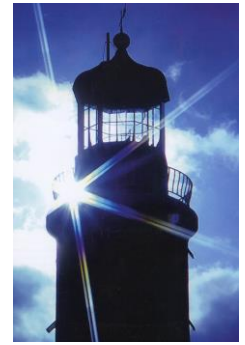


# ISL News

the Newsletter of the International Shipping, Logistics Group.

Plymouth Graduate School of Management,  
Plymouth Business School,  
Faculty of Business, Plymouth University.



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Summer 2014

*“The Sea may pretend to sleep when it’s above, but underneath there’s a world of flux”*

*Caroline Carver 2012*

## LEADERS MESSAGE

Eighteen degrees and cloudy with a downpour pending makes this a typical summer day in Plymouth. If you haven’t visited lately, our offices overlook the fish quay and marina in Sutton Harbour and the National Marine Aquarium. Slowly, our classrooms by the waterfront are becoming home to our postgraduate International Shipping and Logistics programmes in the Plymouth Graduate School of Management. Change as ever, though, is not far away as a new teaching year looms in the form of the Curriculum Enrichment Project led for us by Dr Sarah Tuck which kicks in in 2015. There are new Learning Technology Environments, embracing digital learning, booklists, assessments, recording of marks and most other things we do. Within the Group we bid farewell to Paul Wright who has now earned a well-deserved rest after 35 years of teaching at Plymouth, and without whom the future of ISL news remains uncertain. Michael Roe who became Professor of Transport in 1988 now embarks on a “phased” retirement, but will still be available to supervise doctoral students. Professor Nikolaos Tsokas is now in post as Dean, joining us from the University of East Anglia, and Professor Jingjing Xu has taken on the role of Associate Dean (Research). In the current fiercely competitive business environment of higher education, it is gratifying that several temporary posts will continue next year. The challenge to all academics is a very simple one, namely to excel in teaching, research and all that we do in order to offer our students the best experience available, or to find that the market no longer requires our services.

In the upcoming September awards ceremonies, advance listings show eleven award winners benefitting from nine prizes offered. This is surely the most generous list to date, and testifies to the ongoing support of our benefactors and alumni, and the excellence of our students. Well done to those listed and a huge thank you to all our sponsors. Of particular note will be thirteen first class honours awards at BSc level, and an unprecedented proportion of upper second class awards. Well done to all involved, and we trust that the message will get around the world that the best way to start a career in Maritime Business is to accept the unique challenge of embarking on a Plymouth degree, which offers opportunities second to none.

As I write, Michael Roe is currently in Sweden, and Jonathan Challacombe is in Singapore with the Maritime Academy. Syamantak Bhattacharya has just returned from India, and Shunmugham Pandian, Robyn Pyne and others are making plans to attend the upcoming Logistics Research Network conference. Lise Hunter is liaising with East Africa and Chukwunke Okorie has recently returned from Nigeria. Irina Neaga is working with researchers in Dublin, Mark Bennett is researching into the future of container trades in the UK and David Adkins, Dimitrios Kolovos, Gotthard Gauci and Philip Rogers are preparing to take on some of the classes previously taught by Paul and Mike. If we have not already signed you up yet, visiting speaker slots will be available on different days of the week next year, giving no excuse at all for not coming to visit us and share your wisdom with us. Thank you to all, and please visit soon...



Prof. John Dinwoodie

## UNIVERSITY NEWS

### Vice Chancellor Professor Wendy Purcell

The West Morning News launched a new Sunday paper - 'WMN on Sunday'. As one of its initial reports – and lasting over four weeks it has attempted to identify the 150 most powerful persons in the West Country. Wendy Purcell is listed as number 17 in the order with Prince Charles being Number 1! Under the entry for Wendy Purcell a note reads '*Professor Wendy Purcell, the Vice Chancellor of Plymouth University was placed on leave by the Board of Governors earlier this month as part of an 'ongoing review process'. Appointed in 2007 she was a former student at the University. She has an international reputation in her field of biomedical research*'. There are some concerns about the position of the Vice Chancellor and it is hoped resolution can be made as soon as possible. There is little doubt that the agenda followed by the Vice Chancellor since her appointment has raised the profile of Plymouth University at the highest level in the national and international academic and political communities as well as supporting the local and regional agenda through the development of an 'enterprise culture'.

### Faculty of Business – The New Dean

Professor Nikolaos Tzokas took up his appointment in March 2014 as Dean of the Faculty of Business. A regular monthly newsheet is now published by his office. In his June message he spoke of the Faculty aim '*that each of the five Schools within the Faculty is to be within the top 25% of all ranking tables by 2020*'. In a previous communication he expressed the importance of research in the 'social sciences' and relating research to the real problems of stakeholders. As noted in the Group Leader's message, Professor Jingjing Xu of the international Shipping and Logistics Group has been promoted to the position of Associate Dean for Research for the Faculty of Business with the aim of enhancing the research profile and research income of the Faculty.



*Professor Nikolaos Tzokas  
Dean Faculty of Business*

### International Shipping and Logistics Group (updated to August 1<sup>st</sup> 2014)

Name	Role	Location
David Adkins	Lecturer: Intl Procurement & Supply Chain Management	MH
Mark Bennett	Lecturer: International Logistics & Procurement	MH
Dr Syamantak Bhattacharya	Manager: South Asia Hub	MH
Jonathan Challacombe	Programme Manager: Undergraduate Maritime Top-Up	CKY
Professor John Dinwoodie	Group Leader: ISL Group	MH
Dr Gotthard Gaucci	Lecturer: Maritime Policy and Regulation	MH
Dr Lise Hunter	Lecturer: Trade & Operation Management	MH
Dimitrios Kolovos	Doctoral Teaching Assistant	CKY
Dr Irina Neagha	Lecturer: Intl Supply Chain and Operations Management	MH
Dr Okorie Chukwunke,	Lecturer: International Logistics	MH
Dr Shunmugham Pandian	Programme Manager: Postgraduate Maritime Programme	MH
Dr Robyn Pyne	Programme Manager: Postgraduate MBM Programme	MH
Professor Michael Roe	Doctoral Completions: Part Time post	
Dr Sarah Tuck	Programme Manager: Undergraduate Maritime Programme	CKY
Professor Jingjing Xu	Associate Dean Research: Faculty of Business	CKY

### Research

Congratulations to **Dr Mohammed Briouig** who has been successful in completing a part-time doctoral thesis titled '**Risk Management in LNG Ports and Marine Terminals**'. The doctorate was supervised by Professors John Dinwoodie and Jingjing Xu between 2008 and 2014

In March, John Dinwoodie examined two PhDs at University College London, Energy Institute viz "**Market Barriers & Failures to Energy Efficient Operations in Shipping**" by Nishatabbas Rehmatulla and "**Dynamic Matching in the Oil Tanker Industry: Implications for Carbon Policy**" by Sophia Parker.

## Low Carbon Shipping – A Systems Approach (Final Report 2014)

The project – Low Carbon Shipping - supported by the Research Councils of the UK (RCUK) published its final report in mid 2014. The aims of the project were (i) to develop knowledge and understanding of the shipping system, particularly the relationship between its principal components transport logistics and ship design. (ii) to deploy that understanding to explore future logistical and ship concepts and how they could achieve cost effective reduction of carbon emission and to develop projections for future trends in the demand for shipping, the impacts of technical and policy solutions and their associated implementation. The project was undertaken by five universities with significant input from industry including Lloyds Register, Shell International Trading and Shipping, Rolls Royce and BMT Group. The **Plymouth University** team was led by **John Dinwoodie** with co-authors Sarah Tuck, Paul Wright, Mark Bennett and Nasima Chowdhury.

The full report can be found at [www.lowcarbonshipping.co.uk](http://www.lowcarbonshipping.co.uk)



*Low Carbon Shipping  
Final Report – Front cover*

## Student's London Field Trip



*The Board Room at Lloyds Register –  
opulence of a bygone age.*



*A Reception hosted by PYNDA and sponsored  
by Squire Sanders LLP.*

In March a party of final Year undergraduates led by Robyn Pyne and Sarah Tuck experienced aspects of the City of London. They visited the ports of Tilbury and London Gateway. In the City of London they were warmly received at the headquarters of the International Maritime Organisation, Lloyds Register and ICAP. A visit was made to the replica of Drake's ship the 'Golden Hinde' at Pickfords Wharf on the South Bank of the Thames. The ship is of significance to Plymouth University because the shield in the University's Coat of Arms is supported by a golden hinde and a pelican. (the names Pelican and Golden Hinde refer to the same ship used by Drake during his circumnavigation of the world). Squire Sanders LLP sponsored an evening reception at their prestigious offices. The Reception was attended by students and members of PYNDA. Mark Warner (Chairman PYNDA) introduced Andrew Sanderson, a Senior Associate of the company and PYNDA member. He enthused about the business of shipping and how his time at Plymouth had formed a '*lasting foundation for the development of his career*'.

## Student Visit to Marine Building

Postgraduate student interest resulted in a tour of Plymouth University's Marine Building. Those attending were introduced to the ECDIS laboratory (Electronic Chart Display Information System) and the full mission ship simulator. They also had the opportunity to tour the COAST laboratory and see the Ocean Tank used for the evaluation of Wave Renewable Energy devices. They were also shown the flume tanks and the smaller wave tank used in experiments associated with coastal defences – appropriate in a year in which Britain's coastal defences were severely tested by the winter storms and found wanting.



*International Shipping postgraduate  
students visiting the COAST laboratory*

## Student Visit to Intermodal 2014



*Some of Plymouth University's post-graduate students – having just registered at Intermodal 2014*



*Copies of 'Marine and Ports' - front page illustrating Plymouth University marine activity - were available at the Intermodal 2014 Exhibition*

A coach was hired to take an enthusiastic group of postgraduate students to the Intermodal 2014 exhibition held at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. Accompanied by Mark Bennett and Paul Wright students had the opportunity to visit exhibition stands, listen to seminars and establish contacts appropriate to their dissertation and future careers.

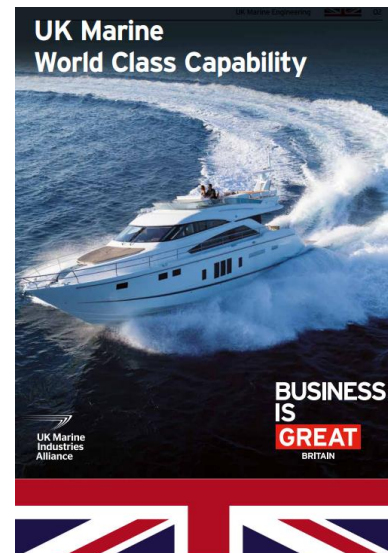
Among the many features of interest seen was an innovative business game 'Business on the Move'. The game has been developed for players of all ages and aims to become a platform for learning covering the movement of goods across the world. As such it is focused on the logistic and retail sectors.

The increasing value of the Intermodal Exhibition was highlighted by the first visit by a member of Royalty, HRH the Princess Royal, at the 2014 event

## MLE International Festival for Business Liverpool June 2014

The International Festival for Business 2014 was held in Liverpool during June. Two weeks during the Festival were set aside for a Programme associated with Maritime, Logistics and Energy. The Marine Institute supported Paul Wright's attendance at a one day conference 'Harnessing the Strengths of Shipping Innovation' which was to have been attended by the Minister for Shipping and Ports Stephen Hammond MP. A supportive video and message was shown in his physical absence. The Conference provided an interesting insight into commercial and political thinking with sessions on 'Trading our Way into Growth', 'UK – open for Business', the 'Green Factor' and the need for a 'Strong Port Infrastructure'.

A publication 'UK World Class Capability' produced by UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) was launched during the Festival. The 40 page publication carries an article titled 'Supporting Sea Change with Plymouth University Marine Institute. Within the article a statement says '[Plymouth University] offers an exceptional breadth of expertise in marine areas including monitoring the marine environment, impact of the sea on society, marine engineering, marine policy and maritime business'. The publication is being made at international exhibitions attended by the UKTI and in British embassies throughout the world and can be viewed on line..



*UK Marine - World Class Capability*

Adam Corney, Commercial Manager of the Marine Institute has represented Plymouth University at other major events in the UK. Two events he attended and which are of relevance to the ISL Group were the **Society of Maritime Industries (SMI) Annual Conference** held in Bristol under the title 'UK Maritime Engineering – Business Opportunity in the Drive for Exports' (May 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>) and **Seawork 2014 International** held at Associated British Ports, Southampton (June 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>),

## London International al Shipping Week 2015



London is gearing up for its next International Shipping Week to be held in September 2015. The inaugural Shipping Week held in 2013 received support from Plymouth University – see last edition of ISL News - but what about the next?

### BUILDING CHANGES ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

#### The Branding of MAST House



*External Branding of Mast House*



*The internal stair well in Mast House showing part of the time-line wall frieze*

MAST House has now been rebranded with new signage informing the public that the building is occupied by the Graduate School of Management. A timeline illustrating the history of Sutton Harbour, researched by Paul Wright has been developed into a wall frieze in the stair well leading from the ground floor to Level 2. The timeline commences in 1308 when Sutton was a small fishing hamlet in the county of Devon a county with a population of only 72,000 persons. The story recognises that *'the modern world was shaped between 1560 and 1600 by the ships and men of Sutton Harbour'* when persons like Hawkins and Drake used the harbour as a base for their international trading and privateering activities. The story of Sutton harbour as a commercial port is told with many of the original warehouses now converted into waterside homes and the harbour a marina. The frieze ends in 2013 with comment about the creation of the Postgraduate School of Management

#### FT Everard

A model of the FT Everard coastal tanker *MV Agility* has been provided on loan by James Fisher Ltd, the company which purchased the coastal tanker fleet of FT Everard in 2007. The model will be displayed on the first floor of Mast House with suitable comment about links between the company and Plymouth University. Michael Everard, the last Chairman of FT Everard & Son and Honorary Doctor of Plymouth University is also highlighted on a panel within the Reception area of Mast House. Further panels in the Reception area highlight other Honorary Doctors of Plymouth University who have maritime interests namely, Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope (First Sea Lord 2009 - 2013) and Ernesto Bertarelli an international entrepreneur, whose passion for yachting brought the America's Cup to Plymouth in 2011.



*Model of MT Agility to be displayed in Mast House*



*Amanda Plevin, Sarah Tuck with Michael Everard in person and 'on panel'.*

## The New Marine Station

In October 2013 the Centre was demolished and work begun on a new Marine Station. It is anticipated that the £4.5 Million Marine Station will be completed by early September and the facility will be in full use by Spring 2015.

**Isaac Foot Building (Cadet Dining Room) being demolished** The Isaac Foot Building – remembered by cadets as the dining room and one of the four key buildings of the Residential Nautical College built circa 1962 is being demolished as this newsletter is being written. The building has not been used since July 2013 when it was part of an ambitious plan to provide additional student accommodation on Campus. The plan has stalled. The footprint of the building will initially be laid to grass prior to further development.



*The new £4.5 Million Marine Station which replaces the Seamanship Centre at Coxside*



*The demolition of the Isaac Foot Building, built in 1962, as the Cadets Dining Room commences.*

## Drake Gardens and Reservoir

A £1.4 Million project, supported by the Lottery Fund and Plymouth City Council to restore and renovate Drake Gardens and Reservoir was completed in June 2014. The area is already becoming a 'haven of peace' in the busy City centre and will be enjoyed by students and staff of the University and the general public.



*Drake Reservoir – viewed from the North*



*Drake Gardens – A haven of peace'*

## Visiting Speakers

During the Spring Term the following Visiting Speakers have addressed final year Undergraduate and Postgraduate students studying International Shipping and Logistics. The appalling winter weather which led to the destruction of the main railway line at Dawlish disturbed the intended programme but only one external speaker cancelled. A full complement of eight presentations was made to the student body.



**Mark Warner -**  
Director *ShipServe* spoke to students on "*The Maritime Industry and the e-Market Place*" As Chairman of PYNDA, the ISL alumni group he also gave encouragement for students to 'join up'.



**Michael Everard CBE -**  
Honorary Doctor  
"*How to Run a Shipping Company*". Michael provided a valuable oversight in a dialogue with students about the most important aspects associated with ship management.



**Han Ozturk & Guy Wilkes - Directors Nectar Group**  
*“Innovative and Cost-effective solutions for Handling Bulk Commodities Worldwide”*  
 Han and Guy provided an interesting insight into the operation of Nectar and recent logistics development in Africa.



**John Sullivan - Second Wind Shipping**  
*“Sale and Purchase Practice ... Nothing’s Perfect”*  
 A fascinating talk involving the issues and concerns with managing the sale and purchase of very expensive assets – the ship.



**Andrew Sanderson - Senior Associate Squire Saunders**  
*“The Bribery Act 2010”*  
 Of concern to all – when is a gift a bribe? Andrew enlightened students regarding the answer as expressed by the new act and recent case studies.



**Roger Jobson – Director Able Consulting**  
*“Logistics and Transport - Vision 2035”*  
 Roger pursued the challenge of crystal ball gazing and guided by a recent report from the CILT looked to the potential scenario 25 years ahead! He also described his own career in logistics management



**Paul Wright - Associate Director Plymouth University, Marine Institute.**  
*“Climate Change – Impact on Ports and Shipping”.*  
 The talk was given to cover a short notice cancellations caused by the destruction of the South West main rail link.



**Commodore Steve Jermyn Marine Adviser Mojo Maritime and Professor of Strategy and Leadership at Plymouth University**  
*“Marine Renewable Energy - Tide Power”*  
 A dynamic and stimulating talk about the world’s dependence fossil fuels and the alternative power capability of tidal energy

## Prizes Graduation 2014

The following Prizes will be awarded at the 2014 Graduation Ceremony on Plymouth Hoe:

### **PYNDA Prize -**

Best Maritime Business and Maritime Law Dissertation: **Elizabeth Tai**

### **PYNDA Prize**

Outstanding Performance in Maritime Business and Maritime Law: **Jason Sudjoko**

### **Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Prize (Undergraduate)**

Highest Marks in Maritime Business and Logistics: **Anastasija Semibratova**

### **Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Prize (Postgraduate)**

Highest Marks Overall in International Logistics and Supply Chain Management: **Lukasz Dymytrowski**

### **Davies Johnson & Co Prize (Postgraduate)**

Highest Marks Overall in International Shipping: **Andre Sviland**

### **Ocean Intelligence Prize**

Best Masters Dissertation in Company & Counter Party Risk or Marine Credit Risk Modelling

**Nikolaos Lazarikos and Bjorn Slettebo**

### **Captain Mike Dennet Prize**

For the Maritime Student who has overcome insurmountable barriers to achieve success

**Muhammad Harwindra Nala**

## **PYNDA - Plymouth Nautical Degree Association**



*2014 PYNDA Committee Members*

*L-R Nick Ingle (Social Secretary) Han Ozturk (Treasurer), Mark Warner (Chairman) Vladislavs Dikovs, Andrius Vitas, Paul Wright (Plymouth University Rep) Marius Vitas (Secretary)*

In January members of PYNDA met at the Dickens Inn St Katherine's Dock for their AGM and 'post Christmas' Social. The 2014 – 2015 Committee was elected. Stepping down due to work commitment as Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers was Julie Lithgow, PYNDA's Secretary. Her contribution to the development of PYNDA is fully recognized and members present expressed their deep appreciation for the enthusiasm and effort she has given to the Association. Also **Ian Farr** a long time serving member of the Committee and Membership Secretary has stepped down following his retirement as Director of the American Club and his subsequent move to Looe, Cornwall.

**Marius Vitas** of Steamship Mutual (Email: [marius.vitas@simsl.com](mailto:marius.vitas@simsl.com) Tel No +44 (0) 20 7650 6488) was elected as the new PYNDA secretary. His brother **Andrius Vitas** who works for Pequod Associates has been elected as a Committee member without portfolio. **Vladislavs Dikovs** of Brassington Chartering was also elected to the Committee.

### **STAFF NEWS**

**Michael Roe.** Mike wishes it to be known that as from September 1<sup>st</sup> he will be reducing his commitment to 20% of the full work load and continuing with his responsibilities for PhD supervision and publishing. His location will be transient but contacts will remain the same.

**Lise Hunter** is leading the ISL group interests in the Heart of the South West Business Forum looking at opportunities to engage with Africa. At a meeting held in February discussion centered on higher education and training possibilities associated with the Dryport and Corridor concept between Zambia / Malawi and Mozambique. Lise has also been active in the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce International Trade Club where in February she delivered a joint presentation with Ian Dearmer, Associate Head of Employability, Plymouth Graduate School of Management, on the new curriculum in Management Practice and Employability.

**Shunmugan Pandian** delivered a talk to the local business community in the Threshold Workshop Series under the theme: Research Meets the Real World. His talk was titled – 'Managing your Supply Chain' and was designed to help identify critical issues in supply chains and offer ideas to help transform these supply chains to achieve competitive potential.

**THRESHOLD  
WORKSHOPS  
WITH  
PLYMOUTH  
UNIVERSITY**

**Philip Rogers and Paul Wright** are among members of a newly established **Maritime and Waterborne Innovation Group**. Supported through the Local Enterprise Partnership the group has been put together to create a forum for maritime, transport and other professionals to develop innovation in all aspects of the use of the sea and inland waters to the benefit of the economy of the South West of England and the wider economic interests of the United Kingdom. The Forum is in an early stage of development, but areas of interest cover potential new maritime routes and services, needs of the South West maritime infrastructure



and the application of new technologies.

Plymouth was represented at the Global Port and Marine Operations event – the 9th International Harbour Masters Congress in Bruges during May by **Sarah Tuck**. She along with Captain **Mark Sansom** MNI, Falmouth Harbour Master presented a paper 'Business Progression Through Knowledge Transfer' which illustrated the tools which can be used to assist small and medium sized ports assess and improve sustainability.



It has been announced that **Captain John Hooper** who has led the Navigation Group within the Maritime Science Group of the School of Marine Science and Engineering and was responsible for developing the Integrated Honours Degree programme for merchant navy officer trainees and overseeing the transfer and development of the Marine Navigation Centre in the Marine Building is to retire at the end of September.

After twenty one years of administrative service to the University, **Brenda Noone** who most recently has been Personal Administrator to the Head of the Postgraduate School of Management, Phil Meggicks has retired. A farewell event was held at Mast House and attended by a large number of friends. In a speech made by Phil the contribution she has made to the University, the warmth of her personality and the generous support she has given to all colleagues was recognised.



*Brenda Noone celebrates 21 years at Plymouth University*

**Paul Wright** - following 35 years at Plymouth and more than 50 years associated with the international shipping industry, Paul is set to retire at the end of the academic year – see Editors End Note.

## **AN INTERESTING VISITOR TO PLYMOUTH** **The Cruise ship 'Athena' (formerly MS 'Stockholm')**



*The cruise ship 'Athena' departing from Plymouth in May 2014*



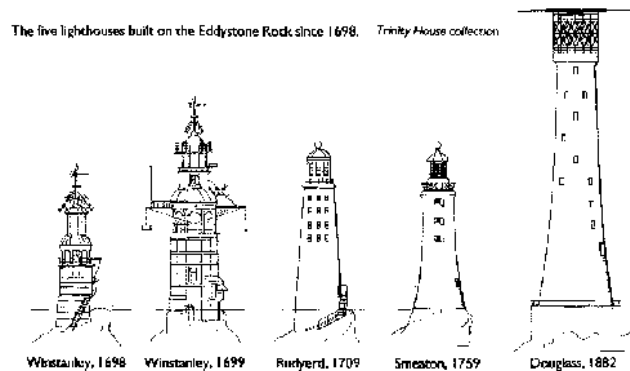
*The 'Athena' as the MS 'Stockholm' in 1956, being escorted into New York after collision with the 'Andrea Doria'*

The cruise ship 'Athena' formerly the MS Stockholm built 1948 was a visitor to the port of Plymouth in May. In 1956 as the trans-Atlantic liner MV Stockholm she was involved in a collision in fog with the MV Andrea Doria off Nantucket resulting in 51 deaths and the sinking of the Andrea Doria. The collision achieved notoriety as being a 'radar assisted collision', leading to some shipping companies to remove radar from their ships. It also led to formal training in the use of radar at sea – the Radar Observers Course which was undertaken at Plymouth for many years at the Fishers Nose Radar Station.

## **TWO AND A HALF YEARS ON!**

It was recently reported that the cruise ship 'Costa Concordia' has been successfully refloated in preparation for towing away for scrapping. The cruise ship grounded and capsized off the island of Giglio in the Mediterranean on January 13<sup>th</sup> 2012. At the time of the incident, Captain Syamantak Bhattacharya and Paul Wright gave 'expert' opinion to the world press regarding the incident. The cost of the salvage operation is expected to exceed £1 Billion!

## Spring Public Lecture: Uncovering the Secrets of the Eddystone Lighthouse



*The Five Lighthouses Built on Eddystone Rock*  
Source: Trinity House

On the 20th February recognizing the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Trinity House, England's Lighthouse authority by Henry VIII the Marine Institute held its Spring public meeting titled '**Uncovering the Secrets of the Eddystone Lighthouse**'. Following an introduction by Martin Attrill Director of the Marine Institute three individual talks were given. Nigel Overton, Curator of City and Maritime Heritage for Plymouth City Council Arts & Heritage spoke to the title '*A Lighthouse on the Eddystone*' and considered the five different buildings built on the rock and the men who designed and built them. *Wave Impacts on the Eddystone Lighthouse* was the title of Alison Raby's presentation who discussed the impact of climate change, how it is leading to the dual problems of increasing sea levels and storminess and asked what can be learned by today's civil engineers? The final talk was by Paul Naylor who as a marine biologist, photographer and author looked at the intriguing life which 'goes on' beneath the lighthouse.

### Personnel Moves within the Marine Institute

The recent University administrative staff re-organisation has impacted heavily on the Marine Institute. **Lyn Stott**, Personal Assistant to the Director retired at the end of the 2013 – 2014 academic year. Lyn will be well known to the 'old hands' having served as PA to the following Heads of the Institute of Marine Studies; David Moreby, Roger Motte, Tony Redfern, John Chudley and the three Directors of the Marine Institute; Lawrence Mee, Roddy Williamson and Martin Attrill. Lyn has given exemplary service to the University for more than 24 years and will be much missed.

Also moving on is **Frankie Peckett** who joined the Marine Institute when it was inaugurated in May 2006. Her enthusiasm and support as Marketing and Communications Officer has been greatly valued. She leaves the Marine Institute aware that she has made a significant contribution to the development of one of the UK's key marine organizations. **Luke Arthur** who was employed part time whilst Frankie was undertaking study for a doctorate in 'Marine Spatial Planning' has been engaged with, among other matters the development of the Marine Institute's website. Luke spent 5 years with the Marine Institute and has left to 'travel the world'. Finally Paul Wright who like Lyn and Frankie was a member of the original Marine Institute team will be retiring at the end of this academic year. As Associate Director of the Marine Institute he shared the role with several responsibilities within the Plymouth Business School and Postgraduate School of Management. A 'Core (MI) Group' Farewell Lunch took place at Wagamama's in the Royal William Yard.

**Katie Pritchard** has been appointed as the new Personal Assistant to the Marine Institute Director. Marketing and Outreach activities of the Marine Institute have been transferred to the new centralized University team.

### In support of the International Maritime Lecturers Association (IMLA)

It was pleasing to receive support from the Director of the Marine Institute regarding membership of IMLA. Through the Marine Institute there is already connection with IMLA. However it is felt that the University could engage more positively with IMLA as maritime and navigation interests move forward and new structures are developed

## Editors End Note.

As Editor of the ISL News and on the eve of retirement from Plymouth University I am taking a little space to wish all colleagues well for the future. As Head of the ISL Group (2000- 2006) I undertook the writing of a regular Group Newsletter. Initially published as the SSL Group News, in January 2003 it was re-branded, ISL News and the first edition was published. Past copies, since 2005 are archived on the PYNDA website and provide an interesting record of what has happened at the University and within the ISL Group over the last decade.

As many of you will know I have been associated with the shipping industry for more than 50 years, having undertaken pre-sea training between the age of 13 and 16 followed by an apprenticeship with Alfred Holt and Company (Blue Funnel Line) and service on their ships until I was 31 years of age. My period of service at sea coincided with the '*merchant shipping revolution*' in which economies of scale and technology were used to dramatically increase efficiency. For the first 9 years I experienced a lifestyle at sea operating between Europe and the Far East, not dissimilar to that described in Conrad's 'Lord Jim'. However when I returned to the fleet, following a one year teaching contract at Milton Abbey School as Master in charge of sailing and teacher of Geography, the revolution had moved forward and the general cargo liners had largely been replaced by the giant container ships of the Tokyo Bay class able to carry '*a staggering 2,300 twenty foot containers*'.



*Paul cuts the retirement cake  
'Sailing Away'*

After a further four years at sea opportunities for promotion to Master looked increasingly rare. Shortly after achieving my Master Mariners Certificate of Competency and having recently married I looked for a career ashore. I was appointed as a Lecturer Grade 1 of Plymouth School of Maritime Studies in 1979 to teach cadets (aged between 16 and 19 years old) on professional courses including Second Mates. The courses also to academic qualifications of either an ONC or OND in Nautical Studies.

When I joined Plymouth School of Maritime Studies there were about 1200 students on its books and it recruited about 250 cadets each year from UK based shipping companies. Work at Plymouth looked secure. But external economic forces and governmental policies were to cause major upset leading eventually to the collapse of the UK based shipping industry. Response by UK's shipping industry to the 1980s recession and a Tory government's 'no lame ducks policy' meant that survival depended on cutting costs. Cost reduction was difficult to achieve except by moving 'offshore' and *cutting* the training budget. By 1984 the total number of cadets recruited across the UK fell to less than 90. This figure remained for many years leading to severe concern about the UK's ability to maintain its important maritime infrastructure. With reduced demand for training the UK nautical schools came under severe pressure. Plymouth maintained a policy of support to the UK shipping industry alone. Its lack of international diversification was one of the factors leading to the closure of its cadet training activity in 1989 and support to senior officers by 1992. At about this time I transferred to the International Shipping and Logistics Group.

Plymouth did have a trick up its sleeve which coincided with its aims of achieving University status. Since the late 1960s Plymouth Polytechnic had been at the forefront of developing marine and maritime degree programmes. It found itself well placed to take advantage of the popularisation of undergraduate education post 1990. On the establishment of Plymouth as a University in 1992 there was an undergraduate cohort of nearly 800 students studying for a degree under the popular Marine Studies Modular Scheme. In addition, postgraduate programmes in the areas of marine science, technology and international shipping were being followed by a further 100 students.

In 1997 the Tory Government collapsed and the 'New Labour' Government was elected. A maritime policy 'Charting a New Course' was developed under the remit of the Deputy Prime Minister, John Prescott. A recognition that sea based training was critical to the maintenance of the maritime sector ashore led to a

regime in which a Tonnage Tax was developed to support cadet training. Innovative training opportunities including the development of integrated degree programmes were also encouraged.

Between 2000 and 2006 I had the privilege of leading the International Shipping and Logistics Group and saw it move into the Plymouth Business School. In 2002 Plymouth University re-entered cadet training with an integrated undergraduate training programme. The development was encouraged by the ISL Group with shared modules in Maritime Operations and Maritime Commercial Practice. However, although initially supported by P&O and other training providers its success has been limited. Three years on, in 2006 it was recognised that formal links between marine and maritime activities undertaken in three faculties and across five schools at Plymouth University were needed. The Marine Institute was founded. I shared in this development and became an Associate Director of the Marine Institute, representing Maritime Business and taking responsibility for Outreach and Marketing.

Looking back over 35 years change has been dramatic. Arguably the core initiators of change can be summarised as '**3Cs + K**'. The 3Cs are Communication, Containerisation and Computers. +K is knowledge! **Communication**, the growth of satellite and fibre-optic communications systems means that anyone can call anyone else, anywhere at anytime! What a fantastic development. On my last ship (1979) – ship-borne communication were still being undertaken by 'Sparky' and the morse key. It is doubtful that the progressive shipping companies who developed international **containerisation** in the mid-70s thought that their development would lead to the 'global village'. But this happened in part due to the disappearance of barriers to trade imposed by transport costs. And **computers** have intruded into almost every aspect of life. It only seems a 'dog watch' ago that the first personal computer was produced. In 1982 an Apple computer, complete with the big 5" discs was purchased for the School of Maritime Studies to help in the administration of 'Correspondence Courses' (Distance Learning Programmes in today's language). And as dramatic as any other development is the development of the **internet** which has provided an encyclopaedic source of 'knowledge' (**+K**) to any person who cares to link in.

All so very different from 1979 when the lecturer was the key conduit for the passing of information and learning. And the lecturer's tools are so very different. As Lecturer Grade 1 I was initially armed with a stick of chalk, a textbook and the availability of a blackboard – the overhead projector was yet to come. Today the electronic age provides huge opportunities for education and curriculum enhancement. It's interesting to speculate what lies ahead for today's younger lecturers. I'm sure it will be demanding and exciting.

During my time at sea I sailed on 27 ships and undertook more than 40 separate voyages. The voyage I commenced at Plymouth 35 years ago is coming to a close. Strangely I don't have 'the channels' for whilst this is my longest voyage its end merges with what will be the next voyage. There is no dislocation as between ship and shore. When I 'sign off' I will take with me memories of an organisation which has developed well beyond that which I could ever have dreamed of. I will take with me the knowledge that I have been involved in the lives of young people and the hope that I have helped some of them find their way in a challenging and sometimes confusing world. And I will take with me the memories of some great friends and colleagues, some sadly departed - others retired and many still active. It has been a great privilege to work in maritime education and training at Plymouth and with people engaged in the maritime and related industries.

I wish you all well for the future.

*Paul Wright*

**BRITAIN  
AND THE SEA 3**

SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> 2014

**SHIPPING &  
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