

# USMMA Parent Association

**National Newsletter November, 2009**

## Admiral Worley resigns

U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood accepted the resignation of U. S. Merchant Marine Academy Superintendent, RADM Allen Worley, on November 9, 2009. Admiral and Mrs. Worley said that they would be returning to Kansas to care for Mrs. Worley's father who is suffering from pancreatic cancer. The Worleys will be remaining on campus through January 4, 2010, and will be hosting the wedding of their daughter on campus shortly before their departure at the beginning of the new year.

"The Merchant Marine Academy has gone through an important rebuilding year and is positioned for reaching the next level," said Secretary LaHood. "We are confident the Academy is on course to continue as the premier institution in maritime education. We appreciate Admiral Worley's service."

Secretary LaHood noted that during the last year several steps were taken to upgrade processes at the Academy and to improve educational opportunities for Midshipmen, including cutting student fees in half, hiring an outside accounting firm to improve Academy finances and assigning a blue ribbon panel of national experts to examine the capital needs of the school and make recommendations for its upgrade.

Dr. Shashi Kumar, Academic Dean and Assistant Superintendent for Academic Affairs, will act as interim Superintendent upon Admiral Worley's departure in January. A nationwide search will be conducted to find a permanent successor. Admiral Worley has been the Superintendent of the United States Merchant Marine Academy since November 2008, the tenth person to hold this post since the institution's dedication in 1943.

On behalf of the USMMA Parent Association, National Chairs Rocco and Mary Jane Fuschetto sent the following message to Admiral and Mrs. Worley: "Thank you for your year of service to our academy and our midshipmen. We all know you came into Kings Point during one of the most difficult times in the history of the academy and MARAD legal restrictions did not make your job easy. We are very sorry to hear about Margena's father's illness. We wish you well and hope your return to the wonderful plains of Kansas will bring you contentment and peace."



## ***New cooperation and communication with MARAD And DOT officials hindered by bad behavior: Editorial***

Over the last month representatives of the USMMA National Parent Association have been cooperating and communicating with newly appointed officials from the Maritime Administration and the U.S. Department of Transportation, keeping them up-to-date with problems and complaints that have filtered in from parents across the country. We are pleased to announce that those officials are listening to our problems and have already resolved several issues regarding the academy. They have reinstated music faculty whose contracts were previously not renewed. They are working to increase our textbook supplies and to remedy maintenance problems in the campus buildings. They are making numerous visits to campus and meeting with academy personnel to determine the extent of problems and what is needed to fix the academy. They are touring decaying facilities and making progress in repairs or replacement plans. For the first time in quite awhile, we are receiving positive support, good communication, and encouragement from Washington officials.

So it was very disturbing to learn that when high ranking officials from the Department of Transportation and the Maritime Administration visited our campus and joined our midshipmen for Thanksgiving dinner last week, our midshipmen behaved badly, proving an embarrassment to the academy and parents who know they were not raised to be so discourteous, undisciplined and impolite. As DOT and MARAD administrators, including the Deputy Secretary of Transportation, were speaking to the regiment, the midshipmen were loud, boisterous, disrespectful and continued to talk and laugh during the speeches, so that it was almost impossible to hear what was being said. Additionally, representatives from various shipping lines, **their future employers**, were also drowned out by disrespectful midshipmen who continued to talk and laugh loudly throughout the speeches, completely ignoring the speakers. Such behavior does more than disrespect those present. It shows a rudeness and immaturity that reflects poorly on our entire academy. As legislative aides moved from table to table attempting to quiet the students, they were ignored and the chatter continued.

It is time our midshipmen realize that if they want to be treated like the other academies and receive the same support as the other four academies, they will need to behave with more dignity, discipline, and respect for those who are working very hard to remedy our current fiscal and morale problems. We have been through very rough times at Kings Point recently. Behaving like spoiled, angry children will not improve our situation.

As parents, I ask that you have a long, serious talk with your midshipmen about this incident. If they are disillusioned or dissatisfied with the current situation, teach them that is no excuse for poor behavior. If they have participated in this incident, I encourage them to write a letter of apology and forward it to [Ray.LaHood@dot.gov](mailto:Ray.LaHood@dot.gov) or to [rmjfuschetto@yahoo.com](mailto:rmjfuschetto@yahoo.com) and I will personally forward those apologies to the Washington officials who were at the dinner. If our Kings Pointers are truly "the cream of the crop," or "the best of the best," then we should expect more from them than the behavior they exhibited. Mary Jane Fuschetto, National Chair USMMA Parent Association

### ***Parent Association National Officers***

**USMMA Parent Program Director**, Shirley Anthony, [anthonys@usmma.edu](mailto:anthonys@usmma.edu)

**National Chairs: 2009-2011:** Rocco and Mary Jane Fuschetto, [rmjfuschetto@yahoo.com](mailto:rmjfuschetto@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](mailto:mmussler@wispertel.net); (Robert, 2011) P.O. Box 307, Nederland, CO 80466; 303-258-7952

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

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

Alice Clausing, WI; [sen\\_clausing2@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:marinerparent@prodigy.net) (Evan, '09) 8 Covered Bridge Lane, Glen Carbon, IL 62034; 618-288-3326

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

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

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

David Brune, [bruned1@comcast.net](mailto: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, [rmjfuschetto@yahoo.com](mailto:rmjfuschetto@yahoo.com); Ann Hall, [ann\\_hall42@q.com](mailto:ann_hall42@q.com); Mary Silva, [moms11@comcast.net](mailto:moms11@comcast.net); Peter Meyers, [smeyers@optonline.net](mailto:smeyers@optonline.net); Suzanne Graboski, [kpmom2011@yahoo.net](mailto:kpmom2011@yahoo.net); Jerry Hajduk, [hajdukj@verizon.net](mailto:hajdukj@verizon.net); Terry Gray, [laserocket@aol.com](mailto:laserocket@aol.com)



## ***Parents Weekend and Acceptance Day***



The rain stopped just long enough for the formal 2013 class photo to be taken in the stands of the football stadium.



Candidates no more! Plebes take the oath that makes them part of the USMMA Regiment.



Proud Colorado Mom, Lisa Trigsted, with Plebe Beau Trigsted, 2013, after the big football win against Coast Guard for the Secretaries Cup.



On Friday night, September 11, the USMMA Regimental Band performed the traditional Beat Retreat with the Nassau County Police Pipe and Drum Corp, to a full house in O'Hara Hall.



The USMMA volleyball team lost to a much bigger and powerful Coast Guard team, September 11, but USMMA still went on to post season play-offs.



# Parents Weekend and Acceptance Day



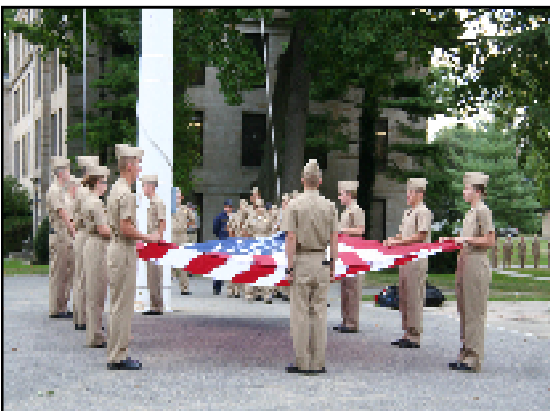
New Plebes pass the reviewing stand.



Above, the flag is unfurled at Beat Retreat.



Percussionists at Beat Retreat.



At left, morning colors on the one day it didn't rain.



At right, new plebes march in review.



At left, the USMMA Regimental Band keeps the rhythm during Beat Retreat.



At right, the Kings Pointer is docked.



At left, RVP Linda Budesa sets up the Parent Association raffle display.



At right, plebes take the oath during Acceptance Day.



## ***Parents Weekend and Acceptance Day***



New plebes taking the oath of acceptance into the regiment.



Hoosier Emily Shepard with Admiral Allen Worley and Colorado's Katie Schmidt after Beat Retreat.



The drum line shows their skills.



New Plebes march to join the regiment at Acceptance Day.



Capt. Ken Force conducts the Regimental Band and the Nassau County Police Pipe and Drum Corps.



Plebes Richard Kern and Natalie Jones sing, "God Bless the USA."



## ***Parents Weekend and Acceptance Day***



Dock panorama on September 11, 2009.



Part of the "Star Spangled Banner Brigade" line up at Beat Retreat.



New eagles will soon be on these uniforms!



The Color Guard on Acceptance Day.



Colorado Plebes Cannon, Schmidt, and Johnson.



# ***USMMA National President's Conference***

## **MINUTES OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL USMMA PARENTS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS' CONFERENCE, SEPT. 9-10, 2009**

The State Presidents and National Officers of the USMMA Parents Association gathered Sept. 9 at 5 p.m. at Morton's Steakhouse in Great Neck for an informal meeting to discuss upcoming issues at the Presidents' Conference that started on Sept. 10 on campus. Morton's Steakhouse provided complimentary hors'd'oeuvres and refreshments.

With Executive Board Member Terrance Gray acting as moderator, the Presidents' Conference was called to order at 8:30 a.m. with Parents Program Director Shirley Anthony and Capt. Robert Larsen, Director of the Office of Public Affairs, greeting the attendees.

RADM Allen B. Worley, USMS, Superintendent of USMMA, opened the meeting with his annual State of the Academy address. Worley told the officers that funding was once again the main problem that was affecting the academy. Campus maintenance was delayed because of a lack of funding. While MARAD had allowed USMMA to add 10 new permanent faculty positions, those professors were not yet hired because funding had come too late to hire qualified personnel before the school year started. Support personnel has been drastically reduced also and the reduction in manpower in terms of office managers and assistants is causing problems. MARAD is now allowing the academy to have 95 permanent professors and 25 adjunct professors, far fewer than in the past. NAFI conversions allowed by MARAD have dropped from 92 employees to 60 full-time staff members, leaving a shortage of qualified staffers in many areas. Addressing the differences in funding between USMMA and the other academies, Worley said that the Department of Defense has different NAFI rules and regulations from MARAD and the Department of Transportation. Additionally, because of MARAD's direct oversight of the finances of the academy during this time, funding is distributed slowly because it must be approved by MARAD in Washington. A new chief financial officer has now been appointed to USMMA. Kelly Flanagan is the new CFO and she reports directly to MARAD. The new compliance officer on campus is RADM Worley.

Worley did share some good news, however. Remodeling of the campus barracks is progressing and will eventually result in an enrollment of 1,150 midshipmen, an increase that should produce approximately 250 graduates each year instead of 200. New additions to the curriculum include piracy training and a towboat and towing endorsement. Worley said the expected budget should be \$61 million for 2009, \$74 million for 2010, and an additional \$15.4 million for capital improvements. "We need to be the global leader in transportation and we need adequate funding from MARAD to accomplish that," Worley said.



## ***USMMA National President's Conference (con't)***

Capt. William Fell, Commandant, answered concerns about problems with the midshipmen's hard drives and questions as to why mids could not use thumb drives to save their sea projects or why they were not issued a mouse to do CAD. "Military security rules are overtaking educational issues," one state president commented. Other speakers addressed the problems by noting that MARAD seemed to consider the academy a military unit rather than a fully-functioning university.

Social Director Mary Cunningham discussed upcoming social events and the funding problems that are causing difficulty with operating the popular "movie nights" and other social events.

Academic Dean Shashi Kumar said that USMMA was recently named the third best BS program in the Northeastern U. S. and the 26<sup>th</sup> best engineering program in the entire country. Capt. Eugene Albert from the Department of Shipboard Training discussed issues with placing midshipmen on ships for sea duty now that there is a shortage of qualified personnel to assist the ATRs. Albert asked parents to be patient. Lisa Donitz spoke of events that will be ongoing with the Alumni Foundation and the collaborative efforts of the Alumni Foundation and the USMMA Parents Association. USMMA grad Mel Tublin, '49, explained the state of affairs in Washington and how the situation at MARAD is affecting the functioning of the academy. Gary Hicks, of the Chapter Presidents Alliance, Inc., an alumni organization, spoke of the work his group is doing to energize the membership of the alumni. Rusty Prewitt-Campbell, the USAA/USMMA Liaison, ended the speaker portion of the meeting with a discussion of the benefits offered to the midshipmen by USAA.



**Officers of the USMMA Alumni Chapter Presidents Alliance and the USMMA Parents Association gather at the annual President's Conference in Samuels Hall on Sept. 10. From left standing are: Joanne and Gary Hicks, Chair, Alumni Chapter President's Alliance; Mary Jane and Rocco Fuschetto, National Parent Association Chairs 2009-2011; Tim Sumner '66 - President, USMMA KP Alumni - DE Shore Chapter, Inc. and Regional Vice Chairman - Mid-Atlantic, USMMA KP Alumni - Chapter Presidents Alliance, Inc., and seated, Ann Hall and Mary Silva, former National Chairs of the USMMA Parents Association, 2007-2009.**



Outgoing National Co-Chairs Ann Hall and Mary Silva thanked the attendees for their help over the last two years and turned the gavel over to new incoming National Co-Chairs, Rocco and Mary Jane Fuschetto, Swink, Colorado. The Fuschettos ran the business portion of the meeting. They asked state and national officers to sign up for newly formed administrative committees that include: Membership, Finances, Technology, Legislative Relations, "Tell America," Sponsor Hosts/Mentor Program, Newsletter, and Communications. More information will be forthcoming in the quarterly National Newsletter that will be sent out to all members in November. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m. so that members could attend the Distinguished Chapter Awards Banquet at Melville later that evening.



## **National Parent Association Chairs Report**

Hello to all our Parent Association members and our Alumni friends!! Rocco and I are excited and humbled as we start the huge task of chairing the USMMA National Parents Association. We hope we bring enough experience to the table to help our midshipmen and Parents through what has been a year of turmoil and change. Rocco and I have been involved in USMMA volunteer work since 1997, serving on congressional and senatorial merit selection boards, working as admissions reps, doing college fairs, and holding state and national offices. We are the proud parents of two female Kings Pointers; Angelina, 2001; and Ana, 2011. We are also the proud in-laws of a Kings Point son-in-law, LTJR Randy Jenkins, 1998. We have three daughters, two sons and five grandchildren. We are already recruiting the grandchildren, so we are anticipating being at Kings Point events for decades to come and probably the formation of a "Grandparents Association."

This year will be a year of organizing and improving upon the new changes brought to our academy. We hope to grow chapters in states where there are none and increase membership in current states. Through new by-law changes we can keep our members active and involved after their midshipmen have graduated, so we are delighted not to be losing such experienced leadership. We are working on getting all our organization on-line and communicating effectively through e-mails, websites, and teleconferencing. We plan to assemble a national contact list to keep members in touch with each other across the country. We have implemented a quarterly National Parent Association Newsletter to keep members informed. We hope to improve Parents Weekend next year so lines move more quickly and no one is left standing out in the rain to get a meal. We are organizing committees to be set up among the Regional Vice-Presidents that will help our Association have more influence in areas where Kings Point needs our support. We will continue with fundraising efforts so our midshipmen can continue to enjoy the benefits they currently have and also to support numerous projects that our midshipmen enjoy.

Most of all, we hope to connect our parents across the country and offer them advice, assistance and support when their midshipmen are across the ocean on sea duty, when they need help understanding all the academy acronyms, when they don't understand something in the academy system, when they request information of any kind, or when their mids are struggling with difficult classes, or suffering a personal family loss. We are truly a large USMMA family.

Additionally, this year we have already taken steps to work more effectively with two alumni groups: The USMMA Alumni Foundation, and the Alumni Chapter Presidents Alliance. With this collaboration, we hope to avoid duplication of services and we will work together supporting important projects. We hope this cooperation will result in joint events so for example, there will be no conflicting "Welcome Aboard" events on the same day in two different parts of a city.

We have suggested changes in the terms of national offices. If we make the USMMA Parent Association Chairmanship end at the end of June after graduation or early July instead of September, then the incoming officers would have the summer to prepare their agenda, work on by-laws, communicate with outgoing officers to make the transition smooth, and set up committees well ahead of the annual September meeting.

To learn about our new communications with MARAD, DOT and legislators, see the article on page 18.

These are our goals for this year and we welcome all of you to be a part of our effort!

Respectfully, Rocco and Mary Jane Fuschetto



**National USMMA Parent Association Chairs Rocco and Mary Jane Fuschetto, at right, meet with RADM Allen Worley and U.S. Coast Guard Academy Superintendent RADM J. Scott Burhoe, following Acceptance Day ceremonies Sept. 12.**

# JOIN THE NATIONAL PARENT ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES

During the September 10, 2009 President's Conference, incoming Chairs Rocco and Mary Jane Fuschetto requested that all state presidents and RVPs volunteer to work on newly formed committees. So far, only a few people have responded to that request. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A STATE OR NATIONAL OFFICER TO VOLUNTEER!** Please read over the following committees and notify Mary Jane Fuschetto at [rmjfuschetto@yahoo.com](mailto:rmjfuschetto@yahoo.com), which committee you would be willing to work on. **We desperately need your help!**



Members attending the USMMA Parent Association Annual President's Conference pose for an official portrait with Academy Administrators in front of Wiley Hall, Sept. 10, 2009.

**Membership:** To form new clubs in areas that are currently not represented, to keep accurate listings of all members of each club, to contact parents in the following states that do not have chapters organized yet, so they can be merged into an on-line connecting chapter: Alaska, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon, Wyoming. Please notify us if you are a state president willing to connect with these states.

**Financial: Pete Meyers, Chair:** To plan the future of finances for the USMMA Parent Association, given the new mandates and the future needs of the association and individual clubs. Application for 501C3, handle working capital.

**Technology: Suzanne Graboski, Chair:** To bring the USMMA Parent Association completely on-line for communications, newsletters, information, membership listings, teleconferences, fundraising and sales, meetings and postings, etc.

**Legislative Relations: Mary Jane Fuschetto, Chair: Committee officers: Alice Clausing, Debbie Alexander, Sandy Tuttle, Joe Bailey.** To help clubs and individual members connect with legislators from their area, to work at getting members on senatorial and congressional nomination review boards, to facilitate communications with legislators when there is a pressing need for the Academy, to encourage adequate funding for the Academy.

**"Tell America":** To revive the public relations program that was started years ago so that school guidance counselors, legislators, government officials and the general public have knowledge and awareness of what the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy does, stands for, and accomplishes. This program can also work in conjunction with recruiting efforts of the USMMA Admissions Representatives.

**Sponsor Hosts/Mentor Program:** To create a network of sponsor hosts who can house midshipmen if needed as they travel between ships, to create a mentor program of experienced parents who can help plebe families with communications and explanations, to utilize mentors to encourage qualified high school students to investigate the opportunities at USMMA, to encourage more parents to serve as USMMA Admissions Representatives.

**Newsletter:** To have a team serve as a central clearing house for news information to create a quarterly newsletter that would be e-mailed to all state officers and Regional Vice Presidents, who would then forward that newsletter on to all members of the USMMA Parent Association.

**Communications: Jan Mussler:** To create a central information location where parents can communicate in case of emergency or the illness of their midshipman, or to get accurate information on rumors that might be circulating about the academy. (For example: No, Kings Point is NOT closing!!! Quite the contrary!)



## ***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. Below is a list of the chapters receiving awards this year and the state presidents who accepted the awards on behalf of their members.

Arizona Parents Association, accepted by Brett and Deana Wingate and Maxine Benson; Colorado Parents Association, accepted by Mike and Jan Mussler and Jill and Larry Svododa; Florida Parents Association, accepted by Bob and Nancy Hageman; Georgia Parents Association, accepted by Carol and David Harms; Indiana/Kentucky/Tennessee Parents Association, accepted by Joe Bailey; Lake Michigan Parents Association, accepted by Kenneth and Debbie Alexander; Mid-Atlantic Parents Association, accepted by Suzanne and Jim Graboski; Mississippi Parents Association; New York Parents Association, accepted by Barbara Heine; North Carolina Parents Association, accepted by Dwayne and Pam Maxwell; North Texas Parent Association, accepted by Randy and Teresa Dempsey; Northeast Ohio Parents Association, accepted by James and Sheryl Sheatzley; Northern California/Nevada Parents Association, accepted by Rick and Angela Martens; South Texas Parents Association, accepted by Gary Junco; South Virginia Parents Association, accepted by Joan and Charles Baker; Tri-State Parents Association of New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania, accepted by Christ and Cathy Kinsella; and the Wisconsin Parents Association, accepted by Robert and Jeanne McDonald. Congratulations to all our hard-working chapters!



**Arizona Chapter**



**Colorado Chapter**



**Florida Chapter**



**N. California/Nevada Chapter**



**Georgia Chapter**



**Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee Chapter**

## ***Distinguished Chapter Awards, (con't)***



**Lake Michigan Chapter**



**Mid-Atlantic Chapter**



**New York Chapter**



**North Carolina Chapter**



**North Texas Chapter**



**Northeast Ohio Chapter**

### ***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 [rmjuschetto@yahoo.com](mailto:rmjuschetto@yahoo.com) before December 10th. 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.



**South Texas Chapter**



**South Virginia Chapter**



## ***Distinguished Chapter Awards Banquet***

After two days of hard work in long meetings and very late nights, the attendees at the National Presidents Conference of the USMMA Parent Association gathered on September 10 to honor the Distinguished Chapters from across the country. They deserved the levity they enjoyed at the pre-dinner reception and the Melville dinner.



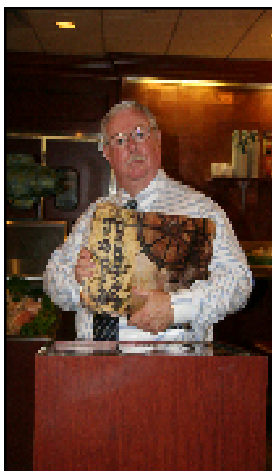
Joan Baker, South Virginia Chapter, with Dean Shashi Kumar, Dr. Rocco Fuschetto, Charles Baker, South Virginia Chapter.



Randy and Teresa Dempsey, North Texas; Jill and Larry Svoboda and Jan and Mike Mussler, Colorado.



USCG Lt. Hoon Park converses with Margena Worley, while Debbie and Kenneth Alexander of the Lake Michigan Parents Association look on.



Above, proving it helps to have a sense of humor, Executive USMMA Parent Association Board member Terry Gray surprised National officers by arriving at a restaurant early and posing as the maitre'd. Other customers actually asked him to seat them.



Capt. Bob Larsen, Parents Director Shirley Anthony and her husband Richard, Maxine Benson from Arizona, and David Brune from Virginia.



# Cookie Cafe needs HELP!

We have received word from Cookie Queens, Carol Guest and Muffi, that Cookie Café sponsoring Parent Associations are needed for the following 2010 OPEN DATES: **January 21st & 28th, February 4th & 11th, April 22 & 29th, May 6th, and June 10th.** If these dates are not filled by sponsoring clubs, the cookie café will have to be cancelled for that week. Please don't disappoint our mids! To date, parents and friends have sent over a quarter of a million cookies for the 2008-2009 Academic year. Log on to [kpcookiecafe.com](http://kpcookiecafe.com) for up-to-date information and photos. Email [muffi@kpcookiecafe.com](mailto:muffi@kpcookiecafe.com) to get on the 2009-2010 Parent Association Sponsor or Cookie Angel list! We need and deeply appreciate everyone's help. Who'd have believed that when Cookie Cafe started at Kings Point in September '07 with a gallon of milk and a few sheets of cookies, that it would have grown like this? Of course it would NOT have been possible without the generosity of the KP Parents Associations, Alumni, employees, and friends. Keep the love going for our midshipmen! If a club is not available in your area, contact Muffi to organize a group of friends to sponsor a day! Help out our hard-working cookie ladies.

## ***Update from our Cookie Lady, Mom Guest!***

We had an unbelievable amount of cookies from the Mid-Atlantic Association - THANK YOU! Cookie Cafe was packed with 434 smiling, relaxed students coming in all afternoon. It was the break they needed just before facing finals, which some have already started. The cookies were wonderful, with many students going back for seconds. Just so you get the picture, these are not students who are trying to be polite by taking one or two cookies, these students totally fill up their plates, and enjoy every minute of emptying the plate (female and male!).

I guess we have created something very special and unique. Yesterday, I was told that West Point is sending down a group to observe Cookie Cafe, and see if they can replicate it at their Academy. There was talk that I could start a Cookie Cafe at West Point, as we live very close by, but our hearts are with the Kings Pointers.. Parents - ALL of us together, have created something very unique and special. There is a "three legged stool" of Muffi coordinating sponsors, you parents and friends baking and sending the cookies, and me doing the work at the Academy. We have created a smooth, efficient, wonderful Cookie Cafe for the Midshipmen. You should pat yourselves on the back. Public businesses ought to take note at how smoothly, efficiently and cost-effective we run our Cookie Cafe "company!"

Yesterday USAA Bank was in the front of Land Hall during Cookie Cafe, available to talk to the students about loans. The representatives are absolutely amazed at the event and took lots of pictures of what was going on inside. They told me that they go to all the academies and top schools in the nation, and no one has what Kings Point has: a Cookie Cafe to collectively reach out in love with the students. They think it's the greatest thing.

I am very appreciative of the parents who have started coming early in the morning to Land Hall to help unpack all the boxes of cookies. We bring boxes from our freezer at home, and we fill the freezer we have at Land Hall. It takes Gene and me plus the volunteer parents about 3 hours to get the cookies out in containers for presentation. I always smile when I see how well the cookies travel. Thank you so much, all you bakers, for following the instructions in the website on how to pack the cookies. When I open a bag that is just crumbs, I feel so badly for the students, and for the parent who worked so hard to bake the cookies. That is seldom happening anymore and it's wonderful. We have slowly been working out the problems in this whole system. Thanks for your cooperation.

Just a quick comment on another area. In the middle of Cookie Cafe, the Commandant walked in to get his cookies. He announced to me that Band of Sisters has been reinstated at lunch hour. For those of you who don't know, my husband and I are involved in many other areas at Kings Point. One of them is my concern for the women on campus, which developed into a group called "Band of Sisters." Over half the women attend and it is making a much-needed difference. It was cancelled recently and a lot of effort went into getting it started again. So, I just want you all to know that Band of Sisters is again functioning for the girls. Hearing the good news was a **VERY** special "cookie" for me at Cookie Cafe.



## ***It's apple picking time!***



The USMMA Chapel Program had an off-campus event of Apple Picking in the Big Apple this fall. While they were there, someone spotted CBS News Anchorwoman, Katie Couric, and her oldest daughter, Ellie Monahan (age 18). The whole group of midshipman gathered for a photo. Colorado plebes Jim Enz and Katie Schmidt posed next to Katie Couric. Others in the photo include: 2012, Adam Wise; 2010, Christopher Adams; 2010, Robert Dunn; 2010, Jeffrey Hathcote; 2010, Michael Jimenez; 2010, Brian Roscovius; 2010, Cameron Ross; 2010, Jason Ryu; 2010, Jay Voishnis; 2011, Christina Becker; 2011, John Cataldi; 2011 Aaron Cummings; 2011, Christoph Gabaldo; 2011, Rebeca Galina; 2011, James Sanwald; 2011, Elizabeth Still; 2011, William Szigat; 2012, Renee Hogan; 2012, Emily Pierret; 2013, Michael Anderson; 2013, Christopher Bernard; 2013, Sean Carpenter; 2013, Dillon Clark; 2013, Kristin Critser; 2013, Justin Feltkamp; 2013, Christie Gallo; 2013, Victoria Hayes; 2013, Kaitlyn Heller; 2013, Eric Jaskoviak; 2013, Natalie Jones; 2013, Roshenda Josephs; 2013, Victor Lewis; 2013, Cassandra Lovitt; 2013, James McDonald; 2013, Benjamin Moer; 2013, Ryan Nonnenmacher; 2013, Geoffrey Polinder; 2013, Noel Richardson; 2013, Casey Roth; 2013, Lauren Seebode; 2013, Steven Webb,

## ***Captain Force honored***

On October 16th, the Academy Director of Music, Captain Ken Force, USMS was honored with a Distinguished Alumni Award by the Manhattan School of Music at a special homecoming reception. The presentation was held in the school's Alan M. and Joan Taub Ades Performing Space as part of the 2009 All-Alumni Reunion.

Force is beginning his 38th year at the Academy and is wholly responsible for the Regimental Band's rise to become the "Pride of the Regiment" and "George M. Cohan's Own" when Force led an effort to preserve the Cohan family home on Steppingstone Lane from destruction.

He has directed the band through nine inaugural parades and initiated the "Tattoo", later becoming the "Beat Retreat" that is revered by both the parents and alumni annually at Parents Weekend and Homecoming. He has composed several marches and musical pieces including "Echo Taps", "The First Lady March" for Hillary Rodham Clinton and the "Presidential Pets March" in honor of nonhuman residents of the current White House.

He has brought a big band sound to marching with the Cohan trilogy of wartime songs and "Beyond the Sea" by Jack Lawrence (who also wrote "Heave Ho"). He is the author of the book "British Band Concepts in America." He has received numerous awards and recognitions, including a Lifetime Achievement from Usdan Center for the Performing Arts and Medal of Honor from the Daughters of the American Revolution for his dedicated service to the arts and historic preservation. Congratulations to Captain Force!

## ***New column submissions requested***

The USMMA National Parents Association newsletter will be starting a new column and your help is requested. "Kings Point Contacts" will feature stories about coincidental KP contacts that often occur in the most obscure places. For example, if your midshipman is changing planes in a distant airport someplace and just happens to run into a fellow Kings Pointer or alumni, we would hope you would submit this story. Or if you were driving on an interstate and someone pulled you over just to tell you they saw your bumper sticker and that they also have a son or daughter at Kings Point, please submit this story also. We hope to show the incredible worldwide network that is generated through Kings Point. Send all submissions to: [rmjfuschetto@yahoo.com](mailto:rmjfuschetto@yahoo.com).

## ***USMMA Regimental Band performs with the Dutch Royal Marine Band in Battery Park***

The USMMA Regimental Band did "double duty" over Parents Weekend. Not only did they perform as usual at Beat Retreat and Acceptance Day Ceremonies, but they also played along side the renowned Dutch Royal Marine Band in Battery Park, in front of the Statue of Liberty in celebration of *Harbor Day* (Sept. 13), the Dutch discovery of the Hudson River and settling Manhattan (New Amsterdam) 400 years ago. USMMA Band Company were privileged to join together with the professional musicians of Holland, all 70 members who are in the Marine Band of the Royal Netherlands Navy. They paraded through the shady woods of Battery Park and stopped at the tip of Manhattan, in front of the Statue of Liberty with boats of all types and sizes sailing in the harbor behind them. They played patriotic pieces separately and together. USMMA Band Director, Captain Force, had the privilege of directing both bands for several pieces. He had also participated in Harbor Day 350, when he played the trumpet for 50 years ago, in front of Dutch Princess Maxima.

Belatedly, many USMMA Parents wanted to offer thanks and appreciation to Captain Force for the excellent performances of the Regimental Band during Beat Retreat and Acceptance Day Ceremonies. Many of the Band Company parents also attended the performance at Battery Park.

Captain Force responded, "The performance was for the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (1609) of the sailing of Henry Hudson for the Dutch West India Company and the founding of New Amsterdam. We were included with the Band of the Royal Marines of the Royal Netherlands Navy one of the two premiere Marine Bands in the World! We played for the Dutch Maritime Delegation, the Crown Prince and Princess of the Netherlands and numerous State and National officials. The festival also paid tribute to the Sailing of Robert' Fulton 's " Claremont " in 1809. I had played this same celebration (the 350<sup>th</sup>) it in the First US Army Band ( Governors Island , New York ) as a young trumpet player for Crown Princess Beatrix in 1959. She is now Queen Beatrix. This marked the first time in the Dutch Royal Marine Band history that they played a joint ceremony with a student band! (and the Mids were great!!!)"





# Kings Point cuts and clips, notes and news

## ***What a difference a year makes!***



Arizona USMMA State Presidents Maxine and Al Benson, parents of Aaron Benson, 2012, began corresponding with Swink, Colorado, USMMA parents Rocco and Mary Jane Fuschetto (Ana, 2011, Angie, 2001) after they met at the National President's Conference and Maxine told them her grandparents lived in Manzanola, Colorado, only a few miles from Swink. During a visit a few weeks ago, Maxine and her grandmother, Alice McDonald, visited the Fuschettos in Swink and invited them



to a combination farewell/birthday party on Oct. 31, for Aaron who was leaving for his first sea duty and had a birthday on Oct. 28th. With Ana Fuschetto unexpectedly home for a few

days vacation because of USMMA volleyball play-offs, the Fuschettos decided to attend the McDonald family dinner even though Ana was not sure she knew Aaron personally. On arriving at the party, Ana immediately remembered how she knew Aaron: She had been his Drill Instructor! (See photo above right.) After some humorous teasing about Aaron's mother inviting his DI to his birthday party, everyone enjoyed a huge meal and a delightful send-off for the two midshipmen.



**At left are family and friends who gathered to celebrate Aaron Benson's birthday and sea duty departure in Manzanola, Colorado, hosted by Aaron's grandparents Owen and Alice McDonald.**

## ***What a difference a year makes #2!***



Regimental Wonder Dog, Robbie, started his training at USMMA to be a service dog as a cute, docile, cuddly puppy. (Shown left being held by Suzanne Graboski.) But word has been received that Robbie "may not have the temperament" to serve as a service dog, in spite of the number of bars on his uniform. It seems he has developed a taste for chewing and playfulness, so he may grow up to be therapy dog, where all he has to do is be friendly, cuddly and gentle, much as he is now, at right.

# Kings Point cuts and clips, notes and news

## ***Mistaken Identity?***



Jerry Cannon, proud father of Casey Cannon (2013) writes, "Casey Cannon, (2013) and his "twin" 14 year old brother Kelly, are shown together after the Parent's Weekend Beat Retreat ceremonies. While Kelly, a middle school Cross Country runner put in his miles on the Academy track, Sheri and Jerry dropped Casey off at the barracks on Sunday night. Taking a last stroll around the waterfront, Sheri and Jerry missed Kelly who returned separately to the First Co. Barracks.

Waiting outside the barracks, Kelly was approached by an upper classman, "You know you were supposed to return in uniform, don't you?" the midshipman said.

"I don't actually attend this school" replied Kelly. Sheepishly the midshipman inquired, "Do you have a twin brother here?"

Kelly, class of 2018???



The Graboski family, Tyler Hathcote, Alex Whitaker, and the Fuschettos agree that Breakfast at Bruce's is the perfect finish to a Parents Weekend!



A dream come true! Shown here with his two-generation Kings Point family, James Pilliod has wanted to attend USMMA since he was a young child. The avid sailor is in the class of 2013! Welcome aboard!



## Thanks to USAA Bank!

Cookie Mom, Carol Guest reports that USAA Bank, who was on campus on Thursday and saw the popularity of the cookie café, donated the money for the locked cabinet that was desperately needed for storing baking supplies. Thanks to USAA Bank for helping out with Cookie Café's needs!

