



BUILDER

Highlights

AN ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION OF THE APPRENTICE SCHOOL STUDENT ASSOCIATION JANUARY 2015 VOLUME 12 ISSUE 1

From the Editor

Welcome to 2015: a new year! This is the Builder Highlights, your new one-stop-shop for sharing apprentice news. I am the Editor and Apprentice School Student Association Chairperson, and it's my personal mission to bring as much news-worthy information to the apprentices as I can. Obviously I can't be everywhere at once, so I need you to let me know what you want to see here. My committee includes ASSA delegates Samantha "Sam" Sawyer, Erwin "Mo" Morales, Derrick Moore, and Cameron Jones. Check out Sam's article "Reporting Back," where she welcomes any apprentice to submit an article to the Builder Bulletin or Builder Highlights. We want to hear what's going on. More importantly, I want to make sure apprentices know that they are part of a *community*, which means we can have a positive impact on each other, both personally and professionally. Also, visit the new ASSA website,

apprenticestudents.com

It's more than just an events calendar, it's also a way for you to access the people running those events. Contact information for all your student government officials is in there. The student government was formed to add quality to your experience as an apprentice. The ASSA is constantly creating social events, volunteer

(continued on Page 3)

Your 2015 Executive Council Officers



ASSA President

Charlene Barrington, X06/X89

An apprentice for four years, Charlene spent the first part of her apprenticeship as an X31 Electrician. She has worked on the Ford, the Roosevelt, in CMAF, on the Ford again, and in the Switchboard Shop. Later, when she was selected to become a Planning/Business Apprentice, she worked from Pier 3. Charlene currently works with X89 Dispatch.

ASSA Vice President

Christopher Helton, X31

In two years and seven months' time, Chris's merit has promoted him to a fourth-year X31 Electrician/ASOC Engineering Apprentice. He spent significant time on the Ford and then moved inside to work with Trades Administration. Currently he is preparing to rotate to the Lincoln.



ASSA Secretary

Angel DeGuzman, E06/E86

Angel has been an apprentice for six years and has had the opportunity to work for O43, Welding Repair and E06, Design before advancing to the Professional Development Program. Angel plans to graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. As of this month she is starting a new rotation that will have her working in VASCIC.



ASSA Treasurer

Mayranne Brock, O38

Anne has been a Non-Destructive Testing Apprentice for two years. She worked in the SPF shop and the Ring Modular Shop, then the SMOF and MOF. She currently works for Radiography.



Reporting Back

By Samantha Sawyer, X06

A survey was conducted via the Survey Monkey web-site service when apprentices logged on to vote for their 2015 Executive Officers. This survey asked apprentices what they thought about the quality of the Builder Bulletin. The results are in and we, as a committee, feel it is important to share with the student



body. Here's what you told us:

- 11% - Superb!
- 41% - Good
- 12% - Could be better
- 22% - It's okay
- 10% - Typically ignore it
- 4% - I don't receive it

Overall, these results are good. It shows that we are doing well producing publications for our fellow apprentices. But how can we be better?

We appreciate the feedback and suggestions. Our committee actually integrated many of those suggestions

into the last Builder Bulletin. We incorporated spotlight articles and accomplishments of fellow workers that we can relate to and appreciate. If you or a friend knows of other ways that we can improve or you have an article you would like to submit, feel free to contact us and let us know.

You can email me, at: Samantha.N.Sawyer@hii-nns.com.

Thank you for your contributions and please continue to help us develop a quality publication.

January Bulletin Board

- Graduation Feb 28th**
Volunteers still needed!
See article on p. 4
- Go to apprenticestudents.com for more info
- Jaycees monthly meeting Feb 12
4:15pm – 5:30 pm
Apprentice School
Conf. Rm 305
- NBA**
Wizards v. Raptors
Tickets **SOLD OUT!**
Ski Trip Tickets **SOLD OUT!**
- Coming Soon
Hockey Trip to DC
Capitals v. Rangers
April 11th
POC Tierra Jones
- Apprentice Intramural Soccer
Starting mid-March
POC Tierra Jones
757-567-244
- Apprentice School Bass Fishing Club
Interest Meeting
See article on p. 4
- Engineering & Robotics Club
Interest/Recruiting meeting
Feb 4th, 4-5pm @
Apprentice School
Rm 258

Promoting the OFI Program

By Derrick Moore, M53

Do you have any ideas for improving a process you are currently working? Do you like receiving rewards and recognition? The Opportunity for Improvement (OFI) Program is a great way for Newport News Shipbuilding (NNS) employees to submit ideas to increase efficiency, improve a process, reduce costs, or improve tools or equipment every day. The initiator(s) of an OFI can receive a reward in the form of gift cards if the idea is approved and implemented by the program or process owner. All of the valid ideas are entered into a quarterly drawing to win a large prize ranging from a \$500 cash prize to a laptop.

NNS employees work day in and day out to produce some of the world's greatest ships. They consist of welders (X18), ship fitters (X11), inside machinists (M53), painters (X33), outside machinists (X43), and many other trades. These trades work in sequence around the clock, putting many smaller components together to create one enormous vessel, which the Navy uses to defend the United States from enemies. These skilled employees know the processes and procedures used to build these vessels better than anyone else. That is why the OFI program is such a valuable resource that can be used to produce a better product.

For employees that may not be aware of how the OFI process works, there is a database that is on the company intranet and is available to any

employee with access to a NNS computer. This database provides guidelines and criteria for submitting an idea. In addition, the database allows for ideas to be submitted electronically. Employees without computer access can contact their immediate supervisor for information about the OFI program and confirm the best process for submitting their ideas. Sometimes, it's as simple as filling out an OFI card and providing it to a Supervisor or OFI Coordinator for sub-mission. Each department has an assigned OFI Coordinator who validates all ideas. After an OFI is validated, the process owner and/or all stakeholders are contacted for approval of the improvement idea. Once approvals are complete the idea is then expected to be implemented by the process owner in a timely manner.

All employees are encouraged to participate in the OFI program. What holds true is that our most valuable resources are our employees. They are the ones making process improvements every day that enhance efficiency and the quality of our services and products.

X32 Wilson Recognized for Work on OFIs

By Elise Feldt, E06S

It is an everyday occurrence around the shipyard that apprentices, old and new, find themselves doing work that they have never done before. But it does not happen every day that they finish the work with outstanding success.

Last year, X32 sheet metal apprentice Mike Wilson started a special rotation with the X32 Trades Administration Office to assist OFI Coordinator Ken King. The trade was rededicating time and effort to the OFI

Program in order to demonstrate to craftsmen that their ideas make a difference. Wilson's task assignments included getting accurate counts of OFIs, organizing the OFI database information, and development and execution of a plan to improve the tracking and response time for the trades' OFIs. In a matter of eight weeks Wilson accomplished his goals and was awarded an Employee Recognition Award (ERP) in the Cycle Time Improvement category. Wilson's rotation ended January 9.

Looking back, Wilson was pleased to relate that his achievements recommended him for more responsibilities in the department. X32 administrators asked him to serve as the United Way Coordinator in November. He was one of the many coordinators who felt the success when Huntington-Ingalls surpassed its goal of raising 1.5 million dollars last year. Wilson is one of many apprentices in the yard who is taking an active role in his apprenticeship. When asked about what guided him to such an outstanding level of effort, Wilson pointed to the X32 Trade Administration's office and their training, as well as his craft instructors. He also remarked: "All I really had to bring to the table was aptitude and dedication." It is exactly his aptitude and dedication that made Mike Wilson an outstanding apprentice spotlight.

Editor continued

events, and personal development opportunities, in order to help others enjoy the opportunities we've been given. Like us, you were chosen to be an apprentice leader, so let's build the future together!

IMAGINE YOUR WORDS HERE... WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEND A "SHOUT OUT" TO ANYONE IN THE YARD?... SAY HELLO TO AN OLD FRIEND? THEN SEND...

... YOUR BRIEF MESSAGES TO 35173feldt@gmail.com WITH THE SUBJECT LINE: "HIGHLIGHTS EDGES" ... A PUBLICATION FOR THE STUDENTS BY THE STUDENTS!

Graduation Around the Corner



By Elise Feldt, E06S

Here comes the end of the year, and the end of apprenticeship requirements for many. The long wait to walk across the stage is over in only a few weeks! On February 28, 2015, some of our friends and coworkers will celebrate their graduation from The Apprentice School at the beautiful Liberty Baptist Church in Hampton, Virginia.

Calling all apprentices: join us at Liberty that Saturday morning to volunteer for an opportunity you will not forget! Every year graduation is a success because of volunteering apprentices who proudly serve a variety of roles before, during, and after the ceremony. It is the single biggest

volunteer event of the year. This apprentice has served at three and can vouch for the overwhelmingly positive experience. The time varies, but the event is usually over by 5:00pm. Contact Chelsee Mooring at Chelsee.Mooring@as.edu (text or call 757-763-8228)

For more information or to sign up visit: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2015GradVol>

The professionalism and care demonstrated by volunteers is often greatly applauded by The Apprentice School faculty and administration. Don't miss this opportunity!

Anglers Wanted!



By Elise Feldt, E06S

Getting involved with extracurricular activities after work can be like swimming upstream sometimes. For student leaders who are looking for that challenge, Rob Uzzle is baiting hooks, looking for apprentices, alumni and faculty who might have interest in forming a bass fishing club for The Apprentice School, as well as a

team of active apprentices to compete in the Fishing League Worldwide (FML).

This hobby-turned-sport is weighing in nationally. Christopher Newport University and Virginia Tech both have teams in the FML. With so many apprentice athletes gaining recognition every week in other collegiate sports, there is no doubt The Apprentice School is ready to net this kind of opportunity.

Mr. Uzzle has 30 years' and 17 competitions' worth of bass fishing experience. He says the purpose of the club is to: "develop the skills and knowledge needed to be a successful angler..." with the aim to combine all levels of experience to support an Apprentice School team. Tournaments could start as soon as April.

An interest meeting will be held February 2 in The Apprentice School, room 258, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. For information contact Mr. Uzzle at (757) 344-5140 or: robuzzle@cox.net.

What's Your Personality Type?



According to Jungian psychology, there are 16 distinct personality types. Each

type has a unique way of interacting with the world and processing information. Knowing your type can help you find the most satisfying life path.

The Greek philosopher Socrates said, "Know thyself, for the unexamined life is not worth living." This is crucial to living a successful professional and personal life. We are most effective when we understand our own personality. Without understanding our own thought processes or the things we require in order to be happy, we become stumbling blocks for ourselves and others. It is possible that we hold back the best aspects of who we are from the world.

By Erwin "Mo" Morales, A572

A personality test can help identify these thought processes and characteristics inherent to our personality. The following web sites offer free personality tests along with useful information concerning careers, leadership, work habits, and relationships.

- www.humanmetrics.com
- www.personalityhacker.com
- www.16personalities.com
- www.oddlydevelopedtypes.com

Featured Writers

Derrick Moore (M53), Elise Feldt (E06S), Erwin "Mo" Morales (A572), Samantha "Sam" Sawyer (X06)