



CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY'S

# VOYAGES

ALUMNI MAGAZINE ♦ 2011

BANNER SPRING  
FOR ATHLETICS

CELEBRATING OUR  
FIRST 50 YEARS

ALUMNI ON THE  
STAGE





## Announcing a special offer<sup>1</sup> for alumni, students and faculty of **Christopher Newport University!**

As alumni of CNU, Shannon Edwards and Tu Ritter know the importance of higher education and what it can mean in shaping a young person's future. But with the cost of college consistently on the rise, it's become harder and harder to finance an education – without the help of grants, loans and scholarships.

To help do their part to make education more affordable, Shannon and Tu have teamed up to implement a program to help give back to the institution that helped them achieve personal growth while preparing them for the next step: an enriching professional career.

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What a wonderful time to be a Captain! As you will read in the coming pages, we have much to be proud of and celebrate, including our 1,000 new graduates inducted into the Alumni Society in May!

It has been a time of great change and great victories for the Christopher Newport family. Along with exciting news from around campus, the Alumni Society is proud of our accomplishments and expansion over the last year. With the establishment of an Alumni Relations office at CNU, our web presence has expanded greatly with the creation of an alumni website and an active social media program including Alumni Society and chapter Facebook pages, Twitter, and LinkedIn accounts. We have also seen the publication of two alumni magazines and quarterly e-newsletters, a complete re-branding initiative, new alumni event offerings, an expanded Homecoming program, and a strategic plan laying the foundation for a dynamic alumni organization.

In addition, we have implemented several organizational changes within our board of directors, including a major bylaw revision, key board appointments and a realignment of goals to help connect alumni with the Christopher Newport family.

We are excited for the upcoming year — the 50th Anniversary of Christopher Newport. Not only will we celebrate 50 years of educating the best and brightest, but we also have several new initiatives being launched, including a formal alumni referral program for admissions, a cutting-edge online alumni-student mentoring program and incredible 50th Anniversary events. Stay tuned for details.

Christopher Newport alumni: be involved, stay engaged and remember that you are and always will be a Captain for Life!



Jason Houser '97  
Alumni Society President





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## VOYAGES • 2011

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### Stay in Touch

Help keep CNU's alumni connected. Send your news to [alumni@cnu.edu](mailto:alumni@cnu.edu).

**Front Cover:**  
**Mary Brock Forbes Hall, our new integrated science center**

### 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.

### Alumni Relations and University Events

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## Princeton Review Selects CNU

Christopher Newport University ranks among the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education, according to The Princeton Review, the widely recognized education services company. CNU was chosen from more than 2,500 institutions for inclusion in the group's upcoming publication *The 367 Best Colleges: 2012 Edition*.

Only 15 percent of U.S. colleges are included in the annual guidebook, which will be published in August. "In our opinion, these are 'the crème of the crop' institutions for undergraduates in America," says

Robert Franek, senior vice president/publishing of The Princeton Review.

"This recognition is only possible through the tireless effort and dedication of our superb faculty and staff who are raising the standard of

excellence that defines CNU," says President Paul Tribble. "It is through their hard work that we have transformed Christopher Newport University, and our students cherish this very special place."

He adds, "Our students, faculty, staff and alumni are among the best in the world, and with this acknowledgement from The Princeton Review there is cause to celebrate. However, our work is not done. We will continue to get better and better. It is our commitment as members of the CNU community that each day we strive to make our campus and the world a better place." ♦



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## CNU Named Top 'STEM' College

*Forbes* magazine has named Christopher Newport University one of the top 20 colleges for minorities in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math,

To determine its rankings, *Forbes* compared blacks, Hispanics and American Indians, groups typically underrepresented in STEM programs, to whites and Asians —

CNU's efforts toward attracting and preparing young people for STEM-related careers directly supports the priorities of the Virginia Commission on Higher Education Reform,

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## CNU is one of the institutions 'getting it right.'

---

known colloquially as STEM. Of the top 20 colleges, CNU ranks fourth and — according to this analysis — is one of the institutions "getting it right," along with schools like M.I.T., Tulane and Texas Tech.

those typically well represented. *Forbes* excluded from its analysis those schools with student bodies comprised almost entirely of minorities.

Innovation and Investment, created by Gov. Bob McDonnell. CNU President Paul Tribble serves on the commission. ♦





## Ferguson Center's 'One-Millionth Patron Celebration'

On March 27, 2011, at a matinee performance of the national tour of "The Wizard of Oz," three lucky patrons were selected as Ferguson Center's One-Millionth Patron Celebration winners.

The "One-Millionth Patron Celebration" took place during intermission as Tracey Eppolito of Smithfield; Travis, Jodi and Lauren Ingrodi of Yorktown; and Gerald Melin of Williamsburg were randomly selected and received gift packages totaling approximately \$3,500. Each package included two 2011-12 season passes, complimentary valet parking for the entire season, and opportunities to attend

special receptions and artist meet-and-greets.

"I was completely surprised and totally thrilled to have been selected as a winner during the one-millionth patron celebration," says Melin. My wife and I have attended several shows every season, but because of the generous prize package we will be able to attend many more shows during 2011-12. We've attended shows at beautiful venues throughout the U.S., and the Ferguson Center ranks among them as one of the best. The acoustics and venue size are just terrific."

Since the center's 2004 opening, patrons from around the globe have enjoyed performances by the world's finest artists and entertainers, and thousands of CNU students have attended world-class performances for as little as \$15 a ticket.

The center's 2011-12 lineup includes musical legends Tony Bennett and Herbie Hancock, "The New Mel Brooks musical Young Frankenstein," Eddie Money, Lewis Black and more!

Learn more about the Ferguson Center's upcoming season:  
[www.fergusoncenter.org](http://www.fergusoncenter.org) ♦



## Email Addresses, Area Chapters Connect Alumni

We are excited to offer Christopher Newport email addresses to all alumni. If you graduated prior to 2009, simply submit an online form at [alumni.cnu.edu](http://alumni.cnu.edu). That's all

it takes to activate your free Christopher Newport alumni address!

You can also stay connected with your alma mater through our active alumni chapters. These regional groups offer Christopher

Newport alumni an ideal way to remain engaged in the life of the University as you build and maintain relationships through our regular events. Go to [alumni.cnu.edu/chapters](http://alumni.cnu.edu/chapters) for more information and get connected today! ♦



# Greek Corner



## Lending a Hand

Service remains a primary focus of the University's Greek organizations. Fraternity and sorority members stay active throughout the year hosting fundraisers for their respective philanthropies. Each Greek organization has at least one major event per year, raising money for worthy causes and often entertaining the campus community in the process.

Highlights from the year include:

- Gamma Phi Beta presents CNU's Best Dance Crew, which supported Girls Inc., and the group's Crescent Classic Moonball 12-hour volleyball relay for Campfire USA
- Alpha Phi's King of Hearts for cardiac care research and Hoops for Heart basketball tournament supporting cardiac care for women
- Alpha Sigma Alpha's Strongman Competition benefiting the Special Olympics
- Zeta Tau Alpha's Think Pink Week for breast cancer research and awareness
- Phi Mu's Kissing Booth to raise money for Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters and the Greek Auction benefiting the Phi Mu Foundation
- Pi Kappa Phi's Greek Goddess and PUSH Week to support PUSH America, which serves those with disabilities
- Sigma Phi Epsilon's Polar Dunk Tank benefiting Relay for Life and Pie a Sig Ep for the Balanced Man Scholarship

## Greek Week Returns

As the 2010-11 school year drew to a close, Greek organizations participated in the 2011 Greek Week events April 4-8. This annual celebration unites CNU's fraternities and sororities through fun activities and friendly competition. The week's programming included:



- Greek Week kickoff
- Kickball tournament
- Greek Stroll-Off
- Chili Cook-Off

If you would like more information on Greek Life, please visit [studentlife.cnu.edu/current/greek.asp](http://studentlife.cnu.edu/current/greek.asp). ♦  
— Nicole Jones





# Music News

## 'London Calling' for Marching Captains

CNU's Marching Captains will perform in London's 2012 New Year's Day Parade in front of Queen Elizabeth II and millions of spectators. This is the kickoff event celebrating Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee and London's hosting of the 2012 Olympics.

The Christopher Newport Alumni Society and Marching Captains invite university alumni to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime trip, Dec. 28, 2011–Jan. 4, 2012. Marching Captains alumni may also march and perform with the band. Learn more at [marchingcaptains.cnu.edu](http://marchingcaptains.cnu.edu). For additional trip details, including costs, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at [alumni@cnu.edu](mailto:alumni@cnu.edu) or (757) 594-8061.

You can help send the Marching Captains to London through Band Aid. **Contact University Advancement at (757) 594-7179** today. Every gift makes a difference!

### In other music news ...

The Women's Chorus will also travel to London for the 2012 New Year's celebration. On Jan. 2, the ensemble will perform in Southwark Cathedral under the direction of world-renowned conductor Simon Carrington.

Christopher Newport has built one of the finest undergraduate voice programs in the country. In this year's statewide National Association of Teachers of Singing competition, which includes the best voice majors from every college, university and conservatory in Virginia, the University captured three first-place awards and five second-place awards — half of all presented.

The Chamber Choir will perform over spring break 2012 in Germany and Italy. In addition, various voice and piano majors are studying and performing this summer in Cornwall and at the University of Oxford in what the University

hopes will become an ongoing national summer music program.

The Indoor Drumline won the gold trophy in the Atlantic Indoor Competition Championships followed by the Indoor Guard, which won the bronze, beating teams from the University of Virginia, the College of William & Mary, Virginia Commonwealth University and others.

Recent music grads have been accepted into the finest graduate programs in the country, including the University of North Texas, which is the country's second largest music school; the Hartt School of Music at the University of Connecticut; and the University of Kentucky, home to one of the nation's finest graduate voice programs.

For more information about the Department of Music, please visit [music.cnu.edu](http://music.cnu.edu). ♦



The great-grandson of Winston Churchill, former Lord Mayor, Councillor Duncan Sandys hand-delivered a letter inviting the Marching Captains to London.



# Coaching ‘Serves’ Birch Well

**A decade of dedication brings success on the court.**



**L**indsay Birch ('02) is heading into her 10th season leading CNU volleyball to success as coach. She was hired the summer after graduation and found the transition challenging at first.

“I had to change my role with the players from teammate to coach while learning how to coach, manage a group and deal with making countless decisions that would affect our program,” says Birch. “I then had to develop an ability to recruit and attract the best players to our program.” She adjusted rather quickly, however, and feels fortunate to have an exceptional university like CNU to showcase to prospective scholar-athletes.

The past two seasons have easily been Birch’s career highlights. In 2009 her young team surprised the NCAA Division III volleyball world by advancing to the Elite Eight after winning the regional championship in New York City. The past season was just as successful as CNU’s squad proved to be one of the nation’s best. “The team was even more experienced and ready for high expectations,” Birch says. “Their resilience and fight was relentless, and although we only went as far as we did the year prior, we progressed much closer to our end goal.”

Birch has enjoyed advancing the volleyball program as coach. “The progression we’ve taken from when I was an athlete to where we are today is a giant leap. I have big dreams and high expectations for what we can ultimately become at CNU,” she says.

Without question, her long-term goal is to win a national championship, along with creating a program that becomes a source of sporting

entertainment and community spirit. “There is nothing like the collegiate sports atmosphere with hundreds of supportive fans cheering the home team on, and I want the campus and surrounding community to feel like we are their ‘home team,’” Birch says. In fact, she hopes one day her goals will unite with CNU hosting and winning the national championship at home in front of faithful Captains fans. ♦ — **Andrea VanHyning**







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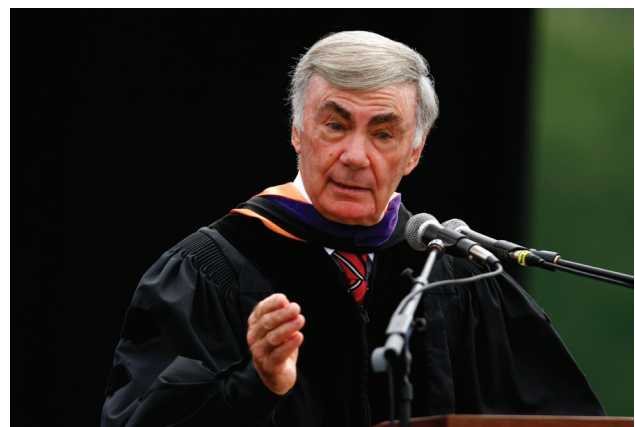
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# 2011 COMMENCEMENT







**Row one (left to right): Klich Award winner Ambre Graham; Commencement rehearsal picnic; Rector John Conrad; Senior party; Post-ceremony crowds on campus**

**Row two: CNU spirit; Latin Honors Convocation; Hoedown; Senior fun in the sun; ROTC ceremony**

**Row three: Commencement rehearsal picnic; Commencement day; Senior Sunset Toast; Family celebrations**

**Row four: Senior Week activities; Commencement speaker, newsman Sam Donaldson; Umoja ceremony**





# Undergraduate Research Sets Sail

## Maxwell Plarr taps into local and international resources to study the America's Cup competition.

When he explored potential colleges, Maxwell Plarr ('11) of Catasauqua, Pennsylvania, sought a top sailing program and stellar academics. He discovered both at Christopher Newport University and was also captivated by The Mariners' Museum collection housed in CNU's Tribble Library.

"I fell in love when I visited The Mariners' Museum on my first visit to the University. I knew I would be able to achieve great things on and off the water," says the varsity sailing team captain.

A U.S. sailing certified instructor who has run junior sailing programs, Plarr combined his love of sailing and history into groundbreaking research. His study focused on the America's Cup competition, its diplomatic and nationalistic side. "The United States and Great Britain are the oldest rivals for the cup, and I wanted to

research how yacht racing and its surrounding culture influenced Anglo-American rapprochement from 1851-1914," he explains. "This was an angle that has not been covered in the scholarly world." Sports is also a relatively new focus in the field of history.

Plarr's final paper took approximately a year to complete; however, he started working on the project a couple of years prior. Classes he took with Dr. Andrew Falk, from the Department of History, heightened Plarr's interest in his topic. "Dr. Falk was pivotal in the editing, structure and guidance for publishing, conferences, etc. My paper would not have been possible without his help," he explains. Serving as a Mariners' Museum docent/tour guide also enhanced Plarr's research preparation.

"The result is cutting-edge scholarship on international sporting

competitions as cultural contests between nations," notes Dr. Falk, assistant professor of history. "He shows how America's Cup dominance supported the rise of the United States as a naval power and affected its diplomatic relations with European powers before the first World War."

Plarr spent hours poring over materials in The Mariners' Museum Library. Thanks to an Honors stipend he also visited the United Kingdom, where he explored the British perspective at the Bodleian Library of the University of Oxford, the Royal Yacht Squadron Library at the RYS Castle in Cowes and the National Maritime Museum Library in Greenwich. "The international sources added great insight into how both sides of the Atlantic fought over the highest-respected trophy in yachting," Plarr says.

The finished paper was submitted





## Plarr combined his love of sailing and history into groundbreaking research.

for publication and has already been presented at various conferences. “Dr. Falk was the driving force for helping me get the paper submitted for publication,” Plarr says.

Yet unlike most fields where professor and student collaborate, Plarr conducted his research solo while Dr. Falk provided critique and guidance. “He was a great aid with the diplomatic side of the paper and suggesting good sources because diplomatic history is his specialty field,” Plarr says. Thanks to Dr. Falk’s help, Plarr now wants to obtain a doctorate in maritime history and continue researching this topic further. In fact, Plarr notes, “It has been said I majored in history and minored in Falk.” He took many courses taught by Dr. Falk over his four-year career at CNU.

“Clearly, Max is intellectually curious, independent and motivated,” Dr. Falk says. “Though I’ve mentored him, I’ve learned a lot as well.”

Plarr will revisit his project this summer to explore the various influences of America’s Cup races from 1920 onward. Eventually he

hopes to attend Memorial University of Newfoundland, expanding his research into a doctoral thesis, and he encourages future CNU students to pursue an equally fulfilling experience: “Study hard, respect your professors and don’t be afraid to pursue research you want to do.” ♦

— **Matt Schnepf**

Undergraduate research is a CNU hallmark as professors and students team on cutting-edge work. “When a student has the opportunity to get into the lab and work shoulder to shoulder — not with a technician, not with a grad student, but with the actual researcher — that is an experience you don’t find at many colleges or universities,” says Dr. Andrew Velkey, director of the Office of Undergraduate Research. Learn more at [research.cnu.edu](http://research.cnu.edu).

**Below (left to right): Maxwell Plarr, Dr. Andrew Falk**





# Pigskin Law

## This future lawyer continues our tradition of outstanding student-athletes.

While enjoying the full Christopher Newport experience, recent graduate Dominik Taylor ('11) left an enduring impression. "By attending CNU at this pivotal time in the University's history, I hoped to positively impact the campus while leaving a lasting legacy," he says.

Taylor has a clear vision, and the opportunities he received, plus the guidance of his mentors, provided tools to succeed. A graduate of Tabb High School in Yorktown, Virginia, he was drawn to the University's size, liberal arts curriculum and stellar football program. A history major, he aspires to become a public interest and civil rights lawyer.

Campus involvements enhanced Taylor's education. A member of the football team, he was also president and chaplain of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and vice president of Men of Vision and Excellence. In addition, he was a member of Phi Alpha Delta pre-law fraternity, Phi Alpha Theta history honor society,

Order of Omega Greek honor society and the Multicultural Student Association.

"More than anything, I enjoyed my involvement with the CNU football team and Alpha Phi Alpha," Taylor notes. Through football and former coach Brian Vaganek, Taylor learned the importance of leading by actions. "I am certain this 'silent' leadership I learned will carry me far in life," he says.

Alpha Phi Alpha provided a support system to succeed academically, as well as camaraderie. "I have gained brothers for life, who truly care about me and who will remain positive influences on me for the rest of my life," he states. Becoming a member of Alpha Phi Alpha was one of the defining moments of his collegiate experience.

Through his fraternity, Taylor met

Leon Cole, physics professor and Alpha Phi Alpha advisor. "Dr. Cole always looked out for

my best interests, and while he offered advice, he also emphasized I must make my own decisions and be accountable for my choices," Taylor says.

Taylor first met Bill Thro, university counsel and pre-law adviser, after declaring his major. "I told him I wanted to go to law school, and he promised me that if I kept my grades up, then he would help me get into a top law school," Taylor recalls. "He definitely kept his word." This included helping him locate internships, prepare for the Law School Admission Test and identify schools that would be a good fit.

"I want to make equality accessible to those in need and grant a voice to society's downtrodden," Taylor says. This fall he takes a large step toward that goal, launching his studies at Washington and Lee University School of Law. ♦ — Nicole Jones

**From left:  
William Thro,  
Leon Cole,  
Dominik Taylor,  
Brian Vaganek**







# All in the Translation

## Petia Sotirova builds cultural bridges through language studies.

For some students, the path to Christopher Newport University stretches much longer than it does for others. Born and raised in Yambol, Bulgaria, until she was 9, Petia Sotirova is fluent in both Bulgarian and English. After moving to Norfolk, Virginia, as a youth she took her first Spanish class in eighth grade and was immediately drawn to the language and culture.

"I fell in love with Spanish. I had great success with it and knew I wanted to pursue a career with it," Sotirova says. In addition to Spanish, she has learned the basic fundamentals of French and hopes to study Arabic as well — and possibly Chinese!

A Spanish major pursuing a minor in business administration, Sotirova decided to attend CNU to continue her Spanish studies and connect with students from a similar faith background. "I like how small the school is, but also how large the Christian community is. I have

made a ton of friends through that," she says.

At CNU Sotirova has been active in the Honors Program, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, the Ballroom Dancing Society and the Latin American Cultural Association. She has also been an Honors Council representative and last fall was inducted into Alpha Chi, the national honor society representing the top 10 percent of students in all academic disciplines. One of the nation's largest honors societies, Alpha Chi has 300 chapters across the United States.

Sotirova has found abundant opportunities to perfect her Spanish speaking and translating skills. During her freshman year, she taught Spanish at Riverside Elementary School in Newport News. And through CNU's Center for Career Planning her sophomore year, she secured an internship proof-reading translations for a professor in Norfolk.

"I always look for opportunities to speak Spanish, even outside of class," Sotirova states. "This year, my Honors Program advisor helped me find an internship with the Newport News Fire Department. I was accepted in November and do translations for them, converting brochures and public safety information into Spanish."

After she graduates next December, Sotirova plans to attend graduate school to further her linguistics education. She would eventually like to work in translation and interpretation and would enjoy doing Bible translation as well.

Sotirova appreciates her college experience and offers inspiring words to the University's future students — one of her favorite sayings: "Haz el bien sin mirar a quien," which translated into English means, "Do good, regardless of whom it is for." ♦

— Nicole Jones





ALUMNI SOCIETY AWARD FOR

# Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring

**Dr. Edward Brash has a passion for inspiring students to greatness.**

“For the first 22 years of my life, I had been far more interested in succeeding than in learning,” Dr. Edward Brash (above, right) explains. “Sure, I knew lots of facts, but I still had no idea, or really no concept even, of what I was supposed to do with my life.” That soon changed. Dr. Brash studied at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario, and earned a master’s degree in nuclear physics. While in graduate school he was assigned to teach a laboratory course. “I knew I had actually found something I loved doing and was good at, too,” he says. “My whole outlook on life changed.”

With newfound passion, Dr. Brash completed his PhD in nuclear physics

at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver and took a job with Rutgers University working at Los Alamos National Labs. He later moved to Newport News to pursue research at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility. In the years following, he became an associate professor at the University of Regina in Canada while still working with Jefferson Lab.

While on sabbatical at Jefferson Lab he collaborated with Dr. David Doughty at CNU. He was soon hired as an associate professor in the Department of Physics, Computer Science and Engineering and has since been promoted to full professor. “The focus here on

teaching, mentoring and involving undergraduate students in research is fantastic!” he says. Dr. Brash still conducts research at Jefferson Lab, and with a group of colleagues has secured several grants from the National Science Foundation. ♦

— Andrea VanHynning



Congratulations to the 2011 Alumni Society Award winner, Dr. Mark Reimer. Look for a profile of Dr. Reimer in next year’s *Voyages*.



Each year Christopher Newport's Alumni Society Award for Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring honors younger faculty exceptionally committed to teaching, learning excellence and university citizenship. Dr. Brash received last year's \$2,500 award. Following is a snapshot of his remarks at this year's Latin Honors Convocation:

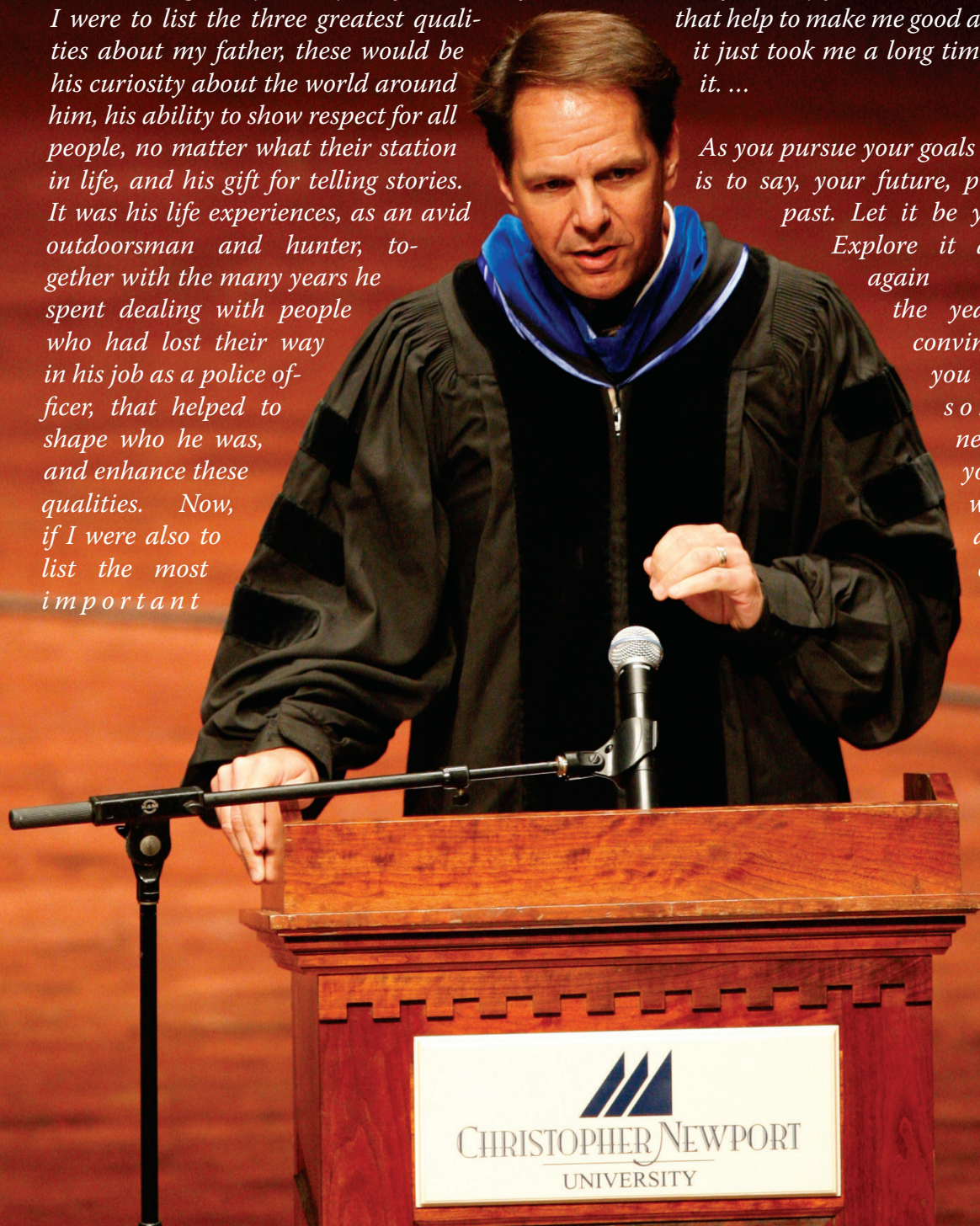
*If there is one thing that you remember from this speech — and statistics indicate that you won't remember any of it — I hope that it is the notion that the older you get, the more that you can, and most definitely should, draw on the past to guide you in your future. ... If I were to list the three greatest qualities about my father, these would be his curiosity about the world around him, his ability to show respect for all people, no matter what their station in life, and his gift for telling stories. It was his life experiences, as an avid outdoorsman and hunter, together with the many years he spent dealing with people who had lost their way in his job as a police officer, that helped to shape who he was, and enhance these qualities. Now, if I were also to list the most important*

*qualities that a scientist educator should possess, I would list exactly the same things.*

*When I look back on it now, with the benefit of hindsight and experience, I feel like I inherited so much from my father — so many things that help to make me good at what I do; it just took me a long time to realize it. ...*

*As you pursue your goals in life, that is to say, your future, pursue your past. Let it be your guide.*

*Explore it again and again throughout the years. I am convinced that you will learn something new about yourself, and where you are headed, every time.*





# Your Gifts

## Scholarships make the CNU experience possible for deserving students.

As Christopher Newport University prepares students to conquer the world and make a positive difference, academic scholarships set their bright futures in motion.



Ask Mandy Rocamontes ('11, left), recipient of a Goodwin Leadership Scholarship, a top honor for students in the President's Leadership Program (PLP) made possible by Mr. and Mrs. William H. Goodwin Jr. She experienced firsthand the generosity of CNU donors, having also

received the Keith F. McLoughland Scholarship and Doris Reppen Spanish Scholarship.

"Scholarships provided me with the opportunity to attend CNU. Without those generous gifts, I would have been hard pressed to pay for my education," Rocamontes says. The Goodwin award also helped broaden her world view, affording her the rich opportunity to study abroad in Spain. "The Goodwin Scholarship served as a tangible example of the impact one person's generosity or kindness can have on someone's life, teaching me a valuable lesson I will carry with me long after graduation," she adds.

Katie Davis ('11, right) received the Smithfield Leadership Scholarship, another honor for PLP



students funded by Smithfield Foods and the Smithfield-Luter Foundation. "The Smithfield Scholarship was an exceptional asset to financing my education at CNU," she says. By offsetting tuition and housing costs, the award made it possible for Davis to reside on campus all four years. And like Rocamontes, Davis also enjoyed studying overseas, traveling to England and the Czech Republic.

"Not only are scholarships a critical source of financial assistance for students, but they are also a source of inspiration and motivation to achieve while at CNU," Davis says. In addition to her Smithfield Scholarship, she received the Wallace P. Greene Scholarship and Rouse-Bottom Foundation Scholarship.

Through planned giving, alumni and friends of Christopher Newport University put students on the path to success, expanding the number of academic awards available. When you establish an endowed scholarship, you also express a belief in the University's mission while building a legacy that will touch lives for generations to come. ♦ — Matt Schnepf

Support future leaders by establishing a scholarship at CNU. Contact:

Lucy Latchum

Director of Planned Giving  
and Scholarships

(757) 594-7702

llatchum@cnu.edu

## Canon Leadership Scholars

Established by Canon U.S.A., Canon Virginia and CNU, the Canon Leadership Scholars Program rewards superior students from across the country. Through a rigorous academic curriculum, prominent guest speakers, community service, study abroad and internships, recipients are empowered to become caring, knowledgeable and effective leaders for America and the world.

Canon Leadership Scholars participate in the prestigious President's Leadership Program and each year represent the best and brightest applicants to the Uni-

versity. They receive a \$5,000 merit scholarship for each of their four years and the opportunity to study at the University of Oxford.

Joshua Rolon, who enters his senior year this fall, credits the Canon award with helping him to become more outgoing, confident in public speaking and equipped to be an effective leader. "The Canon Leadership Scholarship has impacted my education by allowing me to broaden my horizons and learn about myself as a person," he says. ♦



# CNU's Center for American Studies

What do the stripes on the U.S. flag symbolize? What are the three branches of government? What are the duties of the U.S. Congress? What key liberties are protected in the Bill of Rights?

If you're unable to correctly answer these questions, you're not alone. Recent studies indicate levels of political knowledge among U.S. citizens to be extremely low. A study by the American Political Science Association Task Force of Civic Education recently reported that current levels of political knowledge are "so low as to threaten the vitality and stability of democratic politics in the U.S." In addition, other studies have found that at many American universities, students'

knowledge about America's founding, governmental system, economics, history and foreign policy actually decreased during their four years in college.

Christopher Newport University remains an exception.

A non-partisan, not-for-profit organization, CNU's Center for American Studies (CAS) was created in 2007 to respond to the increasing lack of civic literacy among American citizens. Led by Drs. Elizabeth Kaufer Busch and Nathan Busch, the mission of CAS is to educate the next generation of leaders — and the general public — about America's founding principles, capitalist system and national security.

In addition, CAS sponsors three major annual conferences: a workshop on intelligence and national security, a conference on America's founding principles and history, and a symposium on homeland security. These events bring together some of the nation's leading policymakers and scholars to examine issues of critical importance to America and its political system. CNU students are actively involved in the programs.

During the year CAS also offers paid internships to students and helps place students in internships with government, nonprofit and

private-sector organizations.

By increasing the funding for post-doctoral fellowships, CAS hopes to expand the number of faculty teaching courses related to America's founding, the capitalist system and national security.

The center's work has already received national recognition in the form of a National Endowment for the Humanities "We the People" \$500,000 Challenge Grant. This prestigious grant — the largest ever received in the humanities by CNU — must be matched 3:1. This challenge gift encourages other donors to make a gift, knowing their donation will essentially be increased by 30 percent. To make a donation, please contact the Center for American Studies at [cas@cnu.edu](mailto:cas@cnu.edu). ♦

— Lori Jacobs



## Center for American Studies Receives Top Grant

CAS was recently awarded a \$360,000 grant from the Thomas W. Smith Foundation — \$120,000 per year for three years. It will support a post-doctoral fellow, the center's annual conference on America's founding principles and history, a distinguished scholar-in-residence, and a teacher recertification program for grade school and high school teachers of history and social studies.

Additional donors have included Thomas F. (Mack) McLarty, the Jack Miller Center, and private companies such as USIS, Harvey Lindsay Commercial Real Estate and Verizon Wireless.



# Committed to Service and Leadership

**These grads forge promising medical careers while serving in the U.S. Navy.**

Former college roommates Steven Whelpley ('07, below) and Michael Pullen ('07, right) traveled a similar path at Christopher Newport University. The two met while playing baseball, a sport through which they developed a healthy competitiveness. They both joined Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, participated in intramurals and were active in the President's Leadership Program (PLP). They also majored in biology, both aspiring to become medical doctors.

Whelpley hails from Fredericksburg, Virginia, and minored in leadership. Pullen, who came here from Fairfax, Virginia, minored in chemistry and leadership.

Post-CNU, each has pursued a medical career via the U.S. Navy, an arrangement that afforded them the opportunity to attend medical school.

"The Navy has been great in that they've wanted me to get my education," Pullen says. He attended Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk while Whelpley attended the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine at Virginia Tech.

After being on reserve status while studying the past four years, both will be on active military status as part of their medical residency. Whelpley is in Portsmouth,





Virginia, starting his internal medicine residency. He also hopes to pursue dive medicine through a general medical officer — or GMO — tour. “To do this, you finish Navy dive school after completing your internship and work as a ‘dive doc’ for three years,” he says. “I hope to do this versus going straight through into an emergency medicine residency.” His long-term goal is to work in a Navy hospital emergency room, eventually retiring as a Navy doctor.

This fall Pullen launches his orthopedic surgical internship in Portsmouth. He plans to pursue a career in orthopedic surgery, whether through private practice or via an academic setting such as a teaching hospital. He has completed medical mission trips to the Dominican Republic and Honduras and recently married fellow alumnus Melissa Gunst ('07) who manages Einstein's Café in the Tribble Library.

Christopher Newport provided Whelpley and Pullen with an ideal training ground for medical school. “The difficulty of my core science classes prepared me for the academic road I've been on,” Pullen says. “Time-management skills I learned prepared me for medical school and what I'm currently doing.”

The two give considerable credit to Dr. Harold Grau, associate professor of biology. “Dr. Grau demands a lot from his students and prepared us for medical school,” Whelpley says.

“He had a huge impact on me, especially his anatomy and physiology class,” Pullen adds. “He gave me the discipline to make it through medical school, confirming my interest in it and preparing me for it.”

PLP and the various leadership courses the two took also played an integral role in their success, as did the influence of such professors as Dr. Bob Colvin and Dr. Anne Perkins — in addition to PLP Director Brian Larson. “Brian was integral to my coming here,” Whelpley says.

“Leadership classes forced me to challenge myself academically in a new way — to read, analyze and apply myself,” Pullen states. In fact, what he learned through those classes provided him with a greater understand-



ing of “group” mentality and how to interact in a hospital setting.

“The military aspires to a lot of the theories you learn,” Whelpley notes. “They have been implementing more awareness training, preventative measures and lessons on working with subordinates, all important areas we covered through PLP.”

Looking back, both affirm their decision to become a CNU Captain. For one, they appreciate the leadership of President Paul Tribble, who wrote them letters of recommendation for medical school. They also appreciate the school's smaller size and leadership opportunities.

“I wanted to go to a small school where I would get to know my professors,” Pullen recalls. “I knew I could make a difference, that I could make things happen, and the University would allow me to do them.”

Whelpley holds his alma mater in similar esteem. “CNU offers you the tools to be successful wherever you go. If you want it, you can get it.” ♦ — **Matt Schnepf**





# Softball Places Second in Nation

CNU's softball team celebrated a second-place finish in the 2011 NCAA Division III Softball National Championship in May. The 2011 Captains joined the 2003 CNU baseball team as the only teams in school history to reach the national championship game.

Christopher Newport's record stood at 38-12 for the year with a 7-2 mark in NCAA Tournament action, including a streak of seven straight wins over nationally ranked opponents.

In the winner-takes-all final game of the season, the unranked Captains fell 6-2 to the top-ranked Linfield Wildcats (OR).

"There are many things that teams have to go through to get this far — a lot of things have to go your way to win a title," says Head Coach Keith Parr. "We have great leaders on this team, and we've got a lot returning. I just couldn't be more proud of them." ♦



**Infielder Lauren Rowley  
from Lorton, Virginia**



# Banner Spring

**Women's basketball makes Final Four; senior Schweers captures multiple honors.**



It was a season of dreams for women's basketball! In their first national semifinal appearance, the Captains earned a third-place finish in the 2011 NCAA Tournament, advancing farther than any team in CNU basketball history — men's or women's. Capping off a tremendous year, the Captains also ranked third in the nation in the final *USA Today*/ESPN Division III Top 25 Coaches' Poll.

Christopher Newport finished the season 30-4 overall for a second straight 30-win season. CNU's program became just the fifth in NCAA Division III history to accomplish that feat. Over the last two seasons

the Captains were 60-5 for a .923 winning percentage.

After reaching the Sweet 16 last year, CNU won the program's first regional championship this year, advancing to the Final Four. Following a tough loss to eventual national champion Amherst in the national semifinal, the Captains bounced back, beating host Illinois Wesleyan in the consolation game.

During the Illinois Wesleyan match-up, senior Chelsie Schweers ('11, far left) became the all-time Division III scoring leader for an NCAA tournament with 174 points in six games. This topped the previous

high mark of 162. For her effort, she became the first Captain named to the NCAA All-Tournament Team.

Schweers' additional highlights include:

- D3Hoops.com National Player of the Year
- SmallCollegeHoops.com National Player of the Year
- First team All-American honors (first CNU player honored all four years)
- Division III all-time second-leading scorer (nearly 2,900 points)
- Division III all-time greatest three-point shooter (415 made during her career) ♦

## Barefoot Named ODU Head Coach

Congratulations to Karen Barefoot ('95) on being named the new head women's basketball coach at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. As a former student-athlete at Christopher Newport, she was the first player in NCAA history, male or female, to score more than 2,000 points and accumulate 1,000 assists during her career. For four consecutive seasons, Barefoot led the nation in assists and is CNU's

all-time leader in assists and steals and second all-time in scoring.

A three-time Kodak/WBCA All-American, she was inducted into the CNU Athletic Hall of Fame and had her college jersey (No. 10) retired. In 2006 she was named to the USA South's 25th Anniversary Team. She was most recently head coach at Elon. ♦



# Baseball Earns No. 1 Ranking

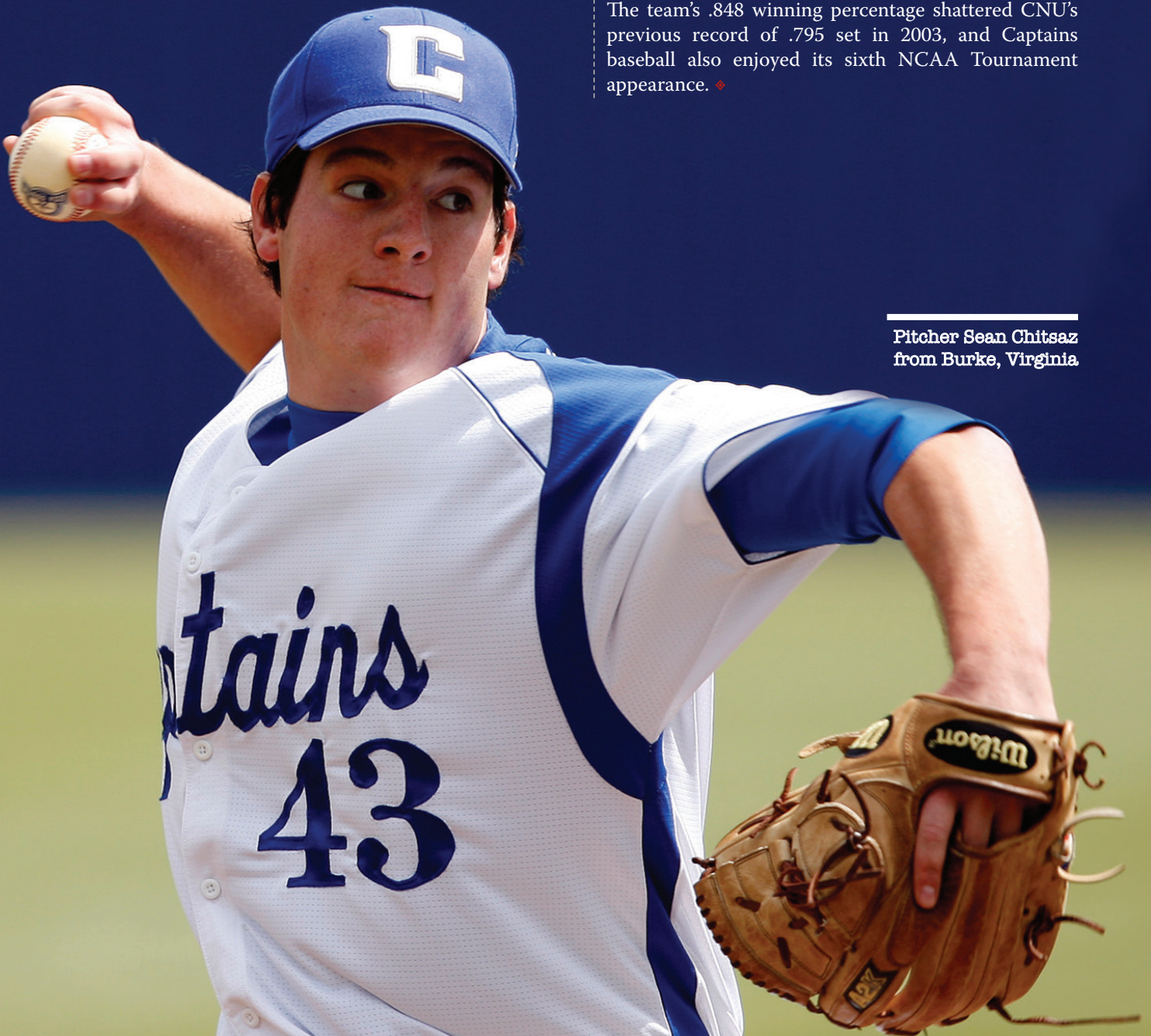
When the NCAA Division III Baseball Committee released its third and final 2011 regional rankings, CNU reigned as the top-ranked team in the South Region. The Captains also enjoyed a No. 1 national ranking by the American Baseball Coaches Association, holding the top spot for four straight weeks.

Baseball represents the second team sport in school history to earn a No. 1 national ranking, joining men's soccer (2009 and 2010). The Captains also won the USA South Championship.

Baseball concluded its stellar 2011 season with a 39-7 record, setting a program high for number of wins. The team's .848 winning percentage shattered CNU's previous record of .795 set in 2003, and Captains baseball also enjoyed its sixth NCAA Tournament appearance. ♦

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Pitcher Sean Chitsaz  
from Burke, Virginia







# Spring Sports Roundup



## President's Cup

For the 14th straight season, Christopher Newport University earned the President's Cup for overall success in the USA South Athletic Conference. This was the fifth year the USA South presented an overall, men's and women's President's Cup — and the fifth straight season the Captains have claimed all three.

## Men's Tennis

Junior Eric Shulman made his second appearance in the NCAA National Singles Championship. The two-time USA South Player of the Year entered championship play as

the No. 3-ranked player in the Atlantic South region.

## Golf

The "USA South Champion" Captains competed in the NCAA Men's Golf Championship, finishing in a tie for 11th overall. Senior Chris Olson tied for 16th individually and earned second team All-American honors.

## Track and Field

Christopher Newport saw four athletes compete in the Outdoor National Championships: sophomore Richard Roethel (decathlon,

All-American), senior Matthew Winkler (800 meters), junior Dira Hansen (400 meter hurdles, All-American) and senior Brittany Jacobs (long jump).

## Lacrosse

Women's lacrosse won its sixth straight USA South Athletic championship, earning another NCAA tournament appearance. Seniors Kaitlin Quigley and Meghan Harky received all-region honors from the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association.

For more, visit [CNUsports.com](http://CNUsports.com). ♦



# Game On

## Explore CNU's wide world of sport clubs.

Mixed martial arts enthusiast Skyler Brady ('11, below) embraced the opportunities offered by CNU's sport clubs. "Having a thriving program enhanced my experience at CNU," he says. "Not only was I able to further my passion for the martial arts as club president, but I was able to promote interest and awareness of the sport to the community." Brady also played soccer and volleyball, two other active clubs on campus.

while members work to fund their activities. Often they involve coaches and faculty advisors.

Groups fall within two categories: competitive and recreational. Competitive clubs play at the collegiate level, going head to head against other teams, whether nearby or beyond the immediate area. These clubs typically require greater time, travel and financial commitments and may involve tryouts and leagues. Recreational clubs focus more on enjoyment yet sometimes involve matchups against area schools.

According to Joy Kearney, director of recreational services, "Clubs provide a competitive level of activity for peers who share similar recreational interests." She also notes how CNU's sport clubs have grown. In fall 2008, there were 10 (seven competitive, three recreational). Next fall, students will participate in 22 (14 competitive, eight recreational).

On the water, CNU's fishing club enjoyed a successful year, placing fifth at the northern regional championship. The team followed up with a fifth-place finish at the National Guard FLW College Fishing National Championship, which netted a \$10,000 prize.

"I have fished all of my life, so fishing at the collegiate level was something I just had to do," says

Joe Wilkerson ('11). "I am glad I was able to start the club and share this love of fishing with others." In addition to competing, the team's 25 members stay active through community service events. The martial arts club also promotes service, sponsoring self-defense seminars.

Mark Dungan, president of the ice hockey team, enjoys the camaraderie of his sport. "It's like having 20 brothers where everyone is a part of our tight-knit family," he says. He also applauds the team's supporters. "We have some of the best fan base in the South," Dungan notes. "Every night it's always expected for us to have crowds anywhere from 300 all the way up to as many as 600 students packing in to watch our games."

CNU's equestrian team exceeds 20 riders, lessening the costs of riding individually.

"We would like to continue being an involved club on campus and hope to expand our team further down the road," says member Ellen Johnson. This past year, the team finished third in the region — an all-time high for CNU.

Additionally, students of all athletic abilities seeking healthy on-campus competition can take part in intramural sports — a great way to be part of a team without the long-term commitment. Approximately 1,600 students participate each semester, competing in sports like badminton, basketball, dodgeball, flag football, kickball, soccer, softball and volleyball. ♦

— Matt Schnepf



The Office of Recreational Services oversees CNU's sport clubs, registered student organizations that compete in team and individual activities. Unlike NCAA collegiate athletics, clubs are run "for students by students." They must be student initiated, operated and managed





# CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT ALUMNI

*Captain for Life*

## CHEER ON CNU FOOTBALL WITH A 2011 ALUMNI SEASON TICKET PACKAGE.



### ALUMNI SEASON TICKET PACKAGES:

- \$190 for two season tickets (\$100 Captain's Crew gift and \$45 for each ticket)
- \$280 for four season tickets (\$100 Captain's Crew gift and \$45 for each ticket)

### EACH TICKET PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Preferred tailgating
- Invitation to the Season Ticket Pickup Party (watch practice and meet the team)
- Special alumni rate at the Marriott City Center

To order your season ticket package or for more details, contact the ticket office at (757) 594-7880 or [CNUsports.com/tickets](http://CNUsports.com/tickets).

### 2011 HOME GAMES

Sept. 3: Waynesburg at 1 p.m.

Sept. 17: Salisbury at 7 p.m.  
*50th Anniversary*

Oct. 8: Shenandoah at 7 p.m.  
*Family Weekend*

Oct. 22: NC Wesleyan at 7 p.m.  
*Homecoming*

Nov. 12: Maryville at 7 p.m.





# *A Weekend 50 Years in the Making*

**JOIN US SEPT. 16-18 AS WE MARK THIS  
HISTORICAL MILESTONE IN THE LIFE OF  
CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY.**

## **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

6 p.m.

**Christopher Newport's First Decader Reunion**  
David Student Union Ballroom

If you attended Christopher Newport between 1961 and 1971, we are proud to recognize you as a "First Decader"! Join with fellow classmates and cherished professors for an informal reception as you reconnect and reflect on your alma mater's first 50 years. Enjoy the cool sounds of some great area jazz musicians, an array of hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and a cash bar. For more information, please visit:  
**[cncfirstdecaders6171.com](http://cncfirstdecaders6171.com)**.

## **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

8 a.m.

**11th Annual Alumni 5K Run & Kids Fun Run**

This yearly event isn't merely for alumni, so invite friends and family to join you! Lace up your running shoes for this fast, flat course, and bring the kids to the Ferguson Center Circle Fun Run. Prizes will be awarded in various categories. Visit **[alumni.cnu.edu/5k](http://alumni.cnu.edu/5k)** for more details.

2 p.m.

**The Tailgate Zone**

Don your favorite Captains gear, grab your friends and family, fire up the grill, and join hundreds of Captains fans in the Tailgate Zone as we prepare for the excitement of CNU football. For information on how to obtain a Tailgate Zone Pass, please visit: **[CNUsports.com](http://CNUsports.com)**.

5 p.m.

**50th Anniversary Field Festival**  
James River Field

Everyone is invited! Gear up for Captains football with a festival on James River Field. Join us for games, music, food and other festivities celebrating our golden anniversary. Register for this event at **[50.cnu.edu](http://50.cnu.edu)**.

6 p.m.

**Christopher Newport's First Decader Reunion  
Dinner and Dance**

David Student Union Ballroom

Calling all First Decaders! Put on your dancing shoes for a lovely evening dinner-dance. As your meal concludes, there will be a brief program and recognition of honored guests, followed by dancing to the "Sounds of Yesteryear" led by Jimmy Crank and Ron Lowder, fellow First Decaders. For more information, please visit:  
**[cncfirstdecaders6171.com](http://cncfirstdecaders6171.com)**.

7 p.m.

**Football**  
**CNU vs. Salisbury**  
POMOCO Stadium

Cheer on the Captains as they battle Salisbury during CNU's first-ever night game! This special 50th anniversary commemorative night will feature exciting attractions and fireworks. Grab your friends and put on your CNU blue to help us make history as we break CNU's football attendance record! Season tickets are on sale now; game tickets go on sale at the end of August. For more information, please visit: **[CNUsports.com](http://CNUsports.com)**.





# *Celebrate Our 50th Anniversary*

**50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA CELEBRATION  
SUNDAY, SEPT. 18, 6:30 P.M.**

On Sept. 18 — the very day CNC open its doors for the first time in 1961 — Christopher Newport will host our 50th Anniversary Gala Celebration.

Join your fellow Captains for a black-tie gala on Sunday, Sept. 18, at 6:30 p.m.

We promise an incredible evening with an elegant multi-course dinner paired with live performances showcasing the incredible talent of our students, faculty and alumni as we fondly remember the past and look forward to the next 50 years.



Proceeds from the gala will benefit merit and need-based scholarships and will make a difference in the University's ability to meet the needs of the extraordinary young men and women who grace our campus.

Christopher Newport's many achievements to date — our growing reputation and rapid transformation into one of our nation's leading pre-eminent public liberal arts institutions — is a testament to your accomplishments.

Exceptional sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information contact Kristen Beam Witt at (757) 594-7162 or [kristen.witt@cnu.edu](mailto:kristen.witt@cnu.edu).

## **Ticket Prices**

**General Admission: \$200\* per person**

**Students and Young Alumni (Grad Years '06-'11): \$75 per person**

**10-Person Reserved Table: \$2,500\***

\*A portion of your admission is tax deductible.

Purchase tickets online at [50.cnu.edu](http://50.cnu.edu). For more information, contact the Office of University Events at [cnuevents@cnu.edu](mailto:cnuevents@cnu.edu) or (757) 594-8061.

*We look forward to celebrating our first 50 years with you!  
Go to [50.cnu.edu](http://50.cnu.edu) for a complete rundown of our anniversary weekend events.*





TRIBLE LIBRARY





# A Campus for the 21st Century

**Our physical transformation continues.**

CNU has experienced a remarkable transformation over the past decade. We have completed more than \$700 million in capital construction and have built a beautiful campus with world-class facilities. See some of these projects in the pages that follow.







Mary Brock Forbes Hall

### Mary Brock Forbes Hall

CNU's integrated science center is named Mary Brock Forbes Hall (above) in honor of the beloved teacher, school administrator and mother of Dr. Sarah Forbes, a CNU champion and benefactor.

Extending 100 yards across the great lawn's western edge, the \$80 million facility will include 160,000 square feet for cutting-edge education and discovery as faculty and students collaborate on groundbreaking research. Forbes Hall will house the departments of molecular biology and chemistry, organismal and environmental biology, and psychology.

It will include the following:

- 50 faculty offices
- 15 classrooms
- 70 teaching labs
- Student research spaces

### Joseph W. Luter, III Hall

Construction of CNU's largest academic building, Joseph W. Luter, III Hall (below), begins this summer. The \$54.6 million facility will house the Luter School of Business as well as the following departments: economics; sociology, social work and anthropology; leadership and American studies; mathematics; and physics, computer science and engineering.

Scheduled to open in fall 2013, Luter Hall will boast these features:

- A trading room and boardroom
- A 100-seat tiered lecture hall
- 14 traditional classrooms
- Nine teaching labs
- Seven computer classrooms
- Eight research labs
- Three reading rooms
- 135 faculty offices
- Public interaction spaces
- State-of-the-art technology



Joseph W. Luter, III Hall





### Warwick River Hall



#### New Residence Halls

A new sophomore residence hall, Warwick River Hall (above), is now under construction and scheduled to open in fall 2012. The residential facility will accommodate 500 students in four-person suites.

An additional residential complex will open in fall 2013, providing 500 private bedrooms and baths for upperclassmen.

According to national studies, students who live on campus are more successful both academically and socially. Beginning with this fall's freshman class, students will be required to live on campus during their freshman through junior years.

#### Freeman Center Expansion

The Freeman Sports and Convocation Center expansion is now open! This addition doubles the size of the Triesmann Health and Fitness Pavilion (below), provides offices for Counseling and University Health Services, and adds an auxiliary gymnasium, a new 400-seat Gaines Theater, and an array of meeting rooms for student activities.

A stellar facility recognized for promoting student health and fitness, the center was previously named the nation's outstanding sports facility by the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association.

### The new cardio theater in the Freeman Center's Triesmann Health and Fitness Pavilion



#### CNU Bell Tower

The University's future bell tower (right) will allow CNU to build rich traditions around commencement activities, sporting victories and other campus events. The tower will feature a bell from the *USS United States* donated by Dr. Sarah Forbes, a carillon and a clock.

The bell tower will be located between Mary Brock Forbes Hall and Lewis Archer McMurran, Jr. Hall. ♦

— Matt Schnepf

### CNU Bell Tower





# The World's a Stage for Talented Grads

University provides exceptional training for successful careers in the performing arts.

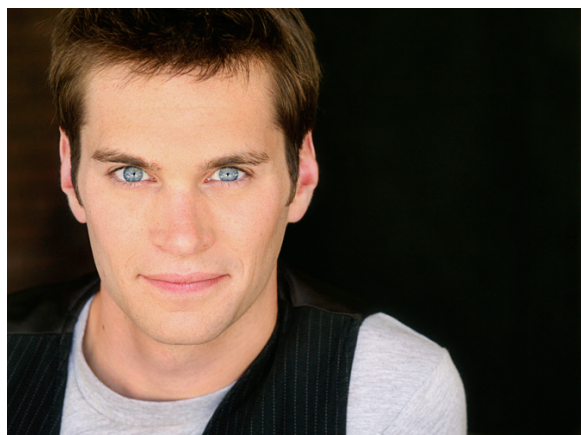
Housed in the magnificent Ferguson Center for the Arts, the Department of Theater and Dance is a vibrant and artistic cornerstone in Hampton Roads. Each season, talented students perform in several main-stage productions — including a musical and a dance concert, providing crowd-pleasing entertainment for the greater community while honing their theatrical chops.

A springboard for aspiring actors, performers and theater professionals, the Department of Theater and Dance is accredited by the prestigious National Association of Schools of Theatre and holds students to the highest artistic and scholastic standards.

**Freddy Arsenault ('02)** is just one graduate who found CNU to be the perfect training ground. "TheaterC-

NU offered me the permission and the opportunity to be obsessed with what I loved, theater and acting," he says. "The teachers are first rate and passionate about having you explore the 'undiscovered country' artists are always talking about."

Arsenault has found considerable success in New York as an actor in theater and film and earned his master's degree from New York



Row one (left to right): Lisa Helmi Johanson; Peter Adams; Jamie Sellers

Row two: Freddy Arsenault; Jordan McArthur



University's Tisch School of the Arts. He made his Broadway debut as Perry Stewart in the Manhattan Theatre Club's production of "The Royal Family" and is currently performing in his second Broadway production, "Born Yesterday" starring Jim Belushi. Additional credits include a recent role in the award-winning CBS-TV drama "The Good Wife."

Other talented alumni have carved out promising careers in the theater world:

- **Lisa Helmi Johanson ('07)** has been touring with the mega-hit Broadway musical "Avenue Q" in the role of Christmas Eve. Additional tour performances included a stop in Tokyo followed by dates in the U.S. and Canada. She resides in Astoria, New York, and teaches music to babies through a company called Little Maestros, New York City's premier infant and toddler music program.
- **Jordan McArthur ('07)** earned his Master of Fine Arts in acting from The Old Globe/University of San Diego, one of the nation's most prestigious acting programs. He has performed in several productions at the Old Globe Theatre, including "King Lear," "The Taming of the Shrew," "Six Degrees of Separation" and "The Madness of King George III." He continues to pursue his acting career in New York City.
- **Jamie Sellers ('07)** graduated with a Master of Fine Arts from the Actors Studio at Pace University in New York. She is currently assistant director of an off-Broadway production

of "Love Is Like Mud," a new puppet rock opera. The production company, OFF Theater, is a nonprofit committed to creating green theater by using recycled sets from Broadway productions. Sellers also directs a series of short plays in and around New York City.

- **Peter Adams ('10)** spent his first season post-graduation as the intern of Tony Award-winning Broadway costume designer William Ivey Long. Adams is building New York credits as a scene designer with a production of "Twelfth Night" and pursues graduate art classes at the New York Students Art League.

These graduates represent just a handful of alumni inspiring current students to greatness. "It's hard work in the real world. Things don't come easy," Sellers says. "You have to learn to let go of the bad, hold on to the good and keep moving. But every once in a while, something great will happen, and that makes it all worth it."

Alumni can continue to be directly involved with TheaterCNU, including membership in the Theater Guild, which helps establish scholarships for theater students and sponsors guest artists. Additionally, alumni can support the department by attending TheaterCNU season performances. Visit [theater.cnu.edu](http://theater.cnu.edu) for details. ♦

— **Lori Jacobs**

## TheaterCNU 2011-12 Season

"Brighton Beach Memoirs"  
By Neil Simon  
Ferguson Center  
Music & Theatre Hall  
Oct. 13-14 and 20-23

"The Duchess of Malfi"  
Adapted by Bertolt Brecht  
and W. H. Auden  
(after John Webster)  
Ferguson Center  
Studio Theatre  
Nov. 11-13 and 18-20

One-Act Play Festival  
Ferguson Center  
Studio Theatre  
Dec. 2-3

"Steel Pier"  
Book by David Thompson;  
Music and lyrics  
by John Kander  
and Fred Ebb  
Ferguson Center  
Music & Theatre Hall  
Feb. 24-26 and March 1-3

Dance Concert  
Ferguson Center  
Music & Theatre Hall  
March 22-23

"Humble Boy"  
By Charlotte Jones  
Ferguson Center  
Studio Theatre  
April 13-15 and 20-22



# Chapter News

The Christopher Newport experience doesn't end in four years. Educational and cultural opportunities enjoyed as a student continue well beyond graduation. Alumni passion and loyalty make it possible for the University to reach its goals as bonds created between classmates, teachers and staff remain strong.

When you graduate, your careers as alumni begin, at which time you become and forever will be, A Captain for Life! We encourage you to stay active with your alma mater through one of the four regional chapters within our Alumni Society. The following represent some of the many events hosted this year, and we hope to see you at an upcoming gathering.



The Metro D.C. Alumni Chapter had an exciting start to 2011. Following a reorganization of chapter officers, the board has been busy crafting its bylaws and developing a strategic plan for the next several years. The board is also working hard to recruit more alumni to get involved with the chapter, attend events and build a network to give back to CNU. Many events over the last several months have fostered networking, socializing and service among alumni in the Metro D.C. area with more events planned in the near future.

In April the chapter joined CNU President Paul Tribble for his "On the Road to 50" address. President Tribble shared exciting news about the University's recent accomplishments and updates on new academic initiatives, campus activities, current and upcoming construction projects, and exciting festivities planned for Christopher Newport's 50th Anniversary Celebration.

The chapter hosted its first summer picnic in June, inviting all Metro D.C. alumni, including May 2011 graduates. Incoming freshmen for fall 2011 who live in the Metro D.C. area were also invited.

To keep up with the chapter, search LinkedIn (**Christopher Newport Metro D.C. Alumni Chapter**) or Facebook ([www.facebook.com/DCNOVaCaptainforLife](http://www.facebook.com/DCNOVaCaptainforLife)). For more information, please email [dcnovacaptainforlife@cnu.edu](mailto:dcnovacaptainforlife@cnu.edu).



From tailgates at home football games to a holiday party to career connections, the Greater Peninsula Alumni Chapter continues to stay active with its alma mater. In addition to hosting a tailgate at each home football game, the chapter assisted with the annual Alumni 5K in September. Alumni also gathered on campus in December to celebrate the holidays with food, fellowship and fun.

The chapter has been involved with Career Connections, a mentoring partnership with CNU's Center for Career Planning. For this initiative, Greater Peninsula alumni offer time and advice to graduating seniors preparing to navigate life after college. In May the chapter joined President Tribble for his "On the Road to 50" address.

The chapter continues to plan alumni events and invites all Greater Peninsula alumni to connect with the group on Facebook (**PeninsulaCaptainforLife**). For more information on the chapter, please email [peninsulaalumni@cnu.edu](mailto:peninsulaalumni@cnu.edu).



Christopher Newport alumni residing and working in the Metro Richmond area gathered for a festive and fun holiday party at the home of John Conrad, rector of the CNU Board of Visitors. They enjoyed delicious food and beverages and the opportunity to mingle with other Richmond-area alumni. In April the





**Left: The South Hampton Roads alumni pitched in to help Habitat for Humanity, (left to right) Joey Gionfriddo ('09), Katie Dungan ('09), Thomas Kelly ('10).**

**Below left: Golf outings and other social events bring together our alumni and their friends.**

**Below: Metro D.C. chapter board with President Paul Tribble (far left) and Dean Bob Colvin (far right)**



chapter hosted President Tribble's "On the Road to 50" at the Jefferson Hotel in downtown Richmond.

As the chapter continues to grow, leadership opportunities are available to serve on the chapter's board of directors. A summer outing and networking event are next on the calendar for this growing group. To get involved with the Metro Richmond Alumni Chapter, email [richmondalumni@cnu.edu](mailto:richmondalumni@cnu.edu). You can also find the group on Facebook (**Christopher Newport Metro Richmond Alumni Chapter**).



The South Hampton Roads Alumni Chapter continues to grow and host events both fun and informational. In December alumni gathered for a holiday lunch in downtown Norfolk. And to kick off the new year, the chapter hosted a Captain for Life Business Networking event, giving alumni the opportunity to promote their businesses or services to fellow graduates.

The chapter hosted President Tribble's "On the Road to 50" at the

Westin Virginia Beach Town Center in April and in May helped with a Habitat for Humanity build in Portsmouth. Through that project, their hard work made it possible for a deserving family to move into a needed home.

Another Captain for Life Business Networking event as well as a family outing are being planned. For chapter information, email [south-hamptonroadsalumni@cnu.edu](mailto:south-hamptonroadsalumni@cnu.edu). The chapter can also be found on Facebook (**Christopher Newport South Hampton Roads Alumni Chapter**). ♦

— Lacey Grey Howard



# Class Notes

## '70s

**Paul Darden ('74)** was awarded a 2008 Alli Award for *Hampton Roads Bravo!* magazine from the Cultural Alliance of Greater Hampton Roads. The honor recognizes contributions to the local arts community.

**Sheila Rogers ('74)** became a member of the Virginia Educators Association-Retired state board in 2010. She represents the 3rd Congressional District in Virginia.

**Yssac Chabo ('75)** authored *As I Recall: Memoirs of a Legal Immigrant's Journey From Cuba to USA* in 2008. Visit Amazon to purchase the book online.

**Stephen Cupp ('75)** completed the pilgrimage to the Ganges in 2009 after studying Indian philosophy for 40 years.

**Herman Lawson ('78)** retired with his wife, Pat-sy, in 2009. They celebrate their 42nd anniversary this year.

## '80s

**Frank Haislip ('83)** is regional president for Hampton Roads at Union First Market Bank. He is a graduate of the American Banker's Association Stonier Graduate School of Banking.

**Matt Kennell ('83)** is president and CEO of City Center Partnership in Columbia, South Carolina. He has worked in urban development and management for nearly 30 years.

**Regina Brayboy ('84)** is vice president of administration and financial services for Virginia International Terminals Inc. in Norfolk, Virginia.

**Catherine Pace-Medows ('84)** became a colonel in the U.S. Army in 2008.

**Charles Cicotti ('86)** retired as a sergeant with the Virginia State Police after a 27-year career. In 2004 he opened Cicotti Enterprises Inc., a private investigation firm in Portsmouth, Virginia.

**William Conner ('87)** was named 2009 Professor of the Year at Tidewater Community College. He is an assistant professor of accounting and economics on the Portsmouth, Virginia, campus.

**Lisa Gaye Rieger ('87)** obtained her master's degree in secondary education from Old Dominion University in 2007.

**Deran Whitney ('88)** served 20 years in public education as a teacher, principal and central office administrator and was recently appointed superintendent of the Suffolk, Virginia, public schools.

**LTC Boris Robinson ('89)** chairs the Department of Military Science at the University of Texas at Austin. He will officially retire from the U.S. Army on Sept. 30, 2011.

## '90s

**Kim (Magee) Roeder ('90)** is executive director of event services at Southern Utah University.

**Curtis Simpson ('90)** is the proud great-grandfather of Bianca Morning, born Jan. 30, 2011.

**Brian Skinner ('92)** is president of TowneBank Peninsula. He leads TowneBank's second larg-

est region, which includes banking centers and branches on the Virginia Peninsula.

**Donna Lowery ('93)** started her own business, Smithfield Interiors, in 2005, located in Smithfield, Virginia.

**Vicki (Aston) Vawter ('93)** successfully raised more than \$110,000 for the Fourth Annual "Breast" Ball Golf Tournament presented by Waltrip Recycling. The fifth annual tournament takes place in March 2012. Those who would like more information on how to participate or volunteer should email Vawter at [evawter@cox.net](mailto:evawter@cox.net).

**Patricia Williams ('94)** was promoted to warrant officer for the U.S. Army in 2010.

**Elizabeth Bristow ('95)** was named Teacher of the Year in Gloucester County, Virginia, in 2008.

**Dan Goeller ('95)** owns a music publishing company in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He also wrote a musical adaptation for narrator and symphony of "The Selfish Giant," a short story by Oscar Wilde.

**Paul Szabo ('95)** serves on the board of directors for the Greater Peninsula Alumni Chapter.





**Row one (left to right): Amy (Wood) Bernecker ('94), Mark Bernecker ('96), Vicki Vawter, Ryan & Mike Sykes**

**Row two: Jeremy & Amy Bartos**

**Mark Bernecker ('96)** is the new managing director of The Mergis Group in Richmond, Virginia.

**Michele King ('97)** presented research for the International Society for Board Game Studies in both 2010 (Paris) and 2011 (Belgium).

**Robin Abbott ('98)** is in her second year serving as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates of the General Assembly. A lawyer and consumer advocate, her legislative committee assignments include finance and science and technology.

**Christopher Green ('98)** received an MEd in adult education and an MS in engineering from Virginia Commonwealth University where he currently is working on his PhD in mechanical engineering.



**Elizabeth (Bonaventura) Harris ('98)** earned an MHAL in 2006, an MBA in 2008 and a Black Belt Six Sigma Certificate in 2010.

**Gloria Hatcher ('98)** is a business manager at Virginia Department of Health - Peninsula District.

**Melissa (Jackson) Howell ('98)** serves as vice president of the Christopher Newport Alumni Society. She received her JD from William & Mary and currently works for Jackson Lewis LLP in Norfolk, Virginia.

**Jennifer Johnson-Simonsen ('98)** and her

husband, Danny Simonsen, welcomed daughter Grace Michelle on April 27, 2010.

**Cathleen Braxton ('99)** was recently hired as an adjunct professor at ITT Tech teaching juvenile justice. She received her master's degree in criminal justice from Kaplan University.

**Travis Lilley ('99)** married Emily Carter Hill of Richmond, Virginia, on April 10, 2011.

**Ansley Trice ('99)** welcomed son Mays Hunter Trice on July 24, 2010.

## '00s

**Jeremy Bartos ('00)** married his wife, Amy, on Aug. 7, 2010. They reside in Newport News.

**Kelly Peck ('00)** is a vice president at TowneBank in Norfolk, Virginia.

**Marsharee (Jordan) Wharton ('00)**, after graduating from CNU with a degree in criminal justice, earned a master's in human services from Liberty University in 2010. She is now employed with VABODE as a day treatment counselor in Newport News.

**Patrick Bethea ('01)** was married to his wife, Kaite, on April 10, 2010.

**Sarah (Sager) Bowman ('01)** married George Bowman Jr. on Oct. 2, 2010. The couple currently resides in Yorktown, Virginia.

**Donald Cowell ('01)** spent 30 years in the Coast Guard and retired as a CWO4 (BOSN) in Newport News in May 2010.

**Jessica (Kendall) Fanning ('01)** married T.J. Fanning on May 1, 2010.

**Christy (Tomlinson) Morton ('01)** was appointed deputy director of external affairs and policy development for the Office of Governor Robert F. McDonnell in Virginia.

**D. Michael Little ('02)** owns Tire City in Newport News. Visit his business online at [newport-newstirecity.com](http://newport-newstirecity.com).

**Ryan (Smith) Sykes ('02)** married Michael Sykes on July 24, 2010, after receiving a bachelor's in nuclear medicine technology from Old Dominion University and her physician's assistant degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School. They were married at the Peninsula Fine Arts Center in Newport News, coordinated by Antonia Christianson Events (see next entry).



**Antonia “Missy” (Taylor) Christianson ('03)** owns Antonia Christianson Events in Virginia Beach, Virginia. In her fourth year of business, she has been featured in *Bride and Bloom Magazine* and *The Knot*. Antonia Christianson Events has also been featured on Glamour.com, Essence.com and thebridescafe.com. Check out [antoniachristiansonevents.com](http://antoniachristiansonevents.com).

**Shawn Edwards ('03)** and **Shannon (DuChemin) Edwards ('04)**



**Row one (left to right): Shannon & Harper Edwards, Christen & Colton Campbell, Jude Edwin Smith**

**Row two: Eric, Julian & Beth Gambardella; Chad, Addison & Laura Hill; Paul & Rosemary Tribble, Allison & Manny Betancourt**

welcomed daughter Harper Rose Edwards on Dec. 31, 2010. The Shannon Edwards Real Estate Team received the Outstanding Salesmanship Club Bronze Award from the Virginia Peninsula Association of Realtors for 2010.

**Cristin Toutsis ('03)** received her master's in higher education from William & Mary in 2008. She is currently living and working in Washington, D.C.



**Allen Brooks ('04)** became an interactive content producer for ArtsEdge, the Kennedy Center's national arts education website, in 2010.

**Taryn (Cornelius) Burnett ('04)** was married to Bryan Burnett in Houston, Texas, on May 14, 2011.

**Christen (DuChemin) Campbell ('04)** welcomed son Colton Robert Campbell on Oct. 20, 2010. Part of the Shannon Edwards Real Estate Team, Campbell received the Outstanding Salesmanship Club Bronze Award from the Virginia Peninsula Association of Realtors for 2010.

**Tim Hopkins ('04)** co-founded As Was Written, an evening of original poetry, prose and song. The successful event was held in April 2011 in Alexandria, Virginia.

**Brennan Oliver ('04)** married his wife, Claire, on Aug. 15, 2009.

**Jesse Pippy ('04)** is vice president of recruitment for the Metro D.C. Alumni Chapter.

**Amanda (Meadows) Smith ('04)** and **Josh Smith ('07)** welcomed son Jude Edwin Smith on Dec. 16, 2010. The family resides in Newport News and also has a little girl, Payton.

**Lindsay (Vance) Bean ('05)** married Jason Bean on June 12, 2010, in a beach ceremony.

**Angela (Peters) Callahan ('05)** graduated from William & Mary in 2008 with a master's degree in education (marriage and family counseling). She married David Callahan in September 2010.

**Sarah (Godfrey) Fernandez ('05)** was married to Mark Fernandez on Dec. 19, 2009.







**Beth (Heath) Gambardella ('05)** and **Eric Gambardella ('05)** welcomed their first son, Julian Heath, on Feb. 3, 2011. They continue to work for CNU InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.

**Angela Hallock ('05)** received a master's in community counseling from Regent University in 2010 and served as a university fellow in student engagement at Christopher Newport University this past year.

**Robert May Jr. ('05)** served our country for three years as a combat logistics officer for the U.S. Army. He married his wife, Abby, on Oct. 11, 2008. The couple resides in Sterling, Virginia, where he is a project manager for Akimeka, LLC.

**Christian O. (Ogura) Meyers ('05)** graduated with a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Virginia Commonwealth University in May 2011. She will begin a general practice residency at the Hampton Veterans Administration Medical Center. She and her husband, **Joe ('06)**, live in Newport News.

**Patrick Murphrey ('05)** received a Master of Public Administration from Old Dominion University in 2007 and graduated from Regent

University School of Law in May 2010. He was also admitted to the Virginia State Bar and resides in Newport News.

**Suzy (Rivercomb) Shirk ('05)** and **Drew Shirk ('05)** welcomed their son, Chapman Perry, on March 21, 2011. She is a stay-at-home mom, and he is an assistant professor of military science at Norfolk State University. They reside in Newport News.

**Adam Ulan ('05)** now works for the chief information officer of GSA's Federal Acquisition Service.

**Allison Bridges ('06)** is an associate attorney for the Campbell & Campbell Law Firm in Richmond, Virginia. After completing her degree at CNU in government and public affairs she attended the University of Richmond where she completed a Juris Doctor in 2010.

**Aaron Carter ('06)** published a book in 2010 titled *Motivated by...!* He resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

**Joshua Dermer ('06)** is currently a student at Reformed Theological Seminary.

**Chad Hill ('06)** and his wife, Laura, welcomed daughter Addison Rose Hill on May 9, 2010. They

live in Fredericksburg, Virginia, where he is an architectural woodworker for Creative Dimension Group.

**Casey (Berson) Loftus ('06)** was married to John Loftus on May 31, 2009. After completing her degree at CNU she attended the University of Virginia and received a Master's of Education in school counseling in 2009. She currently works for Fairfax County Public Schools as a counselor. She and John live in Northern Virginia.

**Aimee McEvoy ('06)** was married Nov. 19, 2009, and welcomed a daughter on Sept. 18, 2010.

**Suzanne Medici ('06)** is an at-large member of the Metro D.C. Alumni Chapter's board.

**Monica Nolan ('06)** is working at Christopher Newport in the Center for Career Planning and is a member of the Greater Peninsula Alumni Chapter's board.

**Laura (Wist) O'Grady ('06)** married Henry O'Grady on Oct. 17, 2009.

**Natalie (Schoenbrot) Ondine Pak ('06)** was married July 16, 2010. She resides in Washington, D.C.

**Robert Peresich ('06)** graduated from Liberty University with a Juris Doctor in 2010. He also received a Master of Arts in government: law and public policy from Regent University. He and his wife, Deb, reside in Lynchburg, Virginia.

**Hilliary Turner ('06)** is pursuing her MA in history from Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Melissa (Morgan) Walton ('06)** was married Sept. 18, 2010. She is a Newport News police officer.

**Amelia (Long) Williams ('06)** married Bryan Williams on June 27, 2007.

**Jessica (Paige Morrison) Badlam ('07)** and her husband, Michael, welcomed son Ethan James on Sept. 23, 2010. She is a recruiting manager at Wyndham Worldwide, and they live in Williamsburg, Virginia.

**Alison (Cunningham) Betancourt ('07)** married Manny Betancourt on Feb. 5, 2011, and will be moving to Virginia Beach as Manny assumes an area position with Young Life.



**Molly Buckley ('07)** lives in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where she works for 1360 WCHL radio, the news, talk and flagship station for the North Carolina Tar Heels. She was promoted to "Duchess of Digital Media," overseeing all WCHL digital media marketing.

**Nathan Cecil ('07)** married Jancy Kay Steele on March 13, 2010, in Grayton Beach, Florida. He is currently attending Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

**Erin Clark ('07)** is at-large member of the Metro D.C. Alumni Chapter board.

**Tatem (Inskeep) Davis ('07)** married Allenn Davis on April 30, 2011. She works for Cobb Technologies. The couple lives in Yorktown, Virginia.

**Kristen Deal ('07)** graduated from Bon Secours Memorial College of Nursing. She passed the boards and became an RN in December 2009. Deal currently works at Memorial Regional Medical Center in Mechanicsville, Virginia.

**Lyndi Fedele ('07)** received her master's in rehab counseling from Virginia Commonwealth University in May 2009.

**Kimberly (Baldy) Gehring ('07)** married Taylor Gehring on Nov. 6, 2010.

**Jessi Hinz ('07)** works at the Asian University for Women in Bangladesh in corporate relations and internships.

**Susan (Kenney) Landlot ('07)** and her husband welcomed son Lucas Ren Landlot on Feb. 5, 2011.

**Marty (Clatterbuck) Martin ('07)** married Tim Martin in November 2010.

**Natasha Massey ('07)** married Joshua Gearheart on Oct. 17, 2010, at the Rock Hill Plantation in Stafford, Virginia.

**Colin McCarthy ('07)** received his JD from William & Mary in May 2010. He now is an associate attorney with Hancock, Daniel, Johnson & Nagle, PC.

**Amy Richardson ('07)** accepted an opportunity with the national political and nonprofit fundraising firm Berger Hirschberg Strategies in Washington, D.C., in March 2011.

**Stephanie (Barrett) Rodriguez ('07)** married **Martin Rodriguez ('08)** on Oct. 9, 2010, at Fort Belvoir Officer's Club at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

**Christi (Fox) Saia ('07)** and **John Saia ('07)**

welcomed their first son, Maximilian George, on July 23, 2010.

**Illysa Schraeger ('07)** serves as president of the Metro D.C. Alumni Chapter.

**Melissa (Bains) Shepherd ('07)** married Field Shepherd on Oct. 23, 2010.

**Lauren (Price) Verhine ('07)** and **Lee Verhine ('07)** welcomed daughter Olivia on July 14, 2010. They currently reside in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

**Timothy Bartlett ('08)** has performed in multiple off-Broadway shows including the Metropolitan Opera's production of "Aida."

**Ashley Bisutti ('08)** graduated from the University of Michigan (U of M) with an MA in Arabic and is an Arabic lecturer at U of M in Ann Arbor.

**Krista Blackburn ('08)** is heavily involved with the Lupus Foundation of America D.C./MD/VA chapter.

**Jebadiah Boseck ('08)** married Rebecca East on May 1, 2010.

**Bonni Chitty ('08)** is serving with Youth With A Mission in Tijuana, Mexico. She assists the campus director and participates in such min-

istries as building homes for local families in need, running programs for street youth, and visiting young people in juvenile prison and orphanages.

**SaraLynn (Glessner) Georgen ('08)** and Daniel Georgen were married May 29, 2010.

**Lauren (Wallace) Glidewell ('08)** and **Edwin Glidewell ('08)** were married Oct. 9, 2010.

**Elizabeth Henifin ('08)** is running her own interfaith shelter program for homeless individuals and families in the Denver, Colorado, north suburbs.

**Lacey Grey Howard ('08)** is assistant director of alumni relations at Christopher Newport University and received her master's degree in higher education administration from the University of South Carolina in May 2011.

**Stephanie Hurley-Williams ('08)** was married to James Williams on June 5, 2010.

**Katie Johnston ('08)** is in the higher education and student affairs master's program at the University of Connecticut and anticipates graduating in May 2012.

**Mary Pauline Jones ('08)** is vice president of communications for





by Jessie Smith



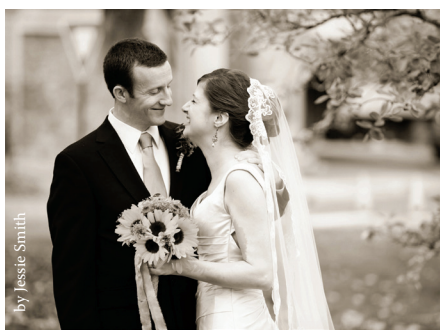
Alumni submitted



by Katelyn James



by Katelyn James



by Jessie Smith



by Jessie Smith

**Row one (left to right):**  
**Brittany & Kenneth**  
**Moreland; Bridney**  
**Martin-Gibbs & Jameson**  
**Gibbs; SaraLynn &**  
**Daniel Georgen**

**Row two: Seth & Emily**  
**Baxter; Tim & Marty**  
**Martin; Lauren,**  
**Olivia & Lee Verhine**

the Metro D.C. Alumni Chapter.

**Andrew Lundsten ('08)** is vice president of fundraising for the Metro D.C. Alumni Chapter.

**Bridney Martin-Gibbs ('08)** married Jameson Gibbs on Jan. 2, 2010. They currently live in Australia.

**Brittany (Collins) Moreland ('08)** married **Kenneth Moreland ('10)** in November 2010.

**Ashley Moyer ('08)** received a promotion inside CENTRA Technology Inc. in 2010. CENTRA is a high-technology business providing security, analytic, technical, engineering and management support to the government and private sectors. Moyer is currently employed at the Arlington, Virginia, location.

**Katie Murray ('08)** has been serving in the Peace Corps for the past year in Benin, Africa. When she completes her service she will begin an internship in wildlife rehabilitation.

**Catherine (Bowersox) Posey ('08)** is married to **John Posey ('07)** and owns Infinite Joy Weddings, a wedding planning business based in the Metro D.C. Area.

**Rachel Schumacher ('08)** married her high school sweetheart, **Trey Barham**, on Oct. 10, 2010.

**Karen Shoemaker ('08)** received her Master's of Science in education-higher education administration, student affairs from Old Dominion University in May 2011. She received the Outstanding Graduate Student in Higher Education award from the university.

**Jessica Smith ('08)** is running a successful wedding and family portrait photography business. She resides in Leesburg, Virginia.

**Emilie (Hogue) Smithwick ('08)** and **Ronnie Smithwick ('07)** were married on Oct. 1, 2010. The couple lives in Richmond, Virginia.

**Jacob Andy ('09)** married **Rebecca Doane** on Oct. 14, 2010.

**Emily (Rice) Baxter ('09)** married **Seth Baxter** on Aug. 13, 2010, at the Mill at Fine Creek in Goochland, Virginia. **Katelyn (James) Alsop ('10)** photographed the wedding.



**Lesley (Harden) Coffee ('09)** married Mathew Coffee on Aug. 7, 2010.

**Lauren (Lupfer) Collins ('09)** married Robert James Collins III on Feb. 12, 2011, in Florida, where the couple now resides.

**Joey Gionfriddo ('09)** is vice president of events for the Christopher Newport Metro D.C. Alumni Chapter.

**Jessica Lee (Harms) Heath ('09)** and **Robbie Heath ('09)** were married on Aug. 21, 2010 at Colonial Heritage in Williamsburg, Virginia. Fellow grad Katelyn (James) Alsop ('10) photographed the event.

**Johnna Hetrick ('09)** is a marketing specialist for Interstate World Wide in Alexandria, Virginia. She is also the owner and designer at Artketing Designs.

**John Hirlinger ('09)** received a master's degree in accounting from William & Mary in 2010 and also earned his CPA.

**Kristy Hutcheson ('09)** welcomed a daughter, Kaylynn Hutcheson, on Oct. 20, 2010.

**Margaret Kern ('09)** married **Chris Melton ('09)** on Nov. 6, 2010.

**Kelly Kundrat ('09)** is enrolled as a fulltime master's student at American University in the public administration program.

**Garrett Maroon ('09)** is employed in the Office of Admissions at Christopher Newport. He previously served as the assistant to the University's president.

**William Mosley ('09)** was married May 21, 2011, to Lindsey Joy Halverson at North Riverside Baptist Church in Newport News. He works for Canon Virginia in Newport News, and she is employed as a marketing representative for Caresouth Home Health in Newport News. They reside in Poquoson.

**Gregory Nichols ('09)** married Ashlee Greene on Oct. 2, 2010.

**John Vallaster ('09)** married Christan Mitchell on Sept. 25, 2010, at Orcutt Baptist Church in Newport News.

**Amber (Widlacki) Warren ('09)** married Jeremy Warren on July 31, 2010.

**Nicole (Henry) Willis ('09)** married **Kyle Willis ('09)** on Sept. 25, 2010.

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## '10S

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**Katelyn (James) Alsop ('10)** married **Michael Alsop ('08)** on Oct. 10, 2010. They live in Richmond, Virginia. She owns Katelyn James Photography, and he is employed as a youth pastor.

**John Becton ('10)** is pursuing a law degree from Liberty University School of Law in Lynchburg, Virginia.

**Ashley Birmingham ('10)** married John Birmingham on Aug. 21, 2010.

**April Boucher ('10)** is a first-year pharmacy student at Virginia Commonwealth University.

**Connie (Workman) Bray ('10)** and **Nathan Bray ('10)** were married on Sept. 18, 2010. Alumna Katelyn (James) Alsop ('10) photographed the wedding.

**Kelsey Brunton ('10)** served CNU as a university fellow during the 2010-11 school year.

**Mary (Zoric) Cook ('10)** and **Ben Cook ('07)** were married on May 8, 2010.

**Joshua Cross ('10)** was a university fellow at CNU during the past year.

**Billy Fellin ('10)** was recently hired by the *Rich-*

*mond Times-Dispatch* as a sports producer.

**James Hosack Jr. ('10)** will attend the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in the fall, working toward a master's in communication. He was also selected for the teaching assistantship program and will be in the classroom beginning his first semester.

**Kara Lusk ('10)** is the administrative assistant to the vice president, university advancement at Christopher Newport University.

**Ben MacMillan ('10)** joined the recruiting team at Morton Consulting in Glen Allen, Virginia. His responsibilities include interviewing, qualifying and placing candidates with Morton clients.

**Kimberly Murry ('10)** earned a master's degree in counseling from Capella University in 2010.

**Kelley (Brown) Owens ('10)** and Adam Owens were married on May 30, 2010, in Harrisonburg, Virginia, in a ceremony photographed by Katelyn (James) Alsop ('10).

**Lindsey Pantele ('10)** teaches English at Glen Allen High School in Glen Allen, Virginia, and was nominated for First Year Teacher of the Year.





**Lauren Waegerle ('10)** graduated from the management associate program at TowneBank in December 2010 and is currently a business analyst, operations officer with TowneBank.

**Chris Withers ('10)** performed, along with **Rachel Simpson ('09)** and Emmy winner Sally Struthers, in the Riverside Dinner Theater's Production of "Hello, Dolly!" Next year, Withers will attend the American Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York for musical theater.

**Rachel Dodd ('11)** is a university fellow in student engagement at CNU. She was named a recipi-

ent of the Dean's Service Award, presented to graduating seniors who demonstrate leadership in academics, service, co-curricular involvement and/or campus employment.

**Brendan McElroy ('11)** is serving for a year as a university fellow in admissions at CNU.

**Daniel Mitteer ('11)** received the Dean's Service Award this spring at Christopher Newport. It goes to graduating seniors for leadership in academics, service, co-curricular involvement and/or campus employment.

**Gabrielle Moore ('11)** received CNU's Dean's Service Award for leadership in academics, service, co-curricular involvement and/or campus employment.

**Leslie Spaulding ('11)** is currently working as a university fellow in the President's Leadership Program at CNU.

**Deanna Trail ('11)**, recipient of the Dean's Service Award, is a university fellow with the President's Leadership Program at CNU.

**Emily Williamson ('11)** is an admissions university fellow at CNU for the next year.

*Bottom left photo:* These Phi Mu sorority sisters came together from all over Virginia to celebrate Tiffany Haynes' last "hoorah" before getting married.



by Katelyn James



by Katelyn James



by Katelyn James



by Katelyn James



Alumni submitted

**Row one (left to right): Kelley & Adam Owens**

**Row two: Nathan & Connie Bray; Mary & Ben Cook**

**Row three: Robbie & Jessica Lee Heath; Lauren & Robert Collins;**  
**Phi Mu sorority sisters:**

**Row one (left to right): Erin McCoy ('06 BA; '07 master's), Erin Clark ('07), Tiffany Haynes ('05), Joann Glover ('04) and Kim Walls-Smith ('04); Row two (left to right): Mandy Rogers ('10), Megan Byrd-George ('05), Tiffany Lampkin-Tignor ('06) and Erin Prescott ('05)**



Alumni submitted



# Alumni Society Affinity Programs and Benefits

## Affinity Programs

As a member of the Christopher Newport University Alumni Society, you can enjoy discounts and benefits while helping the Alumni Society at the same time!

### Liberty Mutual

Liberty Mutual offers alumni a discount of up to 10 percent on auto, home and renters insurance. For more information, contact Group Savings Plus® at (800) 678-6158 or visit Liberty Mutual online at [libertymutual.com/cnu](http://libertymutual.com/cnu).

Not only do Alumni Society members receive a great discount when they sign up for Liberty Mutual insurance, you also ensure the continued success of programs offered to Christopher Newport alumni.

### Bank of America

The Christopher Newport University Educational Foundation partnership with Bank of America offers alumni top-quality benefits and service that you deserve. By activating and using a MasterCard or checking account through the CNU alumni partnership, you are also supporting the Christopher Newport University Educational Foundation, which provides network and engagement opportunities annually.

Earn points with the freedom to redeem for cash back or other rewards. The Christopher Newport University Educational Foundation Platinum Plus® MasterCard® credit card with WorldPoints® rewards gives you the flexibility to choose from different types of rewards – cash, travel, gift certificates, merchandise and much more.

### Features include:

- Earn 1 point for every \$1 in net retail purchases
- No limit to the amount of rewards you can earn
- Redeem your points starting just 2,500 points
- Support Christopher Newport University Educational Foundation with every purchase
- Access to the WorldPoints Mall – do all your shopping here and earn bonus points at hundreds of your favorite online stores
- Absolute fraud protection and zero liability for unauthorized card transactions
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## Benefits

Membership in the Christopher Newport Alumni Society is FREE and comes with the following benefits:

### 50 percent off on-campus facilities rentals

During school breaks (winter and

summer) alumni receive 50 percent off rental fees for weddings and receptions.

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

### Career planning assistance

The benefits of CNU's Center for Career Planning are offered free to alumni for life. Resume editing, job searching, job postings and all things career related are available after graduation and throughout your career.

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

### Access to the Tribble Library's resources

Alumni need only request a community user card to check out books from the Tribble Library. The

\$25 user fee is waived for alumni!  
[library.cnu.edu](http://library.cnu.edu)

### E-mail for life

Alumni who graduated prior to 2009 only need to submit an online form at [alumni.cnu.edu](http://alumni.cnu.edu) to activate their free Christopher Newport email address!

### Captain for Life Network

Alumni chapters offer Christopher Newport alumni the opportunity to remain engaged in the life of the University by building and maintaining relationships through several events each year.

[alumni.cnu.edu/chapters](http://alumni.cnu.edu/chapters)





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## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2011 FACULTY RETIREES

**Dr. Joshua Anyiwo**

22 years

Physics, Computer Science and  
Engineering

**Dr. Ronald Mollick**

41 years

Biology, Chemistry and Environmental  
Science

**Dr. John Avioli**

41 years

Mathematics

**Prof. Ronald Persky**

42 years

Mathematics

**Dr. Joseph Healey**

42 years

Sociology, Social Work and  
Anthropology

**Dr. Wayne Schell**

35 years

Accounting, Economics and Finance

**Dr. John Hoaglund**

38 years

Philosophy and Religious Studies

**Dr. George Webb**

38 years

Physics, Computer Science and  
Engineering

**Dr. Stavroula Kostaki-Gailey**

37 years

Mathematics

