

CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY

# CENTER *for* COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



 **BONNER SERVICE SCHOLARS**

APRIL 21, 2016 • 5:30 P.M. • DAVID STUDENT UNION BALLROOM

**2016**  
**CELEBRATION**

A large portrait of Christopher Newport University's President, a man with light hair wearing a dark suit and a patterned tie, smiling. The text "FROM the PRESIDENT" is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

## FROM *the* PRESIDENT

In just a short time, Christopher Newport University's Bonner Service Scholars have established themselves as a force for good on our campus, and in our community. They are known to be servant-leaders and models of active citizenship that thoughtfully engage and impact others for good.

Bonner Scholars each serve and advocate for a local population an average of 300 hours per year for four years. Each student represents a positive and helpful voice, eager to engage a world that is often dark, broken and unjust, and to speak light, healing and justice into those places. This is the work that changes the world, one person at a time – these students, using their minds, hearts, hands and feet to address community challenges head on.

There is much work to be done, and we need “all hands on deck.” We need marketing majors and social work majors, biologists and political scientists, computer engineers and psychologists, all working together across sectors to address the systemic challenges in our society.

The young core of CNU Bonner alumni (last year's graduates) are already making us proud as they excel in medical school, dental school and Teach for America, just to name a few areas of endeavor. And, I have every confidence that the Christopher Newport Bonner Class of 2016 will carry forward the work as they embark on the next chapter of their story. Congratulations, and best wishes – we are proud of you.

*Paul Tribble*  
Paul Tribble

A portrait of Brad Brewer, a man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark jacket over a blue checkered shirt, smiling.

## FROM *the* PROGRAM DIRECTOR

*Overcome.* Isn't this what we all must do in varying degrees and forms at different times throughout life? I once read a quote that said, “Be kind; everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about.” The more I scratch the surface of what it means to live out “community engagement,” the more I see this is true. At its core, the work of the Bonner Program is to establish and restore healthy relationships: with self, others and our world — so we can all overcome together. It is not easy. By rejecting passivity and apathy, and responding instead to the opportunity to create something beautiful in the world, we find ourselves met with resistance: a steep climb, a learning curve, and sometimes, outright opposition. There is much to overcome, which is why we need each other.

Bonner Service Scholars sign up for this program without fully

understanding all that will be required of them or all they will receive as a result of the experience. Over four years, the Bonner Class of 2016 has persevered through the startup phase of our program; they have established new partnerships; and they were the first to journey through Tennessee together for the First-Year Cornerstone Experience. Now, they are the first of our cohorts to deliver Senior Presentations of Learning with corresponding research. This class has been pivotal to advancing our mission, and I am extremely grateful for each of them for their hard work.

Congratulations, Class of 2016. Thank you for leaving our program stronger than you found it. You have overcome much, and you have helped many others do the same.

*Brad Brewer*  
Brad Brewer





## **Welcome & Introductions**

Brad Brewer, Director, Center for Community Engagement

## **Dinner & Slide Show**

## **Keynote Address**

Robert Hackett, President, Corella & Bertram F.  
Bonner Foundation

## **Senior Presentations of Learning**

Cherith Cleaves – Peninsula Agency on Aging

Brooke Malloy & John Johnson – Newport News  
Public Schools-Special Education

Sophia Mortazavi – Refugee Resettlement Services

Niani Byrd – Menchville House

Annie Halterman – Big Brothers Big Sisters

Zee Truitt & Mariah James – Newport News Public Schools

## **Presentation of the Stoles**

## **Introduction & Recognition of Bonner Partners**

2016-17 Senior Bonner Interns

## **Closing Remarks**

Dave Doughty, Provost

# BONNER COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The success of CNU's Bonner Service Scholars Program would not be possible without the participation, dedication and support of our 15 Bonner Community Partners. While our Bonner Scholars commit to serve 1,200 hours with one partner over the course of four years, our partners commit to the development, growth and engagement of these students.

We value the collaborative and reciprocal relationships that support the Center's mission of inspiring, equipping and mobilizing students to be lifelong engaged citizens and agents of social change.

## **Hampton Roads Center for Civic Engagement**

Rich Goll, Executive Director

## **Menchville House Ministries**

Sylvia Jones, Executive Director

## **NATASHA House**

Karen Brown, Executive Director

## **Newport News Department of Human Services – Adult Services**

Eileen Bunn, Volunteer Services Coordinator  
Jean Morrison, Adult Services Supervisor

## **Newport News Green Foundation**

Happy Witt, Executive Director

## **Newport News Public Schools**

Ann Ifekwunigwe, Instructional Supervisor

## **Newport News Public Schools – Special Education**

Joan Lovegren-O'Brien, Program Administrator, Transitions Program/I'm Determined  
M. Rebecca Lenz, Gateway PEEP

## **Peninsula Agency on Aging**

Judy Hutchinson, Senior Care Coordinator and Caregiver Advocate  
Randi Chew, Marketing Manager

## **Refugee Resettlement Services**

Laura DuBois, Resettlement Education Supervisor

## **Riverside Regional Medical Center**

Carolyn Dough, Volunteer Services Director

## **South Morrison Education Center (SOMO)**

Michelle Hollins, Program Manager – Big Brothers Big Sisters

## **Transitions Family Violence Services**

Sanu Dieng, Resource Development Manager

## **Virginia Living Museum**

Shandran Thornburgh, Volunteer Services Director

## **VersAbility Resources**

Sarah Bowman, Director of Marketing and Development

## **Youth Volunteer Corps of Hampton Roads**

Laurie Sepanski, Executive Director





# CORPORATE PARTNERS

Christopher Newport University and the Center for Community Engagement are grateful for the generous and ongoing support of our corporate partners. The success, reach and impact of the Bonner Program, both on campus and within the Newport News community, would not be possible without these relationships.

Through the help of the following partners, the Center continues to support CNU's mission of enriching our students "with the qualities of mind and spirit that prepare them to lead lives with meaning and purpose."

**Ferguson Enterprises**

**Virginia Educators Credit Union**

**Safehaven Legacy of Service Endowed Scholarship**

# Our CLASS of 2016 BONNER SCHOLARS



## **Niani Byrd '16**

**Hometown:** Chesterfield, VA

**Major:** Political Science & American Studies

**Bonner Partner:** Menchville House

"Long-term, consistent service has allowed me to delve deeper into and understand the importance of becoming a part of my organization's mission and purpose. I am most proud of the relationship I cultivated with our clientele at Menchville House. Working with women experiencing housing insecurity and seeing them grow and progress to become independent has been incredibly rewarding."



## **Cherith Cleaves '16**

**Hometown:** Triangle, VA

**Major:** Communication Studies

**Bonner Partner:** Peninsula Agency on Aging

"Bonner has encouraged me to be more intentional in my relationships with others, which has been invaluable when working with site supervisors and members of the aging population. I am thankful that the Peninsula Agency on Aging allowed me to experience multiple facets of their work. I led an in-office fundraising initiative, assisted in marketing research and helped organize an aging forum for the Peninsula area."





### **Annie Halterman '16**

**Hometown:** Centreville, VA

**Major:** Psychology • **Minor:** Childhood Studies

**Bonner Partner:** South Morrison Center: Big Brothers Big Sisters Program

“Bonner has helped me truly understand that my passion for serving others can be most effective by first identifying community needs and working from those needs to develop long-term, and eventually self-sustaining, solutions. Working with youth development, I have been able to make an impact on children’s lives in many ways — from simply making a child smile to developing programs for children to become strong leaders. I hope to attend graduate school to pursue a career as a school psychologist.”



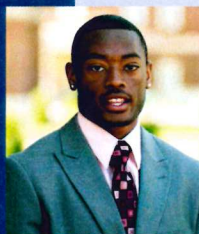
### **Mariah James '16**

**Hometown:** Arlington, VA

**Major:** Social Work

**Bonner Partner:** Newport News Public Schools (NNPS)

“Through the Bonner Program, I’ve come to understand that building relationships fosters mutual understanding and lays an essential foundation for tasks ahead. I have learned that service, at its core, is a reciprocal relationship. Working with NNPS in both the classroom and Central Office gave me a holistic view of the education system, which lead me to join Teach for America, where I will teach elementary school next year on a Lakota reservation in South Dakota.”



### **John Johnson '16**

**Hometown:** Ashburn, VA

**Major:** Biology

**Bonner Partner:** Newport News Public Schools (NNPS) – Special Education

“Being a student-athlete as well as a Bonner Scholar is a tough act to balance, but it has been well worth it. Through Bonner, I had the opportunity to work at Riverside Hospital alongside an acute physical therapist, and I also worked at NNPS in special education where I helped develop and implement the new Transitions Program. Trying to implement a brand-new program can be challenging, but it is incredibly rewarding to see a final working product.”



## ADDITIONAL MEMBERS *of the CLASS:*



### **Brooke Malloy '16**

**Hometown:** Rixeyville, VA

**Major:** Cellular, Molecular and Physiological Biology • **Minor:** Leadership Studies and Psychology

**Bonner Partner:** Newport News Public Schools (NNPS) – Special Education; Gatewood PEEP

“The Bonner Program has taught me the critical importance and impact of building relationships. Working with Gatewood PEEP, I helped young children with disabilities learn social, self-help, communication, pre-academic and motor skills. I loved working with this particular population as many of the students were also candidates for physical or occupational therapy, which allowed me to combine my service and career passions. I hope to ultimately work as a physical therapist.”



### **Sophia Mortazavi '16**

**Hometown:** Glen Allen, VA

**Major:** Political Science • **Minor:** United States National Security and Spanish

**Bonner Partner:** Commonwealth Catholic Charities (CCC) – Refugee Resettlement Services

“Being a Bonner has shown me that serving others truly creates a better community. Working with the Newport News refugee population has shown me what strength and perseverance truly are. How they have overcome challenges to learn a different culture and language and adapted new norms is inspiring. My work has fueled my passion to help refugees on a larger scale and to give a voice to others, and someday I hope to work in foreign affairs or with the United Nations working for human rights.”



### **Zee Truitt '16**

**Hometown:** Hampton, VA

**Major:** Psychology • **Minor:** Literature and Childhood Studies

**Bonner Partner:** Newport News Public Schools (NNPS)

“As a Bonner Scholar, I had the opportunity to experience many different aspects of the Newport News Public School system by working alongside guidance counselors, assisting teachers in classrooms, and developing and implementing youth development programs. My experiences have been meaningful and impactful. I am most proud of the relationship I formed with my supervisor who shows a true passion for children and education and who has given me excellent advice about life and career opportunities.”



# CLASS of 2016 CORNERSTONE EXPERIENCES



A key component of the Bonner Program is a cornerstone activity requirement for each class, each year. Following is a glimpse of the Class of 2016's cornerstone experiences:

## **First-Year Pilgrimage to Tennessee**

Our graduating Bonners pioneered the freshman cornerstone experience with their inaugural pilgrimage to Tennessee. Led by the Bonner director and a Bonner senior intern, they traveled for four days through three major cities in Tennessee, meeting with local leaders and learning about community development efforts. This intensive time in close proximity fostered a deep sense of connectedness among the new Bonner cohort and exposed students to profound shared experiences that set the tone for their four-year journey together.

## **Second-Year Exchange**

Each year, sophomores from Bonner Network schools in Virginia meet for a weekend of workshops, trainings and activities that provide context for the work they do across the Commonwealth. In Spring 2014, CNU's Class of 2016 Bonners planned and hosted the Second-Year Exchange, welcoming second-year Bonners from University of Richmond, Lynchburg College, Washington & Lee, and Emory & Henry to Christopher Newport's campus. Students had the opportunity to appreciate the scope of the Bonner Network

and deepen their understanding of specific issues concerning their regions and state.

## **Junior Capstone Experience – Junior Journey to Ecuador**

In recognition of the importance of the Bonner Program's International Perspective common commitment, the CNU Bonner Program has established a long-term partnership with Casa Victoria, a local Ecuadorian nonprofit organization run by the daughter of former President Sixto Duran-Ballen, which serves children and families in the capitol city of Quito.

As juniors, our graduating Bonners were the second class to visit Casa Victoria, Quito, and the surrounding communities. They engaged with local and national leaders, including the former president, to discuss current and future community development efforts. They also met with college students from Universidad de las Americas, visited the residents of Village 235 and completed community-requested projects at Casa Victoria.





[engage.cnu.edu/specialprograms/bonner.asp](http://engage.cnu.edu/specialprograms/bonner.asp)