Colleagues,

Classroom work is complete, finals are in session, and a great summer awaits our cadets. From adventure on the high seas and in distant lands, to commercial cruises and internships, to graduating and entering the maritime profession, there is a lot in store. Faculty and staff are busy preparing for all of these wonderful events --- and the Class of 2019 Commencement Ceremony will be the highlight.

Two hundred and ninety-one (291) Cal Maritime graduates, representing the dreams of 3,500 mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, sisters, brothers, grandparents, children, neighbors, and first grade teachers, will walk across the stage on our Quad on Saturday, May 4th. For our undergraduate cadets, this day is a joyous celebration of the commitment that each of them made to being something more than a student --- to being a cadet. This commitment brought great responsibility upon them and now delivers even greater reward. For our graduate students, it is a celebration of achievement in a proven program for career upward mobility. For all 291 of them, it is our opportunity as a campus community to cheer on a fantastic group of “Made at Cal Maritime!” professionals who are going to change the world. I look forward to seeing you --- our campus colleagues, neighbors, alumni, foundation board and a now-larger Cal Maritime family --- and witness this day when we deliver on the promise of higher education. See you there!

What have I been up to?

April 15-17
Chancellor’s Senior Leadership Council Meeting
Long Beach, CA

Big takeaway: The CSU, and Cal Maritime in particular, do admissions the right way. Sadly, there have been instances at larger, private institutions which sullied the reputation of higher education. I’m proud to be part of a high-integrity public university.

March 25-28
CSU Hill Day Events
Washington, DC

Big takeaway: Visits to Senate and House offices confirmed strong support for funding the academies and schoolships. Moreover, the preliminary report from MARAD indicates we are slated to receive a new National Security Multi-Mission Vessel (NSMV) in 2028. Of course, Congress will need to supply funding – 2 of the 5 are already funded and a third is in the federal budget for Fiscal Year 2020.
March 18-19  CSU Board of Trustees Meeting  Long Beach, CA

Big takeaway: It is likely we’ll see an $8.0 billion infrastructure bill in the California legislature this fall, with a ballot measure next March. This desperately needed funding would move our campus master plan along in a powerful way.

What’s going on around campus?

These days, like most days, there are amazing things going on around campus --- from student club events to new lab spaces to accreditation visits to energy and sustainability improvements. These activities create positive change, and change begets progress. Here’s a snapshot of progress occurring across the campus:

**ELDP 2.0**  
Spring 2019
- Improvement efforts for the Edwards Leadership Development Program continue, thanks to the leadership of Commandant Taliaferro. Expect to see a joint new “Charge” signed by cadets, faculty, and administration leaders. I’ve attached a summary of completed and upcoming activity through Summer 2019.

**Futures Conferences VI for Cadets**  
April 9-10
- As we prepare for the second phase of Cal Maritime’s 15-year strategic planning effort, we invited cadets to take part in a series of “futures conferences”, informal sessions designed to elicit creative thinking and inspire the best way forward for Cal Maritime. The results of these sessions will inform our strategy development over the next academic year.

**Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Accreditation Team Site Visit**  
March - April 2019
- Last month, Cal Maritime welcomed a WASC team to campus as part of our routine, recurring institutional and academic re-accreditation. More than 90 faculty and staff participated in this effort, principally focused upon academic program excellence, assessment, and rigor. I know our faculty look forward to a report from WASC later next month, which is intended to help us improve.

**Incoming Senate Executive Committee**  
Spring 2019
- Congratulations to Dinesh Pinisetty as the newly elected chair of the Academic Senate, alongside newly-elected colleagues on the Executive Committee. I look forward to working with faculty leadership in upcoming year as we continue to strengthen shared governance on our campus, as well as supporting the Academy’s mission in our strategic planning effort.
Tell Me Something Good!

➢ The Keelhaulers continue to compete at high levels. Earlier this month, our sailing team finished second in the Pacific Coast (PCCSC) Team Race Championship. Nice work!

➢ Cal Maritime has been designated a 2018 Tree Campus USA.

➢ Under the leadership of Assistant Professor, Dr. Alex Parker, Cadet Shaun Teter (slated to receive his Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Transportation next week) led a small team of students conducting oceanographic research and navigation on one of our training vessels, sharing cross-disciplinary experiences and educating others from different majors. Thank you for your leadership, Cadet Teter!

In service,

Thomas A. Cropper
President