Dear Campus Community,

Welcome back to a New Year and new semester. I hope you enjoyed a well-deserved rest and relaxation with family and friends. As most of you know, we have hit the ground running in 2020, starting with Coast Guards exams, continued work on-campus projects, and integrated planning for Cal Maritime’s future.

The semester started with 59 deck students and 36 engine students sitting for their USCG National License as Third Mate or Third Assistant Engineer. We celebrated cadets who successfully went 7 for 7 on their Third Mate or 8 for 8 on their Third Assistant Engineer exams with the Bell Ringing Ceremony at Formation this past Wednesday. A video of the ceremony can be found on Cal Maritime’s Facebook page. Congratulations cadets!!!

Cal Maritime celebrated our 90th anniversary in 2019. As part of this celebration Dr. Gary Reichard, former interim provost and vice president for academic affairs at Cal Maritime, wrote an extensive history of the Academy. His 90th Anniversary History Book was launched this past Monday, January 13th. Celebrations continued as Dr. Reichard participated in the Cal Maritime Scholar Series, delivering a lecture titled Looking Back, Looking Forward: Digging into Cal Maritime’s History. Special thanks to Dean Michele Van Hoeck and Director Chelsea McClain for their hard work and dedication creating two beautiful events. The book is now available for order online or can be purchased within Keelhauler Shops.

Integrated Planning is underway with the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) convening its second meeting this month, which means our annual budget planning process is in full swing. The BAC discussed the Governor’s Budget along with the budget planning process at Cal Maritime. The committee’s principal aim is to determine whether proposals being developed are aligned to the strategic priorities of the campus and advise the president directly. While the BAC does their work, strategic planning committees have been finalized and development of the 2021-2026 Strategic Plan will begin soon. The combination of the BAC and Strategic Planning Committees’ efforts allow for Cal Maritime to plan for the future.

The TK Foundation, named after founder J. Torben "TK" Karlshoej who had a passion for ships and the sea and dedicated to investing in youth as the future of the maritime industry, has donated $60,000 for scholarships to Cal Maritime cadets who plan to enter the maritime industry upon graduation. Scholarships of $5,000 - $10,000 (6 to 12 awards) will be awarded. This particular support renews our relationship with the TK Foundation, who in 2012 provided a matching grant to establish the TSGB Navigation Lab.
Upcoming Events

President’s Leadership Offsite
The President’s Leadership Offsite will be taking place in February. This unique opportunity allows Cal Maritime’s senior leadership and Academic Senate Executive Committee to come together to focus intently upon our institution’s long-term health. This year’s offsite will focus on Cal Maritime’s culture and our vision for the Academy’s future.

Black History Month
The Unity Council’s annual Black History Month kicks off on February 4th with lively soulful music and lunch in the dining center. The Council will also bring Dr. Terell Strayhorn to campus on February 12th to speak with cadets, faculty, and staff on current higher education topics around race, gender, and inequality. Black History Month will also include our second annual Comedy Night on February 21st in the Compass Room.

CSU Faculty Trustee Campus Visit February 28th
CSU Faculty Trustee Romey Sabalius is slated to visit our campus on Friday, February 28th. Trustee Sabalius is our faculty trustee and a Professor of German in the Department of World Languages & Literatures at San Jose State University.

Women in Maritime Leadership Conference
Now approaching its ninth year, Cal Maritime’s Women in Maritime Leadership Conference supports the success of women in maritime. The 2020 conference will deliver a leadership development curriculum specific to the goals of professional women in the maritime industry. The 2020 program will feature tracks for "Developing Self" and "Developing Others." The conference will take place on campus starting on Friday, February 28th.

15th Annual Scholarship and Awards Gala March 21st
This annual event was moved due to the fire that hit our campus in late October and is Cal Maritime's premier fundraising event for the Academy and its cadets. In addition to an evening of dining and camaraderie, the Gala presents a fantastic opportunity to network with alumni, parents, and friends of the University, as well as colleagues in the maritime industry - all while raising scholarship support for today's generation of cadets through ticket sales and auction items. We will also recognize high-impact industry partners, alumni, and friends in a pre-Gala ceremony. I hope to see you there!

Gratefully, TC

Thomas A. Cropper
President
California State University Maritime Academy

P.S. I hope you will take some time to enjoy Dr. Gary Reichard’s history book--- rich in history, authentic in perspective!