

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW



Photo by College Relations.

Maine Maritime Academy recognizes and celebrates student achievements in leadership, scholarship, and community service annually.

At the Regimental Awards Ceremony held in March, Commandant Nate Gandy opened his remarks with the acknowledgment that a number of things set MMA apart from other 4-year institutions. "One of those things," he said, "is the need to train students for emergencies at sea. Everyone gets foundational training but some students give up extra time to attend organizational and training meetings in preparation for the MMA summer training cruise. Often these students spend 8-10 hours a week in addition to their regular duties."

Capt. Gandy announced a new award, the Regimental Challenge Coin, based on the historical Challenge Coin made famous during WWI. The WWI Challenge Coin's story, in a nutshell, is that it became a critically important form of identification that saved a lieutenant from execution. All ended well and a new tradition was born: a service member may challenge another to see the coin. If the coin is produced, then the challenger must buy the other service member a drink. If the coin is not produced, the service member must buy the challenger a drink.

The Regimental Awards included the Rear Admiral Warren C. Hamm, Jr. Leadership Award given to Luke Olson '16; the Lestor R. Paton Navy Leadership Sword given by his son, Richard R. Paton '56 to Joseph Torchia '17; the Al Brown Award; the MacArthur Cadet Award given to Shawn Silva '15; the Eugene J. Silva '64 Regimental Award given to Joshua Hall '15;

and the Regimental Alumni Development Award, a new award provided by the Artec Machine Systems Corporation, and organized by John Amendola '86 and John Amendola '15. This last award is given biannually to two midshipmen who would benefit from attending the Bi-Annual Reduction Gear Training Program.

In addition, the Casco Bay Alumni Chapter Award, the Ship Rate plaques, Master's Commendation; Chief Engineer's Citation; company plaques; and Wedge plaques were presented.

Don McBride '05 was the keynote speaker at the 14th annual Student Life Awards Banquet held in April, which honors students whose service to others and involvement in collegiate activities is creating a stronger community at MMA and in Castine. Don's main message to students was to "Listen carefully. Listening provides perspective no matter what your position. Your reputation is your brand, so to speak. Listening is the key to everything you will do."

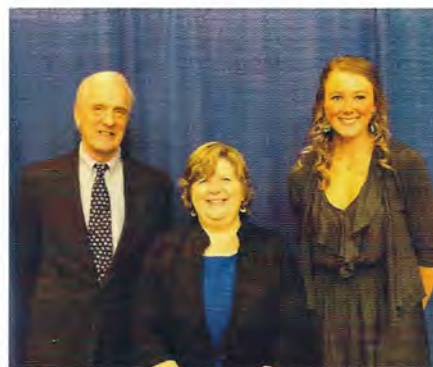
Forty-five students received awards for positive community contributions; 78 students were acknowledged for outstanding community impact; and one student received the coveted Phyllis Tenney Community Service and Leadership Award.

The Mariner Pride Award is a community-wide nomination that honors an organization, event, or activity that enhances Mariner pride by bringing people together and helping to strengthen the campus community. This year, the MMA Boxing Match won the award, which was accepted by Kurt Borkman '15.

The 2015 Sarah Hudson Unsung Hero Award went to Research Librarian, Lauren Blanchard, who has developed a reputation among students,

faculty, and staff alike for her politeness, cheerfulness, and strong work ethic.

The last award presented was the Phyllis Tenney Community Service and Leadership Award given in memory of "Mrs. T" for the endless service she provided MMA and Castine for over 40 years. Mrs. T personified the characteristics of leadership through her long association with the service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, her creation of the "Dining-In" etiquette program, her participation as an essential member of the training cruise staff for a record 25 cruises, and her enthusiastic presence as the Academy's social director. The 2015 awardee was Jillian Perron '15, who has been known to fill every free moment of her day volunteering her time to the community, excelling academically, competing on the hardwood, and working on campus. Jillian will enter St. George's University in Grenada to pursue a doctorate in veterinary medicine.



(L-R) Gil Tenney, Elizabeth True, and Jillian Perron '15.
Photo by College Relations.