



# BUILDER BULLETIN

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE APPRENTICE SCHOOL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

December 06

## 2006 Christmas Dinner Dance

By X32 Jason Kinney

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<b>Great People</b>	2
O22 Jacob Verbeck	
<b>Colleagues in Peril</b>	3
<b>Apprentice Spotlight</b>	3
X11 Curtis Donaldson	
<b>The Road to Broken Arrow</b>	4
<b>Polar Plunge</b>	4
<b>Ask the Builder</b>	5
<b>Christmas Word Search</b>	5
<b>Betty's Corner</b>	6
<b>Grappling With Success</b>	6
<b>Welcome Aboard to New ASSA Chairs</b>	7

This years ASSA sponsored annual Christmas Dinner Dance can be chalked up as one of the most successful of its kind. With over 200 tickets sold, the new Marriot at City Center in Newport News became home to one of the dances largest turnouts ever. The dinner dance has become known as one of the ASSA's most popular yearly events, and after this last one, hopefully its reputation for such will gain more solidity.

The evening started off with a 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm social hour where guests could get something to drink and get their picture taken. As people got settled in their seats, 2006 ASSA President, Ron Hendrickson, set the mood with an introduction and explanation of the evening's events, including a number of raffles that would be happening throughout the evening. Afterwards, it was time to eat! The meal was one of the best ever, and guests enjoyed a wonderful time of mingling and socializing.

Throughout dinner the DJ kept guests involved by playing a couple of games. The first game was "guess that TV show sound track." Whenever somebody shouted out the correct title, they were able to guess the amount of candy that was in a jar the DJ had pre-counted. It came down to a tie breaker and finally somebody won. "The prize I have for you is worth more than \$500," said the DJ. He allowed the guest to invite five friends to stand on the dance floor in front of him, all able to share in the prize. Then the DJ announced her prize in the form of the well know MasterCard commercials, "Standing on the dance floor with five of your friends doing the Cha Cha Slide...priceless!" The second game involved everybody. Each table had a piece of paper under the center piece with a quote that corresponded with one of the number lines (such as "Nine ladies dancing") from the famous Christmas Carol, Twelve Days of Christmas. The DJ then led the whole room in singing the carol together; however, as each numbered line was sung, the tables with that quote had to **ACT OUT** their line. It was hilarious! There is nothing like seeing fellow students, faculty, and even upper management standing on their chairs, acting like "six geese-a-laying."

As the evening went on, prizes were getting raffled off and guests were getting more connected, until...**LIGHTS OUT!** Yes, that's right; the entire City Center complex was without power! Even the back-up generators at the Marriot were not working. But did that stop apprentices from having fun...no way! Cell phones were opened up and held in the air to set the mood for what will go down in history as one of the Christmas Dinner Dance's most memorial moments: Santa Clause, played by 2007 ASSA President, Cameron Vaught, **took a solo stand on the dance floor, in the dark, and let the entire room**



Santa Clause, or Cameron Vaught, Ron Hendrickson, and the DJ work together to give out prizes.

in the full a cappella version of Vanilla Ice's "Ice, Ice, Baby."

"Personally, I think it could have been one of the best parties I have ever been involved in," reflects Hendrickson, "Up to the point that the lights went out everybody seemed to be involved and having a great time. I had several people tell me they enjoyed it despite being cut short by the power outage. I was impressed with the way the audience reacted, and the way the DJ and Cameron entertained them during the outage. It proves that apprentices endure."

Finally, after about an hour, the grand prize was given out. A large, flat screen TV was given to O22 Gary Carter. "It's a nice TV," said Carter, "I went home that night and set it up!"

If you did not make it to this year's Christmas Dinner Dance, be sure to make it a priority for next year. Apprentices, Alumni, Faculty, and Management are all invited to purchase tickets for the event. Be sure to contact an ASSA delegate, or talk to your Craft Instructor if you have any questions.



Cameron joins winners of the "guess that TV show sound track" game on the dance floor.





**Great Company Great Products Great People Great Results**



## Academic Program Liaison Jacob Verbeck

By X06 David Nicholas

Are you interested in The Apprentice School's advanced curriculum? Do you hope to be selected into the Planning, Design, or ASOC apprenticeship? Will you be furthering your education after graduating from The Apprentice School? Apprentices who answered "yes" to any of the previous questions may want to get familiar with December's focus of "Great People", Jacob Verbeck. Jake was hired in November, 2005, as The Apprentice School's, newly formed, Academic Program Liaison. The Builder Bulletin recently sat down with him to become better acquainted and find out exactly what he does that benefits the student body.

Jake Verbeck was raised in San Antonio, Texas. He graduated from Spring High School in 1991 and joined the United States Navy later that year. While in the Navy, Jake spent six years in the Nuclear Power Propulsion Program, establishing initial reactor and steam plant chemistry and radiological control (RADCON) programs on board CVN 74, John C. Stennis. He left the Navy in December, 1997, and joined Newport News Shipbuilding as an E85 RADCON instructor.

While being employed as an instructor, Jake finished his bachelor degree studies in Nuclear Engineering Technology with Thomas Edison State College. As he was finishing his degree, Jake decided to enlist in the National Guard Reserves to, once again, serve his country. In 1999, the recent college graduate took a position with RADCON Engineering as an Assistant Health Physicist, responsible for auditing and revising NRC licenses, as well as, supervising the radiological analysis laboratory.

During his time with RADCON, Jake enrolled in evening classes for William & Mary's MBA Program. Not long after, he transferred into E81, Nuclear Overhaul Engineering, where he was responsible for the development of the engineering training program, in addition to, coordinating special projects within the department for continuous improvement. In 2003, he became activated in the National Guard, spending a one year deployment with the Army, augmenting security at Air Force bases along the east coast. It was actually while he was on duty that Jake obtained his Master's Degree.

In January, 2004, Jake reunited with the shipyard and continued his stay with E81 for two more years, primarily running special projects for management staff. Along that span, he took course work at Old Dominion University (ODU) to specialize in Human Resource (HR) Management, which eventually led to his certification as a Senior Professional in Human Resource Management.

Jake joined the staff at The Apprentice School in 2005 to fill the position of Academic Program Liaison. As a liaison, his duties include the responsibilities of managing the relationships between The Apprentice School and local colleges and universities and also managing current contracted courses with Thomas Nelson Community College. Jake also works with current and graduated apprentices who wish to pursue further educational goals and is responsible for the development of a four year cooperative educational program with ODU which would lead to a bachelor's degree in either Business Administration or Engineering Technology. Furthermore, Jake works closely with Dave Tilman in screening qualified applicants for the selection of the advanced apprenticeship programs and is also involved in The Apprentice School's Continuous and Preventative Action Program (C&PAP).

When asked to send apprentices a message, Jake responded, "Take full advantage of the many opportunities offered at The Apprentice School. We all want you to succeed at all of your endeavors. We all want you to quickly become active leaders in the company. I have seen the tremendous effect Apprentices have on the company, and I want to see this positive trend in performance and leadership continue. I have been impressed with the program from day one, and have yet to be disappointed!"

Jake plans to continue his own positive trend by taking coursework through the University of California in Project Management with the intent



of gaining certification as a Project Management Professional by summer, 2007. That will be used to better prepare him for the PhD program in Engineering Management that he plans to attend at ODU. Jake's immediate goals for The Apprentice School are to improve the selection rate into the advanced programs and to work on initiatives to improve the overall student retention rate.

Throughout his career at NGNN, Jake has followed the influence of a few individuals that helped guide him in the right direction. Chr Amos was his manager in E85. "She taught me a lot about personnel and business management. She also emphasized personal responsibility and accountability," commented Jake. Gene Reime, Jake's supervisor while in E85, taught him professionalism and the importance of continuing education.

Jake is now influencing others by taking on leadership roles within the community. He is currently Community Development Vice President for the Peninsula Jaycees and serves as Faculty Advisor to The Apprentice School Jaycees. He is also a member of both the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) and the Project Management Institute (PMI). Jake is a father to three daughters, ages four to thirteen, and says he loves raising them.

Outside of being a student, Jake's passions include mentoring young adults and a profound love for motorcycles. He has only been with The Apprentice School a short time but has a lot planned concerning the school's future. He is normally available at The Apprentice School to entertain any questions about the advanced programs or continuing education at any of the local colleges. Jake Verbeck is another one of The Apprentice School's "Great People".



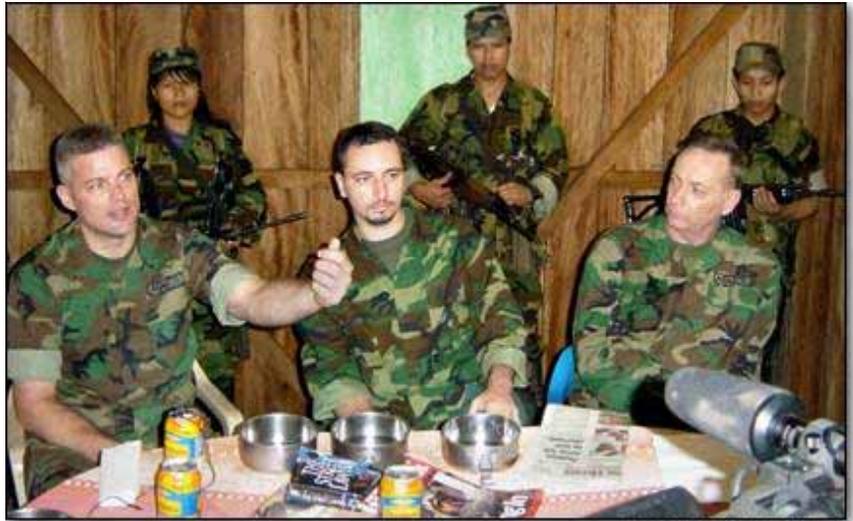


# Colleagues in Peril

By Cameron Vaught E06

As we enter the holiday season, we will all have many people in our thoughts. From the closest of kin to the unfortunates sleeping on the streets, from our spouses to the troops abroad, all will be there. However, there are three men that many have forgotten. They are hidden deep in the jungles of Colombia held hostage by a left-wing militia group known as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). These three men are not soldiers. These three men are not Colombians. Keith Stansell, a 38 year old systems analyst; Thomas Howes, a 50 year old pilot; and Marc Gonsalves, a 31 year old systems analyst are all American civilians, and, more than that, they are Northrop Grumman employees.

FARC produces cocaine to fund its cause of implementing a socialist government in Colombia. Northrop Grumman was contracted by the United States government to assist in drug surveillance flights so that the FARC's income may be destroyed. One of these surveillance planes, a single engine Cessna, had an engine failure and crash landed on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2003. The three men were taken hostage and two others were killed by the guerillas that quickly surrounded the crash site. Stansell, Howes, and Gonsalves were then taken on a 24-day trek through the wilderness only to arrive at a small wooden shack where they were to spend the next several years of their lives.



Jorge Enrique Botero / AP

FARC wishes to trade these men, as well as thousands of other hostages they currently hold, for their soldiers being held by the Colombian government. The groups have not been able to come to an agreement. Journalists have been allowed to interview the hostages on a few occasions. Each time, the three captives have been adamant about warning against a rescue attempt. They say their lives are in danger, and they will be killed if any rescue attempt is made.

Please keep these men, our colleagues, and their families in your thoughts and prayers this holiday season. We can't let them be forgotten!

See [www.heldhostageincolombia.com](http://www.heldhostageincolombia.com) and [www.marc-gonsalves.com](http://www.marc-gonsalves.com) for ways you can help.



## SPOTLIGHT

**X11 Mr. Curtis Donaldson**  
**4 Year Navy Veteran**

### APPRENTICE

Mr. Donaldson joined the ship fitter ranks in May of 2004. Shortly after joining our Northrop Grumman family, he applied to the apprentice school. In order for him to qualify for the apprentice school Mr. Donaldson needed to take a **few** courses at night so he enrolled in our shipyard night school. For the next two years, without missing a semester, he doubled up on night school courses. He started and completed the following night school courses:

**Fall semester of 2004:**

- Algebra I, Part A
- Mechanical Drawing, Part I

**Winter semester of 2005:**

- Algebra I, Part B
- Mechanical Drawing, Part II

In the spring of 2005 Mr. Donaldson learned about the Leadership Development Program for X11. He enrolled in the program and began taking the TNCC certificate courses offered at night at the shipyard. Most individuals would take the

LDP courses or the other night school courses needed for the apprentice school acceptance, not both. Not Mr. Donaldson; as you can see, he enrolled in both programs.

**Spring semester of 2005:**

- Geometry
- Principles of Management (TNCC Certificate course)

Mr. Donaldson continued to take both apprentice school acceptance courses and management development courses.

**Summer semester 2005:**

- Algebra II, Part A
- Principles of Supervision (TNCC Certificate course)

**Fall semester 2005:**

- Algebra II, Part B
- Business Letter Writing (TNCC Certificate course)

**Winter semester 2006:**

- Human Relations & Leadership Development (TNCC Certificate course)

- Principles of Public Speaking (TNCC Certificate course)

**Spring semester 2006:**

- Elementary Blue Print Reading

Mr. Donaldson started his apprentice program in the ship fitters in May 2006, two years from the month he joined our yard family, as a graduate of the LDP Certificate Program.

He played football for The Apprentice School this year, making the team as a walk-on. He is performing well as a fitter apprentice, currently finishing up his first academic semester with A's in Computer, Math & Ship Construction. He apologizes for the high B he currently holds in Drafting.

I compliment this gentleman on the academic effort he made in order to qualify for our apprentice program. His goal is to get his BA. He wants to stay on the waterfront in a management position and "make a difference".





# The Road to Broken Arrow

By Eric Kilner E06

The Apprentice School's Women's Basketball Team has an extremely difficult path to tread if they plan to travel to Broken Arrow, Oklahoma this year for the USCAA Women's Basketball Nationals. This year's squad is talented, athletic, young and hungry but the competition they'll be facing is going to be just as tough. As the Lady Builders look ahead, they stare a conference that is lunging forward in depth and talent straight in the eyes. Though competition is evolving rapidly, I've never seen a Lady Builder blink!

The Lady Builders coaching staff stands poised on the precipice of greatness. Ms. Judi Overbey, entering her sixth season as head coach, is joined by Nadine Domond as co-head coach this season. Ms. Domond brings tremendous experience to the team. With four years of professional playing time behind her, both overseas and in the WNBA, she'll be able to offer key insights on the Lady Builder's tactics and strategies. Drawing her inspiration from Vivian Stringer of Rutgers for her classy and gritty style,

and John Wooden for his quiet dominance, Ms. Overbey measures her accomplishments against some of the game's greatest contributors.

The team showcases some tenacious young faces tempered with the experience of a few seasoned veterans and a survivalist philosophy. The coaches enforce a constant dogfight for position by maintaining no set starting lineup. They're unwilling to allow their team to develop any sense of complacency. The Lady Builder's high-energy, blue collar playing style focuses on defense and turning opponents' turnovers into transition scoring opportunities.

With what Ms. Overbey calls "their toughest schedule to date", the Lady Builder's work ethic and commitment will be put to the test. "Every team is great for different reasons. We're just as good as anyone out there. We've got to raise our level of competition and consciously choose to want to go to Nationals." If their performance on the court even remotely compares to the pit bull intensity with which they practice and play the game, come March, the Lady Builders may be riding off into the sunset.



## 2007 SCHEDULE

Dec. 17-18	at HoopNSurf Classic - Honolulu, HI	TBA
Jan. 5	at New Hampshire Technical Institute	7:00
Jan. 6	at Central Maine College	6:00
Jan. 7	at Southern Maine College	Noon
Jan. 12	CHOWAN UNIVERSITY	6:00
Jan. 20	at St. Joseph's College	7:30
Jan. 21	at Briarcliffe College	2:00
Jan. 27	at Trinity College	2:00
Jan. 31	at Meredith College	6:00
Feb. 3	at Southern Virginia University	2:00
Feb. 5	TRINITY COLLEGE	6:00
Feb. 10	at Lincoln University	2:00
Feb. 14	at Chowan University	7:00
Feb. 17	MEREDITH COLLEGE	1:00
Feb. 24	SOUTHERN VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY	1:00
Mar. 7-10	at USCAA Nationals - Broken Arrow, OK	TBA

### It Will Be a Cold Day In...

By Roger Miller X18

Come join the Builders polar plunge team Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> at the VA Beach oceanfront. If you don't want to plunge, come and support us as we try to raise money for the Special Olympics Of Virginia. To donate go to [www.firstgiving.com/builders](http://www.firstgiving.com/builders). To join see Roger Miller or e-mail him at [roger.b.miller@ngc.com](mailto:roger.b.miller@ngc.com). Please include your department and a contact number.

*Pictured: Last Year's Inaugural Team of Polar Builders.*

### A Challenge Has Been Made To All Trades!!!!

Larry Koeck X18 Lead instructor has challenged all trades to beat the hull trades in participation. He is going to plunge with us!



15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
**POLAR PLUNGE**  
  
**WINTER FESTIVAL**  
 BENEFITTING SPECIAL OLYMPICS VIRGINIA  
 VIRGINIA BEACH OCEANFRONT  
 FEBRUARY 3, 2007





## PIER 3 SPECS

Length	1038 Ft
Width	92 Ft. + 38 Ft. Utility Trenches
Fixed Stand-Offs	To be determined
Nominal water depth at bulkhead	45 Ft. on south side / 25 Ft. on north side

This month I have been asked to talk about the upgrades to pier 3, aka the Super Pier. The pier upgrades are on schedule for completion for December 2006. It will contain features to accommodate the finish outfitting and testing phases for the new construction of CVN 21 Class Aircraft Carriers as well as for overhaul of the Navy's existing Nimitz Class Aircraft Carriers.

Crane rails will be raised approximately 30 feet above the pier's multi-level concrete deck. Upon completion it will be the most technologically advanced full-service pier at the shipyard complete with a timber fender system, bollards and cleats, and permanent, electrical, communications, and crane services.

The principle working area for the trades on Pier 3 will be the main deck. With mechanical and electrical service connections in utility stations along the entire length of its south side, it will provide a permanent location of temporary services for naval aircraft carrier and commercial

shipbuilding construction and testing. The north side of the pier's main level will provide limited utility services for support of sailors in the Floating Accommodation Facility (FAF).

The second level of Pier 3 will contain on-site offices for support of aircraft carrier finish outfitting and system testing. This will establish permanent locations for various key departments involved in the final phases of both new construction and overhaul of aircraft carriers.

The top level of Pier 3 is reserved for material handling operations. With a ramp running directly to the aircraft elevator, it will provide a permanent route from the roadway straight to the main deck. It will also be equipped with a crane to expedite the on-time delivery of material to the flight deck.



## ASK THE BUILDER

SUBMIT INQUIRIES TO  
roger.b.miller@ngc.com

## Christmas WordSearch

C	O	O	K	I	E	S	L	E	G	N	A	S	O	P
L	I	G	H	T	S	N	O	W	F	L	A	K	E	S
O	Y	E	G	G	N	O	G	H	O	L	L	Y	C	D
V	N	A	T	I	V	I	T	Y	S	A	T	E	I	R
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A	H	S	W	R	I	M	C	P	S	I	R	O	V	A
N	X	N	A	L	G	Q	D	B	X	W	J	P	J	F

### APPRENTICE SCHOOL DRUMLINE

**INTERESTED?**  
Seeking Apprentices, Apprentice Alumni, and Faculty with marching experience!

**ALSO SEEKING THOSE WITH MUSIC EXPERIENCE WHO ARE WILLING TO LEARN!**  
SERIOUS INQUIRIES PLEASE. MUST BE WILLING TO COMMIT TO AN AFTER WORK PRACTICE SCHEDULE.  
**CONTACT GREG BONE FOR MORE INFORMATION: realbone@verizon.net**

ANGELS	GIFTS	NATIVITY
BABY JESUS	HOLIDAY	NIGHT
BETHLEHEM	HOLLY	PRESENTS
CARDS	JINGLE BELLS	SERVICE
CAROLS	JOSEPH	SHEPHERDS
CHARITY	JOY	SNOWFLAKES
CHRIST	LIGHTS	STAR
COOKIES	LOVE	TREES
DECEMBER	MANGER	TURKEY
DECORATIONS	MARY	WISEMEN
EGGNOG	MERRY	

### BUILDER BULLETIN BOARD

**Men's Basketball**  
MEN END 2006 WITH FIRST WIN KNOCKING OFF D-2 ST. PAUL'S 98-92

**WRESTLING**  
BUILDERS GO 3-2 AT DESERT DUALS  
Apprentice (Va.) 22, Pacific (Ore.) 18 (Dec. 19)  
Wartburg #2 32, Apprentice 13 (Dec. 19)  
Apprentice School 26, Menlo 19  
#10 Coe 27, Apprentice School 22  
Apprentice (Va.) 22, Pacific 18  
Apprentice (Va.) 48, Central 6  
Apprentice 26, Menlo 19

Apprentice (VA.) 48, Central 6  
Wartburg #2 32, Apprentice 13  
Coe 27, Apprentice (Va.) 22

**Womens Basketball**  
HONOLULU HOOP 'N' SURF CLASSIC  
Apprentice (VA.) 51 Eastern Conn. St. 49  
Apprentice (VA.) 66 Wentworth Inst. Of Tech. 47

taken from www.lds.about.com





BETTY'S

CORNER

KINDNESS AWARENESS WEEK FOR 2007 FEB. 12th – 19th

KINDNESS IS.....

By Betty Husted

The time of year has come where we all seem to focus on the holidays and how much work we have to get done and how much running from here to there we must accomplish in a short period of time. Amid all the hustle and bustle, a question should come to mind "What can I do to make someone's day?" Random acts of kindness are those sweet, or lovely or nice things we do for no reason. Winn Claybaugh states: "Being nice is not a physical trait passed on from your parents. It's not in your genes. It's within you. Being nice is an ongoing, lifelong course. You never get to stop learning what it means and what it takes to be nice, but it's well worth the effort because being nice can bring you rewards you never imagined." There are four parts to kindness: dignity, respect, compassion, and humility, if you have all of these you will be able to share them with others. This holiday season, think about your own random act of kindness and how you can share it with someone else because after all, kindness is what you define it as, rather than what someone thinks you should believe that it is.

BUILDER BULLETIN COMMENTS AND INFORMATION

If you'd like to make a comment or request information contact Eric Kilner: Eric.Kilner@ngc.com

GO BUILDERS!

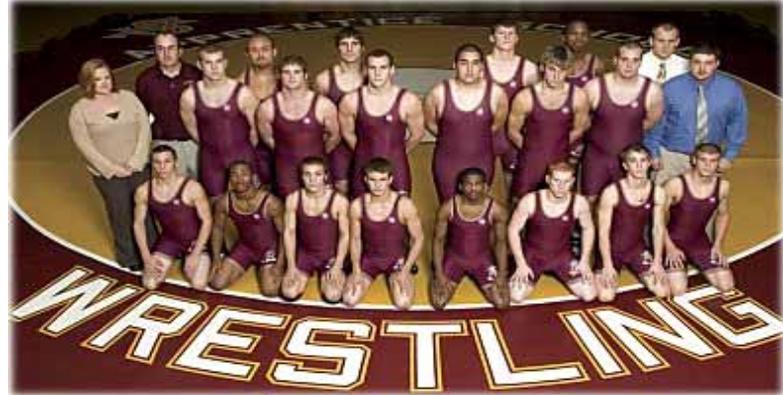
YOUR BUILDER BULLETIN TEAM IS:

Eric Kilner, E06/E64 (Editor, Publications Chair) – Betty Husted, E06 Design (Co-Chair) – David Nicholas, X06/X89 Planner – Roger Miller, X18 --Jason Kinney -- X32 ASOC

GRAPPLING WITH SUCCESS

By Eric Kilner E06

The Apprentice School wrestling team has never been one to be afraid of a challenge. In order to season themselves for the National Collegiate Wrestling Association National Championships, the Builders' wrestling schedule was turned up a notch this year. The key is to push the team just a little bit farther during their journey toward their ultimate goal of a National Title. Last year's second place finish merely wetted their appetites for the 2006-07 season. For more info on the Apprentice School Builder's wrestling team, go to www.gobuilders.com/m-wrestling/sporthome.htm. Come Back the Builders at the Builder Invitational on Jan. 27 at 9:00 AM.



Welcome Aboard to the New ASSA Committee Chairs

- Activities
Athletics
By-Laws
Class
Communications
Publications
Public Relations
Yearbook

- Brian Bowman
Greg Bone
Jeremy Morrison
David Culpepper
Kimberly Jordan
Eric Kilner
Robert McNeely
Jeff Halbauer

