



# THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

THE VOICE OF CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

@CNUCAPTAINSLOG WWW.THECAPTAINSLOG.ORG

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## *The state of free speech*

Campus policies and recent history are potential causes for alarm regarding CNU students' civil rights.

BY JACK JACOBS

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The conflict over free speech rages on college campuses across the United States. CNU has its own struggles with free speech, with ambiguous policies open to administrative abuse and past instances of media censorship.

The issue of free speech has erupted in recent

weeks at the University of Missouri. Students, faculty and staff protesting recent racially charged incidents on the campus confronted student journalists covering the protests and attempted to force the journalists to leave the area, according to USA Today.

While CNU has not seen similar behavior in recent memory, the university has policies that can potentially impede free speech and has

obstructed student protests in the past.

According to the Foundation for Individual Rights in Higher Education (FIRE), CNU is rated as average in terms of freedom of speech with an overall yellow light rating.

FIRE is a nonprofit organization that focuses on civil rights issues in higher education.

FREE SPEECH CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

FIRE gives CNU a yellow light rating due to campus policies that it thinks could potentially infringe on student rights. MACY FRIEND/THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

## In Paris as terror strikes

A CNU student visiting Paris while studying abroad found himself in the midst of the terrorist attacks on Nov. 13.

BY COLLIN BRENNAN

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Senior Cole Fairbanks was looking forward to his first trip to Paris with his French friends he had made while studying abroad in Seville, Spain this semester.

"I became really close with Maxime [Bonnabry-Duval] and Charles [Regnaudin], two French students, and they invited me to visit them in Paris," said Fairbanks.

"My dad grew up in Paris and I felt I already had a really strong connection with the city and was ready to have the time of my life." Fairbanks and friends were eating dinner at L'Elephant Du Nill on 125 Rue Saint-Antoine, and were ready

to hit the bars in the 11th arrondissement of Paris- a place known for "having a great night life."

At about 9:30 p.m., they walked towards the 11th arrondissement and could tell something wasn't right. "All of a sudden, we see people just coming out of restaurants and saw droves of ambulances rushing towards the 11th arrondissement," said Fairbanks. "The street was suddenly lit up by everyone on their cell phones."

Maxime and Charles initially thought it was a bad bar fight or a potential car accident. Fairbanks saw Maxime pull out his phone and look up the latest news on a French news app.

PARIS CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



The scene leading to the Bataclan theatre, where at least 89 people were killed in the attacks. PHOTO COURTESY OF COLE FAIRBANKS



Check out CNU TV's video of Knights of the Force. Watch its members talk about the Jedi and Sith and show off their light saber skills.

**Sports 10**  
Cross Country team headed to Nationals



Weekly pic

CNU’s American and Virginia flags hung at half mast on Monday in honor of the victims of the terrorist attacks that occurred in Paris Saturday. Photo by Macy Friend/The Captain’s Log

Online this week

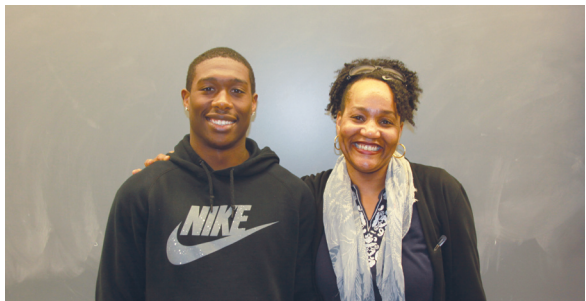
Check out these videos on our Facebook page.



**Knights of the Force: CNU’s Star Wars club**  
Check out CNU TV’s feature of campus’ very own Star Wars club, and learn more about these lightsaber-wielding students.



**IFC Lip Sync**  
Relive the pretend-musical magic of IFC’s lip sync, in which seven groups performed a variety of pop and hip hop hits.



**Student saves seizing professor**  
Hear the firsthand account of Vincent Bolden, who caught his professor Adria Lindquist, who had an unexpected seizure while teaching. Read about the two on page 5 of the news section.



Happened

**Nov. 13**  
**Beta Bubble Bowl**  
Last Friday at 7 p.m. in the Freeman Field House, Gamma Phi Beta hosted its first Beta Bubble Bowl event, a Zorb Soccer Tournament. All funds raised went to Girls On The Run and Girls Inc.

**Nov. 13**  
**The Improvateurs at William & Mary**  
Last Friday, CNU’s all-female comedy group performed at the College of William & Mary’s Commonwealth Auditorium in the Virginia College Comedy Invitational where comedy groups from across the state performed.

**Nov. 13-15**  
**Silent Sky**  
Last weekend, each night at 8 p.m., Theater CNU presented “Silent Sky,” a production based on the life and career of Henrietta Leavitt, a pioneer female astronomer. This play celebrated the anniversary of the Hubble Space Telescope and women in science. Read more on pages 8 and 13.

Happening

**Nov. 18**  
**Why History Matters: The 800-Year Anniversary of the Magna Carta**  
Tonight at 6:30 p.m. in the Gaines Theatre, the Public History Center will host a panel discussion on the 800-year legacy of the Magna Carta, with panelists from CNU and William and Mary.

**Nov. 19**  
**IJM Fashion Show**  
At 7:30 p.m. this Thursday in the Music and Theatre Hall, CNU’s chapter of International Justice Mission will host a show on ethical clothing choices. Tickets are \$4 presale in the DSU, and \$5 at the door.

**Nov. 21**  
**CAB Presents... Chicago Boyz: Acrobatic Team**  
This Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Gaines Theatre, a professional gymnastics troupe of young men and boys from Chicago will perform acrobatic stunts, tricks and tumbling routines.

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**THE CAPTAIN’S LOG** is the official student newspaper of Christopher Newport University. It is a public forum, which is published Wednesdays throughout the academic year.

**THE EDITOR** welcomes letters from readers. Editors reserve the right to edit letters for length and AP style, as well as to refuse publication. An email with a “.doc” attachment is preferable. Reach us through:

- **Email:** clog@cnu.edu
- **Drop off:** The Captain’s Log newsroom, DSU Suite 393

**JOIN THE STAFF** The Captain’s Log is always open to students who are interested in writing, photography and editing. Editors assign stories every Sunday at 7 p.m. in the Jefferson Room of the DSU.

**WANT TO ADVERTISE?** Circulation inquiries, advertising rates and policies are available upon request via email at clog@cnu.edu or telephone at (757) 594-7196. For more information, visit our website at thecaptainslog.org.



# FROM THE FRONT PAGE

## Terror in Paris



Senior Cole Fairbanks just barely avoided the violence of the Paris terrorist attacks. This map shows the path he took that night and the locations of the two attacks closest to him. Start at 9 p.m. at L'Elephant Du Nil below.

### 2 a.m.

**Bataclan:** “My stomach just dropped. The whole area just had a feeling of death. There was just bodies lying there.... motionless,” said Fairbanks. “The ones that were alive had to go back in the concert hall. They had to identify the bodies.”



The streets by the **Bataclan** concert hall, where at least 89 people lost their lives, were crammed with ambulances, ready to rush the injured to a nearby hospital. The rescued hostages wrapped themselves in tin foil blankets while they talked to the police and paramedics.

### 10:30 p.m.

After being within a block of the first attack near 11th arrondissement, Fairbanks and company crammed into an apartment on **72 Boulevard Beaumarchais**. Little did they know they were now minutes away from Le Bataclan—the concert hall where hundreds were being held hostage by the terrorists.

72 Boulevard Beaumarchais



Cole Fairbanks marked himself safe during Paris Terror Attacks.

19 hrs · 2

### 10 p.m.

Fairbanks kept family and friends updated on his condition through the use of social media, and at one point during the night he said Facebook asked him if he was safe. “It was really Facebook that were the first responders in terms of letting people know we were safe, not the American embassy.”

### 9:30 p.m.

They walked towards the **11th arrondissement** and could tell something wasn't right. “All of a sudden, we see people just coming out of restaurants and saw droves of ambulances rushing towards the 11th arrondissement,” said Fairbanks. “The street was suddenly lit up by everyone on their cell phones.”

## Aftermath

Once the attacks were complete, Fairbanks and others felt safe to leave their place of shelter and experience the aftermath of the attacks. As of today, these attacks have claimed 132 lives.

This map tracks Fairbanks' path during that night and shows just how close he was to the center of the attacks. **GOOGLE MAPS/ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOSH REYES/THE CAPTAINS LOG**

### PARIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“My friends started speaking frantically in French. Maxime turned to me and said in English ‘this is probably going to ruin our night,’” said Fairbanks.

“At the time we didn't know the severity of the attacks, we just knew we had to get off the streets. Many of Maxime and Charlie's friends in the area were telling them they heard gunshots and that we should take shelter immediately. One of Maxime's mutual friends provided us a place to stay,” he said.

“The concert hall was just blocks away from us,” said Fairbanks. “As we saw the death toll rise we realized how close we were to getting killed. We felt like we were 300 yards away from death the whole night.”

Stuck in a stranger's apartment, Fairbanks watched the

horror unfold on television. Knowing the news would quickly spread to America, Fairbanks got in touch with his parents.

“At the time I don't think my parents knew how close we were or how severe the attacks were, as the news was just starting to reach the states,” said Fairbanks. “As I was on the phone with my mom, her phone buzzed with a ‘breaking news’ notification. Suddenly the whole world knew what was going on.”

Reports came in of coordinated terrorist attacks across Paris, claiming 132 lives.

Even in the shelter of an apartment, Fairbanks and company were still physically and emotionally shaken by the transpiring events.

“We were supposed to feel safe, but you couldn't help but think what was next. Is the next attack going to be across the street from us,” said Fairbanks. “That was the worst feeling, the

feeling of being trapped.”

Hours later around 2 a.m. locally, Fairbanks and company felt it was safe enough to see for themselves first-hand what had taken place.

They walked to the concert hall and found scores of people wrapped in tin foil blankets talking to police and paramedics.

“We walked by a young couple—a woman with a tin foil blanket wrapped around her and mascara running all over her face and a man with blood all down his shirt and pants. Both had a stale look on their faces,” said Fairbanks. “We knew then they were hostages.”

The closer they walked towards the concert hall, the more unsettling it became.

Fairbanks walked around to the back of the theater where about 20 people talked with police, bodies laying around their feet.

“My stomach just dropped.

The whole area just had a feeling of death. There was just bodies lying there motionless,” said Fairbanks.

“The ones that were alive had to go back in the concert hall. They had to identify the bodies....After seeing those bodies on the street, I feel like I saw those people on the street an hour ago dressed like me and ready to have a good night.”

Fairbanks said one of the most telling moments of the whole night was when one of the authorities at the scene yelled out one message to the survivors: “If you need a psychiatrist, the state will provide you with one.”

French police then spotted Fairbanks and his friends and told them to turn around.

That was as close as they would get to the scene all night.

“As we walked back, the same cop that told us to turn around went by us. Maxime asked him

in French what had happened, what did he see. When I asked Maxime what he had said, he struggled to translate the cop's feelings into words and eventually said, ‘you don't want to go down there, there are bodies lined everywhere,’” said Fairbanks.

Fairbanks and company went back to the apartment on 72 Boulevard Beaumarchais and got what sleep they could.

Fairbanks hopes to return to Paris before his semester abroad finishes in December and urges students who plan on studying abroad in Europe to continue with their plans and not miss an opportunity of a lifetime.

“It doesn't matter where you are, this can happen anywhere,” said Fairbanks. “The French attitude is a very defiant one, if we are scared and don't go out, if you are afraid to live your life, the terrorists have already won.” ■



## SDEC protests policy on trip accommodations

SDEC, administration spar on student accommodations for a conference and on campus.

BY RACHEL WAGNER  
RACHEL.WAGNER.15@CNU.EDU

Student Diversity and Equality Council hit a snag while planning accommodations for a conference held at Elon University when a request for a male and female to share a hotel room was denied by administration.

Administration's ruling prompted SDEC to send a letter to Dean of Students Kevin Hughes on Nov. 10 urging a change to CNU policy forbidding males and females from sharing accommodations both on and off campus.

Kathrine Scott, executive vice president, said no such restriction exists in writing in any university policy.

The letter explained SDEC's "disappointment in this policy" prohibiting students of the opposite sex from rooming together during travel.

The letter stated that the accommodations policy is "upheld for the same reasons as gender-based housing," which assumes heteronormativity of students, that gender is binary, and there is a "risk management and liability issue with opposite-sex roommates, but not same-sex roommates."

SDEC has worked for several months on a gender-neutral housing initiative for CNU to adopt.

If enacted, a gender-neutral housing policy would create spaces in residence halls for both males and females to cohabitate.

"Our campus must become more responsive to the fluid nature of gender and sexual identities, especially when we know that we have a LGBTQ+ presence on our campus," the letter stated.

The letter asserted that the denial of the hotel request is "a perfect example of why SDEC has chosen to support a gender neutral housing option," and reminded Hughes of its work on the formal proposal with an implementation plan for gender-neutral housing.

In a closing statement, the letter reads, "we hope you will address this matter seriously and further support us in our attempt to create an inclusive campus community."



Student Diversity and Equality Council has worked to create a gender-neutral housing option, saying it will create a more comfortable environment for students. No official proposal has been sent to administration. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MACY FRIEND/THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

Hughes responded to the students while they were at the conference. According to Scott, the email acknowledged that he saw it and gave it a "quick review," and that if the students needed to discuss it further, he would be willing to do so.

On Nov. 3, a resolution was passed by the over 30 campus organizations on SDEC's council in support of gender-neutral housing.

SDEC proposed three reasons for why gender-based housing is discriminatory or why gender-neutral housing is needed in its letter to Hughes.

Gender-based housing works on the assumption that everyone is heterosexual, that everyone identifies as male or female, and that everyone is most comfortable rooming with someone of the same sex, SDEC said.

The proposal for gender-neutral housing is an opt-in program that allows students to room with the gender they are most comfortable living with.

Because the program is opt-in, SDEC feels that it would not affect the rest of the student population other than those choosing to participate.

SDEC challenged the notion

that gender-neutral housing is immoral because romantic couples may try to live together.

SDEC's response to this, according to Scott, is that "it's not the university's role to manage sex."

"Also, right now, two homosexuals could be living together," she said.

It would follow that the university is not currently stopping potential sexual relations between roommates through gender-based housing, Scott said.

"There's already roommate conflict and so we don't believe

that it really adds that much more complication," Scott said.

The fear of complications is not enough to take away the opportunity for students to live in their most comfortable environment. SDEC plans to present an official proposal to administration next semester.

SDEC intends to continue to push for the gender-neutral housing proposal and not allow administration to forget about the initiative, she said.

"We are definitely not going to let the fire go out," Scott said of the initiative. ■



# The state of free speech

Campus policies, recent history are potential causes for alarm.

**FREE SPEECH**  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A yellow light rating is given to “institutions with at least one ambiguous policy that too easily encourages administrative abuse and arbitrary application,” according to FIRE’s website.

CNU has several yellow light policies due to restrictions on student protests and some ambiguous language.

“Individuals and organizations wishing to exercise their freedom of speech or ‘the right of the People peaceably to assemble,’ must register with the Dean of Students at least 24 hours in advance,” according to page 66 of the student handbook.

The university determines the location of the assembly, though organizers are consulted, according to the student handbook.

Should notice be given in less than 24 hours advance, the handbook states that the university will attempt to grant the request.

While CNU’s assembly policy is considered problematic by FIRE, requests to assemble are allowed on shorter notice now than in the past.

In 2012, the now-defunct Feminist Alliance asked permission to protest a rally for then-vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan held on Sept. 18, but was denied due to failure to put in the request within 10-days notice.

CNU policy states that student protests require a 10-day notice to receive permission to assemble, according to a Captain’s Log article.

According to a Daily Press

article, Paul Ryan’s visit was announced on Sept. 14.

Despite calls for an exception, the Feminist Alliance wasn’t allowed to protest Ryan’s rally.

CNU announced its switch to a 24-hour notice policy on Sept. 25.

Page 39 of the student handbook defines abusive conduct as “any actions against one’s self or others that causes physical injury, intimidates, harasses, threatens or otherwise interferes with another person’s rightful actions.”

Obscene conduct is “any conduct or expression that is lewd or indecent that is not constitutionally protected speech,” as defined on page 48.

What is considered indecent is not specifically defined in the student handbook.

On page 60, all student advertisements, such as DSU banners and flyers, must “avoid degrading, disrespectful remarks or advertisements.”

What constitutes degrading or disrespectful remarks is not defined.

Students are forbidden from using “mail or messaging services to harass or to intimidate another person, for example, by broadcasting unsolicited messages, by sending unwanted mail, or by using someone else’s name or User ID,” the handbook states on page 73.

CNU does have several policies considered green lights by FIRE.

Among them, an advertised commitment to free expression and campus policies on sexual harassment.

In recent years, The Captain’s Log has faced challenges in the course of reporting, specifically

a university initiative to pull funding for the print edition of the paper and instances of paper theft.

In May 2011, administration announced that the 2012-2013 academic year would be the last for a school-funded print edition of The Captain’s Log as part of a green initiative, according to the Daily Press.

Captain’s Log staffers said they believed the initiative was prompted by a shift to investigative reporting by The Captain’s Log.

The university denied the claim.

The university ultimately decided not to end funding.

Newspaper theft has also been an issue on campus.

In April 2012, student employees stole issues of The Captain’s Log in order to hide a front-page story about a meth lab bust on campus from campus tours, according to the Daily Press.

Staffers from the Office of Admissions returned about 400 missing issues after Captain’s Log editors contacted administration.

Administration denied involvement in the incident.

About 700 issues were stolen by a student in September 2011, according to the Student Press Law Center, an advocate for student First Amendment rights.

The student was upset about a story about a former CNU police officer arrested on charges of fraud and forgery, according to the SPLC’s website.

Legal action was not pursued in either instance. ■

## A hero in the classroom

Teachers are the usual heroes in schools, but students can perform their own heroics.



Vincent Bolden caught his professor, Aria Lindquist, as she collapsed from a seizure during class. **BEN LEISTENSNIER/THE CAPTAIN’S LOG.**

**BY MARY ROBERTSON**  
MARY.ROBERTSON.13@CNU.EDU

Professors regularly stress the importance of attending class for academic purposes, but sometimes class attendance can help save lives.

On Monday Nov. 2, accounting professor Aria Lindquist was teaching her 6 p.m. accounting 201 class like normal. Then her hands started shaking and reflexes started slowing.

Vincent Bolden, a senior and member of the football team, was sitting close to Lindquist and could see something was wrong. One of his former football coaches had a seizure, and Bolden recognized the signs in Lindquist.

She began to seize and collapsed. Bolden caught her just before she hit her head.

Once she fell, “everything happened pretty quickly,” Bolden said. “Someone helped me roll her onto her side while someone else went and got the

teacher in the next classroom.”

With no medical history that would warrant a seizure, this episode came as a shock.

After an MRI and CAT scan, the doctors concluded that the seizure was a result of drinking green tea with ginger and ginkgo biloba, which increase the chance of seizure when combined.

Since the incident, no known issues have arisen as a result of the seizure, and Lindquist was back in the classroom a week later—just as cheerful as ever. “What if [Vincent] had not come to class that day? What would have happened to me then?” Professor Lindquist said as she stressed the importance of always going to class.

“You never know what will happen in class. You drink some tea and you have seizure.”

To learn more about seizures, such as signs of an oncoming one and what to do if someone has one, visit [www.epilepsy.com/learn](http://www.epilepsy.com/learn). ■

## Office of Counseling Services: Giving CNU students a helping hand

Making use of the counseling office isn’t as complicated as some students may think.

**BY MELANIE OCCHIUZZO**  
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The end of the semester spells stress for some students. The Office of Counseling Services (OCS) stands ready to help students through challenges, be they related to exams or personal life.

“A student is going to find a person sitting across from them who is compassionate and shows empathy,” Del Ray Honeycutt, assistant director of counseling services, said.

Honeycutt is also a licensed

professional counselor. ■

The OCS encourages students to contact the office through a phone call, or just dropping in at the office in the Freeman Center.

The OCS sees an increase in appointments during exams, end of college stress and going into college stress, and can help students during those times.

Students can arrange a first appointment with any free clinician based on scheduling.

Every student is going to be offered the same level of professionalism and care when they

step inside the office, Honeycutt said.

At the first appointment, patients are introduced to the services the department offers and the expectations between client and clinician.

The services that the center offers fall under three main categories: individual sessions, group sessions and consultations.

Individual and group sessions see students, alone or in a group respectively, to receive counseling support.

A consultation is when a student comes in on behalf of another student expressing concern for that student’s well-being.

The OCS also provides crisis

walk-ins for emergencies.

Once a student’s needs have been evaluated, a second appointment is made to provide follow up treatment as needed.

The center uses a brief therapy model to counsel students.

The brief therapy model looks to reduce the symptoms presented rather than give solutions associated with long-term therapy.

The center is free for all students to utilize.

Clinicians can refer a student to a third party counselor if needed.

Only a licensed psychiatrist can give medication to a student, but clinicians can refer students to them.

All of the services provided

are completely confidential.

The center’s primary goal is to give students a safe place to go and express their feelings.

The Office of Counseling Services will be collaborating with the Office of Student Activities during the Stress Less Week.

Together the offices will promote positive coping habits during exam week. ■

### Contact the Office of Counseling Services:

**Hours of Operation:**  
Monday through Friday,  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
**Phone:**  
(757) 594-7047



## Staying strong through challenging year

The CNU Football team had a challenging season, but its players feel prepared to take on future obstacles.



Although the team had its first losing season in CNU football history, the Captains ended the season with a three game winning streak and managed to pull off a major upset against nationally-ranked rival Salisbury for the program’s 100th career win. PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID FURROW



**ANDRE TORAN**  
CNU TV INTERN

was one comprised of intimidation and tradition and marked by prosperity.

As a member of the team myself, success is something that is expected. These expectations were shattered this year as we ended the season 4-6.

The 2015 CNU Football team will go down as the school’s first losing team in football history. As the year pushed forward and I began to realize more losses added up than wins, I was baffled. A program entrenched in nothing but glory and high standards would for the first time be seen as losers. Nay-sayers would label us as failures or under-achievers. Even the most loyal supporters of the team would make up excuses for us such as, “It’s okay that they are struggling, they have moved into

a new conference.”

Albeit, it was the team’s inaugural season in the New Jersey Athletic Conference, but at the end of the day football is football and we were still expected to line up on that field and perform.

We hit our lowest of lows after our sixth straight loss to Frostburg State 19-14 on Oct. 24. The comments from outsiders progressively became more and more negative every week.

I would walk the campus or sit in the dining hall and overhear fellow students and occasionally staff talking about how we sucked. Jokes were made on a consistent basis but never did we tuck our heads and hide from the fog of negativity.

The Monday before the Halloween weekend, fresh off the loss to Frostburg, I sat in my locker before practice and thought about all the comments and hateful assertions made about my team and band of brothers. Sitting there pondering brought me to the realization that this team was not a losing one. Yes, we were losing games, but how we conducted ourselves everyday did not reflect the image of a team that is accustomed to losing.

Not once did my teammates turn on one another. Not once did we feed into the negativity of our surrounding environment. Not once did my brothers give in. Not once did we quit.

We came to work every day and pushed each other to improve. We understood that the wins were not piling up as they usually do, but every

weekend we went out and put it on the line for the man next to us. We were able to trust in our coaches and trust in each other.

The losses were, in my eyes, a reality check for a program that was used to the taste of success. The tests we faced only bettered us as men and as a team.

We were not finishing games or executing our assignments well enough to produce wins, but our struggles were only a setup for our eventual testimony.

On Oct. 31, we were able to upset Salisbury University 51-39, a rival of ours and the 18th-ranked team in the nation.

As a team we decided to stick together. This decision took us out of the darkest place in the program’s history and catapulted us into one of the most memorable moments in the program’s history as our Head Coach, Matt Kelchner racked up his 100th victory.

Once this team tasted victory, we became addicted to it and returned to our familiar ways. Our team ended the season on a roll, winning the last three games. The season came to an end on Nov. 14 as we defeated Southern Virginia University 51-7.

A team seen as a disappointment at one point made the choice to band together and ended the season with the flavor of success fresh on their lips, ready for the next season to come. ■



# Talking about race still matters

The hashtag is intended to draw attention to and address racism.



**BREA GILLIAM**  
CNU TV INTERN

I'm sure many of you are tired of hearing the phrase #Blacklivesmatter, but I'm tired of being discriminated against.

So here it goes: black lives still matter, and talking about race is still important. Recent events at the University of Missouri are proof that the conversation about race has to continue.

Our society and our campus cannot ignore

this problem just as racism was ignored at the University of Missouri.

Behavior that may have started off as small, everyday "get over it" situations escalated into undeniable acts of racism.

How embarrassing it must be to be told that racism no longer exists; yet it appears on the walls in your college halls and the president does nothing about it.

Black students across the United States stood in unity against the tragic racial events that happened at the University of Missouri.

Students from our own Black Student Union sponsored a table in the DSU with information about what occurred at the University of Missouri to inform students. #PrayforMizzou became a trending topic on Twitter following the protests, and is still trending.

Black students are subject to racial slurs on campuses, yet college administrations are slow to address these issues.

It is unacceptable that it took a swastika drawn with human feces in a residence hall for serious actions to be taken at the University of Missouri. For someone to anonymously say that they would shoot all the black people on campus is uncalled for.

The problem will not go away by the president's resignation, or any other "acts of sympathy." Racism is the result of being steeped in years of racist behavior, and it won't go away until we change that hatred and the learned behaviors that have been picked up over hundreds of years.

All lives matter. But right now we're talking about black lives. Police brutality, racial slurs and injustice on college campuses victimize blacks in particular.

Black lives haven't always mattered to society when looking through history. About 125 years ago in the 1890s, lynching Negroes was at its peak. During this time, lynching photographs were saved as souvenirs or sent as postcards.

Responding with #Alllivesmatter is essentially saying we should return to the status quo of ignoring the problem. Ignoring the problem means allowing for blacks to continue facing discrimination and harsh punishments or treatment simply because of their skin color.

When we say black lives matter, we're saying racism, racial profiling, and police brutality are wrong, and something needs to be done to fix the problem. ■

# Support our troops and mean it

The government must do more to help our veterans.



**CHRISTOPHER GABRO**  
STAFF WRITER

Veterans protected us overseas, and now when they return to the country they defended, they are treated without the respect they deserve. Though we grant them an annual national holiday on Nov. 11, they are not receiving the recognition they

have earned.

A study, published by NYU Langone Medical Center and Harvard School of Public Health in 2014 reported that more than 1.2 million U.S. veterans do not have health care. Most uninsured veterans resided in states that had rejected federal funding from Obamacare (Affordable Care Act) which requested to expand Medicaid. Medicaid is the social health care program for low income citizens with limited resources.

Furthering the extent of the care that our veterans need, a 2009 report from NPR discovered that the U.S. Army removed over 22,000 soldiers for "misconduct" after the war in Iraq and Afghanistan who were actually diagnosed with mental health disorders and traumatic brain injuries.

Because of their honorable discharge from service, these soldiers are now denied benefits such as health care and retirement because they were forcibly ejected for obtaining injuries while defending our nation.

On Nov. 4, a committee of 12 senators

called for an investigation on discharges made by the Army. Senator Chris Murphy, who led the investigation, urged the Pentagon to perform a "full U.S. Army Inspector General investigation" into the allegation made six years ago.

According to a federal survey, Point-in-Time Count, the number of homeless veterans has dropped from 75,000 in 2010 to just under 50,000 in 2014. Though it is a significant decrease in homelessness, it is not a reflection of the provisions that our veterans rightfully deserve.

This substandard treatment of veterans has lead to the suicide rate of veterans to increasing 50 percent higher than the rate of average citizens, according to a 2015 Annals of Epidemiology study. The study revealed veterans who have returned from both Iraq and Afghanistan had a suicide rate of 29.5 per 100,000 people.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is supposed to serve, provide benefits for, and support to the fullest extent those who have served us. On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2015, USA TODAY reports that the VA has granted \$142 million in bonuses to executives and employees for outstanding performances in 2014—when the care of the veterans is set aside for their paychecks.

*The Washington Post* reported that as of Nov. 11 "Terry McAulliffe announced that Virginia is the first state to meet the federal definition of effectively ending homelessness among military veterans." According to the point-in-time count of 2014, Virginia had 620 homeless veterans and as of now that number is zero.

The cost of the war is not over when we pull out the last soldier; the cost of war is over when the last veteran dies. ■

LEADERSHIP STUDENTS ARE THANKING GROUPS OF PEOPLE AROUND CAMPUS. A GROUP THAT CAN BE EASILY OVERLOOKED, ARE THE WORKERS IN THE MAILROOM WHO PUT IN SEVERAL HOURS WORTH OF ORGANIZING AND NOTIFYING STUDENTS WHEN THEY GET A PACKAGE. AS A FRESHMAN WHO STILL RELIES ON THOSE CARE PACKAGES FROM HOME, I WOULD JUST LIKE TO EXTEND A WORD OF THANKS AND A REMINDER TO THE OTHER CNU CAPTAINS THAT THEY SHOULD BE APPRECIATED.

- GLENNA MILLER

IMAGE COURTESY OF CLIPART



# SNAPSHOT *LAST WEEK IN CA*

## *“Silent Sky”*

BY MACY FRIEND  
MACY.FRIEND.14@CNU.EDU

### **“Silent Sky”**

TheaterCNU's production of "Silent Sky" explored research and the role of women in the scientific field of astronomy.

Based on a true story, the play involves a group of women surveying stars at the Harvard College Observatory.

The plot focuses on Henrietta Leavitt, whose work helped Edwin Hubble prove that the universe consists of multiple galaxies.

Through astronomy and romance, the play offers a look into what it means to be part of a vast universe and finding purpose.

### **Lip Sync**

Interfraternity Council (IFC), the governing body that works with fraternities at CNU to build strong leadership and community, hosted a lip sync competition on Thursday.

The goal of the event was to raise money for Fear 2 Freedom, a non-profit mission to provide support and healing to sexual assault victims.

More than \$600 was raised during the event.

Seven groups participated in the competition. First place was awarded to Alpha Delta Pi while Gamma Phi Beta/Psi Upsilon's team came in second. Phi Mu/Sigma Phi Epsilon's team tied for third place with the Independents. ■

For more coverage on “Silent Sky,” see page 13.



Henrietta Leavitt (senior Shannon Farrow) and Peter Shaw (senior Nate Ritsema) contemplate their future together and Leavitt marvels at the idea of going on a cruise with Mr. Shaw.



Margaret Leavitt (senior Annie Hulcher) and Henrietta Leavitt embrace after Henrietta learns about their father's stroke.



The “computers”, the women who surveyed stars, celebrate as Henrietta hears that her papers on cepheids, or variable stars, have been praised by other scientists in her field and are being used to base further theories on them.



# CAMPUS ENTERTAINMENT..

## *IFC's Lip Sync Competition*



Junior Michelle Harris, lip syncing for Alpha Delta Pi, drops her “mic,” a hairbrush, after she performs “Rap God” by Eminem.



Gamma Phi Beta and Psi Upsilon perform “Cheerleader” by OMI.



Members of Zeta Tau Alpha perform “I Want Fabulous” from “High School Musical 2.”



## Nationals bound

The men's cross country team is headed to NCAA Nationals and senior Lydia Cromwell will be representing the women's squad at the meet.



(Above) Lydia Cromwell (middle) qualified for the NCAA Nationals by finishing 11th in the Regional meet. (Below) Grayson Reid (no. 350) and Billy Rabil (no. 348) both finished in the top-15 and helped the men's team qualify for Nationals for only the third time in team history. **HANNAH MCCLURE/THE CAPTAIN'S LOG**

BY BEN LEISTENSNIER  
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The Captains cross country teams' seasons aren't quite over yet, as both teams will be represented in the NCAA Nationals meet following their performance at Regionals on Nov. 14. While senior Lydia Cromwell will be the sole athlete from the women's side, the men's squad as a whole will be making the trip to Wisconsin.

For the second year in a row, Cromwell led the Captains at Regionals and qualified for Nationals.

Cromwell's 11th place finish was one of four All-Region finishes for the women, as Cromwell was joined by Logan Harrington, Abigail May and Graciela Slyer.

While the women's team finished the day in fifth place, the men ran well enough to become the Regional runner-ups. The Captains beat out Trinity by only four points for the second place finish.

The men were led by Grayson



Reid—the CAC Athlete of the Year for cross country—who finished in fifth place overall.

Like the women's squad, the CNU's front runner was joined by three other Captains on the All-Region team: Andrew Benfer, Billy Rabil and Daniel Read. The men's fifth and final

runner was only one spot away from making joining them.

Cromwell and the men's team will now prepare to travel to Winneconne, Wisc. for the NCAA National meet. It will be the third time in CNU history that the men's team will go to Nationals. ■

## Well-rounded offense leads to early success

All five CNU starters scored in double-digits as the Captains take down W&L 79-63.

BY EVAN THORPE  
EVAN.THORPE.12@CNU.EDU

For the first time in four years the Lady Captains did not have Camry Green or an upperclassman in their starting line up, meaning Sunday's game against Washington & Lee was the start of a new era for Head Coach Bill Broderick's young team.

It was a successful beginning, as five sophomores started the game and led the way for the Lady Captains in a 79-63 win.

While the Captains started off slow, in the second quarter the team increased their three-point lead to 12 behind the combined 24-point effort of sophomores Makenzie Fancher and Jalynn Ponzo.

The Lady Captains main-

tained their lead throughout the game despite the Generals raining three-pointers in the third quarter.

The team was led in scoring by sophomore Sam Porter who scored her career high with 19 points. All starters scored double figures as Ponzo scored 14, Devon Byrd had 12 while Bailey Dufrene chipped in 11.

The five sophomore starters also excelled on the defensive end as they combined for 10 steals.

The remaining 13 points for the Lady Captains all came from the team's newest additions: Zhara Tannor, Jasmine Bonivel and Jessica Daguilh.

The next challenge for the Lady Captains will be the Bridgewater College Eagles, who travel to CNU for a 7 p.m. start on Nov. 15. ■



Bailey Dufrene was one of five Captains to exceed 10 points in the team's season opener. **BEN LEISTENSNIER/THE CAPTAIN'S LOG**



# Starting their season off right

The men's basketball season began strong with a 72-56 blowout in the team's home opener over Lynchburg.



Junior Kevin Regimbal had great success with free throws, going 7-9 in CNU's 72-56 home opener win over Lynchburg College. BEN LEISTENSNIER/THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

BY EVAN THORPE  
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The men's basketball team showed signs of early success as the Captains were able to take down Lynchburg—who held a 12-7 all-time record against CNU heading into the game. The 72-56 victory avenged a 90-66 loss for the Captains at Lynchburg last season.

Junior forward Tim Daly had an all around spectacular game, leading the Captains with 13 points, while also providing seven rebounds and four assists. Tim Daly came off the bench due to an ankle injury suffered in an exhibition against ODU.

Also providing a spark off the bench was Aaron McFarland who was the Captains' second leading scorer with 12 points. The Captains had a balanced offensive attack as seven players had at least seven points in the game.

The defense held an aggressive Lynchburg offense to just 28.8 percent from the field and 20 percent from the 3-point line while causing 15 turnovers. Coach K is now 5-0 in season openers—the first of which was a 108-100 double overtime victory against Lynchburg in 2010.

The win will give the Captains the

## Up Next Randolph-Macon



Last season's record: 11-16

Series history: 18-6 RMC

Last time: 71-70 CNU (Nov. 18, 2014)

momentum they need as they prepare for Tuesday's non-conference matchup against Randolph-Macon at 7:30 p.m.

The Captains have a difficult history against the Yellow Jackets, as CNU trails in the series 18-6. The Captains have had great success against them lately, however, as they have won the past three matchups. ■

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"Replay," the newest Ferguson Gallery exhibition, makes use of technology and QR codes. **CHRIS WHITEHURST/THE CAPTAIN'S LOG**

**BY CHRIS WHITEHURST**  
CHRISTOPHER.WHITEHURST.08@CNU.EDU

Imagine an art exhibit without "fine art," without sculpture, without photography, without paintings. That exhibit is "Replay" and runs through Dec. 11 in the Ferguson Center.

Instead of paintings, patrons walk through a corridor of video stills, smartphone in hand, scanning QR codes—the barcodes attached to the displays. Using apps like NeoReader or QR Reader, you

scan a QR code on the corresponding still frame and the student's video opens up in YouTube and starts playing.

This new use of technology is a first at CNU. Professor Alan Skees of the art department said "This is the first video-dedicated show at Ferguson by students. It's a way to impose the Internet onto an exhibit." It can be difficult to exhibit digital art as opposed to the more traditional fine arts mediums. Skees said "This has been great for the digital art department, as we have many prolific

students working in the department who finally have a chance to show off their artwork."

As if the way the exhibit was set up wasn't interesting enough, the video subject-matter is a wide array of light and dark. Most of the students had no prior video experience—just a message to share.

Take student-artist Sarah Kerndt for example. She didn't set out to create pieces to be seen by others, but as a way to express herself in ways that words alone could not. Gender identity and

gender dysphoria (feeling of disconnection from your body) are primary themes running through her three pieces, which some viewers can find difficult to handle. "It is hard being young growing up knowing you're gay. Maybe people can be in my shoes for a moment seeing my work," said the junior, who also hopes to educate people with her story.

"I want to start movements and conversations," said Kerndt. She wants people who suffer from dysphoria and gender identity to "know they're not alone."

But happy art can also be powerful. Video artist Jillian Whitehurst's piece "Love Yourself" is about the power of positivity and daily self-affirmations. "You can achieve whatever you want through daily positive thinking," the senior said.

Her video flows through a series of post-it affirmations—"I am beautiful," "I have many friends," "I am going to get a parking spot today." For Whitehurst, the post-its are "everyday affirmations that encapsulate who I am. I wanted to make a video to help other people remember how easy it is to be self-confident and how powerful our minds can be."

Whether the pieces are easy to digest or eyebrow twitch-worthy, the video artworks of "Replay" exist as voices to students who have something to say. And with the inventive smartphone exhibit housing these voices, it is easier than ever for us to listen.

The "Replay" exhibit will be running daily through December 11th. Go through the front entrance of Ferguson, open the double doors, and immediately turn left to stroll through the lined hallways. ■

*Chris Whitehurst is Jillian's brother.*

## From manhole to kimono

The Falk Gallery's latest display takes the mundane and fashions it—sometimes quite literally—into something new and unique.

**BY SAMANTHA CAMILETTI**  
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The Falk Gallery never fails to present engaging and thought-provoking art. Caroline Garrett-Hardy's exhibit "Off the Street: Kimono, Collages and Paper Maché" is no exception.

Hardy is a former CNU art professor and she returns with a stockpile of creative expression in tow. With paper maché animals, collages and kimonos, Hardy reminds visitors that even "ordinary materials and forms possess an inherent beauty."

Using a wide variety of paper, including Japanese rice paper, mulberry paper, napkins, paper table mats, brochures, maps, flyers found on the street and newspaper strips, Hardy conveys the message of the importance of attentiveness. She also adds texture using paper rubbings from "utilitarian objects" like manhole covers, fire hydrants, electrical labels and commemorative plaques. "I know everyone says look up, but look down," she said in her artist talk on Nov. 5. "Look at the sides of walls. There are some really cool things." The rubbings are gathered from all over the

world, from Italy to Japan to Scotland to Spain, making them "global artwork." "Wherever I travel," Hardy wrote in her artist statement, "I gather as many impressions of these designs as I can, and then by cutting, ripping, slicing, tearing, bending, binding, sewing and stapling, turn them into utterly impractical but very visible paper garments and collages."

The inspiration to make purposeful art out of seemingly ordinary items came to Hardy in the mid-1980s in New York, where she lived at the time. She cited having to walk 16 blocks to get to work. Along the way, many ordinary utility fixtures, like fire hydrants or water lines, suddenly seemed extraordinary.

She discovered a quiet civic pride in these fixtures. "I was charmed by the fixtures, some of which seemed to have real personalities, others of which were remarkable works of design. It made me wonder: who designed these things? What kind of training did the designer have, what kind of pride did a designer of fire hydrants or manhole covers have in his or her creation?" Hardy said via email. "No one signs their work. Other



Street rubbings are transformed into kimonos. **PHOTO BY MACY FRIEND/THE CAPTAIN'S LOG**

than me, I don't think anybody on the street ever pays any attention to these things. They walk past them every day; their kids play around them; their dogs use them merely to mark their territory. But they are wonderful!"

Hardy's art is heavily influenced by Japan's "adventurous use of patterns," and her interest in the philosophy associated with yoga. "I love that Japanese art can be both beautiful and playful and serious," Hardy said. Hardy cited the Buddhist idea of "unconditional beauty" as inspiration as well. In that respect, she quoted Chogyam Trungpa:

"Art has to be done with genuineness, in the name of basic beauty and basic goodness; the purpose of a work of art is to wake people up."

Hardy hopes that through her work, visitors will be woken up and have a renewed "respect for simple things that we take for granted." Her colorful revolution of "beauty is all around us, even of the most prosaic kind," is imprinted on the Falk Gallery and will remain long after the pieces of art are taken down.

Hardy's exhibit will be available for viewing until Dec. 11. ■



# Stars align in “Silent Sky”

TheaterCNU’s latest production tells the story of women in STEM.



Seniors Natalie Buckley (Ms. Cannon), Shannon Farrow (Henrietta) and junior Charlotte Topp (Williamina) compose the astronomy “harem” of Harvard; the women work with data while the men stare at the sky. **ALL PHOTOS BY MACY FRIEND/ THE CAPTAIN’S LOG**

BY ANNIE BRADLEY  
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Science, sisterhood, discovery, mortality, love, music – all these elements can be found in “Silent Sky,” TheaterCNU’s latest production directed by Denise Gillman.

“Silent Sky” tells the true story of astronomer Henrietta Leavitt, who leaves her Wisconsin home and beloved sister to work at the Harvard College Observatory. Henrietta struggles with the obstacles faced being a woman involved in the sciences in the early 1900s, namely that Harvard won’t let her near their big fancy telescope even though they hired her as an addition to the astronomy program. Nonetheless, Henrietta is still passionate, and she spends the play trying to juggle this passion with her personal life.

The untraditional way the play handles shifts in time and location is at first a bit confusing, but becomes more clear as the story goes on.

Scene designer George Hillow has created a beautiful yet simple set for “Silent Sky,” highlighted by a huge observatory “window” that projects the night sky and constellations for the audience to see. This projection shows the audience the stars as Henrietta analyzes them, making her story seem closer than ever.

There are only five actors in Silent Sky, but these actors fill the stage with personality. Senior Nate Ritsema (the only man in the cast) has a standout performance as the affable Peter Shaw, expertly balancing the comedy and drama within the character.

Junior Charlotte Topp, playing Henrietta’s Scottish colleague Williamina Fleming, is both formidable and funny, drawing huge laughs from the audience with her boister-



Henrietta (right) tries to describe her puzzling findings to a skeptical Ms. Cannon.

ous and blunt humor and mannerisms. Senior Annie Hulcher gives a moving performance as Henrietta’s sister Margaret, but her voice is what really steals the show, though she only able to sing briefly.

“Silent Sky” does something that all good productions should do: it teaches you something new and causes you to wonder.

Still, the play is not strictly scientific; rather, it is full of human emotion and passion. Students can catch the final performances of Silent Sky this Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. or Sunday at 2 p.m. ■



Henrietta and her co-worker Peter (senior Nate Ritsema) realize they have feelings for one another, just as he leaves for Europe and she heads back home for a family emergency.

## Finals playlist

Because suffering demands a soundtrack.

BY VICTORIA LURIE  
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These songs either perfectly capture finals week, or should be played to pump you up during it. Which ones are which depend on who you are as a person.

### 1. Highway to Hell- AC/DC

For a lot of us, the week preceding finals week is its own sort of hell. There are last-minute papers and hail-mary group projects that your professor probably hates as much as you do. Since this week of hell is merely a road that leads into the REAL week of hell, voila.

**2. Like I’m Gonna Lose You - Meghan Trainor ft. John Legend.** “I’m gonna love you/ like I’m gonna lose you/ I’m gonna hold you/ like I’m saying goodbye” I sing to my decent GPA while it lasts.

### 3. Darth Vader’s Imperial March

Because there is only one soundtrack to constantly wanting to strangle the person next to you.

### 4. Confident- Demi Lovato

Nothing about finals week makes you feel good about yourself—your diet, your sleep schedule, your grades...Jam out to this anthemic pick-me-up for a few minutes and forget all that.

### 5. I’ll Make a Man Out of You - Mulan

If this song can whip Shang’s band of misfit miscreants into Hun-fighting shape, it can get you through your Ochem flash-cards.

**6. Stressed Out- twentyone pilots.** This one needs no explanation.

### 7. Focus - Ariana Grande

Preexisting medical conditions or not, almost everyone struggles with paying attention to the assignment in front of them during finals week. I’m not saying Ariana Grande can help you fix that, but her latest single can at least break up the monotony and give you a new mantra to chant as your eyes glaze over for the eighty-fifth time.

**8. Let the Bodies Hit the Floor- Drowning Pool** This frenetic track is good both for beating your desk in frustration and for chronicling all of the people around you dropping from exhaustion and adderall cocktails.

### 9. Control- Halsey

The lyrics “ all the kids cried out/please stop, you’re scaring me” is applicable to literally every part of finals week: the assignments, the threats to your GPA, your reflection...

### 10. Friction- Imagine Dragons

In the words of frontman Dan Reynolds: “Can’t take the pressure? So ease it off.” If it gets to be too much, take a break. Your mental health outweighs your end GPA.

**11. Who Needs Sleep? - Bare Naked Ladies** Hahahahahah you thought that you would get a decent amount of sleep this week? Guess again.

### 12. The Final Countdown- Europe

You didn’t honestly think I’d leave this one off, did you?



## Your neighborhood brewery guide

Tired of the same old, cheap, nasty beer? Newport News has many bars that offer unique, locally made brews.

BY CHRIS WHITEHURST  
CHRISTOPHER.WHITEHURST.08@CNU.EDU

Beer. Cheap college-party staple, or sophisticated lifestyle companion? We've all tried the basics, and the below-the-basics. So let's start a conversation about the artfulness of craft beers. These are made at microbreweries all around VA – keepin' it local. Two sources for good microbrews are in close vicinity of CNU; Schooners and Whole Foods.

Schooners, located across the street on East Campus, has a continuously rotating chalkboard of new beers to try. Schooners manager Travis said, "we stay as local as possible and listen to our customers' requests."

Whole Foods, the new grocery-heaven on the block, is prominently located in the Tech Center on Jefferson Avenue. Within the store is a beer and oyster pub, sporting one of the most diverse and hand-picked selections of craft beers in Newport News. If you're not going for their refined oysters-floating-in-vodka dish, choose from one of 15 limited and local beers. They constantly rotate once the keg runs out, so hop on over while you can (last call at 8:30 p.m.).

Annie Erikson, beer maestro at the Whole Foods Pub, said "You don't need to force an IPA on a Pilsner-lover, because the increasing complexity of tastes in craft beers allows for fun crossovers." At Whole Foods, "We rarely have duplicate kegs. Our flavors adapt with the seasons, like last week we finished a Chocolate Chili Stout in a couple days." Beers should not be a stagnant part of your luxury life as Erikson says, "Flavors, like people, adapt with the season." ■



There are plenty of locations in the nearby area to find a unique beer that isn't a Bud Light or Busch. CHRIS WHITEHURST/THE CAPTAIN'S LOG

### Schooners

#### Green Flash's Hop Head Red.

ABV: 8.1%

Location: Coming soon to VA Beach.

Type: IPA.

Like a hot headed red vixen, this Double India Pale and Red Ale tastes hard, slightly bitter, and has bite.

#### Devil's Backbone's Schwartz.

ABV: 5.1%

Location: Lexington, VA.

Type: German Style Black Lager.

The absolute smoothest lager available at Schooners.

### Whole Foods

#### Hardywood's Gingerbread Stouts.

ABV: 9.2%

Location: Richmond, VA.

Type: Imperial Milk Stout.

Tis' the season for...gingerbread beer? Subtle enough for the hardened manly man to still enjoy, the scent of this brew alone will make you melt into the season.

#### Legend's Barrel Aged Brown Ale.

ABV: 6%

Location: Richmond, VA.

Type: Brown Ale.

Another wintry beer, you can taste the unique antiquity on your taste buds. Smoother than your average brown ale, this beer finishes with a dominating smoky essence.

#### Lickinghole Creek's Bourbon Tripel.

ABV: 11.3%

Location: Goochland, VA.

Type: Tripel.

My favorite seasonal craft beer on the list, the joyous smell and taste of toffee masks the high alcohol content. Somehow these fine guys and gals crafted this special beer to taste very similar to a nice bourbon. Perfect by your fireside.

#### Peak's Fresh Cut Dry Hop.

ABV: 4.6%

Location: Maine.

Type: Dry-hopped Pilsner. This crisp and refreshing pilsner is the lightest color beer on the list. Easily the smoothest of the bunch, this organic brew is for the regular beer drinkers wanting to look hip with their big-bellied friends this holiday-party season.



# Meet Your Captains: Savannah Schutzmeister



Savannah Schutzmeister—CNU's first Arabic tutor—spent her summer in Morocco, including the city of Tangier where she is pictured above. **COURTESY OF SAVANNAH SCHUTZMEISTER**

**BY BEN LEISTENSNIER**  
BENJAMIN.LEISTENSNIER.13@CNU.EDU

While the stereotypical college language classes continue to fill up, there's been a noticeable increase in interest in the Arabic program. As a positive sign of this trend, junior Savannah Schutzmeister was hired as CNU's first ever Arabic tutor.

What started as a mere interest in global affairs during high school became much more focused once Savannah came to CNU and took classes on Islam and South Asia.

"I was always scared to study the Middle East just because it's so broad and there's so much history there. The more I learned, the more I enjoyed learning about it."

Savannah is not the only CNU student interested in studying Arabic, as this was the first year that Professor Diana Obeid—the school's only Arabic teacher—has had two ARAB 101 classes following an increase in the class size cap.

Considering the increase in interested students and the fact that she was already helping tutor Obeid's students, Savannah was a clear choice for the new position—one that she herself helped to create.

Through her classes, Savannah's passion for humanitarian aid has been fostered—particularly for the Middle East an area in great need of such assistance.

"I feel like people don't realize that what

happened in Paris happens every single day. The reason why there's a refugee crisis because the people of Syria have nowhere else to go. I feel like people don't have the mental grasp of how desperate these people are."

Savannah's studies of the Middle East have not been limited to the classroom, as she spent five weeks over the summer studying abroad in Morocco—a time she described as a "surreal experience." While there, she took Arabic classes and was able to visit places such as the Hassan II mosque, one of the only mosques in the world where non-Muslims are allowed.

She viewed her time in Morocco as being incredibly helpful in her Arabic studies. "Learning every single day for five weeks straight is what is needed to learn a language like Arabic. Being in a country that speaks it is what it takes to become fluent in such a complex language."

Savannah also believes that it was in Morocco that she discovered what aspect of international affairs she wanted to focus on: the relationship between the US military and the countries that it intervenes in, particularly in the Middle East. With that concentration, her work would attempt to find ways "to mend that relationship a little bit, innovate how to intervene in countries and whether military aid is the best method or not." ■

## Coffeehouse confessions

A collision of cultures over a cup of coffee.

**BY KELSEY RIPA**  
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Aroma's Café at Oyster Point City Center attracts a large variety of people. As soft tunes from a musician's acoustic guitar filled the air, I saw a table full of young men sharing the same undercut hairstyle, a man dressed in raggedy clothes but sporting a new pair of Beats headphones by Dr. Dre, and a young woman with aqua hair. One young gentleman in a beige trench coat, however, seemed to separate himself from the rest of the crowd as he was bent over a small table in the corner with a cup of coffee and his iPhone.

I walked over to his table, where it took a moment for him to look up from his phone and see me standing in front of him. It did not take long, however, for him to happily invite me to sit and join him in a conversation over warm drinks.

Tomoya Kuroishi introduced himself in a friendly, soft-spoken manner and immediately warned me that his English was not very good since he had only been living in America for four years. I couldn't help but smile because he had already spoken over five sentences in near-perfect English when I myself can barely speak French after spending all my high school days trying to learn it.

Kuroishi had moved here from Japan when he was 28 years old to work for Canon in Newport News. "I'm cost-engineering... to make our profitability bigger. Our head office is in Japan, and we built a factory in Newport News." Kuroishi became interested in Canon not only because of his interest in using their camera products, but also because he enjoys seeing the process of production from the beginning to the end when a customer finally uses it.

He went on to say that he should only be staying in America temporarily. Kuroishi will eventually go back to Japan where the rest of his family is. The last time he said he visited his family was for his company's "Summer Shutdown" during which he got one week off this past summer to go back to Japan to visit his family.

Living in America has been extremely different for him, but he still feels very welcome, "I really like America because I'm able to see a very different culture here, and most people are very friendly and open to everyone, which is very different from Japanese culture." He paused, and a huge smile spread across his face which he immediately tried to hide, "I personally prefer Japanese food over American food. I mean, I'm okay with American food, but I can *not* eat it every day. It's not very healthy."

We spent a good chunk of time learning about each others cultures, especially what our separate countries place an emphasis on. I mentioned that the majority of the American public anticipates Christmas the moment Halloween is over. Since Japan's main religion is Shintoism, Kuroishi explained, that "[Christmas] is usually a special event for young couples to give gifts to each other. Of course, some people spend time with their family, but it's usually seen more for young couples." He went on to explain that rather than dedicate the entire month of December to Christmas, it's really only focused on the actual days of Dec. 24-25, although some people start decorating their houses in the middle of December. After that, they ring in the New Year in the first couple days of January with a winter festival called *Oshogatsu*.

Tomoya Kuroishi was a perfect conversation partner, providing insight into his culture while showing equal interest in mine. Aroma's provided the perfect setting where two people of different worlds could come together over a warm beverage. ■



**PHOTO BY KELSEY RIPA/THE CAPTAINS LOG**



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