Brian Fazzino, an ODU biology major from Richmond who graduated in December, spent his last semester serving a 32-hour-a-week internship at the Virginia Aquarium and Science Center in Virginia Beach. One of his jobs was feeding the harbor seals, including Hector, seen here trying to coax more lunch from Fazzino. At each feeding, Hector gets several pounds of small fish such as herring. ODU students typically hold internships at the aquarium during the school year and the summer. “I definitely grew up wanting to train animals, but because a lot of science education involves experiments in laboratories, I thought I’d never get the opportunity for hands-on experience with animals. This internship really gave me that opportunity.” Early this year he starts another internship with Dolphin Park in Key Largo, Fla.
From the Editor

Football and philosophy. Both are alive and well at Old Dominion University, as you will learn from articles in this issue. Monarch quarterback Taylor Heinicke winning the Walter Payton Award – the highest honor bestowed upon a player in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) – capped a phenomenally successful 2012 season in which the team finished 11-2 and made it to the elite eight of the FCS playoffs. Most of you have read about on-the-field accomplishments of Heinicke and his teammates, but you are probably not as familiar with the young quarterback’s background and what sort of student he is off the field. We asked Rich Radford, the former Virginian-Pilot sportswriter who now is a Monarch football radio commentator, to give us Heinicke in full profile, and that’s what you get on page 58.

Brendan O’Hallarn, the ODU media relations specialist who often writes for the magazine, also takes a probing look at what Monarch football – the modern era of which began only in 2009 – has come to mean for the university as a whole. It’s amazing what a successful football program can do to promote campus spirit, and how it can pump up alumni and community interest in the school.

Campus spirit isn’t all about sports, of course. Exceptional teachers create intellectual ferment and excitement among students, and play an important role in building lasting bridges between students and the college or university they attend. One teacher filling this bill on the ODU campus is D.E. Wittkower, a young assistant professor of philosophy, who is the subject of this issue’s cover article. He calls himself a philosopher of technology, but others on campus call him the Facebook philosopher. His grasp of social media and where the world is headed with communication technologies has captivated his students, and thousands more who read his layman friendly articles and books, or follow him on social media networks.

With some articles and photo spreads in this issue you will see quick response (QR) codes, the boxy matrixes that can be read by smart phones and link you to bonus content. In the coming months, you will see additional ways we will augment Monarch print content with fresh words and pictures posted online.

I hope all of the content in this issue appeals to you. Feel free to contact me at jraper@odu.edu if you have questions, comments or suggestions.

–Jim Raper
‘Anonymous No More’
That’s ODU quarterback Taylor Heinicke in the company of legendary NFL receiver Jerry Rice at the banquet in Philadelphia at which Heinicke received the coveted Payton Award.
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The Writer Behind ‘No Easy Day’
Kevin Maurer ’97 is an author of the best-selling account of the Osama Bin Laden mission.

From Tennis to Banking
Jennifer Fitzgibbon ‘89, ’92 Thrives on Competition

Classnotes
Riding the Lion

Regarding Steve Daniel’s recent “Then & Now” column on the ODU lion: I forget exactly how we ended up riding the lion that night. It was late April, two years ago, and it was unusually warm for the season.

Melissa, Cassandra, Brandi (names have been changed to protect the not-so-innocent) and I shared the same mentor, so over the past year we had grown close. Most students try to ride the lion by the end of their freshman year, I’m told. But I was a transfer student and hadn’t really thought about it until I realized it was one of the last things left on my pre-graduation bucket list.

The fountain was on when we got to the lion, so we had to wade through the water, only to realize that the bronze creature was much bigger than we had thought. For a minute, we had no idea how we were going to climb up. I think Melissa’s boyfriend, James, noticed a bench that was not nailed into the concrete, so we used that to boost ourselves up. James, who went to Norfolk State, was our videographer, so he captured all of our silly songs, dances and poses. And there were a lot.

Someone spotted a campus policeman and instantly, we were all running. We laughed so hard we cried, and we still giggle about that night to this day.

Bryoney Hayes ’10
Norfolk

1969 Protests

It seems that Steve Daniel’s column, “Then & Now,” is a real hit, last fall with the more frivolous side on ODU hangouts (ours was Ward’s Coffee Shop with the sign that read “coffee…the lubricant of thought”) and last spring with the more serious column about student protests. I was glad to read about the Virginia 21 group continuing in that tradition. I was part of the first Vietnam War protest in October 1969 that is mentioned in the column, as well as part of the “Save ODU” campaign and the Cambodia/Kent State protests. I marched in the parade (playing kazoo!) you pictured, and though I am not visible in that photo, I was surprised to see myself in the photo of the Cambodia/Kent State protest (which, if memory serves, was at the Federal Building in downtown Norfolk). I am on the right side of the picture behind the guy with the painted face. I hadn’t seen or thought about that photo in 40-plus years. Thanks for the memories.

Greg Bernet ’71
Holland, N.J.

Tailgating and ‘What a Team!’

Nice story about Lorraine Eaton, a terrific soul (“An Arbiter of Good Taste,” Fall 2012). Many of my former students there have stayed in touch and are doing great things. I’m really excited that football took off. As a faculty member, I was with a few other profs pushing for the pigskin. Now I’m glad it is there and that it’s magnificent. What a team!

Fred Talbott, former associate professor of English, ODU
Naples, Fla.

Remembering Allen Clark

After reading your recent obituary for Professor Emeritus Allen Clark (In Remembrance, Fall 2012), I would like to share some additional information about his contributions to ODU. As a music performance major from 1970 to 1974, I was privileged to have the opportunity to consult with Dr. Clark while he was serving with the Office of the University Provost. During a period when the Music Department was receiving limited attention from the university, Dr. Clark assisted student representatives in formulating a successful plan to gain support from the president and the Board of Visitors to recruit and retain high quality music faculty members and make improvements to our outdated rehearsal facilities. Thanks to Dr. Clark’s efforts, I decided to remain at ODU to complete my bachelor’s degree instead of transferring to another university. In later years when I made a career change, completed my Ph.D. in public policy at the University of Maryland Baltimore County and advanced to a senior management position in the Maryland state government, I was able to use the leadership skills that I learned from observing Dr. Clark work with people and effectively solve problems. I sincerely hope that the example of Dr. Clark’s service will be a standard used in the future to recruit outstanding young faculty members.

Marius F. Smith, ’74
Annapolis, Md

Remembering Jean Halladay

It was my privilege to have been a student in three of Dr. Jean Halladay’s (In Remembrance, Fall 2012) classes during my time at Old Dominion University.

I never imagined a world without Jean Halladay. I recall her incessant smoking, her intolerance of nonsense in papers and finals, the life she breathed into English literature and her devotion to the art of teaching.

I recall other professors from my time at the university, but none with as much awe and gratefulness as Dr. Halladay; you are missed and the world is diminished without you here.

Marcus Zuhlke ’77
Spokane, Wash.

To send a letter to the editor, you may contact us via email, jrapper@odu.edu; fax, 757-683-5501; or by regular mail, Editor, Monarch magazine, 100 Koch Hall, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 23529.

You may reach us by phone at: Alumni Association and Alumni Relations Office: 757-683-3097 or 888-ODU-3435 Monarch magazine: 757-683-5585
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Royal Academy of Engineering Taps Chrisochoides as Distinguished Fellow

Nikos Chrisochoides, the Old Dominion University Richard T. Cheng Professor of computer science and John Simon Guggenheim Fellow in Medicine and Health, has been elected a Distinguished Visiting Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in the United Kingdom for 2012-13. (See “Taking Aim at Brain Tumors,” Spring 2011.)

The academy cited Chrisochoides’ contributions in “exascale mesh generation and runtime systems for medical imaging” in bestowing the honor. The ODU professor has worked with colleagues at prestigious medical schools in the United States and China on cutting-edge strategies in computer image-guided neurosurgery.

As a Visiting Fellow, Chrisochoides will collaborate in the U.K. with engineering faculty members and industry researchers who are working in his area of expertise. Fifteen researchers from around the world, including five from the United States, were selected by the Royal Academy of Engineering from overseas academic centers of excellence based on the potential of their research contributions, as well as on their “eminence and seniority.”

“This is a great honor in recognition of Professor Chrisochoides’ world-class scholarship and research,” said Chris Platsoucas, dean of the College of Sciences. “And he puts Old Dominion in good company. The other four awardees from the U.S. are from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the California Institute of Technology, Princeton University and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.”

Solar Decathlon House, Round Two

Remember the impressive showing of Team Tidewater from Old Dominion and Hampton universities in the 2011 international Solar Decathlon (Solar Decathlon House, Fall 2011)? Engineering students from ODU and architectural students from Hampton designed and constructed an energy efficient modular home, dubbed Unit 6 Unplugged, that competed in the event in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. Now, Team Tidewater has been selected to compete in the 2013 Solar Decathlon in October in Irvine, Calif. The team’s new entry will be Canopy House, designed as an energy-efficient home that is simple to control, allowing it to be tailored to the needs of the disabled. Among its innovations will be face recognition technology from ODU’s Computational Intelligence and Machine Vision Laboratory, so those living in the home can lock and unlock doors without the use of their limbs.

Poet Seibles Nominated for National Book Award

Tim Seibles, associate professor of creative writing at Old Dominion University, was among the 20 finalists for the 2012 National Book Awards. He was nominated for his newest collection of poetry, “Fast Animal,” published by Etruscan Press. (See Books, Fall 2012)

“Fast Animal,” Seibles’ seventh collection of poetry, traces his life from that of a 16-year-old in Philadelphia to the present day, as a “middle-aged man” living in Hampton Roads. “It’s a journey, with memories of when I was a teenager, mixed with my current understanding of the world as I am today,” says Seibles, who calls the work “somewhat” autobiographical.

This is the first National Book Award nomination for Seibles, who has taught at ODU since 1995. He has published the following works: “Body Moves” (Corona Press, 1988), “Hurdy-Gurdy” (Cleveland State University, 1992), “Kerosene” (Amersand Press, 1995), “Hammerlock” (Cleveland State University Poetry Center, 1999) and “Buffalo Head Solos” (Cleveland State University Poetry Center, 2004).

Historic Social Media Resources are Disappearing

Social media traffic generated by people involved in major world events such as the current turmoil in Syria or the swine flu pandemic in 2009 can index textual and photographic documentation that will be invaluable to historians and others who one day will assess the events. (Research, Fall 2011)

But researchers at Old Dominion University have looked closely at six such events between 2009 and 2012 and found that interesting nuggets disseminated by social media tend to have a limited Web existence and may not be available to scholars and journalists in years to come. Michael Nelson, associate professor of computer science at ODU, and one of his graduate students, Hany M. SalahEldeen, probed social media associated with the events and found that about 27 percent of the relevant resources had disappeared from the live Web and public Web archives within two and a half years following an event.

The title of their 2012 research paper – “Losing My Revolution: How Many Resources Shared on Social Media Have Been Lost?” – reflects SalahEldeen’s personal interest in the research. He is Egyptian and it was his concern about the resources mediated by Twitter, Facebook and YouTube about the Egyptian revolution in early 2011 that first led him to explore the lifespan of social media traffic.
Fenimore's Publicity Campaign Gets a Boost from Maxim Magazine

That was Old Dominion University alumnus Keith Fenimore featured in a photo collage and article – “How to Land Your Dream Job” – in the September 2012 issue of Maxim magazine.

Fenimore, a producer and writer for Howard Stern's television show, has gotten lots of media attention in the past few years because of a publicity experiment he has conducted to try to make his face the most recognized in America (See “Postings on the Wall of Fame,” Spring 2011).

The 40-year-old show business veteran has worked behind the scenes his entire professional career – including stints in producing and marketing for A&E Network, VH-1, Fox Reality and TV Guide Channel. The publicity campaign he has crafted for himself has been a sideline.

Fenimore ’93 also is the co-author of the book “Hire Me, Hollywood!: Your Behind-the-Scenes Guide to the Most Exciting – and Unexpected – Jobs in Show Business” (2011, Adams Media). It was while he was promoting the book that he made a call on Maxim. Not only did he end up being featured in a Maxim article, he also landed a gig as the writer of the weekly “5 Things You May Have Missed” social media column at maxim.com.

His exposure in Maxim makes him proud because it is evidence of his pluck, Fenimore said. “Like a lot of other things in my career, Maxim didn’t come knocking on my door, I wanted it, so I went to them and made it happen. Also, the fact that I could be in this magazine and not have to wear a thong was a big plus!”

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In the 1930s and ’40s, the clang of streetcars could be heard throughout the city of Norfolk, and up and down Hampton Boulevard, carrying students to and from classes at the nascent Norfolk Division of the College of William and Mary. Today, somewhere close to 10,000 students, faculty and staff who live in the region commute to the Old Dominion University campus in personal vehicles.

Clearly, mass transit has not kept pace with the growth of Hampton Roads or ODU. With the exception of Hampton Roads Transit’s underused bus system, public transportation is virtually nonexistent. All that could change, however, in the not too distant future. As the university gets ever nearer to its centennial in 2030, it’s fun to think about the possibility of one aspect of campus commuting taking a page from the history books.

During the Norfolk Division’s first two decades, 67 miles of trolley track connected sections of the city. The Tide, Norfolk’s recently launched light rail system, has a grand total of 7.4 miles of track. But there is talk of expanding The Tide, not only into Virginia Beach, but also to carry passengers to ODU and the Norfolk Naval Base. While such a project would likely be several years away, if it were to come to fruition it would be a case of rail line transportation coming full circle, in a sense. Or as longtime ODU history professor Peter Stewart termed it, “Back to the future!”

Electric streetcars began running on Norfolk streets in 1894. For a number of ODU’s first students in the 1930s, they were a primary means of transportation. With the country in the throes of the Depression, automobiles were a luxury. The children of parents who could afford to send them to the Norfolk Division relied on buses and streetcars – and for students from Portsmouth, ferries as well – to get them to and from the school’s first classroom buildings along Hampton Boulevard, near Bolling Avenue.

Depending on where one lived in Norfolk, transportation by streetcar could be a short ride up or down a 5.8-mile stretch of Hampton Boulevard. For a number of the city’s students, however, who had to transfer from one line to another, it made for a much longer commute. And the few students from
Virginia Beach who took classes at the Division from 1935 to 1947 first had to hop aboard a rail bus that ran from their city to Norfolk, where they would then get on a streetcar to take them the rest of the way.

Among the Norfolk Division's first class of students to enroll in 1930 was Rufus Tonelson, who years later would become one of the institution's most well-known and beloved teachers and administrators. Tonelson's son Steve, currently a professor of communication disorders and special education at ODU and a faculty member since 1981, remembers his late father talking about riding the streetcar to school from his family's home in Norfolk.

“They lived near Maury High School, on 14th Street, I think. I remember him saying it cost a nickel to ride the streetcar. And he would get the nickel from his father to ride to school. He said that he sometimes would keep the nickel and walk up here, and I guess use it to buy his lunch.”

Streetcars were still transporting students to the Division by the end of the decade. Norfolk resident Johnny Brown, who attended the school from the fall of 1937 to the spring of 1940, recalls riding the streetcar to school from his home in the Willoughby section of the city.

“The only thing we could take was streetcars. They didn’t have any buses that ran down that way. I took the Ocean View streetcar that went down Granby Street. We had to get off at 25th Street and then catch another one that came close to the Division. It took about an hour to get there.”

A star tailback on the Norfolk Division Braves football team, who would later become principal of Norfolk’s Granby High School, Brown also remembers getting rides home during football season with teammate Roy Sutton. “He had a ’34 Ford coupe, and he lived in Ocean View,” said the 93-year-old Brown. “He had different classes than me, so I couldn’t ride with him to school, but we went home together after practices. That was a treat.”

After World War II, the Division was swamped with an influx of students – former soldiers who wanted to begin or resume their education, James Sweeney, associate professor emeritus of history, writes in his 1980 book, “Old Dominion University: A Half Century of Service.” The first wave of these students arrived in January 1946. In two more years, however, students would have to rely either on personal cars or city buses to get to the campus. Streetcars were being phased out, with the city’s last remaining line, the Ocean View line, making its final run on July 10, 1948.

When ODU’s venerable Bill Whitehurst, Kaufman Lecturer in public affairs, joined the faculty in 1950, day-college enrollment stood at about 700 students. He remembers many of the students carpooling to school, and he even gave rides to a few of them in his “little English Austin.”

“I had several students I gave rides to. In that Austin, man, it was tight quarters, I tell you. But they got a big kick out of it,” he said.

Although the streetcars had stopped running by that time, Whitehurst remembers riding them as a boy growing up in the Ghent section of Norfolk. He recalls when he was around 10 reading a state ordinance posted inside the streetcars “that said something about the separation of races. I was such a naïve youngster that I thought it meant that the streetcars raced each other. It was an ordinance about segregation, of course.”

As new construction takes up much of the last remaining space on ODU’s Norfolk campus, and more surface parking spaces go away, Whitehurst is among many on the ODU campus who would welcome the introduction of a Tide light rail line that could transport students to campus.

“For us, sooner rather than later would be best,” said Justin Nelson, transportation planner with ODU’s Parking and Transportation Services. If The Tide could keep the university from having to build another parking garage one day, that would be ideal, he noted.

The university sold 11,094 parking permits to students, faculty and staff in 2012 (which, for students, includes both commuter and resident permits). As of the fall 2012 semester, ODU had 5,392 student parking spaces and 2,554 faculty/staff spaces.

For most riders, the light rail trip would take longer than driving to school. Would The Tide truly be able to attract a significant number of students, faculty and staff, and prove to be an acceptable alternative to commuting to and from campus by car?

Fred Tugas, a senior communication major, believes so. Tugas, who has a 30-minute commute from Chesapeake, is a big fan of The Tide, and of public transportation in general.

“It is always going to take a little bit more time, but the convenience of it, just being able to do other things, is a plus. For example, The Tide now has Wi-Fi, so it’s a great way for you to stay connected and do whatever you need while you’re riding. We have people my age who are texting and driving. Why not text and ride?”

In a paper she wrote for Peter Stewart’s Virginia History class last semester, “The Trolley Cars of Norfolk, Virginia,” junior history major Gabrielle Molinaro presents a well-researched history of the city’s streetcars, beginning with their introduction in 1870 when they were pulled by horses. And she includes her own commentary at the end.

It seems, she says, that The Tide, while helping give Norfolk “a metropolitan image,” has yet to realize its potential as “a true transportation system that people can use to get to the workplace, the Norfolk Naval Station, for shopping or groceries.” And she adds: “This writer looks forward to the day when there are sixty–seven miles of light–rail tracks so the electric trolley will truly be a service again for the commuters in Hampton Roads.”

Streetcar scene (on opposite page) is from the 1930s, at a stop near where Gray’s Pharmacy is today. Modern commuting (above) on Hampton Boulevard. PHOTO: CHUCK THOMAS
How Does ODU Rate?

Great Place to Work

A survey by The Chronicle of Higher Education has, for the second year in a row, named Old Dominion University one of the best colleges in the nation to work for.

The results, released last summer in the Chronicle’s fifth annual report on The Academic Workplace, are based on a survey of nearly 47,000 employees, evaluating their colleges in 12 categories, from job satisfaction, to teaching environment, to work-life balance.

In all, fewer than one-third of the 310 institutions achieved “Great College to Work For” recognition for specific best practices and policies. ODU also was selected as one of this year’s Honor Roll schools for excelling in eight of the 12 evaluation categories: Collaborative Governance; Professional/Career Development Programs; Teaching Environment (Faculty Only); Job Satisfaction; Work/Life Balance; Supervisor/Department Chair Relationship; Respect and Appreciation; and Diversity.

“Our commitment to creating and maintaining a dynamic learning community with a rich mix of cultures and experiences is a huge part of who we are as a university. The Chronicle recognition further underscores the importance of that approach,” said President John Broderick.

College of Business Among the Best

Old Dominion University has been included in “The Best 296 Business Schools” published by The Princeton Review. ODU’s M.B.A. program was cited as having a good reputation in the area, and “superb” integration into the local business community.

According to Robert Franek, Princeton Review senior vice president and publisher, schools were selected “based on our high regard for their academic programs and our reviews of institutional data we collect from the schools. We also solicit and greatly respect the opinions of students attending these schools who rate and report on their experiences at them on our 80-question survey for the book.”

The Princeton Review does not rank the schools in the book on a single hierarchical list from 1 to 296, nor name one business school best overall.

Again, a Military Friendly School

For the fourth straight year, Old Dominion University has been named to the list of Military Friendly Schools by G.I. Jobs, the premier magazine for military personnel transitioning to civilian life.

The list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans and spouses as students and to ensure their success on campus.

The 2013 list of Military Friendly Schools was compiled through research and a data-driven survey of more than 12,000 Veterans Affairs-approved schools nationwide. The 1,739 colleges, universities and trade schools on the 2013 list exhibit leading practices in the recruitment and retention of students with military experience and have world-class programs and policies for student support on campus, academic accreditation, credit policies, flexibility and other services to those who served.

With approximately 25 percent of its student body being military-affiliated and its location in one of the most heavily military-populated regions in the world, ODU supports an increasing population of more than 2,600 veterans using post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to further their transition into the civilian sector.
Dick Whalen Retires
Helped Make ODU ‘Military Friendly’

As a 30-year Navy veteran, which included service as the first commanding officer of the Aegis cruiser USS Mobile Bay, Dick Whalen knew all about operating a ship. After landing at Old Dominion in 1993 as the university’s first director of military activities, he soon proved adept as well at steering the university on a true course – one that has resulted in excellent relations with the Hampton Roads military community and an increase in military enrollments, including those of the students in ODU’s Army ROTC and Naval ROTC programs.

Whalen, who retired at the end of 2012, was an enthusiastic and tireless promoter of “all things military” when it came to ODU. During his tenure, military-affiliated enrollments rose to nearly 25 percent of the student body.

“People will never know the behind-the-scenes contributions he has made, which have enhanced our relationships with all branches of the military and the Department of Defense,” said President John Broderick. “He has made remarkable contributions to the university community during his time here and has helped make ODU the nationally recognized ‘military friendly’ institution it is today.”

Whalen actually first arrived on campus in 1991 while still on active duty, as commanding officer of the Navy’s Hampton Roads Naval ROTC Unit, based at ODU. Former President James Koch subsequently hired him as a member of the university staff in 1993. Through his eventual role in coordinating all of the university’s ROTC activity, ODU’s Army and Naval units experienced a student growth rate of approximately 300 percent, making them among the largest in the nation.

Whalen also had a hand in helping the university increase the number of its military partnerships, contracts and agreements, according to David Chase, ODU assistant vice president for site operations and military distance learning. “For example, his name is synonymous with programs like ‘Ships at Sea’ and NCPACE (Navy College Program for Afloat College Education), which gave sailors unprecedented access to graduate courses in business and engineering management while underway,” Chase said.

“He worked closely with faculty in engineering management to pioneer the university’s first asynchronous program using CD-ROM technologies. This program was instantly successful and was lauded by one of the Navy’s senior commanders as ‘the best program to hit the waterfront in years.’”

Said Whalen, “In my role at ODU, I was able to remain close to the military community - its personnel, operations and future - primarily through keying on improving education opportunities worldwide. I enjoyed working in that capacity. I take pride in having enhanced university faculty/staff understanding and support for those who defend our freedoms. For more than 20 years, Old Dominion University has been a national leader in military student services, partnerships, research and other collaborations. This recognition underscores the university’s ongoing commitment to serve those who serve our nation.”

Whalen intends to remain in Virginia Beach with his wife, Marti. An accomplished, self-taught marine artist, the U.S. Naval Academy graduate anticipates finding more time for painting, and he plans to continue in his role as director of the North American Sand Soccer Championships in Virginia Beach, an event he established in 1994.

With three grown sons and their families, including seven grandchildren under the age of 12, he added that he also looks forward to “lots of family time together.”

–Steve Daniel
Governor Appoints Oktay Baysal to State Board of Education

Oktay Baysal, dean of Old Dominion University’s Batten College of Engineering and Technology, has been appointed by Gov. Bob McDonnell to the Board of Education of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Baysal, professor and eminent scholar of aerospace engineering, joined ODU in 1982 after finishing his doctorate at Louisiana State University. He was appointed in October by McDonnell to a four-year term on the nine-member Board of Education.

The mission of the Board of Education and superintendent of public instruction is to develop policies and provide leadership that improve student achievement and prepare students to succeed in postsecondary education and the workplace.

Duties of board members include setting statewide curriculum standards; establishing high school graduation requirements; determining qualifications for classroom teachers, principals and other education personnel; establishing state testing and assessment programs; establishing standards for accreditation of local school divisions and preparation programs for teachers and administrators; implementing the No Child Left Behind Act and administering federal assistance programs; and developing rules and regulations for the administration of state programs.

CIVIC Leadership Institute Teams Up with ODU

The CIVIC Leadership Institute and Old Dominion University have created a partnership that will leverage the strength of the CIVIC alumni network and lead to the development of a college-level leadership program designed to retain more talent in Hampton Roads.

The CIVIC Leadership Institute recruits proven leaders who are willing to work to improve life in Hampton Roads. Each year, a cadre of approximately 40 professionally accomplished and civic minded leaders come together to get to know each other and to learn more about the issues facing the region.

“Our nine-month program gets great reviews and we’ve built a tremendous alumni base. But now we’re in a position to bring that talent to bear, to solve problems and create opportunities in the region,” said Ed Merkle, president of the CIVIC Board.

“Community engagement is one of the key initiatives in Old Dominion’s strategic plan,” said President John Broderick. “Partnering with an organization with the stature and strength of CIVIC opens new opportunities for the university to accomplish that goal.”

“This is the most exciting announcement we’ve made since the beginning,” said Joshua P. Darden, CIVIC co-founder. “It’s a real game changer in terms of what we’ll be able to accomplish.”

One of the most exciting components of the new partnership is the creation of a college-level leadership program, which will partner with all colleges and universities in the region.

“Graduates of local universities or young professionals who grew up here often leave because they don’t believe career opportunities exist. The program we envision will link the best and brightest graduates with local leaders who can help young people identify and explore possibilities to succeed in Hampton Roads,” said Cathy Lewis, CIVIC’s executive director.

In addition to the development of new initiatives, the partnership will provide CIVIC with programmatic support and office space in Old Dominion’s Innovation Research Park in the University Village.
Groundbreaking Kicks Off Engineering College’s 50th Anniversary Celebrations

A groundbreaking event in October for the new Systems Research and Academics Building of Old Dominion University’s Batten College of Engineering and Technology kicked off a year’s worth of celebrations as the college commemorates 50 years of existence.

Construction will begin soon on the 50,500-square-foot facility, which will be located between Kaufman Hall and Perry Library, with move-in scheduled in spring 2014. When completed, it will feature a clean room, a lasers lab, two biomedical dry labs and a wet lab, a plasma science lab, a maglev controls lab and space missions lab, a micro fluidics lab, and a dynamic environment simulation lab, as well as four large student projects studios and additional student collaboration spaces.

Building-wide, there will be a “learn by discovery” theme for the labs, adding to the collaborative nature of work done at the college, encouraging students to work across disciplines on projects.

Oktay Baysal, dean of the college, said the groundbreaking event was important to publicly kick off the construction project, and the 50th anniversary year.

“We have a proud history in the Batten College, from our beginnings in 1962,” he said. “It’s important on this, our 50th year, to reach out to current and former faculty, staff and students of the Batten College, as well as the community at large. The growth and reach of our college has been impressive, and our future looks very bright.”

Throughout the school year, speakers will address the Batten College faculty and students, reflecting the diverse and real-world expertise that has been a hallmark of engineering education at ODU since the school was founded.

During Engineers’ Week in February, the Engineering Open House and Women in Engineering Day events will spotlight the history of the college in terms of innovation, community engagement and national recognition.

And the Batten College’s Annual Celebration in April will feature a tribute to the college’s first 50 years, including the unveiling of a commemorative book about the college.
Rebecca T. Gilbert received a master's degree in nursing administration from Old Dominion in August, capping what must be one of the most successful nontraditional educational experiences an ODU student has ever had.

A native of Lynchburg, Va., she was a high school graduate, restaurant manager, wife and mother of one child when she decided she wanted more out of her career. “I grew up watching my mother be a nurse,” she says. “Seeing how satisfied my mother was through helping other people made me decide that I wanted to have a career that made me feel satisfied too.”

Gilbert turned first to Virginia Western Community College, where she got an associate degree in nursing in 1993. Then, after working for more than 15 years in nursing, she decided to go back to college for a bachelor’s degree in nursing. “After I looked at several programs, the flexibility of ODU made it my choice of programs.”

She started the registered nurse program at the ODU/Piedmont Virginia Community College distance learning facility in the fall of 2009 and graduated two years later with a perfect 4.0 GPA. “I had such a good experience with ODU, I decided to continue on for my master’s in nursing administration,” she says. Last August, she received her master’s, again with a 4.0 GPA.

During the 2012 ODU nursing convocation, Gilbert received the Chair’s Award for having a 4.0 and the Dr. Helen Yura-Petro Outstanding Graduate Nursing Student Award for leadership, academic excellence and scholarship.

Gilbert’s academic record is even more extraordinary when you consider that during her ODU coursework she had a busy personal life with a husband and three sons, and worked full time for the University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville, including service at the center’s Pediatric Intensive Care Unit.

“Rebecca has an incredible ability to balance her work life with that of her personal life,” says Kirk Dewyea, regional director for ODU’s Central Virginia distance learning operation in Charlottesville. “She is also active and involved in nursing leadership in our community,” he points out. She serves as the chair of the Professional Nursing Staff Organization’s Clinical Practice Committee for the U.Va. hospital, reviewing all nursing practice throughout the U.Va. health system. In addition, Gilbert writes the monthly practice newsletter, which notifies staff about current best practices and changes in practice standards throughout the system.

Dr. Patricia Scherrer of the U.Va. system’s Division of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine described Gilbert as “simply delightful” to work with. “Her energy, enthusiasm, and sunny disposition motivate everyone around her. Children and their families love the opportunity to have her as their bedside nurse. She is definitely one of my favorite people to have around in the ICU.”

Gilbert may not be finished with her education at ODU, she says. “I am currently not in a management position, but am in a clinical leadership role in the Postanesthesia Care Unit at the U.Va. Medical Center. I would like to pursue a doctorate in nursing practice at ODU, but am taking some time to decide where my career is going to go.”

The ODU faculty members who have had the biggest impact on her academic and professional careers, she says, are Kathie Zimbro and John Hudson. “Dr. Zimbro was my professor for three courses I took that focused on nursing research. I was able to take what I learned in the classes and apply it to something that I am passionate about in my everyday work life – the power of nursing research. Since taking Dr. Zimbro’s classes, I have published my first nursing research project in the Journal of Pediatric Nursing (online in October 2011 and in print in October 2012). It was a study that focused on safe feeding.
Master’s Grad Overcomes Injury to Focus on Helping Others

Six years after her car was run off the road in her hometown of Richmond, leaving her with a broken neck, Ebone Taylor wants to make a difference. Thanks to two ODU degrees and a generous gift from local television station WTKR, she’s well on her way.

Taylor received a master’s degree in early childhood education in December. In her six years on campus (also receiving her undergraduate degree from ODU), she volunteered for numerous service projects. She founded a program called Homework Helpers through the Lambert’s Point Community Center, linking up ODU student mentors with pupils who have a difficult time getting the necessary support at home.

As she prepares to begin her career as an elementary school teacher, Taylor aspires to bring that same spirit of service to her classroom. Her visits to public schools, she said, have convinced her that a lot of pupils lack necessary school supplies. When WTKR heard about Taylor’s story, the station wanted to help. Three days after commencement, WTKR reporter Todd Corillo surprised her with a $1,000 shopping trip to purchase all sorts of school supplies to make sure Taylor gets her teaching career started on the right foot.

“Thank you so much. I’m speechless right now. I didn’t know how I was going to do it,” Taylor said.

-Brendan O’Hallarn
It would have been a daunting job even for a professional economist – to measure the direct economic impact in Hampton Roads of the entire federal sector. That means the impact not only of the U.S. Navy and other military branches, of NASA and the Department of Homeland Security, but also of the lesser referenced agencies such as the Department of Labor and the Department of Agriculture.

Marco Martin got this assignment when he signed on as an unpaid intern in June 2011 with the Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance. He was still working on the project when he graduated with a BS/BA in finance in May, and he stuck with it until his report, “Direct Economic Impact of Federal Spending within Hampton Roads, FY 2009-2010,” was finished in July. The document was being circulated in the fall to opinion leaders and economic planners throughout the region.

“My thanks and compliments to Marco,” wrote Craig Quigley, the retired rear admiral who is executive director of the alliance, in a cover note distributed with the report. “To the best of my knowledge, it is the first time that an attempt was made to measure the total direct economic impact of the entire federal sector on Hampton Roads.”

Martin was able to document almost $21 billion in payroll payments to 159,070 federal employees in Hampton Roads and almost $10 billion in procurement spending in the region by federal agencies. That amounts to around 47 percent of the region’s gross product.

Most of the documentation he needed was available through formal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. But make that “theoretically” available in some cases, he says. “This was by far the most complex and time-consuming part of the project. For a few organizations, the FOIA process was smooth. For most, it was a tough journey. My boss for the internship, retired Rear Adm. Quigley, who is a great guy, by the way, received one response to an FOIA request two weeks ago (after the report came out). I had submitted the request a year before that.”

Martin said he is also grateful for the help he received from Vinod Agarwal, the ODU professor of economics who advised him during the compilation of the data, and from Greg Grootendorst, an economist with

‘To the best of my knowledge, it is the first time that an attempt was made to measure the total direct economic impact of the entire federal sector on Hampton Roads.’

—Rear Adm. (retired) Craig Quigley, executive director of HRMFFA
ODU Wins Second Consecutive Finance Case Challenge

A student team from Old Dominion University’s College of Business and Public Administration (CBPA) won its second consecutive national graduate-level Government Finance Case Challenge, sponsored by the Association of Government Accountants (AGA).

The three-person ODU team presented its winning case at the 2012 AGA Professional Development Conference in San Diego.

“It has really been a great experience,” said Sara Crabtree, captain of the ODU team for the past two years. The other team members included Matt Stewart (also on the team in 2011) and Jessica Plank. All three are recent graduates of the CBPA’s Master of Science in Accounting program.

The project, known as a Citizen Centric Report, required the teams to take real financial data provided by the city of San Diego, and turn the information into a four-page report that non-accountants could understand.

“The judges were very specific in their questions, but through our classes and research, we learned a lot about the financial management of a city and were prepared,” Crabtree said.

The ODU team, which was advised by Douglas Ziegenfuss, chair of the accounting department, was one of three finalist teams the AGA flew to San Diego for the national conference.
Students Do Good Works Coast-to-Coast

Emily Uperti at Flaming Gorge, Utah
The story starts in the summer of 2011 when Jacob Richardson, a member of the Old Dominion University Rowing Club and student of economics and finance, pedaled 4,000 miles across America, stopping along the way to participate in the home construction projects of affordable-housing organizations such as Habitat for Humanity.
Richardson was so enthusiastic about the Bike & Build program that he signed up to do it again, and for 2012 he recruited three ODU women rowers to make the trek, as well. Actually, that would be “treks” because Bike & Build plans multiple coast-to-coast routes each summer, with about 30 riders traveling each route. The ODU contingent took three of them: Richardson, who graduated in May, decided to travel from Nags Head, N.C., to San Diego, Calif.; Cassandra Patterson, a senior audiology major, rode from Portland, Maine, to Santa Barbara, Calif.; while Becky Holgate, a graduate student in environmental engineering, and Emily Uperti, who is studying nursing, rode from Virginia Beach to Cannon Beach, Ore.

Each Bike & Build rider is required to raise at least $4,500 to support the program and various affordable housing projects. Volunteer hosts provide food and a place to sleep for the riders most nights, but sometimes the accommodations are rustic. A van pulling a trailer accompanies the group of riders on each route, carrying spare parts, suitcases and oversized jars of the food that the riders’ eat the most of – peanut butter.

Chains broke and tires blew – Becky had to fix flats three times, while Cassandra’s bad rim forced her into 20 fixes – but all four of the Monarch riders pedaled the distance without serious incident. The upbeat stories they tell about their experiences follow three themes: America is one beautiful country, which they got to see close-up; Americans are congenial and generous, as well as united in their pursuit of affordable housing; and riding a bike for 60 days averaging more than 60 miles per day is physically taxing, but anyone in reasonable physical shape and with a lot of determination can do it.

“There are no bad days on Bike & Build, just some that are harder than others,” says Richardson. Nevertheless, he said his 2011 trip presented him with physical demands greater than he had ever encountered. “The first week or two, I’ve never been so sore in my life. Doing 65 to 70 miles every day is very tiring. But being part of a team of riders is so helpful. On those days when you’re not feeling great, the rest of the team helps you through.”

Here is more about the ODU riders experiences in their own words:
Becky Holgate, from Manassas, Va., is now a graduate student in environmental engineering at ODU and working on a research project with the Hampton Roads Sanitation District. “We were only allowed a 4,500-cubic-inch bag (about the size of a large hiker’s backpack) to put in the trailer. Everything had to fit in this bag, meaning our sleeping bag, Therm-A-Rest mat to sleep on, towel, extra tires/tubes/bike parts, toiletries. This left practically no room for clothes. I had three pairs of bike shorts, three jerseys, (we washed clothes every three ride days), two T-shirts, two pairs of shorts for non-riding times and a sweatshirt.

“Rain? We rode through it. Our trip did have a dangerous day in the West Virginia mountains, where the temperatures consistently dropped while the wind chill picked up and it kept raining. So our leaders made the call (to stop). We found a ranger station in the mountains in the middle of nowhere; we didn’t even have cell service! Picture (us) walking into a ranger station with barely any clothes on, guys in shorts, girls in shorts and sports bras, because we had to take off all our wet clothes to try to get our body heat back up to normal temperatures. They welcomed us with open arms, gave us sleeping bags, jackets, and they even bought us pizza.

“If it was a 90-plus mile day, or over 90 degrees, we would have two lunches that day to stay hydrated and avoid ‘bonking.’ During the breaks we could do whatever we wanted, explore, explore, explore. Stop at a river that looks refreshing on the side of the road and take a swim, relax under a tree in someone’s front yard, grab a bite to eat at a tasty restaurant, stop by an interesting store for presents for friends at home. Then it was ride, ride, ride. There is no better way to see the country than by a bicycle! By 5 p.m., it was usually dinner at the host. We stayed at mostly churches and some schools, basically anywhere that would put us up for free for the night. Most hosts provided dinner; if not, we would cook. We would try to get local gyms to allow us to use their locker rooms to shower. Sometimes hosts would bring us to their homes to shower and sometimes churches had a shower.

“Sometimes we turned on a hose out back of the church and showered. After a long day of biking, no matter how it was done, we took showers! Nine o’clock is usually when we started to go to bed. No one really made it up past 11.

“During my trip we stopped 10 times to build with local affordable-housing organizations in the area we were in at that time. This involves anything from building and lifting walls into place for a new house, installing windows, installing drywall, painting, landscaping, tearing down a house that was burned down, clearing out a donated house and so much more.”

Becky Holgate crossing Mississippi River

Jacob Richardson, of Virginia Beach, graduated in May and plans to join the Navy soon. “Bike & Build is honestly the greatest thing I have ever done with my life. I initially went into it for the adventure and physical challenge, but left it missing the people more than anything. Every rider comes to orientation not really knowing each other but by the end of the 10 weeks you are a big family. Not only that, but the people you meet along the way are amazing. The homeowners that you are building with, you get to hear their stories and how much this house means to them. It is hard to explain the feeling of walking away from a build site seeing the walls that you had put up, or the windows that you helped install.

“I had such an incredible time my first summer that I knew I wanted to do it again. I applied as a leader and was selected to help lead the NC2SD route (Nags Head, N.C., to San Diego) this past summer. There is a van and trailer with each route, and as a leader I rotated with my co-leaders in driving it.

“As a leader I was responsible for getting the van and trailer back to the East Coast, so I was able to have a road trip back across the country, stopping to see friends along the way. I would definitely say an average person can do B&B. Most of the participants have never cycled before and it’s an amazing feeling to help someone climb a huge mountain and see the looks on their faces when they’ve realized how incredible they are for accomplishing that. I walked away from B&B realizing that you really can do anything if you put your mind to it.”

—I walked away from B&B realizing that you can do anything if you put your mind to it.”
Emily Uperti, from Woodbridge, Va., studied nursing at ODU from 2009 through the spring of 2012 and plans to return in two years to complete her bachelor’s degree. “This past summer was more than anything I could have imagined. When I left Virginia Beach on May 29, I left with 31 strangers who quickly became my family. It’s crazy how a cause like affordable housing can bring together a group of people who are hungry for a change in the world. We were able to use our bicycles and enthusiasm as our vehicles to get the word out about affordable housing and our Bike & Build.

People usually ask me what my favorite state was. It was a tie between Colorado, Wyoming and Utah. I’ve been East Coast-bound for all 20 years of my life, so getting past West Virginia was quite the experience. I’ll never forget the first time I saw the Rockies. We were coming up a huge hill into Golden, Colo., and at the top you could see those beautiful mountains covered in a thick fog in the distance. That was the first time I’d ever gotten emotional from looking at scenery. Wyoming was a favorite mainly because I had no idea what to expect. It was lush, green, and had rolling hills and rock structures everywhere. Flaming Gorge in Utah was the one place I was looking forward to all summer because of the stories I had heard. Rolling into Flaming Gorge is a moment I will never forget. If I had a dollar for every time I said ‘woahhh’ at scenery, I’d have enough money to eradicate the affordable-housing issue.

“I was not a cyclist before, so I had to start from the bottom up with gear. Bike & Build provides riders with a bike once they raise their first $1,000. With the cycling shoes, tubes, shorts, etc., I probably spent a little over $1,000 of my own money. I have been working every summer since I was 16, so I used my savings to pay for most of the trip. On average, I spent about $40 a week on randoms like postcards, souvenirs and diner food. It was worth every single penny.

“The best part of Bike & Build was getting to work with affordable-housing organizations across the country. I was able to see how badly people were hurting from the economy. I loved leaving the build sites and seeing that I had done something concrete for a family, like I installed that window or I framed that wall. Those families impacted my life more than they will ever know.”
Cassandra Patterson, from Herndon, Va., is slated to finish her degree in audiology in 2013. “On my route only four people were cyclists before the trip, and most other people were in shape, but some people had not done any kind of sport or intense training before the trip, and they got better and faster while on the road. So, yes, I feel if you have the right mindset and determination, anyone without a major physical disability can do it.

“This summer was one of the most challenging experiences of my life. It was also the best summer of my life. The mountains challenged me mentally and physically. Pennsylvania was the hardest state for me, with the Appalachian Mountains. I have never been more mad at a land form in my life than when I passed through Pennsylvania. New Mexico was my favorite state because of the landscape and memories.

“I experienced so many new things over this summer. I went to my first rodeo in Wheeler, Texas. I fired my first gun. I spent a night in Pie Town, New Mexico, that had only 33 permanent residents – and truly amazing pie, too. I put up the first walls to a house and met the homeowners, which made the build day so much more worth it. I partook in demolition on a few places that needed to be completely reconstructed. So I got to kick down walls and rip down doors, which was awesome. I made 32 new best friends with my cycling group and gained confidence in my abilities and learned a lot about myself. I became more patient and also challenged myself every day I was on the bike.

“We camped in the Grand Canyon and hiked in it, which was one of the main reasons I chose the route I did. It was incredible reaching the Grand Canyon because I felt I had completed a huge accomplishment that I had been waiting months to achieve. I biked through the Mojave Desert and found out it was not flat at all, instead extremely mountainous. I also thought that Missouri was going to be flat, instead we hit the Ozark Mountains, which I am now very familiar with.

“Every day was a completely new experience and a new challenge. Whether that be a mountain, extremely steep downhill, heat, downpouring rain, drivers with road rage, or just not being in the mood to sit on the bike saddle for hours on end that day. But I finished each day whether I wanted to or not, because I owed it to my group and myself to push myself to the limit and not give up.

“It was really amazing experiencing so much kindness along the way. We would tell people what we were doing and they would give us water or free food or just so much support and it really kept us all going. People would see us biking and then catch up to us in their cars and offer us ice cream in their shops or tell us to stop by their stores for free snacks. Experiencing the kindness was refreshing from what life is like outside of Bike & Build.”
FACULTY FUN WITH MATHEMATICS

“Guesstimation: Solving the World’s Problems on the Back of a Cocktail Napkin” garnered lots of attention worldwide for its authors, Old Dominion University professors John Adam (left) and Lawrence Weinstein, when it was published in 2008. Now Weinstein, a University Professor of physics and Eminent Scholar, has gone solo in producing the follow-up, “Guesstimation 2.0: Solving Today’s Problems on the Back of a Napkin.” Adam, a University Professor of mathematics and statistics, has a new book of his own, “X and the City: Modeling Aspects of Urban Life.” Both books are from Princeton University Press (PUP).

“Guesstimation 2.0” reveals the simple and effective techniques needed to estimate virtually anything – quickly – and illustrates them using an eclectic array of problems with titles such as “Monkeys and Shakespeare” and “Beam the Energy Down, Scotty!” The book is being promoted by PUP as a “stimulating follow-up to ‘Guesstimation’… (a) must-have book for anyone preparing for a job interview in technology or finance, where more and more leading businesses test applicants using estimation questions just like these.” As Weinstein points out, the ability to guesstimate on your feet is an essential skill to have in today’s world, whether you’re trying to distinguish between a billion-dollar subsidy and a trillion-dollar stimulus, a megawatt wind turbine and a gigawatt nuclear plant, or parts-per-million and parts-per-billion contaminants.

“Anyone can apply these techniques to understand a range of important issues without relying on ‘fact checkers’ and other so-called experts.” The book includes nearly 100 drawings by Patti Edwards, a senior art lecturer at ODU.

Adam, who won the Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia in 2007, says “X and the City” answers the question: What has mathematics to say about life in the city? “Mathematics helps us understand how cities and their populations grow – both for people and bedbugs,” he says. “Or how traffic moves, or doesn’t, or how air pollution spreads. This book discusses these topics and many others in short bites, and anyone with a background in basic calculus should find it easily digestible.” Adam says that after the publication of his “A Mathematical Nature Walk” (2009, Princeton University Press), his editor suggested that he write a book that might be called “A Mathematical City Walk.” “My first reaction was somewhat negative, as I am a country boy at heart, and have always been more interested in the modeling of natural patterns in the world around us than man-made ones. Nevertheless, the idea grew on me, especially since I realized that many of my favorite nature topics, such as rainbows and ice crystal halos, can have very different manifestations in the city.” He believes the title will be “catchy,” but acknowledges that some people may order the book thinking it’s about something other than mathematics. In that case, he adds, “there would be a lot of returns.”
“Plants of the Chesapeake Bay.” By Lytton Musselman, ODU Mary Payne Hogan Professor of Botany, and David Knepper ‘85 (M.S. ‘89).

Musselman, who has taught botany at Old Dominion University for nearly 40 years, and Knepper, an environmental scientist with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, have collaborated to produce a new field guide that is liberally illustrated with Musselman’s photos. The book, from Johns Hopkins University Press, is subtitled “A Guide to Wildflowers, Grasses, Aquatic Vegetation, Trees, Shrubs and Other Flora.” Altogether, there are entries for more than 100 species of plants organized by the salinity zones in which they grow.

For each species entry, the authors provide a page of information beginning with an introduction and including concise statements under the headings of: “Distinguishing Characteristics,” “Confused With,” “Wildlife/Ecological Value” and “Human Uses.” These entries are written for the general reader, and are sometimes amusing. For example, in the White Water Lily entry under “Human Uses,” the authors write: “There are reports of floral buds being used as food, but in our experience the taste is enough to gag a maggot.”

The authors state in their introduction that their work on the book has been toward a conservation goal as well as an educational goal. They write: “We realize from experience that some of the populations of plants we have been introduced to and were just getting to know are now irretrievably gone, to be replaced by a bulkhead, expropriated by road construction or engulfed by noxious invaders. If through this book these (plants included here) become better known and this results in increased appreciation and protection of these plants, then one of our chief objectives will have been met.”


The author is a retired Coast Guard officer and avid recreational sailor who is currently a student in the doctoral psychology program at ODU. The book never drifts far from boats and the water, but it’s about a lot more than sailing. “I have written a book about my misadventures,” Robison says. “It is fashioned after James Herriot’s vet books. We say, ‘If James Herriot were a sailor, these are the stories he would tell.’” This means the reader can expect warm humor throughout the book. Stories woven into the narrative are set on Coast Guard cutters, sailboats, baseball diamonds and football gridirons. The ODU football team, and quarterback Taylor Heinicke particularly, play a significant role in the final chapter.


A Virginia Beach-based certified financial planner and analyst, the author is a former Special Forces officer and retired banker who also knows his way around a good story. This is a fictional account inspired, according to Flinchum, by a conversation he overheard in Florida between an elderly couple who had lost a fortune in the Bernard Madoff investment scheme. The plot turns on a father who commits suicide after losing his savings in a Ponzi scheme, and evolves as his two sons deal with their loss. One of the sons becomes a sniper for U.S. forces in Afghanistan, giving Flinchum an opportunity to draw on his experiences in the Special Forces. The other son, a lawyer, is thrust into a trial involving a serial killer whose family also plays a role in the novel’s conclusion. The US Review of Books wrote: “Flinchum’s tale resembles in many ways a Shakespearian tragedy. ... However, what truly makes this award-winning book worth reading beyond its thought-provoking theme is Flinchum’s juxtaposing of certain key characters. ... Enriched by emotional complexity, suspense, and a smooth narrative, Flinchum’s financial cautionary tale is a solid investment.”

“Til Death Do Us Part.” By Nicole Milner ’94.

This is a fictional tale of emotional survival that draws on spirituality and realism to explore grief and deception. Protagonist Caryn meets Bernard, the man of her dreams, and eventually marries him. Their life together has its ups and downs over 13 years, but is tolerable until Caryn learns that her husband has been living a lie. With the revelation, and the fallout from it, her life begins to unravel. How Caryn deals with the upheaval tells her a lot about herself. The book, according to promotional materials, “is full of conflict, heartbreak and the re-silience of the spirit.”

“America: The Conspiracy Theory.” By William Cunningham, ODU Eminent Scholar and professor emeritus of educational leadership and counseling.

The author based this book, which he calls “nonfiction fiction,” on considerable research and attention to current events. But the characters, including two U.S. senators, are from his imagination. Lloyd Demarious, the protagonist, is in his first term in the Senate when he finds himself at odds with the powerful Sen. Claude Ramsey and the CEO of a large corporation, Ronald Cavaleto. Cunningham says he is hopeful that the book will leave the reader “eagerly challenged to think through the political challenges of our times and the future of the country and, most importantly, to discover a deeper truth about themselves and their values.” The author, who retired in 2009, had published seven textbooks, two nonfiction books and close to 100 articles. This is his first novel.

“Managing Social Media in Libraries.” By Troy Swanson (Ph.D. ’10)

The author, the teaching and learning librarian and Library Department chair at Moraine Valley Community College in Illinois, has written a text that provides practical ways for librarians to use social media. The book, from Chanos Publishing of Oxfordshire, U.K., is the direct result of Swanson’s dissertation research in the ODU community college leadership program under the mentorship of Dennis Gregory, associate professor of higher education and director for higher education programs. Web 2.0 first created a scramble among librarians to use Facebook, YouTube, blogs and other social media applications, and the turn is now toward management and consolidation, Swanson believes.
Having an article published in one of the Nature Publishing Group journals is a rare accomplishment for university faculty members across the globe, and it speaks well of the academic/research credentials of an author’s institution.

Simultaneously last fall, the journal Nature Geoscience featured two articles authored by Old Dominion University scientists. Both articles were released Sunday, Nov. 11, through the journal’s advance online publication process and were published later in the print version of Nature Geoscience.

Dennis Darby, professor of ocean, earth and atmospheric sciences, is the lead author of an article reporting the discovery of a clear, 1,500-year cycle in the Arctic Oscillation. Evidence Darby found in core samples extracted from the ocean floor sheds light on climate trends elsewhere in the world. A co-author is Chester Grosch, a professor of physical oceanography and computer science at ODU.

The findings reported by the Darby team indicate that this natural cycle could be forcing some of the Arctic ice melting and unusual weather experienced recently in the heavily populated northern half of the globe. In a worst-case scenario that Darby described, the cyclical pressure pattern could combine with man-made climate change to exacerbate severe weather and flooding trends. In the near term, according to Darby, “The implications are that the severe winters of 2009-11 (experienced in northern Europe and elsewhere) might be tame compared to what is possible, based on past swings in the AO.”

Peter Bernath, chair of the ODU Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, is one of the authors of the second article, which reported the first direct evidence that emissions of carbon dioxide caused by human activity are propagating upward to the highest regions of the atmosphere. The researchers found evidence that CO levels are increasing faster than expected in the upper atmosphere, which seems to be cooling and contracting at a pace that current models have not predicted. Reduction in atmospheric drag brought on by the resulting decrease in density could keep space junk in orbit longer, creating more congestion by orbital debris.

“This is a fine accomplishment, having two papers by scientists from Old Dominion published simultaneously by this prestigious journal,” said Chris Platsoucas, dean of the ODU College of Sciences. “We are immensely proud of the work of professors Darby, Grosch and Bernath, and we congratulate them on these publications.”

Nature Geoscience is an international monthly journal that is one of the sister publications of the weekly journal Nature. The Nature Publishing Group is headquartered in London, England.
Center in Virginia Beach Aims for Innovative Transportation Solutions

The Center for Innovative Transportation Solutions that ODU will operate in Virginia Beach’s Town Center was officially opened in November at a ceremony led by President John Broderick and Virginia Beach Mayor Will Sessoms. The keynote speaker, Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean T. Connaughton, congratulated the university and city for collaboratively working to solve traffic problems.

The center will focus on developing and applying innovative techniques, including the expansive use of modeling and simulation, to address a broad variety of transportation challenges and issues facing the region, state and nation. Its director, Asad Khattak, ODU’s Batten Chair in Transportation, will lead a team of six researchers at the Virginia Beach office.

Broderick said the facility can become a test bed for innovative and sustainable transportations for the research and beyond. “We have assembled a team of internationally known researchers and educators that include Dr. Khattak, Dr. Mike Robinson and Dr. Mecit Cetin, who will lead the development of the center.”

First Northern Lapwing Sighting, Courtesy of Hurricane Sandy

Before Hurricane Sandy roared up the East Coast, there had been no sightings in Virginia of the Northern Lapwing, a mostly blackish and white bird about the size of a crow that is commonly found in Europe and Asia. But that changed, thanks to Robyn Nadolny, a doctoral student at Old Dominion University who specializes in ticks.

Actually, Nadolny had some help from birders, with whom she had trekked into Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia Beach on Nov. 20. She was on a field trip with the Field Ornithology class of Eric Walters, assistant professor of biological sciences at ODU. Nadolny said she took the class, in which most of the students are undergraduates, because birds are the hosts for many species of ticks in Hampton Roads and learning how to identify birds is relevant to her dissertation.

“We were looking at the various birds and had been watching one area for about 30 minutes when a strange bird arrived,” Walters said. “We originally thought it was a Northern Harrier, as it was being chased by a bald eagle. After it landed, we realized that it was not a bird of prey. It looked and acted like a shorebird. But, the markings were not familiar to me.”

Cue Nadolny. “I am the only graduate student in the class whose research is not primarily focused on birds, and I think it was that inexperience that led to the correct ID,” she said. “Because I don’t have a lot of experience identifying and working with birds, I was only focusing on the morphology of the bird and not on which birds were common to our area. Flipping through my Peterson’s Field Guide, I stopped on the Rare Shorebirds page; the illustration of the Northern Lapwing, which is an occasional vagrant in the Northeast after being blown over by late autumn storms, jumped right out at me.”

Walters admits that he was skeptical at first. “Robyn Nadolny suggested to me that it was a Northern Lapwing. I was not familiar with this species and dismissed the suggestion. I continued to look at the bird through a spotting scope. As I called out field marks, both Robyn and Natasha Hagemeyer (another graduate student in the class) said ‘check’ after each was called out. I still did not believe that this was a Northern Lapwing. There has never been a record from Virginia. So I continued to study the bird. Half of the class left to go see if they could get a closer look. As I continued to watch the bird, I could see the diagnostic crest on top, the rusty tail coverts, the black bib and other diagnostic features. They eventually convinced me that this was the real deal and so I suggested they call the Virginia Rare Bird Alert hotline.”
Old Dominion University’s algae-energy research over the past five years has led to a joint commercial venture between ODU and a Hampton Roads company that has become the nation’s largest supplier of commercial fertilizers made totally or partially of organic matter.

The formal agreement is between the Old Dominion Research Foundation and NP Labs, a subsidiary of Nutrients PLUS, a Virginia Beach company that formulates and markets “green” fertilizers. John Moriarty, the president of Nutrients PLUS, signed documents at ODU creating the new company, Applied Algae Research Manufacturing and Marketing (AARMM), through which the two parties will merge their expertise.

Representing ODU at the signing ceremony were Patrick Hatcher, the geochemist who has led the university’s algae research, and Brent Edington, the university’s director of patents and licensing. Ray Grover, an owner of NP Labs and a consultant to Nutrients PLUS, was also present.

Hatcher, who is the Batten Endowed Chair of Physical Sciences at ODU, is the executive director of the Virginia Coastal Energy Research Consortium, which will have a stake in AARMM’s operations. He also directs ODU’s College of Sciences Major Instrument Cluster (COSMIC) laboratory, which will provide sophisticated chemical analysis needed by the new company.

Moriarty, who holds degrees in agronomy and forestry, has worked for three decades in industries that promote environmental stewardship. He said representatives of the company have been interested in Hatcher’s algal research for more than three years. In 2011, at ODU’s Algal Farm near Hopewell, Va., the university joined with Nutrients PLUS to oversee a corn crop experiment that suggested a promising future for the algae-fortified fertilizers.

Fertilizers that include organic matter such as algae could be formulated with substantially less synthetic nitrogen and phosphorous, Moriarty said. When these nonorganic nutrients are washed off lawns and croplands in coastal Virginia, they have an adverse effect on water quality in rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Virginia is under a federal consent order currently to reduce nutrient pollution in its tidal tributaries and the bay. “We’ve got one solution for the bay,” Moriarty said.

Since the ODU Algal Farm opened in 2008, headlines about the facility have focused on its potential to produce algae-based biodiesel fuel. Nevertheless, Hatcher has always contended that biofuels were only one focus of the algae research at ODU. Much of the effort at the farm has been aimed at technologies to promote the growth of beneficial species and to perfect the harvest and drying of the algae. From the start, Hatcher has also extolled the potential benefits of algae as a fertilizer.
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Philosopher of Technology
Dylan Wittkower

Sartre and Schopenhauer?
Would You Want Them As Facebook Friends?

By Jim Raper
D.E. Wittkower’s career as a philosopher of technology has evolved along with Facebook, and it seems only right that the world is turning to him now to help explain just what social media networks mean to us – really mean. “I work on the edges of philosophy,” he says, which in a symbolic sort of way may explain an article he plans to work on this year about the nation’s fascination with bacon.

“It’s been bothering me for a while,” he says. “Why bacon, why now? Bacon Band-Aids, bacon-scented candles, bacon cologne, YouTube videos about bacon, bacon-flavored shaving cream.”

Anyone who knows him well calls him Dylan and also knows that even though he slots himself on the edges of philosophy, he is still very much the philosopher. Whether he is discussing social media, bacon or the technological aspects of the common pencil, he finds a way to express his ideas in relation to the German philosophers – including Kant, Hegel, Marx, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche and Heidegger – whom he studied as a graduate student, or to others, such as Sartre and Camus.

Technology was his birthright growing up in Palo Alto, in the center of California’s Silicon Valley. He learned to program BASIC in elementary school. But at 14 he enrolled in an introduction to philosophy course at a community college, and technology shifted to a supporting role in his education. By his mid-teens, he had decided he wanted to teach philosophy for a living. At Vanderbilt University, where he earned his Ph.D., he zeroed in on “the structure and meaning of things to human experience.” He adds, “My work focuses on two basic things: outreach efforts intended to expand the prominence of philosophy in our society and culture, and the attempt to articulate the personal and social meanings of technology, especially social media.

“The theme throughout, I guess, is an interest in finding what’s really real—of getting behind our illusions and the veil of appearances. And that’s what led me to technology, more so than any interest in technology per se.” The way technology structures and reveals human experience, he believes, “constitutes a great and complex and disorienting difficult and fundamental underlying set of imperatives and directives and problematics, which occupy and inhabit our thoughts and intentions in ways far more wide- and deeply-reaching than we appreciate.”

A prolific writer of scholarly and popular works, Wittkower has had recent articles in the Wall Street Journal (“How Social Media Sucks Us into Arguments About Things Like Gun Control” and “Will Occupy Wall Street ‘Like’ Mark Zuckerberg’s Potential $24 Billion IPO Haul?”) and Slate Magazine (“How Can Social Media Better Support a Community in Mourning?”) He also edited and contributed to “Facebook and Philosophy” (Open Court, 2010), a book that was written for a general audience, but has been accepted in many quarters as a scholarly resource. “I’ve been writing and speaking on social media off and on since the book was published, “and it’s become one of my main areas of research,” he says.

He finds broad meaning in social media content. For example, he can analyze the media traffic about the theater massacre in Aurora, Colo., and build the case that social media are better instruments of healing than popular media. Toward a gun-control debate on Facebook, he takes a peacekeeper’s stance: “So, go for it!” he advises his readers who may want to engage in political debate on Facebook. “But remember Wheaton’s Law. You don’t do your view any favors when you fail to respect others, and others’ views, no matter how wrong they might be. Politics, in the
end, is about trying to figure out how to live together with others, and that’s what everybody has in mind when they talk politics. Each and every person talking politics is trying to put forth their own best ideas about how we can best live together, and we should always keep that in mind (even) when they identify the problem with our society as being people like you.”

The thread of Wittkower’s scholarship extends to numerous aspects of modern culture, such as friendship online, identity on social networks, and the role of boredom and oversharing in our digital lives. He has worked on other aspects of the philosophy of technology and philosophy of culture, on topics including the iPod, employee loyalty, the role of “the cute” online, Full Metal Alchemist, copyright, audiobooks and the Occupy Wall Street movement. He edited “Philip K. Dick and Philosophy,” “Mr. Monk and Philosophy,” and “iPod and Philosophy.”

After receiving his Ph.D. in philosophy from Vanderbilt in 2006, he taught at Sweet Briar College, Virginia Tech, University of Missouri-St. Louis, University of Maine–Orono and Coastal Carolina University, where he won the 2011 Humanities and Fine Arts Award for Distinguished Teaching. Later in 2011 he joined ODU.

Wittkower’s wife, Lucinda Rush, who holds master’s degrees in music education and in library and information sciences, joined ODU Libraries as an education reference librarian earlier this year. The couple, who have two children, sometime collaborate on scholarly articles and they are currently co-editing “Ender’s Game and Philosophy,” a book that is scheduled to be published in November around the time of the release of the film version of “Ender’s Game” by Orson Scott Card.

Google searches for information about Wittkower are likely to turn up the book “Facebook and Philosophy.” It serves as his calling card, tying his name to the Facebook phenomenon and gaining him recent invitations to present his research in Texas, England and two institutions in the Netherlands.

But getting the word out through scholarly channels is often slow, not fast-paced enough for someone with Wittkower’s interests, and that explains his eagerness to write for the popular media. “In my area of expertise, there are often important and valuable concerns which call for less traditionally academic approaches,” he said. “We philosophers of technology believe that technological development has been attended by a failure to engage in meaningful public debate about the social and political meaning of design choices and modes of adoption of new technologies.

“Several of us are also of the belief that we ought to try to instigate, deepen and refine this public debate ourselves, and consider this kind of public philosophy to be part of our proper activity and professional responsibility as philosophers of technology. Traditional peer-reviewed work is sometimes too slow a process to be responsive enough to influence foundational public discussions on emerging technologies, and is rarely sufficiently available or engaging to be widely enough read. We are hoping that in the future this kind of public engagement will be better recognized in promotion and tenure processes.”

The scholarly writing of Wittkower can interpret Aristotle, Albert Camus and Martin Heidegger in the context of present-day use of social media. Still, his overall style is layman-friendly. In his chapter, “A Reply to Facebook Critics,” from the book “Facebook and Philosophy,” he deftly slaps Jean Paul Sartre, the 20th-century French existentialist, onto the Facebook Wall, remembering Sartre’s mantra that the meaning of our lives is up to us to create, which is both liberating and terrifying.

The 19th-century German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer – who is known as having been something of a grump – is targeted by Wittkower as a potential enemy of Facebook. Schopenhauer wrote, “It is only in the microscope that our life looks so big,” referring to people deluding themselves into believing their lives are significant.

“Of course, Schopenhauer wanted us to take the ‘big view,’ and to take our eye away from this particular microscope,” Wittkower writes in the book chapter. “But Schopenhauer also said that boredom is ‘direct proof that existence has no real value in itself,’ and that ‘human life must be some kind of a mistake.’ I want to defend the microscope. I want to defend happiness and the pursuit of truth, beauty, creativity and family. And I want to defend the value of sharing them with friends, and sharing in the similarly arbitrary and possibly unimportant interests, obsessions and concerns of our friends. What else than this is life?”

Nearly covering the walls of his office are books on makeshift shelves and abstract paintings that he executed before he began a sabbatical a few years back from his visual arts hobby. Most notable in the tight office, however, is the “standing desk,” the top of which is more than four feet high. He can work on his laptop while standing. Medical evidence, he says, shows that a lot of sitting leads to illnesses, weight gain and sometimes early death. “It’s a morbidity issue,” he explains, sounding every bit like a philosopher intent on helping us cope with technology.
NO PLAID JACKETS WITH ELBOW PATCHES!

“I tend to dress colorfully. But students assiduously avoid showing any kind of response to the suits. It does seem to amuse them, though.”

–Technology Philosopher

D. E. Wittkower

Photo: Roberto Westbrook
AUTHENTICITY, IMAGE, AND MEANING are manufactured goods, designed, produced, and marketed like any other sports drink, toilet paper, sandwich cookie, politician, or whatever. And just as corn-syrup-sweet and sat-fat-rich confectionaries make our children find apples and grapes to be dull and unappetizing by comparison, we find real people to be so awfully uninteresting and unimportant compared to those who are industrially manufactured.

From "Matt Damon Is a Vast Sinister Conspiracy" in "Philip K. Dick and Philosophy: Do Androids Have Kindred Spirits?"

MANY OF OUR FACEBOOK ACTIONS...might seem to mean nothing, and yet be taken to mean something. They might seem to mean something, and in fact mean something else. The "poke," for example. What is someone trying to communicate with a poke? It can be a non-verbal "hello," it can be flirtatious, it can be a kind of game of poke-and-poke-back.... This is what is so valuable about Facebook: the indeterminate meaning of so much of what it is, and what it does. This indeterminacy allows us users plenty of space to make things mean what we want them to. If there's anything humans are good at, it's creating meaning through social interactions. The merest glance, a trembling of the lips, a furrowed brow: every slightest sign can mean so much and speak so many volumes—but only because each of these signs, on their own and out of context, don't mean anything, but are only openings of spaces of a variety of different possible meanings, depending on context, history, environment, and mood. Facebook gives us the same richness of interaction because it, too, fails to determine the meaning of our relationships and communications.

From "A Reply to Facebook Critics" in "Facebook and Philosophy: What's On Your Mind"

WHAT IS NEW AND DISTINCTIVE in the occupation movement is that non-violence has been extended into non-action. To be sure, occupations march, shout slogans in the street, pamphlet, engage in civil disobedience, and so forth—but occupations also occupy, which we might define incompletely as the public demonstration of the existence of a public, and an assertion of rights of assembly and speech. The refusal to have a singular and exclusive platform, list of demands, or vertical hierarchy allows the non-action of occupation to demonstrate that state violence against protesters is not an action taken against a particular element in society or a particular political agenda, but rather the allergy of the state to the power of the people as such. By refusing to have any particular, clear, unifying claim or outcome, occupation is able to make its distinctive case all the more forcefully: that the idea of power to the people, outside of the structures of monied interests, is itself a threat to contemporary American pseudo-democracy.

AS ADULTS, when we have been hurt, are afraid, or wish otherwise to retreat from the world, we engage in this kind of childish repetition as well, and for the same reasons. So-called "comfort food," for example, seems to consist of an exact replication of the highest-fat-content things eaten as a child. The troubled mind wishes to retreat to a stable past, safe from change, and so we obsessively seek to recreate exactly our past childish food-obsessions; the high-fat dishes presumably serve this function best because they bring about a physiological sluggishness that helps to further quiet the mind. Thanksgiving is perhaps the most conservative and fearful of our contemporary rituals: we return to our families, we eat the exact dishes eaten every year at this time (and only at this time), and then we collectively pass out in a bloated corpse-like torpor, aided by the mind-deadening effects of television and gravy. We eat to forget that life moves on; we eat until there's no more room for uncertainty. From "Mr. Monk and the Death Drive," in "Mr. Monk and Philosophy."

WE SHY AWAY from this existential boredom, and fail to worry that we are losing something of value. With our children, as they become ever busier with school, music lessons, sports, and so forth, we worry that they are losing their interiority and self-direction, since they are never confronted by free time. Similarly, we worry that with toys that dictate certain forms of play, and which come pre-packaged with their own narratives, our children are losing capacities for imagination, creativity, and story-telling, better supported by childhoods running through forests and parks, playing with sticks and cardboard boxes. Should we not worry that adults stand to suffer similar losses through the devaluation of and attempt to eliminate boredom? From "Boredom on Facebook," in "The Unlike Us Reader," the Institute of Network Cultures, forthcoming.

THESE MEANINGFUL MOMENTS of boredom alongside are meaningful because they are stretches of time devoid of meaning, in which means have no end and therefore cannot be means; in which we are given free play in the creation of meaning and value on our own terms. Just as in Kant's aesthetic theory from his Critique of Judgment, disinterestedness is a precondition of the perception of beauty, which is our enjoyment of the free play of the understanding and imagination—similarly, boredom is a precondition (though not a necessary one) of 'hanging out' and 'quality time', which are constituted by our enjoyment of the collaborative free play of our ability to determine our own values and define meaningfulness in our lives. Boredom is our experience of the greatest weight, to invoke Nietzsche once more: the burden of modernity in the experience of our lives as without purpose. But it is also the gateway to the greatest possibility of modernity—that we should create meaning along with others—and we find being bored along with others to be meaningful because it gives us the experience of doing so. From "Boredom on Facebook," in "The Unlike Us Reader," the Institute of Network Cultures, forthcoming.
Bissonnette made the bigger media splash. His pen name, Mark Owen, is on the cover of the book, and his identity was protected when he gave a shadowed, voice-altered interview promoting the book on CBS’s “60 Minutes.” But it didn’t take long for reporters to reveal Bissonnette as the SEAL whose story it was.

Some SEALs and others in the U.S. military criticized Bissonnette, who left the Navy before the book was published, for deciding to go public with the operations of the elite SEAL Team 6 based in Virginia Beach. In the book’s Author’s Note, Bissonnette writes that a former U.S. Special Operations attorney was hired to ensure that the book contained no sensitive information that could be used by sophisticated enemies.

Once the book was published, received excellent reviews and rapidly became a bestseller, the criticism seemed to fall off. In interviews Maurer gave during the summer, he compared the book to other popular and inspirational books about the SEALs (“Men with Green Faces”) and the Army Special Forces (“The Green Berets”). “We will need more men like the SEALs who answered the call in Abbottabad last May,” Maurer wrote in an article for the Huffington Post. “If just one person is inspired to follow in their footsteps, ‘No Easy Day’ has accomplished its mission.”

In a positive review of the book in The New York Times, Janet Maslin wrote: “The emphasis...is not on spilling secrets. It is on explaining a SEAL’s rigorous mind-set and showing how that toughness is created.”

The Los Angeles Times reviewer, Tony Perry, called the book “an important historic document,” and added, “Think if we had a first-person account of the last minutes of Hitler in his bunker or Yamamoto on his plane. ...’No Easy Day’ is brisk and compelling in its telling of the training, execution and immediate aftermath of the Bin Laden mission....”

It was Maurer who brought to the project a knack for military storytelling, and experience writing about missions set in and around Afghanistan. How he moved from a college student whose writing was weak to a best selling author is another story.

Maurer studied political science at ODU. Not until after college did he drift into news reporting. By 2003 he was in North Carolina working for the Fayetteville Observer, and he quickly homed in on the story possibilities presented by Fort Bragg. While at the paper, he made more than a dozen trips to Afghanistan and Iraq to report on the missions of paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division and of Special Operations troops. Later, as a North Carolina-based reporter for The Associated Press, Maurer was embedded with Special Forces soldiers in Afghanistan and part of the AP team that covered the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

Also in 2010, Maurer published a book that would be a sign of things to come. Together with Army Col. Bill Richardson, he wrote Richardson’s account of a death march of American soldiers captured by the North Koreans: “Valleys of Death: A Memoir of the Korean War.” Within the next two years Maurer had co-written three more books about U.S. military missions in Afghanistan (see titles of Maurer’s books, page 39). So it was a no-brainer for Dutton, the prospective publisher of “No Easy Day,” to put Maurer together with Bissonnette for the book project.

Maurer took a job as an editor with the Wilmington, N.C., Star News in the middle of the “No Easy Day” fervor last year, and has tried to keep his life as normal as possible, even though he has turned out a breakthrough work of nonfiction and more than 500,000 people own a hardback copy with his name on the cover.

Monarch Magazine had the opportunity to interview Maurer late last year. Here are his answers and comments:

**KEVIN MAURER ’97**

is a newspaper editor and successful author of military adventure stories, but nobody who knew him during his student days at Old Dominion University could have seen this career path coming. The 38-year-old co-author of the best-selling “No Easy Day: The Firsthand Account of the Mission that Killed Osama bin Laden” spent a hectic first few months of 2012 finishing up the manuscript, which he wrote together with Matt Bissonnette, a U.S. Navy SEAL who participated in the raid May 1, 2011, on bin Laden’s residential compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. After the writing was done, the two men had to deal with a media storm that began in the summer, before the book’s official publication date in September.
I am from Virginia Beach. I lived in Northern Virginia and Paris, France, where my father worked at the U.S. Embassy, before settling in Virginia Beach. I call it home because my parents and one of my brothers still live in the area. Also, some of my closest friends live there. Out of all the places I’ve lived, I lived in Virginia Beach the longest.

Before transferring to ODU, I spent one year at Hampden-Sydney College in Farmville, Va. I came back for several reasons, but at the top was the broader range of majors offered by ODU. I really liked the small liberal arts curriculum of Hampden-Sydney, but I wanted a bigger school. I never studied journalism. Instead, I was a political science major. Being a reporter never crossed my mind until I moved to Boston.

I didn’t work at the Mace & Crown student newspaper. I was a commuter student. I only came to ODU for class, when I showed up. I wasn’t a very good student. But my favorite professor was Dr. Steve Yetiv. I took two of his classes and I think he most influenced the way I see the world. He also got me interested in foreign affairs and national security, which I am sure influenced me to pursue my career in military reporting. I wasn’t interested in writing early on, nor was I any good at writing. I struggled writing even simple papers. It wasn’t until I understood that writing is rewriting that I finally started to enjoy it. Now, I am comfortable writing badly because I know it is a means to an end.

I started my career writing CD and concert reviews in Boston. I moved up there after graduating from ODU. But journalism was attractive to me because I could experience a wide range of people and issues without committing to them. Journalism allowed me to experience the world. I moved down to Washington, D.C., and took a job with a newsletter publisher. I learned how to be a reporter in Washington. I had two great editors who taught me how to build sources, interview and write. I was lucky enough to move from newsletters to newspapers when I got hired by the Fayetteville Observer to cover the military. I really learned how to write long-form stories at the Observer. I had a great editor there who challenged me to dig deeper. The AP hired me in 2008 to cover the North Carolina coast and military. With the AP I covered hurricanes, the war in Afghanistan and the earthquake in Haiti. It was fun but I missed newspapers. So, after leaving The AP to write “Gentlemen Bastards,” I was lucky enough to get a job at the local paper in Wilmington, where I am the investigative/projects editor.

I never served in the military. I did two years with the Naval ROTC unit at ODU and liked it, but ultimately after going on cruise for a month I realized the Navy wasn’t for me. I always respected the military. Both my parents are Vietnam veterans, so the military was always an interest. But journalism really was a passion once I started working in the field, and covering the military was a natural progression. To me, it is the best beat because it offers a wide range of stories.

“The deadlines in publishing are usually really long, but “No Easy Day” was more like a newspaper project. I had to get the story and get the manuscript finished in a few months. I also had to finish a book I was working on with Mitch Weiss about the hunt for Che Guevara. It was a busy time.

Matt Bissonnette and I met for a few hours five...
days a week. We would talk through a chapter and I would spend the rest of the day writing. Then at the end of the week, we’d revise at least two chapters with Matt rewriting sections and making sure every sentence was accurate. In some way the fast pace kept the book on track and tight. We didn’t have time to wander too far from the story, and in the end I think it served the book well. This story is too important to get bogged down in anything but what happened. By focusing on the thoughts, feelings and emotion of what happened, I think readers for the first time get a sense of what kind of men perform missions like the one in Abbottabad and hopefully have even more respect for them.

We struggled with the structure a little bit, but we always knew we wanted to begin the book with the harrowing helicopter landing at the compound. We felt like it was the best way to hook the reader. The key to the structure was making sure the reader met all the characters on the raid in the first half so when the mission started the reader knew the players. We wrote the book backward, starting with the raid to make sure we only focused on the characters that we needed to tell the story. There were 24 men on the mission with an important job, but we really only cover a few because I never wanted the reader to stop and think, “Who is this guy again?” That happens a lot in military narratives, even really good ones, so I tried to keep the number of characters tight.

The national security debate had no effect on the book because we were always writing a story in hopes of capturing what happened in that moment. This wasn’t a political or policy book. It was about the brave men who go into harm’s way on a daily basis. I never really thought about how many people might read the book because if I had I wouldn’t have been able to write it. Plus, with such a short deadline, I really didn’t have a lot of time to focus on anything but the manuscript.

**NO BOOK IS PERFECT**, but I am pretty proud of the reviews this one is getting. More than just the raid, I think the book offers readers a rare glimpse into the SEALs’ world. One of my goals was to make sure the readers felt like they were with the team, not only on the bin Laden raid, but on all the missions, so they could understand what it takes to be part of such an elite unit.

The media attention was intense. I got interview requests from news agencies around the globe. But I really felt like it was better for Matt to tell the story. I thought the “60 Minutes” interview was great and really got to the soul of the book. But no, the media attention has not created any difficult moments for me. I am just pleased that people are enjoying the book.

I have been offered a few new book projects, but right now I am focused on making final edits on a book about Che Guevara. I am writing it with Mitch Weiss, a former colleague at AP. The book covers the hunt for Che in 1967 from the point of view of the CIA, Bolivian rangers and the Green Berets who trained the rangers. After that book, I am not sure what I want to do. Mitch and I are talking about another Afghanistan book in 2014 and I want to find another book to write in 2013, but right now I haven’t found the right idea.

**BOOKS**

by KEVIN MAURER


“Gentlemen Bastards: On the Ground in Afghanistan with America’s Elite Special Forces” (2012). About the Green Berets’ role in the War on Terror.

When Jennifer Fitzgibbon played on the tennis team at Old Dominion University, she had to be quick on her feet, make split-second decisions and face down the competition. She liked the challenge, and she liked being part of the team.

Now, 20 years later, many of those same skills serve her well as managing director and treasurer of M&IB Americas, the Americas Markets and International Banking Division of The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), a large international banking and financial services company.

When Michael Florio, retired managing director and treasurer of M&IB Americas, sought opinions about Fitzgibbon before hiring her in 2009 as his likely successor, he says everyone mentioned that she was a team player. “A key part of her job when she came on board as sort of the anointed successor was to integrate herself with the team and to realize that she was only going to do as well as the team did,” he recalls. “She has a bit of a mentality for the greater good, which is hard to find in people.”

Fitzgibbon’s winning combination of logic and leadership began as a child growing up in New York City. Her father was a Wall Street banker, who, she says, had the skills to be a mathematician if he hadn’t gone into banking. Her mother was a performer, singing opera with the Metropolitan Opera for 24 years, as well as singing on Broadway.

“I’ve always had diversified interests,” Fitzgibbon says. “Growing up with a mother who is an artist, you’re introduced to certain things that you may not otherwise be exposed to. My father was much more linear, technical and intellectual, so he
was an influence for different reasons. I learned a lot from both of them. I’ve always had an interest in psychology, but my passion had always been in mathematics.”

She recalls that Barry Gillen’s social psychology course was one of her most interesting classes at ODU. “Ironically,” she says, “I probably use much more psychology than mathematics in my day-to-day work.”

That left-brain/right-brain duality enables her to excel in the financial services industry, handling both the analytical and leadership tasks with equal aplomb, Florio explains.

Her ability to identify gaps and build better functions and groups to fill those gaps is one of Fitzgibbon’s keys to success as a financial manager. “In all of my positions, I’ve hired people and built teams within a year to two years that created a much different environment and that have been stronger and more productive,” she says.

Her education, as well as her career, reflects those diverse interests. Fitzgibbon earned a bachelor of science in psychology from ODU in 1989, receiving an award from the psychology department for her undergraduate thesis on eating disorders as a function of gender and context. Although her degree was in psychology, she had a keen interest in mathematics. After working for six months as a bill collector, she realized she wanted to pursue a career in science/technology. She returned to ODU and completed a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering in 1992, with an emphasis in aerospace engineering.

She began working for Boeing Defense and Space Group in Philadelphia, where she was the only woman among the 35 engineers in her area. She could deal with that, but found the work to be too cyclical. Once the design phases of her projects were completed and the projects went into the manufacturing phase, the work wasn’t dynamic or fast-paced enough for her competitive personality. And, she adds, she missed New York City and wanted to get back home.

After two and a half years at Boeing she pursued a career on Wall Street, encouraged by her father and other close friends and advisors. She earned a master’s of business administration with an emphasis in finance from New York University’s Stern School of Business in 1999. At the same time, she went to work for the HVB Group in New York, where she rose from a treasury controlling analyst to managing director for risk control and analysis.

Her career path took her next to Merrill Lynch, and then to Lehman Brothers. She remained at Lehman Brothers through its downfall and joined Barclays’ Capital thereafter recommended her for a major promotion because he believed she was capable of striking the right balance between risk and reward.

Though some in the financial industry see a stigma attached to having worked for Lehman, she takes pride in the opportunities she had there and the resiliency she experienced daily.

Florio calls her Lehman experience an asset. “If you can survive going through hell and back, you’re pretty good,” he explains. “A lot of people were sort of crushed in the disaster, but she came away certainly having learned a lot that she could use in future business.”

When he interviewed Fitzgibbon, Florio wasn’t just looking to fill a position: he wanted someone to be in the line of succession for when he retired. He was seeking someone who not only had a lot of experience in the industry and a proven track record, but also someone who was well thought of and could be a leader.

Fitzgibbon possessed several traits that Florio was seeking, primarily great analytic abilities and a strong work ethic. These are characteristics typical of many successful financiers, but “she just has them in spades,” Florio says. “Jennifer can come in at six in the morning and leave at eight at night and there’s no complaining—she actually thrives on it.”

As treasurer for M&IB Americas, she manages the funding, liquidity and capital for RBS Securities Inc., in the Americas, as well as the U.S. branches of RBS. Fitzgibbon likes the challenge of the fast-paced financial world. “You’re always juggling several balls in the air,” she says. “You have to think about the interdependencies and make decisions quickly, but you also have to know enough of the details to make those decisions.” In addition, you must be competitive and willing to take risks—skills she honed through her athletic pursuits.

Fitzgibbon tells the story of an off-site work ski trip to Austria early in her career. She didn’t know how to ski, but she met a colleague on the bus from Munich to the slopes in Austria who convinced her to ski the challenging black diamond slopes with him. “He said to trust him and I’d be fine,” she recalls. It was challenging, and she took home some impressive bruises, but she made it down. “Sometimes you just have to take chances, but always with a healthy dose of good judgment (or common sense).”

And sometimes they pay off. Her skiing companion turned out to be the company’s new global head of risk control. He shortly thereafter recommended her for a major promotion because he believed she was capable of striking the right balance between risk and reward.

Her career and interests have taken her down many different paths, and one reason she’s succeeded is her openness to opportunities. “Everyone at some point walks into something new, and you must walk in with confidence,” she says.
While confidence, leadership, risk-taking and logical thinking skills are all important in the financial field, Fitzgibbon says it’s not necessary to be a math whiz. “There are a lot of positions that don’t require higher level math, but they do require you to think on your feet. It really makes a difference if you want to go out and effect change. The higher you are in management the more critical teambuilding becomes.”

In an industry where women are still the minority, Fitzgibbon is passionate about encouraging women’s development. She serves as co-chair of the RBS M&IB Americas Internal Women’s Network, Compass, and is an advocate of bringing more women into the financial services sector. She would like to see more women across the board in typically male-dominated industries and roles, and believes that it is simply about demystifying the business and building an environment of inclusiveness. She acknowledges the stereotype that Wall Street is a boys’ club and believes that both men and women have an obligation to make sure women feel more comfortable in the financial world on a day-to-day basis.

The skill sets required for success are not gender-specific, she says. “There are certain qualities that signal whether you’ll succeed in this business, including assertiveness, intellectual curiosity, strong communication skills and competitiveness.” The successful banker, she added, also needs to be able to be calm and level-headed at times of extreme adversity or crisis.

That’s where team dynamics help her, going back to college days. She says much of the college experience for her was about connecting to a community and developing social and interactive skills. Through the tennis team at ODU, the Honors Program (which later became the Honors College) and Chi Omega sorority, she developed a strong sense of community, a feeling she tries to foster in the business world.

“There are a lot of smart people out there,” Fitzgibbon says, “but the ones who succeed in this business are the ones who can garner support, know how to lead and understand the nuances and dynamics of different personality types. They understand how to work with people and get the maximum benefit in that construct.”

When Fitzgibbon became treasurer in 2010, she had to prove herself locally to senior management in the United States and to RBS management in the home office in London. As Florio recalls, she worked very hard, first among the treasury team and traders and then with trips to London to build relationships with managers there, so she was more than just a voice on the phone. “She managed well among her peers, but she also managed ‘up’ very well,” he says.

She became treasurer at a critical time – during a worldwide financial crisis – when the bank was being rescued by government officials, and she managed the situation with aplomb. “One of the critical things she did to keep the situation on an even keel was the management and balance she inserted into dealing with the U.K. government and the U.S. regulators during a terrible time of crisis,” Florio explains.

“Having the desire to always push yourself and achieve milestones is very beneficial in a results-oriented industry,” she says. “The competitiveness has helped me distinguish myself to some extent. As I was working my way up, with daily assignments and things that needed to get done, I would be the one to do them and strove to establish myself as the go-to person.”

Despite her competitive nature, she maintains balance in her life by spending time with family and friends, traveling and playing golf and tennis. She also gives back by serving on the board and as treasurer of One Village Planet – Women’s Development Initiative, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting women’s contributions to the economies of Ghana and Haiti.

And she has given back to her university. Fitzgibbon recently established a scholarship endowment for ODU’s Honors College. The Jennifer Fitzgibbon Honors College Endowed Scholarship will target students with a strong interest in engineering or business.

“It is through the generosity of individuals, like Jennifer Fitzgibbon, that many of our best students are able to attend an institution of higher learning,” says David Metzger, dean of the Honors College. “This scholarship will be a welcome and essential resource to our students and their families, since many of our incoming students flock to majors in the Batten College of Engineering and Technology and the College of Business and Public Administration.”

It’s all part of her philosophy of hard work and teamwork. “It’s a concept of the rising tide to lift all boats,” Florio says. “And she believes in that.”
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Beyond Tailgating
Alums Can Reconnect the Year Round

You’ve already read about the wins, losses and post-season accolades surrounding football. As someone who was fortunate enough to see all the excitement, I can attest to the fact that our 12th Monarchs – many of whom are proud ODU alumni – were in full force every Saturday from September through December. (And let me tell you, there is nothing to compare to a playoff game in December with temperatures in the low 60s.)

I can also attest to the fact that your alumni association offered ways for alumni to engage every other day of the week as well. In addition to sponsoring pregame social opportunities for all alumni and fans for every football game, we introduced alumni to the University’s tree trail, connected students with alumni for career and life advice, supported Public Service Week, continued the popular beer tasting series, and took a kayaking adventure led by the Recreation Sports program. Our chapters in the Richmond, northern Virginia/Washington, D.C.’ and Atlanta areas held events that allowed Monarchs to connect, and the Black Alumni Chapter continued its tradition of gathering during Homecoming week. So on any given day of the week alumni could reconnect to ODU.

Here in the spring, our schedule is just as robust. In addition to athletic-related events, we’ll hold an Oscar-themed evening, designed to give you historical perspective on this blockbuster event. If you’re in the market for a new job, or simply want to network, mark your calendar now for March 26 for the annual Spring Career Fair on campus. Our golf tournament in support of the Alumni Association’s scholarship will be on May 13. We will assemble panels to discuss careers with students from various majors. We’re also working to gauge interest in alumni groups forming in the New York City area. And, be on the lookout for more outdoor adventures.

Of course, we want you to know about all the opportunities. If you haven’t updated your information with us recently, please visit www.odualumni.org and take a moment to register with the Alumni Association’s online community, the Lion’s Den. And, let me make a special request while you’re there: make sure to update your business contact information, as well. We are always looking for alumni to bring their work experiences to campus to share with students. In short: connecting you with your alma mater is a year-round goal.

And, as I write this, it’s 255 days until kickoff. I hope to see you before then.

-Dana Allen,
Assistant Vice President, Alumni Relations
THE HELPING HAND GOLF TOURNAMENT was held the day before Homecoming 2012 at Sewells Point Golf Course in Norfolk. Theta Chi alumnus Carlton Bennett reports, "It was a tremendous success! We had 100 participants this year and raised $4,135 in profits. All profits are being used for the scholarship fund (501(C)(3) tax exempt foundation) and leadership development for chapter officers." The celebration continued the following day with a tailgate party preceding the Oct. 13 Villanova football game with more than 100 alumni, undergraduates and friends attending.

"The golf tournament and tailgate committee worked extremely hard and their hard work will pay big dividends for next year and future years," Bennett said, and congratulated its members: Scott Reinen, Bill House, Mike Barnum, Winston Williams, Darron Cross and John Teeuwen.

MONARCH PRIDE

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CONNECT WITH THE RIGHT PEOPLE

Monarch magazine can connect your business with thousands of educated and successful customers. Our award-winning publication is mailed to more than 100,000 alumni and friends throughout the state and across the globe. As an added bonus, alumni business owners receive a 10 percent discount on their ads.

For more information contact Dan Campbell at 757-683-6164 or by email at dcampbel@odu.edu.

NOMINATIONS are now being accepted for the Alumni Association Board of Directors. For more information please contact the office of alumni relations at odualumni@odu.edu. Deadline for consideration is March 15, 2013.
The Old Dominion University Alumni Association presented Distinguished Alumni, Outstanding Achievement, Alumni Service and Honorary Alumni awards Oct. 11 at the 4th Annual Alumni Honors Dinner. The association also recognized the Class of 1962 during the dinner program at the Sheraton Waterside.

The following ODU graduates received Distinguished Alumni Awards:

**Derrick Borte '91**, who received a bachelor of fine arts degree, is the writer, director and producer of the critically acclaimed feature film, “The Joneses,” which was presented at the 2010 Toronto International Film Festival. The film was also shown at festivals in Deauville, France; Zurich, Switzerland; Sarasota, Fla.; and Sedona, Ariz. It is currently in development as a TV series with ABC Studios and Bravo. His feature film, “Stars,” will be released in 2013.

**Laurel Harris '89**, who received a bachelor's degree in communication, is the executive creative director of Stellarhead, where she directs projects promoting some of the world’s leading brands and figures in entertainment, fashion, technology, hospitality and politics. The services of Stellarhead, which is based in New York City and Venice, Calif., include content creation, site design, communication, and applied strategic tools such as audience analysis and brand identification.

**Michael Jones '95**, who received a bachelor's degree in human services and counseling, has compiled a 271–67 record in his 10 years as head varsity basketball coach at his nationally acclaimed alma mater, DeMatha Catholic High School in Hyattsville, Md. His squads have won one national title and six conference titles, playing in possibly the most competitive high school conference in the nation, the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference. Before becoming head coach, Jones was an assistant to the legendary Morgan Wootten for four seasons.

**Zelda Lockhart (M.A. '93)**, who received a master's degree in English, is recognized throughout the United States and abroad as a writer of fiction, poetry and essays, as well as a lecturer and workshop facilitator. Her novel “Fifth Born” was a 2001 Barnes & Noble Discovery selection and winner of a finalist award for debut fiction from the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Legacy Foundation. Her second novel, “Cold Running Creek,” published in 2007, was favorably received by the Historical Novel Society, won a 2008 Honor Fiction Award from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association, and was the 2008–09 “Text in Community” read for all incoming students at North Carolina A&T State University.

**Major General Mark Perrin '79** of Fort Meade, Md., graduated from ODU via the Army ROTC program with a degree in electrical engineering technology. He has been assigned to numerous company and battalion level tours with increasing levels of responsibility in Army operations and intelligence in Germany, El Salvador, Honduras, Haiti, Panama, Japan, Hawaii, Texas and Washington, D.C. He recently returned from a two-year assignment with U.S. forces in Iraq. In addition to his bachelor's degree from ODU, Perrin also holds master's degrees from Central Michigan University and the National Defense University. He is also a graduate of the United States Army Command and General Staff College and the National War College. A Georgia native, he and wife Annie have two daughters and five grandchildren.

**Michael Santorelli '91**, who has a bachelor's degree in marketing/communication, has produced and directed high-profile promotional campaigns for many of the world's leading brands, studios and artists over his 18-year career. He is a principal at Stellarhead, a digital

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**Alumni Association Presents 13 with Annual Awards**

Honorees (left to right) Vokshoor, Kim Curtis, Lockhart, Kevin Curtis, Perrin, Santorelli, Harris, Ungvarsky, Ray, Jones.
storytelling agency founded in 2009 and based in New York City and Venice, Calif. Stellarhead produces video for marketing through convergent technologies of broadcast and social media platforms. His client list has included the Rolling Stones, Paul McCartney, Live Nation, PepsiCo, Sara Lee, ABC and PBS.

Drew Ungvarsky ’02, who received a bachelor’s degree in computer science, is president, owner and creative director for Grow Interactive, a Norfolk-based digital and interactive design company that provides creative graphic design and flash concepts for clients. Grow Interactive was officially established in 2006 after Ungvarsky rebranded Drewmedia Studios, his 2003 startup company. The privately held company now has 20 full-time employees who are seeking to transform the digital experience across multiple platforms. The company’s work has been recognized by many of the industry’s top award shows and publications, including the One Show, the Webby, the FWA (Favorite Website Awards), Communication Arts, and Creativity.

Dr. Amir Vokshoor ’92, who received a bachelor’s degree in biology, has been a partner at Diagnostic and Interventional Spinal Care (DISC) in Marina Del Ray, Calif., since 2007. Often cited as the gold standard of medicine, DISC Sports and Spine Center is one of the country’s leading facilities specializing in spine, orthopedics and sports medicine. It is an official medical services provider of the U.S. Olympic team. Vokshoor is also founder and CEO of the Institute of Neurosurgical Innovation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the science of aging and awareness.

ALUMNI SERVICE AWARDS WINNERS

Kim Curtis ’82 since July 2008 has been president/CEO of Tidewater Home Funding LLC, where she has doubled mortgage loan volume and expanded market share within the company’s footprint. She has been a generous supporter of scholarships in the College of Business and Public Administration at ODU and in athletics. She currently lends her time to the ODU Educational Foundation’s executive committee, the Cavalier Golf and Yacht Club board of directors, ODU CREED (Center for Real Estate and Economic Development), the YWCA of South Hampton Roads, and Marian Manor.

Keith Curtis ’83 is president and CEO of the Curtis Group, a Norfolk company founded to provide personalized development services to nonprofits. Curtis has nearly 30 years of experience in every aspect of nonprofit management — fundraising, board training, planned giving, guidance, strategic planning and more. The Curtis Group has assisted more than 100 clients throughout the mid-Atlantic. He is treasurer of the Giving USA Foundation, past president of the Hampton Roads Gift Planning Council and a board member of the Giving Institute. He has provided generous scholarship support for ODU’s College of Business and Public Administration and ODU athletics.

Honoree Kate Broderick (left) with Class of ’62 guests Gail Anthony, Florence Blankenship, Patricia Cuthrell, Marilyn Ashe, James Cahoooon, John Peterson and John Nieuwenhuyzen, and President John Broderick. Photos by Erica Dickson

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

Donna Dabney (M.S. Ed. ’74) joined The Conference Board as executive director, Governance Center, in August 2012. The Conference Board is a global, independent business membership and research association working to provide the world’s leading organizations with the practical knowledge they need to improve their performance and better serve society. Previously, Dabney was vice president, secretary and corporate governance counsel of Alcoa, the world’s largest producer of aluminum.

HONORARY ALUMNI AWARDS WINNERS

Kate Broderick has been employed in ODU’s Office of Educational Accessibility since 2005 as director, assistant director and learning coordinator. She is currently the liaison for external and faculty relations, advocating for and providing direct support to students with disabilities. Along with her professional responsibilities, Broderick, the wife of President John R. Broderick, serves as the first lady of ODU, working closely with students, alumni, donors and community leaders. The Brodericks frequently host university-related events; this past year, they welcomed more than 1,500 visitors to their university home.

Robin Ray is the president and CEO of Atlantic Dominion Distributors in Virginia Beach, which supplies more than 10,000 different products to all classes of the retail trade. With more than 500 employees, the company is now one of the largest private firms, by revenues, in Virginia, and the 22nd largest convenience store distributor in the United States. Ray also owns Hoffman Beverage Co., a local Anheuser-Busch distributor. At ODU, she has established two scholarships, one in memory of her brother, and on Founders’ Day 2002, she received the Tim Miller Philanthropic Award.
Mural Brightens Commute

Kim Georges ’83 Commissions Waterfront Scenery

“I worried about it. I’ll admit it. A couple of nights I stayed awake wondering, what if it’s bad?” That was Kim Georges ’83 talking about the 14x25-foot mural she commissioned for the south-facing wall of the William E. Wood and Associates Realtors office on Hampton Boulevard near 21st Street, less than two miles from the Old Dominion University campus.

As it turns out, Georges (pictured above) had nothing to worry about, thanks to the efforts of artists associated with ODU. The mural, which debuted last summer, was painted by Valerie Spivey (B.F.A. ’11) and Jaimie Phillips, an art student who will graduate this year.

Georges, a managing broker with William E. Wood, said she had been thinking about improving the scenery for the “40,000 eyeballs a day that go by” her office on heavily traveled Hampton Boulevard. “Besides,” she added, “Norfolk is a mural friendly city.” Working through ODU art department faculty members Elliot Jones and Heather Bryant, Georges was introduced to Spivey and Phillips. (In the photo of the artists at right, Spivey is wearing the cap and the mural is in the background.)

It didn’t take the three of them long to arrive at a “sketchy” idea of waterfront living. “Brainstorming with Kim, we kept hearing that Norfolk is such a good place to live, and this is part of it,” Spivey said. The mural design shows a waterfront cottage porch in the foreground and a water view in the background. This takes advantage of Phillips’ specialty as a landscape artist and Spivey’s experience painting and drawing structural elements.

Although neither of the young women had ever painted an outdoor mural before, and certainly not anything of this size, they made no false steps in execution and finished the job in less than two months. Would they do anything like this again? “If the price is right, yes,” answered Spivey.

Georges said she is thrilled with the results, and she penned a letter of thanks to ODU President John Broderick. “Just wanted to let you know that ODU has produced two exceptional art students,” she wrote. “I am so proud of ODU and become more proud every day.”

–Jim Raper
1930s
Johnny Brown ’39 has published his third book, “The 16th Cavalry Spearhead to the Rhone with General Patton.” The book tells of Brown’s move from a student-athlete to a tank commander during World War II. Brown, a star in baseball, track and football at the Norfolk Division of William and Mary in the late 1930s and a member of the ODU Sports Hall of Fame, is the former principal of Granby High School in Norfolk. His previous books are “The Granby Roll” about Billy Martin, legendary wrestling coach, and “Before They Were Monarchs” about his playing days at Norfolk Division.

1960s
Jim Flinchum ’69 writes that his expertise as a longtime financial advisor and nationally recognized expert on Ponzi schemes came together in his first novel, “Paybacks.” He received the 2012 International Book Award for the work.

Barry Hylton ’69 reports that he is “totally retired now” and mostly resides in the Charleston, S.C., area vs. his condominium in Virginia Beach. His permanent address is 2629 Magnolia Woods Drive, Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464; his email is jbarryhylton@gmail.com.

1970s
Edward Bonekemper (M.A. ’71) has released his fifth Civil War book, “Lincoln and Grant: The Westerners Who Won the Civil War.” He writes, “It is the first-ever book-length study of the Lincoln/Grant partnership, one of the greatest in American history.” Ed speaks around the country on Civil War topics and adds that he is grateful for the brilliant teaching of Dr. Harold Wilson.

John Herzke ’72 reports that he had to miss the Theta Chi fraternity charity golf tournament this year after major back surgery in September. He is now “on the mend” at home in Virginia Beach, with plans to participate in next year’s tournament. jherzke@aol.com

1980s
Linda (Haney) Hoopes ’72 graduated with an accounting degree but has found her greatest satisfaction as a photographer and teacher of photography in Indiana. Her photographs have been published in books, magazines, calendars and newspaper articles. Some recent projects include the cover photo and inside images for “Words of Wisdom from Pivotal Nurse Leaders”; a humorous photograph of a squirrel sticking out its tongue that appeared in the September 2012 issue of “Birds and Blooms”; and as contributing photographer for “Amazing Grace: A History of Indiana Methodism 1801-2001.” Linda is also the author of “God whispers: Fingerprints of the Creator,” designed as a journal and illustrated with her pictures and some reflections to “kick-start” the creative process for those who acquire the book. Find her on Google by searching “Linda Hoopes photo-art.”

Martin Smith ’74 was recently promoted from health policy analyst to special assistant to the health officer at the Anne Arundel County Health Department in Annapolis, Md. His new responsibilities are primarily in the areas of health care reform and organizational change. Martin received his Ph.D. in public policy from the University of Maryland Baltimore County.

Yvonne Wilson Boone ’79 enjoys success in the genre of miniatures and watercolors. She displayed her art...
Steve Morrison, a member of the ODU men’s rugby club, died from cardiac arrest after a practice session on Oct. 19, 1990, and the team has remembered him in its motto ever since. Rugby teams send 15 players onto the field, and the ODU club formerly used the cheer “15 together, ODU!” After Morrison’s death, the chant became “16 together, ODU!”

At Homecoming 2012 in October, the club presented Morrison’s mother, Judy Beall of Bracy, Va., and sister, Katherine Morrison of Staunton, Va., with a framed ODU rugby jersey bearing Morrison’s name and the number ‘16.’

“For the past 22 years, we’ve maintained this tradition and passed along the humor, spirit and life lessons we shared with Steve to all ODU rugby players,” said team veteran Tony Crisitello ’91 of Clarksville, Md.

Crisitello is at left in the photo with former player “Buster” Laurenson ’91 of Potomac Falls, Va., and Beall at right. Laurenson is the rugby club’s alumni president.

in several shows this fall, including the Gallery of the Russian Academy of Art in Moscow, Russia, in September.

1980s

Joyce (Arrington) Faison ’81 recently accepted a position as senior human resources manager at the Coast Guard Community Services Command in Chesapeake. Joyce was the 2012 recipient of the U.S. Coast Guard Blacks in Government Meritorious Service Award; wrote an essay, “The Things That Have Shaped My Life,” that was published in the 2011 Virginia Beach City Public Schools’ book on the Power of Belief; and received the U.S. Coast Guard 2012 Partnership in Education award for implementing a mentoring program with B.M. Primary School in Chesapeake.

David T. Wilber ’85, senior vice president and chief operating officer for Eggleston Services, has been elected president of the Virginia Association of Community Rehabilitation Programs board of directors for the 2012-13 fiscal year. For more than 50 years, Eggleston Services has created education, training and employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, to help them grow in independence, confidence and self-worth at home, at work and at play.

Cynthia (Bruce) Andrews ’86 has accepted a position at University of Maryland University College located in Largo, Md., as associate vice president for military partnerships. Cynthia recently was employed at the American Council on Education as director of its military programs. She says the new assignment is “another great opportunity to assist the women and men in uniform.”

Townsend Barnett ’87 reports that he has taken a new position with UCB Pharma SA as vice president and global head of clinical quality assurance. He moved to Belgium in June with his family (wife, Christa, and three children, ages 8 to 13) and really enjoys the experience. They live in a little town about eight miles from the center of Belgium in the Flemish section of the country, called Overijse. He will be there for the next three to five years.

david mcgowan ’89 (m.e. ’97), now of York County, in august received a Silver Snoopy pin in recognition for his significant contributions toward the development of the Orion Launch Abort System that was successfully demonstrated during a flight test at NASA’s Langley Research Center. The Silver Snoopy is the astronauts’ personal award of appreciation for achievements related to human flight safety or mission success; it is presented to less than 1 percent of the total NASA workforce. Astronaut Ricky Arnold presided at the ceremony.

1990s

Sonya Ford ’90 has been selected to a three-year term on the Charles County (Md.) Commission for Women, and says she is “honored to be an advocate for women and families.” Sonya has put her passion for helping others in a new self-help book—her first—titled “Dr. Sonya Says Love Yourself First Everyday: 30 Days of Instant Inspiration and Other Thoughts.” She adds, “We all need a little L.Y.F.E. support.” The book is available in paperback and for Kindle readers at Amazon.com.

Mike Henry ’90 had a busy, but productive, 2012. He was the campaign manager for former Gov. Tim Kaine’s successful U.S. Senate race in Virginia. Mike served as Hillary Clinton’s deputy campaign manager in 2008.

Keeley McDonald Riddle ’90 has been elected to a second term as president of the National Council of Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity. Riddle was a member of the Iota Sigma chapter of ZTA at ODU. As president, she is chairman of the National Council, which formulates policies and coordinates activities of the entire fraternity and oversees the International Convention. Keeley also serves on the board of directors of the Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity Housing Corp. and its foundation.

Denise Stieve ’90, an 18-year veteran in marketing, advertising and art direction, joined GrooveCar Inc. as director of marketing in September. A native Long Islander, she had been art director at the JCM Design
ALUMNI PROFILE

State Teacher of the Year

Kathy Galford Wins by Making Lessons Relevant

When Kathy Galford talks about the joys and rewards of teaching, it soon becomes apparent why she was an excellent choice to represent the commonwealth as Virginia Teacher of the Year for 2013.

Galford, who has taught for 24 years, earned a bachelor’s degree in middle school education from Old Dominion in 1984 and a master’s in curriculum and instruction in 1991.

Currently a sixth-grade English teacher at Greenbrier Middle School in Chesapeake, Galford was named in September as Virginia Teacher of the Year by the state Department of Education, following her selections as Chesapeake Teacher of the Year and Region 2 Teacher of the Year. She will now represent Virginia in the 2013 National Teacher of the Year competition.

Her philosophy of teaching has always been “Make it relevant!”

“It is my job to show my students how everything they learn in school relates to the world in which we live,” she explained. “Our true purpose in education is to prepare children for life in an unknown future. I try to make my lessons relevant to their world, learning styles and skills they will need in the future – communicating, collaborating, problem solving, critical thinking, global awareness, etc.”

One who has learned a great deal from Galford is Dani-Nicole Crawford, a seventh-grade English student at Greenbrier Middle. Crawford, who earned both a B.A. in English and master’s in secondary education from ODU, had Galford as her cooperating teacher during her student teaching experience in 2008.

“I honestly can’t think of another person more deserving,” Crawford said after learning Galford had won the Virginia Teacher of the Year award. “I consider myself so fortunate to not only currently work with her, but to have been in her classroom during my student teaching experience.”

The non-classroom demands of a teacher can take a toll, so it helps that Galford’s husband supports her fully. In fact, he knows firsthand what she goes through as a teacher. He literally works right down the hall from her, teaching sixth-grade science.

“It’s nice to be married to someone who gets it!” Galford says. Like his wife, Steve Galford is an ODU graduate (1987 bachelor’s degree and 1991 master’s). They have two children: Mindy, a nursing student at James Madison University, and Michael, a senior at Hickory High School in Chesapeake.

Galford is the second ODU graduate to win Virginia Teacher of the Year honors over the past five years. Tommy Smigiel ’00, currently an assistant principal at Norfolk’s Granby High School and a Norfolk city councilman, was named the state’s top educator for 2008.

As the 2013 Virginia Teacher of the Year, Galford received a $5,000 award and a ring from the Apple Federal Credit Union Education Foundation, a $2,500 award from Richmond law firm Allen, Allen, Allen & Allen, and a classroom technology package from Smart Technologies ULC.

-Steve Daniel
MONARCH WEDDING PARTY IN HAWAII

Jaclyn Hawse and Chris Bednarek, both from the ODU class of 2005, met freshman year in Whitehurst Hall and fell in love. After graduation, they moved together to Hawaii, and that’s where they were married last August, with lots of ODU friends joining the celebration.

Pictured left to right, front row, are the groom, Brandi Taylor, the bride, Jennifer Melnyk and Quentin Rana. In the back are David Ruble, Mark Schoonmaker, Sean Ellis and Joey Breslin.

Chris, a communications major, is now the director of television production for an adventure sports company and Jaclyn, a marketing major and Alpha Phi alumna, is director of public relations for the Battleship Missouri in Pearl Harbor.

“We celebrated our wedding with many of our fellow ODU grads in Hawaii and took this special picture in support of ODU nation,” Jaclyn said. “Although our lives are now in Hawaii, we very much still carry on the ODU pride and are often the only ones in the Aloha state chanting ‘O-D-U’ during football and basketball season.”

Chris is a second-generation Monarch. His father, John “Mick” Bednarek ’75, is a Distinguished ODU Alumnus and a 3-star Army general, Commander of First U.S. Army.

related to student retention and graduation rates.) For details, search the book title by name on Facebook.

Heather Ham ’96, office director for Pennoni Associates in Norfolk, has earned certification as an Associate Designated Design-Build Professional™, a nationally recognized credential of the Design-Build Institute of America.

Lt. Cmdr. Patrick Lahiff ’96 is currently serving as JAG to the Commander of Expeditionary Strike Group Three in San Diego. Patrick reports that he is in charge of all legal affairs for 25 subordinate commands. “We are basically the Navy side of all amphibious operations on the West Coast and work with Marines extensively. We go out to sea frequently and to multinational exercises all over the world. It is a pretty interesting job, and very busy.” He and his wife, Sapna, moved last June from Virginia Beach and expect to be in California for two to three years. The couple has two boys: Elvis, 3, and Hendrix, born Dec. 11, 2010.

patrick68250@yahoo.com

Michael Greenwood ’97, now of York County, in August received a Silver Snoopy pin in recognition of his outstanding contributions as the LaRC SPLASH chief engineer for the Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle Orion Project at NASA’s Langley Research Center. The Silver Snoopy is the astronauts’ personal award of appreciation for achievements related to human flight safety or mission success; it is presented to less than 1 percent of the total NASA workforce. Astronaut Ricky Arnold presided at the ceremony.

Foster Billingsley ’99 was recently appointed as executive director at the Virginia Commission for the Arts by Gov. Bob McDonnell. The previous executive director retired after 35 years, creating the opportunity for Foster, who was promoted from deputy director for the commission located in Richmond, Va.

Yawntreshia Coleman ’04 moved to the Birmingham, Ala., area in June 2005, where she has written blogs about local politics and ran for City Council in 2009. She opened Coleman & Co. LLC, a business-to-business support services firm, in 2008. Most recently, she celebrated her 10-year wedding anniversary on Aug. 2, 2012.

Laura Horton ’04 writes that she graduated in May 2012 from the University of Oregon School of Law with a juris doctorate. She has recently accepted a position at Universum College in Pristina, Kosovo, as coordinator of accreditation and quality assurance.

Nichelle Williams ’04 completed doctoral studies in spring 2012 to earn a Ph.D. in political science with concentrations in international relations and public administration/public policy.
Michael J. Barnum ’05 is a commercial insurance agent and new sales manager for Savage & McPherson Insurance Agency in Chesapeake. He specializes in risk management and insurance programs for businesses with 25 to 500 employees. He also helps administer 831(b) mini-captive insurance programs designed to help businesses save money on income taxes. Earlier this year, a second daughter was born to Mike and his wife; she joins her 2-year-old sister in the family.

Jaleh Shea (M.P.A. ’05) became the director of planning for the city of Chesapeake on Dec. 1. Shea, who has worked for the city more than 21 years, had been manager of the Bureau of Community Programs. Chesapeake Interim City Manager Amar Dwarkanath said Shea filled the need for a “dynamic, forward-thinking” director of planning. She holds a bachelor’s degree in urban studies and planning from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Jon Antle ’07 has been named the head tennis professional at the Cummings Tennis Club at Great Bridge Swim and Racquet Club (owned by former ODU tennis coach Darryl Cummings). Jon is a former NCAA Division I tennis player and has coached for tennis clubs at ODU, Hilton Head, S.C., Norfolk and Virginia Beach. Jon is certified by the Professional Tennis Registry and also earned a law degree from New England School of Law. Jon and his wife, Olya, reside in his hometown, Virginia Beach.

J. Alex Harwell ’07 has joined Dewberry, a professional services firm, as assistant project manager and construction administrator in its Chapel Hill, N.C., office. His experience includes four years as an engineering reviewer with the N.C. Division of Health Services Regulation and expertise in building and utility systems design, operation, troubleshooting and maintenance. Alex earned a degree in mechanical engineering technology at ODU and a nuclear machinist’s mate qualification from the U.S. Navy.

Shawn Kohlman ’07 returned to the Hampton Roads area in October to accept a job as associate director of admissions for DeVry University in Chesapeake, managing a team of nine advisors. He had worked in admissions recruitment with Argosy University in Arlington, Va., since January 2008. Zeta Pi brothers can reach him at skohl002@aol.com.

Julia Sharp ’07 received a Ph.D. in biomedical sciences from Eastern Virginia Medical School on May 19, 2012. During her studies, she was honored as the EVMS Health Professions Scholar 2009-2011.

Diana Hurst ’08 began working in March 2012 as community outreach and marketing coordinator in the Department of Community Engagement /University Events at Old Dominion University.

Miles Davis ’09 has been appointed a financial representative of Northwestern Mutual Financial Network in Williamsburg, associated with the Virginia Peninsula Group. Miles currently resides in Hampton.

Bekah Eden ’09, Virginia Beach singer/songwriter, musician and recording artist, has emerged as a cause artist, using stories within music to promote worthy causes, and launched her own music business, instructing students locally. Bekah’s professional career began in summer 2008, while studying music education at ODU. She was signed to produce a pop album titled “Unexpected” on a local label, Dream21, with Grammy-winning producer Curtis Key. This year, Eden, 27, was named the 2012 Malibu Music Best Upcoming Female Artist Award for her work with charitable groups. Currently, she is working for Harvesting Happiness for Heroes, a national pending 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that benefits post-combat veterans and their families.

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ALUMNI WEDDING IN VIRGINIA BEACH

Clifton Wooldridge ’08, an engineering graduate, and Kelly Donovan ’11, a communications graduate, were married in Virginia Beach on Oct. 6, 2012, and most members of the wedding party were part of Monarch nation. Of those, many are Sigma Phi Epsilon brothers of Clif and Delta Zeta Sorority sisters of Kelly. Those with ODU ties included (from left) Logan Russell, Erin Nelms ’10, Jake Kubit, Caitlin White ’10, Taylor Pridgen (maid of honor) ’10 (M.E. ’11), Kelly and Clif, Danielle Stritmatter, Mitch King ’10, Lauren Stormer and Nathan Schultz. Those not associated with ODU included Kelly’s niece and nephews as junior bridesmaid and ring bearers; Janice Donovan and Patrick Donovan (6th and 5th from right) and Carl Moore and Heather Moore (far right).

Alexander Pena ’09 has been promoted to a program analyst with HeiTech Services Inc., working with the firm’s Office of Minority Health Research Center and Veteran Affairs project teams. Alexander has stayed active with ODU alumni events, attending an ODU alumni event and activities of Zeta Pi chapter of his Theta Chi fraternity. He lives in Germantown, Md., and hopes to complete an MBA this spring.

Apryl Roberts ’09 writes, “My design work was featured and published in the July issue of Premier Bride Hampton Roads Magazine.” The design spread is titled “Love Is Sweet,” and may be viewed (starting on page 90) at http://issuu.com/jennifercreative/docs/hampton_roads_2012-2_issue?mode=window&viewMode=doublePage.

2010s

Navy Seaman Alexandria D. Bohr ’10 recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. The eight-week program included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs as well as safety and survival skills.

Robert “Bo” Gurkin, III ’11 is general manager for Fastenal Co. in its Portsmouth store. Co-workers within the company include Theta Chi fraternity, Zeta Pi chapter brothers David Varela, Jamie Banton and Todd Atkinson. Bo points out that Fastenal has hired and given opportunities to many ODU students to work part time and build toward a career in business. Bo recently purchased his first home. His new address is 4316 Colindale Road, Apt. 205, Chesapeake, Va. 23321. ox671rk@gmail.com

Michael Berchoff ’12 recently accepted a position as an accounts receivable coordinator at First Potomac Realty Trust in Bethesda, Md.

MARRIED MONARCHS

Cynthia (Bruce) Andrews ’86 and Samuel Andrews want to tell alums what happened in Vegas: They were married Jan. 14, 2012, in Las Vegas. They currently reside in Lorton, Va.

Lindsay Chugg ’04 (M.E.M. ’08) and Mark Sipos announce their Oct. 9, 2010, marriage at Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Virginia Beach. They currently reside in Leonardtown, Md.

Joshua M. Vieira ’05 and Allison Willis were married the weekend of Oct. 6, 2012. Fraternity brother Taylor Hamill attended.

Meredith Redinbaugh ’06 and Cedric Pollard were married on Sept. 15, 2012, in Chesapeake.

Cindy Wagner ’09 married David Likens on March 24, 2012. The couple resides in Virginia Beach, where Cindy teaches biology and David is employed by the U.S. Navy Cyber Defense Operations Command.
Ashley Crute ’12 and Patrick Crute announce their marriage on June 30, 2012, in Farmville, Va. They currently reside in Alexandria, Va. The couple held their wedding where they met as undergrads. They honeymooned in Ireland for a week.

Frederick “Freddie” Joseph Schwarz, III and Kaitlyn Easily were married on Aug. 31, 2012, at a Chesapeake resort. Freddie and Kaitlyn have purchased a home in Fairfax City.

NEW MONARCHS

Sherry Nyman-Heuser ’92 and David Heuser are proud to announce the birth of a baby girl, Erica, on June 7, 2011, in Raleigh, N.C.

Charlette (Fernandez) Frierson ’02 and Shawn Frierson ’02 announce the birth of their future Monarch, Gabriel Xavier. He was born on April 12, 2012, at Sentara Leigh Hospital in Norfolk.

Jessica Townsend ’03 and Bryan Townsend are proud parents of Harper Grace, born Nov. 24, 2011, at Sentara Princess Anne Hospital in Virginia Beach.

Lindsay Sipos ’04 (M.E.M. ’08) and Mark Sipos are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Lillian Marie, born July 7, 2012, in Prince Frederick, Md.

Sabrina Easter ’09 and Jason Easter are proud to announce the birth of twins, Sam and Jonathan, born on May 10, 2012, in Norfolk.

ALUMNI PROFILE

Dylesia Hampton ’11 Is Wise Beyond Her Years

When Dylesia Hampton ’11 was in the 10th grade at I.C. Norcom High School in Portsmouth, she started sending text messages to friends offering advice, encouragement or inspiration. “I can’t remember if something happened to prompt this,” she says now, nearly eight years later. Whatever her motivation, she has stuck with this message sharing, which is now called “Dolly Daily” and is sent to 400 people.

“Over the years it kind of spiraled,” she says. “Of course, I thought it was pointless at times, and I didn’t want to do it. But people would really fuss me out when I didn’t.” Later at ODU, “That’s where it really exploded,” she adds.

The popularity of “Dolly Daily” and her desire to help people live up to their potential led her last year to collect her messages in a book, “Encouragement at Your Fingertips: 365 Days of Inspiration.”

The messages in the book include this one: “If you only do things when you feel like it, you won’t get much done. A true drive to succeed should transport you beyond your limits of comfort.” Another reads: “You always have a choice. To say ‘I can’t,’ ‘I had to,’ or ‘I don’t know why I did’ is to say that some unidentifiable force has more control over your life than you do.”

Although she had considered herself to be a writer for years, “The idea of having my own book was sort of magical,” Hampton says. “At the beginning of 2012, I decided to actually research the steps I’d need to take in order to become a published author, and less than a month later I found myself submitting my manuscript to CreateSpace to be edited and condensed into book form. All it took was vision, determination, and a Google search, and there I was—face to face with my dream.”

She also had to come up with $900 of her own money to get the book published. “That’s a lot for a college student, but I knew what I wanted, and while everyone else was out spending their refund check on clothes, cars and expensive meals, I was investing in something that I knew would outlast me.”

Hampton clearly practices what she preaches about ambition and hard work. She finished her communications degree at ODU in three years. She was a student worker in the College of Arts and Letters Office of the Dean, an Honors College student and a member of both the Human Service Association and the university’s chapter of the Omicron Delta Kappa national leadership honor society. She also was a competitive public speaker on the forensics and debate team, a writer for the Mace and Crown, a broadcaster on WODU radio, and vice president of the Sword of the Spirit Student Ministries.

Now a master’s student in social work at Norfolk State University, she wants to be a family counselor, and perhaps run her own publishing company on the side. For more about her and her writing, see www.dylesiahampton.com.
IN REMEMBRANCE

Usman Qureshi

Usman Qureshi, professor emeritus of economics at Old Dominion, died Aug. 2, 2012, in Keller, Texas, at the age of 82. Qureshi was born in Delhi, India, in 1930 and moved with his family to Karachi, Pakistan, after partition in 1947, where he lived until leaving for the United States to attend graduate school at the University of Houston. He joined the ODU economics faculty in 1969, the year in which he received his Ph.D.

He subsequently was promoted to associate professor and then to full professor in 1979. Qureshi served as chair of the Department of Economics from 1981-88. In addition, he was the director of the Center for Economic Education from 1973 to 1992, and in this role strengthened ties between ODU and the local business community. For many years he ensured the success of the Annual Economic Forecast Luncheon.

Qureshi retired in 1998 and moved to Texas several years ago to be close to his daughter, Chandra Qureshi Brooks, and son-in-law, Greg Brooks.

Gilbert Yochum, dean of the ODU College of Business and Public Administration, said, “Usman Qureshi was a dedicated scholar and a man of great dignity and compassion who shared his intellectual heritage with thousands of Old Dominion alumni. Our world will be less without him.”

Yochum extended sympathy on behalf of the college to the emeritus professor’s wife, Jean.

Former colleague Ann Schwartz-Miller, associate professor emerita of economics, said, “Usman was a scholar and a true gentleman and will be greatly missed.”

Roy E. Aycock


Aycock was born in Greenville, S.C., on April 11, 1926. He graduated from Greenville High School and Furman University, and received a master's degree and doctorate at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Aycock taught at ODU from 1960 until 1992, when he retired. He joined the university as an associate professor of English and was promoted to professor in 1965. He was instrumental in starting the Literary Club and was its faculty adviser for several years. He also brought to the university Sigma Tau Delta, the National English Honor Society, and served as its adviser for several years.

He was the university representative for the Rhodes Scholarship Trust and founder of the Shakespeare Ensemble at ODU. His writings appeared in a variety of journals.

Aycock, who served in the U.S. Air Force, also taught at Auburn University, Georgia Tech and UNC-Chapel Hill. He is survived by a nephew, the Rev. Marvin B. Aycock Jr.; a niece, Joan Mendelson; a great-nephew, Clark Aycock; and other nieces and nephews.

Scott Allen Williams

Scott Allen Williams, 59, a longtime adjunct professor of art at Old Dominion, died Sept. 10, 2012.

A native of northern New Mexico, Williams earned a B.F.A. degree from the University of New Mexico in 1994 and an M.F.A. from the Joint Program in Visual Studies at Norfolk State University and Old Dominion University in 2003.

He was an accomplished painter, but he also worked in mixed media and assemblage. Until recently, Williams worked for the city of Norfolk, most notably as exhibition designer and, later, manager of the Selden Gallery (2008-10). Prior to settling in Norfolk, he worked for the University Art Museum at the University of New Mexico.

“As adjunct professor of art at Old Dominion University, Scott taught classes in foundations, drawing, painting and art criticism. He exerted a profound influence on numerous studio art, art education and art history majors. Of course, he will be sorely missed by his friends and colleagues,” said Robert Wojtowicz, professor of art history and associate dean for research and graduate studies.

Williams is survived by his sisters, Gaye Williams Calvert of Albuquerque, N.M., and Wendy Williams of Auckland, New Zealand; several nieces and nephews; and many friends and colleagues.

William I. Foster Jr.

William Irving Foster Jr., 80, who was president of the ODU Alumni Association from 1967-69, died on Nov. 7, 2012, in Virginia Beach. Survivors include his wife of 59 years, Shirley Goronto Foster, four children and 10 grandchildren.

Born in Norfolk, Foster was the son of the late Olivia West Foster and William Irving Foster Sr. He played varsity baseball at Norview High School and served two years in the U.S. Navy. He graduated from the Norfolk Division of William and Mary, now Old Dominion, in 1960, after serving as student government president during his senior year.

Foster went to work for Seaboard Citizens Bank in 1961 and graduated from The Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University in 1968. He spent his entire career at the bank and its successor banks, United Virginia and Cresent. He retired in 1987.

Coaching was one of his greatest passions. He helped to start the sports recreation program in the new neighborhood of Larkspru in Virginia Beach in the mid-1960s and continued coaching his grandchildren until just a few years ago, a span of over 40 years.

Joanne L. Johnson

Joanne L. Johnson, 55, customer support specialist in Old Dominion’s Office of Facilities Management, died Nov. 13, 2012.

Johnson worked for 35 years in Facilities Management.

“Joanne Johnson was the ‘face of Facilities Management’ in her leading role in our front office,” said Dillard George, director of the office. “She garnered numerous compliments from the campus community for her great personality, warm welcome and always-helpful attitude. She touched many lives at Old Dominion University and was greatly loved by the campus community. She will be greatly missed.”

After joining the university staff in 1977 as an hourly housekeeping worker, Johnson became a classified employee the following year, also as a housekeeping worker. In 1989, she was promoted to the position of office services assistant in the Motor Pool, where she worked until 2000, when she was promoted to administrative and office specialist III. In this position, Johnson worked at the front desk for the Office of Facilities Management.

She is survived by her mother, Luvenia Church; her two children, Marquis Johnson and Sugar Galindo; her husband, Angelo Galindo; her stepdaughter, Jamera Tyree, and five grandchildren; and four sisters and nine brothers.

Paul Keyes

Paul Keyes, former Old Dominion University baseball standout and Virginia Commonwealth University head baseball coach, died Nov. 3, 2012, after a battle with cancer. He was 50 years old.

“We are deeply saddened by the loss of a tremendous human being,” said VCU Director of Athletics Ed McLaughlin. “Paul was an outstanding baseball coach and an even better husband, father, friend and man. The VCU Department of Athletics and the entire campus community will keep Trisha and the Keyes family in our thoughts and prayers during their time of grieving.”

The Rams’ all-time winningest coach with 603 career victories, Keyes spent 18 seasons at the helm of VCU’s baseball program. During his tenure as head coach, he led the Black and Gold to eight NCAA Tournament appearances and five Colonial Athletic Association championships. He was also a four-time CAA Coach of the Year.

Keyes, who graduated from ODU in 1984, hit .368 as a junior with 12 doubles, two triples and 27 runs scored that year. He held the ODU record for the most doubles in a game, which was three, against Purdue on March 11, 1983, until Judge Donato (’05) broke it with four in a game against Richmond in 1994 and Mike Zaim equaled it in 2007 against Iona.

A native of Newport News, he is survived by his wife, Trisha, and three children.
IN MEMORIAM

Jack C. Kanter '35 of Norfolk, 8/19/12
Thomas C. Gibbs, Sr. '42 of Norfolk, 9/10/12
William H. Meissel, Sr. '42 of Norfolk, 8/14/12
Margaret W. Henderson '45 of Norfolk, 9/9/12
Joseph J. Baxt '46 of Virginia Beach, 9/14/12
Adrienne "Abie" J. Little '46 of Atlanta, Ga., 9/24/12
Robert F. Pease Jr. '46 of Virginia Beach, 7/20/12
George L. Wadsorth Jr. '46 of Virginia Beach, 7/16/12
O.D. Hite Jr. '47 of Virginia Beach, 8/17/12
Christophrer P. Kotaries '47 of Norfolk, 7/7/12
Lt. Col. Howard J. Simpson, USA (Ret) '47 of Norfolk, 7/13/12
Robert F. Pease Jr. '46 of Norfolk, 7/19/12
Eugene L. Kantner '49 of Virginia Beach, 7/26/12
George W. Dozier Jr. '50 of Virginia Beach, 8/8/12
Percy B. "Dick" Fitchett Jr. '50 of Urbanna, Va., 10/11/12
Mary V. Hall '50 of Norfolk, 10/20/12
Kenneth G. Thompson '50 of Chesapeake, 10/14/12
Harvey G. Saks '53 of Norfolk, 10/24/12
Kenneth B. Riedel '54 of Virginia Beach, 10/10/12
Lawrence G. Pickral '57 of Norfolk, 9/22/12
John P. Hightower Jr. '58 of Salem, Va., 10/19/12
Irving L. Jones '58 of Richmond, Va., 8/23/12
Capt. William D. Sayer, USN (Ret) (n.d.) of Virginia Beach, 9/4/12
Marilyn G. Putnam Edwards '60 of Norfolk, 9/9/12
CPO Charles S. Verget, USN (Ret) (n.d.) of Virginia Beach, 9/4/12
William D. Brewer '62 of Eagle Springs, N.C., 8/30/12
Hilda A. Repper '62 of Newport News, 6/4/12
Lonnie B. Clements Jr. '63 of Portsmouth, 6/6/12
Robert P. Copley '63 of Virginia Beach, 8/23/12
Nancy G. Spater '63 of Hopkins, Mass., 8/9/12
Irene L. Kiss '63 of Loesta Grove, Va., 9/23/11
Catherine G. Rick '63 of Norfolk, 8/19/12
C. Lee Gallup Jr. '66 of Virginia Beach, 8/19/12
Louise S. Hanson '66 of Newport News, 7/24/12
Patricia A. Crace '67 of Virginia Beach, 10/12/12
James S. Sutton Jr. '67 of Virginia Beach, 6/7/12
Cheryl M. Edards '69 of Virginia Beach, 6/15/12
Jane W. Humphrey '69 (M.S. Ed.) '75 of London and Norfolk, 8/18/12
Lannie G. Love '69 of Yorker, S.C., 7/10/12
Janet D. Sarsfield '69 of Triangle, Va., 9/23/12
Ruth P. Cole (M.S. Ed.) '70 of Virginia Beach, 7/12/12
Mary K. Diederich '70 of Virginia Beach, 9/30/12
Mary June Buie Dillard '70 of Tappahannock, Va., 6/13/12
Lynn M. Ingram '70 of Virginia Beach, 7/12/12
Judith A. Kaiser '70 of Hampton, 8/16/12
Michael J. Putnam '70 of Chesapeake, 7/7/12
Robert T. Jenkins '71 of Toronto, Canada, 6/20/12
F. Morrison Smithers (M.S. Ed.) '71 of Pinehurst, N.C., and Suffolk, 10/11/12
William "Abi" C. Coates (M.S. Ed.) '72 of Virginia Beach, 9/2/12
Luther R. Gartrell (M.E.) '72 of Hampton, 7/26/12
Danny R. Smith '72 of Norfolk, 8/11/12
Lt. Col. Lewis C. Waid, USA (Ret) (M.S. Ed.) '72 of Virginia Beach, 10/4/12
Charles D. Walters '72 of Gloucester, Va., 7/25/12
Mildred S. Johnson '73 of Portsmouth and Norfolk, 10/9/12
Sherry P. Larrick '74 of Exeter Township, Pa., 7/31/12
Robert F. Martin '74 (M.S. '82) of Virginia Beach, 5/31/12
Lt. Cmdr. James A. Roth, USN (Ret) '74 (M.S. Ed. '77) of Virginia Beach, 9/12/12
Karen V. Shinn '74 (M.S. Ed. '82) of Lake Gaston, N.C., 9/29/12
Oliver Jordan "OJ" Womble III '74 of Wrightsville Beach, N.C., 8/30/12
Richard "Dickie" S. Gray '75 of Yorktown, Va., 8/27/12
Richard R. Hampton '75 of Acton, Mass., 10/23/12
Avonelle B. Hughes '75 of Norfolk, 10/1/12
Elizabeth G. Lindsey '75 (M.S. Ed. '78) of Cocoa Beach, Fla., 6/11/12
Seba B. Shealy (M.S. '75) of Virginia Beach, 6/11/12
Mary E. "Liz" Witkowski '75 of McLean, Va., 9/15/12
Robert A. Deal '76 of Norfolk, 7/13/12
John M. Feres '76 of Virginia Beach, 10/26/12
Martha L. Mugira (M.S. Ed. '76) of Henrico, Va., 8/5/12
Alice B. Wamsley '76 of Norfolk, 8/9/12
Frances J. Orner '77 of Norfolk, 10/15/12
Judith W. Cofer '78 of Virginia Beach, 9/23/12
Robert W. Pond Sr. '78 of Portsmouth, 10/25/12
Harry R. Vanderford Jr. '78 of Chesapeake, 9/28/12
George A. "Bud" Bonner Jr. '79 of Virginia Beach, 6/3/12
George D. Chastain '79 of Chesapeake, 7/13/12
John L. Echterich Jr. '79 (M.S. '83) of Boones Mill, Va., 7/2/12
Gary H. Tourtellotte (M.S. '79) of Spring Hill, Fla., 7/28/12
Bruce S. Hermit '80 of Springfield, Va., 9/2012
R. Benjamin "Benny" Summerlin Jr. '81 of Axton, Va., 8/15/12
E. Bradford Tazewell III '81 of Richmond, 8/23/12
Deborah S. Midgette '82 of Virginia Beach, 10/27/12
Glover Smith (M.S. Ed.) '82 of Carrollton, Va., 8/6/12
Benjamin H. Cassuto '83 of Millboro, Md., 10/18/12
Joseph R. Johnson '83 of Macon, Ga., 6/5/12
Barry K. Nolf '83 of Franklin, Va., 6/19/12
Ruth B. VanHorn '83 of Chesapeake, 8/31/12
Michael O. Posey (M.S. '84) of Norfolk, 7/20/12
Wesley G. Kitt '86 of Virginia Beach, 9/11/12
Robert J. Comptellto '87 of Chicago, 8/31/12
John T. Rodgers '87 of Vero Beach, Fla., 10/25/12
Brian W. Beck '88 of Portsmouth, 7/16/12
Nancy L. Underwood (M.S. Ed.) '88 of Suffolk, 8/8/12
Norma B. Rouse '90 of Norfolk, 5/8/12
Clinton H. Cress '93 of Wilmington, N.C., 6/7/12
Keith W. Davis '93 of Gloucester, Va., 6/11/12
Marcus G. Dragas (93 H) of Virginia Beach, 6/30/12
Shelley L. Byers '94 of Lawrenceville, Ga., 7/26/12
L. Foston Chandler III (M.S. '94) of Ocmulgee, Va., 1/21/12
William D. "Billy" Peterson '96 of Suffolk, 6/30/12
Carol K. Nolfe '96 of Hampton, 6/27/12
David E. Hoffman '97 of Daytona Beach, Fla., 9/16/12
Madeleine I. Reyes (M.S. '97) of Vâraco, Fla., 9/25/12
Lt. Cmdr. Michael G. Owen, USN (Ret) (M.S. Ed. '98) of Norfolk, 7/29/12
E. Richard Criscione (M.S. '00) of Grand, Ohio, 6/20/12
Cynthia A. Hodges (M.S. Ed.) '00 of Parkersville, Va., 9/11/12
David M. de Buy Nederland (M.S.N. '00) of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., 8/30/12
Sabrina R. Eames '03 of Martinsville, Va., 8/23/12
Ramone "Noy" Colorado '06 of Norfolk, 8/16/12
Adrienne D. Ackinson-Mitchell '07 of Columbia, S.C., 8/20/12
Marie Lopez (M.S. Ed. '10) of Williamsburg, Va., 10/15/12
For someone known for flinging footballs all over the place, Taylor Heinicke sure does enjoy operating under the radar. This past fall, he habitually roamed the campus along Hampton Boulevard wearing a hoodie and jeans, forsaking the sweats-with-jersey-number wardrobe of the typical Old Dominion University football player. When in class, he would sit on the end of the middle rows in lecture halls, often donning reading glasses to promote an even less conspicuous look.

Most of the time, it worked. Sometimes it worked shockingly well. “There was this one time when I was sitting on a bench with a friend and he looks over at these two girls near us and says, ‘Do you know who this is? It’s Taylor Heinicke.’ I was so mad at him,” Heinicke said, rolling his eyes skyward to emphasize his disapproval. “Then both girls both looked at me and said, ‘No he’s not. That’s not Taylor Heinicke.’ That kind of got him off the hook.”

Heinicke (pronounced HINE-eh-kee) even figured he had his professors fooled.

Then, two days after setting two NCAA records in a second-round NCAA playoff victory over Coastal Carolina, he wandered into lecturer Hut Lindner’s calculus class, believing he was still off the grid, at least in his instructor’s eyes.

Lindner, however, coyly said, “Only 497 yards? You couldn’t make it a nice, round 500?”

So much for anonymity.

Then again, anybody at Old Dominion who doesn’t know who Taylor Heinicke is and what he looks like by now just isn’t paying attention to the 19-year-old who has become the face of the university. Heinicke has had his boyish mug plastered across television screens and Internet sites from coast to coast in the last four months, breaking records set by legendary players on his way to winning the Walter Payton Award, symbolic of the best player in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS).

The Payton Award is the FCS’s equivalent of the Heisman Trophy and Heinicke won it in a landslide. Then again, he should have, after becoming the first FCS player to pass for over 5,000 yards in a season. It was just one of a slew of records he set during the 2012 campaign.

“Our football team was on national television three times this year and I have to believe that anybody tuning in and watching us had to come away curious about what ODU is all about,” said football coach Bobby Wilder. “Maybe they Googled ODU to see what the school’s all about. Maybe they saw us playing in front of a sold-out crowd and thought, ‘Gee, the weather looks pretty nice there.’

“Maybe they thought of applying to school here, all because they learned about us by watching ODU play a football game on national television. Say what you want, but the reality is that Taylor Heinicke is driving the bus that’s opening eyes for ODU across the nation. I don’t think that ODU has ever had an athlete like Taylor who has actually moved the needle the way he has.”

And to think, he had to practically beg schools to look at him coming out of high school.

Despite eye-popping numbers during his senior year at Collins Hill High in suburban Atlanta, not one top tier Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) team was...
willing to take a chance on Heinicke. And since he grew up in the heart of both the Southeastern Conference and the Atlantic Coast Conference, it was a hard pill to swallow. Heinicke tried everything he could think of to garner the big schools’ attentions. All he wanted was a chance to prove what he could do, what he could be.

“I went on a visit to Vanderbilt and there were two other quarterbacks there the same weekend I was,” Heinicke said. “Both of those guys were probably two inches taller than me, but when we got our measurement cards from the coaching staff, mine said I was 6-1½. They just looked at me wondering, ‘What just happened?’ ”

Here’s what happened: After the coach measuring Heinicke looked down to make sure Heinicke was standing flat-footed, Heinicke slowly raised onto his toes as the coach’s eyes moved upward.

“I was on my tiptoes by the time he was marking the top of my head,” Heinicke said. “I also had ankle weights on, just in case they wanted me to step on a scale.”

Alas, his boyish body at the time couldn’t pass the eye test. Oh, what those schools missed out on by not factoring in that he’d grow and fill out. They just couldn’t look past the peach fuzz.

But even Heinicke admits that ODU quarterbacks coach Ron Whitcomb couldn’t hide his disappointment when he laid eyes on Heinicke for the first time.

“ODU offered me a scholarship over the phone without seeing me in person,” Heinicke said. “They offered on watching my game tapes and the recommendation of my high school coach. When coach Whitcomb finally came to my high school to meet me, I was in the weight room with the other football players. One of my assistant coaches had to point me out and I could read Whitcomb’s mind when he saw me: ‘We gave this kid a scholarship?’ ”

Heinicke’s impression of Whitcomb’s assessment was spot-on.

“I had a moment where I asked myself, ‘Oh no, what have I done?’ ” Whitcomb said. “We had already offered him, so we couldn’t really take the offer back. Taylor was wearing a white T-shirt and sweat pants and he looked emaciated. He was about 5-foot-11 and weighed maybe 170 pounds. Honestly, I thought we’d made a very big mistake.

“Then I thought, this kid just finished a brutal season and threw for over 4,400 yards. I should give him a chance. We should give him a chance.”

Heinicke isn’t that much bigger now, weighing 198 pounds and standing a shade under 6-foot-1. He’ll never be cast as a monstrous quarterback, but he’s by no means afraid to mix it up with the big boys. Besides throwing for 44 touchdowns this past season, he also ran for 11 more.

It’s that arm of his and his accuracy with it – he completed an NCAA-record 398 passes this year and 68.7 percent of his pass attempts – that catches the eye. On what will go down as his shining moment, that instant where he truly caught the nation’s attention, Heinicke threw for a whopping 730 yards in a come-from-behind 64-61 victory over
Andrew Griffiths Named Coach of Field Hockey Team

Andrew Griffiths, former head field hockey coach at Lafayette College in Easton, Pa., has been named ODU's fourth field hockey head coach. He follows legendary coach Beth Anders, who retired at the completion of the 2012 season after 30 years at ODU.

“I have great respect for Beth Anders as a coach and teacher, and respect for all she has accomplished in her time at Old Dominion. I look forward to working hard to build on this strong foundation, and focusing on future successes,” Griffiths said.

Under Griffiths' leadership, Lafayette won back-to-back Patriot League titles in 2011 and 2012 and his teams competed in the conference championship game in five of his six seasons. His 2012 team was ranked as high as 11th nationally, and Griffiths was named the Division I National Coach of the Year by Synapse Sports and selected as the USFHA Mideast Region Coach of the Year. The win-loss record at Lafayette was 73-46 over his six years there.

Griffiths also served on the coaching staffs of top-flight programs at Boston College and the University of Maryland. “Andrew has an impeccable resume and is one of the most respected head coaches in field hockey,” said Athletic Director Wood Selig. “Our goal at ODU remains to win our 10th national championship in field hockey and Coach Griffiths positions us extremely well to accomplish that.”

Internationally, Griffiths is well known, having been assistant coach for both the U.S. under-21 women's national squad, and the senior women's national team. He was a consultant to the Canadian men's national field hockey team for the 2008 Olympics, and he also played internationally as a member of the Canadian men's team.

“Andrew will grow and develop the Old Dominion Field Hockey Program,” said Anders. “He has a healthy respect for our program and he is a great leader and teacher. The players can be very confident in their direction.”

Griffiths holds English and broadcast journalism degrees from universities in Ontario. He and his wife Tara, a former field hockey player at Quinnipiac College, are the parents of sons Aidan and Owen.

The Old Dominion University field hockey program is one of the most successful in NCAA history, with a record nine NCAA crowns and 28 NCAA tournament appearances under Anders’ leadership. Anders retired as the winningest coach in NCAA Division I history with 561 wins.
Monarch Homecoming 2012

Scan the QR code or visit odu.edu/monarchmag/issue/spring-2013 for additional photos.
ANOTHER FOOTBALL SEASON has come and gone, and our Monarchs have done Old Dominion University proud. A disappointing 49-35 loss to Georgia Southern in the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs doesn’t diminish what was another spectacular season of football in Norfolk. The Monarchs finished 11-2, won a playoff game for the second straight season, and put on a show eight times last fall for football fans at S.B. Ballard Stadium at Foreman Field.

It’s almost hard to remember what this campus was like before football was reintroduced at ODU after a hiatus of more than 60 years. In four years, we’ve become a “football” school, now moving up to Conference USA to play at the highest division of football starting in 2014.

The reintroduction of football has meant different things to different Monarchs. Here is a sample:

Stephanie Dickens, president of the ODU Alumni Association

“Football has brought so much to ODU. It’s so exciting to come to campus and see the changes, meet old friends, make new friends and enjoy a fun-filled day, which up to this point, has mostly ended in a WIN for our team! My husband and I try to go to as many games as possible. We’ve even taken our 3 ½ -year-old daughter to a game. ODU football has reconnected me with old friends and has introduced me to so many more new friends that I may never have had the opportunity to meet. I would be misleading you if I didn’t mention the amount of fun we have – the food, the spirits, playing cornhole or getting as many beads from the ForeHeads (also known as the TedHeads) as possible. The best about ODU football is that it has reconnected and engaged alumni everywhere you go. It’s a fun time, it’s great for the university and I’m glad I can be a part of it. For years we’ve driven hours to go to college football games elsewhere – not anymore! I’m so proud of ODU and the community for supporting the football program and look forward to many, many more Saturdays in Norfolk.”

Tristan Warner, redshirt junior, ODU wrestling team, 165-pound division, from Mechanicsburg, Pa.

“When I was in high school and getting recruited here, I had barely even heard about Old Dominion University.
All my friends and peers didn’t know what it was, either. I had to tell them about it. Since football has been here, I have friends and family texting me all the time saying they watched ODU football on ESPN, or they saw a football story. Old Dominion is on the map now. Also, the atmosphere on campus is completely different. When I came on my recruiting trip, it was the first year we had football. My coach took me to their first tailgate, and he said he had never seen anything like this; the campus was completely filled with people from morning until night. I’ve seen it probably double since then. It’s gotten to the point that we have morning practices on Saturday and it’s hard to even get to practice. It’s put the campus on the map.”

Bob Ash, Eminent Scholar and professor of aerospace engineering

“When I came here in 1967, there weren’t any trees on the mall and people pretty much lived at home. As things have progressed, the university grew. But we still had, in my opinion, a commuter campus more than a residential campus. I work here over the weekend, and any time I would come prior to football, I pretty much had the campus to myself. Now, I need to be careful not to run over any students with my bicycle. They’re everywhere. It’s caused the environment to completely change. I’ve always been more of a basketball fan than the football fan. But the thing that football does is it brings the academic community and the former students back on campus. And there’s a whole social aspect to football that was completely lacking here. Now you get to talk to some of your former graduates who have been quite successful, and you get to talk about the embarrassing things that happened when you were students. So it’s been quite fun, and I’m really delighted that it happened.”

Melanie Boothe, freshman communication student from Stafford, Va.

“Football has meant so much to me for my first semester at Old Dominion University. The games have really helped me create memories of Old Dominion, and made me really happy that I came here. It gave my friends in residence something to plan around on our weekends, and made them so fun. And being a part of the university, seeing the players around campus, made me so proud of their success this season. Go Monarchs!”

Shoaib Quader, master’s student in aeronautical engineering from India, via Nigeria

“I knew nothing, absolutely nothing, about football. We had an event called Football 101 as part of the (Office of Intercultural Relations) Discover America series, a kind of tutorial for internationals to learn about the game. Over here in the U.S., it’s more like a tradition. People are diehard fans for it, they watch it with passion. After that event, most importantly, I understood the game, understood the rules. It finally made sense to me. Now I think it’s interesting. I’m used to soccer, of course, and the rules are different. But I like the fact there is teamwork involved. There’s real passion in the game from the audience perspective. Being at the stadium and watching the games is a whole different experience. It’s a lot of fun. I told my friends back home that I finally understand this American game thanks to ODU.”
Letter from the President

Goals Are Being Met As We Begin 2013

WE WERE PLEASED to recently learn that Old Dominion University has received its reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). The reaffirmation cited no recommendations for improvement and gave specific commendation for the Quality Enhancement Plan – “Improved Disciplinary Writing” – that we developed as part of the accreditation process. The reaffirmation means the university is accredited until 2022.

This accomplishment is the result of more than two years of hard work and dedication by a team of faculty, staff and administrators, as well as the cooperation and support of the entire campus. I’d like to thank Provost Carol Simpson for her overall leadership and SACS Reaffirmation Co-Chairs Marty Sharpe and Sara Morris for their Herculean efforts to lead this lengthy and arduous process to its successful conclusion.

Accreditation signifies ODU’s success in meeting our mission and achieving our objectives and goals. While those of us who dedicate ourselves to the betterment of ODU know what a unique and outstanding institution it is, it is incredibly gratifying to have the public acknowledgment of a prestigious group like SACS confirm it.

Moreover, innovation and progress at our university are evident in our new strategic growth plan. We currently offer 36 full degree programs online, in addition to our vast site-based partnerships with the Virginia Community College System, the military and others. Through a collaborative agreement with Northern Virginia Community College’s Extended Learning Institute (NOVA ELI), four online degree programs are now seamlessly available to NOVA ELI students and more are in production.

As we near the end of our 2009-2014 Strategic Plan, I am pleased also to report we have attained laudable achievements in every goal:

- Foster an innovative environment for student success – We opened the $10.2 million state-of-the-art Learning Commons and Student Success Center at Perry Library. This initiative is critical to our commitment to bettering retention and graduation rates.
- Gain national academic recognition – Many of our programs continue to be recognized among the best in the nation, including modeling and simulation, port/maritime/logistics management, physics, physical therapy, nursing, counseling, creative writing, and oceanography, among others. Our overall research and development expenditures are approaching $100 million and the university attained top 100 rankings from the National Science Foundation in 18 research areas.
- Solidify our role as an economic development leader – ODU contributes nearly $1 billion annually to the regional economy. In partnership with the City of Virginia Beach, we opened the Center for Innovative Transportation Solutions, and the ODU Business Gateway teamed up with Opportunity Inc. under a $1.8 million U.S. Department of Labor grant to provide entrepreneurship training to Hampton Roads residents.
- Enrich campus life – Our thriving residential campus boasts more than 250 student organizations, a plethora of cultural activities, concerts and events, and unique offerings like the Outdoor Adventure Program. Nearly 75 percent of our freshmen choose to live in our modern residence halls.
- Expand international connections – With more than 1,000 students from over 130 different countries, our global community is a rich and welcoming mix of nationalities, cultures and viewpoints. We have expanded joint research programs with partners abroad, such as our physical therapy work in the Dominican Republic, and committed to increasing study abroad participation to 40 percent of our student body.
- Strengthen civic engagement – ODU was named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, which recognizes the nation’s leading colleges and universities for their commitment to community service and service learning. We also partnered with the CIVIC Leadership Institute, now located on our campus, to launch a college-level leadership program.

I am proud of these accomplishments, and of the many people who have worked so hard to produce these extraordinary results.

Carol Simpson for her overall leadership and SACS Reaffirmation Co-Chairs Marty Sharpe and Sara Morris for their Herculean efforts to lead this lengthy and arduous process to its successful conclusion.

- John R. Broderick, President
Old Dominion University
When Richmond native Karen Gershan ’84 began working with her attorney on creating her estate plan, she knew she wanted to include Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters as well as some other charities that were close to her heart. As executive director of development at CHKD, Karen knows how non-profit organizations rely on contributions from the community to continue their important work. After reviewing a draft, Karen felt something was missing. She thought back fondly to her days as an active and engaged student at Old Dominion University. She also recalled that toward the end of her junior year she applied for the merit-based Tunstall-Dabney Scholarship, through the College of Arts and Letters, which required both an application and an essay. Several months later she learned she had been selected to receive the scholarship.

“I am the youngest of three children. My parents worked hard all of their lives and willingly and unselfishly found a way to send me to college,”

Karen said. “Being awarded this scholarship, which paid for my senior year tuition, made me feel like I was helping return their investment in my education and made me more invested as well.”

The memory of her scholarship sent Karen to the attic to seek out her ODU memorabilia box, where she found the copy of her application and essay. While Karen readily admits that her writing skills have improved quite a bit since then, finding the essay confirmed in her heart and mind what she wanted to do for ODU.

Her bequest to ODU will endow the Karen S. Gershan Scholarship for a sophomore, junior, or senior majoring in communications. Like the Tunstall-Dabney Scholarship, which still exists, the scholarship will be based on merit.

The scholarship that Karen received helped inspire her three decades later to “pay it forward” to help Old Dominion University for generations of students to come. It’s a gift commitment that’s come full circle.

To see how other alumni and friends are supporting ODU, please visit www.odu.edu/plannedgiving

Have you made a provision to leave a future gift to Old Dominion University?
If so, please let us know by contacting Barbara Henley, Director of Planned Giving, at 757-683-6563 or bhenley@odu.edu, or visit our estate planning website at www.odu.edu/plannedgiving
SPRING CAMPUS EVENTS, ATTRACTIONS AND PERFORMANCES

February
1-17 “David Page: God and Lunch Meat”
Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries, Changing Gallery, Provocative works in leather, wood and canvas.
Tuesday - Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

7-10 ODU Opera Workshop, first acts of “Le Nozze di Figaro” and “Bastien und Bastienne” by Mozart, University Theatre, 8 p.m. except Feb. 10 at 2 p.m.
Tickets: $10 students, $15 general admission

21-March 2 “The Miss Firecracker Contest,” a play by Beth Henley, directed by Konrad Winters, Goode Theatre, 8 p.m. Feb. 21, 22, 23, 28 and March 1, 2; 2 p.m. Feb. 23.
Tickets: $15 students, $20 general admission

25 Diehn Concert – Windscape wind quintet with ODU faculty Andrey Kasparov and Oksana Lutsyshyn
Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Center for the Performing Arts, 8 p.m.
Tickets: $10 students, $15 general admission

28 President’s Lecture Series, Lytton J. Musselman Natural History Lecture by Mark Plotkin, ethnobotanist and social entrepreneur
North Cafeteria of Webb University Center, 7:30 p.m.

March
2-Sept. 1 “The Big Story: Work by Levent Isik, Ronald Sloan and Derek Webster”
Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries, Self-taught Gallery
Tuesday - Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

2-31 Annual Student Juried Show
Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries, Changing Gallery
Tuesday - Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

5 ODU Presents Lecturer Steve Goldman, “What Scientists Know and What Should We Do About It?”
Hampton-Newport News Room, Webb University Center
7:30 p.m.

18 Diehn Concert – Edgar Meyer, bass recital
Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Center for the Performing Arts, 8 p.m.
Tickets: $10 students, $15 general admission

25 Diehn Concert – John O’Conor, in conjunction with the Annual Harold Protsman Classical Period Piano Competition
Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Center for the Performing Arts, 8 p.m.
Tickets: $10 students, $15 general admission

April
5-21 “Mount” (part of “Blunt: Explicit and Graphic Design Criticism Now” conference at ODU, April 12-14)
Baron and Ellin Gordon Art Galleries, Changing Gallery
Tuesday - Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

7 ODU International Festival
Ted Constant Convocation Center, noon-5 p.m.

11-20 “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” directed by Chris Hanna
Goode Theatre, 8 p.m. April 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20; 2 p.m. April 13
Tickets: $15 students, $20 general admission

15 “Great Poles,” music by Polish composers performed by ODU faculty Andrey Kasparov and Oksana Lutsyshyn and the Norfolk Chamber Consort
Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Center for the Performing Arts. Discussion, 7:15 p.m.; concert, 7:30 p.m.
Tickets: $9 students, $22 general admission

17-20 University Dance Theatre Spring Concert
University Theatre, 8 p.m., and also 2 p.m. April 20
Tickets: $12 students, $14 general admission

22 Diehn Concert – Darmon Meader, with the John Toomey Trio
Chandler Recital Hall, Diehn Center for the Performing Arts, 8 p.m.
Tickets: $10 students, $15 general admission

(See http://oduartstix.com for more information about music, theatre and dance presentations. Unless otherwise specified, events are free and open to the public.)