Eye on the Horizon

ADMIRAL WILLIAM “BUD” FLANAGAN ’64 INVESTS IN A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP AND EXCELLENCE

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER
The 2016 Admiral’s Scholarship Gala is one for the record books

A BRIGHT FUTURE
Cadets explore their post-Academy options at the fall career fair
Charter is proud to continue to support Massachusetts Maritime Academy’s 125 years of excellence and congratulates the recipients of the 2016 Admiral’s Scholarship Award.
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ON THE COVER: ADMIRAL WILLIAM "BUD" FLANAGAN ’64 ADDRESSES THE CROWD AT THE ADMIRAL’S SCHOLARSHIP GALA. PHOTO BY GINA MANNING
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Dreaming Big

My Fellow Alumni and Friends of the Academy,

Wow. What a celebration of our first 125 years! First it was the 2016 Change of Command in May with our own Major Marisol Chalas ’96, and then the magnificent reception aboard the TS Kennedy in Boston Harbor in June with the mayor of Boston, the speaker of the house, the senate president, and the lieutenant governor all joining us to re-sign the Commonwealth law that launched this great Academy. Next up was our Commencement, when Governor Charlie Baker advised the largest graduating class in our history to make their institution proud. And finally came our 2016 Admiral’s Scholarship Gala, which set the MMA record for fundraising at a single event. The outpouring of support from our alumni, friends, and benefactors has been nothing short of astonishing.

But I must let you know, even with all that success, significant challenges are ahead, and MMA needs your help. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is experiencing tough times. While just two decades ago the annual allocation from the state made up more than 50 percent of the Academy’s annual budget, this coming year that percentage stands at just 33 percent, leaving a gap that can be made up in only one of two ways: tuition and fee increases or increases in our fundraising efforts. Given the growing financial hardship of families whose children wish to attend MMA, we prefer the latter.

To that end, I am pleased and proud to formally announce our $50 million, 10-year Comprehensive Fundraising Campaign — A Rising Tide ... The Campaign for Massachusetts Maritime Academy.

Funds raised will be used in three strategic program areas: $20 million will be allocated to build our permanent endowment, thus building an in-perpetuity scholarship program that will keep “giving” long after we are gone; $20 million will be used for capital improvements, which include the expansion of the gymnasium, the renovation of outdated laboratories, and the investment in new simulation; and $10 million will support our ongoing scholarship efforts in order to provide relief to our current and near-term cadets.

This bold goal requires the tireless dedication of everyone in the MMA community: every alumnus, parent, friend, and partner. While it is true that part of the program’s success requires large-scale donations by a few, its success relies equally on the smaller, sustained contributions of many.

If you recognize that MMA provided you with memorable times and lifelong friendships; if you recognize that the Academy gave you the opportunity to provide well for your family; if you recognize that some of your best employees are MMA-trained, please accept the challenge and become a partner in our campaign.

Sincerely,

Rear Admiral Francis McDonald ’85
President, Massachusetts Maritime Academy

FROM THE FLAG BRIDGE  A WORD FROM REAR ADMIRAL FRANCIS MCDONALD
Late August. It is a much-anticipated time — both for anxious members of an incoming class and for veterans of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy community who await the arrival of the freshman class. This year, 485 cadet candidates descended upon Taylor’s Point on August 20, eager to prove to themselves and to MMA that they are Academy material.

Unlike a traditional college’s two-day icebreaker-style orientation, freshmen at MMA undergo a two-week initiation period, complete with classes, drills, and a mini-cruise. “MMA’s goal for orientation was to turn 485 high school graduates into cadets in 13 days,” explains Lieutenant Commander Mike Kelley, 2nd Company officer and director of orientation. In order to achieve this goal, the group was divided into seven companies. “These seven
companies now have to operate as a unit, not as individuals,” Kelley says.

Orientation is led by a cadre made up of senior and junior cadet leaders who underwent a weeklong training to prepare for the vital task of introducing the Class of 2020 to the Academy way. Cadet candidates had three full-day evaluations in water survival, fire fighting, and sailing and rowing. They learned to march, participated in daily physical fitness, were fitted for uniforms, and studied their chafing gear. In addition, they took multiple classes on such topics as military customs and traditions, deck and engine briefings, watch standing, MMA history, professional development, and more. Each new skill will soon become second nature to these youngies.

On August 30, all cadet candidates boarded the TS Kennedy for their first MMA ocean experience. The two-day mini-cruise to New York allowed the entire Class of 2020 to get a sense of what shipboard life is like. “In the past, all freshmen went on our annual six-week-long training cruise,” Kelley says. “With increased enrollment, that is not an option anymore, so the mini-cruise introduces everyone — no matter their major — to life at sea.”

In order to become a cadet on Recognition Day, which takes place about six weeks into the first semester, each freshman must pass the youngie exam and physical fitness test, memorize the mission of the Academy, and participate in intramurals. On October 16, the Academy recognized 483 new cadets. Congratulations and welcome, Class of 2020.

---

**CLASS OF 2020 BY THE NUMBERS**

2,000  
Applications received

554  
Total number of acceptances

85%  
Ratio of acceptances to deposits — up from 78% last year

483  
Total cadets

61  
Female cadets

23  
States represented, including Puerto Rico

2  
Foreign countries represented: Panama and Mexico

3.15  
Average high school GPA
Welcome Aboard

FIVE NEW FACES AMONG FACULTY

Brad Lima, vice president of academic affairs, is pleased to announce that five new tenure-track faculty members have joined the Academy. Lima is confident that these new additions — whether a veteran teacher or an instructor fresh from the industry front lines — will enhance their respective departments. Each of these instructors has his or her unique background, teaching philosophy, and reason for signing on at MMA, but they all share the same excitement about the challenges ahead of them.

WRITING ON THE WALL

A very dynamic trio — Dr. Allison Parker, Dr. Michelle Y. Burke, and Dr. Anton Smith — round out the Humanities Department. Parker comes to Taylor’s Point from Arizona, where she taught at South Mountain Community College and Arizona State University. After living in Arizona for 32 years, Parker jokes that the biggest difference between her past jobs and MMA is that every other institution has been in a desert environment. “It is quite a difference to be surrounded by water every day,” she says.

Currently, Parker is working with freshmen in First-Year Composition and Advanced Expository Writing classes. This spring, she will teach two sections of Analysis/Interpretation of Literature; African-American Literature; and Women and Films. Parker is devoted to her research, which revolves around power and people who are underrepresented, and believes it makes her a better teacher. “I am constantly trying to ensure that my classroom is a place of respect and tolerance,” she says. “I try my best to encourage every person to have his or her voice be heard.”

While the waterfront campus is new to Parker, the essence of the freshman student is not. “They have the same excitement, anxiety, and need for support with their writing and instruction for how to adapt to the culture of college,” she says. Burke, a fellow new English professor who focuses on writing, agrees. Having taught in a variety of settings from large public universities in Ohio and a New York City community college to a homeless shelter in Oregon, Burke recognizes that many students are afraid of writing. “My first priority as a teacher is to make writing accessible,” she says. “Students find that as their ability to grapple with language expands, so does their self-knowledge, curiosity, and capacity for empathy.” Burke is excited to have the opportunity to develop and teach courses in creative writing at MMA — it’s part of the reason she decided to make the move from New York.

Smith, who believes life is full of cycles, has come full circle in a sense. He spent many years studying and teaching in Virginia, California, and Alabama, and he is happy to return to the Northeast, close to his native New York. No matter where Smith is, though, his passion for teaching is present. “Education is my first and last love,” he says.

Students are full of life, according to Smith, and he enjoys helping them learn by encouraging questions and collaboration. He tells his students that attitude determines altitude. “That’s my blueprint to success,” Smith explains. “How far you go depends on how high you lift your attitude.”

And Smith knows something about distance. A long-distance runner who runs races as long as 100 miles, he says running energizes his passion. Smith serves as a liaison for MMA’s men’s Track and Cross Country teams. “Whether running or teaching, I must go the distance,” Smith says. “The road can be long and the way can be tough, but the journey is worth it.”

FROM THE FIELD

MMA alumna Laura Wilcox ’06 returns to the Engineering Department after 10 years at sea. Her time since graduation has not been idle. She has sailed on all types of vessels, most recently for Hornbeck Offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. She also earned a master’s degree in engineering and holds a license as chief engineer, motor, unlimited.

Currently teaching sophomore and junior Marine Engineering cadets, Wilcox is back at MMA to prepare the next generation of engineers for jobs at sea and ashore. As an instructor, she tries to connect the dots for the cadets. “If I can relate a particular engineering concept to its practical application, I feel the course material becomes more relevant and interesting,” Wilcox says. “As a cadet, I remember being much more engaged...
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Edward Valla

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MARINE SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
OCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

Edward Valla

Wilcox is proud to be part of MMA's long legacy of providing excellent problem solvers and operators to many industries. "I'm looking forward to seeing my students fill these roles," she says.

A retired FBI intelligence analyst, Edward Valla brings a specialized skillset to the Emergency Management Department. For 19 years he served on the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force. "My career at the FBI was spent focusing on international and domestic terrorism," he says. "I worked on many of the most significant investigations involving international terrorism, including the 9/11 attacks and, of course, the 2013 marathon attacks."

In addition to his role at the FBI, Valla, who holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Connecticut, also taught political science, intelligence, and security courses at Bridgewater State University, the University of Massachusetts–Lowell, and Endicott College. He tries to set up scenarios that FBI agents and analysts would actually encounter, so his students can see that decisions and courses of action are not always clear cut.

“My position at the FBI and as an Army officer boiled down to three things: research, writing, and briefing,” Valla says. To that end, he wants his students to write well and to develop some basic confidence in public speaking. “Those skills will be directly transferable to many positions upon graduation,” he explains.

ALL FOR ONE
The ultimate goal of the entire faculty is to support the cadets and prepare them to attain their professional goals. Each newcomer has already observed that MMA is a special place with a no-nonsense student body. Parker notes that the cadets are focused, motivated, and have clear goals. She says, "It is a pleasure to work with students who already find value in their education."

Lima has just begun bringing new talent to the faculty pool. He says, "In addition to these five new instructors, we are looking at approximately 15 to 20 new faculty hires to back-fill retirees this year." It is safe to say that the profile of MMA's faculty will significantly change over the next 18 months.
They’ve Got Rhythm

7TH COMPANY MARCHES TO ITS OWN BEAT

Music at Massachusetts Maritime Academy can be traced back to the 1930s, when cadets gathered aboard their school ship and played music in their free time. It wasn’t until 1945, however, that a ceremonial band was formed. It was then that the Academy leaders called upon student musicians to organize and provide music during the observance of morning colors. The newly established MMA band made its first public appearance during commencement exercises in 1945, and a band has been representing the Academy ever since.

WHO IS 7TH COMPANY?
Members of MMA’s band, Honor Guard, and drill team compose 7th Company, a professional cadet-led and managed organization. Currently, more than 160 cadets are part of 7th Company.

The largest component of 7th Company is the Honor Guard, or “Ceremonial Guard,” with more than 100 members. Members are volunteers who are selected when they raise their hands to serve the Academy, the country, and the maritime community during time of celebration, memorial, and mourning. The Honor Guard is student-trained, led, and managed.

Going strong with 45 members, the larger band is broken into numerous smaller ensembles. In addition to playing at morning colors and Academy events, various segments of the band will play at Academy-sponsored socials and local events. For example, the Academy’s premiere jazz and contemporary music ensemble, First Watch, entertained the crowd gathered aboard the TS Kennedy for the 125th birthday party in Boston.

ANSWERING THE CALLS
7th Company Officer in Charge Lieutenant Wayne Magee has served as director of bands and Honor Guard since 2008. He says it is because of the dedication of the 30-member cadet leadership team that the organization has achieved success and national recognition. “7th Company is the most visible representation of the Academy, performing more publicly than all of MMA varsity athletic teams combined,” Magee says. “Each year, on average, 7th Company will wave the MMA flag and perform in front of one million people, not including television viewing audiences.”

While three groups make up one 7th Company, there are times when each unit performs separately. Sometimes that means all three groups are working at the same time, on the same day, but in different locations. The band and Honor Guard are asked to serve at all kinds of events, all year round — even when the Academy is not in session. 7th Company has been called to serve at such events as funerals, memorial services, galas, and military balls, as well as at parades and sporting events. Magee says, “We have had our share of strange requests over the years.” For example, the field band’s drum line once played drums at a hotel opening in Boston, and the group has been...
Members of 7th Company break out into several different ensembles. Cadet leadership manages each group, scheduling practices, lining up gigs, and preparing playlists.

asked to provide cadets as dance partners for the elderly at a local nursing home. “It’s all in the spirit of service,” Magee says.

A COMPANY OF TALENT

Listening to the MMA band, it is easy to recognize the vast musical gifts among its members. “The Academy’s band program is full of some of America’s top collegiate musicians,” Magee says. In some cases, cadets opted to turn down scholarships and opportunities to attend some of the country’s most highly regarded music schools in order to enroll at the Academy. “In my nearly nine years at MMA, I have been amazed by the musicianship, experiences, and scholarship of the band’s membership,” he adds.

Given the level of talent within the ranks of the band, when it comes time to prepare a performance, music selections are aptly made by the ensemble’s leadership team, with final approval by Magee. The type of event and audience are top of mind, with selections chosen to showcase the band’s flair while entertaining the crowd. When playing live on parade before 300,000 or in a more intimate setting, such as the Admiral’s Gala, talent and poise are key — and both shine through.

More than entertaining people, 7th Company’s mission is service. They have a Company slogan, “Not for you, not for me, but for us,” to remind them why they do what they do; and a Company motto, “Striving for perfection, settling only for excellence,” to remind them how they go about it. Magee says, “This is 7th Company’s secret sauce to our continued organizational and personal growth of our membership and our alumni.”

Each year, the cadet leadership team has the opportunity to lead, operate, and manage 7th Company, a fully functioning, nonprofit organization. The cadets are responsible for all aspects, from budget and travel to production and merchandising. It is yet another way that the Academy affords its students unique opportunities for leadership development. After seven decades, it’s safe to say that 7th Company has found its rhythm.

The band, Honor Guard, and drill team have been honored to perform all over the world at, on average, 60 events each year. They are keeping pace this year with scheduled stops all along the East Coast. To help with the overwhelming number of requests, they have created an online application, which can be found at www.maritime.edu/forms/hire-7th-company-event. The following is a sampling of events on 7th Company’s docket during the 2016–17 academic year:

- Admiral’s Scholarship Gala, MMA
- New York City Veterans’ Day Parade, New York City
- Plymouth Thanksgiving Parade, Plymouth, Mass.
- Miss Taunton Scholarship Pageant, Taunton, Mass.
- Falmouth Christmas Parade, Falmouth, Mass.
- Mashpee Christmas Parade, Mashpee, Mass.
- St. Patrick’s Day Parade, Boston
- St. Patrick’s Day Parade, Providence, R.I.
- National Maritime Day Celebration, MMA
- National Memorial Day Parade, Washington, D.C.

125th birthday celebration in Boston
Admiral William Flanagan ’64 and his wife, B.A., unveil the lettering of the newly dedicated Flanagan Hall.
An excerpt from Admiral William “Bud” Flanagan’s ’64 speech at the October 22, 2016, dedication of Flanagan Hall and the Admiral’s Scholarship Gala:

“I have served in a number of positions, both in the military and in private industry. The men and women that I have had the opportunity and experience to know and work with have gone to some of the finest institutions of higher education in this country and the world. All have had advanced degrees and many successes. But I have to say, none of those individuals can hold a candle to some of the cadets I am sitting with this evening.

One of the greatest gifts that you will carry with you from Massachusetts Maritime Academy is that of leadership. You will understand how to lead others in this complicated world. People will only follow you if you can lead; and they will only let you lead them if you care for them.

Those of us who have gone to school here at the Academy and have had the benefit of this education and experience need to keep this legacy alive. We need to understand that there are young men and women who do not have the financial means to take advantage of the opportunities here at the Academy. These young men and women, given the benefit of a Massachusetts Maritime Academy education, can positively transform our future neighborhoods, communities where we live and serve, and our world.

It is all here. It has never left here. The only thing that happened was that we as alumni left here and went forward. I could not be more proud to be associated with the Massachusetts

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Maritime Academy. I could not be more proud to be associated with these young men and women who have continued to follow us into the industries we serve and into life. The Academy is indeed a very, very special place.

I must tell you that when I spoke with my beautiful wife [B.A.] about making a significant gift to the Academy, we both decided yes, we need to invest in what we know. The Warren Buffet approach is just that: you put your money where things really pay off. And tonight, the 450 people who are here are all interested in investing in the betterment and continuation of this Academy and are here to support this effort.

I salute you all, I appreciate you coming, and let’s do it again next year — and let’s do it even bigger!”
Proudly Supporting the 2016 Admiral’s Scholarship Gala and Massachusetts Maritime Academy on Their 125th Anniversary

In Memory of

DANIEL DAHLGARD
Class of ’76
REASON TO Celebrate

2016 GALA SETS THE PACE FOR FUNDING CADET SCHOLARSHIPS
Massachusetts Maritime Academy’s philanthropic community gathered on October 22 for the annual Admiral’s Scholarship Gala. This year’s event was extra special, as the Academy celebrated its 125th anniversary while benefiting scholarships at the Academy. An unprecedented 450 alumni and distinguished guests attended the black-tie event, which was held under giant tents on the transformed Parade Field. Guests enjoyed a cocktail reception under a clear-topped tent, and dinner and dancing accompanied by “dancing chandeliers” — the result of 45 mph winds that were blowing outside, buffeting the opulently appointed dinner tent.

“We celebrate the crusaders in our community — from the generous alumni and sponsors to the families, faculty, and cadets,” said Rear Admiral Francis X. McDonald ’85, president of the Academy. “Their support of the Academy, especially in our 125th year, will help our school provide state-of-the-art training, improve spaces on campus, and, of course, provide scholarships to help our cadets.”

The event launched the Academy’s 10-year, $50 million comprehensive campaign. Guests also heard the inspiring words of Community Service Operations Officer and scholarship

In addition to remarks from Rear Admiral Francis McDonald and scholarship recipients, the evening included dinner, dancing, and honoring benefactors.
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recipient 1/C Patrick Goldsmith, who reminded everyone about the importance of scholarships and why everyone had gathered together that night. “We all are here tonight for a single reason: our love for this great Academy,” Goldsmith said. “I would like to say that none of this would be possible without the contributions of those of you here tonight. Your collective generosity has made an incalculable difference for my family, for me, and for countless other cadets whose lives have been impacted by your commitment to us.”

The Academy is grateful for the generosity of all of those who attended the gala. Their dedication to the college and to the cadets is part of what makes the MMA community so special.
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The Cadets of

The Massachusetts Maritime Academy
No Place Like Home

HOMECOMING WEEKEND 2016
Alumni returned to campus for Homecoming and Reunion Weekend, September 16–18, 2016. Enjoying time to reconnect, alumni showed their school spirit during a series of events.

The MMA campus was buzzing with conversation and activity throughout Homecoming and Reunion Weekend. The weather was beautiful for a great couple of days of reconnecting on the picturesque MMA campus.

Friday’s campus activities kicked off with alumni having a chance to attend classes and hear what today’s cadets are learning in the classroom. Alumni sat in on classes that covered topics from meteorology to physics, from vessel familiarization and basic safety labs to rules of the road — and everything in between. After classes wrapped up for the day, the Academy held its first-ever Women’s Event, recognizing 35 years of female graduates.

The 50th Reunion Medal Ceremony and Dinner Dance that evening provided another opportunity for alumni to gather. The Class of 1966 celebrated its milestone reunion, while other alumni attended “Beers with the Admiral” and had the opportunity to meet Athletic Director Garin Veris.

At march-on, for the third year, the Academy presented the winners of the Reunion Participation Cup. The winner for the classes celebrating their 5th to 25th reunions was the Class of 1991, with 38 percent donor participation. For the classes celebrating their 30th to 50th reunions, the winner was the Class of 1966, with 58 percent giving to the Academy.

Tailgating opened up and was taken to another level this year, with every class from 1961 to 2011 taking part — a few even brought RVs. Alumni enjoyed lawn games, cookouts, and a New England clam bake as they cheered on their team during a very close game that the Bucs ended up losing by a score of 42 to 35. The weekend ended with reunion classes enjoying dinner and dancing to music from across the decades in the Mess Deck. 🌟
Always a major draw during Homecoming and Reunion Weekend, the football game brought a record number of alumni to campus to tailgate and cheer on their Bucs.
A quiet ceremony took place at the Merchant Marine Memorial on Saturday morning during Homecoming Weekend. It began with a memorial service for all MMA alumni who “crossed the bar” during the past year. Among those remembered were Jeffrey Mathias ’96 and Keith Griffin ’05, two crew members who were lost at sea aboard the SS El Faro on October 1, 2015. There, next to the Merchant Marine Memorial, cadets, flanked by family members of both Mathias and Griffin, had the privilege of unveiling the new El Faro Memorial.

In an effort to honor their classmates, the Classes of 1996 and 2005 wanted to establish scholarships in the names of their shipmates. Representatives from the classes were on hand to announce the establishment of the Jeffrey Mathias ’96 Scholarship Fund and the Keith Griffin ’05 Scholarship Fund.

Prior to the start of the football game, the MMA Alumni Association recognized Griffin and Mathias as Co-Alumni of the Year. The two were represented by their families, who served as honorary captains for the game.

Remembering Our Own
MMA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HONORS FELLOW ALUMNI AND CREW MEMBERS OF THE SS EL FARO

PHOTOS BY GINA MANNING
Each semester, Massachusetts Maritime Academy’s Career and Professional Services Office hosts a career fair on campus. It is an opportunity for recruiters to seek out prospective interns and full-time employees as well as a chance for all cadets to learn about potential employers. In October, 250 individuals from 116 organizations gathered in the Alumni Gym for the 2016 Fall Career Fair.

This event is a “career” fair, not a “job” fair. “It is an opportunity for students to learn about organizations, industries, unions, branches of the military, and companies, and to become educated about what’s out there,” Maryanne Richards, director of shore-side career services at MMA, explains. Cadets are encouraged to attend career fairs beginning their freshman year, and they do. The October fair brought in more than 600 cadets. “There is a lot of energy in the gym,” Richards adds. “The recruiters are awesome, showcasing their company [to the cadets] and giving advice, while looking for talent to fill positions.”

The organizations that attend MMA’s career fairs have varying needs. Some recruiters are looking for interns or to fill immediate

**ON THE SCENE**

On October 13, 2016, 250 individuals representing 116 organizations converged on the MMA campus for the Fall Career Fair. Alumni Gymnasium was abuzz with energy and the excitement of what the future might hold — both for cadets and for prospective employers. Check out who is interested in today’s MMA cadets:

- 3C ELECTRICAL COMPANY
- 7X24 EXCHANGE NEW ENGLAND
- AMERICAN BUREAU OF SHIPPING (ABS)
- AMERICAN MARITIME OFFICERS (AMO)
- AMERICAN PLANT MAINTENANCE (APM)
- AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL MARINERS’ ASSOC.
- AMGEN CORPORATION
- ARAMARK
- ASPEN SQUARE MANAGEMENT
- AUTOMATED LOGIC
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- INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF MASTERS, MATES AND PILOTS
or upcoming full-time positions, and others come for visibility so that when they do have opportunities, cadets recognize them. Richards says, “Many are also educating students or simply giving advice — resume advice, career ideas, and so on — especially the alumni who return as recruiters.”

Regardless of the motivation of organizations to attend, the appeal of the MMA cadet and graduate is undeniable. Richards says companies continue to seek MMA graduates because they are academically prepared and have leadership skills acquired through the Regiment of Cadets. They also are reliable, hard workers who are disciplined and have a great work ethic.

**AN INSIDE LOOK**

Stephen Hayes ’90 was once a cadet scoping out the possibilities of his future at the Academy career fairs. He landed at General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Conn., where today he serves as an engineering manager. Electric Boat designs, builds, and provides life-cycle support for all of the U.S. Navy’s submarines. With seven locations, it is a company that is always on the hunt for talented engineers who demonstrate motivation, enthusiasm, sincerity, and a positive attitude.

Hayes knows what it takes for a cadet to graduate from MMA. “Being a graduate, I understand the hard work, time management, and commitment required to complete the program,” he says. “All this allows a [MMA] graduate to do well at Electric Boat.”

This is why the company continues to attend the career fairs. It values the Academy’s learn-do-learn philosophy and has grown to expect employees from MMA to have time management and leadership qualities not normally found in graduates of other institutions. Perhaps that’s why Electric Boat currently employs some 70 Academy alumni — in roles at all levels. “MMA grads come in and hit the ground running,” Hayes says.

Depending on the group he or she is working for, there could be very little learning curve for a new hire. Such was the case for fellow alumni who Hayes and a colleague oversaw during one specific project. “We had new engineers — three of whom were MMA grads — modifying or designing new systems in their first week on the job,” he says. “Within three months, they were presenting to upper management and representatives of the Navy.”

**FINDING NEW TALENT**

The career fair format allows organizations to conduct formal interviews with prospective employees the following day. “About 15 companies stayed on campus to interview for open positions,” Richards says. Electric Boat chose to do just that, interviewing 25 seniors for full-time positions upon graduation. Eight candidates were invited back to Connecticut for a more formal, on-site interview.

A survey of the October 2016 career fair attendees revealed that 78 percent participate in the Academy’s career fair every year, with 91 percent identifying their primary focus as recruiting MMA cadets for some type of employment — full time, part time, co-op, or active-duty military or military reserves. Employers clearly like what they find at MMA, because nearly half reported that they hire Academy cadets every year.
Charitable donations may be deducted when itemizing your tax return. For several years, provisions of federal tax law have allowed contributions directly from an IRA to a Qualified Charitable Donation. This QCD applies to IRA holders over 70 1/2, avoids federal tax, and is credited toward your IRA Minimum Required Distribution. Please consult with your tax preparer for more details.

Born and raised in Newton, Mass., Captain Martin “Bud” Conroy ‘75 spent summers of his childhood on Cape Cod at his parents’ home. After working for Hy-Line Cruises during summers in high school, he made the decision to spend his life on the water. He had hoped to attend Massachusetts Maritime Academy, but he wore glasses, and at that time federal regulations would not allow him to follow his dream. Instead, Conroy decided to go to Boston College. Three years later, the regulations were loosened and he was able to attend MMA. Bud strongly believes that coming to MMA was “the best thing to happen [to him].”

After graduation, Bud was busy shipping out and did not stay as connected with the Academy as he would have liked. However, MMA was never far from his mind, and he made it back to participate in reunions as often as his shipping schedule would allow. He became actively involved in the Academy after connecting with Peter Lawrence ’63, who thought Bud would be a great addition to the MMA Foundation. In 2006, Bud became a member of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy Foundation Board.

Bud Conroy is a strong supporter of the MMA annual fund because he sincerely believes in the leadership skills that are taught and instilled in each MMA cadet. A seagoing captain for 30 years, Bud knows the importance of having well-trained crews, and he believes MMA produces some of the best seamen he has worked with. He gives to the Academy because he sees himself not only as “a product, but also a customer of MMA,” given the number of MMA graduates he has shipped with and managed over the years. “Because it takes money to move forward and continue to excel,” he has a vested interest in ensuring that the MMA cadets who board his ships have the best education possible.

Several years ago, Bud chose to include MMA in his estate plans so that he can help to guarantee that the high-quality training and education MMA provides its cadets are available for generations to come. His gift for endowment will allow the Academy to use his bequest to support its greatest needs in the future. Recently, Bud began exploring the possibility of transferring his home in Vermont to the Academy while retaining the rights to live there for the rest of his life. This special gift arrangement is called a Retained Life Estate and allows Bud to take advantage of the tax benefits today while assisting MMA in fulfilling its recently launched $50 million campaign goal. A true win-win solution for a graduate and for the school.

[Conroy’s] gift for endowment will allow the Academy to use his bequest to support its greatest needs in the future.
Richard Semple’s 2018
WAREHAM, MASS. | FACILITIES ENGINEERING
WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT BEING A CADET AT MMA? Being a cadet at MMA is one of my greatest accomplishments. Being held to a high standard and knowing that I am able to handle my academics, along with the requirements of the Regiment, prepares and keeps me motivated for the great opportunities available to me after graduation. Our prospective employers know that as MMA cadets we can handle ourselves and anything that comes our way because of the training we receive.
WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO DO WITH YOUR LIFE AFTER MMA? Through my internships I am still testing the waters of all the different types of careers, and I am staying open to anything. At this point, my main goal is to have not just a well-paying job, but a job that I enjoy going to day in and day out. Graduating from MMA means I am well on my way to achieving that goal, no matter where I land.

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Meet the Callers

Taylor Langley ’17
FALL RIVER, MASS. | FACILITIES ENGINEERING
WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT BEING A CALLER? As a member of the phonathon calling team, I am always looking forward to the opportunity to network with our alumni and to hear what they have been doing since graduation. I really enjoy being involved with our program because I know I am helping MMA and my shipmates by sharing my knowledge of the MMA Annual Fund, and hoping alumni will help us out by participating with their best gift. I know as part of the phonathon, I am making a difference.
WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO DO WITH YOUR LIFE AFTER MMA? After graduation, I plan on getting a job as a professional consultant or as a facility designer. After a few years in the industry, I intend to come back to the Academy and get a master’s degree in Facilities Management. Later, I want to go back to school again to pursue a career in teaching.

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THE ACADEMY IS GETTING NOTICED
CHECK OUT HOW MMA RANKS AMONG THE NATION’S TOP COLLEGES

US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT – 2017 BEST COLLEGES RANKINGS
#18, Best Regional Universities North
#3, Top Public Schools (Regional Universities North)
#10, Best Colleges for Veterans (Regional Universities North)

PAYSACLE – 2016 COLLEGE EDUCATION RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI) RANKINGS*
#13, Best Value Colleges (national)
#6, Best Value Colleges (public colleges)
#3, Best Value Colleges (Massachusetts)
*Rankings data reflect the 20-year net ROI for on-campus students at in-state rates with no financial aid. When 20-year net ROI is annualized, MMA ranks #2 nationally.

PAYSACLE – 2015-2016 COLLEGES WITH HIGHEST SALARY POTENTIAL
#35 (all schools)
#9 (public schools)
#6 (four-year colleges in Massachusetts)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COLLEGE SCORECARD
23 four-year schools with low costs that lead to high incomes (published 9/12/2015)

MONEY MAGAZINE – 2016-2017 BEST COLLEGES RANKINGS
#43 (national)
Ranked #21 among the 50 Best Public Colleges
 Ranked #10 among the 50 Best Colleges You Can Actually Get Into

WASHINGTON MONTHLY – 2016 COLLEGE GUIDE AND RANKINGS
#9 Best Bang for the Buck – Northeast

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY CENTER ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE, RANKING YOUR COLLEGE*
#9 (20 four-year colleges whose students go on to earn the highest salaries in the labor market 10 years after beginning their studies)
#10, tied (same listing adjusted for choice of major, students’ academic preparation, and likelihood of graduate degree attainment)
*Analysis based on U.S. Department of Education’s College Scorecard, 2015
MURPHY’S LAW
COMMITMENT TO FAMILY AND COMMUNITY FUELS ONE STUDENT-ATHLETE
BY JIM SEAVEY

Being a two-sport team captain and a leader in the Regiment of Cadets just isn’t enough for 2/C Kaylene Murphy. Kaylene has redefined the word “commitment” in less than three years at the Academy. She is committed to excellence in competition when running cross country and when serving as starting catcher for the softball team. She is committed to helping shape the leaders of tomorrow while they are on campus today. And she is certainly committed to making her community better. But most important, she is committed to her family and to the values of hard work, dedication, and excellence that were instilled in her from an early age.

Like most others, the Murphy family has seen highs and lows, joys and sorrows, triumphs and tribulations. It has also suffered the cruelest blow that any family can absorb — the loss of a loved one far too soon. Kaylene’s mother, Kathleen, lost a brave fight to breast cancer five years ago, but that fight by far isn’t over. You see, the Murphys are committed to dropkicking cancer once and for all.

Two-sport student-athlete 2/C Kaylene Murphy ran the Boston Marathon with her brother AJ ’16 to honor their mother and all those affected by cancer.

Last April, Kaylene and her brother AJ, a 2016 graduate and a member of the Buccaneer crew team, took a break from competing in their respective spring sports to pay tribute to their own mother as well as other mothers, daughters, sisters, grandmothers, aunts, and strangers they had never met. The Murphys ran the 2016 Boston Marathon in Kathleen’s memory, and in doing so raised more than $17,000 through donations and other events in support of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the American Cancer Society. They continue to fight the fight in
their mom’s honor each and every day. Their tireless efforts are redefining commitment in yet another way — the commitment to win the biggest battle of all.

As they prepared for the marathon, Kaylene and AJ kept an amazing perspective on the fight that Kathleen had waged, the void it left behind, and how they could help turn tragedy into triumph. In a fundraising letter they penned together, the siblings said:

“Although she has been gone for five years now, losing a mother at a young age has had a lasting impact on us and our entire family. It was, and still is, devastating knowing that our mother will not be physically present for the most important events of our lives, such as college graduation and marriage. Her absence creates a hole in our lives that can never be filled. Our mother would have never wanted us to run the Boston Marathon purely in her memory. She was a selfless person in every sense of the word and would want us to run for all cancer patients, survivors and victims.”

And that is exactly what they did. The siblings covered all 26.2 miles from Hopkinton to Boston on a sun-splashed April afternoon with the same drive that the elite runners displayed earlier in the day. The Murphys did not receive the laurels and the recognition, but they won just as big as those who touched the tape first.

The popular Disney character Buzz Lightyear is credited with a most famous quote from the Toy Story movie series: “TO INFINITY AND BEYOND!” The words are a credo the Murphy family lives by — they are also inscribed on Kathleen’s gravestone. Infinity knows no limits. Given the values and character displayed by Kaylene and AJ through the lessons they have already learned in their young lives and the impact on the lives of those they have touched, and possibly saved, their resolve has no boundaries as well.

Dignity, honor, and pride are three words commonly associated with Academy cadets. Kaylene Murphy may not be the fastest runner or the catcher with the strongest arm in New England, but you will be hard-pressed to find someone with a bigger heart or a bigger commitment to succeed in the most important competition of all — life. ☀️

MEET MARUSHKA EDDY

The Bucs welcome Marushka Eddy as assistant director of Athletics. Eddy oversees various administrative aspects for the Buccaneers, including NCAA compliance, student-athlete recruitment and retention, and game management. She also serves as the senior woman administrator and the direct liaison to the Academy’s Admissions Office.

Eddy comes to MMA after most recently serving as the assistant director of athletics at the University of Bridgeport, where she oversaw all aspects of NCAA compliance for its Division II teams. Previously she was assistant director of compliance at Merrimack College.

A graduate of Plymouth State University, Eddy was a standout in both field hockey and lacrosse while earning a degree in physical education. In addition, she has coached at both the high school and collegiate levels.

“I’m grateful to Garin Veris and the entire MMA administration for the chance to become part of this extraordinary campus community,” Eddy says. “The opportunity to work with talented student-athletes, coaches, and staff in an environment that fosters so many important core character values is a very special one, and I’m looking forward to being part of that tradition.”

WINNING PERFORMANCE

SENIOR LINEBACKER MAKES THE LISTS

Senior linebacker Marshall McCarthy was one of 81 national finalists from across three divisions of play for the 2016 Cliff Harris Award presented to the nation’s top small college defensive player. The Cliff Harris Award is named for the six-time Dallas Cowboys Pro Bowler, who played in five Super Bowls after entering the National Football League as an undrafted rookie out of NAIA Ouachita Baptist University. The Cliff Harris Award represents over 5,000 defensive players from almost 500 schools competing at the NCAA Division II and III level along with NAIA member institutions.

McCarthy, who recorded 108 total tackles in just nine games played, was named the 2016 Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year. He also led the country in solo stops with 83 overall — 9.2 per game — and he became the first player in school history to post back-to-back 100-tackle campaigns. In just 19 games, McCarthy registered 155 solo and 53 assisted stops for 208 total tackles, and he notched the fewest number of assisted tackles (25) of any player ranked in the top 50 nationally this season.

McCarthy is the sixth player in MMA history to earn a spot on the prestigious New England Football Writers Association all-star squad and the third in the last five seasons to receive all-New England recognition. Congratulations, 1/C McCarthy!
Dear Fellow Alumni,

As your new MMAAA president, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Julie McMchen ’85 for her leadership over the past two years as MMAAA president. Not only was Julie our first woman president, but her term involved organizing one of the largest single alumni social events in the history of MMAAA, the 100th birthday celebration. Her great vision and direction were obvious in our success.

As I begin my term, I would like to express my gratitude to all of our alumni who have supported and continue to support the Alumni Association. It is this support that has allowed our board and its officers to host successful social sporting events, scholarship fundraising golf outings, raffles, and other social gatherings.

Homecoming Weekend 2016 was outstanding, as always. It began on Friday, September 16, with the 28th Annual MMAAA Captain Al Wilson Memorial Golf Classic. It was another sell-out, with 216 golfers at Willowbend Country Club, and a beautiful day of golf. The event raised $15,200 for our cadet scholarship program. The weekend continued with our Annual Meeting that evening and the alumni Bloody Mary Brunch on the day of Homecoming.

Homecoming quickly turned very emotional, as the Alumni Association recognized Jeffrey Mathias ’96 and Keith Griffin ’05 as this year’s Co-Alumni of the Year award recipients. Jeff and Keith were crew members on board the El Faro who perished at sea a year ago. Both of their wives and families were able to attend the pregame ceremony to receive their husbands’ respective awards.

As 2017 begins, please keep an eye on The Bulletin, our alumni magazine that all members receive, for updates along with pictures from past events. Our next outing will be the Boston Bruins game on April 1, 2017.

If you are not a member, fill out the dues reminder you received in the mail, or go to www.mmaaa.org and join.

I look forward to better serving our alumni, growing our membership, working closely with the Academy, and strengthening the networking ties that already exist among our great alumni.

Terry Novak
VICE PRESIDENT,
MMA PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The MMA Parents Association gears up for its signature winter event, the Winter Return Dinner. MMAPA Hospitality Chair Nancy Franks describes the event as “a festive, casual gathering of parents, grandparents, and adult family members.” Franks continues, “Whether your son or daughter is returning from Sea Term, a commercial placement, an experiential learning adventure, or a term of classes, we hope you’ll attend. This is a great opportunity to share stories and view photographs.” The dinner will be held the evening of Saturday, February 18, 2017, at the Bay Pointe Club in Buzzards Bay. It will feature a cash bar, raffles, a silent auction, and slide presentations of the various winter term experiences. Ticket information will be available soon.

The Parents Association will also be present on campus to welcome the return of the TS Kennedy on Sunday, February 19. Please visit our table and purchase some of our wares — shirts, hats, jewelry, playing cards, and more. Our items make great gifts throughout the year. As always, proceeds from our sales support student scholarships.

Also, this fall marks a very exciting communication change for the Parents Association. For many years, the MMAPA hosted a Google group as a vehicle to share information and enhance communication among parents of cadets at the Academy. At long last, the Parents Association has moved into the 21st century, replacing the Google group with a Facebook page. We invite you to “friend” us on Facebook and continue the conversation!
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As we celebrate our 125th year, we want to honor Captain Al Wilson’s dream of creating a detailed, printed account of his beloved Academy. We are proud and pleased to announce that Captain Al’s dream is now a reality.

Follow the evolution of MMA through this beautiful coffee table book, loaded with photographs of the Academy — cadets, leaders, ships, and more — from its years in Boston, Hyannis, and Buzzards Bay.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PURCHASE A COPY OF THIS WONDERFULLY ILLUSTRATED CHRONICLE OF THE ACADEMY’S FIRST 125 YEARS, PLEASE GO TO MARITIME.EDU/MM-A-HISTORY-BOOK OR CALL THE ADVANCEMENT OFFICE AT 508.830.5099.