

OBMG 2016 Newsletter

SUNY Maritime Cultural Club's Black History Dinner, was hosted, as it always is, on the last Thursday in February. The Key Note Speaker, Mr. Mat Mathanvan, '03 (and former OBMG scholarship recipient), spoke passionately about his experience at Maritime College and his careers as an engineer and patent attorney. Special Guest Victor Mooney, victormooney.com, also spoke about successfully rowing across the Atlantic for AIDS awareness. The OBMG awarded \$17,000.00 in scholarships, including four (4) \$1,000.00 Pat Norman Dedicated Service Awards, in honor of Cultural Club Advisor Mrs. Pat Norman. She was given a commemorative award in honor of the occasion. A commemorative award was also given to La'Quey Smith in recognition for being the first Bahamian and the first female to become the Regimental Commander of the SUNY Maritime Cadet Corp.

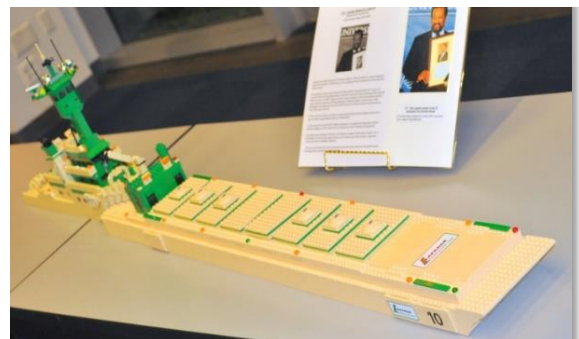


We were pleased to have Commodore McKinley of Teach Fleet (<http://www.teachfleet.com>) put on a display of some of his amazing Lego Ship Models in the New Academic Building. He also displayed Lego Ship Models in Honor of Capt. Robert Cook and Capt. Howard Wyche.

Ship model in Honor of Capt. Howard Wyche



Ship model in Honor of Capt. Robert Cook



OBMG Second Annual Networking Social

It was a very successful event with Alumni, Cadets and friends of OBMG enjoyed the music, food and networking.



We were pleased to have a representative from Gadites Maritime & Navigation Institution, Nassau, Bahamas attending this event as well. www.gaditesmaritime.com

The Admiral's Scholarship Dinner was held on Tuesday, May 3, 2016. Several OBMG members attended. Long time member and friend Tom Higgins '80 was honored. Tom is the Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer, for First Data and a member of the SUNY Maritime College Council. He has been a strong supporter of OBMG for many years; through his efforts First Data donated \$5,000.00 to the OBMG scholarship fund in 2016.

Astronaut and Captain (US Navy Retired), Scott Kelly '87 was also recognized at the Admiral's Dinner.



Tom Higgins



Scott Kelly



To see our very own Sean Carswell represent the OBMG on a video that was shown at the Admiral's Dinner please go here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VsuQwtcwi8Q>

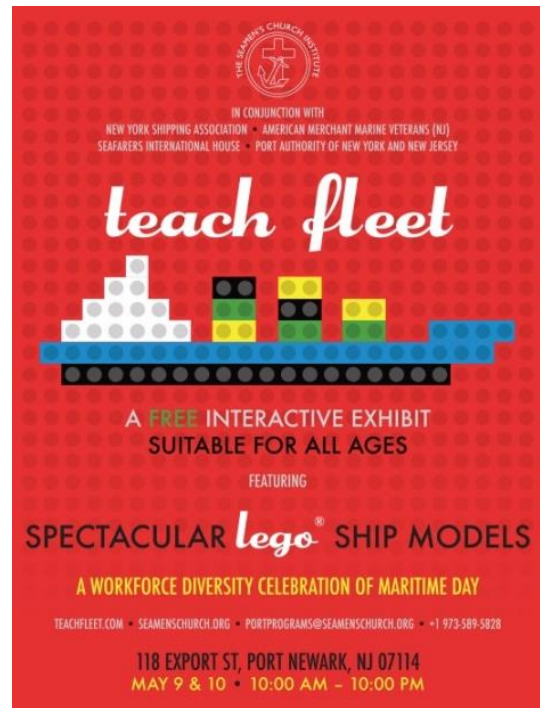
TEACH FLEET Maritime Diversity Outreach

event was hosted by The Port Newark Seamen's Church Institute at the Port Newark SCI-center on Monday, May 9th and Tuesday, May 10th 2016.

It was a wonderful event and 250 people attending including 90 4th and 5th grade students from the Cleveland Street School in Orange NJ.

Taken from a News 12 New Jersey post:

The TEACH FLEET is the most comprehensive, and diverse collection of nearly 200 Lego ships -- from tugboats to super tankers. Kids got the chance to check out these elaborate models. "This is one of the many ways that we're looking to spark an interest in the maritime industry, where kids will look to study it perhaps in high school or beyond in college, they are our future work force."



OBMG member Captain John DeCruz, New York President of the Sandy Hook Pilots was gracious enough to speak to the students being the perfect role model of how an African American from the Newark area can rise to the top of a major maritime organization. To see pictures from this event please visit: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/46881328@N07/collections/72157668047406251/>



Capt. John DeCruz Talking to Students



Commodore Wilbert McKinley Talking to Students

SST 2016

This past Summer Sea Term, O.B.M.G. was proud to have four of its members attend as officers aboard the T.S.E.S. VI. Deshawn Maduro (Engineer) and Muyideen Alasi (Deck), both class of 2015, worked on the entire 90 day cruise while Sean Carswell (Engineer) and Howard Wyche (Deck) worked on the training ship for 45 days each. This is the first year that four OBMG members participated on a Summer Sea Term. We were well represented on deck as well as the engine room.

TSES Empire State Docked in Malta



Mr. Carswell wrote a blog about his experiences on the training ship and can be found on our website at: <http://www.obmg.org/?p=4319>

Howard Wyche was able to take a few Cultural members out for dinner, as he has done in the past. This year with the help of Cultural Club president Constansa Torrejon, he was able to treat 22 Cultural Club members and friends along with Mr. Maduro and Mr. Alasi, to a lovely dinner in Barcelona. A good time was had by all and hopefully it was a memorable event for them as it was for him. To see pictures of this dinner and more go to: <http://www.obmg.org/gallery/nggallery/obmg/sst-2016>

2016 Master's, Mates and Pilots 86th CONVENTION, July 19-21, 2016 - report by OBMG Member Jelani Watson

Robert Cook, Sean Carswell and Jelani Watson
with ILA members



OBMG President Captain Cook gave Sean Carswell and me the opportunity to represent the Organization of Black Maritime Graduates at the 86th Master's Mate's and Pilots Convention this past summer. The convention, named after the late Tim Brown, was a great event. It was attended by Union representatives from all across the country and a few from abroad. ILA and MEBA was also in attendance. We met notable mariners like President Don Marcus and Secretary Treasurer Steve Werser of MM&P, Captain Philips, and other key individuals that represent and help our industry progress into the future.

Capt. Cook spoke at the convention about OBMG's mission, vision, accomplishments and history. His presentation was well received and several attendees committed to work with OBMG.

On the final night of the convention we had a great Hawaiian themed barbeque hosted in the middle of the MITAGS facility. The convention is held every two years. I hope all of my peers will attend the next



convention, and stay informed how our industry is advancing in the future. I also believe that this convention was a great networking opportunity that helped me learn about the different types of people that make our industry work as it is.

This year was an exciting fall season for the OBMG. On Thursday, September 29, 2016 OBMG was a sponsor of the Virginia House of Hope Charity Concert event which featured Fredrick Redd,



a baritone who is described in London's *Opera Now* magazine as being "a compelling vocal actor" and the Julliard trained Lucia Palmieri who has performed internationally with multiple roles in New York City, nationally and internationally with New York Grand Opera, City Grand Opera and Residency Unlimited.

OBMG's sponsorship of this great program made it possible for 12 Maritime cadets to attend the event. OBMG members who attended received VIP premier venue seating, with a cocktail hour reception after concert.



The Fort Schuyler Maritime Alumni Association's, Ancient Mariner Golf Outing was held on Friday, September 30, 2016. OBMG members Amie Carter, David Holman and Howard Wyche played. Member Sterling Pearson was supposed to play in the foursome but work interfered. OBMG was one of the sponsors at this event.

Members Howard Wyche and Amie Carter
(David Holman took the picture)

SUNY Maritime Homecoming Tailgating festivities, October 1, 2016. The OBMG had their annual tailgating tent in the Science and Engineering(S&E) building parking lot. OBMG members, cadets, friends and fellow alum stopped by for some food, beverage and great conversation.



Joe Lewis, John Boggs, Art Sulzer and Robert Cook

The OBMG Annual General Body meeting was held on October 6, 2016. The OBMG invited all Maritime College alum, affiliates and supporters to attend. The meeting took place at the SUNY Global Center, 116 East 55th Street New York, NY 10022. Several new members joined the organization. We discussed OBMG's present and future goals and voted in a new logo. The next General Board meeting will be held April 5 , 2017





The new OBMG Logo you will see on all our documents and web related pages



Board Of Directors

Captain Robert K. Cook
Captain Howard B Wyche
Captain Kevin L. Barrow
Captain Eric James

Ms. Amie K. Carter
Mr. Sean Carswell
Mr. Edward Lenard
Mr. Luis Burgos, PhD

www.OBMG.org

E-mail: Blackmar@obmg.org
PO Box 415, Allentown, New Jersey 08501
Ph: 609-238-1701 Ph: 215-519-1136