CWA Members Take a Spy Tour

Perhaps it was appropriate that a group of Christopher Wren Association members went on a special event trip to Northern Virginia for a “spy tour” on April Fool’s Day!

Led by recent Town and Gown speaker Francis Gary Powers, Jr., we were introduced to stories of intelligence and counter-intelligence activities and visited various espionage sites in Arlington, Georgetown, McLean, and the District of Columbia.

We then traveled south to the Cold War Museum in Vint Hill, Virginia. Located on the site of a former dairy farm, this area became an important communications base for the Army, where over 11,000 messages from 50 countries were intercepted and decrypted during World War II. We appreciated learning about such important and intriguing military history.

Town and Gown for May

Town and Gown begins at 11:45 at the School of Education, Matoaka Woods Room. (You must be registered for Town and Gown to attend. Add it to your registration online.)

May 4 The Evolution of Peacekeeping Harvey Langholtz, Director, Peace
If you have ideas for Town and Gown for the upcoming year, send an email to chriswren@wm.edu, ATTN: Connie McCarthy.

We are delighted to announce that CWA has its own Facebook page!

Rest assured, our Facebook page will not take the place of our CWA website. That, of course, is where you will continue to find general information about Christopher Wren, our current catalog, registration information, and more.

Through Facebook we hope to enhance your membership with CWA by sharing news, information, photos, and updates directly, promptly, and electronically to your mobile devices and computers.

We also plan to post information about events and activities in our community. This may include William & Mary art and theatre events, programs at the Williamsburg Library, local art shows, concerts, festivals, and more.

If you're already on Facebook, search for "Christopher Wren Association for Lifelong Learning" and "like" us. Invite your friends to "follow" us, too!

Special thanks to our dedicated Facebook Committee - CWA members Ann Rex and Joan Byerly, and community volunteer Howard Maltz - for their hours and hours of hard work to get our page up and running, and for their commitment to maintain the page going forward.

Sarah Kueser Says Goodbye

I first learned of CWA in 1994, when I arrived to attend graduate school at William & Mary and lived with my grandmother, who took CWA courses and loved them dearly. Twenty years later, after raising children of my own, I was thrilled to secure a job at CWA, the organization that brought my grandmother and many others such fulfillment. After four terrific years here, I would like to extend my thanks to our Board of Directors, our instructors, and the many students and volunteers I have come to know. I hope that I have been of service to you, and I thank you for your many contributions to our program.
I especially wish to thank my co-workers Ann, Kiandra, and Marna for making every day with them a joy. And to my supervisor and our Director, Scherry, I am so grateful to you for all you have taught me. I will miss you all!

Instructor Aleck Loker Reflects on Leaving CWA

For the past 13 years, the opportunity to participate as a student and a lecturer in the Christopher Wren Association has been a highlight of my time in Williamsburg. Starting out with a small following of students, my classes have grown in attendance over the years—something lecturers strive for.

The well-informed students in my classes have driven me to work hard to make the lectures factual, challenging, and fun. I have learned a great deal from the people who attended my courses and have striven to encourage them to ask questions and challenge my presentations.

The student feedback was helpful to me in fine-tuning the courses for future offerings and encouraging me to continue to teach. That positive feedback has kept me enthused about the Christopher Wren Association.

Ann and I have been talking about moving south for a number of years. We moved to Williamsburg in 2000—part time at first until I closed down my consulting work in Maryland—and full time for the last 13 years. Every time we got close to moving away, the opportunity to be part of the Christopher Wren Association has been the bond that kept me here.

Finally, with our 50th anniversary approaching in a couple of months, we made the decision to start a new adventure for our next 50 years in Bluffton, South Carolina. We have a beautiful new house there and will be making it our permanent home very soon. There are eight public fishing piers in Beaufort County, and I plan to use them frequently.

My new email address is lexicon1967@hargray.com. I would be pleased to hear from our friends at the Christopher Wren Association any time in the future.

All the best,

Aleck
CWA Instructors Were Recognized at the Spring Reception.

Semper Paratus--The Chesapeake Bay During the War of 1812

Why was a course on The War of 1812 being taught at the Yorktown Watermen's Museum? The answer is that it is uniquely equipped to host this class. It has the right accommodations, an outdoor classroom, a mock ship, and an instructor, Michael Steen, who believes in hands-on learning. A social
historian, Steen is interested in the clothes, speech, music, customs, and rituals of the time. With great examples of these, including his own baritone voice, he provides a most interesting way of teaching history.

Moreover, Yorktown was the site of an exciting 1812 battle. The Revenue Cutter Service (forerunner of our American Coast Guard) had a 68' schooner named Surveyor, manned by a crew of 14, temporarily trapped in the shallows. A much larger force of Navy and Royal Marines planned to take her by boarding from the shore. They eventually were successful, but not before the Surveyor crew fought so stubbornly that the British captain gave back the Surveyor's captain's sword.

One of our classes started in a tent where we looked at weapons and uniforms, and even tried them on. Then a captain was chosen, who in turn picked 14 crew members. We all walked over to the ship where the crew was drilled in towing the line, raising the sail and the foresail. Good Job - Hip Hip! After Steen sent the captain and crew back to the Surveyor, the rest of us went back to the boat where we found them with muskets, swords, and flagons ready for battle.

Back to the tent we went while Steen led us with his hand drum in "Semper Paratus" - "Always Ready."

*Contributed by Fred Eddowes*

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Staff member Marna Ashburn getting ready for another full day of courses and coffee at Discovery Park classroom.

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CWA Website

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