

USMMA Parent Association

National Newsletter February, 2010

Notes from the Superintendent

Note: After a brief absence, the quarterly "Notes from the Superintendent" column is once again appearing in the USMMA Parent Association National Newsletter. Our grateful thanks to Dean Shashi Kumar for continuing this longtime tradition.

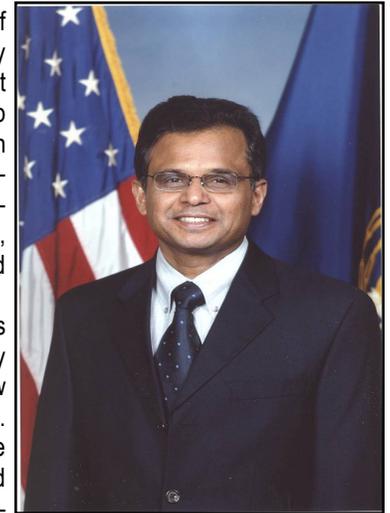
Greetings to the extended Kings Point family! It is my pleasure and privilege to give you a brief update on the changes taking place at USMMA. First and foremost, our leadership has seen many changes of late. I relieved RADM Worley on 1/4/2010 and presently serve as the Interim Superintendent and the Academic Dean. It has certainly been a challenge to carry out the responsibilities of the two top executive positions at the Academy concurrently. Had it not been for the excellent support I have been receiving from MARAD leadership, this would indeed be impossible. As many of you may know, the Acting Administrator Hon. David T. Matsuda's nomination hearings were held in late January and his confirmation is expected soon. Hon. Denise Krepp is the current MARAD Chief Counsel and Orlando Gotay, the Senior Advisor for Maritime Policy. A national search has begun for the new Superintendent; the ad was released in mid-January and will remain open until mid-April.

This has been quite a winter all along the East Coast. We had our share of two major blizzards this year, one just before the Holidays (on the Friday before classes ended) and the other on Wednesday February 10th. Most of the Academy was shut down during the Wednesday snow storm barring a few morning classes and the campus ground transformed into a lighthearted playground for the midshipmen. Snowmen of various shapes and sizes sprung up virtually all around the heart of the campus, not to be undone by snowballs that catapulted from various nooks and corners of our deserted parking lots and snow-covered grounds. Unfortunately, I did not have a camera with me when I walked through the various snowball battlegrounds and do not have any pictures to share but the images of our midshipmen having a joyous time and literally blowing off steam will always remain with me.

Speaking of the campus, everyone on board is very pleased with the new walkway on the left side facing Delano Hall. It is wonderful that we can walk through the center of the campus after almost a year-long barricade, even more so given the time of the year and the strong onshore winds blowing off the Long Island sound. The ongoing Murphy Hall construction and geothermal installation is progressing smoothly and we expect completion before graduation. Our flagpole, the famed USMMA landmark is being refurbished and will be installed at the same location also well before graduation. So, for those of you planning to attend this year's commencement, the campus will once again look pretty and well kept.

Secretary LaHood's vision to make USMMA the crown jewel among service academies is gradually taking shape. Our physical plant restoration will gain further momentum in 2010. One of our priorities will be to replace the Mallory Pier for which about \$15 million have been allocated. The proposed \$100 million USMMA budget for 2011 includes an increase of \$26 million and will bring us much needed additional funds for capital improvement projects. If approved by Congress, renovation of Delano Hall and the galley will be a top priority. The Blue Ribbon Panel appointed by Secretary LaHood to review our infrastructural needs is expected to release its findings within a month and will hopefully provide additional momentum for sustained physical plant improvements on campus.

From the academic side, this has been a difficult year in terms of staffing. We are working on speeding up the federal hiring process so that key faculty and support staff hires can be made. I am looking forward to starting the new academic year in late July with at least ten new full-time faculty members. The sea year grades for 1st sailing and 2nd sailing B splits were released recently; in general, the performance was a significant improvement from prior years. And now, the end of the 2nd trimester is fast approaching. I am well aware that this is usually the most difficult time for our students. The abrupt resignation of our Physics tutor did impact our tutoring sessions. We have implemented a back-up plan using peer tutors and Physics faculty. I really am very pleased with how the midshipmen tutors in particular have risen to the occasion and picked up the slack in helping the Class of 2013. After all, this is what a service academy is all about—providing service to the nation and its citizens.



***Shashi Kumar, Ph.D.,
Master Mariner; Interim
Superintendent/
Academic Dean***

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Notes from the Superintendent (con't.)

The winter sports are fast reaching their culmination phase. KP wrestlers had another outstanding season this year. It was a stellar season for the Men's basketball team with the game against Drew University next week deciding whether or not we will have home-court advantage throughout the playoffs. It would mean a lot to everyone, especially our seniors. The Women's basketball team had a robust season. It was a great rebuilding year for them and as the team's academic mentor, I am proud to report that the lady mariners played their heart out throughout the season despite injuries and a relatively sparse bench. The Landmark Conference Swimming and Diving Championships were held on campus during the Valentine's Day weekend. Our Men's team won the event spectacularly and the Women's team was placed 5th. Kudos to all our coaches and athletics staff for all their splendid accomplishments against opponents with a much larger student body. It is hard to believe but the baseball, softball and lacrosse teams have already started their spring training!

Kings Pointers continue to make waves far and wide. MIDN Powell (2011 Engine) is presently on board S.S. Cape May, activated from MARAD's Ready Reserve Force to provide much needed humanitarian assistance to the Haitians. Other Kings Pointers presently involved in Haiti operations include CAPT Hall (1984), the Head of our Marine Transportation Department. Far away from home, 1st LT Adam Franco is commanding the 3rd Platoon in the allied forces' ongoing major offensive against the Afghan Taliban stronghold in Marjah. I am grateful to each and every one of you for sending your daughters and sons to us. Time and again they have shown their ability to emerge as our roving ambassadors. If our midshipmen are any indication, the caliber and competence of the American youth is second to none, and our ships as well as the nation will be in safe hands. *Go Kings Point! Acta Non Verba!*

Shashi Kumar, Ph.D.,
Master Mariner,
Interim Superintendent/Academic Dean

Biography of the Interim Superintendent and Dean, Dr. Shashi Kumar

Dr. Kumar (PhD, University of Wales; MS, Maine Maritime Academy; Graduate, Indian Maritime Academy) joined the Academy in 2007 as the Asst. Superintendent for Academic Affairs (Academic Dean.) He is the founding Dean of the Loeb-Sullivan School of International Business and Logistics at Maine Maritime Academy. Dr. Kumar has an unlimited Master Mariner (UK) certificate of competency and sailed extensively for a decade prior to entering academe. His areas of teaching and research include Maritime Economics and Policies, International Shipping, and Maritime Logistics. He is a founding member of the International Association of Maritime Economists and the International Association of Maritime Universities, and is also affiliated with the Academy of International Business, American Society of Transportation and Logistics, and the Institute for Supply Management (NAPM/ISM).

Dean Kumar's significant accomplishments include the *Transport Review's* first prize for new PhDs in transportation, an award for excellence in teaching, a Sam M. Walton Fellowship (in free enterprise education, 1998-present) as well as the 1997 Maine International Innovator of the Year Award. He is a frequent speaker in key industry events in the U.S. and overseas. Dr. Kumar has published extensively and authors an annual review of the Merchant Marine for the *U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings*. He serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Maritime Economics and Logistics* and the *IAMU Journal*. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Maine International Trade Center and the Maine Department of Transportation Freight Advisory Board.

Dean Kumar served as a faculty member at Maine Maritime Academy from 1987 - 2007. He has held visiting professor appointments at the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad, India, Memorial University in St. John's, NF, Canada, the World Maritime University in Malmö, Sweden, Shanghai Maritime University in Shanghai, China and the Pontifical Catholic University in Ponce, Puerto Rico.

Dean Kumar resides at the Academy with his wife Beena and daughters Kavya and Kamla.



President's 2011 budget

allocates \$100 million for Kings Point

The President's budget for fiscal year 2011, released on Monday, February 2, 2010, provides for a request of \$100 million for Kings Point. This is a substantial increase over the \$74.5 million appropriated for 2010 and \$61 million for 2009. The \$100 million for 2011 includes \$31 million for capital projects, compared with \$15 million for 2010 and \$8 million for 2009. The \$100 million also includes \$63 million for operations (and \$6 million for reimbursement of Midshipmen fees), compared with \$59.5 for 2010 and \$53 million for 2009.

If approved by Congress this funding should go a long way in reversing the decline of the physical plant of the Academy. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has demonstrated with this budget request his commitment to achieve his stated goal of making Kings Point the jewel of the service academies.

At the appropriate time we will implement a plan to meet with and advise Congress on the critical need to transform this budget request into an actual appropriation. Indeed, with the full support of the Department of Transportation and the Maritime Administration, this promises to be one of the rare moments in the history of Kings Point where graduates, parents and friends will have the opportunity to have a real impact on the future of Kings Point.



Meet our new MARAD leaders!

David T. Matsuda was appointed Deputy Maritime Administrator by President Obama on July 28, 2009, and was officially sworn into office on July 30, 2009. Mr. Matsuda served as the U.S. Department of Transportation's Acting Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy from March 2009 until his appointment as Deputy. Prior to that, he spent seven years on Capitol Hill. While working in the U.S. Senate, Mr. Matsuda was engaged in the formulation and debate of most major Federal transportation legislation as senior counsel and primary transportation advisor to U.S. Senator Frank R. Lautenberg of New Jersey.

In 2002, Mr. Matsuda became a Georgetown University Government Affairs Institute Fellow serving on the staff of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. From 1998 to 2002, he worked as an attorney with the safety law division of the USDOT's Federal Railroad Administration.

Mr. Matsuda's hometown is Apple Valley, California. He earned his B.S. in engineering from Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, CA, and his J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law in San Diego, CA. He lives with his wife Catherine Parsons Matsuda in Washington, DC.



Orlando Gotay is the Maritime Administration's Senior Advisor for Maritime Policy.

Until his appointment in late November 2009, Mr. Gotay was Counselor to the Mayor of San Juan, Puerto Rico. As part of his duties, he was the first General Manager of the San Juan Port Commission, a municipal entity created in 2007 to increase the city's maritime presence, foster the growth of a healthy maritime industry, and improve existing conditions at that port.

Previously, he was also the Mayor's representative before the Puerto Rico State Legislature. Mr. Gotay served as the Mayor's speechwriter, the first city bicycle and pedestrian coordinator and the Mayor's liaison to the City Council. Mr. Gotay also worked as an advisor at the Puerto Rico House of Representatives. Prior to relocating back to his native San Juan, Mr. Gotay had a private tax law practice in San Francisco, California. He also worked as an associate at the state and local taxation department of the consulting firm now known as PriceWaterhouseCoopers.

Mr. Gotay was an officer of the U.S. Navy. He is a 1987 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD. He served in the engineering departments onboard the USS Valdez and the USS Belknap, flagship of the US Sixth Fleet, home ported in Gaeta, Italy. After leaving the Navy, Mr. Gotay obtained a law degree and a Master of Laws in Taxation from Golden Gate University, San Francisco. He is a member of the California bar and is licensed to practice before the US Tax Court, and federal courts in the districts of Northern California and Puerto Rico. Mr. Gotay is a technical diver, an amateur radio operator (WP4NPV); speaks four languages and is the Naval Academy information officer for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



Ms. K. Denise Rucker Krepp was officially sworn in as the Chief Counsel of the Maritime Administration on September 28, 2009. Prior to joining MARAD, Ms. Krepp served as Senior Counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security. Her portfolio included maritime and surface transportation security, and homeland defense. Ms. Krepp also worked for the Transportation Security Administration from 2002 to 2005.

Ms. Krepp began her legal career with the U.S. Coast Guard and served on active duty from 1998 to 2002. Ms. Krepp is a graduate of The George Washington University, and the University of Miami's School of Law. She and her husband, Tim, have two daughters, Cason and Megan. They live in Washington, D.C.



Discussions are currently underway with Matsuda, Krepp and Gotay for them to participate in a national parent virtual meeting that will hopefully be scheduled in the future and also to address the upcoming National Parent Association President's Conference Sept. 1-3, 2010 at Kings Point. We welcome their input and appreciate their willingness to help solve the transitional problems at USMMA.

Questions and Answers

Why are all these changes happening at USMMA? Why is the USMMA Parent Association involved?

Almost two years ago as a result of a GAO audit, the Maritime Administration undertook the process of changing the entire organizational funding of USMMA that had been in place for decades. As part of that reorganization, the USMMA Parent Association and the USMMA Alumni Foundation were immediately "detached" from the academy and could no longer operate as a connecting link with the academy. Both organizations became separate entities with separate executive boards and all the organizational requirements of any large non-profit entity. Not only did the National Parent Association undergo a complete disbanding of all previous methods of doing business, but had to completely set up an entirely new structure requiring financial changes, communication changes and an entire new business plan all within a matter of months.

As all of you may know, the Academy was put under the very strict control of the Maritime Administration at that time. The National Parent Association suddenly became more actively involved with federal issues at that point simply because many employees at the academy were afraid to bring attention to themselves for fear of losing their jobs. Therefore, more information and complaints that would normally funnel through academy personnel were suddenly being directed to USMMA Parent Association officers because they were not academy employees and had no fear of retaliation or being fired from their positions. Thankfully, the new MARAD administrators (see article on the new leadership on page 3) are working feverishly to handle the very difficult situation they inherited. MARAD is listening to our concerns and responding. Communications between the Academy administration, the Alumni Foundation, MARAD, DOT and the Parents Association is now very frequent, transparent, and operating on a very amiable basis. Problems are being addressed and resolved and funding is in the pipeline to solve many problems that arose previously because of the changes brought about by the GAO audit and subsequent reorganization at USMMA.

What is the relationship between the USMMA Alumni Foundation, the Alumni Chapter Presidents Alliance and the National USMMA Parents Association? Whose conferences and meetings should I attend?

The USMMA Alumni Foundation and the Alumni Chapter Presidents Alliance (CPA) are both groups that are affiliated with the USMMA National Alumni Foundation and are not officially affiliated with the USMMA National Parent Association.

The USMMA National Parents Association has only one National organization with a seven member Executive Board, Regional Vice-Presidents overseeing national regions and state chapters organized under the auspices of the national association. In effect, the USMMA Alumni govern under two separate organizations: The Alumni Foundation at the National level and the Alumni CPA that manages local and state chapters across the nation. The USMMA Parent Association does the same exact mission under one single organization.

The USMMA Alumni Foundation raises financial support for the academy through both of their organizations. The USMMA Parent Association does not attempt to raise funds for the academy, but rather serves as a support system for the parents and midshipmen and also is in the unique position of being able to garner academy support through parental contact with the legislature. While 501C3 status is on application, we are not equipped to handle large charitable donations.

While all three groups are not officially connected, they all work together. For example, the USMMA Parent Association is not equipped to handle charitable donations made to the academy. We simply do not have the manpower or financial backing to do that. We ask that all charitable donations to the academy be made to the USMMA Alumni Foundation, because they are the official route for charitable giving and they have years of experience handling and tracking such funding. Also, the CPA often hosts huge gatherings and includes parents and midshipmen in their invitation. Conversely, the USMMA Parent Association frequently invites alumni to many welcome aboard events or all-academy balls. The USMMA Alumni Foundation has appointed the USMMA Parent Association National President to their Executive Board and CPA has invited National Parent Association officials to their annual Executive Board meetings. The USMMA Parent Association always invites National Alumni Foundation officers and CPA officers to address our annual President's Conference meeting.

Regional and State officers of the USMMA National Parent Association are requested to attend the annual National President's Conference held each year at Kings Point in the days immediately preceding Parents Weekend. (This year's dates are September 1-3.) While you are welcome at various alumni functions, Parent Association officers are not required to attend any alumni meetings unless they are national officers appointed to a specific board. All three groups have similar missions: To support USMMA.

I plan to donate money to a specific club or athletic team at USMMA. What is the best way to do that?

Please direct all charitable donations to the USMMA Alumni Foundation, via Chief Operating Officer Jim Tobin. You may donate unrestricted funds or designate funds to a specific team, club, group or event. Reach Jim Tobin (USMMA '77) COO of the USMMA Alumni Foundation, Inc. at jim.tobin@alumni.usmma.edu; Babson Center ; Kings Point , NY 11024; Phone: (516)773-5993; Fax: (516)482-5308; Website: www.usmmaaf.com. By donating through the Alumni Foundation, Jim Tobin will be able to track the route of your funding and make sure that it is directed as you request.

I haven't heard anything from the National USMMA Parent Association since Parent's Weekend. Why? What am I supposed to be doing for the academy?

As you can tell from the first question on this page, National USMMA Parent Association officers have been extremely busy trying to create a legal structure just since the September 2009, President's Conference. Over the last five months the USMMA Parent Association Executive Board has made formal application for 501C3 status, established a line of communication with MARAD and DOT officials, held teleconferences to set up communications networks, financial structures, open bank accounts and handle communications to members through the departure of Admiral Worley.

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Questions and Answers (con't)

Eight National Committees are in the process of being formed within the USMMA National Parent Association:

Membership: Is co-chaired by David Brune and Kevin Billings, who are in the process of compiling a full list of contact information, including e-mail addresses for all RVPs, State Officers, and eventually all members. The goal of the membership committee is to keep an updated and current contact file of all members across the nation. Hopefully, this will prevent offices from being unfilled if a parent chooses to no longer participate in the association. It is hoped the national database will improve communications and also keep parents active and involved long after their midshipman has graduated from USMMA. Previously, Parents left the National Association when their child graduated. New by-law changes allow Parents to stay in the organization as long as they wish, hopefully providing the continuity of experience that has been a problem previously.

Financial: Is chaired by Executive Board member Pete Meyers, NY. He is the appointed National Treasurer of the organization and handles all finances related to Parent's Weekend, Cookie Café, and other projects supported by the USMMA National Parent Association.

Technology: Is chaired by RVP Suzanne Graboski, VA, with assistance from Carol Smith, CO. Working with Parent Association Director Shirley Anthony and in collaboration with the USMMA Alumni Foundation, Suzanne will be creating a new USMMA Parent website that will be independent from the academy website. It will provide options for individual state clubs to advertise and sell their fund-raising items to parents and alumni, provide registration information for Parents Weekend, post important information about events and also provide a copy of the National Parent Association Newsletter that is provided quarterly via e-mail and website.

Newsletter: Is chaired by Mary Jane Fuschetto, CO, simply by default because she has been doing state newsletters for years and has access to most national information, as well as access to Microsoft Publisher. Anyone willing to help, is invited to assist.

Legislative Relations: Is co-chaired by Mary Jane Fuschetto, CO, Alice Clausing, WI; Suzanne Graboski, VA; Joe Bailey, IN/KY/TN; Debbie Alexander, Sandy Tuttle. This group was formed in October to work on getting new leadership at the academy and to document needs and concerns of the parents and midshipmen that could be conveyed in a unified manner to MARAD, DOT, and coordinated with Alumni Legislative Actions groups working with Congress and the Senate. This group is currently in the process of working with alumni to form an organized and targeted move on Congress to get support for the 2011 USMMA budget if it should be needed.

Emergency Communications: Jan Mussler, CO has agreed to chair this committee, although so far we are delayed in getting the access needed to coordinate our information from the academy regarding emergency medical situations with midshipmen either on campus or while on sea duty. We anticipate this will be resolved very soon with the new superintendent.

Two committees are still without volunteer leadership: The "Tell America" Committee and "Sponsor Hosts/Mentor Program" both have openings for chairmen. Anyone interested in chairing those committees will be paired with counterparts from the alumni groups offering the same assistance.

Also, all Parents in the country should be receiving the quarterly National Parent Association Newsletter. It is sent from National to all RVPs, State Officers, and Executive Board members, as well as selected officers of the USMMA Alumni Foundation. It is the responsibility of the state officers to forward the newsletter to their individual membership. If you know of someone who is not receiving the quarterly newsletter, please contact our membership committee members (David Brune bruned1@comcast.net and Kevin Billings kwbwx@aol.com) so contact information can be included in the next electronic mailing. We encourage all parents to support and attend all state functions and enjoy any alumni foundation activities that they wish.

When will the new Superintendent take office?

The job advertisement for the position of Superintendent has been posted and we understand that several highly-qualified candidates are in the process of applying. We know that MARAD and DOT officials are carefully weighing all options and listening carefully to suggestions from the Alumni Foundation members and Parent Association contacts. The job posting ends in mid-April. Candidate interviews will begin later. It is not yet known exactly when a Superintendent will take office. However, in the meantime Interim Superintendent Shashi Kumar is handling that job as well as serving as academic dean. We gratefully appreciate his double work efforts! It has not been an easy task guiding the academy through these transitions.



Death of Duane Henden

We are sorry to report that word has been received of the death of former USMMA New Mexico Parent Association co-president Duane Henden, following a long illness. He leaves behind wife Pat Henden and Kings Pointer Eric Henden, 2009. Condolences may be sent to: Pat Henden; 726 Tramway Ct. N. E.; Albuquerque, NM 87111; 505-856-7443; dhenden@comcast.net.

New presidents have been named for the New Mexico Chapter. They are: Steve and Diana Whitehouse (John, 2010); Their phone is: 505-828-1945; Their email is: dwhitehouse03@comcast.net. We welcome them and thank them for taking on the presidency!

Notes from the Cookie Café and Band of Sisters

Carol Guest, our "Cookie Lady" writes: "Let me share what I think exemplifies Cookie Cafe in a nut shell. A Midshipman rushed in and started searching vigorously through the cookies. I asked, "Can I help you?" "I need to find my Mom's cookies," he answered as he went quickly through the containers looking at all the tent cards for his Mom's name. Then he found THE COOKIES and a huge smile broke out on his face. "There they are!!!" He grabbed a plate and started piling and piling his Mom's cookies on his plate with great contentment. You see, his Mom had baked LOVE, wrapped that LOVE so carefully so it would arrive in good shape, then mailed LOVE, and her son got the message. He found HIS MOM'S LOVE in the cookies she had sent. The Midshipmen get the message loud and clear!!!



M/N Zack Humphreys, 2013, was thrilled to locate his Mom's cookies, made especially for Cookie Café by his Mom, LeighAna Rice.



Band of Sisters is going very strong. We have lunch together for half an hour then meet for half an hour. I have started a Baking Club through Band of Sisters and the girls are in the kitchen all the time cooking and baking. There was a problem with cleanup so the Band of Sisters are monitoring it, with one midshipman an evening going to Land Hall to check on the kitchen and clean up. They had a smoothies night with 45 students learning how to make smoothies—they loved it. I have been leaving seven videos in the lower chapel lounge along with popcorn and soda each week. It has really taken off with the place often full on weekends. One time half the football team was in there on a Friday evening and another time one-third of the basketball team showed up. Snow! We finally got some! I had cookies, hot cocoa and marshmallows ready for the mids. They made snowmen all over campus then warmed up with hot cocoa. Actually, they also had a huge, fun snowball fight with the plebes against the seniors. It was fun!"



Band of Sisters meets weekly to offer support and advice to female midshipmen.



Meg Dillard and Rebecca Grimes enjoy Cookie Cafe

Distinguished Chapter Awards



Seventeen chapters of the USMMA National Parent Association were recognized September 10, 2009 at the close of the annual President's Conference. The chapters were honored with a reception and banquet at Melville Hall. Distinguished Chapter Awards are given to chapters who accumulate a number of points based on their activities, which can include such things as sending boodle packages to midshipmen, producing newsletters, participating in college fairs, giving speeches about the academy, having meetings, hosting All-Academy Balls or Dinners, etc. The two photographs above were inadvertently left off out of the last newsletter. Shown at left are Tri-State Parents Association of New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania, accepted by Chris and Cathy Kinsella; and the Wisconsin Parents Association, accepted by Robert and Jeanne McDonald. Congratulations to all our hard-working chapters!

Parent Association National Officers

USMMA Parent Program Director, Shirley Anthony, anthony@usmma.edu

National Chairs: 2009-2011: Rocco and Mary Jane Fuschetto, mjfuschetto@yahoo.com; (Ana, 2011; Angelina, 2001; Randy, 1998) P. O. Box 305, Swink, CO 81077; 719-383-0797

Regional Vice-Presidents: 2009-2011: (Partial list)

Mike and Jan Mussler, CO; mmussler@wispertel.net; (Robert, 2011) P.O. Box 307, Nederland, CO 80466; 303-258-7952

Suzanne Graboski, VA; kpmom2011@yahoo.com (Alexander, 2011) 3950 Bluewater Drive, Moneta, VA 24121; 540-288-4555

Joe Bailey, KY; josephclab@aol.com (Ben, 2011) 1819 J. Brown Road, Park City, KY 42160; 270-749-9044

Alice Clausing, WI; sen_clausing2@hotmail.com (Brigitt, '02) 1979 Ulao Court, Grafton, WI 53024 715-235-5999; cell: 715-440-0144

Maryann Jones, IL; marinerparent@prodigy.net (Evan, 09) 8 Covered Bridge Lane, Glen Carbon, IL 62034; 618-288-3326

Kevin Billings, Washington, DC; kwbwx@aol.com (James, 09) 5458 30th Street NW, Washington, DC 20015; 202-355-2608

Brett Wingate, AZ; brettwingate@prodigy.net (Alexander, 2010) 1621 W. Del Rio, Chandler, AZ 85224; 480-899-4232

Jerry and Judy Gilmore, CA. gilmorerus@hotmail.com (Casey, 2010) P.O. Box 2325, Truckee, CA 96160; 530-587-3323

David Brune, bruned1@comcast.net (Ryan, '91; Aaron, '08) 12602 Knightsbridge Drive, Woodbridge, VA 22192; 571-259-9609

National Executive Advisory Board: Rocco and Mary Jane Fuschetto, mjfuschetto@yahoo.com; Ann Hall, ann_hall42@q.com;

Mary Silva, moms11@comcast.net; Peter Meyers, smeyers@optonline.net; Suzanne Graboski, kpmom2011@yahoo.net; Jerry Hajduk,

hajduk@verizon.net; Terry Gray, laserocket@aol.com



State of the Academy Information

What a transition USMMA has undergone! So many changes have taken place in the last 16 months that it is impossible to list them all. We have seen an entire administration come and go. New leadership has taken over at DOT and MARAD. New leadership has taken over at the academy and more new leaders remain to be chosen. While morale has been at an all time low on campus, there are many reasons to hope and believe that USMMA is finally beginning to see the light at the end of a very long tunnel.

Interim Superintendent Dr. Shashi Kumar is once again working diligently and loyally for Kings Point, handling two full-time jobs as Academic Dean and Superintendent and the day-to-day running of the entire academy. It is hoped that when you see him on campus all of you parents will thank him personally for his dedication to our academy and our midshipmen. He is in high demand at other maritime academies, yet he has provided guidance and communication through some of the most difficult times at Kings Point. We are lucky to have him.

We are also grateful for the new leadership at MARAD who are pictured on page three of this newsletter. Ms. Krepp, Mr. Matsuda, Mr. Gotay and Mr. John Porcari at DOT have been responsive and helpful at untangling the long list of problems at USMMA and keeping the National Parent Association Officers and USMMA Alumni Foundation Officers fully informed. They have visited campus repeatedly and are working long hours to get problems solved.

For the first time in many years the Alumni Foundation and the Parents Association are working side-by-side in a collaborative effort to support Kings Point. We are collaborating and communicating in positive and productive ways. Soon we will be collaborating on a new USMMA Parent Association Website.

Note also that the proposed budget for 2011 includes significant increases for USMMA. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood has assured all of us that he intends to stand by his promise of making USMMA the crown jewel of the DOT. Adequate funding is a significant part of making that promise reality. Many of you have asked to be part of a campaign to pressure Congress to support the proposed budget. At this time, there is no indication the budget would be cut. However, if the need to pressure Congress would ever be needed, we know the Parent Association would be the most active and vocal group offering support!

We know problems exist at USMMA. We hope the Parents Association network has helped in some small way to resolve issues that have occurred with heat in the dorms, water problems, problems with delays in communication, or lost paperwork in admissions, slow responses to candidates, difficulties while on sea duty, communication with Shipboard Training, ill-fitting shoes or uniforms, tracking of donations, shortages of textbooks, a lack of tutors, and a severe delay in hiring numerous faculty and staff because of government bureaucracy. We haven't been able to solve all the problems, but at least we have tried to direct the information to the proper leaders who have the power to remedy the situation. In all cases, we have tried our best to respond to communications.

The best news at USMMA, however, seems to be the resiliency of our midshipmen. They know there are problems, but they still manage to take a little time to enjoy a free-for-all snowball fight, which must have been pretty special since it was mentioned twice in this newsletter! We ask your patience, tolerance, input and communication. All the USMMA National Parent Association Executive Board members and officers need your support as they have been working hours and hours behind the scenes to help make Kings Point the academy we all know it can be!

Mary Jane and Rocco Fuschetto, National Co-Chairs, USMMA Parent Association

Attention State Presidents, and RVPs

In an effort to improve Parent Association communications and streamline our data base, we ask that all state presidents and/or RVPs notify the National Parent Association as soon as new state Presidents are elected. Since not all states hold their elections at the same time, it is difficult to keep track of who is in office and who is no longer serving. There have also been changes in officers due to students disenrollment. Please update your officer contact information as soon as possible. Later this year we hope to publish a complete and accurate contact list of all national and state chairs and their terms of office, with the eventual goal of maintaining a data base of contact information for all members, including states where we do not yet have active chapters.

If you are currently a state president, a newly elected state president, or an RVP, please forward updated contact information, including your phone and e-mail, to David Brune bruned1@comcast.net and Kevin Billings kwbwx@aol.com. Be sure and include your address, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and the beginning and ending dates of the term of office, your officer title and the names and graduation years of your midshipmen. Thanks for helping keep our data accurate.

Job Posting for USMMA Superintendent

Kings Point Superintendent Vacancy Posted on January 23, 2010

The Department of Transportation and Maritime Administration have officially announced that the position of Academy Superintendent is now opened to all applicants through April 19th. All alumni or interested persons who believe they meet the criteria of the Job Announcement Number *MARAD-10-02-NG* posted on USAJOBS.gov are encouraged to apply now. <http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=85837576&JobTitle=Superintendent,%20US%20Merchant%20Marine%20Academy,%20Kings%20Point,%20NY&brd=3876&vw=b&FedEmp=N&FedPub=Y&x=67&y=13&jbf574=TD13&AVSDM=2010-01-23%2006:31:00>

Duties

The Superintendent of the US Merchant Marine Academy is responsible for the development of scholastic standards which encourage the intellectual, professional growth and physical well-being of midshipmen, and effective and economical operation of the Academy's facilities. The incumbent has a profound impact on the Academy's ability to educate and train individuals to be highly qualified licensed merchant marine officers inspired to sail on vessels of the United States.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED: Technical Qualifications

1. Experience that reflects the ability to provide executive leadership for planning, implementing and evaluating a comprehensive academic program at the Nation's maritime academy. This individual must also have the leadership ability to inspire others to fulfill the mission of the organization. The ideal candidate must be respected and well-known in the maritime field and must possess proven technical and managerial credentials. The individual will have a record of proven results and of ensuring organizational goals are met and mission objectives achieved, while simultaneously maintaining high standards, honesty and ethics, process integrity, commitment to diversity, and a culture of open communication and transparency. Merchant marine qualifications desired.
2. In-depth executive management experience and a history of proven success in the merchant marine industry or academic organization. This includes knowledge of maritime transportation including commercial and military logistics and maritime industry leadership. Also included is skill in assessing national and international maritime transportation trends and related critical issues; the ability to work collaboratively across organizational lines, produce results on-time and within budget; and experience managing resources in an academic environment with a track record of outstanding project and program delivery, customer satisfaction, stakeholder outreach, and management of internal business processes.
3. Demonstrated experience in developing and executing communications plans within the organization, with key external stakeholders, and with senior Department officials. This includes the ability to think strategically, set a strategic direction for a large organization, develop tactics to achieve the strategy, and experience measuring, monitoring, and managing to performance. The candidate will possess expertise in planning and management to enable translating DOT enterprise goals and objectives into measurable business areas within USMMA and Maritime Administration operations.

Kings Point cuts and clips, notes and news

Profound apologies, Robbie!



In the last issue of this USMMA National Parent Association newsletter, it was erroneously reported that Regimental Wonder Dog, Robbie, didn't pass muster to be a service dog. Our sincerest apologies, Robbie! We were informed that not only is Robbie still slated to be a service dog, but he is doing beautifully in his training and is a joy for all who get to share his friendly, cuddly company! We look forward to hearing more updates in the future on this adorable and quite capable member of the USMMA family!

Profound apologies again!

We are sorry that some of you were unable to receive the last issue of the USMMA National Parents Association newsletter because the file size was too large for your e-mail server. We took immediate steps to post the newsletter on the website so it could be accessed.

Notice that this issue is much shorter and has fewer photographs. We will do everything necessary to make sure you receive your newsletter in a timely manner and easily opened format. Since this is only the fifth edition of the newsletter, we hope all of you will bear with us patiently as we try to correct all the problems. Thanks for your patience.

First USMMA Wing Eating Contest

Commandant William Fell writes: "With the cooperation of NANA Services, the Regiment held its first wing eating contest recently. The winner was Midn 3/C Mike Jeffers 2nd Co; 2nd place – Plebe Timothy Buxton 3rd Co; and 3rd place – Midn 1/C John Keating 4th Co. Midn Nathan Miller and Eric Bardot were disqualified for not finishing. I would also like to thank NANA Services and Mitchell Glazer for their assistance in putting on this event." Thanks to Capt. Fell and M/ N LtJG Nicole Soto 1/C, for supplying the photographs.



Kings Point cuts and clips, notes and news

Operation Deep Freeze, Antarctica



Midshipmen Ana Fuschetto and Steven Henderson off the coast of New Zealand. Below, Ana is bundled up along the coast of Antarctica.



M/N Ana Fuschetto, 2/C with Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Ray Mabus, aboard the American Tern.



Two Kings Pointers are currently enjoying the relative "warmth" of Antarctica in summer. M/N Ana Fuschetto 2/C, Swink, Colorado and M/N Steven Henderson, 2/C, Asheville, North Carolina, were selected last fall to serve in Operation Deep Freeze aboard the container vessel, American Tern. Their sea duty has taken them across the equator and to New Zealand, where they were photographed working on sea projects on a balmy evening. A few days later icebergs began appearing and Antarctica was in view, precipitating a change in clothing. (See photo at left.) Residents of the East Coast and Midwest might also take note that there appears to be less snow in Antarctica than in their areas!

The American Tern carried supplies to McMurdo Research Station. Included in their cargo were ambulances that said, "Antarctic Medical Service," vehicles with snow tracks instead of tires, food, beverages, medical supplies, mops and brooms, games and clothing. The ship will also return with containers filled with garbage and refuse from the station.

Coincidentally, the Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Ray Mabus, was on a three day visit to McMurdo station, Antarctica, to speak to scientists and engineers

about environmental research on climate and energy while the American Tern was delivering supplies. He boarded the vessel and Fuschetto not only had breakfast with him, but was also asked to tour him around the ship. (Thanks to American Tern Captain Brian O'Hanlon and Third Mate Michael Thomas for providing these photographs.) For video of the voyage of the American Tern: <http://tvnz.co.nz/national-news/nzdf-races-against-time-antarctic-voyage-3351322/video>

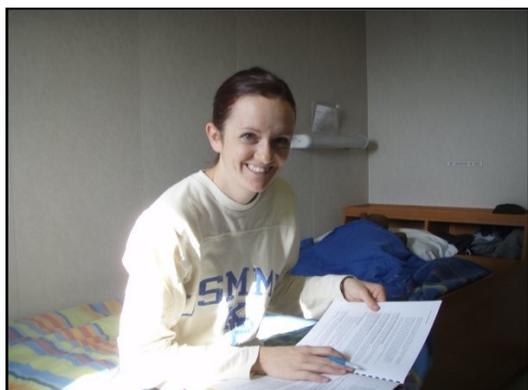
Save the Dates!
Parent's Weekend is Sept. 3-5, 2010
Homecoming Weekend is September 25, 2010
The National USMMA Parent Association President's
Conference is Sept. 1-3, 2010

Kings Point cuts and clips, notes and news



Proud Colorado mother Lisa Schmidt writes: "My daughter, Katie (2013) is doing so much better. You might have heard she had a ruptured appendix just as the trimester was beginning. She was able to have it removed, just as Christmas break began, which gave her two full weeks of recovery time. She is back to diving on the Women's Swimming and Diving team, which makes her very happy." Katie also forwarded photos from Midtown Manhattan to let everyone know she is fully recovered. Shown with Katie above is Colorado midshipman Jim Ensz and Elmo.

Send us information and photos from your midshipman's travels! Send information on your chapter events, your meetings or ideas for fundraising! Share your good news, photos, and successful programs! The US-MMA National Parent Association Newsletter is published quarterly and welcomes any submissions from state or regional chapter members. A National Parent Association website is being developed and submissions for the website will be called for soon. Submit all newsletter information to rmjfuschetto@yahoo.com



Sarah Smith, aboard the RO RO Alliance. Below right, Third Engineer, Adriane Pinto (SUNY 2005); Sarah Smith, 2012, CO; Spencer Grinnell, 2011, VA

RO RO RO Your Boat!

Proud mother Carol Smith writes: "February 1, 2010 marks 77 days on board the RO RO Alliance New York for Sarah Smith (2012, engine) and her sea partner Spencer Grinnell (2011, engine, Virginia). On November 15, 2009 they flew from New York to Washington DC and then non-stop to Kuwait City. Arriving late at night they were taken to a hotel to rest and wait for the call that the ship was in port. Monday, November 16 they went aboard and haven't been off the ship for more than a few hours since. From Kuwait they went to Um Qasr, Iraq, Dammam Saudi Arabia, and Abu Dhabi unloading and loading vehicles, before they went into dry dock in Bahrain for three weeks. The new schedule took them back to Kuwait to load wrecked tanks and hummers from Iraq, and then on to Aqaba Jordan. While going around the Saudi peninsula, from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea, Sarah did have to do pirate watch – looking at the ocean for hours on end. From Aqaba the route took them through the Suez Canal, across the Mediterranean and into the Atlantic. The Persian Gulf and Red Sea were relatively calm. In the USA they sailed to the port at Beaumont Texas Then the ship went on to Charleston South Carolina where they docked in the

Naval Weapons Station. In Charleston they loaded up with tanks, Hummers, and huge trucks and headed east across the Atlantic.

On the return trip the Atlantic was calm and the Med was a little rough. Then it was back through the Suez Canal, the Red Sea, the Gulf of Aden (pirate territory) and back into the Persian Gulf. February 3 they arrived in Kuwait at the Port of Shuaiba. The ship will continue on to Karachi Pakistan, about 2 days east, and then there will be 13 days at sea while they continue east to Incheon South Korea and then Japan. In 100+ days Sarah will have visited 16-18 ports and had an incredible experience living and working on a Ro Ro."

