



## Datebook

2/2: The Apprentice School golf team will host an interest meeting at 3:45 p.m. in the Apprentice School gym. Contact: **Joey Maben** (X71) at 262-6513.

2/03: Newport News' "At the Helm" Toastmasters will meet at 4:20 p.m. in Bldg. 600, Conference Room C. Contact: **Wade Miner** (E46) at 8-4666 or [Wade.Miner@ngc.com](mailto:Wade.Miner@ngc.com).

2/9: Newport News will host an American Red Cross **Bloodmobile** from 8 to 11:30a.m. outside Bldg. 600. To schedule an appointment, call 8-8136.

2/10: Newport News will host an American Red Cross **Bloodmobile** from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. outside Bldg. 902. To schedule an appointment, call 4-2656.

2/14: The Apprentice School baseball team will host a game vs. Marywood University at noon p.m. at War Memorial Stadium.

2/14: The Apprentice School women's basketball team will host a game vs. Southern Virginia at 2 p.m.

2/17: The Apprentice School women's basketball team will host a game vs. Bennett at 6 p.m.

[View all events](#)

**Newport News Employee  
Information Phone Line:  
1-800-995-4318**

 *To take ownership of our future we will continue to develop an engaged and diverse workforce.*

## Newport News to Benefit from Proposed Training Grant

Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding could receive grants worth up to \$50 million because of a new legislation introduced in the Virginia General Assembly.

The legislation, entitled, "Advanced Shipbuilding Training Grant Program," would establish grants – beginning no sooner than 2013 – relating to advanced shipbuilding activities involving nuclear warships for the U.S. Navy.

**Bob Leber**, director, Education and Work Force Development says the training grants cover four areas:

- The cost of trainers
- The cost of training supplies
- Tuition
- Facility costs

"All of these areas are important to us because we recognize that training and education are the keys to maintaining and expanding the shipyard in this new century," Leber said. "Additionally, the public-private partnership incorporated into the proposed legislation will not only benefit NGSB, but will strengthen the education and training infrastructure for the entire Hampton Roads region."

One likely use for a portion of the grant funds is to construct a new home for Newport News' Apprentice School, which is currently housed in a 1943 facility.

"There is tremendous support in both committees for the proposed legislation thanks to the efforts of the patrons of the bill and our government relations personnel," Apprentice Alumni Association President **Rob Lewis Jr.** wrote in a letter to alumni. "However, nothing can be taken as a given during the legislative process."

The legislation was introduced by State Senator Mamie Locke (2nd Senatorial District) and State Delegate Phil Hamilton (93rd District). To read the full text of the bills and track their progress, visit:

Senate Bill 1321: <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?091+sum+SB1321>  
House Bill 2056: <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?091+sum+HB2056>

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**Adam Blackmon Receives Houdashell Scholarship**

Currents is published every Monday for employees of Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding- Newport News. Visit the [O29 Yardnet web site](#) to submit a story. The deadline for submissions is **noon Wednesday** for publication the following week.

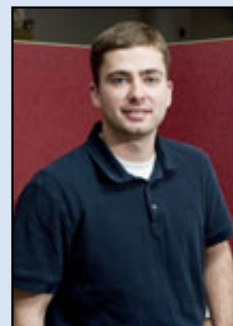
Editor: [Lauren Green](#) (O29), 0-3581

*Please note: While all entries will be considered, not all entries can be included every week. For inclusion, please submit your entry as soon as possible.*

[Currents Archives](#)

[Questions/Comments](#)

Newport News employee **Adam Blackmon** (E84) is the 2008-2009 recipient of the Charles D. Houdashell Sr. Memorial Scholarship. This award recognizes an Apprentice School graduate attending Christopher Newport University (CNU) and is given in memory of Charlie Houdashell, Class of 1975, and former superintendent of Steel Fabrication.



"Hopefully, my combination of trade experience, business degree, and my qualifications as an STE will lay the path for future success at Northrop Grumman."  
 – **Adam Blackmon**

Blackmon graduated from Menchville High School in 2000 and entered the Apprentice School soon after graduating. While completing his apprenticeship as a pipefitter, he played varsity baseball for the Builders. He graduated in 2004 and went on to earn his associate's degree in business administration from Thomas Nelson Community College in 2006.

With the support of his department management, Blackmon is taking advantage of Northrop Grumman's policy on part-time employment, working part-time and going to college as a full-time student at CNU. He currently a junior, majoring in finance and plans to complete his bachelor's degree in 2010 and return to full-time employment. When he does, his goal is to become a Shift Test Engineer.  
*Photo by Ricky Thompson*

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### Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding Celebrates Black History Month



"Black history is an opportunity to recognize the sacrifices of others. Their sacrifices helped to shape our country into a place that all Americans can be proud of."

--**Eric Turner**, Contracts and Pricing

To view more employee quotes about Black History Month, visit: <http://www.sb.northropgrumman.com/>

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### LX Offers New Training

Newport News' Learning Technology Dept. (K75) is employing new ways to help users with Learning Exchange (LX) and to make their overall training experience fruitful.

"The purpose of Learning Technology is to cultivate the company talent, so naturally we are always looking for new ways to help users," says **Louise Wagner**, manager (K75). "Applying new technology to learning is very exciting."

Employees will find that the [K75 Homeport site](#) has regular updates to keep them current with the latest in training as well as web comics and LX Radio to answer frequency asked questions. The team also expects learners to benefit from a friendlier user interface once the LX system is upgraded in the spring of 2009.

For information, visit: <http://yardnet/divisions/humres/k75/index.stm>.

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### **New OFI Promotion to Run, Feb. 2-28**

Newport News' Opportunity for Improvement (OFI) program will run a new promotion for OFIs submitted from Feb. 2-28. To qualify, all suggestions must be valid and entered into the official OFI database prior to March 15. One name will be drawn from a pool of hourly participants, and one name will be drawn from a pool of salaried participants; each winner will be awarded \$500 in his or her paycheck. First-time OFI participants will receive an opportunity to win an Apple iPod Mini.



For more information, contact your department's OFI Coordinator or the OFI Program Office at 380-2428 or 380-7925.

### **CANCELLED - L.E.A.R.N to Host Lunch Event Feb. 5**

Newport News' L.E.A.R.N. program will host a lunch presentation on Process Excellence and Quality and Technical Services from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Feb. 5 in Bldg. 520-6, James River Room. Guest speakers include Jennifer Boykin, vice president, Process Excellence, and Dave Belanger, director, Quality and Technical Services. Lunch and a half-hour charge will be provided. Sign up at the L.E.A.R.N. website: <http://yardnet/projects/learn/index.stm>.

### **AWS to Hold Dinner Meeting Feb. 12**

The Tidewater section of the American Welding Society (AWS) will host a dinner meeting Feb. 12 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Peking Buffet in the AMC shopping center in Hampton. Marvin Smith of Dominion Virginia Power will be the guest speaker. The cost is \$7 for students and \$10 for non-students. For more information or to RSVP, contact **Sharon Harvey** (O37) at 0-2393.

### **E47 to Offer Risk Management Training Feb. 16**

Risk Management training is a two-hour workshop to give employees an understanding of risk management terms, skills and identify strategies. The training will be held Feb. 16 in VASCIC room 215. Sign up by using Learning Exchange (LX) (<https://lx/Saba/Web/Main>). [Click here](#) for more information.

### **SME to host Tour of Mariner's Museum Feb. 28**

The Apprentice School chapter of Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) will host a tour of The Mariners' Museum's "Building Better Ships" exhibit at 10 a.m. Feb. 28. The exhibit explores the history of Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding-Newport News through photographs, oral history, artifacts and paintings by Thomas Skinner. Admission is free for Apprentice School students and \$8.50 Newport News employees. RSVP by Feb. 12 to **Judy Hester** (O22) at 8-2512 or **Tracey Naumann** (E06/E22) at 4-4595.

### **Toastmasters Helps Employees Improve Communication and Leadership Skills**

Communication and leadership skills are important elements in career development. Toastmasters teaches these skills by providing training, practical experience and support to help employees achieve leadership goals. There are two Toastmasters clubs at Newport News: At the Helm and Spear & Gear. At The Helm meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 4:20 to 5:30 p.m. in Bldg. 600, conference room C. For more information, contact **Wade Miner** (E46) at 8-4666. Spear & Gear meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in VASCIC, conference room 5E. For more information, contact **Beth Scicchitano** (E46) at 8-7592.