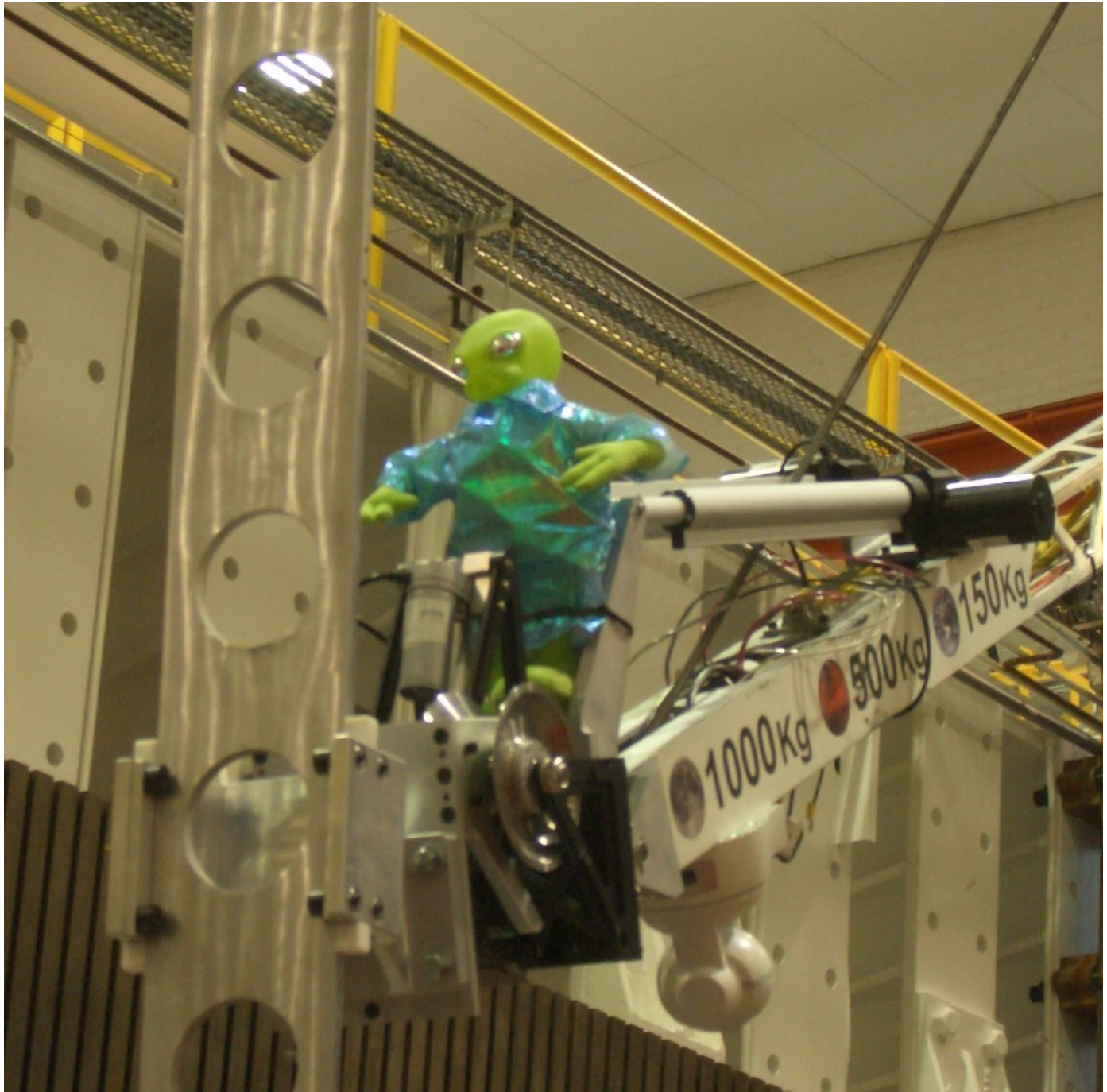




# C N U POTENTIAL FOR DISCOVERY AND CREATIVITY

What Inspires CNU?



A magazine dedicated to showcasing the scholarly activity of our faculty and students.

# CNU Potential for Discovery and Creativity

## Letter from the Director

Office of Sponsored

Programs

[http://](http://sponsoredprograms.cnu.edu/)

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594-7392

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Cover photo by  
Anne Pascucci,  
taken at NASA  
Langley Research  
Center

What a semester this has been! A writing team developed from our first scholarly activity luncheon who are diligently working on a proposal focused on Responsible Conduct in Research bound for the National Science Foundation's Transforming Undergraduate Education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (TUES) program. Betsy Jelinek (Philosophy), Drew Velkey (Psychology & Neuroscience), Russell Burke (Biology), Geoff Kline (Chemistry), Nathan Harter (Leadership and American Studies), and Jackie Roquemore (Center for Wetland Studies) are engaged and bringing a great diversity of perspective to this project. It is very exciting to watch their progress!

Earlier in the semester I reached out to faculty and shared with you why I do the work that I do. The email detailed how research in higher education effected my family and me. My work is not simply the gratification that I get seeing a connection between a faculty member's interests and their potential for a sponsored program or research activity but the inclusion of students, the growth of knowledge and the good that only a university can do with the resources of great minds coupled with young minds!

I am so very happy to present you with the responses received from faculty about what inspires their research or sponsored activities. CNU is a fortunate institution to have caring, enthusiastic, and an engaged faculty.

Also, during this semester, the Office of Sponsored Programs brought our first workshop presenter, Dr. Robert Porter to campus. He focused his presentation to meet the needs of our institution and those invited including Norfolk State University, ODU, William & Mary, VIMS, and Hampton University. Although our turn out wasn't what we had hoped, those who participated overwhelmingly gave positive reviews.

Debbie Gaudreau and I ask that you visit our website which we have been revising since my arrival, as there are many terrific resources located there. <http://sponsoredprograms.cnu.edu/>. We look forward to working with you and hosting future workshops!

Anne M. Pascucci

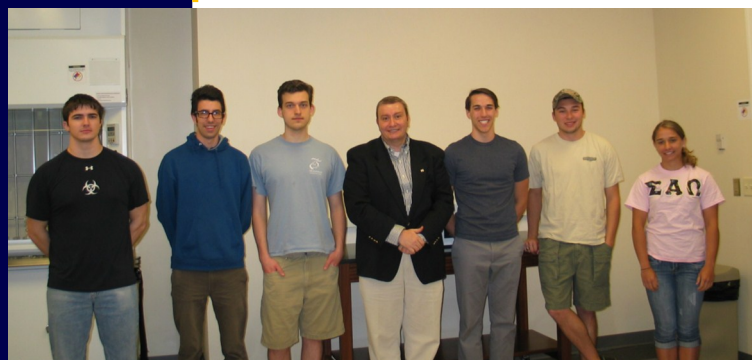
C N U P O T E N T I A L F O R D I S C O V E R Y A N D C R E A T I V I T Y

## What Inspires CNU?

As a young kid, I traveled with my father from East to West Africa as part of his job. I know how difficult and expensive it is to get safe and clean drinking water and how the local people suffer from many illnesses due to unsafe drinking water supplies because they cannot afford buying clean drinking water.



Twelve years ago, I was disturbed when I learned about Bangladesh having arsenic in its drinking water. Thousands got cancers and other diseases from unclean drinking water supplies (wells contaminated by naturally occurring arsenic). I decided to use my knowledge of nano-materials synthesis and resources to design low cost adsorbents materials to be used in Point of Use (PoU) filtration systems with no support. The paper which described our findings ("Adsorption of Arsenate and Arsenite by Iron treated Activated Carbon and



Zeolites; Effects of pH, Temperature, and Ionic Strength "by K. B. Payne and T. M. Abdel-Fattah, Journal Environmental Science and Health, Part A, A40(4), 723-749 (2005)) for arsenic removal is frequently being cited by other researchers in this field. We produced a complete study to help other researchers in arsenic remediation. Since then, I am continuing

this type of research with very limited support because I believe the need is great for many people around the world to have safe drinking water supply.

Tarek Abdel-Fattah, Director of the Center for Applied Research

Dr. Tarek Abdel-Fattah's students Mathieu Morin, Cody Byrum, Alex Wixtrom, Brad Damiano, Logan Nonnemacker, and Kalee Hammerton work with state-of-the art instrumentation, discovering their inspiration. They have the rare experience as undergraduate students (except Alex who is a graduate student) of performing *research* with a faculty-scholar.



## What Inspires CNU?

### Passion to Conduct Research

By Dr. Russell P. Burke



My passion to conduct scientific research stems from an internal drive to “be a part of the solution” regarding the many environmental issues that we as a species are faced with today and for the foreseeable future. Specifically, my focus on marine fishery resources led me to Chesapeake Bay Oyster Restoration where I have managed to make an impact at a biologically-meaningful scale early in my career. That success was the product of diligent field, lab, and historical library research conducted throughout my twenties in spite of a clearly tumultuous political and scientific climate. Applied scientific research took on new meaning for me during those years and shaped me into the passionate, committed researcher I am today. I can only hope to inspire students at Christopher Newport University to pursue their own dreams with as much energy as I have been fortunate to manifest in my years in science.

Lucky students of Russell Burke may not know it but he is the recipient of the Presidential Award for his research. Russell has submitted and received an Army Corps of Engineers subcontract, while participating on the RCR writing team for an NSF proposal.

## RCR Writing Team At Work



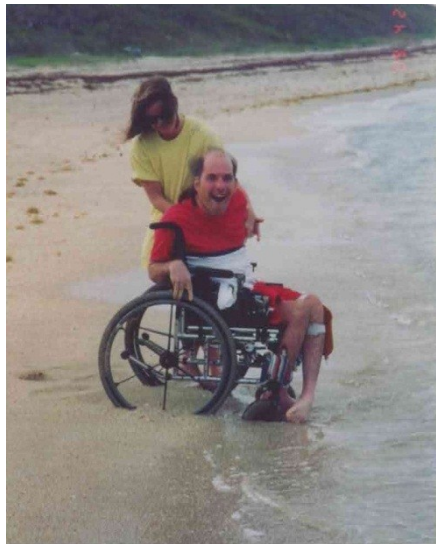
The writing team assembled following the December 1st Scholarly Activity Luncheon includes Dr. Drew Velkey, Dr. Betsy Jelinek, Dr. Russell Burke, Nathan Harter, Dr. Geoff Kline, and Jackie Roquemore. These faculty and staff have been reading, meeting, discussing and building the ground work for a course on the responsible conduct in research which will assess the effectiveness

of different pedagogies. This proposal will be born of research of

existing literature, methods of learning, attendance at the Smithsonian Tuskegee Conference held in Washington, DC, crossing disciplines and having in depth conversations about the topics and research. In these photos, our intrepid crew are preparing for their first group contact with a Program Officer of the National Science Foundation to present a synopsis of the concept behind the research and proposal.



Why Inspired Me?  
Anne M. Pascucci



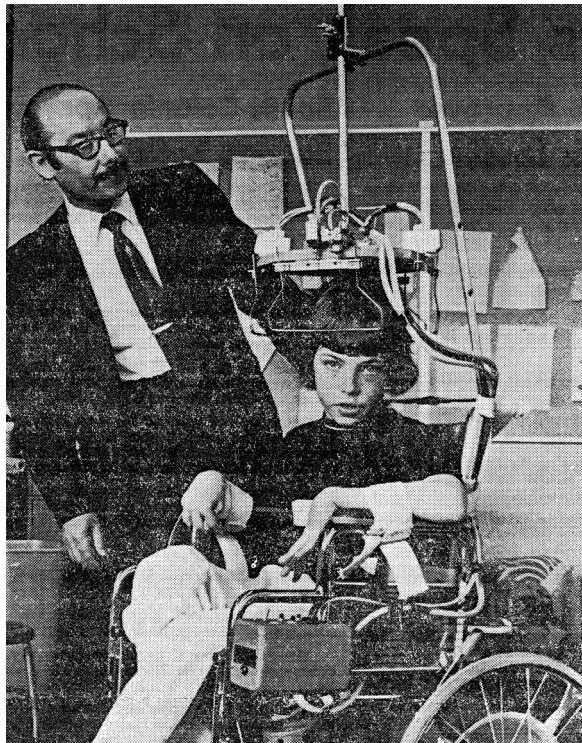
This was sent via email to faculty to illicit responses such as those listed above: “Hello, I am Christopher Newport University’s (CNU) Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs. Research Administration (RA) is usually not an avocation or a calling for one’s professional career. In my case, as with many others in my field, I fell into RA. I enjoy the atmosphere of higher education and particularly the creativity and innovation around research and sponsored programs and so here I am. For me though, there was an added incentive. I found institutions of higher education to be the most welcoming and helpful to my brother, Michael Joseph Maloney, who wins the battle with Cerebral Palsy, as a spasmodic quadriplegic every day. When I was small child, although I didn’t recognize it at the time, it was an institution of higher education (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) and one of their wonderful engineering faculty members named Dr. David Gisser that designed my brother’s first independent mobility. His first electric wheelchair was an effort that Dr. Gisser took upon himself in his spare time. With permission from the Albany Times Union, I include the original article regarding this story: [TU article on Mike & Dr. Gisser.](#)

In the late 1980’s, I found that the University of Kansas was leading the way in occupational therapy for Cerebral Palsy patients. The American Association for the Advancement of Science has a program entitled EntryPoint! which offers internship opportunities for students with apparent and non-apparent disabilities in science, engineering, mathematics, computer science, and some fields of business. Later, I found that University Centers on Developmental Disabilities, a US Department of Health and Human Services funded organization, advocates, explores opportunities and seeks benefits for developmentally challenged individuals, such as Mike.

What Inspired Me?  
Anne Pascucci

Neuroscientists, Occupational and Physical Therapy faculty, Chemists, Special Education faculty, Biologists, Informational Technology faculty, Art Therapist, Engineers and so many other faculty/researchers work at institutions of higher education were and are making strides at chipping away at the causes and effects of disabilities like my brothers and so many others. There is no more welcoming place on the planet for a disabled person than a College or University. It is something about the atmosphere of learning and acceptance that produces a unique safe place for those less able-bodied. This is the essence of why I love supporting research and sponsored programs. In my case it *is* a calling.

Now you know a bit about why I do what I do. I would love to learn about what you do and what inspires you. The Office of Sponsored Programs at CNU issues a newsletter each semester. Your research and sponsored programs and the reasons that you do it will be the focus of our next issue. The following questionnaire tries to get to these answers. If you prefer to write an article about your work and send it to us, that is great too. Please take the time to complete the questionnaire, save it and send it back to [osp@cnu.edu](mailto:osp@cnu.edu) or write the article and send it in. We welcome the opportunity to take photos of you and any students involved in your work in action for the articles!



Thanks~”

Dr. Gisser and Mike in 1972  
courtesy of The Albany Times  
Union



## Dr. Robert Porter's Proposal Development

Dr. Robert Porter presents around the country and as a matter of fact, around the world! Following our sessions on April 13, 2012, Dr. Porter departed for Cambodia to work with their Department of Education to establish a proposal development team.



Our sessions were focused more regionally and were attended by CNU faculty as

well as representatives from Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University, The College of William & Mary, and The College of William and Mary's Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences. The morning session focused primarily on National Endowment for the Humanities opportunities but also included an overview of opportunities offered by the National Science Foundation.



The afternoon session focused solely on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with a special emphasis on Academic Research Enhancement Awards (AREA) grants. Dr. Kelly Cartwright had recently completed her submission to the program and was in attendance.



## Watch for Procedural Alerts!

New methods of communications from the Office of Sponsored Programs to existing principal investigators strive to improve the transparency and information flow from OSP and Grant Accounting to those interested. Procedural Alerts will be issued when we've found a better way to streamline or document a process. A listing of new procedures was sent out en masse but in the future will come individually in response to sponsor or institutional changes. The yare posted on the OSP website for future reference. The alerts that have been issued include:

- ◇ **Proposal Processing:** guidance about how, when and who to involve in your proposal
- ◇ **Preliminary Proposals and Letters of Intent:** defining if and when to involve OSP and your department
- ◇ **Grant Expenditure Processing:** discussing the new flow of approvals of all expenditures on grants through the Grant Accountant
- ◇ **Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA):** describing the information that is required for subcontracts in excess of \$25k

Your crack team of Sponsored Programs professionals in Pre-Award/Proposal Development recently had the great opportunity to participate in a tour of NASA Langley Research Center while learning and networking at the recent Society of Research Administrators, International regional conference in Norfolk. In attendance were:

Assistant Director, Debbie Gaudreau and Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs, Anne Pascucci along with our stellar Grant Accountant and keeper of the new excel spreadsheets Laura Reid. Much was learned and brought back for Investigators and Program Directors~



## Proposals Submitted & Awards Made

Principal Investigator (PI)	Sponsor	Title (short)	Amount
⇒ Dr. Jessica Thompson, VIMS,	Pilot Influence of Landscape-Level Salt-marsh	\$10,000	
⇒ Dr. Tarek Abdel-Fattah, Burroughs Wellcome,	Travel/Research Award	\$15,000	
⇒ Dr. Michael Lewis, NSF-UNC Chapel Hill,	Mobilization & Policy Change	\$31,886	
⇒ Dr. Rick Sherwin for Angela Zoumplis, NASA,	Assessing Potential of Life in Simulated Martian Environments,	\$30,000	
⇒ Dr. Tarek Abdel-Fattah, NSF,	MRI Instrumentation Collaboration,	\$0 access to instrumentation	
⇒ Dr. Kelly Cartwright, NIH,	Executive Skills and Reading Comprehension,	\$375,000	
⇒ Dr. Jessica Thompson, VIMS/Chesapeake Bay Trust,	Living Shoreline Ecosystem Services,	\$18,293	
⇒ Melissa Hedlund & Sara Lenhart, MAA-Tensor-SUMMA,	Monster Math Club,	\$6,000	
⇒ Dr. Russell Burke, ACOR-SDC Group, Inc.,	Craney Island Eastern Expansion Oyster Shell-String Survey,	\$173,385	
⇒ Dr. Lynn Lambert, NSF,	NOYCE Scholarships,	\$905,319	

## Proposals Submitted and Awards Made

Principal Investigator (PI)	Sponsor	Title (short)	Amount
⇒ Dr. Rob Atkinson, NSF,		Tree Rings as Tools to Address Decadal Change of Land Use Impacts,	\$878,970
⇒ Dr. Rob Atkinson, USFWS,		Biological & Physical Monitoring for Habitat Restoration,	\$11,915
⇒ Dr. Rob Atkinson, Hampton Roads Sanitation District,		The HRSD Mission to Protect the Chesapeake Bay,	\$70,375

### Awards!

- ⇒ Dr. Jessica Thompson, VIMS, Pilot Influence of Landscape-Level Salt-marsh \$9,935
- ⇒ Dr. Tarek Abdel-Fattah, Burroughs Wellcome, Travel/Research Award \$10,000
- ⇒ Dr. Jessica Thompson, VIMS/Chesapeake Bay Trust, Living Shoreline Ecosystem Services, \$18,293
- ⇒ Melissa Hedlund & Sara Lenhart, MAA-Tensor-SUMMA, Monster Math Club, \$6,000
- ⇒ Dr. Russell Burke, ACOR-SDC Group, Inc., Craney Island Eastern Expansion Oyster Shell-String Survey, \$173,385



## Post-Award Corner:

### Get To Know Your Spreadsheet:

Principal Investigators! We have financial spreadsheets for your grants that are ready for your review. I would be happy to meet with you in person to:

1. Show you how to access your spreadsheet via the Z drive.
2. Show you how to read and interpret your spreadsheet.
3. Show you how to encumber your expenses.
4. Show you how to determine which category the expense belongs.
5. Answer any questions you may have about your spreadsheet.

I can also send instructions via email if you prefer. I strongly believe that once you become accustomed to accessing and reading the spreadsheets, that you will appreciate the control and assurance that it gives to know that all of your financial considerations have been tracked and documented in a logical and orderly fashion.

Many thanks to Anne Pascucci and Debbie Gaudreau for all of their help in creating this very useful tool. Please call me at 4-7276 and let's set up a time to meet!

Thank-you,

Laura Reid  
Fiscal Tech for Grants  
4-7276  
Laura.reid@cnu.edu

Coming soon: Training for all current PI's on the improvements and changes recently implemented so that you get the most from OSP and Post Award!