



Christmas 2015

Just when we thought Christmas was so far away that there was no need for panic, it has snuck up on us again. This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> year for our family with a child at the Academy and time has come to reflect on the ups and downs of the fabulous career path that our children have chosen and been selected for.

A dark shadow has intruded on our lives this year; the El Faro disaster will forever be imprinted in our minds. We were lucky – no midshipmen were aboard the ill-fated ship. 33 other people were not so lucky and our hearts go out to their families. But they are our family, too. Merchant Mariners are a tight knit group. Some of our midshipmen have sailed on the El Faro and knew the crew. They are in a world of hurt today.

Academy plebes created this beautiful memorial display on the steps of Delano Hall. Candle, boots and hat, one for each El Faro mariner who was lost. Let these candles light our path to a more reflective Christmas celebration this year, where we can slow down and take care of each other instead of chasing down the most memorable gift.



One of our Parents Association mothers, Kathie, wrote a haunting poem inspired by the El Faro disaster. (El Faro is Spanish for Lighthouse).

*The Lighthouse*

*She called me out to sea, the lighthouse  
One final voyage for the lighthouse and I  
Our stories will forever be woven together  
Like the chain of the anchor  
Or the strings of your heart  
Know that I am at peace  
That the life I chose, chose me  
I did not chose this end  
It was also chosen for me  
I will always be with you  
When you feel the need to be near me  
Travel to the ocean's edge and wiggle your toes  
in the sea  
That is when you will feel my embrace  
The sea has taken my body, but my spirit lives  
with you  
Don't mourn for me forever, live for me  
Embrace the world and relish the sea  
As it is the final resting place for me  
Embrace life, live life and  
Remember my life lost at sea  
The lighthouse beckoned to me  
One last time come with me  
To the bottom of the sea*



Kathie Morrison-Dalgleish  
Mother of a child who was chosen to live the life of a mariner.  
In memory of the crew of the El Faro lost at sea on 10-1-15

On a lighter note and closer to home. Hopefully we can all feel satisfied about the year that has passed, and on behalf of the 2016 parents, I hope that we will be able to pass the torch to the next generations of parents to keep the Colorado Parents Association going strong for the betterment of our Colorado students.

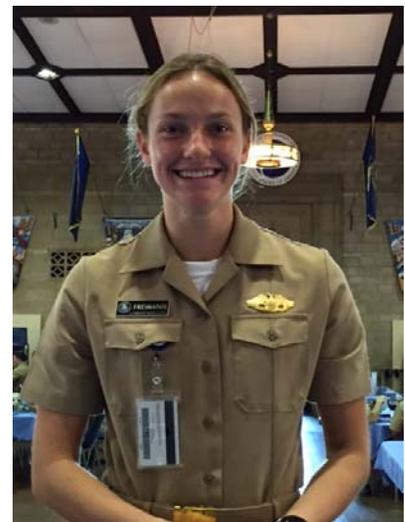
Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kristin Hill  
(Thomas Hill 2016)  
Newsletter Chair



## Parents Weekend 2015

Parents Weekend in September was a great success. We got together in the shade by the flag pole and posed for some great pictures. We are very lucky to have a professional photographer in our midst this year, Ann Strand, and she was very gracious to offer taking pictures of the group. Thank you very much to Ann Strand Photography!



Ella Freimanis





Lily Jansen



Blauw family



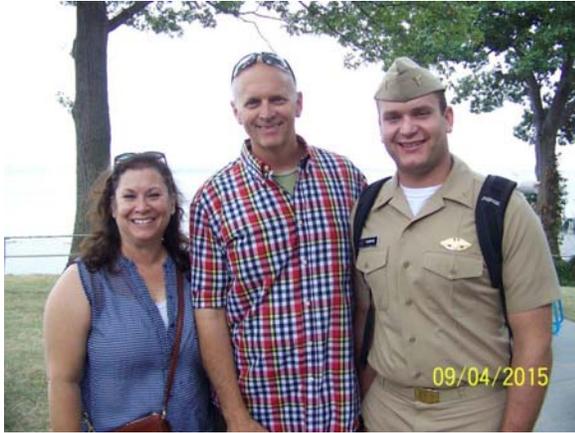
Kyle Dietz



Patrick Lyell at morning colors



Dubois family



Robbins family

## Cookie Café

Dede Ormond is our Cookie Café chairperson. She has secured March 17, St. Patrick's Day, as Colorado's next Cookie Café sponsored day. Let us plan on making it a special day by including some themed decorations in our cookie boxes that the café ladies can use for decorations.

Last year the Colorado Parents Association voted to donate a boom box/iPod player to the Café. Weston Iannone is proudly pointing at it below:



Christian Sucher at Cookie Café

## Welcome Class of 2019 - continued

### Lily Jansen

Lily is a 2015 graduate of Bishop Machebeuf High School in Denver, Colorado. During her 4 years of high school Lily participated in choir, tennis and cross country. She was the lighting director for the school plays. Lily was a member of the Civil Air Patrol, Valkyrie Cadet Squadron where she served on the executive staff as Deputy Commander C/2dLt. The appointment to USMMA is a tremendous honor.



If you would still like to share a Welcome Aboard Biography of your son or daughter, please submit, along with a photo, for publication in the Spring Issue of this newsletter.

[kehill55@gmail.com](mailto:kehill55@gmail.com)

## Colorado All Service Academy Ball—CASAB

259 invitations have gone out for the Christmas Ball in Colorado Springs on December 27th, 2015. **The deadline for postmarking the RSVPs is December 10th.** Please contact Dianne if you are unsure of how to sign up.

[dianne@iannone.info](mailto:dianne@iannone.info)

## Next General Meeting

Do you have a perfect location for our next meeting in February, 2016? Please contact Dianne as soon as possible. [dianne@iannone.info](mailto:dianne@iannone.info)

# Colorado All Service Academy Ball 2015



**US Military Academy**  
West Point, NY



**US Naval Academy**  
Annapolis, MD



**US Coast Guard Academy**  
New London, CT



**US Merchant Marine Academy**  
Kings Point, NY



**US Air Force Academy**  
Colorado Springs, CO

**Please SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday, December 27, 2015**

The 33rd annual Colorado All Service Academy Ball (CASAB) will be held on Sunday, December 27, 2015, at the Broadmoor hotel in Colorado Springs, through the cooperative efforts of the Colorado State Parents Associations of the five federal service academies: U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, and the U.S. Air Force Academy. This year's host will be the U.S. Naval Academy. Promoting camaraderie and social interaction among cadets and midshipmen from each service academy is the goal of the Colorado All Service Academy Ball. The ball also provides a comfortable setting for families and friends to enjoy themselves and each other while observing formal military displays by their cadets and midshipmen such as: color guard, invocation, POW/MIA remembrance, toasts, presentation of cadets and midshipmen from each academy, and an outstanding speaker. A formal dinner, dancing, and professional portraits round out the evening's activities.

Invitations will be sent out in November. Generous room discounts, explicitly for this event, have been provided by the Broadmoor. Reservations may be made once you have received your invitation. Please mention that you will be a guest at the Colorado All Service Academy Ball.

This will be an exciting and memorable evening to honor Colorado's cadets and midshipmen who are presently attending a service academy. We sincerely hope you will be able to attend. Please contact the person listed below, your academy's point of contact for this event, if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you at this year's ball.

**USMMA Colorado Parents Association Point of Contact:**

**Dianne Iannone**

USMMA Colorado Parents Association President  
Parent of Midshipmen Weston Iannone, class of 2016  
303-663-0763 [dianne@iannone.info](mailto:dianne@iannone.info)

US Merchant Marine Academy Parents Association website:  
[usmmaparents.com](http://usmmaparents.com)

[ColoradoASAB.org](http://ColoradoASAB.org) or at [facebook.com/ColoradoASAB.org](https://facebook.com/ColoradoASAB.org)

## Midshipmen in the News

From the US DOT blog “The Fast Lane” we have picked up a post by Paul “Chip” Jaenichen with a picture of a familiar face, Gus Sawicki.



Kings Pointers have, since 2006, participated in the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind’s Guide dog Raising Program. Each year, two midshipmen are selected to raise talented puppies with potential to become service dogs to aid visually impaired Americans in their everyday lives.

*Alongside their studies and training, the midshipmen diligently train and care for a 5-7 week old puppy until it becomes 12 to 18 months old. Following this, they return the dog to the foundation to begin its new career as a guide dog.*

You may read the full article here:

<https://www.transportation.gov/fastlane/kings-pointers-raising-service-dogs>

**Also, a picture has surfaced** of Patrick Rice and his family taken at his graduation in June 2015. Congratulations, Patrick! We are all so proud of you!!



**Merchant Marine Academy Cadets** are now sailing on the Navy’s first Afloat Forward Staging Base (AFSB) vessel. Colorado’s Patricia Ormond (engine cadet), along with two other USMMA cadets, are serving on the vessel as part of their Sea Year experience.

The AFSB is a kind of Mobile Landing Platform (MLP) designed to support missions with added flight deck, berthing, fuel and equipment storage, and repair spaces.

You may read the full article here:

<https://www.usmma.edu/about/communications/usmma-cadets-serve-navys-first-afloat-forward-staging-base>



The USNS Lewis B. Puller, Navy’s AFSB (Afloat Forward Staging Base) vessel.

**Congratulations** to the following midshipmen from Colorado who earned leadership positions for the 2nd rotation of the 2015-2016 school year.

Thomas Hill	RC	Regimental Commander
John Kirk	RWO	Waterfront Officer
Rachel Smith	RAO	Regimental Academic Officer
Victor Guettlein	BAO	Battalion Academic Officer

## Sandhurst



Two midshipmen from Colorado, Weston Iannone and Corey Simoneaux are training hard for the Sandhurst Military Skills Competition on April 3rd, 2016 at West Point. It is the first time USMMA is involved in this inter-military academy skills competition that include the US federal academies and military academies from allied countries. The participants are competing in athletic proficiency, marksmanship with rifle and pistol, land navigation and heavy weapons challenges.

The midshipmen train 3 times a week, at 4:30 in the morning. It is all about team building. For example, fast and slow runners must take care of each other during a running competition because finishing together is what matters.

*“The Sandhurst journey they’ve undertaken will transform the notion of leadership from a concept to a tangible skill. They will know what it feels like to have a teammate look out for you, they’ll know what it is like to constantly look out for a teammate.”*

See more at:

<https://www.usmma.edu/about/communications/usmma-prepares-join-annual-sandhurst-military-skills-competition>



Good luck to Weston and Corey in April along with the rest of the participating USMMA midshipmen.



## Alumni in the News



This message came in to Dianne earlier this fall:

*I have two classmates (Bill Karlson and John O'Mara) who are now retired and they are opening up their own distillery in Manassas, VA. Their labels are all KP and Merchant Marine related. They are having a soft opening on Friday the 11th and are only inviting local classmates. We are going to give them a KP and a Merchant Marine flag and have all of the KPers there sign it. I really appreciate that you all have this available for sale.*

*Best Regards,  
Rob '82*

As you may well imagine, flags were quickly sent to Manassas, and judging from the picture, KO Distilling had a successful pre-opening day on September 11, 2015.

The company was founded in 2013 by Bill Karlson and John O'Mara who were former classmates at the Merchant Marine Academy. The distillery is located in Manassas, VA and will manufacture, store and sell bourbon, whiskey, gin, vodka and rum. It will have a visitor center, taste testing and merchandise sale.

Please find KO Distilling on the web:

<http://www.kodistilling.com/>

and on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/KODistilling/>

Here is an example of their label. The Battle Standard is in honor of the Battle Standard at the Merchant Marine Academy, and in memory of the 142 who lost their lives at sea.



## Christmas Presents/Fundraisers

Please consider supporting our Parents Association when planning your Christmas purchases:

AmazonSmile  
Reloadable Gift Cards  
Spyderco Knives  
Flags  
Acta Non Verba Book  
USMMA Flags  
Jewelry



Please check the order form in this newsletter, and our web site for prices. <http://www.usmmaparents.com>



Shop at Amazon Smile and a percentage of your purchase cost can be donated to the USMMA Colorado Parents Association, a registered non-profit organization.



You shop. Amazon gives.

Use this link for your purchases:  
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-2485360>

The next time Amazon.com is visited, there will be a verification "Do you want to continue with Amazon Smile?" Choose Yes.

The buyer pays the same as when shopping at Amazon.com.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the USMMA Colorado Parents Association whenever you shop on Amazon Smile. You must establish that you want Amazon's donation to go to the USMMA Colorado Parents Association.

Our biggest fundraiser is the **Reloadable Gift Cards** from **King Soopers** and **Safeway**.

### Here is how YOU can participate!

Everyone buys groceries and gasoline, so please consider purchasing Reloadable Gift Cards from the USMMA Colorado Parents Association. These prepaid cards carry no additional cost to you, yet the Parents Association receives 5% or 3% of each card's value for our fund raising efforts. Gift Cards are an effortless way to give to the Parents Association. We use these funds for our Midshipmen.

### We have the following Reloadable Cards available for purchase:

- \$5 King Soopers (5% back)
- \$5 Safeway (3% back)

The \$5 fee shows up as credit on your card.

The Reloadable Cards must be purchased from us. After that, the cards may be reloaded at the register or Customer Service Desk BEFORE checkout. Any merchandise (except other gift cards) may be purchased with a Reloadable Card. You can also use it to buy fuel. You must continually reload your card as the balance gets low. The Parents Association earns 5% or 3% every time you reload.

Please see order form in this newsletter.

**Spyderco Knives** is another one of our fundraisers. The knives are made right here in Golden, Colorado. They make a great gift for your midshipman who is headed out to sea.

Their knife sharpening system is ingenious and is the best way I know to put a new edge on kitchen and hunting knives.

Please check it all out at the Spyderco web site:  
<https://www.spyderco.com/>  
and then order through the Colorado Parents Association. <http://www.usmmaparents.com>

### Flags

We have USMMA flags in stock, 2'x3' and 3'x5' with grommets. They will ship immediately. Please check the order form enclosed in this newsletter.

**Acta non Verba** book by Mary Jane Fuschetto is a beautiful coffee table book with full page photographs from the Merchant Marine Academy.



## USMMA COLORADO PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

<b>NAME:</b>		<b>DATE:</b>	
Address:		City:	
Email:		Zip:	
Plebe/Midshipmen Name:		Phone #:	
Qty.	Membership	Price	Line Total
	Plebe Parent	\$ 50.00	
	Midshipman Parent	\$ 75.00	
	NMMI Associate Member	\$10.00	
	Alumni	\$ 25.00	
	<b>Name Badge</b>		
	Name Badge (1 <sup>st</sup> ) :	\$20.00	
	Name Badge (2 <sup>nd</sup> ) :	\$15.00	
	Parent of: _____ Class of: _____		
	<b>Fundraising</b>		
	King Soopers Reloadable Card	\$ 5.00	
	Safeway Reloadable Card	\$ 5.00	
	Acta Non Verba Book	\$30.00	
	Spyderco Knives ( <i>In Stock Items Only</i> )		
	<b>USMMA Flags</b>		
	2'x3' w/Grommets	\$ 45.00	
	3'x5' w/Grommets	\$ 65.00	
	<b>Jewelry</b>		
	Earrings	\$ 10.00	
	Necklace	\$ 8.00	
	Cell Phone Bogle	\$5.00	
		<b>TOTAL DUE</b>	

**USMMA Colorado Parents' Association**

| <http://www.usmmaparents.com/> |

Paid to: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Chk. Amount \_\_\_\_\_ PayPal \_\_\_\_\_ Total Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

## Yearbook 2014-2015

Herff Jones, the yearbook publisher, is currently accepting orders for the 2014-2015 USMMA yearbook. Fliers were mailed out to families, but if you did not receive one you may place your order online at [www.YearbookOrderCenter.com](http://www.YearbookOrderCenter.com) using order number 4941. Both the yearbook and advertisement pages can be purchased on the website.

## Useful Links

Colorado Parent Association Facebook Page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/USMMAColorado?fref=ts>

Colorado Parent Association Web Page:  
<http://www.usmmaparents.com>

2015 Colorado All Service Academy Ball:  
<http://www.coloradoasab.org/>

Kings Point Cookie Café:  
<http://kpcookiecafe.com/>

Long Island Railway/Bus reloadable card:  
<https://www.easypaymetrocard.com/vector/static/accounts/index.shtml>

Flight tracker:  
<http://flightaware.com>

Ship tracker:  
<http://www.marinetraffic.com>

USMMA:  
<http://www.usmma.edu/>

USMMA Alumni Association and Foundation:  
<http://www.usmmaaf.com/s/1175/hybrid/start.aspx>

Please submit useful links to [kehill55@gmail.com](mailto:kehill55@gmail.com)

## Odds and Ends

**Birthday Cake** for your plebe or midshipman can be ordered from Crystal Enterprises, at 516-321- 9896. Cakes will be delivered at lunch Monday through Friday. Cost is \$21. Credit cards are accepted or a check can be mailed to: Crystal Enterprises, Inc. USMMA, 300 Steamboat Rd., Kings Point, NY 11024-1699

**Soliciting for pictures and tales:** Please contribute to our Newsletter and a Thank You to all of you who sent input for this issue. We are always in need of stories and pictures, tales from Sea Year, even everyday accounts of life at the Academy.

Please encourage your plebes and midshipmen to send pictures and write-ups as well. It doesn't take much and means a whole lot to the rest of us to be part of your lives.

Send to: [kehill55@gmail.com](mailto:kehill55@gmail.com)

### Please help update

The student list towards the end of this newsletter needs updates. We are looking for:

Company  
Major  
Split  
Other (extracurricular)  
Sports  
Leadership positions

Send to: [kehill55@gmail.com](mailto:kehill55@gmail.com)

**Mentors:** Looking for parents of midshipmen who have completed the 100 or 200 days at sea to mentor parents of the midshipmen who are just preparing for their first trip. If interested in being a mentor or wanting a mentor, please contact Dianne at [dianne@iannone.info](mailto:dianne@iannone.info)

To remove your name from our mailing list, please email [kehill55@gmail.com](mailto:kehill55@gmail.com)  
Questions, submissions, comments to [kehill55@gmail.com](mailto:kehill55@gmail.com)

## Calendar Items

For the complete Academic Calendar for the 2015-2016 school year, please go to:  
<http://www.usmma.edu/academics/registrar/academic-calendar-2015-2016>

Be mindful that changes are made frequently.

Please note these 2015-2016 specific dates:

### 2015

**December 10** Postmark deadline for CASAB rsyvs.

**December 18** Winter Leave begins

**December 27** CASAB All Academy Ball  
Colorado Springs  
Please see flyer in this newsletter

### 2016

**January 3** Winter leave ends

**February** tba Parents Association General meeting

**March 5** Spring Leave begins

**March 13** Spring Leave Ends

**March 17** Colorado sponsored Cookie Café

**June 18** Graduation Class of 2016

## Board and Chairs 2015-2016 Academic Year

Position	Board 2015-2016	Contact
President	Iannone, Dianne	<a href="mailto:dianne@iannone.info">dianne@iannone.info</a> <a href="tel:714.309.9022">714.309.9022 (cell)</a> <a href="tel:303.663.0763">303.663.0763 (home)</a>
Vice President	Hill, John	<a href="mailto:riptidems@gmail.com">riptidems@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Havanar, Glant	<a href="mailto:realtormomrocks@gmail.com">realtormomrocks@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	McMahan, Joanne	<a href="mailto:joanne_McMahan@yahoo.com">joanne_McMahan@yahoo.com</a>
Alumni Chapter President	Truett, Ed	<a href="mailto:ed.truett@comcast.net">ed.truett@comcast.net</a>
Greeting Cards	McMahan, Joanne	<a href="mailto:joanne_McMahan@yahoo.com">joanne_McMahan@yahoo.com</a>
Boodle Bags	Jones, Jeanette	<a href="mailto:jeannettejones@nobleenergyinc.com">jeannettejones@nobleenergyinc.com</a>
CASAB (Ball) POC	Iannone, Dianne	<a href="mailto:dianne@iannone.info">dianne@iannone.info</a>
Cookie Café	Ormond, Dede	<a href="mailto:ormondll@gmail.com">ormondll@gmail.com</a>
Facebook	Strand, Ann	<a href="mailto:annstrandphoto@gmail.com">annstrandphoto@gmail.com</a>
Fundraising	OPEN	
Graduation	Hill, John	<a href="mailto:riptidems@gmail.com">riptidems@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter	Hill, Kristin	<a href="mailto:kehill55@gmail.com">kehill55@gmail.com</a>
Nominations Chair	Wolbrueck, Susan	<a href="mailto:susan@caferace.com">susan@caferace.com</a>
Recruitment	Miller, Robert	<a href="mailto:cousmma@comcast.net">cousmma@comcast.net</a>
Webmaster	Miller, Regina	<a href="mailto:cousmma@comcast.net">cousmma@comcast.net</a>

## USMMA Students, Colorado

<b>Class of 2016</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Major</b>	<b>Split</b>	<b>Sports/Extracurricular</b>	<b>Leadership 2nd. Rotation 15/16</b>
Guettlein, Jeremy	1st	Engine	B	Hockey	BAO
Hill, Thomas	2nd	Engine	A	EMT	RC
Iannone, Weston	3rd	Deck	A	Waterfront, EMT, Sandhurst	
Kirk, John	1st	Engine	A		RWO
McMahan, Kevin	1st	Engine	B		
Robbins, Nathan	4th	Engine	A	Track & Field, Capstone Lead	
Sawicki, Gus	2nd	Engine	B	Lacrosse team captain	
Smith, Rachel	1st	Engine	B	Volleyball/ Lacrosse	RAO

### Class of 2017

Blauw, Spencer	3rd				
Finnin, Emily	3rd			Lacrosse	
Garcia-Lance, Danielle	1st				
Havenar, Michael	1st	Deck	B		
Martinovic, Marjan	Band				
Ormond, Patricia	Band				

### Class of 2018

Barton, Alexander	4th				
Dietz, Kyle	1st				
Gramer, Emily	3rd	Deck	A	Volleyball	
Groen, Alexander	1st				
Haire, Austin	2nd				
Hartman, Tyler (Utah)					
Hegarty, Patrick	4th	Deck	B	Lacrosse, Ice Hockey	
Jones, Sheridan	Band			Digital Photo, Ethics	
MacDonald, Douglas	2nd				
Martin, Justus	3rd				
Milfasky, Sarah	2nd				
Strand, Charlie	1st				

### Class of 2019

Baer, Henry	Band				
Blauw, Tyson	2nd				
Dubois, Martin	3rd			Crew	
Freimanis, Ella	4th			Color Guard, Sailing team	
Jansen, Lily	1st				
Klingman, Devon	1st				
Lyell, Patrick	Band				
Simoneaux, Corey	4th			Sandhurst, Praise band, CFC, Radio/Media, Mariner'sChorus	
Sucher, Christian	4th				

## Acronym List

2PC3	2nd Company Platoon Commander Flight Deck
4CWO	4th Company Company Watch Officer
BAO	Battalion Academic Officer
BC	Battalion Commander
BOPS1	Operations Officer
BX	Battalion EXecutive Officer
CC1	Company Commander 1st. Company
CHBC	Company Honor Board Chairman
CTO2	Company Training Officer 2nd Company
CX	Company EXecutive Officer
EMS	Emergency Medical Services
PO	Petty Officer
RAO	Regimental Academic Officer
RC	Regimental Commander
RCGC	Regimental Color Guard Commander
REO	Regimental Evaluations Officer
RESCO	EMS Commanding Officer
RESOPS	EMS Operations Officer
RTO	Regimental Training Officer
RTOA	Regimental Training Officer's Assistant
RWO	Waterfront Officer
RWX	Waterfront Executive Officer
RX	Regimental EXecutive Officer
SEAL/EOD	SEa Air Land / Explosive Ordinance Disposal Club
SSO	Strategic Sealift Officer
STCW	Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping
Zombo	Midshipman Ensign