

ISC Seafarers' Log

The Official Newsletter of the International Seafarers' Center

"Meeting Seafarers' Needs Since 1982"

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ISC Calendar

<p>Ship Visitor Training 30 Newcastle Brunswick, GA</p> <p>You choose the date and time.</p>	<p>5/15 /17 from 6:00 to 9 :00 pm or 5/18 /17 from 1:30 to 4:30 pm</p>
<p>ISC Party Board sponsored low country boil in honor of our volunteers.</p> <p>Good-bye thank-you party for Val Crumpton.</p> <p>Welcoming party for our new Executive Director.</p> <p>RSVP by June 19th.</p>	<p>6/24/17 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm</p>

An ISC Family Visits the Neptune Ace

Sharon Fisher

Robert was very helpful in arranging a ship visit/tour for me and my family on April 3, 2017 and it was awesome!!!! I was there with my 2 sons Robert Ed & Ryan Lee Boniface and 2 granddaughters: Mary Elizabeth & Zoe Christine Boniface. I have never been on such an extensive tour as was graciously extended to us aboard the Neptune Ace. Our almost 2 hour tour began with the ship's cadet greeting us when we arrived in the ISC van. Nibula, our gracious host, signed us through security and took us to the bridge with an explanation of the navigation systems, safety, and procedures for entering and leaving ports. Proceeded to the top deck where we examined the life boats (yep, peeked inside those too) recreation area, and anchor system. We worked our way down to the lounge and dining areas for the crew and officers, galley, sleeping quarters, recycling areas for food, plastic, and metals; explaining the how's and whys of each process and then down into engine room.

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At the International Seafarers' Center on Colonels Island: Sharon Fisher (center) with her family, left to right: Robert Ed, Mary Elizabeth, Ryan Lee and Zoe Christine Boniface

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR...

Valerie Crumpton



Dear Friends,

I hope that you had a great Easter celebration. Easter is a joyous time to celebrate new beginnings and where hope is renewed or strengthened in our lives. As I celebrate hope in a new beginning, it is with a heavy

heart I am informing you that I will be stepping down from my role as the Executive Director of the International Seafarers' Center in Brunswick, GA come June 30th, 2017.

The past 5 years that I have been with the Center has been a very positive and wonderful experience. Even though I come from a bustling port city in Singapore, I never once thought that I would work for a unique ministry whose beneficiaries play a critical role in the global shipping business. Learning about the lives of the seafarers and meeting with them personally has enriched my life and understanding of a world that is basically unknown to most of us. Over the years, I developed a deep appreciation for the work they do to deliver goods around the world and gained a better understanding of their lives at sea.

I have enjoyed the intangible rewards my work granted me. I am humbly honored to work with an exceptional team of staff and volunteers whose passion for the cause has driven the organization to success in so many ways, seen and unseen. The ISC staff and volunteers are more than just a team, we are a family. Through challenging times to sweet successes, we have worked hard and diligently together to ensure that the needs of thousands of seafarers who visit the Port of Brunswick are met. I could not have accomplished much without the cooperation and dedication of the staff and volunteers whom I have much to thank. I am also deeply grateful to the ISC Board of Directors whose unwavering support has made my job easier. The leadership and advisory council of the Board have been valuable in furthering the growth and development of our programs and resources. The collaborative efforts of the

Board and the staff have made the ISC a stronger and more versatile organization than it has ever been.

And finally, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to you for your unrelenting support and prayers. I ask that you continue to spread the word about our cause and help raise the awareness of the challenging lives of merchant mariners whom we often do not see. Your ongoing support is critical in ensuring that seafarers will have a safe and caring space to come to when they dock at the Port of Brunswick.

As my last reminder to you, please **SAVE THE DATE** for our upcoming **17th Annual International Night Out that will be held on Friday, September 22nd, 2017 at the Morgan Center on Jekyll Island.** Cuisines, wine and beer from around the globe will entice your palates and music from Michael Hulett and the Coastal Empire Orchestra will get you dancing. Your participation in this yearly event will greatly help us to raise the much needed funds for the sustainability of our operations. So please pencil it in your calendars now and look out for more information in the summer.

Again, it has been a great pleasure to have been part of a unique global ministry and I thank all of you for the opportunity to serve.

Yours in Christ,

Valerie

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Sharon's family with their host, Nibula, on the deck of the Neptune Ace

We were then introduced to the Chief and assistant chief engineers who were kind enough to explain ALL the functions within this area and toured all three levels which included the boiler system, generators, mechanical control room, and water desalination units (salt water to fresh water). Making our way back up we were guided through the cargo areas with an explanation of loading and keeping the cargo (autos) daily from shifting during sailing. As customary, we were offered a beverage, and were given every opportunity to ask questions that were expertly answered. What started out as "maybe we can get a tour for my guests since the ship visit had already been completed in the late evening before," turned into a memorable experience for us all.

My oldest son visited during the Christmas season and did a ship visit with me. We were delayed 3 times on my day to do a ship visit because of weather and ships backed up out at sea. We finally made a ship visit at approximately 10 pm that evening bringing Christmas presents for the crew. Because of time constraints the crew only had time to give us a brief tour.

Needless to say my son was delighted to have a second chance to visit a ship in one of our ports with his brother and nieces this time!!

My Michigan family loved it and were extremely grateful!

Everyone at sea deserves a safe harbor.

The International Seafarers' Center (ISC) creates a safe harbor for merchant mariners traveling through the Port of Brunswick.

The ISC provides resources for visiting seafarers to rest, relax, and receive help if needed.

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DENTAL HEROES

BY Robert Randall

March 3, 2017 was an amazing Friday. I already had two different luncheons I had to attend that day, as I had required appearances at each of them. But then, on the way out of my driveway, I received a phone call from Michael Wright, an agent with Host Agency: the Captain of the M/V Handy Stranger, a grain ship at Colonel's Island terminal, had broken a tooth and needed to see a dentist.

Now, seeing a dentist on Friday in Brunswick, GA, is hard enough: most of them are closed on Friday. But, making matters much worse, Captain Kostavasio did not have a U.S. visa and therefore could not get off his ship. Usually in these cases the agent arranges an armed escort and we take the seafarer for medical attention under armed guard, but Mr. Wright told me that U.S. Customs had refused to allow that solution this time. The Captain would have to wait for the vessel to reach Ecuador!

Clearly, it was not acceptable to leave the Captain of a vessel with a broken tooth, sticking into his gum, which could become infected and threaten his life long before the vessel ever reached South America. We had to do something.

I began calling dentists' offices and leaving messages. At Morrison Dental Associates I reached Office Manager Angela, who said that she could at least get some medications prescribed for Captain Kostavasio, if we could provide them with information such as any allergies he might have. So I called Agent Wright and asked him to provide that info to Morrison Dental Associates.



God takes care of us! Michael Wright called me back to say that **Dr. Leon Felps** had agreed to go on board the ship to treat Captain Kostavasio! To understand what a miracle this is, you must know that that Friday was Dr. Felps' day off. He was only in the office that morning because he was already going above and beyond the call of duty by treating one

of his patients on his day off. Now, he was going to give even more of his time treating a Greek seafarer at a place he had never been.

We arranged for Morrison Dental Associates to call me on my cellphone whenever Dr. Felps was ready to go to Colonel's Island. That call came toward the end of my second lunch meeting. I called our volunteer driver for the afternoon, Savilla Hill, who met Dr. Felps and Dental Assistant Ashley Miller at the Colonel's Island Police Station while I drove over there. We got them through security and to our Center.

I dispatched Ms. Hill to Altama Discount Pharmacy to get the prescriptions filled while I escorted Dr. Felps and Ms. Miller to the Handy Stranger to treat Captain Kostavasio. They carried a small box full of various dental implements which I had no desire to see. I had visions of the Old West dentists and screaming cowboys going through my head.

It wasn't quite that bad, because there was anesthetic in that box. Nevertheless, the tooth extraction had to be done in the Captain's office in a straight-back chair with Ashley holding his head while Dr. Felps tried to get a good grip on the broken tooth pieces and get them out. When the Captain needed to spit, he had to walk to his bathroom to do so.

Captain Kostavasio was a large man, very jovial and very happy to see us. But he already lacked half of his original teeth, and now one more was coming out. He said, "When I get back to Greece I will get whole new teeth," meaning, I'm sure, dentures. We left him with a mouth full of gauze.

I walked Dr. Felps and Ashley back to our Center and thanked them profusely. Ashley handled some kind of snafu about the prescriptions over the phone and Savilla was able to bring the pills back to Colonel's Island and take them to the ship. Between the extraction, the painkiller, and the antibiotic, I pray that Captain Kostavasio was able to continue his voyages. We may have even saved his life that day.

After I escorted Dr. Felps and Ms. Miller back to their vehicle in the Colonel's Island parking lot and they drove away, I knew that God had helped us make this happen. And I knew that these good medical providers, who had gone way out of their way to help a stranger from another country, were heroes. This is how it should be.

The International Seafarers' Trust (UK) Grants ISC a New Van



The ITF Seafarers' Trust in the United Kingdom has approved a grant of \$42,209 to the International Seafarers' Center for the purchase of a brand new 2017 GMC Savana 3500. This 15-passenger van is equipped with all the modern safety features and will most definitely provide a comfortable ride for seafarers whom we will transport in the new vehicle.

The ITF Seafarers' Trust financially supports organizations that provide services to seafarers worldwide. The mission of the ITF Seafarers' Trust is to support services that cater to maritime workers; invest in long-term programs that improve the lives, health and overall well-being of seafarers and their families; and be the impetus for positive change in the maritime community. (<http://www.seafarerstrust.org/about/mission>)

The ISC Board and staff are very grateful to the ITF Seafarers' Trust for the generous grant award and are very thankful for their unwavering support over the years for our ministry and the seafarers. Thank you ITF Seafarers' Trust!!

Sam's Club Presents ISC with a Grant at the Soft Launch

Sam's Club in Brunswick, GA, recently opened its doors for the first time on March 30, 2017. ISC's Executive Director Valerie Crumpton was invited to the Sam's Club soft launch on March 29th to receive a grant check for \$2,500. ISC was one of the first recipients of \$20,000 in community grants that Sam's Club is giving out as a way to show their appreciation and support for the community. This award will enable the ISC to upgrade our cash registers at the ISC stores as part of our ongoing effort to improve customer service.

From the ISC Board and staff, thank you **Sam's Club Brunswick** for your support and grant award!!





In February, Navy Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) Special Agent Alec Wildes from the King's Bay Submarine base visited Jane Macon and Risley Middle Schools. As he began his video presentation, nearly all the students raised their hands in recognition of "Ducky" as the moderator.

This caught the attention of everyone as the students listened to the investigative role NCIS has in law enforcement worldwide, as exemplified by Special Agent Wildes' deployments and experiences in Afghanistan, Somalia, and when detailed during personal security missions.

Special Agent Wildes brought some of his "tools of the trade" letting the students become familiar with handcuffs and the different types of bullet proof jackets. Students were able to handcuff to each other and try to extract themselves and to try on the jackets and realized how heavy it becomes when additional equipment is added. Having the chance to handle these items gives the students a first-hand feel of the equipment's characteristics.



Risley students working together trying to release handcuffs.

Special Agent Wildes explained each agent has a college education and some law enforcement experience is preferred. Agents are civilians, not military, and work for an agency that reports directly to the Secretary of the Navy. He stressed education as a way to open avenues to foreign countries and cultures, working

"Ocean going ships will always inspire young minds to raise their head and look to the horizon and over the seas."

Captain Jan Eriksson, Master of M/V AIDA

along side law enforcement representatives of other military services where our Navy has a presence.

This program has become one of the most favored by the students because they hear of adventure, travel and become familiar with some of the equipment law enforcement officials use in their daily work.

Golden Isles in WWII

In late March, as the students entered the classroom they heard a recording of the tune "The Bugle boy of Company C." Ms. Sonja Kinard, who with her sister Thora Kinsey authored the book "The Marshes of Glynn WWII" which is a collection of notes, pictures, and letters from World War II and the impact on our area.



Ms. Sonja Kinard, co-author of the book "Memories From The Marshes of Glynn WWII" with material used in her presentation.

Ms. Kinard spoke about her life and experiences as a young girl when WWII began and how what she witnessed and the activities her father contributed to the military presence on St Simon's Island.

She spoke of her school days in which she attended two schools (Brunswick and SSI) and five teachers in one year. Classes would be held for a half a day between Brunswick and SSI. Then they reversed and SSI classes were in the afternoon and Brunswick in the morning. There was just one bus for students who lived in Brunswick, so when classes were in the morning on St Simon's Island, she "hung out in the afternoon until the bus returned to Brunswick."

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She spoke of the blackout and how the headlights on the cars were painted one half black and the homes along the beach kept the water-facing lights off.

Brunswick was the fifth busiest city in the US during the ship building period. The A. J. Jones Construction Co. ship building company, located along the East River built Liberty ships which brought workers, called pea-pickers, by the thousands to the area imposing a radical change to the community. There were so many people there was not enough sleeping space, so many slept in the two movie theaters, Ritz and Bijou. Even the boarding houses had to resort to "hot-bedding" to handle the large number of workers. The students had not heard that term and were amused, with their imagination working overtime.

The war reached Georgia and the Golden Isles shores on 8 April 1942, when two oil tankers, the SS Oklahoma and the SS Esso Baton Rouge were torpedoed within sight of St Simons Island. Black outs were imposed and sirens alerted citizens when air raids appeared imminent. German U-boats maneuvered off the Atlantic coast.



Risley student wearing Ms. Kinard's father's O.S. Army 1st Lieutenant jacket

She told of her father being on the north end of Cumberland when a plane flew over and dropped a note tied to a wrench that read that two tankers were

torpedoed. He left Cumberland returning to the Sea Island Yacht Yard refueled, got a crewman and reached the ships before the Coast Guard. He took three life boats in tow with 54 men in them. When the Coast Guard arrived, he transferred the wounded so they could begin to receive medical attention. He then proceeded with the survivors to the Coast Guard Station on Frederica River.

The classroom was full of memorabilia, including a picture and a letter from the U-boat captain along with pictures and stories of the torpedoing, notes and newspaper articles about life and happenings in Brunswick, and stories and pictures of those workers building Liberty Ships.

Toward the end of class students got to wear the First Lieutenant (US Army) uniform of her father, try on an Air Raid Warden helmet and two examples of Navy headgear. It was a bit difficult to break everyone away to get to their next class. So much to see, touch and absorb.

Telling a Story

A profile is like a painting, a bunch of parts of a person's life comes together to create a story. You want to catch the reader's attention in your first few sentences."

This was Bethany Leggett's introduction to her presentation about how to tell a story after one has compiled all the information about the subject.

Earlier this school year the students, through Ms. Leggett's instruction, became familiar with the type of questions to ask, how to use quotations and paraphrasing and the use of different nouns to take the places of names, stressing that it makes the story less "repetitive."

Catching the interest of the reader early is "key" and it is done in the first few sentences. If one is writing a story about Georgia's peanut and the growth production is better than ever, research and background needs to be done and usually leads to a trend which may be a highlight of your conclusion. Preparation for this type of story requires quite a bit of time and resourcefulness. Time management is important.

Another type of story is "Breaking News." It is an unplanned event like a disaster, (tornado, and serious car accident.) Covering this type of story where information is diluted and possibly not in chronological

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order, often times misinformation is a challenge. Deadlines add another dimension to producing a thorough and accurate account of the situation.

The third type of story is a profile. The students will have the opportunity to develop a profile of a seafarer they will get to meet. They will be able to write about a seafarer's life, learn their daily routines and learn about lengthy personal separations. This interaction will provide the student a real sense of the seafarer's activities and personality.

Ms. Leggett concluded her presentation with this reminder;

“Always be nice to the person you are interviewing”



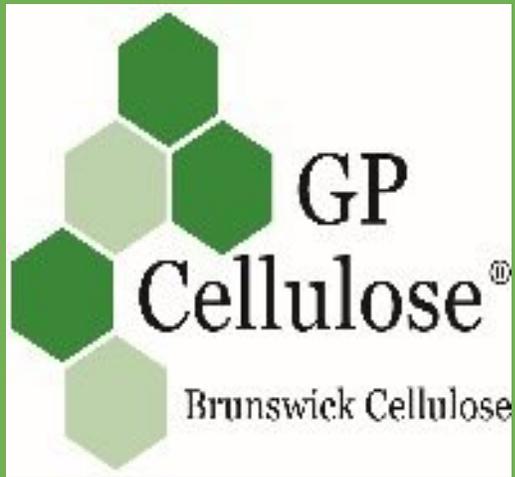
Students responding to a question from Ms. Leggett

All photos used in PAC article are courtesy of Jim Patrick



The Golden Isles Maritime Club is the only community organization dedicated to supporting Brunswick's local maritime community. It is a principal supporter of the International Seafarers' Center, the Golden Isles Maritime Day, Port-as-Classroom project and other educational and historical initiatives.

Interested in joining the club...check out our website at www.maritimeclub.org



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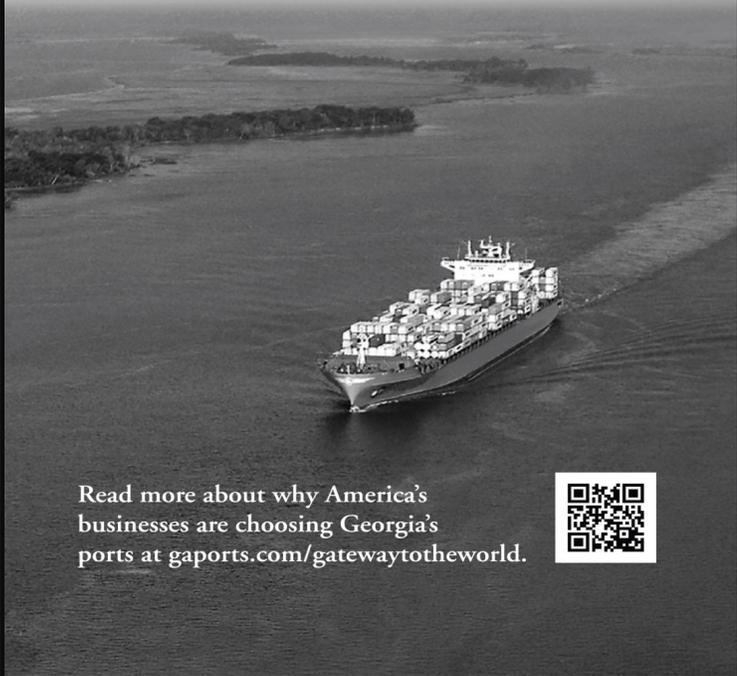
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VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!

Have a passion for the maritime life? Enjoy learning about world cultures? Like making new friends?

Call us at 912-267-0631 to find out how you can be involved in our mission.

Volunteer or Donate, we need your support. Please call 912-267-0631 today!



WANTED!!

GOOD MEN'S CLOTHING

Our clothes closets for the seafarers are nearly empty. Are yours full?

Bring your donations to our main Center at 307 Newcastle Street in Brunswick.

The seafarers will thank you.



SOUTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM New Palliative Care Center Provides Comfort and Support to Patients Facing Serious Illness

Southeast Georgia Health System is pleased to announce the recent expansion of its palliative care services. Palliative Medicine is specialized treatment for people with chronic or serious illness and has become the fastest growing medical specialty in the United States. **John E. Shaner, M.D.**, medical director of the Health System's Palliative Care Center, explains that palliative care is focused on providing comfort and support to patients living with a serious illness at any stage in their disease management.



Established in partnership with Golden Isles Palliative Care, the Center enables the Health System to expand its palliative care services to include inpatient and outpatient consultations. Located on the Brunswick Campus, the Palliative Care Center helps to improve quality of life for patients with serious illnesses by providing support for the stress an illness can cause as well as relief from the symptoms and pain.

“While pain and symptom management is a critical component of palliative care, the bigger picture focuses on communication about achievable goals and care coordination across clinical settings,” says Dr. Shaner, board-certified hospice and palliative medicine physician.

Palliative care is an added layer of care for patients and their families through education, support and treatment of disease symptoms to help maintain quality of life. Palliative care is not one size fits all. It is different for every patient, whether it is pain relief from disease symptoms, stress relief, caregiver and social support, or simply providing information to help make decisions about treatment.

Palliative care includes having conversations with patients and their families to better understand who they are, what they want to achieve, and connect them with the options available to help them reach those goals. Dr. Shaner explains that “palliative care can happen anytime, or intermittently, along the continuum of care to provide symptom and support management. It can include multiple forms of support including medical, spiritual or social--such as transportation, housing, food and visitation. Care is directed by the patient's goals, resulting in greater satisfaction and outcomes.”

Dr. Shaner is passionate about the benefits of palliative care. He has been at the forefront of the expanding palliative care movement, pioneering an in-patient palliative care consulting service at Genesis Healthcare System in Zanesville, Ohio. He is a member of the American Academy for Hospice and Palliative Medicine and a certified trainer in Education in Palliative and End of Life Care, a program of the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. He has given over 40 presentations to date for doctors, nurses, pharmacists, clergy, social service professionals and other ancillary staff.

Appointments at the Palliative Care Center are made following a physician referral. The Palliative Care Center is located on the Health System's Brunswick Campus in the Outpatient Care Center. For more information, please call 912-466-5190.



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*March 2017 Volunteer Party
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ISC MISSION STATEMENT

The ISC mission is to provide seafarers with a safe harbor that they can call home. The ISC provides services that meet the spiritual, emotional, physical and material needs of seafarers who visit the Port of Brunswick.