

USMMA Parents Association National Newsletter

October, 2010

Note from the Superintendent

Dear Parents, Families and Friends of Kings Point,

What a great honor and privilege it is to serve as the 11th Superintendent! Debby joins me expressing how humbled we are by the opportunity to continue our service to the nation by returning to Kings Point. As a Kings Pointer, I know that the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy is a national treasure and as Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood has stated repeatedly, Kings Point should be viewed amongst service academies as the "crown jewel." I am committed to achieving that goal!

It has been nearly two months since I assumed duties as Superintendent and each day has been rich in its fulfillment. After reporting aboard for duty on 30 August, the month of September was a terrific time to engage with many of our key Kings Point families, friends and alumni. I'm proud to say that one of my first official events was to speak to and spend time with the USMMA National Parents' Chapter Presidents in early September at their annual conference held at the Academy. This important meeting occurred just prior to Acceptance Day and Parents' Weekend. I was deeply impressed by the parent chapter leaders. You are engaged, committed and dedicated to enriching the Academy's mission as you work tirelessly to support our Midshipmen. While perhaps time-late, I wanted to make mention and give special thanks to a few of our parents in key leadership positions within the Parents Association. These call outs represent the tremendous dedication and commitment I know all of our parents around the country are providing to support our midshipmen. Many thanks to you all, especially:

Joe & Sheryl Bailey (IN, KY, TN)—Admissions Rep & Regional Vice-President Chapter. Joe chairs the USMMA Parents' Association legislative action team. Joe & Sheryl took charge and coordinated a myriad of support details for the midshipmen, staff and parents who attended Midn Marisa Sanchez's funeral last April in Indiana.

Alice Clausing (WI)—Regional Vice-President and Admissions Rep since 1998. Alice hosts the annual Welcome Aboard luncheon for Wisconsin in her home each year and prepares all the food—including her famous peach pies!

Pete & Stephanie Meyers (NY)—Pete is the USMMA Parents' Association National Treasurer. He handles all the Association's finances and banking/accounting. Pete is also in charge of purchasing the Midn Sanchez Memorial Bench. Together, he and Stephanie attend numerous meetings at the Academy to represent the Parents' Association because they live in New York!

Suzanne Graboski (S.VA./Mid-Atlantic States Region)—Mary Jane Fuschetto tells me she could not survive without Suzanne! Suzanne, a National Vice-President, handles all the ticket sales and reservations for the entire Parents' Weekend Events calendar. She is also an Admissions Rep and hosts the Annual Welcome Aboard Picnic for her region. The 2010 picnic had almost 200 attendees!



**Welcome Aboard to Debby Greene
and Admiral Philip Greene,
11th Superintendent of Kings Point,
USMMA '78!**

(continued on next page)

Superintendent's Message (con't from page one)

New York Metro Chapter—This chapter hosts local parties at the Academy, including the holiday parties as well as various pizza and ice cream socials. The New York Chapter also coordinated all the food service for the Midn Sanchez brunch at the Academy following the memorial chapel service.

Parents' Weekend and Acceptance Day were filled with many positive events. At each and every turn, I was impressed by the Regiment's presentation, decorum and energized spirit. Many thanks go to the USMMA Band and others from the Regiment for a tremendous display of military smartness in the "Beat Retreat" performance. It was a highlight for our visiting parents! Additionally, we were pleased to host VADM Dirk Debbink, Chief of the Navy Reserve, for his first visit to Kings Point. I know he came away from his experience at USMMA with a clear sense of the value of Kings Point and its talented midshipmen and graduates. We were honored that VADM Debbink could swear in the class of 2014 as midshipman, U.S. Navy Reserve, and then serve as the reviewing officer for the Acceptance Day Ceremony Formal Parade.

Another highlight in September was attending the Kings Point Chapter Presidents Alliance annual conference. This daylong event hosted in Baltimore at the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies provided an excellent opportunity to meet so many of our dedicated alumni leaders from around the globe. The Dubai chapter got the award for coming the furthest! Thanks go to Gary Hicks (KP'76) and his wife for coordinating the successful event. I know the midshipman leadership that attended made a positive impact and contribution to the healthy dialogue between generations of Kings Pointers. I was joined at the event by the Academic Dean and Commandant of Midshipmen, and together we engaged in a valuable exchange of ideas with chapter presidents and other alumni leaders, such as Charlie Hill '65 and Jim Tobin '77, about Kings Point's bright future.

Homecoming Weekend wrapped up an exciting and rewarding first month on the job! The Academy was honored by the visit of Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood and Maritime Administrator David Matsuda who participated in the Superintendent's formal installation ceremony. Later they joined me with some of our most distinguished and dedicated alumni at the Annual Alumni Awards Dinner at Melville Hall. During the course of Homecoming Weekend, I had the privilege to meet hundreds of Kings Pointers, including members from our senior anniversary class of 1945. All of our anniversary classes from 1945 through 2010 were well represented and the weekend was full of spirit, energy and pride!

I would also like to acknowledge the support that many parents have given to the three midshipmen who lost close family members over the past several weeks. Your warmth and encouragement reflect the close ties that bind all members of the Kings Point family together. Debby and I appreciate your efforts to buoy their spirits during their time of loss.

Thank you for the warm welcome and tremendous display of support. I've been overwhelmed by the number of letters, phone calls and emails that express your commitment, optimism and passion for our Academy and its midshipmen. I look forward to sharing my vision with you in the coming months as your Kings Point Team gets down to business.

Let me conclude by expressing how proud I am to continue serving on behalf of my alma mater. Debby and I could not be more excited to be representing Kings Point on what I know is going to be a rewarding journey. We look forward to meeting our Kings Point alumni, friends and families—whether on the road or here at the Academy!

With Warmest Regards,
P.H. Greene, Jr., KP'78



Admiral Philip Greene, Mary Jane and Rocco Fuschetto, National Chairs USMMA Parents Association, Admiral Dirk J. Debbink, , at Beat Retreat.



Executive Board members greet Admiral Greene at the President's Conference Wednesday Reception. From left, Shirley Anthony, Debby Greene, Terry Gray, Suzanne Graboski, Rocco Fuschetto, Admiral Phil Greene, Mary Jane Fuschetto, and Pete Meyers.

Annual USMMA Parents Association President's Conference



State, Regional and National officers of the USMMA Parents Association pose for their official 2010 photo alongside Maritime Administrators and Academy officials.



Chief Maritime Administrator David Matsuda addresses the 2010 USMMA Parents Association President's Conference.



At left, Admiral Phil Greene addresses the President's Conference as Chief Maritime Administrator David Matsuda looks on. At right, Matsuda, Chief MARAD Legal Counsel Denise Krepp, and Deputy MARAD Administrator Orlando Gotay speak at the Distinguished Chapter Awards dinner.



At left, RVP Alice Clausing, Parent Director Shirley Anthony, RVPs Jim and Suzanne Graboski, and Linda Budesha enjoy the Melville Reception.



At right, Debbly Greene, Edie Angioletti and Susan Reilly enjoy the celebration at Melville Hall on Wednesday evening.

Annual USMMA Parents Association President's Conference



MARAD Public Relations Administrator Cheron Wicker and Parent Association Chair Mary Jane Fuschetto.



Cookie Café Mom Carol Guest and her husband Gene Guest were presented with a plaque of appreciation by Mary Jane Fuschetto, Admiral Phil Greene and Rocco Fuschetto for the many projects that they have organized over the years at Kings Point.



Dean Shashi Kumar was honored for his dedication and service to USMMA during the Thursday night dinner. Make the presentation from left are Mrs. Kumar, Mary Jane Fuschetto, Dean Kumar, Admiral Phil Greene and Rocco Fuschetto.



RVP David Brune and Duane & Pam Maxwell, Presidents of North Carolina Chapter, enjoy a festive moment.



Shown above are Mary Jane Fuschetto, RVP Joe Bailey, MARAD Chief David Matsuda, Legal Counsel Denise Krepp, Deputy MARAD Administrator Orlando Gotay, Admiral Phil Greene, Rocco Fuschetto.

Enjoying the reception at right, are Alumni Foundation Legislative Action Chair Mel Tublin, (USMMA '49) and Parent Chair Rocco Fuschetto.



Announcements from the USMMA National Parents Executive Board

It has been an exciting year! We have already had the installation of the 11th Superintendent of Kings Point, Admiral Philip Greene, USMMA '78, excellent attendance at the Annual Parents Weekend over Labor Day, a near miss by a hurricane over Parents Weekend 2010, an extremely large class of incoming plebe candidates, and the attendance of four Maritime Administrators at the Annual Parents Association President's Conference—all historic firsts at Kings Point.

Admiral Greene has already made many changes at Kings Point and is working daily to resolve the remnants of all past problems that have been plaguing the Academy since the 2008 GAO audit. A new Kings Point lawyer has been appointed, Bill Rospars, and he and Admiral Greene are working with Dean Kumar to increase hiring of faculty and staff, find a resolution for the few remaining NAFI employees yet to be converted to permanent status, and to create a strategic master plan for the future of the Academy. Admiral Greene is also anxious to work with USMMA Parent Clubs, the Alumni Chapter Presidents Alliance and USMMA Alumni Foundation members for the betterment of the Academy. To that end, he is ready and willing to travel to visit states where his presence would increase recruitment, or activate new clubs.

Already Admiral Greene has addressed parental concerns about thefts from campus storage lockers and has put new procedures and policies in place to prevent theft.

After a two year absence, Admissions Chair Capt. Robert Johnson will once again be offering parents Admissions Representative Training next year over Parents Weekend. Be sure and find time during that weekend to attend that training! Once you are trained, you will be able to receive brochures and supplies that will help you recruit through college fairs, career fairs, local guidance counselors, and will help you contact your legislators to assist them with telling the world about Kings Point.

Your National Parents Association Executive Board has added one new member, Susan Reilly of the Tri-State Chapter. She will be a real asset to our national board. During a national teleconference last week the Executive Board voted to donate \$5,000 to the USMMA Chapel Fund for activities that involve most of the Kings Point regiment. The Executive Board also donated \$6,000 to the New York Metro Parents Association Chapter to specifically fund the annual Ice Cream Truck visit (which was cancelled last year due to lack of funding,) two doughnut days, and the annual Christmas Party, all events that New York sponsors for all our regimental midshipmen.

The Legislative Action Committee of the Alumni Foundation and the USMMA Parents Association collaborated together to ask parents and alumni to make contact with their legislators **before November 12** to support the 2011, 2012 and 2013 budgets being proposed by the Secretary of Transportation for USMMA, and support for Senate Bill S663 which would provide a rightfully sought pension for the few remaining World War II Merchant Mariners, many of whom are United States Merchant Marine Academy Kings Point Alumni, who because of age, are fast disappearing. While BILLIONS have been given to many programs in this Congress the Merchant Marine Veterans of World War II remain neglected. Legislators are also being asked to support Senate Bill S3566 that was introduced this past summer by Senator Lautenberg of New Jersey to expand the mission of the Academy to allow the Academy to do research and properly function as an Academic institution so that the Academy can properly function in the Academic world. If you have not already contacted your legislators, please go to Thomas.gov to locate the proper way to contact your representatives via e-mail, fax or personal contact.

The USMMA Parent Executive Board apologizes to the Colorado Parents Club! Due to a technical glitch, Colorado was not awarded a Distinguished Chapter Award during the Annual Distinguished Chapter Awards Dinner held at Melville Hall on Sept. 2, 2010. Colorado had sufficient points to be among the top award-winning states and they submitted their documentation in time. However, a computer problem eliminated them from the annual award. Our apologies and Colorado will be receiving their certificate by mail. Thanks to Colorado for all their hard work!

There is a new Chapter in the USMMA Parents Association. With the help and support of USMMA Alum Connie Buhl, Washington State has a new chapter! New Washington State officers are: President--Janine Ivanelli, (son, Tim Buxton, 2013) phone: 206-841-1965 e-mail: janineivanelli@yahoo.com; Eddie and Diane Wood, (son, Adam, 2014) e-mail: eddiewoodjr@hotmail.com; Jon and Sally McQuiston, (son, Riley, 2012) e-mail: beachdogz@comcast.net. They have already had an October meeting and have ordered their official nametags. We heard all of them are looking forward to the upcoming visit of Admiral Greene to Seattle on November 4 and 5. Welcome Aboard, Washington State and special thanks to Connie Buhl for getting our Washington Parents Chapter organized!

Finally, the USMMA National Parents Association has contributed the remainder of the funds necessary to complete installation of the Marisa Sanchez Memorial Bench. The bench will be placed in front of Land Hall on a concrete pad and will have a bronze plaque memorializing Plebe Marisa who died on campus last March. Marisa's mother, Lisa Sanchez, has requested that the bench be dedicated in the week just before graduation, 2011.

National Executive Board Members

Parents Program Director: Shirley Anthony; 516-773-5105; e-mail: anthony@usmma.edu
National Chairs: Mary Jane and Rocco Fuschetto, 970-563-1262; e-mail: rmjfuschetto@yahoo.com
Mid-Atlantic Association President and RVP: Suzanne Graboski, 540-525-0399; e-mail: kpmom2011@yahoo.com
Former National Chair and Current National Treasurer: Pete Meyers, 516-487-7716; e-mail: pmeyers1@optonline.net
Former State Officer and National Moderator: Terry Gray, 718 344-3818; e-mail: laserocket@aol.com
Tri-State President: Susan Reilly, 610-964-1191, e-mail: SReilly@shipleyschool.org
Former National Co-Chair: Mary Silva, 603-431-3409; e-mail: moms11@comcast.net
Former National Co-Chair: Ann Hall, (719)590-8819, home and (719)661-4623, cell phone; e-mail: ann_hall42@q.com
Former National Chair: Jerry Hajduk, e-mail: hajdukj@verizon.net

USMMA Parents Weekend, 2010



As always, Beat Retreat was crowded and hot, but it did not dull the enthusiasm of the parents or the performance of the regimental band.

Meal guests this year could eat inside Melville or outside under tents.



Third Company Honor Plebe Kristy Marie Harris, Maryland, awaits award presentations by Admirals Greene and Debbink.



Sales booths were protected from weather under tents at this year's Parents Weekend.

Guest Reviewing Officer, Admiral Dirk J. Debbink, reviews the regiment.



Melville Hall staff hands out lunches.



Box lunch food distribution went very quickly at Melville Hall over Parents Weekend.



KJ Robbins gives a hug to Lisa Sanchez.



Beat retreat trumpeters thrilled the crowd.

USMMA Parents Weekend, 2010



Sales tables were busy over Parents Weekend.



Welcome to Parents Weekend!



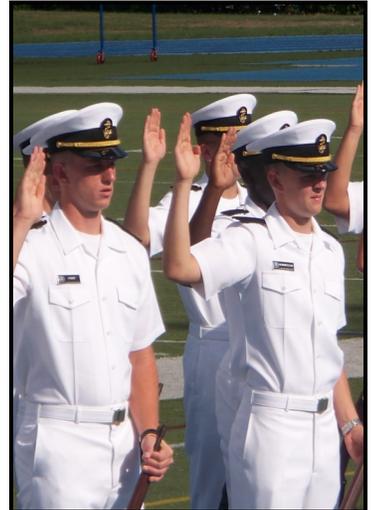
Plebe Cassie Walter leads the Star Spangled Banner Brigade.



Melville Hall Staff finally get to eat after serving!



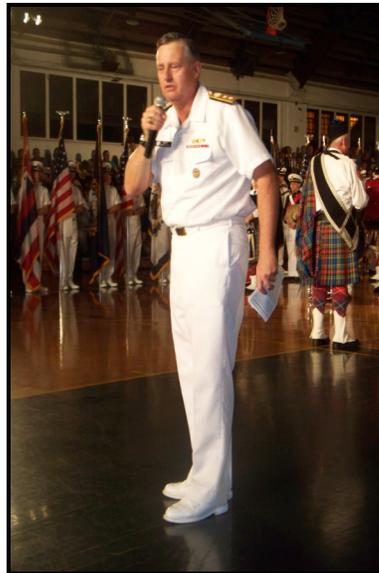
Parents applaud the successes of their plebes.



Taking the oath of office.



Midshipmen Parker Pope and Natalie Jones sing "God Bless the USA."



Admiral Greene addresses the audience during his first official Beat Retreat as Kings Point's Superintendent.



USMMA aprons were a new hit this year.



Admiral Phil Greene greets Lisa Sanchez.

USMMA Parents Weekend, 2010



The Regiment prepares to march in Review.



The volleyball team honors Plebe Marisa Sanchez and her mother Lisa.



It's all about the Parents on Parents Weekend!



The regiment listens to the formal address during the Acceptance Day Parade.



Reviewing Officer Vice Admiral Dirk J. Debbink, USN Commander, offers the address at Acceptance Day Ceremonies. At right, a celebratory cake for a Parents Weekend that provided athletic victories in volleyball, football, and soccer.



It warmed the hearts of many to see the banner welcoming "Mrs. Sanchez" back on campus for the first time since the death of her daughter, Plebe Marisa Sanchez.

USMMA Parents Weekend, 2010



As always, the Regimental Band performed admirably.



Plebes ready to be accepted into the regiment.



Plebes looked sharp as they prepared to march in review.



Admiral Greene administers the oath of office to the new plebes.



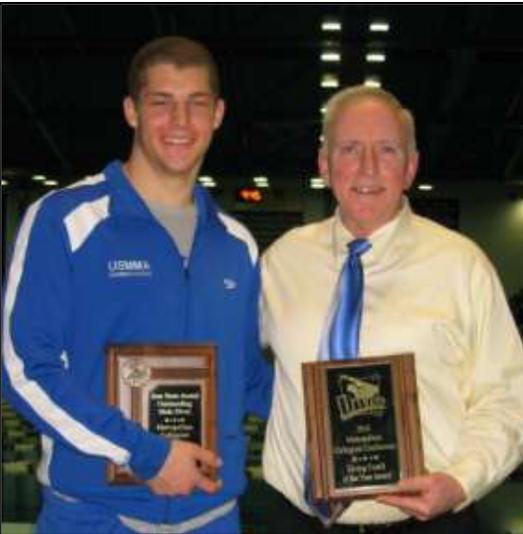
With a hurricane averted, USMMA parents could enjoy dining inside Melville or outside at tables scattered around the campus and under tents. In the background, construction is underway on the expansion of the Melville Hall patio and deck, because of contributions by Alum Dan Meehan.

Parents await the start of the Acceptance Day Ceremonies.



The Regimental Band and the Nassau County Police Pipes and Drums brought out patriotic enthusiasm during the annual Beat Retreat.

Swimming and Diving Season at Begins: Halbach attempts to tie Academy's Record of 8 All American Titles, set in 1985



Six-time All American Diver, Nicholas Halbach, with 2010 Landmark Conference Diving Coach of the Year, Kevin Ryan.

Halbach is looking to tie the Academy's record for All American titles. It is currently held by former USMMA men's swimmer, Lesli Carter with 8 All American titles in back stroke events. Former USMMA diver, Bill Nixon, had 7 titles upon his graduation in 1985.

Nicholas Halbach (2011, from Colorado) is preparing for his final season of NCAA Division III Diving. Though severe back spasms during the spring NCAA championships prevented him from repeat first place victories, he still finished in the top 3 of two events: Men's 1-meter and 3-meter boards. This gave him his 5th and 6th consecutive All American titles.



Nick has been named All-American in both of those events, during each season he competed, for a total of 6 All American Titles. This season he attempts to reclaim the national championship title as well as tie the Academy record for most All American titles at 8. The record is currently held by Leslie Carter, who was named All American during the 1982 – 1985 Men's Swimming seasons, with 8 titles in back stroke events. Another All American diver, Bill Nixon, claimed 7 All American titles in the same events as Nick— 1-meter and 3-meter boards, during the 1986-1989 seasons.

For the complete list of National Champions and All Americans, see: <http://www.usmmasports.com/ssp/all-americans>

Nick is also one of only 9 midshipmen ever to win National Championships in their sporting events in the Academy's 67-year history. He is also the only midshipman ever to win the

championship in 2 events in the same year. He was the national champion in both 1-meter and 3-meter springboard diving events in 2009. He looks forward to achieving this goal again in his final season at the Academy.

U. S. Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood, took note of other Swimming and Diving accomplishments:

"In men's swimming and diving, an incredible 14 Kings Point Mariners were named to the All-Conference team this year, with senior John Murphy of Fairfax, VA, named Landmark Conference Swimmer of the Year with Head Swimming Coach Sean Tedesco, Head Diving Coach Kevin Ryan, and Assistant Coach Sean Raffile named Conference Coaching Staff of the Year. Moreover, diver Nicholas Halbach of Wheat Ridge, CO, will defend his NCAA Division III national title in the championships held next week. The junior already earned the Conference Diver of the year award. And in women's diving, the future looks promising as freshman Kathryn Schmidt of Westminster, CO, took home the Landmark Conference Diver of the year award for her outstanding rookie season. Needless to say, Kathryn also made the All-Conference team. That's quite a start to her career!" Read all of Secretary of transportation, Ray LaHood's blog, referencing USMMA athletics accomplishments from his March 9, 2010 Blog, "Kings Point student-athletes teach lesson in excellence," <http://fastlane.dot.gov/2010/03/kings-point-studentathletes-teach-lesson-in-excellence.html>

USMMA WRESTLING

Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood, took note of other accomplishments for the wrestling team, who will begin their season filled with hope.

"All-American Vincent Renault, became the first-ever midshipman to bring home a national championship in wrestling. National championship. The junior from Plymouth, MA, won the 165-pound title Saturday evening. Renault also took home the Outstanding Wrestler of the Tournament award. Congratulations, Vincent, that is some accomplishment! And congratulations to Head Wrestling Coach Greg Ilaria, whose mat-sters finished the season ranked number 7 in the nation and placed 11th in the NCAA Tournament. That's the way to represent!" The wrestling team had 3 grapplers named as All Americans for USMMA wrestling. They are Jordan Alfaro - 125 lbs., Dan Twito - 157 lbs. and Vincent Renault - 165 lbs. Wrestlers have been Centennial Conference Champs from 2007 – 2010.



Notes and News

New Washington State Chapter News

Things have gotten off to a good start here in Washington State. Our executive board has been wonderful, timely and helpful. We had 21 people at our first parent meeting and we'll have a good amount at Connie Buhl's dinner for RADM Philip Greene this Friday. I am very pleased with the enthusiasm. I only wish we'd done this sooner so I didn't have to go through a whole year with no other parent contact. One other parent, Carol Thacker, and I were corresponding a bit since our sons went to the same high school. It's great to be in contact with other parents and generate support for our kids, the school and each other.

Janine Ivanelli

USMMA Washington State Parents Assoc. Pres.

Birthday Surprise, Jim!



Usually quietly in the background, Jim Graboski, husband of RVP Mid-Atlantic Region, Suzanne Graboski, was surprised at the annual Distinguished Chapter Dinner with a birthday cake and a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday."

GRADUATION IDEAS

Celebrate your connection with Kings Point by adding a decorative accent table to your home or office. This is a quality handcrafted table made of cherry and mahogany woods. It features a laser cut Kings Point seal medallion framed with a linked chain on the perimeter. The centered crest features your year of graduation and your choice of anchor or propeller. Kings Point is also lasered into the backplash. Choose from either a choice of gold chain and black medallion or a natural stain finish. The table is \$425.00 which includes shipping and handling to your address. View it online at WWW.qualityfurniturebybill@yahoo.com. Click on Kings Point table. For 2011 graduates, tables ordered before May 15th may be picked up at the academy during graduation to avoid shipping and handling costs. Your custom table may be ordered online at any time, please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Partial proceeds go to the USMMA Midshipmen.



Note from the outgoing USMMA Legal Counsel

Dear Kings Pointers,

Last Friday while the Superintendent was here at headquarters, he presented me with a plaque on behalf of the faculty, staff, and regiment of midshipmen in recognition of my efforts in support of the important work and mission of the United States Merchant Marine Academy. Thank you all for the honor and distinction.

I remain an avid Academy supporter and resource at the service of the Chief Counsel here at headquarters. I, more than most, appreciate and respect the hard work and effort contributed by each member of the Kings Point community in ensuring continued USMMA success. It is my hope that with each new challenge, new class, new horizon, that the USMMA continues to set and raise the bar for excellence in maritime education and service in the merchant marine of the United States.

With appreciation and sincere thanks, I am very truly yours,

T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.

Attorney, Office of the Chief Counsel, Maritime Administration

United States Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.

Washington, D.C. 20590

(Editor's note: Appointed by MARAD, Mitch Hudson worked through legal issues at USMMA during some of the most difficult times in the history of the Academy. His service is greatly appreciated!)

You know you've been at Kings Point too long when:



your doormat wears out!

