

MASONRY APPRENTICE & Industry News

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Sometimes It Starts With A Quarter

By Devon Brookshire

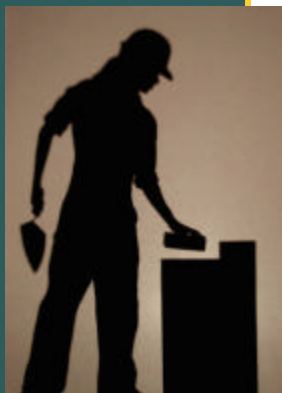
I can remember my life as a 12-year-old growing up in North Carolina in the summer. My whole reason for living was baseball. I would play organized baseball on game days, pickup games on off days, and in the evenings, before dinner, I would hit rocks into a neighboring open field with a special stick I had fashioned to resemble a bat. When you have so much time on your hands, you memorize the starting lineup of the St. Louis Cardinals along with mimicking each player's unique batting stance, especially Stan "The Man" Musial. When my father, known as Red, would get home from laying brick all day, I would bug him until he would catch my pitching from behind a makeshift

plate. Red, with his always active mind, sought a way of harnessing this 12-year-old's boundless energy by offering me 25 cents an hour if I would go to work for him, and spread mud on the wall for his masons. Now we all know what his motive was for this special offer - it was time for his young'un to go to work, and Red would be getting some fairly cheap labor and Red knew this work would even wear me out a little.

Well this was too much for me to turn down. I got to work around guys all day: they would cuss; tell dirty jokes; pull pranks on each other; and include me in on it. All that

time, they would never stop working, never stop laying brick, and would be outworking any other trade on the job. Of course, even better was I got to hang around with my Dad all day. And, as was his occasion to do, Red would scream and yell at the men in an even louder voice than he would do to his kids, when we screwed up.

So to sum up the summer of 1962: I learned how to spread mud; I learned how to cuss; I learned that no one works harder than a mason; and I was able to report back to my younger sisters and brothers, that, hard to believe, Red was "pulling his punches" with us. Oh yeah, I almost forgot, the best thing was, I got paid 25 cents an hour for it.



Pictured below from left to right: Cantave Zamor, Tranarious Lewis, Bruce Martin, Matt Twombly, Lou Bartolucci (Instructor), John Awed, Benjamin Bethel (Assistant Instructor), Paul Loudior, and Ernesto Muslar.

MAF SE Graduates 7!

By Deb Bartolucci

The MAFSE Chapter held its Apprentice Graduation dinner at Palm-Aire Country Club in Pompano Beach on February 7, 2007. It was a great turn-out and the contractors were all very proud of the accomplishments of the apprentices. The apprentices, many dressed in suit and tie, brought family, friends, neighbors and one even brought his foreman to the dinner! The most touching moment came as 12-year old

Lisa Loudior stood and introduced herself during role-call: "My name is Lisa Loudior and I am here to see my father graduate. I am very proud of him." This, of course, drew rounds of loud applause!

The following donated gifts for the graduates:

1. Jack Flockhart of Rinker, Delray contacted Stabilla and they, in turn, donated [7] four foot levels to the graduates.
2. Jeremy Young of Rinker, North Ft. Lauderdale donated [7] brick hammers and hold-ers, and packages of line blocks.
3. Pedro Serpa of Universal Line Holders, Inc. donated [7] packages of line holders
4. Marshalltown Tools donated [7] 11.5" London Trowels, hats and certificates of congratulations
5. The Florida Masonry Ap-

prentice & Educational Founda-tion, Inc. sent congratulatory graduation cards and donated [7] calculators

6. MAFSE members paid for each graduate's dinner.

7. Masonry Training of South Florida, Inc. gave the graduates certificates of completion from Masonry Training and also donated: [7] line saddles, ma-sonry line, Masonry Training t-shirts, disks containing pro-ject pictures from their last 3 years of training and paid for the dinners of the graduates' friends and family members in attendance.

Thank you to all who partici-pated and congratulations to all of the graduates!



Clay Shoot "Fixins" and 100 Mile an Hour Mules...

By Joyce Rivas

The 6th Annual Industry Fundraising Clay Shoot event, jointly sponsored by FICAP (Florida Independent Concrete Aggregate Producers) and the Florida Masonry Apprentice and Education Foundation, was held Saturday, March 10. About 150 clay shooters and 40 lunch guests attended the event at Hurley's Waccasassa Plantation in Branford, Florida.

A team led by the fearless - "FF" - "FICAP Frank" Bronstein - - and a tireless committee, including, FICAP president Sherry Griswold, spouses and children - assembled registration packets and directed the event activities.

The parking lot was filled with huge trucks with guns mounted on the back. These monster trucks dwarfed this writer's tiny little BMW, that barely reached the top of their tires.

A huge iron gate opened to a sprawling, beautifully landscaped yard. The graciously furnished lodge, complete with pool table, overstuffed leather loungers and huge stone fireplace, was a welcome respite for attendees. Everyone anticipated the soon-to-be-enjoyed succulent servings of steak, shrimp and potatoes, reminiscent of the previous year fixings.

The preparation of the registration packets took three hours, but the effort was well noted at the 7:00 a.m. shooter registration. Packets contained the yellow bulletin of events, a bright green wristband (to ensure your lunch), a gold and red ticket for drawings, and the "imperative" nametag--all in alphabetical order and placed into envelopes, one for each table.

This writer was a bit taken aback by one attendee. This nice gentleman stated that a shuttle is provided to take the shooters from the range to the ranch. And that there are "mules" available to transport people between shuttle runs. Mules that run 100 miles per hour. Mules?? Do we HAVE to be so extreme that we have MULES??? This isn't the Grand Canyon.

The nice gentleman continued the conversation by saying "Yeeeeeou want to take a look at the muuuuile? There's one over yonder!!" He points to this souped-up golf cart vehicle with heavy duty tires. "There she is!" He erupted in laughter over his own joke.

Many attendees stayed overnight in Gainesville, the lovely, well-manicured small college town, home of the University of Florida Gators. A chilly sunny yet moist morning greeted us at sunrise the day of the shoot. The 45-minute drive from the hotel passed quickly and Ron Pafford cheerily directed parking. We went right to work wiping dew off tables and chairs and posting signs to direct the registration traffic.

Initially there were a few cautious "nametag" wearers. A couple of men announced it just was "NOT cool" for guys to wear nametags. Eventually, everyone realized that if you wanted to get shells, ear-plugs, a hat and T-shirt with the FMAEF and FICAP logos---you would HAVE to wear a nametag.

Each year this writer learns a bit more about the "sport" of clay shooting. The mandatory safety meeting gives assurance that the shooters have some training - and training is the Foundation's business.

This Clay Shoot featured several walkers. The Gold sponsors had golf carts - and the Red Brook-



Mark Smith, Bell Concrete, Pat McLaughlin & Mary Jane Mueller selling raffle tickets!

shire team not only transported their own cart, but their own coolers and their own gals to serve the drinks. That's being prepared.

Breakfast food in the morning was a new and improved feature of the Clay Shoot this year. And the blue tickets were sold for the "BIG GUN" raffle; if you missed out, M.J. Mueller or the lovely "Southern belle" - Julie Krygowski from Amerimix - can explain why you didn't WIN the gun - you simply have to buy MORE tickets next year!

And be on the lookout for the 100 mile an hour mule!



FICAP's Executive Director, Frank Bronstein & President, Sherry Griswold



The youngest participant!!!

Thanks to all who participated!

The Foundation's 1st Annual Golf Experience!

By Joyce Rivas

November 16th marked FMA&EF's first Annual Golf Tournament. This tournament did not feature golf legends such as Tiger Woods or Phil Mickelson; more importantly, these tournament players were individuals who understand the importance of masonry apprenticeship.



About forty brave souls showed up at the Forest Hills greens, and despite blustery winds had a great time. After all "the ultimate experience is in the game and everyone who dares to play makes it what it is!" The same can be said for those successful in the masonry industry.

These folks came for fun, and fun was what they got. This tournament wasn't a fussy affair at a historical golf course steeped in tradition. (No sightings of golfers in Bermuda-style shorts with knee-high socks. And thank goodness you didn't need a doctor's note to

ride the golf carts!)

Some participants opted to skip practice and instead enjoy a pre-game lunch with sandwiches. Hostess and tournament organizer Mary Jane Mueller (aka MJ) was amenable to all, even though she took some ribbing as some participants ended up at the wrong golf course. (Perhaps they were directionally impaired?)

A dinner celebration followed the tournament, with libations and story-telling. Foundation Director Pat McLaughlin thanked all the golfers and the gracious sponsors. Pat also gave an update on apprenticeship activities and upcoming events.

A special thank you goes out to:

- Grace Construction Products - Bronze Sponsor
 - Superblock – Beverage Cart Sponsor
- and all of the tee sponsors: A-1Block; Amerimix; BBA-MCI; Florida Block & Ready Mix; Holcim; Inland Materials; Mastermix Advanced Technologies; Painter Masonry; Peninsula Products;

Pompano Masonry; Pyramid Masonry; Quality Pre-Cast; Rinker; Southern Foam Insulation; Sutton Brick & Stone; and Titan America. Finally, let's recognize our winners:

First Place Team - BBA-MCI
Vic Beeler; Lynn Leach; Lance Merritt and Jason Morgan

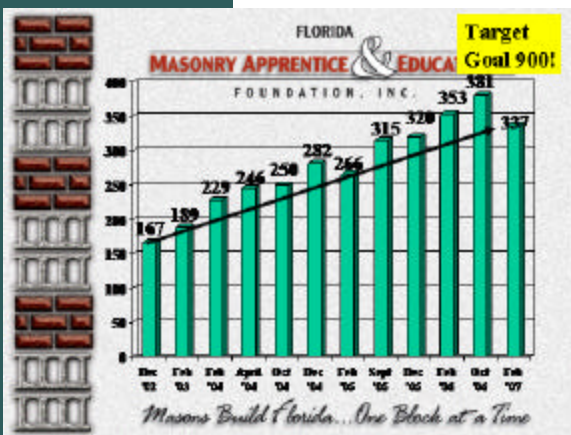
Second Place Team
Jay Snyder; Ashton Samaroo Jim Ricard and Chris Bennett

Closest to the Pin
Greg Strickland

Longest Drive:
Darby Meadowcroft

Congratulations to our winners and all the sponsors and golfers. You are important contributors, as you believe in masonry, in training and in supporting the Foundation's efforts to promote education of a trade which secures the financial future of so many people and their families!

Apprentice Graduations Across the State Expected to Double!



Total apprentice students in masonry training in Florida

By Pat McLaughlin

First-year students declined in our latest count to 164, from 238 last year. This decline is due to the softening of construction throughout the state. However, second-year students are up—from 33 to 111—and third-year students are up from 26 to 63. **The big news is that there will be approximately 50 graduates in 2007, the highest ever.** 25 apprentices graduated in 2006. The increase in graduates is due to

the increasing quality of the instructors, a strong curriculum and increased support from masonry contractors. Congratulations to all!

Pre-apprentice students have topped 1400 across the state, up from 800 in 2005. These are students introduced to masonry in high schools, trade and tech schools and enrolled in adult pre-apprentice programs.

Florida Skills USA
Competition



By Al Herndon

What a contest it was!

Eighteen contestants competed April 24 in the Florida Skills Masonry Contest in Bradenton. Fifteen contestants represented Menendez, Ridgeview, Suwannee, Bradford/Union and Turner Tech/ Miami high schools. Three apprentices from the Tampa and Manasota Apprenticeship Programs competed in the post-secondary competition. This event demonstrated the great strides achieved in masonry skilled training. The masonry contestants and their instructors enjoyed this competi-

tion and learned first hand how our industry supports their efforts.

The High School winners are:

- 1st Place – Tyler Prescott from Menendez – Al Crutchfield, Instructor
- 2nd Place – Renae Cooper from Bradford/Union – Mike Beville, Instructor
- 3rd Place – Cody Rodgers from Bradford/Union – Mike Beville, Instructor

The Post-Secondary Apprenticeship winners are:

- 1st Place – Homer Battle from

Manasota – Ted Podgis, Instructor

- 2nd Place – Ruben Martinez from Tampa – Ed Robertson, Instructor
- 3rd Place – Alejandro Raymundo – Ted Podgis, Instructor

Brick Southeast donated \$400 to the 1st place winners to help pay their way to Kansas City. *Marshalltown* gave full tool bags to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in both the high school and post-secondary contest.

Over 1,000 people attended the 40th Annual Florida Skills State Contest Awards Ceremony. More than 50 different skill contests were held April 24 - 25, at the Manatee Technical Institute. The Masonry Contest was one of the most watched and photographed. All 18 contestants represented their schools and apprenticeship programs well. Homer Battle and Tyler Prescott will represent Florida in Kansas City at The USA Skills Contest June 25– 30, 2007.

Mr. Tim Lawrence, the Executive Director from USA Skills, was the main speaker at the Awards Ceremony. Mr. Lawrence acknowledged Florida Masonry Apprenticeship Training and conveyed thanks to our industry for all of its support and hard work. He will be invited to the Regional Manpower Forum Masonry Contest in Destin in October 2007.

Congratulations to all contestants and instructors for their achievements.

Masonry Pre-Apprentice Teacher Receives Teacher of the Year Award



Rick Terkovich accepts his award

By Tom Mendez

One of our newest Pre-apprenticeship construction academy instructors was just awarded Teacher of the Year West Palm Beach. He is from Seminole Ridge High School in Loxahatchee (Palm Beach). He really gets his kids motivated for the daily hands-on projects that he implements in the classroom. He also brings in industry-related business speakers to the school. He does a great job of relating scholastic education with industry knowledge. His name is Rick Terkovich. The Florida Masonry Apprentice & Educational Foundation recently became the sponsor of the masonry program that Rick is instructing. He is learning along with

his students as this is his initial foray to the masonry industry. Rick has been attending adult apprenticeship classes to learn the hands-on concepts to teach his students the proper way of laying block & brick. Rick enjoys the masonry craft.

Congratulations to Rick Terkovich for receiving one the highest honors for an instructor from the Florida Masonry Apprentice & Educational Foundation and the Masonry industry.

Masonry Apprenticeship Project Showcase



MAF SW Masonry apprentice project for Lely High School. (Instructors: Bill Smith, Luther Vargas, Mike Faulkner and Manuel Medrano)



MAF SE Apprentice John Awed (above left) builds a bus bench for Atlantic Technical Center with help from fellow apprentice, John Pollara (above right). (Instructor: Lou Bartolucci)

Foundation Delegates Go to Tallahassee!

By Pat McLaughlin

The Agency for Workforce Innovation (AWI) is a Florida government agency that oversees the 24 regional workforce offices throughout the state. The Foundation met with this agency March 16, 2007 to thank the agency for their financial support to the masonry industry. The Agency made possible the Florida ReBuild construction training grant of the last six months. Florida ReBuild, a one-year \$12 million construction training grant, is scheduled to expire June 30th, 2007. In addition, we tried to get an indication if the grant was going to continue.

Keith Sommer, Florida Vice President, Pyramid Masonry; Al Herndon, Regional Representative and Pat McLaughlin, Executive Director, met with the following AWI Wyatt Pope, Deputy Director, James Finch, Chief of Staff, AWI and Larry McIntyre, Florida Rebuild Coordinator and others to discuss the expansion of the program. We learned that Rebuild will not continue this year but that there may be other training funds available through the local workforce offices.

The masonry industry will receive approximately \$225,000 from this workforce grant.



Pat McLaughlin, Al Herndon & Keith Sommer in Tallahassee at the Agency for Workforce Innovation to discuss the importance of the Florida ReBuilds training initiative.

Instructor Spotlight - Chris Sutherland

An instructor's perspective on Masonry Apprenticeship Training-----

Name: Chris Sutherland
Company Name: Red Brookshire Inc.
City/State: Tampa, FL
Years in Masonry: 13 years

Personal Perspective:

"I was around masonry at a very young age and a lot rubbed off on me. I did not lay a single masonry unit until I was 20 years old. I was a tender for 6 years. Pre-apprenticeship is an important part of the career."

Q: When did you begin apprenticeship training either as a participant or instructor?
A: 1999

Q: What initially peaked your interest in apprenticeship training?
A: My boss, Devon Brookshire, and my dad, Mace Sutherland, persuaded me into the apprenticeship. Once I found out I could compete then I got excited!

Q: Who is the best candidate for a masonry apprentice?
A: A good mason tender usually makes the best apprentice. However, we encourage anyone with the slightest interest. Masonry is an art and some people have a gift...but you never know until you try it!

Q: What is the benefit of apprenticeship training to the employee?
A: Teaches the employee skills about the trade and allows them to move up the ladder. There is no end to how far you can climb!!

Q: Why would you continue to participate in apprenticeship training?
A: I believe the apprenticeship is where the masonry foundation starts. Without it we fail. I also wanted to give back to the program due to what it did for me and my masonry career.

Q: Where did you hear about apprenticeship training?
A: Devon Brookshire

Q: Were there any negatives to apprenticeship training?
A: Tuesday night classes after a hard day's work and hands-on experience every other Saturday in more sun can be challenging;



Apprentice Instructor, Chris Sutherland and wife/assistant Tiffany in the classroom of the Tampa Bay/Pinellas apprentice class.

however, in the end it will be worth it.

Q: How can apprenticeship training build the company's bottom line?
A: Showing interest in your employees, by placing them into the apprenticeship, builds their confidence. This is a direct effect to the dedication they put out. I believe this will result in a higher production level and better quality in work.

Q: What is the best thing that happened to you as a result of training?
A: Many people would think it was my competitions; instead, it was getting to work with Ed Robertson and Paul Brown, instructors, and getting to meet other apprentices worldwide. Also, becoming a Foreman and being allowed the opportunity to teach and pass my knowledge.

Q: Who within your company is responsible for deciding who will participate in apprenticeship training?
A: The potential apprentice. We want anyone interested to try. Obviously, we have the last word: 6 foremen, 1 superintendent, and the boss.

Q: What type of courses would you like to see offered for future training?
A: Math, reading tape measures, and English

Q: What can be done to generate more interest in apprenticeship training within your company?

A: Well time! It is hard to take your best labor and put him/her on the wall when you still have a job to do and everyday counts.

Q: If we interviewed apprenticeship graduates what would they say?
A: I think it's a good idea to get their insights, everyone sees things differently.

Q: How do you feel industry related pre-apprenticeship participation can help promote the Masonry industry as a career?
A: Many high school students are not going to go to college and do not know what they want to do as a career. This is a great way for them to start earning money and for us to teach them the basics. Hopefully, get them interested!!

Q: What do you think has been done to upgrade the training level of the Masonry Association of Florida apprenticeship program during the past three years?
A: I believe the foundation has made great strides in promoting the apprenticeship. With Florida Rebuilds giving money to any contractor that enrolls an apprentice is an attractive investment. Furthermore, the NCCER curriculum is going to make things more efficient and standardized.

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