

Connections

Department of Communication Studies Alumni Newsletter
Christopher Newport University

Spring 2007

Commencement 2007

The graduating class of 2007 will have the distinction of an expanded celebration of Commencement activities.

Beginning with the Senior Art Exhibit and ROTC Commissioning on Friday morning, May 11, the degree candidates events progress through the evening.

On Saturday, May 12, Departmental Receptions start the day's celebration. Then the Honors Convocation on The Great Lawn at 3:00 precedes two concerts by the legendary **Beach Boys**.



An Alumni Society Commencement Breakfast kicks off the events for Sunday, May 13. **Commencement Exercises at Pomoco Stadium** begin at noon, culminating a weekend of recognition and festivities.

For a full listing of the Schedule of Events, go to:

<http://commencement.cnu.edu/events.html>

Comm Studies Dept. Proposes Two New Minors

In order to keep pace with the present, and to prepare for the future, the Communication Studies Department has embarked on the development of two new interdisciplinary minors.



Jennelle Sewell ('07) in Honduras

In conjunction with the departments of Anthropology, Fine Arts, English, History, Psychology, Religious Studies and Sociology, Communication Studies is proposing a *Media and Cultural Studies* minor. This new minor will appropriate the best theories of several departments and use them to examine culture's effect in everyday life. It will make practical connections between these departments through a lens of media and popular culture.

The focus of the foundational courses will be the production of meaning in our social world. Students will recognize that the accepted practices of society are ever-changing; their thoughts and actions matter. Therefore, they should examine them carefully – and act on them.

The *Media and Cultural Studies* minor will also help students enter into a burgeoning field of cultural studies programs in graduate higher education.

The second proposed minor is on the cutting edge of technology. It, too, embraces an interdisciplinary membership.

The minor in *New Media & Digital Culture* combines the efforts of the Communication Studies Department with the departments of Fine Arts and Computer Science. Students who select this minor will learn to craft a message using the vocabulary of visual design and the theory of communication. They will be able construct artifacts that convey that message using the methods of digital graphics.

Since the ubiquitous nature of new media continuously transforms how people live and work, it is important to study its effects on culture and society. The foundations of the courses in the *New Media & Digital Culture* minor propose that we may direct those transformations, rather than be directed by them.



Moreover, skill in interpreting and producing digital messages is becoming more highly sought by a diversity of graduate programs.

Open House to Fund Scholarship

Students of the Communication Studies Department have set up an endowed scholarship in order to raise funds for the department. These funds will support student research and scholarship, as well as other academic endeavors. This semester, the students have set an ambitious goal of trying to raise \$5,000.

In order to help with this project, an Open House has been organized at the **Coastal Wine Connection** in Port Warwick, a new development in the Oyster Point area of Newport News. It will take place on **Saturday, March 24** from **4:00-6:30 pm**.



Featured will be:

- *Wine tasting with Brian, the store owner and locally popular wine connoisseur*
- *Beer tasting of unique beers from around the world*
- *Coffee tasting with local coffee expert Marc Rich*
- *Live music by Andy Bell of Life's Only Lesson*



There is no charge for the event. However, donations will be graciously accepted toward reaching the goal of \$5,000. If an individual is unable to attend, but would still like to donate to the scholarship, a check can be made out to **Christopher Newport University Education Foundation, Inc.** with "Communication Studies Endowment" written on the memo line.

The mailing address is:

*Communication Studies Department
Christopher Newport University
1 University Place
Newport News, VA 23606*

Career Connections Career Connections

Applying Online for a Job?

Like many, you may be concerned that an online application makes you "one Of a million" instead of "one In a million." However, employers say there are several things you can do to ensure your application gets the attention it deserves:

- Use keywords, buzzwords, and industry verbiage. Employers search keywords when they are looking to fill specific jobs.
- Complete all the fields – even those which are not required.
- Tailor your application information to the position. Don't copy and paste text from your generic resume.
- Create a *Skills Inventory* section if the application does not require it. You might put this in a "comments" section.

- Also include remarks in this section that demonstrate you have researched the company and industry.
- If asked to attach your resume to the application, keep it simple. Fancy bullets, italics, and bold do not always convert well in an electronic format.
- If an optional assessment test is offered online, take it.
- Follow up your electronic application with a personal e-mail to the recruiter, written in similar fashion to a cover letter.



[source: *Job Choices 2007*, National Association of Colleges and Employers]



During my time at CNU

I learned many things about myself. When I first became a Communication Studies major I thought that public relations was the field that I wanted to go into after graduation. I participated in two internships, one with CNU's Office of Communications and Public Relations, and the other with Ferguson Enterprises, in the Corporate Communications department. During these two internships I realized that it wasn't public relations that I interested in, but higher education.



I graduated a semester early, moved back to Fishersville, Virginia, and began my job search. I started by applying to nearby schools, Mary Baldwin College, Washington and Lee, and the University of Virginia. I went through a phone and personal interview at UVA's McIntire School of Commerce for the Student Services Coordinator position and I was offered the job.

As the Student Services Coordinator, I provide information about Commerce prerequisites and program requirements for both Commerce and pre-Commerce students. I also manage the Dean's schedule, student organizations activities, and the daily operations of the Undergraduate Student Services Office. I love my job and the higher education environment. I plan to pursue my Master's Degree in Student Affairs Practices in Higher Education at UVA in the near future. I have learned that if you embrace all of the opportunities that life has to offer and do the things that you love, the rest will fall into place.

Christina Martin '06

Hal Barber ('00) Newport News, VA is employed as a Fiber Optics Customer Support Analyst for the Verizon Fiber Solution Center.

Tamara (Kagler) Barnes ('03) Hampton, VA and husband Samuel Barnes announce the birth of their son Samuel Anthony Barnes III, born February 21, 2007.

Emily Benson ('06) Newport News, VA graduated from the Police Academy in December 2006 and is a Newport News Police Officer.

Jonathan Blanks ('98) Chesapeake, VA accepted the position of Employee Benefits Specialist, Pension Operations for The Boeing Company in Seattle, WA.

Ryan Bonos ('06) Staunton, VA is employed as the Promotions Producer for WHSV-TV in Harrisonburg, VA.

Antonia "Missy" (Taylor) Christianson ('03) Virginia Beach, VA has started an event planning business called Antonia Christianson Events. www.antoniachristiansonevents.com

Chanda Epps ('00) Hampton, VA has been promoted to Title I Coordinator for Parent Involvement in Hampton City Schools Title I Department.

Augusta Tyler (Fitzhugh) Davis ('06) Orlando, FL works as an Independent Contractor for Gentle Touch Marketing. She was married to Jason Davis in January 2007.

Sarah Fannick ('06) Barhamsville, VA has a position with Christopher Newport University's Office of Admissions as an Admissions Officer.

Megan Fogarty ('06) Burke, VA is employed as a Communication Specialist for the National Security Division of Batelle in Crystal City, VA.

Carly (Kretzer) Funkhouser ('06) New Canaan, CT works for the nonprofit organization, Young Life. She was married to Jason Funkhouser in November 2006.

Shana Goodman ('02) Cary, NC has accepted a new position as a Human Resources Generalist with Connexion Technologies.

Crystal Hamlett ('06) Chesapeake, VA spent four months in Costa Rica as a Bilingual Tour Guide. She is now working with special events for the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame.

Taya (Moss) Jarman ('04) Richmond, VA is receiving her Master in Strategic Public Relations Degree from Virginia Commonwealth Univ. She was married to Johnnie Jarman in March 2007.

Allison John ('06) Woodbridge, VA is a Special Education Teacher at Gar-Field High School and is pursuing a Master's Degree in Special Education at George Mason University.

Jessica (Kelly) McLean ('04) Kitty Hawk, NC is pursuing her music career full-time and released her debut album *Designed to Dream*. www.jessicamclean.com

Stacie Mullins-Rose ('04) Richmond, VA was married to Adam Rose (CNU '04) in October 2006.

Julie (Brunner) Newman ('01) Blue Ridge VA is a News Anchor for WSET-TV. She and husband Geoff Newman announce the birth of their daughter Lindsay Ann Newman, born February 28, 2007.

Eric Pesola ('98) Williamsburg, VA is now the Assistant Director of Alumni Communications and Web Author for the College of William and Mary Alumni Association.

Sarah (Fox) Peterson ('03) Jacksonville, FL is employed as a Pharmaceutical Sales Representative. She was married to Brent Peterson in February 2005.

Derek Rivers ('03) Fairfax, VA works as a Research Analyst for the Department of State. He was married to Angela (Eyer mann) Rivers (CNU) in November 2006.

Karen Schweida ('05) Newport News, VA is a Corporate Trainer for the Human Resources Technology Department at Ferguson Enterprises.

Christa (Crawford) Thompson ('03) Alexandria, VA is a Professional Staff Member for the Senate Appropriations Committee. She is married to Matthew Thompson (CNU '04).

Jeremy Wall ('06) Newport News, VA was promoted to Unit Director and Target Outreach Coordinator for Gang Prevention at the Boys & Girls Club of the Virginia Peninsula.

Brad Webb ('02) Fairfax, VA graduated from American University with a Master's Degree in Film and Video. One of his original films won an award at the Georgetown Film Festival.

Jeana Willis ('06) Newport News, VA is employed as an Admissions Representative for Bryant & Stratton College in Virginia Beach.

Editor/Graphics:
Mary D. Best
mdbest@cnu.edu



