



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cal Maritime Graduation Marks 75th Anniversary Milestone

VALLEJO, Calif., May 1, 2004 – The California Maritime Academy (Cal Maritime), a campus of The California State University, honored the Class of 2004 today, graduation ceremonies that included a morning commissioning ceremony for students who will enter as ensigns into the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard, an awards presentation, graduation brunch, and a graduation ceremony during which two distinguished alumni were honored — Captain Manny Aschemeyer, from the Class of '63; and Jerry Aspland, Cal Maritime's President Emeritus and alumnus from the Class of '62.

The graduation celebration officially kicked off Cal Maritime's 75th Anniversary, a yearlong celebration that will culminate at Graduation 2005 and will include such special events as concerts, lectures, a homecoming "Sail-a-bration" on October 2, 2004, and other events for students, faculty, staff, and the community-at-large.

"It's an exciting day here at Cal Maritime," said Bill Eisenhardt, president of Cal Maritime. "We're proud of our graduates and are thrilled to be kicking off our 75th Anniversary. There's definitely a feeling of excitement and celebration here today."

The 120 graduates from the Class of 2004 earned bachelor's degrees in one of the following areas: Business Administration, Marine Transportation, Facilities Engineering Technology, Marine Engineering Technology, and Mechanical Engineering. Cal Maritime introduced a Global Studies and Maritime Affairs major last fall, but the first students from that program will graduate in 2007.

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“The reality of graduation didn’t really sink in until we had rehearsal on Thursday,” said Amie Stroud, a graduate from the Marine Transportation program. “Now it’s stressful and surreal. We just can’t believe it’s over and now we’re ready to hit the ground running.”

Distinguished Alumni Honored

During the graduation ceremony, President Bill Eisenhardt and Dick Cochran, president of Cal Maritime’s alumni association, honored two alumni with the Cal Maritime Distinguished Alumni Award — Captain Manny Aschemeyer, from the Class of ’63; and Jerry Aspland, Cal Maritime’s President Emeritus and alumnus from the Class of ’62.

“This is the second year of our Distinguished Alumni Awards Program, which was established to recognize and honor graduates of the academy who have distinguished themselves and brought credit or distinction to the academy through their outstanding personal or professional accomplishments,” said Eisenhardt. “Both of the distinguished alumni award recipients we honored today have achieved the professional and personal success in life that we hope all of our graduates aspire to attain”

The first recipient, Jerry Aspland, is a graduate from the Class of ‘62. Immediately following graduation, he served as an officer in the U.S. Merchant Marine, ultimately working his way up to Master of his own vessel. Aspland served as president of Cal Maritime from 1996-2001. His leadership qualities were noticed among the highest ranks of state government, so much so that he was honored with a resolution of the State of California Senate and Assembly for his outstanding leadership while at The California Maritime Academy.

In addition to his success in the public higher education sector, Aspland has also enjoyed great success in the private sector. Before serving as president of Cal Maritime, he was the president of ARCO Marine, Inc., where he was responsible for general management of the world class marine transportation company whose fleet transported 200 million barrels of petroleum a year.

The second recipient, Captain Manny Aschemeyer, has been actively committed to the maritime industry, with significant leadership positions and experience both afloat and ashore. Currently the Executive Director of the Marine Exchange of Southern California. Aschemeyer has been involved with various Cal Maritime alumni chapters around the country, and was instrumental in keeping alive several of the fledgling local alumni chapters in the early years of their development.

Aschemeyer was honored with the coveted “Stanley T. Olafson Bronze Plaque Award” from the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to world trade and international relations in Southern California. He also received the U.S. Coast Guard Commandant’s “Meritorious Team Commendation” and the Commandant’s “Public Service Commendation” for his work in promoting safety, efficiency, and security at America’s biggest and busiest seaport complex.

About Cal Maritime

Cal Maritime, a campus of The California State University, is one of only seven degree-granting maritime academies in the United States, and the only one on the West Coast. Tucked away in San Pablo Bay’s Morrow Cove in Vallejo, Calif., Cal Maritime offers students four-year degrees in business administration, facilities engineering technology, global studies and maritime affairs, marine engineering technology, marine transportation, and mechanical engineering. For more information about Cal Maritime, visit www.csum.edu.

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