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Cal Maritime’s 75th Anniversary Cruise Sails To The Far East

VALLEJO, Calif., May 1, 2004 — One of the smallest and most unique campuses of The California State University, The California Maritime Academy (Cal Maritime) boasts a nearly 100 percent job placement rate that is directly attributed to the unique experiential learning curriculum that includes a two-month international training cruise on which each student has the opportunity to participate.

Approximately 500 cadets will take to the seas this summer for Cal Maritime’s 75th Anniversary Training Cruise aboard the Training Ship GOLDEN BEAR, which will log approximately 25,000 miles during its four months at sea. Following today’s graduation ceremonies, which officially kicked off Cal Maritime’s 75th Anniversary, the T.S. GOLDEN BEAR will embark on Cruise 1, which will travel to the Far East, visiting Mainland China for the first time.

“I’m looking forward to being with my friends and applying the skills I learned in the classroom to real world situations,” said Kenny Ingram, a Cal Maritime student in the Marine Transportation program. “During my freshman cruise, I had to do all the grunt work. Now that I know the ropes, I’m looking forward to being in charge.”

Cruise 1 departs on May 1st from Cal Maritime’s Vallejo campus following the day’s graduation festivities, with destinations that include the Aleutian Islands; Vladivostok, Russia; Shanghai, China; Mokpo, Korea; Okinawa (Naha), Japan; Midway Island; Lanai, Hawaii; and Honolulu, Hawaii. Cruise 2 will depart from Honolulu on July 2nd and will take the reverse route, but with stops in Pusan, Korea (instead of Mokpo) and Dalian, China (instead of Shanghai).

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"While the cadets and visiting students look forward to the exotic port calls, most of the cruise is spent at sea with long days of class, study, and work,” said Captain John Keever, Cal Maritime’s vice president of marine programs and captain of the Training Ship GOLDEN BEAR. “It’s a lot of hard work, but definitely the experience of a lifetime for all who participate.”

As in years past, students from other California State University campuses will have the opportunity to sail onboard Cal Maritime’s training cruises. Sixty students from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo will participate in Cruise 1, and thirty students from CSU Monterey Bay will participate on Cruise 2.

“This cruise is my graduation present to myself,” said Jamie Romnes, a graduating senior from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. “It’s great, you get to study abroad and be on a ship at the same time. It’s a more unique experience than any other study abroad program.”

To follow this year’s voyage, access Cal Maritime’s Web site at www.csum.edu and click on “Follow the Voyage 2004.”

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.