



HBAK Provides Support for Marion Co. ATC Carpentry Students to Attend 2007 International Builders' Show



It was an opportunity that many can only dream of pursuing; however, Marion Co. ATC Carpentry Instructor Danny Taylor, along with four of his students, attended the 2007 International Builders' Show (IBS) in Orlando, FLA. The IBS was held February 7-10 at the Orange Co. Convention Center and featured approximately 1,900 exhibitors, a colossal array of the newest products on the market, educational sessions, workshops, and special events for attendees. In the industry, this is hailed as "The Big Show" and its boundaries even stretch beyond the convention center to off-site locations where additional features are showcased.

What an experience! For the Marion Co. students, it is etched in their minds and will undoubtedly serve as the highlight in their participation as a member and officer in the Marion Co. Home Builders Association Student Chapter (MCHBASC). For Taylor, it was the best professional development "Show" he has ever attended.

But, how did this all come about? Two years ago, Taylor received an e-mail from the **Home Builders Association of Kentucky (HBAK)** promoting student chapters. He thought it would offer his students many worthwhile opportunities for growth, development and success. He was right - it has.

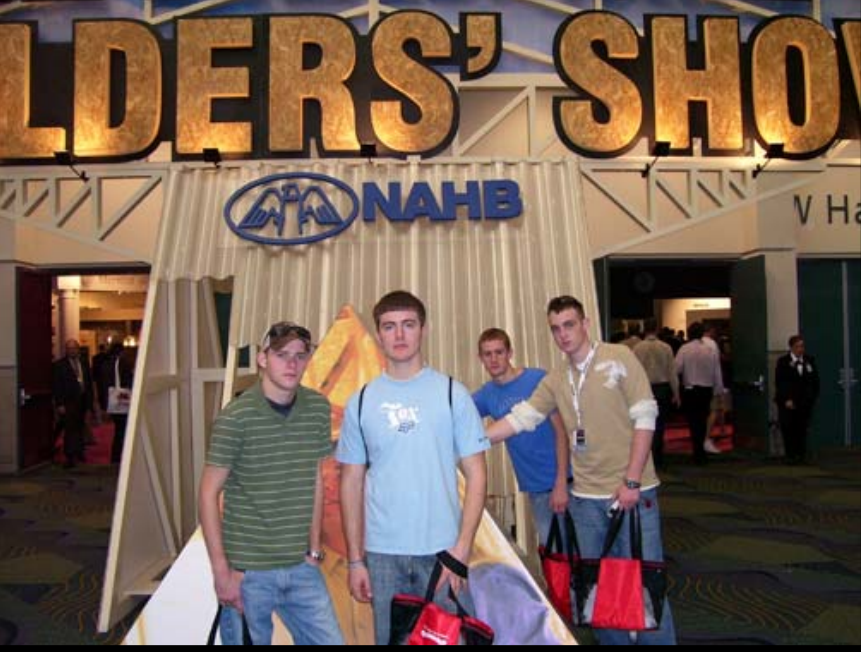




“I decided to look into the possibility of creating a HBAK student chapter at Marion Co. and was directed to contact Juva Barber, who serves as the point person. It’s the best contact I’ve made in my teaching career because my students have greatly benefited as a result,” says Taylor. “Juva provided me with all the information I needed to start a chapter and sent all of our paperwork to Washington DC. She has been a blessing. Juva personally came to our school to explain the correct manner of conducting a meeting - the kids love her because she is super and goes non-stop. She also serves on my advisory committee. The Home Builders Association (HBA) is a national organization and our area technology center (ATC) is the first in the state of Kentucky to become a Home Builders Association Student Chapter. We are honored.”

Taylor believes there are many benefits associated with being a HBAK student chapter and member of the national organization. A trip to ‘The Big Show’ is one of the most enjoyable benefits that he and his students have had the pleasure of experiencing because of their association with the HBAK.

“On behalf of the HBAK, we wanted to give these students a chance to broaden their capacity to understand what is available in the residential construction industry while providing them with an opportunity to develop their leadership, communication and networking skills,” says HBAK Governmental Affairs Director Juva Barber. “We also wanted to show them what is out in the real world and at the same time, provide it in an environment where they could learn from the best professionals available from all over the world.”



The four students had this to say about HBAK and Juva Barber for helping to make their trip to IBS a reality:

“We want to publicly thank all the HBAK members who made it possible for us to go to IBS. We also want to thank Juva Barber. This trip was one of the most joyous experiences of our high school careers and will never be forgotten.”

“Mr. Taylor is my favorite teacher because of his professionalism in class. He has taught me the basic fundamentals of carpentry and I’ll be able to fix and repair most everything around the house,” says Murphy, a 4th year carpentry student serving as president of the MCBHASC. “Attending the National Home Builders’ Association conference was memorable because of all new technology that is now available in today’s market. The most interesting exhibit I saw was where they used pre-fab Styrofoam walls for homes.”

“I enjoyed seeing the new power tools on the market. In fact, we had an opportunity to test all types of tools from several different manufacturers. In my opinion, ‘Ridgid’ tools were the highest quality. As part of the overall exhibition,

Ryobi provided a rock climbing wall. If you climbed to the top without using your feet, you would win a set of free Ryobi tools valued at \$160. Three of us were successful and came home with free tools,” says Blandford, a 4th year carpentry student serving as vice president of the MCHBASC. “Mr. Taylor is the best teacher I have ever had. I feel like I could build a house from the ground up using the knowledge and skills I’ve learned from Mr. Taylor.”

“I was impressed with all the exhibits in the convention center. There were real creative activities that people could participate in as well as learning about the tools of the trade. My favorite exhibit was Lowe’s. They had a basketball goal set up and if you made two consecutive free throw shots, you won two tickets to Sea World valued at \$70. We won four tickets,” says Thompson, MCHBASC secretary. “Mr. Taylor makes learning fun because of his teaching style. Because of the skills I have learned in this class, I will always be able to fabricate a home.”

“The convention center was huge and there were over a thousand exhibits to visit. We didn’t get to see all of them, but we made an effort to get to as many as we could. There were also exhibits outside the convention center and I enjoyed going through a full-scale house. Not only was it a complete construction, but it was fully furnished with high dollar furniture and electronics,” says Josh Traylor, the MCHBASC treasurer. “Mr. Taylor is a great teacher because he has actually worked in the industry and can teach us the skills to make it in the real world. He is also a good judge of character and has the respect of all his students.”

Marion Co. ATC Carpentry Students (l to r): Mathew Blandford , A.J. Thompson, Thomas Murphy, and Josh Traylor at the entrance of the IBS.



**OCTE Academic Consultant
Tommy Sutton**

Another KY Tech individual who had the privilege of attending the IBS was OCTE Academic Consultant Tommy Sutton. He has worked very closely with Juva Barber and the Kentucky Construction Career Choice Council (K4C) to coordinate the “Construction Career Days” event held in Shelbyville for the past two years. He also works with all the carpentry instructors in the KY Tech school system. Sutton believes field trip activities such as the IBS provide teachers and students with experiences, knowledge and contacts that they would not otherwise be able to attain in the classroom.

“In my opinion, the IBS is *The Greatest Show* on earth for anyone in the light construction field. The show draws over 100,000 construction enthusiasts from every state in the US and from several other countries. With an exhibit area, educational seminars, and student competitions, this is the largest, best, and most educational experience a construction related person could possibly enjoy. Not only did I see new products, materials, processes, and software for the construction industry, but I was also able to talk to vendors who had the expertise of knowing how to use the product in the industry. This was invaluable,” says Sutton. “With the people I met and talked with from the educational sessions, exhibits and workshops, I feel I have made several excellent contacts. I am also pleased to have been able to meet Home Builders’ Association members that I know will benefit KY Tech teachers, students, and programs.”



During the IBS, there are many types of meetings that take place involving state, regional and national professionals. When the National Association of Home Builders Area Caucus met, the Marion Co. ATC carpentry students were invited to attend. According to Barber, “Our HBAK members who were in attendance at that caucus were extremely proud when the Marion Co. carpentry students were recognized and praised for their efforts in becoming the first HBA student chapter in the state of Kentucky. In fact, we are looking forward to the time when these student members come back as industry members.”

While the IBS was a learning experience that all enjoyed, Taylor understands the sustained value of membership in this organization.

“One of the many major benefits afforded to my students is that when they graduate from my program, they will receive a certificate from the National Home Builders Association. Once they receive that certificate, the student can post his or her resume into a job bank and automatically become eligible for employment in the construction industry anywhere in the US. To me, that’s a great career builder,” says Taylor. “There are also scholarship opportunities. Last year, one of my students received a \$1,000 scholarship to help pay for school. He has gone into the construction management program at ECU. He is in his first year and is enjoying the program. Once again, we owe a debt of gratitude to Juva because she pointed us in the right direction for him to become a recipient of this scholarship.”

Taylor has also been the beneficiary of current state of the art textbooks that he can use in his classroom. During these past two years, Taylor has made full use of the organization and consequently, his students have come out on top.

For more information about becoming a Home Builders Association of Kentucky student organization, contact Juva Barber at 800-489-4225 or via e-mail using the following address:

juva@hbak.com



Good News Story #196

By: Fran Dundon

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