



CAL MARITIME

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CALIFORNIA MARITIME'S *GOLDEN BEAR* DEPARTS SUNDAY AM FOR
TRAINING CRUISE TO SOUTH PACIFIC
*Public Can "Ride Along" Via the Web***

(Vallejo, CA – April 25, 2008)... The California Maritime Academy's 500-foot training ship *Golden Bear III* will depart the campus pier on the Carquinez Strait at Vallejo at 8:30 Sunday morning, April 27th for a nearly 24,000 mile training voyage to the South Pacific. The ship will call ports in Tahiti, Tonga, New Caledonia and Hawaii.

Nearly 300 cadets, faculty and staff will be aboard each of two cruise legs lasting nearly two months apiece. During that time, students will be gaining valuable hands-on experience in all phases of operating, managing and maintaining a modern vessel, under the guidance of experienced faculty. For students in the school's maritime majors, the time-at-sea is a critical requirement for earning the Coast Guard licensure they will need to work as deck or engineering officers after graduation. Engineering majors also gain valuable experience in the operation and maintenance of large engines and mechanical systems. And all aboard get a unique exposure to foreign cultures, economies, politics, and history, and a sense of their role as global citizens and ambassadors for their country.

Anyone interested in following *Golden Bear's* journey this summer can do so via a special *Follow the Voyage (FTV)* site on the Internet. Visitors to the Cal Maritime website (www.csum.edu) can click on the *FTV* hotlink and find daily postings of photos, articles, and features, information on the itinerary and ports of call, and cruise statistics. There's even an *Ask FTV* feature which allows visitors to post questions about the cruise. The best of those will be responded to via the *FTV* site.

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This year's *FTV* features are strengthened by the recent addition of a new satellite antenna aboard *Golden Bear*. The new facility gives the ship expanded bandwidth for communication at sea, and will enable the posting of more information on *FTV* and near-real-time e-mail linkage between the ship, the campus and the world.

Cal Maritime's Admissions office is encouraging school teachers to use the site as a learning tool and as a means to make young people aware of the unique educational opportunities offered by the school as the only maritime university in the Western U.S. and one of just seven in the entire country.

In addition to over 300 Cal Maritime students, this year's cruise will also include over 120 students from the Texas Maritime Academy and nearly 70 from the California State University's Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Texas cadets sail aboard *Golden Bear* under a cooperative agreement. Cal Poly has sent students on summer cruises for several years, giving them unique opportunities for expanded studies in areas like marine science.

It is traditional with each annual cruise that students make humanitarian donations to those in need in other countries. This summer, collections of financial support, clothing, educational materials, games, toys and books – assembled during the school year – will be donated to an orphanage in Tonga.

This year's cruise is a bittersweet one for Commodore John Keever who guides the ship on its initial leg from Vallejo to Tahiti before stepping down as the ship's Master after more than two decades of service, including over a dozen years as Vice President for Marine Programs. Keever and his wife are both Cal Maritime graduates and his son Scott graduated from the Academy last year. Taking his place as Master will be Capt. Harry Bolton, a 1978 Cal Maritime graduate with over two decades of vessel command experience.

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