Spring Registration

- The spring catalog will be mailed and available online on November 18.
- The initial course request period will be November 30 - December 7.
  Registration for open courses can still occur until January 3.
- You will be notified of your assignments on December 8 via email.

You Are Going to Love This!

We heard your comments regarding the new registration process and are pleased to announce that for the upcoming semester you will be able to prioritize your course requests and one-time lectures and activities separately! Also, nicknames can now be used for name tags.

Save the Date

Instructor Appreciation Reception
December 12th at 1:30 p.m.
Legacy Hall
4301 New Town Avenue

Help us show our thanks to our wonderful instructors!
An Open Letter to My Fellow Christopher Wren Students

Like many of you, I anticipate and greet the arrival of the Christopher Wren Association catalog with much excitement. The course offerings are always diverse and interesting. I have been taking courses each semester since moving to Williamsburg in 2006 and enjoy participating in this wonderful resource in our community. We are fortunate that Christopher Wren has allowed us to continue to enrich our lives with education.

Unfortunately some of the class offerings cannot accommodate the demands for a seat in the classroom. We do have a waiting list mechanism that allows for those interested in a class that is filled, but were not included in the original roster, to be able to take the class in the event of the cancellation of someone already registered. But more unfortunately, it appears this tool is not being used to any great extent.

This semester, at least forty-eight registrants, including myself, were put on a waiting list for a course for which thirty-five seats were allotted. During the three sessions of the course, never more than 24 students attended, denying eleven hopeful, wait listed students to experience the course materials. This is a terrible waste of a great resource.

I am asking all Christopher Wren students to take more care in registering for courses. Once registration confirmation is received, review your intentions and possible conflicting commitments and delete the course from your schedule if you are not going to attend so that someone who wants to attend the course can. All it takes is a call to the office.

Please think of your fellow CWA members the next time you are unable to attend a course.

Joe Catanzaro

HAPPY VETERANS DAY

Thank you to all of our retired and active service members and your families for your service and
Inclement Weather Policy Reminder

CWA will cancel courses/activities/events for weather if the Williamsburg/James City County (WJCC) public schools are closed to students. If WJCC Schools are delayed, CWA will continue as scheduled. A notice will be on the CWA office voice mail (757-221-1506) and on the WJCC Web site. Please note, you will not be personally contacted.

Thanksgiving Break

This is a reminder that there will be no CWA classes during Thanksgiving week. Also, our office will be closed beginning Wednesday, November 23 at noon through the remainder of the week. We hope that you have an amazing holiday with family and friends!

CWA Board News

The board continues to work on our budget. Increased expenses from our new registration system plus additional staff have forced us to use cash on hand to...
keep solvent. We also approved the already budgeted student grants to ten departments of the College of William & Mary for a total of $29,000. This is money we spend every year in recognition of our close working relationship with the college without which we could not function. We are good for several years but will eventually have to get this under control. Sooner is better than later. The Vice-President (Wil Larkin) is working with a special committee to come up with proposals.

We are looking at board term lengths and are considering the possibility of changing from two to three years in order to help with continuity and reduce the number of new board members we need to recruit each year. By May 2018 we will need to replace or extend eight board members: Public Relations, Technology Integration, Hospitality, Program Analysis, Secretary, College Relations, Town & Gown, and Special Events. We will also need volunteers to come onto these committees to fill the holes. This is a big deal in the future health of the program.

We are thinking hard about wait lists. This is a tough one that we have been fighting for years; getting the most members possible into the classes they want while being fair to those who signed up for a class but did not get it. If that sounds simple, take my word for it, it’s not. Good ideas on this (or anything else) are always appreciated.

Finally, I have visited some 18 classes so far this term plus all the Town & Gown lectures. I am so very pleased with how things are going. If you’re not moving forward, you’re moving backward. We will continue to work hard to improve Christopher Wren. However, I am personally convinced that we have a very solid program and we greatly appreciate all your support.

Bill Riffer

President, CWA
Instructor David Hopkinson welcoming students into his class, "The Rise and Fall of Domestic Servants in Early 20th Century Northeast America."
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