

Teacher Preparation Newsletter

CNU

Fall 2005

Volume 1, Issue 1

Christopher Newport University--where highly qualified students become highly qualified teachers.

Fully Accredited

The purpose of the Teacher Preparation Program at Christopher Newport University is to develop new teachers who have a strong foundation of content knowledge and pedagogical skills appropriate to teach a diverse student population. The Office of Teacher Preparation works with an excellent interdisciplinary faculty and its partner school system, Newport News Public Schools, to prepare students to become competent, caring, and committed educators.

This past spring, the CNU Teacher Preparation Program underwent accreditation review by the Virginia Department of

Education. The program received full accreditation by the Virginia Department of Education for a maximum of seven years. This accreditation will allow Christopher Newport to continue its commitment of recruiting highly qualified students and preparing them to become highly qualified teachers.



100% Hire Rate

This past May, nineteen students completed the new Teacher Preparation Program at Christopher Newport University. Ten students graduated with their Master's of Arts in Teaching, but all earned their licensure to teach

in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Teacher Preparation Program is proud to report a 100 percent hire rate for all of those students who completed the program. Employing

schools systems include: Newport News, Hampton, Poquoson, York County, Charles City, Portsmouth, and New Kent County.

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Want to contribute to the growing success of the Teacher Preparation Program at Christopher Newport University? Then please go to CNU's home page at www.cnu.edu and click on Giving. You can make an online pledge or donation, or you can send a check. Please make sure to designate your gift to the MAT-Teacher Preparation Program. Thank you in advance for your support!

MAT Students On The Move

This semester a number of the Master's of Arts in Teaching (MAT) students participated in conferences around the state of Virginia. Katherine Romanish, Guy Fix, and Heather Schnell not only attended the Virginia Art Education Association conference in Williamsburg, Virginia, but also presented at a Norfolk Public Schools teacher in-service workshop. This was a unique opportunity for these aspiring art teachers, providing them with not only great ideas and techniques for their future art classrooms, but also providing them with conference presentation experience.

Dr. Roark Mulligan and Ms. Imogene Bunch, members of the CNU English

department, escorted several students to the Virginia Association for the Teachers of English Conference in Roanoke, Virginia. The students engaged in several workshops and listened to several different multicultural readings from local authors, but the highlight of this particular conference was listening to and meeting contemporary author Nikki Giovanni.

Dr. Puaca, a member of the CNU History department, escorted Erin Stevenson, Katie Graham, Heidi Campbell, and Tiffany Cleckler to the Virginia Social Studies Educators Conference at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center this past November. These students were able to gather ideas and resources for their future history

classrooms.

Nicole Crayton and Beth Guthrie got the pleasure of attending the Virginia Science Teachers Association Convention also in Roanoke,

Virginia. Nicole and Beth attended several helpful workshops and stocked up on free teaching supplies for their future elementary classrooms.



Heidi Campbell, Katie Graham, Dr. Puaca, Erin Stevenson, and Tiffany Cleckler at the Social Studies Conference in Roanoke, VA.

Author to Speak at Christopher Newport University

The Teacher Preparation Program in conjunction with the Christopher Newport University Chapter of the Student Virginia Education Association are pleased to welcome Phillip Done, author of [32 Third Graders and One Class Bunny: Life Lessons from Teaching](#) to Christopher Newport University at 5:00pm on Friday, February 17, 2006.

Mr. Done taught elementary school in California for twenty years, and was nominated for Disney's Teacher of the

Year and several other distinguished honors. In his book, Mr. Done recaps his hilarious and heart warming experiences as a third grade teacher. Mr. Done promises to offer words of wisdom and motivation for both current and future educators.

This event is free and open to the general public. To reserve your spot for this event please RSVP to the SVEA at svea@cnu.edu. The location of this event will be emailed to those who have reserved a spot during the first week of February.

"It is a testament to the kids who uplift us-and the teachers we will never forget."

-Hal Urban on [32 Third Graders and One Class Bunny](#)

Alumni In The News

Ellen D. Couch was recently appointed early intervention lead teacher at the Instructional Services Center for Isle of Wight County Schools. She is a former third-grade teacher at Carrollton Elementary. Her credentials includes a Master's degree with an emphasis in Language Arts from Christopher Newport University.



Michelle Rice, a graduate of the Master's program in 2001 with a history endorsement recently earned her National Board Certification.

Claire Jernigan also recently received her National Board Certification. Claire too is a graduate of Christopher Newport's Teacher Preparation Program, and is currently teaching eighth-grade

civics and economics at Smithfield Middle School.

Congratulations to all! If you are an alumni of the program and would like to share an achievement, please contact the Office of Teacher Preparation at MAT@cnu.edu.

Music Program in the News

Dr. Koster, head of the Music Department at Christopher Newport University and several other faculty members and students attended the 2005 Virginia Music Education Association (VMEA) Conference in Norfolk Virginia.

Amy Holzbach, a current choral music education student at CNU and former graduate of Altee High School in Mechanicsville Virginia, was elected President of the Collegiate VMEA. Amy will lead approximately 600 colligate members of the VMEA in Virginia.

Anthony Colosimo, also a senior at Chris-

topher Newport University, was elected Vice-President of the Collegiate VMEA. Anthony has had an exciting year, including sharing the stage with famed Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli.

Dr. Koster believes Amy and Anthony were elected, "because of their potential for strong leadership and reputation that CNU is gaining in the state as a leader for music education study at the undergraduate level."

Amy and Anthony will work closely together with Dr. Koster, who was also appointed state chair of Collegiate Activities,

planning three state conferences for the colligate members of the VMEA.

The Office of Teacher

Preparation extends its congratulations to Amy, Anthony, and Dr. Koster for all of their hard work.



Anthony Colosimo pictured here receiving applause from Andrea Bocelli

Free Teacher Workshops

Graduate Assistant, Beth Guthrie has searched high and low on the internet and throughout the community to bring you an exciting list of FREE teacher workshops available in Virginia.

These workshops cover the core subjects for elementary, middle, and high school. Simply go to: <http://teacherprep.cnu.edu> and click on the Free Teacher Workshops and Other Professional Development Opportunities link. There you will find a list of links to web pages explaining each free workshop and when they are offered.

Or you can print out a complete list of the workshops by clicking on the Free Teacher Workshop Flyer link.

If you know of any other free workshops and would like to share them with your colleges, please e-mail MAT@cnu.edu with the information.

Note: These workshops are not affiliated with the Teacher Preparation Program at CNU. Times, dates, and workshops are subject to change without notification.

Giving Back

This semester the student chapter of the Virginia Association for the Teachers of English (VATE), and the student chapter of the Virginia Education Association (SVEA) held several drives to benefit the Newport News Public School system, which partners with the Teacher Preparation Program to pro-



School supplies and cartridges collected by the SVEA

vide students with classroom experience.

In September, the SVEA ran a school supply drive, collecting over four large boxes of supplies for Carver Elementary School.

Throughout the past two semesters, the SVEA has been collecting used printer cartridges and cellular phones

which Watkins Elementary turns in for money to help purchase needed items for their school.

VATE also ran their annual book drive this semester. Collecting new and gently used books for the students of Hidenwood Elementary School.

Keep an eye out for further drives that help give something back to the community at-large.

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