

# The Mariner

Published monthly for the Faculty, Staff and Friends of Christopher Newport University

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## Freeman Family Donates \$1 Million to Center for the Arts

**I**t was standing room only in CNU's Alumni Room on May 7 as the Freeman family of Newport News, Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Freeman, Robert L. Freeman, Jr. and Mrs. Susan Freeman Bryant, announced their gift of one million dollars for the construction of the Center for the Performing Arts.

Thunderous applause and a standing ovation followed as Robert Freeman, Jr. shared his enthusiasm and excitement for the Center for the Arts, "This Center will change the way we think of ourselves as a community, and the way others see us. We don't believe that there will be another project in our lifetime that will have such an impact on this University, the city of Newport News, and the Greater Hampton Roads area."

Robert L. Freeman, Sr. added, "This project will impact every aspect of our lives, from providing us with first rate entertainment to attracting new business. It will strengthen our community in countless ways, and we are extremely proud and humbled at the same time to be able to participate in the growth of the University and to the enrichment of our community as a whole."

CNU President Paul Tribble then recognized the entire Freeman family.



*The Freeman family (l to r): Randy and Susan Bryant; Robert Freeman, Sr. and wife, Dorothy; Francie and Robert Freeman, Jr.; and CNU President Paul Tribble.*



*The Freeman family receives a standing ovation from more than 200 in attendance.*

"When a respected and successful family like the Freemans, all with major ties to other fine schools, believe so strongly in CNU that they're willing to give \$1 million – it is a powerful statement that great things are happening," said Tribble.



*Robert L. Freeman, Jr. announces his family's commitment to contribute \$1 million to the University for the construction of the Center for the Performing Arts.*

"The gift from the Freeman family is the largest private gift Christopher Newport University has ever received. The Freeman gift pushes total cash and pledges for the creation of a world class

*continued on page 4*

# Ella Fitzgerald Music Festival & Workshop

## Brings Thousands of Jazz Lovers to CNU Campus

In one dazzling performance after another, jazz vocalists and musicians entertained thousands during a week of concerts in Christopher Newport University's Gaines Theatre May 3-9.

The inaugural concert of the Ella Fitzgerald Music Festival opened with Gold Company II, a 24-member vocal jazz ensemble, from Western Michigan. Later in the evening, Jean Carne dazzled the audience with a mix of jazz, along with rhythm and blues vocals.

Monday's concert included regional favorites Nathan Heathman with Moments Notice and Connie Parker and her jazz combo, followed by a triple feature on Tuesday night with Joe Harnell, the CNU Jazz Ensemble and the Jae Sinnett Trio.

Kimberly Miller turned up the heat with a riveting musical tribute to women in blues Wednesday afternoon – spiced with memorable selections from vaudeville, country blues, jazz,

boogie woogie, soul, pop, rock and roll and country. Later in the evening, multi-instrumentalist Mike Crotty showed off his talents in a musical extravaganza.

The following night Airmen of Note, the premier jazz ensemble of the United States Air Force, brought more than six hundred people to CNU's Ferguson Hall. Even dark skies and threatening rain couldn't put a damper on an invigorating evening of jazz with Ethel Ennis and the Great American Music Ensemble and Latin jazz trumpeter Arturo Sandoval Friday evening. The final evening climaxed with a sold out performance as Phil Woods and his jazz quintet fired up the audience for the music festival's closing artist, Cassandra Wilson. ■



More than 3,000 elementary, middle and high school students participated in workshops at the Ella Fitzgerald Music Festival & Workshop at Christopher Newport University May 3-9. During the workshops Newport News elementary school students learned to scat with Joe Harnell, Jean Carne and Bill Brown.

(l to r): Maureen Williams, Festival Co-Coordinator; Jean Carne; Chuck Gilliam, Event Staff; Michelle Gilliam, Festival Coordinator; and Debbie Lucas, Event Staff.



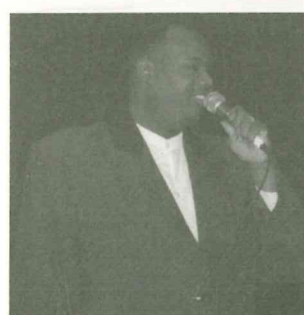
CNU Jazz Band



Jean Carne



Joe Harnell



Nathan Heathman



Kimberly Miller

### Faculty/ Staff

### A C T I V I T I E S

**Dr. David Alexick**, associate professor of arts and communication, will spend the summer studying major archeological sites in Greece and masterworks of Greek Art and Architecture.

**Dr. Jennifer Barker**, assistant professor of arts and communication, received recognition for several of her compositions recently. Barker's composition *Nobody Told Me* was performed at four concerts by the CNU Chamber Performers as part of their 1998 Concert Tour of Slovenia, Austria and Italy. *Geodha* was performed at Old Dominion University on the inaugural concert of the National Association of Composers USA/Tidewater. Barker was elected president of this association last fall.

In addition, Barker's composition *The Enchanted Glen* was performed at the Fifth Festival of Women Composers hosted by Indiana University of Pennsylvania in March. Barker was appointed advertising manager for the International Alliance of Women in Music Journal.

**Dr. Martin Bartelt**, department chair and professor of mathematics, co-authored "Characterization of Generalized Haar Spaces" with Wu Li of Old Dominion University. The paper was recently published in the *Journal of Approximation Theory*.

**Dr. Kathleen Brunke**, assistant professor of biology, chemistry and environmental science, gave a poster session at the 1998 Conference on the Atmospheric Effects on Aviation, in Virginia Beach April 27-May 1. Her session was entitled *Aerosol Emission Indices in Aircraft Plumes Encountered during SONEX*.

**Dr. Latifa Elouadrhiri**, assistant professor of physics and computer science, presented "N-Star Physics and Non-Perturbative QCD" to the International Workshop on N\* (n-star) Physics, in Trento, Italy, this month. Dr. Elouadrhiri's research involves protons and neutrons in their excited state.

**Dr. Zheng Gao**, assistant professor of history, presented a paper "Rediscovery of Western Science and Technology and Definition of China's Foreign Policy" at the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Asian Studies in Washington, D.C.

His paper, "On the Status of Women in Seventeenth-Century China: Teaching Spence's Book, *Death of Woman Wang*" was published in *Teaching History*, Spring 1998.

**Stanley Hash**, Director of International Programs in government and public affairs, has been selected as one of ten area professors who will participate in a Fulbright grant field study to Nicaragua for four weeks in June. In Nicaragua, the study group will be conducted under the auspices of the Center for Global Education in Managua. The group will visit Managua, Leon, Matagalpa, Bluefields, Corn Island, Esteli and Orinoco. Professor Hash will study issues of democratization and political integration of the Zelaya Province region in the post-Sandinista period.

**Dr. Ling He**, assistant professor of economics and finance, had two papers accepted at the 1998 American Real Estate Society meeting in Monterey, California: "Macro-economic Factors Affecting Liquidity in the Market for New Housing" and "The Volatility of REIT Returns." In addition, Dr. He presented his paper, "The Dynamic Relationship between Bank and REIT Stock Returns."

**Dr. Rita Hubbard**, department chair and professor of communication, was chair of the session *Advertising: Stereotypes in Print Advertising* and

delivered her paper entitled "Toy Advertising and Children of Color" at the 28th Popular Cultural Association Convention in Orlando, Florida, April 8-11.

**Dr. Stephanie Huneycutt**, assistant professor of management and marketing, and Kathryn McCubbin, associate professor of management and marketing, co-authored "ISO 9000 Survey of Regional Businesses." The paper has been accepted for presentation at the joint meeting of the World Multiconference on Systemics, Cybernetics and Informatics (SCI '98) and the 4th International Conference on Information Systems Analysis and Synthesis (ISAS '98) in Orlando in July.

**Dr. Bruno Koch**, professor of theatre and speech, was interviewed by Dwight Davis on WHRO-FM on April 16. The interview focused on introducing from a director's viewpoint a foreign playwright to this country in the English language and the place of Fermin Cabal, author of *Passage*, in both the Spanish and international theatre.

**Dr. Danilo Sirias**, assistant professor of management and marketing, Dr. Satish Mehra of University of Memphis, and Dr. Joyce Hoffman of Stephen F. Austin State University, co-authored a paper "A Critical Analysis of Total Quality Management Implementation" for the *International Journal of Applied Quality Management*.

**Dr. Michelle Vachris**, assistant professor of economics and finance, will be among the U.S. delegation to the Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) Program meetings held in Washington, D.C., May 20-22. The PPP Program is an international comparison study of national incomes and prices undertaken by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

In addition, Vachris has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Virginia Economic Association.

**Dr. Jane Webb**, associate professor of physics and computer science, has been appointed to the Shellfish Advisory Committee of the Marine Resources Commission.

**Barry Wood**, associate professor of English, has been appointed chair of the Department of Fine and Performing Arts.

## The Mariner

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# Commencement Edition

## Hazel Urges Graduates to Invest in Future

In addressing CNU's graduates during Commencement on Saturday, May 9, John "Til" Hazel, Jr., respected attorney and businessman from Fairfax County, and chairman of the Virginia Business Higher Education Council, praised CNU President Paul Tribble and the Board of Visitors for the University's growth and progress.

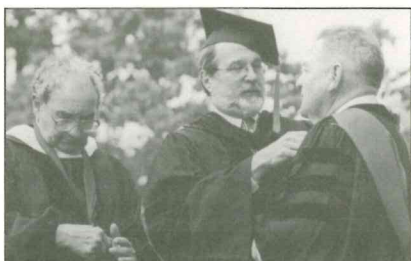
"The 'vision' generated under your leadership benefits, of course the students, but is far broader in impact," said Hazel. "The greater community and the Commonwealth are the beneficiaries of the accomplishments here. You have enhanced enormously the future for all of us."

Hazel closed with this challenge to CNU's graduates. "You have earned the opportunity to be the leaders of tomorrow – and with leadership comes the responsibility of insisting upon the investments of the future necessary for your prosperity – and the investments which will assure the prosperity of our great Commonwealth." ■■■



*John "Til" Hazel addresses CNU graduates.*

CNU President Paul Tribble receives cheers from graduates as he announces the Commencement Exercises will begin with the conferring of degrees, due to the unpredictable weather conditions.



*(l to r): Rector Peebles and Provost Doane hood Til Hazel.*



*(l to r): President Tribble, Rector David Peebles and Provost Dr. Robert Doane present honorary degree to Ray Brown, Jr. Brown accepted the degree on behalf of his late mother, Ella Fitzgerald.*

## CNU Presents Honorary Degrees

The Board of Visitors of Christopher Newport University conferred honorary degrees upon Ella Fitzgerald (posthumously) and John T. Hazel, Jr. at the 1998 Commencement exercises.

Miss Fitzgerald, born in Newport News, Virginia on April 25, 1917, produced more than 250 albums and earned 13 Grammy awards. During her career, which spanned six decades, she earned countless awards including the George & Ira Gershwin Award of Outstanding Achievement, the American Music Award, the National Association for Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Whitney Young Award, and the Best Female Vocalist Award. She was awarded the National Medal of the Arts in 1987 by President Ronald Reagan and the Medal of Freedom Award in 1992 by President George Bush. Miss Fitzgerald was named Best Female Singer in Down Beat magazine's readers polls twenty one times, including a record eighteen consecutive years from 1953-1970. In 1989, she was honored as the first recipient of the Society of Singers Lifetime Achievement Award which was later named the "Ella" in her honor. Miss Fitzgerald's son, Ray Brown, Jr., accepted the honorary degree on her behalf.

Over the past forty years, Til Hazel has lived and worked in northern Virginia where he has played a decisive role in transforming the state as a builder, developer, lawyer and community leader. Mr. Hazel has served as Rector at George Mason University and led the Board of Governors of St. Stephens School and Flint Hill School. As Chairman of the Virginia Business Higher Education Council, Hazel mobilized a powerful group of business and community leaders, and reversed a dangerous decline in public commitment to higher education. Hazel is currently Director of the Greater Washington Board of Trade, the Washington Airports Task Force, and the Jamestown-Yorktown Educational Trust. ■■■

## McMurren Scholarship Increases to \$430,000

CNU President Paul Tribble announced the largest gift to the scholarship funds at CNU during Commencement Exercises. "The estate of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis McMurren will give \$350,000 to expand the funds in the Lewis and Edie McMurren Endowed Honors Scholarship," said Tribble. "This brings the total funding to \$430,000!"

Tribble added, "We are grateful for the lives of Lewis and Edie McMurren for their many contributions to our community and Commonwealth, and to their children who remain steadfast in their support of our students at CNU."

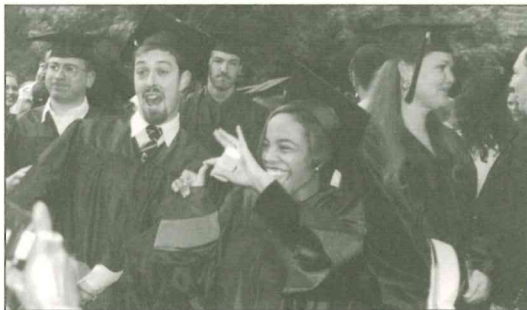
Delegate Lewis McMurren, known as the father of Christopher Newport College, provided the legislative leadership during the first sixteen years of the college's life. In addition to the creation of CNU, his vision and energy led to the creation of the Jamestown Festival Park and the Yorktown Victory Center.

The scholarships will be awarded on the basis of need and/or merit to students that demonstrate the qualities of academic excellence and leadership. ■■■

## Graduates Establish Senior Class Endowed Scholarship Fund

The Class of '98 built on the theme from the previous class with their motto, The Legacy Continues. To continue their legacy on campus, the class raised more than \$6,900 in gifts and pledges which were added to an existing fund bringing the total to well over \$11,000 thereby establishing the Senior Class Endowed Scholarship Fund. Class members hope their gift will inspire future classes to continue this tradition. ■■■

## CNU GRADUATES



*President Tribble presents President's Award to Cynthia O'Connor.*

## Bits & Pieces on the Class of 1998

President's Award Recipient Cynthia O'Connor, graduated with a perfect 4.0 grade point average! O'Connor balanced a full-time class schedule in CNU's nursing program, with work on the weekends at Fairfax Hospital and volunteer work at her children's schools in Williamsburg.

Robin Abbott, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Government Administration, worked for 25 years as a paralegal before pursuing her degree. This mother of three will begin taking classes at the College of William and Mary's law school in the fall. While at CNU, Abbott established and served as president of CNU's first Government Club, served on the senate and budget committee for the Student Government Association and played varsity tennis. In addition, Abbott was a Presidential Scholar and Lewis McMurren Academic Scholar.

LeRoy Dennison graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Information Science. After retiring from the Coast Guard as an E-9, Dennison began his studies full time at CNU in 1996 and graduated with the top G.P.A. in physics, computer science and engineering. For his senior project, Dennison designed and implemented Physics Web: a framework that allows professors to place courseware online.

Jeanette Hiser earned a bachelor of arts in fine and performing arts. The communications student who graduated with honors in her department will attend an accelerated master's program in Human Resources Management at Troy State University in Alabama in the fall. Hiser was senator for the Student Government Association; member of CNU's programming board, ACT One; youth group leader at her church; and a volunteer for a teen hotline.

Richard Schulteirs graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. Schulteirs is Supervisor of Security at Busch Gardens and was recently recognized as an Outstanding Employee. He is pursuing a career with the Secret Service where he plans to conduct currency investigations. ■■■

## Freeman

*continued from page 1*

Center for the Arts to more than seventeen million dollars!" said Tribble.

"This is an example of goodness in America," said CNU Rector David Peebles. "This gift is significant not only because of the size, but because it is the result of success through hard work, thriftiness and foresight by professional and business people in our midst. We salute the Freeman family for this gift."

The Center for the Performing Arts, designed by the prestigious international architectural firm Pei Cobb Freed, will enhance CNU's academic programs and bring to the Peninsula of Virginia the finest performing artists in the world. The largest venue of the new Center will be the 1,700 seat theatre which will consist of three seating levels — orchestra, grand tier and dress circle with side loges. It will incorporate state-of-the-art technical, mechanical and acoustical capabilities conducive to a broad range



*Daily Press reporter Kim Miller (r) interviews Robert Freeman, Sr. following announcement.*

of symphony, opera, dance, musical theatre and assembly events.

In addition to the main theatre, the arts center will house a 500-seat musical and theatre hall to accommodate small and moderate-sized performances as well as serve as a venue for formal

meetings. Another 200-seat studio theatre will provide for more intimate performance settings and for teaching theatre arts.

Construction is anticipated to begin in 1999 and will take 18 to 24 months to complete. ■



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