

# The Fort Schuyler Mariner



15 March 2011, 0800 hours  
Pilot on Board Eileen Femenia  
is back on the bridge of the FSMAA,  
where she belongs!

By Bridget Bendo '96

Back in familiar waters, joining Captain John Bradley on the bridge of the FSMAA, to guide us through the navigational hazards of the economy and the uncharted waters of a new Maritime College president, honorary Pilot Eileen Femenia is once again serving as Director of the FSMAA.

After two decades of tireless service of achievement and results, passion and flair, and five years of a needed respite, Eileen Femenia is back. And she is still amazed and humbled by the support of the people of the FSMAA. For instance, on the morning after catching up at the recent Admiral's Scholarship Dinner, Eileen was taken aback to be greeted by an e-mail from McAllister Tug & Transportation Company who quietly donated a Title Sponsorship of \$12,000 at the Golf Classic. What a welcome!

Having already served as FSMAA Director for twenty years, 1986-2006 (starting as a teenager, of course), Eileen may know more about the association than everyone else put together. From a historical perspective, she was involved in:

- the change in office electronics from hand-written ledger, to typewriter, to using college's mainframe computer and dot matrix printer, to individual laptops
- the first in-house Roster in 1989
- doubling of FSMAA membership in her first five years from 1986 to 1991
- revision of "Man of the Year" to "Alumnus of the Year" award
- increasing Homecoming mini-reunion attendance and utilizing Class Representatives
- 1995 conversion to FSMAA independent server
- the office location shift to off-campus
- eight Presidencies of the FSMAA (skipping Dick Bracken, although Dick will make it up in no time)
- having the pleasure of working closely with so many people, but particularly: Dan Mastromarino, Peter

Schramm, Joe Tartaglia, Charlie Ellwanger

- From a personal angle of understanding: being on the other end of the SSTs while hubby Jose sailed on 21 of them, including returning one day after their first-born

Eileen's husband Jose continues serving as Director of the MMarE online engineering program and professor at King's Point, as well as working with SNAME and on his ever-expanding consulting business. As retirement calls out to him in the near future, Jose will focus on his consulting activities.

*In Eileen's own words:*

"Most of all, what has kept the Association going all these years is the dedication of its alumni and their contributions to keep the organization, now celebrating its 108th year, alive and well! As I said to John Bradley, when he asked if I would return to help out until a permanent director could be hired, I can do just so much; the rest is in the hands of each and every member contributing to keep this wonderful Association alive. If you are not currently a dues-paying member or if you are not sure if your membership is up-to-date, please check and update your membership at: [www.FSMAA.org/MemberStatus](http://www.FSMAA.org/MemberStatus). I am hoping that with your continued support and contributions, we can appropriately support the membership, the Association and the College. I hope to be able to accomplish the publishing of the next edition of the Roster before my ship sails once again into retirement!

I'll see you at our 23rd annual Golf Classic at Nassau or Glen Head Country Clubs on Long Island on June 13th! If you can't be there in person, we'll see you online at the popular online auction. Thank you for asking me to return for another "tour of duty". It is truly my pleasure."

Eileen returns to a warm welcome from members across the country, with deep appreciation for her willingness to help out when needed. The job of FSMAA Director of Activities is a demanding, time-consuming, multi-tasking challenge. No one is better qualified to deal with it than Eileen Femenia. We are very grateful.

