To better acquaint apprentices with our new director, I sat down with Dr. Latitia McCane for an exclusive interview. She brings over 13 years of experience in senior level leadership to this new role.

Early in her career, Dr. McCane worked as a research chemist. She later taught chemistry at a collegiate level. During this time, Dr. McCane started a chemist technology program by working with her school to acquire modern equipment. This increased student engagement and created internship opportunities. Due to the success of the program, she was later promoted to an associate dean position while also being asked to manage a second smaller campus.

Eventually, Dr. McCane became Dean of Instructional Services which helped her build a partnership with Ingalls Shipbuilding and later Newport News Shipbuilding.

As Director of The Apprentice School, Dr. McCane’s goals are for faculty to treat each student as a customer, to retain every graduate within the company, and to fulfill a self-sustained business plan.

She also wants to create a Student Affairs Department, develop a “Go Builders” spirit among apprentices, and create more events catered to students with families.

Dr. McCane has already visited apprentices in class and throughout the shipyard. She appreciates their high level of engagement and also the faculty and staff’s professionalism.

Let’s all welcome her properly with a "GO BUILDERS!!"
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: KELLI GILLIAM

By Renee West, X33C

Kelli Gilliam transferred into The Apprentice School in July 2010 and graduated in February 2014. As an apprentice, she was a delegate with the Apprentice School Student Association. She volunteered with Relay for Life and at Langley Speedway. She was also on the homecoming court two separate times.

Gilliam always knew that she wanted to be the first female in something, but didn't know exactly what. After becoming an X18 pipe-welding foreman, she later went on to become the first female X18 Craft Instructor.

Q: How did you get involved in the Mrs. Denbigh?

A: I went to the Mrs. Virginia America 2018 Pageant in March to support a friend who was in the pageant. I saw something not so ‘beauty pageant’ about this organization, so after some consideration I applied to be a local titleholder. I will compete in the Mrs. Virginia America 2019 next March. I am currently pursuing my platform of action and engagement of manufacturing in the schools, community and beyond.”

Q: How did you get nominated for the STEP (Science, Technology, Engineering, Production) Ahead Women in Manufacturing Award?

A: I was a pipe-welding foreman working in the Detail Pipe Shop trying to learn all the aspects of the business so that my crew could be successful. I was told that I was being nominated for the award by my management. I actually did not get the award the first time. I took the Craft Instructor job and ended up being moved to the other end of the yard. While down in my new position, I received word that I was nominated again by my management in the Detail Pipe Shop. Then a couple months later I received an email saying that I was chosen for the STEP Emerging Leader award.”

"Never say I can’t, YOU CAN. Maybe not as good as someone else, but you can."

- Kelli Gilliam

CARDBOARD BOAT REGATTA GOIN' ON

By Sarah Howell, X42

The Apprentice School chapter of the Society for Manufacturing Engineers (SME) sponsors a Cardboard Boat Regatta annually with all proceeds going to the Shriner’s Hospital for Children.

Individuals and teams made boats out of cardboard. Some teams worked for months on their boats, while at least one individual built his boat in the parking lot.

A few of the boats were decorated with items such as a dragon figurehead and a Trolli gummy worm bag.

One boat, built by Ms. Cooper’s elementary school class, was shaped and colored like a pencil.

The apprentice boat dominated in the races, but there were others who stood out as well.

Ms. Cooper’s boat capsized three times in relatively short order but kept persevering. Steve, the dragon head boat, built by a local high school student, was a strong second place. In the end everyone had a fantastic time for a great cause.

Craft Instructors pose with their corrugated craft. Photo by Sarah Howell, X42
Earlier in July, the Builder Bulletin staff met with the president of Prestige Press Inc. Buddy Malish to familiarize ourselves with the printing process. We toured the production area and got to see where and how our Builder Bulletins are made. We observed a CYMK (cyan, yellow, magenta, black) printer roll out several fresh sheets of posters. We also watched a slicing machine cut through an 8" stack of paper in less than a second. It was a great learning experience. In appreciation for the tour, we presented Buddy Malish with a breakaway Apprentice School lanyard.

Pictured from left to right in front of a CYMK printer: Buddy Malish, Bradley Guilford, Sarah Howell, Matthew Gardner, Caden Clore, Raio Lively, Renee West, Erwin Morales

By Erwin Morales, E06/X47

By Bradley Guilford, X42

The new Apprentice School Director Dr. McCane, held two Town Hall meetings to explain the delay of fall classes. She made it clear that it was not due to a mismanagement of funds but rather a higher demand on the school budget compared to what is available.

According to Dr. McCane, the school has an average budget of $15 million, needs a budget of around $18 million, and the company is implementing an "8% press down of [the] current budget."

She has already developed some ideas to increase budget and reduce cost. One way is to implement blended learning – a mixture of online and in-class instruction. This would apply only to the World Class Shipbuilding Curriculum; 8 of the 13 courses would be taught in this format.

Another way is to use electronic books. All standard books would be found online. No one would have to worry about damaging a book and missing a pickup or return date.

Dr. McCane also mentioned reducing the costs of college courses by negotiating discounted rates due to the large number of apprentices sent to the colleges. She has also secured STEM and apprenticeship grants for the school.

Dr. McCane has been in a budget meeting every day since she arrived and is dedicated to ensuring that this situation does not happen again.
Head, Heart, Hand

Excerpts on apprenticeships from *Mastery* by Robert Greene:

"We tend to think of working with the hands, of building something physical, as degraded skills for those who are less intelligent. This is an extremely counterproductive cultural value. The human brain evolved in intimate conjunction with the hand. Many of our earliest survival skills depended on elaborate hand-eye coordination. To this day, a large portion of our brain is devoted to this relationship. When we work with our hands and build something, we learn how to sequence our actions and how to organize our thoughts. In taking anything apart in order to fix it, we learn problem-solving skills that have wider applications. Even if it is only as a side activity, you should find a way to work with your hands, or to learn more about the inner workings of the machines and pieces of technology around you."

"Mechanical intelligence is not a degraded form of thinking, as compared to abstract reasoning. It is in fact the source of many of our reasoning skills and creative powers. Our brain developed to its present size because of the complex operations of our hands. In working with resistant materials to create tools, our ancestors developed a pattern of thinking that transcends manual labor itself."

“In general, no matter your field, you must think of yourself as a builder, using actual materials and ideas. You are producing something tangible in your work, something that affects people in some direct, concrete way. To build anything well - a house, a political organization, a business, or a film - you must understand the building process and possess the necessary skills. You are a craftsman learning to adhere to the highest standards. For all of this, you must go through a careful apprenticeship.”

### WIN-A-PRIZE SEARCH

**Contest description:** Three contestants will be chosen at random using an online number generator. Each winner will receive $50 of Apprentice School store credit.

**Rules:** Must be current apprentice to apply.

**How to play:** Find all the words. Send a completed form to publications@as.edu by September 13th. Provide first and last name with valid e-mail address. **No photos in the shipyard.** Good luck!

Word search prepared by Caden Clore, X18

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### American Rover

August 18th Saturday 6:45 pm - 9:00 pm
Waterside Marina, Norfolk, VA

- One ticket for $20.00
- Two tickets for $30.00
- Limit two tickets per apprentice

Includes two free drink tickets for 21+.

Boat leaves dock at 7 pm sharp.

This event is for current apprentices and alumni only.

#### Washington Nationals v. Chicago Cubs

September 8th Saturday

- One ticket for $20.00
- Two tickets for $30.00

#### Peninsula Rescue Mission

September 25th Tuesday 4:00 pm until clean-up is done
Serve dinner to the homeless.

Peninsula Rescue Mission
3700 Huntington Ave
Newport News, VA 23607

#### Spirit of Norfolk

October 20th Saturday 7:30 pm - 10:00 pm

- One ticket for $20.00
- Two tickets for $30.00

"WIN-A-PRIZE SEARCH"

Includes two free drink tickets for 21+.

To enter, complete the attached entry form and submit it to the Apprentice School. Each entry must be completed and submitted by September 13th, 2022. The winner will be chosen at random on September 13th. The winner will receive $50 of Apprentice School store credit.

**How to play:** Find all the words. Send a completed form to publications@as.edu by September 13th. Provide first and last name with valid e-mail address. **No photos in the shipyard.** Good luck!