



GREAT LAKES
BOAT BUILDING SCHOOL
A Marine Trades Institution

in partnership with
MERCURY
UNIVERSITY

STEM2STERN NEWSLETTER



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Dear GLBBS friends and supporters,

As the President of GLBBS, I have been fortunate to spend every day doing work which benefits students directly. Through my travels and conversations over the last several years there has been a variety of discussions regarding increasing diversity in the marine and outdoor recreation space. The National Marine Manufacturer Association reports the country is 40% diverse, but I've heard many say diverse groups are not interested in either of these industries. I don't believe it for a second. Everyone has the potential to fall in love with the water and the outdoors if given the opportunity. Providing that opportunity, regardless of background, location, or financial status is part of our mission here at GLBBS.

One important factor in reaching those deemed “unreachable” is by making training financially accessible to all students. We welcomed a new class to GLBBS this September, and 82% of students enrolled in the 2023-24 school year were able to obtain some form of financial aid. That means that \$573,577 in funding has been committed to helping these students achieve their educational goals! These funds include federal grants and loans, alternative loans, institutional scholarships, private scholarships, sponsorships, VA benefits, and available work study earnings. Many students graduate after a year and head straight into the workforce as marine carpenters or technicians. Not only is this an affordable way to invest in your future, but there are lucrative career opportunities waiting after graduation.

A couple of years ago, GLBBS participated with Career Quest in Novi, Michigan, partnering with Michigan Boating Industry Association on a skilled trade hands-on booth. Students from all across Oakland County attended this event - over 11,000 students in one day. We provided students the opportunity to engage in hands-on marine skill specific activities and we also had boats on display. There were so many amazing interactions with students that day I could share with you but one in particular has always spoken to my heart - a VERY TALL young man, pictured at right, came up to me and said “Ma’am may I please sit in that boat?” I said “If you can get in that boat and sit in it, for sure!” Without hesitation those long legs climbed right into the boat. In the next breath he says “Would you please take a picture of me so I can show my mom? I’ve never been in a boat and she’ll be so excited to see me sitting in one!” A bit awestruck I obliged with his request for the photo. This is one of those moments that change your outlook on life. Afterwards, I thought

“What are we doing? If we can’t find it within our ability or motivations to allow every student in Michigan to experience God’s biggest blessing of the Great Lakes, we are miserably failing.” And how lucky am I to have a platform where I can make a difference and open these doors for our young people? GLBBS will again participate with Career Quest on November 14 with the aspirations of making a difference or impact on someone new by introducing the rewarding careers in the marine industry.



Above are a few of the students who participated in the Novi Career Quest. The young man with tall legs climbed in feet first!

I have charged my team with reaching out to students in rural areas and cities and helping them find the resources they need to make school accessible. This is one of the key pillars of the Marine Dealer Education Network (MDEN). The Marine Trades Showcase that Irish Boat Shop and GLBBS executed was an outstanding example of partnering with marine industry leaders and providing students the opportunity to experience the tools and work activities of the skilled trade.

And guess what else is impactful? Getting students on boats! Pictured are the result of the work of my team, particularly Admissions and Marketing Advisor, Meghan Mitchell. Meghan sought out the Detroit River Project who works with the Green Door initiative to expose students to boat building and outdoor recreation. These students set sail from Suttons Bay to Detroit, sailing around the Great Lakes. Meghan worked with their team to orchestrate a stop at GLBBS, with students enjoying a classic boat ride through the Les Cheneaux Islands. When the boat ride was complete, students participated in hands-on activities at the GLBBS campus and were treated to ice cream at the historic E.J. Mertaugh’s Boat Shop (thank you Shelley

and Brad). This is just the beginning. Through our MDEN partnerships, we will be spreading these same activities exposing youth to living, learning and working on the water — Michigan’s finest asset.



Students from the Green Door Initiative visit the Les Cheneaux Islands and receive a once in a lifetime opportunity to ride on award winning boats with GLBBS volunteers Paul Tabor and Board Director Rob Bernard.

We are doing incredible work and continue to seek friends and partners to help us support more AND reach more. As you probably know, we typically take 24 students based on our limited space. This year we reconfigured our space to enroll 30 students. Yes we are bursting at the seams and look forward to having additional space to welcome more students!

As 2023 comes to an end, please consider supporting GLBBS and our efforts to “Reach the Unreachable” and provide more students experiences and career opportunities they had never considered in the past.

In Gratitude,

Nikki Storey
GLBBS President



Nikki presenting “Work Boots on the Boat” at the International BoatBuilders Exhibition and Conference in Tampa, Florida. She spoke about the types of students the marine industry is seeking and how we can reach more!



Recognizing the Importance of IN-KIND DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS

Wanting to get more involved with the Great Lakes Boat Building School? There are many avenues that you can take when choosing to support us in our mission to prepare students for rewarding careers in the marine industry. Here are a few ideas of how you can get involved.

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Our school is known for providing an outstanding hands-on curriculum for students, but doing so requires a lot of equipment! Our instructors have put together a list of equipment they need for the classes they offer and the certifications that will be offered in the near future. In-kind donations help us keep tuition costs low, and keep our students engaged with the types of training employers want to see, giving our students an additional boost when they enter the workforce!

Randy Dunn	64 ft Northern White Cedar board
Thomas Labelle/ Sika Corporation	2 cases (70.3 oz cartridge) polyurethane sealant
Bob Harris/ International Paint LLC	Coating Materials (Varnish, solvents, prep material), 3 days labor teaching
Magnus Gedda/ Volvo Penta	Engine (2)
Jim Chilson	Yamaha 70hp
Steve Wittmann	Sail Boat w/ trailer & sails
Ken Drenth	Aluminum Row boat w/ trailer
Interstate Power Systems Inc/Kohler Co.	Kohler Skid mounted generator package
Curt Bohn/Bohn Marine	25 HP Yamaha

VOLUNTEERS

GLBBS volunteers rock! We want to thank the volunteers who came to the school, prior to the new group of students arriving and helped us get everything in ship-shape order by cleaning and repainting the bathrooms! There are always opportunities to volunteer at GLBBS, from helping with our fundraising events, volunteering at the school, or even dropping a treat off for students.

To learn more about how you can get involved with Great Lakes Boat Building School call us at 906-484-1081.

FACILITY EXPANSION UPDATE

*By Tom May,
Construction Committee Chairman*

We are pleased to report that GLBBS Marine Service Technology center is in its final stages of design with our architectural firm Sidock Engineering. GLBBS was awarded a Wood Innovation Grant through Michigan State University and the U.S. Forest Service. This grant will help fund construction with Nail-Laminated Timber, including the on-site fabrication of these components by local tradesmen.

This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase our project to the state of Michigan and across the Midwest. If the final steps go according to plan, the bidding process will begin this winter, with construction starting in the Spring. Stay tuned for more updates in the Spring newsletter.

Congratulations CLASS OF 2022-2023



MST Shipmate of the Year
Bernard Dawson and his family



Amy Mertaugh Paczkowski presents the
Mertaugh Family Craftsmanship Award to
Sam Hansz



GLBBS Dignified Instructors



Peter Harman,
Gage Marine
sponsored student



GLBBS Chairman Reid inspires
students with laughter



"Sam Hansz, recipient of the Mertaugh
Family Craftsmanship Award and CCBB
Shipmate of the Year Award



Summer in the Upper Peninsula is fleeting, so once June hits we here at GLBBS know that it's just a blink of an eye before August is here and we are saying goodbye to our students! During the 2022/23 school year, we welcomed 21 students to Cedarville, Michigan for a year of skilled, hands-on marine training. Now, these students have graduated with new skills, new certifications, and new connections to the industry in which they aim to build a career.

We are so proud of this talented group of students and the impact they will make on the marine workforce. A majority of this year's graduates are heading right to work as Marine Carpenters or Mechanics after graduation! We are also excited to welcome back four students who will be staying at GLBBS for the 2023/24 school year to take a second program before they hit the industry!

GLBBS GRADUATES FROM THE CLASS OF 2023 ARE HEADED TO:

Holland, MI	Louisville, KY
Oscoda, MI	Duluth, MN
Drummond Island, MI	Thomaston, ME
Alma, WI	South Carolina
Delavan, WI	and more!

A benefit of attending GLBBS is that students have an opportunity to test for, and earn, additional industry certifications. Students who attend the Comprehensive Career Boat Building Program (CCBB) can earn a Spray-Finishing Certification from **AkzoNobel** and can test for some **American Boat & Yacht Council** (ABYC) certifications! Students in the Marine Service Technology (MST) Program can also test for ABYC certifications, including Gas, Diesel, and Electrical. MST students can also test for their Level-I Mercury Certification through **Mercury Marine's Mercury University**, receive an Inboard Certification through **Ilmor**, and, starting in the 2023/24 Academic Year, test for a Diesel Certification through **Volvo Penta**!

GRADUATING WITH HONORS

Each year, three additional awards are given out to GLBBS students at graduation. The first two are the Shipmate of the Year Awards. The Shipmate of the Year awardees are determined by the students and instructors, who select one student from each program that they think should be recognized. The selected students are given this award for demonstrating exemplary skill and work ethic, and outstanding participation in extracurricular activities at school and within the community. This year, the winners of the Shipmate of the Year awards are CCBB student, Sam H. and MST student, Bernard D. Congratulations to you both!

The third award given out at graduation is the Mertaugh Family Craftsmanship Award, which was established to honor and remember the superior marine craftsmanship of Jim Mertaugh and his sons, Tom and Dan. This award is given to the student who most closely exhibits the skills, artisanship, and commitment of Jim, Tom, and Dan. This year's winner was Sam H. Congratulations and well done, Sam!

SPONSORED STUDENTS TURN INTO SUCCESSFUL EMPLOYEES!

Mutually beneficial partnerships are an important part of finding success in the marine industry, and at GLBBS we are always looking for ways to engage our business partners to support our students' educational goals. Sponsorships provide a unique opportunity for Marine Dealers to build relationships with students, and help our students to gain industry connections and employment opportunities prior to graduation. Companies such as Gage Marine, Tiara Yachts, Irish Boat Shop, and others will pay a portion of a student's tuition fee in return for a 1-year work commitment, with full pay and benefits, following graduation. Students are given the opportunity to apply for Sponsorships when they apply for school, and can receive as much as \$15,000 towards their tuition!



2022 Graduate and previous Gage sponsored student, Kyle, teamed up with Peter teaching him the ropes at Gage Marine.



GAGE MARINE SPONSORSHIP LAKE GENEVA, WI

This year Peter was selected as the 2023 Gage Marine Sponsorship recipient! After graduation, Peter headed straight to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin to begin his new role. With the addition of Peter, Gage Marine now employs three GLBBS graduates!

TIARA YACHTS SPONSORSHIP HOLLAND, MI

MST student, Mekenzie, and CCBB student, Charlie, were selected for the Tiara Yachts sponsorships. Tiara Yachts is located in beautiful Holland, Michigan and puts forward two sponsorship opportunities each school year. They specialize in manufacturing handcrafted luxury yachts.



New Equipment and Partnerships

BENEFIT OUR STUDENTS!



By Matt Edmondson

New year, new faces, new equipment! This summer we've had the great privilege to graduate twenty-one students into the marine industry workforce. Ten graduates from the school's Comprehensive Career Boatbuilding Program and eleven from the third year of the Marine Service Technology Program were some of the first to have the great advantage of training on the new equipment at GLBBS. As we welcome the new class - our largest ever! - it's even more important that we keep current equipment and industry methods in front of our growing and excited student body. A priority focus of the faculty at GLBBS is to ensure that we are responsive to the needs of the industry to continually improve and refine our curriculum to equip students with the skills they need to be relevant to an employer. We at the school have worked to build relationships with many marine industry manufacturers to assist us with what we need to respond to those needs. Over the last 12 months, we have brought on **Ilmor Engineering, Volvo Penta, Kohler generators, Akzo Nobel**, and others to stand alongside our existing supporters such as **Mercury Marine, Victron Energy, and Gougeon Brothers**.

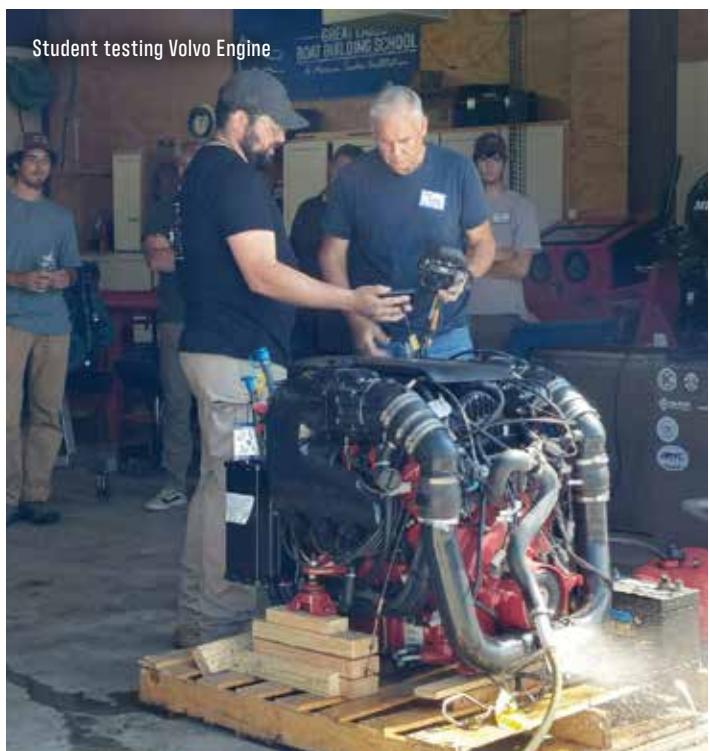
In order to achieve the goal of graduating the most capable alumni, we need to consistently present the students with new and current equipment that they will be expected to be knowledgeable on when they reach their future employer. New generations of equipment have different service procedures and processes that weren't required, or didn't exist, on older equipment. Yes, legacy equipment is important for training, particularly for those graduates that work in the Great Lakes or other freshwater areas where older boats are still in use, but the majority of dealerships are selling and servicing new boats and are focusing their service efforts on boats less than ten model years old. Student excitement is also a factor. It's well proven that students learn better when they have vested interest and are in an environment that fosters engagement. Having current equipment is invaluable to that end.

As the school looks to continually evolve and diversify its services to the marine industry, we are in development of a dedicated Marine Electrical and Electronics Program, slated to start in 2025. More than any other sector of the boating world, electrical and

electronics systems change and advance rapidly. Existing and future partnerships with manufacturers in those areas are crucial to the success of the school moving forward. While the fundamentals might be the same, the products and systems are generally on a three to five year generation in the electronics world, meaning that not keeping up with industry trends and current equipment in the electronics program would quickly render that program ineffective. The distance from cutting edge to obsolete can be shockingly short, and it will be a continual process to ride the wave of innovation we see coming down the pipe from manufacturers.

These partnerships and new equipment will also allow us to look outward to the existing technicians and service departments already working in the field and give us the opportunity to offer continuing education to those wishing to advance their skillset and knowledge base. The quality of our programming continues to advance each year, thanks to the support and hard work of our donors, partners and staff. Thank you all!





EEE CAMPAIGN GETS MAJOR ENHANCEMENT FROM THE USDA

By Tom Coates, Director of Development

In February of this year, we embarked on the “Enhancing Education with Equipment” (EEE) Campaign with a goal of securing in-kind and monetary donations totalling \$850,000 to properly equip Great Lake Boat Building School’s (GLBBS) current and future facilities.



New marine equipment and technology are required to deliver more advanced Mercury University certification levels. GLBBS would be the second marine trades institution in the country to offer this much needed training once approved. Also, due to demand from the industry, GLBBS is offering industry relevant Ilmor Engineering and Volvo Penta diesel curriculum which requires additional specialized training. Graduates with these certifications will help address the dire workforce shortage in the marine industry.

In planning the campaign, it was determined the main focus for seeking support would be marine industry leading companies with a willingness to partner with us to expose our students to training on their equipment. We also identified marine-related organizations that had a propensity for supporting a marine trades institution.

To cast the net a bit wider, we explored potential governmental funding opportunities including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, particularly the Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG) program.

The RBDG is a competitive grant program designed to support targeted technical assistance, training and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas. The applying entities must employ less than 50 people. RBDG funds must be directed for projects benefiting rural areas or towns outside the urbanized periphery of any city with a population of 50,000 or more.

RBDG applications compete at the state office level and are dependent on appropriations. Applications are evaluated based on several criteria. This includes economic need in the area to be served, consistency with local economic development priorities and percent of non-federal funding committed to the project.

GLBBS submitted the application in late February 2023 to the local offices in Sault Ste. Marie and Gladstone. Applications are accepted once per year. The school received notification of approval on June 13, 2023.

“It was a rigorous application process but the local USDA offices were very supportive

and helpful,” said Tom Coates, Director of Development. “When I received the phone call notifying me of our approval I was very pleased to hear how well our application scored in the USDA’s evaluation process. I was totally blown away when I was informed that we were receiving \$354,600 which was much more than what we applied for. I feel this approval speaks to the great work being done at the school and the positive impact our students are making in the marine industry.”

The USDA grant equates to about 42% of the EEE campaign goal, which serves as a leadership commitment that will motivate other organizations and donors to support the initiative. To date, Volvo Penta, Ilmor Engineering, the Marine Leadership Alliance, the National Marine Distributors Association, Gage Marine and Interstate Power Systems have provided in-kind or monetary support. The USDA grant does include a matching component that donors can support by making monetary donations to the school. Inquiries can be made at thomas.coates@glbbs.edu or by calling (906) 484-1081.



Recognizing the Impact of Two Incredible Donors



The National Marine Distributors Association advances the growth of the marine industry by fostering partnerships with industry stakeholders, strengthening the supply chain, providing education and training, and promoting best practices when it comes to manufacturing and distribution.

"The Board of Directors, and membership of the National Marine Distributors Association are pleased to announce a \$25,000 donation to the Great Lakes Boat Building School," Nancy Cueroni, Executive Director of NMDA stated. The \$25,000 donation given to GLBBS by NMDA will be used to purchase marine electrical system mock-ups, or "training pods" which will be used by students seeking their Marine Electronics Technology certification.



Great Lakes Boat Building School received a \$10,000 donation from the Marine Leadership Alliance in support of their "Enhancing Education with Equipment" (EEE) Campaign. The funding is earmarked for creating an engine test tank area in our new facility that will become the MLA Marine Engine Testing Area.

The Marine Leadership Alliance (MLA) is a forum to promote the exchange and advancement of marine industry issues, ideas and solutions. The Alliance consists of leaders from the following organizations: ASA Electronics, BH Electronics, Dometic Corporation, Faria/Beede Instruments, GEM Products, Glen Raven, Inland Plywood Company, Lenco Marine, Merrimac Marine Insurance, Syntec Industries, Taylor Made Group, Transhield, Inc., Volvo Penta of the Americas and William F. Miller & Associates.



GLBBS President Nikki Storey presented at the MLA Annual Conference in Georgia.



Hill Lenderman, MLA President visits with Storey following her presentation and announcement of the MLA's \$10,000 donation to the school.

WELCOME GLBBS CLASS OF 2023-2024

By Meghan Mitchell,
Admissions and Marketing Manager

The 2023-24 Academic Year has arrived, and Great Lakes Boat Building School (GLBBS) staff were thrilled to welcome 29 students to the school this year! This year's class comes from all over the country, including Michigan, Ohio, Virginia, Wisconsin, Utah, Colorado, and Indiana! Four students from the Class of 2022-23 have stayed on to complete a second year at GLBBS, with 3 former Boat Building students now in the Marine Service Technology (MST) Program and one former MST student in the Boat Building program. We are excited to see what this new academic year brings!



So what else is going on in Admissions and Recruitment? Over the past few months, GLBBS staff have been working to connect with different organizations in order to share all that GLBBS has to offer to students looking to enter the Marine Industry. In May, the school held a Veteran Visit Day on campus, bringing in a panel of representatives from the State and Local levels. This panel shared information about education and other benefits available to veteran students through different agencies. Representatives from GLBBS also sat on the panel to talk about life as a military veteran/GLBBS student, as well as resources provided by the school.



In July, GLBBS connected with Green Door Initiative, a non-profit organization out of Detroit whose mission is "To ensure that everyone is environmentally literate, capable of promoting and living a sustainable lifestyle." Green Door Initiative and Inland Seas Education Association (out of Suttons Bay) partnered together with a Schooner Program. Students from the Detroit area sailed a Schooner from Suttons Bay back to Detroit, stopping in Hessel, Michigan, where they were able to visit the Les Cheneaux Islands by boat, tour the GLBBS campus and facility, and learn more about education and career opportunities in the marine industry. It was an extraordinary day and we look forward to building on this relationship!



Finally, GLBBS has not stopped focusing on High School Career Technical Education (CTE) classes. Staff traveled around the state and invited CTE students to visit the GLBBS campus. Students who participate in CTE classes, such as small engines or auto, construction or woodshop classes, aviation, and marine, already have a skill set applicable to the marine industry. It is GLBBS' goal to make sure that those high school students know that there are great opportunities and careers for them in the marine industry and that GLBBS is one way to connect with those opportunities.



GLBBS will continue to work towards connecting with those interested in entering the marine industry through outreach, events, and more!

Scholarships and Sponsorships, TRANSFORMING LIVES

We often say on school tours or at special events that there isn't a typical student at Great Lakes Boat Building School. GLBBS student demographics like age, educational background, hometown and marine skilled-trades experience are truly unique to each individual. This variety adds to the students' interactions in the classrooms, shops and extracurricular activities.

The one most common demographic denominator with GLBBS students is the need for financial support in attaining their educational goals. This is evident with the fact that 82% of GLBBS students received some sort of student financial aid support last year.

Recently we have been working with one of last year's graduates, a sponsorship and scholarship recipient, on a promotional video for the school. Immediately into the interview process, he thanked the sponsorship supporter for making the financial commitment, providing an outstanding career opportunity and changing his family's lives. That is what philanthropy is all about; making a difference.

With this in mind we appreciate the following individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations for their very generous scholarship or sponsorship support during calendar year 2022 and for transforming lives.

On behalf of the students, staff and Board of Directors of Great Lakes Boat Building School, THANK YOU!

Antique & Classic Boat Society | Sandy and Carol Bryson | Elk Rapids Marina LLC
Family of Rae Taylor | Family of Duke Harding | Fremont Area Community Foundation
Gage Marine | Safe Harbor Marinas | Les Cheneaux Community Foundation
Newaygo County RESA | RPM Foundation | Dianne Taylor
The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation | Tiara Yachts, Inc.



AIDEN BACKSTROM
Elk Rapids Scholarship



ANDREW FELIU
ACBS Scholarship,
Tiara Yachts Sponsorship



AVERY WRIGLEY
CTE Award



BRODY CLIFFORD
CTE Award,
Mercury Racing Scholarship



CAMDEN SMITH
CTE Award, Dave Irish Student
Sponsorship Award



CLARA RIDDERING
Safe Harbor Scholarship



CODY GALL
Reliance Scholarship



DAKOTA PITZ
CTE Award,
Tiara Sponsorship Award



DELANEY HUFFMAN
Bonnie Mikkelsen Award, Mercury
Racing Scholarship, CTE Award



ELLIE MCQUALITY
RPM Scholarship,
CTE Award



ETHAN BIGELOW
Duke Harding Award,
CTE Award



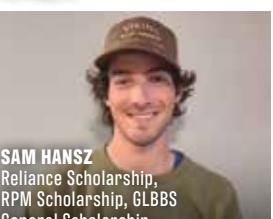
GRAYDEN PALMER
GLBBS General Scholarship



JACK QUILLEN
CTE Award



SAM BROWN
GLBBS General Scholarship,
CTE Award, Gage Marine Sponsorship



SAM HANSZ
Reliance Scholarship,
RPM Scholarship, GLBBS
General Scholarship



THEODORE COOKE
Rae Taylor Scholarship



THOMAS CLARNO
Safe Harbor Scholarship



WHITTAKER OOSTERMAN
CTE Award

GLBBS is a non-profit organization that works to keep tuition expenses affordable for all students who wish to attend our school. Any forms of support help to reduce student tuition expenses. To learn more about how to support GLBBS visit

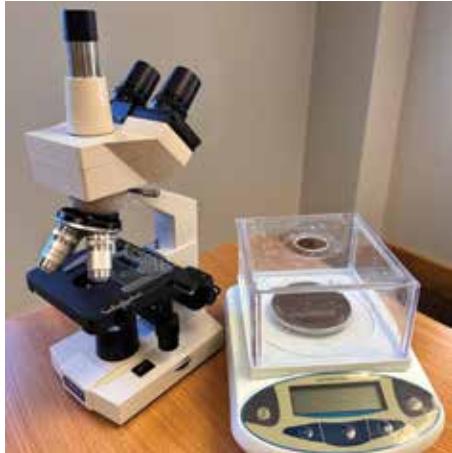
www.glbbs.edu/support

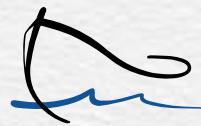
THE GREAT LAKES BOAT BUILDING SCHOOL ANNUAL GIVING SOCIETY

Funding the Future, Transforming Lives

It is the time of year to consider joining or renewing your membership in the GLBBS Annual Giving Society and support the Student Enrichment Fund.

The Student Enrichment Fund was established to complement the school's general fund and help "move the needle" on elevating the educational experience for our students. Watch your snail mail box or email inbox for the following message from President Nikki Storey, or give now at www.glbbs.edu.





THE STATE OF DEVELOPMENT AT GLBBS

I have been reflecting on our recent successes in our Development/Fundraising efforts over the past couple of years. In doing so, I am very proud of what we have accomplished as a non-profit organization. At the same time, I do not want us as a team and our loyal donors and supporters to think we have reached our final destination and we can “take our foot off the gas.” We have a lot of funding challenges being a private, non-State funded marine trades institution.

To put it in a maybe overused analogy, the Development strategy here can be likened to a ‘four-legged stool’ that supplements the school’s main source of funding; student tuition.

Here’s a look at the four sources of funding and some accomplishments. Keep in mind, all four are equally important and without each one supporting GLBBS, something could be off-balance, much like a stool.

INDUSTRY SUPPORT

- Marine Dealer Education Network - 3 Members have enrolled in 2023! This program provides revenue to fund the program and provide students with career opportunities
- Enhancing Education with Equipment (EEE) Campaign - The marine industry has answered the bell with almost \$285,000 in support!

FEDERAL FUNDING

- The US EDA Grant is an integral part of the funding structure of the upcoming Marine Technology Center.
- A USDA Grant of \$354,600 was secured to support the EEE Campaign ~ We still need help with matching funds!

STATE FUNDING

- Currently, the weakest leg on our stool. We are researching funding opportunities available through the State of Michigan.

PRIVATE FOUNDATION, BUSINESS AND INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT -

- This “leg” provides the most inspiring source of giving to the school to me. We are continually amazed by the donors who fund vital scholarship support for our students to succeed, who respond with major gifts and our Annual Giving Society members who elevate the GLBBS student experience and help us maintain affordable tuition for our students.

We are very excited to welcome our largest class in our history to our school. With this enrollment growth comes the challenge of giving these students the best possible experience and preparing them for their careers.

Last year during our Annual Giving Society Appeal we received 86 gifts for just over \$71,000. This year we have established a goal of \$100,000!

We ask that you consider joining or renewing your membership at the next “Lake” level. You can make your online gift at www.glbbs.edu/give.

Help us Fund the Future!

Nikki Storey, President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPOTLIGHT

OUTSTANDING BOARD SERVICE

As we work to provide excellent training and career development for our students, our Board of Directors does an incredible job providing guidance, direction, and expertise in all aspects of the GLBBS mission. We want to use this opportunity to recognize a Board Member who has made a huge contribution to the school through his work on the GLBBS Board.

As the President and CEO of Tiara Yachts in Holland, Michigan, Tom Slikkers knows his way around the marine industry. Tom is well versed in operational management, brand strategy, and dealer distribution strategies, and brings to the board over 40 years of experience at Tiara as a second generation owner.

Tom began his board term in early March, and in that short time has helped to make significant contributions to GLBBS. Using his industry connections, Tom has helped to strengthen the school's relationship with Mercury Marine, including helping to coordinate a large donation of engines that will be used in the Marine Service Technology training program. Tom also helped the school to receive another in-kind donation of a diesel generator from Interstate Power Systems, Inc. of Butler, Wisconsin and Kohler Co. of Kohler, Wisconsin. The generator will provide new learning opportunities for the 2023-24 students at GLBBS and be instrumental in the new diesel training certification program.

Nikki Storey, President of GLBBS, helped recruit Mr. Slikkers to the GLBBS Board. "I knew when Tom accepted my offer of a Board Director seat, we had found a tremendous advocate for our students and skilled trade programs. I wasn't wrong," says Storey. "Many of the in-kind donations are a result of the connections Tom has made to industry leaders and he's not done yet! We are so fortunate to have a Board Member as driven and focused on our vision of vision of being the leader in marine workforce development.

Thank you Tom, for valuing the mission and vision of GLBBS!



SAVE THE DATE

On-Site Visit Day!
Saturday, November 4, 2023

- TOUR THE FACILITY
- HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES
- MEET THE INSTRUCTORS

Register online at glbbs.edu/visiting-campus/

**GREAT LAKES
BOAT BUILDING SCHOOL**
A Marine Trades Institution

A large photograph of a wooden boat named "TRADITION" sailing on the water. Below this, there are three smaller photographs showing students working on boats in a workshop setting: one student is working on a boat in a workshop, another is working on a boat in a workshop, and a third is working on a boat in a workshop.

Sally DeMaria MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

By Tom Coates, Director of Development



Sometimes, honoring the memory of a person you love means investing in what made their spirit soar during life. For one Drummond Island family, there is no better way to honor the spirit of their lake-loving, boat-building mother than by investing in students looking to build a career and a life centered around the water.

Sally Kay DeMaria, nee Osborn, was a resident of Drummond Island for over 40 years. Although in recent years she had moved to be closer to family, she continued to visit Drummond Island each summer. During these visits, she always included a tour of the Great Lakes Boat Building School to see how the classes were doing and watch the students in action.



Sadly, Sally walked on this July at age 90, leaving behind a legacy of hard work, an adventurous spirit, and a love for family, wind, and water. The DeMaria daughters sought a way to turn

their grief into action, and contacted GLBBS about honoring their mother's memory through her love of sailing and her support for our school. The newly established "Sally DeMaria Memorial Scholarship" will help many students be a part of the Great Lakes Boat Building School, where they will learn boat building, marine service technology, and all about sailing, which was Sally's life passion.

Sally taught many people to love the water by taking them sailing and showing them how to appreciate the wind. With her contagious spirit, Sally inspired her "students" to fall in love with the beauty and the joy of sailing. Sally was a sailor through and through, starting at a young age and sailing well into her 80's. She even built herself a little sailboat while she was in the tenth grade. The boat that she built in the tiny family apartment in Mt. Clemens was from a kit called the "Eight Ball" (which is still available today). It was an 8 foot boat that Sally christened "Corky" in May of 1949. She sailed it all over.

After High School, Sally's education continued with her graduation from the University of Michigan leading her to a career as a Speech Pathologist in the school system. During her summers with her family (3 girls, a husband - Bill, and the dog), Sally continued to sail their Interlake, Cal-25 in Lake Erie, and needing more room, Aria, a Cal 29 in Lake Huron and Lake Michigan. Sally's family would spend six weeks of the summer sailing the Aria up the North Channel and into Georgian Bay. Sally could do anything on a sailboat! She was the co-Captain, navigation specialist, boat fixer, sail manager; all while being mom to three teenage girls!

For the last 40 years, Sally and Bill lived on Drummond Island. She continued to sail, even solo around Drummond Island and all of the smaller islands well into her 80's. At 85 years old, Sally was still sailing her Seasquall Whaler Dinghy which had been a gift that her husband

Bill had surprised her with at Christmas, placing it in the small family living room adorned with a giant red bow.

It is clear from what her daughters have shared that Sally was an amazing woman with a zest for life, who was happiest out on the water in a sailboat. It was decided by the DeMaria daughters to create a scholarship for deserving boat building students in the Comprehensive Career Boat Building program. We admire a family that can determine a positive way to make a difference in the lives of others, even during times of great loss. This is the impetus for the establishment of the "Sally DeMaria Memory Scholarship" at Great Lakes Boat Building School. All memorial gifts for Sally are put directly into the scholarship fund, continuing her legacy of helping others find their love for the wind and water.

[To donate, please visit](http://www.glbbs.edu/demaria)

www.glbbs.edu/demaria.

[If you would like to establish a scholarship in your name, honor someone special or include Great Lakes Boat Building School in your estate plan, please contact Tom Coates, Director of Development at thomas.coates@glbbs.edu or \(906\) 484-1081.](mailto:coates@glbbs.edu)



MISSION

Great Lakes Boat Building School prepares students for rewarding careers in the marine industry.

VISION

To be the leader in marine workforce development in the Great Lakes region.

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GLBBS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

4 GLBBS On-Site Visit Day
5-8 Boating Industry Elevate (Dallas)
14 MiCareer Quest partner event with MBIA (Novi)

DECEMBER

1 First Application Deadline for 2024/25 Academic Year
4-7 MRAA Dealer Week (Tampa)

JANUARY

28-30 Michigan Career Education Conference (Grand Rapids)

FEBRUARY

10 GLBBS On-Site Visit Day
14-18 Miami Boat show

MARCH

1 Second Application Deadline for 2024/25 Academic Year

APRIL

16 Virtual Visit Day (6:00 p.m.)

MAY

6-8 American Boating Congress

JUNE

1 GLBBS On-Site Visit Day
8 Final Application Deadline for 2024/25 Academic Year
29 Veteran Visit Day at GLBBS (Armed Forces Day)

AUGUST

12 Les Cheneaux Antique and Wooden Boat Show (Hessel, MI)
16 2023/24 Graduation

SEPTEMBER

3 First Day of 2024/25 Academic Year at GLBBS