

**MIKE
CORRIGAN**
ON HIS NEXT
VOYAGE

by Maye Akama

Winds of CHANGE

Readers of *Business Class* might recognize Mike Corrigan, MBA '00, from the cover of our fall 2012 issue. On January 1, 2012, Corrigan had a defining moment in his career as he moved from COO to CEO at BC Ferries.

Corrigan spent the intervening five-and-a-half years building a legacy of strong union relations and safety advancements at BC Ferries. Now at another career turning point, he has taken the helm at Interferry, the world ferry trade association. Gustavson recently caught up with Corrigan about the move to

Interferry and his reflections upon receiving Gustavson's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2018.

Q What appealed to you specifically about transitioning to Interferry?

A I have a passion for the ferry industry and I have a passion for safety. One of the big things that Interferry is really involved with is improving the safety standard around the world among ferry operators. We've just started up a safety committee for Southeast Asia. The developing countries down there that don't have the same standards as the developed world—Europe, North America and Australia—are the leaders in that regard, and we want to draw on that to get the rest of the world up to the same standard. That was something I really wanted to focus on.

Q What are the short-term goals you're hoping to accomplish at Interferry?

A I want to grow the breadth, scope and influence of the organization. We represent the ferry industry worldwide, but there are still areas where we need to get more members and to have a greater influence. Southeast Asia, for example. We also need to make sure that the ferry industry's not forgotten, and that it's taken seriously, by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), which is the regulatory body that sets shipping rules for the entire world. I mean, as big as we like to think ferries are, they only represent three per cent of the entire shipping world population. So when the IMO or the European Union are setting regulatory standards, we need to make sure they're taking into consideration the unique concerns of ferry operators.

Q What does receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award mean to you?

A I certainly appreciate it, and I see it as a significant accomplishment. I've been very proud to have gotten my MBA at UVic, and proud of where I was able to take my career over the years. I've always had a great deal of respect for UVic, and the program there, and receiving this award is certainly a feather in my cap and I'm proud of it. At this point in my career I always said when I left BC Ferries that I had one more chapter left, and that chapter right now is Interferry. So it's a nice boost to push you into the next phase of your career, so to speak. It's a certain level of validation, I guess, but it's also a boost—just that added level of energy you need to know that people are recognizing the good work that you're doing. ■

GUSTAVSON
WOULD LIKE TO
CONGRATULATE CORRIGAN
ON HIS IMPRESSIVE
ACCOMPLISHMENTS THROUGHOUT
HIS CAREER, AND WISH HIM
THE BEST AS HE SETS SAIL
ON THE NEXT PART OF HIS
JOURNEY.

