**MEET THE EDITORS**

Kimberley Moss and Savannah Hall

**Kimberley Moss:** I am a freshmen here at Old Dominion University. Like many students I was in search for a job. I was fortunate enough to become a part of the LEAP 1 program, which not only gave me a job that I love but gave me opportunities and experience that will forever help me in my career. Working in the Honors College as a Media Assistant has been really rewarding. I love writing, editing, and designing the newsletter along with meeting new people. Being a Media Assistant did much more then give me a part time job, it gave me a beginning to my career, and made me realize what I really want to do for the rest of my life. The people I work with feel like family and I could not ask for a better co-worker then Savannah Hall. I would highly recommend students to join Old Dominion’s LEAP program and I would also encourage students to join the Honors College and make a difference.

**Savannah Hall:** I currently work for the Honors College as a Student Media Assistant. I am a freshmen and I am apart of the LEAP 1 program. I am in charge of making flyers for events and upcoming courses. Currently, I am writing the Fall 2013 Newsletter with the help of my lovely co-worker Kim. Working for the Honors College has been a great experience. I am learning lots of new things that deal with undergraduate research, new innovative courses, and learning communities. Working for the Honors College has not only motivated me academically, but it has also helped me to achieve my academic goals. Even though my major is in Nursing, I feel as though I am adequately prepared for my future career in Nursing. Not only has the LEAP program helped me financially, but it has also helped me academically.
COMPUTERS IN HEALTH CARE

A new innovative course entitled “Computers in Health Care” has been described as “one of the most unconventional, yet valuable courses,” by Honors College student, David Jones (Marine Biology). This course is offered through the Department of Computer Science in conjunction with ODU Honors College and is taught by Professor Nikos Chrisochoides.

Last Spring of 2013, Chrisochoides recruited six students who had a variety of majors including psychology, biological sciences, psychology, business and physical therapy. He felt that having students with a wide range of interests and career goals would allow for fresh perspective and advanced thinking. His students explored an array of nonmedical technology topics that interested them and then related it back to a current problem facing health care. Chrisochoides gives his students the freedom to explore topics that peak their interest; while using a case study approach to teach about innovations in computer assisted surgery and image guided therapy. Students study how computers have displaced established medical and health care technologies. They also study how this displacement has a direct and indirect impact on health care costs.

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

National Role Models Conference

On September 28th two of our very own Old Dominion Honor College students presented Engineering Technology research at the 8th Annual Student Researchers Seminars, at the 14th Annual National Role Models Conference. At the conference George Micros and Kayla Farrow orally presented their research and findings and participated in a question and answer session. George and Kayla both placed and were awarded. George Micros was the overall winner in the Engineering field and was awarded $5000.00. Kayla Farrow placed second in the Engineering field and was awarded $1500.00.

Kayla Farrow, Virginia Space Grant Consortium

A Norfolk native, and Junior at Old Dominion University, Kayla Farrow, followed her love for engineering and took the next step in her college career: Undergraduate Research. Her journey began as a freshman after being inspired by her twin sisters, Alicia and Felicia, who both graduated from Old Dominion, with masters in civil and electrical engineering. Kayla, an electrical engineering major, talks about how she became...
Interested in this research project, “I’ve always wanted to do something with NASA, so pretty much the Virginia Space Grant Consortium, they have a lunch-in every October, and I talked with Dr. Ivan Ash, who is the former Director of Undergraduate Research,” and Dr. Poornima Madhavan is the new Director of Undergraduate Research; her contact information is 757-683-6424, pmadhava@odu.edu. Kayla’s research focuses on SansEC sensors, and she explains what her research is all about, “My research involves, these sensors; they’re called SansEC sensors. At NASA they’re trying to use them to protect planes from lightening, so they want to use them for lighting protection and damage diagnosis. I actually am simulating these sensors and looking at different aspects of them and how they will behave with lightning strikes.” Kayla Farrow is still working on this research, and explains, “this will progress into thesis work.” When asked if there were anything in particular she would like people to know about, Kayla stressed how she highly recommends students to join in on Undergraduate Research, “At the end of this interview, I just want more students to be able to go in and dive in.” When asked if she recommends it, Kayla quickly replied, “Yes! Highly recommend it; it’s the best experience ever.”

George Micros

George Micros, an Electrical Engineering major from Virginia Beach, has always found the brain and neurology very interesting. In the lab where George works, they specialize in brain-computer interface (BCI), which is a device that establishes a direct communication pathway between the brain and the external environment. “People that are completely paralyzed or they have paralytic ailments, they can’t use normal prosthetics, so we develop brain-computer interfaces that record brain signals and use that to figure out basically what they want to do and determine intent and user desire,” George explains. George uses an analogy to explain what goes on specifically in his project; it’s “like taking successively blurrier pictures of things and seeing if you can still figure out who’s in the picture, and the results I got were that essentially the accuracy remains the same, regardless of resolution.” George is currently a senior but it was in his freshmen year when someone had brought up that there was a professor, Dr. Krusienski, who was doing research, and George thought it would be cool to work with brains, and decided to speak with Dr. Krusienski. He has been involved ever since. George still works on this research on and off, with a busy schedule, but admits he doesn’t really like the word “research.” He explains that, “research just kind of means very scientific, and I don’t consider myself to be a scientist or anything, I’m just a student trying to do my homework, and when I’m bored I just look at weird stuff.”
Amanda Laverty

Amanda Laverty, a senior, majoring in Ocean and Earth Science, and minoring in Biology, is also involved in undergraduate research. Amanda explained her research project as, “focused on the potentially deadly human pathogen Vibrio vulnificus, which can be transmitted through open wounds and by the consumption of raw shellfish.” The purpose of the research project is “to evaluate whether antibiotic resistance in V. vulnificus isolated from the lower Chesapeake Bay has changed over time.” Amanda’s academic advisor, and the principal investigator of a microbiology lab in the oceanography department, Professor Dobbs, helped her get to where she currently is, Amanda states, “he encouraged me to pursue the Honors College’s summer research grant and helped me write the research proposal.” Amanda was uncertain of what field of Oceanography she wanted to go into, but she explains, “Since working with Dr. Dobbs, as well as his postdoc Despoina Lymperopoulou and lab members, I have found my calling in the wonderful world of marine microbiology, I feel that I am ever indebted to him and his lab for this reason.”

Mark Levenstein

Mark Levenstein, a current senior at Old Dominion University, has recently been awarded a Whitaker Foundation Undergraduate Grant that allows him to conduct Biomedical Engineering research at the University of Leeds. Mark, an Honors College student, explains his research of Biomicrofluidics at Old Dominion, “I focus on the fabrication of small devices that can electrically measure cellular fluid suspensions.” Mark then further tells how this research is beneficial, “from the electrical data we gather, we can determine quite a bit about a cell’s properties and even distinguish between different types of cells, having potential medical significance.” Mark feels that his being a part of the Undergraduate Research program at the Honors College “was integral to my receipt of the Whitaker Award.” “The experience I gained here gave me the skills and knowledge necessary to prove I was qualified to receive the grant and ultimately to complete the proposed research at the University of Leeds in England.” After Mark graduates in May he will continue his journey and research and will be attending the University of Leeds, to achieve his Master’s degree.

INTERESTED IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH?

For more information go to http://odu.edu/research/student/undergradresearch
What is a Learning Community?

At Old Dominion, learning communities are groups of students who connect what they’re learning with what they want to do: their majors, career choices, or their hopes for a better world. Learning Community students take one or more courses together and may live in the same residence hall.

History and Social Justice Learning Community

In the History & Social Justice learning community, there are focuses on issues of social justice relating to the issues of civil rights, school desegregation, and race relations in the United States with specific emphasis on the ways in which social rights, responsibilities, and aims are articulated and experiences in the public realm. Maura Hametz, the current professor of a History and Social justice learning community class states that teaching the class “has been a rewarding experience especially as the section I am working with right now is an honors section and the students are engaged and thoughtful.” The students seem to enjoy being apart of the learning community as well, as Maura explains, “they do seem engaged, particularly in projects that link the present to the past—for example they seemed to enjoy an assignment that asked them to consider the messages in Macklemore’s “Same Love” video that were linked to the American Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s.” Maura encourages all Old Dominion student that are interested to come out and join in, and that interested students are welcome to email her at mhametz@odu.edu.

Personal Health and Wellness Learning Community

In the Personal Health & Wellness learning community, an individual will explore fitness in relationship to mental health, body image, gender stereotypes, nutrition, popular culture, and social expectations. Each member will develop an exercise routine based on their own goals and a fitness evaluation conducted by a certified trainer. Noah Renn, a current professor of a Personal Health and Wellness Learning Community, explains that teaching a learning community is enjoyable, “I enjoy it because I get to interact with my students on a more personal level. I get to know them better, and that opens up lines of communication that I don’t get in other classes” and Noah further explains, “there’s no better way to break down the walls between instructor and student than to take Spinning and Yoga classes with them, to be right there with the class as we are all sweating buckets or twisting ourselves into the warrior position.” The students seem to enjoy this opportunity as well, as
they get to interact with other students, as Noah states, “The students definitely benefit from it. Because they are so engaged they are much more willing to give total effort into the classwork, readings, and assignments.”

Professor Renn gives an example of an experience he had while working with the learning community last fall, “I got to see my students’ smiles and hear their cheers of joy as they surfed at the oceanfront or as they reached the top of the rock wall at the SRC. Even when the activity we are doing is tough, they are so happy and proud to be in these classes.” Learning communities are a great opportunity for students to grow, along with establishing close relationships to other students and their professor, all while performing tasks that interests and benefit themselves as a person.

FORMER HONORS COLLEGE ALUMNI

Former ODU Honors College student Bryce Corlett, shared with us how the Honors College helped him achieve his goals and what his future plans are. Bryce graduated in May 2012 with a BCs in Ocean, Earth and Atmospheric Science, a minor in Mathematics, and a BCs in Civil Engineering. Bryce is from Williamsburg, VA, but currently he is living Falmouth, MA for his doctorate in Physical Oceanography. While attending ODU as an undergraduate, Bryce continued to build off of Tal’s research on flow around Meso-American Barrier Reef. Bryce investigated the pattern of ocean eddy propagation from the Caribbean current to the coast of Belize. In 2011, at the Honors College Symposium, Bryce presented his results in a poster. This project led Bryce to further his research with Tal his senior year. His findings have been turned into two published papers.

Advice that Colett gives for undergraduate students in the Honors College is to get involved with research. Getting involved with research opens the doors for internships, future jobs, and graduate school. Not only does this give students more insight to their future careers, it also gives them an advantage to having hands-on experience. By engaging in research, students demonstrate their commitment and confidence to potential employers or advisors.

“I strongly believe that the research I was able to do as an undergraduate is what has aided me in getting where I am today.”

Bryce Corlett
Dean Metzger with former Old Dominion University student and Honors College graduate, La Cheryl Ball. Ms. Ball is currently in Vet School at Virginia Tech.
STUDY TIPS FOR CHEMISTRY, MATH AND BIOLOGY

CHEMISTRY

1. Honors College student Christine Gausin, suggests to form study groups with friends. This helps students to acquire new information that they may not have already known.

2. Another tip from Amber Garofalo, is to do as many practice problems from the book as you can. Practice problems will help prepare you for a test. Also, don’t be scared to do the more challenging problems, this will help you on the test if you come across a challenging problem.

3. Do all homework! Homework can only help you. Homework gives students the opportunity to practice and homework can be as much as 15% of a students grade!

BIOLOGY

1. Honors Student Amber Garofalo, stresses the importance of taking very detailed notes. She says this was the key to her success! This helped her to understand the wording that her professor used in preparation for the test.

2. Review information from the book and notes before class. This will prevent you from feeling lost.

MATH

1. Practice! This may seem very obvious but it’s a necessity for math courses! Practice everyday to ensure that you don’t forget what you have covered in class. Practicing everyday will also help you study without being overwhelming.

2. Ask for help! Even if you have an A in the class, ask for help when you need it. Asking for help can only benefit you. Go to your professor during their office hours. Who better to ask for help than your professor? They make the test!
LEFT: A picture from the annual pumpkin drop, which is sponsored by the ODU Society of Physics Students

RIGHT: Karenia Ferguson, a Graduate Research Assistant at the Honors College, is holding a pumpkin that survived the Pumpkin Drop.

BOTTOM: Honors College students dressed up on Halloween.
Monarch Think Tank I
HNRS 201 Instructor: Dr. Shelley Rodrigo
Student Presenters: Kamren Gilliam, Dan Cox, Alexis Selby, Elizabeth Wineland, Keith Nixon, Travis Zinn

Think Tank courses were developed to provide undergraduate students the opportunity to participate in a Learning Community that focuses on a specific subject and allows the students to participate in a research project. The fall 2013 section of the Monarch Think Tank was themed on Mobile Learning. The students helped develop a qualitative study that conducted observations and interviews in ODU’s Learning Commons.

Senior Honors Colloquium
HNRS 487 Instructor: Dr. Shelley Rodrigo
Student Presenters: Ashley Lauder, Mary Tran

The course is designed so that the group enrolled function as research consultants to a unit or project on campus. The course was linked with the Think Tank courses; they collected data together with the HNRS201 students; however, the HNRS487 students designed a research project and protocol for collecting more reliable user data from individuals’ mobile devices.

English Composition: “Career Development”
ENGL 211/231 Instructor: Dr. Elif Guler
Student Presenters: Jamie Armstrong, Lauren Magner, Kayla Miller, Elena Landi, Hannah Rader

These Honors English Composition courses introduce students to principles of analysis and argumentation through a “career development” theme, encouraging students to explore the relationship between college education and workplace. The fall 2013 section of the courses focused on multimodal and multidimensional rhetoric of technical and scientific writing. First year students will share their contributions to the project “Student to Student”: Career Development, Quality of Life, Social Awareness, whose goal is to engage other students in conversations important for their success while in Old Dominion and after graduation.
UNDERGRADUATE DIGITAL POSTER SESSIONS

Honors College Teacher, Dr. Elif Guler with Dr. Brian Payne, Vice Provost, Academic Programs

Students presenting their digital poster.

Students presenting their digital poster.

Students presenting their digital poster.
Michael Peter McCann  
Criminal Justice

Patricia Blackshaw  
Biology

Robert Andrew Hite  
Biology

Codie Blake Hogbin  
Biology

Nauras Hwig  
Biology

Elizabeth A Jacob  
Music Performance, Music

Amber Justine Johnson  
Psychology

Elizabeth Susan Kassel  
Interdisciplinary Studies Primary/Elementary Education

Elizabeth Mary Manser  
Fine arts, Art (Drawing and Design)

Daniel Lee Macey, III  
Civil Engineering Technology

Narjisse Marsou  
Finance

Kali L. Meadows  
Exercise Science

Sara Christina Graham Nobles  
international Studies

Shauna Ross  
Criminal Justice

Gregory Thomas Schafran  
Mechanical Engineering

Elanor H. Squires  
Biology

Ashley Marquez  
Education
CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Brian Kurisky on successfully defending his doctoral dissertation in Higher Education. Dr. Kurisky is the Director of Advising and Academic Support for the Honors College. In January, Dr. Kurisky will be giving a presentation at the World Universities Forum in Lisbon, Portugal on the role of advising in student retention.

Congratulations to our own Dr. Metzger for being recognized as a Diversity Champion for Fall 2013. He was chosen for this award for his service and contribution to the diverse ODU Community.

Dr. Metzger wrote the forward for Timothy Richardson’s recently published book, “Contingency, Immanence and the Subject of Rhetoric.” Dr. Richardson is a former Old Dominion University student who is now an associate professor at University of Texas, Arlington.

http://www.amazon.com/Contingency-Immanence-Subject-Rhetoric-Composition/dp/1602353638/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1386190644&sr=8-1&keywords=timothy+richardson