

---

# Marine Studies News



News about the Marine Studies degree programmes **April 2006**

## PYNDA 35 Conference

The Plymouth Nautical Degree Association (PYNDA) celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March with a conference at the Holiday Inn, Plymouth. Students from the Marine Studies programme joined a host of influential people from the maritime community to discuss the image of shipping industry.

Three Officer Cadets who are sponsored by various UK shipping companies, Brent Bolton (P&O Nedlloyd/Maersk), Oliver Chasteauneuf (Ship Safe Training Group), and Timothy Corthorn (P&O Princess Cruises) were greeted by Nic Ingle, shipping advisor to Stephen Ladyman MP, the Minister for Shipping.



Left to right: Ollie, Tim and Brent asking their questions of the panel at PYNDA 35

The title of the Conference was "The Image of Shipping – Who gives a Ship?" a topic which attracted over 100 delegates in the aptly named Mariner Suite in the city-centre hotel.

The conference format was based on the style of the BBC's "Question Time" with a panel of experts including Michael Grey, Editor of Lloyd's List, who

questioned the media's portrayal of shipping and how only the 'juicy' bits such as groundings, sinkings and fires get publicised. Other distinguished speakers included Capt. Stephen Bligh, ex-CEO of the MCA, Michael Everard of F.T. Everard & Sons Shipping, and Richard Sayer, a leading international shipping lawyer and Chairman of Maritime London.

A few comments from the students:

"PYNDA 35 was an opportunity to mingle with influential past students from the University of Plymouth." *Ollie*

"The day made me realise how much a marine degree from Plymouth is respected in the City of London, which is regarded as the world's Maritime Capital. Combining sea time with a degree is valued immensely by those both afloat and ashore." *Brent*

"A great opportunity to network with some people who started their careers studying at Plymouth and are now in very influential positions in the marine industry." *Tim*

## RNLI Liferaft Challenge

A group of students from Marine Studies will be raising money for the Plymouth Lifeboat at the end of April by spending 24 hours in a liferaft.

Having already been trained in survival techniques, the students see this as a fun social event, but also as a chance to gain a better knowledge of what it is actually like to spend a significant period of time in a survival situation.



**Lifeboats**

---

## Nautical Institute: South West of England Branch

Brent Bolton, Tim Corthorn, and Oliver Chasteneauf who reported on the proceedings at the PYNDA 35 Conference have also recently given their own presentations to a group of professional mariners.



*Ollie, Tim and Brent after describing their sea-going experiences to NI branch members*

They gave illustrated accounts of their experiences from last summer where each of them spent several months at sea as part of the training for their Officer of the Watch Certificates. They talked to members of the Plymouth-based branch of the Nautical Institute which is the professional body for mariners.



Brent was assigned to P&O Nedlloyd "Ningbo" operating between the Far East and the Gulf. He faced many challenges on one of the hottest shipping routes imaginable. He described how the tasks sets for a cadet are not always easy and that you start at the bottom, getting to know the relationship between a brush and paint, before moving on to more glamorous jobs such as maintaining a navigational watch.

Tim discussed how he preferred the comfort and status of the 70,000 ton

cruise ship "Oriana". During his two months on board he visited 15 countries and called in at 24 ports. He described the importance of shipboard safety and shared with the audience his enthusiasm for the responsibilities he had been given for fire fighting on board...

Ollie joined the timber carrier "Scott Ranger", 87m in length and with a maximum speed of 11.5 kts. With just a six man crew, the experience was far removed from that of his colleagues. Trading around the UK and NW Europe he visited many small and unfamiliar ports, gaining experience both on deck and on the bridge

These three students will shortly be leaving Plymouth to spend a whole year at sea before coming back to the University to complete their studies.

## Year 3 Conference

The Navigation Student Conference took place on 13th March. This annual event is organised and led by final year students on the Marine Studies programme.

There were twenty-six speakers and topics ranged from some of the latest navigational technologies and the associated human behaviours, through to lifeboat safety and thermal imaging.



*Students presenting at the Year 3 Conference*

This year there was a truly international feel to the event with students from Kuwait and India. Guests attended from the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, local members of the Nautical Institute and industry representatives linked to Maritime Plymouth.

## Gipsy Moth IV sets sail again

Francis Chichester's "Gipsy Moth IV", which was on display alongside the "Cutty Sark" in Greenwich for almost 40 years, had a spectacular send-off from Plymouth in September - with over a hundred vessels escorting her out past the breakwater.

After an extensive refit, she spent the summer at many public events including the Fleet Review, Cowes Week, the Festival of the Sea and Southampton International Boat Show before the Plymouth departure on a 22-month voyage around the globe visiting 25 countries and 32 ports. She will be crewed for each leg of the journey by a professional skipper and two mates, as well as three young adults who have no sailing experience, but are determined for adventure.

One of the Marine Studies staff, Andrew Eccleston, is the project's meteorologist

and is sailing two legs of the voyage as Mate. The crew are carrying out various oceanographic experiments using equipment and support provided by the University of Plymouth, which is an official partner in the project.



*Sir Francis Chichester's yacht "Gipsy Moth IV" setting sail again from Plymouth Sound*

"Gipsy Moth IV" will arrive in Plymouth from her second circumnavigation in May 2007. Follow all her adventures, including video updates, on the official project website at [www.gipsymoth.org](http://www.gipsymoth.org)

## Marine Studies Degree Programmes

BSc (Hons) Marine Studies: Merchant Shipping, Navigation, Ocean Yachting

### Year 1 Modules

Physical Oceanography and Meteorology Foundation	Planet Earth	Safety at Sea	Navigation and Leadership Fieldwork	Marine Techniques 1	Marine Techniques 2
--	--------------	---------------	-------------------------------------	---------------------	---------------------

### Year 2 Modules

Coastal Navigation	Marine Decision Support Systems	Marine Positioning	Research Skills	Ship and Yacht Science	Yacht Voyage
				Digital Mapping and GIS	Ship Ops and Management

### Year 3 Modules

Ocean Navigation	Problem Solving in the Marine Environment	Marine Management and Law	Honours Project (Dissertation)	Marine Industrial Issues
				Offshore Surveying

BLUE Modules are common to all courses. YELLOW Modules depend on the degree chosen.

## Promotional Merchandise

The year 2 students from the Nautical Studies degree (now named Merchant Shipping) are an enthusiastic group and have always been encouraged by the University. The students organise many trips for themselves and they decided they wanted to be recognised more as a group, so they came up with a course logo to be used on a selection of clothing items as a course "brand". They sourced waterproof jackets, hoodies and t-shirts – all bearing the course brand as well as the University logo.



*The new logo has attracted many queries about the course*

Since wearing their personalised clothing range, the students have been asked many questions about the course and what they individually do. It is very encouraging to see students taking an active part in promoting a course which is becoming very popular.

## Feedback

Comments received from a visitor to a recent Marine Preview Day:

- A compact City with loads to do in and around it
- A place with massive history in the marine sector but also a huge and influential future
- A University that clearly believes in itself, proven through investment in its facilities and services

## Visiting Speakers

During the Spring Term, Marine Studies students have enjoyed a series of presentations from visiting speakers who are experts in various sectors of the marine industry.

As this was the first year for the unique "Ocean Yachting" degree, the visiting speaker programme was focused on career opportunities of interest to these students.

The speakers included a Director of Camper and Nicholson's Marinas, a top yacht broker, the head of a local sailing school and a Plymouth graduate. The talks covered the following topics:

- A career in tall ships
- The RYA qualifications scheme and its role in the yachting industry
- A career in superyachts
- Superyacht brokerage
- The international yachting business

**A Career in Tall Ships**

**Dave Bawden**  
BSc(Hons) M.Eng  
Certificated Master of Yachts  
up to 3,000 tonnes  
Served as Chief Officer in:  
Stavros Niarchos Phoenix  
Prince William Grand Turk  
Tenacious Royalist

**Monday 16 January 2006**  
1500  
PSQ Stonehouse Lecture Theatre  
ALL WELCOME

University of Plymouth  
Marine Studies External Speaker Programme

This newsletter was produced by staff and students from the Marine Studies programme.  
If you have any further enquiries please email [andrew.eccleston@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.eccleston@plymouth.ac.uk)