



# C\_N\_U Potential for Discovery and Creativity

Christopher Newport University Office of Sponsored Programs

Newsletter Date Summer 2013

Issue # 5

## Special points of interest:

- CNU Evolves with New Leadership
- Focus on Digital Humanities
- Update Your Faculty PIVOT Searches for the Best Results
- OSP Assumes Responsibility for Expenditure Approval and Spreadsheet Reconciliation
- New series of Brown Bag & After Hours Scholar Gatherings

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## The “We Want to Know What You Did Last Summer Issue”



# C\_N\_U Potential for Discovery and Creativity

## The “We Want to Know What You Did Last Summer Issue”

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I write for the first time in the Office of Sponsored Program’s (OSP) newsletter. As a faculty member, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the office as I pursued external funds to enhance my scholarly endeavors. In my new position, I hope to champion the use of scholarly work to enhance an environment that promotes life-long learning among our faculty and students, an essential component of the liberal arts. The Office of Sponsored Programs strives to remain true to CNU’s mission by providing exceptional resources to foster excellence in teaching, inspired by sound scholarship.

Our office is here to support faculty, staff, and students in their pursuit for external funds to support their scholarly activities. The office can help you identify funding opportunities; manage application, assurance and certification forms; help the preparation of proposal budgets and justifications; and ensures compliance with all regulations governing the awarded grant(s). This summer we worked with the Business Office to shift the responsibility of the monthly reconciliation of grants back to OSP. This shift in responsibility will make certain that we have properly trained staff, with adequate time, to complete these reconciliations in a timely manner. In the end, it is our goal to make the development, and administration, of grants as smooth and effortless as possible to allow faculty to do what they do best – pursue new discoveries.

Having worked closely with the office in the past, I recognize the hard work of Anne Pascucci, Director of OSP, and congratulate the office on a successful 2012-2013 academic year. The office played a part in bringing in over \$1.7 million dollars to support faculty, and student, research. Of particular note, 84% of the grants awarded this past year included components of direct impact on student learning. Our faculty continue to be successful with grants from a number of federal agencies, such as the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Science Foundation, and Department of Agriculture.

In closing, I hope you will take advantage of a number of OSP sponsored events over the next academic year. A variety of topics are being considered for future brown bag lunches that will facilitate collaboration among faculty of many disciplines. The annual Convocation of Scholars Luncheon will focus on bringing together internal and external players at the leading edge of the Digital Humanities field. These events are an excellent opportunity to discuss your scholarly endeavors and hear about the fascinating work of your colleagues across the University.

Best,



Geoffrey Klein  
Associate Provost





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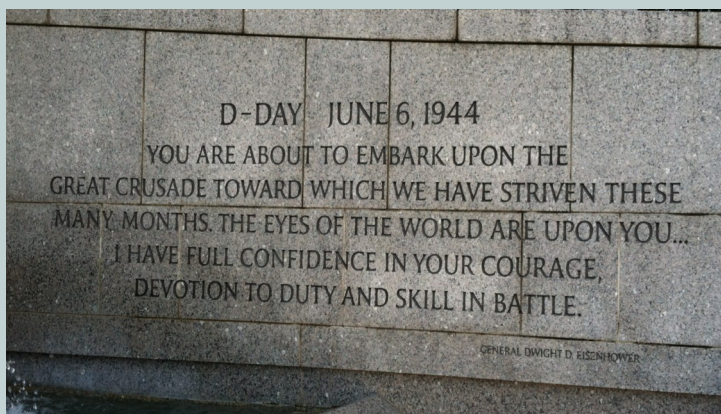
Christopher Newport University and the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) have gone through a number of transitions since the Spring Semester ended. There is a new building or one missing here and there but leadership changes have dominated the Office of Sponsored Programs attention. Our new Provost, Dr. David Doughty, expresses a strong interest in faculty's pursuit of scholarly activity and extramural funding to support it. The new Dean for Arts and Humanities, Dr. Lori Underwood and new Dean of The College of Natural and Behavioral Sciences Dr. Nicole Guajardo are enthusiastic about scholarly pursuits. Both of the new Deans are complimented by Dean Robert Colvin of the College of Social Sciences, who has promoted collaboration within and across the University.

With the insightful leadership of our new Provost, we now have a focus for exploring opportunities for unique work in digital humanities. This activity crosses all disciplinary lines and promotes the availability and growth of knowledge.

OSP has also experienced a change with the departure of Debbie Gaudreau happily into retirement. We are hoping to have the position filled soon. Additionally, with the departure of Dr. Bobbye Bartels, OSP now reports directly to Dr. Geoffrey Klein, who is a fervent supporter of faculty scholarly activities. Remember, we are now in Forbes 1047 and 1048. Please come and see us soon!



### Office of Sponsored Programs to DC for Conference



Photos By Anne Pascucci, Washington ,DC 8/13

The Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs, Anne M. Pascucci attended and presented at the National Council of University Research Administrators in early August in Washington, DC. Professional development is critical due to ever changing regulations and sponsor guidelines. Major changes this year include using Research.gov for National Science Foundation programmatic reporting, an eminent ground-up revision to the Office of Management and Budget Circulars that guide awards to higher education, nonprofits and hospitals into one document and much more!

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## The “We Want to Know What You Did Last Summer Issue”

Sharon Rowley  
Associate Professor of English



This was a busy summer of research and conferences for me, beginning with the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual International Congress on Medieval Studies, at Western Michigan University in May. As a member of the Executive Board of the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists (ISAS) and a part of the developing Bede network, I was busy attending and chairing sessions I had helped organize and making plans for next year.

In July, I presented on “Fursey’s Place in the Spiritual and Intellectual Landscape of the Old English Bede” at the International Medieval Congress (IMC) at the University of Leeds. I also chaired a session on Bede at this conference, which is the largest Humanities conference in Europe. I headed to Cambridge after the IMC, where I spent about three weeks working at the Parker Library (Corpus Christi College) and the Cambridge University Library. I was able to work with Old English and Anglo-Latin manuscripts relating to two projects, first, my collaborative edition of the Old English version of Bede’s

*Ecclesiastical History*, and second, an essay commissioned by Oxford University Press, “The Long Ninth Century: The Prose of King Alfred’s Reign,” which is due in October. I also looked at a couple Middle English manuscripts, with an eye towards the talk on Middle English Breton Lays I’ve been invited to give in Paris in December.

I wrapped up my travels in Dublin at the biennial meeting of ISAS, where my book, *The Old English Version of Bede’s Historia Ecclesiastica* won Honorable Mention in the Best First Book Award category. I also chaired a session and performed my duties as a member of the Executive Board, which included not only many meetings regarding the budget and format of ISAS (not so fun), but also meetings to determine the location of the 2017 conference, which will be Hawaii (which promises to be pretty darn fun).



Photos By Dr. Sharon Rowley — Glendalough, Ireland

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Tom Hall and Quentin Kidd wrote the first drafts of two sections for the report on economic distortions to offshore wind energy markets. Quentin took the lead role in writing about the United States' efforts to promote this source of renewable energy, whereas Tom reviewed the situation in the European Union. Although the US has yet to install a working, large-scale offshore wind facility, many countries in Europe--especially in the north west part of that continent--have been developing this resource for many years. The UK is the world's largest producer--in fact it has more capacity than the rest of the world combined--in part due to the fact that coastal waters are all owned by the Crown Estate, and local municipalities have limited ability to block and delay projects compared to other countries. Additional EU nations with substantial offshore wind production include Denmark, Sweden, and the Netherlands. Germany is known for its onshore wind as well as solar installations, and does not have as much capacity from offshore wind farms. In no country does offshore wind constitute even 10% of electricity production, however, and especially due to low global natural gas prices, any prospect for massive expansion of offshore wind power generation seem to be rather limited for the short and medium term. Over the summer, Kelli Montgomery, a student assistant, helped with the project. She was instrumental in putting together the first deliverable for Dominion Resources, the sponsor of the project, which was an annotated bibliography of many research pieces covering offshore wind energy policy in both the US and in the European Union. In the fall, Quentin and Tom will incorporate feedback from Dominion on the first draft of the report, which is due to be completed in December, 2013.

Dr. Thomas Hall & Dr. Quentin Kidd



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Photos By : Dr. John Finn

## Researching Food in Revolutionary Cuba

John C. Finn

Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Anthropology

Christopher Newport University

[john.finn@cnu.edu](mailto:john.finn@cnu.edu)

Eating is one of the most intimate human acts. Multiple times per day we—quite literally—internalize myriad and multi-scalar political, economic, and environmental processes far beyond our immediate reach. In a broad sense, food links every individual into local, national, and global networks of production and consumption. At the same time, taken collectively, our individual food choices make us active agents in shaping both the political economy and the environment. This past summer I began a research project, partially funded by the Christopher Reynolds Foundation, in which food and food culture crystalize as a primary lens of broader political-economic and environmental analysis in Revolutionary Cuba. This

work aims to explore how changing political-economic contexts in Cuba during the past 60 years have affected both food culture and the natural environment, and also how food culture, through the daily actions of individuals, collectively affects both the political economy and the agricultural environment of the island.

Social scientists of all stripes have long asserted that culture cannot be understood outside of its broader political and economic contexts. In Cuba, through colonization, war, independence, foreign occupations, revolution, land reforms, the Cold War, the economic havoc of the post-USSR *Periodo Especial* (“Special Period”), and the slow economic recovery in the years since, it is hard to imagine a situation in which the island’s political-economic context has not played an outsized role in shaping its culture generally, and its food culture in particular. From the widespread popularity of canned meat during the Soviet era, to the rural New Year’s feasts in which nearly everything on the table is grown within mere kilometers of that table, to the increasing prominence of imported processed foods, political economy cuts through all geographic scales.

It is also clear that agricultural and environmental shifts result from both political-economic pressures and from localized cultural forces. Generally speaking, however, there are two overarching narratives surrounding Cuba’s environment. First, the view of the Cuban government—and one that is repeated by sympathetic academics, journalists, and travelers from the United States—is that Cuba is some kind of “ecotopia,” a prime example of the possibilities of sustainable development rooted in a rejection of capitalism and its relentless quest for capital accumulation. Proponents of this view cite the abundance of small-scale agricultural enterprises, urban farms and farmers markets, and organic farming techniques, in explaining what they term the “greening of the revolution.”

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## Researching Food in Revolutionary Cuba

John C. Finn  
Continued

Meanwhile, the opposing camp argues that while Marxist-Leninist dogma asserts that environmental degradation is a direct result of the logic of capitalism, the environmental failings of socialism are indisputable. Cuba, according to this view, does not escape the “ecocide” of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. According to this view, the systemic problems of socialism, taken in Cuba’s own political, economic, and environmental context, have had direct and negative results at all levels of Cuban society.

In this study we have purposefully eschewed both of these ideologically rigid positions by focusing on individuals and localized communities in order to better understand how the complex interconnections of Cuba’s political economy and political ecology have affected individuals and the food they eat, and how individual food choices collectively play an important role in shaping the island’s environment and political economy. To that end, I spent one month this summer working with a Cuban research partner to collect rich personal narratives and oral histories of Cubans who have intimate ties to the environment and to political-economic structures through both agriculture and food. Specifically, we focused our ethnographic work on two groups of Cubans: the elderly and women. In the first place, rural Cubans who are old enough to have lived through the triumph of the Revolution in 1959 collectively possess a wealth of local knowledge beyond the reach of most other research methods. Through memories and life stories, this population can trace changes in agriculture and food production, consumption patterns, and food cultures dating to the pre-Revolutionary period. This is a valuable source of local historical and cultural knowledge which, if not recorded soon, could be lost forever. Second, because of the gender roles that permeate Cuban society, rural and urban women alike tend to have a more direct connection to food through their immediate involvement in the daily tasks of food preparation. They are the keepers of recipes, histories, anecdotes, and kitchen secrets, and their stories have the ability to provide a unique view that rarely finds its way into political-economic, environmental, and cultural analysis.

Following my fieldwork this past summer, in the coming semester I’ll be working with several CNU Spanish students to transcribe nearly 25 hours of recorded interviews. Based on these transcripts and other sources of historical, environmental, and economic data, I’ll be writing several papers for academic publication that aim to paint a much more complex portrait of the influence of individual cultural action on national and even global scales through the seemingly mundane tasks of cultivating, preparing, and eating food. Besides academic publications, based on this research I also plan to publish a photo essay of mostly Cuban women—but also some men—in their kitchens, produce several documentary shorts with footage I shot in the field, and pursue further funding to continue this research in the future.



Photos By : Dr. John Finn

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Ward Strickland, student of Dr. Geoffrey Klein

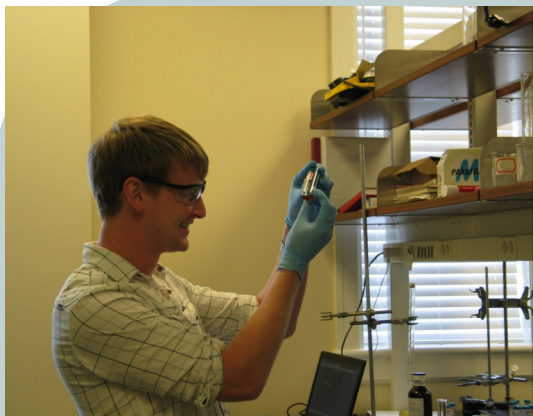


Photo By : A. Pascucci

As a pre-med student at Christopher Newport University, undergraduate research looks great on medical school applications, but there are many more benefits to undergraduate research than an interview topic.

Dr. Klein's lab has a couple of research projects students take part in on a regular basis. The petroleomics project focuses on defining characteristics of crude oils and their fractions, specifically on finding chemical solutions to problems that arise during production and refining. The asphaltene fraction is the main culprit responsible for many of the problems that cause a decrease in efficiency. Initially we focused on extracting asphaltenes

from crude oil to better define chemical characteristics that could be used to solve many of the problems. However, recent literature has shown that the components of the asphaltene fraction are more complex and are more difficult to analyze by traditional methods. With new research being published we had to determine how to change our research methods to keep the data we were collecting relevant. As with all initiation of methods, procedures need to be determined to ensure the reproducibility of data. This meant students and professors collaborating in a literature search and deciding what would work best for our lab.

It was decided that Hildebrand solubility parameters would be an efficient and simple method useful in characterizing the ability of an oil to remain stable during refining. This summer I focused my research on determining the Hildebrand solubility parameters of the crude oils kept in lab. At first I had to learn and understand the concepts that the values would be based on so that I could better explain why the oils had different values even for the same fraction. At one point, one of the oils was not behaving and made it impossible for me to determine the Hildebrand solubility parameter without altering the oil some way. I designed an experiment, utilizing the scientific method, to decide how the set-up needed to change and then determined how that change would impact the data. By the end of the summer, I had come up with eight values that can be used to explain how likely problems are to arise in the production and refining process for the four crude oils under investigation.

This work is a part of a larger project that is funded by the Petroleum Research Fund of the American Chemistry Society. This grant provided funds for me to stay on campus to take advantage of the superb research facilities in the Mary Brock Forbes Science Building. This was a great experience because it allowed me to focus on lab work and begin preparing for future research presentations at the American Chemical Society Conference. I am also working on writing a manuscript for publication in a scientific journal. Overall, the research experience has facilitated stronger relationships with my professors, improved my critical thinking skills, helped solidify theoretical, chemical concepts, have an opportunity to mentor other research students, and contribute to the scholarly work of the scientific community. There are many more advantages but I would not be able to list all of them. None of the students participating in undergraduate research that I have talked to ever mention regretting it, and all of them agree that they feel better prepared for the work force after college.



# C\_N\_U Potential for Discovery and Creativity

John Nichols, Associate Professor/Film Studies Director



In May, 2013, Christopher Newport University was awarded an On Screen/In Person grant, a program of Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation made possible through the generous support of the National Endowment for the Arts. The grant helps provide for a monthly film series featuring independent award-winning filmmakers and their films. Filmmakers not only screen the films, but join panels of experts on the issues and topics their films engage. Filmmakers also visit classes and conduct workshops with student filmmakers about the craft of making independent movies.

This year's films cover a variety of dynamic topics, ranging from the bipartisan efforts of a first-time Congressman to the environmental implications of shorefront development in the wake of hurricane season. Filmmakers explore the history of the AIDS activist organization ACT UP, the burgeoning pet memorial business and the grief that accompanies loss, and popular culture's representation of powerful women in society as personified through the legacy of comic book heroine Wonder Woman. And one director takes us on a wild ride that pieces together multiple scripts from different sources to make a film version of the old parlor game Exquisite Corpse.

Selected films include: The Exquisite Corpse Project directed by Ben Popik (Jan 14); FUREVER directed by Amy Finkel (Oct. 17); Mr. Cao Goes to Washington directed by S. Leo Chiang (Nov. 14); Shored Up directed by Ben Kalina (Sept. 12); United in Anger: A History of ACT UP directed by Jim Hubbard (Apr. 8); and WONDER WOMEN! The Untold Story of American Superheroines directed by Kristy Guevara-Flanagan (Mar. 25). All films are shown at the Ferguson Center for the Arts.

The first film in the series, Shored Up, by Ben Kalina, addressed beach replenishment efforts in New Jersey and the Outer Banks, particularly in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. Over 150 students, faculty, and community members attended the screening and the discussion. Alongside the filmmaker, Dr. Ben Redekop (Leadership), Dr. Russell Burke (Biology), and Donna Milligan (VIMS) answered questions from the audience about climate change, beach erosion, and future projects to protect shorelines. Co-Directors of the On Screen/In Person grant, Dr. John Nichols (Director of Film Studies) and William Biddle (Executive Director of the Ferguson Center), look forward to renewing the grant every year for CNU and the Hampton Roads community audiences.

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Laura Reid, Post Award Grant Accountant

### Post Award Corner Considerations:

**We have moved!** The Business Office is now located on the second floor of Gosnold Hall. My office is Room 203, and Accounts Payable is right beside me, in Room 202. Payroll is on the other side of the building (upstairs) in Rooms 224, 225, and 226.

**Spreadsheets:** The Office of Sponsored Programs will now assume all spreadsheets. (This is a good thing!) To find out what expenses have posted, and to determine your available grant funds, please contact the Office of Sponsored Programs. They will give you access to the Z drive (for all on-site PC

users)

and

show you how to access

password protected spreadsheet. Off-site and MAC users will have to

contact IT for Z drive access, then OSP will grant you access to your spreadsheet. Please refer to the spreadsheets when you are able, this is an invaluable tool to help keep you on track..

Thank you~

The Post Award Grant Accountant, Laura Reid, continues to be in charge of billing grants, contracts and cooperative agreements as well as applying indirect costs. She is a wonderful resource for navigating the Business Office and is extremely helpful in finding answers.



Photo By A Pascucci of Ms. Laura Reid





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### Proposals since June 30th, 2013

- ♦ Brown, Jeffrey; VA DCJS; \$31,060
- ♦ Cole, Kathryn; Research Corp, Cottrell Award; \$35,000
- ♦ DeJong, Anna; Southwest Research Institute; supplement \$13,564
- ♦ DeJong, Anna; North Carolina State A&T, from NSF; \$45,848
- ♦ Loy, Christopher, Timmer, Andria, Finn, John; CESU; \$50,000
- ♦ Meighan, Christopher; NIH, \$338,215
- ♦ Patterson, Joshua; Research Corp, Cottrell Award; \$35,000
- ♦ Russett, Jill; DHHS-William & Mary; \$51,297
- ♦ Sprague, M, VADOE, \$21,338
- ♦ Thompson, Jessica; NSF; \$41,880
- ♦ Wang, Dali; NASA; \$46,441
- ♦ Ward, Elizabeth; NASA; \$1,568,845



### Awards Since June 30th, 2013

- ♦ Atkinson, Robert; NC Dept. of Parks; \$18,810
- ♦ Brown, Jeffrey; VA DCJS; \$31,060
- ♦ DeJong, Anna; Southwest Research Institute; supplement \$13,564
- ♦ Finn, John; VA Geographic Alliance; \$26,000
- ♦ Loy, Christopher, Timmer, Andria, Finn, John; CESU; \$50,000
- ♦ Rowley, Sharon; NEH; \$250,000
- ♦ Wang, Dali; NASA; \$46,441
- ♦ Ward, Elizabeth; NASA; \$1,568,845