



BUILDER

BULLETIN

A PUBLICATION OF THE APPRENTICE SCHOOL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 3

“The Apprentice School; Continuing to Set the Gold Standard”

Everett Jordan



In case you didn't know, The Apprentice School received the Malcolm Knowles Award recognizing us as the Outstanding Adult Education Program in the country just three years ago. And, recently, Dr. Hughes, Dan Brookman and I traveled to Washington, D.C., to accept an award from the United States Department of Labor, recognizing The Apprentice School as a “21st Century Trailblazer and Innovator.” Additionally, I was asked to address the audience at the National Education and Action Summit highlighting the 75th anniversary of the National Apprenticeship Act, and I bet you could guess what I talked about. Yep, my favorite subject, The Apprentice School!

As an apprentice, you should be excited. This year for example marks our 30th year of accreditation. If you haven't looked downtown lately, a beautiful new school is about to rise out of the ground, as our company continues to invest in future generations of apprentices, preparing each for leadership. But awards and bricks really don't make a school successful. People and programs do. People come in the form of staff, faculty and students, and at The Apprentice School, we are blessed to have a dedicated staff and faculty and a highly charged student body. With regard to programs, I'm happy to report that the staff and faculty are committed to make every aspect of your apprentice experience better. In the future, you'll begin to learn more about emerging programs, including a new degree, a new honors program and Frontline Fast.

In closing, please take a moment to reflect on being an apprentice. To be selected from thousands of applicants is special. Apply yourself. Work hard in your trade. Work hard in academics. Get involved. Your apprenticeship is no guarantee of success, but couple that with enthusiasm, personal investment and continuing education and your apprenticeship will become an *Opportunity of a Lifetime!*

Looking Forward to a New Place to Call Home

Tamera Crosby, M71

The state-of-the-art and much anticipated new Apprentice School building is underway and following schedule, as planned. Training Manager, Danny Brookman has been working endlessly to ensure that the planning and construction of the new 65,000-square-foot building will be ready to be unveiled by November 2013.

The new school is expected to have eight classrooms, eight computer labs, a resource center, and two distance learning classrooms. The 20,000-square-foot gymnasium, housing three team locker rooms will have a seating capacity of 700 people. There will also be a designated room for cardiovascular workouts.

Some of the surrounding amenities include a parking garage with 380 designated parking spaces and 174 units of 1, 2, and 3 bedroom apartments.

The next major step in the construction process, the erection of the steel structure, will take place this November. Installation of furniture and IT equipment is scheduled for September 2013 and a final building inspection is scheduled for October 2013.

It looks like the new Apprentice School building will be ready for its first students in just over a year!



A Common Commitment to Community

By Elise Feldt, X42

A familiar sight on 34th Street is St. Paul's Episcopal Church which has been in Newport News three years longer than the shipyard. The two have practically grown up together. The church was founded in 1883 to support the workers and families of the railroad and shipyard business. Current ministries range from education for at-risk children, to weekly AA meetings, to the more than 950 meals a week for the poor and unemployed. Early Sunday mornings a group of Apprentice Jaycees cook together and then serve food to a group of about thirty church guests in the assembly hall. The Rector, Isabel Steilberg, welcomes the people living in the area around the church to come together for Community Breakfast. X11 Apprentice Graduate, Sarah Gentry, X11 Foreman, RCOH, and current President of the Apprentice Jaycees chapter, says volunteering at St. Paul's is "always a rewarding experience. Early prep work sets the stage for camaraderie and physically serving the less fortunate gives an immense sense of accomplishment through giving back to the community." Each contribution to the community makes a difference, and the need for volunteers is ongoing. Steilberg, who has been with St. Paul's for ten years, says of volunteers like the Jaycees, "If it weren't for them, those doors would shut." The Apprentice Jaycees are working to make sure that will not happen.

A Volunteer Opportunity: *Annual Children's Fishing Clinic*

By: Dawn Hardister, X06



Every year, The Apprentice School Student Association (ASSA), along with The Apprentice School Alumni Association (ASAA), volunteers at the Children's Fishing Clinic. This year the 17th Annual Children's Fishing Clinic was held at the James River Bridge Fishing Pier. Children from ages eight to twelve were welcome to sign up through Newport News Parks and Recreation. This free event included instructions on how to fish, a fishing rod, snacks, drinks, lunch, a hat, and a t-shirt.

With more than 200 kids participating in the fishing clinic, several volunteers were needed to help with various activities. Volunteers showed up in shifts to cut bait, help make the fishing rods, and pack snack bags and lunches for the children. The children caught crabs, fish and seaweed. Volunteers assisted with the removal of everything the children caught. The crabs and fish were then tossed back into the river.

Every year the fishing clinic grows bigger. Thanks to ASSA and ASAA volunteers who help to make the event possible, the children are able to experience a fun, adventurous and safe day.

Thursdays by the Lake

Tamieka Williams, X06

The scenery is set. The mood is right. The timing is ideal. While people are winding down at the end of a work day, Thursday night can be a nice mood changer during the summer. The Mariners' Museum hosts a summer concert series by the banks of the scenic Lake Maury. This includes 13 weeks of the best melodic sounds coming from bands including Slapwater, Butter, and The Deloreans, to name a few. Crowds of people come out with their families to enjoy the free festivities every year. The ASSA's role at these events is to check the IDs of patrons who want to consume adult beverages. While checking IDs, we share laughs and smiles with the patrons as they enjoy the rest of their night. The ASSA strives to help local communities in hosting events by assisting in any way possible. It is a part of our mission statement as an organization to "foster an atmosphere of community service" and we will continue to take part in that duty.

Boys and Girls Club

Ethan Thompson, X18

The Apprentice School Student Association and The Apprentice School Alumni Association find ways to help the community each year.

This year The Apprentice School volunteered to help renovate the local Boys and Girls Club. Students and alumni helped paint, tear out carpet, lay down tile, and clean throughout the building. The main tasks were to paint the gym and replace carpet with tile flooring in one of the game rooms. Each volunteer was given a specific job. Most of the volunteers



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF AMERICA**

helped with painting the gym. Some volunteers were chipping off the old paint so others could begin painting. It took most of the day to get the gym painted but when it was finished it looked great. Only a few volunteers worked on the game room. It quickly became a more challenging task than what was expected. The room was messy and a lot of preparation was involved. Work on the game room lasted all day, but the volunteers were able to remove the carpet and install all of the tiling. It was a lot of work and took a lot of help but the volunteers had a lot of fun. Radios were playing all day. People were singing, dancing, and laughing. During lunch they fired up the grill and had hot dogs and hamburgers. It was a very enjoyable experience for everyone and a great way to help out the community.

Langley Speedway

Ethan Thompson, X18



Langley Speedway is one of The Apprentice School's most popular volunteer events. Located in Hampton, Virginia, Langley Speedway is a 0.395 mile oval asphalt race track. On Saturday nights Langley Speedway hosts racing events for NASCAR K&N Pro Series East, NASCAR Whelen Southern Modified Tour, Hampton Heat 200, and many others. Volunteers for this event go around the stands and track from 4 to 10pm selling 50/50 raffle tickets to the fans, drivers, crews, and sponsors. Half of the proceeds go to a charity in need and the other half is rewarded to a lucky fan, driver, crewmember or sponsor. On specified dates, The Apprentice School receives half of the proceeds. Volunteers receive free admittance to the track and are able to enjoy all of the evening's races. On top of this, volunteers are able to go onto the track and into the pits before the races and during qualifying. Langley Speedway is a great opportunity to volunteer, relax, and enjoy some exciting racing.

Cleaner, Faster and Safer

Elise Feldt, X42

The shipyard has been a place where technology has been used to modernize the art of shipbuilding for 126 years—from the development of steam, diesel and nuclear engines, to the advent of the aircraft carrier. Just like an elephant has a long memory, the buildings at Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS) have memories of the more than 800 ships and submarines and the many generations of workers that built them.

That is an enormous heritage to share when you walk through the gate every morning. But what if you could also add to it? What if you could make history by bringing something new, something truly remarkable to work?

That is what Paul Saunders, Value Stream Leader, does when he comes to work. A few months ago, the scene inside the X42 Apprentice Pipefitting Gallery was relatively quiet until Saunders came in with several bags of equipment and began asking the apprentices for their help preparing pieces of copper pipe and bronze fittings for

brazing. Saunders picked one of the many rows of practice pieces and brought it over to the mock-up, a bulkhead built to imitate a typical area on the boat. There the brazed sockets were installed in pipe hangers in preparation for brazing.

Then Saunders took out a piece of equipment no one in the shipyard had ever seen.

It looked like a pair of claws swinging at the end of metal hoses and attached to a machine the size of a large duffle bag. What was it supposed to do? Braze. But how? Saunders would demonstrate the process in a few short minutes.

When the two burner heads are attached to the pipe on each side of the fitting, six to eight tiny torch heads start a computer-driven process of feeding manifold gases to the area. All Saunders has to do is light it with a hand-held device that also triggers the different stages of heating. About two minutes later, the silvery line of solder begins to show around the joint. The operator then triggers the heat cycle to

end. The best part—the painted bulkhead six inches away, and the nearby insulation are totally unaffected by the heat, and the quality of the brazed joint is consistently high.

The new brazing equipment, known as ABP (Alternative Brazing Process), was developed over the course of two years and across three different states before it visited the Apprentice Pipe Gallery. The ABP was demonstrated at the ShipTech 2012 event in Orlando Florida, where it was well-received by Navy Admirals.

Saunders has been in O06 Process Excellence for the past three years. He started as a pipefitter apprentice and then worked as an X42 mechanic before becoming an X42/X43 foreman. These experiences made him knowledgeable about issues that had been troubling the trades for years. He now works directly on projects funded by the Office of Naval Research on behalf of NNS to develop shipbuilding technology.

In the next year, we may see as many as ten ABP units across the shipyard. Saunders says he hopes to “give a newly-qualified pipefitter the ability to braze twice as fast and with the experience of a 30-year brazing veteran.” Ideas like this do not replace the 30-year veteran’s hands, but are an attempt to enhance them by creating new techniques for the future. You could have the next great idea in the making.

A Night Out at Sea

Tamieka Williams, X06

Our Duty

By Pierrette Swan, X18

Starting out in The Apprentice School can be a scary and overwhelming experience. With the exception of transfers, most people who start out are in a new setting that they are unfamiliar with as well as uncomfortable with. Some apprentices come straight out of high school and may have no skilled labor experience. Some are older with children of their own and have to get back into the flow of going to class and doing homework. These new apprentices look to those around them for guidance and advice. One quality they desire is leadership, and they can only learn about it from older more experienced apprentices who are there to help guide the new apprentices and assist them in getting more comfortable with their job at the shipyard.

At first, the shipyard can be overwhelming. Big cranes, shooting sparks, tall ladders, and large machinery are all new experiences for most apprentices. “I remember how being a new apprentice can be very daunting,” said James Conti, an X31 located in 12 Dry Dock on CVN78. “I am just grateful to have had later term apprentices looking out for me.” A later term apprentice has been through multiple rotations and knows what to expect when given a job. They are able to share their knowledge with the newer apprentices so that they can advance more quickly and so that they can learn what types of things they need to be alert about in order to stay safe in the shipyard. The information shared is invaluable, for it can make the difference between an apprentice excelling in their craft or having a very hard time getting a grasp on what is expected of them.

Most experienced apprentices feel a sense of pride when helping out new apprentices. It embodies the mission of The Apprentice School being brought into action. Corey Carden, an X42 currently working in the MOF, states: “It is important for experienced apprentices to teach new apprentices the values of integrity and craftsmanship because it will keep the legacy of apprentices alive.” He went on to add, “I feel passing down knowledge is one of the most rewarding experiences that an apprentice can have.” Although it seems an expectation for older apprentices to help guide and teach newer apprentices, some feel that there should be an Apprentice School mentorship program.

As leaders of the company, apprentices are expected to take on the role of mentor when we come across someone in need of help, and that is what separates us from the rest. And, as we graduate and move on, those once new apprentices will be the ones to take on our duty, carrying on the never-ending cycle.

On the evening of August 25, members of The Apprentice School family cruised aboard the Spirit of Norfolk. At first, high winds and rain, attributed to Hurricane Issac, put the dinner cruise in question, but the rain subsides and the event went on as scheduled. Dressed in semi-formal attire for the sold-out event, apprentices and their guests filled the second deck of the cruise liner ready to get the party started.

At 8 p.m., ASSA President Kevin Doyle, announced that the cruise was underway. As the boat sailed, the Spirit of Norfolk staff serenaded the group with love songs. The dined buffet which included salmon, parmesan chicken, beef, pasta, salad and cocktails. The staff was very friendly and available to help make the night as spectacular as possible.

As dinner was winding down, people started making their way to the dance floor to participate in line dances and couple dances. Married for 14 years, Dawn Hardister and her husband, Paul, were crowned Kind. Ashley Ober won the raffle for a Spirit of Norfolk souvenir glass. Overall, thanks to Gary Garner, who arranged the evening, everyone had a wonderful time and is looking forward to next year’s event. If you have any ideas for future ASSA activities, please contact Gary Garner the 2012 Activities chairperson.

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Pride is Power

Ethan Thompson, X18

Every day, thousands of Huntington Ingalls Newport News Shipbuilding employees walk through the turnstiles for another day on the job. But what is “another day on the job?” To some people it is just showing up, doing what they are told and then leaving at the end of the day. To others it is much more.

The Newport News shipyard is more than a place of employment. The shipyard is a large contributor to American freedom. Newport News Shipbuilding provides the ships that the U.S. Navy uses daily to keep Americans safe. The Navy relies on Newport News craftsmen to build the highest quality ships to protect the men and women that serve America. This is the reason why Newport News Shipbuilding has the best shipbuilders in the world. They are anxious to come to work and be apart of building our nation’s strongest line of defense. They take pride in every aspect of their job and are not happy until its done right. They take the extra step to ensure that their work is of the highest quality. This ensures that the men and women aboard the ship will be safe. When the employees walk through the turnstiles at the end of the day, they know that they have accomplished much more than just “another day on the job.”



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

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Volunteering

Mike Chieffo, X42

In many ways there is a sense of satisfaction for the time given by one with the intention of putting others ahead of themselves. The Apprentice School Association volunteers have addressed the needs of various organizations through charity work and monetary support. As a member of the ASSA, the feeling of helping others can bring joy to oneself. Throughout the world there are people, organizations, and foundations that need volunteers. There are less fortunate individuals that could benefit not only from financial situations but also just a simple motivational conversation or quality time that one might not receive.. The best feeling with helping others is when an individual that is being helped recognizes one for the dedication to them. One of the most memorable times helping others through ASSA function is The Sarah Bonwell Hudgins Foundation. The association is committed toward spending quality time during the Christmas holidays with individuals that are mentally challenged. Also through events such as carwashes, Langley speedway, Relay for Life, and many more, the ASSA raises money . Through the money that is raised from events, the Apprentice School Student Association is proud to give financial backing to organizations such as Sarah Bonwell Hudgins. Individuals that are interested in volunteering or helping out the less fortunate by raising money for organizations or foundations can contact individual committee council members. Council member’s phone numbers are located on The Apprentice School Student Association website and also can be obtained from the Builder Hot Sheet that is released bi-weekly. Please take the time to be the one of Huntington Ingalls Apprentice’s that will help build the future of our school by positive recognition through volunteering. In this issue you will see articles related to volunteer opportunities in which the student association has participated in.



All volunteer opportunities listed in this publication were during the 2012 calendar year. More volunteer opportunities will be approaching. For more information, please contact a designated delegate or look for the updated bi-weekly Builder Hot Sheet.*