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MacMillan graduates from Merchant Marine Academy

Contributed



Christine MacMillan, daughter of James and Nancy MacMillan of Lakehills, recently graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, New York. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marine Operations and Technology.

She is granddaughter of Stanley and Ruth Tschirhart and Lila MacMillan Ward of Lakehills and of Jim MacMillan of New Jersey.

A graduate of Our Lady of the Hills Regional Catholic High School in Kerrville, MacMillan participated in the Greystone Preparatory School at Schreiner University in Kerrville. She received her appointment to the Merchant Marine Academy from US Congressman Lamar Smith in May 2005.

While attending the academy, she became as the first female midshipman to be elected class president of her sophomore, junior and senior classes. MacMillan also inaugurated the Merchant Marine Branch of the Rotaract Club and worked closely with local Merchant Marine veterans to spotlight their sacrifices during WWII. She also participated in varsity volleyball and track, holding the academy's record for the women's 400-meter hurdles.

MacMillan was selected as one of 191 Merchant Mariners who marched in the inaugural parade for President Barack Obama in Washington, DC on Jan. 20.

In June, she was received the Track and Field Captain's Award, Who's Who Among American

Universities recognition, the Dr. John Ferrell Award for leadership and support of her classmates, The Reserve Officer's Association of the United States Award for leadership, the Arlyne O'Gara Award for highest improved GPA in her major, the Women's Propeller Club of the United States Award for positive contribution to the academy and the Alumni Foundation Watch Award for her outstanding role as class president.

Asked to describe the proudest moment of her university career, MacMillan said, "Walking across that stage and discovering that everything I had worked towards had finally come to fruition and I could bravely face the next chapter of my life without doubt that I had succeeded."

She plans employment in the maritime industry as a deck officer or an unlicensed engineer.

Founded in 1943, the Merchant Marine Academy is a federal institution operated by the Maritime Administration of the US Department of Transportation. While earning Bachelor of Science degrees, young men and women are trained as merchant marine and Naval Reserve officers. Midshipmen spend one year of the academy's four-year program training at sea aboard US commercial vessels. Women were admitted to the academy in 1978.