

C N U Potential for Discovery and Creativity

The CNU Office of Sponsored Programs Newsletter

The Come Together Issue

Christopher Newport University is at a turning point for research. With enthusiastic and willing faculty, a diversified portfolio of proposals resulted from faculty creativity and innovation. Sponsors fortunate enough to receive a CNU proposal will be reading collaborative, cutting edge and interesting ideas with a backbone of knowledge that cannot be beat!

The focus of this issue of *C_N_U Potential for Discovery and Creativity* is "Come Together".

We are doing just that within and outside of the campus.

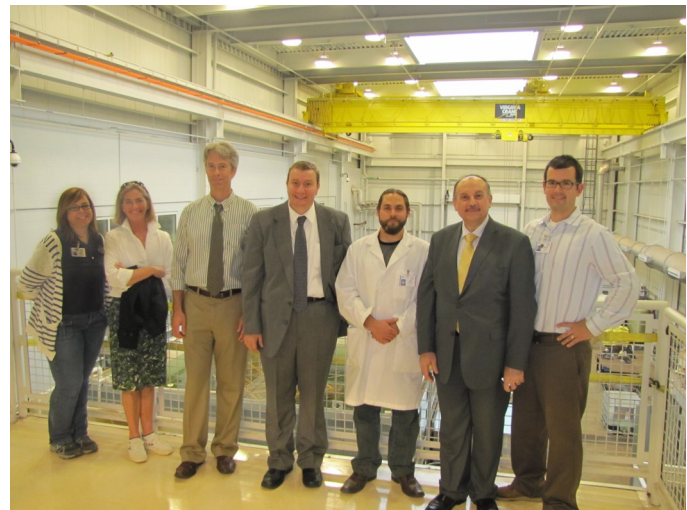
Scholarly visitors from as far as Egypt, participated in a tour lead by our neighbors at the Mariners Museum at the Batten Conservation Laboratory housing artifacts from the USS Monitor. Included in the tour were CNU Chemistry and Anthropology faculty, as well as two very interested members of the Office of Sponsored Programs. More of this multi-dimensional development will be discussed

in the enclosed articles.

The theme of this the Fall 2012 issue of the Office of Sponsored Programs newsletter does not stop here so please read on!

Inside this issue:

<i>Success with Student</i>	2-3
<i>Visit to the Mariner's Museum</i>	4
<i>David Krop of the Monitor Center</i>	5
<i>An Anthropologists View</i>	6
<i>Post Award Corner</i>	7-9
<i>Proposals and Awards</i>	10



Courtesy of the Mariner's Museum



Dr. Atkinson's student from CNU's "green team". Photo by A Pascucci

Student Research Leads to Potential

The story submitted by Dr. Rob Atkinson demonstrates real and tangible potential that exists for completing the circle from undergraduate student to successful career scholar. The Center for Wetland Studies

surely has countless stories similar to the one provided by Dr. Atkinson. It is the mind opening opportunity that CNU offers through hands-on, in the field research that creates great thinkers and doers. Whether it be members of the

Green Team who work so hard to ensure that our environment is represented in our educational home, or a student who realizes research may be their path, CNU and undergraduate research open doors and minds!

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Two Roads Diverge in a Wood: The transformative educational power of research at CNU Dr. Robert Atkinson

I met Wes Hudson at a cross-roads. He was in my Fall Biology 300 class, which taught science research and writing skills to sophomore Biology majors. His plan was to major in horticulture and work in a landscape company. I was impressed by Wes's performance in that class and gave him a small part in a consulting project over winter break. His performance was exceptional, operating at a high level of quality with minimal instructions and a fantastic attitude. Another student joined us and Wes demonstrated a strong collaborative ability. I told Wes that his abilities meant that other career paths might be open to him.

The next spring Wes was around and engaged with our team as we were planning work on a new contract with the Nature Conservancy. When field work began in the summer, he shared a leadership role with a graduate student on that project. The field crew worked hard and generated a lot of data beyond the contracted tasks, and we began planning conference presentations for everyone while traveling to and from the field sites. Remarkably, that team delivered 20 conference presentations that year, thanks to considerable peer mentoring

assistance from Wes, which was well received by his colleagues. Wes found it exciting to participate in so much research and with just a few semesters left, he realized that he should change his major to a BS, which necessitated additional classes including a year of organic chemistry.

Every semester, Wes helped with several other research projects, showing a strong aptitude for experimentation. We won a second year contract with the Nature Conservancy and Wes was given the key leadership role. He continued to excel and chose to make a portion of the work into what would become

his thesis for the Masters in Environmental Science degree.

Soon Wes had his thesis under control, was getting A's in his graduate classes, and had passed the leadership torch to other rising undergrads in my research team. To provide some career insights and unique experiences, I encouraged Wes to take a part-time job with an environmental consulting firm. The mixture was a good one for Wes. He completed the thesis in fine fashion and on schedule, and gained some relevant new skills and experiences through both the thesis and the job, and continued to encourage and lead his peers by example.



Photo by Anne Pascucci at the Center for Wetland Studies Poster presentations.

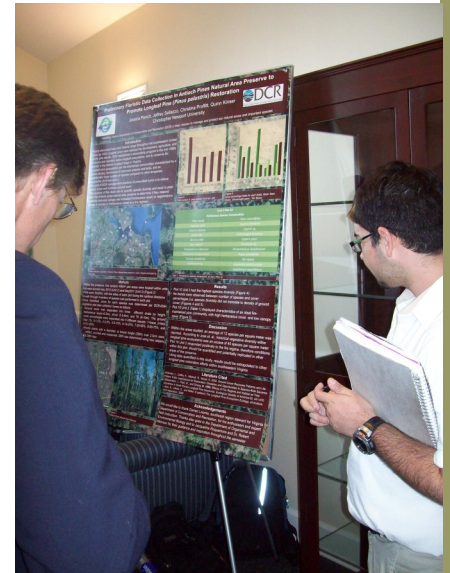
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Two Roads Diverge in a Wood: Cont'd

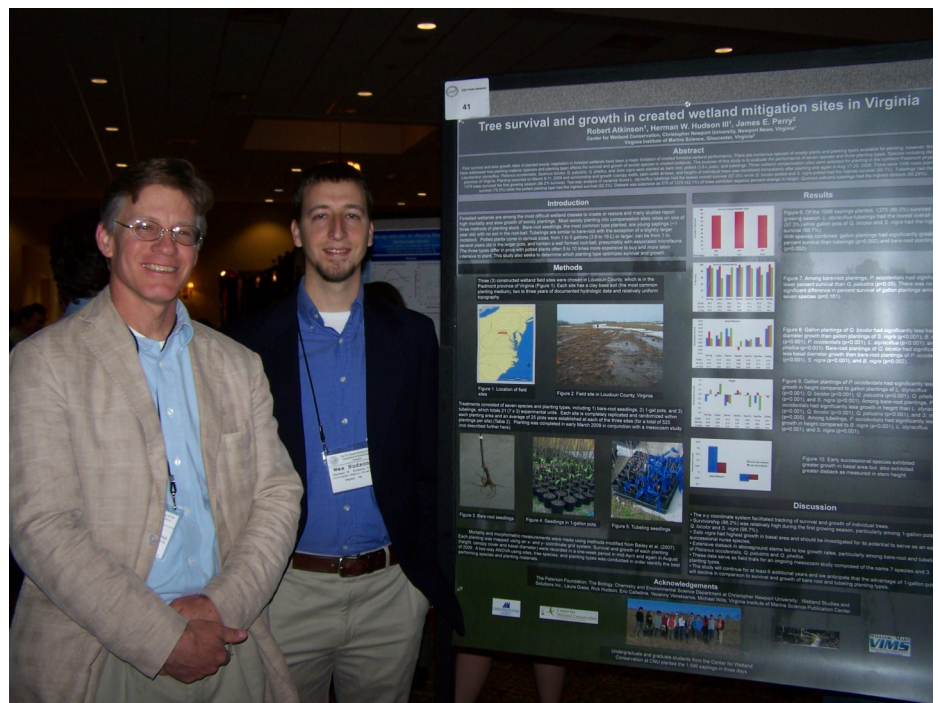
Along the way at CNU, Wes' attitude and combination of generosity in both time and talent made him a highly valued team member. He accumulated an impressive skill set through his involvement in a diverse array of projects, and he honed his leadership abilities. A colleague of mine at the College of William and Mary was looking for an exceptionally capable Ph.D. student to lead a large new project. So immediately after graduating from CNU for the second time, Wes began a fully-funded doctoral program. He has done well there, earning additional scholarships and awards, and his future is unlimited. He chose the more challenging path of post-graduate studies, but still honors his love of plant cultivation. His dissertation on *evaluating tree survival and growth*, has opened countless new paths.

Wes's story is instructive for our undergraduate students. It shows that education needn't be limited to classes, and that hard work both in and out of classes can open many doors.

Wes's story also highlights the value of CNU's mix of teaching and research expectations. At larger "research" schools, many faculty members hire technicians and post docs to perform grant-funded tasks. CNU is focused on student outcomes as well as faculty scholarship, which allows faculty the joy of working closely with students. And that makes all the difference.



Dr. Atkinson with students at their Poster sessions and year end evaluations
Photo by Anne Pascucci



Dr. Atkinson & Wes

C N U Potential for Discovery and Creativity

The Mariner's Museum, CNU, the Monitor and Global Interests

Dr.'s Essam Ibrahim, Tarek Abdel-Fattah and Dr. Lisa Webb



Photo by Debbie Gaudreau

Following a visit and tour of CNU, Dr. Essam Ibrahim, an international expert on corrosion joined CNU faculty on a tour of the Batten Conservation Laboratory that houses artifacts from the USS Monitor as well as its Turret. Lead by David Krop and William Hoffman, discussion of all the behind the scenes activities to preserve the *Monitor's Turret* and other artifacts was the hot topic.

Opportunities for future collaborations between Professor Essam Khamis Ibrahim Director, City of Scientific Research & Technological Applications, Alexandria, Egypt and CNU; Dr. Ibrahim and the Mariners Museum; and CNU and the Mariner's Museum were discussed. It was a trifecta!

Dr. Christopher Loy, Anthropology, Debbie Gaudreau, David Krop (MM), Dr. Fattah, Dr. Ibrahim and Dr. William Hoffman looking at the Turret.



Photo by Anne Pascucci

Dr. Christopher Loy, a CNU Anthropology faculty member participated in the tour with a different perspective. His focus was not specifically on the methods of preserving the metals but more so with analysis and interpretation of the metals and other artifacts found in and around the Turret.

Excavating a wool coat, nearly in tact, using dental tools due to its fragile state; recovering two sets of human remains; and the many other artifacts retrieved from within the Turret were of interest to Dr. Loy for future teaching and internship opportunities.

He hopes to share this experience with his students via internships and research some day soon.

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USS Monitor / CNU Partnership

The USS Monitor Then



Compliments of Michael G. Maloney

On Thursday, August 30, CNU faculty, staff, and an Egyptian corrosion engineer visited the USS *Monitor* Center at The Mariners' Museum (TMM) to discuss synergy and collaboration. Anne Pascucci, Director of Sponsored Programs at CNU, arranged the visit with Dave Krop (Director, USS *Monitor* Center) and Will Hoffman (Conservator) from TMM. Krop and Hoffman provided a comprehensive behind-the-scenes tour to Dr. Christopher Loy and Dr. Tarek Abdul-Fattah from CNU, and Dr. Essam Ibrahim. Dr. Ibrahim is the Director of Scientific Research & Technological Applications in Alexandria, Egypt.

Both parties discussed avenues for collaboration with an eye on establishing funded student internship programs to address chemistry, anthropology, and sociology aspects of the *Monitor* Project. Other ideas discussed during the tour included the possibility of guest lecturing or course development by TMM conservation staff at CNU.

This proposed USS *Monitor* collaboration would be in addition to the long-standing work performed by Dr. Kathleen Brunke, Professor of Chemistry at CNU, and her students. For the past few years Dr. Brunke's students have performed solution analysis and acid digestion experiments in conjunction with *Monitor* conservators at TMM to provide necessary data in support of long-term artifact treatment at the USS *Monitor* Center conservation facility.

The behind-the-scenes lab tour and related discussions provided a great introductory experience, and now CNU and TMM staff are exploring these future opportunities in great detail. By using the USS *Monitor* as a focal point, CNU and TMM can strengthen an existing partnership for the greater good of both organizations and provide one-of-a-kind projects and opportunities for students.

Dave Krop, TMM

The USS Monitor Now



Photo by Debbie Gaudreau

An Anthropologist's View

Dr. Christopher Loy

Collaboration in Cultural Resource Management with the Mariners' Museum

Discussions have been underway among the anthropologists at CNU about how we might expand our capabilities to include cultural resource management in our curriculum. Finding opportunities to involve our students who possess an interest in either archaeology or museum studies with the professionals staffing local museums or archaeological projects is a first step in this direction. When I received an invitation from Anne Pascucci, Director of Sponsored Programs, to join a group of CNU faculty and staff as they toured the Monitor Collection at the Mariners' Museum on August 30th, it seemed like a perfect opportunity to begin a dialog on the issue of collaboration between the Mariners' Museum and CNU.

Project Director David Krop and Conservator William Hoffman led us through the museum and into the vast laboratory they use to curate the Monitor Collection. The USS Monitor was the first iron-clad warship built by the Union during the Civil War. It sunk off Cape Hatteras in 1862 in rough waters. It was not until 1998 that serious recovery efforts were underway. The laboratory itself is dominated by desalinization tanks that work to gradually draw the corrosive saltwater from the metal of USS Monitor components, including the 30-ton engine block and 120-ton gun turret – a process that will take decades.

Assisted by an industrial sized crane, forklifts, and the largest x-ray machine I have ever seen, the small staff is working to restore and curate a piece of mobile material culture that dwarfs others in terms of its sheer mass and technological complexity. Next to the Brobdingnagian desalinization vats are shelves upon shelves of tiny metal components, each in its own desalinization Tupperware. In addition to cultural material, there are also the human remains of sailors. The staff is currently trying to find the families to whom these remains belong.

Mr. Krop and I had several opportunities to discuss the functions that CNU students might fulfill at the museum. From assisting with materials curation and presentation to the analytical process of interpreting how certain artifacts functioned in their particular social contexts, there are many opportunities for CNU students to obtain professional training and mentoring in this area.

The conversation on how collaboration between CNU and the Mariners' Museum might unfold is ongoing, but currently we are pursuing the possibility of developing an endowed internship program for our students. These internships would allow CNU to provide David Krop and his staff with students who have an interest in archaeology and/or museum studies on a semester by semester basis. The internships would include a stipend in addition to the valuable experience the students would garner from their involvement. Finally, anthropology faculty would provide guidance and mentorship on the students' scholarly productions based on their research at the museum.



Photo by Debbie Gaudreau
Casts of human remains
found in the Turret.

Post-Award Corner

Laura Reid

Budget Considerations for Principal Investigators:

Despite their best efforts to create a realistic budget that's attractive to potential granting agencies, some Principal Investigators, (PI) walk into a red tape nightmare that may be detrimental to fulfilling their research. This article hopes to give some guidance to help avoid these situations in the future as well as offer solutions for existing grants.

PI's must adhere to the regulations of granting agencies. PI's want to conduct research and not be hindered by financial restrictions; the granting agency wants to cure cancer with as little money as possible. I have witnessed what happens when a PI budgets too little to conduct research; the contract budget may be appealing to the granting agency, but the PI has financially cornered themselves by not including research expenses such as travel, supplies and the like. PI's call and explain that they need an item, and that it's integral to their research. But if the expense was not originally considered in the agreed upon budget, it can not be included in the grant expenses without justification and approval from Administration and the granting agency. Some PI's that have been at CNU for awhile were ensconced in an environment that gave them the freedom to spend their grant monies without full consideration to State or Sponsored Programs direction; this did not bode well in our Federal audits. Since a less than stellar audit, the Office of Sponsored Programs and the Business Office have implemented many changes; all to improve the relationship of the University with Sponsors. Please note all sponsors receive a copy of our audited financial statements.

So, as a PI, what do you do if you created a budget, only to discover that you didn't give yourself enough money to conduct your research? Contact Anne Pascucci 4-7266 or Debbie Gaudreau 4-7392 at the Office of Sponsored Programs. They will work with you and the granting agency to either ask for additional money, or they can reallocate your current budget to accommodate your research needs. Federal Auditors are looking for documentation between the granting agency and the PI when a budget has been increased or reallocated.

One of the many new benefits offered by the Office of Sponsored Programs is Anne and/or Debbie sits with new PI's to help create a realistic budget to submit with the grant proposal. Anne and Debbie bring many years of experience to the equation: from creating attractive and realistic budgets, to a deep understanding of Federal guidelines that govern grant expenditures. Use of their talents will save you hours of footwork.



Post-Award Corner– Continued

Laura Reid



Get to know your Accounts Payable representative. To find out who is assigned to you, please refer to list below. You'll notice that each rep has a series of letters beside their name. The rep that is assigned to you will have the first letter of your last name. So, if Anne Pascucci wants to know who her rep is, she would look at the chart, find out who is responsible for the letter P, and contact that person about all Accounts Payable questions. Why is this important? You'll want to have a close relationship with this person as they can advise you on State Policy governing expenditures. You may be able to avoid difficulties if you know before you submit your grant proposal how State Policy will affect your expenses.

For example, you create a budget where part of the expenses cover gas to a local high school that is located in town. You decide how much gas is necessary and include it in your proposed budget. Later you discover that the State will reimburse you only if the trip conforms to a certain list of restrictions. Now you have to complete additional paperwork and hope that the Administrators and granting agency agree to your new requirements. All of this can be remedied if you call your Accounts Payable rep before you submit your proposed budget. Ask them questions, including things like, would it be less expensive if I used a State vehicle rather than my own? Let them know that you are creating a proposed budget so you need to know what your options are in order to accomplish all of your goals with as little money and paperwork as possible. Will you need a Prior Travel form? Do you need to submit a Mapquest printout with your gas request? Your AP rep can also let you know which paperwork is required with certain expenses.

If your assigned AP rep is out of the office, please contact Ms. Linnette Curtis at 4-7029. She is very knowledgeable about how State Policy affects grant expenditures, as well as the required paperwork to accompany the request.

Another way to reduce surprises concerning your budget is to discuss your goals with our Payroll Dept. before you submit your proposal. Some of the questions they might ask you will be: Is this student performing a service for you, or are they learning as they participate in the grant? If they are performing a service for you, such as clerical or data collection, their services will be considered payroll and may incur FICA. If the student is being paid to learn via participation in your research or sponsored project their services would be considered a stipend and you would complete the Honorarium form, created by Anne Pascucci. This allows you to pay the student without incurring FICA while informing the student that they are responsible for the tax implications of the payment. There are restrictions and required paperwork involving both scenarios, so please feel free to call Jessica 4-7416, John 4-8864, or Stephanie 4-7030 to discuss your payroll options concerning your grant.

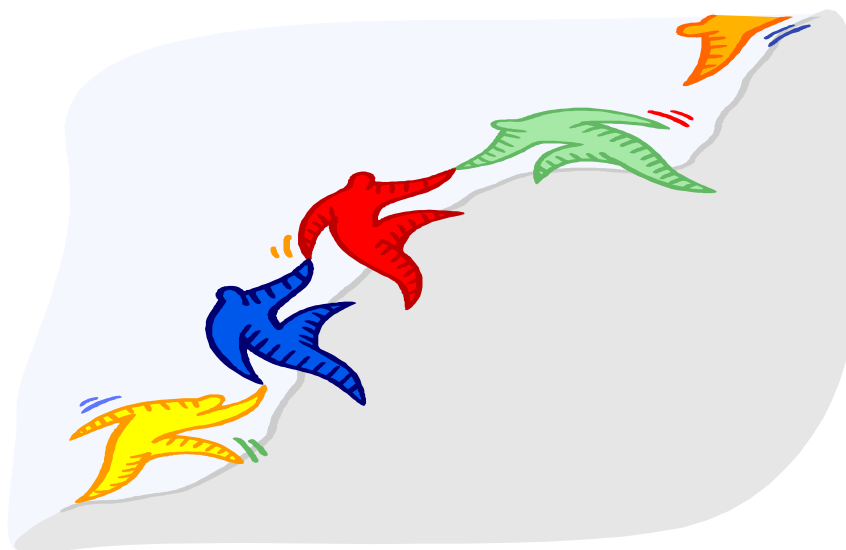
Post-Award Corner—Continued

In summary, please come to the Business Office, located on the second floor of the Administration Building, and I will introduce you to our Accounts Payable and our Payroll Dept. They will be happy to meet with you to discuss your goals, and give you choices to consider before you submit your proposal. If you prefer, I will be happy to make an appointment between you and the required individuals to facilitate your budget needs.

Payroll:	Stephanie Kuebler	594-7030	skuebler@cnu.edu
	John McCall	594-8864	jmccall@cnu.edu
	Jessica Smith	594-7416	jessica.smith@cnu.edu
Accounts Payable:	Gayle McGee	594-7150	<u>gayle.mcgee@cnu.edu</u>
	A,B,C,D, X, Y, Z		
	Erica Vega	594-7078	erica.vega@cnu.edu
	E, F, G, H, I, J, K		
	LaShon McKay	594-7329	lashon.mckay@cnu.edu
	L, O, P, Q, R, Staples		
	Linnette Curtis	594-7029	linnette.curtis@cnu.edu
	M, S, T, U, V, W		
	Linda Searls	594-7293	lsearls@cnu.edu
	N, Dominion Power		

To ask about a vendor payment, call the individual who has the first letter of the last name of the vendor.

For example, if you wanted to ask about a payment to Bio-West, you would call Gayle McGee.



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Proposals and Awards

Proposals Since May 2012

- ➡ Ruane, Lauren, et.al.; UDA; Developing Direct Producer to Consumer Market Opportunities on a University Campus; \$89,412
- ➡ Jelinek, Burke & Velkey; NSF; VIRTUES; \$155,459
- ➡ Sprague, M; Linking Student Teaching & Induction; VDOE; \$28,645
- ➡ Reimer, M; CNU Vocal Institute; NEA; \$50,000
- ➡ Kotula, G; Teaching Personal Finance Using Film; NEFE; \$88,378
- ➡ Meighan, C; Signal Differentiation by Integrin Cytoplasmic Tails during *C. elegans* Development; NIH; \$225,000
- ➡ Jelinek, E; “How Did the World Begin?”, NEH Enduring Questions; \$22,077
- ➡ Kidd, Q/Hall, T; “What do Virginians Know about Renewable Energy?” Dominion Resources; \$295,194
- ➡ Mitrano, D; “Functional Analysis of Dopamine and Adrenegic Receptor”; CHRB; \$99, 527

Awards Since May 2012

- ➡ Sprague, M; Linking Student Teaching & Induction; VDOE; \$28,645
- ➡ Whiting, G; Vegetation Planting on Lake Maury; City of NN; \$5,894.70
- ➡ Atkinson, R; Biological and Physical Monitoring in Support of Habitat Restoration; USFWS; \$11,915
- ➡ Brash, E; RUI: Studies of Nucleon Structure Using Electromagnetic Probes at JLABs; \$555,000
- ➡ Lewis, M; NSF through UNC Chapel Hill; Mobilization and Policy Change: Demographic, Political & Spatial Dynamics; \$28,356
- ➡ Ruane, Lauren, et.al.; USDA; Developing Direct Producer to Consumer Market Opportunities on a University Campus; \$84,756