this fact was hiding in plain sight until recent events.

An interest in real-world challenges is what led Maier, who began his supply chain career as a part-time truck driver working midnights for FedEx on the south side of Chicago, to design a new IBL curriculum focusing more on applied skills than data crunching. As part of the revision, Maier and the IBL faculty proposed adding two concentrations in International Supply Chain and International Maritime Business. New classes will include procurement, manufacturing, quality management, project management, marine insurance, admiralty law, maritime innovation, and port terminal operations. IBL students will continue to take a slate of core business classes, but the department is seeking to offer more professional certifications in Project Management and Lean-Six Sigma for example. Plus, starting in the fall of 2021, selected IBL students will participate in "Inventory Watch", adding more relevant, industry related skills to the program.



CADET MELISSA BRAVO, AN IBL MAJOR, BELIEVES THAT TECHNOLOGY WILL MAKE SUPPLY CHAIN EVEN SMOOTHER AND MORE EFFICIENT IN THE FUTURE.



CHRISTOPHER BARKER, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS SUPPLY CHAIN FOR ALBERTSON'S GROCERIES AND A 2012 ALUM, USED THE DISCIPLINE AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS HONED AT CAL MARITIME TO FORGE ALLIANCES WITH WASHINGTON DISTILLERIES TO SUPPLY HAND SANITIZER.



"All of a sudden, COVID hit and certainly made logistics sexy. But that's exactly what we've been trying to do for the past three years," says Maier. "This is why we are making the changes we are. Logistics and supply chain is much more sexy today than it ever was 10 years ago. And even 10 years ago, it was more sexy than it was 20 years ago. COVID just accentuated it."

For 2012 alum Christopher Barker, the structure, communication skills, and discipline he learned at Cal Maritime well prepared him for the supply chain industry's current and past challenges. His first job was with Ports America, and he's currently



Look around
your room.
Everything
you see, supply
chain logistics
touched.

DR. DONALD MAIER

DONALD MAIER, PH.D., DEAN, SCHOOL OF MARITIME TRANSPORTATION, LOGISTICS AND MANAGEMENT SHARES HIS EXTENSIVE INDUSTRY KNOWLEDGE WITH CADETS IN THE CLASSROOM.

director of operations supply chain for the Albertsons supermarket chain, where he oversees 900 warehouse associates from his base in Seattle.

When the COVID-related supermarket panic first set in, he worked 70 days in a row. It was an incredibly challenging time, but he was able to stay clear-headed enough to institute several unique partnerships, such as reaching out to Washington distilleries to supply hand sanitizer. “Cal Maritime really sets you up for success on being able to be prepared Day One. And that’s certainly what it did for me,” he says.

His current role has also given him a front-row view of how logistics challenges at a macro level ultimately impact ordinary people. “In 2020, we spent \$50 million just in freight costs to get products from Washington to the state of Alaska. How do you think that gets paid for? It’s by the consumers.”

This dawning awareness has created new opportunities. With so many regular people talking about supply chain, Maier says he and his team expects applications to Cal Maritime increase in the near term. Melissa Bravo, an IBL major who graduated in May, echoes his optimism. “Especially with the past news and current events, I think people can start to see how logistics is important, and its importance to every business all around the world — it doesn’t matter where you are. And it’s more of an attractive major, I think.”

Bravo is inspired by potential future developments in the industry—in particular, by the potential of tech to make supply chain even smoother. “Once we master logistics, we can work on efficiency,” she says. “I think that that part of logistics is going to be automated pretty soon. So I’m excited for that.”

With his industry background leading international operations with Monsanto and academic experience including dean of the IBL graduate and undergraduate programs at Maine Maritime, Maier is uniquely positioned to help Cal Maritime take advantage of the current moment. It’s not always easy being sexy, however. The cruel paradox at the heart of supply chain is that when you’re doing your job well, no one thinks about you. But when you mess up, like the *Ever Given* did in titanic fashion, the whole world is mad at you—or worse, making memes at your expense. It can be a thankless existence.

Maier insists he’s okay with supply chain’s supporting role. “People in supply chain are really proud of the fact that . . . we make everybody else successful and look good. We don’t need to have the spotlight. That’s not who we are as a person,” says Maier. “But behind the scenes, we know we’re really the ones that help support you being successful. So, at the end of the day, you know what, please say thank you.” 📌



BUILDING BOOM

ABOVE: PREFABRICATED, MODULAR UNITS FROM LOCAL MANUFACTURER IMOD STRUCTURES WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL CLASSROOM SPACE AND OFFICES FOR THE IT DEPARTMENT AND HELP DESK.

University campuses are dynamic places, always responding to growth and the changing needs of an institution, and Cal Maritime is no exception. Despite the pandemic, building projects have continued at a steady pace — and on schedule — along Morrow Cove. The projects offer both a nod to past as well as a look toward the future, contributing to the steady transformation of the campus.

The project of greatest significance to many alumni is Mayo Hall, the oldest building on campus, and formerly known as Memorial Hall to honor graduates who died during World War II. Built in 1945, the building (later renamed Mayo) served as Cal Maritime's main athletics and recreation facilities for over 50 years. When the majority of Cal Maritime's indoor athletics and recreation activities moved to a new Physical Education and Athletic Center (PEAC) in 2014, the Academy had the opportunity "to reposition, repurpose, and renovate

Mayo Hall," says Director of Facilities Planning, Design and Construction Tom Van Pelt. "The renovation of this beloved building, which begins in June, will combine new functions, programming, and architecture with the historic fabric of the existing building — breathing new life into it and creating a new campus center for student life and services." It will also be sustainable, targeting a LEED Gold certification.

The interior will house a mix of student-oriented program including lounge, study, meeting, and leadership spaces in combination with student services spaces for departments such as the health center, registration and advising, financial aid, career services, and admissions and recruitment. In addition to providing new spaces, the design places emphasis on the shared culture of the Cal Maritime community with design elements that include the Wall of Honor, display spaces for Cal Maritime history and achievement, a veterans center, and several meeting rooms and informal social spaces.

RIGHT: RECONSTRUCTION OF THE WALKWAY BETWEEN LOWER AND UPPER CAMPUSES IS SLATED FOR THIS SUMMER.

The exterior of the building will undergo a more subtle modernization, according to Van Pelt, and honor the building's Colonial Revival architectural style of red brick cladding, painted wood windows, and pitched roofs. "The design approach calls for discrete modern interventions to the existing structure, maintaining the historic character of the original building while providing a transition into the modern interior program," says Van Pelt. The rear north elevation of the building will undergo a complete transformation, with the removal of a 1970s addition, and the construction of an entirely new and one-story addition that will house the health center.

With instructional space always at a premium, the newly "installed" Classroom Annex will help serve those needs. Instead of building something new, the Academy has teamed up with iMod Structures, based on nearby Mare Island, on a prefabricated, modular, high performance unit that provides flexible and tech-ready classroom space, in addition to housing new offices for the IT Department and Help Desk. Instead of breaking ground and building up, the unit was lifted into place by an enormous crane in February. Work outfitting the interior is ongoing.

"The creation of this new building is very exciting. These classrooms were designed in consultation with students and faculty to offer students a more collaborative way of learning and teachers a more flexible way of teaching," Van Pelt shares. Designed to accommodate about 40 students, each room will have moveable furniture to encourage collaboration and small learning groups. The classrooms will have the latest 21st century teaching technologies, including multiple displays and support for wireless capabilities to enhance active learning styles for students and instructors.

Several other campus projects serve some of life's basic functions: eating, walking, and athletics. The new patio off the dining center opened just as spring began and provides an outdoor space which is particularly useful during the pandemic and beyond. (See page 14 for more about the Marketplace.) This summer will also see reconstruction of the much-used walkway between the lower and upper campuses and some improvements to Bodnar Field.

"We're proud of our ongoing work and the progress we've made during the pandemic," says Van Pelt. "We look forward to seeing the campus community enjoying the improvements when they return in the fall." ↴



MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF THE HISTORIC CHARACTER OF THE BUILDING WHILE CREATING MODERN INTERIOR PROGRAMS IS CENTRAL TO THE REDESIGN.



AN ENTIRELY NEW AND ONE STORY ADDITION WILL HOUSE THE STUDENT HEALTH CENTER.

CLASS ROOM



in a BOX

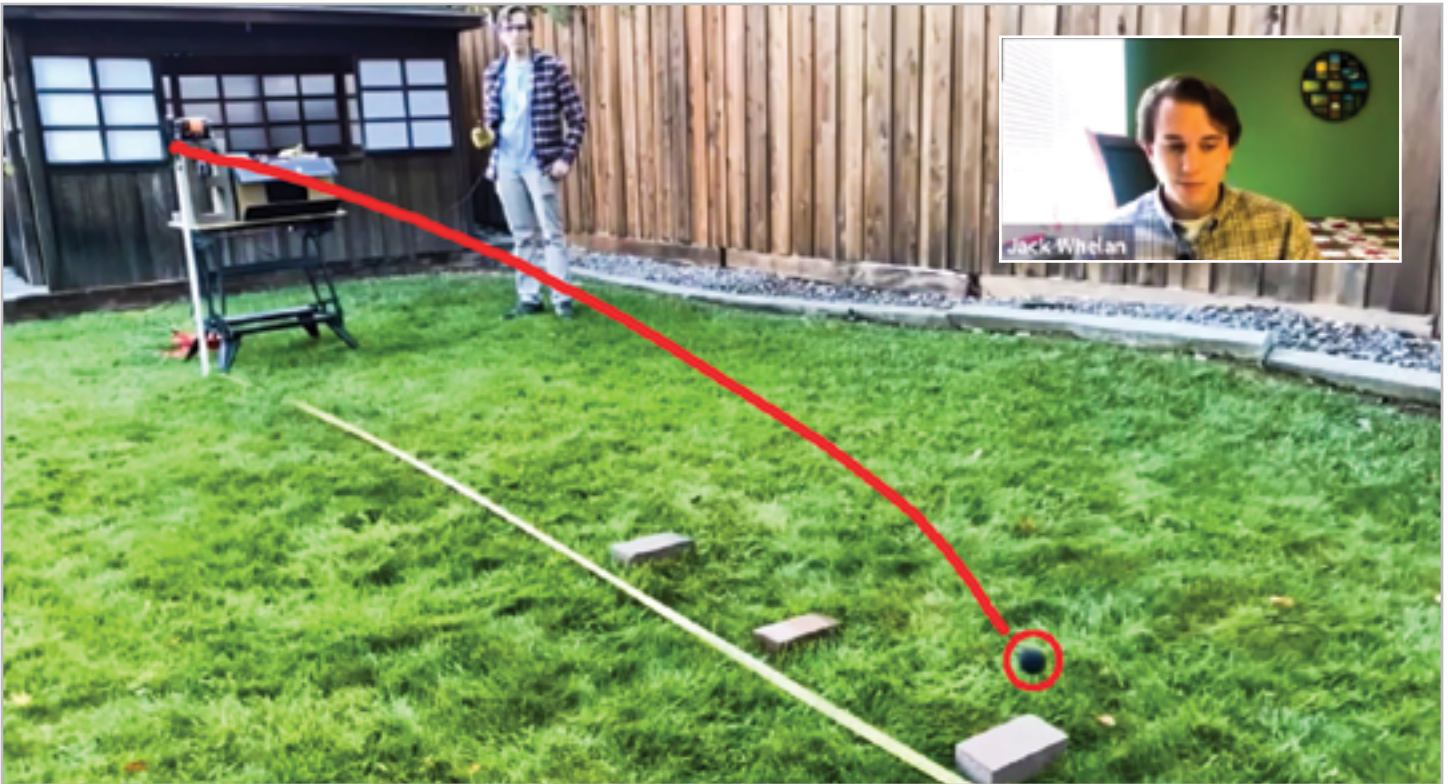
Even though it's spring now and Professor Evan Chang-Siu has gotten accustomed to teaching virtually, remembering his ET350 class from the fall still puts a smile on his face.

In recent years Chang-Siu has had his fall ET350 (Electrical Machinery) students design and fabricate a lightweight “brushed DC” motor that can smack a squash ball as far as possible. The students would design the motors and Chang-Siu would end up laboriously printing out all the pieces on the engineering department’s four 3D printers so students could assemble them. A contest at semester’s end would always display some engineering prowess — along with flying squash balls.

How would he do it this year when his class was virtual? Initially Chang-Siu was stumped. Then he decided that every one of the 26 students needed their own 3D printer and realized that he had the ability to purchase and distribute them. He applied for Instructional Related Activities funds which enabled him to buy 26 printers (at \$160 each) with all the necessary supplies such as magnets, shafts, commutators, etc. Most students were able to pick up their printers and supplies in person — two remote students were reimbursed for purchasing them on their own.

Chang-Siu was thrilled that every student was able to complete and test their design remotely—with some distance coaching from him along the way. “It was actually much better for me this way,” Chang-Siu shares. “In the past I’d bring four machines home and be printing 24/7. Sometimes I ended up getting up in the middle of the night to switch out projects. It got a little crazy!”

In November he hosted a virtual project fair where each student presented a two-minute set of slides and a video of their motor hitting the ball. Winners were graded by combining the distance the ball



traveled with the weight of their machine—since minimizing weight is a key goal of engineering.

130 attendees from campus, local industry, and elementary schools cheered them on from the virtual sidelines, which Chang-Sui says was another unexpected benefit of conducting the class remotely. “Because they didn’t have to travel or take time away from work or school, more people attended than ever before,” Chang-Siu points out. “I even got my kids’ elementary school class to be there!”

Winning titles went to seniors Jack Whelan, Daniel Issacson, and Pat Mullan for their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, respectively. Mike Kostrukoff took honorable mention for the ingenuity he his displayed in completing his project (including three flights to secure materials) while living in Russia.

Students and Chang-Siu relied on and were grateful for the assistance of retired lecturer and alumnus Pat Morris '74 as well as CriticalArc (criticalarcxx.com), which donated Amazon gift cards to the winning

ABOVE: Working remotely, Fall ET 350 (Electrical Machinery) students designed and built lightweight DC motors that could hit a squash ball as far as possible. In a virtual contest, cadets were graded on a combination of distance traveled and weight. First place winner Jack Whelan’s fabricated DC motor smacked the squash ball 15 ft. 4 inches.

BELOW, LEFT: First place winner Jack Whelan reworked the center of gravity for the bat to improve the distance the squash ball would travel.

students. Makerspace technician Erin Cole, lecturer Tom Clyatt '82 and technical staffer Chris Mulhauser also pitched in mightily, says Chang-Siu.

Ultimately, he’s proud of how everything worked out and realized that the virtual aspect of the class made for a faster feedback loop. “Basically, this rapid prototyping worked out much better for the students because they could print out their own components. If something didn’t work, they knew right away and went back for a better design,” says Chang-Siu. I didn’t know it would turn out this way, but we all learned a lot of engineering — in the larger sense of the word too — and that’s been a big bonus.” [↓](#)



Performance

- Max horizontal distance traveled:
 - 4.67 m
- Weight:
 - 1.064 Kg

Jessica Ryals comes to Cal Maritime with superb credentials and some serious geography. She grew up in North Texas, attended the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in New York State where she graduated with a 3rd Mate's License, and went on to Officer Candidate School at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in Connecticut, where she received her commission. Since then, she's lived in Texas, Alabama, and Tennessee, while working a rotational schedule on deepwater drillships in the Gulf of Mexico and around the world and performing ship and facility inspections with the USCG. During her time working offshore, Ryals has upgraded her license from 3rd Mate to Unlimited Master, and gone back to school for her Master's degree in International Transportation Management at SUNY Maritime. In January of this year, she and her husband Kent, along with their dog and cat, moved across the country and settled in Crockett, just across the Carquinez Bridge from Cal Maritime. She's now the Chief Mate on the TS *Golden Bear*, and will soon head off on its two summer cruises.

You've been on the job for a few months now. How has your start been, and how has the pandemic affected it?

It's been great but challenging at the same time. This was a huge career transition for me, shifting gears from the offshore oilfield to a ship like the *Golden Bear*. Joining a new organization amid a global pandemic is a special kind of challenge, with the cadets starting the semester late and with so many colleagues working remotely. Even so, I have felt so welcomed to the Cal Maritime campus by everyone I've worked with thus far. I enjoy the hands-on aspect



**with
New TSGB
Chief Mate**

Jessica

of my position, and I jumped in at a very busy time for the *Golden Bear*, right as we begin ramping up for summer sea training, and all the boxes that need to be checked prior to that happening successfully.

What motivated you to enter this business? There must be plenty of people who don't follow through on a childhood dream of becoming a ship captain?

I actually didn't — I wanted to be an airplane captain, like my Dad. I knew I wanted to attend a service academy, and I chose the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy for the options it offers graduates: a license as a 3rd Mate or 3rd Assistant Engineer, and a commission into any branch of the military on active duty or reserve. During my time at school, I ended up deciding that I wanted to sail

for my career rather than fly, and I chose to enter the industry after graduation and went to work on deepwater drillships in the Gulf of Mexico. I had some exciting experiences during that time, I was part of a crew that brought a drillship from the Black Sea to the Gulf of Mexico, and I was a plankowner (an original crew member) of my last ship, which I helped to navigate from South Korea to the Gulf of Mexico.

Now though, I do have a dream of becoming a ship captain. I have the license for it, I'm just building the experience to "take the conn" someday.

Do you have to explain to a lot of people exactly what a chief mate does?

I sure do! I'm from land-locked Dallas, Texas, where people don't have the exposure to ships and the maritime industry



How important is it for you to model this career for women?

I consider modeling this career for women to be one of the most important things I do. Representation matters, and for young women entering this industry, being able to look up the chain of command and see women at the top is strong encouragement for staying in what can be a challenging career path. On my first ship as a cadet, the Chief Mate was a woman who had “hawsepiped” her way up, and she inspired me to think that I could hold that job someday myself. Now I consider it part of my role to mentor women entering the maritime industry and be part of closing the gender gap.

Are you excited about cruise this summer?

I really am! It’s going to be different than sea training in the past, but I plan to go on both cruises, and I am absolutely looking forward to it. There’s nothing like being underway on a ship, where it’s just sea and sky as far as the eye can see. I’m looking forward to working with the cadets and teaching them what I know. I’m also looking forward to the chance to disconnect, turn off my cell phone, and catch up on reading, maybe learning how to knit, and enjoying the awesome new gym on the ship!

What’s your impression of Cal Maritime cadets so far?

So many people I have met on campus tell me they’ve worked here for 10, 20, 30 years, and that the cadets are the reason they have stayed. In my couple months here so far, I can absolutely understand that thinking. The cadets have been great to engage with, and I feel like I will be a better mariner and person for my interactions with them. My dad always said that if you learn something well enough to teach it, then you’ve mastered the subject. Answering the cadet’s questions keeps my mind working, and I love seeing them have a passion for the ship and for learning everything they can about the maritime industry. ⚓

BEING NEW TO THE WEST COAST, CHIEF MATE JESSICA RYALS TAKES EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THE GREAT OUTDOORS. ONE OF HER GOALS IS TO MAKE THE *GOLDEN BEAR* MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE CAL MARITIME COMMUNITY.

the way they do around here. So, I often rely on the airline industry, and point out how an airplane has a Captain and a First Officer, and that a ship operates much the same way, I’m the First Officer.

The First Officer, or Chief Mate, is second in command of a ship underway, and is traditionally responsible for cargo operations, ship’s stability, and for being the on scene commander in a firefighting or lifesaving emergency. The Mate takes charge of the bow during mooring and anchoring operations and is responsible for all the maintenance and upkeep of the ship’s decks equipment, like lifeboats and firefighting equipment.



There’s nothing like being underway on a ship, where it’s just sea and sky as far as the eye can see. I’m looking forward to working with the cadets and teaching them what I know.

JESSICA RYALS

It’s a very hands on position, and I love the role here at Cal Maritime because I get to do all those things, plus interacting with the cadets on a day to day basis.

LOCATED IN LOT M, THE BEAVERFIT MODULE PROVIDES A PLACE FOR CADETS TO WORK OUT AND SOCIALIZE WITH THEIR FELLOW STUDENTS.



Athletics

BeaverFit Performance Lockers are standard shipping containers custom-fabricated to anchor training rigs and store the equipment necessary to create world-class, multi-modality training centers. The lockers are customized to meet any need and come in several sizes and with varying training packages.

The ability to have an outdoor weight room and gym functionality was critical during the winter. “It was really important to have something like this during COVID-19 restrictions,” Konecni said. “The timing of its arrival couldn’t have been better.”

A large chunk of the funding for the workout unit was provided by the Cal Maritime Edwards Leadership Program, courtesy of Tom and Libby Edwards. Konecni noted the module provides another place for the cadets to safely socialize outdoors as well.

“Personally, I’m a big runner,” Konecni said. “I like being outdoors and taking advantage of the weather. We have a lot of great resources inside the PEAC, but this brings the cadets outside, which will inspire them to come by and use it. I’ve seen these lockers turn into social gathering points where people will show up, bring their speakers, do their workouts, and then they’ll just keep hanging out and interacting, and definitely build kind of a sense of community around it.” ↓

Staying in Shape with a Shipping Crate

Cal Maritime cadets and athletes enjoyed a new way of working out when a compact and fully loaded gym — all inside a shipping crate — arrived last winter.

The unit can accommodate up to 50 cadets at a time and features free weights, kettlebells, 12 different dip and pull-up stations, a 12-foot rope climb, three squat racks, and more. The contents of the crate can be rolled out and set up for workouts, with plenty of space for social distancing when needed.

The 10-foot outdoor workout unit was built by BeaverFit USA and its acquisition was initiated by Engine Company Commandant, **Anthony Konecni**.

“Commandant Taliaferro and I have been at a few different military bases that have had very similar setups from both this brand and some others,” Konecni said. “About a year ago we started talking about how with California’s fantastic weather and our great campus how this would really be an asset for the cadets and now it’s here.”



UPDATED GYM INSTALLED ON TS GOLDEN BEAR / A large group gathered in mid June aboard the TS *Golden Bear* for the rededication of the Ben Davis court '07 Memorial gym. The Athletics Department worked quickly to get new and updated equipment installed to help keep shipmates fit during the two summer cruises.

ATHLETICS & RECREATION PIVOT

For many Americans, the pandemic truly grabbed their attention when professional sports leagues stopped playing and NCAA March Madness was canceled in March 2020. For those who work in sports, schedules were paused, and uncertainty followed, as it did for the staff of the Cal Maritime Department of Athletics and Physical Education.

The department prepped for functioning in the fall within COVID protocols in place and following California's color tiered system for intercollegiate play and recreational programs. But as COVID numbers rose, intercollegiate seasons were delayed and restrictions increased, so the department pivoted to focusing their energy on being able to keep recreational options available any way they could.

"The premise for the resiliency project was to provide resources and programs that would promote mental health and wellbeing," Director of Athletics and Physical Education **Karen Yoder** said. "Pivoting from an intercollegiate model to a recreational model seemed the perfect fit to provide an inclusive platform for cadets, staff, and faculty."

Yoder also had the opportunity to be a co chair on the Resiliency

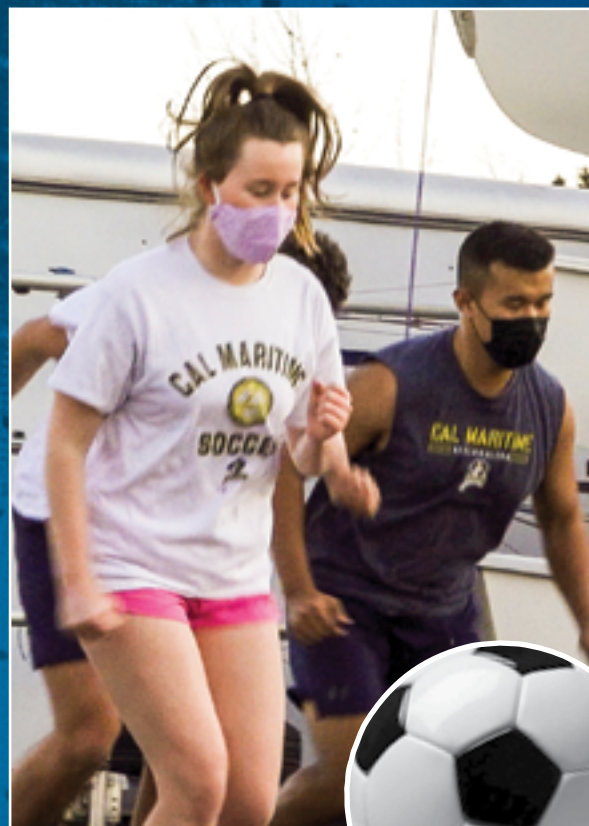
Project Committee, whose purpose was to establish a growth mindset to create a resilient individual. The Resiliency Project sought to give cadets, faculty, and staff the tools to feel compassion, connectedness, and gratitude so the Cal Maritime community didn't feel alone in these unprecedented times.

"It was an opportunity to pivot, redesign, and provide a connectedness to the entire campus community," Yoder added. "The opportunity to reconnect the recreational intramural model supports every single individual in their physical and mental health, and not just the cadet athlete model. This is imperative coming out of shelter-in place that we reconnect with ourselves and others with what we're passionate about." Over the course of the fall and spring semesters, in close observation of COVID restrictions and proper PPE in place, the department hosted intramural coed kickball, dodge ball, soccer, outdoor rowing, and running club options to involve all of the campus community, in addition to both outdoor and indoor yoga and spin classes.

Before and after being in the most restrictive purple tier from November of 2020 to March of 2021, the department supported indoor programming at the PEAC at 10% of a space's normal capacity. Head Athletic Trainer **Jeff Ward** was on the frontline of keeping the Keelhaulers safe and overseeing PPE acquisition for the department.

The pandemic and Solano county's tiered system continued to challenge the department.

"We went into the purple tier and couldn't use the indoor spaces,



TOP: DURING EARLY EVENING SESSIONS, SOCCER TEAM MEMBERS WERE ABLE TO DO CONDITIONING AND STRENGTHENING WORKOUTS WHILE MAINTAINING SOCIAL DISTANCING. BOTTOM: CADETS ENJOYED KICKBALL, DODGEBALL, SOCCER AND OUTDOOR ROWING WHILE OBSERVING COVID RESTRICTIONS.

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so we had to pivot again,” Ward said. “Bodnar Field went offline as it had repairs done, so we had to get really creative and think outside the box. We brought in a fitness coach and recreation instructor, Mark Johnson, and utilized the back parking lot in the PEAC to do strength and conditioning sessions. Initially with a lot of body weight work and then they were able to utilize the BeaverFit Outdoor Exercise Module. We got creative with the solutions to get physical activity going to benefit mental health.”

One of those creative solutions was bringing in new technologies to run programming that could reach the campus community virtually, whether on campus or at home. The Keelhauler Fit project was born and the program utilized the new TeamBuildr app acquired by Cal Maritime that could be downloaded to any mobile device or tablet. It gave the department the ability to customize a program to fit everyone's needs and goals whether

they are new to exercising, an experienced weightlifter, or training for a marathon. Users can see their workouts as they go and track their results. It will even send a reminder that they have a workout coming up.

“We recognized folks on campus were feeling a little isolated with limiting one cadet to a room and we also tried to connect with the cadets that were studying off campus,” Ward said. “So, we found the TeamBuildr app, started Keelhauler Fit, and were able to set up online workout regimens from weight lifting to conditioning programming for all of the campus community in the hopes that if we can get them some physical activity, get the cadets out of their room, then it will benefit their mental health, and that's been a very successful program.”

The approach gave the Athletic Department a renewed energy and a sense of normalcy. Along with coaches of intercollegiate teams offering in person and virtual live stream and asynchronous workouts to the campus as

a whole, coaches could still give their athletes individual or outdoor, physically distant instruction of technique and conditioning. Overall, the department made the best of a tough situation and the renewed

focus on recreation will be one of those things to come out of the pandemic that will be a positive in the long run. “Opening up our offerings bridged the campus community,” Ward added. “I think in this challenging pandemic time we're creating relationships and connecting with faculty and cadets that weren't engaging in the department's services and it should continue to grow.” ↓



Recruiting During COVID

The Keelhaulers coaches stayed busy during this extended off-season in what was likely the most challenging recruitment period in history, with coaches and recruits adapting to the virtual and remote environment they operated in. While the cross country and golf teams were able to participate in condensed seasons in the spring of 2021, the other sports focused on recruiting new players along with keeping their current players well-conditioned.

The pandemic didn't stop coaches from recruiting the next wave of Keelhaulers for the 2021-22 school year. Visits to family's living rooms were replaced with Zoom calls and reliance on video streams and game film increased when games were either cancelled or occurred with no one in attendance.

"You had to learn how to be flexible, be even more personable, and make sure you were really building a relationship and creating a bond more so over Zoom or the phone than in person," new Head Women's Basketball Coach **Denise Bennett** said. "I really had to dive in and connect with the family, answer questions, and get to know them outside of sports."

Women's Basketball added **Dylan Fulton** out of Oceana High in Pacifica, CA, **Alina Dutton** from Antelope High in Sacramento, and transfer students **Ashley Bernales** of San Marcos, CA and **Kaylee Berry** of San Diego.

Rugby continued to fill out its roster with four excellent contributors to the program. Head Coach **Steve Hiett** signed **Larry Ward III** out of El Camino High in Oceanside, CA, **Leo Lowe** from Kimball High School in Tracy, CA, **Gavin Murray** of Homestead High in Cupertino, CA, and **Ryan Packard** from Bellarmine College Prep, as all emphasized what a natural fit Cal Maritime felt like to them.

"I had a coach recommend me to the team, so I looked into the school and right when I saw it, I really liked it," said Lowe (GSMA '25).
The Cal Maritime Men's Basketball team, now led by Head Coach **Tim Bross**, made the signings of incoming transfers **Miles Pennington** of Yuba City College and **Eric Figueroa** out of Victorville Valley College

ERIC FIGUEROA



official, as they will play their first season with the Keelhaulers in the 2021-22 school year. Coach Bross also added **Landon Courtman** of nearby Healdsburg, from Santa Rosa Junior College and **Tomas Gomez-Espana** of Napa who played at Napa Valley College and Santa Monica City College as well as high school senior **Alex Maze** out of Sacramento. This infusion of community college talent coupled with new freshman recruits highlighted Coach Bross's aim to bring in "talented and experienced players as a major recruiting objective." During a time when most community college programs were not playing due to the pandemic, Cal Maritime coaches relied on their coaching networks at that level for recommendations.

AMANDA CARVALHO



DYLAN FULTON



"Going into the recruitment process, I was just trying to figure out the best fit not only in terms of basketball but academically too," said Courtman, who will study oceanography.
Men's Soccer, led by new Head Coach **Mike Carvalho** is adding **Gregg Aguilar** of Lomita, Calif., from Narbonne High School (BL '25) and **Luka Bilaver** from Palos Verdes High School (ME '25), and out-of-state student **Nicholas Strand** out of King Kekaulike High School on Maui (ME '25) to his line-up. Coach Carvalho notes that while these signings highlight a flow of cadets coming in from the South Bay Los Angeles Area with

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strong maritime roots, bringing in students from Hawaii also highlights the appeal for cadets-athletes from the islands to see Cal Maritime as a viable opportunity. Coach Carvalho also plans to attend local identification camps this summer to help increase the visibility of the Academy.

Women's Soccer, which has historically relied on walk-ons in the early years of its program, signed veteran club player and local Benicia high school student **Amanda Carvalho** (IBL '25). Amanda had a unique opportunity to connect in-person with Head Women's Soccer Coach **Emily Scheese**, as her dad Mike Carvalho helped coach the women's team before taking on the head coach role for the men's team. Coach Scheese noted, "During the pandemic, I relied on my local connections and took to heart the relationships I started building and nurtured initially through identification camps I started in 2018. I then fostered those relationships over Zoom meetings and phone calls. Amanda is a great signing for us with a lot of local club experience. It fits our goal of growing our squad with talented club players with a specific interest in the majors we offer at Cal Maritime." Amanda added. Talking with Coach Emily and the other players, I realized it has a great community feel and seemed like something I would be into."

Keeping that connection alive with the current team was a dynamic that Coach Bennett had to factor in as well. As a coach new who was getting to know some of her players for the first time virtually, Bennett had to foster those relationships among current players and recruits. "Connecting with the current team and individual players via Zoom was something exciting for the recruits." Bennett noted. "When they finally came to campus to sign their letter of intent, it wasn't awkward or unfamiliar to meet new their teammates in person." Coach Scheese added, "As soon as the pandemic hit in spring 2020, we made a consolidated effort to bring together the incoming freshmen, transfers, and the current players even in the virtual realm to start fostering



LONDON COURTMAN



LARRY WARD III



LEO LOWE



MILES PENNINGTON

those relationships and elements of team culture that are so important to future success on the field. So when they arrived in fall 2020, they were already on board with their new teammates. Pandemic aside, these are practices we can continue to implement to create that sense of team camaraderie among cadets before they even set foot on campus."

Coaches from all programs will be on the recruiting trail this summer including various basketball AAU events and club soccer showcases. Newly appointed Men's and Women's water polo coach and Associate Athletic Director **Steve Doten** noted that, "California is the water polo state with hubs in the San Francisco Bay area, Long Beach, and San Diego—and all

these locations also have strong maritime ties. Cal Maritime will attend the National Junior Water Polo Olympics, which will be taking place in Orange County this summer," an exciting development that will allow for more outreach to potential.

Athletics also played a role in the new virtual initiatives that were a part of general campus admissions. Coaches sat in on several panels during Cal Maritime Week held for prospective cadets. During it as well as various "Click, Chat, Connect" episodes, coaches helped to spread awareness not only about the intercollegiate programs, but also the recreational opportunities that support health and wellness.

Expect more athletic recruiting announcements this summer! 📍



KEEP UP WITH THE KEELHAULERS!
SCHEDULES, SCORES, AND MORE!
WWW.CSUM.EDU/ATHLETICS

Honorary Alumnae

Anne Heather Cropper / The First Lady of Cal Maritime from 2012 until her passing in 2019, Heather dedicated herself to the well-being and care of cadets, faculty, and staff at an Academy she deeply loved. An Iowa native, Heather received her degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from Iowa State University, also the locale of another important event—meeting Tom Cropper. After they married in 1981, Heather took on the challenging role of being a Navy spouse. While raising three children, she devoted herself to supporting fellow military families, always radiating warmth, sincerity, love, and understanding for their unique service. She displayed determination, poise, and resilience during her husband’s extended sea time and was an exemplar to others. Through several military relocations, she committed to generously supporting the naval aviation community, local schools, and her PEO chapters. Heather’s lasting impact on military families was recognized in 2012 when she received the Navy Meritorious Public Service Award. As a loving wife, mother, and grandparent, family and friends were Heather’s passion and priority. Her journey – though too short – was marked by her contagious laugh and smile, a carefree spirit, and above all, kindness, and grace.

Elizabeth “Libby” Edwards / Long associated with Cal Maritime through the Edwards Leadership Development Program she and her husband Tom endow, Libby is a steadfast believer in the power of the education offered at the Academy. Born in Seattle and raised in Santa Barbara, Libby received her Bachelor of Arts from Colorado Women’s College in Denver. She pursued a career in real estate in Walnut Creek until meeting and marrying Tom. While taking an active role in raising their two children, Libby volunteered in their schools as well as throughout their scouting journeys. Libby has spent countless hours vol-

Alumni



TOP: DAUGHTER LAUREN CROPPER ACCEPTING THE HONORARY ALUMNAE CITATION POSTUMOUSLY FOR HER MOTHER. BOTTOM: ELIZABETH “LIBBY” EDWARDS ACCEPTING HER HONORARY ALUMNAE CITATION.

unteering for and advancing the Orinda Women’s Club, included a multi-year tenure as its president. An avid reader, she has been meeting with a beloved book club for 23 years. She has co-chaired the auction committee for Cal Maritime’s annual gala and continues to support activities and endowments that she and Tom have created. She remains devoted to her family, including four grandchildren. ↴

Crossed the Final Bar

CLASS OF 1951



CAPT Ehrling Nils Carlsen, 1931 – 2021

Ehrling's love of the sea began at an early age and stayed with him throughout his whole life. It started with the Sea Scouts in high school. After graduation from the California Maritime Academy in

Vallejo, he sailed for Chevron for many years. He then went to Phillips Petroleum and became involved in the Ekofisk offshore oil development project in Norway. His next adventure took him to St Croix, Virgin Islands where he ran the port facility for Amerada Hess. Managing the port in Ras Tanura, Saudi Arabia was next. He then started his own successful International Maritime Consulting business. He leaves behind his two sons and wife of 68 years. He has "crossed the bar" and is with his pilot.

EHRLING CARLSEN

CLASS OF 1952

Gregory A. Lighthouse, Jr., 1927 – 2021

Gregory A. Lighthouse, Jr., a resident of San Jose started his forever nap the early morning of January 24th, 2021. Born in Oakland, CA on November 20th, 1927 to Gregory A. Lighthouse, Sr. and Lillian Lighthouse (nee Flaherty), the second of eight children and the first-born son. Graduated from Saint Joseph's High School in Alameda. Attended the California Maritime Academy and graduated with a degree in Marine Engineering. Greg was a member of the US Navy Reserve serving on submarines based in San Francisco. After graduation, Greg worked as a Merchant Marine, was drafted into the US Army, and was inducted at Ford Ord. Greg was assigned to Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Picking up extra duty, he earned money to continue his passion for aviation and started taking flying lessons. Greg returned home to Oakland and met Mildred A. Meehan, a schoolteacher, at a Newman Club Dance. A year later they were married in San Francisco and began their journey together. After welcoming their first child, Thomas, he and Millie packed up and moved to San Luis Obispo where he sought a second degree at Cal Poly and earned a BSME.

The family moved to Stockton where they welcomed their second child, Eugenia. Shortly thereafter, the family moved to Bakersfield to be near Millie's father and welcomed a third child, Mary Beth. A few years later, they moved to Panama as Greg had taken a job with the Panama Canal Company. The family ended up in Santa Clara. As a PE, Greg worked for Stanford University, Raychem, Varian Associates, SAE Engineering, and ending his career with Lockheed. Greg's last assignment was working on a NASA project involving the Solid Fuel Rocket Boosters for the Space Shuttle Program which landed Greg and Millie in Mississippi. They took full opportunity to visit as much of the South as possible including trips to watch the Indy 500 and the Kentucky Derby live. Retirement brought Millie and Greg back to California where they moved full-time to the "cabin" at Pine Mountain Lake.

Millie and Greg traveled extensively. In all, Greg had visited 49 of the 50 States in America. Greg would always say he had so much fun with Millie. Millie passed in 2016 taking "a big chunk" of Greg's spirit with her to heaven. Greg, when asked how he was doing, would reply, "I'm just waiting for the last day so I can go to heaven to be with Millie and hold her hand." Gregory is survived by his brother, James Lighthouse of Decatur, IL and a sister, Mary Jo Bryan of Pilot Hill, California, son, Thomas (Linda), daughters Gena and Mary Beth (Gregory) and grandchildren Matthew (Kat), William, Hannah, Andrew and 32 nieces and nephews.

CLASS OF 1958

LCDR Harold "Sam" W. Botkins (RET), 1936 – 2021

Sam Botkins died after a lengthy illness in Las Vegas, Nevada. He was a beloved husband and father. Born at the height of the great depression, he lived a vagabond existence with his mother mostly in Northern California until he entered California Maritime Academy, financed mostly by his mother's waitress tips. Graduating in 1958, he married Deanna L. Hauff and reported to Pensacola NAS to begin flight training. He would go on to fly a variety of aircraft, including the T-34, T-38, P5M Martin Mariner seaplane, and the C-118. His many varied assignments were: USS *Purdy*, USS *Coral Sea*; VT-2, VT-3, VP-31, VP-48, and VR-21. During the course of his career, his flying trips included but were not limited to, Hawaii, Japan, Gaum, Kwajalein, Midway, Philippines, Wake Island, China, Okinawa, Taiwan, Korea, "Yankee Station" and Vietnam. After his retirement, he would shortly find a second career as a Facilities Engineer for the State of California at Napa State Hospital for 20 years. Retiring for

good, he would eventually settle in Las Vegas. Possessed of an inexhaustible curiosity and good humor he was profoundly grateful for his CMA education once saying he would have ended up a dirt farmer if it wasn't for CMA. He is survived by his former wife and children Gene, Peter, Lois, and Mary, 5 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.

CLASS OF 1961



Maynard Willms, 1937 – 2021

Former San Rafael City Councilman, long-time Marin County Community Volunteer, Softball Coach, Marine Engineer, and family patriarch died January 28 at his home surrounded by family.

MAYNARD WILLMS

Willms was raised in Vallejo, CA, the son of Harry and Carmen Willms. After attending Vallejo High School, he became the first of three generations to graduate from CSU Maritime Academy. He served two years as an Engineering Officer aboard the destroyer USS *Brinkley Bass*. In 1962, he married the love of his life, Helen Zundel and they moved to San Rafael, where they raised their two daughters and have been active members of the community for close to 60 years. Willms joined Crowley Maritime and led the design and construction of over 75 tugs, 40 barges, and three ships. He was also responsible for the design and construction of the first "High-Speed Ferries" on San Francisco Bay. After the earthquake in 1989, he directed the start-up of emergency ferry service from Richmond to San Francisco using these vessels, due to the collapse of the Bay Bridge. After the Exxon *Valdez* oil spill in Prince William Sound in 1989, several Crowley Quick Response tugs designed by Willms were used to prevent and contain oil spills in the area. After 38 years with Crowley, Willms retired in 1999. He also served on the Board of Hatch and Kirk for over 20 years. In addition to his day job, Willms was always involved; He coached both baseball and softball and was part of a group of coaches that advocated for the local softball teams to receive similar equipment, uniforms, and field maintenance as the baseball teams. In 1995, Willms recruited local volunteers, corporate donors, and even the National Guard to build a field for the Terra Linda High School softball team, which was later named after him. He served two terms as President of the Mont Marin Homeowners Association, where he was actively involved in the committee to Save Mont Marin open space. He was on the boards of the Volunteer Center of Marin, Buckelew House, Marin History

Museum, and Rotary Manor. He was elected President of San Rafael Rotary in 2010. He was also President of the San Rafael YMCA Board and helped to build the YMCA facility in San Rafael in the 1980s. He served on the San Rafael Planning Commission for six years and in 1987 was appointed to the San Rafael City Council. In 2017, Maynard received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Cal Maritime's Alumni Association. More recently, he was a member of Sons In Retirement (SIRs). Maynard was known for his boisterous personality, loyalty, and warmth. Willms is survived by his wife, Helen; daughters, Cathe Anderson (Darrell, '90) and Stacey Adams (Sam); sister, Shirley Pfendt (Horst); grandchildren, Zack, '20, and Elise Anderson and Grant and London Adams.



JAMES E. RICHARDS

CLASS OF 1963

CAPT James E. Richards, 1942 – 2020

Capt. James "Jim" Edwin Richards was born in Oakland, California, to Doris and Webb Richards. He graduated from San Leandro High School in

1960 and later attended the California Maritime Academy. Jim graduated in 1963 with a Bachelor of Science degree in nautical science and a federal license: third mate.

Following graduation, Jim landed with Pacific Coast Transport, an arm of Union Oil, where he eventually became captain of the Avila.

Throughout his life, Jim always identified himself as a ships' master and was a longtime member of the Council of American Master Mariners. Jim enjoyed telling captivating stories about his shipmates and their adventures. Many of those stories involved captains Tillman and Kosterval, as both men played big roles in his life; first as mentors and then as lifelong friends.

In 1981, Jim was accepted into the Columbia River Bar Pilots in Astoria. During his tenure with the bar pilots, Jim served as secretary, and later as president, and was active in evaluating and replacing transportation equipment

to ensure the safety and efficiency of boarding ships at sea. As a pilot, Jim represented the organization, and lobbied along with the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association in Washington, D.C., to maintain and improve the Columbia River's channels.

In 1983, Jim married Sharon. They combined families and finally found the love and companionship they both were seeking. They took time off to travel, but mostly they just had fun being together.

Jim was pleased that he could donate to various community charities, his favorite being Habitat for Humanity, as home and family stability were extremely important to him. He also enjoyed volunteering at the Columbia River Maritime Museum, where he served on their board of trustees.

Following his retirement, Jim split his time between his favorite places in Sisters and Kapa'a, Hawaii. While in Oregon, Jim continued to work toward his pilot's license, with the hope that one day he could fly between both his homes.

Jim was bigger than life. He was generous, loving, and kind and his laugh could fill a concert hall. It was often said of Jim that he was "one of the good ones."

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 37 years, Sharon; brother, Dick; children, Susan, Lisa, Paige, and Mark; 3 grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

CLASS OF 1964



SCOTT F. ABRAMS

Scott F. Abrams, 1942 – 2020

Scott sailed away to peaceful waters on November 9, 2020, but the wake he left will be felt for the rest of our lives.

Scott was born June 7, 1942, to Betty and Louie Abrams in Honolulu

Hawaii. Growing up in Hawaii spent his youth in sailboats on the water. He was a graduate of the prestigious Punahou School in Honolulu and the Cal Maritime. He worked for 40 years with Matson Navigation Shipping Company and retired as Captain in 2008.

Scott's real love was sailing. He navigated in many offshore races from California to Mexico but his favorite races were to Hawaii. He participated in 15 Transpacific yacht races better known as the Transpac. Scott's grandfather, Clarence McFarland founded the race in 1906. Sailing is in his blood.

During their 45 years of marriage, he and his wife Gloria traveled to 21 countries and for two

years living in Lima Peru. Scott had a great sense of humor and a very distinctive laugh! He enjoyed cooking new recipes and loved cookies and pies. He was loved by many.

Scott is survived by his wife Gloria, his children Jennifer, Jim, Phyllis, and Kane, 7 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren.

Man cannot change the wind but he can adjust the sails!

CLASS OF 1968



J. MICHAEL MURPHY

CAPT J. Michael Murphy, 1947 – 2020

Mike Murphy to all who knew him, died at home with his wife Randi at his side on November 29th. He was 73. Mike graduated from Camarillo High School in 1965, and the California Maritime

Academy in 1968. In 1969, he was selected for US Navy flight training. Mike retired from the Navy as a Captain in 1992, after multiple operational tours and commands. In addition to his BS degree from Cal Maritime, he secured an additional Bachelors in Computer Sciences and a Masters in International Relations. After retirement from the Navy, Mike commanded five different ships for Maersk, delivering and putting into service three newly built LMSRs: USNS *Bob Hope*, USNS *Charleton*, and USNS *Soderman*. In 2010, Mike became the American Maritime Organization's (AMO) first National Vice President of Government Relations, a position he held until early this year. Additionally, he was chair of the Maritime Safety Committee of the International Transport Workers Federation for more than 10 years. He provided a voice for all seafarers at an International level.

Mike was married to Randi Olson Murphy for 51 years, they made their permanent home in Camarillo, notwithstanding the travel and foreign assignments during his multiple careers. Mike also leaves his sister, Theresa "Terry" McConville (Ron), his brother, Patrick Murphy (Sandy), a niece and five nephews, and grand-niece and nine grandnephews. He mentored many young seafarers, one of whom wrote "Saying Captain Murphy was one of a kind is like saying Mount Everest is a mountain." May he have "Fair Winds and Following Seas."

Bruce Andrew Seaton, 1947 – 2020

Bruce Andrew Seaton passed away peacefully with his dog at this side on November 2, 2020. He died following complications post

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**To submit information
 about Alumni and Friends of
 Cal Maritime who have Crossed
 the Final Bar, please visit
WWW.CSUM.EDU/ALUMNI**

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heart surgery. Bruce was born June 9, 1947, to Henry Lyle and Jeanette Seaton of Evanston, Illinois. Bruce was retired from the Department of Defense after 32 years of service. Before that, he served in both the Merchant Marines and the Navy. His first 10 years of retirement were spent in Colonial Beach, VA where he loved his job as dockmaster, small-town life, and friends. He then moved to Fredericksburg, VA, and finally Kansas City, MO. He enjoyed traveling with his wife, Sandy, cheering the Chiefs to victory, visiting train museums, and riding steam engines throughout the country. Most of all he enjoyed spending quality time with family and friends.

CLASS OF 1972

Jack Seibel, 1947 – 2021

Jacob Madison Seibel, Jr., or better known as “Jack,” died with his family by his side on January 26, 2021, in Portland, Oregon. Jack was born on October 23, 1947, in Portland, Oregon to Jacob and Ruth Eliza (Rubens) Seibel. He was the youngest child with five older siblings.

Growing up in Alameda, California, Jack graduated from California Maritime Academy where he earned his degree in marine engineering. He went on to work for 35 years at Portland General Electric as a mechanical engineer where he retired in 2015. His interests included various building projects, barbecuing, gardening, and most importantly spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

Jack is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Janet; children Jennifer, Jim, Thomas, Matthew, and Brandie; grandchildren Makenna, Brodey, and Madeline Seibel. Because his heart was so big, the family grew to include Becky, Eric, Hailey, and Zakiya Kilgore; Will, Amy, Grace and William Groulx and Anthony, Amy, Taso, Amalia, and Arlo Aivaliotis.



JAMES A. BILLER

CLASS OF 1973

James Anthony Biller, 1951 – 2020

James Anthony Biller was born in Ventura, CA, on July 10, 1951, to Jack and Marjorie Biller. Growing up in Ventura, he surfed, sailed, played water polo for the Ventura High

Cougars, and was one of the best swimmers Ventura High had ever seen, getting his varsity letter and pin as a sophomore and setting swimming records that stood for many years after he graduated in 1969. Jim had a love of the beach, sailing, and everything that had to do with the

water was obvious to everyone around him. He was a lifeguard on the beaches of Ventura during the late 60s and early 70s, and he was selected by California’s State senators to attend the California Maritime Academy. He spent the next several years working at sea as a third mate on various ships and tugboats around the world, traveling to places like Singapore, Bahrain, Tahiti, Alaska, the Caribbean, and the Eastern Seaboard of the US.

In 1975, Jim settled in South Lake Tahoe. Soon after, he became Captain of the M.S. Dixie and eventually the M.S. Dixie II, a 500+ passenger sternwheeler tour boat. For 25 years, Jim was head Captain as well as a critical piece to the success of the entire Zephyr Cove Travel Systems operation. In the late ‘70s and early ‘80s, Jim was a fierce competitor in the local Windjammers Yacht Club sailing races where he raced his Santana 20, Nembrotha, to victory many times.

He married Rosemary Manning, in March 1982, and welcomed their daughters, Dondra (1986) and Briana (1988) into the world. Jim loved being a dad and raising kids in Tahoe. He coached soccer teams, taught skiing, was there for every dance recital and theater performance and raised his daughters to love the outdoors while also having an appreciation for hard work, determination, and a serious sense of adventure, always with a good sense of humor.

In 1996, Jim married Susan-Marie Hagen. Jim and Susan-Marie moved to Pacifica in 2004 where Jim worked on tugboats in the San Francisco Bay helping to build the new Bay Bridge. They eventually moved to the small town of Gualala on the North Coast. It was there that they lived seven amazing years as camp hosts at the Gualala Point Regional Park Campground. If there were ever two people that were made to be camp hosts, it was Jim and Susan-Marie with their welcoming smiles and desire to help everyone, always with a sea story ready to go for anyone who wanted to listen. Jim was a fantastic storyteller and lived by the motto, “If there isn’t a way, make one.”

Jim passed peacefully with his wife, daughters, and step-son by his side on December 13, 2020, after a short, but fierce, battle with lung cancer. He is survived by his wife, Susan-Marie Hagen, two daughters.

CLASS OF 1981

Simon Tao, 1955 – 2021

Simon was born in Burma in 1955. He immigrated to the United States in 1975 with his mother, Marie, and younger sister, Elizabeth. He was very hardworking. A week after he immigrated to the US, he got a job as a dishwasher in a North Beach restaurant to provide for his



SIMON TAO

family. He also attended community college during the day while working at night. He graduated from California Maritime Academy with a Marine Engineering degree. After graduation, he joined the Military Sealift Command (Pacific) as an Operating

Engineer were served as a lieutenant, and traveled around the world for several years. In 1986, he joined the United States Department of Transportation, Maritime administration MARAD as a Marine Surveyor and worked in various positions with his last position being a Staff Shipping Representative. He graduated from the Naval War College in 2000 with a Master’s Degree.

Simon was a very generous and giving person. He was not only generous with material things but also with his time. He enjoyed showering his family (especially his nephews and niece) and friends with gifts from his travels around the world. Whenever he traveled to another country, he always thought to bring something back for others to enjoy whether that was a trinket or a food item the country was well known for. He lived his life fully. His passions were golf, wine, golf, wine...His motto: Go big or go home!

He is survived by his sisters, nephews, niece, grandniece, brother, and sister-in-law. ↘

Crossed the Final Bar

CAPT Ehrling Nils Carlsen ’51

Gregory A. Lighthouse ’52

LCDR Harold “Sam” W. Botkins ’58

Maynard Willms ’61

CAPT James E. Richards ’63

Scott F. Abrams ’64

CAPT J. Michael Murphy ’68

Bruce Andrew Seaton ’68

Jack Seibel ’72

James Anthony Biller ’73

Simon Tas ’81

Benjamin Jones ’06

Coast Guard Sector Maryland-NCR coordinated the maritime security component of the U.S. Secret Service operation for the 2021 Presidential Inauguration. They ran an Incident Command System structure with over 400 members of the Coast Guard, local, state and Federal law enforcement consisting of more than 30 boats and more than 10 shoreside teams to patrol the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers along with facilities in the DC area. Cal Maritime alums were integral in the operation. **LTJG Zada McCleendon** IBL '17 was a Resources Unit Leader accounting for all people and equipment. **MSTC Meserve-Nibley** GSMA '16 was a Waterside Division Group Supervisor with responsibility over all patrolling boats on the water. **LCDR Jonathan Hsieh** MT '09 was overall Project Officer and Deputy Logistics Section Chief.



FROM LEFT, ZADA MCCLEENDON, '17 (IBL), BLAINE MESERVE NIBLEY '16 (GSMA) AND JONATHAN HSIEH '09 (MT)



When **Madeline Schmidt** '24 started her freshman year last fall, she began to take an interest in her mom's Cal Maritime uniforms from "back in the day." Her mom, **Jennifer Ferrara Schmidt**, who graduated in '93, saved a lot of clothing from her days as an instructor on several cruises over the years, and has found the gear useful. In mid-February, when Madeline was starting to talk about her upcoming freshman cruise, Jennifer decided to gift Madeline her N1 jacket, which had been in a closet for years. While trying on the jacket and finding that it fit perfectly, Madeline reached into one of its pockets. Out came a folded up certificate, inscribed with "Certificado De Explorador Del Estrecho de Magellanes" commemorating the *Golden Bear's* passage through the Straits of Magellan. That was exciting enough, but one detail immediately jumped out — it was exactly 30 years to the day — February 16, 1991. "It was kind of a shock," says Jennifer. "I mean — what are the odds of that? I guess it was just meant to be."

16th Annual Scholarship & Awards Gala

The 16th Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala occurred completely virtually this year. We opened the on-line auction two weeks before the March 26th event, and immediately began receiving bids. Auction items were donated by our Cal Maritime family of cadets, alumni, parents (past and present), as well as employees who shared their talents with original art, books, yacht tours, and sports activities.

The Gala program was live-streamed and featured the Cal Maritime Alumni and Industry Award recipients. Entertainment was provided by the Circus Center of San Francisco, our own celebrity alumnus and Foundation board member, **Kim Estes** demonstrating our signature cocktail, and the interactive live fund-need auction lead by professional auctioneer Damon Castico. All agreed that our auctioneer, who worked with our interactive platform, made the live auction a fun event so that we could easily enjoy supporting scholarships. Even when a donor accidentally pledged \$5 instead of \$5,000, our auctioneer helped him recover.

Once the live stream event concluded, the party continued on Zoom, hosted by the Director of Alumni Relations, **Terrie Cosgrove**. We were prepared to show off our red clown noses and visit virtually with our friends, to celebrate the success of the event. The event raised more than \$167,000 for cadet scholarships.

Giving

Awards

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Tim Coombs '80 MET

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

James Sundfors '65 MET

LIGHTHOUSE SERVICE AWARD

Thomas C. Edwards

RISING STAR

Coulston Van Gundy '06 ME, '16 MSTEM

INDUSTRY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Association of Marine Underwriters of San Francisco
Centerline Logistics
Intermodal Association of North America (IANA)
Jacobsen Pilot Services

Sponsors



ADMIRAL SPONSOR



COMMODORE SPONSOR



ADMIRAL'S VIP
RECEPTION SPONSOR



CAPTAIN
SPONSOR



COMMANDANT SPONSORS



John Betz



CADET'S TABLE SPONSORS

All proceeds support student scholarships and academic programs

Charles Hart to Lead Cal Maritime's Fundraising Effort



• **Charles Hart** has joined Cal Maritime as its Interim Senior Director of Development. In this role, Hart will oversee outreach and fundraising efforts including alumni office, the annual fund as well as Cal Maritime's inaugural comprehensive campaign, *Leading the Way*.

"My new role at Cal Maritime will draw my experience as a non-profit leader, and a high-tech executive and a mariner in both creative and challenging ways," says Hart. "I'm excited to be meeting a host of fascinating cadets, faculty, and alumni here and look forward to the work we can do together as 'friend-raisers' and fundraisers for the Academy."

Prior to his role at Cal Maritime, Hart was the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Chief Executive Officer of the San Francisco Maritime National Park Association. This 70-year-old non-profit company manages the historic WW II submarine, USS *Pampanito* and conducts maritime based education programs with over 10,000 students, annually, on the Hyde Street Pier in Aquatic Park. Also, he had previously been the CEO of Call of the Sea, a non-profit, marine environmental education organization operating the 82' *Schooner Seaward* and building the hybrid powered, tall ship, the 132' *Brigantine Matthew Turner*.

His earlier career centered on the field of high tech, where he led several public and privately held companies that innovated in hardware, software, and global security and geographic and navigation systems.

Hart earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Maryland and continued his education at Stanford University's AEA Executive Institute in the Graduate School of Industrial Engineering. In the United States Air Force, he was a Squadron Commander with the Strategic Air Command.

His community involvement has included key management roles in music, arts, health care and health care organizations. He has also served as the Commodore of the St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco.

"Charlie's extensive and diverse experience as well as his deep connection to the maritime world make him a terrific addition to our team," says Robert Arp, Vice President of University Advancement. "It is with great pleasure that we welcome him aboard and put him straight to work leading our fundraising endeavor at this critical time." ↴

During the 2020-21 academic year, the Cal Maritime Library has been offering a "Library by Mail" service for students learning remotely, with postage costs supported by the Paul O'Bannon Endowed Library Fund.

While much of the library's collection is digital, many specialized books are only available in print. This year library staff members, with the help of student assistants, mailed books to students living off-campus, some of whom were seniors working on lengthy research capstone projects.

The library is also providing long-term laptop loans to some off-campus students via application. There are many reasons why students might find themselves without a computer unexpectedly or without a laptop that is powerful enough for their coursework.

"We've all learned to work in a new way this year," said **Michele Van Hoeck**, Dean of the Library, "and the library is no exception. We're really pleased to be able to support our off-campus cadets, and the O'Bannon funds have been essential in this effort."



Tiny Hitchhikers

When **Chrissy Edmiston** '16 was getting her degree at Cal Maritime in Global Studies and Marine Affairs, she also developed an interest in biofouling while minoring in Marine Science. Marine biofouling means that organisms, like barnacles, latch onto the sides of ships and risk being transported to other areas and introducing non-native species. Biofouling also creates drag on ships, which increases air emissions and fuel costs. Edmiston minored in marine science and worked with **Dr. Alex Parker** on the problem, then headed on to San Francisco State to continue studying it while pursuing her master's degree.

While many scientists have studied biofouling via larger organisms such as barnacles and mussels, Edmiston chose to focus on less-studied organisms — microscopic algae — as scientists still don't know much about the impacts of their journeys across the seas. She worked with Director of Cal Maritime's Golden Bear Research Center **Chris Brown** to chart a course, following the ship on the 2018 cruise to collect samples of these tiny hitchhiking algae from the side of the ship as it made its way to ports in Long Beach, Lahaina, Hawaii, and back to Vallejo. They took underwater photos and videos — and worked to observe changes and assess invasion risk.

Edmiston, along with the other researchers on the project published their results recently in *The Marine Pollution Bulletin*, with the hefty title "Impacts of a temperate to tropical voyage on the microalgal hull fouling community of an atypically-operated vessel." Edmiston got the lead author billing.

"Our research on biofouling and the development of microalgal communities on ships contributes to the scientific understanding necessary to address the spread of non-native marine species on a global scale," says Edmiston. "The project was an amazing opportunity to work with Cal Maritime, the State Lands Commission's Marine Invasive Species Program, the State of Hawaii, and the U.S. Coast Guard. I'm so grateful for this collaboration."



MAIN: DEVELOPING AN INTEREST IN BIOFOULING WHILE MINORING IN MARINE SCIENCE LED CHRISSY EDMISTON '16 TO A PROJECT WORKING WITH THE GOLDEN BEAR RESEARCH CENTER.

INSET: EDMISTON COLLECTED SAMPLES OF MICROSCOPIC ALGAE FROM THE HULL OF THE GOLDEN BEAR AS IT TRAVELED FROM PORT TO PORT.

Edmiston knows that many at Cal Maritime value the *Golden Bear* for its training capabilities, which she applauds. But for her, it's a ship that has launched a career as a marine science researcher.

"The hands-on directed research and support I had while working with the *Golden Bear* is really unmatched and has solidified my career path in STEM," she points out. "This vessel provides a unique, interdisciplinary opportunity for researchers like me who want to study the San Francisco Estuary, but also better understand how our estuary is interconnected with the environment and maritime industry on a global scale.

Now that the Academy is offering an oceanography major along with its Golden Bear Research Center Edmiston says, "I think you're going to see some pretty amazing things come from Cal Maritime in the next few years." ↓





California Maritime Academy Foundation, Inc.
200 Maritime Academy Drive
Vallejo, CA 94590-8181

Cal Maritime Athletics Golf Tournament

MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 2021

Silverado Country Club, Napa, CA / 1:00 pm Tee Time

\$350 PER PLAYER / \$1,200 PER FOUR-PERSON TEAM



Scan the QR code to register or for more information.

Registration fee includes 18 holes of golf, cart, gift bag, silent and live auction, lunch and dinner.

Proceeds support Cal Maritime Athletic Scholarships. www.gokeelhaulers.com/golf_tournament