

THEN *and* NOW!

A Maritime Training School: 40 Years Of Progress

(NAPSA)—Riding a wave of popularity is a training facility for mariners that started from very humble beginnings. The school, the Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education, is now encouraging students to apply for either its apprentice program or its veterans' program.

THEN: Named after the visionary and late president of the Seafarers International Union (SIU), the Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education opened in August 1967 in Piney Point, Md. as the Seafarers Harry Lundeberg School of Seamanship, named after the SIU's first president. The overall campus was named for Paul Hall in 1991, 11 years after his death.

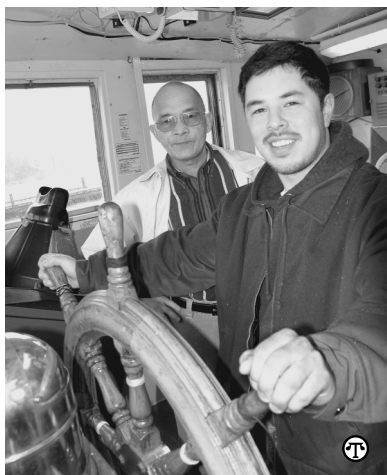
In its earliest days, the school featured a trainee program, but most people on campus spent those first few years building or rebuilding facilities at what had been a torpedo-testing facility run by the Navy.

Students gradually warmed up to the school for many reasons. The vocational training not only helped them do their jobs aboard ship, it proved indispensable in keeping up with the rapidly changing technology. Many took advantage of academic support that bolstered their performance in the maritime-specific courses.

NOW: The SIU-affiliated Paul Hall Center for Maritime Training and Education is the largest training facility for deep-sea merchant seafarers and inland waterways boatmen in the United States.

The entry program went from being a 12-week mariners training regimen to an eight-month unlicensed apprentice training program.

Today, the SIU-affiliated school has grown and adapted, meeting



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the needs of individual students and ship operators who, in turn, help fulfill the manpower requirements of the U.S. Merchant Marine. The school has also done much more than simply survive. The Paul Hall Center has consistently been at the forefront of state-of-the-art, maritime-specific training, including simulators, fire-fighting, oil spill prevention, shipboard computers, training record books, refrigeration...and the list goes on.

In the 40 years of maritime training (1967-2007), 22,000 apprentices have completed the program and 238,000 training certificates have been issued for deck, engine, steward and safety courses. In addition, two college degree programs in nautical science and engineering have been approved by the Maryland State Board of Higher Education.

To learn more about current openings at this maritime training center, visit www.seafarers.org/phc.