

 **Key message:** *We must focus on leadership and employees.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 28

College Day
2 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Building 520/6

College representatives will be available to answer questions about admissions, credit transfers and more.

April 28

Builders baseball vs.
Rappahannock Community
College. 4 p.m.
War Memorial Stadium.

May 3

Deadline for Earth Day coloring contest. See more details in this issue of Currents and on the O27 Yardnet site.

May 10

Bloodmobile
Building 600
8 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Appointments: Call 8-8939.

May 11

Bloodmobile
Building 902
8 a.m. – 11 a.m.
902-903 employees call John
Whitsel at 8-4792. 901-905
employees call Andrew
Cirrincione at 8-0308.

*Currents is a weekly
publication for employees
of*

NORTHROP GRUMMAN
Newport News

Please send information for
Currents to
Stephanie McCall, 8-4962
Dept. O29; B520/1
Stephanie.McCall@ngc.com

✿ Yardnet home page redesigned

A column on leaders. A department site of the month. A special supervisor's link.

These and other features are incorporated into a redesigned Yardnet home page launched April 26. The facelift of the Northrop Grumman Newport News Intranet site is a part of continued efforts to improve communications and make it easier for employees to access

information to help them do their jobs. No longer will employees see just a list of information, but instead graphics and photos will make the site more visually appealing and will help employees more easily find the latest company information. The redesign includes features such as:

- At the Helm: A periodic Yardnet feature focused on leaders steering the company forward
- Yardnet's Site of the Month
- Latest weather and stock prices
- Logos linked to special Yardnet sites, such as Lean Enterprise and ISO 14001 Environmental Management System sites.

Check Yardnet regularly for updated information and continued redesign efforts. See a message about the changes from Northrop Grumman Newport News President Tom Schievelbein at http://yardnet/news/NN/TCS_Yardnet.html on the redesigned home page at <http://yardnet/>.

✿ Shipyard president presents ship's wheel to Reagan's commanding officer

Northrop Grumman Newport News president Tom Schievelbein presented the commanding officer of the *USS Ronald Reagan*, Capt. Jim Symonds, with a wooden ship's wheel during an April 23 ceremony held in the carrier's bridge. The wheel was made in the shipyard's wood-working shop and is a traditional gift for each new aircraft carrier that Newport News builds. "We've had a long history with the *Reagan*," said Schievelbein as he presented Symonds with the wheel. "You have the best built ship. We're proud of it and we're proud of our relationship with you and your crew." The new wheel will replace the steel steering console that is currently on the ship. "We'll wear it with pride," Symonds said. "It will be with us when we get underway." The *Reagan* is currently at the shipyard undergoing its post shakedown availability, which allows the Navy and Newport News team to resolve any items that came up during early cruises and make any last-minute changes and upgrades.



Photo by Chris Oxley

 **Key message:** *We must work collaboratively as a team to meet our big goals.*

☛ Nuclear Overhaul Engineering praised for continuous improvement

The **E81 Nuclear Overhaul Engineering Department**, made up of about 160 employees, has earned a top program maturity rating of 4.0 for its Corrective and Preventive Action Program (C&PAP), Director of Quality and Technical Services **Bob Hardison** announced earlier this month. E81 is the first shipyard department to earn this rating, the highest mark available, which signals excellence in establishing and maintaining a culture of continuous improvement. C&PAP is described in the shipyard quality procedure Q-1050 and can be viewed at <http://yardnet/divisions/qualtech/Procedures/ssp/Q-1050.pdf>. C&PAP addresses how a department takes appropriate action to improve work processes and solve significant problems. The shipyard policy charges departments with “improving the maturity” of their Corrective and Preventive Action Program. A level 4.0 recognizes organizations for reaching the “full maturity” mark. Specifically, that top rating is reserved for an organization that shows continual improvement is engrained in all aspects of their work, has been made a part of normal business, and focuses on the key processes that make up the heart of the organization. Success is measured by the quality of products and services, improved schedule performance, and safety. Hardison recently shared the news with the shipyard’s leadership team, and congratulated Director of Nuclear Overhaul Engineering **Barry Fletcher** and the E81 team. “The Nuclear Overhaul Engineering Department serves as a good model to other departments,” Hardison said. “I appreciate the hard work by the E81 employees to ensure they continuously improve their processes to ensure top-quality results.”



☛ Earth Day coloring contest for children ages 1-15

Northrop Grumman Newport News is sponsoring a coloring contest to promote environmental awareness. There is still time to participate. All entries must be postmarked or received by May 3. Entries should be sent to **Cindy Parks** of O27 in building 79 on the first floor. Contest winners will receive a 2004 Earth Day T-shirt. Information about the contest is available on the home page O27 Environmental, Health and Safety Yardnet page (<http://yardnet/divisions/humres/o27/index.stm>). Also, the coloring page as well as the rules are available at the Yardnet link below.

http://yardnet/divisions/humres/o27/Envn_Eng/Earth_Day_Page_files/2004_Coloring_Contest.pdf

☛ College Day

Northrop Grumman Newport News employees are invited to attend College Day Wednesday, April 28, from 2 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. in building 520 on the sixth floor. College and university counselors and others will be available to discuss undergraduate admission, transfer credits and other information. An Apprentice School representative will be in attendance to explain the Apprentice School program. The Newport News Shipbuilding Employees Credit Union will provide student loan information.

☛ Employees join in Americas' SAP Users' Group conference

The North Carolina/Virginia Chapter of Americas' SAP Users' Group (ASUG) held a first quarter meeting at the Herbert H. Bateman Virginia Advanced Shipbuilding and Carrier Integration Center (VACSIC) on March 30. The meeting was sponsored by the Steel Fabrication and Assembly Division (X10). **Alma Martinez Fallon** kicked off the meeting, addressing the importance of chapter meetings. She is manager of Planning and Manufacturing Engineering for the Structural Fabrication and Assembly (SFA). Chapter Vice Chairman **Bruce Cashwell** (right) of SFA helped to preside over the meeting. Topics included upgrades and certain applications for the manufacturing and supply chain area. ASUG is a non-profit organization of SAP customer companies and partners in the world. The local chapter is a growing source of information exchange for SAP professionals. Read more about the group by going to the ASUG Web site. A shortcut is located on the Yardnet sitemap under Organizations/Societies.



