



BUILDER

BULLETIN

A BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE APPRENTICE SCHOOL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 4

From the Ashes

James Lipford A572

The Apprentice School has been an integral component of the shipyard that has lasted the test of time. Although most of the trades in the yard have apprentice programs that are holding strong and have stayed consistent, there is one place that has had its ups and downs, the Foundry. A few years ago the Foundry was on the verge of being shut down. A vast majority of technical knowledge had slowly been withering away by gradual change of times and many craftsmen retiring. The Molding apprenticeship ended in the late 1970s because most graduate apprentices moved on to other opportunities inside the yard. Even though most thought the Molding apprenticeship was a liability, the company set a plan in

motion to resurrect the glory and performance of its former years by reinstating the program.

Following the past 20 years of workload decline, the Foundry apprentice program was reinstated to create a better base for the department to grow on. Currently seven apprentices work in the Foundry, and five of them will be the first graduating apprentices in 20 years. With this new platform to build on, a more solid structure is starting to form. Old techniques that were used many years ago are now being brought back and used by the Apprentices. For example, the plug technique hasn't been used since the late 70s and is now being used for large copper nickel jobs. The products have

been showing that the Apprentice influence has been paying off. Even the demeanor of the work environment has substantially changed. There is now more unity among the workers which encourages production.

Foundry apprentices have submitted numerous OFIs, and many have been approved, which demonstrates apprentices' commitment to learn skills for their jobs and process improvement. Even though a substantial amount of progress has been made, much remains to be done before desirable results can be accomplished. The reinstatement of the Foundry's apprenticeship program is a good step in the right direction.



Then & Now

Ashley DeBusk X33

As you go through your apprenticeship, you start thinking of different positions that you would like to see yourself getting promoted into some day in the future. Some of us get promoted as soon as we graduate, others may wait for the right job to come along. One of our most recent graduates Michael Hopkinson received the Homer L Ferguson award when he walked in February 2010. Today he is currently working as an X31 trades Administration Foreman. When I asked Michael some questions about his job, this is what he had to say, "I do enjoy my job now, but it is definitely a lot different than working with my tools. I get to see what goes on in the background of my trade, and am involved in training development, safety concerns, and all other aspects that make up X31". Michael came out of the Apprentice school in 2010, after completing one year at Thomas Nelson Community College. When I asked Mr. Hopkinson if he would like to progress in his career his response was, "I do actually see myself in a different position in the future. I would like to take up an Apprentice Instructor position if one becomes available, but I will take a water front foreman job if not. Ultimately, I see myself as a CPA in the future, since that is what I am going to school for." Some advice from Michael Hopkinson for any apprentice is "One of the most important things you can do during your apprenticeship is network with as many people as you can, and make good impressions on anyone you come in contact with. Have a great work ethic, even if you don't enjoy your job. You never know where a person will be in the future, and people remember good impressions and great work ethic. Also, continue your education and take advantage of the great tuition reimbursement program the company has."

Interview with Chris Hartman (K76): Modeling and Sim Apprentice Graduate

Paul Norton E84/E06

What previous level of school have you completed?

I have an Associate of Applied Science in Electronics Engineering Technology from ITT Technical Institute in Seattle, Washington. By now, apprentices graduating from the Advanced M& S Program will receive an Associate Degree in Computer Engineering. When I went through, the program was still rather nebulous, so the path was not laid, and I have not yet earned the required credits for that degree.

Do you enjoy your job now?

Very much and every day is different. Sometimes I work at my desk, other times I am down in ASIC working with our test-bed on a giant screen. I get to fire lasers at helicopters or fly an F18 through the Grand Canyon. I also get to write code, travel and learn new software applications. I have been exposed to many new things and have a newfound affection for computers, networking and coding. I get to solve problems using research, creativity and trial and error. Most recently, I learned how to create a screen cast because my supervisor wanted a video for a mid-year review. This is not a job for someone who needs a lot of direction. I have to teach myself how to do things all the time. In addition, this type of work requires patience, especially with overcoming frustration when something is not working. This is a job where I can frequently see the results of my efforts and feel proud of my accomplishments. I am challenged constantly, which is a hallmark of a good job.

What steps did you have to take to get to where you are now?

When I was first hired at the shipyard, I bought a second alarm clock and started getting to bed earlier. This helped me the most during my first years in the yard and in the Apprentice School; I was almost never late, I had energy, and I think the extra sleep helped my brain work better. I also studied a lot. It was easier for me without kids and my respect goes out to the people in school with children at home. I did not start out as an apprentice. I applied at the shipyard and got a job as a test electrician in the MOF. I spent a lot of time doing temporary services, a job I enjoyed very much. It was there I learned about The Apprentice School and the opportunities afforded to apprentices. I applied, and after nine months at the yard, I transferred into the Apprentice School. I remember deciding not to worry too much about shop grades early on, but I always tried to ask what I could do to get higher grades next time; I think it shows interest. It came time for Advanced Selection, and Benjamin Price and I were chosen as "guinea pigs" for the Modeling and Simulation Advanced Program.

What made you decide to choose modeling and simulation?

Well, I will still go on record suggesting that it was predestined. I always assumed I wanted to go design. In reality, I did not really know what design meant; it seemed closest to a technological arena. I remember sitting at the Advanced Selection Meeting at The Apprentice School when Mr. Tilman introduced a new program called modeling and simulation. I put it as my first choice and one day on my way out to my car in the North Yard, got the call from Mr. Tilman telling me I was chosen for it. I participated at an Advanced Selection Meeting once a few years ago as a representative of the M&S Program, and I am still a little embarrassed about my lackadaisical attitude. I might have robbed those apprentices of the opportunity to hear more about this program. I want to convey that I believe this is an opportunity for people who want to learn, not necessarily for those who already know. I also want to convey that I have found this to be second to only The Apprentice School itself as the most unbelievable professional opportunity I could have ever imagined for myself. Keep in mind, this is a highly technical arena, so if you do not want to like computers, this is not for you. Moreover, there might be more overtime in other areas of the yard.

Do you see yourself in a different position in the future?

Absolutely, but I am not exactly sure what that is going to be. Primarily, I want to grow my technical knowledge and skill-sets, but I also want to become a stronger leader. I have learned that I cannot do anything on my own, and being able to work with and around others is beneficial to accomplishing great things. Part of what is exciting in this area of the yard is that K76 is still growing, much like Modeling and Simulation itself. We are in an R&D environment, so I feel that we are creating jobs as we go along. Who knows what is going to be available in the future? The Advanced Apprentice programs are good examples of that. Part of what I want to do is to help others succeed. The Apprentice School works very hard to help us succeed. That is rare.

When did you start your apprenticeship?

I started my apprenticeship July 2004. I started in the yard in October 2003.

What trade did you choose when you applied for The Apprentice School?

Based on The Apprentice School's description, I chose X31. I thought the shipboard electrician trade would offer me the opportunity to work on different types of equipment including electronics, while at the same time honing and growing my electrician's skill set.

What inspired you to apply to The Apprentice School?

I did not know about The Apprentice School until I came into the yard. I would see groups of people with their backpacks mustering together in the morning in the MOF, and when I asked someone who they were, I was told they were apprentices. My first supervisor in X31, Don Richardson, was a graduate, and he strongly recommended the program. Another electrician who had been at the yard for some time told me that if he were going to come through the shipyard again, he would do it as an apprentice. I thought, "If I am going to do the shipyard, the best way seems to be as an apprentice." I never imagined how much more there was in store.

What part of the yard are you currently working in?

I am currently working in the Virginia Advanced Shipbuilding and Carrier Integration Center (VASCIC). I am working under Northrop Grumman Advanced Capabilities Group in K76 - Platform Integration and Concept of Operations.

What was your first impression of the shipyard?

That sub is big. I was constantly afraid of walking in a dangerous place and not knowing it. In addition, the video was right; we do have to walk a long way and work in all types of weather with all types of people.

What do you plan to use your apprenticeship for?

Well, it has been the launching pad for an amazing life. Working at the shipyard affects so much of my life. My wife will tell you that the stories and the experiences you have given me are unreal and amazing. Working at this shipyard and in the apprenticeship program has allowed me to be a part of things, to do things and to accomplish things I never would have been able to on my own. I am going to use my apprenticeship to show others that there is hope and opportunity.

What part of your current job do you enjoy most?

The learning; the constant growth; mystery solving; and what I call "mini-successes." Also working for Northrop Grumman, I have to say has tons of benefits for which I also feel lucky. I am lucky right now even to say "I have a job," you know?

Welder's Day

*Arcing burning molten metal,
Weaving pushing pulling striking,
Plate by plate, pipe by pipe a great ship is welded.
Solid silent wind, waiting for its turn, as
Tears of sweat drip down "my" face.
The final bead is set in place.*

- Andrew Kunk

The Fourth Ship

Kasey Miller X42

Coming into the shipyard through The Apprentice School is a challenging experience. It is a brand new world full of unfamiliarity. For many apprentices, it is the first time that they will put on a hard hat and lace a pair of steel toed boots. They are learning skills and being trained to perform operations that are foreign to them. Along with learning something new, comes days that test a novice craftsmen's patience. A bad day can leave an apprentice irritable, frustrated, and questioning if they will be able to master the task at hand. Times like these not only build character, but they build friendships. The camaraderie that is developed through the journey of being an apprenticeship is important and unique.

The first couple of weeks as a new apprentice can be the most stressful. During orientation new hires are inundated with new information involving safety, procedures, rules and regulations. Adding to the anxiety is the fact that some of the most influential people at The Apprentice School are presenting this information. Apprentices share their nervousness and excitement with their peers, and it becomes a big part of what gets them through. After orientation, apprentices are sent out into the yard to learn skills and to receive the qualifications of their prospective trades. They are likely to experience a rough day learning a skill in their apprentice gallery or being trained to weld stainless steel vertically in welding school. Apprentices turn to each other in their frustration for someone to relate to, someone who gives them guidance, or someone who can just make them laugh. New bonds of friendship begin to form and the old are strengthened.

As important as these early friendships are in an apprentice's career, they will be tested. For many apprentices, rotations will separate them from their closest peers. However, this is an opportunity for apprentices to build new relationships and learn from them. A rotation is a new environment and a fresh opportunity for challenges. The new-found friendships will still provide apprentices with the support system that they need, but they will be able to learn a great deal from their new colleagues that have already been in the rotation for months.

No matter what trade an apprentice is in or how long he has been in The Apprentice School, relationships with peers are important. They give one another someone to relate to, someone to guide them and someone to help the day go by faster. Apprentices should aim to keep the friendships that they have already built while constructing new ones along the way. Although The Apprentice School focuses on building three kinds of ships, craftsmanship, leadership and scholarship, adding friendship can make the experience even more rewarding.

Dr. Alicia Uzzle

Paul Norton

Dr. Alicia Uzzle teaches algebra, geometry, physics and mechanics The Apprentice School. Dr. Uzzle's educational background is all here in Virginia. She graduated from Chincoteague High School, which is on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. At Hampton University, Dr. Uzzle completed her B.A. in physics in 1993, M.S. in physics in 1995 and her Ph.D. in physics in 2002. She also did research at Jefferson Lab in Newport News. Soon after completing her post-doctoral work at Hampton University she came to The Apprentice School. Dr. Uzzle enjoyed research, but education and training also fit her career choice. Her interest in The Apprentice School was piqued by conversations with her husband Robert Uzzle, Jr. (AS Class of '93) and Quelly Boney, a former Apprentice School instructor.

Dr. Uzzle's first experiences with apprentices came in 2003 when she taught as an adjunct professor at Thomas Nelson Community College. Dr. Uzzle enjoys teaching apprentices in the classroom and hearing about their trades as well learning from her Colleagues. When not hard at work, Dr. Uzzle likes to spend time with family and friends and to be a "weekend warrior," attacking home improvement projects. Graduation is one of Dr. Uzzle's favorite parts of the Apprentice School. She looks forward to watching the graduating apprentices walk proudly across the stage. Dr. Uzzle offers the following advice to apprentices: "I would tell any apprentice to work hard, exhibit pride and integrity in every task and be inquisitive."



Children's Fishing Clinic, What a Great Success

Gentry X33

The 15th Annual Children's Fishing Clinic, was held on July 17th at the James River Fishing Pier. Apprentice Students and Apprentice Alumni, operating together with other community volunteers labored to make this community outreach and mentorship program a very special day for over 250 children. Everyone had a splendid time especially the children who were able to keep the fishing rod as a souvenir of their experience.

The builder Bulletin wants to say a special thank you to all the Apprentice Students and Apprentice Alumni volunteers who helped make this event so special for everyone.

Other photos are available at The Apprentice Alumni Scrap book page.

<http://www.nnapprentice.com/alumni/SB/Scrapbook.htm>



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Craftsmanship Under Pressure

Randall Cupp X11

Serving the shipyard requires apprentices to work diligently to complete their tasks correctly the first time. After all, performance is constantly evaluated. Daily tasks also have to be completed by a certain deadline, and these deadlines can cause immense challenges. Apprentices strive to satisfy their supervisors by completing jobs on time. Sometimes they are assigned to high pressure jobs in which they have minimal experience. These challenges serve as fundamental tool in determining what kind of craftsmen apprentices will become. When confronted with this type of situation, consider the following options.

When confronted with a high priority job, apprentices have the choice of rushing the job just to get it “done” or slowing down and being thorough. The first approach often leads to mistakes, additional work and a disappointed supervisor. The second approach requires taking extra time to survey the job, asking questions and double checking the work. Being thorough may increase the duration of the project by a small amount of time; however, the time is minimal compared to the amount needed for rework and, in the worst case, a critique. When building the greatest warships in the world, an apprentice’s track record is everything-including his or her future. It is up to them if they want a record of quality work or one filled with rework.



The Leadership and staff of the Builders Bulletin congratulate the following apprentices on their promotions.

Burnell Manners, X32, Class of 2009 to Production Planning and Scheduler

Tasha Beale, X31, Class of 2010 to Production Planning and Scheduler

Upenda Morton, X36, Class of 2009 to Quality Analyst

Chase Shelton, X11, Class of 2009 to Foreman

Jeff Bilodeau, X11, Class of 2009 to Apprentice Craft Instructor

Justin Rayburn, X43, Class of 2007 to Production Planning Scheduler

Shameka Warren, X42, Class of 2010 to Production Planning and Scheduler

Edgar McKinney Jr, X31, Class of 2009 to Production Planning and Scheduler

Stanford Johnson, X43, Class of 2009 to Production Planning and Scheduler

Rodney Spady, X42, Class of 2009 to Production Planning and Scheduler

Clarence Mallory Jr, X11, Class of 2009 to Quality Analyst

Life is hard and sometimes a challenge. They never told us it would be this hard when we were kids. Even though life has its mountains that we must climb, there are always little moments that make it all worthwhile. A thing that may be harder is realizing when the little moments happen so that they can be cherished, captured and saved forever; they are what makes life easy during the whole time while!

The sun comes up, the sun goes down. A day goes by, another day down. Night shows up, we lay down. Life flies by, so cherish it now.

- Ashley Ober E58 / E06

Vital Roles

Andrew Kunk X18

Apprentices play a strong role in representing this company. From a business standpoint they should view themselves not as men and women, but as ladies and gentlemen. There are two things that come to mind when we hear the words, ladies and gentlemen, we think of an introduction to an event or a southern dinner party where the gentlemen stand when the lady enters the room. There are vital roles to play regarding these terms. It may not be as whimsical as a southern dinner party, but at least in a chivalric fashion. Language is a strong indicator that separates the men from the gentlemen and the women from the ladies. Words like ma’am and sir should be used at all times to represent respect for that individual. Curse words should never be used, such that these words hurt individuals’ morals and self-worth. Any other ill related talk that would affect the values of this company along with the values of its employees should be eliminated. You wouldn’t want anyone talking poorly about you, especially if it is not true. Apprentices must use the number one rule embedded in our ears and our hearts as young kids, this rule is the Golden Rule.

“Everything happens for a reason... a reason we cannot explain.. but a reason... we may not see the reason now... but sometime, some when, it will all make sense, I think, so for that, I am thankful to the fullest extent, for anything that a reason gives me in life.”

- Ashley Ober E58 / E06

Become A Builder Backer

Kasey Miller, X42

Many apprentices at The Apprentice School are athletes. After spending a full work day on the waterfront performing labor intensive job functions, apprentices spend their afternoons and evenings pushing their physical limitations at practice. Their love and dedication for the sport provides The Apprentice School the opportunity to become publically known. In addition, sporting events offer apprentices who do not play sports the chance to leave their tool bags and come together to have a good time.

Apprentices should support the hardworking individuals who comprise The Apprentice School athletic teams. Support can be given by simply coming to games and rooting for coworkers. An even better way to show support is to become a member of The Apprentice School Athletic Club. The club promotes and supports The Apprentice School Athletic Program and offers many benefits to its members. Members receive free admission to all of the home football games. Members are also invited to special events such as pregame cookouts and open houses.

Membership is \$25 for an individual or \$35 for a family, and payroll deduction is available. Membership applications and payroll deduction forms are available at:

http://www.gobuilders.com/Apprentice_Athletic_Club/AAC_Information.

Never Give Up, Trust Me, You Will Not Regret It

Ashley Ober E58 / E06

Have you ever had those days where you just want to turn in your badge and walk out the gate? I know I have. When I first started at The Apprentice School, I had no clue what I was doing. Well informed and influential leaders helped me to get to where I am today. I did not quit The Apprentice School or leave the shipyard, obviously, but I have accomplished the task of being chosen for the Marine Design advanced program. I know there are days that seem like nothing can go right, but things can only get better, I promise. From my experience, I look back and laugh at the days that seemed so hard a few years ago, enjoy the memories that I have obtained from the experience and realize that experiences that seemed so bad then have made me a stronger person today.

Days in our field of work all over the yard can be challenging, but the importance of our everyday tasks builds us into better shipbuilders and stronger individuals. Balancing thoughts of home with work is even more challenging, especially in the detail oriented profession of shipbuilding. The key to getting through difficult situations and hard times is to receive helpful advice from friends, other apprentices, co-workers and craft instructors. There is a good chance that someone you know has already experienced the same problem before and knows the answer. Building submarines and aircraft carriers is a job that requires team work. With saying that, we are all working together, so we have to rely on each other when we have issues with our work and with our jobs.

When you have those bad days, please just grin and bear it because things will eventually work out for the best. Everything happens for a reason. With the goal of learning in difficult situations and meeting new people, never give up when there are bumps in the road, or as shipbuilders might understand more, when there is a hole in the ship.

The First Apprentice Director

Andrew Kunk, X18

John Milton Pirkle was the first apprentice graduate to become director of The Apprentice School. Pirkle was a respected figurehead in The Apprentice School. He could relate to the winter wind and the summer heat as students came bundled up or drenched in sweat to class. He knew the difficulty of studying all night for a test, waking up early for work and then test after a hard day. Pirkle worked hard to get to his position as director and helped apprentices along the way.

Mr. Pirkle began his apprenticeship with the company in 1941; he started as a hull shipfitter and became a journeyman in August 1943. John's apprenticeship was interrupted in 1944 for World War II, and he served our country in the Army from July 1944 until February 1946. Mr. Pirkle played football as an apprentice and later became business manager for athletics. He helped to re-develop the athletic program after the end of World War II. After the war, John became a hull draftsman on April 1, 1946 and continued until graduation in 1948. Upon completion of The Apprentice School, John attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology and earned his graduate degree. John returned in 1953 and became an instructor in The Apprentice School. John became assistant director of education and training in 1963. Pirkle then continued to teach after taking this position. In 1970, he was named director of education and training, and served in that role until 1975 when he became director of The Apprentice School. He was distinguished by his colleagues John Stokes as "one of the best" and Frank Satchell as "a fair-minded person, who was willing to listen to his colleagues and staff." John was a remarkable instructor with great communication skills.

John was described by his students as a friend rather than a teacher. John would take the time for any apprentice regardless of the problem; whether it was personal, academic or professional. He was down to earth, helpful and respected by his students. Butch Adams most memorable experience in class with Pirkle goes as follows. "In my day we had class immediately after lunch. In those days (1969) lunch was an hour long. I had gone over to Nick's Busy Bee and consumed a substantial lunch. It was summertime and warm in the class room. I don't remember what course Mr. Pirkle was teaching, but I will always remember the piece of chalk he whistled and rattled about my head as I nodded off in the back of the class. As I bolted upright in my seat, and opened my eyes, Mr. Pirkle was staring a hole right through me as he says in a voice loud enough to penetrate my hazy brain, 'Mr. Adams, don't you think you might want to step outside and get a drink of water?' To which I replied, 'that's an excellent idea Mr. Pirkle!' After a refreshing drink, I managed to stay conscious the remainder of that and every other class I had with him." Along with his qualities he was quite humorous. Robert Hall, a former student, remembers "The graduation of 1972 when Mr. Pirkle wore a dark suit, black shoes and pink laces. What a guy."

If you look upon his illustrious career, we can see that John Pirkle went above and beyond his apprenticeship. He started like most apprentices and through hard work and dedication became director of The Apprentice School.



Russell Derring & his Girlfriend

Oldest Living Apprentice Still Active

Van Gentry X33

A special thank you goes out to The Apprentice Alumni President Tom Gentry for inviting the apprentices to this year's Annual Crab Feast. This year marked the first year current apprentices were invited to attend the event. Several apprentices were in attendance this year, and they were able to meet many of the company's current and past leadership. A great time was had by everyone. Of all the people present, one person stood out in the crowd. Russell S. Derring (Class of 1934) was present and had a great time along with his girlfriend, Jeanette Chandler.

Derring is the oldest living Apprentice School graduate. Derring submitted his application for apprenticeship on November 8, 1929 and started his apprenticeship four days later on November 12. As recorded in a memorandum to Homer L. Ferguson, Derring completed his apprenticeship on March 17, 1934 as a plumber. After serving the company in various assignments and with a stellar 38 year career, Derring retired from the company in 1972. What was most notable is that Mr. Derring is 99 years old and can still make it out to the Apprentice Alumni events.

Make plans now to attend next year's Crab Feast and have a blast with our Apprentice School alumni.



Interview with Benjamin Price: Modeling and Sim Apprentice Graduate

Paul Norton E84/E06

When did you start your apprenticeship?

I started my apprenticeship on November 11, 2004.

What trade did you choose when you applied for the Apprentice School?

My selection order of trades was electrician and pipefitter. I was offered the pipefitter trade, which I accepted. It's the best trade in the yard!

What was your first impression of the shipyard?

This is really construction! Construction is going on all over the place.

What previous level of school have you completed?

I have a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Alcorn State University. I also have completed the Modeling and Simulation (M&S) Apprenticeship.

Do you enjoy your job now?

I truly enjoy working in the modeling and simulation discipline for the Department K76. Currently, I'm working in Bldg 905 (VASCIC). The job has been a very challenging and educational experience.

What steps did you have to take to get to where you are now?

Faith was the most important step. But outside of that, I feel that I stayed focused, dedicated, responsible and self-driven.

What made you decide to choose modeling and

simulation?

I attended college to be in the computer science field. Computers science is one discipline of M&S. With industry placing a greater demand for M & S capabilities, it was obvious that I may have a brighter future in this area of work. Plus M&S gives people the ability to solve problems, and I'm a problem solver by nature.

What do you plan to use your apprenticeship for?

I will use my apprenticeship as a building block for my career. The apprenticeship enabled me to become adaptable and to meet many people from different backgrounds. I will continue to use my apprenticeship for networking and helping other apprentices.

What part of your current job do you enjoy most?

My job provides me with many different challenges and responsibilities, and it provides me the opportunity to stay familiar with today's newest technology.

Do you see yourself in a different position in the future?

The M&S field offers many different avenues of career opportunities. Currently, M&S is the field that I want to continue to build a career in. But, I also never know what type of opportunities the future may bring.

What inspired you to apply to the apprentice school?

After working a few years in the United States job industry, it became obvious that the job

industry was not stable. Many of the U.S jobs were being sent overseas so I decided that a state or federal government job would be the most stable opportunity of employment. That's when I began researching many different state and federal government jobs in Virginia. Northrop Grumman was one of the companies placed at the top my search. So I applied for two different positions at Northrop Grumman. Unfortunately, I was not offered the positions, so I continued to look for different opportunities within Northrop Grumman. That is when I stumbled onto The Apprentice School. I realized that The Apprentice School was an avenue into the company. I knew that The Apprentice School would give me opportunity to learn a trade, start a career and advance my career.

A Student at Heart

*Pens, pencils, rulers, books,
We are not just training to be cooks.
Physics, Algebra, Ship Construction,
It all involves concentration.
Homework, class work, test, test, test,
We are trying to be the best.
Class after class, semester after semester,
This school is not just a tester.
It is a school that only takes four years,
Years well spent with your closest peers.*

- Ashley Ober E58/ E06

Annual Apprentice School Golf Tournament

Paul Norton E84/E06



The 2010 Annual Apprentice School Golf Tournament was a blast. Many apprentices, Apprentice School staff, craft instructors, friends and family participated. On July 10, 2010, at 1 p.m., approximately 80 golfers teed off at Cypress Creek Golf Club in Smithfield. The weather was awesome after a week of sweltering heat. The temperature was cool with lots of cloud cover and a bit of rain. Immediately following the tournament players and volunteers enjoyed a dinner of hamburgers hotdogs, potato salad and baked beans. During dinner the winners were announced. The first place team was Ricky Wyatt, Tom Dixon, Skip Harris and Kurt Werlaw. The second place team was Kyle Radcliff, Ed Radcliff, Scott Radcliff and Mike Barber. The first and second place teams received very cool trophies. Other notable winners included Larry Williams (closest to the pin) and Billy Callis (longest drive). A raffle for prizes was held. The grand prize winner of a premium driver was the Assistant Athletic Director Matt Simms. Everyone who participated had a great time. Next year promises to be another great tournament.

Visit the Apprentice School Online Store

James Lipford A572

<http://www.apprenticeschoolstore.com/>

Many students, alumni and fans of the Apprentice school have taken time to find their way to the school store to proudly purchase memorabilia to show their school spirit. Just by walking through the yard, the Apprentice school name and logos can be spotted on shirts, lanyards, hats, and even portfolios. But there is more to the school store than meets the eye. The store itself has been up and running since before anyone can remember and has come a long way in the past couple of years. Not only is there a physical store in building 14 (The Apprentice School), but there is also an online store that has recently been established.

The online store was founded by Keisha Pexton (022 Athletic Director) with aid of Identity Marketing LLC. Identity Marketing played a major part in the construction of the site. They programmed the site, handled the inventory and stocking, ship items, and even do embroidering. Ms. Pexton was very grateful to have Identity marketing to assist her with the getting online store running. When talking with her she said, "It's been a pleasure working with Identity. They have been great to work with. Getting an online store is another stepping stone for the Apprentice school. It is a good way to bring merchandise to fans and student families who don't have access to the yard.



Some colleges don't even have an online store. That says a lot for the caliber of our institution." The site's construction started in September of 2009 and went live in November of 2009.

A few months after going live, a catalog was released to advertise and showcase the online store and the unique items they supply. The online store features exclusive items and deals that the physical store does not offer, such as, fleece blankets, stadium seats. The on line store also offers special discounts on selected items from time to time. Depending on how much is sold, new items will be considered as added as available. There is a suggestion box on the store site that is checked often. Not only are new items coming in but new styles are being tested as well. Department 029 (Graphic / Photo Arts) develops new ideas and artwork to be considered for new clothing and apparel. Graphic / Photo Arts creates a design, submits it to Keisha Pexton who edits and finalizes it, she then sends it out to Identity Marketing to be embroidered.

With special occasions and holidays, it is a good way to find a gift for family or friends when you don't know what to get them. The company even ships worldwide. There is more to the Apprentice School store than meets the eye and those shirts that you see will mean a little bit more than just another place to wipe your hands. So be sure to check the website out and support the "Builder Pride".



A New Face in the Pattern Shop

Tamera Clarke M71

I am pleased to introduce myself as not only the only female apprentice in the Pattern Shop (M71), but also the first female apprentice in the Pattern Shop in over 30 years. I feel very privileged to be part of a department with such a rich history and promising future. Under the direction of Craft Instructor Brent Rollins, I have begun a journey, along with my fellow apprentice, Timothy Owens, which I believe is the start of a very promising and rewarding future in shipbuilding.

I am originally from the Hampton/Newport News area and currently reside in Hampton. I graduated from Phoebus High School and attended Virginia State University, where I earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 2002. I have worked in the field of education for the past eight years as a special education teacher and a parent involvement facilitator and have also obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Education Administration.

Earlier this year, I made the decision to make a career change as I foresaw myself expanding my work experience and becoming more involved in the field of business management/company relations. I was very impressed with Northrop Grumman's apprentice program because it allowed me to learn the operations of the entire shipbuilding process, further my education and learn a specific trade. I was also excited to be selected to work in the Pattern Shop, which had not had an apprentice program in over 27 years.

The climate of my working environment is new to me. Daily I learn to adapt to using new tools, reading blueprints and understanding the art of pattern making. Because I know that my role is valuable to Northrop Grumman, I embrace the new challenges and welcome the opportunities for growth that lie ahead.

SME Sponsors Guest Speaker Dr. Jose Ortiz

Tracey A. Naumann E84/E06

On May 26, the Apprentice Student Chapter of SME was pleased to sponsor an evening with Dr. Jose Ortiz from NASA. Ortiz has extensive technical program management experience with NASA, DoD and the Intelligence Community. His current mission with NASA is a partnership project with Argentina that deals with ocean flow.

Under the Constellation Project, he was deputy manager for Ares I-X Avionics and Software.

His presentation was on the Electromagnetic Environmental Effects (E3) on the Ares I-X Rocket.



As deputy manager, he was responsible for the oversight of the Ares I-X Flight Test Vehicle Avionics element development, integration and verification.

Ortiz has also held positions as senior systems engineer, program manager, and network manager. He began his career at the Langley Research Center as an electronics engineer.

Our nineteen guests thoroughly enjoyed roast chicken and roast beef, complete with all the fixings, including cheesecake for dessert.

For information about future SME events, including the 2010 Apprentice Cardboard Boat Regatta, please visit www.nnapprentice.com/sme.

Society of Manufacturing Engineers SME Chapter in Virginia

Join the SME's Apprentice School Chapter and experience manufacturing. SME is not just for engineers; it is a society for anyone in the industry who wants in-depth knowledge about manufacturing. Members take tours, host guest speakers and network throughout the shipyard and with other industries in the Tidewater area. Call Tracey Naumann for tours and meeting information at (757) 619-4500, or email her at ApprenticeSME@gmail.com





Are you Getting Enough Sleep?

Wirtz X43

Are you getting enough sleep? The experts say you should be getting eight hours of sleep a night. The lack of sleep could cause several problems including health issues, lack of concentration and lack of motivation just to name a few. The lack of sleep in the shipyard could lead to poor craftsmanship or even death. Get plenty of rest do not take an energy drink to keep you awake. The effects are only short term. Getting the right amount of rest is a key to good craftsmanship.

For any comments and/or suggestions please contact Van Gentry

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Boys & Girls Clinic

Phil Janaro, O22

On Friday, August 20, The Apprentice School football team hosted a clinic for the area Boys & Girls Club at Apprentice Field. Nearly 40 children participated in drills ran by the Builders. The campers came from the East End of Newport News, York County and Gloucester.

The Builders worked on tackling, blocking, passing, receiving and conditioning aspects of football and enjoyed a pizza party with the players after the clinic. Everett Jordan, director education of The Apprentice School, and Phil Janaro, manager of Student Services, observed the event on the lookout for future shipbuilders.

Throughout the summer, Builder football players have visited the local B&G Club to mentor the youngsters. "The team thoroughly enjoyed working with the Boys & Girls Club as much as I think the kids enjoyed being here. I hope they can come to support us during the upcoming season," said Apprentice School Head Coach Michael Vite.

Apprentice School Tailgate Social

Phil Janaro, O22

On Friday, August 27, The Apprentice School sponsored a picnic at Building 601 for all O22 academic and craft, faculty along with all of the staff members. Approximately 80 people were served hot dogs, hamburgers and potato salad with the fixings and enjoyed a social gathering during The Apprentice School's football scrimmage with regional power Bridgewater College.