Ashlar-Vellum has instituted a new policy whereby new hires will spend time doing the jobs of others in the company for a time, to learn how their efforts impact those around them. All new programmers will now spend time on the telephones doing technical support. All QA staff will do the same. Our Filemaker programming staff will do order processing and customer support so that they understand how processes can be streamlined and unnecessary steps avoided.

The idea came from Rolls-Royce where newly hired engineers spent a year on the engine production floor doing each of the tooling jobs in rotation. There they gained an understanding of how good design and process implementation impacts manufacturing, and experienced the realities of how jobs were actually done.

Introducing Olesya

Olesya (pronounced like Alesia in English) Yaremenko has joined our team part time to help with database programming, order processing, customer service and support. While eventually her primary task will be to make our database and business processes sing, she will spend some time first working in the jobs of those she will support so she will have a better idea of how to make effective changes. She will also learn the products and spend time assisting customers, learning how our products can change to make our customer’s jobs easier. Olyesya is finishing her studies in Software Engineering at the National University of Kyiv. She speaks fluent English, enjoys reading and creative writing, and previously was an active member of Plast, Ukraine’s National Scouting Organizing.

New Apprenticeship Policy

Our quarterly user newsletter, The Design Explorer, will be sent out to prospects and customers next week. Included in this Q2 edition:

- Introducing Olesya
- New Apprenticeship Policy
- Graphite Share & Cobalt Share
- New Look to the Newsletters
- Subscriptions for the Short-term
- Graphite Tips & Tricks
- Five Things to Know About Zooming in Graphite
- Changing the Equation
New Set of Tutorial Videos

A new series of videos is in production on the basics of using Graphite. The series includes:

• Drawing a Simple 2D Part
• Using Stroke Commands
• Creating Fillets & Chamfers
• Making Holes
• Editing a Drawing
• Dimensioning a Part
• Crosshatching, Stretching & Rotating
• Printing a Drawing

Each short video was influenced by the written tutorial already available on the website making it easy for users to go back later and follow the step-by-step instructions on their own. The eight videos still require some sound synchronization and posting to the website. Look for them in early July.

New Look to the Newsletters

You may have noticed that The Design Explorer has an updated look this month. Vova Prokopchuk has taken over the design and layout of Ashlar-Vellum communications. We’re pleased to have his talent and experience for these and the fresh ideas he brings.