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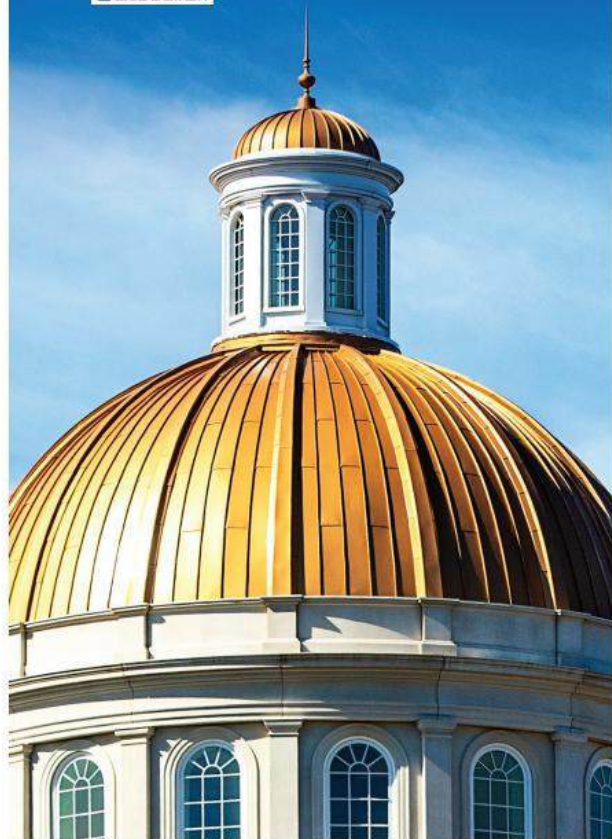
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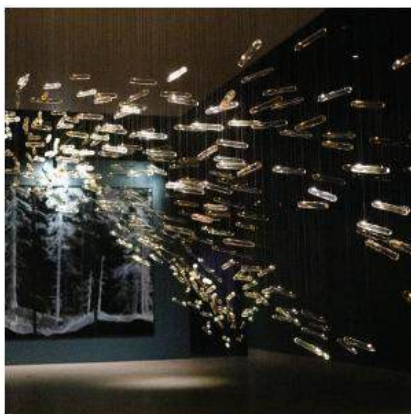
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**2**

"Time is racing by."  
President Tribble announces the next  
steps in a distinguished career



**4**

The Torggler  
opens to rave reviews



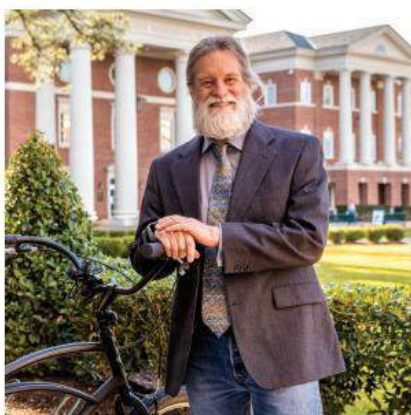
**12**

The community says thanks  
because CNU saved lives



**22**

How it all began.  
Six decades, endless stories



**29**

Prof. Kip Redick on inherent goodness  
and a significant honor



**30**

Undefeated and undaunted,  
this team made history



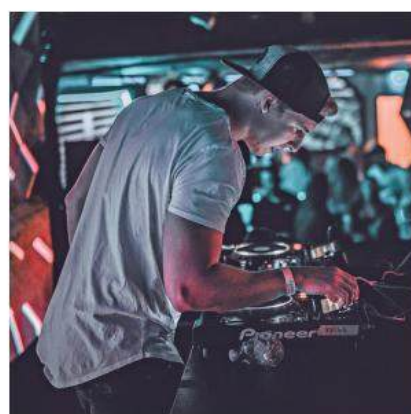
**32**

Catch up with all  
the winners



**42**

Class Notes ... of babies and  
brides and lives well lived



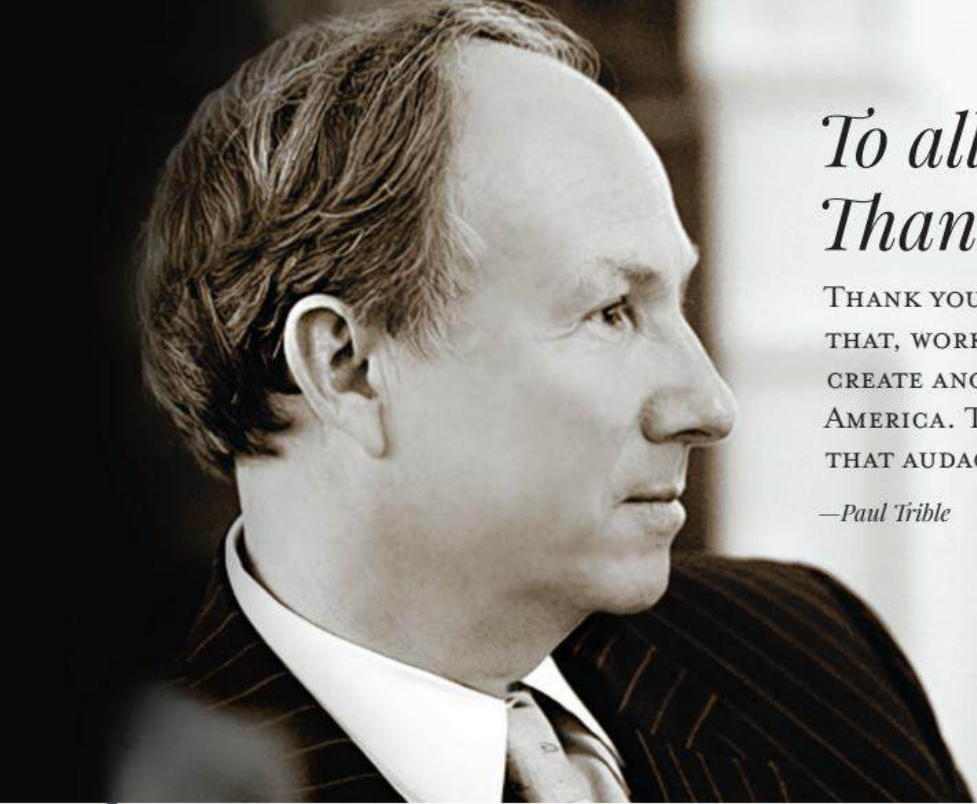
**44**

Meet the DJ and producer  
who is making it big

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## *To all of you: Thank you.*

THANK YOU FOR EMBRACING THE DREAM THAT, WORKING TOGETHER, WE COULD CREATE ANOTHER GREAT UNIVERSITY FOR AMERICA. TOGETHER, WE HAVE MADE THAT AUDACIOUS DREAM A REALITY.

—Paul Tribble

*President Paul Tribble announced that he plans to step away from his position and take on a new role with the university. Below is a transcription of his video message to the community, followed by a response by Rector Bobby Hatten.*

Today, I told the Board of Visitors that I wanted to bring my tenure as president of Christopher Newport to a close at the end of this academic year.

Over the past eight months, as I've supported and encouraged Rosemary and her recovery, I've been reminded that life is fragile, and how precious are the members of our families. In my case, Rosemary, our daughter Mary Katherine and son Paul and their families, Barrett and Brit, and especially our grandchildren, Locklyn and Truet, and Camden and Carrington.

This is the 26th year that Rosemary and I have served Christopher Newport. In December, I'll be 75 years old. Time is racing by and I don't want to lose, for the second time in my life, the opportunity to be with the people whom I love the most in this world. You see, when Paul and Mary Katherine were growing up, I was a young United States congressman and senator, intent on saving the world. I missed so many special moments with them and Rosemary, and I don't want to let that happen again.

As you know, Rosemary and I have poured our hearts and minds into this wonderful place, and we have been blessed beyond measure. We've been blessed by our students, the extraordinary young women and men who have graced this campus through the years. We've been blessed by a dedicated and distinguished faculty, and are honored to call them colleagues and friends. We've been blessed by a staff that has sprinted from the crack of dawn until late at night, day in and day out, to encourage and support our

success. We've been blessed by our alumni, our parents and our many, many friends who have so generously shared their time, talent and treasure.

To all of you: Thank you. Thank you for embracing the dream that, working together, we could create another great university for America. Together, we have made that audacious dream a reality. Indeed, few schools in America, if any, have come so far so quickly. Together, we built rich and rigorous academic programs, a superb and committed faculty, a magnificent campus, vibrant student life, and students who have brought our beautiful campus alive with their energy, their enthusiasm, and their intellect.

Most importantly, we've enriched the minds and stirred the hearts of over 20,000 young people. I shook their hands and gave them their diplomas. Rosemary congratulated them with a hug. And together, all of us sent them out into the world with hopes and prayers that they would live lives of meaning and consequence and purpose – a life of significance – and make our world a better place.

So I will serve as your president until the end of this academic year, and we have so much to celebrate in this 60th anniversary year. Rosemary and I look forward to every moment of every day that we will be together with you. Please know how much I love this place, how much I cherish each of you, how deeply grateful I am for you giving me the most extraordinary, meaningful moments in my life. And how confident I am that Christopher Newport's best years lie ahead. Go Captains!

## RECTOR'S STATEMENT TO THE UNIVERSITY

Today President Tribble informed the Board of Visitors that he wishes to retire on August 1, 2022. By that time Paul and Rosemary will have served this university gloriously and sacrificially for 26 ½ years. Few schools, if any, have accomplished what has been achieved on our campus during that time. Under his leadership CNU has progressed from obscurity into national prominence. Our university and our entire community will be forever grateful.

After 50 years of public service, Paul and Rosemary have certainly earned the right to a less hurried and demanding life where they can more fully enjoy their time together and time with their daughter Mary Katherine and son Paul and their spouses and four grandchildren.

In consideration of the seriousness of finding the right person to succeed Paul, the board does not want to rush to complete a national search within the next 12 months. We need time to catch our breath, reflect on all that we have accomplished together and carefully plan where we go next.

Accordingly, we have asked Adelia Thompson to serve as interim president and CEO for the academic year 2022-23. We are certain that Adelia will lead with the same grace, excellence and success as she did during Paul's recent sabbatical to assist Rosemary during her illness.

Although we will lose Paul as president, we don't want to lose all he knows and means to this university. To that end, we have asked that he serve as chancellor for the 2022-23 academic year and as such he will be available when called upon by Adelia for advice and assistance.

Paul's experience and knowledge of the General Assembly and state government, alumni, fundraising and admission will be invaluable, and, of course, he is deeply committed to the success of the President's Leadership Program – that he, himself, pioneered – and our widely acclaimed academic programs in leadership and American studies.

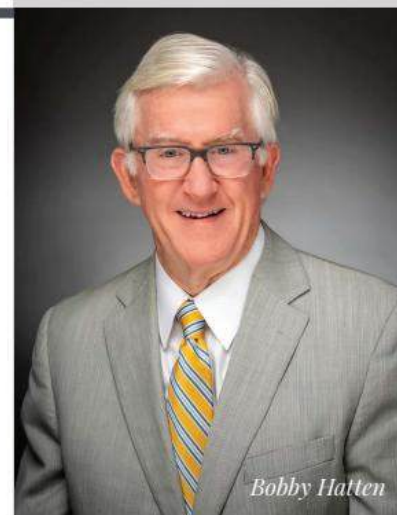
In January 2022 I will appoint a search committee that will fairly represent the rich diversity of campus and include representatives of important stakeholders, including the Board of Visitors, staff, alumni, students as well as community leaders. We will use the spring to get organized, coordinate with the powers in Richmond, hire a consulting firm to offer advice and assistance, communicate about the qualities important in our new leader, and launch a national search.

This will be challenging. History suggests that it is very difficult to find a president who can be successful succeeding a transformational president like Paul. That is why I want to get this search underway in early 2022 so that we have more than a year to find the right person.

The next president will take office in the summer of 2023. That summer Paul's chancellorship will end and he will serve on our faculty as the Davis Professor of Leadership and American Studies or retire to his home in the Northern Neck overlooking the Chesapeake Bay.

It is important to tell you that Adelia will not be a candidate in the presidential search. She will serve in the interim president role during academic year 2022-23, and then looks forward to returning to the chief of staff position, doing all she can to support the Christopher Newport family, and the new leader, as we make this transition together.

We have a good plan and are committed to completing this national search with great success. As the search unfolds, we will ask the entire CNU family to offer advice. We will endeavor to make this process as transparent as possible, mindful that safeguards must be placed on personnel matters. Our charge is to ensure that the remarkable success of Christopher Newport is carried into the future with the next right leader at the helm – and we will rise to that challenge.



*Bobby Hatten*

# Torggler Debuts With Captivating ‘Night Light’ Exhibition

*Introducing Virginia’s new crown jewel for the arts.*



**S**AYING “THE ARTS EMPOWER US TO DREAM,” President Paul Tribble heralded the opening of the new Mary M. Torggler Fine Arts Center.

Tribble spoke at ceremonies at the October 31 grand opening of the Torggler and its first major exhibit – an exhilarating display of artwork that explores nature through the lens of technology and the innovative use of light. The exhibition, titled “Night Light,” will be on display through May 15, 2022.

There is no admission charge and no tickets are necessary to experience “Night Light” and other exhibits at the Torggler. With the Torggler’s three glass domes as a backdrop, Tribble thanked the many people who contributed to the opening of a cultural centerpiece for the campus and for Virginia. “This day is all about the power of great dreams, the pursuit of excellence and an appreciation of the importance of liberal learning and those things that are beautiful and inspiring and noble,” he said.

State and local leaders attended the ceremony, as did those responsible for the design and construction of the building, as well as the benefactors whose support made it all possible.

“Together you have changed the physical and intellectual landscape in a way which will ensure the permanent greatness of this university, and provide a rich legacy for us, our

children and their children,” said Rector Bobby Hatten. “This center for the arts will be a place where life is experienced, not just observed. And for that reason, a center for the arts is the essential heart of every great university.”

“Night Light” features enthralling interactive work by five contemporary artists and artist collectives: DRIFT, hailing from Amsterdam; Simon Heijdens, based in London; Joanie Lemerrier from Brussels; Michal Rovner of Israel; and Quayola, located in Rome. Works by these artists have been presented in museums throughout the world, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art in New York; the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam; the Victoria and Albert Museum, London; the Art Institute of Chicago; and many others.

“The Torggler is dedicated to bringing exceptional visual art to our community and enriching our cultural landscape. Our inaugural exhibitions will inspire and engage visitors of diverse ages and backgrounds,” said Holly Koons, the executive director. “The adventure begins the moment you enter the Torggler’s rotunda to experience *Shylight*, a mesmerizing site-specific work by the artist collective DRIFT. A choreographed series of silk sculptures that mimics the movement of flowers, this dazzling work sets the stage for the wonders that await as you move through the galleries.”

The “Night Light” exhibition will be presented in the Torggler’s expansive Anne Noland Edwards Gallery, which will house major exhibitions by professional artists with national and international reputations. “Night Light” is curated by Superblue in collaboration with the Torggler.

“We’re thrilled to be working with the Torggler on its first exhibition,” said Margot Mottaz, associate curator at Superblue. “Superblue shares in its mission to reach broad audiences with beautiful and thought-provoking art, and we look forward to advancing the appreciation of experiential art in this institutional context.”

Superblue is a groundbreaking new enterprise dedicated to producing, presenting and engaging the public with experiential art – work that is typically site-specific, kinetic, interactive or immersive – offering opportunities for audiences to experience visual art in a novel, compelling way.

“We all find comfort in the glow of light in the darkness, illuminating what is otherwise not visible,” Mottaz said. “‘Night Light’ brings together the works of five artists who manipulate light and shadow to capture, reveal and re-interpret patterns and behaviors found in nature that often go unnoticed until made to be seen. The exhibition takes visitors from land to sky and back, in each moment inviting us to pay closer attention to the world that surrounds us: how plants grow and sway in the wind, how forests look under the surface, how birds swarm under threat, how jackals watch over their territory, how storms brew above mountain tops. The stillness of the night finds itself illuminated by the light inherent to the artworks.”

In addition to the “Night Light” exhibition, exciting work is also on display in the Torggler’s other public galleries. The William M. Grace Community Gallery presents “Nocturne,” featuring work exploring the intersection of darkness and light, created by artists in the Hampton Roads region. The Academic Gallery, dedicated to the work of students, faculty and alumni, presents the “ArtCNU Alumni Invitational,” celebrating the talent and creativity of Christopher Newport’s alumni as well as the legacy of the university’s fine-art program. Finally, the Microgallery presents “What It Means to Be a Fox,” an immersive installation by alumnus and adjunct professor Ryan Lytle ’15, known for his large-scale felted sculptures and bold, highly patterned environments.



#### Plan a visit:

The Torggler is open Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. (closed Mondays). There is no admission fee for exhibits.

The building is wheelchair-accessible. Free parking is available in the visitor parking lot adjacent to the Torggler in front of Tribble Library.

For more information, visit [thetorggler.org](http://thetorggler.org).





Mary Torggler



**We are deeply grateful to Torggler founding patrons**

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**The Mary M. Torggler Fine Arts Center** opened with an exhibit demonstrating the wonder of light and so it was fitting that the opening celebration was headlined by a gala that featured a night of wonder under glowing lights on the terrace in front of the Torggler. Guests, including political dignitaries, notable alumni, generous supporters, university leaders and many other friends of the Torggler, toasted the opening of Virginia's new cultural crown jewel. Inside and out, the lights made for a sparkling evening.



# WHAT'S NEW AT CNU





## Leading the Way: Rankings Rise

*Christopher Newport's reputation is growing, and that is reflected by higher rankings from numerous publications.*

### **Princeton Review**

Christopher Newport is one of the nation's top institutions for undergraduates and features residence halls that rank among the very best in America, according to Princeton Review. The education services company included Christopher Newport in the 2022 edition of its annual college guide, *The Best 387 Colleges*. Only about 14% of America's 2,700 four-year colleges are profiled in the book.

### **U.S. News**

Christopher Newport moved up in the new 2022 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. Previously ranked No. 7 among the 137 Southern regional public and private universities, Christopher Newport is now No. 6, and continues to be the highest ranked non-military, public university in the South with fewer than 15,000 students.

The rise in the rankings is attributed to Christopher Newport's growing reach and reputation, improvements in

its already impressive retention of students from year to year, and its graduation rates.

Additionally, Christopher Newport is also ranked among the region's most innovative schools (No. 7) and among those that offer the best undergraduate teaching (No. 15).

### **Public Ivy**

Christopher Newport is one of 12 "public ivy" institutions in the U.S., according to influential education analyst and writer Stuart Nachbar.

Nachbar annually publicizes a list of what he considers to be colleges on par with the traditional Ivy League colleges that include Harvard, Yale and Cornell, among others.

Nachbar also points out what he regards as "best buys" among the institutions he has selected and includes Christopher Newport on that list because of its "generous merit scholarships."



## **“What You Did Saved Lives”**

*Alums honor university for hosting vaccine clinic.*

**R**EPRESENTED BY two Captains for Life, the Peninsulas Emergency Medical Services Council (PEMS) presented an award to Director of Emergency Management Tammy Sommer, Executive Director of University Relations Amie Dale and President Paul Tribble for hosting a series of COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

At a ceremony in the Cynthia Perry Rotunda in Christopher Newport Hall, Steve Pincus '89 and Kevin Brophy '95 presented the university with the 2021 PEMS Council Special Recognition Award.

“As the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the Peninsula, and cases, including fatalities, grew rapidly within the region, Christopher Newport University became an engaged partner with local government emergency managers, hospitals, health departments and emergency medical services agencies in developing and implementing an integrated response,” Pincus said. “When a vaccine became available, Christopher Newport University stepped forward and offered its Freeman Center facility, staff from multiple departments and countless wrap-around services to open and operate a community vaccination center. Unquestionably, what you did saved lives.”

In accepting the award, Tribble emphasized that the clinic was a sterling example of multiple public service agencies in the region working together for a common cause. He noted that the clinic operated smoothly with few lines or delays so that thousands of local school teachers, firefighters, police officers and other frontline workers, as well as Christopher Newport faculty and staff could be vaccinated.

The clinic was organized by the Virginia Department of Health, Peninsula Health District, city of Newport News, Newport News Public Schools, Newport News Fire and EMS, York County, York County Schools, York County Fire and Life Safety, and Riverside Health System.

Dale and Sommer directed the conversion of the Freeman Center fieldhouse into a massive clinic and then guided its day-to-day operation. They stood alongside Tribble during the award presentation and thanked the other university staff members who contributed to the effort.

“This extraordinary and invaluable community partnership enabled over 25,000 citizens and visitors including many of the region’s most vulnerable to receive COVID-19 vaccinations,” Pincus said. “In addition, the university’s commitment to help ensure the health and well-being of its local and regional community and help maintain them as a safe place to live, work and enjoy our families, is the height of significance.”

The mention of “significance” is a reference to Christopher Newport’s credo that its graduates will be prepared to serve lives of significance. Tribble said that Pincus and Brophy, in their contributions to the health and well-being of the region, were doing exactly that.

Pincus is EMS planner and emergency management coordinator and Brophy serves as the PEMS business manager. PEMS integrates and coordinates resources to ensure a system of rapid response and expert patient care from 16 jurisdictions, 10 hospitals and more than 57 EMS agencies.



## Two 'Extraordinary Colleagues' Awarded Honorary Degrees

*President Tribble salutes Cindi Perry and Bill Brauer '77.*

**O**N BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS, President Paul Tribble awarded honorary degrees to two recently retired, longtime Christopher Newport leaders: Cindi Perry and Bill Brauer.

Each received an honorary doctor of laws degree in a ceremony during Tribble's state of the university address to faculty and staff on August 18: "Today as we say thank you to all the members of our remarkable academic community, we want to recognize two extraordinary colleagues who together committed over 70 years of their lives to making Christopher Newport a precious place – Cindi Perry and Bill Brauer."

Perry was the first to be honored. She worked for Christopher Newport for over 42 years in a number of roles, including chief of staff, director of planning and budget and counselor to the president. "Cindi's wisdom, splendid judgment, knowledge of colleagues and programs across the campus, budgetary expertise, and her love of this place empowered everything that was accomplished at Christopher Newport University," Tribble said. "And so, today, surrounded by treasured friends and colleagues, on behalf of the Board of Visitors, we award you, Cindi Perry, an honorary doctor of laws degree from your beloved Christopher Newport University."

Brauer was then summoned to the stage and Tribble noted his nearly 30 years as executive vice president, chief financial officer and counselor to the president: "Bill's expert management of the finances of the university in both good and challenging times and his leadership in envisioning and constructing over \$1 billion of university facilities has transformed this university and created one of America's most beautiful campuses. So today, on behalf of the Board of Visitors, we award Bill Brauer an honorary doctor of laws degree from his beloved alma mater."

"Cindi and Bill, you both have sacrificially served and led this institution and inspired all that we have accomplished together. It is our people, the Cindi Perrys and Bill Brauers and each of you – and all of us together – that make Christopher Newport an irresistible force. So, even in these difficult times, we have much to celebrate."

## Dr. Barbara Kellerman Will Be Visiting Leadership Scholar

*World-renowned expert to join Christopher Newport in the spring.*



**DR. BARBARA KELLERMAN**, a distinguished scholar, author and speaker, will serve as a visiting leadership scholar for the spring 2022 term.

Students will have opportunities to meet in small groups with Kellerman for conversations and mentoring, and she will give a series of lectures on leadership and followership grounded

in current events. She will guest-lecture in some classes and also formally address members of the President's Leadership Program. Kellerman will be available to consult with faculty across disciplines on their research, writing and teaching and will offer her insight on the university's leadership studies curriculum.

Her appointment is facilitated by the Department of Leadership and American Studies.

Kellerman served as the James MacGregor Burns Lecturer in Public Leadership at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. She is the founding executive director of the school's Center for Public Leadership and one of the founders of the International Leadership Association.

A prolific author and editor, Kellerman's books include *The Enablers: How Team Trump Flunked the Pandemic and Failed America*; *Bad Leadership: What It Is, How It Happens, Why It Matters*; and *Followership: How Followers are Creating and Changing Leaders*.

Kellerman's media appearances have included CBS, NBC, PBS, CNN, NPR, Reuters and the BBC, and she has written for *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Boston Globe*, the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Harvard Business Review*. She speaks to audiences worldwide and has received several prestigious recognitions and awards for her thought leadership and work.



Alex Tran, front row, right; Duncan Owen, back row, center; Gabby Beddard, front row, third from left; Emily Stanisha, front row, second from left

## Captains at Canon

*Interns describe a summer of learning and discovery.*

**INTERNSHIPS HELP STUDENTS** put knowledge gained in the classroom into action in a workplace. They also give students valuable networking and resume-building opportunities. That's especially true with a world-renowned firm such as Canon Virginia (CVI), which has its regional technical headquarters a few miles from campus. This summer, seven of Canon's 13 interns were Captains. Canon interns partner with a mentor and are assigned a special project. At the conclusion of their internship, they each gave a final presentation to the intern group, management teams and human resources staff.

— In their own words, here's how four of the Captains at Canon described their summer. —

### ALEX TRAN '22 Herndon

*Political science and sociology*

#### General Affairs and Security Intern

"I worked on various projects related to business continuity, access control and fire suppression systems. The largest project I assisted with was planning for our active shooter drill with the Newport News Police Department.

Working with a significant organization like Canon has truly prepared me for a career after I graduate next May. There is only so much learning you can do in a classroom setting, and being able to intern at CVI was an invaluable experience. My time at Canon allowed me to grow my network beyond Christopher Newport. I learned to work within a multigenerational team and

apply the skills I have learned at CNU to the 'real world.'"

### DUNCAN OWEN '22 Richmond

*Communication*

#### Corporate Communications and Human Resources Intern

"I assisted with a variety of tasks and projects. I helped with daily workplace assignments, such as internal audit and performance reports, job interviews, and content creation for Canon's social media platforms. In addition, I was assigned significant roles in large-scale projects, such as coordinating the vendor sponsorships for the biennial company fall festival and managing content for the monthly employee newsletter.

Working at Canon allowed me to gain work experience in the career path I am

interested in and allowed me to build on my natural skills. Additionally, I was able to apply what I have been taught in the classroom to situations and contexts in the workplace. Specifically, many of the case studies and theories I studied in my interpersonal communication classes have strengthened my professional communication across different mediums."

### GABBY BEDDARD '22 Richmond

*Electrical engineering*

#### Manufacturing Engineering Intern

"My internship focused on improving Canon's current manufacturing process. My project was the Automated Coupling Removal Project. We worked on finding ways to automatically remove

cartridge couplings with a mechanical device in order to reduce manpower.

This internship allowed me to apply the theory I learned in my engineering classes and get hands-on, interactive experience with electrical controls and communications processes."

### EMILY STANISHA '21 Loudon County

*Electrical engineering and neuroscience*

#### Product Development Intern

"I built a test rig to quantify durability during deformation of a device.

Canon helped guide me in figuring out what I want out of my career. I can explore different pathways and learn different things like schematic design and how research is done in the industry."

## Donations Are Proof Campus Has a Big Heart

*Hundreds of Afghan refugees will benefit.*

**T**HE INVITATION to donate clothing that was emailed to students, faculty and staff began with this message: "Christopher Newport University is a place of welcome and warmth for all who experience our beautiful campus and friendly community ... right now, we have the chance to expand this spirit of welcome beyond the 757."

The invitation from the Center for Community Engagement (CCE) went on to ask for donations of clothing and other items to assist more than 6,500 refugees, including 2,100 children, who have been resettled from Afghanistan to Virginia. Most arrived here with little more than the clothing on their backs and are being housed in barracks on military installations.

Those refugees will certainly feel a spirit of welcome.

Bags of clothing by the hundreds came pouring in. So did stuffed animals and toys and hygiene products and diapers and so much more. The goods came from students, faculty and staff on campus and they came from across Newport News. Teachers at a high school filled a van and sent it over. Others filled bins at a Captains football game or left items at the drive-through locations on campus.

In just four days, the staff and volunteers from CCE collected so much that the bags filled the David Student Union Board Room and were piled up in other available spaces.

Then came Sorting Day.

Under tents on the Great Lawn, under the direction of CCE Director Vanessa Buehlman, dozens of volunteers opened the bags and divided the donations into carefully folded piles. Womens clothing over here. Men over there. And much for the children.

A *Daily Press* reporter stopped by. So did a TV crew. And for hours, waves of volunteers made sure those 6,500 refugees will have much more than the clothing on their backs. They will be warmed by the spirit of Christopher Newport's welcome.



This year, for the first time, the annual Day One of Service included all members of the freshman class, not just members of the President's Leadership Program. Students joined many faculty and staff members in fanning out across Hampton Roads to experience life beyond campus and discover ways to make a difference.

# Alan Witt '76 Named Dean of Luter School of Business

*Prominent business and community leader*



**A**LAN WITT, one of Virginia's most highly regarded corporate and civic leaders, has been appointed dean of the Joseph W. Luter, III School of Business.

Witt is uniquely qualified to connect Luter alumni with top employers nationwide, enhance the school's profile and grow financial support for its scholarships and programs.

"Alan has been an exceptional leader for his alma mater, our community and the commonwealth for decades. His agreement to step into this new role at this time in his life will bring extraordinary opportunities for our students and further expand the reach, reputation and positive trajectory of our Luter School of Business," said President Paul Tribble.

Witt was serving as one of Luter's executives in residence after a distinguished career in business, capped by his leadership of PBMares. The company has grown into one of the top 100 accounting and business consulting firms in the nation with clients both nationally and internationally and expertise in audit, tax, wealth management and investment banking. Witt retired as the CEO of PBMares in December 2020.

As an executive in residence, Witt taught an accounting class and serves as co-chair of the Master of Financial

Analysis Partners Council. "I'm a proud alum, a Captain for Life and am honored to have this opportunity to serve the school and university that I love so much," Witt said. "Getting to know the students and faculty as an executive in residence has been inspiring. I look forward to getting more deeply involved in the daily life of the campus and in leading Luter on a path to continued success."

Success has followed Witt throughout his business career. He is credited with leadership in the development of City Center in Newport News, a sparkling open-air shopping, entertainment, office and residential complex close to campus.

Witt has been recognized by the *Daily Press* as the Citizen of the Year in honor of his leadership and service to the community. *Virginia Business* named Witt to the 2020 Virginia 500 Power List. Achievable Dream Academies' class of 2021 graduates are known as the Alan S. Witt Scholars thanks to support from PBMares.

Witt has served on the Christopher Newport Board of Visitors and as rector of the board. Witt and his wife Debbie, also a Christopher Newport graduate, spearheaded the fundraising for the Marcus Cooper Trading Room in Luter Hall.

"Alan Witt's accomplishments as an accountant, businessman, entrepreneur and leader are well known, and his incredible network of contacts will help build support for Luter across Virginia, both in fundraising and in placing graduates in business careers," said Provost Dave Doughty. "His connections to Christopher Newport as an alumnus, former Board of Visitors member and rector, and chief fundraiser for the Marcus Cooper Trading Room, testify to his love for, and belief in, Christopher Newport in general, and the Luter School of Business in particular."

Witt succeeds George Ebbs, who retired, as dean. Doughty highlighted accomplishments during Ebbs'

six-year tenure. The school was re-accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business and new programs were launched to bring students and business professionals together from across Virginia. The school also earned high rankings from the business news website Poets & Quants, including the distinction of being named one of the top 10 in the nation for the value of the degree it offers.

Additionally, a Luter team won the Bloomberg Trading Challenge, a national competition that tests the investment skills of 266 teams from 81 universities, including both graduate- and undergraduate-level teams.

**Witt's contributions to the success of the regional and statewide economy include:**

Current chair of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce      Former chair of the board of Riverside Health System

**Service on the boards of:**

Peninsula Alliance for Economic Development Alliance	Commonwealth Transportation Board
Newport News Economic Development Authority	Hampton Roads Business Roundtable
Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel Commission	Greater Peninsula Now
Reinvent Hampton Roads	TowneBank

**An array of community organizations has also benefited from Witt's expertise, including:**

Peninsula Community Foundation	Newport News Police Foundation
Newport News Education Foundation	Newport News Green Foundation
United Way of the Virginia Peninsula	Fear 2 Freedom

## Senior Awarded Prestigious Scholarship

*Toni Booth is a Dominion Energy Scholar.*

Tongase "Toni" Booth '22 was awarded the prestigious \$10,000 Dominion Energy Equity Scholarship.

A junior studying neuroscience and biology, Booth is one of 40 students at two- and four-year institutions to earn the scholarship. She is minoring in leadership studies and is a member of the President's Leadership Program.

The scholarship is one of the first made under Dominion Energy's new six-year, \$10 million initiative to assist African American and other underrepresented minority students who reside in the company's service area.

Booth is originally from Lusaka, Zambia, and grew up in Germantown, Maryland, before moving to Virginia for high school and to enroll at Christopher Newport.

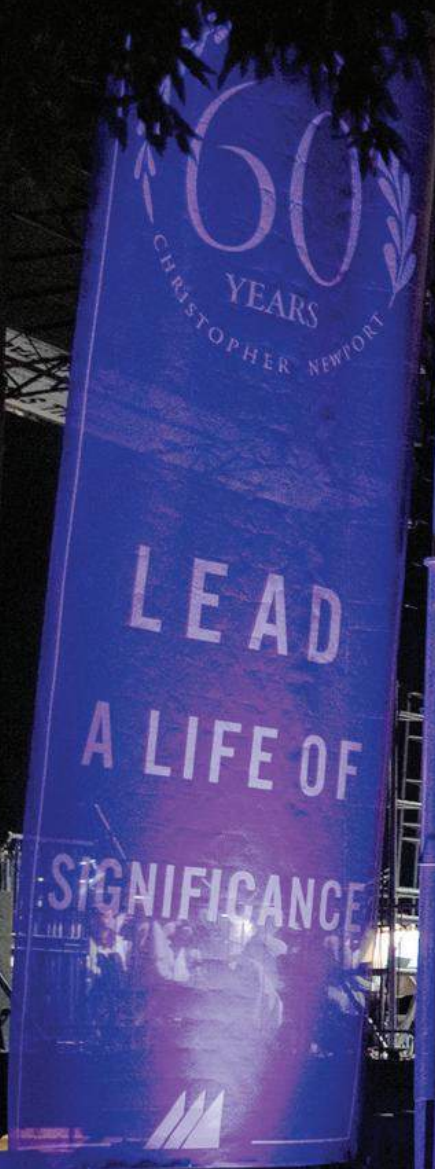
"When I found out about receiving the scholarship,



I was in shock and I was very happy," Booth said. "I am incredibly grateful that I received the scholarship because it has relieved the financial burden of paying for my last year."

A certified EMT and Air Force reservist, Booth plans to attend graduate school en route to a career as an emergency medicine physician.

"We are so proud of Toni, both for her accomplishments that resulted in this scholarship and for her commitment to serving the community through a career in medicine," said Dr. Angela Spranger, Christopher Newport's chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer. "Toni earned this recognition, through merit, character and discipline. I'm happy to encourage her, and other students, in the pursuit of opportunities like this. Even more so, I'm grateful to my colleague Tonya Byrd at Dominion Energy for ensuring that we knew about this opportunity."

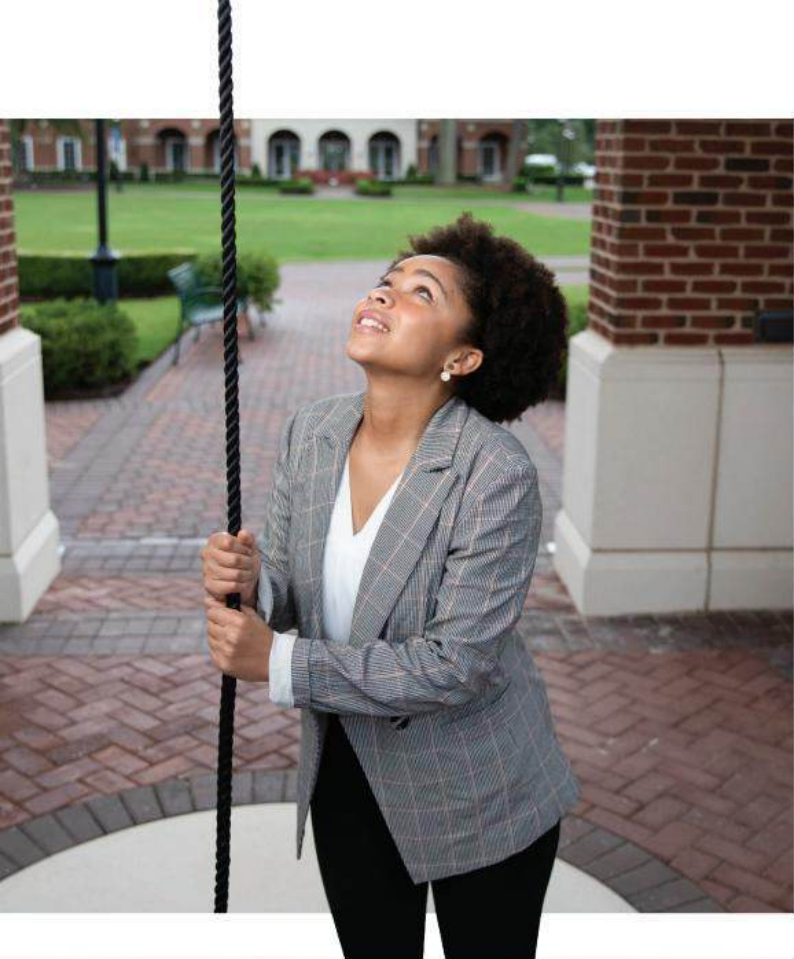


# *Celebrating*

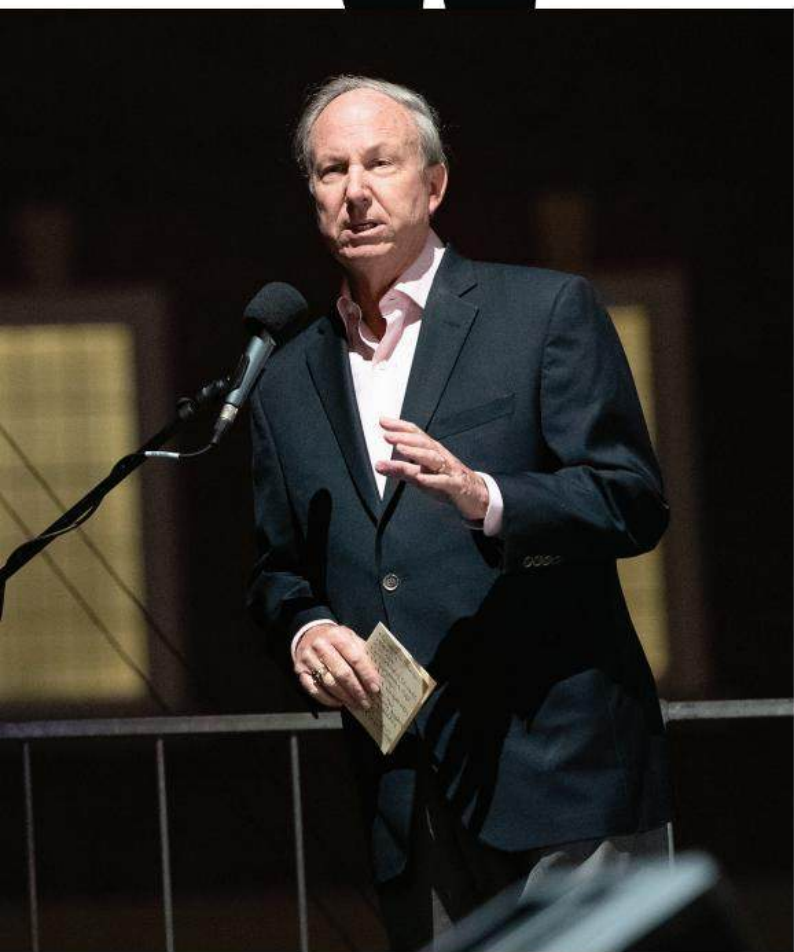
*All that has been accomplished,  
all that is to come*

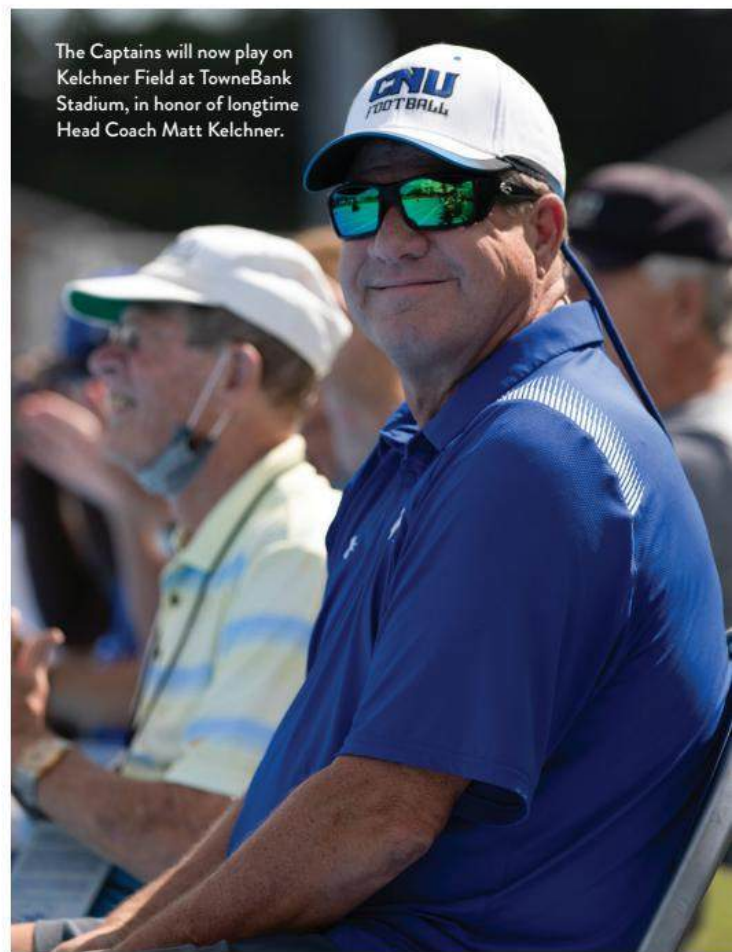


**With fanfare and fireworks,** the Christopher Newport community is celebrating 60 years of service to Virginia and committing to a future of leadership and accomplishment. The celebration spans the 2021-22 academic year, beginning with the ringing of the bell in the Hoinkes Plaza Bell Tower on September 18 at the moment when classes were first called to order 60 years ago on Christopher Newport's very first day. Then, on October 1, thousands of students, faculty, staff and residents of the surrounding communities enjoyed an inspiring concert by the Virginia Symphony Orchestra and an exhilarating display of fireworks over Christopher Newport Hall. At Homecoming, Captains for Life from around the world came back to a campus that has been transformed, yet is a place of abiding beauty and welcome. The 60th anniversary celebration will continue through the spring with events large and small that rekindle old memories and create new memories for a university family that's ever bigger and ever better as we begin our seventh decade together.



Lois Wright '62, first graduate; Tatyana Yates '22, president of the Student Diversity and Equity Council; Betty Smith '79, longest-serving staff member; and Dr. Jay Paul, director of the Honors Program and longest-serving faculty member, rang the bell on September 18 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the start of classes at Christopher Newport.





The Captains will now play on Kelchner Field at TowneBank Stadium, in honor of longtime Head Coach Matt Kelchner.



# TALES FROM THE VAULT

## *Stories of Amazing Christopher Newport Historical Artifacts*

By Sean M. Heuvel, PhD

Assistant Professor of Leadership Studies and Director of Institutional History

**T**HE JOURNEY TO LEARN MORE about Christopher Newport's history leads to fascinating discoveries – artifacts that are at the very core of the institution's six-decade long story. In that spirit, I am excited to share three unique historical artifacts and the stories associated with them.

While Christopher Newport was founded in 1960, I have come to discover that the story really began during World War II – specifically on the oceanic battlefields of the South Pacific. That is where several of the most influential figures in Christopher Newport's history – including founder Lewis McMurren, first president H. Westcott “Scotty” Cunningham and first Board of Visitors rector Harrol Brauer – all served as young U.S. Navy officers. In that capacity, they all honed the leadership skills necessary to help establish and develop Christopher Newport some 20-30 years later.

Scotty Cunningham was an “original” Christopher Newport captain, serving during World War II and Korea and retiring from the U.S. Navy Reserve in 1970 with the rank of captain. As a young Navy lieutenant in World War II, Cunningham commanded PT boats in and around the Philippines and participated in the liberation of that country from the Japanese in 1944. Amazingly, he also knew a young John F. Kennedy, meeting the future U.S. president at the PT boat commander training school in early 1944. Years later, Cunningham would march in President Kennedy's inaugural parade and attend one of the inaugural balls.

Over the years, I have been fascinated by stories of Cunningham's World War II service.

However, nothing compares to the moment a few years ago when I came across a remarkable artifact that brought all those stories to life. During a visit to see my friends Ann Cunningham Stachura '82 (Scotty Cunningham's daughter) and her husband Mel, Ann and I were going through a box of her father's old things. Suddenly, Ann pulled out an old and

well-worn American flag streamer and I immediately inquired about it. She explained that it was the original American flag streamer that flew aboard one of her father's PT boats. I sat there in awe as I began to realize that this streamer represented the very beginning of the Christopher Newport story. That is why I now refer to it as one of the “Holy Grail” historical artifacts. Luckily, the Cunningham family went on to kindly loan this streamer to the university, where it is prominently displayed at the Gregory P. Klich Alumni House.

Along with my fascination with Christopher Newport's

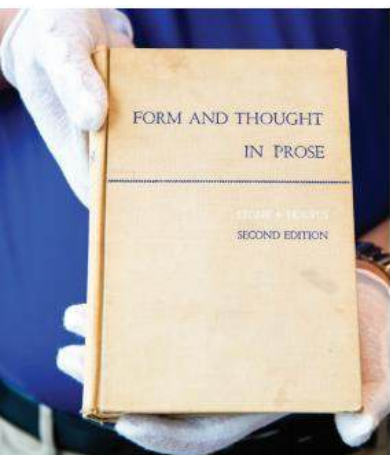
World War II origins, I have long been interested in our early days as a higher education institution. Over the years, I have heard many stories about Christopher Newport's first home – the Daniel Building (built in 1914) – which was at the time located at 222 32nd Street in downtown Newport News. A person who figures prominently into that period is Professor Barry Wood, who was one of the first faculty members hired to teach at Christopher Newport. An English professor by



training, he served in a variety of instructional and administrative capacities until his retirement in 2004. A legend among his students with a flair for the dramatic, Wood would often jump on top of his desk while lecturing in his deep, baritone voice. Another favorite trick that he pulled on students in his old Daniel Building class was to feign frustration when given a seemingly unsatisfactory answer to a question he posited while lecturing. He would then jump onto the windowsill of a tall, open window in his third-floor classroom and loudly exclaim “I can't take this anymore!” Wood would then jump out of the window to the shock of his students.

Few realized that there was a fire escape landing right beneath the window!

A few years ago, Wood was attending a First Decaders alumni reception on campus and visited with Baxter Vendrick, senior director of alumni engagement, and me.



After a friendly conversation, he proceeded to show us an old book titled *Form and Thought in Prose*. Wood explained that it was his instructor copy that he used to teach the very first class ever taught! Specifically, when the morning bell rang on the first day that Christopher Newport was open on September 18, 1961, he used that book to begin teaching his introductory English course. Wood then informed us that he desired

to donate the book. It was an extraordinary moment for sure. It is now on permanent display at the Alumni House.

A third very special artifact is one to which I have an interesting personal connection. Growing up in near-by Williamsburg, I always knew that my grandfather, J.J. Heuvel Sr., had crafted something significant for the university and was friends with one of its former presidents. A native of the Netherlands, my grandfather was a master cabinetmaker and craftsman who had enjoyed a long career working for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. It was not until I began working at Christopher Newport about 20 years ago that I learned the whole story.

When Christopher Newport was in the process of becoming independent from the College of William & Mary in

1977, then-president Dr. James Windsor and his team decided that an official mace was needed to help commemorate the occasion. In use since medieval times, maces had once been used as weapons, but in more recent centuries have come to be used by governments and institutions as symbols of independence and authority. Familiar with my grandfather's work, Windsor commissioned him to create Christopher Newport's ceremonial mace, which had been designed by assistant to the president Dr. Nancy Melton.

Over the next few weeks, Dr. and Mrs. Windsor would visit my grandparent's home, where they would watch my grandfather meticulously craft the mace in his workshop. So began a friendship that would continue for many years. After some silver ornamentation was later affixed, the mace was officially unveiled at a July 1, 1977 ceremony that celebrated Christopher Newport's new status as an independent, public institution. Since then, the mace has been in regular use at major institutional events, such as commencement, and is typically carried in procession by the most senior faculty member – currently Dr. Jay Paul. When not in use, it is housed in a special display case in Alumni House.

These three pieces are just a few examples of the fascinating artifacts we are uncovering all of the time. They each tell their own unique part of the story – an exciting story that continues to evolve every day. You can explore our institutional history with a visit to the displays in Alumni House. ♦



## An Examined Life

SOCRATES ONCE SAID, “the unexamined life is not worth living.” For Brad Brewer ’02 the idea of a life worth living has been a driving force since he first arrived on campus as a freshman in 1998. As a charter member of the President’s Leadership Program, Brewer says he chose to study communication and leadership, “mostly because I wanted to understand relationships and how to become good at them. But also because I was pretty intimidated by math and science. I confess those were instincts rather than strategies as an 18-year-old, but I am so grateful looking back that I majored in communication.”

In subsequent years, a few themes persisted throughout Brewer’s life and work, the chief of which is that communication and relationships are central to all we are and all we do. For example, in establishing and directing Christopher Newport’s Center for Community Engagement (CCE) and Bonner Service Scholars Program, Brewer applied his undergraduate degree by building a culture of servant leadership, healthy relationships and good communication among students, community partners and donors. And, while earning his MBA at the College of William & Mary he made the CCE’s structure, cultural development and sustainability the focus of multiple case studies in his courses. Today, Service Distinction and Bonner are two of Christopher Newport’s flagship programs.

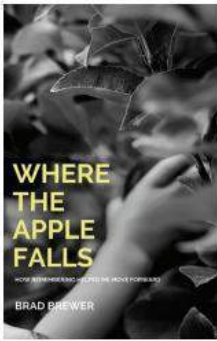
Brewer later married Heidi Naylor Brewer ’11, and in 2018 the two decided to take a big leap and move to the Space Coast of Florida, where Brad Brewer grew up visiting his grandfather. The Brewers and Naylor started a social enterprise, LegacyKept.com, which makes it simple

for older adults to reflect on their life and share their story by answering interview questions about favorite memories, family history and lessons learned. The stories are then formatted as a self-published book which families can treasure for generations.

It was in the process of building LegacyKept that Brewer began to write his own story, which he recently published as a full memoir titled *Where the Apple Falls* (see excerpt next page). His book is a humorous and insightful exploration of the ways our lives are shaped by our family roots, cultural environment, pain and suffering, formative friendships, and spiritual journeys. “By writing my story through a lens of roots and ground, fruit and seeds, I learned that ‘an examined life’ doesn’t have to be this scary thing filled with critique and blame and judgment,” he said. “It can be done with humor and grace, both for ourselves and for those who have impacted us on our journey.”

Brewer acknowledges it can seem intimidating to think of looking back on our past in order to move forward as a more whole and healthy individual, but he believes that is a small price compared to existing in an unexamined life, failing to reflect and grow. Explains Brewer, “Justin Ryals, one of the dear friends I’ve made in Florida, read my book and I asked him what he thought it was about. It’s been hard to improve on his answer: ‘*Where the Apple Falls* is the story of an examined life, with an invitation for us to do the same. It gives us permission to not try and clean up the negative parts of our past, but to face them for long enough so that we can finally offer grace. May we choose discomfort over regret.’” ♦

## GUESS I'LL BE CNU



I went to Orientation that summer and even taking the Jefferson Avenue exit off I-64, I felt the surge of excitement to learn this new city with the strange name, Newport News: very flat, near the James River, close enough to the beach. My orientation schedule included an appointment to meet with a faculty advisor and select a major course of study. I had given no thought to what I wanted to study, or for that matter, what I hoped to do for a living after graduation.

The advising meeting, if you really wanted to call it that, took place in a cafeteria aptly named Christopher's. There were lots of big round tables with one professor and one student at

each, each pair plotting out and deciding on futures. My advisor was a math professor, which made me physically nervous. I did not tell him I was anti-math, but when he asked whether I might consider it as a major, I politely answered that I believed math was not a top strength. He asked about science and I stared back at him, repressing flashbacks of high school general science class. He cleared his throat and asked slowly, "Okay, what about Communication Studies?" I think I nodded and mumbled something to the effect of, "I like to talk." He asked if I also liked to write and whether I minded speaking in front of people. I told him I did enjoy writing and that my family calls me a "real ham," by which they mean I seem to enjoy performing unsolicited freestyle variety shows in the family room.

And just like that, with about five minutes of less-than-critical evaluation or consideration of any other learning options, or the future earning potential of each, I was officially promoted to Major of Communication Studies. We shook hands and I almost saluted and I'm pretty sure I saw him shake his head as I wandered out of the cafeteria.

Christopher Newport University turned out to be the perfect ground for learning and for soaking up lots of nutrients. I can recite Paul Trible quotes verbatim, like how he always says in speeches to the parents of potential students, "We reject the notion of incremental progress. We are in the business of dramatic transformation." And, "I have learned if you ask people to give you their best, they will astound you with what they can accomplish."

President Trible talked about educating hearts and minds, and learning to lead a life of significance, not just success. His strength of conviction and leadership on these matters was like the iron beams of all the new buildings he brought to campus over the years. A billion dollars worth, give or take. It was always going to happen, non negotiable. Paul was also unashamed to speak often about the love of his life, his wife Rosemary, whether on stage or in a private meeting. This always garnered a chorus of "awwws" and applause from the audience, but more importantly it gave us the model of a strong man respecting and honoring his wife without insecurity or fear of seeming weak. John Eldridge writes, "Let people feel

the weight of who you are. Let them deal with it." No one I know models that sentiment more than Paul. We all dealt with it, wrestled with it, and learned from the man who built a nationally ranked university from an almost unheard of commuter college in just over a decade.

That fall of 1998 I traded my pursuit of self-actualization through baseball for the life-giving fellowship of friends in faith and I officially became a volunteer Young Life leader. Young Life leaders volunteer to be mentors for middle and high school students, like my leader Ben Conner was for me, helping them find themselves and ask as many questions about God as they want with no pressure or judgement. I naturally found my way to the baseball field of a local high school and volunteered as a coach, and I found a few guys to befriend who reminded me of myself just a few years earlier.

I also played a lot of guitar in my dorm room. Mostly Simon and Garfunkel, Matchbox 20, and Jars of Clay. You know, the greats. I was writing angsty soundalike songs about lost love and ocean sunrises, using other, safer voices to try and explain myself to myself. No one else was really listening.

There were some older RAs that led a Bible study I attended in one of the study lounges on Wednesday nights, and they were also dating each other. I remember passing by one of their rooms one night and seeing them making out on the lofted twin bed. A lot of people were finding it quite convenient to live in a co-ed residence hall and they were also finding out they had a lot of pent up sexual energy. I, on the other hand, was holding out for my soulmate, and highly doubted she lived in Santoro Hall. The RA couple discovered I owned a guitar and they asked me to play worship songs for their Bible study. I made my public musical debut two weeks later, right there in the fourth floor study lounge with some transparencies and an overhead projector.

I often wished I could become the kind of person who consistently, and more naturally stayed one whole person, inside and out. Someone who didn't fake it, but was comfortable in my own skin. "That man will go far," I once read, "he believes everything he says." I wanted that to be true of me. Someone else said we are all "as sick as our secrets," and I think that is also true.

So my experience becoming a songleader and group leader for college and high school students, paired with my classes in communication studies, became the ground of my topsy turvy college years. What were my secrets? What did I actually believe? And, how do you become a healthy person with healthy relationships? That was my actual major.

## 'Would I have had the courage?'

*Christopher Newport team reflects on search for Holocaust graves.*

**K**AYLA SINGLETON '23, an anthropology major, political science major Mikaela Martínez Dettinger '22, and Dr. Richard Freund, Bertram and Gladys Aaron Professor of Jewish Studies, conducted research on Holocaust sites in Europe. As part of Christopher Newport's signature Summer Scholars program, they traveled to Latvia, Lithuania and Poland over the course of three weeks, along with students and researchers from the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire. Dettinger blogged about each stop on the trip. What follows are excerpts from the final stops.

*Fort IX was a prison camp in Kaunas, Lithuania. It is now a museum but the grounds are not fully explored.*

Aside from getting to visit the museum, we also got to contribute our own efforts to exposing the crimes the Nazis wanted to be forgotten. We worked with electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) instruments in the "Battlefield," where 14 mass graves are said to still exist because there was not enough time for the Nazis to burn all the bodies. In past research, this team had mapped and discovered several burial trenches, but one area of the field was still left unstudied. There, we found that our ERT line located approximately eight of the 14 different burial trenches. Now, there is physical and scientific evidence corroborating the testimonies of the escapees' work so that the truth of what happened at Fort IX becomes even more undeniable.

I felt that this work was extremely important because, today, the "Battlefield" is the site of weddings, picnics and more. While life marches on, even at places where tragedy has occurred, it is important that we don't forget such important

aspects of the past in our march through time, lest we repeat it.

Fort IX was a powerful experience. The museum and our findings brought the Holocaust into the 21st century. I felt as if I came to know the place intimately and the stories of those who died there will always have a place in my memory.

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*In Warsaw, Poland, the group went to the Mila #18 Bunker.*

This bunker is where the leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and members of the resistance movement retreated to as the Nazis closed in. On May 8, 1943, when the Nazis surrounded the bunker, there were 300 people inside, including smugglers who were guiding the resistance leaders through the sewers and Jewish women who could pass as Polish, and who would bring news and arms into the Ghetto. The location of the bunker is known and memorialized, but our mission today was to map the underground tunnels and sewer systems that were used by the members of the Jewish resistance organization and the smugglers who helped them.

We mapped areas that had not been mapped in previous years' research using ERT lines that ran along the direction of the sewers, and cut across the field to see if there were more sewers or tunnels. We also used ground penetrating radar (GPR) to similarly search for indications in the data of tunnels and sewers. All together the ERT and GPR work in a complimentary fashion to confirm and provide more details on the other's results.

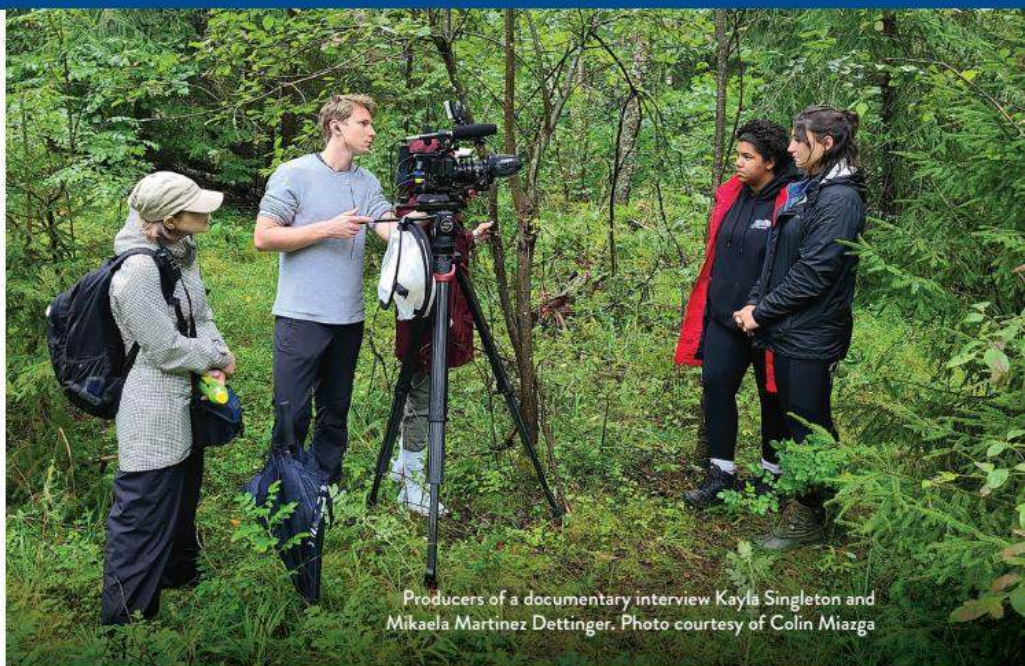
It is such an honor to visit their monument and be able to work to provide better documentation of the tunnel systems they used to launch one of the largest and most successful resistance movements against the Nazis. The man who is credited with leading the uprising, Mordechai Anielewicz, and his girlfriend and fellow leader, Mira Fuchrer, were 24 and 23 years old, respectively. Being 20 years old myself I thought a lot about what I would do in their situation. They chose to stay and die with honor at the hands of the Nazis rather than flee through the sewers when they easily could have. They did this out of a sense of purpose granted to them by their faith and their desire to fight against their persecutors.

Could I have done the same with so much of my life ahead of me? Would I have had the courage?

\*\*\*

*The trip ended in Vilnius, Lithuania with a visit to the Great Synagogue.*

Dr. Freund has a great sense for storytelling and it shows through his choice to end with excavating portions of the Great Synagogue. This archaeological season is the fifth year of working at this site for some of the professionals, and it all started with geoscience. Dr. Freund and his team of geoscientists came to the schoolyard where the Great Synagogue once stood. Using ERT lines, GPR data, multispectral imaging and more of the



Producers of a documentary interview Kayla Singleton and Mikaela Martinez Dettinger. Photo courtesy of Colin Miazga

tools that I have gotten to use on this trip, they were able to identify the layout of the remains of the synagogue that were lost to history and buried underground.

The current excavations of the site are representative of why geoscience is so important. Without being able to identify where and what was below the surface, it would have been nearly impossible to get the consent of the government to excavate the land around and in an elementary and middle school that is still in use. The overwhelming evidence that geoscience can yield is a powerful tool because it provides tangible proof that persuades the necessary authorities that invasive archaeology is necessary and worthwhile.

For us students, the excavation at the Great Synagogue is valuable on a few different levels. On one level, it shows us the value of the geoscience we have been doing. I am not a scientist and I never thought I would find myself discussing electrical resistivity or electromagnetic wave reflections. Even while I was doing it, I don't think I really understood what the results meant. Now, at the Great Synagogue, I can see the ERT results

and the GPR results from the previous years and look out into the archaeological trenches and see the objects that created the results I saw on the screen.

Furthermore, working on the excavation is giving us the field experience and connections that most students don't get until they go to graduate school and do their field studies. For example, Kayla and I got to work with world-renowned conservationist and curator Shuli Levinboim as she instructed us on how to delicately uncover the terrazzo plaster floor of the *bimah* of the Great Synagogue. It was one of the most beautiful pieces of art I have ever seen. Lastly, for both Kayla and I, this trip has confirmed for us both that our interest in archaeology, anthropology, history and religion that lead us to this trip is more than mere interest. We have found that this work is our passion, and moreover, we have found that it is possible to do the work that we are passionate about. ♦



**Read about the first part of the journey.**

# FACULTY NEWS



**DR. KARA KEELING AND  
DR. SCOTT POLLARD //**  
ENGLISH

Pollard and Keeling published *Table Lands: Food in Children's Literature*. The book covers nearly 150 years of children's literature in exploring what story characters consume and prepare, including texts that vary from historical to contemporary to classics, the Anglo-American to multicultural traditions. The authors explore a variety of genres, formats and audiences: realism, fantasy, cookbooks, picture books, chapter books, young adult novels and film.



**LYNDA BYRD-POLLER //**  
LEADERSHIP AND  
AMERICAN STUDIES

Byrd-Poller published *Role of Leadership in Facilitating Healing and Renewal in Times of Organizational Trauma and Change*. The book is about how external forces such as the COVID-19 pandemic, social and political unrest, and racial inequity cause trauma in the lives of individuals and organizations, and how scholars and organization leaders understand, adapt and overcome these challenges.

## **DR. MARISSA WALKER //** PHYSICS, COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Walker was awarded a \$213,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to co-direct a team of researchers from around the U.S. that includes Christopher Newport students. The grant supports several Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) projects underway at CNU and other institutions around the world. LIGO detectors observe gravitational-wave signals from black holes colliding billions of light years away from the Earth and help broaden our understanding of the composition of the universe.



**DR. TAREK ABDEL-FATTAH //**  
MOLECULAR BIOLOGY  
AND CHEMISTRY

Abdel-Fattah, Lawrence J. Sacks Endowed Professor of Chemistry, received the 2021 ChemCUR Outstanding Mentorship Award given by the Chemistry Division of the Council on Undergraduate Research. An expert in nanochemistry and nanomaterials science, Abdel-Fattah is one of three recipients of the nationally competitive award.



**DR. WILLY DONALDSON //**  
LUTER SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

In *Estimated Time of Departure – How I Talked My Parents to Death, a Love Story*, Donaldson offers thoughtful reflection and guidance on the passing of loved ones. Donaldson has started companies, authored business books and been honored for his teaching and scholarship at Christopher Newport but has never written anything so personal as this memoir.



**DR. HONGWEI CHEN //**  
MATHEMATICS

Chen is the author of *Monthly Problem Gems*, an outgrowth of a collection of 62 problems that Chen developed and offered over the last 20 years in *American Mathematical Monthly*. Each problem has a central theme, contains gems of sophisticated ideas connected to important current research in the field and opens new vistas for understanding mathematics.

*The 2020 Alumni Society Award Recipient  
for Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring*

**KIP REDICK '88**



**SINCE 2002**, students have accompanied Dr. Kip Redick on the Appalachian Trail.

As they hike the trail and explore the wilderness, they help contribute to Redick's research and scholarship focusing on the interpretation of long-distance hiking as a form of pilgrimage. He regularly uses the outdoors as a classroom, and has expanded trips to include other trails, wilderness and traditional pilgrimage routes, such as the Camino de Santiago in Spain and in Israel.

Redick earned his bachelor of arts in philosophy from

Christopher Newport, and then earned his master's in biblical studies and doctorate in communication studies from Regent University.

He has taught at Christopher Newport since 1991, and currently serves as chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religion. He's the first alumnus to receive the Alumni Society Award for Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring accolade.

Redick sat down with *Voyages* on the nearby Noland Trail to reminisce about his time at Christopher Newport, his thoughts on teaching and why he feels drawn to nature.

#### HOW DOES IT FEEL TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD?

I'm one among many excellent faculty members, and I'm honored and humbled at the same time to receive this award.

#### WHY DO YOU USE NATURE IN YOUR TEACHING?

I am particularly drawn to the outdoor environment. I don't just see a bunch of trees. Each individual tree is unique in its own way, even a bunch of pine trees – each one is unique and special. I teach religion, and in the creation story, God created each thing and said it was good. And so I think each thing has inherent goodness within it. I like to be out here with these good things.

#### WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB?

I love taking students out into places like this and opening them up to seeing the world in a new way. It's about the plants and animals, as well as other human beings. Often on Appalachian Trail trips, we meet people outside of their regular job context, and people take off the identity

that they have in civilization. Sometimes they reveal their true, authentic selves. And my students get to explore the authentic person they really are as well. It's fantastic to be able to open students up to encountering authenticity in the world.

#### WHAT MAKES CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT SPECIAL?

The opportunity to teach, as we often say here, to small classes, to actually get to know my students, is fantastic. It's a blessing to form a relationship with students, and those relationships carry on outside of the classroom. More education happens outside of the classroom than inside the classroom. I have an office that is less formal than some offices, and students can let down their guard and be themselves in my office. We can have a genuine conversation about whatever it is that they want to talk about. After graduation, students continue to communicate with me. They tell me what they're doing, invite me to their weddings. They tell me about their lives, their families, their pursuits.

# Captains Are Champions

*Women's soccer team powers to historic title.*



**B**ehind the banner that announced they were champions, the women's soccer team crowded together for one of the happiest photos in Captains history, each player and each coach holding a single index finger high to signify they are No. 1.

Number one is right.

Number one in Division III women's soccer. The first championship in the team's history after coming oh-so-close in 2018. The first NCAA tournament title in Christopher Newport's 60-year history. Number One.

To win the trophy, the Captains had to beat one of the sport's traditional powers – the College of New Jersey (TCNJ). The 2-0 victory at UNCG Soccer Stadium in Greensboro, North Carolina concluded an undefeated season with an overall record of 22-0-1.

Several hundred Captains fans – students, parents and supporters – packed the stands in Greensboro. President Paul Tribble, with a grandson in tow, took it all in, enjoying a tournament team title that had proved elusive for so long and finally was realized in his final year as president.

Alumni and friends of the university watched the NCAA broadcast from a distance. There was a viewing party in Gaines Theatre on campus. At the Freeman Center, in the midst of a basketball game, the Pep Band broke into the fight song in a salute to the champions. And there was an eruption on social media when it was over. Cynthia Allen-Whyte '97, a legendary former Captains athlete and coach, summed it up: "Congratulations!!!! So excited!!!!!"

More exclamation points from the post-match news conference.

Defender Jill McDonald: "It's just amazing."

Jamie Gunderson, who led the team to the title in his first year as head coach: "Kind of in shock that this moment happened. I'm just really proud of this group and how they handled this season. We knew it would be a tough matchup against TCNJ. We came in with our game plan and the girls stuck with it and they executed like they have day in and day out this season. I'm so happy for them to experience this and have our first national championship for our program."

What made it possible? Game-winning goal scorer Sarah Smith: "We all love each other so much."

Fifth-year senior Riley Cook had an assist on that game winner and scored another goal, adding to her unforgettable career to wrap up one of the most impressive NCAA tournament performances of all time. She scored seven of the nine Christopher Newport goals in the 6-0 run

through the postseason, and added an assist for a 15-point tournament. Cook and Smith were named All-Americans. Cook was also named the 2021 NCAA tournament's Most Outstanding Offensive Player, matching the most points scored in a tournament by a single player since 2011. Most impressively, Cook is the first player in Division III history to score five or more game-winning goals in the postseason tournament.

On the other end of the field, McDonald was honored as the tournament's Most Outstanding Defensive Player, helping the Captains hold two of the nation's elite offenses without a goal in the championship weekend. McDonald and the Captains' defense earned five shutouts and allowed just a single goal in the tournament. Joining Cook and McDonald on the 2021 all-championship team were midfielders Emily Talotta, Ellie Cox and goalkeeper Haley Eiser.

The Captains earned the university's 13th overall team championship and first in a bracketed team sport. The previous 12 championships were won by the indoor and outdoor women's track and field program, with the most recent coming in 1998.

So what happens next? "Hopefully now this opens the door that Christopher Newport programs have been knocking on and there will be more championships," Gunderson said.

There can't be "more" until there's one. Now there is. The Captains are No. 1. ♦

***"We all love each other so much."***

SARAH SMITH



Game-winning goal scorer Sarah Smith (right) celebrates with Ellie Cox.

Facing the toughest schedule in the nation, Christopher Newport battled eight teams that would eventually qualify for the 2021 NCAA Division III tournament. The challenging slate of games prepared the Captains to make a run of their own, winning a pair of tournament games before bowing out to top-ranked Washington & Lee University. The Captains won nine of 10 heading into the sectional round, including the program's first Coast-To-Coast (C2C) Athletic Conference championship. Led by all-region defender Davis Pillow and all-region forward Will Collins, the Captains finished the year 12-5-2 overall. Pillow, a two-time academic all-district selection, was a second team all-region and first team all-conference center back who helped the Captains post six shutouts this season. Collins capped his career with his second all-region certificate by grabbing third-team honors after a team-leading 18-point campaign.

WILL COLLINS

## Men's SOCCER



**F**or the first time in program history, a pair of Christopher Newport women's harriers qualified for the NCAA Division III national championship in the same year.

Kaitlyn Ardrey and Logan Funk put the punctuation mark on a stellar season by representing the Captains in the women's 6K championship in Louisville, Kentucky. Ardrey registered the all-time second-best time for the Captains at the national meet, finishing in 22:57.3 to lead the way. Less than 15 seconds later Funk finished as both Captains runners improved their standing in the race as it went on. The aforementioned pair were two of nine overall all-region selections for the team. Funk won the C2C individual crown with a 21:44 time to become the first Captain in school history to break the 22-minute mark. On the men's side, Ryan Henderson led the squad and placed second overall with a time of 25:02.7 in the 8K conference championship meet. Clark Edwards and Eric Speeney also each finished in the top 10 at the C2C championship.

LOGAN FUNK

# CROSS COUNTRY

RYAN HENDERSON



# FOOTBALL

Sophomore quarterback Matt Dzerski was named the New Jersey Athletic Conference Offensive Player of the Year to headline a group of five first-team all-conference players for the Captains. A total of nine players garnered all-conference recognition after leading the team to a 5-5 season overall. The Captains finished the year strong, winning three of the last four games, including a 28-0 shutout of Montclair State University. Dzerski led the offense by throwing 15 touchdown passes and running for 10 more scores. He led the league in passing, averaging 231 yards per game, and also completed a league-best 68.3 percent of his passes. Also receiving first team all-conference honors was senior WR Garrison Mayo, who caught 50 passes with five touchdowns, and a pair of offensive linemen in Drew Knott and Nick Norman. Rounding out the first team selections was fifth-year senior Sean Wilkinson from the defensive side of the ball after leading the Captains in tackles with 74.

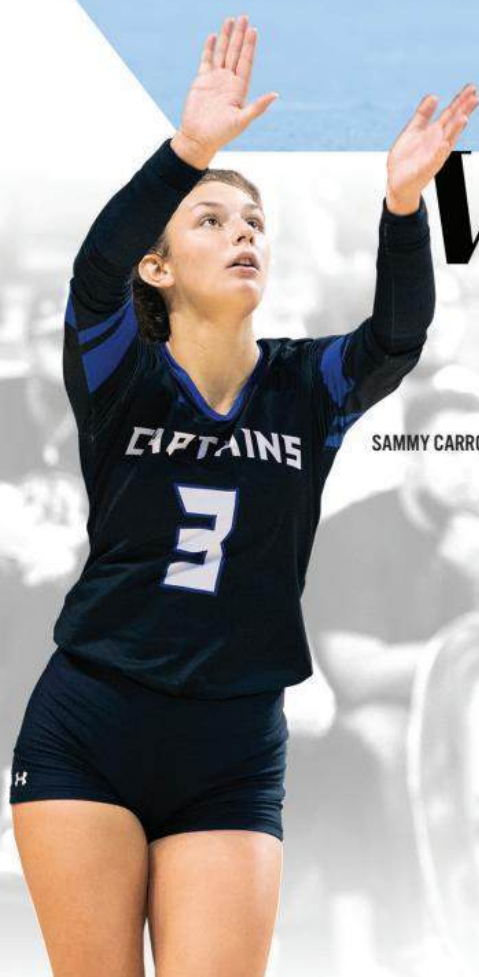
MATT DZERSKI




# VOLLEYBALL

After capturing the C2C championship, the volleyball team made the program's 18th, and 14th-straight NCAA tournament appearance. Led by a trio of all-region performers and a pair of All-Americans, the Captains finished the year with a 20-10 overall record. Junior setter Sammy Carroll and senior outside Maddie Carter each collected honorable mention All-American plaudits for their work in leading the Captains in 2021. Carroll finished the year 18th in Division III in assists per set and third in total assists. She registered a 60-assist match against Virginia Wesleyan and recorded 40+ assists in 14 matches this season. Carter led the league with 387 total kills, including a career-high 22 blasts in the conference championship against Salisbury University. Mackenzie Wright joined her two first-team all-region teammates by earning honorable mention plaudits after contributing 89 blocks and a .272 hitting percentage on the year.

SAMMY CARROLL





ABBY ASUNCION

**F**our all-region performers led the way for the nationally ranked field hockey squad in 2021 with an exceptional run through the season. Christopher Newport finished the year ranked No. 17 in the nation with an 11-6 record after advancing to the NCAA tournament for the 10th time in school history. The Captains won the regular season conference title and advanced to the C2C championship game before earning an at-large berth into the postseason tournament. Junior Abby Asuncion was named the region and conference Offensive Player of the Year after tying for the league lead with 13 goals. She also matched her career-high with 29 points, placing her second in the league, and moved up to 10th in school history with 27 career goals. Asuncion was one of four Captains to earn all-region honors as she was joined by defender Izzy Diz on the first team while Marcella Sabbagh and Mauri Ware each garnered second-team all-region honors.

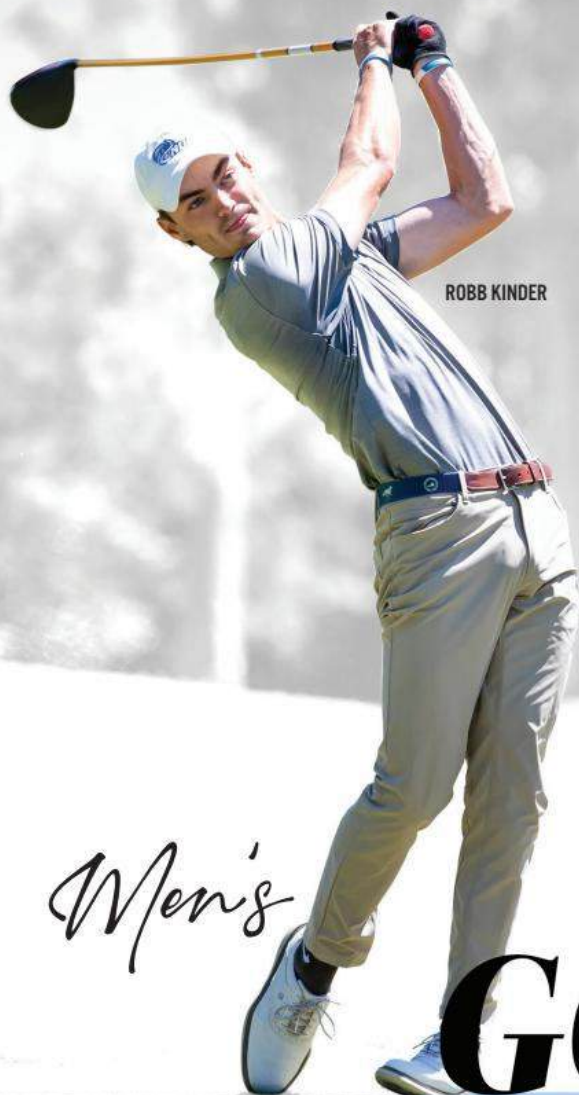
# FIELD HOCKEY

# BASEBALL



JOSH HUSBY

**R**ookie Jay Cassady made history as he became the first freshman in Captains history to earn baseball all-region honors. The utility player from Burke, Virginia, was selected to the third team after being named conference rookie of the year and second team all-conference. Cassady pieced together one of the finest first-year performances in program history offensively, scorching opponents to the tune of a team-leading .358/.632/.466 slash line. He tied a freshman record with a 14-game hitting streak and he reached base in 20 straight games to end the year. Christopher Newport reached the Coast-To-Coast (C2C) Athletic Conference championship series against eventual national champion Salisbury University before closing out the season with a 22-12 overall record. Joining Cassady on the all-state team was Josh Husby, who closed out his illustrious career as a top 10 pitcher in Captains history. He finished his tenure with a 19-5 overall record and a 3.79 career ERA. He finished with 182 strikeouts, good for a spot in the top 10, while his 19 wins are tied for the fifth most.



ROBB KINDER

A record-setting group of four all-region golfers helped lead the Captains to the finest finish in team history with an eighth-place showing at the NCAA Division III championships. Guided by Virginia Sports Information Directors (VaSID) coach of the year Jamie Coleman, the Captains reached the NCAA tournament for the sixth time since 2011, making the cut for the third time. Leading the way was sophomore Robb Kinder, earning All-American honors after a national runner-up finish. The second-year star carded a 287 (77-71-70-69) to finish two strokes behind the individual champion, marking the finest finish for a Christopher Newport golfer since 1994. Classmate Alex Price and rookies Aidan Baron and Carrter Morris each joined Kinder on the all-region squad.

Men's

# GOLF

Women's

Earning her first and the program's second-ever selection, junior Shreya Ganta was named an All-American after qualifying for the NCAA Division III championships. Ganta became the second player in program history to qualify for the national championship after enjoying a career-best showing on the course with a 78.5 stroke average. She added three top-five finishes and also finished among the top 30 at the NCAA national championships. Senior Erica Whitehouse also garnered all-region honors after ranking second on the team with a 79.3 average. Off the course, Ganta and Katie Thome each earned All-American scholar honors while Ganta collected academic all-district plaudits.



SHREYA GANTA

**G**uiding the Captains to their first appearance in the NCAA Final Four, head coach Mikey Thompson led Christopher Newport to the finest season in program history. During the year, the squad climbed as high as third in the national coaches poll and spent the final eight weeks ranked in the top 10. Along the way, the team registered three wins over nationally ranked opponents and polished off the year with a 13-6 overall record. A record four Captains were named All-Americans, including the second career selections for Dylan Rice and Max Wayne. Rice rewrote the record books with another historic campaign in 2021, ranking fourth in the conference with 49 goals and sixth with 68 points. He was equally successful off the field, earning academic All-American honors after also being named the C2C men's lacrosse Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Wayne was one of the nation's leading defensemen, ranking in the top 25 with 30 caused turnovers. He had a takeaway in 16 of his appearances and grabbed a ground ball in all 19 games.

DYLAN RICE

# *Men's* **LACROSSE**

## *Women's*

**F**our women's lacrosse standouts were named all-region after leading the Captains to an 11-7 overall record while finishing the year ranked 22nd in the final national coaches poll. It marks just the second time in program history the Captains finished a season ranked in the top 25. Led by head coach Lisa Valentine, the Captains defeated four nationally ranked opponents during the historic campaign. Sam Wettengel set a new single-season school record with 106 draw controls while sophomore Kelsey Winters set a new standard with 3.36 assists per game. Cat Leighty and Kendall Krause were the other two all-region selections; Leighty ranked third in the conference with 46 goals and 36 assists while Krause continued to solidify her reputation as one of the region's top midfielders with 45 ground balls and 18 caused turnovers.

SAM WETTENGEL

# SOFTBALL

A full-page photograph of a softball player, Kaitlyn Hasty, in a blue uniform with the number 27, sliding into a base. She is wearing a blue helmet and has her arms outstretched. The background is a chain-link fence and a blurred player in a black uniform with the number 20.

KAITLYN HASTY

**C**hristopher Newport earned its 14th straight bid to the NCAA championships in 2021 and finished the year with a 28-14 overall record. Junior third baseman Kaitlyn Hasty led the Captains by capturing second team All-American honors. She led the team in home runs (11), RBI (38), total bases (81), walks (32), on-base percentage (.558) and slugging percentage (.810). She also hit .380 and scored 31 runs, ranking second on the team in both categories. She was one of 10 all-conference selections for the Captains and one of three players to garner all-region accolades. Caitlin Abernethy and Gracie Vallejos were the other two, earning third team all-region honors. Abernethy led the team with a .383 average and Vallejos won 12 games with a 1.74 ERA.



C.J. REEDERS

# TRACK & FIELD

After guiding Christopher Newport to a historic 2021 campaign, C.J. Reeders was named the C2C men's track & field Athlete of the Year while Daniel Fox was selected the league's top freshman and Zoe Stauffer was celebrated as the women's Scholar-Athlete of the Year. In addition to the student-athlete honorees, Tyler Wingard and his assistants were named the C2C Men's Coaching Staff of the Year for their efforts as well. Receiving the league's top individual honor, Reeders added the Athlete of the Year award to an ever-growing list of accolades. An all-conference and all-region performer, he also garnered All-American honors after placing seventh in the triple jump during the NCAA championships. Fox was electrifying in his first season, winning three league championships in the 100, 200 and as a member of the 4x100 relay team. Stauffer capped a tremendous career on and off the track as a two-time academic All-American with a perfect 4.0 GPA in cellular, molecular and physiological biology.



ALEC STRAUSE

**M**en's tennis finished the 2020-21 season ranked among the top 25 teams in the nation according to the final Division III national rankings. The Captains were pegged No. 25, matching the highest final ranking since the program's record high of 24th in 2008. Leading the way were national qualifiers Scotty Hunter in singles alongside Ryan Macy and Alec Strause in doubles. Hunter captured his first national ranking after a strong senior season, checking in at No. 37 in the nation. Strause and Macy were ranked No. 16 in doubles after going 8-5 overall.



REAGAN DELP

*Men's*

# TENNIS

*Women's*

**T**hree Captains made history for the Captains in 2021. Becoming the first All-American in women's tennis history, Reagan Delp was announced as one of 24 singles All-Americans after finishing her junior campaign ranked No. 16 in the nation. Her record-setting campaign included nine wins with a pair coming at the NCAA Division III singles championship as she became just the second player, men's or women's, to advance to the quarterfinal round in the history of Captains tennis. Off the courts, senior Kara Ferner was named an academic all-district selection after earning the Gregory Klich Academic Achievement Award signifying the highest cumulative GPA among 2021 graduates at Christopher Newport. Ferner put together one of the finest academic careers for any student-athlete as she posted a perfect 4.0 GPA while double majoring in applied physics and computational and applied mathematics. Ferner was also named a Goldwater Scholar. Rounding out the top individual performances was regional rookie of the year Tessa Trate, who became the first freshman in program history to finish the season nationally ranked in both singles and doubles.

# CLASS NOTES

A full-page photograph of a wedding couple running down a set of white stone stairs. The bride, on the left, is wearing a white lace wedding dress and holding a bouquet of pink and white flowers. The groom, on the right, is wearing a black and white patterned blazer and black pants. They are both smiling and looking at each other. In the background, there is a large window with a wreath of lights hanging on it.

**Luke Taylor '16** married Amanda Taylor on December 13, 2020 in Fredericksburg. Luke is a full-time minister and the couple lives in Fredericksburg.

Paperboys LLC

## Career Announcements

### 1970s

**Alan Witt '76** was elected as the 2021 chair of the Board of Directors of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce. He also announced his retirement after 42 years with PBMares, and in August 2021 was appointed dean of the Joseph W. Luter, III School of Business.

**Kerry Pardue '79** published his second book, *Rice Paddy Stew and Saigon Tea* in 2020, which chronicles his life as a combat medic during Vietnam and the aftermath.

### 1980s

**Pat Morris '81** was named executive director of the International Bluegrass Music Association. Morris brings decades of experience to the role, including service as a former Marine officer, administrative and financial leadership with the Association for Corporate Growth, the Association of Credit and Collection Professionals, and other organizations, as well as work with the U.S. Senate.

**Kip Redick '88** was honored with the 2020 Christopher Newport Alumni Society Award for Excellence in Teaching and Mentoring. Redick has remained a beloved community keystone of Christopher Newport for his teaching and service as department chair of philosophy and religion.

**Timothy Wilson '88** was elected as manager of Gates County, North Carolina. Wilson has 30 years of public service experience, 25 of which were spent in senior-level management positions.

**Jane Buchanan '89** returned to school over 30 years after her graduation from Christopher Newport to obtain a teaching license in Virginia. She now teaches middle school students with learning disabilities in Prince William County.

### 1990s



**Jason Bollhorst '92** has been named chief of police in Albemarle, North Carolina. Bollhorst formerly worked for the Newport News Police Department and has 26 years of law enforcement experience. Bollhorst and his wife Sherrie have three daughters.

**Brian Skinner '92** was named president and CEO of Towne Financial Services Group. Skinner has worked with Towne since 2007, having previously served as president of TowneBank for the Peninsula.

**Sam Sanders '94** is deputy city manager of operations of Charlottesville.

**Camille Donne '96** opened Village Studio Arts, an art studio for all ages, in Newport News. Drawing on her experience, Donne plans to open classes for those with autism and early-onset dementia, as well.

**Susan Hunt '97** joined Top Line HR in Richmond as a senior human resources consultant.

**William Johnson '99** was selected by NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C. to serve as the deputy chief engineer for the Aeronautics Mission Directorate.

### 2000s

**Clayton Comstock '05** was recognized with a Fort Worth Business 40 Under 40 Award for his professional accomplishments and community impact.

**Jordan Maroon '06** was appointed executive director of Needle's Eye Ministries, a Richmond Christian faith-based organization.

**Megan Harris '06** was selected as the Gloucester County Public Schools Teacher of the Year by the GCPS Educational Foundation. Harris teaches mathematics at Peasley Middle School.

**Pietro Sasso '06** was appointed as an inaugural research fellow for the Timothy J. Piazza Center for Fraternity and Sorority Research and Reform at the Pennsylvania State University.

**Justin Wood '07** was promoted to defensive coordinator for the University of Richmond. Wood is a former All-American linebacker who has coached at both Christopher Newport and Virginia Military Institute.

**Jessica Bowman '08** was appointed deputy secretary of administration by Governor Ralph Northam.

**Tia Hairston '09** was appointed as director of exceptional children for the school board of the city of Danville.

### 2010s

**Jeremy M. Colb '10** joined the Richmond marketing firm Madison+Main as an account executive.

**Jessica Bayne McDougal '11** was elected to the board of the Newport News Education Foundation. McDougal was formerly an elementary school teacher with Newport News Public Schools.

*Photos submitted by alumni unless otherwise noted.*



A Rising Star in the Music Industry

N3WPORT

averages 1 million monthly listeners.

▶▶▶▶ Follow N3WPORT on Spotify



JOEY LEHNING '18 is a DJ and producer of melodic and future bass music. He's increasingly known in the music industry as N3WPORT and, no matter what you call him, these numbers suggest you can call him a star:

- 1 million monthly listeners on Spotify
- 85 million streams across all platforms
- Live performances booked at three major music festivals, including EDC Las Vegas with its 470,000 concert-goers.

The name, N3WPORT, comes from Lehning's time at Christopher Newport: "I actually chose the name N3WPORT to commemorate where I started learning to produce music and formed my artistic path."

Lehning grew up in Sterling, and now is based in Virginia Beach. At Christopher Newport, he majored in information systems with a minor in leadership studies, but his primary passion has always been music. As a guitarist, his high school band opened shows for some well known acts. Then, as a classical guitarist, he performed at the Kennedy Center and with the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet.

Lehning found his calling, though, producing electronic dance music (EDM). In an interview with *Authority Magazine*,

here is how he described going to an EDM club as a teenager: "The energy, the light shows, the never-ending music as DJs went from track to track for an hour straight – it was addicting, and I wanted nothing more than to create it for myself."

Critics clearly like what N3WPORT is creating. Karina Michel Feld at *Authority*: "2021 continues to be a breakout year for N3WPORT. With two EPs and four original singles already released this year, and official remixes for Nurko and Penny & Sparrow, N3WPORT continues to deliver high quality music on a consistent basis, and plans on continuing to provide for his exponentially growing fan base." Zachary Lefevre at *EDM Identity*: "Dripping with talent and constantly working toward something greater, N3WPORT is quickly becoming an artist you simply can't ignore."

The listenership numbers are huge and growing but not exactly Justin Bieber-on-Spotify huge – he rakes in 86 million listeners a month. N3WPORT says competition is not the point: "I want people to smile when they hear my music and I want to help them through hard times," he said. "If my music makes an impact on them, that's the best gift I can receive. I plan to keep traveling and performing and meeting people who listen and people who never have." ♦

# Captain in Command

*Brig. Gen. James Smith '92 Named to Top Army Post.*



*“The camaraderie and commitment to community service I experienced at Christopher Newport are similar to my experiences in the U.S. Army. Both institutions encourage service and leadership.”*

BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES M. SMITH, a veteran of multiple command posts in many countries and war zones, is now one of the U.S. Army's top officers in Europe.

In June, Smith was appointed to lead the 21st Theater Sustainment Command (TSC), headquartered in Kaiserslautern, Germany. It is a massive job and an awesome responsibility.

From that base, the 21st TSC supports American troops throughout Europe and Africa. That can involve everything from moving shiploads of tanks and heavy artillery to providing COVID vaccinations. Smith leads 11,000 soldiers and civilians.

In a story about Smith's appointment, *Stars and Stripes* outlined the enormity of the task ahead of him: “The 21st TSC is the backbone in Europe of a Pentagon strategy to keep adversaries off balance by rapidly and unpredictably moving troops and equipment from the United States. The Continent has seen one of the largest influxes of forces and hardware since the end of the Cold War, a response to increased Russian military activity in the region.”

Smith grew up in Hampton, then graduated from Christopher Newport with a degree in business administration with a concentration in accounting. He immediately commissioned into the Army and, to this day, appreciates what he learned as a Captain long before he earned the rank of brigadier general.

“The strong core curriculum at Christopher Newport University inspired me to not only be an effective leader, but also, more importantly, to be a good citizen,” Smith said.

“The camaraderie and commitment to community service I experienced at Christopher Newport are similar to my experiences in the U.S. Army. Both institutions encourage service and leadership.”

Once in the Army, Smith continued his education, earning master's degrees from Webster University, Florida Institute of Technology, the U.S. Army Command General Staff College and from the Marine Corps War College. His service appointments have covered the world and he was deployed several times to war zones in Iraq and Kuwait. Before heading to Germany, he had been back in Virginia, to serve as the 31st chief of transportation at Fort Lee.

Smith's awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, the Parachutist Badge and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

“The lessons I learned at Christopher Newport University transcended the classroom,” Smith said. “I continue to draw on them as commanding general of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, U.S. Army Europe's lead organization for all sustainment activities.” ♦



**Alexa Severo '11** was installed as the new president of Loudoun Youth, Inc., a nonprofit program dedicated to assisting in the coordination of youth programs and community resources for young people.

**Dana Bookover '12** was awarded the Dissertation Excellence Award by the *The Professional Counselor* academic journal for her dissertation, "The Relationship between Access to School Counseling and Students' Attainment and Persistence in Postsecondary and STEM Education Outcomes." Bookover earned her PhD from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2020 in counselor education and supervision and will begin as an assistant professor of counseling at the University of Scranton.

**Jennifer Falin '12** was recognized as the Virginia High School Biology Teacher of the Year.

**Ross Snare IV '13** was promoted to chief operating officer of Prince William County's chamber of commerce. Snare joined the chamber in 2018 and is an advocate of a pro-business environment.

**Diondra Whindleton '13** joined the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond as a senior cybersecurity analyst on the National Incident Response Team. Among her new responsibilities is threat automation in the detection engineering group.

**Amy Ryan '14** began her new job as assistant dean for development at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William & Mary.

**Timothy A. Richard '17** was appointed as managing editor of the *Catholic University Law Review*, a student-run quarterly law review publication.

**Corbin Rowell '17** finished filming an independent horror film, *Sutherland*, in the 200-year-old farmhouse once inhabited by his grandparents. Rowell hopes to submit the completed film to various film festivals with the hope that a studio will invest in it.

**Troy Aitken '18** was honored with the 2020 Sales Education Article of the Year award from the *Journal of Marketing Education* for his work on the scholarly article, "Sales Education in the United States: Perspectives on Curriculum and Teaching Practices," along with Dr. Lisa Spiller and Dr. Dae-Hee Kim.

**Katie Eaton '18** opened The Good Dog Yorktown, a local dog-training facility that offers a variety of classes. She went into business along with Morgan Strack '20.



**Rico Francis '18** was promoted to senior manager at the New Teacher Project (TNTP). Among Francis' new responsibilities are supporting TNTP's consulting team to include partnering with school districts and chartering management organizations and state departments of education to implement reform strategies aimed to raise the quality of classroom instruction.

**Legend Hayes '18** represented Christopher Newport in the Olympic Track and Field Trials for the U.S. Olympic Team. He is among the nation's top athletes in the discus.

**Nicholas Wade '18** was hired by Colliers International Virginia as the company's assistant vice president of the capital markets team.

**Sian Wilkerson '18** was hired by *The Virginia Gazette*. Additionally, Wilkerson is an editorial assistant and contributing writer in the sports department of *The Virginian-Pilot* and the *Daily Press*.

**June Laffey '19** is chief of staff for Virginia State Senator Dr. Ghazala Hashmi.

## 2020

**Brock Geiman '20** is an assistant coach for the girls' varsity basketball team at Powhatan High School.



**Jason Holder '20** is an account specialist in sales for Verizon in Chicago. He provides sector personnel with technological resources to improve business efficiency.

**Madison Howdyshell '20** joined the Powhatan High School girls' varsity basketball team as an assistant coach.

**Morgan Strack '20** opened The Good Dog Yorktown, a local dog-training facility. She went into business along with Katherine Eaton '18.

## Captains Marrying Captains



Shade Soup Photography

1

**1. Alexis Spain '12 and Tyler Herdtfelder '12** were wedded on January 21, 2021 in Tamarindo, Costa Rica. Alexis is a program manager for Virginia Commonwealth University and Tyler is a data analyst for the State Department. The couple lives in Henrico.



Paige Ryan Photography

2

**2. Hayley Greco '15 and Nick Greco '15** were wedded on December 5, 2020 in King Family Vineyards, Crozet. Hayley is a cancer research scientist at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Nick is a sales manager with InMode. The couple lives in Irondale, Alabama.



Heather Kidd Photography

3

**3. Kasey Balderson '16 and Carrington Balderson '16** were wedded on June 12, 2021 in Bedford. Kasey is a Hatchery Manager at Oyster Seed Holdings and Carrington is a firefighter and medic with the King George Fire/Rescue & Emergency Services. The couple lives in Center Cross.



Rebecca Burt Photography

4

**4. Caitlin Parrott '16 and Laney Parrott '16** were wedded on June 4, 2021 in Somerset. Caitlin works in marketing for a law firm in Washington, D.C., and Laney is an elementary school teacher with Stafford County Public Schools. The couple lives in Woodbridge.



Nichola Haun Photography

5

**5. Michelle Akridge '17 and Nick Akridge '17** were wedded on June 25, 2021 in Leesburg. Michelle is a teacher for Loudoun County Public Schools and Nick is a football data analyst with Pro Football Focus. The couple lives in Ashburn.

## Captains Marrying Captains



Manali Sontake Photography

6



Chelsea Schmidt Photography

7

**6. Stephanie Burris '18 and Joe Burris '18** were wedded on November 14, 2020 at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club in Maryland. Stephanie is an occupational therapy assistant with CJW Medical Center in Richmond and Joe is an assistant director of operations at Ironbridge Baseball Academy. The couple lives in Henrico.

**7. Madi Smittle '19 and Logan Harrelson '19** were wedded in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. Madi works as a student success retention coordinator at Christopher Newport and Logan works for Ferguson Enterprises. The couple lives in Toano.

## Wedding Announcements



Devon Alston-Huath '04

1



Xiaoqi Li Photography

2

**1. Candace Redd '08** married Jeremy Redd on May 21, 2021 in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Candace is a human services specialist for Prince William County. The newlyweds live in Woodbridge.

**2. Elise Lee '11** married Christopher Lee on November 7, 2020 in Richmond. The newlyweds live in Silver Spring, Maryland.

**3. Leanne Pillow '11** married Patrick Pillow on June 12, 2021 in Moseley. Leanne is a director of business and marketing at Madison + Main and Patrick is a Methodist pastor at Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church.



Caiti Garter Photography

3

## Wedding Announcements



Katie James Photography

4

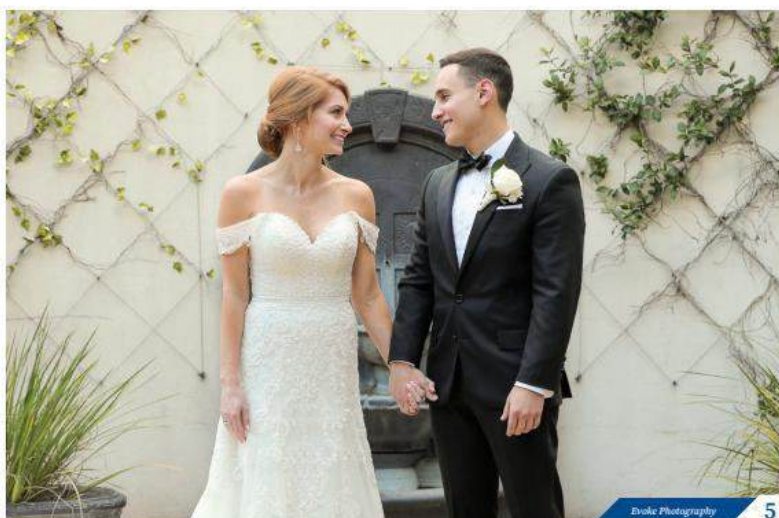
**4. Julie Ryalls '11** married Nathan Ryalls on August 7, 2021 in Richmond. Julie is a third-grade teacher with Williamsburg-James City County Schools. The newlyweds live in Toano.

**5. Dr. Thomas Rogers '12** married Taylor Rodgers on February 2, 2020 in Houston. The newlyweds live in Spring, Texas.

**6. Casey Hallwig '15** married William Hallwig on June 20, 2020 in Chesapeake. The wedding photographer was Abby Whitmore '15 and Courtney Lord '15 was a bridesmaid. Casey is a physical therapist with Sentara Healthcare. The newlyweds live in Suffolk.

**7. Elexus Buckner '16** married Larnce Robinson Jr. on November 7, 2020 in Fairfax. Elexus is a research assistant with Higher Ed Insight and the newlyweds live in Centreville.

**8. Madison Burns '17** married Tim Burns on October 11, 2020 in Charlottesville. Several Christopher Newport graduates attended their wedding ceremony, including seven sorority sisters of Gamma Phi Beta. Madison is an employee brand specialist with Cisco and the newlyweds live in Augusta, Georgia.



Evolve Photography

5



Abby Lindsey Photography

6



Roman Grinev Photography, Laura Black

7



Fredericks Photo and Film

8

## Future Captains

**Kim Gaskins '06** and Clayton Gaskins are happy to announce the birth of Keegan Porter Gaskins on March 23, 2021. The family lives in Newsoms, along with two other children, Clay and Caroline.



**Amanda Welch '11** and **Derek Welch '08** announce the birth of their son, Bennett Welch, on September 28, 2020. The family lives in Newport News.

**Lindsay Zappala '12** and David Zappala announce the birth of Zane Zappala on March 7, 2021. The family lives in Raleigh, North Carolina.

**Kristy Leigh Thorn '13** and Ryan Quinn are happy to announce the birth of Brady on November 21, 2020. The family lives in Canton, Michigan.

**Mary Clevenger '14** and Matthew Clevenger announce the birth of Camille Hayes Clevenger on May 28, 2021. The family lives in Haymarket.

**Bree Brooks '17** and Alex Brooks are happy to announce the birth of their son, Connor Brooks, on May 27, 2021. The family lives in Chesapeake.



*In Memoriam***'Lovely and Elegant' – Remembering Carol Santoro***Community mourns passing of former Christopher Newport first lady.*

Carol Kraemer Santoro, former Christopher Newport first lady and wife of professor and president emeritus Dr. Anthony Santoro, passed away on May 23, 2021. She was 78.

President Paul Tribble, Santoro's successor, said Carol Santoro will be remembered for her contributions to the university that were both personal and professional: "Carol Santoro was a lovely and elegant woman

who brought grace to her role as Christopher Newport's first lady. But most importantly, she was Tony's soul mate, fierce advocate, cherished counsel and conscience, and love of his life. I know that kind love is rare, precious and the gift of a lifetime. Rosemary and I and the entire Christopher Newport family are holding Tony and Melissa [daughter of Anthony and Carol Santoro] close in our hearts."

During her years as first lady, Carol Santoro was involved in many aspects of campus life, as was noted in her obituary: "As a vital partner to her husband, she was an integral part of his academic career and became a champion for Christopher Newport following Dr. Santoro's appointment to its presidency. As first lady, she helped to oversee its historic transition to university status in 1992 and the opening of its first residence

hall in 1995, which was named in her and her husband's honor, The Carol K. and Anthony R. Santoro Residence Hall."

At the dedication of that residence hall, Rector David Peebles read a resolution adopted by the Board of Visitors lauding Carol and Anthony Santoro for their "devoted and commendable service" that had benefited the university in many ways.

Carol Santoro's range of interests also benefited the region. She served as chair of the Speakers Bureau for the Virginia Peninsula Council on Domestic Violence, a volunteer at the Peninsula Fine Arts Center, a regular speaker at the annual meetings of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, and a board member of the National Council of Christians and Jews. She also was also a board member of the Virginia Peninsula Camp Fund.

Emeritus history professor Dr. Mario Mazzarella recalled both the depth of service and the warmth of her friendship: "Carol was my friend from the moment we met. This is not surprising as she was always gracious and charming. But she was much more than that. Dr. Santoro often referred to his wife's wise counsel and discerning judgment of policies and people as invaluable in helping him fulfill his responsibilities as president. Christopher Newport University and all of us who knew her as first lady will remain forever in her debt as she will remain forever in our memory."

**ALUMNI**

Jane Speegle '74  
Harrol A. "Hal" Brauer '75  
Sylvia Stroud Smith '75  
Carter Braxton Ficklen Jr. '76  
Joyce Helmick Gill '76  
James "Tim" Davis '77  
Ernestine "Ernie" Folk Hook '77  
Cary B. Epes '78

Edna Ruth Trotter Stinson '78  
Shirley Wilson Jones '79  
Patricia Fromal '80  
Stephen Cipriano '82  
Donnie Leon Tyndall '85  
Robert E. Bryant '86  
Thomas Joseph Kmetz '86  
David Ross Becker '88

Larry Bruce Evans '94  
Vincent Thomas "Vinnie" Zummo '98  
Caroline Marie Wyatt Thompson '00  
Carey Hogge '02  
Hannah Naomi Goodwyn '03  
Anthony M. Sambuchi '05  
Kendal Treval Rivers '14

**FACULTY, STAFF AND FRIENDS**

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Henry Ayer  
Frank Ray Bloxom Jr.  
Margaret E. Brockett  
L. Cornell Burcher  
Flora Crittenden

Jane Susan Frank  
Mary Sherwood Holt  
Rita C. Hubbard, professor emerita  
Robert L. "Bob" Kelly  
Jan Mattern  
Andrea Moore, staff

Dona Gilbo Morris, faculty  
Virginia Ann Taylor  
Dr. Samuel E. Weinberg  
Linda Yvonne Wright  
Clifton D. "C.D." Young Jr.

*As of November 2021*



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