MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
NOVEMBER 2018

Colleagues,

I write this as we return to campus following a welcome Fall Recess – which brought time to recharge amidst the busy semester and, for many, an opportunity to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with family or friends. As this is a new feature of our academic calendar, I look forward to your feedback on whether you found it valuable. It’s all part of our shared effort to make changes that make work on campus more satisfying. I also note that we are rapidly approaching the season of giving (yes, I know Target has been at it since Halloween!) so I want to thank each of you for your gifts – of time, talent, service, sacrifice and care – to our academy and our cadets. Every day, you fulfill the promise of Cal Maritime in developing, educating and training our cadets for incredible futures. Thank you!

WHAT HAVE I BEEN UP TO?

A major focus area, beginning several years ago, has been on our Campus Physical Master Plan. As you know, the CSU Board of Trustees recently approved Cal Maritime’s 15-year Campus Physical Master Plan (CPMP) in July 2018, which begins with a fully-renovated Mayo Hall --- the future home for many student life programs, services, and clubs once the overall plan approaches maturity.

As we take steps to implement the CPMP, a top priority for me this year has been to establish sustainable planning and design practices for the stewardship of the academy’s natural resources and environment.

To this end, over the past few weeks both here on campus and on the road, I’ve been engaging in exploratory discussions with organizations and community members who have expressed interest in Cal Maritime’s campus renewable energy and sustainability goals. Now with Sheikh Nayeem, Cal Maritime’s Energy and Sustainability Director, taking the lead, we are laying the foundation for a comprehensive Campus Sustainability Plan which includes a Climate Action Plan.

The following is a sample of work being done in preparation for our Climate Action Plan:

- We’re discussing options to attain our previously-proposed clean energy micro-grid (in a grant application to the California Energy Commission). This would include wind, solar, and hydro-kinetic power generation and management – which presents some interesting opportunities for current and future curricula and programs. Next month we meet with Crescendo Power to begin discussion on their ideas to introduce solar power production throughout the campus.

- Sheikh Nayeem has been working closely with Facilities, PG&E, and potential lighting partners to close out our goal of campus-wide LED lighting installation. Sheikh’s efforts in this initiative have resulted in two welcomed outcomes: greatly reduced purchase costs through rebate and other incentive programs, and reduced utility service bills which typically run $1.3M per year. We intend to lever the savings created from this LED initiative into follow-on efforts to further reduce our carbon/GHG impacts and perhaps further financial savings.
- We’re also assessing the viability of a marine hydrokinetic (MHK) energy project with Cross Border Solutions. This project dovetails nicely with the solar project and potential wind power initiatives – and should the technology prove successful, we could rapidly achieve the point where we consume the majority of our electrical power through clean, self-sufficient power.

- Through a partnership with PG&E and state organizations (Bay Area Air Quality Management District, CSU Chancellor’s Office), we have arranged to acquire up to 32 electric car charging stations to be installed in Lots A and B. We have the commitment of partners to move forward on this initiative and await availability of their planners, ground crews and specialists to begin breaking ground. Hats off to Sheikh and VP Lozano for bringing this project into focus and getting it approved and ready for installation in 2019 (dependent on PG&E workforce availability due to wildfires response) for less than 3% of its $1.3M actual cost!

- We’ve also been working with the City of Vallejo Water District to further improve our stewardship of water resources on campus. Sheikh Nayeem and faculty member Dr. Larry Bienati mentored an impactful water efficiency project with students – Hanna Begnell; Evelyn Esparza; Jack Rasco; Sierra Dingman. With data collected by our cadet team, we were able to collaborate with the Water District to plan replacement of less-than-efficient water infrastructure throughout campus (e.g., faucets, toilets, showers). The cadet team presented their finding to the Campus Planning Council and we are now ready to implement the plan based upon their findings. More good news here – the Water District will be funding the entire effort! They will also be following through with our cadets’ idea to reduce the impact of single-use plastic water bottles by funding water bottles for all faculty, staff and students.

**WHAT’S BEEN GOING ON AROUND CAMPUS?**

**Mayo Hall Renovation Update**

Funding to begin renovation of Mayo Hall will come from the Chancellor’s Office via the approved CSU budget for the [2019-20 CSU Capital Outlay Program](#), and we await approval to begin development of construction/renovation drawings.

**Downtown Anchor Center**

The newly leased building at 253/255 Georgia Street, Vallejo, CA, is continuing its transformation to a hub for conferences, offsites, retreats, department meetings and community activities. Program development for community and extended education is underway.

If you’d like to explore the facility with your department or another group on campus, please contact AVP Mark Goodrich.

**California Wildfires**

A good number of people – faculty, staff and cadets - on our campus were affected by the wildfires in Northern and Southern California. The difficulties that our campus colleagues faced – along with their families – required extensive care and response by many helping hands on campus. A big thank you and “Well Done!” to our HR, Health Center and Police Services staff and many others who provided proactive care to our campus community throughout the week preceding the recess. I am especially grateful to the Cabinet leadership for their hands-on teamwork in addressing the air quality challenge we faced.

It may benefit the campus to know the high level of collaboration between our campus VPs and other college and university campuses, school systems, BAAQMD, hospitals, and other public agencies to maintain an hourly “pulse” on the situation. As we were resolved to follow CDC guidelines informed by BAAQMD
forecasts, I would like to commend the whole campus team for making evidence-based decisions of care that protected our campus community.

**New People & New Talent**
Inherent in the work we do is the fundamental principle that, as a university, we are a people institution --- and I am routinely encouraged that we go the extra mile to hire bright, talented, and hard-working individuals to help us achieve our mission. Here are a few new faces since the start of the school year.

- Natalie Boe, Assistant Athletic Trainer
- Lucero “Natlay” Cigarroa, Custodial Services
- Jeffrey Soriano, Port Security Guard

**Tell Me Something Good!**

Earlier this month, Bethany Johnson, 1/C, GSMA, received word that she, along with 29 others from across the country, was awarded a Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship, a highly selective professional development program provided through the U.S. Department of State that provides financial support for graduate school and follow-on career opportunities – including a guaranteed appointment as a Foreign Service Officer. Bethany’s achievement --- the first Cal Maritime student to receive this prestigious fellowship --- is a testament to the quality of our programs and the “fantastic staff and faculty here” who deliver those programs to our students. Congratulations, Bethany!

Congratulations, too, to Wyatt Sebourn, 1/C IBL – our Corps Commander. This past summer, Wyatt was part of a team of scientists and the National Marine Fisheries Service that conducted extensive oceanographic research, data collection, and sampling of juvenile Rockfish in changing habitats --- all while aboard the NOAA Reuben Lasker. Wyatt received a $1000 award for his impressive research efforts. While Cal Maritime’s oceanography program has yet to begin, it’s clear that our faculty and cadets are already charting an impressive path forward.

Thomas A. Cropper
President