Winner of $500 ACCA Scholarship

Randy Brogan is the recipient of the 2012 ACCA $500 Scholarship. Randy started the HVAC program at ATI in February 2012. Originally from Virginia, Randy was living in North Dakota when he decided to make the move back to Virginia and find a trade school in the field of heating and air-conditioning.

“I was looking online and ATI is the first school that popped up,” Randy says. “I filled out the information and a representative called me the next day.”

In his time at ATI, Randy maintained a perfect attendance and a Dean's List grade point average. His instructors characterize him as a model student, and encouraged him to apply for the ACCA Scholarship. Recognizing outstanding achievements in learning, ACCA receives applications from students in several trade schools for this annual award. At the ceremony, presenter Scott Kellam noted, “This one stood out among the rest,” in reference to Randy’s application.

By David Philpot, HVAC Instructor

Welding Students Learn the Art of Blacksmithing

Welding Instructor, George Cramer gave students a presentation on Blacksmithing. His objective took students on a journey through history on the different metal joining processes used through the ages. Students were surprised to learn that welding is thousands of years old as well as steel and iron smelting for hardware, tools and weaponry. He demonstrated the ancient process of forge welding, in which metal is heated to and near melting point and with the addition of a borax flux, is pounded together to form a permanent bond. The many uses of forge welding were discussed as well as manufacturing and building construction prior to the implementation of electric arc welding processes. Also discussed and demonstrated were the Blacksmiths' knowledge of metal properties as well as that of a welder are essential to their trades.

Welders are the modern blacksmiths of today. There is virtually no industry that does not utilize welding in one way shape or form. George Cramer was led to Blacksmithing through his study of welding and allied processes. He has been practicing the skill of Blacksmithing and hand forging knives for about ten years.

By Ernie Bennett, Maritime Welding Coordinator
ATA Training Held At ATI

In March, the Automotive Training Authority (ATA) came to ATI and held a training session. The training covered the diagnostics and repair of the Duramax Diesel Engine. The Duramax is the engine used in GM diesel pick up trucks.

The class was attended by technicians from industry as well as available ATI instructors. The class was presented by ATA instructor Dr. Norman L. Nall. Diesel instructor Victor Tsimpinos and automotive instructor Gary Groeber represented ATI.

ATI Receives NATEF Certification

ATI received a five year Master NATEF recertification for their Automotive Technology Program. ATI’s Automotive Program has been Master NATEF certified since 1993. However, to maintain this certification, the school must undergo an on-site visit by NATEF selected technicians every five years. To be eligible for the on-site visit, the school must conduct an Automotive Advisory Committee that reviews the overall program to include curriculum, facilities and equipment. The results of the committee are submitted in the form of a self-evaluation to NATEF. If considered satisfactory by NATEF, an on-site visit is scheduled and conducted. The on-site visit is very thorough and the team that evaluated ATI was extremely pleased with the school. The result was a five year recertification which is good until the Spring of 2018.

The “National Automotive Technicians Education Program” (NATEF) was founded in 1983 as an independent non-profit organization. It’s mission is to improve the quality of automotive technician training nationwide at both the secondary and post-secondary level. To accomplish this, NATEF examines the structure, resources and quality of training programs and evaluates them against standards established by the industry. These standards reflect the skills that the students must master to be successful in the industry.

Passed All ASE Certifications

Congratulations to Kenneth Jennette for receiving all 8 of his ASE’s. Kenneth graduated from ATI’s Automotive Technology Program and is working in his dad’s shop in Buxton, North Carolina.

Students that receive all 8 ASE’s before graduation are awarded a Tool Box. Will you be next?

ATI Instructors Received CPR AED

On Friday April 19th, David Pendergrass, NRP, from First Responder Systems, Chesapeake, conducted a CPR AED Training Class for ATI instructors and staff. About 25 people attended this very important training.

During the course, participants learned how to recognize the signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest and how to perform CPR and use an Automated External Defibrillator to save a life.
Making His Dream A Reality

When Shad Johnson, Navy Veteran, after leaving the military decided it was time to make his dreams happen. He had always loved working on cars, but until he discovered ATI, car repair was just a hobby.

A friend who was attending ATI’s HVAC program told Shad about ATI, and he decided it was time to act on what he really loved to do, and enrolled in ATI’s automotive program.

Shad graduated from ATI in March 2012 and started working for Tread Quarters on Indian River Road in Virginia Beach. He began as a General Service Tech but was promoted to Assistant Store Manager in 6 months. He hopes to work his way into managing his own store.

Shad said, “ATI was good experience and I highly recommend them. My advice to anyone going into school is to go in with an open mind, ready to learn because cars have changed so much, and even a seasoned technician still has much to learn today.”

Werner Enterprises Awards Students

Congratulations to Steven Mack, Jr. and Melchoir Mason, two graduates from ATI’s Commercial Driving Program. Both were awarded a certificate for Safe Driving with Werner Enterprises in April. Werner has hired many of ATI Class A CDL driving graduates in the past years.

In their letter to ATI Kevin Edic, Associate Vice President of Recruiting and John Frey, Vice President of School Relations and Government Hiring said “Werner enterprises takes extreme pride in knowing that year after year we continue to put on the road the safest, most productive, professional fleet of drivers. Without the help of schools such as ATI our success factor might become diminished. This letter is just a small token of our appreciation to you and your staff for the outstanding job you did in helping prepare two of your former students to become a Werner Enterprises team member and to be recognized as one of the most professional drivers on the road today.”
EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT

Liebherr

The Liebherr family business was established in 1949 by Hans Liebherr. The great success of his first mobile, easy-to-assemble and affordable tower crane was the foundation on which the company flourished. Today Liebherr is not only one of the world’s leading manufacturers of construction machinery but is also an acknowledged supplier of technically innovative user-oriented products and services in numerous other fields. The company has now grown into a Group with more than 35,000 employees in more than 130 companies across all continents.

The mining equipment division within the Liebherr group has achieved a high degree of trust as an active, accepted and valuable partner to the mining industry.

In Newport News, Virginia, Liebherr is offering job opportunities working with various cranes, including mobile, crawler, and harbor cranes, as well as mining equipment, construction equipment, and concrete technology.

Liebherr’s Newport News facility has 500,000 square feet of manufacturing and warehouse space and 78,000 square feet of office space located on 77 acres, which leaves room for expansion. Onsite production includes the manufacturing of mining trucks, including one of the world’s largest AC drive mining trucks at 400 short tons of payload capacity.

Liebherr’s relationship with ATI first began in 2005. At the time, the company had a need for diesel mechanics/technicians and scheduled a recruiting visit with the Institution. From there, the relationship truly blossomed when ATI introduced the Maritime Welding Program. With a dire need for qualified fitters and welders, Liebherr became active by joining ATI’s Welding Advisory Committee. After scheduling multiple recruiting visits, Liebherr ultimately became a place of employment for several ATI graduates.

Robert Poirier, manufacturing training coordinator with Liebherr Newport News stated, “ATI Welder graduates bring the necessary requirement of welding related theory and practical welding skills to the table, which is mandatory to be successful in today’s global market.”
Classic Air’s One Hour Heating And Air Conditioning

You may have heard their slogan on the radio “Always on time….or you don’t pay a dime.” One Hour Heating and Air Conditioning was founded by Alan Heckle and Todd Kletz with the same goal the business continues to be committed to today: providing their heating and air conditioning customers with timely and exceptional service. Residential heating and air conditioning is all they do.

In 2004, Classic Air joined what Entrepreneur Magazine recognized as one of their, “Top New Franchises” One Hour Heating and Air Conditioning.

One Hour Heating and Air conditioning was named “Best Place To Work” by the Refrigeration News, “Small Business of the Year” by the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, and even “Franchise of the Year” by Clockwork Home Services in 2009.

Eric Bridgeman, Operations Manager of Classic Air’s One Hour Heating and Air Conditioning said, “If you have chosen residential HVAC as your career then I want to talk to you. I have been associated with ATI for several years as a member of the HVAC Advisory Committee so I am very familiar with your possibilities as a graduate of ATI. I have seven ATI graduates currently employed at One Hour Heating and Air Conditioning. They came to us after graduation with no field experience but lots of good practical knowledge and enthusiasm. We have continued their education by providing them with opportunities to visit with our clients and perform maintenance and repair on residential HVAC equipment. Each of these former students has developed into very proficient technicians. If you are clean, safe, reliable, drug free, a clean background and a good driving record then these same opportunities exist for you. I look forward to speaking with you soon.”
SVA Still Going Strong

ATI’s Student Veteran Association (SVA) kicked off their first meeting back in September of 2012. Since then, the meetings have grown to over 60 veterans, and has become a huge success. Topics from various speakers, have included veteran benefits, SVA fundraisers, job search techniques, resume writing and more.

New officers for the next term have been selected. They are Craig Copeland; President, Dexter Lewis; Vice President and Giovanni Desimone; Treasurer.

In February, Mrs. Danielle Mathis, ATI Instructor, taught on financing and the different options available for home buyers.

Jamar Blyther, from the Veterans Association, spoke in March on Veteran benefits.

Guest speaker in May was Tony Hoffman from Orion International, teaching on job hunting skills.

Be sure to attend the next SVA meeting in July. Look for flyers posted around the school for dates and times.

Truck Driving Artist

Recently TFC Recycling featured one of ATI’s former graduates Ray Dexter, in their company newsletter. Ray is not only a talented driver, but he also loves to draw and paint.

In the newsletter, TFC said, “Dexter Ray is a true team player. He was hired as an automated driver, volunteered to service customers in the manual system, and is now servicing our newest municipal customer, York County.

Dexter had close to 100 of his sketches displayed in the driver's lounge at TFC through May 25th. He said “I like to draw celebrities because they have drive. We all take falls and have failures, but with celebrities, they expect failure and grow from it. I try to have that same kind of drive. I have made mistakes, but I grew from them. We are all just normal people.”

Dexter said he remembered when he first came to ATI. He said, “There was no open seats for class, but Tammy got me in. I am thankful, because I would never had gotten the job at TFC, and I love it here. I meet new people every day and the job is never the same.”
ATI Hosts Snap-On Tools Training

On February 22, 2013, ATI hosted the training on the New Snap-On Verus Pro 1 Scan Tool. Tom Latimer, the Snap-On Tool representative invited their National trainer, Mr. Rappa to present the training for the Verus Pro 1 Scan Tool. He did a great job in pointing out what the new scan tool is capable of doing and giving insight from his own use of the equipment. It is a requirement by NATEF that the instructors at ATI complete twenty hours of automotive industry training annually. This training is completed online, and administered by Snap-On Tools. This gives the instructors hands on training that is vital to the understanding of the operation of new equipment.

When ATI does an equipment upgrade, the vendor for that equipment provides necessary training. ATI purchased two of the New Verus Pro 1 Scan Tools from Snap-On Tools. Along with the instructors from ATI, instructors from Thomas Nelson Community College and Tidewater Tech were invited to participate in the training.

The instructors can take this training back to the classroom and give the students the capability of using the latest scan tools available in the automotive industry today and be able to explain in detail the operation of the Snap-On Verus Pro 1 Scan tool.

ATI Instructors Judge at the Annual Ford AAA Competition

Advanced Technology Institute (ATI) was asked if they would provide the technical judges for the 2013 state level Ford AAA competition. This event was held in May 2013 at the AAA Corporate Center in Virginia Beach, and the team of judges consisted of 11 instructors from ATI’s Automotive Technology Program. Vehicles for the competition were provided by Hertz and the vehicle faults were input by Ford Technicians from Richmond. Students participating in the competition were the winners from regional competitions around the state and vying for a chance to compete at the National finals to be held at the Ford Motor Company Headquarters in Dearborn, MI.

Ford AAA Auto Skills is a nationwide automotive technology competition for high school juniors and seniors interested in pursuing careers as automotive service technicians. The competition tests students automotive knowledge, workmanship and problem-solving abilities with a written test and a hands on race against the clock to diagnose and properly repair an intentionally “bugged” vehicle.

The competition begins with over 10,000 students representing more than 950 automotive technology programs in all 50 states.

Continued........
The top ten teams in the state compete at a state level competition with the winner advancing to the Nationals. Nationwide, there are millions of dollars awarded to students in the form of scholarships to post-secondary automotive programs as well as tools.

The winners of the state competition for Virginia were Samuel Eleazer and Matthew Jacobs from Fauquier High School in Warrenton, Virginia. Good luck at the Nationals!