



Photo by Matt Hildreth

Centennial Class Graduates

Newport News Shipbuilding hosted commencement exercises on Feb. 22 for 145 graduates of the company's Apprentice School. The ceremony, held at Liberty Baptist Church Worship Center in Hampton, commemorated the school's centennial graduating class.

"Graduates of the 100th class of The Apprentice School, you know what it takes to do this amazing and important and difficult work," said retired Adm. John Richardson, the former chief of naval operations, who delivered the commencement address. "You rose to the challenge and have been taught all these things here in school. It's in your DNA now and you will grow all these things even more in your future. Go out of here charging, and always build good ships."

NNS President **Jennifer Boykin** congratulated the graduates for their achievements and continuing the rich legacy of The Apprentice School, which opened in 1919.

"Today you join the ranks of more than 10,000 graduates who have come before you – shipbuilders who have charted our course over the last century and shipbuilders who today are defining a new era in shipbuilding," Boykin said. "Ours is not just a job, it's a calling to be part of something much greater than ourselves."

Johnathon Wyatt received the Homer L. Ferguson Award, which recognizes the apprentice graduating with the highest honors.

Wyatt began his shipbuilding career in 2010 as an outside machinist before he entered The Apprentice School in 2012. He completed his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at Old Dominion University and currently works on *John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79).

"We are at a point of pivotal change," Wyatt said. "Massive paper drawings are giving way to tablets that allow us to access more information than ever before without having to leave the deck plate, and we cannot be afraid to embrace it and lead the way forward."

Participating in the ceremony were **Mike Petters**, president and CEO of Huntington Ingalls Industries; company leaders; elected and community officials, as well as faculty and staff of The Apprentice School.

"Be that person who makes everyone around them better," said Petters while introducing Richardson. "When you're the person who makes everyone around them better, you're better, and it gives you not only the platform to survive, but to strive."

Courtney Eure, who was among the graduates recognized at the ceremony, said the support and kindness of faculty and staff helped her successfully complete the program. "When I started The Apprentice School, I couldn't even read a ruler. I had strong doubts as to why I was here, but people believed in me," she said.

Centennial Class Graduates

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

Last September, Eure welcomed a baby boy, Ares, to her family. “If he had been born any later I wouldn’t be standing here today graduating. It all worked out perfectly,” she said. “I would tell anyone considering the program to apply. If you don’t you will never know.”

Below is a profile of the Class of 2019:

- 35 completed an optional, advanced program, earning an associate or bachelor’s degree. The program includes coursework in subjects such as marine design, production planning, modeling and simulation, and marine engineering.
- 71 earned honors, a combination of academic and craft grades that determine overall performance.
- 25 completed the Advanced Shipyard Operations Program, allowing them to continue their postsecondary education, expand their experience in waterfront operations and develop leadership skills to improve the quality and efficiency of production, manufacturing and maintenance processes.
- 31 completed Frontline FAST, an accelerated skills training program for potential foremen.
- 7 inducted into The National Society of Leadership Success (NSLS).
- 19 graduates are women.
- 32 completed the World Class Shipbuilder Curriculum and advance optional program with a perfect 4.0 grade point average.
- 14 are military veterans or are currently serving in the Armed Services as reservists and guardsmen, representing every branch of the military.
- 14 earned athletic awards.



Homer L. Ferguson Award recipient **Johnathon Wyatt** addresses graduates. Photo by **Matt Hildreth**

Watch the opening video that was shown during the ceremony on MyNNS. Visit The Apprentice School website (www.as.edu) to view a gallery of photos from the event. Photos can only be viewed and downloaded using a personal computer.



Shipbuilders serve lunch to NNS firefighters. Photo by **Matt Hildreth**

notes of encouragement.

Although they come from different departments, these shipbuilders share the same goal of serving others. Weeks and his teammates, who met at World Mission Society Church of God, regularly give to their community. “We volunteer our time to thank many first responders outside of the yard, but we thought this would be the perfect way to show appreciation for those we’re with all the time,” Weeks said.

Starlett Hilton (X33), another shipbuilder who volunteered to serve meals, agreed. “Since we’re working together with these firefighters, this made sense. It’s enjoyable to take time out of my day to show my appreciation,” she said.

This wasn’t the first time NNS firefighters have been recognized for their service, but being served lunch by other NNS employees was a memorable experience.

Showing Appreciation for First Responders

To recognize the sacrifices Newport News Shipbuilding’s firefighters face to keep shipbuilders safe, **Aden Weeks (O56)** and fellow employees recently gathered at the NNS firehouse with trays of food and handwritten

“It’s nice to know that people recognize what we do here and can come together to serve in this way. We’re very appreciative,” said Firefighter **Christopher Annette**.

New Press Will Help NNS Complete Columbia-Class Work



A new 4,250-ton press in the Steel Fabrication Shop will support the construction of large *Columbia*-class submarine parts at Newport News Shipbuilding.

“We can use the press for any project, but we had to have it for some *Columbia* materials,” said X15 General Foreman **Scott Dye**. In addition to the ability to handle larger panels, the press features new technology that improves safety and speeds up production.

“The newer technology is a lot nicer, especially when you’re training other people,” said **Brad Thomason** (X15), who already has significant experience operating the press.

Thomason and X15 Foreman **Phelan Gonzalez** traveled to Moline, Illinois, every week for six months to work with the press’ manufacturer and help develop the dies – specialized tools or inserts used in a press to shape material – needed to complete *Columbia*-class work at NNS.

“We did simulations with software about the shapes of the dies, but that doesn’t get you there. It’s really empirical. It’s really these folks who figured it out,” said Engineering Manager **Edmund Delaney**, who also worked to bring the press to NNS along with Project Manager **Krystal Stevenson** (O41).

The press arrived at NNS late last year for assembly. Because of their size, the largest pieces had to be shipped by barge from Illinois down the Mississippi River, through the Gulf of Mexico, around Florida and up the East Coast to NNS.

Delaney said he was proud that the company was able to buy the press from an American manufacturer. “It’s an American-made piece of equipment. All of the dies are American made, and all of the steel is



Pictured from left in front of the new 4,250-ton press are **Phelan Gonzalez**, **Edmund Delaney**, **Scott Dye**, **Krystal Stevenson** and **Brad Thomason**. Photo by **Matt Hildreth**

American made. It’s an American project. You’ve got to be proud of that,” he said.

Dye said he was proud of the teaming effort that included several NNS departments – X15, O41, X51 and O68 – the die manufacturer, Paragon, and the press manufacturer, Williams, White & Co.

New Tool Will Provide Electronic Gallup Survey Results



Gallup survey results from 2019 and subsequent years will be available digitally. Newport News Shipbuilding’s Engagement Office has worked with **Katie Farris** (X51) and **Amanda Jaffeux** (E20) and their teams, **Bill McHenry** (O44) and **Michelle Pope** (E08) on a PowerBI tool to allow shipbuilders to view Gallup survey data electronically with a push of a button. Previously, this information was provided to leadership in paper binders that took many hours and numerous manipulations to create.

Power BI will increase the clarity, transparency and accessibility of Gallup survey results. It’s not about the scores, but it is about the conversations the scores inspire. By allowing NNS leaders to view

Gallup survey data in a variety of different ways, Power BI will provide valuable insights that will make those conversations more effective. Leaders will be able to:

- See engagement results for their entire organization at a glance.
- Compare survey results across the organization to uncover engagement best practices.
- Understand areas of strength and areas of opportunity for employee engagement within their organization.
- View trends from one year to the next.

This new tool will go live March 2. Email EngageNNS@hii-nns.com for questions.

One City Marathon to Impact Traffic, Parking this Weekend

The One City Marathon is expected to bring hundreds of runners, spectators and guests to downtown Newport News on Saturday, Feb. 29, and Sunday, March 1.

Employees working over the weekend can expect traffic delays and congestion around the shipyard due to street and road closures.

To view the full schedule of street closures, partial street closures, intersection closures and parking restrictions, visit the One City Marathon’s official website at www.onecitymarathon.com/plan-your-race.

Health Screening Inspires Lifestyle Changes for Shipbuilder



“If I hadn’t changed my lifestyle I could have gotten to 400 pounds and had a heart attack at the shipyard.”

That was the wake-up call for **Michael Cagle** (O39). Cagle, a nuclear quality inspector at Newport News Shipbuilding, was shocked to learn his weight at a Know Your Numbers program health screening.

As a newly transitioned salaried employee, Cagle participated in Know Your Numbers to qualify for a \$600 discount on his medical premium. “I hadn’t weighed myself in months, so when I found out I was 310 pounds at the health screening I was shocked,” he said. “When I got that big number I knew it was time to stop messing around – I need to stay alive for my son.”

Cagle is a single father to his 12-year-old son, and his daily routine made it hard to live a healthy lifestyle. “I’d be exhausted at the end of the day,” he said. “I had joined a gym but I never went.”

Slowly, this lifestyle caught up with him, resulting in a 50-pound weight gain. After the health screening, Cagle decided to change his eating habits, factoring in what he was eating, how much he was eating and when.

“I started prepping meals for breakfast and lunch so I don’t end up at a restaurant or drive thru,” Cagle said. “I make a low-carb breakfast of eggs, protein and fruit and for lunch I pack salads now. And instead of junk food snacks throughout the day I rarely snack, and if I do I eat fruit and nuts.”

Cagle limited carbs like bread and pasta and cooked at home. He also bought a stationary bike to exercise four to five days a week. “I’ve lost 30 pounds in three months,” he said. “I don’t get snack cravings as often now and I



A “Know Your Numbers” program health screening was a wake-up call for Michael Cagle. Photo by Ashley Cowan

actually want to eat smaller portions. I just feel better and have so much more energy.”

Before the weight loss, a good night’s sleep was hard to come by. “I was constantly being woken up by my acid reflux and would have to take antacids and try to sleep sitting up,” Cagle said. “But since changing my diet I have had no flux whatsoever and even stopped taking my daily pill.”

Beyond the physical improvements, Cagle has seen a difference in his attitude since the weight loss. “Being successful with this makes me feel like I can be successful in other ways,” he said.



Mackenzie Wilson from PEER Cohort 14, from left, with PEER Program Manager Gary Figg and Philip Jennings from PEER Cohort 1.

PEER Positive Program Launches



The Professional Enhancement Enrichment Rotation (PEER) Program launched “PEER Positive” in January to set the tone for a promising new year.

More than 50 PEER participants from Cohorts 1 through 14 attended the after-hours event where they were introduced to the benefits of making positive choices, building positive relationships and implementing positive lifestyle tools in their daily activities.

“The PEER Program has always enhanced the quality of life for participants. As participation has grown and rotations have expanded across the enterprise, PEER participants have a unique opportunity to positively shape the company’s workplace culture,” said PEER Program Manager **Gary Figg**.

PEER Positive is a new monthly program for PEER participants and graduates. Future plans include opportunities for company-wide participation.

On the Spot Ethics Awards Announced

The following shipbuilders were recently honored with On-the-Spot Ethics Awards: **Sherri G. Thompson** (O20), **John C. Martin** (T55), **Becky P. Clary** (E37), **James “Jim” Daniels** (O19), **Kammy L. Alligood** (O38), **Kari S. Adams** (X57), **Cynthia “Cindy” Muckelroy** (X47) and **Kardell J. Sawyer** (X33).

To nominate a fellow employee, submit form C-941 to the Ethics Office, Dept. O18.

AROUND THE YARD

Relay For Life Campaign Begins

Newport News Shipbuilding's American Cancer Society Relay For Life campaign officially begins Monday, Feb. 24,



and runs through May 15. The NNS Relay For Life team will host a campaign kickoff event from 4:15 until 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, in Bldg. 520-6 (Executive Dining Room). Shipbuilders are invited to attend to join the team and support its team mission.

In addition to registering for the event, attendees will have the opportunity to network and learn more about the cause. Relay For Life raises money for cancer research, caregiving assistance and patient lodging while recognizing loved ones and lives lost from cancer.

This is the third year NNS is participating as a presenting sponsor for the Newport News-York-Poquoson Relay For Life, and the team has a \$50,000 fundraising goal. An estimated 1.7 million people in the United States will be diagnosed with cancer this year, and 45,440 of them are in Virginia. Every donation is one step closer to help find a cure and impact a life affected by cancer. To reflect the global impact of cancer, the NNS team's 2020 slogan is "Together We Can Change the World."

Shipbuilders who can't attend the kickoff event can register online at www.RelayforLife.org/NNS. For more information, contact **Adam Krininger** (PEER X57) at 380-4286.



Did You Know?

Newport News Shipbuilding employees can view their employee profile, which includes job history, compensation and employment details, in MyHR. Curious about your career/compensation history? Visit the Employee Self-Service Guide to learn how to access your employee profile.

Black History Month Celebration Rescheduled

The African American Shipbuilders Association's annual Black History Month celebration will be held at 4:30 p.m. on March 26, in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room). Janice Underwood, director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the commonwealth of Virginia, will speak at the event.

FOCUSNNS Watch Focus NNS

The latest edition of Focus NNS features a *John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79) construction update, a spotlight on Newport News Shipbuilding's Safety and Engagement expo as well as new innovations in manufacturing and the latest technology being used in the company's Pipe Shop.

Hosted by Communications Director **Bryan Moore**, Focus NNS is available for viewing on Newport News Shipbuilding's website (nns.huntingtoningalls.com/focusnns) and the following community television stations:

- Blacksburg (WTOB-TV) Channel 2; Channel 16 on the Virginia Tech campus
- Charlottesville (TV10) Public Access Channel 10
- Hampton (HCCTV) Cox Channel 47; Verizon Fios Channel 22
- James City County (JCC TV) Cox Channel 48 and 1048
- Newport News (NNTV) Cox Channel 48; Verizon Fios Channel 19
- Newport News Public Schools Cox Channel 47; Verizon Fios Channel 17
- Norfolk (TV48) Cox Channel 48
- Portsmouth (PCTV) Cox Channel 48; Verizon Fios Channel 39
- Virginia Beach (VBTV) Cox Channel 48; Verizon Fios Channel 45
- Williamsburg (WMSBG TV) Cox Channel 48



Pictured from left are Larry Baranowski, Robert MacDonald, John Clark and Dave Vandegriff.

Shipbuilders Honored for Taking Action

X36 crane team members **Robert MacDonald** and **John Clark** were recently recognized by leaders for taking action to prevent a fellow shipbuilder from serious injury.

MacDonald and Clark saw a fellow shipbuilder drop a spool wire into a third rail – or electrical track – for a crane in January. The continuous live current that runs crane third rails makes them extreme hazards.

The pair recognized the danger and stopped the shipbuilder before he attempted to retrieve the dropped wire, which could have resulted in electrocution. They then barricaded the area until it could be secured.

Shipbuilders are reminded that third rail dangers aren't to be taken lightly. Recognizing the hazard is everyone's responsibility.

In-Yard Blood Drives Planned for March

Newport News Shipbuilding and the American Red Cross are hosting in-yard blood drives from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. March 4 in Bldg. 1744 and from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on March 12 in Bldg. 4931 (PCU Assembly Room).

Shipbuilders who would like to donate should email the Blood Drive Donation Form to corporatcitizenship@hii-nns.com or fax it to 688-7060.

DATEBOOK

FEBRUARY 27

Attend a women's learning event from 4 until 6 p.m. in the PCU Assembly Room (Bldg. 4931) to hear thought-provoking leaders share their experiences about leadership and the power of choice. Learn, share, network and practice leadership skills with others. This event is open to all NNS shipbuilders. RSVP on MyNNS or contact **Kathy Hansen** (E35) at 534-3893.

FEBRUARY 27

Shipbuilders looking for a way to sharpen speaking, listening and leadership skills can attend the "Spear and Gear" Toastmasters Club meeting from 4:45 until 5:45 p.m. in Room 247 at The Apprentice School (Bldg. 1919). For more information, contact **Jay Romulo** (O31) at 380-3768 or **Jamar Skyles** (X44) at 534-3826.

MARCH 3

L.E.A.R.N. is hosting an after-work presentation with **Susan Jacobs**, vice president of Human Resources and Administration, from 4:30 until 6 p.m. in the VASCIC auditorium. The event is open to all employees by reservation only. Sign-up on the L.E.A.R.N. website on MyNNS. For questions, contact **Tanika Vasquez** (E08) at 688-7916, **Chris Porro** (E70) at 534-0332, or email LEARN@hii-nns.com.

MARCH 4

Newport News Shipbuilding Food Services and Aramark are hosting the first Food Truck Roundup of the year at noon at the Modular Outfitting Facility (MOF) and Supplemental Modular Outfitting Facility (SMOF).

MARCH 11

Registration for the spring 2020 Night School session is open through March 11. Visit the Night School Program website to learn more, see a course listing and print an application. Completed applications should be returned to the Night School office, faxed to 688-8640 or emailed to **Sherry Morgan** (O22).

MARCH 12 AND 17

Make smart savings decisions now to help you in retirement. SmartPath is offering special two-part retirement readiness seminars in March and April. Part 1 is available via webinar at NNS at noon on March 12 and at 4:30 p.m. on March 17. To register for the webinar and onsite seminars, visit www.joinsmartpath.com/hii/classes. Look for Retirement Readiness: Part 2 in April.

MARCH 19

The Virginia Ship Repair Foundation is looking for technical advisers to assist local middle schools during its 14th annual LEGO Competition. Volunteers will help students design, build and present their shipbuilding innovations in LEGO CAD at the competition, held from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. March 19 at Nauticus. To volunteer, visit the Newport News Shipbuilding Gives website. For more information, contact **Sallena Nikitas** at (757) 233-7034 or at SNikitas@VirginiaShipRepair.org.

MARCH 19

Women in Shipbuilding Enterprise (WiSE) is hosting a Women's History Month roundtable from 4 until 6 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room). Female leaders from Newport News Shipbuilding will lead discussions. Attendees will participate in intimate, up close and personal conversations. This event is open to all NNS shipbuilders. Seating is limited. RSVP on MyNNS or contact **Kathy Hansen** (E35) at 534-3893.

APRIL 16

The HII Scholarship Fund is accepting applications for the 2020-2021 school year until 4 p.m. on April 16. Children of all HII employees are eligible to apply, with the exception of children of senior executives and those employees who have been with the company for less than two years. Visit www.scholarsapply.org/hii-readiness for the school readiness scholarship. For the post-secondary school scholarship, visit www.scholarsapply.org/hii-scholarship.

APRIL 22

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. To celebrate the occasion, shipbuilders are invited to volunteer to clean up and beautify the community from 3:30 until 5 p.m. at Christopher Newport Park, the Victory Arch area and the Huntington Park beachfront. For more information, visit the Earth Day website on MyNNS. Volunteer forms should be submitted to **Ebony Webb** (O27) via email or Yardmail (Dept. O27, Bldg. 79-1).

APRIL 24

The 2020 Nuclear Propulsion Division Spring Golf Classic will be held at noon at Riverfront Golf Course. This is a four-person captain's choice tournament. The cost of \$80 per person (\$320 per team) includes green fee, range balls, cart, goodie bag and post-tournament cookout. A portion of the proceeds will go to the American Heart Association and end-of-year gathering. For more information, contact **David Scarlett** (X73) at 380-4470.

PMP Boot Camp and Application Assistance Registration Open

Shipbuilders interested in obtaining Project Management Professional (PMP) certifications have the opportunity to register for PMP application assistance workshops and boot camps.

To learn more about PMP application assistance workshops and to sign up, visit the Project Management Shipbuilder Association's (PMSA) events page on MyNNS.

To learn more about upcoming boot camps and to sign up, visit the project management certifications page on MyNNS.

PMSA is also looking for a communications lead. PMPs who are interested and have experience creating and executing communication plans and events should contact **Karen Holloway** (T56) via email.

THIRD ANNUAL UNITED WAY CHILI COOKOFF RESCHEDULED

Come taste all the different types of chili at the third annual Chili Cook Off Security (O15) United Way Campaign event from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28, in Bldg. 4632. Shipbuilders can purchase tickets – with cash only – and vote for their favorite chili. Contact **Yvonne Weiss** (O15) via email for more information.

SEEKING SHIPBUILDERS

Visit www.buildyourcareer.com to search for the latest NNS job openings.

Job Title	Req Number	Dept.	Location
Engineer 3	33783BR	E70	Newport News
Engineering Planning Analyst	34420BR	E81	Newport News
Experienced Marine Painter	33998BR	X33	Newport News
Engineer Mechanical 3	32332BR	E03	Newport News
Engineer Mechanical 3	32334BR	E03	Newport News
Engineer Mechanical 3 – Piping	33382BR	E26	Newport News
Industrial Hygienist 4	33695BR	O96	Ballston Spa, NY
Production Planning and Scheduler	31839BR	X83	Groton, CT
SAP PS/PP PEO Solution Architect	31560BR	T55	Newport News
Tugboat Captain/Supervisor Tug Operator	34354BR	X36	Newport News

Employees are encouraged to use the "Current HII Employees" portal to apply. The company continues to offer cash bonus awards for referrals to select positions, visit www.huntingtoningalls.com/careers/refer-a-friend for more information.