



May 25, 2004

Dear Student, Family, and Friends:

This has been another year of remarkable progress on the ever-changing Christopher Newport University campus. On Saturday, May 8 nearly 7,000 excited friends and family members gathered on the Great Lawn to recognize and honor 589 CNU students as they received their diplomas during our 76th commencement exercises. United States Senator George Allen received an honorary doctor of laws degree from the University and offered an eloquent keynote address with a message of inspiration, patriotism, and conviction.

The transformation of our campus continues. Students will return in August to find the beautiful new Potomac River Residence Hall ready for occupancy. When complete in August 2005, the expansion and renovation of the Captain John Smith Library will create a 21st century information technology center for research, writing, and study. The new 116,000 square foot Student Center will provide students with a host of new retail dining opportunities, an expanded bookstore, offices for student organizations, the student newspaper, campus radio station, and offices for Student Life and Career and Counseling Services.

At Christopher Newport University, our focus continues to be excellence in teaching, inspired by sound scholarship. I am pleased to report to you that 30 new faculty members will be hired over the summer and will take their place in our classrooms this fall. The Task Force on Curriculum and Academic Life led by Dean Douglas Gordon and Professors Susan St. Onge and Quentin Kidd has made exciting progress. Additionally, CNU's new strategic plan for the future, *Vision 2010*, will serve as an outstanding guide for our commitment to providing a liberal arts education and university experience that stimulates intellectual inquiry and creates the leaders of tomorrow. At its May meeting, the University's Board of Visitors enthusiastically endorsed these exciting initiatives.

As you know, this was a very difficult year in the Commonwealth. Elected officials and our governor struggled for months to craft a state budget that would not only meet Virginia's many financial needs, but also to ensure that higher education remains a priority.

After a thorough review of the University's budget, the Board of Visitors unanimously approved new tuition and room and board rates for the new academic year. Beginning in August, full-time annual tuition for in-state students will be \$5,314 an increase of \$338. The rate for out-of-state students remains unchanged at \$12,676. Room and board rates, depending on the plan, increase an average of \$500 for all students. A full-time in-state student who lives and dines on campus will pay \$12,514. Out-of-state students will pay \$19,876.

CNU remains a great bargain in the Commonwealth. For just \$59 a day during the academic year, our students enjoy new state-of-the-art residence halls on one of the safest campuses in America. They are taught in small classes by a professor who holds a terminal degree in his or her chosen field and knows each student by name. All of this on a beautiful campus adds up to an unbeatable investment in the future.

Rosemary joins me in wishing you and your family a safe and happy summer. We look forward to welcoming our students back to the CNU Community of Honor for another exciting academic year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Paul Tribble".

Paul Tribble

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