



CAL MARITIME

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KATHERINE BROOKSHIER NAMED CAL MARITIME'S CSU HEARST TRUSTEES' AWARD WINNER



(Vallejo, CA – Sept. 22, 2009)...Katherine Brookshier of Benicia, CA, has been named as The California Maritime Academy 2009-10 recipient of the California State University system's prized William Randolph Hearst/California State University (CSU) Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement. 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. Recipients were honored during the September 22nd meeting of the Cal State Board of Trustees in Long Beach, CA.

Brookshier, 31, is a Mechanical Engineering major now in her senior year of studies. Her life story reflects a constant effort to overcome obstacles. The third of six children (two brothers and three sisters), her teen years were concentrated more on helping her mother and family survive economic adversity than they were on her education. "Money was tight and I worked a full-time job even as I was attending school. As a result, I barely graduated from high school."

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Brookshier took a year-and-a-half after graduation to save up money and then went to cosmetology school to learn a trade, while continuing to work full time. “I lost my job near the end, and wound up living in a tent for the last six months to make ends meet, but I kept my car, got my degree, and graduated tops in my class.”

Brookshier’s career path led her to working for health and beauty spas and eventually to a job consulting and overseeing the installation of a spa facility on a Hawaiian cruise liner. “I worked closely with architects and engineers on the installation and people kept asking me what my engineering background was. I told them I was a graduate of a beauty school and they couldn’t believe it. They told me I ought to think about a career in engineering, so I started researching the idea. I chose Cal Maritime because of the outstanding recommendations it received from alumni I worked with. I knew I was weak in math and science because of my lack of focus in high school, but I’m proud of the fact that I was able to get admitted and worked hard to learn what I didn’t know. I owe so much to this school for what they have taught me and the opportunities I have had.”

Grants and loans have helped Brookshier pay for her education and she has also worked as an assistant in the Administration Building and on the school’s Training Ship *Golden Bear* to earn extra funds. “Being chosen as a Hearst Award winner means so much to me,” she says, “not only because of the help it provides in my final year, but for the prestige of having been chosen as one of the winners.”

Profiles of all the 2009 Hearst Scholarship winners can be found at:
<http://www.calstate.edu/Foundation/hearst/index.shtml>

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