

RICHARD G. GURNON



Rear Admiral Richard Gurnon, USMS, is the President of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. One of six state maritime academies in the country, Massachusetts Maritime Academy has been training business leaders, ship captains, engineers, and professional officers in the 19th, 20th, and now the 21st century. With over 1100 students and 250 employees, the college has an operating budget in excess of \$36M. Offering six undergraduate and two graduate majors, the Academy is one of two "special mission" public colleges in the Commonwealth of

Massachusetts.

A 1970 graduate of the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Gurnon flew the multi-engine P-3 Orion anti-submarine aircraft throughout the Atlantic and Mediterranean. He was a plane commander, mission commander and instructor pilot for Patrol Squadron 26 in Brunswick, Maine and Patrol Squadron 92 in Weymouth, Massachusetts. He came to Massachusetts Maritime Academy in 1978 as a Company Officer (Assistant Director, Residence Life) and introduced a wide variety of leadership, discipline and personal development programs to improve the Regimental structure of the Academy. In 1981 he earned a Master's Degree from Bridgewater State College.

He was promoted to Assistant Commandant in 1981 and Commandant of Cadets in 1983. In 1991 he assumed the duties of Dean of Students when the Academy began to admit commuting students to the program. In 1994, he was promoted to the position of Vice President of Students Services and was promoted to Executive Vice President in 2003. He assumed the role of President in June 2005 by a vote of the MMA Board of Trustees, with the military rank of "Rear Admiral" conferred by the U.S. Maritime Administrator.

President Gurnon is Vice Chairman of the Buzzards Bay Village Association as well as a member of the Bourne Financial Development Corporation, National Marine Life Center, Boston Marine Society, American Bureau of Shipping and Columbia University's Center for Energy, Marine Transportation and Public Policy.

Born in Everett, Massachusetts, President Gurnon now resides in Buzzards Bay with his wife Linda. They have two grown sons; one a professor of chemistry at DePauw University, IN and one a research chemist. Another son and a daughter are still at home: Paul attends Bourne High and Katelyn is in the fourth grade. They have been foster parents with the Massachusetts Department of Social Services since 1990.