



CAL MARITIME

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAL MARITIME CADET MICHAEL WALKER AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS HEARST/CSU TRUSTEES' SCHOLARSHIP



Vallejo, CA – September 15, 2008)... Michael Walker, 52, a senior Cal Maritime Business major from Milpitas, CA, has been selected as one of 23 winners of the prestigious William Randolph Hearst/California State University (CSU) Trustees' Award. The Award, for Outstanding Achievement, will apply to students in the 2008/2009 academic year. Each

year, the 23 campuses in the CSU system are invited to submit the name of a single award nominee for consideration by the Board of Trustees. Awards of \$3,000 each are then distributed, based on superior academic performance and exemplary personal accomplishments.

As a youngster, Michael Walker grew up living on public assistance and had to support himself during high school. He then served as a Quartermaster Second Class in the U.S. Navy submarine service for four years, and became a husband and father at an early age. After his three children graduated from college, he found himself facing a downsizing in his professional trade as a newspaper pressman, and decided it was time to return to school and a new career path.

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WALKER WINS PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP

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Interestingly enough, it was Walker's son Christopher, a 1999 graduate of the Academy, who made his father aware of Cal Maritime. "I spent my last year in the Navy at Mare Island – but it wasn't until my son went there that I learned more about the school. Having been in the Navy, Cal Maritime's organization and structure seemed like a good fit to help me get in and get my degree....and it has been."

Walker enrolled in 2005, and this summer sailed aboard Cal Maritime's training ship *Golden Bear* during a two-month training cruise to the South Pacific*. "We visited many businesses during stops in Hawaii, Tahiti, Tonga and New Caledonia, and learned about their operations and challenges in a global economy. One of the most impressive was a huge and modern nickel mine in New Caledonia, where managers told us about their need to respond to environmental and community development issues and the detailed logistics planning needed to coordinate the mining and transport of ore to world markets. Getting that world perspective was very valuable to me."

Walker hopes to find a job in logistics or marketing with a company involved in "green technologies" when he graduates next spring. As an older student (and with five grandchildren), he is admired and respected by younger cadets, who witness his dedication and maturity in pursuing a new career. That respect is reflected in his service as a squad leader in his campus Division. He has also helped make the Maritime Academy's Business Day a success. Walker continues to work as a pressman on an "on-call" basis to help pay for college -- all while maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.76. He said the Hearst/CSU scholarship will be tremendously helpful in meeting costs as he approaches graduation next spring.

(*NOTE:) *Reports, photos and videos of this year's training cruise can be found via a Follow the Voyage hotlink from the home page of the Cal Maritime website at www.csum.edu*

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