

MEMORANDUM

TO: University Community

FROM: Paul Tribble

DATE: January 25, 2007

RE: Capital projects recently completed, under construction or in planning at Christopher Newport University

There are several capital projects either recently completed, under construction or in planning at this time. These projects include the Tribble Library, Lewis Archer McMurren, Jr. Hall, the new science building, the expansion of the Robert L. Freeman Sports and Convocation Center, a university chapel and a new residential village.

I am pleased the Tribble Library opened this week and has been filled with enthusiastic students, faculty and staff. I am very grateful to our Librarian Mary Sellen and the members of the library staff, plant operations and all the people on campus that worked so hard to prepare our new library for the start of classes. Landscaping and other unfinished tasks will be accomplished over the next month and we will have a series of activities to celebrate this magnificent academic venue starting in the Spring.

Construction of the Lewis Archer McMurren, Jr. Hall has begun with the demolition of the old student center. The project is scheduled to be completed in time for the opening of the fall 2009 semester. This new academic building will house the departments of English, History, Communications, Sociology, Modern and Classical Languages, Philosophy and Religious Studies, Government, the offices for the Masters of Arts in Teaching program and the Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences. In all, the building will add approximately 82,000 square feet of new teaching and learning space to the campus to include 30 state-of-the-art classrooms/seminar rooms and 120 faculty offices.

Design work on the science building is underway. This project consists of 114,000 square feet of new construction and 46,000 square feet of renovation to the existing science building. We are hopeful that construction will begin fall 2009 and the new building will be completed spring 2011 and the renovation of the existing science building will be completed spring 2012. These buildings will house our programs in Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science and Psychology and will add approximately 60 faculty offices, 10 classrooms, and about 70 new teaching labs and faculty/student research spaces. This 21st Century integrated science center will be located on the Great Lawn, opposite the David Student Union. One million dollars in state funding has allowed our faculty, led by Faculty Senate President Dr. Gary Whiting, to work with the administration and our architectural and engineering team to design an \$81 million facility. Governor Kaine has included funding for this significant project in his proposed General Obligation Bond for higher education.

The expansion of the Robert L. Freeman Sports and Convocation Center is also being designed. It is estimated that this building will include 70,000 square feet of new construction to include doubling the size of the Triesmann Health and Fitness Pavilion, providing offices for the Department of Counseling Services and University Health Services, adding an auxiliary gymnasium and constructing a replacement to Gaines Theater with a new, 400 seat auditorium and an array of meeting rooms for student activities. Construction will begin in the next academic year and will be completed summer 2010.

Several years ago, the former Rector of CNU, Dr. Chip Triesmann, committed \$100,000 toward the establishment of a university chapel.

Over the past year I have worked with a number of faculty members including Dr. Quentin Kidd, Dr. Hussam Timani, Dr. David Doughty, Dr. Lisa Spiller and Dr. Joseph Prud'homme to explore how we might design a university chapel that will be welcoming to people of all faiths – a facility that will host student groups, religious activities and weddings, as well as musical performances and lectures. The University of Virginia, William and Mary, Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia College at Wise all have chapels that are intensely used by students, faculty, staff and alumni.

Dr. Kidd is Jewish and is co-advisor to Hillel. Dr. Timani is Muslim. Drs. Doughty, Spiller, Prud'homme and I are Christians. We all agree that a chapel for all faiths at CNU will contribute to the success of our university and community and should be pursued.

We have sought advice from students who are active in several campus religious groups including Hillel, Young Life, Intervarsity, Catholic Campus Ministries, Baptist Campus Ministries and have consulted with the Chair of United Campus Ministries and individual ministers, priests and rabbis in our community.

The construction of a chapel is several years away and private funds must be raised to build this facility. It is my hope that we will have the preliminary design of the exterior and floor plan of the chapel completed this Spring. I will be able to share these plans with you at that time.

A new residential village is also in the very early stages of design. It is envisioned to include a series of houses joined by a colonnade and should accommodate approximately 200 students. The location for this project will be parking Lot D adjacent to the Freeman Center and the Administration Building next to Wise Woods. It is hoped that this new complex can be completed by fall 2010.

During the renovation of the Yoder Barn Theater in preparation for the University's inaugural season, it was learned that the certificate of occupancy, under which the Barn had operated for the past 10 years, was inadequate. To bring the facility up to code, a 2-hour fire separation wall had to be installed between the performance venue and the lobby. Construction of this fire wall will soon be completed. Funding has been provided through private contributions designated for the renovation of the Yoder Barn.

I look forward to working with all of you in the days ahead and appreciate all that you are doing to make CNU so special and successful.