



CAL MARITIME

Contact:

Doug Webster
Director of Public Relations
California Maritime Academy
200 Maritime Academy Dr.
Vallejo, CA 94590-8181

W: (707) 654-1720
C: (707) 328-1887
E: dwebster@csum.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALIFORNIA MARITIME GRADS FEATURED IN ARTICLES ON COLUMBIA RIVER AND RIVER BAR MARITIME PILOTS

(Vallejo, CA – February 4, 2009)... A pair of articles about the challenges of navigating big ships over the world-infamous Columbus River bar and up the river itself, give prominent coverage to the work of maritime pilots. Not surprisingly, several of those profiled in the articles are graduates of The California Maritime Academy in Vallejo, CA – one of just seven maritime universities in the United States and the only one on the West Coast. In fact, one of every three West Coast maritime pilots (including Alaska and Hawaii) is Cal Maritime trained, including the first woman pilot on the Columbia River, Anne McIntyre.

Smithsonian magazine's February 2009 issue features *Running the Bar* (<http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/37443744.html>) The article profiles the challenges of bringing ships over the bar, where outgoing river flow collides with strong winds and tides on the Washington/Oregon coast and a massive sandbar at the river mouth. The combination, when conditions come together, can create some of the most dangerous sea conditions in the world. The U.S. Coast Guard uses the bar as a training ground for operations of its specially designed rescue boats.

The pilots come aboard ships inbound and outbound of the Columbia River. It takes long years of service and extensive testing before they are licensed to serve. (The Bar and the River Pilots on the Columbia are two different groups because of the unique skills and knowledge required with each section of the waterway.)

-more-

Featured in the *Smithsonian* article are Columbia River Bar Pilots and Cal Maritime graduates Dan Jordan (1980), Gary Lewin (1968), and Michael Glick (1967). Neal Nyberg of the Army Corps of Engineers, also mentioned, is a 1979 graduate.

The February issue of *Professional Mariner*, coincidentally, features an article on the Columbia River pilots called *Columbia River: Riding the High Water* (<http://www.csum.edu/News/NewsClips/2009%20Clips/McIntyre%20Colombia%20Pilot%20Prof%20Mariner%20Feb09.pdf>). Among those profiled is Anne McIntyre (1988), the first woman pilot licensed to serve on the River.

“While Anne’s ties to Cal Maritime were mentioned in the *Professional Mariner* article, most readers would not be aware how many of the pilots mentioned in the *Smithsonian* piece have their roots here,” said University President William B. Eisenhardt. “We take pride in their skills and professionalism, and in having helped give them and their fellow pilots the starting skills to rise in their profession and achieve their status among one of the world’s most elite and demanding professions. Day in and day out here on the West Coast, Cal Maritime graduates pilot ships big and small on stormy seas and in congested waters, helping safely guide the flow of goods and people in the worldwide arena of global trade and commerce.”

More information about Cal Maritime’s role in training personnel bound for the pilotage profession can be found in the cover story of the Spring/2007 issue of *Cal Maritime* magazine. It is available online in the NEWS section of the University’s website at www.csum.edu

##