

Press Release April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014

## Georgian College marine students form league of their own



GCML's Board of Officers (L-R): Kaitlin Whittall, Kristjan van Wissen, Robert Hellier, Josh Belbeck, Tim Westmorland, Zack Peters

Earlier this week, students of all years within Georgian College's Marine Navigation and Marine Engineering programs voted to form a league of their own! The Georgian College Marine League (GCML) was formed with a primary mission "to connect cadets and alumni of marine programs". Translation: Break down the silos between Navigation and Engineering students groups as well as connect to Georgian's marine alumni.

The first step of the student body was to choose the GCML's five elected Board Officers. Nominations were held last week and the voting on Monday. Results, in alphabetical order, are:

- Josh Belbeck - 1<sup>st</sup> year Engineering and GCML Finance Officer
- Robert Hellier – 1<sup>st</sup> year Engineering and GCML Communications Officer
- Zack Peters - 1<sup>st</sup> year Navigation and GCML Membership Officer
- Tim Westmorland – 2<sup>nd</sup> year Navigation and GCML Captain
- Kaitlin Whittall – 1<sup>st</sup> year Navigation and GCML Events Officer
- Kristjan van Wissen - 1<sup>st</sup> year Engineering and GCML Administrative Officer

Supplementing these elected officers are the following appointed Officers:

- Capt. Colin MacNeil – Marine Program Coordinator and GCML Faculty Officer
- Capt. Seann O'Donoghue – Algoma Central Corporation and GCML Alumni Officer

With the coming of final exams and pending departure of many students for their summer cadet berths, the Board Officers Elect wasted no time in meeting to agree on board responsibilities and immediate priorities. These include a student led reception of incoming cadets in September 2014, as well as a cadet/alumni event in February 2015.

*"I'd like to thank the students who worked hard to kick-start this initiative, as well as Capt. Colin MacNeil and Capt. Seann O'Donoghue for their valuable advice and support," says GCML's Captain, Tim Westmorland. "The GCML will foster a strong sense of community at the Owen Sound campus, as well as provide opportunities for cadets to learn and benefit from alumni now active in the marine industry."*

Membership in the GCML is open to all current and former students of Georgian College's marine programs. The membership application process, GCML and LinkedIn sites are all in the works. In the meantime. The Board of Officers will communicate through email and the Georgian College Marine League Facebook group.

For more information on the GCML, please contact Robert Hellier, Communications Officer, at [robert.hellier@rogers.com](mailto:robert.hellier@rogers.com) or Tim Westmorland, Captain, at [tim.westmorland@gmail.com](mailto:tim.westmorland@gmail.com)