

KINGS POINTER

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Alumni Association & Foundation

Fall 2016

\$5.00



HOMEcoming 2016

September 22 - September 25

★ In Memoriam: Ken DeGhetto '43 and Dean White '45

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Homecoming 2016

We all had a great time at this year's Homecoming. The Alumni Association and Foundation (AAF) received a lot of positive feedback about every event. The week started off Thursday evening with the Alumni Awards Dinner. If you were ever unsure about how a Kings Point education makes us what we are today, just attend this dinner one time. It is amazing to hear about all the accomplishments our graduates have made over the years.

I am the Master of Ceremonies and I read the bios of the award winners. As I read one bio, I was absolutely floored about what that particular person had done in their life since graduation, only to be floored again and again by the next bio and the next bio and the next. It was quite impressive. The AAF invited Midshipmen to attend the dinner and you could see how inspired they were to hear about the different experiences Kings Pointers have—and how good they are at what they do. We have no doubt that in future years these same Midshipmen will be honored themselves. And, as is usually the case, the Kings Pointer of the Year, **John Cameron, Jr. '71**, is enough inspiration all by himself. His speech was spot on. You could tell how much John felt his life success was due to Kings Point and his family. He gave a similar speech to the Regiment during the Formal Parade on Friday afternoon.

The AAF hosted a second Awards Dinner on Friday night. This year, Athletic Awards were presented to **Jim Yocum '47** (Acta Non Verba Award), and **Joe Martucci, Jr. '70** (Skip Prosser '72 Achievement Award). You could not find two more deserving winners than these two fine gentlemen. The amazing fact is that every year we find deserving winners. Just look at the list of those who have earned these awards in the past. Enough said. The dedication to the Academy from both Jim and Joe started the minute they walked out the gate and continues to this day. Jim celebrated his 90th birthday that night, showing how long he has been involved. The evening also featured a Kings Point first. A team was inducted in to the Athletic

Hall of Fame—the 1979 Dinghy Team, National Championship winners. Team member **Alex Smigelski '79** (already in the Hall as an individual) contacted his eight teammates and their coach and they all showed up for the event on short notice, even though they are scattered across the country with one as far away as Hawaii. It was a great testament to how important this honor was to them and I personally thank each one of them for attending. They have set the bar very high for future team inductees. Ten more deserving individuals will be inducted for next year's ceremony.

Another aspect of Homecoming that never gets old is seeing the classes reunite and classmates reconnect. It could be 30 years or more since some saw each other, but it all feels just like yesterday. The welcome that each class gives to all who wander over to their tailgate or class party is very heartfelt. We are all Kings Pointers, friends, and family first and foremost before all else, and this attitude was evident over and over again all weekend. The AAF is proud to be part of the Homecoming experience and I want to thank the AAF staff, and in particular Lisa Donitz, for all their hard work to make the week a success. Lisa has already begun working on Homecoming 2017. We look forward to seeing everyone next year with Homecoming Saturday on September 16, 2017.

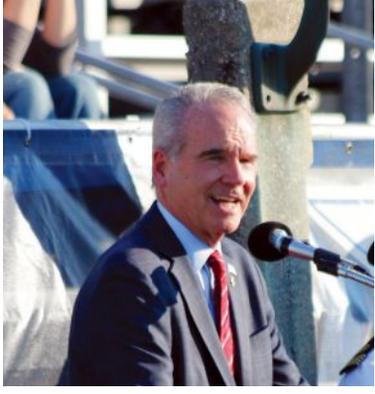
Investing in the Future of the Academy

In case you haven't noticed, there has been some concern over the future of the Academy. This has been the case ever since the Academy opened in 1943, but this time it seems especially concerning with the Sea Year suspension and accreditation warnings. I am not going to discuss those issues here, but I will tell you that the AAF continues to raise money to support the Academy, the Regiment of Midshipmen, and the alumni. Two big projects are being funded by the generosity of our donors. These donors continue to believe in the future of the Academy and continue to invest in it.

The gym floor and bleachers in O'Hara Hall will be redone, pending an engineering study. The enormous project of turfing Lower Roosevelt has also now been funded by our donors. This project will be one of the biggest ever funded by the AAF. It will include turfing the entire field, with a new baseball field, bleachers, lights,



1979 Dinghy Team



Alumni Award Winners

This year's annual Alumni Awards Dinner was held on September 22.

By the AAF Awards Committee

The USMMA Alumni Association and Foundation (AAF) hosted its annual Alumni Awards Dinner on Thursday, September 22. John Arntzen '79, Chairman of the AAF Board of Directors, presented the awards. Special thanks to this year's award committee: Gordon Inouye '65, Peter Bender '58, Tom Harrelson '66, Ed Moe '76, Jim Tobin '77, Glenda O'Connor '85, Chris Roberts '87, Chris Newton '90, and Tom Grasso '91. Congratulations to all of our winners!

KINGS POINTER OF THE YEAR

John D. Cameron, Jr. '71



has served the Academy and the Alumni Association and Foundation (AAF) with distinction for many years. He has previously been recognized with an Outstanding Professional Achievement Award in 1991 and the Meritorious Alumni Service Award in 2011. However, his dedication to the Academy and the AAF has continued unabated year after year in his effort to give back. Cameron is the Founder and Managing Partner of Cameron Engineering & Associates and is Chairman of the Long Island Regional Planning Council. He has been recognized for his leadership in the Long Island region, having been inducted into Long Island's Power List Hall of Fame and is ranked 15th for 2015 for influential people (amongst Alfonse D'Amato and Bill O'Reilly). He serves the community extensively in a variety of capacities: as a member of the Board of Advisors for South Nassau Communities Hospital, as Advisory Board Member to Hofstra University School of Engineering and Applied Science, as External Advisory Board Member for Stony Brook University School of Engineering, as Board Member for the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County, and as Co-Chairman of Long Island STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics) Hub Program. This leadership has provided and continues to provide the Academy and the AAF with access to influential local, state, and federal politicians, and public policy makers. Accordingly, Cameron is a key Kings Point Ambassador, always mentioning Kings Point and attributing his successes in life to Kings Point.

Cameron is currently an AAF Board Member, effective 2016. He was a Lanier Lecture Series speaker at the Academy in 2014. He participates in Industry Awareness Nights on an annual basis and also somehow manages to find time to serve as Class Representative and Class Reunion Chair for the Class of 1971.



Awards Dinner: John Arntzen '79 and John Cameron, Jr. '71



Formal Parade: John Cameron, Jr. '71

HONORARY ALUMNUS

Joseph J. Kass



began his career at the Academy upon completion of his Navy enlistment by working various jobs in the Facilities and Engineering Departments in 1974. Upon graduation from CUNY in 1977, he began his teaching duties as Welding Instructor. In the 40+ years of his career at the Academy, he has had the honor and pleasure of closely working with many of our graduates and faculty/staff. Together, they have used their talents to enhance both personal and professional aspects of the Academy, from working with students on personal projects and facility projects from the Waterfront to the Athletic Department, and ultimately, a collaboration of both—a student-designed memorial dedicated to the tragedy of 9/11, of which he is most proud. Taking into account all of his awards from his position at Kings Point, he states that this honor bestowed upon him today is the pinnacle of his career.

JOSEPH M. BAKER, JR. '47 AWARD

Thomas W. Harrelson '66



has served as the "Great Class of 1966" Representative for over 45 years, keeping classmates updated on each other's activities and in close contact with one another. He has written the class news column in every issue of the Kings Pointer magazine during that time. He has also been active on every Reunion Committee and has chaired the 30th, 35th, 40th, and 45th Reunions and is an active member of the 50th. Harrelson has been very active in the AAF as a member, officer, and/or co-founder of six chapters, and has served on the AAF Board of Directors as Vice Chair of Alumni Affairs for several years and co-chaired the Congressional Liaison Committee. After sailing with Grace Lines, he was recalled to the Academy to serve as Aide and Special Assistant to the Superintendent, Vice Admiral Gordon McLintock. Harrelson then joined Delta Steamship Lines and rose to hold several senior management positions as Vice President. He later became Owner's Representative and Vice President of Conship Container Lines, Senior Vice President of Smith and Kelly Stevedores, and President of their American Freight Forwarding and Customhouse Brokers subsidiary before joining the Senior Executive Service at the Maritime Administration as Director of the Offices of Cargo Preference and Domestic Trades. He has received numerous awards from the maritime industry and the government. Harrelson has been previously honored with the Meritorious Alumni Service Award in 2001, the Distinguished Service Award in 2006, and the Outstanding Professional Achievement Award in 2011.