Dear Keelhauler Family,

To begin, I would like to extend a huge *Thank You* for all the work the campus community has done over the past month and a half. We faced some daunting challenges following the campus closure due to the Glen Cove Fire – restoring basic power and water service, resuming full IT capabilities, returning to instruction in healthy classrooms, to name a few. We adapted to changes in habits, changes in procedures, along with adapting to the not-so-welcome visual changes to the academy landscape. As we have seen in the past, our campus came through this tough chapter as a team, modeling the way like only Cal Maritime cadets, faculty, staff, alumni, and community friends know how to do.

As we finish out finals week, now is the time to reflect on our semester and how we, as a campus community, have become better. The semester started with *Convocation*, where we reviewed our accomplishments and discussed the year to come. Major initiatives and programs underway include strategic planning for 2021-2026, moving to an “off-the-grid” campus, and expanding our academic footprint into Vallejo.

Several campus projects were completed, including waterfront harbor dredging; exterior painting of the classroom, faculty and administration buildings; energy-efficient window replacements; the completion of the newly constructed Overlook and Lot I projects; and the storm water drain replacement. Other improvement projects currently underway include Faculty Drive improvements and Rizza Auditorium renovations.
Amidst the flurry of projects, we demonstrated our campus pride during Spirit Week, Homecoming, and Day on the Bay.

Cal Maritime recently received a generous gift from the estate of David Posch ’69 (MET), who passed away on March 21, 2019, leaving the bulk of his estate to Cal Maritime. Mr. Posch, who went by Dave, worked for many years as a facilities engineer at the Veterans Home in Yountville, CA, and left a bequest of $1.5M to Cal Maritime, specifically without any restrictions because he believed, “the University would know better than anyone else how to spend it.” The bequest has been placed in the CMA Foundation’s unrestricted endowment and will be one of the lead gifts in the $40 million comprehensive campaign approved by the Foundation board of directors in June. This gift is one of the largest individual gifts ever made to Cal Maritime and was announced at the Class of 69’s 50th Reunion Dinner.

In addition to developing Phase II (2021-26) of the Academy’s 15-year strategic planning effort, Cal Maritime has a lot to look forward to in Spring 2020:

- January 14: The Cal Maritime Scholar series will host Gary Reichard to speak about Cal Maritime’s 90th Anniversary.
- January 22: The Presidential Speaker series will host Adam Savage from the hit show Mythbusters.
- February 7: The Foundation will hold its annual Donor Appreciation Luncheon.
- February 28 & 29: Cal Maritime will host the annual Women in Maritime Leadership Conference.
- May 2: Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremony.

Enjoy a wonderful winter break with family and friends!

Gratefully, TC

Thomas A. Cropper
President
California State University Maritime Academy

P.S. On a very personal note, I would like to thank you for your support, encouragement and care for Heather and me over the last ten months. Your expressions of friendship, gifts of time, cards, flowers, notes, posters, lunches, dinners, laughs and love sustained her – and me – in the toughest year of our lives together. Heather loved the campus – you – and she loved being part of something special at Cal Maritime. She often expressed to me how incredibly fortunate we were to be among hundreds of good friends. Thank you for lifting us up – and for demonstrating the truest meaning of community in a most powerful way. Peace, TC