

CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY VOYAGES

SPRING 2023

Leading With Purpose

CHERISHING OUR PAST
WHILE SHAPING AN
IMPACTFUL FUTURE





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INSIDE



On the Cover: Adelia P. Thompson, Interim President, and Lindsey Carney Smith, Esq. '01, Rector of the Board of Visitors

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CNU.EDU

A full-page photograph of a man in a blue suit standing in a room with large windows and a patterned carpet. The man is bald, has a friendly expression, and is wearing a blue suit, a light blue shirt, and a blue patterned tie. He is standing with his left hand in his pocket and his right hand at his side. The room has large windows with white frames, and the carpet is blue with a large yellow and white star pattern. The text is overlaid on the lower half of the image.

The Admiral Becomes a Captain

*Superintendent of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Selected
as Sixth President of Christopher Newport University*

BY KELLEY McGEE

Rear Admiral William G. Kelly, a nationally respected educator and military leader, has been appointed by the Christopher Newport Board of Visitors to serve as the sixth president of the University.

KELLY WAS SELECTED after a yearlong rigorous and inclusive nationwide search. The Board was unanimous in its decision, noting that Kelly's life of public service and commitment to leadership, moral character, and honor mirror those same values at the heart of Christopher Newport. Kelly will take the helm of the University on July 1.

"President Select William Kelly exemplifies a life of distinguished service," said Rector Lindsey Carney Smith, Esq. '01. "His dedication to the principles of scholarship, a life of purpose, and to student success makes him the perfect compassionate leader for Christopher Newport as the University begins its next chapter."

As Superintendent (President) of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, one of the nation's five prestigious military service academies, Kelly is responsible for the education, development and commissioning of officers in the U.S. Coast Guard. He oversees every aspect of the academic, athletic (NCAA Div. III), military, and civic development of a student body representing every state. *U.S. News and World Report* ranks the U.S. Coast Guard Academy as the #1 Public College in the North. Under Kelly's engaged leadership, the current student body is the most diverse to ever attend the Academy.

"Rear Admiral Kelly is a selfless servant leader who continuously exemplifies the virtues of humility, integrity, insight and inclusiveness," said First Class Cadet Kaylon Farley, the Regimental Commander of the Corps of Cadets. "His commitment to equipping cadets to confront the challenges of the future has been demonstrated by his consistent engagement in their academic, athletic, and military endeavors. His legacy will impact generations of the United States Coast Guard for years to come. We wish him well in his next endeavor; the faculty, staff and students of Christopher Newport University are fortunate to have him as their next president."

As Kelly retires from a 36-year Coast Guard career, taking the helm at Christopher Newport feels like the perfect next step in continuing his commitment to service and inspiring the next generation of great citizens and leaders.

"Christopher Newport values scholarship, leadership, compassion, service, community — these same core values have guided me throughout my life and are closely aligned with the Academy I currently have the privilege of leading," said President Select Kelly. "Like Christopher Newport, the Academy is dedicated to developing leaders of character who are well grounded

in the sciences and humanities, and committed to a life of service and significance in their communities and the nation. I look forward to supporting and enhancing our academic, experiential, athletic and artistic excellence to ensure our students are ready for successful, consequential lives."

"Admiral Kelly is an inspired choice," said now Chancellor Paul S. Tribble Jr., who led Christopher Newport for 26 years as President. "His life of public service embodies the principles of leadership, honor and service that define the Christopher Newport experience and I am confident that CNU's best days lie ahead."

The Board of Visitors assumed the monumental responsibility for finding Christopher Newport's next leader when President Paul S. Tribble, Jr. announced in the fall of 2021 his intention to retire at the conclusion of the 2021–2022 academic year, after 26 years of transformative leadership. Since he stepped down, Adelia P. Thompson, a member of the University's administration for 12 years, most recently as the Chief of Staff, has served as Interim President. She has guided the University with grace and institutional experience, enabling the Board with ample time to conduct a thoughtful and expansive search. A Search Committee was established, comprised of faculty, staff, Board members, alumni, students, and community leaders — all of whom represent the rich diversity of Christopher Newport's constituencies.

Informed by the work of the Search Committee, the Board identified Kelly as a uniquely experienced leader who possesses not only a deep respect for Christopher Newport's rich traditions, but also an inspiring vision for its future.

"I am encouraged that the Board has actively sought to engage the faculty in this process, and create a strong partnership as we move through this time of transition. We are eager to work with the new President as he outlines his vision for Christopher Newport's direction, while continuing to provide a strong foundation of teaching excellence," said Dr. Rachel Holland, Faculty Senate President.

"The amazing legacy crafted by President Tribble and his team over the past 26 years established the strongest possible foundation for the next president," said Kelly. "Leading with a collaborative spirit, I look forward to guiding Christopher Newport into the next chapter of its wonderful story, while remaining true to the University's vision, mission and values. Together, we will lead boldly into the future."



Kelly, a 1987 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, met his wife, Angie, at an Academy social event during his junior year. Kelly says he and Angie have “been a team ever since.” They will celebrate 35 years of marriage this summer. The Kellys are the proud parents of two adult sons, Patrick and Tyler, and the adoring grandparents of 1-year-old Liam Kelly. Patrick is a Coast Guard officer, and his wife, Ellen, is a Captain in the U.S. Air Force. Tyler is a teacher and coach, and his wife, Alyssa, is a scientist. The Kellys also have a goldendoodle grandpuppy named Lola, who reportedly would love nothing more than to sprint across the Great Lawn to play with students.

Bill and Angie have moved 15 times during their Coast Guard journey, which included spending three years in Newport News and six years in northern Virginia. During the early portion of Angie’s career, she worked as the travel coordinator for the Science and Technology Corporation in Hampton. Since then, Angie has devoted most of her professional life to early childhood development. She also does extensive volunteer work assisting military spouses and their families. Students at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy recently recognized Angie with “The Spirit of the Bear” award, which is presented to an individual who students

believe goes above and beyond to support the women and men of the Academy. During the Kellys time in Alexandria, Angie volunteered as an Arlington Lady. Arlington Ladies represent their specific military service at military funerals for members and their dependents at Arlington National Cemetery. Angie’s warm and caring spirit was so important as families dealt with the loss of a loved one.

In their free time, the Kellys enjoy sports, music, art and theater. They can’t wait to cheer our Captains on while they perform on the stage, the courts and the fields. President Select Kelly is an avid runner and has completed several marathons and sprint triathlons. The Kellys are excited about immersing themselves in the vibrancy of our campus and community.

“We are a family committed to service. Our life is centered around caring for and supporting those we are privileged to serve. We look forward to embracing the students who are entrusted to our care. When I walk the campus, it is clear that excellence is the standard here. I look forward to this incredible opportunity to serve as Christopher Newport University’s sixth president and continue its amazing legacy of service to the Commonwealth of Virginia and our nation.”



President Select and Mrs. Kelly speak to some of the Marching Captains before being announced as the next President and First Lady of CNU.



President Select and Mrs. Kelly embrace as streamer cannons go off after his speech to the CNU community in attendance.



President Select and Mrs. Kelly are introduced to Chancellor Paul and Rosemary Triple.



President Select Kelly shakes hands with Interim President Adelia P. Thompson.



President Select and Mrs. Kelly fist pump to the pep band playing "Sweet Caroline" during the men's basketball game.



Musical theater students welcome President Select and Mrs. Kelly after a performance.

@ROUND CAMPUS







University Climbs in New Rankings

U.S. News ranks Christopher Newport #2 in Public Regional Universities in the South.

Category	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Top Public Regional Universities in the South	2	3	4	3	4
Best Regional Universities in the South	5	6	7	6	10

CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY'S reputation continues to soar as we once again climb in the new 2023 U.S. News & World Report rankings. The University is ranked #5 among southern public and private universities.

Christopher Newport continues to be the highest ranked, non-military public regional university in the South.

The steady rise in rankings is attributed to the quality of our faculty and programs, our impressive freshman retention numbers from year to year, and high graduation rates.

Additionally, Christopher Newport is ranked as one of the Southern region's most innovative schools, tied at #11.

CNU also appears in the 2023 U.S. News rankings on the following lists:

- Best Undergraduate Business Program
- Best Value Schools
- Best Undergraduate Computer Science Programs
- Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs

U.S. News & World Report rankings evaluate colleges and universities on 17 measures of academic quality, based on widely accepted indicators of excellence, such as first-year student retention, graduation rates, and the strength of the faculty. Like Christopher Newport, regional universities included in the rankings offer a full range of undergraduate and master's-level programs but limited, if any, doctoral programs.

Ferguson Fellows Win Grant to Assist Violence Survivors

*Partnership between
professor, students and
alum secures funding for
trauma recovery center.*



Left to right: Professor Brooke Covington, T. Green, Cam Bertrand, Henry Harris and Aidan Rucker

A MEANINGFUL COLLABORATION between a professor, her students and an alumnus has resulted in a \$188,030 grant from the City of Newport News to establish a trauma recovery center that will bring hope and treatment to survivors of gun violence.

"From my perspective as a teacher, this is the dream," said English Professor Brooke Covington, who worked with students over the summer writing a grant proposal for the local nonprofit, Violence Intervention & Prevention (V.I.P. LLC). Covington also serves as the academic director of the Center for Community Engagement and the director of the Ferguson Fellowship for Community Engagement programs. "This kind of real-world experience, built on collaboration, dedication and passion, is precisely what we hope to promote through the Center and our community-engaged learning initiatives."

Students who are Ferguson Fellows receive a scholarship to research a community concern, and then collaborate with a community partner and faculty mentor to address the issue.

T. Green '24 social work, Aidan Rucker '24 cellular and molecular biology and Henry Harris '24 molecular & physiological biology worked with Covington and V.I.P.'s founder Cam Bertrand '14 on the project, which was particularly meaningful to Harris, who in addition to being a full-time student, serves as an advanced EMT in the City of Newport News.

"I have become acutely aware of the challenges our community faces and the need for a grassroots solution to the violence," said Harris. "The Ferguson Fellowship has allowed me to partner with Cameron Bertrand to expand the scope and depth of trauma recovery."

The mission is personal for Bertrand, a violence survivor. On November 7, 2015, Bertrand and his friend were robbed and

shot while leaving a sporting event. He is still recovering from the trauma, both physically and mentally. Bertrand now dedicates himself to serving the broader community in addressing gun violence.

"It is our duty to fight for justice and equity in the communities we occupy and serve, while uplifting the people in them. As a true Captain For Life and gun violence survivor, it is an honor to help navigate opportunities for my alma mater to give back and do intentional work where we are truly needed."

Rucker, also a Ferguson Fellow, says he is grateful for the chance to make an impact beyond the classroom walls. "This grant money will not only be used to fund the trauma center, but also to provide communities with skills and useful tools, such as emergency bystander training and response," he said.

Since commitment to service and civic engagement stands at the core of the liberal arts and sciences education at Christopher Newport, Covington is

always seeking out opportunities to partner with local nonprofit organizations. Her grant writing class requires students to think about their education more holistically by finding ways to create change-sustaining coalitions both on and off campus.

"When teachers incorporate community engagement into their classrooms, the potential for learning increases tenfold — at least. Students learn better by doing, and when the doing involves real stakes and stakeholders, the experience takes on a whole new meaning," Covington said.

Covington and Bertrand are continuing their collaboration by co-authoring a chapter about podcasting as a tool for teaching anti-racism and social justice. The chapter will be published in the Campus Compact's edited collection on *Anti-racist Community Engagement*, expected later this year.

**"It is our duty to fight for
justice and equity in the
communities we occupy
and serve, while uplifting
the people in them."**

CAM BERTRAND '14

Teaching Program Earns National Recognition

CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT'S elementary teacher preparation program has been named among the best in the nation for providing teachers with the essential content and skills they need to teach mathematics.

The National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ), a national research and policy organization that regularly evaluates the core requirements and practices of more than 1,100 programs that prepare future elementary teachers, released a new report in which Christopher Newport's program earned an A for its content requirements in elementary mathematics.

NCTQ evaluates programs for their coverage of the key mathematics content that elementary teachers need, as well as how to teach those concepts (math pedagogy):

- Numbers and operations
- Algebraic thinking
- Geometry and measurement
- Data analysis and probability

NCTQ's rankings are based on guidance from an expert panel of teacher preparation program staff, mathematicians and math educators. Christopher Newport stands apart by meeting 90% or more of the instructional goals across each of the elementary mathematics topic areas.

"To be recognized as one of only five graduate-level programs in teacher preparation across the nation to earn a top score for meeting coursework requirements in the teaching of elementary mathematics is an amazing accomplishment," said Dr. Jean S. Filetti, professor of English and director of teacher preparation. "It is good to know that our graduates are well-prepared academically to meet the challenges of the classroom, especially in such a critical area as mathematics."

"We know how much math matters in setting a foundation for students," said Dr. Heather Peske, NCTQ president. "The biggest in-school difference we can make for students' math learning is to make sure their elementary teachers understand key math content and know how to teach math effectively. Christopher Newport University should be proud to be among the top teacher preparation programs in the country working toward this goal."



Richard Long, MAT '19



Food Drive Marks 15 Years of Giving Back

Record amount of food is collected to help neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT'S 15th annual Food for Thought campaign to fight hunger was the most successful to date, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of students, faculty and Smithfield Foods.

The drive collected 70 thousand pounds of food for the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank, including a truckload — 30 thousand pounds! — of protein donated by Smithfield Foods. Smithfield Foods is a global company with local roots, headquartered just across the James River in Smithfield, Virginia.

"Smithfield Foods has donated hundreds of millions of servings of protein to food banks in all 50 states across the country. But this donation is even more special because it's right here in our own backyard," said Jonathan Toms, '16, Smithfield's Senior Community Development Manager. "Every single person has a role to play in the fight against hunger. We are so proud to be able to join the Christopher Newport community to support the Peninsula Foodbank with this donation of 120 thousand servings of protein."

Each year, various groups on campus engage in some friendly competition to see who can bring in the most food for the Weight of Hunger food challenge. This year's winner was the Lifelong Learning Society (LLS), which collected over 20 thousand pounds of food. The LLS is a membership organization dedicated to people of retirement age who seek opportunities for learning in an environment of sharing and fellowship.

The success of this annual drive reflects Christopher Newport's emphasis on civic engagement and service.

"Over the last 14 years, Christopher Newport has donated 340,000 pounds to the Foodbank, the equivalent of 283,000 meals," said Vanessa Buehlman, Director of the Center for Community Engagement.

"Not only is this event a chance to come together as a community and help our neighbors in need, but it also opens up really important conversations about how to address food insecurity, both in the short term as well as its root causes."

The latest data shows 1 in 8 Virginians struggle with food insecurity. The food collected from this year's drive will provide more than 57 thousand meals to neighbors in need.

Grant Awarded to Increase Campus Mental Health Services

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), in consultation with the Virginia Health Care Foundation (VHCF), has awarded a grant to Christopher Newport to expand mental health care services for students.

The Higher Education Mental Health Workforce Pilot grant will underwrite the salary and benefits of two onsite Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) or Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) candidates for two years to work alongside our counseling staff. Christopher Newport will supplement the grant by hiring a third counseling candidate. The University will train and supervise the LCSW/LPC candidates to work at our on-campus mental health care facilities until they are licensed. These additional hires mean there will now be 16 mental health providers available on campus to assist students.

This unique pilot program will serve the dual purpose of expanding mental health services for students, while simultaneously increasing the mental health workforce pipeline by offering supervised clinical hours for candidates seeking to become a LCSW or LPC.

Christopher Newport is the only Tidewater-area school to be awarded this grant.

The grant is the result of the General Assembly responding to the critical need for mental health care for students attending Virginia's institutions of higher education. In 2022, legislators appropriated \$500,000 annually for the next two years to support this mental health workforce pilot, which will be conducted at six selected public four-year institutions.



The Captain's Closet

IT'S UNLIKELY that business attire was top of mind when you were preparing to move to campus freshman year. Perhaps you missed it on the list of suggested items to bring. Or perhaps other clothing items took priority in your suitcase: Captains gear, comfortable workout clothes, trendy sneakers, the latest jeans (skinny, loose, flared or torn), warm sweaters, and maybe Doc Martens and flannel shirts (We're looking at you, 90's grads!)

However, you weren't on campus long before you discovered businesswear might come in handy for a variety of events, or perhaps a job interview.

Savannah Dunn, class of '25 (pictured above left), was getting ready for Freshman Desserts when she learned a friend of hers from the *Captain's Log* wouldn't be attending because he didn't have the proper shoes or a tie.

"Two days later, I emailed Senior Director of Alumni Engagement Baxter Vendrick with an idea: let's create a closet of clothes students could access privately so they don't miss out." The timing ended up being perfect — Baxter told me that he just had a similar conversation with a parent a week earlier," said Savannah. "We both instantly knew this was something our campus needed."

Savannah and Baxter went to work on the project, aptly named The Captain's Closet. Savannah called other universities that had similar programs, seeking ideas and guidance.

Baxter, a bow tie aficionado, donated all of his unworn but still stylish ties. Both new clothing and monetary donations will make a difference when gifted to a proud new Captain. Vendrick believes it's a cause that resonates with alumni.

"Alums know of all the treasured campus events and special traditions that should be a part of every Christopher Newport student's experience. Everyone who wants to should be able to participate. That's why we're committed to building this program to address this need."

The idea has been quickly embraced by others.

"My husband and I made plans to dedicate our giving this year toward navy blazers for young men who need one. I contributed about 25 blazers in various sizes, as well as wrote a check," said Lisa Svendsen, a member of the Parent's Advisory Council.

Discretion is and will continue to be a big part of the program, according to Dunn. She doesn't want students to feel embarrassed about needing a little help.

"When Captains see a need," Vendrick says, "they engage and create impactful solutions. We're working on partnerships with companies for possible donations or discounts," added Vendrick. "If this is something that speaks to your heart, we would be grateful for your gift!"

To learn more or to make a donation, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (757) 594-7712.

President's Leadership Program Takes Top Honors

Students excel at VMI competition exploring top leadership issues

The President's Leadership Program (PLP) took first and third place at the Virginia Military Institute's (VMI) 13th annual Leadership and Ethics Conference and Case Poster Competition in late October.

The competition itself is part of a longstanding conference at VMI, where cadets, students from other institutions, faculty, and other participants discuss the qualities necessary for effective civic leadership in both military and civilian settings.

This year's conference and competition theme was Principled Dissent: Navigating Moral Challenges, and sessions focused on topics such as courageous followership, using your voice, and intelligent dissent. Featured speakers included followership scholar and author Ira Chaleff, Former Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert Neller, Theranos whistleblower Erika Cheung, and more.

Teams involved in the poster competition developed real-world case studies focused on large-scale moral challenges, learned about the systemic leadership complexities associated with the chosen social problems, and proposed realistic solutions using leadership theory as a foundation.

Irene Thornton '24 and Naomi Hamaker '25 (pictured above) presented a case titled "The Evolution of Police Brutality: Re-defining Leader and Follower Roles in a Contentious Society" and were awarded first place.

Amanda Wilfong '24 and Zoe Page '23 presented, "Deploying Cross Cultural Leadership to Relocate Uyghurs Detained in Xinjiang" and received third-place honors.

PLP Assistant Director Victoria Carrico '18, PLP fellow Faith Quel '22, and Leadership Studies Professor Dr. Jess Hench mentored and coached the students as they prepared for the competition process.



Irene Thornton '24 and Naomi Hamaker '25 placed first at the competition.

The two teams faced tough questions from senior VMI leaders after they presented their cases.

"This competition demonstrates our students' ability to identify a challenge and to offer robust and practical solutions that are grounded in leadership concepts and theories," said PLP Director Lacey Grey H. Hunter '08. "It also demonstrates our students' ability to critically analyze the practicality of their solutions as they respond to questions from senior military leaders who often have direct experience with the challenges identified."

This has been a successful semester for PLP students in major competitions. In early October, another team of PLP students competed and earned a spot on the podium at the International Leadership Association's (ILA) Student Case Competition, which was held in Washington, D.C. The teams identified a significant contemporary social problem that they addressed by showcasing their knowledge about the leadership issues and developing strategic recommendations to address the problem. CNU's team, led by Ella McQuillan '24 (captain), Leighton Vermont '25, Rachel Hoefner '24, and David DeLeon '25 presented a case titled "The Effect of Subpar Medical Education on the Opioid Crisis in Nigeria" and advanced to the final round of the competition.

Other PLP student participants in the ILA competition included:

Erin McCarthy '24 (captain)
Jasmine Batth '25
Noah Kennedy '23
Krystal Peerman '25
Samir Godambe '24 (captain)
Abby Haney '25

Nashara Richardson '25
Alyssa Wilkinson '24
Jessica Cruz '25 (captain)
Bronwyn Beardsley '24
Cynthia Craig '25
Summer Duba '25

This spring, PLP students will continue their positive momentum as they compete in the national Leadership Challenge Event at Washburn University, as well as the Collegiate Leadership Competition's U.S. Invitational, hosted by Christopher Newport in April.



Leading Leaders

*Reflections from the President's Leadership Program
Director Lacey Grey Hunter 'o8, as PLP prepares
to celebrate an important milestone.*

BY LACEY GREY HUNTER



With an immense amount of imposter syndrome weighing heavily on my shoulders, I submitted my resume and waited.



WAS I REALLY READY to lead like this? Did others believe I was prepared to lead like this? Years after hoping for a CNU Leadership Fellowship that would never be, I had applied to be the Director of the President's Leadership Program (PLP). Much to my surprise, and with great relief, I was invited to campus for multiple rounds of interviews, and when I received the call offering me the position, it took a good 24 hours for reality to set in. In a truly full-circle moment, I was given the opportunity to lead the department that had facilitated the most meaningful moments of my personal leadership development.

It was surreal to be home again, and I was excited to dive right into my new role. First up was increasing the reach and reputation of CNU by identifying and engaging students at leadership conferences and competitions. We've sent students near and far from Topeka to Switzerland. Regardless of location, Christopher Newport's PLP students have maintained a nearly 80% success rate when it comes to placing in the top three at national and international leadership competitions.

In the classroom, our students learn the theories and concepts of leadership from our esteemed faculty. Outside of the classroom, PLP staff members create unique opportunities where students are invited to test out those leadership theories in group challenges and then receive feedback from PLP staff on what they're doing well and where there are opportunities for continued success. Our students are eager to apply what they've learned and truly desire to be effective leaders.

The PLP is structured so that students graduate with knowledge and the demonstrated ability to lead. While many leadership programs promise to produce leaders, they often produce graduates who possess only the intellectual and theoretical knowledge of leadership. What sets PLP graduates apart is the fact that they understand how to adjust these theories and concepts to their particular situations, much like quarterbacks or point guards must adjust their play in the middle of a game. When you choose to hire a PLP graduate, you're choosing to bring someone onto your team who knows how to be a team player, how to offer solutions, and how to affect positive change.

The success of PLP is made possible by an incredible team of colleagues as well as by nearly 1,300 students who are eager to develop their personal leadership styles. None of this is possible without the generous contributions from hundreds of donors who give their time and treasure to support the program and establish scholarships. Many days, I find it hard to believe I have the honor and privilege of leading this dynamic department.

Recent highlights include:

At the Leadership Challenge Event hosted by Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, PLP students won overall second place and received both the Collaboration and Emerging Leader awards.

Brooke Nixon '22 and Claire Rooney '22 placed second in the Student Global Leadership Conference in London, England.

Ricardo Monge '23 and Lauren Kane '23, served as co-presenters at the bi-annual Leadership Educators Institute.

PLP students placed first, for the second year in a row, and third at the Virginia Military Institute's Annual Leadership and Ethics Conference. (See page 13).

A group of PLP students served the Hopi and Navajo nations in Arizona, where they assisted with much needed community improvement projects.

PLP was featured in four national leadership podcasts.

Some highlights we're looking forward to in the future include:

PLP staff hosting "leaderships and one-on-one leadership coaching meetings with PLP students.

Hosting the US Invitationals for the Collegiate Leadership Competition.

Hosting the second Global Followership Conference — we'll be hosting guests from Canada, England, Germany, Pakistan and Namibia to name a few.

Celebrating the Hearts and Minds Leadership Symposium in April.



Learn more about the President's Leadership Program at plp.cnu.edu.

Your Honor: A Virginia Woman in History and a Captain For Life

BY WILLIAM C. MIMS

William C. Mims, director of Christopher Newport's pre-law program, has established the Justice Cleo Elaine Powell Endowed Merit Scholarship recognizing the extraordinary contributions of his friend and fellow Virginia Supreme Court Justice, Cleo Powell.

"When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required." (Luke 12:48; New Living Translation)

THIS IS THE STORY of two Virginians who have lived parallel lives for 65 years.

Both graduated from public high schools in Virginia in 1975. Both went to respected Virginia public universities. Both became lawyers. Both worked for the same large law firm in Richmond. Both spent decades of their careers in public service, including serving in the Office of the Attorney General.

Both have a strong faith, as followers of Jesus. Both are leaders in their church. Both are committed to teaching young people. Both would read the scripture from the Gospel of Luke printed above and say, "That applies to me."

Both were elected to the Supreme Court of Virginia by the General Assembly. They sat side-by-side as justices for more than a decade.

Notably, both are proud parents of Christopher Newport University alumni. Just like their children, CNU parents are "Captains for Life." Many maintain a close bond with the University community.

These two individuals could be twins, couldn't they?

Hardly.

I am one of the people described. I am a white male. Justice Cleo Elaine Powell is the other person. She is a Black female. In fact, she is the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court of Virginia in its 243-year history.

Despite the remarkable parallels, our stories also have important differences.

As a high school senior from a middle-class family in Harrisonburg, I was a bit of a slacker. (That's a polite way to say I was immature, more interested in sports than studying, and I had an unimpressive grade point average.) I only wanted to go to one college — William & Mary — but I was waitlisted.

I was admitted only after my father asked his boss, a prominent public official, to call the college president to recommend me.

As a high school senior in rural Brunswick County, the same locality where her ancestors had been enslaved, Cleo Powell was an A student. She only wanted to go to one college — the University of Virginia. She was admitted only after her father borrowed \$35 so she could file her application.

My story is one of a loving family, hard work, supportive mentors, a few fortunate breaks, and the privilege that has accompanied being a white male for most of the Commonwealth's history.

Cleo Powell's story is one of a loving family, hard work, supportive mentors, a few fortunate breaks, and the constitutional promise of equal opportunity that courts have only recently guaranteed to Black women.

A decade before she applied, Cleo would have been denied admission to the University of Virginia. Even in 1975, she was part of a small minority within a small minority. Undergraduate women had only been admitted starting in 1970. When she arrived, Blacks comprised less than 5% of the student body. Her chosen path was not an easy one.

Now, more than four decades later, Cleo humbly gives credit to her parents, and the borrowed \$35, for her success: "They wanted a better life for us than they had, so they gave us everything they could to make it happen," she said.

As a young student, Cleo "dreamed of being a servant of the law. I aspired to ferret out injustice." This dream took hold when she was just 13 years old: "Growing up, I didn't sit in any courthouses. I didn't know any lawyers or hang out with any lawyers, but I knew I wanted to be a lawyer."

After earning two degrees from University of Virginia

and working briefly for a law firm, Cleo entered the public sector in 1986, where she served as a senior assistant attorney general enforcing equal employment laws. She was appointed a judge of the Chesterfield County and Colonial Heights General District Court in 1993. Seven years later, she was appointed to the Chesterfield Circuit Court.

Named to the Virginia Court of Appeals in 2008, Cleo Powell was the first Black woman to sit on an appellate court. In 2011, the General Assembly elected her to the Supreme Court of Virginia, another first for a Black woman. She also is one of only five Virginia judges to serve at all four levels of the Virginia court system. She has rightly been honored by the Library of Virginia as a "Virginia Woman in History."

The fifth woman ever to serve on the Supreme Court, Cleo Powell tirelessly advocates for diversity in the legal profession. Throughout her career, she often speaks to young people to encourage them to reach their full potential and make a positive difference. "Education can level some often unleveled playing fields," she said. "I would like to sit down with every student and say to them 'you can do it.' I also want to share my love for the law."

While she cannot sit down with "every student," Cleo is dedicated to passing the torch to those who choose a similar path. Numerous aspiring young lawyers in Virginia have received an unexpected and appreciated invitation: "Often I will meet someone aspiring to be a lawyer, and I will invite them to call me to talk. Often the call results in a long-term relationship where I am available when needed at different phases of their journey." For a young lawyer, having Supreme Court Justice Powell as a mentor would be a dream come true.

"She humbly explains that she 'stands on the shoulders of giants.' It is without irony that I observe, she has become one of those giants."

CHIEF JUSTICE BERNARD GOODWYN

Despite her myriad successes, Cleo Powell's colleagues uniformly describe her humility as a defining characteristic. Chief Justice Bernard Goodwyn reflects, "Justice Powell is the consummate judicial servant leader. She humbly explains that she 'stands on the shoulders of giants.' It is without irony that I observe, she has become one of those giants. She has given thousands of inner-city students the opportunity to stand on her shoulders and receive a civics education unlike any other through her involvement with the Center for the Rule of Law Project."

And Justice Arthur Kelsey notes, "If Thomas Merton is right that pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real, Cleo Powell is one of the most real persons I've ever known."

An interesting sidenote. Justice Kelsey is the third member of the Virginia Supreme Court to be a "Captain for Life" as the parent of an alumnus. And Justice Wesley G. Russell, Jr.'s father, Glenn Russell, was the CNU varsity basketball coach in the 1980's. Perhaps it won't be long until a CNU graduate serves on the Commonwealth's highest court?

In Justice Cleo Powell's life, the words from the Gospel of Luke ring true. She did not start life's journey by being "given much." Yet she has been "entrusted" — in lawyer-speak, literally to hold and protect something that will eventually be given to another — with the hopes and dreams of young people who will be inspired by her example and follow in her footsteps.

William Mims took senior status on the Virginia Supreme Court in 2022. He has joined the CNU faculty, where he teaches in the Leadership and American Studies Department and directs the pre-law program. Cleo Powell's legacy as a pioneering Virginia public servant leader now will be recognized in perpetuity at CNU. The Justice Cleo Elaine Powell Endowed Merit Scholarship will be awarded annually to freshmen from Virginia with financial needs who have demonstrated the potential for leadership.

Women's Leadership Matters

ESSAY BY S. LYNN SHOLLEN, PHD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LEADERSHIP STUDIES



Excellent leadership doesn't come in a singular style, just as excellent leaders don't come in a singular form.



EACH INDIVIDUAL BRINGS to their practice of leadership all of their various identities and qualities, along with their accumulated experiences, knowledge and wisdom. Gender is just but one identity that informs a person's leadership, yet women in leadership is a topic of much attention and research.

Christopher Newport University can count itself among the institutions that recognize the competence of women leaders and the value they

can bring to the metaphorical leadership table. We now have women rocking leadership in top-level positions as Rector of the Board of Visitors, Interim President, VP for Finance and Planning and Chief Financial Officer, VP for Administration and Auxiliary Services, VP for Enrollment and Student Success, Vice Provost, Associate Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies, Dean (times three), University Counsel, Director of Internal Audit, Director of Title IX and Equal Opportunity, and Executive Director of University Events and Special Projects.

It's not to say that women are necessarily better leaders than men, or vice versa, rather that women typically engage in some aspects of leadership differently and it's important to leverage everyone's strengths alongside one another. Organizations thrive when both men and women have the opportunity to develop as leaders and to be influential in significant roles and spaces. And, as people observe more women capably serving as leaders, it will no longer seem strange to see women in positions of power and influence. CNU is part of the wave of change to make women leading in visible, highly impactful roles the norm.

Having women in leadership roles matters! It matters to the culture, function and outcomes of an institution,¹ and one may argue especially to an institution of higher learning focused

on the liberal arts and sciences. Empirical research suggests what many commonly experience stylistically from women leaders.^{2,3} For instance, women tend to think holistically, ask different questions, emphasize fairness, and be process-oriented. They tend to be more comfortable with ambiguity and take more calculated risks. They tend to be inclusive, collaborative, participative, cooperative, and team-oriented. Women are more likely to exhibit communal and nurturing behaviors, focus on developing others, practice transformational leadership, and place more emphasis on developing positive relationships. They tend to be peacemakers and seek win-win solutions, to use more positive incentives and fewer threats, and to uphold ethical integrity. Women tend to pursue goals that prioritize the public good, consistent with their more compassionate and egalitarian values. To be clear, however, there is debate as to the extent to which behavioral or stylistic differences between genders are exaggerated; statistically speaking, the differences tend to be small and contingent upon the context in which leadership is practiced.^{4,5}

These real or perceived stylistic and values differences may be significant contributors to how women add worth in terms of organizational outcomes. Studies confirm that organizations that have women in high-level leadership roles experience better financial performance than those that do not, and have greater employee satisfaction and productivity with less employee turnover.⁶ The collective intelligence of a group is enhanced by diverse perspectives and experiences, to which women contribute based on having to navigate the world as women (along with all their other intersecting identities, such as age, race, and sexual orientation). Higher collective intelligence results in greater creativity, enhanced problem-solving, and better decision-making.⁷ Further, organizations have increasingly turned to women for leadership during times of crisis in hopes of drawing upon their stereotypical leadership qualities that are presumed to be necessary and beneficial in the context of crisis.⁸

CNU is in-step with the trend of slowly rising representation of women in upper-level leadership roles within higher education.

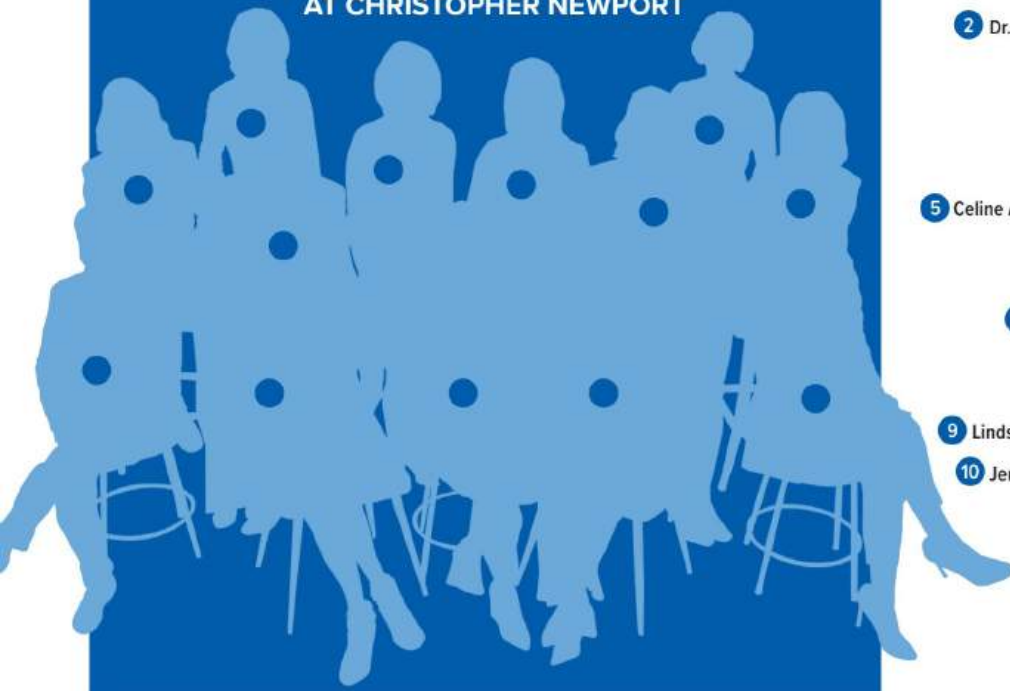
Nationwide Statistics:

- In 2019, women comprised about half (51%) of all administrators, with racial/ethnic minority administrators at only 16%. However, women remain underrepresented at the top, as they hold less than 40% of executive leadership roles.⁹
- Between 1981 and 2007, the percentage of women serving on university boards moved from 20% to 30%, where the proportion still stands today, with approximately 18% of board chairs being women.^{10,11}
- In 2020, 36% of Presidents were women, up from 26% in 2013 and more than triple the number in 1986; yet only 5% of Presidents are women of color.^{12,13}
- In 2020, 44% of Provosts were women, up from 37% in 2013 and 35% in 2008.^{14,15}
- Women can be counted almost equally in dean roles in many disciplines, but continue to be underrepresented in the highest-paid areas; for instance, in 2019-20 women were 19-27% of business school, 23% of medical school, 25% of pharmacy, 31% of law school, and 21% of engineering deans.^{16,17,18}

Although these numbers are still relatively low considering that since 1979 women have earned more than half of all bachelor's degrees and master's degrees and one-third of all doctoral degrees, higher education institutions like CNU are increasingly realizing the positive effects of having women as well as men in leading roles.

Highlighting leadership qualities based on gender brings much to celebrate, but also requires caution. Putting all women leaders (or any leaders) into one bucket paints them with a broad brush and minimizes the complexity and uniqueness of individuals. Other identities, characteristics, and experiences intersect with gender to inform a woman's leadership. Race and ethnicity play a particularly notable role in how women leaders are perceived.¹⁹ We also risk further ingraining gendered expectations by assuming a woman will (and should) lead a certain way, then negatively evaluate her when she doesn't meet our expectations. For instance, the classic "double bind" is a pervasive challenge for women leaders.²⁰ Despite progression toward a more balanced conceptualization of what makes for effective leadership,²¹ and movement toward gender equality when it comes to perceptions of competence,²² most people still envision leadership as a masculine endeavor,²³ with emphasis on authoritative style, risk taking, power-over,

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP ROLES AT CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT



1 Dr. Lynn Lambert, Associate Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies

2 Dr. Tatiana P. Rizova, Dean of the College of Social Sciences

3 Amie Dale, Executive Director of University Events and Special Projects

4 Dr. Nicole Guajardo, Dean of the College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences

5 Celine A. Rosario '23, Student Government Association President

6 Christine Ledford, Vice President for Administration and Auxiliary Services

7 Dr. Lisa Duncan Raines, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Success

8 Adelia P. Thompson, Interim President

9 Lindsey Carney Smith, Esq. '01, Rector of the Board of Visitors

10 Jennifer Latour '95, Vice President for Finance and Planning and Chief Financial Officer

11 Dr. Lori Underwood, Vice Provost

12 Dr. Jana Adamitis, Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities

13 Dr. Rachel Holland, Faculty Senate President and Associate Professor of Voice

and emotionally detached demeanor. At the same time, we apply traditional expectations of gender to women, expecting them to be democratic, caretaking, power-with, and emotionally available. Women leaders experience the tension of how to fulfill these conflicting expectations of 'leader' and of 'woman' on a daily basis. Those who don't walk the precarious line with grace are seen as too feminine or soft to be effective leaders, or too masculine or ambitious to be likeable as a woman. Contrary to men, women must be likeable to be seen as effective leaders. Ultimately, women are allowed a thin line of acceptable behaviors to be perceived as effective leaders.²⁴

Aspiring and practicing women leaders encounter additional obstacles beyond the double bind.²⁵ In most cultures, women are still responsible as primary caregivers to children and aging parents, and also for the majority of the housework. Women with these "second shift" responsibilities face doubts from employers, team members, and followers about their motivation or ability to fully commit to their work as leaders. They can also still face doubts about their emotional stability and capacity to handle the pressures of leadership, and have less access to powerful networks than do their men colleagues. Women also struggle with developing and claiming a leader identity, meaning they do not as easily see themselves as leaders and are not as likely to receive the repeated affirmation necessary to cultivate and internalize the identity of 'leader.'²⁶

Women's paths to leadership have been aptly described as a labyrinth,²⁷ which indicates that women can succeed in leadership while acknowledging the path is often unclear and fraught with obstacles. These days, most bias that results in the obstacles to women's leadership advancement is unconscious, unintentional and subtle. It's "second generation" bias embedded in societal and institutional structures, systems and mindsets.²⁸ As a liberal arts university that promotes critical thinking and the values of leadership, diversity and inclusion, and service, it's fitting that CNU is supporting so many women in high-level leadership roles. We educate and build skills in our students to be thoughtful, engaged citizens and effective leaders, so it only makes sense to provide role models for our entire community to look up to and be able to recognize key aspects of themselves in the images they see.

For source information on the academic content of this essay, please contact the author at lynn.shollen@cnu.edu.

"CNU is part of the wave of change to make women leading in visible, highly impactful roles the norm."

S. LYNN SHOLLEN



A man with short dark hair, wearing a blue button-down shirt and a lanyard, is pointing his right hand towards a large poster on the left. He is looking at the poster with a focused expression. In the background, several other people are visible, including a woman with long brown hair and another woman with blonde hair tied back. The setting appears to be a classroom or a meeting room with posters on the wall.

Sailing the Seas of Discovery

BY DAVID A. SALOMON, PHD
DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

Reuben Laryea '24

A LARGE SIGN WELCOMES VISITORS to the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (OURCA) on the second floor of the Tribble Library: "Bring us your new idea: the possibilities are limitless." First opened in the fall of 2017, OURCA facilitates the integration of student learning through research and creative activity beyond the traditional classroom and is open to every students, regardless of their major or stage of educational development. At Christopher Newport, we believe research and creative activity are deep learning experiences, which motivate understanding of basic concepts through their application to a question or problem to help students develop a deeper understanding of more complex issues.

To that end, OURCA has established a model based on the medieval guild (an ancestor of the modern-day trade union) whereby students engage in faculty-guided research and creative activity in the Research Apprentice Program, Summer Scholars, and Independent Research Grants. For many students, OURCA's programs provide the first taste of research and creative activity in their discipline, allowing them to have authentic experiences in their major.

OURCA involvement provides students with both tangible and non-tangible skills. Some students, such as Hayley Groover '22, maintain a research agenda during their entire CNU careers.

Groover performed survival stereotaxic surgery in her work investigating the neurobiological mechanisms of associative conditioning in rats with Dr. Matthew Campolattaro. Currently pursuing a PhD in neuroscience at Ohio State University, she notes the experience "gave me a lot of confidence and many hard skills that have translated to the procedures I now perform on a routine basis."

The work is not only personally rewarding, but can result in conference presentations and publications. Brooke Nixon '22 says, "I published in both the 2021 and the 2022 *Cupola* [CNU's peer-reviewed undergraduate research journal], and I co-authored a paper with Dr. Nicole Guajardo that was published in the *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology* in 2022. Dr. Guajardo and I have another paper from our 2021 Summer Scholars project that is in the review process now and will hopefully be published soon!" She adds, "Research helped me acquire new experiences and skill sets related to written and verbal communication. Learning how to articulate the importance of your research to non-experts and how to synthesize others' research to support the basis of your question in writing are both useful skills that I draw on frequently, even outside of academic contexts." This is all coming in handy in her graduate work in experimental psychology at Wake Forest University.

The OURCA values creative activity as highly as research, and aims to involve students from biology to painting. A phrase OURCA students often hear is, "All research involves creative activity, and all creative activity involves research." When Colleen Pechin '22 got involved as a senior theater major, she worked in a variety of OURCA programs with Dr. Laura Grace Godwin on the TheaterCNU production of "The Comedy of Errors." Her accomplishments resulted in two presentations at the national conferences, and she recalls that the collaboration required to successfully complete her work taught her that there is "a lot of responsibility needed throughout the process in terms of individual research, group meetings, shared writings, and a final presentation."

Although the OURCA Research Match allows students to connect with faculty through an online platform (kind of like Match.com for research), sometimes connections are best made when students come into the office. Summer Duba '24 stopped in as a freshman to ask about getting connected. Not only did she do a Research Apprenticeship, but she completed a Summer Scholars project on evolutionary morphology and climate change involving Zoarcoidei fish with Dr. David Collar and Dr. Jessica Thompson. Duba says her most important takeaway is "perseverance, and the ability to keep trying even after (sometimes numerous) setbacks."

Students need not only do research in the discipline of their major. Michael Dwight Sparks '23 has worked with five different faculty in American studies, economics, and mathematics. Each project has led to a conference presentation, journal article, or book publication. He has co-authored a forthcoming article in the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* with Dr. Jonathan White on the transcribed letters of Civil War Surgeon Daniel Garrison Brinton (who later became a prominent sociologist and anthropologist at the University of Pennsylvania).

Similarly, Emma Kohl '24 published an essay in *The Cupola* which looked at Charlotte Perkins Gilman's 1892 short story "The Yellow Wallpaper" from a literary and scientific point of view; originally written for her English 223 course with Dr. Jason Carney, the piece is an example of course-based undergraduate research. Working with Dr. Olga Lipatova in the neuroscience lab has definitely been an experience in professional and personal growth in her major: "Few people legitimately enjoy handling laboratory rats," Kohl says, "and when I first started handling them, it freaked me out! However, I learned that rats can smell pheromones, which means the more I freaked out, the more anxious and reluctant they would be. So you have to keep your cool in order to do the work that needs to be done, and I think that is a valuable life lesson."

BY THE NUMBERS

83

2021-2022

Research Apprentices

200+ given by 300+ students

2021 Paideia Presentations

285

Summer Scholars since 2018

Summer Scholars is an annual program that connects student researchers with faculty mentors.

851

CNU undergraduate students engaged in research or creative activity from 2021-2022

351

Pages in *The Cupola* 2022



It is important that students have opportunities early in their studies, and OURCA makes the Research Apprentice Program available to freshmen and new transfer students in the spring of their first year at CNU. Mary McKenzie Hurley '25 took advantage and began working as a rising sophomore with Dr. Deirdre Harshman in History on a Summer Scholars project on the ideologies and motivations of Russian terrorism in the early stages of the Revolutionary period — work that speaks to her goal of becoming an agent with the FBI working in the anti-human trafficking or counterterrorism sector.

Currently pursuing an MA in Jewish Studies at Indiana University, Mikaela Martinez Dettinger '22 worked with the late Dr. Richard Freund on a variety of projects, including traveling to Holocaust sites in Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland to work with a team of international scholars, something she notes helped her to “overcome imposter syndrome” and encourage her to “preserve the public memory of the Holocaust and increase public education on the subject.” The opportunities through OURCA prepare CNU students to enter the community of professional scholars and artists.

Caroline Hayes '23 continued Dettinger's work in the

summer of 2022 after taking a class with Freund. Not only did she learn how to catalog findings on site in Eastern Europe, she also learned the value of adaptability: “I worked on this skill when the location of where our work would occur changed, when I was introduced to techniques and technology in a field I was new to, and when the research I worked on led me to countries that did not primarily speak English.”

Reuben Laryea '24 has been working with Dr. Kathryn Cole on anti-cancer drug development since his freshman year. He has participated in Summer Scholars, presented at the annual CNU student conference Paideia. His work with Dr. Cole has taught him computer modeling, but it has also taught him leadership and better practices for working alongside other people, both integral to his future goal as a neurosurgeon.

The Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity provides students with real-world skills and unique experiences. As Brooke Nixon says, “I use my research experience from CNU every day. But more than that, I rely heavily on the foundation of critical thinking, adaptability, and approaching questions from an interdisciplinary mindset that my experience in research overall taught me.”

When he arrived at CNU in the fall of 2017, Dr. David A. Salomon had two decades as a professor of medieval and Renaissance English literature, religion, and culture behind him. Always interested in research, even from his young years combing through his neighborhood public library, Salomon has published an academic study of a medieval glossed bible, a more accessible look at the seven deadly sins, two monographs on faculty evaluation, and several articles. He has become a sought-after speaker and regularly appears on radio and podcasts. As the founding director of OURCA, he looked forward to helping CNU's undergraduates discover their hidden passions — whether in a biology lab, a historical archive, or the art studio. In addition to the current programs that were in place when he arrived — *The Cupola* (now published in print and registered with the Library of Congress), Paideia, and CNU's signature research experience Summer Scholars — he has added the Research Apprentice Program,

Independent Research Grants, Research LENS Travel Fund, OURCA Research Match, Passport to Research, and the Thesis Throwdown, to name a few. Salomon encourages students to come in with even the wackiest of ideas, many of which cross disciplinary boundaries.

Now the OURCA has become part of the fabric of CNU. Salomon is evangelical about discovery and curiosity, and he continues to teach courses in the Honors Program (including “Jung at Heart,” a course on Jungian archetypes) and the Museum Studies Program (where students curate their own exhibition), and he was awarded the coveted Hook Award by students in 2021. Active in the national Council for Undergraduate Research, where he currently serves as co-vice chair, Salomon co-founded the Network for Undergraduate Research in Virginia which had its third annual conference at CNU in January. By now, Captains have become used to Salomon's four questions: What did you do? Why did you do it? What did you find? What's next?



Learn more about OURCA at cnu.edu/academics/research.

How You Can Help Us Recruit the New Class of Captains (Without Giving Money!)

BY ROB LANGE, DEAN OF ADMISSION



ALLOW ME TO SERVE as the Christopher Newport alumni correspondent on the college admission scene, something that is more competitive than ever.

If you've read anything in the media about student enrollment at U.S. colleges and universities in the last few years, it's likely you've been regaled with urgent tones and supporting references about trends that are on extreme oppo-

site ends of the same spectrum. Terms like "exploding applications" and "drastically decreasing admission rates" paint word pictures of schools flush with prospective student demand for their offerings. On the other hand, phrases like the "shrinking of higher education" and "public souring on the value of college" are used in doomsday prophecies about declining student supply that point to the dreaded "enrollment cliff" headed our way, adding to the "student debt crises" already wreaking havoc on American higher education.

There are certainly commentators who offer a more nuanced perspective, and provide additional context helpful in understanding the dichotomy that exists today, wherein both of the above versions are simultaneously true, with data points existing in-between. Competitive admission might conjure juicier details of the so-called "Varsity Blues" scandal that went viral in 2019. I'm not referring to the insidious culture that was exposed then of the rich and famous currying favor at elite schools for their children. There is another everyday rivalry that exists between institutions themselves, who cross admission applications with one another and recruit the same best-fit new students to their campuses each year.

The truth is, institution type is often indicative of what to expect in new student application and enrollment trends these days, both nationally and in the Commonwealth of Virginia. At the core of our challenge to continue welcoming the high-ability and meaningfully-engaged high school graduates we are accustomed to entering each fall here as freshmen, is the declining number of high school graduates. Add the reality of significant growth at our doctoral sister institutions who now have more seats to offer, and a global pandemic to boot, and it's a wonder we brought in our incredible class this fall! Thankfully, there are

enough true distinctives about the CNU student experience that have mitigated these challenges for years, and allowed us to fare better in maintaining enrollment than most of our public regional peers leading up to the pandemic. And now we are rebounding with others, again, to varying degrees.

Rest assured, Christopher Newport is creatively adapting to position ourself favorably within this new student recruitment reality moving forward, and we are focused on bringing in the best and brightest new Captains for years to come — new offerings in programs, support, scholarships, and other opportunities are afoot. I'm sure our colleagues in the Office of Alumni Relations can tell you all the ways you can assist with these important initiatives, but I would like to offer another opportunity for you to consider: working directly with us.

What do you think is most important to prospective students or their parents during their college search?

I would argue that it isn't a university president, faculty member, admission officer, or current student — as important as those representatives might be. It is often a college graduate who can exert the most influence in piquing interest, validating perceptions, and making the final decision to enroll.

THIS IS WHERE YOU COME IN!

- Collaborate with us on a message from you to admitted students or their parents
- Volunteer your story to be featured on a website or social media post
- Represent CNU at a college fair in your local area
- Interview prospective students in-person or virtually
- Share your CNU story at recruitment events on-campus or in your local area
- Participate in meet-and-greet receptions
- Host admitted students and their families for an event

No one is better qualified than you to help us recruit our future Captains for Life!

If you're interested in volunteering for any of the above or other opportunities, please scan the QR code to submit the form on your phone.



Marching Into the Future

BY KELLEY McGEE



You can't miss the dynamic presence of the Marching Captains on any given Saturday — and that is entirely by design!



WHETHER STORMING THE FIELD during halftime or blanketing the stands with unrelenting energy, the band is a tightly choreographed musical force that's been enhancing Christopher Newport's game-time experience for nearly twenty years.

Now more than 200-members strong, the Marching Captains have also become one of the largest NCAA Division III marching bands in the country — a fact that both surprised and intrigued the band's new leader Dr. Mark Johnson.

"I was stunned to see a group this size at a Division III college," said Johnson. "Before I applied for the position, I watched every YouTube video I could find and read every bit of information on them. The Marching Captains were the thing that attracted me to Christopher Newport."

Dr. Johnson found himself immediately swept into the energy and commitment of the students, most of whom are not music majors. The students hail from a wide variety of disciplines around campus, united by their dual pursuit of excellence and fun. Johnson got right to work when he arrived on campus, getting to know the musicians and spending countless hours with them marching, practicing and perfecting the wide-ranging, crowd pleasing repertoire for which the Marching Captains are known.

"Our band starts its journey mid-August with 10 days of camp. These 12-hour days are full of music rehearsals, sectionals, learning drills, and a lot of fun. It's a lot of hard work, but even so, you can see the fun each musician is having throughout the performance."

Most autumn afternoons you can find the Marching Captains blanketing the lawn in front of the Ferguson Center for the Arts and The Mary M. Torggler Fine Arts Center. The musicians' joyful sounds drift across the campus during drills, as sunlight glistens off their instruments. Johnson says he's grateful for the high level of commitment from both the musicians and the extended team that keeps the Marching Captains performing at peak levels. "Our student leadership and graduate assistants are instrumental in making sure band camp and all performances run smoothly. I could not function without them!"

Debuting in 2004, The Marching Captains are well traveled, having performed in London at the New Year's Day parade, in Dublin at the St. Patrick's Day parade, and at a special performance of the National Anthem at a Washington Nationals baseball game. For some alumni it was the big performances they remember. For others, it was the enduring memories of friendships and fun that have stayed with them. Johnson says he is honored to help carry forward the legacy of the Marching Captains as the band enters a new era.

"The band will continue to grow here at CNU! I'd like to see the band grow past 250 members," he said. "I look forward to band alumni joining us during future Homecoming events to take the field one more time as part of the incredible Marching Captains."

From the Field to the Sidelines

Leading the Next Generation of Captains

BY KELLEY MCGEE

Each year the Captains finish in the top of the Division III standings. This is due in large part to the dedication of the alums who have returned to coach at their alma mater.

THESE FORMER CAPTAIN ATHLETES thought they left it all on the field at the last matchup of their college careers. But nine of our head coaches have returned to Christopher Newport. Eight of them now lead teams for which they used to play. While Keith Parr '99 played baseball as a Captain, he returned to coach our softball team to the NCAA Division III 2022 Softball National Championship. All bring a talent for coaching, powered by a love of their alma mater.

"It's really hard to match the passion of a Christopher Newport graduate when we are trying to find the right person to lead our teams," said Athletic Director Kyle McMullin.

If these alums had a thumb on the scale when they applied for the job, it was because of that unique passion. But just as importantly, these nine Captains were proven commodities, having spent years as student-athletes earning trust and building relationships. Because of these factors, McMullin believes hiring alums to coach is often a low-risk, high-return strategy. After all, these coaches are already rooted in the culture of excellence

that defines Christopher Newport. All accepted the job fully aware of the expectations.

"Whether as a head coach, assistant coach, or part of the department's staff, the alumni in our department understand on a very personal level what it means to lead and teach the students on our campus. I am proud of having so many alumni within the department of athletics. Not only is it a reflection of the personal experience each of these individuals has as a Captain for Life, but it is a testament to how each of them lives the ideals of Christopher Newport."

Few coaches know this better than John Harvell '92, who is entering his 23rd year of coaching baseball. Recognized as one of the nation's elite Division III head coaches, he has led his alma mater to ten NCAA tournament appearances, six conference championships and three Division III College World Series appearances. With a winning percentage of over 67%, Harvell is ranked in the Top 30 of head coaches in Division III. This level of success is all the more meaningful to Harvell because it has happened at Christopher Newport.



Erica Flanigan '03
CHEERLEADING



David Weiner '08
WOMEN'S TENNIS



Jonathan Howard '14
WOMEN'S GOLF



Taylor Macina '14
CNU STORM DANCE TEAM



Keith Parr '99
SOFTBALL



Justin Chezem '05
MEN'S SOCCER

"It's been so amazing to coach where I played basketball and baseball. It's always felt like the ultimate compliment to be welcomed back and supported in this way," said Harvell.

Like Harvell, all of the alum-coaches love where they've been, but they also have a clear vision of where they want their teams to go. Football Coach Paul Crowley '08 admits that coaching where you used to play means the stakes are higher, both professionally and personally. "Coaching at your alma mater certainly adds an extra component of wanting to live up to the standard that has been set."

Continuing to meet that high standard is his top priority, as he works to continue building on the success of the program.

"I would say that I never had a plan to come back to CNU to coach. But it has been a pleasant surprise and an honor to coach at my alma mater," said Crowley. "It's a big bonus to have a connection to the players from the past, as well as see the development of our current student athletes as they progress over the course of their college careers, and eventually into their professional lives."

Erica Flanigan '03 is entering her 16th year of coaching

cheerleading at Christopher Newport, something she says she's deeply grateful to have the opportunity to do. "I have been coaching since I was 15 years old. Making a career out of a passion is something we all dream about. Being able to return as coach and lead the University's cheerleading program has meant so much to me. My goal is always for the athletes I work with to walk away with wonderful memories of both the program and University that will last a lifetime."

"The nature of working in intercollegiate athletics is that games rarely happen at 11 a.m. on a Wednesday," says McMullin, pointing out the demands of the job speak to the level of devotion these alums possess. "For those of us that choose this career and lifestyle, we know it is very demanding of our nights and weekends, so you really need to have a passion for doing it."

And these Captains for Life clearly do. Which means the next time you attend a football, softball, baseball or volleyball game, or take in some women's golf, cheerleading, dance, men's soccer or women's tennis, you have twice the reason to cheer: for both the players on the field and your fellow alums on the sidelines.



John Harvell '92
BASEBALL



Paul Crowley '08
FOOTBALL



Lindsay Birch '02
VOLLEYBALL

2023 Virginia Outstanding Faculty Awards

Two faculty members selected as recipients of prestigious award.



Dr. Kelly Cartwright

Professor of Psychology,
Neuroscience and
Teacher Preparation



Dr. Margarita Marinova

Professor of English and
Comparative Literature

DR. KELLY CARTWRIGHT and Dr. Margarita Marinova have been honored by The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) and Dominion Energy as recipients of the 2023 Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award. The award recognizes excellence in teaching, scholarship and service. Cartwright and Marinova are among only twelve recipients selected from professors teaching at all colleges and universities in Virginia.

Dr. Cartwright is a professor of psychology, neuroscience and teacher preparation at Christopher Newport University. She is an award-winning teacher and mentor who engages students in and out of the classroom. Cartwright's research, supported by nearly \$3 million in federal funding, explores neurocognitive and affective factors that underlie reading comprehension processes and difficulties. Widely published in national and international scholarly outlets, her groundbreaking book, "Executive Skills and Reading Comprehension" (2015), forthcoming in a second edition (2023), is the first comprehensive text at this intersection. A leader in her field, she has served on the board of directors of the Literacy Research Association and as a visiting research fellow at the University of Oxford. Cartwright regularly works with K-12 teachers throughout the U.S. to understand and improve reading for struggling students, and these experiences inform her research.

"I am so humbled to be selected from among such stellar colleagues for this amazing award," said Cartwright. "As the product of a Virginia education, I am deeply honored to be in the position to give back to the education systems that shaped my academic journey."

Dr. Margarita Marinova is professor of English and comparative literature. She has published five books including, "Transnational Russian-American Travel Writing;" "Mikhail Bulgakov's Don Quixote;" "Mikhail Bakhtin: The Duvakin Interviews;" "Russian Modernism in the Memories of Survivors;" and "The Art of Translation in Light of Bakhtinian Re-accentuation." She has also published articles about Russian and Soviet literature and culture, Cervantes in Russia, contemporary Bulgarian literature, and travel studies in scholarly collections and journals such as the *Slavic and East European Journal*, *Studies in Travel Writing*, *The Comparatist* and *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*.

"I am truly humbled by the news," said Marinova. "And I am thrilled that I share the honor with such a remarkable colleague as Dr. Cartwright. It's a great privilege to represent our University, and our wonderful faculty."

Learn more about the teaching, scholarship, and creative achievements of our faculty.

FACULTY NEWS



DR. RUSSELL BURKE // ORGANISMAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

Burke has been recognized for his significant contributions to the development of the Co-operative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) program. The CESU program helps connect federal government agencies with scientists of specific expertise. Being part of the CESU network allows Burke and other scientists direct access to more contract opportunities, a chance to build strong working relationships, and to reduce the time and paperwork necessary to continue or expand a project. Burke and his colleagues at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science have

successfully competed for three separate CESU awards focusing on research of Native Oyster Restoration monitoring projects in the Great Wicomico, the Lynnhaven, and the Piankatank rivers, as well as a living oyster reef shoreline construction and monitoring project in the York River. Burke is a champion of the CESU program and has introduced it to colleagues at the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), as well as supported its expanded use for projects in the Chesapeake Bay.



DR. KATHRYN COLE AND JOSHUA PATTERSON // MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY

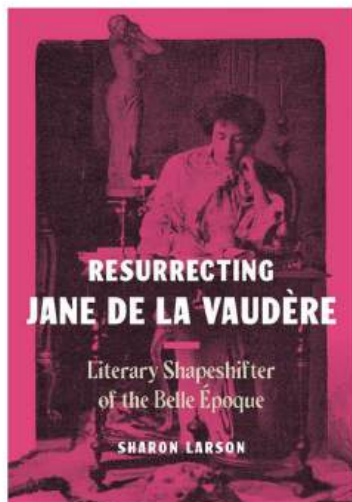
Cole and Patterson were awarded the Jean Dreyfus Lectureship for Undergraduate Institutions by The Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, Inc., the first ever Dreyfus award made to Christopher Newport. The Jean Dreyfus Lectureship award provides an \$18,500 grant to bring a leading chemical sciences researcher and lecturer to campus and support summer research for two undergraduates in contemporary chemistry.



Brandon Davis '22 (left) and Dr. Johnny Finn

DR. JOHNNY FINN // SOCIOLOGY, SOCIAL WORK AND ANTHROPOLOGY

Finn was awarded a grant from the Virginia Geographic Alliance for a multimedia exhibition entitled *Living Apart: Geography of Segregation in the 21st Century*. The exhibition at the Virginia Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) explored the Human Toll of Racist Housing Policies. Finn also created teacher workshops and presented a lecture on racist housing policies in the United States.



DR. SHARON LARSON //
MODERN AND CLASSICAL
LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

Larson's book, *Resurrecting Jane de La Vaudère: Literary Shapeshifter of the Belle Époque*, was released in December from Penn State Press. It's part biography and part literary study of a prolific yet forgotten French woman writer of the *Belle Époque*.



DR. DARLENE MITRANO //
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND
CHEMISTRY

Mitrano is a winner of the 2022 Association for Women in Science annual Meridian Award. This award highlights members' career achievements that demonstrate strong leadership skills, innovative thinking, and a commitment to inclusivity, diversity, equity and accessibility.

DR. SABRINA LITTLE //
LEADERSHIP AND AMERICAN STUDIES

Little has had two articles accepted for publication. The first is "Virtue Developmental Considerations of Mindfulness," in the *Journal of Moral Education* in which she looks at prescriptions of mindfulness practices among educators and argues that mindfulness, in certain populations and at various stages of maturity, undermines virtue formation. The other is "Variations in Virtue Phenomenology," in the *Journal of Value Inquiry* (forthcoming) in which she assesses the attentional features of various normative traits and argues for an expanded typology.



DR. ELENA VALDEZ // **MODERN AND**
CLASSICAL LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

Valdez released a new book, *Las ciudades del deseo*, that explores the representations of gender, sexuality and urban space in contemporary narratives from Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. The book contributes new perspectives on an emerging culture of resistance to heteronormative dynamics and power structures that is developing simultaneously in Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.



Dr. Ronald Quinlan (left)
and Celina Paoletta '23

DRS. RONALD QUINLAN, CHRISTOPHER MEIGHAN, TODD GRUBER
AND LISA WEBB // **MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY**

Quinlan, Meighan, Gruber and Webb were awarded a National Science Foundation grant of over \$300,000. The grant is entitled "MRI: Acquisition of Q-TOF LCMS for Multidisciplinary Research and Education at Christopher Newport University." This grant will be used to acquire a state-of-the-art research instrument to support multiple research programs and undergraduate courses in the Department of Molecular Biology and Chemistry.



DR. ANTHONY R. SANTORO //
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF
HISTORY AND PRESIDENT EMERITUS

Dr. Anthony R. Santoro, Distinguished Professor of History and President Emeritus of Christopher Newport University, and retired physician Dr. Theodore R. Reiff have been awarded the prestigious Peninsula Humanitarian Award by the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC) for their contributions to "Achieving Success through Inclusion." The Humanitarian Award is presented to those individuals who have demonstrated a personal commitment to the promotion and respect and understanding among people of diverse racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds. Dr. Santoro and Dr. Reiff are longtime friends and academics who have made significant contributions researching and teaching about National Socialist Germany and the Holocaust.



DR. GRAHAM M. SCHWEIG //
PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION

Schweig lectured at the University of Cambridge on Bhagavad Gītā as a Source Text for Pedagogical Modeling. Professor Schweig argues that this text's famous narrative storyline, which carries primarily the voice of a teacher to his student, embraces the idea that knowledge can be transmitted through specific approaches in dialogue that exemplify powerful pedagogical models for ideal teaching.



DR. FRANK GARMON //
LEADERSHIP AND
AMERICAN STUDIES

Garmon had an article accepted in the *Economic History Review* in which he compares American and South African wealth around the year 1800.

DR. JON WHITE // **LEADERSHIP**
AND AMERICAN STUDIES

White accepted an invitation to join the Board of Trustees of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. The Institute is the leading non-profit organization dedicated to K-12 history education while also serving the public. White was also given the key to the borough of Gettysburg by the mayor.



DR. SARAH FINLEY // **MODERN AND CLASSICAL LANGUAGES & LITERATURES**

Finley spent the fall working on her second book *Beats: Afrosonic Vibrations from New Spain*, which is under contract with Vanderbilt University Press. In conjunction with the project's development, Finley co-organized two conferences, "Intersections: Black and Indigenous Sound in the Early Atlantic World" at Virginia Commonwealth University and "Approaches to Sound in the Early Modern Atlantic World" at the UCLA Center for 17th- and 18th-Century Studies. Finley has also

been in Mexico City conducting archival research with a travel grant from the Huntington Library and giving lectures at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México's Facultad de Estudios Superiores Acatlán and the National Institute of Anthropology and History research group, "Los conventos de monjas, arquitectura y vida cotidiana del virreinato a la postmodernidad." She also had her work featured on the *With Good Reason* show in an episode called "Musical Legacies."



CNC's First Decaders and Why We Matter

I coined the name 'First Decaders' because it was much shorter than 'people who were at CNC in the first decade.'

BY A. JANE CHAMBERS

WHO WE ARE

Christopher Newport's First Decaders (FDs) are the Captains who attended CNC in its first decade (1961-71) and/or the early years of its second decade, when CNC was Christopher Newport College of the College of William and Mary.

Anyone who was a student at Christopher Newport then, full time or part time, and successfully completed one semester or more, is a CNC First Decader, including Riverside Hospital nursing students who took required classes with us. Before CNC became a four-year college (1971), it offered the two-year Associate of Arts (AA) degree, but students transferring to William and Mary as juniors were not required to have it, so having the AA degree is not necessary for being deemed a CNC First Decader.

Presidents "Scotty" Cunningham and Jim Windsor (both deceased) are counted among our First Decaders, as were all others who served our students as faculty, administrators, or staff in those earliest years. Currently, only two of us whose CNC voyages began in the old Daniel School building on 32nd Street in Newport News are still alive: Barry Wood and I, both of us then in our mid-twenties. Fortunately, however, some faculty from the latter half of the First Decade are still here and usually attend our reunions, including professors Cones, Mazzarella, Gilman, Wood and I, and coaches Royall, Vaughan, and Weinstein.

WHAT WE DO

Our primary purpose has always been to reunite First Decade students with their classmates, professors, and other Captains.

Beginning in 2011, we have hosted annual reunions every September. We began with a two-night celebration on campus in 2011, attended by 178 FDs; the following year we started hosting picnics at Newport News Park (2012-17); and since 2018, we've been celebrating with luncheons on campus. Also, beginning in 2013, Christopher Newport's Alumni Relations Office has hosted outstanding (and free!) 50th Reunion Celebrations for the classes of 1963 onward, assisted by our lists of names of and contact information for the FDs located and documented so far.

We've also contributed memorabilia to help preserve CNC's early history. During the college's own 50th Reunion year (2011-12), Christopher Newport carpenters built glass-fronted cabinets to display our memorabilia in Tribble Library's rotunda, plus a special display stand for the unique 1962 AA degree diploma owned by Dr. Lois Wright, the first and only graduate of the Class of 1962. Lois's diploma and some other FD memorabilia are now housed in Klich Alumni House. Be sure to seek the display out the next time you visit our alma mater. We also have an active website — www.cncdecaders.com — with articles about individual FDs, campus history, first organizations, original buildings, reunions, our military veterans, current CNU news, and much more.

HOW OUR GROUP BEGAN

The First Decaders group owes its existence to the first book written about our university: *Memories of Christopher Newport College: The First Decade, 1961-1971* (Hallmark Publishing, 2008; 256 pages). Created by emeriti professors Lawrence Barron (Barry) Wood, Rita C. Hubbard, and me. The book preserves much of the early history of CNC through 50 short essays by and about more than 35 early faculty, staff, students, administrators and more, complete with 150 photos. It is dedicated to the memory of our first president, H. Westcott Cunningham, and its publication was paid for by the various writers and other supporters.

While working on *Memories*, Barry, Rita and I reconnected with some of our early students, encouraging them to write memory pieces for the book about their experiences in the old Daniel building downtown and/or the new Shoe Lane campus midtown. Finding the other first students was often difficult. While researching in the John Smith Library archives, I discovered serious gaps in major documents. For example, copies of most of the 1960s graduation programs were missing, as were a number of issues of the first student newspaper, *Chris's Crier*. Fortunately, however, the last issue of *Chris's Crier* listed the names of those who had completed their sophomore year — but in shortened form (Was Pat Garrow Patrick? or Patricia?).

And since most of the women later married, we didn't know their current last names. Our group's chairman, David Springs, copied all names in the Trident yearbooks into a roster, but the Trident had been published only for eight years, 1964-66 and 1968-72, and did not include pictures and names of all of the students.

Since 2009, looking for First Decaders not yet located has been a *raison d'être* of mine, a task I hope others will continue after I leave this planet. The tab "Looking For" on our website includes photos with names of many people not yet found. Christopher Newport's Alumni Relations crew helps us with this ongoing search, especially before each 50th reunion, as do some of the FDs who are already documented. Locating one person frequently leads to finding another. Almost every newly located FD I've phoned or emailed has been delighted to be contacted after so many decades and is eager to be reconnected with others already found and documented.

WHY WE MATTER

Christopher Newport University and the First Decaders have a reciprocal relationship, which began when the university learned our group existed and planned to have a large reunion.

Since then, CNU has turned to us for help with names and contact information before each 50th reunion. We gave Alumni Relations a copy of our roster several years ago, which we constantly have to update. In turn, CNU shares its latest FD contact information updates with us. The university has also continued providing outstanding 50th reunions for its First Decaders. This ongoing relationship allows for what I describe as mutual back scratching.

A major positive effect of the *Memories* book and the FDs has been CNU's increased interest in the Cunningham family's role in what has become Christopher Newport University. While working on our book, Barry, Rita and I got the Cunninghams involved in the process. Scotty, who was bedridden, and their son, Todd, wrote short pieces published in *Memories*, and Scotty's wife (now widow), Cecil Cary Cunningham (Cecy), provided the photograph on the book's dedication page.

Shortly after Scotty's death on July 24, 2007, Cecy got her Peninsula area friends together to raise money for an endowed Cunningham scholarship, which cost \$25,000 to establish. Major donations from Friends of Scotty Cunningham were matched by CNU's Alumni Society. Once publication expenses were paid, profits from sales of our *Memories* book (a little over \$10,000) were added to that scholarship. As of December 31, 2021, gifts to the scholarship fund have totaled \$54,610, with a market value of \$105,659.



Alumni representatives from the classes of 1970-72.

The existence of the First Decaders played a role in Christopher Newport honoring presidents Cunningham and Windsor. On February 10, 2012, the University held a well-attended tribute to Dr. James C. Windsor in the new Gaines Theatre in the Freeman Center. President Tribble gave Jim a special plaque and speeches were made by Jim's son, lawyer James L. Windsor, and Jim's close friend, Barry Wood. Afterward, there was a reception and dedication service at the newly named Dr. James C. Windsor Center for Health and Counseling Services. On December 1, 2017, Christopher Newport honored its First Captain (literally, the title Scotty held in the U.S. Navy) with a ceremony in the new Christopher Newport Hall, naming the welcome center the H. Westcott Cunningham Welcome Center. Speakers included President Tribble and Cecy Cunningham. Full coverage of both events, including photographs, is on our website under the "Reunions and Events" tab.

On April 6, 2016, Mrs. Cunningham, daughter Ann Cunningham Stachura, and her husband, Melvin Stachura, were honored at a dinner hosted by Christopher Newport's Historical Preservation Club, which includes FD members, including me. The dinner was followed by the family's presentation of all CNC-related memorabilia in its possession, including one of Scotty's dress naval uniforms. All of the memorabilia is now housed in a special display in Klich Alumni House.

TO JOIN US

If you are a First Decader not yet located: Please contact me at cncmemories61_71@yahoo.com or (757) 817-8084, or contact FD Chairman Dave Spriggs at dave.spriggs@cox.net. Give your name, phone number, email address and the year(s) you attended CNC. No fees are involved.

If you are NOT a FD, but would like website update notices: Contact me or Dave (see above) and state that you want to be a Friend of the First Decaders. No money is required.

A. Jane Chambers is Professor Emerita of English at Christopher Newport. She retired in 1992 after 29 years of teaching, including five years as chair of the English department. She continues her work as a writer and editor, as well as founder of the First Decaders.

CLASS NOTES

Jess St. Laurent '11 and Anna Breen were married on September 22, 2022, in Girdwood, Alaska. The couple resides in Willow, Alaska

Photo credit: Jessica Barrett



Career Announcements

1990s

Lissa Graham-Schneider '90 is a professor at Murray State University in Kentucky, where she serves as a faculty member in the theater department. Her play, "Gaming Wisconsin," has been adapted into a screenplay and filming begins in March.

Jennifer Stevens '90 has joined OneDigital, a national insurance, financial services and consulting company.

Robin Fiddes '93 was hired as vice president of human resources for Controlled Contamination Services.

Commander James Binniker, Jr. '94 retired from the United States Coast Guard after a 26-year career. He has been hired as the assistant director for NOAA Marine Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement.

Danny Epperson '95 was hired as the digital media specialist for Suffolk Public Schools.

Mamie Harris '96 received a doctorate in ministry from Providence Bible College and Theological Seminary in Norfolk.

Annemarie Pender '96 was hired as assistant vice president for marketing and communications by the National Pork Producers Council in Washington, D.C.



Sharhonda Rush '96 was elected to the role of President-Elect of the national board for Phi Kappa Phi during its national convention.



Dr. Antoinette Smith '96, professor in the School of Accounting, was awarded the Morrison, Brown, Argiz & Farra Professorship in Accounting at Florida International University (FIU) Business. She is the first woman professor at FIU Business to hold this professorship and recognition for her research productivity.

Colonel David R. Lands '97 was appointed to a three-year position on The Virginia Horse Center Foundation's Board of Directors. The Virginia Horse Center Foundation provides a world-class facility hosting regional, national and international equestrian events.

Mary Lugo '97 was promoted to principal of Tabb High School in York County.

William Johnson '99 has been appointed as the Head of Aeronautics Systems Engineering Branch at NASA Langley Research Center (LaRC). During his time at NASA LaRC, Will has won many awards and most recently served as the Deputy Chief Engineer for the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate.

2000s



Mark Tyndall '00 was promoted to executive vice president and chief legal officer and corporate secretary at Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals.

Dr. Trevor G. Gates '01, an assistant professor in social work at Colorado State University Pueblo, received a Core Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program award from the U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. Gates is among over 800 U.S. citizens who will conduct research and/or teach abroad for the 2022-2023 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program.



Christopher Hebert '01 is a special agent at the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency, where he will conduct background investigations involving national security.

Jermaine Woods '03 is in his first season as head coach of the Coppin State women's basketball program in Baltimore, Maryland.

Stephanie Bretzke '04 was named acting principal of Independence Nontraditional School in Prince William County. Previously she served as assistant principal at Patriot High School.

Rachael Harrell '04 joined the Department of Environmental Quality as a board coordinator for its citizen board.

Timothy Masterson '05 has been named the principal architect for Paramount+ Streaming. He is responsible for the technical architecture that supports the global rollout of Paramount+, which includes setting the architectural vision, developing technical standards and leading the international team of developers. He resides in Norfolk with his wife, Tracy English '05 and children, Louisa, Henry and Clara.

Robert May '05 was promoted to vice president of Operations, Government and Manufacturer Services for Agiliti Health. He oversees a team of 300 across eight locations in the United States supporting the strategic national stockpile of medical equipment.

Career Announcements

Adam Ulan '05 was promoted to senior vice president at The Daston Corporation, where he manages Daston's Google Cloud Practice. He was recently named Google Cloud Partner of the Year—Federal.

Christina (Parmann) Bellew, '06 was named Foreign Language Teacher of the Year at the 2022 FLAVA Conference. She has been teaching German at Menchville High school for 16 years, where she is currently the foreign languages lead teacher.

Daniel Weissman '07 was promoted to the director of financial management at Marine Corps Systems Command.

Loren White '07 was named the PGA head golf professional at Beech Mountain Club in Beech Mountain, North Carolina.



Monique LeMieux '08 was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor in the department of nutrition and food sciences at Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas.

Megan McElfresh '08 was named in the 2022 class of *Buffalo Business First's* 40 under 40.

Paul Clegg '09 provides insurance and financial services as an agency owner with Farmers Insurance. His office was awarded the Chamber's "2022 York County Small Business of the Year." He and his wife, Cindy Clegg '09, reside in Yorktown.

Ruth Fuller '09 was promoted to head of renewals at UsableNet in Irvington.

David Porter '09 was promoted to Litigation Paralegal at Silverman Theologou LLP.

2010

Evan Bruno '10 was named the artistic director of Anima for Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus, one of the leading children and youth choral organizations in North America.

2011

Ariel Bredder '11 is assistant director and business advisor of Central Virginia Small Business Development.

Jennifer Fischer '11 was named a Partner with Lafayette, Ayers & Whitlock, PLC, in October 2022.

Katherine Hall '11 received the W.Y. Smith Award from the Institute for Defense Analysis, which recognizes extraordinary individual or group contributions to the IDA Team from non-research staff members.

Lexy Plarr '11 was promoted to business development manager for the City of Chesapeake in the Economic Development Department.



2012

Sarah Felix '12 completed her bachelor of science in nursing from the Riverside College of Health Careers in May 2022. She is currently working as an assistant nurse manager at Riverside Regional Medical Center in Newport News.

Michael Zimmerman '12 was granted permanent residency status by the Australian Department of Immigration, and has been promoted to senior manager in Ernst & Young's Assurance Services and Business Development practice located in Melbourne, Australia.

2013

Ross Snare '13 is the associate chief external affairs officer at UVA Health in Charlottesville. He previously served as the chief operating officer for the Prince William Chamber of Commerce.



James Swindell '13 accepted a position with the City of Hampton as the box office manager of the Hampton Coliseum.

2014



Vivian Agcanas '14 graduated with a doctor of medicine degree from the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery in Manila, Philippines. She began a one-year medical internship at Manila Doctors Hospital in August 2022.



Alyssa Andre '14 was one of more than 5,000 dancers to audition for the position of a parade performer at Walt Disney World. She was one of 15 selected to be a dancer in "Mickey's Boo-to-You Halloween Parade." She currently resides in Windermere, Florida.

Cory Glembot '14 was hired as an Air Traffic Control Specialist in 2018. In September of 2022, they were promoted to Supervisory Air Traffic Control Specialist at MFD. Only two weeks later, they were promoted again to a Supervisory Air Traffic Control Specialist at Chicago Center (ZAU).



Nicholas Sherwood '14 is pursuing a PhD in conflict analysis and resolution at George Mason University's (GMU) Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution. Nick also serves as the associate director of the Mary Hoch Center for Reconciliation at GMU.

2016

Benjamin Watkins '16 was sworn in as an officer for the West Hartford Police Department in West Hartford, Connecticut.

2018

Lillie Cummings '18 is a development associate at Spy Hop, a youth media arts non-profit in Salt Lake City, Utah. Responsibilities of the position include grant writing, fundraising and community program management.

Rico Francis '18 was selected to be Pacers Sports and Entertainment's (PS&E) first social impact director. They were also named to the 2022 Class of Indianapolis Business Journal's 20 in their Twenties, a list of Central Indiana up-and-coming leaders.

Vincent Starks '18 was named to the 2022 class of the Top 30 Under 30 "Future Leaders Of Charlotte." Vincent serves as a digital data analyst for Dentsply Sirona in Charlotte, North Carolina.

2019

Hannah Bond '19 was appointed as production supervisor for PepsiCo in Newport News.

Colten Derr '19 is a software engineer at Square (Block Incorporated).

2020

Margaret Hughes '20 and her teammates competed at the Institute of Packaging Professionals' 48HR Repack Student Design Competition and came away with the competition's inaugural People's Choice Award for reimagining The Coca-Cola Company's 12-can fridge pack.

Andy Mason '20 is pursuing a juris doctorate at Elon University with the hope of practicing real estate law in North Carolina.

Delana DeWitt Russell '20 graduated from the College of William & Mary in spring of 2022 with a Masters of Business Administration.

2022

Sara Currin, '22, accepted a position at the National Human Genome Research Institute, one of the 27 institutes that comprise the National Institutes of Health. She is a scientific program analyst on a number of different programs.

Elissia Martinez '22 is a national operations associate at Revolution Field Strategies. Her role is aiding voter turnout strategy in campaigns across the nation.

Liam Orr '22 was selected for the Virginia Management Fellowship program at Virginia Tech. He will complete three eight-month rotations working at different Virginia State agencies.

Weddings



Abie Livsey Photography

1



Lauren Odderstad Photography

2



5



Michael and Jasmine Photography

6



Micah Cook Photography

9





Bocca B Photography 3



Rolly Spaine 4



7



Randy Crane Photography 8



10

1. Ruth Fuller Schmid '09 and Michael Schmid married on March 17, 2022, in Telluride, Colorado. The couple resides in Irvington.

2. Analisa Toma '13 and Christopher Puzzanghero married on March 26, 2022, in Bedford, Pennsylvania. The couple resides in Fairfax.

3. Jessica Foley '14 and Doug Totaro married on October 7, 2022, at the Veritas Winery & Vineyard. The couple resides in Midlothian.

4. Megan Jones '14 and Joseph Pearring married on July 16, 2022, in Charlottesville. The couple resides in Charlottesville.

5. Stephanie Lahr '14 and Peter McAteer III married on October 16, 2022, in Wintergreen. The couple resides in Williamsburg.

6. Casey Tew '15 and Max Hrank married on September 3, 2022, in Norfolk. The couple resides in Chesapeake.

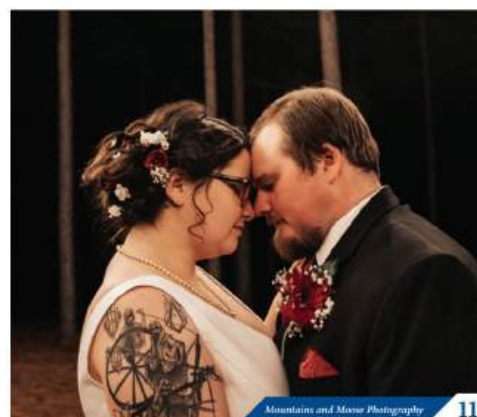
7. Laura Kate Genevish '16 and Heath Lee married on January 2, 2021, in Carrollton. The couple resides in Newport News.

8. Shannon Minnich '16 and Peter Staron married on September 17, 2022, in Chicago, Illinois. The couple resides in Chicago, Illinois.

9. Talia Hicks '17 married on October 6, 2022, in Youngsville, North Carolina. The couple resides in Angier, North Carolina.

10. Gabriela Olivera '19 and Trevor Johnson married on July 23, 2022, in Manquin. The couple resides in Richmond.

11. Amanda Mathis '20 and Richard Kazmer married on November 27, 2021, in Farmville. The couple resides in South Bend, Indiana.



Mountains and Meow Photography 11

Captains Marrying Captains



Images By Geneva

1



Amiegh Photography

2



Ryann Wins Photography

3



Carly Arzow Photography

5



Morgan Lee Photography

6



Abby Hart Photography

10



Ren Yuen Street

11





Shoot for Five Photography

4



Alysa Knoch

7



Journa Hartwick Photography

8



Jesse Media Studios

9



Kimberly Needles

12



Talman Media

13



Victoria Bartlett Photography

14

1. Muuya Karingithi '12 married **Danielle Pearson '11** on October 2, 2022, in Occoquan. The couple resides in Sterling.

2. Brittany Valentine '16 married **Tyler Quigley '16** on April 3, 2021, in Berryville. The couple resides in Alexandria.

3. Seth Bishop '17 married **Kara Michaelian '17** on March 12, 2022, in Hampton. The couple resides in Newport News.

4. Sondra Farley '17 married **Adam Roescher '17** on October 8, 2022, in Williamsburg. The couple resides in Williamsburg.

5. Melissa Garlem '17 married **Jonathan Francis '17** on October 14, 2022, in Delaplane. The couple resides in Williamsburg.

6. Cassidy McNeely '17 married **Matthew Jackson '17** on October 3, 2021, in Fredericksburg. The couple resides in Fredericksburg.

7. Rebecca Norton '17 married **Brad Chauncey '17** on October 1, 2022, in Charles City. The couple resides in Sandston.

8. Timothy Richard '17 married **Megan Bridgewater '17** on August 13, 2022, in Glenn Allen. The couple resides in Roanoke.

9. Anna Saldanha '17 married **Joshua Cohen '17** on June 4, 2022, in Haymarket. The couple resides in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

10. Taylor Saville '17 married **Matthew Sears '17** on October 9, 2021, in Winchester. The couple resides in Boyce.

11. Alex Thompson '17 married **Audrey Charwood '17** on October 22, 2022, in Williamsburg. The couple resides in Centreville.

12. Claire Dickinson '18 married **Bradley McGuire '18** on July 31, 2020, in Winchester. The couple resides in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania.

13. Zackary Lindfors '18 married **Mai-Ly Pham '18** on September 4, 2021, in Occoquan. The couple resides in Williamsburg.

14. Rachel Newell '18 married **Joshua Dutro '18** on December 11, 2021, in Winchester. The couple resides in Newport News.

Captains Marrying Captains





Monica Lebell Photography 17



Morgan Renee Photography 18



Weekend Project Studios 19



Paige Ryan Photography 23



Brittany Lowe 24



Amanda Sullivan 28



Tori Hester 29

15. Jacob Angelo '19 married **Cassidy Mechalske '19** on October 22, 2022, in Elkton. The couple resides in Harrisonburg.

16. Emily Higgins '19 married **Ian Higgins '19** on August 13, 2022, in Fredericksburg. The couple resides in Fairfax.

17. Abigail Lee '19 married **Rolf Lundberg '18** in Lexington. The couple resides in Cary, North Carolina.

18. Jenna Lowrance '19 married **Evan Rose '19** on September 23, 2022, in Norfolk. The couple resides in Norfolk.

19. Connor Rooney '19 married **Cali Burke '19** on November 6, 2021, in Oakland, Maryland. The couple resides in Virginia Beach.

20. Jodi Cleaver '20 married **Giles VanHuss '20** on May 21, 2022, in Linville. The couple resides in Mechanicsville.

21. Lydia Davis '20 married **Will Hester '20** on November 13, 2021, in Drakes Branch. The couple resides in Williamsburg.

22. Meagan Morrison '20 married **Daniel Crabill '20** on October 29, 2022, in Bristow. The couple resides in Centreville.

23. Henry Womble '20 married **Emmalyn Dunnivant '20** on August 7, 2022, in Ashland. The couple resides in Athens, Georgia.

24. Conner Clark '21 married **Allie Plumlee '21** on June 25, 2022, in Charles City. The couple resides in Chesapeake.

25. Alex Freeman '21 married **Allie Freeman '21** on August 13, 2022, in Warrenton. The couple resides in Reston.

26. Sydney Griffith '21 married **Mason Bollhorst '22** on May 7, 2022, in Williamsburg. The couple resides in Williamsburg.

27. Katrina Letter '21 married **Brennan Thaler '22** on August 28, 2022, in Hampton. The couple resides in Newport News.

28. Hanna McCune '21 married **Nathan Hotes '21** on May 21, 2022, in Richmond. The couple resides in Alexandria.

29. Sean Young '22 married **Grace Young '22** on June 12, 2022, in Norfolk. The couple resides in Frederick.

Future Captains



1



2



5



Amber and Michael Photography

6



7



10



WelcomeNewborn

11





3



4



8



9



12



13

1. Monica Hill '06 and Jason Hill announce the birth of their daughter, Lennon Crew. The family resides in Newport News.

2. Ashley Pierce '06 and Darren Pierce announce the birth of their daughter, Carlyle Catherine. The family resides in Raleigh, North Carolina.

3. Erin Reel '07 and Adam Reel announce the birth of their daughter, Eleanor LaVelle, on September 2, 2022. The family resides in Vienna.

4. Jillian Engle '10 and Austin Engle announce the birth of their son, Maxwell, on May 23, 2022. The family resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

5. Jennifer Ketron '10 and Matthew Ketron announce the birth of their son, Everett. The family resides in Greenwood, Indiana.

6. Jennifer Fischer '11 and Jason Fischer announce the birth of their son, Robert Nathaniel on March 24, 2022. The family resides in Midlothian.

7. Katie Monteith '11 and Troy Monteith '10 announce the birth of their son, Hudson, on March 31, 2022. The family resides in Williamsburg.

8. Karen Bumiller '13 and Hunter Perrot announce the birth of their daughter, Bonnie Elaine, on October 1, 2022. The family resides in Yorktown.

9. Amanda Wright '13 and Michael Wright announce the birth of their son, William Dalton, on November 6, 2021. The family resides in Newport News.

10. Kaleigh McKim '14 and Austin McKim '13 announce the birth of their daughter, Lily Jane, on July 18, 2022. The family resides in Kernersville, North Carolina.

11. Casey Hallwig '15 and Will Hallwig announce the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Marie. The family resides in Suffolk.

12. Abigail Kostrzebski '16 and Bradley Kostrzebski '16 announce the birth of their son, Logan, on September 20, 2022. The family resides in Sterling.

13. Jaime Parrish '16 and Christopher Parrish announce the birth of their son, Conor Scott, on May 31, 2022. The family resides in Carrollton.

Announcements

♥ **James (Jim) Eyre '75** and his wife Sarah will celebrate 50 years of marriage on May 19, 2023. Jim will also celebrate 80 years of life in July.

🦋 **Brad Hunter '04** and Toi Hunter announce the birth of their son, Wilson, on July 15, 2022. The family resides in Chesapeake.

🦋 **Eric Creasman '06** and Liz Creasman announce the birth of their daughter. The family lives in Henrico.

🦋 **Amber Kennedy '06** and **Sean Kennedy '05** announce the birth of their son, Finn, on June 21, 2022. The family resides in Chesapeake.

🦋 **Eric Updegrave '07** and **Stevie Updegrave '07** announce the birth of their son, Ender, on September 15, 2022. The family resides in Oak Hill.

🦋 **Sarah Bugbee '08** and Ian Bugbee announce the birth of their daughter, Gretchen Dawn, on September 27, 2022. The family resides in Saint Johns, Florida.

🦋 **Teara Sapp Becker '09** and Seth Becker announce the birth of their child.

🦋 **Sarah Ward Felix '09** and Corey Felix announce the birth of their son, Corey Daniel, Jr., on February 11, 2022. The family resides in Hampton.

🦋 **Robert Landon '10** and **Ashley Landon '10** announce the birth of their son, Adam Stewart, on November 12, 2022. The family resides in Chesapeake.

🦋 **Melissa Harrison '11** and Gray Harrison announce the birth of their son, Jackson, on December 26, 2021. The family resides in Moyock, North Carolina.

🦋 **Kristen Shook '11** and Brad Shook announce the birth of their daughter, Hallie, on April 28, 2022. The family resides in Gloucester.

🦋 **Lisa Bohannon '12** and **Jim Bohannon '12** announce the birth of their twin daughters, Julia and April, on February 2, 2021. The family resides in Fredericksburg.

🦋 **Ryan Rusbuldt '12** and Lauren Rusbuldt announce the birth of their son, Lincoln Peter, on November 4, 2021. The family lives in Burke.

🦋 **Rebecca Winston '12** and Jake Winston announce the birth of their daughter, Sawyer Elizabeth, on July 28, 2022. The family resides in Forest.

🦋 **Rachael Marker '13** and **Spencer Guizard '13** announce the birth of their son, Luke, on May 28, 2021. The family resides in Centreville.

🦋 **Rachel McGregor '13** and **Andy McGregor '13** announce the birth of their sons, Wells and Brodie, on March 13, 2021. The family resides in Virginia Beach.

🦋 **Taylor Quinn '13** and Sarah Quinn announce the birth of their son, Shepherd, on January 22, 2022. The family resides in Richmond.

♥ **Taylor Ellke '14** married **Jessica Pollock '14** on October 2, 2021, in Rice. The couple resides in Amelia County.

♥ **Elizabeth Baril '15** and Joel Cahoon married on April 2, 2022, in Severna Park, Maryland. The couple resides in Arnold, Maryland.

🦋 **Lauren Bechtel '15** and Eric Populus announce the birth of their son, Jameson Dane, on October 7, 2021. The family resides in Leesburg.

🦋 **Courtney Day '15** and Jarratt Day announce the birth of their son, Bradley, on November 26, 2021. The family resides in Mechanicsville.

♥ **Angelica Jusino '15** and Alec Ricks married on August 12, 2022, in Virginia Beach. The couple resides in Portsmouth.

🦋 **Enuma Lyob '15** and Tedros Lyob announce the birth of their son, Jaylen, on August 5, 2022. The family resides in Haymarket.

🦋 **Brittany Quigley '16** and **Tyler Quigley '16** announce the birth of their daughter, Blair Ryann, on May 10, 2022. The family resides in Alexandria.

🦋 **Katie Cajayon '17** and Michael Cajayon announce the birth of their daughter, Lucy Kate, on April 30, 2022. The family resides in Gainesville.

♥ **Sarah Crouse '17** married **Asa Townsend '17** on October 1, 2022, in Ashland. The couple resides in Newport News.

🦋 **Nora Griffin '17** and **John Griffin '18** announce the birth of their daughter, Hollis Rae, on September 20, 2022.

♥ **Alex Schweiger '17** and Zach Walikainen married on May 21, 2022, in Williamsburg. The couple resides in Virginia Beach.

🦋 **Sarah Long '18** and Ryan Long announce the birth of their daughter, Aubrey Nicole, on May 27, 2022. The family resides in Youngsville, North Carolina.

♥ **Grace Carey '19** married **Alex Bolton '19** on September 17, 2021. The couple resides in Suffolk.

🦋 **Kylie Meyer '19** and **Marcus Carter '19** announce the birth of their son, Kayden, on August 10, 2022. The family resides in Midlothian.

🦋 **Andrea Risher '21** and Buck Risher announce the birth of their daughter, Josephine Joy, on August 21, 2022. The family resides in Jacksonville, North Carolina.



In Memoriam

FACULTY, STAFF AND FRIENDS

Charles A. Banks III
Julian Whiting Chisman Jr.
Helen D'Alfonso
Richard Everett Davis
Dr. Adarsh Deepak
Brenda Epes
Dr. Robert Fersch Jr.
The Honorable Joe S. Frank

Dr. James Robert Hines
Zelda Hargraves Parker
Robert "Mike" Piland Jr.
Dr. Larry J. Sacks
Dr. Richard M. Summerville
Dr. Thomas Atwood Wash
Jeanette Weaver
Dr. George R. Webb

ALUMNI

Charles Burcher '64
John Ranson '72
William Forrest '74
Florence Bragg '75
Theresa Grogan '75
George Clark '76
Jane Cooper '76
Richard Fox '76
Stephen Getsug '76
Rebecca Richerson '76

Harry E. Davis Jr. '77
Robert R. "Ray" Mosby III '77
Joy Brooks '78
Carol Hill '78
Valerie D. Kenney '79
Nancy McBride '79
Anne Saunders '79
John Robert Miller '80
Mauro J. Cusce '81
Curtis Monroe Todd Jr. '81

Mary K. Wood '83
Alex Stern '85
Elizabeth Walz '85
David B. Barnes '86
Doris Garrett '86
Melissa Williams '87
Maurice Davis '88
Louise T. White '91
Clarence H. Best '93
Elizabeth Carney Respass '93

Pamela McCants '94
Chlea Sytek '94
William Forrest '95
Meredith Hines '98
Pam Wilson '02
Sarah Coldiron '04
Ricky Ricardo Medina Jr. '06
Stephanie Jump '07

As of March 5, 2023



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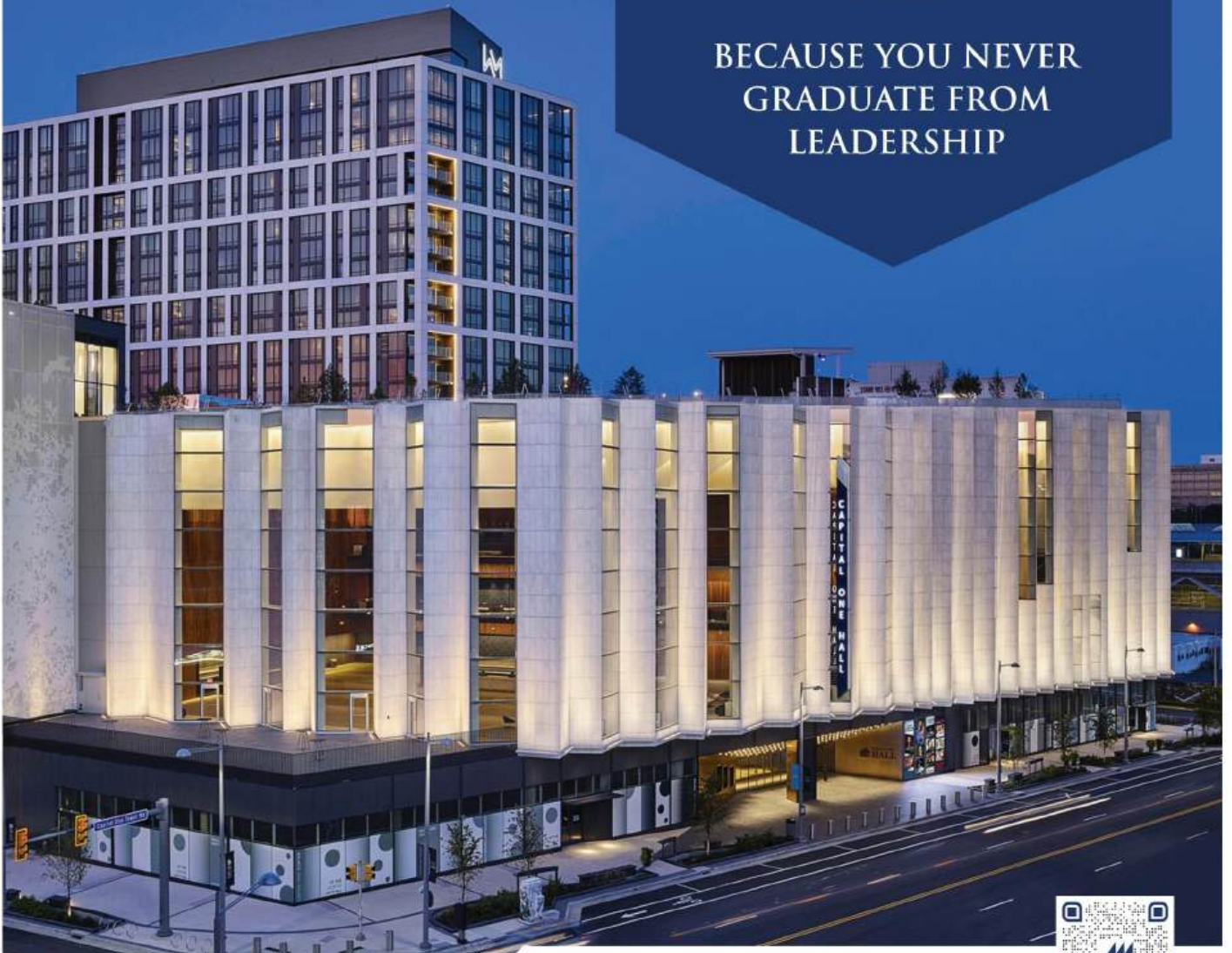
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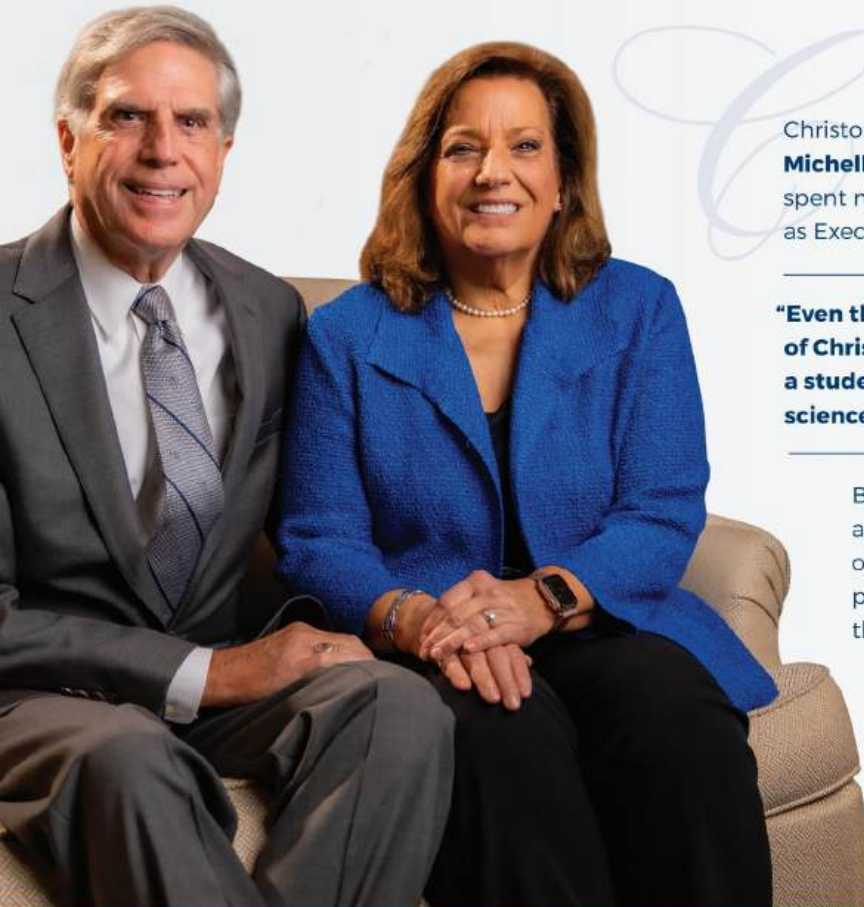
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Bill and Michelle have included the University in their wills and a portion of their estate will go to the Luter School of Business Student Scholarship created in 1983 by Bill's parents, Elizabeth (Skeeter) and Harrol (the first Rector of the Christopher Newport College Board of Visitors).

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Learn how you can leave a lasting legacy at Christopher Newport University by contacting Keith Roots at (757) 594-0581 or keith.roots@cnu.edu.