

America Embodied In Steel

A Brief History of the Theodore Roosevelt

Randall Cupp X11

Osama Bin Laden was confident that he dealt a crippling blow to America as tumultuous plumes of smoke ascended into the skies over New York City on September 11, 2001. He thought differently when Al-Qaida began to feel concussive reverberations of airstrikes launched from the USS Theodore Roosevelt. From construction to its deployments, this immense ship's history has deeply resembled the history of the nation that it serves.

Embracing technology and the spirit of innovation has empowered the United States to accomplish incredible achievements such as flight and space travel. This defining spirit was evident in the Roosevelt's construction at the Newport News Shipyard through the use of computer aided design, modular construction techniques, and the new 900 ton gantry crane. Utilizing these innovations yielded a savings of 42.1 million dollars and completion 18 months ahead of schedule.

America's history is intertwined with

events in which it has undertaken the defense of our freedom and the freedom of others. Commencing its first deployment on December 30, 1988, the Theodore Roosevelt has been a pivotal component of this legacy. It has defended the sovereignty of Kuwait through its participation in Operation Desert Storm, contained the tyranny of Saddam Hussein by launching patrol missions over Iraq's no-fly zone, and ended genocide in Kosovo by launching air strikes against Serbian forces during Operation Allied Force. Recently the ship has served in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Currently awaiting overhaul completion at the Newport News Shipyard, the Theodore Roosevelt is once again preparing for the challenges that lie ahead. Its crew is comprised of people with a multitude of backgrounds, working together to protect our freedom and the freedom of others. Existing as more than a carrier, the Theodore Roosevelt is America embodied in steel.

For any comments and/or suggestions please contact Van Gentry

BUILDER BULLETIN
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A smile can be deceiving, but a laugh is proof. A hug can be comforting, but true sympathy is curing. An acquaintance can be helpful, but a friend is influential. Life can be difficult, but life is precious and promising.

- Ashley Ober E58 / E06

The Christening of the California (SSN 781)

Randall Cupp X11



Witnessing today's technical achievements produces awe in many individuals. This awe is easy to see at any rocket launch, racing event, and air show. Recently a select number of shipbuilders, naval personnel, and special dignitaries experienced this emotion during the christening of Virginia Class Submarine California (SSN 781). The eighth sub of her class, the sub serves the United States as a pillar of national defense, and an enduring symbol of the country's manufacturing and technical resolve.

Most guests marveled at the finished product, but what they may not have thought of is the massive amount of construction performed by apprentices. Not only were these students of shipbuilding constructing a world class warship, they were building their own futures as well. The American Dream encompasses many things, but most importantly it entails a stable career. In this instance, apprentices partook in this legendary dream by constructing a ship designed to defend it.



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2010 Year in Review

Van Gentry X33



As we start 2011 I thought it would be wise to spend a few moments and look back over this last year. In 2010 we experienced some mile stones at the apprentice school and we have a lot to be proud of. As I recall these events and mile stones I am reminded of all those who have worked so hard to make the Apprentice School such an outstanding organization. So to everyone that had a part in our successes last year **Thank You!!!**

Here is a partial list of some of the activities and events that were accomplished in 2010.

As a result of the outstanding educational achievements and the strong commitment to student development the Apprentice School received its COE Re-accreditation. (The Council on Occupational Education) The accreditation was issued for a six year term; the longest allowed by the council. This is what proves that we are a stellar educational facility.

2010 also witness the retirement of Dr. Leber, as he turned the reins of The Apprentice School over to a former apprentice graduate Mr. Evert Jordan.

In February 2010, 161 apprentices walked across the stage at the Ferguson Center to celebrate their successful completion of the apprentice program.

The apprentice school also hired 197 new students in 2010 to help fill the company's demand for the best trained and well educated future leaders of the origination.

Apprentices continued to work safe in 2010. The apprentices were able to tally up 8 full weeks with zero accidents and another 12 weeks where 4 of the 5 days were accident free.

At the end of the 2010 school semester the leadership of the school and the company made the decision to supply the text books required for class at no charge. This was welcome information to the students and demonstrated leadership's commitment to providing tools for its students.

The ASSA also sponsored many events like the Spirit of Norfolk Cruse, the Fall Blast, the Christmas Dinner Dance along with trips to sporting events and much more!

The Apprentice School Student Association was very active with charities, such as Relay for Life, Sarah Bonwell Hudgens, the Susan G. Komen Foundation, Fight for the Cure, Gatewood Prep and the Peninsula Rescue Mission just to name a few! For example the Public Relations committee lead by Tommy Richardson was able to raise and contribute \$5,675.00 to local charities, such as Relay for Life, Sarah Bonwell Hudgens, and Susan

G. Komen Foundation Fight for the Cure, Gatewood Peep, and Peninsula Rescue Mission just to name a few. Additionally these volunteers worked with other organizations such as the Langley Speedway Fan Club to help raise additional funds for other local charities.

The students of the apprentice school continue to make meaningful and lasting investments in other ways such as the Jaycees, SME, SNAME, Builder Backers and their local Churches.

The ASSA (Apprentice School Student Association) this year voted to raise the apprenticeship dues. The dues increase is the first of its kind in over 15 years.

Plans for a new Apprentice School building were announced and the developer Armada Hoffler was selected to help move forward on the project.

The student body voted in 2010 and elected the first all female executive council for the ASSA. Ms. Sarah Gentry took over as President in January 2011, along with Angel Deguzman- Avert, Brittany Sheppard, Erica McCormick making up the balance of her cabinet.

A lovely Ms. Beverly Staten was voted 2010 Home Queen. Photos of the event can be found at the on line scrap book. <http://www.nnapprentice.com/assa/SB/Scrapbook.html>

As an apprentice you are encouraged to get engaged with the ASSA as we work together to build Craftsmanship, Scholarship, Leadership, and by the way we also build Friendships. You can contact your craft instructor to find out how to become more active with the ASSA. 2010 was a wonderful and exciting year and 2011 is shaping up to be even better.

Garry Carter:

Passion for Education

Ashley DeBusk X33

After teaching math and science in the public school system for sixteen years, Mr. Carter decided to change course and teach young adults at the Apprentice School. One of his passions is teaching. He is currently working on a doctorate degree in Higher Education Administration. Because of his passion for the students he teaches, he helps each year with the Apprentice School graduation. He credits that as his fondest memories at the Apprentice School so far, because each graduate represents a success story and he gets to witness it firsthand. He has taught math, drafting, ship construction, physics, and DC electrical theory. His dedication is obvious to any student who goes to the extra help sessions after school where he is a familiar figure.

In his free time he likes to hunt and fish and spend time outdoors and at the beach with his family. He "likes being a part of an organization that offers young people great opportunities to do something meaningful with their lives." The advice he offers today's apprentices is: "take advantage of the opportunities the company gives you and take responsibility for your actions. Take your apprenticeship seriously because it is "an opportunity for obtaining a rock solid career full of advancement possibilities. Take extreme pride in the work you do because our service men and women's lives depend on it and they deserve the best we can possibly give them."



CRAFTSMANSHIP SCHOLARSHIP LEADERSHIP

Historical 2011 ASSA Election

Paul Norton E84/E06

This year for the first time in Apprentice School history the Apprentice School Student Association (ASSA) has elected to office all female apprentices. The new 2011 officers are:

complete any item that comes along. In my as role of President I look forward to have the opportunity to incorporate great things into our association.”

- **Angel D. Averett** (O43) Vice President;

Averett is currently a cheerleader for the Apprentice School, and enjoys showing pride for the school. She feels her experience as the ASSA Bylaws Chair and her appointment to ASSA Secretary last year will give her the tools she needs to fulfill her job as Vice-President. Angel would like to communicate to apprentices that she would like to work with the 2011 Executive Council to help increase communication to Apprentices on waterfront

and to provide more events. I take pride in my work and I will give a 110% to fulfill my duties as Vice President.”

- **Erica McCormick** (X31), Treasurer; McCormick was born in Newport News and grew up in Williamsburg and now resides in Hampton. She graduated Lafayette high School, went to college for a while and then came to the shipyard as a design trainee. After graduating McCormick came to the apprentice school in June of 2007 and has been an active delegate since 2008. Soon after she started as a delegate, she had an opportunity to become co-chair for athletics. McCormick soon realized that she enjoyed committing time and energy to

the ASSA. After a year of athletics co-chair, she accepted the spot as chair. She was responsible for handling the sales of the concessions and dry goods at the wrestling tournaments, basketball and football games along with other Apprentice School related events. McCormick said “Once elected treasurer I was excited that we were going to have an all female executive council. This was major history for the apprentice school.” As treasurer McCormick feels that her organization skills, reliability and trustworthiness will allow her to perform an excellent job as the ASSA Treasurer for 2011.

- **Brittany Sheppard** (X32), Secretary. Sheppard started the Apprentice school as an X32 sheet metal worker and was selected for the advanced track Marine Designer program with one year left to graduate. She is a proud mother to her 16 month old son Anthony Thompkins. Last year she served as yearbook chair and was appointed secretary in the last part of the year. Sheppard brings her great organization skills to help the ASSA develop meeting agendas and take concise meeting minutes. She describes herself as “a reliable person, and a team-player”. Sheppard plans to “work together to get the job done with my co-apprentices.”

After the election he new Apprentice School Student Association officers had the opportunity to meet with Vice-President Danny Hunley and his staff. After the meeting President Gentry said “It was comforting to see and hear that no matter what your title is in this company, people are still genuine and down to earth. Almost everyone there let us know that if we ever needed their assistance they would be more than pleased to lend us a hand. That says a lot about someone’s character and to me it also says a great deal about our upper management team here at NGNN.”

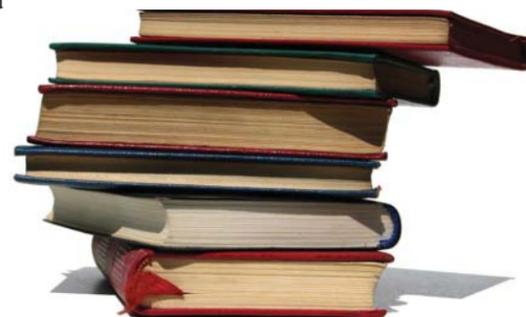
Textbook Deal Eases Financial Strain on Apprentices

Randall Cupp X11

Earning a certificate or degree requires a student to surmount many obstacles. These obstacles can range from a difficult subject to a high work load. One common obstacle shared by traditional college students and shipyard apprentices is the cost of textbooks and other educational materials. The associated stress that comes with paying these books can be a detriment to academic performance. Given the state of the economy, this obstacle is looming larger than ever. Fortunately for apprentices, the shipyard is now picking up the tab.

Beginning January 1st, 2011 the apprentice school will now purchase all required textbooks ranging from the world class curriculum to all

advanced programs. This move institutes massive savings ranging from \$650 for world class curriculum apprentices, to a maximum savings of \$2,500 for advanced engineering apprentices.



A word from The Apprentice Schools new President

Sarah Gentry X11

Welcome, my fellow Apprentices, to the New Year! I would first like to especially thank everyone who voted for me and also those who voted period. For those of you who do not know me, I am an X11 ASOC Apprentice currently working in the Sub Shop. I came to the Apprentice School in September of '07 straight out of



Sarah Gentry X11

Stone Bridge High School in Loudoun County, Va. There, I also attended Monroe Technology Center taking 2 years of Welding and competing in the Skills USA competition in '07. Those two years made a month’s difference in welding school and believe me, it was

worth it! A year or so after I started my apprenticeship I learned about the ASSA from some students sharing information about some upcoming events. I joined the Communications Committee and learned little by little exactly what the ASSA does. After attending events such as the Children’s Fishing Clinic, I really felt an honor in devoting some of my time to help other people’s lives become more enjoyable. After being involved with the council as the Chair for Communications, I realized that I wanted to be a part of every committee and the behind the scenes matters that go on as well. To me, being elected President is no easy task. I want everyone to know that even if you are not a delegate or alternate you can come to me with any ideas for events or anything you would like to see us be more involved in. With that being said I hope every Apprentice will be able to benefit from our plans we have for the future and those not yet brought to our attention.

Apprentice Highlights

Van Gentry X33

The Builder Bulletin team congregates the following apprentices for a job well done. In the area of craftsmanship apprentices and apprentice graduates were recognized by Mr. Gary Werlau, RPM Superintendent. In a message sent to Earnest Nimmo and his crew. “Mechanics Herman Wilson, **Marcus Shelton** (Apprentice Graduate), **Benjamin Smail** (Apprentice), and **Lotoya Mosely** (Apprentice) have all done an excellent job!! There was a lot of preparation and training, as well as long hours by some of you. The results could not have been better. The VCS Program and I personally want to thank you for your dedication, commitment and a job well done.”

Apprentice, **Kelli Vallez** has been recognized for her outstanding work by X18 General Foreman Danny Narron from the VCS Program. “She is always the first to get started after the morning whistle blows. She has the ability to grasp welding processes as well as complex shipbuilding work very quickly. She has set the standard for others to follow, even as a new employee.

X10 General Foreman Jeff Wright reports that second term X11 Apprentice **Titus Key** completed two preassemblies under budget. He worked these jobs independently and without a mate. Mr. Key took ownership of these preassemblies and managed his time, personally tracking his hours, with a goal to come under target.

According to Craft Instructor Alan Riley his apprentice crew in the MOF has done an outstanding job building the main shaft assembly on the USS California. Recently the main shaft seal and emergency seal units were final installed and tested. This is a major milestone in the life of the ship. Apprentice Graduate **Mike Spaulding** and Apprentice **Lucas Ceballos** put the finishing touches on the Emergency seal unit to complete the installation. Apprentices **Lionel Bailey** and **Andrew Crawford** also played a major role in the installation and testing of this important system on the ship. Riley states “Their dedication to first time quality and building clean has made one of the most intricate systems on the boat ready for launch and ready for the ship’s mission”.

Worker by day, parent at night; Tradesman by day, protector at night; Team worker by day, story teller at night. Ship builder by day, person at night.

- Ashley Ober E58 / E06

Networking

James Lipford A572

Getting to know people is one of the most rewarding things that an apprentice can do. There are many different types of people, from all walks of life, that could have an impact on an apprentice’s career. In the shipyard, networking is a vital component, not only to the job, but also to the reputation of a worker. By getting to know people, bonds will be built that will last for years to come while making jobs easier and more enjoyable to work on. Even after graduating, apprentices keep up with old friends that they met while going through the program. They stay active in alumni events to strengthen those bonds. If one of those workers needs a solid reference, they would have plenty of old buddies to call up.

Networking in the work area has an important role to all individuals. By knowing the people in a work area, a worker could ask for material or assistance without the hassle of going around in circles. Going straight to the source saves man hours and simplifies the process.

Networking is a great way to show management an individual’s integrity. By getting to know different people, they will know how that worker operates and carries themselves. So when a position or problem arises, that person will remember that worker and will know if they are a good candidate for the job. Someone who they are unfamiliar with would probably not even be considered. People may wonder how to meet people other than the ones they work with? There are many great opportunities that can help get someone’s name out there and allow them to meet people. The Apprentice School has many different clubs

and events that any apprentice can be a part of and most already are. The Student Association is a big participation group that is the public face for the Apprentice School. They host many big events that a lot of important people attend. Some of the main events are The Christmas Dinner Dance, Spirit of Norfolk Dinner Dance, as well as, trips to major league sporting events.

Getting involved with the school is great exposure and an easy way to meet new people. Overall, networking is a key component in the corporate aspect as well as life.



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