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December 2011

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Ask the President

CNU is a work in progress, and we are all striving hard to pursue excellence in all we do.

I welcome your advice, suggestions and questions. Let me know how we can do better or where we fall short of expectations.

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

I will include some of your questions and

As the fall semester comes to a close we are thankful for the remarkable students, faculty and staff that bring our campus alive with their hard work, enthusiasm and intellectual firepower. We are also deeply grateful to our alumni, parents and friends who contribute in so many important ways to the success of CNU.



The Great Lawn at Night

Captains Close out 2011

2011 was the most successful year in the history of CNU athletics! Our women's basketball team finished third in the country and our softball and

answers in my future messages.

volleyball teams played for national championships.

50th Celebration

CNU is celebrating our 50th Anniversary throughout 2011-12.

50.cnu.edu

50th Anniversary Sponsors

Smithfield.









Most recently, CNU's volleyball team advanced to the Division III national championship for the first time in program history. The Captains were perfect in the USA South Conference, tied their single season wins mark with 38 and won a third straight NCAA regional championship.

Another great winter athletics tradition at CNU is the hockey club. The team is off to a great start this season. The Captains play in the Blue Ridge Hockey Conference along with regional rivals William & Mary and Old Dominion. The team's late-night games at the Hampton Roads





Iceplex are always packed with enthusiastic Captains fans! Follow the puck at cnuhockey.com.



Our student-athletes are some of the best performers, both in and out of the classroom. Go to <u>CNUsports.com</u> for team schedules and more information.

Music Groups Set for London Trip

Our beloved Marching Captains will perform in the 2012 London New Year's Day Parade, one of Great Britain's most festive celebrations, made even more so this year by the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and London's hosting of the 2012 Summer Olympics. This incredible trip involves the entire CNU family: students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents and friends.



The Marching Captains entertain thousands of spectators each year. The band includes students from every major,

creating a lively and diverse atmosphere of music, marching and visual splendor wherever they go.

The CNU <u>Women's Chorus</u> will also perform in London over the holidays. The choir was chosen to perform evensong on New Year's Eve in hallowed Westminster Abbey. The singers will also perform several works by Handel under the direction of world-renowned British conductor Simon Carrington in Southwark Cathedral. The choir comprises students from every major on campus and performs a variety of classical and popular music.

Please join me in giving these talented groups a rousing sendoff as they embark on their great winter adventure.

Student Group Invests in the Future



Photo by Marie Breninger

Entrepreneurial Captains have joined forces to establish the Captains Educational Enrichment (CEE) Fund. The fund raises money that will be invested by current students. Profits earned by their efforts will benefit CNU's scholarship initiatives.

To date, with the strong support of CNU alumni and business community, more than \$12,500 has been contributed to the fund and will now be available for investment by our students.

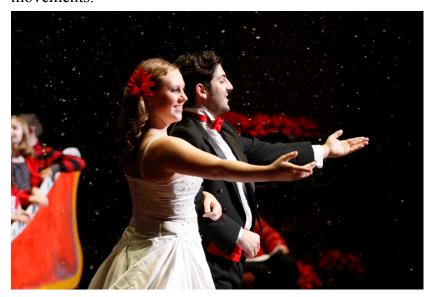
Commendable for its selfless commitment, the fund offers students a real-world experience to go along with their classroom learning, as well as a skillset that will continue to pay dividends in their future careers.

Visit <u>ceefund.cnu.edu</u> for more information.

Holiday Happening



This month we were enthralled by the 20th annual Holiday Happening concert. More than 1,500 people were in attendance at the Ferguson Center for the marvelous music and songs performed by our great choirs and ensembles. with something for everyone, the program spanned a wide range, from choral song to jazz, and marches to orchestral movements.



We have such rich and abundant talent among our students and faculty and I am very grateful to them for creating such a festive and memorable event every year.

Commencement Announcement

A new CNU tradition begins when our 2012 commencement takes place on the Great Lawn, which has become the center of our beautiful campus and is a fitting location for us to gather for such a momentous occasion. Commencement exercises for the class of 2012 will be held on Saturday, May 12 at 10 a.m.

Last week we celebrated with more than 200 students who will be completing their requirements for graduation this semester. Rosemary and I hosted a wonderful reception in their honor in the David Student Union Ballroom.

We have created a very special <u>photo gallery</u> from that event. The text of <u>my remarks</u> to the students is available online, as are <u>those</u> of the student speaker, Jenny Hager.

More information about spring 2012 commencement exercises is available <u>online</u>.

Captains Forever

Many of you know of the tragedy that recently befell our campus. Two of our students, Sierra Smith and Kimberley Brin lost their lives when their car was struck by a vehicle traveling in the wrong direction on Interstate 64. A third student, Emani Wade, was seriously injured in the crash.

In a remarkable show of unity, members of the CNU community wore blue last Friday to show their concern and support. The idea, dubbed a "blue out," was student-driven and word spread through Facebook and Twitter to other schools where students also wore blue in a sign of support for their CNU peers.

We are saddenend by the loss of these promising young women, and our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends in this difficult time

There are resources available on campus for those who need to talk to someone. The <u>Office of Counseling Services</u> is here for you.

Please stay safe during the holidays.

The Month in Photos

To share our campus spirit with you, each newsletter will include a link to a <u>photo gallery</u> featuring images of exciting events from the past month. Enjoy!



11/11/2014