Dear Campus Community,

Welcome (or welcome back!) to the start of another academic year! As I look around campus and take in the energy and vitality of everyone, it is clear that we have hit the ground running in our 2019-20 academic year. Many of you spent the summer voyaging the globe; while others stayed ashore to complete numerous campus projects and programs. And for our new cadets, the past few months were spent preparing for the start of a new life at Cal Maritime.

Here are a few highlights of Summer 2019:

**International Experience**
A hallmark experience for our shoreside profession cadets is the annual International Experience, a three-week program that provides our GSMA and IBL majors with the opportunity to immerse themselves in the history and culture of countries across the globe through an experiential-based curriculum. This year’s destinations included the Netherlands, Greece, New Zealand, and Vietnam (twice).

![International Experience Photos]

**Summer Cruise**
At the beginning of July, our MT and ENG majors completed another successful summer cruise aboard the TSGB. This year, the ship voyaged into the Atlantic, with port-of-calls in Lisbon, the Azores, Florida and Galveston, providing cadets a combined experience of classroom learning, applied technology, leadership development, and global awareness. Cruise is also a fantastic way to make lifelong friendships along the way!

![Summer Cruise Photos]
**Off-Shore Sailing Team Competes in Transpac**

Cal Maritime Cadets participated in the 50th running of the Transpac Race, an offshore sailing race that starts in San Pedro, CA and ends in Honolulu HI. Cal Maritime was the only college offshore sailing team to participate in the race – and many of the professional sailors in the race took notice. Great job team!

![Sailing Team](image1)

**Summer Campus Projects**

Under the leadership of Audun Aaberg, AVP of Facilities Management, and Tom Van Pelt, Director of Facilities Planning, several campus facilities improvement projects are taking shape. A complete list of the funded [2019-2020 Campus Projects](#) is accessible in the Portal. I’ve highlighted a few below:

- Technology upgrades in the classroom building
- New energy-efficient windows in the faculty, classroom, and administration buildings.
- New directional signage along Maritime Academy Drive (phase 1 of Cal Maritime’s wayfinding project.)

![Facilities Project Images](image2)

**Orientation Week (O-Week) & Convocation 2019**

As is customary, each academic year begins with O-Week, a series of events and programs for our cadets and their families. Our cadet leaders were phenomenal and led the way – please thank them when you see them! We also welcomed faculty, new and returning, for a faculty futures retreat, school and department meetings, and convocation activities. Convocation kick-started our week before classes, and from there, the campus community focused on what it means to be a cadet through focused programming and integrated developmental activities.

![O-Week Convocation](image3)
Looking ahead
On July 12, 2019, Cal Maritime received our WASC Senior College & University Commission (WSCUC) Action Letter, the official notice that full accreditation has been reaffirmed (awarded) to Cal Maritime for a period of 8 years. This is a terrific outcome for our campus and a reminder of the high level of excellence in all that we do. My thanks to the faculty, deans and our Provost for their transparent, authentic communications with our visiting team – with special kudos to Associate Provost Graham Benton for his superior cat-herding (and president-herding) skills in preparing our self-study.

We will continue that important work this year, with a focus on internal communications and shared governance; leadership programming (ELDP 2.0); faculty development and assessment; and unity and diversity. In the coming months, you will be invited to participate in creating improvements on campus, so I would like to thank you in advance for stepping into this all-hands effort.

I trust you’re enjoying the fruits of campus beautification, safety and operations improvements from the spring and summer efforts. Many of you have mentioned how these projects have elevated the way we feel about our campus and our colleagues. I must agree. In that spirit, there will be a number of physical plant improvements ongoing this year: storm drain repairs (to preclude campus flooding), building painting (to improve appearance and extend useful life), Faculty Drive renovation (to improve cadet safety), and modular classroom installation (to improve capacity). We’re just going to keep getting better!

In the meantime, we will move steadily forward on all aspects of planning: the committees for each of the five 2021-2026 strategic plan goals are currently being formed; final touches are being made to the strategic plan webpage; and our annual & budget planning process for academic year 2020-21 has begun. We will also begin moving from concept design to construction drawings on the Mayo Hall project, and initiate concept design work on our first new academic building in Phase I of the master plan – aka “Academic A.” I look forward to our work together.

Cal Maritime is poised for another year of impact, and I look forward to proudly celebrating our 90th anniversary with all of you!

Gratefully, TC

Thomas A. Cropper
President
California State University Maritime Academy

P.S. Congratulations on your recognition (again) by US News and World Report, CNBC, The Washington Monthly, and others. While we don’t chase ratings, they do affirm the outcomes we are creating as a campus team.