

On the occasion of the conferring of the degree

Doctor of Laws, honoris causa,

upon

CLAUDE A. S. HORNSBY III

by Christopher Newport University

this seventeenth day of December, A.D. two thousand and five

Leader, visionary, entrepreneur, chief executive, husband, father, citizen: all these words describe the quality and dimension of the extraordinary life of Claude ("Chip") Hornsby III. A son of the City of Newport News, Chip Hornsby is a graduate of Menchville High School and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

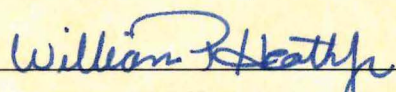
Chip Hornsby joined Ferguson Enterprises as a graduate trainee 27 years ago and has held a number of increasingly challenging appointments in the company. For the last four years he has been President and Chief Executive Officer, and has recently also held the role of Chief Executive of Wolseley North America, with responsibility for Wolseley's three North American businesses, namely Ferguson, Stock Building Supply and Wolseley Canada.

On August 1, 2006, Chip Hornsby will become group chief executive of Wolseley plc, and direct the worldwide operations of Wolseley.

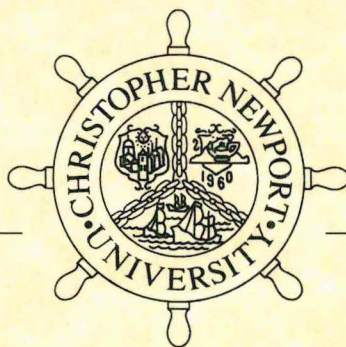
Wolseley is the world's largest specialist trade distributor of plumbing and heating products to professional contractors and a leading supplier of building materials in North America, the United Kingdom, and continental Europe. The organization employs more than sixty thousand people in fourteen countries and has annual sales exceeding \$20 billion.

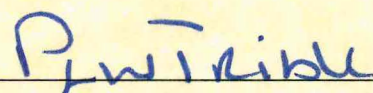
In all this, however, Chip Hornsby has never forgotten his roots and has always used his entrepreneurial spirit and relentless drive to meet the civic opportunities and obligations which derive from professional success.

He is an active and valued member of the Board of Visitors of Christopher Newport University; he was instrumental in making possible the Ferguson Center for the Arts at Christopher Newport University; and he is a loyal supporter of his own *alma mater*, Virginia Tech. In light of such distinguished service to this community and to the Commonwealth of Virginia, and with full confidence that this distinguished past is but prologue to an even more distinguished future, Christopher Newport University confers upon Claude A. S. Hornsby III the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, with all the rights, honors, and privileges thereunto appertaining.



William P. Heath, Jr.
Rector of the Board of Visitors





Paul S. Tribble, Jr.
President of the University