

RETAIL GIANT:

Solent University's new chancellor, Theo Paphitis, at the helm of the Eternity and (below) with deputy vice chancellor Julie Hall

Photos: Solent University



Dragon star helms maiden voyage of model aframax

Theo Paphitis is not renowned for his maritime connections.

He is better known in the UK as the star of the reality TV show *Dragons' Den*, in which start-up businesses pitch ideas in the hope of winning funding.

But the Cypriot-born British retail magnate appears to be building his shipping credentials with his appointment as chancellor of the UK's Solent University, one of the country's leading maritime training centres.

One of his first engagements was at the naming ceremony of the latest vessel to join the UK's largest fleet of miniature manned ships.

The Eternity is a 10-metre long model of an aframax tanker that will operate at the Southampton-based university's acclaimed Ship Handling Centre.

After pouring champagne on the model's bow, Paphitis took the helm on its maiden voyage.

The 1:25 scale model joins 10 other vessels that are used for training budding ship's officers and pilots at a purpose-built inland lake at the Warsash School of Maritime Science and Engineering



on the outskirts of Southampton.

These vessels are part of Solent's £43m (\$56.8m) investment in maritime training provision at the university.

"Ships are getting larger and waterways and ports more crowded, so scale-model training is more important than ever," said Solent's deputy vice chancellor Julie Hall.

The Eternity, which was designed and built by UK-based QinetiQ, is soon to be joined by a new model based on a suezmax tanker.

Rolling Stone onboard to bring live rock to Carnival

Passengers onboard two Holland America Line cruiseships will soon be able to watch bands belting out hits chosen by one of rock 'n' roll's most influential magazines.

The Carnival Corp brand has partnered with Rolling Stone to create a new classic-rock club in December on the 2,650-berth *Koningsdam* (built 2016) and on the newbuilding sistership *Nieuw Statendam*, which will be delivered the same month.

The new venue will let cruisers "step into a unique experience" as five-piece live bands chronicle rock history by playing iconic hits inspired by the Rolling Stone's top song lists, Holland America said.

The club will debut as part of a new Music Walk area on both vessels and will eventually be rolled out on other Holland America ships.

"Innovative and authentic music experiences are at the heart of all our entertainment offerings and is what distinguishes us in the industry," president Orlando Ashford said.

"Classic rock appeals to people across generations because the music is universal, and Rolling Stone Rock Room will bring another incredible live music venue to our ships."

Rolling Stone and Holland America both share the vision of bringing the best music to cruisers, said Rolling Stone International chief executive Kuok Meng Ru Kuok.

"We're looking forward to this unique brand experience and the first partnership of its kind for us, to bring the Rolling Stone brand to life in the ultimate live rock venue at sea," he added.

In addition to the Rolling Stone Rock Room on the *Nieuw Statendam* and *Koningsdam*, Holland America's Music Walk areas include the Lincoln Center Stage playing chamber music, *Billboard Onboard*, featuring two pianists, and *BB King's Blues Club*.

Stena and Teekay spearhead Cargo Day push in US

Senior figures from Stena Bulk and Teekay Shipping will lead a new US committee set up to promote Mercy Ships' annual Cargo Day fundraiser.

JR Gardner, general manager and head of crude oil and fuel in the US for Stena, and Teekay's Eric Nagel, director of Atlantic aframax and global support services, have been working to raise support in the US for this year's event on 3 October.

The plan is to grow the committee and rally even more industry support when Cargo Day is staged again next year, said Mercy Ships' Russ Holmes, director of corporate development.

A US panel to parallel the Geneva Cargo Day committee had been talked about for some time before it became a reality.

The aim is to raise a record \$1m when Cargo Day 2018 kicks off next week.

So far, about 35 companies are taking part — 13 charterers, five shipowners, 11 shipbrokers and six others. These include Total, Clarksons in Norway and Switzerland, Lightship, Vitol, Fearnleys, Galbraiths, BRS, Lotus Shipping, Petrocam Trading and Braemar ACM.

To pledge support for Cargo Day, visit MercyShipsCargoDay.org to find out more about the full list of participants.

Charterers can pledge cargoes to these shipbrokers, port agents and inspection companies who then donate 50% of their commissions to Mercy Ships. Shipowners and others can also donate money directly.

Last year, Cargo Day raised more

than \$670,000, which Mercy Ships said "represents the equivalent of helping bring new smiles for more than 8,900 children born with cleft lips".

The charity operates the world's largest civilian hospital vessel, the 16,572-gt *Africa Mercy* (built 1980), which recently started a 10-month field service in Guinea.

It began with a 17-strong team of volunteers, mostly nurses, screening potential patients to see whether their condition falls within the charity's scope of practice.

That has included screening for the Ponseti method of treating young children suffering from club foot.

On 14 September, Mercy Ships Hope Centre in Guinea opened for post-surgery patients able to



SIGN OF HOPE: Mercy Ships' logo, here on the funnel of the *Africa Mercy*, is recognised throughout Africa Photo: Geoff Garfield

leave the wards and continue their recovery.

Various courses and mentoring programmes have also been

launched as part of Mercy Ships' efforts, in whichever country the *Africa Mercy* visits, to boost local people's medical skills.