


# VOYAGES

CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY'S  
ALUMNI MAGAZINE ♦ 2012







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the right building.

- H. JACKSON BROWN, JR.  
AUTHOR



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## *It's a great time to be a Captain!*

The Christopher Newport Alumni Society kicked off this year by celebrating the University's 50th anniversary. We gathered with a whole host of alumni, from those who attended Christopher Newport College in the early years in the Daniel building in downtown Newport News, to alumni who were the first to live on campus, to those who were the first to earn degrees from Christopher Newport University.

As you will see in the following pages, it's been a year of progress and tremendous achievement for the campus family. You will read about exceptional students, the best teacher-scholars around and graduates who have gone on to outstanding careers. The transformation of our campus continues, as Mary Brock Forbes Hall, our new integrated science center, opened last summer. This fall we will welcome another extraordinary freshman class, the largest in our history. The brand-new Warwick River Residence Hall has just been completed, and the CNU Chapel and Luter Hall are slated for completion in the fall and spring, respectively.

Our very active alumni chapters continue to expand, offering networking and social opportunities with other Captains for Life in their geographic area. Involvement with students on campus has increased, and our engagement with alumni in our chapters has taken on new dimensions as well.

As Christopher Newport grows and evolves, we're excited for the coming year and will continue to develop our society's board of directors and chapters. Opportunities abound for you to stay engaged in the life of your alma mater by being a part of the Christopher Newport Alumni Society, and I encourage you to get involved. Remember, membership in the society is free, and the benefits are outstanding (see page 60).

We've also expanded our social networking presence so it's even easier to stay in touch. Check out our website at [alumni.cnu.edu](http://alumni.cnu.edu), email us at [alumni@cnu.edu](mailto:alumni@cnu.edu), call us at (757) 594-8061, tweet us @[@acaptainforlife](https://twitter.com/acaptainforlife) and follow us on Facebook at **Christopher Newport Alumni Society**.

Remember, you *are* and *always will be* a Captain for Life!

Rich Charles '92  
President, Alumni Society

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## *Stay Connected!*

Your Christopher Newport experience doesn't end at graduation. The opportunities and relationships that began while you were a student continue as an alumnus or alumna. Outstanding academic programs, vibrant student life, traditions and friendships connect alumni to Christopher Newport for life.

Alumni are essential members of any great institution. It is your passion and loyalty that make it possible for your alma mater to achieve its goals. The bonds created between your friends, your teachers, and the staff of CNC or CNU are still strong. When you graduate and your career as a student ends, your career as an alumna or alumnus begins. You become and forever will be a Captain for Life!



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Check out our online publication at  
[voyages.cnu.edu](http://voyages.cnu.edu).





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## 50TH FACTS

Experience the evolution of Christopher Newport through our anniversary "50th Facts" displayed throughout this issue.

*Voyages* is published by the Office of Communications and Public Relations for alumni and friends of Christopher Newport University. CNU's e-newsletter, *e-Voyages*, is published multiple times a year. If you're not currently on the e-news mailing list, please email the Office of Alumni Relations at [alumni@cnu.edu](mailto:alumni@cnu.edu).

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Marlaina Peelen '12  
Jesse Hutcheson '10

**Editor and Writer**  
**Designer**  
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### Support CNU

To make a gift to Christopher Newport University, please contact the Office of University Advancement at (757) 594-7179. Or make a gift online at [advancement.cnu.edu](http://advancement.cnu.edu), where you will find detailed information on ways to support your alma mater.



# Campus News

## CNU Captures Several Accolades

### **U.S. News & World Report**

*U.S. News & World Report* has selected Christopher Newport as one of America's "up-and-coming schools to watch" for making "the most promising and innovative changes in academics, faculty, student life, campus and facilities." CNU was awarded the following rankings:

- No. 26 in Regional Universities in the South
- No. 6 in Up-and-Coming Schools in the South
- No. 9 in Top Public Schools in the South

### **Kiplinger's Best Values in Public Colleges**

CNU is ranked in the top 100 public institutions by *Kiplinger's Best Values in Public Colleges*. Kiplinger's ratings are based on a combination of academics and affordability. Institutions are praised for their ability to "deliver a great education at prices that put private schools to shame."

### **Forbes Magazine**

*Forbes* magazine named Christopher Newport one of the top 20 colleges for minorities in the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and math. *Forbes* ranked CNU fourth, calling it one of the institutions "getting it right" — ahead of M.I.T. and many other great schools.

### **Princeton Review**

- *The 376 Best Colleges*

CNU is listed as one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education. Only 15 percent of the colleges in the nation are afforded this distinction.

- *The Best Value Colleges for 2012*

The Princeton Review selected 75 public schools and 75 private colleges based on campus culture, facilities, academics, the cost of attending and how much financial aid is provided to students. Only 150 schools — just 5 percent — are named as a Best Value.

CNU was praised for its high-quality academic offerings and abundance of extracurricular activities. The Princeton Review profile of CNU reads: "There's a palpable excitement for this relatively new school. The teachers take a personal interest in their students, and there are many opportunities for students to take the lead on projects, shape their education, and become campus and community leaders." Much like the academic buildings, the residence halls and campus are called "breathtaking." CNU is also described as having a wonderful sense of community and family-like atmosphere. ♦



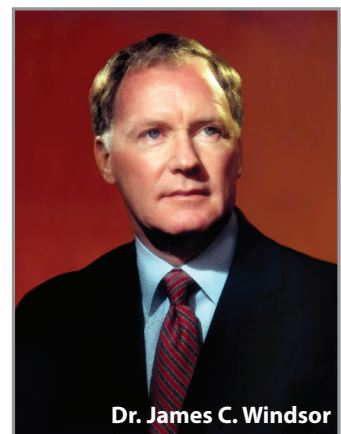
Last winter Christopher Newport honored one of its founding fathers and second president by dedicating the James C. Windsor Center for Health and Counseling Services. The center is located in the recently renovated and expanded Freeman Center.

Dr. Windsor (pictured above, cutting the ribbon) joined Christopher Newport as a faculty member in 1962. He founded the counseling center and psychology department, as well as the evening college and summer school programs. Windsor became the institution's second president in 1970.

He served with distinction in the Marines during the Korean War and was decorated for valor. Windsor founded the Personal Development Institute, a counseling and educational organization in Williamsburg, and served as chairman of the Virginia Mental Health Board and as a board member of the Sarah Bonwell Hudgins Foundation, which seeks to enhance the lives of adults with disabilities.

"Dr. Windsor truly embodies the spirit of selfless service we strive to live by at CNU. His lifelong commitment to helping others is now forever etched in the life of our campus," says President Paul Tribble.

Windsor was joined on this occasion by many family members and friends. His son Jim and CNU Distinguished Professor Emeritus Barry Wood delivered reflections on Windsor's life and tenure at Christopher Newport. The event concluded with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a tour of the center. ♦



Dr. James C. Windsor



# Call for Nominations

## CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT ALUMNI SOCIETY ANNUAL ALUMNI AWARDS CEREMONY HOMECOMING 2012 • NOVEMBER 2-3

### Award Categories:

Distinguished Alumnus or Alumna of the Year  
Distinguished Young Alumnus or Alumna of the Year  
Distinguished Alumni Service Award  
Alumni Achievement Award

Participate in an exciting Christopher Newport tradition by nominating an alumnus or alumna at [alumni.cnu.edu](http://alumni.cnu.edu).

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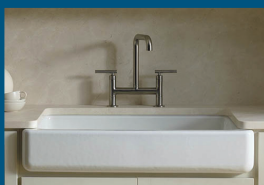
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## CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT ALUMNI,

# *You Made a Difference!*



Together, you smashed Christopher Newport's alumni giving record by reaching 12 percent alumni participation — a level attained by the nation's best colleges and universities.

**Every gift is important.** Your participation impacts CNU's ranking in *U.S. News & World Report*, which looks at percentage of alumni giving — the number who participate, not the amount raised.

Your gifts provide scholarships, faculty support and financial flexibility that ensure education excellence for current and future students.

**Thank you for sharing your Captain spirit!**





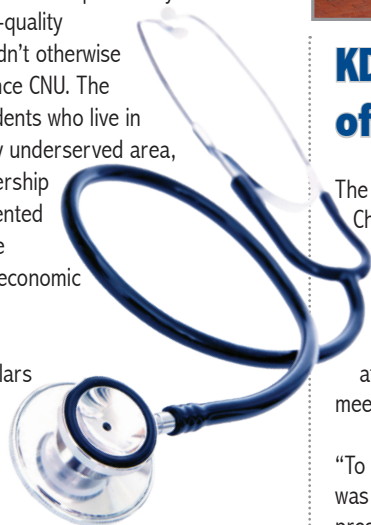
## New Pre-Med Scholarship Program Established

Christopher Newport and the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) have established a new program to benefit students interested in studying pre-med at CNU. It provides yet another way to attract high-quality students who wouldn't otherwise be able to experience CNU. The program is for students who live in a rural or medically underserved area, self-identify membership in an underrepresented group, or otherwise demonstrate socioeconomic hardship.

The Rocovich Scholars Program provides leadership scholarships up to \$5,000 annually to some of our brightest incoming freshmen interested in pursuing a medical career. Those chosen will be among the elite of their class, with top-notch academic attainment and high test scores. Rocovich Scholars will participate in the President's Leadership Program and in the Pre-Med Scholars Program. Students must meet high academic standards and undergo yearly review by a faculty council, as well as attend a host of seminars and presentations and complete a community service component.

The program is named in honor of John Rocovich and Dr. Sue Ellen Rocovich, who were instrumental in founding VCOM.

CNU pre-med students are eligible to apply for early acceptance to either VCOM or Eastern Virginia Medical School during their undergraduate studies without having to take the Medical College Admission Test. Such an advantage will put them on a fast track to realizing their dreams of a rewarding medical career. ♦



Canon Leadership Scholars

## KDR Wins Award of Distinction

The Beta Gamma chapter of Kappa Delta Rho at Christopher Newport University (pictured below) was one of four fraternities nationally to receive the Chapter Award of Distinction by the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC). The award was presented at an April banquet during the NIC annual meeting in Washington, D.C.

"To receive the NIC Chapter Award of Distinction was such an honor," says senior Ian Sonia, president of CNU's Kappa Delta Rho chapter. "To win this award shows all other fraternities that even chapters at small schools can be recognized. We look forward to proving ourselves further as an essential component to Greek and student life at CNU."

The award recognizes chapters that best promote the benefits of a values-based fraternity experience, and that work to maintain healthy relationships with their national organizations. Kappa Delta Rho emphasizes fellowship, leadership, scholarship, service and tradition. ♦



## First Canon Leadership Scholars Graduate

This year marked the first graduating class of Canon Leadership Scholars. Established by Canon U.S.A., Canon Virginia and CNU in 2007, this program rewards superior students from across the country and nurtures an appreciation for the art of leadership and the importance of citizenship.

Through a rigorous academic curriculum, prominent guest speakers, community service, study abroad and internships, Canon Leadership Scholars are empowered to become caring, knowledgeable and effective leaders for America and the world.

The Class of 2012 Canon Leadership Scholars included:

Ryan Adams, Adam Baker, Christina Brinkman, Alexander Clark, Leanna Cooper, Matthew Davenport, Nathan Davidson, Hector Feliciano-Ayala, Kathryn Fitzgerald, Adam Frost, Daniel Gordon, Caroline Green, Brittany Haskell, Chelsea Jones, Letitia Juday, Michael Kavros, Aubrie Kiel, William Kirk, Zachary MacDonald, Bret Marfut, Alea Mayfield, Katarina Nguyen\*, Evelyn Riley, Joshua Rolon, Mary Stratton, Anna-Lisa Todd and Matthew Ware. ♦

\*Class of 2013 (early graduation)



## Students Committed to Service

CNU's Center for Community Engagement (CCE) develops and facilitates opportunities for students and community partners to build bridges benefiting the greater Hampton Roads area. During the 2011-12 academic year alone, CNU students logged nearly 44,000 volunteer hours through CCE initiatives.

Independent Sector, a leadership network for nonprofits, estimates the dollar value of this volunteer time at \$992,614.60. In all,

more than 100 local nonprofit organizations and schools directly benefitted, including the Hampton Teen Center, Foodbank of the Virginia Peninsula, Boys and Girls Clubs, YMCA, Refugee Resettlement Services, Peninsula Agency on Aging, Youth Volunteer Corps, and many others.

The CCE has built relationships with 165 community partners. During their first year at our university, students decide where they



would like to serve and volunteer throughout their remaining time at CNU.

The CCE also engages students through service learning classes, special events like the Annual Day of Service and engagement programs like the Bonner Service Scholars.

As a result, CNU students have had a profound impact on the community, such as mentoring and tutoring middle school children, teaching English as a second language, assisting at homeless shelters, cleaning neighborhoods and public parks, collecting food to feed the hungry, and developing community education programs. Through the CCE, resources are shared and developed, challenges are overcome, and lives are changed for the better.

For more on the CCE and its programs, visit [engage.cnu.edu](http://engage.cnu.edu). ♦



## Two Minors Set for Launch

New academic minors will debut this fall, one in linguistics and the other in medieval and renaissance studies (MRST).

The scientific study of language, linguistics is a rich field of inquiry within the liberal arts. The minor will deepen students' critical thinking and analytical skills and has application in a wide range of professions — from computer science and speech therapy to sociology and anthropology.

This interdisciplinary program is open to students in all majors and will be housed in the English department under the direction of Dr. Rebecca Wheeler. It will include coursework in English and foreign languages, with classes in computer science, philosophy and psychology rounding out the curriculum.

An interdisciplinary minor, MRST is centered in the College of Arts and Humanities but will welcome students from all academic disciplines. The minor brings together a dynamic set of courses across several departments, allowing students to explore the ways in which the legacies of medieval and Renaissance arts, history, literature and theater, as well as philosophical, theological and political thought have helped to shape our modern world.

Dr. Sharon Rowley, associate professor of English, will serve as program director. ♦

## CNU Wins Gold MAXI

A student team from CNU's Joseph W. Luter, III School of Business received a gold Marketing Award for Excellence and Innovation (MAXI) in the 2012 collegiate competition conducted by the Direct Marketing Association of Washington Educational Foundation (DMAW-EF).

Teams studied and designed a marketing campaign for the new Chevrolet Volt. CNU's team — Christina Anderson ('12), Nate Childress ('12), Justin Reidelbach ('12) and Kealan Sojack ('12) — traveled with their faculty advisor, Dr. Matt Hettche, to Marlow Heights, Md., to receive the award.

The MAXI is the most prestigious and coveted marketing award offered in the mid-Atlantic region. It was established in 1993 by the DMAW-EF and has become a goal for bright, aspiring marketing students.

Teams from colleges and universities across Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia competed in this year's event. ♦



## CAS Hosts Lincoln Conference

Christopher Newport's Center for American Studies (CAS) recently hosted the Fifth Annual Conference on America's Founding Principles and History. More than 750 students, faculty and members of the community attended the two-day event.

The conference, "Lincoln, the Constitution and the Nation at War," featured presentations and panel discussions by leading Lincoln experts and explored the ways Lincoln navigated complex legal issues such as executive power and freedom of the press during secession and the Civil War. Participants also discussed the Emancipation Proclamation and Lincoln's enduring legacy.

Also included was a panel showcasing the outstanding work of five CNU students whose papers were chosen for inclusion by a jury of CNU professors: Franklyn Baxter ('12), and juniors Benjamin Coffman, Emily Darugar, Caitlin Jeffery and Kelly Willett.

Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Mark Neely offered commentary on their papers, and each student received a \$250 award.

The conference was chaired by Dr. Jonathan White, visiting assistant professor of American studies at CNU. White is known as a Lincoln and Constitutional scholar and recently published *Abraham Lincoln and Treason in the Civil War: The Trials of John Merryman* (Louisiana State University Press, 2011).

The CAS continues to excel in educating CNU students and the community about the nation's history and important issues facing the United States. The center is a burgeoning force in the academic world, bringing engaging programs and speakers to campus throughout the year. ♦



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# COMMENCEMENT 2012

Commencement on Saturday, May 12, 2012, was a great and glorious day — sunshine and blue skies and graduation on the magnificent Great Lawn. Virginia Gov. Robert McDonnell gave the address, underscoring that CNU had prepared the graduates for excellence and urging them to “make things happen.”

More than 10,000 family and friends joined the CNU family — faculty, staff and students — to celebrate the hard work and success of our newest alumni. In all, 1,145 degrees were conferred this year, the largest graduating class in the history of CNU. ♦



Seniors enjoy a post-rehearsal luncheon.

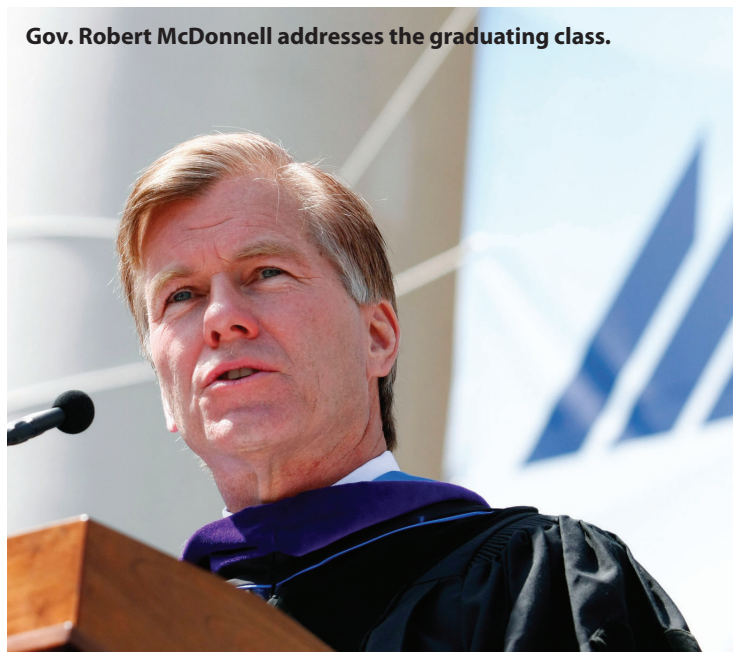


Marie Farley receives the Klich Award for the highest grade-point average in the class.





Gov. Robert McDonnell addresses the graduating class.



President Tribble toasts the Class of 2012.



Senior processional











Candlelight ceremony



Tossing pennies in the fountain



Honors Convocation






2011 ALUMNI SOCIETY AWARD FOR

# Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring

*Dr. Mark Reimer shares his passion for the musical arts.*







“There is no standard formula for effective teaching — successful teachers are as different as the students they teach,” states Dr. Mark Reimer, chair of CNU’s Department of Music. “But there appear to be two common denominators among all of the best teachers who have taught me. They include a strong knowledge of the subject and an even stronger, almost insatiable desire that students learn.”

Reimer believes role models who inspire others can make students receptive to learning while helping them meet — and often exceed — teachers’ high expectations. “As a student, I expected my teachers to work their hardest to get the best out of me; as a faculty member, I work my hardest to draw the best out of my students,” he says. “In this process, everyone is important, and everyone deserves to be held to the highest standards.”

Last year Reimer received the Alumni Society Award for Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring. The \$2,500 honor recognizes a faculty member exceptionally committed to teaching, learning excellence and university citizenship. As part of his award, he gave the keynote address at CNU’s honors convocation.

Reimer earned degrees from Drake University (bachelor of music education), the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (master of music) and Indiana University (doctor of music). In addition to a career in higher education, he served four years as a high school band director at Kempsville High School in Virginia Beach. His tenure there proved rewarding as he was named Teacher of the Year and his band captured numerous awards. “I loved working with the students and their parents, but I knew my heart was really in working with college students,” he says.

For 20 years Reimer has directed CNU’s music department, though he originally expected to stay just a

year before transitioning to a larger institution. “I was given so much responsibility and latitude to effect change, and the promise of a new performing arts center, that leaving seemed to be the worst thing I could do,” he notes. “I felt needed.”

Besides conducting the CNU Wind Ensemble, Reimer teaches undergraduate and graduate conducting and wind literature and serves frequently as a guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator across the United States and abroad. He also conducts CNU’s instrumental ensembles on international tours, including performances in Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, France, Austria, Slovenia and Scotland.

His extensive accomplishments include founding the *Journal of Performing Arts Leadership in Higher Education* and publishing several articles in leading magazines and journals. He is a member of the International Society for the Promotion and Investigation of Wind Music, the College Band Directors National Association, the National Association for Music Education, and the College Music Society — to name just a few of his many accomplishments.

Passionate about music, committed to Christopher Newport University and fully invested in the education of aspiring musicians, Reimer offers these pearls of wisdom:

- Be true to yourself — don’t try to be someone you’re not.
- Be honest and humble — these will be your greatest attributes.
- Always look for the good in people — be generous with your compliments.
- Look at an issue from the other person’s point of view — practice the Golden Rule.
- Listen more, talk less and think before you speak. ♦

— Matt Schnepf



# Music News

## *Athletic Bands Welcome New Leadership*

CNU's athletic bands welcomed new faculty leadership as Dr. Joseph Falvey (pictured below) and Dr. Annie Stevens (at right) joined the music department as assistant directors of athletic bands.



Falvey teaches the Marching Captains, University Band, Pep Band, marching band techniques, brass techniques and applied horn. Stevens assists with the Marching

Captains and Pep Band, directs the Percussion Ensemble, and teaches percussion techniques, percussion literature and pedagogy, music technology, and applied percussion. ♦



## *Student Performers Tour Europe*

Earlier this year the CNU Chamber Choir and String Quartet completed a 10-day concert tour of Europe where members performed and studied with local artists in Germany, Belgium and France.

Highlights included performances at the D-Day Memorial in Normandy and Madeleine Church in Paris (below). The Chamber Choir and String Quartet also performed at the Basilica of the Holy Blood in Bruges, Belgium, and the Bayeux Cathedral in Normandy. In Germany CNU students worked with professional conductor and Bach specialist Ron-Dirk Entleutner in a joint performance with the VokalEnsemble, a student vocal group from the University of Koblenz. ♦



## *Vocalists Capture Top Honors*

Congratulations to Christopher Newport's state voice winners who competed in the annual National Association of Teachers of Singing competition. Each year Virginia's colleges, universities and conservatories send their most talented voice students to compete. The competition awards first, second and honorable mention in several divisions within the classical and music theater categories.

CNU's honorees included the following:

### **First Place**

- Freshmen Men, Classical: Matthew Kelly
- Freshmen Men, Music Theater: Matthew Kelly
- Junior Men, Classical (tie): Paul Keene
- Senior Men, Classical: Ben Williams

### **Second Place**

- Freshmen Women, Classical: Jeanette Corey
- Sophomore Women, Classical: Bridgette Cooper
- Sophomore Women, Music Theater: Caroline Scruggs
- Senior Men, Music Theater: Marshall Severin

### **Honorable Mention**

- Senior Men, Classical: Marshall Severin ♦



## *Musical Groups Perform in London*

The CNU Marching Captains performed to record crowds and an international television audience of millions during London's 2012 New Year's Day Parade. The event celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and marked the beginning of London's much-anticipated Olympic year.

The invitation to perform represents one of the highest honors bestowed upon a university marching band. The Marching Captains performed in the parade's grand finale, garnering praise from TV personalities, parade officials and London's citizens for their musical excellence, high energy and infectious enthusiasm.

The CNU Women's Chorus joined the marching band on the trip, singing evensong on New Year's Eve from the hallowed wooden stalls of Westminster Abbey. The chorus also sang Handel's "Coronation Anthems" in Southwark Cathedral under the direction of world-renowned maestro Simon Carrington. ♦





# Honoring the Class of '62

Christopher Newport turns the spotlight on Dr. Lois Wright, the institution's first graduate.



**D**r. Lois Wright is the Christopher Newport College Class of 1962. Not a member of the graduating class, but *the* class. As in, one of one. First alumna is a distinction few among us can claim, given most colleges and universities are far older than CNU at 50. Virginia Tech is 140 years old. The University of Virginia is 193. Mary Washington is 104 years old. And the College of William & Mary ...? 319. CNU's relative youth means the University's history is still in the making.



At this year's commencement exercises, Wright graduated again, receiving an honorary doctorate in humanities in recognition of her singular tie to the University, and for the success she achieved in her career in social work and academia. "My first reaction was shock," Wright recalls when President Paul Tribble informed her in April she would be awarded the honorary degree. "I had been away from CNU for 50 years, and it felt as though it was happening to someone else. Over time, I came to find the meaning in it."

Wright fondly remembers her time at Christopher Newport in terms that must be universal for college students: better than high school. She enjoyed more interesting classes, a less rigid schedule and more freedom. Christopher Newport was actually her second college home. She spent a year at the University of Kentucky in hopes of following in her father's

footsteps, who had earned a master's degree in physics there. "The University of Kentucky has a lovely campus in Lexington. It's huge, just huge, and that was not for me. I'm not sure I ever found my way to all my classes," she recalls.

Deciding a smaller school and a degree in the humanities suited her better, Wright, a native of Hampton, Va., decided to return home and attend the College of William & Mary. It was August when she returned to Virginia, and she was advised

to attend brand-new Christopher Newport College, which had been established by the Virginia General Assembly in 1960 as a two-year division of William & Mary. Wright planned to attend Christopher Newport for a year, earn her associate degree and then head to Williamsburg to earn her bachelor's degree.

At that time, Christopher Newport was housed in the former John W. Daniel Elementary School in downtown Newport News, which had been built at the turn of the 20th

English with the college's youngest faculty member, Barry Wood, and an American history course with Robert Usry, the oldest.<sup>1</sup> She took French with Augustin Maissen, and writing and public speaking courses with Faye Green, whose classes kindled her desire to write. Green "gave good feedback on papers, and that kind of interaction about writing really reinforced that that was the direction I wanted to go," Wright says. Economics with Allen Tanner and botany with Georgia Hunter rounded out her schedule.



**Scotty Cunningham presents Lois Wright with her associate in arts diploma as her parents look on. It was the first degree awarded by Christopher Newport, in 1962.**

century and refurbished to house the newborn college. Wright felt special "to go to school in this precious old schoolhouse with a very small class. I never got lost — I knew faculty." Her experience was as diametrically opposed to her first year at the massive University of Kentucky as it could be. "It suited me very well — interacting with students who were all experiencing that freshness. It was very exciting to be a part of," she says.

When classes began on Sept. 18, 1961, Wright's coursework included

Being in college in the early 1960s carried a different set of pressures and distractions than today's students face. Then, the Cold War and the quest for supremacy in space made daily headlines. Racial tensions were high, and student and women's movements were starting to demand greater equality. Although Wright acknowledges these circumstances, she says she never felt her future was uncertain or her success in doubt. She worries the

economy and job market may prevent today's students from making the most of their time in college. "Some people get out of school and make unbelievably huge salaries, but I think in terms of the international situation and politics, social issues and economic issues, it's harder," she says. "If you're too preoccupied all the time with social and economic issues your mind doesn't have time to play." She recalls a line from the Gerard

<sup>1</sup> **Hamilton, Phillip.** *Serving the Old Dominion: A History of Christopher Newport University, 1958-2011.* Macon: Mercer University Press, 2011.



Manley Hopkins poem “My Own Heart Let Me More Have Pity On”: “leave comfort root-room.’ I think about that a lot. I have worried for years about the stresses on students of having to divide their time among raising or supporting a family and themselves, and studies. I think it’s easier to lighten up and free the mind if you don’t have all these other pressures. That’s where true creativity comes from, and being able to absorb and personalize anything you’re learning instead of just memorizing facts comes from that loosening of the mind.”

The year Wright spent at the University of Kentucky meant she needed only one more year of study to earn her associate degree, which gave her the jump on the other students who enrolled at Christopher Newport that first year in 1961. Accordingly, Director H. Westcott “Scotty” Cunningham presented Wright with a diploma for her associate in arts degree on June 8, 1962, the only degree awarded that year. “At the time, I had no idea that I was the

first graduating class until Scotty Cunningham told me,” Wright recalls. “It was a combination of shock and amusement because I’ve never heard of a graduating class of one. I had no idea of the status of the other students who were in my class, so it was quite a surprise. Through the

ready for adventure, Wright headed to Greensboro, N.C. A friend was attending graduate school there and invited Wright to stay with her. Wright accepted a job with the Guilford County Department of Public Welfare in Greensboro, which was her entry into what became a

career in social work. She spent a year in Greensboro and, feeling the lure of home again, returned to Virginia where she served as a social worker for a year in Mathews. After earning a master’s degree in social work at Richmond Professional Institute, which later became Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), she worked at Eastern State

Hospital in Williamsburg as a psychiatric social worker. While there, she returned to William & Mary and earned a doctorate in education in 1978. The next year she was hired as an assistant professor at the University of South Carolina, where she remained for the next 23 years.



**Dr. Lois Wright received her honorary doctorate from CNU in 2012.**

years I’ve thought of it more in terms of historical significance — although I hate to think I’m historical!” she says.

That fall Wright enrolled at William & Mary to pursue her newfound passion for writing and literature, graduating with a bachelor’s degree in English. Diplomas in hand, and

**Below: Christopher Newport “First Decaders” (attendees between 1961-71) during the First Decader Reunion as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations. Dr. Wright is pictured in the front row, 10th from left.**





At South Carolina Wright rose to the rank of full professor and was assistant dean of the College of Social Work, where she focused on research and external funding. "It happened very serendipitously, as a lot of things do," she says. "I was asked to write a grant, and it was funded, and the next year I wrote another grant, and it was funded. I was having such good success with writing grants that I became the assistant dean." For Wright, who had always wanted to be a writer, it was a chance to fulfill a dream. "I've always said if you can't find the job you want, make the job you find into the one you want," she says. "And writing was what I always liked to do. Even though my field had switched to social work, 80 percent of my time was spent writing, either writing policy or college studies, proposals, and reports." As assistant dean, Wright helped establish the Center for Child and Family Studies, a research and training institute at the University of South Carolina.

She retired in 2002 and returned to Williamsburg, working as an evaluator at VCU and Norfolk State University, where she assessed training and education services those institutions provided to state and local governments. She also taught online healthcare courses and evaluated undergraduate and graduate

social work students' progress in field practicums at VCU. She retired a second time last May and hasn't looked back. "Every morning I get up and realize I don't have to get dressed!" she says.

Wright revels in retirement, using her time to nurture her love for music, which had fallen by the wayside as the demands of her career increased. She frequently sings at her church and plays keyboard with the Ford's Colony Dance Band. She has even taken a burgeoning interest in music composition with the aid of computer software. She's an avid attendee of performances at CNU's Ferguson Center for the Arts, which she calls "a great blessing for the community."

Christopher Newport's first graduate focuses on two words when accounting for her success: perspective and kindness, and weaves them into advice for fellow graduates in the Class of 2012. "Life takes many twists and turns, and wonderful can turn into awful — or vice versa — in the twinkling of an eye," she says. "So don't be too shortsighted. Be patient. Wait and see. Stay on an even keel. The job you want but don't get can be the very thing that points you in another, better direction." Of her other watchword, kindness, she says, "We must be kind to one another. There is



## 50TH FACTS



# of buildings =  
square footage

1962

1 =

40,000

2012

37 =

2,411,359

much in the world that we can't fix or even understand. But day in and day out, we can be kind to one another, support one another, find the best in one another."

It's a lesson she learned over a long career of helping others. ♦

—Brian McGuire





# Christopher Newport Distinguished Alumni

The following individuals were honored during Christopher Newport's 50th anniversary celebrations. Join us in recognizing our 50th Anniversary Distinguished Alumni — accomplished graduates who have made an impact in their communities, in their careers and through their ongoing association with CNU.



**Gary Abbott ('01)**  
Attorney, Consumer Advocate



**Kathy Abbott ('77)**  
Chief Scientific and Technical Advisor for the Federal Aviation Administration



**Robin Abbott ('98)**  
Attorney, Consumer Advocate; former Delegate, Va. General Assembly



**Fred Arsenault ('02)**  
Actor, TV and Broadway



**Karen Barefoot ('95)**  
Head Coach, Women's Basketball, Old Dominion University





**Mary Bateman ('79)**  
Educator



**Melanie Rapp Beale ('90)**  
External Affairs  
Manager (Eastern  
Region), Dominion  
Virginia Power;  
former Delegate, Va.  
General Assembly



**Priscilla Bele ('81)**  
Commissioner of  
the Revenue, City of  
Newport News



**Alonzo Bell ('85)**  
President,  
Vega Volatility



**Joshua Birch ('03)**  
Engineer, Norfolk  
Naval Shipyard



**Lindsay Birch ('02)**  
Head Coach,  
Women's Volleyball,  
CNU



**Michelle Brauer ('78)**  
Software Developer



**William Brauer ('77)**  
Executive Vice  
President, CNU



**Regina Brayboy ('84)**  
Vice President of  
Administration and  
Financial Services,  
Virginia Port  
Authority



**Samuel Brayboy ('77)**  
Health Care  
Management  
Professional (retired)



**Randolph Bryant ('91)**  
President, Wolftrap  
Operations



**Brad Carmines ('73)**  
Physician



**Anne Conner ('91)**  
President, TowneBank  
Williamsburg



**Jane Hazelwood  
Cooper ('76)**  
Philanthropist



**Roseann DeBrango ('80)**  
Educator



## Christopher Newport Distinguished Alumni



**Douglas Duncan ('72)**  
President and CEO,  
FedEx Freight  
Corporation (retired)



**Timothy Eichenbrenner ('74)**  
Physician



**Raymond Ellis ('79)**  
Principal, Ellis and  
Associates



**Cary Epes ('77)**  
Chief Lending Officer,  
Old Point National  
Bank (retired)



**Jim Eyre ('75)**  
Executive Vice  
President, Chief  
Operating Officer  
and Chief Financial  
Officer, VBS Material  
Handling Equipment  
(retired)



**Sam Fairchild ('77)**  
CEO, Optiwind



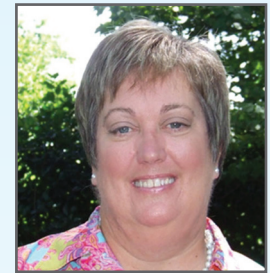
**Carl Farris ('74)**  
Managing Partner,  
ADS Management  
Group



**Vicki Freeman ('97)**  
Owner and Operator,  
P.S. Paperie and The  
Boutique



**Barry French ('77)**  
Senior Vice President,  
Banking (retired)



**Kristee West  
Georgiou ('90)**  
Educator



**Linda Gordon ('88)**  
Instructor, CNU  
English Department



**Margaret Gorin ('82)**  
Choreographer



**James Haggard ('77)**  
Regional Managing  
Partner, Dixon  
Hughes Goodman



**Lynn Haggard ('77)**  
Educator



**Frank Haislip ('84)**  
Regional President,  
Union First Market  
Bank





**Bobby Haywood ('93)**  
ROTC Instructor,  
CNU and the College  
of William & Mary



**James Healy ('78)**  
Engineer, Newport  
News Shipbuilding  
(retired)



**William Heath ('75)**  
Banker (retired)



**Corinne Hoffman ('03)**  
Dentist



**Heather Hoffman ('01)**  
Professor, George  
Washington  
University



**Lisa Hoffman ('00)**  
Dentist



**Phyllicia Hoffman  
Tanenbaum ('05)**  
Attorney



**Henry Jones ('75)**  
Owner, EZ Auto



**Steven Kast ('87)**  
President and CEO,  
Boys & Girls Clubs of  
the Virginia Peninsula



**Gregory Klich ('84)**  
Real Estate Developer



**William Littreal ('92)**  
Senior Executive Vice  
President and Chief  
Operating Officer,  
TowneBank



**Fernando Maestre ('85)**  
Owner, F & L  
Enterprises



**Rebecca McCoy ('91)**  
President, McCoy  
Associates



**Madeline McMillan ('95)**  
Vice Mayor, City of  
Newport News



**Mary Ellen  
McMurrin ('90)**  
Philanthropist



# Christopher Newport Distinguished Alumni



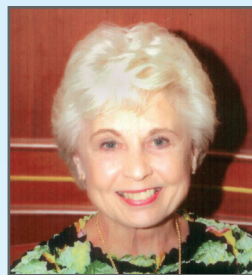
**Muriel Millar ('88)**  
Corporate Controller,  
Specialty Foods  
Group



**Scott Millar ('85)**  
Senior Director of  
Human Resources,  
Canon Virginia



**Pat Minetti ('77)**  
Chief of Police,  
Hampton, Va.  
(retired)



**Joan Morris ('74)**  
District Court Judge  
(retired)



**Joe Pombriant ('99)**  
Founder, Alacrity  
Financial



**Sharon Scott ('94)**  
President, SPS  
Professionals;  
Councilwoman, City  
of Newport News



**Brian Skinner ('92)**  
President, TowneBank  
Peninsula



**Candi Skinner ('95)**  
Principal, Yorktown  
Middle School



**Jane Speegle ('74)**  
Philanthropist



**Michael Ware ('82)**  
Attorney



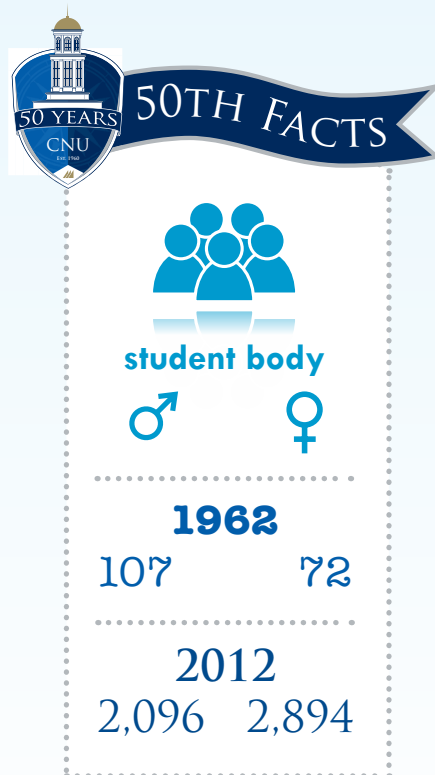
**Jon Waters ('91)**  
Interim Director of  
Athletics, CNU



**Alan Witt ('76)**  
CEO, Witt Mares



**Debbie Witt ('78)**  
Associate Dean of  
Admissions, CNU  
(retired)







# Building the future, together.

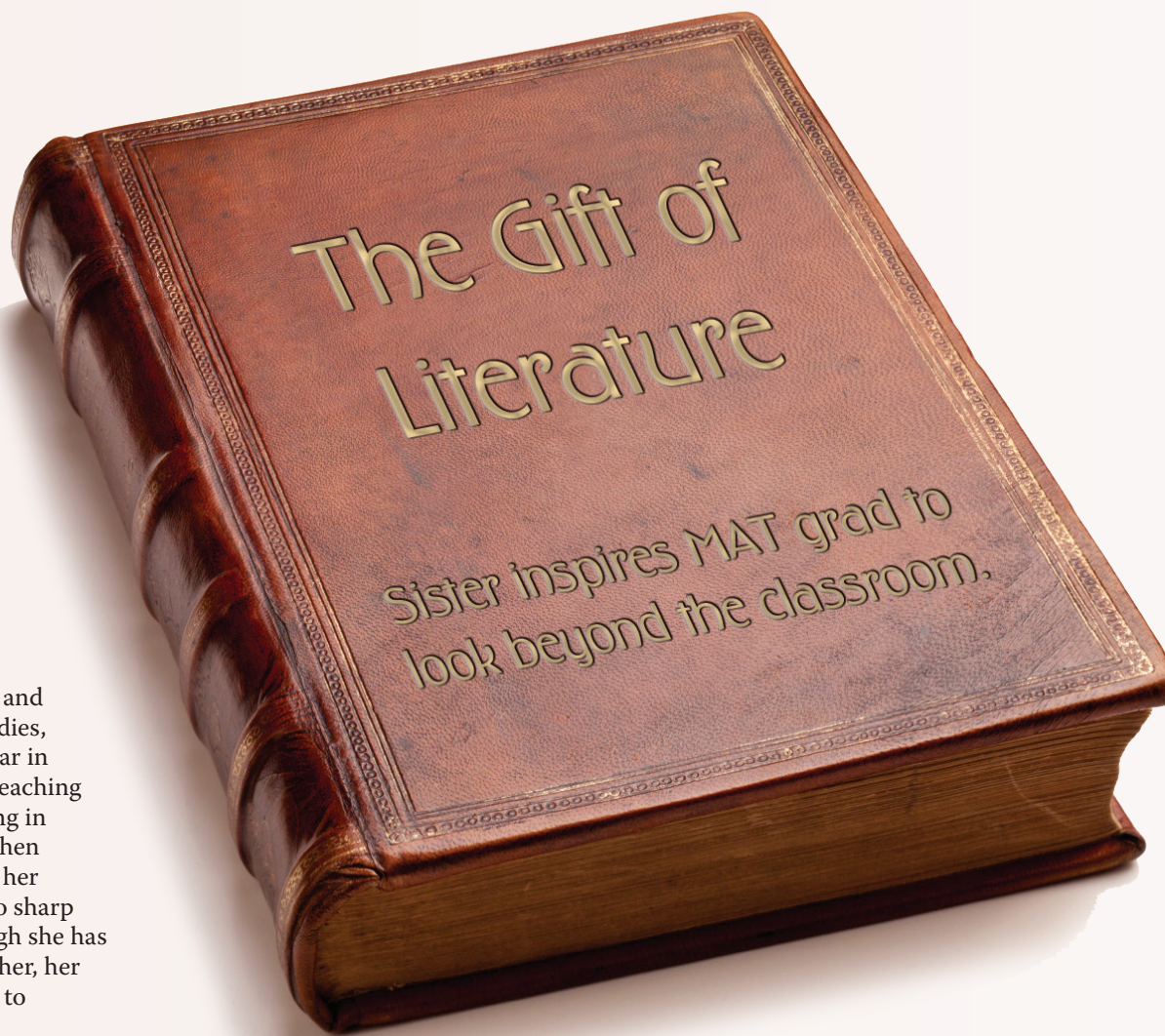


Technology is changing the way we partner for success. W. M. Jordan Company is building better and faster with the benefits of virtual construction. We combine the work of great minds and true craftsmen with the latest advancements in technology to provide our clients the best service in the industry. From residence halls to academic buildings and everything in between, we work together to carry out our mission - *the relentless pursuit of excellence.*

**We are proud to partner with Christopher Newport University. Congratulations on 50 years of excellence in education!**







**K**ari Berg leaves Christopher Newport University with a deep love of literature and a passion for working with children. She earned her bachelor's degree in English in 2011, concentrating in literature and minoring in childhood studies, and stayed on for a fifth year in CNU's Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program, graduating in May. But it was last year when a frightening diagnosis for her younger sister brought into sharp relief a feeling that, although she has always wanted to be a teacher, her career need not be limited to the classroom.

After 16-year-old Kelsey Berg was found to have aplastic anemia and paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria, a condition requiring a bone marrow transplant, the family's ensuing ordeal taught Kari that working with pediatric patients would be a part of her future. "Ever since I was young I dreamed of one day becoming a teacher," she says. "The MAT program has given me the knowledge and training to achieve this dream. My younger sister has inspired me to someday work one-on-one tutoring pediatric oncology patients who are pulled out of school for long periods of time."

Kari, from Williamsburg, Va., spent winter break of her senior year with Kelsey at Duke University Hospital's isolation unit for children where Kelsey underwent a blood and bone marrow transplant. Kari was touched

by the resilience of the patients at Duke, who faced their grueling drug regimens and treatments with courage. Many people of all ages wage a daily battle with serious medical conditions. But it is especially moving when children and teens suffer from cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Kids in the pediatric ward face isolation from outside visitors aside from their immediate families, doctors and social workers. As their immune systems are systematically destroyed through chemotherapy and radiation to prepare their bodies for new blood and marrow, the patients' lives hang in fragile balance. The slightest infection, cold or complication can be fatal.

There are, thankfully, distractions. As Kari learned, people who know and love music, art and literature play a central role in keeping patients' spirits

up and their imaginations engaged. The children are encouraged to come together for music, art, bingo, video games and movies. These activities give them a chance to be kids, even as they face such grave health challenges. Kari found herself in awe of the power these programs had to benefit the patients, and began to think of other ways to help them.

Her coursework in children's and adolescent literature showed her the lure books have for these age groups. Focusing her family's experience in the pediatric ward through the lens of her classroom learning, she wrote an essay outlining a potential reading program for the ward after she returned from winter break. "Books offer new perspectives, life lessons and adventures into other worlds," she wrote. But unlike toys, which can be easily sanitized, books



cannot be washed. They pass through many hands that carry bacteria and germs that can be deadly to the young patients in their perilously weakened states. Kari thought of other ways to share books with them. “Just as there is an hour for music or art for the children, there could be story time where they come together to listen to someone read a book, or there could be a branch of volunteers that read individually to children,” she wrote.

Her essay won the English department’s Dr. Joyce K. Sancetta Award, a \$500 award restricted to book purchases. The prize is named for Joyce Sancetta, who taught at Christopher Newport in the 1960s and 1970s. As a prospective teacher, Kari knew she could use the funds to stock her new classroom. But she also contacted the Duke Hospital family support team and asked if she could use the money to instead donate Nook e-readers, which can easily be cleaned after each use, for patients to use during their stay. The hospital had just received a host of donated iPads but took the suggestion to heart and installed an e-book application to enable the patients to read on the devices.

Kelsey Berg was able to return to school part time this year after a lengthy stay at home as her body and immune system recovered. Patients like her are pulled out of school, often for months at a time, and can fall far behind their classmates. But Kelsey was able to resume her studies after her recovery and graduate. She plans to follow in her sister’s footsteps and enroll at CNU this fall.

Although unsure what the future holds — whether it includes volunteering,

social work, classroom teaching, tutoring pediatric oncology patients or a combination of all four — Kari knows it will center on teaching and empowering children through literature. “Hopefully, as I embark on my own journey into the teaching profession, I will carry on my professors’ wisdom, compassion and love of reading and writing to my own students,” she says. Reaching people through books is central to the person she has become, and her goal now is to share her passion with others. During her months of isolation in the pediatric ward, Kelsey had sought to escape into the fantastical world of the Harry Potter series but did not have the energy to read the lengthy books. She and Kari made a pact to read the books together this summer after both graduated, Kari from graduate school at CNU, Kelsey from high school. It will be an indulgence well-earned. ♦ — Brian McGuire



## 50TH FACTS



# of books in  
the library

1962  
3,500

2012  
212,355



Sisters Kelsey (left) and Kari Berg



# Exploring the Great Dismal Swamp

CNU's Center for Wetland Conservation sees opportunity in loss.







Dr. Robert Atkinson, CNU professor, surveys fire damage in the Great Dismal Swamp.



**T**he Corapeake Ditch road is rough, paved with gravel, rock and sand, and straight as a ruler. It leads directly into the Dismal

Swamp, densely lined with trees and tall grasses. Deer and wild turkeys dart across, startled by approaching vehicles. After about a mile, the trees abruptly end, and on either side of the road is a tableau of desolation made all the more dramatic by the lushness of the approach. On the left-hand side, to the north, the Earth is black; ink-like water fills the hollows in piles of charred and fallen trees for miles. Even the ground itself is gone, burned away, and undermined tree roots clutch at the air like skeletal fingers. To the right, southward, the damage is different, less total. Nearly everything is burned, but some branches and underbrush remain, and the water is shallow. The soil was not scoured away like it was to the north. It's as if

one side of the road is hope and the other despair. This is the burn scar.

The Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge was created by Congress in 1974. It straddles the Virginia-North Carolina state lines and includes forest; Lake Drummond, one of only two natural lakes in Virginia; and vast wetlands and peat bogs covering some 112,000 acres. In the 18th century, George Washington organized the Dismal Swamp Land Company and oversaw drainage and logging operations here. These activities resulted in a system of ditches dug either for drainage or to float coveted cedar logs out of the swamp's interior. Now, more than 200 years later, these ditches rob the peatlands of water, and droughts turn them into tinderboxes. When a fire ignites, usually through a lightning strike, it can scorch huge swaths of the swamp.

Dr. Robert Atkinson founded Christopher Newport University's Center for Wetland Conservation (CWC) in 2007 to address environmental problems that arise in ecosystems like the Dismal Swamp. Atkinson, who joined CNU in 1995, is a professor of biology and a certified professional wetland scientist. He describes the CWC's focus broadly: "It's almost the entirety of human endeavor that's covered. It ranges from poetry to math to chemistry to physics. Ecology does that — it really integrates. We hope to involve faculty from all three colleges at the University in our work, and we've already engaged faculty from other universities."

The ecology and restoration of Atlantic white cedar swamps is a main research area for the CWC. White cedar were once plentiful in the Dismal Swamp, but logging and, more recently, damage from storms

**The 2011 Lateral West Fire burned more than 6,500 acres in the Dismal Swamp, including several feet of peat, leaving trees with no ground to stand on.**





and fires has drastically reduced their numbers. The cedar's natural range stretches from Mississippi to Maine, but the trees are threatened and largely confined to refuges like the Dismal Swamp. Atlantic white cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*) are particular about where they grow, and according to the CWC, cedar swamps have all but disappeared since the Jamestown colonists reported seeing the trees upon landing in Virginia in 1607.

Atlantic white cedar are important to conservationists as a species known for its ability to sequester carbon, a major greenhouse gas. The trees and the peat in which they stand also trap harmful mercury and keep it from entering the atmosphere and local waterways fed by the swamp. Peat is plant matter — carbon — that does not decompose due to the high water table of a swamp environment. Wildfires release huge amounts of both pollutants.

In 2003 Hurricane Isabel wrought havoc on the last remaining pure cedar stands in the Dismal Swamp, the largest in the historic range of the trees. Pure stands are those where cedar are the only canopy trees present, as opposed to mixed stands, which include other species. After Isabel blew down many of the trees, most of the remaining cedar have since burned in two recent wildfires: the South One Fire in 2008, and last summer's Lateral West Fire, which consumed more than 6,500 acres, including the CWC's study

plots, where workers had planted new cedars. The fires also burned away several feet of peat and sent up an acrid smoke plume that blanketed the surrounding communities for months. For Atkinson and his student colleagues at the CWC, the losses to the cedar population raised a critical question: "Can the remaining 8,000 acres of mixed [cedar] stands

**"The participation of students and their commitment to what the center is trying to do makes it all worthwhile."**



**Sophomore Kristina Kowalski walks through the ashes of the once lush area.**

be managed so they become pure stands and the refuge doesn't have extirpation of an ecosystem?" he says.

Although these particular fires devastated the cedar stands, the trees actually depend on fire to propagate, says Atkinson. But, he continues, fires are only beneficial when the

peat in which the trees stand is wet. "Every gardener knows the natural state of peat is to be saturated with water, particularly as it occurs in a swamp," he says. In this healthy state, fallen cedar seeds are protected from fires, which otherwise burn away undergrowth that blocks sunlight and hinders the growth of seedlings. Atkinson adds that the timing of the

2011 fire and the condition of the swamp at the time it ignited — the water level had fallen critically, drying out the peat and turning it into fuel — were catastrophic. Such fires are not only destructive, but also costly to fight. According to a *Washington Post* article published in March, the refuge estimates the cost of fighting fires in the Dismal Swamp since 2008 to be around \$25 million.

And yet, Atkinson sees a silver lining in the midst of all the loss. "Given that about 1,000 years of peat accumulation was burned up, the logs that had been buried in that peat, which are now exposed, give us a chance to extend our tree-ring chronology back from the 80 years in history we've been able to use for live trees, to as much as 3,000

— 6,000 years because the exposed logs may date back that far," he says. A study of such ancient logs would give scientists a greater understanding of the cedar's ecosystem before humans arrived, or at least before the ditches were dug, and may also provide clues that could help them unlock more workable preservation strategies.



# What Is the CWC?

Besides cedar restoration, Christopher Newport University's Center for Wetland Conservation focuses on biodiversity and endangered species conservation, climate change prevention and climate adaptation, and has undertaken a public-private partnership that seeks to improve wetland creation and restoration techniques. The center also leads a community conservation effort to enhance local wetlands. CWC personnel lead field trips for up to 2,000 student visitors per year. For more information, visit the center online at [cwc.cnu.edu](http://cwc.cnu.edu).



"Every time something bad happens in the environment it shifts the need for knowledge, and science tries to fill the gap," Atkinson says. He elaborates that the CWC plans to help restore the ecosystem by assisting in the management of the surviving mixed cedar stands and by assessing the refuge's response to the fires. "We'll be assisting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in evaluating the effects of water control structures in the ecology of the swamp, ranging from the effect on the plant community to mercury storage in the peat and climate change buffering that comes from all the carbon that's stored in the peat," Atkinson says.

The center is also developing a network of researchers in order

to better understand the state of the cedar throughout the trees' range, including new partners in Massachusetts, North Carolina and Mississippi to gain a greater understanding of different cedar ecosystems. "In spite of the sometimes seemingly desperate environmental situations we work in, the participation of students and their commitment to what the center is trying to do makes it all worthwhile. It creates a sense of optimism and energy around finding solutions," Atkinson says.

More than 100 CNU students have studied cedar in six refuges, parks and other sites. Justin Weiser ('12) graduated with a BS in environmental science and will stay

on at Christopher Newport to earn his master's degree. He's been at the CWC for three years, where he wears many hats, doing field work, analyzing data and presenting findings at conferences. He also helps with some of the center's other initiatives, leading wetlands excursions for area middle and high school students. "My duties are always changing, but it has been the most valuable thing I have done here at school," Weiser says. A study abroad trip to Hummingbird Cay, a remote island in the Bahamas, over spring break this year was a transformative experience for Weiser and solidified his commitment to conservation. "Going to an isolated island for two weeks with no outside communication to perform scientific research has reinvigorated me and strengthened my decision for my career. After that trip, I know that I want to pursue a career in conservation and biology. It opened my eyes to the natural wonders around the world," he says. Weiser's graduate research focuses on the potential of the soil in the Dismal Swamp to release carbon.

For Atkinson, as CWC director, one of the most rewarding things is what CNU students teach *him* in the course of their time at the center. "It keeps me young and enthusiastic," he says of his experience as a mentor. He sums up students' major contribution in one word: commitment. "Many have done things that defy what most people would expect students are capable of," says Atkinson. He recounts the story of a CNU graduate student who carried more than 100 chainsawed slices from fallen cedar logs out of the Dismal Swamp after the refuge conducted salvage logging operations in the aftermath of Hurricane Isabel. "It's just miles of hiking through difficult terrain carrying heavy objects," Atkinson says. "And that project, because of the urgency of it, was necessarily unfunded. The economic value of

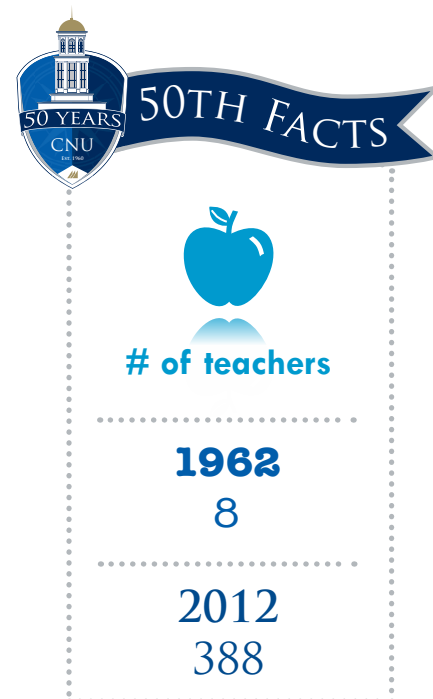


what those rings are teaching us about this ecosystem — that value to society having been done with the sweat and effort of one uncompensated student — those are just some of the lessons,” he says.

Atkinson also extols the opportunity CNU undergraduates have to present at conferences, usually the purview of graduate students and faculty researchers. Students at the center also write reports and lead field crews to places like the Dismal Swamp, which gives them an edge over graduates of other schools. “We not only benefit from that commitment, but also nurture it and educate it,” Atkinson says. “In society in general, a lot of people start out at a young age with an affinity for natural things, and that can become diluted as other life responsibilities become very real and prominent in people’s thinking and feeling about the world. That’s one of the reasons we pursue environmental education at the middle school through master’s level, so more people

can realize that a healthy nature is not only economically viable but essential to the quality of life on the planet,” says Atkinson.

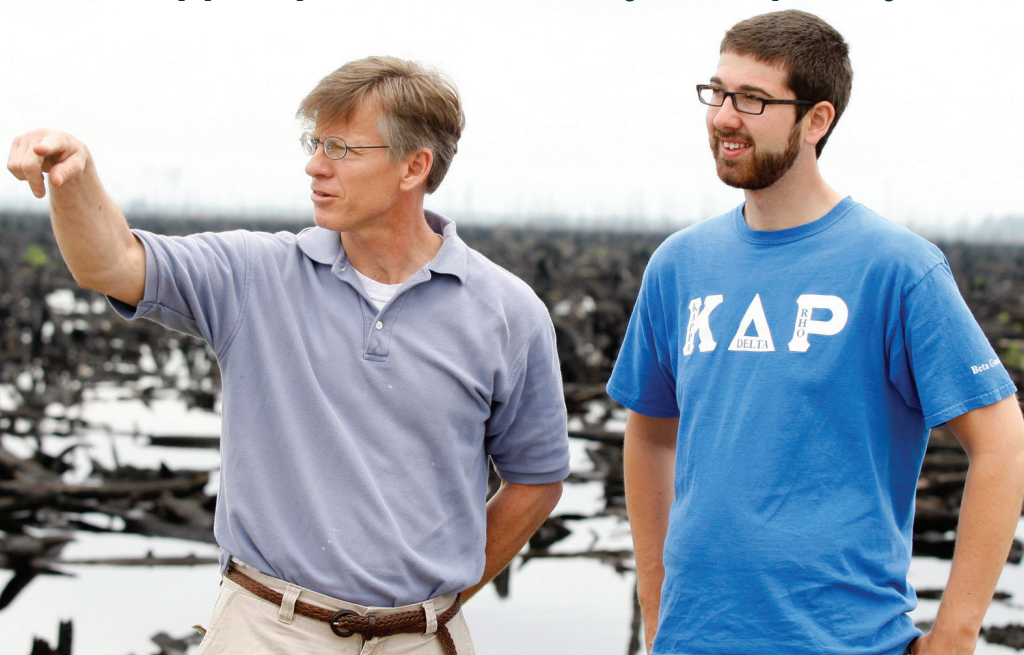
The CWC has grown over the past five years, winning grants and contracts in excess of \$800,000. The center is affiliated with the Department of Organismal and Environmental Biology, with brand-new office and lab space in Forbes Hall. Although the center’s external funding allows it to increase the depth and breadth of its project portfolio, the recent economic downturn has resulted in spending cuts to environmental projects. Trying to find a way forward given these fiscal constraints is an ongoing challenge at the center. Still, Atkinson remains undaunted in the face of all obstacles, whether natural or procedural. “There is a lot of environmental degradation at this point in our society. And that creates a lot of opportunity to do good,” he says. “A tragedy like the fire that struck at the worst possible time



for the endangered ecosystem creates opportunities to investigate how to get that ecosystem back in the face of events like that. So, the questions shift, and the needs change, and we try to respond.”

## 2012 Atlantic White Cedar Symposium

On June 12-14, the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge hosted the triennial Atlantic White Cedar Symposium. Ten CNU students presented their work at the conference, including Justin Weiser (pictured below at right). Weiser presented his findings from a project that analyzes how hydrology affects growth and survivorship of cedar in lands being restored by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. He and several other CWC current students and recent graduates will also write papers for publication in the forthcoming conference proceedings.



Back at the Corapeake Ditch, it is hard to see how Atkinson can express such optimism. The barren flatness and eerie silence seem somehow final, and the sparse trees etched like charcoal lines against the sky render the whole scene starkly in black and white. Then again, maybe hope is there, in the newly emergent vegetation that has slowly begun to re-carpet the burn scar. Although Atkinson says the Atlantic white cedar will not return to this area, the growth of other plants and trees will eventually hide the destruction wrought by hurricane and fire, and life will go on, albeit in altered form. ♦

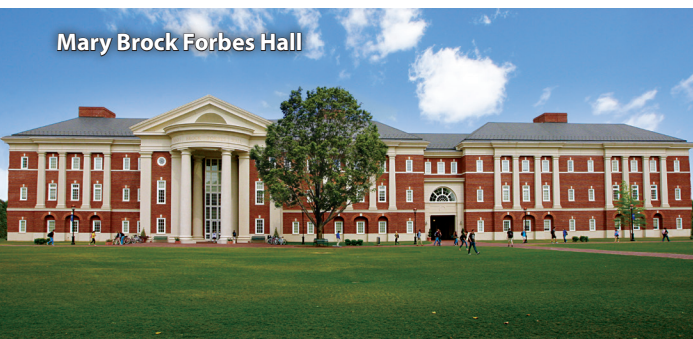
— Brian McGuire





# A CAMPUS FOR THE AGES

*SEVERAL BUILDING PROJECTS CONTINUE CNU'S STUNNING PHYSICAL TRANSFORMATION.*



Mary Brock Forbes Hall



Students working in Forbes Hall research space

Alumni visiting campus will notice several striking additions to Christopher Newport's landscape — noteworthy new facilities to enhance the CNU experience.

Our dramatic transformation continued last fall with the opening of **Mary Brock Forbes Hall**, a new home for innovative research and discovery. Named in honor of the beloved teacher and mother of the late Dr. Sarah Forbes, one of CNU's great champions and benefactors, the 160,000-square-foot integrated science center includes teaching labs and research spaces, classrooms, student study areas, and faculty offices. Forbes Hall houses the departments of molecular biology and

chemistry, organismal and environmental biology, and psychology.

Construction of Phase II of Mary Brock Forbes Hall is under way, with completion slated for October. Phase II will provide an additional 44,000 square feet of classroom space and a vivarium — an interactive space where students will participate in hands-on learning by raising animals and plants for observation and research.

**The Freeman Sports and Convocation Center** expansion and renovation was completed last August. The project added 67,000 square feet of state-of-the-art gymnasium, fitness, meeting and auxiliary spaces,



as well as the new 400-seat Gaines Theatre. The Freeman Center also houses the James C. Windsor Center for Health and Counseling Services (see page 4), while the Trieshmann Health and Fitness Pavilion exercise facility has doubled in size.

Additional changes are on the way, including new residential facilities. **Warwick River Residence Hall** is scheduled to open this fall. It will anchor the north end of campus and feature four-person suites and accommodations for 500 students. In 2013 CNU will open Rappahannock River Hall with 500 private bedrooms and baths for upper-class students. Both facilities will feature the modern amenities and technology that distinguish CNU from other schools, providing an incomparable “home away from home” for students.

The **CNU Chapel** is slated to open in late fall with students able to use the facility at the start of spring semester in January. Situated between the Ferguson Center for the Arts and the Tribble Library, the chapel will enrich campus life, welcoming people of all faiths through spiritual activities, lectures, musical performances, weddings and other special events.

**Luter Hall** will become CNU’s largest academic building upon completion in 2013. The new home of the Joseph W. Luter, III School of Business, it will also house the departments of economics; sociology, social work and anthropology; leadership and American studies; mathematics; and physics, computer science and engineering.

It will include a trading room; a small tiered lecture hall; 14 traditional classrooms; seven computer classrooms; nine teaching labs for physics, computer science and engineering; eight faculty and student research labs; three reading rooms; faculty offices; a boardroom; public interaction spaces; and state-of-the-art technology. ♦



Freeman Center, Gaines Theatre



Freeman Center, Trieshmann Health and Fitness Pavilion



Rendering of the CNU Chapel



CNU Chapel cupola being raised into place



# On the Fast Track to Success

Through her evolving career as a reporter, alumna Kaitlyn Vincie brings the exciting world of NASCAR racing to life.



“**M**y dad has always been interested in F1 racing and fast cars. I guess you could say it was in my blood, but I came into NASCAR specifically while in college after attending the All-Star Race in May 2008,” notes Kaitlyn Vincie ('10). “I had pit passes, and I loved the sport immediately.”

A member of the 2012 SPEED Road Tour Team, Vincie is making her dreams come true as a NASCAR reporter. Her experience includes serving as a pit reporter and TV personality at Langley Speedway in Hampton, Va. She has also enjoyed being a video content reporter covering the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series for the *NASCAR Illustrated* website SceneDaily.com.

The CNU communication major did everything possible to get involved in the sport — from interning with the USAR Pro Cup Series and traveling to local short tracks nationwide to covering NASCAR for *The Captain's Log* student newspaper during her junior and senior years. She

also interned at WTKR NewsChannel 3 in Norfolk, Va., and interviewed NASCAR Sprint Cup driver Jeff Burton. “That would mark my first driver interview,” Vincie says. “Eventually I landed a TV gig right after graduation with Langley Speedway TV and was a host and pit reporter for two years, covering all the NASCAR-sanctioned divisions.”

She soon began creating NASCAR video reports on the Cup series, posting them on YouTube — reports that eventually aired on SceneDaily.com. “This was a huge exposure and stepping stone for my work,” Vincie says.

Just this year she learned she would be working for SPEED Channel on their Road Tour Team, traveling to 19 Sprint Cup races. Among their various assignments, team members contribute to SPEED marketing initiatives and pre-shows at the SPEED stage for trackside, race-day and NASCAR live broadcasts. Additionally, they provide on-camera talent for Sprint Vision reports airing on screens at NASCAR Sprint Cup Series racetracks. “This newly



“This newly acquired job has to be the biggest accomplishment of my racing career. Working for SPEED has been a goal of mine for years; it's great to finally see it materialize.”



# VINCIE

acquired job has to be the biggest accomplishment of my racing career. Working for SPEED has been a goal of mine for years; it's great to finally see it materialize,” she says.

The education Vincie received at Christopher Newport provided an exceptional platform for reaching her professional goals. “It began with my internship with the CNU athletics communications department, which was my first experience in sports media and sports information,” she says. Her internship supervisors also introduced her to one of her closest mentors, Al Pearce, a NASCAR writer for *AutoWeek* magazine.

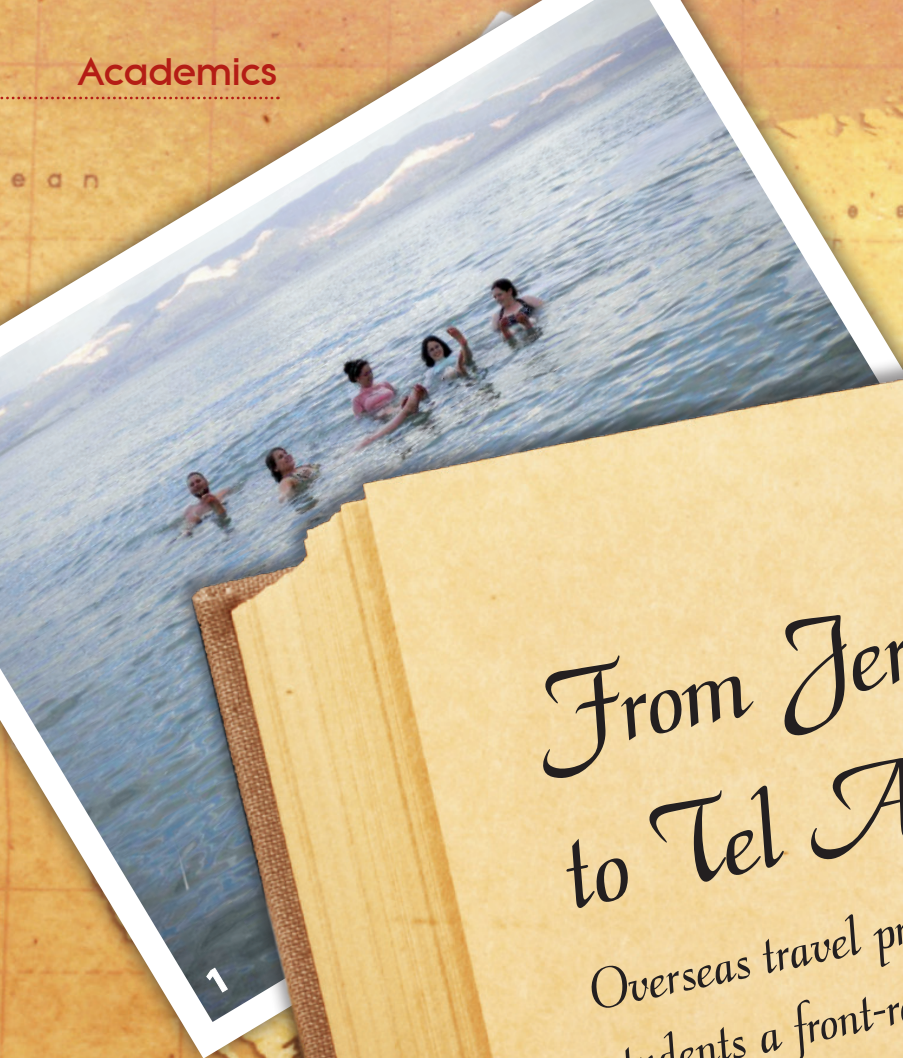
While Vincie finds it sometimes challenging to fit into a male-dominated sport, she notes that breaking into the field can prove difficult for anyone. And while NASCAR is the sport with the longest season (February to November), she never tires of the experience. “It's like a big traveling family, and a very close-knit industry,” she says. “The fans are absolutely one of my favorite parts as well.”

Given her love for the fast-paced and exciting world of racing, one might wonder if Vincie has the itch to drive herself. “I have done both a ride-along with NASCAR K&N Pro Series East driver Brandon Gdovic and driven my own stock car at the Richard Petty Driving Experience at Las Vegas Motor Speedway this past December. I was the fastest female at 122 mph and am kind of proud of that!” she notes. Both were incredible experiences, making her appreciate racing even more. “However, I would never consider my own career in driving.”

So what would Vincie's dream job be? “Becoming an on-air personality for SPEED on the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series. That has always been the ultimate goal.” ♦

— Matt Schnepf





# From Jerusalem to Tel Aviv

Overseas travel provides CNU  
students a front-row view of the  
Israeli-Palestinian conflict.





Global in scope, Christopher Newport's curriculum introduces undergraduates to diverse world cultures. During a recent study abroad excursion, several students toured Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Ramallah, Tiberias and Tel Aviv through GOVT 499, The Israeli-Palestinian Workshop.

These traveling scholars observed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict up close, witnessing the day-to-day realities surrounding it. "We can read books and articles published about the conflict but can never truly understand it if we don't witness the conflict and its effects firsthand," says student Taylor Ballenger, who completed the trip. "Seeing Israel and Palestine for yourself and meeting with people who work and hope for peace every day drastically changes how you view the conflict."

Several students arrived with preconceived notions of the conflict and the people involved, both Israelis and Palestinians. "After visiting, most of us have altered what our opinions are in some way," Ballenger notes. A political science major minoring in French and leadership studies, she had already completed GOVT 499. However, Dr. Tina Kempin Reuter, an assistant professor in the Department of Government, asked her to join the class during spring semester as a student assistant.

*"Seeing that people are still displaced and the conditions they must live in made me view the conflict in a new light."*

"The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is much more complex and fragmented than any of us anticipated before our visit to the area," Reuter says. "Our trip was a truly life-changing experience, and many of the students stated that they gained not only a deeper knowledge and insight into

the conflict but also an appreciation of how difficult peace talks are in such an environment — and the beginning of an emotional understanding of the issues faced by both Israelis and Palestinians."

Before the trip, students couldn't quite grasp the complexity and depth of the subject matter, but their up-close study changed that. "The conflict presented itself as a struggle over territory between two opposing sides, both of which would benefit from a speedy resolution of the issues," Reuter adds.

Visiting Bethlehem had a particularly strong impact on Ballenger, both on a personal and academic level. "We were able to walk up and down the separation wall, which surrounds Bethlehem on three sides, and also visit a refugee camp. Seeing the wall and







5

the camp made me see the conflict for all its intensity," she says. "Seeing that people are still displaced and the conditions they must live in made me view the conflict in a new light and afforded me a perspective of life in the West Bank most Americans never see or think about."

For many students, this wasn't their first experience abroad. "Most of us had traveled before so we knew we would experience some degree of culture shock in Israel," Ballenger says. "We all immediately loved the country and the people and were able to fully enjoy our time there, even if we were a little jet-lagged the first day!"

Extensive preparation went into the trip as students studied the conflict's core issues extensively and prepared research papers on selected topics. While in Israel they took political tours of East Jerusalem and Bethlehem. They also heard from several speakers: a Jewish settler from the West Bank; Elise Sjogren ('11), a CNU graduate teaching in East Jerusalem; an American embassy official in Tel Aviv; Dr. Abdul Hadi, who chairs the Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs; and a representative of the Palestinian Liberation Organization's Negotiation Support Unit.



6

Participants enjoyed a panel discussion with their counterparts at Birzeit University and Tel Aviv University, and they also participated in discussions on Israeli and Palestinian identities and the conflict's core issues. Sightseeing highlights included Masada, the Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Tel Aviv and the Old City of Jerusalem.

Through this seminar students developed a keen understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and, as a result, found themselves better equipped to finish their course studies. "The experience of studying abroad is like no other educational opportunity," Ballenger says. "This trip was unique in that it allowed us to apply what we were studying to the real world and see where the conflict takes place. Studying abroad gives greater insight into how the world works and how diverse societies really are. We got to experience a new culture and part of the world most people never do." ♦ — Matt Schnepf

*"Studying abroad gives greater insight into how the world works and how diverse societies really are."*

## GOVT 499 Snapshots

- 1) Swimming in the Dead Sea
- 2) CNU group at Masada
- 3) Education through sightseeing
- 4) A long way from home
- 5) Cultural immersion
- 6) Witnessing history up close

(Department/student-submitted photos)



# Captains Across the Globe



50TH FACTS



students from  
other states &  
countries

1962  
1 & 0

2012  
27 & 40



In recent years, international study has taken CNU Captains to diverse locales, including the following destinations:

- Australia
- The Bahamas
- Belgium
- Belize
- China
- Costa Rica
- France
- Germany
- India
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Mexico
- Panama
- Peru
- Rome
- Scotland
- South Africa
- Spain
- Switzerland

Whether traveling overseas as part of a class or spending a semester or summer abroad, Christopher Newport students expand their education around the world.

One such scholar, American studies major Marie Farley ('12), enjoyed studying at Moscow State University in Russia through the Smithfield Leadership Scholarship program at Christopher Newport. "It was amazing," she says. "I am so grateful for the opportunity. I think it changed me in a lot of ways. I have friends from all over the world and am more inspired to travel and learn new things." Farley went on to receive the Klich Award at graduation (see page 10).

Many exceptional CNU students enjoy studying at the **University of Oxford** in England through a standing partnership with the esteemed institution. Students may participate in either CNU summer programs at Oxford or attend the school during a regular academic term.

CNU is also the newest member of the **Principia Consortium**, a study abroad program hosted by the

University of Glasgow, an ancient and prestigious Scottish institution and the fourth-oldest university in the English-speaking world. The program enables honors students with SATs of 1300 or higher to study in Scotland's largest city.

Participants may select a wide range of classes from the University of Glasgow catalog. The program also includes coursework designed to dovetail with American pre-med programs, such as CNU's Pre-Med Scholars Program, and offers students enrichment in Scottish history and culture. Christopher Newport is the only Virginia school invited to join the consortium. ♦

Traveling abroad? Send us your picture in Captains attire and we might publish it!  
Email: [alumni@cnu.edu](mailto:alumni@cnu.edu)



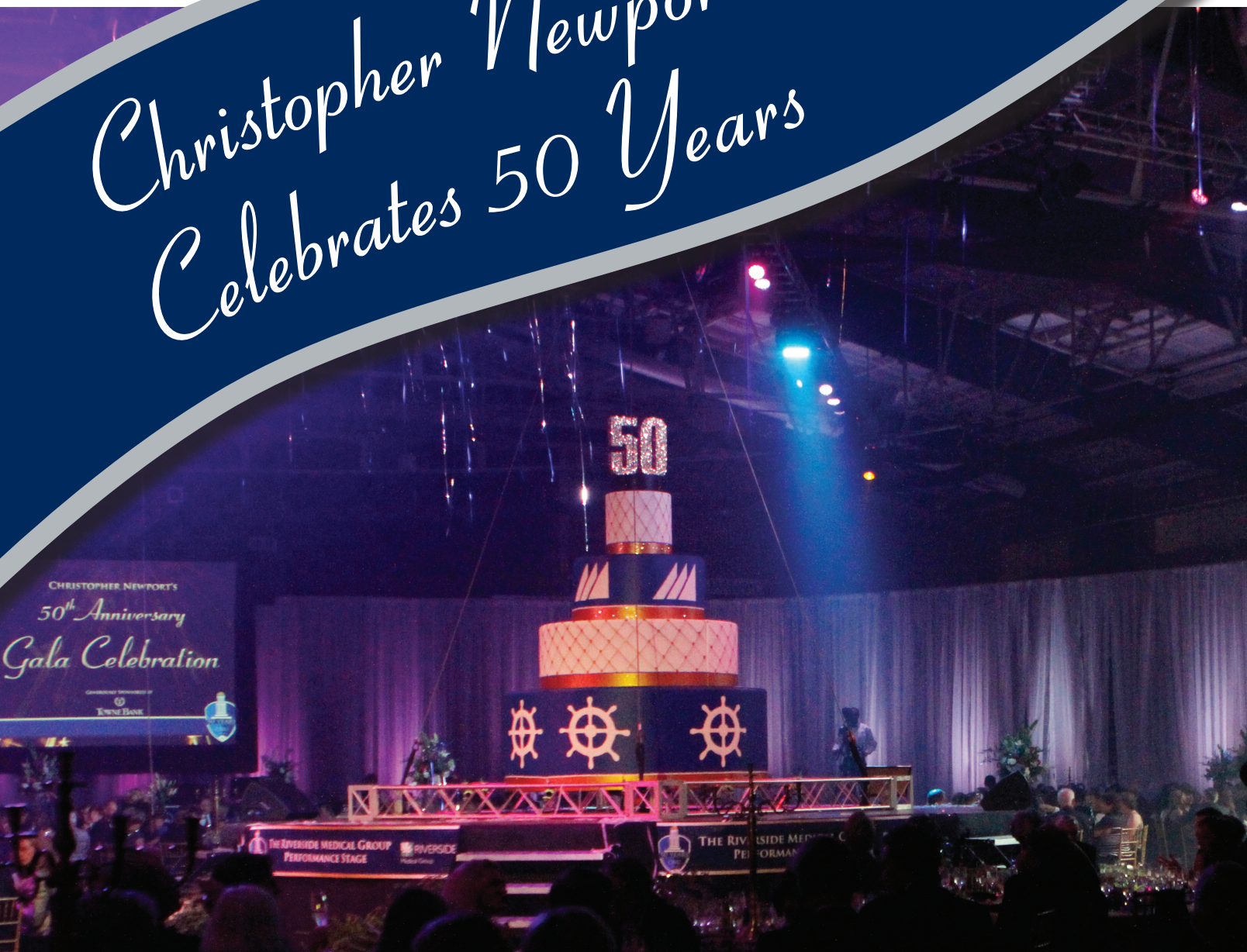
Twitter: @acaptainforlife



Facebook: Christopher Newport  
Alumni Society



# Christopher Newport Celebrates 50 Years



**T**hank you for helping us celebrate Christopher Newport's 50th anniversary. The festivities kicked off with a bang in September with the Virginia Symphony concert "Under the Stars" and our 50th Anniversary Weekend. Highlights included the First Decader Reunion and CNU's first night football game played under the lights at POMOCO Stadium.



The weekend's shining moment was the Gala Celebration. This event 50 years in the making took place Sept. 18, 2011, which marked the golden anniversary of the first day of classes at the Daniel School,

Christopher Newport's original location. The evening featured live performances by current students and alumni paired with an elegant multicourse dinner.

The 50th Anniversary Gala drew nearly 900 to campus for a fabulous celebration. Great patrons Smithfield Foods and Larry and Mary Pope gave gifts totaling \$6 million. And in true Captain spirit, those in attendance at the gala contributed an additional \$1 million for scholarships.

Our celebration continued with a festive Family Weekend and Homecoming in the fall, followed by several other activities held on CNU's campus. Here's to our next 50 years! ♦





A toast to our first 50 years



50th Anniversary Gala Celebration



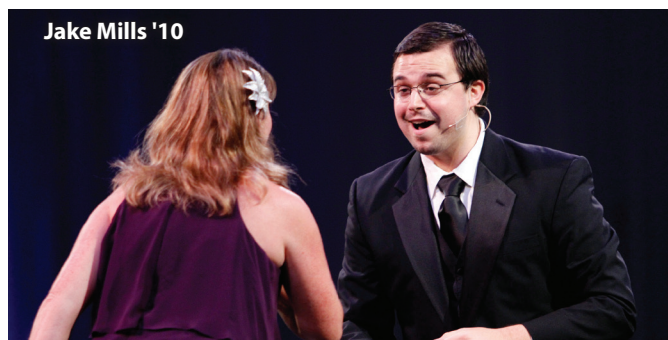
Lisa Helmi Johanson '07



Angela Hamilton '02



Jake Mills '10







Captains for Life — members of the Alumni Society board



First football game under the lights







The Virginia Symphony "Under the Stars" concert



The Virginia Symphony "Under the Stars" concert



The 11th Annual Alumni 5K Run







First Decader Reunion



First Decader Reunion

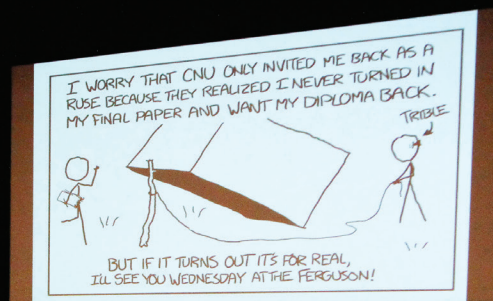


50th anniversary Fall Fest on the Great Lawn



# 'xkcd' Comes Home to CNU

*Randall Munroe reveals the inspiration behind his success.*



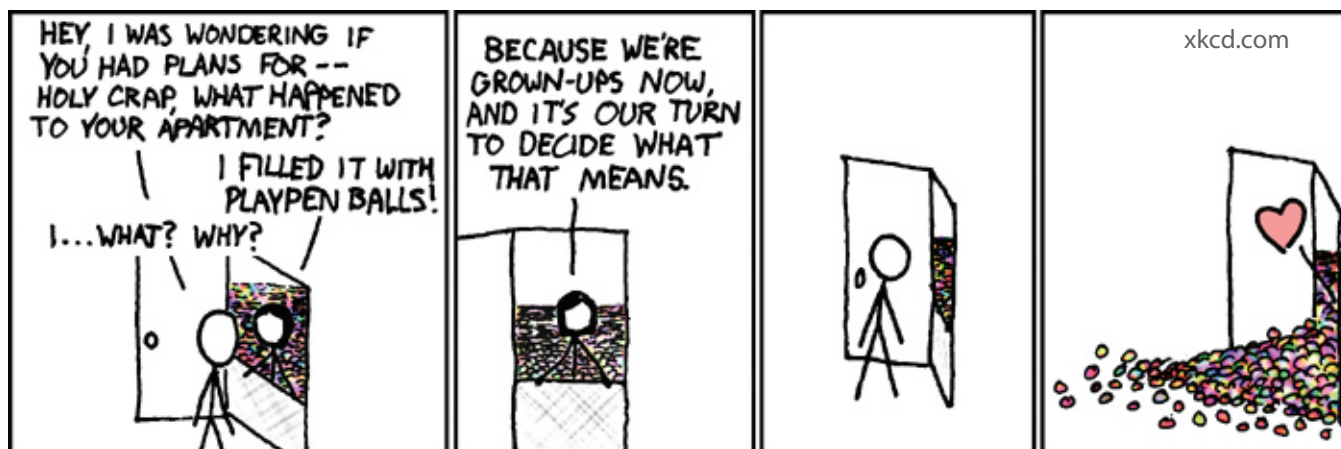
Randall Munroe speaks to a packed Ferguson Center in April. On the screen is one of several April Fools' comics posted on xkcd.com that day. This CNU-specific comic could only be seen within six miles of campus. Munroe and his partner used a computer algorithm to determine viewers' geographic locations and then displayed a comic relevant to that area. For example, viewers in Charlottesville and Blacksburg each saw a different comic playing up the UVA-Virginia Tech rivalry.

**H**umorist Randall Munroe ('06) has made a name for himself as a Web comic artist. "xkcd" is widely read online, worn on T-shirts and hung on posters in countless dorm rooms and office cubicles worldwide. Through "xkcd" Munroe explores computer science, technology, mathematics, science, language,

pop culture and romance. A string of characters that "doesn't mean anything," according to Munroe, the letters xkcd even resemble the stick figures so often depicted in the comic. Not for everyone, a disclaimer on xkcd.com reads, "Warning: this comic occasionally contains strong language (which may be unsuitable for children), unusual humor (which

may be unsuitable for adults), and advanced mathematics (which may be unsuitable for liberal-arts majors)."

Not content to work only in comedy, Munroe also undertakes serious projects via "xkcd," covering vast distances (sometimes literally) in scale drawings of the relative depths of lakes and oceans, the sizes of online





communities rendered as landmasses of an imaginary world, and a chart showing how (almost) all the money in the world is allocated.

The comic has earned mention in London's *The Guardian* and *The New York Times*. In 2011 Munroe was runner-up for the Hugo Award for Best Fan Artist, given annually by the World Science Fiction Convention for the best contributions to the genre. He has presented his work at MIT, Dartmouth and at Google headquarters in Mountain View, Calif. He returned to CNU in April for a talk about April Fools' jokes, flying invisible kites on the Great Lawn and turning his apartment into a ball pit after "xkcd" turned profitable.

As with many tales of inspiration, Munroe happened on the idea for "xkcd" by accident. "I had a bunch of notebooks, and I would always doodle in the corner of homework," he recalls, adding that many of his early drawings were done during math and physics lectures in Gosnold Hall. "Eventually I started to put more time into [the drawings] than I would into the work." Deciding the fruits of his doodling engaged him more than doing homework, he began using a small work area in old McMurran Hall, where he scanned the drawings and then posted them on a Web page he had created. The comic gradually began to gain an audience. After graduating from CNU, Munroe interned at NASA, where he worked on 3-D virtual reality and robotics projects. Ultimately, the contract funding ran out,

and he was faced with a choice. He had been producing "xkcd" all along, and started selling T-shirts printed with images from the comic. "That was making more money than these contract jobs, so I started doing it full time," Munroe says.

As for the name "xkcd," Munroe had it picked out long ago, though he didn't know at the time what it would come to be. "We got on AOL when I was really young," he says. "As I got older

what I was into kept changing." He modified his screen name but grew tired of the constant updates to his online persona. Munroe came up with a string of letters he could use






to identify himself and as a brand for the various projects he undertook. “I picked letters that were ambiguous so I could use them everywhere, that would be easy to type and that weren’t taken as a screen name,” he remembers. A few years later it became the title of his comic as well.


For inspiration, both artistic and thematic, Munroe points to “The Far Side” and “Calvin and Hobbes” collections as his primary sources. “Any strips with gags in them I would just read over and over,” he says. His interests were broad enough to include writers like Richard Feynman and Edward Tufte, who combine a scientific acumen with an ability to elucidate their theories for a general audience, and, in the case of Tufte, to render complex concepts simply,

kind of have to get things to work by doing both of them,” he says. Working in both artistic and scientific modes has a business advantage as well, allowing Munroe to undertake more projects without having to worry if someone else has already done them. “There’s a lot less competition in doing both,” he says.

Aesthetically speaking, “xkcd” generally employs a template of stick-figures and sparse furnishings. Munroe attributes the standardization of his characters to utility rather than any kind of zeitgeist about modern life, of faceless humanity amid nondescript or interchangeable surroundings. “If I’m feeling really lazy one day, I don’t have to put a chair in the comic, but there usually have to be people,” he says. “If I make



# 50TH FACTS



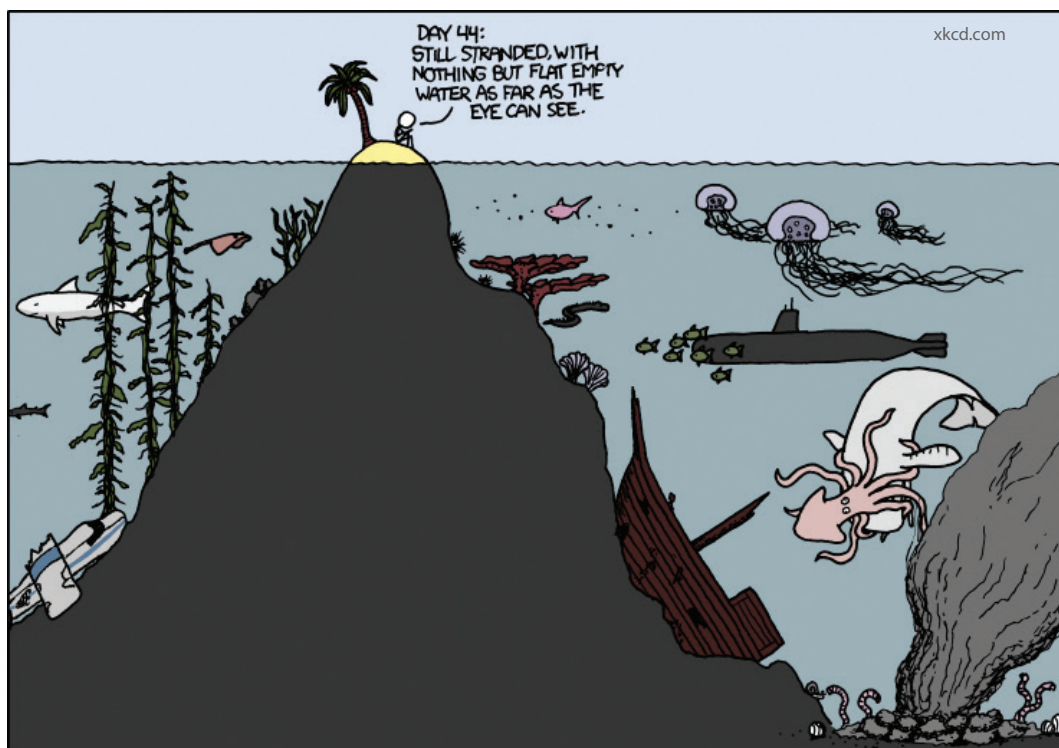
## # of courses

### 1962

### 52

### 2012

### 960



by visualizing them in novel ways. Munroe was greatly inspired by these writers, and their dedication to both art and science, something he is committed to exploring through “xkcd,” albeit self-effacingly: “If you’re not good enough at either one you

the people too complicated, then it’s going to be complicated every strip.” As for the jokes themselves, he tends to apply the same minimalist brush: “If you’re telling a joke it’s sometimes easy to put in too much detail. Whittling away a lot of the extra stuff

means that it’s just the joke,” says Munroe. “When you tell ‘a guy walks into a bar ...’ having too much detail about the bar doesn’t really improve the strength of the punch line.” Some of Munroe’s artistic choices also boil down to simple comfort with the



medium. "I've been drawing stick figures since I was a little kid. There are only a few variables to work with — the arms just have a couple poses. I don't think it's any special talent that I have; I've just drawn so many [that], eventually if I want to draw an angry stick figure, I know how to make them look away or toward something or tilt their heads. I just avoid emotions that

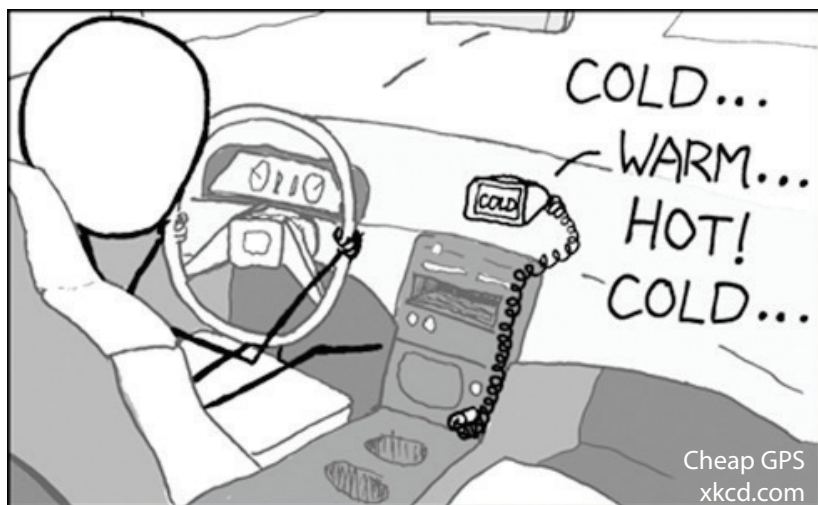
are too complicated," he jokes. Munroe's business arrangement at "xkcd" calls for him to draw and to delegate most of the back-office operations. "I work with someone who runs the servers and programs the store we're using," says Munroe. "There's a lot that has to get done at a certain time, and he's figured out that it's not going to get done if I

have to do it." The team works together to develop larger projects that they turn into merchandise for sale on the website. Munroe values ideas over marketability, something he knows his audience appreciates. "We have a variety of projects in the pipeline now, and several of them are things where there's no real obvious business benefit," he says. "But because of that it's the kind of thing no one's bothered to do ... that ultimately is better for whatever business you're doing, at least for something like this."

Munroe graduated from Christopher Newport University with a bachelor's degree in physics in 2006. He lives in Boston with his wife. ♦

— Brian McGuire

Read the full interview with Randall Munroe at [voyages.cnu.edu](http://voyages.cnu.edu).



[www.pomoco.com](http://www.pomoco.com)

**Pomoco Group, Inc. is  
A Proud Supporter of  
Christopher Newport University**





Lindsay Billmeyer '12  
Alumni Society Endowed Theater Scholarship

"With the confidence alumni support gave me, I was able to convince myself I am meant for big things and that my school believes in me."



Senior Victoria Mulgrew  
Betty Lockhart Anglin Endowed Art Scholarship

"Winning the scholarship has helped me significantly with paying my tuition."

# The Impact of Generosity

**A**cademic scholarships go a long way toward helping students achieve their dreams, and Christopher Newport alumni are key to making these awards possible.

A theater major and Spanish minor, recent CNU graduate Lindsay Billmeyer ('12) received the Christopher Newport Alumni Society Endowed Theater Scholarship, experiencing firsthand the generosity of Christopher Newport's graduates. "Alumni support can truly inspire a person," she says, detailing her transition from high school to college. "I went from being a big fish in a little pond of theater-kin to a little, tiny fish in a huge pond of professional actors and actresses. It was scary," she says.

When Billmeyer received her theater scholarship during spring semester of her freshman year she regained a sense of confidence. "It let me know I was doing good things and

people wanted me to succeed — not just my family, but the faculty, the sponsors and the graduates who once owned the same stage I did," she says. "Without that confidence, I could have made it, but with the confidence alumni support gave me, I was able to convince myself I am meant for big things and that my school believes in me."

Studio art major Victoria Mulgrew received the Alumni Society Betty Lockhart Anglin Endowed Art Scholarship. "Winning the scholarship has helped me significantly with paying my tuition," she says, adding that the scholarship provided her with a "boost" financially.

The Anglin scholarship has also made an impact on Sarah Wister, a studio art major/art history minor who launches her senior year this fall. She notes, "Because of the aid with tuition, it also alleviates some of the financial crunch of supplies necessary in my courses."

Alumni Society scholarships provide much more than financial assistance; they also inspire students to pursue academic excellence. "That's what school is for after all," Wister says. "Because of scholarships like these, I can look back years from now and know I have no regrets about missed opportunities that might have helped further my art."

Scholarship endowments benefit graduate students as well. Daniel Ellis, who is currently pursuing his MS in environmental science at CNU, received the Alumni Society Dr. H. Marshall Booker Graduate Studies Endowed Scholarship. Covering tuition, this award allows him to focus on his thesis.

Ellis affirms the valuable role alumni play in establishing a community of lifelong learners who demonstrate a commitment to education. "I have been able to conduct my research without having to worry about how or if I could pay for my classes. Instead





"I have been able to conduct my research without having to worry about how or if I could pay for my classes."

Graduate student Daniel Ellis  
*Dr. H. Marshall Booker Graduate Studies Endowed Scholarship*

Through scholarship endowments, the Christopher Newport Alumni Society makes higher education an attainable pursuit.

I have been able to devote all of my energy and attention to completing my research," he says.

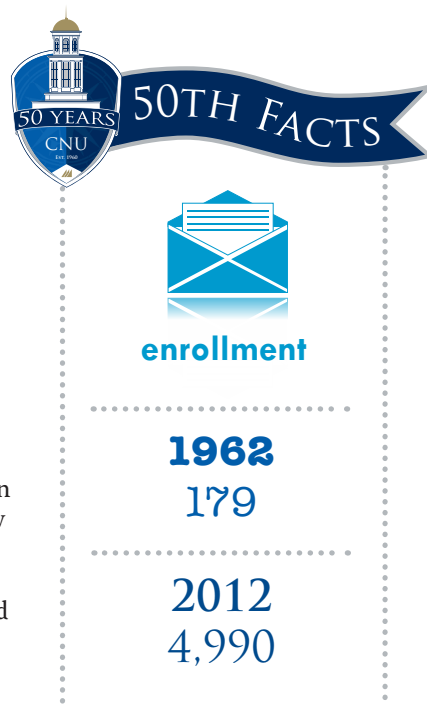
Sometimes the rewards come full circle as alumni gifts encourage recipients to pay it forward down the road, supporting future Captains. As Ellis states, "I hope to be in a position to do just that in the future." ♦

— Matt Schnepf

## Leave a Legacy!

You, too, can help current and future students pursue their dreams. CNU prepares talented young men and women for lifelong success, and establishing new scholarship funds is key to making this happen. Endowing a scholarship also provides an opportunity to honor a loved one's legacy.

Are you ready to make a difference? Contact Lucy Latchum today at (757) 594-7702 or [llatchum@cnu.edu](mailto:llatchum@cnu.edu) to learn more.



The following alumni scholarships are currently awarded to CNU students:

- Alumni Society Betty Lockhart Anglin Endowed Art Scholarship
- Alumni Society Dr. H. Marshall Booker Graduate Studies Endowed Scholarship
- Alumni Society James F. Draper Endowed Scholarship
- Alumni Society Healy Family Scholarship
- Alumni Society Endowed Music Scholarship
- Alumni Society Endowed Theater Scholarship
- Alumni Society Honors Scholarship



# CLASS OF 2012 SENIOR GIFT DONORS



The Class of 2012 chose for its senior gift to endow a scholarship to reward future Captains. The Class of 2012 Scholarship will be awarded each year to reward merit and provide financial assistance to a rising senior.

Alexis R. Abbey  
Rachel R. Adamo  
Curtis Michael Adkins  
Lauren T. Altemus  
Sussana Ampem  
Christina E. Anderson  
Shannon M. Arvai  
William T. Atkinson  
Miss Christine M. Audet  
Monica D. Augustenborg  
Adam T. Baker  
Taineka J. Baker  
Jessica A. Baraba  
Heather M. Barden  
Brian J. Barrett  
Rosemary T. Barton  
Alexandra N. Bartz  
Matthew A. Batdorf  
Russell K. Batra  
Emily R. Baumgardner  
Annalucia Bays  
Anne E. Beasley  
Jewell M. Beatley  
Jefferson M. Beavers  
Melanie R. Beck  
Caylen R. Beight  
Andrew W. Bell  
Kristen Y. Bell  
Laura Bellantoni  
Kari M. Berg  
Lindsay C. Billmeyer  
Corinne V. Birkeland  
Jordan N. Black  
Kelly J. Blackburn  
Christopher J. Blades  
Daniel E. Blakely  
Jennifer M. Bledsoe  
Sydney A. Blydenburgh  
Rebeka R. Boney  
Whitney N. Bonheim  
Agyeman P. Bonsu  
Austin J. Bopp

Bradley N. Borer  
Elise D. Borgese  
Krista L. Borling  
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Joshua N. Bowling  
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Stacey M. Boyle  
Marie L. Breninger  
James S. Briar  
Chelsea F. Brobst  
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Kelsey M. Brooks  
Megan K. Brooks  
Ashton E. Brown  
Jennifer S. Brown  
Ashley L. Burris  
Nicole J. Calderone  
Meghan K. Call  
Calvin D. Campbell  
Corinna M. Campbell  
Ashley M. Canty  
Jacob J. Capin  
Codi D. Carter  
Codie H. Casero  
Philip R. Cedor  
Kristen M. Ceglie  
Anthony D. Cetrone  
Alyson D. Chagnon  
Tejaswi Chalasani  
Ashleigh N. Chapman-Jones  
Stephanie A. Chavous  
Dayna V. Cheek  
Paige A. Childers  
Frank J. Chilli  
Lindsay K. Christensen  
Joshua W. Clary  
Shane M. Clary  
Katherine F. Clay  
Emily L. Cole  
Larry De'Sean Coleman  
Deirdre A. Collins  
Virginia L. Collins

Casey L. Comer  
Kelly L. Commenator  
Michael W. Conner Jr.  
James W. Cook  
Tiffany A. Cook  
Olivia J. Costello  
Christine M. Covert  
Caitlin M. Covington  
Diana M. Cox  
Elizabeth A. Craigie  
Cadence M. Culp  
Kasey N. Curtis  
Kelsey M. Daddio  
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Ashley N. Darden  
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Nicholas E. Dease  
Rachel A. Debrouse  
Amanda Jo DePoy  
Matthew T. DeWorken  
Kathryn Dietzel  
Ryan G. Dove  
Emily K. Driscoll  
Jessica R. DuBois  
Rae E. Duffy  
Joshua H. Duncan  
Megan L. Duncan  
Mark E. Dungan  
Stephanie M. Dunn  
Conlan F. Dwyer  
Jillian Eason  
Fikirta D. Eastman  
Andrea M. Ehlen  
Meredith Elliot  
Bailey K. Ellis  
Brandon D. English  
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Angela C. Evans  
Bryce A. Evason  
Ashley M. Even  
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Jennifer R. Falin  
Dannah S. Farah  
Hector J. Feliciano-Ayala  
Chelsea M. Feller  
Kelsey L. Ferguson  
Kelly C. Ferrell  
Caitlin D. Fields  
Kathryn A. Fitzgerald  
Lynsey M. Foley  
Taylor E. Foreman  
John D. Foust  
Erin E. Fowler  
Michelle C. Fox  
Christopher R. Frakes  
Rachel L. Fralick  
Erika E. Frantz  
Maurice D. Gaines  
Uneque C. Gaines  
Caitlin P. Gallagher  
Ciera S. Gallub  
Emily A. Garcia  
Alice K. Germain  
Kristen E. Gladfelter  
Jacqueline C. Glorfield  
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Rachel M. Goodwyn  
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Caroline E. Green  
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 Sarah-Day Hand  
 Dira N. Hansen  
 Kelsey E. Harbert  
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 Amanda A. Hartman  
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 Stephanie N. Hatton  
 Jennifer L. Hause  
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 Lorin E. Hicks  
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 Richard J. Hoesser  
 Jennifer L. Holloway  
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 Christine Mary Hood  
 Laura A. Howton  
 Chelsea N. Huber  
 Christa Huebner  
 Alisa F. Hughes  
 Nathan M. Illidge  
 Katelyn D. Irvine  
 Cheria C. Jackson  
 Jenna Jackson  
 Chelsea R. Jarman  
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 Anthony R. Johnson  
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 Hunter L. Shirley  
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# Promoting Career Success — Both Now and Later

*The Center for Career Planning offers incomparable services for Christopher Newport students and alumni.*



**W**hether you graduated from Christopher Newport this May or a few years ago, you probably experienced some feelings of uncertainty about your next steps. Maybe you weren't sure how your major prepared you for a job or career path, or didn't know whether to attend graduate school. You possibly consulted friends, family members or professors and followed their advice. Or perhaps you floundered a bit before finding your way.

Fortunately, there's good news for both current students and Christopher Newport alumni as the Center for Career Planning (CCP) offers a wide variety of resources for everyone — from freshmen to seasoned graduates.

## Student Engagement

Educating students about the lifelong process of career development and engaging them in exploring their interests, abilities and values represents the heart of the CCP mission. Students interact with the Center for Career Planning through individual appointments, workshops, career panels, employer information sessions, campus interviews, career fairs and employer site visits.

Career panels have proven quite popular with CNU students. Last November representatives from the FBI, the Federal Reserve, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Defense Intelligence Agency led the Careers in Government panel.

This spring's Careers in Math panel also drew a large crowd. Ed Maino, CNU parent and senior vice president for global procurement services at Capital One, served as a panelist. He notes, "I appreciate the opportunity to speak to the community of students enrolled as math majors about how I have been able to leverage my degree in mathematics in a career other than teaching. I was thrilled to see that the enrollment in the panel discussion was very strong — nearly exceeding the capacity of the room."

## Network Building

Building partnerships between students, faculty, staff and recruiters provides a vital step in each individual's career journey. The recent Resume Round Up helped accomplish this as recruiters met with students



and provided feedback on resumes. Whitney Swaim ('12) accepted a fulltime position with GEICO after making her first contact with the company through Resume Round Up. Recruiter Joanne Rodriguez noted soon after, "Whitney is great, and we can't wait for her to start after she graduates — I may have never met Whitney to encourage her to apply to GEICO otherwise!"

## Successful Recruiting

Through the CCP's recruiting program, students learn about opportunities where they can apply their CNU experiences and education. Organizations engage in the recruiting process by posting jobs, interviewing students on campus, hosting information sessions, participating in career fairs or hosting employer site visits.

The center holds two career fairs per year, and Christopher Newport alumni are key to their success. At the spring 2012 fair more than 20 alumni represented their employers, allowing nearly 500 students to hear directly from a CNU Captain what it's like to work for companies like Smithfield, Huntington Ingalls Industries, Capital One and Riverside Health Systems, to name a few. Mike Henle, CCP career counselor, says, "Alumni provide instant credibility and can show how their majors worked for them in the real world."

## Alumni Insight and Services

It's never too early or too late to take advantage of the many services offered by the CCP. The center's staff encourages students to build relationships — with professors and those working in their chosen fields, but most importantly with Christopher Newport graduates. Whether through face-to-face meetings, phone calls or LinkedIn connections, students discover that fellow Captains provide valuable insight into selecting a major, career paths, graduate school programs, and possible internships or job leads.

The center also has an open door for Christopher Newport alumni in the midst of job searches — as well as those changing careers. Phone appointments are a great way for Christopher Newport graduates no longer living in Newport News to obtain the advice they need.

## Staying Connected

Alumni who want to get involved with the CCP should register as a contact on CNU Career Connect at **[myinterfase.com/cnu/employer](http://myinterfase.com/cnu/employer)** to receive emails about upcoming events and opportunities for involvement. They can also post job, internship and career opportunities on CNU Career Connect.

### Top 10 Ways for Alumni to Engage With the CCP

1. Tell the CCP where you are working (visit [cnu.edu/ccp/alumni](http://cnu.edu/ccp/alumni))
2. Help the center build a relationship with your organization's recruiting department
3. Join LinkedIn, connect with CNU students and graduates, and join the "Christopher Newport University Alumni (CNU)" Group
4. Post career and internship opportunities on CNU Career Connect ([myinterfase.com/cnu/employer](http://myinterfase.com/cnu/employer))
5. Email the CCP ([ccp@cnu.edu](mailto:ccp@cnu.edu)) your best career advice for students
6. Represent your company/graduate school at CNU career events
7. Share your work and graduate school experiences by mentoring students
8. Encourage students to network and utilize campus resources, such as the CCP
9. Volunteer for career events at CNU and attend alumni events in your area
10. Reach out to the CCP for personal career assistance

### Contact Us

Center for Career Planning  
David Student Union, Suite 3100  
Phone: (757) 594-8887  
Email: [ccp@cnu.edu](mailto:ccp@cnu.edu)  
Web: [ccp.cnu.edu](http://ccp.cnu.edu)

Like our Facebook page! Search for "CNU Center for Career Planning."

To schedule an event or to request additional information, please contact Monica Nolan ('06), corporate recruitment coordinator, at (757) 594-8859 or [monica.nolan@cnu.edu](mailto:monica.nolan@cnu.edu). ♦  
— CCP Staff and Marlaina Peelen '12

**Fall 2012 Career and Graduate School Fair**  
Thursday, Sept. 27 (*Registration is open on CNU Career Connect.*)

**Spring 2013 Career and Graduate School Fair**  
Thursday, Jan. 31





# CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT ALUMNI

*Captain for Life*

## MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT ALUMNI SOCIETY IS FREE AND PROVIDES GREAT BENEFITS!

As a Captain for Life and member of the Christopher Newport Alumni Society, you can enjoy discounts and benefits while helping the Alumni Society at the same time! Membership in the Alumni Society is free and comes with the following benefits and select discounts:

### CAREER PLANNING

The services of CNU's Center for Career Planning continue free for life to alumni! Resume editing, job searching, job posting and all things career-related are available after graduation and throughout your career. Stay connected at [ccp.cnu.edu](http://ccp.cnu.edu).

### CAPTAIN FOR LIFE NETWORK

Alumni chapters offer Christopher Newport graduates the opportunity to stay engaged in the life of their alma mater by building and maintaining relationships after college. Join your local chapter to stay connected and network with other Captains for Life!

### ALUMNI MAGAZINE

All alumni receive a copy of *Voyages*, the annual magazine, which is full of news and campus updates. Be sure to receive your copy by updating your address at [alumni.cnu.edu](http://alumni.cnu.edu).

### LIBERTY MUTUAL

Alumni are eligible for a discount of up to 10 percent on auto, home and renters insurance. Visit [libertymutual.com/cnu](http://libertymutual.com/cnu) for more details.

### EMAIL FOR LIFE

After graduation you will retain access to CNU Connect for email and Google apps.

## *Stay Connected!*



Check out our website  
[alumni.cnu.edu](http://alumni.cnu.edu)



Follow us on Twitter  
[@acaptainforlife](https://twitter.com/acaptainforlife)



Find us on Facebook  
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Connect with us on LinkedIn  
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Email us:  
[alumni@cnu.edu](mailto:alumni@cnu.edu)





As I age, I will control  
my destiny in a place  
of my choosing.

## A DIFFERENT WAY TO THINK ABOUT AGING

It's about honoring and supporting what people want as they get older — **"As I age, I will control my destiny in a place of my choosing."** Seems simple enough. But in the world of healthcare where "we know best" has been the tradition, asking people what they value as they get older is a true innovation that's making a difference in the lives of thousands.

It's an approach that promises to change the way people think about aging. And it all begins by asking what matters most. That's what happens at Riverside, where we have world class physicians and the most comprehensive network of services in the state dedicated to helping you reach your life goals as you age.

For a personal consultation with our  
senior care navigator call (757) 856-7030 or visit  
[riversideonline.com/services/seniors](https://riversideonline.com/services/seniors).





# The Intersection of Learning and Research

*Hands-on experience enhances the education of talented CNU students like recent graduate Ande Ehlen.*

Tackling innovative research across diverse fields, Christopher Newport undergraduates apply vast knowledge and skills to groundbreaking work. Now more than ever, research stands at the forefront of a CNU education, whether it occurs through faculty-student collaboration or high-impact internships.



For Ande Ehlen ('12), the NASA DEVELOP National Program provided a perfect vehicle for connecting her career aspirations with relevant practical

experience. Work conducted through the program applies environmental science to local policy issues facing communities, demonstrating how

NASA's scientific measurements and predictions can help address pressing matters.

"You feel you're making a difference while also gaining professional experience," says Ehlen, who majored in biology and minored in chemistry. After her successful work in the program as an undergraduate, she continued her NASA internship this summer.

## High-Impact Teamwork

DEVELOP teams complete 10-week projects across myriad categories, including air quality, agriculture, ecological forecasting, water resources and disasters. Team members range in age from high school up through graduate school, and NASA science advisors mentor the students. Each team also connects with a

project partner — an organization that stands to benefit from remote sensing technology, a way to collect information about an object or area from a distance. Teams then employ NASA's Earth Observing Systems to create suitable products for their partners.

"DEVELOP is a great program because the projects not only offer excellent research experience, but they also assist local communities and partner agencies," Ehlen says. For fall 2011 she served on a Texas disasters team that collaborated with the Texas Forest Service. The group used NASA's remote sensing capabilities to evaluate destruction caused by last year's Texas wildfires, which were the result of extreme drought conditions.

Products designed by the team will aid in analyzing and preparing for future wildfires. "Using satellite imagery and the ArcGIS program, we created risk



maps for communities and evaluated how the fires had affected vegetation,” Ehlen says. “Additionally, our partners requested that we assess how the extreme drought was affecting bodies of water in Texas because the fire-fighting helicopters draw water from them to extinguish the wildfires.”

This past spring Ehlen served on a North Carolina oceans team evaluating Hurricane Irene’s impact on the state’s coast. Her team used the newly launched Aquarius satellite to study sea surface salinity patterns, variations of which can alter both water cycle and ocean circulation. With Landsat 5 imagery, the students created maps illustrating vegetation and soil moisture changes after Irene hit the Albemarle-Pamlico Sound.

“To assist with future coastal management capabilities relating to wetlands and estuarine ecosystems, we also created inundation risk maps for the study area,” Ehlen states. “These maps allow coastal communities to see which areas are at the highest risk of flooding for future storms.”

## The CNU Connection

Christopher Newport’s curriculum and strong student-faculty interaction contributed greatly to Ehlen’s success. “Many of my professors were constantly asking about the research I was involved in and have always shown an interest in my learning,” she says. “In addition, I’ve been involved with undergrad research through Dr. Andrew Velkey’s fish lab. My classes, labs and research at CNU not only gave me necessary skills, but confidence as well. What I gathered has already led me down a strong path toward a successful career, and I can’t wait to see what else I accomplish in the future.”

In addition to Velkey, other CNU professors were influential. Through Dr. Lauren Ruane’s Island Biology course, Ehlen completed research



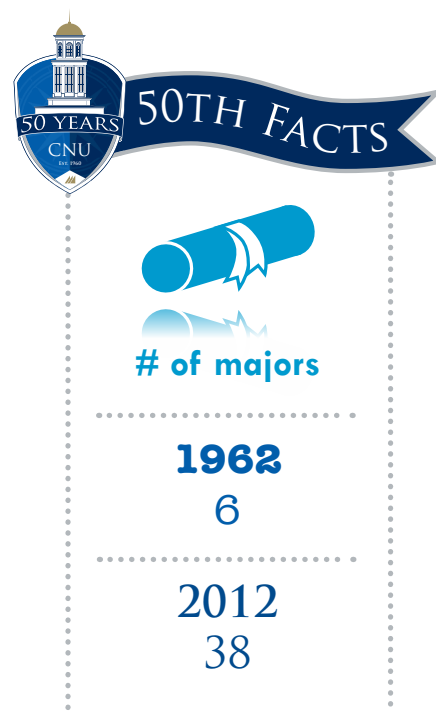
## A Rich Partnership

Many Christopher Newport students have benefited from the NASA DEVELOP National Program. Malcom Jones (’12) also had a positive experience interning through the program. “It allows students to work with NASA scientists doing research and other projects,” he says. “When I first began, I was the team lead on a project researching wildfires in California.” Among his various other duties, he served as center lead for DEVELOP at NASA Langley Research Center.

in the Bahamas during 2012 spring break. “I had to design my own research proposal and then experience all the troubles and successes of running my own research on the island,” she says, adding that Dr. Costa Gerousis was also supportive. “He wrote my recommendation letter for DEVELOP and had tremendous confidence in me when I applied for the program — maybe even more than I had in myself.”

Post-CNU, Ehlen hopes to pursue a master’s degree in environmental science and eventually teach science, making it “as fun and enjoyable to learn as it has been for me.” Initially, however, she would like to explore other science opportunities and perhaps work for NASA. “That would be my ultimate dream,” Ehlen says. “Luckily I’m not done with NASA yet. Until I start taking graduate classes, I will be continuing my research with the DEVELOP program.” ♦

— Matt Schnepf





# The Spirit of Public Service

**Voyages turns the spotlight on two recent graduates forging careers in politics — Jake Evans at the local level and Ryan Rusbuldt in Washington.**

## Jake Evans

Jake Evans ('12) is chairman of the York-Poquoson Democratic Committee (YPDC) in Virginia, leading the committee's fundraising, organization and recruitment efforts in hopes of putting forward the best candidates and winning elections. He is the public face of the party at the local level. "I felt I could bring the same up-and-coming attitude of CNU to the committee," says Evans.

He credits his CNU experience with giving him a sense of honor, commitment and integrity vital for any leadership role. "My time here has been invaluable and will continue to help me succeed every day," he says. He recalls the honor ceremony during orientation week as something unforgettable about his time at CNU. "It changed how I viewed myself and made me feel like I really was a part of the community," Evans says. "We wouldn't be who we are as a university without our dedication to honor and hard work."

He credits Dr. Elizabeth Kaufer-Busch, assistant professor of American studies, for guiding and encouraging his passion for politics. She "had a huge impact on who I am and how I've done academically," says Evans. "Your first semester right out of high school can really be a daunting one, but Professor Kaufer-Busch made me feel like I could tackle it all and prepared me for the rest of my time at CNU. She is definitely someone who I will never forget and will always be indebted to."

Kaufer-Busch, who was Evans' advisor and taught him in five courses, remembers their first meeting, when Evans was a freshman. "It was immediately clear that Jake was a very enthusiastic and motivated student. He was also very entrepreneurial and hardworking,"

she says. She was equally impressed with his character, seeing in Evans a refreshing spirit of objectivity and thoughtfulness amid the partisan politics of the day. "He is the rare political person who is nondogmatic and nonideological," she says. "He also has natural social skills, which enable him to connect to the people around him. He is open-minded but firm when he

needs to be. He is a genuinely likeable person who will continue to grow in his political career," she says.

**"Far too often we see the negative ads and what's going wrong with the United States, and we never get a chance to see the good. Personally, I know the United States will always be the most prosperous and free nation in the world."**

As the November elections approach, Evans is hard at work on behalf of the YPDC's slate of candidates, and is hopeful for a civilized and positive debate on America's future in the coming months. "Any person who stands up to represent their community should be respected and given the chance to offer their viewpoint," he says.

"Far too often we see the negative ads and what's going wrong with the United States, and we never get a chance to see the good. Personally, I know that with the continued success of institutions like Christopher Newport, the United States will always be the most prosperous and free nation in the world."

Evans continues to work at the accounting firm where he held a full-time job throughout his college career and stays focused on his duties with the YPDC. He is also thinking "bigger picture" and planning his next move. "The education I have gotten at Christopher Newport has opened a lot of doors for me," he says. "I consider myself extremely lucky to have had the best university in Virginia right around the corner." Whichever door he decides to enter, he does so feeling prepared for success.







Courtesy of Ryan Rusbuldt

## Ryan Rusbuldt

As a congressional staffer for the House Financial Services Committee, Ryan Rusbuldt ('11) is a jack-of-all-trades, undertaking legislative research, attending functions with the committee chairman and performing constituent services, which entails assisting citizens who have questions or concerns about the committee's work. The Financial Services Committee has jurisdiction over a host of issues pertaining to the economy — banking, housing, insurance, and securities and exchanges — and is led by Rep. Spencer Bachus, Republican of Alabama.

Rusbuldt serves on the majority staff of the committee and works most closely with the Republican members, though he also performs tasks for all of the committee members. During his relatively brief time in the nation's capital, Rusbuldt has already encountered a who's-who of local and national political leaders: Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, Republican presidential candidates Mitt Romney (pictured above, right) and Ron Paul, Virginia Gov. Robert McDonnell (pictured above, left), and Speaker of the House John Boehner, among others. He also has attended and assisted in congressional hearings and legislative markup sessions, where

lawmakers work on bills and resolutions in a process similar to amending measures on the House floor.

Growing up near the Beltway, in Burke, Va., Rusbuldt, who majored in history and minored in political science,

had already laid the groundwork for a career in politics before enrolling at CNU. "I grew up in a very political family and learned early the value of political participation and service," he says. "It is a privilege to serve people in public office, whether elected or as a staff person." By forging strong relationships in the Capitol he was able to turn the internship on the committee last summer into his current position, which he started in January.

Associate Professor of History Brian Puaca recalls Rusbuldt as an avid classroom participant who had the ability to express contrary opinions while remaining considerate of others' viewpoints. "I respect the fact that

Ryan never told me what he thought I wanted to hear in class," Puaca says. "Ryan is a direct and honest fellow.

His thoughts on a certain topic might be different from my own or others in class, but that was never a problem. His contributions undoubtedly improved our discussions, and — just as importantly — his insights and good humor made the course more enjoyable for everyone."

**"I learned early the value of political participation and service. It is a privilege to serve people in public office, whether elected or as a staff person."**

Rusbuldt also played offensive lineman for the Captains. "My football teammates and coaches were a big part of my CNU life as we virtually lived together for four years," he says. "CNU has a great football tradition for a young program, and it has been a major factor in my life. Rusbuldt is a "great kid, an overachiever," says Head Coach Matt Kelchner. "He has a lot of perseverance, and if there was something going on off the field, he had a knack for bringing people together."

Though embarked on a political career, Rusbuldt doesn't foresee elected office for himself in the near future. He plans to continue his work as a congressional staffer and possibly attend graduate school. "Football and politics are two of my passions, but elected office is not something I am currently contemplating," Rusbuldt says. "I see myself working in the White House at some point in the future, but I would never rule out being a football coach at a university. I could possibly get into some type of sports legislation work to combine my two passions," he says.

Rusbuldt's days in the fast-paced nation's capital are building to a fever pitch as election day nears. He is

succinct in what he believes the nation needs to get back on course: "We still have a struggling economy, and we need leadership that will make the tough decisions to get our nation back on the right track to

financial prosperity," he says. Perhaps one day he will be a part of that leadership. ♦

— Brian McGuire



# 2011-12 SPORTS ROUNDUP

## FOOTBALL

The Captains posted an undefeated USA South season and won the second outright conference championship in school history, reaching the NCAA tournament. Head Coach Matt Kelchner was named USA South Coach of the Year for the second year in a row, and 18 players earned All-Conference honors. Last season was also memorable for the inauguration of a new tradition: night football. CNU played three night games at home, including a 50th anniversary “kickoff” game in September to celebrate Christopher Newport’s semicentennial. This fall the Captains broke their single-game attendance record when 6,141 fans watched CNU host North Carolina Wesleyan during Homecoming.



## MEN'S BASKETBALL

Men’s basketball finished with a 23-5 overall record, including a perfect 12-0 within the conference, en route to a 14th USA South championship, and advanced to the NCAA tournament. Newport News native Conley Taylor (’12) was named Player of the Year by the Virginia Sports Information Directors (VaSID). Freshman Don Cherry was named Rookie of the Year by VaSID, the first Christopher Newport player to receive this honor. Taylor also garnered All-American honors and was chosen as the USA South Player of the Year and conference tournament MVP. He ends his career as the fourth-leading scorer in CNU history.

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

Women’s soccer enjoyed a strong season, winning a second consecutive USA South Conference regular season championship. Ten Captains earned all-conference honors, a team record. Head Coach Ruth Keegan was named Coach of the Year for the third time in her four years at CNU.





## CROSS COUNTRY

Both the men's and women's cross country teams won USA South Conference Championships, the 19th-straight for the men. Seventeen Captains earned All-Conference honors. Jade Zaharoff ('12) qualified for the NCAA Division III National Championships in Wisconsin, where she finished with a personal-best record in the 6,000-meter race.



## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The team turned in a strong campaign, including a mid-season 12-game winning streak. The Captains advanced to the USA South Conference Championship, and freshman Camry Green was named conference Rookie of the Year. This fall Bill Broderick will take the helm as new head coach. Broderick sports an impressive 19-year coaching resume and comes to CNU from Division I Bucknell University, where he served as assistant coach for two seasons and was interim head coach at the end of last season.



## MEN'S SOCCER

Men's soccer had an impressive season, going undefeated all the way until a heartbreaking loss in the NCAA tournament, which CNU hosted in November. Brian Lybert ('12) was named the VaSID Player of the Year, while freshman Jalon Brown earned Rookie of the Year honors. Three Captains earned All-American honors: Lybert, junior Sean Moriarty and Winston Mattheisen ('12), who was chosen for the third time in his career, the first Captain to be so honored. Six players were named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America NCAA Division III All-South Atlantic Team, and Head Coach Steve Shaw was named Coach of the Year for the region.





# 2011-12 SPORTS ROUNDUP

## BASEBALL

Christopher Newport baseball captured a second-straight USA South Conference title and went on to the NCAA tournament. Four Captains were named to the USA South All-Tournament Team, including catcher Ben Lenda ('12), who was named tournament MVP. The Captains posted a perfect 15-0 record at home this season and won the NCAA South Regional tournament in May, which was hosted by CNU. Two Captains, junior Greg Goldsmith and Connor Madden ('12), were named to the American Baseball Coaches Association All-South Region Team. Goldsmith also pitched the first one-hit shutout for the Captains in nearly 20 years.



## GOLF

Captains golfers advanced to tournament play at the NCAA Division III Men's Golf National Championship. Joseph Evans ('12) and junior Brian Jaeger were both named to the USA South All-Conference Team, and Evans was a PING Division III All-Region selection by the Golf Coaches Association of America.

## SOFTBALL

The Captains advanced to the NCAA Regional Championship, which CNU hosted at Captains Park, on their way to a 37-11 record this season. Freshman Sabrina Hill was named USA South Conference Rookie of the Year and Player of the Year, the first time a player has ever won both honors in the same year. Coach Keith Parr won his 300th career game in his ninth year at the helm. Under Parr's leadership the Captains have won more than 30 games in each of the last six seasons and reached the NCAA finals in 2010 and 2011, including the title game last year.





## TENNIS

Both men's and women's tennis squads played in the USA South Conference tournament. The men's team advanced to the finals, while the women reached the semifinal round. CNU's Eric Shulman ('12) advanced to the Round of 16 at the 2012 NCAA Division III singles championships. Shulman and junior Matt King were named All-Americans by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association; Shulman also picked up the USA South tournament MVP award for the third straight year.



## TRACK AND FIELD

CNU track and field enjoyed an outstanding season, winning the Mason-Dixon indoor championship at The Freeman Center in February. The Captains added 50 personal best marks to the record books in winning the title, the 17th for the men's team and 19th for the women. The men's team went on to win the Mason-Dixon outdoor championship in May.



## WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Women's lacrosse won its seventh straight USA South Conference championship, placing six players on the 2012 All-Tournament Team. The Captains posted a 15-2 overall record, including a perfect 7-0 conference record. It was the most wins in team history; during a midseason stretch, they won 12 straight (14, including tournament play). The team reached the first round of the NCAA tournament. ♦







# Roethel Wins Multiple Honors

Senior Richard Roethel is the 2012 NCAA Division III national champion in the heptathlon. He won the trophy at the indoor championships held at Grinnell College in Iowa in March.

The heptathlon has seven components: the 60-meter dash, long jump, shot put, high jump, 60-meter hurdles, pole vault and 1,000-meter run. Roethel won five of the seven events and set personal best marks in the 60-meter dash and high jump. His score of 5,434 points is an all-time Division III record and places him in the top 35 across all three NCAA divisions. "It felt amazing to finally be on top of the podium because in years past I just missed with a fourth and two third-place finishes in multi-event national meets," he says.

Roethel also competed in the individual high jump event at the championships, where he placed third and won All-American honors for the fifth time. He credits his victories with a change he made to his high-jump approach, which helped him jump more consistently. He also changed his

long-jump takeoff toward the end of the season. Roethel believes he benefited from a more strenuous workout regimen the track team implemented this season. "The more you get out of workouts the easier it is to do well in competition," he says.

After his crowning as NCAA champ, Roethel was named National Men's Field Athlete of the Year by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association and also took home the Mason-Dixon Conference Field Athlete of the Year honors.

In April Roethel won the decathlon at the 2012 Penn Relays in Philadelphia, on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania. He won five of the 10 events and bested the second place finisher by a score of 6,971 to 6,227. The Penn Relays were first held in 1895 and are the largest annual track and field meet in the United States and the largest annual relay meet in the world. Over the course of three days, 19,000 athletes from all levels raced in front of 115,000 spectators. ♦ — Brian McGuire



## Schweers Goes Pro

Former Captains standout Chelsie Schweers ('11, pictured at left with basketball) earlier this year signed a contract with the Panathinaikos Greens, based in Athens, Greece. The deal made her the first women's basketball player in Christopher Newport's history to play the sport professionally.

Schweers documented her experience in her blog "It's All Greek to Me" (archived on [CNUsports.com](http://CNUsports.com)).

A four-time All-American at CNU, Schweers was the first player to earn USA South Player of the Year honors three times in her career. Schweers has returned to the States after her team reached the league championship in Greece, going 9-3 after she joined the squad. This summer she broadened her basketball horizons as a camp counselor at both Christopher Newport and Old Dominion University. ♦



## Volleyball Competes in National Championship

CNU's volleyball team turned in another record-breaking season. For the third straight year, the team won the NCAA south regional championship, which CNU hosted at The Freeman Center. The Captains defeated Emory University in three tense sets to advance to the NCAA championships at Washington University in St. Louis. The team went on to beat SUNY-Cortland in the quarterfinal round to advance to the Division III national championship match for the first time in program history, where the Captains lost to the No. 1-ranked Tigers of Wittenberg University (Ohio).

The Captains were a perfect 18-0 in the USA South Conference, posting their fifth-straight undefeated conference record, and tied their single season wins mark with 38. Jessie Heavenrich ('12), and seniors Bailey Jensen and Abby Hogge each won All-American honors, while Head Coach Lindsay Birch was named Coach of the Year by the Virginia Sports Information Directors. ♦



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## CAPTAINS SPOTLIGHT: DIRA HANSEN

All-American track and field standout Dira Hansen ('12) shattered personal and CNU records throughout her collegiate career. Besides topping CNU's all-time list in the 800-meter run and heptathlon/pentathlon, she ranks among the school's top 10 in several other events. She was named by the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association to the All-Academic Team for both sports.

Although Hansen has achieved much, she doesn't shine the spotlight on herself. "This year winning the indoor conference as a team meant a lot to me and was definitely one of the highlights of my career. It was great to see the team really come together, put our hearts into it and secure a victory, having come into the meet not favored to win," she says.

"More than becoming All-American, breaking records, and the accolades and praise, the moments I cherish most are those when you're reminded that all the people at practice with you, on the bus, in the trainer's room and wearing the same jersey as you aren't just your teammates but your *family*," she notes. "It's a blessing to be surrounded by people who not only are caring, funny and hard-working, but who most importantly — and most days — enjoy doing what I love to do, too."

Hansen didn't fully embrace what competing for CNU meant until her senior year. "I would just put on the uniform and compete, thankful I was able to continue my career in track and field. But as I realized this was the beginning of the end, it hit me how important those three letters on our jerseys are," she notes, adding that she represented the University as a whole — something she doesn't take lightly. "Being a collegiate athlete is a big deal, and not many can do it, so being able to compete for CNU is pretty awesome."

The sky's the limit for this ambitious scholar-athlete. Hansen hopes to one day become a sports broadcaster, particularly covering track and field. ♦ — **Marlaina Peelen '12**







**CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT**



# Woollum Transitions Into New Role

*Waters named CNU's interim director of athletics.*

C.J. Woollum recently retired as director of athletics at CNU, immediately transitioning into the role of director of athletics emeritus, with a focus on alumni and advancement.



Jon Waters ('91, pictured at right), a CNU athletics administrator for the past 13 years, will serve as interim director of athletics through June 30,

2013. A national search for a director of athletics will be conducted with an anticipated start date of July 1, 2013.

"There is no way to quantify the impact C.J. has had on our student-athletes over the past 28 years," Waters says. "If any of us has a fraction of the

impact on CNU and the lives of our students as he has, we will have accomplished something great."

"It has been my pleasure and honor to serve as the director of intercollegiate athletics at Christopher Newport for a quarter of a century," Woollum says. "It has been a dream ride, and I will always cherish my years at CNU."

He began his CNU career in 1972 as an assistant basketball coach under Bev Vaughan, the father of CNU basketball. After two seasons, he left to become an assistant basketball coach at Marshall University in West Virginia, where he spent the next nine years. In 1984 he returned to Christopher Newport to take over the men's basketball program.

Woollum has led Christopher Newport athletics since 1987,

overseeing the department's dramatic transformation. CNU has grown from a small Division III athletic program offering just 14 sports to its current status as a 23-sport national power and NCAA championship contender. Woollum served as CNU's head men's basketball coach for 26 seasons, retiring at the end of 2009-10.

"I am grateful for C.J.'s remarkable contributions to the success of CNU," President Paul Tribble says. "He has served as an outstanding leader of the athletics program for 25 years and has built one of the top Division III programs in the nation. Amassing more than 500 wins as the men's basketball coach while also serving as the director of athletics, he touched the lives of thousands of student-athletes. He embodies the very best of Division III sports." ♦



C.J. Woollum led CNU's athletics program for 25 years.





## Hockey Skates to Division Championship

Led by seniors Mark Dungan, Bryce Evason and Jon Dalziel, CNU hockey won the Blue Ridge Hockey Conference (BRHC) Colonial Division this year for the first time in team history. The Captains defeated two-time champs Loyola University Maryland in a thrilling overtime performance in Lynchburg, Va., in February to bring home the trophy. Forward Bryce Evason earned All-Colonial honors.

Formed in 2004, the team, a sport club, plays an 18-20-game schedule during fall and winter. Club President Dungan relished in this year's championship, saying "there was no greater feeling to leave our mark on CNU hockey than being a part of the first team to win a championship for the club."

The Captains are a Division III member of the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA). The ACHA is the national governing body for collegiate nonvarsity ice hockey and includes more than 300 teams from colleges across the nation. CNU is in the southeast division, with schools from Maryland to Florida. The BRHC is home to teams in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. Other conference members include CNU rivals Old Dominion University and the College of William & Mary.

The team's late-night games at the Hampton Roads Iceplex in Yorktown, Va., are always packed with rabid hockey fans eager to catch all the on-ice action. ♦

## CNU Joins New Athletic Conference

It's the beginning of an exciting new chapter for CNU athletics.

After 40 years of membership in the USA South Athletic Conference, Christopher Newport University has accepted an invitation to join the Capital Athletic Conference (CAC). The majority of CNU's athletic teams, with the exception of football, will begin competition in the CAC in the 2013-14 academic year. Football will remain an affiliate member of the USA South Athletic Conference through the 2015 season, or join the CAC if the conference begins sponsoring football before that time.

CNU joins Frostburg State University (Maryland), the University of Mary Washington, Marymount University, Salisbury University (Maryland), St. Mary's College (Maryland), Wesley College (Delaware) and York College of Pennsylvania as members of the CAC. These schools mirror CNU's academic quality and commitment to athletic excellence; five are state schools comparable to CNU in enrollment.

Stay tuned as the Captains begin this new chapter and build rich rivalries with the outstanding institutions of the CAC. ♦



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AT CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY



November 3, 2012



Newport News, VA





# Chapter News

Although your career as a student may have ended after graduation, you are and forever will be a *Captain for Life*! Perhaps you live just down the road from Christopher Newport, or you may reside in the nation's capital or on the other side of the water. Either way — no matter where you call home — alumni chapters of the Christopher Newport Alumni Society bring Christopher Newport to you!

We encourage you to stay active with your alma mater through one of the four regional chapters. If you live in an area currently without a chapter, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations ([alumni@cnu.edu](mailto:alumni@cnu.edu)) to discuss the possibility of chartering a chapter where you live.



## METRO D.C. ALUMNI CHAPTER

The Metro D.C. Alumni Chapter kicked off summer 2011 with a networking event welcoming new alumni. The gathering, held at the Frontpage in Arlington, was a great way for the newest alumni class to discover opportunities available in the D.C. vicinity.

In August the Captains took over Nationals Park as an enthusiastic group of D.C.-area alumni gathered to watch the Nationals take on the Phillies. In December alumni celebrated the holidays with an annual party at Bailey's in Arlington, enjoying food, fellowship and fun with old friends and new. This April the chapter hosted its first speed networking event at BlackFinn in downtown D.C., connecting alumni who live or work in the area.



Christopher Newport  
Northern Virginia/Metro  
D.C. Alumni Society



Christopher Newport Metro  
D.C. Alumni Chapter

Email: [novadcalumni@cnu.edu](mailto:novadcalumni@cnu.edu)



## GREATER PENINSULA ALUMNI CHAPTER

With such close proximity to their alma mater, Captains for Life on the Virginia Peninsula have stayed active on campus for tailgating, the Alumni 5K, the 50th Anniversary Gala and several other events.

Besides continuing the tradition of hosting a tailgate at each home football game, the Greater Peninsula Alumni Chapter hosted networking events, connecting alumni with other graduates. In December the chapter welcomed alumni to the home of Martha Kelly ('75), board of directors member, for a memorable holiday party on the banks of the James River. Currently the chapter is planning the second annual Alumni Golf Tournament to be hosted this fall. Members continue to develop additional programs and are seeking leadership to extend the chapter's services.



CNU Alumni Society  
Greater Peninsula Chapter

Email: [peninsulaalumni@cnu.edu](mailto:peninsulaalumni@cnu.edu)



## METRO RICHMOND ALUMNI CHAPTER

The Metro Richmond Alumni Chapter welcomed new graduates with a June 2011 networking event in downtown Richmond. This gave the Class of 2011 a chance to meet and network with other Christopher Newport alumni.

In December the chapter gathered at the Jefferson Hotel for its annual holiday party where CNU President Paul Tribble provided an update on campus life. Attendees enjoyed delicious food and beverages and the opportunity to mingle with other Richmond-area Captains for Life. In addition to hosting a spring networking event the chapter also gathered at the Diamond to watch the Richmond Squirrels take on the Harrisburg Senators.



Christopher Newport  
Metro Richmond Alumni  
Society

Email: [richmondalumni@cnu.edu](mailto:richmondalumni@cnu.edu)



## SOUTH HAMPTON ROADS

The South Hampton Roads Alumni Chapter welcomed the Class of 2011 with a networking event last June, introducing these new alumni to others in the south Hampton Roads area. In December chapter members marked the holidays with a lunch in downtown Norfolk.

The South Hampton Roads Alumni Chapter is seeking leadership and fresh ideas to continue connecting with other Christopher Newport graduates in the area.



Christopher Newport South  
Hampton Roads Alumni  
Society

Email: [southhamptonroadsalumni@cnu.edu](mailto:southhamptonroadsalumni@cnu.edu)



# A Champion for Animals

*Vicki Rowland turns a lifelong love into a thriving marketing career with the Peninsula SPCA.*

“I’ve always had a passion for animals,” says Vicki Rowland (’06), relating a heartfelt kinship that fueled her dreams of becoming a veterinarian. Ultimately, however, she carved a different career path, yet one that still allows her to be an advocate for cats, dogs — even guinea pigs — and myriad orphaned animals awaiting adoption.

“Marketing has been my niche,” says Rowland, director of marketing and programs for the Peninsula SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) based in Newport News. Her association with the SPCA began in 2006 with an internship that required her to complete a database marketing project that she ultimately presented to the group’s board. A short month later Rowland became a full-fledged SPCA employee, starting out as marketing coordinator. Enthusiastically embracing the opportunity, she set out developing marketing plans and strategies to raise funds for the organization.

## The Impact of a CNU Education

From nearby Gloucester, Va., Rowland developed diverse marketing skills at Christopher Newport that serve her well in her profession. “I was actually a transfer student,” she says, detailing the transition from community college to becoming a CNU Captain. “I knew I wanted to go into business. CNU was local, and it was a great school.”

The University’s business program, particularly its size, appealed to Rowland, who concentrated her efforts on marketing. “It was a great experience,” she says. “It’s such a small focus, so you get personal attention.” Dr. Lisa Spiller, CNU marketing professor, particularly made an impact — one that continues today. “Dr. Spiller is amazing,” Rowland notes. Post-CNU the former student collaborated with her professor on a Peninsula SPCA case study featured in *Contemporary Direct and Interactive Marketing*, a book





Spiller published with Martin Baier of the Direct Marketing Hall of Fame.

Outside the classroom, hands-on activities further prepared Rowland for success. As a senior she competed in the collegiate ECHO direct/interactive marketing competition where her team received a national honorable mention. The group had already captured first-place honors in the regional collegiate MAXI competition, the Marketing Award for Excellence and Innovation. (See page 8 for more details and this year's results.)

After graduation, as Rowland navigated the waters of a new job, she found a CNU education prepared her well for the challenge. "I felt confident enough going into this position knowing what I needed to know and finding the right resources," she notes. "It takes time; patience is something you learn."

## A Vibrant Career and Active Life

Rowland has now expanded her team, adding both a community outreach coordinator and volunteer coordinator. Their efforts help shape the image of the Peninsula SPCA while raising awareness of the organization's efforts to provide shelter, food and care for the many animals awaiting homes. Channeling her creativity and drive, Rowland has also launched two successful events, the Paws for a Cause dog walk/festival (launched in 2007) and the elegant Fur Ball (2008). Both have become major components in the organization's fundraising.

Fully entrenched in the SPCA's overall mission, she also oversees the group's website. Here, among other features, visitors can view pets waiting to be adopted. Her

team is also tasked with community outreach, which includes educating young people about the Peninsula SPCA and its programs. In addition, between 100 and 200 volunteers play a key role in the SPCA's work each year, with Christopher Newport prominently represented. "We have a lot of CNU students," Rowland says of these key partners who exemplify CNU's commitment to service learning and volunteerism.

And, as if her job weren't enough to keep her busy and fulfilled, Rowland will finish her graduate degree in December, studying human resources and leadership development at George Washington University. Plus, she stays connected with her alma mater through the Greater Peninsula Alumni Chapter and by speaking to CNU business classes. The Peninsula SPCA also offers a yearly internship where a rising Christopher Newport senior can expand his or her marketing skills through practical experience.

On the home front, Rowland enjoys the company of her two furry friends, cats Leo and Chance — both happily adopted through the Peninsula SPCA. ♦  
— Matt Schnepf

To learn more about the Peninsula SPCA, its programs, volunteer opportunities and adoption process, visit [peninsulasPCA.com](http://peninsulasPCA.com).

For a showcase of pets awaiting homes, check out the "Pets Online" link at the above site.



## Peninsula SPCA Impact

Total lives saved in 2011 = 3,420  
This included:

- 1,083 lost/stray pets returned to their owners
- 2,337 orphaned animals placed in loving homes



# class notes

## 1970s

**Myra Smith ('76)** is the treatment coordinator for the Therapeutic Day Treatment Program with the Hampton/Newport News Community Services Board. The board provides mental health counseling to students within the City of Hampton School Division.

**Stan D. Clark ('78)** is the owner of Stan D. Clark Law Offices in Portsmouth, Va.



Alumni submitted

1



Alumni submitted

2

## 1980s

**Jon Buriak ('80)** graduated from Logan College of Chiropractic in St. Louis, with a doctor of chiropractic degree, and from Lindell Hospital in St. Louis, with a residency in chiropractic family practice. After a successful career in private practice and serving on the staff of Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital and the Air Force, Buriak retired in 2008.

**Brett Giffin ('81)** was promoted to chief commercial officer from vice president of sales and marketing for

International Technidyne Corporation.

**Mark Young Sr. ('84)** starred in the "Who the (Bleep) Did I Marry?" episode The Perfect Cover on Investigation Discovery in 2012. He may be seen in the background of the season finale of HBO's "Veep" starring Julia Louis-Dreyfus. He can also be seen as a supporting actor this year on ABC's "Extreme Makeover: Weight Loss Edition," filmed on the roof of the Newseum in Washington, D.C.

**Robbie (Robert) Fleet ('89)** was elected vice president, residential lending administrator by the board of directors for the Bank of Lancaster in Kilmarnock, Va.

**Tu (Lawrence) Ritter ('89)** was elected to the State of Virginia Colonial Soil and Water District Board, receiving the most write-in votes for any elected office in county history. 📷 1

## 1990s

**Dave Callis ('90)** serves as director of parks, recreation, events and economic development for the city of Poquoson, Va. As part of his responsibilities, he coordinates the successful Poquoson Seafood Festival each fall.

**Brian Eakes ('91)** is managing director, head of finance and controller at Legg Mason, a global asset management firm. Eakes is a member of the board of directors of Maryland Family Network, the Community College of Baltimore County Foundation and CENTERSTAGE. A graduate of the Greater Baltimore Committee Leadership Program, Eakes received his master's degree in business administration with honors from Loyola University in Maryland. He and his wife, Denise, have five children. 📷 2

**Elizabeth Lawson ('91)** is the chief of governance officer and principal JSA/JLab liaison for SURA — Southeastern Universities Research Association.



Alumni submitted

3



Alumni submitted

4



**H. (Reed) Fowler Jr. ('93)** is director of public works for the city of Newport News.

**Donald Joyner ('94)** celebrated his 10th wedding anniversary with his wife, Dottie, on May 11, 2012. He graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2011 with a PhD in accounting and an IS minor, and will soon begin full-time employment as a professor of accounting.

**Stephanie (Johnson) Carter ('96)** was promoted from senior financial systems analyst to the accountability program metrics manager for SCI Consulting Services in 2011. 📷 3

**Rebecca (Duckwall) Ramey ('96)** teaches at Dawes Intermediate in Mobile, Ala., and was voted Teacher of the Year in 2010.

**Josette Hill ('97)** is the staffing effectiveness coordinator at the VA hospital in Madison, Wis. Her duties include site coordination for the National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators and VA Nursing Outcomes Database.

**Robert Berry III ('98)** is an associate professor of mathematics education at the University of Virginia. In 2011 Berry received the William C. Lowry Mathematics Educator of the Year Award from the Virginia Council of Teachers of

Mathematics and the All-University Teaching Award from the University of Virginia. Berry earned a bachelor's degree from Old Dominion University, a master of arts in teaching from Christopher Newport University and a doctoral degree in mathematics education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Casey (Taylor) Johnson ('00)** was recently named executive director of GreenLight Fund Bay Area in San Francisco. Johnson also welcomed her second son, Adam Taylor, on Nov. 26, 2011. He joins big brother Jack.

**Chris Iguchi ('01)** is a sales associate at the Grove Avenue office of Long & Foster Real Estate in Richmond, Va.

**Chris Pope ('01)** is the manager of strategic sourcing for Smithfield Foods in Chicago.

**Kenneth Zaun ('01)**, Air Force airman first class, graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio and earned distinction as an honor graduate.

## 2002

**Shadi Abi-Saab ('02)** was inducted into the CNU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2012 (men's soccer).

**Virginia Tucker ('02)** was published in "From Gamers to Grammarians: How Online Gaming Is Changing the Nature of Digital Discourse in the Classroom" in the forthcoming book *Online Education 2.0: Evolving, Adapting and Reinventing Online Technical Communication*.

## 2003

**Becky (White) Chappell ('03)**; her husband, **Chris Chappell ('03)**; and their daughter, Noel, welcomed son and brother Ezekial in March 2012.

**Jeremy Elliot ('03)** was inducted into the CNU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2012 (baseball).

**Rob Whitney ('03)** has relocated to Houston where he is the manager of external affairs-marine and environment for the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS). Prior to joining ABS he spent two years as an appointee in the administration of President George W. Bush. He recently finished his master's degree in corporate communications from Georgetown University. He and his wife, Jennifer, have three sons.

**Robert "Bobby" Lawrence Jr. ('03)** married Eve Bronia Pollard on Oct. 7, 2011. Lawrence works at Jefferson Lab in Newport News as an information systems developer.

## 2004

**Taryn (Cornelius) Burnett ('04)** was married to Glenn Burnett outside of San Antonio on May 28, 2010.

**Aimee Gibbs ('04)** was inducted into the CNU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2012 (track and field).

**Tina Godsey ('04)** is a procurement analyst II at Newport News Shipyard.

**Michael Hobson ('04)** received his master's degree in mathematics from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2010 and works for the Department of the Navy.

**Michelle (Andre) Knapp ('04)** married Matthew Knapp on May 29, 2010.

**Jason Matusiak ('04)** and his wife, **Michelle (Hubert) Matusiak ('05)**, both received master's degrees in 2011. He earned his MS in computer and electrical engineering from Johns Hopkins University; she received her master's in leadership in teaching from College of Notre Dame of Baltimore. 📷 4





Alumni submitted

5



by Lindsay Fauver

7



by Katelyn James Photography

9

**Heather (Smith) Murphy ('04)** and her husband, Stephen, welcomed daughter Ashling in August 2011. She joins big sister Ciara and big brother Evan.

**Kristen (Kennedy) Riddle ('04)** and **Nathan Riddle ('04)** were married Sept. 17, 2011, at the Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts in downtown Suffolk, Va. [📷 6](#)



Alumni submitted

6



Alumni submitted

8

**Amy (Baker) Parvez ('04)** and **Zieb Parvez ('07)** were married on Nov. 6, 2010. They live in Chesapeake, Va. [📷 5](#)

**Chris Phaup ('04)** was inducted into the CNU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2012 (baseball).

graduated in May 2012 from the F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. She will continue her education with a three-year residency program in emergency medicine at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio.

**Kristen (Fauver) Kang ('05)** and her husband, **Sam Kang ('03)**, along with their daughter, Kaoena, welcomed son and brother JP on Oct. 15, 2012. **Zach ('08)** and **Lindsay (Pearson) Fauver ('07)** are the proud aunt and uncle. [📷 7](#)

**Lacey (Milburn) MacDuffie ('05)** was married on July 29, 2011, to Craig MacDuffie.

## 2005

**Happy Darcus ('05)** was inducted into the CNU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2012 (track and field).

**Captain Andrea L. Kaelin ('05)**

She is employed by the Boys and Girls Clubs of Virginia.

**Chazzy Morris ('05)** earned a doctorate in physical therapy in 2008 and was recently promoted to physical therapy clinical director of the Integrity Rehab Group at Family Medicine Association of Alexandria.

**Michelle (Kass) Prewitt ('05)** was inducted into the CNU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2012 (softball).

**Jessica (Meadows) Thornberg ('05)** was honorably discharged from the United States Army on May 3, 2012.

## 2006

**Thomas Carrico ('06)** entered the PhD program in religion, ethics and philosophy at Florida State University in 2011.

**Nick Childress ('06)** appeared as a supporting actor in the film "Olive" starring Gena Rowlands, which was accepted by the Academy Awards for Oscar consideration. The film tells the story of a girl who changes three peoples' lives without saying a word. It is the first feature film shot completely on a smart phone.

**Eric Creasman ('06)** is the founder, owner and CEO of VCE Technologies in Richmond, Va. Creasman also serves as president of Sigma Phi Epsilon, Va Pi



(CNU chapter) Alumni and Volunteer Corporation. Additionally, he is a board member for the Metro Richmond Alumni Chapter of Christopher Newport.

**Mary Horner ('06)** received a scholarship to attend the law school at the University of Richmond.

**Jackie (Thompson) Koenig ('06)** and her husband, **Brenden Koenig ('06)**, welcomed their son, John Shepherd, on Jan. 1, 2012.

**Jordan Maroon ('06)** and his wife, Krystal, welcomed daughter Riley on Nov. 8, 2011. **Garrett Maroon ('09)** is the proud uncle.

**Anna (Spindler) Neali ('06)** earned her master's degree in mental health counseling from Marshall University in 2008 and her licensed professional counselor license in March 2012. She resides in Memphis, Tenn., where she works as a family counselor for the nonprofit organization Youth Villages.

**Monica Nolan ('06)** graduated with a master's degree in business administration from the College of William & Mary in 2012. She works at CNU in the Center for Career Planning where one of her primary goals is working with alumni on their personal career aspirations and developing relationships

with their employers to encourage engagement with and recruitment at the University.

**Pete Sasso ('06)** earned his doctoral degree in education in May 2012 from Old Dominion University.


**Hilliary Turner ('06)** is the museum education specialist at the Museum and White House of the Confederacy. She also serves the Richmond Metropolitan Convention and Visitor's Bureau as the coordinator for the Road to Revolution Heritage Trail.

**Mary Kay (Martin) Vance ('06)** and **Anthony Vance ('06)** welcomed their son, Emmett, on March 3, 2012.

**Elizabeth (Browning) Verna ('06)** and **Tommy Verna ('03)** welcomed their son, Emmett Browning, on Jan. 13, 2012.

**Tiffany Wiggins ('06)** welcomed baby girl Zara Anderson-Wiggins on Nov. 22, 2011.

**Lynanne (Hodges) Yndestad ('06)** married Jason Eric Yndestad on Dec. 28, 2010. **Jessie Trosclair ('05)** was maid of honor. The couple now lives in Georgia, working for Georgia Southern University. She received the state Contribution to Campus Award by Georgia Housing Officers for her significant work with student leadership

development at Georgia Southern.  8

## 2007

**Jennifer Beavers ('07)** has joined ECPI University's campus in North Charleston, S.C., as director of admissions.

**Lindsay (Pearson) Fauver ('07)** is entering her fifth year with Greek InterVarsity at CNU. She also owns Lindsay Fauver Photography.

**Kelly (Scallion) Hazelwood ('07)** married Riley Hazelwood on May 7, 2011, in Mexico. **Jesse Hutcheson ('09)** was their photographer.

**Lily (Ziehl) Inge ('07)** married **Steven Inge ('07)** on the beach in May 2011. They have since started a photography business based in Richmond, Va. Visit them online at [stevenandlilyphotography.com](http://stevenandlilyphotography.com).


**Caroline (Leyden) Johnston ('07)** married Shawn Johnston on March 5, 2011. After a yearlong deployment for Shawn, they renewed their vows on April 28, 2012, surrounded by family and friends.

**Stacey (Pavkov) Litchford ('07)** and **Quinton Litchford ('07)** were married on Jan. 9, 2010, in Antigua. She completed her MBA program at William & Mary in August 2011 and started working at the Federal Reserve

Bank of Richmond as an intermediate compensation analyst. Quinton is pursuing a master's degree in information technology at Virginia Tech.

**Joanna (Stancampiano) Martinette ('07)** married Ryan Martinette in September 2006 after his service in Iraq, where he received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star for valor. Joanna earned her BS in nursing at Virginia Commonwealth University in December 2010 and graduated in December 2011 with her master's in nursing. She is currently a pediatric nurse practitioner.

**Jeffrey Mason ('07)** works for the American Chamber of Commerce in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

**Molly (Buckley) Stillman ('07)** married John Stillman in Chapel Hill, N.C., on Feb. 18, 2012. Many "Captains for Life" were in attendance, including **DJ Chris Rice ('04)** and photographers **Katelyn James Alsop ('10)** and **Jill Powers ('08)**. The couple lives in Hillsborough, N.C.  9

**Shaun Whiteside ('07)** graduated with an MFA in painting from Radford University in December 2011 and received a 2011-12 graduate fellowship from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Whiteside's artwork has been on display in various galleries around the country, including the Virginia



Museum of Fine Arts, Garage 4141 Gallery in California and Caladan Gallery in Massachusetts.

## 2008

**Ashley Bisutti ('08)** graduated from the University of Michigan with an MA in Arabic studies in 2010 and currently works at the College of William & Mary as a visiting instructor of Arabic.

**Amber (Marsh) Boyer ('08)** married Daniel Boyer on Aug. 14, 2011, at Rock Hill Plantation in Stafford, Va. The wedding was photographed by **Jessie Smith ('08)**.

**Christy Buzan ('08)** is a physics teacher at Washington-Lee High School in Arlington, Va.

**Julia (Jordan) Foster ('08)** and her husband, **Raymond Foster ('06)**, welcomed their son, Robert, in January 2012.

**Jenna (Barbee) Hartzell ('08)** married Robert Hartzell on Oct. 21, 2011.

**Carrie (Vance) Hoffmann ('08)** married Benjamin Hoffmann on Sept. 24, 2011. **Jesse Hutcheson ('09)** photographed the wedding.

**Beverly (Waller) Lily ('08)** married **Craig Lily ('10)** on Nov. 19, 2011. **Katelyn James Alsop ('09)** photographed the wedding, and several alumni were in the bridal party. 📷 10

**Katie Murray ('08)** is working as an account coordinator at ENC Strategy in Northern Virginia after serving with the Peace Corps in Benin, Africa.

**Jeffrey Pfeiffer ('08)** works for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.

**Jill (Taylor) Powers ('08)** married **James "Buddy" Powers ('10)** on April 30, 2011. **Katelyn James Alsop ('09)** photographed the wedding, and they were joined by other "Captains for Life" in their wedding party. 📷 11

**Nicole (Endres) Rodriguez ('08)** and Dan Rodriguez were married on Sept. 24, 2011. **Jessie Smith ('08)** photographed the wedding, and several alumni were in the wedding party. 📷 12

by Jill Powers Photography and Katelyn James Photography



10

by Jessie Smith



12

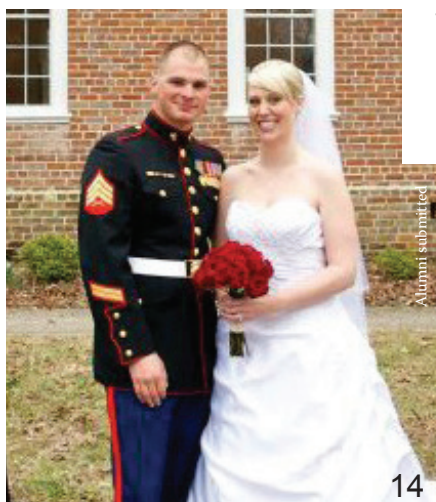




**Katie (McDonald) Supples ('08)** has created a unique product, The Beer Lasso. Learn more about the patent-pending product at [thebeerlasso.com](http://thebeerlasso.com).

**Evelyn (Way) Thomas ('08)** married Nathan Thomas on Oct. 23, 2011. **Katelyn James Alsop ('09)** photographed the wedding. Other "Captains for Life" served in the wedding party.

13



**Brittany (Crockett) Wagemaker ('08)** married Sgt. Reynolds Wagemaker on Feb. 4, 2012, in Williamsburg, Va. The couple resides in California. 14

## 2009

**Ashton (Blankenship) Ashe ('09)** married Mark Ashe on May 14, 2011. They recently welcomed their son, Gavin. Alumna **Jill Powers ('08)** photographed the wedding.

**Emily (Rice) Baxter ('09)** and her husband, Seth, welcomed their son, Mason, on Oct. 23, 2011.



**Andrea (Van Hying) Bradley ('09)** and **Ryan Bradley ('10)** were married on Aug. 20, 2011, in Yorktown, Va. She is employed in CNU's Office of Communications and Public Relations while he is a contract specialist at Langley Air Force Base. 15

**Magali Calfee ('09)** attends Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and recently completed her pediatric rotation.

**Lauren (Wiesner) Cecora ('09)** and SSgt. Anthony Cecora were married Aug. 2, 2009, in Norfolk, Va. They reside in Texas where SSgt. Cecora is undergoing training for a new career field in the Air Force. 16

**Ashley Gaines ('09)** is the development coordinator for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Greater Carolinas Chapter in Raleigh, N.C.

**Drew Harrell ('09)** married Kelsey Butterfield on July 9, 2011. The reception was held in CNU's David Student Union Ballroom, and **Katelyn James Alsop ('09)** photographed the wedding. 17

**Ben Heath ('09)** joined the Republican Party of Wisconsin as a field director. He operates and manages a field office in Eau Claire focusing on state and national issues, including the upcoming 2012 presidential election.





**Kristin LaRiviere ('09)** graduated with a master's degree in educational policy and leadership with a concentration in higher education administration from the University of Maryland, College Park. She currently serves as a fellows coordinator at the Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland.

**Michelle (Amarillo) Madridejos ('09)** and **Andrew Madridejos** were married on Sept. 14, 2011. Alumna **Jill Powers ('08)** was the photographer.

**John Matusiak ('09)** graduated from the Fairfax County Police Academy in March 2011. 📷 18

**Katy Ray (Sears) McArthur ('09)** married **Jordan McArthur ('07)** on June 12, 2011. They now reside in New York City where she works in education reform and he is an actor. 📷 19

**William Mosley ('09)** married **Lindsey Joy Halverson** on May 21, 2011. He currently works for Canon Virginia in Newport News.

**Kelly (Jones) Newman ('09)** and **Grant Newman ('09)** were married on July 9, 2011. 📷 20

**Erin Plisco ('09)** joined the Marching Captains in London for the 2012 New Year's Eve parade festivities and conducted CNU's Women's Chorus in Westminster Abbey.

## 2010

**Jessica Bunting ('10)** received her certification in nonprofit management in May 2012 and is currently pursuing a master's degree in public administration at the University of Delaware with an intended graduation date of May 2013.

**Ane' (Carpio) Brinkman ('10)** married **Andrew Brinkman ('11)** on July 9, 2011.

**Rachel (Randell) Cutherell ('10)** married **Caleb Cutherell** in July 2011.

**Katelyn James Alsop ('09)** photographed the wedding. 📷 21

**Allison Dolan ('10)** works for Dean of Students **Kevin Hughes** at CNU. She also serves as an advisor for the Theta Phi chapter of Alpha Phi at Christopher Newport.

**Amanda "Mandy" Faber ('10)** has joined the Titan Group as a client services coordinator.

**Stacey Foshee ('10)** was promoted to benefits analyst in CNU's Office of Human Resources.

**Kenneth Hall ('10)** is an intern and team lead with the NASA DEVELOP National Program at NASA Langley Research Center. NASA DEVELOP is part of the NASA Science Mission Directorate Applied Sciences training and development program.

**Sean Hebert ('10)** works as an operations specialist for the Department of Homeland Security.

**Nathan Hintz ('10)** has been volunteering his time with the William Cameron Schlifke Memorial Endowed Scholarship and is pleased to announce the scholarship has surpassed the goal of raising \$25,000. Beginning this fall, the scholarship will be given out in perpetuity.

**Brittney Jennings ('10)** is traveling around the world working for Adventures in Missions.

**Kari Roth ('10)** graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a master's degree in public administration in May 2012 and was recently inducted into Pi Alpha Alpha national honor society, which promotes excellence in the study/practice of public affairs and administration. Roth is also an invited member of Golden Key International Honour Society and currently works at the Richmond SPCA, helping to educate the public about animal care and safety.

**Kallye Silies ('10)** started her career as a flight attendant with Southwest Airlines. A theater major, she now has the freedom to fly to auditions anywhere while seeing the world. 📷 22

**Kimberly (Solheim) West ('10)** married **Daniel C. West** on Sept. 4, 2011. Upon returning from their Jamaican honeymoon, she learned she was accepted to Officer Training School for the United States Air Force. She graduated on April 10, 2012, as a second lieutenant and is stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas as an operations analyst working for the 59th Test and Evaluation Squadron. 📷 23

**Monica (Donald) Williams ('10)** and **Nick Williams ('10)** were married on Dec. 10, 2011, in Lexington, Va. 📷 24

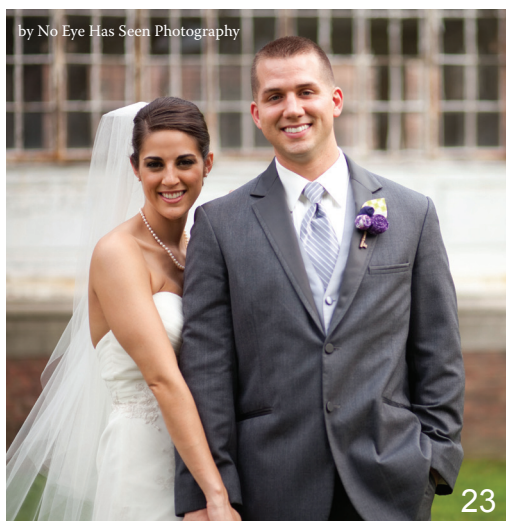
## 2011

**Rachel Dodd ('11)** will attend Florida State University to pursue a master's degree in higher education administration and student affairs. She will have a graduate assistantship working in the Center for Leadership and Civic Education.

**Andrew Giordano ('11)** completed his first marathon, the SunTrust Richmond Marathon, on Nov. 12, 2011.

**Stephanie (Boyer) Gizinski ('11)** married **Andrew Gizinski** on July 16, 2011. 📷 25









by Katelyn James Photography



**Brittany (Glembot) Henley ('11)** married Christopher Henley on May 28, 2011. They live in Ashland, Va. 📷 26

**Julianna (Wait) Koernert ('11)** and **Drew Koernert ('11)** were married



by Katelyn James Photography



Aug. 8, 2011. Their ceremony was held in the Tribble Library with the reception taking place at the president's residence.

**Tiffany (McGreer) Martin ('11)** married Nate Martin on Aug. 26, 2011. **Katelyn James Alsop ('09)** photographed the wedding. 📷 27

**Melanie (Bahr) Mesick ('11)** married Austin Mesick on Oct. 15, 2011, in Virginia Beach. **Antonia "Missy" Christianson ('03)** was their wedding coordinator.

**Daniel Mitteer ('11)** will attend the University of Nebraska's applied behavior analysis graduate program, studying ways to assist those with developmental disabilities such as autism.

**Victoria Myers ('11)** was accepted by the U.S. Air Force Bank as a vocalist. Last year she performed in the Virginia Opera production of "Aida."

**Alyson Powers ('11)** earned her master of arts in teaching from CNU in 2011.

**Evanne Raible ('11)** will attend William & Mary in the fall, pursuing a master of education in

educational leadership with an emphasis in higher education administration. Her assistantship will be in the athletics office.

**Catherine (Porter) Simpson ('11)** married **Nate Simpson ('08)** on June 25, 2011. **Katelyn James Alsop ('09)** photographed the wedding, and the bridal party included fellow CNU graduates. 📷 28

**Leslie Spaulding ('11)** will continue her education by pursuing her master of arts in teaching at CNU. Spaulding served as a CNU university fellow for the President's Leadership Program during the past year.

**Shaw Thomas ('11)** works for Grainger in the Northern Virginia area as a sales representative.

**Deanna Trail ('11)** will pursue a master's degree in educational counseling at Clemson University in the fall.

**Audrey Trussell ('11)** is an administrative assistant in Virginia's Office of the Governor.

**Rachel (Turner) Vargas ('11)** married **Alex Vargas ('11)** on Sept. 24, 2011. **Katelyn James Alsop ('09)** photographed the wedding. 📷 29



## 2012

Sarah Cribb ('12), Brittany Haskell ('12), Stephanie Henderson ('12), Paul Mikowski ('12), Jaymie Tetreault ('12) and Julia Varona ('12) are serving for a year at CNU as university fellows in the Office of Admission.

Roy Fuller ('12), Caroline Green ('12) and Chelsea Huber ('12) are serving for a year at CNU as university fellows in the President's Leadership Program.

Jenny Hager ('12) was selected by her peers to serve as the distinguished speaker at the December 2011 graduate reception

and is currently serving for a year at CNU as a university fellow for student success.

Laurel Manges ('12) and Greg Rafal ('12) are serving for a year at CNU as university fellows for student engagement.

Renee Okuda ('12) is serving for a year at CNU as a university fellow for student success.

Adam Baker ('12), Hector Feliciano-Ayala ('12), Caroline Green ('12), Stephanie Henderson ('12) and Jaymie Tetreault ('12) received the Dean's Service Award. Graduating seniors

who exemplify leadership in academics, service, co-curricular involvement and/or campus employment are nominated and selected by their peers to receive this prestigious honor.

Send your news to  
[alumni@cnu.edu](mailto:alumni@cnu.edu).

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