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From the desk of President Tribble

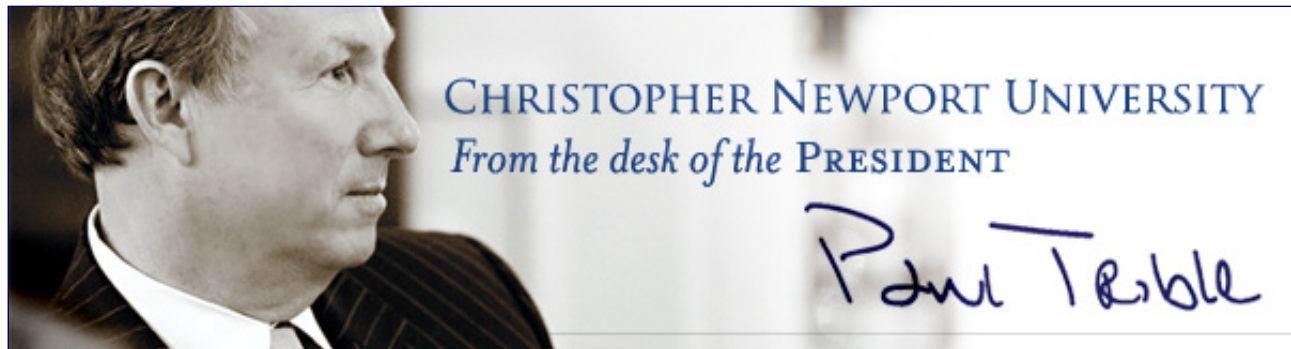
1 message

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Thu, Sep 27, 2012 at 6:06 PM

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Christopher Newport University

September 2012

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Ask the President

CNU is a work in progress, and we strive for excellence in all we do.

I welcome your advice, suggestions and

The 2012-13 academic year is now underway and CNU continues to soar in quality and reputation. We have so much to celebrate!

- CNU's largest freshman class -- almost 1,400 students;
- Academically the strongest freshman class in our history;
- The largest entering [President's Leadership Program](#) (PLP) class -- 410 students;
- All new freshmen in learning communities and for the first time members of every learning community living together;
- The greatest number of full-time faculty in our history -- 258;
- CNU's highest freshman-to-sophomore retention rate -- 85 percent
- The largest student body in our history - 5,186 students

questions. Let me know how we can do better or where we fall short of expectations.

Email your advice and questions to:
AskPST@cnu.edu

I will include some of your questions and answers in my future messages.

50th Anniversary Sponsors

Smithfield.



- The most student clubs and organizations -- more than 250;
- First CNU athletic team -- women's volleyball -- to be ranked No. 1 in the preseason polls;
- The highest number of residential students -- more than 3,500 students;
- The most donors;
- The greatest number of alumni donors;
- Most money raised in any year in the history of CNU;
- Named in the September edition of *U.S. News & World Report* as one of the top schools in the south and one of the "schools to watch" in America for making the "most promising and innovative changes in academics, faculty, students, campus and facilities."

Few, if any schools in America, are moving faster and accomplishing more so quickly. So, let me begin my first message of this new academic year by expressing my sincere thanks for all you have done, for all that we have accomplished together and for all that we will undertake this year. My very real conviction is that this will be the most successful year in the life of this young and vibrant university.

Move-In Tradition Continues



Once again this year our arriving freshmen and their families were met by hundreds of CNU students and





staff and within minutes their possessions were carried to their rooms.

This tradition serves two very important purposes. First, it takes some of the emotion out of a stressful day. At most schools freshman move-in is an ordeal -- the hottest day of the summer, long lines and great distances to carry the students' possessions. At CNU the move is accomplished in minutes and our freshmen and their families don't have to lift a finger.

This tradition, however, serves an even more important purpose. It is a powerful reminder that CNU values community and service and we are committed to encouraging the success of everyone on this campus.

Freshman Honors Convocation



On Friday morning of Getting Started Week all freshmen and transfer students, faculty and other members of the CNU community gathered to formally welcome our new students, to underscore the seriousness of our shared academic purpose and the importance we place on living in a community of honor.

Once again when our new students took the oath to live honorably and signed the honor code, they were given a lucky penny. We hope they will keep this penny for the next four years and toss it into the Saunders Fountain on graduation day -- a wonderful CNU tradition.

Once again I read the beautiful words that accompany each penny, written by CNU's late Associate Provost Dr. Tracey Schwarze. Tracey was an extraordinary teacher and scholar and a gifted administrator. Although Tracey is no longer with us, her memory will always be cherished and her presence felt on this campus.

This penny is but a small tribute to the spirit of honor of all those who learn and lead here.

To give your word and keep it as a person of integrity; To treasure the life of the mind and the spirit of intellectual inquiry;

To value richness of character over richness of purse;

To give, because to you, much has been given;

To seek important work -- and to do it with all your heart

Keep this faith as you become a citizen of CNU, of the nation, and the world

And one day
As you remember

The grandeur of the Ferguson Center,
The beauty of the Great Lawn,
The tranquility of the James, and
The friends and mentors of your youth,

You will know that you have lived a life of honor and significance ...

Academic Programs Expanded

In response to the priorities for higher education established by Governor McDonnell and the General Assembly, CNU is placing special emphasis on enhancing our science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs and student success.

We are now in the process of expanding our STEM programs to include new majors in:

Neuroscience
Biochemistry
Applied and Computational Mathematics
Environmental Studies

Moreover, we will soon propose to the State Council of Higher Education the creation of a new electrical engineering degree program that complements our existing program in computer engineering.

Although CNU receives \$4.65 million less from the state today than we did in FY2009, our enrollment is growing, as evidenced by 176 additional freshmen and an increase in our overall number of students (5,186).

Our freshman-to-sophomore retention rate has increased from 80 percent to 85 percent since 2009 and our sophomore-to-junior retention rate increased by 8 percent to almost 80 percent.

So, with less state money, we're doing a lot more to advance the priorities of the commonwealth and empower our students to pursue successful and meaningful lives.

Smithfield Speaker Series



Each year leaders from different fields are invited to campus to share their experiences with our students. These are men and women whose lives reflect a commitment to excellence, a willingness to engage and lead, and a passion for making the world a better place.

On Sept. 11 Larry Pope, President and CEO of Smithfield Foods spoke in the Ferguson Center to PLP and business students. Smithfield Foods is a global company that employs more than 51,000 people. For the fourth consecutive year, Smithfield Foods has been named to *Fortune* magazine's prestigious list of America's most admired companies. This is the definitive report card on corporate reputations based on eight criteria, from investment value to social responsibility. Smithfield Foods has been honored for its environmental policies and for its generosity in supporting humanitarian purposes.

Mr. Pope discussed his life experiences and chronicled his development as a leader, as he encouraged our students to strive to be the best in all that they do.

On Oct. 18 the University and CNU's Center for American Studies will welcome U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and U.S. District Court Judge Henry Hudson who will share insights and advice from their distinguished careers in the law and public service.

The third presentation this fall will be Dr. Bill and Cathy Magee on Nov. 5, the founders and leaders of Operation Smile, the remarkable international humanitarian organization that transforms the lives of children born with cleft palates and lips.

Family Weekend Oct. 5-7, 2012 - Register Now



The CNU community takes great pride in our young and vibrant University and we look forward to sharing with all of our CNU families the energy, excitement and spirit that abounds on our campus during CNU's [2012 Family Weekend](#).

I hope you will join us for many of the special activities we have planned. Stop by the David Student Union to learn more about CNU's popular study abroad programs and be sure to attend the incredible Musical Showcase in the Ferguson Center Concert Hall on Saturday. If you love sports, you can choose from volleyball, soccer, field hockey and, of course, football. On Saturday come cheer the Captains on to victory as we face Ferrum College under the lights at POMOCO Stadium.

Family support is vital to the success of our students and we hope you will join us on this festive occasion.

Homecoming 2012



Homecoming this Nov. 2-3 promises to be a wonderful weekend for our alumni. We have planned many festive activities including the Captains Choice Golf Tournament on Friday at Kingsmill Resort in Williamsburg, Va. and the Virginia Running Festival on campus Saturday.

Don't miss the Homecoming parade and tailgating in Alumni Alley. Be sure to bring your Captain spirit and pride to the field hockey game on Friday evening at 5 p.m. and to POMOCO Stadium on Saturday at 7 p.m. as we battle Greensboro College.

A full [schedule](#) of exciting activities is available online. It is my hope that alumni spanning the generations of Christopher Newport will join us for another memorable Homecoming celebration.

Ferguson Center Kicks Off New Season

This month we launched our eighth season in the Ferguson Center for the Arts. Through the years, this incredible facility has presented a remarkable variety of performances and 2012-13 will be no different.

Country legend Emmylou Harris led this season's program. She will be followed by a host of legendary entertainers: Liza Minnelli, Jackson Browne, Wanda Sykes, Travis Tritt, William Shatner, Smokey Robinson and many, many more.

An outstanding array of vocal performances and stage shows, including the Irish Tenors, Mannheim Steamroller Christmas, "Beauty and the Beast," "A Chorus Line," and the Boston Pops, rounds out an award-winning and exciting season that promises an entertainment extravaganza for the whole family.

For a complete listing and to purchase tickets, visit the [Ferguson Center](#) online.



The Month in Photos

To share our campus spirit with you, each newsletter will include a link to a [photo gallery](#) featuring images of exciting events from the past month. Enjoy!

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