



BUILDER

BULLETIN

A PUBLICATION OF THE APPRENTICE SCHOOL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

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Craftsmanship, Tradition, Leadership, And Fun

Kevin Doyle, X06

Craftsmanship, tradition, leadership and fun are the four basic elements I proposed while running for President of The Apprentice School Student Association (ASSA). I was elected so that's what I will deliver. I also expect these elements to ring throughout the halls of the new campus as well. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who supported my re-election. I have high aspirations for the upcoming year—not only for the association, but for participating apprentices and myself.

This year has been very beneficial for my education. It has been an experience like no other. I intend to take the skills and abilities that have been sharpened in me and put them to good use in 2013. This set of skills is not only helpful in the shipbuilding world but in all aspects of my life. It's important for individuals to decide to be a part of something larger than themselves and give it their all. It really proves what you are made of. Knowing this gives you the courage and confidence to take on whatever life hurls your way. Getting involved is the first step on your journey to success. I hope to see more of you in the future taking the initiative to get involved with The Apprentice School and all it has to offer.

The executive council has already been diligently working on next year's agenda. We have a million and one ways to get out and have a great

time. It's our desire to lower cost of activities for active apprentices. We have initiated this effort in hopes of giving those of you who have not had a chance to enjoy the benefits of being an apprentice the opportunity. From our ski trips and picnics to our dinner dances and professional sports games, we are offering the opportunity for everyone to have a blast during their apprenticeship.

Before I close, I would like to add how thankful I am to everyone I have met and have had the pleasure of getting to know this year. I will keep the memories as long as I live. It is never a dull moment when you are involved with such great folks. I want to acknowledge the 2012 executive council for an outstanding job. Thank you for setting the bar high for others following in your footsteps. You all exemplify leadership and I wish you the best for your future endeavors. Good luck to all and I can't wait to see you out there! "Teamwork makes the dream work."

P.S. Congratulations are long overdue for Patrice Gwynn who won first place in the first Annual Apprentice School Bar-B- Q Cook off this summer. Congratulations, Ms. Gwynn!

When Christmas Cards Go Plastic

Elise Feldt, X42

The air is crisp. The fragrance of wood stoves and pine needles meets us when we open the door. The kid in us hopes for snow, but the Scrooge in us prays it will not. Whatever happens on Christmas Eve, we know we will be with the ones we love on Christmas morning. Wrapping paper, mugs of coffee and cinnamon pastries; smiles and laughter garnish that moment we have been waiting for all season.

Ironically, with the most wonderful time of the year come the most dreadful bills of the year. The winter season in Hampton Roads is famous for loopy weather, resulting in crazy energy bills and even crazier roads. On top of that, the two most traveled holidays of the year fall in the winter season. Most people despair over not having enough money for travel to see loved ones. Even more people get distressed over how much money they charged to their credit cards just to make the holidays happen. Instead of looking for Christmas cards in the mail, they look for credit card statements.

If you are one of the early birds, you probably started shopping for Christmas presents and airplane tickets before November. But if you are like the rest of us, you place most of your hopes and dreams on Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving. The weeks race by as you try to enjoy the season. Shopping and travelling in December are a hassle. The resulting chaos comes to a head on Christmas Eve, with that last-minute rush for the sales and the "forgotten" loved ones. You wait for that blissful reward for all your struggles on Christmas morning. But what do you get? Trash bags full of crushed wrapping paper and mountains of credit card bills in January, which sometimes only a hefty tax return can fix.

No one plans to stay in debt or endure months of stress and maxing out your credit cards does not mean you care the most. The holiday season should be about celebrating the things worth having with the people you love most. We may not have many choices about how much money we have or how we use it, but we still have a choice about the way we celebrate.

This year, do yourself a favor. Make it a New Years' Resolution. Instead of watching the same stressful parade of financial disasters happen year after year, make a change in how you approach your finances. The Apprentice School offered a Financial Advice Seminar this past November, and will continue to offer them as they are requested. Good habits cannot be formed unless they are practiced. Open a Christmas club savings account at your bank to put aside money for Christmas all year round. The same kind of account is offered for vacations. Parents, teach good financial habits to your children by illustrating a good example of good finances. It will make you want to adhere to your own good advice!

On a final note, Christmas time is known for its extravagance, but everyone knows that is not its best feature. If you have limited means, limit your spending! Focus on what really matters, and leave the rest up to the good cheer that you will have left when the holiday season is over. Remember there is always a new year around the corner.

2012 History in the Making

Ethan Thompson, X18

In 2012, Newport News Shipbuilding along with thousands of its shipbuilders set the bar for modern shipbuilding. Throughout the year records were set, major milestones were reached and history was made. Here's a recap of a great year at Newport News Shipbuilding:

- February 6- The Apprentice School hosts a graduation ceremony to celebrate the achievements of 161 apprentices across 26 trades.
- March 29- Huntington Ingalls Industries marks the one-year anniversary by ringing the New York Stock Exchange closing bell.
- April 16- The USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) reaches 75 percent structural completion.
- May 4- Newport News Shipbuilding breaks ground on the new Apprentice School.
- May 23- Huntington Ingalls Industries announces that the USS Minnesota (SSN 783) is "pressure hull complete" (All of the submarine's hull sections have been joined to form a single watertight unit).
- May 24, 2012- The final keel section of the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) is lowered into place weighing in at 680 metric tons.
- July 19, 2012- Huntington Ingalls Industries is awarded \$43 million contract modification for USS John F. Kennedy (CVN 79) materials.
- August 12, 2012- The Apprentice School is recognized by the Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship as a 21st Century Registered Apprenticeship Trailblazer and Innovator.
- August 20, 2012- Newport News Shipbuilding celebrates the grand opening of the Supplemental Module Outfitting Facility (SMOF).
- September 27- Huntington Ingalls Industries is awarded \$296 million construction preparation contract modification for the USS John F. Kennedy (CVN 79).
- October 5, 2012- Newport News Shipbuilding lifts the heaviest unit onto the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) weighing in at 1,026 metric tons. This was the largest lift that the crane has ever lifted.
- October 27- Newport News Shipbuilding christens the USS Minnesota (SSN 783) which is scheduled to be delivered the U.S. Navy 11 months early.

As this year comes to a close, Newport News shipbuilders can look back on all of the accomplishments and be proud to have been a part of them. The 2012 year was history in the making and will not be the last. "So here is to a proud past and a bright future."

The Truth and Fables about Mistletoe

By Dawn Hardister, X06

Many stories have developed through the years about mistletoe and its symbolism. Some say it was used in wedding ceremonies because the plant was a symbol of fertility. The Druids believed that the plant could create miracles. Anglo-Saxons thought the branch was created from bird droppings and the Vikings believed that the mistletoe had powers to raise people from the dead. A story from France stated that mistletoe is poisonous because it grew on the cross Jesus was crucified on and because of that it was cursed to live and grow on Earth as a parasite.

Of all the stories, myths and folklore that have been generated, one thing remains true, mistletoe is a parasite. It grows at the base of oak trees and steals nutrients from the tree. Even though the plant is parasitic, it is still seen as a symbol of sexuality, love and fertility. This is because of the bright red color found in the berries and because it is revealed to have the "soul" of the oak in it. Though it may be many theories out there of its association to Christmas, I feel that the holiday's resemble the end of year and the beginning of another year which may bring new miracles, fertility and love for all.

Advice from the Past

Gene Wells, K32 (Apprentice Graduate)

There's really only two pieces of advice I can think of off the top of my head for Apprentices. First, take advantage of the opportunities to network that apprentice rotations will provide and secondly, always actively try to relate waterfront experience to daily work.

When it comes down to it, businesses can be thought of as networks of people. Whether they are large or small, it takes people working together to achieve goals and meet deliverables. Many people are hired into a company and just work in one area, and only really interact with other people within that area. Apprentices are provided a great opportunity to meet and network with many people across different programs, value streams and areas of responsibility. All of the work we perform relates to the work others within the company are performing in some way, shape, or form. If an Apprentice takes advantage of this opportunity to establish a thorough network, they can pull upon the knowledge of others to ensure that their work is not only of great quality, but will not cause difficulty for other processes that relate to it. We are a large enough company to where it is very easy to work with blinders on and ignore the other facets of shipbuilding that tie into what you do on a daily basis. However, this is the wrong approach, and it takes conscious effort to ensure that we go above and beyond what will simply get our product out the door. Simply put, get to know the people around you. Learn what they know. Keep in touch and pull on them for help and knowledge after you move on to new things.

Another huge advantage Apprentices have is their knowledge of how things actually work on the waterfront. The trades are the core of what we do. It doesn't matter how many exceedingly educated engineers, process analysts, managers, and others we employ if we do not keep the trades as the focus and incorporate ideas that help them into everything we do. Apprentices should always pull from the trade experience they have when tasked with pretty much anything, regardless of what job position they hold. Even when they don't have knowledge about one specific area, they can use their network to pull on the knowledge of someone that does. Thinking in this mindset has to be made into a habit and does not necessarily come naturally. It is human nature to follow along with the perspective others around you have when approaching work and this creates a problem when many people in salaried positions here do not have any trade experience. Every time I am assigned something new I ask myself the question, "How can I relate what I did on the waterfront to this task?" Sometimes it takes a decent amount of thought, and often I find myself wishing I had more trade experience than I do. However, there is almost always a new perspective I can bring to the table that provides others a window into the world of a waterfront shipbuilder. Simply put, our experiences define us and our work is a reflection of us. Own what you do and ensure that it actually incorporates your experiences, thus allowing it to be a true reflection of who you are.

I Am a Shipbuilder

Tamieka Williams, X06

I am a SHIPBUILDER. These words were spoken by shipbuilders who came before us and are spoken by shipbuilders today. The definition of what it takes to be a shipbuilder of the world's best quality ships was established by the shipyard's legacy 126 years ago. There is ample amount of history stored in these buildings and in the work that we do. Setting the standard is what apprentices have done since 1919 and what we continue to strive to achieve. As we continue to set standards by excelling in areas of scholarship, leadership and craftsmanship, let's not forget who paved the way for us to be where we are. Let us not forget where we are headed. So when we walk through the gates remember, I will be safe, I will continue the legacy and I will strive to be the best.



1st Annual ASSA Veteran's Day Golf Classic

Gary Garner, 038

On November 11, 2012, The Apprentice School Student Association held the 1st Annual Apprentice School Student Association Veteran's Day Golf Classic. Given the nature of our business the ASSA felt that this event would be an excellent platform to pay tribute to those who have served their country in the Armed Forces as well as honor our customer, the US Navy. The ASSA was able to donate \$2,000 to the Newport News Chapter of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter #2, with the support of the Apprentice School Administration, The Operation Division of Newport News Shipbuilding and other local businesses. One hundred golfers participated in the Captain's Choice format at Cypress Creek Golf Course in Smithfield, VA. It was an enjoyable tournament for all who played. This event allowed us all to come together in honor of our Service men and women both past and present.

Not just a resolution; it is a way of life.

By: Dawn Hardister, X06

What does the New Year have in store for you? As 2012 comes to a close, it gives people a chance to reflect on the past year and to ask themselves, "what have I done" and "what can I do better?" Answering questions like these is how New Year's resolutions come about. A goal to improve your life or improve the life of others can be considered a resolution. Some common resolutions people decide on are losing weight, getting out of debt, watching less television, going back to school and volunteering more. Most often, New Year's resolutions begin to fade away after the "newness" has worn off. How can you make resolutions and keep them?

One idea might be to make smaller resolutions that are easier to digest. Instead of saying, "I will lose weight in the New Year," try saying, "I will lose ten pounds in January." This is a more reasonable goal to keep and allows room for smaller goals to be set throughout the rest of the year.

Another idea would be to make your resolution as specific as possible. This will allow you to stay on track with your resolution. If your goal for the New Year is to save for a vacation, you might want to add specifics such as "I will put \$100 per paycheck into a savings account for six months." If you get paid on a weekly basis, this will allow you to save \$2600 for a vacation by summer.

A final idea is to write the goals down. If you put your resolution on paper, it makes it more official. You could even post it in places where you would see it every day, such as a calendar. This will constantly remind you of your goal so it is not forgotten. Be sure to have fun with your resolution and keep it simple and specific. These are just some of the ways that you can make resolutions and keep them.

Hurry Up and Wait

Pierrette Swan, X18

There are many well-known sayings in the shipyard, from "living the dream" to "you've got it made." They've become familiar to us all. One saying that stands out is "hurry up and wait," often referred to as the shipyard motto. With so much going on at all times across all trades, there are often unforeseen issues that won't allow you to finish and sometimes even start your job. However, it's up to you to remain productive even if you may occasionally have to wait to get your job done.

There are several things to consider when "waiting" on your job. Sometimes because more than one trade is scheduled to work in the same area at the same time or you're waiting on supplies. When this happens, and you have to share the time and space, talk to your foreman, talk to your foreman, they may be able to move you to

a different job until the work area is free. Sometimes we have to wait on supplies.

Preparation is key for a job, so plan ahead and help each other set up. Don't assume people know your plan is, they may not know you are waiting on them. Make sure you are always ready. The moment you are able to start work is the second you are needed the most. If you are unable to move to a different job and you must wait, see if there's something that needs to be cleaned.

It doesn't take much to turn a waiting situation into a working situation. If you keep these helpful tips in mind, you can show your value to the shipyard by helping to maintain a productive environment. With proper communication and a good work ethic, "hurry up and wait" becomes "let's get to work!"

Trip to Webb Institute

Dawn Hardister, X06



In September, the Apprentice Chapter of SNAME took a trip to Webb Institute. Webb Institute was founded in 1889 by William H. Webb, a prominent New York shipbuilder. The campus is a former mansion that sits on a 26-acre beachfront estate in Glen Cove, NY. The Institute accepts 83 applicants a year into their 100 percent-covered tuition program. Students are only obligated to pay for room and board as well as books, laptops and software to assist in their class work. They earn a dual degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering. The students log 146 credit-hours during their time on campus.

The trip allowed apprentice students and Webb students a chance to interact and learn from one another. During the trip, the Dean of Webb, Rick Neilson, gave a lecture to the apprentice students on ship design and how to apply practical theories. Don Rickerson, a senior at Webb, gave a campus tour and was a gracious host. His school pride was shadowed only by his passion for nautical and marine applications. Pat Doherty, the lab technician at Webb, allowed the students to participate in the model testing exercise in Webb Institutes' Tow Tank. The Robinson Model Basin is a large tank of water used to test scale models of ships. A guide is used to propel the models through both rough and calm waters. This is used to test performance and gain specific knowledge of how commercial and military hulls will react to different variables. Students collected and crunched data to show what they learned both from the tow tank exercise and the lecture.

During the trip, it became apparent that the students in the apprentice program at Newport News Shipbuilding and the students at Webb Institute had a lot they could learn from one another. The two curriculums have a lot in common such as learning about ship structure, electrical and mechanical aspects as well as technical writing and schematics. Both programs allow hands on training and learning by trial and error. Campus life will soon be a way of life for The Apprentice School as well. The new six acre campus is projected to be complete by late 2013. The new campus paired alongside the 550 acre shipyard will serve as a learning institute like no other.

The future is unknown. It is up to the generation of today to create a path that will guide younger generations into a bright future. Both Webb Institute and The Apprentice School at Newport News Shipbuilding are well underway to paving that path. Here is looking to a bright future that will be created through the synergy the two schools will create together.

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All Good Things Must Come to an End

Ashley Ober, E06/E83

It seems like yesterday when I was walking through the turnstiles lost as could be, searching the shipyard for the Main Machine Shop. My first day in the shipyard was almost five years ago. Today, I am finishing my apprentice time in the Net Center as a Marine Design apprentice.

Through the past five years, I have grown as a person and as a leader. Finishing my time as an apprentice makes me realize just how much The Apprentice School has positively changed my life. Being so close to graduation, getting fitted for my graduation ring and making family plans for graduation weekend, gives me the biggest sense of accomplishment I have ever experienced.

There were days where I wanted to give up; days where I almost threw my hands in the air and ran away, but with influential apprentice instructors, support from my family and friends, as well as that little voice inside my head telling me, "Ashley, rub some dirt on it," I overcame the obstacle and kept on driving. Man, I am glad I did. The Apprentice School offered me a huge opportunity, not only for my career but for my educational future.

As February 23, 2013 quickly approaches, it is finally hitting me that my apprenticeship is over. The thing that I have worked so hard at for the past five years is finally here, graduation! I went from a lost nineteen-year-old girl who didn't even know there was more than one type of metal to a twenty-four year-old woman who designs drawings every day. I have learned so much, experienced more than stories can begin to explain and have grown up so much that I cannot even begin to think of who I would be today without The Apprentice School being a part of my life.

Some advice that I would like to give to apprentices is to never give up, work hard and always take advice from apprentices ahead of you. I would like to sincerely thank Larry Jameson, Mike Reaves, Dan Brookman and Erica McCormick for always steering me in the right direction.

For any comments and/or suggestions please contact Tamiaka Williams, X06

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MOE Award

Tamiaka Williams, X06

The Model of Excellence (MOE) award is awarded to individuals and groups who exemplify the values of Newport News Shipbuilding and exceed expectations for their outstanding performance. The nomination process is a stringent process in which the nominees fall within one of four categories: Leadership, Operational Excellence, Innovation and Technology and Customer Satisfaction. Nominees consist of individuals or groups who have been nominated for work that was executed the previous year. This year, the winners for Operational Excellence included a group of X43 apprentices and their X43 Craft Instructor, Billy Norton.

Operational Excellence recognizes significant improvement in business operations and processes resulting in more competitive cost structures, reduced cycle time and greater efficiency amongst other qualifying factors. The X43 apprentices received the award for their hard work on the CVN 78 Fitted Fasteners Clearance team. The apprentices included Lionel Bailey, Chris Downing and Calvin Holloway. When asked how the award made him feel, Calvin Holloway said, "It is very humbling to receive this award. I feel lucky because a lot of workers that trained me haven't had the opportunity to have their talents recognized on this level. I'm very fortunate to receive it so early in my career." Lionel Bailey said in regards to this achievement, "Quality has always been at the forefront of my job tasks. Being recognized for a job that I do every day is not only rewarding but also fulfilling."

Receiving the shipyards highest honor, MOE, not only adds to your achievements and accolades but it also shows that your work does not go unnoticed. Apprentices should strive to continue to produce quality work, in a timely manner, while also reducing cost. That is the goal of every shipbuilder walking through the gates.

Twelve Months of the Shipyard



On my first year in The Apprentice School my shipyard gave to me...

12 painters painting
11 pipefitters piping
10 grinders grinding

9 planners planning
8 hours of homework
7 zip-ties zipping

6 cranes a lifting
5 DAYS OF VACATION!!!!
4 heater bars

3 drop lights
2 leather gloves
And a whistle blowing at 3:30!!!!

Pierrette Swan, X18