

Good morning!

Most of you know all about Christopher Newport as you have contributed immensely to our success, but allow me for just a few moments to remind you of what we have accomplished together.

Almost 22 years ago we set out to build another great university for America. We said we reject the notion of incremental progress, we're in the business of dramatic transformation. Everything we do will be done at the highest levels of excellence.

Well, together we have come a long way. Indeed, few schools in America, if any, have come so far so quickly. So, what is the secret to our success?

I believe the secret to our success is that we are passionate about minds and hearts. Our primary purpose is to form good citizens and leaders. We believe real success is a life well lived. We want our students to choose to live lives of meaning and consequence and purpose. At Christopher Newport we have a name for that. We call that lives of significance.

Because we care about minds and hearts and lives of significance, our curriculum is based on the liberal arts and sciences. We emphasize the study of leadership and have developed a nationally respected President's Leadership Program. Our core curriculum is rigorous, cited by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni as the most rigorous core curriculum of any public college or university in America. It's because we care about hearts and minds and creating good citizens and leaders that our students perform thousands of hours of community service and we have a speaking tradition and an honor code and we built a chapel. We want our students to lead and serve and love and engage and set the world on fire.

That's what makes Christopher Newport special and that's what makes Christopher Newport an irresistible force.

We are also a community that knows and cares about each other. The genius of Christopher Newport is our commitment to a rich and diverse community and a campus culture of respect, civility and inclusion. We honor and really care for every person. We want everyone to feel welcomed and fully engaged in this

community. We stand together and support and encourage each other. We are a light in an increasingly dark world and that is what makes this place so special.

Let me say this very clearly. We denounce and reject the violence and vile and vicious voices of the White Supremacist and Neo-Nazi and our hearts break because of the loss of life in Charlottesville.

Above the floor in the U.S. Senate is the great seal of the United States and the words E Pluribus Unum which is Latin for “out of many, one.” That has been the strength of our country for over 200 years.

That idea was beautifully expressed a few days ago by the University of Virginia basketball coach Tony Bennett when he said “we believe in diversity and unity to its fullest extent. We know that when those two things come together, something beautiful and triumphant comes out of it.”

Last year we established a University Council on Diversity and Inclusion composed of students, faculty, administrators, Board members and friends of the University – all committed to enhancing the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students, faculty and staff and to promote a campus culture of respect and civility.

In May, Vidal Dickerson joined the university assuming a strategic role within Student Affairs that will focus on the student experience, helping to identify ways to support underrepresented students and promote their involvement and leadership on campus; enhance the inclusive competency of staff members through training, and serve as a resource for students and staff alike. We welcome Vidal to our CNU family,

Last spring, the University invited Juan Johnson to work with our Council in helping us shape a strategic plan to enhance our diversity and inclusion efforts. Juan is a nationally respected expert in these matters. At the Coca-Cola Company he served as the company’s first Vice President for Diversity Strategy after Coke faced a massive class action racial discrimination lawsuit. Coke settled the lawsuit in less than two years and was named to Fortune Magazine’s list of best companies for minorities and Juan Johnson led CocaCola’s transformation.

Juan now serves as a Fellow at the Riley Institute at Furman University and leads diversity leadership programs across the the country.

In early May, Council members and other university leaders participated in a day-long seminar led by Juan that was an important foundational activity in our diversity and inclusion efforts. A series of rich discussions and thought-provoking issues were introduced.

Juan Johnson will return to campus on Friday, September 29, to engage all faculty and staff in a discussion on diversity leadership. I know you will find him to be a gifted speaker and superb facilitator. Over the past 22 years, CNU has experienced a remarkable transformation. Our applications have exploded by over 700%. This year we received 7,100 applications hoping for a freshman class of 1225. Today our freshman class numbers 1300 students.

The quality of our students has soared. The average high school GPA of our freshman class is 3.8 and our SAT scores –critical reading and math have increased by more than 200 points.

We have added more than 100 full-time faculty – not to get bigger, but to drive down the size of our classes and increase student success.

This year nearly 60% of our classes (exactly 59.66%) will have 19 students or less, and we will have only 26 classes larger than 50 students. There are absolutely no classes with hundreds and hundreds of students and no teaching assistants. We have real professors engaging high ability students in small classes.

Princeton Review, Kiplingers, Forbes, U.S. News & World Report have all praised CNU. U.S. News has named CNU one of America’s “schools to watch” for making the “most promising and innovative changes in academics, faculty, students, campus and facilities.” Among the nearly 300 schools in the U.S. News ranking of Southern Regional Schools, we now stand 5th among the publics and 14th overall.

Most importantly, our students love this school and bring our campus alive with their energy, enthusiasm and intellect.

While CNU has made monumental strides in just a short time, these achievements represent only the beginning. We will continue to work hard to recruit the finest faculty, seek the best students and create an exceptional experience emphasizing leadership, honor and civic engagement.

Now let me speak to the future.

At Christopher Newport, we have a clear sense of who we are, what we value and what we aspire to become – and we have been consistent from the beginning.

Our vision and values -- our guiding principles and goals -- are unchanged and define our six-year plan, our performance indicators, our enrollment projections, and capital requests and academic plans.

We want to get better and better, not bigger and bigger. For us 5,000 students is the right size . . .

Our focus is on the liberal arts and sciences and the undergraduate experience.

We emphasize great teaching, small classes and lots of personal attention. We have added 114 full-time faculty and we plan to add 20 more to reach our goal of 300 full-time faculty. That's the number we have long believed is essential to attaining and sustaining academic excellence.

We have worked hard to increase student success. For us that means improving retention and graduation rates and reducing the time to graduate. We have come a long way!

Look at these numbers.

Our freshman to sophomore retention rate has increased by 13 percentage points in the last 12 years and this year will be 88%. We are most assuredly advancing toward our goal of 90%

Our 4-year graduation rate has increased to 67% this year -- 36 percentage points higher than 10 years ago.

Our 6-year graduation rate is now 75% - 23 percentage points higher than 10 years ago.

We will not be satisfied until we reach a 6-year graduation rate of 80%.

With more faculty, we are now able to enhance study abroad, undergraduate research, internships and service and service learning opportunities – the kind of experiences that enrich the study of the liberal arts and sciences and that form good citizens and leaders.

We also need to complete the infrastructure required by a full-time student population of 5,000 and we are almost there. Construction of our library is 50% complete and I am assured it will be open this time next year. We are moving forward with the design of the visual arts center and construction could begin next summer.

Finally, we aspire to be recognized by Phi Beta Kappa as one of Americas top liberal arts institutions. Thirty-two members of our faculty are members of PBK and our faculty will prepare an application for submission in 2018.

As we begin this new academic year, I want to first thank our colleagues who have worked through the summer to prepare for this day. Our friends in plant operations, grounds and housing and our colleagues who have welcomed thousands of prospective students and their families to campus and conducted interviews and made four Setting Sail events and 2 leadership adventure programs and registration go smoothly and successfully. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

ADMISSION

Our freshmen are an outstanding class of young women and men. Today they number 1,300 students – once again exceeding our annual goal of 1,225. They come from twenty states and seven foreign countries and 80% of those students visited our campus and were personally interviewed.

With high school GPA and SAT averages of 3.8 and 1210, these are high-achieving students.

I am pleased to report that 22% of our freshman class are students of color. That's a 2% increase over last year and (the percentage of) our African American students increased from 8% to 10%.

Four hundred three freshmen will participate in the President's Leadership Program. On average, they earned a 4.0 high school GPA and SAT score of 1280.

One hundred forty-three freshmen will participate in our honors program. One hundred eighteen of those students will participate in both leadership and honors. These students, on average, earned a high school GPA of 4.2 and an SAT 1360.

Remarkably, four hundred twenty-eight freshmen – that's one-third of our first year class -- will participate in the President's Leadership Program and/or the Honors Program.

More and more we want the profile of our Leadership and Honors students to define our entire freshman class and so we must all work hard to ensure that the intellectual life of this place is rich and rigorous and rewarding.

What accounts for this enrollment success? Well, certainly our reach and reputation are spreading, but it also results from a lot of hard work.

My thanks Rob Lange, Christina Russell, Bonnie Tracey and to all the members of our faculty and staff who so generously contributed their time and talent supporting our freshmen admission and transfer programs.

ACADEMIC LIFE

This year we will have 279 full-time faculty, an increase of three positions over last year. And 200 of our faculty – 72 percent – are either tenured or on the tenure track, putting us well on the way to our long-term goal of reaching 75 percent.

Our twenty-seven new faculty have impressive academic credentials, and demonstrate a passion for teaching and a love for learning. We welcome our new faculty and look forward to your important contributions as we pursue preeminence in the liberal arts and sciences. I ask you to please stand.

Our academic programs are making headlines. Our Master of Arts in Teaching Program in Elementary Education was recently named the fifth best in the country. This is an outstanding achievement! Congratulations to all our faculty who instruct our future students.

Our Theater program was named among the top 20 Best College Theater programs in the nation by Princeton Review. Other colleges on this list include Carnegie Mellon, Northwestern, and Brown.

Congratulations to the Department of Theater and Dance.

We also applaud the achievements of Dr. Darlene Mitrano who was recently awarded the first National Institute of Health grant ever received by a CNU professor, Dr. Ken Rose who was awarded a wonderful grant from the Templeton Foundation and the Public History Center that was awarded a National Maritime Heritage grant. Awards such as these increase our reputation as a place of serious scholarship, learning and teaching.

This was a record year for medical school admission, with fifteen of our graduates beginning medical school this fall in excellent programs including Eastern Virginia, the University of Virginia, and Johns Hopkins. I appreciate all that Dr. Gwynne Brown and her colleagues have done to guide and support our students interested in the pre-health professions.

Canon Virginia recently committed \$300,000 over the next five years to provide scholarships and internships for students in STEM fields, particularly those in electrical engineering.

In the Luter School of Business our graduates for the third year in a row scored above the 97th percentile -- the top 3% in the nation -- in the National Major Business Field Test. That places CNU among the top 20 of over 600 universities where the test is administered.

Our students' performance underscores the quality of instruction, rigor of our curriculum and the intellectual fire power of our students.

I want to acknowledge the leadership and many contributions of Dr.

Robert Colvin who has taken on new and important responsibilities.

Many years ago . . .

After leading the College of Social Sciences for the past seven years (and the Luter School of Business for five of those years), Bob has now moved to the position of Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. Bob's tenure as dean included numerous accomplishments, including the creation of the Reiff Center and the creation of the Department of Economics. Bob led Luter through two successful AACSB reaccreditation cycles, and also directed the work of the "programs" team in our SACSCOC reaffirmation effort. He led the effort to develop our 3+3 program with the Law School at George Mason

University, and worked to increase the number of 4-year ROTC scholarships held by CNU students from zero to seven!

Thanks, Bob! Please stand.

And so, CSS welcomes a new dean this year – Dr. Quentin Kidd.

Dr. Kidd is well known to our campus, having been chair of the

Department of Government and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education. Quentin has written five books, was instrumental in the success of our Glasgow program, he created, and will continue to direct the Wason Center for Public Policy, and has become known as the voice of CNU in matters of politics and public policy.

We welcome Dr. Kidd to the deanship, and look forward to his leadership of the College. Quentin, will you please stand.

Also in CSS we have a new chair of the Military Science Department, Major Dustin Menhart. And as a testament to the robust level of ROTC activity at Christopher Newport, one of the first things Major Menhart did was to add two staff positions to our campus.

And speaking of Military Science, one of our ROTC students, Meghan Copenhaver (a rising junior majoring in Marketing), made military history this summer by becoming the first 4th generation paratrooper. Meghan's mother, maternal grandfather and maternal great grandfather also graduated from U.S. Army Airborne School. Her great grandfather jumped into France just east of Normandy Beach on D-Day. I want you to see this Army video.

While faculty and curriculum are critical components of the university experience, special programs such as Honors, Study Abroad, Undergraduate Research, and opportunities for service and service learning broaden and enhance the academic experience. We have very strong programs in all these areas.

With a total of 143 entering students (up from 122 last year) our Honors program is flourishing, and our commitment to more competitive scholarships will ensure the academic quality and performance of our Honors students in the years ahead. (Dr. Jay Paul)

About 25% of our graduates now study abroad, and this year we will have faculty and students in residence at the University of Glasgow in both the fall and spring terms. I am grateful for your efforts to expand and enhance international learning opportunities.

Two summers ago we held our inaugural Summer Scholars program. Twenty-six students joined our faculty to work collaboratively on faculty research and we have steadily increased that number - to 35 last year and 40 this year. My thanks to all those who have participated in this emerging signature program.

We expect our students to lead and serve and the Center for Community Engagement continues its important work. Our thirtyfour Bonner Scholars will contribute over 10,000 hours of meaningful service in our local community this year.

The Center also oversees our Service Distinction program that recognizes all students who perform 140 or more hours of service. In May, 176 students graduated with service distinction and nearly 2,000 (1,855) students are now enrolled in the program. In all, the students tracked by the Center performed over 73,000 service hours this past year (up from 57,000 hours last year). My thanks to Brad Brewer and Vanessa Buehlman.

Finally, I want to say a few words about our SACSCOC reaffirmation of accreditation.

We are done!

This has been a monumental multi-year effort, which culminated in the site visit this past March. We received their report, and have just submitted our Response Report and our Quality Enhancement Plan focusing on undergraduate research, and we will receive reaffirmation of our accreditation this December. My thanks to Vice Provost Dr. Geoffrey Klein, who led this monumental effort, to Dr. Michaela Meyer, our Academic Director of Undergraduate Research, and I ask them to please stand so we can all say thank you. Now to all those who helped throughout this process. If you worked on any of the reports, took part in shaping the QEP, or were in any way involved in our reaffirmation effort, please rise.

STUDENT SUCCESS

In welcoming our new freshmen to campus, the Registrar's Office designed class schedules and placed our new freshmen in 80 learning communities to build a strong foundation for their college success and to more effectively introduce them to the rich academic, cultural, and residential life of the University. In partnership with Housing, the Registrar's Office accommodated roommate requests for over 97% of the freshman class while also preserving the student's placement in their learning community.

Through the combination of our learning communities and customized class schedules, we are able to offer a seamless series of learning opportunities designed to help students transition to campus and engage as productive and successful members of the Christopher Newport community. This process positions our students to better acquaint themselves with campus, making friends, and forming natural study groups while also completing courses toward their degree program.

In support of our overall student success efforts, the Registrar's Office also programmed over 100,000 degree evaluations, recorded nearly 106,000 individual grades and graduated 1,254 students. My thanks to University Registrar, Julianna Wait, and her able staff for all that they have accomplished.

The Career Center helps students develop a four-year plan toward their career and graduate school goals. This past year, the Center worked directly with 987 of our first-year freshmen (more than 80% of the freshman class). The Center also engaged nearly 4,000 students overall. The Center has developed relationships with over

2,500 organizations to offer internship and post-graduate opportunities for our students. The Center hosted nearly 400 of those organizations on campus this past year. My thanks to Libby Westley. . .

On September 26 and 27, the Career Center will host a two-day career and graduate school event. We expect that more than 700 of our students will participate.

We know that Christopher Newport's rigorous academic programs and emphasis on leadership, honor and civic engagement empower our students for success in the workplace and graduate school.

I am pleased to report that our research indicates that within 6 months of graduation, 88% of our students are employed full-time or are enrolled full-time in graduate school. This is 10 percentage points higher than other universities in our Carnegie classification and over 15 percentage points higher than other universities in the Southeast. When we add those students who work part-time and those who attend graduate school part-time, this number totals 97%. The Luter School numbers are even better – 6 months after graduation, nearly 94% of our Luter School graduates indicate that they are employed full-time or attending graduate school full time. All these numbers send a powerful message about the success of all of our graduates.

I also want to applaud the celebration of our sophomores as they declare their major field of study at ‘Signing Day’ – one of our signature student success initiatives. This past spring over 93% of our 2nd year students participated in this collaborative event where every academic department warmly welcomes students into their major. I am immensely grateful for your hard work and support of this important tradition and all of our student success initiatives.

I am pleased to announce that Christopher Newport was named to the *2017-2018 Colleges of Distinction*. This recognition communicates that Christopher Newport is nationally recognized by education professionals because of our highly engaged students, excellent teaching, vibrant community and successful student outcomes.

My thanks to the Student Success Coordinating Committee and to all of our faculty and staff for supporting and encouraging the success of our students.

SERVICE

We want leadership, honor, and service to be the foundation of our students’ experience at CNU.

Our President’s Leadership Program plays a decisive role in making that happen every day by engaging over 1,000 of our students in a wide range of academic and co-curricular activities. Last year, PLP students contributed 41,000 hours of community service.

Our PLP students are not alone in their commitment to helping others.

We have over 200 clubs and organizations and nearly 1 out of every 3 clubs on this campus are devoted to service and volunteerism. The same commitment is true of our fraternity and sorority members. Over 1300 students are Greek, and last year they raised over \$100,000 for philanthropic purposes and contributed over 15,000 hours of service to the community. Hundreds of students participated in alternative Fall and Spring break excursions. Our Bonner Service Scholars and our student-athletes engage the community in powerful and important ways.

But we can do more.

All Captains should graduate with the understanding that they have the obligation to serve others. And all of us need to encourage their service by our words, our actions, and our example.

HOUSING AND RESIDENCE LIFE

It is well known that our residence halls are like palaces. We are consistently ranked among the very best residence halls in the country. It takes a great deal of effort and hard work to make these halls feel like home, but our students notice and we are grateful to our Residence Life and Housing staff.

DINING

We also have an amazing dining services team! Last year they served 1.1 million meals, and that doesn't include the 15,000 milkshakes in Einstein's, the 46,000 fries at Chik-Fil-A or any of the exceptional catered events. A special thanks for a job well done.

CNUPD

Many of us sprint through each day as we work hard to create a great university but we go home at night or on the weekends or stay at home when the weather is terrible but one operation is here every hour of every day. I want to personally thank all of the officers, dispatchers and security personnel in the University police Department. We are grateful for your dedication to our safety and security and I want to extend a warm welcome to our new Chief Dan Woloszynowski.

ATHLETICS

More than 600 student-athletes contribute energy, enthusiasm and intellect to the life of our university and they excel in the classroom and in athletic competition.

At graduation, we honored Brook Byrd, a standout varsity tennis player who graduated first in her class and who won a Fulbright to study in the UK. Overall our student-athletes earned a cumulative 2.98 GPA. At CNU our athletes are expected to go to class, be prepared and graduate and I thank all of you who help along the way . . .

In athletics, we play at the very highest level of excellence – winning over 70% of all games played and sweeping the conference mens, womens, and overall championships.

The hard work and success of our student-athletes and coaches propelled us to a top 15 finish among more than 400 schools in the NCAA where we stood with institutions like Williams, MIT, Johns Hopkins, Emory and Chicago.

There were many memorable moments, but we will all remember our women's basketball team run to the Final Four and our men's tennis team becoming the first team this century to defeat Mary Washington for the conference championship.

We look forward to another remarkable year for CNU athletics as we welcome our 24th intercollegiate sport, women's golf. We have recruited a talented group of young women and we expect to compete with the very best programs in the country.

On Saturday morning, our football team – over 100 strong – moved freshmen into the residence halls and then later in the day pummeled a nearby college in a pre-season scrimmage. I think our young men and coaches are preparing for another exciting and successful football year.

Football and all of our sports contribute immensely to the success of Christopher Newport and teach important lessons to our studentathletes that powerfully shape their lives.

CAPITAL

A great university must instruct and inspire and nothing does that more powerfully than magnificent art and architecture. That's why it is important that over the past 22 years Christopher Newport has created a campus of civic proportions and beautiful design.

Since this time last year, we completed the 4 Chapter Houses of Greek Village [*pause*] and the Greg Klich Alumni House. Both of these projects have added immensely to the life and energy and spirit of our beautiful campus and have created wonderful opportunities for us to celebrate our vibrant Greek Life and to welcome our Alumni to campus.



Also, over the last year, we began construction of the Library addition



The library continues to be an all-important gathering place for our students. Open 24 hours on most days, the library is filled with students from early morning to late at night.

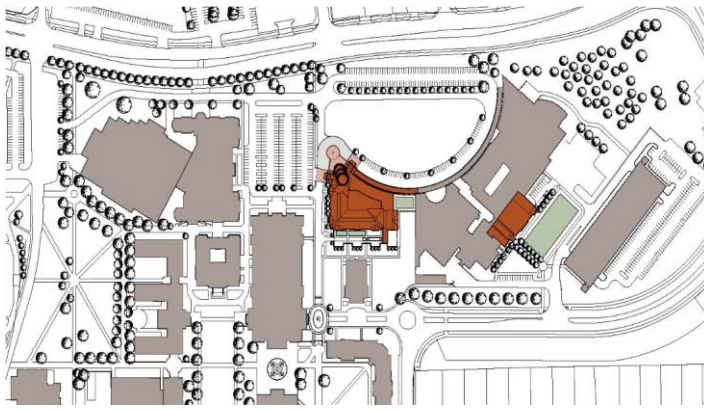
This is a picture of what the next phase of the library will look like as it extends toward Warwick Boulevard. This project will add 800 seats to accommodate a total of 1,200 students in all, a magnificent two-story reading room and will provide critically important space for our expanding collection which is now approaching one million holdings. In addition to many individual and group study spaces, the addition will also feature a lecture hall and two classrooms, one of which, will be a Digital Humanities Classroom. Lastly, Einstein's has been renovated and refreshed with additional seating and, of course, Starbucks coffees and incredible milk shakes. The library will be completed by this time next year.

Construction of the expansion of Regattas has fallen behind schedule but will be completed this fall. This project will add 300 seats for dining in a spectacular 2-story pavilion [*pause*] and will create a new entrance from the Great Lawn.



REGATTA'S EXPANSION

The next capital project will be the Fine Arts Center and Band Room. Last year I reported to you that the new Fine Arts Center would face the Avenue of the Arts and stand next to the Ferguson Center. However, that location did not feel quite right so we moved it. And here is where it will go.

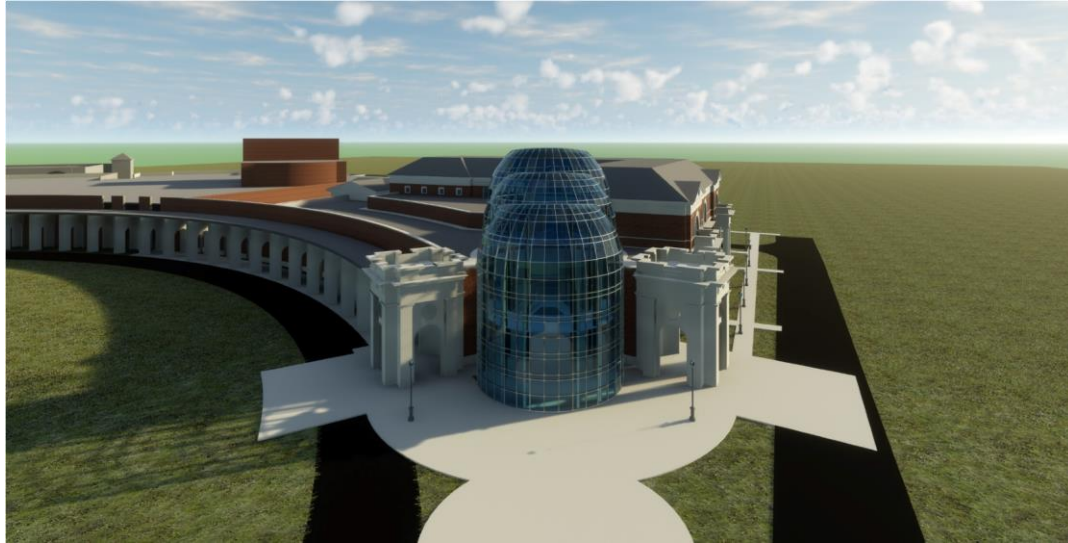


It will be constructed in the Visitor Lot next to the Ferguson Center on the ellipse behind the Chapel and will provide convenient and easy access for our students, faculty and staff and the many visitors we expect to visit the center each year. . .

As you can see in the next slide, it will allow us to continue the colonnade and place the Art Center in the heart of our campus with spectacular visibility from Warwick Boulevard. . .



The next picture shows the three glass domes that make up the lobby. They are reminiscent of our three sails and, for you sailors out there, they look a lot like the billowing spinnakers on a sailboat. The lobby will be lit night and day as a counter point to the lobby and tower of the beautiful Diamonstein Concert Hall.



As you can see in the next slide, as we turn the corner, the building begins to reflect the traditional, neo-Georgian architecture of the main campus instead of the more modern design and architecture of the Ferguson Center and the colonnade.



The Fine Arts Center will support the important activities of our Fine Art and Art History Department, the many programs of instruction to citizens of all ages that will be provided by Christopher Newport and our partner the Peninsula Fine Arts Center and provide galleries and exhibition spaces for visiting and permanent collections. This \$50 million project could begin construction next summer and be completed in the summer of 2020.

Last week, I presented our 6-year plan to the senior leadership in Richmond. For the first time in 22 years, we did not request any new capital projects in the next biennium. The creation of our campus is essentially complete. It is amazing what one billion dollars can do.

With that in mind, I'd like to recognize Hunter Bristow, our University Architect, who is retiring at the end of this month after 18 years of service. Hunter, thank you for all that you have contributed to the transformation of this great university.

ADVANCEMENT

Six years ago, we began our first ever comprehensive fundraising campaign. This campaign was not about one building or project or scholarship; it was about the whole University...every gift, from every source, for every purpose counts.

On June 30th – we brought that campaign to a close. And on Sunday, September 17, on the Great Lawn we will gather to celebrate the campaign's triumphant success.

Adelia Thompson has masterfully led our campaign for six years and we have an outstanding Advancement Team and I want Adelia and her colleagues to stand so we can express our thanks for their hard work and extraordinary results. And to my dear friend, Lucy Latchum and Susan Martin, we wish you Godspeed and all the best as you retire this fall.

On Sunday evening September 17th, we will host the Virginia Symphony Orchestra on our beautiful great lawn under the stars. This year, to celebrate the end of our comprehensive campaign, we're adding some amazing surprises. You don't want to miss it. Something spectacular is going to happen. Something you may never see again in your lifetime.

So mark your calendars for Sunday, September 17th at 7:30 p.m. on the Great Lawn for a wonderful celebration and a night you will always remember.

We will announce our final totals that night and everyone will walk away knowing how the campaign will transform this University and position us to transform the world.

Because you are the heart of Christopher Newport and make the magic happen here every day, I want you to be the first to hear some of our remarkable accomplishments.

- We set a goal of \$42 million – an aspirational number for a school our age, and for a first campaign. And we hoped we would reach 18% annual alumni giving. We started at 8%, so 18% meant exponential growth in six years.**
- Our purpose was to use the campaign to greatly expand our reach and reputation, reconnect with alumni, engage the parents of our students, and most importantly begin to establish the solid foundation of financial support that every great university must have to move confidently into the future.**

Well, with your help, we far exceeded anything any of us could have imagined.

- 1) Scholarships were our top priority – to reward merit, and to help our many students who have financial need.**

We added 132 new scholarships, and raised over \$17 million in support of new and existing scholarships. That includes CNU's two first-ever full ride scholarships.

- 2) A second priority was to establish endowed funding to empower the success of our remarkable faculty.**

When we started, we had no endowed professorships. Not one. We now have four endowed professorships – two that are active and two more that will be fully funded through estate gifts.

3) Well over 30% of our campaign total was raised in support of Programs of Distinction. These are programs across our campus that are important to the success of our students including academic programs, departments and colleges, the President’s Leadership and Honors programs, the Center for Community Engagement, athletics, etc.

4) Fourth –the Alumni House.

Happily we not only opened the doors of our alumni house this year, we also secured the leadership gift that allowed us to proudly etch the name of a distinguished alumnus over the entrance to that house. We are now able to welcome hundreds of guests each week to the Gregory P. Klich Alumni House at Christopher Newport University.

5) Our fifth priority was annual giving and alumni support

CNU Day and the Senior Gift Campaign are major contributors to our alumni giving.

- March 14, 2017 was our third CNU Day, and once again we surpassed prior year totals and surprised us all with the energy and spirit generated around the world.**

Wearing blue and silver, waving CNU flags in many countries and all kinds of places, Captains “showed up” in body and spirit in record numbers.

This infographic tells the story. We raised a remarkable \$688,593, were “trending on Twitter” for several hours, we exploded Facebook all day long, and raised alumni giving participation by an incredible 2.3% - all IN ONE DAY!

- The Senior Gift Campaign**

When we began this comprehensive campaign, one of our quiet goals was to instill a sense of philanthropy among our students – for them to learn that giving to support the things we care most about in our lives is one of the most powerful, meaningful and joyful things any of us can do.

Well, the unbelievable growth of the Senior Gift Campaign tells a powerful story – our students embrace giving back and paying forward...and they are just a little bit competitive too.

They started at \$42,000 in 2012. And this past spring our seniors contributed more than \$105,000 to their University!

But of course what they choose to support is even more extraordinary! That list includes: faculty excellence, the Lighthouse Fund – a portion of which was expressly set aside by them to assist faculty and staff in crisis, an endowed scholarship, the alumni house and now the establishment of a full ride scholarship to CNU for a year.

When we started the campaign, we weren't quite sure where we stood with alumni of earlier decades.

Well, one of the wonderful lessons learned through the campaign is that most of our older alumni have been waiting for an invitation to be part of today's Christopher Newport. We found they are deeply grateful for what happened to them while they were here – and enormously proud of what their alma mater has become!

Six years ago, 8% of our alumni were making gifts each year. We set a goal of 18% by the end of the campaign. Well, we passed 18% last year so we set a goal of 20% for the final year of the campaign. Alumni giving at that level would put us at the very highest levels of public schools around the country.

On September 17 we will have much to celebrate!

- **The most extraordinary story is yours – CNU faculty and staff.**

Day in and day out, you work countless hours and in heroic ways care for our students and our campus and our community. And then, each year, we ask you to make a financial contribution and you do.

This past year, 95% of all faculty and staff made a gift to Christopher Newport. There is no other school in the country like this. There is no other campus family like you. Thank you...

CNU is all about community. As evidenced by your sacrificial giving and by this story of one of our students and her dad.

MacKenzie Masterson came to CNU in the fall of 2011. She graduated in May of 2015, and she is entering her third year as part of Jane Sulzberger's leadership staff at LifeLong Learning; MacKenzie is here today.

Throughout MacKenzie's years on campus, her parents – Jeff and LuAnn – facilitated generous annual gifts through the Doherty Foundation. MacKenzie's grandfather served on the board for many years, and then her Dad followed in his place.

Shortly after MacKenzie graduated, Jeff contacted us regarding the possibility of the foundation doing something significant for CNU.

You see, the Doherty Foundation also invests in the work of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Jeff imagined a relationship between that organization and Christopher Newport that Doherty might support – opening up new opportunities for our students to do more hands-on research “out on the water” with our wonderful biology faculty.

Jeff set out to create a new endowment at CNU – a fund that would ensure, in perpetuity that Christopher Newport Students could bring their creativity, intelligence and values to bear on the challenges facing the Chesapeake Bay, and in turn would avail themselves of the living laboratory that surrounds us.

Jeff's love for his daughter, his appreciation for her alma mater and delight at the possibilities he saw created his urgency to establish the fund – but so did his personal battle with cancer. And he was determined to personally shepherd the fund to completion.

Jeff lost his valiant battle with cancer on January 7, 2017.

Two days later, a signed agreement arrived in our Advancement office followed by a check for \$100,000, creating the new Doherty Foundation Endowment at Christopher Newport.

But this story continues.

A few weeks after Jeff's memorial service, we received a letter from Walter Brown, President of the Foundation. The letter said, *"With the passing of Jeff Masterson, we lost a fellow trustee, husband, father and an exceptional human being. Jeff requested that any donations be made to the endowed fund that he proposed that the Foundation establish at Christopher Newport University. To honor his wish, the Doherty Foundation would like to make an additional donation in memory of Jeff, to be added to the Henry L. and Grace Doherty Foundation Biology Fund."*

The gift accompanying the letter doubled the endowment – and that fund will now generate about \$10,000 a year to get our Captains "out on the water," for research – and solutions for the future.

A father and daughter's love, a university that instructs minds and stirs hearts, a father's vision and commitment to making the world a better place. MacKenzie, thank you for your dad.

This place is precious. People have invested in Christopher Newport because we are authentic – we are a beacon for good in a time when so much is broken. We are a light in a world that seems so dark. With our students there is hope for this world. That's why what we are doing here is so important – and why I cherish all of you and why I cherish our time together.