



BUILDER BULLETIN

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE APPRENTICE SCHOOL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

July 2007

Improvement: A Personal Endeavor

By Charles Williamson X43

Change is the essence of life. Be willing to surrender what you are for who you could become.
-Unknown

There is an inherent sense of pride that stems from building ships, and more so, from being an apprentice. When someone asks me, "What do you do for a living?" I respond, almost pretentiously, "I'm an apprentice of shipbuilding." I don't find it difficult to say, nor should I. Not many people can speak these words.

Nearly six years have past since the day I first set foot on a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and was awed by the "floating fortress." I took to shipbuilding like a fish to water, soaking up every bit of knowledge, taking advantage of every opportunity to learn a new skill or be introduced to a new system. Quite simply, I desired to be the best mechanic. Sometimes, I actually argued that point, however, this "ego-mechanic" had a difficult lesson to learn about (what it meant to be the best) being the best.

More often than I'd like to admit, I found myself in confrontations that ultimately dissolved relationships with the people that I might one day need. What was wrong? It couldn't be me; I was passionate about my work. That was my resolve. The answer eluded me, and I remained comfortable in

my ignorance. Reluctant to take responsibility of the matter, I continued to view everyone else as substandard.

In passing, I mentioned my irritation to a foreman who taught me a great deal about shipbuilding. With every bit of sincerity he said to me, "Just because you are a good mechanic doesn't make you a good leader." Humbled by his words, I retreated to digest every sour syllable.

Life is change. Growth is optional. Choose wisely.
-Karen Kaiser Clark

At that moment I made the conscious decision to cease the selfish quest to be the best mechanic and began the selfless journey of improving as a leader – a role I quickly discovered I had much to learn about (Thanks Baze!). I could have remained stagnant, but one thing I admire more than change is growth. I began to recall the many instances where I had been placed in a leadership position and squandered the opportunity. I was seeing the world through a different lens, and be that as it may, I now understand that improvement is a process which takes time. So, needless to say, I'm still in confrontation today, fighting my problems, not my people.

You cannot change your destination overnight, but you can change your direction overnight.
-Jim Rohn.

Apprentice Baseball Win

by Stephen Bonneau X11

The Apprentice School baseball team has played in United States Collegiate Athletic Association National Championships in St. Petersburg, Fla. for a total of eight years. Every year they have competed at a high level but this year was different. This year they brought home the big win. It was a close game but with two outs in the bottom of the ninth freshman James Denny (X42) got a two-run single that scored Tomerris Cato-Dixon (X18) and J.D. Drewry (X11) to give the Builders the win defeating Presentation College by a score of 4-3 on May 10. "What a special team this is," said Apprentice School Head Coach Bryan Cave. "To come back the way we did against a team like Presentation is something that anyone associated with this team and school will always remember. We have come down here with stronger teams, but

the way this team showed so much heart in the last month of the season winning 14 of our last 16, I could not be prouder."



The team celebrated their win with Cave taking them all out to dinner. Ryan Scott (X32) was named MVP of tournament and was joined on the All-Tournament team by Kyle Center (X15), Mike Nelson (X42) and James Denny (X42). Apprentices

earning USCAA All-American honors included Ryan Scott, Kyle Center, James Denny and junior Joe Tugwell(X42). Senior Harding Epps (X11) was named to the USCAA Academic All-American team. Scott, Epps, Dixon and Matt Marshall (X42) are all seniors and are making this their last year. Congratulations to the Builders on their storybook victory.

APPRENTICE SPOTLIGHT

By Eric Kilner E06

This month I had a chance to sit down with Rob Hendrickson, an E06 Design Apprentice in his first rotation. Rob is currently working in E64 Aircraft Carrier Overhaul Engineering. He's currently working on CVN 65 at Rouse Towers.

What semester are you in?

I'm in the 7th semester.

When did you start your apprenticeship?

I started my apprenticeship on Aug. 14th 2004.

What trade did you choose when you began your apprenticeship?

I chose X-42 as my trade when I entered the yard.

What inspired you to apply to the Apprentice School?

I wanted a career that I could excel in and use to support my family. The opportunities the Apprentice School could provide were too great to pass up.

What parts of the yard have you been rotated through?

I have rotated through the steel pipe shop, carrier new construction, pre-commissioning work on the Texas, and submarine new construction in the CMAF as an X-42 Pipefitter. I'm currently working in E64, carrier overhaul.

What has been one of the hardest obstacles to overcome in your apprenticeship?

The hardest obstacle I've overcome as an apprentice has been maintaining my strong work ethic in the worst conditions. Working in the shipyard can be very difficult, but I knew that if I kept working hard and doing my best, it would all pay off.

Are there any one or two faculty members who have made a lasting impression on your life? Why?

One faculty member who has made a lasting impression on my life is Pat Krystyn, my apprentice instructor on the CVN 77. He made me feel confident in a very unfamiliar place and showed me that my hard work was not being taken for granted. I will always appreciate that.

What do you plan to use your apprenticeship for?

I plan on staying with the yard my whole career. I am grateful for the opportunities given to me and am looking forward to making the best of the knowledge I've gained throughout my apprenticeship.

What part of your current job do you enjoy most?

Working in E64 has been a great experience. The best part of my job is going down to the ship and seeing the work that has been accomplished because of something I wrote. The work is always challenging and I rarely get bored.

Harrall's Highlights

By Shakirah Harrall X18



This month's highlight is a "Then & Now". Looking at the pictures, you may have guessed that the "Then and Now" person is Mr. John Maxey of O22. Oh Wow! He still looks wonderful kneeling down next to the coach. Mr. Maxey has been working in the yard since 1987 and has been playing golf for 23 years. He began as an X32 sheet

metal apprentice and graduated from the Apprentice School as a member of the Class of 1991. Throughout the years he has served the company in quite a number of jobs including Logistics (formerly E75), Planner in the Crane Engineering Facility, Cost Engineer, and he is currently serving as an Academic Instructor and Golf Head Coach at the Apprentice School. Mr. Maxey is a role model to all apprentices and serves as an example of the endless road of opportunity here in the shipyard.



Homecoming Queen

ALL FEMALE APPRENTICES, EXCEPT THOSE ON ACADEMIC PROBATION, ARE ELIGIBLE TO BE A CONTESTANT FOR HOMECOMING QUEEN. THE HOMECOMING COURT SHALL BE COMPOSED OF A QUEEN AND FOUR ATTENDANTS. THE QUEEN AND ATTENDANTS WILL BE ELECTED BY THE APPRENTICE SCHOOL STUDENT ASSOCIATION. THOSE INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR HOMECOMING QUEEN SHOULD PICK UP AN APPLICATION FROM TONY JONES O22 (ASSA FACULTY ADVISOR). GET YOUR APPLICATIONS SOON. HOMECOMING IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 8TH.

BUILDER BROADCAST

Upcoming Activities

REGAL MOVIE TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW IN THE APPRENTICE SCHOOL MAIN OFFICE FOR \$5 PER PERSON. LIMIT 2 TICKETS PER APPRENTICE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

July

16TH POOL TOURNAMENT

TEXAS HOLD 'EM TOURNAMENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND OUR CONTROL. IT HAS BEEN TENTATIVELY RESCHEDULED FOR SEPTMEBER 15TH. TICKETS ARE STILL ON SALE IN THE APPRENTICE SCHOOL MAIN OFFICE. WATCH THE BUILDER BULLETIN EACH MONTH FOR MORE DETAILS.

21ST ATLANTIC CITY TRIP

TICKETS WENT ON SALE MONDAY MAY 14TH FOR THE APPRENTICE SCHOOL TRIP TO ATLANTIC CITY. THERE ARE 46 TICKETS AVAILABLE AT \$35/PERSON. LIMIT 2 PER APPRENTICE. EACH PERSON WILL RECEIVE A RIDE TO ATLANTIC CITY, \$22 DOLLARS IN RETURN UPON ARRIVAL, AND A MEAL VOUCHER OF APPROXIMATELY \$25 - \$30. PAYROLL DEDUCTION IS AVAILABLE. TICKETS ON SALE IN THE A-SCHOOL MAIN OFFICE. FOR MORE INFO CONTACT BOBBY MCNEELY X42.

28TH TIDES GAME AT HARBOR PARK

JOIN US AT HARBOR PARK TO SUPPORT THE NORFOLK TIDES AS THEY FACE OTTAWA LYNX AT 7:15 PM. TICKETS WILL BE \$5 PER PERSON, NO LIMIT. 100 TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE. TICKETS GO ON SALE MONDAY MAY 14TH IN THE A-SCHOOL MAIN OFFICE. PAYROLL DEDUCTION IS AVAILABLE. FOR MORE INFO CONTACT BRIAN BOWMAN M53.

August

4TH SPIRIT OF NORFOLK

TICKETS WILL BE \$30 PER PERSON OR 2 TICKETS FOR \$50. TICKETS WENT ON SALE JUNE 11TH. LIMIT OF TWO TICKETS PER APPRENTICE. PAYROLL DEDUCTION IS AVAILABLE. TICKETS ON SALE IN THE A-SCHOOL MAIN OFFICE. FOR MORE INFO CONTACT BRIAN BOWMAN M53.

18TH A-SCHOOL FAMILY PICNIC AT GOSNOLD PARK

SNAME WILL BE HOSTING A FACE PAINTING BOOTH AND A VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT. THE APPRENTICE SCHOOL JAYCEES WILL BE DOING THE COOKING. COST IS \$1 PER TICKET. ANY A-SCHOOL ACTIVITY GROUPS WHO WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE OR HOST AN EVENT, OR IF YOU WOULD JUST LIKE MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT CAMERON VAUGHT E06.

September

8TH HOMECOMING

COME ON OUT AND SUPPORT THE BUILDERS AS THEY HOST FROSTBURG STATE IN OUR ANNUAL HOMECOMING FESTIVAL. THE ASSA IS PLANNING TO HOST A CARNIVAL FOR ALL WHO ATTEND. FOR MORE DETAILS GO TO apprenticeschool.com.

29TH ORIOLES GAME

COME ON OUT TO THE BALL GAME AS THE ORIOLES HOST THE NY YANKEES IN A LATE SEASON CONTEST THAT MAY HAVE PLAYOFF IMPLICATIONS AT STAKE. THERE ARE 46 TICKETS AVAILABLE AT \$30 PER PERSON. LIMIT OF 2 TICKETS PER APPRENTICE. THE BUS WILL LEAVE AT 8:00 AM. TICKETS GO ON SALE IN THE APPRENTICE MAIN OFFICE MONDAY JULY 16TH. FOR MORE INFO CONTACT ERIC KILNER E06.



Relay for Life

By Shakirah Harfall X18

On May 11, 2007 the Apprentice school ASSA teamed with the NGNN Beacons in the annual Relay for Life walk-a-thon. Their tasks during the event consisted of helping with the set up and sale of a myriad of items the proceeds of which were to go toward the relay and the patients they assist. The Northrop Grumman Newport News Beacons have raised over \$8000 with their "Light the Way to a Cure" campaign. With the help of a handful of apprentice volunteer's they managed to raise over \$300 for the walk-a-thon. The Beacons and their "The Light the Way to a Cure" volunteers are part of the Grand Club and have qualified to be a Silver Team for the donations they have raised on behalf of the Relay for Life.



Apprentices on the Front

By Carlton Ballard X11

My deployment to the Middle East is about to come to an end. I can't actually tell you all the details that I do in my operations, because my mission is based on confidentiality. I arrived in the country on July 27, 2006 and my mission will end July 20, 2007. I served two years overseas in Operation Enduring Freedom. My first deployment was in the year of 2004-2005. I want my fellow apprentices to know that I'll be home soon and that I'm doing really well. Expect my arrival back at work and in class after Labor Day. The hardest part about being deployed is missing out on life. Thanks for the letters, see you soon.

BUILDER BULLETIN STAFF

Loren Armis, X11

Christie Blow, X33

Stephen Bonneau, X11

Shakirah Harrell, X18

Eric Kilner, E06, Editor-in-Chief

Andrew Weiss, X11

Charles Williamson, X43

DESIGN

029 Graphic Arts