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By the Associated Press

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Christopher Newport gains top rankings

By The Associated Press

Christopher Newport ranked highly by national publications

Christopher Newport gained top rankings in the recent U.S. News & World Report rankings and has been included in the top 20 regional public liberal arts colleges.

Also last month, the Kaplan Newsweek College Catalog ranked CNU No. 2 in the South among top regional public liberal arts colleges.

Christopher Newport now getting national attention

CNU in national spotlight

The Associated Press

By The Associated Press

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Now the world knows what CNU alumni have known for years: Christopher Newport University is an excellent school.

CNU has received three prestigious accolades in the past few months:

- The prestigious *Kaplan-Newsweek College Catalog* named CNU among the nation’s top schools. It named CNU one of its “hidden treasures—terrific colleges that aren’t as well known as they should be.” It cited CNU as “a school providing a good liberal arts education” and as “a school offering the maximum amount of individual academic attention.”
- *The Templeton Guide: Colleges that Encourage Character Development!* recognized CNU for leadership in the field of student character development. The guide identifies colleges that encourage students to understand the importance of personal and civic responsibility. CNU is profiled in the Volunteer Service Programs section of the guide for its Praxis Project, which offers the opportunity to earn credit for community service.

The new bronze sculpture and fountain is the highlight of the Academic Quad.
Karen Levy

“I had a very good educational experience at CNU...”

“I had a very good educational experience at CNU,” says Karen Levy, ’91, manager of information systems for the City of Newport News Waterworks and a past president of the Alumni Association. “When I was a student, I was proud of what CNU was accomplishing. Now the recognition and new vision emerging really enforces how fortunate we are to have CNU and its leadership on the Peninsula.”

Levy is also excited about the prospect of CNU football. “It will give alumni the opportunity to network and be more committed to the university.”

Pat Minetti

“...delightful learning experience” at CNU.

Pat Minetti, ’77, Hampton police chief, says he had a “delightful learning experience” at CNU because “it was just the right size to be able to establish meaningful relationships with both students and the faculty.”

After completing his degree in political science and government administration at CNU, Minetti went on to earn a master’s degree in public administration at Harvard. He returned to his post in the police department and taught at CNU for two years as an adjunct faculty member. Minetti was honored in 1974 as a distinguished CNU alumnus.

“The recognition CNU is receiving is well deserved,” he says. “It definitely adds value to a CNU degree. Moreover, it’s a breath of fresh air to see the progress CNU is making under the leadership of President Paul Trible. He’s such a visionary – he electrifies everyone around him. He has the reputation for getting things done, and CNU is on the move.”

Jim Eyre

“For those of us who’ve been around for a long time, it’s not surprising.”

Jim Eyre ’75, vice president of VBS Inc. in Richmond and former Alumni Association president, says it is very gratifying to see CNU get the recognition it deserves. “For those of us who’ve been around for a long time, it’s not surprising.”

Eyre, who was recognized in May as an outstanding alumnus keeps in touch with CNU by participating in university activities.

“It’s very exciting to see the development of the campus,” he says, referring to the addition of the Sports and Convocation Center, a new dorm and the planned Center for The Arts. “CNU has had a solid base with an excellent faculty, now the building that is taking place is expanding its capabilities.”

Joan Morris

“...very supportive of non-traditional students.”

The Honorable Joan Morris, ’74, a Newport News General District Court judge, says she found CNU faculty “very supportive of non-traditional students,” noting she was older than the recent high school grads when she attended the college.

“I think it’s just fantastic that CNU is being recognized now,” she says. “Not only as a member of the alumni, but as a member of the community.” She says both the accolades and the campus growth are very positive for the community.
Alumnus strives to build QualityClick.com into next computer giant

Marcus Howerton knew he needed an education, but his dreams wouldn’t wait. So he got his degree in business administration in three years at CNU while running his first business, six days a week, 12 hours a day.

“I wanted to get my ticket punched and get on with life,” says Howerton, ’89, the 31-year-old CEO of QualityClick.com, an internet-based computer-manufacturing company.

Howerton was Virginia’s Young Entrepreneur of the Year in 1998, the Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce’s Young Entrepreneur of the Year in 1997, and this year he won the Chamber’s Small Business Person Award in technology.

Marcus Howerton intends to make QualityClick.com a household word.

‘It’s all about timing and having the ability and guts to roll the dice.’

QualityClick, Howerton’s 4-year-old second business, is located in Newport News’ Oyster Point Business Park where it manufactures computer hardware and software and sells it to retailers, businesses and consumers over the Internet. Howerton sold his first business, a computer company called Microserve, in 1994 to TexCom.

“By the time I graduated from college, I was selling $2 million (in computers) per year and had 15 to 20 employees,” says Howerton of the early years. “I used my professors as consultants to my business. I got to ‘live’ college rather than just learn theory out of a book.”

Howerton has always been an entrepreneur. At 12, he and his brother Walter, who is the technical expert behind the QualityClick scene, started a paper route which grew into five routes within a year. The rest, as they say, is history.
Howerton, right, confers with employees on a computer manufacturing project.

When Howerton sold Microserve, he was given a two-year contract as national sales manager. But Howerton saw opportunity in the Internet, and the entrepreneurial bug bit him again. "It's all about timing and having the ability and guts to roll the dice," he says. "I left a very good job making a lot of money to jump back into the abyss."

It's a decision he hasn't regretted. "At 31, I've experienced more than most 60 year olds - phenomenal growth, 105 employees, a 53,000-square-foot building and incredible stress."

While QualityClick — like most Internet companies — isn't turning a profit yet, it has been ranked 25th among the top 100 Internet retailers by a study sponsored by the National Retail Federation and VerioFone. Sales last year reached $23.5 million.

Howerton's short-term goal is to raise $10 million in venture capital and position the company to go public. Current investors include real estate magnate Ed Joseph and former Minnesota Vikings quarterback Fran Tarkenton.

His long-term goal is to build his business to the point that he can spend more time with his sons Connor, 2, and Kyle, 4. He says he's three to five years from being able to relinquish any more duties, but "I've gotten past working 18-hour days by surrounding myself with very talented people."

One of those is Tom H. Mills, QualityClick's chief operations officer. He is the former vice president of merchandising for Best Buy Company and Office Warehouse.

"The difference between a successful entrepreneur and one who doesn't get past being a small business is hiring the right people and then letting them handle the details," he says.

Looking back on his years at CNU, Howerton says, "It was a valuable part of my knowledge. My grades were fine, but I was no Rhodes Scholar. My education involved more hands-on experience than that of my peers."
New VP has ambitious plans for fundraising

Jack Sims is the kind of guy who never meets a stranger. His quick wit and rush of ideas energizes everyone in his wake.

After two months on campus as vice president for University Advancement, he already expresses his enthusiasm for the university and the task that lies ahead.

“I really love CNU,” he says. “I already know a great many students and faculty. The excitement on campus is infectious.”

Before coming to CNU, Sims was director of the Virginia Commonwealth University Foundation. He served as chief development officer for the foundation that had $81 million in assets. While at VCU he was also director of capital support. As such, he was the chief fundraiser for the School of Business, alumni house, honors program, library and the new track and soccer stadium.

“Jack brings a wealth of knowledge and results to CNU. He is a very successful fundraiser, and we are expecting great things from him,” says Paul Trible.
"My goal is to help fund CNU's strategic plan and the vision of President Trible," says Sims. "We want to significantly raise the level of alumni donor participation and our charitable giving among corporations, foundations and friends of CNU."

In addition to his work at VCU, Sims has served as the state director of development for Virginia Opera where he was responsible for an annual $2-million fundraising goal. He was also the executive director for Kentucky Citizens for the Arts and a county judge executive in Hart County, KY.

Sims received his MBA in public administration from Western Kentucky University and a BA in political science from Morehead State University.

Sims and his wife Pat, a computer programmer and analyst, have a 19-year-old son, Collin, who is a student at Virginia Tech. They are looking forward to buying a home in Newport News and a beach house in Nags Head.

He enjoys opera and the symphony and is an avid reader of classic literature. "I'm a sports nut," he admits. "So now I'll become a CNU sports nut."
First director of vocal studies has family connections to university’s namesake

Tod Fitzpatrick, DMA, didn’t get his new job at CNU because he’s a distant relative of Christopher Newport, but it makes a good story.

Dr. Fitzpatrick is the university’s first director of vocal studies in the Music Department, and he also directs the CNU opera program. A native of Northern California, he came to the university in August after earning his doctoral degree in music (DMA) at the University of Southern California, where he had also received his master’s degree. Between his degree pursuits, he spent four years as an opera singer with the Los Angeles Opera.

“I didn’t even realize the connection with CNU until after I was offered the position here,” he says. Fitzpatrick’s great-grandmother on his father’s side was Madge Newport, who lived in the early 1900s. Her ancestry is traced to Christopher Newport’s step-brother.

Fitzpatrick says he learned about the family connection in a circuitous fashion. About four years ago, he met a man by the name of Don Newport at a Fitzpatrick family reunion in northern California. Newport, a retiree, had been travelling in a motor home all over the country researching his genealogy.

While gathering genealogy information in a cemetery, he had left a note on the tombstone of a relative requesting that any other relatives who might visit the grave contact him. A member of Fitzpatrick’s family found the note and phoned Newport, establishing the family connection. At that reunion, Newport told Fitzpatrick about their famous relative.

Through connections at USC, Fitzpatrick learned about the job opening at CNU. He did not make the mental connection to Christopher Newport even during the interview phase. But after the job was offered, he remembered the story told to him by Don Newport and checked a family newsletter to confirm his hunch that CNU’s namesake was the same man as his famous relative.

“It’s all just an interesting coincidence,” he says. “I don’t have close family drawing me here, and I wasn’t aware of any connection until I got the job.”

Just like his ancestor, Fitzpatrick has big dreams. “I want CNU to be at the top of the list for potential music students,” he says. “CNU is gaining a reputation as THE performance place on the Peninsula, which is enhanced by the plans for the Center for the Arts.”

He has an optimistic outlook for the role of performing arts in society, in spite of the current emphasis on technology and business. “People are working longer days and when they’re done, they want to get out and away from it. They want to experience other things, such as music.”

Fitzpatrick espouses a nurturing philosophy toward students. “I truly believe in unlimited potential,” he says. “With the right cultivating environment and student determination, strong growth is the result.”

Fitzpatrick lives with his wife Elaine, also a musician, whom he met during a production of Oklahoma!
Music lovers can keep cozy this winter under the new Friends of Music afghan while providing music scholarships. The afghan, available in navy, hunter green or cranberry red, is 48" x 65," 100-percent cotton and machine washable and dryable. One hundred percent of the proceeds benefit the Endowed Music Scholarship Fund.

Cost is $40 each or $35 each for two or more, plus a $3 shipping and handling fee per item. They make perfect gifts for the CNU music lovers in your family.

To order, make your check payable to CNUED Friends of Music and mail to the Department of Music, E!friede Morrison (left), president of the Friends of Music, CNU, Newport News, VA, 23606-2998. You may also order by calling the CNU Music Department at (757) 594-7089 or Elfriede Morrison, president, Friends of Music, at (757) 898-9880.

CNU performances include OUR TOWN

Kimberly D. Lee and Keith R. Lewis play Emily and George in the CNU Department of Theater’s production of Our Town in October. Upcoming performances include the Gilbert and Sullivan musical The Mikado, playing Feb. 24-27, and Women of Trachis, playing April 20-22. Tickets are $8 to the public and $5 for senior citizens. All performances are in Gaines Theatre. For reservations, call (757) 594-8752.

ALUMNI NOTES

L. Scott Templeton, ’91, Highlands Ranch, CO, is director of ancillary services for Archstone Communities, a real estate investment trust.

Stacey Robbins Bryan, ’92, Honolulu, HI, and her husband Kyle, a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy, are living in Hawaii. She is pursuing a nursing degree.

Tracy James Morris, ’92, Charlottesville, VA, married Christopher Morris on Oct. 2. She completed her master’s degree in public administration from Troy State University in June and is an accountant for the City of Charlottesville.

James P. Mullen, ’92, Goldsboro, NC, earned her MA in history in 1997 from East Carolina University and is now an adjunct history instructor at Wayne Community College.

Paul Zabicki, ’92, Hayes, VA, is completing prerequisite coursework for the evening MBA program at the College of William & Mary.

Melissa Lemon Atchley, ’93, Williamsburg, VA, is the parent of identical twin boys, Alexander James and Austin McClellan, born April 19.

Barbara C. Fields, ’93 and ’99, Winter Park, FL, has been accepted into the MS biology program at the University of Central Florida.

Harry R. Flowler, Jr., ’93, Newport News, VA, has been promoted to the position of director of public works with the City of Newport News.

Harry J. Knight, Jr., ’93, Colorado Springs, CO, is the head girls’ basketball coach and math teacher at his high school alma mater.

Billy Saulman, ’93, Newport News, VA, and his wife Jennifer are the parents of a boy – their first child – Jared Tanner, born March 10.
Attorney General looks to CNU to mentor kids

As a father of six, Virginia Attorney General Mark Earley knows the importance of developing close relationships with children.

That knowledge was confirmed when he talked one-on-one with 45 juvenile offenders across the state, who, in every case, had grown up without a father or mother or both. One Richmond boy, 14, hadn’t seen his father for 10 years until the boy met him in the street to sell him drugs.

Stories like these spurred Earley to begin Virginia’s Future, an effort to recruit students, business people, church members and other individuals to mentor “at risk” children. CNU has been selected as one of four universities to pilot the program. Earley was on campus in October to speak to students and staff about his vision.

Earley says his mission is not to create a new program, rather to inspire Virginians to commit to one of the hundreds of such programs already in existence. These include Big Brothers and Big Sisters; One More Chance, a church-sponsored organization in Newport News; Partnership for the Future, a business-led group in Richmond; or College Partnership for Kids, which connects William & Mary students with elementary school students. Earley’s group publishes a catalogue listing mentoring programs throughout Virginia.

Virginia’s Future began in reaction to the February 1998 shooting death of high school student Matthew Albright in Fairfax. Matthew, an innocent bystander, was a passenger in a car with a student who had had an altercation with a gang. The gang member, gunfire for the driver, hit Matthew instead as they sat in the car in a school parking lot.

After the shooting, a task force of students, law enforcement officers, delegates and representatives from the attorney general’s office met to discuss ways to help kids stay out of trouble. Drugs, gangs and violence were identified as the leading causes of youth offenses.

Surveys of youths in detention centers showed that 71 percent of gang members joined when they were between the ages of 11 and 14. More than 90 percent said they joined gangs for friendship and more than 70 percent for excitement.

“Kids told us the reason they join gangs is to have a group to belong to,” he said. “These are the kids who don’t have one or both parents there to guide them. The parents are absent either physically or emotionally.”

Mentoring was identified as the best way to help these children.

“I’ve become really passionate about this, and I want you to,” Earley said. “If every one of us don’t reach out and take an interest in a child that’s not our own, we’re going to continue to become either the victims or perpetrators of youth violence.”

Earley practices what he preaches. As a volunteer for the Lunch Buddy Program in Richmond, he spends an hour-and-a-half once a month having lunch with a young boy in a local school. If the boy gets an award or has a special school activity, Earley is there to support him.

Virginia’s Future has set a goal of recruiting 2,000 new mentors by the year 2000. If you are interested in participating, call toll-free at 1-877-206-9526 for more information.

Christopher Newport Alumni Magazine
CNU experiences European culture and sights

A delegation of 28 students, faculty and friends experienced first-hand the history, culture and good life of Spain in July as they participated in the CNU Seminar in Madrid.

Alumni are invited to participate next spring in a similar seminar in London to experience the English theatrical tradition.

This summer’s two-week seminar, called “Spain in the 20th Century: From Franco to the European Union” included aspects of modern Spanish history, culture and society. It included excursions to Toledo, Segovia, El Escorial and the Valley of the Fallen.

“It was very exciting to be able to teach the history and culture of Spain on-site,” says Dr. Danielle Cahill, associate professor of Spanish, who led the trip. “Participants were thrilled to see the exquisite monuments of Spanish culture first-hand and savor the food and delicious wine.”

Assisting Cahill were Dr. Marshall Booker, professor of economics and finance, and Dr. Lourdes Travieso-Parker, adjunct Spanish instructor.

“We had a great group of people of all ages who unanimously agreed that we had a blast,” says Cahill.

The London trip is scheduled for May 15-29. The seminar will immerse its participants in the glories of English theater, past and present. Emphasis will be placed on developing an appreciation of the play both in performance and as written.

London is alive with theater – for the theater aficionado it surpasses New York. Four plays in production in London will be chosen to serve as the principal focus for class activities, readings and lectures. This seminar will appeal to both seasoned theater lovers and novices.

Cost of the trip is $2,374 per person and includes round-trip airfare from Washington Dulles Airport. An informational meeting will be held on Jan. 21. Participants are limited to 30, with preference given to CNU students. Slots for other participants will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, contact George Hillow, (757) 594-8897, or Cathy Banks, (757) 594-7125.

ALUMNI NOTES

Robin Lynn Delk Herbert, ’95, Chesapeake, VA, was recently married.

Kathleen A. LeMons, ’95, Newport News, VA, an accredited asset management specialist with Wheat First Union, has been promoted to investment officer.

Mynette Majette, ’95, Hampton, VA, is a polymer chemist at CIBA Specialty Chemicals Corporation in Suffolk.

Virginia M. Reed, ’95, Sacramento, CA, is attending the McGeorge School of Law. She was selected as assistant articles editor of The Transnational Law Journal. She recently won an honors award in trial advocacy.

Ramona Cousins White, ’95, Hampton, VA, and her husband Derek have a daughter born on June 16.

Michael T. Butcher, ’96, Winston-Salem, NC, is studying for his master’s degree at Wake Forrest University and planning to work toward a doctorate in comparative bio-mechanics and functional morphology.


Angela L. Head, ’96, Chesapeake, VA, completed her master’s degree in educational administration from Old Dominion University in May.

Tom Mister, ’96 and Melissa Sharman Mister, ’96, Newport News, VA, are the parents of a daughter, Abigail Nicole, born May 9. Tom is working on his MBA at the College of William & Mary and Melissa completed her MS Ed. at Old Dominion University.

Christopher Shawn Bundick, ’97, of Hampton, VA, is a financial analyst for Newport News Shipbuilding.

Stacia L. Chapman, ’97, Escondido, CA, has completed her MSW degree at Virginia Commonwealth University and is working as a volunteer coordinator at the American Red Cross in San Diego.
Cedar research grant enlists CNU students to help save endangered ecosystem

The demise of the Atlantic white cedar was predicted as early as 1748 by Swedish botanist Peter Kalm, who, while visiting the United States, noted that most roofs in New England were made of this type of wood and supplies seemed limited.

Though Kalm underestimated the tree’s natural ability to regenerate and thus inaccurately predicted when the tree would become endangered, CNU assistant professor Dr. Robert Atkinson notes that his fears were well-placed.

Atkinson has been leading a team of scientists and students in a research project funded by the Environmental Protection Agency. The project, now entering its third year, is supported by a $700,000 grant—the largest in CNU history—to evaluate the restoration of Atlantic white cedar.

“Others are doing the restoration,” Atkinson explains. “Our role is to see what works and how to make it better.” Even so, Atkinson’s students volunteered to distribute upwards of 52,000 seedlings for planting at various locations when a refrigerator used to store them in North Carolina had to be shut down.

Both graduate and undergraduate students work as a team to gather and analyze data that could help to manage and restore the swamp. This project concerns everything from how well cedar seedlings are surviving and growing to how many wildlife species depend on each site.

Undergraduates participate in lab portions of the study, but also frequently travel to field sites, which are in three wildlife refuges: the Great Dismal Swamp in Virginia, and Alligator River and Pocosin Lakes in North Carolina.

Atlantic white cedar, also called juniper, grows up to 100 feet tall and forms dense stands in certain swamps. The trees can be found from Maine to Florida, but are most impressive in Virginia and North Carolina.

A valuable export commodity for Virginia during the past two centuries, juniper is still a favorite material for floors, roofs and many other commodities. Offshore fishing boat builders in Manteo, NC, prefer the lightweight, durable and decay-resistant wood.

Ditching, fire suppression and over-harvesting in the last 100 years have eliminated more than 90 percent of the original acreage, and the future of this enigmatic swamp tree is very much in doubt.

In an entirely new category, Atlantic white cedar swamps are described as “globally threatened.” The Atlantic white cedar is not to be confused with the more common eastern red cedar, which is neither threatened nor as economically important as Atlantic white cedar.
Atkinson says one of the most positive outcomes of the study has been the involvement of undergraduates in professional, practical experiences early in their careers. They have worked side-by-side with graduate students in data collection, obtained course credit for independent study, received work-study wages and, in two cases, earned authorship on published papers resulting from the work.

“It has been great to have actual field and lab experience,” says senior Carter Goerger, who assisted D.A. Brown, the first graduate student on the project, and the first graduate of the new Masters of Environmental Science program in the Biology, Chemistry and Environmental Science (BCES) Department.

“It has done wonders for my resume. I’ve been able to accomplish things I would never have been able to do by just going to class.”

“This kind of graduate-undergraduate interaction was a big part of our motivation for starting the new MS program,” says Harold Cones, chair of the BCES Department.

“We can underscore lessons learned in class and model the kind of team approach that is how science really works. Of course that gives our graduates a competitive edge in the job market.”

Atkinson says that CNU is an ideal place for undergraduate involvement in research. “CNU is a school that values undergraduates. Because publication pressures are very reasonable here, faculty can afford the extra training time that undergraduates require. At large ‘research institutions,’ undergraduates may just hear about research second-hand.”

He says students also recognize and appreciate the administration’s commitment. George Webb, dean of the College of Business, Science and Technology, has added the carrot of both financial support and special recognition. “This is an opportunity for our students that doesn’t exist at most universities,” says Webb. “We want students to know how important participation in research is to their professional development.”

The grant also has been a boon to the university in that it has paid for expensive equipment, such as a $16,000 Li-Cor 6200, which measures photosynthetic, or growth, rates. Students will use that equipment for many years after this study is completed. In addition to the out-right purchase of equipment, the project has resulted in the sharing of equipment with other institutions, also benefiting students. Sharing equipment has saved an estimated $150,000 so far.

“CNU graduate and undergraduate students interact with graduate students from both Virginia Institute of Marine Science and Old Dominion University, which benefits all the students involved,” says Robert Belcher, a CNU graduate student who also helps manage the study.

Historical documents, personal interviews and museum surveys are also part of the study as the team attempts to establish trends and understand why such ecosystems deserve restoration.

“It’s a unique opportunity to be alive in what may be the waning years of an ecosystem,” says Atkinson. “We pause when we hear of losing endangered species, but most people can’t even imagine losing an entire ecosystem. I hope we can help avoid such an ecological, cultural and economic tragedy.”

When you see the intensity of students contributing to the study, you can’t help but feel optimistic about the future, he adds.
Alumni look back on Ratcliffe as it enters last basketball season

If you’ve ever experienced the feelings of excitement at the purchase of a new car and yet had pangs of nostalgia for the old, faithful car, you probably can relate to some CNU alumni’s thoughts about the end of an era for Ratcliffe Gymnasium.

Ratcliffe Gymnasium has been home to CNU’s basketball, volleyball and athletic classes for 33 years. All that is about to change with the addition of a new 110,000-square-foot Sports and Convocation Center, that will include a 2,500-seat arena for athletic events. Scheduled for occupancy next fall, the center will be home to CNU’s basketball, volleyball and track teams, as well as provide a 10,000-square-foot fitness area, tennis and badminton courts and a first-class café.
Ratcliffe will be converted into a modern academic building. But before that happens, CNU fans will have one more season in the old gym, where athletic director C.J. Woollum has had a new center court painted to commemorate the final year. It sports the CNU logo in the center of a blue circle, encircled with the words “Ratcliffe Gymnasium – 33 years of excellence.”

Alumni say though they’re excited about progress, it will seem strange that the building they knew as students will no longer be used as a gym.

“I used the gym for track warm-ups and dance classes as a student, and later my daughter used it during cheerleading competition,” says Edna Davis, ’83, a member of the CNU Athletics Department Hall of Fame for women’s track and now a physical education teacher at Lindsay Middle School in Hampton, VA. “It will seem strange to be back on campus and to know that it’s no longer a gym.”

Kevin Myers, ’90, another Hall of Fame track star, echoes Davis. He and his wife Sheila Trice-Myers, also a Hall of Fame member for her track accomplishments, used Ratcliffe for practice, warm-ups, recreation and intramural sports.

“My wife, Sheila, says, “I’m not sad about it closing, because getting the new building is progress – it will be a much better facility – but it certainly will be different,” says Davis, who is now director of the Parks & Recreation Department for Goochland County, VA. Sheila is the director of the Office on Youth for the City of Petersburg.

“There is definitely a home-court advantage in Ratcliffe for basketball games,” says Myers. “The fans are almost on the court.”

Darry Patterson, ’84, agrees. “Watching the games, there’s a lot more intimacy with the players. Many times I had to throw the ball back into the game, because it came right at me.”

(Continued on next page)
### 2000 WOMEN’S BASKETBALL HOME GAME SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri., 7</td>
<td><em>Reebok/Spaghetti Warehouse/CNU Invitational</em></td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CNU vs. Chowan College</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Apprentice School vs. William Patterson</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., 8</td>
<td><em>Reebok/Spaghetti Warehouse/CNU Invitational</em></td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consolidation Game</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Championship Game</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., 12</td>
<td>North Carolina Wesleyan</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., 16</td>
<td>Shenandoah University</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., 29</td>
<td>Methodist College</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun., 30</td>
<td>Greensboro College</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., 9</td>
<td>Ferrum College</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat., 12</td>
<td>Averett College (Homecoming)</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
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### 2000 MEN’S BASKETBALL HOME GAME SCHEDULE

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<tr>
<td>Mon., 3</td>
<td><em>Ramada Inn/Captains Shoot-out</em></td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CNU vs. Muskingum College</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lebanon Valley College vs. Hunter College</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues., 4</td>
<td><em>Ramada Inn/Captains Shoot-out</em></td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Third-place game</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Championship game</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat. 8</td>
<td>Marymount University</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., 12</td>
<td>N.C. Wesleyan College</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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**Ratcliffe**

Continued from page 15

“But I’m excited about the new building,” says Patterson, an insurance agent in Newport News, VA. “Ratcliffe is old and uncomfortable.”

“I think with Ratcliffe, there was a sense of being a small community,” says David Wiggs, ’94, an account manager with Raoust & Partners ad agency in Hampton, VA. Wiggs used the gym to workout and to play pick-up basketball. “It was a part of an earlier CNU as it was beginning to build.”

John Mouring, ’84, a computer software programmer for Litton Marine Systems in Charlottesville, has an even fonder memory of Ratcliffe, in that it was where he took his wife, Patti, on their first date to a basketball game.

“I spent a lot of time in Ratcliffe,” says Mouring, who is also a member of the Hall of Fame for tennis. “The new tennis courts were right outside the gym, and we spent many cold winters practicing on the fast wood of Ratcliffe’s basketball courts.”

“I think with Ratcliffe, there was a sense of being a small community...

The new facility will be the finest Division III facility east of the Mississippi, says Woollum. “I’m sure that with this new facility, our attendance at games will increase. You have to be a very loyal fan to sit through two games (men’s and women’s) on those old, hard bleachers. In the new facility, we’ll have many cushioned, chair-back seats.”

Men’s and women’s basketball teams and track are perhaps the most successful athletic programs offered at CNU.

The men’s basketball team has participated in 11 of the last 12 NCAA Division III Tournaments; something no other Division III team has matched. The Captains are annually among the top-rated teams in the nation.

The women’s basketball team also has had a great amount of success, earning a spot in five NCAA tournaments during the 1990s and continually placing at or near the top of the Dixie Conference.

But track has garnered by far the most national accolades. The CNU women have won 12 national championships since 1987, and have produced more than 300 All-Americans, while the men have also had a number of strong national showings.

But for now, CNU is in the midst of another year of basketball in the building that has provided more than three decades of excitement for students, alumni and friends.
CNU Alumni Society President Yvonne McCoy invites alumni to take advantage of all the offerings of Alumni College 2000.

Homecoming
ALUMNI COLLEGE 2000

8 a.m.-8:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 12
Student Center
Cost: $40

8-9 a.m. Registration/continental breakfast
9-10:30 a.m. Workshops (choose one)
A. Internet Stocks
B. Battle of the Ironclads

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Workshops (choose one)
A. Gems of Europe Travel Workshop
B. Mid-Career Changes

Noon-2 p.m. Alumni pre-game buffet

2-6 p.m. Basketball games or bowling or one of the following workshops:

2-3:30 p.m. Workshops (choose one)
A. World of Wine
B. Starting and Running an Investment Club

4-5:30 p.m. Campus tour. See all the new construction and campus beautification projects during guided tours.

6-8:30 p.m. Homecoming dinner

You can attend the entire Alumni College for $40, which includes breakfast, workshops, pre-game buffet, basketball games, campus tour and dinner.

If you only want to attend the pre-game buffet, the price is $5, which includes the basketball games and campus tour.

Registration deadline is Feb. 4. To register, call the Center for Community Learning at (757) 594-7158 or (757) 594-7153.
Mark your calendar for these upcoming events!

**Homecoming: Alumni College 2000** is set for Saturday, Feb. 12. The day-long event will include workshops, basketball games, bowling, dinner and tours of campus, highlighting construction activities and campus beautification projects. Cost is $40. Registration deadline is Feb. 4. For more information, call the Center for Community Learning at (757) 594-7158 or (757) 594-7153.

Dates for the **Super Speaker Series** have been set. The lectures will be held on Feb. 1, March 7, April 4 and May 9. The lectures are from 7-8 p.m. with reception for season ticket holders following. Watch upcoming notices for more information.

Attend the Broadway musical **Beauty and the Beast** with CNU alumni at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 8 in Chrysler Hall. Cost is $70/person, which includes the play and a reception following. Call (757) 594-7712 for more information. Limited seating!

**Gardening 2000** will be held from 8:30 a.m.- 4 p.m. Saturday, April 29. The third annual gardening show will feature a keynote speaker, 10 workshops, demonstrations, plant sales and prizes. Watch for the next catalogue from the Center for Community Learning for more details.

The **Annual Alumni Dinner** will be held 6 p.m. May 5. Annual awards will be presented. This is an excellent opportunity to meet new friends or renew friendships with other alumni members or faculty and staff. For more information, call the Alumni Office at 594-7712.

The **2000 Alumni Directory** will be coming soon. Watch your mailbox!

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**Be remembered forever…**

In the hearts and minds of those you’ll touch through a bequest to CNU.

If you would like to leave a named fund legacy for your favorite CNU program or to establish a scholarship but are concerned about your current commitments, join other CNU alumni and friends who have provided a simple bequest benefiting CNU in their will or living trust.

For additional information or to request free copies of 37 Things People Know About Wills That Aren’t Really So and Unleashing the Power of Bequests, contact Norma Brown by phone at (757) 594-7805, by e-mail at nbrown@cnu.edu or by mail at Christopher Newport University, Advancement Office, 1 University Place, Newport News, VA, 23606.
The CNU Alumni Society is selling a variety of clothing items sporting the CNU Alumni Society logo to benefit the society.

1. **Sweatshirts** have CNU Alumni Society Logo on the left side. Available only in gray. 50/50 blend, $32.

2. **Denim shirts** have CNU Alumni Society logo available on either left or right. Indicate preference. 100% cotton. $38.

3. **Outer Banks Polo.** Combining the symbols of a proud past with an exciting future, the polo prominently features the Christopher Newport University Seal and new CNU logo on left chest. 100% cotton. $34.50.

4. **Kampus Kolors Windbreaker.** CNU Seal and new CNU logo on left chest. Front pockets. Royal blue and white stripe. 100% nylon. 1/2 zip concealed hood: $41.50. Full zip concealed hood: $47.50.

**Sizes**

Items are available in S, M, L, XL and XXL. Add $2 for XXL.

**Order by Mail**

Please make checks payable to the CNU Alumni Society. Orders will usually be shipped within three weeks. Part of the proceeds will support the Alumni Society.

**Shipping & Handling**

Shipping and handling charges are $4 per address for delivery.

**Mail to:** CNU Alumni Society, 1 University Place, Newport News, VA 23606-2998

Phone: (757)594-7038

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Please do not send cash.

Name ____________________________

Street Address (We cannot ship to post office boxes.) ____________________________

City ____________________________ State ______ Zip ________ Daytime Phone (________)

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<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Item</th>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Price/Each</th>
<th>Total</th>
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Do you want the logo □ left or □ right side for the denim shirt?

4.5% Sales tax VA Residents only

Shipping & Handling

Total

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Join us! Sponsor us!
Alumni to walk for cancer in June

Nearly every family has been touched by the dreaded disease of cancer—and CNU alumni want to join together to fight it.

Kandy Grenier, ’94, has volunteered to serve as team captain for the sixth annual American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life fundraiser. While the event is held at locations throughout the country, the alumni team will focus its efforts on the Newport News, VA, event held at Todd Stadium near the campus.

Last year’s Peninsula event raised $587,000 for cancer services and research. Much of the money stays in the location in which it was raised to help cancer patients. This year’s event will be held June 9-10.

“This is an excellent opportunity to contribute to the community,” says Kandy. “We are planning some fundraising activities, and we’ll also have a booth at the event to raise even more money.”

Teams of 10-15 people representing businesses, organizations, churches and neighborhoods come together for the two-day event to raise awareness of cancer and celebrate their success in raising money for the worthwhile cause. The festival atmosphere is a combination of touching memorials to those who have been lost to cancer, a celebration of life for those who have survived the disease and a family-oriented party for all involved.

If you’d like to join the team or make a contribution, please contact Kandy at 3448 Dandelion Crescent, Virginia Beach, VA, 23456. Phone: (757) 368-0663.

Phonathon ambassadors dial for dollars

Student phonathon ambassadors have raised more than $50,000 for CNU. The annual campaign benefits the university’s academic needs such as scholarships, classroom technology and the library. In addition to asking alumni for pledges, the ambassadors update records and provide information about upcoming events. Alumni are also given the opportunity to send a favorite professor a “faculty gram.” Shown in this photo are ambassadors (back row, l-r) Katie Gately, Shannon Lia, Juli McLean and Janiya Moore; (front row) Michael Pope, Kristen Dunmire and Grant Kitchen.
Etch your name into CNU history

You’ve left your mark on CNU; now you can etch your name into history.

For a tax-deductible donation of $100, you can purchase a personalized paver. The limited edition pavers will be placed in the four walks that lead to the fountain and sculpture, located on the Commons between McMurrnan and Wingfield Halls, the Administration Building and Smith Library.

The fountain has transformed this space into an inviting, collegial gathering place for students, faculty, staff and friends. An elliptical walkway frames the Commons and features a lighted fountain and majestic bronze sculpture of Canadian geese landing on the water.

Each of the 940 specifically designed pavers holds a commemorative bronze plaque. The paver-plaque can be inscribed with your name and class year, a memorial message or an “in honor” message for a special person, friend or event. The possibilities are only limited by the number of characters that will fit on the plaque. There is a maximum of three lines of type with 18 characters per line.

To purchase a paver, complete the form on the back and send it with your check made payable to CNU Educational Foundation (CNUEF). Mail them to CNU, Office of the University Advancement, 1 University Place, Newport News, VA 23606-2998. Your donation may qualify as a matching gift through your company; please check with your organization. MasterCard and VISA are also accepted. For more information, call (757) 594-7702.

Emma Jean Falls of the CNU Athletics Department places her paver into the first brick. She purchased the first paver of the campaign.
Paver Order Information

Name ____________________________________________
Daytime Phone ___________________________________
Street Address ____________________________________ City ______ State ______ Zip ______

I would like to purchase a brick paver at ($100) for the fountain/sculpture on the CNU Commons. Please inscribe my brick paver as shown below. Note: If the brick is a gift to someone else or in memory of a love one, you may want to write the words “In memory of” or “In honor of” before the name or names. There is a maximum of three lines with 18 characters each line.

Leave a space between word/names. One inscription per order form.
Tear out and mail with check in an envelope or alone if paying by credit card.
Card No. ____________ Exp. Date ____________
Name as it appears on card. ______________________
Signature ___________________________

Let Us Hear From You!
Name ____________________________________________ Maiden ______________________
Class _____________________________________________
Home Address ____________________________________ City ____________
State _______ Zip _______ Phone ____________
email _____________________________________________
Business Name ____________________________________
Business Address & Phone _____________________________

Check out our new web page at www.cnu.edu/alumni/