



Message from the President
September 19, 2022

Happy Monday,

I am pleased to share that Samaro Bannister-Schneider has been appointed to serve as interim captain of the Training Ship *Golden Bear* (TSGB). Captain Bannister will serve as Cal Maritime's first female TSGB captain and is a proud Cal Maritime alumna who brings with her an extensive career in marine transportation.

Captain Bannister is an experienced master mariner who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Cal Maritime and I know that every cadet will benefit immensely from her leadership on Training Ship *Golden Bear*. She is a superb and welcome addition to our talented team of faculty and staff, who represent the diverse range of dedicated professionals who make our national maritime industry successful.

She is a 2000 graduate of our Marine Transportation (MT) program. She began her career on a fleet of Small Waterplane Area Twin Hull (SWATH) research vessels conducting survey operations. Soon after, she moved up to a larger fleet of vessels, the Watson Class LMSR RO-RO's where she found her home. Captain Bannister spent over 14 years sailing the deep sea with Maersk Line Ltd and Ocean Ships Inc. in senior and junior positions. She worked in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. She has also served in senior positions for Joint Logistics Over the Sea (JLOTS) off Guatemala in 2007 and off Lynnhaven, Va. in 2008. She is a master mariner who holds an unlimited master's license, the highest grade of seafarer qualification.



The last six years of Captain Bannister's deep-sea service were spent as Commanding Officer of the USNS Soderman. In 2014, she moved shoreside to start a family and begin a new chapter. In her off time, she enjoys spending time with her daughter and husband swimming, stand-up paddleboarding, hiking and biking.

Her office is in Marine Programs. Her email is sbannister@csum.edu.

From Captain Bannister:

"It is with a full heart and great enthusiasm that I return to California State University Maritime Academy. When I heard the Training Ship *Golden Bear* was in need of a captain, my compass went true and I knew this was an incredible opportunity to give back. Cal Maritime opened doors and prepared me for a unique career of being a Merchant Mariner. My time spent and education received allowed the dreams of a small-town girl from Colorado to become a reality. I am beyond appreciative for the years

spent sailing deep sea, and for the amazing mentors whose knowledge helped me solve difficulties encountered on my journeys. I am appreciative of my recent time teaching at Training Resources Maritime Institute. I am especially grateful for my husband Jack and daughter Madeline who will be joining me and for my parents, Jim and Kent Milski whose sense of adventure and unwavering support were the catalyst for my career. I look forward to leading the next generation of Merchant Mariners into this exciting field. I am thrilled to be the new Captain of the TSGB and look forward to meeting you all.”

Please help me in welcoming Captain Bannister back to campus.

In service, TC



Thomas A. Cropper

President

California State University Maritime Academy