PINEY POINT
50 YEARS IN PHOTOS

Top: The Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education is pictured in 2016.
Above: The school’s first three lifeboat classes are shown in 1968.
A 1967 aerial view of the campus in its earliest iteration.

Dredging the property around the future Lundberg School, 1967.
Celebrating 50 Years of Education, Training, Excellence

Today, first-time visitors to the Seafarers International Union-affiliated Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education in Piney Point, Maryland, probably would have trouble envisioning the school's extremely modest beginnings.

Formerly a torpedo-testing facility run by the U.S. Navy, the school opened in August 1967—with no formal classrooms. Those were housed in a barge.

Fast forward to today, and the school simply known to most as “Piney Point” is America’s largest training facility for deep sea merchant seafarers and inland waterways boatmen. Offering more than 70 U.S. Coast Guard-approved courses, it has been hailed as a model of labor-management cooperation, and is widely regarded as state-of-the-art in every way.

Located on 60-plus waterfront acres, the school’s main purpose is providing vocational training for civilian mariners, prominently including entry-level personnel. It also offers some academic courses and a college degree program.

More than 17,000 apprentices have completed the entry program, while 135,000 upgraders have improved their skills through various deck, engine and steward department classes in addition to safety courses. More than 2,000 individuals have earned high school diplomas at Piney Point.

The overall campus is named in memory of the president of SIU from 1947-80, who was the driving force behind the school's construction. The school itself is the Seafarers Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship, dedicated in memory of the union’s founder. Various buildings are named in memory of Seafarers, SIU officials and executives from SIU-contracted companies.

During other especially noteworthy Piney Point anniversaries, the Seafarers LOG (the SIU's official publication) has published timelines, testimonials and other traditional newspaper-style coverage. For the 50th, we are offering something different: a photographic journey through a half-century of progress. Please note that this special edition is intended as a representative sample of the school’s history, rather than a comprehensive retelling. A digital version is available in the Paul Hall Center section of the SIU website, www.seafarers.org.

To everyone who's been part of the Piney Point experience, we wish you fair winds and following seas, always.
Installing the radio scanner, 1967.

November 1967.

1969 Trainee Adjutant James Sarisky.

Painting the barracks, 1968.

Stewards inspecting the pantry, 1969.

A 1968 lifeboat course led by a Coast Guard instructor.

Work continues on the old torpedo building in November 1967.

View from rear of garage, looking toward drydock building, October 1967.

In its first year of operation, much of the school’s business took place in trailers and converted barges.

School President Robert Matthews (center) in conversation with VP Ken Conklin (left) and Jerry George, 1969.

Trainees in formation, 1969.

The entrance to the school, 1968.

Lifeboat class 100.
Director of Physical Education Robert “Pappy” Gault, 1969. Prior to joining the faculty, Gault served as Head Coach of the 1968 U.S. Olympic boxing team.

1970 Flag lowering ceremony.

The old bowling alley, 1970.

No Union Ed course—not even in 1971—would be complete without historic coverage from the Seafarers Log.

HQ Rep Joe DiGiorgio (he’d later serve as SIU Secretary-Treasurer) reads a report in 1970 as Director of Training Bill Hall and Secretary-Treasurer Al Kerr listen.

October, 1969.

Farm house, October 1969.

A little PT time in Spring 1970.


Attendees of a 1971 Educational Conference pose for a group photo at Pier 45.

1970 was a boom year for the school, with plenty of great chow.
Taking the school vehicles for a spin, 1971.

Jean Bona and her children enjoy the school amenities while her husband, Seafarer Frank Bona, attends the 1972 Crews Conference.

SIU VP Lindsay Williams catching up with Seafarers in the dining room, 1971.

Throwing a line out, 1973.

Lifeboat training continued to be a staple in the 1970s.

An aerial view, 1974.

Bosun Cyril Mize directs trainees on winch control as part of his 1974 recertification course.

Port Agent Gerry Brown working the counter in May 1974.

Students in the engine room of the Pawnee, as part of a 1975 electrical engineering course.

The Alcohol Rehabilitation Center in 1975, its opening year.
School Vice President Mike Sacco, Hazel Brown and Director of Academics Margaret Nalen congratulate Thomas Maher for getting his 1975 GED. He was, at the time, the oldest graduate of the GED program.

Recertified Bosun Bill Joyner demonstrates how to rig a Bosun’s chair at the 1975 Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The Festival’s theme that year was America’s seafaring traditions, so naturally the school had a presence at the event.

Standing watch, 1975.

Trainees relaxing with a few games of pool, mid-1970s.

School Vice President Mike Sacco conversing with Engineer Sam Mormando and Captain Norman Dawson, 1977.

1970s stewards taking some pointers in butchery.

Paul Hall visiting the campus in the mid-late 1970s.

School VP Michael Sacco (left) congratulates Mark Muchow on graduating from the trainee program in 1976.

Deckhand Frank Paszuk making new friends on the farm, 1977.

Boatmen Leonard Downs and Sam Rowe taking bearings with a gyro-repeater, 1976.
Retired New Orleans Port Agent Lou Guarino (right) tries his hand at the Piney Point counter in 1977, with some help from a young Carl Peth (left).

Philadelphia Port Agent John Fay explains the SIUNA’s organization structure for a 1978 Inland Boatmen’s conference.

1978 marked the first year the school would provide course credits through the local community college.

Observers from newly affiliated Marine Cooks and Stewards drop in on a 1978 steward course.

SIU President Paul Hall.

1979 students of the first Steward Recertification course practice their menu planning.

This is no ordinary lifeboat course—this is the Piney Point team for the 1979 International Lifeboat Race getting in some valuable training. The team later took the gold medal at the New York Harbor finals.

Towboat class, 1979.

Quite a few bands rocked out in the Anchor Bar in the 80s.
PHC instructors were asked to write the 1981 Coast Guard’s AB safety manual, based on the quality of the school’s lifeboat courses.

Students are pictured with union and school officials before shipping out on a cruise ship in 1983. Among those pictured are school VP Frank Mongelli (holding sign) and Trainee Commandant Ken Conklin (far right).

One of SIU President Frank Drozak’s many appearances at Piney Point in the 1980s. Seated at right is AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland.

1981 brought many changes to the PHC campus.

Seafarer Mike Schroble checking a belt splice as part of a 1981 Conveyor course.

1981 brought many changes to the PHC campus.

Pensioner Bill Kaiser tests his likeness to Harry Lundeberg, the center’s original namesake, 1981.

Seafarer Mike Schroble checking a belt splice as part of a 1981 Conveyor course.

Athletic Director Bart Rogers with U.S. Representative Lindy Claiborne Boggs (D-LA).

Glenn Hutton assembling an AC motor in the Marine Electronics course, 1981.

The Bull Shepard setting sail in 1983 for Colonna Shipyard in Norfolk, VA for its annual fall drydocking.

Trainees taking a moment to relax as their lifeboats are taken out, 1983.
1983

Tying up, 1983.

Demolition of the old hotel, 1983.

These aspiring reefers inspect a unit as part of a 1983 intensive refrigeration engineering course.

Getting in a good work out in Winter 1984.


Working the ropes, 1983.


In 1984, a meeting of the minds: Eddie Gildersleeve, Don Nolan and Frank Mongelli.

Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-MD) gets an SIU-style welcome at the 1984 SIUNA Convention.

Demolition of the old hotel, 1983.
Funeral service for PHC Vice President Frank Mongelli, January 1985. Mongelli was the first Seafarer laid to rest at Seafarers’ Haven.


The summer of 1986 marked the end of an era for the training vessel Charles S. Zimmerman, which relocated from Piney Point to New York.

Simulator equipment, 1986.

ARC director Rick Reisman, 1986.


U.S. Representative Helen Delich Bentley (R-MD) speaks at the 1987 SIUNA Convention. Bentley was a lifelong supporter of the American maritime industry.

Fully manned simulator bridge, 1986.

A delegation of SIU Headquarters staff (including Vice President Augie Tellez, Keri Knight, Mike Neumann, Joyce Sanford, Brian Doherty and Deborah Porter) discusses the 1987 SIUNA convention proceedings over lunch.

Then-Port Agent Dave Heindel and Roland ‘Snake’ Williams representing Philadelphia at the 1987 SIUNA Convention.

Port Agent Edd Morris representing the school at the St. Mary’s County fair.
Legendary SIU old-timers (l. to r.) VP Angus ‘Red’ Campbell, Leon Hall, Tony Kastina, Pat Marinelli, and Scotty Aubusson celebrating the SIU’s 50th Anniversary in 1988.

A 1987 Automation class (led by Instructor Bill Eglinton) receives some pointers from a visiting Coast Guard officer.

Rose Hall (widow of Paul Hall) and AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland having a laugh at retired SIU VP Lindsay Williams’ speech at the SIU 50th Anniversary celebration.

USAF General Duane Cassidy makes his initial visit to Piney Point in 1988 as the first Commander of the United States Transportation Command.

This 1989 aerial view demonstrates the evolution of the campus.

Student Dave Swire completing navigation coursework, 1989.

SIU President Sacco, Vocational Director Bill Eglinton, and Vocational Coordinator Bill Hallwegs watching a crane operation demonstration during a 1989 tour of the Piney Point waterfront.
Preparations for the first Oil Spill Prevention course in September 1989.

Members of Polish labor organization Solidarity eat lunch with SIU retiree Stan Sokol (right), 1989.

The crane provides valuable training for seafarers, seen here practicing with a military vehicle in 1990.

Chef Romeo Lupinacci celebrates his 1990 award from Grand Salon Culinaire with SHLSS Vice President Ken Conklin.

Participating in a 1990 module for riverboat workers, Tim Stockstill demonstrates proper fire extinguisher usage on deck.

Students in one of the inaugural 1990 Advanced Firefighting classes at offsite facility in La Plata, Maryland.

Active and retired SIU members, union leaders, and government officials were in attendance for the Paul Hall Center dedication ceremony. The ceremony was held on the anniversary of Paul Hall’s birthday: August 20, 1991.

Instructor Ed Boyer (second from right) gives several pointers to a 1991 Bosun recertification class during a wire-splicing exercise.

Paul Hall’s widow, Rose Hall, accepts a bouquet of flowers at the Paul Hall Center dedication from President Sacco.

President Michael Sacco offers fond remembrances of late President Hall at the 1991 Paul Hall Center dedication.
Trainees snap a crisp salute to Old Glory in the early morning.


Main gate, August 1991.

GED students and instructors are pictured in April 1992. In addition to providing vocational training, the Paul Hall Center helps people earn high school diplomas.

Hydraulics/utility man course, October 1992.

Gen. Hansford Johnson (second from right), commanding officer of the U.S. Transportation Command, tours the school in 1991. Also pictured (from left) are school personnel Bill Eglinston, Ken Conklin and Ed Gildersleeve.

Pump room maintenance and operation class, November 1991.

No deck training exercise is complete without a few Jacob's ladders, 1992.

1992 ushered in the construction of a revamped Steward Department culinary lab. Here, workers install insulation in the new building.

An upgrader (left) presents school VP Ken Conklin with a banner in 1991 saluting SIU members' support of our troops in Operation Desert Storm.

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Lifeboat training, April 1992.


A bust of the campus’ namesake.

Port office, early 1990s.

Paul Drozak Building, early 1990s.

Logan Building, early 1990s.

Betty Smith (right) at the port agent’s office presents a pension check to Seafarer Robert Remmel in the early 1990s.

SIU-contracted Sea-Land in 1992 donated equipment for engine department courses. Pictured in front of one of the units are Seafarer Tommy Sorssi, SIU official Augie Tellez, company VP Roy Talley, Instructor Eric Maizkuhn, SIU Exec. VP Joey Sacco and Paul Hall Center Director Training Bill Eglinton. (Sorssi was on the scene in the late 1960s as well – he labored along with many others to help whip the school into initial shape.)

Instructor Casey Taylor (right) helps a student in a radar class in the early 1990s.
No need for alarm! Recertified Bosun Hugo Demody is only in the sling for the 1993 debut Tanker Rescue Ops course.

Students of a 1995 engineer course working on their final project.

Apprentice graduation, 1995. Third from right is J.C. Wiegman, who went on to serve as the school’s training director.

President Bill Clinton greets apprentices during a visit to the school in 1994.

An instructor providing a simulator demonstration, 1993.
An upgrader prepares for a confined space entry exercise as part of a 1995 tanker safety course.

Inland AB Class, February 1996.

Pier 45 saw few dull moments in 1995.

The school implemented a major revamp and expansion of the entry program in 1997, adding (among other things) a 90-day segment in which students ship out and rotate through the three departments. The first graduates of the updated program are pictured in December 1997.

A 1997 upgrader takes advantage of the school’s popular GED program.

A moment of levity in a 1996 Steward Recertification CPR course.

SIU of Canada President Roman Gralewicz (right) visits campus in 1995. Also pictured are SIU President Michael Sacco (left) and Executive Chef Romeo Lupinacci.

Trainees standing at attention, June 1997.

No, they’re not recreating the artwork for Abbey Road. They’re just recertified bosuns on the move (1997).

Steward Francesca Rose places leis on SIU Executive VP Augustin Tellez and Secretary-Treasurer David Heindel to celebrate her completion of the newly-redeveloped recertification program in 1997.

Damage control course, August 1997.
May 1998.

PHC Employee Steve Preit constructs the helicopter model for the new Fire Fighting School in 1998, a year before the school opens for business.

Upprader Grant Hult shows off his SIU pride in the PHC parking lot, 1998.

The Joseph Sacco Fire Fighting and Safety School nearing completion in early 1999.

A student in the recertified bosun class learns about computers in 1998.

Forklift Class, 1998.

President Sacco and Executive VP Tellez give TRANSCOM Commander USAF General Tony Robertson a tour of the recently opened Fire Fighting School, 1999.

President Sacco delivers remarks from the ‘deck’ of the Eternal Flame for the dedication of the Joseph Sacco Fire Fighting and Safety School, Spring 1999.

President Sacco entertains guests in 1999 with stories of his late brother Joe, the namesake of the new Fire Fighting and Safety School.

PHC VP Don Nolan at the 1999 unveiling of the Thomas Fay Building with Fay’s widow, Doris.
Damage control at the Fire Fighting School, 2000.


Upgraders enjoying the new engine room simulators, 1999.

1–2 The school utilized President John F. Kennedy’s former yacht Manitou from the late 1960s to the late 1990s. These photos are undated but appear to be from the 90s.

5–7 Piney Point has been a second home of sorts to family members in addition to Seafarers. Whether vacationing at the school or visiting sons and daughters who follow in members’ footsteps, the Brotherhood of the Sea is evident. Photo (5) shows Recertified Bosun Patrick Ray and family in 1996. Snapshot (6) features the father-son duo of Capt. Roger Horton and Apprentice Roger Horton, while the remaining image (7) shows three generations of SIU members from the Mathews family in 1994.

3–4 A bronze bust at the main hotel entrance honors the school’s original namesake.
2002

Sun and fun at the Point, 2002.


Lowering the flag at sunset, 2002.

PHC Safety Director Jim Hanson (right) conducts a school tour for a shipping company executive in 2004.

Joseph Sacco Fire Fighting and Safety School in 2004.


Upgraders train at the small-arms range in 2005.

Crane ops as part of a government vessels class in 2004.

Class 650 is pictured in the summer of 2004.
In 2005, U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao (seventh from left) spoke at the UIW convention at the school and then stuck around for an in-depth tour. She’s pictured with SIU President Michael Sacco (fourth from right) and numerous upgraders.


The Seafarers Health and Benefits Plan’s claims office reopened at the school in April 2006. Employees, union and school officials took part in a brief but spirited ceremony following the monthly membership meeting.

Engine department upgraders concentrate on hands-on training during summer 2006.

1-2 President George W. Bush delivered a Labor Day address at the school in 2006. He’s at the podium in photo (1) and at the wheel of the bridge simulator in the other photo (2), with SIU President Michael Sacco.

Upgraders display certificates of completion for various computer courses in 2006.
Bill Eglinton (right) was a fixture in Piney Point from 1973 until his retirement in 2007, when this photo was taken (that’s SIU Exec. VP Augie Tellez at left). The former Paul Hall Center director of training continued to serve both the school and the union even in retirement, before his unexpected passing in 2014, at age 63.

The school in 2007 hosted the Seafarers International Union of North America’s quinquennial convention. Pictured from left are AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, SIU President Michael Sacco and SIU Secretary-Treasurer David Heindel.

The school in 2007 began offering a maritime helicopter fire fighting course approved by the U.S. Military Sealift Command.

A cutting-edge liquefied gas (LG) cargo simulator was installed at the Paul Hall Center in early 2007. That’s instructor Jim Shaffer (standing) with an upgrader.

Damage control class, 2008.


Apprentices in 2008 embrace preparing to help uphold the SIU’s role as part of America’s fourth arm of defense.

Upgraders complete the machinist course in the summer of 2007.

A member of a bosun recertification class (left) teaches an apprentice about knots and lines in 2008.

Apprentices in 2008 embrace preparing to help uphold the SIU’s role as part of America’s fourth arm of defense.
Manpower Director Bart Rogers addresses the school’s advisory board in 2009. The board consists of representatives from throughout the industry and government, and is instrumental in helping the school remain on the leading edge.

Inland boatmen complete a steward department course in early 2009. They’re wearing caps provided by the union for a rally against so-called flags of convenience.

Students hone their lifeboat skills in 2009.

1-3 In May 2010, a training vessel based at the school was named in memory of the late SIU Executive VP John Fay (1). Pictured from left in the group photo (2), holding a framed photo of the boat (3), are SIU Secretary-Treasurer David Heindel, Paul Hall Center Trustee Tony Naccarato, Paul Hall Center VP Don Nolan, Seafarers Plans Administrator Maggie Bowen and John’s widow, Phyllis.

Hazardous materials training, 2009.
Students pose for the front page of the December 2010 edition of the Seafarers LOG.

Port secretaries and port officials convened at the school in early 2011 for training on the latest software used to assist rank-and-file members.

Dedicated professionals one and all, these members of the claims department also find time to help boost morale during a Halloween observance in 2010.

Santa has been known to visit school employees and their family members on campus, as was the case just before Christmas 2011.

Waterfront demolition starts in 2011 – the early stages of a major renovation.

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood (left, with PHC VP Don Nolan) toured the school in 2011.

In 2012, the school hosted the SIUNA convention. It marked the union’s 75th anniversary.

1-2 A major waterfront restoration project was completed in September 2012.

Welding class, 2011.

The inaugural Seafarers Waterfront Classic took place in May 2013. The event, in part benefiting the Wounded Warrior Anglers, has become a Piney Point staple.

A delegation from the SIU of Canada, led by President Jim Given (standing at right), meets with students during a tour in 2013.

In early 2012, Rear Adm. Mark Buzby (right), commanding officer of the U.S. Military Sealift Command, visits with upgraders during a tour.

SIUNA officials (including President Michael Sacco, fifth from left) are pictured following their election at the 2012 convention.

The new waterfront park continues to take shape in 2013 as the first memorial bricks are installed.
The completion of the waterfront park in 2013 marked the final step in that area’s renovation.

Apprentices head to class in 2014.

Students take advantage of the gym in 2014.

Entrance to nearby Seafarers Haven cemetery, 2014.

Recipe testing in 2014.
Braving the rain at 2014 Seafarers Waterfront Classic (from left): SIU Secretary-Treasurer David Heindel, Seafarers Plans Administrator Maggie Bowen, Keystone executive Phil Fisher, Paul Hall Center Trustee Tony Naccarato and SIU VP Contracts George Tricker.

Hosting ITF Women’s Conference, 2014.

Family members of the late SIU Executive VP John Fay help dedicate the auditorium in his memory during a May 2015 ceremony.

Gen. Paul Selva, commanding officer of the U.S. Transportation Command, speaks in the auditorium in May 2015 after touring the school. On the eve of the Seafarers Waterfront Classic, Gen. Selva paid tribute to military veterans and civilian mariners. As soon as he finished his speech, he was told to report to the White House — he’d been selected for successful nomination as deputy of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

These upgraders (pictured in 2014) can verify that some hands-on training is tastier than others.
1-2 The claims building is dedicated in memory of Tom Crowley Sr. in May 2015. SIU President Michael Sacco (right in photo 1) and Crowley Maritime President/CEO Tom Crowley Jr. are pictured in the lobby.

3-6 A multi-million-dollar renovation project in 2015 included construction and installation of several new simulators, refurbishment and expansion of classrooms, massive upgrades in the Training and Recreation Center (TRC) hotel and auditorium, and much more.

The training vessel Freedom Star arrives in Piney Point in early 2016.
The lighthouse at the waterfront park was dedicated in memory of the El Faro’s final crew in May 2016. In addition to those pictured, bricks were added for each of the 33 individuals who perished on the ship.

In memory of El Faro’s final crew. May they find eternal rest & peace. October 1, 2016.

The school launched an engine assessment program in 2016.

Lifeboat training, 2017.

The Seafarers Addictions Rehabilitation Center, 2016.

The Seafarers Waterfront Classic once again proved successful in 2017.

Hands-on training in 2017.
This memorial inside the library lists names of the more than 1,200 SIU members who lost their lives during World War II.

May 2017.

The school has served as a gateway to maritime careers for more than half a century. Here, an apprentice gets practical training in 2017.

Students, union officials, instructors and staff members gather in August 2017.