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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Message from the President:

by Mark Martecchini '79 P'09
President

This year 2025, was a tumultuous year in higher education. Reductions in federal research funding led to severe cutbacks in research programs nationwide. Many universities (including University of Michigan, MIT, Stevens) face a significant financial risk from lost tuition from fewer international students coming to the US with new government restrictions and hurdles; international students make up 15 to 40% of their student bodies.

These changes do not impact Webb. With our focus on undergraduate education, research cuts have no measurable impact. All our students are US citizens or permanent residents; we are not affected by fewer international students. The final version of the endowment tax recently signed into law applies to institutions of more than 3,000 tuition-paying students; our small size means no tax exposure.

We remain hopeful that government announcements to promote US maritime, shipbuilding, and naval policy will bear fruit. Webb's critical role as a supplier of talent and leaders will be enhanced by a strong US maritime and shipbuilding base. But translating desired policy goals into action is not a clear process; changes made since the initial announcements do not send reassuring signals. Without sufficient support and funding, these well-intentioned initiatives will wither on the vine.

Work continues on making Webb's infrastructure as excellent as its academics. We replaced our public entry doors after many decades (several from 1912, others from Webb's Glen Cove arrival in 1947). We renovated the Rosenblatt Gallery (outside the Livingston Library); we showcased a unique model of W.H. Webb's 1853 *Young America,* ready for launch on the building ways, donated by Karl Kirkman '65.

Reconstruction of Goldbach Boathouse is underway; it will have a new patio, patio roof, and rebuilt porch. Mostly-1970s alumni volunteers are doing the lion's share of the work and donating much of the funding; completion is scheduled for the fall. Many repair and upgrade projects are planned around campus. Stay tuned!

We are progressing through a website redesign, rebranding, and marketing program funded by a $200,000 grant from the Booth Ferris Foundation. Our website (and mobile device platform) is our main portal to the outside world; better technology, visuals, and messaging will allow a wider range of prospective students and other visitors to appreciate Webb's unique value.

Daniel Escudero '25 won Webb its first collegiate national championship this year, in singlehanded sailing. He continues his pursuit of excellence by launching an Olympic campaign. His sister, Amaya, also a top international sailor, will begin her Webb career this August.

We've had a banner year in fundraising with gifts from inside and outside the Webb community. Our Annual Report will cover these in detail, but I want to give an early thanks to our generous alumni, donors, and contributing foundations, as well as the Webb Development team who made it all happen. Our endowment performed well in volatile markets with sage advice from the Investment Committee under Chair Alison Granger. You will soon hear more of our upcoming capital campaign.



Daniel Escudero '25 secures the national title at the 2024 ICSA Open Singlehanded National Championship. This was a historic first in Webb's history.



Celebrating the Class of 2025

Webb Institute Celebrates 129th Commencement with Inspiring Keynote by Shipping Magnate, George Economou

On June 21, Webb Institute welcomed global shipping leader George Economou as keynote speaker for the 2025 Commencement Ceremony. Set against the backdrop of Webb's waterfront campus, the ceremony marked a meaningful milestone for the graduating class and the Institute itself.

Economou, founder of DryShips Inc., the TMS Group, and Cardiff Marine - shared personal reflections from his journey, offering a message that blended humility, resilience, and bold encouragement. He introduced his philosophy for success, telling graduates:

"To succeed in business, you need a PhD: Poor, Hungry, and full of Drive, Desire, Dream, or Determination."

In recognition of his impact on the maritime industry, Mr. Economou was awarded an honorary doctorate from Webb Institute, joining a distinguished list of recipients who have advanced the fields of marine engineering, business, and global leadership.

His remarks touched on the challenges ahead, including climate change and artificial intelligence, and emphasized the importance of staying grounded in values and community.

"Leave your safety net and pursue everything that scares you," he said. "Aim high and miss. Don't aim low and hit."

The Class of 2025, comprised of 26 graduates completed a dual degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering along with two years of industry internships, now embarks on the next chapter - prepared to lead with purpose in a changing world.





-- POST-GRADUATE PLANS --

Rebecca Ashmore	CACI
Sydney Barok	Herbert Engineering
Jeffrey Basti	Stevens
Ben Calkins	Birdon America
Michael Coppi	Viking Systems
David Dagoon	
Rayne Duff	Elliot Bay Design
Daniel Escudero	(Will be Sailing)
Ashley Farrell	Florida Atlantic University
John Feleciano	Fairwater
Luke Foye	Chevron
Phoebe Garrett	Vigor
Burke Kanemasu	SpaceX
Lauren Kirk	Bristol Harbor Group, Inc.
Casmir Lesiewicz	University of Michigan
Anna Lindberg	Glosten
Hendrix Lovett	Electric Boat
Thomas Motyka	Van Dam Custom Boats
Andrew Mullan	Carderock ; University of Michigan
Eli Murray	Waiting on Offers
Gunnar Nee	Gilbert Associates, Inc.
Abby Ng	Glosten
Abigail Price	ABS
David Sir	SERCO North American
Ella Wilson	(traveling)
Tyler Zylinski	Shearer Group, Inc.

-- AWARDS --

JENS T. HOLM '41 MEMORIAL AWARD
John A. Feleciano III
for excellence in marine engineering
{Sponsored by George A. Gilmore '57}

CHARLES A. WARD JR, MEMORIAL AWARD
Andrew J. Mullan
for excellence in naval architecture & marine engineering
{Sponsored by Chairman of the Board, Bruce S. Rosenblatt (Hon.) and the Ward Family}

KEELER MEMORIAL AWARD
Andrew J. Mullan
highest average in mathematics
{Sponsored by Past Trustee, Dr. Luther Tai}

J. LEWIS LUKENBACH MEMORIAL PRIZE
Andrew J. Mullan
highest general average over four years
{Sponsored by the American Bureau of Shipping}

CURRAN MEMORIAL PRIZE
Thomas A. Motyka
for most outstanding & consistent scholastic improvement
{Sponsored by Trustee, John A. Malone '71 & his wife Amy}

CHAFFEE MEMORIAL PRIZE
Casmir P. Lesiewicz
for general excellence
{Sponsored by Trustee Emeritus, Joseph J. Cuneo '57}

STEVENSON TAYLOR MEMORIAL PRIZE
Ben S. Calkins & David M. Sir
for excellence in the senior thesis
{Sponsored by the American Bureau of Shipping}

RICHARD A. PARTANEN HUMANITIES AWARD
Anna C. Lindberg
{Sponsored by the Class of 1987}

PAUL E. ATKINSON MEMORIAL PRIZE IN ETHICS
Anna C. Lindberg
for ethical behavior

LEWIS NIXON MEMORIAL PRIZE
Hendrix P. Lovett
for excellence in the senior thesis
{Sponsored by Trustee Emeritus, John W. Russell '67}

The Charles Kurz II (Hon.) Community Service Award
Jeffrey J. Basti II
for exemplary commitment of service to others through volunteerism, community service, and civic outreach
{Sponsored by Trustee Emeritus, Charles Kurz II (Hon.)}

PATRICK S. MATRASCIA GOOD SHIPMATE AWARD
Gunnar A. Nee
working unselfishly and in harmoney with classmates
{Sponsored by President Emeritus, R. Keith Michel '73 & Family}

-- THESIS TITLES --

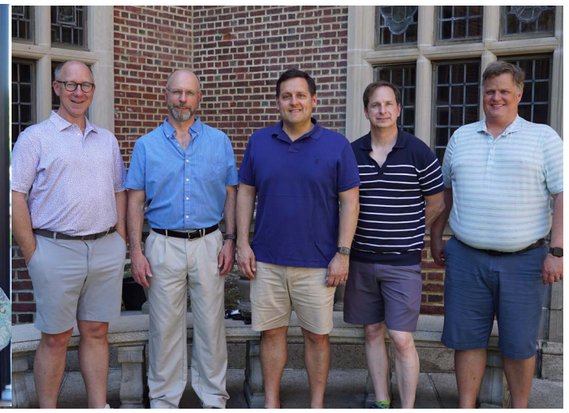


Rebecca Ashmore	Concept Design of an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle Energy Transfer Method
Sydney Barok	Environmental Regulation Compliance: Methods to Comply with EEXI Regulations for Post-Panamax Containerships
Jeff Basti & Cas Lesiewicz	A Hydrodynamic Analysis of a Wavy Leading-Edge Rudder
Ben Calkins & David Sir	Experimental Study of Addition of Half-Rounds to a Flat Bottom Hull for Reduction of Hull Slamming Loads and Acceleration
Michael Coppi & Andrew Mullan	An Improved Design for an Oscillating Water Column Wave Energy Converter
David Dagoon	Analyzing the Viability of Using Wave Energy Converters for Offshore Seawater Electrolysis
Rayne Duff & Anna Lindberg	An Investigation into the Effect of Keel Rotation on Sailing Yacht Performance Using a CFD-Based VPP
Daniel Escudero & Burke Kanemasu	Achieving Bell-Shaped Lift Distributions with Hydrofoils of Anisotropic Construction
Ashley Farrell	The Development of a Sea State Informed, Deep Learning Based Navigational System
Jack Feleciano, Luke Foye, Tyler Zylinski	Development of a Modern Hull Form Series in the Robinson Model Basin
Phoebe Garrett & Lauren Kirk	An Opportunity Cost Analysis of Alternative Fuels on a Transportation Industry Network
Hendrix Lovett	A Numerical Investigation of Titanic's Calm-Water Maneuvering Characteristics
Thomas Motyka & Eli Murray	Webb's Open Circuit Wind Tunnel: Final Setup and Validation
Gunnar Nee	Integration and Testing of an Engine Performance Measuring System for the Yanmar 4JH110 Diesel Test Engine at Webb Institute
Abby Ng & Ella Wilson	Investigation of Biofouling Mitigation Arrangements Using Ultraviolet-C Light
Abigail Price	Design of an Efficient U.S. Shipyard Using an Existing U.S. Shipyard's Land Area

Thesis posters, descriptions, senior spotlights, and presentations are available at:
https://www.webb.edu/academics/class-of-2025-thesis/

HOMECOMING 2025





Warm welcomes with classmates, Alana Duerr '08, Sarah Wickenheiser '08 and Leah Sosa '08

Class of 1995



Class of 1975 Reunion at Homecoming



Class of 1985



Reuben Taylor '55 was the oldest alum to attend Homecoming

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



SOCIETY OF WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

by Simmy Willemann '10



At fifteen years out from Webb, I am no longer in the maritime industry, but I look back fondly on Webb. I now work at Apple decarbonizing consumer electronics, and I'm a mom of a very active and happy 16-month-old, Sahni, who I love playing with. My job is all about problem solving and understanding how things are built, so we can manufacture them differently. Motherhood takes hard work, including all nighters, a sense of humor, and creativity. These themes very much remind me of my time at Webb.

In October 2024, I had the pleasure of attending the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Conference in Chicago. The real highlight of being at SWE was meeting the Webb Junior Women - Annabel, Rebecca, Zoe, Millay, and Ally! I was expecting to feel out of touch with the school as I haven't visited in a while but was happily surprised to connect with these lovely Webbies as if they were in my Webb class. When I meet students from other colleges, I feel a generational divide but that wasn't so with Webbies. Most fun was sharing all the stories about Webb traditions and cross-correlating what I had heard changed and what they had heard things were like before. How cool that women live in Stevenson Taylor Mansion now! It's life-affirming to meet younger Webbies and see their drive and spirit.

At SWE, I was on an Apple panel featuring Women in Operations. I shared my career path from Webb to MIT to Consulting to Apple Mac to Apple Environment and the type of support I received along the way. I now manage three teams at Apple. The Environmental Product Managers lead environmental initiatives including carbon and recycled content on each Apple product line. The Environmental Technology team proves what's possible, from proof-of-concept manufacturing scrap recycling to iPhone end-of-life disassembly automation. The Safety Subject Matter Experts keep workers in our supply chain safe.

I also shared what it's like to be a mom and work full time in a leadership position. I didn't know how I'd feel about going back to work after maternity leave but I'm happy to share that I feel fulfilled both working at Apple and being a mom. My husband and I share parenting responsibilities equally. When there are tradeoffs to be made between my daughter and my work, my daughter is now my priority. I know I provide great value at work already and that I don't need to be on every call or work trip.



Simmy with her family

At the SWE Conference, I shared three pieces of advice I have for students at the start of their journey:

- Perspective and what we choose to think about and spend our time on is everything. Focus on what you love doing (and financial security). If you're spending time on anything else, ask yourself if you'll care about dropping it when you're 80? If not, drop. Seneca's "On the Brevity of Life" gave me perspective on how short life is if you're not living it for yourself. Once I started making time for violin gigs, my sense of self was strengthened. I could have a bad day at work but a great violin performance, and I was happy. I might have messed up at a violin gig, but I had a great work presentation, and I could still be happy. I've found that multiple identities tend to strengthen me and make life more fulfilling.

- People make work more fulfilling than the work itself. Choose teams with people who will encourage you to grow and give you a sense of belonging. If you don't feel you have community now, look for it. Avoid being so focused on the results that you don't get to know the people and build relationships.

- It's never too early in your career to support others. As a woman working in multiple male-dominated industries for 15 years, I can share that support goes a long way. Much of the support I've received has come from men and rather unexpectedly — asking for my opinion in a meeting, assigning me a visible project that let me prove my skills, or giving me encouragement or specific feedback on how I can improve. The opportunity to support others is there if you keep an eye out for it. If you don't know what to do, ask others what their biggest challenge is and how you can support them. Those are two of the kindest questions especially from managers to employees - and then listen and follow up.



Simmy with the Class of 2026

THE MANY LIVES & ACCOLADES OF GENE SCHORSCH '52

by Kaye Lin, Director of Communications & Marketing

The Man Who Cut Ships in Half

It was a bright Spring afternoon when I found myself staring at a plaque tucked on the wall of Webb's Couch Academic Center. At first glance, it looked like any other recognition of alumni generosity, but if you leaned in a little closer, right there at the bottom, were the quiet words that summed up the entire Webb experience, at least through the eyes of Gene Schorsch.

It didn't talk about his rocket division, the ships he reimagined, or the lawsuits he pursued. It spoke about *the challenge*, and what Webb does to the students who rise to meet it.

"I don't think it's me," Gene said in our initial call. "I think it's Webb."

Gene didn't start his Webb story with fanfare. In fact, he revealed that he didn't get in on his first try. Or his second. But on his third. He lacked a year of foreign language - German or French - a small technicality that closed the door to his dream. But Gene wasn't the type to walk away.

In 1948, after his third try, the doors opened - and from that moment, he never stopped building. Not just ships and systems, but principles, trust, and a way of thinking that would change everything he touched.

After graduating in 1952, Gene went to work at Sun Shipbuilding. He was young, but not the type to play it safe. When the team was asked to build six old-fashioned breakbulk ships, Gene thought, "What if we don't?"

Instead, they did the unthinkable. They cut ships that were already in the water in half, extending the ships by 125 feet and deepening their hulls by nine feet, then redesigned them into something more forward-thinking.

Containerization was coming, and Gene could see it before most.

"We cut ships in half and made them longer," he recalled with a smile. "That's how bold the thinking was."

Faced with a contract to build six outdated cargo ships, Gene and his team convinced the client and the government to approve a radical overhaul: extending the ships by 125 feet and deepening their hulls. It was a massive structural shift, but a necessary one as containerization transformed global shipping.



Gene Schorsch at the pinnacle of his career.

From Ships to Space

It wasn't long before a man walked into the shipyard asking for help building... rockets.

Most people would have laughed him off. Not Gene.

"We didn't wait for the contract. We built a fake rocket case with ship steel to prove it could be done."And it worked.

The mock-up impressed Aerojet enough to award Gene the contract for the largest solid rocket casings ever built at the time. At just 34, he was featured in *Fortune Magazine*, but you'd never hear that from him unless you asked.

Integrity in the Details

Gene shared many great stories, and all of them led to the important themes of integrity and that the devil is in the details.

When two ships he helped design, lost their propeller blades at sea, most blamed it on underwater collisions. Gene wasn't convinced. He went to Amsterdam, inspected the damage himself, and quietly ran tests using dye-penetrant methods. He realized the problem was in the casting - flaws hidden deep inside the metal.

"You don't learn this stuff in the classroom," he told me. "You learn it when you're responsible for people's lives."

He pushed for replacements, even when manufacturers resisted. He was young. They were powerful. But in the end, he was right. The ships sailed again, and safely it did.

Gene wasn't just an engineer. He was a systems thinker. A builder of ideas.

Redesigning the Industry

When oil companies in Alaska's North Slope needed to move crude oil across the Arctic, Gene pitched something radical: he would design the tanker, build it, own it, and operate it. All they had to do was pay a daily charter rate. For us nowadays, think of oil tankers as Uber rides.

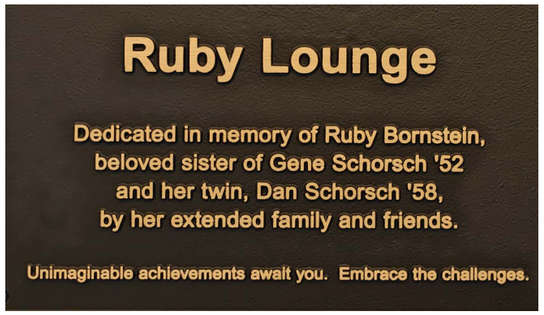
"We didn't just build a ship. We changed the entire way the industry worked."

And when delays in the Alaskan pipeline left one of his tankers idle, he turned it into a grain carrier, and (because of course he did) he invented a vacuum system to unload it, earning a U.S. patent along the way.

Webb Always

Through all of this - every design, discovery, and decades-long lawsuit against corporate fraud - Gene remained, at his core, a Webbie. He and his wife Ruth gathered every year with three other Webb couples for a three-day weekend. He returned to campus. He mentored. He remembered.

Now, going back to the original question I had asked him at the beginning of our meeting, "What made Webb students so extraordinary?"



Ruby Lounge plaque. The quote at the end of the plaque states, "Unimaginable achievements await you. Embrace the challenges."

He told me about a time at Webb when he sat in the basement of Stevenson Taylor Hall with his roommate, sipping Cokes at midnight, wondering why Webbies were built the way they were. They landed on this:

"A lot of us came from hard beginnings. Webb took that raw material and made us better."

That's what he believed, and that's what he lived. He didn't just walk through Webb's gates; he carried the place with him for the rest of his life.

The Small Print

If you ever find yourself in the Ruby Lounge, take a moment to lean in close and read what's engraved on Gene's plaque.

You won't see a list of accomplishments. You'll see a message that only someone like Gene could leave behind - a message about challenge, courage, and what happens when someone believes in you enough to expect everything from you.

Because for Gene Schorsch, Webb wasn't just a school.

Webb was where everything began.



Webbies of the graduating class of '52 in 2019. Gene Schorsch, John Sims, Tom Gillette



SNAME Photo 10/21/77 - New Flexible Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Facilities

10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF GROUP THERAPY - AN INTERVIEW WITH DR. MICHELLE STEIN



by Dr. Michelle Stein, Psychologist

What inspired you to start the Group Program at Webb 10 years ago?

I appreciate the opportunity to speak about the Group Program which was developed specifically for Webb students. I hope this interview will allow for a greater understanding of how this program evolved and how it has been utilized by the Webb community.

Eleven years ago, a group of concerned Webb students created a lengthy mental health survey and presented the results to the administration. At that time there were no mental health providers at Webb Institute, and students needed to use an impersonal crisis hotline for help. The students hoped the survey would be the catalyst for improving the mental health resources available at Webb. The survey revealed significant amounts of anxiety, depression and substance use, which then prompted the administration to search for a part-time psychologist to provide in-person counseling services. When I was interviewed for this position by the students, they emphasized that many of their peers were unhappy, socially disconnected and stressed. My initial instinct was that group therapy, the treatment of choice when faced with interpersonal struggles, would benefit this community. Moreover, the literature in my field has steadfastly stated that the single best predictor of happiness, when analyzing a myriad of financial, medical and other emotional factors, is having strong connections with others. I fervently believed that if I could get Webb students to join a group, that I would be able to help them develop the skills necessary to both improve their interpersonal relationships and their mental health. Initially I faced a serious roadblock; the stigma surrounding getting mental health services made it difficult to recruit students to the Group Program. After a little brainstorming, I developed a plan targeted to both reduce the stigma as well as expose the students to the group process. I credit a large part of the program's success to Webb's former President Keith Michel, for he enthusiastically gave me the green light to implement my vision for the Group Program.

What essentially is Webb's Group Program?

The Group Program consists of two parts; The Freshman Group Program and the Voluntary Group Program. The Freshman Group is a mandatory four-week program that begins at the start of the Fall semester. The freshmen are divided into three groups and meet weekly. The Freshman Group is NOT a therapeutic group. The purpose of the Freshman Group is twofold. Firstly, and most importantly, it is a chance for all incoming students to get to know me, which hopefully will make it less intimidating to contact me for an individual session if the need arises. The second purpose of the Freshman Group program is for me to get to know the freshmen, so that if they choose to continue with a voluntary group after the Freshmen Group ends, I can place them in an appropriate group.

The Voluntary Group Program is a weekly group therapy program that runs the entire academic year. My first year at Webb, there was only one voluntary group at Webb consisting mostly of the students who advocated for my appointment. Currently, I run eight voluntary groups each week. The majority of the groups have 10 or 11 members. Typically group members remain in the same group until graduation. For the past three years, over 80% of the Webb community has participated in the Voluntary Group Program. Attendance overall is excellent, which is remarkable considering how busy Webb students are. I believe that the stigma surrounding mental health at Webb has been greatly reduced, which has helped this program grow. Of note, it should not be overlooked that this program is provided to the students at no additional cost to them. Furthermore, Webb is most likely the only higher educational facility that has the overwhelming majority of its students participating in a voluntary group therapy program.

Webbies are known for their intellect, but many are also introverted and private. How did you build trust and create space for openness in group sessions?

This is an excellent question. In order to have an environment whereby students feel comfortable sharing their concerns, there has to be an understanding that the information that is disclosed in the group room stays within the walls of the group room. Confidentiality is the crux of the Group Program. During Freshman Group, the rules of confidentiality and their limits are explained in great detail, and each freshman signs a confidentiality agreement. Moreover, after sensitive information is shared in the group room, I will remind students about confidentiality.

Can you describe what a typical group is like?

There is no set agenda for each group. I begin each meeting with a general prompt like "Does anyone have anything they want to share this week?" Most times, groups take off from there without any intervention on my part.

Just to clarify, the vast majority of the students who are in the Group Program are well-adjusted college students. Topics brought up in groups are typical for this age cohort, including feelings of loneliness, anxiety, depression, relationship issues, family problems, substance use concerns and time management difficulties. For freshmen, the all too common fear of not being able to succeed at Webb is met with a giant "we know exactly how you feel and this is how we got through it." For the student who is struggling academically as well as personally, having a group of people who can understand how the academic demands of Webb can exacerbate other non-academic issues is comforting. Group provides a wide safety net for its members. It's a judgment free zone where students can voice anything that is on their minds. The group members form a mini community and often develop strong bonds. I recall one group when an underclassman was expressing discomfort due to frequent panic attacks and loneliness, an upperclassman asked this student for their phone, plugged in their number and said you now have someone to call 24/7. Group also offers its members the benefit of having 10 additional perspectives to a problem. I often anoint a group member assistant leader status after they provide spot-on advice to their peers. Groups can allow for experiential experiences that you cannot get in individual therapy. For example, a group member who is unaware of how their behavior is negatively affecting their classmates, can get real-time supportive feedback about these behaviors as they occur in the group setting. Finally, group is not always intense, we laugh a lot and look forward to having a stress-free hour to unwind each week.

How have you seen students grow emotionally and socially through the Group program?

Group offers me the privilege of having quality time with many students over the course of four years; of giving me a front-row seat to witness the trajectory of their emotional maturation. Typically, most freshmen start off kind of quiet; they sit back and are observers rather than conversation starters. There is a direct correlation between the students' class year and the number of contributions they make. By the time most students are seniors and have been in a group for four years, they are more comfortable sharing, and they have also honed the skills to facilitate conversations with others. At times, group members in the same group have had disputes. Carefully dismantling those conflicts allows all of the group members not only to offer advice but also to draw parallels between the issue at hand and their own conflicts. One of the most rewarding parts of leading groups is to help diffuse conflicts between roommates, romantic partners and peers by helping each party to gain an understanding of their adversary and thereby have a better perspective of the situation. It is my great hope that the tools that group members learn in group will parlay into their post-graduation lives.

What personal values of yours have you added to the Group Program?

I think that my strong belief in expressing gratitude to others and providing positive feedback has seeped its way into the Group Program. We are often so hard on ourselves and quick to listen to negative self-talk. I strive to remind these students every week that they are valued and important. Any opportunity I have to give someone a compliment or cheer for their accomplishments, big or small, I take. Probably the best example of this is Senior Week. Senior Week is held during one of the last weeks of the spring semester and it is basically my gift to the seniors for their dedication to group. During Senior Week, the seniors receive feedback from each group member and myself about the positive impact they have made on their other group members. The seniors also go around the room and reciprocate positive feedback to each group member as well. Without fail, there are feelings of disbelief listening to how one's actions positively impacted their peers, feelings of love and respect are acknowledged, friendships are appreciated and happy tears are shed. Senior Week also provides the seniors a place to reflect on their college experience and recognize their own personal growth.

If we circle back to why I started The Group Program in the first place - to help form connections that can aid with increasing one's level of happiness - it is during Senior Week that I clearly see the success of this program. One of the most common sentiments expressed is that close friendships were made between people who wouldn't have chosen each other to be friends outside of group, be that because they were in different classes or more typically because of different personality styles. Webb Institute is a prestigious college, with top-notch faculty, a caring administration and most importantly, incredible, inquisitive, and talented students. It is my sincere hope that the Group Program has made Webb students a little happier and that the skills and friendships made in group will last a lifetime.



25-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF STOLT INTERNSHIPS

by Alexis Ells '28

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Webb Institute's Winter Work partnership with Stolt Tankers, a collaboration that has given generations of students the opportunity to apply classroom knowledge aboard real working vessels. From standing midnight watch to inspecting reduction gears, Webb students gain hands-on insight into ship systems, life at sea, and the engineering challenges that drive the maritime industry forward.

This partnership holds special meaning for Webb. Our President, Mark Martecchini, once served as President of Stolt Tankers. During this year's internship, students aboard the Stolt Effort even discovered a poster signed by him from 2009 still displayed on the ship. What follows is a Q&A reflection from one of this year's interns, Alexis Ells '28, capturing the learning, growth, and pride that comes from being part of this legacy.

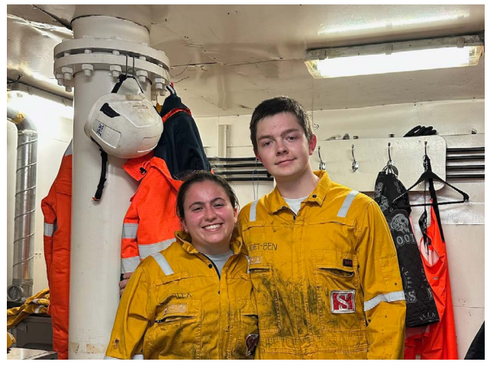
Q: What was your day-to-day like aboard the Stolt tanker, and what kind of projects or tasks did you get to be part of?

My day-to-day responsibilities during Sea Term were divided between two distinct roles, deck cadet and engine cadet. As a deck cadet, I stood the 00:00–04:00 and 12:00–16:00 watches under the guidance of Second Officer Sophie De Decker. Adjusting to this schedule was initially challenging—especially waking up at 23:30 for the midnight watch—but I quickly adapted. Finding the right balance between meals, rest, and work took some time, but once I settled into the rhythm, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Sophie was incredibly knowledgeable and supportive, particularly when it came to helping with questions related to the Sea Term project.

During my time on deck, I participated in cargo operations and assisted on the bridge during port maneuvers and berth shifts. One of the most memorable experiences was helping Sophie repair the ship's magnetic compass after its sensor had detached. This task took us to the highest point on the vessel, where I gained hands-on insight into the compass's mechanics and functionality. It was a unique and rewarding learning opportunity.

The second half of my Sea Term was spent in the engine department. Unlike the deck side, we weren't assigned to a specific officer; instead, we were encouraged to explore areas that interested us each day. Third Engineer Benji stood out as an invaluable resource—he was not only instrumental in guiding us through our projects but also had an impressive command of the ship's systems and manuals. We knew we could always rely on him for clear explanations and support.

One particularly fascinating experience was observing Benji and the Second Engineer conduct a check on the reduction gears. Watching the gears in motion and understanding how they meshed provided a deeper appreciation for the complexity and precision of the ship's propulsion system.



Lexi Ells and Ben Taylor on board the Stolt Tankers for their Winter Work Internship term

Q: Was there a moment where something you learned in class clicked while you were onboard?

Throughout my time on the ship, I found numerous opportunities to apply concepts from our Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture courses. Seeing real-world ship stability reports—something we studied in Naval Architecture II—brought classroom theory to life. Similarly, learning about the ship's engines directly connected with topics covered in Marine Engineering I, made the experience both exciting and educational. One particularly valuable connection was with the piping project from Marine Engineering II, which proved incredibly helpful when creating the six major piping schematics required for our Sea Term project.

These are just a few examples, but nearly every day presented a new chance to either apply previously learned material or gain fresh insights that deepened my understanding.

Q: What did you learn from the crew or engineers, whether technical skills, problem-solving, or just life at sea?

The crew and engineering staff were incredibly generous with their knowledge throughout the voyage. They took the time to explain how various systems operated, walked us through cargo operations, and even discussed design challenges they encountered. Their openness created a rich learning environment and made it easy to ask questions and engage deeply with the material.

Beyond the technical instruction, the crew also made a point to include us in onboard activities, which helped maintain high morale during long stretches at sea without port calls. These moments were just as important as the technical lessons, contributing to a well-rounded and positive experience.

The depth of knowledge we gained is reflected in our Sea Term reports. These projects served as a culmination of everything we learned, allowing us to demonstrate our understanding and ensure we made the most of our time aboard.

Q: How did this experience challenge you or help you grow, both as a student and as a future engineer?

Living aboard a ship was unlike anything I had experienced before. Unlike life on land, we couldn't simply step off the vessel whenever we wanted—we had to wait for a convenient berth while in port. At one point, we spent nearly three weeks at sea. While that may sound daunting, I wouldn't have wished for anything different.

This extended time onboard gave me a deeper appreciation for the importance of thoughtful ship design, especially considering that crew members often spend months at sea. It also helped me grow as a student, fueling my curiosity and desire to continue learning. Being immersed in the ship's environment allowed me to explore its many systems and gain a comprehensive understanding of how everything operates on a day-to-day basis.

Q: What was it like getting to represent Webb at Stolt, and how did the company make you feel as a student-intern?

Stolt has a long-standing history of hosting Webb interns—going back over 25 years— and it truly showed during our time aboard. As student-interns, we were welcomed with enthusiasm and given countless opportunities to observe and participate in fascinating onboard procedures. The crew was not only generous with their time and knowledge but also ensured we had dedicated time to work on our Sea Term projects, which was incredibly helpful.

It was especially meaningful to know that the Stolt Effort had hosted Webb students the year prior, including Andrew Karafa '26 and Everett Botwinick '26. Many of the same crew members and engineers were still on board and excitedly asked about them as well. Being part of a ship culture that already understood and valued Webb's academic mission made our experience even more enriching. The crew's investment in our learning over the eight-week period made a lasting impact.

Q: How did it feel to intern at a company that our own President once helped lead? Did that connection add meaning to your experience?

One day, while sitting in the conference room, we found ourselves looking at the many awards and posters displayed on the walls. To our surprise, we noticed that one of them had been signed by President Martecchini back when he was the Managing Director in 2009. It was a powerful moment of realization. Seeing the journey from Webb student to a leadership role in ship management and design was incredibly inspiring.

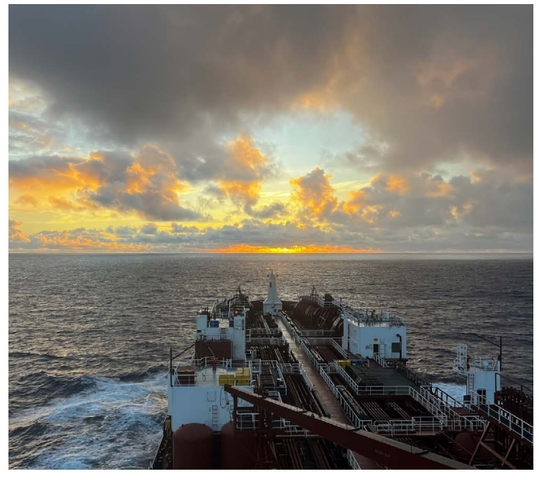
For me, that moment showcased the potential impact we, as future engineers and naval architects, can have on the lives of those who live and work aboard these vessels. It reminded me that our work goes far beyond technical drawings and calculations—it directly affects the safety, comfort, and efficiency of life at sea. That realization has stayed with me and continues to fuel my passion for this field.

Q: What advice would you give to other Webbies (students) on making the most of their Winter Work internships?

Enjoy every second—because eight weeks truly flies by! The experiences we gain through these internships are invaluable. From working in a shipyard during freshman year to living and working aboard a vessel that crossed the Atlantic, every moment has been nothing short of amazing.

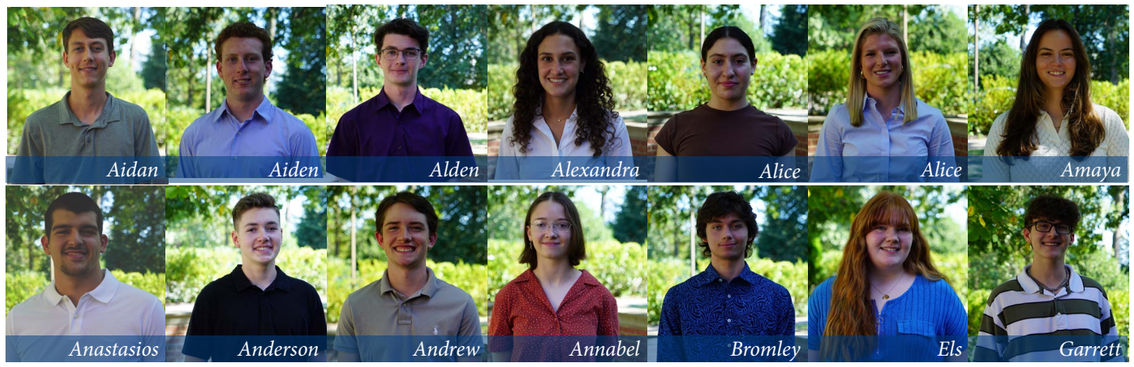
These internships are what set Webbies apart. They highlight just how much Webb teaches us in only four years and give us the chance to apply that knowledge in real-world settings year after year. Being able to connect classroom theory with hands-on experience has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my education so far.

I'm incredibly excited for the next two years, when I'll have the opportunity to contribute to the design process in an office setting. Each step of this journey continues to build on the last, and I can't wait to see where it leads.



The Class of 2029

MEET THE NEW WEBBIES



1 STUDENT HELD **MORE THAN 2 INTERNSHIPS**

5 **PARTICIPATED ON A ROBOTICS TEAM**

85% HAVE SERVED AS A **CAPTAIN, FOUNDER, PRESIDENT** OR **TEAM LEAD**

82% ARE INVOLVED IN **ATHLETICS**

sailing, volleyball, soccer, cross country, field hockey, track, lacrosse, softball, golf, wrestling, rowing, tennis, archery, martial arts, basketball

43% INVOLVED WITH **BOY SCOUTS, GIRL SCOUTS, VENTURE CREW**, OR **SEA SCOUTS**

5 Named Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Venture Crew or Sea Scouts

26% PLAY A MUSICAL **INSTRUMENT OR IN CHOIR**

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

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



Building Community:

The Unsung Heroes Behind Webb's Social Life



by Alyssa Caliguri
Director of Admissions and Student Affairs

At Webb the community is at the heart of the student experience. While academics shapes much of daily life, it's the social events- the ones that bring laughter, friendship, and lasting memories that truly unite the student body. Behind these moments is a dedicated group of individuals who work tirelessly to make them happen: the Webb Social Committee, led by its hardworking and often underappreciated co-chairs. Annabel Bornebusch and Molly Heilshorn did phenomenal work this year. Logan Compton will be joining Molly Heilshorn this year as the new co-chair for the 2025-2026 academic year.

From large-scale signature events like **Webbstock**, **Gatsby Night**, and **Casino Night**, to monthly holiday celebrations and spontaneous community gatherings, the Social Committee is the creative engine that fuels Webb's vibrant campus life. These events are essential opportunities for students to connect across grades, decompress from academic stress, and build a stronger sense of belonging within the Webb community.

The **co-chairs** of the Social Committee play a central role in this work. They are the planners, the problem-solvers, the promoters, and often the first ones to arrive and the last ones to leave every event. Coordinating with staff, managing logistics, balancing budgets, and staying attuned to student interests. They do all of this while juggling their own school responsibilities, which is no small feat. They consistently rise to the occasion with creativity, enthusiasm, and professionalism.

Take **Webbstock**, for example a festival-style event that transforms campus with music, food, inflatable obstacle courses/slides, and a relaxed outdoor vibe. Or **Gatsby Night**, a classy, themed evening that brings the Roaring Twenties to life in detail, from securing decorations and a swing band to creating the atmosphere. These events require months of preparation and attention.

And it's not just the big events they work hard on for their fellow students. Monthly celebrations, like Halloween and winter holiday parties, also bring energy and seasonal spirit to campus. These smaller gatherings may not make headlines, but they play a vital role in keeping student morale high and the campus culture alive.

Despite their immense contribution, Social Committee co-chairs often fly under the radar when it comes to recognition. Their work may happen behind the scenes, but its impact is front and center in the Webb experience.

It's time we acknowledge and appreciate the dedication and leadership that these co-chairs bring to Webb. Their efforts don't just create fun events they build memories, shape campus culture, and strengthen the bonds that make Webb a true community.

So next time you're dancing at Webbstock or winning big at Casino Night take a moment to thank the Social Committee Chairs. Their work may be behind the scenes, but their impact is felt across the community.





Students at Gatsby 2024







MY SPACEX
WINTER WORK INTERNSHIP

by Burke Kanemasu '25

Last summer, and again this winter, I had the incredible opportunity to intern at SpaceX as part of the recovery team in Long Beach, California. I worked as an engineering intern, supporting the operations of the West Coast droneship *Of Course I Still Love You* and assisting with the transition of the Dragon recovery vessel *Shannon* to the West Coast.

I first reached out to Carl Webster '03, a Webb alum currently at SpaceX, almost a year before the internship started. SpaceX requires a minimum internship length of 12 weeks, while Webb's official internship period is only eight weeks. Navigating this timing misalignment wasn't easy, but Carl was instrumental in helping bridge the gap. Thanks to his mentorship and support, I was able to join the team and return later for Winter Work in January and February. To other Webbies thinking about their internships: start reaching out early. There are many Webb alumni like Carl Webster who want to help you.

What struck me most about SpaceX's work culture is the ownership all engineers take over their systems and projects. Each engineer is responsible for ensuring their system is operational for mission success and that any necessary projects are completed before critical deadlines. Interns are given that same level of responsibility with real, challenging projects where you're the lead. That means the work you do matters, and sometimes, it means long hours troubleshooting to keep launches on schedule.

Because of a standard Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA), I signed during onboarding, I can't share specific details about the projects I worked on. But I can say that the experience challenged me technically and personally. It gave me confidence in my problem-solving skills and a clearer sense of what kind of engineer I want to become. One of my biggest takeaways was learning how to work effectively with tight deadlines and high stakes.



A group picture at launch pad 39A in Cape Canaveral



My time at Webb prepared me well for this experience. The emphasis on systems thinking, hands-on engineering, and tight-knit teamwork at Webb mirrored the environment I found at SpaceX. And having a strong foundation in ship systems definitely helped, considering the marine side of recovery operations.

The team at SpaceX was filled with smart, driven engineers who were also welcoming and supportive. It felt great to be part of a culture where everyone is pushing boundaries, yet is still willing to take the time to mentor and help each other.

Knowing that the projects I worked on were part of real missions was incredibly motivating, and I'm very grateful for the opportunity.



Carl and Burke in a dragon training capsule



Burke and another summer intern, Duncan, on the ferry to Catalina for a team bonding event



A MODERN HULL THESIS

by Karissa Nieves '27, Student PR Chair and Kaye Lin, Director of Communications and Marketing





In a bold effort to bridge gaps in publicly available data on modern containership hulls, Webb seniors John Feleciano, Luke Foye, and Tyler Zylinski embarked on an ambitious thesis project: "Development of a Modern Hull Form Series in the Robinson Model Basin." Guided by Professors Richard Royce and Bradley Golden, the team designed, built, and tested a parent model representative of a 16,000 twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) containership, complete with an implicit bulbous bow.

Their work isn't just a senior thesis, it's the launch of what they hope will become a multi-year, open-source research initiative that reflects the evolving realities of commercial ship design.

"Larger container ships, especially those with implicit bulbs, are still relatively new," Tyler explained. "One of our goals was to begin building a publicly available database on their characteristics, something that's missing from current literature."

Hands-on Learning Rooted in Tradition

The spark ignited from a love for hands-on learning, a hallmark of Webb's tight-knit family.

"Model testing is one of the purest forms of naval architecture," John shared, as he spoke with respect for this legendary craft. "It's a method that dates back over a century, and we wanted to experience that full process- from design to fabrication to testing."

Tyler and Luke echoed the excitement, eager to harness Webb's woodshop and Robinson Model Basin. The trio constructed a parent model that broke from legacy norms. Their design incorporated a vertical stem, stern bulb, and an implicit bulbous bow, features often seen in modern container ships but rarely reflected in traditional hull form series like Series 60, MARAD, or Delft.

They started with weeks of design and validation, clocking in up to 30 hours a week constructing and testing their model. Several faculty and staff members also played critical roles in supporting the project from start to finish. The real magic came when their digital dream took form.

"Seeing our digital model in Rhino become a real object- curves, paint, everything- was incredibly rewarding," Luke said, as he pictured the gleaming hull in the water.

Challenges and Problem Solving

Bringing theory into physical testing wasn't without surprises. The five-foot standard model size used in Webb's towing tank was originally intended for smaller ships. Applying it to an ultra-large container vessel introduced scaling challenges.

"We ran into inconsistent data at certain speeds," Tyler said. "The flow seemed to transition from laminar to turbulent and back again."

To resolve this, Professor Royce recommended a method developed by the late Professor Hadler, adding a second set of Hama strips aft of the first. It worked, allowing the students to stabilize the flow and collect more consistent data.

Even so, because of the limitations imposed by scale, the team was unable to observe conclusive resistance differences between their three bow variations. The work, however, laid the foundation for future classes to build upon.

Industry Impact

At the heart of this thesis lies a question of access. Most hull form data used in the industry are conducted under Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs), often by large companies, making it unavailable to the broader design community.

"By creating something public through our research at Webb, we're offering the industry a small but meaningful contribution." - Luke Foye



Testing in the Model Basin

Though scale quirks blurred differences between their three bow variations, their tests proved the hull's promise.

At Webb Institute, where every workshop hums with purpose and every student feels like family, this thesis was a voyage of discovery.

"This was about more than just a senior thesis. It's a stepping stone. We hope future students will build on it, and that one day, it becomes a useful tool for naval architects around the world."- John Feleciano



John working on the project



A Season of Accomplishments

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

The spring semester always seems to go by faster than the fall semester. Why is that? I believe it's because of the achievements and milestones reached during spring.

When the freshmen return for the second semester, they have been transformed by their experiences in shipyards across the country. Exposure to the sights, sounds, and smells of a shipyard, the people they met on the job, and the experience of living on their "own" have noticeably matured them. Stories of shipyard activities and tales of hijinks, on and off the job, create a buzz around the Couch Academic Center as the semester kicks off. By the end of the semester, after completing Professor Gallagher's Introduction to Marine Engineering course, where student teams tear down and reassemble a diesel engine, they are fully transitioned from a group of individual high school graduates to a class of full-fledged Webbies.

Fresh from working aboard ships, the Webb sophomores return in early March with a new appreciation for the complexity of ships and the daily challenges faced by those who operate them. Working aboard a chemical tanker or a Military Sealift Command underway replenishment ship for eight weeks provides lessons that no textbook or lecture slide deck could ever replicate. With this new perspective, the students dive into their challenging coursework in fluid mechanics, dynamics, and machine design with a new sense of clarity about the importance of these subjects. They drive forward, moving beyond the academic foundations they established in high school.

After having the opportunity to apply what they have learned in the "real world," the juniors return focused and with a sense of purpose essential for success in one of Webb's most challenging semesters. Time spent in engineering and design offices, with the Navy, or working for commercial ship operators has developed new skill sets, knowledge, and a deeper understanding of the complexity of maritime systems. Thus, they begin the semester ready to tackle three key components of the Webb academic program: the concept ship design course, selecting a senior thesis topic, and attending the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) in Houston. The ship design course challenges students to apply what they have learned about naval architecture and marine engineering, seek out additional knowledge, work collaboratively in teams, and engage with industry mentors as they strive to develop a feasible concept ship design. Developing a thesis topic requires students to explore various topics relevant to naval architecture, marine engineering, ship design, and marine systems while discovering what they are passionate about. Artificial intelligence, automation, and sustainability provide rich grounds for developing exciting and relevant thesis projects. Attending OTC exposes students to the international offshore industry and the latest advances in engineering and technology developments in that space. Attending presentations and exploring exhibits provides students with the opportunity to learn through engagement with industry professionals, driven by curiosity rather than a course outline.

The seniors return to campus, inspired by their final internship experience, confident that their Webb experience has prepared them for careers in the maritime industry. It is common for some to start their last semester with a job offer already in hand. But before they walk out onto the first terrace in black robes with hoods in hand, there is still much work to do. Working through a ship's structural design and learning how to properly use advanced engineering tools such as finite element analysis and computational fluid dynamics rounds out their comprehensive technical education. Finishing the thesis project, including the written document and a public presentation, is an achievement that generations of Webb students have accomplished before graduation. This year's thesis topics ranged from exploring wireless charging systems for autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs), to developing a systematic series of ultra-large containerships, to designing a modern shipyard, to investigating the effect of keel rotation on sailing yacht performance, to designing an oscillating water column wave energy generator, and more. With all the work completed, exams taken, and grades assigned, the seniors have completed their Webb experience and leave campus prepared to pursue their next adventure.

As the seniors celebrate their achievements with family and friends in the Cuneo Courtyard, we faculty members take a moment to reflect on how far the graduates have come since that hot, humid August day when they first arrived on campus four years ago. While there are two semesters each academic year, the spring semester truly captures what makes the Webb academic program one without equal.



The Graduating Class of 2025

REGIONAL EVENTS '25

by Eric Linsner '70



Eric Linsner '70
Sixth Member of the WAA

In 2025, the Webb Alumni Association held ten Regional Events which was three more than in 2024. A special thanks goes to the alumni Regional Coordinators who organized the events, with grateful assistance from Gailmarie Sujecki, Webb Director of Alumni Affairs. The purpose of the Regional Events is to allow networking of local alumni in one of the fourteen Webb Alumni Association regions.

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. Excluding the Houston event, which has not yet taken place, a total of 188 alumni and students attended the Regional Events. This represents over ten percent of the living alumni. The students attending expressed their appreciation for a chance to meet the alumni and get information on the prospects for future employment and living in the region.

As noted below, the events took place in a variety of venues including a chili competition at the home of a Regional Coordinator. One Regional Event included a tour of the International Yacht Restoration School (IYRS) which offers a two-year program on restoration of traditional wooden yachts. Although this year's program did not involve a President's Tour, the president, Mark Martecchini, attended two events and provided an update on recent improvements to the facilities. The events made for memorable experiences and connections which is 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
Jan. 29	New York	Manhattan, NY	Bradley Golden* '99
Jan. 30	Southern Florida	Dania Beach, FL	Mara DuVernois* '20 Nolan Conway '12
Feb. 6	Pacific Northwest	Seattle WA	Ben Hunt* '21 Juliette Lehman '22
Feb. 8	Greater Boston	Lexington MA	Ian Mutnick* '96
Feb. 9	Southern California	San Diego CA	Nick Ratinaud* '18
Feb. 15	Southern New England	Newport RI	David Pedrick* '70
Feb. 15	Europe	Hamburg, Germany	Spencer Dugan '17
Feb. 20	Europe	Rotterdam Netherlands	Leah Sosa '98
Feb. 22	Southern Virginia	Hampton Roads, VA	T.J. Brackin* '16
Feb. 23	Northern Virginia	Arlington VA	Sarah Stretch* '19

WAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Leah Sosa '08
President

Jacob Genauer '10
Vice President

Nathan Hagan '12
Secretary

Steve Pagan '88
Treasurer

Kasey J. Kennedy '23
Fifth Member

Eric Linsner '70
Sixth Member

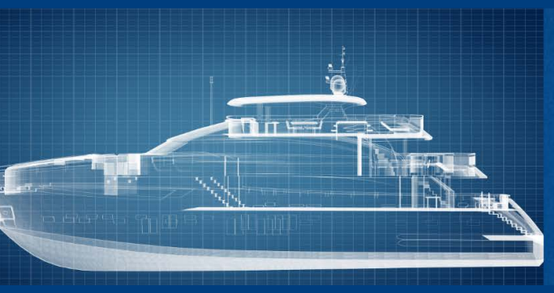
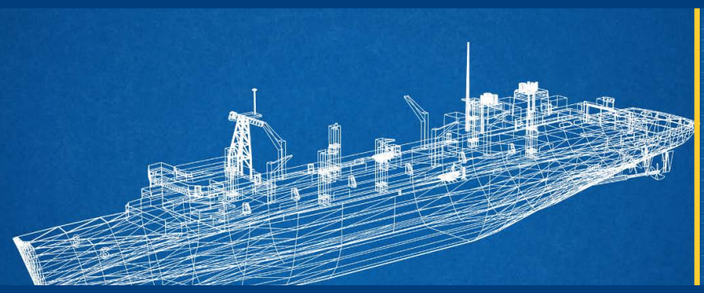
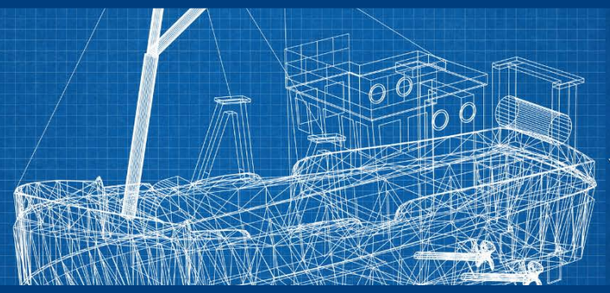
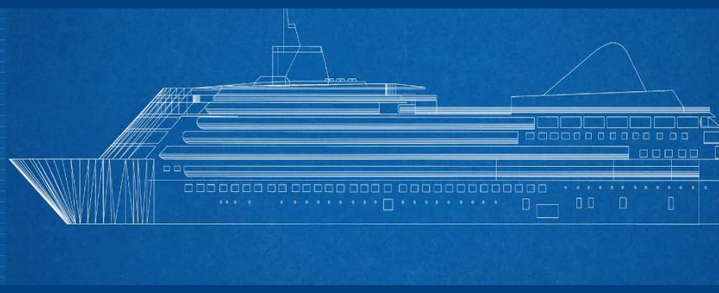
Ted Dickenson '92
Past President

Matthew R. Werner '95, PG'97
Historian

Spencer Schilling '82
Member at Large

Joe Signorelli '54
Member at Large

Robert Bolling '97
Member at Large

SHIP DESIGN I - THE LATEST SHIP DESIGNS

FROM THE NEWEST SHIP DESIGNERS

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

As the 2024-2025 academic year came to a close, the Class of 2026 reached a major milestone in their naval architecture and marine engineering careers by completing their first ship design projects. The projects were carried out in the spring semester Ship Design I (SD1) class, which leads the students through the design spiral to develop the concept design of a vessel.

This year, the Juniors started out with a list of 28 different vessel types that they were interested in designing. Six vessels were ultimately selected: an Autonomous Combat Craft Repair/Refueling Vessel, a Coast Guard Motor Life Boat, a Combat Craft Mothership, an Expedition Cruise Vessel, a Nuclear Support Vessel, and an Offshore Wind Support Vessel. After being given a set of requirements that were developed jointly by members of the Webb faculty and dedicated teams of industry mentors who volunteered to help each of the groups, the student design teams began their work. Over the next several weeks, the principal particulars were determined and arrangements were developed, followed by their hull forms. Weights and centers of gravity were then calculated and loading conditions were prepared so that strength and stability analyses could be carried out. Powering studies and cost estimates were also developed to round out the technical studies.

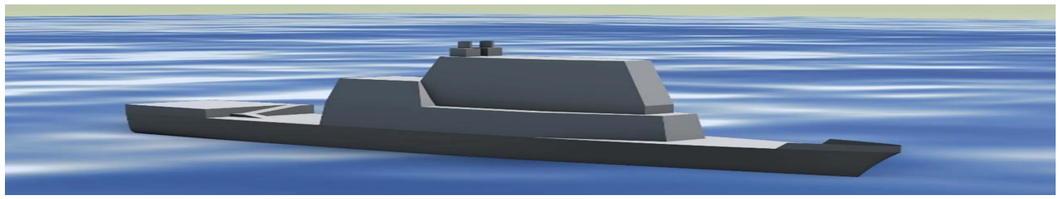
Not only did the students meet the rigorous demands of their "clients," but they were forced to think outside the box as well and come up with innovative solutions that were not only technically feasible but would also meet an ambitious environmental target as well. This year's requirements included a 25% reduction in the use of conventional fossil fuels and operating in a "zero fossil fuels mode" at a given service speed for a minimum period of 24 hours.

Just before Homecoming, the design groups presented the results of their work to a panel of industry experts, including members of Webb's Board of Trustees, Industry Advisory Group, and faculty. The feedback from the panel was overwhelmingly positive – everyone was impressed by the quality of the work that was carried out. Best of all, the students gained knowledge on what it takes to complete a vessel concept design and they were able to experience the process for themselves. With this newfound knowledge and experience, the Class of 2026 is better prepared going into their Senior year to begin their individual preliminary ship designs in SD2 and SD3.

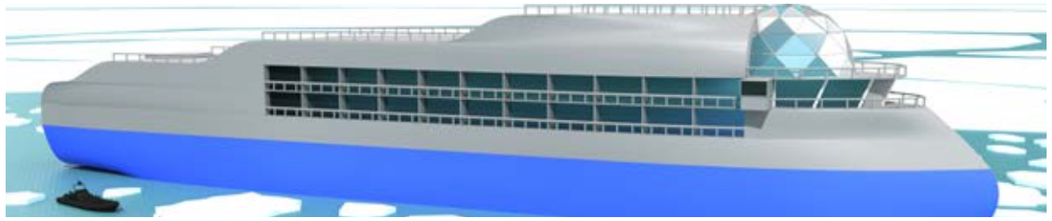
Coast Guard Motor Life Boat



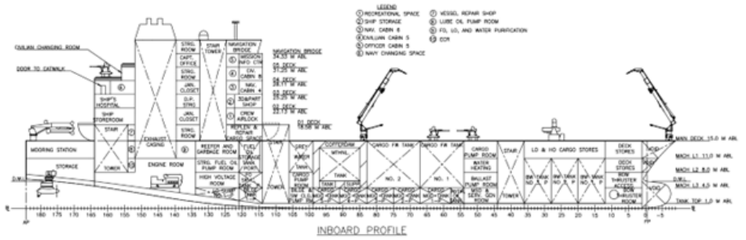
Combat Craft Mothership



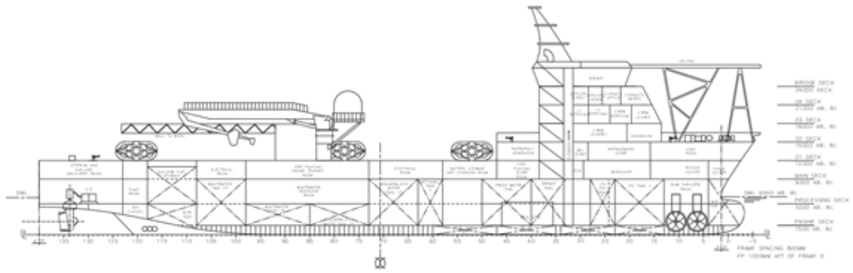
Expedition Cruise Vessel



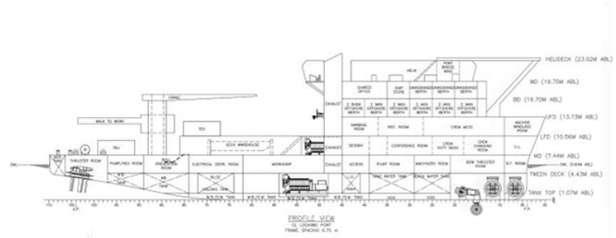
Autonomous Combat Craft Repair/ Refueling Vessel



Nuclear Support Vessel

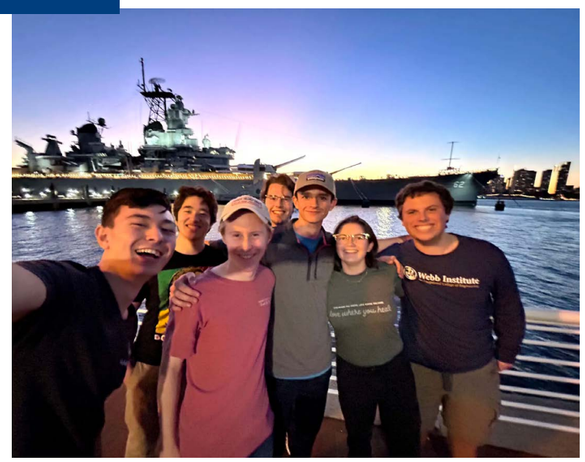


Offshore Wind Support Vessel



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM MY FIRST-YEAR AT WEBB

by Joseph Giresi '28



Joseph with his classmates on a field trip.

From meeting established graduates in more unique areas of maritime specialities than I can count on my fingers to being sent a long way across America to the icy-cold state of Wisconsin, my experience as a freshman at Webb Institute over the past year can be described as nothing less than a life-changing expedition.

The most exciting parts of my freshman year were the cruise, shipyard, and SNAME-related experiences that Professor Bradley Golden organized. Onboard Carnival Venezia Cruise with Hampton Dixon, I saw the ins and outs of a cruise ship's operation in the guided tour of the ship's public accommodations and backends of the crew's operation. Our visit to Philly Shipyard prepared me for my interests and goals in my own upcoming shipyard internship.

Although the winter weather in Wisconsin was harsh, the people were loving and kind, with shipyard workers ready to help and share stories about their life and their profession. At Fincantieri Marinette Marine (FMM), Wesli Rivera, an experienced painter, welder, electrician, and more for over a decade, advised me to ask many questions and learn as much as possible. Taking this advice to heart, our dinner with Webb Institute alumni Sean Smith '02 led me to explore my curiosity about his life, asking him about stories throughout his career and as a Webbie. He shared with us duties he held at FMM, including being the Chief Naval Architect and corrosion specialist, helping me understand the relevance of corrosion learned with Professor Matthew McMahon in Chemistry. Because of this advice, I look forward to pursuing future roles in project management, stability calculations, or more work in using Navisworks to review accuracy of ship construction. Lastly, the opportunity to travel to a faraway place from the northeast provided me with the experience to see remarkable places such as the beautiful Lake Michigan, a lake so frozen in the winter that people drove cars on it like it was dry land.

What I can say having completed freshman year is that Webb Institute changes lives, and that Webb Institute changed my life. From trips including countless class and school-wide SNAME events, Norfolk boat show, trips to maritime academies, and exciting events outside school, the closeness of the Webb Institute community has enriched these experiences and my endeavors. Despite the academic difficulties at some points, these are also accompanied with laughter, joy, and jokes in conference rooms as our class prepares for upcoming exams. These great memories experienced with my classmates despite occasional rough waves on the way have truly made me glad to be called a Webbie and part of this community.

No matter how hard the work gets or how painful climbing upside down in a dusty, narrow space on a ship can be, the obstacles are always overcome with support from my friends, classmates, professors, and the exciting journeys that come my way.



Joseph utilizing the student kitchen and baking an apple pie.



Joseph and Webbies attending a first Communion and Confirmation.



SAILING AT WEBB

by Anna Lindberg '25

Last summer, the Webb keelboat sailing team had sailors on two boats for the 2024 Newport to Bermuda Race. Sailing 636 nautical miles, John Feleciano '25 and Zach Doerr '24 doublehanded *Groupe 5* while AJ Mills '24, Evan Spalding '24, Anna Lindberg '25, Gunnar Nee '25, and Calvin Schmid '26 sailed on *Desperado* with three Webb alums. While the upwind conditions were tricky, Webb delivered commendable results with *Groupe 5* finishing second overall in the Double-Handed Division and *Desperado* finishing mid-fleet in the St. Davids Lighthouse Division.

The highlight of the fall season has been the keelboat team's outstanding performance at the Intercollegiate Offshore Regatta (IOR). Competing against teams from 41 schools, Webb sailors raced the modified J/105 *Sleeper* and swept the board, not losing a single race over the course of the regatta. Crew Rayne Duff '25, Anna Lindberg '25, John Feleciano '25, Gunnar Nee '25, Burke Kanemasu '25, and Harrison Weinberg '26 walked away not only winning their class, but the regatta overall. After being awarded the prestigious Paul Hoffman Trophy for the overall highest winning percentage, skipper Rayne Duff '25 attributed the win to "consistently good starts, a team that works great together, and a fun-focused attitude."

To start the spring season, the dinghy and keelboat teams banded together for a rare opportunity to attend the 25th Chesapeake Sailing Yacht Symposium at the United States Naval Academy. Motivated to learn from the leading designers in the racing yacht industry, the sailors listened to presentations on hydrofoil optimization, sustainable composites, and advances in velocity prediction programs. According to Webb alumna Jaye Falls '95 who helped organize the event, "I was also struck by the intense interest and attention your students gave to all of our speakers. They took notes, asked intelligent questions, and generally enlivened the symposium with their youth and energy. I had many positive conversations with other attendees about the good impression the Webb students made, and how encouraged we all were by the students' obvious engagement with the presentations. They also made a very good showing at the reception, where they networked and took full advantage of their time to meet new contacts and discuss papers with the authors. This kind of participation by students is what we all hope for to keep our specialties alive."

For the rest of the spring season, the dinghy team continues to perform well in preparation for conference championships while the keelboat team is looking forward to getting back on the water once the weather warms up.

Thank you for your continued support!



Receiving awards at IOR - Credit: Stephen Cloutier



Sailing Modified J/105 Sleeper at IOR
Credit: Stephen Cloutier



SUSTAINABILITY IN SHIP DESIGN & OPERATIONS 2024 - STRIVING FOR SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

by Bradley Golden '99, Associate Professor of Naval Architecture

Last October, Webb hosted the fourth installment of its Sustainability in Ship Design and Operations (SISDO) conference. This two-day event was held at Webb and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point (USMMA) with the support of both schools and a number of industry partners.

Speakers from across the United States and Europe presented on over 20 different topics ranging from wind propulsion technologies, electric power developments, and operational approaches to sustainable ship design. The conference also hosted a student project pitch session during which four different student groups presented their research aimed at improving efficiencies in vessel design and operation.

The conference was well attended by industry participants from around the world and by students and faculty from Webb, the USMMA, and SUNY Maritime College. Both in-person attendees and remote participation were available to provide the content being offered to as wide an audience as possible. The sessions from both days were recorded and are available for public viewing at webb.edu. Conference proceedings, which include the slides from many of the presentations as well as technical papers, are available online as well.

The events of the two days were an excellent opportunity to share information, network with professionals, and encourage stimulating conversations about our industry's efforts to find sustainable solutions for the maritime community. During his opening remarks on the first day of the conference, President Martecchini observed that there's "no shortage of innovative and creative designs and ideas on how to decarbonize marine transportation," and that "Webb's role is to prepare students for this brave new world" of incorporating sustainability in ship design. Through our efforts like SISDO, we hope that we're helping to fulfill this responsibility by showing our students and the greater maritime industry at least some of the considerations that need to be considered and some of the options being developed to help us achieve these goals.

Special thanks go to our conference committee members including Professors Spenser Boyd and Bradley Golden of Webb, Professor Sergio Perez of the USMMA, Laurent Corbel of Wind Support NYC, and Guilhem Gaillarde of MARIN. Plans for the fifth SISDO conference later this year are in the works, and we hope to increase participation among students, academia, and industry partners. Details for SISDO 2025 will be announced soon.



Students and professionals filled Webb's Henry Auditorium for the SISD conference.



The conversation continued at USMMA where attendees gathered to advance sustainable practices.

SEA PROGRAM 2025

This summer, Webb Institute welcomed its 2025 cohort of future engineers to the annual Summer Engineering Academy (SEA), a two-week, hands-on immersion in naval architecture and marine systems. Held across two sessions: July 7–18 and July 21–August 1, the program guided rising 8th–12th grade students through a robust curriculum combining classroom lectures, team-oriented design-build-test activities, and a field trip to a nearby engineering site. The week culminated in a lively boat-building challenge, complete with a spirited race that parents were invited to watch on the program's final Friday.

SEA 2025 fostered real-world engineering principles in a supportive and collaborative environment. Participants sharpened problem-solving skills and gained hands-on experience in laboratory settings, safely using power and hand tools under expert supervision. Led by Dean Matthew Werner and Associate Professor Bradley Golden, the program emphasized creativity, teamwork, and a passion for innovation in marine design









New Hire in Admissions



by Natalie Koetsier,
Assistant Director of Admissions

Wow! What a wonderful time at Webb Institute! Prior to joining the Webb community, I didn't know I would be receiving a welcome with this calibre of warmth. From my coworkers, to the faculty, to the alumni, and the students–everyone has been exceptionally kind. And I'm from the kind-hearted Midwest, so that's saying a lot.

In just a short time, I've enjoyed reviewing many competitive applications, interviewing top-notch candidates, joining the Admissions Committee meetings, leading tours, and attending several (and counting!) fairs and outreach events.

As a young professional, a notable aspect of this work environment is that I feel respected and heard. When participating in meetings, my words are treated with value by my coworkers. This stands in contrast to shocking accounts I've heard from friends in other industries, who are also young professionals, who've felt overlooked due to either their age, gender, or perceived lack of experience. That has never been the case at Webb. I am proud to work at a place that treats their employees with such care and regard.

I'm also learning a lot about Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering! With a background in English creative writing and AI in Advertising, I was not anticipating that I'd learn the terminology behind statics, hull design, propulsion, and corrosion, but this community makes it fun to learn about boats! Even though I don't have a natural engineering mindset, the faculty have been incredibly supportive in helping me develop a foundational understanding of NAME. This helps me feel more confident in the quality of tours I am able to give at Webb, including talking about the Circulatory Water Channel in Haeberle Lab and the Tow Tank. I'd specifically like to thank Professor Golden, Professor Onas, and Pat Doherty.

Now, anyone familiar with my last name and its similarity to a particular rising sophomore will not be surprised to hear one of my favorite aspects of Webb is the proximity to my brother, Mitchell. I've loved walking through Welwyn Preserve with him after work hours and when I coincidentally ran into him in the hallway, twice, during my interview. We are not the only family duo. I always enjoy seeing the littles ones around campus–the children of some faculty members. The family-friendly environment at Webb has been quite special.

My biggest thanks will have to go to my admissions counterparts, Kayla Green and Alyssa Caliguri. I'm grateful to have navigated my first round of Webb's "March Madness" alongside them as we interviewed and hosted a total of 40 finalists. Despite our packed schedules, they made the experience both enjoyable and a great learning opportunity. Their support helped me feel confident in leading my first solo tour and addressing small groups in the Visconti Reception Room.

All in all, what a fantastic start at Webb Institute! Coming up, I'll be heading to the Northern Virginia Regional Fair and representing Webb at the FIRST Robotics World Competition College Expo in Texas. Funny enough, when I attended that event in high school, it was the only college fair I went to, but I still remember some of the admissions reps I met. Now, I get to come full circle and, this time, be the college rep for students to remember.



Our Assistant Director of Admissions with Webb's best-kept secret: our furry friend, Sully! Stop by the Admissions Department for a chance to visit Sully !

Remarks from the S.O. President: Year in Review



by Thomas Motyka '25

This past year proved to be a great time to be a Webb student. After bonding during orientation week, the class of 2028 was welcomed by the entire Webb community as they jumped into the whirlwind of assignments. The climbing club quickly became the talk of campus, with many students venturing out every week to a nearby climbing gym. Webb once again competed in the Marine Energy Collegiate Competition (MECC) and these students organized a coastline cleanup in the fall semester where students spent an afternoon cleaning trash from the Webb beach and surrounding areas. The Webb Class Olympics began earnestly and peaked with a campus-wide capture-the-flag tournament, in which each of the four classes defended a corner of the campus. The Leadership Committee did a great job organizing the Welwyn cleanup, and students volunteered to clean up the neighboring nature preserve. The Webb community was briefly thrown into disarray by a ransomware hack, but students took advantage of the beautiful Webb campus, and the senior class began a widespread adoption of Betta fish. As fall semester finals approached, the Tea and Coffee Club kept the Webb campus caffeinated as they hosted socials for faculty, students and staff.

The spring semester kicked off with the annual ski trip, on which over half the school braved the whiteout blizzards of northern Vermont and took to the slopes. As the weather warmed up more and more students took up the game of tennis; seniors Eli Murray '25 and Michael Coppi '25 became the duo to beat. In early April the entire student body took advantage of the beautiful Pratt mansion and held a fake wedding complete with bachelor/bachelorette parties, ceremony, and reception. Floor hockey had a resurgence among the students, with intramural games happening almost every week. The hockey season concluded with a competitive alumni-student game during Homecoming, and then a victory for the senior class in the annual Dalai tournament. Engineering Day was a success, as elementary school students from the surrounding area came to spend a day doing hands-on engineering activities with Webbies. Later in the spring semester, the MECC team presented their design, winning first place in the community connections category and placing third overall. The Heritage Society dinner was once again a huge success, with students volunteering to plan the event and cook, and serve the food.

Founder's Day this year encompassed projects ranging from the construction of new benches for the tennis courts, to the removal of brush and overgrown trees. Webb alumnus Bill Nugent '90 delivered the Founder's Day address and inspired students by sharing the work he has done with Project Purple, a non-profit dedicated to supporting patients with pancreatic cancer. I was presented the Founder's award on this day, and I would like to once again thank my friends, family, and the Webb community for all of their support over my four years at Webb. The Webb community is truly a special place where students bond together to support one another and take pride in each other's accomplishments. As I look to the future, I am confident that next year's Student Organization President Luke Feeney '26 and the rest of the Top 7 will ensure that next year is just as good as this past one. I graduate from Webb feeling grateful for such an amazing four years, and I would like to thank the Class of 2025 for making such a meaningful impact on my life.







Campus News

SOCO A Year in Review

by Annabel Bornebush '26

This year, students returned to campus in August of 2024 excited to begin a new school year! The first event of the year was a Welcome Back Community Social to celebrate faculty and students during the first week of classes! Throughout the fall semester, the Social Committee continued to host Community Socials to bring together Webb students, faculty, and staff.

In October, the freshman class hosted their first Webb event, the annual Halloween party! The party took place in the Pub which was decorated with spooky decorations and had fun, halloween-themed food, music, and activities! The costume contest was a highlight of the night with students with the most creative costumes being recognized! During the week of Halloween, the Social Committee also hosted a pumpkin carving contest; each class was able to carve a pumpkin for all Webb students to vote on a winner. The Senior Class pumpkin "The Haunted Hull" won, and they had a pickle party celebration.



(Pictured Left to Right) Students Finn Ackerman '26, Hank Wolfe '26, Calvin Schmid '26, and Collin Fahey '28



Student Owen Klimczak '26 and Assistant Director of Admissions, Kayla Green

The senior class, led by past SOCO chair Phoebe Garrett, planned a magical casino night full of poker, blackjack, roulette, horse racing, arm wrestling, and more! All Webb students were dressed up and had an amazing night. One of the highlights was the silent auction in which students used the Webb casino money they earned throughout the night to bet on the array of prizes displayed at the event.

Following Casino Night's great success, SoCo had a holiday decorating social where all of Webb's faculty and students came together to decorate the Visconti Reception Room with a beautiful winter village and a Christmas tree! There was holiday music and many snacks as well.

The SoCo Christmas Party was the last big event of the year. Christmas pajamas were encouraged for the event, and each class had fun gifting each other with gifts and celebrating the end of the fall semester.

In the spring of 2025, the first event was the annual St. Patrick's Day party hosted by the Junior class. Festivities included a potato bobbing and potato throwing. For Pi Day, students participated in a school-wide pie baking competition by baking a pie that was judged on its taste, difficulty, originality, and presentation.



Women of Webb at St. Patty's Day Party

At the beginning of May, students attended the annual Cinco De Mayo party hosted by the Sophomore class. Students packed into the Brocket Arms Pub for homemade tacos and nachos, drinks, and lots of dancing. Events in the month of May also included numerous yacht club socials and a Founder's Day Social.



Casino Night at Webb
Students Andrew Karafa '26, Chris Robbins '27, and Brady Cooper '28



Alumni Eric Heilshorn '23 and Student, Molly Heilshorn '27 (far right) with family

To continue a fun spring semester, on May 31 we had Webb's Annual Webbstock! Everyone got to enjoy eating hot dogs, hamburgers, and snow cones while listening to live music performed by faculty and students, including Webb alumni, Joe Cole's (class of 1992) band called "Yesterday's News," and Luke Herberman's (class of 2021) band. Students were also able to enjoy singing some karaoke and rotating through the various lawn games, especially a new Webbstock Basketball Tournament. This year, we even had a dunk tank, where students got to dunk our Laboratory Technician, Pat Doherty! Many students enjoyed racing through the inflatables. The event was hosted in the front lot for the second year in a row and it was a big success! More than 250 students, alumni, faculty, staff, and family, and friends attended Webbstock 2025.

Gailmarie invites all of the Women of Webb over to her house for an end of year barbecue with crafts. This year, Professor Golden and his son came and helped grill burgers and hot dogs.



Students Jack Prior '27, Nikos Kliafas '27 and Aiden Bowman '27



Webb Students and Friends



Now Sophomores - Curtis Craig, Noah Ta, Elijah Kim, Kayson Paape, Kenny Koch, Sean Harren, Mitchell Koetsier, & Caleb Cote



The SOCO Co-Chairs, Molly Heilshorn '27 and Annabel Bornebusch '26

Campus News

FOUNDER'S DAY 2025



Webb Celebrates Founder's Day 2025 with Distinguished Alumnus, Bill Nugent '90

Webb Institute proudly celebrated Founder's Day 2025 with a heartfelt tribute to its history and a forward-looking keynote from alumnus and industry leader Bill Nugent '90. Held on campus this October, the event brought together students, faculty, alumni, and friends to honor the legacy of William H. Webb and the values that continue to define the institution.

Bill Nugent, SVP and Head of Shift Operations at International Seaways delivered an inspiring keynote that reflected both personal gratitude and professional insight. With decades of experience leading in shipbuilding and marine engineering, Bill shared stories from his time at Webb, lessons from his career, and his vision for the next generation of engineers. His speech resonated deeply with current students who are navigating their own paths in the field.

Bill was joined by his wife, Sandy, who spent the day engaging with students and community members. The couple's warmth and presence were a reminder of the enduring connections forged at Webb. Together, they toured the campus and joined in on the celebratory dinner that followed the ceremony.

Founder's Day remains a cherished tradition at Webb, honoring the mission set forth by William H. Webb in 1889: to educate the brightest minds in naval architecture and marine engineering and instill a sense of purpose, excellence, and service. This year's celebration reaffirmed that mission, with Bill Nugent '90 serving as a shining example of its lasting impact.







WELWYN CLEAN-UP

by Maxwell Rothschild '26

Welwyn Preserve is a nature center and Holocaust and Tolerance museum which Webbies enjoy hiking through year round. Welwyn has fantastic trails and a beautiful waterfront; however, over spring and summer many trails become overgrown and the sea wall gets graffitied. As Webbies we feel very strongly about helping the community. Since Welwyn is such a big part of our culture, we spend time annually to take care of it. Both students and faculty, constituting about three quarters of the school population, work to clean up the preserve. Some of the projects we did last year were painting over the graffiti on the sea wall, clearing the existing hiking trails of debris, as well as cleaning up the walking trail along the sea wall. It is really amazing what the Webb community is able to do when they get together. Welwyn is very appreciative of the volunteer work we do every year especially in the way of clearing all the debris. On top of being great for Welwyn and the people who enjoy this nature preserve, this activity also helps develop the leadership and management skills of the student body as many students volunteer to lead the multitude of trail clearing groups and the painting projects.



Max leading the charge of the Welwyn Clean-Up



Athletics

-- A Note From --
THE DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

by Pat Doherty

The 2024 Webb Soccer team kicked off the season with a slow, but competitive 0-3 start. With 14 freshmen playing on the 30 man roster, it took a few games to get things going, and going they did! Senior Captains Ella Wilson ’25 and Caz Lesiewicz ’25 did a masterful job of running practices and working through the lineups to include everyone in every game. Their hard work and the team’s competitive efforts paid off as they finished the remainder of the season at 3-1-1. This included a 5-1 victory vs. The New School on Family Weekend in front of a capacity crowd at Thorpe Field! Rumor has it that Webb will be stealing a new coach from Manchester United in 2025, looking to expand on their terrific 2024 season!







WEBB BASKETBALL



by Professor Richard Harris

A recent article on the Webb basketball team extolled our amazing three-year win streak. (OK, one win in each of the last three seasons.) In the fall of 2025, we will be looking to at least double our wins. This year’s team has a lot of experience and athletic ability. The seniors—Caleb Breckenfelder, Kyle Breen, Aiden Cavanaugh, Ethan DesJardins, Andrew Karafa, and Corbin Olney—will get plenty of playing time. The same is true of juniors Oskar Caldarone, Molly Heilshorn (yes, Molly?), Sean Keane, Nikos Kliafas, and Jack Prior. In addition, Brady Cooper leads the sophomore class as a potential major scoring threat. However, as for freshmen, there is no one over 6’2”—though I have suggested, more than once, that on applications SAT scores be dropped for indications of height.

But it looks like the 2025 season will be very interesting. Thankfully, a major problem is not money. Duke last year had the NCAA player of the year in 6’9” Cooper Flagg. He was also the first draft pick in the NBA selection process in June of this year. He turned 18 just before his one college season started. And for playing in Duke’s 37 games, 18-year-oldFlagg received $4.8 million. That’s Division I college basketball now.

For Webb basketball players there are none of the problems all that money brings, e.g., the additional stress of trying to decide whether to buy an Aston Martin or a Lamborghini—or both. We play to win but don’t overstress the importance of victories. Did we play smart? Did we play well? Did we enjoy the competition? Were we able to forget academics for a short period of time and simply enjoy basketball? These are the questions we ask. No players make any money though Coach Harris does pay for a pizza party in the pub after the season ends. (Note the alliteration.) The sports program is different at Webb—but we like it that way.





Homecoming Owen Award Recipient: Victoria Dlugokecki '88

The Webb Alumni Association was pleased to present the fifty-ninth William Selkirk Owen Award to Victoria Dlugokecki at Homecoming on May 17th.

Vicky graduated from Webb Institute in 1988, serving as Class President for Junior and Senior Years. After Webb, she earned a master's degree in Ocean Systems Management from MIT. Her first full-time job in industry was at CR Cushing in Manhattan, where did such varied tasks as helping to design a series of nine DelMonte reefer ships being built in Spain, being an expert witness for the Exxon Valdez oil spill case and preparing float-on/float-off calculations for Operation Desert Storm. After six years at Cushing, she moved across the street to ABS in World Trade Center 2 and for two years was involved with technical consistency and rule development. She became ABS's "composites guru" in this time frame.

Next up in her career was six years at NASSCO. Her first project was the Tote Orca-class Ro-Ro's. She was a strong force in the design of the BP Alaska class tankers. But her biggest accomplishment at NASSCO was as the Integrated Product Team leader for the highly successful class of fourteen T-AKE dry cargo ships. In 2003 she felt the pull back to Long Island and opened her own consulting business in Franklin Square. She has been successful for the last 22 years in this role, mostly helping mid-tier shipyards. At one point she served several months as interim Engineering Manager for one of her shipyard clients. She also performed research for National Shipbuilding Research Program.

Outside of work, Vicky served as Class Agent for 17 years and was the President of the Webb Alumni Association from 2020 to 2022. She and her brother Chris Dlugokecki '92 established the Dlugokecki Family Scholarship in 2024, which provides a partial room and board scholarship to deserving students. She was selected to be a SNAME fellow in 2015. She has been active in SNAME and has given multiple papers at the SNAME Maritime Convention - winning the Elmer Hann award for the Best Paper on Ship Production twice.

The Webb Alumni Association was pleased to honor Victoria Dlugokecki for her outstanding achievements and service to her profession and her Alma Mater.



Vicky Dlugokeci '88 is the 2025 Selkirk Owen Award Recipient



WAA President, Leah Sosa '08 and Vicky Dlugokeci '88 at the Owen Award dinner.

Life at Webb and a New Educational Partnership Agreement



by Dr. Matthew McMahon, Assistant Professor of Engineering Sciences

"Woodshop open!" my son exclaimed one evening as we strolled past two students hard at work on their Senior thesis. You've likely never met a toddler with a more Webb-centric vocabulary. My wife and I are continuously surprised by his asks to "go in mansion," "swing gazebo," "ring bell at boathouse," and "say hi to Gee-yail-mree" (as he calls Gailmarie). And as impressed as we are with his word recall and sense of direction on campus, we are equally impressed by the students' maturity and receptivity to living alongside our young family.

Whether simply stopping to wave hello or going out of their way to make conversation, the students are not only polite and respectful but also willing to engage and develop a deep sense of community. It is a privilege to witness and share in the pride and excitement with which Webbies blend the social dynamics of academia with the everyday rhythms of campus life. Cheering on the Webb basketball team, watching the freshman boat races, attending a regatta, and listening to the Webbstock bands are just a few of the many settings that present opportunities to build solidarity and connections with the students. And these casual encounters allow for meaningful exchanges – discussions about coursework, advice for careers, or conversations about Winter Work.

These interactions naturally complement the internal dynamics of classroom instruction and allow me to approach academic mentorship more wholistically. Among my aims as a Webb professor is to delineate potential career paths for students and help students build a professional network that can support their first steps on those paths. I often relate to student mentees how integral professional networking and collaboration is to my own work as a Materials Engineer with the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock Division (NSWCCD).

With these goals in mind, I have worked towards establishing for the Webb students what I see as a valuable private-public collaboration that will enhance opportunities for experiential learning, mentorship, and networking. Through a new Educational Partnership Agreement (EPA) between Webb Institute and NSWCCD, Webb students will, during the academic year, be able to access state-of-the-art research equipment at NSWCCD facilities, collaborate with research mentors on thesis proposals and research projects, and connect with a wide range of Navy professionals for an insider's glimpse of a career with the Navy. Similarly, NSWCCD engineers will have the opportunity to visit Webb, access Webb's research capabilities, and present upcoming recruitment opportunities to students.

This exciting new EPA strengthens the relationship between Webb and NSWCCD and allows for the exchange of innovative ideas and the execution of cutting-edge research. The collaboration resonates with the pursuit of academic and engineering excellence that I have come to observe firsthand in Webb's highly motivated student body, and I am confident that Webbies will meaningfully contribute to building the collective expertise and benefit from the professional exposure that the EPA will provide.



Thomas standing by the fountain and looking at Webb - the mansion he calls home.

HERITAGE SOCIETY SPOTLIGHT

The Class of 2024 Sets a Record for Recent Grads Joining the Heritage Society

We usually spotlight a single member of the Heritage Society in each issue of *Webb News*, but for this article, we celebrate an extraordinary happening: four members of the Class of 2024 became members of the Heritage Society before the first anniversary of their graduation! Here's a short story from each of them telling the "why" and "how" of their decision to give back to Webb by making a planned gift.

Payne Donaldson '24

I am from Santa Barbara, CA, where I grew up sailing and surfing. I always knew I wanted to design and build things, and in middle school, I started wondering how to design boats. A Google search led me to discover Webb, and my path was set.

At Webb, despite there not being much to cater to my yacht designing tendencies, I was not disappointed. I felt like I had been given the tools to develop myself in any part of the marine industry. In my classmates at Webb, I gained a second family, and I also plugged into the widespread alumni network.

I started my career in Seattle as a naval architect at the superyacht builder, Delta Marine. I decided to join the Heritage Society because I saw the tremendous value of graduating with a Webb degree without debt. I want to pay it forward to future Webbies and this seemed like a great way to contribute. I named Webb as a partial beneficiary of my investment account, and a conditional beneficiary of my life insurance policy.

Konrad Freischlag '24

Growing up in Virginia Beach, VA, in a Navy family, I was always close to the water. This sparked a love for all things maritime, as I learned to sail and got to see high-performance military boats. Fast forward to high school, I discovered Webb through its strong alumni network -- a place where I could combine my academic interests with my passion for the sea.

Webb's full-tuition scholarship, stunning campus, and stellar reputation in the industry immediately drew me in. Over the next four years, the true value of Webb revealed itself through lifelong friendships, hands-on experiences, and countless adventures.

Today, I work for DLBA Naval Architects, where I get to design the same high-performance boats that fascinated me as a kid. Webb enabled my dreams and set me up for success in the field. That's why I joined the Heritage Society by naming Webb as a partial beneficiary of my retirement account. It's my way of giving back and helping ensure that future generations have access to the same incredible opportunities I did.

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 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 John Malone at webbpgchair@webb.edu, or our Director of Development, Anthony Zic, at azic@webb.edu or 516-759-2040



Konrad Freischlag

Abner "A.J." Mills '24

I grew up in Vestal, NY, although I am originally from Long Island. From a very young age, I was set on becoming an engineer, and in high school, I learned to sail. I realized then that boats and engineering would be my future. One search for "boat engineering schools" on google later, and I got into Webb.

At Webb, I learned more than I could have imagined and made friendships that will last a lifetime. I was exposed to so many opportunities through my coursework as well as with the Sailing Team and other clubs. Webb provides far more than an education and it is for that reason, among others, that I am so grateful for Webb.

After graduating, I started working in Seattle, WA, as a marine engineer at Glosten. So far, this career is everything I have asked for and has enabled me to give back. I chose to join the Heritage Society to do just that, by making Webb a partial beneficiary of my life insurance policy.

Kenna Reed '24

I was born and raised in Fort Lauderdale, FL, where I got into dinghy sailing at a young age. I heard about Webb through a couple of the sailing families that I met in Fort Lauderdale as well as through a family friend. I chose to go to Webb because it sounded like a unique education.

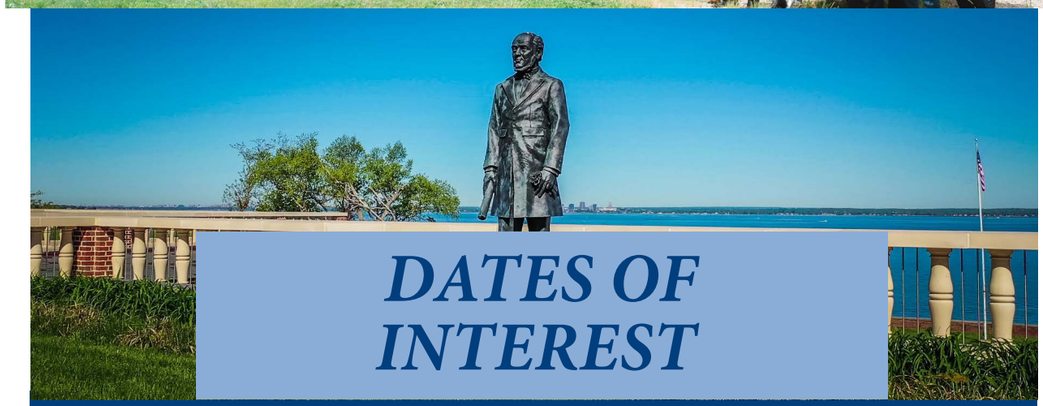
The Webb experience is so special and one of the best parts was the people that I had the privilege of befriending while I was there. The education was invaluable to me and my career, and I don't know what I would be doing without it.

After graduation, I moved out to Seattle, WA, along with three of my classmates. I now work as a naval architect at Glosten. I chose to join the Heritage Society because it seemed like an easy way to ensure that I can give back to Webb. I don't have any dependents, so it seemed like a good fit to make Webb a partial beneficiary of my personal retirement account.



Abner Mills, Payne Donaldson & Kenna Reed hiking up to Lena Lake, WA





DATES OF INTEREST

CLASSES START
August 25, 2025

FAMILY WEEKEND
September 19-21. 2025

FALL BREAK
October 10 (3 pm) -13, 2025

ALUMNI BANQUET, NORFOLK, VA
October 31, 2025

SNAME MARITIME CONVENTION IN NORFOLK,VA
October 29-31, 2025

SWE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
October 23-25, 2025

SUSTAINABILITY IN SHIP DESIGN & OPERATIONS CONFERENCE
November 10 - 11, 2025

FALL RECESS
November 21 (3 pm)- 30, 2025

CLASSES END
December 12, 2025

GRADES ISSUED
December 22, 2025

WINTER WORK
January 2 - February 28, 2026

START OF SPRING SEMESTER
March 2, 2026

SPRING RECESS
April 18 (3 pm) - April 26, 2026

HOMECOMING
May 16, 2026

COMMENCEMENT
June 20, 2026

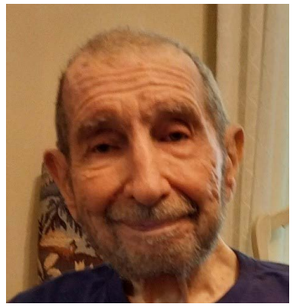
END OF SPRING SEMESTER GRADES ISSUED
June 24, 2026

Alumni News | In Memoriam

1948

Arthur W. Schmidt passed away on August 21st. He was the last surviving member of the Class of 1948. He passed away on August 21, 2024, 18 days after his 100th birthday.

According to his son, there was no big injury, disease, or event such as (another) stroke or heart attack. He had a little bit to eat and drink, went back to sleep, but didn't wake up.



After graduating from Brooklyn Tech High School in 1942, he was drafted into the Navy and spent a year at sea. He was a Quartermaster 2nd class on the Luzon ARG-2, a cargo ship converted into a repair ship in Baltimore. He helped put it in commission in 1943. Using the V-12 program, my captain then sent me back home, to attend college and become an officer.

Webb provided the opportunity to start his career in Buships under John C. Niedermair 1918, leader of the preliminary design (PD) section. This was just when Capt. Rickover started a submarine design with a nuclear engine. Working alongside Ralph Lacey1937, he then spent five years designing submarines.

In 1955 he decided to try industry vs. government and asked Gibbs & Cox for a job. Gibbs & Cox had only one Webbie before I arrived. Charles Thornhill '43 and I were the only two sent to computer school, which gave me the opportunity to spend a year using FORTRAN to speedily do ship calculations and design a mast. After four years with Gibbs & Cox, he returned to NavSea, but no naval architecture jobs were available.

During the 60s and 70s, using the G.I. bill, he received two master's degrees, from Adelphi University in NY, and American University in Washington, DC.

In 1980, he retired from the U.S. government and spent another four years with Gibbs & Cox, in Washington, DC. That was followed by four years with Designers & Planners, who sent him to Ottawa for a year, to modify a Canadian destroyer.

In 1992 he and his wife retired to Ocean Pines, MD for leisure, near water, boats, seafood, and quiet. He is survived by his four sons.

1951

Cdr. George L. Phillips passed away on May 16, 2025 at the age of 95. He had been the 1951 Class Agent since 2016.

1952

Thomas W. Gillette passed away on Mon., December 2, 2024 at the age of 93.



From the 125th Anniversary Book:

"Career: United States Navy, 1952-55 at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. Exxon 1956-1992: 10 years in process and economics work at Baton Rouge Refinery; corporate planning in Houston; then as head of economics and planning in Esso, Australia (1968). Three years in refining controllers (1969-1972), supervised nationwide refining accounting system development. Corporate controllers (nine years) administering Exxon's compliance with nationwide price and allocation controls. External affairs manager (long range studies, public affairs, trade associations, litigation, etc.) for Exxon Shipping Company. Litigation Consultant to Exxon until 1998.

Personal: Born in Bath, ME. A "navy brat" for most of childhood. Lived in quarters and watched Japanese December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. Heavily involved in early response to grounding of Exxon Valdez oil spill and the subsequent litigation. Married Delph. Three children, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren. Docent for last 14+ years on battleship USS Texas BB-35, the only surviving World War One dreadnought."

Tom took over as Class Agent in 2022.

He and his wife split their time between TX and ME.

He enjoyed attending and speaking with Juniors at OTC in Houston each year.



Gabriel "Gabe" Lefebvre Jr.passed away on August 18, 2024 at the age of 92.

Gabe proudly served in the US Navy from 1952 to 1956 during active duty and continued his service in the reserves until 1965, achieving the rank of Lieutenant. His dedication to his country was evident in his commitment and leadership during his military career.

Professionally, Gabe had a remarkable career that began at Union Carbide, followed by his work as an independent consulting engineer. He later joined B. F. Goodrich Chemical Company, where he eventually promoted to the position of Vice-President of Chemical Manufacturing before his retirement. His expertise and leadership were instrumental in driving the success of the organizations he was part of.

He is survived by Doris Lefebvre, his loving wife of almost 72 years; his three children; seven grandchildren; and his great-grandchildren.



John W. Sims Teacher, sailor, author, and longtime resident of Camden, ME, passed away on May 10, 2025, at age 97. Many summers of his youth were spent on Fire Island on LI Sound with his grandfather. He attended the Webb Institute of Naval Architecture, the Merchant Marine Academy, and the Harvard Graduate School of Education (class of 1959).

John served as an officer and navigator in the US Navy, traveling the world on destroyers USS Lewis Hancock and USS Fiske. In the Merchant Marine he also sailed aboard cargo ships SS Mormackite, SS African Pilot, and SS Jamaica. He was a shipbuilder as well and worked briefly at Bath Iron Works in ME. He continued building boats as a hobby, restoring various wooden boats, and constructing an elegant rowing dory from scratch.

John moved to Camden, Maine in 1962 with his first wife, Marcia, and became a math teacher. They raised two children there and enjoyed many summers on Swans Island.

After retiring from teaching, John became a writer and authored The Captain, the Kitten, and the Great South Bay, a story inspired by his childhood memories of Fire Island. He also wrote and illustrated many humorous children's books for his grandchildren, with copies gladly provided to friends. More recently, he assembled an anthology of favorite quotes and clippings titled Encounters and compiled a retrospective of his own essays and poems spanning 80 years of his life, which were shared with friends and family. John was also a talented artist and illustrator, creating comics for school newspapers, intricate sketches of sailboats and marine life, and colorful greeting cards. Even birthday cards for his grandchildren would become personalized works of art.

John is survived by his second wife, Frances A. Sims.

1953



Robert (Bob) B. Hedges, Sr., age 93, died on March 12, 2025, in Hartford, CT. His death followed a sudden deterioration in his health related to complications from heart disease. Bob was predeceased by his wife Ginny in 2021.

From an early age, Bob was a great baseball fan and was especially loyal and dedicated to the New York Yankees. He invested long hours listening to radio broadcasts of Yankees games and the colorful commentary of longtime Yankees play-by-play sportscaster, Mel Allen. He listened faithfully to every Yankees game and counted among his favorite players Phil Rizzuto, Joe DiMaggio, and Lou Gehrig.

He won academic contests on wide-ranging subjects from U.S. history to doing math computations on a slide rule. In 1949, as a senior at Newburgh Free Academy, Bob earned the top score for mathematics in the NY State Regents exam. When he graduated from the Newburgh Free Academy in 1949, he was voted "Most Likely to Succeed," and was asked to speak at his graduation.

After high school, lacking the family resources to attend a traditional university, Bob attended Webb. Bob subsequently attended MIT to earn a master's degree in marine engineering.

Bob found professional success as a marine and power systems engineer. From the mid-1950s through the mid-1990s, he worked for Babcock & Wilcox, General Electric, Pratt & Whitney, and Combustion Engineering. Bob traveled the world on shipbuilding projects and advanced to become the General Manager of Combustion's Marine and Industrial Division. Upon his retirement from Combustion in 1991, Bob launched a second career as a small-business entrepreneur with his son, Tom. In 1992, they formed Hedges and Hedges, Ltd., a company specializing in electronic printing of business communications. Even three months before his health failed, Bob continued to work daily at the print shop.

1954



Paul W. Hayes of Fredericksburg, VA died peacefully on January 9, 2025, at the age of 92. Paul was predeceased by his wife, Barbara (1934 – 2006); son Eric (1959 – 2009); and daughter Amy (1964 – 2024). He is survived by his son, Jeffrey; Jeffrey's partner Tom; two grandsons, Robert, and Christopher Walden; and their families. In 2009, Paul married Bonnie Knudsen Hayes. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie; her daughters, Sara, and Rachel; and their families.

At graduation, Paul received the ABS Prize (highest average), the Stevenson Taylor Memorial Prize (best marine engineering thesis) along w/Joe Signorelli, and the Propeller Club Pi Sigma Phi Key (scholastic achievement in NA and ME). He was also offered the address as the representative of the senior class.

Paul served as Class Agent from 2005-2020.

1955



R. Marks Forssell, 92 of Savannah, GA died on May 15, 2025, at home. In 1956, Mark married Shirley DeLyne.

He worked with the Naval Reactors program for 33 years, including four years in the Navy, developing nuclear power for submarines. Early in his career, he was assigned for four years to oversee the safety of the operation of the first nuclear power electrical generating power station in America.

Awards included the rank of Distirnguished Executive in the Senior Executive Service personally presented by President Reagan, and the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the highest award given to a civilian by the Navy. After retiring from the government in 1988, they moved to Savannah, GA, where Mark first consulted for two years. He then spent five years as a Senior Vice President at General Atomics in San Diego, CA, directing the design of an advanced nuclear power plant. He finally retired in 1995 and succeeded this time!

In retirement, Mark and Shirley enjoyed golf (Mark achieved a hole-in-one and won a golf tournament at the Landings), RV trips throughout the country (Shirley vetoed the tent), sailing on their 30-foot sloop in the Savannah area and up to the coastal waterways, and cruising on eleven ships.

He was predeceased by his wife of 67 years.

1957

David J. Rylander passed away in early May. He had been in a nursing home for an extended period. After getting his MBA at Harvard Business School he joined up with Ron Hughes, Rich Goldbach, Ed Christensen and Pete Hall (all of 1958) at Electric Boat. He, Ron and Rich worked for Al Zeien '52.

1958



Alfred I. Raff, of Bayville, NY, on April 26, 2024. Devoted husband of Rae Klein Raff (of blessed memory), loving father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and "Uncle Al" to nieces, nephews, and cousins of all generations. Modest, self-effacing, and kind, graduate of Webb Institute and MIT. Long career in engineering and computer science. Did NY Times crossword in ink, loved gardening, and kept in touch with family everywhere.

1960

William L. Brinck of Sioux City, Iowa, passed away Sunday, April 27, 2025, at the age of 87.



He attended public school in Helena, and Kansas City, MO. His higher education was at Webb Institute of Naval Architecture, the University of Michigan, and the University of Cincinnati. He served in the Uniformed Services most of his career, assigned to the U.S. Public Health Service. He was a Nuclear Engineer for the Environmental Protection Agency, a Private Consulting Engineer, and an Environmental Engineer/ Radon Specialist for the State of Ohio. Bill was a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers and a Registered Professional Engineer.

In 1961 he married Margaret (Peg) Buckland. Bill was a lifetime member of the Presbyterian Church USA, where he participated in church leadership, Christian Education, and youth activities. His hobbies and interests included: construction and remodeling his many homes; building a high-fi system, the family's first color television, a grandfather clock, many models, etc.; helping his sons with Boy Scout projects; Cincinnati Reds Baseball; his kids' soccer practice and games; anything else his kids were involved in; and he loved music.

William 'Bill' Terney, 86, passed away on June 10, 2025. Bill was born in Jamaica, NY and spent a happy childhood in Mineola. Bill graduated from Mineola High School (Long Island) as Class Valedictorian.



After Webb he attended MIT, earning

a Masters and Doctorate in Nuclear Engineering in 1968.

He settled in Connecticut to work as a Nuclear Engineer at Combustion Engineering, where he met his future wife, Andrea. After marrying in 1975 they settled in Granby, CT where they would remain for the next 36 years, raising their family. Bill treasured maintaining a healthy work/life balance, and he made sure to fill every free moment of his weekends and vacations. He launched sailboats in Mystic. He skied whenever possible, which escalated to moving to Vermont for entire winters once he was retired. He loved to kayak, hike, and bike which inspired him and Andrea to move to the Cape for 8 happy and sunny years during their retirement. He also traveled as far abroad as New Zealand, Russia and the Caribbean, and he moved to France for a spell to attend language school. He explored history, culture, art and language all the way into his 80s. His enthusiasm for education, adventure, travel and an active lifestyle were contagious and will continue to live on in all his family.

Bill is survived by his wife of 50 years, Andrea Nielsen Terney, two daughters and four grandchildren.

Peter Van Dyke passed away on October 15, 2024 at the age of 85. He had worked in both the marine industry and investment management.



After public high school education finished at Washington Irving High School in Tarrytown, NY, Peter came to Webb. Peter played on Webb's basketball and tennis teams, and upon graduation he was awarded the Samuel D. McComb Memorial Prize for having the second highest overall average. He then went to Harvard University from which he received a Ph.D. in Engineering and Applied Mathematics in 1964.

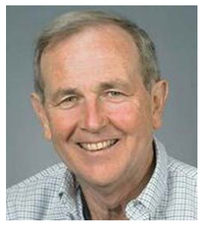
Over the next 21 years Peter held a series of jobs in the Baltimore area at Martin Company, Hydronautics Inc., and finally the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. All of these jobs utilized both the mathematical approach learned at Harvard and the practical approach learned at Webb.

In 1985, Peter entered the business world by accepting a job as a Quantitative Specialist at T. Rowe Price Associates in Baltimore, MD. He was able to apply his mathematics and engineering education to a whole new set of problems and achieve success. When he retired from T. Rowe Price in 1999, he was the Managing Director of the firm and responsible for some $35 billion in assets as head of the firm's Taxable Fixed Income Department.

Peter had been on the Webb Institute Board since 1991; on the Executive Committee since 2000; Chair of the Investment Committee since 2001; and Treasurer 2004-2011. Peter served on several college and school boards and Finance Committees. Peter was a major benefactor to Webb Institute for many years. In 2010 the Webb Alumni Association awarded him with the Wiliam Selkirk Owen Award.

Peter and his wife Judy discovered Chestertown on the eastern shore of Maryland. The weekend house they built had developed into a focus for themselves and their extended family.

1962



Dr. Joseph A. Burns passed away on February 26th, after succumbing to Leukemia. Joe was raised in the rural outskirts of Cold Spring, NY.

Joe applied to Webb Institute and was accepted, his father saying, "well, Joe, it looks like you're going to be a Naval Architect."

After graduating in '62, Joe moved to Ithaca to begin work on a Ph.D. in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics at Cornell. In the summer of '68, the crew rented a house on the east shore of Cayuga Lake. The lake left such an impact on Joe and Judy that they decided to make Ithaca their home. After completing his Ph.D. in 1966, Joe joined the Cornell faculty and then spent a year as a post-doc at the NASA Goddard Flight Center in Maryland. A year later, when the couple returned to Ithaca, they started their search for a permanent home on Cayuga Lake.

Joe spent 53 years at Cornell, teaching undergraduate courses in mechanics, applied mathematics, astronomy and physics; and graduate level seminars on celestial mechanics, mechanics of the solar system, classical mechanics and applied mathematics. He was Cornell's Vice Provost for Physical Sciences and Engineering between 2003-2007. He served as Dean of the University Faculty from 2012-2015.

A doting father to his two children, Joe relished learning about – and when appropriate, participating in - the big, small, and mundane things that took place in their lives. He was virtually inseparable from Judy throughout their 51-year marriage.

Joe is survived by his daughter, a son, and four brothers. Webb awarded him an honorary doctorate in 2011.

PG'63



Captain Edmund C. Mortimer, USN (Ret.) passed away on April 29, 2025 at the age of 90. Immediately after his high school graduation he entered the US Naval Academy, graduating with the class of 1956, a member of the Eleventh Company, the Color Company.

In 1960 he married Margaret Luanne Harrison, whom he met on a blind date with a shipmate. She predeceased him in January, 2020 after 60 years of marriage. After serving four years on destroyers and qualifying as a Surface Warfare Officer, he entered Webb Institute of Naval Architecture, graduating in 1963. Subsequent assignments included Docking Officer at Norfolk Naval Shipyard; Fleet Modernization at Commander in Chief, US Pacific Fleet; Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Sturgeon Bay Wisconsin; Special Projects, Commander Naval Forces Korea; Administrative Assistant to Commander Naval Sea Systems Command and two tours as Shipbuilding Major Program Manager (SHAPM). During his second tour as Major Program Manager, during the Reagan years build-up, he had nine separate major shipbuilding programs under his management ranging from the two-ship hospital ship (AH) program to the fifteen ship Henry Kaiser T-AO 187 Class procured under the "Acquisition Streamlining" concept which resulted in significant savings to the Navy.

After retirement from the Navy, he joined Avondale Industries Inc. and was quickly promoted to manager of the Avondale Shipyard where he served for about ten years, retiring in 2000. After retirement, he and his wife, Luanne, moved to Smithfield, VA. He was active in numerous civic programs, particularly those dedicated to supporting those in uniform from the military to law enforcement. He was an avid golfer with a fair handicap until neurological leg problems forced him to the sidelines.

He is survived by three daughters, twelve grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. He was a life member of ASNE, SNAME, American Legion, VFW, USNA Alumnae Association, Surface Navy Warfare Assn.

1966



Fred Chester, a resident of Stonington, CT passed away on May 16, 2025 at the age of 81.

Fred was raised in Berkley, MA, where he attended local schools and was a graduate of the Dighton Rehoboth High School, Class of 1962. Upon graduation from high school, he enrolled at Webb Institute in N.Y., completing his bachelor's degree in 1966.

Fred retired from Electric Boat as a principal engineer after 33 years of service where he was instrumental in the development of the NR 1 project. An avid sailor at heart, he was a member and past secretary of the Corinthians sailing association since 1996.

He is survived by several nephews; great-nieces and nephews; and his longtime friends and neighbors in Lords Point.

Services for Fred were held privately.

PG'67

Captain John (Jack) Ringelberg passed away peacefully on August 31, 2024 at the age of 85.



In the U.S. Navy, he served for 16 years as a Surface Warfare and Engineering Duty Officer, specializing in salvage and deep diving operations. He held key roles such as the first Commanding Officer of the Navy Experimental Diving Unit in Panama City and Chief Engineer of the Aircraft Carrier John F. Kennedy. Notably, he led the construction and start-up of the Ocean Simulation Facility, achieving manned diving operations to a Navy depth of 1800 feet. During the first Gulf War, he coordinated salvage operations as the Deputy Supervisor of Salvage for the U.S Navy, retiring with the rank of Captain and receiving several awards, including the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Fort Schuyler Marine Alumni Association.

In his civilian career (1977), he joined Seaward International as Director of Marketing. Later, he served as the Corporate Director of Power and Energy at International Paper. As President and CEO of JMS Naval Architects and Salvage Engineers, he led the firm in naval architecture, marine engineering and salvage operations. He also oversaw the Diver's Institute of Technology, ensuring high quality training for future divers and engineers. Additionally, as President and CEO of the Ocean Technology Foundation, he promoted marine science, research, exploration and education, including leading the search for the Revolutionary War ship Bonhomme Richard.

He is survived by his wife, Karen Nelson Ringelberg, sons and grandchildren.

1970



George L. Petrie passed away on October 17, 2024.

From the Centennial History book:

"Was commissioned into the Coast Guard, to the dismay of the local Draft Board. Four years in USCG Research and Development with the NOAA

Data Buoy Office in Bay St. Louis, MS. Avoided the jungle but ended up in the bayou. Out of the CG and into grad school at the Univ. of Michigan for two years. Then back to Long Island to work with Hoffman Maritime Consultants for 8 years; mostly seakeeping and such for the offshore industry. Jumped ship in '84 to return to the Webbisphere, to work in Research and maybe teach a course now and then. Really enjoyed the teaching especially S of M and Structures. Teaching full-time now, since 1989. Also taught Structures at MIT as an adjunct for three years and is active in consulting related to both seakeeping and structural analysis."

His time at Webb:

Appointed as Professor of Naval Architecture – March 2001.

Approval sabbatical leave request – August 2009.

Returned from sabbatical – August 2010.

1976

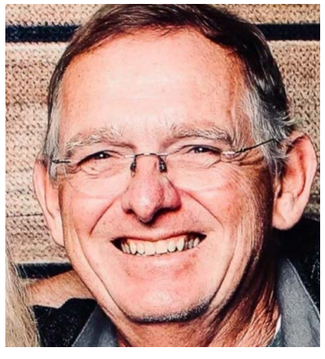
Robert Silence passed away on December 6, 2024 after a tragic accident on July 25th. He died on December 6th at the hospital with his wife by his side. Bob is survived by his wife, Hannah Bentley, and his sister and mother, who live in North Carolina.

He was a climate activist and great believer in electric cars and rooftop solar power.

From the 125th book:

"After graduating, I took a job as port engineer with Farrell Lines, a New York based firm, in their new offices in San Francisco. However, as my thesis at Webb involved interfacing to the new desktop personal computer, I quickly became interested in electronics and switched careers. I moved to Los Angeles to work with my former thesis partner and classmate, Tony Hudson, to develop one of the first CNC controls for metal-spinning machines, which used our knowledge of mathematical spline curves we learned at Webb. We later spun off our own company, Electrologic, to develop the controls, and hired two more Webbies: Michael Sellmer '76 and David Gustavson '78. I later left to work on different companies related to telephone systems and large alarm system installations. I enjoyed traveling to Europe as part of these endeavors. In 1989, I made a temporary career shift (by choice) to get a single-subject teaching credential in both math and science at the University of California at Irvine; and taught computer programming and hands-on science to kindergarten through eighth grade dyslexic students for four years. Working over the summer, I later developed into a consulting engineer on small-embedded systems, usually for medical devices, and subsequently got involved with consulting to the company that maintains and upgrades the proton particle accelerator at Loma Linda University medical center, where it is used to bombard cancer tumors. At age 30, I started to get physical, taking up ballroom dancing, and that (predominantly swing dancing) has kept me in good shape, both physically and mentally." Bob received the Stevenson Taylor Memorial Prize.

1977



Peter John Lapp of Richmond, RI, passed away at home surrounded by the love of his family on December 29, 2024 at the age of 69.

Peter worked his entire career in various roles in the marine field, including long time management at Rolls-Royce Naval Marine providing propulsion for industrial and military vessels, and was known as "Pete the Propeller Man". He loved sailing, boating, and spending time at the family house in Saltaire, Fire Island. But most of all, he loved spending time with his family and devoted himself to being a very real and present part of his family's life in every way. He loved being a father and a grandfather. Peter was a strong Christian and follower of Jesus Christ, which governed everything he did and how he lived his life. He served in the Body of Christ wherever he went, setting an example that needed no words.

Besides his loving wife Patricia, he leaves his children and their spouses.

1985



James "Jim" McMahon passed away on October 13, 2024 at the age of 61.

He was born in N. Merrick, NY (Long Island). Jim was a proud alumnus of Webb Institute. He found joy in reading, coaching his children's sports teams, hosting 'Family and Friends' fantasy sports leagues, and spending time with his family. Jim was a faithful, kind man who will be missed every day.

He is survived by his wife of 32 years Linda McMahon; three sons and two daughters, and two grandchildren. He will be welcomed warmly in heaven by his beautiful sister.

At his graduation from Webb, Jim was awarded the Chaffee Memorial Prize for general excellence.

1958

Rob (Robert D.) Goldbach has published several books that are available on Amazon. The most recent is titled "BEING A TWIN AT WINA IN THE 1950'S". It's worth reading, especially if you were around in the 50's or 60's. Rob is a Webb Trustee Emeritus.

1963

Bill & Linda Smith still enjoy wintering (6 months) in Florida and summering in Ohio at Lakeside Chautauqua. This winter we took a western Mediterranean cruise (Barcelona to Rome, down to Malta, across North Africa to Casablanca and back to Barcelona). And in May we have the River of Gold cruise in Portugal. Life has been good, now 62 years after graduation. I am currently working on a lecture on the Science and Politics of Climate Change for this summer in Lakeside. And because I know one of the sophomores at Webb, I am getting to virtually relive some Webb memories.

Bill Birkhead reports: The class of '63 has had a busy year. First, I will begin with the sad news from our folks. While we didn't lose any grads this year, we did lose Karen Olson, Hank's wife. Additionally, I heard from Joe Verdon's daughter, Mary Lynn, that Marge had suffered some injuries from falls, and has been moved into a memory care unit in Niantic, CT. Marge was one of the original members of our class, including June Kiss and Bridget Lisnyk, all having been high school sweethearts of '63's. Also, I have heard of the passing of Ed Mortimer, one of the '63 PG's. Having passed the 60th anniversary of our graduation, this type of news is more and more frequent. On a brighter note, **Bill Hall** and Mary Larson have let us know that they are both on the mend from serious health problems. They are now back traveling, as are several of the '63's. **Don and Mary Deckebach a**re on a globe-trotting voyage that has included North and South America, Africa and Europe. **Tim and Barb Graul** have been on the move as usual, sailing through Gibraltar on the way to a visit with their daughter who lives in Barcelona. **Bott and Barb Weiss** have cut back on their world travels, focusing on children and grandchildren for now. While a couple of us are still working to some extent (Bott and I, and maybe **Larry Stephens**), we do have a successful second careerist in **Ron Altmann**. He has just published his (I believe) twentieth book, entitled "Final Fling: A Geriatric Romance". Available from Amazon or through other booksellers like Barnes & Noble. Heard from **Joyce Lindenmuth**. She is still very active but has made arrangements to move into a retirement apartment next year. **Marion and I** got together with **Bill and Linda Smith** during our visit to FL this Spring. Our place is in Sarasota, and they have a 6 month stay each winter in their Bradenton condo, just north of us. As usual, there are several classmates we haven't heard from, but we believe they are all sitting up and taking nourishment.

1967

Wayne & Kiki Martin, Mary & John Russell have weekly Zoom meetings to keep in touch. It means a lot.

Tom Koster wrote: Made a trip to Japan over Christmas and New Year with son Nick's family to introduce the grandchildren (boys 6 and 8, granddaughter 16) to the country and their relatives. Not the best time to travel in Japan but dictated by the children's school holidays. And it took 4 adults and one granddaughter to keep track of the two boys, especially in the crowded Shinkansen stations! We have been in Denver since August, 2018, after Hurricane Harvey flooded our home in Houston. Enjoying life here!

Bob vom Saal wrote: We just bought our first fully electric car, a Ford Mustang Mach-E. It's a brave new world with no oil changes, gasoline or infernal combustion engines. VERY quiet.

Kit Ryan: To second Bob's comment, we've had a Hundai Ioniq 5 EV for over a year now and love it. Super quiet, instant acceleration, great user interface (we got the heads-up display) along with those benefits Bob mentioned. Charging at home costs about 1/3-1/2 of equivalent gasoline. Still need a gas car for those long road trips but we do 90% of our driving in the EV.

1970

Mark Bebar wrote: Since retiring from the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) in 2003 after 33 years of service, followed by part-time work for CSC and CACI for 20 years, I have been focusing my professional time as Vice-President of the International Hydrofoil Society (IHS).



My experience with hydrofoil design and construction began in 1971, assigned as Project Naval Architect on the Navy's Patrol Hydrofoil-Missile (PHM) concept studies and continued through development of PHM follow-ship specifications as part of the NAVSEA-Boeing design team. Six PHMs were built and operated from Key West, FL from 1982-93 primarily on drug interdiction ops in support of the Coast Guard. In January 2025, I presented an overview of the PHM Program to a joint meeting of SNAME, ASNE and IHS.

A key initiative of IHS is the Martinn Mandles Prize for Hydrofoil Excellence. Mr. Mandles, a long-time member of IHS and his wife Connie sponsor the competition, which is now in its 12th year and includes a $2,500 First Prize and up to two $1,000 Honorable Mention awards. The competition offers an outstanding opportunity for the next generation of hydrofoil developers to be acknowledged for their efforts to advance the state of the art in hydrofoil and hydrofoil-assisted craft engineering, design and construction. In October 2024, I made a presentation on the Mandles Prize for an ASNE webinar.

It is noteworthy that Webbies have won Mandles Prize awards several times.

Stuart Bunnell wrote: My long-time partner, Becky Schumacher, passed away in August 2024.

George L. Petrie passed away on October 17, 2024. He was living in the beach town of Vung Tau, Vietnam and at the time of his death he was visiting a friend in Ho Chi Minh City. Upon

graduation from Webb, George entered the USCG and was assigned to the Data Buoy Project. Upon release from active duty in 1973, he joined Hoffman Maritime Consultants specializing in ship structures and ship motions. He then joined the research department at Webb Institute and became a Professor of Naval Architecture. He also taught at Kings Point and Fort Schuyler. Subsequently he enjoyed a long and successful career as a maritime consultant. He also earned an M.S. degree in Naval Architecture from the U. of Michigan. He is survived by his children, Michael of Massachusetts, Jennifer of NY, Lauren of Colorado, and Kristen of Florida. George will be remembered by his classmates and friends as easy going with an infectious sense of humor. He will be missed by all.

1974

From the Class of '74, perhaps to encourage others, we have found that Zoom (free, good for 45 minutes) or Google Meet (free, good for an hour) to be a great way to catch up with classmates.

1977

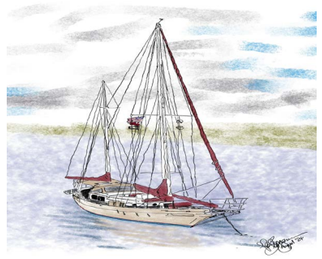
Roy Neyman wrote: My boat, Mabrouka, has been in Vava'U, Tonga continuously since August 2019, but I've been able to get in and out for various lengths of time and for various nefarious purposes. I feel a stronger connection to this community than any single spot in the US, so I'll be calling it home for a few years more.

Repairs to the boat are much of the reason I've ported in Vava'U for so long. They've been difficult to execute because I have to import most of the material and parts I need and skilled craftspersons are hard to come by. I have many of the skills myself, but, frankly, the scope and growing list of tasks often overwhelms me and my finances. The big items have been to rebuild the mizzen mast, rebuild the main mast, and replace the engine. Now the mizzen mast needs to be rebuilt again, even more extensively, so I'm building a new one from an old aluminum mast.

I can't go without mentioning the wonderful time I had in Barcelona with Scott and Dana Richards and Bob Bunnell. Bob set it all up and emceed our shenanigans including, besides the America's Cup preliminaries, many wonderful meals out and in and a fair bit of general touristing.

On a personal level, I suppose the biggest news is that I became a first-time grampa this past October with daughter Emily bearing little Quill Kaladin Tsai. Lisa and Claire are doing well also, although Lisa's career as a whale researcher is facing a rough patch due to the administration's cuts to NOAA's budgets and staffing.

My own health is good enough for having almost 72 years behind me. Life



has definitely been an adventure and Tonga is still a paradise.

Mark Limeri, Greg Griffin, and Steve Shepstone met up at the U.S.S. Slater (Destroyer Escort), now a floating museum, in Albany, NY in April. Greg volunteers as a tour guide and helps with ship maintenance and restoration.



1982

Class of '82 (Model Tank) roommates **Jim Moody, Mark Gagnon, Tom Rider** and **Spencer Schilling** met up in the British Virgin Islands for a charter reunion, after they did the same in the Bahamas after graduation. After 10 days sailing, diving, grabbing the next mooring, supporting local economy and not taking too many chances, the roomies agreed they should keep doing it, and try to corral others.



1985

Martin Burtness, Rob Fooks, Bob Glover, Steve Neely, Jen Panosky, Ed Roessler, and **Dave Shepard** attended Jim McMahon's funeral in October, and drank a Diet Coke in his honor afterwards. Many classmates have also contributed to a memorial gift of an electric golf cart in his name. We met again under happier circumstances at Homecoming, celebrating our 40th reunion.



Doug Goldhirsch, Jen Panosky, Mark Paulhus, TJ Perrotti, Ed Roessler, Dave Shepard, and Pete Truesdell ('85X) enjoyed the day with various family members and **Rick Harris** joined us briefly with his wife **Nancy ('88).**

Dave Shepard is still enjoying boat development for the Coast Guard and life by the water in Annapolis. **Glen Margolis** extends a welcome to Webb visitors to his home on San Juan Island if

you're in the area. **Doug Goldhirsch** has sold his boatyard, but not his wooden boats. He and wife Sharon are splitting their time between Maine and Colorado. **Steve Neely** reports on his retirement in 2023 after 34 years at NSWC Carderock. He and wife Susie have sold their sailboat after 10 years and 10,000 miles. They've been fixing up their old house and are looking to relocate somewhere on the Chesapeake and pick up sailing again. **Mark Paulhus** is enjoying consulting for Bertram Yachts after retiring as their CEO. He and Barb are splitting their time between Maine and Florida. **Jen Panosky** reports her garden will be on the URI Gardening with the Masters tour in July, so you'll find her in the garden until then. If you're on Long Island, check out the restoration work Pete Truesdell has led at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City.

1988

Steve Pagan was selected to receive a Presidential Award from Matson Navigation Company for his work related to the LNG repowering project of the containership Manukai. Fewer than 1% of employees receive this award every year.



They flew him and his lovely wife to Honolulu for the ceremony and put the happy couple up at the 5-star Royal Hawaiian Hotel - which was built by Matson in the 1920s to help develop the Hawaiian tourism industry. Life is good. Aloha!

1992

Theresa (Tess) Haven wrote: My daughter Olivia graduated from electrician school (and started working her professional job even before she graduated). Then she got married! The wedding was a beautiful and meaningful church ceremony attended by loving family and friends. It was all blessings and smiles, no drama, and even the weather was perfect.

My son Jonah graduated from NMSU with an engineering degree. He was then commissioned as a Second Lieutenant Army Infantry Officer (Air Assault). (Only my husband David attended the commissioning ceremony because five kids, my travel schedule, and the laws of traditional physics preclude being in all places at once.) Jonah is doing short-term Army assignments and schools in between shoulder surgery and recovery before attending Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC), Ranger School, and Airborne School.



My son Jordan and his wife Kate (married 4 years) are expecting their first child (a girl) in September. Although not confirmed by ultrasound, I am utterly convinced that she will have red hair!



And miracle of miracles, we managed to get everyone together for a family photo. (Clockwise spiral from bottom left: Esther, Theresa, Jordan, Kate, Olivia, Aron, Joseph, Jonah, David.)



1993

Jake Neuman wrote: After a long, strong 24 years at ExxonMobil.... shifted to work under **Joe O'Leary '90** at Buc-ees. I traded focus on LNG and Oil Tankers to focus on brisket sandwiches, jerky, and fudge!



Erik Nilsson and Josie spend a fair amount of time at their cabin in Maine with remote working and the other time at their home in south Florida.



2000

Scott Furr and his wife Anna are still in Maine. Their oldest son is junior at Pittsburgh (data science major), 2nd son a freshman at Clemson (nursing), and daughter is a sophomore in high

school. I have been retired from naval architecture since 2008. My long running gig as a stay-at-home dad is wrapping up. I now run an amazon resale business, teach kitesurfing, teach efoil lessons for local shop, and also teach wing skating in the winter.

2006

Kelly Sonerholm wrote: My wife Haley and I had a baby boy on July 2,2024 - Walden Ernest Sonerholm.



2009

It's been about a year since we all gathered for our 15th reunion—great memories, and hopefully the next one won't feel quite so far off!
Jon Ward escaped the cold this winter by sailing down to the Bahamas—no word yet on whether he's coming back.
John Wise and Wombi recently took a trip to Vietnam to work with the Lovepop team, mixing business with dancing polar bears.

From Seattle, **Dian Look** writes: "I'm still living in Seattle with my spouse, Mike, and dogs, Drummer and Voodoo. I recently started a new job at Amperity and am looking forward to another summer here with family and friends."

Rori Zuzick reports: "Rorie is riding the wild wave of federal employment and keeping busy with Travis at home chasing a growing toddler. Jack recently discovered a love for sunglasses and his life jacket, so things look good for his boating future. #WebbClassOf2045"



Robert Carelli shares: "Lindy, Robert, and Natalie welcomed Michael to the family last September and Natalie is enjoying her job as an older sister! Robert is finishing up his tour in underwater ship repairs and will be working on the Navy yard managing submarine acquisition projects."



Josh McMinn writes: "The McMinn's are still enjoying Copenhagen life (both kids have gone native and enjoy leverpostej for lunch) but did venture back to the States for a California Christmas. Looking forward to coordinating a Webb Europe gathering this year."



Andrew Harville reports: "The Harville's have been enjoying the hockey life. Harvey's travel team the Space City Hockey Club earned a silver boot in Dallas in the championship game."



And from Florida, **Bret Smart** jokes: "Bret has been playing in two 'beer leagues' in Florida, attracting tons of scouts, and is expecting his call to join the National Hockey League any day now."



Jon Dowsett exited Star Bulk after its acquisition of Eagle Bulk and recently started a new role at Genco Shipping in New York City. Looking forward to summertime in Rowayton with Jessie, Spencer, and the cats!



We hope everyone else from the Class of 2009 is doing well and having fun!

2010

David Gross wrote: We are pleased to announce the birth of our first son. Mommy and baby are doing great!

2013

The class of 2013 remains busy in and out of the office. **Sean Murphy** finished

his deck rebuild in September, he and his family look forward to using it this season. While in the office he continues fighting the good fight to help move renewable energy offshore. **Jonathan Soja** moved to Baltimore after starting a new job with the US Coast Guard. He and his family are happy in their new home; his kids love the backyard. **Justin Van Emmerick** continues working for Orsted on renewable projects while still finding time for skiing, trail running, and starting too many house projects. A nursery is on top of his to-do list as he and his wife Anna are expecting their first in June. We wish them both the best and look forward to our class family growing. **Gerardo Nixon** still lives in Silver Spring, MD with his partner and pets. He continues helping NOAA design and building ships and dabbling in AI applications. Out of the office he finds time to play board games with his friends. **Marc Smith** had his photos featured in Newport Life magazine's yearly photo compilation. **Michael LaRose b**egan working for the New York Unified Court system in Central Islip, NY. **Colin Spillane** found a job where he can continue applying his fine art of opening small format retail stores. The next café or bakery you visit may be one he helped to open.

2014

Sam Granger '14 and **Randy Neureuter '14**, with Prof. Richard Royce as their advisor, won a 2015 Mandles Honorable Mention prize for their paper "A Comparative Analysis of Low-Aspect-Ratio Conventional and Single-Slotted Circulation Control Foils Intended for Marine Hydrodynamic Applications".

2015

After our 5-year reunion was canceled by the pandemic, 14 members of the class of 2020 gathered in lake Anna, Virginia for our 10-year reunion and to attempt to relive our Glory Days at Webb. In typical Webb fashion, we left our home base and attempted to explore the lake, but decided the Airbnb pool and dock were more fun. We spent the weekend swimming, dancing, playing slightly competitive games, singing along to bad songs, watching Satchel try to dock start a foil, and complaining about the state of US shipbuilding. We are all hoping for another excuse to get together before 2030 (yes, that means you Alex!).



Pictures from left to right:

Front row: **Gina, Mike Chen, Clarence O'Connor, Amy ('14), Matt Gianforcaro.**

Back Row: **Matt Weklar, Wes Yland, Satchel Douglas,** Quinn, **Tyler Totten, Reneé Tremblay ('20), Alex Hanford, Allie Pitti, Nolan Conway, Dan Turnoff, Chris Licato,** Lauren, **Evan Wingfield.**

2016

Casey Brown '16 and **Cody Stansky '16,** with Dr. Adrian Onas as their advisor, won the 2016 Mandles First Prize and subsequently had their paper, "A Fluid Structure Interaction Analysis of Vertical-Lift-Producing Daggerboards" published in Naval Engineers Journal (NEJ).

2017

Several members of the class of 2017 gathered for **Spencer Dugan's** wedding to Giulia!



From front left: **Bree Louie, Elettra Ganoulis** (Exch.), **Andrew Arnold, Hannah Wistort, Chris Garcia** (Exch.), **Gilberto Zambrini** (Exch.), **Julian Niedermaier** (Exch.), **Tim Siepmann, Barr Turner, Ian Lawson,** and **Alex Dzinbal** traveled to celebrate.

Spenser & Anna Boyd welcomed their second child in June, bringing another young Webbie to the family.

2020

Chris Bal and Sarika Robinson got engaged on August 18, 2024.



L.J. Bock and **Inga Johansson '21** got engaged December 22, 2024.



Alex Taber and wife Amalia had their first child Catalina Aurelia Taber, born March 26, 2025.



Max Pierce '20 and **Zane Tinnell '20,** with Dr. Adrian Onas as their advisor, won a 2020 Mandles Honorable

Mention prize for their paper "Effect of Non-Linear Geometric Twist on Hydrodynamic Performance of Hydrofoils with Bell-Shaped Spanloads".

5-year reunion squads attacked the slopes at Mt. Snow in March and attended Webb Homecoming in May.

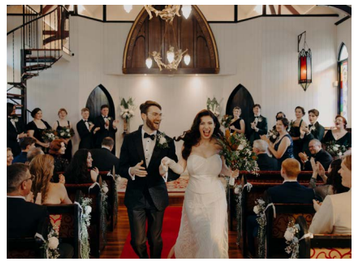
2021

Sean Healy married his beloved Seattle girl, Sydney.



2022

James Rodgers and Brianna Walker got married in a beautiful wedding at the Broadway chapel in their hometown Brisbane, Australia on June 26, 2024.

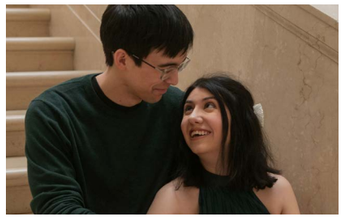






Kyle Oliver proposed to Karsen Hage and set a date for the wedding for June 27, 2025 under the cherry blossoms in Washington D.C.

Addison Harris married Grace Rodriguez in Richmond, VA on March 1, 2025 in a wonderful ceremony and reception without a dry eye in sight.



Luke Kiely married Lexie Chessin in Seattle in a wedding fit for two naval architects aboard the MV Skansonia with classmate Juliette Lehman as the officiant on August 18, 2024. (w/pic)



We also had not one but two Kevins finish their master's degrees. **Kevin Becker** received a master's degree in mechanical engineering focused on robotics, autonomy, and control theory from MIT. **Kevin O'Keefe** received a master's degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from the University of Michigan.

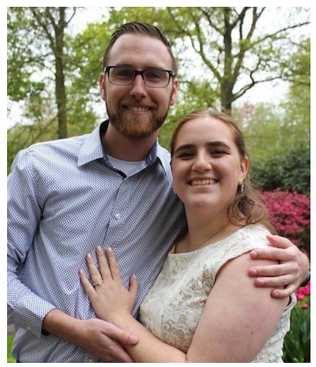
Juliette Lehman and **Ben Hunt** (Webb '21) got engaged! A summer 2026 wedding is planned.



2023



Jack Kirk and Laura got engaged at Mt. Rainier on July 28, 2024! Their wedding is planned for August 8, 2026, and will be moving back to the East Coast!



Jacob Dillistin and Ashley Farrell (Webb '25) got engaged amongst the tulips while visiting the Netherlands!

Gabriel Allen and Ashley Devereux got engaged this year and will be getting married on July 1, 2025 in Ledyard, Connecticut.



2024

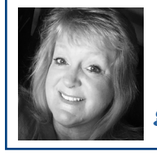
Richard Thill, Daryn Cook, Miguel Sanchez, Will Calli, Zane Ballister, and Alex DeMeo went to Playa del Carmen for a diving trip. They saw bull sharks and sea turtles and dove in a freshwater cavern (Cenote).





Lisandro Nicoletti de Fraga was a finalist for the BOAT Young Designer of the Year Award for 2025.





Please send class notes directly to Gailmarie Sujecki at:
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