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OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS @2021

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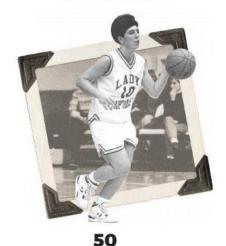
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Voyages is published by the Office of Communications and Public Relations for alumni and friends of Christopher Newport University.



Alumni Illumination ceremony on the Great Lawn TWO CELEBRATIONS on the Great Lawn on back-to-back Saturdays Graduates were hooded in the traditional caps and gowns and walked the stage in front of Christopher Newport Hall to celebrated the Class of 2020 and the Class of 2021, be honored by academic leaders. Their families were invited On May 8 and May 15, graduates in each class and their families enjoyed the traditions and pomp that make to stand close by for photos and to share in one of life's most memorable moments. Christopher Newport commencements so special even as the Unfortunately, for the first time in his 25-year tenure, pandemic and health protocols required adaptations. President Paul Trible was not in attendance as he is on a The Commencement Experience featured traditions, including:

· Participating in the Convocation for

· Sharing a light at the solemn Alumni

Illumination ceremony

for those watching from home.

the Conferring of Honors and Awards

· Tossing a penny in the fountain at Saunders Plaza

· Ringing the bell in the Hoinkes Plaza Bell Tower

Both Commencement Experience events were live-streamed

Unfortunately, for the first time in his 25-year tenure, President Paul Trible was not in attendance as he is on a sabbatical to help care for his wife Rosemary as she recovers from a muscle disease. In letters to the graduates, the president expressed his regrets: "Rosemary and I wish we could be there in person to congratulate you on all of your accomplishments, to meet your families and friends, and to beam with joy as you cross the stage. Rosemary will especially miss being able to continue the tradition of giving each and every one of you a hug as she has done for the last 25 years. We are disappointed that we cannot be present, but please know, you are in our hearts today."











Students Rank Christopher Newport in the Nation's Top 20 for Quality of Life

Princeton Review rankings give CNU high marks in key areas.

HRISTOPHER NEWPORT is ranked one of the nation's best 386 colleges, one of the best in the Southeast and one of the nation's best values. It is also ranked among the nation's top 20 universities in these categories: Best Quality of Life (#20), Most Engaged in Community Service (#14) and Best College Dorms (#8).

"Quality of life encompasses every aspect of how students live and learn at Christopher Newport," said President Paul Trible. "We are pleased and proud to see that our own students are so enthusiastic about their day-to-day lives here." The rankings are included in the 2021 edition of Princeton Review's "The Best 386 Colleges." The book highlights institutions selected as among the best of the nation's 3,000 four-year colleges and universities.

The publisher chooses the colleges based on data it annually collects from administrators about their institutions' academic offerings. In the "Top 20" rankings, the Princeton Review considers data it gathers from its surveys of college students who rate and report on various aspects of their campus and community experiences.





TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED

\$1,019,418

COMMUNITY CAPTAINS: \$17,606 LIGHTHOUSE FUND: \$8,984

SCHOLARSHIPS: \$254,961

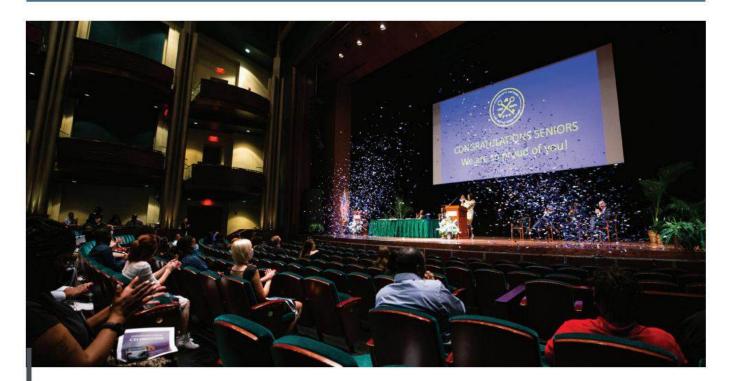
ATHLETICS: \$171,797 OTHER: \$575,312

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

Celebrating Our Community Captains

Eighteen of the participants are headed to Christopher Newport.

BY IANE HEETER



ITH A BLAST OF CONFETTI and powerful words, the Christopher Newport community celebrated the hard work and accomplishments of the inaugural students in the Community Captains program.

The early admission program brings high-achieving Newport News Public Schools (NNPS) high school students to campus for two years of college preparatory activities. Students connect with university resources, programs and a peer mentor throughout their two years, and take a college-level course their senior year.

Students who successfully complete the program receive an offer of guaranteed early admission to Christopher Newport, where the mentorship continues.

One of the Class of 2025 Captains is Briana Terry. A graduate of Heritage High School, she said that Community Captains opened her eyes to the resources that Christopher Newport offers, solidifying her choice to continue her academic career here. She plans to major in business administration and some day own her own business.

"Before Community Captains, I didn't really know which college I wanted to go to, but I knew I wanted to learn more about CNU," Terry said. "We've been able to tour campus and hear from guest speakers, which really stood out to me — the faculty is so nice. I felt at home here."

Terry and 77 other NNPS high school students made up the first group, and 18 are headed to Christopher Newport in the fall to begin their college careers.

Rector Robert Hatten provided the keynote address, tying the accomplishments of the university's namesake, Captain Christopher Newport, to the work ahead for all Community Captains graduates.

"Each of you has the potential to be a Captain," he said.
"We call ourselves Captains at Christopher Newport because
Captains are leaders. Leaders have ambitious goals. Leaders
are educated. Leaders accept responsibility, and leaders care
about other people. We want all of that for you, and everyone
here today is cheering for you."

NNPS Superintendent Dr. George Parker lauded the

partnership between NNPS and Christopher Newport, something he said he has not seen elsewhere during his career.

"When we first talked about launching the program, President Trible said the CNU family was committed to doing everything in our power to help our students learn and grow while deepening the bond between the university and our school community," Parker said, acknowledging that the plans had come to fruition. "Our students were afforded many opportunities and advantages."

Christopher Newport Provost Dr. Dave Doughty offered academic advice to help the students succeed in higher education: get to know your professors, spend 25 hours per week on academics outside of the classroom and take advantage of out-of-class learning opportunities.

"Four years from now you will have graduated, and my wish for each of you is that you will be successful on your chosen career path," Doughty said. "But I also hope that you will live a life of significance, that you will make a positive impact on the lives of those around you, and there's no better way to get started on that than to begin serving as a college student. Each of us needs to learn how our unique abilities and interests can lift up any community in which we find ourselves."

Christopher Newport's Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, Dr. Angela Spranger, expressed thanks to everyone involved in the program. The list included Dr. Claudia Hines, director of school counseling and equity for NNPS, who is retiring this year. Spranger and others praised Hines as a cornerstone of the program.

"Thank you Dr. Hines, thank you school counselors, directors, thank you families, thank you CNU faculty, leadership, administrators, events team, for all you've done to get us to this fantastic moment of celebration," Spranger said. "It really is a joyful moment."

Alan Witt '76 Appointed Executive in Residence

Alum and prominent business leader returns to serve Christopher Newport.



ALAN WITT has been appointed executive in residence in the Joseph W. Luter, III School of Business. Witt's appointment was announced in January 2021 by President Paul Trible, Provost Dr. Dave Doughty and Luter Dean Dr. George Ebbs.

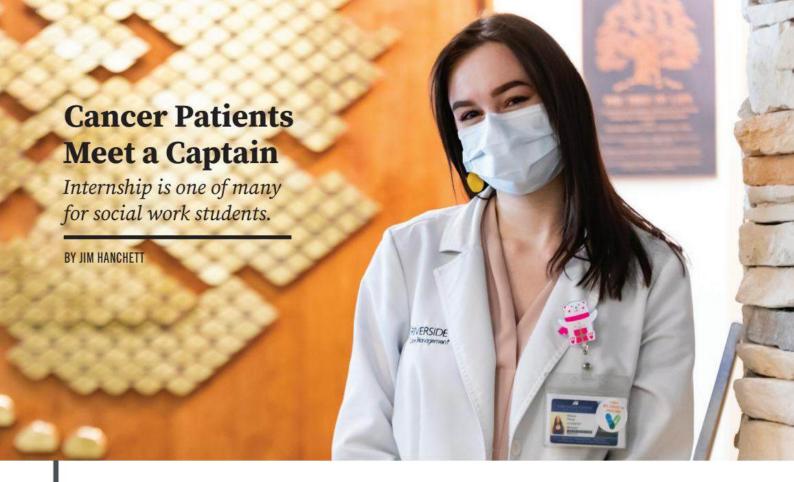
Witt is one of Christopher Newport's most accomplished alumni. After graduating from Christopher Newport in 1976, he

began his accounting career with Eggleston Smith before starting his own firm in 1979. Under his leadership, PB-Mares has grown into one of the top 100 accounting and business consulting firms in the nation with clients both nationally and internationally. On December 31, 2020, he retired as the CEO of PBMares.

Witt has served on the Christopher Newport Board of Visitors and as rector. Witt and his wife Debbie, also a CNU graduate, spearheaded the fundraising for the Marcus Cooper Trading Room in the Luter School of Business and served on the comprehensive campaign executive council. The Witts have supported the university in many ways with the gift of their time, talents and treasure.

Witt is the chair-elect of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and serves on the board of TowneBank and as chairman of the board of directors for the Riverside Health System. He has been recognized by the *Daily Press* as the Citizen of the Year in honor of his leadership and service to our community.

"We are delighted that, after his retirement from PBMares, Alan will now help us enhance the reach and reputation of the Luter School of Business and link top business and financial institutions to our school, faculty and our students," Trible said. Witt will teach an accounting class, chair the Master of Financial Analysis Partners Council, and work with Ebbs in enhancing alumni relations and fundraising.



AT ONE OF THE MOST ANXIOUS MOMENTS of their lives, cancer patients and their loved ones came face to face with Miriam Stump '21. She's friendly, humane and efficient and you would never guess from talking with her, that this oh-so-professional worker in the white lab coat is a college student.

During her senior year, Stump, a social work major, interned in the Oncology Department at Riverside Health System. With in-person internships limited and demand for help from nonprofits and charities intense, Christopher Newport students like Stump are doing critical work to serve the communities near campus.

"It is truly inspiring to consider what our students have accomplished during this pandemic," said social work program director Dr. Diane Griffiths. "They have bravely faced the challenge of doing this essential work, serving those most vulnerable."

Stump worked at Riverside twice a week for a full day, serving an internship that continued through both semesters of her senior year. Working shifts as long as 10 hours, she greeted and helped to process arriving patients and their families and then did the final check-out before they went home.

An important aspect of her job as a social worker is to assess the needs of patients throughout their time in the hospital and to collaborate with the multidisciplinary team of doctors, nurses and therapists to ensure quality care from admission to discharge.

Stump takes it in stride: "I try my hardest to be professional while still building and fostering personal relationships. Helping people during hard times is what social work is about. I find it extremely rewarding, especially knowing that I am making a positive impact on others. Prior to this internship, I had no idea what career I wanted with social work."

Now, with a mom who was a social worker and a step-dad who is a cancer survivor, the road ahead is clear: "Through the past few months I have definitely decided on working in the clinical/hospital environment, as well as with oncology." Her first stop after Christopher Newport is the University of Denver, where she will pursue a master's degree in health and wellness in the Graduate School of Social Work.

Stump's story is inspiring but it is one of many. In fall 2020 alone, senior social work students provided more than 5,000 hours of service throughout Hampton Roads. Each student provides at least 224 hours per semester and most are in-person, literally on the frontlines of the region's COVID response. They serve in hospitals, nursing homes, homeless shelters, courthouses, community mental health facilities and even in the living rooms of families in need.

"I am in awe of what our students are accomplishing," Griffiths said. "They are making such a big difference in the lives of people in our community."

Ryan Fisher Earns Top NSF Award

First CNU professor to receive Early Career Scientist honor.

BY JIM HANCHETT

HE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) has awarded Christopher Newport University scientist Dr. Ryan Fisher an Early Career Development Program grant, its most prestigious award for early-career faculty.

Fisher is the first Christopher Newport faculty member to earn the distinction. The NSF awards go to select faculty who have "the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization. Activities pursued by early-career faculty should build a firm foundation for a lifetime of leadership in integrating education and research."

The \$400,000 grant will support a five-year research project titled "Integrated Gravitational Wave and Multimessenger Astronomy and Education." Multimessenger astronomy is designed to detect unusual explosions in the sky with both traditional electromagnetic observatories, such as radio telescopes and gamma-ray detection satellites, and gravitational wave detectors, including the Advanced Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) and the Advanced Virgo detector.

"This is a remarkable achievement for Dr. Fisher and for the university. It is a testament to the extremely high quality research he conducts," said Dr. Nicole Guajardo, dean of the College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences where Fisher serves on the Physics, Computer Science and Engineering Department faculty. "Receiving this grant will enable Dr. Fisher to expand opportunities



Dr. Ryan Fisher (center) with students in the LIGO lab.

for our students and for outreach to the residents of our community. His work also highlights the excellent research being conducted at Christopher Newport by both Ryan and his faculty colleagues."

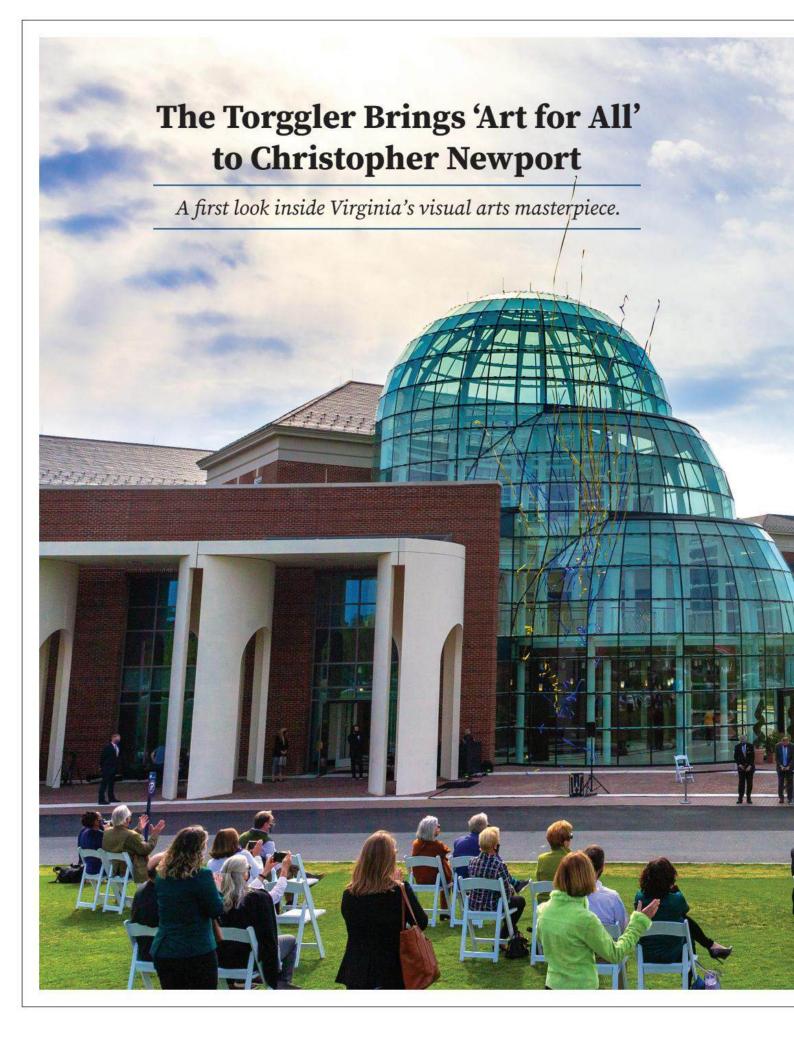
The grant is an outgrowth of Fisher's work as part of an international team of scientists, the LIGO-Virgo Scientific Collaboration, that is attempting to better understand neutron stars and black holes and the composition of the universe through the detection of gravitational waves.

Fisher will work with undergraduate and master's student researchers in conducting searches for gravitational waves and improving the tools used in the pursuit. He also plans to hold a series of events for local residents at the Virginia Living Museum so that they can learn about multimessenger astronomy.

"The award will support the development of a diverse, globally competitive STEM workforce through the engagement of students of all ages at these events," Fisher said.

He is particularly pleased by the opportunities for Christopher Newport students: "This training will prepare them to become competent scientific researchers able to conduct research at the internationally recognized level as the next generation of gravitational wave astronomers."

Fisher previously was awarded a multi-million dollar NSF grant to expand the LIGO collaboration's computational infrastructure to facilitate the detection of gravitational waves. Before joining Christopher Newport in 2018, Fisher was affiliated with Syracuse University for six years. He earned his doctorate from Princeton University and undergraduate degrees from the University of Maryland.







ITH STREAMERS FLYING and the sun glistening on glass domes, the visionaries who brought the Mary M. Torggler Fine Arts Center to life cut the ribbon and opened the doors to a masterpiece.

The dedication ceremony and "soft opening" for Christopher Newport's students, faculty and staff left no doubt: the Torggler and the adjacent Ferguson Center for the Arts establishes the university as an unparalleled nexus for the arts in Virginia.

This \$60 million-dollar state-funded 83,000-square foot facility opens to the public in September and features a stunning rotunda of cascading glass domes, symbolizing Christopher Newport's three sails and its bold vision for the role art plays in the life of our university, our community and commonwealth.

The center houses the Department of Fine Art and Art History and boasts a magnificent main gallery for major exhibitions; a 150-seat presentation hall; a community gallery; and studio classrooms for academic as well as public art classes, workshops, and camps that have started on a limited basis this summer. The interactive Art Explorers Gallery for children, opening in 2022, will complete the facility.

Mary Torggler and her husband George, of Maryland and Florida, are longtime supporters of arts and education programs at Christopher Newport. Through their generosity, the Torgglers aspire to create unique opportunities so that artists in both the performing and visual arts may flourish. Their support already makes possible the university's renowned Torggler Vocal Institute,



and they endowed the George and Mary Torggler Professorship of Music, held by Dr. Mark Reimer. Their son, Hunter Torggler, graduated from Christopher Newport in 2014 with a degree in music.

During the ceremony, George Torggler recalled how Mary Torggler used the phrase "art for all" to describe how institutions could work in harmony to make art accessible. That's what's happening at Christopher Newport: "We have it all now ... culture and society.

"I wanted to dedicate a building to Mary, for all the positiveness and love that she has shown me, our family, friends, everyone whose life she has impacted. And so here we are, honoring that request — a magnificent building, named for a magnificent lady."

Chief of Staff and Acting CEO Adelia Thompson thanked the Torgglers for helping President Paul Trible and former Executive Vice President Bill Brauer bring their vision for a fine arts center to life.

"Today we honor our precious friends George and Mary Torggler — their extraordinary generosity, their passion for the arts, their wonderful relationship with Christopher Newport spanning more than a decade," Thompson said.

"Mary, George and Hunter — we are so proud that this magnificent place will forever celebrate Mary's beautiful life and spirit, and her deep love for people, for art and its transforming and elevating power in our world."

Trible gave Glavé and Holmes the challenge of creating an architectural building that reconciled the modern aspects of the IM Pei and Cobb design of the Ferguson Center for the Arts with the classical aesthetic of the rest of the Neo-Georgian campus. Their response was to envision a structure based on classical themes, like a dome, but made out of nontraditional modern materials like glass.



"Art has the power to be transformative, to make us think, to make us feel, to make us see things in different ways."

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HOLLY KOONS

Thompson also thanked the many people who gave their time and talents to the facility, including Anne and Gus Edwards, who joined the Torgglers as the founding members of the Christopher Newport Arts Foundation and Mari Ann and Charlie Banks, longtime leaders and benefactors for the arts. We are grateful for Mari Ann's service as the chair of the Peninsula Fine Arts Center during its transition.

"The Torggler will have exhibitions that will bring renown to this university and this region, that will bring people to our area, that will make us all proud and that will inspire wonder and creativity and awe and may occasionally confound you — but that is what art does," said inaugural Executive Director Holly Koons. "Art has the power to be transformative, to make us think, to make us feel, to make us see things in different ways, and I am so honored to have this opportunity to bring amazing art and programs to this community."

Dr. Michelle Erhardt, associate

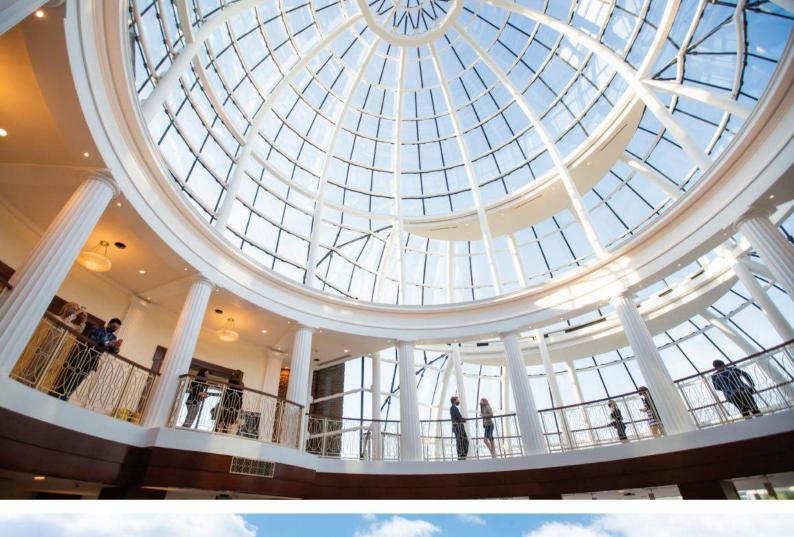
professor of art history, joined Trible and Brauer in helping shape the vision for the Torggler. She served as their resident art expert adviser, taking on essentially a second role in addition to her regular faculty duties, which included creating and directing the new interdisciplinary minor in museum studies and helping design the Torggler as both a public-facing fine arts center and a fully functioning academic building. She addressed the students whose works will be created inside the facility.

"Watching the Torggler rise up became a beacon of hope on some very, very, dark days," she said. "I speak for the entire academic community when I commend you, our student body, for your perseverance and steadfastness. It is my hope that the art that is created and exhibited here in the Torggler Fine Arts Center will inspire you, challenge you, facilitate dialogue among you, and awaken creativity within each and every one of you as you boldly navigate and forge the future."



Experience the Torggler when it opens to the public on September 11 with a gala event launching the inaugural exhibit, and join us for the public grand opening on September 12. That weekend kicks off Christopher Newport's 60th anniversary celebration year.









Meet Executive Director

HOLLY KOONS

Holly Koons, a distinguished arts leader, is the inaugural executive director of the Mary M. Torggler Fine Arts Center.

Koons was selected after a national search. She most recently served as executive director of the Arlington Arts Center. Her career, spanning more than two decades in leadership roles in fine arts administration, includes key positions with the Greater Reston Arts Center and the Telfair Museums in Savannah, Georgia, where she worked for 15 years before moving to Virginia.

Voyages asked Koons five questions to find out more about her and her plans for the center.

Why does art matter?

Visual art is an important vehicle for understanding ourselves, our world and our culture. It takes many forms, but it is an eternal impulse and a universal language. Art can delight, heal, astound, confound, and elevate our hearts and minds. A building like the Torggler provides an opportunity for people to have meaningful, direct experiences with art and artists. In time, I expect the Torggler will become a source of great pride and beacon of enlightenment in our community.

What are some of your favorite spaces at the Torggler?

The Torggler is an architectural gem, unlike anything else in the region. As soon as you enter the rotunda, capped by its magnificent cascading domes of glass, you realize you are in a very special place — one capable of elevating the spirit. Because I am trained as a curator, the gallery spaces are the most thrilling to me. At the heart of the building is our breathtaking and spacious main gallery, which will present compelling exhibitions of work by living artists as well as historically significant work. There are additional gallery spaces devoted to presenting the work of Christopher Newport art students, as well as the William Grace Community Gallery, which will focus primarily on local, regional and Virginia artists. There's even an intimate "microgallery" which will occasionally feature experimental work. Beyond these wonderful spaces, I adore the Torggler's classically beautiful presentation hall, where students and the public alike will regularly gather to learn about art, art history and the Torggler's exhibitions.

Have you had a transformative experience with art?

Years ago, on a trip to Italy, I walked on impulse into a modest neighborhood church where a priest was teaching catechism to a small group of children. Upon seeing my interest in the building, the priest beckoned me to come around the corner into a little sacristy, which was clearly not a public space. He opened the door, and there was a Giovanni Bellini painting of *Madonna and Child*. I remember being so awed by this unexpected experience with a great work of art, which seemed to be speaking to me across the centuries. This is what places like the Torggler can do. They give us an opportunity to have direct experiences with works of art — to feel awe, wonder and inspiration — and to be transformed by those experiences. Great works of art have the power to move us in ways that are powerful, meaningful and real.

How do you envision your role?

Although works of art have value in their own right, in my mind, the magic happens when the viewer meets the art. The Torggler exists to facilitate this interaction, and as the director, my role is to welcome visitors to this great facility, and to encourage them to take advantage of all it has to offer. It is my mission to ensure that we offer high-quality exhibitions and programs that benefit our campus and the broader community. My goal is for the Torggler to become so valued and beloved that no one could imagine Christopher Newport or the Peninsula without it.

What can students and members of the community do at the Torggler?

The Torggler is going to draw audiences from across Virginia and be a source of pride for Christopher Newport and the surrounding region. We'll have compelling exhibitions on view that will generally change seasonally. Visitors to the Torggler can enjoy our exhibitions, attend lectures and gallery walks, participate in classes or workshops, and enjoy special events. Children will come to the Torggler for field trips, after-school classes, summer camps or to visit the interactive Art Explorers Gallery, which will open in the spring of 2022. Christopher Newport students will study art in a brand new facility with passionate, dedicated faculty members. The Torggler will offer valuable opportunities for our students, faculty, staff and the broader community to experience art as a vehicle for understanding ourselves and our world.



The Torggler Comes Alive!

The Mary M. Torggler Fine Arts Center is already hosting an array of events that confirm its versatility as a place for extraordinary encounters with the arts.

The day after the soft opening in April, the Torggler was the backdrop for a student cabaret featuring the university's top musical theater students. Featured guests included Broadway lyricist and director Eric Price and composers Will Reynolds and Drew Gasparini. The students had been scheduled last year to take the stage at New York City's 54 Below, performing original music by Price, Reynolds and Gasparini. When the pandemic scuttled those plans, the three artists brought their talents to campus, resulting in a memorable show at the Torggler.

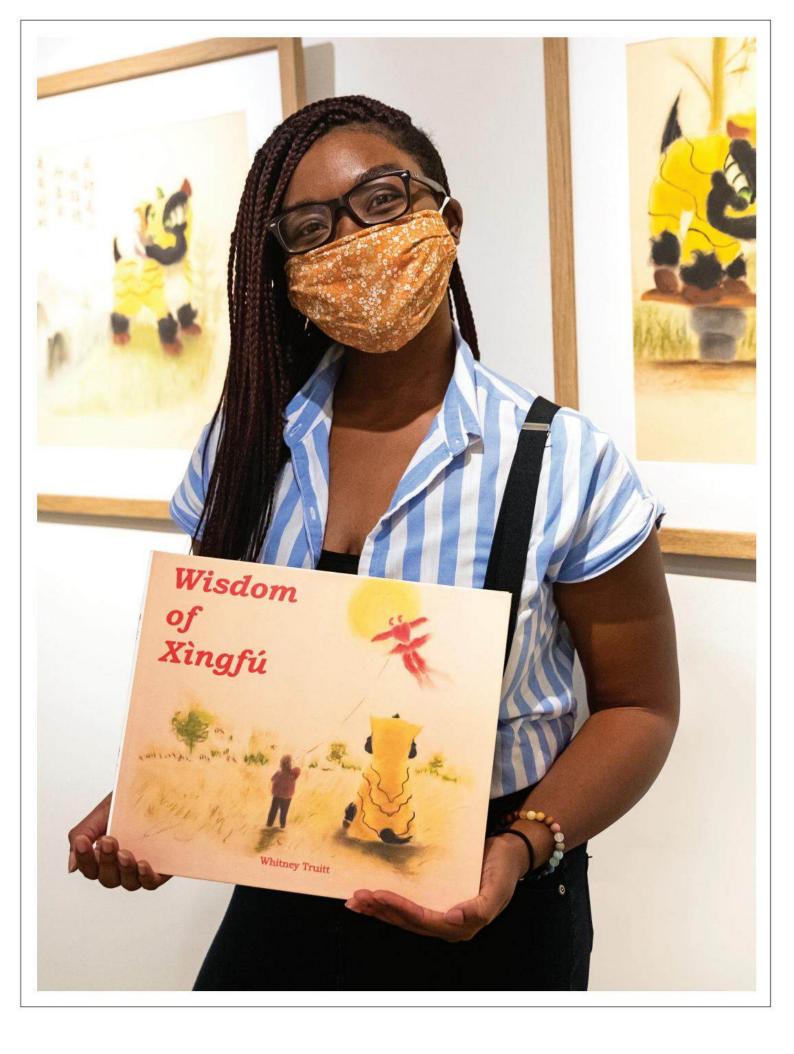
See photos from the shows and read a first-person account from Adam LeKang '21 at **cnu.edu/news/torggler**.

This summer will see the creation of hundreds of works of art at the Torggler, many bound for refrigerator doors across Hampton Roads. The Torggler is hosting summer camps for children. The half-day camps are taught by professional instructors, many of whom possess decades of teaching experience. The camps and future opportunities for people of all ages to create art are a centerpiece of the Torggler's programming.

September 12

The center's grand opening will feature an exhibit of world-renowned artists. Watch the Torggler's website and social media accounts for details.

thetorggler.org • facebook.com/TheTorggler



Art Student Publishes Illustrated Children's Book

Whitney Truitt '21 used her senior seminar to create a whimsical companion.

BY JANE HEETER

後再次站起的成就是跌倒人生最大

Before her senior year even began, fine arts major Whitney Truitt had already accomplished one of her major career goals: becoming a published illustrator.

USING CHARCOAL AND CHALK PASTELS, plus help from a range of Christopher Newport professors, Truitt wrote, illustrated and published *Wisdom of Xingfú*. The children's book follows an imaginary companion named Xingfú, whose purpose is to bring happiness and good fortune. The story is inspired in part by Truitt's Chinese studies at CNU.

Truitt's book combines positive affirmations collected from fortune cookies, which promote self love and motivation, with Chinese culture and traditions. Xingfú is inspired by the traditional Chinese southern lion costume used in ceremonies to promote good fortune throughout the year.

"It's so exciting to have my own book of my own work. I'm really glad I did it," Truitt said. "Honestly, I don't think I would've even made a book if I had gone to another university."

Truitt illustrated the book in her capstone studio art course. She said the art faculty encouraged her to create the work in the form of a book, as her goal after graduation is to be an illustrator.

Christi Harris, associate professor in the Department of Fine Art and Art History, worked with Truitt to help lay out the story in a clear manner. Truitt consulted with Dr. Kevin Shortsleeve, associate professor of English and an expert on children's literature, for further guidance on how a children's book should be formatted.

While Truitt is studying simplified characters in her Chinese coursework, Dr. Jonathan Smith in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures helped her accurately translate Xingfú's story into the traditional language.

Once the illustrations were complete, Alan Skees, associate professor of digital arts and new media, helped Truitt photograph them in a high-quality format worthy of publication. Skees has worked with Truitt for years in graphic

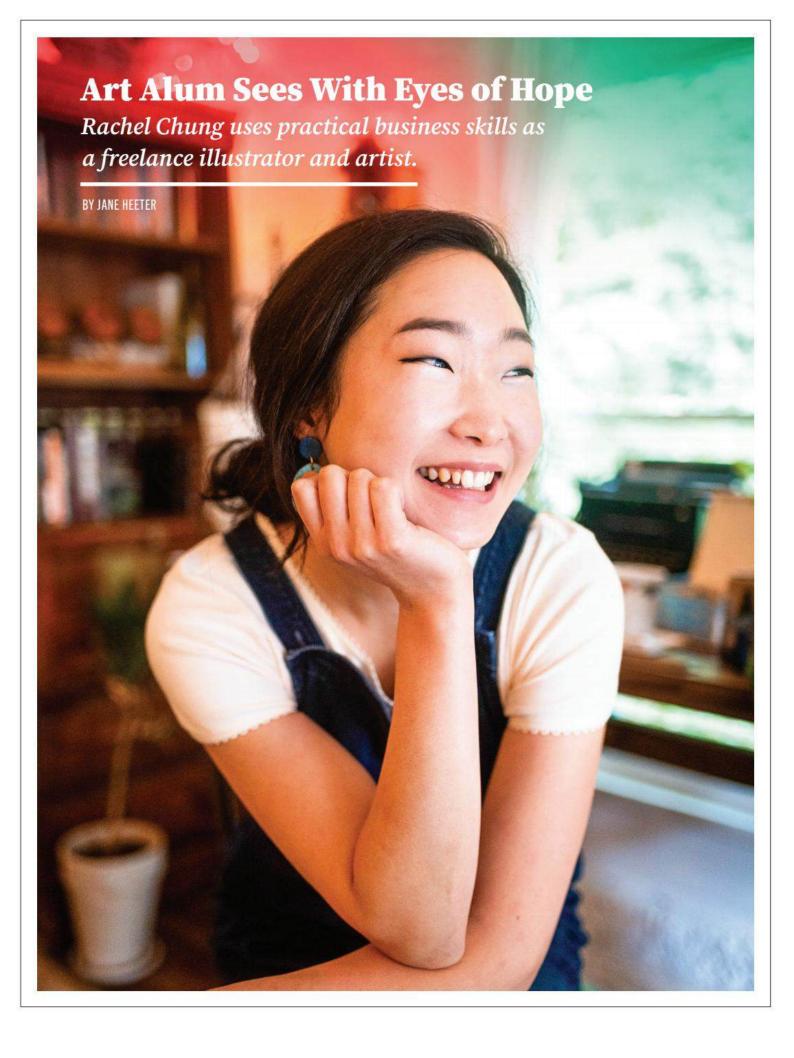
design and printmaking classes, and was excited to see her combine her illustrating talents in painting and drawing with her design skills.

"I've worked with a few authors in the past on book formatting and cover designs, and I had many conversations with Whitney about how to go about planning her own project," said Skees. "It was always a pleasure to see her lush drawings. The book turned out very nicely. I bought a copy for my kids and they enjoyed it very much."

Truitt did not originally plan to study Chinese, but her interest in East Asian culture and past study of Japanese led her to give it a try. She found that the book's positive messages were particularly relevant in the difficult circumstances many have faced in 2020.

"One of the biggest takeaways I learned about Chinese culture in general was the importance of living a virtuous life and unity, living in harmony," she said. "I feel like this year is proof enough that it's very important. Even though it's tough and we have all these challenges, you've just got to remember the importance of having self-love. We're all in this together." \(\Delta\)







t took Rachel Chung '18 a little while to find her true voice as an artist.

AS A STUDIO ART MAJOR and psychology minor, she honed her skills and perspective through her coursework, studying abroad in Scotland and attending conferences that deepened her value for art. She sold jewelry pieces made with her art to fund a mission trip to Cambodia and completed a large set of panels as her senior seminar project.

But it wasn't until she pushed herself out of her comfort zone to frequently post her art online that she fully discovered her style. Now her colorful, joyful paintings and illustrations celebrate her friendships and the beauty she finds in life in bold, rich strokes. She uses handmade paper for texture and interest, selling the original gouache, or opaque watercolor, paintings and

And it resonated with others: her business and social media following have grown as people purchase and share her beautiful artwork that celebrates friendship, her Korean-American identity and her love of whimsical imagery.

high-quality prints that pick up those details.

"What I realized after college was I actually wanted to start making art more as a reflection of me as a person and my experiences and what I'm passionate about, versus making things just so that they can sell or for people to buy," Chung said. "I feel like my art now is much more a truer reflection of me. I learned I value how abundant life can be when we see with eyes of hope and when we take care of hearts with kindness and compassion. I want my art to reflect these things and give a sense of hope to those who view my work."

That success reached new heights over the summer, when a slew of followers found Chung's Instagram account where

she posts both her artwork and the behind-the-scenes process. She said she had to push past her perfectionism to instead regularly share things she didn't feel 100 percent about – and followers responded in large numbers.

She further exited her comfort zone by reaching out to publications as a possible freelance artist partner. *Darling Magazine*, a quarterly independent women's magazine with over 335,000 followers on Instagram, used several of her works to accompany online articles. Its founder then reached out about another collaboration for a jigsaw puzzle to be sold in Darling's store.

Chung's *Better Together* painting of four women dancing in unity beneath a gold leafed sun, surrounded by colorful leaves, adorns the 500-piece puzzle. It sold out in its first day and is now on backorder.

"I felt so shocked, I just did not expect that," she said. "I was genuinely surprised but also just so grateful for all the support I've been able to receive this year and being able to meet so many amazing people through my art. I just felt really, really grateful."

Chung credited the senior seminar taught by Christi Harris of the Department of Fine Art and Art History, for covering the business skills she needed to pursue her freelance career full-time.

"Even though it was a small portion of the class, I feel like this is so important and so helpful to know," she said. "That part of class and that whole senior seminar were really impactful for me. I'm really excited to see how my career goes from here." *



Art Alum Gives Back

Ryan Lytle '15 is 'home' at the Torggler.

BY JANE HEETER



ichmond-based Ryan Lytle '15 draws from animal symbolism to speak to audiences through his large, needle felted sculptures. Lytle honed his craft at Christopher Newport as a studio art major. After graduation, he completed his master of fine arts from the Rinehart School of Sculpture at the Maryland Institute College of Art.

Lytle now serves as an adjunct professor in the Department of Fine Art and Art History, helping fellow studio art and art history majors find their own voices as artists.

Tell us a bit about your work and your teaching.

As an artist I love when I can take an idea from my head and express it in the physical world. My favorite part about sculpture is that the work exists on the same plane as us. We can do our best to create illusions, but the work has to follow the same rules as everything else in our world, at least in terms of gravity and occupying real space.

I like to think my studio practice and teaching inform each other. I get ideas for new projects and concepts from my research or experimentations in the studio. At the same time the processes and subject matter of whatever I am teaching at the time find their way into my studio practice. For example, I began researching 3D

printing and modeling in 2019 to help work it into our 3D design and sculpture classes, and I now find myself 3D printing components for my personal work.

This is my third year as an adjunct at Christopher Newport and so far, I have taught courses in 2D design, 3D design, ceramics, sculpture, fiber and a portfolio prep class. You could probably look at the work I was making at these times and guess what I was teaching. I really enjoy teaching and helping the students to not only learn new ideas and concepts, but also to find new mediums with which to express themselves.



What does it mean for you to be teaching art at your alma mater?

It means a lot to me to be able to contribute to such a great department. When I was a student, I received so much support in everything I was trying to do both professionally and academically. My former professors turned colleagues have continued to help with any professional hurdles I come across. Now I am able to share what I have learned with my own students which is a pretty great feeling. Honestly, it feels like coming home.

We in the department are all excited for the new facility and the opportunities that come with it. We will be able to push our already established disciplines even further. A part of me wishes I could go back and take classes again.

Has the pandemic affected your creative process?

We have all had to become more comfortable with the digital world, for me that means teaching, exhibitions, openings and just generally getting my work out there. I spent a lot of time developing new skills such as rug tufting and 3D printing. At one point I had converted about half of my studio over to producing face shield visors for hospitals using printers on loan from the department.

Much of your work is animal-based sculptures. Why animals? And how do you make them?

Whether it is pets, in nature, films and cartoons, or mythology, I have always been drawn to animals. As a kid I had an extensive stuffed animal collection. These fascinations of animal archetypes, images and myths have resurfaced as visual vocabulary in my work.

My works are primarily created through the process of needle felting. There is a comfort that is embedded in the nostalgic material. Needle felting is done by compressing raw wool with a barbed needle into a form. Every area is stabbed hundreds of times with a single needle until the desired density is formed. This medium allows me to sculpt works within a surreal space that is both disarming and inviting.

The process I use to build my sculptures was developed during my time at CNU. I learned how to needle felt in a mixed media class and I learned how to build armatures and work on large pieces in my sculpture classes. I wanted to find an efficient way to build larger and "louder" needle felted sculptures than what I was seeing. The smaller pieces take a week or so, but the larger ones can take a couple of months. Building the armature, or underlying support structure, is the longest part of the process. The needle felting part, although repetitive and tedious, more or less follows the design of the structure.

Left: Weight V / 2020 Wool / 20x30x12

Top: Plumage / 2021 Wool, PLA Plastic / 20x28x20

Experience Lytle's work at the Torggler when it opens to the public on September 12.



JOHN BIGGERS. ELIZABETH CATLETT. JACOB LAWRENCE. HENRY OSSAWA TANNER.

hose artists may not be household names like Michelangelo or Vincent Van Gogh, but Kenlontae' Turner '17 would argue they have been just as impactful on art history—and he wants to make sure you know about them.

THE WORKS OF THESE and many other African American artists are preserved in the Hampton University Museum, the country's oldest African American museum, the oldest museum in Virginia — and only a few miles from Turner's alma mater.

As curator of collections, he is tasked with helping preserve and promote their important history and influence.

"That's definitely my long-term goal, to shed more of a light on the artists who may not have gotten the recognition in the past," Turner said from his office at the historically Black university. "There's a lot of culture and history and content in our artwork here that I'm really excited for more people to see. We have such a treasure trove here and people just don't know about it."

Turner has always been a lover of art, he says, starting from a young age. His mother taught him to color within the lines of his Power Rangers coloring books, and from that point on he saw or created art everywhere he looked. Throughout high school and college, the Newport News native interned for the museum, helping Director Dr. Vanessa Thaxton-Ward and Associate Curator Crystal Johnson '05, as he does now.

While at Christopher Newport, he majored in studio art and minored in museum studies and art history, giving him insight across the spectrum of the professional art world. In his senior year, he served as student manager of the Department of Fine Art and Art History's Falk Gallery.

Turner broadened his knowledge of the art world by being among the first students on campus to complete the newly minted minor in museum studies. From there, he devoured as much global art history as he could, studying modern Mexican art, Asian art, African art and anything else he could learn more about.

"What stuck with me was that most art history courses that are 'general' put a really large emphasis on European art — there's nothing wrong with that! — but there are a lot of times where the other cultures are short-changed or stuck in at the very end of the semester," he said. "It became very obvious to me that the art world was very colonized, they put certain artwork at the center of the art world and kind of look at other artists, especially Black and Native Americans, as being inspired solely by European art."

After commencement, Turner pursued his graduate degree in art and museum studies at Georgetown University. While in Washington, D.C., he interned at several Smithsonian museums, including the National Museum of the American Indian, the FreerlSackler Gallery and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.

Turner's experience at the National Museum of the American Indian is especially relevant to his new role; from 1878 until 1923, the then-named Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute educated over 1,400 American Indians. The museum was founded in 1868, the same year as the university, and was first dubbed a "curiosity room" by founder Gen. Samuel Armstrong.

Today the museum works to collect, preserve, study, exhibit and interpret artifacts and works of art which illustrate the cultures, heritages and histories of African, Native American, oceanic and Asian peoples. The collection also boasts the works of contemporary African American, African and American Indian artists.

Turner is working to make its collections even more accessible to those who may not traditionally see themselves in art museums. As an intern, he helped out with summer programming that touched the lives of K-12 students from Hampton Roads. Despite starting at the onset of the pandemic, which has closed the museum's doors for over a year, he's been able to leverage online resources to put on programming about civil rights and the arts, tying last summer's protests after George Floyd's death to past social justice activism.

He plans to continue the work, helping to amplify the voices he first heard so clearly through his world art history courses.

"This work is a reminder of how important programs and museums like these are, especially for Black and brown students. Many have probably never been to a museum and have never seen people who look like us and have not seen artwork that represents our culture and history," he said.

"Everyone loves a da Vinci and a Picasso, and all of them are rightfully considered master artists, but Elizabeth Catlett and John Biggers were master artists as well. There are so many artists who aren't in the art historical textbooks that should be. I think after this year, we have to really reflect on how we see our own institutions and try to break those problematic institutional structures." *

"There's a lot of culture and history and content in our artwork here that I'm really excited for more people to see." KENLONTAE' TURNER '17













eion Ward '95 has served in the House of Delegates since 2004, representing the broad swath of Hampton that constitutes the 92nd District. Since 2016, Mike Mullin '04 has represented the 93rd District, which includes the city of Williamsburg and parts of James City County, York County and Newport News.

Both districts are home to a wide range of historic places, from Colonial Williamsburg and Jamestown Island to NASA Langley Research Center and Langley Air Force Base, and thousands of Virginians. And both delegates strive to represent them as bold leaders, determined to make the state a better place — not just for their constituents, but for all Virginians.

AS THEY SEEK to transform Virginia, both Ward and Mullin have their own stories of transformation as a foundation.

Late at night during her studies to complete her bachelor of arts in English, Ward quietly played "Pomp and Circumstance" to herself. The traditional chords of commencement music served as motivation at 3 a.m., much needed after a day of cooking and caregiving for her family. In it, she found the strength to press on to comb over a paper for mistakes or analyze *Madame Bovary*.

"I just kept at it over and over again," she said. "I was going to walk."

Ward's path to Christopher Newport was nontraditional. A 1972 graduate of the first integrated class of Warwick High School in Newport News, she married her high school sweetheart, James, and they had three sons, James Jr., Jason and Jeremy.

As the boys reached school age, Ward became an active force in her children's education in roles such as PTA board member, band booster and athletics team mom. She also became a leader in the Hampton Federation of Teachers (HFT) union, working as a full-time teacher assistant.

It was then, with one child already in college, that she completed the first two years of her degree at Thomas Nelson Community College and transferred to Christopher Newport. As a Captain, she further developed her passion for literature and writing.

Those strengths serve her well today. She's a sharp proofreader — don't ask her to edit a letter you wrote if you don't handle constructive criticism well — and she has strong opinions on modern grammar trends.

She recalls lessons learned in college even now when writing: "I just keep hearing my professors' voices in my head all the time: 'Where's your transition sentence?'"

A dean's list honoree every semester, Ward was inducted into the English honor society, Sigma Tau Delta, and joined Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., a community she maintains close ties with today.

Best of all, "Pomp and Circumstance" played, and this time it wasn't in her head.



She graduated magna cum laude in 1995 with her degree and a certification to teach middle school.

"If there isn't someone

DELEGATE MIKE MULLIN '04 ***

On graduation day, Ward, clad in her cap and gown, and her husband made sure to stop by her father's grave to celebrate the realization of her dream. "He wanted me to go to college so badly," she said. "So when I walked, I had his picture in my hat. I wanted to make sure he understood, I graduated like he told me to."

After graduation, she continued her advocacy for teachers while working as a mother, becoming vice president and later president of HFT, a position she still holds today.

It was as that voice for teachers that she got to know then-Del. Dr. Mary T. Christian, who represented the 92nd District for 18 years until her retirement in 2003. Christian's legacy as an educator and as the first Black person and first woman elected to represent Hampton since Reconstruction was renowned. It was she who sought out Ward to run as her replacement.

"I said, 'I am not a politician,'" Ward said, 17 years into her political career. "[Christian] said, 'We need exactly who you are. You're a spokesperson. You are a voice, and that's what we need."

With the support of Christian and

her political friends, Ward beat both primary and general election opponents and has staved off all other challengers in the eight elections since.

In 2020, Ward was named chair of the Labor and Commerce Committee, a consequential position that deals with everything from utilities to insurance to workers' rights. She also serves on the Rules, Transportation, and Communications and Technology and Innovation Committees.

When asked about her proudest accomplishment, Ward hesitates to single out a specific bill or moment. She finds it just as rewarding to help enact laws to allow the city of Hampton to trim overgrown shrubbery as it is to sponsor the legislation to raise the minimum wage across the state.

That law, signed by Gov. Ralph Northam in 2020, enables a series of raises to the minimum wage for almost every type of worker in Virginia up to \$12 an hour by 2023, with further increases planned. The Wason Center for Civic Leadership's State of the Commonwealth 2020 report found that nearly three-fourths (72%) of Virginia voters supported gradually raising the mini-

Throughout her tenure, Ward has championed issues that she knows matter to members of her community, including extending the timeline for teachers to get recertified (she maintains her license, always ready to return to the classroom) and safer working conditions.

"Not everything we get done is in the headlines, but it affects a lot of people," she said. "But that's what's important to me - representing the everyday person - teachers, children, workers, everyone."

Mike Mullin knew he was going to be transformed at Christopher Newport when he first stepped on campus. A Fairfax native, he took a tour as a high school senior and visited a class about Shakespeare taught by Dr. Jay Paul.

"I've never seen a more robust and interesting debate on classic literature and the moral decisions behind that than I did when I sat in Dr. Paul's class." Mullin said. "When I arrived at CNU, I found an academic environment and discussion that I've never been a part of since, and it was beautiful. I couldn't think of a better place to be able to learn how to think, instead of what to think."

Once on campus, Mullin was busy. He double majored in English and history and was a member of the Honors Program, eventually writing a senior thesis about Tudor England.



He served two years as editor-in-chief of *The Captain's Log* and was politically active. He helped found the nonpartisan group Virginia21, designed to give college students a voice in politics.

Mullin always planned to attend law school after graduation, thanks in part to the influence of "Law & Order" marathons, which gave him the dream to be a prosecutor at the age of 9. He completed his degree from Columbus School of Law at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and again called Newport News home.

He worked as a criminal prosecutor in Suffolk and is an assistant commonwealth's attorney for the city of Hampton.

In 2016, State Senator John Miller, a beloved former Christopher Newport administrator, unexpectedly passed away. The 93rd District's incumbent, Monty Mason, decided to run for Miller's former position, opening up the seat for a special election.

Inspired by Miller and a conversation he had around that time with his own three sons, Mullin saw an opportunity to impact the community he loved.

"Every night I sit down with them and ask them two questions: what did you learn today, and what did you do for somebody else. Right before or after [Miller] died, Daniel, who is now 10, looked at me and said, 'Dad, what did you do today for somebody else?' And I didn't have a good answer.

"I went to Starbucks, I went to work, I filed papers, and then I came home and had supper. I was sitting there and I don't think that I made anything better that day. I existed. I didn't have a good answer for Daniel. I had to change that."

Mullin won the special election to fill the remainder of the vacant seat's term, and again won the seat in 2017 and 2019. Once in office he quickly got to work, passing four laws his freshman year, more than any other new member of the House of Delegates. He earned new committee appointments over the years, and currently serves as vice chair of the Rules Committee and as member of the Labor and Commerce and Courts of Justice Committees. He's won re-election in the highly competitive district every election since.

Mullin's work as a criminal prosecutor has informed many of his efforts so far. He's been a vocal supporter for criminal justice reform, finding ways to better serve the Virginians he sees going in and out of a system that can be unfair based on race, income and other inequities. He's backed bills designed to fix the "school-to-prison" pipeline, in which disadvantaged students are often harshly punished and removed from the public education system. In 2020 he sponsored a new law that allows prosecutors to drop charges they feel are unjust.

Mullin's highest profile success has been sponsoring the legislation to abolish the death penalty, making Virginia the first Southern state to ban the practice. A February 2021 Wason Center poll found 56 percent of Virginia registered voters supported its repeal.

Eliminating a punishment which has historically been unfairly applied aligns with Mullin's mission to fix the system in which he works every day.

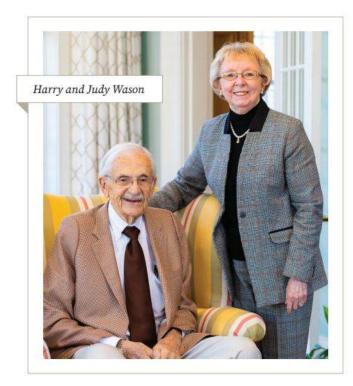
"If there isn't someone who's willing to work within the system to change it, then how will it be changed?" he said. "I don't know a mechanism or a lever of change for a system that is systematically racist and unfair other than people within that system working diligently and daily to change it. If we just wipe our hands and say, 'I won't have part of this,' we allow it to continue.

Reforming that system gives Mullin a ready answer the next time Daniel asks, "Dad, what did you do today for somebody else?" *

Wason Center Announces New Programs to Prepare Civic Leaders

Judy Wason: "Our nation needs leaders who will listen."

BY TOM KRAMER



ATATIME when Virginia and the nation need it most, the Wason Center is making a transformational commitment toward inspiring the next generation of civic leaders.

The Wason Center is adding new programs to prepare students to serve the commonwealth and country in leadership roles. The center's new name reflects this commitment as it is now the Wason Center for Civic Leadership.

Through the generosity of Judy and Harry Wason, the center will also offer a new scholarship to high-ability, civic-minded students. The inaugural class of Wason Scholars will enroll in the fall of 2021. They will have the opportunity to gain real-world experience through the center's programs while earning a dual degree with a major in a favored subject and a companion major in leadership studies.

The center's programs will provide experiential learning opportunities in intimate settings with prominent statewide leaders.

The center will be guided by a new advisory board — a group of the commonwealth's most successful civic leaders. They will offer insight on the center's programs and recruit prominent Virginians to mentor and inspire students.

"No matter what profession they choose, our nation



The Distinguished Virginians program will recruit a cohort of distinguished Virginians who are having or have had a significant impact on the civic life of our commonwealth to directly engage and mentor small groups of students.

The Civic Leadership Speaker Series will host prominent statewide and national leaders to challenge Christopher Newport students and our whole community to value and build a community where evidence-based decision making, integrity and mutual trust prevail.

A digital platform will connect current students with mentors in their chosen fields. Mentors will host skillbuilding workshops that will help them find policy-oriented jobs in Richmond and Washington, D.C.

needs leaders who will listen to their fellow citizens and have empathy for their struggles. We believe this scholarship and new Wason Center programs will prepare a new generation of leaders committed to thoughtfully addressing and finding solutions to our toughest problems," said Judy Wason.

"Judy and I sincerely thank President Trible for his leadership in making this very important program possible," said Harry Wason.

"We are so grateful to Judy and Harry Wason and the civic leaders who joined our new advisory board. Our new Wason Center for Civic Leadership will build on 10 years of the center's successful survey research by adding important programs that will inspire students to become the civic leaders we so desperately need," said President Paul Trible.



Honoring Two Inspiring Leaders

Cindi Perry and Bill Brauer '77 retired after impressive careers.

WO STALWARTS OF CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT retired last year, marking the end of an astounding 72 collective years of service to the university.

Cindi Perry worked for Christopher Newport for over 42 years in a number of roles, including as chief of staff for President Trible. She served as his principal adviser, providing her wisdom, judgment, knowledge of colleagues and programs across campus, and budgetary expertise. Her love of Christopher Newport, Trible said, "empowered everything we have done."

Executive Vice President Bill Brauer '77 served his alma mater for nearly 30 years. He "expertly oversaw finances in both good and difficult times," Trible said. Perhaps his biggest legacy is as the leader in envisioning and constructing over \$1 billion in facilities, creating one of America's most beautiful campuses.

Brauer's father, Harrol Brauer, served as Christopher Newport's first rector of the Board of Visitors. Brauer said his time at Christopher Newport has been a "dream career," one that enabled him to actively help grow the reach and reputation of his alma mater.

"You don't want to be sitting on the bench. You want to

be active, and you want to do something good," Brauer said. "And it's just amazing what all of us — Paul, Cindi, me, everybody — have accomplished. It's no one person. It's a community of people. Paul was the leader, he established the vision, and he created the community so we could do our work. You've just got to have great people working for you, and I had a bunch of great people who did great things."

In recognition of their contributions, two spaces on campus have been dedicated in their honor. The rotunda outside of the president's office inside Christopher Newport Hall is now the Cynthia R. Perry Rotunda. The courtyard outside the first floor of the building is the William L. Brauer Courtyard.

During the recognition ceremony, Perry thanked her colleagues for what she called the "incredible privilege" of the trust placed in her.

"Little did I know in 1979 when I first set foot on campus, that over 40 years later I'd be finding a way to say goodbye," Perry said during the dedication ceremony. "All of you are precious and I hold you close to my heart. Thank you for everything, for supporting me, taking care of me, tolerating my mistakes and always answering my calls. Keep on dreaming the impossible — it can be achieved."



Celebrating Paul Trible's 25 Years as CNU President

Former U.S. senator appointed to lead university in 1995.

Robert Hatten, rector of the Board of Visitors, sent the following message to the Christopher Newport community.

AMERICA'S GREAT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES do not spring from the air like orchids, but they do frequently spring from the extraordinary, transformative vision and energy of a solitary man. In the 18th century, Hampden Sydney College had as its founding father, Patrick Henry, a visionary lawyer and politician. Likewise, the University of Virginia had its Thomas Jefferson, another visionary lawyer and politician, and William & Mary had its George Wythe, again a lawyer and politician. Fortunately for us, in the 20th century, Christopher Newport University found Paul Trible, a lawyer, a politician and like Henry, Jefferson and Wythe, a patriot and a dreamer.

Paul dreamed of creating a public university that could incorporate the values and intimacy of his alma mater Hampden Sydney, a university that could rival the splendor and inspiration of the University of Virginia and a university that could match the reputation and academic excellence of William & Mary. But in 1995 when Paul Trible was appointed president of CNU — a man with no academic experience — no one in America knew his dream and if they had known it, they would have laughed out loud at its sheer preposterousness.

At that time CNU was a fledgling university full of good intentions, a small but committed faculty and eager students, but it had no money to build with or expand its programs, no academic reputation, stadium or football team, no architectural splendor to inspire students, and no vision of where it was going or what it could be. As Yogi Berra once said, "if you don't know where you are going, you might not get there."

But Paul Trible knew where he was going and he never stopped dreaming of a bigger and better university and he never stopped making it happen. Year after year success was piled onto success. His skills as a lawyer and a politician more than made up for his lack of academic experience. His love for this university became contagious.

Yes, everyone loves a winner, but Paul was a winner because he also loved everyone associated with making this university into a powerful, beautiful and exciting fortress of learning. Paul Trible is a beloved and respected man due to the fact that his dreams are now our reality. That transformation happened because of Paul's extraordinary dedication, personal skills, hard work and commitment to CNU.

And that combination continues to inspire and challenge the students, the faculty, the Board of Visitors, the alumni, the local community and the entire state of Virginia. Like everyone says, "CNU is a SPECIAL Place." That is true and the "special" part begins with the personal friend that we all have in Paul Trible, a man who changed all of our lives as well as CNU. This year we celebrate 25 years of Paul's leadership and CNU's success. That success cannot be briefly summarized, but the following short list of his accomplishments during the past 25 years include the following:

	1996	2020
Full-time Students	2,920	4,739
Freshman H.S. GPA	2.8	3.8
Retention Rate (Fr to So)	69%	87%
4-year Graduation Rate	11%	69%
6-year Graduation Rate	35%	80%
Full-time Faculty	166	287
% Classes of 19 or Fewer Students	44%	61%
Library Volumes	330K	1.2+M
Operating Budget	\$34M	\$172M
Endowment	\$300K	\$50.7M

Over \$1 billion in capital construction creating one of America's most beautiful college campuses.

As rector, fellow Hampden Sydney classmate, law school classmate and devoted friend for 55 years, I extend to Paul the great thanks and appreciation of CNU's Board of Visitors, the faculty, the students and the alumni for his transformative leadership and accomplishments.

On the Waterfront With a Captain for Life

Steve Bowman '04 leads key marine resource efforts in Virginia.

BY IIM HANCHETT



Virginia's commissioner of marine resources and Captain for Life Steve Bowman answers our questions about his important leadership in helping manage the state's resources.

Q: SO, WHAT DOES THE COMMISSIONER OF MARINE RESOURCES DO?

In my position, I wear two distinct hats. First, I serve as chairman of the Marine Resources Commission. It is a nineperson citizen board that meets monthly to make case decisions on fishery and waterfront development issues. We have the regulatory authority to make laws related to matters under our jurisdiction. We hear everything from cases involving the regulations pertaining to catch limits for fish to the approval of such large projects as the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel.

Secondly, I serve as the chief executive of a state agency with over 150 employees. This agency has four divisions that work to ensure we uphold our mission as stewards of Virginia's marine and aquatic resources and protectors of Virginia's tidal homelands for present and future generations. I lead a fishery management division that focuses on the sustainability of a number of species of fishes, shellfish such as oysters and clams, and crabs.

The second division is our Habitat Management Division that works on

matters from approving small residential piers for waterfront property owners to the largest structures that cross the commonwealth's waterways, from bridges to pipelines.

The third is our largest division, the Virginia Marine Police. The officers perform search and rescue missions and enforce maritime regulations in the Tidewater area by land, sea and air.

Finally, our Administration and Finance Division handles office functions and supervises our headquarters located on Fort Monroe. For a small agency, we do a great deal.

Q: WITH SO MUCH OF OUR ECONOMY – FISHING, TOURISM, TRANSPORTATION – SHARING A PRECIOUS PART OF OUR ENVIRONMENT, THERE ARE BOUND TO BE CONFLICTS. WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES?

We have a number of emerging issues we are confronted with. The ever-changing migration patterns of the fish we manage requires us to ensure our commercial fishermen continue to receive a fair allocation of catch. We are also working very hard to combat the effects of sealevel rise and coastal erosion. At the present time, by virtue of a number of

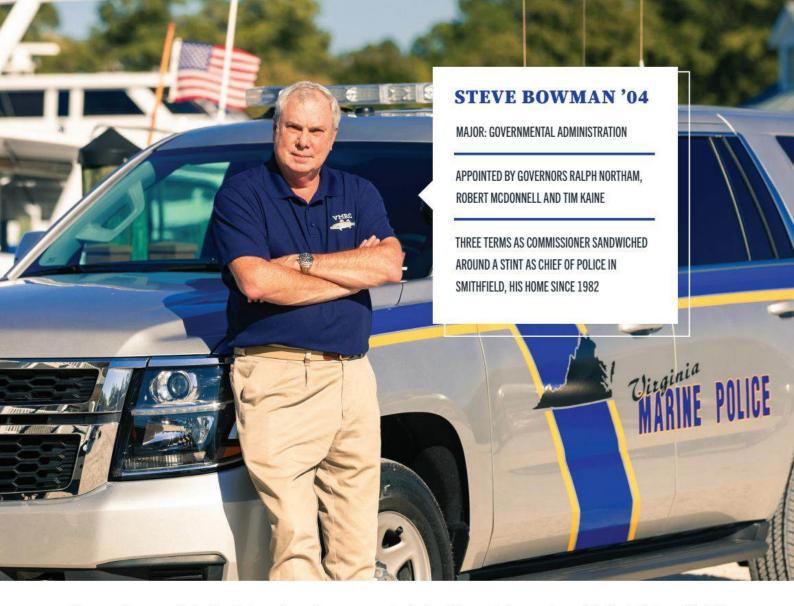
laws passed by the General Assembly, we are educating our constituents on the benefits of utilizing new methods to protect our wetlands such as living shorelines. Through these best management practices, it is our hope that we can work to preserve habitat for our shoreline birds and other organisms.

SO YOU'RE IN THE ENVIABLE POSITION OF BEING ABLE TO GO FISHING OR FOR A TWILIGHT CRUISE AND CONSIDER IT WORK?

I do get out on the water fairly regularly either with work or for pleasure. I am fortunate to live on the water in Smithfield and I recreationally boat frequently. I believe this exposure allows me to keep my finger on the pulse of the responsibilities I have as well as see my constituents from a customer service perspective.

Q: WHAT ABOUT YOUR DAYS AS A CAPTAIN PREPARED YOU FOR YOUR PROFESSION?

My memories of the years at CNU are truly fond. I came to CNU as a transfer student after having been out of higher education for over 14 years. To say I was terrified is a gross understatement.



However, the care and attention that my teachers and fellow students afforded me made me feel welcome and provided an atmosphere that allowed me to succeed in achieving my dream of graduating with my bachelor of science in governmental administration in 2004.

The professors required a great deal of open-thought dialogue. As a career law enforcement officer, sometimes one can fall into a lapse of what I would call a perception vacuum. You think only what you experience ... good and bad.

The university experience allowed me to interact with students who were much younger and frankly more enlightened than I was. Their ideas, brought out by dialogue with the professors, were truly inspiring and helpful. I came away a better person for the experience that I had. I rely on those experiences to this day when making some of the tough decisions that come my way.

The campus has changed significantly since I first arrived in 1995. Back then, the campus and university seemed to be working to find its identity as it was transitioning from what was once a commuter college to the prestigious university it has become. This is not to say there was not clear direction and planning. Under President Trible's guiding hand, there was progress being made on a regular basis to improve the buildings and grounds that would be attractive to

parents and students that would visit. And what a transformation this has been.

My regret is that I did not have the opportunity to enjoy what CNU has to offer today in the way of updated facilities. I have returned to CNU many times since graduation to attend football games and functions. My most recent visit was to the David Student Union to address the Rotary Club of Oyster Point prior to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Q: FINAL THOUGHT?

My life experiences have convinced me that my diploma is like a piece of stock that only improves in value over time. Go Captains!

FACULTY NEWS

COVID-19 RESEARCH



DR. SHERMAN LEE //
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Continuing his groundbreaking work on pandemic grief, psychology associate professor Dr. Sherman Lee developed the first mental health screening protocols to identify people suffering from dysfunctional grief due to the loss of a friend or family member to COVID-19.

Lee created the Pandemic Grief Scale along with Robert Neimeyer of the Portland Institute for Loss and Transition. Mental health professionals can use the tool to determine if someone's grief is such that it impairs their work and social lives.

Lee also co-authored the Hospice Foundation's *Living With Grief Since COVID-19*, which offers guidance to clinicians facing unprecedented levels of demand from patients who have lost loved ones to the pandemic.

DR. THOMAS BERRY // DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

National handwashing expert Dr. Thomas Berry appeared on CNN and other outlets to discuss his research on habits such as coughing, sneezing and face-touching, which can transmit pathogens, including COVID-19. Berry, associate professor of psychology, cautions that other habits, such as proper handwashing, are more important than ever – even with the distribution of vaccines.

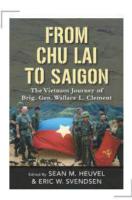




DR. RIK CHAKRABORTI //
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Research by Dr. Rik Chakraborti indicates that government efforts to keep pandemic prices reasonable actually led consumers to hoard scarce products. Price gouging rules went into effect in many states when toilet paper and hand sanitizer disappeared from store shelves at the beginning of the CO-VID-19 pandemic. Chakraborti, assistant professor of economics, found that such government intervention made shortages worse in a paper currently under peer review.

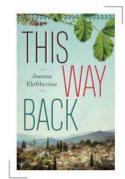




DR. SEAN HEUVEL //
DEPARTMENT OF LEADERSHIP AND AMERICAN STUDIES

Assistant professor of leadership Dr. Sean Heuvel and U.S. Army officer and alumnus Eric Svendsen '20 co-edited From Chu Lai To Saigon: The Vietnam Journey of Brig. Gen. Wallace L. Clement. The book compiles over 300 letters written by Clement that together paint a picture of a leader immersed in a complicated and controversial conflict.





DR. JOANNA ELEFTHERIOU //
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Dr. Joanna Eleftheriou, assistant professor of English, published *This Way Back*, a memoir in which she examines her life growing up in New York City and a small village on the island of Cyprus. The collection explores themes of immigration, bicultural identity, sexual orientation and the pull of a landscape.



DR. RUSSELL BURKE //
DEPARTMENT OF ORGANISMAL AND
ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

Dr. Russell Burke is leading a team of student researchers in a conservation and restoration project in the Chesapeake Bay under the aegis of the Pew Charitable Trusts and the Department of Defense. By installing natural and artificial oyster reefs, the Christopher Newport team hopes to restore more than three acres of land that will protect Naval Weapons Station Yorktown from sea-level rise and coastal erosion.

LISA HEUVEL // DEPARTMENT OF LEADERSHIP AND AMERICAN STUDIES

Lisa Heuvel's Living History in the Classroom: Performance and Pedagogy aims to help K-12 history teachers make history "come alive" for their students. In it, Heuvel gives readers practical insights into classroom performance, public history and education and offers teachers resources for using historical character portrayals to better teach students about the past.





DR. XIAOQUN XU //
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

History professor Dr. Xiaoqun Xu published *Heaven Has Eyes: A History of Chinese Law.* The book covers the sweep of Chinese history from ancient times through the imperial era, the republic, the Mao era and the post-Mao era. Xu recounts the history of each era and then spells out how law and judicial practices developed and functioned in that historical context.



DR. KELLY CARTWRIGHT //
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology professor Dr. Kelly Cartwright has been appointed to an advisory board that will assist the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) and the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). She is one of several distinguished faculty nationwide selected to join the 22-member Ready To Learn Advisory Board for the CPB-PBS joint grant initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Education. She will bring her expertise in the development of literacy, executive function and selfregulation to an expanding effort to create media content that supports literacy development.

RESEARCH TEAM // CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT SCIENTISTS

Christopher Newport scientists are contributing to a research team that has detected a signal from what may be the most massive black hole merger yet observed via gravitational waves. The product of the merger is the first clear detection of an "intermediate-mass" black hole, with a mass between 100 and 1,000 times that of the sun. Led by Dr. Ryan Fisher, the research group includes physics professor Dr. Marissa Walker, associate scientist Robert Bruntz, master's alumni Anne Baer '20 and Alexander Balsamo '20, master's student Michael Patel, undergraduates Grace Johns, Nathan Ormsby, Jack Lynam, Nii-Boi Quartey and Scott Reid.

DR. MICHAEL MULRYAN //

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Dr. Michael J. Mulryan, associate professor of French, co-edited and co-translated a critical edition of Louis Sébastien Mercier's previously unpublished treatise on moral education. The work, in both French and English, is titled Comment fonder la morale du peuple? Traité d'éducation pour l'avènement d'une société nouvelle, which translates to: How to Establish the Morality of the People? An Educational Treatise for the Advent of a New Society.





DR. SHARON ROWLEY //
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

English professor Dr. Sharon Rowley published a collection of essays exploring the literary legacy of medieval England. The 13 essays in Writers, Editors and Exemplars in Medieval English Texts investigate the writings of major authors such as Chaucer, Gower and Wyclif as well as lesser known figures, and examine the roles of historical scholars in the construction of medieval English literature.



DR. BENJAMIN REDEKOP //
DEPARTMENT OF LEADERSHIP
AND AMERICAN STUDIES

Dr. Benjamin Redekop, professor of leadership, has published an examination of the relationship between common sense and scientific thinking from the ancient world to the present day. Common Sense and Science from Aristotle to Reid chronicles the evolving relationship between "common sense," both as a concept and mental faculty, and scientific inquiry.



NATHAN HARTER //
DEPARTMENT OF LEADERSHIP
AND AMERICAN STUDIES

Leadership professor Nathan Harter is the author of *Leadership Across Boundaries*, in which he argues that leaders should embrace seemingly contradictory ideas from a range of disciplines in order to become more effective. Harter offers a variety of historical examples, ranging from St. Francis of Assisi to British common law, in order to illustrate his thesis.

Faculty Excellence Awards Announced

Winners exemplify innovation, teaching, scholarship, service and student mentoring.

FIVE CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT professors received 2020 Faculty Excellence Awards, including a new recognition for mentoring graduate students.

The ninth annual awards recognize exceptional achievements in teaching, scholarship, service, thinking beyond academic boundaries and graduate mentoring.

A rigorous application process, including a dean's review and ranking by the Faculty Senate, determines the winners. Each receives a certificate and a monetary award.

"Given that Christopher Newport faculty already set the performance bar so high, the accomplishments of these award winners are truly outstanding," said Provost Dr. Dave Doughty.



DR. CHARLOTTE CARTWRIGHT // DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY Faculty Excellence Award in Teaching

Cartwright earned praise for her excellence in the classroom, significant work with refining and innovating course materials for the master of arts in teaching (MAT) program, and work mentoring students in research.



DR. JEAN
FILETTI //
DEPARTMENT
OF ENGLISH,
OFFICE OF
TEACHER
PREPARATION



DR. JOHN NICHOLS // DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Faculty Excellence Award in Service

Nichols' service is wide-ranging and impactful, including efforts in advancing the university's Phi Beta Kappa application, directing the Center for Effective Teaching and the film studies minor, and in serving in the community.



DR. JOHN FINN //
DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIOLOGY,
SOCIAL WORK AND
ANTHROPOLOGY

Faculty Excellence Award in Scholarship

Finn has a record of scholarship that involves a book under contract, over \$40,000 in grant-funded research, a role as editor-in-chief of a top geography journal and six peer-reviewed articles, many in geography journals. His research work nearly always involves students.

Faculty Excellence Award in Graduate Mentoring

Filetti was honored for mentoring graduate students, a personal and caring approach to guiding all MAT students through the program, a high standard for professional training, and tireless efforts to provide funding and job opportunities for all MAT students.

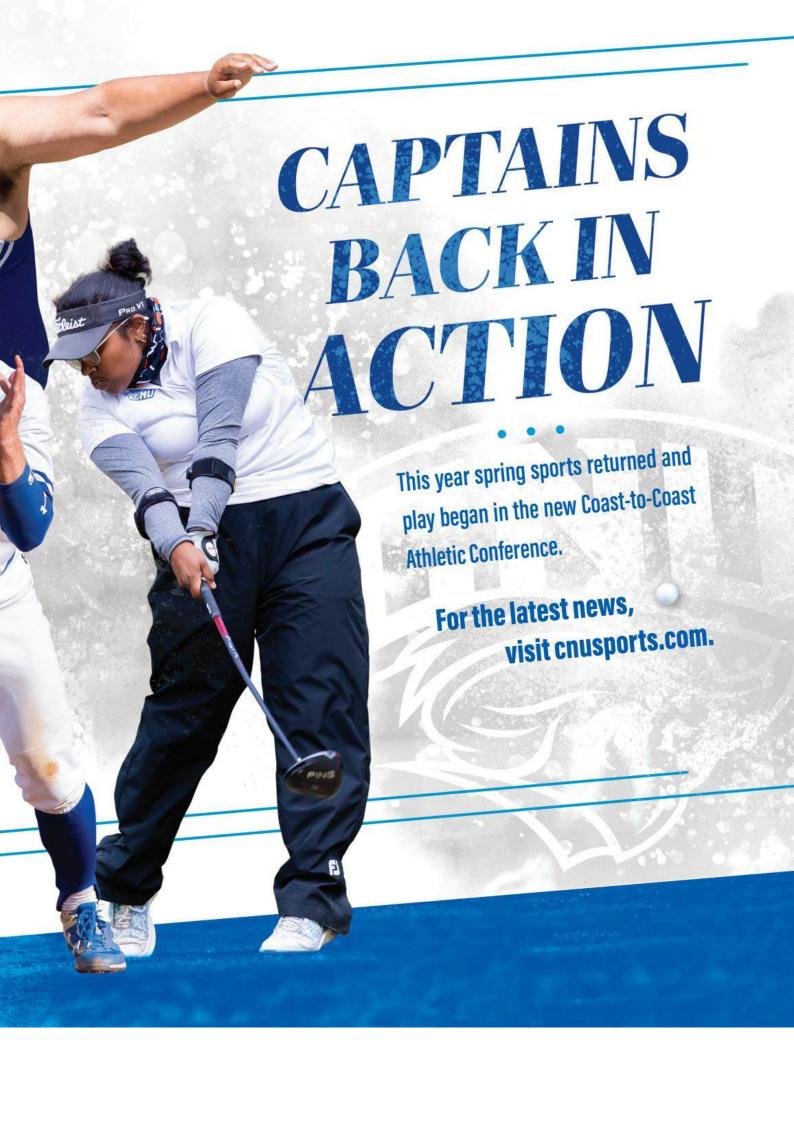
DR. WILLIAM DONALDSON // LUTER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Faculty Excellence Award in Interdisciplinarity

Donaldson's research and teaching draw from at least four different disciplines within business, management and leadership studies. His work in the biotechnology and management program bridges various fields of high-tech business with fields in the natural sciences. He has co-taught and co-published with leadership studies faculty on several projects related to systems thinking and systems engineering.









Captains Athletics Goes National

CNU's conference is expanding in a big way.

Christopher Newport University is one of the founding institutions of the new Coast-to-Coast Athletic Conference (C2C) that will give Captains an opportunity to compete against teams from across the United States.

C2C consists of 11 full-time members for the 2020-21 academic year. The conference will then reduce to eight in the 2021-22 academic year when Southern Virginia University, St. Mary's College of Maryland and Pine Manor College depart. Traditional CNU rivals Salisbury and Mary Washington will remain as members of C2C.

"I am thrilled that as the collegiate athletics landscape continues to evolve at a rapid pace, our student-athletes will be able to maintain rivalries against Mary Washington and Salisbury while we extend our reach and competitive opportunities across the country," Director of Athletics Kyle McMullin said. "This conference is unique. It affords our students championship experiences that they will treasure for a lifetime, while allowing Christopher Newport the flexibility to shape our schedules to best prepare our teams for success in the classroom and in competition."

Christopher Newport's athletic history includes participation in several conferences but none with the national reach and unique attributes of the C2C. Christopher Newport became a member of the Dixie Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in 1972, and the Captains continued as a full member when the league changed its name to the USA South Athletic Conference in 2003. The bulk of Christopher Newport's athletic programs, with the exception of football, switched to the Capital Athletic Conference in the fall of 2013. Christopher Newport football later became, and will continue to be, a member of the New Jersey Athletic Conference, and will not be affected by this expansion.

Meet the members

University of California, Santa Cruz Santa Cruz, California

Enrollment: 19,000 Nickname: Banana Slugs

Finlandia University Hancock, Michigan

Enrollment: 670 Nickname: Lions

University of Mary Washington Fredericksburg, Virginia

Enrollment: 5,200 Nickname: Eagles

Mills College Oakland, California

Enrollment: 710 Nickname: Cyclones

Mount Mary University Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Enrollment: 1,300 Nickname: Blue Angels

Pine Manor College Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

Enrollment: 350 Nickname: Gators

Pratt Institute Brooklyn, New York

Enrollment: 4,500 Nickname: Cannoneers

St. Mary's College of Maryland St. Mary's City, Maryland

Enrollment: 1,500 Nickname: Seahawks

Salisbury University Salisbury, Maryland

Enrollment: 7,600 Nickname: Sea Gulls

Southern Virginia University Buena Vista, Virginia

Enrollment: 1,100 Nickname: Knights



Men's Lacrosse Raises Money for Black Student Union

Training over the summer helped provide over \$5,000 for the organization.

The killing of George Floyd last summer and the growth of the Black Lives Matter movement led the men's lacrosse team to take action.

Inspired by work done by other college athletes, senior Jack Cook helped organize a fundraiser for the Black Student Union (BSU), raising both money and awareness for the campus organization.

"I immediately called (head coach Mikey Thompson) over the summer about doing this with our team. He has always encouraged community engagement, and supporting fellow campus organizations, so he loved the idea," Cook said. Thompson pulled in returning captains Max Wayne and Dylan Rice and senior Jordan Lee, who himself is involved with Black Lives Matter both on and off campus.

The team reached out to the BSU to create the partnership and recipient of whatever would be raised. Then-president Malik Dickens ensured that the team's intentions were aligned with BSU's goals.

"Like many organizations on campus and across higher education, we wanted to ensure that the individuals involved in this movement and in support of us were doing so because of genuine care and passion for equality, not because it was a recent trend," said Dickens, who now serves as an adviser to the organization. "After talking to the head coach and a few other team members, I and the rest of the executive board saw

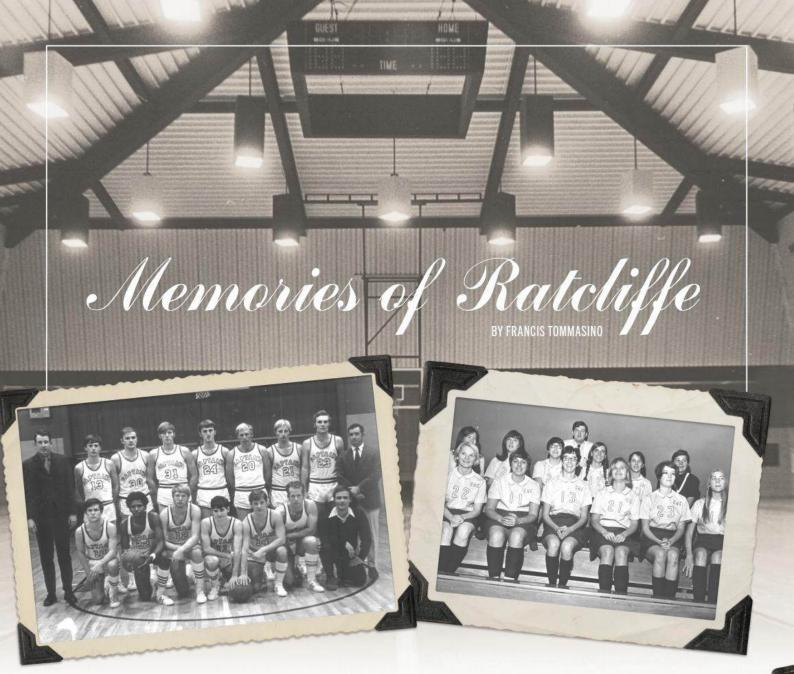
that the team truly cared for the causes. It wasn't to follow the 'trend' of social justice – but to create social change."

The fundraiser was paired with the team's summer conditioning. Over three days, each player posted on Instagram a graphic explaining that they would run a half-mile for every \$5 received. Running tallies were shared throughout to encourage more donations, and the team had a week to finish completing the runs.

In total, 317 donors gave over \$5,000 – and the team ran 500 miles in the effort. The money will help the BSU fund a scholarship for students of color at Christopher Newport.

"The partnership between the men's lacrosse team and the BSU is something that we are very proud to start this year, and expect to continue for years to come," said Cook. "I would argue that our team is very socially aware and we understand our role in helping give power to the Black Lives Matter movement. As a predominately white organization, we know that we may not be able to understand the hardships of living in the United States as a Black individual, but we can understand the power in unity and how we, as a program, can help support the movement."

Said Dickens: "I think that men's lacrosse sets the example for how CNU organizations of all types can get involved with social change. There is more to this movement than posting a letter of solidarity."



atcliffe Gymnasium served as the home of Christopher Newport University athletics from 1967 to 2000, housing the offices of athletics administrators as well as the home court for men's and women's basketball and volleyball.

Following the opening of the Freeman Center in 2000, the building was reconfigured and renamed Ratcliffe Hall, and has continued to house athletics offices as well as additional learning space for students.

Now Ratcliffe's next evolution is underway. The building is being renovated and enhanced for the staff and student-athletes who use its facilities. Before it moves onto its next stage, current and former occupants took time to reflect on why the building is so beloved, as humble as it may be.

WHEN THE FIRST men's basketball team began play in 1967, Christopher Newport was small. The newly opened Ratcliffe was one of just four buildings, and being a commuter school at the time, no students lived on campus.

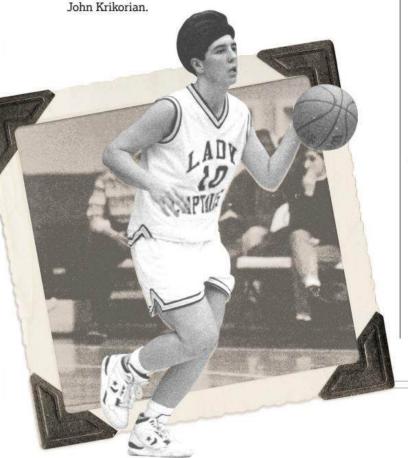
Christopher Newport officials had to get creative in their efforts to give the Captains a winning atmosphere in the brand new gym.

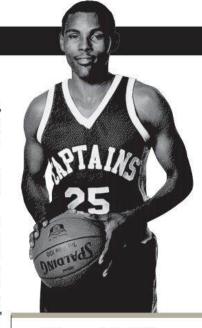
"We wanted as much noise as we could get from the fans that were there," said Bev Vaughan, the "father" of Christopher Newport athletics and head coach and director of athletics at the time. "So we cut up two-by-fours and handed each fan two blocks of wood as they came in. They banged them together and created quite a racket. A few years later the conference put in a rule that you couldn't have noisemakers like that anymore."

It worked: Under Vaughan's guidance, the Captains compiled a record of 204-128 in 14 seasons, remarkable results for a young program. That success began Christopher Newport's growth into one of the top small college programs in the country.

Roland Ross '89 knows all about the success of the Captains. He played in Ratcliffe as a member of the men's basketball team from 1978-81. Following his graduation, he began his tenure as an assistant coach under Glenn Russell, and then continued on the staff as the Captains hired C.J. Woollum to take over the program.

His coaching and recruiting career blossomed through 26 amazing campaigns alongside Woollum, and now has stretched another remarkable ten seasons under current coach





"You could just feel the energy. It was magical."

ROLAND ROSS '89

"The years in Ratcliffe were amazing," said Ross, who also serves as director of the athletics outreach program. "What a sixth man that place was. You could just feel the energy. It was magical. We won a lot of games there and a lot of championships. Looking back, it's hard to imagine that we were able to host NCAA games, but we did — and won most of them."

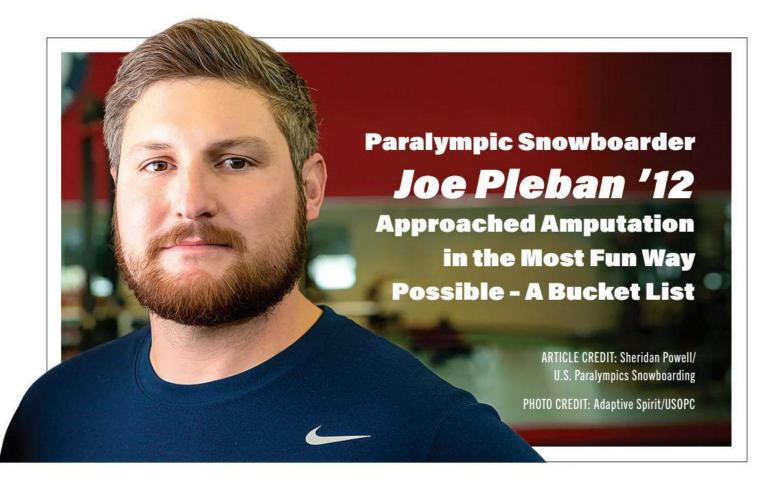
Newport News native and highly respected basketball official Bryan Kersey worked roughly two dozen Christopher Newport games in Ratcliffe in the late 1980s and 90s.

"It was the atmosphere I remember the most. It was nuts," Kersey said. "During warmups guys were throwing balls off the wall right behind the basket and dunking. There aren't a lot of buildings left like it anymore, kind of like Cameron Indoor Stadium at Duke. It was small enough to really be intimidating. The fans were loud and it always seemed that most of the CNU baseball team was seated in the bleachers making lots of noise. And of course it was so intimate the fans seemed like they were on the court."

Kersey would later work a few Christopher Newport games in the early years of the Freeman Center before his schedule became filled with contests involving other conferences, including the ACC, Atlantic 10, Big East, Big South and Colonial Athletic Association.

Kersey left the hardwood in 2016 after a career that saw him officiate seven ACC tournament championships, 20 NCAA tournaments and the 2015 Final Four semifinal matchup between Duke and Michigan State. But even with all the games Kersey worked over 30-plus years of officiating – sometimes more than 100 contests a year – those games in Ratcliffe certainly left their mark.

"It was simply one of the best home court advantages you could ever imagine," Kersey said. "It obviously helped the Captains attain the amazing success they had then and continue to have today." •



He called it "The Left Foot Bucket List." With a below-knee amputation of his left foot scheduled in just over a month, Joe Pleban '12 and his family created a list of things he had always wanted to do. The list included things like skydiving, top-level go kart racing, scuba diving and even a tattoo.

THE LIST WAS BORN with the intent of bringing humor into an otherwise daunting situation.

"I could easily have sat around and really second guessed myself and got in my own head — which, believe me, still happened — but it helped to be having fun checking off all these activities that I had always wanted to do," Pleban explained.

Pleban was diagnosed with Pigmented Villonodular Synovitis after breaking his ankle at age 18. PVNS had caused him to develop benign tumors in his ankle that slowly ate away at the cartilage in his joint. Despite a handful of attempts to remove the tumors, they continued to grow back and by 22 he had to readjust many aspects of his active lifestyle.

Pleban grew up spending time on the slopes with his family in Vermont, first skiing and eventually snowboarding. He fell in love with the sport and continued to spend more and more time on the snow — even working as a ski tech in Lake Tahoe shortly after graduating college.

He first became unable to continue playing rugby, which

he had done throughout college. Next came running, and even walking. When even snowboarding became painful, Pleban began to explore other options.

"When I hit the point of not being able to snowboard anymore, I knew I was going to have to do something pretty drastic to get it back. I was in tears just thinking, 'This is my last sport, this is my favorite sport, please don't take this from me'"

From there, Pleban began to seriously consider the idea of amputation.

"It's different when you're making the choice to amputate versus waking up from surgery and suddenly you're missing a limb. We wanted to make sure we did all the research. I talked to my mentor Tony Meehan a lot, who also had an elective amputation. To see how active he was made me realize there was really something out there for me still."

After meeting with several surgeons, the amputation was scheduled. And thus, a time frame to complete the bucket list.



It doesn't have to be this big death sentence. You can make it fun, before and after.

JOE PLEBAN

Pleban admits that one of his favorite things on the list, and the one that often garners him the most attention, was the tattoo.

"I knew that if I got an amputation I was 100% getting a tattoo. It was the only tattoo I could ever get that was permanent....but not permanent. It was going to get cut off anyways," he laughed.

So unbeknownst to his team of surgeons, Pleban got a dotted line with the words 'Please Cut Here' on his left ankle. "I showed up on the day of the surgery at the hospital and the doctors are lifting up the sheet and asking 'Okay, which foot are we doing? Oh wow — okay," Pleban explained. "We all got a kick out of it. I just wanted to make sure they didn't do the wrong foot!"

Pleban wasn't checking off bucket list items on his own. His family was along for most of the ride, as was his girlfriend at the time (now wife).

"Johanna and I had just started dating. This was like early, early in our relationship. I think I even gave her an out — I told her there was a real chance I was going to get an amputation and it wasn't going to be pretty. If she wanted to just be friends I wouldn't be offended. And her response was 'No, let's do this.'"

So whether it was jumping out of an airplane, scuba diving or getting

pelted with paintballs, Johanna was right there with him.

As they worked their way through the list, Pleban developed a social media following. It started when his sister posted a photo of his tattoo on Reddit and it went viral "We had already been documenting the bucket list and taking pictures, but we hadn't really taken it out to social media until then. But we found out that people were actually interested in this thing that we were doing, so we put it out there."

Pleban said that one of his favorite parts of the whole journey has been connecting with other people who are considering amputations.

"That's really why I loved going out onto social media I think — other people considering amputations could see that it doesn't have to be this big death sentence. You can make it fun, before and after."

When asked about his decision to pursue snowboarding on the Paralympic side, Pleban's response was simple. "Oh that decision was made before the amputation even happened. Snowboarding was part of the decision to get the amputation."

Pleban began to look for opportunities to compete and get onto the snowboarding scene when his mom learned about Adaptive Action Sports. He was excited to realize that he hadn't lost much ability after the amputation, and was able to return to the slopes fairly quickly. He attended his first competition, USASA Nationals at Copper Mountain, where in his own words, he got a "big old helping of humble pie."

"In my head I was thinking, 'I was good at snowboarding before, I'm still good now. I'm going to come in here and no one's going to know what hit them.' I think I got like 10th place," he laughed.

He admits that the experience was important in realizing how much work it was going to take to reach the level of competition of some of the top athletes.

"It was very humbling but it was very inspiring. I'm not as good as I thought I was, but I can get there."

Now, Pleban has his sights set on the Beijing Winter Paralympics in 2022. He pointed to the end of this past season as a big turning point for him, where he finished first at the Sun Valley NORAM. He remembers when he first started, traveling to competitions and being in awe of the U.S. Team and setting his sights on those podiums.

"To actually get up on the podium was incredibly cool. I'm not saying I've made it until it's that podium in Beijing, but it was definitely a great goal to achieve." *

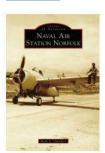


1980s

Gary L. Smith '84 was named head baseball coach at Lenoir Community College in Kinston, North Carolina.

Dr. Shaun Gabbidon '88 was named by Academic Influence as the 24th most influential criminologist from 2010 to 2020, and the 16th most influential criminologist in the past 20 years.

1990s



Mark A. Chambers
'90 published his
18th book, Images
of Aviation: Naval
Air Station Norfolk, a
pictorial chronicle
of Naval Air Station
Norfolk from 1915
to the present day.



James M. Smith '92 was promoted to Army brigadier general in October 2019.

Shelly Johnson '93 was named associate vice president for administration at Riverside Regional Medical Center in Newport News.

2000s



Kathy Koehl '03 was named the 2020 Virginia Pharmacist of the Year by the Virginia Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Koehl has worked at Riverside Health System for 14 years, including the last five as system director for pharmacy clinical services. The award recognizes her leadership in the profession and her service to pharmacy programs within Virginia. Koehl serves as the adviser for pre-health careers at Christopher Newport.

Allen Brooks '04 was recognized with a 2020 Alexandria Chamber of Commerce 40 Under 40 Award for his professional accomplishments, scholastic achievements and community impact.

Brittany Jeffries '05 was promoted to vice president at The Garcia Companies in Virginia Beach.

Elliott Robinson '06 was named to the board of directors of the Virginia Pro Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Jessica Bowman'08 was featured in Style Weekly's "2020 Top 40 Under 40" for her work as the chief deputy commissioner for the Virginia Department of Elections.

Kate Hailey '08 was featured in *The Roa-noker*'s "40 Under 40" for her volunteer work in the community and her career as an elementary school teacher.

2010s

Meredith Elliott '12 was named Teacher of the Year 2020 at Unionville Elementary School in Unionville.

Nicole D. Mitchell '14 was hired as a women's basketball assistant coach at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington.

Briana M. Jackson '17 joined the civil litigation firm of Harman Claytor Corrigan & Wellman as an associate.

Bailey Lien '17 was named quarterback of the River City Sting, Richmond's new women's full-tackle football team.

Thomas J. Cannella II '19 was re-elected to the Poquoson City Council, representing the Central Precinct.

Robert Cavitt'19 was hired as a corporate recruiter with CarLotz.

Hannah Zwerner '19 was hired as an English teacher at Middlesex High School in Middlesex County.

2020

Nathan Lenart '20 was hired as a tax and accounting associate at Malvin, Riggins & Company.



Joshua Walters
'20 completed the
Hampton Roads
Police Academy
in October and
joined the Suffolk
Police Department.
He was also commissioned as a second lieutenant in
the Army Reserve.

Photos submitted by alumni unless otherwise noted.

Finding a Way to Serve the Boys & Girls

Phillip Mumford '94 receives statewide honor.

WHEN A FIRE DESTROYED the primary facility of the Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Neck, **Phillip Mumford '94** went to work. Four hundred children needed a place to learn, play and grow.

When COVID swept through the region and schools closed, Mumford was up to the challenge. Two hundred and twenty five children needed two meals a day, five days a week.

When the worst happens, Captains step up. For his inspiring action in times of crisis and for his day-in and day-out leadership, Mumford was named Professional of the Year in Virginia by the Boys & Girls Clubs of America Virginia Area Council. Mumford, the council said, "has made a significant impact in the lives of children and can be a role model for other Boys & Girls Club professionals."

The fire hit the club in 2018. As the building was rebuilt, Mumford maintained service to children in Lancaster and Northumberland counties for two years. He did more than "maintain" — introducing career coaching programs for teens and launching a career exploration workshop with Rappahannock Community College.

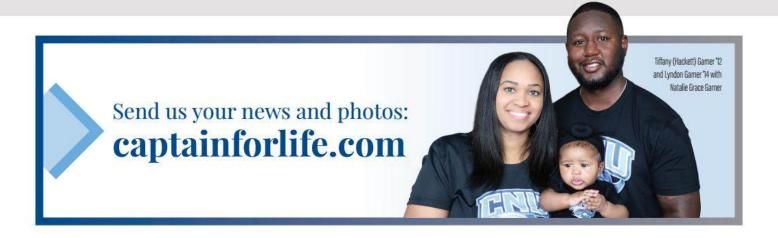


The pandemic brought a fresh wave of challenges. Mumford and the club staff worked with area teachers and administrators to establish academic support centers. There, children could receive a school-provided breakfast and lunch, as well as a snack and dinner from the club, while also receiving support for educational needs while local schools went virtual. Mumford also took extra steps to obtain the government support that was needed to keep the club's staff employed at a time when income was sparse.

Mumford majored in government administration with a concentration in public management. He credits his drive, determination and perseverance to his time at CNU: "I felt I had to follow my nonprofit's mission and see it through till the end, just as any ship's captain would follow the course laid before them to ensure successful, safe passage of their vessels. Christopher Newport, both the school and the man, helped to instill that character trait in me, and I am grateful."

His colleagues and the children in his care are also grateful. Said the club's former board president, Shawn Lamb: "Despite adversity that might have paralyzed a lesser person, Phillip Mumford has maintained his singular focus on serving the children who need us most in the Northern Neck."

Photo courtesy Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Nect



Captains Marrying Captains



- 1. Kristin Blaser '09 married Taylor Blunt '09 on October 15, 2020 at the Salamander Resort & Spa in Middleburg. Kristin is the director of ballpark enterprises for the Washington Nationals and Taylor is a firefighter and paramedic for Arlington County. The couple resides in Arlington with their dog, Rye.
- 2. Diana Froehlich '14 and Lloyd Luck '14 wed on August 22, 2020 at District Winery in Washington, D.C. They live in Cherry Hill, New Jersey.
- 3. Tracy Cole '15 married Bruce Schlesman '16 on August 1, 2020 at Independence Golf Club in Midlothian. Tracy is an associate operations lead at Mission Lane and Bruce is a political fundraiser. They live in Richmond.
- 4. Colleen Burke '17 married Todd Rogers '17 on June 27, 2020 in Virginia Beach. Colleen is a student support services counselor at Old Dominion University and Todd is a senior assistant voter registrar at Newport News Voter Registration. The couple lives in Portsmouth.
- **5. Jordan Stuart '18** and **James Imoehl '15** were married on July 13, 2020 in Lexington. They met at Christopher Newport in October 2014.









Future Captains





- 1. Brad Brewer'02 and wife Heidi Brewer'11 gave birth to their son, Krue, in November 2020.
- 2. Jaime Parrish' 14 and husband Christopher welcomed their second daughter, Magnolia Grace, on September 22, 2020. Magnolia joins sister Mila. The family lives in Carrollton.



Longtime Spanish and French Professor Remembered

Doris Reppen was the founding chair of her department.



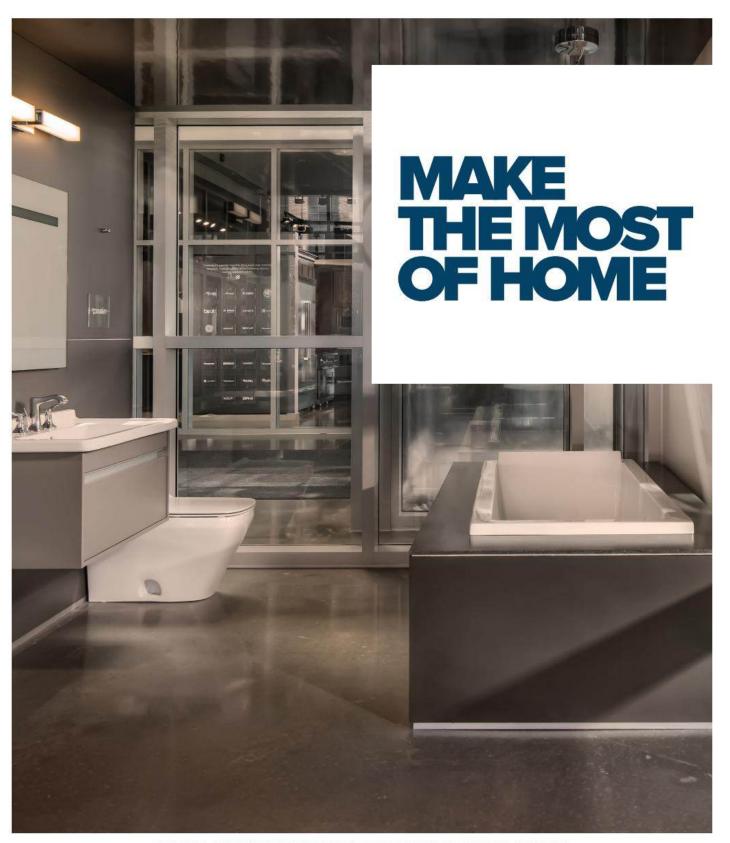
LONGTIME CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT PROFESSOR **Doris Reppen** passed away on January 26, 2021, at the age of 101. Dr. Laura Deiulio, chair of the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures (MCLL), shared this in her memory:

"Professor Reppen taught Spanish and French at Christopher Newport from 1964 to 1992, serving as the founding chair of MCLL.

A native of Buenos Aires, Argentina, Professor Reppen earned a BA at the University of Buenos Aires and an MA at the University of California. In 1998, she moved to Arizona to be near her daughter and grandchildren. In retirement, she pursued activities such as tennis, swimming, knitting and traveling.

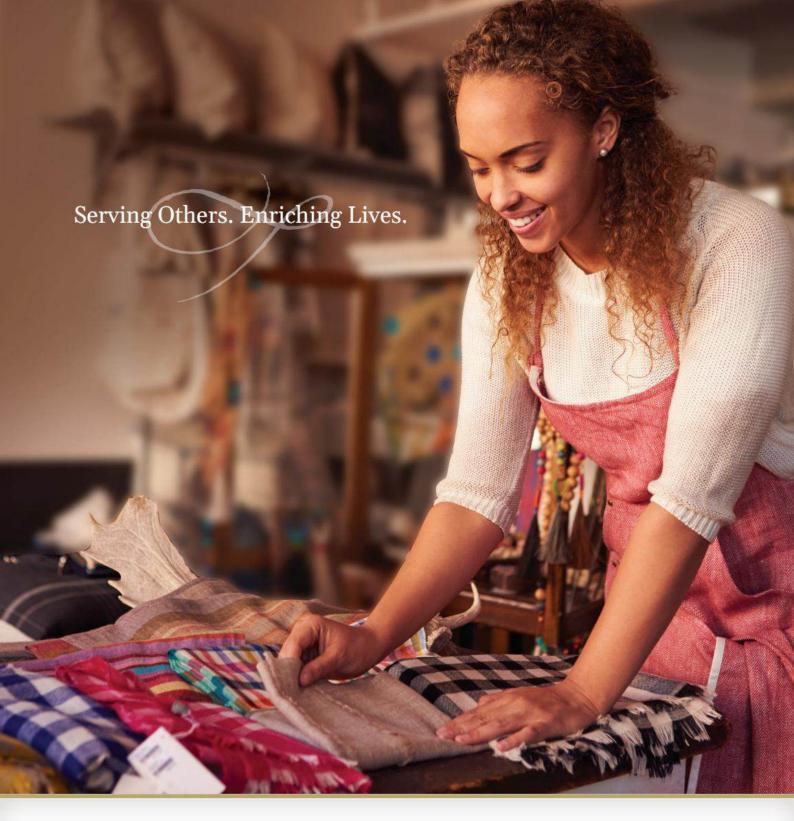
Professor Reppen's legacy lives on in a generously endowed scholarship that supports Spanish majors who study abroad. MCLL is grateful for the scholarship and for all of Professor Reppen's many contributions to language learning at CNU."





YOUR LOCAL SHOWROOMS: VIRGINIA BEACH | NEWPORT NEWS | WILLIAMSBURG | RICHMOND





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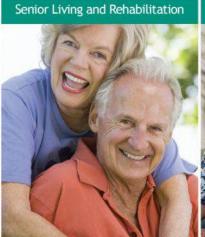


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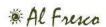


























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Our beloved ChristopherNewport University is preparing to celebrate a historic milestone.

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Plan on coming back to campus September 11-18 to cheer

on our teams, greet old friends and enjoy, in the Christopher Newport tradition, a once-in-a-lifetime celebration for a university that has been inspiring leadership for 60 years and for the future.

Save the Dates: SEPTEMBER 11-18, 2021