



# Webb News

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## MISSION STATEMENT

To inspire and educate tomorrow's leaders in an extraordinary learning community focused on engineering and design in the marine field.

Webb Institute:

- ⚓ Provides a rigorous education in the principles of engineering and the fundamentals of naval architecture, marine engineering and related marine technologies;
- ⚓ Develops skills that will enable graduates to become leaders in, and make significant contributions to, their chosen profession and the wider community;
- ⚓ Instills in graduates the highest ethical standards and sense of professionalism;
- ⚓ Cultivates curiosity in the arts, sciences and humanities, and provides the background and encouragement necessary to support lifelong learning; and
- ⚓ Perpetuates the values of William H. Webb.

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**Mark Martecchini**  
*President*

## Message from the President:



Many colleges and universities across the country, including several of our peers, were disrupted by protests this year. That did not happen here. Living in a small environment and spending much of the day and night in the same room as their classmates, Webbies prioritized civility and respect for one another's views – important values – and with high workloads, focused on their education.

We are halfway through Webb's "infrastructure decade" that started with the building of the Couch Academic Center and continued with renovation of student bathrooms and conversion of old classrooms to dorm rooms. If you thought we were done with construction, think again. The one constant over the next five years will be a major renovation project under way winter, spring, summer, and fall.

Last winter we converted the Robinson dorms to faculty housing, with all design services graciously donated by Kirk Lehman of A+M+L Architecture (and in keeping with the theme of "Webb family", father of Juliette Lehman '22). The broken steps to the outside terraces are replaced. We have nearly finished replacing the failing 1970s library windows. We have started repointing our porous brick exteriors in the lower level of Cuneo Courtyard, Rosenblatt Gallery, and our Finance wing. Replacement of the original fire escape towers on Stevenson Taylor Hall (STH) is soon underway. A new boiler control system – to manage overheating of STH – will soon be installed. And we have ordered

replacements for our public doors which are in an advanced and irredeemable state of disrepair. We want Webb to shine for all those who pass our portals!

Our virtual assets merit equal investment. We were recently awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Booth Ferris Foundation for website redesign and Admissions & Communications marketing initiatives. Our website (and parallel platform for mobile devices) is our main portal for those who visit a virtual Webb. With better technology, upgraded visuals and messaging, a wider range of prospective students and other visitors can appreciate the unique value proposition that Webb offers.

All this investment requires money; I thank those doing a great job in fundraising and stewardship. Our Development team (Anthony, Joe, Shanna, Alicia), Development Chair Hampton Dixon, Webb Alumni Fund Chair Jake Neuman and class agents combined to deliver a great year, with many, many thanks to our generous alumni, donors, and contributing foundations. Our endowment performance beat our benchmarks with sage advice from the Investment Committee under Chair Alison Granger's watchful eye. Stay tuned for developments from those planning our next capital campaign.

I look forward to the 28 students joining the Class of 2028 in mid-August for another great year on the Webb campus!



# Celebrating the Class of 2024

## *Webb Institute Celebrates 128th Commencement with Inspiring Keynote by Tech Entrepreneur Diane B. Greene*

On a sunny Saturday, June 15th, Webb Institute proudly conferred 25 Bachelor of Science degrees at its 128th commencement ceremony. The joyous occasion marked a significant milestone for the graduates and the maritime community.

The ceremony's highlight was a captivating keynote address by Diane B. Greene, renowned technology entrepreneur, co-founder, and former CEO of VMware. Ms. Greene, who also received an honorary degree, shared her inspiring journey, offering invaluable insights on leadership, innovation, and the importance of lifelong learning.

In her address, Ms. Greene emphasized the power of adaptability and embracing change. She encouraged graduates to "course correct" their lives, remain curious, strive for mastery, and seize unexpected opportunities. Sharing a personal anecdote, Ms. Greene recounted a vivid dream in which she soared through the universe, experiencing a profound sense of ecstasy and mastery. "To this day, I strive to have that feeling," she confessed. "It is not easy, but my wish for all of you is that you too chart your own unique course, you capture your own version of that feeling of joy and mastery that comes from contributing to the world."

Her message resonated with the spirit of Webb, as we prepare graduates for successful careers in the maritime industry and beyond. The future of the maritime industry looks bright with these talented individuals ready to make their mark on the world.





## -- POST-GRADUATE PLANS --

Zane Ballister	Naval Surface Warfare Center
Margo Bourn	Det Norske Veritas (DNV)
Will Calli	Viking Cruises
Matt Coogan	MIT
Daryn Cook	University of Michigan
Alex DeMeo	GEI Consultants
Zach Doerr	Wyspa Tech
Payne Donaldson	Delta Marine
Kohta Erdos	Applied Physical Sciences
Konrad Freischlag	DLBA Naval Architects
Chris Grieves	Bruce S. Rosenblatt and Associates
Evan Kawabata	HydroComp
Joe LaPlaca	Marine Design Operations
Tim Lazouski	University of Michigan
Max Mah	University of Michigan
Abner Mills	Glostern
Lisandro Nicoletti	University of Southampton
Elliot Ocheltree	Bath Iron Works
Jack Otto	PIC America
Addison Pope	Bristol Harbor
Kenna Reed	Glostern
Miguel Sanchez	Birdon
Kira Shaw	Electric Boat
Evan Spalding	DLBA
Richard Thill	University of Michigan
Kadi Zheng	Cruise Lines International Assoc.

## -- AWARDS --

### — TOTAL PERFORMANCE —

#### CHAFFEE MEMORIAL PRIZE

Maximilian S. Mah  
*for general excellence*

{Sponsored by Trustee Emeritus, Joseph J. Cuneo '57}

### — LEADERSHIP AND ETHICS —

#### PATRICK S. MATRASCIA GOOD SHIPMATE AWARD

Kohta J. Erdos

*for working unselfishly and in harmony with classmates*

{Sponsored by President Emeritus, R. Keith Michel '73 & Family}

#### THE CHARLES KURZ II (Hon.) COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Christopher S. Grieves

*for exemplary commitment of service to others through volunteerism, community service, and civic outreach*

{Sponsored by Charles Kurz II (Hon.)}

#### PAUL E. ATKINSON MEMORIAL PRIZE IN ETHICS

Alexander L. DeMeo

*for ethical behavior*

{Sponsored by Paul E. Atkinson Memorial Fund}

### — ACADEMICS —

#### J. LEWIS LUCKENBACH MEMORIAL PRIZE

Matthew C. Coogan

*for highest average in four-years of course work*

{Sponsored by the American Bureau of Shipping}

#### CHARLES A. WARD, JR. MEMORIAL AWARD

Richard S. Thill II

*for excellence in naval architecture and marine engineering*

{Sponsored by Chairman of the Board, Bruce S. Rosenblatt (Hon) and the Ward Family}

#### JENS T. HOLM '41 MEMORIAL AWARD

Richard S. Thill II

*for excellence in marine engineering*

{Sponsored by George A. Gilmore '57}

#### KEELER MEMORIAL PRIZE

Matthew C. Coogan

*for highest average in mathematics*

{Sponsored by Past Trustee, Dr. Luther Tai}

#### RICHARD A. PARTANEN HUMANITIES AWARD

Richard S. Thill II

*for excellence in humanities*

{Sponsored by the Class of 1987}

#### CURRAN MEMORIAL PRIZE

Kenna R. Reed

*for most outstanding and consistent scholastic improvement*

{Sponsored by Trustee, and Mr. John A. Malone '71 and his wife, Amy}

### — THESIS —

#### STEVENSON TAYLOR MEMORIAL PRIZE

Kenna R. Reed & Kadi Zheng

*for excellence in the senior thesis*

{Sponsored by the American Bureau of Shipping}

#### LEWIS NIXON MEMORIAL PRIZE

Alexander L. DeMeo & Addison R. Pope

*for excellence in the senior thesis*

{Sponsored by Trustee Emeritus, John W. Russell '67}

# -- THESIS TITLES --



Zane Ballister	A Simplified Test for Pleasure Boat Stability
Kohta Erdos and Tsimafei Lazouski	Development of a Simulation and Controls for a Low-Cost, Buoyancy-Driven Underwater Glider
Richard Thill	The Installation of a Hydrogen Bubble Flow Visualization Apparatus in the Webb Flow Channel
Zachary Doerr and Payne Donaldson	Design of a Passive Shape-Adaptive 470 Class Centerboard
William Calli and Miguel Sanchez	Redesign and Optimization of a Flutter-Foil Current Energy Generator
Daryn Cook and Konrad Freischlag	Automation of a Preliminary Bulk Carrier General Arrangement
Kira Shaw	The First Japanese-Built, Western-Style Ships: How Model-Makers Shaped Our View of Late 16th and Early 17th Century Merchant Vessels
Kenna Reed and Kadi Zheng	Numerical Analysis of Flow around a Biomimetic Undulated Foil Shape with Fluid Structure Interaction
Joseph LaPlace and Max Mah	USCGC <i>Lilac</i> Feasibility Study: Electrical Renovation of a Historic Lighthouse Tender for Passenger Service
Jack Otto	Computational Fluid Dynamic Analysis of Membrane Tank Pressure Distribution as a Result of LNG Sloshing
Evan Spalding	Developing and Strength Testing a Natural Fiber Composite for Yacht Construction
Evan Kawabata	Concept Design Tool: Automation of EPLA and One-Line Diagram Generation
Margo Bourn	Port Infrastructure Feasibility and Risk Assessment for a Modularized Hydrogen Fuel-Cell Ferry
Lisandro Nicoletti (Southampton)	A Large Database Study on the Evolution and Performance of Sailing Yachts
Chris Grieves and Abner Mills	The Installation and Emissions Testing of a CNG Dual-Fuel Series 60 Detroit Diesel Engine
Alex DeMeo & Addison Pope	Mechanical Performance of Stiffened Aluminum Panels as a Function of Weld Parameter, Predicted via Finite Element Analysis
Matt Coogan & Elliot Ocheltree	Investigating the Drag Reduction Potential of Boundary Layer Injection Techniques for Naval Submarines

*Thesis posters, descriptions, senior spotlights, and presentations are available at:  
[www.webb.edu/academics/class-of-2024-thesis](http://www.webb.edu/academics/class-of-2024-thesis)*

# HOMECOMING 2024



*Alumni eagerly anticipate the Homecoming luncheon.*



*Congratulations, Class of 2024! The Webb alumni community welcomes you with open arms.*



*Class of 2009 celebrating their 15th year Webb anniversary at Homecoming.*



*Ted Dickenson '92 shares insights with Webb alumni.*



*Dedication knows no bounds. Reuben Taylor '55 journeys from Chicago to address the Webb community at Homecoming*

# WEBB SAILING

*by Kenna Reed '24, Anna Lindberg '25, Rayne Duff '25*



Webb dinghy team at 2024 Dinghy National Championship

At Webb Institute, we have two sailing teams, the dinghy team and the keelboat team. The dinghy sailing team competes in the national college sailing circuit, sailing against other colleges in two-person dinghies such as 420s and FJs. Over the past three years, the Webb dinghy team has consistently ranked among the top 25 teams in the country and has qualified for Nationals.

This year, the dinghy sailing team competed in events including the Savin Hill Invite (placed 3rd out of 18), the America Conference Championship (placed 5th out of 18) and the Admiral's Cup (placed 6th out of 18). To end the season, the team traveled to Boston, MA, to compete in the Dinghy National Championship hosted by Harvard and MIT; in the Eastern Semifinal, Webb finished 13th out of 18. (Check out [scores.collegesailing.org/schools/webb-institute/](https://scores.collegesailing.org/schools/webb-institute/) to see live and past results)



*Webb dinghy team practicing with new sails*





New sails from the class of 1975 to our Webb Sailing team

In contrast, the keelboat team competes in the keelboat college sailing circuit as well as regattas on the Long Island Sound. This year, the Webb keelboat team sailed Navy 44s at the Naval Academy in the McMillan Cup and, for the first time in several years, the Kennedy Cup.

The Kennedy Cup is better known as college keelboat Nationals; at this regatta, Webb finished 4th out of 10. The team had also prepared for the 2024 Newport-Bermuda Race in partnership with NEKA Sailing.

This year, Webb sailors were on two boats, Groupe 5, a modified Figaro 2 doublehanded by two current Webb students, and Desperado, a modified J-120 with five current Webb students and three Webb alumni aboard.



Keelboat team at the 2023 Intercollegiate Offshore Regatta (sailing Figaro 3 Celeritas)

# A Century of Wisdom:

## 100-YEAR-OLD WEBBIE, NIEL SPILLANE ON A LIFE WELL-LIVED



by Kaye Lin, Director of Communications & Marketing

### A Surprising Start

It was a warm Wednesday afternoon when I found myself on the doorstep of a beautiful house in Mystic, Connecticut. The house belonged to Niel Spillane, a 100-year-old alumnus of Webb Institute, and I was there to interview him about his long and fascinating life. I was all set to meet him the day before, on Tuesday, but an unfortunate encounter with store-bought sushi left me very sick and forced me to cancel. Embarrassed that I—a woman in my 30s—was sick while this 100-year-old man was full of life, I made a note to ask him about his secret to health.

Niel's house was a large, three-story home with a neatly kept yard and a wide-open garage door. I parked my car and walked up to the front door, expecting to see Niel waiting for me. But to my surprise, the house was empty, and the garage fully open—with no car. I called his phone, but got no answer. Had something happened to him? A few hours later, as I was contemplating the next steps at the local ice cream shop, my phone rang—it was Niel.

He explained that he had been busy at his veteran's meetup, then at his doctor's appointment, and running errands. You know, a typical day in the life of a 100-year old man. When I met him in person, I was struck by the warmth and energy that radiated from him.

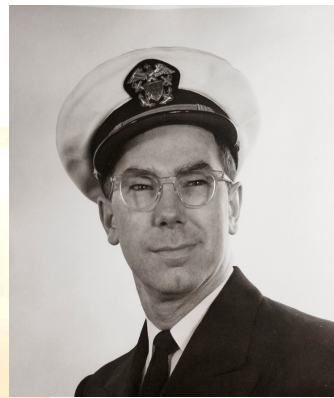
Despite his age, he had the vitality and enthusiasm of a much younger man. As we sat down to begin the interview, I felt like I was talking to a friend.

### From Webb to War and Back

Niel was around 18 years old when he first went to Webb Institute. Back then, Webb was located in the Bronx. He then served in Europe for approximately three and a half years during World War II, and witnessed the horrors of war firsthand.

“It gets tiresome after a while ducking and finding a way to stay alive... I just wanted to go to college where nobody's shooting at us,” recalled Niel. The constant threat of death was ever-present, especially during intense periods like the four months of relentless shelling in France, followed by two months in Germany.

After serving in World War II, now 22 years old, he returned to Webb and transitioned seamlessly back into college life, now at Webb's new campus in Long Island, NY. “Webb has impacted my life in so many ways. It got me the job at Electric Boat. I led the repair of 16 ships on time and under budget. One of them was so under budget that my ship manager wrote a letter to my admiral for exceptional work and cost savings.”



*From childhood dreams to wartime bravery and family legacy, our centenarian, Niel Spillane embodies a century of resilience, dedication, and love.*

Niel's naval career was remarkable, earning him three Navy commendations within 18 months. He had repaired 16 ships, each on time and under budget. His achievements led to an unprecedented promotion, skipping three ranks to replace a lieutenant commander while still an ensign.

### **A Life Beyond Accomplishments**

But Niel wasn't just defined by his accomplishments; he spoke warmly of his late wife, a social worker who believed in the power of human connection. He had even carved and painted a decorative statue to honor her. His grandchildren were thriving, one of them a proud Webb graduate, Colin Spillane '13, who was following in his grandfather's footsteps.

His voice grew animated as he talked about helping to establish the Honor Code that made Webb a safe and respectful space. Webb Institute's Honor Council is a student-led organization responsible for upholding the school's Honor Code. Students pledge to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity and personal conduct.

### **Life Lessons from Webb**

"Webb was unlike any other school. People are not competing - they're actually helping one another graduate," he said. I learned from speaking with him that there is no zero-sum game in the reality of life. Webb is a microcosm of life in general - the more you help others, the more you will get back. Niel talked about how

everyone studied late nights at the library and explained concepts to classmates who were struggling so they didn't have to stress alone.

I smiled as he told me about his memories and how Webb changed how he viewed the world as I've always believed that kindness and generosity tend to be reciprocated. And, here he is telling me about the valuable life lessons he learned in college. "Life isn't about tearing others down to build yourself up. It's about lifting each other up, knowing that by doing so, we all rise together. By collaborating and supporting one another, students are developing valuable life skills that will serve them well beyond graduation."

### **The Secret to Longevity**

As we wrapped up the interview, I didn't forget my initial question on what his secret was to staying healthy and living up to 100, as I still wasn't feeling 100 percent from the sushi two nights before. He left me with advice that was simple yet profound: "Don't eat until you're full—stop at 80%, and prioritize joy. Also, avoid nasty people. I don't know if that's a secret, but it seems to contribute to a fulfilling and healthy life."

Despite the obstacles and challenges he'd faced for a century, Niel brimmed with joy. Articulate and sharp, he proved that age was just a number. At 100, he had just renewed his driver's license for another eight years.



*With four generations of the Spillane gentlemen. Niel Spillane (far left) with his grandson, J.B. Spillane, great grandson, Reid, his son Jamie, and grandson Colin '13 (far right) celebrating their family legacy.*



*The entire Spillane family, came from all around the country to celebrate Niel's 100th birthday at his house in Mystic, Connecticut. It was a reunion to remember, filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories.*



# STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

*by John Ferrante  
Director of Facilities*

Several major capital projects are ongoing as part of our 10-year infrastructure plan. Until now, we have prioritized new installations (Couch Academic Center, classroom-to-dorm conversions, faculty apartments) but our facilities require continual restoration efforts to remain operational and present Webb in the best light over the next 25 years.

The Livingston Library window replacement project is currently about 80% complete. Replacement of the two failing fire escapes on Stevenson Taylor Hall (STH) is underway.

Repainting and waterproofing of various locations on STH (Cuneo Courtyard, Rosenblatt Gallery, Finance Wing) has started. We will do extensive brick restoration around campus for several years to come; just like on ships, we need to keep the water out!

The hallways and sprinkler piping on the third deck in STH are being repainted (the second deck was redone last

winter). We uncovered decades-hidden windows in the Thomas Conference Room, with repainting to follow in preparation for window replacement.

We have started to install a boiler control system for the STH boilers to reduce overheating and reduce our gas bill. A new drainage system, along with sod, has been installed on the first terrace. Landscaping is being improved in several areas. At the Couch Academic Center, we are making progress in locating and repairing troublesome rotunda water leaks and have replaced defective exterior steps.

New entry doors for the Cuneo Courtyard, Gym front, Robinson front, Rosenblatt Gallery, Luckenbach Courtyard and two STH patio doors have been ordered with expected delivery in November.

The conversion to three apartments on the second floor of the Robinson Model Basin has been completed, as has the new fire pump installation.



*Revitalizing Our Spaces | Livingston Library Windows*

# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

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## SERVICE & WELLNESS

by *Kayla Green,*  
*Assistant Director of Admissions & Student Affairs*



It's often asked, "What makes a Webb student?" Truth be told, it's a challenging question to answer because each student is as unique as our esteemed institution. However, amidst this diversity, certain qualities stand out—academic excellence/achievement, community, opportunity, leadership, pursuing learning outside the classroom, initiative, passion, ability to balance and a commitment to community service. Our students are not just the stereotypical engineers or computer science majors; they embody a range of talents and experiences, including hands-on roles like EMT work.

Today, we shine a spotlight on one such outstanding individual, Alexander Bruzzese '27. I worked closely collaborating with Alex. As part of the freshman and sophomore experience, students dedicate 1.5 hours per week to the Webb community, upholding the philanthropic legacy of William H. Webb, and I'm impressed by Alex's dedication and contributions to our campus community.

Alex has undertaken the important task of organizing and maintaining our medical closet. His meticulous attention to detail in cataloging supplies and ensuring their accessibility during emergencies has been invaluable. Drawing from his experience as an EMT, Alex has provided crucial insights that have enhanced our emergency preparedness. His commitment to restocking and organizing the kits speaks volumes about his dedication to our collective safety.

But Alex's contributions don't stop there. He's gone above and beyond by creating a detailed inventory in Excel and formulating formal requests for medical supplies. His thoughtful recommendations have streamlined our procurement process and ensured that our campus remains well-equipped for any situation. Thanks to his efforts, we can rest assured that our medical kits will serve us well for years to come.

In our ongoing commitment to promoting health and wellness within our community, we recently hosted a virtual "Mastering Affordable Winter Work Cooking" session, featuring guest speaker Christina Brockett, MS,

CNS, LDN also parent of current student Caleb Brockett '26.

This session was designed to equip students with essential kitchen skills, low-cost recipes, and savvy grocery shopping strategies. Whether you're a novice or a seasoned cook, the session had something valuable to offer. Christina generously provided additional resources for students who couldn't attend, ensuring that everyone can prepare for the Winter Work season effectively. The assortment of recipes, including microwave-only options and high-calorie choices, is particularly beneficial for those working in demanding environments like shipyards. These resources are available digitally for future reference. We encourage students to make use of these practical skills not only during Winter Work but also in their post-college endeavors.

With the cap set at 146 credits per student, our dedication to health and wellness goes beyond academics to include stress-relief activities. Students actively seek recreational outlets, such as sports, painting, music, and various off-campus endeavors.

With a reservation process for Webb vans in place, our students have convenient access to recreational opportunities. Situated just 45 minutes away from the bustling metropolis of NYC, our students have easy access to a wealth of recreational opportunities. Many have been exploring the vibrant cultural scene of the city, attending Broadway shows, and participating in pottery classes at Claynation. For the more adventurous, our rock climbing club offers thrilling experiences.

Beyond indulging in the richness of NYC's cultural offerings, our students have also shown a keen interest in immersing themselves in different cultural traditions. Max Rothschild recently hosted a Passover Seder, an integral part of Jewish culture and heritage. By participating in events like these, students gain a deeper understanding of diverse cultures, their traditions, and the significance of their holidays. Thanks to the assistance of DEI Chair Abby Ng, this event was brought to our attention, allowing us to provide funding for the Passover Seder. Such experiences enrich students' worldviews and foster greater appreciation for the diversity within our community.

The Class of 2028

# MEET THE NEW WEBBIES



3



STUDENTS HAVE THEIR OWN

*Businesses*

21%

PARTICIPATED ON A  
ROBOTICS TEAM

85%

HAVE SERVED AS A CAPTAIN, FOUNDER,  
PRESIDENT OR TEAM LEAD



92%

ARE INVOLVED IN  
**ATHLETICS**

*sailing, soccer, cross country, track, lacrosse, softball, football, baseball, golf, wrestling, cheerleading, ice hockey, rowing, tennis, water polo, archery, martial arts, basketball*

43%

INVOLVED WITH **BOY SCOUTS, GIRL SCOUTS, VENTURE CREW, OR SEA SCOUTS**

*7 Named Eagle Scout or Gold Award Receipt*

36%

PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT  
OR IN CHOIR



*drums, piano, trumpet, flute, violin, bass, piccolo*

6

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN WEBB'S **SEA ACADEMY**



# MOVING FORWARD



Alyssa Caliguri  
Director of Admissions and  
Student Affairs

As I step into this new role as the Director of Admissions and Student Affairs, I am excited to see what is in store for Webb Institute. While I'm not new to Webb, being the former Associate Director of Admissions and Student Affairs, this role is a new opportunity for me to bring my strengths into this role. This new position for me is not just a career advancement but an opportunity to help shape the future of Webb Institute for years to come. The former Director of Admissions and Student Affairs, Lauren Carballo, set up Webb to be extremely successful during her tenure. My only hope is to continue to build upon the great foundation she laid out during her eight years at Webb.

Welcoming a new class of 28 students to campus after we had the privilege of watching the seniors walk across the stage months prior is always exciting. Having the opportunity to see the prospective students become admitted students is always an incredible experience. From those shy PF interviews to experience "everything Webb" during Orientation Week, they truly start to become a family in such a short amount of time within their class. As you can see by the stats on the class of 2028 in this feature, they really are an impressive group and very accomplished before they come to Webb. With Webb's top-notch education, there is no doubt in my mind they will become the very best next generation of great leaders in the Maritime Industry. I cannot wait to see all that the Class of 2028 accomplishes during their collegiate careers inside and out of the classroom.

As we look towards the Fall, we will look to hire an Assistant Director of Admissions to grow our admissions department and continue to spread the word about Webb being one of our top goals. Another goal of mine is to grow our Student Affairs side of the department. Admissions and Student Affairs go hand in hand in my opinion. You often will see other institutions have an Admissions Department which brings students in and hands them off to the Student Affairs Departments, but the unique thing about Webb is that you get to see them through during their whole collegiate career. My passion is about enhancing the student experience from the very first time they step onto Webb's campus to take a tour to four years later when they walk across that stage as a Webb graduate. Webb has such a strong curriculum and outstanding faculty to teach them, I hope on my departments' end we can help guide them holistically to be the best student leaders outside of the classroom as well. I hope to continue the strong collaboration among all faculty and staff to continue to improve Webb's student experience.

As Higher Education continues to evolve day by day, my hope is that by focusing on relationship-building, collaboration, staying knowledgeable with the ever so changing industry, strategic planning, and innovation, our department can achieve new heights of success when it comes to student experiences at Webb Institute.

# WEBBIES TRIUMPH AT BLOCK ISLAND & NEWPORT BERMUDA RACES

*by Kaye Lin, Director of Communications and Marketing*

Webbies Zachary Doerr '24 and John Feleciano '25 have solidified their status as exceptional sailors with back-to-back victories in prestigious races, sailing NEKA Sailing's *Groupe 5*.

In May, the duo braved the high seas and emerged victorious in the ORC Double-Handed Division at the 2024 Block Island Race. They skillfully navigated 186 nautical miles of light, shifty winds, overcoming strategic challenges and numerous lead changes to secure a well-deserved win at 4 AM.

Continuing their winning streak, Doerr and Feleciano recently achieved a historic victory in the Newport Bermuda Race, securing first place in their class and an impressive second in the Double-Handed Division. They crossed the finish line, completing the grueling 636-mile racecourse at Saint David's Lighthouse after 3 days, 13 hours, 33 minutes, and 8 seconds.

Despite being the youngest crew in the entire race, the pair demonstrated exceptional skill and determination, missing the top spot by a mere four minutes. Reflecting on the experience, they described it as "the hardest thing we've ever done."

"I think John and I did a good job of identifying the tactical factors that affected this race (the Newport Bermuda Race) and generally made good decisions. The race had a lot of short steep chop, which made it very psychologically challenging to continue pushing forward.

In the end though, it was a huge sense of accomplishment to have finished so well, especially when sailing with a peer and not a coach or more experienced sailor," said Zach Doerr.



*John Feleciano '25 seeing the light ahead, with the day breaking after navigating a rough sea.*

"Seeing the lights of Bermuda breaking through the rain squalls on the final night was unforgettable. We saw conditions ranging from 0 to 30 knots, navigating lightning storms, torrential rains, the Gulf Stream, and a rough sea state the entire way. We were very happy with our result - showing that the hard work and months of preparation had paid off. We couldn't have done it without the support of NEKA Sailing. We're also thankful for the support of our families and the Webb community, motivating us to keep pushing through tough conditions," stated John Feleciano.





*"We both agreed that the Newport Bermuda race was the hardest thing we've ever done..."*

Their success follows one of the missions of NEKA, or the North East Keelboat Alliance: to promote shorthanded offshore sailing to college students who without the program would not have access to this sport. NEKA provides opportunities to Webb students and other college students alike, giving a framework to learn the skills required to succeed at offshore sailing.

Offshore sailing is highly technical, requiring not just sailing skills, but also electrical, computer, engine, and structural knowledge. In addition, the sport promotes leadership, organization, and teamwork, helping to form well-rounded individuals.

The Webb community is immensely proud of John's and Zach's remarkable achievements. Their consecutive wins are a testament to their dedication and talent, and to the spirit of Webb Institute. Congratulations to these outstanding sailors!



*Zachary Doerr '24 and John Feleciano '25 claim their first prestigious win at the Block Island Race this year.*



*Doerr '24 & Feleciano '25 take the spotlight after their dominating performance at the Newport Bermuda Race!*

# A Great School Depends on a Great Faculty



Matthew R. Werner '95, PG'97  
Dean and ABS  
Chair of Naval Architecture  
& Marine Engineering

*At the start of the fall semester, the Webb community gathered to honor Professor Michael Martin's being named the third Mandell and Lester Rosenblatt Professor of Marine and Electrical Engineering. The following is based on the remarks that I made at the ceremony for Professor Martin.*



Most of us are aware of the significant effort that Webb expends to select an incoming class of 28 students. Multiple interviews, on-campus assessments, class attendance, and overnight visits build upon the standard college applications, test scores, transcripts, essays, and letters of recommendation. Webb's substantial investment in time and resources in this endeavor reflects the importance of finding students that can positively contribute to our small, tightknit community, while succeeding academically, and growing personally and professionally.

If one out of 28 and one out of 100 is important to the Webb experience, what can we say of one out of 10? Given the small size of Webb's faculty, the importance of each individual professor in the pursuit of Webb's mission is significant, much like it is with the carefully selected Webb students. Faculty members serve as the motivating force behind the development of Webb students, through teaching, advising, mentoring, and modeling. Webb's demanding, high-contact academic program is a challenge for faculty members and students alike, much is demanded from both sides of the lecture podium and laboratory benches. The job of a faculty member at Webb is very demanding and very rewarding at the same time.

Beyond the course syllabi, Webb faculty members help students secure internships and post-graduation jobs through connecting students with their industry networks. Professors' personal recommendations help students secure competitive scholarships and spots in prestigious graduate schools. Faculty members serve as a resource as students develop their plans for their future beyond Webb. Many faculty members continue to provide support and mentoring to recent graduates as they start their careers.

We often say at Webb that students have nowhere to hide, well the same can be said of faculty members. Webb faculty members' availability to their students is unprecedented. Posted office hours are not a thing at Webb because if a faculty office is occupied, the door is open to students seeking guidance or support. Daily, I witness students engaging professors beyond the faculty offices, in the lecture rooms after a class ends, in the common spaces of the Couch Academic Center and Stevenson Taylor Hall, and even in the lunch line. Not to mention regularly responding to student emails that arrive in one's inbox at all manner of times throughout the day and night, weekends and holidays included.

In addition to their direct student-facing activities, Webb faculty members manage the operation of the academic enterprise by serving as laboratory and shop directors, and as members of faculty and shared governance committees. Webb's professors lead Webb's accreditation activities, conduct research, serve on committees of the board of trustees, and interact with industry while continuing to develop professionally as educators and within their areas of expertise. They create and revise course materials and assignments while continually refining, modifying, and revising courses and the overall curriculum.

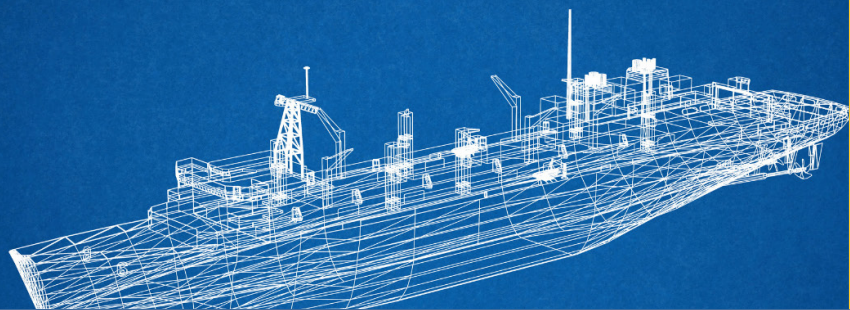
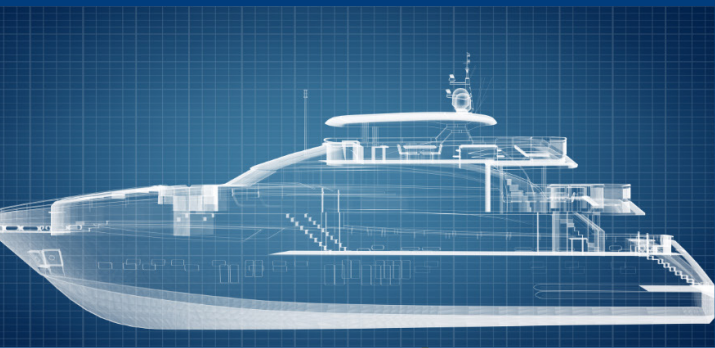
Ultimately, a faculty member's success at Webb comes down to passion. A passion for Webb Institute and its mission. A passion for a culture of high standards and high expectations. A passion for the value of education. A passion for honor, integrity, and personal responsibility. A passion for student development and success. I am thankful everyday that I get to work with a team with the passion and energy that maintains Webb's place as a model of excellence in engineering education. It is clear to me that a great school depends on a great faculty.



*Bruce Rosenblatt, Chair of the Board (left), and Mark Martecchini, President of Webb Institute (right), celebrate Professor Michael Martin as the third Mandell and Lester Rosenblatt Professor of Marine and Electrical Engineering.*



*John '71 & Amy Malone hosted a pizza party at Bronx Pizza (arguably the best NY-style pizzeria in San Diego) on February 8, 2024 for the Webb students doing winter internships at General Dynamics NASSCO. Also attending were Nick Ratinaud '18 (Regional Coordinator for Southern California) and Blake Loncharich '19 (visiting from Alameda, CA). It was a fun evening getting to know the students and exchanging stories of Webb life – then and now. One thing remains the same: Webbies like pizza!*



# 2024 JUNIOR SHIP DESIGN HIGHLIGHTS

by Bradley D. M. Golden '99, Associate Professor of Naval Architecture

## Ship Design I – Continuing the Tradition of Innovative Vessel Designs

With two-and-a-half years of naval architecture and marine engineering experience under their belts, the Class of 2025 embarked on the first full-scale ship designs of their careers. In the spring semester Ship Design I (SD1) class, the Juniors were organized into six groups, and each one was tasked with preparing the concept design of one of the following vessels:

- Alternative fuel bunkering vessel
- Fishing vessel
- High-speed crew transfer vessel
- Niger River RoPax ferry
- Police SCUBA boat
- Tugboat

Each group started off with a statement of design requirements that was provided by their “client,” and they researched their specific vessel type and determined their vessel’s main particulars, arrangements, and capacities. They also carried out assessments to determine their vessel’s propulsion and powering, structural arrangements, and stability characteristics.

These innovative designs also considered the environmental impact and the long-term viability of conventional diesel and other fossil fuels. When compared to conventionally-fueled ships of similar size, the design groups were able to demonstrate a 25% reduction in the use of conventional fuels through either dual-fuel or alternative propulsion arrangements.

On May 16, the students presented their results to a panel of industry professionals, many of whom also helped serve as mentors to the design groups.

This experience was the first opportunity the Class of 2025 had to apply the knowledge they’ve received at Webb and the experiences gained through three Winter Work Periods to produce a successful design. We hope that it will be the first of many.

## Alternative Fuel Bunkering Vessel

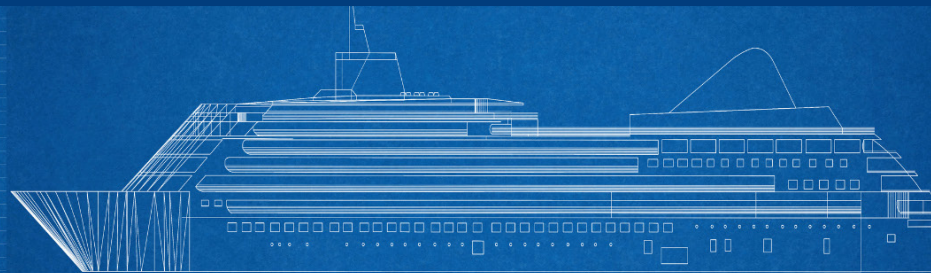
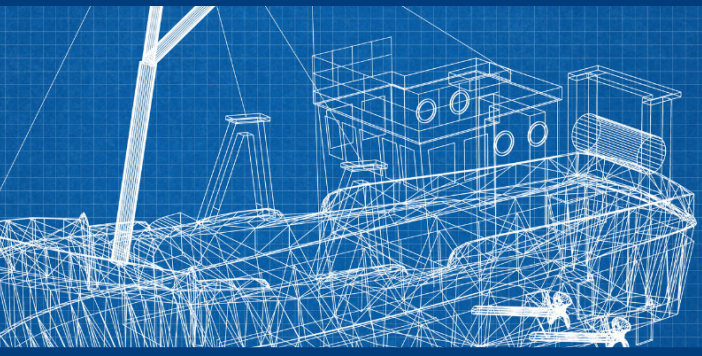


The vessel is to initially deliver LNG and later methanol to serve the port of Rotterdam. The vessels being served will include coastal cargo ships, smaller passenger vessels, and harbor vessels mostly operating within European waters, and each with a maximum fuel capacity of 600 m<sup>3</sup>. The bunkering vessels will have capacity to service 5 to 10 ships before needing to resupply at a location approximately 1,000 nm from the port of Rotterdam.

## Fishing Vessel



The vessel is a multipurpose fishing trawler that will operate along the eastern seaboard of the United States. The vessel is to work year-round, mainly fishing for bottom fish, mid-water fish, and shellfish, shifting to different fishing grounds along the east coast depending on the season. The vessel will be U.S.-flagged, and the gross tonnage of the vessel measured under the standard regulatory tonnage measurement system shall be under 200 GRT.

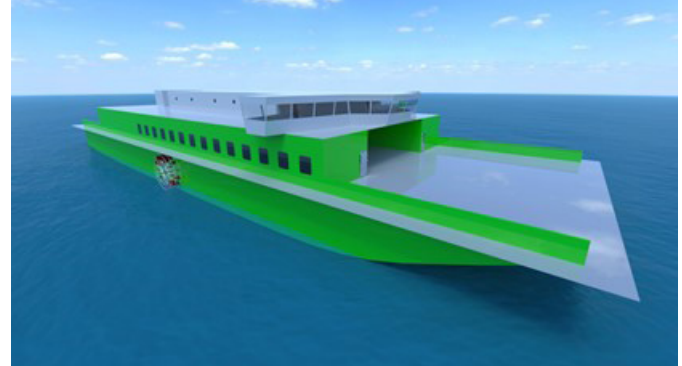


## High-Speed Crew Transfer Vessel



The vessel is to provide a stable platform for access to offshore wind turbine installations to help maintain the wind turbines once they enter operation. The services it will provide include transportation for wind turbine technicians and supplies to/from the turbines and workshops for minor repairs and maintenance of wind turbine equipment. The vessel is to operate year-round up to 100 miles offshore along the U.S. east coast and it will be a Jones Act-compliant vessel. The gross tonnage of the vessel measured under the standard regulatory tonnage measurement system shall be under 100 GRT.

## Niger River RoPax Ferry



The ferry is to transport up to 200 passengers plus crew year-round on the Niger River between Idah, Onitsha, and Ndoni, Nigeria, a distance of approximately 200 km. In addition to passengers, the ferry should be able to carry up to 20 small freight vehicles carrying agricultural products and small packaged goods.

## Police SCUBA Boat



The vessel is to provide a fast, stable platform to support the SCUBA team's activities in and around the waters of New York City, up to a distance of 10 miles offshore in most weather conditions. Incidents that the vessel will support include search and rescue, victim recovery, weapons/evidence search and recovery, counterterrorism activities, and specialty team support. To provide these services to as wide an area as possible, it is anticipated that the vessel will be able to deploy rapidly, have high-speed capability, and have a shallow draft in order to easily navigate the near-shore regions of the area's waterways.

## Tugboat



The vessel is to provide ship assist and escort services in U.S. east coast ports to large ocean-going vessels. The tugboat is to be a high-power, highly efficient, and highly maneuverable vessel than can provide ship assist services including docking, undocking, and escorting. The vessel shall also be capable of providing towing services to disabled vessels and barges, and provide emergency response, firefighting, and cleanup capabilities in and around the ports it serves. The gross tonnage of the vessel measured under the domestic regulatory tonnage measurement system shall be under 300 GRT. ITC tonnage is to be less than 500 GT.



## EMBRACING CHALLENGES & BUILDING BONDS



*by Karissa Nieves '27*

I am so grateful that I have been given this amazing opportunity to pursue my passions while living on this beautiful campus. It is an honor to be surrounded by the legacy of the countless inspiring Webbies who have paved the way before me. I cannot be more thrilled to be finishing freshman year at my dream school, though it really requires a lot of hard work and mental fortitude. Webb is demanding; the workload and schedule are rigorous, time-consuming, and at times can feel completely overwhelming. However, if you keep a positive mindset, embrace the daily joys of Webb life, and are open to the many opportunities available, you learn how to fit fun into your day to create a personal and unique work-life balance.

The Webb community is built upon respect, friendship, and a special bond that only comes from late night studying in the design studio. When you walk into Webb for orientation week, you don't realize it right away, but you are meeting the people that will soon become your family. I have been able to continue to pursue my hobbies and also start some new ones. I have found my study buddies, gym buddies, rock climbing buddies, volleyball buddies, band buddies, and more. I am really encouraged by the weekly turnout for rock climbing club which has become an integral part of my weekly routine. Our Webb family continues to be involved in the local community as well, with meaningful events such as Welwyn Cleanup and Engineering Day. It was exciting to teach students from diverse backgrounds about boats, especially the girls, because I hope to inspire more women to pursue careers in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering.

My classmate Eric and I were fortunate to intern at New England Boatworks, assisting boatbuilders as they were constructing an 80-foot catamaran superstructure in the Composites Department. Additionally, we assisted

engineers in designing rigging parts for multiple sailboats, where one happened to be a sailboat owned and designed by a Webb alum. During this time, I learned a lot about what it meant to be a working engineer and the importance of effective communication between the engineers and the machinists. I also used the Alumni Portal to reach out to Webbies in the New England area, which resulted in several informative and enjoyable meetups. It was exciting to hear about some of the career paths that could await me post-graduation.

As you can see from just my first year here, Webb Institute provides a high quality education, a fulfilling and active community, and countless opportunities that will continue post-graduation. I am thrilled to say that Webb is a place where I can be myself and become the best student engineer I can be. I am eager for what's to come in the rest of my educational journey.



*Karissa and her classmate Eric during their Winter Work internship at New England Boatworks*



by Owen Klimczak '26

# WINTER WORK INTERNSHIP

My first thought when I applied to an engineering school wasn't, "I can't wait to go out to sea!" It wasn't originally an experience I was looking forward to having. The idea of living on a ship for several weeks and sailing across 30-foot seas for the first time made me a little nervous. Yet, at Webb, every student goes out to sea their sophomore year. As we got closer to the application time for most shipping companies, to sail with them as cadets, I became more and more excited to sail. Eventually, after applying for different shipping companies and debating where to go, I decided to sail with Military Sealift Command (MSC).

MSC is an organization that controls the military transport and replenishment vessels of the United States Navy. My classmate, Caleb Breckenfelder, and I sailed on the USNS *Wally Schirra*, a T-AKE class replenishment vessel. We were underway in the South China Sea from the second day onboard. For the first week or two, we worked with our first engineer and replaced a fire sprinkler pump shaft. As we became more comfortable on the ship, we stood watch on the bridge and in the engine room, helped various crew members with projects around the ship (replaced pumps, aligned machinery, etc.), and were even given our own projects to work on, including various maintenance and safety checks that were required. We also observed and assisted with the main engine starts and checks, bunkering operations, mooring and departing procedures, launching and testing of anti-torpedo devices, and Underway Replenishments (UNREPS).

An UNREP involves a U.S. Navy vessel coming alongside a replenishment vessel for the transfer of diesel fuel, jet fuel, and pallets containing provisions, general supplies, and mail. All of this is done while maintaining a constant speed through the water.

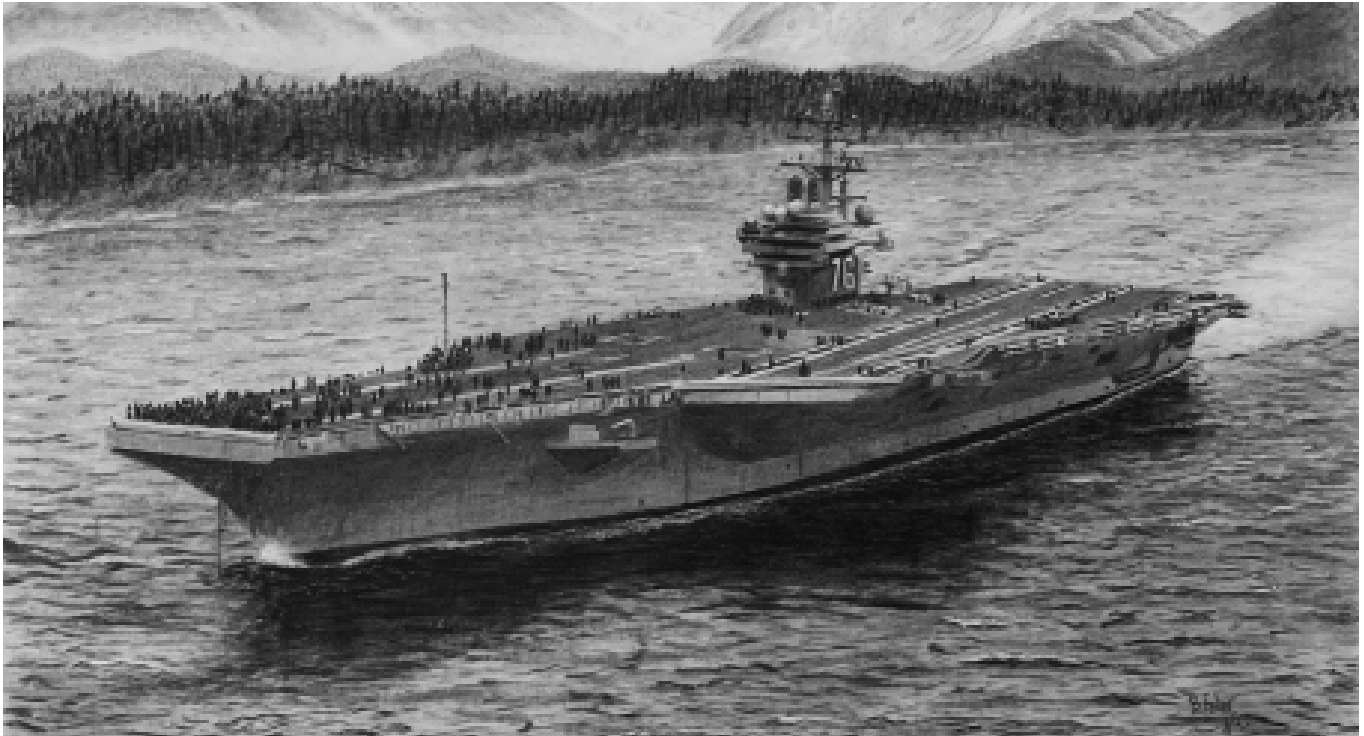
When we weren't at sea, we were in and out of Subic Bay, Philippines. Though not a tourist destination, there were beautiful mountains and lush, dense forests. Caleb and I went out exploring a few times, but spent most of our time on the ship, working on our sea term projects.

What I learned from the crew, and the practical, hands-on work I completed, was beyond valuable. I learned how to live onboard a ship, fix various machines, run vibrational tests on pumps to determine alignment, complete engineering rounds, and work with new people successfully.

I did not go into my sea term experience expecting to come out of it considering whether I should get my third engineer's license. Because of the experiences I had, I came back to Webb as a stronger student, person, and professional. I'm extremely grateful to the crew aboard the USNS *Wally Schirra* for taking me under their wings and teaching me. My experience was invaluable, and I could not have asked for a better sophomore winter work.



## BEN FISHER '11 | THE ART OF SHIPBUILDING



Growing up in rural Pennsylvania, the last thing I expected was to become a naval architect. But after seeing a *Titanic* documentary when I was four, I knew I was going to do something ship related. That initial encounter with *Titanic* sparked a love for ships (particularly with dramatic stories), as well as an obsession with drawing. So much so that by the time Middle School came to an end I struggled to identify any appealing career options, since as far as I knew “draw boats” wasn’t a real job.

But by Divine Appointment the high school art teacher at my small, rural school in the mountains of Pennsylvania knew Professor Gallagher’s family. So, he introduced me to Webb and the career of Naval Architecture.

A great irony of my time at Webb, though, was the slow decline of the time I spent really drawing boats beyond notebook doodles. That trend continued as I began my career at SAFE Boats International (near Seattle) and as my wife and I began raising our family.

By early 2020, in the midst of COVID, we decided it was time to move back to the east coast in order to be closer to family and away from the dreary Seattle winters. I took a position with Combatant Craft Division, and we began developing our homestead in the country outside of Suffolk, VA with our five children. Through much of

that time my drawing paper and pencils languished on the shelf.

It was only in late 2022, when the kids began sleeping better, that the inspiration to start drawing again struck me. I saw an old drawing from high school and wanted





to try it again. That experience reignited my love of drawing, and I launched my art studio in June 2023.

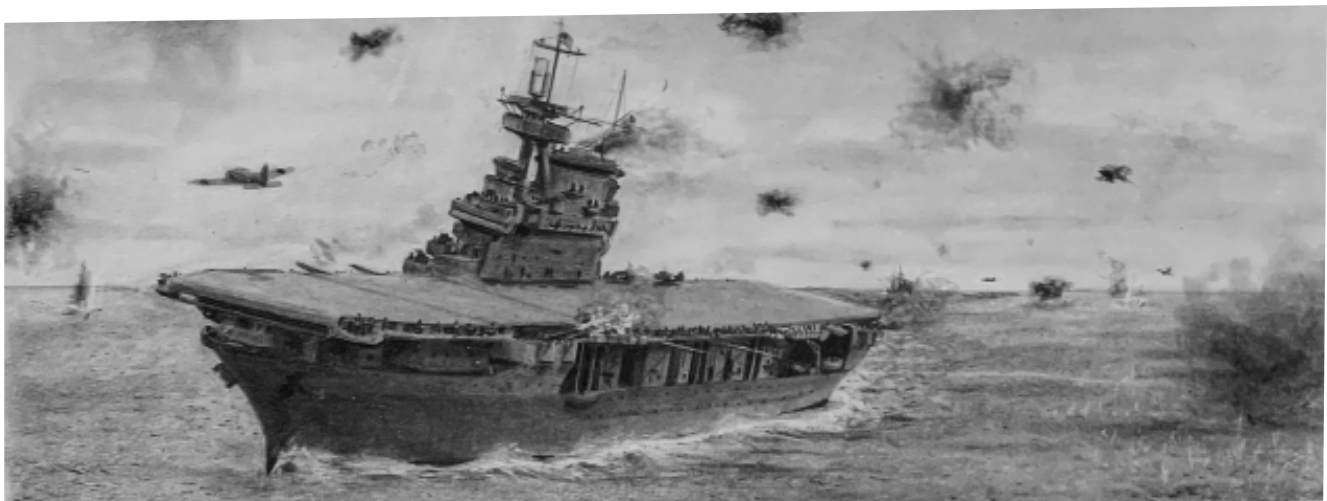
As I have started sharing my artwork, one of the surprising results has been the joy I have found in honoring and celebrating the broad maritime history and heritage we love as naval architects, but also the very personal achievements we experience in our careers. The commissions I've had the privilege to draw (so far) have celebrated either a career or specific, meaningful project. And it is such an honor to contribute to that celebration through my artwork.

The excitement I've found has inspired the idea for a drawing that will celebrate the heritage of American naval architecture broadly. The idea is an image of William Webb's *Young America* and William Francis Gibb's *United States* crossing paths. The two very patriotically named ships were launched nearly 100 years apart, and both were the product of two incredibly significant naval architects in American maritime history. I am excited about this drawing because of how meaningful I think it will be to people with connections to naval architecture and who take pride in our maritime heritage.

And so, as I am given the privilege of celebrating the achievements of my peers and our shared maritime history and heritage, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to make "draw boats" a real job after all.

If you'd like to follow my art journey, you can find my work in my online gallery at [BenFisherArt.com](http://BenFisherArt.com).

I also post regularly on social media- I'm on LinkedIn (BenjaminDFisher), Facebook (BenFisherArt) and Instagram (Naval\_Art.chitect).





# EXCHANGE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

*by Lisandro Nicoletti '24E*

I'm Lisandro Nicoletti, a Brazilian studying at the University of Southampton, UK. I chose to do a semester abroad so as to experience the excitement of my first day at university for a second time, and I chose to do this at Webb Institute in order to become a part of its well-known alumni community.

As an exchange student, my journey has been full of new experiences. If I had to pick a favourite day at Webb, it would probably be when we hosted the Engineers Cup. We spent the whole day on the water sailing with other marine-engineering-related colleges and universities. And following the sailing, I organized a traditional Brazilian barbecue at the yacht club for everyone.

Beyond campus, Webb Institute sponsored me to attend many events, including the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) held in Houston, and Broadway shows organized by Webb's Culture Club.

Looking back, I got to experience many things for the first time, from carving through the slopes of Vermont during the annual ski trip, to seeing an eclipse from a classmate's hometown, and even scuba diving in the Dominican Republic during spring break. More recently, we as a class had the opportunity to go watch a classmate's hockey game.

As the semester came to an end, I found myself looking back at all the lifelong memories and friendships, and all the invaluable professional experience I gained over my time at Webb. I can proudly say that in just one semester I gained the title of a "Webbie" – thank you Class of 2024.





# CLASS AGENT FORUM

by Jake Neuman '93

The 2024 Class Agent Forum took place during Webb's Homecoming Weekend. Twenty- seven Class Agents participated in person or via Zoom on Friday, May 17th and Saturday, May 18th. In addition to presentations from Mark Martecchini, Keith Michel, and myself, the Forum featured interactive discussions on ways to optimize class outreach in support of the Webb Alumni Fund. Several topics were covered, including Class Agent outreach that worked well, and identifying ways to customize communications where a "one size approach does not fit all." After all, Webb has approximately 1,100 alumni who are diverse in age and geographic location. One point of focus was the "Week for Webb" giving concept that has been discussed and supported in previous Class Agent Forums and addressed directly with more recent graduating classes.

As you think about your financial support of Webb, I think you will find the history of the Week for Webb interesting:

Webb's first development activity known was the initiative to create the Webb Appreciation Notes. This initiative was founded in 1922 by Morris R. Machol, class of 1903.

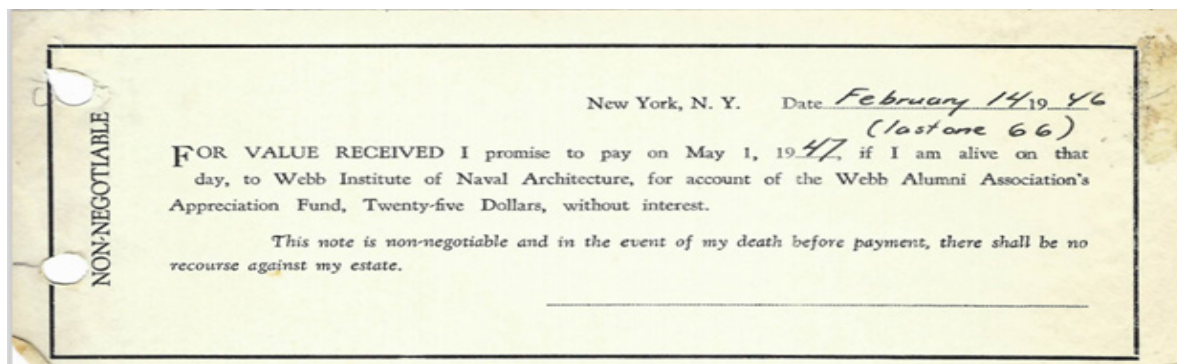
Webb Appreciation Notes were a series of twenty personal notes that every graduating senior was asked to sign, each one pledging annual support of \$25.00. The notes were "non-negotiable" and expected to be paid over the first twenty years of an alumnus' career. The late John Livingston, class of 1924, and former Chairman of the Board of Trustees observed that when the Appreciation

notes were first implemented, \$25.00 was approximately equivalent to one week's pay. It was also his view that this amount, when adjusted for current times, was an appropriate contribution for Webb graduates throughout their working careers.

This program continued through the 1950s as it has been documented that Professor Thomas Curran, the administrator of the Webb Appreciation Notes, discussed the subject of repaying Webb with all seniors. Unfortunately, the pledge amount was never adjusted for inflation, and it remained at \$25 when the program was abandoned in the 1960s.

The subject and history of Webb Appreciation Notes was discussed at the 2013 Class Agent Forum. Although there was no consideration of formally reinstating a compulsory gift, Class Agents were generally in favor of a similar concept, a "Week for Webb." Aside from this being a catchy slogan, it gave alumni a concrete example of an appropriate commitment level for Webb's Alumni Fund (WAF). A related giving concept discussed at the Forum was paying back the value of the tuition scholarship, although, paying back full tuition through a "Week for Webb" might only be achieved through 40+ years of consecutive giving, and without accounting for inflation.

The Week for Webb is thus a great starting point, in particular for younger alumni for whom the WAF average gift (~\$2,500) may not be attainable. For those who can meet and potentially exceed the WAF average gift, a plan to pay back the cost of tuition (and room and board scholarships) with inflation should be considered.



Thank you to Joe Cuneo and Matthew Werner for their research on the history.

# Message from the S.O. President: Year in Review

by Chris Grieves '24



To me, the 2023-2024 year at Webb Institute was characterized by a blend of hard work and memorable experiences. We hit the fall semester running when the class of 2027 was welcomed to the Webb family. Their class quickly became immersed in the culture, classes, and trying to win the freshmen boat race. Four students from the Class of 26 spent the semester abroad, continuing their studies at the University of Southampton. In the spring semester, Lisandro Nicolette joined the Class of 2024 as an exchange student from Southampton. Throughout the year, the Junior and Senior classes had the opportunity to attend multiple technical conferences. Four students from the Class of 2027 traveled to Los Angeles and attended the Society of Women Engineers conference. The Class of 2024 traveled to annual SNAME conference in San Diego. In the spring semester, the Class of 2025 traveled to Houston for the Offshore Technology Conference.

The traveling continued for Winter Work as Webbies were all over the world for this year's Winter Work term. This ranged from all over the United States to the Netherlands, Croatia, Australia, New Zealand, and the various ports around the world that sophomores on ship got to visit.

Outside academics, Webbies continued to be immersed in the various extra curriculums at Webb. The Webb Marine Energy Collegiate Competition (MECC) team traveled to Portland, OR, to present the work they completed throughout the year. The Webb dingy sailing team competed and took 13th place in Nationals. The Offshore Sailing Team took first in class in many races, including the Ida Lewis Distance Race, Block Island Race, and Around Long Island Regatta. The team is currently gearing up for the Newport to Bermuda race. Both the Webb soccer team and basketball teams had historic victories, soccer winning two games, basketball one. Webbies also enjoyed playing volleyball, tennis, disk golf, and many other activities around campus.

Overall, I am very grateful to have been S.O. President this last year, and I believe the year was truly memorable. I would like to congratulate the next S.O. President, Thomas Motyka '25, as well as the rest of the next Top 7. Together they are going to do a great job leading the Student Organization next year.



# Remarks from the Student Organization Vice President

by Thomas Motyka '25



With student involvement in many campus improvements, the 2023-2024 academic year proved to be a great success. Not long after the fall semester began, the Webb community threw themselves into a major renovation of the student garage. More than two dozen volunteers, prospective freshmen, and Beavers pulled together to grind the concrete floor and epoxy paint it. The interior walls were then painted blue and white, and new shelves were installed. During the garage renovation, Webbies banded together once again to help with the annual Welwyn cleanup, clearing trails, hauling brush, and cleaning up the facilities of the Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center.

Highlights of the spring semester included Engineering Day and Founder's Day. The overwhelming majority of the student body volunteered to run engineering-based activities for local elementary school kids. Engineering Day stations included building small boats from tinfoil, and testing beams made from Legos. The Webb Marine Energy Collegiate Competition (MECC) team helped the kids make models of renewable energy devices. Webbies jumped at the opportunity to improve our campus on Founder's Day, with major projects including the removal of overgrown bushes on campus, cleaning out the yacht club, and preparing the Bollinger Courtyard for the installation of new sod. The year ended with the election of next year's student organization leaders. I would like to congratulate the next Student Organization Vice President, Luke Feeney '26, and I am excited to see what the current underclasses can do to make Webb better next year as they step into their new leadership roles. I would like to personally thank all the students who volunteered to help with this year's projects, and I would like to send out a special thank you to Eli Murray '25 for the major roles he played in the student garage renovation and Founder's Day.



# Campus News



## A Year in Review

by Phoebe Garrett '25

Over the past two years, I have served as Co-Chair of the Social Committee, a role that has provided me with the meaningful opportunity to bring Webb's student body together outside of the classroom. As I enter my senior year and reflect on the traditions and new experiences we are able to share as a community, I recognize how these united moments encourage personal growth as well as stronger connections with one another, both of which define the unique experience integral to a Webb education.

My Co-Chair this past year, Annabel Bornebusch, and I shared a common goal to celebrate student life and foster a sense of community on campus. We loved working together to execute our vision.

The commencement of the year began with a joyful Welcome Back Social geared to introduce the freshman to their new home and family- including faculty, staff, and the returning student body. Subsequent fall-semester highlights included the Halloween Party hosted by the freshman class, a faculty-judged pumpkin carving contest, and Oktoberfest.

The senior class hosted Casino Night which included lots of games, a silent auction full of fun prizes, as well as live music from the talented Max Mah '24. The Christmas Party, our final fall-semester celebration, was a cozy gathering where students donned their pajamas, decorated gingerbread houses, and gifted each other with creative presents.

In the spring semester, we held a pie-baking competition in honor of Pi Day. The junior and sophomore classes hosted festive parties in the pub on St. Patty's Day and Cinco de Mayo.

Our biggest event of the year, Webstock, always takes place in early June, as it represents one of the last hurrahs before final exams. This year, the front lawn served as the event venue where alumni, students, faculty, and guests enjoyed performances by 10 different bands, a playground of large inflatables slides, obstacle courses, and lawn games, as well as a snow cone machine and BBQ feast.

Finally, Gatsby was a beautiful celebration marking the conclusion of a successful school year. Seeing my peers and their guests enjoy the sun setting over the Long Island Sound in formal attire is one of my favorite memories of the year. We all enjoyed a catered Italian meal, danced to live music by a local 1920s swing band, and took lots of pictures to commemorate the night. The event would not have been as special without the generous sponsorship offered again by the Class of 2008, in loving memory of their inspiring classmate, Johanna Lee Exner. Johanna was a passionate leader during her time at Webb committed to social experiences, and her legacy continues to live on at Webb today.



*The Winning Pumpkin for the Pumpkin Carving Contest*



*Max Mah '24 Playing Music at Casino Night*



*Students at the Pie-Baking Competition*



*Women of Webb at St. Patty's Day Party*

Over the past year, Annabel and I have been able to be more successful in our execution of events because of the support and mentorship offered by Alyssa Caliguri, Gailmarie Sujecki, Laurie Martecchini, and Kayla Green. We would like to thank them for their dedication to enriching the social opportunities at Webb and for inspiring us with their gracious approach and benevolence. Serving on the Social Committee has underscored how the experiences students share both inside and outside of the classroom contribute to our education during the four years spent at Webb. The traditions and social opportunities encourage the student body to foster friendships, develop support networks, be present and active within our community, and find positive outlets to reduce the pressures inherent in our academic lives. Collectively, these add dimension to our education, encourage us to build life skills and lifelong relationships, and prepare us for the obstacles and adventures that await us.

As my term on the Social Committee has come to an end, I know the 2024-2025 year will be full of fun and significant moments under new leadership. I also am excited to have taken on my new position as Honor Council Chair. It is a privilege to serve in this capacity and uphold the honor code that embodies Webb and the character of its student body. As the first female student who has been elected to this role, I am excited for the opportunity and am committed to promoting a supportive and equitable environment in which Webbies continue to help each other succeed.



*Michael Coppi '25 enjoying the slip and slide*



*The Webb Offshore Sailing Team dressed up for Gatsby*



*Students dancing to live music at Webbstock*



*Webbstock Posters drawn by Phoebe Garrett*



*The SOCO Co-Chairs, Phoebe Garrett '25 & Annabel Bornebusch '26 at their last party of the year*

# Campus News

## FOUNDER'S DAY 2024

by Professor Richard Harris

Certainly, one of the highlights of one's experience at Webb is Founder's Day, which has usually been celebrated in April or May of each year. Edwin Dunbaugh's *A Centennial History of Webb Institute of Naval Architecture* (1989) makes no mention of when the annual celebration began, but it is clear from copies of Founder's Day notes, copies of speeches, and comments in issues of *The Binnacle* that some sort of celebration was observed on an annual basis at least from the early 1930s on.

Evidently, the day was celebrated, in the early years of the 20th century, with a visit from the original campus in the Bronx to the Webb mausoleum in the Woodlawn Cemetery, which was only two miles away. These visits to the cemetery were always held on the first Monday, in May and involved the whole faculty and student body making the trip to lay a wreath at the gravesite.

With the move from the Bronx campus to Glen Cove in 1947, the formal annual Founder's Day visits to the Woodlawn Cemetery ended. (Since then, on a different day in the spring, some students and faculty members have continued to visit Woodlawn to clean up the area around Mr. Webb's resting place.) In the 1950s and 1960s, Founder's Day was usually observed with a moment of silence in the Reception Room and the laying of a wreath in front of the fireplace under the portrait of Mr. Webb. At some point, surely by the 1970s, the observance apparently was marked simply by a moment of silence in remembrance though several members of those graduating classes admit to not remembering anything about Founder's Day.

Founder's Day as we know it today, however, is something much different. According to Webb Professor Bradley Golden (Class of '99), Matt Collette (also Class of '99) proposed the idea of reviving Founder's Day by giving back to the school through a program based on students, faculty, and staff undertaking tasks on campus that needed to be done and could be accomplished in one day. This suggestion was strongly encouraged and supported by EE Professor John Hennings (Professor Emeritus 2012). The program we celebrate today, with the various tasks being done on a Friday afternoon in May, a dinner, a toast to Mr. Webb, and a Founder's Day speaker, represents the continuation of the changes established over twenty years ago now. May the celebration as it exists today be continued for Webb students to experience and to enjoy in the future. All of us at Webb are indebted to Mr. Webb for his generosity, and our Founder's Day expression of appreciation is only one way of thanking him for the opportunity he continues to make possible.



Alison Granger was our Guest Speaker





# ANCHOR CLUB

by Eugene "Jack" Jackson '26

The Anchor Club, Webb's Christian fellowship, has continued our tradition of meeting twice a week to spend time reading and reflecting on the Bible, worshipping the Lord in song, serving Webb.

Some of our events include a contribution to the international Operation Christmas Child project with a donation of over 90 boxes containing toys for children in impoverished areas world-wide. This was brought to completion by the contributions of Webb students, faculty, and families, totaling more than \$1,000! We met for outreach events, beach bonfires, and home-cooked barbecue at the generous invitation of Pastor Dave Collins '73.

*"Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity and godly sincerity." 2 Corinthians 1:12*

Our focus this year has been on knowing the heart of God in His revealed word. This has directed our Bible studies group to consider the character of God through the work of various authors, to survey the wisdom literature and its various unique approaches to God and creation, and to explore various instances in the Life of Jesus recorded in the gospels.

We look forward to continuing the legacy of the Anchor Club for years to come and are grateful to all of our members for their participation and support.



by Maxwell Rothschild '26

Leadership is an important part of personal development and a crucial skill for anyone working with or heading a team. The Leadership Committee has been hard at work this year, giving students the opportunity to test and improve their leadership skills.

This year the Leadership Committee held a multitude of activities and initiatives, including the Welwyn Preserve cleanup, Engineering Day, the student mentor/mentee program, field day, and a solar eclipse watch party. The mentor/mentee program assigns an upperclassman or sophomore mentor to each freshman. This program allows freshmen easy access to advice or information that they can use to kick start their Webb career. This year the program kicked off with field day and an ice cream social. These activities helped to form a bond between mentors and mentees and welcome the freshman class to Webb!

Engineering Day emerged as a highlight attracting over 40 participants who rotated through three different enjoyable engineering challenges. The activity leaders and their assistants put together exciting and engaging problem-solving tasks, which helped the fourth through sixth grade students become excited about engineering and the marine field. Engineering day would not be possible without the amazing team of students who came together to organize every aspect of the day's events! Every student involved proved how the Webb community can come together to make remarkable things happen.

Looking ahead, the Leadership Committee will be focusing on building career-oriented skills, creating a more positive campus climate, and leading more service-based initiatives on and off campus.

# Athletics

## -- A Note From -- THE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

by Pat Doherty

The Webb soccer team, coached by Bryant Michel, finished in 2nd place for the 2023 Scholar Athlete Cup, with some very promising freshman on the pitch.

The Scholar Athlete Cup is a yearly tournament with Culinary Institute and Cooper Union. We each do a Home and Away game.

We say goodbye to five 2024 Seniors: Captain Addison Pope, Jack Otto, Tim Lazouski, Elliot Ocheltree and Miguel Sanchez.

Webb's Dinghy Sailing team has once again qualified for the 2024 ICSA National Championships this spring which were held at MIT and Harvard on May 24-27.

Over the past four years, Webb has been well represented and successful. We say goodbye to four 2024 Seniors: Payne Donaldson, Kenna Reed, Evan Spaulding and Kadi Zheng.

Their dedication has been superb and their leadership on the water has built a

Webbies spent a lot of time in the gym playing intramural volleyball this season. For the second straight year, Webb and the USMMA have arranged a Home and Away series that has been very successful.

We are optimistic that next year will see inter-collegiate volleyball return.

Webb tennis once again played at the US Tennis Center against Vaughn College. It's great to see the Webb tennis courts being used quite a lot.

We say goodbye to 2024 Seniors, Zane Ballister and Max Mah. Besides mastering his outstanding version of the Freebird solo at Webbstock this year,



Max stepped up to win his first singles match!

We are happy to announce the return of Women's Basketball in the Fall of 2024.

Captain Rebecca Carson '26 will rally the team, and they already have several games scheduled this Fall.



## WEBB'S BASKETBALL



*by Professor, Richard Harris*

Webb's 2023 basketball season saw problems with scheduling; we could arrange for only four games over the six weeks that normally make up the Webb basketball season. Again, we won a game, only one game, but, Oh!, what could have been!

The first game of the season vs. The New School was especially exciting, and disappointing. We led 46-44 with seven seconds left, when a New School player who was falling down, launched a desperation twenty-five-foot shot that banked off the backboard and went through the net as the buzzer sounded. New School 47, Webb 46.

Our second game, against the Culinary Institute of America (CIA), the team we beat last year, resulted in another close game, which we won 39-32. Andrew Karafa led Webb with sixteen points, and Oskar Caldarone and Caleb Breckenfelder each contributed eight.

Our next game vs. Vaughn College was, as always, a rout. This team seems to have some very good NYC playground talent as well as an age advantage. (One player, when asked, said he was 32.)

The final game was a return meeting with CIA. We were ahead with about twelve minutes left in the second half of this game, when starting guard Ethan DesJardins sprained his ankle and was unable to continue. Despite our getting 16 points from the other starting guard, Caleb Breckenfelder, we simply couldn't hold the lead. Final score: CIA 52, Webb 46.

So, how do I evaluate the 2023 season? Accentuate the positive. We are getting better. Without the desperation 25-footer and the injury to Ethan, we could well have been 3 and 1.

With all five starters returning in 2024 and an experienced group of other players ready to step in—and maybe with a couple of rising sophomore walk-ons, we are ready to be good in 2024. This fall may be Webb's most exciting basketball season in many years.

## ARCHERY



*by Assistant Professor  
Dr. Matthew McMahon*

Archery is a niche sport that teaches focus, consistency, and discipline while also providing low-impact strength training. On the competitive level, archers use modern, high accuracy compound and recurve style bows as well as traditional wooden bows. Professor Matthew McMahon, having a background in competitive recurve archery, formed an archery component of the Outdoor Club upon joining Webb in Fall 2022 with the assistance of Dean Matthew Werner and (recently graduated) Senior, Alex DeMeo.

Successful funding efforts have led to the acquisition of the necessary equipment to hold regular archery practice with up to 10 students, as well as the infrastructure needed to set up an indoor archery range within the Alumni Gymnasium. Today, students are able to learn and practice archery both indoors and outdoors, at Webb as the weather allows. Weekly practice allows students to build accuracy and strength while clearing their minds of the week's classwork. Pictures are regularly taken of the first 10's hit, or better yet, the first group of arrows a student lands in the bullseye.

Next year, efforts will increasingly turn towards 3-D target archery and competition on Long Island as students continue to practice and build up competition-level skillsets. In this way, archery will provide Webb students a constructive outlet through which they may hone their excellence both in and out of the classroom.

# Webb Alumni Association Report:

## *It Has Been a Year Already!*



**Leah Sosa '08**  
*President of the Webb Alumni*

I'm honored to have recently been elected as president of the Webb Alumni Association, and I look forward to serving the association during my two-year term. I would like to thank my predecessor Ted Dickenson '92 for his hard work over the past two years. During his term, he was very engaged with the WAA through his regular newsletters and polls to the alumni, and through his presence at WAA events. He set a fantastic example for me to follow. Thanks, Ted!

This year's Homecoming was a busy one, with other events on campus tagging-on to the weekend including the Board Meeting, Class Agent Forum, and Heritage Society dinner. The campus was buzzing, and it was a joy to see so many alumni, students, and other members of the Webb family mingling in the halls and courtyards.

At Homecoming, the WAA held their Annual Meeting which was attended by over 60 alumni both in person and online. The Class of 2024 was inducted into the WAA with a unanimous vote (26 seniors, inclusive of one Southampton exchange student). We were pleased to present athletic awards to four students: Tim Lazowski '24 (basketball participation and soccer team captain), Ella Wilson '25 (soccer), Caleb Breckenfelder '26 (soccer and basketball), Oskar Caldarone '27 (soccer, tennis, and basketball). After

that, the new WAA Executive committee was elected. In addition to president, Jacob Genauer '10 was elected as vice president, Steve Pagan '88 as treasurer, and Nathan Hagan '12 as secretary. Additionally, elections were held for the auditing committee (Jay Edgar '87 and Michael Abbruscato '11) and nominating committee (Robert Bunnell '77 and Jenna Ferrieri '11).

The Class Agent Forum, organized by Jake Neuman '93, chairman of the alumni fund, was held on the Friday and Saturday of Homecoming weekend. Jake gathered 25+ class agents in-person and online to discuss alumni giving and to share best practices on how to drive engagement among alumni with the WAF. Class agents left the forum energized to wrap up this year's WAF campaign, and with new ideas to implement for the future. Huge thanks to Jake for his tireless efforts as Chairman of the WAF!

Planning is currently underway for the Webb Alumni Annual Banquet in Norfolk, VA, which will be held alongside the SNAME Maritime Convention in October. Keep your eyes open for more details to come and we will look forward to seeing you there!

### WAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Leah Sosa '08**  
*President*

**Jacob Genauer '10**  
*Vice President*

**Nathan Hagan '12**  
*Secretary*

**Steve Pagan '88**  
*Treasurer*

**Andrew Pidduck '19**  
*Fifth Member*

**Eric Linsner '70**  
*Sixth Member*

**Jake M. Neuman '93**  
*Chairman, Alumni Fund*

**Ted Dickenson '92**  
*Past President*

**Matthew R. Werner '95,  
PG'97**  
*Historian*

**Spencer Schilling '82**  
*Member at Large*

**Joe Signorelli '54**  
*Member at Large*

**Katri Heitman '19**  
*Member at Large*

**Jay Edgar '87**  
*Audit Committee*

**Mike Abbruscato '11**  
*Audit Committee*

**Bob Bunnell '77**  
*Nominating Committee*

**Jenna Ferrieri '11**  
*Nominating Committee*



# REGIONAL EVENTS

by Eric Linsner '70



**Eric Linsner '70**  
*Sixth Member*

In 2024, The Webb Alumni Association held seven Regional Events, which was two more than in 2023. The purpose of the Regional Events is to allow networking of local alumni in one of the fourteen Webb Alumni Association regions. These events were organized by the Regional Coordinators on a voluntary basis with grateful assistance from Gailmarie Sujecki, Webb director of Alumni Affairs.

The Regional Events are scheduled during the Winter Work Term or during the Offshore Technology Conference attended by the Junior class. Students on their internships in the local area are invited to attend the events, and arrangements were made to subsidize student attendance, as necessary, to encourage participation and interaction with the alumni. Students, at the Webb homecoming, expressed their appreciation for a chance to meet the alumni and acquire information on the prospects for future employment and living in the region.

As noted, the events took place in a variety of venues, including in one case, the home of a student's parents. The participation was good and made for memorable experiences and connections which are a testament to a vibrant and engaged Webb community spanning the decades. The Webb alumni can look forward to more such regional gatherings in the coming year.

DATE	REGION	LOCATION	ORGANIZER	VENUE
Jan. 14	Southern California	San Diego, CA	N. Ratinaud* '18	Balboa Park
Jan. 19	Northern New England	Topsam, ME	Russ Hoffman* '74	Fairground Cafe
Jan. 20	Greater Boston	Lexington, MA	Ian Mutnick* '96	Home
Jan. 31	New York	Manhattan, NY	Bradley Golden* '99	Whitehorse Tavern
Feb. 11	Southern New England	Pawcatuck, RI	Evan Spaulding '24	Home
Feb. 20	Pacific Northwest	Seattle, WA	Ben Hunt* '21	Freemont Brewing
May 8	Texas	Houston, TX	Peter Wallace* '93	Rice University
	* Regional Coordinator			



## HERITAGE SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT

# Webb Has Always Been a Part of the Bethge Family

*by Melissa Bethge Shepstone*

It's clearly safe to say that Webb has been a major component in the extended Bethge Family's lives over the past 70 years.

Pete Bethge '53 entered Webb after growing up without a family for much of his young life. Webb quickly became the focus of his life, offering not only a top-notch education, but fostering a sense of belonging and commitment that has continued to this day. After graduation and a short stint in the Naval Reserve as the SUPSHIP in Leavenworth Kansas(!), Pete joined Walz & Krenzer Inc. as a Project Engineer. Over the next 43 years, he designed watertight/airtight/blast-proof custom closures for both the maritime and commercial industries. He retired in 1997 as President and Chairman of the Board of Directors. His support of Webb since graduation is a testament to his appreciation of what he received from Webb. He has been a Group Leader, Class Agent, President of the Alumni Association, Trustee, and the recipient of the W. Selkirk Owen Award. His now deceased wife Joyce also took an active role at Webb, almost single-handedly running the Alumni Office for years.



*Victor (Pete) Bethge '53*

He and Joyce became some of the first members of the Heritage Society, naming Webb as a beneficiary in both of their life insurance policies, setting up a Charitable Gift Annuity in Webb's name, as well as including bequests in his estate planning. Last year he reached the 70-year mark for "Every Year" contributions in the Webb Alumni Fund. He has always felt that he has gotten back so much more than he could ever repay.

But the most important impact of Pete's symbiotic relationship with Webb might just be its effect on his family.

Pete met Steve Shepstone '77 on the tennis court at Webb while he was a trustee and Steve a student. As Steve tells it, Pete never mentioned to him that he had any daughters, probably because Steve looked like Charles Manson at the time with his long hair and beard. However, Pete's wife Joyce took a liking to Steve and cooked up a scheme with Mike Spencer, her friend and Webb Housemother, to introduce him to their oldest daughter Melissa. The two matchmakers set up a "surprise" meeting for Steve and Melissa at a Webb square dance, and it worked, as the two decided to get married two months later. Steve also joined Walz & Krenzer (WK)/Mapeco Products after graduation, and like Pete, rose to become President of the company before retiring. While at WK, Steve worked to broaden the scope of WK's products in both the maritime and industrial sectors, designing moon pool doors for research vessels, shock doors for navy vessels, high pressure doors for dams and mines around the world, and WK's first million-dollar watertight door for a tunnel in NYC. Steve and Melissa made the decision to join the Heritage Society in their early 30s.

The first life insurance policy they took out named Webb as one of the beneficiaries. Since then, they have included Webb in their estate planning, leaving a specified percentage of their estate to Webb, the place where they not only fell in love but also had the first-ever wedding and reception held at Webb.

At the same time Steve and Melissa were enjoying Webb together, Pete's younger daughter Penny was dating Peter Zahn ('80). The Webb magic worked again, and they married shortly after Peter graduated. After graduation, Peter joined the R&D team at Arctec Inc., conducting field research and working on development of ice capable ships and systems. Eventually, he also worked in each of their five basins, including testing for several America's Cup syndicates. After a decade he took a "temporary" job with Advanced Marine Enterprises joining what became the largest concentration of Webbies anywhere. He continued with that team supporting Navy and Coast Guard systems engineering and design through four corporate mergers, acquisitions, and divestitures, finally relinquishing leadership of what is now CACI International's maritime services business in 2023. Peter and Penny have been long-time supporters of Webb through their financial support and their involvement in the Alumni Association. They are currently looking into the various options for supporting Webb through the Heritage Society. But wait -- there's more! Their oldest son, Matthew is also a Webbie ('05), and he and his wife Julia have continued the family tradition of giving back to Webb. Matt took a slightly different career path than the rest of his Webbie family. After graduation, he was hired by CSC, where he was involved in work developing, designing, and testing requirements and solutions for bringing soldiers, Marines, and equipment ashore from the sea. He was then "stolen" by the Navy and entered the sphere of Navy design and management. Multiple assignments in a variety of classes as Ship Design Manager have led to his current position of Ship Design Manager and Technical Warrant Holder for an emergent ship program, the T-AGOS 25 class. Matt has also recently begun volunteering to assist the Webb seniors in their design projects.

Webb's importance to the family spans generations, as does the family's commitment to helping ensure its future. I think Matt speaks for the entire family when expressing, "I came from a family deeply tied to Webb, and I continue to be unable to fully express the gratitude I have for Webb for providing that opportunity to me and my whole family." Steve and Melissa note that the Heritage Society is one of the easiest ways to give back to Webb. It's often hard to donate enough when you are younger and have so many financial responsibilities. By naming Webb as a beneficiary of both our life insurance policies and in our estates, we can help ensure Webb's "magic" continues forever.



*Steve '77 & Melissa Bethge Shepstone*



*L. to R: Peter Zahn '80, Steve Shepstone '77, Matthew Zahn '05, Pete Bethge '53*

The Webb Heritage Society recognizes alums, family members and friends who have been inspired to leave a lasting legacy to Webb through planned gifts. We hope that other members of the Webb Family – including alums, their children, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents – will be inspired to support the intergenerational sustainability of Webb Institute through membership in Webb's Heritage Society.

For information on the many ways to make a planned gift and become a member of the Heritage Society, and/or to learn how individuals 70½ years of age or older can make tax-advantaged contributions to Webb by direct IRA roll-over, visit <http://webbinstitute.plannedgiving.org/webbinstitute/giving/1.html> and/or contact me at [webbpgchair@webb.edu](mailto:webbpgchair@webb.edu), or our Director of Development, Anthony Zic, at [azic@webb.edu](mailto:azic@webb.edu) or 516-759-2040.

I am particularly pleased with this year's Heritage Society Spotlight as it shines on a patriarch (Pete Bethge '53) who has been a role model for me through his life-long support of Webb in more ways than I can count.

John A. Malone '71  
Planned Giving Chairman



# THESIS SPOTLIGHT

## HARNESSING NATURE'S DANCE: VORTEX-INDUCED VIBRATIONS AND THE MARINE ENERGY COLLEGIATE COMPETITION



*William Calli '24*

In the relentless pursuit of sustainable energy sources, scientists and engineers have often turned their gaze toward the ocean for inspiration. One such naturally occurring process that has captured the imagination of researchers is vortex-induced vibration (VIV), a mesmerizing dance of fluid dynamics that occurs when a fluid flows past a cylindrical or streamlined structure, generating alternating vortices and causing the structure to oscillate.

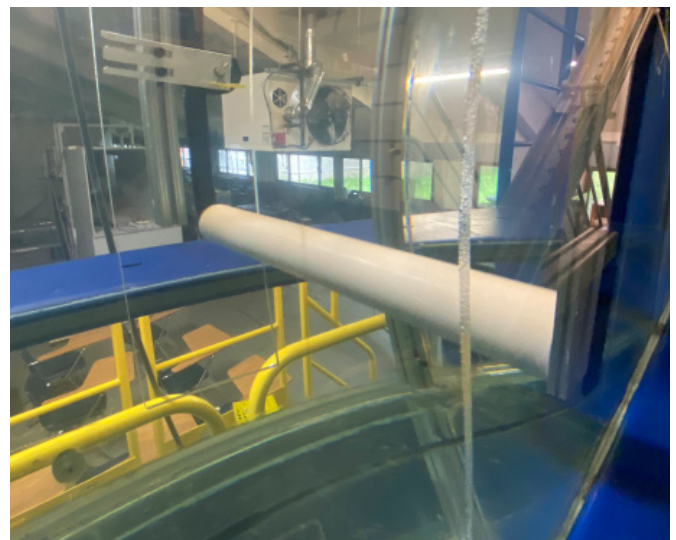
In recent years, a series of Webb theses have explored utilizing this captivating natural occurrence for a noble cause: energy generation. The concept is elegantly simple yet profoundly effective. By placing structures engineered to exploit VIV in bodies of moving water, such as oceans or rivers, we can convert the kinetic energy of flowing water into electrical power.

The essence of VIV energy generation lies in its ability to capitalize on the Von Karman Vortex Street, a naturally occurring fluid-structure interaction. As water flows past a strategically positioned array of cylinders or flexible structures, the alternating vortices induce oscillations, which can be converted into electrical energy using various mechanisms such as piezoelectric materials, electromagnetic generators, scotch yokes, or in the case of this year's thesis being carried out by Calli and Sanchez '24, a rack and pinion.

The beauty of VIV-based systems lies not only in their potential to generate clean energy but also in their adaptability to diverse marine environments. Whether deployed deep below the tumultuous waves of the open ocean or immersed in the steady currents of a river, these systems can gracefully dance to the rhythm of nature, tirelessly generating power without emitting harmful greenhouse gases or depleting finite resources.

Enter the Marine Energy Collegiate Competition, a competition hosted by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. For the third year in a row, this prestigious competition has invited Webb to compete among teams of students from around the country to design, build, test, and create a business case for their own marine energy devices. Webb's entry into this competition is sure to stand out with an excellent technical design for a full-scale device, a business case centered around lowering the cost of energy for rural Alaskans, and model testing conducted as part of Calli and Sanchez's thesis in Webb's circulating water channel.

In the grand tapestry of our quest for sustainability, Webb thesis work on VIV-based energy generation stands as a testament to the ingenuity of Webb students and the powerful lessons to be learned from nature.



*Turning Flow into Power: Harnessing Vortex-Induced Vibrations with a Flutter-Foil*





# *DATES OF INTEREST*

**CLASSES START**  
August 19, 2024

**FAMILY WEEKEND**  
September 20-22, 2024

**FALL BREAK**  
October 18 (3 pm) -21, 2024

**SNAME MARITIME CONVENTION  
IN NORFOLK, VA**  
October 14-16, 2024

**FALL RECESS**  
November 22 (3 pm) - December 1, 2024

**CLASSES END**  
December 6, 2024

**GRADES ISSUED**  
December 16, 2024

**WINTER WORK**  
January 2 - February 28, 2025

**START OF SPRING SEMESTER**  
March 3, 2025

**SPRING RECESS**  
April 18 (3 pm) - April 27, 2025

**FOUNDER'S DAY**  
May 2, 2025

**HOMECOMING**  
May 17, 2025

**LAST DAY OF CLASSES**  
June 18, 2025

**FINAL EXAMS**  
June 20-24, 2025

**COMMENCEMENT**  
June 21, 2025



# Alumni News | In Memoriam

## 1951x

**Orris B. "O.B." James, Jr.** passed away on September 12, 2023, at the age of 94. He was preceded in death earlier that same year by his wife of 60 years, Nancy. He is survived by his two children and three grandchildren.

When the Korean War started, O.B. left Webb and enlisted in the Navy, serving for four years as a Radarman First Class. He then entered the University of Richmond, graduating with a degree in finance. He spent the next nine years as a stockbroker before switching over to banking. He spent the remainder of his career at banks in Norfolk, Charlottesville, and Richmond that are now part of Truist.

After retirement, he was active in his residential community in Williamsburg, as treasurer of Governor's Land Foundation and as President of Two Rivers Country Club.

## 1953

**John W. Larson** passed away on on August 10, 2023, in Maple Glen, PA at the age of 91. John attended Shrub Oak Central School, Webb Institute of Naval Architecture, University of Michigan, and Virginia Tech. He worked at Pratt and Whitney Aircraft, General Electric, and the Department of Energy.

He is survived by his wife, Cynthia.

## 1954

**Tom N. Manuel** passed away at the age of 92. Tom had a distinguished career in naval architecture and marine engineering before shifting to computers in 1960.



He contributed to the creation of the COBOL programming language and produced software for California's first computer-controlled scoreboard. After retiring from G.E. in 1988, he bought a canvas manufacturing and service company in Ardmore, PA.

Tom was active in the Webb Alumni Association, serving on the Executive Committee and as President from 1966-68. He received the W. Selkirk Owen Award in 2004 and was Class Agent until 2006. Tom is survived by his wife Jean, two children, and two grandchildren. A memorial service will be held at Nassau Knolls Cemetery in Port Washington, Long Island.

## 1958

**John G. Williamson** of Quarry Hill, Camden, ME, passed away at the age of 86 with family at his side on January 4, 2024, after a long and tenacious battle with Parkinson's disease.

John met Hayden Kurtz, the love of his life, on Long Island while attending Webb Institute of Naval Architecture. They married in 1958 and quickly started a family.

John's early career was in naval design with Texaco and then Esso/Exxon. At Esso, he took a six-week training course to learn about a new tool called a "computer," launching a career in information systems that spanned 33 years. John's career with Esso took

him and his family around the world. They lived in the Hague, Netherlands; Brussels, Belgium; Bogota, Colombia; Caracas, Venezuela; Miami, Florida; and Florham Park, NJ.



John enthusiastically embraced every opportunity offered within each community he lived in, including sailing, Scottish dancing, horseback riding/jumping, target shooting, cattle ranching, musical theater, choral singing, scuba diving, skiing, long-distance cycling, marathon running, triathlons, winemaking, clogging, playing the recorder and much, much more.

After retiring from Esso/Exxon, he and Hayden moved to Boulder, CO. There, he earned an M.A. and Psy.D. in psychology and established a private practice specializing in the treatment of ADHD and trauma. In his spare time, he joined the over 55+ ski club, biked the extensive Boulder trail system, climbed Colorado's 14,000-foot peaks, and served as the president of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Boulder.

Following a diagnosis of Parkinson's, he and Hayden moved to Quarry Hill in Camden, ME, to be closer to family. There he joined the Midcoast Community Chorus, set up a men's support group, joined the local Parkinson's group, volunteered at the Sussman Hospice House with his poodle Addie, and rode his recumbent trike.



John is survived by his wife of 65 years, Hayden, a son, two daughters, and five grandchildren.

## 1969

**Eric Runnerstrom** age 77, died of heart failure on January 3, 2024, in the house that he built. He was born in Bayville (Long Island), NY.



At the age of 16 he built his first car engine, a 3.4-litre Jaguar XK with a dual overhead camshaft. Whether his engine ever made

it to the inside of a car is unknown. That same year he began a boat-maintenance-and-repair business, in which he found ample joy from the maintenance work and ample aggravation in dealing with his customers.

Following his high school graduation, he was one of twelve people in the country to be given a full-tuition invitation to the Webb Institute of Naval Architecture in Glen Cove, Long Island, New York. In addition to being a prestigious college, Webb's original campus building was also used as the movie set of Wayne Manor in the 1995 film *Batman Forever* starring Val Kilmer, which Eric was later forced to rewatch by his son countless times following its release to home video.

Eric joined the United States Navy in 1970. He served a tour of duty in the Vietnam War from 1970-72, which took him to Australia, Thailand, Japan, and Hawaii.

In 1974, after being awarded a Letter of Commendation as a Ship Superintendent, the Navy sent him to MIT where he achieved a degree in Ocean Engineering and a Masters in Naval Architecture and was awarded the Naval Sea Systems Command Award for best total performance in the graduating class.

In the summer of 1986, Eric was assigned to oversee a Naval project based in Pentagon City, VA, where he met Michelle. They eloped and were married on the Nevada side of Lake Tahoe. They settled in Long Beach.

Eric retired from the United States Navy in 1989 as a decorated Commander. In May, after driving across the country, he and Michelle bought a house in Falls Church, VA. He also started working for MPR Associates, an engineering firm in Old Town, Alexandria, retiring from MPR in January 2019.

He was preceded by his son Eric and is survived by his loving wife Michelle, and their son; three daughters and his three grandchildren.

## 1992

**Christopher Dlugokecki** of Boynton Beach, FL, lost his year-long battle with cancer and passed away on February 29, 2024, at the age of 55. He faced the battle with courage and never quit trying to survive. He is survived by his wife, Maria, and their two sons, Christopher and Michael, his mother, Florence, and his sister, Vicky '88.

Chris was born on Long Island, NY, to Charles, a New York City police officer, and Florence, an office manager and bookkeeper in Long Island City. His father coached his little league baseball teams and worked the stopwatch at his swim meets. His mother, sensing his love of music at an early age, started

him with piano lessons at five years old. He and his older sister Vicky were inseparable as kids. Chris went to Sewanhaka High School, where he was voted Most Musical and marched down 5th Avenue playing the drums during the Columbus Day Parade. He graduated from Webb Institute of Naval Architecture in 1992, and at the time, Chris and his sister Vicky were the first brother and sister to graduate from Webb. He started on his career in the maritime industry, which brought him from New York to Florida to San Diego and back to Florida again. He held various technical, marketing and management positions at Gibbs and Cox, R.K. Johns and Associates, V-Ships, Lloyds Register, RINA, NASSCO, CMI Ship Management and finally Sun Stone Ships, where he was the Executive Vice President of Operations.



Chris met his wife Maria in Florida, and they had two sons, Christopher, now 18 years old and Michael, now 12 years old. Like his dad with him, Chris coached his sons' little league teams, cheered them on at their swim meets, and went to all their musical recitals. His son Christopher is currently attending Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, majoring in business, and his son Michael, even at this young age, knows that he wants to follow in his father and aunt's footsteps and build a career in the marine field. Chris is remembered for always having a big



# Alumni News In Memoriam

smile on his face, his sense of humor and never passing by a piano and not sitting down to play a tune or two. He will be missed dearly by his family, friends, and colleagues.

## Honorary

**Dr. Angela Chao**, Chair and CEO of the Foremost Group, died in a car accident on her property in Texas.

Angela Chao was an experienced and well-respected shipping executive, having worked her way up through several leadership positions at the company founded by her parents in 1964.



Before joining Foremost Group in 1996, Angela Chao worked in the mergers and acquisitions department of Smith Barney, now Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.

economics magna cum laude from Harvard College in just three years, she attended Harvard Business School where she wrote a case study on “Ocean Carriers” that to this day is part of the required curriculum for first-year HBS students.

Among other maritime industry honors, Angela Chao served as a Board Member of the American Bureau of Shipping Council, as well as a Board Member of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy’s International Maritime Business Department Advisory Board. Webb Institute awarded her an honorary Doctor of Science degree in 2019.

## Faculty



**Dr. Bruce H. Stephan** of Piermont, NY, passed away on December 28, 2023, at the age of 81.

He is survived by his devoted wife Julia Ann (Jan) Stephan, three children and nine grandchildren.

mathematics. He was a Professor at Webb Institute of Naval Architecture for 35 years, educating generations of students. He retired on June 30, 2007, and became a Faculty Emeritus of Mathematics.

He also loved teaching his own children and grandchildren mathematics and tutored many others. Outside of work he was an avid musician who loved to sing and play the guitar, a polyglot who took every opportunity to practice his German and Russian, and an artisan who built numerous beautiful items out of wood. Bruce was an adventurer and loved to camp, walk, and travel. He and his wife enjoyed traveling to diverse places together and took each grandchild on a meaningful trip.



# ALUMNI Gatherings



*San Diego Alumni Gathering*



*Seattle Alumni Gathering*



*Maine Alumni Gathering*



*Boston Alumni Gathering*



# Alumni News | Class Notes

## 1959

This year is the 65th Anniversary of the class of 59. Our remaining members deal with various issues of aging; however, continue either in spite of, or because of our Webb educational regimen.

We were saddened to lose Carmen Marrin last November. Carmen took part in several class reunions and was a nice friend to all. Bill is dealing with his loss, however, and is doing okay.

**Ed & Diann Shope** have reduced exciting travel in favor of backyard improvement projects which still seem to cost as much. Their young grandson lives nearby and on playdates with his friends, has fun digging sandbox holes in their backyard veggie patch. Ed deals with spinal stenosis; however, he is invited to sail on good days on his son Michael's 28-foot ketch the "Dulcinea". She is a West Coast built Herreshoff design.



**Larry & Donene Harrison** traveled to Western North Dakota last June and visited Teddy Roosevelt National Park, considered the Grand Canyon

of the north. They encountered buffalo herds and sweeping river vistas. The area has surprising scenery including the historic confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers on the Montana State line. Ed and Larry hope to rendezvous in their hometown of Missoula, Montana, this summer. **Bill & Betty Webster** are doing well. Bill maintains career and travel. He will be on a trip to China this May. **Pete & Jo Gale** traveled to Corpus Christi, Texas, last January and were proud to attend their granddaughter Kate's winging ceremony. She is an

Annapolis graduate and now a Navy pilot.

## 1962

**Mike Wallace** (Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Atmospheric Sciences, University of Washington)



was chosen as a co-recipient of the Japan Prize. You can see the citation, photos, and even a videos of the Awards Ceremony at <https://www.japanprize.jp/en/index.html> widows and x-63's.

## 1963

The last year or two have been very eventful for the '63s. Of course, the most significant events have been the loss of two more classmates, **Bill Lindenmuth** and **Randy Rodger**. We have now lost six out of the original fifteen grads, and since we are all in our 80's, nothing is guaranteed. Additionally, we have had numerous joint replacements and other infirmities. Recently, **Bill Hall** suffered two strokes, but I have spoken with him, and he is progressing well with his physical therapy and feeling good. Not everything for the '63's has been negative. One of our classmates, **Tim Graul**, has recently been named a Fellow of SNAME. Even us non-NAs appreciate that honor for Tim. My old roomie, **Max Altmann** has completed his eighth novel, "The Way It Was," a look at the Icelandic justice system at the first millennium. **Don & Mary Deckebach** have been suffering the natural disasters of Southern California, from rock slides to earthquakes to even a hurricane. Our Northern California residents, **Hank & Karen Olson** have been luckier, avoiding all of the disasters, including the wildfires. Now

if they could only get their sons married off for good, they would be on easy street. While I have lost my travel bug for any place I can't drive to, many of our group are still globetrotting. While **Bill & Linda Smith** are now in their Florida condo, they have been to see grandchildren, as well as on a cruise to Iceland. I occasionally hear from our class "historian", **Kurt Kramer**. He continues to come up with interesting info on Webb, as well as founder William Webb. There are others who have not been smart enough to fully retire and are still employed. That group includes **Larry Stephens**, **Bott Weiss** and yours truly (**Bill Birkhead**). Bott was in Italy, researching local wines for his 25th Webb wine tutorial (Wine 101 with the senior class) scheduled for June 3. He also still teaches courses at a couple of universities in Massachussets. Not much news from our distaff contingent. **June Kiss** is busy with her far flung family, but still finds time to keep up her Webb connections. **Joyce Lindenmuth**, after attending the reunion last year, has been traveling north and south, seeing friends and family. Haven't heard anything yet from **Miko Rodger** but will continue to reach out. I do get some news about **Marge Verdon** via her son Joe's Facebook page. She is doing well. Nothing from **Robertta Silber**, other than she is back home to stay. I have exchanged several upbeat emails with **Bridget Lisnyk-Washlack**. She stays home mostly but is looked after by Amy and Mike's kids. On a personal note, **Marion and I** enjoyed our 50th in April at a lakefront house on Lake Anna with all our kids, spouses and grands, a total of sixteen.



### 1967

**John Russell** wrote: Sailing in the Bahamas with a friend in February. "A friend with a boat" is a phrase made in Heaven. Mary, our younger daughter Kate, her husband and their three children.



Our family on Mothers' Day, (with all three of our "kids" and their spouses.



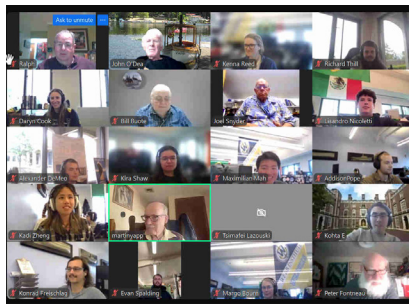
We're lucky that all live in Portland within a few miles of our house that we've lived in for 44 years.

### 1968

Since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, the class of 1968 has been having regular Zoom meetings on a monthly basis. In addition, starting in 2021, each spring we have arranged a Zoom



meeting with the Webb senior class. This spring, we met with the class of 2024.



There were 20 attending, with 6 from 1968 and 14 from 2024. Considering both classes graduated from Webb in "trying times" (COVID-19 for this year's seniors and the Vietnam War for the class of 1968) we thought it would be interesting to compare the effects on each class. We were surprised that the most obvious effect for the class of 2024 was that they all got to know each other (via Zoom or other electronic means) even before they arrived in Glen Cove as freshmen. And of course, as time went on, the world adapted to mask wearing, social distancing and COVID vaccines became available. In 1964 there was no such thing as social media, Zoom, or even the Internet, and for several Webb classes starting in 1968, as the Vietnam War heated up, The United States Coast Guard benefited from a ready labor pool of Webbies. Times have changed!

### 1969

Class of '69 gathered in September for another of our reunions. We have gotten together every five years from graduation to our 50th. At that time, we decided to increase the frequency to every two years. Now that we are all retired, we are able to enjoy each other's company more frequently. This reunion took place in Saratoga Springs, NY. Among other activities the guys took the insider's tour of the *USS Slater*, a WWII destroyer escort located in the Hudson River in Albany. We had a great trolley tour of all the historical

sites in Saratoga and, of course, just spent time together reminiscing and wondering where all the time went since graduation. We rotate the host role for our reunions, and work is already underway for the next meeting in the fall of 2025.



Unfortunately, we must note the passing of our classmate **Eric Runnerstrom** in January. Eric joined the Navy after graduation and made a career of it. He retired in 1989 with the rank of Commander. He then moved to Falls Church, VA, and had a second career with MPR Associated, an engineering firm. He retired to leisure in 2019.

We will miss Eric but are thankful that we were able to spend time with him at our reunion.



### 1971

**Jerry Bellows** and his wife, **Fran** were house guests of **John & Amy Malone** during the SNAME Maritime Convention (SMC) and Expo in San Diego in late September 2023. Together they attended the Annual Webb Alumni Banquet and made a daytrip to the Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens



# Alumni News

## Class Notes

in San Marino. After visiting “The Huntington,” they made a short stop nearby (thanks to Jay Carson '73 for the suggestion and providing historical context) at a house built by William H. Webb's oldest son William Edgar Webb and his wife Harriet in 1909. It is a very beautiful 8,500 sq-ft "Prairie Style" house, somewhat reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright's early architectural style, in the Oak Knoll neighborhood of Pasadena. They lived there until William Edgar Webb's passing in 1919. Unfortunately, the house interior and grounds were inaccessible, as the property is now owned by people having no relation to the Webb family.



*John Malone & Jerry Bellows at the former home of William Edgar Webb and his wife Harriet, 1306 Wentworth Ave, Pasadena CA*

### 1973

**Ted Slotwinski and Rich Celotto** traveled to San Diego last October to spend time with classmate **Jay Carson** who was recovering from foot surgery and had not been able to attend the Class of '73 50th Anniversary Reunion that year during Homecoming 2023. The trip was combined with the SNAME Annual Meeting, Webb Alumni Banquet, and a visit to the USS MIDWAY Museum. The three of them spent a relaxed afternoon catching up, which with Jay always includes multiple fascinating stories of Webb and maritime history. Rich also got to spend time with **Doug & Amy Loeser** at the banquet. Jay continues to write articles for

SNAME's mt magazine on founders and leaders of the Society, most recently VADM Samuel M. Robinson, Webb “Administrator” from 1946 to 1951, who oversaw the transition of the school from the Bronx to Glen Cove. Jay also continued to research and develop vessel specifications for Professor Brad Golden for the Junior Class Ship Concept Design Course. For the Spring 2025 semester, he prepared an extensive set of requirements for an Alaskan Fish Factory Trawler. He emphasized the role of suppliers in providing innovations and efficiency, particularly in reducing manning. The US Alaskan fish factory fleet, which provides much of the nation's fish fillets, is coming to the end of its economic life and the replacement of this fleet may be a significant career opportunity for Webb graduates.

Jay also attends to the physical condition of the Webb's Academy & Home for Shipbuilders burial plot at Mount Hope Cemetery in Hastings-On-Hudson about 15 miles north of New York City, which contains about 75 graves. Last year following a visit and report from a classmate, Jay arranged to have all the fallen and leaning headstones reset. This spring, working with the assistance of Gailmarie, he had the large main stone acid washed and power cleaned. The plot is now in good shape, and he encourages all members of the Webb community to visit the cemetery if traveling the Hudson River Valley to view this important part of our history. **Ted** has started the 2024 racing season with his Tartan 28 MAYA, on which Rich crews. Last year, MAYA captured the High Point Trophy for the cruiser class Wednesday night series. **Dave Collins** reports that he is in his 46th year still serving the Lord in Sea Cliff. Dave helps out on campus with the ecumenical Anchor Club that typically meets twice a week, and he and Meryl hosted groups of

Webbies in their home in August and December. He and Meryl always take a major summer road trip and this year it will be to the Great Smokey Mountains National Park and then off to Wisconsin. **Rich** and wife **Kathy** enjoyed a Viking River Cruise on the Danube River last fall, from Budapest, Hungary to Regensburg, Germany, and reported it was absolutely fabulous, especially standing a night watch on the bridge with the captain, navigating locks. Highly recommended.

**Keith Michel** also took to the water this winter, enjoying an awesome boat and bike cruise along the Croatian coast. **Steve Lardie** retired from Serco, Inc. this month (June), having spent most of his career working directly for Bath Iron Works or the Navy at BIW via JJMA/Alion/Serco, and the last few years supporting Seaspan in Vancouver.

### 1974

At Homecoming 2024, the Class of 1974 celebrated its 50th anniversary with a gift to Webb of Art Restoration, which preserves the original art on campus in a safe archival manner and with digital copies, indistinguishable from the originals, on display. Seven of 10 surviving class members attended - **Todd Andre-Colton, John Gallagher, Russ Hoffman, Steve Judson, John Kloetzli, Rick Siek and Pete Weber**, most accompanied by spouses, and we also welcomed **Donna Squillario** joining us. A great time was had by all and promises to not go so long again without gathering were made, with Zoom being a large potential player.

### 1975

Webb '75 continues to meet casually via video chat sessions. We are looking forward to getting the whole crew together for an in-person reunion at Webb for our 50th in May 2025. **Joel McMinn** reports that the sailing team was thrilled to have new sails replacing





the 22-year-old ones. New sails will be most welcome as Webb hosts two regattas each year. Thanks to Joel for spotting the need and spearheading the drive to get them replaced.

## 1977

**Bob Bunnell** achieved certification from the U.K Royal Yacht Association as Yachtmaster (Offshore Sail). Anyone need a skipper in Europe?



**David & Martha Helgerson** began the New Year with a special event; their youngest daughter Heidi (with support from her husband Francisco Sanchez!) launched Oliver Arthur Sanchez into the world. Oliver is Dave & Martha's fourth grandchild. Being retired provides more time to help.

I may get myself in gear and finally write about voyaging in the South Pacific on Roy's boat with Dave Milligan; it was a remarkable adventure.

**Dave St. Amand and Rich Gilmore** have spent the last 1.5 years working on a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Committee studying ways to improve the efficiency of the US Coast Guard Certificate of Compliance (COC) program as it applies to gas ships. The COC program calls for the USCG to inspect foreign flag LNG, LPG, and other gas tankers calling in US ports for loading or discharge operations. Given the large (75%) expansion of US exports of LNG and LPG over the coming years, the US Congress directed Coast Guard

to request the NAS undertake a study to see what is needed to ensure that the program will continue to be effective as it faces this large increase in vessel calls and inspections. The Committee completed its work this past April and a final report will be submitted to Congress during Q2 2024.

Dave and Rich were joined by two more Webbies – **Eric Linsner '70** and Webb **President Mark Martecchini '79**, giving Webb a 36% presence on the 11-person Committee! It was an interesting process involving many meetings, both in person and virtually, some with just the Committee internally, as well as others with the USCG, representatives of the US gas industry (terminals, agents, etc.), and international NGO's related to gas shipping. The final report will become public after it has been formally submitted to Congress.

A large contingent of class of '77 classmates and their families met in Texas for several days in early April to watch the eclipse. (w/pic) The 13-person gang consisted of **Scott & Dana Richards, Kevin & Donna Baetson, Bob Bunnell, Marc & Jan Limeri, Greg & Jean Griffin, and Scott & Julia Orlosky** and their daughters Celeste and Belle.



We started by invading Scott and Dana at their house in Austin and being treated to a BBQ of smoked ribs and a Texas-size brisket cooked by Scott. We then loaded an expedition-worthy quantity of provisions into multiple coolers and three cars and drove into

the Texas hill country to reposition to the central line of the eclipse at an Airbnb on Lake LBJ. On the way to the lake, we detoured to a ranch owned by Dana's sister's ex-husband and enjoyed a picnic lunch on his shaded porch, with beautiful views of distant mesas and closeup views of his longhorn cattle. At the Airbnb we sat on the dock and enjoyed the water view, fished, although politely not bothering any of the fish in the lake, and noting that Scrich is still ripped after all these years, rode bikes, walked, sat on the large, covered deck and played cards, backgammon and board games, played cornhole, tried unsuccessfully to corral a stray dog that had apparently been dumped by its owner, made Ukrainian dyed egg Christmas ornaments under the skilled tutelage of Dana, proving that you can teach old dogs new tricks if you're patient enough, ate and drank our way through most of the provisions, and, oh yeah, remembered to watch the eclipse.

Dark clouds had obscured the sun for much of the day, but they parted just in time for the four minutes of clear sky that we needed. After our return to Austin some of us drove downtown to see live Austin music, which is a little like country music and a little like folk music. Then we all scattered to the winds to return home. Many, many thanks to Dana for doing most of the organizing of this gathering after Scott cleverly arranged to go on a business trip at sea for the last few weeks prior to the eclipse. She organized food and menus, planned activities, scheduled airport pickups, scouted out driving routes to avoid the anticipated heavy eclipse traffic, and found a perfect Airbnb. People sometimes refer to herding cats, but that has to be way easier than herding Webbies. Well done and thank you, Dana. I think I can speak for the crowd and say that everyone had a fantastic time. The bond that develops among Webb



# Alumni News

## Class Notes

classmates, and then their spouses, is amazing and treasured, and lasts forever.

### 1988

**Ian Busch:** With an organizational shift, I've got slightly altered responsibilities and a new job title as Director of Hull Innovation and Quality Engineering (HIQE). I'm tempted to pronounce it like Haiku, so if anyone has a poem that fits, I'll consider getting on the back of my new business cards.

**Steve Pagan** is very busy at Matson Navigation Company converting their fleet to LNG fuel. The second ship in the queue is the "Manukai." It was the very first ship built at Kvaerner Philadelphia Shipyard (now Philly Shipyard) and was delivered 20 years ago when Steve was working there. It was like getting to know an old friend (who occasionally drove you nuts) again. Also, Steve has been appointed as Matson's ambassador to Webb so if you have any questions about working here, email him.

### 1992

**Theresa (Tess) Haven** wrote: I, along with my two youngest children, Joseph and Esther, had a really nice visit to



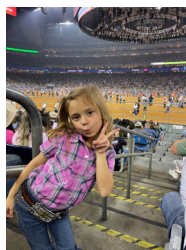
Webb in May 2024 for Homecoming, Class Agent Forum, Junior Ship Design evaluations, and Statics Class. It was great to participate in these events and see the awesome upgrades to campus and to the students. (Yes, I humbly think it's fair to list students as one of

the upgrades....)I enjoyed reconnecting with classmates Ted, Christoph, and Joe (plus spouses), as well as other alumni, faculty, staff, trustees, and students. My son Joseph got a lot out of the Statics class as well as the ship design presentations (and wanted to keep the hardcopy design briefs... so cool). Both kids enjoyed the beach, floor hockey, and meeting students. Special thanks to Prof. Golden for an A-1 Campus Tour, and kudos to everyone who made these events a great success. We returned home to a bumper crop of Monarch caterpillars, happily munching away on the butterfly bush that we had planted last year. (So glad that it survived the extreme weather events of the last year - heat waves, deep freezes, and floods... Well, it did die back to roots during the freeze but thankfully came back in the spring.)**Doug Schickler** is part of the American Magic challenge for the 37th America's Cup. He joins Britt Ward '95 in the US team, working to recover the trophy from Emirates Team New Zealand (Bobby Kleinschmidt '06). The racing begins in August and the Match is in mid-October 2024.



### 2008

**Mark Exner:** In January I started training as an Apprentice Pilot in the Sabine Pilot Association, making me the only Webbie (or one of only a very few) to represent the school in a pilot association.



Colleen Exner



Kelsey Exner

Kelsey will turn 8 this summer, Colleen just turned 6 and they are enjoying life in Texas.

**Chris Becker** and his wife Dana welcomed their son Patrick James in February. Everyone is happy, healthy, and excited for this new adventure!

### 2009

**Rorie Zuzick** and Travis welcomed their son, John Douglas Keim, in July 2023. Baby Jack arrived six weeks early, spent a week in the NICU, and has been thriving ever since!



### 2010

**Seth Cooley** has been in Valencia, Spain, for the last 2+ years with Future Fibres designing carbon rigging for racing sailboats and superyachts as well as some interesting alternative energy applications. He is looking forward to the America's cup in Barcelona this fall - if any Webbies are around, please reach out! Would be great to set up a Webb get together for the event.

### 2011E

**Marion James** and Gaëtan are very



happy to announce that they have welcomed a baby boy called Bartolo on 03/14/2024. He is already looking forward to celebrating his birthday on Pi Day.



### 2013

Last year the class of 2013's update highlighted the classes' success at work and celebrated the classes expansion with the addition of in laws, nieces, and nephews but it there is life beyond the office. Here's what we've been up to. **Jonathan Soja** following his success playing dolly in the Webb gym joined an ice hockey league but, had to temporarily hang up his skates when his daughter, Isabel, was born, expanding his family to four. **Justin Van Emmerik** married Anna and after returning from his honeymoon, skiing in Japan, was able to find time between biking, backpacking, trail running, Nordic and downhill skiing to recall his HVAC lessons from Webb and install a heat pump system in his home. **Dan Dwyer** welcomed his son, Declan, into the world and while he is still acclimating to parenthood, he enjoys family walks in town while chipping away at a seemingly endless list of house projects. **Sean Murphy** accomplished the American dream when he purchased his first home in Attleboro, MA, no word on the white picket fence, but when not in his local Home Depot's paint aisle you can find him rebuilding his home's deck. **Gerardo Nixon** graduated from NOAA's LCDP and when not hiking or camping he can be found building the latest Lego sets and learning to

use Generative AI. **Marc Smith** finds time for kickball, skiing, surfing, and repairing old film cameras when his dog Odie is not keeping him too busy with training, classes, and playing fetch in the park. **Colin Spillane**, despite being CEO of two companies, ArtGlo and OptoGlo, made time to visit his brother, niece, and nephew in Tokyo. **Roxanne Schacht** enjoys time in her garden where she grows flowers and vegetables and is hoping this season's raspberry harvest will help offset her grocery budget. **Roland DeMarco** when not flying the RC-135 or learning to become a reconnaissance pilot can be found mountain biking the trails around him in Omaha. **Doug Zangre** is committed to his soccer team most of the year but in the summer, he can be found throwing the disc around with his ultimate frisbee team. **Michael LaRose** continues to be involved with paralympic sports and is looking forward to competing in the NYC Marathon this year.

### 2015

**Cody Owen** defended his PhD on the 29th of April at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands on the topic of ice mechanics in ice-induced vibrations of offshore structures. He has recently started a new job as Researcher at Arctic Reflections, a startup with the goal of restoring Arctic sea ice by pumping seawater onto the surface from beneath the ice during the winter to accelerate the growth process. Over the last year, Cody has been working as a researcher at Aalto University in Finland on ice mechanics laboratory and field experiments, and has collaborated with the Norwegian Polar Institute in Tromsø, Norway and with Hokkaido University in northern Japan.



*Cody with a colleague drilling an ice core on Saroma Lagoon in Hokkaido, Japan.*

### 2020

**Ian Cavanaugh** took first place in a local Grappling Industries Jiu-Jitsu tournament!



### 2021

**Alex Koziol** and **Jenny** finally got married with **Luke Herbermann** as their witness on 23 April!



Please send class notes directly to Gailmarie Sujecki at:  
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