



Colorado Newsletter February, 2010

2009 COLORADO ALL-ACADEMY BALL

Close to 600 people attended this 27th annual celebration of Colorado young adults, pursuing the challenging paths of college at one of the five federal service academies. The elegant 5-star *Broadmoor Hotel* in Colorado Springs was the site of this gala event, Monday evening, Dec. 28, 2009. Highlights included: 1745 Registration and cocktail reception; 1845 Opening Ceremonies. Mess-dressed Midshipman and Cadets from Colorado, and Academy friends visiting from other states, were introduced individually, photographed, and stood on the wooden dance floor according first to service academy (in order of its founding) and by class. Presentation of Colors, National Anthem, Invocation, and Toasts followed.

David Svoboda represented USMMA in the Color Guard. **Jerry Coleman-Dodson** gave the USMMA toast and POW/MIA presentation. Dinner was served at 1945 by tuxedoed Broadmoor staff members. Following dinner, the USAFA Guest speaker gave a short speech about military history and strategy and the cake-cutting ceremony was conducted. Colors were then retired. **Robert Mussler** represented us very well, looking the most military of the 5 academies. Each academy representative ceremonially cut a slice of cake with a saber.



The formal dance began at 2045. The DJ was **Celebration Station**. The DJ mixed up a terrific assortment of dance music, with selections from popular dance songs for many generations (00's, 90's, 80s with a few good songs even from previous decades). Academy women were allowed to change into ball gowns. At 2200 an informal dance followed and all Midshipman and Cadets could change into jeans and the party moved locations.

Service Academy group photos and other formal photos were taken throughout the night. If you would like to view Ball photos online, go to www.SeeMyPrints.com. In "Search" box enter **CASAB2009**. In "Password" box, enter **ASB09**. Questions, call Lee at 719-930-7309 or email cciphoto@hotmail.com. There are about 700 images to search through! They will be viewable through Feb. 15, 2010. Prints Cost: 8x10 - \$15, 5x7 - \$8, 4x6 - \$4. **USMMA Colorado Parents' Association** recognized the outstanding recruiting and mentoring efforts of **Col. Dick and his wife Dr. Sargent**. USMMA midshipmen and family members and friends gathered in the back of the ballroom to recognize the outstanding efforts of this committed couple. They were presented with an engraved replica of the bell USMMA First Classmen ring upon learning they passed the US Coast Guard licensing exam. Many Colorado parents and midshipmen have the Sargents to thank for their assistance in getting and help staying in the Academy.

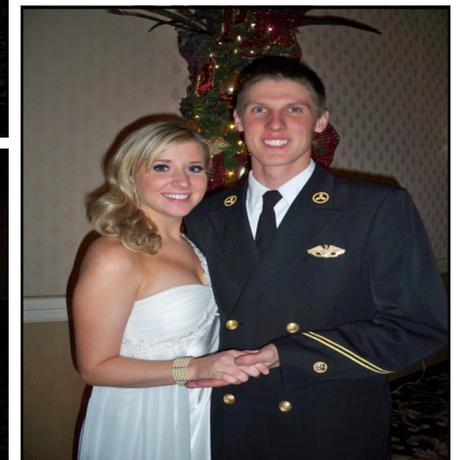
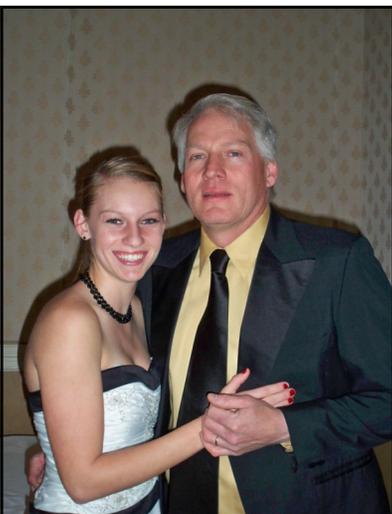
Everyone who attended the ball received a commemorative glass. Midshipmen and Cadets also received a commemorative coin. There will be some of these glasses (about 18) available for purchase at the Feb. 27th Parent's Association meeting. This event is partially funded by sales of *Old Chicago Pizza Palz*. These are coupons for \$11 and can be redeemed at *Old Chicago* for any large pizza, up to a value of \$22. Email LSSchmidt@aol.com if you would like to purchase a *Pizza Pal* at the Feb. 27th meeting.

Thank you to our **USMMA Parents' Association** for providing tickets for all USMMA midshipmen who attended. Thank you to those who served on the Ball's Organizing Committee: Carla VanDenBerg, Robyn Coleman-Dodson, and Linda Schmidt. Thank you to Carol Smith who already attended her first Organizing Committees monthly meeting, joining Linda Schmidt as representative for next year. Parents can plan to attend next year's event, even if their midshipmen are at sea. We look forward to a great representation next year. All Colorado Midshipmen and Cadets had their names listed in the program by Academy and graduation year. And the USMMA Midshipmen listed attended with family and friends. Philip Acosta, 2013; Patrick Ambrose, 2010; Casey Cannon, 2013; Jerry Coleman-Dodson, 2010; Philip Diamond, 2011; Jim Ensz, 2013; Grant Johnson, 2013; Ryan Moorman, 2013; Robert Mussler, 2011; Michelle Piper, 2013; Jacob Schirber, 2011; Kathryn Schmidt, 2013; David Svoboda, 2010; Mikkel Tophoj, 2013; Beau Trigsted, 2013; Andrew Tulenko, 2012.

COLORADO ALL-ACADEMY BALL HIGHLIGHTS



The Colorado All Service Academy Ball was held on December 28, 2009 at the Broadmoor Resort in Colorado Springs. The event was hosted by the United States Air Force Academy Parents Club this year. There were 16 midshipmen from the USMMA, numerous family members and a few Kings Point alumni in attendance. Our midshipmen looked sharp and did Kings Point proud during the assembly, presentation of Colors, toasts and cake cutting ceremonies. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal and celebrated to a variety of motivating music. Many guests continued their event by spending the night in the five star hotel and enjoying an outstanding brunch the following morning. Several USMMA midshipmen were unable to attend the ball due to their days at sea and we missed their inspirational presence. Next year's ball will be hosted by the United States Military Academy West Point Parents' Club. (Thanks to Schirbers for photos!)



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.

The President's Corner

Another holiday season has come and gone and if your lives are like ours, the time was busy and went by too fast. We trust everyone who attended the annual Colorado All-Service Academy Ball had as much fun as we did. Highpoints of the Ball were the March-on, presentation of Colors (David Svoboda 1/c), Toasts (Jerry Coleman-Dodson 1/c), POW/MIA Presentation (Jerry Coleman-Dodson 1/c), and Cake Cutting Ceremony (Robert Mussler 2/c). Our midshipmen looked sharp and made us proud to be part of the Kings Point family. Mike and Alesia Schirber presented Colonel and Dr. Sargent with a Kings Point Ship's Bell on behalf of the Colorado Parent's Association. It honors their many years as devoted Kings Point mentors. The dinner, evening entertainment and Broadmoor accommodations were outstanding. Please be sure to join us in thanking Carla VanDenBerg as Committee chair, Robyn Coleman-Dodson and Linda Schmidt for their hard work putting the event together.

We've heard the grades for Sea Year projects have been posted and trust the returning midshipmen were successful in getting their projects completed. For parents of A-Split Midshipmen, please encourage your sons and daughters to stay on top of those projects while they are at sea! No doubt the Plebe Class is anxious for Recognition and their time at KP is slowing to a crawl with the added pressures of difficult academics, regimental duties and the notorious gray East Coast winter. First Classmen will soon start to feel the pressures of License Exam preparation and planning for the next phase- Life After Kings Point! Rest assured all of us are pulling for all of you; midshipmen and families, please feel free to contact us anytime with your concerns.

As we write the column for this newsletter, plans are in the works for the next Parents Association Meeting to be held at the Diamond's home on February 27th at 1 PM. Please plan on attending and look for details elsewhere in this newsletter. We have had a good year, but much remains to be done. Your input as parents is crucial for making our efforts successful.

Mike and Jan Mussler, 303-258-7952; Mike and Alesia Schirber, 970-493-3935

All-Academy Ball Photos

If you would like to view Ball photos online, go to www.SeeMyPrints.com. In "Search" box enter CASAB2009. In "Password" box, enter ASB09. Enter all caps on both of these. For Questions, call Lee at 719-930-7309 or email cci-photo@hotmail.com. There are about 700 images to search through! They will be viewable through Feb. 15, 2010. Prints Cost: 8x10 - \$15, 5x7 - \$8, 4x6 - \$4. Thank you to Jeanna Ambrose who let us know about this.

President's 2011 budget allocates \$100 million for KingsPoint

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 2011 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.

Colorado Website

Thanks to Carol Smith for doing such a great job of keeping the Colorado Website up and looking so wonderful! Send all info for the website to Carol at rockymtnsmith@msn.com

Grandparents and friends can be supporting members, too, and receive all the communications with becoming associate members on the website: <http://www.usmmmaparents.com/> Be sure to check out the new photos Carol has added for the Ball, Sea Year, and Parents' Weekend.

There is a neat new addition with info about "where in the world" our Colorado midshipmen are: <http://www.usmmmaparents.com/docs/NewsandEvents.pdf>

Reminders and general notes of interest

Thank you to all who attended the USMMA Colorado Parents Association Meeting, **Oct. 17, 2009.**

Thank you to Mark and Lisa Trigsted's in Broomfield for hosting it! Be sure and mark your calendars for the next meeting: Sat. Feb. 27, 2010, 1:00 pm; the home of Paul & Bonnie Diamond; 6217 Torrey Pines Drive; Larkspur, CO; Please RSVP to 303-681-3322 or diamond6217@msn.com. Let them know how many will be attending.

Cookies for Cookie Café: The next batch for Colorado is **March 18th**. Contact Christine Neil Sew4th@Juno.com if you can bake 5 or 10 dozen cookies (we need to send **140 dozen!**) <http://www.kpcookiecafe.com/> has packaging instructions <http://www.kpcookiecafe.com/shipping.html> with photos and recipes.

Please pay your membership dues if you haven't already done so. You can ask new treasurer Russ Johnson russnjo63@hotmail.com if you are current. It is possible to use PayPal from the website www.usmmaparents.com/. Remember, these dues cover the ticket for your mid to attend the Colorado All Service Academy Ball each year.

Cards are mailed for birthdays, or special occasions. Thanks to Shannon O'Connell for doing this great service. If you hear of any special needs, please contact Shannon at coneraknolls@aol.com.

We need someone as the Alumni Liaison. Contact Mike Mussler mmussler@wispertel.net.

We send a big thanks to Bonnie Diamond, from Larkspur, who coordinated the Boodle Bags during the recent Finals week. If you would like to contribute homemade cookies or help package these next time, please contact Bonnie at diamond6217@msn.com. Band Company sends a big thank you to the parents who put them together. Rice crispy treats and jerky were favorites of one grateful plebe.

Fundraising ideas are being considered for Western Slope Peach/Fruit Sale, Butter Braids Pastries, Golf Outing, USMMA Umbrellas, and USMMA flags. If you have a special need or fundraising idea contact Mike and Bev Halbach halzsportsjocks@comcast.net **OR** Russell & Julie Rohloff chrancher@wildblue.net (fundraising co-chairs), or Mike and Janice Mussler mmussler@wispertel.net or Michael and Alesia Schirber schirbers@msn.com (co-Presidents).

Want to follow your midshipman's travels? <http://www.sailwx.info/> is a site that shows Ship locations worldwide. Also, shows worldwide weather info to watch where your mid is while on sea year.

Colorado Parents Association was given a "2009 Distinguished Chapter" Award from the USMMA National Parents Association at Parents Weekend (Sept 11-13). See <http://www.usmma.edu/parents/>

The USMMA Academic calendar is available at: http://www.usmma.edu/academics/registrar/Academic_Calendar10.htm

Helpful information and contacts for USMMA can be found in the pdf publication at: <http://www.usmma.edu/parents/Parents%20Guidebook%2020066106.pdf>

As always, PLEASE send updates/stories of your midshipmen (pictures with identities noted) and list of ships/ places, notes from your midshipmen, ASAP (by Oct. 30) to: RMJFuschetto@yahoo.com Mary Jane Fuschetto for the newsletter and to rockymtnsmith@msn.com Carol Smith for the web site. News and photos are ALWAYS NEEDED!

Notes from our Mids

Sarah Smith, 2012

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, Damman Saudi Arabia, and Abu Dhabi unloading and loading vehicles, before they went into dry dock in Bahrain for three weeks.



Dry dock had an almost unlimited amount of activities for engineering students to work on and get really dirty. Sarah learned how to take Shell & Tube heat exchangers apart and put them back together, remove and replace valves with their gaskets, clean fuel oil spills, and clean most everything else. Being the smallest engineer on board meant she got some of those jobs going into small places. It was three weeks of long hours (no overtime pay), hard work, and an incredible learning experience. Occasionally Sarah and Spencer got to go to a nearby Naval Base to the PX. There they found a few of the comforts of home as well as WIFI, phone cards and phones. I talked to her one day for over an hour and it was great. They never got to go "into town" while in Bahrain.

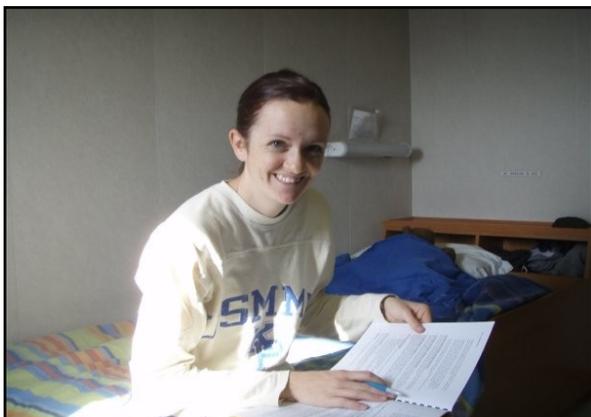


Finally they floated the boat and started on a new voyage with a mostly new crew. The incoming 3rd Assistant Engineer was a woman, Adriane Pinto (SUNY 2005). The new schedule took them back to Kuwait to load wrecked tanks and hummers from Iraq, and then on to Aqaba Jordan. While going around the Saudi peninsula, from the Persian Gulf to the Red Sea, Sarah did have to do pirate watch – looking at the ocean for hours on end. The Alliance New York is too tall (16-ft) and too fast (18-20 knots) for pirates to really bother with.

Finally in Aqaba Sarah and Spencer got to go into town, which was just outside the gate of the port and within walking distance. Sarah went to the hospital to see what they could do for a rash she had developed that seems to be related to some food allergy. At the hospital they gave her an IV with something in it that made her feel much better for several days. She and Spencer, along with one or two of the other engineers got to go out to dinner two evenings, do some shopping. Sarah was able to take a camel ride on the beach at sunset. Adriane, Sarah and Spencer

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. The Mediterranean was a little rough and the Atlantic had hurricane force winds and swells of 15-20 ft. Fortunately Dramamine does work. In the USA they sailed to the port at Beaumont Texas where they spent a couple of days doing a "piston pull" (big time engineering). Then the ship went on to Charleston South Carolina where they docked in the Naval Weapons Station. Here Spencer was able to spend a night with his parents who had driven down from Virginia. Sarah went to dinner with them. Sarah also got to go to Starbucks and Walmart the next day so all was right with the world again. 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. There are lots of ships in the Mediterranean. Unfortunately both times the ship went through the Straits of Gibraltar it was night so Sarah never got to see the Rock. 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 are scheduled to arrive in Kuwait at the Port of Shuaiba. They have a little engine maintenance to perform there. 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. There is a big clean up and painting of the cargo decks in preparation for the Japanese car they will be loading. After several trips to the Middle East carrying tanks, trucks, and Hummer both new and broken the cargo area is full of sand and dirty. The Japanese like to ship their cars in clean RO-ROs. This cleaning and painting is a deckie activity. After about a week in 6 different ports in Japan the ship will continue east to Mexico. Since it will arrive there after classes start at USMMA we don't know what the ATR will decide to do for Sarah.



On the ship Sarah has her own room and attached bathroom. She has to clean it and do her own laundry. The food has been very good – except for the mysterious food allergy. Some cooks are a bit better than others but all the food has been first rate. From Kuwait to Charleston there was at least one other woman in the crew. Since Charleston Sarah has been on her own. We have been fortunate in that Sarah has email readily available. The captain is in charge of receiving all the email to be forwarded to the crew. The crews' email gets stored until the captain sends it. All of this happens at least once a day. With the 8 hours or more time difference it seems like we are days off in communications. Sarah was able to buy a satellite phone card and call us from the middle of the Atlantic on New Years Day. That was exciting.

Continued on next page

Notes from our Mids

Sarah Smith, continued from previous page

On the ship before Charleston there were two brothers that are KP alumni serving as 2nd and 3rd mates. In Charleston one brother got off and a third brother got on to replace him. There is a fourth brother in the class of 2012 and a sister in high school who might join the class of 2014 or 2015. I haven't found out their names.

Sarah has been working on the Sea Project. Until after Charleston there never was any time set aside for it. The new 1st Engineer has given Sarah and Spencer over a week to devote most of their time to the task. The 2nd Engineer has been very helpful with practical suggestions.

In 100+ days Sarah will have visited 16-18 ports and had an incredible experience living and working on a Ro Ro.



Adriane, Sarah and Spencer

Katie Schmidt, 2013

Proud 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.



Katie and Jim Ensz, visit Rockefeller Center and Katie meets Elmo in Times Square.

Preston Nicholl, 2012

Proud father Chris Nicholl writes of son Preston Nicholl, 2012: "Not much to report about Preston. He is currently aboard the Integrity, a ro-ro that has been plying the North Atlantic with stops in Germany, Belgium, England and Baltimore, Charleston, and Brunswick. We haven't heard much from him and of course no pictures. Christmas at sea and New Years in Germany at the seaman center. The rest he says is work and working on his sea project. He is enjoying himself and looking forward to getting back with his friends at the Academy."



Molly King, 2011

Sharon King, proud Mom of Second Classman Molly King (2011) writes: "Molly is serving as a Deck Cadet on the MSC-USNS KANAWAH, a replenishing Oil Tanker, during A-split Sea Year. She boarded the Kanawah on November 23rd on the Isle of Crete, Greece. The Kanawah left for an undisclosed destination a few days later. She is enjoying working with the Second Mate on Navigation at this point. This Mate still does all of his celestial navigation by hand so she is getting azimuths, star fixes, amplitudes and sunsets completed almost every day. She is now off the Bridge for awhile and is getting to work on some of the oil rigging. She has had the opportunity to be the 'phone talker' when her Team is working. This has been quite entertaining on some occasions. Some of the information for her Sea Project has been difficult to find as it is lost or out of date. All the personnel on the ship have been great about helping her find what she needs. She is disappointed that we have had little opportunity to talk, but the emails are getting through. Some shopping has been accomplished and some port calls have been given. All in all, a great ship to be on! (The tanker Kanawah is pictured at right and Molly is pictured above.)



Notes from our Mids

Ana Fuschetto, 2011

While many midshipmen may be serving their sea duty around the tropical islands of Hawaii or sailing through the far east or in "the med", Ana Fuschetto, 2011, Swink, Colorado, was chosen for "Operation Deep Freeze" and she is enjoying summer in Antarctica. Summer, however, is a relative term! (See photos!) While it was extremely hot crossing the equator and heading down to New Zealand, the rest of the trip has been chilly, but exciting. Ana started her sea duty with 30 days on a tugboat, the K-Sea "Java Sea," which sailed from Delaware up to Albany, New York and surrounding areas. Her shipmate was KP'er Richardson who used to serve as Shirley Anthony's assistant in the Parent Association offices at

Kings Point. On Dec. 15, she boarded the "American Tern" in Port Hueneme, California as the ship underwent repairs and was prepared and loaded for the voyage to Antarctica. While in Port Hueneme, Ana and her sea partner Steven Henderson were invited to spend the holidays with Mark and Amy Watkins, Ventura, California, the parents of Ana's former USMMA roommate, Lindsay Watkins, 2011. Thanks so much to the Watkins and ALL the Kings Point parents who take in midshipmen who are far away from home! (See photo of Ana and Steven opening Lindsay's Christmas gifts, since she wasn't home either!) On January 6, 2010, Ana set sail for Antarctica. The rest of the trip is best described in



Ana and sea partner Steven Henderson open Lindsay Watkins' gift from her grandparents.

Ana's e-mails: "Dear Mom. I am on the American Tern. We left CA a few days ago and anchored in Long Beach for bunkers. Now we are on our way!! It's been pretty fun! Everyone is real nice and I'm having a blast! I've been working super hard on projects...my captain said he wants them all done before I get off of here...which would be nice because I still have like three months after this ship. Anyway, we are all getting really excited for New Zealand. My captain said that I don't have to work at all while we are there. But the engine cadet will probably have to. They have some major repairs they are getting done. But we are all pretty excited for Antarctica too! Should be really fun! Oh yeah, I'm supposed to say this is the best ship ever and I have the most handsome captain ever...He told me to say that. Love, Ana"

"It's so hot here! we should cross the equator either Sunday or Monday. Woohoo! I've never done that before! Steven and I can get tattoos for that! Sorry to hear it's so cold there. It's pretty hot everywhere here, so I've been working on projects. I am just ready for them to be done. Tomorrow is my day off, so I will be working on projects ALL day. Usually I work on them for four hours during watch and then three hours before bed. So if I keep this up, they should just be done anytime. It would be really cool to finish everything and not have to worry the rest of the sea year. Anyway, the steward and I are talking about traveling around New Zealand if we get a chance. The captain is not having me work when we get there, so it should be really cool. The 25 year old female AB and I have been exercising almost everyday, so that's pretty fun. I'd better get some



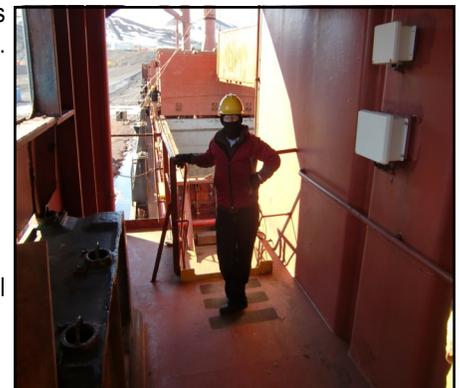
work done before dinner. It's too cloudy for any stars tonight, so I'll be working on some other stuff tonight.. OK, tell everyone i said hi."
"We crossed the equator last night! So mom, the tattoo would be a shellback turtle...on my foot? It's pretty hot here. Sorry to hear about all the coldness. But soon you will be laughing at me when I am freezing my butt off in Antarctica. Today we were looking through the ice maps and it's not looking too good so far. I'll be sure to take a ton of pictures especially of all the penguins and whales! Well, I have to run to dinner. Hope to hear from you guys soon!"



Ana is dressed for "Summer" in Antarctica



Ana had breakfast with Secretary of the Navy, the honorable Ray Mabus, who was making a three day visit to McMurdo Station, Antarctica, to speak to scientists and engineers about environmental research on climate and energy.



Notes from our Mids

Ana Fuschetto, 2011, continued

"We're almost to New Zealand! We cross the dateline soon and so we skip a day. When we get to Littleton, I have the whole time off, the captain promised. So I'll get some touring around. It's been real nice out here. The weather is great! I have 17 out of my 20 stars I need for my project...and I still have 5 1/2 months to go! I've been getting stars in the morning and the night. So that's cool. I've got a million sunset pictures for you and a few of me and some of the crew that the 3rd mate took with the sunset...so I've got tons to bring home. Alright, I'd better get to work or to bed. I just switched rooms because we are getting an ice pilot in New Zealand and he gets my "princess" room. So I'm in a bunk room with 10 beds! Haha!" Love, Ana

"New Zealand is sooooo pretty! You guys have to come here! Steven and I walked all over Christchurch and Lyttelton yesterday! It's sooo pretty!!! I want to live here! I took a million pictures, so I'm sure you'll see them when I get back. But I'm going to go get my stuff all together and cleaned up before we leave in a few hours. Then we're on our way to Antarctica. All the girls are going to have a party when we cross into the Antarctic Circle! We bought cookies and stuff. Haha!"

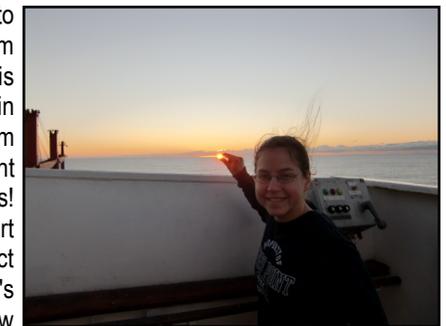


"I just thought you should know we're almost to Antarctica! We got in the Antarctic Circle yesterday and I saw my first icebergs! The girls and I had a girls party with cookies and chick flicks to celebrate! Haha we should be there soon! I think

once we get there, we might lose some communications...so if you don't get an email from me for a while, you know why. It's getting pretty cold out now. Today was real foggy and cold. I'm still having a lot of fun...but I would have more fun if my projects were done! Ok well, I need to go work on projects! "

"Mom, we're almost there! We arrive tomorrow morning! We can already see land and it's sooo cold and beautiful! You would love it!!!! I'll be sure to take tons of pictures!"

"Well, we arrived in Antarctica a few days ago and I was on the bow coming in through the ice channel, so I got a ton of pictures! We are doing cargo now, but I've been into town several times and Steven and I made a few friends who are going to tour us around tonight and tomorrow. Tomorrow morning I am eating breakfast with the Secretary of the Navy because he is coming on our ship. So I'll be the official ship photographer in my khakis! Bleh! I hate khakis!! But you should know that I am staying warm! It's really not that bad here. This morning I went climbing with Steven and Melody and we took a ton of pictures! Those fleece jeans are the best! And that vest and Walmart



coat is all I need. A face mask and a hat and gloves and I'm good to go. On the way back I will collect everyone's pictures and put them on a disc for everyone. I met Scott Shakelton! He's Shakelton's grandson! So that's cool! We leave in a few days to go back to New Zealand! :) I'm excited! I like New Zealand a lot! Projects are coming along, but I'm taking a break while I'm here. I'll talk to you later."

"Today I'm sitting here in Antarctica with some of the crew now.. Vince says "hi." Bosun says, "What's happenING?" PS. Did I mention I ate breakfast with the Secretary of the Navy? And I saw an emperor penguin? Well, I did! Thanks a bunch, Love, Ana"

And finally, notes from Ana's commanding officers, the kind every parent wants to receive !

"Dear Mr & Mrs Fuschetto... You should be very proud of your Daughter. She is a fine young lady who has proven herself to be an asset to our vessel. We all enjoy having her aboard." MICHAEL THOMAS, 3rd Mate, AMERICAN TERN

"Good Day Mrs. Fuschetto, I am the Captain on the American Tern and want to send you this picture of your daughter and the Secretary of the Navy taken yesterday while he was aboard for breakfast. You have a great daughter. She has been an asset to the vessel and the mission. She is a hard worker and does not complain. I really appreciate the help she has been to me personally. She helps me with my monthly paperwork and she is going to be an excellent officer. She has done just about everything on here a mate would have to do. I have tried to make sure she has had a chance to see all operations that she will encounter in her future career. I am always asking about her sea project and have told her that if she needs more time to let me know and I will make sure she gets enough time to do everything she needs. I believe she is ahead of where she needs to be, but I will keep an eye on things to make sure. It is a pleasure having you daughter aboard my vessel. She is a credit to Kings Point and to the Fuschetto family. Job well done." Best Regards, Brian O'Hanlon, Captain



The following letter was received from Colorado Senator Michael Bennet on January 27, in response to a letter written to request increased funding for USMMA. Contact your legislators in support of the proposed 2011 budget funding for USMMA!

Dear Rocco and Mary Jane:

Thank you for contacting me. I appreciate hearing from you.

I certainly understand your concerns regarding the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and its current funding issues. I have asked my staff to look into this matter. Merchant Marines have long served as a vital extension of the U.S. Navy, transporting equipment and cargo around the world and providing much-needed support during times of emergency and war.

Recently, Secretary LaHood announced that the Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration has decided to send five ships to help with relief efforts in Haiti. Given the vital role Merchant Marines play in U.S. commerce and security, we must ensure that the Academy receives the support it deserves. As the Senate considers legislation related to this vital service academy, I will keep your thoughts in mind.

The input of fellow Coloradans is essential in my consideration of the wide variety of important legislation and issues that come before the Senate each year. I hope you will continue to inform me of your thoughts and concerns throughout my term as your Senator.

For more information about my priorities as a U.S. Senator and about issues of importance to Colorado and our nation, I invite you to visit my website at <http://bennet.senate.gov/>. Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

Michael Bennet

United States Senator



Mark Your Calendars! February 27th meeting!

Thank you to Paul and Bonnie Diamond (Philip, 2011) for hosting our February 27, 2010 Parents Meeting.

Please RSVP to them (303-681-3322, diamond6217@msn.com). Bonnie will provide the meat and drinks and would appreciate it if each family brought a side dish or dessert to share.

Saturday, Feb. 27 1:00 p.m.
Paul & Bonnie Diamond
6217 Torrey Pines Drive
Larkspur, CO
303-681-3322

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!

Roster of Board members and committee chairs for 2009-2010

COLORADO PARENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS FOR NEXT TERM:

- Co-Presidents:** Jan and Mike Mussler (Robert '11) 303.258.7952; Alesia and Mike Schirber (Jacob '11) 970.493.3935; **Co-Vice Presidents:** Susan and Scott Jerlow (Adam '12) 303.961.3166; Mary and Chris Nicholl (Preston '12) 303.717.5101; **Secretary:** Linda Schmidt (Kathryn, 2013); **Treasurer:** Russ Johnson, (Grant, 2013)
- NATIONAL OFFICERS: National Co-Chairs: (2009-2011)** Rocco and Mary Jane Fuschetto, rmjfuschetto@yahoo.com, Swink, CO. 719-383-0797. **NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD:** Ann Hall, ann_hall42@q.com, Mary Silva, moms11@comcast.net, Mary Jane Fuschetto, rmjfuschetto@yahoo.com; Peter Meyers, smeyers@optonline.net; Suzanne Graboski, kpmom2011@yahoo.net; Jerry Hajduk, hajdukj@verizon.net; Terry Gray, laserocket@aol.com.
- COLORADO COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Class 2010 Parents:** Larry & Jill Svoboda (David, 2010); **Class 2011 Parents:** Alesia and Mike Schirber (Jacob '11) 970.493.3935; **Class 2012 Parents:** Susan and Scott Jerlow; Mary and Chris Nicholl; **Class 2013 Parents:** OPEN; **Newsletter:** Mary Jane Fuschetto (Ana '11) 719.383.0797; **ASAB:** Carla VanDenBerg (Aaron '10) 303.696.1930; **Fundraising:** Bev Halbach (Nicholas '11) 303.403.9292; Julie Rohloff (Kacey '12) 970.568.3531; **Webmaster:** Carol and Jim Smith (Sarah '12) 303.423.0972; **Boodle Bags:** Paul and Bonnie Diamond (Philip '11) 303.681.3322; **Hospitality:** Julie Tulenko (Andrew, 2012); **Cards:** Shannon O'Connell (Dan '10, Derien '11) 303.665.2969; **Alumnae Liaison:** Open; **Senior Gift:** Alesia and Mike Schirber; **Membership:** Chris & Mary Nicholl (Preston, 2012); **Cookie Café:** Christine Neil (Glenn '12) 970.988.5342; **Mentoring:** Scott & Susan Jerlow (Adam, 2012);